



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

The Wisconsin Light

Rodney Scheel House Construction Ahead of Schedule

Madison-- In an update to a recent story in *Light*, construction of Madison's Rodney Scheel House, the 22-unit complex of apartment homes for people living with AIDS, is nearing completion and will soon be accepting applications for residents.

The Board of Directors of the Rodney Scheel House Foundation has been overseeing the development of the project. Construction is ahead of schedule and may allow some admissions prior to the scheduled August 1 opening.

This, according to Madison AIDS Support Network's (MASN) Acting Executive Director David Clarenbach, is "good news, indeed."

"These studio, 1 and 2 bedroom units will provide housing for persons with AIDS and their families. With rents based on a sliding scale, this project will allow many who are disabled with HIV to stay independent," Clarenbach said.

The Rodney Scheel House is the area's first HUD-funded AIDS-specific project in south-central Wisconsin.

In addition, MASN in coordination with the City of Madison has been awarded a HOPWA grant of nearly \$1 million from HUD to fund a variety of accessible housing options for people with HIV disease.

"Housing is one of the most serious challenges faced by people with HIV," Clarenbach said. "This three-year grant will provide better coordination of case management and volunteer services at the Scheel House, as well as rental subsidies, eviction prevention and money for adaptations of existing units to allow others to stay in their homes," Clarenbach added.

MASN has staff assigned to assist people with HIV who have housing needs. Those who wish more information may call Cato Wilcox-Nash at (608) 252-6540 or 1-800-486-6276.

Madison AIDS Support Network Marks 10 Years With Open House June 5

Madison-- The Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN) invites everyone to a "unity" open house commemorating ten years of leadership in AIDS outreach, education and direct care services.

The open house will be held on Monday, June 5, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at their new offices in The Gateway Center at 600 Williamson Street in Madison.

The theme, according to Acting Executive Director, David Clarenbach, is Unity.

"As MASN completes its first decade of service, we face the challenge of the AIDS epidemic with renewed vigor, commitment and unity," Clarenbach declared.

"Just as the epidemic has spread, infecting and affecting new communities, MASN has had to grow in its programming and services to meet the increasing needs," said Clarenbach.

An important part of this growth has been making connections that have brought a diverse group of providers into partnership with MASN creating a unified network of comprehensive services and prevention programs, he said.

MASN was founded in 1985 by a group of community members who realized the urgent need for a local support and resource network to help people living with HIV disease.

It has grown into an extensive network that includes prevention programs, case management services, volunteer support and advocacy efforts.

MASN has since established a satellite office located in Janesville serving Rock, Jefferson and Green counties and is part of a larger state-wide network of AIDS Service Organizations.

In addition to the open house, MASN clients have scheduled a Unity Gathering for people living with AIDS and for partners, family members and friends of people who have been lost to AIDS. This event will take place on Friday, June 9, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., also in the new MASN office location.

Those wishing more information on either event may call Denise Starkey at (608) 252-6540 or 1-800-486-6276.

70 Acts Will Fill 3 Entertainment Stages at the June 10-11 Wisconsin PrideFest '95



Community Recognition-- Several hundred people gathered at Milwaukee's Renaissance Place to honor "In Step" magazine Publisher/Editor Ron Geiman (above) on April 30, 1995 for the huge contribution he has made to the state's LesBiGay community (See related story on Page 2).

Five Hundred Hear Mel White Call for Dialogue Between Gays and Religious Right

By Mike FitzPatrick

Green Bay, WI-- Categorizing the current political debate on Gay civil rights as "shouting at each other across an ever-widening chasm," Gay author, minister and activist Mel White, called for serious dialogue between the Religious Right and the Gay community in a speech heard by 500 at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (UWGB) on May 4.

In prefatory remarks before his main address, White congratulated the College Republicans at UWGB for standing up for their beliefs and getting their message out, but cautioned the group that the real work of coming to mutual understanding required "sitting down at the same table to talk things out."

The get-to-know-us (Gay people) theme echoed throughout White's 40-minute address, which was filled with humor and a vivid account of his personal spiritual journey and his work as ghostwriter for such Religious Right figures as Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell.

White also chided the mainstream media for ignoring the growing wave of anti-Gay violence. White contrasted the coverage of the shooting of the two abortion clinic doctors with lack of reportage of the hate-motivated murders of 12 Texas Gay men last year. "Homophobia is the last socially acceptable prejudice," White said.

White cited economic worries, particularly among white males, as a contributing influence in the growth of intolerance and the "urge to purge." He also alluded to the growing militia movement which apparently had ties to the Oklahoma City bombing as being "as anti-Gay as they are racist and anti-federal government."

Gay Survivors Revisit Dachau Camp for the Fiftieth Anniversary of its Liberation

Dachau, Germany-- They gathered outside a little 12th Century town, about 12 miles from Munich. For many, if not most, this would be the last time they would come together to revisit the hellish shadows and remember again what once had been.

They were the survivors of the Nazi concentration camp called Dachau. They had returned in a pour-down of rain to commemorate the 50th anniversary of their liberation from the closest humans have ever come to in constructing a true hell on earth.

There were about a 1,000 of them, standing in the drear and damp, coming from at least 16 countries, carrying little flags to show their new countries. They mingled on the parade

ground.

At a reception following his talk, White dialogued at length with members of a Green Bay Lutheran evangelical youth group, which also held a prayer service outside the Student Union prior to the event--the only demonstration conducted despite expectations of more widespread protests based on the heightened level of controversy in the three weeks which preceded the speech.

Introductory remarks by 10% Society president Kurt Anderson referenced the series of flyers circulated both on and off campus during April condemning White's talk and homosexuality in general, some of which were authorized and paid for by the junior GOP.

"Several students and student groups have turned what was to be a focus on Gay and Lesbian issues into one of religion and money," Anderson said.

Anderson went on to provide a detailed breakdown of funding for the event, which was co-sponsored by the campus groups, 10% Society, Office of Student Life, Good Times Programming Board, Residence Hall and Apartment Association, Student Senate, University Union Board, Black Student Union and Intertribal Student Council and which received additional funding from Positive Voice, Northern Womyn, Bay City Chorus, Dr. Jerry Wellens and members of the Brown County Democratic Party.

Anderson also noted that a legal review of the event and its sponsorship by attorneys representing the University, found it to be in compliance with all state laws and institutional fiscal policies.

Some had wives and children, most did not. Some were priests, some Jews, some Gypsies. But many, if not the majority wore the Pink Triangle showing that they were Gay. For being who they were, they had been imprisoned. For that, they had experienced the tortures of the damned and witnessed unspeakable things.

The camp at Dachau had been built in 1933 shortly after Hitler came to power. It was a work camp (as opposed to the death camps, like Auschwitz), designed to hold Gay people,

TURN TO DACHAU, PAGE 15

Milwaukee-- The Wisconsin Pride Fest '95 organizers have announced that the June 10th and 11th LesBiGay Pride festival will include the strongest and most diverse entertainment line up in their history.

The Womyn's Music Revue opens the entertainment on the Alyn Hess Stage at Noon on Saturday June 10th. It includes six individual singers: Madison's Womynsong, and Mook.

The BJ Daniels revue, always a spectacular event, will close down the Fest on the same stage the evening of Sunday June 11th.

In between these two revues, three entertainment stages will be going full tilt. In addition to the Alyn Hess stage sponsored by the Cream City Foundation, the Harvey Milk Stage sponsored by This Is It and the M and M Club and the new Fine Arts stage will keep the crowd entertained with over 70 acts.

Unlike past years, all of the stages will operate into the evening.

In addition to the revues, there will be a spectacular 12-act Saturday Night Gayla, a Fine Arts Festival, and a variety of bands, individual singers, choral groups, theater companies and dance troupes.

Performers will be coming to PrideFest from three states, Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota. Twenty of the acts have albums to their credit.

Regular festival goers will recognize some of their favorites like David Robinson and Road Damage, the John Schneider Orchestra, the Shoreline Dance Troupe, Josie Santiago, Singasational, Spanky and Foreplay, the Iberian Dancers and Julie Darrough in the line up. These crowd pleasers have been joined by a number of new acts and revues that PrideFest is certain will please the thousands expected to attend the annual event.

Among the newcomers are: Lojo Russo, a Lesbian singer from Minneapolis with two CD's under her belt; The Nitro Blues Band, the Sweet Cheeks Motown Revue; the alternative rock group FWEPP; the Ghillies; and African story teller, Reginald Findlayson.

Entertainers from outside Wisconsin include the Purple Creek Cloggers and Borderline Dancers from Minnesota. Pulsations, an all woman Chicago group that electrified the crowd last year with its high energy dance music, is making the trip north.



Judii Lowe, a Chicago area singer, and the Lion Heart Theater Company, a Gay and Lesbian troupe will also be making the trip up I-94.

The Saturday Night Gayla will precede the "Lite Up the Sky With Pride" Fireworks display.

PrideFest Co-Director Bill Meunier promises that "the vocal fireworks on the stage will match the real ones in the sky." Once again PrideFest is urging those attending the concert to bring candles to light up the park with Pride.

The Fine Arts Festival will run the gamut. It includes two Gay Broadway revues, performances by four choral groups, a baroque music concert, LesBiGay theater, and African story telling and music.

Meunier guarantees that there will never be a dull moment at PrideFest '95.

In addition to the hundreds of singers, dancers, comics and actors on the PrideFest stages, the festival boasts a very strong line up of special events which includes the Wisconsin Pride Parade, the PrideFest wedding, an Inter Faith Service and the new Sunday evening Lighted Boat parade.

There will also be dozens of exhibits, the In Step/New Bar Dance Tent, the Classic Car show, the History Tent and more.

Admission to PrideFest '95 is \$2.00 or \$3.00 for weekend passes which will be sold in advance of the festival. Free admission is offered to those who enter the grounds prior to 12:30 both days.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Louganis to be San Diego's Pride Marshall

San Diego, CA-- San Diego Lesbian and Gay Pride have announced that Olympic gold medalist Greg Louganis will head this year's "Out & Free" Pride parade as Grand Marshall. Louganis, formerly of El Cajon, will be joined by his mother as they lead the colorful procession down University Avenue on July 15. San Diego is Louganis' final "Pride stop" after making appearances only in New York and Houston. The former diving athlete has decelerated his pace somewhat after a grueling book tour that made him a household name. The selection of Louganis as Grand Marshall reflects the "Out & Free" theme of San Diego's Pride celebration.

D.C. Gay Club Vows No Sex on Site

Washington, D.C.-AP- A downtown Washington, D.C. social club that caters to Gay men has promised city officials that its patrons won't be having any more sex on the premises. The agreement was reached between the city and the Crew Club located on 14th Street NW. The D.C. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs said the club will be allowed to stay open only as long as every patron signs a pledge not to have sex during their visit. The club must also post large signs saying that sex of any kind is strictly prohibited.

The furor comes after a long and often acrimonious debate in the Gay community about the Club and its role in the spread of HIV. Critics say that the Club with its low lights and its policy of allowing patrons to wear only towels and its banks of cages made of chain link fence where customers could watch others having sex, encouraged promiscuous, anonymous sex.

ACT UP San Francisco Assaults Anthony Fauci

San Francisco-- On May 5, 30 members ACT UP San Francisco stormed into San Francisco's Hyatt hotel to disrupt the \$125 a plate dinner event and fund-raiser, "10 Years of Hope," sponsored by Project Inform. The dinner, commemorating the last decade of the AIDS crisis, featured guest speakers Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), and ACT UP founder Larry Kramer. The ACT UP members entered midway through the dinner, threw flyers, blew whistles and overturned dinner tables while chanting "Tony Fauci, you killed our friends! This is where the murder ends!"

Protesters said that they particularly resented Fauci's continued promotion of CD4 and peripheral blood viral load counts as markers of HIV care. Activists say that these markers can fluctuate from test to test for a variety of reasons and therefore reveal little about disease progress or quality of health in infected individuals. They urge the government to start taking a closer look at the role that elevated levels of CD8 cells play in preventing and controlling opportunistic diseases.

Activists said that the demonstration at the Hyatt was only the first in a series of future actions meant to expose mainstream AIDS organizations as "dangerous pharmaceutical industry puppets with no sense of urgency during this time of crisis."

Gay Men Win First Round of Discrimination Suit

Chicago-- In the first test of Cook County, Illinois', new anti-discrimination law, an official with the human rights commission ruled on May 4 that a local sports bar had illegally discriminated against four Gay men when it had them removed and arrested for dancing together. In her decision, Joanne Kinoy, the hearing officer for the Cook County Commission on Human Rights, ruled that Sidelines Sports Bar in Harwood Heights, Illinois, had discriminated on the basis of sexual orientation. She recommended that the bar pay the highest possible fine, in addition to providing injunctive and other relief. The decision, which comes after a two-day trial in January, will now go to the full Commission for review. The four Gay men were represented by an attorney from the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Toyota Targeted for Advertising in Gay Paper

Abbotsford, British Columbia-AP- As is going on in Milwaukee with Gay publications, Right Wingers in the British Columbia town of Abbotsford are railing against a local Toyota dealership for taking out an ad in a Gay newspaper, *Xtra West*. Residents of Abbotsford, identifying themselves as Christians, are writing Toyota Canada and the Regency Toyota dealership, threatening not to buy Toyotas because the company supports "sponsorship of pornography," general sales manager Naz Bharmal of Regency Toyota has said.

As also happens in with Milwaukee Gay publications, the Right Wingers have tried to ban the Gay publication from local libraries and have taken it from several of its distribution points and thrown it away.

Bharmal said that sales of cars had increased "considerably" after running the ad in the Gay paper. "We've had people come from the interior to buy a car because we advertise in *Xtra West* and they wanted to support us for that," Bharmal said.

The Toyota head office in Scarborough was informed of this, Bharmal said, and found no objection to where the ad was placed.

Minister Ends Hunger Strike for Gays

Austin, TX-AP- A Methodist minister has ended a 15-day hunger strike after receiving a statement from United Methodist bishops that decries discrimination against Gay people. The Rev. Charles Moore, 60, pastor of Grace United Methodist Church, said he received a "serious and constructive" reply from the bishops, who were meeting in Austin.

The reply, published in the *Austin American Statesman*, acknowledges failures "if by our inaction, we have contributed to ostracism, stigma, unnecessary suffering, denial of civil and human rights, torture, persecution and pain inflicted" upon Gay people. It calls upon all United Methodist congregations to welcome all people into "redemptive fellowship" and to become centers of learning about the nature of the Gay sexual orientation.

However, the bishop's statement also says "the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching."

Bishops don't make policy for the church. That responsibility rests with a legislative assembly made up of clergy and lay representatives from around the world.

Gramm Opposes Gays in the Military

Washington, D.C.-AP- Making an overture to the Christian Coalition and the Far Right Wing of the Republican Party, Sen. Phil Gramm pledged on May 5 that if elected president, he would reverse the "don't ask, don't tell" policy on Gays in the military. Gramm made his remarks in an address at Liberty University, the Virginia college founded by Jerry Falwell. Gramm also told his audience that he supports voluntary prayer in the schools; that he's against the United Nations convention on the rights of the child and would end all federal funding for abortion and for groups which espouse it. None of these positions is at odds with Gramm's voting record in Congress.

Ralph Reed, head of the Christian Coalition, said "This speech is a watershed moment for his candidacy because it signals Gramm's recognition of the importance of cultural issues and the large Republican primary constituency mobilized by them."

Log Cabin Applauds First 100 Days

Washington, D.C.-- As the House of Representatives completed its first 100 days of the 104th Congress and the Contract With America, Log Cabin Republicans issued a press release applauding the GOP leadership for "sticking to the fiscal issues of the Contract while staying away from social issues. Openly Gay Republican Congressman Steve Gunderson (R-WI) lead the House GOP moderates on several issues and played a significant role in determining whether legislation would pass the full House. Log Cabin pointed out that the *Wall Street Journal* coined Gunderson's economic philosophy "Gundersonomics."

According to the release, "While Speaker Newt Gingrich misspoke on a few Gay issues, he always relented on any policy changes upon immediate criticism from the GOP moderate wing. Rev. Lou Sheldon, an anti-Gay activist, asked the Speaker to hold hearings on school counseling programs for Gay and Lesbian youth, yet Congressman Bill Goodling (R-PA), chair of the House Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee, promised no hearings on the subject during the 104th Congress."

