

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

# The Wisconsin Light

## New British Study Indicates that AIDS Treatments Do Not Prolong Survival

London, England— Patients in advanced stages of AIDS respond better to treatment drugs than do those who start taking medicine immediately after becoming infected, a new British study found.

The lead investigator, Dr. Mark Poznansky of St. Mary's Hospital in London, said Thursday he hopes the results will provoke debate among experts about "what we are really doing for patients with medical interventions."

In other words: Are the side effects of treatment, such as nausea and vomiting, worth it?

The study of 436 patients, to be published in the *British Medical Journal*, implies that AIDS drugs delay symptoms but do not prolong survival, researchers said.

The question of whether and when to administer AIDS drugs has vexed both doctors and patients, who during the past few years have come to realize that neither a cure nor a vaccine is imminent.

"I think it is pretty clear that there is a benefit but it is small and short-term," said Dr. Henry Sacks, head of the AIDS clinical trials division of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. "I think this study is consistent with that."

The British investigators traced 339 patients who had been taking a variety of AIDS drugs for about three years before getting full-blown AIDS. They compared their survival rate to that of 97 patients who did not seek help until they became very ill.

Those who got treatment early suffered fewer AIDS-related infections. Yet once they got sick they died, on average, a year sooner than those who did not take any drugs until severe symptoms began.

Sacks said the overall conclusions are similar to findings that emerged in an overview of AIDS studies he published in *The Annals of Internal Medicine* last month.

He would not make any treatment decisions based on the recent findings, he cautioned.

"There are a lot of possible explanations for the differences they found," said Sacks. "It may be differences in the strain of the virus, in the people's general attitudes about health care, or how seriously people take various warning symptoms."

## NGLTF's New Survey Shows Anti-Gay Attacks Pervasive Nationwide in 1995

Washington, D.C.— Anti-Gay attacks through state legislation were pervasive during the 1995 state legislative sessions and seem to be on the increase according to a new report issued by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

The report, titled *Beyond the Beltway: State of the States 1995* was issued in Washington, D.C. on July 12.

The report indicates that though the attacks are growing, the LesBiGay advocacy organizations are adapting to the changing political climate and have successfully defeated many of the anti-Gay measures, while pursuing limited advances toward non-discrimination.

According to the report, Gay-related legislation moved forward in 33 states, with 30 states being the sites of anti-Gay measures or significant anti-Gay attacks on related measures, while 18 states advanced non-discrimination measures that include sexual orientation in some way.

The report notes that many of the anti-Gay measures advanced this year focused on the areas of family and education—curtailing rights to adoption and foster care and mandating only negative references to Gay-related issues and individuals through the educational system.

"The Radical Right is successfully exploiting emotional flashpoints around children in the context of family and education," said Robert Bray, NGLTF Field Organizer. "These are areas where myths and misinformation about child abuse, parenting abilities and the existence of diverse family structures ignite fears and inspire extremist legislation. In the name of the 'family values,' the Radical Right frequently attacks the ability of Gay people to care for their own families and children."

1995 also has seen a number of measures

## Congress Delivers Good and Bad News for the AIDS Community Nationwide

### CARE Act Begins to Move and Appropriations Decisions are Split on Critical AIDS Funding



Badger Awards— Several people were honored at the UW-Madison Gay/Lesbian/Bi-sexual Alumni Brunch and Celebration in Madison. They are (l-r): Distinguished Alumna Award, Carrie Barrett; featured speaker and recent graduate, Jonathan Schaefer; Speaker and doctoral candidate, Michael Besant; and Distinguished Alumnus Award winner, Rick Villasenor.

## New Wisconsin Budget Shows Lawmakers Prefer Property Cuts to Lives of Kids

Madison— Public schools will be stripped of \$1 million for sex education in the pending Wisconsin state budget, jeopardizing lessons on teen pregnancy and how the deadly AIDS virus is spread.

Critics said the cuts were part of the GOP majority's conservative agenda. While some Republicans agreed, they also touted the \$1.2 billion in property tax relief they achieved

through such cuts.

"It's very clear there are right-wing forces packaging the 'we have to save money theme' with their own agendas," said Linda Willsey, state legislative director for Planned Parenthood.

Republicans said they mainly wanted to save money and eliminate a state mandate on districts. Though the state does not require sex education in schools, districts that offer such programs must include several elements.

When told critics contended the cut was made, in part, because of conservative opposition to sex education in schools, Assembly Speaker David Prosser, (R-Appleton), said there was an "element of truth to that."

"My recollection is there was a relatively brief discussion of this and most people in the (GOP) caucus were receptive to this," Prosser said.

Rep. Scott Walker, (R-Wauwatosa), the sponsor of the proposal, said it had "multiple appeal."

"I won't shy away from the fact that it had appeal to myself and other conservative members who don't believe we should fund this, but the broad appeal was financial," Walker said.

Republicans control the Assembly and the Senate, which sent the budget to Republican Gov. Tommy G. Thompson late last month. He was expected to sign it by early August.

Cut from the budget bill was \$1 million in training and assistance for school districts to provide lessons on such topics as AIDS, sexuality, reproduction, contraception, parenting skills and sexual abstinence.

The governor gave the Legislature a budget in February that cut \$400,000 in grants and Assembly Republicans meeting in closed caucus cut another \$614,400 in training money.

State law does not require school districts to offer human growth and development classes. But districts are required to have citizen advisory committees that formulate sex education curriculums for school boards, which decide whether to use them.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) said 89 percent of 403 school districts responding to their survey in 1993 had human growth and development courses.

"We're just plain foolish if we don't encourage and provide education about this," said Rep. Barbara Notestein, (D-Milwaukee.)

Milwaukee— The verdict is coming in on the long awaited decisions by the new Republican Congress on AIDS funding and the news is both good and bad for AIDS advocates who are vigorously lobbying the Congress.

Last week, appropriators from the House of Representatives made initial decisions to continue national AIDS prevention funding at current levels and to continue the crucial funding of the Ryan White Care Act with an additional \$11 million for new Title I cities.

In light of conservative Republican control of the House led by Speaker Newt Gingrich, AIDS advocates throughout the country were relieved that amidst major budget cutting for social services that AIDS prevention and care services were supported by the Republican appropriators.

"It's symbolic of a real bipartisan support for federal AIDS funding," Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW). "While the AIDS epidemic rages on with greater demands health care and support services, we are obviously pleased that in this first step of the appropriations process that critical AIDS programs have been spared from budget cuts."

Nelson reported that while federal research funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) was increased by 5%, that the House Appropriations Subcommittee eliminated the Office of AIDS Research, thus jeopardizing directed funds for AIDS research.

"This means that not one institute at NIH would be required to spend anything on AIDS research," Nelson explained. "We will be working hard to restore the Office of AIDS Research and dedicated AIDS funding streams at NIH."

### AIDS Housing Cut

Nelson reported that other bad news included the consolidation of the popular Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) program into one housing account for AIDS, the disabled, and the elderly.

"AIDS housing got blended in with other housing programs and the appropriation was dramatically reduced by 45%," said Nelson.

"It pits the AIDS community against other populations in dire need of housing and seriously cuts the funding which really jeopardizes our hope for expanding AIDS housing programs in Wisconsin," Nelson said.

Nelson said that major mobilization will occur to restore HOPWA and its highly successful programs of housing and rent assistance for people with AIDS.

### Care Act Scheduled for Vote

Following Senator Jesse Helms' (R-NC) blistering attack on federal AIDS funding, the Ryan White Care Act received a good boost of political support by the addition of two key Republican Senators as co-sponsors of the Senate Care Act Re-authorization Bill.

Senator Alphonse D'Amato (R-NY) and Senator Arlin Specter (R-PA) agreed to co-sponsor the Bill, bringing the total of sponsors to 63.

With this additional support, Majority Leader Robert Dole announced that he would bring the Bill to the floor of the Senate on Monday, July 24, 1995 for a vote.

Dole's action had been urged by AIDS advocates for weeks and essentially pulled rank on Helms.

"We're very pleased that Senator Dole is moving the Care Act to a vote in the Senate," said Nelson. "We know that not only do we have the votes for passage, that we have the votes to cut off a filibuster by Senator Helms thanks to bipartisan support and Senator Dole's leadership."

Nelson expressed concern, however, for negative amendments such as mandatory HIV testing that may be offered during floor debate next week. Senator Helms has indicated an intent to offer a string of amendments on what he terms as the "social and lifestyle issues" about AIDS.

Nelson and his colleagues within the National AIDS Action Council are working with

## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### Gay State Worker Wins Settlement

**Des Moines, IA-AP-** The state of Iowa has agreed to pay \$70,000 to settle a lawsuit filed by a Gay man who said he faced harassment by women who ran his division at the state Department of Employment Services. Douglas Liebert was the only man working in the division. He said he faced anonymous threats at work, and was fired after refusing to undergo a psychiatric examination. Liebert filed a civil rights discrimination lawsuit against co-workers after earlier filing a sexual harassment complaint against them.

Under terms of the settlement, Liebert will get \$29,174 for personal injury and emotional distress and \$2,526 for lost wages. The state will also pay \$33,598 for Liebert's attorney fees and \$4,701 for other costs. "This is a wonderful result," said Randall Wilson, legal director for the Iowa Civil Liberties Union, which helped Liebert in the case. "It is very difficult to elicit sympathy and obtain relief for men, straight or Gay, asserting discrimination claims in court. Often men are not seen as victims of emotional injury, and many people do not care if Gay men are mistreated at all."

### ACT UP San Francisco Seizes GOP Headquarters

**San Francisco--** Outraged that the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act is being held up by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC), members of ACT UP San Francisco stormed and occupied the GOP headquarters in San Francisco on Tuesday, July 11. They covered the office with red paint, threw flyers demanding "AIDS Funding NOW!" and hung Helms in effigy. An American flag was burned during the occupation.

"Holding up AIDS funding is a mean-spirited act of violence against the HIV infected community," said ACT UP member David Pasquarlli. "We will not sit silently by while this bigot attempts to drive us into the grave."

ACT UP members indicated that actions against the GOP through the Republican National Convention in San Diego in 1996.

### Marriage Trial in Hawai'i Postponed Until 1996

**Honolulu-AP-** A trial in which Hawai'i must prove it has a compelling interest to keep same-sex couples from marrying has been postponed until next year. On July 13, Circuit Judge Kevin Chang postponed the September trial until after the 1996 Legislative session next July. The state attorney general's office requested the delay to give lawmakers a chance to consider recommendations from the Commission on Same-Sex Marriage and the Law. Chang rejected the attorney general's request to send the case back to the Supreme Court, which sent it to the lower court in 1993 after calling the state's ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional.

The members of the Commission have yet to be appointed by the governor, but it has been charged with reporting to the Legislature its findings regarding extending the legal and economic benefits of marriage to same-sex couples.

### UN Launches All-Out Effort to Defeat AIDS

**Geneva, Switzerland-AP-** Accused of not doing enough to fight AIDS at the local level, the United Nations has launched a new program headed by a doctor who helped isolate the Ebola virus in Zaire in the 1970's, Dr. Peter Piot. "We are here for a very long battle," Piot said. "It is clear this is not the Ebola outbreak that we can tackle with a few simple measures."

The new AIDS program is to coordinate the work of six agencies, including UNICEF and the UN Population Fund. The budget is expected to be \$140 million.

