

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



The Wisconsin Light



Valentine's Day Sees Gay Marriage Caught Up in a Firestorm of Debate



Members of the Tribe meet at "the Clubhouse." (l-r) Cheryl Lucas, Bill, J.C., Robb, Tom Yorkey, Kreg White, Jeff Fillion, David Holder, Guy Clough, ARCW Director, Doug Nelson, (bottom) Kathy, Lil Lau and Lori Sitzwohl

Honolulu—The state House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday night, January 23rd virtually closed the door to any action by the Legislature this election year on the thorny issue of same-sex marriage.

The committee supported Chairman Terrance Tom's recommendation to kill bills variously calling to establish same-sex marriage, provide for domestic partnerships or allow certain benefits for domestic partners.

Tom then deferred action on three bills that would put the issue of same-sex marriages to the voters in the form of amendments to the state Constitution.

"These matters will be deferred until the committee and myself believe there has been adequate discussion to make a decision on this issue," Tom said following a six-hour hearing in the Capitol auditorium. He said he hasn't decided whether he would arrange for any further discussion on the issue in the current session.

One reason, Tom said, was that the Commission on Sexual Orientation and the Law established by the Legislature last year failed to address the question of whether the voters who approved the 1978 constitutional amendment barring sex discrimination should be asked if they intended it to apply to same-sex marriages.

It was the gender discrimination amendment that the state Supreme Court cited in its May 1993 ruling that the state could not deny three same-sex couples marriage licenses unless it could show a compelling public interest in such discrimination.

Tom noted that the 1994 Legislature voted to reject the high court's interpretation of the constitution and the voters intent when they voted to approve a ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The commission majority's proposal to legalize same-sex marriages "glosses over the fact that the majority of the people of this state do not support such a proposal at this time and that such marriages are unlikely to be recognized either by the federal government or other states," Tom said, noting some states are already acting to bar same-sex marriages.

TURN TO MARRIAGE, PAGE 18

Joseph Flinchbaugh Held Over on Charge of Murder 1 In Killing of Mandi McCall

By Ladybell Bradlee

Milwaukee—1:30 p.m., January 26, 1996. Cold, overcast and damp. It matches our mood. Room 146, the Criminal Justice Building. Mandi's friends—We are all here. We talk. We want revenge—not simply justice for Mandi. We hope horrible things will happen to Joseph Flinchbaugh in prison. Wisconsin does not have the death penalty. We want Mandi back. We know that is not possible. We want closure. We must wait for that.



Mandi McCall

2:25 p.m. Joseph Flinchbaugh is brought into the courtroom. He is wearing prison orange. He appears cocky. He sneers when he sees us sitting there. His attorney is with him. Mr. Flinchbaugh is asked if he wants to waive his rights to this preliminary hearing. He says no. Commissioner Audry Brooks reads the charges against him—Intentional Homicide in the first degree. No plea is entered—this is a hearing.

The state will call two witnesses to reinforce the charges.

The first is Dr. John Tegatz, Milwaukee County Medical Examiner and forensic pathologist who is brief and to the point. Mandi suffered multiple stab wounds to the upper left

side of his body. The deepest being about 3 inches missing his heart. He also suffered from multiple blows with a blunt object. It is believed the object was a heavy shoe or boot—possible still being worn. No single one of these would have caused death.

The primary cause of death was strangulation by use of a necktie, and it was still around his neck. According to the medical examiner—Mandi's throat was also cut. It is believed this occurred after death or at least after loss of consciousness.

TURN TO MANDI, PAGE 19

Greg Louganis, to Make Only Milwaukee Appearance at AfterWords

Milwaukee—AfterWords Bookstore & Espresso Bar is especially pleased to announce our major author appearance for the Spring with legendary Olympic Champion Diver Greg Louganis on Monday, March 25th.

Greg Louganis is making a 10-city national tour for the paperback release of his New York Times best-selling, *Breaking the Surface* (Plume Pb \$13.95). AfterWords Bookstore will be Louganis's only Milwaukee appearance.

Breaking the Surface is Greg's unflinchingly honest story of a Gay man breaking free from a lifetime of silence and isolation.

Born to a young Samoan father and a Northern European mother, Greg was adopted at nine months by Pete and Frances Louganis. At nine he started diving lessons and at 16 he won a silver medal at the Montreal Olympics.

Despite Louganis's astonishing athletic skill and artistry on the diving board, he struggled with late-detected dyslexia, pre-judgments and prejudice over his dark skin coloring and a deep personal anguish over his sexual orientation.

Many fans still remember the dramatic image of handsome young athlete hitting his head on the diving board during the springboard preliminaries at the Olympics. Only two minutes later, with four stitches, he was back on the board and executed perhaps the best dive of the 1988 Games.

Despite stitches and a water proof-patch, Louganis would win his third and fourth Olympic Gold medals.

With the publication of *Breaking the Sur-*

Commentary by John Quinlan

Madison—Dane County could be without openly Lesbian or Gay representation on the Dane County Board for the first time in recent history if the LGB community is not mobilized behind three openly Gay candidates. This would be especially ironic, observers say, given that by next April, Dane County could very well make history by electing the nation's first openly Gay or Lesbian County Executive.

The plot thickens—read on.

More than almost any primary in recent history, this Tuesday's elections represent a

time when literally every vote will count. These elections may seem to come out of the blue because they are being held earlier than usual this year. (The state's new, earlier March 19th presidential primary date is the reason.)

Given that the only non-local race on the ballot is the primary race for the Wisconsin State Supreme Court, that could mean a frightfully low turn-out—which either represents a great danger or a great opportunity for Dane County's current crop of openly Gay candidates.

With three-term supervisor Mark Poca's impending retirement, Sup. Scott McCormick is the only openly Gay incumbent seeking re-election, and he faces a tight, three-way race in his notoriously low turn-out UW-Madison campus district.

Openly Gay newcomers Alan Furnas in the (non-city of Madison) southside and Darren Kittleson on Madison's far southwest side, are underdogs in tough races, although both seem to be fielding well-organized campaigns.

Scott McCormick

McCormick, a close confidante and friend of Dane County Executive Rick Phelps (who recently announced he will not seek re-election in 1997), is unabashedly progressive in his politics, but is seen as a bridge-builder between the progressive and conservative factions around AIDS issues and issues of concern to the LGB community.

Alan Furnas

What he lacks in name recognition, Alan Furnas, a manager of housing for people with developmental disabilities, is making up for in solid organizing. He is coordinating closely with other progressive county board candidates, and is working particularly closely with African-American community leaders, Sup. Regina Rhyne and former Sup. Eyvonne Crawford-Gray, who are running to represent adjacent southside districts.

Based on high standards of viability and his stance on issues of importance to the LGB community, Furnas has received the endorsement of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

Darren Kittleson

Enmeshed in a four-way race for the far west side First District seat currently held by progressive leader Carol Brooks, is Darren

TURN TO MADISON, PAGE 14



Greg Louganis

face, Louganis announced to the world that several months prior to the 1988 Olympics, he had tested positive for HIV.

By speaking out, both in the book and to Barbara Walters on national TV, Louganis has hoped to raise awareness about AIDS prevention and domestic violence, amongst other issues.

Further details about Louganis's appearance at AfterWords Bookstore will be announced during the upcoming weeks. For further information please contact Carl M. Szatmary at AfterWords: (414) 963-9089.

News Briefs

Resort Manager Apologizes: Servers Wore Gloves

Alexandria, MN-AP-A resort official has apologized after some employees wore latex gloves while serving food to participants in a Gay and Lesbian conference. The glove incident happened Saturday night, January 27th, at the Radisson Arrowwood Resort during the second annual Out Front Activist Conference, attended by Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender activists.

The 175 participants applauded the resort's general manager, Greg Parsons, when he apologized for some servers' actions and accepted conference organizers' offer to help train staff members about the AIDS virus. "It wasn't a protest. I think it was just naïveté, and some lack of sensitivity," Parsons said later about the servers' actions. Parsons said only a few of the resort's food servers put on latex gloves and removed them as soon as conference participants objected.

Speaking with reporters later, Parsons said the hotel could not afford to discriminate against anyone. This is a very bad thing that happened."

The incident was a potentially embarrassing one for the Radisson because it happened in front of Melinda Paras, the executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, one of the most influential gay and lesbian rights organizations in the country.

The Out Front Conference is designed to give activists from across Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Dakotas an opportunity to develop policies and plans of action on issues ranging from fundraising, to anti-violence and harassment measures.

Results Awaited on Baboon Marrow Transplant

San Francisco-AP-Jeff Getty, a person living with AIDS, who received a Baboon marrow transplant to bolster his immune system on December 14th, waits at his Oakland home to find out if it was successful. Although it will be six months or more before all the results are in, the first indication of the battle's outcome is expected in a week or so.

"If something goes wrong, if I come down with a Baboon virus, if it proves not to work, at least I got off my ass and did something," Getty said. "I didn't just lie down and die." As reported in *Light*, Baboons are not infected by the AIDS virus. Researchers hope that immunity can be transferred to people.

There are no signs that the transplanted immune cells attacked their host. And Getty's immune system apparently has not rejected the Baboon cells.

Getty admitted to being "tired" of jokes by religious conservatives that he would turn into a Baboon.

Dutch To Offer Help to Third World Gays

Amsterdam, Holland-AP-Believing that Gay rights are human rights, Dutch government officials said on January 24th that they plan to offer financial support to Gay and Lesbian organizations in developing countries. The Ministry of Development Cooperation will instruct Dutch embassies in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean to keep an eye out for local groups needing financial or other assistance, a spokesman said. The plan was decided on after a meeting with Dutch Gay and Lesbian organizations.

Madison's United Begins Director Hire; Elects Richard Kilmer as Board President

By John Quinlan

Madison- The United, Madison's social service agency for the LGB community in south central Wisconsin, has announced that it is now hiring a new director, says Richard Kilmer, the organization's newly elected board president.

Hiring for the position, which has been occupied by former United treasurer Sande Janagold since the resignation of long-time director Jane VanderBosch last Spring, had been on hold while the organization completed a strategic planning process, Kilmer said. Through a lot of hard work during a difficult time, Kilmer believes the organization is now moving back onto a significantly more solid footing.

The position is being advertised as 30 hours a week at a compensation level of \$22,000 per year (or a full-time "rate" of approximately \$30,000 per year).

Given that the agency could not afford more competitive salary right away, this arrangement (which allows the director to pursue school or other outside consulting work) makes the position much more competitive than it might have been.

Kilmer also points out that the word "executive" has been dropped from the former title of "executive director" in part to symbolize a period of more realistic expectations for the person assuming the job.

"Because we're the only show in town doing what we do, very often The United's director has been expected to be all things to all people. And those expectations are neither realistic nor fair to the person, the organization, or to the community," Kilmer said.

The responsibilities of the new director are succinctly described in the job description as "administration, supervision, and community relations," which encompasses such duties as oversight of operations and contract compliance, grant writing, major donor solicitations, public speaking, and supervision of staff.

Kilmer says that he is gratified that his predecessor as president, Greg Hines, will remain on the board, lending his wealth of experience to the new board members.

Kilmer, who works as a pharmacist at Community Pharmacy, is a long-time community leader. He was a principal organizer of GALVANize's massively successful 1989 march for Gay and Lesbian rights, which drew almost 8,000 people from all over Wisconsin and the Midwest to Madison.

Kilmer is a veteran of some of the more bruising political feuds in Madison, including the often divisive chaos that descended on GALVANize following the 1989 march that almost resulted in the dissolution of what only a few months before had been a highly successful organization.

While The United is doing well on many levels, including a year just passed that included four highly successful fundraisers, Kilmer realizes that this is a daunting time for the organization.

Volunteer recruitment has slipped significantly, there were bad feelings following VanderBosch's resignation, and critics of the group point to a lack of direction in the or-

ganization's mission.

"I believe from my experiences with MASN and GALVANize that I can make The United a strong organization," Kilmer said. "I want to see The United be more visible in the community and reach out and be a strong voice."

One of Kilmer's dreams, shared by many in the community, is that The United can be a catalyst for an LGB community center in Madison.

Look for an in-depth interview with Kilmer in the next issue of *Light*, and on an upcoming edition of "Inside Out."

To receive an application for the director's job at The United, write: Search Committee, c/o T. Richardson, P.O. Box 1325, Madison, WI 53701. The application deadline is March 1st.

Madison's Interweave to Host National Unitarian Conference on Gay Issues

By John Quinlan

Madison—Interweave, the organization of LesBiGays and their straight allies affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association will hold "Convo '96: Planting the Seeds of Justice" in Madison, February 16-18. The conference will take place at the First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive.

Conference organizer Rev. Jonalu Johnstone also extends a special invitation to everyone in the Madison community to come together at a post-conference interfaith service, regardless of whether they can attend the conference itself. The interfaith service is being held in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union on Sunday, February 18th at 11:00 a.m.; admission is free and open to all.

The conference will feature a keynote address by State Rep. Tammy Baldwin, many workshops on LesBiGay issues and a separate youth program aimed at teens and their families. Will fellows will also be on hand to present his slideshow, *Farm Boys: Lives of Gay Men from the Rural Midwest*.

Workshop topics include: Interfaith Dialogue among GLBT groups; Planting Seeds of Justice Through Gay and Lesbian Parenting; Leadership; Seeing Yourself as a Change Agent; Confronting Racism; and Reaching Out to GLBT Youth.

The youth program will address dealing with homophobia in school, coping with the dating scene, getting support from family and friends, etc.

Conference fees for adults are \$65-\$85 on a sliding scale based on ability to pay. The rate for teens is \$35-\$50 on a sliding scale. Make checks payable to: CMD-UUA and write: "Convo '96 on the memo line."

Send as soon as possible to: Interweave Convocation, c/o Central Midwest District, Eisenhower Tower, Suite 310, 1701 S. 1st Ave., Maywood, IL 60153.

Researchers Wrong About Suspected AIDS Case

London, England-AP-Two British researchers say they were mistaken in claiming that AIDS was present in Britain as early as 1959. In a letter published in *The Lancet*, in the last week in January, Andrew Bailey and Gerald Corbett of Manchester Royal Infirmary said the tissue samples had been contaminated in the laboratory. The original research, published in *The Lancet* in July, 1990, reported the AIDS virus was detected in tissues from a British sailor in 1959, 20 years earlier than the disease was thought to have reached the country. "We must conclude that we find no evidence to suggest that the 1959 Manchester patient carried the HIV genome," they wrote.

HRC Joins Minnesota Gays to Fight the Right

Alexandria, MN- The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has joined forces with Minnesota's Gay and Lesbian Community Action Council in a partnership aimed at fighting anti-Gay state legislation. HRC calls this partnership "the first of many" such envisioned between HRC and state Lesbian and Gay organizations.

As part of the partnership, HRC will contribute \$5,000 to the Action Council to hire a lobbyist for the upcoming legislative session. There are serious threats from religious zealots and others of the Far Right to remove sexual orientation from the statewide civil rights law and to cut off funds to state programs that serve Lesbian and Gay youth.


In return, the Action Council will help HRC identify key contacts in each Minnesota congressional district who might be willing to serve as coordinators for HRC's federal legislative efforts. The Action Council will also work with HRC to persuade members of the Minnesota congressional delegation to become sponsors of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

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The Milwaukee AIDS Project is a service agency of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc.

THANK YOU!

TO WISCONSIN'S GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY.

IN RECORD NUMBERS, GAY MEN AND LESBIANS THROUGHOUT WISCONSIN JOINED THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS IN 1995. YOU HELPED US RAISE \$2 MILLION FOR AIDS PREVENTION, CARE, RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY AND YOU INCREASED OUR VOLUNTEER CORPS TO 1,100 WONDERFUL PEOPLE.

THANKS FOR LIFTING OUR SPIRITS AS WE WORK TOGETHER TO AGGRESSIVELY CONFRONT AIDS IN WISCONSIN.

ARCW

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VOTE ON FEB. 6TH

A Reminder

There is an election on Tuesday, February 6th. It is crucially important that everyone exercise their right to vote. As a reminder, we list the candidates who we believe will best represent our community.

State-Wide

For State Supreme Court—Larry Bugge

Madison Races

For Dane County Board of Supervisors—Alan Furnas, Darren Kittelson, Scott McCormick.

Milwaukee Races

For County Executive—Tom Ament

For Alderman—Paul Henningsen, Marlene Johnson, Michael Murphy

3rd District Aldermanic Seat

In Milwaukee's 3rd Aldermanic District, for the first time in the city's history, we have a chance to elect one of our own to elective office; in this case, the Common Council. In this race, we are greeted with an embarrassment of riches since two of our own are running. Both are good people. Both have the backing of dedicated supporters, the kind our community needs.

That being said, however, we believe that the choice must be for Karen Gotzler. Her experience both in working with government and with the City and community itself, earn her our unqualified endorsement.

Editorial

The Tribe

Last Fall, after one of the two MAP community forums, one of the participants urged us strongly not to forget the agency's volunteers in whatever it was we would write. We took their suggestion to heart and did just that, but did not think it was enough. The time would come for a better opportunity. Now it has.

The 35+ people who call themselves the Tribe, as we have been aware for some time, are a beautiful group of people who have come together with one purpose: to help others less fortunate than themselves. This selflessness is all that unites them, not age, not gender, not race, not sexual orientation, nothing of the kind. They offer service, but in that offering, they have forged the bonds of family—a word that should not be lightly used at all.

Our thanks goes out to them, but not to them only. Through them, by highlighting them as we have done, we seek to thank all the people like them, the hundreds of volunteers who give of themselves again—and again.

But not only those at MAP. Those who dedicate themselves at the BestD Clinic, at the Madison AIDS Support Network, at SEWAP and NOWAP and all the other places where people toil without notice or thanks to fight this disease.

It is to the volunteers, all the volunteers, that our Valentine's issue is dedicated. What better way to commemorate a holiday dedicated to love than to say "Thank You to You All."

(And Shingo, if you ever get a chance to read this, know that the flame that you helped to keep burning, burns on.)

Wagner a Candidate for County Executive in 1997? Is Baldwin Heading For Congress?

By John Quinlan

Madison—Dane County Executive Rick Phelps' unexpected announcement on January 24th that he will not run for re-election in 1997, resulted in a flurry of speculation about who might succeed him—and several openly Gay and Lesbian politicians have been prominently mentioned.

State Rep. Tammy Baldwin's office was deluged by reporter's calls—given her expertise in county issues, and the likelihood that the County Executive's office might be a stepping stone to her all-but stated goal of a run for Congress.

After the speculation simmered for a few days, Baldwin declared herself to be a non-candidate for County Exec. However, insiders say that initial strategy sessions with the goal of developing a game plan for a Congressional race may begin soon.

Also mentioned as a candidate for County Exec., was Sup. Mark Pocan who opted out as well for the time being. Speaking on

WTSO's radio show for the LesBiGay community, "Inside Out," Pocan said he plans to remain political, but not in the context of an elected official anytime soon.

However, political insiders say that it is likely that former County Board Chair Dick Wagner, the long-time dean of Dane County's openly Lesbian and Gay delegation, is actively exploring the possibility of a run for the County Exec's seat, a position for which he is eminently qualified.

Since leaving the board two years ago, Wagner has been lauded for his role as a conciliator in urging the contentious board to return to a time of relatively civil discourse. Wagner, who works as a budget analyst for the state, is also uniquely qualified in his understandings of county budgetary issues.

If elected, he would be the first openly Lesbian or Gay official to head a county government in the country. Dane County, with almost 400,000 people, is Wisconsin's second largest county.

Letters

Ignorance in Action

TO THE EDITOR:

Re: Article in the January 7th Milwaukee Journal:
If there is any hostility in the example of the parent who objected to a book in a middle school library that "made Gay and Lesbian lifestyles appear attractive and acceptable," it is against the poor parent. What a ridiculous example of enmity against Gays.

It is not hostile or, to use Gays' favorite word to silence criticism, "homophobic" to consider homosexuality abnormal. That does not mean that homosexuals should be discriminated against, or treated badly, but just as a Down's Syndrome person is not normal, neither is a homosexual.

What is really hostile... despicable, in fact... is the brainwashing going on to convince children that

homosexuality is the same as and just as normal as heterosexuality.

If these two examples are an indication of what People for the "American" Way consider hate speech against Gays, they are pathetic and laughable. No Name

Editor's Note: Ordinarily, we do not run letters with our name and address, however, in this case I will make an exception to show what crosses my desk every so often. These people never seem to have the intestinal fortitude to back up what they're saying with their names.

Of course, what is really despicable and pathetic is the ignorance of the writer. It is something like this which contributes to the suicide rate among Gay teens.

That being said, the letter also shows the education that needs to be done.

Support Kittleson

TO THE EDITOR:

We are writing to encourage all residents of the 1st Supervisory District in Madison to vote for Darren Kittleson for Dane County Board in the upcoming primary on February 6th.

Contrary to what was reported in a recent endorsement in the *Light*, Darren is not a member of the Log Cabin Club of Wisconsin. We support him nonetheless.

Darren is committed to being a voice of reason on an increasingly "partisan," non-partisan County Board. The development of factions along rigid ideological lines has proven to be counterproductive. Darren is committed to breaking the mold and ushering in a new era of cooperation among all members of the County Board. For this reason, liberals and conservatives alike are supporting his candidacy.

