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The Wisconsin Light

Recent New York Studies Show Immune System Struggle in HIV Infection.

New York- The immune system mounts a furious, prolonged struggle against the AIDS virus during HIV infection, new studies document.

Infection kicks the immune system into overdrive, making it produce perhaps 2 billion disease-fighting cells every day just to replace those destroyed by infection, researchers found.

The fact that the body can meet that challenge suggests that the battered immune system could recover if the HIV onslaught could somehow be controlled, the researchers said.

"What we must do is deal with the destruction by the virus. ... The replenishment process is already working overtime," said Dr. David Ho, whose study is one of two on the topic published in today's issue of the journal *Nature*.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, who was not involved in the studies, said the overall results provided evidence of what scientists had already assumed about HIV infection. The new works show "impressively high" amounts of activity involving HIV and the disease-fighting cell, called CD4, he said.

Researchers calculated that each day, 20 million to 7 billion copies of HIV per person appeared in the blood of people they studied, and an equal number were removed, probably by the immune system, natural filters and entry into CD4 cells. Similarly, about 2 billion CD4 cells were created on average each day and an equal number destroyed as a result of HIV infection.

One of the studies, by Dr. George M. Shaw of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and co-authors, calculated that an infected person may replace, on average, about 5 percent of the body's total CD4 population every day. That shows that the immune system can still produce lots of CD4 cells, Shaw said.

Another finding points up an obstacle to controlling HIV. Shaw's group found that in patients treated with the experimental drug nevirapine, the initial population of HIV in the blood was replaced by mutant strains resistant to the drug within four weeks.

The other study was by Ho of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center at the New York University School of Medicine and co-authors.

New Report Says HIV Most Contagious When People Don't Know They Have It

DETROIT (AP) - The AIDS virus may be 100 to 1,000 times more contagious during the first two months of infection, when routine AIDS tests are unable to tell whether people are infected, researchers said Friday.

Among Gay men, the chances of infecting a partner during unprotected sex in the initial 60 days may be as high as three in 10, the University of Michigan research team said.

"It means that if you're trying to evaluate a partner for how risky it is to have sex, it is not just how many partners, but also how recently," said James S. Koopman, a University of Michigan epidemiologist.

Routine AIDS tests look for presence of antibodies the body has made to defend against the AIDS virus. The antibodies don't immediately appear.

HIV-infected people can be healthy and live for years before the virus begins reproducing and attacks the body's immune system.

"The danger is that a person who tests negative and is very active sexually may be more dangerous than someone who has tested positive," said Carl S. Simon, another University of Michigan researcher.

Other studies have suggested that HIV, the AIDS virus, is most contagious in early stages.

The Michigan study, a mathematical analysis based on existing research, attempted to determine how much more contagious.

"Within the context of actual studies, there are limited data to support this contention and this model puts some mathematical odds on infectiousness early on," said Dr. Scott Holmberg of the Division of HIV-AIDS at the At-

New Republican Controlled Congress Brings Uncertainty to AIDS Funding

More Equitable Distribution of Funds Gaining Support



Great Music-- Beethoven (Gary Oldman) performs before polite Viennese society in "Immortal Beloved." The film which opens its regular engagement January 27 at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater, will have a benefit premiere for the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra on January 25. (See page 10 for details.)

Helms Introduces Bills in Congress That Would Promote Anti-Gay Discrimination

(Washington, D.C.)- In the first indication that anti-Gay extremists in the new Republican-controlled Congress may target Lesbians and Gay Americans in discriminatory legislation, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) has introduced two bills that would promote hate speech and discrimination against federal workers. The Helms bills mark the first two pieces of anti-Gay legislation introduced in the 104th Congress, according to an analysis by the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF).

The first bill, numbered S.23, would give a special exemption from workplace non-discrimination policies to government employees who voice prejudices against Lesbian and Gay coworkers.

The second bill, S.25, would target Lesbian and Gay employees for discrimination by denying their employee organizations the same rights to free association and free speech guaranteed to other employee groups.

Twenty-two employee groups for Lesbian and Gay federal workers have formed, similar to groups representing African Americans, Latinos and women in the federal work force.

Following a growing trend in the private sector, at least 17 major federal agencies have included Lesbian and Gay people along with other workers in their non-discrimination policies. No federal law protects people from being fired or otherwise discriminated against in the work place on the basis of sexual orientation.

HRCF polled members of Congress last year on their own employment practices and found broad bi-partisan support for the principle that Gay and Lesbian people should not be singled out for discrimination in the work place.

82 Republicans and 231 Democrats--including majorities of both parties in the Senate--confirmed that they do not discriminate in their offices on the basis of sexual orientation.

(While Helms is reported to have said that he does discriminate and would not hire someone who he knew was Gay, he has, by one reliable account, three Gay people working for him in his office.)

Further, one of Helms' neighbors reports that there are several Gay families on the block in the Virginia suburb where he lives. "He just doesn't know, that's all," the source said.)

In addition, a post-election poll of voters in the November election found that majorities of Republicans, Democrats and Independents support equal rights in the work place for Lesbian and Gay people.

In a random survey of 800 voters conducted November 8 and 9 by the independent polling firm of Mellman Lazarus Lake, Inc., 70% said Gay people should not face unfair job discrimination--with 64% of Republicans, 71% of Independents and 77% of Democrats supporting the idea.

Anticipating the Helms bills and supporting its lobbying activities on Capitol Hill, HRCF has activated its 5,000 member Federal Agency Network to generate calls and letters to Congress.

HRCF is also coordinating communications activities with the federal Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Employees (GLOBE) organization.

(Milwaukee)- The Republican revolution in Washington, D.C. has turned the national AIDS community upside down as it scrambles to position itself to protect hard-won AIDS funding from the previous Democratic, AIDS-friendly Congress.

While AIDS advocates from around the country are deeply worried about how massive federal budget cutting by the new Republican Congress will affect AIDS programs, in an ironic political twist, the Wisconsin-led Campaign For Fairness in Ryan White CARE Act Funding is picking up significant support from the new Congressional leaders for its issue of equity.

"It's good news, bad news," said Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), the Milwaukee AIDS Project's (MAP) parent agency. "My read from Capitol Hill is that the Republicans are likely to

re-authorize the CARE Act with far more equitable formulas, but at the same time, while in pursuit of a balanced budget, they could make deep cuts in federal domestic spending which would harm funding for critical AIDS services."

Nelson, who in the past month has made several trips to Washington to lead the continuing lobby effort for increased AIDS housing funding and equity in the CARE Act, spoke with *Wisconsin Light* upon his return from a highly controversial AIDS community meeting on the CARE Act.

Sources on the Hill have told *Wisconsin Light* that Nelson's unstinting lobbying efforts have been in large measure responsible for the fact that AIDS funding is being considered favorably by the new solons.

"I used our latest meeting to try to convince the Ryan White AIDS Coalition to modify its position to better address formula equity," Nelson reported. "Because of the new leadership on the Hill which supports the principles of equity, I urged our Coalition to respond to these political realities."

"Much to my surprise and disappointment, there was no support for any change of position," Nelson said. "To the contrary, the demand of the Coalition was for the Campaign For Fairness to sign a loyalty pledge to last year's Kennedy-Waxman Bill which we could not do in light of the strong support for equity among new Republican leaders and a growing number of Democratic members."

Nelson reported that the Campaign was asked to leave the Coalition for its failure to sign the loyalty pledge.

"They cut off the dialogue on critical issues that the new Congress will address and that makes no sense," Nelson said. "The wisest political strategy is to engage the new Republican leadership on our issues and that is precisely what our Campaign will continue to do."

Since the Campaign's ouster from the Ryan White Coalition, Nelson and several other Campaign leaders have met with U.S. Senators and staff including the staff leadership of Sen. Nancy Kassenbaum (R-KS) who will chair and lead the Senate committee responsible for re-authorization of the CARE Act.

"Senator Kassenbaum will write a new bill which will address our issues of equity," Nelson reported. "I am confident that the Senator's commitment extends to changing the CARE Act formulas so that living AIDS cases are counted and funds are distributed throughout the country where the HIV epidemic is headed."

When asked if he was angry about the

TURN TO AIDS FUNDING, Page 15

**Keanu Reeves
Did He
Or Didn't He?
See Page 10**

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Anti-Gay Repeal Effort Fails in Florida

Washington, D.C.-- Gays are rejoicing in West Palm Beach, Florida--not far from Anita Bryant country--as city voters soundly rejected an attempt to strike anti-discrimination protections from the city Human Rights ordinance. Voters defeated by 56-44 percent a measure that would have repealed a section of the local human rights charter that bars discrimination based on sexual orientation. The section had been added last September. Sponsors of the repeal effort were the Christian Coalition and the American Family Association. Behind the successful campaign to defeat the repeal effort, No on 1, were members of the Citizens for Fairness.

No on 1's primary message in defeating the repeal attempt was that it would have legalized employment discrimination and was, indeed, a danger to all citizens. "Voters responded when we told them that hard working people could be fired from their jobs just for being Gay or Lesbian," said Richard Giorgio, a member of the Palm Beach County Human Rights Council.

Judge Upholds Same-Sex Marriage Commission

Honolulu, HI--A federal judge says the commission set up to study the same-sex marriage question will be allowed to continue its work, despite recent challenges that have removed four of its members and threatened to remove two others from the 11-member commission. Judge Harold Fong on January 13, upheld his earlier ruling removing four members from the Commission on Sexual Orientation and the Law. The four had been removed because they were chosen on the basis of their religious affiliations.

The judge's ruling involved a request seeking the removal of two panel members affiliated with the American Friends Service Committee, which has ties to the Quakers. The judge ruled that American Friends is not a religious organization, since it's open to people of all religious beliefs. The decision gives the committee enough people to make quorum and meet.

AIDS Discrimination Suit Against Delta Settled

Dover, NH-AP- In an update to an earlier story in *Light*, a person with AIDS who was ordered off an airplane because he had warts on his hands and wrists has settled his discrimination suit against Delta Airlines. Richard Cloutier, 30, settled out of court. The terms were not disclosed.

Cloutier claimed in his suit that he was treated like "a freak" and denied a seat on a June flight from Boston to Atlanta until he covered warts on his hands and wrists with gloves and a long-sleeved shirt. Delta has continued to maintain that it acted properly out of concern for Cloutier as well as the plane's other passengers and crew.

Maine Governor to Campaign for Equal Rights for Gays

Augusta, ME-AP- Governor Angus King says he'll campaign against a referendum plan aimed at allowing discrimination against Gay people. "I don't think (passage of the referendum) is consistent with what Maine people like in their government," King said. Secretary of State Bill Diamond said that his office certified 60,683 signatures, about 8,400 more than the number required to put the issue on the ballot this coming November.

Joining Gov. King will be Andrew Ketterer, sworn in this month as Maine's new Attorney General. He says his office will be a "strong supporter of equal rights for Gay people." Recalling the civil rights legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Ketterer said that discrimination based on sexual orientation was the last form of discrimination to remain legal in Maine.

The referendum is being sponsored by Concerned Maine Families, a Right Wing Christian organization.

Cincinnati's Gay Coalition Might Disband

Cincinnati-AP- The coalition promoting equal rights for Gay people is considering disbanding after 16 years in a city known for its persecution of Gays and its anti-Gay ballot measure. Members of the Greater Cincinnati Gay and Lesbian Coalition has said that one reason the coalition might end is that no one is interested in running for its offices. Outgoing President Pat Herrmann added that the coalition may not be needed anymore. She said the new Gay and Lesbian Community Center performs many of the coalition's functions.

"We don't want to duplicate services," Herrmann said. "I feel very positive about what's happening. It's growth. For years we were stagnant. Now we have a center. We were stuck at the bars. Now the Gay community is getting more diverse, younger."

Gay Cubans on American Soil Find Acceptance

Miami-AP- Openly Gay for the first time in his life, Edwardo Palmero Gomez doesn't mind living in a hot, dusty refugee camp at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base. "Castro says he doesn't have any homosexuals," said Gomez, "but in Guantanamo you find all kinds of people. Gomez, 28, was a teacher in Havana before he fled Castro's Cuba. There are about 21 openly Gay Cuban men at Guantanamo according to Army Capt. David Lee.

"We have separate tents for them so they don't feel discriminated against," Lee said. Gomez and his tentmates have formed a drag revue. They are good and hope the quality of their performance will be their ticket into the U.S. proper. The military gives them all the clothes and other materials that they need to perform.

"Going Where No Man Has Gone Before"

San Francisco-- When the cult TV series first began in 1966, viewers of "Star Trek" were invited to "explore strange new worlds." That message (minus the sexist language) also greeted viewers of the more-recent series, "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

Before he died, the creator of both TV shows, Gene Roddenberry, boldly promised that Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual characters would be a routine part of the Star Trek universe. Shortly before his death, Roddenberry met with members of a Lesbian/Gay Star Trek fan club and told them that since racism was not tolerated in his 24th Century world, neither would homophobia be acceptable. But, in a universe populated by Borgs and Klingons, there were no Queers to be found.

However, this situation could change with the advent of the latest Star Trek spin-off, "Star Trek: Voyager." The new TV series premieres this month and perhaps--at last--the omission of Queers could be corrected, San Francisco's Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation reports.

Lutheran Leaders Let Parish Keep Gay Pastor

Oakland, CA-AP- Evangelical Lutheran church leaders have decided to let parishioners at St. Paul Lutheran Church keep their pastor, who is Gay.

The congregation, which had defied a previous order to fire Ross D. Merkel, learned of the decision during Sunday services.

"We're very glad he's staying and support him in whatever he does," said Donna Noel, 46, who has been attending the Oakland parish for 35 years.

In February, the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America defrocked Merkel. A disciplinary body ruled he was involved in a Gay relationship. The church allows Lesbian and Gay clergy, but only so long as they are not sexually active.

The synod's most recent ruling stops Merkel from appointing people to any vacancies at 18 churches in Alameda and Oakland, but left him in charge of the Oakland congregation.

"This action is really choosing to take no action against the congregation," said Pastor F. Noreen Meginness, an assistant to Bishop Robert W. Mattheis.

In a letter sent to 220 congregations in northern California and northern Nevada, Mattheis wrote that his options were to either remove the congregation from church rolls or reverse the defrocking. But he said he chose neither because he recognized that "truth is not captive to any ideological position, but is discovered as people of faith come together in prayer and mutual affirmation to seek the path of faithfulness."

Parishioner Noel said the congregation has lost some people because of the controversy, but most have stayed.

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.

Positive Voice to Present Second Annual Winter Workshop in Green Bay

Green Bay, WI-- Personal and politically motivated homophobia, same-sex domestic violence and strategies for developing healthier Gay/Lesbian interpersonal relationships will be explored during "A Day of Self-Exploration II," Positive Voice's second annual day-long Winter workshop, convening Saturday, February 11 at the Midway Hotel in Green Bay.

Speakers scheduled to appear include Dr. Patricia Robertson, Assistant Professor of Counselor Education at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh; Kevin Baird, Region 1 Representative to Action Wisconsin; Kathryn Roe and Patricia Jagodinsky, co-founders of Sisters Against Violence Against Sisters; and Judith Hodel, Psychotherapist and Relationships Counselor at Edward Johnson and Associates, Green Bay.

The conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast. Following a welcoming address by Positive Voice President Dennis Krenn, Dr. Robertson will examine the concepts of both internalized and externalized

homophobia.

Kevin Baird will offer insights on the current political climate and the concurrent rise in the politically-motivated homophobia of the Religious Right.

The two afternoon sessions will focus on highly personal issues. Kathryn Roe and Patricia Jagodinsky will present their nationally recognized same-sex domestic violence lecture, which explores the motivations and recurring patterns of same-sex partner abuse.

Judith Hodel will conclude with a presentation on building health and lasting relationships.

Fees, which include all meals and snacks, are \$18 (Positive Voice members) and \$22 (non-members). Registrations with full payment received or postmarked on or before January 27 qualify for this "early bird" rate. The regular registration rates of \$20 and \$25 respectively will apply from January 28 to February 6. For more information call (414) 437-7400.

Center Project to Hold Fourth Annual 'Have A Heart' Dinner to Benefit AIDS Work

Green Bay, WI-- Feeling good after eating will take on an entirely new meaning Saturday, February 18 at Center Project's fourth annual "Have A Heart" dinner celebration.

This year's event, which begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Sensenbrenner Memorial Union at St. Norbert College in DePere, will feature a reception with an expanded silent auction and cash bar, a meal offering new menu choices and entertainment featuring nationally and locally popular Gay/Lesbian talent. Serving as Mistress of Ceremonies again this year will be the Erin Davison, news anchor at WFRV-TV 5 in Green Bay.

According to Karen Buschke, Volunteer Coordinator at Center Project and active on this year's dinner committee, the silent auction will feature a number of items affordable to a wide range of incomes. Among this year's items will be pieces of artwork featured in the 1995 "Wisconsin Artists for AIDS" calendar. The committee is currently soliciting donations of items for the auction.

This year's entertainment line-up features the nationally known C.C. Rae (aka Green Bay's own Randy Bouche) who will be performing portions of his 1995 show for the first

time in Green Bay.

Jeff Jennings, the vocally-talented Mr. Gay Wisconsin USA and Zoomie, Green Bay's popular contemporary, swing and country diva, will round out the after dinner show.

Tickets remain at \$35 per person, but the individual table of eight price has been lowered to \$240, a savings of \$40 from last year's prices. To qualify for the table price, full payment and all menu selections must be returned simultaneously. Corporate tables are also available.

For reservations or more information, call (414) 437-7400 in Green Bay or 1-800-675-9400 from out of town.

All proceeds from "Have A Heart" will benefit Center Project, Northeastern Wisconsin's HIV/AIDS resource center.

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ACLU Honors Rep. Tammy Baldwin and Tom Zander At Bill of Rights Dinner

By John Quinlan

(Milwaukee)- When almost 500 civil rights advocates from around the state came together in Milwaukee on January 14, they received inspiration from an important truth: Even in times such as these--when much of the political leadership of the country seems caught up in a backlash against the advances made by the civil rights movement--courageous individuals can and will make a difference.

The occasion was the 17th Annual Bill of Rights Celebration of the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin. Lesbians, Gay men and Bisexuals were well-represented at the event where seven people--including Lesbian and Gay community leaders, State Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) and Milwaukee Attorney Tom Zander--received recognition for their work.

Although the awardees spanned several different generations and a diversity of backgrounds, it was the interconnectedness of their stories that struck home with everyone gathered there that night.

Baldwin Puts Principle Above Politics

In honoring Baldwin, ACLU Legislative Director Tim Mazur, spoke of her unwavering commitment to civil rights at a time when political expediency seems to be the rule of thumb for many. He noted that she has been a "tireless advocate" for people who normally don't have a voice--women, people of color, Lesbians, Bisexuals, people in poverty and people with disabilities--for over a decade.

Where she truly distinguished herself, Mazur observed, was during heated debate around crime and corrections issues in the last legislative session. Rejecting the simplistic "more prisons and stiffer sentences" rhetoric, Baldwin spoke out for meaningful solutions that offer hope to people in the communities most affected by crime.