An estimated 19.5 million people worldwide have been infected with HIV. An estimated 4.5 million people have developed full-blown AIDS.

"The figures mean that there are 250 infections every hour, and 80% of these are from developing countries. By the year 2000, 9 out of 10 will be from developing countries," said Sally Shelton, assistant administrator for global programs for the U.S. Agency for International Development. "AIDS poses a worldwide threat to human survival and life not unlike past pandemics like the plague of the Middle Ages," she said.

### Pennsylvania Teen Boasts of Killing Gay Man

**Greensburg, PA-AP-** A burly teenager admitted stealing a half case of beer from a pickup truck, drinking it and beating up a Gay piano player until he "was still like a rag doll," a Pennsylvania state trooper said. Witnesses said Samuel Sethman, 19, was angry that the musician, Paul Steckman, 46, had made a pass at him. People in the neighborhood found Sethman near Steckman's body in Smithton, a tiny Westmoreland County town about 20 miles east of Pittsburgh.

Trooper Roy Fuller said Sethman told him how he felled Steckman with punches, then kicked him and jammed his knees into the man's face. The trooper said Sethman told him, "I did what I did and I can't deny what I did. I hit him and I killed him. I just went nuts. I didn't know how to react." Sethman was wearing three shirts that night, all of them soaked with blood.

A bus driver has testified that Sethman had bragged that he was going to kill a Gay man.

### Coors to Extend Benefits to Domestic Partners

**Golden, CO-** In a letter sent to *Wisconsin Light*, Earl Nissen, a member of Coors' Lesbian and Gay Employee Resource (LAGER) and its Community Relations Program Specialist, reported that Coors Brewing Company has approved the extension of benefits for domestic partners. This was done at the May Board of Directors meeting, was done at the request of LAGER, and went into effect immediately.

"With this latest action, Coors Brewing Company is among the Top 20 most progressive publicly traded companies in the area of Gay and Lesbian employee benefits," Nissen wrote.

In the July 11, 1995 issue of the *Advocate*, in a section titled "One-on-One, Per Larson, in response to an inquiry about the boycott of Coors, noted that Coors family members own 100% of Coors stock. It is they who give a great deal of money to extreme Right Wing organizations such as the Heritage Foundation and the Free Congress Foundation-- "the latter known as a leading distributor of homophobic literature." Yet, Larson says, the three family board members voted unanimously to approve the domestic partner measure.

"The question--whether to boycott or not--comes down to this: Should we punish owners or reward managers?" Larson writes. "Which provides the best incentive for other companies? Which hurts Gay employees and community organizations the least?"

### Two Men Face Civil Sanctions for Gay-Bashing

**Portland, ME-AP-** The State of Maine has taken civil action against two men accused in a Gay-bashing attack that left the victim with a broken nose and fractured eye socket, Maine Attorney General Andrew Ketterer said. The civil complaint asks a judge to issue a permanent injunction ordering Stephen Dobson and Rick Mitchell, both of Portland, to stay at least 100 feet away from the victim of the July 1 attack. Besides keeping the two away from the victim, the state's civil action seeks to prohibit them from assaulting, threatening, intimidating or harassing people on the basis of sexual orientation.

The victim, William Clark, 28, of Portland, was taunted, beaten and kicked on ground outside Blackstone's Bar. The attackers yelled "Fag, how does this feel?!" as they kicked him, according to the civil complaint.

The attack is only one in a string of recent hate crimes in Portland, more than 30 since January, attacks that include African Americans and Jews as well as Lesbians and Gay men, according to Portland Police Chief Michael Chitwood.

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

### Washington Hgts.

### Assoc. to Present Slide Show, 'Remembering Milwaukee'

**Milwaukee--** The Washington Heights Neighborhood Association (WHNA) will present a program titled "Remembering Milwaukee" at the Times Cinema, 5906 W. Vliet in Washington Heights in Milwaukee on Sunday, July 30, at 1:30 p.m.

The presentation is a beautification fundraiser in special support of Litter Busters, Graffiti Removal and the the Washington Heights Garden Club.

The program will consist of a showing of color slides spanning the years 1945-1965, including some more recent material, from the Lyle Oberwise collection. The slides will be shown by Marilyn Johnson and John Angelos.

Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. For advance tickets, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: WHNA-Remembering Milwaukee, P.O. Box 08340, Milwaukee, WI 53208. Make checks payable to WHNA. For more information, call (414) 475-1136.



SUEDE will headline MAPFest entertainment August 26

### MAPFest's Tenth Year, Better Than Ever Music, Food, a Tea Dance, Drag Shows and the Marketplace--All Happening on August 26

**Milwaukee--** MAPFest, the longest running festival for Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian community, is back for its 10th consecutive year and details recently announced by the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) confirm that it will be a day jammed with great fun and community spirit.

To accommodate MAPFest's lineup of entertainment, it will be held on Saturday, August 26, 1995, moving from its historic Labor Day Weekend date. It will be held at Milwaukee's Performing Arts Center offering all kinds of food, beverage, entertainment, music, marketplace shopping and much more.

"MAPFest just gets better with age," said Louise Searing, Director of Special Events for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW).

"It's a great tradition that we love to produce because everyone has so much fun," Searing said.

The newest addition to MAPFest's crazy, but fabulous lineup of activities will be "The Tea Dance," alive with your favorite disco tunes from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. The disco beat will be enhanced by tropical drinks served under The Tea Dance tent.

#### SUEDE Returns

Headlining this year's MAPFest Concert and back by popular demand is SUEDE, a jazz/pop vocalist and instrumentalist who has become a real hit on the national Gay and Lesbian entertainment circuit. SUEDE debuted in Milwaukee at last year's MAPFest and thrilled the sell-out crowd in the PAC's Todd Wehr Theatre.

The MAPFest Concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Todd Wehr Theatre. The Concert will also feature Jeff Miller, another favorite of the Gay and Lesbian community who sings country/western with a handsome country-boy face and a kick-ass voice.

Mrs Fun will also join the Concert with a provocative blend of off-center jazz, post-bop, funk, progressive pop and their own nuclear age brand of cabaret.

MAPFest Concert tickets are \$15 and can be purchased through the PAC Ticket Office or by calling MAP at (414) 273-1991, ext 210.

Once again, this year, MAPFest will produce its hilarious Dog Show featuring the best in canine fashion and poise at 3:00 p.m. on the main stage. Dogs will vie for many coveted titles including Butchest, Nelliest, Dog/Owner Look-A-Like, Most Likely to Date a Pit Bull, and Dantiest Pedicure.

The infamous MAPFest Marketplace will be in full force with more than 30 merchants and organizations showing and selling their wares.

As night falls and just before the MAPFest Concert and the Drag Shows, there will be a Balloon Release. Balloons that can be dedicated to loved ones will be on sale throughout the day and will be released at 7:00 p.m.

MAPFest began in 1986 as the first special event fundraiser for MAP. Over 10 years, it has evolved into a fun-filled festival with a loyal following that is produced by ARCW that still raises funds but also honors the Gay and Lesbian community for its contributions to the fight against AIDS.

"We are thrilled that MAPFest still is a hit and the funds it raises are still very important to us," said Doug Nelson, ARCW Executive Director. "But we are equally delighted that MAPFest has become a nice way for us to thank and honor the Gay and Lesbian community for all it does to help us."

MAPFest begins at Noon and ends at 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$2 for children under 12. A one dollar discount will be given to each person who contributes three non-perishable food items to the MAP Food Pantry.



Mrs. Fun will perform at MAPFest August 26

## Shalala Justifies the Government's Position that HIV is the Cause of AIDS

Washington, D.C.-Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, responding to a Minnesota Congressman who questioned the government's AIDS policy, says it would be "unconscionable" to spend money researching alternative theories about the disease.

In a seven-page letter to Rep. Gil Gutknecht, Shalala said there is no doubt that the HIV virus causes AIDS.

"Infection with HIV has been the sole common factor shared by AIDS cases throughout the world," Shalala said in the letter dated Monday, July 17.

In a March 24 letter to Shalala and other federal health officials, Gutknecht had demanded proof that AIDS is contagious and questioned the "HIV = AIDS hypothesis."

His query was based on the theories of Peter Duesberg, a University of California-Berkeley molecular biologist who believes HIV does not cause AIDS. Gutknecht, a freshman Republican, fired the aide who prepared the letter after it became public. But Gutknecht stood by the query, comparing Duesberg to the ancient scientists who questioned the flat-earth theory.

Gutknecht's chief of staff, Matt Miller, declined comment on Shalala's letter, saying the Congressman's staff had not reviewed it yet.

The consensus among AIDS researchers is that HIV causes the disease by invading and killing cells of the body's immune system, leaving people with weakened defenses against infections that eventually kill them. A positive test for HIV antibodies is considered proof that a person has been infected.

Shalala acknowledged that "much remains to be known about exactly how HIV causes immune deficiency" or why some people exposed to HIV don't get AIDS. But, she said, "this incomplete understanding does not indicate that the virus is harmless."

Most of the government's research since 1983 has focused on HIV "because the scientific evidence so clearly indicates that it causes AIDS," she said. Studies conducted in San Francisco and Africa proved that to be the case, and evidence of HIV infection has been found in virtually every AIDS patient who is tested, she said.

"To deviate funds from scientifically sound findings to those that lack evidence would be unconscionable," she said.

Among other things, Gutknecht asked how much money had been spent studying alternative theories, including Duesberg's. In her reply, Shalala cited one such investigation, which she said cost \$850,000.

The aide who drafted the Congressman's letter, Brian Harte, was forced to resign after Science magazine published a brief article in its April 14 issue about the query.

The article, headlined "Congressman Uncovers The HIV Conspiracy," quoted Harte as saying he anticipated "less-than-truthful answers" from the government officials. Gutknecht said Harte's comments in the article were "incredibly unprofessional."

More than 72 percent of sexually transmitted diseases in Wisconsin were reported in 15- to 24-year-olds in 1993, DPI said.

AIDS alone demanded more education in Wisconsin schools, Notestein said. Twenty-five percent of Wisconsin residents who have AIDS or HIV infection, which causes the disease, were younger than 27 when they were diagnosed, state statistics show.

It can take an HIV-infected person several years to develop AIDS.

"The state budget, however, does not reflect the fact that schools can play a critical role in addressing these issues," a DPI statement said. "School staff need continued, high quality staff development to implement health education and related programs."

In addition to cutting \$1 million, the budget requires that only districts that have classes or that are planning to offer them retain citizen advisory committees for curriculum development or review.

The Legislature's action tells schools districts they don't have to deal with sex education in schools, Planned Parenthood's Willsey said.

Rep. Calvin Potter, (D-Sheboygan), a former high school social studies teacher, said the changes would put more pressure on some school boards.

They may have to depend more on local tax dollars to pay for classes about a topic that typically spurs heated debate between "the-just-say-no crowd" and those that believe sexual information should be provided to children in school.

"This puts things in a more difficult position for local school boards," Potter said. "It wouldn't surprise me that part of the reason (for the cuts) is an attitude that the less the state aids and abets, the better."

Requiring the districts to have the committees was a good idea because they are "a forum for addressing issues that arise in the community," said Lori Weiselberg, DPI's HIV-AIDS education consultant and human growth and development coordinator.

