



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

The Wisconsin Light



Over the Rainbow—Miraculously, a Rainbow Flag which once flew above the Hotel Washington, survived the devastating fire that destroyed the building on February 18th.

Log Cabin Urges Cross Over Vote Against Buchanan in the Primaries

Gunderson and Birch Challenge Buchanan to a Debate

Washington, D.C.—Pat Buchanan's recent political ascendancy has put the Republican Party into a tailspin, according to Log Cabin Republicans.

"The Republican Party is beginning to reap the harvest of pandering to the Far Right," said Richard Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans. "Since 1972, Republican candidates thought they could harness the working class Democrat vote to their advantage. Buchanan's tapped into these social conservative and fiscal liberals, many who were Democrats.

"He's played the anti-Gay card, the race card, anti-Semitic card and the corporate bashing card. Ralph Reed [head of the Christian Coalition] now has the true Far Right candidate he's been demanding," Tafel said.

"And now the Republican Party looks poised to tear itself apart and hand Bill Clinton a victory. Buchanan divides the party as he divides the country," Tafel added.

Tafel urged all Gays and Lesbians to vote in Republican primaries against Buchanan.

"The front lines of the battle for the Gay community are in the Republican Presidential primaries. No matter your political persuasion or who your general election candidate will be, voting against Pat Buchanan in the GOP primaries is the most important act for Gays and Lesbians in this political year," Tafel said.

Tafel urged Gays and Lesbians to cross over in those states which allow it, as Wisconsin does, and vote against Buchanan.

"Stopping Pat Buchanan now should be the goal of every Gay and Lesbian American," Tafel said. "His appeal to the working class in a general election could be surprising. If he

continues to split the Republican vote and wins the nomination, don't be so naïve to think he can't win the presidency," Tafel said.

Buchanan Challenged to Debate

Elizabeth Birch, head of the Human Rights Campaign and Rep. Steve Gunderson (R-WI) have challenged Buchanan to defend his numerous anti-Gay statements.

"Buchanan's campaign for president has been the most anti-Gay in history of presidential politics," Birch said at a news conference Monday, February 26th where she challenged Buchanan to debate her.

Gunderson, the only openly Gay Republican in Congress, offered to participate also.

"I join with Elizabeth Birch in calling for a dialogue or debate on these issues," Gunderson said in a statement. "The party of Lincoln, the party of freedom, the party of individuals' rights to chart their own destinies cannot be home to prejudice in any way, shape or form."

Poll Shows Voters Object to Gay-Baiting

Anti-Gay themes being sounded by GOP presidential candidates are not working with at least some of the Republican and independent voters, according to a recent poll released by the Human Right Campaign.

The poll, taken in New Hampshire just before that state's primary of 443 people, found that 31% of respondents felt it is "wrong to use Gays to score points."

A total of 32% said they "strongly disapprove" of the rally held in Des Moines sponsored by the Christian Coalition to speak out against same-sex marriage and of "mixing extreme religious views and politics.

The poll also found 32% of respondents would be "somewhat less supportive" or "much less supportive" of a candidate who signed a pledge opposing same-sex marriage.

TURN TO PRIMARIES, PAGE 5

Madison's Historic Hotel Washington, Nationally Known Gay Mecca, Burns

Plans are to Rebuild

Milwaukee—The Hotel Washington complex has long been a focus of entertainment and socializing for the Madison Lesbian and Gay community. Its national reputation has attracted visitors from all over the country. On Sunday, February 18, 1996, the Hotel Washington burned to the ground.

Along with the 22-room hotel, including 10 rooms for low-income permanent residents, the building was home to the Club de Wash, the Barber's Closet, the New Bar, Rod's, Café Palms, Café Espresso, Micro Bar, Speed Print and the Barber's Closet Salon. More than 100 people worked in the building.

According to reports, the fire began a little after 6:00 a.m. Jeff Schultz, an assistant manager and resident in the building called the fire department at 6:15 a.m. Within minutes a fire crew was on the scene and discovered "it was a huge fire."

According to Bernadette Galvez, a spokeswoman for the Madison Fire Department, additional fire crews arrived at 6:28 a.m. and began searching the building for victims. The blaze, however, proved to be too great and the searchers were withdrawn.

That no one was killed in the fire was due in large part to three alert employees, Steve Richards, Michelle Dorland, building managers, and Schultz. It was they who ran through the smoke-filled halls rousing the 15 residents and getting them to safety.

For awhile, there were rumors that arson had been involved, but these have been put to rest. According to Greg and Sherry Scheel, the fire was accidental. It started in the office area in back of the Café Palms and Espresso Shop.

The Hotel Washington has a long and rich history in Madison, dating from 1885. The building was purchased by the late Rodney

Scheel in 1975. Scheel, one of Madison's most prominent Gay activists and philanthropists, died in 1990 of complications due to AIDS.

While the old building went up quickly, some few artifacts were saved. These included some pictures and Rodney Scheel's desk.

Plans are now to rebuild. Greg and Sherry Scheel were almost immediately in conference with insurance adjusters and architects.

Rod's bar itself, located in the basement of the building, was somewhat less damaged. Possibly it could re-open by the first of the year, while the rest of the building is constructed over it.

Gay-Bashers Can't Stay Away

As the fire roared, one bible-thumper started preaching to the on-lookers about how they ought to get "saved" and other such religious prattle. The miscreant had a cup of coffee tossed in his face before police led him away.

Ron Greer, the Madison fire-fighter who has come under fire for passing out anti-Gay literature on duty (for which Greer is currently under investigation), came to the scene to watch with his two sons.

"I'm not sorry about some of the businesses that are gone now," Greer is quoted as saying in the *Wisconsin State Journal*. "But I also will add that I won't help raise money to get those businesses started again."

Madison Mayor Paul Soglin and a group of elected Gay officials denounced Greer for his remarks.

"Ron Greer might not have ignited the match that started this fire," said Nikki Baumbatt, co-producer of WTSO-AM's Saturday Night Out. "But he has ignited the flame of anti-Gay sentiments in Madison."

TURN TO HOTEL WASHINGTON, PAGE 16



Landmark Leveled—Fire quickly raged out of control and engulfed the entire Hotel Washington on February 18th.

Log Cabin's Efforts Result in End of Proposed Bill to Ban Same-Sex Marriages

Madison—In the last issue of *Light* it was reported that Rep. Dean Kaufert (R-Neenah) intended to introduce a bill to bar recognition of same-sex marriages in Wisconsin. Kaufert has since decided against introducing that legislation and is seeking a legal opinion on the issue instead.

Kaufert had indicated in a press release

dated February 12th that he did not want actions of other states to force Wisconsin to recognize same-sex marriages against their will. A number of state legislatures are considering and/or have passed similar legislation designed to preempt any gains Gay and Lesbian couples might make if the Hawaiian Su-

TURN TO MARRIAGE, PAGE 15

News Briefs

Gays Say Blood Drive Questions Discriminate

Minneapolis-AP-A University of Minnesota Gay group is urging donors at the school's annual blood drive to support changes in screening questions they say discriminate against Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals. The group, called the University Gay Community, says blood-collection agencies exclude potential male donors who acknowledge having had sex with another man even once since 1977.

Sean Wherley, president of the group, said Tuesday that such a policy does not reflect whether the participants engaged in safe sex.

"It is harmful to perpetuate the myth that it is inevitable (that people who practice Gay sex) will have HIV and AIDS," he said.

He urged that blood-collection agencies use more specific questions to identify people who have used condoms or who have tested positive or negative for the AIDS virus.

Blood bank officials emphasize that their main concern is protecting the blood supply and the public's confidence in it.

The University Gay Community is not boycotting the weeklong blood drive now under way on the Minneapolis campus. The blood drive is sponsored by the university's Boynton Health Service.

Gay-Bashing on Rise in San Francisco

San Francisco-AP-City officials don't know whether an increase in hate crimes represents a greater number of attacks, or shows the public is simply more aware of the issue. The city saw a 23 percent increase in hate crimes in 1995, led largely by attacks on Gays and Lesbians, according to the police Hate Crimes Unit.

"It may simply be that more people are aware of how to file a complaint," said Sgt. Herman Jones. "It's my impression that more people know now that these kinds of incidents are crimes and that the police will take action when informed about them."

But members of hate crime watchdog groups say that while there may be normal annual violations of 10 percent or so, a jump of 23 percent is a matter of concern. "The fact remains that the numbers themselves are so high that they are simply intolerable," said Lester Olmstead-Rose of Community United Against Violence, which monitors crimes against gays and lesbians in San Francisco.

Violations range from verbal abuse to physical assaults. The number of such crimes rose to 350 last year, up from 285 in 1994. Every category except anti-Semitic and ethnic attacks rose, but the largest jump came in the Gay-related classification.

The increase comes at the same time other Northern California communities, including Oakland, Berkeley and Richmond, report drops of up to 40 percent for such crimes.

Buchanan to Gays: "NO!"; Others, "Maybe"

Washington-AP-Pat Buchanan said he wouldn't allow openly Gay people to work in his administration if he were president, although he admitted worked with closeted Gays and Lesbians as an aide to President Nixon. "I've worked with people in the Nixon White House who were Gay, not openly Gay. They're good people in a lot of ways," Buchanan told CNN. "I would have no hesitation of having folks like that. But I don't think their lifestyle should ... discredit the administration."

"In other words, Roberta Achtenberg no," he added, referring to the former assistant secretary of housing, an openly Lesbian Clinton appointee who resigned to run for mayor of San Francisco.

Asked if he would ferret out Gays, Buchanan said, "Look, the FBI does those investigations. I don't do those as president."

The Human Rights Campaign said Buchanan was "exploiting the fears" of people in a segment of American society who don't agree with homosexuality.

"Polls consistently show that American voters are overwhelmingly against job discrimination against Gay people," David Smith, a spokesman for the Washington-based group, said today. "Buchanan's position on whether he would accept a Gay person in his administration is another example of Buchanan's extremism. He continues to Gay-bash with very little remorse."

The GOP candidate, under scrutiny after two of his campaign aides stepped down after being linked to racist groups, said, however, that he would be "open" to having minorities join his administration.

Asked whether a black person would be offered a high appointment in a Buchanan administration, the Buchanan told CNN, "I would certainly not rule that out and I would probably rule that in."

As to women, Buchanan has said they "belong in the home."

Some Dutch AIDS Sufferers Choose Euthanasia

Amsterdam, Netherlands-AP-About one-fifth of deaths during a survey of Gay AIDS victims in Amsterdam were by euthanasia, a study published Friday, February 23rd, concluded. The study was sponsored by the city's Municipal Health Service, which researched the course of HIV infection and AIDS among more than 1,100 Gay men.

Between 1985 and 1992, 160 participants were diagnosed with AIDS and 131 of them had died by January 1, 1995. Of those, 22 percent died as a result of euthanasia and doctor-assisted suicide, which comes under the nation's liberal euthanasia guidelines.

"They've reached a certain stage and they just want it stopped. They ask, 'let me die with dignity,'" said Henk Krol, editor-in-chief of the city's Gay Newspaper and a counselor to Gay AIDS patients.

Although euthanasia is technically illegal, it is permitted when repeatedly requested by lucid patients suffering unbearable and irremediable pain.

"They want a dignified way of saying goodbye," said Jos Holweg, a counselor to gay AIDS patients at a local AIDS prevention center. "There's a strong sense of independence among Gay men. They know that they need to take control in order to live the way they want to live ... that also includes the quality of their death."

About 3,800 AIDS cases have been diagnosed in the Netherlands since the pandemic started, and Gay men account for approximately 80 percent of them.

Although the gay euthanasia study only covered the Dutch capital, Amsterdam has the nation's largest Gay population and is usually considered a bellwether for gay communities elsewhere in Europe. According to Krol, homosexuals make up approximately 10 percent of the 15 million Dutch population.

Gay Monk Defrocked For Having Sex with Monks

Bangkok, Thailand-AP- A Buddhist monk accused of violating the monks' code by having sex with two other monks has been arrested. The case came amid increasing concern over mounting scandals in the monkhood. Buddhism, along with the monarchy and nationalism, is considered one of the three pillars of Thai society. More than 90 percent of Thais are Buddhist.

Deputy Education Minister Chaovarin Latthasaksiri led ministry officials and clergy Sunday in ousting Viroj Saengpha as a monk. He was taken to a local police station and charged with impersonating a monk, meaning not living up to expected standards. Buddhism teaches renunciation of worldly desires and possessions.

Chaovarin said his ministry was trying to locate the two other monks, one of whom allegedly took photos of the encounters and sold them.

Traditionally, almost all Thai men spend at least a few months as monks. But lack of an adequate screening process, critics say, has allowed criminals to use the clergy as a temporary refuge. In January, a Buddhist monk admitted to murdering a 23-year-old British tourist. One of the country's most respected abbots has been arrested for allegedly raping young hilltribe girls.

Anti-Gay Group Fined

Olympia, WA-AP-The state Public Disclosure Commission has fined an anti-Gay Far Right extremist group \$500 for failing to meet finance disclosure law last year.

The Committee for Equal Rights Not Special Rights backed failed Initiative 166, which would have barred government from including homosexuals under anti-discrimination laws. It was fined for failing to file reports on campaign donations and expenditures and to disclose the names and employers of all who contributed.

The maximum fine could have been \$2,500, but commission member Jocelyn Marchisio recommended the \$500 fine because the committee ultimately tried to comply with state disclosure laws.

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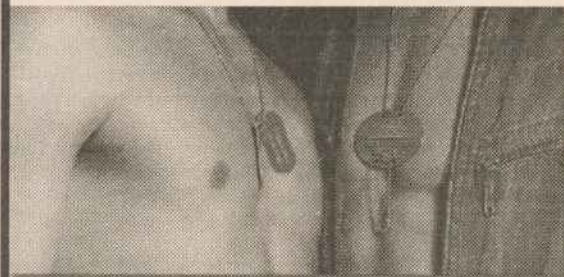
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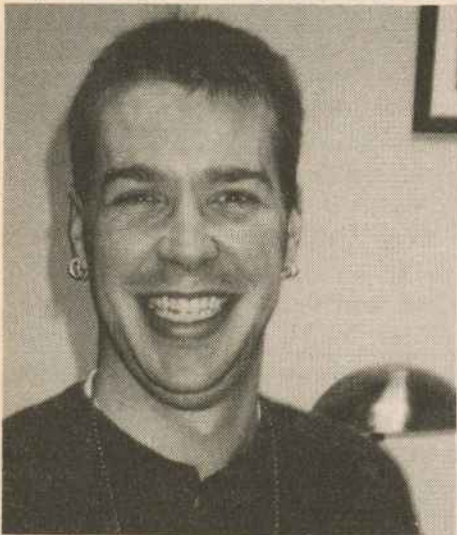
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MAP's Gay Outreach is a "Damned Good Program" Yuri Keegstra Says.

By Terry Boughner

He was called Yuri after the character in Boris Pasternak's *Dr. Zhivago*. It's appropriate. There's the same Pasternakian intensity about him of one born into revolutionary times. There's also that look he has of caring, compassion and deep concern that is found in the "Laura Poems" and the haunting music that was composed to go with them.

Yuri Keegstra is familiar to the Milwaukee community. He and his late partner, Christopher Fons, were the heart and soul of ACT UP Milwaukee, (Yuri denies that, giving credit to all its members, but it's true nonetheless), helping materially to take the disease into the headlines as well as doing whatever they could to prevent its spread.



YURI KEEGSTRA

Currently, Yuri works at the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) as part of the agency's Outreach Program to the Gay and Lesbian community. It is good to see him. He looks well.

Yuri was born and raised in Chicago, the son of a Methodist minister. They traveled around a lot. He attended Michigan State, entering as a sophomore and majoring in history and comparative religions. It was there that he met Craig. They fell in love. Craig died of complications due to AIDS.

