

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

The Wisconsin Light



Milwaukee's In Between bar entered this prize winning float in the 1996 Wisconsin Pride Parade which marched through the streets of downtown Milwaukee on June 9, 1996. Up against stiff competition, In Between's entry won a well deserved first place award in the Float Category.

Thompson Opposes Same-Sex Marriage, While Hedging on Choice

Middleton, WI— Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson says he supports a plank in the state Republican Party's proposed platform that urges the state to make it clear that same-sex marriages will not be recognized in Wisconsin.

"I don't feel the State of Wisconsin needs to support homosexual marriages," Thompson told reporters Friday, June 7th, at the GOP state convention at the Holiday Inn-West in Middleton.

The party's proposed platform urges state government "to make it clear that marriage in Wisconsin will be recognized as between a man and a woman only."

The platform was scheduled for consideration by the more than 1,000 delegates attending the three-day convention at the Holiday Inn-West in Middleton. The agenda included resolutions and a speech by Thompson.

The proposed platform reaffirms a Wisconsin law that defines marriage as a civil contract "which creates the legal status of husband and wife." The law does not mention Gay marriages.

Several states are considering banning same-sex marriages following a 1993 decision by the Hawaii Supreme Court that denying marriage licenses to same-sex couples is discriminatory. That case was sent back to a

lower court and has yet to be resolved.

Some lawmakers worry that their states may have to recognize same-sex marriages of people who were married out of state.

President Clinton has said he would sign a bill that would define marriage as a "legal union between one man and one woman" for federal purposes and let states reject the validity of same-sex marriages performed in other states.

On Abortion

Thompson also said he would support modifying the state party's platform to accommodate Republicans who support abortion rights, although he didn't plan to propose such a change.

Thompson drew national attention recently for saying Republicans should show they are "the party of the big tent" by adding language to its platform showing that while it opposes abortion, it tolerates opposing views.

The proposed platform repeats the party's call for legislation "that would re-establish legal protection for all human beings from conception until natural death and affirm our support for the Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution."

A similar plank in the national Republican Party's platform has become a campaign issue

PLEASE SEE THOMPSON - PAGE 30



The rain and strong winds on the outside didn't douse the spirits of those inside the Shepherd Express Rainbow Café for the PrideFest '96 opening ceremonies on Friday June 7, 1996. Pictured above and ready to cut the ribbon to open PrideFest are: Dr. Karen Lamb, wife of former Milwaukee Mayor Henry W. Maier, Rev. Lou Broyles, Milwaukee Police Chief Phillip Arreola and Milwaukee County Executive Tom Ament. Standing on the stage behind them is PrideFest founder and Co-director, Bill Meunier who gave an emotional and rousing Call to March and Celebrate.

Condoms Create Conflict at PrideFest '96

by Terry Boughner

Milwaukee—By my estimation, some 100 people gathered in the Rainbow Café tent sponsored by Milwaukee's Shepherd Express newspaper for the June 7th ribbon cutting ceremony that would open PrideFest '96. The ceremony was to begin at 6:00 p.m.

Despite the weather, people were cheerful and very upbeat, savoring this moment of triumph for the community. Few there knew how close to derailment things still were.

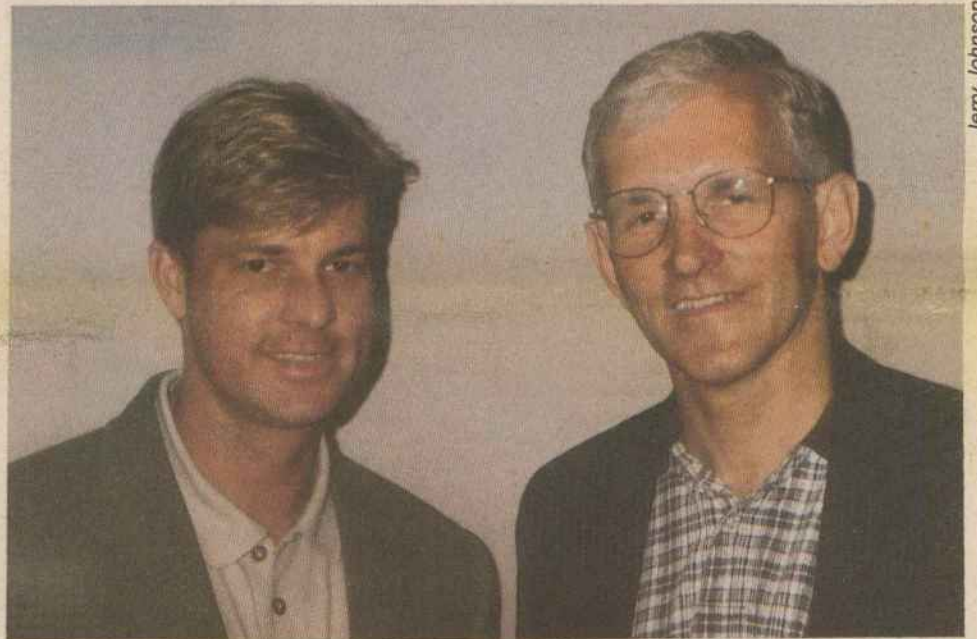
Sixth of June - The Conflict Begins

On Thursday afternoon, June 6th, the lawyer for Summerfest, Michael Kelly, informed the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) that Summerfest would not allow condoms on the festival grounds. This was apparently in response to the pressure the Board was getting from Right Wing Religionists who wanted to sell or otherwise distribute bibles at PrideFest '96.

Doug Nelson, MAP's Executive Director, took the call from Kelly and was stunned by the demand.

"I was thrown back in time at least 10 years when we originally fought the battle

PLEASE SEE CONDOMS - PAGE 30



Congressman Steve Gunderson and his long time companion, Rob Morris were in Milwaukee for the Challenge Party fundraiser held on Friday June 7. The event raised thousands of dollars for several Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian groups. (See page 3 for Wisconsin Light's exclusive interview with Mr. Gunderson and his partner.)

Tanqueray AIDS Ride Ignores Wisconsin; ACT UP Milwaukee Urges Boycott

Gary Hawkins

Milwaukee—A 450 mile bicycle ride throughout Wisconsin, sponsored by Tanqueray Vodka to benefit people living with HIV/AIDS will run from the Twin Cities to Chicago. Called the "Twin Cities to Chicago AIDS Ride," it will take place July 1-6, 1996.

AIDS activists in Wisconsin are angry that the AIDS community in our state will see no benefit from the event.

PLEASE SEE BOYCOTT - PAGE 30

Supreme Court Strikes Down Cincinnati's Anti-Gay Issue 3

New York, NY—On June 17th, the U.S. Supreme Court flexed the muscle in its landmark ruling against a Colorado amendment to ban Gay civil rights protections and reverse a federal appeals court's upholding of an anti-Gay charter amendment in Cincinnati (Issue 3). The action throws the Cincinnati case back to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, signaling that the appeals court's reasoning was fatally flawed and now must conform to the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection—as was powerfully affirmed for Lesbians, Bisexuals and Gay men in last month's "Romer v. Evans" ruling. This action should kill Issue 3.

"We convinced the federal trial court in 1994, to strike down Issue 3 based on the same longstanding constitutional principles set out by Justice Kennedy in the Colorado case," said Patricia M. Logue, managing attorney for the Midwest Regional Office of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education

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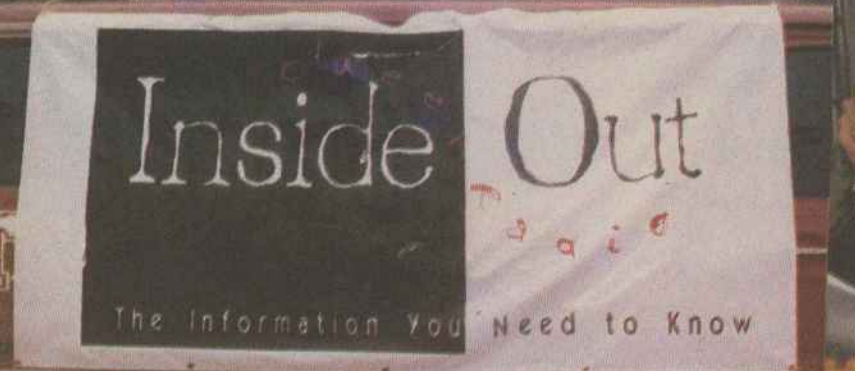
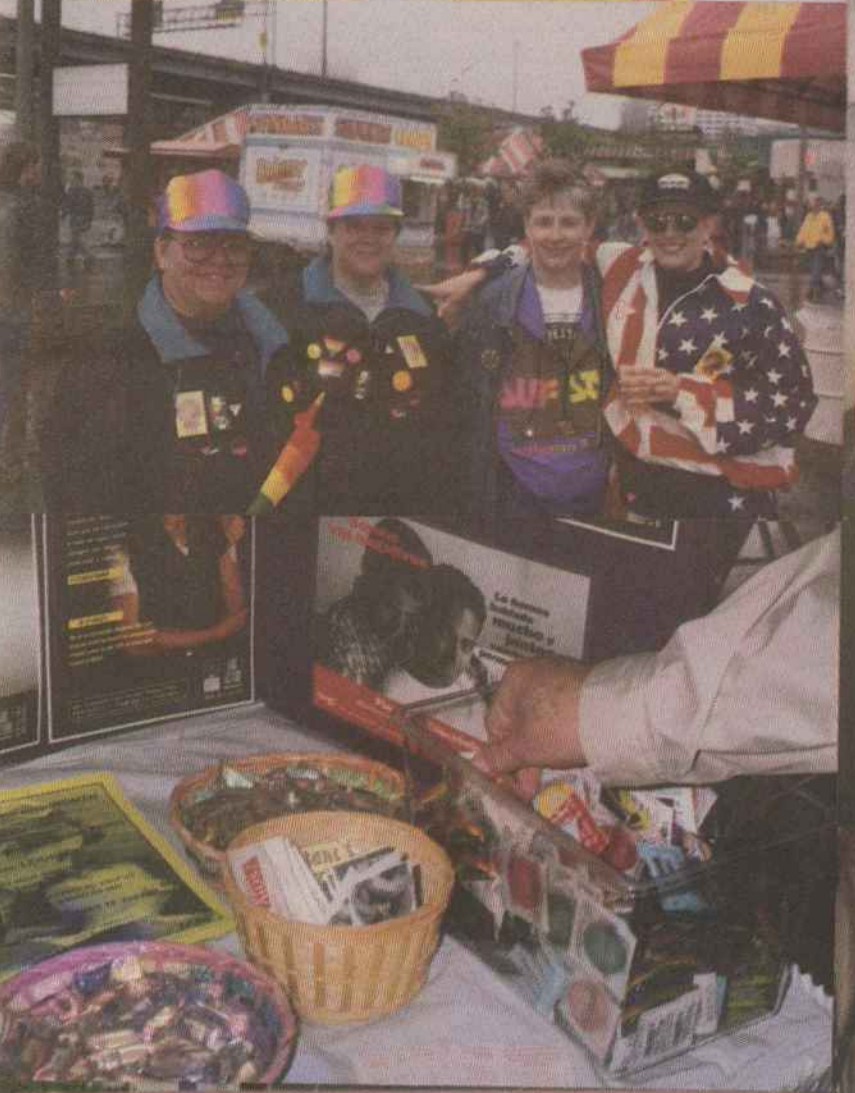
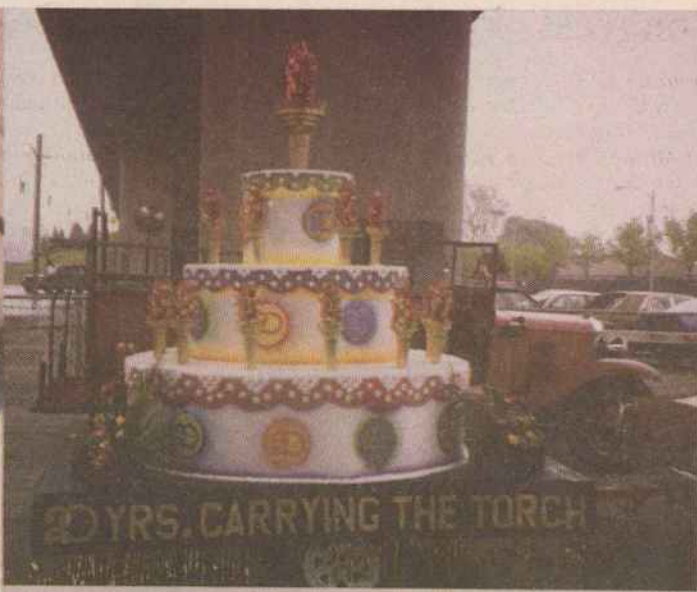
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Also inside: Seventy full color pictures of PrideFest '96 and the Pride parade!

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Steve Gunderson and Rob Morris on Love, Congress, Politics and the Gay Community

Retiring Congressman Steve Gunderson (R-WI), was in Milwaukee on June 7th with his partner, Rob Morris, to attend a fundraiser. The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) held a reception for them. It was prior to the reception that Gunderson and Morris sat down to talk with Light.

Wisconsin Light: Rob, what's it like being a Congressional spouse?

Rob Morris: For 12 years? I can only tell you what it's like being the spouse of a Republican Congressman. I hear from spouses of Democratic Congressmen and women that they party hearty, but having said that, it's an interesting learning experience.

I came to Washington with little or no understanding of government. I met Steve. He didn't tell me, at first, that he was a Congressman. I became intrigued by the process of politics. I maintained a distance for a good eight years. Friends were apolitical.

As friends got sick, as hostility within the Republican Party was on the increase, I became more political—and more antagonistic of Steve and his Party. But I had to learn what the process was.

It was all over easy to get information. Various Gay organizations realized that if they couldn't get to Steve because of his other duties, they could fax something to my office and it would get to him that night.

The other thing is being with someone who cares deeply, but has to function in a political party that doesn't have a great deal of regard for the Gay community. The result is that we (Steve and I) have been victims of liberal elements within the Gay community—Michael Petrelis and a host of others—Is there a Mr. Campbell here? (The reference is to Tim Campbell, former editor of Minneapolis's GLC Voice).

The result is that I feel much more confident going into a straight crowd as a Gay man than I do going into Gay crowd as a Gay Republican.

The Gay community tends to be as oppressive on one hand as the element we're fighting on the other hand.

My advice to anyone thinking they're going to pick up a spouse in Washington, is to err on the Democratic side.

Steve Gunderson: It's a rather interesting dynamic because the Gay community still wants to deal with me as a single politician, and Rob and I made the decision that we will spend a great deal of time traveling the coun-

try this year—but we will do it together. You take both of us or neither.

I'm amazed that in a time when we're advocating relationships in our community, we're unwilling to promote the very thing we advocate.

RM: As a Democrat who supported Bill Clinton, I am absolutely appalled at the Defense of Marriage Bill, that he (Clinton) couldn't explain to the American public why the bill is garbage.

And he didn't because the issue of his character has remained a problem and he didn't want to bring that baggage to the fore.

The Gay community needs to understand that it cannot achieve freedom by having access on one side of the aisle and being the villain on the other side. By doing that, all we've done is make it much easier for the Religious Right to raise money in Republican circles.

To have a friend on the Republican side who will temper rhetoric from conservative elements in the Republican Party is crucial. The education process is the only way it can happen.

Just as you would hope that Gay and Lesbian Democrats would educate homophobic Democrats.

Homophobia occurs on both sides of the aisle. To suck into one side only, effectively negates our leverage.

ACT UP has great intentions, but they don't understand the difference between stomping and politics.

SG: If you try and build bridges in the political community, you run the risk of being hit from both the right and the left. Rob and I have ACT UP on one side and the Far Right on the other.

We're just like any other couple. We think the two of us together is much greater than the sum of the individual parts. We build on that. That's what a relationship is supposed to be all about.

WL: What's Newt Gringrich like?

SG: I think the public personification of Newt Gingrich and the person are different. He has been knowingly and outwardly supportive of us, of Rob and me. Newt has been very supportive of me personally and professionally.

His comments about his sister (her wedding), that's his political image rather than his personal image and I will tell him that. I will tell him that his answer was wrong. You don't put politics before your family. He did. That was wrong.

Warm greetings to all those participating in the Milwaukee Pride Fest.

Throughout my life and during my tenure as President, I have remained dedicated to ending discrimination and to protecting the civil rights of every citizen in our society. More openly gay and lesbian individuals are serving in my Administration than in any previous Administration, and their impact, both in expertise and in efforts to advocate for the concerns of gay men and lesbians, is significant. We have increased AIDS funding, research, and educational outreach. We made history when the first-ever briefing for openly gay and lesbian elected officials was held last year. We have also opened the door for qualified gays and lesbians to receive top security clearances. Additionally, we have made significant advancements in lesbian access to the federal public health department. I pledge to you that I will continue striving for greater education and compassion, working not simply to tolerate our differences, but to celebrate them.

As a nation committed to the ideals of equality, diversity, and excellence, we must never give up the struggle to provide all of our citizens with the opportunity to reach their full potential and to make their own unique contributions to our world. This century bears witness to many important advances we've made toward building such a society. But much work remains to be done. While there is still frustration and misunderstanding in America today about issues affecting the lives of gays and lesbians, all of us must continue working to heighten public awareness and inclusiveness. I firmly believe that by working together, we can make our national community a better place for all Americans.

Best wishes for a successful and memorable celebration.

Bill Clinton

RM: I see him as a middle-aged, overweight, very shy man. The man is incredibly timid in personal settings because then he's not Speaker of the House. I don't see him as the leading force behind the moralists in the Republican Party.

SG: Newt Gringrich is an intellectual visionary with a right wing power base. All the conflicts that this represents is what the man deals with on a daily basis.

RM: He's so psychologically inept that he doesn't understand the difference between homosexuality and alcoholism.

SG: When the intellectual side of Newt comes out, I can almost guarantee you that within two weeks, he'll take a backstep. The conservative political community will have gotten to him. Left to his own devices, he would be a libertarian.

RM: He would have the flexibility to do a whole lot more if he didn't have to babysit a small minority of loud, illiterates.

WL: Bob Dole? Has he a chance?

RM: I heard in the gym the other day that it'd be Bob Dole and Sam Nunn in '96, and I thought what a crazy combination.

SG: No one should criticize me for being a Republican who belongs to the Party of Sam Nunn.

If the election were held today, Bill Clinton would obviously win. But, a campaign is an eternity. For Dole to succeed, he has to find a way to appeal to a much broader base than he has.

I think leaving the Senate was a good step. It breaks the traditional mold. I anticipate the his V.P. will also break the traditional mold.

Interestingly enough, Bob Dole would have a lot better chance if the Republicans didn't control Congress. I am convinced the American people do not want one party governing everything, anymore, period.

WL: Running mate? Any insights?

SG: I don't think anything has changed. If they can convince Colin Powell to be Dole's running mate, it's a done deal for all the right reasons. It is historical, it is quality. He is the

one candidate people across the political spectrum will support.

WL: Is there a political future in your lives?

SG: The answer is that I think that the political process is so bogged down in sound bites, that there's no substance in it.

RM: As far as the Gay community is concerned, our battles will be won in the courts. Maybe Congress isn't the place to be to be the most productive anymore.

The partisan bickering overwhelms the prospect for substantive change.

SG: Government has become so polarized that it's almost paralyzed. I can be more productive elsewhere.

ARCW AIDS Care Facility Renovated to Become Handicap Accessible

Milwaukee—The Wisconsin House, a local residence for 30 men and women with AIDS operated by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), has completed a renovation project which made the building completely handicap accessible. ARCW received government grants from both the city and the county totalling \$126,500 and a grant of \$35,000 from the Milwaukee Foundation to help cover the cost of the work.

The Wisconsin House, created in 1993 from a former convent, as reported in Wisconsin Light at the time, is a unique facility offering much-needed safe housing and food to individuals affected by HIV and AIDS. The cheerful, comfortable facility, provides private bedrooms for each person, which they can decorate with their own things if they wish.

There is a commodious, shared kitchen and common areas, including a recreation room and living room, each filled with artwork and numerous plants.

Two ARCW staff members, who supervise Wisconsin House 16 hours each day, have daily contact with each resident to evaluate their health and to help to meet their needs.

ARCW hosts support groups at Wisconsin House and residents can plan recreational outings and activities. Volunteers help to prepare meals, complete housekeeping chores and yard work and other emotional support for the residents. ARCW-staff members are always available for emergencies.

Those who live at Wisconsin House, which is located in a residential area, enjoy warm contact with those who live nearby. Neighbors send in baked goods, invite those who are able to do so to come to dinner, and visit often, residents say.

In 1995, Wisconsin House provided almost 8,000 overnights for women and men with HIV disease. Residents of Wisconsin House pay a small percentage of their income, but never more than \$300 per month, for room and board.

As the disease progresses in HIV infected people, some become weaker or confined to a wheelchair and have difficulty climbing the stairs to enter a building and moving between floors.

Renovation included the installation of an elevator, handrails in the hallways, wheelchair accessible bathrooms and an exterior ramp. The modifications comply with the

Americans with Disabilities Act.

"I'm happy that we were able to complete the renovations to make Wisconsin House entirely handicap accessible," said Monica Pope, ARCW Director of Housing Programs. "We are pleased to now offer all of our clients an opportunity to make use of such an excellent facility."

ARCW also runs Milwaukee House for clients with families who need temporary housing. This facility has remained at full occupancy since it opened in 1993.

Milwaukee House, a two unit facility, aims to keep families intact, safe, stable and healthy by providing affordable transitional housing.

Each 3 bedroom unit is furnished and has a fully equipped kitchen where families can prepare meals. Families stay at Milwaukee House until they are able to find permanent housing and have a steady source of income. During that time, ARCW case managers help residents get the services they need to stabilize the family.

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Editorial

MAP and ACT UP: A Stand on Principle

We were as enthusiastic about PrideFest as it was possible to be. We fully shared everyone's pride and pleasure at the move to the Henry W Maier Festival Park (Summerfest grounds), but we would have been willing to give it up.

In the last minute upheaval over whether condoms could be distributed on the Summerfest grounds at PrideFest, we shared with the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) and ACT UP the position that condoms and safer sex materials had to be available and distributed at PrideFest come what may.

We shared their position that to even think of holding a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender event like PrideFest and not have condoms and safer sex literature in distribution, is inconceivable, cruel and uncaring—and out of touch with reality.

If they can hand out condoms in People's China, why not at Wisconsin's PrideFest? Certainly it would have been a harsh price to pay if the distribution of condoms had resulted in PrideFest not being held on the Summerfest grounds—or closed down on the spot, as was threatened. But harsh as that price would have been, we believe that it would have to have been paid—and, we believe, have been cheap at the price.

In this day of AIDS, condoms and knowledge of safer sex is quite literally a matter of life and death. No festival is worth the price of risking one life. Rather than have that happen, it would have been better that PrideFest have been held out on the street.

We do not believe that this is an exaggeration. Condoms and safer sex knowledge can prevent the spread of HIV. HIV leads to AIDS and AIDS leads to death. There is no cure in sight.

We heartily commend the Milwaukee AIDS Project for standing on principle. Part of their mission is to do anything and everything that they possibly can prevent the spread of HIV. By their stand, they upheld that.

We also heartily commend ACT UP for the stand that they took. Their reason for being is the struggle against AIDS. For them not to have taken the stand that they did, would have meant they were betraying their highest ideals.

Both MAP and ACT UP stood on principle. They were loyal to their ideals of helping save lives. By taking the stand that they did, they served our community well. We applaud them for that and we are proud to have been able to stand beside them.

Where Were They?

After thanks is given to all the hard-working people who made PrideFest '96 possible; to the sponsors; to the Summerfest Board for standing up to volumes of vitriolic criticism for renting the grounds in the first place, what we want to know was where were the rest?

On Saturday morning, June 8th, some 50 or so religious extremists stood red-eyed, dripping hatred in the rain. Kluxers without the hoods, they forced decent people to walk a gamut of evil signs and thrust out hands, trying to shove their brand of religion down people's throats. In the process, they caused fear and made many feel less than who they are.

We were under some impression that one of the cardinal beliefs of most, if not all faiths, was the dignity of human beings. We believed that love and courage were at the core of faith.

Those protesters called themselves "Christians." Okay, so where were the "other Christians," those who believe in dignity, those who believe that the essence of God is love?

There's an absence of political leadership in this state and nation. Few there are who doubt that. There's also a sad lack of religious leadership as well, it seems.

These religious extremists with their hate speech cause death. They destroy Gay teens, they ruin AIDS prevention (It's God's punishment, etc.).

Catholics, Protestants, Jews, people of faith, where were they? And where have their protests been since?

The Cream City Foundation

On of the organizations in our community that doesn't toot its own horn enough is the Cream City Foundation (CCF). As was pointed out in the last issue of the paper, each year, the Foundation gives thousands and thousands of dollars to worthwhile community projects.

A good example is PrideFest. CCF has always been a major sponsor of PrideFest. This year was no exception. The Foundation's help has been immeasurable and has done tremendous good.

Someone said one time, "Well, when all else fails, we can always count on the Foundation." Okay. That's true. But they can only help the community if the community helps them.

When you're making out your will, remember the Foundation.

When the Foundation holds its annual telethon, give as generously as you can.

When you're asked to give at work, through ACHOICE or some other program, remember to target your giving to the Foundation.

Do this knowing that your money stays here to help this community. Give as much—and as often—as you can.

Let Pride not be a thing of a weekend in June, but something you do all year through.

On ACT UP and Tanqueray

As the scope of AIDS widens and the burdens it brings grow greater by the year, AIDS Service Organizations (ASO) struggle to keep up. Time was when AIDS was confined almost completely to the Gay male community, but no more. The disease has spread into other populations, women and minorities to name two.

Time was, too, when relatively small fundraisers were enough, but that hasn't been true for awhile and it won't be true again. The costs involved in prevention efforts, research, housing, care, paid staff, help purchasing badly needed drugs, equipment, and a great deal else run into the millions—and millions.

Fundraisers are still important, very much so, but few ASOs could survive on them alone. This is why government and corporate dollars—and the efforts it takes to get them—is so important.

There are some corporations, like Miller Brewery, which are helping, here in Wisconsin and nationwide. (We are not a Donatist in this. We don't care what the motivation is. People are being helped. That's all that matters.)

That is what is puzzling about Tanqueray. Are they not big enough to spread their help around? Why should they ignore us in Wisconsin? Would the Twin Cities and Chicago get less because we get some needed help too? Why can Miller help all over the country, and Tanqueray cannot?

We believe that as governments—local, state, and federal—must be lobbied—often very forcefully—Tanqueray must be as well. This is why we support ACT UP Milwaukee is its efforts to get Tanqueray to be a good citizen of Wisconsin. They do business here. Why can't they help here?

Editor's Note

The Weekend That Was

There is, I think, no doubt about it. PrideFest '96 was a success. Not a smashing success, the weather prevented that, but one of which we can all feel proud.

For example, PrideFest may not have attracted the expected numbers of people, but nearly 10,000 over-all is certainly a respectable number, especially considering that someone had to be a cross between the Ancient Mariner and Nannook of the North to attend.

PrideFest certainly outdid River Splash. On Saturday a friend wandered down Water Street and saw a vendor at his booth. He was

standing there playing Solitaire. There was, the vendor said, nothing much else to do.

On Sunday, Channel 4 News reported that at about 3:00 p.m., there were only 25 people at the gazebo in Marquette Park.

The reason for PrideFest's numbers, I think, was that it was an event people really wanted to attend. They were there to see and be seen, to be entertained, to eat, to generally have a good time. But there was more.

People attended PrideFest because they needed to be there, needed to be among their own, needed to feel good about themselves.

Out and about on Saturday night, I heard

people say how great it was to see the Rainbow Flags flying proudly in the wind. I know what they meant. Coming down Chicago Street, seeing the semicircle of Rainbow Flags, sent a shiver down my spine. They were beautiful. Others saw that too.

So, while the Twin Cities claim to have the biggest Pride Celebration in the Midwest, while New York and San Francisco sniff and say there's really nothing of consequence between the river and the bay, here in Wisconsin, we can be proud, damned proud.

We should thank all those who labored mightily to bring the Festival off. They done good.

A Few Suggestions

Undoubtedly, the Pride Committee is going through its own rigorous dissection of the event. What was good, what was not, what should be changed, what should be left as it was. To that very necessary dialogue, may I add a few suggestions.

- Press releases to the media, both alternative and mainstream, should and must improve. Quite frankly, this year media arrangements were pathetic. Press releases should be on-time and complete. No more 3 sentence blurbs

PLEASE SEE PRIDEFEST - PAGE 30

Letters

Open Letter to PrideFest

On behalf of the many parents, families and friends who have been a part of PFLAG-Milwaukee since its inception in 1989, I would like to thank the PrideFest Committee for the Community Service Award presented at PrideFest 1996.

We exist because you exist and there are cultural negatives that exist. PFLAG-Milwaukee began opening its own closet door a year ago at PrideFest '95. Since then the door has opened wider and more parents have walked through that door.

When one is raised with conflicting messages, the negative ones tend to wield the greater impact and control of how we relate and express ourselves. The fear of "What will they think?" or "What will happen?" has controlled many aspects of our lives for many years.

But we can personally attest to the power that comes from openness, trust, honesty, and love—they are the true forces of empowerment. And it is most liberating to live each day with that kind of power as the motivating force.

So we as parents and friends will continue to support, to speak out, to educate, to advocate for you and your rights—until such a time as PFLAG will no longer need to exist.

Elna Hickson
PFLAG-Milwaukee

PrideFest Needs to Explain

TO THE EDITOR:

Now that PrideFest 1996 is over, I hope the PrideFest Board will explain clearly why it saw fit to remove co-director Bill Meunier from his responsibilities seven weeks before the festival he has devoted years of his life to building took place.

I hope the Board will put its reasons in writing for publication in your paper.

I have worked for the festival as stage manager since the festival's second year in Cathedral Square until this year when I regretfully resigned to protest Bill's removal.

I know from the experience of working closely with him just what Bill has done for our festival. I also know that he is a man of honesty and integrity. There is no doubt in my mind that his clarity of vision and unbelievably hard work are the main reasons that the festival has grown as it has.

Bringing the festival to the Summerfest grounds, making it more fun and more inclusive than ever, but without losing its profoundly serious purpose, has been Bill's dream for year, a dream he has worked like a madman to realize. To tear that from him seven weeks before the event, as the PrideFest Board did, was cruel and completely unnecessary, as far as I can see.

It smells of power grabbing and personal vendettas that are irrelevant to our festival.

The festival is too important to be tarnished by this kind of ugliness. I want to be able to feel proud of PrideFest again. I hope the Board will explain its actions in regard to Bill in all honesty, so that the community can judge whether these actions were fair and justified, and whether the festival was truly better for taking them.

Personally, I don't believe their arguments will withstand even mild scrutiny, and I certainly don't believe that our festival is better for what they did.

