



The Wisconsin Light

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



Lady Liberty never looked better than she does in this picture. A half scale version of the symbol of freedom draped in a Rainbow Flag was created for San Francisco's Pride celebration which was held on Sunday June 30.

Madison's New Harvest Foundation Launches New Endowment

Madison—Madison's foundation for the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual community—the New Harvest Foundation—recently began a new era in its development with a special event commemorating the kick-off of its new endowment fund.

Over 100 people gathered on June 5th at Madison's Olbrich Gardens to celebrate the accomplishments of the Foundation, which has awarded more than \$160,000 in grants to dozens of LGB community organizations since its founding in 1984.

The New Harvest of Art, an art show and auction, was the centerpiece of the event, which raised about \$10,000 for the Foundation. The festivities also signified a brand new look for the organization, exemplified by the unveiling of a new logo.

Audience members greeted the premiere of a new, highly professional video with vigorous applause. The state-of-the-art video uses the testimony of the organization's founders and beneficiaries of its grants to detail the Foundation's impact on the community.

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A Proud And Magic Time In Madison

Complete, Detailed Coverage of Madison's MAGIC Picnic & Pride Weekend Events on July 19 to July 21

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The Hotel Washington

RISING FROM THE ASHES

By Bill Meunier

(Madison) Plans to rebuild the Hotel Washington Complex are proceeding ahead despite some glitches and the need to complete the packaging of \$5,000,000 in financing. Some observers believe that the Hotel could be rebuilt by the end of next summer at the latest.

Plans call for a larger complex that will look and feel very much like the old building did. As is often the case with large redevelopment projects this one has its share of hold ups and delays.

The Wisconsin Light conducted interviews with many of the major players involved in gaining government permits and in putting together a complicated financing package. Everyone showed an optimistic attitude. That's good news for Madison's LesBiGay community and for the rest of the state as well.

Devastating Loss

For many years, the Complex served as the hub of Gay life in Madison. It included three popular Gay bars: Rod's, The New Bar and the Micro Bar; an alternative music club, Club De Wash, the Cafe Palms, an espresso cafe and a barbershop in addition to rooms for permanent residents and the hotel itself.

When it burned down on February 18, 1996, Wisconsin's LesBiGay community lost one of its most endearing landmarks. The fire was reportedly caused by a live ash in an ashtray that had been emptied into a waste basket. Straight and Gay Madison was

devastated. "I will never forget that day," said openly Gay Alderman Mike Verveer, "I just stood there crying all day."

The effect of the fire went beyond losing some popular places to eat and drink. Over 100 people were thrown out of work. Furthermore the Hotel's permanent residents including those occupying 10 low income apartments lost all of their possessions.

Work Started Immediately

Almost immediately, the owners Greg and Sherry Scheel went to work on rebuilding a bigger complex. "There has never been any doubt that we would rebuild it," said Greg. "Its just too important to the community."

But the Scheels had other concerns as well. They were especially concerned with the welfare of their tenants and the people thrown out of work.

Even though it took time away from the rebuilding effort, the Scheels worked hard to help.

Financial help came in the form of fund raisers throughout Wisconsin in addition to many individual donations to the "Hotel Washington Tenants Relief Fund" which the Scheels helped to organize.

Greg Scheel says that he was overwhelmed by the generosity. "You can't imagine how much that meant to us. Thanks to many people, the tenants have pretty much had all of their lost possessions replaced."

Those first few months were difficult, but Scheel says that he and Sherry were encouraged by the support they

TURN TO HOTEL, PAGE 30

Alderman Verveer Defends the Right of All People to Use Madison's Parks

Madison— On June 18th, the Madison City Council, unanimously rejected an attempt to step up harassment of Gay men using Madison area parks. The vote ended a nine month battle over a proposed ordinance that would have allowed Madison Police to banish people from its parks.

The Police Department requested the new ordinance, contending that it would combat sex, drug dealing, drinking and gambling in Madison parks.

Many opponents said they felt it was directed at Gay men. As one person put it, "Does anyone really think the cops would just kick a drug dealer out of the park and not arrest him?"

The proposed ordinance, "The Unlawful Trespass Into Parks" Ordinance would have authorized the Police "to prohibit a person from remaining in a city park after that person has created a disturbance, exposed his/her person, or otherwise

violated city ordinance or park commission rules"

In September, 1995, Tim Bruwer, City Council President and Alderman Dorothy Borchardt, two of the more conservative members of the City Council sponsored the ordinance.

Observers say that the real intent of the ordinance was to harass Gay men who cruise in City Parks.

Under the original proposal any Madison Police officer could with out a trial issue a citation and order any individual not to remain in or re-enter any Madison park for six months.

Openly Gay Alderman, Mike Verveer, led the fight against what he described as "an unconstitutional swipe at everyone's civil rights and liberties."

Verveer was attacked by Madison's conservative newspaper *The Wisconsin State Journal*, which accused Verveer of supporting public Gay sex.

The Alderman however was not swayed and refused to give in on the issue. "This isn't about public sex, we have already laws against that, this is about the fundamental right of Gay men who this ordinance was obviously aimed at, to use public property in a lawful manner. It is dangerous to have laws that allow the Police or any governmental agency to prohibit people from being in public areas."

Opponents claimed that if the ordinance had passed there would have been nothing to prevent the Police from disbursing lawful gatherings of groups whose political leanings the individual officer may not have agreed with.

Madison Gay and Lesbian leaders expressed concern about the possibility that a homophobic police officer could indiscriminately ban Lesbians and Gays from using the parks.

TURN TO PARKS, PAGE 30



A Living Rainbow Flag was formed in front of the State Capitol in June. The Flag will reassemble and march in Madison's Pride Parade on Sunday July 21. For up to date information, detailed and complete information on all the activities taking place during Madison's MAGIC Picnic/Pride Weekend, see our Entertainment Section, *The SpotLight* pages 12 to 25.

News Briefs

NYPD Band Played in Gay Pride Parade

New York-NY-AP-The New York Police Department marching band joined Sunday's, June 30th, Gay Pride Parade, the *Daily News* reported. The Gay Officers Action League (GOAL) filed a federal discrimination suit in April charging their organization is treated differently from other NYPD organizations.

The suit said GOAL's request for the marching band had been denied every year. The group has been told their paperwork was lost or given other excuses.

"We're treating GOAL as we would any other organization," police spokeswoman Marilyn Mode told the *Daily News*. "Commissioner Safir believes everyone has equal protection under the law."

Mode said the only requirement for the band's participation is that GOAL members march in full dress uniform. She did not say why the band had not marched in the parade before.

Gay Man Removed as Church Elder

Cincinnati, OH-AP-The removal of a Gay man as an elder at Knox Presbyterian Church has rekindled debate over whether homosexuals should be ordained in leadership roles.

There is continuing disagreement within the church about whether its constitution forbids the ordination of homosexuals, said the Rev. Sam Roberson, general presbyter of the 86-church Cincinnati Presbytery, which includes Knox Presbyterian. In the case of the Knox elder, the local session of the church knew the man was gay when it approved his ordination on Jan. 7.

A church member complained, saying that the session, which governs the 1,300-member church, improperly allowed a homosexual man to become an elder, Roberson said.

The complaint sent the issue to the Cincinnati Presbytery's permanent judicial commission, which declared the ordination invalid by a 4-3 vote.

AIDS Risk During Transfusion is Extremely Low

Boston, MA-AP-The risk of catching the AIDS virus from a blood transfusion is calculated to be just two in 1 million.

"The safety of the blood supply has dramatically increased over the past decade. While there still is a risk, it is exceedingly small," said epidemiologist George B. Schreiber of Westat Inc., a research company in Rockville, Md., that figured the latest odds.

Blood banks routinely find most tainted donations when they check blood for antibodies to the AIDS virus. However, infected pints occasionally slip through if donors are newly infected and have not started producing AIDS antibodies.

Schreiber and colleagues reviewed the records of 586,507 repeat donors to estimate how many newly infected people give blood during the 22-day "window period" before they begin to make detectable amounts of antibodies.

Donations during the window period also can allow donations infected with HTLV, a cancer virus, as well as hepatitis B and C to get past the screening process.

The researchers estimated the risk of AIDS-tainted donations during the window period at two in 1 million. Anyone who receives one of the tainted donations has a 90 percent chance of getting infected.

New York State to Pay for AIDS Drugs

Albany, NY-AP- Gov. George Pataki has announced the availability of \$9 million worth of drugs to AIDS patients and signaled a willingness to consider the further expansion of the program. Federal funding has enabled the state to provide protease inhibitors to many of the 10,000 people enrolled in a program that gives AIDS drugs to people who can't afford them, Pataki said.

The inhibitors, which cost between \$400 and \$600 per month, are used in conjunction with anti-viral drugs like AZT to prolong the lives of people with AIDS.

The Republican governor made the announcement on the same day he angered many AIDS activists by signing legislation that will ensure mothers are told if their newborns test HIV-positive at birth.