She urged her colleagues to apply scarce state resources to programs that emphasize education and re-training programs--with the goal of giving people leaving the corrections system the tools necessary to become productive members of their communities again.

In accepting her award, Baldwin noted that speaking out on these issues has left her feeling pretty lonely sometimes. "I was the only representative to speak out against the 'three strikes and you're out' legislation. I was one of two who voted against the unconstitutional sexual predator law. I have been reminded over and over again that I'm the only open Lesbian or Gay state legislator.

"But when I look over this room and I see the hundreds of people here who have done so much for the cause of civil rights and civil liberties, I no longer feel so lonely," she said.

Zander Lauded For Many Contributions

Milwaukee Attorney Tom Zander was presented with a special award by Madison trustee Dianne Greenley. Zander, who retired last April due to complications of AIDS, served for more than a decade as executive director of the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee, which serves low income people.

His greatest contribution, Greenley noted, has been his advocacy on behalf of the rights of people with mental illness, especially those who face civil commitment or guardianship. He has represented thousands of people throughout the years and is responsible for most of the Wisconsin case law in this area. Zander thanked his many friends and colleagues and offered special thanks to his mother, who received a warm ovation from the audience.

Eunice Z. Edgar Award

At a time when some seek to exploit alleged rifts in the historic civil rights coalition between the African American and Jewish com-

munities, audience members were reminded that the depth of these connections runs deep.

Taking the podium together to jointly accept the Eunice Z. Edgar Lifetime Achievement Award, African American community leader Lloyd Barbee and Jewish community leader Irv Charne personified the power of that bond. Both men spoke movingly of their affection and admiration for each other in the context of a friendship of many decades.

Both Barbee and Charne had graduated from the UW Law School, but faced significant obstacles due to prejudice as they began their careers in the 1950's.

Barbee became one of the state's preeminent civil rights attorneys and later went on to serve in the state legislature, where he was the author of the state's Fair Housing Act.

Charne also became renowned for his work in the area of civil liberties, including extensive work defending people appearing before Sen. Joseph McCarthy and the notorious House Un-American Activities Committee.

The two men worked side-by-side in suing the Milwaukee Public Schools during the landmark school desegregation cases of the 1960's.

Their awards were presented by James Hall, and African American leader who serves both as a trustee of the Wisconsin ACLU and as a national ACLU vice president.

Hmong Leaders Honored

Two leaders in a present-day school desegregation fight being fought in northern Wisconsin spoke eloquently of their fight for civil liberties in their adopted country that one spoke of as the "land of my dreams."

Over the last decade and a half, over 8,000 Hmong immigrants have moved to Wausau, a community of about 36,000 that had previously seen little racial diversity. Hmong children, comprising almost a fourth of the overall school population, had been segregated until recently in two of the city's eight elementary schools.

Efforts to desegregate the schools met with a Radical Right-organized backlash and all but one of the school board members who had supported desegregation were voted out of office in 1993.

Award recipient Ya Yang was the one progressive school board member who remained in office after the 1993 elections. Co-recipient Vilay Her was a leader among the Hmong and Anglo parents and teachers who sought to make desegregation work.

High School Student Fights For First Amendment

Despite the mainstream media's depiction of young people as self-centered "slackers," many of our youth have been galvanized in the fight for civil rights.

High school student Ben Borger, the night's youngest award recipient, epitomized the hope that these young people represent. When the Kenosha School District refused to let a group of students attend a showing of Schindler's List (because of its R rating), Borger gathered over 400 signatures and asked the school board to reconsider its decision.

Borger's experiences have helped him to see the importance of the First Amendment in a very tangible way. "There are kids at my school who don't believe the Holocaust happened. They think it's Jewish propaganda," he said. "They need to see this film."

Undaunted when the school board refused to even put the matter on their agenda, Borger took the matter to court, with the help of the ACLU. Turned down by an initial decision in federal court, Borger vows to continue to fight for the First Amendment.

Editor's Note: The author is a member of the Board of Trustees of the ACLU of Wisconsin Foundation.

12-Year-Old 'Vampire Co-Star Has Grown-' Up View of Hollywood

Los Angeles- Kirsten Dunst, Tom Cruise's 12-year-old co-star in *Interview With the Vampire*, has a grown-up view of Hollywood.

Dunst, who played an adult vampire trapped in a child's body, says she loves acting but is taking stardom with a grain of salt.

"I've got to remember why I'm in this," she said in a recent interview. "I don't know why people don't stay grounded. I'm aware of what happens to some young actors, but I don't know why. I mean, they act and then they think they're hot. It's really stupid."

Dunst, who also co-starred in *Little Women*, is currently filming *Jumanji*, based on the popular children's fantasy book, with Robin Williams. In *Interview*, she co-starred with Cruise and Brad Pitt.

And what did she like best about being a vampire? Biting people.

"I thought it was so funny. There'd be these tubes that were all covered up, and they'd pump up all this gross, fake blood through them, with sugar and dye and red food coloring. It was really sick," she said.

Support PrideFest '95 by Joining the 'Proud Crowd Campaign'

Milwaukee-- If you are one of those thousands of people who had a great time at PrideFest '94 and want to help make sure PrideFest '95 is even better, the Proud Crowd is what you've been looking for.

PrideFest invites everyone to join its "Proud Crowd Campaign," a great way to show your pride and to support PrideFest at the same time.

The Proud Crowd is a group of supportive individuals and organizations who will be listed in ads run in the February 17 issue of *In Step* and the February 19 issue of *Wisconsin Light*. Listings can be full names, anonymous, nick names, special messages, your pet's name, or initials.

All Proud Crowd members receive a free weekend pass to PrideFest '95, an invitation to the Proud Crowd Party and an all-new PrideFest T-shirt or sweat shirt.

Proud Crowd membership levels are \$25 for individuals, \$35 for couples, \$50 for individ-

ual sponsors and \$65 for sponsoring couples. Regular members receive a free T-shirt. Sponsors receive a free sweat shirt.

Funds generated by the Proud Crowd Campaign will be used to pay for pre-festival expenses such as insurance, permits, deposits and publicity.

The deadline for signing up is January 31. Interested individuals and organizations can call the Pride Line--(414) 272-FEST (3378) to be signed up over the phone.

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Mark Barnes to Head AIDS Action Council

Washington (AP) Mark Barnes, a former New York health official and advocate for AIDS patients, will be the new executive director of the AIDS Action Council, a major lobby in the fight against the disease.

Barnes, named to the post Friday, was New York state's AIDS policy director from 1989-92 and served as New York City's associate commissioner of health from 1992 until last May.

He directed HIV prevention and treatment programs and helped set up a new tuberculosis control program for the Dinkins administration. He also served as a legal consultant to the Clinton administration's task force on health care reform.

Barnes said his "challenge is to keep AIDS on the top agenda of both the executive and the legislative branch" and to impress upon lawmakers and policymakers "the absolute urgency" of addressing the crisis.

Barnes, 34, a Yale Law School graduate, joined the law firm of Proskauer Rose Goetz and Mendelsohn last year and has been teaching at New York Law School and the Columbia University School of Public Health.

He succeeds Daniel Bross as head of the AIDS Action Council, which represents more than 1,000 community-based AIDS service organizations. The council, with a \$2 million budget and staff of 20, is the only national AIDS organization devoted exclusively to lobbying at the federal level.

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Frontiers
Events for February

Feb. 3 Friday Dining Out--Gino's, 540 State St. 7:00 p.m. (608) 251-7424

Feb. 4--Update on the latest in AIDS research and possibly an alternate treatment as well as the second release of the British "Safe Sex" video; 8:00 p.m. discussion to be led by Tim Tillotson and Thad Wendell; (608) 241-8184

Feb. 10 Friday Dining Out--Meet for cocktails at 6:00 p.m. at the Shamrock Bar, 117 W. Main and at 9:00 p.m. go to Tanyeri Grill, 106 King Street (608) 251-7424

Fri. 17 Friday Dining Out--Imperial Gardens, 4214 E. Washington St. 7:00 p.m. (608) 251-7424

Feb. 18 Architectural Design-- "Design your Dream Home" Discussion led by Mark Mudgett and Randy Page as well as Bill Muir 7:30 p.m. 4701 Judy Lane (608) 241-2500

Feb. 24 Friday Dining Out--Fyfe's, 1344 E. Washington St. 7:00 p.m. (608) 251-7424

Feb. 28 Open Forum --"Man to Man Rap" Discuss Gay issues and personal concerns among friends 7:30 p.m. Kevin--(608) 251-4487

Former Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders, Says She's Glad to be Home

LITTLE ROCK - Dr. Joycelyn Elders says that President Clinton's decision to fire her as U.S. surgeon general did not leave a bad taste in her mouth and she was glad to be back in Arkansas as a professor of pediatrics.

"Oh no, I don't have a sour taste at all," she said when asked in an interview on Little Rock radio station KARN about her dismissal. "I'm very pleased to have had the opportunity to have been the surgeon general."

Elders was fired December 9 after responding to a question about masturbation. The subject came up at an AIDS conference that included several of the world's health ministers. She said that perhaps public school students should be taught about masturbation as a natural part of human sexuality.

"I went to Washington to be the surgeon general. And being the surgeon general means you have the responsibility to try to improve the health of all Americans. That was what I was about. That was what I worked for, and you have to do that based on scientific fact and that's what I tried to do," she said Sunday.

Asked about criticism of her views on abortion, sex education, civil rights for Lesbians and Gay men, and dispensing condoms, she said, "You don't feel frustration. You are very aware ... you are trying to get change. And when you're speaking ... truth, first people look at it as weird and out of the mainstream and most unusual. Then they are violently opposed. And finally, people begin to realize that this is truth and they come to accept it. I feel that I am in the violently opposed stage. And I hope to live long enough that it (her viewpoint) is accepted."

As surgeon general, she said, she was particularly concerned about the health of young people.

"My focus was really on improving the health of our adolescents. This is a group that society has totally neglected," she said. "The only group in our society where the mortality and morbidity has increased in the past 10 to

15 years has been our adolescents, and it's death from crime, from diseases, from drugs, from alcohol. And what do we do about it? Nothing."

Comprehensive education from kindergarten through the 12th grade is the answer, she said.

"The American people are not really health-literate. Our American children get 15,000 hours of TV from kindergarten through 12th grade. And they only get 46 hours of education in regard to their health. We've not taught them to be healthy. Other countries have done a much better job than we have."

France, for instance, has fewer resources overall than the U.S., she said, but one in 20 French children is poor, compared with one in four in the United States.

"I went to a school in Pulaski County, and 50 percent of those children did not even own a toothbrush," she said.

She said that, where parents aren't doing the job of raising their children, society should step in.

"Those parents who are not able to do that, I think that society has a responsibility. When the parents are dysfunctional, the community is dysfunctional, I think society has to take on some responsibility."

Once the director of the state Health Department, Elders' outspoken views prompted some state legislators to question her return to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, where she has tenure.

She said Sunday that the complaints didn't bother her and had little to do with her abilities. She said she was glad to be teaching again and also would "do anything" for Dr. Sandra Nichols, who now heads the Health Department, if asked. She called Nichols "an excellent director."

"It's very wonderful to have been the health director for the state of Arkansas, and it was wonderful being the surgeon general. What I'm best trained for, I'm back being a professor of pediatrics."

Mayhem in Des Moines as Radical Right Elevates Curricula Debate to State Battle

Washington, D.C.-- In a battle royale that could rock civil rights for Gays in America's heartland--and has political significance for the 1996 presidential primary--Radical Right organizers are threatening to seek statewide legislation in Iowa prohibiting any reference to homosexuality in the public schools.

The threat follows several weeks of attacks against plans by the Des Moines, Iowa school board to include discussion of Lesbians and Gay men in local school curriculum. A non-discrimination policy and a policy to include homosexuality in appropriate curricula areas were approved in 1991 in Des Moines. However, implementation of the curriculum policy has come under fire in recent weeks due to organizing efforts led by Bill Horn, a recent arrival in Iowa who is a political operative of the Right Wing Christian group "The Report," producer of *The Gay Agenda*, a religious propaganda video.

Horn sells the tape in downtown Des Moines for \$75 a tape.

On January 2, 3,000 people attended an anti-Gay rally Horn organized to oppose the curriculum implementation process. Horn told the audience that "God called me to Iowa." Activists and others concerned for equality and civil rights doubt that.

The following day, 1,500 people, most of them anti-Gay, attended a marathon eight-hour public forum before the school board. According to local activists, the mob screamed, jeered and heckled while supporters of the Gay-inclusive policy testified.

The Superintendent of Public Schools, Dr. Gary Wegenke, will make recommendations regarding implementation of the policy at the upcoming January 24 school board meeting. The school board president, Jacquie Easley--

the first African American woman to head the local board--supports teaching of the Gay-inclusive curriculum.

Meanwhile, Horn has stated he intends to press the conservative-dominated state legislature, including the Republican-controlled House, to pass a measure barring any references to homosexuality in the public schools. The 1995 state legislative session opened in the second week in January and is expected to last through the end of March. Control of the Iowa GOP central committee was taken over by the Christian Coalition in 1994.

With the Iowa presidential caucuses--one of the first in the country and usually a political bellweather for candidates--just over one year away, the school curriculum debate and ensuing legislative battle could be used as an organizing tool by the Religious Right to energize their supporters, activists in Iowa predict. These Gay and Lesbian activists expect the issue to gain in political significance as the 1996 race draws closer.

The battle initially erupted when a proposal on implementation was discussed December 22 on Iowa radio talk show station WHO-AM. The show is hosted by Jan Mickelson, popular ultra-conservative Iowa "shock jock." Since then, Mickelson has joined forces with Bill Horn and was the principle speaker at the anti-Gay rally on January 2.

"Schools have a responsibility to create a safe learning environment for all students, including Gay and Lesbian youth," said Melinda Paras, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). "The Des Moines school system should be praised, not attacked, for its commitment to fairness and diversity."

Conservatively Speaking: Denial = Death

Commentary by Marvin Liebman

As of January, 1994, 63,000 young American men, between the ages of 20 and 29 had AIDS. The overwhelming majority of them infected while they were teen-agers. These authoritative statistics come from the Federal Government's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

What will be the figures for the balance of 1994? 100,000? 150,000? Whatever the statistics report, they will show that we are losing yet another generation to the disease. This time it will not be silence and ignorance that will equal death. It will be because of our denial and our refusal to deal with the plague that is killing our youth.

After living in the midst of the AIDS epidemic for 14 years, a generation of Gay men have become inured to the everyday ambushes of fear, the revelation of illness, and the specter and reality of death.

For the first ten years of the epidemic, when the slogan "Silence Equals Death" held sway, I was sadly silent. I was in the closet, and I reacted like most other Americans. AIDS was a disease that infected "them." One took a rather cursory interest, felt sporadically sorry for "them," even grieved when a friend died of the disease, but then "he-brought-it-on-himself-didn't-he?"

I even thought it was a unique idea when my friend, Bill Buckley, suggested that Gay HIV-positive men be tattooed on their rears as a warning to their sexual partners.

I was alternately amused and appalled by the actions of Larry Kramer and ACT UP. It was all rather distant, even tedious. It had nothing to do with me.

And then, in the Summer of 1990, just days before my 67th birthday, I came out publicly. In a blazing revelation it was not "them." It was "us." It was me. From that point on, I devoted myself to our community in every way I could think of, desperate to make up for the wasted, the silent years.

And I knew that outsiders could never really understand this terrible plague that had wreaked havoc on our community and had killed off too many of our best. Only we Gay men could take full measure of our loss and assume the responsibility for our future.

Certainly, we have compassionate allies in our Lesbian sisters and men and women representing all facets of America's mainstream. But in the end, it is we who will die and it is we who must take action. Silent for so many years, I know that I now have the duty to speak out as a Gay man deeply concerned over the future and the fate of all of us.

We are, in a way, like the citizens of Sarajevo, living in a city long besieged, and the constant bombardment begins to seem less terrifying over time. We become able to accommodate the ritual of thunderous assault, the nagging certainty of loss, and continue on, somewhat nostalgic, but resigned.

Precariously alive, we are impeccably trained in self-defense with the condom as our major shield. The siege has become particularly commonplace for young Gay men, maturing in the crucible of AIDS, highly schooled in safer sex survival tactics. Yet, too many, while well-versed in AIDS prevention, carry on with sex and pleasure in an almost fatalistic frenzy, convinced alternately of immortality or an inevitable date with HIV.

Another onslaught, another new and still more horrifying round of causalities, is now taking shape. A study recently completed by Columbia University which tracked Gay men, unsafe sex, and incidence of AIDS, indicates that the overall pattern of decline in incidence is so fragile that adding scarcely one more new and unsafe partner per Gay man per year would begin to increase the total number of cases after years of decline.

The conclusions from the study are chilling. "Young men are the future of the epidemic," says Dr. Martina Morris, coauthor of the study. First hand reports from San Francisco, New York, Dallas and Los Angeles, show that young Gay men are adopting or simply falling back upon sexual behaviors which dramatically increase the risk of contracting HIV, most notably anal intercourse without a condom. The Whitman-Walker Clinic (in Washington, D.C.) reports that the rate of adolescent infection in the nation's capital is doubling every 14 months.

Why? There are many theories discussed at inconclusive meetings of physicians, social workers, psychologists and AIDS bureaucrats in this country and throughout the world. Not one of them has come up with an answer to the self-destruction of Gay men who bring death to each other.

It is deeply depressing to note that the present trend in unsafe sexual activity by younger men persists and grows. I must unhappily repeat former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop's recent somber remarks on AIDS at Ohio Wesleyan University on September 7 of this year. "There never will be a cure, and the likelihood of a vaccine is dim. We Americans do a better job of preventive maintenance on our cars than we do on ourselves."

I thus rage against the possibility that this dread plague will not only outlast me, but also the generation of Gay men fifty years my

junior. This horror can no longer be blamed on Ronald Reagan or the Christian Right or the Republicans or an uncaring government or on silence alone.

We have heard the basics over and over for more than a decade--getting tested, knowing our HIV status, communicating that knowledge honestly before sex and maintaining absolute use of condoms during intercourse.

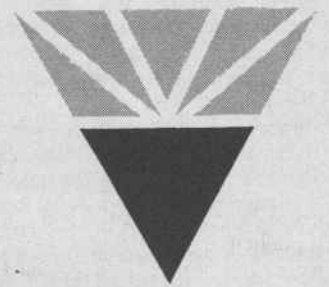
My good friend, Greg Scott, a veteran activist who lives with AIDS, espouses a more personal, direct and radical approach: "Only those of us who are HIV-positive can actually prevent its spread. To stop HIV transmission, those of us who are already infected must stop having sex of any kind with those who may be negative."

Whatever the methods, the blame will be ours if the AIDS holocaust is to continue to decimate our community.

We hold the future in our hands. Our struggle for civil rights, our marches and demonstrations, our national and local organizations, all of it is useless if we continue to deny what we know. Acceptance and personal commitment to each other equals life. Denial equals death.