Although Darren has not been active in Log Cabin, he does have a significant history of support for and activism in the Lesbian and Gay community.

He is a member of the Federal Club major donor organization of the Human Rights Campaign. He has served on the Steering Committee for the Madison AIDS Support Network Red Ribbon Affair, and he was instrumental in bringing Candace Gingrich to Madison during recent Coming Out Day activities.

Darren's wealth of experience as well as his commitment to Lesbian and Gay issues and his willingness to be honest about his sexual orientation during this campaign and as County Supervisor, earn him an unqualified endorsement from Lesbian and Gay activists from across the political spectrum.

We urge you to vote for Darren on February 6th and March 19th.

Scott H. Evertz
Legislative Director
Log Cabin Club of Wisconsin
James L. McFarland
President
Log Cabin Club of Wisconsin

Deadlines

Copy deadline for the February 15th issue February 9th. The ad deadline for that issue is February 13th.

Copy deadline for the February 29th issue is February 23rd. The ad deadline for that issue is February 27th.



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Madison School Board Candidates Forum

Madison—A Madison School Board Candidates' Forum on Gay and Lesbian Issues will be held on Saturday, March 2nd from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Church, 2146 E. Johnson St., in Madison.

Organized by Gays and Lesbians and Allies for Diversity in Education (GLADE), the forum will give School Board candidates Carol Carstensen, Peter Williams and Calvin Williams the opportunity to speak about their positions on issues of concern to Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual students, staff and families in Madison's schools. The forum is open to the public.

For more information, contact Chris Halvorson at (414) 241-5089 or Crystal Hyslop (414) 233-1846.

The next organizing meeting for the forum will be on Thursday, February 8th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Joann Elder's home, 1112 Grant St., (coming west on Monroe Street from Camp Randall, turn left at the first light onto Grant St.

For more information about the forum, contact Chris Halvorson or Crystal Hyslop at the above numbers.

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

The Wisconsin Light



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AIDS Workers See Time Running Out for Meaningful State Health Insurance Reform

Milwaukee—On Wednesday, January 24th, the Wisconsin State Senate Committee on Insurance voted 5-1 in favor of AB416, this session's health insurance reform legislation, sending the bill to the floor for further action. AIDS workers believe that action needs to include amendments to the bill to provide greater access to the private health insurance market.

"Access to health care is the highest priority on the AIDS agenda this year," said Mike Gifford, Director of Public Policy for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW). "This bill retreats on important reforms designed to create greater access that were introduced by the Governor and supported by a bipartisan majority of legislators last session."

Gifford was referring to two amendments that ARCW and the Wisconsin AIDS Response Network (WARN) are working to have amended to the bill.

They include biennial open enrollment which establishes a 30 day period every other year during which people can purchase insurance and receive coverage for all of their medical conditions. This concept is based on sound health policy that in cases of chronic and terminal illness, the State needs to ensure that people can access coverage for early medical care and can efficiently utilize the health care system, thus remaining independent of State assistance.

ARCW and WARN also support modified community rating which affirms the historic

basis of health insurance by spreading the risk of costly health conditions among the largest number of individuals. It ends the current practice of charging significantly more for those who are ill and significantly less for those who are well and helps to make health insurance accessible to all.

"For too long, people with HIV/AIDS have been denied health insurance," Gifford said. "These two provisions go a long way in opening up the private insurance market to people living with HIV and AIDS while having a nominal impact on the insurance industry."

AB416 as reported out of Committee, includes two minimal health insurance reforms. Portability will provide for continuous coverage in the event a policyholder changes jobs and guarantee issue will end the practice of denying health insurance to members of group policies.

"The bill also includes an important new funding mechanism for the State's Health Insurance Risk Sharing Pool (HIRSP) which assures this program remains a viable option for our clients," said Gifford.

"Final action on this bill will be in the next several weeks. Our time to act is now," Gifford said.

ARCW encourages everyone to call their State Senator—1-800-362-9472—and tell them to support biennial open enrollment and modified community rating in health insurance reform.

Wisconsin Research Consortium Changes its Name to Provide Clarity on its Mission

Milwaukee—In order to provide greater name recognition and community clarity on the agency's mission, the Wisconsin Community-Based Research Consortium (WCRC) has changed its name to the Wisconsin AIDS Research Consortium (WARC) effective February, 1996.

WARC, the clinical research division of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), was established in 1993 in order to provide access to experimental drug trials through local physicians' offices.

Clinical or experimental drug trials are conducted by pharmaceutical companies as part of the process to receive FDA approval. If approved, the new drugs are then available on the open market.

Since the start of the organization, WARC has secured clinical trials from large pharmaceutical organizations, including Upjohn Pharmacia, Glaxo-Wellcome, Bristol Myers Squibb, and Abbott Laboratories. Without the efforts of WARC, many individuals with HIV who access medical care through physicians or other academic settings, would otherwise not be able to access experimental drug trials.

WARC currently provides patient access to drug trials in Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha, Madison, and Green Bay and plans for future expansion.

Currently, WARC is enrolling in two drug trials. The first, an Upjohn trial, involves a new class of anti-HIV drugs called non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors.

The second, a Pharmaceutical Products De-

velopment trial, involves an open-label study of stavudine (d4t) and didanosine (ddl).

Physicians, individuals infected with HIV and other interested persons who would like more information on current and future drug trials through WARC, should contact Jacque Kaczinski, R.N., B.S.N., at (414) 225-1578.

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Integrity-Milwaukee to Offer Two Retreats for Lesbians and Gay Men

Milwaukee—At what point to sexuality and spirituality intersect? Must one of them always be seen negatively and one, positively? How can those individuals who live with the added wildcard of gendered sexuality develop the depth of their own spiritual experiences in a church that often ignores or rejects them?

Join your brothers and sisters from various faith communities as they share their stories at a quiet retreat center at DeKoven Center, 600 21st Street in Racine.

The retreat, only for Gays and Lesbians, will begin on Friday, February 23rd with registration between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m., soup and sandwich, opening focus by The Rev. Janis Doleschal, break into small groups, and end up about 9:00 p.m.

On Saturday, registration is from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m., breakfast, short talk by Dr. Dennis Jackson, small group discussion, lunch, final presentation and discussion, end up about 3:00 p.m.

Overnight accommodations can be arranged or Racine is easily driven in less than an hour from Milwaukee.

The second retreat will be held June 28-29, 1996, in the same place and include heterosexual friends who have been important partners in our journeys.

A non-refundable deposit of \$45 must accompany all registrations.

For further information, call Integrity at (414) 276-6277 and leave a message.



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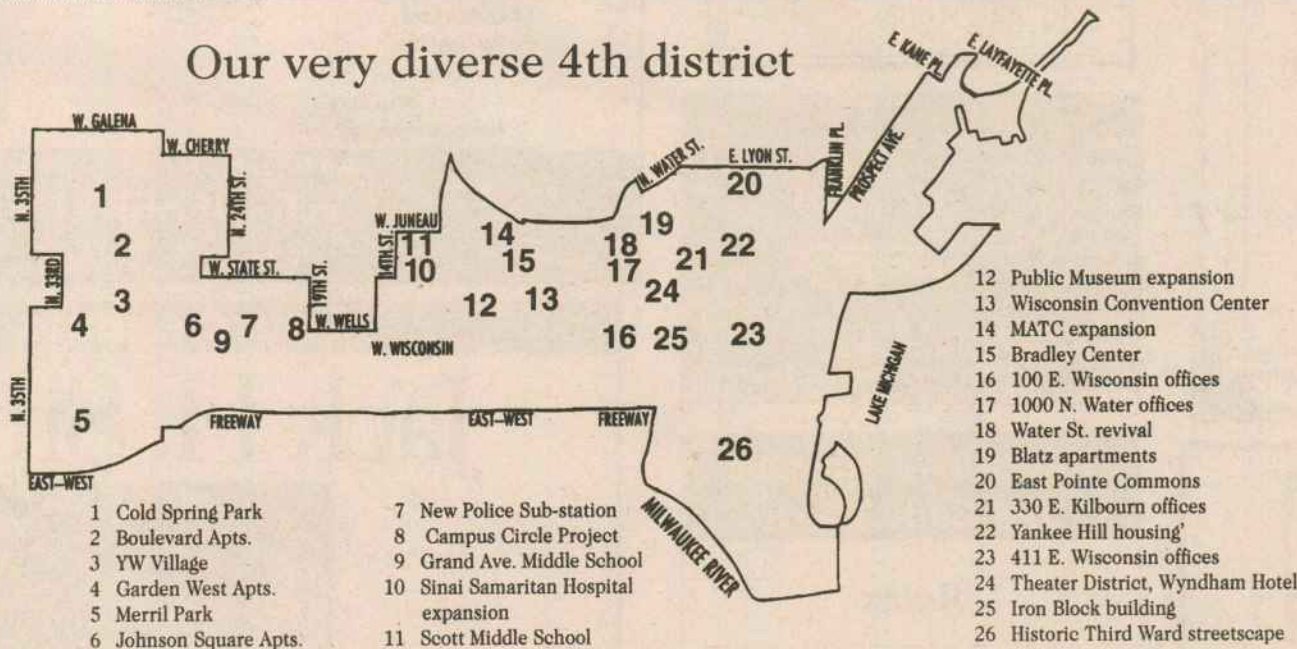
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Dignity-Milwaukee to Celebrate its 21st Anniversary of Service to the Community

Milwaukee—Dignity-Milwaukee will celebrate 21 years of serving the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender community, their families and friends. The celebration will begin at 6:00 p.m. on February 11th at St. Pius X Church, 2506 Wauwatosa Avenue in Wauwatosa. The anniversary Mass will commemorate the many women and men who have built and maintained the local, regional and national organization. Everyone is invited to attend.

After Mass, the celebration will continue with refreshments and fellowship. Present members look forward to hearing from and seeing many of the past members.

Dignity-Milwaukee was founded in February, 1975, six years after the founding of the national organization in 1969.

Originally they met in the Newman Center at UWM. In 1978, they were invited into the St. Pius X faith community where they have celebrated every Sunday at 6:00 p.m. since.

Dignity also met monthly at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Cathedral for several years.

Dignity serves all of the Milwaukee Gay, Lesbian faith community. About a third of members are of other communions and traditions. The chapter has been active locally and nationally. They have worked with the

Les/Gay faith community in the planning and celebrating the Inter-Faith Services at PrideFests. Members and the chapter work with MAP.

Dignity-Milwaukee received a 1995 St. Camillus AIDS Ministry Award.

For more information, call Joe at (414) 873-9591.

Frontiers February Schedule


- Feb. 10—7:00 p.m. Bridge for Everyone
- Feb. 14—7:30 Film Circle—"The Wedding Banquet"
- Feb. 17—8:00 p.m. Home Improvement
- Feb. 20—7:30 p.m. Man-to-Man Rap
- Feb. 25—10:00 a.m. Dining out at Sunprint Café
- Feb. 28—7:30 p.m. Film Circle—"Jeffrey"

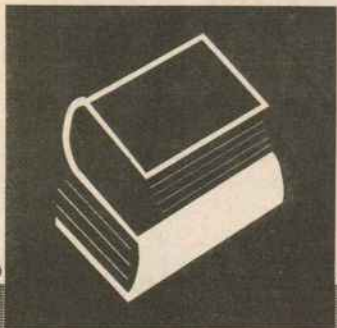
For locations and membership information, call David at (608) 274-5959.

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BOOK REVIEWS

"Passages of Pride" is a Must-Read Book for Anyone Interested in Gay Youth

Reviewed by John Quinlan

Passages of Pride

By Kurt Chandler
Random House, HC, 300pp

Their journey begins early.

For as long as they can remember, from five, six, seven years-old, they have felt "different," say Gay and Lesbian youth, nothing that they could fix a label to at such an early age, yet something that set them apart and deepened as they grew into their teenage years.

By early adolescence, say Gay teens, they were aware of an affection for people of the same gender. Sometimes it came as an attraction or a sexual fantasy, a crush on a teacher, a lingering glance in the locker room. Whatever it was, they kept it to themselves . . .

Adolescence is tough enough. But to suddenly put a word to their lifelong "difference," a word used so contemptuously in society—Lesbian or Gay—can be a wounding experience for teens. On top of all their fear and confusion, they become vulnerable targets of harassment, prejudice, and hatred.

So begins Kurt Chandler's landmark book, *Passages of Pride: Lesbian and Gay Youth Come of Age*. This is a book that should be required reading for school board members from coast to coast—and everyone charged with the care and nurturing of our nation's children.

Any one of us who remembers the fear and isolation that we felt growing up as we realized we might be profoundly "different" wishes we could help make a world where kids wouldn't have to live through that experience again. However, the whole idea that a teenager might actually be able to be "out" in high school is mind boggling to me.

Chandler charts the voyage of six Gay and Lesbian teens through the difficult waters of adolescence. He evokes an intimate, and often heart-wrenching, portrayal of their pain. But this is not a story about living on the fringes, or about hopelessness and discouragement.

The book is a powerfully universal "Coming of Age" story that gets to the core of our strengths as Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual people. For in coming to terms with their own Gayness, Derek, Amy, Dan, Troy, Michele, and Tara reach deep into themselves to discover the essence of who they are in a way that goes beyond the consequences of their sexual orientation. These are stories of courage, integrity and conviction—and these are young people who seem to possess a depth of maturity that belies their youth.

Chandler's book began as a remarkable award-winning 20 page supplement to the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, first published in December, 1992.

Rita Reed, an openly Lesbian photographer for the paper, initiated the project as an extension of her own work in the community with Gay and Lesbian youth. Her evocative photos showed both her subjects' extreme isolation and their joy.

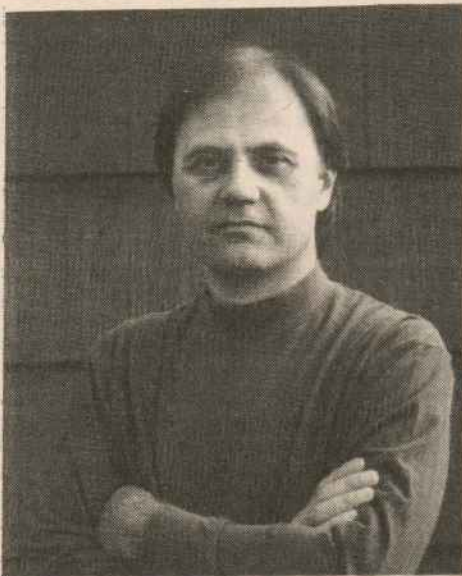
Due to an editor's decision to limit the book to a prose-only format, Reed's photos did not become part of the book. However, Chandler's powerful word pictures call forth so much about these kids that readers won't notice that the photos are missing.

For Chandler himself, writing the book has involved a journey that still continues. A middle-aged father and husband, he recently left daily journalism to work as an author and freelancer, returning to the Milwaukee area where he had spent his youth.

Given his background as a journalist, Chandler covers his subject with a thoroughness and descriptive crispness that provides a solid factual framework for a narrative that evokes intimacy and emotional intensity. He gets inside the hearts and heads of these kids and their families in an incredible way.

He's chosen an innovative format for his book that weaves the young people's lives together with information about resources and the greater Lesbian and Gay movement, in the process, he provides a well-grounded context for readers for whom this is also unexplored territory.

He devotes three chapters to each of his six subjects, weaving their stories together throughout the book into a rich tapestry of a shared voyage of discovery.



Kurt Chandler

Although Chandler traveled to both coast in writing this book, there's a distinctly Midwestern flavor to his work. It conveys a Midwestern common sense about the Lesbian and Gay struggle that defies the Radical Right's notion that we are somehow anti-family.

As a so-called "outsider," Chandler's view of our movement is a cornucopia of valuable insights. More than any other book I've read this year with the exception of Urvashi Vaid's *Virtual Equality*, Chandler's *Passages of Pride* succeeds in providing a comprehensive overview of both our movement's strengths and weaknesses.

Youth vs. Age

One of the most difficult chapters to read is his discussion of the barriers that older Gay men and Lesbians face in reaching out to Gay youth. He does so without judgment, but the message is clear.

As Gay men and Lesbians, we have far too often let "molestation myths" and the public's general homophobia-based wariness around issues involving Gay youth prevent us from reaching out to these kids.

The kids aren't as alone as they used to be, but things still have a long way to go. Chandler thoroughly documents encouraging signs of change symbolized by the Lesbian and Gay youth centers that are taking hold in places like Seattle, Indianapolis, New York and in the Twin Cities.

Madison's teen support group is one example of the beginnings of essential support.

Passages of Pride is a story of hope and courage, but for all too many Gay and Lesbian youth, the realization of self involves being booted out of their home, rejection by their peers, or, in frighteningly high numbers, eventual suicide.

Editor's Note: For a limited time, copies of *Growing Up Gay*, the *Minneapolis Star Tribune's* 20 page supplement, which includes Reed's award winning photos, are available from the paper at \$1.50 each. Send a check to: The Star Trib, Attn.: Back Copies, 425 Portland Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55488.

See interview with Chandler elsewhere in this issue of *Light*.

Kurt Chandler, Author of "Passages of Pride," Talks About His Book

By Jason Alan-Medard

While slugging coffee at the local Comet coffee shop here in Milwaukee, I happened to run into Kurt Chandler, author of Passages of Pride: Lesbian and Gay Youth Come of Age. He was gracious enough to give me an interview so that I could better understand what went into his book.

Jason Alan Medard: Tell me a little about "Passages of Pride." Where did it start? How did it start?

Kurt Chandler: The book grew out of a newspaper project I was working on back in 1992. I was asked by a colleague of mine (Rita Reed), who is a Lesbian, if I was interested in working on a project that would document the lives of Gay and Lesbian teenagers.

I was skeptical at first. I thought there was no way we were going to find any teenagers to talk to us, much less allow us to use their names in a newspaper and be photographed.

But, after about 2 or 3 months of knocking on doors, contacting leaders of support groups and school officials, months of hanging around coffee houses, we did find a number of teenagers who were courageous enough to work with us on this project.

The result was a special newspaper supplement that was published in a special section of the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* in December, 1992. From there, I went on to work on my own on this book.

(Chandler added that in writing Passages of Pride, he went on to interview Gay and Lesbian teens from around the country. In addition, he also interviewed sociologists, geneticists, teachers and others familiar with Gay people, and especially Lesbian and Gay teens.)

JAM: How difficult was it to find these young people?

KC: It took a lot of hours to find young people who were brave enough to come out in print. However, it was mostly word of mouth.

You talk to one person and they refer you to someone else. You talk to teachers and coun-

selors and they refer you to a group of kids. Eventually, I found quite a few young people who were okay with the idea of going public.

Sometimes, I met them in person, sometimes I interviewed them over the phone, sometimes I interviewed them on-line.

(Chandler added that most of the young people he interviewed used their own names. He found that most courageous, he said, and applauded those young people for their efforts.)

JAM: Do you think "Passages of Pride" is the best way to approach young people wrestling with their sexuality?

KC: I was trying to reach young people in the midst of coming out who needed someone to relate to. A lot of the stories, a lot of the anecdotes, are very personal and very descriptive of the lives of Gay and Lesbian teenagers in their childhood through adolescence.

On a fundamental level, the book gives readers an idea of what Gay teens go through as they come to terms with their sexual orientation.

That was the first goal I had.

Secondly, I wanted to reach the parents and their siblings and anyone who works with adolescents to give those people an idea of who these young people are and some of the things they are going through. I hope I to reach everyone.

JAM: All too often, many heterosexuals choose to separate themselves from Gay issues. How did you, as a straight male, get so heavily involved in Gay matters? Did working on this project change you at all?

KC: As a journalist, I'd been reporting on a number of social issues—Gay issues, abortion issues, etc. That was my area of expertise in my 14 years of being a reporter.

Along the way, I realized that there really wasn't much written about Gay teens in the mainstream press. I became much more of an advocate for Gay teens and much less of an

TURN TO PASSAGES, PAGE 9

Martina Navratilova
and LIZ NICKLES

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Edited by Richard Dyer

New Book for Gay Travelers Lets You Cruise and Trick in Seven Languages

By Bennett Chotner

Hot! International! Gay!

David Appell, Paul Balido, eds.
Babelcom, NY, 318pp

Do you know that . . . ?
For the Spanish, a hot guy is a "bonbon."
Brazilian condoms are "little shirts," while in France they're "hooded coats."
Say you're vacationing in Madrid, Rio or Prague and you'd like to conduct a foreign affair. You see Mr., or Ms. Right, but your broken down Spanish you learned in high school didn't prepare you for situations like this—and you never knew any Portuguese or Czech. What do you do?
Trying to meet someone across a language barrier is a common problem for tourists—and not unknown to somebody here in the U.S. as English becomes more and more of a second language in various parts of the country.
Not to worry.
There's a handy little phrase book just out called **Hot! International! Gay!** That covers every situation, everything you need to know—and then some—in seven languages: German, Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese,

Czech and, of course, English.

Bist du aktiv oder passiv? You ask a sweet fraulein in old Berlin. The pronunciation is easy with the universal phonetics key supplied with each language.