John Schneider
Milwaukee

Clinton/Dole

TO THE EDITOR:

Notwithstanding "cool headed rhetoric" about voting for Clinton to avoid another conservative appointment to the Supreme Court, and about Clinton doing more than any other President for gay issues, the so called gay vote, left and right, would be better served by staying home or voting third party in 1996, for the bigger message it would send to politicians about family and individual values and human dignity.

If the President or the Dole/Gingrich ilk has evidence that gay marriages are a real threat to our families, then they are obligated to present it, instead of pandering to the bigotry and unfairness of the right. The choice in 1996 appears to be between two followers, rather than between leaders. Unfortunately, Dole and Clinton are missing an opportunity to foster and reward responsible loving gay relationships for the sake of political positioning, distancing, and posturing, based upon stereotype and myth rather than upon fact.

However, if you believe the so-called gay community should be made the Sister Soldier of 1996 by Clinton, Inc., over same sex marriages, then perhaps you will find William Jefferson Clinton the cats paw in 1996. Clinton will win without the gay vote, so why not take the opportunity to tell politicians that family values and human dignity are not political chips to be toyed with in America. Hum?

Rand Knox
San Rafael, CA

Deadlines

July 4th Issue

(distributed July 2nd)

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Ads - June 29th

July 18th Issue

Articles—July 12th

Ads—July 16th

Give the People Light and they
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The Wisconsin Light



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A Note from the Publisher's Desk Put Politics Aside And Get the Stadium Built

By Jerry Johnson

The Milwaukee Brewers are a major asset for Milwaukee and for Wisconsin. They bring millions of dollars into the local economy and provide our state with a big league image.

Brewer players are involved in a variety of social causes. Milwaukee AIDS Project Executive Director, Doug Nelson, says that the fund raisers headed by Brewer owner, Bud Selig, his wife, and his players have raised over \$1,500,000 since 1991 alone. "They've helped us enormously in the fight against AIDS."

Nelson's figures don't even include the thousands that will be raised at MAP's annual golf outing in September. The outing will include every member of the Brewers' team. Nelson says "We can't afford to lose the Brewers."

Nelson is absolutely correct. In a day and age when so many young people need heroes, the Milwaukee Brewers have provided a shining example of caring not only in the fight against AIDS but in other worthwhile causes as well.

For these reasons and more we are angry over the Stadium Board's rejection of the Miller Park financing package. We are especially outraged over the lack of leadership shown by Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist and the backtracking by Governor Tommy Thompson on the issue of a new Brewer Stadium.

After shepherding enabling legislation through the State Legislature, Thompson has all but abandoned the team. His opposition to an economically sound financing package put together by Milwaukee's Business community resulted in four of his Stadium Board appointees voting to kill that package.

Wisconsin United Methodists Vote to Become a Reconciling Conference

By Kristin Knudson Harris

Madison—The text was short, but the impact will be felt throughout the church as Wisconsin United Methodists go on record as being a Reconciling Conference.

With a brief reminder that we were only voting on the "Therefore be it resolved" section of the brief resolution, the Annual Conference resolved that it "declare itself to be a Reconciling Conference, welcoming all people into its churches, by a large majority, following an effort to refer the resolution to the Board of Church and Society.

"For the past 15 years we have done a very good job of not making a decision on this issue," said the Rev. Carly Kuntz during the debate. "For once, we need to say where we are—whatever the vote—where we are right now."

Milwaukee AIDS Project to Host African-American Forum

Milwaukee—The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) will host an African American Community Forum on Saturday, June 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the DNR building, 2300 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. The purpose of the forum is to allow members of the African American community a formal opportunity to provide input and feedback on MAP's programs and services.

"There is such a high incidence of HIV infection within the African American community that a check in with community members is an invaluable tool to MAP in the shaping of our programs," said Monica Pope, co-organizer of the forum and MAP's Director of Housing Services. "Our purpose is to hear what people have to say about the agency, about HIV and AIDS, and to learn from the information that is shared."

The African American Community Forum is the second of three scheduled forums. The first, involving the Gay and Lesbian community, occurred last November. A third forum, for the Hispanic/Latino community, will be scheduled for later this year.

The forum will include informational presentations about HIV and AIDS and MAP programs and services, and will include a question and answer session with MAP staff.

"As a multicultural agency, MAP is committed to direct, open communication with the communities we are serving," said Doug Nelson, AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW) Executive Director. "The devastation of HIV and AIDS is widespread and affects all segments of our community. We must be able to identify community needs and shape our programs accordingly." ▽

By coming down firmly on both sides of the fence, Thompson has succeeded in alienating both supporters and opponents of Miller Park.

Even more inexplicable are the actions (or lack of action) by Milwaukee's Mayor John Norquist. One Stadium Board member, Elaine Kraut, said that she refused to vote for the package because the Mayor of the city with the most gain from its passage refused to support it.

It's no secret that Norquist would prefer a Downtown site for Miller Park. It's also no secret that such a site does not now exist. Does anyone remember the fight over the Bradley Center site?

Does the Mayor really think the Brewers can afford to stand by and lose more money in an outdated facility while court battles, environmental soil and noise tests etc. carry on for three or four more years of delays?

As Mayor of Milwaukee, Norquist stands to gain the most by keeping the Brewers here. His lack of leadership on the Stadium issue threatens to rupture the strong partnership he has developed with Milwaukee's business community.

Nothing said by their spokespersons will excuse the conduct of Norquist and Thompson on this issue. If the Brewers leave Wisconsin (as now appears likely), a more than substantial heap of blame can be laid directly at their door steps.

It's time they both did the job they were elected to do, that is represent the best interests of the people who put them in office the voters. One of those voters brought a sign to County Stadium. We hardily agree with his sentiments. His sign read "Norquist: Two strikes, no balls."

"We need to ask ourselves, 'Do we want to be open, in the name of Christ, to all?'" the Rev. Harvey B. Delery challenged.

Within United Methodism, Wisconsin joins only four other Annual Conferences that have taken a stand as being Reconciling Conferences: New York; California-Nevada; Northern Illinois; and the Troy Conference. Pending this year are votes to be taken by the Desert Southwest and the New England Annual Conferences at their sessions.

As the vote was being taken, questions were raised regarding the "Transforming Congregation/Conference program, a program which, according to board member Rev. Tom Lambrecht, is one in which the church is open to all, but seeks to offer the transforming power of Christ to Gay men, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgenders.

Becoming a Reconciling Congregation or Conference is largely a symbolic act which doesn't affect Conference polity, but puts the Conference on record as being welcoming to Gay men, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgenders. It also provides an opportunity for a representative from Wisconsin to serve on the board of the Reconciling Congregation program.

The vote reflects the spirit of a statement signed by seven denominational leaders from throughout Wisconsin.

The statement signed by Rev. R. Burke Johnson, President of the Western District, Moravian Church; Rev. Harold H. Murry, Executive Presbyter, John Knox Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA); the Right Rev. Roger J. White, Bishop, Diocese of Milwaukee, Episcopal Church; Rev. Frederick R. Trost, President, Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ; Rev. Jon Enslin, Bishop, South Central Synod of Wisconsin, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Rev. George Daniels, Executive Minister, American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin; and Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader.

Bishop Rader stated that they "urge our congregations to extend a caring welcome to Gay and Lesbian persons and their families and to offer themselves as safe places for those who are persecuted or harassed in our society."

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Jerry Johnson

The Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project (SEWAP) held its annual cruise on Lake Geneva on Saturday June 15. Enjoy the scenery are (l to r) Stu Rau, SEWAP representative on the ARCW Board of Directors, Doug Nelson, Executive Director, and Michael Obinger, Director of SEWAP. The cruise raised thousands of dollars for the fight against AIDS.

In an Election Year, Clinton Takes Steps to Court the Gay Community

San Francisco— Hundreds of Gay rights demonstrators, many waving signs and shouting slogans, gathered near the home of Sen. Dianne Feinstein on Sunday night, June 9th, to protest President Clinton's opposition to same-sex marriages.

On a brief visit to San Francisco, Clinton was at the Democratic senator's home to attend a private fund-raiser after an environmental speech at the Presidio.

Police barricades kept protesters across the street from Feinstein's residence in the ritzy Presidio Heights neighborhood. The crowd of about 200 was loud but not unruly and there were no reports of arrests.

Clinton spent about 2 1/2 hours at the senator's home and then flew to San Diego.

Among the protest signs spotted earlier were: "Human beings are not Political Currency" and "You Have Betrayed Us Clinton."

Oakland resident Arwyn Moore said she attends few protests but was outraged when Clinton made his announcement.

"It doesn't make sense," said Moore, 23. "He's trying to say he supports equal rights for Gays... (But) we can't get married. You can't go halfway with equal rights."

The President and his advisors are well aware, sources in Washington say, that his decision to sign the "Defense of Marriage

Act (DOMA) if passed, has angered many of his Gay supporters. He has taken steps to try and mend fences.

For example, Clinton granted an interview to *The Advocate*, thus becoming the only President to talk with any Lesbian or Gay publication. The interview appears in the most recent issue.

In the lengthy interview, conducted by *The Advocate's* Washington correspondent, J. Jennings Moss, Clinton says, "I am proud that my administration has more openly Gay and Lesbian individuals serving in appointed positions than any previous administration . . ."

"My administration," Clinton points out, "has taken more steps than any previous in bringing the Gay and Lesbian communities to the table."

The President lists among his accomplishments, increased funding for AIDS, and his endorsement of a Gay and Lesbian civil rights bill.

Over and over again in the interview, Clinton speaks of his strong belief in equal rights for all. "God's love is extended to all people," the President said. He remains, however, against same-sex marriage.

"I remain opposed to same-sex marriage. I believe that marriage is an institution for the union of a man and a woman," the President says.

Why now? Moss, as quoted in an article by Jeff Yarbrough, *The Advocate's* Editor in Chief, says the answer is to try and bring Gays home to the Democratic fold.

"He incited passion in the community during his last election," Moss is quoted as saying, "and he thinks this interview will do that for him again."

Moss said that the President's intent was to convey the message that, "Look at my overall record. I'm still here for you."

Clinton is reaching out to the Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay community in other ways as well.

For example, for the first time since it began, Wisconsin's PrideFest was the recipient of a letter of greeting from Clinton. The letter was read to those attending PrideFest '96 on Sunday, June 9, by State Rep. Tammy Baldwin, and is reprinted elsewhere in this issue.

The original letter will be placed in the PrideFest office, *Wisconsin Light* was told.

SEWAP's Twilight Cocktail Cruise is a Smashing Success

Milwaukee—The Sixth Annual Cruise on Lake Geneva sponsored as a benefit by the Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project (SEWAP), held on June 15th, by any definition, was a success.

The weather was perfect, warm, with bright sun. Lake Geneva, located in Walworth County in the southeastern part of the state, was fairly placid—calm by most accounts.

Approximately 150 people set sail at 5:30 for a three hour tour.

Along the banks of the lake, set back on beautifully manicured grounds, stand the stately mansions of Chicago millionaires built during the Gilded Age when ostentation was a virtue, not a vice.

Those on the cruise saw the Wrigley mansion (chewing gum fame), a regal residence where the Mrs. Potter Palmer would have fit right in.

As luck-would have it, the Wrigley's had just launched their yacht. Built in 1910, it is a mahogany beauty that is reminiscent of the Czar's "Northstar."

One person was heard to comment, "Shows what a little chewing gum can get you."

As was seen, however, the possession of money does not guarantee taste. More than one of those houses along the lake—the more modern ones at least—looked like the materials had been bought at Neiman Marcus, while the design had been purchased at Target.

Those on the cruise were feted with lavish buffets from which they could help themselves, while listening to the music of Jerry Grillo and company, softly performed, commensurate with the placidity of the day. Grillo is one of Milwaukee's most popular musicians.

In addition to the food, the music and the splendid view, there were raffle prizes to be won. All proceeds went to benefit SEWAP's work helping people with HIV/AIDS. Some \$18,000 was said to have been raised.

SEWAP is a service agency of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

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What a Weekend It Was, a Family Affair; A Few Observations on PrideFest 96

By Terry Boughner

"What month is this?" I heard someone ask.

"January," her partner replied, sinking deeper into her thick, winter coat.

The problem with that was that it wasn't January at all. It was the 7th of June. Yet, as someone else joked, the glacier had been sighted forming just to the north, they might have been excused. It was cold, core cold, as one observer described it. A bitter wind blew, howling in off Lake Michigan, flinging sleet-like rain into everybody's face.

This was the inauspicious beginning of PrideFest 96 held for the first time on Milwaukee's the Henry W. Maier Festival grounds. Yet, I heard more than one person say, "Hey, it's raining on all the church festivals too." A response, I guess, to the Right Wing's saying that the weather was a sign of God's disapproval of PrideFest.

Friday, June 7

Ribbon Cutting

Some 75 to 100 people gathered for the 6:00 p.m. opening ceremonies in the Rainbow Café tent, sponsored by Milwaukee's Shepherd Express newspaper. Among the dignitaries was Milwaukee County Executive, Tom Ament, Milwaukee Chief of Police Phillip Areola and his wife, and Dr. Karen Lamb, wife of the late Mayor Henry W. Maier for whom the grounds are named.

With the wind so strong that it threatened to take the tent off its moorings, Ament proclaimed June 7, 8 and 9, Pride Weekend in Milwaukee County.

Chief of Police Areola greeted the crowd warmly, introduced his wife, and with a nod to the blustering weather, spoke of the importance of the sun shining inside.

I sat, shivering, buried in a coat I'd borrowed from a friend, and wondered at the changes that had come about. Here was the Chief of Police greeting PrideFest, while only a little over 10 years ago, Chief Brier, petty tyrant that he was, would have raided the event and arrested us all.

Dr. Lamb, PrideFest's first Grand Marshal, spoke movingly of her husband's founding of Milwaukee's festivals. PrideFest at the Maier Festival grounds, she said, would have fulfilled his dream of a diversity of festivals.

The ribbon cutting ceremony followed. The ribbon was pink—what else—with black lettering saying this was PrideFest '96, a nice touch, I thought. It was a nice touch, too, that anyone who wanted could take a little snippet as a souvenir.

After that, Jerry asked me what I was going to do? I told him that I was going someplace, anyplace, to get warm.

Before I left, however, I did stay long enough to hear the Singationals. I love their rendition of "Jose Quervo." To my mind, they are really great. I mean that. I never give compliments lightly.

Saturday, June 8

On Saturday morning, some 40-50 Right Wing Religionists showed up at the Summerfest grounds gate. Their appearance was not unexpected, and there they were, carrying their hate signs and trying to ram their particular brand of religion down everyone's throat.

I don't want to give them too much press. They don't deserve that. But one man was arrested when he stood by the ticket booth and tried to shove tracts in people's hands. Another of them was carted off of the grounds itself.

The problem they created was that going through them was intimidating for some.

For example, that afternoon, I met a couple who said they were Bisexual. The woman had been fearful because she'd run into Right Wing protesters in front of an abortion clinic. She wanted me to thank Pride Co-Chair Bill Meunier, for going out and escorting them through the "gamut," as she called it.

Saturday had one thing going for it: it wasn't raining and the wind had died down. But the clouds glowered and it was still cold. On Friday, I'd worn a sweater and thin shirt, this time I figured that I knew better. I layered up five deep. Still, it wasn't enough.

I got to the grounds in the late afternoon and went wandering around. Overheard in passing:

"It's too cold. People have too much on."

"Wonder where the Mayor is?"

"Next time, I wear pants. The f**king wind blows right up my skirt." And the response was, "Yeah, but doesn't it feel good?"

"Quit complaining. This is summer in Wisconsin."

"Well, his mother died awhile back, which was near my birthday, and then he inherited her estate, so I moved in, which was before David got together with Bryan. That was after he broke up with Tom . . ."

On a T-shirt: "Save a horse, ride a cowboy."

One thing really impressed me as I walked through the crowd. That was all the different variety of people. There were African-Americans, Hispanics and Asians. There

were women and men, the old and the young.

People brought their children. Thank heavens, I thought. What a wonderful learning experience. At least the kids won't grow up with narrow minds.

The only sad note for me comes when I remember that I've been to every Pride celebration so far and always there are people not there who were there the year before.

I run into a young man I know. His name doesn't matter. "I am dying," he says, and before I can reply, he lashes out at the whole community. "They are to blame," he snaps. "Not me. I didn't cause this AIDS thing. You did!" He turns on his heel and walks away.

He is wrong. I know that. But when are they going to find a way to stop this damned disease?

There were people, I think as I watch him go, who did not want condoms handed out at PrideFest—and those who were willing to go along with that. Had that been allowed to happen and one person come down with HIV as a result, one could say that the person's life would have been on our hands.

I didn't see all of the many acts, and I didn't get to all the booths, not by far. But what I saw, I liked—and two acts, especially.

One was Ladybelle Bradley. Appearing as part of what the schedule called "The Saturday Night Gayla," Ladybelle was great.

The second was the Pageant Productions presentation. Maybe Ladybelle was a part of that, I'm not sure, but they put one a first class production with a patriotic theme that was polished, professional and, in a word, superb.

The fireworks, courtesy of Miller Brewery, really are great. Am I wrong or at one point do I see a Q formed in the sky? Perhaps it's only my imagination, but I hope it's not.

Hundreds and hundreds of people stand by the lakeside, ohhh, ahhh, and applaud. To the northwest, River Splash tries to compete with their own show, but I think it's hopeless. This night belongs to us.

When the last star has burst and its light is gone from the sky, it's off to the bars. "What would you like?" one bartender asks.

"To get warm," I tell him.

Every year, the Saturday night of PrideFest is the time to be in the bars. There's a special excitement there then, a kind of effervescence you can feel at no other time. It's like the holidays with the family all at home.

This year is no exception. The bars are packed with revelers. Some were at PrideFest, others were not, kept away by the weather. But whether there or not, everyone seems caught up in the magic—not too strong a word, I don't think—of the time.

"Happy PrideFest" or "Happy Pride." People greet each other this way, in much the same tone of voice one would use for the holidays.

"Were you there?" someone asks me. I tell her that I was. "How many were there?" I tell her Jerry estimates 4-5,000. "That's great! I really wanted to go. I was going to go, but the weather, you know? Next year I'm going to be there if I have to crawl."

Sunday, June 9

The Parade

More clouds, more rain, more cold. Add to my five layers of clothing, my thick winter coat.

The parade is scheduled to start at noon. Jerry and I get to the grounds at about 10:30 or so. He goes off to take pictures. I get in line for coffee. Forty-five minutes later—by my watch—I get a cup and go off to watch the line-up. It is only then, I think, that I begin to get "the goose bumps," as a friend of mine says.

Rainbow flags are everywhere, their colors bright despite the lack of sun. The 10% float goes slowly by, playing "Born Free." I think I am about to cry.

I see Curt Peck of In Between yank a tarpaulin from his bar's float. In the process,

PRIDEFEST '96

AWARDS

Marching Unit

1st —ROTC-Chicago

2nd —ARCW

3rd —Riverwest Rainbow Association

Float

1st —In Between

2nd —Walkers Point Café

3rd —MCC

Car

1st —M&M Club

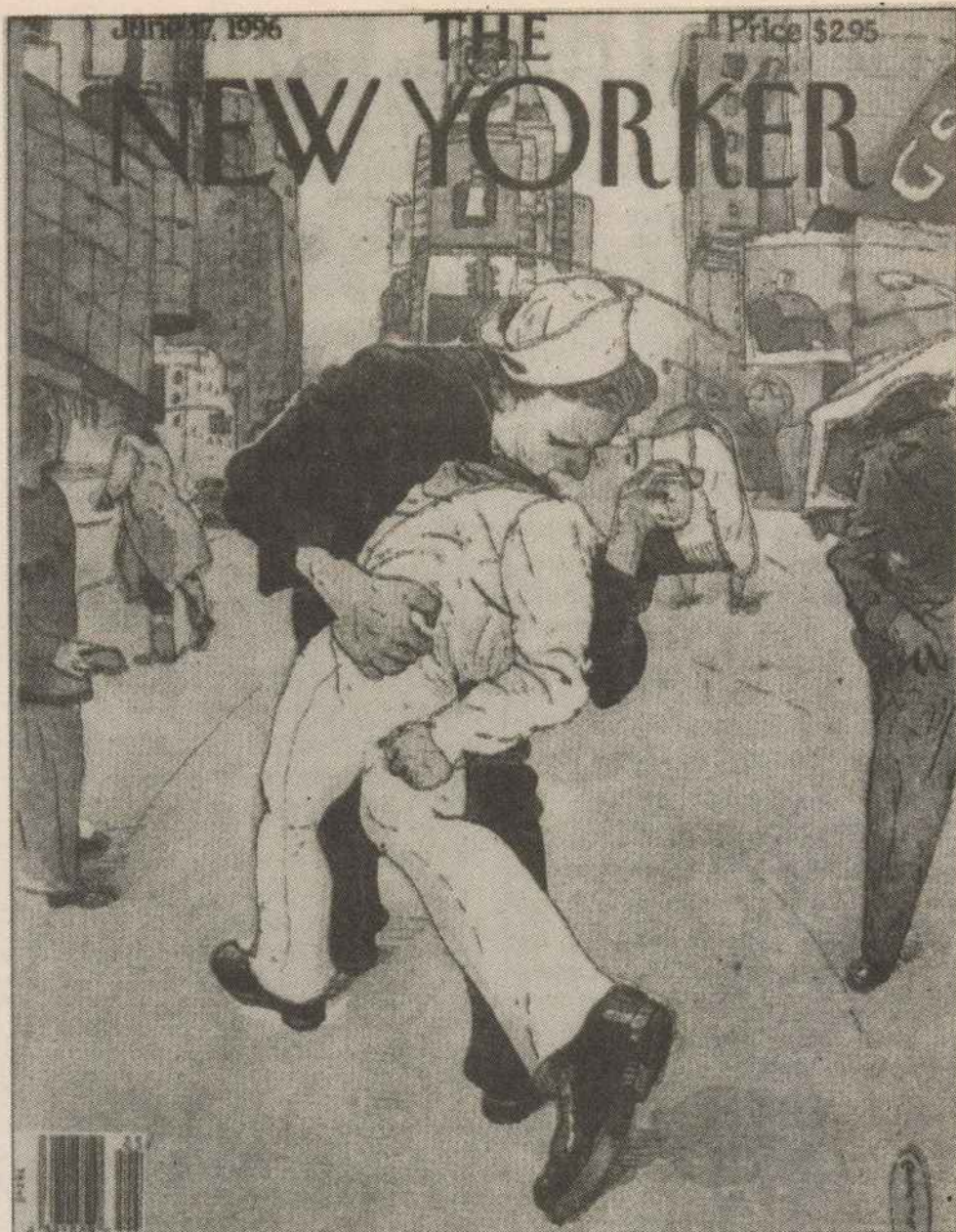
2nd —Shoreline

3rd —La Cage

Special Creativity Award

Possum Queen Committee

Source: Pride Parade Coordinators



The cover of the June 17 New Yorker magazine shows two sailors kissing in a take off on the famous Life magazine photo showing a straight couple kissing during the V-J Day celebration at New York's Times Square.

some of the paint comes off and his hands and pants take on a rainbow look.

Up a little further, I stop to look at a drill team from Chicago perform. Their routine is perfect, from what I can see, and the smiles on their faces, radiant.

I intended to go to the head of march, but the parade gets started before I can get there, so I go back to the main gate to watch it come in.

Down Chicago Street it comes, led by a lone piper playing "The Campbells are Coming. The martial sounds of that Scots anthem are made to stir the soul.

Later, I ask one of the parade directors who the piper is. He tells me no one knows, that he just appears every year, pipes the parade along its route and then is gone. I remind myself to write a piece of fiction about that someday.

As usual, Alan Eslinger drives the car carrying the Grand Marshals, this year, Robert and Virginia Savrnoch. One thing is puzzling. Every other year, Alan has driven his classic white T-bird. Where is it?

Later he explains that the T-bird had an oil leak. He had it fixed. The mechanic assured him it was fixed. But just that morning when he went out to his garage to get it, he found a puddle of oil underneath it. His frustration is obvious.

The cars from the Great Lakes Classic car club parade slowly by. "My God, I remember when those things were new," Jim says and shakes his head.

The Dykes on Bikes go roaring by. Impressive, to say the least, as is the contingent from the Lesbian Avengers. It's great to see them both.

So too is ACT UP impressive, somberly so, reminding the crowd by their severe demeanor, of the seriousness of the battle that must be fought against AIDS.

Among the floats which caught my eye:

The M&M Club float. Before it came the guys dressed up like M&Ms. Along the side of the float is a banner reading, "Celebrating 20 years of Pride." This year marks the popular bar's 20th anniversary.

The Possum Queen float with its rainbow bedecked figure of a possum on the truck roof, is great. I love it.

Mama Roux's float goes gliding by, a bold and imaginative statement of Pride.

The ARCW float is big, and brave with rainbow colors, so bright that it almost hurts the eyes to look at them.

The Cream City Squares float looks pure southwest-country, as it should. And who is that hunk sitting astride a bale of straw?

Just Us outdid themselves. I wave to George Prentice from La Cage, but he doesn't see me.

This is the biggest Pride Parade ever, I am told, commensurate with coming to the Summerfest grounds. Rick and Sheldon, the Parade Directors, have, I think, done a wonderful job.

I think too, as I watch, huddled into my coat, of all the incredible diversity on display.

There are religious-themed floats and banners, a group of marchers from Bi-Definition, female impersonators in glittering costumes, leather people, old people, young people, women and men, children, African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, and a whole lot more.

We are a family. We bicker like a family, we argue, some of us get along, some of us do not. But, when it comes right down to it, we are family. This parade and the entire festival is living proof of that.

The "New Yorker" Puts a Gay Spin On a Famous 'Life' Magazine Photo

New York, NY—The New Yorker is raising eyebrows again—with a cover showing two male sailors locked in a passionate kiss in Times Square.

The provocative sketch is a take-off of the famous Life magazine photograph by Alfred Eisenstaedt, who shot a euphoric World War II sailor kissing a nurse in the square on V-J Day.

The cover of the June 17 issue now on the newsstands, also appears to be a comment on the recent compromise under which Lesbians and Gay men can serve in the military only if they keep their sexual orientation private. The cover sketch by cartoonist Barry Blitt is titled "Don't Ask," and the policy is known informally as "don't ask, don't tell."

In recent years, the New Yorker has drawn debate by tackling current topics with the hip edge of its British-born editor, Tina Brown. Since she arrived from the celebrity-studded Vanity Fair four years ago, the New Yorker has taken on her in-your-face style.

A 1994 issue featured a Hasidic Jew embracing a black woman—an image that infuriated both some Blacks and some Jews. That cover not only broke the religious taboo forbidding an ultra-Orthodox Jewish man to touch a woman in public, but also pushed the race button.

Under Brown, the magazine has printed nude photos and four-letter words, unheard of in the history of the 71-year-old publication.

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Supreme Court Ruling Expected to Bolster Wide Range of Gay Rights Cases

New York — The victory in the Supreme Court abolishing Colorado's unconstitutional Amendment 2 "reverberates through Lambda's docket and will affect all cases involving discrimination against Lesbians and Gay men," said Beatrice Dohrn, Legal Director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in analyzing the potential impact of *Romer v. Evans*.

Lambda released a list of specific issues that exemplify potential applications of the Supreme Court's May 20 decision.

"*Romer* will be a powerful weapon in Lambda's legal arsenal on behalf of Lesbians, Gay men and people with HIV and AIDS," Dohrn said Friday. "Directly and indirectly, this week's 6-3 ruling works a profound change in the battle for civil rights by stating that the Constitution forbids singling out Lesbians and Gay men for discrimination."

Dohrn stressed, "When it comes to securing Lesbian and Gay civil rights, *Romer* is a very good start. Now we must go on to secure the legal protections that Amendment 2 sought to preempt."

Bowers v. Hardwick Blunted

Sodomy laws like Georgia's are still on the books, Dohrn said in addressing the 1986 *Bowers v. Hardwick* ruling that upheld the arrest of an Atlanta man in his bedroom where he was having sex with another man.

"Some of the worst impact of *Hardwick* will be blunted by the Court's clear statement that anti-Gay sentiment is not a permissible rationale for law. The Court greatly limited *Hardwick's* holding that 'moral disapproval of homosexuality' was sufficient to justify government action," said Dohrn, adding that for a decade, lower courts have cited that decision to justify a plethora of unrelated anti-Gay rulings.

Lambda Executive Director Kevin Cathcart commented on Justice Antonin Scalia's dissent in the case.

"Scalia's harsh and ugly words may have helped push the majority to six of the nine justices," Cathcart said. "His tone, from his use of the German term 'Kulturkampf' to the allegation that Gay people are disproportionately wealthy and influential, echoes what is plain in the content of the dissent: his opinion is on the extreme political right and outside of the mainstream of this country," Cathcart added, "We are celebrating signs that, on Gay equality, the center is with us."

Anti-Gay Ballot Initiatives

Other anti-Gay ballot initiative cases certainly will feel the effect of *Romer*. Most immediately, *Equality Foundation v. Cincinnati*, challenging an amendment banning any discrimination protection laws in Cincinnati for Lesbians, Gay men and Bisexuals, is awaiting a Supreme Court ruling on a certiorari petition. "Cincinnati's amendment is a clone of Colorado's, and we expect the Court to send it, dead on arrival, to the Sixth Circuit," said Patricia Logue, managing attorney for Lambda's Midwest Regional Office and co-counsel on the case along with Lambda's Suzanne Goldberg, the ACLU of Ohio, and attorneys Alphonse A. Gerhardstein and Richard Cordray.

Morris v. Hill challenges a ban by Florida's Alachua County that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation. Despite the text's differences from Colorado's Amendment 2, Florida courts are likely to recognize this measure as unconstitutional under *Romer* for intending to limit the political rights of Gay people.

AIDS-Related Discrimination

Many federal state and local government agencies continue to treat HIV disease differently than other disabilities in employment and program eligibility criteria. "Much discrimination against people with HIV has homophobia at its root, and the reasons offered to justify limiting or excluding the participation of people with HIV in government jobs and programs, such as the military and the Job Corps, have been every bit as irrational and unsupported as proffered bases to exclude Gay men and Lesbians," said Catherine Hanssens, director of Lambda's AIDS Project.

"Unsupportable assumptions about the health and safety risks that people with HIV pose in the workplace and in places of public accommodation could be prohibited under the *Romer* majority's equal protection-rational basis analysis," Hanssens added.

Likewise, *Romer* further strengthens arguments against revived efforts in the House of Representatives to include a provision in the next Defense Authorization Bill which would require the discharge of people with HIV as well as of Gay men and Lesbians.