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

The Wisconsin Light



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Office Hours:

Monday-Friday-10:00 a.m. -5:30 p.m.
24-Hour Recording

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AP Associated Press

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SISTERNEWS AND VIEWS

Remembrance of Things Past--1994

By Jamakaya

Well, if one thing became absolutely clear to me last year, it was that under no circumstances will I ever vote for Bull, er, er--Bill Clinton again.

I almost never endorse candidates because with the exception of Tammy Baldwin, who is a sweetie-pie, they are all lying, thieving jerks. But I went out on a limb in 1992 and in the pages of this very paper, much to my chagrin, I endorsed Clinton/Gore as an antidote to the Bush/Quayle cabal.

Clinton has made a number of excellent cabinet and judicial choices but otherwise, in matters foreign and domestic, has proved to be a spineless, indecisive idiot. His precipitous right turn after the November election was the last straw for me. Anthony Lewis wrote a scathing commentary in the *New York Times* at that time blasting Clinton for his utter lack of leadership in failing to reassert Democratic principles and his caving-in to the conservative tide.

Even Hillary, told she needs to soften her image, admitted to being "dumb and naive" about health care reform. Oh, pul-leeese! Get a life, you two!

The continuing advance of kneejerk conservatism (aka: white boy's revenge), unencumbered by any principled, articulate liberal opposition, sent chills down the spine. It looks like the right wing and fundamentalist movements, which emerged in the late 1970's and institutionalized themselves during the Reagan/Bush era, will be a dominant force through the turn of the century. Religious zealots and opportunistic politicians have traditionally used the millennia to promote their apocalyptic visions and reactionary ideologies. Fasten your seat belts, it's gonna be a bumpy decade.

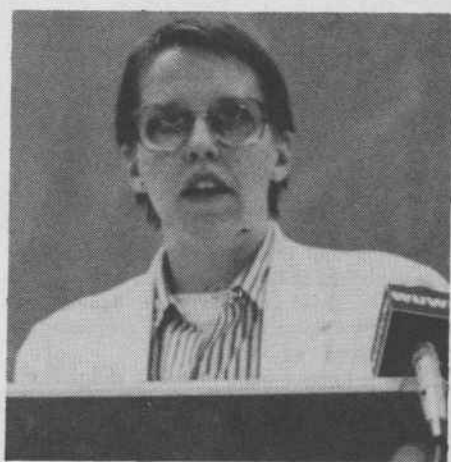
The celebration of Stonewall 25 and all the events and publicity surrounding it, along with the ever-increasing profile of Gays and Lesbians in the media was the high point of last year. Even some closet cases I know were overtaken by the tide of pride and inched out publicly for the first time.

Hooray for the Badger athletes who competed in Gay Games IV! Bravo! Especially to Madison's "Woman of Steel" Geri Steele who won a silver medal in powerlifting, Mark Miller who won a silver in tennis, Dan Lippett who won a gold in his division for in-line skating, and the Bovine Babes soccer team and the Madison Volleyball Group for earning silver medals.

I don't know about you, dear readers, but I had so much fun last June it took me most of July to recover. I think if June is Gay/Lesbian Pride Month, July should be declared Gay and Lesbian Recovery Month!

Of the many events in the Milwaukee women's community held last year, among the best for me was Suzanne Westenhofer's comic performance at Centennial Hall in February. I thought Kate Clinton was the only person who could make me laugh until my stomach aches. I was wrong. Westenhofer was also absolute pleasure to interview.

Other outstanding events were the Suede/Flirtations concert held in conjunction with MAPFest in September (I got to hug the Flirt's Aurelio Font and thought I was gonna die!) and the city's first annual Lesbian Vari-



JAMAKAYA

ety Show sponsored by the Lesbian Alliance at the Broadway Theater Center in August. The production values and the caliber of entertainment at the variety show were impressive, especially for a first effort. The touches of political incorrectness also tickled this dyke's funny bone.

On the movie front, *Go Fish* delighted Lesbian fans with its heart-warming (if terribly low-budget) depiction of Lesbian friends and lovers. The all-Lesbo screening at the Oriental June 30 raised funds for LAMM and had the added felicitous effect of netting me a girlfriend! (Hey, I took the movie's title seriously!)

My lengthy interview with *Go Fish* director/producer Rose Troche and writer actress Guinevere Turner (published in the *Light* last July) was a personal high point for me. They combined thoughtful commentary on the state of Lesbian movies with more giggling than I've ever experienced with any other interviewees--it was a blast!

In the interview, Troche said she was going to the San Francisco Gay/Lesbian Film Fest that weekend and joked "If I can't get lucky there, I can't get lucky anywhere...I leave for Australia the following day, so I want to be able to kiss someone goodbye." Here's an update: the December issue of *Premiere* printed an exchange Rose had with Kevin Smith, director of the equally low-budget *Clerks*, who complained that despite the success of his film, "I haven't got laid." Troche's touché: "Kevin, even I got laid." Good for you, Rose!

Two other outstanding movies from last year were *Heavenly Creatures*, an intense experience which simply has to be seen to be believed, and *Little Women*, whose artful photography, great performances and heartfelt story make it the best movie version of *Little Women* ever. Kudos to director Gillian Armstrong, who deserves an Oscar nomination for her wonderful work. If you haven't seen it yet, GO!

Speaking of flicks, the annual Gay/Lesbian Film Fest at UW-M is set for January 26-February 2. I previewed many offerings and the three programs that are absolute must-sees for dykes are the *Lesbian Shorts*, Thursday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m., *Dream Girls* (playing with *Boy Next Door*), Friday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m., and *Long Time Comin'* and *Darker Shade of Black*, Thursday, January 31 at 9:00 p.m. All screen at the UW-M Theater on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Make sure you make it to the *Lesbian Shorts*. They're really great this year. Enjoy! See the full festival schedule elsewhere in this issue.

Experts On Nation's Blood Supply Recommend Dropping Outdated Blood Screening Test

Bethesda, MD- Experts on the safety of the nation's blood supply on Wednesday recommended dropping an outdated screening test that has been forcing blood banks to discard 200,000 units of healthy, donated blood each year.

The panel convened by the National Institutes of Health also decided to continue a test for syphilis in blood despite other measures that have virtually eliminated the threat of transmission of that disease through blood transfusions.

They also decided to keep one surrogate test for hepatitis C, although a far more precise test is now in place to safeguard the blood supply against that threat.

The recommendation to eliminate the screening test for a liver cell enzyme called serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT) was cheered by representatives of the American Red Cross and other blood banks that attended the three-day consensus development conference at the NIH campus.

Almost two percent of all donated blood now is tossed out because tests show the donors had high ALT levels.

The ALT test and the other surrogate test for hepatitis B core antibody were required starting in 1986-87 because they helped detect donors at higher risk of having an infection known then only as non-A, non-B hepatitis.

Subsequently, researchers pinpointed the

hepatitis C virus and instituted a separate test that has effectively eliminated more than 85 to 90 percent of all post-transfusion hepatitis C infections.

But blood banks have been turning away 150,000 donors a year because of their elevated readings on the now superannuated ALT test. One million units of blood have been discarded in the past eight years.

ALT levels generally are higher in men than women, in young adults, in people who exercise vigorously, in obese people and in even moderate drinkers.

The recommendations of the 11-member panel of experts from outside the government are not binding, but they are likely to have a major impact on the policies of private blood collection agencies and public regulators.

Refrigeration of blood has largely eliminated the threat of transmission of syphilis. Those with syphilis are also at higher risk of having HIV, which causes AIDS, or hepatitis.

All blood now is routinely tested for HIV and various forms of hepatitis. In rare instances, it can help uncover an HIV infection in someone who does not yet test positive on the HIV test.

The panel said, "Syphilis testing is likely to identify less than one such donor annually within the United States." Nevertheless, it recommended keeping the syphilis test because of some uncertainty about whether blood and blood products would be as safe without it.

Gay Couple Works to Cope with AIDS and to Educate People at the Same Time

McCammon, ID- Michael Christensen and Chuck Hockaday are living with AIDS.

They need help, but not in dealing with the disease ticking away inside their bodies or in trying to find acceptance for themselves in this rural community as openly Gay men, in union with each other.

They've resolved those issues through faith and the nurturing they've received from each other, their families and friends in local support groups.

They say they need help in spreading the word about AIDS.

Christensen is a hometown boy and Hockaday is the man he brought home to meet his widowed mother Jerrie, 58.

"Mom said come home. She wouldn't have it any other way," said Hockaday who said he's been embraced as a member of the family by her and Christensen's three younger brothers and their families.

Christensen, 39, and Hockaday, 48, met in Los Angeles in 1993. Hockaday, a Californian, was doing volunteer work with Being Alive, a support group for people with HIV. Christensen, a former Marine, was a client.

Both men, who have weathered several illnesses associated with AIDS, are now on disability and have made AIDS education their avocation perhaps not always to their benefit.

Since the Gay couple moved to southeastern Idaho more than 16 months ago, they have almost single-handedly operated a 24-hour AIDS Hotline and run an AIDS coalition office in Pocatello.

Hockaday also runs one of two support groups sponsored by the Southeast Idaho AIDS Coalition. His group helps people infected with HIV. Another group focuses on helping families of people with AIDS.

The two also speak to classes and community groups and have appeared on community TV. But the strain of immersing themselves in AIDS-related causes is beginning to take its toll and that's something neither man can afford. It could mean the difference between life and death.

Stress must be avoided by people with AIDS to lessen the attack on their immune systems, Hockaday said.

As the number of HIV/AIDS cases continues to increase in Idaho, the need to continue AIDS awareness efforts and to provide support to those diagnosed as HIV positive or living with AIDS will increase as well, Christensen and Hockaday said.

In a June 1994 report, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare reported 421 persons who have either tested positive for AIDS or

are living with the disease. Of that number, 243 have full-blown AIDS. Statistics are based on data compiled since 1991.

During the first six months of last year, 18 people died from AIDS in Idaho, three more than died from the disease during the same period in 1993.

In the past year, three of their friends died of AIDS. Another friend who has AIDS is now battling serious illnesses associated with it.

"We live and breathe AIDS. It's hard to get away from it," Hockaday said.

"We've been so gung ho for the past year, but now it's time to step back for a while and let others take over," Christensen said. "We hope to get things running here so that we can live our lives and still help the community."

While people are becoming more open about AIDS, there are still misconceptions about the disease, they said.

Foremost among the beliefs is that AIDS can be contracted through casual contact, Hockaday said. And some people believe that people with AIDS should be isolated.

Christensen said AIDS continues to be seen as a Gay disease and one that perpetuates hate for an orientation that people are born with, but that many still abhor.

There are still people who use AIDS for "Gay bashing" and that still hurts, Christensen said. However, he and his partner try to turn that negative thinking into a positive.

As to their own battles with AIDS, both men say they are relatively healthy. Their daily regimen includes taking medications, herbs and vitamins.

"Having a good positive attitude and a good spiritual attitude has helped us both a lot," Christensen said.

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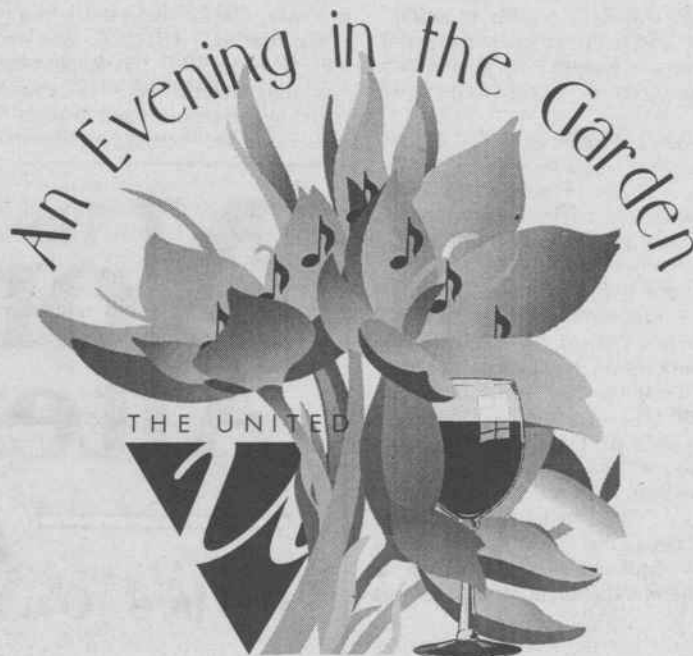
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'Vanity Fair' Publishes Lengthy Article Investigating Texas's Brutal Gay Killings

(New York)- According to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, anti-gay violence has increased 127% during the past six years. In the February issue of *Vanity Fair*, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist H.G. Bissinger reveals that since April, 1993, there have been eight brutal murders in Texas--the victims, gay men who have been stalked, terrorized and killed by teenage boys.

Among the other victims, Bissinger writes about Hugh Callaway, 35, and his partner, Thanh Nguyen, 29. One pleasant October evening in 1991, they bought some burgers and fries and went to have a little picnic for themselves in a Dallas park. They were sitting at a bench, eating when they were jumped by three teenage men and pistol whipped.

The beating went on for 20 minutes. Then they (the assailants) ordered the two friends to stand against the wall of a nearby park building.

Callaway heard one of the members of the trio say "Go ahead and shoot 'em. It ain't hard to do."

Then there was an explosion and a huge flash of light beneath the swollen moon.

Thanh Nguyen fell to the ground as soon as the first shot was fired. Callaway's leg was shattered.

The trio, their orgasm of violence against the fags complete, moved back down the hill of the park. Nguyen, able to sit, pulled up his shirt and in the glow of moonlight, saw the bullet wound in his stomach. I shock, he got up and started running down the hill, holding his bleeding stomach, looking for help.

Callaway wanted to stop him, because he knew the assailants were still in the park. But with the condition of his shattered leg, there was little he could do except listen and piece together what happened next--how the trio seized upon Nguyen once more and dragged him up the hill, how they pulled his shorts to his knees, how they beat him again, and how Nguyen, before he died, whispered Hugh Callaway's name.

Bissinger speculates that there is a new, specifically anti-gay KKK forming.

"In this new fraternity of hate," he writes, "the words 'fag' and 'queer' and 'sissy' have been substituted for 'nigger' and guns for

ropes. Some of the new gangs are certainly more impulsive and less organized than their predecessors, but the similarities are startling, for like the old boys who roamed the quiet, bygone nights, these youngsters relish the obvious terror they create in their victims and are emboldened by the firm conviction that the Bible and their Lord Jesus are on their side."

Although anti-gay rhetoric has been preached from the pulpits of Texas for years, as it has in churches in every state in the union, Bissinger reports that what is new, what is horrifying, is the degree to which this religious anti-gay hatred has become part of the mainstream as the state and the nation as a whole move in a direction that is increasingly conservative and increasingly subject to the powerful influence of the Religious Right, which is increasingly advocating death for all lesbians and gay men.

Bissinger writes that when you "take the (religious) rhetoric and combine it with the macho culture where the cowboy and six-shooter still hold powerful sway, it makes the trail of death seem not aberrational, but inevitable.

According to Mel White, the dean of the Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, the largest gay church in the world, the anti-gay rhetoric has reached a fever pitch. Last fall, White attended a seminar sponsored by the Dallas Eagle Forum, a conservative, "pro-family" group determined to "expose the facts about the homosexual lifestyle and explain how homosexuals are promoting their lifestyle in public schools."

Says White, "We molest, we recruit, we abuse, we eat shit, we're not fit to be in the military. All this rhetoric goes on and on and the wonder why people are killing us."

(To hear similar rhetoric, turn on Milwaukee's Channel 30 nearly any night of the week.)

The *Vanity Fair* article titled "The Killing Trial," is extremely powerful and deeply moving. It comes as highly recommended reading for any gay man, lesbian, their friends and families. The issue went on sale nationally on January 17.

Kansas City, MO ACT UP Chapter Getting Set to Disband

Kansas City, MO- With only four members left, the local chapter of ACT-UP, the activist national organization promoting AIDS awareness, plans to dissolve its Kansas City office.

An organizer, Mark Cheney, says the chapter will donate any leftover money to area AIDS organizations.

Cheney says he's tired of leading the charge for AIDS awareness, and is frustrated that interest seems to be declining. ACT-UP, the acronym for AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, hasn't staged a demonstration in Kansas City in more than a year.

Nevertheless, Cheney says, "AIDS is still as much of an emergency as it was six or seven years ago. It's still as much of a crisis for the individual who has the disease.

"But AIDS has become commonplace. It's mainstream, and nobody cares for protests," he says. Cheney and the three other remaining ACT-UP members in Kansas City plan to turn off their office phone in the next couple of weeks.

Nationwide, other chapters of ACT-UP have seen problems, too, including some of the most active ones in San Francisco and Philadelphia. The Washington chapter's telephone was recently disconnected due to financial problems.

"I don't know if it's PC anymore to take it to the streets," said Jeff Getty of ACT-UP Golden Gate in San Francisco. "People have switched to working on the inside, and they don't want to mess up their relationships on the inside."

New York City's ACT-UP chapter appears relatively robust.

"People have gotten burned out and a lot of people have died," said member Emily Gordon. But she noted that membership is not declining. "We still get over 200 people in attendance at the Monday night meetings," she said.

Replacing the boisterous demonstrations are well-mannered fundraisers, such as AIDSwalk '94, a parade through Washington last year led by Tipper Gore.

"In recent years, the mainstream has become more comfortable with talking about AIDS. And the public revulsion and fear surrounding AIDS, which prompted some of the street action, has lessened," said Ben Carlson, deputy director of Mobilization Against AIDS, a San Francisco-based lobbying group.

Meanwhile, the energy that activists once used to protest is being channeled into more sophisticated lobbying for AIDS research and social services.

The U.S. Public Health Service reports that federal spending on AIDS increased from \$234 million in 1986 to nearly \$2 billion in 1992, nearly a 10-fold increase in just six years.

Community Home for AIDS Patients Under Fire from Neighbors

Cumberland, RI- The red ribbons could be Christmas decorations left up by holiday revelers reluctant to let go of the season, but their real meaning is not so fleeting.

Hanging from the mailbox and nearly every tree on the House of Compassion's lawn, the ribbons are symbols of an attempt to hold on not to a season, but to lives devastated by AIDS.

Now, the four residents of the aged yellow house are trying to hold on to their home -- and the right to live and die there against the wishes of some neighbors who are suing to have them removed.

"They'll have to get a crowbar and pull me out, because we're staying," said Sara Paneto, 42, who moved into the house last month.

Some in the upper middle-class neighborhood of newer homes say the AIDS home hurts property values, endangers the health of others and will harm area children by exposing them to an influx of coroners, ambulances, and drug peddlers.

Whether they will succeed in shutting down the three-story, Colonial-era house is riding on a civil suit filed last month in Providence County Superior Court. In it, the neighbors claim the Cumberland Zoning Board erred when it said the home could be located in the residential neighborhood.

Paneto said the neighbors' hostility confused her.

"If this would have happened years ago, you'd understand it. The education (about AIDS) wasn't out there," she said. "But now ... you feel people would have more compassion."