While the arrival of protease inhibitors is a welcome development, Michael Isbell of Gay Men's Health Crisis said President Clinton should get the credit, not Pataki.

Fighters Concerned About Olympics and AIDS

New York, NY-AP- There's usually fear when you step into a boxing ring. In the case of the U.S. fighters preparing for the Atlanta Olympics, the fear isn't so much for their opponents as it is for what their opponents can pass on to them: the AIDS virus.

"I don't want to fight anybody with their blood on me, and I get AIDS," said Zahir Raheem, the 132-pounder (59.4-kilogram) on the U.S. team. "The Olympics should be the best time of my life. I don't want it to turn out to be the worst."

Raheem was among the U.S. fighters and officials who expressed their concern Tuesday over the possibility of catching the AIDS virus in the boxing ring at the Olympics next month.

Chief concern among the fighters is meeting opponents from some African countries where AIDS is common. Zimbabwe has two boxers scheduled to compete in Atlanta, while boxers from Uganda, Kenya and Zambia common are also entered in the boxing competition.

While athletes are tested for performance-enhancing drugs after they compete, international sports officials have consistently rejected efforts to test for the AIDS virus even in contact sports such as boxing and wrestling.

Though many U.S. states now require AIDS testing for pro boxers, international officials have rejected calls for mandatory AIDS testing for reasons partly medical and partly political. But the chief doctor for the boxing competition in Atlanta warns fighters could be at risk in a competition where athletes are coming from all corners of the world.

The International Olympic Committee has ruled previously that athletes with the virus are eligible to compete, as did Magic Johnson when he played for the U.S. basketball team in Barcelona. Greg Louganis also had the AIDS virus eight years ago in Seoul when he hit his head on the diving board and bled into the pool, although he did not make it public until years later.

There are no known cases of boxers acquiring the AIDS virus while in the ring, but that hasn't stopped states from requiring mandatory AIDS testing of professional boxers.

Amateur boxers wear headgear that is supposed to cut down on bleeding, but in Barcelona four years ago ill-fitting headgear actually contributed to cuts.

Unitarians Support Same-Sex Marriage

Indianapolis, IN-AP- The Unitarian Universalist Church has voted to support legal recognition of Gay marriages, the first major religious denomination in the United States to do so.

The vote Tuesday, June 25th, at the church's annual general assembly made support of same-sex marriages official policy for 1,040 Unitarian congregations. Individual churches, however, may decide whether to have such weddings.

The Boston-based denomination has a history of support for Gays. In 1970, it called for an end to Gay discrimination, and 10 years later said gays should be allowed to serve in the ministry.

In March, the 1,750-member Central Conference of American Rabbis, a group of Reform rabbis, endorsed same-sex marriages as a civil right but stopped short of calling them a full religious right.

Copies of the Unitarian resolution will be sent to President Clinton and members of Congress. A House panel has approved a bill that would invalidate same-sex marriages even if a state legalizes them. Clinton has said he would sign the measure.

San Francisco to Lift Colorado Boycott

Denver, CO-AP- A little more than a month after the nation's high court struck down the anti-Gay Amendment 2, San Francisco prepared to officially lift its ban on Colorado-made products. Under a city ordinance enacted shortly after the amendment was approved by state voters in 1992, San Francisco officials voted to reject Colorado-made products for city contracts worth \$5,000 or more.

City supervisor Tom Ammann, who proposed lifting the ban, expected a consensus on the lifting of the ban.

Meanwhile, Eugene Dilbeck of the Denver Convention and Visitors Bureau said it was too soon to say whether the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on Amendment 2 has had a positive impact on convention bookings.

Dilbeck said after the amendment was passed in 1992, a total of 31 groups canceled meetings scheduled in Denver, resulting in a loss of \$38 million in business for the city and county.

"If the Supreme Court ruling had gone the opposite way, we could have very easily seen another pull out of business which could have equalled (the first one) and would have impacted us," he said.

Gay Pride in La Belle France

Paris, France-AP- Hot pink tuile floated through the air and vinyl clad bikers revved their engines as tens of thousands joined the annual "Gay Pride" parade in the French capital Saturday, June 15.

A moderate rain did not appear to dampen the spirit of the marchers, many in elaborate costumes, who danced energetically and cheered on others on decorated floats.

Lesbian and Gay Pride, a group which promotes community activities and social tolerance, organized the parade to foster homosexual rights and greater social benefits, such as state-recognized same-sex marriages.

The floats included one with a Disney theme, with men and women dressed up as well-known characters such as Cinderella and Mary Poppins dancing to techno versions of old classic movie themes.

"Solidarity" and "visibility" were slogans shouted out to dancers and spectators at the parade, which started off slowly from the Left Bank of the Seine and ended across the river.

"I'm here simply because I am Gay," said Julien Roger, 22.

Others felt more strongly about the issues facing homosexuals in France.

"We're fighting to gain for homosexuals the rights that all couples in France deserve, such as the legal transfer of a lease to a partner, social security benefits and access to information in the case of hospitalization," said 23-year-old Antoine Moglia, one of the parade's organizers.

Fred Phelps Loses in Kansas Court

Topeka, KS-AP- The state Court of Appeals ruled Friday, June 21, that a judge could issue an injunction to limit the anti-homosexual picketing of the Rev. Fred Phelps Sr. and his followers, but it removed that judge from the case.

The decision is the first from a state appellate court in a case involving Phelps and his Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka.

Phelps and his followers picket regularly in public places, including outside other churches, carrying signs with slogans such as "God Hates Fags" and "Gays are Worthy of Death." His followers have been accused of using vulgar language and of being abusive, charges they deny.

The case before the Court of Appeals involved a lawsuit filed against the Phelps church by St. David's Episcopal Church, which Westboro members regularly picket. St. David's sought a restraining order to keep Phelps followers at a distance both before and during services.

A three-member Court of Appeals panel upheld most provisions of the restraining order, concluding that the picketing can be limited because government has an interest in protecting the privacy of religious worship. It also said that the government has greater authority because the audience for the Westboro picketing includes children.

But the Court of Appeals panel concluded that Barbara should be replaced because he signed a petition stating that "all people have a right to live in dignity." While neither Phelps nor his church were mentioned specifically, the petition was a response to their activities.

ACT UP Protests At Animal Rights Rally

Washington, D.C.-AP-The man who made history last year by receiving an experimental AIDS treatment using a baboon's bone marrow was picked up by authorities Thursday, June 20, for blocking traffic at an animal rights rally.

Jeff Getty of San Francisco said he and eight others were released after paying a \$15 fine for obstructing traffic outside the U.S. Air Arena, where the rally took place.

Maryland National Capital Park Police spokesman Lt. James Johnson said about 25 demonstrators from the AIDS activist group, ACT UP, blocked the entrance to the arena. He said the nine were removed after they refused to clear the roadway.

"I was there to demonstrate and educate America that when you give money to animal rights activists, you're giving money for them to stop AIDS, Alzheimers' and cancer research," Getty said.

All week, animal rights activists and AIDS patients have been clashing over whether doctors need to use animals.

Thousands of animal rights activists are in Washington as part of an annual visit to lobby Congress to strengthen laws protecting animals used in scientific research. On Sunday, they will join Hollywood celebrities in a protest march that AIDS patients plan to denounce.

HIV THERAPY TRIALS OPEN FOR ENROLLMENT

WISCONSIN AIDS RESEARCH CONSORTIUM (WARC)

WARC is currently enrolling individuals with HIV disease for participation in three trials of experimental therapies. These trials may advance scientific knowledge and future treatment for other individuals with HIV disease.

TRIAL NO. 1 - REMUNE™

REMUNE is an experimental treatment intended to boost the body's natural immune response against HIV. In Phase I and II studies, REMUNE has so far been found safe and well-tolerated. The study compares the responses of individuals having equal chances of receiving REMUNE or placebo by injection every 12 weeks for up to 3 years.

Eligibility:

If you are over 18 years of age, HIV positive, have a CD4+ count of 300-549, have had no investigational vaccine or immune-based therapy treatment and no changes in antiretroviral drugs or doses within the past 3 months, and have no history of or current AIDS-defining conditions except for Kaposi's Sarcoma, you may be eligible for this study.

TRIAL NO. 2 - DELAVIRDINE

This is a double-blind, randomized study. The study compares the responses of individuals taking varied doses of Delavirdine (DLV) and Zidovudine (AZT), or placebo and AZT.

Eligibility:

If you are fourteen years of age or older, are HIV positive, have a CD4 count greater than 200 but less than 500, and have not been on AZT therapy for more than six months, you may be eligible for this study.

TRIAL NO. 3 - STAVUDINE PLUS DIDANOSINE

An open-label study of the safety and biological effects of Stavudine(d4t) plus Didanosine(ddI) in Nucleoside-experienced, HIV-infected patients, with CD4 counts between 100-500/mm³.

Eligibility:

If you are over 18 years of age, HIV positive and have a CD4 count between 100-500 cells/mm³ and have previous, cumulative nucleoside therapy experience of more than 3 months as monotherapy, you may be eligible for this study.

