



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

The Wisconsin Light

Equitable Ryan White CARE Act Advances to the Senate

Washington, D.C.— In late breaking news that is an update to earlier stories in *Light*, in its first test of U.S. Senate support, the new Ryan White CARE Act with hard-fought equitable formulas, was endorsed unanimously by the Senate Subcommittee on Labor and Human Resources.

Senator Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS), Chair of the Committee, crafted the new formulas which have been vigorously promoted over the past year by the Wisconsin-led Campaign For Fairness in Ryan White CARE Act Funding.

In Committee action on Wednesday, March 29, the new CARE Act was unanimously voted out of Committee without amendment and may be scheduled for a full Senate vote prior to the Easter recess of Congress.

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin Executive Director, Doug Nelson, who has led the national fight for equity, praised the Committee vote. "This is the first indication that this Congress is committed to equitable AIDS funding," Nelson said. "It is a big victory which will double Ryan White funds for Wisconsin."

Nelson hailed the new formulas which appropriately counts living AIDS cases and distributes funds on an equitable basis per living AIDS case.

"There is a lot of work yet to do before the CARE Act gets to the President's desk for signature," Nelson said. "But this win today means that our plea for equity has been heard and that our long national campaign is worthwhile."

The Cream City Foundation Spearheads Reception for Ron Geiman

Milwaukee— Milwaukee's Cream City Foundation, along with the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, and *Wisconsin Light* will be sponsoring a recognition reception for Ron Geiman, Editor/Publisher of *In Step Magazine*. The event will take place on Sunday, April 30, 1995 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Renaissance Center, 1451 N. Prospect Avenue in Milwaukee's lower East Side.



Ron Geiman

For over 10 years, Ron has labored to bring Milwaukee, Madison and all Wisconsin the news and features that have helped to knit this LesBiGay community into one. He has, in the process, given Wisconsin one of the finest LesBiGay publications in the country.

In addition, he has been on the forefront of the continuous battle for civil rights and dignity for all Gay people.

He has given of his time and resources with unflagging zeal to support community events.

Look for more about this in upcoming issues of this paper, but for now, mark your calendars!

The event will be free and open to the public. There will be food and beer will be provided by Miller Brewery.

Vice President and Mrs. Gore to Serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of AIDS Walk Wisconsin



Vice President and Mrs. Gore
Honorary Co-Chairs of AIDS Walk Wisconsin

Walk to be Held September 17 on Milwaukee's Lakefront

Milwaukee— "Tonight, it is a real joy for me to announce a wonderful surprise," said Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), the parent agency of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP). Nelson was speaking before over 900 people who attended the ninth annual Make A Promise Dinner and Auction that was held, March 25 in Milwaukee's Pfister Hotel.

What Nelson was about to say had been close held by MAP until it could be revealed that night.

"As you may know," Nelson continued, "we seek out leaders to serve as honorary co-chairs of AIDS Walk Wisconsin, the largest and most successful fundraising event on AIDS in the state."

"Yesterday, I received the following letter that I would like to share with you," Nelson began to read.

"We share your deep commitment to this important battle against AIDS and, as you know, we have worked hard to increase federal funding for AIDS research and treatment...We are also personally dedicated to doing all that we can to support the work of agencies" like MAP.

"So, it is with great enthusiasm therefore that we accept your invitation to serve as the honorary co-chairs of AIDS Walk Wisconsin."

The letter was signed by Vice President Al and Tipper Gore.

Congressman Tom Barrett (D-WI) who attended the dinner with his wife, said, "I am very pleased that the Vice President and Mrs. Gore are coming to Milwaukee. I think it's great that the event has been a success and will continue to grow."

Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist who also attended Make A Promise, voiced his enthusiasm for the news. "The Vice President and Mrs. Gore have always been dedicated to the welfare of others. We will welcome them to Milwaukee. This is a great thing for our city and the AIDS Walk."

Both Barrett and Norquist have always been participants in the Walk. Norquist, along with his wife, Susan Mudd served as co-chairs of the first AIDS Walk.

David Mixner, personal friend and advisor to President Clinton also attended the dinner.

"I think what this represents," Mixner said, "is another step, especially by Vice President and Mrs. Gore, showing their deep support and compassion for people with AIDS. They have marched in Washington with us and it's thrilling that they're going to be honorary co-chairs of the walk."

Nelson told *Light* that, "With all of the political threats to AIDS funding that we are now facing, the commitment of the Vice President and Tipper Gore to the AIDS Walk is a real boost to our spirits. "The Clinton Administration has always made AIDS a priority and the Gore's will bring that commitment home to Wisconsin. They will rally this state behind the AIDS Walk and we will see a turnout of at least 15,000 people. It will be a day in the history of AIDS in this state that no one will want to miss."

AIDS Walk Wisconsin will take place on September 17, 1995. Registration forms are now available and can be obtained by calling 1-800-348-WALK.

David Mixner Leads Nationwide Gay Fight Against Anti-Gay Montana Law

Helena, MT— In a quick about-face, the Montana Senate, meeting in emergency session at 4:00 p.m. Thursday afternoon, March 23, dumped a provision from the Criminal Sex Offender Bill requiring people convicted of homosexual acts and those with HIV and AIDS to register with police, and one of its supporters apologized.

It had all begun on Tuesday, March 21, when the Republican-dominated Senate had passed a bill on a 41-8 vote that included the requirement that homosexuality was one of the crimes along with rape and child molestation for which a convicted person must register with local law enforcement under a lifetime mandate.

Any form of sexual contact between members of the same sex in Montana, including kissing, is a felony subject to fines of up to \$50,000 and ten years in prison. As in other states with such laws, the law is rarely, if ever, enforced. Had the registration law passed, enforcement was to be "rigorous," one legislator said.

The Montana Republican-dominated House had earlier passed the bill by a 32-18 vote.

Rep. Al Bishop (R-Billings) speaking in support of registering Gays said that he considered homosexual acts as worse than some other crimes. "This type of action is even worse than a violent sexual act," he said.

Montana Republican Governor Marc Racicot had not yet indicated whether or not he would sign the bill.

Both the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) issued nationwide calls to action. At the same time, the Montana Gay activist group, Pride!, held a rally at the Capitol.

Similar rallies were held in the other major cities throughout the state where, the Associated Press reported, speakers likened the Republicans to Nazis and the bill to measures

taken to send Gay people to the concentration camps.

However, by all accounts it was David Mixner who turned the tide. Mixner is a close personal friend of President Bill Clinton and an advisor to the President. Mixner was in Milwaukee on Saturday, March 25, to attend the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's Make A Promise Dinner and honor the late philanthropist, Duane Rath.

According to Mixner, as soon as he heard about what had happened in Montana he moved quickly to rally powerful forces to make the Legislature back down.

By noon, Wednesday, through phone calls and faxes, Mixner had 6,000 telegrams and



David Mixner

calls flooding the governor's office. There were plenty more on the way, he said.

In addition, Mixner was on the phone **TURN TO MONTANA, PAGE 23**

**Remember!
It's Your Right
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On April 4**

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Bob Enyart Gets Mistrial

Colorado Springs, CO—AP—An El Paso County District Judge has declared a mistrial in the case of a Greenwood Village TV talkshow host accused of child abuse. After declaring a mistrial on March 20, Judge James Patterson set a new trial date for May 8 for conservative talkshow host Bob Enyart. Patterson ordered the mistrial after a witness told the jury that Enyart had been convicted on a misdemeanor charge of child abuse last month in Golden, Colorado. Enyart has stirred considerable controversy by reading the obituaries of Gay people who have died and the names of doctors who perform abortions on the air. He is charged with paddling his 7-year-old stepson on highway 115 south of Fort Carson.

Estimated Number of People With AIDS Revised

Atlanta—AP— The government's estimate of the number of Americans infected with the AIDS virus is being revised for the first time in more than five years. But the new number may not change much, a top AIDS researcher says. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated at the end of 1989 that 800,000 to 1.2 million Americans had HIV. The CDC began re-evaluating the figures last year, after it expanded the definition of AIDS to reflect the toll on women, those who have TB and those who have depressed immune systems.

Estimates from an AIDS workshop in February ranged from 600,000 to more than 1 million, said Dr. James Curran, director of the CDC's Division of HIV-AIDS Prevention. Curran said he would not be surprised if the new number is similar to or slightly lower than the 1989 estimate, because the number of Americans dying from AIDS each year may be greater than the number of people getting the infection.

Iowa State to Allow Gays in Family Housing

Ames, IO—AP— Recent vacancies in Iowa State University's family housing could lead to changes in the university's policy allowing Gay couples to live in family apartments on campus. Iowa State President Martin Jischke said he is open to considering any proposal to allow same-sex couples to live in family housing. In 1993, Jischke rejected a recommendation permitting Gay couples to live in married student housing, saying there already was a shortage of housing. Now, 30 to 40 units have sat vacant during each of the last two years.

House Fast-Tracks Same-Sex Commission Bill

Honolulu, HI—AP— A state Senate measure to revive a commission to study the benefits denied to same-sex couples passed the House and headed for the governor's desk on March 16. The measure was rushed through both houses so that a reworked commission could resume the earlier panel's work, which had been delayed more than a year. The former 11-member commission was disbanded in January after a federal judge removed four of its members. The new commission will have seven members appointed by the governor in part from lists supplied by the Senate president and the speaker of the House.

The Legislature last year formed the commission to review what benefits were extended to married couples that same-sex couples have no access to and to advise the Legislature on what action it should take. This year, the Legislature amended the commission's mission to include the study of the responsibilities of marriage.

Baptists to Kick Out Churches Supporting Gays

Columbus, OH—AP— The Columbus Baptist Association has approved a constitutional amendment that would allow it to kick out a church that does not uphold the biblical teachings on homosexuality, one of which is death. The vote was targeted at the First Baptist Church of Granville whose pastor, George Williamson, had tried to make Gay people feel welcome. "We do not consider homosexuality a sin," Williamson said. "We do not condemn Gays and Lesbians. We have tried to assist them in establishing public space for themselves."

Interview With Jesus?

Decatur, GA— As reported in the Gay paper *Impact*, a pamphlet is making the rounds in Georgia with the title "Jesus Hates Stupid Homosexuals Like You." There is nothing strange or unusual in this—except that this pamphlet by an unknown author promises not only the standard biblical citations condemning Gay people, but also an interview with Jesus himself to substantiate the condemnation. Curious, the editor wrote to the address given to ask for a copy of the interview. None was forthcoming. However, if you'd like to try, the address is: P.O. Box 1111, Decatur, GA 30031.

Being Gay in Hollywood

Los Angeles— The most recent issue of *The Advocate* calls Hollywood "the final frontier" in Gay life. "Despite the increasing visibility of Lesbians and Gay men in other professions...not one box office giant has ever come out, the article says. Yes, there's all kinds of speculation about Tom Cruise, for example, and Richard Gere, John Travolta and Jodie Foster, but none of these nor anyone else has ever actually simply said with a shrug, "Yeah, well I'm Gay (or Lesbian) and so what?" Leeza Gibbons, a reporter on "Entertainment Tonight," is quoted as saying "There are probably half a dozen names in Hollywood that rumors have circulated around for years and among those names are some of the most bankable stars we know. There's evidence that rumor alone doesn't hurt."

The article stresses that in a business where image is everything, don't expect your favorite to declare him—or her—self any time soon. But also know that within Hollywood circles, "everybody knows what everybody knows." Believe it or not, that makes sense.

PFLAG Gives Human Rights Award

Houston, TX—AP— A 22 year-old auctioneer from Jacksonville will be the first recipient of a national bravery award given by Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). Wesley Beard has been named to receive the Human Rights Award for Bravery. Beard is being recognized for his efforts following the brutal slaying of a Gay man in Tyler, Texas in November, 1993. That man was abducted from a park by several men, driven to a sand pit, beaten and shot nine times. Beard organized a "Stop the Hate" rally in Tyler in January, 1994 in the same park where the victim was abducted.

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.

Seattle Judge Finds for the Government in Gay Sailor's Case

Seattle, WA— In an update to an earlier story in *Light*, a federal judge has upheld the Navy's recommended discharge of a gay sailor who said he engaged in homosexual acts.

Courts have previously ruled it unconstitutional to discharge a service member who simply admits he or she is gay. But they have not overturned the military's position that performing homosexual acts is reason for dismissal.

U.S. District Judge William Dwyer reluctantly sustained that position in his ruling Friday, March 17, in Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Mark A. Philips' case.

Philips challenged his recommended discharge under the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy. Philips, however, told his superior officers that he had engaged in sex with other men and would continue to do so.

In his written ruling, Dwyer granted a summary judgment sought by the Navy. Philips' lawyer, Jett Whitmer, said Friday he would appeal, but that Dwyer's ruling apparently lifts an injunction against the Navy, allowing it to discharge Philips at any time.

"I think he's prepared for that, I think he may have a long wait on appeal" outside the military, Whitmer said.

"I thought we really put forward a good case, but I guess it wasn't enough," said Philips, currently stationed at the Navy's Trident submarine base at Bangor, in Kitsap County west of Seattle.

However, he said he was "encouraged by, I guess, the judge's disappointment."

"It sounded to me like the judge was saying right now he was prevented from overruling the policy."

Dwyer said that federal law and military regulations allow the Navy to discharge a service member who has engaged in homosexual acts and says he or she will continue doing so. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has held such regulations, based on acts rather than merely sexual orientation, are constitutional, he said.

Dwyer noted that Philips argued that presuming "one who announces a homosexual status or orientation has committed, or is likely to commit, homosexual acts simply restates the policy of discharging for status alone, which has been held unconstitutional."

"This argument may well have merit," Dwyer said.

But he said that issue could not be decided here.

"A service member may not be discharged solely because of homosexual status, but may be because of homosexual acts," Dwyer wrote. "The current regulations reflect that distinction, and are a modest step toward tolerance. They still result, however, in a loss to the nation of soldiers and sailors who serve with honor. This case is an example."

Dwyer said the Navy order recommending Philips' discharge praised him as an outstanding professional who "has excelled at every endeavor."

"Upholding the challenged regulations as constitutional," as the 9th Circuit has said, "is distinct from a statement that they are wise," Dwyer said.

"Before long, rules that limit military service by homosexuals to those who are celibate or furtive, and that require separation for private, off-duty, consensual conduct, may be seen as foolish and cruel. But policy-making is not for the courts."

Philips was serving aboard the Bremerton-based supercarrier "USS Nimitz" when he disclosed his homosexuality to his commanding officer and a local newspaper shortly after President Clinton was elected in November 1992. Clinton had vowed to end the military's ban on Gay people.

In December 1992, while responding to questions from his ship's legal officer about his sexual orientation, Philips said he had discovered he was Gay in 1991, had had sex with men since then and would continue to do so.

In July, a Navy panel recommended Philips be honorably discharged under the new policy, which took effect February 28, 1993.

Philips sued, claiming the policy violated his First Amendment rights of free speech and association, Fifth Amendment guarantees of equal protection and his right to privacy.

Dwyer issued an injunction against the discharge in December, and heard arguments in the case in February.

Philips' arguments, although involving the new military policy, are similar to those in cases of service members discharged under the old policy.

Washington National Guard Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, who had been discharged after disclosing she was a Lesbian, won a highly publicized ruling last June that the previous military ban on Gays and Lesbians was unconstitutional. She has been reinstated.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Zilly wrote in that case that, "the rationales offered by the government to justify its exclusion of homosexual service members are grounded solely in prejudice."

In another "old policy" case, the 9th Circuit ruled Aug. 31 in the case of Navy Petty Officer Keith Meinhold that merely declaring oneself to be Gay was insufficient to warrant discharge. Military officials cannot extrapolate from such declarations that the service member will necessarily engage in homosexual acts, the court said.

The appellate court, however, upheld the military ban on Gay sex, even though the Meinhold case, didn't involve any. Dwyer based his ruling on the Meinhold case.

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New American Medical Association Policy Reduces Ex-Gay Ministries to Quackery

Commentary by Jim Bailey

The American Medical Association's (AMA) policy change regarding sexual orientation should be the deathblow for the so-called "ex-Gay" ministries--counseling services offered by some churches and religious organizations that claim to be able to change one's sexual orientation from homosexual to heterosexual. Until December, the AMA officially supported the position that one's sexual orientation could be changed. The AMA did away with that policy when the organization adopted a report calling for "nonjudgemental recognition of sexual orientation."

This report officially reduces the counseling services of ex-Gay ministries to what they have really amounted to all along--quackery--and it greatly increases the liability counselors face from what may be the results of the misguided services they provide.

One "change minister" from Glendale, California, has already been convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the case of a man who died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound after receiving counseling to change his sexual orientation.

The more truthful ex-Gay counselors have been known to tell their clients in private what they will not acknowledge in public: that they indeed cannot change a Gay or Lesbian person's attraction to a same-gender partner.

In the wake of the AMA report, perhaps it is time for them to publicly admit the only thing they really can do is to teach a Gay man or Lesbian how to fake a heterosexual lifestyle.

But that won't happen. And the AMA change in policy regarding reparative therapy might not be the deathblow for ex-Gay services after all. Look for an amazing amount of support for ex-Gay ministries in the months to come from large, well-funded religious right organizations.

The concept of the "chosen lifestyle" is a necessary and vital element of the religious right's strategy in attacking the Gay community. If unable to continue to promote the idea that heterosexuals evolve into their sexuality, but that homosexuals "choose" theirs, the religious right will lose the cornerstone of its anti-Gay political agenda. (Gays and Lesbians might even start looking like a bona fide minority, deserving of equal rights protections.)

After the "choice" theory is scientifically debunked beyond question, and most believe it soon will be, the religious right will be confronted with the uncomfortable reality that

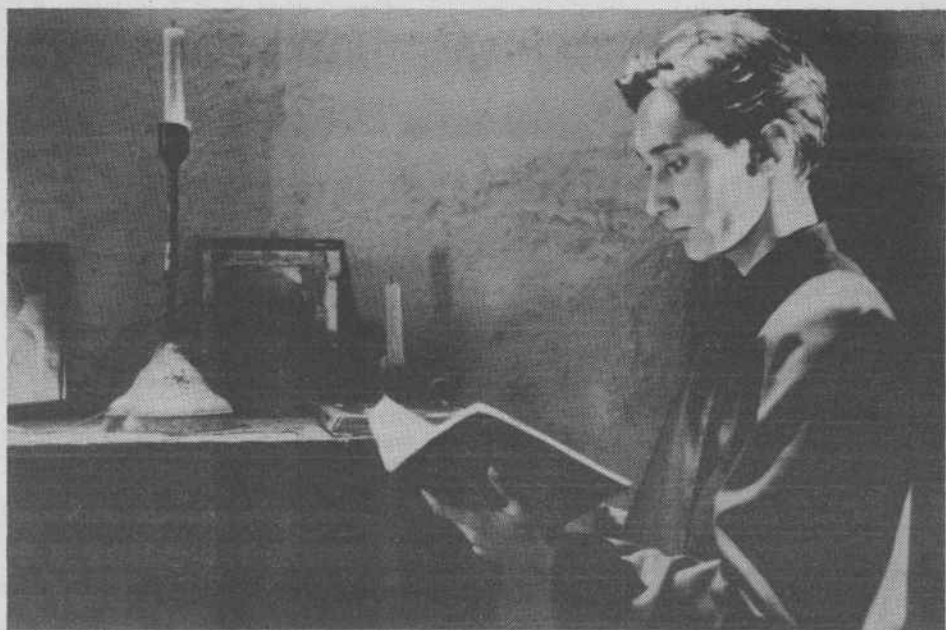
God made Gay and Lesbian people to be who they are.

Then the "choice" will be theirs. As Christians, they can welcome their Gay brothers and Lesbian sisters to sit in their pews, stand behind their pulpits, and stand hand-in-hand in front of their altars.

Or, as hypocrites, they can continue to reject Gay and Lesbian people for the same reason they've had all along, which is hatred.

Bob Davies, the executive director of Exodus International, a network of ex-Gay ministries, was quoted recently as saying the change in the AMA policy was a "giant step backward into ignorance." That will be loudly echoed during the next months by leaders of the religious right. They can't afford for one of their financial mainstay programs to slip into quackery.

Editor's Note: The author is the editor of *Second Stone*, the national Gay and Lesbian Christian news journal.



Opening Doors-- Gregoire Colin stars as Kiril, a young monk who lives a life of austerity and silence until an act of compassion changes his life forever in the Russian film "Before the Rain." The movie opens April 7 at Milwaukee's Downer Theater.

House Speaker Gingrich and His Sister, Candace, Continue to Follow Different Paths

Harrisburg, PA--Candace Gingrich always thought of Newt Gingrich, 23 years her senior, as more of an uncle than a brother.

Now Ms. Gingrich, a Lesbian activist, is going head to head with her half-brother, the House speaker and leader of conservative Republicans.

"He has said some strange things," said Ms. Gingrich, 28, of Harrisburg. "I don't know where he gets it."

But just like her half-brother, Ms. Gingrich also speaks her mind.

In college at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, she would answer questions in class by saying, "As a Lesbian ..."

Even though she was aware of his conservative leanings, she never tried to hide her sexual orientation from Gingrich. When he came home for visits, she would sit across the dinner table from Gingrich with her Lesbian lover at her side.

"He never said anything, and I never said anything," she told *The Patriot-News*. "I guess he just tolerated it."

A liberal Democrat, Ms. Gingrich and her brother are polar opposites in politics, while remaining friendly. Ms. Gingrich returned last week from a trip to Washington, where she lobbied for the abolition of discrimination against Gay people and for AIDS research.

The trip brought a mix of family togetherness and political clash for the siblings.

They hugged. They talked. They posed for pictures. He said he admired her activism, her guts.

And despite her political differences with Gingrich, Ms. Gingrich admires him.

"You have to admire anyone who has worked very hard and reaches a goal," she said. "And he has done that." Then she added: "But he is different."

But the next morning the speaker bashed school programs that counsel teen-agers about homosexuality. He said he didn't see why the federal government should offer Gays protection from job discrimination even though his own sister could be a target of that and worse.

Ms. Gingrich seemed surprised at her conservative Republican brother.

"Family values," she said back home in Harrisburg. "Doesn't that mean you should love your family, regardless? Isn't that what it's all about?"

Ms. Gingrich said she is committed to lobbying for her people, regardless of the current wave of bigotry and "barbaric conservatism" that her half-brother is spearheading in Congress.

"Look, I have no illusions," she said. "I know I'm not going to touch him and poof, he's going to be on our side. But this is something that directly affects me. So I care."

Ms. Gingrich said her trip to Washington won't be the end of her political work. She said she hopes to speak at college campuses to educate others about her people.

In the meantime, she works two jobs, including a position as a United Parcel Service sorter that keeps her up until 3 a.m.

New Study Reveals that Most Gay Men are Likely to Become HIV Positive

San Francisco-- The majority of Gay and Bisexual men in the United States eventually could become infected with HIV unless major changes are made in prevention education, according to a report released Tuesday, March 21.

The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association's study found a high rate of continued infection among Gay and Bisexual men, despite a common perception that education among those at risk already has been "taken care of."

Projecting from a study of Gay men in four cities, the report estimated that the majority of currently uninfected young Gay men in the United States will eventually become HIV-positive.

"What we're seeing is an infection rate for Gay and Bisexual men under 30 of 3 percent per year. If you take an 18-year-old, that's a 36 percent chance by the time they reach 30," said Benjamin Schatz, the association's executive director. "And it doesn't stop at 30."