Yuri left Michigan and returned to Chicago, there to join ACT UP in 1990. As a member of ACT UP Chicago, he met Christopher when they were both in Madison at an action, and eventually moved to Milwaukee to be with him.

As part of ACT UP Milwaukee, they were like two sparks coming together to make one fire. Perhaps they knew they would come down in flames, but Oh, what a glorious

light.

Christopher died a year ago now, of complications due to AIDS, but as the disease took its terrible toll, Yuri stuck by his spouse.

Today, as he did then, Yuri protests that he did nothing unusual, caring for Christopher, loving Christopher as he did. But there are those who disagree. Like *Zhivago* at Varykino with Laura, Yuri showed that love is heroic. In tumultuous times it is steady. He showed us what love is; that love lays itself down and considers itself fortunate so to do.

Following Christopher's death, Yuri mourned and mourned deeply the way tender hearts slashed through with romance must do. Even now, his lip quivers when he speaks of Christopher, but while the hole in his soul will always be there, life must go on.

Part of the will to go on, he says, comes from the rage he feels and has felt over the disease. "The rage can't just fester inside," he says. It's got to come out constructively. "That's very important," he adds.

To channel his feelings, and knowing that Christopher would want him to move on, he has re-involved himself in ACT UP Milwaukee. But there is another route for him as well, one equally as important. That is working at MAP.

He started at MAP this past January 8th, joining the agency as Gay Community Outreach Specialist, where he works with Andy Bagnall.

It was not easy, he says to make the decision to come to MAP. He had always worked outside "the traditional means. It was soul-searching time for me," he said.

But finally he decided to come "on board," as they say. He talked to people working in the agency; became excited about the Gay Outreach Program, and realized that there was scope at MAP to fight the disease, ignorance and offer help, just as he has always done.

"What I learned," he said, "was that it [Gay Outreach] was a damned good program and I wanted to be a part of that."

Among the most visible things that Yuri, Andy and the volunteers do is to go from bar to bar distributing condoms and talking to those who want information.

"I enjoy doing this," Yuri says. "I enjoy being a resource person for people to talk to about issues that concern them."

He is fully aware that, while the knowledge about AIDS prevention is widely dispersed, that knowledge sometimes doesn't get changed into behavior. This is the task of MAP's Gay Outreach. This is MAP's and their participation in these revolutionary times.

Human Rights League Presented Second Annual Cream City Brick Awards

Milwaukee—The Human Rights League (HRL) presented its second annual Cream City Brick Awards at their annual election meeting on February 28, 1996. The event was held at the community room at Yankee Hill in downtown Milwaukee.

Cream City Foundation

Each year, the Group Spirit Award is given to a Gay or Lesbian group or organization whose efforts establish or promote the Lesbian and Gay community in a positive fashion.

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Kevin Quader

The Pace Setter Award is given to a Gay or Lesbian person who has represented our community in a positive fashion.

This year's Pace Setter Award went to Kevin Quader. Kevin has served on the Board of the Lambda Rights Network, Dignity and the Sherman Park Association. He has also served as a member of PrideFest, Interfaith Services, the Fest City Singers, HRL, SAGE, among many other organizations

Sandra Holtzman

The Ambassador Award is given to a Gay or Lesbian person who has made outstanding, substantial contributions in the area of human rights.

This year's Ambassador Award went to Sandra Holtzman. Sandra brought before the Wisconsin Supreme Court the issue of Gay/Lesbian co-parent recognition and our children's rights to the same protection afforded the children of heterosexual parents. As a result of this landmark case, which was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, the relationship between our children and those they know as their parents are protected.

Jamakaya

The Spotlight Award is given to a media person, department, station or paper whose coverage best promotes understanding of the Gay and Lesbian Community.

This year's Spotlight Award went to Jamakaya. She has written for *Hag Rag* and *Wisconsin Light* and is currently editor of *In Step Magazine*.

A certificate of merit was given to Margo Houston of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* for her story covering Gay males raising children in today's social climate.

Oriental Theatre

The Ground Work Award is given to a business which has made significant contributions to the Gay and Lesbian community.

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Editorial

Pat Buchanan and Homer's "Odyssey"

Pull in the wagons! Build a fence along the border from the Gulf to the Pacific Ocean! Hunker down! Pat Buchanan speaks to a longing in some Americans that is nearly as old as the country is itself. It is a longing, a deep desire, to stay shielded behind the oceans, to build the "city set upon a hill", and let the rest of the world go by. That kind of isolationism has never been tenable, as Washington and Adams found out, and it is even less so now.

He also speaks to another longing; a longing for a half-remembered time, when there was something called "small town America," a place of little stores and brick streets, and "everybody knew your name." There was job security then, supposedly. A kid could grow up and look forward to working in mill or farm and take the place in society that his father and grandfather had.

There was prayer in the schools and bible reading too. No real problems to speak of, right? No minorities and "uppity" women pounding at the nation's door demanding equality. It was "the best of all possible worlds," or so they'd like to think.

That's gone now, for the most part—if it ever existed at all. But if it did, any of it, it was destroyed, not by Buchanan's boogymen and alien forces—NAFTA, GAPP, the UN, the Japanese, Mexicans, Gays, and the rest. It was ended by Walmart, Target and the A&P.

Where there is no vision, they say, the people perish. Well and good. But the confusion lies in the fact that vision is an outward thing, a thing of the future, not a longing for some memory gilded past.

It is in speaking to this confusion—and encouraging it—that Buchanan and his Right Wing followers do their greatest disservice to this country. They provide no vision, only a Grimm-like tale of an Edenic myth.

It's attractive. Myths always are. They are the siren's call. But as Homer pointed out in the *Odyssey*, we must ignore it and sail on by or we shall perish indeed.

On the Hotel Washington

Wisconsin Light wishes to express its heartfelt sorrow and deep sense of loss to the Scheel family and to the entire Madison Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community at the loss of the Hotel Washington. We remember fondly all the good time we had there and the people that we met.

We remember the laughter, rare nowadays.

We remember the cruising. We remember the fun.

We remember delivering papers in late afternoons when the chill of a Wisconsin winter struck clear through to the bone. There was always a hot cup of coffee waiting (on the house), and some fresh, warm popcorn to eat.

We remember sitting now and again and talking to Rod. He was so ebullient, so friendly and so full of life. We'd talk about AIDS. We'd talk about politics. But most of all, we'd talk about things that Gay men do.

Now, we have our memories of an open, friendly place, a good and warm place, where we could be, and be accepted and not feel afraid.

But we are persuaded that the Hotel Washington will rise again. We look forward to that time, to renewing old friendships, old times, old ways. Until then, we offer our respect and our words. It is all that we can do.

On Hate Speech

Wisconsin Light fully shares the outrage expressed by the Dane County/Madison Openly Gay and Lesbian Elected Officials and that of the entire Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered community as well as the homophobic, hatefilled comments attributed to Ron Greer, city firefighter. His words leave us with a sense of profound revulsion that is difficult to describe.

Words like these cause fires, conflagrations greater than any he supposedly helps to put out, raging infernos of pain, violence, death and all forms destruction, the kind of flames that can only be found in some half-imagined hell. There is utterly no excuse for these kinds of words. No religion, no god, nothing can justify them. Words like these are unbecoming civilized human beings.

If this man has been quoted correctly (and we sadly suspect that he has), he should get down on his knees before his children and beg their forgiveness for teaching them the brutality of hate. He should then adjourn to his room and plead with God to excuse him from making that wonderful loving, infinitely vast deity hateful and small.

Sadly, he probably won't do any of that. He will continue bringing the wood and the nails, and when the crucifixion is done, protest that he had nothing whatever to do with it.

Editor's Note

High School Days; The 1950's Were Not What they Seem to be Now

By Terry Boughner

Every time I hear Pat Buchanan or some other bible thumper longing for "the good old days," I remember the late '40s and '50s. For

me, that was a turbulent decade, when I was trying to grow up—not only grow up Gay, but just grow up, period. To put it in other words, despite all the prayer and bible read-

ing in the public schools, the decade, 1948 to 1958 wasn't just one long "Leave it to Beaver" show.

We had our problems—under age drinking, crime, teen pregnancy, violence. Despite prayer and bible reading in the schools, it was all there. Sex education? We had plenty of it. It just wasn't mentioned in the classrooms, is all.

Through it all, we (the younger generation, then) coped. Our parents may not have known how we coped. Some of them may have doubted that we would ever cope. But cope we did and grew up (most of us), by the skin of our teeth, as I think now, just as any generation does.

TURN TO HIGH SCHOOL, PAGE 11

An Open Letter to the Community

By Jane Vanderbosch

After almost a year of silence (due primarily to reasons of health), I would like to lift the aura of misinformation that surrounds my departure as executive director of the United in April 1995.

I do this because there are inaccuracies that continue to surround my termination, inaccuracies were evident in the article on the United that appeared in the Valentine's Day issue of the Wisconsin Light. The inaccuracies include the following:

1. I did not voluntarily resign. I was told by the president of the board that unless I resigned within 24 hours I would be fired.

2. In shock at that point, I handed the president my resignation effective immediately. However, on the advice of friends—who maintained my resignation gave the appearance that I agreed with the board's decision—I verbally rescinded that resignation five hours later. And the next morning (April 19, 1995), I hand delivered a letter of rescission to the board.

3. I have never been told—to this date—why I was fired. (In fact, I never even knew that my job was in jeopardy, especially since I had been given a unanimous vote of confidence by the board at the March, 1995 board meeting).

Though I was advised by attorneys that I had a breach of contract case against the United, I have chosen not to sue the agency. I did this for three reasons.

One, I am not in good enough health to pursue litigation against the agency;

Two, I want to put a painful past behind me;

Three, I did not think it was anyone's best interest (my own, the United's or the community) to undertake such a divisive action.

I am delighted that according to the recent article, the United is restructuring itself. However, I am bothered that the current board president continues to speak of my "resignation" as if it had been voluntary, to infer that I left the agency of my own accord. This was—and is—not true. And I have needed to say that for a very long time.

But why, you may ask, after all these months am I finally speaking up now? I guess, to be honest, I needed to get in my "two cents." To end some of the rumors. And to break silence. Because now that there is no threat of litigation, there is no reason for continued silence. Because silence is not the way all those involved in this situation—myself included—can heal.

I thank the Light for the opportunity to tell my side of the story.

Christians and Love

TO THE EDITOR:

It is with much sadness that we read a leaflet that was produced by an individual or individuals identified as Wisconsin Christians United and titled **Homosexuality: THE TRUTH**. This leaflet blatantly attacks Lesbians and Gays and asserts that they do not deserve the same civil rights as so-called "moral" people. Wisconsin Christians United claims to speak in the name of God, but the language in this leaflet is hurtful, unjust and goes against God's command to love one another, our neighbors, even our enemies.

Out of our sadness, we feel compelled to respond to this and other literature being distributed in the community that portrays a negative image of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered persons. We respond as a caring and liberated Christian community that not only accepts all people regardless of their sexual orientation, but respects and celebrates diversity.

Although we are not problem-free, our church community is a safe place, a sacred place, a place for all of us to grow together, and to love and nurture one another. It is a particularly safe place in which Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgendered persons can feel free to "come out."

We are one of many congregation throughout the country that willingly accepts Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgendered persons as equal members and acknowledges their rights. We are as much a faith and Bible-based church community as any other.

We find our strength and courage in God's words of love and try to live our lives as God would want: "God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8).

After much study, we have concluded that Biblical accounts of God's wrath and anger are as much related to the injustices that the powerful have leveled against the poor and vulnerable as they are to individual acts of "sin." We do acknowledge our

individual shortcomings, but sexual orientation is not one of them.

In the spirit of love we wish to remind those who would want to deny basic civil rights to any group of people, that in terms of defending human rights, we and communities like ours are a tenacious lot, and we are not going to go away.

Out of our tenacity and because of our strongly held, Bible-based beliefs, we feel called by God to defend, protect and to work towards the expansion of the rights of all oppressed people. In this instance we are specifically concerned about defending the rights of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered persons in the Madison community. Perhaps one day we can all work together to forge a more just and humane world free of prejudice and fear of each other's differences.

Editor's Note: The above letter was adopted by the University United Methodist Church at a Special Conference, February 13, 1996. As it was received in this office, it bears the written signatures of all 20 members in attendance.

Deadlines

Copy deadline for the Mar. 14th issue is Mar. 8th.

Ad deadline for the Mar. 14th issue is Mar. 12th.

Copy deadline for the Mar. 28th issue is Mar. 22nd.

Ad deadline for the Mar. 28th issue is Mar. 26th.

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The Wisconsin Light



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Open Letter to Mayor Paul Soglin

We are writing to express our outrage over the comments and homophobia of Ron Greer, a city of Madison firefighter. As citizens, we ask that action be taken against Greer, as his offenses are shaking the faith of the community in the Madison Fire Department.

His recent actions—handing out hate literature at work and the city-county building—have angered many people in this community. His hatred has been especially hurtful to the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual community in Madison who have been targeted by his visible actions. Further, his most recent performance is among the most disturbing.

On Sunday, February 18th, Greer took his three sons to witness the fire at the Hotel Washington. As he voyeuristically watched the fire, he smiled and talked to the media about the "good" side of the tragedy. In the Monday, February 19th *Capital Times*, Greer is quoted as saying, "It's a tragic loss of a historical building, but I'm glad to see certain establishments in the place are gone. If it means the end to certain types of businesses, I don't have a problem with that."

This action profoundly shakes the trust of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual people in this City and specifically in the Fire Department.

Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals should not have to fear for their protection as it relates to fire safety. Will Greer, or others he claims "asked" for his hateful literature, put the same effort into fighting a fire if a home displays the Rainbow Flag?

Will Greer do his best to help rescue someone in a car accident if a Pink Triangle decal is displayed in their window?

Will Greer work his hardest to save a business owned by a Gay or Lesbian?

While we appreciate First Amendment rights, we also recognize hate speech. Hate speech is speech which nudges someone to create a hostile work environment or which nudges someone to beat up Gays and Lesbians, set fires or perform other violent acts. Hate speech is speech which finds the "good" in a fire that leaves 16 people homeless, destroys a historic building housing eight different businesses and costs the community over \$2 million in loss.

Greer's hatred and bigotry threaten public confidence in the Madison Fire Department. We demand action be taken to stop Greer from using the department as his bully pulpit again. Greer has had past insubordination actions taken against him from the department; this time a far more substantial response is needed. Restore confidence in the Madison Fire Department that it deserves.

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Controversial New Magazine Launched Aimed at Young Gay Men

San Francisco—"It's exasperating. A lot of people want to pretend young Gay people don't exist. Thousands of Gay kids commit suicide every year because they think everyone is straight. These people who think nobody's Gay till they're 25 are blind to reality," said Jane Thompson, business manager for XY.

XY is a controversial new national glossy consumer magazine aimed at Gay male teens and twentysomethings that was launched on February 7th. It has sent the Right Wing religionists into a frenzy.

"I'm waiting for the Christian Coalition to burn crosses on my lawn," said Peter Ian Cummings, the magazine's editor. "But all we're saying is that young Gay people exist. I mean if you can have Seventeen Magazine for young women, I don't see what the problem is with having XY for young Gay men."

The magazine is a high-quality, perfect-bound publication featuring topics found in many magazines—Gay or straight—but these are aimed squarely at Gay teens.

For example there's an article on the portrayal of teens in homoerotic ads; an article on computer software; one on snow boarding, and one on the latest in dance music.

"Young Gay men are the highest per capita users of the Internet," Cummings said. "This is why we have articles on things like personal web pages and why everyone has an Internet address."

The photography alone is worth the price of the magazine (\$5.95). Done in full color, much of it, the pictures escape lasciviousness and license for a shy and alluring doe-eyed sensuality that is like a dark eastern forest full of stars.

On the front cover are two young men standing with their arms about each other. With their campus good looks, they are like two sparrows driven to earth by some evil storm. They stare out at their hostile world, unsmiling, with loving yet defiant eyes.