For information about enrolling in these trials,
please call Jacque Kaczinski, R.N. at the
WARC office at 414-225-1578.

ARCW

WARC is operated by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc.

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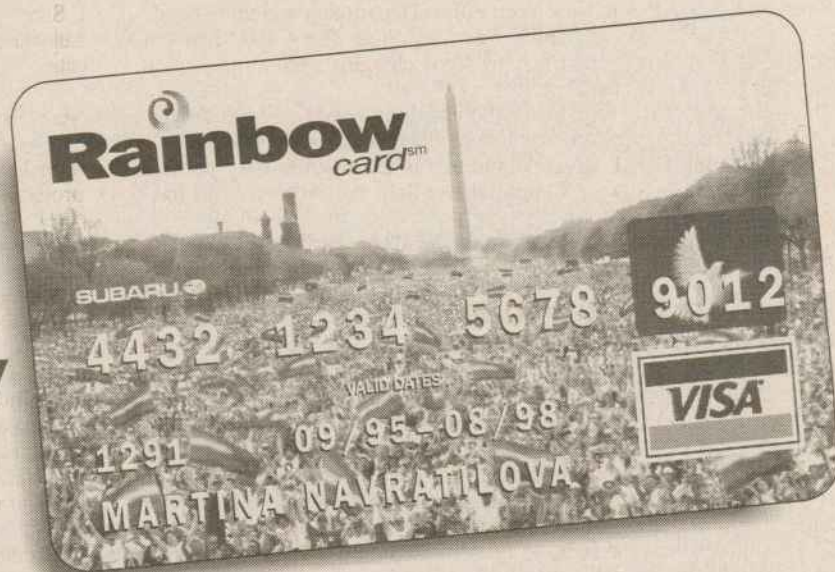


Photo by Greg Gorman

“Already we have **donated** over **\$50,000** to organizations serving the Lesbian and Gay community”

-Martina Navratilova

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Editor's Note

On Changes and Additions and Youth

By Terry Boughner

Unless you've been on a vacation to the planet Mars or someplace similar, you know that the national political conventions are coming up. They are late this time, coming at summer's end, to avoid conflict with the Olympics.

First we watch the world's best athletes performing to the height of their talents and skills.

Afterward, we get to see the political contortionists twisting truth around, and all on prime time.

Wisconsin Light will be sending five, fully credentialed reporters, women and men, to the Democratic Convention in Chicago. That may sound like a lot, but it's not. If experience is any judge, every day there are a great number of events—many of them happening at the same time—and usually at opposite ends of town, it would seem.

Nevertheless, we will cover the Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgender angle as much as we possibly can.

Again, if experience is any judge, the food will be good, but the pace will be so hectic that sleep will become some alien term.

The Spotlight

Wisconsin Light has been planning to add a new section for some time—nearly a year, as a matter of fact. Now that has become a reality.

As hopefully is apparent, the "Spotlight" section, though contained within the paper, is separate from it.

The main body of the paper will, as it always has, contain news, columns, editorials, letters to the editor, news briefs, commentaries, and the rest.

The "Spotlight" contains movie and video reviews, bar news, and everything that falls under the general rubric of "entertainment."

We are especially pleased that Bill Meunier has taken on the job of editing the section. His time and work are much appreciated—and moreso, considering that it's a volunteer position.

One thing I think is missing from "The Spotlight." That's a crossword puzzle. I mention that only because I'm still amused at the guy who told me one time to get rid of the

AIDS news and put in crossword puzzles instead.

I am especially pleased to add "Dan E. Boy" to the paper's list of writers. Dan E. writes under a pen name because he is young, still in school, still living at home.

If what I've read so far of Dan E.'s is any indication, you will find his work acerbic, in-your-face, contentious, controversial, and more than a little angry at a society that will not let him be free. There is nothing of the assimilationist about him. He is Queer. And he is Proud.

Perhaps my experience is not a judge, but it seems to me that the older generation of Lesbians, Bisexuals and Gay men have more than a modicum of internalized homophobia, which, unfortunately, we so often turn on ourselves and each other.

The younger generation coming up fast, seems to have less of that. They are more angry, more "if not now, when?" and "Why not now!" and "We're not going to put up with it anymore!"

I must admit, I admire that. That's why I admire ACT UP and the Lesbian Avengers. I firmly believe that our movement needs these two groups badly. We need them to take us into the headlines—as they have done.

To me, the Lesbian Avengers and ACT UP have inherited the spirit of the late '60s when we demanded "Give Peace a Chance" and knew that we would overcome.

No, we didn't make the world new—as we thought, I think, we would, but I am convinced that we did change a few things. I think ACT UP and the Lesbian Avengers, and the younger Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gay men and Transgenders who are moving onto the scene will change things too—this time, for us.

In my mind, there is so much that attracts me to the assimilationists. There is a whole lot in me that doesn't want to be different—Gay, yes, but not different.

But my soul belongs to those who say, "Oh yes, you are!" And flaunt it.

Where Were They

TO THE EDITOR:

After reading your June 20th editorial titled "Where Were They," I felt the need to respond.

When arriving at the Summerfest grounds on Saturday afternoon, I saw first-hand Ralph Ovadal and his group of un-merry, manly men with their signs, shouting their so-called words of Christian love.

So to answer your question, "...where were the rest?", yes, I was there. One thing that I have learned about dealing with this group is not to stoop to Ovadal's Non-Christian use of hateful speech. Engaging him at such times only fuels his ego and provides footage for his next "Truth Tour Video."

To answer your question, "...And where have their protests been since?", let me share a few of the many "protests" (i.e. witnesses) in Madison these past few months.

One response has been to build a coalition with a wide range of religious and faith communities that affirm and welcome GLBT individuals as full members.

Lastly, Pastor Dianne Reistroffer of the University UMC, presented a resolution for Wisconsin to become a Reconciling Conference. This puts all 525 WI United Methodist Churches on public record to welcome all GLBT individuals to their churches.

To my Milwaukee area Gay and Lesbian spiritual brothers and sisters, please organize your supportive faith communities, build coalitions, train the media, and stand up for your God-given human rights.

Walt Jackson
Madison

Accolades

TO THE EDITOR:

Accolades on your last issue featuring PrideFest '96 among other things. I hope that you didn't blow (so to speak) your entire year's budget on those fabulous color photos. Pages and pages of them, giving us all a great sense of community!

Having recently moved here from Chicago and having been an avid reader of *The Windy City Times*, I have always found reading *The Light* one of my great local pleasures.

Your coverage is a tribute to the Wisconsin Gay, Lesbian, Bi, and Transgendered community.

Besides pics, several other things stand out in the last issue. Your political coverage (Thompson, the Supreme Court, Gunderson, Clinton, etc.) is always as fair as it is complete. It demonstrates a degree of professionalism uncommon among various "community-oriented" publications.

Your coverage of religions, somehow coping or non-coping with their homophobic traditions, is almost too gentle. Although I especially applaud your editorial asking where mainline religions are in the face of the hateful and disruptive tactics of Christian extremists.

Lastly, your inviting us to celebrate committed relationships by featuring Steve and Rob, Jeff and Alan, and Yuri and Robb, helps mute the well-publicized anti-family rhetoric of those who oppose such unions.

Keep up the fine work; you make it easy to be proud to be part of "the community" in Wisconsin.

John Anderson
Milwaukee

Thanks to PrideFest

TO THE PRIDEFEST BOARD

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your honoring me with the 1996 Stonewall Award. This last year of my life has been incredibly exciting, challenging and draining. Your recognition of my campaign efforts mean so much when I remember the times when it seemed so dismal.

As you mentioned in your letter, too often we do not thank the people who make the significant contributions to our Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual communities. I was very proud to share this year's award with Dan Fons who has had a major impact in the Milwaukee area with his activism on AIDS issues as well as Gay and Lesbian concerns.

I also was proud to be a part of the presentation to Bill Meunier for his tireless efforts in bringing PrideFest from its infancy to its current fledgling status as the newest Maier Park festival for Milwaukee.

We often expect our leaders to be flawless. They are not—none of us are. It is critical to our success in securing equal rights in American society that we support each other, manage our human frailties and celebrate our successes together. Only commitment and teamwork, combined with constructive criticism and a willingness to be a part of solution, will allow us to achieve our common goals.

There are many exciting projects going on in our Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual communities right now. I thank the PrideFest Board and volunteers for their contributions to our communities through this public event. I appreciate the efforts of thousands of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual activists and volunteers who contribute their time and money and expertise to make our city a better place for all of us.

Thank you again for the recognition. It motivates me to continue my contributions and reminds me to thank others for their work.

Karen Gotzler
Milwaukee

Lesbian Group Needed

TO THE EDITOR:

I read with interest (and sadness) the letter about the accountability of the WOW (Wisconsin Outdoor Women) group. I am grateful to those who started it up and kept it going, but, it's now obvious to me that it's no longer a success.