Hate Crime in Northern California

Laytonville, CA-- On September 28, 1994, at 3:00 a.m., two unarmed Lesbians were brutally attacked and robbed at their home near Laytonville in Northern California by three armed, masked men. The men repeatedly threatened to kill the women and held guns to their heads saying, "We should just blow your fucking heads off," and "We told you fucking dykes before, we're going to get you all off this mountain."

Donations to help the women are desperately needed. Please make your check out to: The Mendocino County Observer, and send to The Woodman Canyon Support Group, #15, C/O Susan Shields, The Mendocino County Observer, P.O. Box 490, Laytonville, CA 95454.

Hundreds Gather to Honor Ron Geiman, Publisher and Editor of In Step

Milwaukee-- Over 400 people gathered at Milwaukee's Renaissance Center on April 30 to pay honor and say Thank you to Ron Geiman, Publisher and Editor of *In Step Magazine*. The event was sponsored by the Cream City Foundation and co-sponsored by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, *Wisconsin Light*, Landmark Production Enterprises, Miller Brewing and the Wisconsin Pride Committee.

It was a beautiful, sun-filled day. People gathered from around the state to express their gratitude for Ron's sweat and effort in providing over 12 years of publishing excellence to the LesBiGay community and for his work in the cause of equal rights for LesBiGays and all people.

Beautiful floral arrangements were provided by Shorewood Florist with choice and splendidly presented hor d'oeuvres prepared by Black Tie Catering.

After introductions and remarks by Tony Rhodes, president of the Cream City Foundation, others rose to praise Ron. These included, Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Terry Boughner, Editor of *Wisconsin Light* newspaper, Bill Meunier, Executive Director of PrideFest, Ron's close and dear friend and roommate Kim Zweibohmer and Annabelle Havlicek of Havlicek & Associates.

All praised Ron for the years of service that he has given to the Wisconsin LesBiGay community, sacrificing in many ways his personal life.

John Quinlan of Madison, a writer for *Light*, a member of the ACLU in Wisconsin and a recipient of one of this year's Stonewall Awards from the Pride Committee for meritorious service to the LesBiGay community, read from a handsome plaque sent by State Rep. Tammy Baldwin praising Ron for all he has done.

Baldwin was in the hospital undergoing surgery for a ruptured appendix.

Stephanie Hume presented Ron with a gift

from a grateful community: a round trip ticket for two to Key West, Florida, all expenses paid. Ron was urged to take time for himself "for a change" and go and "toast his toes and look at all the scenery."

Ron rose to thank his friends, a warm, happy smile on his face. There was a single red rose in his lapel. He spoke some words, moving, words of thanks, words that assured everyone that his beloved *In Step* would go on as before, a high quality magazine worthy of the LesBiGay community he has served so long and so well.

He ended, giving a queenly wave. The audience broke into loud applause.

Maine Needs Your Help

By Terrance J. Rohloff

Milwaukee-- In November of this year, the State of Maine will have an anti-Gay referendum on the ballot. As a Gay native of Maine, I have been following this with great interest. So far, "Maine Won't Discriminate," the alliance which was formed to defeat this measure has raised \$130,000. They estimate that they will have to raise \$1,000,000 to ensure the defeat of this instrument of bigotry.

I know a lot of the Lesbian and Gay community here will say, "What does a referendum in Maine have to do with us?"

Well, it does affect us because if we lose in one more state it will be a step backwards for all of us in every state.

Therefore, if anyone is interested in contributing to "Maine Won't Discriminate," it can be done by making a check to the latter and mailing to "Maine Won't Discriminate, P. O. Box 11061, Portland, Maine 04101.

If anyone is interested in telephoning, the number there is (207) 761-1788.



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Guest Editorial

Exploring the Connections: Militias and Anti-Gay Rhetoric

By Scott Nakagawa

The intense media attention focused on the April 19 federal building bombing in Oklahoma City has triggered a public debate on citizen militias and on the consequences of growing Right Wing resentment toward government. In the wake of the tragedy, a terrified public appears to be struggling to understand the threat posed by these militant groups.

However, trying to understand the militias and the danger they pose by studying the bombing and the militias' self-professed hatred of government is like trying to understand the entire LesBiGay community on the basis of one night in a Gay bar. The citizen militia movement is a complex phenomenon reflective of fast-growing reactionary sentiment with consequences for all of us.

The citizen militia movement is actually one faction within a broader Right Wing backlash against democratic values. The militias are situated to the right of more mainstream rightists such as Pat Buchanan, and are closely tied to white supremacist movements like the Posse Comitatus, the Ku Klux Klan, Christian Patriots and Christian Identity. When militiamen talk about their "anti-government" agenda, we should hear--"anti-Gay, anti-Semitic, anti-woman, anti-democratic and anti-racial justice" agenda.

The militias' proposed alternative to "big bad government" is a return to a society ruled by an unamended Constitution--constructed to protect the rights of white property owners and intended to exclude women and people of color from participation in the franchise.

Former Center for Democratic Renewal Research Director Leonard Zeskind writes, "It has the smell of yesteryear--states' rights and armed vigilante gangs--but the militias are now the most popular vehicle to the right of Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition. Like the Posse Comitatus 15 years ago, the body of work is painted with religion, patriotism and the U.S. Constitution, but the motor is anti-Semitism and racism and the drivers are white supremacists."

The militia movement is powered by a growing fear of white male disprivilege. In an economy in which temporary employment agencies have become our largest private employers, and American workers' standard of living has dropped to pre-1953 levels, rightists such as the militiamen are growing increasingly nostalgic for a time when white male entitlements were largely unchallenged.

In this respect, the militiamen are part of a growing popular phenomena. Perhaps this is the most important aspect of the militia movement that is being overlooked by the media. In spite of the more bizarre aspects of the racial and religious agendas of some of their white supremacist members, militiamen share many things in common with the more mainstream elements of the Right Wing.

The Militias, the Christian Coalition and Gays

The militiamen contend that government is failing their members--white men--because of the influence of the civil rights lobby ("racial preferences" and "special rights"), Jews (international bankers), feminists ("breakdown of the family and gender roles") and Gays (you know what they say about us).

Some of this language and these ideas are mirrored in the rhetoric of mainstream Right Wing groups, such as the Christian Coalition, and some of the new Republican members of Congress, like Rep. Helen Chenoweth of Idaho. The militiamen, like mainstream rightists, believe that education is in ruins because of political correctness and secular humanism; they oppose government programs for the poor; denounce Gay people; and often scapegoat minorities as immoral and unproductive. They say we are all destroying God, family and country and use this to justify super authoritarian measures to control or eliminate us.

Samuel Sherwood of the United States Militia Association, based in Blackfoot, Idaho, says of President Bill Clinton, "He is determined to seize your guns, steal your food, take your children away. In his term, he will have killed more babies than Hitler, put more homosexuals in government than Sodom and Gomorrah, had the schools teach your children it is right and forced you to accept it."

Stop the Women and Useless Homos!

In Michigan, the head of the effort to place an anti-Gay initiative on last year's state ballot used the rhetoric of the militia movement as he advanced the anti-Gay measure. In an interview two years ago with *Metro Times*, a Michigan weekly newspaper, George Matousek described the importance of his anti-Gay initiative in battling the threat of the New World Order.

"Where sodomy is acceptable, the nation declines. Homosexuals are a tool to weaken America. I love this country and I want it to remain strong...The homosexual movement will destroy the military. Soon half the troops will be gone. They don't want to serve beside Queers. And the half that's left will be useless--made up of women and homos, people who can't fight their way out of a paper bag. When this happens, we'll be doomed. We'll be attacked, or called into a war that our military can't handle. Clinton, or whoever's in office, will turn all our troops over to the United Nations. And this country won't exist anymore."

Matousek's plan? "Step one, stop the homos!!"

Only the U.S. Constitution and armed citizens will prevent such a takeover, according to Matousek. Which is why he advocates all citizens owning guns.

We need to get down to business and educate ourselves about the wide array of Right Wing groups that threaten our rights and security and understand the social and economic factors that lead to their development.

We must further understand that our fate as Gay people is inextricably tied to other groups under Right Wing attack.

It's time to reach out, broaden our agenda and increase our capacities for compassion and human connection. We must overcome fear, come out, and organize, organize, organize.

Editor's Note: The author is a field organizer with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and has extensive experience in battling the Right Wing.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

No Matter How You Cut it, Gay People Are Not Just Like Everybody Else

By Terry Boughner

Every year around Pride time, there comes a spate of articles in various LesBiGay publications around the country proclaiming the message that if we could just get people to understand how much like them we LesBiGay people really are, all our troubles would be over.

Pardon me, but I just don't believe that, not for an instant.

We may be "just like everyone else" in some of the things we want: home, hearthside, family, equality, the freedom to live in dignity and unafraid. But that's about as far as it gets.

For the rest, we are not just like everybody else, not in a society obsessed with sex and which puts such a premium on stereotypical gender roles. (The majority's religion even has its god as a male.)

Work as hard as we do, contribute as much to society as we have, hide as many of us try to do, we are still Lesbians, still Gay men, born different from the majority and made to bear the brunt of that.

Perhaps it is society that has defined us, perhaps it is we ourselves. Or maybe it's a combination of the two, but we are different and, I am convinced, we're fooling ourselves if we think we can just "melt right in--not in the foreseeable future anyway.

Now comes the Christian Coalition. The ar-

ticle in the most recent issue of *Time* is well worth the reading. With 1.6 million members, a \$25 million budget and a system of communication that boggles the mind, they are, as *Time* describes them, one of the most powerful, if not *the* most powerful force in American politics today.

Frank Luntz, the pollster behind the Contract with America, is quoted as saying "The Christians are close to winning the whole war; they might do it by '96." No Gay person should take that lightly.

Sometimes these people are called "conservative," but they are not. They are, in fact, a reactionary, anti-modern movement, in many ways an agrarian movement, at war with almost everything that's gone on since 1945--perhaps earlier.

According to *Time*, they are made up almost entirely of white evangelical Protestants and traditionalist Catholics. (They are thinking of having a "Jewish auxiliary." How nice).

What's especially frightening about them is that they claim to have the ear of their god. They claim to speak for "him" and theirs is a deity who doesn't like Gay people one little bit.

Let me hasten to add that they say that they "love" Gay people, but not what we do (sex). In other words, if we were all just like them,

how happy they would be. If that's love, I'd like another option.

They know we are different, know that sometimes I think better than we do ourselves. Not only does their bible tell them that, they sense it in their bones.

There are those who say we can teach them. I doubt that. These are religious absolutists and "the right" is on their side, so they think. Pardon me, but I can't see any compromise with that.

There are those who say if we just try and blend in, act like everybody else, don't scare the horses, so to speak. I doubt that too. It smacks of "If I bend a little lower, deny myself, want no rights at all, you'll kick me a little less hard."

Again pardon me, but I am different. I am in love with another man and joined with him, we build a home. That love that I have for him is the moral equivalent of any on earth and no one, not one single soul, for no reason, in the name of no god, is going to deny me that.

Different as I am, no one is going to treat me with anything less than equality, full equality, dignity and the rights I and all Gay people deserve.

To the Christian Coalition: I am sick and fed up to here with this yammering about Gays being sinners and all of that. We are not, but there are those, teens, who kill themselves because of that trash.

And there are those who use what you say as "god's blessing" for bashing us and spilling our blood. I know you say you don't approve of that, but your words are killing words.

We Gay people are different. It is on the base of that difference that we must fight and, I believe, it is because of that difference that one day we will win.

LETTERS

NYPD Blue

TO THE EDITOR:

Recently, while visiting friends in Milwaukee, I had the good fortune to pick up a copy of *Wisconsin Light*. I was impressed with your newspaper's commitment to the Community--and its positive portrayals of the Gay experience.

With that in mind, I feel it is my obligation to call your readers' attention to the positive Gay role model that TV's *NYPD Blue* has brought to prime time this season. The producers have proved that they really are a "cutting edge" police drama by adding an openly Gay receptionist to the show's gritty Manhattan squad room. They are to be congratulated for having the courage to go beyond the stereotypes and to create a character the Queer Community can be proud of. It's about time!

The new Gay character is open about his sexual orientation and makes no apologies for it to anyone, including the gruff and vaguely homophobic police detective played by Dennis Franz. How refreshing! He is not only dignified and caring, but also damn good at his job.

NYPD Blue has once again proved that stereotypes are meant to be broken. I urge all your readers to watch the show, and to let ABC know that we support their efforts in portraying a Gay character in a healthy and realistic light. Write your comments to: Steven Bochco Productions, 10201 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 90035.

Brad Foster
West Hollywood, CA

Open Letter to Mom

Dear Mom,

This Mother's Day, a box of chocolates seemed too "Forrest Gump" and a card containing someone else's verse just wasn't personal enough. I wanted to do something special, something that would mean more -- to you and to me. This year, I wanted to thank you, directly and without embellishment, for the things you've done that really matter to me.

First of all, I want to say thanks for bringing me into the world through an act of love. Oh, I know I was a budget-buster, an added burden on your already strained time and financial resources, and that Dad was less than thrilled when he found out I was on the way. But by the time I learned all this, I was old enough to understand. And besides, by then you both had done such a good job of loving me that I was able to get past the momentary hurt of the knowledge and to accept the valuable lesson that sometimes the things we make sacrifices for are worth it.

Which leads me to the second thing that I want to thank you for: my self-esteem. Actually, this is the first and most important thing for which I am grateful to you, because it is the core of my being, affecting everything else I do, everything I am, that I try...that I feel capable of trying.

Every single day of my life, I am surrounded by people who do not love themselves, and it breaks my heart. They slouch about, moving through their lives as unobtrusively as possible, ever wary of drawing any attention to themselves, lest they be called upon for an accounting of their accomplishments and admirable qualities. After all, in response to such an inquiry, they would be capable only of enumerating their many supposed shortcomings and failures, doubts and fears. I know these people exist. I work with them. I teach them. I love some of them. Yet they are unable to accept accolades, respect or adoration, because they believe themselves unworthy of such gifts.

They are sad, lonely and piteous human beings,

adrift on a sea of insecurity, carried to and fro on the relentlessly changing tide of other people's opinions of them. And all I need to do to understand why such people exist is to watch any number of parents with yet-young children in any number of circumstances. I see them dragging the small boys and girls around at an impossibly quick pace, expecting them to keep up with their own long-legged strides, and jerking them by their little arms when they can't do so. The parents yell endlessly at these kids, in parking lots, department stores and restaurants, because the children are behaving like...well, children.

The adults don't seem to understand that what the kids need is love and patience and, most of all, time and attention.

They need to be acknowledged, to be made to feel important and valued. I do appreciate the incredible job these parents have, but it's a path they have chosen, and I do indict those who do so for some kind of selfish reason like pleasing their own parents with the "gift" of grandchildren, or bowing to social pressures to procreate, when they have no intention of being real parents. All I can do is wonder what on earth these people are thinking and hope to the high spirit that the children can find some kind of strength within themselves to know they are worthwhile human beings.

That is why I am so grateful to you, Mom, for letting me know I was valued, every day of my life, especially in those early years when my own opinion of myself was forming. Thanks for your happy smile every morning, letting me know I was

TURN TO MOM, PAGE 16

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

The Wisconsin Light



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SISTERNEWS AND VIEWS

Notes From the Lesbian Nation

By Jamakaya

MORE LEZZIE FLICKS: Stay tuned for more Lesbian movies! Following close on the heels of the comedy *Bar Girls* will be *The Absolutely True Adventures of Two Girls in Love*, expected to be released nationwide in June. It's about two high school girls—one white, one Black—who fall in love. All together now: Awww...

And brace yourselves for more homicidal dykes! Two more Lesbian movies planned for release this Summer, *Fun and Sister, My Sister*, focus on female couples who turn to murder. (Naturally, don't we all?) Coming so soon after *Heavenly Creatures*—one of my own guilty pleasures, I must admit, and released on video this month—one has to wonder at the perception of Lesbians that underlies this raft of movies by non-Lesbian filmmakers. Maybe it's our paycheck for our 15 minutes of media-induced "Lesbian chic."

Raymond Murray, author of *Images in the Dark: An Encyclopedia of Gay and Lesbian Film and Video*, tipped me off to the new Lesbian killer films when he was in Milwaukee recently promoting his book. It's a must-have for any Queer film buff and includes the most comprehensive listing of Lesbian and Lesbian-related films anywhere. Check it out.

