



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

# The Wisconsin Light

## Federal Court to Review Suit Brought By Wisconsin Youth on Anti-Gay Bashing

**Milwaukee**—A civil suit waiting review by a federal court accuses public school administrators in Ashland of failing to protect a Gay student against taunts and physical abuse by classmates.

If Jamie Nabozny, now 20, wins the argument, the ruling will alert school administrators nationwide to provide a protective environment for students, attorney David Buckel said.

Buckel works for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund of New York City, which is assisting Nabozny in his suit against the Ashland school district.

"Violence against Lesbian and Gay teens is a serious problem that school officials cannot ignore," added Patricia M. Logue, Managing Attorney of Lambda's Regional Office in Chicago. "With the federal government reporting that one-third of teen suicides are by Lesbian and Gay youth, schools must show zero tolerance for anti-Gay attacks."

The 7<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago is scheduled to hear the case March 28<sup>th</sup>.

If Buckel's argument is upheld, it "would be an endlessly expensive burden to place on school districts" that could be named in similar suits, Timothy Yanacheck, the district's lawyer, said.

"The school district didn't do anything to cause these punks, Jamie's classmates, to harass him," Yanacheck said. "This legal case focuses on a narrow point, and that is (whether) the U.S. Constitution creates a responsibility on the part of school officials to protect kids."

"If we prevail in this case, it will send a message to school principals across the country that they need to abide by the principle that all students need a safe environment to get their education," Buckel said.

"What Jamie's case does is make it clear that we're simply not going to take this anymore," said Kevin Jennings, executive director of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network, based in New York City.

Jennings' group gave Nabozny an award earlier this month for fighting homophobia in schools.

Another case involves the Salt Lake City school board, which decided recently to eliminate extracurricular clubs rather than allow a gay-student support group, Jennings said.

In New Hampshire, parents sued the Merrimack school district over a policy that forbids support of homosexuality as a positive lifestyle, he said.

Nabozny and Buckel said they are willing to take their case to the U.S. Supreme Court. "The big reason is so that it doesn't happen to other people," Nabozny said.

He was kicked, spit on and taunted in corridors, restrooms and locker rooms after enrolling in middle school in 1988 in the Lake Superior community, he said.

He dropped out of high school as a junior in 1993. His parents said they conferred with school administrators and counselors after their depressed son considered suicide.

"Every time we left any of the meetings, we felt something was going to be resolved and it never went any farther," Nabozny's father, Robert, said in court documents.

Nabozny moved to Minneapolis where he earned a high school-equivalent degree. He filed suit in 1995.

"The thing that I remember most is that my stomach was always in knots," he said in an interview. "I would always tell my parents that I was sick."

He and Buckel argue the district failed to afford Nabozny the same protection that was given girls against sexual harassment.

Yanacheck, denying the district should be held accountable, cites a decision in October of Judge John Shabaz of U.S. District Court in Madison.

Shabaz ruled Nabozny failed to present sufficient evidence to send the case to trial.

"The facts in the plaintiff's case are also wrenching because he was verbally harassed and beaten by other students because of his sexual orientation," Shabaz wrote.

"There is nothing in the record, however, to indicate that the defendants created or ex-

TURN TO YOUTH, PAGE 17

## Bette Midler, "The Divine Miss M," To Be Honorary Chair of AIDS Walk Wisconsin



### PrideFest Committee Unveils Pride '96 Logo at First of Two Receptions for Proud Crowd

**Milwaukee**—PrideFest's big rainbow flag was draped proudly along one wall. On the other wall, above the bar, was a colorful banner welcoming the Proud Crowd to This Is It.

The occasion was a reception given by PrideFest to honor and thank members of the Proud Crowd.

The Proud Crowd is PrideFest's annual grass roots fundraiser that helps to provide money for pre-festival expenses such as insurance and grounds rental.

The crowd that gathered Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at This Is It numbered approximately 150. It was in a jubilant and expectant mood because it had been learned that the Cream City Foundation (CCF) had granted PrideFest \$5,000.



Barb Peterson

CCF, a faithful supporter of many, many activities in the LGBT community, has always been a major supporter and sponsor of PrideFest. This year was no exception.

"The Foundation deserves not only PrideFest's thanks," said PrideFest co-chair Bill Meunier, "but the on-going thanks of the

whole community."

As people ate food provided by Pizza Shuttle and Joe Brehm, owner of This Is It, there was a mood of expectancy because it had been announced that PrideFest would show, for the first time, its new logo.

The logo was created by Barb Peterson, the third year in a row that she has done the logo.

The logo portrays PrideFest's theme of "Carry The Torch." It shows a torch from which bloom flames in the brilliant colors of the rainbow.

Praise for it was unanimous. People commented on the brilliance of its colors; on how well it showed PrideFest's theme, and how good it would look on display.

The Torch theme is especially appropriate this year as PrideFest moves to the Henry W. Maier Festival grounds (Summerfest grounds).

This Proud Crowd reception was the first of two. The second will be held on at This Is It on March 31<sup>st</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

At this second reception, Meunier said, the total number of Proud Crowd members will be announced. Pressed to say how many there are, he would only respond "The number is record shattering."

*PrideFest will be held at the Summerfest grounds for the first time this year. For the first time as well, PrideFest will be held for three days: June 7-9, 1996.*

### Medical College Study Indicates that HIV is Necessary, But Cannot Itself Cause AIDS

**Milwaukee**—Scientists at the Medical College of Wisconsin have shown that a second virus, human herpesvirus six (HHV-6), plays a critical role in the progression of HIV infection to AIDS. A description of this work will appear in the *Journal of Immune Deficiency Syndromes and Human Retrovirology* in April and is an extension of earlier work by the same investigators.

Medical College researchers Konstance

**Milwaukee**—"It is my good fortune to make a surprise announcement tonight," said Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW).

Nelson was speaking to a sold-out crowd of nearly 1,000 people attending the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Make A Promise Dinner held in the grand ballroom of Milwaukee's Fin de Siecle Pfister Hotel. The dinner is held as a fundraiser for the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP).

Nelson said that he was going to announce the 1996 Honorary Chair of AIDS Walk Wisconsin.

The AIDS Walk, as it is most commonly known, is the biggest AIDS fundraiser in the state. Held every September, its honorary chairs have included Vice President and Tipper Gore, Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist and his wife Susan Mudd, basketball great, Magic Johnson, Linda and Paul Molitor of the Milwaukee Brewers baseball team and Darryl Hamilton, also of the Brewers.

As the crowd listened, Nelson told them that this year's chair was from the entertainment industry—a first—and proceeded to read the letter of acceptance. Only when that was done, did he reveal the name.

It would be Bette Midler.

The news, held secret from all save a few for so long, drew a thunderous ovation from the crowd, as Midler's picture was shown on a silver screen.

Since then, the news seems to have gone through the community like a bill against sin in Congress.

"I'd open my veins just to see her," one person extolled. "I love that woman!"

"I own all her movies," said another.

His friend, not about to be up-staged, added quickly, "But I have all her tapes, CDs, records, EVERYTHING!"

Questions abound. Will she perform? Where will she perform? How can I get tickets to see her?

Details on September's AIDS Walk have yet to be announced, but from this vantage point, the AIDS Walk, already large, is set to become the event of the season.

#### The Divine Miss M

Midler, or "The Divine Miss M," is no stranger to Gay audiences, for it is among us that she first began her career that has hit the heights of both screen and music.

According to Midler, she was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, and made up her mind to become an actress while still in high school in the Aloha State. After a year of studying drama at the University of Hawaii,

she was cast as an extra in George Roy Hill's film *Hawaii*. It was, Midler says, a small taste of what might be, but "I was hooked."

She relocated to New York City, where she made her stage debut in Tom Eyen's *Cinderella Revisited*, followed by her portrayal of Tzeitel in the Broadway musical *Fiddler On The Roof*.

In the wake of singing engagements at a host of popular New York cabarets, Midler opened a record-breaking run at the city's Continental Baths.

As those of us know from "the good old days," the Continental Baths was one of the most popular Gay men's spas in New York City. Midler wowed them and she has, as she said, "never forgotten my roots. I owe a lot to the Gay community and I always will."

She created such a sensation with her Gay audiences, that it wasn't long before she had signed a contract with Atlantic Records.

In 1973, Bette took Grammy Award honors for Best New Artist in recognition of her "Divine Miss M" debut album (now certified RIAA platinum). That same year, she received a Tony Award for her appearance at Broadway's Palace Theatre. Midler's meteoric career continued to escalate with her "Clams On The Half Shell" revue, "The Fabulous Bette Midler Show" for HBO, the Emmy Award-winning TV special "Ol' Red Hair Is Back," and a string of albums.

In 1979, Midler's portrayal of the tormented, self-destructive rock singer in Mark Rydell's *The Rose* earned her an Academy Award nomination and Golden Globe Awards

TURN TO BETTE MIDLER, PAGE 15

Kehl Knox, Ph.D., senior research scientist, and Donald R. Carrigan, Ph.D., associate professor of pathology, evaluated lymph node samples from ten HIV-infected patients for active HHV-6 infection.

Drs. Knox and Carrigan used a sophisticated staining technique to detect cells actively infected with HHV-6 in the tissue samples. Large numbers of cells actively infected

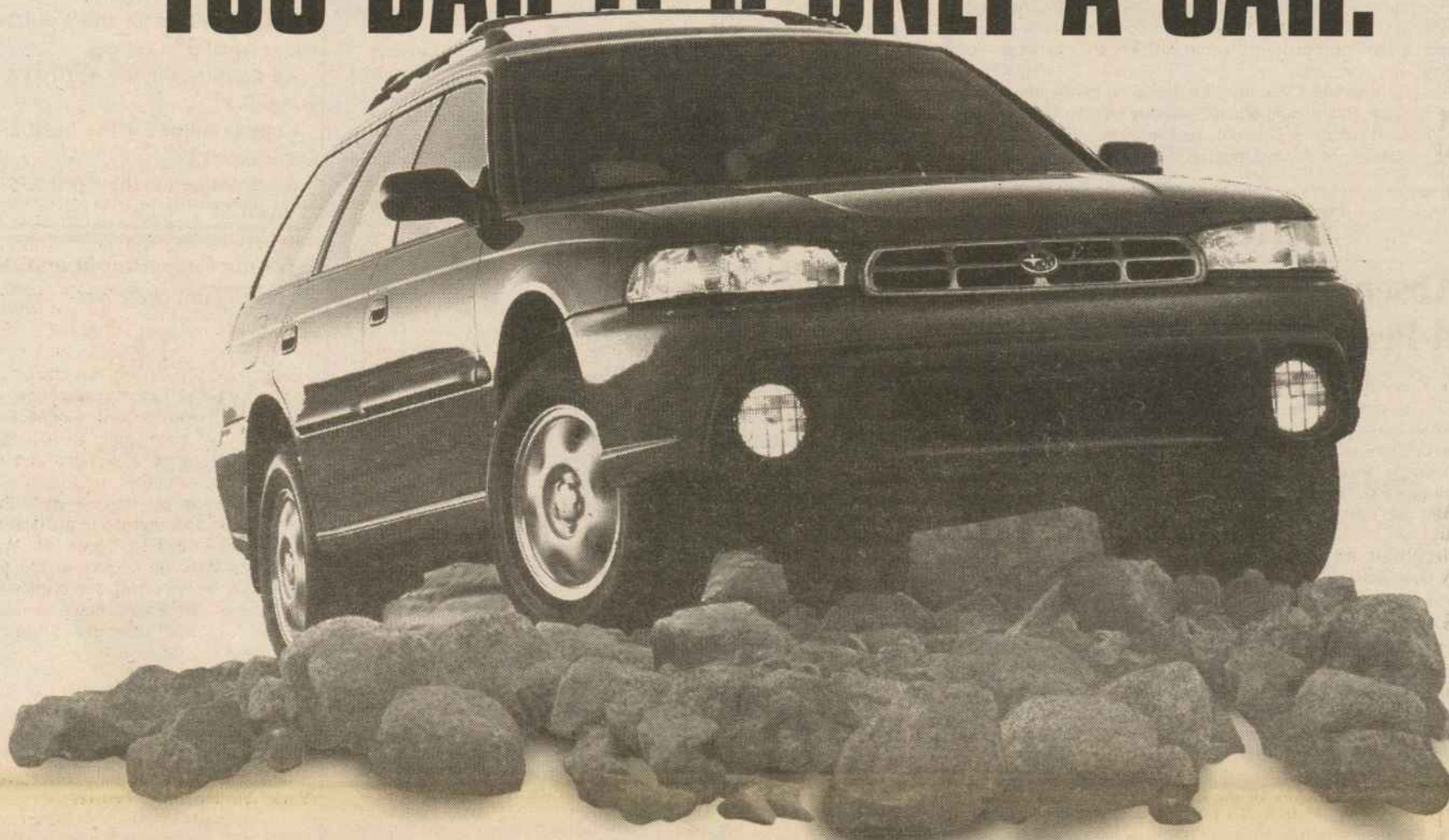
TURN TO AIDS, PAGE 17







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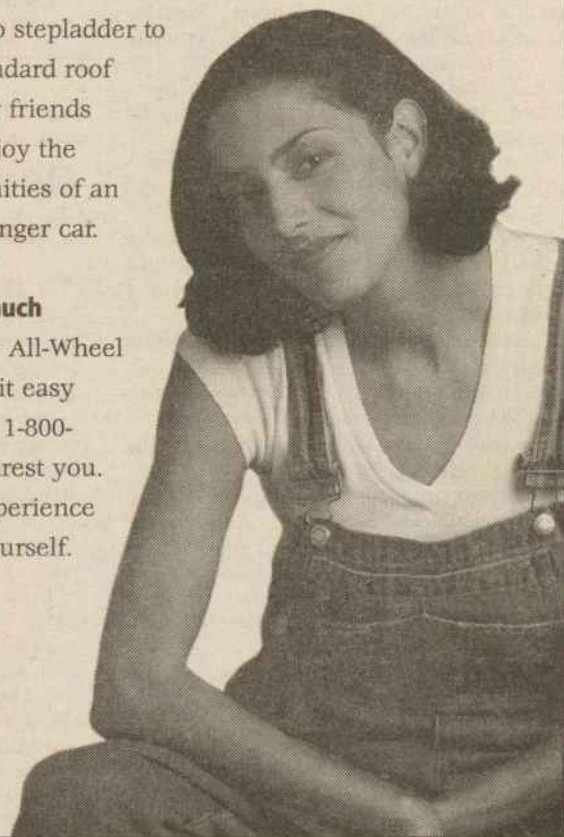
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## Editorial

### Goodness Has Nothing to do With it

As we reported a couple of issues ago, when the Hawaiian State Tourist Bureau looked into the matter, they got a pleasant surprise. If same-sex marriage is made legal in the Aloha State, tourist income will increase by some \$4 billion plus change—and that's after subtracting what the state would lose from Right Wingers who stayed away.

In Tampa, Florida, the same thing happened pretty much. 4,000 to 6,000 Lesbian and Gay singers can spend one whopping amount of dough. Can't you just hear the city's solons?

"We don't approve of them!" protests one.  
 "Ah, yes," replies a wiser head. "But isn't their money such a lovely shade of green?"  
 "Repeal that awful ordinance against them!" cries the first speaker. "Repeal it at once, I say!"

The vote for repeal is unanimous.  
 As the late Senator Dirksen once put it, "Here a billion, there a billion, and pretty soon you're talking real money." Or to put it another way, "My God, how the money rolls in!"

The point to all this cynicism is simply this: Money may not eliminate prejudice, but the desire for it can sure make people act like it's gone.

Take the Sybaris Club for example. We noted with interest that at the recent Make A Promise silent auction, "formerly" homophobic Sybaris had two "get-away" items up for bid. But wait! There, lo and behold, was a disclaimer saying they didn't discriminate against anybody; same-sex couples welcome. Prejudice gone? Yeah, right. But underground is okay for now.

The same thing held true for another business we know about. A little mention to the owner of money the paper wished to spend—and could easily spend elsewhere—and bingo! Prejudice. My God, I'm sorry, etc., etc., etc.

Somebody once said that when you pray for peace on earth, the most you're ever going to get is absence of conflict. Purists and idealists among us may not like that, but it's the way it is. On the road to our freedom, we should, perhaps, ignore motivation and not despise non-prejudicial actions, thinking, in the end, that actions can sometimes lead to a change of heart.

## Editor's Note

### In the Absence of Sources, the Truth About the Nazi Persecution of Gays is Being Lost

By Terry Boughner

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, as reported world-wide in the press, Nazi concentration camp survivors gathered at sites throughout Germany to mark the anniversary of the Russian liberation of Auschwitz. But for many Lesbians and Gay men, in Germany and elsewhere, such gestures are hollow.

After the liberation of the camps, Dachau and the rest, Gays wearing the Pink Triangle who had survived the horrors best associated with Hell, knew no freedom. They were forced to complete their sentences imposed on them by Hitler's courts.

Just as bad, if not worse, there was no apology forthcoming from the German government, no financial or other recompense for their agonies, and, for a long time no memorial to what they had endured.

Lesbians and Gay men, were outcasts in Nazi Germany and remained so in "free" Europe. Homosexuality remained illegal in Germany until 1969.

Sadly, though understandably, few, very few Gay survivors wanted to tell their stories afterward. As Richard Plant in his book, *The Pink Triangle: The Nazi War Against Homosexuals* says, "The pink triangle was still their scarlet letter."

(Incidentally, Plant's book, published in 1986, remains one of the best works on the subject. It is "must" reading for every Gay man, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered person.

And for those of you who think that "It can't happen here," remember, Hitler and company weren't only a German phenomenon, they were also, unfortunately, a human phenomenon.)

One of these, however, who has come forward, is Teofil Kosinski. As reported in the April 2<sup>nd</sup> issue of *The Advocate*, Kosinski recently petitioned the German government for compensation. What did he want? One deutsch mark (about 50 cents, the last time I looked), one symbolic coin. The government refused even that.

"The Jews have received indemnification," Kosinski is reported to have said. "So did some Gypsies. For homosexuals—nothing."

If you're interested in reading more about Kosinski, he has a book out, titled *Damned Strong Love*, written under the pseudonym of "Stefan K."

The point to be made here is that Kosinski is story is rare, so very rare. The chance of more of those stories from Gay men and Lesbians is getting rarer with each passing day.

Not only are the survivors dying off, the documents are being lost.

As reported in *Light*, Professor Norbert Finsch in January, raised an alert via the Internet about the destruction of files held by the justice department in Hamburg. These files, Finsch has reason to believe; contain record relating to the Nazi persecution of Gays.

In an update, the Hamburg justice department issued a statement saying that the destruction of the files had been halted.

But we should not take comfort in this, Finsch says. He believes that once public attention has shifted away, the destruction will begin again.

What makes this absence of sources all the more devastating is that, as usual, in the absence of knowledge, pseudo-scholars with evil intent, proliferate.

One such example is *The Pink Swastika: Homosexuality in Nazi Germany* co-

authored by Scott Lively. Lively is the former communications director of the Oregon Citizens Alliance, a Right Wing extremist group that was responsible for the push to get an anti-Gay law passed in Oregon a la Colorado.

As *The Advocate* reports, no serious scholar of the period takes the book seriously. For example, Klaus Muller, the Western European project director for the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., calls the book "clever propaganda," which is another point. It is "clever," but doesn't really have to be when there is so little to refute it.

For example, Lively perpetuates the myth that Hitler had an affair with Rudolf Hess. According to Plant, "That is about as likely as saying Eisenhower had an affair with Truman."

To put it another way and more firmly, there is absolutely no credible evidence that Hitler was Gay. None.

Yes, of course, there were Gays in Nazi organizations. Ernst Rohm is a classic example. But, as *The Advocate* reports Muller as saying, "It was very dangerous to be in a Nazi organization and be a homosexual."

Lively's book is much on the level of *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*, a book fabricated by the Czarist secret police, which said the Jews were taking (or had taken) over the world etc., etc., etc.

In the same vein, Lively uses "sources" drawn chiefly from Soviet propaganda used against the Nazis in the 1930s—before the Russo-German pact of 1939.

"I spent the best part of my youth in prison," Kisinski is quoted as saying. "Who would punish a 17-year-old boy for love?"

It might be well for a few of our state legislators, some radio talk jockeys, some "Christian" ministers and some in Congress to remember that question.

## Letters

### Open Letter to Log Cabin Republicans

TO THE EDITOR:

This letter is written before the election and will be received after the contest. So why write it? The issue is not to support or not to support Karen Gotzler. The issue is fundamental rights.

The article of March 14<sup>th</sup> (in the *Light*), quoted all the scandal (their words, not mine) under the umbrella word of "alleged." Alleged doesn't mean it is true. Alleged is defined "to assert without proof" (*American Heritage Dictionary*). Allegations were the main reason the Log Cabin Republicans withdrew support.

Being a history major in college, I've heard of many allegations linked to scandal, which is then used to sway people's decisions.

In the early Christian Era, Roman officials alleged that Christians ate babies at their ceremonies. Being a priest, I can assure you we don't practice cannibalism. (Maybe the Log Cabin Republicans should withhold support of Christian candidates due to allegations.)

Another example should be dear to Republicans: Abe Lincoln was alleged to have Black ancestors and that was why he was an abolitionist. Many people didn't vote for him in 1860 because of that allegation. What a loss to America and the Republican Party if all had believed that allegation to be worthy of consideration.