The neighbors "think the zoning ordinance precludes a home of this nature in a residential zone. Any community home," said Francis Gaschen, the lawyer who filed the lawsuit.

"The attorney for the House of Compassion said my clients would object to a home for nuns there and he is absolutely, positively correct."

"It has nothing to do with AIDS," said Gaschen, a state representative from Cumberland who has been a vocal supporter of legislation for civil rights for gays in the Legislature.

Cumberland solicitor Thomas Hefner said the Town Council had not been served with the lawsuit, but "the town stands by the decision of the Zoning Board and feels very strongly that the building officials' position was correct."

Aurelio Serpa, who lives next door to the House of Compassion and is a plaintiff in the suit, refused to speak to a reporter who went to his home seeking comment. The other plaintiff listed on the suit, David Goodrich, has an unlisted telephone number and could not be reached to comment.

Gaschen said about 35 to 40 neighbors in the northern Rhode Island community of 30,000 are involved in the appeal, but the law does not require them all to be listed in court papers.

Colleen Scanlan, the soft-spoken mother of one who founded the home and runs it, said the residents have been good neighbors and are shaken by the lawsuit.

"One of them said, 'I'm fighting to live and now I'm fighting to stay in a house,'" Scanlan said. "We're going to stick it through the tough times."

Jeffrey Hall, a former powerlifter, credits the House of Compassion with saving his life.

On World AIDS Day last year, lonely and depressed, he swallowed 65 pills to try to kill himself so the disease couldn't ravage him any more.

"I was afraid of dying in a suffering way," said the 34-year-old who contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion. "I thought I'd take the pills and go to sleep instead of laying there rotting away and dealing with the pain."

He moved into the house four days later, on December 5.

"Coming here changed me instantly," he said at the time.

"With AIDS, depression is a big killer. If you're alone, you tend to think about your problems more. Here, there is love and compassion."

Hall, Paneto and the others pay \$350 a month to live at the home. Scanlan hopes to expand the number of residents from four to eight within a year.

Scanlan said the first residents moved into the home on December 1, but her troubles began months earlier when her plans became known.

She was called to a meeting with neighbors in July, and later before the Town Council, where 200 people peppered a panel of medical experts with questions about AIDS and its transmission.

Scanlan was accused of lacking compassion for people without AIDS.

"I felt sad because I had worked in the field and I had known what people with AIDS go through," said Scanlan, who holds a master's degree from Providence College, studied nursing for two years and had worked with AIDS patients as a clinical coordinator until opening the house.

Some worried that a sewer backup could flood their lawns with HIV-infected waste, a fear Scanlan said was unwarranted because the virus generally does not live outside the body.

Any medical waste, including gauze used to stop the bleeding if a resident is cut, is picked up by a hazardous waste company, she said.

Some neighbors said the presence of the house could be emotionally disturbing to children, while others feared drug pushers would try to peddle in the neighborhood since HIV can be spread among drug users by the sharing of hypodermic needles.

"There was anger there but I felt the anger was actually masked fear," Scanlan said.

"I told them, 'From a mother's point of view, I wouldn't place a child in jeopardy, especially not my son,'" she said. "But they didn't hear me."

Scanlan learned a petition was being circulated among neighbors and a collection being taken to pay legal fees to fight the house. She went outside one day to find the paint on her car had been scratched and a tire punctured.

The petition listed 10 reasons the house should not be allowed to remain, Scanlan said. Among them: it would decrease property values by 40 percent, hurt impressionable schoolchildren and increase the crime rate.

Scanlan said the controversy seemed to die and the residents began to feel accepted when they were flooded with Christmas presents and donations of food that filled the pantry. Most came from outside the neighborhood, however.

"At Christmas you couldn't see half the tree for all the presents brought in for the residents. ... But then two days after Christmas, we learned of the civil suit," she said.

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The Light



LIVELY ARTS



Vices Out of Control--Fugui (Ge You) and Jianzhen (Gong Li, bottom) silently endure the strain of the habitual gambling in the film "To Live," Zhang Yimou's multi-generational epic story which opens January 27 at Milwaukee's Downer Theatre.

Five Local Women Poets to Read from Their Works at A Room of One's Own

(Madison)- Five local women poets will read from their work at the second annual "Love and Lust" reading at A Room of One's Own Feminist Bookstore in Madison, 317 W. Johnson Street, on Thursday, February 16, at 6:30 p.m.

The poets are: B.C. Brown, Robin Chapman, Rhonda Lee, Andrea Potos and Nicky Sund.

B.C. Brown prints her fiction on postcards and notecards as "post-a-story" cards. She was a 1991 recipient of a Wisconsin Arts Board Development grant.

Robin Chapman is the author of two books of poetry published by Fireweed Press. Her poems have appeared in many literary journals, including *The Hudson Review* and *Passages North*. She teaches at UW-Madison.

Rhonda Lee is a narrative poet who has performed her work all the way from bookstores to a Montana barn. She also works as an editor and bookseller.

Andrea Potos has had her poems published in anthologies and journals, most recently *Calyx: A Journal of Art & Literature by Women and Sistersong: Women Across Cultures*. She also works as an editor and bookseller.

Nicky Sund writes poetry when inspired. She also does acupressure massage, plays drums, drives a cab and sells books.

The reading is free and open to the public.

Martha Roth

Martha Roth, one of the editors of *Mother Journeys: Feminists Write About Mothering*, will read at A Room of One's Own on

Thursday, February 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Roth is also among the contributors to this recent publication from Spinsters Ink which mingles essays, stories, poems and artwork to explore the dual issues of feminism and motherhood. Her essay is entitled "Beneath the Skin."

The contributors range in age from 20 to 60 and represent various ethnic backgrounds and identities as well as different experiences of motherhood. Roth's co-editors are Maureen T. Reddy and Amy Sheldon.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (608) 257-7888.

Herstory Group Shows 'Forbidden Love' on February 5

(Milwaukee)- Milwaukee's Lesbian Herstory Discussion Group will celebrate Valentine's Day early this year by presenting the popular Lesbian video *Forbidden Love: The Unashed Stories of Lesbian Lives* at its next meeting, Sunday, February 5. The group meets at 6:00 p.m. at the Counseling Center, 2038 N. Bartlett Street.

Forbidden Love combines interviews of Lesbians who came out in the 1950's and '60's with a campy dramatization of one of the Lesbian pulp novels popular at that time. Discussion will follow. Older women are especially welcome to share their stories of Lesbian life in decades past.

In March

The March meeting (also on the 5th) will be built around a discussion of the book *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold: The History of a Lesbian Community* by Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy and Madeline D. Davis. It is an oral history featuring interviews with Lesbians who were socially active from the 1930's to the 1960's in the working class city of Buffalo, New York. The book is available at AfterWords and People's bookstores.

For further information on the Lesbian Herstory group, call (414) 463-9532.

'The Boys of St. Vincent' is as Compelling as it is Worrisome, but a Must-See

By Steve Warren

If only abused altar boys, past and present, watch *The Boys of St. Vincent*, it could win record ratings for the A&E network when it airs February 19 and 20. This docufictional miniseries is "inspired by" but "not a re-enactment of" events that won't be news to Wisconsinites or Newfoundlanders (where the story is set) or others who have read about cases involving the abuse of young boys by Catholic brothers who run an orphanage and a cover-up that extends to high levels of church and state."

The Boys of St. Vincent is definitely one--no, two--of the most compelling dramas that you'll see this year. What is worrisome is the impact it might have, but we'll get to that later.

The first half of the story is set in 1975. The hero is Mike Finn (Phillip Dinn), a newly hired janitor who gets wind of what's going on at St. Vincent: the orphans are routinely abused, sexually and physically, by the brothers responsible for their care. "There are things in life broken that can't be fixed," the working class philosopher says prophetically early on.

Against the orders of Brother Lavin (Henry Czerny), St. Vincent's director, Finn takes battered ten-year-old Kevin (Johnny Morina) to the hospital. There the attending physician accepts Lavin's story that "it must have been one of the older boys." In the cover-up that follows, the power structure unites behind "one of the most hallowed institutions of the city."

"Everything having to do with the orphanage gets sent to the director," a social worker says, "and that's the last we ever hear of them...Have you ever tried to go over the Catholic Church?"

The story is as much about classism as anything else. On one side are the pampered priests and church, police and government leaders.

On the other, are the poor orphans, Finn and a low-level police detective, Noseworthy (Brian Dooley), who is persuaded to investigate after Finn gets an official run-around.

We know what happened to Kevin, because we saw Brother Lavin unbutton his shirt, caress him and comfort him by trying to play his mother. When Kevin rebelled--"You're not my mother. My mother's dead"--Lavin flew into a rage and lashed out with his belt. Brother Lavin may be the most horrifying screen villain since Hannibal Lecter, without his ingratiating qualities.

Part One ends with business as usual at St. Vincent. The guilty brothers have been transferred with vague promises they will "receive treatment," but we have no reason to expect the new regime will be an improvement.

The Boys of St. Vincent: 15 Years Later begins with the arrest of Lavin, who is living in Montreal with a wife and two young sons. (The first question this domestic scene raises isn't brought up until the film's conclusion.) The case is finally coming to trial.

In a very different but equally absorbing narrative style, director John N. Smith tracks several characters and events in the second half. A talk show hostess and her callers provide a Greek chorus effect as the trail begins and Noseworthy's testimony prompts a separate inquiry into the cover-up that had kept the case under wraps. That inquiry takes bizarre twists, with one man testifying that prostate surgery has affected his memory and as much blame as possible being laid on a dead man.

Kevin (Sebastian Spence) won't testify, having adjusted well enough to function in so-

AfterWords Book Club Celebrates Its Second Year

(Milwaukee)- The AfterWords Book Club is pleased to announce that it is now entering its second year with the discussion on Monday, February 13 at 7:30 p.m. of Robert Preston's anthology, *A Member of the Family*.

Meetings of the AfterWords Book Club take place at AfterWords Bookstore, 2710 N. Murray Avenue. New members are always welcome and all are encouraged to attend. For further information, call AfterWords at (414) 963-9089.

ciety and not wanting to dredge things up again; but they do come up now that the story's in the open.

The other grown-up "boys" are brothers (not in the religious sense). Brian (Timothy Webber), who was expelled from St. Vincent for trying to protect his younger sibling, has become a working-class stiff, while Steve (David Hewlett) is a junkie, a hustler and petty thief.

Lavin's sessions with a psychiatrist give some insight into his background. He was an orphan himself--presumably abused, though that's not specified. The scene where he's encouraged to get in touch with his inner child is so trendy it lets you pinpoint almost to the month when the film was made.

Several lives are changed enroute to a reasonably satisfying conclusion.

The Boys of St. Vincent is not homophobic per se, but can the average viewer differentiate between homosexuality and pedophilia? (For the answer, check the election returns where we've had to fight campaigns that claimed one of the "special rights" we were after was the right to molest children.)

NAMBLA-ites will protest that no distinction is made between consensual and non-consensual sex; some of the boys must have enjoyed what was done to them and sought more. These people had better keep a low profile around anyone who has seen *The Boys of St. Vincent*, because they won't be in the mood for dialogue. As in *Disclosure*, the subject is not sex, but power and its abuse.

What happened at St. Vincent has happened in some form in every parish in the world, and new stories are coming to light every day. The church is starting to assume some responsibility, having been forced to by the courts in many cases.

The Boys of St. Vincent was made for Canadian television, but given a limited theatrical release in the U.S. last year. In that form it made my list of the year's 20 best films. The cuts which have been made will be missed only by the handful who saw it in theaters. These include shower scenes that could be repackaged as "Young Buns," but which emphasize the boys' vulnerability, and flashbacks that suggest incidents of abuse as the boys describe them to the police. You won't have the chance to decide whether these scenes are tasteful or titillating.

It's insulting, even if true, that we're considered less capable of dealing with sensitive dramatic material than the Canadians; but don't let that keep you from watching. *The Boys of St. Vincent* is not pleasant, but even the edited version is dramatic dynamite. It should be seen, but some educating should be done around it to minimize its political impact.

Art Exhibit to Focus on AIDS Awareness

(Milwaukee)- The Midwest Hispanic AIDS Coalition, in collaboration with the St. Camillus AIDS Ministry and BestD Clinic, is to organize a special display of art in the Studio Theatre lobby of the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway Avenue. The exhibit will run from February 1 to 12.

Numbering a total of 36 prints, the exhibit compliments Theatre X's presentation of *The Have Little* by Migdalia Cruz. The exhibit features the work of Hispanic, Latino and artists of other nationalities worldwide.

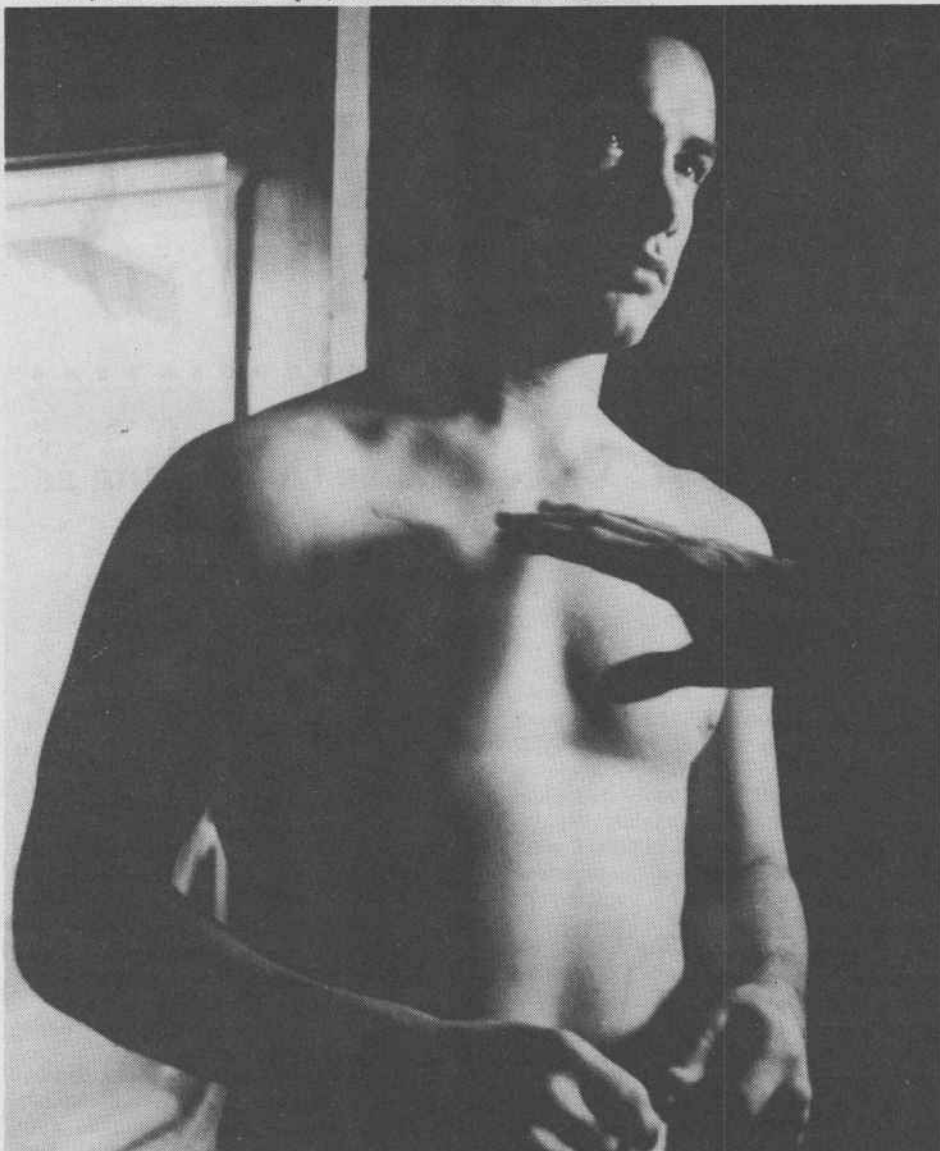
Created in part by the National Education Association Health Information Network and ARTIS Association of Paris with the purpose to raise AIDS awareness worldwide, the 23" x 32" silk screens range from the thought provoking to the informative.

Theatre X will present its First Annual Guest Artist Series from February 1 to 26 at the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. The series consists of culturally diverse works performed by local artists. For tickets and information, call (414) 291-7800.

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Obejas Booksigning At AfterWords Canceled

Achy Obejas, scheduled to be at AfterWords for a booksigning on Thursday, February 2, has canceled her appearance. There are no plans to reschedule according to Carl Szatsmary, owner of AfterWords.



Rob Keith stars in "Death In Venice, CA," which screens at 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 2 as part of the "Boys' Shorts" program of the Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian Film Fest.

Fourth Annual Milwaukee Gay Film Festival Transcends Limitations of Such Events

By Geno

Before going to a film festival, I reconcile myself to sitting through some cinematic atrocities that regularly appear at these affairs: their disjointed narratives or no narrative line at all, grainy black and white photography, sound fading in and out coupled with murky lighting to which could be added wooden dialogue and wooden acting.

Yet loyal devotees of festivals accept these aesthetic hazards in their search for novelty and intellectual stimulation, trying to get away from the homogenized products of the big studios. These fans are often rewarded with intriguing, even exciting film fare.

The organizers of the Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian Film Festival have made available for previewing some of the highlights of their fourth annual festival. Among those films offered in preview are three fully developed works that transcend the shortcomings of the genre. Their directors have acquired honors and awards for earlier films as well as for the present offerings. They all know how to make the most of small budgets.

Death in Venice, CA

The first of these gems is offered at the 9:00 p.m. showing on February 2 as part of "Boys' Shorts," a varied collection of short pieces, most of which were seen earlier in Milwaukee.

Writer/Director P. David Ebersole has used *Death in Venice*, the novella by Thomas Mann, as a springboard for a 1990s updating of the story, his own *Death in Venice, CA*. Just by shifting the action from Italy to California allows him to provide a new perspective on Mann's classic work while paying homage to it and an earlier film version (1971) starring Dirk Bogarde.

The scenario remains basically the same: an older man, a writer, encounters a youth who comes to epitomize for him the pursuit and desire of love and beauty. The spontaneity of the boy contrasts with the writer's life-long repression of desire and fulfillment of that desire.

In Ebersole's retelling, the young man named Sebastian by his stepmother, is open and at ease with his sexuality, while the writer reacts to Sebastian's overtures rather primly, delivering little homilies while fighting his own feelings.

All three principal actors in *Death in Venice, CA* are eminently natural and believable. Sebastian is played tantalizingly by Rob Keith, a young actor to remember. He has been cast as the lead in *James Dean: the Legend*, a film now in production. He should be a knockout.

Nick Rafter, a seasoned actor in the Jeremy Irons mold is properly hesitant in his reactions to Sebastian's affectionate overtures, torn between conflicting emotions.

And Shirley Knight as the slightly ditsy stepmother is delightfully unaware of what is going on. Or is she?