The department, which would have opposed the cuts, was not consulted by Republican lawmakers, Weiselberg said.



40 Carat Volunteers-Bill Manly, member of ARCW's Development Committee, presented MAP volunteers John VandeWalle and Susie Bauer a plaque in honor of their having helped raise \$75,000 for the organization. They serve as co-chairs of the Arts Auction Committee of MAP. The presentation was held on June 21 at Milwaukee's Club 219+ bar. Earlier, Broadway star, Carol Channing, had awarded John and Susie her famous Diamond Award.

rights and for equal treatment is," she said.

Not only did the column consume their lives, Price and Murdoch say it transformed them.

They celebrated their 10th anniversary in May by getting turned down for a marriage license—a quietly defiant act spurred by their experience with the column.

"We weren't Gay people just sitting back bemoaning the fact that we can't marry," Price said. "We actually went and had somebody tell us, 'You can't marry.'"

"Because through the column, both of us have come to believe very strongly that we as Gay people need to go about our lives as normally as possible, doing whatever it is we want to do," Murdoch added.

She likened their application for a marriage license to civil rights protests. Gay people should apply for marriage licenses "the same way you should try to sit in the front of the bus, the same way you should try to sit at lunch counters...the same way Susan B. Anthony went and voted, by damn."

Price said Murdoch was the defiant one. "I was like"—she made a stricken face—"Joyce, go for it! I am in a panic here," Price said.

Murdoch said she just coolly asked the clerk whether she thought it was fair that two people who had been together for a decade couldn't get married.

"And she said, 'Well, I just have to go by the law,'" Murdoch recalled.

"And I said, 'Well, it'll be changed, and

we'll be back.'"

And Say Hi to Joyce: America's First Gay Column Comes Out., is published by Doubleday at \$23.95.

In the Historic Third Ward

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## Gay Journalists Find that 20% of People Hate Everybody, Gays Included

By Kimi Mills

Washington, D.C.—Journalists Deb Price and Joyce Murdoch tend to complete each other's sentences—like many married couples—so it's no surprise that they collaborated on a book.

What is a surprise is that they chose a format that allowed each woman's voice to remain separate and distinct. And, even more remarkable is that their closeness—Price says they'd be great in commercials for Super Glue—has not strangled their relationship.

And Say Hi to Joyce: America's First Gay Column Comes Out tells the story behind Price's column, first published in the Detroit News on May 8, 1992, and now syndicated.

Actually, Murdoch tells the story behind the column; Price reprises many of her essays, from buying a car as a Lesbian couple to attending Murdoch's high school reunion together to visiting Sen. Sam Nunn's hometown and finding the only books on homosexuality in the public library were by anti-Gay crusader Anita Bryant.

"It definitely is true that the column did eat our lives, and we're incredibly grateful for that," Price said. "This is something that is way too big for one person and I think that had Joyce been in a different profession, I think it would have destroyed our relationship, because..."

Murdoch continued: "... before Deb ever started the column, we spent so many years brainstorming ... about the invisibility of Gay people in the mainstream press, and how we feel like that fails everybody..."

"We are everywhere, literally, even though it's a cliché..." Murdoch starts.

"... except in daily newspapers," Price finishes.

The book's title was drawn from the dozens of letters Price has received from readers who, having "met" Murdoch through the column, end them with, "And say hi to Joyce."

Murdoch says she early accepted the burden of readers' letters, largely because Price took the hate mail very personally. In a chapter entitled, "Why Angry Men Can't Spell," Murdoch describes how she found a pattern to the hate mail, which made it somewhat easier to discount.

"First of all, there was a lot less of it than

there had seemed because once you started examining it you realized it was coming from literally the same people," Murdoch said.

"We say 20 percent of Americans hate everybody. And I think that's a pretty good guess because it really is a very small minority in a lot of ways. These people hate Gay people but we are not that special in being hated. They hate anybody who they don't perceive as being like them—anybody they perceive as somehow threatening their supremacy, basically."

They say they wrote the book in part to prove to newspaper editors that they are failing their readers by not presenting Gay viewpoints, and to show by example that the benefits of running Price's column can outweigh the negatives.

"Within mainstream journalism, particularly among the upper echelons, there's still a lot of fear associated with the prospect of running a Gay column," said Murdoch, a former editor at The Washington Post. "They're terrified that if they ran a Gay column tomorrow, every single subscriber they had would cancel."

Murdoch said initial reaction to her column is an uproar, during which some people drop their subscriptions. But this is followed by a wave of support, she said.

"And it's the second wave that takes the editors and publishers by surprise because they don't realize how broad the support for Gay

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## Friends Celebrate as a Jury Acquits New Berlin Episcopal Priest in Sex Assault Trial

By Royce Darby

New Berlin, WI— On July 14, 1994, a jury acquitted a New Berlin Episcopal Priest and Chaplain of Integrity/Metro Milwaukee of sexual assault.

The courtroom was filled with friends and parishioners all week for the tense and emotion-filled trial in which this reporter took part. Jason Samuel, 31, has been a very dear friend of mine for over two years. He has served the group of which I am a member, Integrity/Metro Milwaukee, since its beginning last February.

He has always been very open about his being Gay, even in the seminary at Nashotah House and with his affirming congregation.

When the jury's "Not Guilty" verdict was handed down, Jason's attorney, Scott Anderson, hugged and sobbed with Jason. Friends screamed, cried and hugged each other. This was the first time that they—myself included—have had to sit through such a grueling experience that involved character assassination and a great deal worse.

This reporter would like to commend Scott Anderson. He and his wife, Mary, are truly wonderful friends to the Gay community and have been by our sides throughout this long wait.

Jason was one of five men charged in 1994, with abusing the same boy on different occasions at the seminary.

The charges stemmed from incidents alleged to have occurred between the men and a then 14-year-old boy at the Nashotah House Seminary. Only Jason has been acquitted thus far. Three have been convicted.

"This has been the most terrifying experience of my life," Jason said. "I have lived with this for a year and a half, been portrayed as a monster, as a person who would molest children. All I've ever tried to do is serve the church."

Jason consistently maintained that the boy, confused by other abuse, made advance toward him that he rejected. Jason said that he holds



Jason Samuel

no animosity toward his accuser and that he believes him confused and in need of professional help.

His accuser, now 21, lives in Texas and brought the case against the five men seven years after the events were supposed to have taken place. Nashotah House is being sued also.

Jason said that he told therapists and friends about his rejection of the boy years before his being charged. He showed jurors pictures of a six-inch hernia scar near his genitals which the accuser never mentioned to the police. These were among the facts used by the jury in reaching its verdict.

**Editor's Note:** Integrity is sending out a plea to the Gay and Lesbian community to help Jason with a huge financial debt. Members of Integrity and many, many others as well, will tell you that Jason Samuel is one of the most honest and most sincere priests in the church. He has never hidden his sexual orientation.

Jason owes thousands of dollars in legal fees and is behind in his taxes and has no way of paying any debts.

Please send any amount to: St. David's Episcopal Church, Legal Defense Fund for Father Samuel, 18327 W. Hillcrest Drive, New Berlin, WI 53141.

money and the bars generate more business and support their patrons," she said.

Supporting the competition are Miller Brewing, Seagrams, Shorewood Florist, Downer Liquors, Cafe Melange, Skyy Vodka and the Comedy Cafe, all of which have donated prizes.

Any bar wishing to join the competition by forming a team should call the AIDS Walk Hotline at 1-800-348-WALK.

### Test Results Available

Milwaukee— 165 people who attended PrideFest took advantage of the anonymous HIV antibody counseling and testing offered at the the BestD Clinic tent. Most have picked up their results. However, a few have not!!

If you were tested at PrideFest or at any other BestD Clinic or outreach, please do yourself a favor and come back and get your results.

Call the BestD phone at (414) 272-2144 and set up an appointment or come in any Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday between 6:00 and 8:30 p.m. You'll be the loser if you don't!

## AIDS Walk Registration Already Tops 4,000 as 'Wisconsin Light' Goes to Press

Milwaukee— A full two months prior to September's AIDS Walk Wisconsin, more than 4,000 people have pre-registered for the Walk which is the state's largest AIDS fundraiser.

"Walk registrations are coming in a pace that is three times higher than at this time last year," said AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's (ARCW) Special Events Director Louise Searing.

"It's a result of a wonderful combination of exciting leadership from Vice President Al Gore and Tipper Gore and the community coming together in solidarity to fight the AIDS epidemic," Searing said.

More than 480 Walk teams have also registered for the September 17 event, which is already higher than the number of teams that ultimately registered for last year's walk, according to Searing.

Pre-registration is required. Those who wish to walk, for a team, volunteer or pledge, should call 1-800-348-WALK. Once registered, participants will receive Walk materials in the mail. Packets include pledge forms, Walk updates and tips on collecting pledges.

Walk planners and organizers have set 15,000 walkers as the goal of the event. It is expected that the walkers could raise more than \$600,000.

AIDS Walk Wisconsin will benefit 17 AIDS agencies located throughout Wisconsin. All of the proceeds support AIDS care, prevention, advocacy and research in Wisconsin.

### Prizes

Prizes will be awarded to those participants who collect the most money by September 17, 1995. Prizes will be awarded depending on the amount of money collected and turned in the day of the Walk.

The Grand Prize is two round trip tickets on United Airlines to London, England, and five nights of accommodation.

The First Prize is lodging and two round trip tickets to Las Vegas.

The Second Prize is two round trip tickets on United Airlines to any destination in the contiguous 48 states.

These prizes will be awarded to the top three individuals who turn in the highest amount of pledges.

Other prizes include an AIWA CD Walkman for \$2,000 of pledges; a Sony Cassette Boombox for \$1,000 of pledges; a Ricoh 35mm camera for \$500 of pledges; an AIDS Walk sweatshirt for \$250; and an AIDS Walk T-

shirt for \$100 of pledges.

The day of the Walk begins with a breakfast at the Italian Community Center. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased by calling the Walk Hotline: 1-800-348-WALK.

Walk sign-in begins at 10:30 a.m., opening ceremonies will be held at Noon and the Walk will begin at 12:30 p.m. at the Summerfest grounds. Today's TMJ4's Carole Meekins will be the emcee for the breakfast, Walk kickoff and Walk closing ceremonies.

Sponsors of the event include Today's TMJ4, Miller Brewing, United Airlines, Aurora HealthCare and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

## Brady St. Association to Observe 'National Night Out' Aug. 1

Milwaukee— Tuesday, August 1, is National Night Out, the annual focus on people claiming the streets and sidewalks of the community as peaceful and accessible places for everyone, even after dark.

The New Brady Street Area Association (NBSAA) is planning the first Lower East Side Community observance of this significant event. Erv Uecker, a Director of NBSAA, invites all East Siders and anyone else who cares to join in, to come and participate.

The evening begins with a gathering at 7:00 p.m. on August 1 in the hall of St. Hedwig's, 1150 E. Brady Street (entrance between Humboldt and Franklin). Refreshments will be served and there will be some wonderful entertainment.

The lineup includes: the keyboard artistry of Richard Jerome Bennett, founder of AHZ University on Brady Street; the Fest City Singers who will be coming out of a Summer break for this appearance; MOOK, following the release of their new CD and the Ghillies.

About 8:30 p.m. everyone will be invited to provide a group presence and walk the length of Brady Street carrying candles or flashlights.