Or a particular situation in Madrid or Mexico City or wherever is getting a bit rough? Simply say, "Quitame las esposas!" (Take the handcuffs off) and hope limits are respected.

I know several languages and I know too that phrase books can be a real chore. But this one has a couple of things going for it:

It's easy to use. The zebra stripe format make it easy to use;

And, there are words and phrases in it that unless you really have been around in the country's Gay life, you probably don't know. If for no other reason, the book is worth buying to commit these to memory.

Hey, you never know when you'll meet that sultry someone from a distant land at your next party. Oh yeah, sure, the chances are very good that they'll know English, but there is nothing, absolutely nothing that is more flattering and more of a compliment than trying to speak someone's language.

BESTSELLER LIST

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1. **Heatwave: Stories of Lesbian Longing** by Lucy J. Bledsoe, Alyson Pb-----\$9.95
2. **The Hadra** by Diana Rivers, Alyson Pb-----\$9.95
3. **Murder at Monticello** by Rita M. Brown, Bantam Pb-----\$5.99
4. **A Ghost in the Closet** by Mabel Maney, Cleis Pb-----\$10.95
5. **House Rules** by Heather Lewis, Serpent's Tail Pb-----\$12.99
6. **Forbidden Passages: Writings Banned in Canada** by Pat Califia, Cleis Pb-----\$14.95
7. **Tomboys: Tales of Dyke Derring-Doby** Lynne Y. Fletcher, Alyson Pb-----\$9.95
8. **Changes** by Jackie Calhoun, Naiad Pb-----\$10.95
9. **Small Sacrifices** by Ann Rule, NAL/Dutton Pb-----\$5.99
10. **Dark Angels: Lesbian Vampire Stories** edited by Pam Kelsey, Cleis Pb-----\$10.95

Gay Fiction

1. **Dream Boy** by Jim Grimsley, Algonquin Books HC-----\$18.95
2. **Drag Queen** by Robert Rodi, NAL/Dutton HC-----\$21.95
3. **Fairy Tales: Traditional Tales Retold for Gay Men**, Peter Cashorali, Harper-----\$18.00
4. **Another Dead Teenager** by Mark Zubro, Saint Martin's Press-----\$19.95
5. **Jack of Hearts** by Joseph Hansen, NAL/Dutton Pb-----\$10.95
6. **What They Did to Princess Paragon** by Robert Rodi, NAL/Dutton Pb-----\$10.95
7. **American Stuides** by Mark Merlis, Viking Penguin Pb-----\$10.95
8. **Mike & the Marines** by Eric Boyd, Masquerade Pb-----\$5.95
9. **Sea of Tranquillity** by Paul Russell, NAL/Dutton Pb-----\$12.95
10. **Pawn to Queen Four** by Lars Eighner, Saint Martin's Press HC-----\$21.95

Lesbian Non-Fiction

1. **Ferrair's Places for Women** Ferrari Publications Pb-----\$14.00
2. **Butch-Femme** by M.G. Soares, Crown Pub HC-----\$12.00
3. **The Femme Mystique** by Leslea Newman, Alyson Pb-----\$11.95
4. **Aimee & Jaguar: A Love Story, Berlin 1943** by Erica Fischer, HarperCollins HC \$24.00
5. **Virtual Equality** by Urvashi Vaid, Doubleday HC-----\$24.95
6. **The Revenge of Hothead Paisan: Homicidal Lesbian Terrorist** by Diane DiMassa, Cleis Pb-----\$16.95
7. **The Roquelaure Reader: A Companion to Anne Rice's Erotica** by Katherine Ramsland, NAL/Dutton Pb-----\$12.95
8. **What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality** by Daniel Helminiak, Alamo Square Pb-----\$9.95
9. **My Life So Far: Edith Ann** by Jane Wagner, Hyperion Pb-----\$7.95
10. **Lesbian Pillow Book** Harper HC-----\$8.00

Gay Non-Fiction

1. **In Defense of Beauty** by Tom Bianchi, Crown Pub HC-----\$12.00
2. **You Know You're Gay When . . .** by Joseph Cohen, Contemporary Books HC-----\$9.95
3. **Damron Address Book 1996** Damron Pb-----\$14.95
4. **Winter's Light: Reflections of a Yankee Queer**, John Preston, University Press-----\$19.95
5. **Virtually Normal** by Andrew Sullivan, Knopf HC-----\$22.00
6. **Natural Fitness** by Bob Paris, Warner Books Pb-----\$13.99
7. **My First Time** by Jack Hart, Alyson Pb-----\$9.95
8. **Gay Soul** by Mark Thompson, Harper HC-----\$22.00
9. **Gay Soul** by Mark Thompson, Harper Pb-----\$13.00
10. **What the Bible Really Says about Homosexuality**, Daniel Helminiak, Alamo Square Pb-----\$9.95

The above lists were provided courtesy of AfterWords Bookstore

'Happily Ever After' Gives a Valentine's View of Matters of the Heart

Happily Ever After

Stacy Chandler
Speculators, 207pp

By Polly M. Blakemore

If you have just met Ms. Wonderful, or if you're getting to know her even more intimately than you ever thought possible when you first kissed her 30 years ago—or even if you thought you'd met Ms. Wonderful and she turned out to be Ms. Wicked—you'll enjoy Stacy Chandler's **Happily Ever After**, a self-published, laugh-out-loud, insightful book that Chandler wrote in celebration of her and her lover Pootie's 16th anniversary.

You can read Chandler's anecdotal account from cover to cover by chapter—you can start with "Meeting Ms. Wonderful" and end with "Interlacing," or you can sample at random from "Bill of Faire" (aka table of contents) chapters dealing with "Phobic Body Parts," "Answers to Stupid Questions," and "Holiday Hell."

You can, in other words make it through topics covered in **Happily Ever After** like you might make it through a relationship itself: At once or in pieces.

But whatever your style or romantic status, Chandler is a consistently entertaining and perceptive guide, a comedian and counselor as adept at humor as she is at learning from hindsight.

She helps you find your way, and, very usefully, lets you know how you can stay out of the way, such as when you and your lover need to negotiate each other's "crunchy" times of day, those few hours, perhaps in the morning or afternoon, when you are by nature incommunicable and snarl easily, despite your

love for your sweet heart and her good cheer.

Although not everyone may relate to the particulars of Stacy and Pootie's relationship, most Lesbians can appreciate the insights Chandler draws from them and the wit with which she shares them—deadpan, and dead-on, an engaging approach Chandler maintains by using lots of imperatives and declaratives (this is an advice book, after all), often marked by uppercase text and quotes, making for an effective visual voice.

Sometimes, Chandler's prose isn't as tight as it could be, but the loose construction keeps things conversational, confessional, so we learn readily of—and from—their relationship, smiling easily when we recognize ourselves, our friends, or human nature in general, and Lesbian human nature in particular.

As Chandler's stories and observations about her relationship show, lovers can be very different from each other, even opposites. What binds them together (and keeps them happy) is their ability to be aware (and sometimes beware); to be patient, honest, and willing; and to have perspective and heart, even (or especially) in the midst of their worst fight ever.

In other words, lovers have to be committed to each other, and an important part of such dedication is the ability to let your lover be herself. Trying to change your lover, no matter how righteous and certain you may feel in your mission, is probably a mistake (if not futile), as Chandler explains in "Adjusting to One Another."

Happily Ever After is one truly great read and should be on every couple's shelves—or on anyone's shelf who wants to be part of a couple.

'Divine Victim' is Engrossing and Beguiling Winter-Time Reading for Lesbians

Review by Mary Shafer

If you're looking for some reading material to curl up with by the fire during those often long Winter evenings, I'd like to recommend a new novel I came across recently.

Though it's not your typical "road" story a la *Boys on the Side* or *Thelma and Louise*, it has in common with these tales the facts that: 1) the main characters take to the pavement for destinations where the main body of each story takes place; 2) it involves a murder; and 3) the main characters are dykes.

Well, okay—the last part is wishful thinking: *Thelma and Louise* were dykes only in our minds (or at least not till they launched themselves off the cliff together).

Nevertheless, the story is both a fast read and is pretty entertaining, so give it a look:

DIVINE VICTIM

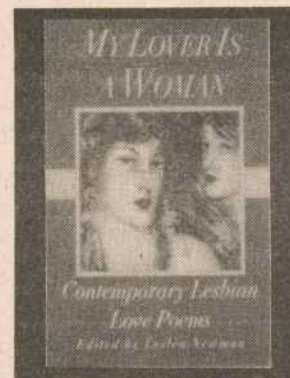
Mary Wings
Plume/Penguin, NY, 248 pp.
Sandra Scopetone, erstwhile dyke author extraordinaire **Everything You Have Is**
TURN TO DIVINE VICTIM, PAGE 19

A Valentine's Day gift from the heart.

My Lover Is A Woman

Contemporary Lesbian Love Poems

This superb compendium features the work of more than 120 poets, both well-known and unpublished, including Adrienne Rich, Joy Harjo, Dorothy Allison, June Jordan, Judy Grahn, and Muriel Rukeyser.



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Farm Boys Grew Up Close to Families But Far From Everything Else

By Sue Burke

Growing up on a Midwest farm during the first two-thirds of this century afforded special entanglements and protections to Gay men. The insular life of a farm family could stifle the men, or it could shelter them from the homophobic expectations and ridicule of their school-age peers.

Farm life did even more than that, according to research by Milwaukeean Will Fellows. His work, the result of more than 74 interviews, will appear this Spring in a book, *Farm Boys: Lives of Gay Men from the Rural Midwest*, to be published by the University of Wisconsin Press.

Fellows, now a nutritionist, grew up on a dairy farm in Rock County, Wisconsin. After searching for information on Gay men like himself and not finding any, he decided to write his own book. He sent press releases in the spring of 1992 to Gay publications inviting men to participate in interviews.

The result is what Fellows calls an "autobiographical anthology" narrating the lives of 26 of the men, aged 25 to 84, with interviews of the remaining 48 excerpted for other chapters of the book. He finished the final draft of the book in the Summer of 1995 and in early 1996 began a 4,000-mile, five-month tour around the Midwest to promote the book.

He uses photos supplied by the men in his slide-illustrated talk. Often, Fellows says in his talk, Midwest farm families came from German stock and brought their culture to America, with social life centered around the Lutheran church. In rural areas, where everyone knew everyone else's business, gossip and criticism fostered conformity.

Most farms also divided work strictly along gender roles. Men and boys tended livestock and fields, and maintained farm machinery and vehicles. Women and girls kept the house and garden, and on smaller farms also raised chickens and milk cows.

The Gay men Fellows interviewed usually hated field work and machinery repair and often would have preferred to perform "women's work." One man said, "I felt like a damn bumbling idiot around farm machinery."

"Where I grew up," said a man named Dennis from southwestern Wisconsin, "men were men and women were women, and there really wasn't anything in between. Steered toward being strong, silent and tough, I accumulated lots of layers as I went along."

Dennis said the layers became a wall, and now at age 49, after "insane" drinking and relationships, "I'm finally growing up and finding myself."

Farm life also lacked the access to information about homosexuality that urban boys might have found. In fact, farm life lacked information about sexuality generally, which Fellows suspects made it harder for some men to come out.

"If I had stayed on the farm," one man told Fellows, "I would have never dealt with being Gay. I would have probably gotten married and had sex with men on the side. I think a lot

of Gays don't leave the farm. There's probably a lot of people out there who are doing that. So many people there are alcoholics, and I think that's what a lot of Gays gravitate toward to kind of deaden their feelings."

But the strong-willed nature of farm folk also rubbed off on these Gay men.

"I was free to be who I was," said a man from Sleepy Eye, Minnesota. "We were raised to be independent, to think for ourselves. That came really strong from my mom. Who cares what the neighbors think? They don't have to live your life. You have to do what you feel is right for yourself."

Being isolated from other people also allowed these boys to develop a stronger attachment for the animals and plants both on the farm and in nature, and to value the freedom of wide spaces and solitude. A man named Everett remembered that when he got too much teasing about being a sissy at school, he would escape to walk through the woods or ride his horse.

"It was almost a gift to be able to get away and think my own thoughts, to ride free and unrestrained," he said.

As adults, most of these men now live in or near cities, a life they can't quite connect to. Fellows himself feels like an "outsider" in the Gay bars and clubs.

Some have become activists while others try to lead good and self-reliant lives, but most hope social change and acceptance of Gay lives will eventually reach the farms.

Fellows limited his research to Midwest farms because that's "the farming part of the country." He suspects Gay farm boys from other parts of the country had different experiences depending on their region's culture, ethnic makeup and type of farming.

He also suspects the experience of Lesbian farm girls differed from Gay boys, probably because girls got more latitude in their gender roles, and he hopes some former farm girl might investigate the topic.

However, the lives he chronicled were of a time and culture that has disappeared. A man in southeastern Nebraska said: "The patterns of rural life have disintegrated into a cheap imitation of suburban life. Small communities such as the one I come from don't have much of a sense of community anymore. They lose their grocery store. They become just a collection of old people living off what years they have left and wondering what their kids are up to 1,000 miles away. There is a center of life that has disappeared, and I'm not sure what anybody can do about it any more."

One thing has sent Gay farm boys back home: AIDS. Since the 1980s, Fellows says, men with AIDS have moved back to their families for care, which has forced rural communities to acknowledge the existence of Gay men in their midst.

But that news hasn't changed things, he says. Many of these men have found attitudes toward homosexuality remain grounded in silence, ignorance and a notion of "taking care of our own wayward souls who have come home to die."

"Geography of Perversion" Charts Views of Gay Sexuality in East and West

By Barbara Jester

The Geography of Perversion
Rudi C. Bleys
New York University Press, 320pp

Recent years have seen enormous attention devoted to the history of sexuality in the Western World. But how has the West conceived of non-Western patterns of same-sex desire? And how, in turn, have Western societies been influenced by these other traditions.

The Geography of Perversion, 1750-1918, is the first historical study to demonstrate convincingly that the representation of cultural "otherness," as found in European thought from the Enlightenment through modern times is closely interrelated with modern constructions of Gay and Lesbian identity.

The author, Rudi C. Bleys, holds a Ph.D. in European intellectual history from the University of Leuven.

Travel reports and early ethnographic accounts of cross-gender roles in the Americas, Africa, and Asia corroborated the 18th Century construction of "sodomite" identity, Bleys says.

Similarly, the late 19th Century construction of the "third sex" provoked much anthropological speculation on the congenial versus circumstantial nature of same-sex sexual relations.

In *The Geography of Perversion*, Bleys seeks to unravel how the categories of the modern "sodomite" and later "homosexual" were inextricably intertwined with essentialist definitions of racial identity.

In encyclopedic detail, Bleys traces how cross-cultural records were collected, created, structured, manipulated, excerpted, reformulated and omitted in interaction with changing beliefs about same-sex sexuality.

Chapters focus on such topics as tropicaliza-

tion of "abominable sin"; Puritanism, sodomy and ethnicity in colonial North America; cross-gender behavior and hermaphroditism; the semiotics of genitalia; the gender revolution and changing profiles of Gay cultures in the West; and the parameters of sexual science.

The book is not for the faint of heart. The prose is scholarly and, at times, laborious. The footnotes are ample and there is a comprehensive index.

It is not a "good" read, not for the average reader, but it is a necessary read for all those having some degree of background in history and philosophy and an interest in the development of the concepts of same-sex sexuality.

PASSAGES

Continued from Page 7

impartial, unbiased journalist. I realized that this was a group that needed some attention.

JAM: How did this affect your family life? Does it ever present any interesting situations?

KC: No, not really. Along the way I used to talk with my wife about the project and my son used to listen to those conversations every time. I think it, in many ways, sensitized him to Gay issues. It made him more aware of homosexuality and some of the challenges that Gay teens face.

JAM: Do you think books like yours are effective in providing a path for parents to understand issues facing our community? Do you think your being a parent helps other parents get something out of your book?

KC: I hope it reaches that audience. However, this isn't a book written by the parent of a Gay teen. My son is 13 and I don't know

what his orientation is yet, and my daughter is 5. So, this is written as a piece of journalism.

JAM: As an author, and also as a person familiar with Gay youth issues, what do you anticipate as the future of Gay young people?

KC: I still think that there is a lot of ignorance and apathy out there towards Gay teens. Unfortunately, many people, from ALL walks of life, just don't give a damn about Gay teens. I still think that holds true today.

Although there are books, magazines, on-line services specifically designed for Gay teenagers, there is still a lack of support for Gay teens.

Although I am optimistic and hopeful that things will get better, I am cautiously optimistic because I see things like debates in Congress to cut back on funding that supports Gay

teens in the schools.

I see things like school boards passing resolutions to again limit educational material on human sexuality in the schools.

There is a backlash going on right now and that's unfortunate. I see a lot of progress being made, but I do see a backlash.

(Chandler added that his is not a book of gloom and doom. The young people he wrote about are, for the most part, doing well. They have survived adolescence and many of them are in school now. Some are working, some are in relationships.)

Editor's Note: The interviewer is himself a teen, currently in high school. He believes it vitally important for everyone to know that Gay young people need support along the way and that their development hinges on that support. That is the focus of this book.

'Better Angel' is a 1933 Classic About the Martyrdom of Silence in a Rigid Age

Better Angel
Richard Meeker
Alyson, \$5.95

By Bob Thompson

Last Spring an elderly man entered A Different Light Bookstore in West Hollywood and requested a copy of *Better Angel*, an underground classic that was first published in 1933.

The book, written under the pseudonym of Richard Meeker, was one of the few novels of the time to portray Gays in a positive light, although Meeker himself was never interviewed or heard from again. After the book went out of print, rare copies were circulated for decades until Alyson Publications published the present edition in paperback.

The manager of A Different Light gave the man a copy of the book and commented in passing that it was "a wonderful novel."

"I'm so glad to hear that," said the 87-year-old customer, "because I'm Richard Meeker."

Thus it happened that 55 years after its publication, the pseudonymous author of *Better Angel* was identified as Forman Brown, 1988 recipient of the Los Angeles Drama Critics' Circle Lifetime Achievement Award for his work as founder of Hollywood's Turnabout Theatre.

Better Angel is an autobiographical novel based on Brown's youth in Michigan, early travels in Europe and his hopes for a career in music and the theater.

As the novel opens, Kurt Gray is a 13-year-old boy "of unusual seriousness, unusual loneliness, and unusual innocence" with a "love of beauty and . . . sensitiveness that set him apart from his companions."

Early on he discovers masturbation and with it church-endorsed guilt; "The 'secret vice' was responsible, he learned to his horror, for insanity, feeble-mindedness, loss of memory and all sorts of disease." Kurt feels his only hope "on earth lay in Rejuvo Elixir, a quack medicine."

College broadens Kurt, helps him shed his youthful and irrational fears, but he still realizes that he is different and that "no matter how many friends we make, we're lonely just the same . . . It's a strange thing inside us that sets us down in a lonely place, walls us up and leaves us there." Walls, both emotional and literal, are a recurring motif in *Better Angel*. Meeker makes it clear that these walls were necessary in his era, a "martyrdom of silence" brought about by a rigidly homophobic society.

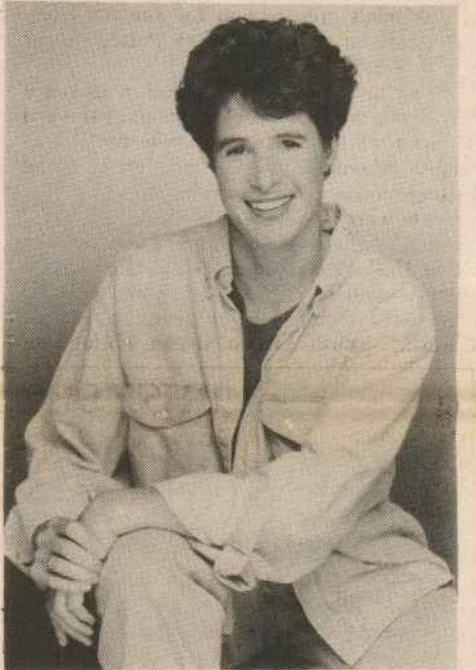
Kurt is introspective and bookish, an "invert" who seeks "the perfection of love—for the unfolding and consummate love that makes of each lover both master and slave." It is the stuff of poets dreams.

It is this search for love that comprises much of *Better Angel*. At times Kurt is bitter at having to conceal his inner feelings. He realizes that "Each kind of passion—man and woman, man and man, woman and woman—has all degrees of love; from love that is pure and high and fine, down the scale to lust that is

ugly and despicable. The only difference is—the only damned difference is that for us there's no way of getting social sanction—so we go around the world like a lot of sorry ghosts, being forever ashamed of a thing we've no reason to be ashamed of."

Better Angel is more than a period piece. It's an affirmation that despite society's religious-based bigotry and oppression, tenderness and love can prevail. Despite Christianity and all the rest, there is love.

Near the book's end, after counseling a young Gay student, Kurt reflects on "the destiny of all such boys everywhere—their heritage of desire and shame, of uncertainty, of deception, of hypocrisy and of tumultuous joy and burning regret—of concealing the truth and revealing the lie." Thanks to such groundbreaking works as *Better Angel*, there is much less deception and hypocrisy now than in 1933.