Military Discrimination

Able v. U.S. challenges the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on Gay service members, arguing the ban is based solely on the government's desire to accommodate the dislike and discomfort of those who do not want to serve with Lesbians and Gay men. *Romer* firmly rejects laws in which "the disadvantage imposed is born of animosity toward the class of persons affected." Said

Dohrn, co-counsel with the ACLU in the case pending in the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals, "Our challenge now is to persuade the courts examining the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that it is based entirely on prejudice and personal discomfort toward Gay people."

Marriage Rights

Romer states that "Laws singling out a certain class of citizens for disfavored legal status or general hardships" cannot survive even minimal equal protection scrutiny. Right now, legislation is pending before Congress that would create two classes of lawful marriage, with the federal government withholding benefits from marriages of Gay people that any state lawfully recognizes. "This anti-Gay effort to create two classes of lawful marriage is precisely a 'classification of persons undertaken for its own sake,'" said Evan Wolfson, Lambda senior staff attorney and director of Lambda Marriage Project. "We hope *Romer* will help in our efforts to demonstrate this."

Youth and Schools

Romer also will support Lambda's ongoing work on youth issues. For example, in *Nabozny v. Podlesny*, the first case in the country to challenge anti-Gay violence in schools, the principal of the school responded to Jamie Nabozny's four-year ordeal by saying Nabozny "should expect such abuse if he's Gay." David Buckel, Lambda staff attorney and co-counsel with Logue on the case, said, "With that response, the principal was expressing the very societal prejudice that *Romer* says cannot be the basis for treating Gay people differently." The 7th Circuit Court of Appeals is expected in coming months to rule on Lambda's arguments in the case.

The Utah Legislature's attempt to ban student clubs, after students formed a group to respond to anti-Gay beatings, is likely to be challenged by Lambda and other legal organizations. Said Jon Davidson, Lambda's supervising attorney for its Western Regional Office, "*Romer* hits home in Utah, where the legislature made a law based on dislike of a Gay-identified group — and the targeted group was a bunch of well-meaning high school kids trying to stop beatings that reflect that kind of dislike."

"Sodomy" Law Challenges

Campbell v. Sundquist, a challenge to Tennessee's "Homosexual Practices Act," currently before the Tennessee Supreme Court, singles out and imposes criminal penalties on Gay people for engaging in particular sexual acts. "*Romer* should help undermine Tennessee's defense of this law and aid challenges to other 'sodomy' prohibitions, particularly in the six states that prohibit only same-sex sexual conduct," said Lambda Staff Attorney Suzanne Goldberg.

Custody and Adoption

Subjective decisions of judges cloaked as objective assessments of what is in a child's best interest have made bias and prejudice against Lesbians and Gay men especially difficult to root out in this area. In *Schroeder v. Schroeder*, for example, a judge ignored evidence that two children were doing well in the care of their mother and her female partner and removed the children because of the possibility of "social condemnation" and "social comment."

"*Romer* reinforces arguments that government cannot empower private prejudice by letting it decide basic civil rights," said Logue, who represents the mother in the case, which is being appealed to the Appellate Court of Illinois for the Third District. V

Dykes To Watch Out For



Largest Ever Political and Cultural Gathering of Old Lesbians This Summer

Houston, TX—All Lesbians 60 and over are invited to an Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC) conference, August 15-18, 1996, at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. The event, with its theme: Examining Our Lives, Confronting Our Challenges, Celebrating Our Strengths, promises to be the largest ever gathering of old Lesbians, organizers say.

Representative of the hundreds of old Lesbians expected to attend are:

- Eunice Samuels, a 69-year-old African-American Lesbian activist and breast cancer survivor from Manhattan's East Village;
- Arden Eversmeyer, 64, and Charlotte Avery, 65, lifelong Lesbians and dedicated OLOC volunteers from Houston;
- Kore Mountain, 63, a long-time activist in the fields of sexual abuse, battered women and addictions from Ottawa, Canada.

The gathering is also expected to attract some of the leading figures in the old Lesbian community, including keynote speaker Barbara McDonald, internationally acclaimed co-author of *Look Me in the Eye*. She will set the tone for the conference with her commentary on ageism in our own communities and in the world.

Authors Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, whose sensible book entitled *Lesbian Women* eased coming out pains for countless women, will contribute a unique perspective to relationship issues. Martin and Lyon were

delegates at last year's White House Conference on Aging, and will share information on that important forum.

The Gathering planners, OLOC, and local community groups, are planning an all-ages, all-women's banquet and dance at the University Radisson Hotel on Friday, August 16th, featuring top notch entertainment by Lesbians over 60.

The registration fee of \$175 to \$200 includes registration, 3 nights lodging at the University dorm, and 3 meals daily, including the Friday night banquet. Scholarships and community housing are available. Vegetarian meal options will be provided.

The conference will be wheelchair accessible, fragrance-free and will have ASL interpreters. For brochure and registration form, send a SASE to: OLOC, P.O. Box 980422, Houston, TX 77098. For more information, call (602) 983-6462.

Rainbow Scarves

Among the many things that attracted my eye at this year's PrideFest, was a hand-knitted scarf done in the colors of the Rainbow Flag. Many people asked about it, including me, not only because it was cold, but because it was beautiful.

Unfortunately, the man who wore it could not remember the name of the woman who knitted it. He did, however, recall that she was a member of this year's Proud Crowd.

If you are the person who knitted that beautiful scarf, please contact me: Terry Boughner, here at *Wisconsin Light*. The number is (414) 372-2773 or write: 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

Twenty-Eight New AIDS Cases Reported in Wisconsin for May

Madison—Twenty-eight new cases of AIDS and 22 deaths from the disease were reported to the state in May, a state agency says.

The new figures reported Friday, June 7th, bring to 3,303 the number of confirmed AIDS cases reported in Wisconsin since 1982 when the first case was reported. The latest deaths increase the total number of deaths to 1,969, according to the Department of Health and Social Services.

One year ago, Wisconsin had 2,882 confirmed AIDS cases and 1,670 reported deaths.

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Special Disabilities, Not Special Rights Would Have Come Under Amendment 2

On May 20, 1996, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down what is considered a landmark decision in the battle for the civil rights of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual people. In the case of "Romer v. Evans," by a 6-3 vote, Colorado's anti-Gay Amendment 2 was struck down.

Associate Justice Kennedy wrote for the majority. Here is the text of the majority opinion.

One century ago, the first Justice Harlan admonished this Court that the Constitution "neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens." Plessy v. Ferguson, 163 U. S. 537, 559 (1896) (dissenting opinion).

Unheeded then, those words now are understood to state a commitment to the law's neutrality where the rights of persons are at stake. The Equal Protection Clause enforces this principle and today requires us to hold invalid a provision of Colorado's Constitution

The enactment challenged in this case is an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Colorado, adopted in a 1992 statewide referendum. The parties and the state courts refer to it as "Amendment 2," its designation when submitted to the voters. The impetus for the amendment and the contentious campaign that preceded its adoption came in large part from ordinances that had been passed in various Colorado municipalities. For example, the cities of Aspen and Boulder and the City and County of Denver each had enacted ordinances which banned discrimination in many transactions and activities, including housing, employment, education, public accommodations, and health and welfare services.

What gave rise to the statewide controversy was the protection the ordinances afforded to persons discriminated against by reason of their sexual orientation. Amendment 2 repeals these ordinances to the extent they prohibit discrimination on the basis of "homosexual, lesbian or bisexual orientation, conduct, practices or relationships."

Yet Amendment 2, in explicit terms, does more than repeal or rescind these provisions. It prohibits all legislative, executive or judicial action at any level of state or local government designed to protect the named class, a class we shall refer to as homosexual persons or gays and lesbians. The amendment reads:

"No Protected Status Based on Homosexual, Lesbian, or Bisexual Orientation. Neither the State of Colorado, through any of its branches or departments, nor any of its agencies, political subdivisions, municipalities or school districts, shall enact, adopt or enforce any statute, regulation, ordinance or policy whereby homosexual, lesbian or bisexual orientation, conduct, practices or relationships shall constitute or otherwise be the basis of or entitle any person or class of persons to have or claim any minority status, quota preferences, protected status or claim of discrimination. This Section of the Constitution shall be in all-respects self-executing."

Soon after Amendment 2 was adopted, this litigation to declare its invalidity and enjoin its enforcement was commenced in the District Court for the City and County of Denver. Among the plaintiffs (respondents here) were homosexual persons, some of them government employees.

They alleged that enforcement of Amendment 2 would subject them to immediate and substantial risk of discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation. Other plaintiffs (also respondents here) included the three municipalities whose ordinances we have cited and certain other governmental entities which had acted earlier to protect homosexuals from discrimination but would be prevented by Amendment 2 from continuing to do so.

Although Governor Romer had been on record opposing the adoption of Amendment 2, he was named in his official capacity as a defendant, together with the Colorado Attorney General and the State of Colorado.

The trial court granted a preliminary injunction to stay enforcement of Amendment 2, and an appeal was taken to the Supreme Court of Colorado. Sustaining the interim injunction and remanding the case for further proceedings, the State Supreme Court held that Amendment 2 was subject to strict scrutiny under the Fourteenth Amendment because it infringed the fundamental right of gays and lesbians to participate in the political process.

On remand, the State advanced various arguments in an effort to show that Amendment 2 was narrowly tailored to serve compelling interests, but the trial court found none sufficient. It enjoined enforcement of Amendment 2, and the Supreme Court of Colorado, in a second opinion, affirmed the ruling.

We granted certiorari and now affirm the judgment, but on a rationale different from

that adopted by the State Supreme Court.

II

The State's principal argument in defense of Amendment 2 is that it puts gays and lesbians in the same position as all other persons. So, the State says, the measure does no more than deny homosexuals special rights.

This reading of the amendment's language is implausible. We rely not upon our own interpretation of the amendment but upon the authoritative construction of Colorado's Supreme Court. The state court, deeming it unnecessary to determine the full extent of the amendment's reach, found it invalid even on a modest reading of its implications. The critical discussion of the amendment, set out in *Evans I*, is as follows:

"The immediate objective of Amendment 2 is, at a minimum, to repeal existing statutes, regulations, ordinances, and policies of state and local entities that barred discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Metropolitan State College of Denver prohibits college sponsored social clubs from discriminating in membership on the basis of sexual orientation and Colorado State University has an antidiscrimination policy which encompasses sexual orientation.

"The 'ultimate effect' of Amendment 2 is to prohibit any governmental entity from adopting similar, or more protective statutes, regulations, ordinances, or policies in the future unless the state constitution is first amended to permit such measures."

Sweeping and comprehensive is the change in legal status effected by this law. So much is evident from the ordinances that the Colorado Supreme Court declared would be void by operation of Amendment 2. Homosexuals, by state decree, are put in a solitary class with respect to transactions and relations in both the private and governmental spheres.

The amendment withdraws from homosexuals, but no others, specific legal protection from the injuries caused by discrimination, and it forbids reinstatement of these laws and policies.

The change that Amendment 2 works in the legal status of gays and lesbians in the private sphere is far-reaching, both on its own terms and when considered in light of the structure and operation of modern anti-discrimination laws. That structure is well illustrated by contemporary statutes and ordinances prohibiting discrimination by providers of public accommodations.

"At common law, innkeepers, smiths, and others who 'made profession of a public employment,' were prohibited from refusing, without good reason, to serve a customer."

The duty was a general one and did not specify protection for particular groups. The common law rules, however, proved insufficient in many instances, and it was settled early that the Fourteenth Amendment did not give Congress a general power to prohibit discrimination in public accommodations. In consequence, most States have chosen to counter discrimination by enacting detailed statutory schemes.

Colorado's state and municipal laws typify this emerging tradition of statutory protection and follow a consistent pattern. The laws first enumerate the persons or entities subject to a duty not to discriminate.

The list goes well beyond the entities covered by the common law. The Boulder ordinance, for example, has a comprehensive definition of entities deemed places of "public accommodation." They include "any place of business engaged in any sales to the general public and any place that offers services, facilities, privileges, or advantages to the general public or that receives financial support through solicitation of the general public or through governmental subsidy of any kind."

The Denver ordinance is of similar breadth, applying, for example, to hotels, restaurants, hospitals, dental clinics, theaters, banks, common carriers, travel and insurance agencies, and "shops and stores dealing with goods or services of any kind."

These statutes and ordinances also depart from the common law by enumerating the groups or persons within their ambit of protection. Enumeration is the essential device used to make the duty not to discriminate concrete and to provide guidance for those who must comply. In following this approach, Colorado's state and local governments have not limited anti-discrimination laws to groups that have so far been given the protection of heightened equal protection scrutiny under our cases.

Rather, they set forth an extensive catalogue of traits which cannot be the basis for discrimination, including age, military status, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, custody of a minor child, political affiliation, physical or mental disability of an individual or of his or her associates—and, in recent times, sexual orientation.

Amendment 2 bars homosexuals from securing protection against the injuries that these public-accommodations laws address. That in itself is a severe consequence, but there is more.

Amendment 2, in addition, nullifies specific legal protections for this targeted class in all transactions in housing, sale of real estate, insurance, health and welfare services, private education, and employment.

Not confined to the private sphere, Amendment 2 also operates to repeal and forbid all laws or policies providing specific protection for gays or lesbians from discrimination by every level of Colorado government. The State Supreme Court cited two examples of protections in the governmental sphere that are now rescinded and may not be reintroduced.

The first is Colorado Executive Order D0035 (1990), which forbids employment discrimination against "all state employees, classified and exempt" on the basis of sexual orientation.

Also repealed, and now forbidden, are "various provisions prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation at state colleges."

The repeal of these measures and the prohibition against their future reenactment demonstrates that Amendment 2 has the same force and effect in Colorado's governmental sector as it does elsewhere and that it applies to policies as well as ordinary legislation.

Amendment 2's reach may not be limited to specific laws passed for the benefit of gays and lesbians. It is a fair, if not necessary, inference from the broad language of the amendment that it deprives gays and lesbians even of the protection of general laws and policies that prohibit arbitrary discrimination in governmental and private settings.

At some point in the systematic administration of these laws, an official must determine whether homosexuality is an arbitrary and thus forbidden basis for decision.

Yet a decision to that effect would itself amount to a policy prohibiting discrimination on the basis of homosexuality, and so would appear to be no more valid under Amendment 2 than the specific prohibitions against discrimination the state court held invalid.

"We can not accept the view that Amendment 2's prohibition on specific legal protections does no more than deprive homosexuals of special rights."

If this consequence follows from Amendment 2, as its broad language suggests, it would compound the constitutional difficulties the law creates. The state court did not decide whether the amendment has this effect however, and neither need we. In the course of rejecting the argument that Amendment 2 is intended to conserve resources to fight discrimination against suspect classes, the Colorado Supreme Court made the limited observation that the amendment is not intended to affect many anti-discrimination laws protecting non-suspect classes. In our view that does not resolve the issue.

In any event, even if, as we doubt, homosexuals could find some safe harbor in laws of general application, we cannot accept the view that Amendment 2's prohibition on specific legal protections does no more than deprive homosexuals of special rights.

To the contrary, the amendment imposes a special disability upon those persons alone. Homosexuals are forbidden the safeguards that others enjoy or may seek without constraint. They can obtain specific protection against discrimination only by enlisting the citizenry of Colorado to amend the state constitution or perhaps, on the State's view, by trying to pass helpful laws of general applicability.

This is so no matter how local or discrete the harm, no matter how public and widespread the injury. We find nothing special in the protections Amendment 2 withholds. These are protections taken for granted by most people either because they already have them or do not need them; these are protections against exclusion from an almost limitless number of transactions and endeavors that constitute ordinary civic life in a free society.

III

The Fourteenth Amendment's promise that no person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws must coexist with the practical necessity that most legislation classifies for one purpose or another, with resulting disadvantage to various groups or persons.

We have attempted to reconcile the principle with the reality by stating that, if a law neither burdens a fundamental right nor targets a suspect class, we will uphold the legislative classification so long as it bears a rational relation to some legitimate end.

Amendment 2 fails, indeed defies, even this conventional inquiry. First, the amendment has the peculiar property of imposing a broad and undifferentiated disability on a single named group, an exceptional and, as we shall explain, invalid form of legislation. Second, its sheer breadth is so discontinuous with the reasons offered for it that the amendment seems inexplicable by anything but animus

toward the class that it affects; it lacks a rational relationship to legitimate state interests.

Taking the first point, even in the ordinary equal protection case calling for the most deferential of standards, we insist on knowing the relation between the classification adopted and the object to be attained.

The search for the link between classification and objective gives substance to the Equal Protection Clause; it provides guidance and discipline for the legislature, which is entitled to know what sorts of laws it can pass; and it marks the limits of our own authority.

In the ordinary case, a law will be sustained if it can be said to advance a legitimate government interest, even if the law seems unwise or works to the disadvantage of a particular group, or if the rationale for it seems tenuous.

By requiring that the classification bear a rational relationship to an independent and legitimate legislative end, we ensure that classifications are not drawn for the purpose of disadvantaging the group burdened by the law.

Amendment 2 confounds this normal process of judicial review. It is at once too narrow and too broad. It identifies persons by a single trait and then denies them protection across the board. The resulting disqualification of a class of persons from the right to seek specific protection from the law is unprecedented in our jurisprudence.

The absence of precedent for Amendment 2 is itself instructive; "[d]iscriminations of an unusual character especially suggest careful consideration to determine whether they are obnoxious to the constitutional provision."

It is not within our constitutional tradition to enact laws of this sort. Central both to the idea of the rule of law and to our own Constitution's guarantee of equal protection is the principle that government and each of its parts remain open on impartial terms to all who seek its assistance.

"Equal protection of the laws is not achieved through indiscriminate imposition of inequalities."

Respect for this principle explains why laws singling out a certain class of citizens for disfavored legal status or general hardships are rare. A law declaring that in general it shall be more difficult for one group of citizens than for all others to seek aid from the government is itself a denial of equal protection of the laws in the most literal sense. "The guaranty of equal protection of the laws is a pledge of the protection of equal laws."

A second and related point is that laws of the kind now before us raise the inevitable inference that the disadvantage imposed is born of animosity toward the class of persons affected.

"[I]f the constitutional conception of 'equal protection of the laws' means anything, it must at the very least mean that a bare desire to harm a politically unpopular group cannot constitute a legitimate governmental interest."

Even laws enacted for broad and ambitious purposes often can be explained by reference to legitimate public policies which justify the incidental disadvantages they impose on certain persons.

Amendment 2, however, in making a general announcement that gays and lesbians shall not have any particular protections from the law, inflicts on them immediate, continuing, and real injuries that outrun and belie any legitimate justifications that may be claimed for it. We conclude that, in addition to the far-reaching deficiencies of Amendment 2 that we have noted, the principles it offends, in another sense, are conventional and venerable; a law must bear a rational relationship to a legitimate governmental purpose, and Amendment 2 does not.

The primary rationale the State offers for Amendment 2 is respect for other citizens' freedom of association, and in particular the liberties of landlords or employers who have personal or religious objections to homosexuality.

Colorado also cites its interest in conserving resources to fight discrimination against other groups. The breadth of the Amendment is so far removed from these particular justifications that we find it impossible to credit them. We cannot say that Amendment 2 is directed to any identifiable legitimate purpose or discrete objective.

It is a status-based enactment divorced from any factual context from which we could discern a relationship to legitimate state interests; it is a classification of persons undertaken for its own sake, something the Equal Protection Clause does not permit. "[C]lass legislation . . . [is] obnoxious to the prohibitions of the Fourteenth Amendment . . ."

We must conclude that Amendment 2 classifies homosexuals not to further a proper legislative end but to make them unequal to everyone else. This Colorado cannot do. A State cannot so deem a class of persons a stranger to its laws. Amendment 2 violates the Equal Protection Clause, and the judgment of the Supreme Court of Colorado is affirmed.

It is so ordered.

Supreme Court's Amendment 2 Decision is Only One Step in Our Fight for Rights

Commentary by David Clarenbach

When a national news anchor opened his newscast to announce that the U.S. Supreme Court had overturned Colorado's discriminatory Amendment 2, he said that the court had unequivocally ruled that Gays have equal rights. Nothing could be further from the truth. And nothing could be more dangerous than for Gays, Lesbians, and heterosexuals to believe it.

The Court's decision in *Romer v. Evans*, which stated that no one group can be singled out for discrimination, will forever stand as a barrier to the seemingly endless efforts of the extreme right to make Gays and Lesbians second-class citizens in our own country. The decision upholds the democratic belief that laws must apply equally to everyone, not just to people who give us warm fuzzies.

While the ruling in *Romer v. Evans* certainly brightens the future for the hope of Gay equality, the reality of where we are today has not changed much.

▽ Gays and Lesbians are the only minority group that is still not covered by federal civil rights laws, despite having been victims of egregious discrimination.

▽ In 41 states it is still legal to fire someone because of their sexual orientation.

▽ According to the Department of Justice, Gay and Lesbians are still more likely than any other minority group to be victims of "hate" crimes.

▽ Legislation to ban same-sex marriage is moving like wildfire through state legislatures and the U.S. Congress, although measures to legalize same-sex marriage are more likely to become law in only one state (Hawaii).

That's about how equal we are right now. Suddenly, the Court's decision to overturn Amendment 2 seems more like a relief than a victory. Victory comes at the end, and we have barely begun.

Gay and Lesbian Americans have every right to ask that our country give us what everyone else has — not more, not better, just the same. We are American citizens in every meaning of the word. We do all of the things that heterosexual citizens do. We vote, work, pay taxes, raise our families, worship in our churches, support our charities, love our partners in life and honor them in death.

It is not enough, however, for Gays to sit with our fingers crossed in hopes that the Court will continue to decide that Constitutional protections should apply to Gay and Lesbian citizens. It is not enough to make our voices heard on "Pride Day" and remain silent for the other 364 days in the year. And it is certainly not enough to leave our legislative future in the hands of self-proclaimed "Gay-friendly" politicians who seem to abandon us with greater regularity as the extreme right wing grows louder and stronger.

If Gay and Lesbian Americans are to achieve true equality in American society, we must borrow a page from the struggles for racial and gender equality. After generations of waiting for the courts and white male

politicians to do the right thing, women and members of the black and other minority communities turned their attention to electing their own. They knew that if institutions mandated change, public opinion would eventually follow. And they knew that putting members of their communities in positions of power would help to tear down the destructive stereotypes that cause good people to make bad decisions.



DAVID CLARENBACH

The true test of our community mettle will not simply be in how effectively we can argue our case in court. We must keep discriminatory legislation from being enacted at the outset. Unfortunately, straight, "Gay-friendly" politicians have proven time and again that their willingness to stand up for our rights depends on the intensity of the venom they face from groups like the Family Research Council and Colorado for Family Values, the extremist organization which led the effort to pass Amendment 2.

Gay and Lesbian Americans must invest, financially and through our labor, in electing openly Gay politicians at all levels of government. Only openly Gay politicians have a truly vested interest in making the sacrifices necessary to see that we achieve equal rights. They uniquely understand that the issues of same-sex marriage, Medicaid outlays for AIDS patients, promoting tolerance in schools, and a host of other issues are more than just political fodder for the far right. These issues go to the core of our lives and theirs.

Openly Gay politicians are not immune from attacks from the Right. But when people run for office with their entire lives exposed, when they have won an election despite the Gay-bashing and misinformation campaigns for which the extreme right is famous, when they can stand in the well of the U.S. House of Representatives or U.S. Senate with no apologies about who they are or what they stand for, they achieve a strength that allows them to put leadership ahead of political expediency.

We have made tremendous strides in the last few years in electing openly Gay leaders to office. Sheila Kuehl, an openly Gay member of the California State Assembly, may one day become the Speaker of that body. Mike Nelson was elected in 1993 to Carrboro (NC) City Council, right in Jesse Helms' back yard. Two years later, the citizens of Carrboro elected Nelson as their Mayor.

And this year, we may elect our first non-incumbent, openly Gay candidate to the House of Representatives, Rick Zbur who is running for the 38th congressional district in California is in a strong position to win his election. However, of the 511,037 elected officials in this country, only 115 are openly Gay. We have a lot of work to do and a long way to go.

Right now, people are left to judge the issue of Gay equality through the prism of right wing zealots who have animus in their hearts and straight politicians who have their heads in the sand. How we change that perspective is up to us.

As the late San Francisco City Supervisor Harvey Milk once said, "It's not enough just to have friends represent us, no matter how good those friends may be. We must give people the chance to judge us by our own leaders, and our own legislators." ▽

Supreme Court's Decision on Amendment 2 Makes Us First-Class Citizens

Commentary by John D'Emilio

I confess. I was worried that we might either lose the Colorado Amendment 2 case, or that a bare majority would write an opinion that waffled so badly that we might as well have lost.

Imagine my pleasure, then, when I read Justice Kennedy's opinion, speaking for a 6-3 majority. The decision is a stunning victory for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community. It states in unequivocal terms that state action rendering us second-class citizens is unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court, for the first time, has unambiguously affirmed our moral claim to full citizenship.

Kennedy and the other five justices who supported the decision "got it" in some basic ways. The majority exposed the right-wing rhetoric of "special rights" and instead understood that Amendment 2 and measures like it in fact impose, in their words, "a special disability ... born of animosity" toward Gays and Lesbians. Their decision declared that the goals of Amendment 2 bore no rational relationship to any legitimate state interest, and violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

The Court described Amendment 2 as "unprecedented in our jurisprudence."

But there was more. Justices choose their words carefully; they can be extremely attuned to the significance of a phrase. Surely, then, it was no accident that Justice Kennedy began his opinion by quoting Justice Harlan's dissent, a century ago, in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the case that enunciated the "separate but equal" doctrine in American race relations. Was this his way of acknowledging that the Court sometimes changes its mind? That changes in cultural mores and social values lead to changes in the application of the Constitution to major issues? Even though there was no reference to *Hardwick*, was Kennedy suggesting — obliquely to be sure — that in time *Hardwick* might be overturned?

This decision is a victory, no doubt about it. We should savor it, especially since it came not simply through the constitutional reasoning of six Supreme Court Justices, but through the actions that every one of us has taken in the years since *Hardwick*. In coming out, in taking action in the political process, in workplaces, in communities of faith, in schools, and elsewhere, we have changed the terms of the debate about sexual identity. Our work created a new environment in which the

Court could hear our case with fresh ears. The victory, in other words, comes from us as much as from them. Let's pat ourselves on the back because of it.

We also need to be clear about what this case does not do.

It does not, for instance, prevent the extremist right wing from coming up with new language for ballot initiatives in an attempt to weasel around this decision. Victory in this case does not give us our full civil rights; in most parts of the country we can still be fired based on disapproval of our sexual identity. In 41 states and in most cities, we still need to work to pass civil rights laws. We still have sodomy laws to repeal, hate crimes to prevent, family relationships that need recognition.

The Amendment 2 case also does not speak to the marriage issue. A judge could easily accept every word of Justice Kennedy's reasoning and still come to the conclusion that the prohibition on same-sex marriage is constitutional. In other words, our work is still cut out for us.

Yet let's also recognize that the Court decision gives us a new plateau from which to do our work. Just as the right wing will redouble its efforts, so should we. This decision places the moral weight of a "traditional" institution on our side.

It explicitly disavowed hate-inspired bigotry. This will mean something to the many Americans who are fairminded, yet also confused about our issues. Now is the time to put our issues out there, to organize ourselves and educate the majority so that real institutional change comes our way.

This is an election year. Through voter registration and mobilization, we have the opportunity to place our community's needs on the political agenda — but on our terms. We can help build a political environment that will make the 1997 state legislative sessions an opportunity rather than a threat. We know the right wing will be there — in the election campaigns and in the nation's legislatures. Let's be there, too, in full strength, speaking to the citizens who may now be more willing to hear us.

Victory and hope are better resources for a political movement than defeat and despair. Let's take the hope that the Amendment 2 victory fosters, and use it to generate more momentum. ▽

Editor's Note: The writer is the Policy Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Amendment 2 Victory Means No Rest for the Righteous

Commentary by Elizabeth Birch

Washington, DC — The U.S. Supreme Court's stunning ruling in the Colorado Amendment 2 case is without question a reason for our community to celebrate. It is an undeniably hopeful sign that six members of the generally conservative court did not buy into the extremists' cant that we are seeking special rights, rather than the same basic civil rights that others take for granted.

But the court's ruling is also a clarion call for Gay men and Lesbians — and our friends and families — to redouble our efforts this election year, because if we don't muster our collective might to elect fair and reasonable people at every level of government, the religious political extremists will prevail.

The court's decision is important to the future of Gay and Lesbian Americans because the six justices who ruled Amendment 2 unconstitutional indicated quite clearly that they are open to considering extending other protections to us, in the areas of employment, housing and public accommodations, for example. We must not squander that possibility. The more fair-minded people we can elect at the state and federal levels, the better are our chances of passing legislation that will extend us those basic protections. And when those who vilify us challenge our right to those protections, as they surely will, the majority on this supreme Court appears to be open to giving our side a fair and impartial hearing.

For we must remember that, great as the Amendment 2 decision is, it does not protect us from discrimination. No federal law protects Americans from discrimination based on sexual orientation. The court's decision renews our call to political action.

We must, as a community, commit to this struggle for the long haul and not allow ourselves even a figurative minute to rest after this Supreme Court ruling. Our opponents are already hatching new strategies against us. The same day as the Amendment 2 ruling was handed down, Representative Charles Canady, a conservative Republican from Florida, said he would hold a hearing in his House Judiciary subcommittee on the court's decision. Others are even calling for the impeachment of the very justices who simply

said it is wrong for a state to make one group of citizens "a stranger to its laws."

Gay marriage is the next battleground between our community and the religious political extremists who have adopted us as their scapegoats. They have already made significant inroads into state legislatures, as evidenced by the fact that some 34 states have considered legislation aimed at stemming the "threat" of same-sex marriage. A similar measure has been introduced in Congress, and presumptive GOP presidential nominee Bob Dole eagerly agreed to be a lead sponsor in the Senate.

Gay marriage is a novel issue for this nation, and it will take time to convince our fellow citizens that we are being deprived of a basic human right.

In the meantime, this will undoubtedly be one of the most difficult issues we have encountered in our long struggle for equal rights.

Religious political groups — and the complicitous Dole presidential campaign — are using same-sex marriage to drive a wedge between our community and the political leaders who have supported us over the years, including President Clinton. We must not allow them to succeed.

Their strategy is to back Clinton and fair-minded members of Congress into a corner where they must back anti-Gay marriage legislation or run a very real risk of losing re-election.

We cannot be distracted by this ploy. Yes, it should make us angry but our anger must be focused with its full intensity on the extremists, the Dole campaign and congressional leaders who are using this issue as a weapon to bludgeon us. The worst thing our community could do to itself would be to allow this fury to keep us from working hard to defeat those who despise us. That is exactly what they want us to do.

So let us take a cue from the long, bloody struggle for African American civil rights and keep our eyes on the prize. Winning the Amendment 2 case was a moral victory and a foundation upon which we must build our futures. ▽

Note on the Supreme Court Opinions Handed Down on Colorado's Amendment 2

By Terry Boughner

Outside the legal profession and others having a special interest in Constitutional law, few, I would suppose, read the opinions written by the justices of the Supreme Court. They are often long, replete with footnotes and other citations, legal jargon, and written in what can be most charitably be described as ponderous prose.