Following the Brady Street walk, there will be a wrap-up and more food at St. Hedwig's. Food and beverages are being provided by area merchants. This will be an alcohol-free event and is a "family" evening.

Soooo...define family for yourself and bring them along. The Night Out will happen rain or shine.

## To Date, 11 Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian Bars Rally to Support AIDS Walk Wisconsin

Milwaukee— AIDS Walk Wisconsin is gaining strong support from Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian bars eleven of which have already formed walk teams.

In a friendly competition among the bars called "Footsteps for the Future," the Gay and Lesbian bars are each forming a team and registering as many team members as possible.

"It's an outpouring of support for the state's largest AIDS fund-raiser," said Louise Searing, Director of Special Events for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW). "It's a fabulous way for people to join the fight against AIDS and support their favorite bar," she said.

The eleven bars with AIDS Walk teams include: The M&M Club, This Is It, Just Us, Kathy's Nut Hut, La Cage, Mama Roux's, Fannie's, Cafe Melange, Wreck Room, the 1100 Club and 3B's.

The Footsteps for the Future competition will offer many prizes for the bar which registers the most walkers, the bar whose team raises the most pledge money, and the individual who raises the most pledge money.

A spectacular grand prize, which will remain secret until the day of the Walk, will be awarded. Clues on the grand prize will be given in upcoming issues of Wisconsin Light.

Searing reported that more Gay and Lesbian bars in Milwaukee and throughout the state will be joining the competition.

"It's a competition where everyone wins," Searing said. "The AIDS Walk raises more

# AIDS WALK WISCONSIN

## THANKS

### Milwaukee's Gay & Lesbian Bars

For sponsoring teams for the AIDS Walk through "Footsteps for the Future"

sponsored by

Landmark Communication, Miller Brewing, Skyy Vodka, The Advocate and 10% Magazine

### TEAMS & MEMBERS AS OF JULY 17:

|                      |    |                   |   |
|----------------------|----|-------------------|---|
| M&M.....             | 29 | Fannies.....      | 6 |
| Just Us.....         | 24 | Wreck Room.....   | 6 |
| Mama Roux.....       | 22 | 1100 Club.....    | 5 |
| Kathy's Nut Hut..... | 10 | Cafe Melange..... | 5 |
| This Is It.....      | 10 | La Cage.....      | 5 |
| 3B's.....            | 7  |                   |   |

## Join your favorite team!

Register at the bar. Support the fight against AIDS.

ARCW AIDS Walk Wisconsin benefits the AIDS prevention, care and research programs of 17 AIDS service organizations throughout Wisconsin and is produced by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc.

**THIS IS IT!**

Join the This Is It Team for AIDS Walk Wisconsin  
Come in Today and Sign Up

418 East Wells Street  
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Honoring the best—Madison's United presented awards on July 8 to the following: (l-r) John Fernsler (Organization of the Year, the New Harvest Foundation); Steve Starkley (Man of the Year); Maria Hansen (Woman of the Year); Diana Summers (Ally of the Year, WTSO Radio and Sunday Night Out); and Jim Seals (Volunteer of the Year).

## Out and About in Madison

### What a Week it Was: Celebrating Pride in Style

By John Quinlan

Just as other cities start winding down their June celebrations of Pride, Madison is beginning its own celebrations in a big way. And as more and more people from both around the corner and around the Midwest are finding out each year, Madison is the place to be in mid-July.

#### United's Annual Dinner

Now in its third year, the occasion of The United's annual dinner continues to be an important time for the LGB community to come together to celebrate the special sense of community we've built here. Three outstanding individuals and two important organizations were honored with awards on July 8.

Two hard working community leaders received the Susan Green Memorial Awards for Woman and Man of the Year. **Maria Hanson** began her activism while in the U.S. Army as the editor of an underground newspaper, later becoming involved as an eloquent spokesperson in the efforts to reverse the military's discriminatory policy against Gay men and Lesbians.

Since moving to Madison, she has been an active volunteer at The United, and with GALVANize, making a Madison Gay and Lesbian march an annual tradition. She was the producer of WORT Radio's "Out Front" radio show for the LGB community.

**Steve Starkey** is the executive director of the Wisconsin Community Fund, a progressive foundation that has given tens of thousands of dollars in funding to Gay and Lesbian groups throughout Wisconsin.

His activism goes back almost twenty years, including pioneering work in the area of LGB journalism as a co-founder of "Speak Its Name" news service and **Out** newspaper. Steve is also a major force in making the GALVANize march a growing success.

**Jim Seals** received special recognition as Volunteer of the Year. Since 1992, he has been a tireless and creative office support volunteer and peer counselor at The United every Thursday afternoon.

For more than 10 years, the **New Harvest Foundation** has been helping fledgling LGB organizations get off the ground and long-time groups find the money for special projects by

raising funds to benefit Lesbian and Gay causes—it was honored as Organization of the Year.

**Radio station WTSO** was honored as Ally of the Year for its dedication in presenting "Sunday Night Out," one of only a handful of Gay and Lesbian commercial radio shows in the country. Station manager David Graupner and Executive Producer Diana Summers were commended for their dedication in presenting a provocative and informative radio show, in a radio environment where Gay and Lesbian voices are few and far between.

Over 160 attended this year's dinner; dining on a tasty selection of chicken marsala, orange roughly, steak or pasta—a marked improvement given an infamous incident two years ago when a disgruntled table of guests had a pizza delivered to the middle of the banquet room.

Pledging to be different this year, speakers were met with the threat of a monster squirt gun if they went overtime and state Rep. Tammy Baldwin voluntarily cut short her time when the egg timer she brought with her expired.

It worked—almost too well. A dinner scheduled to end at 10:00 p.m., ended instead at 9:15 p.m.

It was a wonderful evening—but just a couple of suggestions for next year.

If you have to cut back somewhere, cut back on the intros, but give the award recipients a chance to say thank you—that's provided some of the more meaningful moments at past dinners. Timeliness is important, but don't let it get in the way of giving the dinner a little more soul.

Conflicts with other events may have kept attendance a little low this year, but all involved with the dinner are to be commended for keeping a fine community tradition alive and well for another year.

A great addition to this year's program—several incredible selections by the **Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society's** flautist **Stephanie Jutt** and pianist **Jeff Sykes**. **Jeff Gillan** continued in the exemplary tradition of emceeing he began last year. Board President **Greg Hines** delivered a touching personal vision of the future course of The United, and Madison Common Council president **Wayne Bigelow** was on hand to present the awards. **Mary Klobucar** and **Mark Pohan** served as honorary co-chairs and countless volunteers contributed to the dinner's success.

#### Magic Picnic

This year's **Magic Picnic** helped to raise funds for a wide variety of LGB and AIDS service organizations. Begun as the Back Door picnic in 1973, the event has grown with each successive year. Greg Scheel of the Hotel Washington, the event's sponsor, estimated the crowd at well over 2000 people.

#### UW-Madison Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alumni Brunch

Wisconsin's pioneering tradition in the area of LGB rights is reflected once again in a vibrant new GLB Alumni association—the first organization of its kind recognized by a major university. Almost 120 alumnae and friends filled the UW's Great Hall, where the ceremonies were presided over with flair and style by former Dane County Board Chair **Dick Wagner** and UW Professor **Joy Newmann**.

Special recognition Distinguished Alumna/us awards were presented to **Rick Villasenor**, a Los Angeles attorney who helped to convince the UW faculty to vote to remove ROTC from campus for anti-Gay and Lesbian discrimination and **Carrie Barnett**, the co-owner of Chicago's People Like Us Bookstore and an aspiring politician. Both spoke movingly and humorously of their journeys in coming out and of the importance of the love of family and friends.

Library school doctoral candidate **Michele Besant** and recent graduate **Jonathan Schaefer** gave a contemporary view of life on cam-

## Dykes To Watch Out For



pus. Schaefer, a member of the UW's Men's Rowing team, surprised many with a tale of how his rowing coach, a man not always known for his enlightened attitudes, went out of his way to include both boyfriends and girlfriends on the list of invited guests for a sports banquet.

#### GALVANize March for Rights and Pride

With at least a 50% increase in attendance over last year, the GALVANize march seems to be coming into its own as an annual Madison tradition.

Police estimates (which are generally somewhat low) put the crowd at over 1500 people and, for a time, the march stretched out over the full expanse of State Street from the Capitol to the campus.

Almost two dozen floats and units marched this year—including a vintage T-Bird carrying parade marshalls and PFLAG organizers Joann and Joe Elder, a horse-drawn carriage with the state's only openly lesbian legislator, Tammy Baldwin, and an assortment of vehicles representing groups ranging from Rod's Bar to the Senior action group, SAGE.

Although this year's march was still a ways off from 1989's march with 8,000 in attendance, in some ways, less is really more. The original march which took almost two years and almost 150 volunteers to pull off, was an invitation to burn-out. But this march got off the ground with about 12 dedicated committee members.

Pre-march speakers were State Rep. Tammy Baldwin, Madison Alderperson Barbara Vedder and the Gay and Lesbian Resource Center's Tome Neal.

Alan Strozak and Linda Lenzke emceed the post-march rally, which included Milwaukee comedian Tony Domenico, the Jazzwomen, Mary Waitrovich's and Dana Beilke's acoustic rock band, with a fire-eating show by the newly-formed Madison chapter of the Lesbian Avengers thrown in for good measure.

#### Sunday Night Out Celebrates Its First Anniversary

And last, but not least, a rollicking good time was had by all who attended Sunday Night Out's Special First Anniversary edition of the Gay and Lesbian Family Feud.

Co-hosts **Pat Brenzel** and **Abbie Hill** skillfully guided the good-natured, but highly competitive contestants with style and penache through a humorous exploration of favorite Gay/Lesbian body parts, musicals and favorite things to bring to the Michigan Women's Music Festival.

Over 60 high-spirited revelers joined in the fun during the special on-location shoot at the Hotel Washington. A crew from Wisconsin Public Television's "Weekend" was also on hand to shoot footage for a show that will air in late August.

(By the way guys, SNO is producing a special all-men's show for August 13—the week that most of the women will be in Michigan. Do you have an idea of what you'd like to see

produced for the show? Leave a message for executive producer Diana Summers, WTSO Radio at (608) 274-1070 or send e-mail to: outradio@aol.com

Your comments and observations are much appreciated. Leave a message for John Quinlan at (608) 257-3744 or send e-mail to: jlquinlan@aol.com

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## Frontiers Schedule

### July

**July 22**—Cycling on Military Ridge Trail, Verona, to Blue Mounds State Park and back again. Meet in Verona at 10:00 a.m. For more information, call Larry at (608) 244-8690

**July 22**—Saturday Dining Out—A repeat of last month. Meet at Phase II at 6:30 p.m. or at the Golden Dragon, 112 E. Mifflin Street at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (608) 244-3351.

**July 29**—Crystal River Canoeing—from south Long Lake to Waupaca—about 3 hours of canoeing—carpooling at 9:00 a.m. from 48701 Judy Lane. For more information, call Dave at (608) 241-2500.