Underneath in bold red letters is the word "Underage."

That says it all—about high school years, teenage crushes, and hidden desires that not all the holy water in a thousand bowls was able to wash away.

XY covers not only the U.S., but foreign lands as well, covering developments in those places as they affect Gay youth.

The magazine is well worth a look-see, and is on sale now across the country.

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Politically Speaking

Artison's Chief Qualification for the Job of Mayor of Milwaukee is That He Wants It

By Bill Meunier

Remember all those old sayings you used to hear from your grandparents? Well this election campaign brings several of them to mind.

Take "As you sow so shall you reap." That old adage fits the contest for the Republican Presidential nomination.

The Republicans won Congress with the help of hysterical talk show hosts spreading rumors and innuendoes about the Democrats.

They deluded themselves into thinking that the American people supported their "Contract On America." Now they find that the people didn't really like their ideas and they have no alternatives to offer.

Their strategy seems to be the same as it was in November of 1994. Run a sufficient number of negative ads about your opponent to turn off the voters and drive down the turnout. But they forgot to wait until those ads would be focused on Bill Clinton.

All of their negative campaign commercials have turned the voters off on them and their party.

They thought that by pandering to the ultra Right Wing Christian Coalition they were sowing the seeds of building a stronger party. Now they find themselves forced to take extreme positions just to get their party's nomination.

Witness the so called "moderate in the race," Lamar Alexander. In a Washington appearance Alexander announced that he would consider Pat Robertson for Vice President. If this is a moderate I'm Emperor of the Moon.

Its all relative. Perhaps the Republicans have swung so far to the extreme Right that Pat Robertson IS a moderate.

Even before the campaign had started heating up all of the candidates denounced the concept of Gay marriage and of Gays in general. Of course some of the Log Cabinites are still supporting Bob Dole despite his refusal of their campaign contribution.

If that support seems pathetic to you, you aren't alone. On the other hand, what you can expect from people who think the GOP did us a favor by inviting only 10 homophobic witnesses to a Congressional hearing on Gays and the school instead of 15?

Can you say "Thank you sir for not wearing the steel tipped jack boots when you kicked me in the ribs all those times?" I thought you could.

Thumbs Down on Artison

Then we have Milwaukee's Mayoral campaign. This race seems to be heating up a bit. That was to be expected given all of the hot air being blown around by former Milwaukee County Sheriff, Richard Artison, as he tries to unseat incumbent Mayor John Norquist.

Artison was the Milwaukee County Sheriff until he decided to take an early retirement and collect a fat pension check. He has forgotten the old saying "People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones." He should have thought of it before he started attacking a Mayor with a good record.

First he accused Norquist of "living in an ivory tower." Actually that is a more accurate reflection of himself. Norquist owns a home in a middle class neighborhood on Milwaukee's South side, while Artison lives in an East Side high rise along the lake.

Artison implies that Norquist doesn't care about the common folk in Milwaukee. But Artison is a recent resident of the city having lived in Brown Deer for 13 years. Does anyone really think he moved to Milwaukee because of a new found affection for the city he abandoned and refused to live in? If they do, they should request a room at the Home

For the Terminally Gullible.

Artison claims that under Norquist "crime has skyrocketed." Before making that charge, he should have checked the statistics of his own Sheriff's Department. Under Artison arrests for serious crimes didn't just decrease, they plunged into oblivion.

Artison says that he would be a better manager. He is obviously hoping that the voters will forget about his county jail disaster. There were instances of people sitting in his jail for days after they were supposed to be released, because no one could find them.

Artison says he has positive programs for the city, but his attack commercials confirm what many people have been saying all along, he has only one program. And that program "The Lets Put Richard Artison In the Mayor's Office Program," would be of no benefit to the City.

Artison's people say they have a campaign of inclusion, but such claims ring hollow among Milwaukee's Les/Bi/Gay activists. In all the years he was Sheriff, no one can remember Artison coming to any of the community events he was invited to attend. While Norquist doesn't make all of them, he does accept most of the invitations he receives.

Thumbs Up on Ament

The Milwaukee County Exec race is a good example of "The early bird gets the worm." Faced with impending defeat in bid for re-



Peter Len

Martina Navratilova, a spokesperson for the Rainbow Endowment, announced donations totaling over \$50,000 to six Lesbian and Gay non-profit organizations. The Rainbow Endowment is funded by use of the Visa Rainbow Card, available by calling 1-800-99-RAINBOW. Beneficiary representatives pictured include (from left to right): Karen Zellermeier and Katherine Acey, Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation; Anna Forbes, AIDS Information Network; Marj Plumb, National Center for Lesbian Rights; J. Daniel Stricker, Community Research Initiative on AIDS (CRI); Martina Navratilova; and Lisa Silverberg, National Lesbian and Gay Health Association.

election, County Board Chairman Robert Jackson, decided to ask the voters to make him County Executive.

I guess Jackson wasn't satisfied with only having the voters in his own district unhappy with him, he wants that dissatisfaction rest of the County to share in that feeling. Unfortunately for him, but fortunately for the rest of us, his campaign started so late that he has little money, organization or support.

Jackson is no friend of ours he votes against

Gay Pride proclamations and like Artison, he too has ignored invitations to attend Gay and Lesbian events.

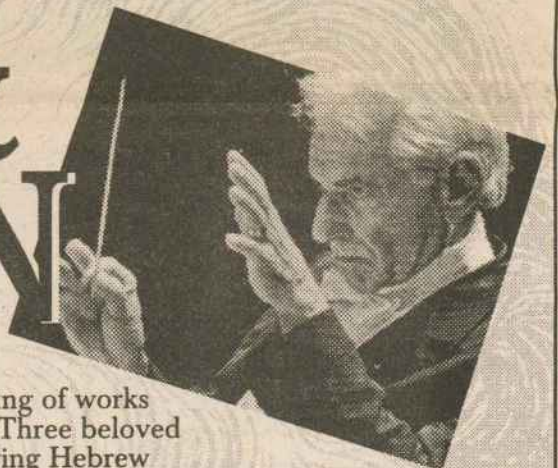
Ament on the other hand, has done a good job of managing the County, is accessible to us and has openly supported our community.

No matter what happens in these and other races remember that there is one adage that applies to all of us non-candidates, "If you give up your right to vote, you give up your right to complain about the results."

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LAMM Out Front for Gotzler

Milwaukee—The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM) has announced its unqualified support for and endorsement of Karen Gotzler for Milwaukee Alderwoman in the 3rd District.

Gotzler placed first among a field of 10 candidates in the primary on February 6th. She faces one opponent in the general election on March 19th. If elected, Gotzler will be the first openly Lesbian or Gay official in Milwaukee.

Laurie Guilbault, LAMM's current chair, said, "Karen has demonstrated great leadership in our community. She will be an outstanding Common Council member. I encourage all friends of LAMM to give Karen their strongest support, especially in getting out the vote."

You Can Help.

Call the Gotzler campaign headquarters at (414) 264-4354 for information on how to contribute time and resources to this important race.

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Shimmering beauty and shocking sensuality—Eugenia (Patsy Kensit) delights in a conservatory full of butterflies in "Angels and Insects," a tangled web of mystery, seduction and deceit. Based on A.S. Byatt's novella "Morpho Eugenia," the film uncovers the dark and decadent desires lurking just beneath the surface of Victorian England's highly structured order. From its opening images of a pulse-pounding native dance in the Amazon jungle, to its next scene—a formal dance at a baronial estate in the English countryside—the film strikingly compares and contrasts the savage and civilized aspects of human nature. "Angels and Insects" opens March 1st at Milwaukee's Downer theatre.

'Tommy: The Musical' is Very Little More Than a Two Hour Music Video

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn Bishop feels old. Glenn feels old partially because he so vividly remembers when The Who released their classic concept album of the "rock opera" *Tommy*. Glenn loved it. A landmark moment in Rock & Roll History, *Tommy: The Concept Album* was truly different. Here was an unconventional story about a truly unique hero: a deaf, dumb and blind kid who becomes a Pinball Wizard, an unlikely scenario surely but still a strikingly effective metaphor for many young people. *Acid Queen*, *Pinball Wizard* and *See Me, Feel Me* were songs that would help define a generation.

Tommy would soon embark on an amazingly rich and varied journey, from Ken Russell's peculiar film to a full-length ballet treatment before reaching the Broadway stage in 1993.

Becoming something of a musical sensation, *Tommy: The Musical* would be the recipient of many awards, including 5 prestigious Tony awards. Yet when all is said and sung, Glenn simply can't help but wonder why.

Tommy: The Character is a little boy struck down deaf, dumb and blind upon witnessing the death of the man he has thought to be his

AfterWords New

Book List

Lesbian Fiction

Out of the Past by Kris Bruyer Naiad Press Pb \$10.95

Gay Fiction

And This Too Shall Pass by E. Lynn Harris Doubleday HC \$23.95

Lesbian Non-Fiction

Dyke Life: From Growing Up to Growing Old ed. by Karla Jay, Basic Books HC \$23.00

Gay Non-Fiction

Finding True Love in a Man-Eat-Man World by Craig Nelson Dell Pb \$12.95

father.

Young Tommy is tormented by his family, whether it is his loving parents dragging him mercilessly from doctor to doctor, to virtually anyone that offers them even the flimsiest prospect of hope or more vitely, his pederastic Uncle Ernie having his way with the boy while baby-sitting.

Tommy's diabolical cousin Kevin might stuff him in a garbage can but does bring about Tommy's ultimate deliverance. By cruelly putting little Tommy, at the controls of a pinball machine, Kevin inadvertently places him at the altar of his salvation. The rest, as they say, is Musical History.

Tommy: The Musical is, to be sure, a lively and fast-paced show, filled with dazzling visual effects, particularly some clever projections by Wendall K. Washington, a very attractive cast of young singers and dancers, loads of energetic choreography and of course, some terrific music.

Still, if *Tommy: The Musical* emerges as little more than a glorified two-hour long music video, perhaps it is because the flimsiest plot only just barely holds together Pete Townshend's marvelously hummable score.

Tommy's youthful cast generally acquit themselves quite nicely, although on occasion it is difficult to tell if some of the actors are live or memorex.

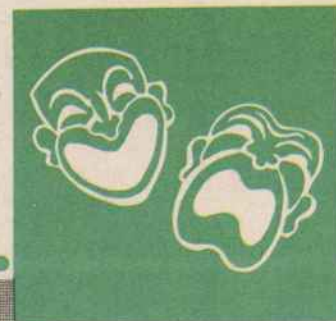
All three young actors creating Tommy through the years are effective, with Michael Seelbach particularly attractive, visually as well as vocally as *Tommy: The Adult*.

Peter Connelly is gleefully fiendish as Cousin Kevin but Tracey Lee sadly disappoints as a somewhat lackluster Gypsy.

Possessing a hedonistic 60's infectiousness, *Tommy: The Musical* is very much a "feel good" show, complete with a rip-roaring finale sure to bring any house down. Who could ask for anything more?

The Who's *Tommy: The Musical* is playing at Uihlein Hall of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts (formerly the Milwaukee Performing Arts Center) February 27th -- March 3rd, 1996.

The Light



LIVE

Skylight Opera Theatre Presents Milwaukee Premiere of 'Falsettos'

Milwaukee—The Skylight Opera Theatre presents the Milwaukee premiere of *Falsettos*, the 1992 Tony Award-winning musical for best book, music and lyrics, from the team of William Finn and James Lapine, co-creator of *Into the Woods* and *Passion*.

Falsettos performs on the stage of the Cabot Theatre in the Broadway Theatre Center from March 20th to April 14th, 1996.

Falsettos is a modern musical of life, love and extended families in the 1980s. Meet Marvin, his ex-wife Trina, their son Jason (whose Bar Mitzvah is being scrupulously planned), Trina's new husband Mendel (who used to be Marvin's psychiatrist) and Marvin's boyfriend, Whizzer.

Falsettos is a musical of highly personal, idiosyncratic chamber pieces that revolve around a charming, intelligent, spoiled, neurotic hero named Marvin. Marvin, who becomes aware that he is Gay, leaves his wife and son to fulfill himself in his sexual orientation. Just as he discovers his capacity—finally—for real, unselfish love throughout the course of the two acts, AIDS crashes in to disrupt his newfound peace.

A special Monday, March 25th performance of *Falsettos* has been designated as a Milwaukee AIDS Project benefit, where 40% of all ticket proceeds will be donated to MAP.

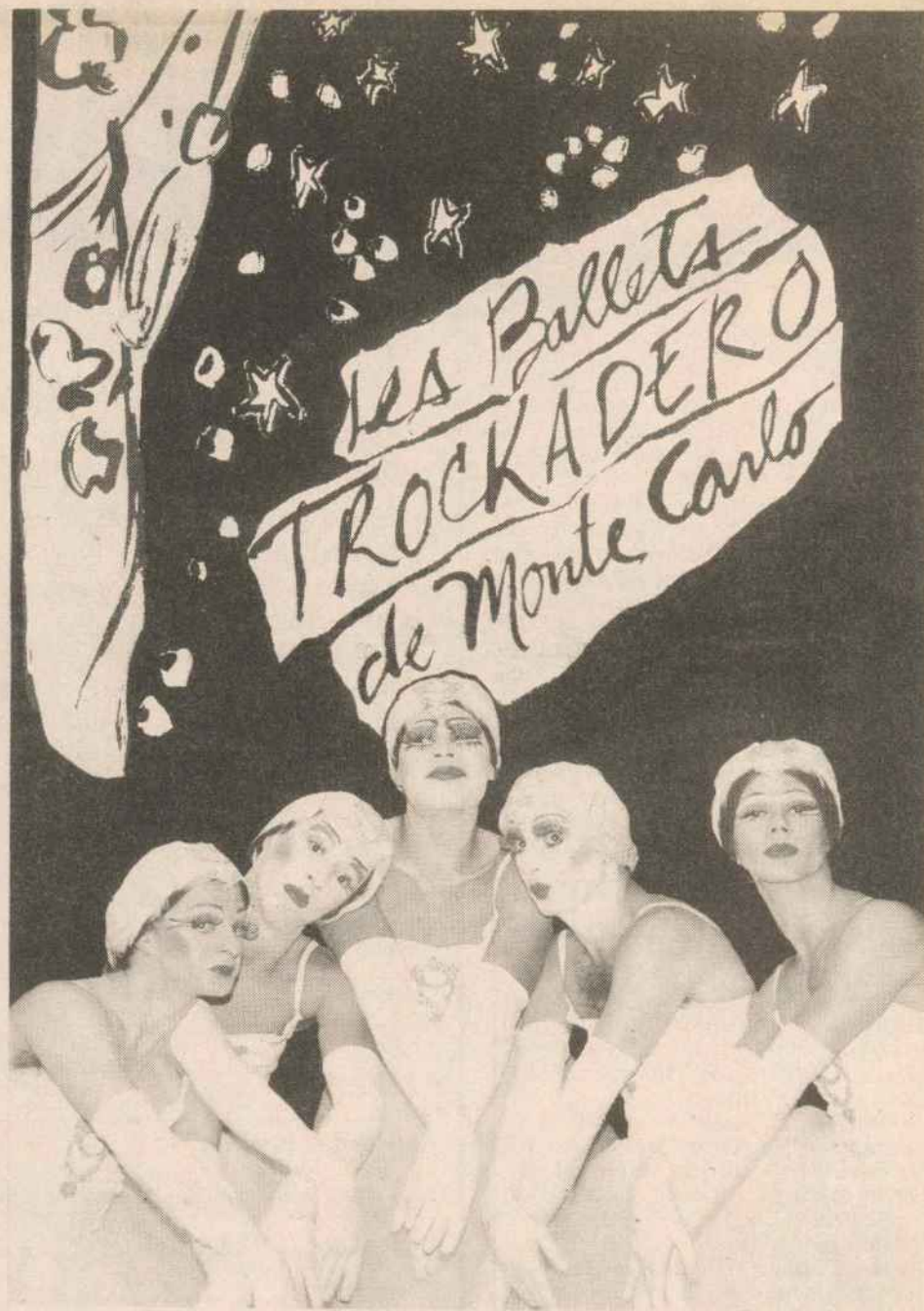
Friday and Saturday evenings throughout the run of the play, the Miller Cabaret, performed in the Skylight Bar, will feature the musical madness of Carolynne Warren in her



La Cage Aux Folles—Armand (Robin Williams, right) tells Arson Val is engaged in "The Birdcage," which was directed nationwide on March 8th.