Milwaukee doesn't have a successful Lesbian social group at this time. I would like to see something like a group of friends putting informal events on the Gay newspapers events calendars and inviting anyone to drop by for softball games, outings, plays, anything! Unlike WOW and LAMM, no money need be involved (unless mailings were sent out). Until then, Milwaukee will remain a cliquey or social wasteland, with not much hope of meeting new people in a fun atmosphere.

Pam Meyers
Milwaukee

We Were There

TO THE EDITOR:

In the June 20, 1996, editorial you asked the question "Where Were They?" I would like to tell you where we were. We were throughout the festival grounds. We were at the booths, we marched, we had an Inter-faith service Sunday morning. Catholics, Protestants, Jews, all people of faith, about one hundred and fifty in all, chose to celebrate our Loving and Affirming God.

Several Christian traditions had information booths. MCC had a corner booth, including the Mass Wedding sign-up.

Integrity had a very active booth with a large number of volunteers. I sat at the Dignity-Milwaukee booth with other members and had the opportunity to talk with a large number of Christians about their faith journeys.

St. Camillus AIDS Ministry also had a large corner booth.

I saw clergy in attendance from a wide variety of traditions.

We Christians were busy working the game booths, the food booths, acting as grand marshals, we were among the planners and security, you even mentioned one Bill escorting people onto the grounds. To borrow a phrase, we Christians were everywhere.

Perhaps you wanted us out front ranting and raving like the lunatics of the Far Right. Sorry, we disappointed you. We were busy doing our loving God's work inside the festival. We were trying to let people know that despite what a few may preach, that each of us is made in God's own image; all that we are is God's special gift to the rest of humanity.

So celebrate all that, we are and this is what it means to be Christ-like. A funny thing, WE do this work 52 weeks a year.

You are right, we do need to be more visible if your sharp eyes missed all of us all week-end, perhaps we need to pull our people out of other functions of the festival and concentrate on showing our Christian love.

Being verbally bashed by the Religious Right is no fun even if expected. However, to be bashed by the Gay press for being Christian is even more disheartening.

Joe W. Zopp
Milwaukee

AIDS Ride

TO THE EDITOR:

I was disappointed to read your article in your last issue regarding the Twin Cities to Chicago AIDS Ride.

First, it is always disappointing to see the Gay community divided over endeavors that we should all

rally around. As a participant in this bike ride, I and most others are motivated by a desire to help people in need. The persons who have contributed almost \$5,000 to support me come from Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, California, Illinois and Georgia. All of them gave to help those in need without any prerequisite that there be some kind of geographic fairness.

While I concur we all have some responsibility to be particularly supportive of causes close to home, I do disagree with ACT UP that simply because the ride passes through Wisconsin there be some kind of obligation to provide funds to Wisconsin beneficiaries. It really would be a sad state of affairs if we started putting up signs at our borders that only welcomed those who first paid admission. I am sure there are many well deserving Wisconsin agencies and I hope there are opportunities your friends and neighbors in Minnesota and Illinois can support them. We all should be in the fight to defeat AIDS together.

Secondly, I am particularly distressed with the attack on Tangueray. This company has gone to ex-

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Deadlines

July 18th Issue

Articles - July 12th
Ads - July 16th

August 1st Issue

Articles—July 26th
Ads—July 30th

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The Wisconsin Light



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Letters

The Catholic Church

TO THE EDITOR:

On your editorial, Where Were They?, I can't speak for the others, but I want to talk about the Catholic Church.

From the beginning of Church history—from the Crusades, the Inquisition, the conquest and genocide of the indigenous peoples of Central and South America through today's intransigent opposition to AIDS education and condom use, to calling homosexuality "intrinsicly disordered," the Catholic Church has not been in the forefront of human rights.

"Compassion" has simply meant prolonging and expanding the power and wealth of the Church.

If you expected the bishop or hierarchy to stand out in front of PrideFest and demonstrate for us, or issue a statement condemning the hate speech, you must be naïve.

The best thing the Catholic Church could do today is to withdraw from itself, deal with its full plate of hypocrisies, and allow individuals and families to determine their own life and death values.

Your paper is too nice, a lot too nice, to the Catholic Church and religion. I don't know how your paper can lend credence to an institution that spreads hatred of Gays and Lesbians and increases our self-hatred. I don't know.

What you told me on the phone about a priests and others doing good work, is your just making excuses. Yes, there are a few, but not many. As I told you, someone as intelligent as you are, should know that.

Richard Zendle
Milwaukee

Blacks and Gays

TO THE EDITOR:

I am an African-American Lesbian and I read your "Where Were They?" editorial with interest.

I didn't go to PrideFest, but a friend of mine did and she told me about the "Christians" outside on Saturday. That there have been no protests since doesn't surprise me.

You should know that there is probably no more homophobic group than Black ministers. You should know too that there's an awful lot of homophobia in the African-American community as a whole. So my preacher and a lot of my family and friends agreed with the protesters and wouldn't protest what they were doing and saying. You should hear the things they said about PrideFest. They weren't nice.

You're probably going to get some letters or have white people tell you, about there are a lot of Christians who do a lot of good. Yes, but I don't think that's true for most of them. Not African-American ones, anyway.

If you print this, please don't use my name.
Name and City Withheld on Request

Dignity/Midwest to Hold Second Biennial Convention in Madison in July

Madison—During the same weekend the Roman Catholic Diocese of Madison celebrates its 50th anniversary, more than 100 LesBiGay Catholics and friends from across the Midwest will be getting together to celebrate the diverse ways faithful people have brought the church across cultures and centuries.

The second biennial convention of Dignity/Madison, entitled "Reinventing Church," will take place in Madison July 25-27. Dignity, an organization of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Christians from the Catholic tradition and their friends, has been active for 27 years across the United States and Canada, including chapters in Milwaukee, Madison and (formerly) Green Bay.



PAULETTE QUICK

"We're Gay, we're Catholic, and we're not going away," said Paulette Quick, convener of the Madison chapter. Integrity/Dignity (I/D), which is hosting this year's event. "I/D has been family to Queer Christians for about 20 years. We share liturgy and Eucharist, bless

Tickets are available for the convention dinner and dance for \$25. More information is available from the convention organizers at (608) 224-1108 or (608) 251-2486. The \$75 registration fee for the full, three day convention includes the dinner and dance as well as two receptions, two lunches, a brunch and four major presentations.

Rooms may be reserved at the Inn on the Park in Madison by calling 1-800-279-8811. While rooms are still available, mentioning Dignity-Reinventing Church convention will qualify a person for the low convention room rate of \$72 for up to four people per room.

our Holy Unions, honor God's gift of life and pray for our deceased. There's so much good here that we want to share with others!"

The celebration includes a dinner and dance Friday evening.

Robert Ludwig, author of *Reconstructing Catholicism For A New Generation*, will offer in his keynote address a view of a future church which presents a spiritual path, rather than merely creating rules and meting out justice.

Linda Pieczynski, president of the nationwide church reform movement, Call to Action, will moderate a panel of five women discussing "How Women are Reinventing Church."

Marianne Duddy, President of Dignity USA, will provide insight into the future directions of the Dignity movement, where Lesbian and Gay people are taking the lead in continuing a church which is facing, among other changes, fewer and fewer priests being ordained.

David Schimmel, publisher of the monthly newsletter, "Passion: Christian Spirituality from a Gay Perspective," will challenge listeners to "Re-hear God's Word as Good News." An exciting Saturday evening liturgy is also planned.

Dignity members from chapters in nine Midwestern states will participate. "This convention is a way to get to know people from throughout the region, to share ideas and to worship together," Quick said.

"With each liturgy, with each comforting phone call, Dignity members are reinventing a church that frees us as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Christians to use our gifts of loved and compassion," Quick said.

Gay Youth Milwaukee Receives Grant to Set Up State-Wide Hotline with BestD Clinic

Milwaukee—On June 19, 1996, five Wisconsin organizations were awarded mini-grants of \$5,000 each by the Diverse and Resilient Project, a collaborative effort of the Wisconsin HIV/AIDS Program, Sinai Samaritan Medical Center, and the St. Luke's Family Practice Residency Program. Grant recipients represent an array of youth servicing agencies and AIDS service groups around the state which have requested funds to ini-

Bill Meunier Resigns from PrideFest Board of Directors

Milwaukee— Bill Meunier, a co-director and "Founding Father" of PrideFest, submitted a letter of resignation to the PrideFest Board, effective June 23, 1996 at the Board of Directors' meeting.

This, however, came as no shock to the Board, as Meunier had stated at a meeting on April 14 that he had intended to submit a letter of resignation after this year's festival.

"I have already paid a high personal, emotional and financial price for my involvement. I can afford to do so no longer," Meunier stated in his letter of resignation.

The PrideFest Board of Directors had issued a written directive to Meunier seven weeks prior to the festival after members of the PrideFest Board lost confidence in Meunier's ability to represent the organization or enter into contract negotiations on behalf of the festival.

The directive clearly removed administrative and managerial responsibilities from Meunier, although he did remain on the Board of Directors. Meunier offered to assist in various festival tasks when asked or consulted by other Council members to do so.