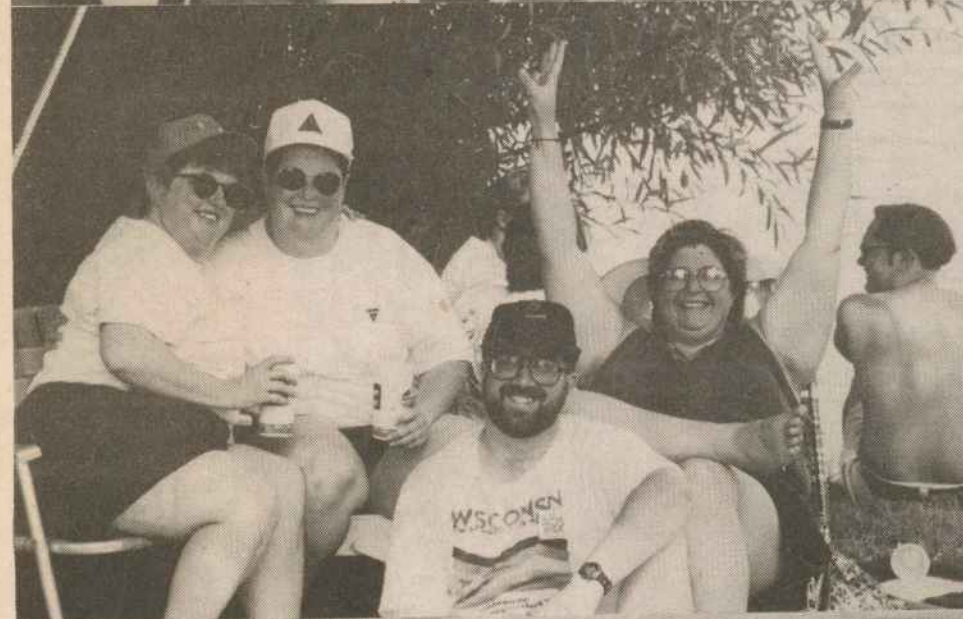
### August

**August 5/6**—A weekend on the lower Wolf River—Innertubing and swimming as well as camping out Saturday night. Leave—9:00 a.m. Carpooling from 4701 Judy Lane. For more information, call Dave at (608) 241-2500.

**August 5**—For those staying in town, cookout and discussion on body building, aerobic exercise, nude sunbathing and revealing fashions. A short video will precede the discussion. Burgers, brats, buns and beer will be provided—bring a side dish to share (salad, veggies, dessert or beverage) Host: Gene I. For more information, call (608) 831-4711. Start at 6:30 p.m.

# Madison's Magic Picnic and March July 16, 1995

Photos by Nikki Baublatt



# The Light



# LIVELY ARTS

## FILM



Romantic fable-- Randy (Laurel Holloman) (left) and Evie (Nicole Parker) star in "The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love" which opens July 21 at Milwaukee's Downer Theatre.

## 'The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love', a Non-Cliched Story of Love

By Glenn Bishop

What is so extraordinary about such a blatantly ordinary film as Maria Maggenti's *The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love* is that anyone could possibly take exception to its unconventional treatment of young love.

No doubt there will be those who are shocked and outraged in its depiction of Lesbianism. That's right, **Lesbianism!** No typically cliched John Hughes teen-aged angst date flick here. The two girls of the title are in love with each other, not the captain of the (boys') high school football team.

Setting aside for the moment the dreaded subject of Lesbianism (yes, that word again), *The Incredibly True Adventure* is an incredibly cute puppy of a movie. Universal themes are explored: growing up, the difficult process of trying to fit in and the experience of first love. Such topics are familiar territory for TV sitcoms, dozens of bubble gum rock songs and countless YA novels. Again, what makes *The Incredibly True Adventure* unique isn't so much that the focus is on an interracial couple, but rather that this rather adorable couple are both teenage girls.

On one hand there is Randy, a bit rebellious perhaps, definitely something of a "tomboy" and more than a bit confused. Abandoned by a mother who found religion, Randy is showered with love and concern (and a fair share of interference) by a Lesbian aunt, her lover and a household of their loving friends. As portrayed by Laurel Holloman, Randy is a warm and engaging character, impossible not to like and to care about.

Into her rather mundane life comes Evie, a bright and beautiful African-American teen. Unlike the unconventional and thus unpopular Randy, Evie is a sort of "golden girl" at their high school.

Not only bright and beautiful, Evie has been more than a bit spoiled by her loving, separated, wildly over-indulgent parents. Yet, behind the confident facade and in spite of her popularity and material possessions, Evie betrays an underlying loneliness, a loneliness that she can't quite come to express, but for which only Randy has the solution.

There are an awful lot of things working for *The Incredibly True Adventure*. Maggenti manages to find the right blend of comedy and warmth, yet consistently remains true to her characters. The film is wonderfully on-target in its portrayal of the tentative stages of young love.

Especially refreshing is the absence of the gloss and Hollywood slickness that have come to characterize most teen flicks.

Okay, along the way, Maggenti includes way too many predictable moments. Who can't or won't, for example, anticipate the consequences of Randy's first sleep-over at Evie's?

Just as predictable is the scene in which Evie announces to her three best friends the true nature of her relationship with Randy. Here

Maggenti deflates any possible dramatic tension with her very arbitrary physical staging of the scene. Having Randy and Evie as an interracial couple is marvelous, but they did not need to be opposites on virtually every conceivable social, economic and cultural area of the spectrum.

All in all, *The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love* is an entertaining movie. Rarely has such a perceptive Lesbian or Gay coming-of-age story come to the screen. Performances are fine throughout with Holloman a standout as Randy; engaging, headstrong and yet vulnerable.

Special mention must also be given to Maggie Moore as Randy's outrageously overblown married suitor, Wendy.

*The Incredibly True Adventure* is definitely a must-see movie this Summer--don't miss it!

\$\$\$\$\$ on a scale of \$ to \$\$\$\$\$\$

## Different Drummer Theatre to Hold Auditions for New Comedy

Milwaukee-- Different Drummer Theatre Alliance, Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian theatre company, will hold auditions for its first production of the season, *You Should Be So Lucky*, a new and delightfully "outlandish, magical and mystical comedy" by Charles Busch.

Audition dates are scheduled for Monday, July 31 and Tuesday, August 1, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at 1240 E. Brady Street, upstairs from the Brady Street Clinic. Call backs will be on Thursday, August 3 at the same time and location.

An additional night, Friday, August 4, has been scheduled if it is needed for additional call backs or for those unable to make the audition and call back schedule.

The play requires six, very funny, kinda sassy, kinda brassy, kinda moody character actors, 3 men and 3 women. The men range in age from the mid-30's to upper 50's or lower 60's. The women range in age from the late 20's to lower 40's. One woman of Asian ethnicity is needed.

Performances of *You Should Be So Lucky* are scheduled for two weekends, September 14-17 and 21-24, at the Broadway Theatre Complex Studio Theater, 125 N. Broadway in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward. The production will be directed by Different Drummer's founder and Artistic Director, Stephen d. Spera.

For more information, call Different Drummer Alliance at (414) 347-0673. Please do NOT call the Clinic.

## Dale Gutzman Brings High Camp to Milwaukee with New Summer Musical

Milwaukee-- Internationally known theatrical producer, writer and dramatist, Dale Gutzman brings high camp to Milwaukee with *Fu, The Musical Adventures of Dr. Fu Manchu!* The show will be performed at Vogel Hall of the Performing Arts Center in Milwaukee on Friday and Saturday, July 21, 22, 28 and 29 at 8:00 p.m. each night.

*Fu* is an affectionate parody of the mystery and musical films of the 1920's and 1930's.

Dr. Fu Manchu, an evil genius, wants to take over the world. He kidnaps the heroine, ships her across continents in a crate of acupuncture needles and unleashes a hoard of zombies, poisonous insects and bloodthirsty ninjas to try and do her in.

David Flores, who wowed audiences at PrideFest, plays Lee Yin, special investigator for the Hong Kong police, who tap dances his

way into the heart of the heroine, Diane Sot-ski.

James Strange plays the evil Dr. Fu Manchu and Dale Gutzman appears as Sir Dennis Nayland Smith, Head of Scotland Yard.

Sprinkled throughout the show are timeless tunes by such composers as Cole Porter and George Gershwin. "Poor Butterfly," "A Foggy Day," "Fine and Dandy" and others are given a mock Busby Berkley setting with twirling umbrellas, floating fans and tap dancing feet.

The show culminates with a thrilling battle aboard a careening bi-plane as Fu Manchu tries to make his escape to China with the stolen sword of Genghis Khan. This laugh-a-minute parody is not to be missed.

For ticket and other information, call the Vogel Hall at the PAC at (414) 273-7206.

## Brandon Marsh Entertainment Group Seeking Talent

Milwaukee-- Tryouts for the fast moving Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual dramatic series, *True to Desire*, will be held at the Milwaukee Access Telecommunications Authority, Warner Cable Building, 1610 N. 2nd Street in Milwaukee on Wednesday, August 2 and Thursday, August 3, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Brandon Marsh Entertainment Group is looking for actors, actresses, crew and musical talent to make this 12-episode drama a success in Milwaukee and around the country. The drama will have 8-12 primary characters, approximately 20 secondary characters and numerous bit parts for both men (ages 15-50) and

women (ages 20-60).

One of the unique things is that each episode will feature an original song from an up and coming artist like Rodney Benedict, Jene, Tre Devlin and Blue Sky. The Group is currently looking for a few more musical artists to complete the line-up.

For more information, call the Brandon Marsh Entertainment Group at (414) 298-9598 or write: Brandon Marsh Entertainment Group, Attn.: *True to Desire*, 316 N. Milwaukee Street, Suite 520, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

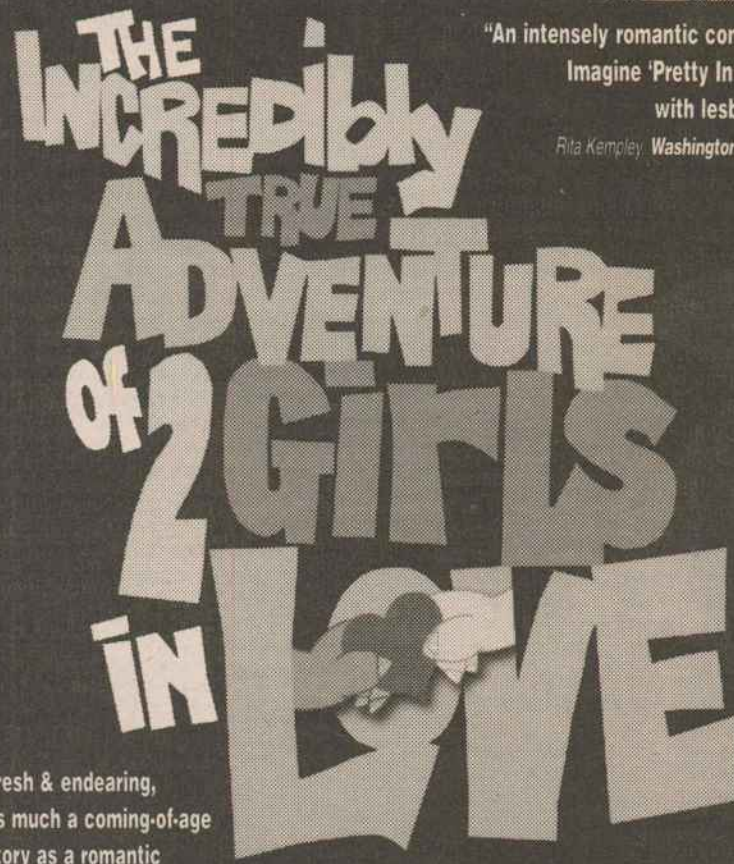
## "Finally, a lesbian romance for the whole family."