There are exceptions. Such, I believe is the case with the two opinions we have decided to print.

Justice Kennedy, writing for the majority, affirms in words strongly reminiscent of Associate Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., the essential right Gay people have to be part of the political process.

Justice Scalia, writing for the minority, in equally lucid prose, comes down hard (very hard) on the other side.

Therefore, do not be put off by the length of these documents.

Wisconsin Light chose to devote considerable space to these opinions because we believe that what is said therein is of critical importance not only to our community, but to all Americans who hold to the ideal of equal justice and rights for all under the law.

For those who believe in these ideals, these are among the two "must-read" documents of 1996.

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News Briefs

Non-Gay Athlete Assaulted in Gay Bashing

Huntington Beach, CA-AP-Police are investigating the beating of a high school track athlete who says he was targeted because his coach is openly Gay. The victim, whose jaw was broken in the beating, says he isn't Gay. His coach says the attack was the latest incident of harassment of his athletes since the coach acknowledged he was Gay three years ago.

Police are investigating the complaint by Jeremy Negrete, 18, who alleged he was attacked Tuesday, June 11th, by a 16-year-old football player who repeatedly used a slur while striking his head. No charges have been filed.

Negrete told police the 16-year-old and two other teens tried to pick a fight Tuesday while driving alongside Negrete and a friend as they returned from graduation practice, Lt. Dan Johnson said.

The unidentified football player and his friends then showed up at the home of Negrete's friend and attacked Negrete, the runner told police. The teen said the 16-year-old repeatedly used the slur and made crude sexual remarks while beating him.

"I said, 'No, I'm not Gay,'" Negrete said. "He was punching me on the side of the head. I couldn't get up because I was trapped on the ground."

Track coach Eric Anderson said the incident appears to be the latest harassment suffered by the school's cross-country runners since he announced his sexual orientation to students and staff in 1993.

Lesbian Couple Loses Adoption Appeal

Denver, CO-AP-The Colorado Court of Appeals on Thursday, June 13th, rejected a Lesbian couple's attempt to adopt each other's child. The two, identified only by their initials, live together as same-sex domestic companions. Each is the natural mother of one of the two children named in their petition. They had appealed a Jefferson County District Court's rejection of the adoption attempts.

Each sought a "co-parent" adoption decree that would, in effect, grant her the rights associated with a "stepparent adoption" for the other woman's child, while retaining parental rights over her own.

Before seeking adoption each took steps to preserve an ongoing relationship with the other's child. Each has designated the other as the guardian or conservator for her child.

Likewise, each conferred on the other medical and financial powers of attorney, and powers of attorney for her child, and designated the other as agent for parental decisions.

Also, each prepared a will and trusts listing the other as primary beneficiary, and the children as alternate beneficiaries.

And they acknowledge that the family "will remain intact even if the adoptions are not granted."

Judge Michael C. Villano held the children were not available for adoption within the law, because the women were not married to each other, and because each sought to retain parental rights over her natural child while consenting to the other petitioner's adoption. Same-sex marriages are not recognized in Colorado.

Accordingly, the judge concluded he was without jurisdiction to rule on the petitions, and dismissed the case.

In their appeal the couple argued Villano erred when he ruled that because each refused to relinquish her parent-child relationship with her natural child, the children were not available for adoption.

The Appeals Court agreed with the judge, noting that if a proposed adoption fails to conform to law, the efforts to adopt must fail and a judge has no authority to enter an adoption decree.

Minorities Hit Hardest by STDs

Durham, NC-AP- Sexually transmitted diseases including syphilis and HIV hit North Carolina's minorities hard last year, the state health director said.

Minorities made up 92 percent of the 2,300 people diagnosed with syphilis in 1995 in North Carolina, Health Director Ron Levine told more than 100 public health workers during a conference in Research Triangle Park.

While sexually transmitted disease cases in North Carolina dropped significantly from 1994 to 1995, the state still ranks among the worst in the nation, Levine said.

Millions of new cases of STDs across the country show public health needs new strategies, said Levine, a physician. The plan of attack should center on customized, grassroots efforts that involve the community, he said.

"The community has some ownership in the problem," Levine said. "They should become an integral part of the solution."

Turkish Crackdown on Drag Queens

Istanbul, Turkey-AP- Among the hundreds of stands run by volunteer groups at the United Nations city summit, one is decorated with Gay rights slogans. But the transvestites who booked it are absent. "We could not come because of..." says a banner on the wall signed by the Turkish female impersonators whose hopes of joining the international event faded when police repression forced them out of the city. The sentence was deliberately not finished.

Demet Demir, a spokesperson for 3,000 drag queens in this city of 10 million, said that police visited the night clubs where they work as singers or belly dancers two weeks ago and ordered them to "disappear" during the U.N. event.

Demir claimed that police set fire to three houses owned by drag queens in the downtown neighborhoods of Cihangir and Tarlabasi over the past week. They also used hammers to break the doors of several others as part of an anti-homosexual campaign, Demir said.

Most members of the transvestite community have left the city fearing police repression or have gone into hiding at the homes of friends, Demir said.

"I have to come to my house every day to feed my five dogs and two cats," Demir added. "But I do not turn on the light at night or listen to the radio or television nor make any noise. We are just terrified."

Nicola McIntyre, a volunteer with the San Francisco-based International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, accused Turkish authorities of violating the human rights of the transvestites.

Turkey's first Gay festival was banned last year because, authorities said, it would offend society's values. Turkey's Lesbian community, which now occupies the stand booked by the transvestites, issued a statement of solidarity with the transvestites.

Fall-Out From Amendment 2

Spartanburg, SC-AP- Spartanburg County Attorney Roy McBee Smith says an anti-Gay resolution some citizens wanted on a November ballot is discriminatory, unconstitutional and would lead to several challenging lawsuits.

The county council dropped the resolution Monday, June 10th, after getting Smith's advice. He said the May 20 U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning a Colorado law that banned laws to protect Gays from discrimination makes the Spartanburg resolution unconstitutional.

The county would have faced a lawsuit if it had not reversed its position on an earlier resolution condemning homosexuality, Smith said. Council members did that last month after Olympic organizers threatened to pull the torch relay run out of the county and one team threatened to train elsewhere.

Richard Spencer, a Spartanburg resident and member of anti-resolution groups Voices and ProJustice Carolina, was pleased with council's decision. "Let Jesus take care of transgressors," Spencer said. "Let county council take care of potholes."

Church Overturns Gay Ordination

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island-AP- The Presbyterian Church of Canada has overturned the ordination of its first acknowledged practicing Gay minister in a decision that has left the church deeply divided. The church's 300-member general assembly supported by a wide margin Monday, June 10th, a committee report reversing the ordination of Darryl Macdonald by St. Andrew's Church in the Montreal suburb of Lachine. Macdonald, 32, was ordained last year with support of 90 percent of St. Andrew's congregation.

Opponents such as John Allan, a commissioner with the Vancouver Island presbytery, warned that homosexual ordination would tear the church apart, driving conservative members away.

Supporters saw the matter as a measure of the value of human rights in the church, which has about 800,000 members nationwide.

The committee's report said Macdonald shouldn't be ordained unless he gives up his lover and remains celibate.

Bishops Will Not Appeal Heresy Ruling

New York-AP- Ten Episcopal bishops who charged a fellow bishop with heresy for ordaining a non-celibate Gay man will not appeal the church's decision to dismiss the charges. A. Hugo Blankingship Jr., the attorney for the 10 bishops, said in a document dated June 11, they would not continue legal proceedings.

Retired Bishop Walter Righter of Alstead, N.H., had been charged with heresy for ordaining the Rev. Barry Stopfel as a deacon in 1990, even though he knew Stopfel was involved in a long-term relationship with another man. Stopfel has since become a priest and is rector of a church in Maplewood, NJ.

"I'm really on top of a mountain now," Righter said. "I'm glad it's over. I'm glad they're willing to let it go to General Convention. I'm sure there will be other voices there as well."

The 10 bishops want the church to prohibit such ordinations when its General Convention meets in July 1997 in Philadelphia. At the meeting, the bishops plan to propose a change in church law requiring all ordained clergy to abstain from sexual relations outside of a heterosexual marriage.

Before the ruling, the Episcopal Church allowed only the ordination of married heterosexuals, celibate single heterosexuals and celibate homosexuals. The ruling did not say whether the church now condones the ordination of gays.

AIDS Quarantine Proposed

Tacoma, WA-AP- People with AIDS who insist on having unprotected sex should be locked up, says Dr. Federico Cruz-Urbe, director of the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

Rather than being given special care and support services, those who have the fatal ailment should be treated like anyone else with an infectious disease, Cruz-Urbe said.

Some individuals, especially pregnant women, should be required to be tested for AIDS because there are treatments that can keep their babies from being infected, he added.

"It's all about prevention," he said. "We could wait until it got really bad, but I don't think we want to do that. We want to look at this proactively."

Traditional health care systems are more prepared to deal with AIDS nowadays, so handling of acquired immune deficiency syndrome cases need no longer be the province of special groups, Cruz-Urbe asserted.

Jeannie Darneille, executive director of the Pierce County AIDS Foundation, disagreed. The group receives \$175,000 from the county agency. Pierce County is the second most populous in Washington state.

"Our two agencies have very different views as to whether there is a need for specific services for people with AIDS," Darneille said.

Some board members fear Cruz-Urbe's remarks are anti-gay, she said. Not so, he insisted.

"I have a responsibility to make sure we have programs that work," he said. "That's our job. That's what a health department does. AIDS is a contagious disease. If it spreads, we're failing in our job."

Bono "Can't Handle" Same-Sex Marriage

Washington, DC-AP- Rep. Sonny Bono, whose daughter is a Lesbian, says he understands Gay activists who support same-sex marriage, but he just "can't handle" the idea now.

Bono, (R-CA), told fellow members of the House Judiciary Committee that he supports a bill that would define marriage as a legal union of one man and one woman in federal law. Opponents have denounced the bill as discriminatory.

"I'm not homophobic. I'm not a bigot. I'm not pandering to hatred," Bono said. "I simply can't handle it. It's nothing else, but at least I want to honestly say that to you and throw aside all the legal rhetoric."

Bono said he sees the Gay point of view and loves his daughter, Chastity Bono. He respects Gays and is a close friend of Rep. Barney Frank, (D-MA), who is Gay.

But Bono still opposes Gay marriage.

"I think it breaks down to whether you're able to handle something or whether you're not able to handle something. I don't like my daughter any less because she's Gay," he said. "I wish I was ready, but I can't tell my son it's OK."

Maine's McCormick Loses by Narrow Margin

Washington, DC- In a heartbreaking finish, Maine State Senator Dale McCormick lost June 11th's tough Democratic Primary for Maine's First District seat in the U.S. Congress. Seeking to make history as the first open Lesbian to win a major party primary for the U.S. House of Representatives, McCormick was defeated by former Portland Mayor and 1994 gubernatorial candidate Tom Allen.

In her concession speech, McCormick endorsed Allen and called for unity in the fight to defeat Far Right GOP incumbent James Longley. Longley has scored high ratings from groups like the Christian Coalition, and his anti-Gay record in Congress has earned him a 0 (out of 100) rating from the Human Rights Campaign, and a "Hostile" rating from the National Log Cabin Republicans.

Tennessee Sodomy Law Struck Down

Nashville, TN-AP- Chris Simien no longer has to worry that he will be denied a license to practice clinical psychology simply because he is Gay.

That is because a law making it illegal for homosexuals in Tennessee to have sex is no longer enforceable.

In a one-line decision Monday, June 10th, the state's highest court declined to review the January ruling by the state Court of Appeals that private sexual activity between consenting adults of the same sex is protected by the state constitution.

"What it does is lift part of the yoke of oppression on us," attorney Abby Rubinfeld said.

She represented Simien and the other four people who filed a lawsuit challenging the 1989 Homosexual Practices Act.

The law made illegal any "sexual penetration" between people of the same sex, including sexual intercourse, cunnilingus, fellatio or anal intercourse.

If convicted, homosexual Tennesseans faced fines of at least \$50 and 30 days in jail, but many could and did lose their jobs, homes and children simply for being arrested or accused, Rubinfeld said.

At least 25 people were prosecuted under the law between 1989 and 1993, when the lawsuit was filed, Rubinfeld said. Rubinfeld said some 20 other states have anti-sodomy laws on the books, including several in the South.

Recently, Georgia's Supreme Court ruled its anti-sodomy law constitutional, while Kentucky's was overturned. Challenges to anti-sodomy laws are pending in Louisiana and Montana.

Extremists Jam Right-Wing Issues In Defense Bill

Washington, DC — Extremist members of congress are yet again using a defense authorization bill to push their obsessive, right-wing social agenda, rather than dealing with the nation's vital defense interests, the Human Rights Campaign charged Thursday.

"These members are abusing their power as legislators, with the tacit approval of Republican House leaders," said Daniel Zingale, HRC's political director. "These issues have absolutely nothing to do with the national defense and do not belong in the legislation authorizing the Defense Department's 1997 budget."

These extremists have attached the following irrelevant and inappropriate measures to the 1997 defense authorization bill:

- ▼ a mandate to discharge, within two months of diagnosis, all members of the armed services with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. A similar measure, enacted in January, was repealed by Congress last week;
- ▼ a ban on abortions at overseas military hospitals;
- ▼ a gratuitous reopening of the ban on Gays in the military and a reversion to the old anti-Gay policy, including reinstating the policy of asking recruits their sexual orientation and sanctioning witch hunts of suspected Gay men and Lesbians;
- ▼ a ban on the sale of "adult" magazines and videos on military bases, which may even include self-help books for married couples;
- ▼ a directive to survey the armed forces (with the exception of high-ranking officers) on attitudes toward women in combat.

"Extremist Rep. Robert Dornan (R-CA), who is author of the HIV provision and the measure to reinstate the old ban on Gays in the military, is clearly motivated by spite and bigotry," Zingale added. "These provisions serve no purpose other than to give him a public forum in which to bash Gay men and Lesbians."

Two Women Become Latest Victims of Anti-Lesbian Violence in the National Parks

Roanoke, VA—A spokeswoman for the family of one of two women killed while hiking in the Shenandoah National Park said the family welcomes looking into the suggestion that the slayings might be motivated by anti-Lesbian hatred.

"We want them to be looking into all aspects of this case," Sue Mackert, a spokeswoman for the family of Julianne Williams of St. Cloud, Minnesota, told *The Washington Post*.

The assertion that the slayings of Williams, 24, and Lollie Winans, 26, might be anti-Lesbian violence came Friday, June 7th, from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), and from *The Washington Blade*.

The Blade, quoted Rebecca Strader, a Presbyterian minister whose Burlington, Vermont, congregation welcomes homosexuals, as saying Winans and Williams were Lesbian lovers. Strader said Williams attended the church. Strader has an unlisted phone number and could not be reached for comment Friday, June 7th.

In a press release, NGLTF said that their concern "stems from the fact that FBI Agent John Donahue is on record as dismissing bias as a possible motivation, but did not indicate what facts led the FBI to rule out bias."

Tracey Conaty, NGLTF Field Organizer said that there were other "red flags" that pointed to anti-Lesbian violence in the case.

"The fact that the women were Lesbians; the fact that robbery was not a motive and there is no other apparent motive, and the fact that Rebecca Wright was killed on the trail in an anti-Lesbian hate crime in 1988, raise the specter of bias as a possible motivation," Conaty said.

Wright was murdered and her lover, Claudia Brenner was seriously injured, on the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania. Brenner's willingness to go public with her ordeal was a defining moment in passing the Hate Crimes Statistics Act. Stephen R. Carr, their assailant, was convicted of murder, and sentenced to life in prison.

In a letter to Attorney General Janet Reno, Melinda Paras, NGLTF's Executive Director, wrote, "We are asking for your help to insure that the FBI and the National Park Service are diligent in investigating all aspects of these crimes, including the possibility that the murders were motivated by anti-Lesbian bias."

Shenandoah National Park rangers found the women's bodies at their primitive camp-

site about one-half mile off the Appalachian Trail on June 1. Their throats had been slashed.

Investigators have confirmed that the women were not robbed, but have described the killings as an isolated incident.

However, according to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), there has been a history of anti-Lesbian, anti-Gay incidents in the area. NCAVP also says that 59 Gay men and women were the victims of hate crimes in the National Parks in 1994.

One federal law enforcement official, who spoke to *The Associated Press* on the condition of anonymity, would not discount the possibility that the women were sexually assaulted.

Williams and Winans, of Unity, Maine, were experienced hikers on a five-day camping trip in the park in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains. They had worked on outdoor programs for Woodswomen Inc., a Minneapolis-based adventure vacation travel organization.

Woodswomen director Denise Mitten, who has organized outdoor trips for 20 years, said women who go camping together are often perceived to be Lesbians, whether they are or not.

"Some people consider hiking and camping as outside a woman's domain," she said. "For some people, that makes them angry enough to do this kind of violent crime. If they are also perceived to be Lesbians, that would infuriate them even more. Their actual sexuality doesn't matter. People sometimes jump to that conclusion."

Williams' family said the relationship "doesn't make any difference to them," Mackert told the *Associated Press* late Friday. "They love Julie and respected her wish to be private. They want to know, how do we move on to solving this murder? ... They said she made the right choices for her, and that was evidenced by who she was."

About 900 people attended Williams' funeral Friday, June 7th in St. Cloud. A funeral was also held for Winans in Michigan on the same day.

Williams' uncle, Bernard "Brownie" Williams, told the *St. Cloud Times*: "Any group that is going to help the investigation and find Julie's murderer is welcome. We could welcome any group that would participate, that would help us get this heinous crime solved. The National Rifle Association could, I don't care."

Integrity/Dignity of Madison Becomes an AIDS-Caring Community

Madison—The members of Integrity/Dignity (I/D) of Madison, a group that serves the spiritual needs of Gay/Lesbian Christians, has officially declared itself an AIDS-Caring Community.

I/D's membership unanimously voted after its June 9 worship service to affirm this status by pledging themselves "as a spiritual community to welcome and support those who are HIV-infected or affected in any way by the disease, including caregivers, church ministers, family and friends of persons with AIDS."

I/D Convener Paulette Quick remarked that this official declaration merely makes explicit

Tammy Baldwin Launches Internet Homepage

Madison—State Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) has become the first State Representative with an internet homepage. The simple and well organized page contains information about the representative, the 78th Assembly District and current issues in the Wisconsin Legislature. The site links to public policy resources and information contained on the State of Wisconsin server, such as hearing schedules, bill histories and bill texts.

The goal of the homepage is to point to answers to questions, to provide information and links to public information currently available electronically. Viewers can also send comments directly to the representative through the site. "The homepage provides a wealth of information about state government and the substantive issues we're working on. We are frequently updating our homepage, so you will have access to timely information on state legislation," says Baldwin.

The Internet Address for the homepage is: <http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/wilis/assembly/asm78/>

sacramental perspective, and we will do what we can to help others on their journey without imposing our own beliefs and practices upon them.

"We honor the integrity of each person's spiritual path."

Southern Baptists' Vow to Boycott Disney, Greeted With a Great Ho-Hum

Los Angeles, CA—When the Hawaiian Tourist Bureau calculated the amount of revenue that would accrue to the state if same-sex marriage becomes legal there, estimated the amount would be upwards of \$4.5 billion—after subtracting money that would be lost from an ultra-conservative boycott of the Aloha State.

No panic. Simply how nice for all that money to roll in.

Much the same attitude has greeted the Southern Baptists' resolution to boycott Disney Industries. One of the reasons is that Disney is big.

To boycott Disney, Southern Baptists will have to do a lot more than just steer the kids clear of Epcot Center, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, "Home Improvement," "Monday Night Football" and the *Mighty Ducks*.

There's "Live with Regis and Kathie Lee," "Siskel & Ebert," "Bill Nye the Science Guy," Hollywood Records, Hyperion books, *Discover* magazine, ESPN. Ten daily newspapers. Ten TV stations. Twenty-one radio stations.

Oh yeah, better toss out that Oklahoma *Farmer-Stockman* and ditch the Missouri *Ruralist*. Tack'n Togs Merchandising? *Industrial Safety & Hygiene News*? *Feed-stuffs*, *Motor Age*, *New Steel*, *Outdoor Power Equipment*?

All once part of Capital Cities/ABC, now part of Disney.

Same for *Women's Wear Daily*, *Institutional Investor*. Not to mention *Ob. Gyn. News*, *Stamp Collector*, and the Wichita regional telephone directory.

So it will be tough to follow through on the boycott, urged by Southern Baptist leaders this week for the denomination's 16 million members. They said Disney's acceptance of Gay civil rights at its theme parks and benefits for same-sex partners of employees "disparages Christian values."

Then again, if Wall Street and Hollywood observers are right and history repeats itself, there really won't be that many people boycotting anything for long anyway.

Sidney J. Sheinberg, the president of MCA/Universal when it became the first studio to offer health insurance to partners of Gay and Lesbian employees, said he knows of no case in which boycotts have had a material effect on an entertainment company.

Universal Pictures was embroiled in a bitter feud in 1988 when it released *The Last Temptation of Christ*, denounced by some conservative Christians for its portrayal of a very human Jesus with sexual desires.

"I personally always love these people who know what God wants and likes and think others are misguided. The humility of that kind of thing always bothers me," Sheinberg said.

"They've spoken their little piece and they've gotten their little headlines and nothing's going to happen."

Disney stock, unchanged after the Baptist vote was taken, fell by 62 1/2 cents Thursday to close at \$61.75, a drop of less than 1 percent on a generally down day on the New York Stock Exchange.

Analysts said repeated boycott threats against Disney, many stirred up by the Gayer film *Priest* and other mature-themed offerings from its Miramax subsidiary, have had no discernible impact on the company's results.

Indeed, despite earlier boycott calls from

Anyone affected by HIV/AIDS who wishes to contact I/D may do so by writing to Integrity/Dignity of Madison, P.O. Box 730, Madison, WI 53701 or by calling the group's contact number at (608) 836-8886 or Paul Patenaude at (608) 233-0525. ▽

groups like the American Family Association, Disney officials say demand for all their products is high, with surging attendance at the theme parks in Florida and California.

Disney limited comment to a statement saying, "We find it curious that a group that claims to espouse family values would vote to boycott the world's largest producer of wholesome family entertainment."

The company said it would not accede to demands to deprive people of health benefits and said that to deny admission to a group, as the Baptists wanted, was something no tourist attraction anywhere would do.

American Family Association President Donald E. Wildmon said he thinks the boycott is gaining momentum.

Accusing companies from Time-Warner Inc. to AT&T and MCI of catering to homosexuals, Wildmon said Disney is the "most appropriate boycott target because it promotes itself as a family-oriented company while producing filth."

Disney recently purchased Cap Cities/ABC for \$19 billion, adding to its empire network television, cable operations, television and radio stations in most major markets, a newspaper chain, and extensive publishing operations.

Indeed, it's hard to imagine mainstream America without Disney and hard to imagine a successful boycott, said Jill S. Krutick, a Smith Barney entertainment analyst.

"They're very far-flung and it's very hard to avoid Walt Disney," she said. "They're an important part of our cultural fabric."

Merrill Lynch analyst Jessica Reif agreed. "Disney has a very high-quality product and I don't think consumers want to butt into corporate America, especially over health-care issues," she said.

Richard Jennings, executive director of Hollywood Supports, a group that lobbies for workplace rights for homosexuals, said 40 entertainment companies, including every major studio, have extended benefits to same-sex partners of employees.

To boycott every such company would essentially mean shunning popular culture, he said.

"I think you'd sell your TV and not go to any movies and not go to theme parks. And probably not listen to the radio much either," he said.

The emotions stirred up by the debate are undeniable. One well-regarded Wall Street analyst said he would talk publicly on any other topic but would no longer speak for attribution about Disney and Gays.

Too many nasty letters and crank calls from "lunatic Christians" would ensue.

The resolution probably won't affect the convention the denominational group is scheduled to hold in the year 2000 in Orlando, home of Walt Disney World. A spokesman for the group said he doubted there was time to re-book a meeting the size of the Southern Baptist Convention.

And even the Rev. Wiley Drake—who wrote the boycott resolution wasn't ready to drop Mickey Mouse from his life completely.

Drake, whose church is in Buena Park, California, about six miles from Disneyland, said he would stop buying Disney products but would continue going to the theme park.

"We have at least a dozen family passes to Disneyland and I'm not going to throw them away. They cost too much money," Drake said. "But when I go I'm not going to buy any food or products at the park."

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ISSUE 3
Continued from Page 1

Fund.
"We are grateful that Judge Arthur Spiegel's thoughtful decision, although reversed by the Sixth Circuit, has now been vindicated by the Supreme Court," Logue said.
Suzanne B. Goldberg, staff attorney for Lambda, which was co-counsel in both the Colorado and Cincinnati cases, said, "The Court today shows the power behind its

ruling last month that knocked out a virtually identical Colorado measure: the equal rights of Lesbians and Gay men must be respected at all levels of government."
Today's order marks the first time that the country's highest court has applied its landmark ruling in "Romer v. Evans" striking down Colorado's Amendment 2.
Issue 3 would have amended the city charter to ban any city laws and policies that would prohibit discrimination against Gay Cincinnati residents in employment, housing and other areas.

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New Study on Risk of Oral Sex Should Be Incorporated into HIV Prevention Messages

Washington, D.C. — A report released on Friday, June 7, 1996 from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Tulane University have highlighted the potential risk associated with oral sex in the transmission of HIV. When seven monkeys were orally applied with SIV (the virus that causes an AIDS-like disease in monkeys), six monkeys seroconverted.

Further, the amount of SIV needed to effectively transmit the virus orally in the monkeys was significantly less than had been previously thought.

This study has many serious implications in our nation's efforts to prevent the spread of HIV in humans, said A. Cornelius Baker, Acting Executive Director of the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA). While there are still many unanswered questions about the study, the overall message is clear. What constitutes safer sex must, in light of this study, be re-examined. In the past, because there has been such a lack of information about the real risk of oral sex and HIV transmission, we have been unable to clearly educate people on the risks associated with oral sex. Now, however, we may have reason to re-craft our messages in order to keep people from becoming HIV infected.

NAPWA believes that the study (as reported in *Science* on Friday, 6/7/96) should be a clarion call for community-based HIV prevention education efforts. Because of the lack of data on oral transmission of HIV, many local communities have tried to educate all people on known and potential risk to the best of their ability, given limited information.

With this recent study, NAPWA believes that local HIV prevention education programs should incorporate this new data and use it to inform and re-direct the manner in which oral sex is discussed in national, regional, state and local HIV prevention education messages.

"We are very concerned about the implications of this new data," said Ernest Hopkins, Director of Health and Treatment at NAPWA.

"This type of scientific development on the pathogenesis and transmission of HIV will continue to drive both policy and programs. It must be used in such a way as to help protect people from becoming HIV infected," Hopkins said.

A second implication from this news, according to Elisa Luna, the Director of Education and Outreach for NAPWA, is in the manner that we now encourage people who have yet to find out their antibody status to do so now in a safe and confidential manner.

"People who believed themselves to not be at significant risk because of oral sex are in real need of a supportive environment that will allow them to come into an anonymous or confidential setting where they can find out

their HIV status. HIV counseling and testing offers individuals a chance to not only find out their antibody status, but also the ability to seek services that will either help them stay HIV negative or keep them healthy and productive if they are HIV positive."

Ms. Luna continued, "NAPWA, which annually sponsors HIV Testing Day (to be held on June 27, 1996), believes that knowledge of one's antibody status is a critical element in managing HIV disease. Individuals who know their HIV status can take full advantage of both HIV prevention and care services once they know if they are living with HIV. Especially now, with the announcement of new therapies for managing HIV disease, knowing one's antibody status is fundamental to staying healthy and staying alive. Maintaining a negative antibody status is as crucial. With proper pre- and post-counseling, individuals have the ability to make informed choices for changing and reducing risk behavior."

As this data is new, NAPWA also holds that it should not be disseminated in such a way as to alarm individuals. Rather, it needs to be discussed and the communities at risk for HIV infection should be educated as to what actions can place them at risk for becoming HIV infected.

Said Baker, "With this news, it is clear that our HIV prevention efforts now have another piece of data in their arsenal. We must capitalize on what we know, inform people at risk and make sure that everyone takes all the necessary precautions if and when they are going to have sex with someone else. Clearly, a condom is now just as important in oral sex as it is in anal and vaginal sex. Telling the truth to people at risk is about saving their lives." ▽

Thoughts on a Man I Saw at PrideFest

By Richard Mence

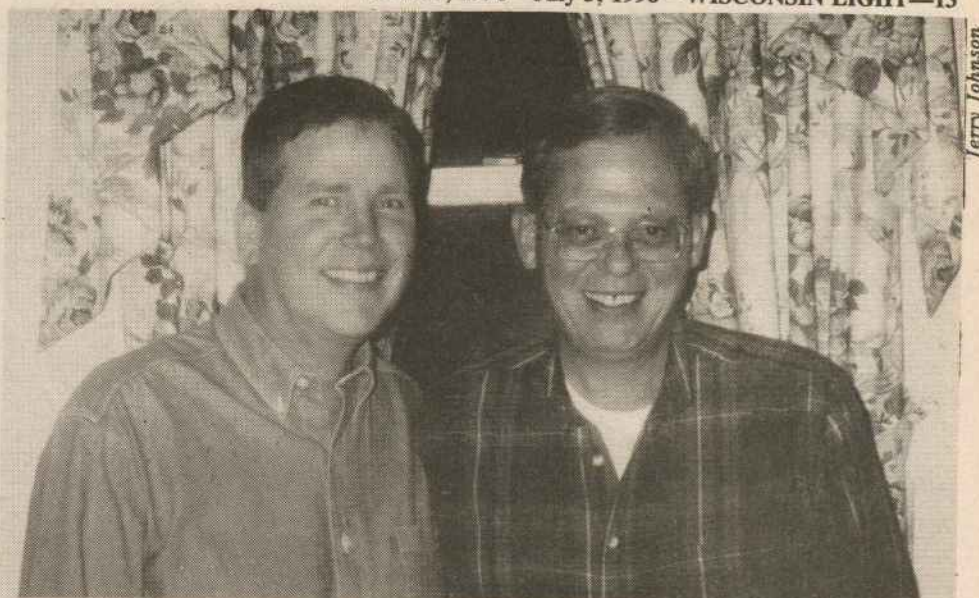
I saw a man who was born when this century was barely born who carried his years, so many, like bricks, a bricklayer would even scorn. It was at a festival of freedom, of freedoms yet to be won where the man strolled alone, slowly smiling, seeming to have fun. His hair and mustache were whiter than the hanging fog above, his clear blue eyes danced with pride, recollections...and love. It was a soggy mess of tents and stands and reckless laughter shared by all the ages present, his the oldest, after all the mists have dried, and souls have cried, and some have died. For what could his eyes be seeing that did not lie before him? How could he not be conjuring days ago when skies were clear and Gay meant nothing but happiness and his secret was called queer? How many faces of his youth and middle years does he recall with gashes forming extra mouths, and bones all broken from a fall, or neck blistered red then blue from a tightening rope when all the tomorrows that lay ahead lay there without hope? What courage it is a soul must have to survive the crush of years with little to anticipate but heartaches, hatreds, and fears? Old faithful soldier of the fight who fought the battle through what victories that have been won have been won because of you.