Allegations and person attacks on person for what a family member has done should have ended with Yellow Journalism in the early 1900s.

When we as a community use allegations to support or withhold support, we are setting a dangerous precedent. Our community has always been crucified by allegations!!

It is alleged by some that AIDS is a Gay disease; alleged by some that AIDS is God's wrath; is alleged by some that Gay men molest children; is alleged by some that Lesbians are man-hating women; is alleged by some that the Gay and Lesbian community is recruiting our children; is alleged by some that Gay and Lesbian equal rights are special rights.

Our country was founded on the ideal that all people are innocent till proven guilty. Was Karen found guilty? No, then why do we crucify her with these allegations?

The reason I took up the pen was Scott Evertz' statement, "With scandal surrounding her, it simply isn't possible for Karen to serve as a role model for anyone." This angered me the most!

Do I support Karen because she's a Lesbian? My initial interest was sparked by this. There is more. I believe she has the experience, dedication, to be a good alderperson.

I am an ordinary volunteer in Karen's campaign. I've personally experienced Lesbian, Gay men, Bisexuals and heterosexuals coming together to elect a candidate that we believe will be a part of the solution of our problems.

What endears me most to Karen is her leadership. It is said that the best leaders are tempered in fire. Karen has gone through Hell with this issue And she still wants to serve us. If elected, we voters are her bosses. We as a community should congratulate Karen Gotzler for being a living role model for our community.

A final thought. Whose family doesn't have a member that has fallen or failed, causing family embarrassment? What family embarrassment couldn't be blown out of proportion to create a scandal?

Let the person without embarrassment cast the first allegation.

Rev. Theodore T. Berg  
 Milwaukee

### Include Bisexuals and Transgenders

TO THE EDITOR:

In the 3/14 issue of *The Wisconsin Light*, two significant groups in our community were excluded from the article about the community center proposal and meeting.

Members of Bi Definition, a Milwaukee Bisexual organization, and Gemini Gender, a Transgender social and support group, specifically introduced themselves in the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, yet you included only Lesbian and Gay people in your heading and article. Moreover, language which included Transgenders and Bisexuals was used by the moderators of that meeting and in the community center proposal itself.

We, as open Bisexuals, participate regularly in Milwaukee Rainbow Community functions and feel discouraged whenever we are not expressly counted as part of it. We identify separately from Gays and Lesbians because of important differences, yet we share a quality with them which extends to the depths of our souls: we fall in love with people of our own gender and suffer from discrimination because of this unalterable state of our being. This is why we feel very much a part of the "Gay and Lesbian" community.

We ask that in the future your publication embrace diversity by including Bisexuals and Transgenders in your language when referring to our community.

Steve Butler  
 Carol Ringo  
 Bi Definition  
 Milwaukee

### New Study Helps Explain Transmission of HIV Among Straight Women

Washington, D.C.—Researchers have discovered how a strain of the AIDS virus penetrates a woman's vagina, possibly helping explain why the disease spreads faster in certain women abroad than it has yet here.

The discovery, published Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> in the journal *Science*, doesn't mean U.S. women have any less to fear from HIV, emphasized Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health. Government figures show HIV infection already is growing fastest among women.

But the study helps researchers understand yet another mechanism the fatal virus uses to get inside the body, Fauci said.

There are different subtypes of HIV. One version, HIV-1e, is most common in parts of Asia and Africa, where 90 percent of HIV cases are attributed to heterosexual contact, Harvard University's Dr. Max Essex reported.

Here, HIV first spread through homosexual contact and drug use, and heterosexually transmitted cases now account for some 10 percent of infections, he said. The most common U.S. subtype is HIV-1b.

HIV typically penetrates blood immune

cells, but Essex decided to see if the two subtypes penetrate to equal degree the cells that line the vagina, known as Langerhans' cells.

The HIV-1e, from heterosexual patients in Thailand, grew much faster and to much higher levels in Langerhans' cells than the U.S. strain did, he found.

HIV-1e has been detected in only a few Americans, but Essex said if it spreads here, heterosexual women might be at even greater risk.

Fauci, the government's top AIDS expert, said that's probably an extreme scenario, noting there are many differences between Thai and U.S. women that also influence HIV's heterosexual spread, everything from availability of condoms to high levels of Thai prostitution.

But the finding "brings us one step closer to understanding the mechanism whereby HIV may initially infect individuals," he said.

## Deadlines

Copy deadline for the April 11<sup>th</sup> issue is April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Ad deadline for the April 11<sup>th</sup> issue is April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Copy deadline for the April 25<sup>th</sup> issue is April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Ad deadline for the April 25<sup>th</sup> issue is April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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

## The Wisconsin Light



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Monday-Friday-10:00 a.m. -5:30 p.m.

24-Hour Recording

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AP Associated Press

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## Overflow Crowd Attends MAP's Make A Promise Dinner and Silent Auction

Milwaukee—A brilliantly decked crowd numbering at nearly 1,000 gathered in the Grand Ballroom of Milwaukee's Pfister Hotel to raise money for AIDS care, education and research.

The occasion was the 10th annual Make A Promise Dinner and Silent Auction sponsored by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW). It was held on Saturday, March 23rd and raised a record total of \$137,500. The event was a sell-out with over 100 people on the waiting list, according to organizers.

While listening to music provided by Rob Grede, Billy Kirchen and Mark Davis, people sipping pre-dinner cocktails browsed among tables containing 435 items up for bid.

There were trips to Washington, D.C., Honolulu, Cancun, Mexico, and several other exotic and romantic places.

Other items included a gold ring, jackets, crystal vases and other pieces of artwork, tickets to various sports events, dinners at some of Milwaukee's top restaurants, file cabinets and a year's unlimited access on the Internet.

According to those in charge of the auction, never before had there been so many items, and never before had so much money been raised.

The Master of Ceremonies was Mike Jacobs of Today's TMJ4. It was he who introduced Doug Nelson, ARCW's executive director, who, before the dinner got under way, made his surprise announcement about Bette Midler (See article, this issue).

Dinner music was provided by the Becker-Wexler Duo.

Following the dinner, the 1996 ARCW Community Leadership awards were presented by members of ARCW's Board of Directors, Barbara Whitmore, Brian P. Buggy, M.D., and Thomas Reed.

The Sterling Rose Award went to Deborah J. Powers of the Wisconsin Division of Community Services for, among many other things, championing the cause of ensuring that injection drug users are not a forgotten population.

Three Red Rose Awards were presented. One went to the Brady East STD Clinic for its long-time commitment to people infected with HIV disease.

One went to the Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club for its strong commitment to the fight against AIDS in Wisconsin. The Brewers have led some of the most successful

AIDS fundraisers over the past five years. Bud and Sue Selig, and Paul and Linda Molitor, and Darryl Hamilton have served as honorary co-chairs of three AIDS Walks.

A third Red Rose Award went to Time Insurance, a Fortus Company, for their demonstrated commitment to ARCW.

Following the awards ceremony, there was a tremendously moving multi-media presentation entitled "Faces of AIDS: the portraits of hope."

## UW-Green Bay Has "Reclaiming Our History" as Theme of April Pride Week

Green Bay, WI—The 10% Society at UW-Green Bay will be hosting Pride Week, April 8th to 12th. The theme of the week is "Reclaiming Our History."

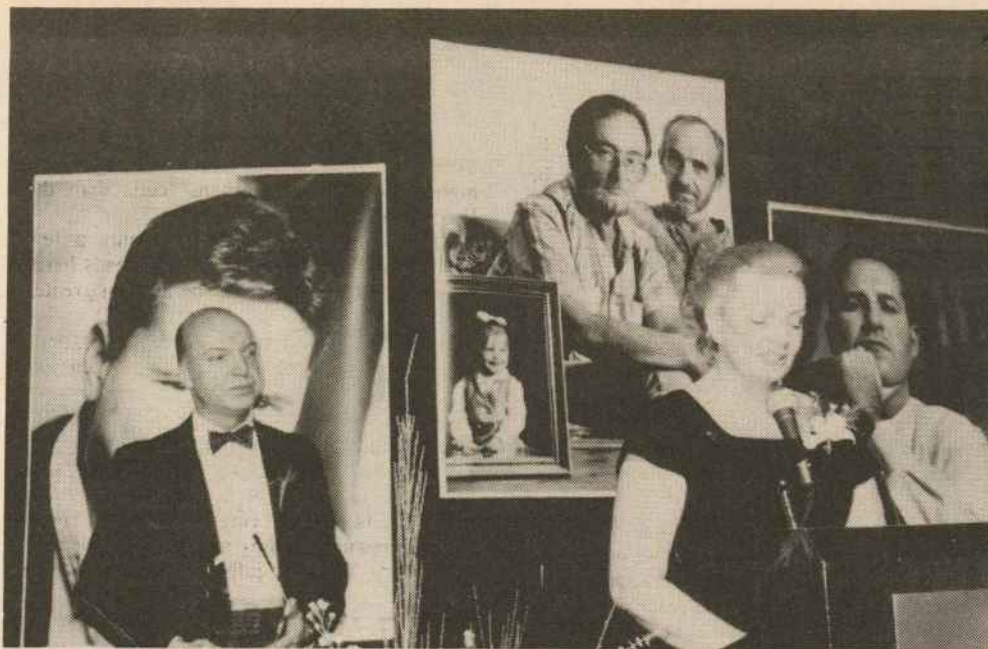
Monday and Tuesday an information and sales table will be set up in the library alcove. Also Tuesday, a panel discussion on "Homosexuality and Religion" will be held in the Ecumenical Center beginning at 6:00 p.m. A movie (yet to be determined) will be shown at 6:30 p.m. followed at 9:30 p.m. by an encore showing of *Hate, Homophobia and Schools* in the Christie Theatre.

Thursday night from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Phoenix Room, State Rep. Tammy Baldwin, the first openly Lesbian or Gay legislator elected to the Wisconsin State Legislature, will be speaking about Wisconsin being the first state to pass anti-discrimination legislation for Gays.

Friday night at 7:00 p.m., in the Phoenix Room, Sergeant Miriam Ben-Shalom will give a speech entitled, "As It Was, As It Is, and As It Shall Be." Ben-Shalom of Milwaukee, was honorably discharged from the Army in 1976, beginning a long legal battle.

A dance, themed "Rainbow Rave," will follow from 8:00 to 12:00 midnight in the Niagara Room.

The Christie Theatre, Phoenix Room, and Niagara Room, are all located in UWGB's Student Union Building. A \$1 admission fee will be charged for admission to Friday night's dance.



Deborah J. Powers of Madison received the Sterling Rose Award from the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin on March 23rd at Milwaukee's Pfister Hotel. The Award is given for outstanding leadership and meritorious service to the community in response to the AIDS epidemic. Ed Hashek (l), chair, ARCW Board of Directors, presented the Award at the annual Make A Promise Dinner.

## Illinois Religious Far Right Courted by Those More Eager for Office than Heaven

Chicago—State Rep. Barb Giolitto was warned to expect a rough re-election campaign after voting for a bill intended to guarantee equal rights for Gay people.

Just the same, she was shocked by the leaflet that turned up in mailboxes across her Rockford-based district the Saturday before Election Day 1994.

The leaflet criticized Giolitto not only as a supporter of the Gay rights bill, but also of same-sex marriages—something not covered by the bill. The leaflet said she would allow Gay people to adopt children and teach in public schools—things not covered by the bill but already done openly by Gay people.

"I just thought it was a lowdown, dirty trick," says Giolitto, a Democrat who lost the election. "They (Right Wing Religionists) waited until the last minute so I couldn't respond."

It was an example of how what ultra Right conservatives call family values have become an important—and sometimes questionable—part of political campaigns in Illinois as in the rest of the nation.

Much of the family-values campaign material that circulated before the March 19th primary, came from groups loosely called the religious right—"Christian" conservatives who oppose abortion and any rights at all for Gay people and passionately support such causes as prayer in schools. But those issues have been eagerly seized upon by Republican groups and individual candidates as well.

Partisan groups and office-seekers have sometimes dramatized the issues with far more zeal and flamboyance than accuracy.

Democrat John Sheehy lost his south suburban Illinois House seat in 1994 following a last-minute mailing that attacked his support of the human rights bill. It came complete with a cartoon showing a reptilian-looking ogre pulling Sheehy's strings. Like the mailing to Giolitto's district, it's not known where the anti-Sheehy mailing originated.

Those hurt the most by such mailings are most critical of the religious right.

"They have little interest in the truth in the mailings they send out," says Rick Garcia, executive director of the Federation for Human Rights, a group that lobbies on behalf of Gay people. "They're interested in spreading fear."

But there has been no general outcry among Illinois Democrats. No one wants to take on religion in a political fight. And thus far, the influence of Christian conservatives has been limited in Illinois.

Unlike such states as Iowa and Minnesota, Illinois remains a bastion for moderate Republicans led by Gov. Jim Edgar.

"Fundamentalist Christians are just not as numerous here as they are in the Bible Belt," says Paul Caprio, executive director of Family Political Action Committee.

Family PAC, whose chairman is conservative commentator Tom Roeser, spends up to \$100,000 supporting conservative candidates in Illinois each election.

"We are people who are deeply committed to the Judeo-Christian rubric of public policy," Roeser says.

Still, most politicians believe U.S. Rep. Jerry Weller, R-Ill., got a considerable lift from Christian conservatives in his 1994 race against Democrat Frank Giglio in Chicago's south suburbs and downstate counties.

Caprio estimates that up to 30 percent of Republican primary voters in Illinois are "born-again" Christians.

This year, his group targeted three incumbent Republican state representatives that it says vote in Springfield "like people from the Chicago lakefront" and defended two incumbent conservatives who were under challenge in Republican primary races.

But the spotlight among grass-roots conservatives was on the Republican race for the

U.S. Senate nomination in which conservative state Rep. Al Salvi, (R-Mundelein), ran against Lt. Gov. Bob Kustra, who had Edgar's endorsement.

Salvi found volunteers among members of perhaps the best-known religious right group in America, the Christian Coalition.

"They're very excited about the possibility that we can put into office a real, pro-family conservative," says David Curtin, executive director of Illinois Christian Coalition and a former aide to Illinois Senate President James "Pate" Philip.

The Christian Coalition maintains that it doesn't endorse candidates but "merely distributes" voter guides at churches and elsewhere on Sunday before the voting. The guides are heavily slanted and biased in the extreme.

They can be powerful because distribution is concentrated in areas where conservative Christians are most numerous.

National leaders of the Christian Coalition, Pat Robertson and Ralph Reed, have been eagerly courted by presidential candidates. But state leaders are on the political fringes.

The Illinois chairman is John Parrott, a Bloomington-based clothing manufacturer's representative and longtime Robertson admirer. The only board member with a familiar Statehouse name is John Nimrod of Glenview, who was bumped out of his Senate seat more than a decade ago --by Bob Kustra.

The power of family issues has kindled an interest among Republicans more eager to get into the House than into heaven.

"I don't think anyone who knows me would call me a member of the religious right," says Michael Tristano, now an official of the University of Illinois-Chicago. But two years ago, as a member of the House Republican leadership staff in Springfield, he helped to produce leaflets that attacked three Democrats who voted for the human rights bill.

The leaflets were headlined "Dark Days For Our Community."

"I just edited them," Tristano says. "I checked the spelling, made sure the grammar was right."

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## Obituary

### Perry Watkins, Openly Gay Soldier Who Won Battle With the Army, Dies of AIDS

Tacoma, WA—Perry J. Watkins, an openly Gay soldier who won a federal court ruling that allowed him to retire with full honors, has died from complications of AIDS. He was 47. A statement issued by the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America (GLBVA), Col. Nancy Russell (Ret.), GLBVA's president, called him "a true American Patriot who never got the respect or attention so justly due him."

Watkins died Sunday, March 17th, at his home in Tacoma, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) said Wednesday, March 20th.

An African-American, a native of Missouri, Watkins was drafted into the Army in 1968 during the Vietnam War.



Perry Watkins

He was admitted into military service despite having told his superiors that he was Gay. At the time, the Army discharged soldiers for Gay sex and other specific acts but not for homosexuality itself.

It wasn't until 1981 that the Department of Defense formally declared homosexuality incompatible with military service, contending it undermined discipline, order and morale.

"I didn't lie to the Army. I told the truth all these years that I'm homosexual," Watkins said in an interview in 1983.

"I always made a point of informing the units where I'm assigned that I'm homosexual. My commanding officer always knew it."

In 1980, the Army notified Watkins that it was revoking his security clearance. The Army later told him it was also commencing discharge proceedings.

Watkins, represented by the ACLU of Washington, sued in U.S. District Court 1981 to obtain reinstatement of his security clearance and to prevent his discharge.

### WARC Receives Grant from Earl Koch Estate For Clinical Drug Trials

Milwaukee—The Estate of Earl Koch has given a grant of \$55,000 to the Wisconsin AIDS Research Consortium (WARC), a research program for clinical drug trials in Wisconsin.

WARC is a subsidiary of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), and an affiliate of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP).

According to Tom Landers, the personal representative of the Estate, Koch died at the age of 83 on October 14, 1995, after a brief fight with pancreatic cancer. His final month was spent receiving wonderful care at the Milwaukee Hospice Residence.

Born in central Wisconsin in 1912, Koch was educated at what was then the Wisconsin State Teacher's College at Stevens Point. He taught high school for 10 years at Manowa, Wisconsin, before serving with the Army in the Pacific during World War II.

After the war, Koch returned to Milwaukee and married Harriet, who died in 1970. He taught in the Milwaukee Public Schools from 1946 until he retired in 1977. Most of those years were spent teaching English and later, serving as Guidance Director at Bay View High School.

Koch's interest in the work at MAP and its affiliated research program, WARC, came from many sources, particularly friends who had died of AIDS, and through his awareness of the pain and suffering this disease brings to families, friends and those afflicted with the disease, Landers said.

Thomas E. Martin, the attorney for Koch's Estate, said that Koch's bequest of \$55,000 will be applied exclusively to the research done by WARC.

Doug Nelson, ARCW's executive director, explained that WARC's clinical drug trials enable Wisconsin residents with HIV disease to obtain some of the most advanced experimental HIV therapies.

After a series of court rulings, the Army succeeded in discharging Watkins in 1984. At the time, he had served 16 years, four years short of being eligible for a full pension.

In May 1989, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that it was unjust for the Army to enforce its anti-homosexual policy because Watkins acknowledged being Gay when he was drafted and was allowed to reenlist three times.

The court's ruling was narrowly focused and did not address the larger issue of bias.

"It is not a sweeping constitutional decision, but it is a first step that recognizes the value of the services of openly gay soldiers," Nan Hunter, a spokeswoman for the American Civil Liberties Union, said at the time.

In its press statement, GLBVA said that "While national Gay organizations passed off Watkins' victory as a fluke and ignored it, the decision continues to impact current cases against the U.S. military establishment."

After the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the Army's appeal, the Army settled Watkins' lawsuit in 1991 by allowing him to retire from the military with honorable discharge and \$135,000 in back pay.

"Watkins was an example of how honesty and perseverance can make a difference," GLAAD spokesman Mark F. Johnson said.

Watkins was prominently featured in the late Randy Shilts' book *Conduct Unbecoming*, a work on the military's treatment of Gays.

A 1994 documentary called "Sis: The Perry Watkins Story" was made about his military career. The title referred to Watkins' performances as a female impersonator at various military bases.

#### Watkins Faces Gay Racism

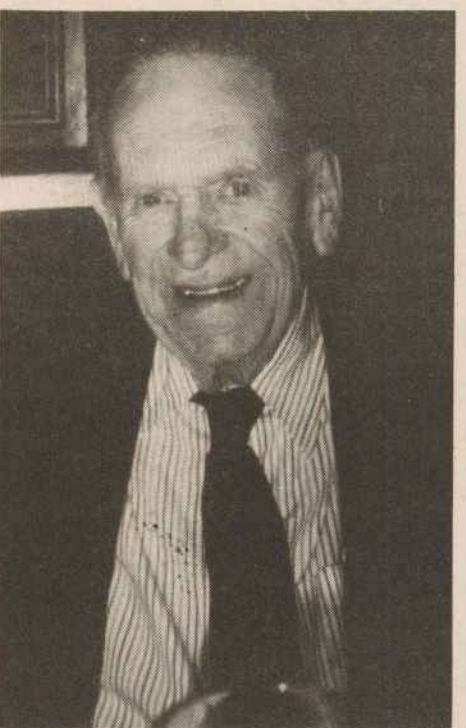
In 1991, Watkins came to Milwaukee for PrideFest. His smile was infectious. He seemed to be enjoying himself. However, during the last two years of his life, he withdrew, granting few interviews because, as he himself said, of the racism and discrimination that he experienced at the hands of national Gay organizations and in the so-called Gay communities around the nation.

"Some might think it was due to his failing health," said long-time friend Miriam Ben-Shalom. "Those who think that would be wrong. Perry stopped speaking because he was hurt at the treatment he received as an openly Gay Black man by his own community."

"He was angry with the racist attitudes he encountered," Ben-Shalom said, "and decided to take care of himself. His passing is such a loss. We are missing a great hero and an honest man, now. I grieve the loss of one of my closest friends."

Burial plans were for a small private ceremony near Watkins' home.