Gail Hand

Lesbian Comedian, Gail Hand, will present her humorous lecture on coming out, "Hand's Up On Coming Out" on Wednesday, February 21st at 7:30 p.m. at UW-Milwaukee in the Union's Fireside Lounge. The general public is invited.

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LIVELY ARTS



Time to Elope—Laurence Fishburne (Othello) and Kenneth Branagh (Iago) star in William Shakespeare's play brought to the screen, "Othello," which is now playing at Milwaukee's Downer Theatre.

'Man of the Year' is a Fun, Smart Film Showcasing Stud-Muffin Dirk Shafer

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Back more years than Glenn would like to admit (even under oath), Glenn would surreptitiously sneak copies of *Playgirl* magazine up to the counter at the local drug store. Not for himself, mind you. Oh, no. Glenn had a deal with his shy friend (and biology partner) Nancy.

Nancy would do all of the dissection projections: frogs, lamb eyes, pig hearts, worms, ad nauseam and Glenn would buy her issues of *Playgirl* magazine.

Ok, fine. It's all a lie. Glenn bought *Playgirl* for himself.

Well, surely Glenn wasn't the only teenage boy in America who used his allowance and Summer job moneys on such visual stimulation as *Playgirl* magazine. Surely not!

Glenn had always thought that all of those ever-so luscious *Playgirl* models (like those fabulous Chippendale dancers) were 100% heterosexual. Well, at least Glenn thought so until a few of the *Playgirl* models began appearing in Gay Porn. Not necessarily under the same name but Glenn never forgets a...

Of course many of these *Playgirl* models still insisted that they were straight. But seriously, how many straight men would be willing to appear in a Gay sex pic?!? Not very many, at least by Glenn's estimation.

One ever-so luscious *Playgirl* model (who also graces one of Glenn's favorite birthday cards) was one Dirk Shafer.

Last Summer Dirk told his remarkable story in one of *Advocate* magazine's best-selling issues: a Gay man in the strange land of *Playgirl* magazine. In *Man of the Year*, Shafer re-creates his year as a *Playgirl* "Man of the Year".

Dirk Shafer is clearly not just another pretty face (and hunky physique). *Man of the Year*, which Dirk wrote, directed and stars in, is a wry and wonderfully wicked look at the business of selling sex in America.

In faux documentary style, Shafer chronicles all of the hilarious incongruity of a Gay man

placed in the curious position of having to portray, day in and day out, every straight woman's sexual fantasy.

For one full year, *Playgirl* publicity had poor Dirk on an itinerary that had him schleping from coast to coast, leaving out no cheesy TV talk-show nor any Supermarket opening.

Shafer cleverly mixes the real and the re-created in *Man of the Year* to offer a decidedly pointed, often candidly self-deprecating portrait of a unique opportunity that goes somewhat array. On one hand Shafer incorporates clips of many of Dirk's talk show appearances: Donahue (in which Dirk came in last in a "Best Buns" contest), Sally Jesse and Joan Rivers to name a few.

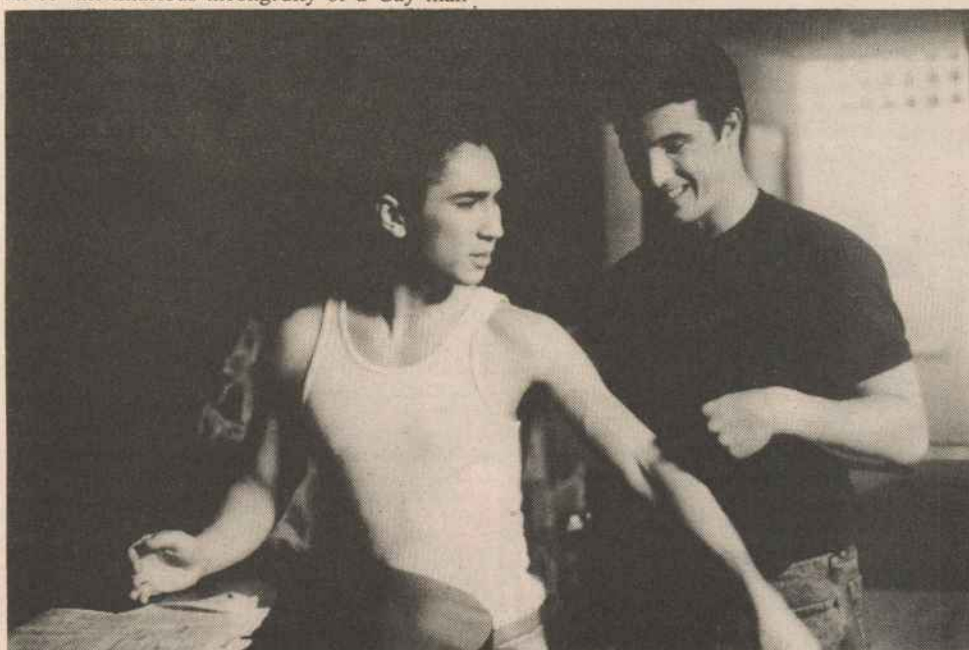
Adding an uncanny touch of reality are "real" little sis Deidra and best buddy Vivian Paxton on hand playing themselves, as are fellow *Playgirl* centerfold Thom Collins and the legendary (!?) Fabio.

Dirk Shafer is certainly a pleasant, engaging fellow. Whether it is during the recreation of the dream date in which one lucky *Playgirl* reader (female, naturally) wins with *Playgirl*'s Man of the Year (and in which Dirk naively brings new boyfriend Michael along and hides in the bathroom) or while fielding increasingly frequent and frighteningly obsessive correspondences from self-proclaimed "No. 1 fan" Lady La Flame, a bleached out small-town stripper, Dirk emerges as an innocent if rather hunky Peter Pan sentenced to a year in a mystifying, perplexing heterosexual neverland.

Man of the Year is a smart and fun film and definitely one to please those many fans of Dirk Shafer, a *Playgirl* stud-muffin with a brain. Highly enjoyable and highly recommended!

Man of the Year plays February 4th at Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (see page 12 for details).

Rating: \$\$\$\$ (scale \$ to \$\$\$\$\$)



Andy (Robert Pecora) ridicules Ramon (Tymme Reitz) by implying that he looks like a model in a Gay magazine in "No Ordinary Love," scheuled February 22nd at the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (see page 12 for details).

Forget the Rest, 'Mr. Holland's Opus' is Without a Doubt, THE Best!

By Dale E. Kuntz

Forget *Apollo 13*—Sense and Sensibility is senseless—Get *Shorty* gets the short end of the stick—don't bet on *Leaving Las Vegas*—and *Seven*, this time, is not a lucky number. **Mr. Holland's Opus** is the Best Picture of the Year!

A wonderful, sensitive and warm story is superbly brought to life by a brilliant cast. One of the Best Films this reviewer has seen in years!

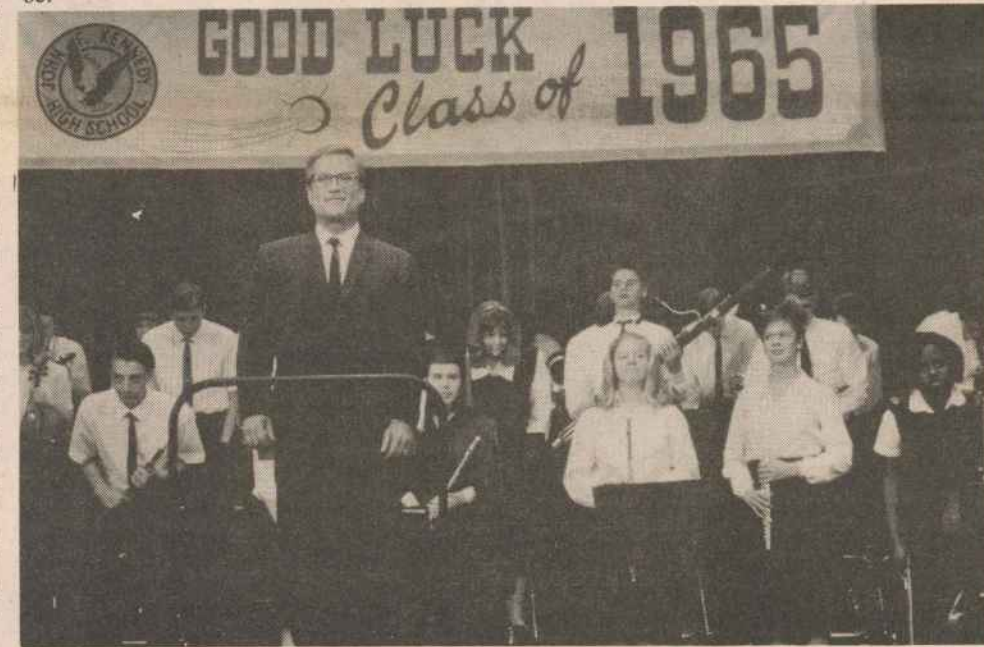
Richard Dreyfuss' performance is worthy of another Academy Award as Best Actor.

(Yes, he did win in 1977 for *The Goodbye Girl*—at the time, the youngest actor ever to win Best Actor. But...his competition was so weak...Richard Burton in *Equus*, one of his worst films...Woody Allen, just being himself in *Annie Hall*...Marcello Mastroianni in *A Special Day* and John Travolta in *Saturday Night Fever*, which we know does not hold up.)

But here, Dreyfuss turns in probably the finest performance of his career. A performance so finely tuned in to his character—that he makes you feel you actually have known or know Mr. Holland.

With great makeup, created by Ken Chase, Dreyfuss ages from a young musician (who only takes the teaching job to help himself out financially while he composes and arranges his own music), to an older, mature man who has spent most of his life teaching.

He is being phased out by budget cuts, and his only concern is that future students will not be exposed to music—whatever type it may be.



Love of Music—After a career of teaching music rather than composing, Glenn Holland (Richard Dreyfuss) comes to realize that by inspiring his students, he's made a greater contribution to the arts than he ever could have imagined in "Mr. Holland's Opus."

Mr. Chase has done wonders by adding hair to Dreyfuss's head when he is younger and then gradually thinning it. The usual mustache is added to add a few years and lines and wrinkles gradually appear. But you are never aware that it is makeup. You become so involved with the character that he actually ages before your eyes.

And, Dreyfuss has added his own talent at changing his voice, ever so slightly, and slowing his body movements as he ages.

Glenne Headly as Iris, the wife, turns in an equally moving performance. She is a bit more obvious with her voice changes as she ages. In the early scenes, you think she is a bit too young to be married to Dreyfuss because she uses a very high, child-like voice. But, as she ages, she uses her natural voice and the two make a very good match.

Some four different actors portray the son, Cole, as he ages from six months to 28. It is a tribute to the actors who portray him—Olivier in *Wuthering Heights* and

especially Joseph Anderson (age 15) and Anthony Natale (age 28) because you never know if they are actually hearing impaired or just actors pretending.

Oscar-winning Olympia Dukakis and TV star ("Love and War"), Jay Thomas are also at the top of their form—though their roles are relatively small. A little scene in which Dukakis tells Mr. Holland what she thinks of him is one of the highlights of the film.

You might want to brush up on your current events or recent history, for no time titles are used in this film. The passage of time is very cleverly depicted by newsreels or recreations of the events of the time. The opening scene shows them changing the name of the high school to "John F. Kennedy"—which establishes the year as 1963. Clothing styles and hairdos help to create the time elements the story moves in to.

Many national critics have made comparisons to the classic *Goodbye Mr. Chips*. Every film from *Good Morning Miss Dove* to *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* to *The Blackboard Jungle*, about a teacher and his or her relationship with the students gets this same treatment.

What else is a film about a teacher and his pupils going to be about? Granted, some are much better than others—but, I think, comparisons to *Mr. Chips* are always unfair—except that it is a story about a teacher and his pupils.

Robert Donat received his well-deserved Academy Award for Best Actor (beating out Clark Gable in *Gone With The Wind*, Lau-

Jimmy Stewart in *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*) in *Goodbye Mr. Chips*. If Hollywood history repeats itself, Dreyfuss will win for **Mr. Holland's Opus**.

Don't miss this one! At the screening of **Mr. Holland** and later at another showing, the audience broke out in applause at the end of the film, something that doesn't happen at the movies too often these days.

Boulevard Theatre to Present Edward Albee's 'Seascape'

Milwaukee—The Boulevard Ensemble continues its 1995-'96 10th Anniversary season with a production of Edward Albee's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Seascape*.

Albee's subtle, witty play tells the story of two couples—one human and one lizard—who meet on a beach and have more in common than they anticipate.

Pamela Brown, who appeared in the Ensemble's productions of *Wincelmas Square* and *The Learned Ladies*, will direct the production of *Seascape*, which will be presented Thursdays to Sundays, February 16th to March 10th, at the Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue.

For performance times and ticket information, call Mark Bucher, the Ensemble's general director, at (414) 672-6019.



'Bed of Roses' is a Romantic Comedy that Will Provide a Fun Evening

By Dale E. Kuntz

If you enjoyed *Sleepless in Seattle*, *A Walk in the Clouds* or *While You Were Sleeping*, you will have a delightful evening at the movies with *Bed of Roses*. While not quite up to the previously mentioned films, it is a charming romantic comedy, with a wonderful performance by Christian Slater.

In complete contrast to Slater's also-new film, *Broken Arrow*, he portrays probably the most charming and likable character he ever has on the screen. You begin to wonder what takes Mary Stuart Masterson so long to admit that she loves him.

The initial premise may seem weak. He sees her crying in the window one night, feels sorry for her and sends her an enormous floral bouquet. But, once the story gets under way, both stars fall into their roles with great believability and sensitivity. You just know these two people will fall in love and that they really want to kiss each other.

Comedy relief, from what some may consider too much sweetness, is deftly handled by Pamela Segal as Masterson's best friend. Her lines often reflect what the general audience is thinking about what is happening at the time. Her scene and dialogue as the "Christmas Elf" is a joy to behold.

Boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl plots have been around since movies began. The ones that work and the ones we remember are those with a different twist or the boy and girl are believable together. This plot works on both levels.

When Masterson's past is revealed and her reluctance to love Slater and accept his family (in a wonderfully warm Christmas sequence) is finally understood, the film moves to its inevitable conclusion.

But, don't think you've got it figured out! It doesn't work that way. And, Slater's under-acting the whole sequence, gives the warm ending an added meaning.

New York City fans will love the lush cinematography of the city at night, in the rain and Central Park. I can't remember a film since *The Eddy Duchin Story* that used New York City as such a romantic background. So it isn't real? If you want violence, raw sex, brutal characters and dysfunctional families, this film is not for you.

But, if you can dispense with reality—let your emotions take over and lap up some love and laughter—you'll have a lucrative night at the movies.



Feast for the eyes—Robert Downey, Jr., (l), Sam Neill and Polly Walker star in Michael Hoffman's "Restoration," which is now showing at Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre.

'Restoration' Makes of Charles II's England a Pure Cinematic Delight

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn approached Michael Hoffman's film adaptation of Rose Tremain's novel with a great deal of caution, if not down right trepidation.

After all, Glenn absolutely adored Tremain's gloriously rich historical tapestry of the grandeur, decadence and general over all excesses ushered in with the restoration of the English monarchy in 1660. Still, Michael Hoffman's cinematic adaptation featured in the leading role of Robert Merivel one invariably annoying actor: Robert Downey, Jr.

Glenn nevertheless maintained, as per usual, an open mind and was justly and quite amply rewarded. *Restoration* is an absolute feast for the eyes and for the mind!

Robert Downey, Jr. might be in some minds a rather surprising choice to play Merivel in this oh so British drama (as does Meg Ryan, for that matter). The central role of Robert Merivel may not quite rightly be perceived as an "Everyman."

Still, as played by Downey, Merivel is anything but ordinary. While quite bright, Robert is primarily concerned with his own pleasures, a bit naive and more than a little bit foolish. A poor medical student, he is dazzled by the pomp and circumstance that accompanies the restoration of the English monarchy in the larger than life personage of Charles II (Sam Neill).

Twists of fate will lead our intrepid hero to court but it is his gullibility which will lead him to be married to the King's favorite mistress. The world is his oyster so long as he does not fall in love with his wife.

Suspense! Tension? Drama?! Well, not really. That he will fall in love with the beautiful and alluring Celia Clemence (Polly Walker) is at all times certain and somewhat besides the point. What follows: his fall from grace, his expulsion from Eden and the beginning of the road to real growth and maturity form the true heart of the film.

In Michael Hoffman's vision, England in the 1660's is brought vividly to life. The seductiveness and allure of court life are dazzling, so much so that Merivel's Quaker friend John Pearce (David Thewlis) continually, if with great futility, heeds caution.



Flowers everywhere—Christian Slater stars as Lewis, the owner of a New York City flower shop in a perfect Valentine's Day movie, "Bed of Roses."

For Gender Queers, Men in Drag are Neither Entertaining or Funny

Commentary by Jacquelyn Richter

As a gender queer, I have been bombarded with images of drag from the Gay and straight communities for most of my life. Almost all of these images are based on the perceived humor of a man dressed non-stereotypically. The humor is not unlike that of the old minstrel shows of Al Jolson that portrayed humor in unfair stereotypical images of Blacks.

From the straight community, drag humor has appeared in shows such as Benny Hill, Milton Berle, Flip Wilson, Bosom Buddies, John Larroquette, Martin, etc. Most recently, drag has become the fodder of the talk show circuit with drag marriages, drag makeovers, drag beauty contests, etc. Throughout, is the assumed inherent humor of the male in drag. Most recently, drag has come to epitomize the sleaze of talk shows.

The Gay community is not that different. There are drag bars, drag entertainment at Gay bars, female impersonators at Gay events and even at PrideFest. There are always flamboyant Gays in drag on the Pride grounds and in the Pride Parade. This year, I read that PrideFest organizers plan to bring in professional female impersonators for entertainment.

Again is the perceived inherent entertainment value of men in drag.

I have no basic objection to Gays who are transgendered earning a living from their transgendered status. I do object to non-transgendered Gays or straights using drag as humor.

If drag images were balanced with a broader picture of the gender queer community this would be different. But drag has become the stereotypical image of gender queers. The continued use of drag perpetuates the public image of gender queers as flamboyant, humorous individuals. The general public feels free to openly ridicule, embarrass and mistreat gender queers.

More of us gender queers are coming out of the closet and are demanding equal access to employment, housing, family and medical rights. In seeking these God-given societal rights, gender freaks must not only overcome the prejudice that accompanies anyone who does not live according to societal norms, we must also overcome the societal impression that gender freaks are not to be taken seriously.

Society has formed this impression in part, based on the public display of drag by Gays and straights.

If PrideFest organizers are serious about utilizing female impersonators for entertainment, I hope they can be convinced of the harm that they may do to the small, but growing out and politically active transgender community.

If PrideFest organizers insist on using drag entertainment, I wonder if they plan to balance the drag image with positive images of the gender queer community?

I also wonder if this year, gender queers will be included in the mission statement of PrideFest along with Gays, Bi's and Lesbians?

PrideFest should be an event of Pride for the entire queer community, Gays, Bi's, Lesbians and Tran's. It should not be an event that perpetuates false stereotypical images of gender queers for entertainment value.



Happy Valentine's Day

"Yes . . . it's yours."

The dinners, the music, the notes, the hungry searching into each other's eyes. You entice my soul to sing & cause my body to quiver.

Time with you is too short & time without you stretches to eternity.

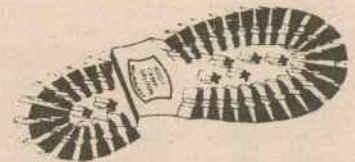
And our usual position; loving, laughing & losing ourselves into quiet bliss.

I toast the expansive meadow & exciting adventures ahead with you . . . only you.

Your Tomato Aspik ("It really belongs to me.")



Sci-Fi Thriller—Bruce Willis (l) and heart-throb Brad Pitt star in "12 Monkeys," a box office hit which also stars Madeline Stowe.



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Great Lakes Film & Video

PRESENTS THE

1996 Milwaukee Gay + Lesbian Film + Video Fest

February 2-8, 1996
UWM Union Cinema,
2200 Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee

Friday February 2

7PM **SKIN DEEP**

Midi Onodera, Canada 1994 85 min.

Onodera's debut film is a compelling thriller about obsession and disguise. Alex is a filmmaker preparing to shoot a film about the pleasures and pain of tattooing. After placing an ad in a tattoo magazine, Alex is introduced to the young, transgendered Chris, who writes her an intriguing letter about the sexual pleasures of tattooing. Although hired by Alex as a "production assistant," Chris quickly becomes a research subject for Alex's film. Alex's self-absorption and Chris's growing obsession with Alex intertwine and create a volatile situation. Finally pushed to the limit by Alex's selfishness, Chris is provoked into desperate behavior in order to regain Alex's full attention. "Equating transgender body alteration with tattooing within the story of a filmmaker consumed by her project on the pleasure-pain principle, *Skin Deep* undeniably stalks fresh territory." --Variety

9PM **NO ORDINARY LOVE**

Doug Witkins, USA 1995 104 min.