Chicago hit, "The Carolin' Carolynne Show." The cabaret begins immediately following the performance of *Falsettos* and is free to the public.

For tickets and other information, call the Skylight Box Office at (414) 291-7800.



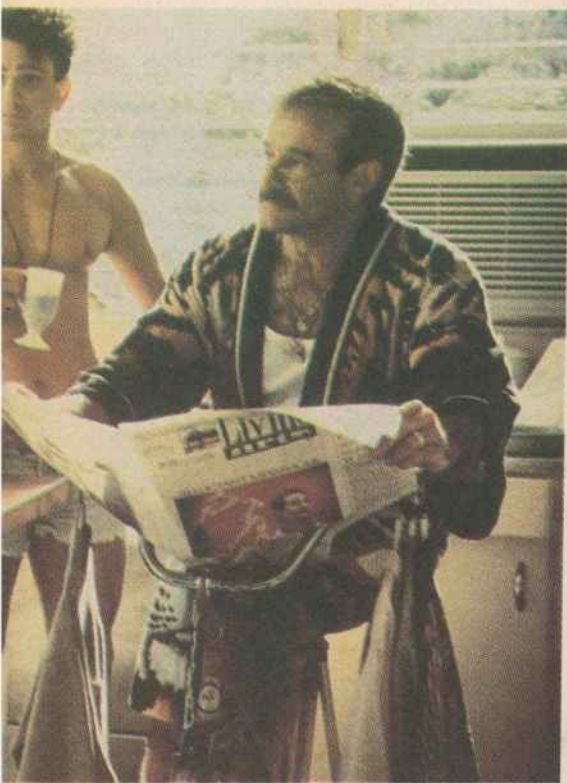
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ELLY ARTS



'Theda Bara and the Frontier Rabbi' Portrays '20's "Vamp"

Milwaukee—Theda Bara and the Frontier Rabbi is being presented on stage through Sunday, March 3rd by the JCC Theatre Company. The musical, with music by Bob Johnston and book by Jeff Hochhauser is based on the life of silent film star, Theda Bara.

Although the daughter of a Cincinnati tailor, she was billed as a woman of mystic powers, born in the Sahara Desert, the love child of a French artist and his Egyptian mistress.

Her name, so the publicity legend went, was an anagram of "Arab Death." She wore indigo makeup to emphasize her pallor; surrounded herself with symbols of death, such as human skulls, ravens, etc.; rode in a white limousine; was served by "Nubian slaves"; and received the press while stroking a serpent in a room permeated with incense.

She was soon famous as The Vamp, and her command "Kiss me, my fool," taken from a subtitle card of her first big film, became a popular phrase.

The musical is being presented by the Jewish Community Center, 6255 N. Santa Monica Blvd., in the Ritz Theatre. Showtimes are: March 2nd—8:00 p.m.; March 3rd—2:00 and 8:00 p.m. For ticket reservations and other information, call (414) 964-4444.

(Nathan Lane, left) and Agador (Hank Azaria) the news that his like Nichols from a screenplay by Elaine May. The film opens



Michelle Pfeiffer and Robert Redford in "Up Close and Personal"

Unless You're a Robert Redford Fan, Wait and See 'Up Close and Personal' on Video

By Dale E. Kuntz

I predict that this film will become the number one attraction in America when it opens this weekend. It has Robert Redford in the role we like him in best—the romantic lead—the type of role that has made him one of the top attractions for the past 30 years.

Current leading heart throbs like Brad Pitt and Keanu Reeves should take a page from Redford's book. In other words, if you are a romantic leading man—do romantic leads and don't continually play against your type. After all, Redford is one of the last truly Super Stars we have today. I doubt any of today's stars will ever reach that status.

All those little Redford tricks are there—that blinding smile—the little nod of the head—the glib remark with a pause on the end of it until he breaks into a smile with a twinkle in his eye.

They even borrowed from one of his most famous movie scenes, the well-remembered ending of *The Way We Were*. Only this time, he brushes back a wave of Michelle Pfeiffer's hair from her forehead as they say goodbye.

Even Redford's preference for the color blue is evident throughout the film. Once again he wears his famous blue terry cloth robe. Maybe because he is getting older (He will be 59 in August), the robe is a softer blue.

Note: When he does have a white terry cloth robe, he is carrying a blue bath towel.

If you want to see this film, see it early in its run. While it will debut as number one, it won't stay there very long. Redford is the only thing going for this film.

Pfeiffer is just Pfeiffer, and there is very little chemistry between her and Redford. She changes her hair color and styles while constantly changing her wardrobe, but she never changes her expression, vocal range or acting. Her one scene, her best in the film, is played for laughs, but for the wrong reason.

Pfeiffer, who has a nice singing voice and can sing, has to sing "The Impossible Dream" off key and try to reach the notes. She said the scene was very difficult for her to do. She does a good job of acting, but the audience is laughing, not knowing she is acting.

It is a film in desperate search of a script. The plot is there, but it never finds the direction it is going in, with no help from director, Jon Avnet.

Some story lines are never explained. For

example, what trouble is Pfeiffer's sister in that she has to return to Las Vegas to help her out?

What is it that she (and Redford) have to put money up for? Why does anchorwoman, Stockard Channing, suddenly become nice to Pfeiffer after she has just lost a job to her?

Photos from Pfeiffer's childhood give credit to her rise from a stage-stuck child to a teen to a woman who wants to be a TV star. She does everything wrong, but the camera loves her.

Redford sees what she has, and changes her image and life both in front of and in back of the camera. Does that remind you of *Pygmalion*? She soon becomes the super star, but falls when she leaves him. Redford comes to her rescue and sacrifices his own career so she can become a National Network star, which is right out of *A Star Is Born*. The only thing that is missing is her closing line not being "This is Mrs. Warren Foster."

TV personalities are portrayed as vain, mindless persons only interested in themselves and their climb up the ladder to success. TV executives look like they don't know their way out of their own offices. Once again, it is Hollywood's idea of what life is like behind the TV cameras.

If you are a Redford fan, go see this film on the big screen. If not, *Up Close and Personal* is one film to wait and see on video—which will be soon out, believe me!

Wisconsin's Senators Go On-Line

Wisconsin's two U.S. Senators are now on-line and have established their own web sites.

Feingold's homepage includes his biographical and office information, in addition to giving constituents access to other Wisconsin resources such as state and local government sites, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, tourism and census information.

Kohl's web site features wedges of cheese as icons to point users to various information pages. Kohl's homepage also displays vintage photographs of early citizens of the state.

Feingold's Web Site

<http://www.senate.gov/~feingold/>

Kohl's Web Site

<http://www.senate.gov/~kohl/>

E-Mail Addresses

Senator_Kohl@Kohl.Senate.Gov

Russell_Feingold@Feingold.Senate.Gov

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OutWrite '96 Takes on a Political Spin as Gay Writers React to Buchanan's Win

By Carl M. Szatmary

Over the past several years, for three days in early spring, writers, readers, booksellers, publishers, librarians, critics, journalists, activists and their friends descend upon Boston for OutWrite, the National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Writers Conference.

This year was no exception. OutWrite '96, Feb. 23rd through 25th, featured nearly 2000 participants taking part in more than fifty lively and diverse panels, over 25 writing workshops in addition to various public conversations and caucuses as well as keynote addresses by Edmund White and Minnie Bruce Pratt.

OutWrite '96 is first and foremost about Gay and Lesbian writing and writers. Aspiring writers had the opportunity to take advantage of a wide variety of writing and creative imagination workshops, with topics ranging from poetry to journalism to video, instructions on the basic mechanics of getting a book published to various seminars on the next frontier: cyberspace.

A writer's Who's Who, OutWrite '96 could boast some of the biggest and most exciting queer writers including Leslie Feinberg, Michelangelo Signorile, mystery writers Ellen Hart and Sandra Scoppetone, performance artist Kate Bornstein, novelists Stephen

McCauley, Mark Merlis and Heather Lewis to name-drop just a handful.

Coming on the heels of presidential hopeful Pat Buchanan's startling win in the New Hampshire primary, it is perhaps not surprising that many of the conference programs and certainly much of the discussion took on a political scope.

This was particularly evident in "Writing Off the Right: From Rhetoric to Action" which featured media darling Urvashi Vaid and David Mendoza, Executive Director of the National Campaign for Freedom of Expression as well as in "What's Happening to the Voice of the Queer Left".

The politics of publishing Gay, Lesbian, Transgendered, or simply, queer books proved to be a highly volatile topic in one of the conference's key panels, "The Future of Queer Publishing" which featured Michael Denny, founding father of mainstream Gay men's publishing, Nancy Bereano, publisher of Firebrand, a Lesbian publisher and authors Jewelle Gomez and Sarah Schulman.

Highlights included a heated debate over the realistic viability of "Crossover books", i.e. books that will appeal to heterosexual audiences, the inability of Lesbian authors to be published with mainstream presses and the inequality of advance monies paid to Gay but not Lesbian authors.

'Before and After' is a Film With a Predictable Plot Saved by Superb Acting

Reviewed by Dale E. Kuntz

This is a good film—not a great one—but a good film. The main focus is a great character study between its two leading stars—Meryl Streep and Liam Neeson (he of *Schindler's List*).

The plot concerns the "before" of an average family living on a beautiful old homestead in a small Massachusetts town. The family is amply supported by a doctor mother (Streep) and a successful artist father (Neeson). They have the average two children—a teen-age son and a rather precocious younger daughter—who seems to do all the cooking.

The "after" comes when the son is missing after the murder of one of his schoolmates . . . a girl he has been dating. He was the last one seen with her, so all suspicion falls on him. The family keeps getting postcards from him . . . all over the country . . . until he turns up in a friend's home in Boston.

After that, the plot takes fairly predictable turns. The father destroys evidence, not knowing if the son is guilty or not, or if the evidence will help or hinder him.

The parents disagree as to what should or should not be done to help their son. They get a lawyer who seems more intent on getting the boy off—never mind whether he is guilty or not.

Only the daughter, beautifully played by Julia Weldon, seems to have a handle on what is right and what is wrong. The trail—the confessions—the ending, all seem to fall right into line. And, you say, I could have solved that a lot sooner.

But, the film has two pluses in its two leading stars. The development and understanding of their characters makes for a fascinating study, one of the best this reviewer has seen in a long time.

'Primal Fear' is an Absolutely Riveting, if Somewhat Manipulative Film

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn is often mobbed upon leaving a Major Motion Picture Preview. "Glenn, how do you think the film is going to do?" "How do you like the film, Glenn?"



A Terrible Secret—Mr. Hyde (John Malkovich) stops the loyal housemaid, Mary (Julia Roberts) from screaming when they have a late night encounter in Dr. Jekyll's house in the passionate drama, "Mary Reilly." Given two thumbs up by critics Sieskel and Ebert, the movie is made in the tradition of European art films. Based on the book by Valerie Martin, "Mary Reilly" is filled with haunting beauty as it tells the story of a woman in jeopardy who ultimately takes charge of her own life.

Simon Rex, 21 Year-Old MTV Heart-Throb, Stars in Gay Adult Videos

Santa Monica, CA—The rumor is true. Hot MTV host and Levi's model Simon Rex, 21, did appear in three explicit all-male adult videos before he was "discovered."

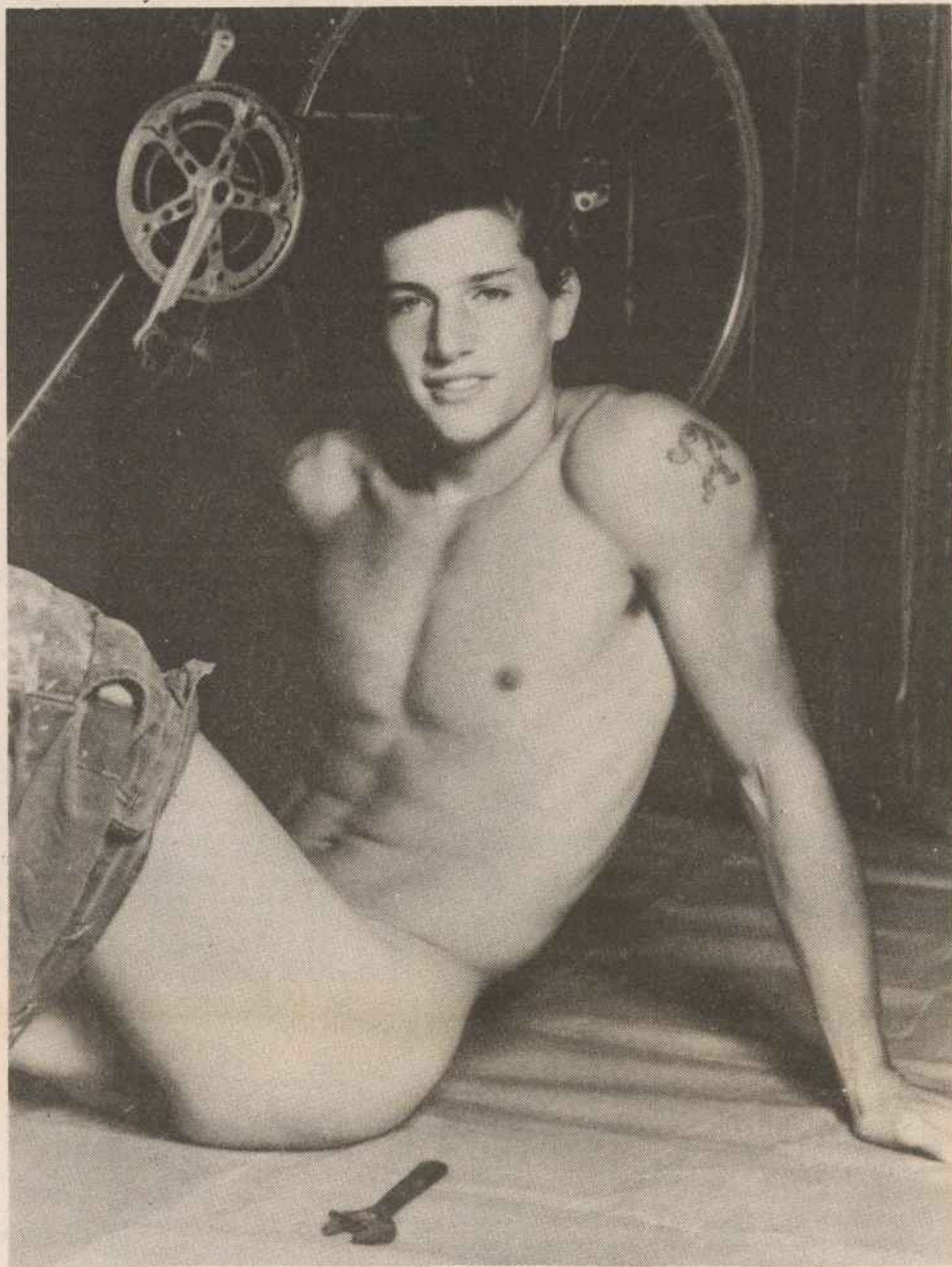
"Yes, it's true," said producer-director Brad Posey of Santa Monica's Club 1821. "We were flooded with inquiries after the videos were featured in San Francisco's *Odyssey Magazine*." The story is spreading fast, and was even published—with photo—in *Newsweek*, (Feb. 26th) making it the first time in history that the release of an all-male

adult video was announced in that ordinarily sober and circumspect publication.

