



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

The Wisconsin Light

Wisconsin Election Results Are a Mirror of National Trends

By Bill Meunier

To some extent, the national election results were mirrored in Wisconsin. The State Assembly became Republican for the first time in a generation and an incumbent Democratic Congressman was knocked off by a conservative Christian Coalition Republican.

Governor Tommy Thompson won over Democrat Chuck Chvala by a wide margin. Thompson, who heavily outspent Chvala, won an unprecedented third term as Governor. Chvala, who was expected to lose, was a strong supporter of Gay and Lesbian rights as a legislator. Thompson, while a member of the State Legislature, consistently voted against Gay and Lesbian interests.

Senator Herb Kohl bucked the GOP trend, easily winning reelection over his Republican opponent, Robert Welch. Welch received strong backing from the Christian Coalition.

Kohl had angered many Gays and Lesbians by voting for Clinton's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on Gays in the military. He also voted for several vicious Jesse Helms' amendments. In the month before the campaign, Kohl became a co-sponsor of ENDA, the proposed Gay/Lesbian employment discrimination ban. He also termed his votes for the Helms' amendments "a mistake."

Those votes, however, weighed heavily in the minds of many Lesbian and Gay voters who found it difficult to take comfort in Kohl's victory in an otherwise dismal election night.

The biggest upset came in the 1st Congressional District, where Republican Right Wing candidate Mark Neumann ousted incumbent Democrat Peter Barca. Neumann had the backing of the Christian Coalition and won by less than 1,500 votes.

During the campaign, Neumann was heavily criticized by the media for distorting and lying about Barca's record. When asked if there was any possibility of Gays and Lesbians working with Neumann, Scott Evertz of the Log Cabin Club told Light, "I don't know of anyone who thinks that is possible."

Barca had been a supporter of Gay civil rights. During the campaign, the Christian Coalition attacked him on his voting record on Gay issues.

In another race of interest to Gays and Lesbians, Gay Republican Congressman Steve Gunderson won re-election in the 3rd Congressional District. Gunderson was rumored to be in trouble because of recent disclosures that he was Gay.

On election night, he easily defeated State Rep. Harvey Stower. Gunderson had previously announced that this would be his last bid for Congress. As a State Representative, Stower was very supportive of Gay and Lesbian civil rights.

The biggest change in Wisconsin is the loss of the State Assembly to Republican control. Said one legislative aide, "Domestic Partnership won't even get a hearing now."

Tammy Baldwin, the only open Lesbian in the legislature, told Light that she will continue to work on Domestic Partnership. "It's a different task for me as a Democrat and author of a bill to get a hearing from a Republican Committee Chairperson. Hopefully, I will be able to work with a Republican Chairperson to get a hearing."

Barb Notestein (D-Milwaukee) told Light, "A fair number of the Republicans in the legislature owe the radical right and Wisconsin Right to Life. It is certain that these groups will have significant voice in the Republican Caucus."

It is expected that Wisconsin Right to Life will push for a bill that would mandate waiting periods for abortions and in other ways limit their availability.

TURN TO ELECTION, PAGE 3

A Rocky Road Lies Ahead for the Advocates of the Civil Rights of Lesbians and Gay Men

AIDS Funding, Employment Non-Discrimination Bill, Civil Rights Acts in Jeopardy

By Bill Meunier

It was a watershed election. It was a landmark election. For advocates of Gay and Lesbian rights, it was a disaster. Across the country voters sent Republicans to Congress in numbers that hadn't been seen since the 1950's.

While some found reason to cheer Senator Chuck Robb's victory over the homophobic Oliver North, others familiar with the political scene were stunned by the loss of so many staunch Gay civil rights supporters. Not only did many of those who had supported Gay civil rights lose, they lost to Radical Right Wing Christian Fundamentalists backed candidates.

Senator David McCurdy, an Oklahoma Democrat and a Gay civil rights is a good example. His Republican opponent, Rep. Jim Inhofe, attacked him for his support of Gay civil rights. Inhofe won by a wide margin.

Radical right wing candidates didn't just get elected in the South. They also did well in several large states in the North. It was troubling to many activists to see the number of losses in large states. This trend, according to them, does not bode well for the next round in 1996.

For example, Pennsylvania Senator Harris Wofford, a Democrat, and Gay rights supporter, lost to Republican Rick Santorum, a Christian Coalition candidate. Santorum, won even though the widow of the late Republican Senator John Heinz denounced him heatedly.

In Tennessee Jim Sasser, the incumbent Senator and a Gay civil rights supporter went down to defeat at the hands of Republican Bill Frist. Meanwhile actor Fred Thompson, a radical right wing Republican, beat moderate Democratic Congressman Jim Cooper for an open seat.

In Ohio and Indiana and Wisconsin, Christian Coalition backed candidates either ousted incumbents or took over open seats formerly held by Democrats.

The list of the casualties was not confined to the Senate and House.

In Texas, Governor Anne Richards, a Gay and Lesbian civil rights supporter was beaten by George W. Bush, son of the former President. In New York Governor Mario Cuomo, a staunch supporter of equality for Gays and Lesbians was defeated by State Senator George Petiak. Petiak helped block a state-wide Gay civil rights law in the New York State Senate.

Whatever the reason for the GOP sweep, it is clear that a rocky road lies ahead for advocates of Gay and Lesbian rights. The new Speaker of the House will be Newt Gingrich.

Gingrich is well known as a man whose homophobia in Congress is exceeded only by that of Jesse Helms and Congressman Dannemeyer (R-Cal).

There is little doubt that ENDA, the proposed federal law which would have banned employment discrimination against Lesbians and Gays is dead. AIDS funding is in jeopardy. Washington act-ivists say that

TURN TO CIVIL RIGHTS, PAGE 15



Dinner Time—Tom Cruise portrays Lestat and Brad Pitt plays Louis in the film based on Anne Rice's novel "Interview With The Vampire." (See a review of the film on page 8).

The Election of '94 was a Time of Victories and of Defeats From Which We Must Learn

Commentary by Peri Jude Radecic

The history of the Gay and Lesbian civil rights movement is one of many victories and, unfortunately, many defeats. The 1994 elections are no exception. While we rejoice in the defeat of the anti-Gay initiatives in Oregon and Idaho and the victories of openly Gay and Lesbian candidates across the country, we are saddened by the many votes against us.

The Gay and Lesbian community celebrates the defeat of the anti-Gay initiatives in Oregon and Idaho. We congratulate the No On One and No on Thirteen campaigns for their successful efforts in discrediting the Right Wing's deceitful, mean-spirited scapegoating of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual people by showing the public the real face of Gay America.

Today, we also share the concern of Gay men and Lesbians in Alachua County, Florida whose neighbors voted away protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation. The voters of Alachua County voted instead to preserve their special right to discriminate.

The American people voted to hand political control of the Congress and many governorships to a Republican Party more lopsided toward Far Right politics than ever before. Acting out of fear, many voters supported candidates far from the mainstream of the Republican Party.

The real tragedy of these elections is that too many voters believed the lies, accepted the stereotypes and voted against the public interest by supporting anti-Gay, racist or sexist candidates and initiatives. Voters in state after state elected Far Right candidates and supported Far Right agendas that were foreign even to the platform of a conservative Republican Party.

Our challenge at the federal level will be unprecedented. Pushing proactive A2IDS, health care, anti-discrimination and hate crime measures in an increasingly hostile environment will be daunting. At the same time, we will be fighting to fend off proactive Radical Right measures. In all the years of an active Gay and Lesbian civil rights presence on Capitol Hill, there has never been a wholly Republican Congress.

What is of even greater concern than the loss of Democratic seats to Republicans, is

what these results indicate about the mood of the nation's electorate. We are concerned about the growing influence of the Right Wing on American political, economic and cultural life. The Republican Party--newly invigorated by Right Wing infiltration--dominates Congress. In local communities, anti-Gay and anti-choice measures are being joined by measures that limit basic government services, persecute immigrants, censor our schools and libraries and remove protective environmental and labor laws.

The cultural warriors, Pat Buchanan and Pat Robertson, are sounding their battle cries against immigrants, strong sexual harassment laws, welfare and other entitlement programs. Having created a mess with trickle down economics, they are proposing to mop up the mess with new immigrants, Gays and Lesbians, the poor, women, the disabled and all those who do not fit their mold.

The victories of the Far Right are the product of years of practice. They've practiced their divide and conquer strategy for years in campaigns against abortion, school desegregation, pay equity for women and a great deal else.

On the national level, they've expended millions of dollars on voter research to learn how to turn American voters against one another so that theocratic special interest groups can turn back basic rights for everyone and reserve special rights for themselves.

As Gay America comes out of the closet, NGLTF will be there building the infrastructure for a grassroots mobilization that will introduce us to our communities on door knocking campaigns, in PTAs, in neighborhood groups, unions and every other sector of society. And one day we will finally create a place for us at the table of national politics that can no longer be sacrificed to political expediency.

Editor's Note: The writer is the Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

New Deadline

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, Wisconsin Light will be published on Monday, November 21.

Be A Secret Santa

(Milwaukee)- The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) is currently seeking individuals interested in making a difference in the holidays for over 300 children affected by HIV disease and AIDS. The agency is offering the opportunity to be a Secret Santa to one or more children who are either infected with HIV or are affected through the infection of a parent, sibling or loved one.

High medical costs and reduced income due to illness often hinder HIV infected families from being able to provide presents for their children, prompting the need for MAP's holiday gift drive.

People interested in being a Secret Santa can request a gift tag from the Milwaukee AIDS Project by calling Vince at (414) 225-1574. The children make the gift buying a little easier for the Secret Santas by providing gift suggestions on each gift tag.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. Must Do More to Curb AIDS Worldwide

San Juan, PR-AP- The United States must spend much more to seek a cure for AIDS and has a moral obligation to stem the scourge worldwide, former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan says. "We spent \$6-\$7 million to develop a test for AIDS in blood and we really saved many lives because of this. We've saved tens of millions of dollars in medical costs. We must do more," Sullivan, president of the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, said in an interview.

Pragmatic reasons should compel all Americans to support attempts to stamp out AIDS—the scourge is disproportionately afflicting people of African, Latin and Asian origin," Sullivan said. "Diseases are not contained within national boundaries. It is in our interests to contain the spread of infectious diseases. In 24 hours you could transport someone from a city in India with the plague to the U.S."

New Russian Law Would Require HIV Test

Moscow-AP- The Russian Duma's (parliament) lower chamber has approved a measure that would make foreigners seeking Russian visas present proof they do not have the AIDS virus. Foreigners found to be infected with HIV while already in the country would be deported. The law, which must be approved by the upper house would also give authorities broad powers to conduct mandatory testing. As of the first half of 1994, 740 people in Russia have reportedly tested HIV positive. Of those, 105 have died.

12th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Set

San Francisco- The 12th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and Mobilization will be observed worldwide on Sunday, May 21, 1995. The event, which began in San Francisco in 1983, honors the memory of those who have died of AIDS and demonstrates support for people living with HIV and AIDS. It is the world's largest annual community-based AIDS event. 243 cities in 45 nations participated this year and for the first time, the event was observed in all 50 states in the U.S.

'Day Without History' to be Held in Chicago

Chicago- For the third year in a row, Chicago's Gerber/Hart Gay and Lesbian Library and Archives will co-sponsor the week-long commemoration at the Chicago Historical Society (CHS) of "Day Without History," part of the "Day Without Art" events coordinated by the World Health Organization and Visual AIDS. CHS's commemorations will run from November 28 to December 4 and will include programs, partial coverings of historical artifacts as a demonstration of the loss of people and history to the AIDS crisis, and the creation of quilt panels for CHS employees who have died of AIDS. The Chicago Historical Society is located at Clark Street at North Avenue in Chicago.

Court Hears Gay Couple's Bid for Spousal Benefits

Ottawa, Canada-AP- The Supreme Court of Canada has heard arguments on whether an elderly gay couple—together for 46 years—should be eligible for federal spousal pension benefits. "It's the capstone of a lifetime of gay activism," said 73-year-old James Egan of Courtenay, British Columbia. Egan, who began getting his pension in 1986, applied for spousal benefits for his partner, John Nesbit, 67.

Ottawa refused Egan's request, saying the Old Age Security Act defines spouse as someone of the opposite sex. The couple lost their case in a split decision last year at the Federal Court of Appeal, but have appealed to the Supreme Court. A decision is not expected for several months.

Man Shot for Holding Boyfriend's Hand

San Francisco-AP- Just blocks from the heart of the Castro, Victor Rohana, 24, was pinned to a wall and shot in the chest. His crime? Apparently, he was targeted because he was holding his boyfriend, Steven Damron's, hand. Civil rights advocates say the shooting is an example of the growing ferocity of attacks on gays and lesbians caused by the anti-gay rhetoric of the Religious Right. The bullet pierced Rohana's lung, missing his heart by about an inch, Damron said. Rohana underwent surgery and is listed in satisfactory condition.

"I don't think they thought we were Italian," a shaken Damron said. "They thought we were gay. They clearly made a decision that they were going to shoot a gay man. They went to a lot of effort to get their car in position to shoot him point blank."

San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan has offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for the shooting.

"Maybe they just thought it was macho to shoot a gay guy," said Damron. "They made a judgement that being gay was bad and their way of expressing that was to shoot Victor."

Murders Have Texas Gay Community on Edge

Odessa, Texas-AP- A string of grisly murders of gay men has the Texas gay community on edge. Some say that the state's mentality of machismo and a burgeoning religious movement have fostered murderous hostility toward gays. "There's a steady drumbeat out there that it's all right to hate, that it's socially acceptable to hate gays and lesbians," said State Rep. Glen Maxey who is gay. "You do that long enough and you give permission for somebody to beat up somebody or give somebody permission to kill."

Among the recent killings: Paul Quintanilla's hands were bound behind his back. His throat was cut and his genitals sliced off.

Michael J. Burzinski was shot to death by a group of white teens looking for gays. Another man was impaled through on a tree branch outside a gay bar.

Gay and lesbian activists say a Dallas judge's comment in 1988 reinforced hostility and encouraged lenient treatment to those who victimize gays. Instead of life in prison, Judge Jack Hampton gave a 30-year sentence to an 18-year-old who had killed two gay men when they refused to take off their clothes for him. "I put whores and gays at the same level," Hampton said. "I'd be hard put to give somebody life just for killing a whore."

The Rev. Billy Charles Cawley, a gay man who ministers to the LesBiGay population of Odessa, said: "I call this 'Bubba Joe land.' It's a combination of the Texas macho thing and the Fundamentalist Christian movement here."

The Texas chapter of the Christian Coalition has grown to 60,000 members with 135 chapters since it was founded in the state in 1991.

Two Companies, Group Honored for Offering Partner Benefits

St. Paul-AP- The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Workplace Council has honored the St. Paul Cos., Northern States Power (NSP) and the Wilder Foundation for planning to offer their employees domestic-partner benefits. All three organizations will offer health and dental benefits to the same-sex or unmarried hetero partners of their employees as of January 1, 1995. Diane Cushman, manager of workforce partnering at St. Paul Cos., said the company will re-evaluate all of its benefits in light of its new definition of family. At NSP, senior management has studied the issue for two years. Along with flex-time programs, which the company instituted in 1981, domestic partner benefits will help recruit and retain employees, said Cyndi Leshner, the utility's vice president of human resources.

U.S. Must Do More to Curb AIDS Worldwide

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

New Study Shows that Needle Exchange Programs Cut AIDS Infection in Half

(Milwaukee)- While the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP), has come in for some heavy criticism from ultra-conservatives, WTMJ-radio's Charlie Sykes and the like, a new study has concluded that handing out clean needles to drug users appears to cut their risk of contracting HIV disease in half.

Milwaukee is among more than 40 U.S. cities that currently have needle exchange programs, but evidence that they actually reduce the risk of HIV infection has been slim. Until now, most of the data came from studies in Europe, where AIDS among IV drug users is generally far less common than in the U.S., especially the Northeast.

The latest study was based on a needle exchange program in New York City, where about half the city's 200,000 IV drug users are already infected with HIV.

The effort, sponsored by the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR), has provided clean injection supplies to 22,000 IV drug users. Addicts can catch the virus if they share needles.

Dr. Don C. Des Jarlais of New York's Beth Israel Medical Center presented data on the program's results on October 31 at a meeting in Washington of the American Public Health Association.

"The best estimate of the effect of the program for the people who come in is that it probably reduces the new infection rate by half," he said.

The findings were based on 350 users whose saliva was tested for HIV when they enrolled in the program and when they returned to pick up clean needles. Des Jarlais calculated that their annual risk of infection was 2%.

For ethical reasons, the researchers did not enroll a comparison group that was deprived of clean needles. However, other studies of IV drug users in New York suggest that about 5% a year become infected.

Because there is no direct comparison, "the amount of certainty we have is difficult to pinpoint. However, it is reasonable to conclude that we do see a reduction from these data in the incidence of HIV infection that may be as high as 50%," commented Dr. David Vlahov of Johns Hopkins University.

The New York program uses storefronts and mobile units, as does MAP, in neighborhoods with a heavy drug trade. IV drug users are given color-coded syringes, which they must turn in to receive new ones.

Those participating in the study were fre-

quent drug users, averaging three injections a day. In the month before the needle exchange, they rented or bought used syringes an average of 16 times. After the program, this fell to four times.

Much of the evidence supporting needle exchanges until now has been indirect: Supporters have argued that removing contaminated needles from circulation make biological sense, and studies have shown that participants are less likely to share needles.

Researchers said the New York study is the first to measure the new infection rate among participants of a needle exchange program in a city where many IV drug users already carry the virus.

Dr. Peter Lurie of the University of California at San Francisco said one strength of the new study is that "this is based on real testing of real individuals."

Across the U.S., about 1.5 million people inject illegal drugs. This use is responsible for about 30% of all AIDS cases.

AIDS Hotline

(Washington, D.C.)- The federal government has opened a toll-free telephone number to provide treatment information by phone or computer to people living with AIDS, their families and health care providers.

The HIV/AIDS Treatment Information Service began taking calls on October 31.

The number to call is 1-800-HIV-0440. The hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. CST Monday through Friday.

The service is staffed by health information specialists who are fluent in English and Spanish. Deaf access is included, and all calls are confidential.

The service's staff will not provide treatment advice. Staffers will, however, provide information on the latest research and treatment options to physicians and patients who call.

The service's data base, which is housed at the National Library of Medicine, will be updated to include all federally approved HIV and AIDS treatment information.

The data base can be accessed free via computer. Users can call 1-800-272-4787 for directions on how to access the system with their computer.

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Rep. Notestein's Strong Civil Rights Record Wins the Support of Her Constituents

Analysis by Bill Meunier

State Representative Barb Notestein defeated her openly Gay Republican challenger, Scott Evertz by a margin of 69% to 31%.

The campaign for the State Assembly's 19th District seat drew the interest of many political observers because it pitted an openly Gay man against a leader in the effort to afford civil rights for Gays and Lesbians.

Evertz was counting on getting the lion's share of support in the Gay and Lesbian community. His hopes were dashed as both the Human Rights League and the LAMM Political Action Committee endorsed Notestein.

They were joined by many others who felt that Evertz didn't present a good enough reason to dump Notestein. In at least some cases, Gays and Lesbians were angered by what they felt were mis-representations of Notestein's record.

Evertz contended that Notestein had not shown leadership on Gay issues. He accused her of "paying lip service" on matters of importance to the Gay community.

Evertz admitted that Notestein had supported Gays and Lesbians on every issue of concern to them since she was first elected 10 years ago. But he said she had not shown leadership on those issues.

Notestein countered by pointing to her record which included authoring Wisconsin's HIV/AIDS education law, and legislation that prohibited discrimination in both the UW system and the VTAE system. Both of these bills became law.