ESQUIRE, Joseph Hooper

"It makes the big studios' romantic comedies look artificial and old hat. First love, straight or gay, has rarely been so expertly enacted." David Ansen, Newsweek



"An intensely romantic comedy. Imagine 'Pretty In Pink' with lesbians." Rita Kempley, Washington Post



"Fresh & endearing, as much a coming-of-age story as a romantic comedy." Jay Carr, Boston Globe

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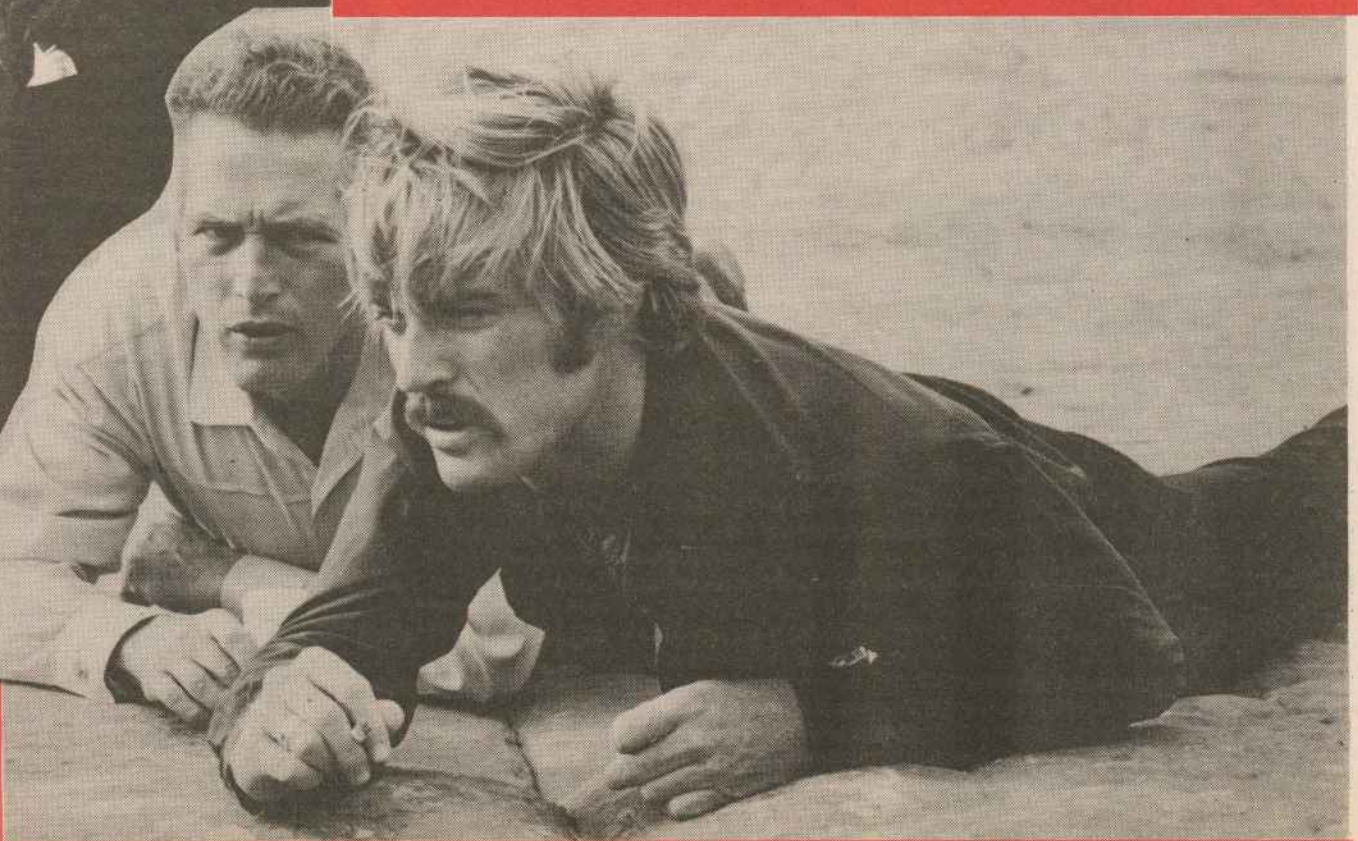
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## Classic Hollywood Love Stories; Let's Re-make Them Into Gay Films!



Love Stories--Bette Davis and Paul Henreid (left) are shown in the famous ending of "Now Voyager" (1942); Annette Bening and Warren Beatty star in "Love Affair" (1944) and Paul Newman and Robert Redford in their first co-starring film, "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," (1969).

By Dale E. Kuntz

Milwaukee's Pride Week/Festival has come and gone...and with it, many thoughts about all the entertainment offered up that week. Gay and Lesbian Film Festivals are usually part of that entertainment, both here and around the country...which got me to thinking!

With the exception of the classic Gay film, *The Idol*, or the recent, very charming, *The Wedding Banquet*, most Gay films are sexual exploitation films with all the plot they can fill up in one paragraph.

Why aren't there any really romantic Gay films made, films with a good story, well-developed plot and characters--where the characters just happen to be Gay?

Another thought...with Hollywood remaking soooo many vintage films, how about some classic remakes with a Gay story line? Use your imagination...What fun!

The first one to come to mind is *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* (many think the film has Gay overtones as it is). Butch and Sundance could be two bandits who meet, have a physical attraction to each other and fall in love. Their love could be the strong tie that keeps the band together.

All the scenes with Sundance's wife could be made to work between Sundance and Butch. I don't think Robert Redford and Paul Newman would want to do it...but what an interesting concept. Many other "buddy" films would also work, but none is as good as this one.

Two classic Bette Davis films could wonderfully be transferred into Gay stories. *Now Voyager* is number one. Imagine a Gay closet case who is so self-conscious that he has a nervous breakdown. His doctor advises him to admit his homosexuality and be himself. When he gains his self-assurance, he goes on a cruise and meets a Bisexual man who want to come out, but worries about his daughter.

They could solve their problems and love the same way Bette Davis and Paul Henreid do. This same plot would make a very sensitive Lesbian film. With the married character being a Lesbian mother who is now on her own, but with a great concern about her daughter.

The other Davis classic is *Dark Victory*. Imagine a Gay young man who has only six months to live and finds strength, hope and love from his doctor. Updating the film, the young man could be dying of AIDS, rather than a brain tumor. Not only could it be a powerful film, but it could drive home a very important message.

Updating the immortal *Camille* is another timeless story that would work. Again, to make it truly believable, the disease could be

AIDS instead of consumption.

A young, naive man comes to the city and meets a hustler. They are immediately attracted to each other. The hustler gives up his lifestyle, never telling the young man about his illness. The young man's father meets with the hustler and convinces him to give his son up. In the end, the father tells his son of his lover's sacrifice and the two are united for the now-famous tragic ending.

My personal favorite would be the unforgettable romance *Random Harvest*.

During World War I or II, an amnesiac soldier wanders away from an asylum and is drawn to a Gay bar. There, he meets a bartender, who takes a liking to him. To protect the soldier, the bartender gives up his job. Their lives become a wonderful association.

In an accident, the soldier is hit on the head, his true identity is remembered, and he completely forgets the life he just had.

For years, the bartender looks for him. Finally, upon meeting again, the soldier has no recollection of the bartender. Their relationship develops and the soldier falls in love with the bartender, never realizing that this is the same person he has loved in the past. When circumstances bring him back to the city where they first met, he realizes that the two people he has loved in his life are one and the same.

The recent remake of *Love Affair* (and *An Affair to Remember*) would serve as another truly romantic Gay film.

Two people would go on a Gay cruise alone because their lovers are busy elsewhere. They meet and are instantly attracted to each other.

## Holy Credit Rating! While the Dynamic Duo Cruise Gay Bars, Gotham Goes Bankrupt

New York-- Holy Gay Bar. Batman! Hard on the heels of Roger Ebert's observation in the June 16, *USA Today* that Batman and Robin "would be a sensation in any leather bar," Gotham's Caped Crusader and his partner, the Boy Wonder, were seen cruising their way down Christopher Street.

Gay men looked in wonder and desire at the rippling muscles of their perfectly defined physiques. "Have you ever seen such cod-pieces!?" exclaimed one young man.

In the meantime, Gotham's investment bankers are warning that Batman and Robin are bringing the city to rack and ruin.

For example, battles between Batman and TwoFace have destroyed Gotham City's Statue of Liberty. Electricity costs are soaring, and taxpayers are forced to fund a fuel-guzzling

At the end of the cruise, they each know that this is the love affair of their lives, but they want to give their lovers the benefit of the doubt. So, they agree to meet in six months. If one doesn't show up, the other will not question it.

When one has an accident and can't make the meeting, the other waits hours in the rain. A chance meeting later discloses the misunderstanding and that their "Love Affair" has withstood time.

A romantic story, no matter how often it is done, and what a great Gay love story it would make.

Recently, it has been announced that Mel Gibson's early classic *Tim* is to be remade. Again, here is a chance for a very good Gay film.

A slightly retarded young man starts doing yard work for an older man. The older man takes him under his wing, gives him self-assurance, understanding and consideration, none of which he has ever had before.

When the young man confesses his love, the older man refuses it, saying that was not his motive in helping him. The young man leaves. The older man then realizes that he too, fell in love, a love that grew out of the kindness and understanding the two men had together. He searches out the young man and begs him to come back to the life they found together.

Sex oriented films are popular and serve their purpose, but...use your imagination. Think of all the great stories out there and what wonderful Gay romantic films they could make.

"Gotham's long-term rating is lowered to Single-A-Minus from Single-A," said Standard & Poor's analyst Joseph O'Keefe. He cites "deteriorating financial performance, mounting infrastructure needs and increasing debt pressures."

The tongue-in-cheek assessments of the dynamic duo's nightly prowls and their effects on Gotham's credit came from analysts from Moody's Investors Service Inc. and Standard & Poor's Ratings Group--during their lunch hours, of course--in light of the new movie about the Caped Crusader, *Batman Forever*.

"They're too busy in the leather bars to worry much about the fact that Gotham's infrastructure is in desperate need of repair," laughed Nikolai Sklaroff, adding "And it's all because of them. Isn't there a cheaper way to bring crime under control?"

"And a midair battle between Batman and TwoFace caused extensive damages to Gotham's Statue of Liberty," Sklaroff adds. "Surely Gotham officials will want to repair this important landmark."

Meanwhile, the city's costs increase as it relies more and more on Batman's heroics.

"Gotham's electricity costs continue to skyrocket, and a large part of this bill can be traced to the public funding of the BatSignal--illuminated more often than street lights," Sklaroff said.

Sklaroff, however, did point out some positive signs.

"Now that Batman has vanquished the Riddler, the Riddler's mushroom-shaped, sea-bound palace has become public property and could be used to create an amusement park to restore Gotham's failing tourist industry," he said.

Others have suggested that if there is to be a *Batman Forever II*, that the film show the

BatSignal. Meanwhile, the local economy hinges on Bruce Wayne's business ventures.