DARING TO BE DIFFERENT: Seniors at Bradford College in Haverhill, Massachusetts, voted to invite transgender activist Leslie Feinberg, author of the Lammy Award-winning *Stone Butch Blues*, to be their commencement speaker, but College President Joseph Short nixed the idea, worried that the traditional event could be tainted by controversy and that Feinberg herself might be hassled by bigots.

Thanks for your patronizing concern, the students told their President, but no thanks! They embarked on several weeks of protests and debate, which garnered lots of publicity, until President Short backed down. "A good leader learns from students, faculty and staff," Short reportedly said. "My decision to invite Leslie Feinberg was a natural outgrowth of that learning process." Yeah, right.

For their part, the students gave a simple explanation for their choice of Feinberg, a biological woman who has led much of her life as a man. She exemplifies, they said, the College's motto, which is "Dare to be Different."

FUNNY WOMEN: On March 4, more than a thousand dykes, many dressed to the nines, crowded the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles for the "largest Lesbian dinner-dance in history." They raised more than \$250,000 for women's programs at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center there.

Among the "A" list celebrity dykes were Melissa Etheridge, Martina Navratilova, Amanda Bearer and Lily Tomlin, who hints a lot but has never publicly acknowledged her sexual orientation. Tomlin, who was presenting an award to Martina, said she was glad to be there because she can "identify" with those in attendance. When the crowd whooped and



Jamakaya

hollered, the bemused Lily quipped: "I can see you're over-interpreting."

At New York's annual Easter Bonnet Competition spoof, which this year raised \$1.1 million for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, members of the theatrical community did a parody of *Sunset Boulevard* called "Who is Killing All the Normas of Sunset?" After dozens of Norma Desmond imitators (including Evita Peron and Barney!) met their demise and Glenn Close made her much anticipated and short-lived cameo, the killer was finally revealed: Whoopi Goldberg dressed up as Norma Desmond Tutu!

ADOPT ANGEL BENEFIT: Annie and Georgie Grinke will be in court May 22, to pursue a new legal strategy for Annie to adopt Georgie's 9-year-old daughter, Angel. Both women want to be recognized as Angel's parents, but you'll recall a state Supreme Court decision last year denied their appeal. This time, Georgie is asking the court to terminate her parental rights on condition that both women can then be allowed to adopt Angel concurrently.

Cross your fingers and send some money to the Angel Fund, P.O. Box 2483, Green Bay, WI 54307-2483. A benefit for the fund is being held Friday, May 19 at the Swan Club, 1950 Dickinson Rd., in De Pere. Reservations are required by May 12.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT: The deadline for anyone who wants to perform in Milwaukee's 2nd annual Lesbian Variety Show, taking place over two nights this August, is May 21. Goddess knows, there are plenty of entertaining Lesbians out there. Call the Lesbian Alliance at (414) 264-2600 soon. And don't miss LAMM's wonderfully wry cabaret singer, Lynn Lavner. It's at Vogel Hall of the PAC at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance at Outpost Co-Op and the usual Queer places. See you there!

HOMECOMING VISIT: Longtime Madison/Milwaukee activist Ruth Bukowiecki, who moved out to the San Francisco Bay area last year with her partner, Barbara Anderson, will be making a short visit to her old hometown and hopes to see lots of her old buds. A party for Ruth and Barbara will be held at Just Us, 807 S. 5th Street in Milwaukee, Thursday, May 18 from 7:00 p.m. on. Come on down!

Bashing Gays is Like a Football Game Say Christians Attending a Right Wing Event

Pontiac, MI—A Dallas evangelist at a rally for Christian men urged Blacks and whites to come together to reverse what he said was "immorality in the name of hell" brought on by Gay people.

"Black and white Christians can get together and bring the kingdom of God in the name of heaven if we can put a stop to the sodomites," Tony Evans shouted at 72,000 men gathered at the Silverdome for the weekend Promise Keepers conference.

Founded five years ago by then-University of Colorado football Coach Bill McCartney, the international, Far Right Religious group bills itself as a "Christ-centered" ministry dedicated to helping men become better husbands, father more children and become community leaders dedicated to the "return of America from sin."

Sin is defined, by them as being primarily Gay people.

During the two-day conference, Bishop Wellington Boone, of Richmond, Virginia, told the all-male crowd that they must assume more responsibility in their homes and start guiding their wives and paying more attention to their children.

The group has packed arenas across Middle America. Last year, the group drew more than 250,000 men to seven stadium rallies. This year, it says 500,000 will attend 13 such events to hear how Gay people are responsible for undermining the moral fabric of America. The event at the Silverdome was the first.

Evans' comments Saturday did not surprise the critics who say the Promise Keepers movement is not only anti-Gay, but anti-women as well.

Jeff Montgomery, president of the Gay ad-

vocate Triangle Foundation of Detroit, said comments such as Evans' should frighten Gays.

"With that rhetoric, we need to feel threatened," Montgomery said, leading a protest outside the Silverdome.

Women's activists also protested outside the Silverdome, saying the Promise Keepers' true agenda calls for men to dominate their wives and children.

This is a charge that the Promise Keepers do not deny, saying that it is in line with biblical teaching.

Although those attending the Promise Keepers did not approach the protesters, members of a local Christian Fundamentalist group, the Voice of Thunder, confronted them.

The two sides shouted slogans at each other. Voice of Thunder member Roger Pettibone of Pontiac also criticized the Promise Keepers, saying the group would be more effective preaching and acting in the streets, rather than in stadiums.

But many attending the rally felt otherwise.

Nathan Schuck, a Michigan State University chemist from Mason, was brought to tears when the crowd broke into small groups to pray.

"If you're a lukewarm Christian, you're no good to anyone," he said.

Others agreed, saying that "convicted Christians" need to "become hot against sin" and "go to war for the Lord."

With hotels full, some had to roll out sleeping bags on church floors. But Doug Gross, 34, of Portland, said it was worth it.

"It's very emotional. It's intense, like a football game," he said.

POLITICALLY SPEAKING

The Logical Extension of Hate's Fire on the Airwaves is the Explosion in Oklahoma

By Bill Meunier

It came with sudden swiftness, a loud bang, and a crumbling building that's all it took. Most of America suddenly realized that it had entered the terrorist era.

As Gays and Lesbians we have been facing terrorism for years. To be sure, we have never lost so many people in one place, but we have long felt the pain of right wing promoted terrorists.

Spurred on by the hate mongers, they have fire-bombed our bars and meeting places, telephoned death threats, and even killed us. Now the hate spread by the purveyors of half truths has found a new target, the children of Oklahoma city.

Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, Rush Limbaugh and their mimics on the local radio and television stations around the country have been promoting hatred against us for years. Their claims that we are sick, perverted, diseased, child molesters and the spawn of Satan are not new to us.

What may be new to some of us is that we are only part of their agenda. While they were targeting us, they were also denouncing the government and those within it.

They have used their broadcasts to gain political power and wealth. With half truths, exaggerations and outright lies the chief spokespersons for the right have spread the seeds of mistrust and division.

They have created the climate which allowed the militias to flourish.

No issue escapes their notice. Gun control laws "subvert the constitution." Gay rights would "destroy the family." Taxes "fund immorality."

Through all of their diatribes runs the common thread of mistrust of government and of anyone who disagrees with them.

If you oppose a right wing Christian fundamentalist attempt to take over a school board, you are "anti-Christian."

Express concern over children going hungry due to GOP proposed cuts in school nutrition program and you are "a spend thrift liberal."

Speak up in favor of gun control and you "putting law-abiding American citizens at the mercy of criminals."

Support Gay and Lesbian rights and you are "anti-family."

What we saw in Oklahoma City was nothing more or less than the logical extension of their diatribes. They have unleashed unreasoned and unjustified anger. The Oklahoma City bombing was the result.

American history shows us that every so often extremism has raised its ugly head in our democracy. The Know Nothings of the last century and the Klan of this century had their hay days too.

The difference between then and now is mass communication and insidious ways in which the hate mongers have penetrated it on all levels. It is simply impossible to avoid their message. Even if you don't listen to Rush Limbaugh, you probably know someone who does and who will be happy to tell you what you

are missing.

Robertson's 700 Club reaches into millions of homes. Under the guise of religion and his news network, he subverts the truth and promotes his own political agenda. This is no two bit operation. If you didn't know any better, you would think you are watching CNN.

Limbaugh's mistakes are legendary. His misstatement of facts could fill volumes. When criticized and corrected he doesn't retract, he attacks those who expect him to present his arguments with real facts.

Newt Gingrich blames the Democrats for everything from the National debt created by the Reagan and Bush administrations to a woman drowning her children in a Carolina lake.

We saw some of the results of the diatribes of the New Right back in November. These men, Robertson, Limbaugh, and several like them fueled the Republican election victory.

Polls have shown that most of those who voted Republican didn't do so out of love for the GOP "Contract On America." In fact most of those who voted Republican disagree with major proposals contained in the Contract.

Those who voted Republican in November did so out of anger at those in power.

Limbaugh, Robertson, Gingrich and their cohorts created, fed and fueled that anger.

The result of that anger is that the Know Nothings of this century are close to gaining total political control. Newt Gingrich is, after all, only two heartbeats away from the Presidency.

The Republican take over of Congress was just the first step. Now they will use the levers of power to further propagate their message. They can garb themselves in the cloak of legitimacy as government leaders while doing it.

Look at the coverage the networks extend to a Gingrich press conference and compare it to the coverage given the President's media gatherings. Clinton's last press conference was covered live by only one network.

Does anyone remember a Reagan or Bush press conference not covered by every major network?

Gaining control of Congress is not enough for the leaders of the new right. They understand that the American people are largely in favor of gun control, worry about the poor, and support Gay and Lesbian rights. They know that in order for them to fully use their power they must work to change public opinion.

For them that means more diatribes, more hate mongering, more division, more lies. The result will be more anger, more bashing and quite possibly more acts of terrorism.

They will click their tongues, shake their heads and offer sympathy. But the truth is that the Limbaughs, Robertsons and Gingrichs of America are just as guilty of what happened in Oklahoma City as those who planted the bomb.

Organizers of LesBiGay History Month Announce Plans for 1995

New York, NY— Organizers of last year's inaugural celebration of October as Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual History Month announced on May 8 the formation of a new organization designed to plan and implement each October's celebration.

The "Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual History Month Project" will serve as a national information clearing house, will make educational materials available to students and teachers, will coordinate national media relations and will work to establish local Coordinating Councils in cities and towns and on campuses across the U.S.

The History Month Project will be administered by the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN), whose executive director, Kevin Jennings, will serve as administrator of History Month.

The National Coordinating Council will be chaired by Rodney Wilson, the St. Louis high school teacher widely credited as the founder of History Month.

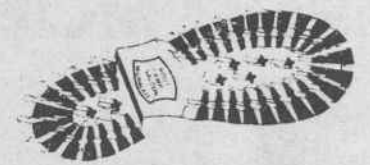
"Last year at this time, we were still getting key national organizations to support the concept," said Jennings. "Plans for 1995 began on November 1, 1994 and we are pleased to be able to announce that we have History Month information available in brochure form for any who write, call or E-mail us."

"What began as an idea to draw attention to

our history has become a movement of international proportions," Wilson said. "We want to make sure that everyone knows that LesBiGay people have made important contributions to our nation and the world."

The History Month brochure can be obtained by writing: History Month c/o GLSTN, 2124 Broadway, Box 160, New York, NY 10023-2098, or by calling (212) 387-2098.

You can also send an E-mail request to: LGHBM@AOL.COM.



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Lojo Russo, Nationally Known Singer and Song Writer To Perform at PrideFest

Milwaukee--Every single year, PrideFest manages to come up with at least one or two previously unknown performers who draw a wild audience response. The best bet for the surprise of the 1995 event is a singer from Minneapolis, Lojo Russo. Russo is a wonderful original singer with a powerful stage presence. Her lists of credits include working with nationally known comedian Priscilla Nelson, the



Lojo Russo

Powderhorn and the Northern Lights Womyn's Music Festivals, as well as the West Coast Women's Music and Comedy Festival.

Lojo's most recent release a CD entitled "Understated," caused a great deal of the excitement in the PrideFest Committee.

"Several people wanted the copy Lojo had sent to us," said PrideFest Co-Director, Bill Meunier, "I would have kept it except for my lack of a CD player."

"Understated was not a means to an end," says Lojo, "It was more of an attempt to put down songs that I have been working on but that needed a more defined form, and a permanent home."

One of the songs on "Understated" "Sunrise," is a good example of what Russo is talking about. "'Sunrise' is one of those songs that almost wrote itself. Its about a story that unfolded before my tent on a camping trip."

Cruising the Super Information Hwy! PrideFest in Cyberspace

Milwaukee-- PrideFest has entered cyberspace in a big way. No the Pride Committee is not dodging meteors or leading those dreadful invading aliens to our beloved planet. What the committee is doing is speeding along that information superhighway you keep hearing about.

Computers users with modems can get bunches of info about PrideFest through the Internet or the Back Door BBS without ever leaving their keyboards. It's so easy that even the festival organizers found the time to figure it out.

PrideFest's Internet Home Page is at <http://www.execpc.com/online/wipridefest.html>. The Home Page is linked to additional pages containing information about special events, stage schedules, performer bios and much more.

The Committee's Internet E-Mail address is pridefest@tbdmil.com

Don't have access to the Internet? No problem! You can get much of the same information from the official PrideFest Bulletin Board, the Back Door BBS by calling (414) 744-9336.

After completing the log on procedure go the message section and press your * key (that's the little star above the 8 on your keyboard). And Voila! You can read all about PrideFest. Each message has a file attachment so you can download it and print it out for your own use.

While you are there, check out the over 250 message bases, the matchmakers, live chat with other users, dozens of games, and lots of other neat stuff.

PrideFest also has a message board on Crossroads BBS (414) 282-0494. Type 19 at the message prompt and you will be on the PrideFest message board.

Don't rush off now. Wait until you have read the rest of the Pride Guide and mark down all those great advertisers you are going to support, then turn on the computer and join us in cyberspace.

PrideFest is deeply grateful to the Back Door BBS and computer consultant extraordinaire Stu Feider for making our cyberspace trip possible.

Listening to Understated one gets the impression that Russo is a Lesbian equivalent to Harry Chapin. Like Chapin, Russo's songs are not just songs they are stories vividly painted on a canvass of wonderful music and told through exceptional voice.

In fact Russo says that Chapin is one of her favorite singers. "I loved what Harry Chapin did with music. He has always been one of my favorites, but actually I have been more influenced by Kenny Rankin and Ferron."

Russo's music is not easy to describe. Its not New Age, nor is it folk its a contemporary blend of the two much the same as country rock blended elements of country and of rock and roll.

PrideFest 95 will mark Russo's Milwaukee debut. "I have always heard great things about Milwaukee and I have always wanted to play there, but I have been so busy with bookings elsewhere and being my own manager and agent I have had to make my own contacts. I am thrilled to be a part of PrideFest 95. It always special to play Pride and its especially pleasing to be invited to perform at an out of town Pride event."

Russo will be appearing twice at PrideFest 95 on Saturday June 10th. She will be part of the Womyn's Music Revue on the Cream City Foundation's Alyn Hess Stage and she will be the headline performer Saturday evening on the Harvey Milk Tent Stage.

May Readings at A Room of One's Own

Madison-- Author Nicola Griffith will read from her award-winning science fiction novel **Ammonite** on Thursday, May 25 at 6:30 p.m. at A Room of One's Own feminist bookstore.

Ammonite received the Lambda Award for best Gay/Lesbian science fiction novel and the James Tiptree Award for best science fiction/fantasy novel dealing with gender issues. Griffith is a native of Yorkshire, England who now lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

ARCW Needs Volunteers for PrideFest

Milwaukee-- The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) needs you to volunteer your services during PrideFest weekend, June 10-11.

ARCW is looking for people to work in the food tent during PrideFest. The proceeds from the food tent will benefit the programs of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP).

AIDS Walk Wisconsin, the state's largest AIDS fundraising event, is also seeking volunteers to help register walkers. Vice President Al Gore and Tipper Gore are the Honorary Co-Chairs of this year's Walk to be held September 17 starting at the Summerfest grounds.

If you can volunteer for either of these projects, please call Roland at (414) 225-1577 or Cheryl at (414) 225-1573.

On Friday, May 26 at 6:30 p.m., mystery author Abigail Padgett will read from her latest mystery novel **Turtle Baby**.

Padgett is a former court investigator in San Diego who now works as an advocate for the mentally ill. Her debut novel, **Child of Silence**, was the first to feature an investigator living with manic depression.