Furthermore, Notestein sponsored a bill which would have prohibited anti-Gay rhetoric in sex education courses.

In the closing days of the campaign, Evertz attacked Notestein for not introducing legislation to counter the *Norman* decision.

The *Norman* Decision was a Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling that allowed a landlord to refuse to rent to unmarried couples, despite a state law that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or marital status.

Notestein said she had sought to marshal support in the legislature for an effort to overturn *Norman*. She said she was told by the Republican leadership that they would not support such a move making it very unlikely that the bill would have gotten through the Republican controlled State Senate.

Legal advocates trying to overturn the decision asked Notestein not to introduce the bill because it had no chance of passing and would establish a negative legislative history. They feared the courts would cite that history in turning down attempts at reversal.

Few if any Gay and Lesbian activists outside of the Republican Log Cabin Club, believed Evertz's claims that he would be able to convince other Republicans to support Gay civil rights if he was elected. The role the Republicans in office had played in squelching



State Rep. Barbara Notestein

Notestein's effort to overturn *Norman* didn't help him.

As one politically involved Gay man put it, "It's difficult to believe that Scott could get the GOP behind Gay rights when Notestein was able to find only one Republican (out of 47 in the last State Assembly) who would co-sponsor a bill to overturn the *Norman* thing. You also have to look at the experience of Gunderson (Steve Gunderson, Wisconsin's Gay Congressman). Here you have a highly respected veteran who has been unable to convince many of his fellow Republicans to be more tolerant."

Many felt that Evertz's statements that the Gay community had nothing to fear from a Republican majority were naive.

Evertz's role in raising money for Wisconsin Right to Life, an anti-choice group, was cited by many, especially in the Lesbian community, as a reason to support Notestein. They feared that Evertz would vote with other pro-life legislators if he was elected.

Notestein told Light, "I want to thank the people who supported me. I apparently received a great deal of support from the Gay and Lesbian community and I very much appreciate that support. I look forward to working with them in the upcoming legislative session on issues of concern to that community."

Evertz told Light, "At 10:00 p.m. I called Rep. Notestein, congratulated her on her victory and gave her my best wishes for the upcoming session. I am pleased that during this campaign our State Representative indicated she would consider co-sponsoring Tammy Baldwin's Domestic Partnership and same-sex legislation. I look forward to her doing so."

The Election Landslide: What Some Political Leaders are Saying

By Bill Meunier

Here is a sampling of what some Gay and Lesbian political leaders were saying about the election.

Tammy Baldwin

"There was some good news the Idaho and Oregon state initiatives failed. Idaho is conservative state. When combined with the loss of Oliver North and a couple of other very right wing candidates, one can reflect that the furthest of the far radical right can not claim victory."

"But Losing control of Congress and the Wisconsin State Legislature will have serious consequences for the Gay and Lesbian community in our state and nation."

"Part of the problem was that Democrats and Republicans didn't sound sufficiently different in this election. I think defining those differences through painting a Democratic vision is essential to regaining ELECTION

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Baldwin says, "It's a whole new ball game politically in the State Legislature. Aside from my top advice being increased visibility, we have to be exceedingly vigilant. We have to strategize about how we can remain on the offensive instead of letting them put us on the defensive."

Baldwin believes that even bills that don't get a hearing should still be introduced. "These bills can be used to educate the public."

Scott Evertz, a Log Cabin Republican, doesn't believe that our Wisconsin Gay civil rights law (AB70) is in danger of repeal.

"In Wisconsin, we don't have as much to fear as do our Gay and Lesbian brothers and sisters in other parts of the country," Evertz said. "Log Cabin has established good working relationships with a number of the Republicans that were re-elected or newly elected. We don't anticipate disaster on the Gay rights front in Wisconsin."

Evertz may be in the minority with that opinion though. Baldwin, Notestein and others believe that a serious attempt to repeal AB70 is a definite possibility.

Evertz says that Gays can count on some help from Republicans if that were to happen. According to Evertz, Scott Jensen (R-Waukesha) told the Log Cabin Club that anyone who stands up in the State Assembly and calls for the repeal of AB70 will be told to sit down.

Jensen is in line to become the Majority Leader for the Republicans in the State Assembly. Evertz also says that the next Speaker of the Assembly, David Prosser (R-Appleton) has indicated that he wouldn't be in favor of repeal either.

Whether or not Evertz is right, or those who fear the worst are correct, won't be known for some months. In the meantime, many activists will be heeding Baldwin's advice to "stay vigilant."

control of Congress and the State Legislature.

"We have to be extremely vigilant and prepared to fight immediately if a threat comes up. We are more organized now than we were two years ago, there was no state wide presence two years ago, there is now. As people see supporting Action Wisconsin as being in their interest, it will continue to grow."

"We've had previews of this. We know the religious right uses Gays and Lesbians a tool to divide their constituency. Then when they get power. Their targets are unions, working class people, people of color. The only silver lining is that when people see what the real agenda, we will come back together and people won't let them pick off groups like us and divide them."

"I know the battles we are fighting for are the right ones. And history shows that when you are fighting for a progressive cause you will suffer setbacks, but you will also eventually win."

Tim Baack

"We are very pleased with how the races where we made endorsements turned out. With the exception of the Governor's race, we think those races turned out well."

"HRL is making plans to mobilize the community in the future. We are going to concentrate on educating Gay and Lesbian voters about various offices and how they impact on them. A key part of this effort will involve informing potential Gay voters about a candidates full record."

Jane Dunnum

"We are pleased with the results in our endorsed races, we recognize that is much more work to be done. In mobilizing reasonable forces both in Milwaukee and in the greater community outside of Milwaukee. His election looks pretty dismal, but it can be used as a challenge and a wake up call. We are now fighting for our lives and we weren't before. People in Wisconsin should realize that now."

Scott Evertz

"I am encouraged that Republicans are now in the majority on the state and national level and what that means for a Republican agenda. That will make the work of those of us in the Log Cabin Club much more difficult."

"We will need to attempt to and work at influencing those in the new majority."

"As a Republican I am glad to see a Republican majority, but as a Gay activist, I am concerned about what agenda some within majority may have."

AIDS No. 1 Killer in San Francisco; First Time in Any Major City

(San Francisco)- Richard has seen it countless times--the anger, the sorrow, the bravery of critically ill AIDS patients.

Soon, he says, he'll know exactly how they feel.

"Not everybody is courageous in the face of AIDS. Some go kicking and screaming and are horrible to everyone around them," said the San Francisco AIDS counselor. "I'm not sure how I'm going to act."

Richard was diagnosed with HIV in 1985.

"So, I'm panicking," he said.

He isn't the only one.

The San Francisco health department recently announced that for the first time in any U.S. city, AIDS was the leading cause of death among men in 1992--the first time any illness passed heart disease as the No. 1 killer--the same year that health officials celebrated hitting a plateau in the number of new cases.

The federal government now estimates that the situation in San Francisco is only a harbinger of things to come in other major cities throughout the U.S.

No one in San Francisco or elsewhere seems to be surprised by the numbers.

"We've lost so many friends," said Richard Chavez, former program coordinator for activities at the Shanti Project in San Francisco. Chavez is himself HIV positive. "It's frightening to think that nobody is surprised by it. Maybe some people who have been hiding in the sand might say, 'Oh, my gosh...'"

Over the past few years, AIDS has been the leading cause of death among men 24-44, but 1992 was the first time it crossed all age lines. The largest increase in deaths came from men age 35-44.

"In traditional medicine, you go to the doctor and get better. In AIDS, you go to the doctor, you go to the doctor, you go to the doctor, you go to the doctor--and die," Richard said.

While the numbers for 1993 are still being compiled, AIDS is expected to remain the

leading cause of death in San Francisco. That's when other cities will also be included.

Fritz Desir doesn't know how he got AIDS. What he does know is that he can no longer play soccer and worries about how he's going to pay the rent and get enough to eat.

Desir, 31, escaped from Haiti in 1980 and spent three months drifting at sea with 30 others before being picked up by the U.S. Coast Guard. He eventually received political asylum and was sent to San Francisco. In 1992, after suffering a bout with tuberculosis, he found out he was HIV positive.

He and his friend share a small, cramped studio apartment. Both are unemployed and after paying the rent, there's only \$100 left. Recently a third friend staying with them offered to help by sharing the rent, but he skipped town.

Robert Sterman and Glenn Nelson met through a computer bulletin board. Both knew the other was HIV positive, but that didn't matter. The only fear was that they would get sick at the same time.

Nelson's health started deteriorating first, about a year ago. So, they decided to get married.

"We both said, when we said our vows, 'till death do us part.' And that's exactly what we meant," Sterman said.

Nelson died earlier this year. He was 28. "One of my concerns is people seeing the story and saying, 'Oh, there's another fag that died.' He was a person," Sterman said, emphasizing the last word.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

It May Be the Worst of Times

By Terry Boughner

There are, I guess, a few good things about this "day after the night before."

For one thing, I'm free from having to listen to any more damned political commercials—at least for awhile.

For another, the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund reports a record number of openly Gay officials were elected. According to the Fund's Deputy Director Kathleen DeBold, this represents a 75% success rate for openly Gay candidates—this, at a time when Gay-bating and bashing has become the 11th and 12th Commandments for the bible thumpers of the Religious Right and their friends on "hate radio."

It brings a good feeling to hear the Victory Fund report that all the Gay/Lesbian incumbents were re-elected. This includes three openly Gay U.S. Congressmen, two State Senators and seven State Representatives—of whom, Tammy Baldwin is one.

Also, dedicated activists pushed back the anti-Gay initiatives in Idaho and Oregon, although, as I write, it's not yet a sure thing in Oregon. The absentee ballots have yet to be counted.

At least one liar was kept out of the Senate. Ollie got the boot. He'd have made Jesse Helms look like a kindly old Liberal.

So that's the good news.

The bad news, the terribly bad news is that there is a cold, dark and calculating spirit of Right Wing and Religious fascism that glares out at us, red-eyed in the night. If this is an exaggeration, it's sadly, not much of one.

When any people so bind themselves together that they can and do single out others for exclusion and persecution, this, by any definition, is fascism.

While there are very decent Republicans who hold to an honest conservatism, they, I think, are in the decided minority in their own Party—voice-wise, anyway. I can only hope that they are somehow able to make themselves heard.

In the meantime, it is the Far and Religious fascist Right that is on the high road to taking over the national GOP and, with lies and deceptions designed to appeal to the thoughts in us all that would shame Hell, they have enticed a great many Americans to go along with

them.

While the LesBiGay community is the most lucrative target of the Religious Right, there are others that will, I think, join us. Make no mistake about that.

Hispanics have seen what can happen in California and I don't think it will stop there.

African Americans live in what is very much a racist society. They will, I think themselves under stronger attack than ever before.

All those affected by HIV/AIDS are, I think, going to see funds cut back, if not dry up altogether. I have a feeling that I'm going to value ACT UP more than I already do.

In short, I think, the gains made by all minorities and women in the last number of years are in desperate danger. It may not happen tomorrow or next week, but it will happen. I'm convinced of that.

In the meantime, the Right will be doing everything it possibly can to destroy President Clinton. I know he wanted the job, but god, I feel sorry for him.

The Far Right is going to do everything within their considerable power to make 1996 a carbon copy of 1994—all while they're trying to take over the schools, get their creation myth taught as fact, get rid of any sex education and, in general, get their beliefs written into law.

The saddest part of it all is that a lot of people, Gay/Lesbian people are going to get hurt badly. As far as the Right is concerned, its open season on us. Maybe they don't weld the clubs that bash us, but their words of judgment give permission to those who do.

A lot of people, people now well are going to become infected with HIV because they won't be given the education needed to prevent it.

A lot of people living with HIV/AIDS are going to suffer and die because the money isn't going to be there to help them.

A lot of Gay teens are going to think about taking their lives—and many will do it—because of the guilt trip and harassment that the Far Right inflicts upon them.

Maybe I'm over-reacting. Maybe things aren't going to be as bad as I think. I can only hope.

Anti-Choice Yet Pro-Gay

Commentary By Al Geiersbach

To a homosexual man, especially one stuck back in the "Gay rights" generation, a woman's concern over her right to choose an abortion might well appear to be nothing more than a "heterosexual atrocity." I think a Gay woman who might some day have to deal with the reality of rape would think it just might be a worthwhile right she'd like to preserve. Even for her, the right to a choice in the abortion matter is not a "Gay civil right," but a matter of her very personal rights she shares with all women because she is a woman.

There is really no "Gay" position on abortion. Lesbians and Gays will form their opinions on the issue in much the same way and for much the same reasons as heterosexuals form their positions. To try to maintain that "anti-abortion is pro-Gay", that "pro-abortion is anti-Gay", even if the argument is rationally set by one capable of arguing coherently, is to muddle the concerns of Gays in something that is not Gay related. The very words "anti-abortion" and "pro-abortion" are more suited to propaganda than genuine discussion of the aspect of the issue that is relevant to Gays and Lesbians.

While there is no "Gay" position on abortion, Lesbians and Gays should be concerned with the question of free choice. Is a woman to choose what happens to her body, or is the choice to be made by some government official or the head of some church? In the matter of free choice, in the matter of oppression by Popes and bureaucrats, Lesbians and Gays do have a stake. In the matter of free choice, there is a Gay position.

Choice in abortion is parallel to choice in sexual activity. The vast majority of groups who are actively against a woman's right to choose abortion are also against the rights of Gays and Lesbians to have active sex lives. Most of those groups loudly proclaim that sexual orientation is a choice, but even those who accept that it might be a genetic or environmentally induced condition beyond a person's control, still maintain that engaging in same-sex activity is a matter of choice.

These anti-choice people feel the government should prohibit the "choice" of Gays and Lesbians to engage in sexual acts, whether by issuing and enforcing legal restrictions or by not intervening to prevent discrimination by private individuals against Gays and Lesbians who make the "wrong choice." The group that is anti-choice in women's reproductive issues, yet pro-choice in same-sexuality, is minuscule and powerless. Can even one organization of any size be named which fights to outlaw the right to choose abortion and, at the same time,

fighters to guarantee civil rights protection to Lesbians and Gays?

The world's largest anti-choice organization, the Roman Catholic Church, postures as compassionate, saying that homosexuals are unfortunates who have not chosen to be as they are, yet instructs its clergy to work actively to prevent the protection of civil rights to Lesbians and Gays.

Pro-choice groups focus on the issue of reproductive rights for women, yet in the ranks of their membership will be found far more supporters of civil rights protection for Gays and Lesbians than in any so-called "pro-life" group. Happily, many sensible Gays and Lesbians have joined with those groups in supporting the right of a woman to choose her reproductive health care.

TURN TO ABORTION, PAGE 15

LETTERS

Notestein Responds

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to thank the members of the Gay and Lesbian community who supported me during my successful race for re-election in the 19th Assembly District. I am very grateful for the support I received, particularly in the light of last minute attacks by my opponent's campaign which attempted to distort and misrepresent my record on issues of concern to the Gay and Lesbian community.

In particular, I was personally offended by a recent "commentary" which appeared in the *Light* by Jim McFarland, the president of the Republican Log Cabin Club of Wisconsin and the campaign treasurer for my Republican opponent. This "commentary" was long on distorting and short on the facts. While it would appear that this highly negative attack made little impact on the race, I would like to take this opportunity to respond.

Mr. McFarland claimed that I have only paid "lip service" to the Gay and Lesbian community during my tenure in the State Assembly. This is blatantly untrue.

I authored Wisconsin's AIDS/HIV Education law.

I wrote the state law banning discrimination based on sexual orientation in the UW and VTAE systems.

I sponsored legislation which would prohibit inaccurate anti-Gay rhetoric in sex education courses; unfortunately, all but one of the Republicans on the Assembly Education Committee voted against this common sense bill.

I have stood up consistently for the interests of the Gay and Lesbian community in the State As-

sembly—and I will continue this advocacy by supporting Rep. Tammy Baldwin's legislation to provide legal recognition for families formed by Gay and Lesbian partners.

Mr. McFarland attacked me for not introducing a bill to reverse the Wisconsin Supreme Court's wrongheaded *Norman* decision, which permits landlords to refuse to rent to unmarried partners.

On this issue, Mr. McFarland again fails to tell the whole truth.

Advocates for reversing the *Norman* decision urged me not to introduce such a bill because they felt that if this legislation failed to pass, it would do more harm than good. I was advised that introducing a bill which failed to pass would establish a negative legislative history on the issue, seriously undermining the chances of overturning the decision in court.

Advocates for overturning *Norman* felt they would have more success reversing the precedent after new Justice Janine Geske was appointed to the Court—on the condition that no negative legislative history on this issue existed.

After negotiating with Republican leaders, I knew that chances of passage were extremely unlikely; even if a bill squeaked through the Assembly, it appeared that it would have lost in the Republican-controlled State Senate.

When I sought co-sponsors for a bill to reverse *Norman*, only one of the Assembly's 47 Republican members agreed to sign on to the bill.

Either Mr. McFarland does not understand the background of this issue fully, or he simply took a cheap shot at me on behalf of his candidate. In any case, the people he should blame are the Legislature's Republican leaders who refused to help overturn this decision.

Mr. McFarland conveniently overlooked the fact that both the Human Rights League for Lesbians and Gays as well as the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee endorsed me for re-election. I believe that I won these endorsements because of my long and consistent record of support for the Gay and Lesbian community in the State Assembly. I also believe that I received these endorsements because I am staunchly pro-choice, in marked contrast to my opponent.

I must conclude that Mr. McFarland was right about one thing—as he predicted, the Republicans took control of the State Assembly. Republicans now control state government—not to mention both houses of Congress.

This is a very disturbing prospect for those of us who are committed to progressive social policy. We must be vigilant and work to ensure that the progress that has been made in recent years isn't turned back, both at the state and federal levels.

While I hope that the Log Cabin Club can help to change the Republican Party's largely unresponsive and often hostile stance toward Gay and Lesbian civil rights, I am not optimistic. The next two years could be very grim, and we need to be on guard.

Barbara Notestein
State Representative
19th Assembly District

HRL Responds

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to take the opportunity to respond to the anonymous letter entitled "Human Rights League: Wake Up!" in the last issue of the *Light*.

The photo published in the *Milwaukee Journal* was indeed a Coming Out Day event sponsored by the Human Rights League for Lesbians and Gays (HRL). But contrary to the letter writer's claims, there were numerous notices and public announcements encouraging all members of our community to participate.

Invitation for the event were distributed at MAPFest and through many community groups including LOC, SAGE, LAMM, PACT and The Counseling Center. Announcements were also made to the several thousand people who attended the Flirtations concert on September 4th.

The event's planning committee included representatives from our local Gay/Lesbian newspapers, and the *Light* editors were also informed of the photo shoot many weeks in advance.

A reading of the names an occupations of those who participated (the majority of whom are, unfortunately, not yet members of HRL), clearly demonstrates the diversity of who we are as a community.

As for the claim of "how perfect they all seemed..." They all seemed to have good jobs, and have decent looks." I hope all those who demonstrated their courage and pride by coming out in such a public way take this as the compliment I am sure the writer intended it to be.

Regarding the Public Officials Reception held on Coming Out Day, the nearly 30 Gay and Lesbian organizations who co-sponsored this annual event assisted HRL in promoting this event to ensure that representatives from our community and its organizations were present.

In addition to having several promotional press releases printed by our local Gay/Lesbian newspapers, *Light* was, in fact, one of the co-sponsors. For supposedly trying to keep this event such a secret, I would think HRL would not have gone to such lengths to publicize it and involve our community in providing a forum for meeting with our elected officials.

While not explicitly stating as such, the anonymous writer certainly implies that those of us "big wigs" involved in HRL and the above mentioned events have said the quotations and statements used throughout this attack and have as our goal the willful exclusion of certain individuals and groups that are a part of our community.