In addition to Mann's novella, Ebersole uses the story of St. Sebastian and Aristophanes' myth of the lover's search for his soulmate as described in Plato's *Symposium*.

Although the ending of *Death in Venice, CA* is a tragic one, the modern version, unlike Mann's, is violent and possibly more tragic for that reason.

Filmed in natural color, Ebersole's film is a

Araki's 'Totally F**ed Up' is a Self-Pitying, Embarrassingly Queer Disappointment

By Frederic Kahler

If mainstream depictions of Gays in film inspire Lesbians and Gay men to make their own films, let this embarrassing, self-pitying example inspire other Gays to get it right. Gregg Araki (*The Living End*) has stitched together a lousy, style-bloated, ridiculously overpraised (and over-funded) story about a tribe of young Gay men reacting to an uncaring world. Although the 21 segments are occasionally, simultaneously, witty and sexy, Araki's reliance on shock (clips of porn sex) and victimization (teen suicide) destroys his film's already weak integrity. *Totally F**ed Up* is strictly film festival filler, part of an industry of victimization unto itself.

There is a companion book of the scripts of this film and the better *The Living End*, with a useless preface by Dennis Cooper, published by William Morris.

The lead, James Duval (Andy) is an attractive and fey version of the director, a common story device (Nicole Conn did this in *Claire of the Moon*, and Woody Allen and Alfred Hitchcock have done it).

Andy coyly addresses the camera with a River Phoenix-nod of the head. Andy's young, beautiful and a rebel. All sorts of funny-sad experiences and opinions are funneled particularly through him: the reality of dating, the foreign (to him) softness of women's bodies, telephone communication, drugs.

The Lesbian couple characterization (Susan Behshid and Jenee Gill) give the film some material maturity and focus, as if Araki doesn't know how to treat them, a good sign. Araki's message is that these young Gay

pleasurable visual experience offering sensual details that are almost tactile in nature. It tells its tale in 30 minutes without the lengthy philosophical disquisitions of the earlier version, yet it also enriches Mann's novella and encourages a re-reading.

Fresh Kill

Also a feast for the eyes is Shu Lea Cheang's debut feature *Fresh Kill*, a kaleidoscopic vision of our polluted environment. It's like channel surfing around a story of a Lesbian couple who have adopted a child. They live happily in an abandoned garage on Staten Island which has the biggest garbage dump in the world.

Shareen (Sarita Choudhury) performs "Creative Salvage" picking up the castoffs of others and bringing them to a combination junkyard cum shantytown—colorful characters abound, images of other polluted places around the world flash by on old television sets and cat food advertisements greet the viewer's eyes.

Claire (Erin McMurtry) is a waitress in a trendy sushi bar where the lips of a rare fish are the delicacy of choice. Unfortunately they cause consumers to glow with an eerie green color. An ominous red cloud hangs over the city and the child mysteriously disappears.

The environmental message is not a new one; we have been warned for decades that the sky is falling, but it is in the high tech technicolor performance art bombardment of images that Cheang makes viewers see, feel, almost smell what is happening.

The child, played precociously by Nelini Stamp, is returned, to the joy of Shareen and Claire. Garbage and toxic fumes continue to swirl, however. What does it all mean? As in most performance art, it is up to the viewer to reach one's own conclusions.

Postcards From America

Postcards From America, inspired by the poetic and autobiographical writings of David Wojnarowicz, is a fitting tribute to the memory of Wojnarowicz from writer and Director Steve McLean. It is a coming of age story based on "Close to the Knives" and "Memories That Smell Like Gasoline" by Wojnarowicz.

Three actors portray three stages in a young Gay man's life. Young David (Olmo Tighe) is shown in an abusive relationship with his father, while teen David (Michael Tighe) is seen as a hustler on the streets of New York. The adult David heads out for the open road, specifically the desert southwest.

Scenes from the three stages of David's life are intercut without confusion; instead they augment one another in the process of explaining and understanding the different passages in David's life.

The young actors too, complement one another's portrayals to illuminate the process of growth and development. The camera work ranges from brutal realism to poetic, almost dreamlike, sequences.

Because only these three works are previewed does not mean that other films on the program are not worth notice. I myself would like to see Derek Jarman's last film, *Glitterbug and Confessions of a Pretty Lady* with Sandra Bernhard. And who would pass up Greg Araki's *All F**ed Up*.

Totally 'Un'-F**ed Up: An Interview with Controversial Director Gregg Araki

Gregg Araki's films have been upheld and extolled in the media as unflinching and candid looks at Gay sensibilities. Because extreme conditions call for extreme measures, Araki has mistakenly been labeled "activist," "anarchic," "decidedly non-mainstream" and "political."

With a body of short films, the features *Living End*, *Totally F**ed Up* (to be shown at the up-coming Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian Film Festival) and the upcoming *Doom Generation* to his credit, Araki's films feel more like romantic visual poems, cantos to life in the fast lane and on the run.

As a filmmaker and artist, he remains exceptionally focused in his cinematic search for the visual and critical aesthetic. With *Totally F**ed Up* already in theaters in Los Angeles and New York and scheduled to run in Milwaukee, Araki sat down for a chat.

Paula Nechak: So how did you cast "Totally F**ed Up? Did you have an open call or did you find these young people on the street?

Gregg Araki: Casting is really, really hard. Andrea, my producer, and I spent months looking and through that process we saw hundreds of people. It was frustrating because I really wanted this movie to have an authenticity to it. I wanted the whole multi-ethnic, multi-colored thing. Also, I wanted it to be really teenage. I didn't want to have 30 year-old teenagers.

PN: And do you get away from the "Queer" label in "Totally F**ed Up?"

GA: It's another Homo movie, but it's very French New Wave as well. Not only is it Queer, it's New Wave. I really love the movie, it was a really important film for me to make.

The next film I'm doing is ostensibly a heterosexual movie, not Gay, but it's very Queer at the same time. It's extremely subversive. I would love this new film to play at shopping malls and for teenagers on a date because there are elements that will appeal to them though I don't think they'll realize how. But that's the whole idea.

I mean, I'm Gay and being Gay is a big part of my identity, so it's not like I'm turning my back on that—it's just a different approach.

A lot of it comes from the feeling of being labeled. When *The Living End* came out, well it happened to come out with a handful of other films, to me it was a deductive approach, the you know, "Oh, here's the Queer New Wave, here they are," and it's difficult to be labeled and categorized like that. Of course, you're going to get the whole Queer New Wave audience and it's not an insignificant audience, but on the other hand, it's limiting.

PN: When I watch your films, I feel like they're more about disenfranchisement and self-created family that we all attempt to find when we get away from home, to survive. Because you utilize younger people as your protagonists, do you think your films transcend generational lines and ring true to older audiences?

GA: I think so. It surprises me, a lot, the

things people latch onto. It used to frustrate me in a way because you make a film, you have a certain idea about it and then you put it out there and people do all these things, take it all these different ways that you never meant it to be taken, or respond to certain things but don't see other things. I've come to believe that I should just make the thing, put it out there and let people do with it what they want; impose their own sensibilities and personalities and histories.

I think in a way my experience has been, and I've run into a lot of homeless people, that feeling of disenfranchisement isn't so much related to being Generation X, it's something anyone can feel. I think things appeal to people across certain lines—age, race, sexual orientation—and that is really what interests me, that which transcends.

That's also what bothers me about a lot of ethnic filmmakers. I don't want to name names, but I feel they are extremely, you know, "this film is about us, it's for us, fuck everybody else." That's something I don't really feel comfortable with.

PN: I've written that you films feel more like romantic visual poems to me

GA: Yeah, I am personally a very romantic person, so I think that in *Totally F**ed Up* it's clear that Andy is the same way. Andy is dying for love in a shitty world. Throughout all my films I think people, especially with *The Living End*, see the guns and violence and anarchy and they don't see the love, which is essentially this pure love.

My characters have this love that is too pure for this world. Eventually, it has to be destroyed. I think it's something that runs through all my films, which to a large extent, draws from music. I'm really into music and a lot of it has an angry or cynical edge about alienation, but usually has a center of romantic longing.

PN: What was your total budget on "Totally F**ed Up?"

GA: Probably around \$30,000.

I think a lot of the Gay p.c. police have been very critical of *Totally F**ed Up* and I don't want to give the ending away, but it's cliché for the Gay character to kill himself, so I'm under attack for that. For me, it's not a solution, it's sad, it's tragic. It's what got me thinking about how difficult it is to be a Gay teenager in America, to be subjected to so much shit all the time and to compound that with the fact that you're 17 or 18 years-old—your hormones are going crazy, you're breaking out, all the teenage problems, dating problems, you're Gay in a homophobic world—and that was the impetus to make *Totally F**ed Up*.

I wanted to explore these kids and how they cope. To me, well, you mentioned the whole family thing, a lot of it is about these kids having a support network and the Andy character falls because he loses contact with his support group through a fluke, through fate. It's based on a true storyline, something I read. It's really sad and it's a fact that scores

TURN TO INTERVIEW, Page 9



GREGG ARAKI

people have it tough in an L.A. landscape littered with artificial body parts, a hallmark of the Gay aesthete. Araki, like the other Gay

TURN TO FILM, Page 9

1995 Gay and Lesbian Film Festival Schedule

Thursday, January 26 7:00pm Lesbian Shorts

Central Park, Stellium in Capricorn, Bette Noire, Le Poison D'Amour, The Mister Sisters, Mad About the Boy, Outlaw, Cross You Heart, Dangerous When Wet, Parole, and 8 mm Lesbian Love Film.

9:00pm Totally F***ed Up (Greg Araki, USA 1993, 80 min.)

Greg Araki shook the mainstream film world with his low-budget "The Living end in 1992. This year he is back in full force with his long awaited **Totally F***ed Up**. Araki has assembled a cast of six racially-mixed gay and lesbian teens waiting to get into a club on Friday night, spill their hearts between stylistic inter titles and vetité logging by one of the boys. Their search for identity in their inherited wasteland of Los Angeles, is stylistically, humorously, and quite movingly captured by Araki's unique telling.

Friday, January 27 The Stars We Are: Gay and Lesbian Stars

7:00pm

Boy Next Door (Mark Kidel, GB 1993, 50 mins.)

Mark Kidel's portrait is a hypnotic story of narcissism and neediness, drugs and drag. **Boy Next Door** covers nine years, from Culture Club to Boy George's rebirth as a solo celeb through tons of amazing archival footage, gripping interviews, and some very queer fashions. Looking back, a candid George concludes: "Being gay is my only saving grace."

Dream Girls (Kim Longinotto and Jano Williams, 1993 GB and Japan, 50 mins.)

Girls from all over Japan dream of attending the Takaruzuka Music School and Theater. An all girl school, the women must choose either male or female parts. After an intense training (beginning with cleaning keyholes with Q-tips), the young women become stars of the theater. An all-women audience eagerly stands in line for hours to deliver love notes and lavish gifts to the 'male' stars. A fascinating depiction of gender construction and the gap between dreams and reality, **Dream Girls**, reveals the construction of female roles both off and on stage.

9:00pm

Confessions of a Pretty Lady (Kris Clarke & Sarah Mortimer, GB 1993, 45 mins.)

"My Father's a proctologist, and my mother's an abstract artist, so that's how I see the world," say Grand Diva Sandra Bernhard. Surrounded by kitsch imagery: dykes on bikes, beavies of bathing beauties, and tall tanned muscle girls, this film shows how Bernhard has become an icon of female sexual power. Mixing live footage from her "Giving Til it Hurts" show at Madison Square Garden with candid interviews with some surprising personalities, this documentary is a 'revealing and hilariously candid tour through Bernhard's Life and legacy.

Glitterbug (Derek Jarman, GB 1994, 60 mins.)

Jarman's last film before he died of AIDS last year, **Glitterbug** is a fantastic montage of his super-8 work blown up to 35mm with a specially composed soundtrack by Brian Eno. Jarman has created a stimulating, joyous and evocative diary from moments of high camp of the 70's to frivolity on the sets of some of his films.

Saturday, January 28 Thoroughly Post-Modern Queer:

7:00pm Fresh Kill (Shu Lea Cheang, USA 1994, 80 mins.)

Shu Lea Cheang is on a mission to turn the cultural frenzy of downtown Manhattan into her own personal modus operandi. Yellow, Brown, Dyke, Black, White Punk, Red, Style-crazed, Straight, Immigrant, Activist, Yuppie Bastards-- They're all bumping into each other right now-- might as well film it! Shareen and Claire are Staten Island lovers, who are happily raising their daughter Honey. Shareen is a salvage artist, redistributing the city's waste in her graffiti-clad pickup truck. Claire works in a trendy sushi bar called Naga Saki. Cheang calls Fresh Kill "eco-cybernoia" and creates a New York where a red cloud constantly overhangs, people glow green, fish lips are contaminated, and the GX Corporation bombards the city with the slogan: "we care."

9:00pm Remembrance of Things Fast (John Maybury, GB 1993, 60 mins.)

"A disjointed pschedelic joyride with a homo-cyberpunk sensibility, Remembrance of Things Fast, investigates some of the seedier rest stops along the information super-highway. Award-winning British music-video director John Maybury places Tilda Swinton (Orlando), Rupert Everett and porn star Aiden Brady in a hyper-real videoscape amid menacing dominatrices and transgender aristocrats."

--Ed Halter SF Int'l Lesbian and Gay Festival

with **The Love Machine** (Patrick Snee, USA 1994, 20 min.)

Sunday, January 29 Love and Survival

7:00pm Cancer in Two Voices (Lucy Massie Phenix, USA 1993, 44 mins.)

Acclaimed at the 1994 Sundance and Berlin Film Festivals, Lucy Massie Phenix's **Cancer in Two Voices** addresses one of the most urgent and under-represented health-care issues facing women today. This deeply moving film documents the struggle and courage of a young lesbian couple dealing with one partner's breast cancer.

Fast Trip, Long Drop (Gregg Bordowitz, USA 1993, 54 mins.)

In Spring of 1988, videomaker/activist Gregg Bordowitz tested HIV-positive, quit drinking and taking drugs, and came out to his parents. Then, a good friend was diagnosed with breast cancer, and his grand parents were killed in a car accident. Anything but solemn, this activist autobiography is an imaginative kaleidoscope blast of visual stimulation, intellectual irreverence, and emotional confrontation.

9:00pm Grief (Richard Glatzer, USA 1993, 90 min.)

INTERVIEW

Continued from Page 8

and thousands of kids--Gay kids--kill themselves because of the pressure put on them.

PN: My final question is kind of a two-question question. Does it bother you to have your art construed as activism and do you feel the two can serve each other without making one or the other didactic--or without making one or the other lose potency?

GA: I don't think I'm on a pulpit or soapbox. I don't have any problems with my activism or any of the things I feel are definitely making a difference. My feelings, I guess, yes, and no.

I think it's great to make a film that says certain things and generates thought--to have a message and that message is different to different people. It can be black to this person, white to that. It's equally valid, black and white. It's good to have movies full of ideas.

You know, I never really think about the future of my career. I just have projects. It's just about work. I feel confident I could make a big Hollywood movie and do it 99% better than the people working in the business today.

FILM

Continued from Page 8

neo-camp counselors, attempts to define the shaky experience of youth, then tell the world how to coddle the young 'uns.

The often agonizingly unfocused segments are headed by the passé device of typeface on TV screens. This typifies the film's heavy

word-weakness. Clever lines and dangerously rude statements, for example, that anal sex is incomprehensibly filthy, come out of the mouths of babes as manipulated by a disillusioned Gay storyteller (Araki). The often complex rules of Gay dating and friendship are stripped of nuance, understanding and magic; these are fortunate, healthy people thumbing their noses at convention without any spiritual backup. They're asking for chaos and they get it, but so does the moviegoer.

The film opens with a newspaper clipping of the rise in Gay suicides and ends with an overly-symbolic suicide. These are flimsy characters exhibited in their respective bell jars of alienation and pain. The poor victim commits suicide with a humorous cocktail (including Mop-n-Glo) followed by a jump into a pool. The superannuated baby wants back in the womb.

Araki's message mirrors much of what's backwards, dysfunctional or dangerous about the Queer movement. He joins the loud ranks of Dennis Cooper, Larry Kramer and Michaelangelo Signorile with their unreasonable demands upon society and specifically its treatment of Gay youth.

Totally F*ed Up** flirts with the risks, joys, beauty and materialism of Gay life without empowering its characters with the means for survival. We are asked instead to pity, rather than explore, means of practical counseling. It's an embarrassment that such morally dogmatic films are considered by the art establishment as the New Wave of Gay cinema. I'll take Hollywood over this electronic muddle any day.

Tuesday, February 1

7:00pm All in the Family: Gay and Lesbian Families

This package of short films lovingly and humorously deals with the issue of gay and lesbian families. **The Party Favor** (20 mins., 1994, Lisa Udelson) is a hilarious narrative of a lesbian couple who wants to have a baby. **Rocking the Cradle** (Kirk marcolina, USA 1993, 26 mins.) is a highly personal documentary in which the filmmaker struggles to address his mother's fears of gay parenting, intercut with the stories of three gay/lesbian families. **Florence and Robin** (Nick Finnis, GB 1994, 51 mins.) is a documentary about a lesbian couple trying to have a child through artificial insemination.

9:00pm Skin Flicks: Love and the Color of My Skin

These short films speak of the conflation of race, racism, homophobia and fetish objects. **A Darker Shade of Black** (Isaac Julien, GB 1994, 55 min.) is a well researched documentary by Isaac Julien (Looking for Langston) which examines the provocation of homophobic violence and sexism by gangsta rap and reggae music. Interviews include Ice Cube, Shabba Ranks, and cultural theorists Tricia Rose and Cornell West. **Long Time Comin'** (52 min.) is an inspired and spiritual portrait of Grace Channer and Faith Nolans, two African-Canadian lesbian feminist artists whose work is driven by a passion and commitment to social change. with **Greetings from Africa**.

Wednesday, February 2

7:00pm

Straight for the Money: Interviews with Queer Sex Workers (Hima B., USA 1994, 59 mins.)

It's estimated that up to 10% of women engage in some type of sex work at some time in their lives. In this unique San Francisco portrait, Hima B. interviews eight lesbian and bisexual women-lap-dancers and strippers- who talk about their motivations, aspirations and identities as queer women whose jobs make them "straight for the money."

Bernice Abbott: A View from the 20th Century (Martha Wheelock & Kay Weaver, USA 1993, 57 min.)

A View of the 20th Century is a portrait of one of the richest careers in the history of photography. The 92 year-old Abbott shines as she talks about her life, her work, and circle of friends including Andre Gide, James Joyce, and Janet Flanner. Focusing on Abbott's prolific work as an artist, this film reveals clues about her relationships with women including such notable contemporaries as Djuana Barnes and Edna St. Vincent Milay.

9:00pm Boys' Shorts

A Friend of Dorothy, Death in Venice, CA, Shit Fit, Some of These Days, and Dottie Gets Spanked.

Thursday, February 3

7:00pm Julie Zando in person with: Uh! Oh! (Julie Zando, USA 1994, 38 min.)