Posey said that Rex's tapes were Club 1821's hottest selling products. "He appeared under the name Sebastian, and really delivered star performances," Posey said. However, NBC's "Extra" program said the videos were "too hot" to handle.

Rex made the videos in 1994 before he was discovered by MTV's "Most Wanted," the prime-time show he hosts, and before he appeared in Levi's and Tommy Hilfiger advertising campaigns. After he was discovered, he announced that he was straight.

The videos, "Young, Hard & Solo #2 and #3," and "Hot Sessions #3," aren't even in shops yet, but the story is out. The videos are currently available by mail order only. For a free catalog or ordering, contact Club 1821, Box 5282, Santa Monica, CA 90409.



SIMON REX

Endless questions which Glenn inevitably ignores unless there is the sparkle of camera lighting. Glenn is always ready to give an on-camera capsule review. Only a teaser so as to not disappoint Glenn's many readers here in the *Wisconsin Light*.

Upon leaving the new Richard Gere film, *Primal Fear* something different happened. A badly zeroxed single-page handout was forcibly thrust into Glenn face. Assault charges are pending.

Upon later examination, this flyer begged prospective reviewers, presumably only important media personalities such as Glenn, not to review the film's "shocking" and "surprising" ending. Well...

Glenn loves nothing better than a dare. *Primal Fear* is an admittedly riveting, if somewhat baldly manipulative courtroom drama based on an alleged best-selling novel by William Diehl.

Arrogant, self-absorbed hot-shot lawyer Martin Vail (Richard Gere) is little more than an up-market, publicity-obsessed ambulance chaser. His instincts are right on target when he volunteers to represent a penniless, bewildered although not an entirely unattractive young man accused of murder.

Naive alter boy Aaron Stampler (Edward Norton) is accused of the murder and mutilation of one of Chicago's most prominent and beloved dignitaries, the Archbishop of Chicago (Stanley Anderson). Blood-covered and found fleeing the murder scene, his guilt seems certain.

Realizing early on in his career that truth often just gets in the way and is invariably a far more messy business, Vail has based his career on creating and selling his own versions of truth, so much the easier to conceive of catchy sound-bites for the media. Only something goes wrong here. Vail begins to believe in the guileless Stampler, begins to believe in his absolute innocence.

Blending in elements of the suspense thriller and psychological drama to the courtroom theatrics, *Primal Fear's* director, Gregory Hobbit, offers a dizzying array of secondary characters, a heaping basket of big-city dirty political laundry and, to be sure, a

predictable romance in addition to more red herrings than one can count on one's fingers and toes.

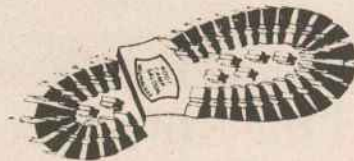
Despite some plot stands that magically disappear midway through the film, more than a few coincidences that strain even the most gullible moviegoer's credibility and some of the most outlandishly unprofessional courtroom antics since "Divorce Court", *Primal Fear* is, yes it bears repeating, riveting.

Perhaps not a great actor, even by Hollywood's often shoddy standards, Richard Gere is still an absolutely gorgeous man and perfectly cast as the media-whore with a heart of gold lawyer Martin Vail.

Tales of the City fans will not be surprised by the sensational performance by Laura Linney as Janet Venable, prosecuting attorney and love interest who manages to be smart, tough, attractive and more than a match for Vail.

Still both are overshadowed by film newcomer Edward Norton. Chosen after a reported exhaustive and extensive search, Norton here appears in his first film and is quite simply a revelation as the humble Aaron Stampler, incomprehensibly the suspect of such a gruesome murder. This stand-out performance should be remembered long after the film's climatic ending.

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



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Trish Gillespie, Co-Chair of the AIDS Resource Center's Make a Promise Dinner and Auction, admires an autographed Packers football. The football, along with many other valuable items, will be sold at the silent auction on March 23rd. Pictured (left to right) are Tim Lapp, Co-Chair Gillespie, Robert "Bim" Florek, Entertainment Chair, and Paul Masterson, Silent Auction Chair. The event benefits the services agencies of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, including the Milwaukee AIDS Project, Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project, Northeast Wisconsin AIDS Project and the Wisconsin AIDS Research Consortium.

Openly Gay Man Sees "No Moral Problem" Working for Homophobic Pat Buchanan

Walnut Creek, CA—Justin Raimondo doesn't mind that Pat Buchanan says he will keep openly gay people out of top White House positions if he is elected.

Raimondo, who is gay and has campaigned for Buchanan since 1992, says he feels no conflict of interest in his support for the conservative Republican.

"There's no moral dilemma," Raimondo, 44, told *The Contra Costa Times*. "I mean, Pat is not going to outlaw homosexuality. All we're saying is that is not going to be enshrined as another victim group."

He says Buchanan, who narrowly won the Republican primary in New Hampshire, has known he's gay for a long time.

Raimondo worked for Buchanan's 1992 White House run. Buchanan even wrote the forward to Raimondo's 1993 book, *Reclaiming the American Right: The Lost Legacy of the Conservative Movement*.

Raimondo has been called a "traitor" by the gay press, but it doesn't faze him.

"I don't feel like a victim, and they do," says Raimondo, who handles media, organizes rallies and recruits volunteers from his San Francisco home. "That's their mentality, and they have a political agenda tied to it."

Members of the Human Rights Campaign, were aghast at the news.

"There's a certain amount of irony here," Kim Mills, a spokeswoman for the group, told *The Associated Press*. "It's a bit exploitative (of Buchanan), if not hypocritical."

On the February 11th airing of NBC's "Meet the Press," Buchanan said he doubted that he would name to any high positions an "out-of-the-closet homosexual who declared that he believed that homosexuality was a legitimate lifestyle and was engaged in that lifestyle."

But Raimondo—who, so far, is the only Republican to oppose U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-San Francisco, this fall—says other policies inspired him to work for Buchanan. Namely,

he agrees with Buchanan's opposition to U.S. intervention in Bosnia, the North American Free Trade Agreement and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

On issues of sexuality, he says he agrees in the separation of sexuality and state.

"Sexuality is a private matter, and it should be kept private. Period. Not hiding and being ashamed," Raimondo says. "Just because you don't announce things to the world doesn't mean you're ashamed of it. It just means it's nobody else's business, unless they really need to know."

When he spoke on "Meet the Press," Buchanan said he knows that openly gay people are working for him and welcomes their support.

"But I tell them this: 'Look, I do not believe that this is a valid, legitimate, moral lifestyle, period, paragraph,'" Buchanan said.

Others in Buchanan's California campaign seemed confused Monday about Raimondo's role, including his title.

That's due, in part, to Buchanan's fledgling California campaign that has no San Francisco office.

Raimondo said he is the San Francisco coordinator.

Del McLaughlin, Buchanan's Northern California campaign director, said Raimondo is a volunteer but not a county chairman.

Buchanan's California coordinator, state Sen. Richard Mountjoy, (R-Arcadia), who said he has personally appointed each county coordinator, said he never heard of Raimondo.

"(But) if the guy agrees with us, what the heck," Mountjoy said.

Meanwhile, Raimondo's lover won't let him put up a huge Buchanan poster in his home.

"It's, uh, in the closet," Raimondo said, laughing. "But not for any political reasons. For aesthetic reasons."

Lesbian Avengers Launch Attack Against Maryland State Legislators

Annapolis, MD—A group called the Lesbian Avengers took out its anger on lawmakers, who killed an equal rights bill for gay people, by plastering offices, mailboxes and stores with flyers accusing them of bigotry.

The group also mailed flyers to the 14 state delegates who voted against the bill in the House Commerce and Government Matters Committee.

The campaign brought complaints from lawmakers, possible criminal investigations by police and an apology from the Free State Justice Campaign, which has lobbied for the bill on behalf of gay and lesbian groups.

Delegate Diane DeCarlo, a Baltimore County Democrat, was one of the members targeted by the group.

"They plastered them all over the place, at my district office, at the MVA (Motor Vehicles Administration) office a block away, on a bus stop a block away," she complained.

John Morgan, a Prince George's County Republican, said fliers were pasted to mailboxes around his townhouse.

DeCarlo said at the beginning, "I just felt like it was harassment."

Now she said she feels a bit uneasy, especially since fliers with her picture were posted on walls around the State House in Annapolis.

The fliers contain a picture of each delegate with the word "bigot" printed in capital letters across the delegate's forehead. It says each delegate "voted for discrimination." At the bottom is a bomb with a lit fuse encircled

by the name of the organization.

Kim Donahue, a volunteer with The Lesbian Avengers, said the organization is trying to educate people about what their lawmakers are doing.

But the Free State Justice Campaign sent a statement to the committee saying it does not "condone the lodging of threats against anyone, including political leaders."

"While we understand the anger, we regret the expression of it in this manner and do not view such behavior as helpful in furthering the cause of justice," the statement said.

DeCarlo and James E. Malone, another Baltimore County Democrat, said they had discussed the fliers with county police.

"Right now we're in the preliminary stages of an investigation into it," said Sgt. Kevin Novak, a county police spokesman.

"We're not sure if it's a real threat of violence. If it leans that way, we'll take action," he said.

It is a crime to threaten bodily harm to a public official, including members of the General Assembly.

Police were looking into whether including a drawing of a bomb with a lit fuse might be considered a threat of violence.

Donahue said her organization has used the bomb as a logo since it was formed. She said it is ridiculous to consider the drawing a threat.

Sell Out Crowd Expected for Make A Promise Dinner on March 23rd

Milwaukee—With over 800 tickets sold for the Make A Promise dinner and auction on Saturday, March 23, 1996 and only 200 tickets remaining, the dinner promises to be a sell-out event.

The annual event is produced by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin and benefits AIDS care, prevention and research.

A special feature this year will be the premiere viewing of "Faces of AIDS: Portraits of Hope," a series of still photographs and videotapes featuring people infected and affected by AIDS. More than a dozen volunteers were involved in the production of the intimate film.

One of the highlights of the event, held at the Pfister Hotel, is the silent auction.

Nearly 200 items have been donated for the auction with an estimated value of \$42,000. Some of the most valuable items include an Amish quilt from Land's End; a Milwaukee Admirals luxury box; a trip to Washington, D.C. for the showing of the entire AIDS quilt; a trip to San Diego; and a one week timeshare in Cancun, Mexico.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call (414) 273-2729.

HIGH SCHOOL

Continued from Page 4

Audrey McGee and Diane Elstrom got "in trouble." Both were in Junior High.

Mrs. Elstrom, a friend of my mother's, bemoaned the loss of "old time values."

As a sophomore in high school, in 1956, Harold Murmulstein wrapped his car and himself around a telephone pole. He'd been drinking too much beer. He was only 16. Those of us who knew him, mourned. We'd all been there. It could easily have been any one of us.

At his funeral, I remember overhearing Edith Chisholm say that if only things had been the way they were when she was growing up, in the late 20s, how good things would be.

Edith was a pillar in the Presbyterian church, but my mother, who had known her since childhood, said she'd forgotten a few things. Like the fact that she used to be a flapper, smoke cigarettes, sneak off to dances and drink bathtub hooch in the rumble seat of her boyfriend's car.

"And you, mother?" I asked.

"I was a saint," she replied archly, adding,

"As I expect you to be."

Later, I would find out that my mother's canonization was of recent vintage.

I was buying a suit (75\$, top of the line, an unheard of extravagance) at McKeesport's best clothier's, Henry B. Klein's. There I happened to run into the owner, who recognized me. "Tell your mom that Pinky said hello," he told me. "Ask her if she remembers the time we lost the steering wheel coming down Summit Mountain? We'd had a little of your grandfather's home brew and nearly killed ourselves."

I did as "Pinky" said.

"Pinky never could keep his mouth shut," she replied. "But I'll tell you this. Pinky is the reason you can't have that car you want." She was referring to the '57 Chevy I would have killed for. "I know what happens with boys in cars."

I nodded, thinking of Stevie Hays. Not what had happened in a car between us, but what I wished would happen.

And then there was Gordon Cook. That happened in the late Autumn of 1958.

Helen Malseed taught speech at McKeesport Tech High. As such, she was also the debate coach. Those of us on the debate team called her "Aunt Helen," not, of course, to her face. She was a short woman, very formidable, who bore a remarkable resemblance, we thought, to the U.S.S. Constitution under full sail—either that or an outraged puffin. Take your pick.

Regardless, Aunt Helen was a great teacher and had made Tech High a power to be reckoned with in the field of debate. For that reason, there was no higher honor than to be selected for the A team in the Senior squad.

One didn't compete for a place. The choice of the four members of the team was Aunt Helen's alone. She would make it and post her decision in the spring on the board outside her office door. There was no appeal.

Each team has four members divided into the affirmative and the negative. I was nearly giddy with delight when I saw my name posted as being part of the affirmative side. Not only because I'd made the team, but because my partner would be Stevie Hays (he of the smoldering eyes), with whom I was secretly very much in love.

On the other side, the negative, was Nick Sabin and Gordon Cook. As I remember them now, Nick gave new meaning to the phrase tall, dark and handsome, while Gordon was a nicely built serfer blonde.

I have to confess we were a powerhouse team. That fall, with Aunt Helen driving hard behind us, we swept the competition from the field. Get past Greensburg Central Catholic and the very formidable team commanded by Sister De Chantall, Aunt Helen said, and we'd go all the way to state finals.

But then disaster struck.

To celebrate our victory over Duquesne High, Joel Falic (a Pete Sampras look alike) threw a party one Saturday night. His parents who were away for the weekend, had a large house up on Grandview Avenue, a very elegant part of town. The party was the usual thing. The music on the Hi Fi was loud, the air was thick with the smoke of cigarettes, the beer and liquor flowed. Wally and "The Beaver," definitely would have been out of place.

Just before midnight, the cops raided the place, but by that time, I was gone. I'd seen Stevie heading upstairs with Carolyn Judkins, a raven-haired beauty, who went "all the way," they said. I guess I didn't have any right to be hurt. I mean he was only doing what was natural to him. But I was hurt and I left.

I heard all about the raid on Monday when I got to school. Later, that morning, just before Miss. King's Latin IV class, I ran into Nick and asked him if he'd gotten caught up in it. But he said, no, he'd left the party by that time too.

Meanwhile, the whole thing was the talk of the school. Those who weren't there, wished they had been. To ease their regrets, Jim Park, Joel's best friend, let it be known that he'd be holding a similar bash once we'd defeated Greensburg. Since our victory was a foregone conclusion, people marked their calendars. They needn't have bothered.

The following Monday, a week before the Greensburg tournament, I went into school where I found out from Stevie that Gordon was dead. He'd driven to Renziehausen Park (Renzie as it was called) and shot himself and no one knew why. There'd been no note. When I asked Nick if he knew what had happened, he gave me the strangest look, like a bird driven to ground by a storm, and turned away.

Since Gordon's father was one of the most prominent doctors in town, the funeral, held at Finney's, was lavish. In addition to everyone else, all of us who knew him were there.

I remember the eulogies delivered by his family, Aunt Helen (particularly moving) and some of his friends. Gordon had been a fine athlete and a superb student, they said. Everyone who knew him, liked him, etc., etc., etc. I fully expected Nick to get up and say something. After all, he and Gordon had not only been partners in debate, they'd been good, close friends. I knew Nick was there. I'd seen him earlier, but as the eulogies went on, he was nowhere in sight.

Finally, when the priest got up, I decided I'd had enough and went out onto the side porch to think and smoke without being disturbed.

To my surprise, I found Nick there. He turned to me. Never, ever, will I forget the anguished look on his face. Never had I seen such pain before.

"I know why," I remember him saying. "I know why," over and over again.

"Why what?"

"Why Gordon died, why he killed himself. It's my fault. It's my fault."