Susan Cook, co-director, said, "The entire council recognizes that Bill was instrumental in getting PrideFest to the Henry W. Maier Festival Park, and we have not denied him that credit. Regardless of the many rumors that have circulated throughout the community, the decisions made by the Board were business related. We felt that this extremely difficult decision was in the best interest of PrideFest Inc. as an organization and a community festival."

The PrideFest Board and Council thank Mr. Meunier for his many years of commitment to the festival and the community. ▽

ate or enhance programs intended to address the HIV prevention needs of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual youth, ages 14 to 24.

Funded agencies include Children's Outing Association of Milwaukee, Coulee Region YWCA in Onalaska, Gay Youth Milwaukee for a state-wide program, the Northwest Wisconsin AIDS Project in Eau Claire, and the Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project in Kenosha.

Funded projects include high school staff training, agency staff training and resource library development, youth advisory group meetings, prevention education sessions, curriculum reviews, and youth centers with prevention and support functions.

Gay Youth Milwaukee

Gay Youth Milwaukee will work with the Brady East STD Clinic to develop a state-wide weekend phone hotline for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual youth. The hotline will be staffed by well-trained youth and adult volunteers and supervised by an adult coordinator.

Projects are funded as part of the Diverse and Resilient Project which consists of both the Diverse and Resilient Conference, which was held at the beginning of May, and the Diverse and Resilient Mini-grants, which are awarded in June for projects to be evaluated in September.

All projects are evaluated for their capacity to reach Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual youth who are at high risk for HIV transmission and less likely to receive the prevention messages they need in traditional training venues.

Mini-grants are expected to foster program development that can be sustained by existing organizations.

The Diverse and Resilient Conference was held in Milwaukee on May 3, 1996, and was attended by over 100 youth serving professionals and Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual youth. Participants in the conference heard from national and local presenters on the prevention needs of this population and useful strategies to affect change.

The State of Wisconsin funds the project through a competitive proposal process using federal funds distributed to states by the Centers for Disease Control.

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Youth Column

The Time For Pride

Commentary by Jason Alan

Yes, what is perhaps our biggest month, June, has now come and gone. June is a big treat in the Chicago/Milwaukee area. In Chicago, there is a parade that attracts hundreds of thousands of people via their cars or their televisions, there is the night life in the cool air of summer, there was even the first Gay dance in, of all places, Rockford, Illinois.

In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which is just a stone's throw from Chicago, their Pride Fest moved to the city's choice festival grounds, joining every other major festival in the city. These are just a few examples, the list goes on and on.

All throughout the United States, in fact, June is packed with rainbow flags, Queer festivals, peace and harmony. However, with June gone and many of these grand events packed up for a year, many Queer young adults may feel somewhat displaced. As young people who are Gay, we must remember that the time for pride does not start and stop with June. The time for pride does not stop with the last festival of the year or when one exits the first Queer event they have ever attended.

Our generation, Generation X, is known to be apathetic, uninvolved and based entirely on self-interest. These traits have a tendency to be common among people our age in any community. Therefore, it should come as no great surprise that many Queer young adults, who find themselves in an age where Coming Out is valued more for its material worth than its true dignity, are not as involved as they could be.

Young Gay people today are often quoted various horror stories about how difficult it was to be Queer in the past. However, we lose sight of how very difficult it is to be young and Gay in the here and now. We all live in a time of HIV, and as we approach the 21st Century, we certainly all wonder if our time as Gay people has yet come. At first, many of us shake our heads, contemplating the rights that we have not yet been rightfully granted.

However, we think twice and recall how well we have been treated by, at least one individual in our life, if not many. We then grow to realize that our support is not as few and far between as we once would have

imagined.

Finally, there are those young adults who are fortunate enough to be able to see through the injustice, and lift themselves to a point where they can look out at life with the most panoramic of views. It is these people who recognize what good can be accomplished in the long, fulfilling Gay life that lay ahead.

The time for pride is now. If one has a dream, that dream may only be realized by taking an action that will provide an avenue for it to materialize. My most important and phenomenal dream was to be able to be earnest with everyone that I know and anyone that I will know. Through Coming Out, I have realized that dream.

My life is different and I have other things to move onto now, but perhaps your life was as mine once was. Full of dreams and young, unbridled ideals, you move about day to day, dreaming of what your life could be.

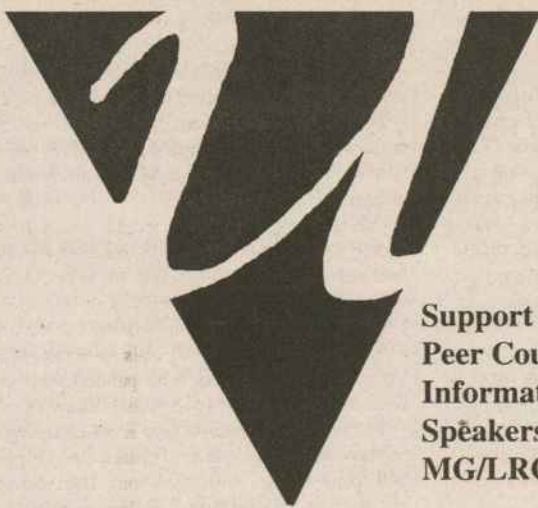
Your "what if..." and "If only I had..." shelves in your dark, oppressive closet are growing terribly full. Those shelves will be full throughout your life, regardless of how well you do, and so perhaps you should try and fill some shelves that have a lot of space left- like the "I have achieved..." and "I am now fulfilled" shelves.

Jason Alan is a columnist for *The Wisconsin Light Newspaper*. He is available for comment at: J. Alan C/o The Wisconsin Light Newspaper 1843 N. Palmer Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212



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Some Reflections on the "Third Coast": Madison's LesBiGayTrans Community

By Scott McCormick

I've been asked to offer some reflections on the state of the LGB community in Madison. It is certainly an inescapable fact that Madison has had some tough times lately: Ralph Ovadahl, Ronnie Greer, and Wisconsin Christians United have lobbed grenades at the LGB community from behind their thin veneer of false christianity. The Hotel Washington fire has robbed us of a place that defined much of our community for a long time.

Such events elsewhere might have resulted in escalating violence or continued incidents of hate and intolerance. But here in Madison, we've been energized and motivated to turn the negative energy directed at us into positive action for our community.

I'm convinced the future of the Madison Gay and Lesbian community continues to be full of promise. Lots of energy is pouring into grass roots Gay and Lesbian community organizations, new dimensions of spirituality and religious participation have been opened to our community, and we continue to be an important part of Madison's political reality.

Although there are fewer openly Gay elected officials in Madison than at some points in our history, Gay politicians still enjoy strong support from throughout the community—and more exciting races involving openly Gay candidates may soon be in the offing.

Supervisor Mark Poca's departure from the Dane County Board of Supervisors brings that body to the lowest ebb it has seen in recent years in terms of openly Gay or Lesbian supervisors.

This session, yours truly is the only openly Gay Supervisor.

Madison and Dane County continue to rank highly in the appointed officials department. Between the city and the county, there are over a dozen openly Gay or Lesbian appointees serving on local government committees, commissions, or boards.

Alderspersons Judy Olson, Napoleon Smith and Mike Verveer continue to serve as openly Gay or Lesbian Alders, and Smith is often mentioned as a mayoral hopeful.

State Rep. Tammy Baldwin has declared her intention to seek a third term as the Isthmus's legislator. Baldwin has just returned from a California seminar advising pro-choice women office holders interested in running for higher office. She is often mentioned as a future congressional candidate.

Former Dane County Board Chair Dick Wagner is contemplating a candidacy for Dane County Executive. If elected, Wagner would be the first openly Gay Executive, and one of the highest ranking openly Gay elected officials in Wisconsin.

Community Organizations

Perhaps the best indication of the health of Madison's LGB community can be found in the growing ranks of our community organizations.

Take the New Harvest Foundation, for example. That organization is dedicated to raising money for local Gay and Lesbian causes. With some fanfare, New Harvest has just established a new endowment which they hope will increase their ability to help LGB organizations.

One such organization may be the newly created SAGE/Dane. Under the leadership of Caroline Werner and others, SAGE/Dane aims to push services for older and disabled Gays and Lesbians—an area for which there is little precedent in Dane County.

Another organization funded by New Harvest is called "Teens Like Us," a support group for LGB teens which is facilitated by Steve Ranney. It is always encouraging to look over the lengthy list of other groups in the LGB community dedicated to this or that specific purpose or need.

The United

Another strong indicator of the strength of our community is that mother of all LGB organizations: the Madison Community United.

As always, the United remains a strong force here. Some of the community response to the recent anti-Gay hate mongering has been organized in the United's space.

The United has just extended their GLB help line hours until 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The number is (608) 255-4297. This service is available to anyone who wants to talk about LGB issues affecting their

lives.

DeEtte Thomlinson, the United's newly hired chief, looks forward to expanding the organization's role as an LBG community center. Very informally, discussions are underway between some community leaders and other organizations to create just such a community center for all LBG organizations in town.