Julie Zando's seductive re-reading of Pauline Rége's **Story of O** is almost hallucinatory in its eroticism. her story subverts the original text of machismo and masocism to create a thrilling investigation on the relationship between power and sex. Using an all-female cast, including women in cowboy drag, she tells the story of Oh, a waitress who craves the love of a cowboy. To be shown with other of Zando's shorts.

9:00pm Postcards from America (Steve McLean, USA 1994, 93 min.)

Adapted from "Close to the Knife" and "Memories that Smell Like Gasoline," fictionalized autobiographical writings of David Wojnarowicz, poet, essayist, videomaker, and performance artist, **Postcards from America** knots together three stories from the life of a young, gay outsider named David. Cinematographer Ellen Kuras (Swoon) develops three distinct voices for the three stories: a scary wide-angled magic realism for the boy's tale; a dark street-smart verité for the teen-age hustlers; and spare wind-blown wide shots of adult life. **Postcards from America** is smart, tough, sexy and beautiful.

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'Madness of King George' Unveils Nigel Hawthorne as Seasoned Newcomer

By Matt Wolf

London- Nigel Hawthorne has suffered snubs and rejection in Hollywood, so he doesn't quite trust the early raves for his portrayal of a king driven mad by illness.

At age 65, in his first time starring in a film, Nigel Hawthorne is being touted as an Academy Award nominee for his role in "The Madness of King George."

"I don't know whether at my age you do get all that excited because you dare not," said Hawthorne, who is back at work on the London stage.

"If you get too excited, you get let down. It feels like I'm in a dream, as if I'll just wake up and it won't have happened."

The film promises to lift a beloved character actor into the top rank of British stars.

"This is my 45th year as an actor, so it does give you a chuckle," Hawthorne said in an interview at his dressing room at the Queens Theater, where he is currently starring in *The Clandestine Marriage*, through March 11.

Hawthorne spent a year playing the grief-stricken C.S. Lewis in *Shadowlands* in London.

Did He or Didn't He?

By Terry Boughner

Milwaukee-- He is one of the hottest young hunks in Hollywood. He is a renowned womanizer--or at least that was his reputation.

"He" is Keanu Reeves, 30, a young man of Lebanese descent, famed for his work in such films as *My Own Private Idaho* and *Speed*. That much is fairly certain.

This past week, over the Internet, came an article from the Slovenian paper *Dnevnik*, citing the French paper *Voici* as its source. The article was datelined Los Angeles.

It read: "A handsome Hollywood star, Keanu Reeves, got married--not to a woman, but to one of the richest Americans, a record producer and Hollywood mogul, David Geffen, 51, on December 30, 1994."

"Geffen, who is openly Gay, and Reeves got 'married' in a Los Angeles restaurant. They were 'married' by a rabbi. The wedding was followed by a party that ended at 2:00 a.m."

The report goes on to say that Claudia Schiffer, Cindy Crawford, David Spielberg and Elizabeth Taylor were invited. It does not say that they attended. The report also says that Reeves moved in with Geffen following damage to his home in the earthquake.

The Associated Press knew nothing about the event, nor did San Francisco's *Sentinel* or the *Advocate*, or even *The National Inquirer* which was contacted at its Boca Raton, Florida office.

Steve Warren, a syndicated film critic who writes for *Light* and many other Gay publications, said he'd heard nothing about the event either. However, he added, that he'd heard that Geffen and Reeves had been dating for some time.

Johnny Aguilar, an editor of *Frontiers*, a Los Angeles Gay magazine told this reporter that, yes, they'd heard about it, that reports of the wedding were all over the European press and that they'd heard about it from the Spanish press but, while they were trying, they hadn't been able to confirm it.

Attempts to contact Reeve's agent, Kevin Campbell of Creative Artists in L.A. yielded nothing. However, his secretary, when told who I was and that I wanted a comment from Campbell on a story about Keanu Reeves I was working on, said "Oh, that one." She took my name and number and said Campbell would "get right back to you."

Sure. So, that's as far as it goes--for now. The truth is, it's a story the European press is printing, but for which we can get no confirmation.

Did he, or didn't he? I don't know, but I'm fascinated by it nevertheless.

Dykes To Watch Out For



Glenn Close Defends Margarethe Cammermeyer on Feb 6 TV Movie

PASADENA, CA- Glenn Close says too much attention is being paid to a kiss she shares with Judy Davis in an upcoming TV movie about a Gay military woman.

"It's basically not what the movie is about," Close said of the scene in *Serving in Silence: The Margarethe Cammermeyer Story*.

"The movie is a very, very personal story... the kiss is just something that comes at the very end. I think the movie would be dishonest without it, but it's certainly not the issue."

One citizens' group reportedly asked NBC not to air the kiss. The Right Wing Christian group's name was not immediately available.

The film is not about homosexuality but about the injustice of firing an outstanding officer after decades of service, said co-producer Craig Zadan.

Serving in Silence, based on the book by Cammermeyer and Chris Fisher, airs February 6.

Cammermeyer, a 26-year veteran dismissed from the Washington State National Guard after revealing she was a Lesbian, was reinstated by federal court order late last year. She was awarded the Bronze Star for her service as a nurse in Vietnam.

Close, who helped produce the TV film along with Barbra Streisand, was asked if she was concerned about the role's impact on her career.

"If it's a risk, it's a risk worth taking," she



GLENN CLOSE

said, speaking to a Television Critics Association meeting by satellite from New York, where she is starring on Broadway through July in *Sunset Boulevard*.

"I can always do theater," she added, laughing.

Cammermeyer, who also spoke with the critics' group, praised Close's performance. She condemned the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy for gays as "pretty stupid" and unfair.

That policy, enacted by the Clinton administration, was not at issue in her case. She was discharged under the previous policy, which flatly barred Gay people from military service.

'Immortal Beloved' January 25 Premiere to Benefit Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra

(Milwaukee)- *Immortal Beloved*, a new film about Ludwig van Beethoven and the mysterious woman he loved, comes to the Landmark Oriental Theatre in a special "symphony" preview on January 25.

Sponsored by WFMR and the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra (MSO), this is an evening of exceptional entertainment--Beginning at 6:30 p.m., enjoy wine, cheese and dessert.

The sponsors invite you to a live performance by the Symphony musicians of Beethoven's String Quartet Opus 18, No. 1.

To set the stage for the film, MSO Principal Bassoonist and resident Beethoven enthusiast, Steve Basson, shares fascinating insights about

Beethoven and his biographers. Then, enjoy a sneak preview of *Immortal Beloved*.

The *New York Times* says Gary Oldman's portrayal of Beethoven is "inspired" and "dazzling," the music in the film is "thrilling, tumultuous, hypnotic and glorious," the emotions "grand and turbulent."

Tickets for the film, live MSO music, refreshments, plus wonderful door prizes are \$14. For reservations, call (414) 291-7605 or go to the Oriental Theatre Box Office any day after 4:30 p.m.

The regular engagement opens Friday, January 27 at the Oriental.

TV Talk Show Host Told to Quit Reading Obits of Gays who have Died of AIDS

Greenwood Village, CO- A self-proclaimed "right-wing, religious fanatic" no longer can read obituaries on his television talk show of Gay people who have died of AIDS.

Bob Enyart, host of "Bob Enyart Live," angered friends of a Denver man who died from AIDS for broadcasting the man's obituary Monday. After reading the obituary, Enyart then showed the man's photograph with the word "sodomite."

Enyart added, "He's not really a sodomite. He's a former sodomite."

Mark Winslow, manager of the station in the Denver Tech Center, ordered Enyart to stop using names and photos from obituaries after people protested.

"There are others ways to get the point across without offending people," Winslow said Thursday.

Friends of the man, 35-year-old James Bybee, and members of his church, the Metropolitan Community Church of the Rockies, complained about Enyart.

Bybee's companion, Don Dias, said he might sue the talk show host.

"The guy has no feelings for human dignity," Dias said. "Let's get him off the air."

"The hate he spews about homosexuals is frightening," said Gail Bird, a member of Bybee's church.

But Enyart, 36, of Evergreen defended his use of the obituary and blamed Bybee's friends for the man's fate.

"They don't care how many friends they kill as long as they meet their selfish needs," he said.

Commenting on the obituary is "a way to show the victim of the crimes," Enyart said.

"Sodomy is not a victimless crime," he said. All Denver-area cable companies carry Enyart's show. The station also beams the show to such cities as Pittsburgh, New Orleans, Milwaukee and Indianapolis.

Enyart, an anti-abortion activist, was jailed in Boulder County and Denver in 1990 for protests at Planned Parenthood offices.

He acknowledged that he faces misdemeanor child abuse charges for spanking his 7-year-old stepson.

"Today it is wrong to spank your child, but right to commit sodomy," Enyart said.

Habla Ud Gay?

(New York)- Going to a Spanish speaking country and not sure what to say when you that special someone? There's a solution.

A new travel phrase book covers Gay romance, from "I just broke up with my boyfriend" to "Do you come here often?"

Hot Spanish! For Guys & Gays (BabelCom, \$8.95) includes common phrases like "I've never done that, but I'd like to try" to "Take the handcuffs off." Soon to follow are similar books in Italian, French and German.

Check with AfterWords for your copy.



Chicago Trial Begins for Queer Nationals Arrested for Dancing in a Sports Bar

Chicago-- Bar owners will present their defense on January 18, 1995 in the second day of a trial involving four Gay men, members of the Lesbian and Gay advocacy group Queer Nation, who were arrested and removed from a local sports bar for dancing together. The trial, which is expected to last several days, is being held before the Cook County Commission on Human Rights.

"Our clients simply wanted to dance together, but instead they were publicly humiliated and arrested on trumped-up criminal charges," said Patricia Logue, managing attorney of the Midwest Regional Office of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, who represents the four complainants along with Lambda cooperating attorney Cindy Hyndman, a partner in the Chicago-based law firm of Robinson, Curley & Clayton, P.C. "While heterosexual couples and pairs of women were allowed to dance, our clients were harassed and arrested. This is in clear violation of Cook County's anti-discrimination

ordinance which prohibits discrimination against Lesbians and Gay men."

The lawsuit, among the first to be brought under the new Cook County Human Rights Ordinance, contends that the actions by the bar violated the anti-discrimination provisions of the law. The ordinance, which took effect in 1993, prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation in public accommodations, as well as employment, education and credit.

The lawsuit also claims discrimination based on gender and seeks compensation for damages.

The incident occurred on the evening of March 11 of last year, when the four men went into the Sidelines Sports Bar & Grill in Harwood Height, after having spent the earlier part of the Friday evening at a movie and dinner.

The four men, Steve Kleinedler, Robert Castillo, Craig Teichen and John Pennycuff, were dancing when a bar employee approached and told them to "find partners" or stop dancing.

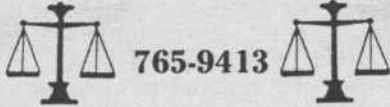
When the men explained that they were already dancing with their partners, the bar owner called the police. The police arrived and arrested all four men, throwing two to the ground and against a wall, although none resisted arrest.

In a criminal trial last Summer, the four were acquitted of all the original charges of disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and felony battery. One was convicted of misdemeanor battery during an alleged scuffle with police, but sentenced only to 30 days supervision.

"Lambda is pursuing this case to demonstrate that it doesn't pay for businesses in Cook County to discriminate against Gays and Lesbians," added Logue. "People have a right to dance with whomever they wish and not be mistreated because of their sexual orientation or whom they choose as a dancing partner."

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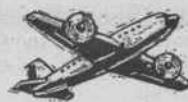
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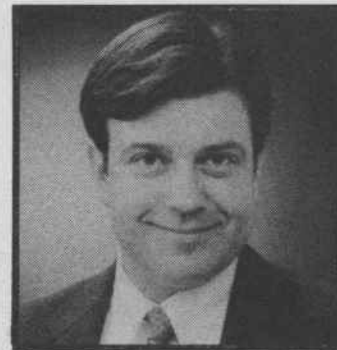
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regional Action Wisconsin Meeting Set for Feb. 7

Green Bay, WI-- Action Wisconsin's Northeastern regional Winter meeting has been set for Tuesday, February 7, at 6:30 p.m. in the Geegan Board Room of the Menasha Public Library. Recently elected full-term regional representatives will be introduced along with attending at-large board members. Regional concerns regarding Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender issues will be solicited and reports of discriminatory practices reported at an area health care provider and in an area school district will be reviewed. Rideshare will be available from Green Bay and Oshkosh. Call Mike Fitzpatrick at (414) 437-7400 for more information.

New Location for Living Circle Services

Chicago-- Beginning Friday, February 3, The Living Circle (TLC) will hold weekly interfaith prayer services, as well as open its office and chapel, at a new location: The Manor of St. Joseph Hospital, Rooms 512-514, 2913 North Commonwealth Avenue, Chicago. The Hospital is located near Surf and Sheridan. Services begin at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays. TLC is an interfaith Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender spirituality group offered by Lesbian and Gay clergy and laity.

Playwrights Studio Theater Auditions

Milwaukee-- Playwrights Studio Theater will hold auditions for its Fourth Annual Festival of Ten-Minute Plays on the fourth floor of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater on Saturday, February 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The festival will run from Friday, March 17 through Sunday, March 26 at the Stiemke Theater of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater. One two-minute contemporary monologue, comedic and dramatic, a resume and a head shot are required. For an appointment, call (414) 476-8984.

Commitment '95 Fund-Raiser

Milwaukee-- Bring your Valentine to Chili Fest on Saturday, February 11 at All Saints Cathedral, 818 E. Juneau in downtown Milwaukee beginning at 5:00 p.m. Along with your Valentine, bring your best chili. There will be awards for first, second and third place chili-- and some goodies to sell at the bake sale. Also, bring something to raffle. Raffle Tickets will be sold two for \$1.

Guest Speaker at SAGE/Madison

Madison-- The new Madison Chapter of Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE) will hold its regular meeting on Saturday, January 28 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Luther Memorial Church, 1021 University Avenue in Madison. There will be a guest speaker from SAGE/Milwaukee to discuss the experiences of SAGE/Milwaukee in forming a Chapter. SAGE/Milwaukee began on January 8, 1994. All people, young or old are invited to attend. For more information call Caroline K. Werner at (608) 835-8971.

Freeze and Sneeze III

Chicago-- Leather United-Chicago is pleased to announce that Freeze and Sneeze III will take place on January 27-29, 1995. The event is being produced by Nancy Lee Weinberger with the help of many friends in Indianapolis and Chicago, and is being sponsored by Our Place Bar in Indianapolis. Proceeds from Freeze and Sneeze III will benefit The Damien Center, an Indianapolis AIDS information, counseling, service center and food pantry. For more information about the weekend, contact Nancy at (708) 740-7801 or write: Freeze and Sneeze Productions, P.O. Box 7635, Round Lake Beach, IL 60073-7635.

Gay Men's Discussion Group

Milwaukee-- The Gay Men's Discussion Group presents "The Road to Gay Self-Esteem" on Sunday, January 22 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Counseling Center of Milwaukee, 2038 N. Bartlett Ave. The discussion will be facilitated by Dr. Nicholas Abraham who holds degrees in Theology, Religious Studies and Counseling and has been in the helping profession for 12 years. He is currently completing an internship at the Psychological Evaluation and Treatment Clinic in Milwaukee. Pre-registration is not required and the cost is a \$3 donation. For more information, call Bill Hanel at (414) 271-2565.

Contact Improvisation Workshop

Milwaukee-- Kathleen Maltese of Fluid Measure Performance Company will offer a two-day Contact Improvisation Workshop at Alverno College. Contact Improvisation is an improvisational dance form which develops a range of options for blending one's energy, momentum and mass with that of another moving body. The workshops, which are in conjunction with Fluid Measure's performances at Danceworks February 3 and 4 will be held January 28 and Sunday, January 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Alverno College gym, 3401 S. 39th Street. The cost is \$45 for both days, or \$25 for a single day. Advance registration is strongly recommended. For information and reservations, call Danceworks at (414) 276-3191.

YES!

I will dance and raise money to fight AIDS and support people with HIV and AIDS. Please send me my pledge form right away.

(Please print legibly)

Name _____

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- I'll take the lead in forming a team. Please send me a team captain's kit.
- I can't come to the Dance. Here is my tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____. (Please make check payable to Danc'n for AIDS)
- In addition to dancing, I can volunteer my time. Please contact me.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,
PLEASE CALL 414-273-1991 OR 800-348-9255
Produced by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc.

OBITUARIES

Richard Beaudoin's Sudden Death Leaves Gay Community Saddened

Milwaukee-- Richard "Rick" Beaudoin's death left all those who knew and worked with him deeply saddened. The Gay community, all agreed, had lost a good friend and tireless worker in the effort to build bridges of understanding between LesBiGays and straights.

Beaudoin died suddenly of a heart attack on Friday, January 6, 1995. Services were held Wednesday, January 11, 1995 in Massachusetts, Rick's native state. His many, many friends gathered for a memorial service on January 11 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 914 E. Knapp Street in Milwaukee.

Rick was the clinical coordinator of Gay and Lesbian mental health services at Sinai Samaritan Medical Center. He spent much of his time working with the LesBiGay community and with people infected with HIV. He had also a psychotherapy practice.

At the time of his death, Rick was working toward his doctorate in psychology at UW-Milwaukee. His area of research was evaluating useful strategies for helping Gay and Lesbian youth deal with the challenges and transitions in their lives. These included coming out and handling homophobia and discrimination.

He had earned a Bachelor's Degree cum laude from Boston College and received a Master's from the University of Connecticut.

Rick was also an active member at St. Paul's Episcopal Church where he served on the committee that brought Rev. Gale Morris, the church's first woman rector to serve the congregation.

"His leadership style here was straightforward, theologically sound, but quiet," Morris said. "He wasn't a flamboyant person at all. He spoke with wisdom and an articulate voice that made people want to listen to him."

Morris and all those who knew him spoke of Rick as a bridge builder, encouraging Gays and Lesbians to be proud of themselves and, at the same time, he promoted the construction of links between the Gay and straight people of the church.

Rick is survived by his parents, Robert and Joan, of Epping, New Hampshire; a brother, John, of Haverhill, Massachusetts; and three sisters: Helen Marie Diaz and Beth Remmes, both of Haverhill, and Roberta Blomquist of Plaistow, New Hampshire.

For Thanksgiving, 1994, Rick wrote: "We

are a diverse group of people gathered here today to celebrate this great feast with old and new friends, recognizing that our excess of both may be another's want. Let us be mindful of those who are without the friendship and food we have before us today.

Some find great meaning in the lives of their children, or the love and support of their life partners. Some know a god, others a life force, and still others a meaningless void. Let us celebrate our differences and our common humanity together."

Rick spent his life here celebrating that common humanity and working so that each of us, LesBiGay and straight, may know and celebrate it too.

Gertrude Ann Ambelang

Gertrude, age 80, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, died at home on Friday, January 13, 1994, following a three month illness. Her family had made it possible for her to come home from Milwaukee's St. Joseph Hospital and spend the holidays with them. She was also attended by Milwaukee Hospice Homecare.