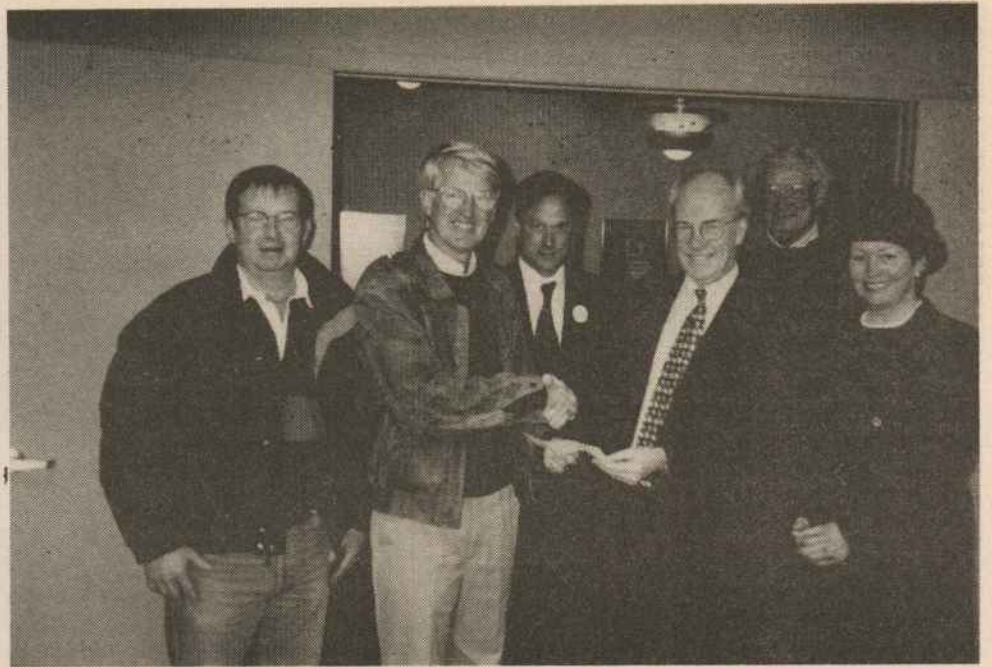
Until 1991, people in Wisconsin living with HIV disease, traveled to Minneapolis or Chicago to participate in the latest clinical drug trials. Now, they can participate in these trials in academic, community clinic and private practice settings close to their homes, while



Earl Koch

remaining under the care of their primary health care provider.

Presently, the Scientific Committee of WARC is evaluating several studies to increase clinical drug trials offered in Wisconsin, Nelson said. Several new studies may be added over the next months, potentially in-



Friends of Earl Koch, deceased, with Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) receiving \$55,000 gift from Earl Koch Estate. (front): Jim Drake, Tom Landers, personal representative of Estate; Doug Nelson, Executive Director, ARCW, Mary Kelly; (back): Tom Martin, attorney for the Estate, Bill Wilkening.

cluding a clinical trial involving an HIV vaccine.

Priority studies are continuing, including drug trials that evaluate immunomodulators and therapeutic vaccines, treatments for opportunistic infections, prophylaxis agents, and combination therapies.

Eight committed physicians specializing in infectious disease and HIV/AIDS participate in WARC studies. Koch's gift will help to fund the cost associated with this research.

### New Community LesBiGay Business Co-Op Forming in Milwaukee

Milwaukee—It has been a number of years since the Cream City Business Association (CCBA) expired. Since that time, there have been suggestions made to create something to take its place. Now, something is being done.

On March 13th, 18 people gathered at Just Us bar, all of them engaged in business within the community.

Topics discussed included the purpose such an organization would serve, organizational structure—including a name—and possible sources of seed money to get such a group started.

According to those who were there, major interest was shown in the idea of developing a business guide for those both living in Mil-

waukee and those visiting the city.

A steering committee of volunteers for the guide was formed. Included are: Rick Finger and Sheldon Shur, Colleen Downey, Bob Mazzacone, Suzanne Saatkamp, and Joe St. Clair.

A second meeting will be held on April 10th, at 7:00 p.m. at the M&M Club, 124 N. Water St., to discuss further possibilities and organization of the group. Everyone interested is urged to attend.

For further information, call Rick Finger or Sheldon Shure (Brady's Bunch) at (414) 289-8322; or Bob Mazzacone (Designing Men) at (414) 389-1200.

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Margaret Johnson and Liliana Diaz, at right in red dress, embrace as Gay and Lesbian couples hug and kiss after they were "married" in a ceremony on stage in San Francisco, Monday morning, March 25<sup>th</sup>, under a new San Francisco ordinance, which joined dozens of Gay and Lesbian couples in symbolic union.

## Gay and Lesbian Couples Tie the Knot Symbolically, But the Real Thing Isn't Far

San Francisco—Dozens of Gay couples, dressed in everything from traditional white dresses and tuxedos to full drag, were united on March 25<sup>th</sup> in city-sponsored weddings uniting same-sex couples in symbolic union.

Among the couples were nurse Margaret Johnson, 38, in a white dress, and her partner of three years, Liliana Diaz, 44, a social worker in a red jacket and skirt.

"It's a commitment and it's also a political statement," said Johnson, who said she was so nervous her hands were "freezing."

"It's a spiritual and emotional bond," she added. "That's very important at this time, to show the world that we're about love, we're about lust, we're about passion, and we create families together."

They planned a honeymoon starting Saturday in Argentina.

Before the ceremonies, each couple turned in a card with their names and a personal sentence to be read when they are joined. The ceremonies then began, one after the other.

In the auditorium at Herbst Theater, across the street from City Hall and acting as a substitute while the real thing undergoes extensive earthquake retrofitting, hundreds of friends and relatives vied for seats to watch the proceedings.

The wedding ceremonies are symbolic in the legal sense, since marriage between peo-

ple of the same sex is not legal in California.

City supervisors approved such civic ceremonies January 29<sup>th</sup> to solemnize a series of rights the city has granted Gay couples since a domestic partnership law took effect five years ago.

Under that ordinance, San Francisco, as do several other cities in the country, allows Gay couples who register to have visitation rights in hospitals, shared health plans for city employees and bereavement leave for city employees when a domestic partner dies.

Sponsoring the measure was city Supervisor Carole Migden, who says the ceremony doesn't create special rights but instead creates equal opportunity for committed couples.

"It makes real to Lesbians and Gay people a way to concretize their relationships," Migden said.

Wedding participants must pay a \$30 fee above and beyond the \$35 now charged to register a domestic partnership.

And afterward, there likely will be less hoopla surrounding the event. Future ceremonies will be conducted at the city clerk's office, just as marriages are.

Denise Ratliff, who took part in the ceremony with her partner, said the mass ceremony at Herbst Theater will be a showcase for the nation.

"Straight America and Gay America need to look to us for models of what Gay culture is," she said. "It really is about love."

Danny Wo took part in the ceremony with his partner, Mark Chabalus. Both were dressed in smart black tuxedos. They have been together five years.

"The only thing stopping same-sex marriages," Chabalus said, "is the religion thing. If the Christians and Jews want to marry only men and women, okay. Let them do it, but in their churches. Their religion gives them no right to step on Danny's and my rights."

"This may be only symbolic now," Wo added. "But the real thing isn't far away. Count on it."

It was that which seemed to be the general tenor of the ceremony. This is our right, they seemed to say. We will have it come what may.

## Log Cabin Head Warns Dole Against Right Turn to Woo Buchanan Supporters

Columbus, OH--The leader of a national group of Gay Republicans has warned Bob Dole against moving to the right to woo supporters of Pat Buchanan during the presidential campaign.

Rich Tafel, executive director of the Log Cabin Republicans, said Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, that the Kansas senator cannot count on the organization's support if he backs Buchanan's views on homosexuality and other social issues.

Buchanan has consistently opposed Gay civil rights and once referred to AIDS as nature's "awful retribution" against Gay people.

The erstwhile radio and TV commentator was trailed Dole badly in recent polls in Ohio and other Midwestern states that held primaries on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. But despite his losing record, and despite the fact that the vast majority of Americans have rejected his message, Buchanan has said he will stay in the race and carry his message to the GOP's national convention in August and try to influence the party's platform.

Observers generally agree that Buchanan's return home is a sign that his campaign is in trouble financially.

Tafel said the Republicans—including Dole—should leave Buchanan's ideas out.

"If he goes to the right to appease Pat Buchanan, he'll probably lose our support," Tafel said.

Spokeswoman Christina Martin did not return a telephone message left Saturday at Dole's campaign headquarters.

Dole has run afoul of the Log Cabin Republicans before. In August, his campaign returned a \$1,000 contribution from the group, saying the group's agenda did not fit Dole's views.

Dole later said returning the contribution was a mistake and blamed the action on campaign aides.

Tafel's group has about 10,000 members in 30 states, including Wisconsin. He was in Columbus to meet with members and GOP officials.

He said carrying Log Cabin's endorsement can be a drawback for some Republicans. Candidates who acknowledge the support tend to do well in big cities, but not as well in rural areas or the bible-belt South.

"If you're running in Columbus, the Log Cabin endorsement is valuable," Tafel said.

The group will decide whether to make an endorsement for president during its convention in San Diego this summer, he said.

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## Controversial Salk Therapy for AIDS Began Testing on Humans in March

Washington, D.C.—An AIDS therapy designed to boost the immune systems of infected patients—the last work of vaccine pioneer Jonas Salk—began testing in some 3,000 Americans in the third week in March.

Remune is the first immune system-based AIDS treatment to make it to such advanced testing.

But scientists caution that patients should not expect a miracle. While the rationale behind immune-boosters is intriguing, earlier testing of such agents has been disappointing, said AIDS expert Dr. Pat Fast of the National Institutes of Health.

Developed by Salk, the inventor of the first polio vaccine who died last year, Remune is a form of immunotherapy. Sometimes called a "therapeutic vaccine," it is designed to rev up the immune systems of people with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Salk took a strain of HIV, stripped it of its outer coating and killed it. He then added a chemical that helps immune cells recognize an invader and remember how it looks.

HIV usually hides in the body until it is strong enough to kill immune cells. Salk's theory was that Remune would prompt those cells to recognize all of HIV's proteins, usually hidden under its outer coating, earlier and fight back.

Two other immunotherapies are in earlier testing, but they use only portions of HIV, not the whole, killed virus.

Salk's therapy has been highly controversial. Immune Response, maker of Remune, told the Food and Drug Administration last year that, in small studies, it helped some patients retain vital immune cells.

The government's panel of AIDS experts said the studies probably were exaggerated but told the FDA to allow larger testing anyway to settle the issue.

Dr. James Kahn at the University of California, San Francisco, on Monday began enrolling some 3,000 patients with HIV, but not AIDS. Half will get Remune shots every 12 weeks for three years—in addition to whatever anti-AIDS drugs their doctor regularly prescribes—to see if Remune slows their progression to AIDS.

"Clearly there's a lot of controversy," acknowledged Immune Response spokesman Steven Basta. "This study should give us a definite answer."

One worry is that repeated injections of traditional vaccines, like flu shots, cause a small, temporary boost in patients' HIV levels. While there's no proof these small boosts cause harm, Kahn said he will watch Remune patients closely during their repeat injections.

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## Olympic Gold Medalist, Greg Louganis, Draws Warm Welcome At AfterWords

By Terry Boughner

Milwaukee—You expect him to be handsome, of course, and perhaps just a little taken with himself. He is, after all, an renowned athlete, best-selling author, TV personality, and all the rest. Thus, you are not prepared for the man Greg Louganis is.

March 25<sup>th</sup> was a bitterly cold night. A large crowd of people, bundled up against the chill, waited outside AfterWords Bookstore drinking hot coffee provided by the store. He was due at 6:30 p.m. for a short meeting with the press before beginning the all to boring task of signing books.

He came in, entering the store not in a rush, but in a small gust, smiling shyly, with a certain unexpected diffidence, and took his seat at the counter.

He is remarkably good-looking. At six feet plus, he is obviously an athlete, filling out his T-shirt and denims to perfection. His complexion is golden, a perpetual tan, with a soft dusting of moss roses in his cheeks. A patina of gray glazes his thick, black hair.

With him is his publicist, who is accompanying him on his 10-city book signing tour. He is of medium height, small boned and handsome, with a deep olive complexion and wide, gentle eyes. He will not give his name. Greg is the center of things, he says. "I'm not important." Remarkable.

The photographers move in. They take their pictures. Louganis smiles brightly. This is a gentle man, one who hopes to please.

In answer to a reporter's question, Louganis says his book, *Breaking the Surface*, has been in the nature of a cathartic. He has enjoyed writing it, he says, but disclaims the title of author. Instead, he would rather be known as a diver and actor.

This summer, he will be attending the Olympics in Atlanta, doing "chalk-talks" for

NBC, other divers and their families.

Has he been in Milwaukee before? Yes, once, on a diving meet. His publicist and he arrived in the city the previous day, wandering about a little, getting some exercise in at a gym. That evening they had a "good" dinner at the M&M Club.

Is he dating? No, he replies and pauses. "It's difficult," he admits. "I'm busy all the time." He leans forward a little in his seat, looking hard at the reporter. "I haven't had good luck with partners. I'm learning what I want in a partnership now."

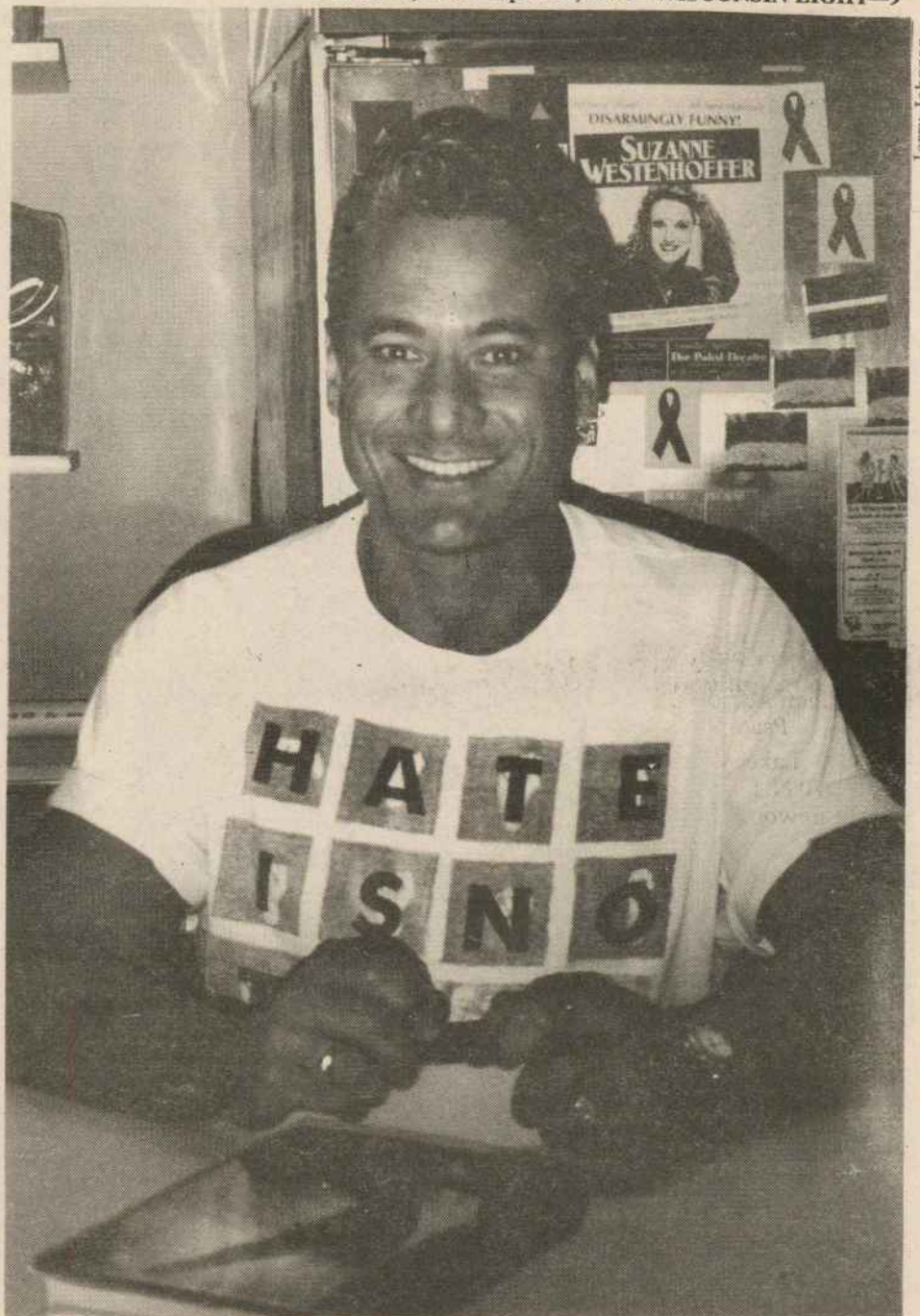
But there is something else there. You can hear it when he settles back and adds, "I'm sticking to my dogs right now, five of them. Dogs are loyal and," he says with a knowing smile, "you always know where they sleep at night." He pauses. "One week more, and I'll be home."

There are several hundred people waiting for him to sign his book. AfterWords opens its doors and the line files in, entering according to the ticket number that each has.

Those still outside—and waiting in the Laundromat next door, want things to hurry up. The staff at AfterWords tries. Louganis' publicist tries gently, but Louganis obviously likes people and wants to be liked. He wants to say a few words to each one so that this signing process will sort of an interaction between friends and not be the impersonal thing such occasions can be.

When he meets them outside, this reporter will tell Rick and Sheldon that Louganis is indeed impressive, not as a celebrity, but as a genuinely decent, down-to-earth human being, the kind you'd like to invite into your home.

From Milwaukee, Louganis will go on to Minneapolis. Soon he will be home.



Jerry Johnson

Greg Louganis

The theme for the walk is "Make a Statement." The goal of this event is to raise awareness and promote the education about HIV and AIDS in the community.

The UW-Oshkosh AIDS Walk, co-sponsored by East Central HIV/AIDS Or-

ganization in Oshkosh, is fully endorsed by the university's main governing bodies and its administration.

For more information, contact Yvette Bode at (414) 424-4873.

## Make A Statement Walk for AIDS Awareness at UW-Oshkosh

Oshkosh, WI—On April 16, 1996, UW-Oshkosh students and the greater Oshkosh community will be taking to the streets to "Make a Statement" to encourage HIV and AIDS awareness and education on the campus and in the community, as a whole. An estimated 500 people will be walking the streets of Oshkosh that Sunday evening.

The 2.5 mile walk will begin at 6:00 p.m. behind the University Bookstore on Algoma Boulevard, and will conclude behind Reeve Memorial Union on Elmwood Avenue in Oshkosh. Throughout the route, organizers are inviting local businesses, at their discretion, to serve refreshments to the walkers in the form of "stop stations."

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# The Light



# LIVELY ARTS



Romanovsky and Phillips

## Broadway Star, Harvey Fierstein to Highlight Lawrence University Conference

Appleton, WI—Award-winning actor, writer and producer Harvey Fierstein will deliver the keynote address at the fifth annual Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Straight Society (BGLASS) conference, April 19-21 at Lawrence University.

The three day conference entitled, "All Walks of Life," will include several speakers, more than 20 workshops on a wide variety of topics, a panel discussion and a dance celebrating diversity.

Highlighting the conference will be Fierstein's keynote address at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, April 20th, in the Stansbury Theatre in the Lawrence Music-Drama Center.

Fierstein earned Tony awards in the 1980s for the Broadway plays, *Torch Song Trilogy*, which he wrote and starred in, and for his musical adaptation of the French play, *La Cage aux Folles*. He also earned an ACE award for the HBO drama, *Tidy Endings*, a television adaptation of a trilogy of one-act plays he had written.

In addition to Fierstein, other scheduled conference speakers include Wisconsin State Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison), the first openly Gay member of the state legislature; Bridget-Michaele Reischl, music director of the Lawrence University Symphony Orchestra; Tim Rodgers, assistant professor of art history at Lawrence; and Aaron Lindberg, a Lawrence Senior who will discuss his recent research project on the role of Gays and Lesbians at several Midwestern colleges.

Other conference events include a recital by music students from the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music; a performance by New York comedienne Gail Hand; the multimedia presentation, "Hors d'oeuvres and Finger Foods," featuring student and professional models displaying cutting-edge fashion.

## Symphony Donates \$500 to Six Gay Organizations from Special Ticket Sales

Milwaukee—The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's April 4th "Mozart and Bernstein" concert sold 73 tickets through ads that appeared in *Wisconsin Light*. Ticket sales totaled \$2,006, of which 25% or \$501.50 will be donated by the Symphony to six Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian organizations.

The organizations are: the Milwaukee AIDS Project, the Galano Club, PrideFest, the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM), the BestD STD Clinic and St. Camillus.

"We are very pleased and grateful that the Gay and Lesbian community responded so positively to our first-time collaboration," said Hannelore Rogers, the Symphony's Marketing Director. "The Milwaukee Symphony looks forward to working with the organizations again during the 1996-'97 season."

*Wisconsin Light* donated the ads for this benefit.

film, *Strawberry and Chocolate*.