"Shepherd Express" to Remain Employee Controlled

Milwaukee—Despite assertions to the contrary that appeared in an article in the June 6th Milwaukee *Journal Sentinel*, *Shepherd Express* remains committed to employee ownership, a press release from the paper said.

The release went on to say that it is no wonder that organizations and individuals are interested in acquiring the company. Advertising sales have risen and, after years of escalation, paper prices have stabilized. This growth has occurred in a national advertising environment wherein newsweeklies are growing 10% per year as dailies continue to shrink.

Management transitions and the normal challenges of business can be difficult, but the *Shepherd* says that its commitment remains to continue to offer greater Milwaukee and the papers 155,000 readers "a thoughtful, provocative alternative to the mainstream media.



Alan Hauth and Jeff Kelly along with their close friends recently celebrated their Silver anniversary with a lovely dinner and cocktails party upstairs at Milwaukee's M & M Club.

New Gene Therapy Techniques Offer Hope in the Struggle Against AIDS

Tucson, AZ—Like a superhero in innocent disguise, a camouflaged common-cold virus may be able to deliver therapeutic genes within the body without triggering an attack from defective immune systems.

That's the theory behind research scientists say if proven successful, could revolutionize treatment of scores of inheritable diseases as well as cancers and AIDS.

The research is funded by the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA), which held a conference here in Tucson this week.

"It's sort of like a stealth virus, so that they can go into cells and won't alert the immune system to kick them out again," says University of Michigan geneticist Jeffrey Chamberlain, one of the lead scientists.

The therapy was devised in researching Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophy, two forms of the genetic disease that cause muscles to waste away. Duchenne, its most common form, generally results in death by the mid-20s.

Until now, the big problem with gene therapy has been its preferred delivery system, Chamberlain said.

Delivering the therapeutic genes through viruses has triggered immune responses to destroy the viruses and their precious cargo, said Chamberlain, a medical school associate professor. Chamberlain was here for the MDA conference.

Chamberlain's group, and another team of researchers from the University of Pittsburgh and Baylor College of Medicine, are working on similar approaches.

Both gut an adenovirus, a common cold virus, by replacing its own protein-making genetic material with that intended to heal sick cells. In this case, defective muscle genes that cause two types of muscular dystrophy.

The virus thus becomes a genetic carrier. Chamberlain's research will be published in the July issue of *Human Molecular Genetics*, with the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences publishing a paper detailing the research of Paula Clemens of Pittsburgh and a team from Baylor.

Dr. Leon Charash of Cornell University Medical College, chairman of the MDA's medical advisory committee, called the development a landmark advance for gene therapies for dozens of inherited diseases and illnesses.

The researchers have engineered a virus so that "the body doesn't know it's coming in and can't reject it," Charash said. "We've taken viruses, maybe we can turn them into friends."

Tests in mice could begin later this summer, but human trials are likely a couple of years away.

Chamberlain said the other key to making the process work will be the ability to grow the gutted virus in the laboratory, using a so-called helper virus which helps copy the DNA of the gutted virus.

Then the trick becomes separating the helper virus from the stealth virus before it's put into a person. In the case of muscular dystrophy, the virus will be used to deliver and infect muscle cells with the dystrophin gene.

Present separation techniques have left about 1 percent of helper cells among the altered virus. Chamberlain hopes to lower that to improve chances that immune systems won't react to any remaining helper viruses that might remain mingled with the gutted viruses.

"We're real excited," said Chamberlain. "I think it's an important technical breakthrough that shows we can modify these viruses a lot more than might be expected."

Rainbow Clad Statue of Liberty to Grace San Francisco's Gay Pride Parade

San Francisco—Imagine the Statue of Liberty, draped in the Rainbow Flag. Imagine it, not in New York harbor, but in San Francisco for the June 30th Pride Celebration. Impossible? Well, not really, according to James Reid, Float-March Co-Chair of the San Francisco LesGayBiTrans Freedom Day Parade Committee.

Of course, it won't be the actual statue on display. That would be a "little" difficult to move since it weighs 225 tons. However, there will be a half scale exact replica of Auguste Bartholdi's masterwork standing at the foot of Market Street on Parade Weekend.

The San Francisco replica will be a 50' tall balloon set on an 8' faux stone base. It is made of vinyl and mylar coated fabric, weighs over 500 pounds, and has taken 2,880 hours and over \$50,000 to complete.

According to Reid, the replica will be unveiled at the Parade where it will be seen by over half a million people. Afterward there are plans to take it on tour around the country—including having it at the Republican National Convention in San Diego in August.

The figure will be "a monumental and mobile symbol of Lesbian and Gay Pride across the USA and the world," Reid said.

Read All About It!
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Our Address Is

<http://www.gayuniverse.com/news.html>

Obituary

Lonnie Kellogg 1978-1996

Lonnie Kellogg, dear friend and valued member of the Milwaukee AIDS Project Thursday Night Volunteer Group, passed to the next life surrounded by her loving family on Thursday, June 6, 1996.

"We will miss her smile, her sense of humor and her dedication," said Lori Sitzwohl, a MAP Thursday Night Volunteer. "She was just a very wonderful, very special person."



LONNIE KELLOGG

Her parents were the proud recipients of a Wisconsin Light Spotlight Service Certificate honoring Lonnie's dedication to the fight against AIDS.

Her life may have been a short one, but it was rich with many friends. Lonnie's parents Tom and Lauri Randall, her brothers James and David and her many, many friends will miss her deeply.

"The most beautiful flowers bloom for only a little while. They pack the vibrancy and color of living into a short life. While they are with us though they are a glorious sight to behold" - Bill Meunier

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THE SPOTLIGHT

Call (414)299-0857 For the Latest Entertainment Info

The SpotLight Starts Entertainment Hot Line

It happens all the time. You can't find your copy of *The Wisconsin Light* and you can't remember exactly what time the big party/fundraiser/show starts.

Up until now that could cause some problems. You either run out and get a paper, call someone who might have one or stay home.

Now there is another option. Call 299-0857.

The Spotline Begins Fri June 21

The Wisconsin Light proudly announces the Spotline, an event hotline that contains all the information you need to know about what is going on.

Beginning on Friday, June 21, 1996, the Spotline will be in operation 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. With one simple easy to make phone call to (414)299-0857, you can get all the information you need to know about is going on, when its going on and where its going on.

Other than regular long distances charges for those calling outside of the Milwaukee area, the call is free.

Local and State Wide Information

Dial (414)299-0857 and you'll have a choice of hearing a listing of what's happening in your area that evening or an updated listing of our entire state wide calendar which runs through the weekend

after our next publication date.

"The Wisconsin Light is pleased to announce this new service for its readers and advertisers" said Publisher Jerry Johnson. "We want everyone to know all about the special events and special nights offered by our advertisers."

This is a free service offered to our advertisers and readers. In addition to listings of what is going on, the Spotline also will provide businesses and organizations with an easy to use opportunity to leave us messages about coming events for inclusion in the next SpotLight calendar.

Call 299-0875 For Any Occasion

Going to the city for the weekend and wondering what is going on? Bored this evening and thinking about going out? Planning on going out for a big evening you're not sure where to head out to?

Call the Spotline 299-0857 to find out everything you need to know.

The Spotline, another way that the Wisconsin Light, Wisconsin's most widely read and most complete source of information for the LesBiGay community is serving that community.

Please note that news and regular business calls should still be placed to our office number (414)372-2773.



Jerry Johnson

MAP's Thursday Night Group was honored at our SpotLight Party held at This Is It on Thursday June 13. Part of this very dedicated, and obviously good looking group was squeezed together for this picture. As you can see by the faces, a very good time was had by all.

Noted Author, Patricia Nell Warren, Talks About Writing and Gay Youth

By Carl M. Szatmary

It maybe over twenty years since the book has been published but one question will inevitably follow Patricia Nell Warren whenever and wherever she makes an appearance. "When is the movie going to be made?" The book of course is *The Front Runner*, perhaps the landmark title in Gay publishing.

Patricia Nell Warren was in Chicago over the first weekend in June to attend the American Booksellers Association's annual convention. Warren is attending the convention, in conjunction with her own publishing imprint, Wildcat Press, to announce the long-awaited paperback release of *Harlan's Race*, the sequel to *The Front Runner*, plus paperback reissues of *The Fancy Dancer* and the long unavailable, *The Beauty Queen*.

Warren graciously took a few moments out of her hectic schedule at the convention to grant this exclusive interview with the Wisconsin Light.

When chatting with Warren, what becomes immediately apparent is her warmth, enthusiasm and friendliness but don't let that fool you, Patricia Nell Warren is a passionate writer and activist who is involved in a variety of Gay youth programs in Los Angeles.

"Paul Newman was never to play the Coach", Warren reveals in response to a question about who she would have hoped to play Harlan Brown and the young runner, Billy Sive. Newman did hold the film option for *The Front Runner* for a year and had hoped to direct the project which was to include wife Joanne Woodward.

Newman had a screenplay treatment done but was not happy with it. Neither, apparently was Patricia Nell Warren who could not understand why they wanted to pay her for the use of the title, *The Front Runner* and entirely change the story.

Although now too old, Warren feels that Clint Eastwood would have captured Harlan, "absolutely to the max." Harlan Brown, as are all of her characters, is a composite of a number of individuals in Warren's life. She particularly drew upon of her Uncle John, a marine combat pilot and a conservative for inspiration for Coach Brown.

A long distance runner herself in her youth, Patricia Nell Warren studied many runners, particularly their styles and techniques in creating Billy Sive, mentioning 1972 Olympic runner Steve Prefontaine.

No actor at the time would have captured Billy's spirit and Warren felt that an unknown would have had to have been found to play the young Gay runner.

Currently the film rights to *The Front Runner* are in dispute in court, a situation that Warren has no comment on.

Warren is presently working on the third

entry in the series, to be titled *Billy's Boy* which she hopes to have in the bookstores in early spring. The third book will leave Harlan's viewpoint in favor of thirteen year-old Falcon, Billy Sive's son.

Warren, "is not saying as to Falcon's orientation", but warns readers to expect in *Billy's Boy*, "something very, very different."

A fourth book, which will feature the story from a woman's voice, is set to coincide with the millennium will conclude this saga. "I loved sagas," explains Warren, "I always wanted to do a saga of Gay life... of Gay families and friends."

Not merely focusing on this saga begun with *The Front Runner*, Patricia Nell Warren has many other literary irons in the fire, including two other books.

Warren is particularly enthusiastic when talking about *The Wild Man*, based on her first, unpublished novel written while she living in Spain in the late 1960's, a time when she was still married. For



Jerry Johnson

Over 100 People attended our SpotLight Party held on Thursday June 13 at This Is It in Milwaukee. The party honored MAP's Thursday Night Volunteer Group. It featured beer, pizza, and special presentations. One of those presentations is pictured above. Lil Lau and Fran Culbert presented a surprised and moved This Is It owner, Joe Brehm with a special plaque naming This Is It as the group's official Inn Keeper.

Have a Bang Up Fourth at Our Next SpotLight Party At Mama Roux

Milwaukee- Our first SpotLight Party was such a big success that we are going to do another free party, "The Amendment 2 Party", at Mama Roux on Thursday, July 4 at 6:00.

Located at 1875 N. Humboldt, Mama Roux is a popular East Side bar. With great food, a lively atmosphere and a great staff, Mama Roux's is always a great place to party.

Mama Roux and her staff are pulling out all of the stops to make this Fourth of July a memorable one.

The Amendment 2 party will feature free Miller beer, food, games, costumes, and surprises. The fabulous Lu Shanti will provide live entertainment. Mama Roux herself will be on hand to do her Kate Smith imitation.

The entire bar will be decked out in Red, White and Blue decorations chosen especially for the occasion.

Revelers are encouraged to come as

their favorite character from American history, be it Marilyn Monroe, George Washington or Lizzie Borden. Prizes will be given for the best costumes.

There will also be a special Jeopardy Game with prizes for the players.

"Mama Roux's is a great place for a party. The clientele, the staff and the owners are wonderful folks who really know how to have a good time," said SpotLight party person, Bill Meunier, "And an Amendment 2 Party on the Fourth of July is especially appropriate."

Joe St. Claire Co-Manager and Party Planner Extrordinaire agrees. "In a very real way, the Supreme Court decision that threw out Amendment 2 marks a new era of justice for all of us. It just makes this Fourth a special one."

Special is what this party will be. So don't miss our SpotLight party for early July, the Amendment 2 party at Mama Roux.



PATRICIA NELL WARREN

twenty years, Warren had put this story of a young Gay matador and his twin Gay sister away. When she had trouble with *Harlan's Race*, she turned back to *Wild Man*. "The characters called to me, told me their story."

Another future writing project is Patricia Nell Warren's almost completed autobiography, to be titled "Girl Grassroots."

Patricia Nell Warren is perhaps most eager to answer questions about her involvement in a variety of Gay youth programs in the Los Angeles area, particularly the EAGLES Center, short for Emphasizing Adolescent Gay & Lesbian

PLEASE TURN TO WARREN - PAGE 22

Mmm. Refined.



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OUT on Film



'The Monster' Is a Funny Film With a Crowd-Pleasing Climax

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Loris (Roberto Benigni), protagonist of the new Italian farce, **The Monster** is perhaps the most unlikely, put upon cinematic hero that Glenn has seen in a very long time. Bearing a striking resemblance to the bewildered and befuddled characters that Woody Allen is known for, Loris is a peculiar yet engaging little con man.

Spending his days muddling along, Loris takes Chinese lessons, goes to ever lengthening extremes to avoid eviction from his apartment by the ever indignant manager and earns a pitifully meager existence by transporting naked female mannequins around town. For excitement and out of necessity, Loris cleverly shop-lifts his weekly groceries list at the local supermarket by ingeniously setting off alarms throughout the store.

Through misadventure, misfortune and coincidence, his mild-mannered existence abruptly changes when police mistakenly conclude that Loris is a serial killer who chops up women after raping and murdering them. Okay, Loris isn't exactly honest but somehow it is difficult for Glenn to imagine that such a klutz could possibly have butchered 18 women and

left police without a clue.

When Loris inadvertently mistakes a "respectable" woman for a notorious nymphomaniac (Glen ponders, aren't all nymphomaniacs notorious by definition?) who flees to the police after witnessing Loris' ill-fated encounter with a chainsaw (ditto). When surveillance cameras capture Loris' often bizarre looking behavior at almost every turn, authorities become absolutely certain that they have their man. What the need is proof.

Enter Jessica Rosetti (Nicoletta Braschi) a lovely young police officer instructed by her superiors to follow Loris and lure him into a compromising situation. When Loris invites her to share his apartment, the hijinks begin as Jessica sets out to tempt the flustered Loris, through a series of ever increasingly outrageous sexual antics. Still, the baffled Loris resists.

Jessica begins to have doubts but is spurred on by the Chief of Police (Laurent Spielvogel) and a more than slightly obsessive criminal psychiatrist, Taccone (Michel Blanc). Taccone insists that Jessica invite him and his wife over for dinner, an unhappy prospect for his nervous wife (Dominique Lavanant) who spies murder attempts at every turn and flees the apartment in a frenzy.

Enough is enough when Taccone forced Jessica to don a "Little Red Riding Hood" outfit guaranteed to set Loris into a sexually murderous frenzy.

Instead, Loris, who has by this time fallen in love with the enigmatic Jessica, remains baffled, baffled that she is wearing such an outfit during daytime and baffled at why she is leaving him.

A frenzied, crowd-pleasing climax follows bringing **The Monster** to a satisfying ending that Glenn certainly won't reveal here.

Setting a delightfully comic farce against the backdrop of a serial killer would seem to be more than a bit of a precarious proposition by Roberto Benigni as director/co-writer and star carries it off with an

appealing flair. Even without multi-million dollar special effects or a hunky, multi-million dollar star, say a Tom Cruise or a Keanu Reeves, **The Monster** is an audience pleasing piece of cinematic entertainment. Trust Glenn and go.

Rating \$\$\$\$ (scale \$ to \$\$\$\$\$\$)
Opening at Milwaukee's Downer theatre on June 21st



Loris (Roberto Benigni) is wired in **The Monster**, a comic farce

Matthew Coles to Read at A Room Of One's Own

Madison — On Friday, June 28 at 6:30 p.m. at A Room of One's Own feminist bookstore, the ACLU's director of the Lesbian and Gay Rights and AIDS Project, Matthew Coles, will be speaking on his new book, **Try This At Home**, published by The New Press.

Coles' new book is a practical guide for individuals and groups on how to pass laws and policies that protect Lesbians, Gay men, and Bisexuals from discrimination. The book includes strategies to use at the state and governmental levels and at private institutions.

A Room of One's Own is located at 317 W. Johnson Street. The reading is free and open to the public. Call (608) 257-7888 for more information. ▽

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Production stage manager and de-clawed extremely friendly cat seek furnished housing (apartment/condo/house cabin... whatever) during run of show in Milwaukee from July 14 thru August 24. I have a car so I don't mind living outside of the City, especially in a quaint secluded area near natural beauty. Voice mail/pager: 1-800-990-5118

Disney's 'Hunchback of Notre Dame' is the Most Adult Animated Musical Yet

Los Angeles—Kids inevitably drag their parents to Disney's animated films. Will parents now haul their kids to **The Hunchback of Notre Dame**?

The newest installment in Hollywood's most popular movie franchise, **Hunchback** is by far the most "adult" animated musical since 1991's best picture-nominated **Beauty and the Beast**. A sporadically menacing film touching on some of the troublesome themes raised in Victor Hugo's 1831 novel, **Hunchback** will test the formidable Disney marketing machine.

The studio has at least one glittering twist on the dark classic working in its favor: In Disney's version, opening June 21, Quasimodo and Esmeralda don't die after all.

Entertainment analyst projections and early toy store sales indicate the movie and its related merchandise, including hand puppets, a lavish Disneyland stage show and **The Hunchback of Notre Dame** Topsy Turvy computer game, could surpass the highly profitable **Pocahontas** and its loot.

Others are skeptical. Reel Source, an online research service for movie exhibitors, says the film's "prospects seem limited," and the film may not appeal to very young children.

Held against the huggable Simba from **The Lion King** and the sleek title character of **Pocahontas**, the stars of **The Hunchback of Notre Dame** are both more complicated and less approachable.

From early sketches where he looked no worse than "some kid having a bad hair day," Quasimodo (voiced by Tom Hulce) evolved into a tormented, potentially frightening bell-ringer.

In early screenings at least, his appearance, and public humiliation, has sent some tearful 4-year-olds bolting for the lobby. The film's villain, Judge Claude Frollo, is an animated musical's equivalent of a child abuser. And while Quasimodo doesn't die, he also doesn't turn into a beautiful prince and get the girl.

"I think it has plenty in it for kids to enjoy," says Kirk Wise, who co-directed the film with Gary Trousdale. "But when we are looking at these stories, we are looking for things that we would enjoy. Hugo's novel is very dark. We wanted to stay true to the drama and emotion but add elements of fun and humor."

The film's most conspicuous pitch for children is delivered by talking, wise-cracking gargoyles named Victor, Hugo and Laverne. In the tradition of animated leading women, the take-no-gruff Esmeralda (voiced by Demi Moore) is so curvaceous it looks like the only time she leaves aerobics class is for breast enlargement surgery.

Hulce, who toyed around with several Quasimodo voices, finally settled on a form of speech that makes the character sound like a bashful young man.

When he was first asked to audition for the leading vocal role, Hulce said Quasimodo's animation was "much less monstrous." He was surprised how tame he was, "just a 'bad-hair' teen. Along the way, says Wise, Quasimodo's drawn demeanor ranged from "very frightening" to so enchanting "he looked like one of the seven dwarves."

Just as the filmmakers walked a narrow path between tragedy and comedy, fright and compassion, Hulce struggled to bring Quasimodo to life. "It was a process of hunt-and-peck," Hulce says. "How bold is he willing to be? How devastating is the abuse he has undergone?"

Wise and Trousdale decided their leading man essentially was a 19th century translation of the most unpopular kid in a 20th century elementary school.

"I think everybody at some time in their life has felt like Quasimodo," Wise says. "Children are keenly aware of what it's like to be left out. So kids immediately warm up to him."

Thanks to increasingly sophisticated computer animation programs, **The Hunchback of Notre Dame** features several dazzling scenes of lifelike crowds, realistic confetti and luminous sunlight streaming through stained-glass windows. For all its artistic beauty, however,

Hunchback will be judged by a very simple yardstick: Does the story work for a broad audience?

"It's a little more sophisticated subject matter," says Don Hahn, the film's producer, who has not yet decided if he will take his 5-year-old daughter. "It's a very personal decision" about how young is too young, he says.

"Ever since **Snow White**, Disney has been accused of scaring children," says Wise. "But as adults, those scared children look back (at those scary movies) as great memories of childhood."

Made into a major U.S. live-action film four times previously, **The Hunchback of Notre Dame** is far more than a story of a hideously deformed man living in the



Quasimodo is crowned king by Clopin during this scene from Disney's latest animated flick, **The Hunchback of Notre Dame**.

shadows of a French cathedral.

"It's a very serious book. It deals with political and historical issues in a very serious way," says Victor Brombert, a professor of comparative literature at Princeton University and a renowned Hugo authority.

Despite its relatively challenging narrative, Disney's **Hunchback** abandons Hugo's tragic ending, in which the Gypsy Esmeralda is hung and Quasimodo joins her in the tomb.

Since **The Lion King** was an original work, there was no criticizing its "authenticity." **Pocahontas** took broad liberties with the historical forebear, but without significant backlash. **Hunchback**, whose story is known by many, may not escape so lightly.

As for the Disney update, "I must confess I'm resisting this one a little bit," Brombert says. "It seems so far removed and sentimentalized."

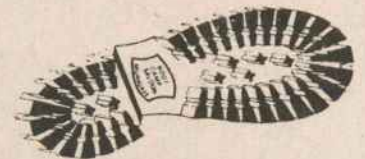
A few literary authorities concur. "Not too long ago, Hollywood was capable of telling stories with sad endings, such as **Cyrano** and **Dark Victory**," says Mark Crispin Miller, chair of the writing program at Johns Hopkins University. "The corporate need for immediate success on a grand scale has made it impossible to tell stories that don't leave people laughing and applauding."

"It's really sad and troubling because it rules out a lot of stories, a lot of stories can't be told."

Co-director Trousdale notes that Disney is in the entertainment business, not literary preservation. People have complained about Disney's adaptations of other classics, he says.

"Working with a French national treasure has its pitfalls," Trousdale says. "You have to be careful you don't alter it too much, don't run too roughshod over it."

As for the new batch of naysayers, Trousdale says, "They can go have a drink with the Lewis Carroll purists, the Rudyard Kipling purists and the Hans Christian Andersen purists."



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'Welcome to the Dollhouse' is a Brilliant, Bitter Little Film that is a Must-See

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

For many, recollections of childhood are inevitably made warm and fuzzy, through the use of rose-coloured glasses or by one of the many popular anti-depressants like Prozac. No such deterrent for filmmaker Todd Solondz whose re-telling of the horrors of seventh grade are frighteningly crystal clear in his recent film, **Welcome to the Dollhouse**.

Hello to Dawn Wiener (Heather Matarazzo), Solondz's spunky, if not exactly pretty protagonist. **Welcome to the Dollhouse** opens as the solitary Dawn, perhaps not so affectionately nicknamed "wiener dog" by her seventh grade peers, scans the unfriendly terrain of the Junior High lunch room for a seat at which she can eat her mac & cheese lunch.

When Dawn finally spies a space opposite tough girl, Lolita, she learns to her dismay that it is empty because someone "barfed there last period." Welcome to Dawn's world.

Perhaps Dawn's older brother Mark, a high school computer-geek extraordinaire should be sympathetic to Dawn but he is too busy finding extra-curricular activities to get into "a good school."

Little sis Missy (Daria Kalinina) is Dawn's personal and private nightmare. Missy is everything Dawn isn't: a beautiful little girl who endlessly pirouettes around the neighborhood in her pink tutu and who is momma's little favorite no matter what momma tells Dawn. A particularly telling moment comes, late one night when Dawn is poised, hammer in hand, and ready to rid her life of her pretty little nemesis.

While **Welcome to the Dollhouse** may lack pretensions of great themes, Solondz certainly has a wry eye on the tragedy of daily torments experienced during adolescence.

When bad-boy Brandon McCarthy (Brendan Sexton Jr.) tries to copy answers during a test, both are punished. Innocent victim Dawn pleads with her teacher at the unfairness of it all, but it is

Dawn who must write and then read to the entire class, an essay on the importance of dignity.

Still, it is Dawn's relationship with the enigmatic Brandon that gives **Welcome to the Dollhouse** its electric charge. Poor Dawn only sees Brandon as yet another of her tormentors. When Brandon insists that he will rape her and demands that she meet him after school to do so, Dawn is resigned to her fate. Trapped in the misery of her own world, she is unable to see the misery in his. Blinded by the "god-like beauty of Steve (Eric Mabius), a hunky high school Lothario recruited by brother Mark to aid his pathetic band, The Quadratics, Dawn fails to recognize Brandon's advances to her, awkward as they may be.

What is so refreshing about **Welcome to the Dollhouse** is Solondz's refusal to allow any character, Dawn included, any superfluous sympathy. Dawn is, at least partially responsible for little Missy's kidnapping but Glenn couldn't help but think that it was a just reward for that irritatingly cute little girl.

Solondz perhaps only crosses the line when he has Dawn, again lost in her misery, turn on her one true friend Ralphie, screaming at him "faggot" amongst other insults. That this moment in the film has a frightening ring of honesty cannot diminish how uncomfortable Glenn and other Gay men and Lesbians are likely to find the scene.

Welcome to the Dollhouse is a brilliant, more bitter than sweet little film. Solondz cleverly alternates excruciating funny detail with touches of wondrous tenderness to create a devilishly clever portrait of the cruel underbelly of a suburban middle-America rarely seen. **Welcome to the Dollhouse** is not to be missed!

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

Welcome to the Dollhouse starts Friday, June 21st, at Milwaukee's Downer Theatre.

'The Rock' is Just Enough of an Action Mess to Please the Befuddled Masses

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Summer is the time when the collective intelligence of the American movie-going public vanishes into thin air and mindless action pictures command virtually every available cinema screen.

Showing at two or more screens at multiplexes across the land is **The Rock**, a current prototypically mindless action flick starring the always wonderful Sean Connery and the hunky (stop drooling Kiki) Ed Harris that Glenn and Kiki inadvertently found themselves at last week.

Here's the story, believe it or not. General Francis X. Hummel (Ed Harris) professes his love to his wife's tomb stone and then decides to steal a whole bunch of missiles filled with lethal V.X. poison, the scariest chemical ever devised by man.

Why, you might ask?

Glenn didn't care but here goes. Well, apparently the U.S. government has forgotten to honor Hummel's men who lost their lives during some super secret mission. Hummel demands millions of dollars to compensate the poor, desolate families.

With the help of trusted colleague Major Tom Baxter (David Morse), Hummel and a mangy bunch of mercenaries take a pathetic group of tourists hostage at Alcatraz. The nation's only hope is Stanley Goodspeed (Nicolas Cage), an FBI chemical/biological weapons expert and Patrick Mason (Sean Connery), the only man ever to escape from Alcatraz.

This curious duo is accompanied to Alcatraz by a top notch Navy SEAL team to infiltrate the island, detoxify the bombs, avert disaster and let San Francisco live happily ever after. Since there ain't any stars (but a couple of real hunks)

'The Phantom' Isn't Supposed to be Deep, Just Fun—And It Is

By John Rogers

Comic strips are like fast food for the mind.

Read one. And just try to remember afterward what it was about that colorful good guy-bad confrontation in this week's serial that so intrigued you.

The Phantom, from Paramount Pictures, this year's comic-strip entrant into the big-budget movie sweepstakes, is like that, too.

You can revel in the slam-bang action

amongst the SEALS, even Glenn knew they'd be butchered immediately.

Well, of course they are and soon it's just Mason and Goodspeed against all of the evil villains. Will Hummel blow up the Gay Mecca of the Universe? Time and an admission cost of at least \$6.50 will answer these questions and many, many more, not Glenn.

Fortunately director Michael Bay and editor Richard Francis-Bruce have kept any spoken word dialog to an absolute minimum (although there's grunts aplenty) and very few shots in the course of the film have a duration longer than a moment or two.

All this just to keep the absolute implausibility of this mess hidden from the masses. The masses, at least at the screening Glenn and Kiki attended, seemed to love **The Rock**, cheering enthusiastically throughout. While leaving the cinema, Kiki overheard one of the masses enthusing, "This was way better than **Mission Impossible**." A true compliment to be sure.

All in all, **The Rock** regardless of its wonderful cast is merely a testosterone inspired muddle for masses. Still, Sean Connery fans abound and he's on hand to do his very best Sean Connery imitation.

Nicholas Cage adds some must needed touches of humour and thrown in generous helpings of nifty explosions and inane dialog and there you have it. A certified hit!

See **The Rock** if you must, enjoy it if you can and just remember, Glenn told you so!