Among the reasons, the study said, is insufficient education: publishing pamphlets isn't enough because words alone don't help people change their behavior.

"Nobody thinks information is enough to get people to stop smoking or to stop drinking. Nobody thinks all you need to do is hand people a pamphlet that says smoking is bad for you. Society has recognized that ongoing, intensive support is necessary," Schatz said.

The education campaigns also don't grapple with the emotional gravity of living through the AIDS epidemic, the report said.

"Four word slogans on the sides of buses are of little use when souls suffer horrors," said San Francisco anti-AIDS activist Eric Rofes.

Federal statutes which prohibit the "promotion of homosexuality" also make realistic education efforts difficult, Schatz said.

"Since the beginning of the epidemic there's been this whole Jesse Helms mentality that we can't promote homosexuality," he said. "But how can we talk about sexuality without talking about homosexuality? It's caused prevention groups to censor their efforts."

With rates of HIV infection among Gay men as high as 50 percent in some cities, staying

uninfected can seem a hopeless task, he said.

"As long as society continues to send the message that Gay men and Lesbians are second class and despicable, they won't have the strength to protect each other," said Schatz.

In addition, the medical group said that education efforts are not being directed at some of the people most at risk. Despite the fact that Gay men make up the largest single AIDS-infected population in the country, less than 5 percent of the education funding nationwide is targeted at them.

"The vast majority of resources have been directed towards targeting the low-risk 'general population,'" said Pat Franks, a researcher in health policy studies at the University of California at San Francisco.

Medical College of Wisconsin

The Medical College of Wisconsin's CAIR Center conducted a study over the last few years to determine how best to change unsafe sexual behavior in Gay men. The study, directed by Dr. Jeffrey Kelly, Ph.D., was conducted in Gay bars in 16 smaller U.S. cities nationwide.

The premise of the study was that people change their behavior, not on the basis of posters and other information, but by watching and listening to those perceived as opinion leaders.

Researchers from CAIR went into Gay bars and asked bartenders to make lists of who they believed were the opinion leaders.

These lists were gathered and compared. Names of persons appearing on several lists were contacted and asked if they would participate in a program that would help them save the lives of their friends. Agreement, Dr. Kelly said, was universal.

Once the leaders had been taught, they were, in turn, encouraged to talk to their friends.

The results, Dr. Kelly said, were highly encouraging. Unsafe behavior declined by appreciatively.

The study, its methodology and its results, have been published and are available to AIDS service agencies. For more information, contact the CAIR Center at (414) 287-4680.

Frontiers Events for April

April 1-- Gay resorts and travel--Dan Curd of Travel/Ease will be discussing different options available. There will be a video presentation. Our hosts are John and Clay at 8:00 p.m.. FMI call (608) 258-8138.

April 5--Bicycling for recreation-- A planning session for Summer schedule of short (1-2 hr) and long (all day, 30-5- mi) trips for recreation and exercise. Host will be Larry K. 7:30 p.m. FMI call (608) 244-3351.

April 7--Friday Dining Out--A Different Twist-- Meet at the Shamrock Bar for cocktails between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. then mutually agree on the restaurant for the evening. FMI (608) 244-3351.

April 9--Rafting, Canoeing and camping-- a planning session AND brunch at Dave's. Help decide on schedule and activities for the Summer, 11:00 a.m. FMI (608) 241-2500.

April 22--Oscar Wilde Revisited-- Presentation by Ray J., with a video covering the literary life and affairs of this late 19th Century Gay literary figure. 8:00 p.m. FMI (608) 244-5531.

April 28--Friday Dining Out--Cathay House, 2524 E. Washington, 7:00 p.m. For reservations call (608) 251-7424.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

What Happens the Next Time If We Don't Have David Mixner?

By Terry Boughner

"Can I talk to you about that article you wrote?" he asks.

"No." I am in a bar and I do not like to be disturbed.

He doesn't hear. "That one on the Pink Triangle, the camps an' shit. You shouldn't write stuff like that. It can't happen here."

"Can you read?"

"Yes."

"Then read in the paper where it says I have office hours. I don't discuss the paper in a bar." I turn and walk off.

He doesn't like it. I've been rude, but that's okay. It's how I keep up my reputation of being rotten.

Well, whoever you were, I hope you read this issue of the paper. "It" did almost happen here, at least the beginning of "it", right out there in "big sky" country where some politicians whose minds are apparently as empty as the horizon, decided in a spasm of bigotry to pass a law.

It was already a felony to express Gay love in Montana, so why not take it the next logical step? If the "Fags" get caught at it, take their names. Make 'em register for life--along with rapists and child molesters. There's no difference, is there?

When I heard about it, I decided there was something I could try and do.

Back at the 1988 Democratic National Convention in Atlanta, I remember a reporter friend of mine from another Gay paper coming into the Gay/Lesbian caucus one morning with a big smile on his face.

"I broke the law in Georgia," he said, loudly enough for everyone around to hear.

Since there was no doubt in my mind or in the mind of anyone else, what he meant, (and since many of us had done had similarly "transgressed"), we congratulated him.

So why not, I thought, give those outraged puffins out in Montana a taste of that?

Why not suggest that this Summer, there be a March On Montana? Ask the LesBiGay community to go there in its numbers, not for some wild sexual orgy necessarily. But cross the boarder and in full view of everyone, kiss and hold hands. That would be enough since, according to their law, kissing and holding hands by same-sex couples are felonies. Let's

all get registered, hundreds of thousands of us. And if someone you knew couldn't come along, register their name too. Pile up those case loads on them until they howl.

Fortunately, I didn't have the chance to make my suggestion, to issue my call. (For one thing, nobody, probably, would have paid much attention to me anyhow.) But more to the point, the legislators swallowed hard and repealed their law.

That they were forced to do this was in no small part due to David Mixner.

While mourning his friend Duane Rath, Mixner sailed into battle with his flags at full staff and all guns blazing. The politicians scurried away like cockboats being chased by a man 'o war.

Three ships of the line, actually, because, to continue the metaphor, because the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Human Rights Campaign Fund joined David in the battle, their sails full, standing tall before the wind.

Still, to mix metaphors, it was David Mixner who pulled the Montana governor from his perch and plucked out his tail feathers. It was Mixner who that "poor goose" called and said "it had all been such a terrible mistake."

Yeah, sure.

Our sincerest and most hearty thanks go out to David Mixner. But what happens the next time--and there will be a next time--when David, maybe, won't be around?

We've got to realize that we're in a war out there. We've got to continue organizing on a grass roots and national level and get other minorities to join us. Say to them, "Look, you may not like us, but though! Join us anyhow, because, believe it, if the Radical Right sinks us (as it fully intends to do), you're next."

And for those of you who think that's all a bit extreme, take a look at this Congress and who voted for them.

"This is white man's country, kids," they're saying by every word that comes out of their mouths, by every gesture that their power brokers make.

Our thanks to David Mixner and to HRCF and NGLTF, but what happens the next time?

And don't tell me it can't happen here. Out there where the antelope play, it began.

Milwaukee's Human Rights League's Endorsements for April 4 Election

The Human Rights League for Lesbians and Gays (HRL) Board of Directors announced its endorsements for candidates for several important local and state elections. HRL's criteria includes demonstrated support for Gay and Lesbian issues; increased attention and resources for HIV and AIDS research, education and services; pro-choice and privacy rights issues as well as general human welfare and human rights concerns.

For these April 4 elections, written surveys were developed and mailed to every candidate for Milwaukee School Board. Election endorsements were discussed through the Legislative and Public Policy Committee and the Board of Directors.

The following endorsements have been made:

Wisconsin Supreme Court
Ann W. Bradley

City of Milwaukee Member of the School Board
District 2: Sandra J. Small
Member-at-Large: John S. Gardner

Both Member-at-Large candidates, Rose Daitsman and John Gardner, responded extremely favorably on Lesbian and Gay issues, including appropriate curriculum development and teacher and staff training. Both candidates have a history of progressive thinking and community work and each would serve the Milwaukee community well.

The major difference between the two is their position on "school choice." Daitsman opposes school choice as currently discussed. Gardner went further to indicate support for a school choice system that includes a number of significant features not currently included in the school choice debate, including specific curriculum and wage standards.

While both candidates appear to have a strong commitment to fair treatment, acceptance and support of Gay and Lesbian students, Gardner has a very long and impressive history of consistent, active participation in Gay rights issues over the last 20 years, dating back to his college activities.

Referendum Question #2
Vote YES

"References to masculine gender removed. Shall Article I, IV, V, VI, VII, IX and XIII of the (state) constitution be amended to remove unnecessary masculine gender pronouns?"

Madison School Board Endorsement

Eyvonne Crawford-Gray, Andy Franken, Andrea Houlihan

As we noted in last issue's endorsements for school board, there is distressing news in regards to the candidacy of Keith Burkes, who had received *Light's* endorsement in the primary. Burkes has admitted that he lied about his education when seeking government jobs, has been driving children in his car without a valid license, and that he faced allegations of sexual harassment from a former co-worker.

At a March 13 press conference where he announced his intention to stop campaigning but that he would serve if elected, Burkes compounded his problems by blaming the media for his woes. And it's just a damn shame.

As you saw from our coverage of the school board forum on Gay and Lesbian issues, Keith Burkes really did well. Especially when it came to the discussion of the challenges facing Lesbian and Gay youth, Burkes "got it" in a way that few people do. In a school system that is failing many of its students as they seek to overcome poverty and prejudice, Burkes' life experience would have given him insights that would have made him an important voice.

However, his handling of the recent allegations has destroyed his credibility and raised questions too substantial to ignore. Burkes has made some major contributions to the lives of our community's youth and, with any luck, will continue to do so. And, hopefully, his missteps won't prevent other qualified candidates with first-hand knowledge of the challenges facing Madison's kids from coming forward in the future.

However, with great regret, we must withdraw our endorsement of Burkes. A credible write-in progressive candidate, Andrea Houlihan, has come forth and is deserving of your support, although she faces an uphill fight. (State Rep. Tammy Baldwin is a co-chair of her campaign.)

Clearly, recent events show the need for a better coordinated, ongoing progressive effort to recruit, screen and support good candidates for the school board. However, in the meantime, your vote can make a difference on April 4 for Eyvonne Crawford-Gray, Andy Franken and, as a write-in, for Andrea Houlihan.

Supreme Court Candidates Bradley and Crooks, Square off in Madison Debate

Analysis by John Quinlan

Madison-- Gay and Lesbian issues received unprecedented prominence during a March 24 debate between the two candidates for the Wisconsin State Supreme Court, Ann Bradley and Patrick Crooks.

The debate was part of the "We the People" voter participation project and was seen on commercial and public TV around the state. The winner in the April 4 election will fill the seat currently held by retiring progressive Nathan Heffernan, who currently presides as Chief Justice on the sharply divided court where conservatives hold a 4-3 majority.

Two of the seven citizen questioners were members of the statewide Lesbian and Gay political group, Action Wisconsin.

Newly elected Action Wisconsin President Juliet Brodie of Madison, asked both candidates how they would have ruled in a recent Lesbian adoption case.

In last year's Angel Lace case, the high court had ruled by a 4-3 margin, that the Lesbian partner of the biological mother could not legally adopt that child.

Crooks, a judge from Green Bay and a self-described judicial conservative stated unequivocally that he would have voted against the adoption.

"This is a case that illustrates a philosophical difference between myself and my opponent," he said. "I believe that you don't legislate from the bench. The court's majority said that existing state statutes would not permit it, even though the original trial judge said it was in the best interests of the child...I would have agreed with the majority."

Bradley, a judge from Wausau refused to say how she would have ruled. "I haven't had the opportunity to read the briefs in this case or to reflect upon it," she said. "I would not want to be quick to give an opinion without that opportunity."

While Bradley's response was disappointing to many advocates for Les/Gay family rights, legal experts close to the court say that her response indicates an open-mindedness that is encouraging.

These same experts say that Bradley's more progressive judicial philosophy and her history of other family law cases, makes it likely that she would be amenable to arguments for a broader reading of state statutes that is inclusive of Les/Gay families.

Mike Fitzpatrick of Green Bay, another Action Wisconsin member, challenged Crooks' representations of himself as a strict conservative, raising the question of whether this was crossing over the line into a kind of partisanship that was inappropriate in a non-partisan court race.

Crooks responded that this was entirely appropriate in that there was a difference between being a judicial conservative and a political conservative.

Most of the debate was characterized by verbal maneuvering on the part of both candidates that resulted in few clear answers to a broad range of questions. The result was a lot of frustrated citizen participants.

Action Wisconsin's Fitzpatrick and Brodie were interviewed for the March 25 *Wisconsin State Journal*. Fitzpatrick said he thought that Crooks' conservative judicial philosophy had come through much more clearly than Brad-

ley's markedly more progressive philosophy.

Fitzpatrick expressed concern that what he called "Bradley's waffling" had resulted in her failure to communicate what she really stands for.

One Lesbian activist present noted that the candidates' constant references to "leaving it to the legislature" missed the mark because the very reason a case is likely to reach the State Supreme Court is because the original legislative intent was unclear. This is especially true for cases involving a clear definition of "family"--something lacking in Wisconsin law.

Brodie was pleased with the new visibility being accorded Lesbian and Gay family issues. However, in retrospect, she said she wished she'd had the chance to ask both candidates simply if they thought that it could ever be in the best interests of the child to be placed in a Lesbian or Gay home.

"As it was," Brodie said, "on this, as on many issues, the voters are left having to read the tea leaves."

For more information about Action Wisconsin, call (608) 231-1099.

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Endorsements At a Glance

State Supreme Court
Ann Walsh Bradley

City of Madison Races
Common Council

Judy Olson
Mike Verveer
Mayor
Paul Soglin

School Board

Eyvonne Crawford-Gray
Andy Franken
Andrea Houlihan

Milwaukee Races

School Board

John Gardner
Sandra Small

Referendum
Question #2: YES

OUT AND ABOUT IN MADISON

Politics, "Queerlywed" Spoof, and New Programs for Young and Old

By John Quinlan

A good friend once observed that Madison's LesBiGay community is a place where the lines between our political and social lives are often blurred. In other words, when we come together to have fun and enjoy each other's company, some greater purpose is often served. So it was this March in the Madcity.

For openly Lesbian candidate Judy Olson, a long and hard-fought aldermanic race in Madison's south isthmus Sixth District will come to an end of April 4. Having worked along side Judy for almost a decade on housing rights issues, I'm extremely excited by the possibilities represented by the presence of her grassroots conscience and can-do political savvy at City Hall.

If elected, she will be an extraordinarily articulate and outspoken voice for the LesBiGay community--and a bridge builder with all of Madison's diverse communities. Want to meet this outstanding community leader? Judy's final campaign event is a Meet The Candidate gathering at Mother Fool's Coffee House, 1101 Williamson St., from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 2. For more information, or to volunteer for crucial get-out-the-vote efforts, call (608) 256-6540.

Mother Fool's was the place to be on Sunday, March 26th when WTSO's Sunday Night Out! took its show on the road. The 50 audience members who jammed into the popular LGB community hangout were doubled over with laughter as silliness and irreverence reigned at a Gay and Lesbian spoof of the Newlywed Game.

Bob Eubanks eat your heart out--SNO host Kristen Wilson's razor-sharp wit and impeccable timing in guiding four enthusiastic Lesbian and Gay couples through a spirited one hour parody Queerlywed Game far outshone anything ever aired on the Newlywed original. All four couples were amazingly good sports as they reacted with mock horror to their partner's sometimes off-target responses to such questions as "Where's the most unusual place you like to make whoopee?"

The show's second hour took a more serious tone as hosts Abby Hill and Richie Quetzal guided the audience through a discussion of hot topics they'd like to see on future shows.

One topic: Ways that the LGB community could reach out to children facing hunger and homelessness because of developments in Washington. Two ideas: A community garden and an LGB Habitat for Humanity-like home-building project.

Other suggested topics were: butchfemme identity questions in the Lesbian community; the hostility faced by some LGB parents within our own community; Gay issues in a corrections setting; and how and when Gay men fall into top and bottom roles.

Hill, Quetzal, Wilson and co-host Max Ward plan more outings into the community in the approaching warm weather months. To become involved with Sunday Night Out!, or to suggest show topics or places to go on-location, contact executive producer Diana Summers at (608) 274-1070. SNO airs every Sunday night on WTSO, 1070 AM, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

That same night, one audience member spoke movingly about the need to provide support for community members in same-sex relationships that become abusive. Coincidentally, the Light received a call this week from Dane County Advocates for Battered Women with the announcement that its crisis line is set up to take calls from men in abusive relationships.

Long identified as a resource for Lesbians, Advocates is now explicitly reaching out to Gay men. A spokesperson emphasized that while the program is still developing and largely relies on giving men appropriate referrals, the agency wants men in need of assistance to know that they are very much welcome. The Advocates Crisis Line which is staffed 24 hours a day, can be reached at (608) 251-4445. More on this later...

Wisconsin's own openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin has been a speaker in much demand nationally recently. March 27th was a typical week: just back from a keynote speech in San Diego, California to the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Concerns Network of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators on Monday, she jetted off to Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana for a speech during Women's History week on Wednesday evening, capped off with an appearance at Beloit College on Friday.

Still pending for sometime later this year: a White House outing to meet with other Gay and Lesbian elected officials and President Bill Clinton.

Madison's AIDS Support Network has be-

gun a nationwide search for a new Executive Director to succeed MaryAlice Mowry, who resigned at the end of February due to health-related concerns. (Please see ad this issue.)

Despite bigger picture concerns about federal housing funds for people with AIDS, construction is proceeding on the Rodney Scheel House, which will provide housing and supportive services for people with AIDS and HIV. Scheel House board members tell the Light that the money has already come down the pipeline, and that there is no question that the Scheel House will become reality.

What is less certain (depending on Congressional and presidential actions) is funding for certain supportive services at the Scheel House, and more than \$1 million in other housing assistance for people with AIDS in south central Wisconsin through a Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) grant. More to come as details become known...

Two groups at both ends of the spectrum often find themselves invisible in the larger LGB community: older LesBiGay people and LesBiGay youth. Both groups are finding new recognition and support in Madison.

For several months, interest has been building in the new Dane County chapter of Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE). At their March meeting, SAGE Milwaukee member Eldon Murray, told the group about the basics necessary to building a successful new organization. The next meeting is on April 29 at Luther Memorial Church from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. People of all ages are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Caroline at (608) 835-8971.

There is much interest in the challenges facing Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual youth following the success of the recent school board forum on our issues and the schools. If you know a young person in need of support, there is help. Co-sponsored by Briarpatch and PICADA, the Teens Like Us group provides a safe place for kids seeking answers and affirmation. Contact PICADA at (608) 246-7600 for more information.

Your comments, observations and story ideas are much appreciated. Leave a message for Out and About in Madison columnist John Quinlan at (608) 257-3744.

Women Want to be Men, Blacks Want to be White and Everyone Wants to be Gay

Charleston, WVA -- Activists at the state Capitol debated whether Gay people should be protected under hate crime laws despite the demise of a bill that would add Gays to the list of protected minorities.

Supporters and opponents of the bill gathered Monday, March 6, in the House chamber for the annual debate on extending the state hate crimes law.

Supporters said the proposal is necessary to protect Gay people from growing violence, but opponents argue it would give Gays special privileges.

"Laws that protect sexual preference would create a new and privileged class," said Gary Trout of the West Virginians for Decency and Morality, an organizations sponsored by the Far Religious Right.

The bill would turn men into "closet heterosexuals who will all claim they're homosexual to receive special treatment," he said. "They're all going to want to be homosexuals."

Governor Gaston Caperton had declared Monday as Civil Rights Day in West Virginia. The hearing in the House chamber focused on the hate crimes bill.

The bill, which would have added Gays to the state law protecting minorities from hate crimes, died earlier this session in the House Judiciary Committee.

Barbara Steinke of the West Virginia Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights said Gay people only want to live in safety.

"What is so special about being targeted for violence?" she asked.

Religious minorities are protected from violence, Steinke said.

"One is not born into a religion," she said. It's a matter of personal choice.

Scott Britton, another member of the Lesbian and Gay Rights coalition, said Gay people want protection against being evicted or fired because of their sexuality.

"What is it about me as a Gay man ... that inspires so much fear and so much special animosity?" he asked.

Lynda Ann Ewen, a sociologist and a member of the West Virginia Methodist Federation of Social Action, called on lawmakers to support the bill. She said democracy has gradually been expanded to allow women, blacks and people under 21 to vote.

"Our willingness to include more and more persons in this thing we call democracy is what makes this country great," Ewen said.

But many opponents said Gays should not be protected because they choose their lifestyle, while protected groups such as blacks and

women can't change their status. "They would if they could," one minister said, "but they can't."

"The issue on trial here is conduct," said Keith Wiebe, president of the West Virginia Christian Education Association. "Behavior that is chosen ... is behavior that must come under the laws that operate in moral harmony with the laws of this universe. If these people would stop acting like homosexuals, then they'd be okay and wouldn't need no protection."

Laws already exist to protect all citizens from violence, Wiebe said.

Sunday Night Out April Calendar

Madison's Gay/Les/Bi radio show, Sunday Night Out will feature the following topics and guests during the upcoming shows:

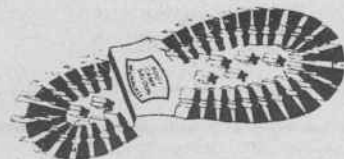
April 2-- Suzanne Westenhoffer (Lesbo comedian), James Hardy, author of B-Boy Blues, Bill Lang who is building a Gay retirement home in Sarasota, Florida and political correspondent and columnist for Wisconsin Light, John Quinlan on the upcoming elections.

April 9-- Michael Willhoyte, author of Daddy's Roommate and Lesbian author Jean Nestle.

April 16-- John Burger, author of One Handed Histories

April 23--Gina Ogdon, author of Women Who Love Sex

Sunday Night Out airs on WTSO, 1070 AM from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.



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2. Husbands, lovers or sweethearts
3. Having the qualities consistent with manliness.

At

- (at) *prep.* 1. Used to indicate position or location: at home; at rest. 2. Used to indicate a direction or goal: look at us.

Work

- (Wurk) *n.* 1. Physical or mental effort; labor. 2. Something that has been produced as the result of an effort

Men at Work *phr.* A group of men learning together how to maintain healthy relationships.

The Men at Work Program is teaching men in the Milwaukee area how to maintain healthy relationships and stay safe. Would you like to get involved? New workshops are forming now for March 18th and April 8th. Earn while you learn--get paid up to \$265 for your participation in this study. Want to learn more? Call Indy at the number below.

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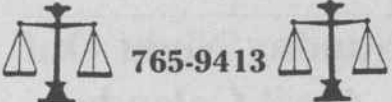
a study for men who have sex with men

A program offered by the Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR)



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New French Lesbian Love Film Brings Lesbians into Mainstream, Critics Say

By Marilyn August
Paris, France-- Out of the closet and onto the big screen, a snappy new comedy about a menage a trois involving a yuppie couple and their Lesbian house guest has, for the first time, squarely placed Gay women in the mainstream of French cinema.

With generally favorable reviews from predominantly male critics, *Gazon Maudit* was France's most popular film in February, prompting a French media blitz about Lesbian love.

Three Lesbian couples, including high school seniors Sylvie and Odile, "came out" in the pages of the weekly magazine VSD. Others flooded radio talk shows and told all in primetime television interviews.