Advance registration to all conference activities is \$55 for adults and \$40 for students with a valid ID before April 1. After April 1st, registrations will be accepted up to the start of the conference at \$65 for adults, \$50 for students.

For more information, contact BGLASS, Lawrence University Memorial Union, 615 E. College Ave., Appleton, WI 54911; or call (414) 832-6600.

## A Room of One's Own to Celebrate National Poetry Month

Madison—April is National Poetry Month and A Room of One's Own Feminist Bookstore is holding a number of events to celebrate it.

### Magnetic Poetry Competition

On Thursday, April 4th at 6:30 p.m., A Room of One's Own will kick off the month with a Magnetic Poetry Competition. Bring your magnetic poetry kits and cookie sheets and compose poems on the spot. Winners will receive gift certificates to A Room of One's Own. Everyone is welcome.

### Straight From the Heart

On Thursday, April 11th, at 6:30 p.m., contributors will read from *Straight From the Heart: Love's Two Faces*, an anthology exploring the trials of love and anti-love in the 1980s. *Straight From the Heart* is published by Lonesome Traveller Press, a cooperative press based in Madison, and edited by Gay Davidson-Zielske and Laurence Giles.

### Local Poets and High School Students

On Friday, April 12th, at 6:30 p.m., feminist poets and longtime writing partners Karen Snider and Farrell Collins will read from their published and unpublished poetry, including work that has appeared on the cassette "Song of the Child."

On Thursday, April 18th, at 6:30 p.m., freshmen students from West High School will present an evening of poetry entitled "Poetry and Politics." Their readings will focus on the politics of diversity.

### Linda Back McKay

On Friday, April 19th, at 6:30 p.m., Minneapolis poet and writer Linda Back McKay will read poems from her collection *Those Girls Are Always Dancing*, recently published by White Space Press.

In her book, McKay explores the many dances we learn throughout life; these are poems of observation, loss, desire and intimacy.

### Emerging Women Writers

On Friday, April 26th, at 6:30 p.m., emerging women writers "under 30" will read from their work. These include Noelle Rydell, Meg Kavanagh, Elody Samuelson and Heidi Espencheid-Nibbelink.

All events are free and open to the public. A Room of One's Own is located at 317 W. Johnson Street in Madison. For more information, call (608) 257-7888.

## Thanks to a Generous Donor, Romanovsky and Phillips Will Be Coming to PrideFest

Milwaukee, WI—PrideFest proudly announces that its 1996 Wisconsin Pride Celebration will open on Friday June 7th with "The Rainbow Party" headlined by the nationally known music and comedy duo Romanovsky & Phillips.

Romanovsky & Phillips, known as R & P to their legions of fans, have been delighting Les/Bi/Gay/Tran audiences since 1983. R & P have seven albums to their credit. Their polished blend of music and humor on the condition of Queer life in America has won over Gay and Non-Gay critics alike.

R & P will be joined by Singsational and Pulsations in what promises to be a dazzling evening of Gay and Lesbian entertainment.

Mainstream newspapers like the Sydney (Australia) *Mirror*, the *Buffalo News*, the *Houston Post*, the *San Francisco Guardian*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Chicago Tribune* have all praised their Romanovsky and Phillips.

The group has performed throughout the United States, Canada and Australia.

Their latest album is *Lets Flaunt It!*. With hilarious songs like "Some of My Best Friends Are Straights," and "Homophobes in Robes," it has won raves from critics around the country.

R & P's last performance in Milwaukee was in the 1989. A packed house rewarded their efforts with numerous ovations. The crowd demanded and received a number of encores.

One of those in attendance was PrideFest Co-Director, Bill Meunier. "Ever since that night, I have wanted to see them return. My partner said he'd never laughed so hard in his whole life. Neither had I. R & P aren't just

on the cutting edge of queer comedy, they ARE the cutting edge of Queer comedy. Their music and humor appeals to every segment of the Lesbian and Gay community."

An R & P fan who shares those sentiments is Tom Schroeder, a Milwaukee area school teacher. Schroeder personally donated Romanovsky and Phillips' performance fee.

"I am just delighted to be of help in bringing the best Gay comics in America back to Milwaukee," said Schroeder. "I want to give something back to my community and I hope everyone will come and be exposed to great entertainment."

For their part, Romanovsky and Phillips are just as excited about coming to Milwaukee, as PrideFest is to have them. "Thank God someone finally had the good taste to invite us back," said Ron Romanovsky. Adds Paul Phillips "But I only have three months to plan my outfit."

Meunier can't say enough about Schroeder. "Without him this wouldn't have been possible. When average people come forward with the kind of offer he did, it's a tribute to everyone who has worked so hard to build a stronger PrideFest."

The other PrideFest Co-Director, Susan Cook, echoes his comments "One of the reasons we are moving to the Summerfest grounds is to make it possible to bring nationally recognized Lesbian and Gay entertainment to Milwaukee through PrideFest. Thanks to Tom and to Romanoffsky and Phillips we will be able to do that starting with our first night."

Meunier adds, "We owe Ron and Paul a big debt too. We told them about the importance

TURN TO PRIDEFEST, PAGE 11

# Kids in the Hall

# BRAIN CANDY

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Shakespeare to the Rescue—Jennifer Saunders and Joan Collins star in Kenneth Branagh's romantic comedy "A Midwinter's Tale." The film, which opens March 29<sup>th</sup> at Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre, tells the story of an out-of-work actor who mounts a production of "Hamlet."

## 'Falsettos' Speaks to Us With the Poignancy of the Call of the Loon

Review by John Koch

I am not used to writing reviews, so when I was asked if I would see the Skylight Opera Theatre's production of the musical by Wil-

### PRIDEFEST

Continued from Page 10

of our opening night at the Summerfest grounds. They worked with us to make this happen. They are real stars and fabulous people."

#### Singsational

Singsational will open the show. The five member group was the first act to perform at the first PrideFest held in Juneau Park in June, 1992.

Singsational has won many fans with its wonderful blend of five great individual voices. The group sings a wide variety of music. Singsational has always been a strong supporter of PrideFest.

#### Pulsations

Pulsations is a high energy Lesbian disco band from Chicago. This will be their third appearance at PrideFest. With its mix of new and old disco, Pulsations is very popular at Pride celebrations in Milwaukee and Chicago. Pulsations will follow Romanovsky and Phillips with a colorful performance of new and old dance standards.

Meunier promises that there will be a few surprises in addition to the announced acts. "It wouldn't be a real party without a surprise guest or two and this is going to be a GREAT party."

Admission to the PrideFest Rainbow Party will be \$4.00. Weekend passes covering admission to the grounds throughout the three day celebration will be available for \$8.00. The passes will go on sale at various locations around Wisconsin in May.

PrideFest is seeking sponsors of additional nationally known acts. It has been able to negotiate potential appearances from several name entertainers at reasonable prices. Individuals, businesses or organizations wishing to partially or fully sponsor an act should contact the PrideFest office at (414)272-FEST.

Other nationally recognized acts coming to PrideFest will be announced in the near future. The entire entertainment line up for PrideFest's four entertainment stages will be unveiled in late April.

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are few.

Like most books or plays, the plot is simply put. There is a Jewish father (Marvin) who, as he sings, "wants it all." What he means by "all" is the love of his wife, his son and his Gay lover. Right.

But in the end, he does get it all. It's a struggle of first-class dimensions, but he does get it. I don't know how many men and women I've talked with who would envy him. Falsettos has been called "briskly paced," and so it is—at least, in part. I have to say that there were spots when the music dragged somewhat. But that is quickly obscured by some tear-jerking numbers that go right to the core—if you know what I mean.

I found the costumes and scenery to be very attractive, not overpowering, not dazzling, I don't think, but certainly well done.

The cast is generally strong. Led by Tony Clements as the Gay man, David Pevsner as the older man and Wendy Baila as his wife, Trina, they are in command of their production and cross the footlights in a way that is both effective and subtle.

I must admit not being "overwhelmed" by Neal Mayers' portrayal of the psychiatrist—who becomes Trina's second husband. He's too stiff, too mannered, disappointing to say the least.

In the end, as Marvin's lover dies of AIDS and Marvin and his ex are there, finally, for one another, my date and I cried then, and cried in each other's arms later.

The Skylight Opera's production of Falsettos, though it has some weak spots, is a show every Lesbian and Gay man should see. You will be moved by it, touched by it, and, perhaps, made to see yourself in it. I would recommend it on an existential level—or any other.

## Cream City Chorus Holds Silent Auction at 'The Gay Concert'

Milwaukee—At this year's "The Gay Concert: Anything Goes" on April 13<sup>th</sup>, the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus will be holding a silent auction to raise funds for operating expenses and special projects.

The items, donated by local businesses and individuals in the community, will be arranged into The Gold Table, The Silver Table, and The Bronze Table, and will be available for auction beginning at 7:00 p.m., one hour before show time. Bidding will continue during the intermission. Before the show, a cash bar will also be available.

Among the many items already donated are: 1 and 2 night stays at local hotels; a beer and pizza party at a local bar; a 10-compact disc gift pack; several gift certificates for local establishments; autographed photos; and even tickets to a local sporting event.

Improving the tradition begun last year, "The Gay Concert" will feature solo and ensemble performances by Chorus members, in a style reminiscent of old cabarets. Expect a wide variety of numbers, styles and innuendo.

Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door, and are available at the Marcus Center Box Office, the M&M Club, AfterWords Bookstore, Designing Men, and at the BestD Clinic. Tickets are also available by contacting the Chorus office at (414) 344-9222.

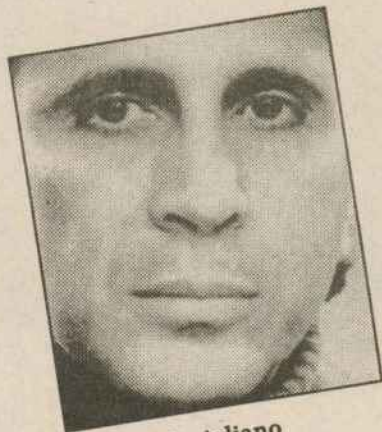
"The Gay Concert: Anything Goes," will be held on April 13<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:00 p.m. at the Marcus Center.

# MAP

MILWAUKEE AIDS PROJECT

# In Memory & Love

Experience a deeply-felt tribute to those who have been lost to AIDS. Inspired by "The Quilt," Corigliano's touching and nostalgic work symbolizes bittersweet reflection and remembrance. MSO principal hornist William Barnewitz makes his MSO solo debut in Strauss' virtuosic, romantically expressive concerto, and opening the program is Brahms' most popular overture.



Corigliano

Corigliano: Symphony No. 1  
Brahms: Academic Festival Overture  
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Marin Alsop, Conductor  
William Barnewitz, Horn

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Marin Alsop, Conductor

The Wisconsin Light



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**Minnesota Bound**—Thugs, Carl Showalter (Steve Buscemi) and Gaear Grimsrud (Peter Stormare) await their "job" contract in the Joel and Ethan Coen film "Fargo." The often funny, yet deadly serious film is currently doing near record-breaking business at Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre.

## 'Antonia's Line' is a Fascinating Little Film About the Strangest People on the Planet

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn often finds himself taken to many films that he has never heard of simply on the basis of a vague (and inevitably oh-so fleeting) promise like "There'll be an endless parade of naked men!"

Well, never let it be said that Glenn Bishop looked down on any major motion picture that features an endless parade of naked men.

Such was the situation with *Antonia's Line*, a film that is one of the five nominees for the Best Foreign Film Oscar but one which, quite sadly, cannot boast an endless parade of naked men.

But, as Glenn's friend was heard to remark, "It's not the quantity of butt, it's the quality of butt." Glenn is sure that these are words to live by.

Nevertheless Glenn was most pleasantly surprised when as *Antonia's Line* began to unfold, there developed a strong and positively depicted Lesbian element.

The basic story line of *Antonia's Line* is deceptively simple. Antonia, the film's title character is an elderly woman who upon waking senses that she will not see another morning. This being so, she is determined to bring her large, extended family together, one last time.

Cinematically, writer/director Marleen Gorris has strung together a series of flashback episodes, tracing Antonia's life, beginning with the time just as the Second World War has ended and Antonia has returned to her small village to bring up her adolescent daughter.

Although a native of the small, close-knit rustic community, Antonia ruffles feathers galore with her strong-minded, independent thinking ways. She is absolutely adamant to live her life as she sees fit.

When the neighbor Bas (Jan Declair), a widower who lives nearby offers to marry Antonia, she can hardly suppress a giggle as she inquires why she would want to do such a foolish thing. She offers him friendship and Farmer Bas is wise enough a man to accept.

Years pass. Antonia's daughter Danielle, an independent chip off the old block decides that she would like a child (a daughter, go figure) but nothing so unnecessary as a husband. Like mother, like daughter.

With Antonia's blessing and aid, Danielle scours the big city looking not for Mr. Right but Mr. Right-away. In a veritable heart-beat

## Gay Soap Opera Launched on the World Wide Web

**Los Angeles**—Gay Entertainment Multimedia has announced the launch of "Gay Daze," a Gay and Lesbian drama, adding to the diversity of internet entertainment programming.

"The web is a perfect place to launch a Gay soap opera," said Arlene Krantz, Executive Producer of the on-line site. "A large part of the Gay and Lesbian community is already on the web and has been for years, so we felt that there was already a large audience out there for our site."

As the show's introduction states, "The setting is L.A., the city of angels and devils in disguise." In its midst, six friends; Greg, a tortured artist; Eric, the good doctor, and his lover, Drew, a caterer; Fran, the x-gen Lesbian; Mike, tough, straight and fresh from New York; and Hugo, the queen of gossip and "coffee talk" at his café, Mocha Daze. Lovers, colleagues and friends, their lives are interwoven in the fabric of Gay L.A.

With new entries from three or four of the characters every day, *Gay Daze* is aimed at becoming a complete, interactive site. The site features color graphics and photos, as well as a chance to send e-mail to each of the characters. Future story plans include more interactive plots where the audience can determine the direction of the drama.

<http://www.gaydaze.com>

An odd sort perhaps, but yet each quite endearing. Amongst this bucolic collection there emerges only one truly bad apple: the eldest son of one of Antonia's neighbors, a wickedly cruel man.

*Antonia's Line* cannot in any real sense be considered a Lesbian film, but it is all the more remarkable for its naturalistic portrayal of the Lesbian lovers.

As created by writer/director Marleen Gorris,

## 'Fargo' is a Wonderfully Wacky, Utterly Delightful and Very Creepy Film

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Any movie that can boast Jose Feliciano playing himself can't be all bad, especially if it is directed by those wacky and gruesome Coen brothers, Ethan and Joel. Such is the case with the wickedly delicious new film, *Fargo*.

Now, normally Glenn has no problem watching strange and scary movies before bedtime and still be able to sleep like a baby but not so with *Fargo*. It's whimsical mix of laugh-out-loud humor and lightening quick moments of blood 'n guts in the snows of Minnesota and North Dakota somehow left Glenn leaving the cinema feeling like he desperately needed shower. That's how creepy *Fargo* is.

Still, *Fargo* is a magical concoction that Glenn highly recommends.

As with the Coen brothers other films, *Fargo* defies any simple description. To begin with, there is this kinda dorky but oh-so deliciously cheesy car salesman, Jerry Lundegaard (William H. Macy). Pretty witless, Jerry nevertheless has formulated the plot of his own wife's kidnapping in order to raise some cash.

Enter two of the least likely kidnapers this side of Mel Brooks, Carl Showalter (Steve Buscemi) and the strong but silent, Gaear Grimsrud (Peter Stormare).

As expected, nothing and Glenn means absolutely nothing goes as expected.

Meanwhile a very pregnant chief of police, two delightfully stupid prostitutes, one very center characters seem to wonder on and off the

screen. Antonia's little village is pastorally idyll, able to find a place for one and all, including same-sex couples.

*Antonia's Line* is a refreshing change-of-pace from the typical Hollywood big-budget, formula flicks that Glenn is accustomed to seeing of late. Antonia's village might not be a place Glenn would want to live, but it does seem like a nice place to visit.

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

Not your traditional story but pretty much par for the course for those who have seen *Miller's Crossing*, *Barton Fink* or any of the other Coen brothers films.

Sure, Glenn could painstakingly chronicle *Fargo's* many plot twists to give the poor defenseless readers of the *Wisconsin Light* some clue to as to what this must-see film is really about but Glenn refuses to ruin all of the fun.

Contrasting with the bleak, snow whitened landscape are some of the most colorful characterizations that Glenn has seen for quite some time.

William H. Macy as the humble, desperately bumbling Jerry is the perfect foil for the zaniest bunch of people who revolve around him.

As sweet, simple Marge, Frances McDormand is a sheer delight. Sherlock Holmes could not have been as effective a detective as is Marge and Sherlock Holmes was never pregnant, at least not as far as Glenn knows.

Steve Buscemi, one of Glenn's favorite actors ever since the wonderful *Parting Glances* is a joy as the tragically unlucky gangster-wannabe, Carl.

All told, the Coen brothers have perfectly cast this desolate panorama.

*Fargo* is currently playing at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater. Run, do not walk. But please do wait for the light!

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

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**DISARMINGLY FUNNY!**

# SUZANNE WESTENHOEFER



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or order by phone (608) 241-8633

Saturday, April 27, 1996

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144 East Wells Street • Milwaukee, WI

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## GALA Choruses to Hold International Convention in Tampa in July

Tampa, FL—After years of planning pocked with protests, Gay and Lesbian organizers got the go-ahead for a parade in downtown Tampa to kick off a weeklong international Lesbian and Gay choral festival.

Approval drew complaints from Right Wing opponents who warned it was a dangerous precedent for the city and could bring vulgar public displays.

Several hundred callers jammed the city switchboard to protest the City Council's unanimous vote Thursday, approving a July 7 parade permit for the International Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses Festival V.

A City Hall spokesman said that the "vast majority" of the calls were from people best identified as "religious extremists" who did not live in the Tampa area.

A spokesman said the event could draw 10,000 marchers.

"They did the legal thing and approved it," Mark Puig, head of the Tampa Bay Gay Men's Chorus and a festival organizer, said Friday, March 22nd. "We've been working on this festival since 1991 and at every turning point we were holding our breath that the festival would not be moved."

The quadrennial music festival, scheduled July 6-14, will feature 90 choral groups—about 5,000 to 6,000 singers—from North America, Europe and Australia.

From hotel bookings, tourism officials said it could be one of the largest conventions in Tampa—especially during summer which is not peak season. One-fifth of Tampa's 12,000 hotel rooms are under contract to the festival.

"It's huge," said Jim Clark, head of the local convention and visitor's bureau.

Sixteen speakers opposed the request to close streets downtown for a Gay pride parade. Two spoke in favor at the council meeting.

"I think this is a dangerous precedent to set for the city," said David Caton, state director of the American Family Association, a Far Right Wing group. "This is not an image we want for the city of Tampa."

"This is not an issue of Gay versus straight," Caton insisted. Instead, he said, the parade permit amounts to licensing or promoting a particular lifestyle and sexual behavior.

## Gay-Themed Movies Now Among Filmdom's Hottest and Most Successful Items

Palm Springs, CA—The two young women on the movie screen in this retiree-laden desert resort weren't simply close friends. The *Antonia's Line* couple were Lesbians, and there they were 40 feet tall—naked and making love.

"Enough already!" came the audible groan from one elderly woman in the theater as the frank but hardly explicit scene unfolded. And yet when the Dutch film concluded, the capacity audience at the Palm Springs International Film Festival applauded vigorously.

*Antonia's Line*, opening in New York and Los Angeles theaters on February 2nd is a fascinating preview of a new wave of movies featuring matter-of-fact Gay and Lesbian story lines. Off-putting for some, these movies are nonetheless proving very popular, and, as reported in *Light* in the last issue, quickly have become one of the safest financial bets in town.

Holland's official submission for Academy Award foreign film consideration, *Antonia's Line* is a movie about one woman's multigenerational family. The Lesbian couple—Antonia's daughter and a schoolteacher—is one of many special relationships the movie showcases.

In both spirit and execution, *Antonia's Line* echoes literally dozens of upcoming movies.

"What this movie is saying is, 'This is what these people do—it's no big deal,'" says the film's Lesbian director, Marleen Gorris. "It's a fairy tale: Wouldn't it be nice if we all left each other in peace?"

The two-week Palm Springs festival, among the world's fastest-growing with more than 140 movies, is the springboard for several films with prominent Gay and Lesbian characters. The prestigious Sundance Film Festival, starting Friday in Park City, Utah, has an even higher concentration of Gay- and Lesbian-oriented works.

Most of the Gay-themed movies at both festivals are either foreign films or independent movies made outside the Hollywood studio system. But the major studios are actively developing an array of film projects with strong Gay and Lesbian elements, and more prominent straight actors are playing Gay parts.

One top producer even predicts the major studios will have separate Gay movie divisions by the end of the decade.

This new surge of films departs dramatically from many recent movies in two distinct ways: They are honest and candid, and Gayness is simply part of the characters' lives rather than the underlying plot device.

Unlike the chaste relationship between Tom Hanks and Antonio Banderas in 1993's *Philadelphia*, a couple played by Eric Roberts and

Caton's wife, Rachel, said Gay parades elsewhere have involved nudity, extravagant costumes and questionable behavior. "It's a parade to promote a lifestyle of destruction that God doesn't like."