The truth is that as a volunteer organization, HRL has made great efforts to be inclusive and open

to anyone wishing to join us. Dues start at \$10 a year and, we can be reached by calling 228-1921 or by writing to P.O. Box 92674, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

There is certainly a larger issue here, that being the pervasive and persistent tendency on the part of some members of our community to attack and tear down those individuals and organizations with whom they disagree. If we are to continue to grow and mature as a community, there is certainly an important place for healthy disagreements and discussions.

However, the rather cheap shots and personal barbs thrown at those of us involved in HRL, as well as the perpetuation of inaccurate information and falsehoods, are a great disappointment. HRL would welcome the opportunity to further discuss with those individuals and organizations these and similar concerns. However, our willingness to continue responding to this low-level banter within the Gay press is nearing its end.

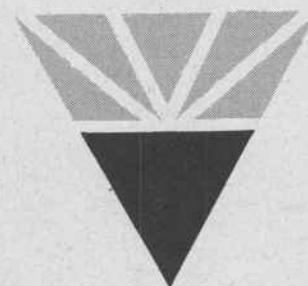
Tim Baack
HRL Spokesperson
Milwaukee

Editor's Note: Those attending the Flirtations Concert numbered only a few hundred, not several thousand.

Light has only one editor and he was not informed of the photo shoot "many weeks" in advance nor did we receive any press releases about it at any time.

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

The Wisconsin Light



Executive & Editorial Offices

1843 N. Palmer

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(414) 372-2773

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Publisher

Jerry Johnson

Executive Editor

Terry Boughner, Ph.D.

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Geno

Advertising Manager

Jerry Johnson

372-2773

COLUMNISTS AND REPORTERS

Maytee Aspuro, Sue Burke, Darren J. Foster, Eugene "Geno" Brzenk, Ph.D., Jamakaya, Karen Lamb, Ph.D., Bill Meunier, Carl Szatmary, Woodrow Thalberg, Dayna Versteegen.

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POLITICALLY SPEAKING

What Do We Do Now?

By Bill Meunier

There is only one way to describe Tuesday's election. No, in fact there is no way. I can't think of any words which would do justice to the hideous results we all saw coming across our television screens.

The Democratic loss of the State Assembly would have been bad enough. The loss of the U.S. Senate would have been bad enough. The loss of the House would have been bad enough. But the loss of all three can only be described as a disaster. In fact "disaster" doesn't justice to what happened.

At best, we are looking at 4 to 8 very rocky years. And that's if we're lucky. We are also probably looking at a Conservative Republican in the White House in 1996.

It should be abundantly clear that we have to begin working on 1996 now. We don't have the luxury of waiting until shortly before the election to mobilize our community.

Our enemies in the Christian Coalition work throughout the year. We seem to begin our efforts a few months before the election.

2 We also need to recognize that there simply is no short cut to grass roots organizing. Groups that make endorsements are nice. But as the Christian Coalition learned long ago, endorsements without much behind them are meaningless.

It's time we recognize that a considerable number of Gays and Lesbians don't vote. (Neither, by the way, do a considerable number of Fundamentalist Christians). It's also time we recognize that a considerable number of those who do, don't vote on the basis of being Gay or Lesbian.

We have some political groups, like the Human Rights League in Milwaukee, and Action Wisconsin on a statewide basis. These groups are in embryonic form. They couldn't really be expected to do much in this go round, but we desperately need them to do a lot more in the next. They need your support.

They can start by education. We need to teach people why it's in their best interest to vote as Gays and Lesbians.

Too many our people say, "I am more than a Gay man. I am more than a Lesbian." Of course, they are. Only a Right Wing Fundamentalist would believe otherwise.

Somehow we have to show these people that it doesn't matter what your taxes are if you are being fired from a job for being Gay. It doesn't matter what our foreign policy is, if all your time is taken up caring for a friend dying from AIDS.

Too many of our people have been sold a bill of goods. "Vote for the good of the country, not your own good." That's what we've been told.

It's time some of us woke up and realized that we too are part of the country. What's

Alabama Church Ministering to Lesbians and Gay Men is Condemned by Neighbors

(Huntsville, AL)- The new church behind the public library would be a model of Bible Belt conservatism if appearances counted for anything.

The gray trim blends into the dark brick exterior, and a plain cross hangs on the clean white wall just inside the door. The only thing missing is a steeple.

This house of God is not as traditional as it seems, however.

The church has a special ministry to Lesbians and Gay men who make up a majority of the congregation. Because of that, many local churchgoers are hoping the church will disappear just as quietly as it was built.

"It's created quite a furor among the Christian community," said Lee Hudson, a Baptist minister and outspoken opponent.

The Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) of Huntsville is small, with an average Sunday attendance of about 30. No one paid any attention during its first seven years as members met in a rustic lodge and a downtown office building.

But the church has been subjected to scattered protests since it opened its \$140,000 worship center about two months ago.

The minister of a nearby congregation erected a sign stating "Homosexuality is a Sin" and several neighbors scrawled derisive messages on posters.

A small group of antagonists confronted several members recently following a Holy Union ceremony.

"They came over here and were saying things like, 'We'd better go ahead and sell our property because we wouldn't last long,'" said church member Mancil Self, 37.

An official of the Los Angeles-based Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches said the reception given the Huntsville congregation has been worse than most, but not as bad as some.

Residents of Matthews, North Carolina, filed suit last year in a bid to keep MCC from

good for us, is also good for the country.

In addition to doing education, our political groups have to be willing to roll up their sleeves and do the nitty-gritty dirty work that makes the difference in elections. That means amassing mailing lists, setting up phone banks and channeling time, money and volunteers into campaigns.

Sure, it's more fun to attend a cocktail party than it is to make 100 phone calls. It's more fun to hob-nob than it is to sit in front of a computer and enter data. But it's also more fun to win than to lose. There are times when cocktail parties can be politically productive, but we can not ignore the hard tasks.

There is no reason why we can't have grass roots organizations all over the state, getting out the vote, raising money, lobbying and educating, getting volunteers into various campaigns. There is no reason why we can't do the same thing that the Christian Coalition does.

Yes, we don't have the advantage of a daily TV program like they do. Yes, we don't have the advantage of having a Rush Limbaugh and his "fellow travelers" on the radio blasting away. But we do have something else they can't and never will have.

We have the right. We have our own lives to protect. We have the ability to turn to our friends and relatives and explain to them how an election is going to impact on us.

Grass roots organizing is not the easiest thing to do, and it's not the most fun, but it is the surest way to have an electoral impact. Without it, we are going to continue to get pisted at the polls.

We did organize in the Clinton campaign. Then, Clinton couldn't deliver on the military and we forgot about him. Never mind that he did deliver on almost everything else. Too many of us had lost interest by then.

We have to have more patience. Don't expect our organizations not to make mistakes. Don't expect them to be totally effective. But do lend them your support. Work with them, not against them.

Those in control of our organizations have to be willing to take chances and allow others to have input too. We can't exclude anyone either by action or inaction. We need new ideas and new approaches. We have to develop techniques and tactics that turn our community on instead of turning it off.

We need everyone for this effort. We already saw the Christian Coalition knock off a Wisconsin Congressman, Peter Barca. He was the first, but if we don't act, he won't be the last.

The example set by our enemies is clear. We can follow that example and organize too. Or we can sit back, rationalize that things won't really get that bad and do nothing.

The results of the last election are in. They will be with us for at least two years. The results of our decision to respond as a national and statewide community will be with us for a lot longer.

moving into a building in their area. The 35-member congregation is now working to comply with zoning codes while meeting at a Unitarian-Universalist church.

"By and large our churches are serving the spiritual needs of the people in their community and do so without interference," said the Rev. Jay Neely of Atlanta. "We are a Christian church serving Christian men and women."

But it is that claim to being Christian that angers some of the church's opponents.

Pastor Daniel Whitworth, who put up a sign outside his Fanning Heights Church of Christ saying Gays are worthy of death, said MCC is guilty of blasphemy for teaching homosexuality is not a sin.

"I am firmly convinced that the Bible teaches that homosexuality is wrong. If it's not, then God owes the people of Sodom and Gomorrah an apology," Whitworth said.

It is that kind of talk that drives Gay people into MCC congregations and away from churches like the Baptists.

Self, taking a break from mowing the grass at his church's new building on a sunny afternoon, said he attended both Baptist and Methodist churches as a child.

"I took as much of that damnation and 'You're going to burn' as I could, and I left," Self said. "I just feel like Jesus came and died on the cross for me. His teaching didn't condemn anyone."

The Huntsville church had few problems until its members decided to "go public" by erecting their own church.

Not all the churches in the area have registered protests. Several Huntsville-area congregations have expressed support for MCC's right to exist. One local company even donated a rainbow flag with a cross on it.

"That made us feel real good," Self said.



Costumes on Parade-- Halloween was celebrated as usual across the state. Many bars held costume contests including in Milwaukee. This Is It, whose winners are shown above, was held on Oct. 29, 1994

AIDS Is Not a Gay Disease Anymore and Some Don't Like That at All

Commentary By Thomas P. Heyl

The other evening, Robby and I went to an AIDS benefit here. It was being held on one of our grand hotels, the kind that's all glitter and glass and lots of glitz. I didn't want to go. I hate black tie affairs, but Robby insisted. It was a "command performance," he said, and so we went, taking Miss Maud with us.

She was decked out for a royal ball, long white gown and diamonds (heirlooms, she said) with a touch of emeralds at her throat. Robby said that being with her made him think he was being presented at court. I could only agree.

We found that the place was packed. Miss Maud made her grand entrance, sweeping into the room on regal gusts. That left Robby and me to our own devices. We got drinks at the bar and adjourned to the smoking corner. There was a friend of ours there, a guy in his 40's, who looked like a mule having a bad day.

After the usual civilities and banalities, he got around to the benefit ball. There were too many straights there, he said. Why, he could the time, not too long in the past, when "those people" wouldn't have deigned to set foot "in a place like this."

"But AIDS isn't a Gay disease," Robby ventured.

He turned to look at us with a sad expression. "Yes, that's true, isn't it?" His tone was a little resentful. He finished his cigarette quickly and went on his way.

As Robby and I talked about it later, after he was gone, his last remark, the way he'd said it, had made a somewhat surprising point. If it ever had been, AIDS was indeed, not the Gay disease anymore.

Robby's point was that there was a time when AIDS seemed to be confined to the Gay community. In a way that was slightly perverse, if not a bit neurotic, Gays took the disease to themselves and "owned" it. It was ours and we took care of our own.

What would later be called AIDS service agencies, were small, intimate organizations staffed by volunteers. They might not know too much about the dimensions of what they were dealing with, but their hearts were in the right place.

There were few, if any, grand soirees like the one we were attending now. Instead, AIDS benefits were little street carnivals or bar shows, small things like that. People could feel good about themselves. They were easing the pain by helping out.

But things changed. The disease became a pandemic affecting Gays and straights alike, in numbers larger than anyone only a few years ago dared fear.

The little agencies either grew or faded away. There was no way they could handle the plague and stay as small, as intimate, as the were. And as they grew or new ones came to be, the people, many of them, with only good hearts to offer, had to go too.

Robby and I know some of them. They resent it, but that's the imperative of the disease.

To give people living with HIV/AIDS all the help and care they need and deserve, large, corporate-style AIDS service agencies are needed; research institutions too. Organizations like those, require skilled people, the corporate types, to administer them.

That may not be pleasant to some, they may be, and sometimes are, impersonal, but, as Robby says, given what AIDS has become, it's an inescapable process.

AIDS service agencies that are large and must grow larger, require vast amounts of funds. Some of this money can come from little fund-raisers, but given the amount that's needed, a lot of it must come benefits such as the one we were attending.

There are a lot of Gay people who feel they have been bumped aside. They have been, run over by the grossness of a situation that

none of us was prepared to understand.

But as Robby said, if all the large AIDS service agencies vanished tomorrow, if all the grand benefits ceased, who would take up the load? Not the little agencies that still exist. As it is, he speculated, their fate is probably to be swallowed up.

Robby and I went into the ballroom to eat stringy beef at \$100 a plate. There had to be 500, maybe 600 people there looking, I thought, like rhinestones set in a gaudy brooch. But like the large agencies, they're needed.

There are those who may not like it, but AIDS is not the Gay disease.

Editor's Note: The writer is a syndicated columnist living in Dallas, Texas.

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The Other Side of the Pink Triangle: Still a Pink Triangle

By Christine L. Mueller

Editor's Note: Recently, Religious Right Wing forces in Oregon began distributing a pamphlet saying "Nazism was largely an outgrowth of Germany's Gay Rights movement" and that Gays were not victims of the Holocaust. This has its roots in an lengthy essay, titled "The Other Side of the Pink Triangle," written by Kevin Abrams, a Canadian Orthodox Jew, and appearing in "Lambda Report", a Washington, D.C. publication of the Far Right.

At the same time, Scott Lively, the Oregon Citizens Alliance membership director, has been on a speaking tour to present a video titled "Gays and the Nazis: The Myth of the Pink Triangle," which purports to show that Gays were the primary force behind the German Nazi movement, and that "homosexuals as a specific 'group' were never targeted for extermination and were treated far better than most other concentration camp prisoners."

According to Lively, in addition to the essay and video, he and Abrams are writing a book on the subject

The following essay by Prof. Christine Mueller is a response. Mueller is a professor of history at Reed College in Oregon and an expert in the field of modern German history. The essay is reprinted here with the kind permission of the author.

Heinrich Himmler, the head of the SS and the man chosen to succeed Hitler in 1945, escalated the war on sexual behavior that did not conform to male heterosexual supremacy, an ideal he linked to winning the world race war of survival.

"A people of good race which has many children has the candidature for world power and world domination. A people of good race which has too few children has a one way ticket to the grave," he told the SS in one of his four hour lectures.

Two years before, in 1935, Himmler had secured Hitler's approval of a revision of the law, unchanged since the founding of a united Germany in 1871, that set prison terms for homosexual acts. Paragraph 175a, as it was called, now criminalized eight new acts, attitudes, intentions and reveries, apart from sex itself, and punished them with draconian sentences of three to ten years' incarceration.

Despite the fact that Himmler often personally protected Nazi homosexuals and kept their "crime" secret, in 1935, the actual arrests under the revised law almost quadrupled, from 948 to 3,700 in that year alone.

Unrecorded arrests, which later included homosexuals from European countries occupied by the Third Reich, and ad hoc Gay bashings may have catapulted the number to 220,000 per year.

Uncertainty about the numbers of Gays who disappeared under the Nazi regime is, in part, the direct result of the high mortality of such prisoners in the camps. When the SS newspaper *Das Schwarze Korps* published the view that "unnatural acts deserve the death penalty," this merely represented the logic of Himmler's "guiding Nordic principle: extermination of degenerates."

Though the law prescribed only prison terms of various lengths, uncoupled thousands of Gays were sent to Class III camps.

"Class III," writes Eugen Kogon, "stood for the 'mills of death' which prisoners seldom if ever, left alive."

For Gays, Class III camps were especially dangerous because, as Ruediger Lautman writes, "The closer a prisoner's category was to the heart of Nazi ideology, the more dangerous his circumstances in the camp."

From surviving prisoners to Rudolf Hoess, commandant at Auschwitz, witnesses nearly unanimously report that Gays were exposed in all camps to the greatest brutality. John Steakley summarizes the evidence:

The chances for survival in a Level 3 camp were low indeed. Gays were distinguished from other prisoners by a pink triangle about three-and-one-half inches high, worn on the left side of the jacket and on the right trouser leg. To make Gays more readily distinguishable, pink triangles were about an inch larger than the yellow triangles worn by Jews or the red triangles worn by political prisoners. There was no possibility of "passing" as a heterosexual, and the presence of "marked men" in the all-male camp population evoked the same reaction as in modern prisons: Gays were brutally assaulted and sexually abused.

The SS tortured Gays to death, worked them to death, shot, raped, beat and starved them, and performed medical experiments on them. The latter included hormonal injections intended to correct their orientation and save them for the propagation of the race.

The SS killed Gays for sport and target practice. They were designated by fellow prisoners as fodder for quotas--for special details, or reduction of the prison population through extermination.

Accepting castration might or might not lead to release; release after castration could lead directly to duty at the front in a feared SS penal battalion. In this situation, Hoess re-

called, "two friends (lovers) on several occasions committed suicide together."

Given such a record, it is churlish indeed to deny to Gays the status of victims accorded to Jews, gypsies and the sick, merely because the Nazis didn't kill enough of them, or because they were slaughtered outside the gas chambers.

Gays were the victims of racial cleansing, obviously a corollary of the genocidal ideology of Aryan racial supremacy.

Jews and gypsies were "enemy races," scheduled for extermination; Gays were "saboteurs" of the race, a problem in reproductive policy, or as Himmler called them, "racially less valuable members of the German population."

Considering this, Nazi physicians thought their "disorder" could be cured and instituted forcible medical treatment and what they called "rehabilitation."

Others thought homosexuality a "hereditary pathology" that required quarantine or extermination. "They are not poor, sick people to be treated," Himmler said, "but enemies of the state to be eliminated."

If, as Kevin Abrams claims, Judith Reisman indeed wrote that "it is unconscionable for radical homosexuals to wrest 'Nazi victim status' from the bones of millions of exterminated men, women and children," she is completely wrong. Gay victims were victims in their own right.

Before their rise to power, Nazi members of the Reichstag helped quash a proposal to limit Paragraph 175, announcing officially: "Anyone who even thinks of homosexual love is our enemy. We reject anything which emasculates our people and makes it a plaything for our enemies, for we know that life is a fight and its madness to think that men will ever embrace fraternally."

Immediately on taking power, Nazis raided and destroyed Gay clubs, bars, associations and organizations. They created police inventories of Gays to harass them with interrogations and investigations. As one survivor put it, "We lived like animals in a wild game park, always sensing the hunters."

Nazi leaders and the SS, Abrams argues, were primarily Gay and the qualities we associate with Nazi aggression and genocide were rooted in homosexuality. Permitted by a "liberal miasma of sexual deviance" to take root, Nazism burst forth, revealing the pathological nature of homosexuality.

So certain is Abrams of this startling conclusion, he permits himself to interpret the evidence any way he needs to, with light regard for historical scholarship--or indeed the fundamental rules of logic.

Certainly, there were Gays in proto-fascist groups, but one has to keep in mind, as Abrams does not, that there were Gay people everywhere, in every organization, in pre-Nazi Germany. Abrams suppresses the fact that homosexuality was increasingly open in pre-Nazi Germany homosexuality had increasingly--but only partially--"come out" in early 20th Century Germany. It was recognized in every walk of life. As such, Gays were imbued with the values of their social and cultural environments, from the most liberal to the ultra conservative.

No "liberal miasma" was needed to actuate this, nor was any "liberalization" of Paragraph 175 by the Weimar government--this is entirely a figment of Abrams' imagination, needed, in his view, to "explain" the particular homosexual elements in Nazi organizations.

What the '20s did witness was a high degree of unofficial toleration of individual emancipation--but not an inch of collective, legal emancipation.

Little wonder that Gays were to be found in the organizations out of which the Nazis rose, and that in that culture, homosexuality was associated with combat and ferocity. But far from being an expression of homosexuality, that ethos represented the stamp of an anti-Semitic, anti-capitalist, para-military world-view on both heterosexual and homosexual members.

For if homosexuality was present in every political and social organization in Germany, it cannot alone account for the specific nature of Nazism. Homosexuality was only one element among others there.

Abrams analysis thus has the tail wagging the dog, and he persists in this error throughout his essay. Time after time, he links one set of facts--i.e. that the SA was a "motley mob of brawlers"--to another set of facts--that some SA leaders were Gay--and assumes he has established a causal connection. He has not.