Possibly the most handsome--and certainly the hottest--gay movie of the year, *No Ordinary Love* is a comedy-drama about the tangled lives and loves of six not entirely likable LA friends who are left to pick up the pieces after the death of Tom, their darkly charismatic and manipulative leader. This sexy, stylish film is riddled with 'blink-and-you'll-miss-them' plot twists and turns. "*No Ordinary Love* marks an astounding debut for director Doug Witkins, who has crafted an ensemble movie as good as *Grief* and with the look of *Melrose Place*." --1995 San Francisco Lesbian & Gay Film Festival

Saturday February 3

7PM **GAY SHORTS**

THE PARTY FAVOR

Lisa Udelson, USA 1994 20 min.

In this clever comedy, Susie and Debbie are sweeties begrudgingly attending a bridal shower for Debbie's soon-to-be sister-in-law. When Debbie's brother, Perry, shows up, they come away with more than just your average party favor.

PRAGUE

Patrick Snee, USA 1995 9 min.

This short film focuses on one man as he expresses his distress about his newfound love's departure in a series of letters he plans to send before his beau has even left.

THE DEAD MAN WAS A WOMAN

Cornelia Wyngaarden, Canada 1993 20 min.

A tongue-in-cheek murder mystery involving a cross-dressing longshore-gal, her wife, a drug-dealing snake in the grass, a couple of pistols and a gang of 1960s bar dykes.

YOU AND I WILL PLAY

Randy Casperson, USA 1995 5 min.

Four different episodes offer differing views of the relationship between two men in love...or was it just a phase? (Casperson is a UWM film graduate.)

I BECAME A LESBIAN AND SO CAN YOU

Lizzie Donahue, USA 1994 11 min.

How to become a lesbian and change your life for the better! Outstanding personal testimonials in the lesbian infomercial answer the question "Do lesbians recruit?"

LEFTOVERS

Janine Fung, Canada 1994 8 min.

A young girl gets a surprising reception and a good deal of misunderstanding from her traditional family when she brings her girlfriend home for a family holiday.

RAMBLES

Richard Press, USA 1994 11 min.

Confronted with the inevitability of old aging, a man seeks refuge in Central Park.

9PM **GAY SHORTS**

I CONFESS

Patrick Wright, USA 1995 22 min.

The memory of a sexual liaison between a Catholic priest and an altar boy drives this interrogation of the debate surrounding man/boy love. (Wright is a UWM film graduate.)

GERMAN SONG

Sadie Benning, USA 1995 5 min.

A melancholy eulogy for lost girls shot around Coney Island and Love Canal, featuring the music of Boston's alternative band, Come.

A CASE FOR THE CLOSET

Glenn Belverio & Bruce La Bruce, USA 1995 29 min.

Disgusted with the state of gay culture, Glenda Orgasm and Judy LaBruce return to the closet and attempt to cure themselves of their homosexual affliction.

SIGHTINGS

H. Len Keller, USA 1995 14 min.

This delightful new film focuses on two African American lesbians looking for love. After cruising each other, neither can work up the nerve to make the first move. The tension builds as each woman enters a private world of sexual fantasy about the other. This sexy and romantic film will have you running to the laundromat in the hopes of meeting Ms. Right.

WHAT IS A LINE

Shari Frilot, USA 1994 10 min.

A dark comedy about an angry, recently uncoupled lesbian, riding a train (and an emotional roller coaster) as she mulls over the details of her breakup.

Sunday February 4

7PM **MAN OF THE YEAR**

Dirk Shafer, USA 1995 90 min.

In 1991, a financially strapped Shafer took the chance to make some easy money as a Playgirl centerfold. Little did he know that he would spend a year in the spotlight as Playgirl's Man of the Year. Although hunky, sweet, and gorgeous in front of the camera, behind the camera, he's a clever director with an unbelievable story to tell. He has made an amusing and dramatic recreation of the events which took place during the year he spent in the limelight. Don't miss this opportunity to laugh along with him at the outrageous set of events which occurred during his year-long reign as a 'heterosexual stud muffin!'

9PM **BLACK NATIONS, QUEER NATIONS?**

Shari Frilot, USA 1995 50 min.

An experimental documentary about the historic Black Nations/Queer Nations? conference which presented an international account of lesbian and gay sexualities in the African Diaspora. Featured participants include South African activists Simon Nkoli and Zachie Achmat, Essex Hemphill, Isaac Julien, Coco Fusco, Kobena Mercer, Urvashi Vaid, and Barbara Smith.



A Litany for Survival—"The Life and Work of Audre Lorde," will be shown Thursday, February 8th (see details below).

BRICANDO EL CHARCO: PORTRAIT OF A PUERTO RICAN

Frances Negron, USA 1994 57 min.

This powerful film illustrates the internal struggles of a Puerto Rican lesbian as she explores her cultural identity, community, lesbianism, and family relations. Creatively crafted using narrative, documentary, and experimental genres, it is an intense and sensitive piece.

Monday February 5

7PM **DEVOTION**

Mindy Kaplan, Canada 1994 120 min.

Sheila is a successful lesbian standup comedian who has just been offered the starring role in a TV sitcom whose central character is a lesbian. The only hitch to this "dream come true" is that the producers are a "straight woman" who spurned Sheila's romantic advances 15 years earlier and the woman's husband. The two women do their best to keep their past relationship a secret from their current partners, but emotions eventually boil to the surface. Lynn (the producer) becomes obsessed with Sheila. However Sheila, still bitter about the past, initially resists Lynn's attentions, but soon feels the pull of what she thought was a long dead passion. When their respective mates realize something is happening, Sheila is forced to decide between her lover of five years, Julie, and this elusive woman from her past. Director Kaplan has succeeded in creating a sharply compelling movie that explores romantic obsession, jealousy and commitment without using clichés or resorting to simplistic resolutions.

9PM* **OUR HOUSE: LESBIANS AND GAYS IN THE HOOD**

Not Channel Zero, USA 60 min.

A hard hitting and highly informative look at issues, activism, and discrimination in the US from the viewpoints of lesbians and gay men of color.

THE POTLUCK AND THE PASSION

Cheryl Dunye, USA 22 min.

A dinner party, an interracial couple and on-camera confessions make for great comic commentary on sexual politics, Black awareness, and homophobia.

Tuesday February 6

7PM **BLOODSISTERS: LEATHER, DYKES, AND SADMASOCHISM**

Michelle Handleman, USA 1995 80 min.

This sex-positive documentary is an insider's view of the San Francisco leather dyke community in all its complexity. S/M dykes discuss their commitment not only to sexual pleasure and pain, but also to political activism and community service through fundraising. Focusing on eight characters who represent a diverse cross-section of this community, *Bloodsisters* presents with great respect their integrity, intelligence, and sensitivity. Utilizing an original and visually compelling documentary style, the director draws us deep into this often misunderstood community. Through interviews with participants, footage of international leather shows, slave auctions and graphic scenes from actual play, Handleman explores the nature of the intensity of the bonds which exist between these women.

9PM* **SAPPHIRE AND THE SLAVE GIRL**

Leah Gilliam, USA 18 min.

This video is loosely based on the 1950s British detective film *Sapphire*, in which two Scotland Yard detectives investigate the murder of a young woman who is passing for white. This fast-paced genre bash visualizes and problematizes how identity is constructed, negotiated and performed within urban spaces.

NO, JE NE REGRETTE RIEN

Marlon Riggs, USA 1992 30 min.

Through music, poetry and, at times, chilling self-disclosure, five seropositive black gay men speak of their individual confrontation with AIDS.

A COSMIC DEMONSTRATION OF SEXUALITY

Shari Frilot, USA 20 min.

In this humorous documentary, videomaker Frilot makes the connection between sexuality and the cosmos as women openly discuss sex and sexuality.

Wednesday February 7

7PM* **BLACK IS, BLACK AIN'T**

Marlon Riggs, USA 1994 87 min.

This is Marlon Riggs's last film, completed by his crew after his death due to complications from AIDS. *Black Is, Black Ain't* explores the questions "What is black?" and "What is not black?" Typical of Riggs's work, this film shows passion, intelligence, and mastery. Many noted African American figures such as Bill T. Jones, Angela Davis, Essex Hemphill, bell hooks, and Cornel West share their artistic, intellectual, and personal insight and experiences.

Thursday February 8

7PM* **A LITANY FOR SURVIVAL: THE LIFE AND WORK OF AUDRE LORDE**

Ada Gay Griffin and Michelle Parkerson, USA 1995 95 min.

Audre Lorde was a controversial and celebrated African American writer, cultural theorist, and activist who articulated some of the most important social and political visions of this century. *A Litany for Survival* is an epic portrait of a woman who described herself as black, mother, lesbian, warrior, and poet. Audre Lorde embodied the connections between three dynamic social justice movements: the Civil Rights movement, feminism and the women's movement, and the struggle for gay and lesbian rights. At the heart of this documentary is Lorde's own challenge "to envision what has not yet been, and work with every fiber of who we are, to make the reality and pursuit of that vision irresistible." *Ms. Magazine* has called the film "mesmerizing" and in its review of the film, *Variety* says Lorde "exhibits the enchanting personality of an unusual woman considered in some circles a counterpart to Malcolm X."

Admission is \$3.00 (w/ UWM student ID) or \$4.00 (without UWM student ID) per screening. Festival passes are \$20.00 (\$15.00 w/ UWM student ID).

The festival is co-sponsored by Cream City Foundation, UWM Union Cinema, Community Media Project, UJIMA, and UWM Women's Resource Center with support from InStep and UWM Gay/Lesbian Certificate Program.

*These screenings are sponsored by the Community Media Project and are free.

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra to Present Benefit Concert of Mozart and Bernstein

By Beth Lee Mount

Milwaukee—When you attend the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's April 4th concert, be prepared for a dramatic study in contrasts. Nearly 300 musicians will be on stage to present a 20th Century setting of five Psalms, paired with a requiem mass, setting the stage for an evening of intense and uplifting vocal expression. These works represent two dynamic musical personalities—Leonard Bernstein and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

The loss in 1990 of a true 20th Century Renaissance man, Leonard Bernstein, left the world without one of its innovative musical geniuses.



Leonard Bernstein

Born in Lawrence, Massachusetts in 1918, Bernstein was trained as a pianist in the early years of his musical education. Conducting became his major interest during 1940 and 1941, when he was a Summer student at Tanglewood.

His talent led him to a position as assistant conductor with the New York Philharmonic. His duties were to serve as an understudy for the principal conductor and the guest conductors, ready and waiting should someone fall ill or be unable to perform.

Prior to his appointment, many assistants had come and gone, frustrated because they never had a chance to conduct. However, the unfortunate illness of Bruno Walter for a November 13, 1944, performance led to Bernstein's triumphant conducting debut at age 26. The concert review made the front page of the *New York Times*. Overnight, he became a world-wide sensation.

From his early years as a conductor and pianist, Bernstein also pursued a parallel career as a composer for the concert hall and musical theatre. Some of his most famous works include *Fancy Free*, *Candide* and the energetic *West Side Story*.

However, most of Bernstein's non-theatrical works deal with religious themes, many of them involving biblical or liturgical texts. He said these themes reflected his personal spiritual concerns, and they were about "the crisis of faith."



Stanislaw Skrowaczewski

A particularly striking and dramatic non-theatrical work was composed during a sabbatical that he took from the Philharmonic in 1964-'65. *Chichester Psalms*, composed in 1965, was commissioned by the Very Reverend Walter Hussey, Dean of Chichester Cathedral, to be performed for a choral festival. It had its premiere on July 15, 1965, by the New York Philharmonic with Bernstein conducting.

Mozart

Surely most people who have seen the movie *Amadeus* have a picture of Mozart as a flamboyant man who was both passionate and naïve about music. This image is largely a misrepresentation of Mozart who was born in Salzburg, Austria in 1756.

He was a child prodigy, performing throughout Europe from the time he was 5 years-old with his sister Nannerl and his father, Leopold. In order to exploit Mozart's youth, Leopold was constantly showing him off to the royal families of the day.

Unlike many prominent composers, Mozart did not have any formal schooling. His compositions encompass all genres of music—he wrote operas, symphonies, chamber music, solo works and choral pieces. His mature works represent writing that has melodic beauty, formal perfection and richness in both harmony and texture.

It is his final work that occupies a major portion of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's performance.

During the Summer of 1791, a mysterious stranger visited Mozart in his home in Vienna and commissioned him to compose a requiem. Sorely in need of money, Mozart accepted the offer, even though he was in the middle of writing *Die Zauberflöte* at the time. Working obsessively on the requiem, he began to believe that he was actually writing the death mass for himself.

Mozart died on December 1, 1791. The Requiem was completed by his assistant Franz Sussmayr. The break between what Mozart wrote and the Sussmayr completion comes at the eighth bar of the *Lacrimosa*.

This performance by the Milwaukee Symphony will feature the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus and four highly acclaimed soloists: Marvis Martin, soprano; Catherine Robbin,

mezzo-soprano; Jon Garrison, tenor; and John Cheek, bass-baritone.

The solo boy soprano for *Chichester Psalms* will be Justin Leath, a 13-year-old Middle School student from Appleton, Wisconsin. The performance will be led by Artistic Advisor Stanislaw Skrowaczewski.

The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra is

proud to donate a portion of the ticket sales for this concert to the following organizations: The Milwaukee AIDS Project, Brady Street Clinic, Galano Club, the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee, PrideFest and St. Camillus.

For tickets, call Wisconsin Light: (414) 372-2773.



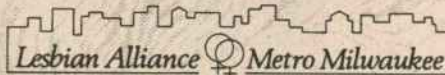
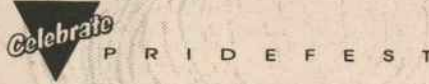
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Catherine Robbin, Mezzo Soprano
Jon Garrison, Tenor
John Cheek, Bass-Baritone
Justin Leath, Boy Soprano
Milwaukee Symphony Chorus/
Lee Erickson, Director

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Jerry Johnson

Barbara Hofmann, State Rep. Tammy Baldwin and Fred Weber attended PrideFest '94 in Milwaukee.

Obituary

Fred L. Weber

Fred L. Weber passed away on Saturday, January 13, 1996, at St. Camilus Health Center after a long and courageous battle with AIDS.

Fred was 54 years-old and a member of the Milwaukee AIDS Project. He participated in Gay Pride parades and many other functions.

His vocation, before his illness, was as Director of Education, Supervisor, at IBA College of Cosmetology, Advanced Institute of Hair Design, and State College of Beauty Culture.

Fred was also employed in previous years as Salon Manager at Gimbels-Southridge and Chapman Salons.

He was also employed as District Sales Manager for Fermodyl Lab, Inc.

Fred will be deeply missed by family and friends for he was an attribute to society and a great friend and brother, who brought happiness and comfort to all who knew him.

Tribute to Rick Beaudoin

By Tim Clausen

It was just over a year ago that my friend Rick Beaudoin passed on, and I felt it was time to pen a posthumous tribute of sorts to him.

Several years ago, a distinguished sounding fellow with a rich, articulate, slightly east coast voice, answered a personal ad of mine in the *Milwaukee Journal*. Intrigued, I rang him up and introduced myself. This was to be the first of many far-ranging, thought provoking and laugh-filled conversations I had with Rick, who, as it turned out, had moved her from the Boston area.

His smarts and playful wit were immediately apparent. We discovered that we shared common passions for Billie Holiday, classic films, Gay studies and such topics as spirituality. Despite a profound sense of the sacred, we both enjoyed lampooning all manner of sacred cows and shared as well, a deep appreciation for irony and for the absurd, which had probably carried each of us through various dark and difficult times in our lives.

We finally decided to meet. I invited Rick over for dinner on a weeknight and served a standby creation called Highbrow Tuna Salad, which previous guests had almost always commented favorably on.

As he dished up a leafy spoonful, Rick casually inquired about the salad's ingredients. When I told him that (among other inspirations) it contained black olives, he quietly gasped.

After probing, he confessed, "I've never eaten olives. They've always struck me as something other than food. I'm not sure exactly *what*, but I've always been afraid to try them . . ."

Finally, after some reassurance and sly salesmanship on my part, he seemed resolved to make the best of it and ate freely of the salad, which I believe, he actually liked.

Several days later I received a thank you letter, dated 11 Nov. 1992. Regarding his brush with olives he wrote, "I remain proud of myself for having conquered my irrational fear of olives. I'm not a total convert yet as I still suspect olives are a great cosmic joke. Or maybe they serve as a displacement for some childhood trauma I suffered and don't remember. I used to feel the same way about mushrooms and peas, but have since made peace with these vegetables . . . Perhaps I should start a new 12-Step program—Vegetable Phobics Anonymous. My name is Rick and I'm afraid of olives, leeks, wax beans and turnips."

At that time, I was living in Hartland, a good half hour's drive from Milwaukee, and I didn't see Rick much, but we continued our

friendship by telephone. Those conversations were often the high point of my day.

Rick always loved to hear my Julia Child impersonation, and I would regale him with tales about wonderful new culinary creations like "spray-brie." He would follow with his own Julia-esque fantasy, and we would veer off into all sorts of unsavory tangents and end up rolling with laughter on our respective floors. His friendship became a treasure, a delight.

When I finally decided to make the plunge and leave small town life for the big bad city, Rick kindly opened his Shorewood apartment to me, my cat and my piano, until I could "get

my bearings." The three months that I lived there quickly proved to be a difficult test of our friendship; our mutual patience, tolerance and sanity.

The apartment was simply too small for added inhabitants. Rick and I were on very different personal paths. We began to clash—repeatedly. Headstrong bull versus stubborn goat (Taurus vs. Capricorn).

Our cats vocally disliked each other. Secretly, we didn't like each other's cats. I didn't like his opera arias and his problem with my bringing a handsome young carpenter home one night. He didn't like my snooty aversion to his smoking or my playing the piano when he was trying to study, which seemed never ending.

I was really not very pleasant to live with during that time, though to his credit, Rick went to great lengths to be both civil and gracious.

Ultimately, the entire experience became a minor nightmare, leaving us both feeling emotionally bruised, with all manner of bristlingly negative feelings toward each other. It was decided that I should find my own place—soon—which I did.

After a suitable cooling off period, I gave him a call. I felt a need to apologize to Rick for my less than saintly behavior, which I did in person one sunny Winter afternoon. He graciously accepted my apology, and it did help heal some of the bad feelings. Our friendship was never really the same, though I'd ring him up from time to time to see how he was doing and to tell him what was going on in my new city life.

Rick was a remarkable man. His ethical sense was very highly developed, and it informed his sense of compassion as well as his strong sense of outrage. He constantly and vocally championed the rights of Gay people both publicly and privately, and steadfastly sought to bring about that better, more toler-

ant, understanding world we all seek.

Rick was quite possibly the finest Gay therapist ever to practice in Milwaukee. He cared deeply and passionately about Gay people and about life at large; his contributions here were immense. Rick lived with gusto and flair and tremendous integrity and a bright and playful spirit.

He taught many of us a great deal by his unique personal example, and I shall always be grateful for having had the pleasure of knowing him.

It is possible that his exceptional abilities were required somewhere in the beyond, and so the Great Spirit took him elsewhere, albeit much too young by our standards.

He is much missed and fondly remembered. Carry on Rick.

MADISON

Continued from Page 1

Kittleston. (See Letter to the Editor, this issue)

Kittleston, describes himself as fiscally conservative, but socially progressive. He is a Madison Realtor with Remax Preferred Concepts and co-owner of Sterling Concepts. His community involvements have included a full range of professional associations, and extensive volunteer work with the Madison AIDS Support Network and another AIDS service organization in Chicago.

Although the County Board, in theory, is a non-partisan body, recent years have seen a board increasingly divided along conservative/progressive lines. Given that conservatives now hold a several seat majority and hence control the board chair and many committees, answers about who a supervisor will support for board chair will have a substantial impact on the future direction of the board.

Given his support for progressives on human services issues, and his support for conservatives on land use issues, Kittleston's allegiance is believed to be an open question.