Madison's Gay/Lesbian Resource Center already houses its library of several thousand volumes in the United's offices.

(Incidentally, Tom Neal of the Resource Center tells me that **The Directory**, the Center's annual guide to the organizations and businesses serving our community is now available.)

The United's first office space was in the University United Methodist Church, and that Church continues to play a remarkable role in the life of Madison's LGB community.

Under the leadership of Walt Jackson and Pastor Diane Reistroffer, the church spoke with one of the loudest voices against the Wisconsin Christians United, and they opened their doors to the LGB community after the Hotel Washington fire.

The church has turned the negative energy of the Ovadahl attacks into something good. Attendance at church services is up. Jackson tells me with excitement that many Gays and Lesbians have found new opportunities to explore their own spirituality at United Methodist.

How's that for turning negative into positive?!

Opportunities for LBGs in the church are by no means confined to United Methodist.

In the larger religious community, "Coming Out: Coming Together," has been formed. A well organized group, "Coming Out: Coming Together" involves some 20 mainline denominations, Quakers and members of the Jewish community.

On yet another front, local clergy have organized themselves to respond to future attacks against the LGB community made "in the name of Christ."

At the University, students, faculty and staff, continue to be active supporters of our community.

My own District encompasses much of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, home of the Ten Percent Society, and the newer LGBCC (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Campus Center).

Ten Percent has played an active role in combating the recent anti-Gay initiatives of the Fundamentalist Right, and continues to provide its ever-popular Ten Percent Dances throughout the summer. The next one will be on July 19th.

The LGBCC's president, Terry Dublinski, envisions a bright future for the LGBCC. Dublinski, who is the UW-Madison's only LGB studies major, hopes the organization will serve as an umbrella group, bringing the large number of other LGB campus groups together.

Tammy Baldwin has observed that Madison LGBs have been visible for so long that we have eliminated the stereotypes that prevail against us in most other places. She also points out that, as a center for education, government and culture, Madison draws a citizenry who know that for this city to be truly great we must consciously strive to make it great for every group of people who make it their home.

If there is anything that makes Madison the nation's number one place to live, it is this city-wide, county-wide effort to improve our community and live our ideals. Madison's culture is well-matched with our LGB community.

Those of us who read **The Advocate** or **Out Magazine** or other national publications often find a "coastal" attitude toward the national LGB movement. My friend and colleague Mark Poca says Madisonians live on the "third coast: the Coast of Lake Mendota."

Traveler that he is, when Poca compares us to New York and San Francisco, he thinks Madison's Gay community comes out looking pretty good.

I agree.

Editor's Note: The writer is a member of the Dane County Board of Supervisors from District Eight.

Best-Selling Mystery Writer Lives a Life as Involved as Any of Her Books

Manassas, VA—Best-selling crime writer Patricia Cornwell had a Lesbian love affair with an FBI agent while doing research for one of her novels, according to court documents filed in a bizarre divorce case.

The allegations came to light Tuesday, June 25, a day after former FBI agent Eugene Bennett was arrested in an elaborate abduction scheme involving his estranged wife, Marguerite, also an ex-FBI agent.

General District Judge Charles Sievers on Tuesday ordered Bennett to undergo a psychiatric evaluation after Bennett's attorney told Sievers that his client heard voices and believes he has a bad alternate personality.

Ms. Cornwell and Marguerite Bennett had secret candlelit dinners in 1991 and 1992, when Mrs. Bennett was a hostage negotiation instructor at the FBI's training academy in Quantico, divorce papers her husband filed in Prince William Circuit Court allege.

Washington radio station WTOP-AM obtained the papers before the Bennett divorce file was sealed Tuesday. The radio station provided portions of the document to The Associated Press and other news organizations.

A telephone message left late Tuesday afternoon at Ms. Cornwell's office, Cornwell Enterprises in Richmond, was not returned. Her home telephone number is not published. There was no answer late Tuesday at the office of Fern Edison, her publicist at G.P. Putnam's Sons in New York City.

Mrs. Bennett, a supervisor of campus police at the Northern Virginia Community College's Woodbridge Campus, declined to discuss her husband's accusations. "Time will put everything in its proper perspective," she told **The Washington Post**.

Her lawyer, Kathleen Farrell, would not take reporters' telephone calls Tuesday.

Ms. Cornwell is the author of several best-selling crime novels about a sleuthing Virginia medical examiner named Kay Scarpetta.

"Mrs. Bennett met and became totally infatuated with Patricia Cornwell," according to the 12-page statement filed by Eugene Bennett's lawyer, Douglas Bergere. "These liaisons and this relationship was supposed to be a covert affair," but Bennett discovered it, the statement said.

Bergere did not return a telephone call seeking comment.

However, Jeffrey Gans, another attorney for Bennett, said in a petition that Bennett

"spoke of hearing voices and an alter ego named Ed that was bad." Gans said Bennett could not account for his whereabouts during the time of a confrontation in a church Sunday night that led to his arrest.

Bennett is charged with abduction, robbery and other crimes after he lured a minister into a darkened church and took him captive, police and prosecutors said. He faces up to 50 years in prison if convicted. A preliminary hearing in his case is set for August 13.

Police said Bennett placed a bag over the Rev. Edwin Clever's head and strapped what he told Clever were plastic explosives to Clever's body. Bennett then forced Clever to call Mrs. Bennett and summon her to the church, police said.

Mrs. Bennett suspected something was amiss and arrived armed. She shot at her husband but missed, and Bennett fled the church, police said. He was arrested several hours later after holding off police inside his suburban house.

According to Gans, Bennett said he agreed to surrender "after he was able to lock Ed in the garage."

Clever and Ms. Cornwell were scheduled to testify July 15 during a custody hearing in the Bennetts' long and bitter divorce case. But Bennett's arrest put that hearing on hold, Prince William County Commonwealth's Attorney Paul Ebert said Tuesday.

"There are certain allegations about lesbian conduct on the part of his wife. That's part of the divorce case," Ebert said.

Bennett claimed in the court filings that his wife's Lesbianism contributed to their estrangement.

Mrs. Bennett obtained temporary emergency custody of the couple's two girls, ages 7 and 9, at a hearing in Prince William Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court on Tuesday.

Bennett resigned from the FBI's Washington office in 1993, after pleading guilty to two federal felony charges involving fraudulent government vouchers, FBI spokeswoman Susan Lloyd said. He had been a special agent since 1981.

Mrs. Bennett cooperated with prosecutors in return for immunity from prosecution herself. She admitted signing at least one fraudulent voucher involving the family's transfer from Atlanta to the Washington area in 1986.

She resigned about a year later.

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Promotional Company Says "No" to Wisconsin People with HIV/AIDS

Milwaukee—No money from the Tanqueray AIDS Ride from the Twin Cities to Chicago raised in Wisconsin will come to Wisconsin this year, or perhaps any other year as well.

This is the result of a phone conversation on July 1 between Dan Pallotta and Doug Nelson.

Pallotta is the head of Pallotta and Associates, a Los Angeles-based for-profit fundraising consulting firm, which is the creator and producer of the five AIDS Rides around the country.

Nelson is the Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), the largest AIDS Service Organization (ASO) in the state.

Nelson had talked with Pallotta in the last week in June, suggesting that Ride money raised in Wisconsin be allocated to the AIDS Walk Wisconsin, "which would then be disbursed to 16 different ASOs throughout the entire state."

"It's important that this be accomplished this year," Nelson said. "And if it is, I believe it sets Wisconsin up to be an even stronger partner in next year's AIDS Ride. A strong Wisconsin partnership would have helped the AIDS Ride raise more money for AIDS services" than it does now.

In the July 1st conversation, Pallotta turned Nelson's suggestions "down flat."

"It's a huge disappointment," Nelson said. It appears that there's no interest in Wisconsin on this ride."

According to the Twin-Cities-Chicago AIDS Ride Web page, presenting sponsors of the Ride include: Tanqueray, Banana Republic, POZ magazine, Now Sports Cycling & Fitness Starbucks Coffee, Cineplex-Odeon, and Gay Chicago Magazine.

According to Pallotta, "Tanqueray's support for the five AIDS Rides constitutes a commitment of more than \$3.5 million in cash donations, marketing and public relations support and advertising."

Miller Brewery

"Tanqueray has obliterated the standard for corporate leadership in the battle against AIDS—no other company even comes close," Pallotta said.

In a press release dated June 19th, ACT UP called this statement, "A blatant public relations lie." ACT UP cited the great contributions made by Miller Brewery to the fight against AIDS.

In a phone interview on June 26th, Light asked Pallotta if Miller had ever been contacted about becoming a presenter in the AIDS Ride. He said that Miller had been contacted and said that their giving schedule had been exhausted.

Asked about this, Tom Reed, Director of Corporate Issues for Miller, and a long-time Miller employee, said that Miller had never been contacted by Pallotta or anyone about the AIDS Ride.

Some of the proceeds from the Twin Cities-Chicago AIDS Ride will benefit ASOs in the Twin Cities and Chicago. No money will come to Wisconsin ASOs.