Veteran actress and director Josiane Balasko wrote, directed and starred as Marijo, the crop-haired, cigarillo-smoking truck driver who falls madly in love with Loli, a bored housewife with two children and untapped Lesbian urges, played by Spanish actress Victoria Abril.

The film's title, which means "cursed lawn," is a play on the French slang for female pubic hair and sets the tone for this brazen romp through bourgeois manners and morals.

Trouble comes calling when Marijo's van breaks down in front of Loli's comfortable Mediterranean villa.

"Mama," calls her 5-year-old son. "There's a man here asking for you."

Despite her mannish appearance, Marijo is not a man at all. Within minutes, she has unclogged Loli's sink and ends up sipping coffee, unburdening her soul at the kitchen table.

Enter Laurent, Loli's handsome husband, a successful real estate agent and compulsive womanizer who does not even try to hide his contempt for Lesbians.

Imagine his shock when he catches Marijo sliding her hand up Loli's thigh under the table at a restaurant.

The film, approved for general audiences in France, portrays female passion. There's lots of kissing and a nude bathtub scene with plenty of skin.

The weekly *Evenement du Jeudi*, which ran

a 10-page spread on the Gay women, called *Gazon Maudit* a breakthrough in the portrayal of Lesbians.

"Male homosexuality is always treated with civility in the movies," wrote critic Odile Grand in the magazine. "Lesbians? They're either X-rated with a capital X, or played by silicone-breasted supervamps in black garter belts."

The Lesbian press, while applauding Balasko's nerve and wit, called the "family style" happy ending-- Marijo has a baby--a cop-out to straight, middle-class values.

Writing in *Lesbia Magazine*, film critic Catherine Gonnard said she was put off by the use of stereotypes.

"I've never known how to unclog a sink, I don't smoke, I hate wearing keys on my belt, children and married women make me run away ... and yet my baker calls me 'monsieur,'" she said.

Some Lesbians were offended by Balasko's post-production efforts to justify the film and underplay the differences between straight and Gay love.

"I'm not preaching," Balasko said in a television interview. "I just wanted to say that a love story, even Gay love, can happen at any time, to anybody."

In an interview with the weekly magazine VSD, Balasko, who is 44, married and has children, said the movie was more about universal love.

"My character is homosexual. But she is also and above all a human being, full of wonderful qualities," Balasko said.

Balasko claims never to have had a lesbian experience, saying she "thought really hard about Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall" when she had to kiss Abril for the first time.

Gonnard wondered what she felt the second time.

Most Lesbians said the film indicates that female homosexuality is finally coming out of the closet.

"In the past, you could always count on a handful of vocal, militant Lesbians to make public statements on different subjects," said Sabine Cousseau, a reporter for the gay magazine *Exit*. "Now, more and more and more Lesbians and Bisexuals are coming out and affirming their identities."

"You don't just have the butch types with shaved heads in men's clothes. There's a whole slew of preppy-looking, middle-class girls unafraid to show themselves for what they are."

A spokeswoman for producer Claude Berri said the film would probably be released in the United States next Fall.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GAMMA Outdoor Planning Meeting

Milwaukee-- The semi-annual planning meeting of Outdoor Cooperative will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 6, 1995, at the upstairs party room of M&M's., 124 N. Water St., Milwaukee. All are welcome. The possibilities for events during the balance of 1995 include: backpacking along the Lake Superior Trail in northern Minnesota or Pictured Rocks Lakeshore in northern Michigan; skydiving; a canoe and sea kayaking trip in northern Michigan, northern Minnesota or Ontario; and a Volunteer Vacation such as working on an archeological dig or helping with trail maintenance for the DNR. 1996 plans call for a late Summer rafting trip through the Grand Canyon. For more information, please call Pat Brady at (414) 273-1193.

White-Water Rafting Excursion

Milwaukee-- A Gay/Lesbian white-water rafting excursion will be held on Saturday, May 27th down the wild Peshtigo River. Men and women of all experience levels are welcome to join Milwaukee's GAMMA and Madison's Frontiers outdoor groups for a 2:00 p.m. launching near Crivitz, Wisconsin. High water is expected.

The cost is \$17 per person plus transportation, food and beverages. Two-person rafts, paddles, helmets, life jackets and instruction are provided with the fee. Some of the group will camp overnight and take a Menominee River run (including a ten foot waterfall) on Sunday, May 28. For reservations, call GAMMA at (414) 963-9833 or write: GAMMA, P.O. Box 1900, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls

Madison-- Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls continue their monthly party schedule with a square dance round-up. Guest instructors will be Glen and Sue from Madison's Dairyland Rainbow Squares and Joe and Friends from Milwaukee's Cream City Squares. Instruction will be at beginner's walk-thru levels. Open dance time will be available. The event is scheduled for Friday, April 7 at Grace Church Guild Hall, 116 W. Washington Ave. Madison (enter thru Garden Court yard), 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. \$4 at the door. FMI--(608) 251-6723 or (608) 255-1523.

Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls are also out every Saturday night at Geraldine's. Free dance line and 2-step instruction is provided.

Gay and Lesbian Educators' Group Meeting

Milwaukee-- The Gay and Lesbian Educational Employees of Metropolitan Milwaukee (GLEEMM) will be meeting on Sunday, April 9 at 2:00 p.m. Educational and advocacy issues as they pertain to our community will be discussed. This meeting will be both informational and social. Those attending are asked to bring a dish to pass and to bring their own beverages. The food will be served at 2:00 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 2:30 p.m. All Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual employees and educational support staff from the metropolitan Milwaukee area are invited to join the meeting. For more information, contact Larry at (414) 384-9695.

LAMM Softball Team

Milwaukee-- Softball season is just around the corner. The LAMM (Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee) softball team is looking for a few good Lesbians to fill its 1995 roster. Lesbians of all skill levels are welcome to join. According to Coach Jessie Banike-Palme, the requirements are simple: you must be willing to enjoy the sport of softball. Ms. Banike-Palme, a Wisconsin native, has returned after living in Nevada for the last several years. She is an experienced softball player and coach and she is enthusiastic about coaching the LAMM team. To join or for more information, call the LAMM office at (414) 264-2600.

LAMM's April Program: Home Buying

Milwaukee-- "Anyone Can Buy a Home" is the title of the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee's (LAMM) April program scheduled for Thursday, April 20, at 7:00 p.m. at Just Us, 807 S. 5th St. A panel of experts will discuss and answer questions regarding the ins and outs of buying investment property, as well as buying a home. This program is designed especially for Lesbians interested in buying a house or investment property for the first time. Experienced buyers are also welcome to join in the discussion. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided at 6:00 p.m. by Just Us in lieu of a potluck dinner and, of course, there is no charge to attend the program. All Lesbians are welcome. You need not be a member to attend.

Fight for Gay Freedom Demands that Gays Who are Closeted Come Out

London, England--In halting tones, the Church of England's third-ranking bishop says his sexuality is "ambiguous." Another bishop announces he is Gay.

Such statements may be cracking the Anglican Communion's official disapproval of homosexuality.

"We never thought we would succeed so quickly," says Peter Tatchell, leader of OutRage!, a Gay activist group dedicated to "outing" prominent people as Gay or Lesbian. "We are effectively determining the policy of the Church of England toward homosexuality."

Disowned by many other Gay movements in Britain, reviled by commentators and denounced by church leaders, Tatchell, a 43-year-old free-lance writer, runs his war against prominent figures he maintains are closet Gays from a \$63-a-month apartment in a shabby public housing project in south London.

In recent months, public demonstrations, private goadings and weekly meetings with his 30 followers have yielded the biggest coup so far.

On Monday, March 20, Tatchell expanded the campaign to politicians. He announced in a television interview that he had written to 20 lawmakers from four parties, including two Cabinet ministers, urging them to come out.

Tatchell, who started his group in 1990, brushes aside charges of bullying, intimidation and intrusion into privacy.

"There are times when you have to use confrontational methods. ... Our tactics have put the hypocrisy and homophobia of the Church of England into the public domain," Tatchell told The Associated Press in an interview last week.

The controversy boiled over this month when the retired bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, the Rt. Rev. Derek Rawcliffe, 74, became the most senior Anglican clergyman to reveal that he is Gay.

Days later, the bishop of London, the Rt. Rev. David Hope, called a news conference. He produced a letter from Tatchell urging him to declare he is a Gay man.

"I am deeply distressed," complained Hope, a 54-year-old bachelor. He said he was celibate, neither heterosexual nor homosexual, adding, "I am talking about being more ambiguous about my sexuality."

The head of the church, Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey, issued a supportive statement and other bishops rallied around Hope and denounced the tactics of OutRage!

Stonewall, a Gay activist group headed by the actor Sir Ian McKellen, said outing "alienates possible supporters of equality."

Tatchell, however, maintains that Gay people are in a war for their rights and liberties as human beings. "We can't afford to have these people hidden safely away in the closet," he said, "when there are those of us out here on the front lines getting killed."

Rawcliffe and Hope were targets of a campaign dating back to November, when Tatchell and followers picketed a meeting of the church's governing General Synod, carrying placards naming 10 alleged Gay bishops.

Tatchell, however, admits he doesn't know whether all 10 were sexually active. "Some are, some aren't," he said, adding, "But what difference does it make? Being Gay isn't an act, not something you do. You're not Gay only when you have sex. Being Gay is who you are. It's a state of being. So, active or not, they're still Gay and we're going to out them all, including the royal family."

Five more bishops, including Rawcliffe and Hope, were not named on those placards but were selected for what Tatchell calls "gentle persuasion"--private meetings and letters saying OutRage! has details of their personal lives and urging them to declare themselves as being Gay.

OutRage! has yielded swift rewards by focusing on the church's quandary about homosexuality--underlined by a statement March 17 from 36 archbishops of the worldwide Anglican Communion that there were "no easy answers."

The church's official position is that homosexual acts "fall short of the Christian tradition." The church also bars ordination of sexually active Gay people. It allows marriage among priests.

Tatchell, now an atheist, was raised in a strict, churchgoing family in Australia, and came to Britain in 1971 to avoid the Vietnam draft. He plunged into left-wing politics, losing a Labor Party parliamentary stronghold in 1983 because, as he puts it, blue-collar voters rejected "a bloody Queer."



Auction Time!--Milwaukee Mayor John O. Norquist, Doug Nelson and Susan Mudd were enjoying themselves in one of the silent auction rooms at the March 25, 1995, Make A Promise Dinner.

Jerry Johnson

New Disk Pak Takes the Worry Out of Using Your Modem to Get You Online

Milwaukee--Over 6 million computers were sold during 1994 for home use, and many of those included modems that allow computers to talk over standard telephone lines to other computers. Most new computer users have little idea what to use their modems for, beyond calling the expensive national pay services.

There are nearly 100 computer bulletin boards in the Milwaukee area, and over 40,000 nationwide. Many of these are free, and others have low yearly fees. These bulletin boards offer a wide range of services and entertainment, but many people are not aware of them.

The Gay/Lesbian community has its own bulletin board systems, both locally and nationally.

To introduce computer users to calling online services and computer bulletin boards, a Milwaukee company, Quatterra Communications Corp. has produced a new disk package that is now available. The two color package includes both 5.25 and 3.5 inch disks, instructions and a registration card for free updates. It is available in area stores and by mail order for only \$9.95.

It includes everything you need to make your online sessions immediately fun and productive. The disk contains a full book in easy-to-use hypertext format to provide all the basics on using bulletin boards and the Internet. It includes a telecom program with a selection of Milwaukee online systems already included.

This easy to use program will have you online in a couple of minutes.

The disks also include various free and shareware utility programs to uncompress files, view color photographs, handle messaging, and other things. The entire package installs itself with only the press of a couple of keys.

Online systems included on the disk include Exec-PC, the largest BBS in the world right here in New Berlin; Phantasy, a games oriented system; AbleServ, a disability and medical oriented system, and GLINN, which serves the Gay/Lesbian community.

The GLINN Multi-Board BBS has been online since 1989 serving the Gay community. It offers messages, shareware files, CD-ROMs, the largest Gay graphics collection in Milwaukee, full news wires, and many other things. GLINN was the first BBS to be listed in the Ameritech Yellow Pages, and the only Gay BBS currently listed. If you already are calling BBS's, dial (414) 289-0145 at 2400bps or 289-9348 up to 14.4k. GLINN is also one of the few systems that gives full access to free users, including live chat.

The disk package can be ordered from GLINN Publishing Corporation, P.O. Box 93626, Milwaukee, WI 53203-0626. Mail check/m.o. or credit card information. For credit card orders or more information, call (414) 289-8640.

The Pope and Jesus Wouldn't Get Along Says Cybill Shepherd In Rare Interview

Albany, NY-- The third anniversary issue of America's first nationally distributed HIV/AIDS magazine, *Art & Understanding*, was released in January and contained the first in-depth print interview in five years with one of America's leading actresses and AIDS activists, Cybill Shepherd.

In the interview, conducted by Features Editor Nick Steele, Shepherd reflects on sex in America, the responsibility of parents and adults have for taking the forefront in the education of youth about sexuality, and homophobia within organized religion.

Shepherd made her stand on sexual orientation public in the last March On Washington. In the interview, she calls the March one of the most moving experiences of her life.

She contrasts the love and unity that she felt from Lesbians and Gay men at the March with the bitter hatred coming from the Fundamentalists Christians there. Yet, she says, she found confronting these people exhilarating.

"How often do you get to face the people who are saying these words of hatred and call it for what it is?" she asks.

She goes on to say that "I've never experienced such an outpouring of love (from those Lesbians and Gay men). It was one of the high points of my life."

Shepherd takes an equally strong stand with regard to the Catholic Church. "I think the Catholic Church's stand on homosexuality is horribly evil. It's as though they dipped right down into Satan's closet and brought out some hideous stuff... When I think of Jesus, I think of someone who is truly about love. I don't think he'd get along too well with the Pope."

Art & Understanding is published to collect, archive, print and distribute the growing body of literary and artistic expression emanating from the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The lengthy interview with Shepherd appears in the current issue which will be on the stands until the middle of March.

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POLITICALLY SPEAKING

Let's Starve the Poor Because the Rich Are the Only Ones Who Matter to the GOP

Commentary by Bill Meunier

There is more to worry about concerning Washington than Gay and Lesbian issues. There is also our future as a society. That future is something that those in control of Congress and our state government seem to want to gamble away.

No matter what you think of the idea of having a balanced budget at the federal level, you must admit that a constitutional amendment is certainly a rather extreme method for achieving that goal.

The constitution is a document which sets a frame work concerning the structure of our government and our rights as citizens. It has never and should never be used to legislate day to day policies.

As Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) rightly points out, rejection of both the Clinton tax credit plan and the plan proposed by the Republicans would cut the deficit substantially.

But there is no political hay to be made in refusing to vote for tax cuts. There is political hay in posturing for a Balanced Budget Amendment and leaving the tough decisions for someone else to make.

You would think a party that badly wants to increase defense spending would realize that in wartime, deficit spending is almost a necessity.

Of course the Wisconsin legislature has its own lunacy. Hundreds of people packed the house to support a new law that would allow anyone who is legally able to do so to carry a concealed weapon.

Don't you just love it when those who live in low crime rural areas want to tell those who live in higher crime urban centers how to protect themselves? As a resident of the City of Milwaukee, I don't think I would be or even feel safer with more guns on the streets.

Anyone who thinks allowing just about anyone who can sign their name to carry a gun will make us safer should report to the nearest firing range. They may need new targets.

Back in Washington the House passed a bill that would limit punitive damages in civil suits to \$250,000. Worse yet, if you file a suit and lose or get less money than was offered to you, you have to pay for the other side's attorneys.

This little gem was of course part of the fine print in that "Contract With America." There is even a TV ad which claims that Little League baseball could be wiped unless action is taken. The ad concludes with small little leaguer begging the viewer "Please help us," and an appeal to call your Congressman or Senator via an 800 number.

The ad was produced by the "Citizen's For Legal Reform"--translation: a bunch of companies who have been sued for making unsafe products.

Certainly some lawsuits have generated what seem to be excessive settlements. BUT keep in mind that those settlements were awarded by a jury that heard everything both sides had to say and thought they were justified.

If the GOP really wants to help kids (Little Leaguers or not), they'll leave the school nutrition program alone. America is supposed to be a country where everyone has an equal chance, but its hard to have an equal chance if you aren't educated. And its hard to learn in school if you are hungry.

Some would argue that its the parent's job to feed their kids. That's true, but when parents do not live up to their responsibility or can not fulfill that responsibility is it logical to punish their children?

When the press reported the danger to the school nutrition programs, Rush Limbaugh called them liars and told his listeners to call their local newspapers and complain.

Thousands of these idiots did just that. Apparently every newspaper, analysts from both parties and of course the President is wrong. Only Rush has the truth.

While the GOP is screaming that the Democrats are practicing class warfare, the Republicans are loading up the guns and firing away at the lower and middle class.

Witness the GOP proposal to cut back on the National Endowment for the Arts. These cutbacks could mean that millions of Americans who can't afford the price of a theater or symphony ticket would be denied access to free performances or presentations on public television.

Witness Governor Thompson's proposal to cut taxes on those who earn more than \$200,000 a year by .06%. This tax cut would be paid for by cutting funds for medical services for disabled lower income people.

While the GOP in Congress is screaming for a balanced budget they want to cut taxes on the wealthy, raise defense spending and severely cut federal programs for the poor.

While the Republicans are yelling about the size of the government they are attacking the FIRST President in decades who has actually cut the number of federal employees.

Its all double speak. Say one thing and do another. Then they wonder why so many people are turned off on politics. When the 17% of the American people who voted Republican in the last election handed Congress over to the GOP, they didn't do it to deny school lunches to those in need, they didn't do it to give tax breaks to the rich, and they didn't do it to cut down on the number of quality educational and cultural programs on public television and in theaters and galleries around the country.

But then again they didn't realize that the "Contract For America" is really "The Contract ON America's Middle and Lower Classes."

Utah Governor Signs Bill Denying Legal Recognition to Same-Sex Marriages

Salt Lake City, UT-- In an update to an earlier story in Light, Utah Governor Mike Leavitt has signed the bill denying recognition to same-sex marriages.

No state recognizes legal marriages between members of the same sex, but Hawai'i may do so.

A recent ruling by the Hawai'i Supreme Court indicated the justices would wipe out the state's ban on same-sex marriage unless its constitutionality could be proved.

A trial to decide the issue is scheduled for next Fall, with appeals expected whatever the outcome.

Utah law for years has banned same sex marriage marriages although in the last century, Utah did allow a man to have multiple wives. This was thought to be moral.

However, Lynn Wardle, a law professor at Brigham Young University, said another section of the law could be used to force recognition of same-sex marriages performed outside

Utah. Gay groups threatened to sue if the measure passed.

The threat won't be acted on until the Hawai'i case is decided, say representatives of Gay and Lesbian Utah Democrats (GLUD) and the Utah Log Cabin Club, an organization for Gay Republicans.

"We have plaintiffs lining up waiting to fly to Hawai'i to get married literally minutes after it is legalized there," GLUD's David Nelson said Thursday, March 16.

"Unfortunately, the taxpayers will have to pay for another frivolous law that the state will lose on in court," said Log Cabin leader Chris Ryan.

Opponents will challenge the bill, which Leavitt signed Tuesday, on the contention that it violates constitutional guarantees of equal protection, right to interstate travel and a clause in the Federal Constitution requiring states to recognize all "acts, records and judicial proceedings" of other states.

American Civil Liberties Union of Utah Director Carol Gnade said she expects the civil-rights organization to be involved in the suit.

Nelson said he also wants to challenge the bill based on evidence it passed after the legal deadline of midnight on the final night of the legislative session. Legislative leaders contend it passed before the deadline.

**Remember
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Executive Director

The Madison AIDS Support Network seeks an Executive Director. MASN provides a wide range of support and education services in a 13-county area of South Central Wisconsin and has a 1995 budget of over \$1.2 million. Madison, Wisconsin's capital, is cosmopolitan yet compact and offers a wide variety of cultural and recreational activities.

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Salary range: \$40-50K, MASN provides a competitive benefit package. Send a current resume and a detailed letter of application, in confidence, to: MASN Search Committee, P.O. Box 46212, Madison, WI 53744-5212. Deadline for all applications is May 1, 1995.

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Gores Entertain Gay Lobbyists Hoping to Gain Gay Community Support for 1996

Washington, D.C.-- Vice President Al Gore and his wife, Tipper, reached out to the Gay community and entertained 150 of its political activists at a party in their home.

A pianist played show tunes and a pet Labrador begged at the buffet table as officers and members of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), a Gay lobby, rubbed elbows with the Gores on Friday night, March 3.

"It's a wonderful thing to do what you're doing, and that's devoting your lives to others," Gore told the guests. "This dedication is an outgrowth of the way you live your entire lives."

"We very deeply share your vision of a society that is fair and free of discrimination for Gay and Lesbian people, and we want you to know that," Mrs. Gore said.

The vice president took note of what he called "a tremendous victory" Thursday when the House Appropriations Committee voted to restore \$36 million that it previously had decided to cut from AIDS programs this year.

HRCF "was instrumental in this victory and we understand very well why it is so important to have an organization that fights for the rights of Americans to be free of discrimination and to have a self-government that responds to the challenges that we face," the Vice President said.

The reception was an effort by the administration to reach out politically to the Gay community, many of whose members are bitterly disappointed by President Clinton.

Among their complaints have been the President's inability to overturn the ban on

Gays in the military and the Justice Department's refusal to support legal challenges to anti-Gay initiatives.

But there have been advances as well. Several of Clinton's openly Gay appointees-- including Bruce Lehman, head of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and Assistant Housing Secretary Roberta Achtenberg were also at the party.

Elizabeth Birch, HRCF's executive director, acknowledged that the reception, while festive and pleasant, had political undertones.

"Evenings like tonight and reaching out in significant ways between now and 1996 will be absolutely necessary gestures as part of an overall calculation for political victory," she said.

"I think the President feels extremely unappreciated, and whether or not the administration has legitimate reasons for feeling that, the fact is that Gay and Lesbian people are somewhat disenchanted."

Gay and Lesbian voters were widely credited with providing the financial margin for the Clinton-Gore victory in 1992 and helping Clinton win election in other ways as well. David Mixer, a Clinton friend and political adviser who is openly Gay, raised millions of dollars in the LesBiGay community for the campaign.

Jeff Sachse, a Chicago attorney, said he is already planning to vote for Clinton again in 1996. "I think there's some dismay (among Gays), but I think you have to politically realistic," he said.



Royal Is My Blood--Liam Neeson and Jessica Lange star in "Rob Roy," an epic romance of 18th Century Scotland. The film opens April 7 nationwide.

It's Still a Year Away, But the Presidential Campaign Heats Up in New Hampshire

Concord, NH-- Don't look now, but the 1996 presidential campaign has already begun in New Hampshire, at least. In that bell-weather state, AIDS activists and state Democrats are taking to the airwaves to ensure their messages are heard as Republicans with presidential aspirations hit the streets.

The state Democratic Party is running radio ads defending President Clinton and saying Governor Steve Merrill doesn't tell the whole story about Republican-dominated New Hampshire.

A group called "Americans for Gay Rights" is concerned candidates might deliberately overlook AIDS. It is running television commercials to grab their attention.

The Democrats' ads are fashioned after the Harry and Louise spots produced by critics of the president's health care reform package. They feature "Harold and Lorraine."