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NEW KID IN TOWN. GWM, new to area, good looking, 20, 5'10", 145, good shape, seeks others for fun, friendship and more. Please leave a message (Appleton) #33740

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK. GWM, 20, 5'10", 145, dark hair and eyes, new to area, good shape, variety of interests, seeks others for fun, friendship and more. Please leave a message. (Appleton) #29399

TAKE A CHANCE ON ME. GWM, 23, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks others for friendship and possibly more. Please leave a message. (Appleton) #25732

OSHKOSH ENCOUNTERS. GWM, 6'3", 195, brown hair, blue/green eyes, smoker, very masculine and straight appearing/acting, varied interests, seeks GWM, 30-40, for friendship, companionship and more. Please leave a message, (Appleton) #16286

LET'S PARTY. GWM, long hair, blue eyes, seeks others, 18-22, for good times. Please leave a message. (Appleton) #14769

NORTHLINE COLLEGE. GWM, 19, college student, 6'2", 190, blonde hair, hazel eyes, varied interests, seeks others for friendship and more. Please leave me a message. (Ashland) #13280

FRIENDS AND MORE. Bi WM, 33, 5'8", 168, brown hair, hazel eyes, 'stache, seeks other guys for friendship and more. Please leave a message. (Cudahy) #24275

LET'S MEAT. GWM, Italian, 24, 190, 5'11", brown hair and eyes, shaved head, goatee, seeks others, 21-30, crazy and attractive, for fun, friendship and possibly more. Please leave a message. (Eau Claire) #33747

GREAT IN GREEN BAY. GWM, 24, 6'1", 205, average build, dark hair and eyes, varied interests, seeks others, 18-22, local area preferred, for fun and more. Please leave a message. (Green Bay) #28413

LOOKING FOR LOVE. GWM, HIV+, 5'10", 140, brown hair and eyes, versatile, 30, seeks others, HIV+ and between 25-35, local area preferred, for fun and more. Please leave a message. (Green Bay) #28456

SINCERE AND HONEST. GWM, 28, 5'8", 165, body builder, varied interests, seeks GWM, 28-40, semi professional and local, for friendship and more. Please leave a message. (Green Lake) #15317

COLD IN GREENBAY. GWM, 24, 6', long brown hair, brown eyes, lots of interests, seeks others for friendship and possibly more. Please leave a message. (Greenbay) #25766

BIG BROTHER SOUGHT. Bi WM, 23, farm boy, 5'10", 165, curly blonde hair, innocent blue eyes, seeks other Bi males, 26-35, for wrestling fun and more. Please leave a message. (Hicks) #25228

SEEKING FRIENDS. GWM, reddish brown hair, 5'6", 140, blue eyes, seeks other guys for friendship and more. Please leave a message. (Kenosha) #25276

OLD FASHIONED ROMANCE. GWM, 29, 5'11", 150, non smoker/drinker, brown hair, blue

eyes, medium build, varied interests, seeks others for long term friendship and more with similar interests. Please leave a message. (Kenosha) #16009

CUB SANDWICH. GWM, 26, 260, 6'1", red hair, blue eyes, seeks other bear men for hibernation, cuddling and more. Please leave a message. (Madison) #33656

LET'S HAVE FUN. GWM, 5'11", 170, clean cut, varied interests, seeks others for fun and more. Please leave a message. (Madison) #27668

SAFE/SANE/FUN. GWM, new to area, seeks others into safe and clean action. Please leave a message. (Madison) #31168

BOY LOOKING FOR A DADDY. GWM, 29, smooth and attractive, seeks others guys, 50+ and who are versatile, for fun, friendship and much more. Please leave a message. (Madison) #27325

DUDE WANTS THE LADY LOOK. Bi WM, 21, CD/Transvestite, seeks other men into women's clothing and more. Please leave a message. Discretion a must as I live with my parents. (Madison) #14971

DISCRETE BI DAY. Bi WM, 25, varied interests, very discrete and honest, seeks other men for discrete encounters and more. Please leave a message. (Madison) #12072

MASCULINE ONLY. GWM, 29, blonde hair, blue eyes, 6', 185, nice body, masculine and straight appearing seeks same, 21-39, for fun and more. Please leave a message. (Madison) #17406

BOTTOM TO TOP. GWM, 5'9", 165, 30 something, brown hair, very good looking, aggressively dominant seeks submissive's only for mutual pleasure and excitement. Discretion a must. Call me now! (Madison) #14481

DEADHEADS. GWM, deadhead, long haired couple seeks same. Let's meet and go phishing. (Madison) #14493

WILLING TO NEGOTIATE. GWM, 20, student, good shape, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5'7", 140, seeks in shape and dominant men, 23-35, professional, open for new ideas. Leave me a message. (Madison) #15019

CASUAL FUN. GWM, 5'8", 145, 28, brown hair, green eyes, seeks others, 'stached, medium build and well endw'd, who are top's and are experienced in satisfying bottom boys. You must be masculine and dominant and ready to be pleased. Please leave a message (Milwaukee) #33954

BLACK AND WHITE. GBM, 20, 5'8", 130, seeks tall, attractive and slim GBM's/GHM's, masculine and 20-30, for fun, pleasure and more. Non Smoker's only! Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #13034

LOOKING FOR YOUNG GUYS. Bi WM, 31, seeks others, 18-20, swimmer's build, for fun and pleasure. Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #28388

TOP ME OFF. GWM, masculine, 6'1", 195, 28, bottom, seeks other top men for discreet, safe and clean

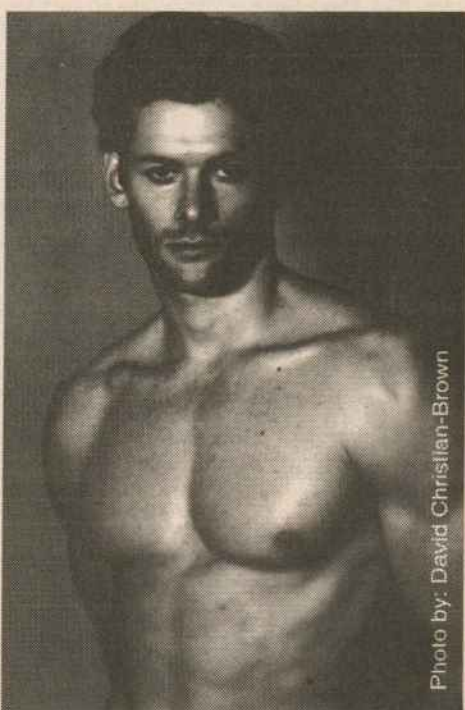


Photo by: David Christian-Brown

fun and more. Discretion a must! Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #26342

BORN TO PLEASE. GWM, Italian, mid 40's, well built, hairy chest, seeks others, GWM/GHM/GBM ONLY, 25-45, for total satisfaction. You won't be disappointed. Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #8552

SEEKING NEW MASTER. GWM, 5'9", 35, good looking, hairy, very submissive, seeks dominant and masculine master for ongoing relationship. Please leave me a message. Total service and worship is yours! (Milwaukee) #22206

FRIENDS AND MORE-. GBM, 19, HIV-, seeks GWM's, 19-26, for friendship and more. Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #24478

GO FOR THE GOLD. GWM, 29, 6'1", 200, seeks experienced and dominant GWM for first time experience. Please leave me a message! (Milwaukee) #18042

DEEP NEED. GWM, 5'3", 160, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks GWM/GLM, 18-24, for friendship and more. Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #18499

WINTER'S COMING. GWM, 20, 5'9", 175, auburn hair, green eyes, submissive, varied interests, seeks local guys, 18-30, for friendship and more. Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #19117

BIG BOY. GWM, 22, 5'9", 240, brown hair, blue eyes, overweight, seeks others for friendship and more. Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #19143

BI AND BI. Bi WM, 6'2", 195, married, new to this, seeks other Bi White married guys, 35-45, for discrete adventures. Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #19877

COCKED AND LOADED. GWM, 6'2", 170, attractive, seeks GWM's, under 35, for friendship and relationship. Please leave a message. (Wisconsin) #12577

HARD WORKING PROFESSIONAL. GWM, 29, 6'2", brown hair, blue eyes, 200, very attractive, good shape, varied interests, seeks others, 25-40, with similar qualities. Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #46088

LONELY AND READY TO START OVER. GWM, seeks friends in the local area for

exploration and more. Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #17185

LET'S PLAY DOCTOR. GBM, 24, 5'11", 140, brown hair and eyes, nurse, variety of interests, seeks others for friendship and more. Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #17820

TOUR GUIDE NEEDED. GWM, 27, 6', 210, new to area, varied interests, seeks others for friendship and more. Please leave me a message. (Milwaukee) #14878

MASCULINE AND WELL BUILT. GAM, 22, 5'5", 120, brown eyes, black hair, very gorgeous, seeks others, 30-35, masculine and well built, for pleasure and relationship. Please leave me a message. (Milwaukee) #15149

LEATHER & LEXOL. GWM, biker, seeks submissive for Leather cleaning. Will Train! Leave me a message. (Milwaukee) #15223

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP ONLY. GBM, college student, 130, 5'8", non smoker/drinker, varied interests, seeks tall and slim GBM, 19-29, only. No Bi's please. Must be non smoker and drinker. No one night responses. (Milwaukee) #13034

SENSUAL SPANDEX. GWM, 27, 6'1", 160, brown hair, hazel eyes, seeks GWM's, 21-45, attractive and in good shape, for submissive spandex pleasure. Groups and couples a plus. Please call. (Milwaukee) #13226

LET'S TALK. GWM, 22, 125, 5'6", blonde hair, blue eyes, musician and artist, seeks other GWM's with similar qualities and interests for fun. Please leave me a message. (Milwaukee) #13411

RELATIONSHIP MINDED. GWM, 38, sincere and romantic, seeks a sincere relationship with GWM, 25-40, hairy a plus. Let me share my life with you. Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #13772

TRAIN ME. GWM, 34, 150, 5'8", brown hair, hazel eyes, muscular, smooth, seeks discipline from other GWM's with same qualities under 35. Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #13692

LONG TERM COMMITMENT. GWM, relationship oriented, seeks GWM, 20-30, drug and smoke free, for serious relationship. Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #13835

FOUR OR MORE IN THE FLOOR. GWM, 26, black hair, brown eyes, 5'10", good shape, hairy and clean cut, seeks Bi or Bi Curious males, under 30 and dominant preferred, who are into group activities. Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #16665

WHERE ARE YOU?. GWM, 5'9", 150, seeks other males for fun. Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #14216

DEEP NEED. GWM, 24, 6', 150, brown hair and eyes, seeks new friends with relationship possibilities. Please leave a message. (Northern) #12761

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL. GWM, 39, 6'1", 220, seeks others for fun and more. Please leave a message. (Oshkosh) #18715

FRIENDSHIP FIRST! GWM, 23, 5'11", blonde hair, hazel eyes, cute, 160, varied interests, good shape, seeks other Non smoking GWM's, 21-24, local preferred, for friendship and more. Please call me! (Oshkosh) #16127

ANY PORT IN A STORM. GWM, 39, seeks friendship and more. Please leave a message. (Oshkosh) #15327

HEAD LOCK ME. GWM, 34, 5'10", 180, moderately muscled, seeks husky wrestling partners for rough and sweaty workouts. Please leave a message. (Upper Peninsula) #10046

DISCRETE FRIENDSHIP. GWM, 5'11", 140, blonde hair, blue eyes, very discrete and professional, seeks others who are very discrete for friendship and more. Please leave a message. (Wausau) #16794

LEVI/LEATHER LUST. GWM, 24, 6', 185, seeks bearded and 'stached guys, 25-40, daddies, bear's, biker's and Leather top men preferred, for long term relationship. Please leave a message. (Wisconsin) #29464

FRIEND SEEKER. GWM, attractive, 23, 6'2", 170, long brown hair, blue eyes, seeks others for friendship. Please leave a message. (Wisconsin) #27772

MILITARY ORIENTED. GWM, 27, 5'7", brown hair, blue eyes, ex-Marine, varied interests, seeks other straight acting GWM, 18-27, with similar interests. Please leave a message. (Wisconsin) #16491

FRIENDS OR MORE. GWM, 26, 6'2", 180, brown hair and blue eyes, varied interests, others for friendship and lots more. Please leave a message. (Wisconsin) #16691

LEATHER NOVICE. GWM, 5'8", 150, brown hair, hazel eyes, smooth, well built, very muscular, seeks very dominant men, smooth, slender and muscular preferred, for friendship and much more. (Wisconsin) #13692

LEATHER LOVER. GWM, 150, 5'8", muscular, smooth, clean shaven, seeks very dominant Leathermen, smooth and muscular, for friendship and much more. Please leave a message. (Wisconsin) #13692



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fun. (Call Thru) Box# 8655
Steven, looking for someone to call me, any race. Call me sometime. (Call Thru) Box# 9464
Hot GMC, 33 and 45, looking to meet other monogamous C, 28-45, for hot, safe fun. Box# 2574
GWM, 34, 170, 6'8, fun-loving, open-minded but conservative, caring, enjoy good conversations, music, ISO another guy for good company. (Call Thru) Box# 5163
George, 26, 5'10, 175, hzl eyes, brn hr, college student, very good-looking, clean shaven, masculine, ISO Asians or Hispanic guys, 25-. (Call Thru) Box# 9625
Tom, 31, Italian, bi, 5'10, 210, very muscular, dark hr/eyes, ISO other males and couples. (Call Thru) Box# 9619
GAM, 22, 5'7, 140. Inexperienced. ISO GWM, mascu-

enjoys walks, dancing, and tennis. ISO someone similar, to hang out with, converse, and have fun. Box# 1000
Robert, GWM, 24, straight-acting, looking for muscular, straight-acting GBM, 25-35, to hang out, take long walks, listen to the radio, and quiet evenings at home, for friendship and possible relationship. Box# 3065
Oliver, GBM, 19, 5'10, 160lbs., medium build, looking for M, 18-33. Box# 9954
Dad, GM, seeks 18-25 yr. old, for occasional night out, cuddling, and hot fun. Let's talk. Box# 8134
Brian, 30's, slender, clean shaven, buzz cut, into wild times, and partying, anytime. Box# 4416
Andre, BM, 25, dark skin, masculine, nice build. ISO rough neck type, B/HIS/Puerto Rican, under 24, masculine. Let's hook up. Box# 0886
Bruce, GWM, 38, 6', 200lbs., works out, brown hair, hazel eyes, caring, sincere, easygoing, enjoys plays, dining out, long walks, reading, computers, and gardening. ISO M, 28-40, for friendship. (Call Thru) Box# 5632

3 languages, enjoys reading, outdoors, sports. ISO F interested in friendship, relationship, or just making new friends. (Call Thru) Box# 1875
If there are any young ladies out there that like putting through the harbor and enjoy the water and sunshine, give me a jingle. Box# 1313
WM, 23, 5'6, 155lbs., blonde hair, blue eyes, athletic build, looking for older F for discrete pleasure and fun times. Box# 1817
Stewart, willing to try most anything, looking for F, 18-40, to have some good fun and pleasures. If you want to get it on and have good times, call me. Box# 1142
M, enjoys wild sex with Couples. Hope to hear from you soon. (Call Thru) Box# 2483
Tony, body builder, very masculine, 5'8, muscular, brown hair, brown eyes, athletic, bottom, looking for aggressive M who is comfortable being a top. Box# 1377
Hunky, hairy novice slave, looking for experienced master for use and abuse. Thank you sir. Box# 1762
Derek, BM, 26, 6', 230lbs., muscular, top, looking for anyone feminine, bottom, who's very very oral, and loves to please his partner. Box# 1184
Madison Chuck, 50, 170lbs., daddy, looking for son, 18-25, swimmers build, clean shaven, masculine. If you like the son role, and want to take care of daddy, call me. (Call Thru) Box# 2347
Mike, 23, 5'8, 185lbs., blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for a cowboy who wants to have fun and maybe have their bull rode. (Call Thru) Box# 2313
Travis, GBM, caribbean, 26, recent grad, looking for nice caring individual to share life with me. Any race. (Call Thru) Box# 2241
Busy MC, looking for W/Asian F, up to 30, who would like to relocate to the country, and be part of family, manage household, and enjoy country living. Not for employment. Box# 1573
Randy, 30, 5'9, 148lbs., 28wast, looking for someone, 30 or younger, to get together. (Call Thru) Box# 1474
Rod, 28, 5'10, light brown hair, body builder, hairy, into really big fat guys. ISO big guys, with big guts. If you want someone to worship you, call me. (Call Thru) Box# 3988
Mark, 38, 6', brown hair, brown eyes, top, HIV+, seeking someone special. Box# 2049
Bob, interested and ready, and can handle alot of fun. Give me a call. Box# 1595
Terry, African American M, 28, 5'7, 150lbs., brown eyes, grad student, looking for dominant, masculine African American M, 25-35, 5'9+, independent, honest, to experience friendship and more. (Call Thru) Box# 0052
Steve, BM, 35, 5'8, 180lbs., straight, curious, looking for very feminine M, any race, beautiful to look at and wonderful to hold. Drag queens welcome. Box# 0196
Michael, 21, 5'8, 200lbs., dark brown hair, brown eyes, into all kinds of different things. ISO M, 18-30, who's an aggressive top. (Call Thru) Box# 1280
GWM, 36, great looking, smooth, muscular, mostly bottom, looking for clean shaven top, buff, muscle-bound jock, 21-38, for body worship and more. Box# 1851
Steven, GWM, 32, 5'8, good looking, brown hair, brown eyes, mustache, Italian, great body, into safe sex. ISO attractive GWM, similar interests, for friendship/possible relationship. Belives in honesty and lifetime commitments. Box# 1726
M, 5'8, 145lbs., black hair, brown eyes, bottom, looking for BM or older man. Box# 1606
Dave, GWM, 23, 6'1, 189lbs., clean cut, military type, looking for hairy chested M, 6'2+. Honesty is important. Box# 3231
Sam, 5'4, 160lbs., cuddly little teddy bear, looking for something casual, not to intense. Let's cuddle tonight. Box# 3728
Charles, GWM, 35, 5'10, 185lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, mustache, moderately hairy chest. ISO GWM, 25-45, for caring, romantic, monogamous relationship. Mustache/hairy chest a plus. Box# 3920
D.J., good looking, pierced, long hair, looking for M to share latex and spandex feedishes with. Young stud, 18-25. I know you're out there. (Call Thru) Box# 3986
Dan and Jack, GWCouple, looking for M or Couple to have some hot times with. (Call Thru) Box# 4129
Terry, looking for masculine M into leather, with good mind and a good body. (Call Thru) Box# 6641
Jeff, GBM, likes singing, dancing, writing poetry, and listening to soft music. If you're looking for love, I'm the one. Box# 7281
Frank, HIS M, 25, 6', 190lbs., black hair, brown eyes, looking for very muscular GWM, 20-40, for hot sexual times. Versatile. Box# 8039
Ray, GWM, 55, 250lbs., bottom, HIV-, brown hair, brown eyes, mustache, clean/discrete. ISO top M, 35-55, any race, clean/discrete, HIV-. Hairy body/beard a plus. Construction/trucker/fireman preferred. (Call Thru) Box# 8052
BiM, top, 36, 6'2, 178lbs., great shape, Native American/Irish/French/Black, looking for BiWM, masculine, 18-35, for fun and good times. Prefer same build. Box# 8585
GBM, 23, athletic, looking for GBM, 22-35, athletic, straight acting, with a good head on his shoulders. Box# 8723
GWM, looking for GBM, 18-30, for fun. Box# 8744

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Men Seeking Men

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

Greg, SWM, 24, college student, healthy, looking for F to try to mutually please each other. If you want to get together for drinks, and fun afterwards, give me a call. Box# 8427

GM, Frin, 24, quiet, sincere, like music, astrology, ISO a monogamous, fun male, 21-35. (Call Thru) Box# 2526
Tim, SWM, 35, 6'1, nice guy, respects woman, has good sense of humor, just give me a chance. You won't be sorry, I'll try to make you happy. Box# 8674

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

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

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

This freak is looking for a masculine top freak, to do it anytime, anywhere. You must be freaky. Box# 3588

BiWM, 23, 130lbs., very little experience with M's. ISO older M, 28-38, 170-200lbs., trim mustache and beard, big, rugged build, for very discrete, 1st encounter. Box# 7415

Dennis, DWM, 43, looks younger, 5'10, 153lbs., sophisticated, swab, romantic, kind-hearted, clean shaven, well-gifted, looking for classy, intelligent F, 30-45, to be spoiled and pampered. (Call Thru) Box# 8470

M, 33, 6', 215lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, enjoys job, has variety of interests, playful, young at heart, looking for relationship, but I'd like to take it slow. (Call Thru) Box# 9300

Mike, SWM, 36, well endowed, happy and healthy, looking for outgoing F, preferably redhead, for good times, leading to serious relationship. (Call Thru) Box# 8556

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

Allen, sexy, bow-legged BM, muscular, 5'9, 160lbs., looking for attractive BM, well-built, in-shape. If you can measure up and hang with the program, call me. (Call Thru) Box# 9110

SWM, sincere, handsome, with years of experience as being dominant. ISO F with submissive fantasy. They will be explored in safe, discrete manner. All you have to do is call. (Call Thru) Box# 8481

Eric, BM, attr., handsome, nice body, ISO muscular, well-endowed male, attr., disease free, clean, still in the closet a plus. Box# 1449

Brian, 38, 6'2, 210lbs., brown hair, brown eyes, good body, hairy chest/legs, looking for masculine guys who love the outdoors, playing, groups, and having good times. Box# 9776

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Rob, 6', 170, GWM, always horny but never desperate, ISO other 40 and under. Box# 9697

2 very attractive GWM's, open, 22 and 24, ISO cute GWM's 18-24 for summer fun. Box# 5655

David, loves to suck, 5'6, 160lbs., healthy, wants to get together one on one or with a group. (Call Thru) Box# 9389

2 very good-looking, straight acting GWM's, early 20's, ISO attractive, young looking bi or GWM, 18-25 for friends and more. (Call Thru) Box# 1323

Dave, 35, 6'2, 185lbs., light brown hair, blue eyes, clean shaven, looking for someone to have some fun. Box# 3168

Rita, 33, GF, looking for G/BiF who wants to have some

line. For exotic massages, wrestling and companionship. Box# 3066

GM, 29, 5'10, 175. BR hair and blue eyes. Variety of interests. ISO GM to have some good times. Box# 4073
GM, likes to stay up late in hot tub, ISO someone to accompany him for contact and oral. Box# 6063