I don't remember exactly what I said, but it was something to the effect that Gordon's death couldn't have been his fault and he couldn't know why. There'd been no note. No one knew why. No one would ever know why, and he had to stop blaming himself. But I was wrong, so completely wrong.

"The night of Joel's party, Gordon and I, we left early to be together." I remember how he looked at me. "We left together and went to Renzie Park. You understand? Together. We were there together, he and I. Please understand."

And suddenly, I did understand. I understood very well indeed. And since I did understand, I embraced Nick. It took all my courage to do it, but there was no one around to see.

We lost to Greensburg and did not go to state finals. Aunt Helen was furious. "Death is something you have to live with," she ranted. I thought then, as I think now, she never had a clue.

Nick left school at the Christmas break. I never saw him or heard from him again.

There are those in this community of ours who hold those of us who are older now in some derision and contempt. You didn't have to face what we do now, the younger ones say.

Some things, no, like AIDS and some drugs, but other things, yes. Life was not a picnic. It never is. We had our problems too.

For those adults who, in the 90s, long for the 50s as the good old days when kids didn't have to face what they do now and all would be well if only we had prayer in the schools and family values and such, I say forget it.

There's no going back—and even if there were, despite Pat Buchanan, we'd find no Shangra La, but simply more of the same. As Harry Truman is supposed to have said, "The only thing new in the world is the history you don't know."

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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

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

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

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

LET'S GO FOR A WALK. GWM, 33, enjoy music, tennis and movies, seeks others for fun and friendship. Please leave a message. (Green Bay) #13163

JUST YOU AND ME. GWM, 40's, seeks same, hairy, tall and straight acting preferred, and you must be able to handle honesty and monogamy. Leave a message. (Green Bay) #47893

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. (Green Bay) #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

LOOKING FOR MR. RIGHT. GWM, 22, 6'2", 190, black hair, brown eyes, clean shaven, interested in playing pool, darts and swimming, seeks others, 20-35, into fire place cuddling, friendship and more. Let's get together and see what happens (Johnson Creek) #43085

CHICAGO TRANSPLANT. GWM, 6', average build, blonde hair, green eyes, seeks others for fun. I'm anxious to hear from you. (Kenosha) #47356

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

ME FUR YOU. GWM, 35, hairy, teddy bear type, seeks dominant teddy bear for growling and hibernation. Let's have a few encounters then see what happens. Call me. (La Crosse) #47662

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FUN?. GWM, 23, very attractive, 6'2", 170, blonde hair, blue eyes, variety of interests, seeks others for adventure. Get a hold of me soon. (Madison) #47666

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

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

BORN TO PLEASE. GWM, handsome and passionate, Italian, late 40's, well built, hairy chest, seeks others, 25-45, for hot fun and excitement. GWM/GHM/GBM a big plus! Leave a message and let's perspire! (Milwaukee) #8552

WORK OUT WITH ME. GWM, 34, 180, 5'10", good body, into working out and more, not into bar life, seeks others to share my life with. Let me wrap my big arms and solid chest around you and make you feel comfortable. (Milwaukee) #10046

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

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, aburn 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

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

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

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

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

WISCONSIN WINTERS. GWM, 31, 5'10", 140, blonde hair, blue eyes, varied interests, seeks friends, under 31, for fun and possibly more. (Wisconsin) #16794

RELATIONSHIP ORIENTED. GWM, 24, 5'4", blonde hair, blue eyes, varied interests, seeks others, 20-27, for friendship and long term relationship. Please leave a message. (Wisconsin) #17624

ALL AMERICAN CREAM. GWM, 30, 6'2" 200, brown hair, blue eyes, boy next door, seeks same, 25-45, for friendship and more. (Wisconsin) #46088

I NEED A FRIEND. Married Bi WM, seeks friends for feeling exploration and more. Please be sincere and leave a message. #17610

Illinois

HUGH GRANT LOOK ALIKE. GWM, 24, 6', blonde hair, green eyes, clean shaven, toned, professional, seeks others who are smoke/drug/HIV free, toned and built, for friendship and more. Please leave a message. (Cahumburg) #16728

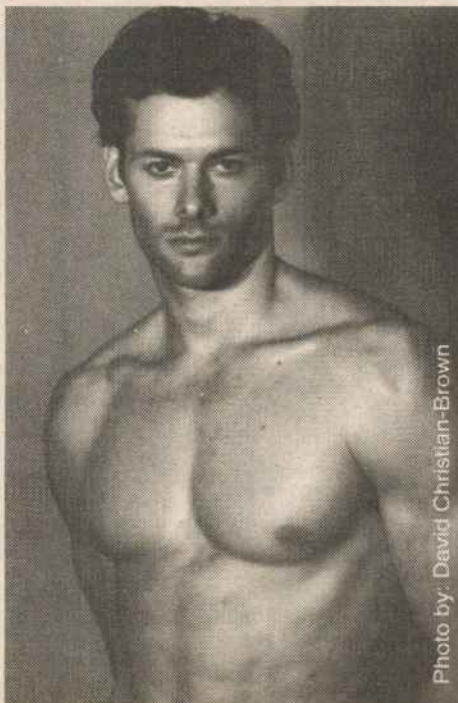


Photo by: David Christian-Brown

YOUNG ONLY. GHM, 19, 5'9", 140, seeks others, 18-22 only, masculine and attractive, for fun and more. No fat's, fem's or anyone over 22. Please leave a message. (Chicago) #29976

READY TO RUMBLE. GWM, 52, brown hair, blue eyes, 200, clean shaven and smooth, seeks GWM's for wrestling and other body contact sports. Please leave a message. (Chicago) #25163

BLACK ON BLACK. GBM, seeks other GBM's only, 24-28, for pleasure and fun. Please have varied interests and be sincere. Leave a message. (Chicago) #16172

LAKE FRONT ROMANTIC WALKS. GWM, 31, 5'9", 171, reddish brown hair, brown eyes, moderately hairy, seeks others, under 35, for fun, friendship and possibly more. (Chicago area) #26444

LIBERAL ARTS ENTHUSIAST. GWM, 18, 5'11", green eyes, blonde hair, 150, variety of interests, seeks others, 18-21, GWM's and local preferred, for friendship and possibly more. Please leave a message. (Chicago Suburbs) #44464

WAITING FOR THAT SPECIAL MAN. GWM, 30, 5'10", 190, blonde hair, hazel eyes, into volleyball and golf, seeks others into life, fun and more. I want to meet that special dating partner. If this is you, don't hesitate to call me. (Crestwood) #48009

PIPELINE TO PLEASURE. GWM, 35, brown hair and eyes, hairy and well endw'd, seeks GBM/GWM, under 35, for fun and excitement. (Elgin) #47872

NOT LOOKING FOR PRETTY BOYS. GWM, 35, 5'10", 155, brown hair and eyes, seeks GWM/GBM, same age, for fun, friendship and more. No blonde's or body builder's! (Elgin) #31961

BLACK MALE ME. GWM, 34, 150, brown hair and eyes, seeks GBM's, masculine and well endw'd, for fun and more. (Elgin) #30416

RELATIONSHIP ONLY. GBM, 6'5", 265, body builder, goatee, varied interests, seeks others, 18-35, for fun, friendship and more. Serious replies only. (Elmhurst) #28687

SINCERE AND HONEST. GM, 5'8", 157, dark features, clean shaven, black hair, brown eyes, professional and masculine, seeks GHM/GWM, masculine and attractive, for friendship and possibly more. I can travel to other areas as well. Call me! (Evanston) #47986

ROLE PLAYING. GWM, 33, 6', 170, seeks same, 21-32, for fantasy fulfillment. Please have an active imagination for Batman and Robin action. Call me and let's talk! Only serious responses will be answered. (Evanston) #10435

KRAMER LOOKS. GWM, 6', 170, brown eyes, 'stache, attractive, very new to this lifestyle, seeks GHM's to add spice to my life. Please be adventurous and patient. (Evanston) #45050

PARTY DUDE. GHM, 20, 145, thin, 5'9", seeks same or GWM's, top men preferred, for parties and more. Let's meet soon! (Evanston) #34177

I KNOW WHAT I WANTI. GBM, 6', 195, football player's build, seeks GBM/GLM, dominant only with varied interests, for fun, friendship and much more. Please be versatile and well endw'd for immediate response. (Evanston) #34333

FRIEND SEEKER. GWM, 43, 6', 180, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks others for friendship and more. Please leave a message. (Evanston) #30633

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING. GBM, 21, 5'9", 180, varied interests, seeks others, 18-25, for fun, friendship and more. (Evanston) #28654

TIRED OF BAR SCENE. GWM, 6'2", 190, shy, varied interests, non smoker, 27, seeks other GBM's, 25-35, for fun, friendship and more. (Evanston) #26009

MASCULINE MEN ONLY! GHM, 5'9", 140, seeks GWM/GHM, dominant and aggressive, masculine only, for pleasure and more. Please leave a message. (Evanston) #17999

LET'S MEAT SOON. GWM, 28, 6'2", 165, very attractive, blue eyes, brown hair, 'stached and moderately hairy, seeks others in the local area for friendship and more. Smoker's OK. Please leave a message. (Evanston) #18845

BIG SEEKS SMALL. GWM, 30, 6'4", 220, seeks others, 18-25, very small, for fun and pleasure. (Evanston) #19693

ART LOVER. GWM, 18, 5'11", 150, green eyes, brown hair, varied interests, seeks other GWM's with similar qualities, 18-20 but older considered, for friendship and more. (Evanston) #44464

NEW AND INEXPERIENCED. GWM, brown hair, blue eyes, 155, very new to this, seeks others for experience training. (Grands Lake) #21003

ANY PORT IN A STORM. GBM, 34, seeks any and all men with varied interests. Let's talk! (Hazelcrest) #47691

LET'S CHAT. GWM, 41, 130, 5'6", blue eyes, blonde hair, varied interests, seeks others for friendship and more. Please leave a message. (Madson) #21699

TOP ME OFF. GWM, 5'7", 230, salt and pepper hair, moderately hairy, stocky, 34, bottom, attractive, seeks top guys, 25-40, attractive and adventurous, for fun, friendship and more. Please leave a message. (Oak Park) #11681

STOCKY AND BUILT. GWM, 33, 5'7", 230, moderately hairy, salt and pepper hair, blue eyes, 'stache/goatee, seeks others, 25-40, comfortable and secure, for fun, friendship and more. (Oak Park) #11681

Minnesota

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED. This GWM is seeking one or more aggressive, masculine and furry G/Bi/or Othr males for fun times! (Apple Valley) #10427

MEAT ME IN MINNESOTA. GWM, 43, blonde hair, good body, gentle, safe and kind, seeks others, 25-45, for regular meetings and other things. Please respond soon! (Brooklyn Park) #48353

RELATIONSHIP ORIENTED. GWM, 21, professional, 6'4, brown hair, green eyes, seeks others for fun, friendship and more. (Duluth) #27451

ON GOLDEN BLONDE. GWM, 6'2, 180, blonde hair, good shape, seeks others into working out, good sense of humor, for friendship and possibly more. (Grand Forks) #38400

HAZEL EYES, HAIRY CHEST! GWM, 5'5", 133, good shape, hazel eyes, hairy chest, well endw'd, varied interests, seeks others for fun and more. Please leave a message. (Hopkins) #23990

BEAR SEEKING BEARS. GWM, 41, brown hair, blue eyes, beard, hairy chest, seeks others who are beefy, stocky and hairy. (Mancato) #14639

MANLY MEETINGS. GWM, 25, 6', 165, blonde hair, blue eyes, attractive, seeks other Bi or GWM, masculine, built and discrete, under 30, for friendship and more. (Mancato) #20931

LET'S MEAT SOON. Bi WM, 23, 6'2", 200, blonde hair, blue eyes, bottom, seeks top men for fun and more. You must be safe and discreet, straight acting and drug/disease free. Please respond soon. (Minneapolis) #47791

LOOKING FOR BOTH WORLDS. WM, 45, 5'8", 155, long dark hair, 'stache, semi muscular, seeks TV's, TS's, pre or post op's preferred, for a unique relationship. Leave me a message. (Minneapolis) #48137

YOURS FOR THE TAKING. GWM, submissive, seeks GBM's, dominant and well endw'd, to train me for their own satisfaction. Call me soon. (Minneapolis) #48317

EXPAND MY HORIZONS. WM, 39, straight, seeks others to teach me what I have been missing. Please leave a discreet and detailed message. (Minneapolis) #48470

I'M WAITING FOR YOU, MISSY! WM, 37, 6'2", 175, brown hair and eyes, disease/drug free, seeks passable TV's and TS's, pre-op or post-op, for fun, good times and more. Age and race not important. Please leave a message. (Minneapolis) #47973

ALL ARE WELCOME. Bi BM, 5'11", 180, seeks others, 20-30, open to anything and everything. Group action is a plus and I'm versatile. You must be disease and drug free and ready to play. Give me a call. (Minneapolis) #48010

GO FOR IT! GWM, 38, 5'8", 175, dark hair and eyes, slightly hairy, seeks a masculine and aggressive top man who knows what he wants and how to take it. Call me! (Minneapolis) #47912

LET'S RUMBLE. GWM, 32, out doors man, landscaper, seeks well built and endw'd guys who know how to have fun. Leave a message if this sounds good to you. (Minneapolis) #47934

CUSTOMER SERVICE WITH A SMILE. GWM, nice body, good looking, very submissive, seeks well endw'd and dominant males for complete service. Mastermind me and make me work. Call me. (Minneapolis) #21219

IMMEDIATE ACTION. GWM, seeks others now! Call me. (Minneapolis) #47661

ARE YOU WILLING TO LOVE ME?. GBM, 25, 148, seeks other males, 18-25, fun and full of life, for adventure and possibly more. You must be sincere and as attractive as I am. (Minneapolis) #42957



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Newly Released AIDS Documents Show Japanese Government Ignored Risks

Tokyo-- For Japan, one week in the summer of 1983 turned out to be a crucial--and tragic--turning point in the battle against AIDS.

During those days, emerging plans to ban use of unheated blood products were mysteriously scrapped. As a result, the number of HIV infections in Japan skyrocketed.

A picture of what happened and why is slowly emerging with the release of files of Health and Welfare Ministry documents prepared in 1983 as the ministry convened a special AIDS study group.

The first of those files, released by the ministry Wednesday, February 21st, graphically shows what the government has already admitted--that it failed to stop the use of unheated imported blood products despite knowing they posed a risk to public health.

Japanese AIDS victims had long claimed that the ministry knew in the early 1980s that transfusions involving untreated blood products were dangerous but that it failed to stop the practice.

About 2,000 people, mostly hemophiliacs--who often require blood transfusions--were infected with HIV via infected blood products in the early- to mid-1980s. Activists say that more than 400 have died as a result.

A storm of criticism over the government's actions at the time has already begun, and could grow with the release of more formerly secret documents.

"The responsibility of the state is clear," the Sankei Shimbun, a major conservative national daily, editorialized Thursday, February 22nd.

The documents released Wednesday, from the personal files of a former ministry section chief, show that ministry officials advocated instructing drug companies to stop handling unheated blood products and were aware of the dangers posed by such products.

A document dated July 4, 1983, shows the ministry was getting ready to propose the emergency importation of heated blood products, which had been judged effective in the United States.

Then the ministry abruptly reversed itself. In notes dated July 11, 1983, the section chief said officials concluded that special legal measures to allow emergency imports would be "undesirable."

The government had maintained until recently that the connection between untreated blood products and AIDS wasn't clear at the

time and that side effects from heated products could be harmful. Heat treatments weren't approved until 1985.

Japanese newspapers on Thursday, February 22nd, made much of a reference in the documents to "the shock" that allowing imported products would have on domestic drug manufacturers, calling it a possible reason for the reversal.

Health and Welfare Minister Naoto Kan revealed the existence of the files earlier this month. The "discovery" of the files caused an uproar, as it reversed the ministry's persistent claims it couldn't find any documents.