Asked what kind of entertainment the deity did like, Caton did not respond.

Council members said they had no legal basis to deny the request.

Councilman Scott Paine said people have a right to assemble and speak, even if what they say is unpopular.

Supporters called the fears baseless and said they speak to ignorance.

Marchers will start and end at the Tampa Convention Center, where poet Maya Angelou is to keynote the event.

Tampa has hosted other concerts by Gay choruses, but not on this scale. Since starting in New York in 1983, GALA's festival has grown from 12 choruses with 1,000 members to more than 100 choruses with some 4,500 singers.

"I am looking at very rough numbers, (but) at any one time we'll have about 10,000 people in town," said Jim Clark, executive director of the convention and visitors bureau.

The festival nearly snubbed Tampa because of controversies over a sexual orientation law.

GALA initially considered other locations when Tampa voters in 1992 repealed the city's amendment to its human rights ordinance banning discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The city reinstated the law in October 1993 after the courts determined 462 signatures that forced the vote were invalid because the signatories did not live in Tampa.

Hillsborough County Commissioners repealed a similar county ordinance in May 1995. It caused festival officials to cancel contracts with hotels outside the city.

Puig said a project called "Buycott," helped keep the music festival. It's a booklet of businesses that ban discrimination based on sexual orientation. Conference-goers will be given copies of the booklet.

"Delegates will only buy where they are wanted," Puig said.

Gregory Harrison in February 2nd's *It's My Party* actually kiss on the lips—passionately.

In an interview in the *Advocate*, Roberts is asked how he enjoyed "deep-kissing" Harrison.

"He's a great kisser," Roberts replies. "And I will always call Gregory Harrison my boyfriend."

The lead characters in 1991's *Fried Green Tomatoes* may or may not have been Lesbians; you couldn't tell. There's no guesswork in *French Twist*, France's Oscar submission now playing in theaters. Loli (Victoria Abril) leaves her husband for Marijo (Josiane Balasko).

David Arquette and Lukas Haas play Gay male prostitutes in the new film *Johns* (no distributor or date has been announced), and the movie doesn't hide what their work entails.

Secondly, the characters' sexuality in the new films is almost incidental; they just happen to be Gay—that's who they are, rather than what the movie is about.

Such is the case in *Antonia's Line*: Like everybody else in the movie, Antonia's daughter happens to fall in love—she just happens to fall in love with another woman. In earlier films, sexuality was the movie's bark, its hook.

Gay producer Howard Rosenman, who participated in a panel discussion at the Palm Springs festival about Gay filmmakers, said the real triumph will be when a major studio film about a detective tracking a murderer portrays the detective as being Gay. "And that is around the corner," he says, predicting the studio will have Gay divisions "in four years."

One Lesbian manager says a New York bank wants to invest in Gay-themed movies: The bank's research shows they are the safest gamble.

Several producers, agents and managers say the growing number of Gay films is the logical outgrowth of one of Hollywood's closest-knit communities.

Frustrated by government inaction against AIDS, Hollywood in the 1980s formed a powerful fund raising and lobbying effort. The largely Gay activists didn't sever relationships when the topic wasn't AIDS: They banded together socially and professionally. That network is now the fulcrum of the lever of Gay and lesbian films.

The audience for Gay and Lesbian films, while not huge, is reliable. Whether it's *The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love* or *Jeffrey*, Gay people show up. A few films—*Longtime Companion* among them—can cross over to a larger segment of movie-

goers.

The *Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* in 1994 and last year's *To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything!* Julie Newmar did reasonable business, although several critics say they were little more than fun excuses to put straight actors in drag.

Clearly, for all the progress there is still much ground to cover.

"You don't see it like this very often," laments director Gorris of her film's depiction of a Gay couple. "In the whole, mainstream films are about heterosexual relationships."

It's still much easier for a straight actor to play a Gay role than for a Gay actor to play a straight part—let alone come out of the closet.

Actor Michael Kearns, a former leading

man on television, scarcely worked since he said he was HIV-positive. Ian McKellen (*Richard III*) is one of the few openly Gay actors working steadily.

The new Sandra Bullock film *Two if by Sea* is sprinkled with anti-Gay jokes, the *Father of the Bride* films (produced, astonishingly, by Rosenman) hold a swishing wedding coordinator up to comic ridicule and a new television movie version of the novel *Bastard Out of Carolina* has been rewritten to expunge the underlying Lesbian themes.

There were the nervous laughter and comments at *Antonia's Line*, too. But the audience showed up—and cheered at the end.

If such a movie can play in Palm Springs, it can play anywhere.

## Announcements

### St. Camillus Benefit

Milwaukee—St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry will benefit from an exciting concert event by former "Tonight Show" bandleader Doc Severinsen and the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. Entitled "Doc: All in the Family," the benefit will take place on June 9th at Uihlein Hall in the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets must be purchased by May 16th. There will be a reception after the performance to meet Doc. Cost is \$10 per person for the reception.

### Shake It Up!

Madison—On Saturday, April 6th, Shake It Up!, a GLBT and friends group, will embark on a trip to see the second exhibit of Japanese screens at the Chicago Art Institute. The trip begins at 10:00 a.m. at 4701 Judy Lane and goes to Chicago. Return to Madison at approximately 9:00 p.m. There will be lunch at Berghoff's and a shopping frolic in both Gay and Asia Town on the North Side as we head home. For more information, call (608) 241-2500.

# Paramount Pictures



## The Wisconsin Light **IN BETWEEN**

Invite you and a guest to a special advance screening of

Wednesday, April 10th at 8:30pm

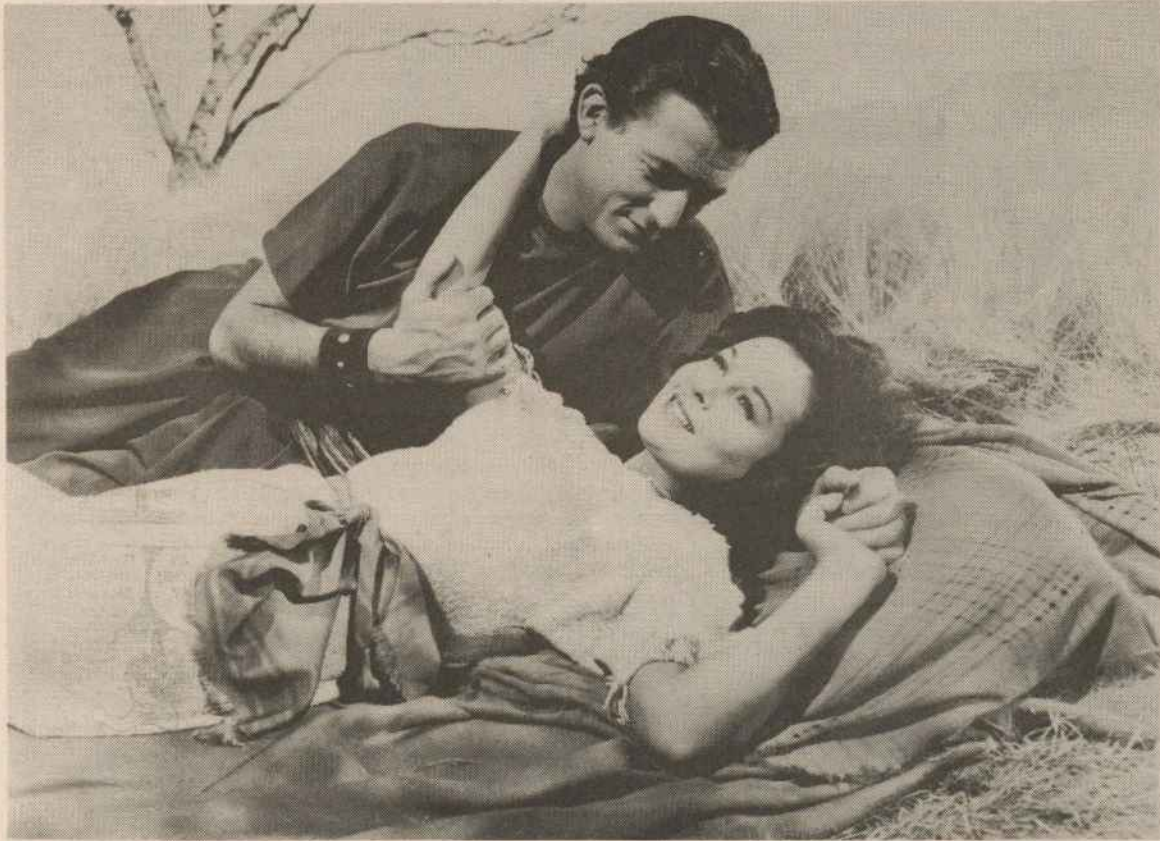
### PROSPECT MALL CINEMAS

Pick up your complimentary pass for two at *In Between*, 625 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, beginning Friday, March 29th at 5:00pm, while supplies last. Limit one pass per person. Employees are ineligible. No purchase necessary.

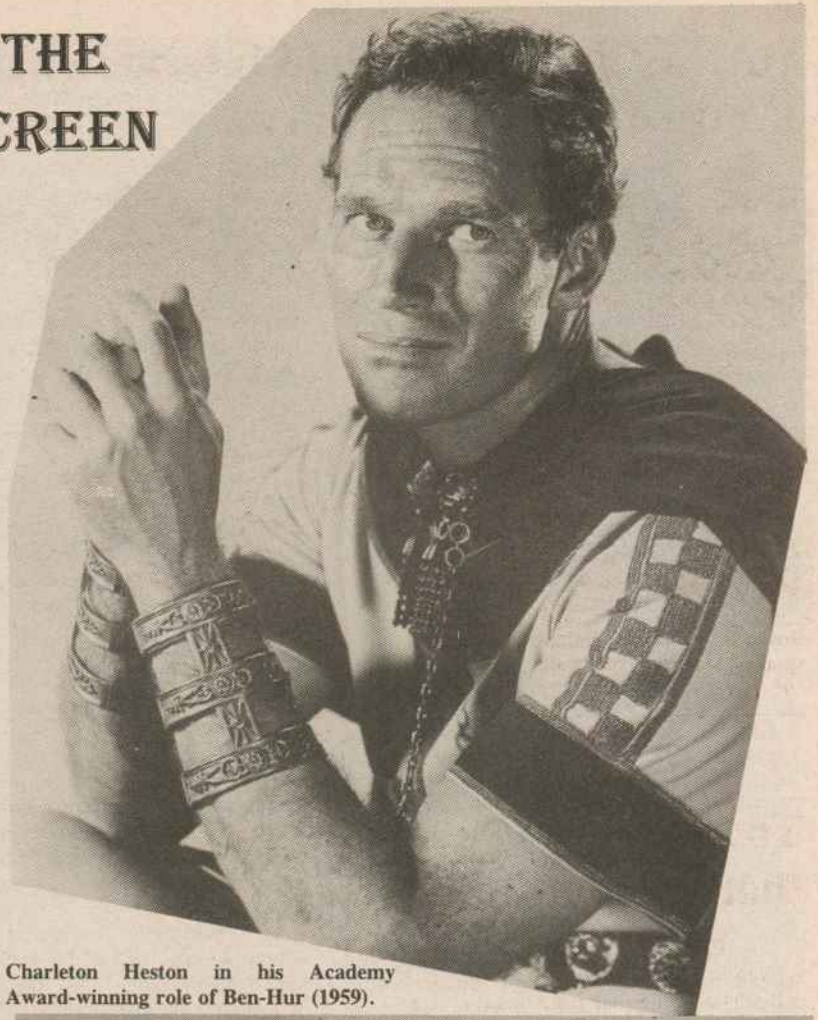
ATTEND THE POST-MOVIE PARTY AT *IN BETWEEN*



# PASSOVER AND EASTER ARE TIMES WHEN THE BIBLE AGAIN PLAYS BIG ON THE SILVER SCREEN



Gregory Peck and Susan Hayward star in "David and Bathsheba" (1951).



Charlton Heston in his Academy Award-winning role of Ben-Hur (1959).

By Dale E. Kuntz

Besides colored eggs, chocolate bunnies and lilies, you know what Easter means. The TV stations will haul out **The Ten Commandments**—again! Just like the Easter bonnets, that same film makes its appearance every Easter Sunday. Why? It's a great film for Passover, but why Easter? It has nothing to do with the New Testament, much less the life or teaching of Christ. There are so many other, and better, Biblical epics to choose from.

My first choice would be the silent (1927) version of **The King of Kings**, which is one of the most beautiful films ever made. It has been restored so that the Christmas, Easter and Resurrection sequences are now shown in their original two-color technicolor beauty.

I think that part of the beauty of the film is that you never hear the Christ speak. Therefore, you can imagine his speaking voice as you would think Our Lord speaks—and not that of some famous actor.

(I remember sitting through the entire film of **The Big Fisherman** thinking, "I never knew God sounded just like Walter Pidgeon!")

It has been said that the silent version of **King of Kings** has been seen by more people than any other film in motion picture history. After its initial run and success, Cecil B. DeMille gave the rights to the Churches of America organization. Under their banner, any church, any denomination in America, could use the film for exhibition or study.

Therefore, for years almost every congregation saw the film in some form or other. Because the film was in the Public Domain, so to speak, it was shown almost ever Easter on TV stations around the country.

## God Doesn't Like Naked People, Especially in Plays, Preacher Says

Charlotte, NC—The Charlotte production of a play chronicling AIDS and homosexuality in New York featured bells, whistles, protesters, police, TV cameras and a drag queen—and that was outside the auditorium.

Inside, local actor Alan Poindexter stood fully nude on stage for seven seconds—and he wasn't arrested.

A judge signed a temporary restraining order Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, that allowed the production of the Pulitzer Prize-winning **Angels in America** to be staged as scheduled, despite the nude scene.

Still, supporters and opponents of the play marched outside the North Carolina Blumenthal Performing Arts Center on opening night.

The play had been performed in Greensboro and Durham without incident. But critics in Charlotte had threatened to invoke an indecent-exposure statute because of the nudity during a hospital examination scene.

Attorneys for the Charlotte Repertory Theater were able to blunt the threat at the last minute by obtaining a restraining order from Mecklenburg County Superior Court Judge Marvin Gray.

"The play is an artistic presentation," Gray wrote, citing U.S. Supreme Court rulings that nudity in an artistic setting is protected by the First Amendment. "Nudity ... in the play appears to constitute artistic expression."

The restraining order expires in 10 days. The order prevents interference from Charlotte-Mecklenburg police, the district

attorney, the sheriff, state alcohol commissioners and others, including the Performing Arts Center itself, which is Charlotte Repertory's landlord and whose threats triggered Wednesday's lawsuit.

The Performing Arts Center said it would not allow the play to go on unless the theater promised not to violate the state's indecent-exposure law or unless it obtained a court order banning authorities from enforcing the law.

"I cannot tell you what a miracle those guys have pulled off in a day," Keith Martin, the theater's managing director, said of its lawyers. "We didn't think it was possible."

Attorneys for the theater plan to ask Gray for a preliminary injunction that would protect further performances of the play, which runs through April 26.

An agent for the play's New York author, Tony Kushner, had said removing the nude scene could have violated federal copyright laws.

Kushner plans to be in Charlotte on Friday and Saturday for an AIDS benefit and a speech.

The Rev. Joe Chambers, who sparked the controversy earlier in the week with a news conference condemning the play, said the fight was not over.

"There's been an incredible community debate on moral issues," he said. "We're Christian people here and Christians don't go around naked. God isn't naked and He doesn't like to see naked people."

Quo Vadis? (1951) still remains one of the best. It is the film that made Robert Taylor a

major star again. The burning of Rome is superbly done, but does not take over the story.

Filmed entirely in Rome, the sets are some of the most beautifully done and the cinematography is of constant high caliber.

Besides Taylor, the cast includes Deborah Kerr, Leo Genn, Finlay Currie and Peter Ustinov—whose outstanding performance as Nero made him a star and gave him a place in Hollywood history.

For some reason, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox seemed to make the most realistic epics. Their films depended more on the story and stars' performance than glitz. One of their truly superior epics was **David and Bathsheba** with a performance to match her beauty. Her costumes were about as authentic as Hollywood can get for Biblical epics, unlike the costumes that Lana Turner wore in MGM's ridiculous **The Prodigal**.

Again, Alfred Newman's score is a big plus, especially in the moving sequence when Peck recites David's most famous psalm, "The Lord is My Shepherd."

A stunning flashback tells the story of David and Goliath. Again, character actor, Raymond Massey almost steals the show as Nathan, the prophet of doom.

Surely one of the most popular and successful epics of all time is **Ben Hur**—or should I say, "Ben-Person" to be politically correct?

Again I think I must recommend the silent version filmed in 1926. It is the most beautiful and probably the best silent film ever made. It is so superior to the "talkie" remake made in 1959.

Messala (Francis X. Bushman in the silent and Stephen Boyd in the talkie) does not get killed in the chariot race in the silent version. He becomes a cripple and lives to continue to dog Ben Hur.

The religious aspect of the novel and Hur's

devotion to Christ is far more believable and moving in the 1926 version.

One of the most touching scenes you'll ever see is when Hur's mother and sister return from the colony of lepers. They find Ben-Hur asleep on a bench outside their old home. His sister crawls to him and kisses the sole of his boot so as not to infect him with her disease and then she walks away without ever awakening him to talking to him.

The famous chariot race is film making at its best. And, believe it or not, the silent version holds its own against the famous remake. Ramon Novarro makes a far more believable—and sensitive—Ben Hur than Charlton Heston even attempts.

I have always thought that Heston's Oscar for **Ben Hur** was one of the Academy's biggest mistakes. He is so wooden and gives very little compassion to the role. Novarro is far superior in every way.

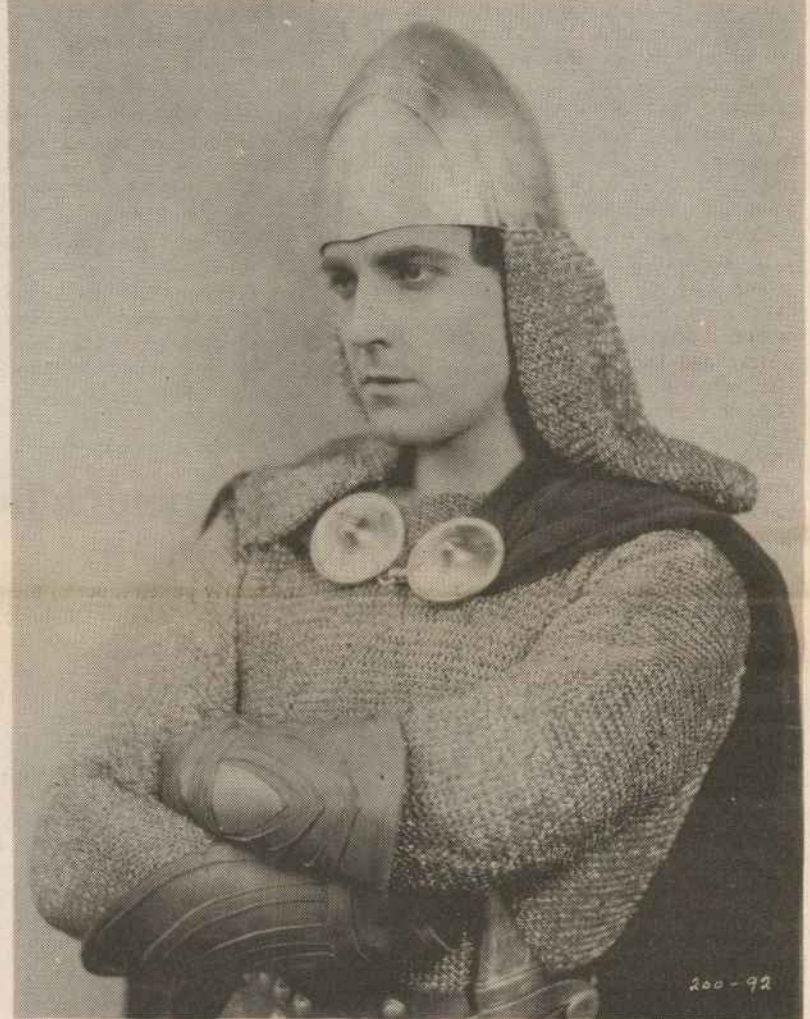
The 1926 version cost an unprecedented \$4 million, while the 1959 version came in at \$15 million. In this case, you get more for less.

A new restored version of the silent film has become available on tape. It has many two color technicolor sequences within the film. Included are Hur's triumphant march into Rome, the opening Christmas story, and a moving crucifixion sequence.

So, this Easter pick out a title from one of the above selections, sit back and watch one of Hollywood's best epics unfold. All titles are available on video tape.

And now our trivia question answer.

20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox bought the movie rights for **The Robe** exclusively for Tyrone Power. He was their biggest male star and they wanted him in the first Cinemascope film. He, however, turned it down for a chance to play in **Mr. Roberts** on stage in London.



Ramon Novarro is the perfect Ben-Hur in the silent version of the famous film (1926).





Roses, Roses, Roses—Karen Gotzler received flowers from Chris Korsmo, her Campaign Manager, prior to speaking to her supporters after losing her bid to become an alderwoman on Milwaukee's East Side on March 19th. Her Field Director for her campaign, Bill Dempsey, is at the far left.