And Holy Downgrades! Gotham's credit ratings reports aren't upbeat, either. Caped Crusader and his youthful partner battling crime in the Gay districts of Gotham City.

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## 'The Indian in the Cupboard' is a Delightful Journey into Childhood Days of Long Ago

By Terry Boughner

In the hot Summer months still to come, vacation-weary parents have a choice. You can take the kids to a film like **Mighty Morphin Power Rangers** where they might learn to do a really nasty karate kick while watching something virtually indistinguishable from most television cartoon fare.

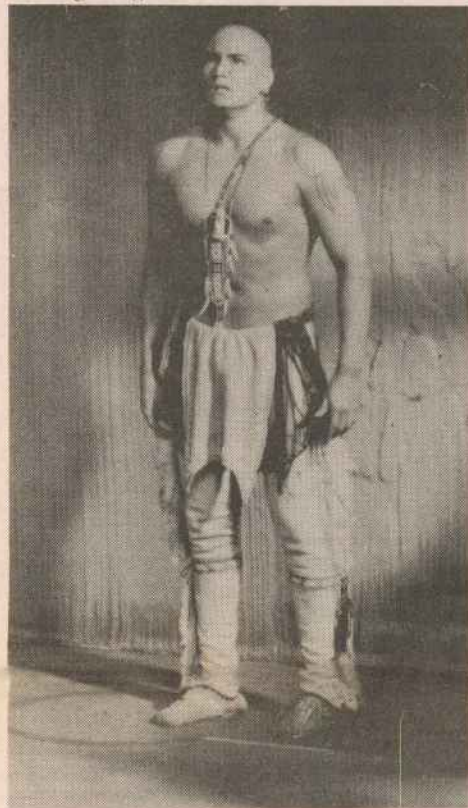
But then there is **The Indian in the Cupboard**, where kids will learn about values, responsibility and compassion while getting 96 minutes of high entertainment in the bargain.

The question is, will adults like it? Perhaps. That is, if you're not fed up already with Hollywood's current addiction to myths and if you can remember when those little toy animals and people that you played with really did seem to have lives of their own.

The movie starts in the middle of a birthday party for a 9-year-old New York boy named Omri (Hal Scardino). His presents include an old wooden cupboard and a miniature plastic figure of an American Indian.

Later, his mother (Lindsay Crouse) rummages around for a key to fit the lock. She finds it. It's the last thing her mother gave her before she died.

Before he goes to bed, Omri locks the little Indian in the cupboard for safe keeping. Then the magic begins.



Indian Little Bear (Litefoot)

In the morning, he opens the cupboard to find a living, breathing man, just about three inches high. He's a genuine Iroquois warrior from 1767 named Little Bear. Played by American Indian rap artist Litefoot who's an absolute hunk. Alone, he's worth the price of the movie.

Little Bear thinks he's in the Land of the Gods and Omri a Great Spirit.

At first, the uses for the cupboard seem limitless and risk free. Omri raids his toy chest and brings several more figures to life: Darth Vader, Robocop, a dinosaur. But when he sees them engaged in real combat, he hurriedly turns everything back.

And when Omri brings back an elderly man who dies from the shock, he realizes the extent of his new responsibility.

Omri hides Little Bear from his family (just as we all hid such things), but mistakenly and unbelievably shares the secret with his best friend, Patrick (Rishi Bhat).

Patrick ignores the warnings and puts a plastic cowboy on horseback into the cupboard. Out comes Boone (David Keith) a gun-

toting, weepy 19th-century cowboy, who warns Omri, "Watch out that savage don't scalp you in your sleep."

Now the youngsters have the chance to play peacekeeper.

The special effects wizards at Industrial Light and Magic seamlessly blend together the miniature and normal in size.

Screenwriter Melissa Mathison (**E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial**, **The Black Stallion**) has created a terrific script from the award-winning 1981 novel by Lynne Reid Banks.

No, it's not *Gay*, but Mathison is particularly adept at creating the world of the child, a subculture with its own rules and demons. Is it not so that we can identify with that?

And Director Frank Oz (**Little Shop of Horrors**, **The Muppets Take Manhattan**) never allows the special effects to drown out the narrative.

In the movie's most memorable sequence, the kids introduce Boone and Little Bear to television. After a few shots of gyrating bodies on MTV, Omri switches over to a old Western.

The movie comes on a little strong with the notion of "the noble savage" idea that so pleased Rousseau, but as he learns about life in the 18th century, Omri tactfully refrains from telling Little Bear about his people's future in the United States, even when he plaintively asks, "Are we always a great people?."

It's a cute little movie and worth seeing, if for nothing else than to see Litefoot and to be taken back for a moment to those times long ago.

The Paramount Pictures release is produced by Kathleen Kennedy, Frank Marshall and Jane Startz.

## Summer Readings and Events at A Room Of One's Own Bookstore

### Author Appearances

**Madison**-- Author Linda Tate will read from and discuss **A Southern Weave of Women, Fiction of the Contemporary South** at A Room Of One's Own feminist bookstore on Monday, July 24 at 6:30 p.m. Accompanying Tate will be Will Brantley, author of **Feminine Sense in Southern Memoir: Smith, Glasgow, Welty, Hellman, Porter, and Hurston**.

Recently published by the University of Georgia Press, **A Southern Weave of Women** explores the ways in which women writers of the present generation reflect and re-define long-standing notions of regional culture and womanhood. Tate will discuss such writers as Jill McCorkle, Dori Sanders, Alice Walker, Lee Smith, Bobbie Ann Mason, Keye Gibbons and others.

On Monday, August 7, at 6:30 p.m., author Lisa Vice will read from her novel **Reckless Driver** and Martha Clark Cummings will read from her collection of stories, **Mono Lake**.

**Reckless Driver** is a brilliant portrait of the will of a child to thrive even as her family falls apart around her.

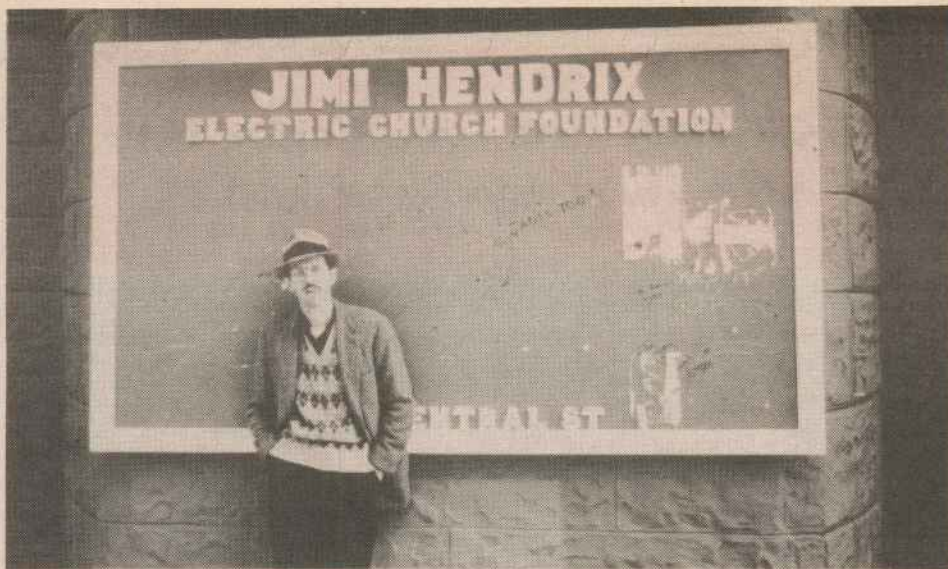
A collection of nine stories, **Mono Lake** deals with Lesbians' quest for love, understanding, identity and community in the midst of confusion and violence.

### Events

On Thursday, August 3, at 6:30 p.m., representatives from **Deneuve** magazine will be at A Room Of One's Own to meet readers and prospective writers and photographers.

**Deneuve** is the largest Lesbian magazine in the country--over 200,000 readers worldwide.

A Room Of One's Own is located at 317 W. Johnson Street in Madison. All events and readings are free and open to the public.



**Wierd Sex--Obsession--Comic Books**--Director David Lynch is at it again! His film "Crumb" was the winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Festival earlier this year. And the critics are raving! Gene Siskel calls "Crumb" "A great film. I'm sure I won't see a better film this year." Time magazine calls it one of the 10 best films of 1995; "Mind-blowing," says USA Today; "Astonishing," writes Newsweek; "Extraordinary" from the L.A. Times. Nuf said! "Crumb" opens July 28 at Milwaukee's Downer Theatre. The scene above shows Robert Crumb.

## Sherman Park Rainbow Association Shows the Neighborly Thing To Do

By Cynthia Van Vreede

**Milwaukee**-- If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then the Milwaukee's Sherman Park Rainbow Association should be proud of it's becoming a role model for Gay and Lesbian neighborhood organizations all over the city.

Sherman Park is located in the western section of Milwaukee.

The Sherman Park Rainbow Association was founded in 1993 by a small group of individuals dedicated to bringing a Gay and Lesbian presence to Sherman Park. According to Rainbow Association member, Steve Makovec, the group was initially set up to encourage Gays and Lesbians to buy homes in the Sherman Park area and to provide information and support for the Gays and Lesbians already living there.

In just two years, the membership of the Association has grown to over 150 individuals, not all Gay or Lesbian and some who are not even Sherman Park residents. In addition, the group has become more active, not only within the confines of Sherman Park, but also in Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian community.

The Rainbow Association members were that enthusiastic crew running the games at PrideFest '95. They also had a float in the

PrideFest parade, co-sponsored with Loose Ends tavern.

The Rainbow Association will be a co-sponsor of ShermanFest held July 28-30, and will have their name listed on the Donor Board for the event.

The group will also hold a huge rummage sale on September 23 to sell items that members have been collecting all year.

The monthly meetings of the Rainbow Association allow its members to tackle issues like financial planning or providing free HIV testing with the Brady Street Clinic. The group also works closely with the Sherman Park Community Association, including this year's neighborhood housing survey and graffiti paint-out.

But the Rainbow Association is also about fun. Makovec and his partner, Fred Pieper, hosted a game night in February that was a big hit. The group also had a brunch outing at Mama Roux's in March. And Springtime means a local plant and flower exchange.

The members of the Rainbow Association celebrated two years of being a positive force in the community on July 14 at Loose Ends, 4322 W. Fond du Lac Avenue in Milwaukee.

For more information about the Association, call (414) 777-3986.

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## House Lawmakers Seek Agreement on Mandatory AIDS Testing for Babies

Washington, D.C.-- If freshman Congressman Tom Coburn has his way, all newborn babies could soon be tested for HIV. The Oklahoma Republican is pushing the measure to try to stop the spread of AIDS.

Coburn, an obstetrician-gynecologist, failed to get his AIDS virus testing amendment through the House Commerce Committee when, as reported elsewhere in this issue of the paper, it voted on July 13 to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act until 2000. But Democratic critics promised to work with him to reach an agreement before a final House vote.

The American Medical Association (AMA) and the National Governors Association oppose mandatory testing of newborns. The AMA favors testing mothers.

But Coburn said the testing was important, as recent studies have shown that giving the drug AZT promptly to babies born to AIDS-infected mothers can reduce the HIV-positive babies' chances of getting full-blown AIDS.