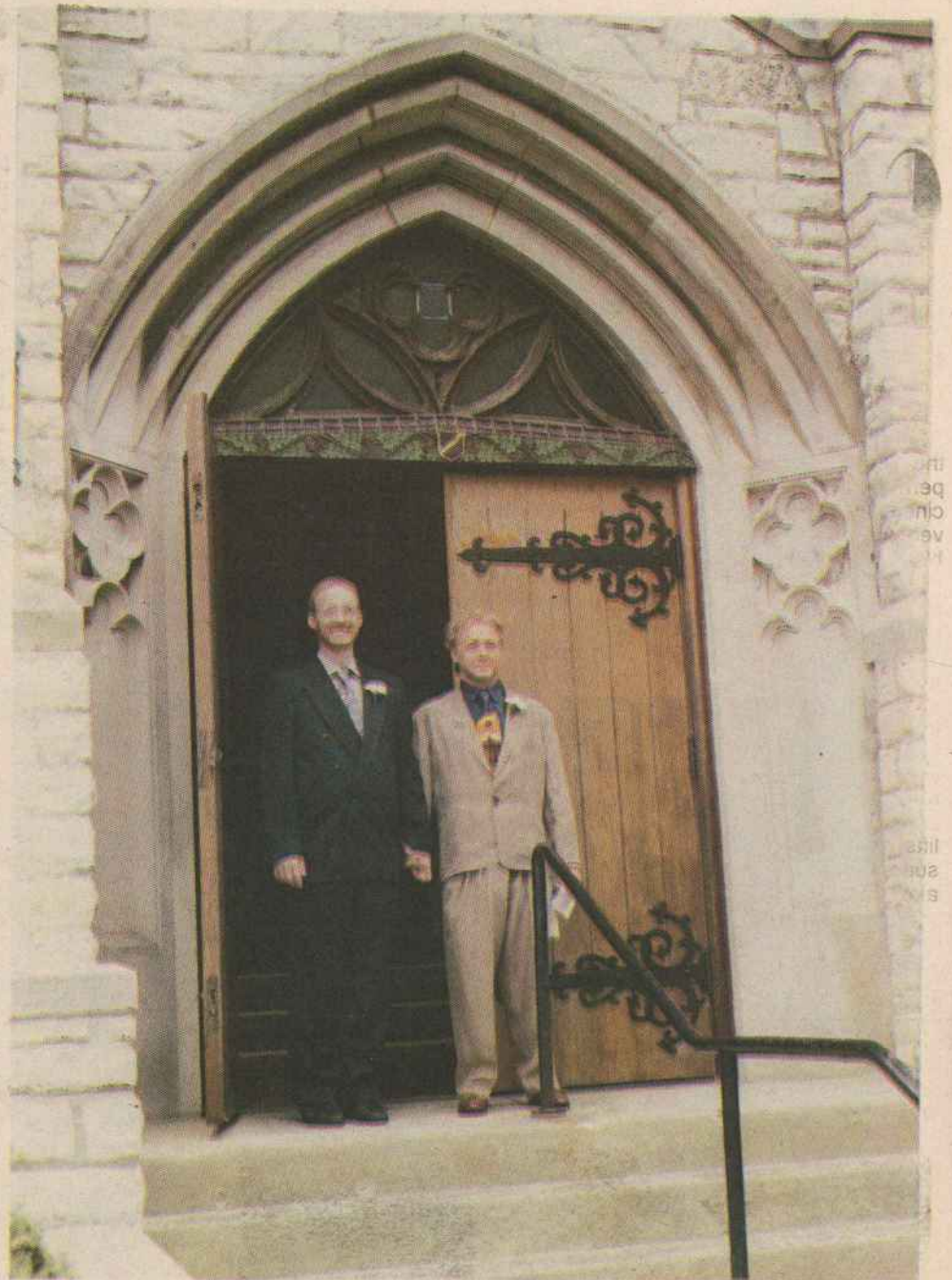
Rating \$\$ (scale \$ to \$\$\$\$\$\$)

Playing at any and every multiplex near you.

sequences, marvel at the lushly filmed exotic locales from Thailand to Australia, then you leave the theater feeling, well, not hungry exactly, but not full either.

The story is comic-strip simple. Evil New York City businessman Xander Drax (and with a name like that how he could be anything but evil?) has dispatched his henchmen to the Bengalla jungle. Their mission: to swipe one of the mysterious Skulls of Touganda.

Bengalla, as every comic-strip aficionado



Gary Wells and Terrance Rohloff shortly after taking their "wedding vows" at Kenwood United Methodist Church. Following their joyous union they celebrated their wedding with over 100 friends and relatives at B's Bar in Milwaukee.

nado knows, is patrolled by the Phantom himself, played here with delightful good-guy innocence and enthusiasm by muscular hunk Billy Zane.

The henchmen make off with the skull, of course, while the Phantom stops to rescue a little boy they've left tied up in a truck that's about to topple off a bridge into a picturesque gorge.

The catch is that Drax needs three skulls before he can harness the mysterious power that will allow him to conquer the world.

The Phantom quickly tails him to New York, loses him, gets back on the trail and eventually confronts him in a fight for Skull No. 3 that takes place on an underground island somewhere under a Bermuda Triangle-like section of ocean.

Along the way, the Phantom gets help from (and must repeatedly rescue) Diana Palmer (Kristy Swanson), who, by lucky coincidence, is the old college flame of the Phantom's alter-ego, Kit Walker.

Well, this being a comic strip, it would seem pretty clear from the get-go which side is going to triumph in a battle of good versus evil.

Thus the fun must be derived in getting to that final showdown, and in wondering whether the Phantom will win over Diana's affections. Or if he even wants them. Or, for that matter, if she'll figure out that the big handsome lua in the purple

tights and mask is the same guy who dumped her after college to go riding through the jungle on his white horse fighting bad guys.

(Superheroes somehow, rarely have time for women, other than to give them a passing glance.)


In this, **The Phantom** generally delivers. The chemistry between Zane and Swanson is there, watered down, and some of the slam-bang special effects scenes directed by Simon Wincer, including one in which the pair escape Drax's men by going from an airplane to horseback, is nothing less than spectacular.

Diana, meantime, is no shrinking violet, but a woman able to deliver a good kick below the belt or a round-house right to the head with about as much gusto as her protector does.

The Phantom, meanwhile, might seem at first to be at a bit of a disadvantage to other comic-strip heroes who have made it to the big screen. He has special powers like Superman, after all, and no dark demons haunting his soul like Batman, who as a child saw his parents slain by criminals and vowed revenge.

But Zane, who was mean as they come in the film **Dead Calm**, makes the character work here by being such a nice guy.

Please Turn to PHANTOM - Page 21



THIS IS IT!

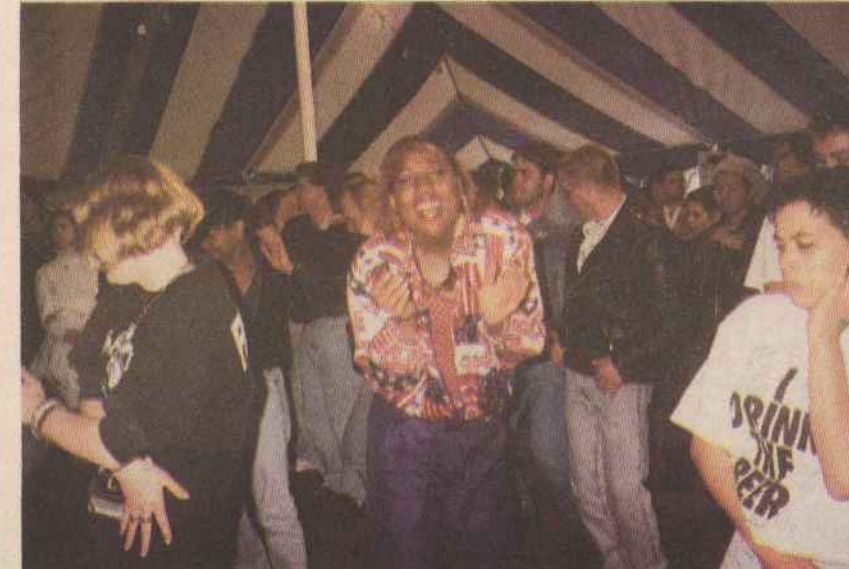
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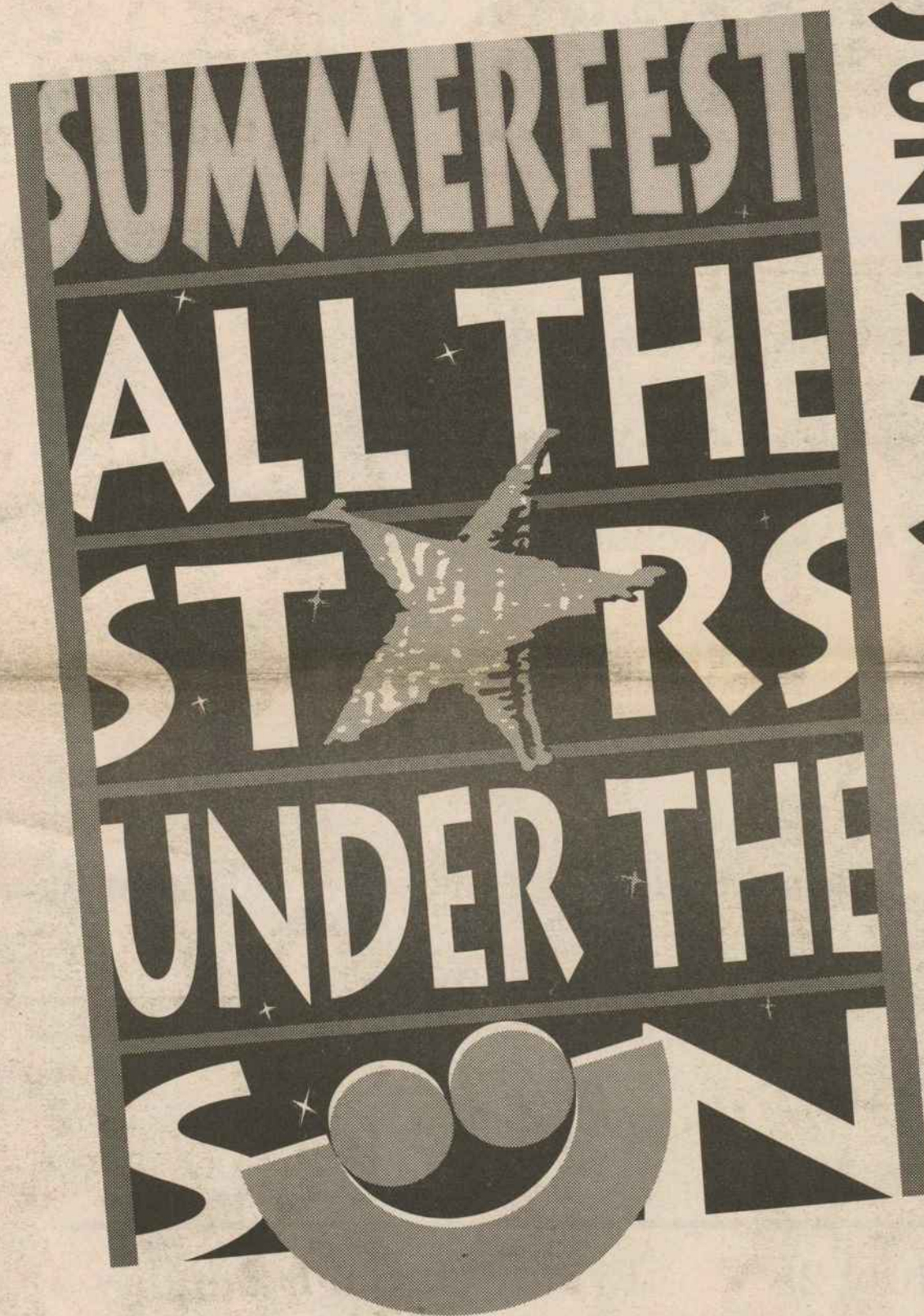
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Laona, WI, 54541
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Sass
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Green Bay, WI 54301
435-5476

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Kenosha, WI 53140
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Racine, WI 53403
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PHANTOM

Continued from page 17

Also, having a deceased former Phantom father (Patrick McGoohan in a role played so wryly that one wishes there was more to it) showing up at key moments to offer paternal advice doesn't hurt either.

Not that there aren't problems. Screenwriter Jeffrey Boam, whose previous credits include *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* and the last two *Lethal Weapon* movies, seems to be trying so hard to give the characters snappy dialogue that they risk self-parody at times.

Treat Williams' evil Drax also isn't quite far enough over the top, as say Jack Nicholson's "Joker" was in *Batman*.

And one can't help feeling that we've seen all this before in one form or another. Jungle locales, daring rescues, evil villains. Check out any of the *Indiana Jones* films or *James Bond* or *Batman*.

But, hey, it's a comic strip. It's not supposed to be deep. It's supposed to be fun. And it is.

The Phantom is now playing in theatres everywhere.



Softball Fund Raiser

Sat, June 22

5pm to ????

- Pie Toss Auction
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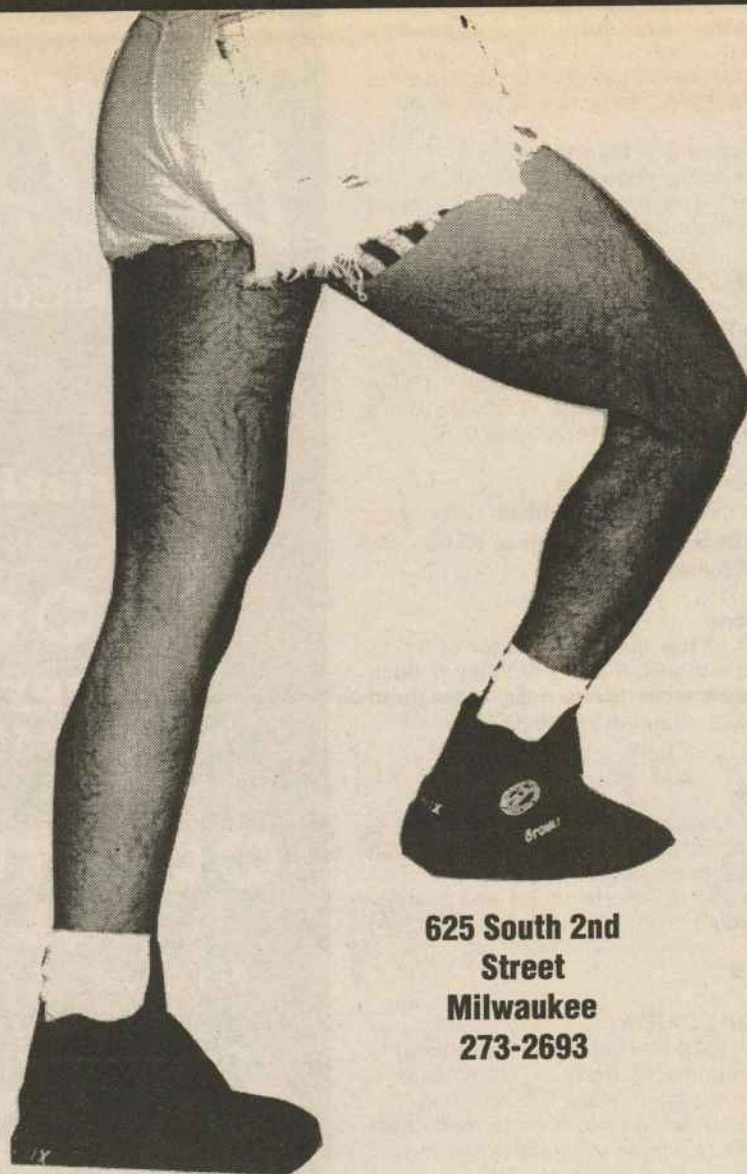
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SATURDAY JUNE 22

In Between Soft Ball Fun Raiser

In Between (625 S Second St., Milwaukee), is throwing another its unending series of fun parties. This one is a benefit for the In Between softball team. The fun begins at 5:00. The fun raiser includes a cook out, a celebrity pie toss, an auction, and fun games like "Pin the nasty on the Bad Boy."

Tammy Baldwin Hosts Fund Raiser for Madison Pride

Tammy Baldwin will host a fund raiser to help raise money for Madison's Pride March on July 22. The event which includes entertainment and food will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 at 525 Riverside Drive. A \$15.00 donation is suggested. For more information contact Steve Starkey at (608)251-6834.

Twin Cities Pride Festival Begins

The **Twin Cities Pride Festival** held in Loring Park will open at 11:00. The fest which runs only during daylight hours on Saturday June 22, and Sunday June 23 is expected to attract over 100,000 celebrants from throughout the Upper Midwest.

Entertainment, food and a huge market place are the main features of this 24th annual Pride celebration.

The **Twin Cities Pride Parade** will be held on Sunday June 23. (One of the grand marshals is Bob Jansen owner of Superior's Main Club) For more info on Twin Cities Pride call 1-800-PRIDE-YA

SUNDAY JUNE 23

Century Hall Reunion Benefits MAP

The **Broadway Theater Center** (158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee) will host the 20th Reunion of Century Hall patrons, fans, and staff. The reunion includes a galaxy of Milwaukee and national performers including nationally known comic Will Durst, Blues artist Paul Cebal, Jazz artist Juli Wood, African Storyteller Reginald Findlayson, Miriam Ben Shalom, and the Ko Thi Dancers among dozens of others.

All proceeds will go the Milwaukee AIDS project. Tickets are \$8.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door. Children under 12 are just \$5.00. Advance sale tickets can be purchased at the Broadway Theater Box office or at Survival Revival (246 E. Chicago, Milwaukee).

Gay, Out And Single at Manoeuvres

Manoeuvres (150 S. Blair, Madison) will be the site of a wild night featuring an X-rated dating game show. Based on a popular Cable show, "Gay Out and Single" promises to be a hilarious bit of entertainment. The fun begins at 10:00.

FRIDAY JUNE 28

Wisconsin Leather Weekend Begins With Ball at B's

B's (formerly 3 B's), located at 2nd and Lapham in Milwaukee will be the site of the opening festivities for Milwaukee's "Wisconsin Leather Weekend." A Leather Ball will be held at the bar beginning at 7:00. Admission is \$4.00 (\$3.00 for those attired in Leather) There will be special guest appearances from JD Buchert, the 1995 International Mr. Fantasy, Dale Willman, Mr. Minnesota Fantasy, 1995, and Beth Kelly Ms. Leather Madison, 1995 throughout the weekend.

SATURDAY JUNE 29

Mr. Wisconsin Fantasy Contest at the 1100 Club

The **1100 Club** (1100 S. 1st Street, Milwaukee) will host the 1996 Mr. Wisconsin Fantasy Contest. Be on hand as some of Wisconsin's hunkiest men work to convince the judges that they deserve the title. The contest begins at 9 PM. Admission is just \$5.00.

Miss Central Gay Wisconsin US of A Pageant at Madhatter

The **Madhatter** (320 Washington Street, across from Walgreens, Wausau) will be the site of the 1996 Miss Central Gay Wisconsin pageant. The pageant will feature great entertainment and celebrity appearances. It begins at 10:30 PM.

SUNDAY JUNE 30

Gargoyle Bus Heads to Chicago Pride Parade

Gargoyles (354 E. National Ave) is sending a bus to the Chicago Gay Pride Parade. The trip which costs \$30.00 includes some fabulous food, drinks and surprises. Those taking the bus will meet at Gargoyles at 10:30 AM. The bus leaves at 11:00 AM sharp and returns at 7:30 P.M. To reserve a spot stop by the bar or call (414)225-9676.

Mr/Ms Southeast Wisconsin Leather Contest at B's

The Wisconsin Leather Weekend concludes with the Mr/Ms. Southeast Wisconsin Leather Contest at B's. The contest gets underway at 9:00. Admission is \$5.00. B's (formerly 3 B's) is located at Second St. and Lapham in Milwaukee.

Country Dykes Hold Picnic

Are you a country dyke? Do you want to be one? If the answer to either of these questions is yes, then you are more than welcome to join the RDA for its monthly potluck at 2:00. Interested parties are encouraged to bring a vegetarian dish to pass, a few good stories and a willingness to meet a few Llamas. For more information call (608)266-5972 8:30 to 4 weekdays or (608)846-2417 weekends.

Chicago Pride Parade

The **Chicago Pride Parade**, the largest gathering of Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals in the Midwest will again wind its through the streets of Boystown. The Parade which begins at 2:00 sharp, is expected to attract over 250,000 participants and watchers. The annual street extravaganza will end at Grant park, the site of entertainment and a rally. For more information contact Chicago Pride, (312)348-8243.

THURSDAY JULY 4

MAMA ROUX'S HOST SPOTLIGHT PARTY!

They are at it again. The bunch from Mama Roux's (1875 N. Humboldt, Milwaukee) is throwing another one of their wild parties, "The Amendment 2 Party. This time its a Spotlight Party co-hosted by **The Wisconsin Light**. Free beer (while it lasts) food, fun and more awaits the holiday revelers beginning at 6:00. In addition to a costume contest (come as your favorite character in American history) there will be a Jeopardy game and more surprises.

So be on hand as Mama Roux's and Wisconsin Light celebrate a bang up 4th of July.

FRIDAY JULY 5

Men's Room Grand Opening at Geraldine's

Geraldine's (3054 E. Washington, Madison) is opening its new Men's Room Bar. The Men's Room will be located on the second floor and will cater primarily to men. The Men's Room bar is part of the extensive remodeling done over the past few months.

SUNDAY JULY 7

Waukesha Lesbians Party at State Park!

The **Waukesha Area Lesbian Network** is hosting its first annual picnic at Lapham Peak State Park in Delafield. All womyn, children and assorted pets are welcome to

attend. (dogs must be leashed). The festivities run from 3 to 8 PM. There will be Potluck Dinner at 5:30 PM. The Park entrance fee is just \$5.00 per car (its free if you have a State DNR sticker). Meet at the Homestead Hollow Picnic and Shelter area.

WALN is providing the site, assorted beverages, games and their famous Waukesha County hospitality. They ask that you bring a dish to pass and as many friends as you can. Lapham State Park is located off I-94 and HWY C. Go South on C to the Park entrance (about 1.5 miles). For more information call WALN at (414)297-9412.

Postal Service to Issue Stamp in Memory of Bisexual Actor James Dean

Indianapolis, IN—Grant County officials say they're not disappointed that James Dean's hometown post office won't get to issue a commemorative stamp honoring the film star this summer.

The U.S. Postal Service said Wednesday, April 17th, it will release the stamp in Hollywood on June 24th and hold a second-day issue ceremony the next day in Fairmount, where Dean grew up and is buried.

"We're happy with that," said Karen Lentz, executive director of the Grant County Convention and Visitors Bureau. "We became aware in the process of lobbying for the first-day issue that Hollywood was the front-runner."

Sen. Dan Coats, (R-IN), was pleased as well.

"This will bring national attention to Fairmount and Grant County," he said.

Coats wrote to Postmaster General Marvin Runyon last month to ask that Runyon consider issuing the stamp in Fairmount.

In his response Runyon said the Postal Service had decided to go ahead and release the Dean stamp in Los Angeles. It will be the second in the "Legends of Hollywood" series, following 1995's stamp honoring Marilyn Monroe.

The new stamp, which has won a gold medal for design by the Society of Illustrators, depicts a somber Dean with tousled hair and sideburns.

Dean appeared in three films: **East of Eden** (1955), **Rebel Without a Cause** (1955) and **Giant** (1956). He died at age 24 in a California car crash on September 30, 1955.

While many authorities believe that Dean was Bisexual, there are those who think that he was Gay.

Grant County tourism officials had argued that a first-day issue from Fairmount, a town of 3,200 about 60 miles north of Indianapolis, would make the stamp more valuable to collectors.

But Richard Weinberg, owner of The Stamp Shop in Indianapolis, said the location would

make little difference.

"Dean was raised here in Indiana, so for the locals it might mean something, but collectors don't care," he said.

Besides the summer celebration, the Postal Service also plans to hold a commemorative ceremony this fall to coincide with the annual Fairmount Museum Days, which run September 27-29. A special postmark will be designed for the event, Runyon said.

The celebrations will remind people of Dean's Hoosier ties, Lentz said.

"There are a lot of people who know about James Dean and know about his movies and such, but don't specifically link him to Indiana and to Fairmount," she said.

Dean was born in 1931 in Marion, just north of Fairmount. He moved with his family to California, but he returned to Fairmount at age 9, after his mother died, to be raised by an aunt and uncle.

Runyon's decision on the second-day issue delighted Brenda Graham, an employee at the James Dean Gallery in Fairmount.

"He's a hometown boy," she said. "If he was around today he'd still be laid back and you'd still see him walking the streets."

WARREN

Continued From Page 14

Education Services Center.

The group had requested her for a writer's workshop and Warren soon found herself teaching school, as a volunteer, every day for six months. Through her involvement in this project, Warren feels that these youths have taught here as much as he has taught them in the process has happily found herself with "many young consultants on Billy's Boy."

A very forward thinking woman, Patricia Nell Warren has embraced the new technology and has not only a website with her publishing company, Wildcat Press but has continued her involvement with Gay and Lesbian youth to edit a youth magazine on-line.



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Eddie Murphy Apologizes for 1981 AIDS Remarks

San Francisco—Actor Eddie Murphy apologized Friday, May 10th, for comments he made in 1981 about how AIDS can be transmitted, saying he was a young, misinformed comic at the time.

"I deeply regret any pain all this has caused," Murphy said in a statement regarding comments he made during a 1981 HBO show called "Delirious."

His statement came in response to AIDS activists who had demanded that David Letterman remove Murphy as a guest for Thurs-

day's "Late Show" because the comic never properly apologized for the remarks.

In the HBO show, Murphy commented on promiscuity and sexually transmitted diseases, saying that AIDS might be transmitted through kissing. Research has shown that AIDS is transmitted through bodily fluids, such as blood and semen. There is a small chance it can be transmitted through saliva.

Among the protesters was San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano, who is Gay.

Ammiano read his own version of Letterman's Top 10 List. Calling it "Ten Reasons Why Murphy Should Not Appear," he somberly recited the names of 10 well-known people who have died of AIDS.

Murphy appeared on the show as scheduled.

"I know AIDS isn't funny," Murphy said in the statement, adding that he is more knowledgeable about AIDS now.

"I think it's unfair to take the words of a misinformed 21-year-old and apply them to an informed 35-year-old man ... I want to once again go on the record as saying that I'm not homophobic and I'm not anti-Gay," he said.

Murphy signed the statement: "Peace, love and condoms, Eddie Murphy."



Jerry Johnson

Robb Gerpoltz and Yuri Hall Kestra announced their engagement at This Is It.

Engagement

Robert Christopher Gerpoltz (Robb) and Yuri Hall Kestra, both of Milwaukee, joyfully announce their engagement to be married.

Robb, 23, a transaction processor at the American Society for Quality Control (ASQC) proposed to Yuri, 25, a Gay/Lesbian Community Outreach Specialist at the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP), on Saturday, June 8, 1996, dur-

ing PrideFest. The two plan a Winter Solstice (December 21) ceremony.

The Winter Solstice was chosen because of the symbolism of the day—December 21st has the longest night of the year and marks the returning of light.

In addition to their careers, Robb volunteers at MAP and both are members of the Milwaukee chapter of the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT UP).

The couple plans to reside in Milwaukee and to continue their commitment to Milwaukee's Queer Community.

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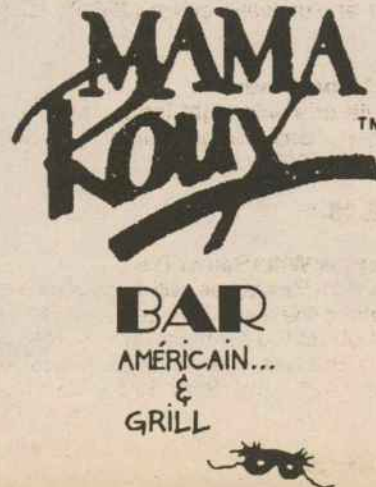
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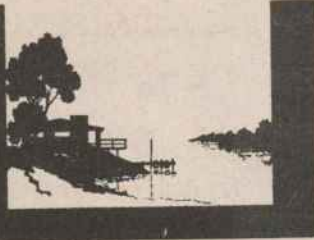
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Traveling In Gay Wisconsin



Chanticleer Guest House: A Gem in Door County

Take one part beautiful scenery, one part spacious grounds, one part romantic setting and a big dash of elegance and you have the recipe for Wisconsin's 4 Star Gay Bed and Breakfast, the Chanticleer Guest House.

Located near the Southern end of beautiful Door County, and nestled on a charming 30 acre estate that includes hiking trails, a sheep pasture, and a gazebo that's perfect for weddings the Chanticleer is well worth the trip. It is the brainchild of Bryon Groeschl and Darrin Day an attractive, young couple who are as gracious as hosts as any guest could imagine or wish for.

Boasting four well-appointed elegant units, the Chanticleer provides an atmosphere that is as relaxing as anything you will find at more well known Gay and Lesbian resorts. It is a great destination for a quick weekend or mid week getaway, a wedding, a gathering of a few friends, a honey moon, or an anniversary trip. In fact the Chanticleer is a great place for just about any occasion.

The Guest House really doesn't have rooms; it has suites. Every suite includes a large Jacuzzi, whirlpool, a fireplace, a sitting area, private bath, TV, VCR and stereo and a wonderful atmosphere. All guests are able to take advantage of several other amenities as well.



The Chanticleer Guest House is a wonderful place to stay for any occasion. The popular Chanticleer is open year round. It is located at the Southern end of Door County. Reservations for the elegant rooms are strongly recommended.

Each room has a balcony overlooking a good size, in ground swimming pool. There are hiking trails winding through the woods that comprise part of the grounds. If you can't sleep, don't worry, you can literally count the sheep Darrin keeps in the pasture behind the Guest House. You get all of this plus a great breakfast delivered to your door at a time of your choosing.

"We wanted to create an experience for our guests," said Darrin. "It was a lot of hard work but it was well worth it. We get a lot of repeat business. We have weddings here, we've had groups rent the place out for the weekend."

The Chanticleer has been so successful that Bryon and Darrin are planning an expansion. "We will be adding four more rooms and a bigger commons area," said Bryon. "There are too many times when we are booked up and have to turn people away. I hate turning people away. That's especially a problem with some of our Gay and Lesbian guests. They don't realize that they have to make reservations well in advance especially on summer weekends."

The popularity of the Chanticleer is explained by more than its spacious suites and beautiful site. It is located in one of Wisconsin's most popular tourist attractions, Door County. In addition to great scenery, with well over a hundred antique shops, artist studios, art galleries, fine restaurants, museums, wineries and boutiques, Door County is a Gay shopper's paradise. If you aren't into "power shopping," there are great fishing spots, boating, hiking trails, golf courses, several fine theater troupes, a festival of one kind or another nearly every weekend and more.

Even when the shops are closed (as most are after October), the Chanticleer is still busy. In part drawn by the area's excellent cross country ski trails and also in part drawn by the friendly, gracious inn keepers, Bryon and Darrin, the guests keep coming.

Both men were raised on dairy farms in rural Wisconsin. They met in while Darrin was studying agriculture at UW in Madison. At the time Bryon had his own business, trimming cattle hoofs.

After Darrin's graduation, the two lived together in Chilton for a time while Bryon continued trimming cows and Darrin began work for an agricultural cooperative. Bryon was growing weary of cutting cattle toe nails. One evening he asked some friends in Door County if they thought a Gay owned Bed and Breakfast would make it in their environment. They encouraged him and the rest is history.

"I always thought that if the Hoof Trimming thing didn't work out, I would study hotel management in college," said Bryon. "So when the opportunity presented itself, I took advantage of it."

Byron and Darrin went hunting for a suitable site. "This was the second place we saw. I wanted a place that had plenty of space. When we turned the corner, I saw it and said to Darrin, if that's the one that for sale, let's take it."