A Room of One's Own is located at 317 W. Johnson Street. Please call (608) 257-7888 for more information.

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PrideFest '95 Volunteer Application

(Note: Information on this application will assist us in staffing PrideFest '95 with volunteers and will be utilized by the PrideFest planning committee. All information will be kept confidential.)

Name (Please print): _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary phone number: _____ Best time to call: _____

If you are representing an organization, please list which one: _____

After we receive your application, we will call you to assign a volunteer task. Work shifts are five hours in length. We would greatly appreciate your flexibility in time availability as there will be peak demands for volunteers. Please complete the section below carefully.

I am willing to work on:

☐ Both Saturday and Sunday (two days)

☐ Saturday only

☐ Either Saturday or Sunday (one day only)

☐ Sunday only

I am available the following hours:

☐ morning hours (before noon) only

☐ afternoon hours (noon to 6 p.m.) only

☐ evening hours (6 - 11 pm) only

☐ I am flexible (THANK YOU!!)

You are asked to attend one of two volunteer orientation sessions two weeks prior to PrideFest in order to become familiar with your assignment and receive your entry passes. Please select just ONE

I will attend the orientation session on:

☐ Saturday, May 20

☐ Tuesday, May 23

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I understand that this application constitutes a promise to volunteer time towards the success of PrideFest '95. In the event that I am unable to fulfill my volunteer commitment, I will make every attempt to inform the PrideFest Volunteer Coordinator of these changes.

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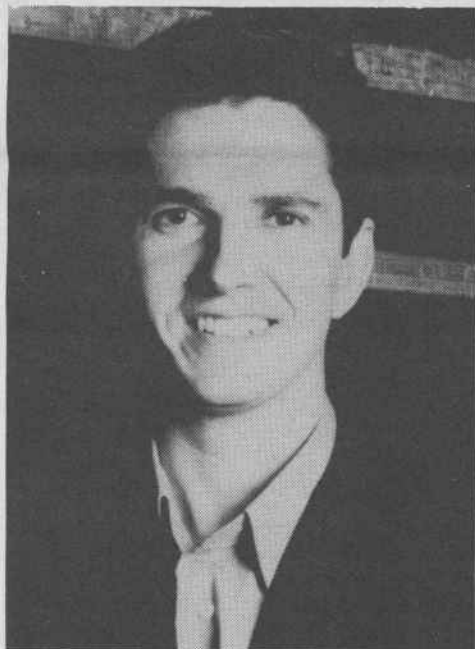


Stefano Dionisi (Farinelli) and Enrico Lo Verso (Riccardo) in "Farinelli."

Bob Smith, Gay Comedian, to Appear at Comedy Club and AfterWords in June

Milwaukee-- Nationally known openly Gay comedian Bob Smith, will be headlining a special event, Tuesday, June 13, at the Comedy Club Cafe, 615 E. Brady in Milwaukee.

He will also be in town to promote his new book **Growing Up Gay** with a special appearance at AfterWords Bookstore on June 13.



Bob Smith

Smith started doing stand-up comedy at age 18 in Buffalo, New York. "I was pretty innocent," he said. "I hadn't even been to a Gay bar, but I knew the girlfriend jokes would ring false. I was familiar with the rich tradition of Gay humor--Oscar Wilde, Joe Orton--so I began writing jokes from a more genuine perspective. My roommate found them so hysterical I couldn't resist trying them out on-stage."

Cream City Chorus Celebrates Earth Day With First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee

Milwaukee-- The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus was pleased to lend its voices to the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee's Earth Day service on Sunday, April 23.

Earth Day commemorates the world on which we live, calls to mind our treatment of her resources and her wildlife and asks us to examine our own attitudes and goals as custodial partners in life on this ailing world.

The Chorus would like to thank the First Unitarian Society for inviting them to participate in this very special event as well as lending the use of their sanctuary for the Chorus' weekly rehearsals.

The First Unitarian Society is located at 1342 N. Astor in Milwaukee. Rehearsals begin at 7:00 p.m. New members are welcome. For more information on the Chorus, call (414) 344-WCCC or write: P.O. Box 1488, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1488.

Smith moved to New York City and performed openly Gay material in clubs such as The Comic Strip, Catch a Rising Star and The Improvisation.

In 1989, Smith joined forces with Jaffe Cohen and Danny McWilliams and they called themselves "Funny Gay Males."

Smith's work has received critical acclaim in such publications as **The Boston Globe**, **The Boston Herald**, **The Washington Post** and **The New York Post**, among others. However, Smith says he felt he had really arrived when his picture appeared in the "Style" section of **The New York Times**.

Smith made his national TV debut on "The Joan Rivers Show," where she introduced Funny Gay Males as "Comic pioneers."

In addition to performing nationwide, Smith, Cohen and McWilliams, have found time to write a book: **Growing Up Gay**, which Smith will be reading and signing at AfterWords on June 13 at 6:00 p.m. prior to the appearance at the Comedy Club.

In **Growing Up Gay**, the authors joyously lampoon an experience that most Gay men could only share with their own friends--until now. "Did you violate the first commandment of traditional masculinity--thou shalt not covet thy sister's dolls?"--they ask.

Was your imaginary friend a hunk? Were you so bored when you watched "Bonanza" that you wanted to burn down the Ponderosa?

If you answered "Yes! Yes!" to the above questions, there's a strong possibility, the authors say, that you're Gay.

'Advocate' Parent Company Buys Alyson Publications

Los Angeles, CA-- Sasha Alyson, president of Alyson Publications and Sam Watters, president of Liberation Publications (LPI), the parent company of **The Advocate**, announced on May 5, 1995, that an agreement had been reached for LPI to acquire the Alyson book publishing business.

"We are particularly proud to bring together America's most established and prominent Gay and Lesbian news magazine and America's most established and finest independent Gay and Lesbian book publisher," Watters said.

Founded by Alyson to meet the needs of readers who were not being served by mainstream book publishers, Alyson Publications became the pioneer in Gay and Lesbian books. Its first title, **Young, Gay and Proud**, appeared in 1980.

The Advocate was founded in 1967 on \$300 as an underground mimeographed sheet. In September, 1992, Watters and investors bought the magazine, which at the time, was in the hands of creditors. In two years, the debt was paid off, a sales office was opened in New York and circulation had grown by 55%.

Currently, **The Advocate's** total paid circulation is 70,393. This represents an increase of 64% from 1993. Paid subscribers number 52,924, an 180% increase from 1993.

'Farinelli' is the Story of a Young Castrato Caught Up in the Toils of the 18th Century

Milwaukee-- In the not too long ago, royal and ecclesiastical choir masters searched Europe and spared no expense to get prepubescent boys with the sweetest voices to perform for kings, emperors and popes. There was only one problem. Eventually, time would crack and then deepen those angelic tones. All that money and training would be wasted.

Not to worry. The problem was solved by forcing the boy to undergo the cruelest cut of all. In fact, many times there was no force used at all--on anyone except the boy.

Parents or other family members, such as elder brothers, eager for money, often offered these boys for sale. An audition was held. If the boy was accepted, money changed hands on the spot and the boy was castrated with dispatch.

The story of one such boy, a Castrato, is portrayed in **Farinelli**, a movie of splendid, slightly unnerving, entertainment, ravishing 18th Century costumes and a deserved winner of the Golden Globes best foreign film award.

It is a true story of Farinelli (the luxuriously handsome and sensual Stefano Dionisi), castrated at the age of 10, whose sublime voice was the rave of Europe's marble and crystal courts.

We see him first in 1740 at the court of King Philip V (of unhappy memory) of Spain. The youth sings exclusively for the psychologically troubled monarch, playing a sadly winsome David to Philip's Saul.

Flashbacked, screenwriters Andree and Gerard Corbiau chart the celebrated singer's tumultuous life as he teams with his elder brother, Riccardo (Enrico Lo Verso), a composer for his brother whose music can never

attain the level of Farinelli's matchless voice for which he paid such a terrible price.

Riccardo loves his brother in every way one might understand that word, but it is a love twisted by the fact that he is using Farinelli to maintain his own mediocre career. The problem is, Riccardo knows this about himself, but, despite his love, he cannot stop.

Farinelli begins its exclusive Milwaukee engagement Friday, May 12, at the Oriental Theatre.

Third Annual New Harvest of Art to Begin In Madison on May 21

Madison-- Madison will come alive with the Third Annual New Harvest of Art beginning May 21 and running through June 17, 1995. This non-juried art exhibition and sale will take place at Fyfe's Corner Bistro, 1344 E. Washington Avenue.

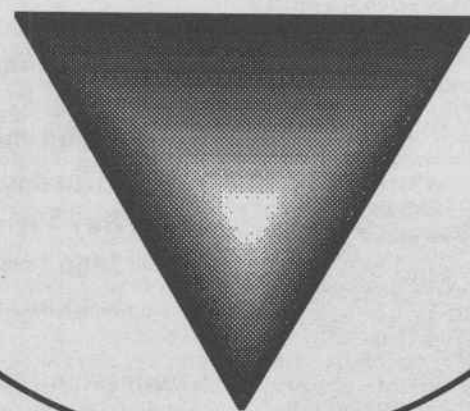
The art exhibit, sale and auction is sponsored by the New Harvest Foundation, an 11-year-old philanthropic organizations whose mission is to financially support Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual communities in Dane County and Southern Wisconsin.

An artist reception is planned at Fyfe's on Sunday, June 11, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. with artists on hand to meet the public. There will be an art auction during the reception.

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This production is funded in part by a grant from the Cream City Foundation.

Circlestage, Milwaukee's Only Theatre-in-the-Round To Open in Prospect Mall

Milwaukee-- A lime, a lollipop and the lower level of Prospect Mall, all of these things are round and the newest is Circlestage, Milwaukee's only theatre-in-the-round, which presents its premiere season this Summer.

"The great thing about theatre-in-the-round is that it's three dimensional. You can't fool the audience, because no matter where the actors are, there's always at least four sets of eyes watching," said Don Hoffman, artistic director of Circlestage.

Hoffman developed a love for theatre-in-the-round when he attended Circle in the Square Professional Theatre Program through New York University. A graduate of the New York High School of Music and Art, he made his professional debut at the age of 14 in the Jewish Repertory Theatre production of *Incident at Vichy* which was co-directed by its playwright Arthur Miller.

Circlestage begins its six-show season in August with the smash musical hit *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Based on the comic strip characters of Charles Schulz' "Peanuts," the story presents a day in the life of America's favorite loser.

Following in December will be the Milwaukee premiere of the musical *Beauty and the Beast*.

Alice in Wonderland by Sally Netzel will close the season in April. The children's shows will be produced through Merry-Go-Round Children's Theatre, a subsidiary of Circlestage.

"We're going to give other children's theatre companies in this city a run for their money," Hoffman said.

Intertwined with the children's productions, Circlestage will also present three adult shows. Opening the season in November will be *The Fantasticks* by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt. It is the longest running show in the world, running on Broadway since 1960. The movie version starring Joel Grey, will premiere in theatres nationwide this Fall.

What About Luv?, will be performed in February.

Quilt, A Musical Celebration by Jim Morgan, Michael Stockler, Merle Hubbard and John Schak will be presented next Spring. The show is a compilation of stories for, from and about the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. The company plans to work with local AIDS advocacy organizations in presenting the

musical.

Circlestage is located in the lower level of the newly renovated Prospect Mall on Milwaukee's East Side. The space, which once housed the Clavis Theatre, is being remodeled. The company plans to employ local, professional actors and musicians.

"We want to do shows that are different from the standards," Mary Balistreri, general manager, said. A Milwaukee native, Balistreri has worked as a writer and reporter, with her most recent works featured in *Milwaukee Footlights* and *Community Newspapers*. A singer and actor, she has performed with local, professional companies.



Mary Balistreri

"The challenge to this company is going to be to keep adult ticket prices down to \$5 or \$7 so that everyone can enjoy theatre-in-the-round and still be able to present some of the best entertainment in the city," she said.



Midnight Flicks--Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre is playing Kevin Smith's "Clerks" at midnight on Saturdays. Pictured from the film (above) are: (L-R) Lisa Spoonauer, Jeff Anderson, Brian O'Halloran and Marilyn Ghigliotti. Also shown at midnight on Saturday are "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" and "Tank Girls."

Boulevard Theatre Gives You 'The Time of Your Life'

By Terry Boughner

I have been backstage at a couple of plays of my own and a few others as well. I enjoy it. There's a nervous tremble of energy that's infectious as the players wait to go on. That's why, when I went to Milwaukee's Boulevard Theatre to see their production of William Saroyan's *The Time of Your Life*, I took the opportunity to delay a few minutes before the show was to go on.

The players were excited. Why not? They are closing out the Boulevard's 9th season with a smash hit on their hands. It's been SRO at the Boulevard for nearly every presentation since the play opened on April 28.

Conforming to the fact that the play is laid in the tail-end of the Depression era (1939), I saw one young woman in a stylish blue dress from that period silently mouthing some lines. Nearby, a man in a fedora was thumbing through a dog-eared script, while two young men in porkpie hats were doing an impromptu dance.

I've been to many of the Boulevard's productions and the set for the play is one of the most elaborate I've seen. It's a barroom, Nick's Pacific Street Saloon and Entertainment

Palace, in San Francisco. Everything's complete down to the last detail. In the cause of realism, nothing's spared, even at the expense of losing some seats.

This is also one of the largest casts that the Boulevard has used, but Director Timothy X. Troy handles them well. In the limited space that the theatre has, the stage could have seemed jammed. It did not.

Several times in the past when I've reviewed plays at the Boulevard, I've commented that the women players often seem much stronger than the men. In this play, however, that is far from being true. Both actresses and actors seem of equal strength and carry their roles well.

The play moves along crisply and with dispatch. There is humor in it that is done well and a certain poignancy that I like in Saroyan, a sort of "Lost Generation" mood that is as misty as the Bay Area fog.

The play is thoroughly enjoyable, one that must be seen. The thing is that it is a hit and seats may be hard to come by. I asked someone if they planned to hold it over, but they didn't know.

In any case, call for reservations and get to see it if you possibly can.

The Time of Your Life runs until May 21, Thursdays through Sundays. There will be a matinee on May 21.

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



Paul Horpedahl

Send in the Clowns--April Shawhan (Desiree) and Kip Niven (Fredrik) star in the Skylight Opera Theatre's production of "A Little Night Music" which opens May 16 at the Milwaukee theatre.

Skylight Opera Theatre Brings 'A Little Night Music' to Milwaukee

Milwaukee-- Come to the land of eternal twilight with this Broadway classic featuring the hit song "Send In The Clowns." Steven Sondheim waltzes his timeless characters through the stark beauty of Northern Scandinavia as he brings us romance, remembrances and the bitter-sweet vulnerability of people in love. *A Little Night Music* is being presented at Milwaukee's Skylight Opera Theatre and is sponsored by CompCare.

A "dream team" of creative talents has been assembled for this production, beginning with stage director, Elaine Petricoff, who began her career in the theatre as an actress before branching out as a director and teacher.

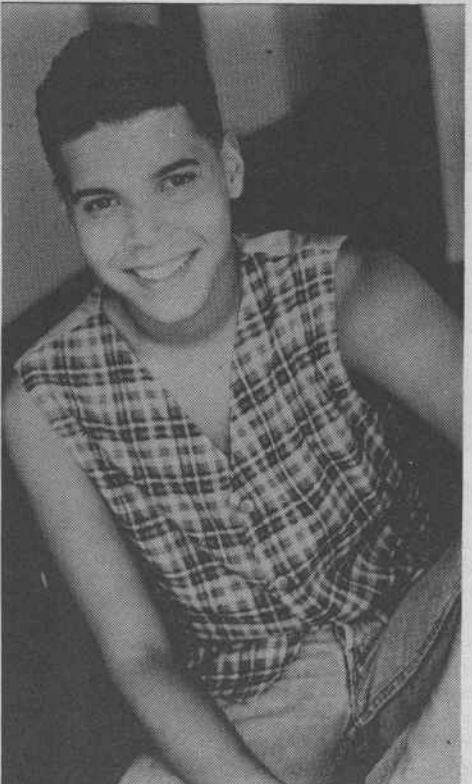
As an actress, she worked on Broadway in *Grease*, *End of the World*, with Harold Prince, and *The Me Nobody Knows* and worked off-Broadway and in the regional theatre.