After the committee meeting, Coburn said he had "no doubt" that mandatory testing of newborns would be part of the bill passed by the House. His provision would have required such testing for all babies whose mothers had not been tested.

Opponents of Coburn's amendment said they all wanted what he did. That is to stem the spread of the disease.

While saying he thought there was a good chance of an agreement, Rep. Henry Waxman, (D-CA), said he had concerns about Coburn's measure since it would stop states from getting AIDS-related grant money if they did not have mandatory testing programs in place. He said such a move ultimately would penalize those with AIDS.

Rep. Anna Eshoo, (D-CA), said she opposed the testing because she thought Congress should focus on pre-birth AIDS prevention, urging doctors to test pregnant women and provide them with treatment that could keep their babies from contracting AIDS.

Eshoo said she does not believe in mandatory testing for women. But she said Congress should wait for results of the medical community's efforts to test more pregnant women before embarking on a costly program of testing newborns.

The Centers for Disease Control this month began a push for testing of all pregnant

women, recommending that all of them--not just those identified as high-risk--voluntarily get tested.

The National Governors' Association, meanwhile, has said it objects to mandatory testing because it would be another large program required, but not funded, by the federal government.

Some civil liberties groups also object to mandatory testing, saying it invades privacy.

As reported elsewhere in this issue of the paper, a Senate committee has voted to reauthorize the AIDS law--without mandatory newborn testing--but the bill has not reached the Senate floor.

On July 13, Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, (D-SD), and Sen. Edward Kennedy, (D-MA), in a letter urged Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, (R-KS), to schedule a vote on the bill before the August recess.

Dole said he had scheduled a vote tentatively for July 24.

The Ryan White CARE Act, named after a hemophiliac teen-ager who died after contracting AIDS through a blood transfusion, distributes money to cities and states for treatment and support of people with HIV and AIDS.

## Steve Steinhauer Receives Future Milwaukee Service Award

Milwaukee-- Future Milwaukee celebrated the completion of its 18th class of emerging community leaders at its Annual Meeting on Thursday, July 20, at the Miller Pavilion of O'Donnell Park.

A feature of the Annual Meeting's program was the recognition of this year's winners of Future Milwaukee's Community Service Awards.

Among the awardees was Steve Steinhauer, '89, who was recognized for his work in the area of fund-raising and developing housing options for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

The Future Milwaukee Community Service Award is presented annually to alumni for outstanding service to the community.

## Dan Butler Comes Out and Wonders Why Someone Can't be Gay and a Republican

By Michael Kuchwara

New York, NY--On television's *Frasier*, Dan Butler portrays heterosexual fireplug Bob "Bulldog" Briscoe, a sportscaster who thrives on confrontation.

Off-Broadway in *The Only Thing Worse You Could Have Told Me...*, Butler impersonates a parade of mostly Gay characters, several of them just as macho in their own way as the testosterone-driven radio personality he plays on the hit NBC sitcom. And a few who definitely are not.

Will the real Dan Butler please stand up?

He already has--openly acknowledging his Gayness in an industry that discourages Gay actors from proclaiming their sexual identity. Not good box office, you know.

"I'm an actor--I'm either good at what I do or not," the thoughtful, soft-spoken performer explained during a recent interview.

Yet the semi-autobiographical nature of Butler's one-man show, currently on view at the Actors' Playhouse in New York, has given his play an added dimension, making the 40-year-old Butler something of a hero to many Gay men. It's a notion Butler modestly dismisses.

"I am not a Gay poster boy," Butler says in his low-key, offhand manner. "This has been a journey for me as an individual. I set it in motion, and now I feel I'm on it for the long ride. There are aspects of it that I never imagined would have come this far."

The play started more than three years ago in Los Angeles. There was no blinding flash, according to Butler, that made him start jotting down his thoughts.

"It was just writing for myself--writing something about an issue that was important to me," he says now. "I don't think there was any one event that made me do it."

Butler, who began as a New York stage actor with such Broadway shows as *Biloxi Blues* to his credit, went to California four years ago with Terrence McNally's play *The Lisbon Traviata*--and stayed.

He started getting television work, particularly on *Roseanne* when he played a meek, mild-mannered accountant. And occasionally there was film work, most noticeably the role of the bug scientist in *Silence of the Lambs*.

Butler performed the show first in Los Angeles, where favorable reviews and a strong audience response kept it running for seven months.

"I think the best way to come at things is through humor because there are some issues that are not going to be resolved as either black or white," he says. "Everything is usually gray--and mushy. And you are not going to convince the other side."

Not that Butler's collection of Gay characters isn't incisive and clearly defined. His theatrical scrapbook couldn't present a more distinctive group of men--both likable and unlikable--who defy any attempt to straitjacket themselves by their sexuality.

His portraits include: an opera queen-- precise, persnickety and dressed in a flowing

cape; a sweet-tempered volunteer for an AIDS organization who falls in love with a terminally ill patient; an aggressive ACT-UP demonstrator, intolerant of anyone who tries to co-opt AIDS, "our disease," as he calls it; and, most provocatively, a self-loathing Gay man who Butler labels "the Critic," a man who sneers at the idea of a Gay community, disparaging the notions of rainbow flags and the AIDS quilt.

"What if we really are what they say we are," asks the Critic as he wonders whether the Gay-bashers are right.

Butler's creations cover a wide spectrum, celebrating diversity and individuality.

"Especially within groups of urban Gays, it's very difficult or frowned upon to be an individual," Butler says. "You're really identified by the group. It's a group way of dressing. It's a group way of thinking. It's a group way of acting. No wonder people from the outside think there couldn't possibly be Gay Republicans, for example. It's a contradiction in terms."

"It leads to endless amazement and curiosity on my part--which I think is one of the things the play addresses: how we limit ourselves and others by how we define each other."

There is a lot of Butler in the play, most movingly in a section where he explains its title.

The name, *The Only Thing Worse You Could Have Told Me...*, originated with his father. Ten years after Butler told his father he was Gay, the two men were having another conversation. The father announced, "The only thing worse you could have told me is that you were dead." Butler thought the response was funny and kept the line in mind as the play's title.

His father still hasn't seen the show.

"For the longest time, I put off inviting him because I thought he would take that section as if I were ridiculing him--he would feel uncomfortable," Butler says. "I admire him for as far as he has come and how he stays open to it. I can't imagine what it is like to be a father and be raised and brought up in a certain way to view being Gay--and then be told your son is one of 'those people.' It's tough."

Butler, a compact, square-jawed man, is a product of the American heartland. Raised in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Butler did everything in high school.

"I loved football and was a jock in the Fall," he says. "Then, for the rest of the year, I'd be involved with theater." Butler went to Purdue and later to San Jose State, working in regional theater before arriving in New York.

How did he reach his decision to come out? "I wish I had some grand answer," he says with a laugh. "I really didn't think about it."

"I don't know what's going to happen. I just know I would have regretted this if I hadn't done the play and if I hadn't gone on whatever journey this is. Things do take care of themselves."

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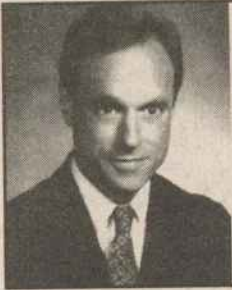
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## ATTACKS

Continued from Page 1

curriculum materials. Since then, religious extremist legislators have attempted to pass an amendment to the state's appropriations bill that would ban state funds from being used to "promote or encourage homosexuality" in state colleges and universities.

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**Montana**  
A national uproar was sparked by a bill that would have required individuals convicted under the state's "deviate sexual conduct" law (which prohibits consensual homosexual acts) to register for life with the police. With the help of David Mixner, the "deviate sexual conduct" provision of the registration bill was deleted.

The bill's sponsors said that the Christian Coalition had worked closely with them.

**Nebraska**  
The State Department of Social Services instituted a ban on Gay and Lesbian adoption. The measure was pushed by the Christian Right.

**Texas**  
The state currently has a hate crime law that has been deemed unenforceable because of the measure's vague language. In attempting to specifically identify hate crimes, a measure was introduced this year that enhances penalties for hate crimes and strengthens the definition. The measure included sexual orientation.

Religious extremists flew into a fury and said Gays got bashed because "they put themselves in harm's way."

In the past two years, eight Texan men have been slain in apparent anti-Gay or Gay-related incidents.

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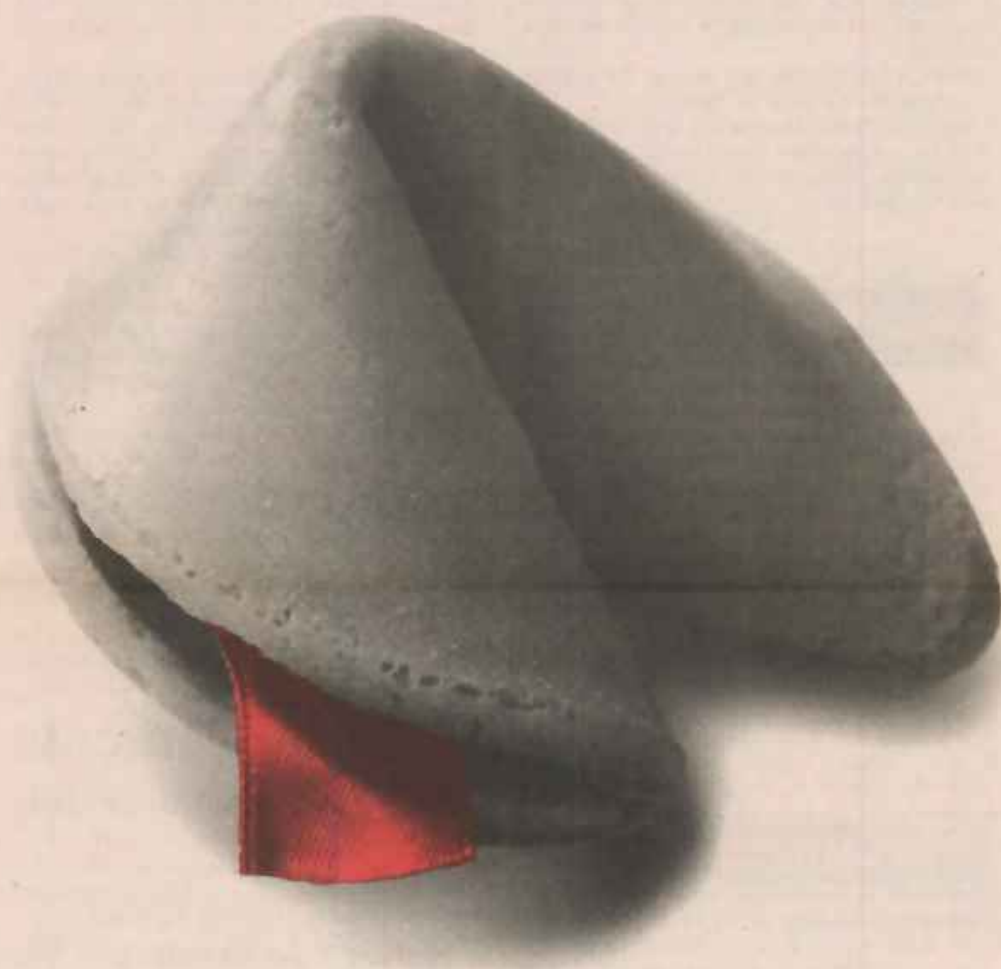
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