Empirical data does not corroborate the causal connection between homosexuality and Nazi political violence--or any other kind of violence, for that matter.

Abrams next attempts to posit it as an abstract generalization, citing five instances of homosexuality observed in ancient warrior societies. These "prove" to him that "the most warlike nations have been those who were most addicted to the love of male youths."

Abrams pseudo-scientific logic here is

strikingly similar to the pseudo-science of Nazi eugenics and, is almost exactly what Hitler thought about Gays himself.

Rudolf Diels, the founder of the Gestapo, recorded some of Hitler's thoughts on the subject: "He (Hitler) lectured me on the role of homosexuality in history and politics. It had destroyed ancient Greece, he said. Once rife, it extended its contagious effects like an ineluctable law of nature to the best and most manly of characters, eliminating from the reproductive process those very men on whose off-spring the nation depended."

Abrams' forced analogy reveals that it is not enough for him to refute Gay histories of Nazi persecution--he claims to know categorically that "in Nazi Germany, homosexuals were NEVER targeted for extermination and were treated far better than other concentration camp prisoners."

The point of the false parallel between Nazi and Gay "strategies" is to imply further that claims of persecution should be read as a secret sign of the real, i.e. Nazi, nature of American Gays! If homosexuality equals "warlike," American Gays must be like Nazis in many other ways as well. After this obser-

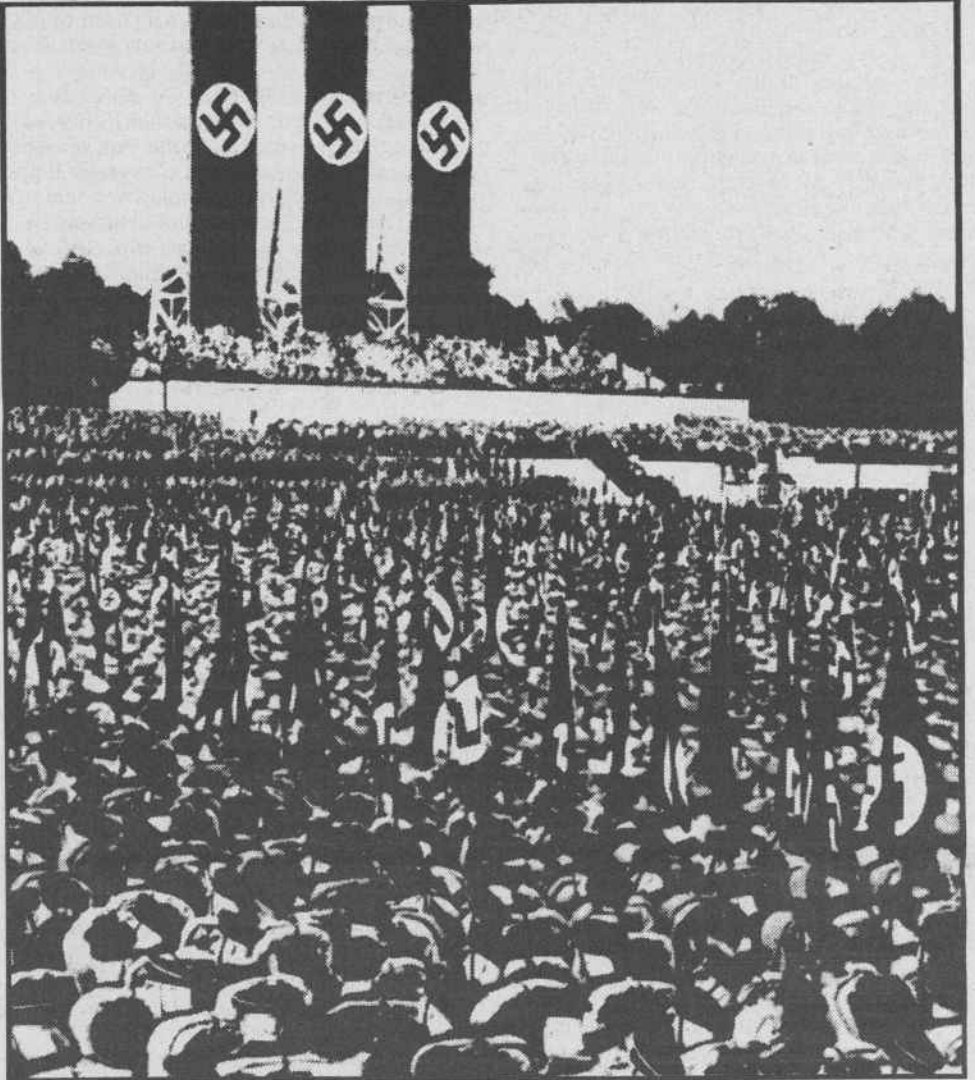
vation, the unfolding of the Nazi regime in his essay becomes a sketch of the potential dangers Gays pose to America.

Oblivious to the myriad of contradictions in his essay, Abrams concentrates on solving what seems to him the major obstacle in his case, the fact that when Hitler purged Roehm and the SA, he explained his murderous acts as a purge of homosexuals.

The point is that homosexuality had not been and never became an important aspect of Nazi ideology or practice. The fact is that the Nazis set out to exterminate every Gay person they could lay their hands on.

Neither was the SS dominated by Gays as Abrams contends. The SS was led by a rabidly homophobic heterosexual, Heinrich Himmler. Nor was the murder of masses of Jews done by "butch homosexuals" as Abrams claims.

Abrams claim that Hitler was Gay is simply absurd, unsupported by any credible evidence whatever. Like all the rest of Abrams' essay, it is based on tendentious research, fallacious reasoning, and gullibility--and a dishonorable determination to adapt the any evidence to his needs.



The Nuremberg Rally in "Triumph of the Will" is Riefenstahl's triumph

Scott Lively Rewrites History to Make Gay Men the Perpetrators of Nazi Germany

By Inga Sorensen

(Portland, OR)- A well known Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA) figure is embarking on a new career. Scott Lively, the OCA's membership director, says he and Kevin Abrams are currently writing a book detailing "the truth about homosexuality and the Nazi Party." When revealed, Lively says, that "truth" will show that Gay men were not persecuted in large numbers by the Nazis during World War II.

More importantly, he says, the "truth" will show that Gay men were a major force in the Third Reich and much of the Nazi Party's philosophy was directly derived from Gay men's organizations of the immediate pre-Nazi era.

"Most people believe that the Nazi Party persecuted homosexuals. In one sense they did, but it wasn't anything like we've been led to believe. In fact, it was almost the opposite," explained Lively during a showing of his new video *Gays and the Nazis: The Other Side of the Pink Triangle* appearing on cable access TV in Salem, Oregon and scheduled for nationwide distribution.

Among Lively's claims: the German Workers Party--the forerunner to Hitler's Nazis--was founded in a Gay bar in Munich in 1919; the Nazi Party's most influential players, including Hitler himself, were all Gay; and the "sieg Heil" salute, the term "Fuehrer," and the use of the swastika as a Nazi symbol are all traceable to Gay8 men's organizations.

Civil Rights activists are taking Lively's current crusade very seriously. Gary Smith, a member of the West Valley Human Rights Coalition and Equal Rights PAC of Marion County, Oregon, has watched Lively's presentation on cable access.

Smith describes it as "anything but shallow. I think it is not to be taken lightly. His information is presented in a very professional manner. If we have any good historians on the subject, I think we should have a point-by-point analysis."

(Editor's Note: See article by Christine L. Mueller in this issue.)

Film and radio producer Barbara Bernstein, who has conducted numerous investigative reports on the religious right, also offers an analysis.

"Lively's historian experts are the historic equivalents of the religious right's psychological experts: Paul Cameron, Judith Reisman and Joseph Nicolosi. Cameron has been thrown out of the American Psychological Association; Reisman has been discredited by the National Institute of Mental Health which paid her to conduct a study which they refused to publish because it was so poorly executed; and Nicolosi is under attack for his claims that he can cure homosexuality with reparative therapy."

Marcy Westerling, project coordinator of the Rural Organizing Project, says Gay and Lesbian activists "need to get a better handle on the Holocaust."

She says, "In the past, a lot of people have simply called religious right leaders Nazis. I think we need to address the issue as one in which we examine what it was about German society that allowed the Nazi Party to flourish. It's time to stop the name-calling and instead, embark on a substantive discussion."

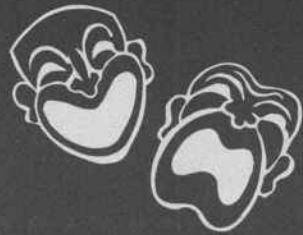
Lecture On The Gay Holocaust

(Milwaukee)- Terry Boughner, Ph.D., Editor of *Wisconsin Light*, will be speaking on the Nazi persecution of Lesbians and Gay men to the Milwaukee Chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

Boughner will be speaking from his notes gained from Gay survivors of the Holocaust, made during his travels in Europe.

The lecture will be given November 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the Martin Luther Lutheran Church, 9235 Bluemound Road. For more information, call (414) 962-9320.

The Light



LIVELY ARTS



Tom Cruise as the vampire, Lestat, in "Interview With The Vampire"

Best-Selling Author, Jackie Calhoun, to Give a Reading at AfterWords on November 12

(Milwaukee)- AfterWords bookshop is pleased to announce that best-selling Naiad Press author, Jackie Calhoun, has accepted an invitation to give a reading of her latest book, **Triple Exposure**, on Saturday, November 12 at 1:00 p.m.

In this, her fifth book for Naiad Press, the country's oldest and most successful Lesbian book publisher, Calhoun introduces photographer Nicky Hennessey, a woman at a pivotal personal crossroads in her life. Passionately involved with her old friend, Beth Forrester, Nicky must face the truth that Beth is either



Jackie Calhoun

unable to leave her husband, or she is at least unwilling to make such a commitment. To make matters worse for Nicky, her recent property purchase appears to be a financial disaster. Then, to top it off, Nicky meets Meg.

Calhoun's earlier novels include *Second Chance*, *Sticks and Stones*, *Lifestyles*, and *Friends and Lovers*. She has received a warm response from both readers as well as critics.

The Northwest Gay & Lesbian Reader called Calhoun's last book, *Friends and Lovers*, "...a quiet novel of the day-to-day interactions, triumphs and failures that make up life..."

Elynor Vine in *Visibilities* writes, "Calhoun is perceptive and articulate. Her writing is smoothly paced, like a champion runner who knows how to master her breathing for maximum effect. A good read!"

Calhoun makes her home in nearby Appleton and her novels are set in the midwest she knows and loves. Already working on book number 6, she will read from *Triple Exposure* as well as entertain questions about her life as an author of Lesbian literature.

Young Adult Program

AfterWords is excited about what is hoped will be the first of a series of programs and events geared toward a young adult audience.

On Saturday, November 19, AfterWords will feature appearances by Roger Sutton and Lisa Ebricht, author and editor of *Hearing Us Out: Voices of the Gay and Lesbian Community* (Little, Brown HC \$16.95).

Utilizing moving first-person interviews

in combination with candid photographs, *Hearing Us Out* profiles 15 people who tell what the experience of being Lesbian or Gay has meant in their lives. The subjects of Sutton's interviews range from a Gay minister to a bright high school student who tells of being tormented out of school.

This powerful book not only exposes the heartache and struggle experienced by these individuals, but their testimonies share their hopes and promise.

An ideal book for any high school library, *Hearing Us Out* effectively assists straight readers in understanding that Gay people are just them in many ways, but that we also have a culture and community all our own. For Gay teens, *Hearing Us Out* illustrates that being Gay doesn't mean isolation.

Hearing Us Out has already garnered positive response from people such as Mitzi Henderson, President of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays who writes, "We have so much to learn from simply listening to each other, and the rich personal stories in *Hearing Us Out* have much to teach us."

Sutton is a former children's editor, young adult librarian and now, editor-in-chief of *The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*. This is his first book.

The program will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 19 at AfterWords. Sutton will talk about how the idea for the book came about, his research and discuss the book's final form.

For further information, call (414) 963-9089.

AfterWords

Author Appearance
Saturday, Nov. 12th 1:00pm
Jackie Calhoun
TRIPLE EXPOSURE

Young Adult Program
Saturday, Nov. 19th 1:00pm
Book: HEARING US OUT
Editor Roger Sutton
Photographer Lisa Ebricht

AfterWords Book Club
Monday, Nov. 21st 7:30pm
SCISSORS, PAPER, ROCK
by Fenton Johnson

AfterWords 2710 N. Murray Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53211 963-9089

'Interview With The Vampire' is Redolent of the Sensuality of Both Evil and Love

By Terry Boughner

Inherent in all of the legends of vampires is an underlying current of sensuality that sweeps along like a river before the moon. In all the stories, the vampire is more than simply a horrifying figure of the undead. He is the very embodiment of hot, calculating passion that, rendering its "victim" powerless, leads on, surely and inevitably, to the yielding, explosive abandonment of sex.

Interview With The Vampire is completely faithful to the legends in this regard. When Tom Cruise (the vampire, Lestat) sinks his fangs into Brad Pitt's (Louis de Pointe du Lac) bared, willing neck, the screen glows and then bursts into a fire of steamy, wonderfully beautiful sensuality that is a model of its kind.

But where *Interview* departs the legends is in its very Gay theme.

Incidentally, for those who said Cruise couldn't play a Gay character, forget it. He does so with what some might think of as the remarkable sensitivity and understanding of a talented actor, but what others might say is completely natural for him.

Whichever the case, *Interview*, no matter what else it is, is Louis' story; his own account of his coming to terms with the twin realities of his life; the fact that he is a vampire, an alien, that he will be that forevermore, and secondly with his love for Lestat.

While Lestat is very comfortable with who and what he is, Louis thinks of himself and the group to which they both belong, as evil and Lestat as the prince of the dark. He tells himself that he has chosen to be the vampire that he is, adding to that, that Lestat

forced the choice on him, which is certainly not true.

In one particularly powerful, torrid scene, Cruise offers Pitt his blood to drink. It is this (not a bite in the neck) that will turn him into a vampire, a member of the alien race. Pitts knows this. Cruise has told him what will happen, yet he drinks hungrily.

There is the element of choice in this, but as everything before and after makes clear, it is a choice that comes from a deep inner reality that has been struggling to get out.

Secondly, Louis must come to terms with his love for Lestat, a man very much like himself.

Pitt is excellent in his role of a young man struggling with his needs, his compulsions, his inner being. One has to think that he too understands.

It is the twin struggles the inform the movie and provide its exciting, convoluted plot. It is in the weaving together of good and evil, love and torrid desire, and making them one, that Anne Rice, the author of both the book and the screenplay, reveals her genius.

This is not a horror movie. On the contrary, there is, I think, no question. *Interview With The Vampire* is a coming out story. While straight audiences may miss it (although it's so clear, I don't know how they could), the vampire is a metaphor for being Gay, for the struggles and denials that most of us have had to endure.

I would give this movie my highest rating.

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Shakespeare's 'Two Gents' Get Close in Boulevard Ensemble's Production

By Sue Burke
"There's no faking when you're that close," said Stacy Synold.

She had just played the role of Silvia in Shakespeare's *Two Gentlemen of Verona* at the Boulevard Ensemble, a "microtheatre" in a storefront at 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. It's like presenting a play in a living room.

"All there's really room for is language," said David Flores, who played Proteus, one of the two gentlemen. "You can't move around. There's not a lot of sets or costumes. It's just language. You have to whittle away all those other things that you add for a big stage and come right down to the spoken word. I know it sounds easy, but it's really very hard."

Two Gentlemen of Verona will be presented Thursdays and Sundays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; and at a closing matinee Nov. 27 at 2:30. Tickets are \$9 to \$10, depending on the performance, and can be reserved by calling 672-6019.

The focus on actors and acting makes *Two Gentlemen* a typical Boulevard production. Faux marble paint and a pair of movable columns make up the entire set. With a few costumes, the players step into Renaissance Italy, and the comic plot begins.

Proteus and Valentine are good friends. "Exactly how far -- how much do these guys really love each other, that was a big thing we weren't quite sure how to handle," Flores said. "We eventually decided --"

"Not to handle it," Synold interjected, giggling.

Proteus loves Julia. Valentine goes to Milan and falls in love with Silvia. Proteus joins him and falls in lust with Silvia. Julia dresses up like a boy and sneaks to Milan to find out what's going on. Then things get complicated.

The best parts, actually, might be the servants of Proteus and Valentine, Shakespearean buffoons at their best. Mark Kohler portrays the servant Launce. A long-haired dachshund dog named Murphy portrays Launce's dog, Crab. Kohler calls his a can't-miss part. "You've got a cute dog and good lines."

Like everyone in the Boulevard, Kohler doesn't get paid. He works to do something "worthwhile or creative, to make people laugh, make people think."

Steven Whittle, playing the other servant, Speed, volunteers his time for the moment "when you get that connection, when you're in the middle of a monologue and look at somebody and see in their eyes they understand."

This was the Boulevard stage debut for Whittle, Murphy, Flores, Synold and some other members of the cast, although they may have acted with other companies. The Boulevard offers a space for new actors to practice their craft, said Mark Bucher, general director of the ensemble.

For more experienced actors -- along with directors, stage crews and scenic artists -- while the Boulevard can't offer money, it can offer them the chance to work on challenging pieces by top playwrights. Many plays at the Boulevard involve small casts by necessity, so each actor carries a weighty role.

Often, actors and crew members return for more shows. "Obviously, we must be doing something right," Bucher said.

Now in its ninth season, the Boulevard began as "kind of a lark," Bucher said, in a Riverwest coffeehouse. When the coffeehouse closed in 1985, the Boulevard found a more or less suitable storefront in Bay View, capable of seating an audience of up to 40.

Since then, with the help of Dawn and James Ross and Dana Fralick -- along with many other volunteers -- the Boulevard has expanded. It now uses the storefront next door as a lobby and has an office in the back.

Last year, the Boulevard could even help the Milwaukee AIDS Project, Hope House homeless shelter and Sojourner Truth House battered women's shelter by donating proceeds from special performances. Bucher hopes to do that again this season.

Meanwhile, plans are in place for the coming season. "You try to offer something to your subscription audience like you would a



"Did I not bid you mark me, and do as I do? When didst thou see me heave up my leg, and make water against a gentlewoman's farthingale?" Mark Kohler as Launce scolds Murphy as Crab.



A recent photograph of Leni Riefenstahl

'Wonderful, Horrible Life of Leni Riefenstahl' Portrays Hitler's Filmmaker

Editor's Note: A couple of generations ago, she was a glamorous German movie star, then an award-winning filmmaker. She was cozy with the Nazis and reputed to have been Hitler's mistress. Now, in her 90's, they've made an award-winning movie about her, *Wonderful, Horrible Life of Leni Riefenstahl*, which will be opening at Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre on November 18.

(Poeking, Germany) - The greatest passion of Leni Riefenstahl, age 92, is scuba diving among the world's coral reefs. She's making a documentary about these underwater wonderlands, her first film in nearly 50 years.

And no one is harassing her about working for Adolf Hitler.



Leni Riefenstahl in the 1932 film "The Blue Light" (Das Blaue Licht).

Riefenstahl was a glamorous cinema actress in 1920's Weimar Germany.

She's best known for directing *Triumph of the Will*, a documentary she made for Hitler about the Nazis' 1934 Nuremberg rally. Another well-known work is *Olympia*, a documentary about the 1936 Berlin Summer Olympics, also made during Hitler's reign of terror.

If she'd followed Marlene Dietrich and other German artists to the U.S., Riefenstahl might have become a Hollywood star. Instead, the *Saturday Evening Post* in 1946, dubbed her a "Nazi Pinup Girl."