Along with her husband, Bob, Gertrude has been a dedicated volunteer at the BestD Clinic. Affectionately known as "Granny and Grandpa Condom," she and Bob assembled thousands of packets of condoms and risk reduction/safer sex information for distribution by the Clinic volunteers. One of her last outings was to attend the "Musicians United Against AIDS" Symphony Concert sponsored by BestD at Milwaukee's Pabst theater. This was especially significant for her because she had danced on the Pabst stage as a youngster.

Her family includes her husband of almost 60 years, Robert C., her son, Robert J., and her "sons by choice," Bill Wren and George Yehling, all BestD volunteers. She also had a granddaughter in San Francisco and one in Dallas, Texas.

A service giving thanks for her life was held at Graceland Cemetery Chapel in Milwaukee on Monday, January 16, followed by a gathering at the M&M Club. Her family requests that memorials be sent to the BestD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

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Camp Heartland
Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project—Kenosha
Northwest Wisconsin AIDS Project—Eau Claire
Wisconsin Community-Based Research Consortium

WISCONSIN LIGHT PERSONALS

WISCONSIN

WI 20 y/o Student iso people in the area for friendship poss rel, not into one nighters people to hang ☎20750

Green Bay **FURRY MEN:** Edward 35, lkg for that one man good sense of humor kind caring, monog rel, like furry men, int in personality and character of person, give me a call- ☎21596

Sparta **FAST CARS AND FISHING:** Steve, fast cars, bikes, snowmobiles, hunt, fish, and camp, non drinker, young smooth btms best, but am vers- ☎21656

Milwaukee **UWM STUDENT:** East sider UWM student, 30, brn/brn unshaven trim 145 like to laugh eat out party and have a good time, iso 25-30 ☎21681

West Allis **BIG PECS!** Russ, 5'8 165, blu dk hair, big pecs, like to be with guys masc, strictly a tp, lets get together ☎21807

Milwaukee **BIG TOP:** John, tp, looking for a btm, end'd, if ur interested, give me a call- ☎21749

Milwaukee **ALTERNATIVE SCENE:** GWM 22, alt music, inexp, int in meeting any guys also inexp 18+ into alt scene or jock a plus, lv your name and # East side- ☎21961

N. WI **COLLEGE STUDENTS:** GWM 165, late 20s, lkg for GWM in the area, pref in college, blk or blnd hair, not over 170, lkg for friendship first poss rel later, lv a message ☎22026

Milwaukee **BIG REDHEAD:** Wayne, 28 GWM lkg for other GWM in the area, 6'6 200 red/blu like dinner movies, quiet eves, pls lv a message thanks- ☎22134

Milwaukee **LIFE, LOVE AND LAUGHTER:** GM 40, 6'2, heavy set outgoing inso friendship poss rel to share life love laughter, travelling movies and quiet times- ☎22169

Jefferson Co **MOVIES AND MUSIC:** DJ, lkg ofr someone 18-30 GWM brn/brn 6', 175, like movies and music call me ☎22189

Madison **GOODLOOKING CD:** bi wm 27, gdlkg cd wants to meet cd tv or ts or couples with bi male for fantasies ☎22233

Central WI **BLONDE CD:** Shayla, passable bi wm blnd cd 21 like older men ☎22360

Madison **JOGGING AND SWIMMING:** Mike, Asian, like jogging swimming and quiet times too, lkg for same int- ☎22435

WI **WINE ME AND DINE ME:** Sal, 23, music movies and dinner, give me a call- ☎22555

Fox Valley **BIKER/SKIIR:** welcome to the Dating game, I'm Jim, into biking, downhill skiing, international male, active sports, Fox Valley area non smoker 20s-30s masc good shape, int in a long term rel based on trust and good humor- ☎22935

Madison **MUTUAL FUN:** Tjason, 23, young, dk, handsome, iso WM non smoker, ages of 24-35, nice looking, gd shpe, masc iso mutually fun times, give me a call- ☎3743

Madison **HOT HAIRY DADDIES:** iso hot hairy daddy- are you the one im looking for? give me a call- ☎6007

Milwaukee **UNIV OF WISC STUDENT:** Hi, George, 21, yrs old, hisp/asian, student at UWM born in Fla, iso someone 6', between 30-35, iso a serious rel, I'm 5'5 brn/brn med build, brn cxion, like reading tv, movies, cooking, candlelight dinners etc. ☎19529

Milwaukee **DOUBLE YOUR FUN:** GWC 23 and 27, iso other single WM or couples to get together and have some fun- ☎19753

Milwaukee **ROMANTIC WINTER:** Robert, GWM looking for a long romantic winter, hopefully followed by hot steamy summer, intell kind, not into bars, 28-45, It's all about romance, I guess I'm lking for someone to share my life with- ☎19866

Milwaukee **AN HONEST MAN:** Jerry, just looking to find someone honest, have a good time, movies, dancing, var int, if ur int lv your name and # ☎19936

Kenosha **LOVE ANTIQUES? GWM 40,** non smoker 5'11, 185, warm, funny, affect, brn/blu (+) healthy, fun loving movies antiqueing, quiet times, not into bars, for friendship poss rel- ☎20094

Madison **MOVIES AND MUSIC:** 29, WM dk hair, grn eyes, 6'1, 175, very clean cut, westside, iso a boyfriend, many int art and theatre, movies, music, biking, hiking, int in age range 21-35 clean cut, iso someone hisp, PR or blk- ☎20100

Madison **TRACY 21 Y/O:** 6'2, GBM int in GWM 22-30, iso friendship poss rel, lv a message - ☎20089

Milwaukee **FEMININE MALE CD** int in fem male cd or a masc male willing to deal w/ a fem man & treat them like the lady they want 2 be if ur passionate romant caring, sens, int in politics sports, movies, theatre-dining out, quiet times @ home- ☎20249

Milwaukee **HEALTH CARE PROF'L:** Jim, out for about a year finally realized how boring and sleazy the bars are- lkg for a long term rel, lkg for someone 22-35 mod gdlkg, hairy chest, 24, 6' good shape, work in health care field- ☎20350

Milwaukee **COLLEGE STUDENT:** Tom, 5'8 brn/brn coll student, brn/brn 18, 170, broad shoulders musc, iso other impulsive friendly call students 18-22 only, like to drive around, shop, tour the city, walks, or intell conversations, no smokers- ☎20392

Racine **JUST MOVED IN:** Paul, GWM 42, mustache, hairy brn/brn tp iso a btm, pref natural blnd or redhead give me a call- recently moved here-like to settle down with someone ☎20472

Milwaukee **LOOKING FOR DADDY BEAR:** GWM 23, stocky, 6' 196 active gdlkg, iso wild times with bearded, must hairy men, into everything lkg for new exp, esp daddy types- ☎18755

Madison **LIKE BIKER PANTS?** Lou, 27, brn/blu 140 lkg to have a good time, rel minded, lv a message- tennis, biker pants, running, movies, dancing and cooking- ☎20152

Milwaukee **UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MADISON:** student at UWM, 20, iso other guys in the area under 30, looking for people to hang out with and have fun with- ☎20750

Milwaukee **NEW TO SCENE:** 28, slender WM Western suburbs like to meet someone else new to this- ☎20633

Milwaukee **WET AND WILD:** gdlkg in shape guy looking for mutual wet and wild times- be under 30- ☎20670

Madison **BRADY 19 Y/O,** 5'11, 150, lkg for a guy who has sim int, like movies, tennis, lkg for companion for romance, if this is wht ur lkg for lv a message ☎20675

Milwaukee **WANTS TO SETTLE DOWN:** Brian, 38 GWM 5'11, 210, blnd/blu, iso other GWM who's out, 18-35 mature, honesty, sense of fun, sense of humor, var of other interests, lv a message- into masc men- lkg for someone to settle down W/ ☎20679

Milwaukee **GWM 20s** East side, 20s iso 20-30 for friendship maybe more, lv your # ☎20721

Milwaukee **PASSABLE TV:** Jessica totally hot passable GW TV on the east side 31 6' 180, shaved blu, blnd shoulder length hair, growing breasts iso WM BM or HM, like aggr, under 50 ☎20814

Milwaukee **YOUNG MALE:** 5'10, 155, blk, brn, prof'l like to meet same, ages 32-42- looking for same- ☎20909

Milwaukee **SEINFELD FAN:** Doug, blnd/blu, prof'l WM 5'8 155 gdlkg, int in meeting another WM 20s attr and in good shape alot of int snow skiing, trave,l golf, Seinfeld, talking with someone special, clean cut guy iso same- ☎13996

Beaver Dam **NAME YOUR FANTASY:** Mark, big guy like to make your fantasies come true, give me a call, lets see what happens- ☎21163

Kenosha **GBM 18 Y/O,** 5'8 blk/brn fair bld, iso GHM GAM or GWM who wants a rel, sens caring honest intell sense of humor, like to go dancing- ☎21350

Door Co. **BEARDED BEAR WANTED:** GWM 23, stocky 6' 196, active, twisted, into everything, gdlkg iso rel 35-50 GWM top, bearded, hairy beer gut daddy type- ☎18755

Eau Claire **FRAT GUY:** Nathan, 23, college student, frat member, outdoors, hunting, camping, fishing, someone to hang out with, good friendship maybe more, new to me so lv a message - ☎18735

Fond du Lac **WANT TO TALK?** Scott, 23, 6'2, 170, blnd/blu, looking for someone to talk to - give me a call- ☎19370

Kenosha **FUN AT OUR HOUSE:** BIWM 40 and BIWM 21 seek other BI or GM 18-21 for fun, like heavy metal concerts, not really into bars social drinking in our home ☎17890

Kenosha **GWM HISPANIC 24,** new to area, discreet iso 28-30 WM vers in shape for great times- ☎18047

Kenosha **NEW TO AREA:** GWM hisp 24 new to area passive, discreet iso 20-30 WM vers in shpe for grt times, waiting for your call ☎18345

Marinette **RAP AND ROCK:** 43 bi WM like rap and rock, like to work on cars, larger house live by myself, looking for someone to relocate here, give me a call- let's try it out- no strings, looking for someone sincere, tired of being alone- ☎19633

Milwaukee **OLDER MEN:** East side inexp WM like to get with older 50+ discreet lv a message and I'll get back to you ☎17703

Milwaukee **DRESS ME UP:** Baby Jessica, looking for daddy or nurse passable GWM TV 0 6' 180 blu/blnd, dress me up for hot fantasy action- ☎18145

Milwaukee **BIG AND WILLING:** Eddie, 6'3, brn/grn 300+ passive, willing to do anything with the right person ☎10032

Milwaukee **NEW TO SCENE:** Bob, looking to get together, new to scene, iso anyone that can help 6'2 170 nice body, pls give me a call- ☎18278

Milwaukee **VERSATILE SEEKS SAME:** Jeff, 23, brn/blu, love outdoors, iso someone that is vers, I'm vers give me a call- 6'1 165, nice body, ☎19097

Milwaukee **RETIREE:** looking for intim rel, red hair, 190 need some french attention- ☎18865

Milwaukee **SPORTS AND POETRY:** Spence, looking for a guy fun to be with, sports, reading, poetry writing, iso a guy with a little more exp, looking for a good time, spend quiet nights together if u have the same int, give me a call- ☎19630

North Wisconsin **FRIENDSHIP AND CUDDLING:** 37, 6'1, 180 likes lots of friendship and cuddling like for you to give me a call ☎18614

Sturgeon Bay **DISCREET RELATIONSHIP:** Jeff, 27 brn/brn looking for someone for a discreet rel- ☎18043

Waupac **JUST MOVED HERE:** Andy, 5'10, 155, 19, brn/brn like to have fun if ur int give me a call- ☎19339

Wauwatosa **BI CURIOUS SKIIR:** 5'9, 175, WM, musc gdlkg, bi male, curious, int in meeting the same 24-35 gdlkg, prf'l sports int love to ski, winter sports if this int you, lv a message- ☎19348

Adams **PARTY TIME!** Chuck, iso yng men to get together w/ 4 fun times, my partner & I new to area , 6'2 salt & pepper, blu, beard, & 245 husky tend to vers, my partner 6'3, brn/blu must hairy 195 iso younger 20-45 ☎15794

Blancheville **TODD,** lkg 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 +++ ☎10976

Fond Du Lac **GWM 26,** 5'11 160 brn/green not athl, not out of shape, seeks sim in my area outdoors, talking and going out- ☎17101

Milwaukee **MUTUAL MASSAGE:** Jerry 28 attr GWM iso other males pref hisp, anyone ok, nice toned bodies, very attr, love massages, rec and give- ☎14044

Milwaukee **CUDDLE AND WATCH TV, ROBERT:** waiting 4 that special someone 2 enter my life-I can hve it all , a loving man 28-45 2 be there 4 me 31 61 brn/hazl 190 theatre, country, work out, many other things, just spend a quiet eve- ☎13343

Milwaukee **SEXY BI WM 19,** into spandex and swim suits, iso any cute sensitive athletic young studs that like to wear them for me- ☎15572

Milwaukee **HOT, BIG, MEN:** Tarver GWM 230 brn/blu iso other GWM over 200 for hot good times- ☎13159

Milwaukee **SEXY STUDS:** Carney, 5'11 160 brn/blnd looking for a sexy stud 18-25 who can satisfy a romance - ☎16218

Milwaukee **HEALTHY LIFESTYLE:** Albert, 31, prof'l WM like romance, something missing in most men-iso someone 4 a rel, to share life, not a bar person- if U like eves alone, long walks in the moonlight, I'm 190 6', like to work out, iso 28-40, ☎16274

Milwaukee **EAST SIDE:** looking for happiness Greg 31, 5'5, 150, GH/BM iso hisp WM 25-40 for friendship and hopefully happiness, quiet eves at home and taking walks- ☎16726

Milwaukee **I WANT SECONDS!** Anthony, WM new to this looking for BM or AM to teach me everything I need to know, did it once before wid like to know more, enjoy alot of diff aspects iso someone 18-25 basically, a tp man-☎16572

Milwaukee **ADULT FLICKS:** South side GWM 40s 5'4 134, hairy, into movies, videos, looking for someone to have fun with- ☎16749

Milwaukee **LEATHER MAN:** Tom, 32, 5'11 brn/blu 185, leather man, if that sounds int give me a call- ☎16885

Milwaukee **CD SEEKING DATE:** Steve, GWM like to find a guy that I find attr, likes to be with me like to go out and show me what its all about, just enjoy looking, like CD, like to see an attr male beside me- ☎11250

Milwaukee **TONY 18 Y/O** senior in high school, iso 18-24, like sports, singing dancing, going out and spend some time with my loved ones, like to spend time with me - ☎17312

Milwaukee **GM 19, Y/O** iso a man 18-24, int are sports, dancing, singing, having fun iso tall dark skinned, brn eyed guy, med bld, understanding loving, like to spend time with me ☎17324

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Milwaukee **MILITARY MEN:** Jake, East Side 23 6' 185, brn/brn built, iso leather or military man 25-35 to take care of me- ☎16375

Madison **DADDY'S BOY:** James, 18, iso older men in the leather scene, 5'10, dkbrn/brn looking for a leather daddy, vers, looking to get together with some people ☎15805

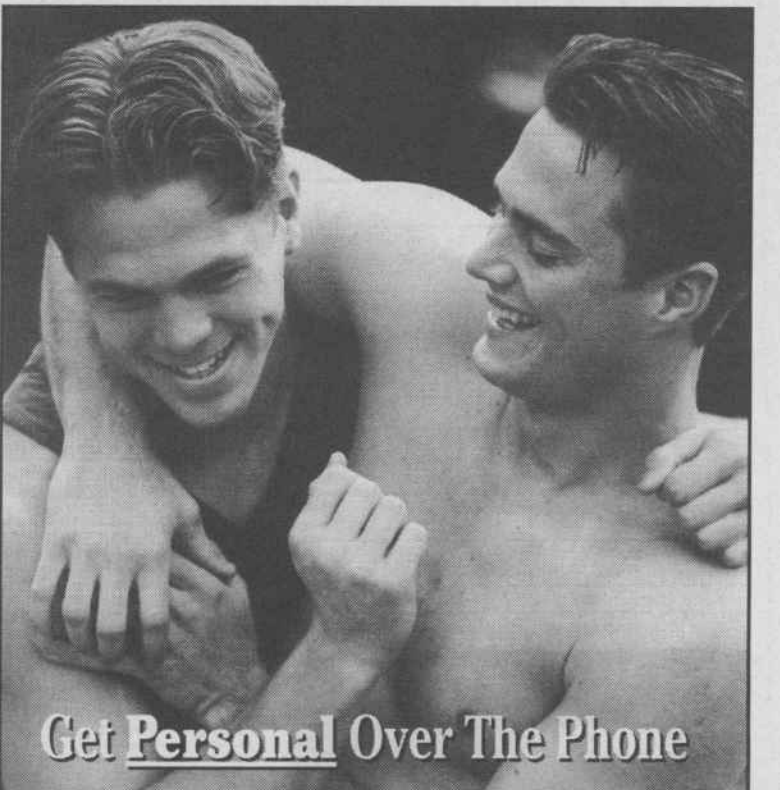
Madison **LOOKING FOR DADDY:** Jenon, iso some daddies and masters looking to get into the leather scene 5'10 short dk, brn eyes, smooth- iso some people want to get into it- ☎15805

Madison **NEW TO AREA:** Jeff GWM 26 5'2 125 lb brn/blu just moved to area iso GWM 21-32 enjoy working out, sports, and a var of other activities, lv me the best time to call ya- ☎16554

Madison **ATHLETIC GUY:** Eric, int include, athletics, running, wrestling, swimming, 20, 135, 5'6, iso a very sincere honest person for friendship poss rel- ☎16987

Madison **INTO 70'S MUSIC:** Dave, 32, blnd/grn 180, iso someone likes outdoors 70s music, just want to have a good time get to know someone ☎17392

Menominee **OUTDOORS GUY:** Kevin, like to play softball football sports outdoors type of guy, looking for a strong dependable man to be by my side- ☎16459



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AIDS FUNDING
Continued from Page 1

Coalition's dismissal of the Campaign For Fairness, Nelson said "Disappointed, but not angry. I understand the politics of this too well to be angry. I am heartened that we have gained good support in the new Congress for equity and we will stay the course and we'll get an improved CARE Act as a result."

Nelson said 1995 is an historic moment for the AIDS community because re-authorization of the CARE Act occurs once every five years.

"It's a rare moment that's contentious and difficult because funding is tied to the policy that is set and everyone in the AIDS community has passion around this issue," Nelson said. "I can't think of another issue that generates this kind of controversy. I'm sure we'll get through it and we'll move on in unity to address the many other issues that we care about as an AIDS community."

Worried About Budget Cuts

Nelson told Light that everyone is worried about massive cuts in federal domestic spending that could jeopardize AIDS services and even threaten the survival of the national network of community-based AIDS service agencies.

"The Republican agenda of increased defense spending, lower taxes and a balanced budget means trouble for federally funded AIDS prevention, care and research programs," Nelson said.