Erin, likes to have fun, be with people and have alot of good times. ISO M to share good times with. (Call Thru) Box# 3069

Asian M, 22, 5'7, 142lbs., conservative dresser, clean cut, slim. Enjoys running, wrestling, cuddling, massages, not into bar scene. ISO WM, 25-40, 5'8-6', 160-190lbs. (Call Thru) Box# 4113

Hi! I'm a cool guy, clean cut looks and appearance, looking for a boyfriend. You should be the same and be 21-35. Call me. Box# 3437

Jeremy, WM, 18, looking for compassionate M friend, 18-25, any race. Box# 7307

Dave, 39, 6', 200lbs., good shape, fun guy, likes skiing, scuba diving, swimming, cars, mexican restaurants, movies, dining out. Sexually I like alot of things. ISO M. (Call Thru) Box# 0179

John, GWM, 44, 5'7, 200lbs., big chest, big arms, brown hair, green-eyes, trim mustache, HIV-. ISO GM, any race, likes outdoors, quiet times, body massages, cuddling, to settle down, serious relationship. Box# 4271

GWM, 29, 6'1, attractive, blonde hair, green eyes, looking to meet M, attractive, fit, secure with themselves. (Call Thru) Box# 4682

Allen, WM, mid-30's, 5'11, 140lbs., good looking, slender, dark-brown hair, blue eyes, mustache, bottom, somewhat hairy. ISO M, hot top, hairy daddy, who knows what he wants and how to get it. (Call Thru) Box# 4724

Tony, 29, dirty-blond/hair, blue-green/eyes, 6', 185lbs., affectionate, likes the outdoors, running, having good times, movies, and holding and cuddling. ISO M, 27 or younger, descent shape, with similar interests. Box# 9046

WM, 49, in good shape, into bondage, domination, dildo play, and phone sex. If interested, please call. Box# 7418

Dark haired, dark eyed M, 31, 6'1, 150lbs., smooth, mustache, looking for hot times with M, 30-45, who likes to have good times. Box# 7424

Rich, 5'11, 190lbs., brown hair, brown eyes, hairy chest, looking to service M and have some fun. Box# 8772

Dean, GWM, brown hair, blue eyes, mustache, hairy body, well endowed. ISO a great bottom to have a great time with. (Call Thru) Box# 9022

Nick, 22, 5'10, 189lbs., blonde hair, blue eyes, likes hanging out, sports, being with friends. Looking to meet some people. (Call Thru) Box# 0861

22 year old, BM, 6'1, 150lbs., looking for M, 20-35. Preferably BM. Box# 8530

College student, early 20's, 6', 185lbs., works out, clean shaven, likes basketball, biking, dining out, and opera. ISO someone to spend time with, develop a friendship, and more. Box# 7973

Nick, 22, 5'10, new to area, light brown hair, blue eyes, not into games, likes theatre, dancing, swimming, music. ISO M, good personality, to hang out with. (Call Thru) Box# 3300

Ron, GWM, 23, new to area, looking for friendship, and possible relationship. Give me a call. Box# 5762

Dave, BiWM, 30's, 6', clean shaven, good shape, dark hair, green eyes. ISO Bi/GWM, similar age, masculine, fun, no strings attached, discrete, into good times. (Call Thru) Box# 5673

BM, 24, 5'11, 165lbs., smooth, attractive, looking for straight acting/appearing, versatile, endowed, educated BM only. No fems. (Call Thru) Box# 4213

Nick, 22, 5'10, black hair, blue eyes, likes hiking, biking, swimming, the outdoors, movies, theatre, dancing, music, not into games. ISO real person to go out, and have fun. (Call Thru) Box# 0877

Aggressive top, very capable, likes to get in the saddle, and stay there a long time. Give me a call. (Call Thru) Box# 1321

Mark, If you're into hot fun, and good times, and love to play, I'm into you. Box# 0320

Kevin, If you're looking for a good, hot, fun time, I'm your man. I'll make sure you have the time of your life. Box# 0319

GWM, 22, 5'10, into body piercing and stuff like that. ISO alternative, punk rocker type M, 5'6-6'2. (Call Thru) Box# 9185

GM, 25, tall and slender, looking to meet GM around 25. Box# 7871

M, medium build, 130lbs., seeking big, strong trucker to break me in. Big and a trim mustache are really hot. Box# 5865

M, nice body, clean cut, clean shaven, nice butt. ISO M, so give a call. (Call Thru) Box# 0335

Peter, 6'1, curly brown hair, 165lbs., beard, swimmer,

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you're a BM, at least 200lbs., I'm the one for you. No fats, fems, or positives. (Call Thru) Box# 5973

Dave, 31, 6'1, 180lbs., light brown hair, brown eyes, good looking, good body, masculine, looking for another hot M. Box# 5943

Jeff, 28, 170lbs., brown hair, brown eyes, smooth, 7cut, clean shaven, looking to hook up. Box# 5672

John, looking for gorgeous BM in good condition. Give me a call. (Call Thru) Box# 5751

Joe, smoker, social drinker, enjoys partying. ISO honest, true M, to show me around the world. Box# 5545

Al, 29, light brown hair, blue eyes, clean shaven, muscular, looking for WM, 25-35. Call me if interested in friendship or possible relationship. (Call Thru) Box# 5135

Ron, 6'2, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for a lady who wants all the TLC she can handle. Box# 4946

M, 19, 6', 185lbs., well tanned, dirty blonde hair, green eyes, a little hairy, looking for a hot M who would love to get together. Box# 4826

Jeff, looking for F who likes to talk about you know what. Let's have fun. (Call Thru) Box# 4767

Mike, M, 22, financially secure, 6', 200lbs., very well built, looking for M, any race, to show me how to have a good time. (Call Thru) Box# 4558

Jim, 32, 130lbs., blonde hair, blue eyes, bottom, looking for top to have good times. (Call Thru) Box# 4439

Al, 29, looking for guys, 25-35. Give me a call. (Call Thru) Box# 4365

Attractive GWM, 29, 5'10, 170lbs., well built, versatile, looking for attractive M, under 40, who wants to get into some good hot times. (Call Thru) Box# 4152

Rob, BiWM, 31, 5'8, 160lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, good looking, looking for BiM/GM, for safe, discrete, same time next week relationship, under 45, who's masculine/straight acting. Box# 3811

Steve, 35, blue eyes, brownish-blond hair, 135lbs., bottom, looking for someone for good times. (Call Thru) Box# 3144

Hot pappa type, top, beard, hairy, works out, 9inches, looking for love. Box# 2912

Mike, 5'9, 145lbs., dark hair, green eyes, smooth, tan, bottom, likes going to the beach, looking for top for different things. Box# 3474

Attractive GWM, 5'10, 170lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, mustache, very good looking, versatile, discrete, looking for attractive M, under 40, to get into some really hot times. (Call Thru) Box# 2726

Nathan, 26, tall, good looking, and very attractive guy, looking for someone nice. Give me a call. (Call Thru) Box# 2700

Male stud, 29, pretty hot and into everything, so give me a call. Box# 2582

Alex, 6', Italian, looking for sincere WM, 23-30, for good times. (Call Thru) Box# 2204

Lou, DWM, 31, 5'7, athletic, good sense of humor, fun loving, enjoys the outdoors, and everything about woman, and all types. ISO F for friendship and good times. Box# 1498

Carlos, 6'2, energetic, fit, green eyes, open-minded, speaks

Lonely? Call me...

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24 hrs/day, 7 days/week, touch-tone required, must be 18 \$3.99/min

M, 31, 6'1, 150lbs., dark hair and eyes, looking for hot times with M, 30-45, Versatile, who likes to have good times. (Call Thru) Box# 7419

GM, 5'10, 220lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, looking for GM, 25-35 for friendship and possible relationship. (Call Thru) Box# 5644

BiM, new to area, cute, attractive, 26, light brown hair, brown eyes, clean shaven, clean cut, 6', 180lbs., good shape, straight looking/acting. ISO guys, straight looking, good looking, to talk. (Call Thru) Box# 4986

WM, 22, 5'9, black hair, hazel eyes, different looking, into music, techno, waves, and rollerskating. Not into drugs, rap, or unsafe sex. ISO honest, sincere M, 22+, for friendship/long-term relationship. Prefer BM. (Call Thru) Box# 7336

M, 5'7, 155lbs., works out, looking for M into bondage and dildo play. (Call Thru) Box# 7226

A Rose in the Snow

By Vincent Cantara

For three years it had happened. Every Valentine's Day, I would go into my classroom and there, lying on my desk would be one long-stemmed red rose.

Attached to its stem by a little piece of silver string, would be a typewritten note.

Every year it was different.

The first year it read, "From a Secret Admirer." There was no name.

I was flattered, if somewhat taken aback and looked about the room, but all I got from my 30 or so college freshmen was sly smiles, suggestive looks and a few giggles.

Afterward, I really didn't think much about it. I hadn't been teaching very long, less than six months, but I'd heard from the older, more experienced of my colleagues, that for a student to become infatuated with a prof wasn't all that strange.

"You're young and single," one of my colleagues said. "You can expect some of the women to get stars in their eyes. Just ignore it, is all. You don't play where you work."

I didn't say anything, but if I was going to "play" as he put it, it wouldn't be with a woman at all.

A year went by. I'd almost forgotten about the rose. But when Valentine's Day rolled around again, there on my desk was another red rose. This time the note read, "From someone who likes you." Again it was unsigned.

I looked out over my class. It was a small school. Many of the students were ones I had taught the previous year, but they were sophomores now. As before, I asked if anyone knew who the giver was, and, as before, no one did—at least no one said anything.

Throughout the year, there was never a sign, no indication at all, who might be giving me the rose. I thought the person was probably a student, but what the gender might be, I hadn't a clue.

In the Spring of that year, in that very class, someone asked me point blank out if I was Gay. What brought that into their head, I didn't know, but I drew in a deep breath and told them that, yes, I was.

There were some wide eyes and then a collective shrug. They didn't care and the subject was never brought up again. But, having said that, I thought if my secret admirer was a woman, my coming out would see an end to the roses.

I was wrong.

When Valentine's Day came around again, When I went into my class of juniors, there

was the rose lying on my desk. This time the note read, "From Someone Who Likes You Very Much." Attached to it was a small, shy red foil heart.

"Now look," I said to the class, trying to sound most firm. "I really am flattered, but I'd like to know who this is. Certainly one of you has seen something, someone putting it here."

But all I got in response were denials. The halls were crowded. Anyone could slip in unnoticed and put the rose on my desk etc. etc. etc.

Just before Valentine's Day of the fourth year, one of my students in that 8: a.m. class of seniors asked, "You think there'll be another rose?"

I chuckled a little. "Oh, who knows? Maybe I'll come early, hide behind the door and watch."

On Valentine's morning, I awoke to find snow. There wasn't much, only an inch or so, but the campus was off the beaten track and the road was not usually among the first to be plowed.

I was approaching the campus, going slow, when I saw ahead of me a couple of squad cars their roof lights flashing blue in red in the morning sun. Perhaps it was a student, I thought. I pulled my car over and got out to take a look.

At the bottom of a shallow ravine, I saw an old car lying on its roof. The driver had been going too fast and had hit an icy patch, a cop told me. He'd lost control of the car and was dead of a broken neck.

"A student?" I asked.

"Yeah," the cop answered. "From his ID he was. His name was Steve Bennett. You know him?"

I did. Steve was one of those who had been in my classes. A young man who was so cute he'd make the wild gods weep.

"Sad," the cop said. "You gotta wonder what gets into these kids. It's just 7:30. What was he in such a hurry to get to school for?"

I shook my head and started to turn away, but stopped when something down by the side of the overturned car caught my eye.

Ignoring warnings not to go near, I slid down the side of the ravine. There, in the snow was what I had seen; the torn remnants of one red rose.

Attached to its broken stem by the familiar silver string, was a note. With trembling fingers, I picked it up and read.

"From Someone Who Loves You Very Much."

This time, it was signed.

"Love, Steven."

Insurance Company Sued Over HIV

Los Angeles—Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund filed a lawsuit on January 23rd challenging Paul Revere Life Insurance Company's practice of selling disability income insurance policies to individuals, collecting premiums from them, and then, years later, if they become disabled, denying them the policy's benefits if Paul Revere learns they were HIV positive when it sold them the insurance.

The insurance company argues that its policies do not protect people living with HIV from disabilities related to AIDS because it contends HIV is a "manifestation" of AIDS and its policies only cover disabilities that first "manifest" themselves after the policy goes into effect.

"HIV infection is no more a manifestation of AIDS than elevated blood pressure is a manifestation of a heart attack," said Jon W. Davidson, Supervising Attorney for Lambda. "In addition, we now know that not everyone infected with HIV necessarily will get AIDS."

Anti-Gay Congressmen Attempt Anti-HIV Bill

Washington, D.C.—The Human Rights Campaign says that anti-Gay extremists in Congress are responsible for a discriminatory HIV measure in the defense spending bill. The extremists were identified as presidential candidate Bob Dornan (R-CA), and Senator Trent Lott (R-MS). Dornan wrote the measure which would force the Pentagon to discharge all service members found to be infected with HIV. The provision would also deny these people many of the valuable benefits available to service members discharged for other medical reasons.

A total of 1,149 service members would be affected by the measure, which received bipartisan opposition. However, it passed the Senate on January 26th and the House two days earlier.

White House spokesman, Mike McCurry, said that President Clinton has reservations about the HIV provision, but plans to sign the measure. The provisions will take effect in June, 1996.

The AIDS Action Council has condemned the measure as "shameful" and have issued a statement saying that they are "deeply troubled" by Clinton's action.



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MARRIAGE

Continued from Page 1

Commission Chairman Tom Gill, who defended the recommendation for same-sex marriages, likened the issue to the civil rights struggle in the 1960s.

"I was in Congress when we passed the (1964) Civil Rights Bill. You should have heard the things that were being said about African-Americans, although they didn't use the words African-American or Black. The things they said were terrible, that you can't give them equal rights, that they were lazy, inferior and so forth," Gill said.

He said he's hearing a similar argument for denying Lesbians and Gay people a right to get married.

There was no middle ground as more than 200 people crowded into the state Capitol auditorium to testify for and against same-sex marriages. They were either strongly for it or strongly against it.

A minority member of the commission who opposed the majority's finding was James Hochberg.

Societies throughout history "have given unique and special preference to heterosexual marriage because of the benefits that those relationships provides for society in general," Hochberg said.

"The overwhelming bulk of the evidence indicates that homosexual relationships threaten the core of society—the family," he said.

When asked, Hochberg could cite no evidence, but said it was "out there."

Lesbian Susan Reardon said as an Irish Catholic, she is intimately aware of the commitment marriage entails, and she said she is ready to assume that responsibility.

"I look forward to the day I can partake in this holiest of sacraments," she said.

The Hawaiian court has now scheduled arguments in the same-sex marriage case for July 15th.

The Mormons

The Hawaii Supreme Court has denied a request by the Mormon Church to get involved in the original case between the state and three Gay couples who were denied marriage licenses.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints wanted to join with the state Attorney General's office to fight the granting of marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

The church argued it had a stake in the issue because legalizing same-sex marriage would force its ministers to perform ceremonies that are against their religious beliefs.

The high court disagreed, saying the state simply authorizes marriages and does not re-

quire the performing of any marriage ceremony.

In California

The fact that Hawaii may soon legalize same-sex marriages, has sent Religious and other Far Right groups into a frenzy of activity.

A bill to preclude California from recognizing Gay or Lesbian marriages performed in other states is on its way to the Assembly floor.

The Assembly Judiciary Committee voted 8-4 Wednesday, January 24th for the bill, which was promoted by a court case in Hawaii. Only Republicans voted for the measure.

"Preventing the legalization of same-sex marriages in California is turning out to be a strong Republican caucus issue," said the author, Assemblyman Pete Knight, (R-Palmdale).

The bill is expected to be easily approved in the next week in the Assembly, which is controlled by Republicans. But it could have more trouble in the Senate, which has a Democratic majority.

"If other states want to trash the foundation of civilization," said Art Crony of the Committee on Moral Concerns, "...we don't think that should be allowed in California."

But Gay and Lesbian groups called the bill "Gay bashing" and argued that thousands of same-gender couples are in stable, committed relationships and are already raising children successfully.

Forbidding marriage "has always been a very powerful tool for dehumanizing the disfavored populations," said Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl, (D-Santa Monica), the Legislature's only openly Lesbian member.

Knight said his bill is necessary because that case could be decided this year, and Gay and Lesbian couples would then flock to the island state to be married.

California law currently recognizes marriages performed in all other states.

However, John Davidson of the Lambda Legal Defense Fund of Los Angeles, one of the attorneys in the Hawaii case, said the long trial and appeals process means it won't be settled for at least two years.

The bill would add this sentence to state law: "A marriage contracted outside this state between individuals of the same gender is not valid in this state."

"The ramifications of recognizing same-sex marriages in California would be significant," said Knight. He said Gays and Lesbians would be allowed to adopt children together, same-sex marriage would have to be taught in high school family living classes and couples would

share in health and other job benefits.

Laurie McBride of the LIFE Lobby said Knight was "engaging in gratuitous Gay bashing."

"The author believes Gays and Lesbians should not be citizens of this state, at least not visible citizens," she said.

She said Lesbian couples, in particular, have fewer sexually transmitted diseases and longer relationships than any other demographic group.

Francisco Lobaco of the American Civil Liberties Union said the bill was similar to old laws that prohibited interracial marriages. He read from a 1948 court decision in Virginia that said God created races and placed them on separate continents for a reason.

"Hopefully, many of us would view this as shameful," he said. "Let's not make the same mistake."

Kuehl also noted that California in the past prohibited marriages by Chinese, Japanese and Filipino immigrants.

"There are thousands of people in this state who would be married if you will not deny them," she said. "It is a very convenient way if you bar marriage between Gays and Lesbians to enforce discrimination and characterize relationships as unstable because you require them to be unstable."

In South Dakota

A bill that would have banned marriages between same-sex couples in South Dakota was rejected Wednesday, January 24th by a state House committee.

The State Affairs Committee voted 8-5 to kill the bill, but the measure's sponsors may try to persuade the full House to debate the bill anyway.

The bill would have changed the legal definition of marriage to require that the relationship be between a man and a woman.

The leader of a group that promotes the civil rights of Gay and Lesbian people said it would make no sense to outlaw any relationship between people who love each other.

Times are changing, and Gays and Lesbians do not threaten society, said Barry Wick of Rapid City, executive director of Free Americans Creating Equal Status of South Dakota.

"It is time to join the 20th century in South Dakota," Wick said.

But the bill's main sponsor, Rep. Roger Hunt, (R-Brandon), said the bill is needed to clarify South Dakotan's traditional views on marriage.

"I think we all agree the traditional definition of marriage has been that of a union of a man and a woman," Hunt said.

Hunt sponsored a similar bill last year. That

measure was approved by the House but died in the Senate.

Hunt said South Dakota might be forced to recognize Gay marriages from other states unless it passes such a bill.

If same-sex marriages were recognized in South Dakota, businesses might be forced to provide health insurance to partners of Gay employees, Hunt said.

The bill does not discriminate against Gay people because discrimination only applies when a group is poor, Hunt said, adding that Gays are rich and therefore can't be discriminated against.

Other supporters of the measure said if the state recognizes same-sex marriages, it might also have to condone polygamy and other unacceptable practices.

Hunt's measure could eventually mean Gay people legally married in other states would be considered unmarried if they traveled in South Dakota, Wick said. Gay and lesbian couples might decide to avoid South Dakota, which would reduce tourism in the state, he said.

More than 400 U.S. companies, already offer health insurance and other benefits to partners of gay employees, Wick said, and the number is growing fast. Allowing the practice in South Dakota would have little effect because many companies do not provide group insurance for workers anyway, he said.

Former state Rep. Pat Kane, a Sioux Falls lawyer, said the measure really involves some people's fear and hatred of Gay people. "I got over homophobia when I discovered I had a Gay child."

Some people refer to the Bible when condemning homosexuality, but if state law were to follow all passages in the Bible, it would have to institute slavery, forbid the eating of pork, and allow the killing of a woman who is not a virgin when she gets married, he said.

Gay people should be allowed to form stable, legal relationships, Kane said. "It will benefit society."

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Announcements

Countering the Right Wing Conference to be Held

Madison—The Wisconsin Community Fund and the Institute for Wisconsin's Future, is sponsoring a conference on "Countering the Right Wing in Wisconsin" to be held February 10th at the Concourse Hotel at 1 W. Dayton St. in Madison from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Key-note Speaker for the conference will be Loretta Ross, former National Program Research Director for the Center for Democratic Renewal in Atlanta, Georgia. Ross works on projects addressing human rights education, Right Wing violence in South Africa and Klan and neo-Nazi involvement in anti-abortion violence.

The cost for the conference is \$25, with lunch provided. Low income and youth scholarships are available. For more information or to register, call (608) 251-6834.

SAGE Milwaukee to Hold Pot Luck, Tea Dance

Milwaukee—On Saturday, February 17th, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Just Us, 807 S. Fifth Street (near Fifth and National) SAGE-Milwaukee will hold its annual "Hearts and Flowers" pot luck and tea dance. Reservations are not required and the event is open to the public. It is, however, a private SAGE party since the bar will not be open to the public until 5:00 p.m.