As reported in the last issue of Light, ACT UP Milwaukee called for a boycott of Tanqueray, the principle presenter of the Ride. ACT UP's position was that money raised in Wisconsin should stay in Wisconsin to benefit people in the state affected with HIV/AIDS.

ACT UP's position, advocating a boycott of Tanqueray, was rational. Tanqueray is listed as the chief presenter. A boycott of the firm was natural to do.

"Here in the Midwest, the AIDS Ride has chosen to ignore an entire state," ACT UP said in a press release dated June 19th.

In the phone interview Pallotta indicated to Light that he strongly disagreed with ACT UP's stand. He said that his company and the presenting sponsors were helping people with AIDS.

"This is what we're doing," Pallotta said. "ACT UP, what are you doing to help?"

Pallotta, who said he was Gay, added, "We as a community need to band together."

Where the Money Goes

According to the AIDS Ride information given to registrants, each person must raise \$2300 prior to the ride. The booklet admits that this may be hard for some people to do, but "Things that are easy teach us nothing. Things that are difficult teach us everything."

Riders are given a "unique set of tools" to help them raise the money. These include: pledge payments over time; holiday card inserts provided by Pallotta and Associates; and house parties. "We provide the speaker and do the asking."

According to Pallotta, 40% of this money goes for administrative and other costs. As he broke it down, 25% is administrative, 15% is for rider support.

By way of contrast, the administrative costs for the Wisconsin AIDS Walk is 20%.

According to the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN), 19% of the money raised from the Milmaids Tournament goes for administration.

Email on the Internet from people around the country involved in the other rides raised concerns about the split.

Edie Cheng from California said that he was giving "my friends the choice of sponsoring me, or sending their dollars directly to the beneficiary organization."

Kathleen Murphy from Chicago wrote, "I am also having trouble with the 60/40 split. When I think that I am raising money for mailings or to cover fees, bonuses from Pallotta & Co., well, I find it distressing."

Other writers disagreed, saying that the 40% did not seem unreasonable to them to handle the costs of putting on an event like the AIDS Rides.

"Historically, the AIDS Rides have had trouble in communities," ACT UP said in their press release. The release cited two examples.

"In Philadelphia, the Ride was attacked by community-based organizations because minority ASOs and ASOs that served minority communities were completely excluded from this funding structure—the were not approached by the AIDS Ride."

ACT UP also mentioned Baltimore as a city that was being ignored by the AIDS Ride going through there.

Pallotta said that in all of the AIDS Rides, including the five taking place this summer, "origin and destination cities and beneficiaries were selected only after an extensive research process" by his company.

As indicated above, the 60/40 split has raised controversy.

ACT UP's position and that of ARCW, is that the money raised in Wisconsin should stay in Wisconsin.

Pallotta dismissed this, telling Light that there were only 16 riders from Wisconsin and that money coming from the state was "insignificant."

Nelson said that the money raised from Wisconsin riders would amount to between \$20,000 and \$25,000. "Not a small amount for us," he said.

Pallotta said Wisconsin people do benefit from the money raised by the Twin Cities-Chicago AIDS Ride.

"People in Eau Claire use Chicago ASOs," he said, "because services (they need) are not



Jerry Johnson

The Leather Crowd had the opportunity to purchase leather goods in Milwaukee at the Wisconsin Leather Weekend. These women were tending the Paul C. Leather of Chicago table at the Leather Ball at B's bar on June 28th.

available in Wisconsin."

Nelson denied that heatedly, saying that the services were "indeed available."

In his press release, Pallotta said that he expected the Twin Cities-Chicago AIDS Ride to raise "\$4 million for AIDS services" in the two locations.

As far as the rest of the Midwest is concerned, the Ride "will generate a tremendous amount of AIDS Awareness."

A statement posted on the Internet from Bruce Dean, denounced ACT UP. He had read a story about ACT UP's call for a boycott of Tanqueray in the Star Tribune, reprinted from the Milwaukee Journal.

"I'm not sure when this story ran in Milwaukee," Dean wrote, "but this is vintage whine, perfectly timed."

Dean wrote that the riders were responding to a humanitarian call for help. "I doubt many of us responded by asking about Milwaukee, La Crosse, Madison, Duluth, Rockford, or all the rural areas in between where AIDS victims are truly alone and without much help," Dean wrote.

"The Chicago beneficiaries are most grateful for the hospitality that the State of Wisconsin is extending and for their participation," said Jim Flosi, Executive Director of AIDSCare in Chicago. He went on to condemn what he called "divisive acts among

AIDS service providers."

In addition to the money coming from Wisconsin riders themselves, Pallotta and Associates sent mailers out to businesses throughout Wisconsin soliciting ads for the Ride Tribute book. Light has come into possession of ten of these solicitations from all over the state.

Ads are expensive. For example, a center spread costs \$5,000. The inside front cover is \$2,000. A full page in the 7.5"x10" book is \$700.

Pallotta said that "very little money" was received from this book.

"This is not an issue that is going away," said ACT UP Milwaukee's Yuri Keegstra. "These corporate suits on the coasts will not be allowed to come into the Midwest, run their little charities, and then distribute the money to whomever they wish. Locales where these AIDS Rides are occurring must have input. I invite and encourage all of Wisconsin to take their Tanqueray bottles and empty them into the nearest gutter."

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Speaking From the Right

The Republican Party, Dole, Clinton and the Defense of Marriage Act

Commentary by Jim McFarland

No doubt you have already heard about Wisconsin's own Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner's introduction of the Defense of Marriage Act. Our national office (Log Cabin Republicans) appropriately responded with a press release denouncing this bill and calling upon the Republican Party to stop using this issue to win support for our Presidential candidate, Bob Dole.

Meanwhile, the Gay Democrats were trumpeting that Dole's cosponsorship of the bill showed once and for all that there was a big difference between Clinton and Dole on Gay issues, even though Clinton had already stated that he is opposed to Gay marriage. They even called upon all Log Cabin members to join the Democrat Party.

As a result, we could only say "We told you so" when Clinton announced that he would sign the Defense of Marriage Act into law, causing outrage among the same Gay Democrats.

On the other hand, I did not feel too much like smirking or laughing at the Gay Democrats, because of my own outrage over Dole's cosponsorship of the bill.

After my initial outrage subsided, however, I was able to analyze the issue from a more rational perspective.

First, the Gay press has wrongly labeled this bill an "intrusion" into state's rights, which implies that the bill tells states that they cannot recognize same sex marriages. This is not correct.

All the bill does is give a state the right to refuse to recognize a same sex marriage legally performed in another state, as well as providing that, for the purposes of Federal law, a same sex marriage will not be recognized (thus, for instance, same sex couples would not be able to file income taxes jointly, and a Lesbian or Gay spouse would not be able to obtain survivor's benefits from Social Security).

In addition, it is important to realize that, not only is same sex marriage opposed by more than 70% of the population, but it is a real, visceral issue even for most of those who believe in equal rights for Lesbians and Gays. Given this background, it is ridiculous to expect even many Democrats to support legalizing same sex marriage at this juncture, let alone Republicans.

So why was I so outraged? Probably because this is the one area in which I feel discriminated against most intensely. While I am sure some of us experience workplace discrimination, most of us do not, especially in a state like Wisconsin where workplace discrimination is illegal.

Personally, I have never felt that I was treated unfairly at my place of employment because of my sexual orientation, and only once did I experience what I believed to be discrimination in the area of housing. As far as I am concerned, I would much rather simply find another building to live in, or find a different job to take, than live in a building owned or managed by a bigot or work in a job with a bigot for a supervisor even if the law says that bigot cannot discriminate against me.

But there is nowhere else to go if you are not allowed to marry the person you love. Because marriage is a status conferred upon us by government, government's refusal to confer it upon me makes me a second class citizen. While I do not feel like a second class citizen in any other area of my life, it is in the area of marriage where I cannot escape that feeling.

While I can understand Dole's support of the Defense of Marriage Act, and the support of the vast majority of the population for this bill, from an objective perspective, there is still a part of me which is outraged over this bill.

I try not to let that outrage turn into despair, but instead to channel it into positive results by continuing my efforts to bring change to the Republican Party and to society in general.

Thankfully, I am beginning to see the fruits of this effort, and it is the very debate about same sex marriage which has illuminated the changes in the views of Republicans about Gay issues in general.

While I was disappointed that the State Republican Convention overwhelmingly adopted a resolution opposing same sex marriage, I was extremely pleased that someone who was not a Log Cabin member and whom I did not even know spoke against it.

I was even more pleased, however, with the rhetoric of many of those who spoke in favor of the resolution.

Speaker after speaker made statements to the effect that if two Gay men or two Lesbians want to live together, that is perfectly fine—they just did not want the government approving of the relationship or providing benefits to such a couple.

One speaker (a pro-life activist who had been a strong supporter of fundamentalist Christian Presidential candidate Alan Keyes) even specifically said she wanted her "Gay brothers and sisters in the Republican Party" to understand that she appreciated their involvement in the party, but could not support legalizing same sex marriage, as that would be going too far. Ten years ago, you would never have heard such sentiments expressed at any Republican gathering.