As a director, Petricoff has directed for The Children's Television Workshop, Berkshire Theatre Festival, New York's Ensemble Studio Theatre and the Catskill Actors Theatre. She has also served as an assistant to Tommy Tune and Arthur Kopit.

Richard Carsey, who will conduct and music

'In the Life' Producer to Appear on 'The Queer Program' in May

Milwaukee-- "In the Life" co-producer John Catania, a former Milwaukee area native, is scheduled to appear as a guest on "The Queer Program" on Tuesday, May 16 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Milwaukee Warner Cable public access Channel 47. The "In the Life" produc-



Wilson Cruz

tion crew will be in Wisconsin and the Milwaukee area filming segments for an upcoming production, working together with Channel 10.

Wilson Cruz

Also appearing on "The Queer Program" in May will be Gay TV actor Wilson Cruz, who plays the Gay teen on the series "My So-Called Life."

Cruz will be on "The Queer Program" on May 23 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., appearing "live" via a telephone link to his home in Los Angeles.

Cruz, 21, the youngest Gay actor "out" in Hollywood, will be interviewed by Dan Fons and Michael Lisowski, co-producers and co-hosts of the program.

LesBiGay youth studio guests will also get a chance to talk to Cruz, who will then field questions from the TV viewing audience.

"My So-Called Life" is considered by critics to be on of the best realistic portrayals of teen angst in growing up. Cruz has become a role model and spokesperson for LesBiGay youth.

Cruz is planning to soon film a TV public service announcement targeting LesBiGay youth on behalf of the National Advocacy Coalition on Youth & Sexual Orientation. Gay Youth Milwaukee is a participating member and Lisowski serves on the committee planning the PSA for the organization.

"The Queer Program" is Milwaukee's live prime time call-in TV show by, for and about Queers. The program is sponsored by Gay People's Union and broadcasts live every Tuesday from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Warner Cable Channel 47. "The Queer Program's" Homophone line is (414) 225-1500.

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World War II Era Films include "Casablanca" with Ingrid Bergman and Humphrey Bogart, and "Cairo" with Robert Young and Jeanette MacDonald. Also pictured is Betty Grable's famous World War II pin-up pose.

Fifty Years Later, We Remember the Now Classic Films of World War II

By Dale E. Kuntz

This May marks the end of World War II in Europe and, in July, the end of the war with Japan. In spite of the revisionists' efforts to rewrite history, Hollywood's films of that time live on to remind us of how we felt then.

Never before--or since--has Hollywood played such an important part in reflecting (and influencing) America's mood and morals. In all truth, it can be said that America might not have been as successful in the war had it not been for Hollywood.

Even then-President Franklin D. Roosevelt realized the importance of Hollywood in the war effort. He urged Hollywood to make films with special interest to our allies, each branch of the service and, of course, the home front.

Special dispensation was given to actors to complete a film before they went into the service. And several actors were asked to stay in Hollywood for a limited time. The President felt that they could do more for America with morale-building films than they could if they became just another soldier. Many actors balked at this idea, but followed FDR's wishes until a later time.

With the 50th Anniversary of the end of the war, many film retrospectives are being showcased throughout the USA. And many fans are recalling the times and the effect the films had on the era and on themselves. Even young fans who did not live through the war, are finding pleasure in seeing these films--which represent the zenith of Hollywood's output and popularity.

Today, *Casablanca* has become a cult film and probably the best remembered film of World War II. It wasn't always like that. Because it has become a cult film, its base in popularity rests on that!

By far--and above all others--the most popular and beloved film of the war years was *Mrs. Miniver*. Released in 1942, it became the rallying point for almost all of the films that followed it. When President Roosevelt saw a preview of it, he urged MGM to release it as soon as possible. He knew it would have a great effect on the American public and would gain great support for our English allies.

The final "People's War" speech of the film was written by FDR himself. Film historians have never been able to prove or disprove this, but listen to it once again and you know it is FDR.

The film went on to win six Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Actress (Greer Garson), Best Supporting Actress (Teresa Wright), and Best Director (William Wyler). It has become one of the best-loved and best-remembered films of all time. View it once again...It really is better than *Casablanca*!

Many of the hard-action films like *Wake Island* (1942), *Bataan* (1943), *Crash Dive* (1943), and *Objective Burma* (1944), do seem dated today and full of propaganda, but they were made with that purpose. And, they still are interesting to watch--from that perspective.

Others, like *So Proudly We Hail* (1944), 30

Seconds Over Tokyo (1944) and *Sahara* (1943) are good films and stand on their own today.

Still others, had and have a lasting impression on America and even influenced some of our laws. *The Sullivans* (now known as *The Fighting Sullivans*) was released in 1944. It told the story of five brothers who were all lost on the same ship. The film brought such attention to the incident, that eventually the Navy (and all branches of the service) changed their regulations so that no two members of the same family could serve on the same ship or in the same area of action. And when only one male member was left in the family, he could not be drafted into wartime service lest the family lose its last source of continuing the family name and income.

Guadalcanal Diary (1943) was such a realistic portrayal of the battle on the island that when a woman, whose son had recently been

killed on the island, went to see it, she suffered a heart attack in the theatre and died a short time later.

As Americans, we believed in these films and they shaped our ideas and our lives. Plus, they were the largest sources of entertainment there was at the time.

In addition to the actual war themes, many films dealt with the home front and how Americans were coping with the war. David O'Selznick's *Since You Went Away* (1944) is the best of these films. It is a touching, beautiful film that is as emotional today as it was when it was released.

Mickey Rooney's *The Human Comedy* (1943) is a wonderful family drama-tragedy based on an original story by William Saroyan. It is probably Mickey's finest performance.

The White Cliffs of Dover (1944) is one of the top romances of the era, with Irene Dunne as an American living through two World Wars in England.

Comedies abounded, helping to cheer up the home front and bringing a light moment to the fighting men. Abbott and Costello became America's favorite comedy team with their high jinx in all the services...*Buck Privates*, *In the Navy* and *Keep Them Flying*.

Later on, Martin & Lewis would repeat this idea with all their "Service" comedies.

Even such established stars as Jeanette MacDonald, took a turn at wartime comedy. Her last film under her MGM contract was *Cairo* (1942) in which she and Robert Young played Americans in Cairo, each thinking the

other was a Nazi spy. It isn't her best film, but a delightful spoof on World War II spy dramas.

Musicals went through a strange change during the war years. Due to government restrictions, the big expensive extravaganzas were no longer being made. The close-out of the European market was the death knell for the operetta film.

However, there were some musicals like *Pin-Up Girl* (1944) and *Two Girls and a Sailor* (1944). These and others like them had all-star casts doing a variety-act type film with each star showcased in some comedy or musical routine.

The best of these was Warner's *Thank Your Lucky Stars* (1943). It even had Bette Davis singing "They're Either too Young or too Old."

Others included Paramount's *Star Spangled Rhythm* (1942) and Universal's *Follow the Boys* (1943) with Marlene Dietrich being sawed in half by Orson Wells.

Most of the musicals of the time, however, were pure escapism films--usually set in the past, when times were less troubled. Films like *Hello, Frisco, Hello*, *Coney Island*, *Song of the Islands*, *Shine on Harvest Moon* and others are good examples of this.

Many good films were made about World War II after the war, but those films knew the outcome and thus reflected our feelings about being the victor. If you really want to recapture the feeling of the war years...you must see a film made during the War and thus it reflects the true feeling of the time.

An Interview with 'Flesh and Blood' Author Michael Cunningham

Michael Cunningham, author of the best-selling *Flesh and Blood*, was in Milwaukee recently to read and sign his new book at the Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop in the Iron Block building in downtown Milwaukee.

He is a Gay man who has led quite a life, from trying to make a farmer out of himself (He failed. The cow died), to living with a lover in a cave in Greece. Now, he makes his home in New York City, where he lives with his partner.

Now, of indeterminate age, he was a darkly handsome young man, with a fine build and the piercing eyes of a man who sees beyond this maelstrom we call life.

He was interviewed in his room in the Pfister hotel.

Wisconsin Light: Michael, I've read your biography. Did all of it . . . I mean the cow? A cave in Greece?

Michael Cunningham: Yeah, poor cow. That was my farming period that did not last long. It was to be kind of Brook Farm, but when the cow died--she froze to death--I left.

I adored Greece. Maybe it's my favorite place. My former lover and I found this remarkable 12 Century village right on the Mediterranean and we rented this pair of caves dug into the side of a cliff. There we lived, with no money, happy as could be.

WL: Talk to me about writing. How do you write? Why do you write? The works.

MC: Why do I write? Because I'm good at it. I feel like I can do it. Writing speaks to me in a way nothing else can. Like you do, I write in the mornings. I'm not especially delicate in my habits except for that one thing. I have to write in the mornings. I wake up and go straight from dreams to writing. I can do nothing else. I go to my studio and work until about 3:00 p.m.

So there I am, pecking away on my word processor. I love my word processor. I couldn't live without it. Those little blue blips

of light are wonderful to me.

There I sit, endless rearranging things, words, sentences. It's like clay--no, it's better than clay. The word processor is the rare instance where technology works to our benefit.

WL: Where did "Flesh and Blood" come from?

MC: I actually got the idea for it when I was living in Greece. I'd see these people in this sleepy little village where my lover and I lived, all of whom, if not most, had relatives in America, and I wondered what happened to them in the "new world." So, that's what I wrote about, one of those guys.

There's sex in it. I resolved never again to write a book without sex in it, to show the ass as the one remaining part of a man that's innocent, a remnant of being a baby.

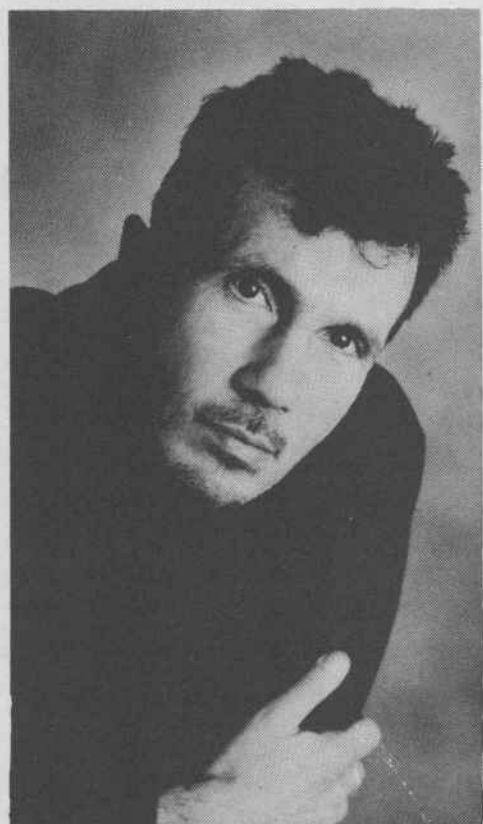
But sex is hard to write about because the language thins out on you a bit. You really see the built-in biases, as opposed to say, French that has a whole range of terminology, for example, for parts of the female anatomy.

In English, all you've got is a choice between the adolescent and the clinical. Those are pretty much your options. Or the four letter words, which may what you want and may not. They have a crunch you may not want to us. Writing about sex makes the job of writing that much harder.

WL: Are you a Gay writer?

MC: Yes, I am a Gay man and I am a Gay writer absolutely. I don't want my sexual orientation pushed off stage. It's essentially who I am, therefore, with the kind of writer that I am. I don't really approve of those writers who are Gay and insist that it's not part of their art.

I think everybody has the obligation to be out. It's the one political act I really demand everyone. To be a closeted Gay and against us as some are, is inexcusable. We need to write books and we need to storm the gates too. It's important to me to do both.



Michael Cunningham

WL: How do you get the courage to go ahead and submit something for publication?

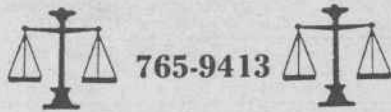
MC: I think it's equal parts stupidity and foolishness. The hardest part is knowing that once the book is out there, people can say anything you want. It's your baby. There's an element of masochism in it because the nasty stuff really stings. I know several writers who won't put their stuff out.

WL: You write because you love it. Everything else you do is beside the point.

MC: Yeah.

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Ten Years After, New York City's Harvey Milk School is Still Going Strong

By Dan Woog

This past April 15, you may have done three things: pay your taxes, mourn the 130th anniversary of the death of Abraham Lincoln, or celebrate the 10th birthday of the Harvey Milk School.

The first choice was advisable, the second far fetched, but the third choice, for Gays and Lesbians, should have been mandatory. On April 15, 1985, the first school ever dedicated solely to the educational and emotional needs of Gay and Lesbian teens opened its doors and the way schools across the U.S. has never been quite the same again.

The Harvey Milk School began with one teacher, 22 kids in a rented room in the basement of a church in one of Manhattan's seediest neighborhoods. But within that dingy beginning, there was a dream of serving an adolescent population that until that point in American educational history, had been vilified or, just as bad, ignored.

For as long as this country had had schools, Gay and Lesbian kids cowered in the classroom closet. They were sure they were the only people in school like that, terrified of revealing their secret to anyone, petrified that any misstep would cause social suicide.

Concentrating so hard on hiding, their schoolwork suffered. They under-achieved, flunked out or dropped out—or they over-compensated, becoming honor students, sports captains, year book editors and the like, all the while shutting themselves off from meaningful relationships and the real business of discovering who they were and where they fit into the world around them.

As noted before in *Wisconsin Light*, the school's founding and subsequent growth has led to a well-respected institution with two full-time teachers (including the original Fred Goldhaber), an eager support staff of aides, paraprofessionals and volunteers, and several bright, airy classrooms in the building of its parent institution, the Hetrick-Martin Institute.

The school did not cure all the ills of our schools, of course. Gay and Lesbians students continue to be shoved into lockers. Teachers continue to let students' homophobic comments go unchallenged—or worse, make such cracks themselves.

Principals continue to make life difficult for Gay teachers, superintendents continue to uphold the suspensions of students who wear "queer" T-shirts or jewelry and Board of education continue to keep Gay-positive books off the shelves.

There's even one school board in rural southeast Wisconsin that has baldly issued a statement saying that teens couldn't possibly be aware of their sexual orientation. Somebody ought to send these people out for a reality check.

I've spent the last two years researching and writing a book, called *School's Out: The Impact of Gay and Lesbian Issues on America's Schools*. In my work I learned things that

moved me to tears and then to anger.

The worst was probably the all-state choir member in Texas whose teacher forced him to sing with the freshmen when no one would share music with him. His school psychologist refused to help because she was afraid she'd lose her job if she intervened.

But then there were the others stories.

I talked with a guidance counselor who came out, with great trepidation in the pages of a Detroit newspaper. The next day, he could not bring himself to go to work. Instead, he spent the day at home expecting any minute that he'd be called up and fired.

When he did return, he was greeted with notes, calls and hugs of support. A boy came out to him, saying, "This is amazing. I was ready to kill myself. I don't know what I would have done without you."

His counseling load increased by 22 students; parents wanted their sons and daughters to be influenced by such a courageous, empathic man. The seniors voted him a top educator of the school and a Detroit newspaper named him one of the Michiganders of the Year.

Because Lesbian and Gay publications are wide-spread, because Gay and Lesbian issues are out of the closet, and for a thousand other reasons, Gay students feel less ignorant, less isolated, less terrified than their Gay ancestors did only a decade ago.

The Harvey Milk School did not initiate a headlong rush to Gay and Lesbian schools. Just one district—Los Angeles—has followed New York's lead and created its own version (The EAGLES School). But toting up hard numbers of special schools is less important than simply recognizing the fact that the past decade has witnessed a sea of change in the way schools across the country deal with the basic existence of homosexuality.

And that, thanks to the Harvey Milk School's founding 10 years ago, is something not even Newt Gingrich can stop.

Editor's Note: Dan Woog lives in Westport, Connecticut. His latest book, *School's Out* was published May 8 by Alyson Publications. The book is a featured title at AfterWords Bookstore this month.

MASN Teen Peer Educators Receive Golden Rule Award

Madison-- The HIV Intervention for Teens (HIT) Squad has received the Golden Rule Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service in Education.

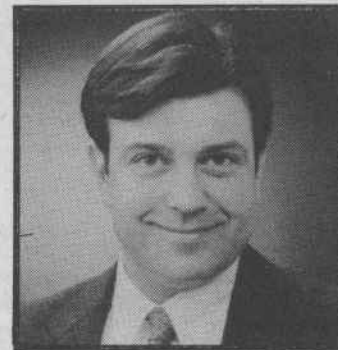
The HIT Squad is a group of Madison area high school students. They receive extensive training before traveling to high schools, conferences and other events to present information to their peers on HIV and AIDS. Their presentations include factual information, role playing strategies for individuals to make safe choices and answering questions.