HIV carriers and their family members carried out a three-day protest in front of the ministry last week. On the third day of the protest, Kan, a former community activist in Tokyo who was appointed to the post last month, issued a dramatic public apology for the ministry's failure.

On Wednesday, he told reporters there should be more "transparency" about the government's handling of the matter, and said other files would be made public.

The Sankei called for the government to work for a compromise to resolve the issue of compensation for the victims.

Courts in Tokyo and Osaka are handling suits filed by victims. Their families have called on the government to admit legal responsibility and sought payments of 45 million yen (dlsr 420,000) for each victim. They also called for the government to provide permanent health care for HIV carriers.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told reporters Thursday he was grateful for the health minister's efforts to uncover the truth about the government's previous actions.

"I hope that the documents will clear up the facts," he said.

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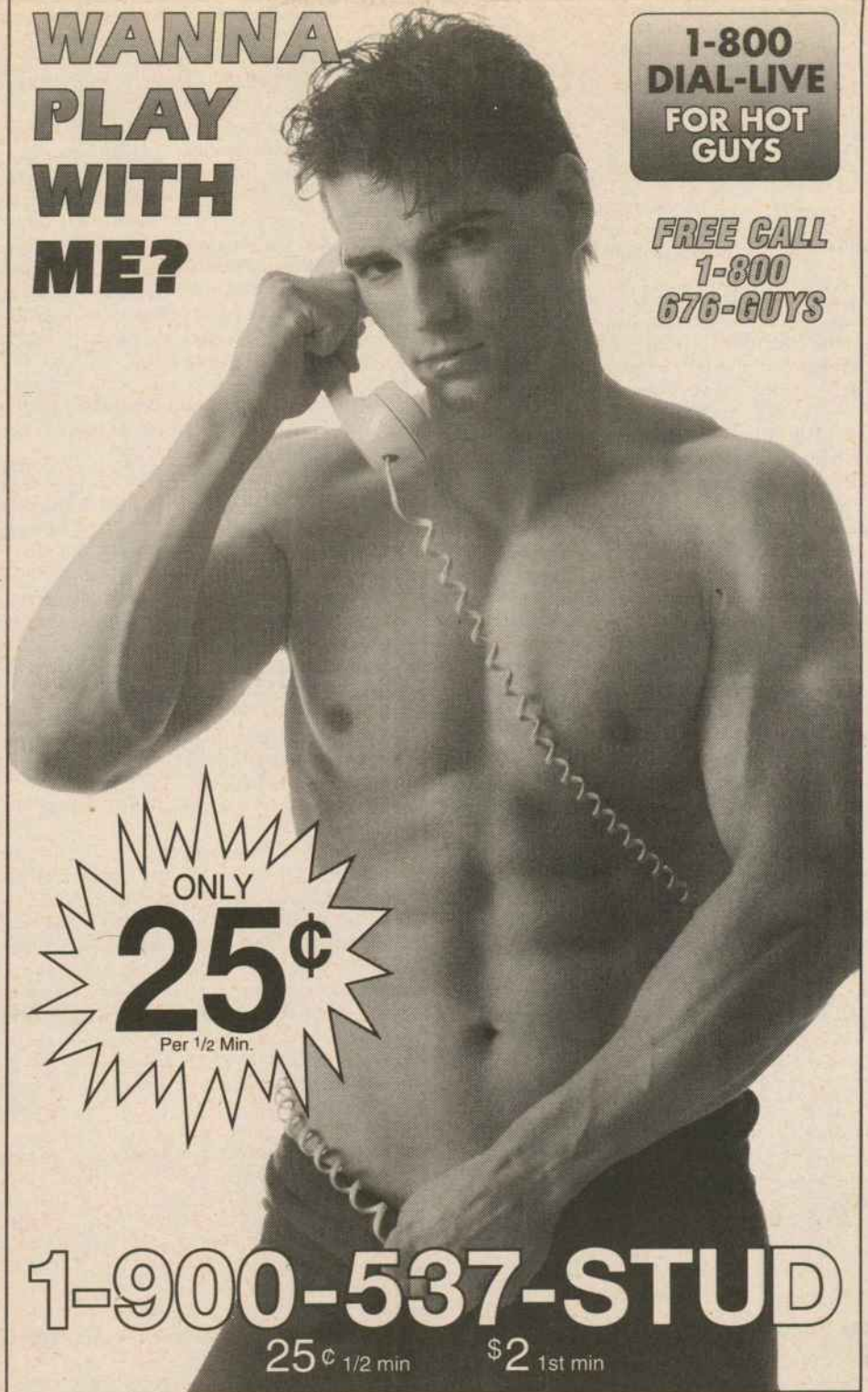
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Legal Eagles See Connection Between Amendment 2 and Same-Sex Marriage

Honolulu—State senators, continuing their politically hazardous journey through the highly emotional issue of same-sex marriages, are poised to decide on which of four roads to take.

Their House counterparts, meanwhile, decided earlier to sidestep the issue for this election year, awaiting to see what the court does this summer.

Although he had scheduled a vote for Friday, February 23rd, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Rey Graulty said some of the members were not ready to make a decision.

"This is a very weighty issue on our shoulders, and I would not want members to make a decision when they don't feel they have the necessary facts," Graulty said. "For many of us, we understand this is a vote of conscience."

"This decision will be a defining moment for many of us in terms as who we are as legislators," said Graulty, who likened it to the decision by the late Gov. John Burns not to veto Hawaii's first in the nation legalization of abortion, despite his very strong Roman Catholic faith.

While he declined to say what his recommendation would be, Graulty said it will not be to legalize same-sex marriages or to do nothing.

Although House Judiciary Committee Chairman Terrance Tom has indicated he plans no action on the same-sex issue this year, Graulty quoted Tom's own words: "As long as the Legislature is in session, anything is possible."

The Senate committee held a lengthy hearing on February 22nd on three bills. One legalizes same-sex marriages, one creates domestic partnerships for same-sex couples and one proposes a state constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriages.

Graulty noted the fourth road would be to do nothing this session and leave the issue to the courts, a move he says he's confident would result in legalized same-sex marriages.

Poll Shows Opposition

A media poll indicates there is strong public opposition to the idea of same-sex marriage.

Seventy-one percent of the 807 registered voters responding to the Advertiser-Channel 2 News Hawaii Poll said they are opposed to same-sex marriage. Eighteen percent said couples of the same sex should be allowed to marry, while nine percent were undecided.

The only group that supported the idea were new residents, people who have lived in Hawaii less than a year.

The telephone survey was taken February 9-17. The poll has a margin of error of 3.4 percent.

The findings are similar to those two years ago when the Hawaii Poll asked the same question.

Hawaii was pitched into one of the nation's most contentious social dilemmas on May 27, 1993, when the state Supreme Court agreed with three Gay couples that they had been unconstitutionally denied marriage licenses in 1990.

The justices said the state had to show a compelling interest to ban such marriages and sent the case back for trial in a lower court.

Trying to bolster the state's court case by clarifying legislative intent, lawmakers in 1994 amended the somewhat vague Marriage Law to spell out that marriage was solely the union of a man and a woman.

They hedged their bet by also establishing the special commission that recommended the state legalize same-sex marriage, or at least establish domestic partnerships to give Gay couples some of the benefits afforded to married couples.

The Circuit Court has given the Legislature time to act, scheduling arguments in the same-sex marriage case for July 15.

Other states are watching Hawaii closely, some already moving to pass laws not to recognize same-sex marriages from other states.

In South Dakota

Same-sex marriages will not be legally recognized in South Dakota, Gov. Bill Janklow decided Thursday, February 22nd, in signing legislation that defines matrimony as a personal relationship between a man and woman.

The governor also signed bills dealing with local elections, child abuse and other issues. Janklow has signed 136 bills into law so far.

Effective July 1, marriages involving couples of the same sex will not be valid in South Dakota.

Supporters of the policy said it will prevent homosexual couples from demanding some legal benefits generally reserved for heterosexual couples. At stake are such things as adoption rights, tax advantages and benefits given to spouses of employees, they said.

John Paulton, executive director of the state Family Policy Council, praised the governor for signing the bill.

"This new law upholds South Dakota's most treasured possession her families — by preserving the traditional definition of marriage," Paulton said. "For the sake of our children and the moral stability of our society, state recognition of marriage must remain limited to the union of a man and a woman."

But Keith Elston of the American Civil Liberties Union said the measure follows a common pattern of discrimination in which people pass laws to take away the rights of other people they dislike.

"What's happening here today, and what Governor Janklow signed, is the creation of a special right for heterosexuals to marry," Elston said. "And also it's a vote against the creation of committed monogamous relationships among gay South Dakotans."

In Tennessee

There is no Genetics

A ban on marriage contracts between same-sex couples is moving through the Tennessee Legislature despite concerns that it could violate the state constitution's right to privacy.

The bill cruised through a House subcommittee Tuesday, February 20th with a few changes, including one to protect other contracts between people of the same sex. And the Senate Judiciary Committee approved the bill 7-0, with Sen. Steve Cohen abstaining.

"A person's sexual orientation is basically determined by their genetics, which they have no control over," said Cohen, (D-Memphis). "And for us to use this particular bill or any other bill to attack them because of their genetic makeup is something I will not be a part of."

The bill's sponsor, Sen. Jim Holcomb, (R-Bluff City), said there is no proof that genetics explains anything, but that everything is made up by God.

Holcomb, a Right Wing Christian and family therapist, is part of an ex-Gay ministry.

Later he told the press that if a "child grows up with alcoholic parents, the kid will be alcoholic. The same thing is true for homosexuals."

Holcomb said he is trying to stop a problem that could occur if other states allow homosexual marriages.

Hawaii's courts are considering it, and Holcomb worries that homosexual Tennesseans will marry there and expect it to be recognized at home, so they can receive tax credits and other government benefits.

Cohen disagrees.

"I don't think you're going to see a love plane take off to Hawaii the day after this decision may be rendered," he said.

Hedy Weinberg, director of the state's American Civil Liberties Union, said the bill contradicts the promotion of family values and "is motivated by an intolerance and a prejudice and a bigotry toward a lifestyle different than those of the radical religious right."

In Iowa

Just Don't Scare the Horses

The Iowa House overwhelmingly went on record as opposing same-sex marriages as lawmakers continued to wade through emotional social issues from Gay rights to abortion.

Supporters said that the traditional male-female marriage is a "point of stability" in society, while critics said the effort was Gay-bashing and urged lawmakers to abandon efforts to meddle in the bedroom.

"As for me, I don't care what consenting adults do to each other, as long as they don't do it in the street or scare the horses," said Rep. Dick Myers, (D-Iowa City).

But Rep. Steve Grubbs said same-sex unions are "not what I would consider a traditional marriage" and said they should be banned.

The measure was approved 86-11. Though it drew heated debate, the package approved Tuesday makes little change in state law that already refuses to recognize same-sex marriages.

It is generally recognized that Right Wing forces are using an assault on same-sex marriage to score political points because most voters don't have empathy with Gays and Lesbians on that issue.

Rep. Ed Fallon, (D-Des Moines), said lawmakers set the tenor for political debate, and singling out Gays and Lesbians will "fuel the fire of ignorance, intolerance and hatred."

"Red-baiting is out, but pink-baiting is in," he said.

Ban Divorce

Particularly in the sharply conservative House, lawmakers have focused on controversial social issues. In addition to the same-sex marriage issue, there are efforts to repeal the state's divorce laws, make teenage sex a crime and a measure introduced Tuesday seeks to prohibit government interference with parents.

Critics, including some Republicans, have worried that conservatives are nudging the chamber too far in touchy social issues that will backfire in November.

In Washington State

A ban on Gay marriages will die in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

The ban and two "parents' rights" bills are the main agenda items for the House's social conservatives, but have crashed into a stone wall in the Senate.

Gov. Mike Lowry hailed the decision, but Right Wing House sponsors said they were outraged.

Despite the urging of some of their mem-

bers, House Right Wing extremists decided not to pursue anti-abortion bills this session, since they had been repeatedly rebuffed last year by the Senate. Instead, they focused on two key items from the agenda of religious conservatives: parental rights and the ban on Gay marriages.

The marriage bill, HB2262, set off the most emotional debate of the session when it cleared House committee and the full House earlier this month. Sponsors called the ban necessary because they believe the Hawaii courts will rule later this year that same-gender marriages are legal.

A 20-year-old court ruling says Washington recognizes only heterosexual marriages. But the bill's prime sponsor, Rep. Bill Thompson, R-Everett, says Washington's Gays and Lesbians can be expected to flock to Hawaii, get married and return to the state expecting the same rights as heterosexual couples, such as health benefits and inheritance rights.

Thompson had wanted to send his bill to the fall ballot so voters could decide — and to avoid Lowry's certain veto. Thompson was furious, but not surprised by the Senate decision. He said the bill generated more than 1,400 calls to the legislative hot line, more than any other measure this year.

"To me, this is just unconscionable," he said in an interview. "The people of Washington deserve to make the choice, rather than just letting it happen by default by some judge in Hawaii."

Rep. Ed Murray, (D-Seattle), and other foes of the bill shrugged off the criticism and hailed the Senate's position.

"It was very cynical, a piece of legislation that was really a political exercise on the part of the Republican caucus in the House," said Murray, the Legislature's only openly gay lawmaker. "Part of the caucus is incredibly right wing and they had to throw them a bone. They didn't do it on (abortion) choice or the worst of the anti-children's legislation."

"They decided that the expendable community was the Gays and Lesbians."

A proposed Hawaiian state constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriages might not end the issue for Hawaii, according to Dan Foley, the attorney representing the couples challenging Hawaii's marriage law.

The U.S. Supreme Court is considering a similar issue in the appeal of a Colorado constitutional amendment that barred local governments from adopting laws banning housing and employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, Foley told the Judiciary Committee.

Foley said he could not speculate the impact

on a Hawaii amendment should the Supreme Court strike down Colorado's anti-gay amendment.

However, adoption of a domestic partnership law would strengthen the state's case in defending its current marriage law in court, Foley said.

The bill before the committee would activate a domestic partnership system only upon the withdrawal of the legal case or a court ruling upholding the existing marriage law.

The Rev. Marc Alexander of the Hawaii Catholic Conference said there is a need to maintain the traditional marriages between a man and a woman.

"This is not an issue of individual rights, it is a question of institutional definition," he said. "Marriage is a unique community defined by the union of the sexually different."

Opposition to same-sex marriage generally is formed around religious organizations in the community, some more extreme than others.

"Homosexuality was one of the wickedness that caused the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah," said the Alex Akuna family in a letter to the committee. "Hawaii will come under fire and brimstone should it support same sex marriage."

The first speaker Thursday was Los Angeles attorney Thomas Coleman, who said Hawaii treats same-sex couples, even those who have been together for 25 years, as though they are strangers.

If the Legislature does nothing this year, the courts will legalize same-sex marriages, said Coleman, executive director of the Spectrum Institute which promotes domestic partnership laws.

Lillian Hanada of Kauai sent in testimony that went to the heart of the political dilemma facing lawmakers in this election year.

She vowed to work hard against the reelection of any lawmaker who supported legalizing same-sex marriage.

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PRIMARIES

Continued from Page 1

preme Court should decide in favor of same-sex marriage. (See article in this issue.)

Immediately upon distribution of Kaufert's press release, an impressive coalition of groups, including Action Wisconsin, PFLAG, GLEEDA, and the Wisconsin Log Cabin Republican mobilized and began an impressive campaign to make it clear to Rep. Kaufert that residents of his district and activists in his Republican Party did not endorse his proposed bill.

When informed of Kaufert's intentions to introduce the legislation, Log Cabin Club of Wisconsin President, Jim McFarland, reacted.

"This kind of legislation is unnecessary," McFarland said. "Wisconsin law actually states that marriage 'creates the legal status of husband and wife.' Further, the law is pretty clear that a marriage contracted in another state that would not be valid in Wisconsin will not be recognized in this state."