"Hey, Lorraine, did you hear that (Bob) Dole, (Phil) Gramm and those other Republican wannabees are coming to New Hampshire

to run for president," says a man's voice.

"Yeah, Harry, I understand Governor Merrill is going to tell them to run the country like he's running New Hampshire," the woman responds.

"Oh my gosh" a dejected "Harry" sighs. The AIDS ad carries a simple message: "AIDS is now the leading cause of death in Americans 25 to 44," it says. "The costs in dollars and lives can no longer be ignored. A candidate who doesn't have a plan to fight AIDS doesn't deserve to be president."

Spokesman Michael Petrelis said the ads are the beginning of a long campaign in which the group will focus on using TV commercials to make its point.

"We do not anticipate having to scream at the candidates and we're hoping that we can do video 'in your face' activism to make all of the candidates, both from the Democratic and Republican Party, address AIDS in America" as the top issue, Petrelis said.

New British Studies Bolster Evidence Tying New Herpes Virus to AIDS Cancer

London, England--Two new studies lend credence to scientific speculation that a new herpes-like virus causes Kaposi's sarcoma, the deadly and disfiguring cancer that strikes more than a quarter of Gay men with AIDS.

The studies, despite their small size, advance previous research by finding evidence for the herpes-like virus not only in AIDS patients but in patients who have the cancer without AIDS.

Kaposi's sarcoma also strikes elderly, Jewish and Mediterranean men without AIDS, but it is rare and more benign among them.

For years, doctors have been hunting for a virus tied to Kaposi's sarcoma. The search was prompted, in part, because the cancer is more common among Gay men with AIDS than other AIDS patients, suggesting a sexually transmitted germ as the cause.

Finding the culprit would help doctors tailor treatments, or possibly even prevent the cancer.

The search gained momentum in December with the release of a widely publicized study by Columbia University researchers who isolated genetic material from AIDS patients with Kaposi's sarcoma. The genes suggested a new form of herpes virus.

"Our study goes further but we still haven't proved a cause and effect relationship with this herpes virus," said Dr. Alvin Friedman-Kien, one of the investigators in the new study.

But he added, "it is very suggestive and I think everybody is pretty sure" it is the cause.

Despite the presentation of many similar, small studies at recent AIDS meetings, several experts interviewed said they were not yet convinced about a new virus.

Before blaming a virus, scientists need to isolate it, rather than base their results on bits of genetic material.

Investigators also need to test healthy people for the virus. If the virus exists in many of them, it could weaken the argument it is the sole cause of Kaposi's sarcoma.

The new research extends the original Columbia findings, said Dr. Thomas Schulz, an AIDS researcher at the Institute of Cancer Research in London. "I don't think anybody knows for certain (whether the new virus is the cause) but it is the best candidate so far."

Several other viruses have been suspected, only to be discredited in larger studies.

In 1992, Friedman-Kien's team published a report in the British medical journal *The Lancet* claiming that human papilloma virus that causes genital warts is the most likely cause of Kaposi's sarcoma. Further studies showed that it was not.

In the latest study of patients with Kaposi's sarcoma, Friedman-Kien's team found genetic material from the herpes virus in seven of eight patients with so-called classic Kaposi's sarcoma, elderly men from the Mediterranean with a mild form of the cancer.

They also found the bits of DNA in seven of 10 African men, and similar evidence in 12 Gay men with AIDS tested.

According to the second study in *The Lancet*,

by Dr. Nicolas Dupin's team at Tarnier Hospital in Paris, similar genetic material was found in five patients who have Kaposi's sarcoma but not AIDS; four patients with both illness; but not in patients without the cancer.

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Quotes of an Unquestionably Queer Nature

By Jamakaya

Rosanne told this sad tale in her recent interview with the *Advocate*. She was asked about her Gay brother and Lesbian sister as kids:

"I saw how hard it was for them. It was horrifying for both of them. We knew with my brother because every Halloween he wanted to be a girl. He had his nose broken nine times by the time he was 10 years-old, walking home from school and being called a faggot or a Jew faggot. And he couldn't come home and say he was beaten because he was Gay; he said it was because he was a Jew. And my dad would call him a sissy. So many kids like that commit suicide in their teens. If people knew how bad their homophobia hurts kids, they'd get over it."

British stage and film director Nicholas Hytner, who brought us *The Madness of King George*, told the *Advocate* he hasn't had any problems being openly Gay: "Within the theater industry, homosexuality is hardly the love that dare not speak its name. It's the love that doesn't ever shut its fucking mouth."

Senator Herb "I am not Gay or Lesbian" Kohl is up to his goofy malapropisms again. Last Fall, when he voted in support of the budget bill, he defended his vote in the press by saying: "You don't have much of a choice when you have to vote yes or no." **Huh Herbie?** Recently, talking about the need for bipartisanship in the Senate, Kohl suggested that Democrats and Republicans "get in bed" together! He may not be Gay or Lesbian, but he sure is queer!

Glenn Close spoke to *Out* about her smooch with Judy Davis in the TV movie about Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer: "We were a little nervous, but each time we did it, we got less self-conscious...During that scene with Judy, I had a revelation of what it's like to be Gay. I thought, 'It's kind of nice to kiss a woman.'" Go, Glennie!

"I see it as a political statement, actually," Sally Owen told *Sappho's Isle* about the recent closing of New York City's only women's bookstore, Judith's Room. "We, as Lesbians, have seemingly chosen to lend our support to the Gay and Lesbian movement as opposed to supporting the women's movement. I see the two movements as the antithesis of each other."

Owen, co-owner of Judith's Room, continued, "The Gay and Lesbian movement is essentially a movement of inclusion, wanting a piece of the pie. The feminist movement wasn't about inclusion, it was about changing the world. Changing the patriarchal structure."

Barney Frank commented after the infamous slur "Barney Fag" was used against him by Rep. Dick Armey: "This was the first major counter-attack against me based on my being Gay, and it was done so inartfully and crudely that it backfired, it blew up in their face. It makes it less likely that they'll use it against me or anybody else again." We'll see, Barney...

"I'm insulted when I see Gay and Lesbian artists shy away from same-gender pronouns," Brit pop star Jimmy Somerville told *Out*. "It's an unfortunate manipulation of honesty that collects Gay dollars without an even exchange."

Such uneven exchanges were the subject of an excellent essay, "Maybe I Am, But No I Won't" in the December *Deneuve*. Victoria A. Brownworth wrote of the reluctance of prominent Lesbians to be out. The most surprising anecdote was about Donna Deitch, director of the Lesbian classic *Desert Hearts*, who threatened to end the interview when Brownworth asked her about the difficulty of being a Lesbian director.

"She told me," reports Brownworth, "that I was assuming she was a Lesbian and that only Lesbians made that assumption...Dietch told me *Desert Hearts*, her first feature film, was not a Lesbian love story, but a story of friendship between two women. As to why she had made such a movie, she replied it was the kind of film she had always wanted to see. To me, the saddest aspect of this story is that Deitch worked for ten years to raise money to make *Desert Hearts* and struggled for several more to find a distributor..."

Say it ain't so, Janis! The writer of the classic song "At Seventeen," about teen angst and being an outsider, trashed overweight Lesbians in her *Advocate* column last Fall. Referring to the "poundage problem," Janis Ian equated being overweight with "slovenliness" and suggested these fashion tips: "If you can't be tipped over in a high wind, you need to lose weight" and "Any horizontal rolls must remain covered. Since when is it okay to parade around looking like a fallen soufflé?"

Among many angry responses, Nancy Rescher of Sausalito wrote: "All of us who are not someone else's idea of perfect have the thoughtless acts of people like (Ian) to thank



Jamakaya

for making each day harder. I believe the absence of cruelty, insensitivity and thoughtlessness are true measures of a woman's beauty." As a woman of weight, I say "Hear, hear!"

Victoria Brownworth wrote a great critique of the inane, but ubiquitous, Camille Paglia in an essay about the greater presence of assimilationists and neo-conservatives in the Gay limelight. Here dynamite essay was in the January/February *Lambda Book Report*.

Wrote Brownworth: "Pseudo-intellectual media queen Camille Paglia is the only Lesbian in the neo-con limelight. Like most necons, Paglia has little criticism for the anti-Queer straight culture; the focus of her invective are feminists, Lesbians and leftist Queer politicians. She has gained entree into straight society and earned a cult following among Gay men because she speaks so highly of them while denigrating other women."

"Paglia declares her love of men and male power. She has said in interviews that date rape doesn't exist; that when women become Lesbians their IQ's drop while when men become Gay, their IQ's rise. Neo-con women take the assimilationist theorem straight is best and expose its hidden postulate: male is best. Paglia claims Lesbians have 'never achieved anything great' and her Gay male compatriots agree with her because it is the misogynist straight assessment."

Paglia recently told the *Chicago Tribune*: "I like pinching people, kicking people, OK?...I have the brain of a rapist."

Case closed.

(Many thanks to my old friend Doreen Riley, now residing in Madison, for the new photo that accompanies this column. Doreen is a phlebotomist, a photographer and a masseuse. Over the years, she's taken my blood, she's taken my photo--can the massage be far behind?)

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TV AIDS Commercial Features Gay Self Esteem While Encouraging Safer Sex

Seattle, WA-- Self-esteem, not education, may be the key to getting Gay men to practice safer sex, and advocates are betting \$100,000 on a commercial television campaign to encourage the practice.

"People won't take care of themselves if they don't care for themselves," said Robert Wood, director of AIDS control for the Seattle-King County Health Department.

"A lot of studies show most Gay men know what they need to do," Wood said. "Knowledge is not lacking, but what is lacking is self-esteem among many and a sense the community cares," he said.

The television campaign, designed by the Northwest AIDS Foundation, is in response to what appears to be a second wave of HIV/AIDS on the West Coast as many Gay men, some fatalistic about their prospects of survival, revert to unsafe sex.

The television campaign is the first time Gay pride has been used to motivate Gay men to practice safer sex and HIV/AIDS prevention, its promoters say.

The 30-second commercial shows soft-toned pictures of men as an announcer says: "He is tall, he is short, he is dark, he is light. He is strong and weak. ... He is sexy, he is shy."

The commercial ends with the announcer saying: "He is Gay, and he is proud. Ending AIDS begins with pride."

The commercial will be aired on television shows viewed widely by young men, including "The Simpsons," "X-Files," "Saturday Night Live" and even the "Rush Limbaugh" show.

"This campaign is about staying alive and the need to value yourself, ... to make people relate to their humanity in order to protect it," said Martin McCombs, a psychologist who heads the foundation's education program.

The campaign was financed with private donations raised by the Northwest AIDS Foundation. The ads will be shown during the first half of March and the last half of June.

Television stations have supported the ads, agreeing to reduced rates and promising to provide a portion of the air time free, said Liz

Smith, the foundation's communications director.

The commercial is not without controversy. It's a "twisted ad" that fails to encourage sexual restraint, said Cathy Mickels, president of the Washington Alliance of Families, a Right Wing Christian group and former spokeswoman for a failed initiative campaign to promote discrimination against Gay people.

"This is a pro-homosexual message that is nothing more than an extension of the sexual revolution of the Sixties," Mickels said.

"The Northwest AIDS Foundation, in an attempt to validate their lifestyle, sadly will lead even more young men along the path of sin, more pain and death."

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BOOK REVIEWS

In His New Book, Greg Louganis Not Only Breaks the Surface, He Takes the Plunge

Breaking the Surface
Greg Louganis
Random House, \$23.00

By Brian Jackle

"I wouldn't wish my life on anyone," blasts the subtitle of *People* magazine's cover on Olympic champion diver Greg Louganis, and after reading his harrowing autobiography, **Breaking the Surface**, one can only respond "Amen!" Louganis' life story reflects the all-too-familiar painful, yet exhilarating journey many first generation post-Stonewall Gay men have taken.

While Louganis makes the episode at the 1988 Olympic Games when he cracked his head on the diving board and spilled blood into the pool, the centerpiece of his book, it's only one of several traumas.

"Even I find parts of my life shocking. And I was there to live it," Louganis writes.

Breaking the Surface tells the heart-wrenching story of a lonely boy who struggled with racism, adoption, a distant and abusive stepfather, dyslexia undiagnosed until college, depression from his teen years on, three suicide attempts, alcohol and drug abuse, being a closeted Gay man, domestic spousal abuse, with AIDS climaxing his almost soap opera-like list of demons.

But why tell all this? Toward the end of the book, Louganis ventures an answer.

"I wanted to tell my story in my own words while I was still alive. I want to be able to stand up with a sense of pride in who I am to say, 'This is who I am and this is what I have and this is what I have done.'... Maybe my story could make a difference in other people's lives... There are people in middle America who don't think their lives have been touched by AIDS. Now they can't say they haven't been."

This book is no literary masterpiece and doesn't pretend to be, though the ghost writing of Gay journalist Eric Marcus is well executed, never stifling Louganis' unwavering voice. Louganis doesn't offer any stunning insights about being Gay or HIV positive. But in spite of his troubles and disappointments, a sincere warmth and humble grace pervade

Louganis' story.

Louganis does recognize that diving has been his refuge and means to establish his self-worth. A former gymnast and acrobat, Louganis learned early that winning competitions was a means of securing love from his family, especially his adoptive father, who showed no interest in the boy until he became a diving champion.

Throughout his life, he would trust others and draw his strength from those individuals. "It's ironic that this kind of selfless faith in someone else (Coach O'Brian) was key to my success as a diver while it was devastating in my personal life."

Breaking free of silence, sadness and isolation becomes the central theme of his life, whether it means enduring his father whipping him for a poorly executed dive or his ex-lover/business manager "Tom" (who he later discovers is a hustler on Santa Monica Boulevard) calling him names, threatening him and, in one instance, grabbing him from behind, forcing him to lie face down on the bed while he was raped at knifepoint.

No matter what horror he was facing, Louganis' primary concern was that no one else would love him, so he tried to keep peace at his own expense.

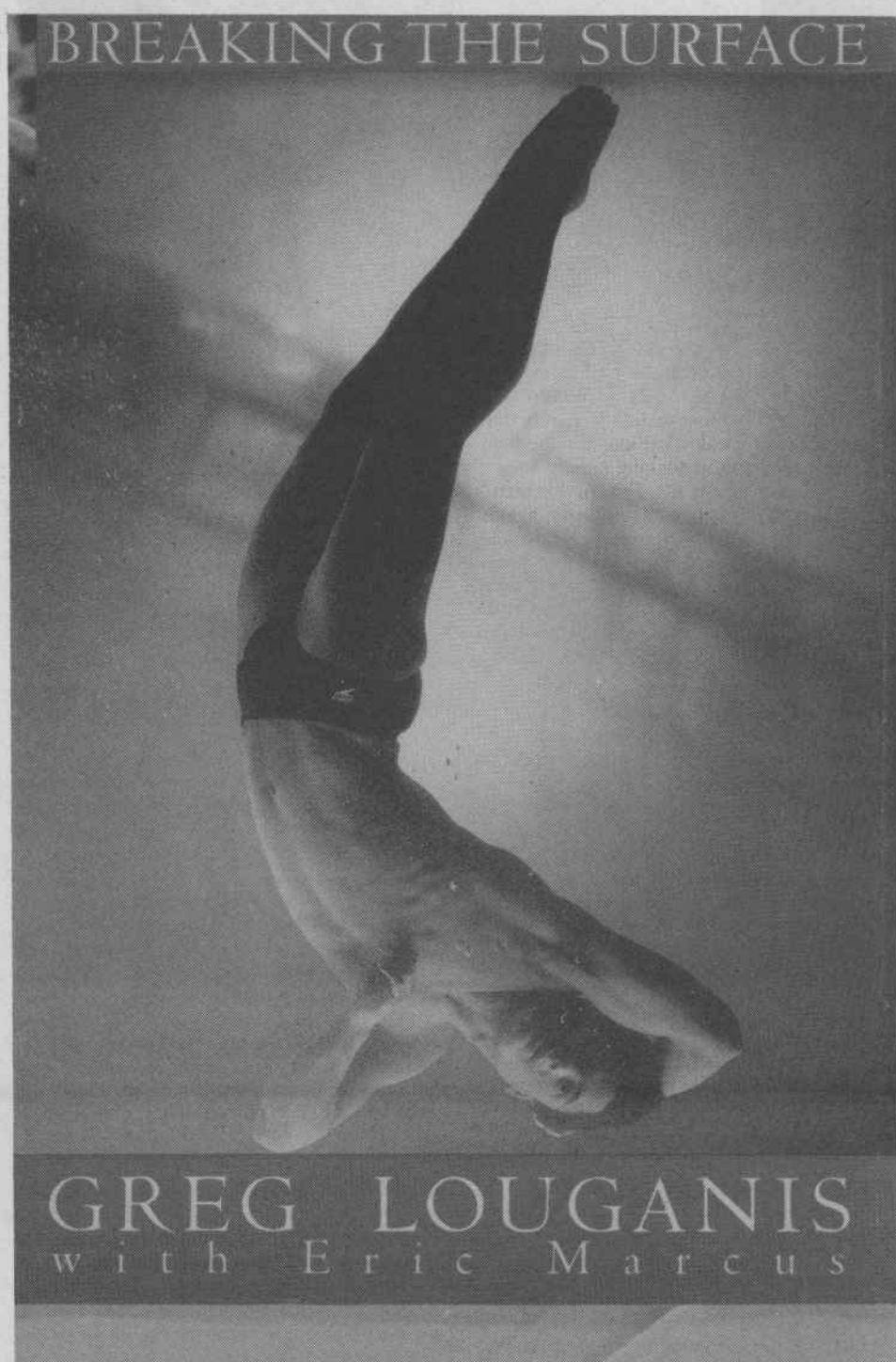
Later on, after finding out he was HIV positive, he went through a period in which he felt he deserved AIDS, that it was a punishment for being "a faggot."

"I always thought that right prevailed, so since I got my butt kicked, I figured I must be wrong. Since I got my butt kicked, it had to be true that I was a sissy. Since I got beat up, I must be a bad person. Since I was a bad person, I must deserve it."

The only way he could psyche himself into persevering or dealing with perceived inadequacies was either to pet his teddy bear Gravey or listen to the song "If You Believe" from the musical *The Wiz*.

With his health stable, Louganis is content to breed his Great Danes, volunteer at AIDS functions and teach theatre at USC.

"I cry easily," he writes, "but I never give up."



A Gay Priest Confronts Homophobia in the Roman Catholic Church

Freedom, Glorious Freedom
Father John McNeill
Beacon, \$24.00

By Brian Jackle

"God will speak to each of us directly through our experience as long as we open ourselves and seek to learn God's will for us... If the only way we can love is as Gay persons and we then deny our Gayness and, therefore, deny our feelings and refuse to give and receive love, we are denying God the means to enter into this world through us."

With these prophetic words, Father John McNeill introduces the themes of his third book, **Freedom, Glorious Freedom**.

McNeill, an ordained priest, practicing psychotherapist and co-founder of Dignity New York, was expelled from the Jesuit Order by the Vatican in April, 1987 for refusing to surrender his ministry to Gay men and Lesbians.

His first book, the landmark **The Church and the Homosexual**, exposed the homophobia of the Roman Catholic Church and was condemned by the Vatican.

In spite of the many controversial upheavals plaguing the Roman Church, McNeill remains convinced that the Holy Spirit is alive and well there. "Because we can experience God directly in our own experience and not rely on external authorities, the Roman Catholic Church will be the first established church to abolish the clerical state, returning to the early church model where congregations will elect their own priests, whomever they want—women, Gays, whoever is the best leader. Gay religious groups, like Dignity, are leading the way to what will be the new reality of the church."

"The Pope would like us to accept his judgment on Gayness and renounce our sexuality and loving intimacy with each other. Our experience as Gay Catholics teaches us that if we would follow his counsel, we would destroy ourselves psychologically, continuing to nurture our woundedness.

McNeill observes that the essential human psychological foundation for faith is trust. There can be no deep intimacy, true friendship or vital faith without trust.

Yet, he asks, how can Gay people rejected or abused by their families, friends and churches, develop trust?

"We must risk that we can be loved by God just as we are... Then knowing we are lovable and not just damaged goods, we can reach out in genuine human love to other people," he writes.

"Finally, we will recognize that our sexual expression in an intimate and loving context, does not separate us from the Divine, but unites us ever more deeply with it."

McNeill spent his first 20 years in the priesthood struggling against his sexual orientation. Finally, he came out. He decided that bad psychology makes bad theology; otherwise, by creating Gay people with an intrinsic orientation to evil, then condemning them, God was sadistic and unlovable.

McNeill writes that the Vatican is afraid of the freedom of the Holy Spirit and feels threatened by the coming end of the patriarchal age. The Church, he says, must give way to a new Pentecost and to the power of the people.

He goes on the offensive regarding how homosexuality is depicted in the bible. Not only does the book not condemn a loving, committed Gay relationship, but several passages (i.e. the Beloved Disciple, the healing of the Roman centurion's servant who was his male lover, and the raising of Lazarus) show Jesus as Gay-friendly, not just that Jesus never explicitly condemns homosexuality.

McNeill hopes next to write his autobiography and in May, will be accompanying his lover of 29 years, at the invitation of an Italian publishing house, to tour Italy, ending up with a rally in Rome for Gay Christians.

"God has a sense of humor," he says. "Rome tried to silence me and now I will be speaking right at her doorstep."

Finalists Named for Gaydom's Seventh Annual Lambda Literary Awards

Washington, D.C.— Is it possible to speak of Gay men and Lesbians as a community? If this year's crop of Lambda Literary Award finalists is any indication, the answer is yes.

Four out of five books selected in the Gay and Lesbian Non-Fiction Anthology category this year included writing by both men and women. Similarly, two of the Fiction Anthology nominees contained writing by both Gay men and Lesbians.

Non-Fiction and Fiction

The nominees for the non-fiction anthology include **Sister and Brother** edited by Joan Nestle and John Preston (Harper-San Francisco), **One Teacher in Ten** edited by Kevin Jennings (Alyson), **Out of the Class Closet** edited by Julia Penelope (Crossing), **Long Road to Freedom** edited by Mark Thompson (St. Martin's) and **The Queer Reader** edited by Patrick Higgins (New Press).

Fiction Anthology finalists are **Chloe Plus Olivia** edited by Lillian Faderman (Viking), **Men on Men 5** edited by David Bergman (Plume), **High Risk 2** edited by Ira Silverberg and Amy Scholder (Plume), **The Very Inside** edited by Sharon Lim-Hing (Sister Vision), and **Lavender Mansions** edited by Irene Zahava (Westview Press).

Photography

The nominees in Photography/Visual Arts are **Family** by Nancy Andrews (Harper-San Francisco), **Out in America** by "Out Magazine" (Viking Studio), **Masked Culture** by Jack Kugelmass (Columbia University Press), **Long Road to Freedom** edited by Mark Thompson (St. Martin's), and **The Art of the Male Nude** by Jim French (State of Man).

For Teens

The increasing number of Gay and Lesbian books directed toward teenagers is seen in this year's Children's/Young Adult category, where four of the five finalists were aimed at

the young adult market.

Debut fiction made a strong showing in both Gay Men's and Lesbian fiction, including **House Rules** by Heather Lewis (Doubleday/Nan Telese), **Chelsea Girls** by Eileen Myles (Black Sparrow), **Stir Fry** by Emma Donoghue (Harper, Collins), **Cultural Revolution** by Norman Wong (Persea Books), **American Studies** by Mark Merlis (Houghton Mifflin), and **Sacred Lips of the Bronx** by Doug Sadownick (St. Martin's).