## Politically Speaking

### The Gotzler Campaign Should Remind Us that Even in Defeat, There Is Victory

Commentary by Bill Meunier

Even in defeat there can be victory. It was a scene that I am familiar with. An East Side straight bar, decorated with the campaign colors and signs proclaiming a candidate. This time was different. This time I had come not only in support of the best candidate, but in support of OUR candidate.

Lil and Lori from PrideFest and the Tribe were there. So was Ted nervous about the result, but confident of the outcome. Julie, Scott and others from CCF, and Bob from GAMMA and Crossroads were there. So were Terry and Gary.

Gary had left the hospital and gotten off oxygen on Saturday so he could do a last minute lit drop on Sunday.

Steve and Dan were visiting with friends. They were there along with so many others. They hoped for the best, but feared the worst. We were there for Karen Gotzler.

Waiting for election results is gut wrenching, especially when those results mean so much. Little by little word seeped through the crowd. We had lost. They had lost.

The disappointment was so thick you could have cut it with a knife. How could this have happened? We had worked so hard.

For many it was their first real campaign. They had stuffed and licked the envelopes, gone door to door on days when the wind chill dipped down to obscene levels.

They badgered their friends into helping. They contributed money they couldn't afford to give. Few could have given any more time or any additional financial help. How could we have lost?

Looking around the room one couldn't help but be reminded of something that we all take for granted. Everyone understood this was democracy in action. There was no one who wanted to spoil the other guy's party across the river.

The people had spoken! Long live the people! The stupid bastards.

There was anger with **The Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel** for printing those vicious articles. When did they ever print anything about a straight candidate's divorce?

Four times in the last week they implied that our candidate was a drug pusher. Didn't they know her? Why didn't they realize how great she was?

Why did they say nothing her opponents keeping his job as Director of a neighborhood group that gave out grants while he campaigned? Why couldn't the paper see what we saw?

And what about the Log Cabin Club with its last minute denunciation? Its letter was seized on by right wing talk show hosts who read it on the air. It was "a stab in the back."

People in the district were talking about it. It gave some an excuse to vote against us. "Even some of her own people won't support her."

Could it have changed the minds of the 300 or so voters we needed? Perhaps as one person said, "It may be the only time in their history that the Log Cabin Club will actually influence an election."

Some wondered why the Log Cabin Club didn't do what a few others had. If they felt they couldn't continue to support Karen because she had been less than candid about something that happened more than ten years ago, why couldn't they have left quietly.

This is the side of politics that almost never gets written about. The media is much more interested in who is supporting who, what the polls show, what candidate did what and to whom did they do it?

But no one thinks about people like these. People who put their life on hold to work for something and someone they believe in.

The buttons will be put away. The newspapers proclaiming the awful results will

go to the recycling bins. The signs will be taken down. A normal life will resume. It will be quieter, a little less exciting, but it will go on.

The candidate arrived to loud cheers. Disappointment etched in her face, she gave the obligatory speech. When she said she was proud of what we had done, you knew she meant it.

People started to filter out. With Terry and Jerry, I went to another party, a much happier one. Mayor Norquist's party was held in a swanky downtown ball room full of political operatives.

The mood there was jubilant. Some of the revelers came up to express their sympathy to one of the few open Queers they knew.

I was told how amazed everyone was that how we had done so well. People marveled over how despite everything we had come so close to winning.

They said that it was a credit to our community. Thousands of people voted for our candidate. We showed we could organize, raise money, and get out the vote. We fought "a helluva battle against overwhelming odds and nearly pulled it out of the fire."

My mood changed as I listened. I wished that all of those who were still at that bar on the East Side, especially the candidate could have heard what I did.

It wasn't the total victory we wanted. But for many on the outside it was a victory. We gained experience and we gained respect. We can build on that.

The question is, will we? The disappointment will never go away completely, but it can be overcome.

We can make sure that the evening of March 19th won't be the last Queer election night party. We can make sure that the next one will be a happier time.

Even in defeat there can be victory, but only if we choose to make it so.

### Frontiers April Schedule

April 13—7:00 p.m. Bridge for Everyone  
 April 17—7:30 p.m. Film Circle—The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert  
 April 20—8:00 p.m. General Meeting—Gay Pride and Self Esteem  
 April 23—7:30 p.m. Man to Man Rap  
 April 26—6:30 p.m. Dining out at Bluephies, 2701 Monroe St.  
 For locations and membership information, call David at (608) 274-5959.

### New Harvest Foundation Grant Cycle

Madison—The New Harvest Foundation, a non-profit philanthropic organization developed to benefit the Gay and Lesbian communities, is currently soliciting grant applications for its Spring Grant Cycle.

The Foundation awards grants for projects or services that benefit the Gay and Lesbian communities and may include: promotion of the arts and culture, health, social services, the media, public education, community organization and development, and other projects.

Grant applications are made available April 15th and are due May 31, 1996. For a grant application or for additional information, please write: *New Harvest Foundation, Spring Grant Cycle, P.O. Box 1786, Madison, WI 53701-1786.*

### Dykes To Watch Out For



### BETTE MIDLER

Continued from Page 1

for Best Actress and Newcomer Of The Year. "The Rose" soundtrack album hit RIAA platinum and brought Midler a Grammy Award, her second, for the RIAA gold title track smash. That same night, she took home another Grammy Award N for "Blueberry Pie" from the children's compilation album, "In Harmony: A Sesame Street Record."

Later that year, Midler opened on Broadway in *Divine Madness* (whose soundtrack album was released by Atlantic in 1980) and starred in the show's feature film adaptation, directed by Michael Ritchie.

In addition, she starred in the motion picture *Jinxed*. While the film itself got a "thumbs down" by Roger Ebert, Midler's performance was acclaimed.

By this time, Midler's reputation as a multi-talented performer on stage, screen, television, and record was unrivaled.

With the publication of 1979's *A View From A Broad*, (pun intended) a European tour memoir, you could also add author to Midler's list of achievements, a talent which she furthered explored in her "children's" book, *The Saga Of Baby Divine*.

As Barbara Hershey said of her, "There's a train called Bette Midler. You either get on it or you get left behind." For Midler, it has been "full steam ahead."

After the release of her 1985 comedy album, "Mud Will Be Flung Tonight!," Midler focused her energies on her movie career. The result was a string of films, including: *Down And Out In Beverly Hills*, *Ruthless People*, *Outrageous Fortune*, and *Big Business*.

In 1988, Bette starred in *Beaches*, the first film to be released through her own All Girl Productions. The film's original soundtrack - her first music release in six years - put Midler's recording career back on the fast track.

After *Beaches*, Bette began a virtually non-stop work schedule. Over the next two-and-a-half years, she starred in the Touchstone films *Stella* and the Paul Mazursky-directed *Scenes From A Mall*. Other projects during this time included the HBO special, *The Mondo Beyondo Show*, plus voice work as the character Georgette in Disney's Dickens-inspired animated feature, *Oliver And Company*.

In 1991, Midler reunited with director Mark Rydell for her starring role in *For The Boys*, the story of a USO entertainer. The role won Bette an Academy Award nomination and a Golden Globe Award, while Atlantic released the companion soundtrack recording.

In 1993, Atlantic released Bette's RIAA gold greatest hits collection, "Experience The Divine," which included a previously unreleased live version of the Johnny Mercer & Harold Arlen classic "One For My Baby (And One More For The Road)."

Her moving performance of the standard as the final guest on Johnny Carson's NBC-TV

Tonight show farewell won her an Emmy Award.

On screen again, she starred in the Disney film *Hocus Pocus*. In December of that year,

In more unexpected arenas, Midler recently made a guest voice-over appearance on Fox-TV's *The Simpsons*, guest-starred on this year's much-touted *Seinfeld* NBC-TV season finale, and even had her name posted as a litter removal sponsor on adopted stretches of the Long Island Expressway and Bronx River Parkway.

### Environmentalist

"I really feel that if everybody did their part, it would be a beautiful world," Midler



Bette Midler in "The Rose" (1979)

said. She was referring to her keen and dedicated interest in cleaning up and preserving the natural environment.

We've got to stop "treating the earth like it was an ashtray," she said. "I mean, I know I'm a little overwrought about it, but there more trash out there than I can handle and if we keep this up, there'll be no place left to walk! We just have to stop!"

As with everything else she does, Bette Midler is "full steam ahead."

Jerry Johnson

http://www.wisconsinlight.com/journalist/



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## Wisconsin

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

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

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

**ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?** GBM, 20, college student, 130, 5'8", dark features, non smoker, drug/disease free, variety of interests, seeks tall and attractive GBM/GLM, 19-29, dominant, masculine and aggressive preferred, and you must be smoke and alcohol free. (Central) #13034

**PING PONG AND DARTS** GWM, 22, 6'2", 190, black hair and brown eyes, varied interests, seeks others, 18-30, for fun, friendship and possibly more. Please be self supportive and stable. Call me. (Central) #43085

**WILLING AND WAITING** Extremely Bi Curious WM, 31, seeks older men, 40's-50's, master preferred, to teach me the joys of serving and discipline. Give me a call. (Central) #48747

**THIS IS JJ** GWM, 26, very attractive, 6', 190, very muscular, long blonde hair, into just about anything, seeks others for pleasure. I hope to hear from you sometime. (Central) #48341

**LET ME RUB YOU DOWN** GWM, 23, very attractive, 6'2", 170, long brown hair, blue eyes, into fantasy fulfillment, seeks body builder's for massage only. Leave me a message. (Central) #48364

**I'M HUMILIATED** GWM, submissive, 150, 5'10", brown hair, smooth body, into total nude domination and heavy discipline. If this interests you, pick up that phone and dial. (Central) #48134

**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

**I'M READY TO SETTLE DOWN** GWM, seeks others, 40-60, for friendship and possibly more. You won't be disappointed. (Eau Claire) #4036

**LOOKING FOR YOU!** GWM, 28, 5'8", 150, brown hair, green eyes, alot of interests, seeks others, 18-30, for fun and more. Give me a call. (Eau Claire) #49605

**ARE YOU OUT THERE?** GWM, artist and poet, seeks others into honesty and relationships. Give me a call. (Eau Claire) #49633

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

**SUSHI FOR YOUSHI** GAM, 18, 5'8", 155, slim, good shape, seeks other GAM/GWM under 25, for fun and friendship. Leave a message (Green Bay) #48403

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

**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

**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

**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

**MADISON MISCHIEF** GWM, 27, 5'2", 120, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks others, 21-31, for fun and good times. Call me. (Madison) #49849

**READY TO LEARN** GWM, 6'2", 210, 24, brown hair, blue eyes, biker, varied interests, seeks others, 25-60, disease free, dominant only, for teaching and training in the art of Master/Slave relationships. Give me a call. (Madison) #49557

**ARE YOU OUT THERE?** GWM, 6', 20, 160, blonde hair, green eyes, average build, seeks others (Madison) #49231

**LEATHER LOVER** GWM, 46, 175, 5'7", firm and furry, into body shaving and more, seeks others for friendship and possibly more. Leave me a message. (Madison) #48343

**MY NAME IS ERIC** GWM, 23, dark blonde hair, blue eyes, 6'2", 230, seeks others for friendship and possibly more. I am a smoker with a wide variety of interests. Call me. (Madison) #48606

**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

**BEAR HUNTING** GWM, 46, 175, 5'7", firm and furry, seeks Bear men into leather and more. Leave me a detailed message for a quick response. (Milwaukee) #6601

**THIS IS JIM** GWM, aggressive top, seeks submissive bottom guys, under 45, for pleasure. Give me a call. (Milwaukee) #49702

**IN SEARCH OF LEIF ERICKSON** GWM, 36, 5'7", masculine, seeks GWM's or Bi Norwegian males only, for fun and more. Do not answer this ad if you don't meet the criteria. (Milwaukee) #48861

**SOMETHING ON THE SIDE** GWM, 31, seeks others around my age with a medium build, for extra curricular activities. Leave me a message. (Milwaukee) #48531

**ARE YOU OUT THERE?** GWM, 33, 175, 5'11", brown hair and eyes, variety of interests, seeks others, 25-35, with similar interests, for fun and friendship. Leave me a message and let's get to know each other. (Milwaukee) #48542

**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

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

**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

**MY NAME IS TOM** GWM, very affectionate, retired military man, straight acting, 37, 6', 250 lbs of solid muscle, open to anything, seeks TV's and CD's for fun and pleasure. Leave me a message. (Racine) #49168

**LET'S PLAY DRESS UP** GWM, cross dresser, well end'd, seeks same for fun. Leave me a detailed message. (Southeast) #48852

**ARE YOU FOR ME?** GWM, 35, 6', 155, dark hair and eyes, 'stache, variety of interests, seeks others for friendship with possibility of something more. Leave me a message. (Waukesha) #48652

**HI, MY NAME IS CHIP** GWM, 28, 200, 6', seeks local guys, 21-35, for fun and more. Please be interested in intimacy. (Western) #49989

**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

**NON GAME PLAYER'S WANTED** GWM, 23, 5'6", 120, attractive, brown hair, green eyes, varied interests, seeks same, under 30, slim and attractive, for the finer things in life. Give me a call. #5093

**HIGH HEELS AND YOU** Bi White TV, seeks same into footwear and more. Call me. #1469

**LET'S DRESS UP** GWM, 36, CD, seeks others with similar interests, for fun and friendship. #49615

## Illinois

**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. Please leave a message. (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

**TAKE A CHANCE ON ME** GWM, 34, 5'7", 230, stocky and good looking, 'stache/goatee, moderately hairy, seeks top men, 25-40, into fun, adventure and more. (Cicero) #11681

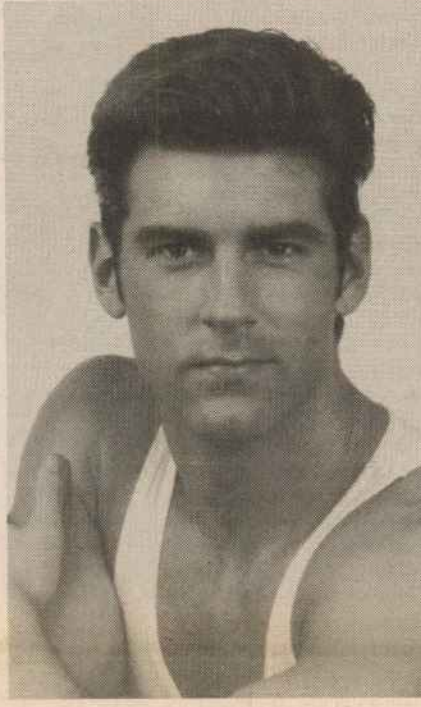


Photo by: David Christian Brown

**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. (Crestwood) #48009

**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! Please leave a message. (Elgin) #31961

**STABLE AND GOOD HEAD** GWM, variety of interests, in shape and attractive, seeks others, 20-42, attractive, clean shaven and classy preferred, for a regular dating basis and more. Give me a call as soon as you read this. (Evanston) #5240

**LET'S MEAT** Bi WM, 22, 6'1", 185, brown hair, green eyes, seeks same, 18-25 and masculine, for fun and more. (Evanston) #49848

**I'M ALL YOU NEED** GWM, a pretty TV, 5'11", 200, seeks tall and handsome GBM's only, for fun and pleasure. Give me a call. (Evanston) #49473

**I AM SPONTANEOUS** GAM, 5'7", 141, seeks others, 29-39, slim and adventurous preferred, no smoke or drugs, for fun and more. Leave me a message. (Evanston) #49412

**ANY INTEREST AT ALL?** GWM, 40, 5'10", 130, very slender swimmer's build, dark hair, green eyes, clean shaven and attractive, seeks others, 18-40's, attractive and slender, to teach me how to give and receive massages. I also enjoy watching masculine men taking showers. (Evanston) #48376

**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

**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

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

**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. Please leave a message. (Evanston) #26009

**WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?** GWM, 35, 5'9", 165, brown hair, blue eyes, school custodian, seeks same, 22-30, for fun, friendship and more. I hope to hear from you soon. (Peotone) #48952

## Minnesota

**ANYTHING ONCE** GWM, new to this, 5'7", 1780, brown hair, hazel eyes, clean shaven, seeks fairly dominant men to help me through my learning difficulties. Please call me. (Bloomington) #1952

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

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

**HAZEL EYES, HAIRY CHEST!** GWM, 5'5", 133, good shape, hazel eyes, hairy chest, well end'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. Please leave a message. (Mankato) #14639

**I'M WAITING FOR YOU** GBM, very attractive, 6', 175, dark features, varied interests, seeks GAM/GWM, under 30, for fun, romance and more. Leave me a message. (Minneapolis) #6406

**ALL CAN APPLY** GWM, 30, 5'11", 170, fit, blonde hair, blue eyes, attractive, seeks non smoking men, 25-40, for fun and more. Call me soon. (Minneapolis) #5300

**LEATHER LOVE** GWM, submissive, 35, tall and thin, seeks dominant men to take charge. Call me. (Minneapolis) #27445

**I'M READY IF YOU ARE** Bi Curious WM, 33, seeks others to talk to about learning experiences. Let's get together and see what happens. (Minneapolis) #33344

**CAN YOU LOOK AT ME?** GWM, 28, brown hair and eyes, 6'1", 230, heavy set, clean shaven, seeks others into long term relationships. Call me. (Minneapolis) #49841

**LOOKING FOR BABY FAT** GWM, 42, 6', 170, dark hair and eyes, bald, beard and 'stache, seeks others, 18-30, for Daddy/Boy service. Give me a call for more information. (Minneapolis) #49842

**BLACK IN WHITE** GBM, new to area, 32, good looking, seeks GWM, 18-40, submissive and masculine, for ramps and more. Call me. (Minneapolis) #49986

**CALL ME NOW!** GWM, 36, beard, 6', 225, large frame, safe/sane and disease free, long black hair in a pony, top leather man, into everything, seeks others, 18-40, straight acting and serious, that are tired of reading about fantasies. Let me help you fulfill yours. Give me call. (Minneapolis) #49657

**SERVICE AT YOUR COMMAND** GWM, mid 30's, submissive, seeks dominant and well end'd top men, who know what they want and know how to take it. Give me a call. (Minneapolis) #49672

**PAIN TURNS ME ON** GWM, 33, 5'8", extremely submissive bottom, into all leather action, seeks very experienced top into everything and more. Leave me a message (Minneapolis) #49583

**I'M A CHUBBY SEEKING A CHASER** GWM, over weight, blonde hair, green eyes, 'stache, hairy chest, variety of interests, great personality, new to area, seeks others who are into big boys. Give me a call if you're into big men. (Minneapolis) #48866

**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 end'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. (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

**LET'S RUMBLE** GWM, 32, out doors man, landscaper, seeks well built and end'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 end'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

**SEEKING MY FIRST TIME** GWM, 30, 165, 5'7", blonde hair, blue eyes, athletic build, very inexperienced, seeks a very patient top man to teach me how to be an entertaining bottom boy. Please leave a message. (Minneapolis) #33828

**LOOKING FOR ANYONE** GWM, 53, 5'11", 180, seeks others for discreet and intimate weekends. Please leave a message. (Minneapolis) #33787

**COLOR BLIND** GWM, 30's, 6'1", brown hair, blue eyes, clean shaven moderately hairy, good body, seeks men of color, for fun and more. Please leave a message. (Minneapolis) #29149

**MY NAME IS STEVE** GWM, 6'1", 140, blonde hair, blue eyes, tanned, varied interests, seeks others, 20-36, mature and intelligent, hard and muscular body a plus, for friendship and more. Please leave a message. (Minneapolis) #31438

**RELATIONSHIP ORIENTED** GWM, 5'8", 140, 20, brown hair, hazel eyes, normal guy, preppy and cute, seeks others, 18-23 for fun, friendship and possibly more. Please leave a message. (Minneapolis) #31531

**ARE YOU AN EXTROVERT?** GWM, 35, 5'10", 170, brown hair, green eyes, good looking and built, varied interests, seeks others who are spontaneous and adventurous for fun, friendship and more. Please leave a message. (Minneapolis) #31712

**LET'S MEAT** GWM, 27, brown hair and eyes, 6', beard/'stache, hanny set, dominant, seeks others for physical encounters. Please leave a message. (Minneapolis) #16971

**WET AND WILD** GWM, 35, attractive, seeks yellow hanky buddies into left and right pockets as much as I am. Please leave a message. (Minneapolis) #26305

**TOP ME OFF** GWM, 6'1", 165, brown hair, green eyes, good looking, slender, submissive, seeks others, who are dominant, for fun and more. (Minneapolis) #27187

**MAKE ME OBEY** GWM, submissive, seeks dominant men for pleasure. Please leave a message. (Minneapolis) #27445

**DISCREET SLAVES SOUGHT** GWM, 34, married, 6'1", 250, daddy bear, bearded and tattooed, biker Leather Master, seeks slaves/boy toys, 18-30, into Leather/Levi's/Leather/Uniforms and more. Please leave a message. (Minneapolis) #24733

**LEATHER SERVICE** GWM, 32, hairy and stocky, versatile, into B/D, Leather, discipline and more, seeks same for pleasure and more. Please leave a message. (Minneapolis) #24750

**SATISFACTION GUARANTEED** This GWM is seeking one or more aggressive, masculine and furry G/Bi or Other males for fun times! (Minneapolis) #10427

**MAN TO MAN** GWM, 34, seeks Bi or GWM's, under 35, for fun and adventure. Please leave a message. (Minneapolis) #20382

**PIPELINE TO PLEASURE** GWM, 5'10", stocky, handsome and versatile, well end'd top men, lean and hairy men, for pleasure and more. Please leave a message. (Minneapolis) #22122

**SLIM AND CUTE!** GWM, 33, 5'7", 125, slim and small, brown hair and eyes, cute, seeks others, 18-30, for alot of fun and more. Please leave a message. (Minneapolis) #23310

**SKI BUDDIES WANTED!** GWM, 30, seeks ski buddies to pal around with. Don't let financial difficulties discourage you. We'll have fun. Please leave me a message. (Minneapolis) #23525

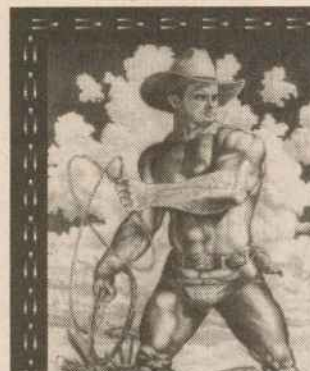
**TWO FOR YOU** GWM couple, 25 and 28, seeks hot and aggressive bottom guys, 18-35, for mutual pleasure. Call us soon and we will respond immediately. (Southern) #47936

**LET ME TOP YOU OFF** Bi WM, top, 23, seeks other guys, 18-35, bottom's, who are into intense pleasure and fun. Please leave a message. (Southern) #24954

**FARMHAND STORIES** GWM, farmer, blonde hair, blue eyes, 38, 6', 170, seeks others, local preferred, for fun, friendship and more. Please leave a message. (Southwestern) #31230

**I'LL ROCK YOUR WORLD** Bi WM, top, 48, 6', 185, seeks young and masculine bottom guys, versatile a must, for rocking good times. Leave a message. (St. Paul) #48830

**YELLOW HANKY FUN!** GWM, 29, seeks guys under 30 for yellow hanky adventures and other experiences. Please leave me a message. (St. Paul) #24213



**ARE YOU MAN**



# As Battle Rages Over Internet Censorship, a Teen Speaks Out on Gay Issues On-Line

By David Batterson

America Online (AOL) took some heavy media hits over the widely reported story involving a 14-year-old boy and an adult male he met through the online service. As a result, AOL's TOS (Terms Of Service) dept.—also known as TOSAAdvisor—began a crackdown on certain Member Rooms.