The HIT Squad is supervised by MASN Community Health Educator, John Rademacher. Rademacher recruits, trains, schedules and brainstorms with the teens.

The Golden Rule Award is sponsored by J.C. Penney in coordination with local communities. The United Way is the Madison co-sponsor. 118 individuals and organizations were nominated, with three final winners. The award includes a \$1,000 donation to MASN.

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GWM, 41, 6'1, 185, nice body, well-hung. (Call Thru) Box# 9750
Dave, 26, 5'9, bottom, 160, ISO a cute guy. Box# 7571
Dave, 26, bottom, long blond hair, 5'8, 160, great job, ISO a top to live with. (Call Thru) Box# 5547
M, 5'6, 150, 18, muscular, blond, blue eyes, 9's, ISO an experienced top to show me everything. (Call Thru) Box# 8427
Jenni, 6'1, 190, ISO teddy bear, 37-47, hairy, dark hair, muscular and intimate. (Call Thru) Box# 3315
GWM, 5'7, blond, blue eyes, 38, goodlooking, well-endowed, muscular, thin, ISO top, HIV-, goodlooking man to love. (Call Thru) Box# 8547
GM, John, 22, college student, ISO someone out-going

Scott, 30, 6'1, 200, brn hr, hzl eyes, mustache, ISO guys 25-30's. Box# 2556
Alex, 28, ISO BM, 20-35, for working out, skiing and good times. Box# 7971
John, ISO a fine, sexy Italian guy. (Call Thru) Box# 9138
Paul, professional, fun, ISO professional, well-groomed, hairy, aggressive male. (Call Thru) Box# 3752
Bill, 5'5, 150, leave message or call thru. (Call Thru) Box# 3027
JT, 28, law student, ISO my first bi-experience with someone who is. (Call Thru) Box# 5899
GWM, 5'10, 170, good-looking, well-built, versatile, ISO other hot guys for good times. You won't be disappointed. (Call Thru) Box# 3502
Duane, GWM, poet, likes theatre, movies, art, working out, ISO intelligent men who live to enjoy life. Box# 4145
GM, student, trim, blond hair, bottom, nice body, ISO hairy hot top who's into sex. Box# 5640
BIM, 26, 5'10, 190, athletic, bodybuilder, ISO other bodybuilders, any race, discretion assured. Box# 3474
Attractive, quiet GWM, 58, 5'8, brn hair/eyes, HIV-, NS, like golf, country life, travel, dining, theatre, ISO a compatible GM with same interest for friendship. (Call Thru) Box# 7686
M, 24, 5'9, 165, long brown hair, blue eyes, mustache, I'm easy-going, ISO similar dudes. Box# 3216
WM, 30's, ISO a Bi or GWM for goodtimes, I'll be open to your ideas. Box# 1977
Bill, 32, 5'8, 160, prof., not into glitter, self-absorb, bitchy or stereo-types, ISO someone who is truthful, warm, gentle, in-touch, with a quiet strength for mutual honest friendship, no sex right away calls please. (Call Thru) Box# 8684
Mike, good-looking, GWM, 35, 220, 6', HIV-, physically fit, NS, ISO M 25 and under, long-term friendship, casual sex. (Call Thru) Box# 1817

Devoch, I believe in taking live easy and having good times. Box# 9994
Steve, looking for good times. Believe me, you will not regret meeting me. (Call Thru) Box# 8470
Russell, ISO man for fun, hot sex. (Call Thru) Box# 4587
I'm what you've been looking for. Artie, African-American, 5'8, 160, bearded, good-looking, healthy, clean, ISO blue-collar, down to earth types, into giving oral services to, no reciprocation necessary. (Call Thru) Box# 6631
Rob, ISO younger brother type for partying, hanging out, I'm a fun-loving bottom willing to travel. (Call Thru) Box# 5262
Scott, 21, 6'3, 165, light brn. hr., longer in the back, blue eyes, ISO SWM, 18-25, for friendship, poss. long-term rel. To me life is too short. (Call Thru) Box# 3339
Kevin, 27, 5'9 1/2, 163, well-built, dark brn. hair, green eyes, likes sports, good times. ISO M with same interests. (Call Thru) Box# 3501
Joe, 35, GWM, ISO hot action. Guaranteed you will not be disappointed. Box# 5666
Tom, 33, GWM, 5'6, versatile bottom, ISO young, hung, versatile tops, especially boyish guys. I have a need I want you to fill. (Call Thru) Box# 5881
Jim, 28, WM, 6'2, I'm outgoing, very personable, like music, movies, socializing, ISO BM, for one-on-one relationship, large gatherings possible also. Box# 3733
Paul, 27, bottom, very lonely, masculine GWM. ISO masculine GWM, 27-48, 6' +, mustache a plus, top, for friends and a monogamous relationship. Box# 2867
WM, 28, enjoys the company of black males. I have great communicating oral skills. Remember, I won't be able to talk with my mouth full. Box# 6656
Frank, GWM, ISO romantic fun guy, 18-25, to enjoy dinners, movies, etc. (Call Thru) Box# 1142
Mike, 5'7, 135, muscular, well-built, ISO male to have fun with. Box# 8815
GWM, 21, 6', 140, good-looking, ISO GBM, 20-30 for friendship and relationship. Box# 2429
GM, ISO very discreet guy who has 10 inches or more and loves to have a very good time. Box# 9501
Michael, 25, 6'3, 220, blond/blue, hairy, ISO another guy to have some fun. (Call Thru) Box# 4526
Bob, I like to meet other males. Call, let's see what we can do together. (Call Thru) Box# 5303
GM, 26, 5'11, 165, brn. hair/eyes, very good-looking, clean shaven, work out, ISO guys around my age. (Call Thru) Box# 1583
Todd, BM, ISO GBM or GWM, I'm very handsome and ready to go. (Call Thru) Box# 1326
Dominick, 21, GWM, 5'9, blk. hr., hzl. eyes, Italian and Hispanic. ISO GWM, 21-25, down-to-earth, financially secure, for friendship, poss. rel., no phonies. (Call Thru) Box# 5433
Adam, GWM, 32, 5'8, 190, shoulder length hair, beard, ISO dominant big brother daddy type, black or white, to take charge. (Call Thru) Box# 8556
Steve, 6'2, 220, GBM, likes sports, long walks, quiet times, getting wild sometimes, ISO DWM with similar interests, sense of humor, financially and emotionally stable, for rel. (Call Thru) Box# 2644
Retired man, ISO GM who likes to cuddle. (Call Thru) Box# 6531
GM, 23, extremely cute, like to have fun, ISO a normal guy. Box# 8604
Doug, GWM, smoker, a true metal head, Libra, 30, have tattoos, long hair, tone body, smooth, 145, 6'2, touchie-feelie type, wild sense of humor, ISO other guys 25-35, dark haired, hairy body, sensuality is top priority. Box# 8205
James, attr., 8 inch cut, aggressive, mustache, all American, blonde and blue, early 30's, 5'8, 150, 40-inch chest, 30-inch waist, ISO no-nonsense men, singles, couples or groups, who are intense and want safe and sane liaisons. (Call Thru) Box# 9451
Peter, athletic, 6'1, 165, brn. hr., glasses, fit, five-day growth, ISO friends to hang out, go to movies, play tennis, dining, laughing, and walks. (Call Thru) Box# 3811
Caribbean GBM, 20, ISO GM 18-24 for friendship, poss. rel., serious only. Box# 1627
Bob, 47, WM, ISO BM, well-endowed for fun. Box# 8710
Saral, 34, 5'10, somewhat stocky build, beard, mustache, like classical theater, cooking, travel, walks, ISO GM for friendship and love. (Call Thru) Box# 5751
Thomas, 5'8, 150, ISO BM, to enjoy music, late nights. (Call Thru) Box# 5575
Billy, good-looking, WM, 30, 6'2, 195, good shape, ISO GM for friendship, possibly more. (Call Thru) Box# 2539
Bi-WM, 30, ISO straight-acting bi-WM or straight WM, no gays, fats or fems. Box# 4265
SWM, really hot, ISO slim, straight, bi or GM, 19-26, for fun and more. Box# 2533
Pete, bi-WM, 40's, 5'11, 210, smooth, chubby bottom, ISO mature male, 50+, for long-term relationship. Box# 3610
Terry, ISO a guy for fun, getting to know each other and exploring. Box# 8634

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Men Seeking Men

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

Bi white teddy bear, 37, looking for male companionship. I aim to please. Box# 1104

Bob, super personality, If you are lonely, call me. (Call Thru) Box# 7934

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

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

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

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

GM, 21, blond hair, blue eyes, like bars, ISO a male companion. (Call Thru) Box# 4266

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stanely, born in 69, like walks, tennis, volleyball. Box# 6162

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

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

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

John, 6'1, 240, top, aggressive, ISO a passive, very feminine male, any age/race. (Call Thru) Box# 1862

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

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

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

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

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

for good times. Box# 5093

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GBM, Andre, 5'10, 155, drk hair/eyes, ISO GWM 20-30, to enjoy life to it's fullest. (Call Thru) Box# 7751

GM, 21, 5'9, 140, grn eyes, brn hair, party size, ISO built, masculine guys around same age. (Call Thru) Box# 2503

GWM, 35, 6'2, 180, brn hair/eyes, clean shaven, like legs and feet. Box# 7199

GBM, Mike, 35, slim, attractive, ISO GBM, bottom, 30-50, attractive, slim-med. build, for discreet fun. Box# 3968

GWM, Jay, 25, ISO another M, 25-35, for fun. (Call Thru) Box# 9973

Hot Italian, Jack, 35, dark hair/eyes, 5'4, 170. (Call Thru) Box# 8674

GM, Dave, 6', dark hair, 32 inch waist, clean shaven, ISO partner for fun and good times. Box# 8397

Dave, 6', dark hair, 32 inch waist, clean shaven, ISO honest, sincere partner for fun and pos. rel. (Call Thru) Box# 5049

Randy, 30, brn. hair, blue eyes, 5'9", 140, 28-inch waist, ISO guy my age or younger. Box# 1474

Jason, 21, photographer, 5'9", 135, blonde hair, green eyes, ISO muscular, dominate, macho guys around my age. (Call Thru) Box# 8130

Two long-haired young dudes ISO other long-haired young dudes. We're into alternative/rock music, the outdoors, and camping. Box# 3224

GWM, Kurt, 36, bottom, ISO super-hairy top, who is fun-loving and adventurous. (Call Thru) Box# 7370

Hot, young, Army dude, 25, college jock, ISO guys my age or younger, who are jocks, military, students. Call if you can handle it. (Call Thru) Box# 6970

Jim, hot, bottom, 32, 5'9", 150, short beard, dark hair, good-looking, trim, hairy, open-minded. Willing to get into anything that makes you feel good. Box# 2957

GWM, Cory, 18, romantic, looking for fun. (Call Thru) Box# 2313

Shaun, 27, GWM, 5'9, 160, very muscular, 43" chest, 31" waist, attractive, short dark hair, clean shaven, ISO WM 28 or younger. (Call Thru) Box# 5435

Lee, extremely fun and exactly what you want. Box# 1752

Brad, ISO top M. (Call Thru) Box# 9818

Gene, 5'11, 210, chubby teddy bear, smooth legs, love lace, ISO mature top man, 50 or over, for long-term relationship. Box# 7877

GWM, 41, (look younger), ISO guy, 19-30 for good hot times. (Call Thru) Box# 8955

Michael, GWM, ISO another GM. Box# 6562

Michael, GM, HIV -, like to be very oral, I love sucking dick. (Call Thru) Box# 5600



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Steve, 44, bottom ISO tops. Box# 7381

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GWM, bottom, 53, 250, masculine, clean, discreet, ISO top guy, beard and mustache a plus, attr., 35-50, any race, no bums/fems/alcoholics. Bi's welcome also. (Call Thru) Box# 6450

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Todd, 30, honest, sincere and open, ISO a straight-acting guy who is masculine, honest, sincere, open also, likes to party, enjoys movies, heavy metal to dance music, for dating, poss. serious rel., no game players or sex-only callers. Box# 7205

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

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

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

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

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Appleton **KEITH 23**, blnd/blu, like movies, music, want to know more give me a call- #36204

Kenosha **ANDREW 20, 6'1, 175**, int in music outdoors, lkg for someone 18-25 same build, like a little bigger, if ur interested, give me a call- #39849

Chippewa Falls **INTO THE OUTDOORS:** Richard, 5'9, 160, like the outdoors, lkg for a WM, any age I guess, call soon- #39879

Hartford **MOVIES AND MUSIC:** Dan, 5'10 175, like movies and music, dancing and having fun, iso someone with sim interests, not interested in a casual relationship so give me a call #39924

Appleton **ONE ON ONE:** Randy lkg for someone in the area, lkg for someone for relationship, 5'10 150 very romantic lkg for one on one, lke antiques shopping, walks, lke to meet under 40, something that's going to last if ur it, give me a call- #40002

Green Bay **FURRY CHEST:** Jim, 190, hairy chest, need a person to be with, give me a call - #40049

Madison **WHATEVER COMES UP:** Jeff, 25 6'2 160, dk hair iso other guys in their 20s to get together and see what happens- #40058

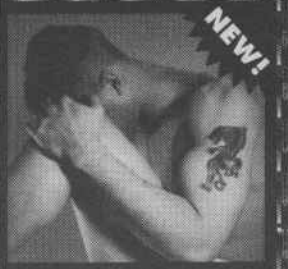
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Milwaukee **TV SEEKS GENTLEMEN:** Candy, TV 40, like to meet older men for dates, like to be treated like a lady can travel entertain, eat out or dine in, clean house, just about anything fun, give me a call- #40192

Green Bay **FINALLY OUT** of the closet looking for a slim good looking man, I'm 6'3 180 50 love Kissing and loving- #40263

Milwaukee **NEW TO THE AREA:** Lonnie, lkg for a WM, single, to get together, new to the city, my hobbies are movies, TV, shopping 6'3, 225 lkg for someone to do things together, have a nice relationship- #40362

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Milwaukee **INTO CARS:** Andy, 22 WM 5'8 140 long brn hair, brn eyes into cars,

own my own shop, heavy metal type, like camping water skiing, motorcycling, lkg for someone in the area under 24, sounds like you lv a message- #40405

Milwaukee **FANTASY FULFILLMENT:** 5'6 brn/brn, lkg for dom guys 18-27 to fulfill fantasies, pleasures, subm, country boyish like rowdy play like to play bd with singles or couples like outdoors, hiking, being with people, give me a call- #40674

Kenosha **SPORTSMAN:** Joe, 31, 5'11 180 athl like volley ball tennis softball, lkg for someone 18-33, pref non smoker, drinker, like to meet friends new people poss rel- #40560

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WI **NEED A FARMHAND:** 32, brn/must/hazel, 160, 5'10, like farming, outdoors, like to meet a farmer, work together, possibly meet up, get together some night, have a nice evening, #40614

Appleton **ROLLERBLADER:** 37, 6'5. I'm looking for outdoors men. I also like to rollerblade. No drugs please. Don't be shy. #40898

WI **QUIET NIGHTS:** Seeking intimacy in a relationship. Bi white male. Looking for TV's and TS's. Someone sincere. I love quiet times at home. #40990

WI **YOU'VE BEEN NAUGHTY:** I love spanking young boys in speedos. #40991

Greenbay **ROMANCE:** I'm a very touching, caring person. Cuddling is the best. I love candle lit dinners. #41005

WI **SPONTANEOUS, FUN TIMES:** Milton. Looking for someone to spend spontaneous funtimes together along with quiet times. #41011

WI **ISO CROSSDRESSERS:** Matt, bi white male. Into cross dressers, TVs or TSs. Interested in relationship. #41023

WI **LOOKING TO BE SERIOUS:** Roger, gay white male, 24. Seeking a serious relationship. I enjoy sports, kids, volleyball, and traveling. #41032

WI **LET'S WORK OUT:** Ken, 5'7, brn/blu. I love biking and running. I'm a very athletic guy who is interested in yuppy men. #41073

Osh Kosh **CUDDLE CLOSE TO ME:** Kevin, 36, 5'10. I enjoy cuddling and the outdoors. I love quiet nites with another man. #41125