Joining these was **Nightswimmer** by Joseph Olshan, whose novel, **Clara's Heart**, became a major motion picture starring Whoopi Goldberg.

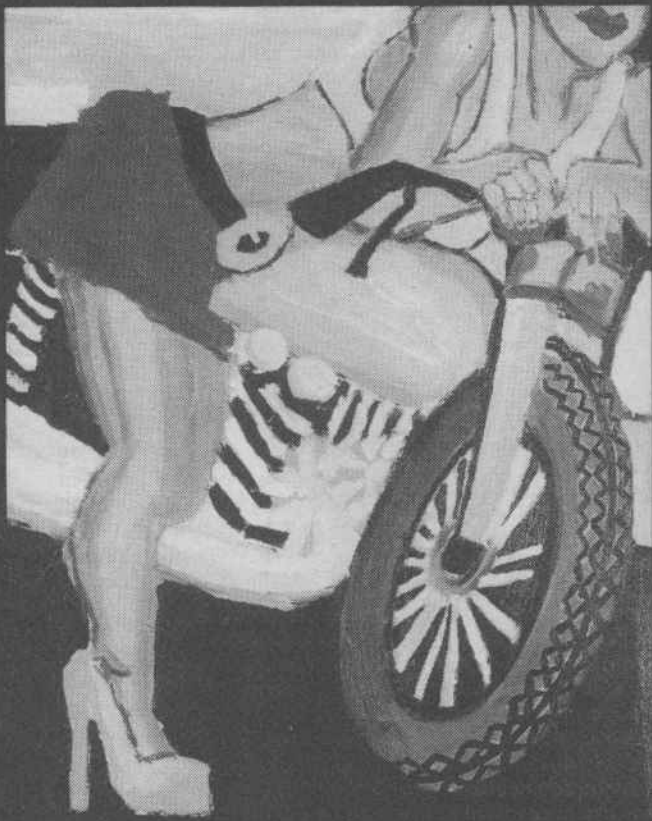
Award recipients will be announced at a gala banquet at the Palmer House Hotel in Chicago on Friday, June 2, 1995, during the American Booksellers Association Convention.

Annual Booksellers Convention

Boston, MA— The American Booksellers Association will be holding its annual convention in Chicago this year. After the 1996 Democratic National Convention, Chicago is expected to become the Booksellers Convention's permanent home. The convention runs from June 3-6 and is preceded on Friday, June 2, by the 7th annual Lambda Literary Awards banquet.

Although the primary focus of the convention is for booksellers, it's also a great chance to meet publishers, booksellers and authors. This year, as for the past 13 years, a group of Gay, Lesbian and feminist publishers will occupy a special section of over 20 booths in the main convention hall.

EVERY WOMAN'S DREAM



New Anthology Offers Gay Teens a Sense of Being Grounded in Les/Gay History

Hearing Us Out
Roger Sutton
Harper, \$9.95

By Olivia Alvarez

Hearing Us Out is a collection of insightful and frank conversations with members of the Lesbian and Gay community and their supporters. Written for teenagers who are Gay or still unsure, **Hearing Us Out** chronicles the joys and sorrows of being Gay or Lesbian in a mostly homophobic world.

Author Roger Sutton, editor of "The Bulletin" of the Center for Children's Books, began the project to give teens the stories and history of the Gay and Lesbian community. To that end, he conducted interviews with a variety of people, from a 15-year-old to a grandmother. Stories based on the interviews range from heroic to comical.

Hearing Us Out has coming out stories, yes, but also stories about staying out, dealing with AIDS, Lesbian separatism, dreaming about first lovers, and the politics of being different.

Dorothy Knudson, an openly Lesbian police officer from Chicago who founded the Lesbian and Gay Police Association there, discusses the acceptance she has enjoyed from her fellow officers. Knudson, who was out while still in the police academy, says, "I think if you're really comfortable with being out, it helps other people be comfortable with it too."

Terrence Smith, a self-proclaimed "in-your-face drag queen" and Queer Nation's presidential candidate, recounts his attending the Democratic National Convention in a miniskirt and stiletto heels.

Fred Mitchell, an African American working class father, accepts his teenage son's homosexuality, but worries about society's reaction. "People can be very volatile about people who don't fit in," he says. "Especially Gay. But I want to try to at least be in his corner."

Yvonne Zipter, who wrote **Diamonds are a Dyke's Best Friend**, a cross-country survey of Lesbian softball, discusses the effect of softball on her politics. Her early efforts to find a Lesbian community included mistakenly joining several straight softball teams before finding a Gay league. Then she stumbled onto a feminist Lesbian league. The experience demonstrated the power struggles on and off the field, the exist in the Gay and Lesbian community.

While not all the stories have happy endings,

Sutton leaves his readers hopeful. All his subjects retain a sense of humor, able to laugh at the insanity and prejudice that sometimes surrounds them, without falling victim to it.

And there is a sense of pride. It is echoed by Terrence Smith when he says, "The fact that we are different is what makes us so special and it makes being Gay very special. It's not just this accident of nature—it's this wonderful thing that's happened."

Editor Seeking Latino Writers

Highland Park, NJ—Pablo Martinez is seeking Gay Latino writers for submission of short fiction in English, Spanish or Spanglish for an anthology about being Latino and Gay in American society. Submissions should be typed, double-spaced and reach Martinez no later than September 1, 1995. Send your manuscript to: Pablo M. Martinez, 501 Raritan Avenue, Suite D3, Highland Park, NJ 08904.

Firm to Publish Les/Gay Business Magazine

Chicago—Lambda Publications, publisher of the Chicago news monthly **Outlines**, news and entertainment weekly, **Nightlines**, and **Out!**, the twice yearly resource guide, has announced that it will publish a controlled circulation magazine for Gay, Lesbian and supportive business owners, senior executives, professionals and entrepreneurs. **Clout! Business Report** will be free to Chicago-area professionals and executives and will feature news and profiles about Gay and Lesbian business issues including finance, expansion, marketing, insurance and training.

Tracy Baim, Publisher, says she has watched with some frustration as Chicago-area and national corporations flounder around trying to find a way to reach key Gay and Lesbian business markets. "Without a publication like **Clout!**, advertisers have been forced to unnecessarily splinter their promotional efforts," she said.

The first issue of **Clout!**, will be published in June and will have a print run in excess of 4,000. The magazine will begin as a quarterly. For more information, call (312) 871-7610.

Ellmann's 'Oscar Wilde' is a Distinguished Biography Written on a Grand Scale

Oscar Wilde
Richard Ellmann
Vintage, \$18.00

By Tommy Marchase

He was, by all accounts, a Balzacian character with more than a little touch of Puck—and maybe Pan. He lived in an age that seemed to go on forever (it was nearing its end) and in a country whose social stratification was one of the most stringent on earth. He did the unforgivable, he made fun of them. He wrote about them in plays the world will never forget, holding them up to ridicule and, in the process, got them to laugh at themselves. No wonder they never forgave him, not for that or anything else.

And he was different in other ways as well, as different as different could be. He liked men, young men, and he had the audacity to fall in love with them, one more than the rest.

In case you don't recognize him, "he" was Oscar Wilde, the subject of a new biography of that name by Richard Ellmann.

Ellmann's writing and the scope of his work are worthy of his subject. It is a biography done on the grand scale, what used to be called "a life and times." Unlike many academic treatises, the style is lively, certainly acerbic at times, more than a little caustic here and there, but done with impudence and the flair that Oscar himself would have appreciated and understood.

Of course, what we all know about Wilde is that he was tried for "gross indecencies with a member of the same sex," found guilty and sentenced to the Reading jail. Most accounts dine out on that as if the whole of Wilde's life was nothing but a prelude to his "fall."

As he must, Ellmann devotes much space to the trail and its aftermath, but his account of Wilde's earlier years, the years of formation and then creation, are handled with such brilliance that when the end does come, it arrives swiftly and with anger as if seeking revenge for all the good times that had gone before.

Ellmann sets Wilde apart. After all, the playwright is the subject of the book. But, at the same time, Ellmann manages to surround him with the characters of the age, fleshing them out, not making them bit players as indeed, they were not.

There's Edward, the Prince of Wales, a rake if ever there was one and wondering if his son, Albert Edward, might not be as Oscar was?

There's Ellen Terry who slept with half the human race, and George Bernard Shaw who was proud of the fact that he hadn't slept with anyone. There are so many of them, but you get the idea.

Let us not forget Lord Alfred Douglas, Oscar's "Bosie," the love of his life, etc., etc., etc. Since the book comes equipped with pho-



tos, you get a chance to see Lord Alfred. Well, I saw him and for the life of me I can't see what attracted Oscar to him. Lord Alfred has that twit look. That's the only way to describe it.

There are also footnotes in abundance, but unless you're really interested, you don't know they're there. You're too caught up in the flow of the text, in the images the biographer creates in your mind.

Oscar Wilde is a thoroughly good read and I recommend it highly.

"An engrossing journey to unite sexuality with faith"

—Dallas Morning News

Stranger At The Gate

To Be Gay & Christian
In America

by Mel White

Until Christmas Eve 1991, Mel White was regarded by the leaders of the religious right as one of their most talented and productive supporters. He penned the speeches of Ollie North. He was ghost-writer for Jerry Falwell, worked with Jim Bakker, flew in Pat Robertson's private jet, walked sandy beaches with Billy Graham. What these men didn't know was that Mel White — evangelical minister, committed Christian, family man — was gay.

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New Gay Fiction for Spring

The Spring list of new Gay fiction titles features well-known authors as well as some debut novels. The "big" Gay novel of the season, **The God in Flight**, (Random House, HC, \$23) was written by Laura Argiri. Eighteen years in the making, **The God in Flight** is a sweeping historical novel of a dangerous love affair between a professor and his beautiful student.

It has been several years since Michael Chabon's dazzling debut novel, **The Mysteries of Pittsburgh**. Now comes **Wonder Boys** (Villard, HC, \$23). In this eagerly awaited second novel, Chabon creates James Leer, a troubled young "wonder boy" whose obsession with Hollywood suicides leads him to commit a pair of startling crimes.

Receiving tremendous attention is Scott Heim's extraordinary debut novel, **Mysterious Skin** (Harper, HC, \$20). Exploring the ways that people choose to interpret memory, **Mysterious Skin** tells the stories of Brian Lackey and Neil McCormick, two little leaguers sexually abused by their coach. Poetic and haunting, **Mysterious Skin** is about forgetfulness and loss, love and desire and the ways we struggle to form an identity in our often alien world.

Longtime Gay favorites, Joseph Hansen and William S. Burroughs, are back with new works of fiction. In **Jack of Hearts** (Dutton, HC, \$19.95), Hansen has created a prequel to his Lambda Award-winning **Living Upstairs**.

The many fans of William Burroughs can rest assured that **My Education: A Book of Dreams** (Viking, HC, \$21.95) is Burroughs at his most lyrical, once again questioning the boundaries of narrative structure.

What's the Vice President of Comedy at ABC Productions doing writing a novel the **New York Times** calls "bewitching and hilariously nightmarish...right on target...a glimpse into the corner of the human heart where love and dread coexist...a wry and companionable first novel." It's called **Straitjacket and Tie** (Ticknor & Fields, HC, \$19.95) by Eugene Stein and comes chock full of humor and insanity about a young man whose Gay sexuality is treated with a rare warmth and sensuality. In this, Stein's first work, he has pulled together two opposing worlds: the world of literary fiction and the world of writing for television.

Miami author, Gerald Libonati, has published his second novel, **The Adjuster**. (Avant Garde, HC, \$13.50) A light fantasy/adventure, the story focuses on a Gay artist who travels back in time to 1928 (the Jazz Age) before there was any concept of Gay civil rights. The book allows Libonati to compare the changing image of Gay people by the meeting of two personalities from very different time periods. Libonati's first novel, **Tropic Lights**, made "The Washington Blade's" national top ten list in 1985.

James Earl Hardy has taken the Gay fiction world by storm with **B-Boy Blues** (Alyson, Pb, \$9.95), a self-proclaimed "seriously sexy, fiercely funny, Black-on-Black love story." Wildly original, **B-Boy Blues** is a fabulous addition to the growing list of African American Gay literature.

New in paperback are two other African American Gay novels, Steven Corbin's **Fragment that Remains** (Alyson, Pb, \$9.95) and E. Lynn Harris's **Just as I Am** (Anchor, Pb, \$10.95), a sequel to his best-selling and groundbreaking novel, **Invisible Life**.

Also deserving mention are paperback issues of two fine AIDS-era novels. Gary Indiana's eloquent **Gone Tomorrow** (Serpent's Tale, Pb, \$11.99) is a passionate chronicle of death and obsession before the onslaught of AIDS.

Just published, and now on a Gay book shelf near you is a major Gay novel by Christopher Bram. **Father of Frankenstein** (Dutton, HC, \$19.95) is Bram's latest novel, based on the life and mysterious death of famed film director James Whale, the man responsible for the classic gothic films, "Frankenstein" and "Bride of Frankenstein."

From acclaimed writer Michael Cunningham and due out in April is **Flesh and Blood** (FSG, HC, \$22.00) In his first novel since **The Home at the End of the World**, Cunningham has crafted another powerful portrayal of contemporary Gay life.

New Lesbian Fiction for Spring

Perhaps the most eagerly awaited novel of the year is Jeanette Winterson's **Arts and Lies** (Knopf, HC, \$22.00). Along with Rita Mae Brown's **Rubyfruit Jungle**, Winterson's **Oranges Are Not Fruit** are favorite Lesbian coming out novels. Winterson further enhanced her reputation with **Sexing the Cherry** and **Written on the Body**. In **Arts and Lies**, Winterson brings together three pretty disparate characters: Handel, an ex-priest turned surgeon whose humanity has been sacrificed to intellect; Picasso, a young woman cast out by her family who also drove her to madness; and Sappho.

Louise A. Blum has brought out a first novel, **Amnesty** (Alyson, HC, \$19.95) that is a powerful story, beautifully written of a young woman's coming of age. Maura Jaeger has hidden herself in the hills of Pennsylvania, teaching English in a small college, while rigorously avoiding all relationships. When her father dies, she must return home to the small town where she grew up and confront the family that exiled her because she is a Lesbian.

Released late last Fall, **The Love Songs of Phoenix Bay** (St. Martin's, HC, \$21.95) was Nisa Donnelly's first novel following her best-selling **Bar Stories**. In her latest book, Phoenix Bay, left by her longtime lover, Jinx, has been set emotionally adrift. When her oldest friend, Rennie, a Gay man fighting his own battle with AIDS, asks her to house-sit, Phoenix is reunited with Rennie's sister Cecile, whom she had loved and lost many years before.

From the always popular Lesbian press, Naiad, comes several exciting new titles. Karin Kallmaker, one of the most popular Lesbian novelists, returns with **Painted Moon** (Pb, \$9.95). When trapped by a mountain snowstorm over a Thanksgiving weekend, Jackie is rescued by Leah, an artist whose life has been darkened by the death of her lover, Sharla.

Popular mystery writer Penny Mickelbury returns with a powerful follow-up to **Keeping Secrets**, **Night Songs** (Pb, \$9.95). In this second Gianna Maglione mystery, Mickelbury returns her African America protagonist to Washington, D.C. where Gianna and Mimi investigate murders against prostitutes. Naiad newcomer Kris Bruyer introduces Ashley, a bookseller who is drawn to a seaside mansion to investigate a century old murder of a nun.

Another debut mystery novel from Madwoman Press is **Fool Me Once** by Katherine E. Kreuter. In this first Paige Taylor mystery, Paige, mystery writer and private eye, finds herself going to the ends of the earth, at least Hong Kong and China, in search of a murderer.

From popular young adult writer and poet, Leslea Newman, comes a new collection of short fiction, **Every Woman's Dream** (New Victoria Pub., Pb, \$10.95), that focuses on snippets of contemporary Lesbians and Lesbian life. With the unlikely title, **We Came All The Way From Cuba So You Could Dress Like This?** (Cleis Press, Pb, \$10.95) comes a first collection of short stories from Latina Lesbian Achy Obejas.

New in paperback are two popular Lesbian titles, Jan Carr's erotic and exotic **Harem Wish** (Plume, Pb, \$9.95) and Phyllis Knight's second Lil Ritchie mystery, **Shattered Rhythms** (St. Martin's, Pb, \$8.95).

'Wilde' is a New Magazine That Covers Gay Men From Head to Toe and With a Bite

By Stephen Hays

It is irreverent. It is sensual (highly so), but it appeals also to the mind. It is a new magazine, that premiered this month, by and about Gay men called **Wilde**, published by PDA Press in San Francisco.

In layout and composition, **Wilde** is much like any of the other glossies--**Out**, **Ten Percent**, **The Advocate**, magazines like those. But there is a difference.

Those aforementioned publications are, to my mind, "good gray gentlemen," quiet and reserved. **The Advocate** especially is like that, so very establishment, proud of the fact that it can and does compete with **Time** and **Newsweek**.

The other two are a bit more radical, but, to my way thinking, not by much.

Wilde has a definite bite to it. You can feel it in its satire and in the interviews. The interview with Torie Osborn is great, very frank, in-your-face, a pleasure to read.

You can see it in the articles. I've always liked Pat Califia and in this premiere issue of the magazine, she does not mince words in talking about women, Gay men and sex. There

are going to be some Gay men and more than a few women who won't like what she has to say, not at all--and I don't agree with all of it--but I'm glad it got printed. She made me think--which is all I really ask of a writer.

Wilde is entertaining. There's no doubt about that. I like the fact that the magazine contains a high quality fiction. But in **Wilde**, the entertainment is kind of like a good scotch to savor between ideas, the pause the refreshes, so to speak.

Then there's also erotic fiction--and it's very good. Sun Yung, the writer, has realized that few porn writers do: one is that dialogue is important and should be natural; two: that if sex isn't to be reduced to a clinical discussion, there has to be a plot with character development. It can't be just "Hello. How are you? Let's Fuck." Followed by graphic and descriptive detail.

Wilde is a magazine well worth buying and/or subscribing to. It's in-your-face and artistic. It's Gay male life with one knee torn out of its jeans.

I recommend it.

Author Appearances Highlight AfterWords Bookstore April Special Events

Milwaukee-- AfterWords Bookstore & Espresso Bar is going to be a very busy place in April with a wide range of events and activities, both in and out of the store.

To start things off, AfterWords is pleased to present poet and short story writer Darrell g.h. Schramm on Sunday, April 9. Members of the AfterWords Book Club will be familiar with Schramm's eloquent essay, "Father's Sorrow, Father's Joy" from John Preston's anthology, **A Member of the Family**.

Schramm's work has also appeared in **White Crane**, **Iris**, **The Advocate**, **Frontiers** and many poet anthologies. This event will begin at 1:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

AfterWords Book Club

The April AfterWords Book Club will discuss Christopher Coe's glittering stylish and haunting novel, **Such Times**, on Monday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m. The AfterWords Book Club meets on the second Monday of the month and new members are always welcome.

Queer Cinema

On Friday, April 14, the author of the popular new book on Gay and Lesbian films, **Images in the Dark**, Raymond Murray will be bringing his multi-media presentation on Queer Cinema to AfterWords.

Images in the Dark has captured the explosion of new Gay and Lesbian cinema which has seen the release of such popular recent films as **Go Fish** and **The Adventures of Priscilla; Queen of the Desert**, both soon to be on video.

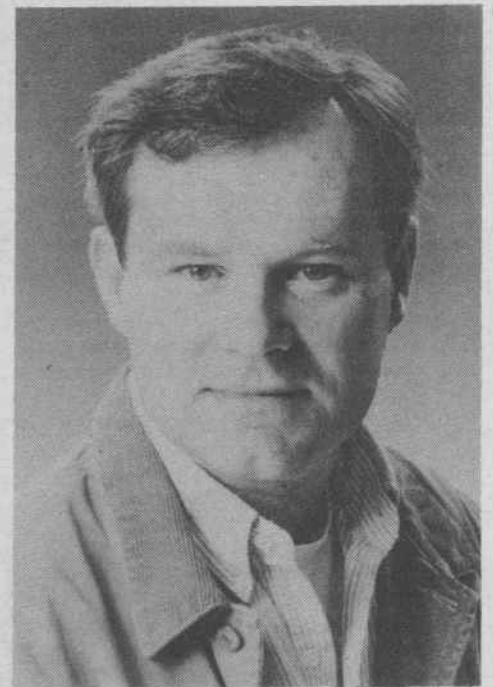
Murray will begin his presentation at 7:30 p.m. Please come early, seating will be limited. As usual, this event is free and open to the public. Free popcorn will be provided.

Film Benefit

AfterWords is also pleased to announce a benefit screening of the eagerly awaited Gay film, **The Sum of Us** at Milwaukee's Landmark Downer Theatre on Tuesday, April 18. AfterWords is co-sponsoring the benefit with **Wisconsin Light** and **In Step**. Proceeds from this screening will benefit PrideFest. Advance tickets are \$10, \$12 at the door.

Lyon and Martin

Two legendary figures from the early Lesbian and Gay civil rights movement, Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, will be making an appearance at AfterWords on Thursday, April 20, at 8:00 p.m. Together, they founded the first-ever Lesbian organization in America, the



Raymond Murray

Daughters of Bilitis, back in the 1950's.

Martin is the author of **Battered Wives** and together, Martin and Lyon have published **Lesbian/Woman**, considered a definitive work for understanding a Lesbian as a whole person. More details on this very special event will follow.

At the end of the month, AfterWords will be participating in Gay Pride Week at Stevens Point, selling T-shirts, books and various other Gay-themed items at the Mission Coffee House.

During the month of April, AfterWords will be featuring a 10% discount on all CDs and cassettes in stock, along with ten new, discounted Pridelist titles.

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

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AfterWords

April Events at AfterWords:

Author Appearance

Poet Darrell g.h. Schramm

April 9th

Sunday, April 9th 1:00pm

April 10th

AfterWords Book Club
Christopher Coe's **SUCH TIMES**
Monday, April 10th 7:30pm

Film Presentation/Author Appearance

Raymond Murray

IMAGES IN THE DARK

April 14th

Friday, April 14th 7:30pm

Special Author Appearance:

Phyllis Lyon &

Del Martin

LESBIAN/WOMAN

Thursday, April 20th 8:00pm

plus:

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A NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW EDITOR'S CHOICE

TRAVELS WITH LIZBETH

three years on the road and on the streets



LARS EIGHNER

"A modern autobiography of a supertramp...By turns grandiloquent and simple, alienating and compelling."
—The New York Times Book Review

Lars Eighner's 'Travels With Lizbeth' is Both Illuminating and Disturbing

Travels With Lizbeth: Three Years on the Road and on the Streets
Lars Eighner
St. Martin's, \$19.95

By Mary Shafer

This recent offering from Quality Paperback Books originally appealed to me as a sort of modern day takeoff on Steinbeck's *Travels with Charlie*, probably due to the title. But, in truth, that's where the similarity ends between the two books. While Steinbeck took off on a pseudo-hobo lifestyle for awhile with the sole intent of observing the human condition, and with the promise of a home to return to, Eighner's book covers a much different situation.