As a clarification, chat rooms on AOL consist of three types: Public, Member and Private. Public Rooms are as described, and explicit language of a sexual, "vulgar" or "bashing" nature is now allowed under TOS guidelines. AOL has volunteers called Guides who help keep order.

Member Rooms are created by AOL users who want to meet others, generally for "dating" and sexual reasons. More explicit language is tolerated in such rooms, since users specifically go looking for these rooms. Examples of Member Rooms are "Married but not dead,"

"Yng Men 4 Older Women," "Men 4 Men," "Bi F 4 Bi F," "Men's Locker Room," "Fantasies and Dreams" and so forth.

Guides can enter Member Rooms, but don't do so as much as they do Public Rooms. When AOL users want total privacy, they can create a Private Room where even Guides and TOS representatives cannot enter.

Because AOL came under pressure, TOS started removing rooms from the Member Rooms list with names such as "Yng M 4 Yng M." Such rooms are frequented by Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual teens and young adults, although older adults may also access the rooms too.

After complaints against TOS by a number of users—and a petition campaign launched by a teen AOL subscriber, and a request from me to TOS for an explanation, I received the following e-mail:

"To avoid giving the impression that we allow solicitation of minors online, we are very cautious in allowing room names referencing youth. Anything that could possibly be construed as sexual is usually made private. 'Yng M 4 Yng M' falls under this category. It is ambiguous in that 'M' could mean 'male', hence underage male.

You may create the room 'Yng Men 4 Yng Men', which specifically states that the occupants seek to meet adults. I hope this clears up our position on this." The letter was signed by Pete, Terms of Service Advisor, America Online.

NOTE: Following is an excerpt of e-mail from the person who circulated the petition on AOL. It speaks for itself. He wishes to remain anonymous, for obvious reasons.

In making any statement of position, I strongly believe that I echo the views of teenagers, both Gay, Bi, and straight.

I am soon to be a 17 year old male. I'm from down-state New York. I am a president of a prominent nationwide youth group and a former vice-president of an honor student's organization. I have a number of years experience in dealing with peer counseling and in active leadership roles.

I have never been a Gay rights activist. I am a teen activist and am involved currently with 3 organizations. I don't have time for a typical social life, because I am dedicated to my interests. While this has a number of low points (I can only be on AOL at midnight, and sometimes fall asleep while typing), it has many very lofty rewards that I enjoy. I have received certificates, awards, and many thank you cards in the last 3 years.

I am an honors student, and have a particular interest in education techniques, cognitive and behavioral psychology, and human sexuality. I have audited college classes on those topics for 2 years (at night!).

As a high school student, I am well aware of the discrimination that affects my generation. I have many Gay friends online as a result of my own exploration of sexual identity and have not settled on any singularity of attraction yet.

While I don't limit my online friends to any particular group, I identify with the struggle that fellow teens have in keeping a room open for discussion and FUN of relevant issues. If an issue so immediate as sexuality can be considered a relevant issue, then rooms should be available for it.

To state it simply: If it can be available for adults, why should there be a limit in what is available for teens? Don't even bother with the law, as it cannot be enforced in a domain where people won't give out more than their screen names to strangers.

What about the dumb kids who give out personal information? Well, don't worry about them; they are just as likely to drown in a bowl of cereal.

A petition will demonstrate to AOL that there is an interest in it, by teens FOR TEENS. We are not stockholders. We are customers. AOL provides a computer and

networking system....we use it. AOL gives ground rules for using it....we follow them. AOL requires payment We pay. Customers want something done and business doesn't respond.

There are many admirable aspects of the system. What we want is the huge corporate entity to respond to its customers, as any other company must. All of us who use AOL have money at our disposal, and we use it freely.

It seems highly hypocritical for an organization, for-profit especially, to discriminate against Gay teenage males simply for their age. Notice, we are not discussing the issue of homosexuality, per se, because it is obvious that AOL is a Gay-friendly employer and company."

It is hypocritical for a few reasons:

1) There already exists "teen chat" rooms. If the policy of AOL was to protect minors from untoward sexual advances from perverts/adults in those rooms, they would not exist.

2) There already exists "Gay adult" rooms. There are "adult chat" areas. Now that we've established that there are teen rooms, adult rooms, and adult Gay rooms, the question we should think about is, "Why aren't there Gay teen rooms?"

3) Screen names make it impossible for adults and teens to tell each other apart. One method we use is discussion of relevant issues (including sex); those who are unable to relate to the discussion are "Pervs" who we know to avoid.

4) There are procedures for dealing with perverts, which most teens (in contrast with most of the adults we've encountered) are familiar with. Flooding e-mail boxes of annoying perverts, IGNORE'ing them in chat rooms, and shutting off our Instant Message'ing are all very effective methods. In addition, there already exist many corporate techniques of handling jerks, such as "GuidePager" and TOS.

5) We are not defenseless, nor innocent. Most, though not all, of the teenage users of AOL have extensive "modeming/BBSing" experience. We are neither ignorant of the protection that AOL provides through screen names, or of how to handle an annoying person.

In essence, the issue is one of age discrimination for teenagers who do not need protection. Another user on AOL wrote: "a request has already been made to the GLCF (Gay Lesbian Community Forum) on AOL to have an adult-monitored teen room for outreach, networking and discussion."

I don't wish to sound arrogant or resentful, but that is an adult-centered approach. It doesn't recognize the fact that most teenagers, sexually explorative or not, are uncomfortable by any adult presence.

## AIDS

Continued from Page 1

with HHV-6 were identified in all ten of the lymph node biopsies. Lymph node biopsies from seven non-HIV infected individuals were also studied and were found to be free of HHV-6 infected cells.

Of central importance in the study by Drs. Knox and Carrigan was the fact that at the time the tissue samples obtained from the HIV infected patients, three-fourths of the patients had relatively intact immune systems.

Their helper T (CD4+) lymphocyte counts were greater than 200, the point at which the immune system is generally considered to be severely damaged.

Further, the detection of active HHV-6 infection in the lymph node of one of these patients was of special significance since the infection was present when her helper T lymphocyte count was still within normal range.

These observations make HHV-6 unique in that it is the only other infectious agent besides HIV that is present in active form in all patients throughout the entire course of HIV

infection and AIDS.

All other non-HIV infections in these patients occur later in the course of HIV infection, usually after CD4+ lymphocyte counts drop below 200.

Also, no other proposed "cofactor" has been found in all HIV infected patients, and no other infectious agent has been demonstrated to be present when the CD4+ counts are still in normal range, making HHV-6 absolutely unique.

"We believe this is an important advance in understanding how infection with HIV causes AIDS. It appears that HIV uses HHV-6 as an instrument of destruction," Dr. Knox said.

Interestingly, the predominant form of HHV-6 present in the lymph node tissues was the rare A variant of the virus (HHV-6A). HHV-6A differs from its more common relative, HHV-6B, in that it is far more destructive of the cells that it infects. HHV-6A is rarely identified in normal individuals and in non-HIV infected populations of immunocompromised patients such as bone marrow transplant victims.

According to Dr. Knox, HHV-6A has numerous properties that may allow it to play a central role in AIDS. It causes the infected cells to produce chemicals that enhance the growth of HIV and it allows HIV to infect other forms of white blood cells that are ordinarily resistant to HIV. Also, HHV-6A and HIV synergistically destroy CD4+ and other forms of white blood cells.

The research of Drs. Knox and Carrigan also reveals an important new characteristic of HHV-6A that may greatly accelerate the progression of HIV infection to AIDS.

The researchers demonstrated that cells infected with HHV-6A produce a factor that can pull HIV out of its latent, silent state into full and active growth. While this "HIV activating component" (HAC) has only been partially characterized, it appears to be composed of fragments of cells destroyed by HHV-6A infection.

These findings, combined with earlier work from the laboratory of Drs. Knox and Carrigan showing that HIV enhances the growth of HHV-6, suggest that infection with HIV is necessary, but not sufficient for the development of AIDS and that the development of AIDS requires concurrent active infection with HHV-6A.

"If this hypothesis is true, then it is possible, and even likely, that the simultaneous administration of drugs capable of blocking HHV-6A and HIV replication early in the course of HIV infection may slow or even stop the progression of HIV infection to AIDS," Dr. Knox said.

The researchers would like to see followup with large scale studies to confirm these findings.

## YOUTH

Continued from Page 1

acerbated this danger by either their actions or inactions."

Nabozny appealed and the Lambda organization came to his defense.

Yanachek said the district does not condone harassment. It has had a policy since 1987 that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, he said.

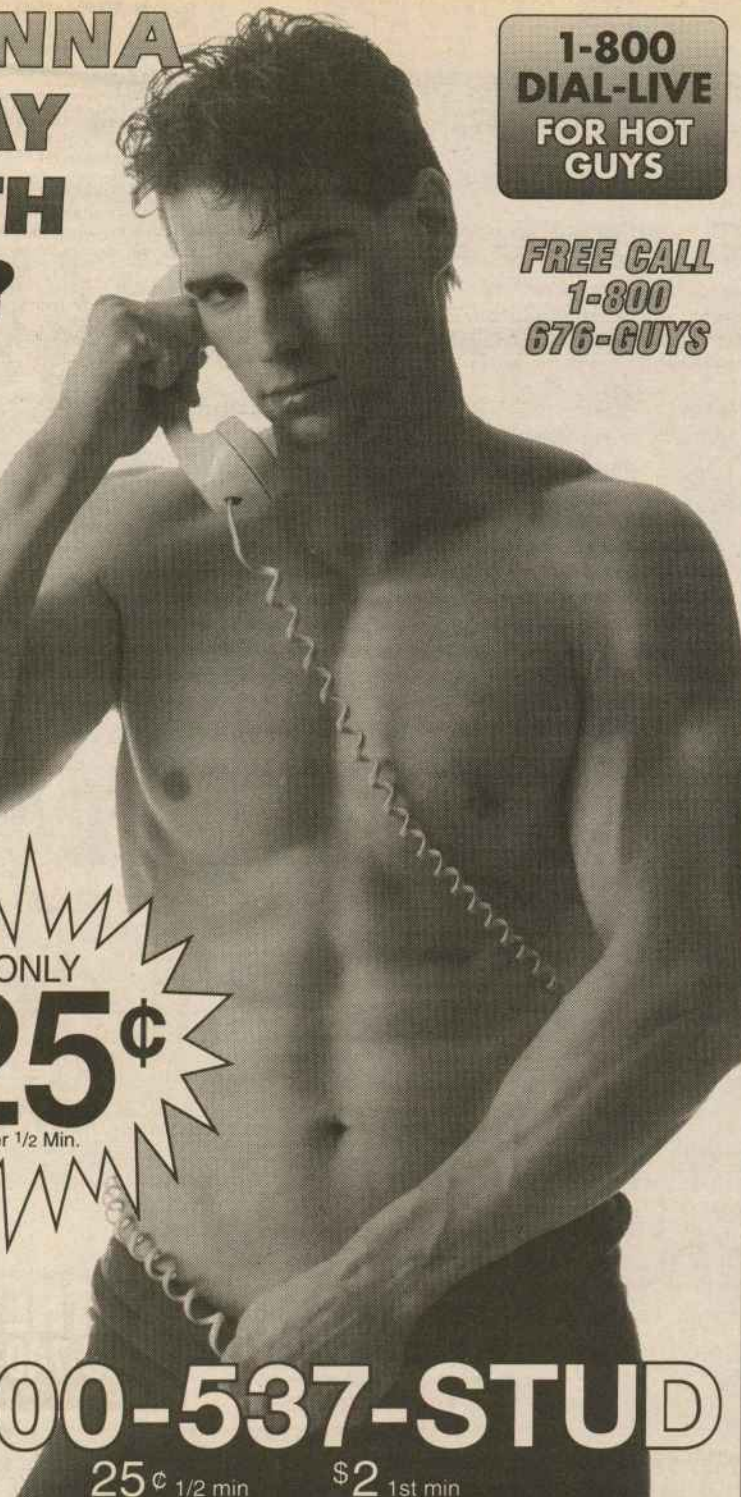
Schools must go beyond policy, Jennings said.

"Are these policies there simply for window dressing or are they part of a general commitment where all students have a right to learn?" he said.

Jennings, whose organization reports 3,000 members from 36 chapters nationwide, said Massachusetts school districts are encouraged to establish support groups for Lesbian and Gay students.

"Our goal is to create schools where every student is valued regardless of their sexual orientation," Jennings said. "It's not homosexuality that's a threat to children; it's homophobia."

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## A Rebel's View of the Telecommunications Act, Gays and the Internet

Commentary by Charles Stanford

When I saw the Telecom Bill going through what we sardonically refer to as the "legislative process," I thought, "God no, here we go again. Spring training is starting, I've got things to do." Things were going so well, St. Louis took the Rams from Los Angeles and, even more important, Pat Buchanan was showing the country what real Republicans were made of and Lyndon Larouche was out campaigning as a Democrat. The Contract on America seems a dead issue. Things are fun.

The recent flap over the lack of decency and obvious obscenity on the network comes as no surprise to those who have been following this for awhile. Ever since Windows came out and made it possible even for technological morons to get on the Internet—previously social morons were in abundance but they at least knew what a stop bit was—even local television stations in small towns have been doing their own reports on the subject.

Of course, they can't really talk about the Internet as the topic is arcane to them, sort of like the reporters at Three Mile Island asking about meltdown rather than half-lives because their knowledge of Nuclear Physics was limited to a Jack Lemmon movie, but they can talk about parts of it. Some Sam Donaldson wannabe journalism student trying to do a report for class, desperate to find something to talk about that will get on the air, finally finds the topic.

Well, the Internet is big, yeah, but he needs a "hook." Sex, what better? Gay sex! That's better yet! Everyone thinks they understand sex, any kind of sex, better yet, everyone wants to talk and hear about it and feel clean and moral at the same time.

**SEX ON THE INTERNET--DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR KID IS DOING? TALKING MAYBE TO A--HORRORS!--ANOTHER GAY TEEN?**

I envision thousands of housewives and elks club members, finishing off a six-pack watching the news: Mom says "I hope junior isn't doing that. He has a modem, doesn't he? How come we don't get any phone calls during the evening anymore?"

But the issue really isn't about sex, Gay sex or any other kind, despite the publicity over greasy middle aged Queers on the prowl for thirteen year old boys, luring them into a life of sodomy over the net. Nope, it never really was.

The only reason that sex is an issue, especially non-missionary, religious variety-type sex, is that it is something a politician can be against without problems. "I am trying to protect the moral fiber of our great country," they spout and Newt leads the amens. Pass a bill. Stop all this midnight ejaculation.

This is only the latest phase of it, however. The issue of freedom of information and the computer goes all the way back to the Truman era, even before.

Initially, there were great hopes for the computer--everyone was for them. Feynmann, the guy who exposed the "O" rings on the shuttle disaster, that classic example of corporate greed mixed with political paranoia, was in charge of the computer used to help build the A-bomb.

At the time, most people liked the A-bomb, too. After all, it was only used on "Japs". Just like this bill is only going to be used on Gays and "people like that, right?"

Soon, there was the fear that computers would be used to control our lives. Nonsense, assured the government and the corporations that had high hopes for exactly this outcome. Any protest about anything was met with the reply "the computer doesn't make mistakes." Things are only paranoid if they are not true, right?

Then came an unexpected development. Jobs and Wozniak built the Apple in their garage, a computer we could buy. Someone, I wish I could remember his name, put into the common domain a CP/M terminal emulator and people could access those giant mainframes at the blinding speed of 300 baud. Hacking was born.

People were fighting back, or so it ap-

peared to those with the investment in maintaining control over the information. They had nightmares about evil fiends hacking away into the night.

Out of cold-war paranoia, the Internet was developed. It was designed to survive an all-out nuclear attack which was surely planned by the Soviet Union, or China, or Cuba, or some evil communist sinners. And it was designed too well.

No central control over it.

But readers of this who know more about the amorphous nature of the net than I, probably, I hope, are shaking their heads and smiling as Germany tries the same thing our bill seem modeled on.

But how to police the thing now? Especially now when all sorts of information is getting through over groups like alt.activism? It wasn't so bad before when people had to be reasonably literate to access it, but now anyone can. People who used to get their news from television now get it over the Internet. Gotta be a way to stop this.

The image of the thirteen year old hacker is replaced by the thirteen year old innocent (Kids are never Gay or straight. Kids know nothing about sex, right?)

So now, here we are. Another round of the same thing. The ACLU and others are fighting the "decency" aspect but the "obscenity" part seems to have been dropped. The bill, in the name of defending children, sheep, and cows from sleazy horny priapists, seeks to gain control over what is and is not sent over the Internet.

They assure us they only want to protect our children and sheep from all those "awful Queers," but what they want to retain is the right to continue to queer the minds of the American populace by controlling the information it gets.

Clinton smiled and took credit for the morality of the thing, smiling, beaming, as he talked about the protection of our children.

I want to believe that he hopes the net provisions are knocked out by someone who has less at stake, a federal judge, the Supreme Court with lifetime tenure, but am a bit amused at the idea of Clarence Thomas deciding on the issue. Would it be constitutional to prosecute someone who makes available "Long Dong Silver"? Mr. Justice Clarence Thomas, what do you think?

## Mr. Daddy/Boy Contest To Be Held in Milwaukee in April

**Milwaukee**—The 1996 Mr. Daddy-Boy Contest will be held on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. The contest is being sponsored by the Argonauts of Wisconsin, Castaways of Milwaukee, Oberons of Milwaukee and Unicorns of Madison.

Events include: a Friday evening pre-contest cocktail party, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. (cash bar) at Gargoyles; and the Boy Contest at 10:00 p.m. at the Wreck Room.

On Saturday, everyone is invited to a dinner at the M&M Club. There will be a cash bar cocktail party at 6:00 p.m. with dinner beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Mr. Daddy Contest will begin at 10:00 p.m. at the 1100 Club.

Once again there will be an after hours party from 2:00 to 4:00 a.m.

On Sunday, an auction will be held at the Wreck Room starting at 1:00 p.m. Admission is free. Items to be auctioned off include leather items, magazines and videos. Proceeds from the auction are divided among the four sponsoring clubs, who, in turn, make donations to charities during the year.

Tickets are available from any club member or from the three cooperating bars. Weekend passes that allow you entrance to all events except the dinner are available. Dinner tickets are sold separately. Tickets to the Mr. Daddy and Boy Contests are per contest. These tickets are sold at the bar the night of the contest.

Location of the after hours party will be announced the evening of the event. No tickets for the after hours party will be sold at the door, but must be purchased in advance.

If you think you'd make a good Mr. Daddy or Boy, you can get an application at Gargoyles, 1100 Club or the Wreck Room, or from any club member—or by writing: Northwoods Productions, Box 1104, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1104. There is no entrance fee.

Contestants may have sponsors and need not be from Wisconsin. Applications will be accepted up to 8:00 p.m. of the evening of the contest. Winners and first and second runners up will receive a trophy, bar tabs and other prizes.