In a rare interview at her home near the Bavarian Alps, Riefenstahl is all charm and energy. She's amazingly fit. Her eyes twinkle. She smiles coquettishly. A dyed blond curl dips over her forehead. There's something about her that seems to come straight out of a 1920's cabaret scene in *Gay Berlin*.

Riefenstahl was so controversial back then that when she made a trip to Hollywood in 1938, Walt Disney turned down her offer of a private screening of *Olympia* because he worried that others in the film industry would find out.

Riefenstahl spent three years under Allied arrest after World War II, some of the time in a mental hospital. De-Nazification tribunals ultimately cleared her of any wrongdoing.

Six decades after the Nuremberg rally, Riefenstahl is more appreciated in the U.S. and other foreign countries than in her own.

Newsweek last year called her the equal of directors Orson Welles and D.W. Griffith. She gets loads of fan mail. Her films are shown in American college courses. A documentary about her, *Wonderful Horrible Life of Leni Riefenstahl*, played at the New York Film Festival.

Her still photographs of the past three decades have been published around the world. She is prospering. In the eyes of many, her past is less important than her genius.

Her detractors concede her talents. But they have not forgiven Riefenstahl for her

links with the Nazis.

Ralph Giordano, a Jewish writer who barely escaped the Holocaust, says Riefenstahl must have known that Hitler had an evil mind when she agreed to create *Triumph of the Will*.

"Leni Riefenstahl bears intellectual guilt because she glorified Hitler at a time when everyone knew what a criminal he was," Giordano says. "Political parties had already been banned, books were being burned. Jewish businesses boycotted, and Gay people, among others, were already being sent to the camps."

"It hurts when someone says I'm an incorrigible Nazi," Riefenstahl says. "I've been defending myself for five decades. Either people believe me or they don't."

Riefenstahl says she initially admired Hitler because of his charisma and his promises to put 6 million jobless people back to work. Even though she had close Jewish and Gay friends in the arts, she sent a letter to Hitler asking to meet him.

The two met one Spring day in 1932 on a North Sea beach, only months after Hitler had come to power. There were a number of other private conversations as well: in his Berlin office, in Munich, at his getaway in the Bavarian Alps.

Was Hitler Gay?

One evening in June, 1938, Hitler visited her in her apartment in Berlin. They talked about his love life, with Hitler saying, "My romances were mostly unhappy." He said that the "one, true" love of his life had been with his niece, Geli Raubal, who had committed suicide in 1931.

"That evening I felt Hitler desired me as a woman," Riefenstahl said.

There were rumors after the war that she had been Hitler's mistress. Riefenstahl denies it and not even her critics seem to believe it.

"I would probably have offered a lot of money if I said I was Hitler's girlfriend. Maybe it was stupid of me to tell the truth."

Was Hitler Gay? No one every thought that, she says. "None of the big Nazis were homosexuals--except Ernst Roehm (head of the SA), and they killed him."

According to Riefenstahl, she repeatedly complained to Hitler about his anti-Semitism, but it did not good. "Anti-Semitism was like a rotten apple in him. It finished him and Germany," she says.

When Hitler asked her to film the Nuremberg rally, she refused, relenting only when he promised her that she could do whatever she pleased once the film was finished.

What she produced, *Triumph of the Will*, is an artistic and technical masterpiece. Two years before the war, the French gave it a gold medal, and many say it set the pattern for documentaries ever since.

After her release by the Allies following the war, she lived in poverty, boycotted by all film producers. It was only in the 1960's and the release of her photographs of the Nuba people of Sudan, that she regained her creative feet.

"I am only happy when I'm doing something creative," she says. "At those times, I feel no hunger, no weariness, no pain."

Sunday NIGHT OUT

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'Pansy Division' Coming to Madison and Milwaukee

(Milwaukee)- "Pansy Division" is an all-gay, pro-sex, pro-safer sex, rock band from San Francisco currently on tour with "Green Day" and they'll be appearing soon in both Milwaukee and Madison.

They're coming to Wisconsin fresh from having just released their second album, **De-flowered** on Lookout Records. The new album builds on their success of their 1993 debut, **Undressed**.

"Pansy Division combines humorously sexual, in-you-face Queer lyrics with catchy pop punk melodies, harkening back to bands like "Buzcocks," "Ramones" and "Undertones." Until now, no other Queer band has been so "out" playing this kind of music.

On **De-flowered**, they add a harder, thicker guitar sound to the brew and some songs address more serious lyrical themes. The first album was a declaration of independence in which they staked out their turf. The new album shows them exploring that turf in depth, both musically and lyrically.

After **Undressed** was released, the band toured the U.S., played the March On Washington, released some singles, got lots of great reviews and received fan mail from all over the world.

Though on one level it's butt-shaking fun, "Pansy Division's" music is inherently political. The reason is simple: because being openly Queer at a time when many states and cities are trying to pass laws against Queers is, in itself, a political act.

The band will be appearing with "Green Day" in Milwaukee on Sunday, November 20 at the Eagles Auditorium and, in Madison, without "Green Day," on Monday, November 21 at the Club de Wash.

Theatre X Presents 'Lord Alfred's Lover'

(Milwaukee)- Theatre X, launching their 25th Anniversary Season, delivers a thought-provoking portrayal of the masterful Gay playwright, Oscar Wilde. Victor DeLorenzo, formerly of Milwaukee's own "Violent Femmes, stars as Oscar Wilde.

Lord Alfred's Lover incorporates the writing talent of Obie Award-winning Eric Bentley and the direction of Theatre X's own John Schneider. This factually based production will run from November 22 to December 11 at Theatre X, located at 158 N. Broadway in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward.

A definite highlight of the 1994-1995 Season, **Lord Alfred's Lover** showcases the fearless performing talent of Theatre X. On the 100th anniversary of his famous trials, **Lord Alfred's Lover** depicts the life and times of the famous playwright Oscar Wilde with a style of wit and audacity that only Theatre X and Eric Bentley can deliver.

Set in London's West End in the late 1800's, this performance portrays the brilliant Wilde as a victim of society's inability to cope with event surrounding his love for young Lord Alfred. The creator of classics such as **The Importance of Being Earnest** and **The Picture of Dorian Gray**, Wilde died alone and penniless in Paris after having been imprisoned for two years. Only Lord Alfred attended his funeral.

Performance previews will be held Tuesday, November 22 and Wednesday, November 23 at 7:30 p.m. (at a discounted rate of \$10). Theatre X features its "Pay-What-You-Can" discount for all Thursday night performances. Student and senior discounts are offered every day.

For ticket and other information, visit the Broadway Theatre Center or call (414) 291-7800.

Ko-Thi Dance Company Presents 'A Gathering of Women'

(Milwaukee)- Babies kill the babies, but the mothers are left to cry over them in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Washington, D.C. and even in Milwaukee. It is those brave women who provided the inspiration for **A Gathering of Women**.

A Gathering of Women, choreographed by Ko-Thi Artistic Director Ferne Caulker, is one of the pieces to be featured in the upcoming Thanksgiving concert. The event is one of only two major local concerts presented annually by the Ko-Thi Dance Company.

The Thanksgiving Concert will also include a spiritually uplifting dimension. Directed by Rev. Barry Ward, the nationally recognized Marquette Gospel Choir will take part in the concert.

The Thanksgiving concert will take place at 6:00 p.m., Sunday, November 20 at the Pabst Theatre, 144 E. Wells. For ticket and other information, call (414) 286-3663.

MOOK to Play Madison on November 18

(Madison)- You saw them for 15 minutes at the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee's Variety show. You saw them for 30 minutes, opening for nationally award-winning performance artist Holly Hughes. Now see Milwaukee-based, multi-media performance group MOOK for 90 minutes at Madison's newest place to be, Mother Fool's coffee house, 1101 Williamson Street, on Friday, November 18, at 8:00 p.m.

Jen Benka, Bill Dempsey and Jane Kramer, the members of MOOK, have taken the Milwaukee performance scene by storm over the last two years with their performances at Theatre X, midwestern universities and political benefits. Their last production was a part of the "Theatre X Presents Theatre Women" series. It was entitled **Bluestockings** and explored and examined the U.S. suffrage movement and its parallel to contemporary issues such as sexism and homophobia.

MOOK has a brand new 5-song cassette that will be for sale at the show along with their memorable self-titled first tape which contains some of their classics, including "Brenda Vacarro."

The cover charge for the show is \$3 and the place is small, so get there early or you'll miss the event. For more information, call Mother Fool's at (608) 259-1301.

Fest City Singers Present 'The Secret of Christmas'

(Milwaukee)- Just as the malls and shopping centers begin to prepare for the holidays earlier each year, local Gay/Lesbian/Bi choruses have been polishing their Yuletide Christmas concerts for months in advance.

The Fest City Singers (FCS) in the past, have presented "A Dickens Christmas," "Home for the Holidays," "A Celebration of Christmas Traditions," among others. This year's production is "The Secret of Christmas," written by Tim Kraetsch. It combines song, dance and story designed to appeal to all family members, especially children.

Santa Claus and some elves will be bustling about, and in what has now become a holiday tradition, the Singers will treat their guests with mulled cider, coffee and toothsome holiday treats. Many linger after the show to extend the enjoyment of the evening.

"The Secret of Christmas" will be presented at the South Shore Pavilion, 2900 South Shore Drive, beginning at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, December 11. Tickets are available at the door, from chorus members or by calling the Festline: (414) 263-FEST (7464).

The Cream City Chorus, too, will be sharing their musical talents in their Christmas show, "Ring In, Ring Out," on Sunday, December 11 in the PAC's Vogel Hall at 4:00 p.m.

Why not plan to make December 11 a true family Christmas with the Cream City Chorus and the Fest City Singers!?

Present Music Will Perform at Vogel Hall in 1994-'95 Season

(Milwaukee)- Present Music, Milwaukee's internationally renowned contemporary music ensemble, will be returning to the Performing Arts Center to perform three concerts in 1994-'95.

The first of these concerts will take place on Saturday, November 26 at Vogel Hall. Present Music will be performing works by Scottish composer James MacMillan and American composers David Lang, Kamran Ince, Joseph Koykkar and Scott Johnson.

Present Music will premiere "The Frontlines," a new work by Koykkar who is a member of the Interarts and Technology faculty and Music Director for the Dance Program at UW-Madison.

Scott Johnson is also a composer originally from Madison, but who now lives and works in New York City. Present Music musicians Eric Segnitz and Paul Gmeinder have commissioned a series of works from Johnson entitled "Rent Party." This performance of "Rent Party" will mark its world premiere.

Present Music commissioned David Lang to compose "Anvil Chorus," for solo "junk metal" percussion that will be performed by Terry Smirl.

Present Music will perform "...as others see us..." by Scottish composer James MacMillan and Kamran Ince's "Hammer Music" from their newly released CD recording on Northeastern Label.

Tickets can be purchased at the PAC Box Office, 929 N. Water Street--(414) 273-7206--or by calling Present Music at (414) 271-0711.

Ticket Availability for Top Broadway Shows as of November 1

(New York, NY)- Going to New York over the holidays? Wonder what's playing on Broadway and can you get tickets? Here's the best information available as of November 1.

Credit card holders can order tickets by phone or by calling Telecharge or Ticketmaster. Telecharge's number is 1-800-432-7250. Ticketmaster is 1-800-755-4000. There is a \$5 service charge per ticket for Ticketmaster orders plus a \$2.50 handling fee per order. Both services will provide information on specific seat locations.

The League of American Theatres and Producers has a special telephone line for information on Broadway and selected off-Broadway shows and how to purchase tickets. Calls must be made on a Touch-Tone phone. The number is (212) 768-1818.

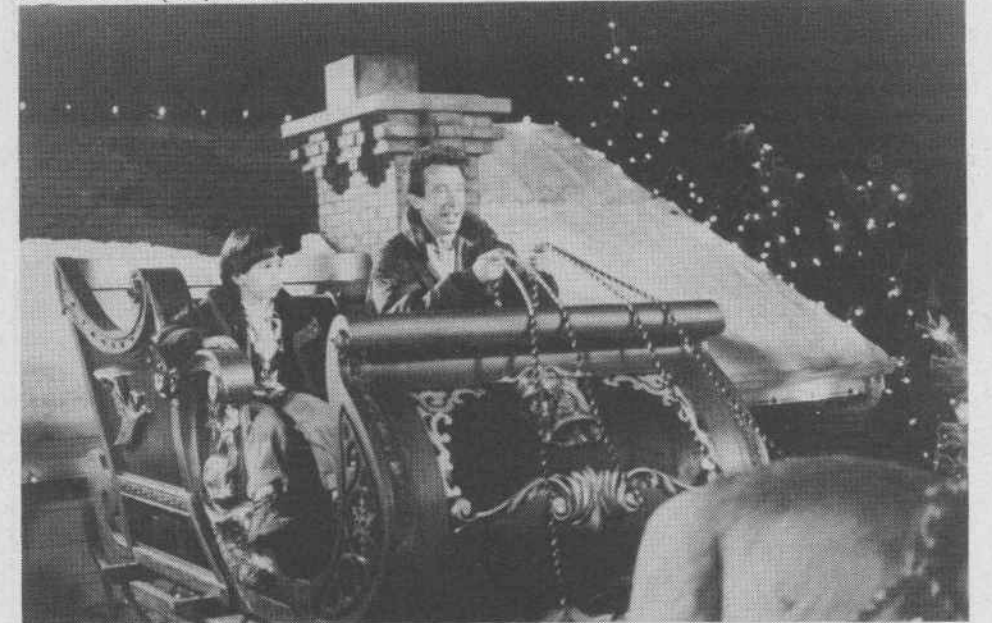
When calling theatres directly, use New York area code 212. Advance inquiries should be made, as ticket availability is subject to change.

Ticket Availability

For the following plays, tickets are still relatively easy to buy:

An Inspector Calls, Angels in America, Beauty and the Beast, Blood Brothers, Carousel, Cats, Crazy For You, Damn Yankees, Grease, Guys and Dolls, (closes Jan. 8), **Jackie Mason: Politically Incorrect, Kiss of the Spider Woman, Les Miserables, Miss Saigon, Passion, Show Boat, Tommy**.

Tickets to **The Phantom of the Opera** are said to be very difficult to come by. If you want to see it, start digging now.



Ho-Ho-Ho- After Santa mysteriously disappears in the film "Santa Clause," Tim Allen (right) is coerced by his son, Charlie, (Eric Lloyd) to don the familiar outfit on Christmas Eve in the new Walt Disney Pictures comedy.

Gay Pride, Gay Future: Let It Shine!

(Milwaukee)- "Gay Pride, Gay Future: Let It Shine!" is a 60 minute cable program highlighting last June's Gay Pride Festival on Milwaukee's Lakefront. Besides showing scenes from the Parade and snippets of the Festival's entertainment, the program features interviews from a diverse group of 40 people who were asked what they hoped to be doing with their lives 5, 10, 15 and 20 years from now; exactly what was their personal sense of the future?

Long-time Gay video producer Mark Behar, selected these interview topics because of

recent news reports about West Coast Gay men losing their sense of hope for the future, many of them fearing they will all be dead from AIDS in 5 or 10 years. As this fear can immobilize a person so that they won't try to pursue an education, a profession or livelihood, Behar wanted to contrast whether a sample of Milwaukee festival goers were as fatalistic and seemingly hopeless as many West Coast Gay men seem to be.

Barring technical difficulties, the hour long program will air on Milwaukee Warner Cable Channel 14 on Wednesday, December 7 and 14 at 8:00 p.m. and Friday, December 23 and 30 at 9:00 p.m. January times are also planned.

Inconvenient times? Program your VCR!

The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus Welcomes New Board Members

(Milwaukee)- On Wednesday, October 26th, the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus elected two new officers to its board.

Joining incumbents Scott Sowles (President), Ron Thate (founder), Terri Wedner (Secretary) and Scott S. Stewart (Musical Director) are the newly elected Treasurer John Chartre and Vice President Bill Schumacher. Both have been long-time singing members of the Chorus, and Schumacher is a past president of the organization. Both are welcome additions to the board and bring with them new and interesting ideas.

The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus is also seeking people of leadership from the community at large to help the Chorus make the transition from a grass roots organization to

adopt a more broad-based position.

This search is, in part, due to the Chorus' goal of attending the upcoming GALA festival of choruses in Tampa, which requires an aggressive fundraising effort to make the trip possible.


The Chorus is seeking creative people within the LesBiGay community, especially those with leadership and proven skills in financial management, to serve as an advisory board to the Chorus.

For more information, please contact the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus at (414) 344-WCCC, or write to the Chorus at P.O. Box 1488, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

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The Age of Innocence and the Loss of Faith

Commentary by Thomas P. Heyl

Robby, my spouse-to-be and I often see Miss Maud. Either we go to her house or she comes to ours. Either way, we enjoy the time we spend together. She's such an outrageous old hoot.

The other evening, she came over to our place. Robby had a fire going, a hedge against the soggy damp that's been part of east Texas life these days. There was brandy and cigarettes and Miss Maud firmly ensconced in an overstuffed chair, while Robby and I sat on the couch across from her. 8

She'd watched some TV show--I don't remember which one. On it, one of the characters had referred to a "loss of innocence," which set Miss Maud off.

"La, honey," she said after drinking some brandy. "What's so precious about 18 innocence? I didn't lose anything when I first got laid. I gained something, experience, growth, which more than replaced all that innocence. Innocence isn't the absence of guilt, no, not at all. It's empty and often selfish like a child. Why glorify it? Why be sad when it's gone? I never was and I've never wanted it back, not on your life."

Robby and I glanced at each other. Miss Maud was in high form tonight.

She quaffed some brandy and continued on. "It was the same when I lost my faith--or got rid of it, I should say. People talk about the despair you're supposed to feel when that happens, the dark night of the soul and all of that, but that's all rubbish, a lot of nonsense, Christian propaganda," she said with a dismissive wave of a hand.

"After all, what is there to believe?" she asked, taking a drag on her cigarette. "Take sin for example, original sin. When exactly did this happen? In the Garden of Eden? To believe that, you have to think that after millions of years of evolution, two people ran off to this divine Disneyworld that came complete with talking snake. Later, those two poor, dear innocents got booted out on an entrapment charge and we've been sinning ever since. Hogwash!" She made a derisive sound.

Robby and I chuckled.

"La, honey, I've done a some things I'm not

too proud of, but that's shame. On the basis of some old Jewish legend, I've never sinned a day in my life. I can tell you that."

She finished her brandy. Robby got up to get us all some more and put another log on the fire. When he'd finished, he curled up beside me with his stocking feet pushed against my hip.

"Now take Paul," she continued. "He's where most of the anti-Gay stuff's found. What was he but a sour old poop who didn't much like sex of any kind. But he was the one who founded the church, not Jesus, who, may I add, never said word one about being Gay."

"Maybe he was Gay himself," I suggested.

"Could be," she replied. "Anyway, whatever he was, all he did was to wander around like any Eastern guru and preach you should love each other. But the Christian so-called authorities have never paid much attention to that. You can't persecute and judge people and love 'em all at the same time."

She sat forward a little in her chair, looking intently at Robby and me. "It's all absurd, a thin tissue of myths that we have to push aside, which isn't all that difficult to do. Once that's done, it's like losing your innocence, you can begin to grow."

She settled back to light another cigarette. "And what's the big deal? Let's be frank to admit that a lot of those men who wrote the bible despised Gay people and they said so. No way getting around that. A lot of 'em didn't like women either and, I might add, approved of slavery. So, if you accept the idea that what they said is the word of God, then that's it. You can't change people who want to believe any of that."

"So what do you do?" Robby asked.

"Give up the faith," she answered with a snap of her fingers, "and go off on your own, which is what I did. Search for your self, grow as a proud Gay person seeking out the God that is. La, honey, that's the church's dirty little secret. It doesn't want you to know that you don't need it, not at all. But I'll tell you something."