Eighner, at the time a Gay man in his late 30's, found himself homeless and adrift after an unfortunate turn of events concerning his employment at a state insane asylum in Texas. His only companion, a Labrador-mix named Lizbeth, Eighner set out to stay with a friend in California, hoping to find better job prospects for continuing his career as a freelance writer. Thus began a string of misadventures, bad luck and harrowing experiences that turned into three years of wandering homelessness for the two.

I don't want to give away any of this riveting story, so I won't recount any of the situations covered in the book. What I do want to pass on is the unsettling nature of this read. If you are a person who likes to feel good about the world after everything you read, this book is not for you. But if you are interested in learning more about the realities of America's "mean streets" from a view point you can identify with, don't pass it by.

As a Lesbian, there were parts of the writer's story I found disturbing only because of his experiences with hustling, casual sexual encounters in public restrooms, and sometimes his general attitude toward people.

However, I recognized this as my own personal discomfort with some facets of what I consider to be pretty common behavior for Gay men. And since that is their own choice to make and not mine, I was able to get past it without having to be too judgmental.

If there was anything that was truly disconcerting for me, it was the indifference and just plain mean-spiritedness that the author and his dog encountered so often in their travels, and the sheer dysfunction of our social welfare system. It was as illuminating as it was disturbing, and I can honestly say I will never look at a homeless person in the same way again.

What was refreshing about the writing was that Eighner does not try to make himself out as a saint above reproach or someone to be congratulated for his selflessness in caring for his dog when most people would have given up and concentrated on their own well-being.

In fact, if there is one thing about this book that really touched me deeply, it was the loyalty Eighner had for Lizbeth, and his commitment to his responsibility for her. It was an attitude that I find rarely, even in people who are well off enough to treat their animals like royalty.

If I had any reservations about Eighner's personality, they were far overshadowed by

the respect I felt for him as a man compassionate toward his canine companion. The lengths to which he went to insure her welfare, even at great risk to his own, were no less commendable.

I was also impressed with Eighner's commitment to his craft. Even though I have no particular affinity for what he writes (mostly adult movie scripts and Gay male pornography, from what I can gather), I admire his dedication to being a writer.

During all his trials on the road, somehow he found the wherewithal to continue working on his manuscripts, whether it was borrowing an old manual typewriter or scribbling in longhand for later transcription. It made me scrutinize my own, often lazy, habits, even though I am well-equipped with a computer in a comfortable, warm house. Indeed, writing turned out to be Eighner's ultimate salvation and his entree back into "legitimate society," providing a way to pay rent and thus gain a permanent address.

If I have any complaints about this book, I would say it is Eighner's tendency to express his feelings of intellectual superiority—almost to the point of contempt—over most everyone he encounters. This condescension really does make it difficult at times to feel empathy with him as the protagonist of the story, however legitimate those feelings.

The other thing I found annoying was his tendency to use somewhat arcane vocabulary. Whether he was simply asserting his knowledge of the language or trying to provide some variety on run-of-the-mill words, I felt this technique was more distracting than anything. I expect to have a dictionary close by when I'm reading a technical tome or something way out of the realm of my experience or understanding, but for a piece like this, I believe simplicity and straightforwardness more appropriate. After all, the subject matter itself is so strong that one hardly needs to be affected in its presentation for it to touch the reader.

As you read this book, you may, as I did, find yourself wondering whether Eighner really needed to be on the street at all and if he didn't exhaust all his possibilities of employment before deciding to hit the streets.

Be that as it may, he did decide to do just that, and his experiences there serve as a compelling reminder to us all that there is but a fine line between where we are today and where we might be tomorrow. One can't help but reflect over and over again during the reading of this chronicle that it could just as easily be us in the author's position, but for a twist of fate.

Pagan Fiction Magazine Seeking Writers

Norfolk, VA— Garden of Delights, a new quarterly magazine, is being published in Norfolk, Virginia, by the Turtle Archer Group. The magazine features pagan-slanted fiction, poetry and art. Writers, poets and artists from the LesBiGay community are being sought for submission. If interested, please send a query letter with a SASE for guidelines to: Garden of Delights, Attn: Mark Hiers, 7271 Marcy St., #4, Norfolk, VA 23505.

Lesbian/Gay Educators Tell Their Stories in a Book Students and Teachers Should Read

One Teacher in 10: Gay and Lesbian Educators Tell Their Stories
Kevin Jennings
Alyson, \$9.95

By Jim Miller

Growing up Gay or Lesbian in our schools is usually quite traumatic. What a difference if I'd had a teacher who was not heterosexual, but did not hide his or her difference and insisted that Gays and Lesbians be treated with respect. It would have helped even if a teacher was not quite so open but still supported my difference and provided a positive role model.

As it was, most of my support and protection came from heterosexual teachers and counselors. The Gay teachers in my high school were not positive role models. Bitter and heavily closeted, two later got unhappily married to women. *One Teacher in 10* is a book which leaves me with regret for opportunities lost in my adolescence but with hope for the future.

Kevin Jennings, executive director of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network, has collected the stories of 34 educators, most from high schools, a few from grade schools. The contributors in *One Teacher in 10* tell their own experiences as students; how they came to terms with their sexuality and the challenges they face as teachers and administrators.

The editor points out some disturbing statistics about the contributors. Though Jennings offered to print stories under pseudonyms, only one male contributor used a pen name.

In contrast, one-third of the Lesbian contributors used pseudonyms.

Also, though 20% of the original contributors were non-white, most of these dropped out prior to publication for fear of discovery.

On a positive note, most of the contributors have been teaching less than ten years. The relative youth of the contributors measures the slow growth of tolerance on which each succeeding generation builds.

Most contributors tell their own stories of their school days, for these experiences often motivate the goals and methods of these teachers.

The book concludes with two appendices. The first gives a brief overview of legal issues and resources for the Gay and Lesbian educator. The second lists Gay and Lesbian teaching

organizations.

Most of the stories are positive and uplifting, even those with less-than-happy endings. However, an occasional story is quite grim.

In other professions, coming out stories may concentrate on personal empowerment, but these stories all focus on communication. After all, these are educators and one value they all share in common is getting the message across.

The contributors worry about how the students will take the information and whether the parents get the message. This is not neurotic self-consciousness, but rather a carefully reasoned and practiced strategy for reaching the minds of others.

At one point, a contributor declares that she did not care if someone understood or cared about an incident. This comes as a shock after the consistent educator's ethos. If you think you are a bit careless about how you come across, perhaps this book could provoke an educator's attitude.

The stories speak in individual voices, though one might suspect that the editorial hand was rather heavy. There is more uniformity in this book than is likely from so many different contributors. Even so, the stories get told and the effect invokes a circle of friends, along with inspiring courage, pride and all the other feelings that such books intend to inspire.

One Teacher in 10 is particularly recommended for those struggling with coming out issues. Most contributors tell their own experiences as adolescents, then tell the experiences of their students. The effect is cathartic for anyone who was traumatized during their adolescence.

The book is also strongly recommended for public school libraries. There is no explicit sexual material in the book. The only "objectionable" feature of the book is that Gays and Lesbians are treated as persons. The stories would provide an education for any high school student, Gay or straight, for any heterosexual teacher or administrator, and even for the homosexual educator.

Editor's Note: The reviewer wishes readers to know that this book which the writer has reviewed comes with the complements of WTSO, "Sunday Night Out."

Lesbian Fiction

1. *Painted Moon*, Karin Kallmaker, Naiad Press, Pb.....\$9.95
2. *Warriors of Isis*, Jean Stewart, Rising Tide Pub., Pb.....\$10.99
3. *Divine Victim*, Mary Wings, NAL/Dutton, Pb.....\$9.95
4. *The Dyke & the Dybbuk*, Ellen Galford, Seal Press, Pb.....\$10.95
5. *We Came All This Way From Cuba So That You Could Dress Like This*, Achy Obejas, Cleis Press, Pb.....\$10.95
6. *The Love Songs of Phoenix Bay*, Nisa Donnelly, St. Martin's, HC.....\$21.95
7. *The Sea of Light*, Jennifer Levin, NAL/Dutton, Pb.....\$10.95
8. *Leave a Light on For Me*, Jean Swallow, Alyson, Pb.....\$9.95
9. *Murder at Monticello*, Rita Mae Brown, Bantam, HC.....\$19.95
10. *I'll Be Leaving You Always*, Sandra Scoppettone, Ballantine, Pb.....\$4.99

Gay Fiction

1. *B-Boy Blues*, James E. Hardy, Alyson, Pb.....\$10.95
2. *Dead on Your Feet*, Grant Michaels, St. Martin's, Pb.....\$8.95
3. *The God in Flight*, Laura Argiri, Random House, HC.....\$23.00
4. *Living Upstairs*, Joseph Hansen, NAL/Dutton, Pb.....\$9.95
5. *The Man Who Understood Cats*, Michael Dymmoach, Avon, Pb.....\$4.99
6. *Scissors, Paper, Rock*, Fenton Johnson, Pocket Books, Pb.....\$10.00
7. *Such Times*, Christopher Coe, Viking/Penguin, Pb.....\$10.95
8. *Interview With the Vampire*, Anne Rice, Ballantine, Pb.....\$6.99
9. *The Alienist*, Caleb Carr, Random House, HC.....\$22.00
10. *Mysterious Skin: A Novel*, Scott Heim, Harper-Collins, HC.....\$20.00

Gay & Lesbian Non-Fiction

1. *The Unofficial Gay Manual*, Kevin Dilalio, Doubleday, Pb.....\$12.50
2. *What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality*, Dan Helminak, Alamo Square, Pb.....\$9.95
3. *Breaking the Surface*, Greg Louganis, Random House, HC.....\$23.00
4. *Public Sex: The Culture of Radical Sex*, Pat Califia, Cleis Press, Pb.....\$12.95
5. *Straight From the Heart*, Rod & Bob Jackson-Paris, Warner Books, Pb.....\$11.99
6. *Created Equal: Why Gay Rights Matter to America*, Michael Nava & Robert Dawidoff, St. Martin's, Pb.....\$8.95
7. *Serving in Silence*, Margarethe Cammermeyer, Viking/Penguin, HC.....\$22.95
8. *Gay Soul: Finding the Heart of Gay Spirituality & Nature*, Harper-San Francisco, HC.....\$22.00
9. *Queer & Loathing: Rants and Raves of a Raving AIDS Clone*, David Feinberg, Viking/Penguin, HC.....\$22.95
10. *Safer Sexy: The Guide to Gay Sex Safely*, Peter Tatchell, Freedom Editions/Cassells, Pb.....\$19.95

Source: AfterWords Bookstore, Milwaukee

Caleb Carr's New Novel, 'The Alienist,' Asks What Makes a Story Gay

The Alienist: A Novel
By Caleb Carr
Random House, HC \$22.00

By Carl M. Szatmary

When reading a book like Caleb Carr's superb novel of detection, *The Alienist*, questions cannot help but arise as to what are the characteristics that define a novel as "Gay?"

Must the writer be Gay? If so, can he/she be in the closet? Are novels with Gay protagonists Gay novels if, as is the case with Peter Lefcourt's delightful baseball sendup, *The Dreyfus Affair*, the writer is heterosexual?

What about Rita Mae Brown's *Murder at Monticello* and Martina Navratilova's *The Total Zone*? Neither book has any notable Gay or Lesbian elements, but are written by open Lesbian personalities.

All this brings us back to a novel that many might not expect to find on the shelves of a Gay bookstore, Carr's *The Alienist*. Despite its handsome look, the book at first glance appears to be yet another entry in the growing list of "celebrity mysteries," mystery novels that revolve around real, in invariably deceased people.

George Baxt has several Hollywood mysteries featuring the likes of Greta Garbo, Alfred Hitchcock and Dorothy Parker. Other popular mystery series feature Benjamin Franklin, Charles Dickens and even Eleanor Roosevelt.

In Carr's case, it's Eleanor's uncle Theodore who, in the book, has just been appointed Police Commissioner of New York City, a post which puts him (and the reader) smack into a particularly unsavory murder case. Beneath the glamour of the Gilded Age (late 1800's), someone is killing and mutilating "boy-whores" who work in some of Gotham's more infamous brothels.

While TR's expansive personality makes the future president an omnipotent presence, the center of the book is Dr. Laszlo Kreizler, the "alienist," the name by which early psychologists were known.

On a bleak March night, Kreizler enlists the aid of his friend John Schuyler Moore, the crime reporter for the *New York Times* to help in investigate the murder and mutilation of an adolescent boy-whore.

Kreizler and Moore, with a small, loyal, if unconventional team, begin the quest for the tortured and twisted individual who has killed before and will kill again and again until caught. The basis for the unorthodox investigation is the emerging discipline of psychology.

Utilizing seeming insignificant scene-of-the-crime details and evidence in the preparation of the psychological profile of the man they are looking for, they work in total secrecy, searching through New York's 400 as well as its verminous underbelly.

The Alienist has much to recommend it. Carr creates believable characters who perform within impossible situations. Betraying his historian's background, Carr invests *The Alienist* with an extraordinary sense of place. The sights, the smells, the sounds of Gilded Age New York come vitally alive.

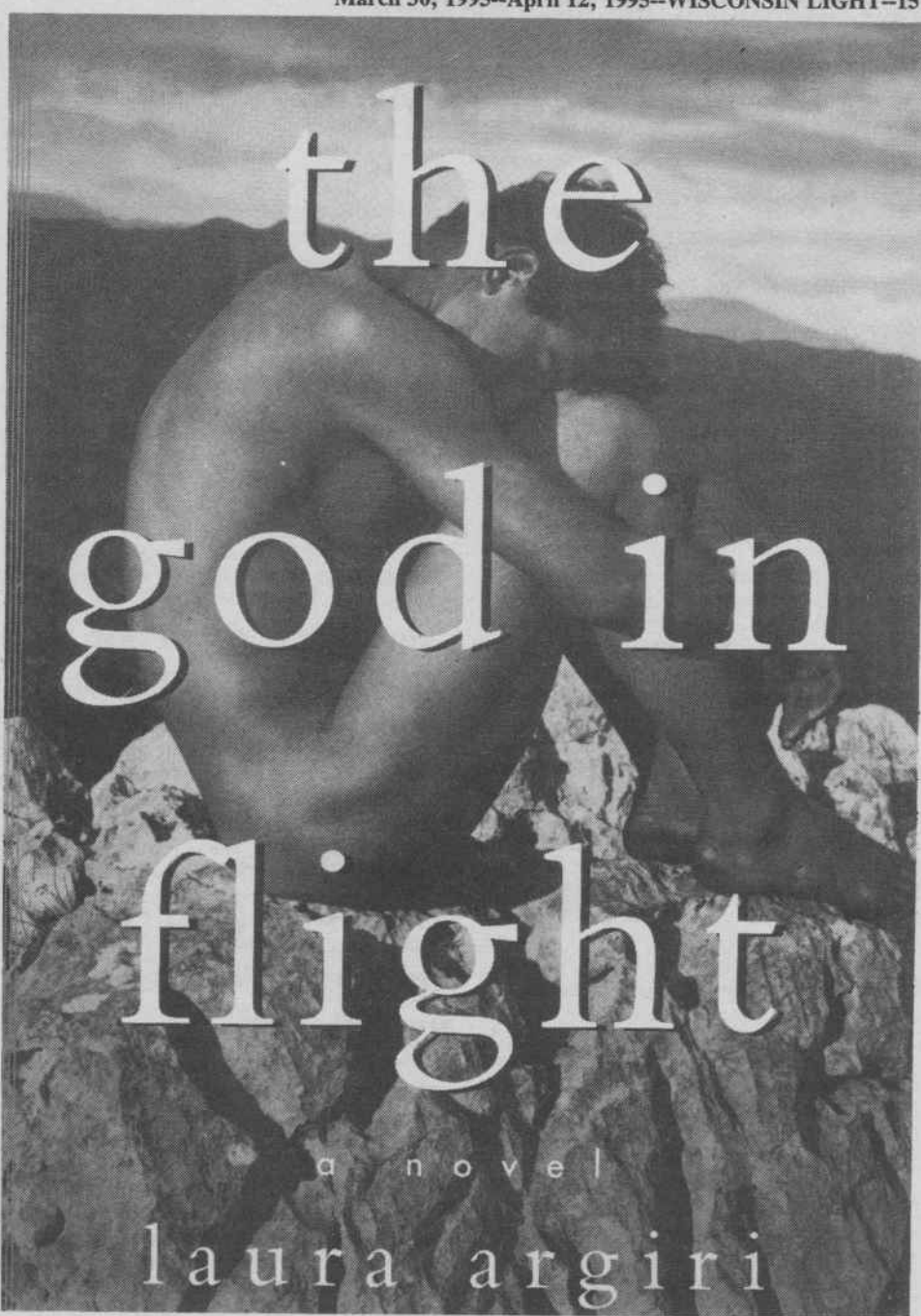
The very existence of male prostitutes and brothels may come as a surprise to readers unfamiliar with London's Cleveland Street. But, throw in a significant number of red herrings and a very real sense of impending doom, and you have a fast-paced page-turner.

Perhaps even more extraordinary is Carr's deft handling of the issue of homosexuality. In a novel so vitally concerned with the creation of a murderer's psychological profile, superficial (and inevitably stereotypical) motivations are eschewed in favor of a more balanced, if ultimately more sinister series of factors contributing to the make-up of the killer.

Especially impressive are Carr's characterizations of the young male prostitutes: Gloria, Sally and, in particular, Joseph. Carr reveals many factors, some conflicting, more often compounding, as to why these young men would leave home, paint themselves up to look like women and become prostitutes.

It should not, but does come as quite a surprise that many of these boys had one thing in common: a shared homosexual (the term "Gay" was years away yet) orientation. While acknowledging the age's prejudices, Carr has crafted an intelligent and thoughtful book about a particularly gruesome murderer.

The Alienist is most highly recommended, indeed!



If You Know a Novelist, the Chances are Pretty Good that You'll Wind Up in a Book

By Andrea L. Peterson

Boston, MA-- OutWrite '95, the fifth annual Lesbian and Gay writers conference was held, for the third consecutive year, in Boston on March 3-5. The nine months of intensive planning, conference calling and sleepless nights seems to have paid off. Although there were last minute changes due to cancellations, the event pretty much came off without a hitch.

Facilitating the interaction and networking that is essential--maybe even structuring the networking that already exists within the community of Gay and Lesbian writers--is what OutWrite is all about.

One of the event's programmers, Adrien Saks, maintains that OutWrite does that by answering basic questions (What is responsible reporting? What isn't? How does one get an agent? What does getting published cost/involve?) and by tackling those questions which are far more complex (In what ways is the Gay and Lesbian community accepted into or excluded from the publication and performance mainstream?).

In an attempt to answer these questions, and to explore every aspect of writing, workshops and seminars were held all weekend. No need or concern was left unaddressed.

Beginning with keynote speakers Linda Villarosa, executive editor of *Essence* magazine, and award-winning playwright Tony Kushner, OutWrite brought together what can only be described as the wisdom of the age.

Villarosa stressed the need for Gay writers to "get our stories out there any way we can," and urged Lesbian and Gay writers to "use our skills as writers to make that link between other oppressed communities and the Gay community."

Ignore the fact, Villarosa said, that what you want to do has been done before. Everything, she stressed, has been done before, but that hasn't stopped countless writers from putting forth their unique interpretations in their own unique styles.

There were sessions that explored the problems of including fictionalized versions of people we know in our novels. Speakers on this topic agreed that there isn't one of us who doesn't do this. As Truman Capote is said to have remarked one time to an outraged friend, "Did you think that since I know you, I wouldn't write about you?"

As Diane Salvatore said, "There are probably more people living today who are immortalized in fiction in one way or another, than ever in history. People who know a novelist and think they won't wind up in a book are simply crazy."

In addition to speakers and workshops, a

handful of artists performed at the conference. More than 60 writers, many of them novices, participated in the OutSpoken reading series.

While attending an OutWrite Conference may cost a few bucks, it may just be the best investment a Lesbian or Gay writer can make. It is difficult to imagine a more spectacular opportunity for writers of all stages of the craft to meet, mingle with, and to learn from those who have already "been there, done that."

Gay Children of Gay Parents Newsletter

San Francisco-- The second issue of *Second Generation*, a newsletter by and for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual daughters and sons of LesBiGay parents, is now available from COLAGE. This new forum for the second generation of LesBiGays takes a tough look at the negative reactions of Gay kids of Gay parents in the Lesbian and Gay community. The newsletter is produced by *Second Generation*, a social group that meets monthly in San Francisco. It is published twice a year and is available by sending \$5 to COLAGE, 2300 Market St., #165, San Francisco, CA 94114 or call (202) 583-8029 for more information.

'Images In The Dark' is a Mammoth Work, But is Disappointing and Misleading

Images In The Dark
Raymond Murray
TLA Publications, \$19.95

By Dale E. Kuntz

Raymond Murray's new book, *Images In The Dark: An Encyclopedia of Gay and Lesbian Film and Video*, is a mammoth undertaking. Mr. Murray has to be congratulated for his superb research--and his personal knowledge, which he brings to the book. However, in spite of all the positive things going for the book--it is a disappointment. The book is just too misleading to the general public.

With Mr. Murray's background (he runs a repertory cinema house in Philadelphia and owns several video stores) in films, he has great knowledge--and appreciation of films. But, his general audience does not.

some Gay situation in them is going to be disappointing to many readers, unless the reader wants to find something Gay in them! As you know, this is easy for anyone to do. All of us can find something in anything if we really want to find it!

The biggest mistake the professional critics and "professional" viewers make in viewing a classic film (or just a good older one) is judging it by today's stands and morals. *You can not judge or interpret a 1943 movie by 1995 standards!*

In Miss Davis' classic *Dark Victory*, she goes blind, knowing she is dying. In her last speech to her friend, she talks about how her friends should take her death and the great party they should throw when her horse wins a special race.

She says, "And be gay...everyone should be gay."

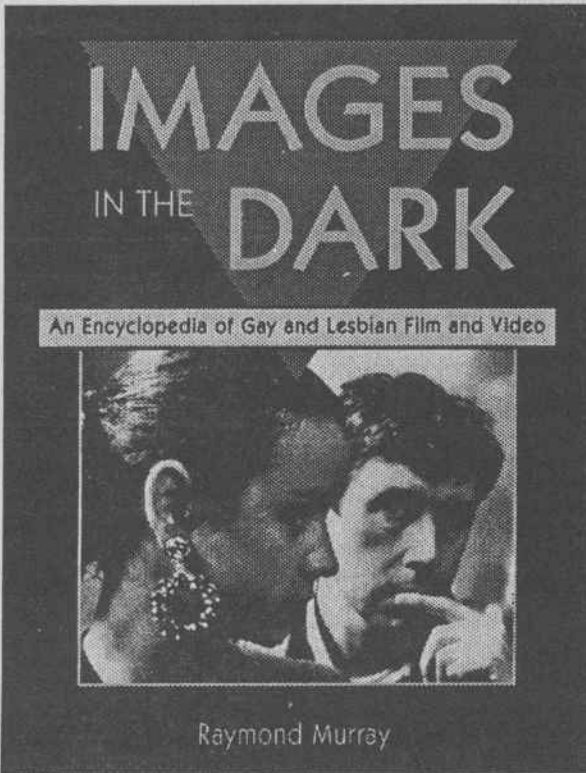
All she means is to be happy...have fun! Nothing else! And, this line does not deserve all the "snickers" it receives when the film is shown today.

I know this is a very simple example, but it drives home my point. While many of our favorite stars--and directors--were Gay or Bisexual, this does not mean that their films of that time had any Gay overtones. Listing them in a book about Gay films is confusing to the general audience some of whose members may be looking for a true Gay film.