Milwaukee **MARILYN MONROE LOOKALIKES:** Steve GWM new to the scene, still a little closeted, - like to meet the guys that were in the Marilyn Monroe look alike contest, give me a call- #11250

Milwaukee **TOM 19** brn/brn 160 5'9, like soccer and other sports, lkg for someone 30-40, if ur interested give me a call- #38505

Lake Mills **BOWLING AND POOL:** Ryan, like darts, bowling, pool, hanging out parties, home life, work out alot, give me a call #38592

Wausau **TRIM MUSTACHE:** John, lkg for someone between 21-50, wants to settle down and be together and lkg for a long term rel, 5'7 brn/grn trim must beard, like outdoors, camping fishing, romanticist, masc - quiet eves, one special person- #38632

West Ellis **LIKE B/D?** : passive biwm 47, 155, 5'7 new to area and scene iso younger aggr WM for friendship iso BD french, camping and fishing #38703

Milwaukee **INTO WRESTLING:** Mike, in exp subm bi male, 137 in shape iso expd guy who likes wrestling I- #38754

Milwaukee **STOCKY BUILD:** Tom GWM, 37 260 stocky build gdlkg iso other stocky GWM like to have fun and more- #38823

Milwaukee **GAY ASIAN MALE:** Mark, GAM 25, 155 5'10 like outdoors movies, dancing, give me a call- #38974

Green Bay **WRESTLING ONE ON ONE:** Kevin, masc 6'2 200, well built lkg for a guy who lets me do things for him, like sports wrestling and one on one, 18- iso 18-35 in exp, and need a good teacher, we can learn together- #39112

Milwaukee **CD OR TV:** SWM in exp iso CD, TV, int are politics sports theater plays movies and quiet eves at home, iso romantic and passionate, looking for a rel- give me a call- #39120

Hales comers **BI PLAYMATE:** curious WM 6' 180 40 something iso bi playmate over 50 for first time exp, like videos and massage- #39196

Southern **WI WELL BUILT BLACK MALES:** looking for 25-45 well end'd like BM HM, I'm 20 WM 6'2 190 discreet and vers- #39315

Green Bay **LET'S GET TOGETHER:** Jim, 40, 180 iso someone 30-45 for a rel, let's enjoy life! #39466

Ogdensburg **ANDY 19, 5'9, 150,** brn/brn, lkg for someone in the area, or nearby, love to hear from you- #39491

Milwaukee **MY FIRST TIME:** Gayle 5'6 135 brn/grn 34 iso my first exp would appr some responses and getting together with someone give me a call #39512

Green Bay **ROOMMATE WANTED:** Pete 6'1, 200, just moved here, looking for roommate poss lover, give me a call- #39577

Whitewater **TOM 19** coll student brn/brn, 5'8, 168 broad shoulder boyish face, iso men older 25-40 to get with and see if rel poss, like museums swimming, hiking as well as political topics- #39769

Milwaukee **NEW TO AREA:** Steve, east side int in guys in their 20s to work out in the evenings, 6'2 brn/brn, 250 lkg to work on aerobics and serious wt training looking for someone to help me work out poss friendship, relationship- #39681

Milwaukee **DISCREET TOP:** Dom top 43 WM lkg for subm btm must be discreet give me a call- #39699 Lake Geneva **DOMINANT GUY:** very dom top looking for very passive bottom, if youd like to discuss it give me a call- #8254

Milwaukee **PARIS 19, GBM,** iso someone 18-40, int are going to the movies mall library sporting events and concerts, and a good conversations, iso a top, but vers- if this interests you lv a message and the best time to call - bye! #37368

Ironridge **MORNING FUN:** Dwayne 47 BIWM married looking for times with other men mornings only thanks! #37441

Wausau **BI MALE,** Brian, give me a call waiting to hear from you iso a male 18-20 for a relationship- #31045

Oshkosh **COLLEGE STUDENT:** Brad, 20 coll student, like music conv and quiet nights out- lkg for someone caring and sensuous, if u match that give me a call #37472

Milwaukee **WANNA WATCH?** 25 GWM, true voyeur, if u have a show for me to watch, let me know when and where- #37475

Hurley **COLLEGE STUDENT:** 19 5'6, 145, brn/brn, like music and movies, non smoker/ drinker new at this lv a message- #37495

Milwaukee **BEAR DADDY:** Brian, 36 5'9 185, must hairy chest, iso a new facet to my life, iso bear daddy 40-45 in the area- like to be outdoors, nature, movies to reading to dining, trying new things iso some wild sizzling nites, give a call- #37541

Milwaukee **HAIRY ARABS** wanted by GWM, 38, very hairy orally excellent give it a try- #37564

Milwaukee **NEW TO SCENE** bi male, 47 164, iso younger GWM, top bottom int in b and d and french, to show me the ropes- #37577

Marquette **GREG 28,** looking to meet men 18-35 if ur interested give me a call- #37646

Sheboygan **SKY DIVER:** Eric, 20 Bi WM, major in criminal justice 5'8 140, blnd/blu, like sky diving, and riding a horse, if ur bi or gay 18-22 #37712

Madison **PEOPLE WATCHER:** Nick, 22, 5'10, It brn/blu, just moved here, dont know too many people, like to get to know in the area like hiking being outside, theatre, like all kinds of music, like to hang out, if ur interested give me a call- #37723

Oak Creek **NEW TO LIFESTYLE:** TJ new to lifestyle and very curious, like to meet a man up to 40, to experiment with- and teach me the ropes- #37821

Plymouth **FISHINIG AND CAMPING:** John, looking for some big guys to do some fishin' and camping give me a call- #37931

Milwaukee **INTO SHAVING:** 5'5, short brn hair goatee, into shaving and fun kink, like big nipples- must be discreet- nice body and masculine looks- #37965

Milwaukee **GM 21 6'2, 190,** blk/brn mustache, smoker, int are like volleyball, pool, swim, have a good time, go to bars and have a great time, iso a serious rel, lkg for someone fairly attr, - #37975

Milwaukee **THEATRE ARTS:** Robert GWM, 32, 6', 190, med brn/hzl, like working out, music, into theatre, arts, musical theatre, community theatre, prof'l, looking for a long term rel, like to find some good friends, best friend and lover, #19866

Madison **NICK, 22 5'10,** just moved here like quiet nights at home, theatre, music dancing, not really into bars iso someone career oriented give me a call- #38079

Green Bay **FEMALE IMPERSONATOR:** Gay Indian Male, 30 5'9 130 like to party have fun times, alone together snuggling, female impersonator/entertainer, long hair is a plus- butch and short men- #38099

Milwaukee **LET'S EXPERIMENT:** GM 34 5'11 attr, like to find someone to have fun with, vers like to experiment - #38156

Sheboygan **GWM 20 5'8 140** blnd/blu iso 18-20 GWM into dining out, movies, travelling or whatever- #38203

SE WI **BI OR GAY MEN:** Terry 30 iso bi or gay men in the SE WI area, like outdoors, 18-40 like to talk togethe- #38237

Milwaukee **AGGRESSIVE MEN:** John, 48, 5'9, 160, passive btm, iso men that are aggressive, if ur interested- #38262

Madison **JEFF GWM, 26, 5'2, 120** lt bnr/blu, iso GWM 21-30 who has a var of

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interests like biking, long walks, night on the town iso friendship poss long term rel- #38285

Milwaukee **BLOND WEIGHTLIFTER:** Tim, East Side, 23 5'4, 130, It blnd/grn, slightly hairy like wlfing, like to dance, plays movies, avant garde independent, open minded and have a good sense of humor, lv a message- #38315

Brown Deer **LOOKING FOR LEATHERMEN:** Brent, looking for masc leather top men, well end'd novice iso slave training and kicking back W/S looking for guys for afternoon fun-BM HM guys extremely muscular a plus- #38404

Kenosha **BIWM 40 and 21** iso bi or gay men 18-25 like heavy metal concerts, social drinking-give us a call- #38414

Milwaukee **MARRIED WM 6'4,** 230, iso of men in the area to get together with morning or aft, tp iso btms - #36390

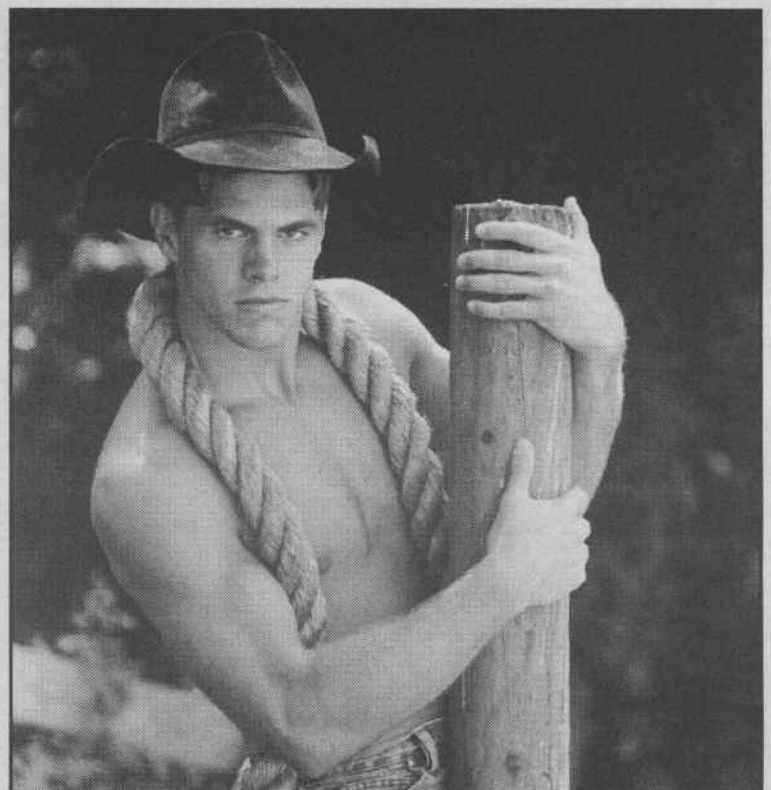
Milwaukee **GWM, 24, STUDENT** lkg for same 18-25, 150-200 5'9 6'2 190, lkg to have fun and exciting times, #36412

Cedarburg/Port WA **IS THERE A DR. IN THE HOUSE?** Brent, 42, 5'10 180 brn/blu must, lkg for a gay doctor or dentist in the area for when I move up there- #36419

Sheboygan **BI BLACK MALES:** Mike, like to meet bi BM in the area - discreet- #36504

Milwaukee **PRETTY BOY:** Chris, GWM, 6'1 176 dk/hzl, pretty boy, med build, lkg for masc GWM 22-39 for a long term rel, if you have a good build a plus, like holding hands!- #36545

Milwaukee **DANCING AND SINGING:** Evan BM 5'9 160, like to go shopping travelling dancing singing much more iso WM 18-33, give me a call- #36589



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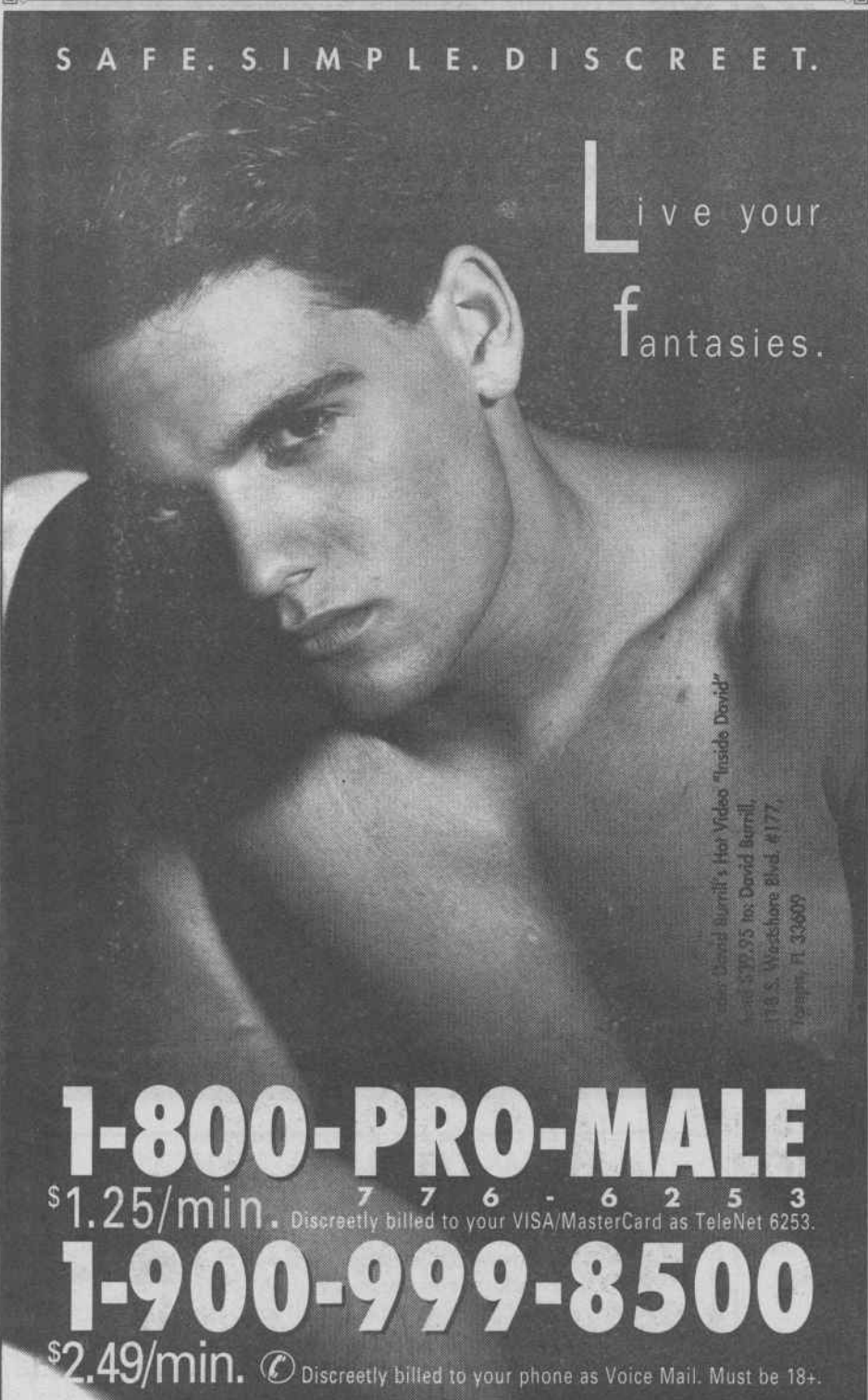
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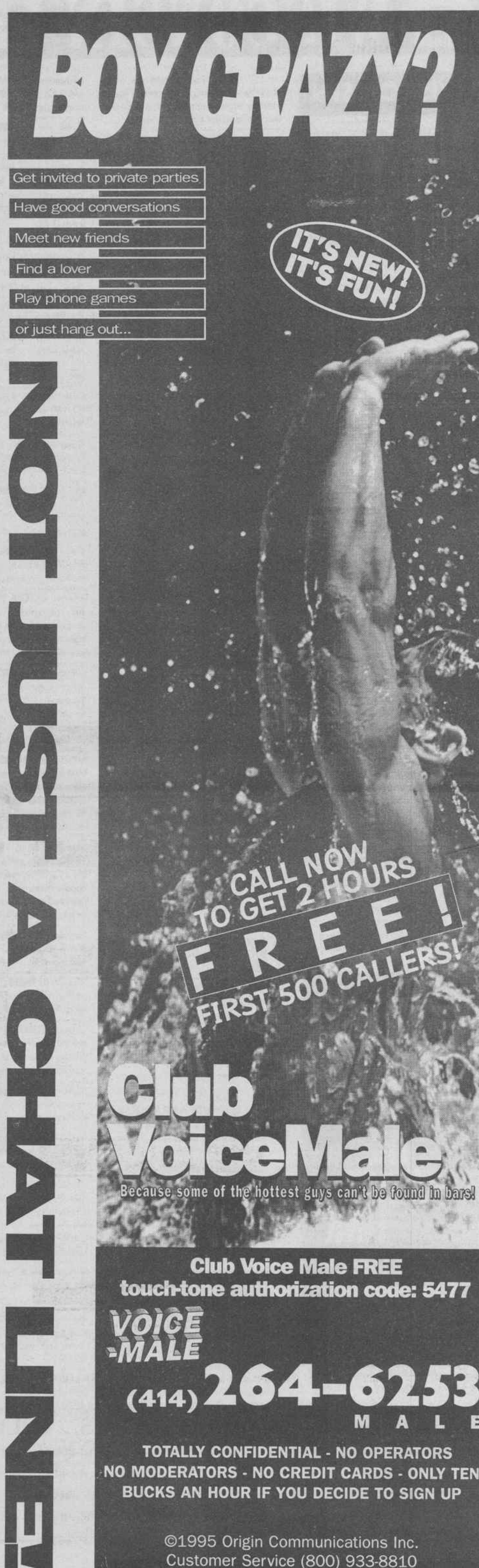
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Announcements

SAGE/Milwaukee Meeting

Milwaukee-- On Wednesday, May 17, at 6:30 p.m. at the Eastside Library, 1910 East North Avenue in Milwaukee, SAGE/Milwaukee will hold a discussion of the topic: "I remember..." Steve Brondino, co-president of SAGE, will lead the discussion. Participants will talk about what it was like to be Gay in the years before the Gay movement began. You may bring photos, letters and any other material that you think would help everyone remember "The Good Old Days." The event is free and open to the public.