"What's that?" I asked.

Once you lose your faith and begin to search, you'll have more and better than ever before because it won't be something given to you--and in which there's no room for you. It'll be something you got for yourself."

We talked for a while longer after that, until the fire burned low and the rain had stopped patterning on the windows.

After that, Miss Maud went home.

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Ban Against Gays in the Military Has No Basis in American History

Editor's Note: The following is a prepared statement given by Dr. Joseph G. Hatheway before the House Committee on the Armed Services, Subcommittee, in May of this year. Dr. Hatheway was considered by Congress to be a principal witness in those hearings. Dr. Hatheway currently teaches history at Edgewood College in Madison, Wisconsin.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony with respect to the ban on Gay and Lesbian Americans before the Military Forces and Personnel Subcommittee.

The issue before this subcommittee is the viability of lifting the regulatory ban on "known" Gays and Lesbians who are, or wish to be, members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

I am a former officer and "Green Beret" who, for 4 years, was on Active Duty in the capacities of executive officer of an operational detachment and as the post Battalion S2 Intelligence Officer. For the duration of my Active Duty, until 4 days before my ETS, I performed my duties in an outstanding manner, and received numerous letters of commendation attesting to my superior performance. Unfortunately, at the time of my separation, it was ascertained by the unit commander that I was Gay, and rather than let me separate as per my separation date, the Army held me over for a lengthy General Court Martial that lasted 7 months, and which conservatively cost over \$1,000,000. Subsequent to my conviction, I was separated under conditions less than honorable.

The merits of my particular case aside, the debate regarding Gays and Lesbians in the Armed Forces has elicited such an emotional response by some in Congress that the core issue has been lost in the process. Rather than the presence or absence of homosexuals, the core issue is whether or not this Nation is still dedicated to the principles of classical liberalism bequeathed to us by the Founding Fathers.

Classical Liberalism

Classical liberalism, as understood by Thomas Jefferson and the other framers of the Constitution, rejected the notion that human beings were intrinsically evil and driven by fear. Indeed, Jefferson embraced the Enlightenment belief that humans are essentially good and rational, and that in order to perfect the human condition, civil governments ought to be instituted and educational institutions established.

Fear and stereotyping had no place in this scheme of things, and indeed, the novelty of the American experiment was that it was an attempt to replace superstition and emotion with a new order predicated upon enlightened reason.

In the present debate regarding Gays and Lesbians, the Jeffersonian emphasis upon enlightened reason has been replaced by overt appeals to the worst instincts of humanity: Fear, and in this respect, the current ban rejects the very principles upon which the American Experiment was based. As heirs of this great tradition, Congress and the President have a public obligation to reject any policies that are based upon an emotionalism not consistent with this great tradition.

Yet, public policies driven by appeals to fear and the irrational have plagued our history. How else would one describe the nature of the fierce resistance to integration of African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics and women?

In each case, full integration into the body politic by these constituencies was met with derision and horror. Fearful lest the Republic collapse from within, each of these groups was presumed to be somehow less rational, less capable, and less qualified to enjoy the fruits of full public participation. While the 13th, 14th, 15th and 19th Amendments to the Constitution were intended to rectify the most blatant discrimination, we are still a long way from fulfillment of the Great Experiment.

It is within this long and heroic tradition of struggle for full participation that Gays and Lesbians come before Congress to plead their case. Either we are true to our values, or we make a mockery out of them. If we make a mockery of our past, what kind of a future can we look to?

On a practical level, those who support continuing the ban are quick to dismiss our appeals to justice and fairness, and point instead to the disruption that Gays and Lesbians will cause in the ranks. Our detractors are quick to point out that because many soldiers are uncomfortable in the presence of homosexuals, the very presence of Gays and Lesbians will disrupt order and morale, therefore homosexuals should be barred from the services.

While I do not doubt that some soldiers are uncomfortable around Gays and Lesbians, it is important to keep in mind that this is their problem, not ours. Why should a whole class of people be punished because of the fears of the majority? This is exactly what happened in Hitler's Germany with respect to the "Jewish problem." Like the Jews of Europe, Gays and Lesbians are a minority,

despised by some, accepted by others. Yet programs can be instituted to help overcome prejudice, bigotry and fear caused by ignorance; indeed, the U.S. military already has a model program.

African American Integration

Many years ago, during the early 1970's, many white soldiers feared the very presence of African Americans and this fear was translated into minor (and I might add, not so minor) race riots on base and off. Rather than exclude African American soldiers from the services, the military began an aggressive race relations program.

Each and every soldier was required to attend a seminar, upon conclusion of which a certificate of achievement was issued attesting to satisfactory completion. These seminars were followed up by a chain of command that rejected anti-Black harassment or violence.

In short, the military itself became the benign and active agent for positive change with respect to race relations. While not as extensive, the same sort of activities are now in place regarding the suppression of sexual harassment. Contrary to Congressional rhetoric, the Armed Forces have been engaged in social experimentation for decades. To suggest that they ought not or cannot become so engaged is simply spurious and hypocritical.

Privacy

A "hot" issue that frequently makes the evening news is the so-called "privacy" debate. Nowhere do detractors appeal to fear more than in relation to this emotional issue.

Rather than use any known facts, detractors stereotype Gay behavior, transform this stereotype into "reality," then proceed to mouth concerns based not on empirical evidence, but unsubstantiated and prejudicial assumptions. Again, fears are manipulated for political purposes, and thereby detractors appeal to our worst and in so doing, shame the American Experiment.

True, some males are sexually predatory, but if history can teach us a lesson, they are not Gay. Tailhook ought to teach us all a lesson. Ironically, this category of male behavior does not even address women, thus one is left to wonder if the whole issue has less to do with homosexuality than with the insecurities of the male personnel.

But to project predatory sexual behavior on Gays, or for that matter to all males, is ludicrous. Such behavior learned and often environmentally encouraged. My own observations of young troopers in the Green Berets is a case in point. In any event, since this issue is always discussed within the context of a male community, Lesbian soldiers are by the logic of the argument exempt from such male dominated concerns. Such being the case, Lesbians ought to be welcome within the ranks.

Should Congress feel persuaded not to lift the ban, the Federal Courts will inevitably take up this issue. Although it is true that they have in the past deferred to Congress, this is less so today. In particular, the Courts have suggested that there must be some rational, performance-based criteria for keeping Gays and Lesbians out of the Armed Forces. Other than rank fear and prejudice, none has yet been offered.

I refer to the military's own study, "Nonconforming Sexual Orientations and Military Suitability." Not also that to say one is Gay is not the same as to engage in homosexual behavior. To say one is Gay/Lesbian is speech and expression.

When the military throws people out because they say they are Gay or Lesbian, the military is punishing speech and thought, a notion that is so inimical to our traditions that it causes revolt even amongst those who would otherwise disdain Gays and Lesbians. If today, the military can punish because one says one is homosexual, what unpopular thought or speech will be punished later? The Courts clearly understand this logic.

Although present discussions are directed toward the ban, it is incumbent that the subcommittee also consider amending Article 125 of the UCMJ. This is important for a couple of reasons.

In the first instance, Article 125 proscribes the most common forms of homosexual sexual acts. As such, Gay and Lesbian sex



Jerry Johnson

Hallowe'en '94—The Boot Camp Saloon in Milwaukee celebrated the holiday with a jack o'lantern carving contest and a costume contest, including the winners group above, on Oct. 30, 1994.

is illegal, and homosexual personnel must, by law, be celibate. This is, on its face, absurd, in as much as the Armed Forces do not legally require heterosexual celibacy.

Second and equally important, my experience indicates that if a particular commander is anti-Gay/Lesbian, Article 125 can and will be used as a nasty vehicle to muster homosexuals out of the service.

The logic is simple: Since Gays and Lesbians are "known" to engage in sexual acts that are proscribed by Article 125, they must be in violation of Article 125, therefore they must be brought before a court-martial for trial and conviction. Thus, not only does the ban on Gays and Lesbians discriminate in favor of a sexual majority, so too does the Uniform Code of Military Justice. My own experience speaks to this twisted logic.

I suspect, however, that behind all anti-Gay/Lesbian rhetoric and behind all the alleged concerns with "status" and "behavior," many in Congress, if pressed, would in the end, acknowledge that part of their disdain of Gays and Lesbians has little to do with "status," and everything to do with "behavior."

In this case, privacy takes on an added dimension, because now we are dealing not with privacy of heterosexual soldiers, but instead with the violation of the privacy of Gays and Lesbian personnel. While the command structure pays little attention to the sexual behavior of its straight personnel, it is positively prurient with respect to Gays and Lesbians.

This is not the American way and it ought not be the concern of the military, either.

If, as I suspect, many in the Armed Forces believe that Gay and Lesbian behavior will make the military the laughing stock of both their domestic constituencies and the international community, such concerns should be addressed directly and without reservation.

Quite simply, many in the Armed Forces believe that the credibility, "toughness" and resolve of the United States would be put in jeopardy if homosexually active persons were to be knowingly admitted. The implication is that Gay men in particular are "sodomites," "sissies," "pansies," or otherwise less than "masculine." For a world power, this is intolerable. In a manner consistent with the arguments advanced in the privacy issue, the irrational is driving policy. As the most powerful nation in the world, it is our moral responsibility to dispel such myths.

In closing, the ban on Gays and Lesbians in the Armed Forces is arbitrary, capricious, offensive, deeply un-American and runs contrary to the very values upon which this country is dedicated. We are a great nation which can afford to be tolerant toward all Americans, not simply the majority or those

whom the majority happens to like at any given moment.

Let me be clear, civil rights for Americans ought never be determined by the tyranny of an active majority. To understand the dangers inherent in such a majority, we need look no further than our own immediate past: African Americans, Native Americans, Japanese Americans, Chinese Americans, Hispanic Americans and yes, even Lesbian and Gay Americans.

If the American Experiment is not to be extinguished in hate and irrationality, I urge you to vote to lift the ban.

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WISCONSIN

Milwaukee **IF IT FEELS GOOD**- Eddie, 6'3, blond/green 300+ white, bi, into everything willing to do it with the right person- lv me a message- #10032

Milwaukee **LIKE FINE WINE, AGE IMPROVES**- Chris, 39 Bi WM into older men because the way they treat & appreciate a little younger body 50-70 will share this built toned body w/the right man or men-new 2 the life, gentle caring a must West suburbs- #10

Milwaukee **CHRISTMAS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER...** 32 GWM 5'10 150 blond/brn clean shaven seeking romance this fall, many interests, never boring- #10595

Madison **LET'S GET PHYSICAL-22**, 5'7 140, Korean, runner, no prior sexual exp, like massage, wrestling, anything physical-looking for a WM musc, masc, 20-35, pls call- #10734

Racine **JOE** 22, 5'11, 214, lkg for someone mature, age not imp, never had this before and would like to - give me a call, like to hear from you- #10772

Milwaukee **WHAT'S UP?**, JOE, 25 BM seeking other BM I'm a top, looking for a buddy, or maybe more- #10809

Milwaukee **THIS KIND WON'T ROT YOUR TEETH!** Candy, TV, like men 40+ I'm a real lady, and like to meet you, for dates and stuff-bye, honey- #10915

Milwaukee **I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYONE OUT THERE**-Gary, 29 SBM looking for other SBM age 24-50, masc, athletic, BM only-give me a call- has to be other men out there- be the first to call and prove me wrong- #10027

Madison **WE'LL SAVE THE REST FOR LATER**- CJ, 20, int meeting someone 18-22, like, dancing, partying, not too into bar scene, movies, dinners, lkg 4 spontaneous sincere guy, I'm thin built, hobbies, sports volleyball, I'm a student- #10938

Milwaukee **BI WM** looking for str bi or gay men to get together and have a little fun- #10962

Blancheville **TODD**, looking 4 GWM 18-24, masc hard worker, camping, fishing, 4 wheeling quiet times, movies, bowling, getting a little wild @ parties, not into bars, must be well end'd, lkg 2 meet right person, companionship in my area blnds a +++ #109

Madison **WORK OUT PARTNER**- Emmanuel, BM, 6' 170, grey eyes, attr, looking for someone to have fun and work out with weights- #11271

Milwaukee **WITH A RIBBON ON IT**: 33, male, 165, 5'10, hazel/brn into safe fun, have interesting package- give me a call- #9720

Milwaukee **OPEN ALL NIGHT**: Eddie, 6'3 brn/green 300+ willing to do anything with the right person, like to get together and have lol's of fun- anytime at night-bye- #10032

Milwaukee **THE YOUNG AND THE... RESTLESS**: John looking for other hot guys, end'd young only pls #11225

Milwaukee **BOB SEEKS ROD**: Brent, brn/blu hairy, 41, 5'10 180, must, into bodybuilding, looking for bodybuilders in my area-looking for guys musc, to hang out with, int in the leather scene also- #11299

Milwaukee **NO BUTTS, PLS**: non smoker caring proff 40's looking for a life partner blk/brn musc humor pets cooking, looking for ser only- #11323

Milwaukee **CAN I HAVE THE USED ONES?** 30 Bi wm 5'8 155 brn/brn on the jock side, looking for bi or gay males- #11353

Milwaukee **ANY TAKERS?** I'm a 35 bi male, looking for a man in the area not picky, I'm willing to pls, am married, #11354

Milwaukee **JASON, 20**, 5'10 145, blond/blu athletic, easygoing, college student, wide var of interests looking for guys 18-23, #11557

Wopaca **CABLE READY**: Sam, 38, 5'5, 150 long brn hair/blu eyes gay TV and pass well-like to meet masc quiet and intelligent- #11632

Milwaukee **NON-SMOKING GWM** 40's, blk/brn seeking a ser rel, life partner 6'2 football players build, must lknng 4 a healthy pos attitude, comfortable in a rel looking 4 Mr. Right, metal, country, jazz good sense of humor, movies, pets pol active- #1132

Milwaukee **LARRY**, 5'6 130, discreet, WM open to almost anything in regard to having fun, try me, give me a call- #11719

Madison **DENNIS**, just moved here from Chicago 21 5'8 155 lkg for any male that is gay, race not imp, slim, like to have a good time- #11741

Milwaukee **VAL**, 25, dkbrn/brn 5'7, many int music going out, meeting new people, give me a call- hope to hear from you- #11751

Waukesha **ALL BI MYSELF- BI WM** 34, looking for BI WM around the same age, who likes movies, camping, and talking for a poss rel, or just friendship- #11817

Appleton **GWM** 23, 6'1, blk/brn lkg to meet in my area 18-23 to go out with have fun dance movies, spend quiet times @ home, call me- #11908

Green Bay **FIRE IN MY HEART**: Alan, prof'l GWM 41, 5'11, 175, eyes at home, fireplace, travel, seeking 35-45 pot rel, give me a call- #12009

Milwaukee **GENTLE BM** looking for someone romantic, quiet eves and not into bar scene, if this is you give me a call, end'd top, sometimes btm- #12021

Reedsburg **LASTING RELATIONSHIP**: Troy, 21, blk, brn, hairy chest 6'2, 185, like to swim, tennis, pool, ping pong, smoke, mustache, lkg for someone who wants a commitment, 21-35, and if that's you, lv a message- #12043

Madison **STEVEN**, 19 6'1 blond int in water skiing, swimming, snuggling and watching movies, #12129

Kenosha **DIRTY DEEDS DONE DIRTY CHEAP**: Bi WM 40 BI WM 21, seeking other bi or gay under 25 for fun and friendship, like heavy metal music concerts-not really into bars, social drinkers #12162

Milwaukee **ITS ALL GREEK TO HIM**: Wayne, 34, 5'5, 130, red/swimmers build, looking for a greek top, I'm a greek bottom- #12202

Milwaukee **LOWER EAST SIDE**, Rob, 23 6'2, 200 blk/blu, lkg to meet to go out and party- #12206

Eau Claire **ROB** 21 college student looking to meet some guys in the area-if int, pls lv a message, thanks alot! #12231

Milwaukee **DAN**, 35, lkg for a younger guy 18-25 for a good time, want to meet younger, own my own business looking for a partner to have a fun time with 6' 195 green eyes, brn hair, German/Polish, like to meet masc guys only- #12284

Milwaukee **LATIN LOVERS**: Jerry looking for a hisp male no taller than 5'10 160, someone who has a goal in life, movies, going out to eat, sports movies, like dancing, really looking for a rel- #12348

Milwaukee **JASON**, 6'3, blond/blu looking for a nice guy- #12391

Fon du Lac **ISN'T THERE ANYONE OUT THERE FOR ME?** yng 40's 5'9 165, blu/brn chn shaven phys fit, seeking area male betw 20-35 non smoker int in outdoors, camping, hiking, rock climbing, caves & mines, travelling, racquetball & swimming- #12553

Milwaukee **THE FORK IN THE ROAD**: Mickey, 34, 5'7 175 brn/green looking for a CD or TV need to know more about the direction of my life-call me- #12579

Milwaukee **ANDREW** 5'6, 21, stocky, blu/brn int in 18-25 for friendship poss rel sports movies outdoors and having fun- #12584

Omro **JOHN**, 5'11, blk/blu, lkg for a companion to have some fun with, and whatever, 39 GWM hoping to find a partner- like music, dance, rollerskate and talk to people- #12642

Plover **JURN**, 24, 5'10, 155, lkg for someone 18-25, to have fun with poss rel- #12674

Madison **BRUCE**, new to area, GWM 35 tall attr, looking to find GWM sincere, var of interests, open minded for friendship, like to hike, go to movies, let's get together- give me a call- #8589

Milwaukee **COREY**, looking for a really built, clean shaven man, really like to get to know you! #8852

Madison **ORIENTAL PLEASURES**: GAM in exp, 22, 5'7 140, seeking WM for wrestling, exotic massages, and companionship- #9222

Milwaukee **18 GWM**, brn/brn 5'10 160, lkg for GWM built, smooth, clean shaven-18-24, #9298

Milwaukee **I'LL SAY A LITTLE PRAYER FOR YOU**: looking for a bodybuilder, like to worship your body, do what you want me to do-like to be next to a big beefy guy-want someone to worship you? give me a call- #9300

Milwaukee **SURF**, 23 looking for GHM 18-24, 5'5-5'8 nice toned body, dev friendship, rel give me a call- #9358

Oshkosh **JEREMY**, 21, blk/brn 6'1 230 like camping, hiking, cars, music, dancing, movies- #9405

Milwaukee **FREE REFILLS**: 5'10 brn/brn btm looking for a built tp, lv a message, and I'll ret your call- #444

E. Milwaukee **ME ON THE LOOKOUT**: voyeur, 6'1 170, 30, tell me where I can watch you- #9468

Madison **GRIZZLY SEEKS BARE CUB**- Jay, very hairy GWM 42, 5'10, 175, lkg for slim/smooth/frisky 18-24, for fun/ discreet/safe time, have a great sense of humor, alot of interests- #9518

Milwaukee **DYNAMIC TENSION?** Middle aged WM med bld 6'3, int in finding someone to work out with, like to improve my physique- #9554

Milwaukee **BEAR LEGS**: looking for Cubans, Arabs, Greeks, really hairy guys, love hairy legs- #9616

Milwaukee **I'LL STAY HOME AND WATCH TV**: Seth, looking for Hispanic, PR male , 18-24, gdlkg toned body, monog- not into the party scene- #9627

Milwaukee **LOOKING FOR CLASSY AND NAUGHTY**: basically BI WM in exp, brn/blu, seeking dom masc gdlkg 30-55, getting to know first, then more, later, like music, literature, int in being adventurous in the future- #9645

WI **WHAT'S UNDER THE KILT?** Mark, 22, 145, 5'7, blk/brn, from Scotland, int in long walks in the eve, like to cook romantic dinners, 18-24, like to watch the football on Sunday, masc person, #9654