Example: Yes, Charles Laughton was Gay/Bisexual and some of his performances highlighted that (Nero in *The Sign of the Cross*). However, no way can you find anything Gay in his *Mutiny on the Bounty* or *Les Miserables*--nor in any of the other characters in these films either. That is, unless you want to in your own mind.

Mr. Murray gives a biography and a listing of Alan Bates films. Because Mr. Bates worked for several Gay directors and portrayed Gay and/or Bisexual characters in several films, does not make him Gay! Even his first marrying at age 36 is no basis for judging his sexual orientation.


Acting is a very grueling profession and your early years are all taken up with pursuing your career--if you want one at all. A



Listing films of stars who had a Gay following or were supportive of their Gay co-workers, does not make their films Gay--or give them Gay undertones! Yes, Bette Davis had a great Gay following and she always acknowledged them. But listing her films in this book, just doesn't cut it.

Looking up her films and then hoping to find

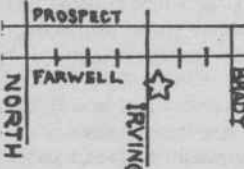
TURN TO IMAGES, PAGE 14



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Vera B. Williams and Claudia Card Scheduled at A Room Of One's Own

Madison— As part of its 20th anniversary celebration, A Room Of One's Own feminist bookstore announces that author Naomi Shihab Nye will be reading her poetry at the bookstore on Thursday, April 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Nye is the author of four full-length collections of poems, including *Red Suitcase* and *Word Under Words*, as well as several chapbooks and children's books. She is also the editor of *This Same Sky*—a collection of poems from around the world—that was named a Notable Book by the American Library Association.

Nye has received numerous awards for her work, including the IB Lavan Award from the Academy of American Poets and three Pushcart Prizes. She works as a writer-in-the-schools and has taught at universities, writer's conferences and community workshops.

The reading is free and open to the public.

Vera B. Williams

Award-winning children's book author and illustrator, Vera B. Williams, will read from works in progress on Sunday, April 9, from 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon at A Room Of One's Own.

Williams has won the Parents' Choice Foundation Award for illustrations in 1981 for *Three Days on a River in a Red Canoe*. A *Chair for Mother* was a Caldecott Honor Book in 1983 and *Music, Music, Everyone* received the Jane Addams Peace Award in 1985.

She also devotes her time to the causes of non-violence, children, women, peace and the environment.

Williams states that, "I have to be able to say I did something to try to save our planet from destruction. It is my faith that we will. I find living mysterious, difficult and wondrous. I hope that is in my books somehow."

Claudia Card

Claudia Card, University of Wisconsin Philosophy and Women's Studies professor, will speak about ethical and political issues of Lesbian philosophy on Thursday, April 13, at 6:30 p.m. at A Room Of One's Own. Professor Card will focus on her writings from her new collection of essays titled *Lesbian Choices* and the collection of essays, *Adventures in Lesbian Philosophy* which she ed-

ited.

In *Lesbian Choices*, Card examines how Lesbian cultures interact within the larger society and within Lesbian communities themselves. She addresses such topics as Lesbian traditions, friendships and sexuality.

Her edited collection, *Adventures in Lesbian Philosophy* explores various authors' understandings of "Lesbian philosophy." The topics examined range from contested sexual behaviors, such as pornography and sadomasochism, to the meaning of "Lesbian" and the role of responsibility in the Lesbian community.

The event is free and open to the public.

All above events will be held at A Room Of One's Own, 317 W. Johnson Street in Madison. For more information, call (608) 257-7888.

New Zine for Poor and Working Class Lesbians

Minneapolis, MN— *Ungrateful* is a new zine/newsletter for poor and working class Lesbians. Articles about clothes, police brutality, invisibility, prostitution, the right to housing and ideas for a discussion group are in the first issue. The zine is free to Lesbians making less than \$7,500 a year and costs up to \$3 for Lesbians making more. For more information, write: *Ungrateful*, P.O. Box 7471, Minneapolis, MN 55407.

Odysseus '95 Celebrates its 10th Year

Port Washington, NY— *Odysseus '95*, the international Gay travel planner, now in its 10th year, is bigger and better than ever with up-to-date travel information for Gay men and Lesbians for 82 countries around the world. New destinations featured include mainland China, the Baltic states, the former republics of Yugoslavia (with the exception of Bosnia) and the Mediterranean countries including Turkey and Israel. *Odysseus '95* features a beautiful 24-page glossy, full color travel supplement. The guide has over 600 pages, costs \$21 and is available in all Gay/Lesbian bookstores world wide.

Once in the Hidden World, Erotic Sadism and Masochism are Hidden no Longer

On the Safe Edge: A Manual for SM-Play

Trevor Jacques

WholeSM Publishing, \$19.95

By Charles Sanjoe

It used to be something that many people did, but no one talked about without a certain embarrassment—unless they were among the initiates. It was called "kinky" and worse by

From Levi's to Pumps or How to Be a Drag Queen and Like It

Guy to Goddess

Bill Richardson

Ten Speed Press, \$17.95

By Leili Eghbal

Ever wondered what it'd be like to put on those bugle beads, and flounce right out there to entertain the adoring crowds?

Or maybe you've stood transfixed (which is putting it mildly) as some one you know dolled himself up in a few sequins, tossed a pink feather boa about his shoulders and pranced outside without giving a tinker's damn what the neighbors might think?

If you've ever wondered about the world of the female impersonator, the drag queen, then *Guy to Goddess* is a book you should read.

In the book, Bill Richardson explores the sometimes eccentric (if you're rich, you're eccentric. If you're poor, you're crazy) and always fascinating world of the drag queen. With extraordinary photos and riveting commentary, Richardson takes the reader behind the scenes and reveals a most beguiling subculture—the private, poignant moments of a double persona set against the larger-than-life moments of glamour and dash.

The elegant photographs were taken by Rosamund Norbury, and award-winning photographer and long-time drag show devotee. Her images uncloak the curious world of metamorphosis and performance through her use of intimate duotone. In her vision as in Richardson's words, the readers sees and understands the transformation from man to woman.

For Richardson and Norbury, female impersonators are artists in the highest degree—and they show them as such. But they also highlight the personalities behind the makeup and the gowns, exploring the dreams, prejudices and conventions of these artists that reveal their passionate commitment to personal expression

those outside "the circle." By those who practiced it and understood, it was fun, fantasy brought as closely to life as anyone could desire.

"It" was S&M, dominance and submission, Masters and slaves, bondage and pleasure/pain that allows one to transcend the ordinary physical boundaries.

Now, *On The Safe Edge: A Manual for SM-Play*, has become a best-seller in both Canada, where it was published, and in the United States. The book, written by Toronto author Trevor Jacques with Dr. Dale, Michael Hamilton and Sniffer, is an unprecedented pan-sexual manual and reference text to the safe, exotic and erotic practices of a literate, well-organized and international subculture. It came about as a result of safer sex seminars given by the author under the auspices of the AIDS Committee of Toronto.

The book is a fun read and intended for all people (from inquiring youth to experienced adults and health workers) who are curious about the current practice of S&M. The book examines the fantasies involved in sadomasochistic play: bondage, rituals, slavery, leather, marshmallows, etc., challenging the reader to examine preconceptions about sadomasochism.

The authors, all experts in S&M play, dispel the stereotypes and myths about sadomasochism—for example, that it's exclusively a Les/Gay thing. It's not. An awful lot of straights do it too. *On the Safe Edge* provides an understanding of how S&M play can be a positive, safe and healthy expression of sexual fantasies.

The authors provide readers with an introduction and reference to: coming out into S&M; consent and trust; S&M spirituality; adult toys; sexually transmitted diseases and, above all, safety.

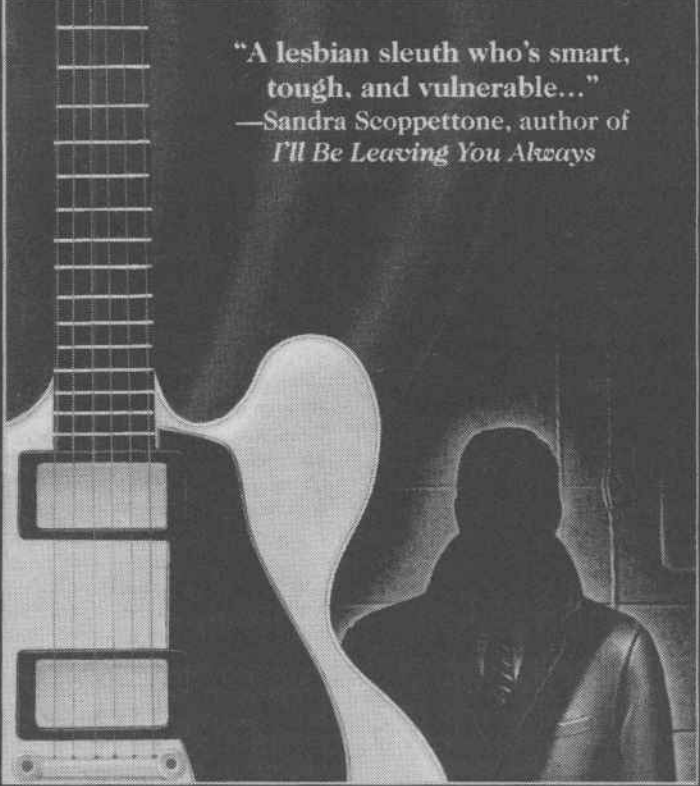
Each section presents a particular aspect of S&M, so that one can read the book right through, as though taking a course, or one can read each section as a reference. An extensive index, glossary and bibliography make the book extremely easy to pick up again to remind oneself of the safety aspects of an evening's play.

Jacques comments on the book's rapid success saying, "More and more people are experimenting with their sexuality. The popularity of *One the Safe Edge* reflects the growing awareness in the general public about safer, consensual play and its expanded role in a quiet revolution in sexual exploration."

If S&M is a door you hope to open one day (or have passed through many times already), before you do any of that, check your Top's or Bottom's bookshelf first. Make sure this book is on it.

SMP
SHATTERED
A LIL RITCHIE MYSTERY
RHYTHMS

STONER WALLS IN MYSTERY



"A lesbian sleuth who's smart, tough, and vulnerable..."
—Sandra Scoppettone, author of *I'll Be Leaving You Always*

PHYLLIS KNIGHT

'Lesbian Lists' Displays a Long Galaxy of Great Women in All Places and Times

Lesbian Lists

Dell Richards, ed.

Allyson, \$9.95

By Christine Sanni

"You may forget but/Let me tell you/this: someone in/some future time/ will think of us."

Luckily, 2,500 years after Sappho wrote those lines, we, at least, have increasing numbers of books to remind us to remember and honor, our foremothers: brave and sometimes brazen women who battled against the stereotypes and regulations that kept them down.

Regrettably, women have historically not had access to the mechanisms and institutional channels that are required to record our stories, celebrate our accomplishments and honor our ancestors in a calculated way. For each generation of women, finding our roots has become an act of reinventing the wheel, looking through scores of sources, sometimes stored in the damp cellars of libraries or the cobwebbed attics of homes.

For Lesbians, who have only recently been considered "worthy subjects" of nonhostile and nondisapproving presses, the task can be even more daunting. As journalist and true Lesbian foremother wrote in *Lesbian Lists*, "With the exception of Amazon forebears like Renee Vivien and Natalie Barney or women like George Sand who enjoyed scandalizing the bourgeoisie, few women-loving-women ever publicly said they were Gay before 1970.

Lesbian Lists is therefore a must on any Lesbian's bookshelf, at least any Lesbian who is interested in those who went before her.

For example, the first woman doctor in England was a Lesbian. James Miranda Barry, born in 1795, earned her medical degree from Edinburgh College while still in her teens and lived as a man all her life. Her "true sex" was only discovered during an autopsy.

Perhaps the best known of Chinese revolutionaries, Jui Jin also called herself Qinxiong, which means "compete against men." She wore men's clothes, wrote feminist poetry and fought against all restraints placed on women. She was born in 1879 and was beheaded in 1907 by the Imperial Manchu government.

Charlotte Cushman (1816-1876), whose acting talent was celebrated throughout Europe and America, developed a circle of Lesbian friends she called the "Jolly Female Bachelors." She and Rosalie Kemble Sully, daughter of American artist Thomas Sully, were lovers.

Lesbian Lists includes names, stories and bios of Lesbians who, among other things,

passed as men, were hunted as witches and were responsible for some of the greatest inventions, works of literature and musical compositions ever. It is a must-read.

IMAGES

Continued from Page 13

simple listing of the films in which Mr. Bates played a Gay character would have sufficed.

Many of today's star biographies are simply "kiss and tell" books, published to titillate the reader and to sell! They have very little truth based on fact. When a star is dead, no one can protect their privacy, not even their spouse or children. Although, sometimes it is their children who want to "tell and sell."

Anyone can say anything about anyone and who is to say it isn't true or suspected. Sex has always been "the game" in Hollywood and many a young star would do anything just to get their chance.

However, once they become an established star or retired, their lifestyles often take a different direction. So, who is to say that part of their sexual activity wasn't also part of their act?

So, don't put too much stock in all those film biographies that are now flooding the market. As a film historian, believe me, I have found too many glaring mistakes and speculations.

The last part of Mr. Murray's book is an invaluable source for true Gay films. Mr. Murray gives an alphabetical listing of films made for Gay and Lesbian audiences or films of general interest or relevancy to these audiences. It is a very interesting and most thorough compilation.

All films are noted if they are available on video. The price of the book is worth this listing alone—should your interests run to seeing every Gay and/or Lesbian film ever made.

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LIVELY ARTS



Father and Son—Jeff (Russell Crowe, left) and his dad Harry (Jack Thompson) are both searching for true love in "The Sum Of Us," an Australian romantic comedy which opens April 21 at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater with a special benefit April 18 (see ad page 19).

'The Sum of Us' Shows a Warm and Loving Relationship Between a Father and Gay Son

By Geno

The concept of family now includes so many variations on the traditional family stereotype that it has provided playwrights and novelists with fresh themes to describe and explore.

The *Sum of Us* is a movie based upon an off-Broadway prize-winning play by David Stevens who presents a family portrait of a widowed father and his son sharing a tidy cottage in a blue collar neighborhood of Melbourne, Australia. Harry Mitchell, Dad, is the skipper of his own ship in the harbor who has had to be both father and mother to his son Jeff, now 26 years-old.

In spite of good-natured squabbles over who is the worse cook and whose turn it is to do the laundry, it is clear that this is an easy, caring relationship. Dad (Jack Thompson) recognizes early on that son Jeff (Russell Crowe) has plans for a Saturday night date and their bantering back and forth about what to wear and too much shaving lotion are great fun to see.

Then, in the play and the film, Harry turns to the audience/camera and explains that Jeff is not planning to meet some "Sheila," but is looking for Mr. Right.

Jeff is "what you might call cheerful," Harry says. "I can't bear that other word." He explains, "He's been like that since—well, since he was born, I s'ppose... We both accepted the fact as a natural part of his life and got on with living."

Stevens, who also wrote the screenplay, has wisely retained this dramatic technique of characters speaking directly to the audience in a modernization of the Shakespearean aside. Stevens' dialogue, including the monologues, is so well written that changing them would have destroyed the intimacy of the way the story is told.

The early scenes easily win over the audience, a warm, caring father/son relationship that many would wish for themselves.

The humor and natural dialogue light up the Boulevard Ensemble Gives You 'The Time of Your Life'

Milwaukee— The Boulevard Ensemble brings its 1994-'95 season to a delightful close with a presentation of *The Time of Your Life*, an epic human comedy that won a 1939 Pulitzer Prize for its author, William Saroyan.

The play, which will feature the Ensemble's largest cast ever, presents a parade of humanity from comedy to drama and back again, with stops in between. The play features a bizarre cast of characters—Kit Carson, among them—who ponder an equally eclectic range of topics, including fascism, champagne and pin-ball.

Timothy Troy will direct the Ensemble's production which will be presented on Thursdays through Sundays, April 28 to May 21 at the Boulevard Theater, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue in the Bay View section of Milwaukee. For ticket and other information, call (414) 672-6019.

scene when late on Saturday night Jeff brings Greg home and the two are getting along just fine on the family settee. Dad, wearing his slippers and Pjs comes pattering in. Greg is hugely embarrassed, but Harry joins the party and starts chatting up the gentleman caller to put him at his ease, as it were, and disregards Jeff's strong hints that Dad should go back to the telly in his room.

The scene is hilarious and beautifully played by the three actors. No great harm has been done though Greg may need time to get used to the unusual family situation. Jeff comments that, "There's such a thing as being too well adjusted."

There is another family story being told through memories of Harry and Jeff of Harry's mother who lived and slept in the same big brass bed for forty years with Mary who came as a lodger and stayed. These flashbacks are presented in black and white in the film and enrich and explain much about the father and son's own loving acceptance of one another.

Enter Joyce. It seems that Harry has signed up with Desiree's Introduction Agency, a dating service, and has several dates with Joyce, a divorcee, trim, middle class and a bit on the prim side, but after a while, not averse to a little tickle and slap. At this point, the film takes a serious turn though, on the surface, good humor prevails.

There are surprises and shocking turns of events, though Stevens brings his father and son portrait to a wry sort of happy ending as Dad, Jeff and Greg meet in the blooming public gardens where Greg works.

The *Sum of Us* is a gem of a play that has won audiences all over the country in productions by a growing number of groups, and the movie has retained the same emotional pull of the original that Stevens describes as "A comedy of Love."

A Busy Spring for the Cream City Chorus

Milwaukee— Just as *Light* comes out, the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus will be holding their Spring concert, "The Gay Concert," on Friday, April 1. The following evening, the Chorus will host an Anniversary Awards Banquet at the Park East Hotel.

And that's only the month's beginning. Other upcoming events this season, include an April 23 performance at a service for the First Unitarian Society, which hosts the Chorus' Wednesday evening rehearsals. There will be multiple performances at this year's PrideFest, June 10 and 11 at Veteran's Park, and the Chorus' Summer concert, June 24, at Milwaukee's Performing Arts Center.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Cream City Chorus, or in joining can call the Chorus' office at (414) 344-WCCC or stop by any 7:00 p.m. rehearsal on Wednesday evening at the First Unitarian Society, 1342 N. Astor in Milwaukee.

Tickets for "The Gay Concert" will be available at the door for \$10.

Lesbian Author Willa Cather's 'My Antonia' is Made into a TV Movie

North Platte, NE— The makers of the movie version of the Willa Cather novel *My Antonia* got an unexpected benefit from filming in Nebraska.

Cather, who preferred to be called "Willie" or "William," was a Lesbian.

Three south-central Nebraskans used as extras were history buffs who have made a hobby of educating themselves about life on the prairie at the turn of the century.

Jay Lewis and Don Carter of Gothenburg and Charlie Weber of Cozad each have a part as extras in the movie *My Antonia* that aired Wednesday, March 29, on the cable USA Network.

The movie and novel recount the struggles of pioneer and immigrant families in Nebraska in the late part of the 19th century. The movie version stars Jason Robards, Eva-Marie Saint, Elna Lowensohn and Neil Patrick Harris.

It was filmed in Nebraska last summer in a recreated prairie town in Grand Island. The film makers used the boyhood home of Nebraska-born Henry Fonda as Saint's and Robard's home in the movie.

Lewis, Carter and Weber showed up at the movie's casting call already dressed in period clothing. That made them naturals for extras. They also supplied cabin and pyramid tents that were used in the filming.

"They seemed a little surprised that we would have such things," Lewis said of the film makers.

The men also belong to a group called the Artist Ride and frequently pose in period attire for artists and sculptors.

Weber suggested the film makers had a thing or two to learn themselves about frontier life. He talked about a scene that was filmed with chickens on a railroad station platform.

"They obviously didn't know much about chickens," Weber told the North Platte Telegraph. "They didn't know you can't give a bunch of chickens orders and expect them to do what you want and go where you want them."

The three got an unexpected benefit from being involved in the movie.

"As a bonus, it also prompted all of us to read *My Antonia*," Weber said.

Theatre X Extends Showing of Wilde's 'An Ideal Husband'

Milwaukee— Due to brisk advance ticket sales and broad audience interest, Theatre X has announced its decision to extend the run of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*. Originally set to run from April 5 to 30, it will now run a total of six weeks, closing May 14.

"The run of *Lord Alfred's Lover* was so successful, we were turning people away the entire last week," said Theatre X Managing Director Lisa Schultz. "By extending the run of *An Ideal Husband*, we are giving our patrons a greater opportunity to catch this must see production!"

The extension of *An Ideal Husband* will replace Theatre X's previously scheduled finale, *Oh Wow Nancy Drew!* Theatre X is strongly considering including *Nancy Drew* in the 1995-'96 season lineup.

Theatre X is located in the Broadway Theatre Center's Studio Theatre, 158 N. Broadway Avenue in Milwaukee. For ticket information, call (414) 291-7800.



Dance It!

A Pledge Dance to Benefit AIDS

Join us for a fun evening of music and dancing and help us reach our goal of \$10,000 for AIDS care and education. Each hour starts with a dance demo by some of Madison's hottest dancers! Every half-hour we'll give away a door prize, and all night a hot deejay dance mix. Collect the most pledges and you'll win a State Street shopping spree! Lots more great prizes. Tell a friend and plan to DANCE IT!

April 15, 1995 • 7:30 p.m.

Marquee & Spotlight Rooms
Madison Civic Center, 211 State St.

TO RECEIVE A PLEDGE FORM CALL
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SPECIAL THANKS TO:



ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
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Priestly Duty--Linus Roache is shown in Antonia Bird's controversial new film "Priest," which opens April 19 at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater.

Arch-Conservative Lay Catholic Leader, Bill Donohue, Seeks to Stop 'Priest'

By Terry Boughner

New York, NY--The distributor of a movie critical of the Roman Catholic priesthood has bowed to pressure from a Roman Catholic group and agreed not to release the film on Good Friday.

The Catholic League, a 200,000-member, archconservative independent lay group, called the concession by Miramax Films an "important step" but said it was inadequate. The group has called *Priest* anti-Catholic.

The movie is about several Catholic priests in Liverpool, England, including one living with his housekeeper and another who is Gay and torn over how to stop a member of the congregation from sexually abusing his daughter.

The Catholic League's president, Dr. William Donohue, said he wanted Walt Disney, the parent company of Miramax, to dissociate itself from the film or face a major media campaign aimed at tarnishing its "family values" image.

Donohue, a former professor of Sociology at La Roche College about 12 miles north of Pittsburgh, is an ultra-conservative. When he tried to get his doctoral dissertation on the founding of the American Civil Liberties Union published, one conservative leader to whom he sent the manuscript, in a letter called it "a diatribe" that no one "would touch with a ten foot pole."

Donohue, who is very well known to this reporter, over a ten year period of numerous conversations and debates, promoted strongly what are now called "family values." He also denounced Affirmative Action, Upward Bound and all other such programs which he said, the Irish immigrants had never had and never needed.

His view of religion always seemed to be based less of a knowledge of the faith and more on the Church as a function of society whose purpose was to uphold "traditional values."

Donohue argued that while the Church was above criticism, it had degenerated, largely due to Vatican II. He indicated that one of the signs of this degeneration was when nuns changed their style of dress.

Donohue, never to this reporter's mind, a deep thinker, was always virulently homophobic, speaking often of "queers" and "fags."