McFarland added that these are the legislative hurdles that have been identified as standing in the way of Wisconsin's Lesbian and Gay couples who seek legal recognition of their unions.

Log Cabin Legislative Director, Scott Evertz, made these points and others in a meeting with Kaufert on Thursday, February 15th. Interviewed after that meeting, Evertz indicated that he began his meeting by stressing Log Cabin's support for same-sex marriage. He said that Kaufert was willing to engage in a discussion of the merits of the issue.

"Representative Kaufert seemed very concerned that the Hawaiian Supreme Court decision may force Wisconsin residents to recognize same-sex marriages without any sort of debate on the issue. When I indicated that that would be very unlikely given Wisconsin's rather strict statutes on marriage, he seemed willing to consider seeking a legal opinion on the issue rather than introducing the bill."

In press appearances, Kaufert indicated that his measure was not intended to be anti-Gay. Evertz indicated that it was his experience that Kaufert was not "anti-Gay" nor "homophobic." At worst, Evertz said, "he might be characterized as uninformed on this issue."

"Representative Kaufert is a thoughtful legislator who seemed persuaded by the argument that the debate on this issue should occur around introduction of legislation to recognize same-sex marriages and not around the unnecessary 'preemptive' legislation he was planning to introduce," Evertz said.

In assessing the legislative success, Evertz stressed the work of Action Wisconsin (specifically, noting Board President Juliet Brodie and Region 3 Directors Mike Fitzpatrick and Jackie Richter) and "of course the leadership of [Rep.] Tammy Baldwin."

Evertz also indicated that this success was the clear result of years of Log Cabin activism in the state GOP. He pointed out that "a number of our Republican friends in the legislature came to our assistance. Their support ranged from quietly indicating to Rep. Kaufert their displeasure with his proposal to allowing us to access their staffs for assistance."

Evertz added, "Log Cabin has come under fire in the past for supporting the very legislators who came to our assistance when the chips were down. I'm hopeful this experience will cause our critics to think twice in the future."

Asked to comment on the possibility of another legislator introducing similar legislation, Evertz said, "Of course we must remain vigilant. That's always a possibility. But I'm pretty confident that legal counsel will indicate not only that Rep. Kaufert's fears were unfounded, but that no legislation will prevent the legal challenges to Wisconsin law that will undoubtedly occur in the event of a positive decision in Hawaii."

Dykes To Watch Out For



CLASSIFIEDS

Employment

MSM Outreach Worker

The Madison AIDS Support Network is seeking an outreach worker for men who have sex with men (MSM). This position encompasses three major components: outreach to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual community; oversight of support group programming targeted to MSM; and behavioral change programming to MSM including HIV antibody testing.

The Madison AIDS Support Network is a non-profit agency providing outreach and education to the public and direct care services to people with HIV and AIDS. MASN serves 13 counties in south-central Wisconsin.

No phone calls please. Send resume and cover letter by March 8, 1996 to: MASN, ATTN: Russ Peterson, 600 Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703. MASN is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Educator/Project Coordinator wanted for national women's organization, to coordinate a project training front-line clerical workers how to redesign their jobs. At least 3 years experience in training and curriculum development, excellent communication skills, commitment to social justice, knowledgeable about labor/management issues. Salary mid to high 20's. Send Resume to: 9to5, 238 W. Wisconsin Ave., #700, Milwaukee, WI 53203-2308. EEO employer.

Health

Relaxing massage by RJ, (414) 272-4247. HTTP://www.mixom.com/BBS/effee/

Housing/Rent

Milwaukee—Renting ranch home—Mount Mary area. Responsible tenant for quality 2 bdr. Home. \$650. Call for particulars. (414) 444-8884 f

1216 E. Russell Ave., Bay View duplex. Each unit has 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Remodeled! Freshly painted, new carpet & vinyl, new kitchen cabinets & counter tops. Some newer windows. 5 blocks from the lake. No pets. \$550/security for upper or lower. (414) 744-1481. f

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Chanticleer Guest House—located on 30 private acres in picturesque Door County, WI. Suites include: double whirlpool, fireplace, private bath, entertainment center, breakfast to room. For reservation or color brochure, call Bryon and Darrin at (414) 746-0334 u

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Organizations

Volunteers & Ideas Needed Hurricane Productions Womyn's Music & Culture, P.O. Box 71268, Milwaukee, WI 53211.

GALANO CLUB. A social club serving the recovering Gay and Lesbian community. Regularly scheduled AA, NA, Al-Anon, ACOA and other 12-step meetings. Open nightly. 2408 N. Farwell Avenue, (414) 276-6936. x

Personals

GAM—20 yrs old, Extremely goodlooking, healthy, athletic student with great build. Loves Oriental cuisine, arts, classical music. Sexually flexible, non-promiscuous, seeks meaningful, sincere friendship. Ages open. Write: Simon B. Laurio, 922-C Malvar St., cor. San Pedro St., Malate, Manila, Philippines.

GWM—36, 5'10", 195 lbs. Looking for friendship or relationship to settle down with. Willing to relocate. I'm handicapped with speech impairment, but mobile. Call Mark at (414) 253-0921.

Real Estate

Bar For Sale

Milwaukee bar for sale. Tavern. Est. business. Parking lot. Confidential inquiries to: Wisconsin Light, Box 70, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212. Replies will be forwarded.

Announcements

H.I.T. to Hold Two Fundraisers

Milwaukee—The Holiday Invitational Tournament (HIT) invites you to participate in their first two fundraisers. The 7th Annual "Rita Bowl," which throws out all of rules of regular bowling, will be held on Friday, March 15th at 9:30 p.m. Cost for bowling is \$15 or \$18 which includes a round-trip bus ride to Red Carpet Regency, leaving the M&M Club at 8:30 p.m. So come and enjoy the wild and wacky adventures of bowling.

Also, the 2nd Annual "Slots of Fun" will be held Saturday, March 30th. This is a one-day trip to North Star Casino in Bowler and then on to Menomonee Nation Casino in Keshena, Wisconsin. Cost per person is \$35 which includes rebates from both casinos totaling \$43. Participants will meet at the Ballgame Bar between 6:00 and 7:00 a.m. at which time the bus departs. We will reach North Star around 10:00 a.m. and remain there until we depart at 2:00 p.m. to head for Menomonee Nation where you will stay from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. The bus departs for home at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call Rick Steiner at (414) 482-1964 or Jeff Whitt at (414) 332-9414.

Wanta Be a Country Dyke?

Madison—Are you a country dyke (or wanta be?). Want to meet other country Lesbians? Then join us. On Saturday, March 30th, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m., RDA will have its monthly potluck and work/play party. This month we will be building birdhouses. Bring a vegetarian dish to pass, hammers, screwdrivers, saws, sanders, drills and stories to tell. For lumber specifications for each birdhouse or for location and directions, please call (608) 838-3094.

GALVANize Holding T-shirt Contest

Madison—GALVANize is holding a T-shirt design contest for the 1996 Gay, Lesbian, Bi and Transgender Pride Parade in Madison. Entries are due by April 4, 1996. Entries should be submitted on plain white paper and be four colors or less. All entries become the property of GALVANize and are not returnable. GALVANize reserves the right to alter the design as needed for printing of posters on T-shirts. Please send your design to GALVANize, PO Box 1403, Madison, WI 53703.

1996 Distinguished Alumni Award

Madison—The University of Wisconsin Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Alumni Council is seeking nomination for the 1996 Distinguished Alumni Awards to recognize a woman or man who have excelled and distinguished themselves. The Awards will be presented at the Annual Reunion Brunch on Sunday, July 21st on the campus of the University of Wisconsin. More than one person may be nominated, and the deadline for nominations is March 29th.

For a nomination form, write to: GLB Alumni Council, Wisconsin Alumni Association, 650 N. Lake Street, Madison, WI 53706. For further information, contact Council Recorder Ken Chraga at (608) 263-4086.

Gay Men's Discussion Group

Milwaukee—The Gay Men's Discussion Group will be discussing "Homosexuality and Scripture" on March 24th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Topics include: Do the Jewish and Christian scriptures really condemn Gay sex?; What errors in translations have occurred that might skew understanding?; What did the various authors have in mind when writing these texts? The facilitator will be David Schimmel, MA, M Div., speaker, writer, publisher of a monthly newsletter titled "Passion: Christian Spirituality from a Gay Perspective."

The Counseling Center is located at 2038 N. Bartlett Avenue in Milwaukee. For more information, call (414) 271-2565.

New Group Forming

Milwaukee—A new group for Gay men who are dealing with issues related to being single is set to begin in the spring. Issues to be addressed include anxiety about meeting others, frustration regarding lack of intimacy, and concerns about HIV. If you are interested, contact Bill Hanel at (414) 271-2565 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Community Election Coalition '96 Forum

Milwaukee—Community Election Coalition '96 cordially invite the public to attend an open house gathering and forum at the Wisconsin Hotel (Second Floor, Ballroom) on Tuesday, March 12, 1996, to meet Election '96 City and County candidates. From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. there will be light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The forum will begin at 7:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by Action Wisconsin, the Human Rights League, the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee, LOC/Women of Color, and the Sherman Park Rainbow Association.

Madison's Historic Hotel Washington, Nationally Known Gay Mecca, Burns

HOTEL WASHINGTON
Continued from Page 1

Vigil Held to Mourn the Loss

About 500 people gathered at the steps of the state Capitol to mourn the loss of the Hotel Washington.

"I can't explain how overwhelmed I am by this response," Greg Scheel, co-owner of the hotel, said at the gathering Monday, February 19th.

Many attending the rally said the Hotel Washington was a place where they always felt welcomed and accepted.

"It was like hanging out with my family," University of Wisconsin student Terry Dublinski said. "Someone got it right when they told me it was a place you can go where you loved everyone."

"I've cried a lot today, but I'm not crying anymore because I've decided we've got to work together to be proactive right now," said one member of the Gay community.

Community Rallies in Support

In the wake of the tragic disaster, the Madison Gay/Lesbian Resource Center's Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Business Alliance in association with the Wisconsin Community Fund have created a special Relief Fund to support former tenants of the Hotel. The funds collected will help to support those individuals with transitional housing, food, clothing and other critical needs.

Donations to the fund can be made by sending a check or money order to: *The Wisconsin Community Fund, 122 State Street, Suite 508, Madison, WI 53703.* Please indicate that the donation is for the "Hotel Washington Tenant's Relief Fund."

A Hotel Washington Support Fund has also been established at the Associated Bank, 222 W. Washington Ave., Madison, WI 53703.

Employment Help

The Gay/Lesbian Resource Center's Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual (LGB) Business Alliance is putting together a list of LGB and LGB-friendly businesses who currently have openings for part- or full-time employees to aid those displaced by the Hotel fire.

Several members of the LGB Business Alliance are offering their services (such as resume production and printing) for free or significantly reduced costs.

Displaced employees should contact Greg Scheel for a list of job opportunities or job-related services.

Spiritual Help

On Sunday, March 3, 1996, "Coming Out Coming Together, an interfaith coalition of more than a dozen Madison area churches and other spiritual communities who are inclusive is sponsoring an **Interfaith Service of Remembrance, Healing and Hope** open to the whole Madison community.

The purpose of the service is to grieve the loss of the Hotel Washington which served as a center for Madison's Gay and Lesbian community, and to muster spiritual resources to face the many challenges confronting the community locally and nationally.

Services will be held at University Methodist Church, 1127 University Avenue (on the corner of Charter St.) on Sunday, March 3rd, at 7:00 p.m.

Keanu Reeves

The fire that destroyed the Hotel Washington may change a movie director's plans to film scenes at the old Milwaukee Road Depot next door, a state official says.

The thriller "Chain Reaction," starring Keanu Reeves and Morgan Freeman, was to use the inside of the Capitol for the bulk of its one day of local filming.

However, a nighttime scene was scheduled to be filmed outside the old depot on West Washington Avenue, now adjacent to a pile of rubble.

Filmmakers asked for photographs of the scene as it looks now, said Julia Hertel of the Wisconsin Film Office.

"We won't know until the director sees the pictures whether that scene will remain in the movie," she said.

Stanley Solheim, director of the Wisconsin Film Office, says there's still plenty of room for filming at the depot.

In the film, the Wisconsin Capitol will be standing in for the U.S. Capitol.



Madison's Hotel Washington as it looked at the time of its opening in 1905.



Historic Hotel in Ruins—Madison's Hotel Washington burned to the ground on February 18, 1996. Little more than ruins remained (above) as firemen worked to put out the last of the smoldering debris (below).



SUSAN KAYE



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Shimmering beauty and shocking sensuality—Eugenia (Pacey Kniser) delights in a conservatory full of butterflies in "Angels and Insects," a tangled web of mystery, seduction and deceit.

'Tommy: The Musical' is Very Little More Than a Two Hour Music Video

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop. Glenn Bishop feels old. Glenn feels old partially because he so vividly remembers when The Who released their classic concept album of the "rock opera" Tommy.

There was an unconventional story about a truly unique hero: a deaf, dumb and blind kid who becomes a Pinball Wizard, an unlikely scenario surely but still a strikingly effective metaphor for many young people.

AfterWords New

Book List

- Lesbian Fiction: Out of the Past by Kris Bruyer Naiad Press Pk \$10.95. Gay Fiction: And This Too Shall Pass by E. Lynn Harris Doubleday HC \$23.95. Lesbian Non-Fiction: Dyke Life: From Growing Up in Growing Old ed. by Karla Jay, Basic Books HC \$23.00. Gay Non-Fiction: Finding True Love in a Man-Eat-Man World by Craig Nelson Dell Pk \$12.95

The Light



LIVELY ARTS

Skylight Opera Theatre Presents Milwaukee Premiere of 'Falsettos'

Milwaukee—The Skylight Opera Theatre presents the Milwaukee premiere of Falsettos, the 1992 Tony Award-winning musical for best book, music and lyrics, from the team of William Finn and James Lapine.



La Cage Aux Folles—Armand (Robin Williams, right) tells Albert (Nathan Lane, left) and Agador (Hank Azaria) the news that his son Val is engaged in "The Birdcage," which was directed by Mike Nichols from a screenplay by Elaine May.

Chicago hit, "The Carolin' Carolynne Show." The cabaret begins immediately following the performance of Falsettos and is free to the public.

'Theda Bara and the Frontier Rabbi' Portrays '20's "Vamp"

Milwaukee—Theda Bara and the Frontier Rabbi is being presented on stage through Sunday, March 3rd by the JCC Theatre Company. The musical, with music by Bob Johnston and book by Jeff Hochhauser is based on the life of silent film star, Theda Bara.



Michelle Pfeiffer and Robert Redford in "Up Close and Personal"

Unless You're a Robert Redford Fan, Wait and See 'Up Close and Personal' on Video

By Dale E. Kuntz. I predict that this film will become the number one attraction in America when it opens this weekend. It has Robert Redford in the role we like him in best—the romantic lead—the type of role that has made him one of the top attractions for the past 30 years.

example, what trouble is Pfeiffer's sister in that she has to return to Las Vegas to help her out? What is it that she (and Redford) have to put money up for? Why does anchorwoman, Stockard Channing, suddenly become nice to Pfeiffer after she has just lost a job to her?



Pabst Theater Thursday, March 28, 1996 - 7:30 PM Tickets: \$25, \$20, \$15



Attend the Milwaukee Area Premiere! Wednesday, March 6—7:30 p.m. Westown Cinemas 2440 E. Moreland Blvd., Waukesha Pick Up Your Free Tickets at Wisconsin Light 1843 N. Palmer St., Milwaukee While Supplies Last

Wisconsin's Senators Go On-Line

Wisconsin's two U.S. Senators are now on-line and have established their own web sites. Feingold's homepage includes his biographical and office information, in addition to giving constituents access to other Wisconsin resources such as state and local government sites.