Bring a dish to pass. Warming ovens will be available. Non-alcoholic beverages, plates, cups and flatware will be provided and a cash bar for alcoholic drinks will be available. If you can't bring a dish, come anyway since there will be plenty of fine food. The event is free and is not a fundraiser for SAGE, but a hat will be passed, as usual.

The United Forms New Group

Madison—The United, Madison's Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Center, is pleased to announce the formation of a new drop-in discussion group for Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals. The group will meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. beginning February 28th. For more information, call The United at (608) 255-8582.

Ten Percent Society's Dance

Madison—The Ten Percent Society of UW-Madison will hold its Valentine's Ball for Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gay men and friends on February 9th beginning at 8:00 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union. The admission charge is \$3. There will be a DJ and a cash bar.

New Radio Program to Debut in Chicago

Chicago—A new radio program created to target Chicagoland's Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian community, will debut Sunday, February 4th at 10:00 a.m. on WCBR, 92.7 FM. "Diversity—Unpretentious Radio" marks Trish Koch's return to Chicago radio as producer and host of the two-hour weekly program. Koch encourages all community organizations to forward information to her at: Generation Q Communications, Inc., 5110 N. Wolcott, Suite 2, Chicago, IL 60640; FAX: c/o August Echo Communications, (708) 369-9907.

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Employment

Director

The United, located in Madison, WI, a non-profit agency providing advocacy, information and referral to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community, is seeking a Director. Duties include: overseeing agency operations, grants administration, supervise staff, fundraising and community relations. Salary 22K, plus benefits (30hr/wk). Send resume and cover letter addressing relevant experience by March 1, 1996, to: Search Committee, c/o T. Richardson, P.O. Box 1325, Madison, WI 53701. NO PHONE CALLS.

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Milwaukee's 9 to 5 to hold 16-Week Course

Milwaukee—Working women interested in advancing in their careers and improving their self-image can take advantage of an informative and motivating 16-week course that combines both. 9to5, Working Women Education Fund, presents "Moving Forward: A Course to Assist Women in Achieving Career Advancement," at Alverno College, 3401 S. 39th St., on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., beginning March 5th and running through June 18, 1996.

"Moving Forward" is created for working women who are in non-management positions and not currently in a degree program. Designed and facilitated by 9to5's Project Coordinator, Truth Freemyn, "Moving Forward" empowers women to focus on and transcend the barriers to career advancement.

The enrollment fee is \$99, which covers materials, guest speaker appearances, and a light dinner fare. Some scholarships may be available. Deadline for enrollment is Friday, March 1st. For registration and information, contact Truth Freemyn at (414) 274-0921.

PFLAG Milwaukee to See Video

Milwaukee—A ½ hour video, **An Unexpected Journey**, produced as a fundraiser by the Denver PFLAG group, will be shown at the Sunday, February 18th meeting of PFLAG Milwaukee. The video details PFLAG activities, goals and messages through real life stories of parents and their children.

The meeting will also feature a postcard mailing blitz to our legislators in Washington in support of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. For location and further information, call (414) 299-9198.

First-Ever "Gay" Spring Break

Key West, FL—The 400 members of the Key West Business Guild are planning America's first ever "Gay" Spring Break. Starting on March 1st and running until April 7th, this Gay destination will be bustling with numerous events and activities especially for Gay and Lesbian college students, faculty and staff. Among the planned events are weekly sunset pool parties, barbecues, movies, outdoor theatre, snorkeling and sunset cruises, sock hops and much more. Lesbian and Gay male students will find a welcome wherever they go.

Information on accommodations and activities can be had by calling the Key West Business Guild at 1-800-535-7797 or writing the Guild at P.O. Box 1208, Key West, FL 33041.

Freeze and Sneeze 4 to be Held

Chicago—Leather United-Chicago is proud to announce "Freeze and Sneeze 4"—a weekend of leather fantasy and fundraising. It will take place February 23rd-25th in Indianapolis. The weekend is produced by Leather United-Chicago and is sponsored by Our Place Bar of Indianapolis, located at 231 E. 16th Street. Proceeds will benefit the Diversity Center, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Community Center of Central Indiana.

The weekend will kick off on Friday at Our Place Bar starting at 10:00 p.m. On Saturday, the Leather Market and Silent Auction will be open from Noon to 5:00 p.m. at The North Meridian Inn, 1530 N. Meridian.

For more information, write to: Freeze and Sneeze Productions, P.O. Box 7635, Round Lake Beach, IL 60073-7635.

1996 Wisconsin Daddy/Daddy's Boy Contest

Milwaukee—It may be a little early, but not too early to mark your calendars for the 1996 Daddy/Daddy's Boy contest to be held the weekend of April 26th. The contest is sponsored by the Argonauts of Wisconsin, Castaways of Milwaukee, Oberons of Milwaukee and the Unicorns of Madison. Times and locations of the events will be announced at a later date. Anyone interested in being in the contest or who would like further information, write: Daddy/Daddy's Boy Contest, P.O. Box 1104, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

MANDI

Continued from Page 1

Mr. Flinchbaugh's attorney asks a series of questions of Dr. Teggatz, all of which are objected to and sustained by Commissioner Brooks. The attorney is told repeatedly that the questions are inappropriate for a hearing. They are meant for a trial motion. In total exasperation, Commissioner Brooks invokes Wisconsin Statutes and stops the cross examination.

The next witness is Detective Thomas Meyer, a 22-year veteran of the Police Force. He reads from the statement taken from Mr. Flinchbaugh after he was arrested:

Joseph Flinchbaugh has a long history of violence, alcohol and drug abuse. He admits to having a bad temper and has been involved in fights where he has used a knife and has stomped and kicked his opponents with his boots, possibly rendering them unconscious. He believes he has calmed down since getting married and having two children. He remembers fighting with Mandi over money. He knows Mandi was dead when he left the apartment on North Meineke.



Joseph Flinchbaugh

Mr. Flinchbaugh's attorney asks only where this statement was taken.

During all of the above testimony and proceedings, Mr. Flinchbaugh showed no outward signs of remorse. He continually played with his long hair and had a smile on his face, especially during Dr. Teggatz's testimony.

Commissioner Brooks, obviously irritated, throws up her hands, shakes her head and states that there is definitely probable cause. Joseph Flinchbaugh is bound over to Circuit

Court on the charge of First Degree Intentional Homicide. Court date to be set. Judge Diane Sykes to be the trial judge.

DIVINE VICTIM

Continued from Page 8

Mine, Happy Endings Are All Alike, says, "This mystery has it all: suspense, surprise, and wonderful writing."

I agree, even with the admission that I'm no fan of murder mysteries. This tale of an aspiring art historian and her lover's entanglement in an old woman's tragic past pulls the reader in from the first sentence of the Prologue.

Wings can write, and her characters are real. Kind and jealous, heroic and cowardly, interesting and infuriating, fascinating and flawed—just like real life. With believability like this, you can even get over the one or two spots where the plot stretches a little thin or there's something of a reach to accept a character motivation.

Though all murder mysteries are overwhelmingly plot-driven, this one succeeds as just plain good fiction because of the complexity (and often downright bizarreness) of the characters. If I were to describe even one of them, I would give too many clues to the ending, which is a surprise right to the last chapter.

Suffice it to say that the author has sufficient observational powers and the skill to communicate what she has seen to convincingly describe the kind of people that inhabit a small town in the Montana wastelands to those found in a sequestered convent in San Diego to the participants in a drunken revel in Italy.

The plot is as sprawling as it sounds, but without the attendant confusion one sometimes finds in such ambitious works.

There are many characters, most of whom are well fleshed out, but they are introduced clearly enough and carried through the plot for sufficient time not to lose the reader.

Even such seasoned writers as Fannie Flagg and Marge Piercy seem to have trouble with this kind of thoroughness; I found myself fumbling back to previous pages in Flagg's 157-character **Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe** to ascertain who was who, and completely befuddled by the middle of Piercy's **Gone To Soldiers**, with its intricately intertwined cast.

That Wings can pull off this kind of involved treatment is a tribute to her skill as a writer.

Although references to nuns and frustrated straight women, recovering Catholics and jealous lovers are legion in Lesbian fiction, nothing in this novel is predictable. Pack this one in your duffel bag for those nights when you need to escape the demands of whatever is getting you down and you need to take comfort in the good company this original and creative story will provide.

“The Tribe” Joins to Help Others While Bonding Among Themselves

By Terry Boughner

Some people call them “The Thursday Night Group,” but they call themselves “The Tribe.” That’s a more exact description for, in truth, that’s precisely what they are. A group of people closely joined together by strong bonds of shared experiences and compassionate concern.

“So many people,” J.C. Pratt, one of The Tribe, says in wonder. “So many walks of life, brought together to do a job and in the process, becoming a family.”

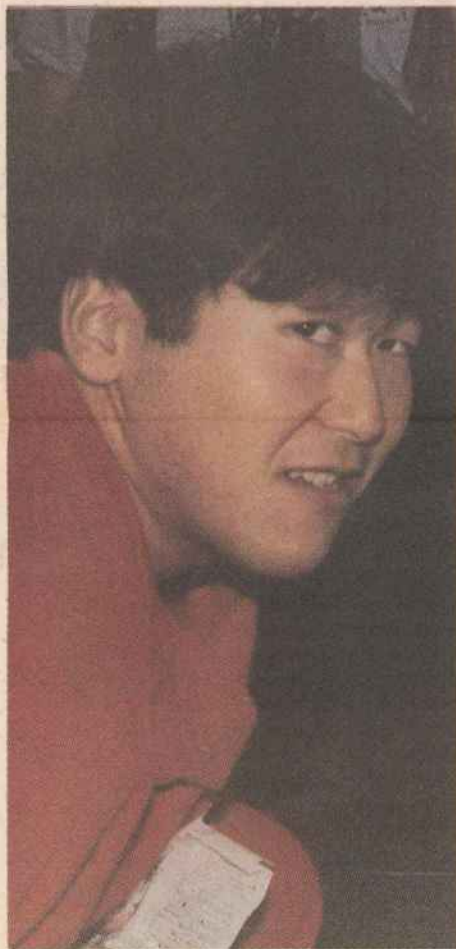
There are some 35 of them in all, women and men, old and young, all ethnic, racial and economic backgrounds, Lesbians, Gay men, Bisexuals and straights, drawn together to work as volunteers at the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP).

There are teachers among them, bankers, too. There are lawyers, ministers, students, business people, professionals of all kinds, people who in everyday life would be separated by those artificial barriers, economic as those between Gays and non-Gays, that society creates.

But here, among themselves, the barriers are down as they exchange quips and laugh easily among themselves.

Most of them are native to Metro Milwaukee, but there are others, too. For example, Stephanie has recently moved here from Alaska.

And there is Shingo.



Shingo

Shingo came to Milwaukee as a student from Japan. A shy, beautiful young man, he joined The Tribe last Summer. In December, he had to return and has been assigned by his government to work in Australia, but he did not forget his family here.

When Lil and Lori, two members of the Tribe, had their commitment ceremony at Just Us, Shingo called from Australia to wish them well.

Nor has The Tribe forgotten him. Sit around with them for awhile and you will hear his name, over and over again, spoken lovingly, as a family would the name of a brother who is far from home.

“Wouldn’t Shingo like this?” someone asks with a fond chuckle and the others nod and smile.

“Wonder what Shingo’s doing now?” another asks at another time.

Since it’s near 7:00 p.m. here, someone says, “He’s probably just getting up.” General chuckles.

There are those among The Tribe, like Lil and Lori who are saving their money to go and visit him. There are those and others, too who are trying to find a way to bring him “home.”

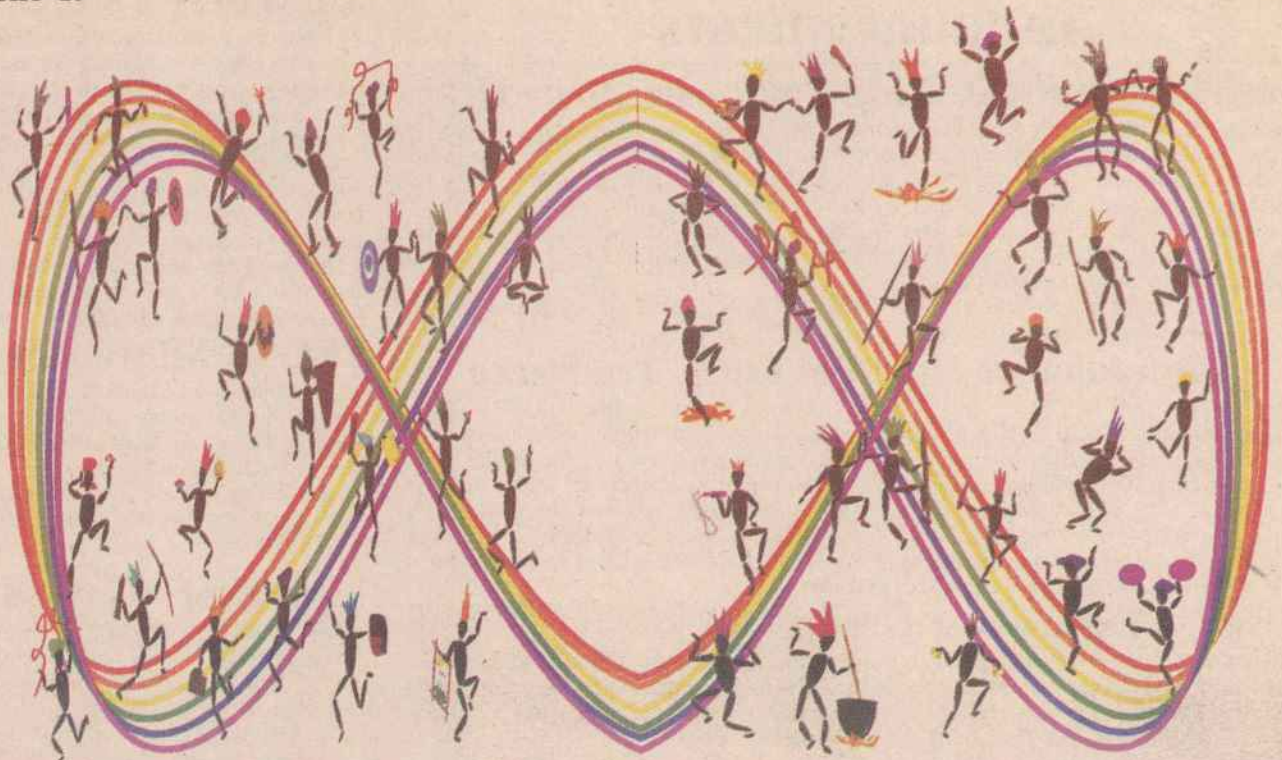
That is just the point.

These people care about each other, they genuinely do.

Larry and Kreg are a father-son team. Kreg wants to make sure his name gets spelled right—with a K.

“That’s not the name I gave you,” Larry says in mock exasperation.

Kreg arches one blonde eyebrow, shrugs and goes back to work. But there is a fond



Original artwork by Jeff Fillion. Each of the figures in the picture represents one of the members of the Tribe. They are joined by a rainbow road, both to show their diversity and their bond to one another.

The Tribe

By Jeffrey J. Fillion

Listen to me and you will hear
A story that must be told
About a group of people called the Tribe
They’ll become a part of your soul

I have heard it be said
Here and there
That every person you meet
Becomes part of you for keeps

Changing who you are in some small way
Going with you every step every day
Along the paths that you take
As you journey through this world

Oh the Tribe is more than a group of friends
It is more than a family
It’s a symbol to everyone
Of diversity in unity

It’s a good omen for the future
Of the way things will be
For coming generations
Be they lesbian, gay or straight

And ever since I joined the Tribe
With open arms they’ve accepted me
I don’t have to wear any masks
I no longer feel alone

And I know that the Tribe has changed me
I’m not the man I was before
My friends, they’ve become a part of my soul
To me they are real heroes

And I must believe that it goes both ways
That I’ve had the same effect
On each member of the Tribe
Forever and for keeps

Oh the Tribe is more than a group of friends
It is more than a family
It’s a symbol of diversity to everyone
Of diversity in unity

It’s a good omen for the future
Of the way things will be
for coming generations
Be they lesbian, gay or straight

So as you journey through this world
Visiting foreign lands
Spread the message of the Tribe
To everyone you meet

That the best way to live is the Tribal way
Being true to who you are
Living with pride and generosity
While pursuing all of your dreams

And if you ever feel alone, my friend
All you have to do is close your eyes
Put your hands over your heart
The Tribe’s in there for keeps

Oh the Tribe is more than a group of friends
It is more than a family
It’s a symbol to everyone
Of diversity in unity

It’s a good omen for the future
Of the way things will be
For coming generations
Be they lesbian, gay or straight

look exchanged, one you have to be quick to notice.

And since The Tribe members do care about each other, that caring can be and is spread out to those less fortunate than themselves. That’s what being a volunteer at MAP is all about, someone says.

According to MAP’s Director of Volunteers, Cheryl Lucas—who has a smile that would light up ten city blocks—The Tribe has been in existence for almost three years now. They come together to do whatever has to be done; stuffing mailings (a mind-deadening task), sticking labels on envelopes, whatever.

Most often, Cheryl says, there are multiple tasks for these volunteers to do. “But they get them all done,” she said. “It’s really amazing how much they can do.”

This night, as the wind blows the heavily falling snow about, some 20 Tribe members are at MAP to stuff envelopes, get a mailing ready, make red ribbon pins, and make condom roses—all at once.

Guy Clough teaches how to make the roses, not the simplest thing to do.

“The first time I tried making one of these, Cheryl says to no one in particular, “it took me an hour to make one rose.”

David is having his problems with a rose. Finally, he gets a semblance of one constructed and holds it up for all around the table to see.

“It’s supposed to be a rose,” Lori tells him. “It is,” he replies. “It’s a variegated variety.” He gets a couple of skeptical looks.

“How’d you get so good with condoms?” Robb asks, with a shy little smile sparkling in his eyes.

Between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., when The Tribe meets, they get 7 dozen roses done. In future gatherings of the clan, they will make dozens—and dozens more.

Someone remarks that maybe the best way to make a rose, is to hold your tongue between you lips.

Doug Nelson, MAP’s Executive Director, sits at the table struggling valiantly with a rose. He tries the suggestion and with intense concentration, sucks on his tongue. His success with the rose is not evident.

The red ribbons are not all that much easier to do. They must be of a precise length and cut before being pinned to a card.

Kaaren, one of the newest members of the family, has her problems with getting them just right. Someone is quick to help her, gently showing her how.

Once finished, the ribbon cards will sell for \$5. “Why not just stick a ribbon on the card and sell it for \$2.50,” someone says, his frustration evident.

That night, nearly 700 of those ribbon cards will get done.

What got them to volunteer at MAP?

Kaaron, a recent graduate of Beloit College said she wanted to help and “MAP was the obvious choice.”

Craig, who as returned to Milwaukee after 18 years in L.A., works in memory of a brother who died of AIDS. “Maybe I can prevent someone going through what my brother did,” he says.

Debbie, a teacher, says she became a volunteer to “help raise awareness” about the disease.

Others who are asked, give similar reasons. There are those out there who are suffering and dying. Like all the 950 volunteers at MAP and the 1100 total throughout the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), these people work to ease the way.

In this observer’s view, there is nothing at all unusual about The Tribe, nothing to separate them out from the general run of human kind. They’re just people, but people with a mission to help, give comfort as they can, do “the drudge work” that needs to be done.

Working as volunteers on Thursday nights, is not all they do. For example, Lil and Lori perform as clowns at MAP children’s parties



A Rose is a Rose is a Rose—Carolyn Walsh (l), Lori Sitzwohl make condom roses as David Holder looks on.

on Hallowe’en. The Tribe holds bake sales, too. There have been 5 small ones held at MAP and two large ones. Guy Clough says proudly that last December, The Tribe raised \$455 for MAP at the bake sale.

By and by, “the beer fairy” starts calling—and her sister “the vodka fairy” too. That means, as someone says, “it’s time to go to the Club House.”

This, as I am told, and as I know, is a weekly ritual. What The Tribe call The Club House, is This Is It. Joe Brehm, the owner of the bar, greets them warmly. He is, along with John, Randy and the rest of the staff, a Tribe member in good standing. With a decided catch in his voice, before the whole bar, he thanks them for the work they do.

Of course I must go along. The story has to be followed out to its “bitter end,” doesn’t it? Come February 9th and 10th, members of

The Tribe will be out bar hopping, distributing condoms and dental dams. Lil shows off a dental dam holder. On its cover it says, “She licks me, she licks me not.” The words are hers.

Once upon a time, in the little Pennsylvania town where I grew up, all the ladies of the church would get together and put on a dinner. My mother told me that nothing, absolutely nothing could knit people together more than working at a common task.

The Tribe—and all the volunteers at MAP and throughout ARCW have discovered that little secret.

As Cheryl said, there’s room for more. “There’s so much work that needs to be done,” she said with an urgency in her eyes. “So many people that we need to help. All anyone has to do is call me,” she went on. “Just call me here at MAP.”

It’s a good idea.