"The numbers don't add up and we are worried that AIDS is not even on the screen for many members of the new majority," Nelson explained.

"I have been told by well-respected, Washington-based Republican consultants that the AIDS community will be doing well this year if AIDS programs are cut by only 50%," Nelson continued. "That would be a disaster for us as we confront a worsening HIV epidemic."

"In my heart, I have to believe that some sanity will prevail and that the new Congress will make its commitment to a bipartisan response to AIDS," Nelson said. "However, it will take every ounce of energy and all of the resources that we have from all around the country to bring powerful advocacy to bear on the Congress to do what is right."

Nelson reported that President Clinton continues to demonstrate the strongest political commitment to AIDS within the Beltway of Washington, D.C. It is reported that for the President's 1996 budget which is now being developed, that Clinton has singled out AIDS funding as the highest domestic program increase, second only to the popular Head Start Program.

"Clinton's commitment to AIDS is unwavering and this is an important signal to the new Congress that slashing the federal AIDS budget is unacceptable," Nelson said.

"It's bound to help us as we work with new Republican leadership on the Congressional budget and appropriations committees."

Nelson told Light that in spite of the political uncertainty of the new Congress and the passionate differences within the national AIDS community on the CARE Act, that he was optimistic that AIDS advocates throughout the country will unify to protect and advance federal AIDS funding.

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Organizations

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Filmmaker Tells Stories of Desperate Young Cubans Injecting Themselves with HIV

Providence, RI-AP-- Desperate to bring attention to a government that wouldn't even let them listen to rock music, a band of young Cubans plunged needles filled with the HIV virus into their bodies during the 1980s.

Many of the "roqueros," or rockers, are now dead of AIDS. But filmmaker Vladimir Ceballos, who once considered injecting himself, wants to tell their stories.

Ceballos was granted asylum in the United States last year and is working on a documentary at Brown University titled "Cursed Be Your Name, Liberty." It contains interviews with eight rockers, two of whom have died from AIDS.

"Those who chose to die saw no other exit," said Ceballos, 29, who was a rocker in Pinar del Rio, about 60 miles east of Havana.

Officials at the Cuban diplomatic mission in Washington did not return telephone messages for comment on the rockers and their actions.

Rockers first appeared in Havana and Pinar Del Rio around 1982. They listened to hard rock and dressed like the long-haired musicians they saw on album covers. Such actions quickly brought beatings, fines and imprisonment.

Ceballos estimated 100 rockers injected themselves with HIV since 1988. Many did it to make a political statement about conditions in Cuba, while also avoiding persecution, he said.

The country puts those with HIV and AIDS in sanitariums, where they are allowed to dress as they wish, given good food, provided air conditioning and television, and allowed to discuss issues like AIDS that are forbidden elsewhere.

They also may skip compulsory military service and put off entering the work force, he said. These cases of self-injection usually are not included in Cuba's statistics on AIDS, said Dr. Diana Martinez, an American who worked with AIDS patients during her fourth year of medical school.

She treated one woman who contracted AIDS in order to be with her rocker boyfriend, Martinez said in a story published late last year in The New York Times Magazine.

Ceballos, the son of prominent Cuban militants, was a rocker who had thought about injecting himself. Instead, he became interested in filmmaking and decided to tell the rockers' stories.

But when he presented his idea for the documentary to his professors, they told him he would be expelled if he made it.

Along came Bobby Rabyd, the pen name of an adjunct lecturer at Brown's Center for Modern Culture and Media. He met Ceballos during a visit to the University of Havana in 1993 and invited him to a conference at Brown.

There, Ceballos and Carlos Zequeira, who was helping him secretly film the documentary, read from a manuscript about the rockers who had injected themselves with HIV. Both decided that night to ask for political asylum, and Zequeira has since moved to Miami.

Rabyd traveled to Cuba after Ceballos requested asylum and secretly finished filming the documentary.

He said there there is no formal ceremony for the injection, called "la vola," or "the oath." Those receiving the injection often would drink liquor, listen to rock music and inject themselves.

"The impression I had ... is the rockers are very well-educated and very articulate," Rabyd said. "They don't cut the appearance of what we might think as being some foolhardy youth group that did some childish and absurd act. In fact, they understand the political implications of what they've done."

Ceballos plans to finish editing the documentary this month and will try to market it. He says it's now permissible in Cuba to listen to rock music in public and dress like rock stars. The government even allows occasional concerts. But Ceballos said he may never return to Cuba because he could face 10 years in prison for making the documentary.

He said the rocker subculture has faded, but some people, many of them young, still inject themselves with HIV-tainted blood.

"These people say to themselves, 'I am 14 or 15. I inject myself (and) I can live in a sanatorium and maybe doctors find a cure,'" Ceballos said.


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My Kid? Gay? Never!

Even if you think you could never accept your child's homosexuality, consider these suggestions in reacting to the news. The advice comes from parents of Gay teens and members of P-FLAG.

First, let your child know you love them. Be aware that the telling has not been easy for your child and that he/she is sharing something important with you. Really listen. No matter how strongly you feel, try to handle your reactions with restraint. Remember she/he did not choose their orientation.

Respect your conflicting emotions and confusion by getting answers yourself, finding someone with whom to talk and contacting other parents in similar situations. After the initial revelation, don't consider the subject closed. Your child will want and

need to talk about this again with you if you are willing to listen. Give yourself a chance to meet your child's friends. It will mean a lot to your child, and you might be pleasantly surprised if you let yourself get to know them.

Be wary of counseling or psychiatric programs that say they can change sexual orientation. This cannot be done and forcing your child into one of them increases the risk of running away or committing suicide.

Kicking your child out of the house is not the solution. The only thing that can work is for parents and children to listen and love each other.

Ask your child for some books on Gay or Lesbian subjects.

Keep things in perspective. Don't relate every petty annoyance with your child being Gay.

Above all, do not judge or condemn. Those are the worst possible things you can do. Try and accept what you cannot change.

High School Can Be Hell, Especially If You're Young And Gay

By Sig Christenson and Terry Wallace

(Milwaukee)- They eat breakfast with their parents, walk their high school corridors at lunch and visit friends in the evening, wearing a mask every waking hour because being themselves is too risky. They're the kid next door, the math whiz, the jock, the slacker, and all kinds in between.

The only difference between themselves and others like them is that they are Gay. It is their secret, something known only to themselves.

"Being Gay puts a whole other spin on being a teenager," said Suzanne Lewis, an 18-year-old Gainesville, Georgia high school senior who founded Queer Youth, which works to help others come to terms with their sexuality.

It's a rainy Thursday night in Dallas, Texas, but it could just as easily be the same evening or another in Los Angeles, New York, Milwaukee, Madison, Pittsburgh, Boise or numberless places in between. About 200 teenagers have come together as they do each week to sit in a circle and talk and listen.

You can tell the new members. They're the silent ones, and they attend this meeting as others do elsewhere to overcome that silence.

Gay teenagers break one of America's biggest taboos. Oppressed by religion and shadowed by fear of discovery, many of them, too many, lead lives most of their friends and families know or understand little about.

Most, if not all of them, will tell you that being Gay is something that they did not choose for themselves. They knew they were "different" even before they could put a name to it, some as early as five or six years-old.

Yet, coming out is tricky even with lots of help and support. Many Gay teens choose instead to live as strangers in their own homes and schools.

"It's not something I want to take a chance with," said Michael, a 17-year-old living in Indianapolis. "I don't know what's going to happen in May, but for now, I'm very comfortable where I am with nobody knowing."

Robby, a 16 year-old of Asian descent who attends a high school in Minneapolis spoke of the trouble being out can bring.

"Once they (fellow students) found I was Gay, I was harassed a lot. I was spat at, they pushed me in the hallways, they tried to beat me up. That's high school for you. They operate at such a low level."

Waiting it out didn't help. A month after telling his classmates he was Gay, Robby decided to leave.

"The staff was great. They were as supportive as they could be," he said. "There were too many students harassing me, yelling at me that I was going to hell, that I should be dead. Teachers couldn't be there all the time. So I just dropped out."

Since then, Robby has left the city and enrolled in Santa Fe Community College's dual enrollment program, which offers youths a chance to finish high school and get an early start on college. He will earn his high school diploma next Spring.

Some resort to running away and living on the streets. About 26% of Gay teens leave home because their families don't want them anymore, says Dr. Gary Remafedi, director of Youth and AIDS Projects at the University of Minnesota, a national expert and researcher of Gay adolescents.

As many as half of the male runaways become prostitutes to support themselves, according to a 1988 study in the *Journal of Adolescent Health Care*.

Other studies show that 29% of 137 Gay males surveyed had attempted suicide, almost half of them more than once.

When a teenager is struggling with the growing awareness that he or she is Gay, turmoil that can be catastrophic often sets in.

In Milwaukee, a young man named "Jeff," stands on a certain street corner. He says he's 19, looks 15 and may be younger. He comes from a small town outstate, having left there when his father threw him out after he found out his son is Gay.

He says hustling is a way to make a living; that he won't be staying long in Milwaukee; that he wants to go to New York.

There's a haunted look in his brown eyes, along with a look of having seen much too much.

Remafedi says a variety of factors make coming of age difficult, if not devastating, for young Gay people.

"But if I had to pick two, I'd say isolation and stigma," he said. "Not only are there few role models for their lives, but the information they have is negative and stereotypical."

Those stereotypes generally center on sexual dysfunction; those who prey on small children; life as outcasts. Many of them believe that they will never be able to fall in love and have a long-term relationship, Remafedi said.

"We had one young man who couldn't shake his depression while he was grappling with being Gay," said Adrienne Aiken.

Aiken is the executive director of the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (HATCH) and a parochial school administrator.

"In his mind," Aiken said, "all he had open to him was being a hairdresser. It took awhile to get rid of that illusion and make him comfortable with himself, but we did it. Now he's studying in Europe."

In the process of accepting one's self, parental support can be crucial, but it's tricky to tell them. Having that knowledge that their son or daughter is Gay can leave them gasping for air.

Serena Daly, a student at the University of Florida, said that her father wasn't upset, but the news left her mother reeling.

"She didn't take it really well. She was very upset about it," Daly said. "She thought it was disgusting. She was disgusted by the fact that I am a Lesbian. She pretty much didn't like the idea of me making love to another woman."

Tommy Martin, 18, of Chicago, said his father "blew up and my mom took him and they rushed off to the church to pray. By the time they got back, I was gone, no note, nothing. They knew why."

The problem is that parents and a lot of other straight people as well, think of Gay in terms only of sexual activity, said Frieda Sarage, 61, a co-founder of the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) in Jacksonville, Florida. They don't do that with heterosexuals, she added.

"Then there's AIDS," said Remafedi. A recent survey he conducted found that Gay teens were knowledgeable about the disease, but 63% were at "extreme risk" of having been exposed to HIV because they had had unsafe sex.

"I'm afraid that young people tend to be fatalists," Remafedi said. "They figure that, because they're Gay, they'll die of AIDS. And that's simply not the case."

For many young people, it doesn't have to be as lonely as it once was. In most cities such as Milwaukee and Madison, there are youth groups where emotional walls need not be raised and fortified.

In Milwaukee, there's Gay Youth Milwaukee and in Madison, there's Teens Like Us. For Gay Youth Milwaukee, call Michael Lisowski at (414) 265-8500. For Teens Like Us, call The United at (608) 255-8582.

Letting Them Know

How do you tell your parents and your friends that you are Gay? The National Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays compiled this list.

Much depends on how you feel about being Lesbian or Gay. It will be easier if you are comfortable with your orientation.

Choose the time to share this information sensibly, when things are going well or at least when a certain amount of calm prevails.

Don't blurt it out during an argument. It will become a weapon for that argument instead of a sharing event.

Depending on your relationship with your parents, you may want to tell only your mother or only your father.

Lead into it with an expression of your love and concern for your parents. If you don't usually say these things, think of something nice or thoughtful to say.

Be prepared for the likelihood that the news will upset your parents, that they may feel pained. One or both may lash out at you. Try not to respond defensively or angrily, but allow them this reaction.

Tell them: "You loved me before you knew this about me. I'm still the same person I was and I hope you still love me."

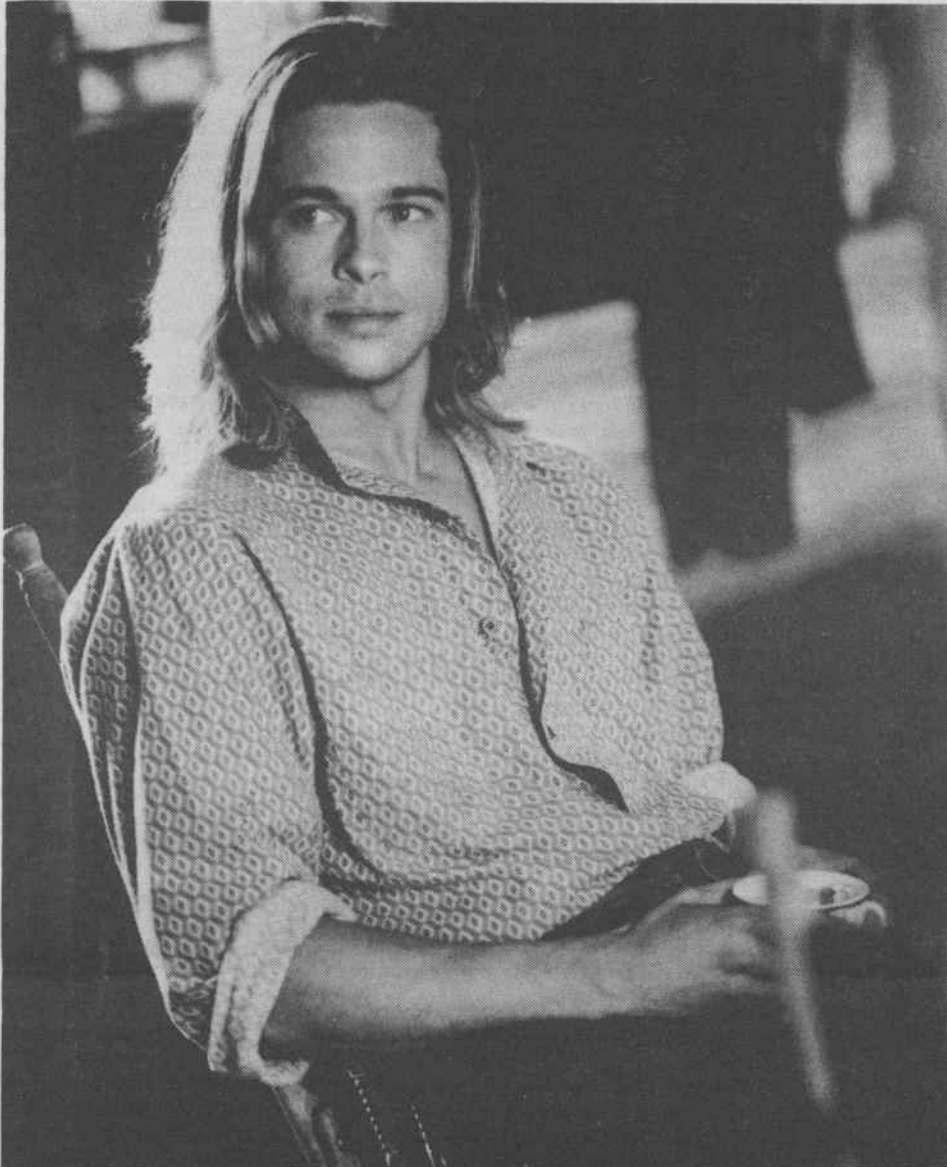
Keep the lines of communication open and remember that your parents are having to change their concept of you and your life--and that they probably don't have an accurate picture of what it means to be Gay or Lesbian.

Read books on the subject and make them available to your parents.

If your parents are willing to meet your friends, make sure they have a chance to do so.

If they cannot deal with the subject rationally, don't force the issue. Don't flaunt yourself or your friends defiantly.

Running away from home is not the solution. The only thing that can work is for parents and children to listen to and love each other.



Riding Into the Sunset-- Tristan (Brad Pitt) is a wild, untamable spirit in the epic drama "Legends of the Fall" which is now playing in theatres nationwide including the Oriental in Milwaukee.

Brad Pitt Had Eye on Role in 'Legends of the Fall' Since College Days

Los Angeles- To see Brad Pitt the heart throb, check out the glamor magazines. To see Brad Pitt the actor, try *Legends of the Fall*.

"It is the only character I've had that I've felt there was no one better to play, in all seriousness," Pitt said of his part as Tristan Ludlow, the free-spirited son of a Montana rancher.

The role earned Pitt, 30, a Golden Globe nomination for best actor. Pitt said he was in college when he first read Jim Harrison's novella about three brothers in love with the same woman.

Leaving the University of Missouri just short of a journalism degree, Pitt came to Los Angeles with little money and started acting as an extra. While doing more substantial television work, he struggled to avoid being typecast as

another pretty boy.

"You got to show 'em what you can do. You got to show 'em what you got, because otherwise that's where you'll end up," he said in a recent interview.

Pictures like *Thelma & Louise*, *A River Runs Through It* and *Interview With the Vampire*, showed what Pitt could do. However, Tristan was the character he was waiting for, Pitt said.

"I liked the wildness in him, I liked the love in him, I liked the hate in him -- it just all made sense to me," said Pitt.

"My feeling is they should push the movies and not the personalities," Pitt said, stressing that he wants people to see *Legends* because he has a bigger artistic stake in the picture than in anything else he's done.

Brad Pitt Can Make Even a Lesbian Think About Her Sexual Orientation

NEW YORK - Heartthrob Brad Pitt has such power over women he even makes some think twice about their sexual orientation.

"One night a few of us, shall we say, Lesbians, were in the hot tub watching the guys play basketball in the pool. We were staring at Brad, and we all agreed he could change a woman's mind," singer Melissa Etheridge says in the February issue of *Vanity Fair*, featuring a cover story on Pitt.

These days, celebrity comes easier to the 31-year-old actor.

Wearing his favorite leopardskin pants to accent his well-turned legs, the blond, tall and lean Pitt says, "This last year, I've been happy, been miserable, been genius, been humiliated, been congratulated. Pretty amazing."

Lesbian, Gay and straight Hollywood has been turned on by the Missouri-born actor ever since he played the sexy-voiced hitchhiker

in *Thelma & Louise* and later, *A River Runs Through It*. He began fetching around \$3 million per film after *Interview with the Vampire* in which he is seduced by Lestat, the vampire, played by Tom Cruise. His latest film, *Legends of the Fall*, a romantic western, has opened and gives, for those interested, a tantalizing view of Pitt's smooth, bubblebutt.

While Pitt has no regrets about dumping his journalism studies for acting, at times the rigors of his job get to him.

"Somewhere in the third or fourth week (on location) you respond to things a little differently, like your character would respond. I don't like it. I can't wait to get my own clothes back on, listen to some good music, eat what I want to eat. Movies are very complicated. ... It's fun for a little while. Then I'm ready to get back into my own boxers."



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