It wasn't that simple though. The estate was used for horse farming. They had to gut the entire building, put in all of the comforts, buy the furniture and get the word out.

"We were a success from the start," said Byron. "I really think that's because we are providing what people needed and wanted, a great B & B where everyone could feel comfortable."

That comfort awaits you at the Chanticleer.

The Chanticleer is easy to find. Take I-43 to the HWY 57 Sturgeon Bay exit. Continue on 57 to County HWY BB, turn left and go about a mile to HWY HH. For a more scenic route you can drive along Lake Michigan on HWY 42 until it meets HWY 57. Advance reservations especially for the weekends are strongly recommended. To make a reservation call the Chanticleer at (414)746-0334.

Venturing Out

A World of Travel

By Sasha Alyson

A generation ago, Gay travel largely involved a plane ticket to San Francisco or New York. Today, the possibilities are endless.

The list of "Gay Meccas" has grown each year to include South Beach, Provincetown, Palm Springs, Rehoboth, Russian River, Key West, and Fire Island. Beyond that, hundreds of Travel agencies now focus on Lesbian and Gay travelers, as do dozens of cruise and tour operators. So do two magazines: **Out & About** and **Our World**.

Some of the reasons for this explosion are obvious and cliched. We really are everywhere. Yes, as a group, we do travel more than the average American. While I'm skeptical of surveys claiming that Gay people have higher-than-average incomes, we do seem more inclined to indulge our wanderlust.

Other reasons for the Gay travel boom are more subtle. My theory is that many of us, growing up in a world where we didn't always feel we fit, daydreamed

about traveling to a place where we felt more at home. Today, even if we've found that place, that urge to explore has stayed with us.

Venturing Out is a new monthly column that will address all areas of Gay and Lesbian travel, both in the U.S. and abroad. We'll report on one-day parties and two-week cruises. You'll get suggestions about the best beaches for a week of pure relaxation; and also about vacations that challenge your mind, your body, or both. We'll look behind the scenes too: How did RSVP get so well-known so quickly? What are the dynamics by which a South Beach becomes Gay identified?

Do you have questions about Gay travel that you'd like to see addressed? Companies that did a great or not-so-great job for you? Experiences you'd like to share? I'd like to hear them. Send them to Sasha Alyson, Alyson Adventures, P.O. Box 181223, Boston, MA 02118.

American Airlines Makes the Skies a Friendly Place for Gays and Lesbians

New York, NY--American Airlines has announced another ground breaking move by introducing the most ambitious travel promotion to date designed principally for the growing numbers of Lesbian and Gay travelers.

Introduced as PLANET RSVP, this marketing outreach will be presented in partnership with the respected gay-owned travel organization RSVP Travel Production, and one of the largest US travel industry whole-salers, GoGo Worldwide Vacations. A special feature of this joint promotion includes agreement by the parties to share a portion of the profits with philanthropic causes that will benefit the Gay and Lesbian community.

American Airlines was selected in 1995 by **Out and About** magazine for its Editor's Choice Award as the leading US airline serving Gays and Lesbians. American is also recognized as the first US carrier to include Gays and Lesbians in its written employment non-discrimination guidelines.

PLANET RSVP will begin to accept reservations in the fall of 1996 for US domestic and overseas departures starting in November 1996.

These air-inclusive, exceptional travel values will include many favorite US destinations for Lesbian and Gay travelers, including: Key West, Hawaii, Miami, New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Palm Springs, New Orleans and San Juan, Puerto Rico. For overseas journeys, the immediate destinations will include London, Paris and Amsterdam.

All of the combined travel and hotel accommodations will feature an important difference: they are designed especially for the value-minded Lesbian and Gay traveler, offering a mix of Gay-friendly and knowledgeable accommodations in each market — from two-star to five-star hotels.

Rick Cirillo, National Sales Manager for the Gay and Lesbian market at American Airlines, called PLANET RSVP the "next step" in making Lesbians and Gays feel welcome and fulfilling their travel needs.

"We have worked hard to go the extra mile for all our passengers, and we also know that Gays and Lesbians are among our most loyal and frequent flyers. Creating affordable and value-priced packages that include Gay-friendly destinations and properties will make the experience more relaxing and enjoyable for Gay people who are not always made to feel welcome," Cirillo said.

American's partner, RSVP Travel Productions, headquartered in

Minneapolis, is an industry leader in offering resort "escapes" and vacation cruises exclusively for Gays and Lesbians. For more than a decade, it has served thousands of Gay and Lesbian vacationers and resort travelers. Charlie Rounds, President of RSVP, called this newest venture a "breakthrough." According to Rounds, "Working with American and GoGo Vacations represents a global potential for Gays and Lesbians. Our experience tells us that Gay and Lesbian travelers like a mix of experience, with enough independence to discover new sights, new friends and fascinating cities. We also know that Gays and Lesbians, like all smart travelers, insist on value for their dollar. We intend to deliver on that promise."

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The Night Light



By Dusty Sass

Whew again, what a busy time the last few weeks have been. Between PrideFest, the Classic and all of the other events its hard to catch one's breath. The next couple of weeks or so things will calm down somewhat, but just a bit.

On Friday June 21, Dr. Susie Shovelit and I will be at Just Us for one of their fabulous fish fries. Big hunks of fish, great cole slaw, fries and more served family style (which is another way of saying you can pig out and not feel guilty).

Later that evening we'll trip the light fantastic (okay maybe we'll just trip, Susie gets a little wobbly after a few drinks) at La Cage, Milwaukee's premier Dance bar.

On Saturday June 22 I'll be checking out the In Between Softball Fun Raiser. This should be a real hoot. Besides some great food they are going to have a celebrity pie toss, some games (at least one of which is X-Rated) and an auction. I tell ya, if they auction off some of the hot men they have on their team, I may have to break my piggy bank and pawn my pearls. The fun starts at 5:00.

Kurt and his crew always do a great job Don't miss this party.

Of course to make it to In Between, I'll have to race back from Mad Town. Earlier in the day I'll be at the Tammy Baldwin Fund Raiser for the Madison Pride celebration. Lots of good food and good friends will be on hand to help a very worthy cause.

Isn't it just like Tammy to pitch in like this. I mean she has plenty of other things to do with all the BS in the Capitol. Its another reason to be proud of her.

Sunday June 23 sees the a MAP Benefit, the Century Hall 20th Anniversary Reunion at the Broadway Theater Center, 158 N. Broadway. This wonderful event features some great entertainers including one of my favorite comics, Will Durst. Now normally you'd pay a pretty penny to see some of these acts, but its just \$10.00 and well worth it.

Then its back to Madison for the "Gay, Out and Single show at Manoeuvres. This is a take off on a cable X-Rated Dating show. It should be lots of fun. Maybe I can be the consolation prize!

Then on Friday June 28 it will be time to put on my dead animal skin for the Wisconsin Leather Weekend. Held at two bars over three nights, the weekend has all the elements of a success, hot men, butch men, hunky men.

B's is holding a Leather Ball on Friday June 28. Then the action moves over to the 1100 Club for the Saturday June 29, Mr. Wisconsin Fantasy Contest. (Sorry guys I decided to let someone else win this year.) On Sunday June 30, the whole thing wraps up with the Mr/Ms Wisconsin Leather Contest back at B's. I can hardly wait.

If I get too tied up I will have to send a representative to the Miss Central Gay Wisconsin Pageant at the Madhatter in Wausau on Saturday June 29. This is one of the big shows of the year for that area of the state and shouldn't be missed by anyone.

On Sunday June 30, it will be another out of town trip as I join the guys from Gargoyles as they bus it down to Chicago for the big Pride Parade. Vic and Jerry promise to have lots of great food, drink and company to keep things interesting.

By the way there's not one scintilla of truth to the rumor that after my last trip to Chicago, my picture has been posted at all of the border crossings and toll booths between Milwaukee and Chicago.

That of course means that I will miss the Country Dyke Picnic sponsored by RDA. Tuesday July 2 is Wisconsin Light distribution night in Milwaukee. Because we don't want to be distributing papers on July 4, we are cumming early. (That'll be a first for me.) Terry, Jerry and I will be out and about trying to beat off the frenzied mobs of people who want to be the first to see my next column.

I am really looking forward to Thursday July 4. That's when Mama Roux's and The Wisconsin Light throw a big Independence Day bash with our Amendment 2 party. Don't spend the day decorating your coaster wagon or bike, come on down and party with us.

There will be lots of friendly people, free Miller beer, food, free Miller beer, games, free Miller Beer, and other surprises. Oh did I mention the free beer, it will be Miller beer, of course.

We encourage you to come as your favorite character from American History. Two Lesbian friends of mine are coming as Lizzie Borden. (ooohh that ax is sharp!) The fun starts at 6:00.

On Friday July 5 you can join me in Mad Town for the grand opening of the latest addition to Geraldines, the Men's Room. Hey I try to make all Men's Room openings. I have spent many enjoyable hours in various Men's rooms.

Speaking of which this Men's Room is a new bar on the premises so leave the magic markers at home, I don't think that Ray wants you to scribble up his walls.

That wraps it up for the next couple of weeks. Hope to see YOU out and about soon. In the meantime, play safe and be proud!

Film Showing Sultan as Bisexual Infuriates Islamic Fundamentalists

Ankara, Turkey—A blockbuster movie has conservative Turks up in arms over what they say are hints that a feared 17th-century Ottoman sultan was Bisexual.

The dispute is about more than the movie. It is part of a battle over Turkish society being waged between Turks who want a secular society and a growing movement that wants to impose strict Islamic law.

Istanbul Under My Wings is breaking box-office records for Turkish-made films. It tells the story of Hazerfan Ahmet Celebi, a Turkish scientist who built his own wings using Leonardo da Vinci's blueprints and supposedly was able to fly.

Central to the movie is Sultan Murad IV, who offered shaky support for Celebi's endeavor. Murad is depicted in the constant company of a handsome young man. He is shown patting the man's head and talking to him in an intimate manner.

The producers contend they never meant to suggest that Murad was Bisexual. In numerous scenes, he is shown in bed with women from his harem.

But a lawmaker from the pro-Islamic Welfare Party demanded in Parliament that the government explain how such a movie could receive state funds.

Culture Minister Agah Oktay Guner, known for his ultranationalist leanings, condemned the movie for "insulting our history" and said he would ask that the funds be returned to the treasury.

"Nobody has the right to swear at Turkish history by portraying a sultan as Gay using the (state's) money," he said. The money was granted during the previous administration, when the ministry was run by a social democrat.

A Welfare mayor in the central city of Kayseri banned the film.

The Islamic political movement, led by the Welfare Party, has been gaining strength in the last few years. While it could muster no more than 10 percent of the vote in the 1970s and 1980s, it has drawn 25-30 percent of the vote in recent elections.

Now the largest party in Parliament, Welfare is looking for partners to form a coalition government after a center-right coalition collapsed last week.

Welfare wants to push Turkey toward the East, and says the country would be better off leading the Islamic world than trying to tag along behind its richer and more powerful Western allies, who have different values anyway. Secular Western-oriented leaders advocate unity with Europe.

The tensions frequently spill over into everyday life. For example, Welfare is trying to lift a ban on female lawyers covering their heads in court. And then there's the sultan.

Many intellectuals, newspaper columnists and historians criticized the culture minister for his denunciations and the mayor for banning the movie. Some said that even if the sultan had been Gay or Bisexual, it wouldn't be a big surprise.

"If you read between the lines in Ottoman history, you'll clearly see that homosexuality was widespread," Erdal Yavuz, a professor at Ankara's Middle East Technical University, wrote in the liberal newspaper Yeni Yuzylil.

Suleiman the Magnificent
Other articles have come out, stating what has long been known, if seldom acknowledged: that the greatest Sultan of them all, Suleiman the Magnificent was Bisexual.

Suleiman, who ruled the Grand Porte from 1520 to 1566, had as the love of his life, Ibrahim, a Greek slave given him by his father.

Ibrahim never left the Sultan's side, and it was common knowledge that they shared a bed.

When Suleiman became the tenth sultan of the House of Osman, he made Ibrahim his Grand Vizir.

Ibrahim should have been satisfied, but was not. He aimed to get the throne for himself. Suleiman killed him with his own hands.

Years later, Suleiman told the Sultana, "I loved him above all others—even you."

Such historical accounts and the movies that depict them, infuriate Islamic Fundamentalists. Like their Christian counterparts, with whom they have much in common, they want all mention of homosexuality wiped from the books.

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OUT & About



Jerry Johnson

Shy and demure? These bashful introverts attended the SpotLight Party. While they didn't mind our picture taking they wouldn't give us their names.

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Our Internet Address Is:
<http://www.gayuniverse.com/news.html>

Mary Cassatt, Feminist, Impressionist, Gains New Appreciation in France

Giverny, France--Known better for Monet's lilies and his pink country home nestled in flowers, Giverny is playing host to one of America's premier Impressionists--Mary Cassatt.

A feminist who never married, Cassatt nevertheless evoked her maternal instincts in her famous and touching portraits of mothers with their children.

Her tender scenes of intimate family moments in close-up made her reputation with the public, though her skill in mastering dry-point prints and etchings earned her contemporaries' admiration.

Fourteen of her works are on display at the Musee d'Art Americain, France's mecca for fans of American Impressionists such as John Singer Sargent, Winslow Homer and James Abbott McNeill Whistler.

Admirable in this exhibition are a pastel portrait of a resolute woman stirring away in "A Cup of Chocolate" of 1897 and "The Bath," a dry point with aqua tint print of 1890-1891 that shows a mother testing the water for the naked baby she holds.

Another print of "The Afternoon Tea Party" hums with echoes of Toulouse-Lautrec and strong Japanese composition emphasizing flat surfaces and outlines rather than perspective.

The late 19th century was a time for admiring Japanese prints and, like Claude Monet, who was wild about Utamaro and Hiroshige, Mary Cassatt used the influence to great advantage, having visited a Japanese exhibition of "ukiyo-e" prints in 1890, with her friend and mentor, Edgar Degas.

"Voila! Somebody who feels as I do," exclaimed Degas after seeing a painting by Cassatt in the Paris Salon of 1874.

Hopeful artists, including many Americans, flocked out to this town some 40 miles west of Paris where Degas lived and worked from 1883 till his death in 1926.

But by mid-20th century, Giverny was nearly forgotten, and the property was in disrepair. With American donations and French support, Monet's house and gardens were restored and opened to the public in the early 1980s.

Opened in 1992, the Museum of American Art was founded by Daniel J. Terra, a Chicago-based chemical engineer and collector of American Impressionist art.

But the discreet, low, air-conditioned museum building, with its quiet terraces and restaurant blending into the countryside, and special flowered new parking lots not far away, have mollified the local population of some 550 worried about tourist pollution.

Open from April to October 31st, the museum's Cassatt exhibition will run the entire season.

Born in 1844 to a wealthy Philadelphia family who took their daughter on the Grand Tour of Europe in 1851, Cassatt always loved European art and at 16 began studies at Philadelphia's Institute of Fine Arts.

She returned to Paris in 1865 and traveled around Europe studying master

works, later meeting not only Degas but such artists as Berthe Morisot, Renoir, Pissarro and Cezanne.

"I hated academic art," she confided to her biographer, Achille Segard. "This is when I began to live."

In all her 52 years in France, Mary Cassatt only returned to the United States twice, since she suffered from seasickness. Her parents came to Europe in 1877 and stayed with Mary until they died in the 1890s.

Earlier this month the American Club of Paris placed a brass plaque on the apartment building at 10 rue Marignan where Cassatt lived from 1887 until her death in 1926 at age 82.

Just around the corner from the Champs-Elysees, it commemorates her simply as an "American Impressionist painter, friend and colleague of Edgar Degas."

Gay Men's Discussion Group Calendar of Summer Events

June 23

Gay Marriage: Worth the Fight? with Scott Evertz: A nationwide debate is developing over whether or not states should recognize marriage commitments between two individuals of the same gender. Hawaii is moving towards making Gay marriage a reality, and legislators in other states are preparing to fight back by restricting their own marriage laws to individuals of different genders.

What are the latest developments of this significant issue? Please join the GMDG as we focus on the debate surrounding Gay marriage rights. Scott Everts is co-chair of Action Wisconsin, a political action group for Gay rights.

July 7

Bodies Beautiful with Greg Mulry, Ph.D.: Once again summer is here. Layers of clothing begin to shed, revealing the effects of winter. Diets again become priority and trips to the gym or an evening jog become more important.

Many of us are very conscious of our bodies and how they are perceived by other men. Some of us look in a mirror and like what we see, and some of us self-criticize and feel shame about what we look like. Obviously the way we look at our bodies has an enormous impact upon how we feel about ourselves in general.

How can we feel good about how we look, even though our bodies might not fit a media mold of body beautiful? Please join us as we explore our body image/self-esteem connection. Greg is a psycho-therapist with Calyx Counseling Center.

July 28

Being HIV Negative - Challenges and Opportunities with Andy Bagnall and Yuri Keegstra: Services provided for Gay men often focus on being HIV positive. A wide range of support exists for men who

are challenged by HIV disease and its emotional and physical effects.

Recently, however, greater emphasis is being placed on men who are HIV negative and the challenges they face in Gay culture. Survivors' guilt in the face of illness and death of friends and lovers is a reality, and the emotional toll of grief and loss for some men can be devastating.

What are the challenges experienced by Gay men who are HIV negative? What are the opportunities that they have before them? Andy and Yuri work for the Milwaukee AIDS Project in the Gay and Lesbian Outreach Program.

August 25

Turning Men into Sex with Gary Hollander, Ph.D.: The affirmation of sexual desire and the appreciation of the beauty of men is an important part of a process of self-acceptance among Gay men. When seeing a handsome man at the beach or walking down the street many of us wander into sexual fantasy -- a process that often includes sexualizing someone. This process, sometimes called "objectification" -- making someone into an "object" -- is seen by some as a normal and healthy part of our

development as Gay men.

Others, both inside and outside of the Gay community, criticize this as demeaning and offensive.

What are some of the healthy aspects of sexualizing others? How might this behavior hold us back from further development and growth?

Please join us for what promises to be a stimulating and interesting discussion. Gary Hollander is Director of Educational Services for Family Practice Residency at St. Luke's Medical Center and an area psychologist experienced in working with Gay men and Lesbian people.

Offered through the Men's Support Group Program, the GMDG's goal is to provide information, ideas, and support to all men on a variety of issues that are of interest or concern to the Gay community. The GMDG is designed to be a safe and supportive place for us to share with one another what our diversity of experiences as Gay men is and can be.

Preregistration is not required, and the cost is a \$3 donation. All discussions meet from 6:00-8:00 p.m. If you'd like more information, please call Bill Hanel at (414) 271-2565. ▽

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CALENDAR

<p>Sat. June 22</p> <p>In Between's Team Softball Fun Raiser 5:00 at In Between 625 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee</p> <p>Tammy Baldwin Pride Fund Raiser 4 to 7 PM. 525 Riverside Dr., Madison</p> <p>Twin Cities Pride Fest 11:00 to 7:00 Loring Park, Minneapolis</p>	<p>Sun. June 23</p> <p>Century Hall Reunion MAP Fund Raiser Broadway Theater Cen. 158 N. Broadway 2:00 to 10:00 PM</p> <p>Gay, Single and Out 10:00 at Manoeuvres 150 S. Blair, Madison</p> <p>Twin Cities Pride Fest 11:00 to 7:00 Loring Park, Minneapolis</p> <p>Thurs June 27</p> <p>Deadline for articles and announcements for our July 2nd Issue</p>	<p>Fri June 28</p> <p>Leather Ball (Part of the Wisconsin Leather Weekend) 7:00 at B's Second & Lapham, Mil.</p> <p>Sat. June 29</p> <p>Mr. Wisconsin Fantasy Contest 10:00 The 1100 Club 1100 S. 1st, Milwaukee</p> <p>Miss Central Gay WI US of A Pageant 10:30 The Madhatter 325 Washington, Wausau</p>	<p>Sun June 30</p> <p>Gargoyle Bus to the Chicago Pride Parade 10:30 AM, Gargoyles, 354 E. National, Milwaukee</p> <p>Country Dyke Picnic Sponsored by RDA. For information call (608)266-5972 weekdays or (608) 846-2417 weekends.</p> <p>Chicago Pride Parade 2:00 Sharp Step off at Halsted and Addison</p> <p>Mr/Ms Southeast WI Leather Contest 9:00 B's Second and Lapham, Milwaukee</p>	<p>Tues. July 2</p> <p>Wisconsin Light Distribution Night</p> <p>Thursday July 4</p> <p>The Spotlight Amendment 2 Party A July Fourth Blast</p> <p>Free Food, Beer, Costume Contest, Games & Entertainment</p> <p>6:00 to 9:00 Mama Roux 1875 N. Humboldt Milwaukee</p>	<p>Fri. July 5</p> <p>The Men's Room Grand Opening Geraldines 3054 E. Washington, Madison</p> <p>Sun July 7</p> <p>Waukesha Lesbian Picnic Lapham Peak State Park, Delafield Call (414)297-9412 for information</p>
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Wisconsin

SMILE FOR THE CAMERA I'm an exhibitionist and I'm looking for others to have fun with. If you are interested please call me. I'm discreet. (Appleton) #1837

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

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

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

MANS BEST FREIND I'm a 40 year old Gay White male, 6ft, 185lbs, and I'm HIV positive. I have a wide variety of interests. I seek other men 30 plus for friendship and companionship. If you are interested please call. (Eau Claire) #4327

LEATHER MASTER SEEKS BOY I'm a 5'10, 165lb, Leather Master. I'm looking for a bondage boy under 5'10, less than a 30 inch waist, who enjoys being totally submissive. Call me now Boy! (Fox Valley) #42939

I LOVE SUBMISSIVE OLDER MEN I'm a very attractive White male seeking older submissive males for movies, games, and fun. (Green Bay) #15123

CAN WE TALK? I'm a 43 year old male who likes to take long walks. I'm looking for someone to have good conversation with. Call me. (Green Bay) #8015

YING AND YANG Cross dresser looking for someone 40 to 45 for get togethers. I'm sometimes dominant and sometimes submissive. Call me. (Green Bay) #8905

THE BUDDY SYSTEM I'm searching for a buddy to mess around with this summer. I like fishing, camping, hiking, and more. I'm also interested in getting involved in weight lifting. Call me. (Green Bay) #10054

ON YOUR KNEES BOY I'm a hot leather master looking for completely submissive and passive leather boys. Call me now boy. Be on your knees and ready. (Green Bay) #9172

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

OLD FASHIONED ROMANCE GWM, 29, 5'11", 150, non smoker/drinker, brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, varied interests, seeks others for long term friendship and more with similar interests. Please leave a message. (Kenosha) #16009

SHOW AND TELL I'm a 19 year old Gay White male looking for people to show me the Gay lifestyle. Call me. I'm new at this. (Kiel) #1366

STRAIGHT BUT BENDS GWM, 34, 6', blue eyes, long blonde hair, masculine, seeks GWM, 18-36, who are straight acting/appearing, and who know what they want from life. Please leave a message. (LaCrosse) #11450

GIVE AND GET LOVE I'm a Gay White male, 24 years old, 6ft, 205lbs. I seek attractive, straight acting men 18 to 32 for friendship, or a boyfriend for sport. Any hunks out there? I'm willing to travel. (Madison) #4267

YOUNG AND SMOOTH I'm 5'7, 150lb, Asian male. I'm solid, smooth, and tone. I'm looking for masculine White men for a casual friendship. If you are interested please call me. (Madison) #42659

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

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

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

BUDDY BONDING GWM, 27, 5'2", 125, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks other GWM, 21-32, for fun and adventure. I have varied interests as I hope you will. Please leave a message. (Madison) #11802

DADDY CAN BE A BOY GWM, 46, 5'11", 160, seeks fraternity hazing with other frat boys under 25. Please leave a message. (Madison) #11816

LETS GO ROLLERBLADING I'm looking for a man 18 to 22 in my area that's fun to be with and has a real good personality. If you like to rollerblade and have fun at home call me. (Manitowoc) #15998

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BOYS WILL BE BOYS GWM, 26, 5'10", 165, blonde hair, blue eyes seeks GWM under 30 for friendship and possibly more. Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #11276

BI BOYS 18, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5'9", BiWM, seeks other young WM's between 18-21, for friendship, camping and hiking. Other things possible as well. (Milwaukee) #11307

NOT TYPICAL GWM, 23, 6'2", 170, blue eyes, long brown hair, not into the bar scene at all, seeks other GWM's between 18-30 for friendship first with endless possibilities. Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #11725

SIR, THANK YOU SIR! GWM, 27, 6'2", 230, brown hair, brown eyes, seeking a dominant master into CBT, TT, WS, FF, shaving, S&M, B&D, and humiliation. Nothing I won't do for you sir! (Milwaukee) #11529

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

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

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

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

THE TIME IS RIGHT I'm looking for a friend. If you would like to spend some time together this summer call me. I have many interests. Lets talk. (Phillips) #1262

I KNEED YOU! I'm 30 years old seeking others 20 to 40 who enjoy full bodied massage, home cooked food, and hanging out with friends. If you are looking for a long term relationship call me. (Stevens Point) #6937

SMOKEY THE QUEER I'm a Gay White male looking for someone 18 to 25 who are into everything. I'm a smoker looking for a nice good looking man. (Stevens Point) #10382

LETS GO BIKING I'm 25 years old, 6'1", 190lbs, slim build, Blonde hair, and Blue eyes. I'm into tennis, movies, biking, and exercising. I'm looking for those with similar interests. Call me. (Wausau) #11144

LITTLE BEAR TYPES SOUGHT 47 year old, 5'7, 175lbs, looking for comparably built cubs with furry pelts. I'm open minded and like to experiment. I only play safe, and I'm an expert at body shaving. (Wausau) #3544

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

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

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

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

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

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

YOU AND ME GWM, 27, 160, 5'8", enjoys sports, seeks GWM, 18-28, for outings and friendship. Please leave a message. (Wisconsin) #12286

TUBE RIDER GWM, 6', 175, 35, trim, shoulder length dark hair, beard, pierced, seeks brown and yellow hanky fun from masculine men who can be aggressive and submissive. Let's get together. HIV-a must! Leave a message. (Minneapolis) #12898

THE BUDDY SYSTEM Gay White couple seeking other young couples or singles for friendship, camping, outdoor sports, and good conversation. Call us. (Minneapolis) #15314

CURIOS BI MALE I'm a 32 year old Bi curious White male. I'm looking for someone to have some fun with. (Minneapolis) #33292

DONT WORRY BE HAPPY! I like to get into fun sex. If you would like to know more call me. You'll be glad you did. (Minneapolis) #9602

SIoux FALLS BOY I'm new. I'm curious. I'm ready to do anything to satisfy my curiosity. Call me. (Minneapolis) #9788

THE REAL THING I'm a Gay White male, young looking 45, 5'5, 140lbs, good shape, work out. I'm well endowed, passionate, and more. I'm interested in meeting someone to have fun with the possibility of a long term relationship. (Minneapolis) #11138

TONIGHT YOUR A STAR I'm a 42 year old, 6ft, 170lb, White collar type looking for a boy toy. Lets get together and see what we can produce and direct. Call me boy! (Minneapolis) #6345

FEATURE PRESENTATION I'm a 36 year old Gay White male. I'm 5'10, 180lbs, and handsome. I'm interested in meeting handsome men with dark features. Call me. (Minneapolis) #7440

PRIME TIME TV TOP WANTED I'm a Gay White Transvestite in St. Paul. I'm looking for a top Transvestite 30 to 45, or Transvestite in training for real good times. Call me. (Minneapolis) #7154

ONLY WE'LL KNOW HOW MUCH FUN I'm a Gay White male, 36 years old, 5'10, 183lbs, 31" waist, 45" chest, and clean shaven. I'm seeking similar well built men for hot safe fun. If you are interested please call me. (Minneapolis) #7440

NEW TO THIS, ARE YOU TOO? I'm a 45 year old Hispanic male, 5'10, 240lbs, with a nice muscular build. I would like to meet a Black or White male of any age for friendship, possibly more. I like hairy chests and nice big legs. (Minneapolis) #9484

ARE YOU BEING SERVED? I'm a Gay White male, 6'1, 185lbs, 36 year old slave. I'm looking for a master to serve. I'm into anything sir. Call me. I'm ready to serve you. (Minneapolis) #5253

TOP THIS BIG BOY Lets get down. I'm a Bi White male, 6ft, 300lbs, and Brown curly hair. I'm a bottom seeking a top of any age or race. (Minneapolis) #5664

LET ME SERVE YOU I'm a tall, attractive, slim, 6'3, 180lbs, tight, thin, bottom. I'm looking for a dominant top to please. I'm into Greek, French, and anything else sir. I prefer big, uncut men into intense kink. (Minneapolis) #5855

LETS GO HIKING I'm 6'2, 180lbs, short Brown hair, Green eyes, 40 years old. I'm into hiking, biking, fitness, exercise, landscaping, and more. I'm looking for a guy in his 30's to have fun with. (Minneapolis) #5788

LEATHER DADDY I'm a 42 year old Gay White male. I'm a dominant leather daddy, 5'9, 180lbs, Brown hair, and Green eyes. You should be 18 to 50, very submissive, and in shape. Call me. (Minneapolis) #2477

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS I'm 32 years old, 5'9, 165lbs, short Blonde hair, Blue eyes, clean shaven bottom. I'm looking for men 25 to 40 for close encounters. I'm open to the possibility of a friendship, and relationship. (Minneapolis) #43115

ANYTHING GOES I'm a 33 year old single and divorced man looking to expand my horizons. I'm up to anything. Call me. Lets explore the possibilities. (Minneapolis) #1424

CHUBBY CHASER? I'm a GWM, overweight, light Brown hair, Blue eyes, mustache, and a hairy chest. I'm new at this and looking for a fit guy into heavy guys. If you are interested please call me. (Minneapolis) #36440

READY FOR A STEADY I'm a 23 year old GWM, 5'6, 135lbs, washboard abs, clean cut, clean shaven. I like clubs, dancing, rollerblading, and more. I'm looking for someone around my age for a relationship. (Minneapolis) #42646

BIG BEAR CUBS GWM, 35, 180, blonde hair, beard, seeks masculine and hairy men, husky and 200+, under 35, for fun and excitement. Please leave a message. (Minneapolis) #14448

COMPANION WANTED GWM, 45, tall, blonde hair, blue eyes, varied interests, seeking same. Please leave a message. (Minneapolis) #14519

STRAIGHT BI DAY Bi Curious WM, married, 23, tall and slender, seeks other masculine Bi WM's for first time experience. Please leave me a message. (Minneapolis) #14678

TIRED OF KISSING TOADS GWM, 20's, blonde hair, blue eyes, 160, 5'8", varied interests, seeks other GWM's, 20-30, for good times and friendship. PRINCE CHARMING preferred. Please leave a message. (Minneapolis) #14890