A call to Disney President Michael Eisner in California was not immediately returned on Friday, March 24. On Thursday, March 23, Disney referred all calls to Miramax.

At a midtown New York news conference Friday, Mark Gill, the spokesman for Miramax, said, "We expected debate about the vital issues the movie raises but, to be quite frank about it, we were surprised by the vehemence of the reaction from the Catholic League and others to our plan to release the film nationally on Good Friday."

"Out of respect for their concerns," he added, "Miramax will move the national release date off of Good Friday, April 14, and

Louganis Proves to be A Good Role Model

Beverly Hills, CA-- Nearly 300 people waited in line for hours to meet Greg Louganis, the Olympic diving gold medalist who disclosed recently that he has AIDS.

Louganis looked upbeat Friday as he shook hands and signed copies of his book, *Breaking the Surface*, at a sportswear store.

The book, which contains details of Louganis' troubled childhood and his difficulty accepting his Gay sexual orientation, is inspiring to some of his fans.

"Reading the book has helped me a lot, because it's scary and it's frightening and I want to be able to tell my friends that I'm Gay," said Nick Garcia, 40, the first person in line.

back out of the holiday season to Wednesday, April 19."

Gill said Miramax had scheduled the film's national release on Good Friday because it had hoped to benefit from the news coverage of religious topics at that time of year.

"We are not going to alter the movie in any way," he said. "We believe strongly in its

portrait of real-world, human priests. ... But we think (the Catholic League's) concern about the release date is valid."

Priest, directed by Antonia Bird, has been well received by critics and played to standing ovations at several film festivals. It opened on Friday, March 24, in New York and Los Angeles, and will open in 10 more cities on April 7.

The New York Times said it "clearly courts controversy" but "offers a vision of the devoted clergyman who cares profoundly about his parishioners' problems, and whose ability to help those people is only enhanced by an acknowledgement of his humanity."

Donohue has said the film is anti-Catholic, but not because of the unflattering portraits of priests.

"Certainly you can find priests who live twisted lives," Donohue said. "It's the cause and effect that bothers us most, the fact that the Catholic Church is depicted as being directly responsible for the plight of these priests and their deprived conditions."

Joseph Zwilling, the spokesman for the Roman Catholic archdiocese of New York, said he could not comment on the film's content because he had not seen it. But he added that the date change did not seem to "address the central issues that were raised" by the movie.

Donohue, who said one time that he never understood complete freedom of the press, is not satisfied with the change in release date. He wants the film pulled from distribution entirely so that no one can see it.

"We can take their Snow White imagery, which is already tarnished and blacken them up a bit," he said at his press conference. "If Disney gets no resistance from the Catholic League and from Catholics around the country

(over) this film, god knows what we can expect in the future."

According to Morality in Media's president, Robert Peters, "That company (Miramax) has produced films featuring cannibalism, animal worship, explicit sex, occultism--you name it."

LAMM to Sponsor 'In The Life' Screening in April

Milwaukee-- The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee Education Fund (LAMMEF) will be welcoming producers John Catania and Chuck Ignacio when they will present a special preview of their April show of *In The Life*, the nationally televised Lesbian/Gay magazine program. The screening will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11, 1995 at the Milwaukee Enterprise Center North, 2821 N. 4th Street, Room 300.

Catania, a Milwaukee native and Ignacio were interviewed by *Wisconsin Light* when they visited the city last Fall. While here in April, they will be looking for Lesbians and Gay men who have moved from big cities to small towns, asking them to compare Gay life between the two.

They will be returning in May to tape people willing to talk about their lives for an upcoming segment of the show. Those interested in being part of this segment of *In The Life*, should plan on attending the LAMMEF meeting.

The LAMMEF event is free and open to all Lesbians and Gay men.

Kate Clinton

Friday
April 21, 1995
7:30 p.m.

Pabst Theater
144 East Wells Street
Milwaukee

Tickets:
\$18.00 in advance
\$20.00 at the door

Available at:
Pabst Theater Box Office
286-3663

People's Books
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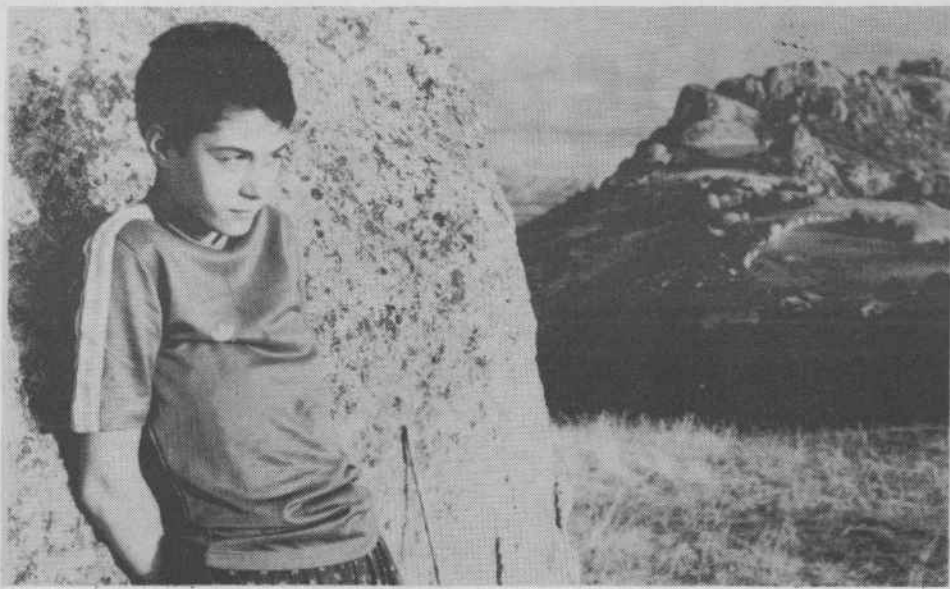
"Kate Clinton is the lesbian you want to take home to meet your parents."
L.A. Times Reviewer

"You know a comedian is good when you can't capture her appeal by merely quoting her one-liners... (Clinton) had this critic in tears from laughing so hard."
Ben Brantley, The New York Times

Four albums, dozens of TV appearances, and a book due for release, Kate Clinton shares her sharply satirical wit and political slant that shows a courage to be logical.

Tickets by mail:
Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee
Education Fund, Inc.
P.O. Box 93323 • Milwaukee, WI 53203
(Please include SASE)

For more information, call LAMM at 264-2600.



Trice a Love Story—Labina Mitevska stars as Zamira, a troubled girl whose brief contact with two men dramatically changes their lives in "Before the Rain," a film by Micho Manchevski. The Russian film was nominated for the Academy Award for foreign film and opens April 7 at Milwaukee's Downer Theater.

Director's Debut Film About Gay Love is 'Sum' Kind of Wonderful

By Steve Warren

SWM—Mid-thirties, attractive, American seeks Australian GWM for working relationship. Object: to change the world.

That's not really how it started, but that sums up the mechanics behind *The Sum of Us*, Kevin Dowling's film adaptation of David Stevens' play about the supportive love between a widowed father and his Gay son.

Gay, British-born Australian Stevens was an acclaimed novelist, screenwriter and director when he wrote *Sum* as a very personal play, not intending it to be produced.

"I was coming to a crossroads in my life," he has said. "I had a nagging suspicion that the direction I would take would lead me away from Australia. At the same time, I learned that three of my closest friends were HIV positive. I wanted to do something, write something, do anything to express my feelings toward their plight and this disease."



Director Kevin Dowling

The resulting play, while a "love song from Australia," was not about AIDS, but more timeless aspects of the Gay lifestyle.

The Philadelphia-born Dowling, interviewed at the Miami Film Festival where *The Sum of Us* was presented, made his reputation as a stage director. Films have "always been a passion," he says, "but I grew up in the theater."

When Dowling read Stevens' play it was love at first sight. Within a week he had optioned both stage and screen rights, although he had never made a film and the playwright, who had, insisted *Sum* couldn't be adapted to that medium. "It didn't take that much to convince him," confides Dowling, who says he "had very cinematic images when I first read the story."

After staging the play successfully in 1990 in New York, where it won the Outer Critics Circle Award and an Obie Award, Dowling set about putting a film version together. He could have had major studio backing if he'd agreed to move the story to the U.S. "David was willing," he says, "but I think we would have made the mistake American films do regularly, not to honor the creative impulse of the author's original vision."

That vision meant more to Dowling after he spent time in Australia observing the subtleties of character that make *The Sum of Us* so rich. It could have been set in America, but it would take more than changing the accents to make the portrayals accurate.

"I went to Australia with a middle class attitude," Dowling says, "that the more education you have the more open minded you are. What I found was, the more education you have, the more money you have, and the more narrow minded you are..."

"There is Gay-bashing in Australia, usually by teenagers. Among adults, there was a much

more open attitude. In America, the idea of 'I disagree with your choice, but I shall defend your right to it to the death' has gone by the wayside."

Like many an independent filmmaker, Dowling did things the hard way, arranging half the financing from the U.S. and half from Australia. A week before production was to begin, his American backer, midwestern billionaire Jerry Wexler, died of lymphoma. Lawyers said his money would be tied up for years.

The Australian Film Finance Corporation agreed to increase their country's share to 80 percent, but not with an American as sole director. Rather than bring in someone new at this point, Dowling reasoned, "I've got one of

the great cinematographers in the world. Why not share the credit with him?" So he and Geoff Burton, who shot *Sirens*, *Dead Calm* and *Flirting*, embarked on "an arranged marriage that turned out to be a love affair."

Dowling, who had studied film at NYU, observed on 14 other sets and read everything he could about filmmaking to prepare for his task. While he basically handled the actors and left the technical aspects to Burton, "we both tried to have our own laboratory," he says, "tried to cross over whenever we could." There's an incidental economic advantage to having one director in each hemisphere to handle promotional duties.

Leading Australian actor Jack Thompson, who stars as Harry Mitchell, was an early booster of the project, Dowling says. "He believed in it passionately from the beginning and promoted it tirelessly. It was a rare opportunity for him to do comedy, of which I'm a connoisseur." Confident in dramatic (*Breaker Morant*) and rugged outdoorsman (*The Man from Snowy River*) roles, Thompson relied on the American novice for help with his comic timing.

Thompson was, Dowling notes, "the first male centerfold in Australia. It was well known that he lived for 12 years with two women in a *menage a trois*."

The casting of Russell Crowe (*The Quick and the Dead*) as Jeff, Harry's Gay son, was more dicey. "He lobbied to play the part," Dowling says. "He really wanted to do it...So you have this young Australian stud who's now playing the boy next door who happens to be Gay."

"I've cast in the theater for 20 years and never known ahead if someone's Gay, straight, Bi or whatever. I argued with Ian McKellen, who says straight actors shouldn't play Gay roles, although it's okay for Gays to play straights because they've always had to fit into straight society."

Admitting almost apologetically that he's not Gay either, Dowling adds that David Stevens "says he's Gay enough for all of us."

The most drastic change made in adapting

the stage play was the inclusion of flashbacks showing Gran and Mary, Harry's mother and her Lesbian lover. On stage, Harry described them in a monologue, but it was important to Dowling to show them in the film. "It was the part I had to fight for most vehemently," he says. "It was (producer) Hal McElroy's one crisis in confidence. He was totally supportive of the project, even though I think some of the other scenes shook him a little. But when it came to the old women, he said, 'Let's get rid of the flashbacks. People don't like flashbacks anyway.' I could have given him examples throughout cinema history to prove him wrong, but I just said, 'I will kill someone before I take them out.'"

"When people think of Lesbians, it's always a caricature...To have it older, Salvation Army women who have been together for 40 years really makes a point. It also says something about how we treat old people." As for the scene where the women are forcibly separated, "If that was a man and a woman, it would never have happened. They would have found some way to keep them together."

Dowling says he's "happier that the film's coming out now" as part of the first wave of backlash against the new Republican Congress, than if it had been released two years ago when the U.S. political climate appeared more favorable.

The Sum of Us will probably become a part of PFLAG's orientation for new members. "I wanted a wide audience, including the working class and regular joes, to see it," Dowling says. (That proved to be the case in Australia, he reports, where it "played as well in working class suburbs as in downtown Sydney.")

"I want it to be a celebration for the Gay community, but I also want the straight community to realize...Harry's point of view is the point of view they should have. He and his son are both searching for love, and that's what it's all about, not the object of who the love is."

"If I could reach 1,000 fathers with this message, I'd be thrilled. If could reach 100,000 fathers, I'd be more thrilled. That's the power of film"

"WARM AND DEEPLY AFFECTING."

—Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES

"A supremely skillful film that wins big laughs while achieving an emotional impact...Russell Crowe is appealing."

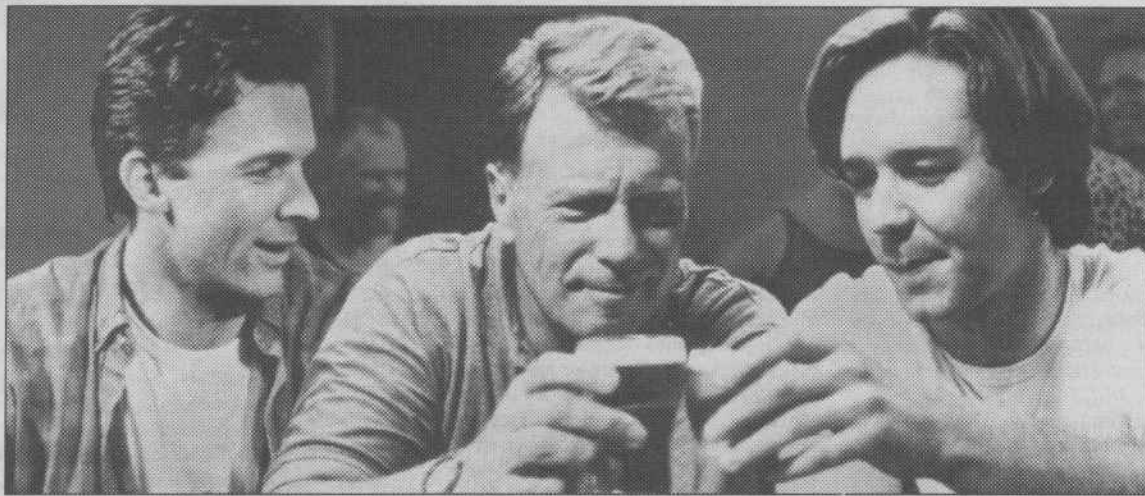
—Michael Medved, NEW YORK POST

"Jack Thompson and Russell Crowe deliver striking, towering performances."

—Susan Granger, CRN RADIO NETWORK & AMERICAN MOVIE CLASSICS

"It's a movie about people, parenting, love and loneliness."

—Jeff Craig, SIXTY SECOND PREVIEW



the Sum of Us

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Benefit co-sponsored by: AfterWords, Wisconsin Light and In Step

Seating limited to 225

New Schedule For Wisconsin Light

Time was (a long time) when we stayed up all night to finish and lay out the paper. No more.

For the past couple of issue, we've been operating on a new schedule which permits us to put the paper to bed at a reasonable hour in the evening. There's no way we're staying up all night anymore. It can't be done.

Our faxes come in to the computer. Anything coming in after noon on Tuesday is ignored unless prior arrangements have been made. Even then, it has to be late-breaking news. No columns. Columns must be received by Monday in order to be included. No exceptions.

All letters to the editor, notices and announcements that are mailed, must arrive in Monday's mail to be included in the upcoming issue. Everything else gets put back.

MONTANA

Continued from Page 1

tacting mayors of major cities around the U.S. who were his friends. By noon on that Wednesday, Mixner said, "six cities were ready to declare a boycott of the state of Montana if the measure were signed into law. More were ready to quickly follow suit.

Mixner was also in contact with the head of every major corporation either headquartered in Montana or doing significant business there. It was these heads and CEO's who began phoning the Governor to tell him he was "playing with fire."

On Wednesday, the Governor continued to refuse comment to the press on the situation and claimed that he had not had a chance to read the bill. Nor, he said, would he have a chance to read it on Thursday.

Throughout the rest of Wednesday and into Thursday, the pressure on Montana built. NGLTF and HRCF inspired, what the Governor's office called "hundreds and hundreds" of calls from tourists saying that if the provision concerning registration of Gay people were not rescinded, they would not come to Montana and would encourage their friends to stay away as well.

Finally the Governor broke.

On Thursday morning, Governor Racicot issued a statement saying that he would veto the bill if it reached his desk.

Later that same morning, Mixner said, he received a call from the Governor saying "this had all been a horrible mistake."

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Two or three people to help with distributing Wisconsin Light in Milwaukee and suburbs. Must have vehicle. Reliability a must. Would involve one day every two weeks. Call (414) 372-2773.

One person needed to distribute Wisconsin Light in Madison area. Must have own vehicle. Reliability a must. Would involve one day every two weeks. Call (414) 372-2773.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

APR. 13; APR. 27; MAY 11; MAY 25

LETTERS

Italian Lesbians

TO THE EDITOR:

A new Lesbian association called "Pianeta Viola," has been founded in Brescia, Italy. Brescia is the second largest city in Lombardy after Milan.

The group's main goals are to serve as a reference point for Lesbians in and around Brescia and to promote cultural, political and recreation activities.

Pianeta Viola held a rocketing inauguration party on November 20, 1994, which was attended by over 100 women. Recent and future activities include film and book discussion groups, a photography contest, various tournaments (tennis, darts, Pictionary, Briscola—an Italian card game, and soccer), poetry readings, New Year's Eve party and library/archives compilation.

Pianeta Viola is open Wednesday evenings from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.

I am writing to you at Wisconsin Light, hoping your Lesbian readers will open correspondence with us and have an exchange of news and views.

Our address is: Pianeta Viola, c/o ARCI, Via Cefalonia 41/A, 25100 Brescia, Italy; Tel & Fax—39/30/242-1840.

Ciao!!!

Gigi De Paoli
Brescia

That afternoon, at four o'clock, the Senate reversed itself. The Associated Press reported that the pressure on the Montana legislators had been "overwhelming."

This fight for freedom, for the rights of Gay people to live in dignity and be unafraid, Mixner told the Make A Promise Dinner attendees, was what Duane Rath was all about.

Even though the provision requiring registration of Gays had been repealed, all had not yet been accomplished. That came when Senator Bishop apologized stood up and for describing Gay sex as worse than rape.

"We all know in the heat of debate that things are said without careful thought as to precise meaning or implication," he said. "I never intended nor meant to infer that consensual sexual acts between adults of the same sex are in the same category as violent sexual acts. I regret that I made the statement."

"We believe in freedom, and we need to stand up and say no to hatred," the Rev. Peter Shober of University Congregational Church in Missoula said in a rally on the courthouse steps Wednesday.

The director of Catholic Advocates for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Chicago called the provision "demeaning, degrading and beneath the dignity of the Montana Legislature. Proponents of this measure should be ashamed."

Elizabeth Birch HRCF Executive Director, condemned the Montana Legislature's "irresponsible use of government power to dehumanize a group of Americans and promote discrimination and violence."

Birch went on to note that "When the general public understands the radical agenda of anti-Gay extremists, they overwhelmingly re-

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Lost/Sentimental: O. Cassini coat, Pivot, Appleton, black, light wool, velvet trim, no buttons, size 10. \$300 reward. (414) 445-3488.

Organizations

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

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

ject it."

And an NGLTF spokesperson said that the requirement shows "the horrific level of persecution Gay men and Lesbians often face in the name of public policy."

NGLTF's Robin Kane said "This is a frightening example of the insidious dangers of sodomy laws. These laws, even when not fully enforced, classify all Gay men and Lesbians as criminals and are used as a justification for policies that deny us our rights and dignity."

Melinda Paras, NGLTF's Executive Director said that what had gone on in Montana is

"a terrible example of how far legislatures will go to satisfy the demands of the Radical Right."

"What an insult to women who have been raped, children who have been molested and any victim of a truly violent crime—let alone Lesbians, Gay men and Bisexuals who are in loving, committed relationships," said Sandra Hale, executive director of Pride.

Currently, 22 states have laws barring various sex acts between consenting adults. Six of those states, including Montana, bar only those relating to Gay men and Lesbians.

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MAKE A PROMISE DINNER AND AUCTION MARCH 25, 1995



Religious-Based Militia Gives State Solons Pamphlets Slamming Jews, Gays

Helena, MT —A Montana Militia organizer gave state legislators handouts Monday that complained "Jewish controlled Hollywood" made heroes out of "some Jewish queer looking sissy."

The 22-page pamphlet is titled *Strength of a Hero and the Warrior's Song*. It was denounced by the Montana Human Rights Network as being racist and persecuting Gays and Jews. A Jewish lawmaker said the pamphlets "should offend everybody."

But Kamala Webb, the Bozeman organizer, said she only gave *Strength of a Hero and the Warrior's Song* to "five or six" of her friends.

"If they think that's anti-Semitic, then maybe they have a problem," said Webb. The *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* described her as being active in Ross Perot's United We Stand America and the Fully Informed Jury Association, in addition to the Militia.

Marlene Hines of the Montana Human Rights Network said the writing of Peter J. Peters, the author of the 22-page tract, is common reading among white supremacist groups and the Christian Identity Movement.

"This is a violent movement and now you're seeing it come into the halls of the Legislature," Hines said.

Strength of a Hero talks about the lack of heroes in today's world. It says "Jewish controlled Hollywood" has replaced godly heroes with ungodly ones ranging from "immoral wise guys, who are partially crooked themselves, to some Jewish Queer-looking sissy like Pee Wee Herman."

Sen. Eve Franklin, (D-Great Falls), was not given a copy of the booklet, but when she saw it said, "I think it should offend everybody."

Franklin, who is Jewish, added, "It's a sad day for the Montana Legislature when hate tracts are distributed in the halls of our democratic institutions."

The pamphlet also said the race that settled America "and once were its only citizens is being destroyed thru (sic) integration, interracial marriage, affirmative action, abortion, faggot queers, etc."

Among the state's lawmakers who said they received the pamphlet was Sam Kitzenberg, (R-Glasgow).

Kitzenberg said the literature "is a little far out" and he thinks it was mistakenly placed on his desk. He said he gave his copy to Rep. Daniel McGee, who sits next to him.

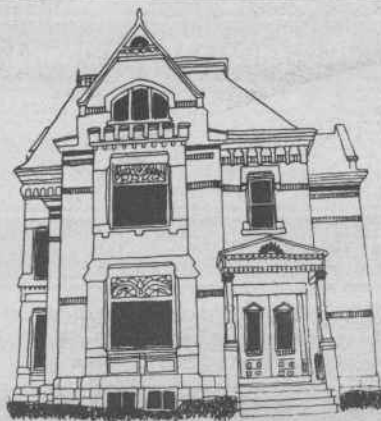
Most of the lawmakers said they had not read the pamphlet, but state Senator Larry Baer did and said, "That's just much too extreme for me."

"I don't have that fear that they have," he said. "Right now I'm trying to work in the system to change things."

House Speaker John Mercer of Polson said he had not seen the literature, but said, "Anytime someone is putting forth information that attacks people ... that's unfortunate. But that's the price of the First Amendment."

He also said no group should be shut out of the Legislature, because that would drive them underground.

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If you can help, let us know and we'll schedule you in. Some work can start immediately.
Dry walling will be the end of April.

If there is something you can do, give us a call.
Jerry and Terry
1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukeee
(414) 372-2773