WI **YOU, AND THE MARINES**- Jaime, latino guy, 25, lkg for a good man, like white and latino guys, looking to talk and have fun- #9700

Milwaukee **ROCK MY WORLD, FURRY MAN!** Jim, 24 GM 6'170 lkg for 22-35 GWM for friendship, masc non-smoker hairy chest a +++++, rock music, camping, horror movies and partying- #9709

Milwaukee **33, GM** vers, looking for other males, 25-38, lkg for friendship, relationship #9720

Kenosha **BOB** 42, warm funny teddy bear, husky, polish/Italian, int a warm friendship, poss rel, fun & good time w/a guy <35, I'm must beard, brn/blu, Taurus, long walks/dining/dancing/ movies/quiet times-let's meet over coffee & talk- #9815

La Crosse **BOX SEATS**: GWC Bill, wonderful scenery love to hike, camp-interested in eves at symphony, quiet eves by the fireplace, love to host people-lt leather ok, hope you'll join us! #25506

Milwaukee **WHERE DID YOU PUT THE BOW?** 33, 5'10 175, interesting package, open minded, gain to movies, not into bar scene, like to have fun with the right person- #9720

Racine **PERSON TO PERSON**: Dave 6', 230, 22 in exp, lkg for masc gm 18-24, in the area for discr intimate safe fun times, let's get together- #9853

Milwaukee **TO BOLDLY GO WHERE NO MAN HAS GONE BEFORE**: GWM 21, East side, out of shape and in exp looking for sim, who would like to explore, give me a call- #9882

Madison **JAY** 40 GWM very hairy 5'10 175, lkg for a college age guy, slim smooth for fun times, not very exp is ok- #9938

Milwaukee **BLACK ON TOP**: Ron, male subm, looking for a master, Blacks more than welcome, need discipline- #9974

Milwaukee **I DON'T EAT MEAT 'CAUSE I'M A VETERINARIAN**- Mike, 41, 6' 1t brn/blu/beard, must/hairy/250, like classical music/movies/theatre, open to anything, like person who's breathing, speaks in logical sentences, w/sense of humor #10337

Green Bay **MARRY ME!** marriage minded GWM hiking reading, romantic, 21-39 hairy chest and gdlk, I want to settle down! #10018

Racine **DUDES IN THE WOODS**: Jeremy, hot creative tp looking for slender gdlkg btm-6'1, 165 brn/blu good bodies, love outdoors, biking, hiking, outdoors guy- give me a call- #10027

Milwaukee **YOU GOT THE RIGHT ONE, BABY**: Eddie, 6'3, 300+ brn/green into all kinds of interesting activities, willing to do the right thing with the right person- #10032

Eau Claire **LET'S BE FRIENDS**: Don, 38, lkg for honest men who want to start a friendship, movies, some sports, sittin' around talking, walking in the park, interested, call me #10062

Milwaukee **NICE GUY WANTS TO BE BAD**: 25, 5'11 attr, looking for a husband/ workout partner- #10101

Milwaukee **YELLOW HANKIES**: Brad 6'1 175, lkg for serious water sports, live in the area under 30 same height, build- blond/blu, #10358

Kenosha **NEW TO KENOSHA**- GWM 5'10 160 brn/brn prof'l seeking same, music dancing, quiet times together looking to meet someone who is into having fun, open minded, lv a message, lets see what happens! #10532

Milwaukee **WAYNE**, 27 single GWM 6'6 red/blu gdlkg, movies, dinner quiet times with friends, bike riding, travelling, tired of bars, looking for around my age with sim int to spend time with - #6499

Appleton **RENAISSANCE MAN**: Dave, 24 5'10 blond/blu 145 like to do a little bit of everything- great smile, like camping hiking fishing sports- like guys, musc - about my height- #7131

Waukesha **SCOTT**, 20 5'5 135, looking for my area who is 18-26, likes to have fun, hang out be friends, int in poss rel-that's about it, thanks- #6871

Milwaukee **GENTLEMEN PREFER HANES**: into cross dressing, younger men, one or two, pls call #7152

Milwaukee **SMOOTH MOVES**: We're an 18 and 19 y/o GWC looking for a 3rd, partner for safe fun times 18-24, WM clean shaven, unshaved- #7358

Milwaukee **RANDY**, 35, 5'10, 160 brn/brn, biking and weightlifting- lkg for adv 25-35 built attr, and smart- #7621

Milwaukee **ARE YOU BEING SERVED, MONSIEUR?** Brent, married WM looking for guys who need french attention, free during afternoons, guys who like to kick back- looking to take care of ya- #7699

Kenosha **DENNIS**, looking for someone who is honest and open with himself- like men with long hair, mostly love Italian men 18-40- #7720

Milwaukee **THE TIES THAT BIND**: Into b/d, wrestling and other delights 6' 190 facial hair, good body, sound interesting, lets talk- #7905

Green Bay **I'M SURE WE CAN FIND SOMEONE**: Dick looking to get together, new to scene looking for anyone that can help me with that- #8029

Green Bay **FOR THOSE ABOUT TO ROCK, WE SALUTE YOU**: Kurt, 5'8 145, like to rock and roll, have a good time, wondering if there's someone out there who likes the same- #8062

Minerva Point **GWM** 20's 5'6 135 dk/hazel, creative, enjoy life to the fullest, long walks in the country looking for 20-40 serious rel- #8069

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WI **PARTNER WANTED**: GWM 50's young gay bi wm 20's long hair a + same time, same place rel, maybe more- #8201

Madison **JASON** 23, looking for 20-26, quiet times and partying- #8379

Milwaukee **GWM** 30 6' 130 blue eyes, clean shaven, smooth looking for good times- #1775

Eau Claire **SLEEPING BAG FOR TWO**: 21 brn/blu hairy chest, goatee vers looking to meet 21-25 in area into music, outdoors, camping- whatever lkg for fun times, snuggling- #2135

Milwaukee **COME ON IN-THE WATER'S FINE!** Pool parties at out house - looking for young guys to come over and party 18-27 smooth musc leave your name sure you'll have fun! #16120

Whitewater **GWM** 19 lkg for same into reading, music, and outdoors- pls call! #2487

715 Area Code **ZIPS UP THE BACK AND NO BONES**: Calling to see if there are guys out there fem or top would like to meet me Steve GWM like to meet gdlkg guys into cross dressing- #11250

715 Area Code **WORKING MANS PHD**: 38 male into weightlifting, working man, like masc men fit guys to 45-like traveling to FL in the winter, travelling, tennis, hoping to hear from you- #33814

Racine **WHAT INSTRUMENT DO YOU PLAY?** Gory 6' slim tan long hair, like rock and roll, I'm a musician, outdoors, beach seafood, music, sincere-prefer smaller build guys white hisp or asian- #2680

La Crosse **GOIN' ON A MANHUNT**- Jeff 26 5'2 brn/blu 21-32 biking hiking and hunting if u like the same call me- #27707

Milwaukee **OUTDOORSMAN**- GWM 27 men under 30 hunting, fishing, boating, looking for someone in Milwaukee or N. Wisconsin #3231

Cottage Grove **BRIAN**- GWM 22 brn/green, 5'8, 140, 18-24 race age not imp muscles a + into movies, plays and concerts-non smoker, drinker- #3336

Milwaukee **CYRIL** 35 GWM - like classical music, movies, theatre- dining out- lkg for special someone for rel brn/brn beard must- #3687

715 Area Code **HOLD THE DOOR FOR ME**: Joel gdlkg cross dresser want to be treated like a lady- #3737

Madison **JASON** 23 gdlkg dk features mustache dk/dk eyes fun times, poss something serious- like to cook, travel, racquetball, good husband material, sense of humor- lkg for 21-34 good shape, non smoker w/sim int- #3743

Madison **GBM** 30 lkg for someone comfortable with themselves- not looking for any games quiet eves at home, movies sports, enjoying life - race not imp- lkg for under 35- #4156

Madison **26 WM** 5'10 175 - lkg to get with asian/hisp under 25 for a great time! #4629

Central WI **OPERATORS ARE STANDING BY**: Bill GWM - lkg for other gay, bi, TV's, cross dressers couples int in having fun- good times, talking- will answer all- #4645

Milwaukee **HOUSE CALLS**: travel throughout WI and midwest- int in hooking up with gdlkg guys 20-45 wants to get together & who knows what they want - out of life and the person they're with-looking forward to talking with you and having some fun- #46

Milwaukee **TODD**- Tom Cruise lookalike, brn/blu, 155, lkg for a workout partner 3x a week- #4717

Lacrosse **EXERCISE THIS OPTION**: in exp WM 28 5'11 160 masc seeks 20-28 for friendship and fun times - also looking for a workout partner- #4735

715 Area Code **RICK** 27 male 5'11 lkg to meet 20-30 like outdoors, and having a good time- #4736

Milwaukee **SHOW ME THE ROPES**: int in younger 18-30 int in leather scene, shaving - BD in the afternoon or wknds for long sessions, smooth blk bodies- if int lv a descr of yourself- #2712

715 Area Code **TWO PUSES, NO MINUSES**: Tall thin GWM vers tp, fun, outdoors, gdlkg + lkg for other + to share int or poss rel- just have some fun together- #4751

Milwaukee **TV IN THE BEDROOM**: Cross dresser looking for others, and older men who are exp and love to cuddle #43091

Waukesha **501 BLUES**: New to area GHM 34 5'10 180 blk/brn mustache beard btm seeking GWM 28-38 tp must jeans and boots kinda guy beard a + #43102

Milwaukee **SLIPPERY WHEN WET**: 27 lkg for young smooth guys 18-25 vgdllk #1570

Appleton **INNER BEAUTY**: Jeff, 24 long blond hair into dancing and what's now- #1974

Madison **I CAN SEE IT ALL, NOW**: Lou 26 blond/blu look good in biker pants, older or married men for safe times maybe rel- let's have some funnnnn! #2108

Milwaukee **HEAD OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD**: Mike, 24 GWM 6'183, lkg for a tp guy in the area brn/grn med bld, fairly active indiv- #2557

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Joe, GWM, 41, 6'1, 185, nice body, well-hung. (Call Thru) Box# 9750

Dave, 26, 5'9, bottom, 160, ISO a cute guy. Box# 7571

Dave, 26, bottom, long blond hair, 5'8, 160, great job, ISO a top to live with. (Call Thru) Box# 5547

M, 5'6, 150, 18, muscular, blond, blue eyes, 9's, ISO an experienced top to show me everything. (Call Thru) Box# 8427

Jenni, 6'1, 190, ISO teddy bear, 37-47, hairy, dark hair, muscular and intimate. (Call Thru) Box# 3315

GWM, 5'7, blond, blue eyes, 38, goodlooking, well-endowed, muscular, thin, ISO top, HIV-, goodlooking man to love. (Call Thru) Box# 8547

GM, John, 22, college student, ISO someone out-going for good times. Box# 5093

Scott, 30, 6', 200, brn hr, hzl eyes, mustache, ISO guys 25-30's. Box# 2556

Alex, 28, ISO BM, 20-35, for working out, skiing and good times. Box# 7971

John, ISO a fine, sexy Italian guy. (Call Thru) Box# 9138

Paul, professional, fun, ISO professional, well-groomed, hairy, aggressive male. (Call Thru) Box# 3752

Bill, 5'5, 150, leave message or call thru. (Call Thru) Box# 3027

JT, 28, law student, ISO my first bi-experience with someone who is. (Call Thru) Box# 5899

GWM, 5'10, 170, good-looking, well-built, versatile, ISO other hot guys for good times. You won't be disappointed. (Call Thru) Box# 3502

Duane, GWM, poet, likes theatre, movies, art, working out, ISO intelligent men who live to enjoy life. Box# 4145

GM, student, trim, blond hair, bottom, nice body, ISO hairy hot top who's into sex. Box# 5640

BiM, 26, 5'10, 190, athletic, bodybuilder, ISO other bodybuilders, any race, discretion assured. Box# 3474

Attractive, quiet GWM, 58, 5'8, brn hair/eyes, HIV-, NS, like golf, country life, travel, dining, theatre, ISO a compatible GM with same interest for friendship. (Call Thru) Box# 7686

M, 24, 5'9, 165, long brown hair, blue eyes, mustache, I'm easy-going, ISO similar dudes. Box# 3216

WM, 30's, ISO a Bi or GWM for goodtimes, I'll be open to your ideas. Box# 1977

Bill, 32, 5'8, 160, prof., not into glitter, self-absorb, bitchy or stereo-types, ISO someone who is truthful, warm, gentle, in-touch, with a quiet strength for mutual honest friendship, no sex right away calls please. (Call Thru) Box# 8684

Mike, good-looking, GWM, 35, 220, 6', HIV-, physically fit, NS, ISO M 25 and under, long-term friendship, casual sex. (Call Thru) Box# 1817

Bill, GWM, ISO BM, well-endowed, your satisfaction is my only concern. No reciprocation necessary. (Call Thru) Box# 3231

Alex, 25, 5'11, 175, ISO relationship. Box# 2885

Mike, 32, versatile, 5'6, 165, brn hr, grn eyes, ISO compatible M's to share my house I just purchased. (Call Thru) Box# 9644

Tyrone, GM, 23, call. Box# 6310

Terry, 35, WM, brn hair/eyes, thin build, ISO M 18-35, any race for good times, movies, concerts, clubs, fems okay. (Call Thru) Box# 7583

DJ, 37, bi-WM, very oral, ISO afternoon or evening encounters. Box# 8718

GWM, 22, 6'5, 180, sandy blonde, mustache, thin beard, hairy chest, ISO guys 22-35, friends, poss. rel. (Call Thru) Box# 9782

Daddy Tony, top, GWM, ISO GWM bottoms who can service. I aim to please. (Call Thru) Box# 2967

Bill, 32, 5'5, 150, ISO slim, smooth, GWM's for good times. (Call Thru) Box# 1713

John, young, very handsome, runway model, likes art, music, dancing, skiing, ISO special man to show me good times. Box# 1719

GM, John, 21, long blk hr, love dining, dancing and movies, call. Box# 2110

Craig, 5'9, 150, smooth, in shape, well trained bottom, ISO aggressive in shape top men for hot action. (Call Thru) Box# 3503

M, 24, looking for a good time. (Call Thru) Box# 2104

Peter, looking for a friend for hot times, someone who is fit, likes to workout, bottom, hairy, loves to be licked. (Call Thru) Box# 5782

Richard, 25, WM, I like dancing, sports, ISO someone who's comfortable with themselves. (Call Thru) Box# 9370

GWM, 39, 5'7, 175, top, jock type, ISO fun, affable, younger guy for fun, etc. Madison. (Call Thru) Box# 2777

Matt, WM, 22, 6', 180, ISO buddy, 25-40, very hairy, hung, top. (Call Thru) Box# 8933

WM, Shawn, 26, 6'1, 150, strawberry blonde, blue eyes, cute, clean shaven, smooth. Box# 2400

Bill, HIV+, bottom, 5'9, 220, butch bear, ISO a tough man who's interested in falling in love. (Call Thru) Box# 8774

John, 5'9, red hair, blue eyes, good shape, bottom, college jock, ISO well-built, top, 30+, well-hung. Box# 6513

Jim, 29, ISO BM, 18-35. (Call Thru) Box# 9922

Sebastian, 18, have body piercing, ISO dominate, handsome, intellectual male, 18-21, respectable, having body piercings and tattoos in exotic places is a big plus. (Call Thru) Box# 1705

Steve, 44, bottom ISO tops. Box# 7381

GWM, Garrett, 27, ISO young, GWM. (Call Thru) Box# 3295

Chip, 41, 6', 220, blonde hair, brown eyes, clean-shaven, versatile, football player build, likes mild to wild things. (Call Thru) Box# 1186

Jack, 36, ISO M, same age, open-minded, friendship, poss. rel. (Call Thru) Box# 3143

Shawn, 19, BM, fun-loving, ISO dominant, masculine, muscular, intimate tops. (Call Thru) Box# 7280

Peter, ISO bottoms for good times. I'm very sexy and sensual (Call Thru) Box# 2347

Mike, 28, 5'11, 200, handsome, ISO handsome man for fun. Box# 4679

Spanish guy, 148, ISO males 20+. Box# 6226

Chris, bi-BM, very straight-looking/acting, enjoys skiing, movies, travel. ISO someone with similar interests who is straight-acting and looking as well. Box# 1778

GWM, bottom, 53, 250, masculine, clean, discreet, ISO top guy, beard and mustache a plus, attr., 35-50, any race, no bums/fems/alcoholics. Bi's welcome also. (Call Thru) Box# 8650

Dave, very attr., 30, prof., 6'4, 190, brn. hr., blue eyes, affectionate, down to earth, enjoys photography, sci-fi, theatre, music, dancing, dining, outdoors. I'm intelligent, non-feminine, not into drugs or games, ISO similar guys. (Call Thru) Box# 4928

Devoch, I believe in taking live easy and having good times. Box# 9994

Steve, looking for good times. Believe me, you will not regret meeting me. (Call Thru) Box# 8470

Russell, ISO man for fun, hot sex. (Call Thru) Box# 4587

I'm what you've been looking for. Artie, African-American, 5'8, 160, bearded, good-looking, healthy, clean, ISO blue-collar, down to earth types, into giving oral services to, no reciprocation necessary. (Call Thru) Box# 6631

Rob, ISO younger brother type for partying, hanging out, I'm a fun-loving bottom willing to travel. (Call Thru) Box# 5262

Scott, 21, 6'3, 165, light brn. hr., longer in the back, blue eyes, ISO SWM, 18-25, for friendship, poss. long-term rel. To me life is too short. (Call Thru) Box# 3339

Kevin, 27, 5'9 1/2, 163, well-built, dark brn. hair, green eyes, likes sports, good times. ISO M with same interests. (Call Thru) Box# 3501

Joe, 35, GWM, ISO hot action. Guaranteed you will not be disappointed. Box# 5666

Tom, 33, GWM, 5'6, versatile bottom, ISO young, hung, versatile tops, especially boyish guys. I have a need I want you to fill. (Call Thru) Box# 5881

Jim, 28, WM, 6'2, I'm outgoing, very personable, like music, movies, socializing, ISO BM, for one-on-one relationship, large gatherings possible also. Box# 3733

Paul, 27, bottom, very lonely, masculine GWM. ISO masculine GWM, 27-48, 6' +, mustache a plus, top, for friends and a monogamous relationship. Box# 2867

WM, 28, enjoys the company of black males. I have great communicating oral skills. Remember, I won't be able to talk with my mouth full. Box# 6656

Frank, GWM, ISO romantic fun guy, 18-25, to enjoy dinners, movies, etc. (Call Thru) Box# 1142

Mike, 5'7, 135, muscular, well-built, ISO male to have fun with. Box# 8815

GWM, 21, 6', 140, good-looking, ISO GBM, 20-30 for friendship and relationship. Box# 2429

GM, ISO very discreet guy who has 10 inches or more and loves to have a very good time. Box# 9501

Michael, 25, 6'3, 220, blond/blue, hairy, ISO another guy to have some fun. (Call Thru) Box# 4526

Bob, I like to meet other males. Call, let's see what we can do together. (Call Thru) Box# 5303

GM, 26, 5'11, 165, brn. hair/eyes, very good-looking, clean shaven, work out, ISO guys around my age. (Call Thru) Box# 1583

Todd, BM, ISO GBM or GWM, I'm very handsome and ready to go. (Call Thru) Box# 1326

Dominick, 21, GWM, 5'9, blk. hr., hzl. eyes, Italian and Hispanic. ISO GWM, 21-25, down-to-earth, financially secure, for friendship, poss. rel., no phonies. (Call Thru) Box# 5433