BOTTOM'S UP GWM, 6'2, 175, 27, submissive, jock, blonde hair, brown eyes, clean shaven, seeks masculine and aggressive men, well endw'd, 20-30, for pleasure and more. (Minneapolis) #15370

FILLER UP WITH PREMIUM WM, 40, long hair, brown eyes, very Bi curious, seeks an older man who would be interested in teaching me the ropes. Please be over 40 and sincere. Leave a message. (Minneapolis) #13129

MUSCLEMANIA GWM, body builder, 40, 5'11", 180, handsome and hairy, seeks muscle studs for submissive encounters. Please leave a message. (Minneapolis) #13317

DADDY'S HOME GWM, 6', 35, HIV-, very safe, blonde hair, blue eyes, muscular, attractive and financially secure, seeks discrete relationship with other GWM's, 18-25, first timers a plus. Please call. (Minneapolis) #13791

PEARLS OF THE EAST BiWf, 23, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks attractive BiWf for friendship and possible relationship. Please leave a message. (Minneapolis) #12421

COCKED AND LOADED GWM, 32, 5'8", 160, very good build and aggressive, seeking other submissive dudes under 35 for mutual pleasure and satisfaction. Please leave a message. (Minneapolis) #11404

UP AGAINST THE WALL GWM, 6', 170, 37, black hair, brown eyes, low enforcement, seeks GWM, 18-40, non-smoker, any race, but GBM a plus! Long term relationship a possibility. Please leave a message. No DRUGS! (Minneapolis) #11959

YOUR COMMAND IS MY DESIRE GWM, 26, submissive, blonde hair, seeks a very dominant and muscular top/master who's ready to command me at their desire. Your complete service is my only desire in life. Leave a message. (Minneapolis) #11605

BI GOLLY BiCuriousWM, 28, well built and tanned, seeks Bi or GWM's 18-32, for friendship and possibly more. Must be masculine and well built. Leave a message. (Minneapolis) #11377

ME AN YOU GWM, 29, 5'9", 145, average looks, seeks GWM's, relationship oriented, for conversation and friendship. Please leave a message. (Minneapolis) #12529

STRAIGHT MEN ONLY I'm a Gay White male, 49 years old, 160lbs, drug free, light drinker, non smoker. I'm looking for a Straight male for morning fun. (Plymouth) #13194

CUSTOMER SERVICE GWM, masculine, 45, 6'1", 175, brown hair, brown eyes, stashed, seeks masculine and well built truckers or construction workers for pleasure and satisfaction. Drug/Disease free a must! Leave a message. (Rochester) #12789

SIoux FALLS STUDS I'm 30 years old, 5'10, 180lbs, short Reddish Blonde hair, and I have a smooth body. I'm looking for good looking studs in the Sioux Falls area. (Sioux Falls) #7091

WILD ONE BiWM, 22, baby face, dark hair, 5'9", 180, seeks slim partiers and pleasure seekers. Leave me a message. (St. Cloud) #12705

MAKE ME LAUGH I'm 32 years old, 5'9, 150lbs. I'm new to the scene. I like progressive rock and politics. I'm looking for a smooth, safe, in shape, masculine man with a sense of humor. (St. Paul) #14766

HAPPY TO BE GAY I'm a Gay male, 46 years old, 199lbs, clean cut. I love romance, dancing, and more. I'm looking to meet someone who is happy to be gay. (St. Paul) #5782

SOCIAL DRINKER GBM, 125, 32, varied interests, smoker, seeks other males for fun and more. Please leave a message. (St. Paul) #15578

MUSCLE MADNESS GWM, 34, 5'10", 140, seeks other GWM's, into working out and friendship. Please leave a message. (St. Paul) #13503

CASUAL White male looking for a few good friends for casual encounters. Leave a message for immediate response. (St. Paul) #10393

DINNNER, DRINKS AND ME 35, GWM, 6', 175, brown hair, green eyes, seeks GWM 25-40 for fun and evening get togethers. Please leave a message. (St. Paul) #11750

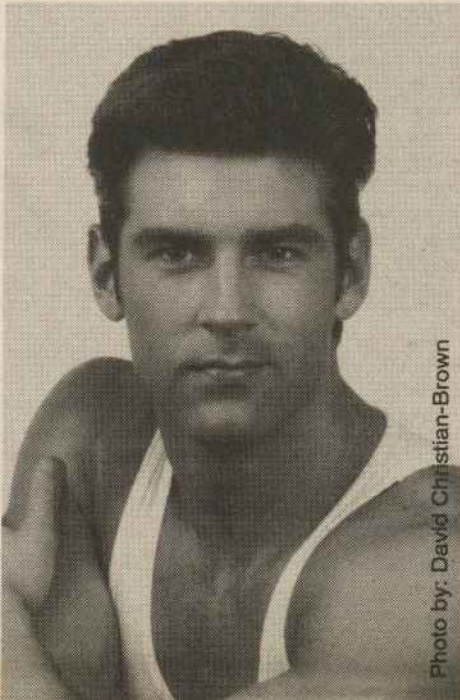


Photo by: David Christian-Brown

ILLINOIS

DISCOVER ME GWM, seeks serious and masculine men for friendship and more. Please leave a message. (Chicago) #15330

FAT AND FEMININE GWM, 50, overweight, feminine TV, seeks overweight sissies or masculine men. (Chicago) #15730

GENEROUS DAD SEEKS BOY I'm a 40 year old White professional male, 5'11, stocky build, good looking, clean, honest, and discreet. I'm seeking a young boy under 24 who likes to be treated well. If you want some help with your future call me. (Evanston) #7270

LEARNING AND YEARNING I'm a 22 year old college student, 6'2, 220lbs, Black hair, Brown eyes. I'm seeking discreet men 22 to 30 who are attractive and intelligent. Call me. (Evanston) #7623

STRAIGHT ON TO YOU I'm a divorced Gay White male, 51 years old, look mid 30's. I'm very versatile, discreet, and straight looking and acting. I would like to meet men for fun and relaxation (Evanston) #8598

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK I'm a 44 year old Gay Black male. I'm new here and I'm looking for Black Gay men into music. No drugs. (Evanston) #5546

ARE YOU BEING SERVED? I'm a 30 year old Gay Black male bottom with HIV. I love to service. If you are in need call me. (Evanston) #3400

OLDER MAN North suburbs, looking for someone younger who would appreciate someone older. I'm 59 give me a call lets talk. (Glenview) #8820

CONFIDENT AND OUTGOING I'm a Gay White male, 54 years old, Gray hair, Brown eyes, 5'10, 215lbs, clean shaven, discreet, and drug free. I'm masculine, educated, and outgoing. I have a wide variety of interests. If you would like to know more, please call. (Lansing) #3587

WHY DONT YOU AND ME? I'm a 32 year old good looking Gay White man, 175lbs, Brown hair, Brown eyes, and straight acting. I would like to meet a nice, honest, and healthy White man for a monogamous, long term relationship. Please call me. (Wood Dale) #10801

MINNESOTA

TRAVEL TRAILER FEVER 30, GWM, brown hair, blue eyes, hairy chest, interested in fishing and travelling, seeks GWM, 21-41, for fun and laughter. Please leave me a message. (Brainard) #11613

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK 30, GWM, muscular, attractive, new to area, seeks other GM's for friendship and to tour the area with. Please leave a message. (Central) #11522

North Dakota

WHERE'S THE BEEF? GWM, 26, 6'2", 175, clean cut, seeks GWM, 20-26, in the local area. Please leave me a message. (Bismarck) #12139



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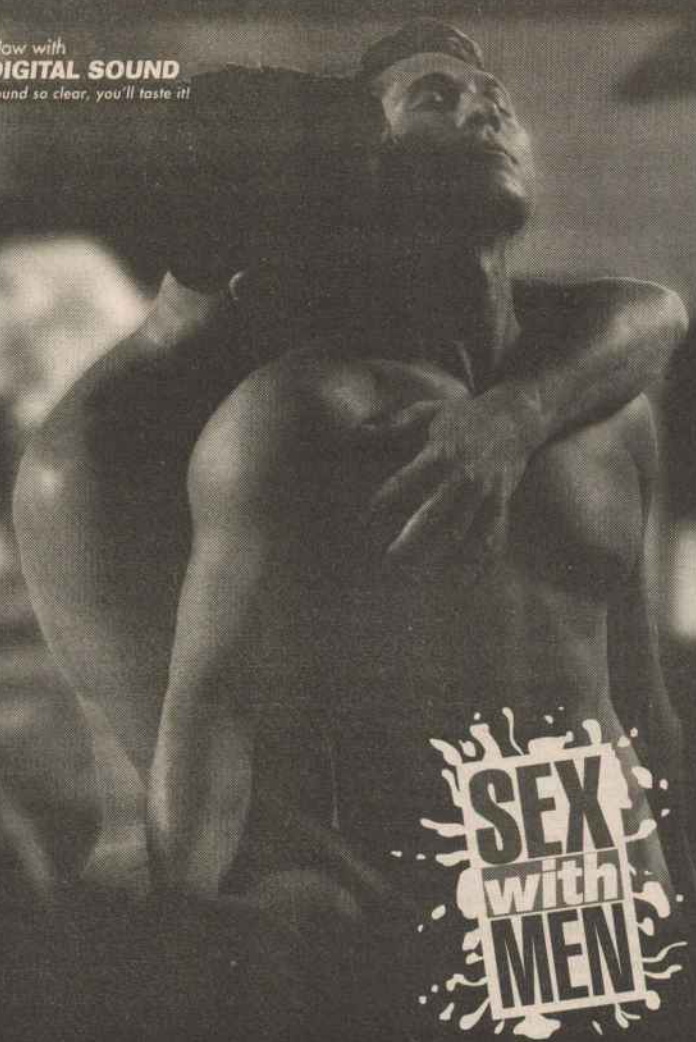


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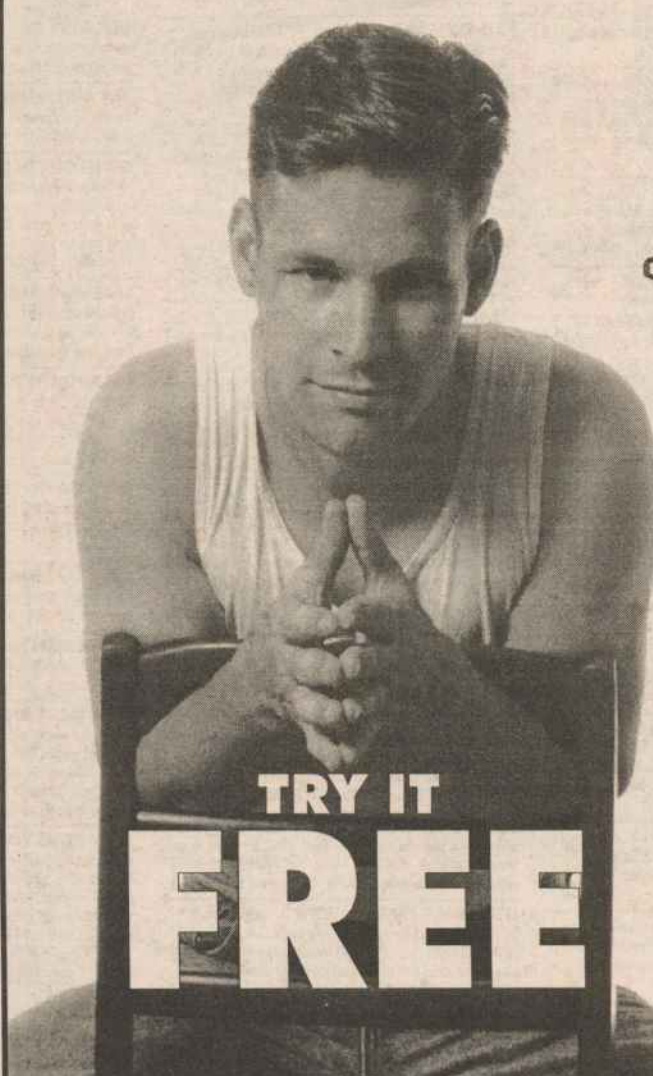
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Men Who Want to Be Better Endowed than Nature Made Them, Should Think Again

EDITOR'S NOTE—Like women seeking breast implants, thousands of men, both Gay and straight, think a good doctor can remold their private parts, magnify their maleness. It can be done, but in many cases the results have been disastrous. In California, scores of lawsuits are pending and state regulators are investigating

Los Angeles, CA— Ron Nance, a 47-year-old divorced carpenter, wishes he'd never met the doctor who promised him a larger penis.

Surgery left Nance infected, racked with pain, impotent and eventually abandoned by the man he loved.

When Nance, who lives in Capitola, first read a newspaper ad touting the successes of Dr. Melvyn Rosenstein and his Culver City practice, he thought he'd found "the answer to my insecurity problem."

Like many of the estimated 10,000 Americans who have undergone cosmetic penile enlargements, his concern wasn't sexual performance, but how he measured up—or appeared to measure up—to other men.

Despite his friend's protestations, Nance felt further compelled by what he heard from a San Francisco sales representative for Rosenstein, the nation's busiest penile enlargement practitioner.

"He assured me that it was a relatively painless procedure, so fine-tuned that all the results were 100 percent and that I would be back to work in three days and back jogging in a couple of weeks and, as he said, 'back in the saddle in a month,'" Nance recalls.

So Nance took money he'd been saving for a new truck and put \$5,900 cash down on the

combined lengthening and widening surgery.

"It only took an hour to mess my life up," said Nance, now scarred "like someone who stepped on a land mine" and unable to engage in sex. After corrective surgery, he's smaller than before, and broke.

Like the 5,000 patients Rosenstein has operated on since 1991, Nance forked over his own money for an experimental operation rarely covered by insurance.

At least 30 doctors around the country perform the increasingly popular penile augmentations, often in private operating rooms not affiliated with established hospitals.

The practitioners lure potential patients through ads in Gay publications, in newspaper sports pages, right in there with strip joints, hair restoration centers and fast cars.

Rosenstein's media blitz also included television infomercials and an Internet site that proclaimed his patients gained an average of 1.5 to 2 inches in length and 30 percent to 50 percent in circumference.

Yet many men who thought a scalpel could give them a larger penis have only scars to show for it—both physical and mental.

"When I use a rest room, I won't look down. When I do, I get totally depressed, disgusted," said Tony, a 35-year-old Arizona man who agreed to be interviewed on condition of anonymity. "I look like some kind of Frankenstein patched together."

Tony says the procedure and corrective operations left 12.5 inches of unsightly scars and ruined his dating life.

"If I get into situations where it's going to get (sexual), I bow out as fast as I can," Tony said. "It's very noticeable and who-

ever I'm with does say something about it."

More than 50 men dissatisfied with Rosenstein's work have sought the services of attorneys, complaining about numbness, deformity and dysfunction.

After the Medical Board of California investigated several complaints, it temporarily suspended Rosenstein's license in February. Now the board wants to shut him down for good.

Charles Palmer, an Irvine attorney representing Rosenstein in the patient suits, did not return five telephone calls. Tom Brown, a Century City attorney representing Rosenstein in the state case, was unreachable, his office said.

Steve Fabbro of San Francisco represents 21 patients going after Rosenstein for fraud, medical negligence and false advertising. Keith Schulner, an attorney from Camarillo, represents an additional 25 former Rosenstein patients from California, New York, Arizona and Texas.

The Medical Board accuses Rosenstein, a urologist trained at New York University and the former chief of surgery at Brotman Medical Center in Culver City, of violating the state Medical Practices Act. The board alleges he made false advertising claims about what the surgery could accomplish, didn't provide proper pre-operative examinations and counseling, didn't provide informed consent and failed to render proper post-operative care to patients often plagued with raging infection.

The board also alleges sterility problems in the operating room, illegal use of commissioned salespersons to bring in patients and that Rosenstein noted good outcomes in his medical records even when there were complications.

Rosenstein has testified that the complaints that formed the state's case resulted from professional jealousy and disgruntled employees.

Although the medical community was aware of the potential dangers of such surgery, word never reached Rosenstein's patients, who paid their \$5,900 before ever seeing the doctor.

Although Rosenstein has more cases pending against him than any other penile enlargement surgeon, urologists have seen complications from other doctors' work. But tracking poor results can be difficult.

Most men are too embarrassed to admit having surgery to relieve a self-esteem problem that many doctors say might be better addressed through psychotherapy.

Like women seeking breast implants, the men have faith that a doctor can make a cut here and inject a few fat cells there to give them the body of their dreams.

Unfortunately, surgery is never that simple. The lengthening procedure entails snipping a ligament in the lower abdomen that attaches the penis to the pubic bone. Once it's cut, some of the penis drops down outside the body, enhancing the appearance of length. The doctor advances skin from the lower abdomen to cover this section of penile shaft.

But the loss of support can lower the angle of erections and the newly exposed shaft portion may be covered by unwanted pubic hair. In the worst cases, the ligament can reattach to the pubic bone and retract the penis farther inside than it was to begin with.

The widening involves liposuction, by which the doctor removes excess abdominal fat and injects it to literally "fatten up" the penis. However, fat not attached to blood vessel-rich tissues may reabsorb, become lumpy or form growths called granulomas.

The American Urological Association has declared fat injection and cutting the suspensory ligament neither safe nor effective. The American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery says penile fat injection is experimental, with "insufficient data to establish its safety and effectiveness."

"It's totally experimental. The results of it have never been published in the peer-reviewed medical literature. That's just not how we practice medicine in the 1990s," says Dr. Mark S. Litwin, a University of California, Los Angeles, assistant professor of urology and public health.

"The problem with it is that the people who do this surgery very often prey upon the insecurities of vulnerable men."

Dr. Jack McAninch, chief of urology at San Francisco General Hospital and a urology professor at the University of California, San Francisco, has developed a reputation for repairing results gone awry.

"The deformities are significant. The scarring that results is significant," says McAninch, incoming president of the American Urological Association.

In the May issue of the association's peer-reviewed *Journal of Urology*, McAninch and two co-authors reviewed a dozen cases of complications from penile enhancements performed by others.

Without peer-reviewed reports on the procedure, they say it's impossible to compute a complication rate or substantiate "claims of patient satisfaction or objective increases in penile length."

Based on another study he co-authored, only 2 in 100 men would be considered subnormal in size—less than 2.8 inches long and less than 3.5 inches in girth—when erect.

"The point is that there's not been a single

patient that I've seen that's come with one of these complications that was not above the normal range to start with," McAninch says.

Ron Joseph, executive director of the Medical Board, isn't ready to condemn the procedure—only the practitioner.

"Penile enlargement is a procedure engaged in by a number of physicians and I don't want to suggest that all of them and all penile enlargement practices are inappropriate," he said. "We have no other active investigations against practitioners of penile enlargement."

A defender of penile enlargement is Dr. Gary Alter, a Beverly Hills plastic surgeon and urologist.

"The point I would want to get across is there are different ways of doing the procedure and there are different quality doctors doing the procedure," Alter said.

To avoid reabsorption of fat, Alter uses an alternative, called dermal fat grafts. Those are sections of fat and tissue taken from the lower abdomen or buttocks and wrapped under the skin of the penile shaft.

Done correctly, the grafting makes a "very good operation," he says. "The guys I've followed for a couple of years are very stable in terms of the size."

Alter, one of the Medical Board reviewers on the Rosenstein case and an assistant plastic surgery professor at UCLA, sees no difference between fulfilling men's desires for larger penises and women's desires for larger breasts.

"I'm a plastic surgeon. A woman walks in with B breasts and wants C. Am I going to tell her no? No. With him the same thing. The men that are done that have good results are extremely happy."

Alter contends men always have wanted larger penises, although it wasn't until the mid-1980s that a Chinese doctor began attempting enlargements.

"The demand has always been there, it just had nowhere to go," Alter says. "Now all of a sudden you've opened the door."

Milwaukee L/G/B/T Community Center Seeks Volunteers

Milwaukee — Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgendered persons make up a significant portion of the local population. With the establishing of L/G/B/T Community Center, each of us has the opportunity to contribute our talents, energy and money to an organization that really serves us and the relationships and families that we choose to build.

It is an exciting time. This is a new venture. Nothing has been written in stone. Everything is just now being established. As business owners, home owners, civil service employees, teachers, activists, students, laborers and health care providers, we now have the means to affect the quality of our life here in Milwaukee.

Therefore, it is an opportune time for everyone in the community to get involved. Your input is important and will be heard. Volunteers are needed, no special skills or training are necessary. There's plenty of work, friendship and camaraderie for all.

However, to ensure the success of both the establishment of the Center and its programs, those with expertise in group facilitation, social work, mental health counseling, youth programs, computer software, graphic design, database entry, fund raising, research/grant writing, membership programs, feature writing, public relations, marketing, administration, accounting, board of directors experience, special events planning, public policy advocacy, artists, public speakers, education and legal issues would be of great assistance and are strongly urged to get involved.

Still to be decided are such basics as the name of the Center, a logo to distinguish the Center, and the location of the Center. Now is the time to get involved!

The next steering committee meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 22, 1996 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Community Room of the Eastside Library located at 1910 E. North Avenue on Milwaukee's east side. The public is invited and this is a great time to come and offer your views as methods of operation, establishing of committees, executive board responsibilities, cite location and procedures are being formulated.

A general town hall meeting to brief the community on the progress and direction of the L/G/B/T Community Center is planned for Saturday, July 13, 1996 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 300 of the Milwaukee Enterprise Center located at 2821 N. 4th Street in Milwaukee.

For more information, call (414) 483-4710 or write P.O. Box 92722, Milwaukee, WI 53202. ▽

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THOMPSON

Continued From Page 1

for GOP presidential nominee-to-be Bob Dole, who like Thompson has said the platform should be modified.

Anti-abortion activists have promised a floor battle at the national convention if Dole tries to add so-called tolerance language to the abortion plank rather than making a broader statement in the platform preamble.

Thompson said he favored adding a statement to the state platform's preamble that would say the party is tolerant of differing opinions on all issues, and not specifically mention abortion.

Susan Armacost, legislative director of Wisconsin Right to Life, said she would have no problem with such a change to the preamble.

Modifying the plank would make it seem the party was apologizing for its anti-abortion stance, Armacost said.

Republicans opened the convention Friday afternoon with workshops on campaigning and fund raising—two areas of prime importance as the party tries to win back its Senate majority this November.

GOP Sen. George Petak's loss to Democratic Rep. Kimberly Plache in a Racine County recall cost Republicans their 17-16 Senate majority.

Petak was targeted for providing the swing vote for a five-county sales tax to fund a new Milwaukee Brewers stadium.

State party Executive Director R.J. Johnson said the Petak loss has energized Republicans.

"They're angry," Johnson said. "They understand this is the first set in a long tennis match."

CONDOMS

Continued from Page 1

"It was a unanimous and easy decision," Nelson said. "We could not abandon our historic position that AIDS prevention and condom availability are fundamentally integrated. We decided to make condoms available at the MAP booth regardless of the consequences. We could not allow Summerfest to dissect our AIDS prevention message by banning condoms."

Andy Bagnall, MAP's Manager of Gay and Lesbian Outreach, was infuriated by the

situation and was the strongest voice in Nelson's staff meeting for MAP to stand by its principles.

"This is my job," Bagnall told Light. "I'll lose it if I have to, but this is where I must take a stand. I can't betray our community."

Bagnall was in no danger of losing his job, but his statement conveys the urgency that he and many people felt.

**Seventh of June
ACT UP**

On June 7th, ACT UP Milwaukee issued a press release condemning the SummerFest Board.

"This is ridiculous," fumed Robb Gerpoltz, a member of ACT UP Milwaukee. "PrideFest is Milwaukee's Gay/Lesbian Pride Celebration. Part of Pride is protecting oneself, one's partner(s), and the community from HIV. Condoms have always been an integral part of PrideFest."

Others were equally angry with PrideFest.

Yuri Keegstra, another ACT UP Milwaukee member, asked, "Why wasn't all this (about condom distribution) arranged back before the contracts were signed? Why wasn't this discussed?" He criticized PrideFest for what he saw as their being concerned that MAP's determination to distribute condoms on the Summerfest grounds would ruin PrideFest.

ACT UP was determined to go ahead and hand out condoms, even if MAP backed down. But MAP was not going to back down.

ACT UP members said that they would distribute condoms. Wisconsin Light said it would join ACT UP; that the editor and the publisher of the paper would distribute condoms themselves.

As the ribbon cutting of PrideFest took place, Milwaukee's AIDS activists stood their ground in support of the time-honored, culturally appropriate activity of condom distribution.

At the ceremony, Bagnall again told Light of MAP's determination to adhere to principle. ACT UP's position had not changed and, he was told, the paper's hadn't changed either.

"I truly believed that PrideFest was not in jeopardy if we stood our ground on the condom issue," Nelson said. "Even the greater Milwaukee community was poised to support us on the issue."

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Congressman Steve Gunderson (R-WI) who was in town for an AIDS fundraiser, told Light in a personal interview that he and his partner, Rob Morris, had just been at the bedside of a friend who was dying from complications due to AIDS.

"Isn't it strange," Gunderson said sadly, "that when I come to Milwaukee, I find condoms can't be distributed here."

**Eighth of June
The Resolution**

As PrideFest got underway on Saturday, June 8th, condoms were present at the MAP booth. Both ACT UP and MAP did mass distribution of condoms outside the Summerfest grounds.

According to Bagnall, PrideFest officials periodically informed volunteers at the MAP booth that their condoms were against Summerfest policy.

"We thanked them and continued to distribute the condoms," Bagnall said.

PrideFest was not shut down.

On Saturday evening, a high and well-placed source told Light that the Summerfest Board would take no action. Further, that the Board was to be commended for standing strongly against Right Wing extremists who didn't want PrideFest on the grounds in the first place.

"They (the Summerfest Board) will take this (the condom issue) in stride, and do nothing."

In the end, the source proved to be correct.

Next Year

In cautioning about next year's Pride, Keegstra said, "Although we're soft pedaling the issue this year out of respect for Milwaukee's Queer Community, this state of events will not be allowed to continue next year. If Summerfest remains intransigent on the issue of condoms, PrideFest better not be held on the Summerfest grounds."

"PrideFest will not be allowed to be turned into a meaningless festival just for prestige. The lives of our Gay brothers are too important to be thrown away for the sake of being allowed on Summerfest grounds," Keegstra said.

Robb Gerpoltz, another member of ACT UP, said, "We demand that ACT UP be party to discussions held after this year's PrideFest on the issue of condom distribution. We refuse to be excluded from the dialogue that is inevitable after this year's PrideFest."

PRIDEFEST

Continued from Page 4

and sketchy outlines, please, sent off at the eleventh hour.

If there is an event, an entertainer, or other personality who needs to be covered in extenso, and the Pride media person is too busy, the press ought to be notified well ahead of time so they can do it themselves.

Perhaps if PrideFest had better media outreach, we wouldn't have Today's TMJ4's John Malan getting up and telling his audience that the Asian Moon Festival opens the festival season on the Summerfest grounds. The man is ignorant and needs to be informed.

- No one should be given the monopoly to sell coffee on the grounds. More food vendors should be encouraged to sell it. Granted the weather won't be as cold (hopefully) the next time, still there are people who prefer hot tea and coffee to any other drink no matter what the weather is.
- Thought should be given to having an Honorary Grand Marshall(s), and a Grand Marshall(s). Doing this would permit the recognition to be spread around in order to give honor to the many groups that make up this extremely diverse movement and its friends.
- The Awards Ceremony should be split up and spread out. For example, give the parade awards right after the parade, the Lifetime Achievement Award at some other time, and so on with the rest of them. This would allow each award or awards to be specially emphasized, and no one would have to sit through the whole thing all at a swat.
- The entertainment should be tightly scheduled. Every effort should be made to see that there is never any "dead air" as there was far too many times this year.

Community meeting

- Perhaps thought could be given to having a full community meeting following close on the heels of the festival. PrideFest belongs to us all and it would give everyone an opportunity to offer suggestions for the coming year.
- The history tent should be returned. As someone once said, if you can't look back on your past with pride, you can't look forward to your future with hope. To look back on our past with pride, we need to know what it was. We need to know, not only where we are in space, but where we are in time.
- The Pride Committee should contact its printer and get some money back. Those uncut pages in the Pride Guide were irritating and were the printer's fault. The Pride Committee should not

have to pay full price for the book.

- There is a need for increased professionalism.

The Pride Council should give earnest consideration to having a paid staff position. As the festival grows larger—and it will—volunteers, as in any organization, no matter how well-intentioned they are, cannot supply the needed continuity and simply cannot handle all the work.

Again, let me say that PrideFest '96 was a success. People, at least those I talked with, had a good time. No one should ever underestimate the amount of toil, sweat and tears it takes to put on something like this.

However, there is no event this side of Heaven, that cannot be improved. If you have something you'd like to have changed, why not write your suggestion down or call it in.

The number is (414) 272-FEST.

And if you had a good time, write or call that in too. Say thanks. There's no one who doesn't need some appreciation now and then.

BOYCOTT

Continued from Page 1

Though over 80% of the ride will be through Wisconsin, and Tanqueray is actively promoting the ride in Wisconsin, not one dime of the money raised will go to benefit Wisconsin's people living with HIV/AIDS.

Neither does Tanqueray make clear that money raised in our state will not benefit our state, but will go to AIDS agencies in the Twin Cities and Chicago.

In protest, ACT UP Milwaukee has called for a boycott of Tanqueray.

"The audacity of Tanqueray in completely passing over all AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs) in Wisconsin infuriates me," said ACT UP Milwaukee member Yuri Keegstra.

"And it's not that they're unaware of local organizations, either," Keegstra added. "I know of at least one ASO that has attempted to apply for money from Tanqueray in the past" and got no response.

Keegstra called Tanqueray's decision to ignore Wisconsin "arbitrary."

"Wisconsin is simply a state to pedal through and people living with HIV and AIDS here don't matter," Keegstra said.

Because of this, ACT UP Milwaukee is encouraging everyone to call Tanqueray and protest that Wisconsin's AIDS community gains nothing by the AIDS Ride and that Tanqueray products should be boycotted.

The number is 1-800-825-1000.

In addition, Keegstra said, ACT UP Milwaukee is drafting a letter to Wisconsin bars, telling them about the situation and recommending that Tanqueray be removed from behind the bar until money is granted to state ASOs.

"It's a huge disappointment that the AIDS ride is ignoring us," said Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW). "It makes no sense since Wisconsin's AIDS case load is larger than Minnesota's and most of the ride peddles through our state."

"With all due respect to the AIDS agencies who are benefiting from the AIDS ride in Minneapolis and Chicago, ARCW is the largest AIDS agency in the Midwest and the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN) and the Center Project in Green Bay are confronting tremendous demands for services—we all should gain some benefit from this AIDS ride that takes advantage of our state."

Informed sources tell Light that the Tanqueray boycott movement is gaining strong support throughout Wisconsin. ACT UP Milwaukee is slated to have several boycott meetings in the future.

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