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## Religious Right Struggles To Prevent Same-Sex Marriage in 25 States

Honolulu—Efforts by the state Senate leadership to shelve a proposed constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriages are meeting resistance from some members.

If that resistance rallies at least nine of the 25 Senate members who would be prepared to buck Senate President Norman Mizuguchi, they could force the issue to a vote by the full Senate. According to one dissident on the issue, that move is not yet a priority.

Although Mizuguchi referred the bill to the Senate Judiciary Committee as a matter of process, committee Chairman Rey Grauly says he has no plans to hold a hearing on it, despite an intensifying lobbying effort from religious groups supporting the bill.

"The leadership of the Senate has spoken and indicated that as far as they are concerned the issue is dead, and I as the chair of Judiciary Committee abide by the decision of the Senate leadership on this issue," Grauly said.

"I think it is time to call it a day on same-sex marriage and let the court decide what might be best and then to act accordingly after they have made their decision," he said.

Sen. Randall Iwase, who supports the constitutional amendment bill, called Grauly's decision "unfortunate."

Iwase said he's hoping there will be a full hearing on the House bill, a vote by the Judiciary Committee and then a vote in the full Senate in which each member can express their view. Any proposed constitutional amendment would be on November's general election ballot for voter ratification.

The constitutional amendment would be a means of letting Hawaii's people tell the state Supreme Court that it was wrong and misread the constitution in its 1993 ruling on same-sex marriages, Iwase said.

A trial on the issue of the state's compelling interest in denying same-sex marriages is scheduled to begin Aug. 1.

The Senate's position was a bill to establish domestic partnerships for Gay couples, giving

them the same rights and benefits of married couples. That bill remains dormant in the House which opted to let the voters decide.

Iwase complained that the Senate's Democratic leadership has abandoned the policy decision made in 1994 that the issue of same-sex marriage involved a question of separation of powers and was something to be decided by the Legislature or a constitutional convention, not the courts.

### In Kansas

The state does not recognize same-sex marriages as legal, and a majority of House members passed a bill on March 21<sup>st</sup> designed to make sure it never happens.

The bill, approved 87-38, would add to state law a declaration that same-sex marriages are "contrary to the public policy of this state and void."

Kansas does not recognize same-sex marriages because its criminal code outlaws same-sex sex. However, some legislators, especially religious conservatives, are worried about a 1993 court decision in Hawaii.

Rep. Jan Pauls, (D-Hutchinson), sponsor of the ban on same-sex marriages, said she is concerned that same-sex couples could fly to Hawaii, get married, then return to Kansas and sue for the same legal standing as heterosexual married couples.

Pauls offered the ban as an amendment to a bill that would end the requirement that judges approve all underage marriages. Her amendment passed, 81-24.

The only legislator to speak against Pauls' amendment was liberal Rep. Sabrina Standifer, D-Wichita.

"I don't think this is an area where government needs to be involved," she said.

Conservatives gleefully called for a roll-call vote on the amendment. Many House members did not take the debate seriously. Some chuckled when a few of their colleagues pretended initially to abstain from voting, as if they had a conflict of interest.

### In Colorado

Gov. Roy Romer indicated Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, he may veto a bill passed by the Legislature banning same-sex marriages in Colorado and said he favors recognizing same-sex unions, but not as traditional marriages.

"If I choose to veto it, it will be because we need to take it in a more comprehensive way, and we need to do it and do it right,"

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Romer said on the Mike Rosen Show on KOA radio.

Romer did not say when he would reach a decision. He has 10 days to sign it or veto it. If he does not act, it will take effect without his signature.

On Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, Romer vetoed the bill, saying it would bring discrimination against same-sex couples.

Romer said he strongly believes there should be statutory recognition of the "different type of union" between same-sex couples that would distinguish it from traditional marriages between men and women.

He said this would give long-term same-sex partners access to one another on their deathbeds, for example. Since their relationships are unrecognized by current law, they now can be denied deathbed access by blood relatives.

"Gay people ought to be treated like human beings," Romer said.

The governor acknowledged that Colorado needs to take a position on same-sex marriages because otherwise a ruling by the Hawaii Supreme Court could take the issue out of Colorado's hands.

Supporters of the Colorado ban said that without it, Colorado would be forced to recognize marriages performed in Hawaii. They say the Constitution's Full Faith and Credit Clause requires states to recognize marriages performed in other states.

Romer said Colorado needs to be able to protect itself in court from any litigation arising from the Hawaii decision, but that issue and recognition of same-sex unions should be addressed at the same time.

Romer said he would like to bring together legislators and citizens to discuss whether a "partnering" category should be created in the statutes that would recognize long-term same-sex relationships.

"We have three Gay couples in our church and what would you want us to do—ignore them as human beings and deny them human rights?" he asked.

### In Idaho

Without comment, Gov. Phil Batt has signed a law forbidding legal recognition in Idaho of same-sex marriages that might be valid in another state.

The legislation skimmed through the 105-member Legislature with just 10 dissenting votes and was among bills signed into law by the governor on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Sponsors argued that without action by the Legislature, if another state validates same-sex marriages, Idaho would have to recognize them because of a state law granting approval to contracts and agreements which are legal in other states.

The new law, which went into effect as soon as the governor signed it, also bars legal recognition of any marriage entered into with intent of circumventing Idaho laws.

### In Alaska

Same-sex marriages would be prohibited under proposed state legislation, with supporters saying it would preserve traditional families and opponents calling the measure discriminatory.

The bill was debated Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, in the Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committee, which introduced the measure last week. Most testimony at the hearing came from Gay men and Lesbians who said the measure would deprive them of the same rights granted to heterosexuals.

In practice, Alaska law already prohibits same-sex marriages. Supporters said the bill was introduced to make the law clearer and to preempt a pending court decision on same-sex marriages in Hawaii.

Susan Hargis, board chairman for the Southeast Alaska Gay and Lesbian Alliance, said she has made a lifetime commitment with

a woman she would like to legally wed.

"I certainly don't want one, but if I went out and had a sex-change operation, I could get married," Hargis told the committee. "That's bizarre."

Sen. Loren Leman, a committee member, said he believes same-sex marriages undermine traditional families and social values.

The Rev. Howard Bess, a Baptist minister at the Church of the Covenant in Wasilla, supported the bill, saying he knows many Gay couples.

"They are every bit as committed, every bit as monogamous, every bit as stable, every bit as wholesome as a heterosexual marriage," Bess said.

State law does not specify that marriages must be only between a man and a woman, though the Alaska attorney general's office has said that courts probably would uphold only opposite-sex marriages the way the rules are now written.

Alaska is being sued by two men who were denied a marriage license in Anchorage last year, said assistant attorney general John Gaguine. Their claim is that prohibiting a same-sex marriage is unconstitutional, Gaguine said.

The bill would spell out that marriages could take place only between a man and woman. Leman said that would clarify state law and protect Alaska from a court ruling that might allow same-sex marriages in Hawaii.

That case has prompted efforts by Far Right Religionists to enact same-sex marriage bans in about 25 states to preempt the chance that Hawaii courts might allow two men or two women to wed. States typically recognize each other's statutes, meaning other states might have to acknowledge same-sex marriages that take place in Hawaii.

Hargis said she and her partner "would be on a plane tomorrow to Hawaii" if same-sex marriages were legal there.

Leman said the proposed legislation would prevent gay and lesbian couples in Alaska from wedding in Hawaii then returning home and seeking to have the marriage legally recognized here.

The measure also would help uphold legislation passed by the state House last month that would allow employers to deny health and retirement benefits to workers' unmarried domestic partners, Leman said. That bill was prompted by a lawsuit last year by two University of Alaska employees with same-sex partners.

With the Legislature's Republican majority at odds with Democrats and Gov. Tony Knowles on balancing the state budget, Democrats said the same-sex marriage bill was wasting time.

"Get real," said Senate Minority Leader Jim Duncan. "There's more important things to address."

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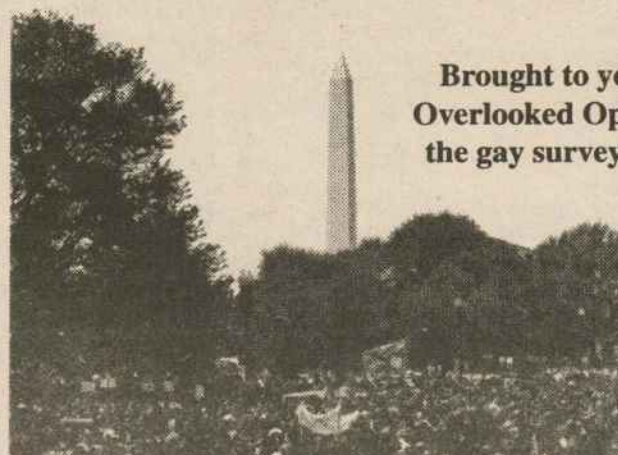
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## Youth Column

### Don't Let Life Slip Through Your Fingers And Have Only Regrets to Remember

By J. Alan

You've read the books. You've seen the TV shows. You've read the newspaper articles. (Hopefully mine!—Just kidding.) So now you find yourself suddenly thrust onto the yellow brick road of Coming Out. For the first time in your life you're experiencing notility, bravery, excitement, living for the thrill of it. What a rush!

Along the way, one begins to recall life before this once-in-a-lifetime, coming of age journey. One inevitably flashes back to their questioning, fearful days of innocence.

In one flash, you're five years old again and cradled in your mother's arms. She reads to you a bedtime story filled with images of imaginary technicolor dancing figurines. No thoughts of sex, drugs or violence (the classic trio) to be found here. Only peace and happiness. The beauty of all of this is this dream is no dream at all. At 5, lying has not come into your life yet, and you are grateful for that.

In another flash you recall a more recent, more dark period in your 20 year-old body's life. You see yourself 16 again.

You are standing in the fields of your junior high school. There you are, one young person standing all by yourself in the middle of that 100 by 30 yard green mass that you, "of course" you think, have never had the courage to play upon.

You stand there, intentionally isolated and cut off from the rest of the world. As you look down at your glow in the dark Super Hero watch, you see the time is 5:30. All the children have gone home and you know your family is waiting, but really you couldn't care.

Flash. You see yourself 17 again dancing at "that party". This is a memory you would rather forget entirely, but you can't. This is the memory, out of all the memories, that disobediently dances around in your head. You can't let go of it.

When you're awake, it always manages to sneak into your mind again whenever you can't pay enough attention to put it aside. When you're asleep, it plays over and over like a skip on a record. It is "that party". "The party". You see yourself among dozens of drunken young people, many of whom you call to this day your "friends".

There you are, all done up for the occasion in torn jeans and grungy clothing. You see yourself in those "clothes", dispensing an endless amount of energy on that dance floor. You are an angry young person, and you will do anything for hours that will vent this

anger.

The party draws on late and suddenly nearly everyone is sleeping—a nice way of saying "passed out" on the floor. Everyone has done their deeds for the evening, except you and that certain person who, now that doors are closed and no one will ever see, is coming on to you like wildfire.

You don't even like this person. Fowl smelling, drunk and high, this shallow, opportunistic jerk latches onto you. You know one well aimed, drunken right hook could end this entire hellacious scenario, as well as vent some of that reserve of not well capped anger, but, oh, just being touched for the first time by someone of your gender!

It sends a tingle up your spine and sets off nerves that you didn't even realize you had in your young life. You know what happens next.

Flash. Flash. Flash. One nightmarish leap after another. Finally, your mind grinds to a halt out of the exhaustion of hard living and unintentional, totally unprepared hard thinking.

Now that your brain has cleared a little of the pot, alcohol and God knows what else that is floating around up there, you find yourself as you were, staring at a wall. Wall after wall after wall. You realize that is what your life has been. You realize that is all you've been doing. Running into walls. For the first time, you realize how short life really is and how quickly it can be wasted. So you decide to do something about it.

Is this a personal story from my past? Perhaps to some extent. However, when you reach the point where you decide to do something about your sexuality and everything else in your life, if you've read this, you know there is help out there.

It is imperative for you to understand that if you are in situations like these day in and day out, there is a better way of living. You must comprehend that you are not alone and, in fact, you are one of all TOO MANY young people suffering.

However, if you have read this article and the ones written beforehand, you know there is an entirely different world out there. There are facilities, there are many people who will care about you and there is an entire Gay Community filled with opportunities that can be yours.

...And you can start by sending me a letter. Write me at: J. Alan c/o The Wisconsin Light Newspaper 1843 N. Palmer Street Milwaukee, WI. 53211

### Wisconsin Teens Reflect National Experience in Their High School Lives

**Milwaukee**—When Victoria P. was 15, she fell in love with her best friend.

But the friendship Victoria felt was something deeper—and scarier—than she expected, she said.

Victoria realized she was a Lesbian. Since then, the Milwaukee teen has spent the past two years trying to come to grips with her sexuality, in part through educating her family, teachers and peers about her experience.

Victoria and hundreds of other Lesbian and Gay teens in Wisconsin and throughout the nation endure not only inner turmoil, but harassment, ridicule and verbal and physical abuse from peers, teachers, administrators and family as well.

"I've been a Lesbian since I was conceived. I just kind of realized it when I was 15," Victoria said. "I've finally started to be able to be comfortable with my life."

The best estimates are that between 5 percent and 10 percent of the total teen population in the United States is Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual, although many hide their sexual orientation out of fear or confusion, experts say.

Government studies show that teens confused by their sexuality are more likely to abuse drugs or alcohol, try suicide, get bad grades or drop out of school.

Many leave home to take to the streets, living as best they can. Any of the larger cities in the U.S., has unnumbered Gay teens who have turned to prostitution, social scientists say.

But, at least for some, things may be becoming a little easier.

Because of strong support networks being developed, more teens today are "coming out" about their about their sexual orientation.

Many schools now have support groups for Lesbian and Gay students, and some schools, few in number, have even allowed students to take their same-sex partner to dances and other school-sponsored affairs.

Coming out is healthier for homosexuals,

teens said, but along with this freedom comes a lot of backlash.

Keith S.a Catholic high school student in Wisconsin, says he fought through rejection from his family, his church and his school.

When Keith was in seventh grade, he learned through a Bible study class about Sodom and Gomorrah to associate the word "homosexual" with the way he'd been feeling.

"I thought, 'Great—I have a name for who I am now,'" Keith said. "I thought, 'I don't want to be disgusting. I don't want to be a faggot.'"

Through a school counselor, he started attending support group meetings and read a lot about homosexuality. He said that his mother found out a few months ago when she discovered some Gay reading material in Keith's room.

Keith said his mother took him to see Catholic nuns and priests, all of whom accepted him despite his homosexuality except one who declared, "If he had gone to a Catholic school, this never would have happened."

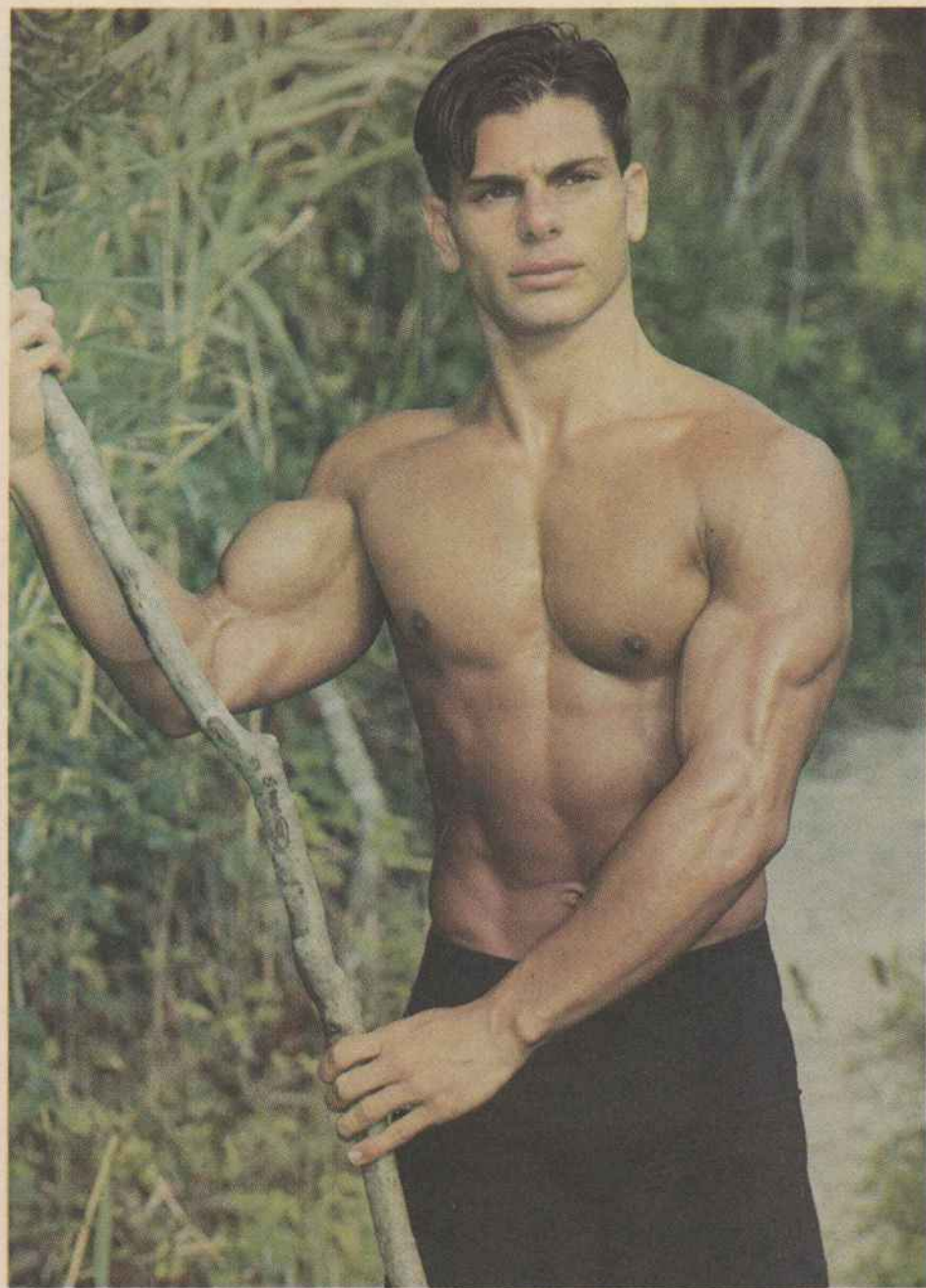
School officials also did not know how to react to the news that their starring oboist and student council chairman was Gay, Keith recalled. He has been taunted and pushed around by some students.

Milwaukee teen Alissa came out to her parents when she was 14, after suicide attempts and bouts with depression because she felt so isolated and confused.

Alissa's mother at first reacted angrily, saying Lesbianism was "disgusting" and that these feelings were just a phase Alissa was going through.

Three years later, Alissa says, her mother "likes most of my girlfriends."

"You have to realize your parents don't hate you, they don't think you're evil. It's just that they're afraid you're not going to have a normal life," she said. "That's what parents want for their kids—to have a normal life."



Frank Jacobs

**Atlantic City, NJ**—Frank Jacobs, physique photographer and president of Atlantic City, New Jersey-based Muscle East Studio, is all pumped up (as you can see from the photo) about his latest business venture, Muscle East Studio. With the new company, Jacobs is ready to "muscle in" on the Gay video market, producing a series of tapes which showcase the hottest up and coming bodybuilders on the East Coast.

"By taking the bodybuilders out of the gym and off the posing platform, I placed them in a natural setting where they can freely show off their physiques. Viewers may need to flex their imaginations, because the video contains no nudity," Jacobs said.

The first video, "Premiere Collection," features performances by 12 handsome young athletes. It is a 100 minute private flex-fest, muscle entertainment at its best. It is paced with oil, pump and posing action, close-ups, on-location shoots, behind the scenes workouts and more.

Premiere Collection is available only through mail order. For more information, write: M.E. Video, P.O. Box 5347, Atlantic City, NJ 08404 or call 1-800-566-8523.

### New Publication Launched in Chicago

**Chicago**—Lambda Publications, publisher of *Outlines* has launched a publication aimed at African-American Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals. The publication is called *Blacklines* and is headed by Rhonda Mundhenik and Robert Schultz, two prominent African-Americans.

### New Support Group Formed

**Milwaukee**—St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry has announced the formation of a support group for women infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The first meeting will be Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at St. Camillus, 3661 S. KK in St. Francis. Childcare will be provided.

The April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting will be facilitated by Kathryn O'Connor Kuhn, M.Div., Coordinator of Supportive Services for St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry. The purpose of this group will be to provide a safe place where confidential conversation can take place and connections can be made. For more information, or to register, please call Kathryn Kuhn at (414) 259-4664.

### National Poetry Contest

**Owings Mills, MD**—The National Library of Poetry has announced that \$24,000 in prizes will be awarded this year to over 250 poets in the North American Open Poetry Contest. The deadline for the contest is April 15, 1996. The contest is open to everyone and entry is free. Any poet, whether previously published or not, can be a winner.

To enter, send one original poem, any subject, any style, to: The National Library of Poetry, 11419 Cronridge Dr., P.O. Box 704-1987, Owings Mills, MD 21117. The poem should be no more than 20 lines and the poet's name and address should appear at the top of the page.



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