Adam, GWM, 32, 5'8, 190, shoulder length hair, beard, ISO dominant big brother daddy type, black or white, to take charge. (Call Thru) Box# 8556

Steve, 6'2, 220, GBM, likes sports, long walks, quiet times, getting wild sometimes, ISO DWM with similar interests, sense of humor, financially and emotionally stable, for rel. (Call Thru) Box# 2644

Retired man, ISO GM who likes to cuddle. (Call Thru) Box# 6531

GM, 23, extremely cute, like to have fun, ISO a normal guy. Box# 8604

Doug, GWM, smoker, a true metal head, Libra, 30, have tattoos, long hair, tone body, smooth, 145, 6'2, touchie-feelie type, wild sense of humor, ISO other guys 25-35, dark haired, hairy body, sensuality is top priority. Box# 8205

James, attr., 8 inch cut, aggressive, mustache, all American, blonde and blue, early 30's, 5'8, 150, 40-inch chest, 30-inch waist, ISO non-nonsense men, singles, couples or groups, who are intense and want safe and sane liaisons. (Call Thru) Box# 9451

Peter, athletic, 6'1, 165, brn. hr., glasses, fit, five-day growth, ISO friends to hang out, go to movies, play tennis, dining, laughing, and walks. (Call Thru) Box# 3811

Caribbean GBM, 20, ISO GM 18-24 for friendship, poss. rel., serious only. Box# 1627

Bob, 47, WM, ISO BM, well-endowed for fun. Box# 8710

Sara, 34, 5'10, somewhat stocky build, beard, mustache, like classical theater, cooking, travel, walks, ISO GM for friendship and love. (Call Thru) Box# 5751

Thomas, 5'8, 150, ISO BM, to enjoy music, late nights. (Call Thru) Box# 5575

Billy, good-looking, WM, 30, 6'2, 195, good shape, ISO GM for friendship, possibly more. (Call Thru) Box# 2539

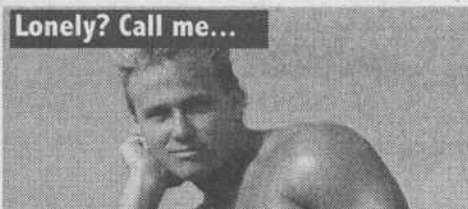
Bi-WM, 30, ISO straight-acting bi-WM or straight WM, no gays, fats or fems. Box# 4265

SWM, really hot, ISO slim, straight, bi or GM, 19-26, for fun and more. Box# 2533

Pete, bi-WM, 40's, 5'11, 210, smooth, chubby bottom, ISO mature male, 50+, for long-term relationship. Box# 3610

Terry, ISO a guy for fun, getting to know each other and exploring. Box# 8634

Todd, 30, honest, sincere and open, ISO a straight-acting guy who is masculine, honest, sincere, open also, likes to



party, enjoys movies, heavy metal to dance music, for dating, poss. serious rel., no game players or sex-only callers. Box# 7205

Willy, you can call me Bill, 25, ISO another guy 19-28, any race for hot fun. (Call Thru) Box# 9549

Jeff, 19, blonde hair, green eyes, ISO guy to hang out with. (Call Thru) Box# 8161

Charles, ISO good stable relationship and friendship, any race, age, and color. What's on the inside is important to me. (Call Thru) Box# 3443

GBM, light complexion, 5'8 1/2, 155, 30, boy next door type, ISO GM's. My name is Quinton, you can call me Q. (Call Thru) Box# 1762

Danny, 32, 5'10, 155, long blonde hair, green eyes, clean shave, mother says I'm too cute to be gay, enjoys sports, biking, ISO another male. Box# 4532

Todd, 25, 6', 180, ready to have good times. Mark and his partner. Please call me. Box# 6649

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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, looking for male companionship. I aim to please. 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, ISO a male companion. (Call Thru) Box# 4266

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

Jeff, 35, WM, 195, brown hair/eyes, good body/looks, 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 feminine male, any age/race. (Call Thru) Box# 1862

DAVE, if you want goodtimes and long fun, call me. (Call Thru) Box# 9590

Don, BiWM, 33, 5'8, 165, brown hair, hazel eyes, mustache, ISO guy, 18-35 who likes conversation and making love. (Call Thru) Box# 4501

Juston, BM, 25, ISO other males 25 or younger. (Call Thru) Box# 4147

Chip, like long walks, volleyball, ISO someone to build a relationship. (Call Thru) Box# 9352

Male, young, hot and ready to go. Box# 2545

Adam, 20, college student, ISO someone 18-25 for dance, clubs, etc. (Call Thru) Box# 8936

David, nice, very hairy, 5'9, I am looking for a honest, loyal, respectable relationship with the right man. Box# 2700

Michael, 32, GWM, ISO guy for relationship, no games. (Call Thru) Box# 8812

Joe, GWM, 41, 6'1, 185, nice body, well-hung, like 69, hot oral sex. Box# 8561

Mark, short, stocky, Hispanic bottom boy, ISO hot mid-western top boy. (Call Thru) Box# 2146

Joe, BM, 29, ISO other BM, I like the outdoors and I am down to earth. (Call Thru) Box# 4522

Kevin, 24, bottom, still in the closet. Box# 5610

GM, Mike, looking for people to party with. (Call Thru) Box# 1595

Dave, ISO someone for a good time. (Call Thru) Box# 2200

GM, Chip, 5'10, 160, athletic, 28, light brown hair, blue eyes, ex-military man, business student, like weightlifting, outdoors, ISO a muscular M, 22-35. (Call Thru) Box# 5135

GM, Gordon, ISO guys for hot fun. (Call Thru) Box# 8176

GM, Bob, 35, 6'1, 195, dark hair/eyes, masculine, working-out, ISO someone for some male bonding. (Call Thru) Box# 3440

GWM, 32, independent, financially secure, ISO someone fun for relationship and hot times. Box# 4506

GM, body-builder, 54-inch chest, 36-inch waist, 210, 40's, ISO someone younger, in good shape like myself. (Call Thru) Box# 4684

Tim, ISO dominant, masculine, very mature M, if you have these qualifications, please call me. (Call Thru) Box# 5304

GBM, James, 34, 5'8, 160, ISO friends any race, talk to me, lets get together. (Call Thru) Box# 8149

BiWM, 42, 5'7, 160, very oral, bearded, mustache, very discreet, ISO same. (Call Thru) Box# 1875

African-American GM, 31, 6'2, 180, beautiful voice/eyes, top, high sex drive, like bowling, fishing, horseback riding, ISO honest, mature, independent, HIV-, African-American bottom. (Call Thru) Box# 5943

GBM, Maurice, 30, 5'9, 140, ISO another masculine GBM, 25-35. Box# 9118

Michael, 5'7, GBM, top, looking for a goodtime, let's talk. Box# 6117

GM, Erin, 24, quiet, sincere, like music, astrology, ISO a monogamous, fun male, 21-35. (Call Thru) Box# 2526

Timmy, 5'10, 195, long blond hair, hairy chest, ISO WM, 25 and over. Box# 2742

GBM, Andre, 20, college student, ISO GWM, for dancing, movies, etc. Box# 6542

GBM, Andre, 5'10, 155, drk hair/eyes, ISO GWM

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Employment

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Milwaukee- 3872 S. Whitnall (Bay View). 3 br, lower level duplex, central air, new kitchen with dishwasher. \$700/Month includes use of washer/dryer. 1 year lease + \$700 sec deposit. (414) 529-3802.

1 bedroom apartment: January to July lease. Close to everything! Springdale Apartments, Waukesha. \$575 + electric. Pets, OK, tanning, exercise room, pool. Call (414) 798-0314. Leave message.

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

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PLEASE CHECK THE ISSUE(S) IN WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR AD TO APPEAR.

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Out for Office is available in bookstores for \$12.95. You may also contact the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund at 1012 14th Street, NW, Suite 707, Washington, DC 20005 or (202) 842-8679 to order a copy.

READ, RUN, and WIN!

The only book to address the unique challenge of running for office as openly gay, *Out for Office* links candidates with the people, information and resources they need to run winning campaigns. Includes a chronology of gay and lesbian candidacies and state-by-state listings of openly gay and lesbian elected and appointed officials, gay-friendly campaign professionals and gay/lesbian political clubs.

"A must read for anyone who wants to run for office, work on a campaign or get an insider's view of electoral politics. *Out for Office* is an invaluable asset to candidates and campaign managers, gay and straight."

—James Carville,
chief strategist for Clinton/Gore '92



GAY AND
LESBIAN



VICTORY FUND

CIVIL RIGHTS

Continued from Page 1

there is no chance for a Gay civil Rights bill passing in the fore-seable future.

But the damage goes even beyond that. New restrictions on the National Endowment for the Arts are certain to be imposed. It is not likely that viewers will see much in the way of Gay and Lesbian programming on PBS either. And that's just the beginning of a lengthy list of probable roll backs in the area of civil rights.

Under the Democrats, homophobic bills were bottled up in committee. Under the Republicans these bills will now get hearings and votes.

One such bill, is Jesse Helms' AIDS Control Act, which Perry Radecic, of the National Gay and Lesbian Task force, describes as a "compilation of the worst of Jesse Helms." This act has been quietly sitting in the Senate Labor Committee. This bill could now see the light of day.

Radecic says that this bill includes mandatory testing, contact tracing, mandating that only abstinence can be taught in AIDS prevention education funded by the Federal government, a ban on AIDS education in the schools and other things that will severely impact on Gays and Lesbians.

She adds, "I know a lot of us are frustrated. A lot of people don't understand what's going on. Gay and Lesbian people, like a lot of the American people, don't understand how Congress works. Congress has been built to intimidate people. They want it that way so it can't be easily pressured."

Radecic adds, "Our own community is under attack on an local level and can't be expected to pay the amount of attention that is needed to what's going on a federal level."

In addition to the AIDS control act, there are a number of other little bills that have been bottled up in committee by the Democrats. These cover things like the military, domestic partnership, education and censorship. Some of these bills will now get hearings and may get passed.

The news on November 8th wasn't totally bad. Two statewide anti-gay referendums were defeated. No Lesbian and Gay incumbents were defeated. The Victory Fund reported that 12 out of the 17 Gay or Lesbian candidates it backed won with two races still undecided at press time.

One especially bitter loss came in New York where Karen Burnstein, an openly Lesbian candidate for State Attorney General, was favored to win. She lost by less 1% of the vote.

A Victory Fund staffer interviewed by LIGHT, said that Burnstein's problem was that most of the attention in New York was focused on the Governor's race. "All most voters heard about her was that she was a Lesbian with a militant agenda."

In the closing days of the campaign, Richard Molinari, the Republican Staten Island Borough President, attacked Burnstein claiming that Gays and Lesbians have no place in public office. Even though many Republicans rushed to her defense the damage was done.

Doug Nelson of the Milwaukee AIDS Project told LIGHT, "It's too early to tell, but I am concerned that AIDS funding may be in jeopardy. We clearly are going to have work harder than ever before."

Those who would console themselves by rationalizing that the results are cyclical would do well to take a closer look at them. The "Solid Democratic South" is gone. In its place is the "Solid Republican South."

The reasons for the Republican sweep are

ABORTION

Continued from Page 4

Gays and Lesbians who link arms with their straight brothers and sisters outside the clinics to protect a woman's right to choice can do nothing better to reinforce the good will toward the Gay community that already exists in much of the pro-choice movement. Those few Gays and Lesbians who choose instead to consort with their oppressors should not be surprised and should not complain if some day they find they have lost their "Gay rights."

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

GALAN@ 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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Kenny Angel is a Heavenly Addition to This Year's Christmas Trees

(San Diego, CA)- He's cute, he's angelic, and he's decking the tops of Gay Christmas trees across the nation.

He's Kenny Angel, a deliciously handsome young male doll, dressed in a commodious white satin gown with lacy wings that's becoming the "in" thing for Gay households this holiday season.

Kenny Angel is the dream brought to reality of Jim Tallman while attending a tree trimming party in 1992. What was needed, he thought, was a decoration that was uniquely Gay, something to set hearts all a pitty-pat. Kenny was the result.

The doll is currently being sold across the country. Retailers report that they can't keep them in stock. That's the way it has always been. Tallman, 34, reports that shortly after Kenny was introduced in HIM catalogue, he got over 800 orders within just a few days.

Since then, Tallman has produced thousands of Kenny Angels with the help of a small work force based in San Diego. Thousands of dolls fill the shelves of his shop, where a team of workers carefully assemble the angels and add the fine details and accoutrements.

For example, there's a dated, designer's label concealed beneath each gown. Kenny wears an AIDS awareness ribbon, while a built-in cone allows him to perch securely on the top of the tree.

Tallman says that the image of the male angel is a reflection of the '90s, amusing, slightly daring, as if in his look of injured innocence, his golden halo should be slightly asque.

The dolls themselves originate from a craft store in China--and are not the Mattel brand. Tallman maintains they are made specifically for his business and that no parallel should be drawn to Mattel's Ken doll.

Kenny Angel comes in a variety of themes. There's a Western Rodeo Angel, for



Kenny Angel

example, complete with cowboy hat and full beard. He also reflects men of color.

Tallman says he expects to sell at least 5,000 dolls this holiday season, and is planning on introducing a line of Valentine's Day dolls.

Kenny Angels cost \$29.95 (\$31.95 for the Rodeo doll), and can be purchased by calling 1-800-833-9692; or fax (619) 274-1230. Credit cards accepted. Regular shipping through U.S. mail is used, unless otherwise requested.

Queer Program to Analyze Election Results and Celebrate Second Anniversary

(Milwaukee)- The producers of **The Queer Program**, Dan Fons and Michael Lisowski, are proud to announce that they will be celebrating two years of providing interactive Queer programming for Milwaukee in mid-November.

The Queer Program is a live, weekly call-in TV show made by, for and about Queers.

While up-to-date news and announcements are part of each week's show, the following topics will be focused upon during the next two programs:

November 15

Tune in and take part in a discussion of the November 8th election results from a Queer perspective. Mike and Dan will fill viewers in on important votes ranging from anti-Gay ballot initiatives in Idaho and Oregon to the possible election or re-election of a number of Queer politicians here in Milwaukee. As always, the phone lines will open up for viewer questions and comments. You won't get this type of election analysis from the networks.

November 22

During this special second anniversary show, viewers will get to see the co-hosts as they have never seen them before. Watch to see clips of some of the best and worst the show has had to offer over its two years. Viewers will be encouraged to call in with their thoughts and feedback.

The Queer Program airs live every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. on Milwaukee Warner Cable Channel 47 and is rebroadcast each Thursday at 4:00 p.m. and Saturday at 11:00 a.m. The show's producers encourage the community to utilize this show as a forum for

community news and views.

Interested persons are invited to contact the show with comments, suggestions or materials by writing to: **The Queer Program**, P.O. Box 93951, Milwaukee, WI 53203 or by calling (414) 289-9206.

Help Fill MAP's Holiday Food Baskets for Families Affected by AIDS

(Milwaukee)- This holiday season, the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) food pantry will be distributing food baskets to families affected by HIV disease. The agency is currently seeking interested persons and organizations who would be willing to provide a holiday dinner complete with all the trimmings for a family of one to eleven or for several families. Baskets will be distributed through the end of the December.

Dinner menus include frozen and non-perishable food items. Monetary donations to assist in the purchase of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables will also be gratefully accepted. Menus which specify the amount of food needed, are available for all family sizes by calling MAP.

Volunteers will be provided for delivery and distribution of completed holiday baskets. For more information or to request a basket menu, please call Andy Bagnall at (414) 273-1991, Ext 263.

A Story and Manifesto of a Woman Coming to Terms With Her Own Sexuality

Commentary by Marianne Brill

I have been persuaded to write this piece as a pastoral tool by a certain priest. It concerns the story of my sexuality as it has grown and developed, and whose underpinnings run counter to those of our culture.

My story begins at age 4 on a trip my family took to Nassau and Jamaica. I saw my father and brother naked, and announced at dinner that my father had a large penis. My father attempted to distract me by pointing to the sea. Thus I learned of the embarrassment surrounding certain parts of the body.

Then I wanted to know about the envelopes that had contained "cemetery napkins" in the public restroom at the college where my mother was attending classes while I was in nursery school. The best way to find out about a woman's cycles at a young age is to announce your inquisitiveness loudly in the dining room nearby!

My parents were always open about their own sexual desire and got my brother and me books on the subject. But I saw sex as an entrapment into marriage and motherhood, and I wanted a career and independence.

At Summer camp at the beach, I couldn't understand why you had to go into a one-room shack to change clothes. Why all this concern about covering up and sex, anyway?

In fifth grade, a teacher took me to an empty back room. I thought he had a tumor in his thigh so I asked him what the bump was. He made me put my hand in his pocket, as he said there was a pencil inside. Then he asked me if I wanted to play with the bump, and I said no, so he took me back to the classroom.

I told my mother and father verbatim what he said, and my father took notes and reported it to the headmaster. The teacher admitted all but the last part, expressed surprise because the fathers usually weren't so mellow, and was fired.

The teacher had stressed the secrecy of the event, and so again I learned that sex was something to be ashamed of, to be hidden.

In high school, I was taught the Roman Catholic doctrine of sex for procreation only, which I embraced eagerly as it rejected our culture's preoccupation with sex and the pep club's adulation of the boys.

My freshman year in college, I dated a senior man for three weeks, and necked fully clothed. He broke off the romance supposedly because it was taking him further than he wanted to go, but I think it was because I wasn't docile and didn't like his Christian club. To be sexual meant obedience.

My senior year in college, I went with a man who told me false information concerning his marriage status in the Catholic Church because he liked hearing women's secrets.

I was diagnosed manic-depressive in 1982, and placed on lithium. I came out as a Lesbian

in 1985 and was then placed on a drug which virtually eliminated my periods, sex drive and ability. I had a relationship in 1988, but my partner was frustrated because I was unresponsive and didn't perform. I began to harbor a respect for the monastic life and did not feel deprived.

In 1993, with a new relationship, I asked that my medications be changed so I would be more responsive. The relationship was a failure, and the medications resulted in a depression which went untreated until 1994.

A few months after treatment with an antidepressant, my sex drive returned, along with the ability to have orgasms. But I was recently placed on another drug which will temporarily or permanently exclude orgasm, but not sexual drive and feeling.

At first I was aghast at this, because our culture makes so much of "the big O." But I suddenly realized that the whole person is involved in sexuality; that it isn't a matter of performance. Your mind decides who and how, your body and emotions feel good (either about yourself or about yourself and the person you are with), and your spirit carries the relationship beyond itself.

One of the things I had objected to was the exclusivity and in-grown-ness of my parents' marriage--I would like to use my relationship to reach the not-so-loved.

One of sexuality's greatest blessings is to affirm people. I believe I have come to this position through my history or questioning the status quo, but that now I can take my stand as an individual in a caring relationship with give-and-take and commitment.

But how did others react when I rejected the big O? "Impossible," said one, "you'll blow your cork if you don't have orgasms, and the only reason you're saying that is that you're on medication."

A nurse on a phone line I consulted about alternative medications, said I should see my doctor (as if some medical guru should determine my comfort in the bedroom).

The priest who asked me to write this article was very supportive, and so were two of my friends. Personally, I think humans come in thirty wonderful flavors, and it doesn't have to be fireworks to satisfy everyone.

N.B. Re: my position and the Catholic Church. This is outside the scope of this article. See Karl Rahner's **Sacramentum Mundi's** article on sexual morals for one Roman Catholic interpretation.

Two days after the completion of the draft of this article, I was orgasmic. Don't try for anything, just relax and be open, and who knows what will come.

My interest in the monastic life has resulted in investigating a lay branch of a religious order inclined toward Gays.

Editor's Note: The writer is a resident of Wisconsin.

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