HIV Planning Council Seeking Men for Video

Milwaukee-- The HIV Prevention Planning Council is developing a campaign to educate and motivate men of color, who have sex with other men to seek HIV antibody testing and counseling. MEE Productions will be creating an educational video as part of this campaign. The Council is looking for Latino and African American men to participate as talent for this video. If you are interested, please come to an open meeting being held Saturday, May 13 from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. at 823 N. 2nd St., Suite 809. No experience necessary. For more information, call Carmen Balentine at (414) 273-5862.

LAMM's May Program: Healthcare for the '90's

Milwaukee-- The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee's program and meeting for May will focus on Lesbian healthcare. A panel will present and discuss ways of assessing a healthcare practitioner and how to be more assertive regarding healthcare needs. Information on breast cancer, alternative fertilization, gynecological issues and mental health issues will also be presented. The program will be held at the Milwaukee Enterprise Center, 2821 North 4th St., on Thursday, May 18 at 7:00 p.m. Come early for the potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. The program is free and open to all Lesbians.

DACHAU

Continued from Page 1

has always been a strong advocate of telling the history of Nazi persecution of Gay people. Bavaria state Gov. Edmund Stoiber, giving

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Resident Manager

The YWCA-Madison seeks a couple to manage the Rodney Scheel House, apartment homes for people who are disabled and HIV-positive. Necessary qualifications are: Experience working with or a special sensitivity to people who are HIV-positive; experience with housing management including leasing and resident relations; ability to perform necessary maintenance.

Competitive salary/excellent benefits plus a 2 bdr apt. Send complete resume to: Executive Director, YWCA, 101 E. Mifflin, Madison, WI 53703. Deadline: May 29, 1995. No phone calls. The YWCA is an equal opportunity employer. k

Housing/Share

"Homebody Needed. Gay male couple seeking man in mid-20s to 40s, share our Milwaukee area home. Help us inside and out with the care of home in exchange for low or no rent, with meals. Own room. Responsible, mature person to live & share quieter life. Make our home your own, yet have your own time and days off. Helpful handyman-type person would be great, but not essential. This is not about sex! It's about helping a couple—one partially disabled—maintain our home, yet share our life. Serious person only! Good background/references. LET'S TALK! Write: Box TK, c/o Wisconsin Light, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

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the main German speech at the rain-soaked commemoration, praised the American troops who liberated the camp, and said Germany must keep alive the memory of Dachau's inhumanities as a warning to future generations.

"I feel ashamed that the crimes against those people were perpetrated by and in the name of Germans," Stoiber said.

Hans Yeager, 74, who wore the Pink Triangle, said he thought the speech was "appropriate," but that Stoiber should also have mentioned that once the camp was liberated, Gays were still considered outlaws. As such, they were required by the Allies to serve out the sentences meted out to them by the Nazis.

Kurt Lubert, 70, told of how the Nazis were convinced that Gay men could be cured.

"They would force us to look at pictures of women and see if we got erections," he said. "They would bring in prostitutes and try and get us to have sex with them. If you could do it three times, you were cured. Some could."

Lubert spoke too of Gay men being forced to have sex with the corpses of young girls. "They (the SS) thought that was very funny," he said.

Dates

Lesbian Dating. Fox Valley area. Write LLC, P.O. Box 3056, Appleton, WI 54914-0056 i

Gay Men's Dating. Fox Valley area. Write LLC, P.O. Box 3056, Appleton, WI 54914-0056 i

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May 11, 1995--May 24, 1995--WISCONSIN LIGHT--15

"They didn't pay much attention to women," Lubert added. "Women weren't important to them except for one thing, have children."

Max Mannheimer, 75, a Czech-born man who now lives near Munich and is head of the German association of Dachau survivors, said it was important that so many survivors had returned for the anniversary without hate in their hearts.

"This probably will be the last big reunion," Mannheimer said in an interview. "There won't be a 60th like this. It's not that the people will have died, just that they won't be able or willing to come again."

Yeager said that it is "a terrible thing to be here. You live with the memories constantly. You ask yourself again and again, if something couldn't have been done? It is awful to live this over again."

Some of the survivors were in wheelchairs, some using canes or supported by friends or family members. They looked hollow-eyed, holding within them the years of misery that their comrades shared.

The main ceremony was held Sunday instead of Saturday, to respect the Jewish sabbath.

Ninety-two wreaths were laid in memory of the first group marked for extermination by the Nazis.

Once, the Pink Triangles had been badges fastened to them to show the world their "shame." Now, they are badges of courage, and where there was hate and brutality, a message of reconciliation arose.

"I have nothing against Germany," said Jan Predki, 73, of Posnan in Poland, who spent five years in concentration camps for resisting German rule as a member of the Gay underground. "That was another Germany. You have to work for the future and for acceptance and for peace."

Predki became a historian concentrating on Germany after the war. He served in the Polish Embassy in Bonn as a counselor, working to normalize Poland's relations with its erstwhile oppressor.

Four Polish comrades, all former Dachau inmates, declared their approval of Predki's theme of reconciliation.

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel, an Auschwitz survivor, sent a message to the Dachau ceremonies saying the memory of Nazi tortures must be kept alive "not to increase hatred but to disarm it, not to justify anger but to redeem it, not to spread bitterness but to eradicate it."

Wiesel, whose writings did not ignore Gays in the camps, recounted some of their stories as he saw them persecuted at Auschwitz. He

the more than 30,000 Gay men, priests, Jews, Gypsies, foreign resistance fighters, POWs and others who died at Dachau.

Dachau is the largest priests' cemetery in the world though there are no gravestones, said Cardinal Friedrich Wetter, Roman Catholic archbishop of Munich. Of 2,800 priests held in Dachau, 1,106 died including 868 from Poland.

Father Matthew Terganau, 79, praised the priests and other members of the clergy who suffered and died at Dachau.

"Their courage was especially outstanding," he said. "You have to remember that the Vatican did little or nothing to stop the Nazi horrors, nothing to encourage resistance, absolutely nothing. These priests were acting on their own, out of individual conscience."

Historians note that the Vatican was the first foreign state to grant recognition to the Nazi regime.

"The prisoners of this camp call to us from a time that lies a half-century in the past: Be reconciled to one another," Wetter said in a sermon.

Speaking for the U.S. Army unit that liberated the camp, John McGovern of Toledo, Ohio, president of the 42nd Rainbow Division Veterans Association, said memory of Nazi crimes could defend future generations against threats to their liberty.

He recalled that when the camp was liberated, General Eisenhower ordered that the Germans in the surrounding area were to march through the camps. When protests were raised, Eisenhower threatened to cut off all food until his order was obeyed.

The people marched through under the eyes of American troops. If any adult was seen trying to cover the eyes of a child, the child was taken away and made to see the camp so that its horrors would be remembered.

Editor's Note: I met and spoke with a number of survivors, some from Dachau and have visited the camp many times. Each time, I am impressed with the fact that the camp was not a German phenomenon. It was a human phenomenon.

I remember one time when I was taking a group of my students through Western Europe. We were in Munich and I had announced that the next day we would go to Dachau.

One of them protested strongly, asking why we had to go?

I said that we were going for the same reason that we would be going to visit the art museums in Florence and St. Peter's when we got to Rome. All those things, including Dachau, were the products of the human mind.

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Milwaukee's Brewers' Hill Old House Tour to Take Place June 3

By Terry Boughner

Milwaukee-- Time was when I thought dry wall was just a descriptive phrase, as in "That's a dry wall. Isn't it nice their roof doesn't leak." But I have learned, oh boy have I learned.

As I write, there's a crew out in the dining room of "this old house," measuring and doing whatever they do to tack massive sheets of plaster board up on the studs. (That's a new one on me too. I used to think studs were . . . Oh, never mind.)

The place is a mess. The cat's made off for parts unknown and is, indeed, already there. Believe me, I understand what she's going through. But it's all in a good cause--so I'm told.

On June 3, beginning at 9:00 a.m., our Victorian home, will be open for view. Let me say right up front, that all 25 rooms in this place won't be open, but those that will, will be well worth the view.

It's all part of the Brewers' Hill House Tour. Brewers' Hill borders downtown Milwaukee on the north (located between Palmer and 2nd, Vine and North Avenue).

For a \$12 ticket, you can walk through 20 homes and other historic buildings on the Hill in a five block area of the Brewers' Hill Historic District. Some are fully restored, some, like ours, are "works in progress." In each building, there will be someone to explain to you what you're seeing.

To give you a sample, let me explain a little about this house. It is the largest house on Brewers Hill and was built in 1881, designed by Charles Gombert, the same guy who designed the water tower across from St. Mary's hospital. It was commissioned by a wealthy tanner who, in my opinion, wasn't very bright. He decided to help build his home, put an ax through his foot and that was the end of him. It was sold at sheriff's auction out on the front porch.

Not to go into any great detail (You'll hear it all anyway if you take the tour), but in the course of its history, the house has been a duplex and a quadruplex. Part of it has been a bordello and part, a speakeasy.

There have been two murders (that we know about) in the house, one committed in one of the rooms you'll see.

It is said that the house is haunted by two ghosts. I wouldn't vouch for that, still . . . ???

Should I tell you now about the door in the basement that we don't dare open? No, I guess **MOM**

Continued from Page 4

a good part of your life, a welcome sight at the beginning of your day. Thanks for walking me to the bus stop when I was scared of entering a new school, and for picking me up when it rained so I didn't have to wait. I know all of these things could easily have gotten in the way of something you would rather have been doing for yourself, but you took to heart the importance of your undertaking as a parent. Because you put us kids first, demonstrating that you valued us, we now value ourselves.

Thanks, too, for your smile of welcome when I got home from school, and the hug and kiss goodnight, every night, even when I was naughty. That taught me that real love is unconditional. Thanks even for not letting me run around where you couldn't keep track of me when I was real small, or letting me stay out after dark when I was older. Yes, I admit that I darn near hated you for it then, but now I realize that it was because you genuinely cared for my safety. I appreciate that you were adult enough to risk incurring my childish wrath to insure that I would be okay. I know that it would often have been easier to try and be my "friend," but I'm glad that instead you chose to me my parent.

As I aged, you continued to love me, sometimes through difficult times for you and painful times for me, when I know I must have made it a real challenge. You kept on making unpopular decisions regarding what I was going to wear (or not wear),

not.

What I can vouch for is the absolute, wonderful charm of the place. It's redolent of memories, even wall-less as it once was.

The other houses on Brewers' Hill (one of Milwaukee's most up-and-coming districts) have equally fascinating stories, but please understand, I love this old one the best.

For those of you who love Victoriana, this is a tour not to be missed. The tour itself will last from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Our house will open an hour earlier and close an hour later.)

Tickets for \$10 can be purchased in advance at Sax's Arts and Crafts, Usingers, the Journal Sentinel office or at the Security Bank on North King Drive. Tickets on the day of the tour are \$12 and can be purchased at the ticket tent on Reservoir Street. There also, you will find food and drink tents. There also will be food vendors on the streets.

Oh yes, if you fail somehow to recognize this house, it'll be the one with the rainbow flag flying proudly out front.

'BestD Clinic Live!'

Schedules Guests for TV Broadcast

Milwaukee-- The weekly call-in TV show sponsored by BestD Clinic has scheduled a number of guests in the weeks ahead. The show is broadcast live on Cable Channel 47 (in the city of Milwaukee only) every Thursday from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. and is rebroadcast on Saturdays at noon.

Guests scheduled for the coming shows include:

May 11--Connie Highsmith, RN and Mary Rita Hurley, RN discussion the importance of early intervention in the treatment of HIV infection.

May 18--Kate Anglehart, RN, NP discussing women's health issues and especially HPV infections.

May 25--Gregg Mulry, Ph.D. discussing resources available to the LesBiTransGay community for improving and maintaining sound mental health.

June 1--Kelly Balliet, MD discussing symptoms and treatments available for sexually transmitted diseases.

June 8--Brother Stephen Braddock, O.S. Cam. Discussing the roots of homophobia (Gay Pride Show).

who I was going to hang around with and what activities I was (or was not) going to participate in. But I knew, even then, that all those decisions were based on your genuine concern for helping me become that best person I was capable of being.

Then I came to that wonderful, awful, scary, thrilling point where my life became my own; when it was time to make my own decisions, to please me. Almost immediately, I became aware that there was a voice inside of me that had always been there, whispering for years, almost unnoticed and then purposefully ignored. Now, it screamed to be heard. Outside of your direct sphere of influence, I finally heeded that voice. To my great joy, I discovered that this was not just a voice, but my voice. My own, and no one else's. The sign I had searched for while feeling lost all my life. To my equally great horror and dismay, I realized that what the voice was saying was not something you -- or many other people -- would want to hear. And I was right.

When I first spoke to you in my own voice-- not the one you were accustomed to, the one that lived for your praise and acceptance, craved your approval--but my own, it was not a sound you wished to hear. Your hurt and anger, although expected, were no less painful for me because I was ready for them. But even then, I knew that you were hurting and fearful for me as much as for yourself.

Throughout all those long, often lonely and frightening years when your pain and inability to accept my choices kept us from communicating, it

Dykes To Watch Out For



was the strength that you had engendered in me -- the ability, in spite of all obstacles, to believe in my own innate value and goodness, to stand up for what I knew in my heart was right even when the entire world screamed that I was wrong--that kept me going, kept me alive.

Even through the raw hate I often felt for you, I loved you still. My own empty ache, my missing you, caused me sometimes even to imagine you dead, to make your absence from my life something a little more logical and comprehensible. It helped me get through those nights when looking at the moon and wondering how you were caused so many, many tears to flow.

Then one day, the phone rang, and it was you. After all that time without you-- convincing myself that I was okay, that I didn't need you in my life, that endless silence--the sudden sound of your voice in my ear was deafening. You uttered no apology and asked none from me. The sheer normalcy of the call struck me as vaguely absurd, and the adult in me railed against it. I wanted to yell, to let you know how hurt and angry I had been with you for so long. I wanted to deny your overture of reconciliation with loud, forceful refusals.

But instead, the small child still very much alive in me--relieved at your return, at the unspoken assurance that the boundaries of your love still included me -- quietly acquiesced. I sat very still,

savoring the soothing, familiar cadence of your voice, saying little. But it was not the small child, trying once again to please, that let it go by. This time, I was a grown woman, matured by years and experience and the acceptance of pain as an inescapable part of life, who had the wisdom to grasp that this was as good as it was going to get.

There would be no melodrama, no tearing of hair or wretched begging for forgiveness, nor expectations of same. It was just going to pass, unacknowledged and unlamented, into the collective abyss of things we can no longer do anything about. But that was okay. I could, even as we spoke, feel the love rushing in to fill the void so recently vacated by animosity, and I didn't miss the former occupant at all. I was going to be able to accept the promise, on however shaky a foundation, of better days ahead in exchange for releasing the familiar yet destructive pain of the past.

We've had our conversations since, guarded and careful, and we continue to rediscover each other as people. But the worst has passed. And now, we are "us" again. You are my mother, and I your daughter. We never did have to rebuild that relationship, because it never went away. We had just obstinately kept it hidden. But apparently it is true, that old saying: love will, indeed, find a way.

Thanks, Mom. I love you. Happy Mother's Day. Mary Shafer

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