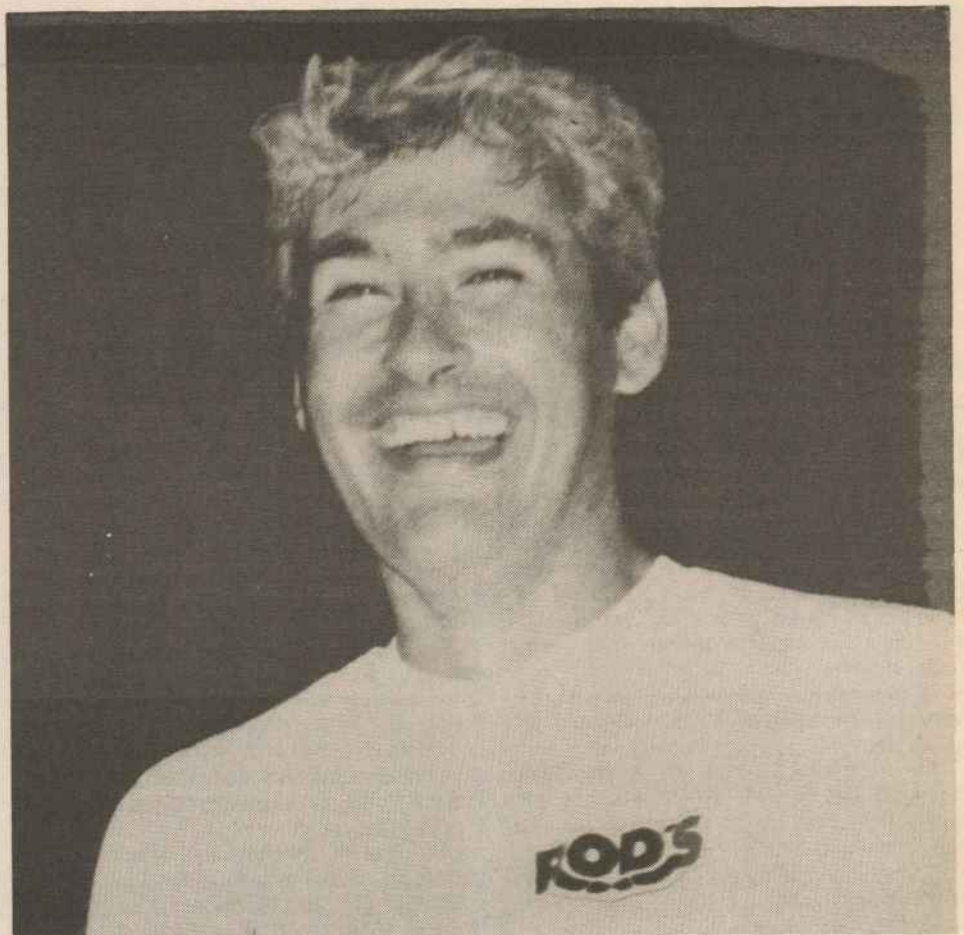
So while the Texas Republican Party is trying to bar the Log Cabin Republicans of Texas from having a booth at their state convention, Wisconsin Republicans are expressing sympathy for their "Gay brothers and sisters in the Republican Party" and welcoming them to the party.

Perhaps even more telling was the disparity in the applause given to two of the Wisconsin Republican Congressmen.

Congressman Sensenbrenner was given only mild, polite applause before and after he spoke to the convention.

Congressman Gunderson, on the other hand, was given an enthusiastic standing ovation both before his speech, and after he gave a speech reminding the convention that the party should be a big tent and should include and welcome the Log Cabin Republicans.

Clearly, we are having an effect, and we are heartened and gratified to see it.



Rodney Scheel and his famous smile. Scheel was one of the main founders and driving forces behind Madison's MAGIC picnic. The MAGIC Picnic has raised over \$150,000 for Madison's LesBiGay organizations. AIDS took Rodney away from Madison and the rest of us but as was the case throughout his life, his work never ended. This year's picnic will be held on Saturday July 20 at Madison's Brittingham park. Madison's Pride Celebration, will take place the following day. For details on Madison's MAGIC Pride Weekend see the Spotlight section pages 12 to 25.

Religious Prejudice Replaces Search for Knowledge in Merrimack Schools

Merrimack, NH—Ask Tom Gotsill, an English teacher for 30 years, how Walt Whitman's homosexuality affected his poetry.

"I can't discuss that," Gotsill says.

James Roy, a math teacher for 21 years, surely can explain a newspaper article citing AIDS statistics.

"I apologize. I just can't talk about that," Roy responds, lowering his head as color rises in his face.

Until this school year, both teachers would have answered these questions. Today, they back away from fear of violating a school district ban on teachers discussing homosexuality as a part of life and living.

"For the first time in my life, I feel I have to look over my shoulder every time I say something," says Roy, who has joined parents and others suing Merrimack schools in federal court on grounds the policy inhibits freedom of speech.

The policy, titled the "Prohibition of Alternative Lifestyle Instruction," has pitted neighbor against neighbor in this town of 22,450.

The school board's religious extremist majority is standing firm, insisting the policy protects children. But if protection against knowledge and ignorance are their goals, they have achieved just the opposite.

What they've caused is a student revolt in which hundreds of students in the district are wearing black armbands or pink triangle pins in protest.

Meanwhile, teachers have altered how they teach such classics as Moby Dick, Of Mice and Men, A Raisin in the Sun, The Glass Menagerie and William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "As You Like It" to avoid any discussion of homosexuality, either in plot or authorship.

Films such as Aladdin and Lion King cannot be mentioned. Ben Hur is out, and so is a great deal else.

Under the policy, enacted on a 3-2 vote last August, teachers are not allowed to pass out materials, instruct or offer counseling portraying homosexuality as an acceptable way of life—or even discussing it at all.

School board chairman Chris Ager, who proposed the policy, has said violations would be regarded as insubordination—grounds for firing. Ager won't specify what he would consider a violation, so teachers say they are in the dark.

"I will say that as of today, not a single teacher has been disciplined as a result of this policy," Ager protested.

That's because teachers are taking every precaution to protect their jobs, says Sue Ruggeri, president of the Merrimack Teachers' Association, one of the plaintiffs in the U.S. District Court lawsuit.

According to the suit, classes no longer address AIDS prevention and suicide among gay teens. AIDS can only be mentioned as "God's punishment for sin," one teacher said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "If we keep on like this, we'll soon be like Tennessee."

Roy says he altered plans to have math students clip newspaper stories citing statistics because he was afraid someone would bring in an article on AIDS or homosexuality.

Teachers say "Twelfth Night" has been withdrawn from instruction. Its comical plot involves a young woman who disguises herself as a page (transvestite), who falls in love with his-her master, who becomes fond of the page but pines for a countess, who becomes infatuated with the page, not knowing him to be a her.

Gotsill says he stopped using a video about Walt Whitman because it mentions the poet was Gay.

"So much of literature and art is out now. If you build a class around discussion, as we do in literature, then you oftentimes don't know in what direction conversations might go. For fear it might end in discussions of prejudice or bigotry against homosexuals, you shy away from it," Gotsill says. "As a result, our discussions have been stifled. Education has been hampered."

Lymon Mower, a 15-year-old freshman at Merrimack High School, has worn a black arm band to school all year. He says the policy cheats students out of a full education.

"A lot of times we'll have class discussions and the teacher will feel they can't go on because of fear of violating the policy," Mower says. "My friend was taking a social problems class, where the whole point is to talk. One day they were talking about AIDS and, of course, you have to talk about homosexuality. The teacher said, 'Sorry, we can't talk about this anymore.'"

Mower now attends the volatile monthly school board meetings and urges other students to wear arm bands and buttons supporting equal rights for Gays. He says he's lost regard for teachers who abide by the policy.

"There isn't really a single teacher in this district who supports that policy, but they're practicing it," Mower says. "I really have to say I don't have a lot of respect for anyone who can do that. What's a job if you are forced to be the agent of injustice?"

But Roy, whose two children attend Merrimack schools, says fighting the policy through the courts was the best thing he could think to do.

"I believe that I can make a difference in kids' lives. I would be teaching them nothing if I quit in this battle," he says.

Debra Herget, who has three children in the Merrimack system, says she joined the lawsuit because the policy goes against everything she is trying to teach her children at home.

"I teach my children tolerance and respect for others," she says. "This policy is, in effect, teaching intolerance."

Also signed onto the lawsuit are the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders of Boston; People for the American Way, based in Washington; and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Ager criticizes the involvement of the national groups, saying they don't represent the interests of Merrimack.

"What makes this country great in the democratic process is (that) arguments make people change their minds, not threats and intimidation," Ager says. "And I have not heard any good arguments as to why this policy should not be in place."

European-Wide Gay Pride Celebration Brings Thousands to Denmark

Copenhagen—Europride, a 10-day international festival for Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gay men and Transgenders, opened in Copenhagen on Friday, June 21.

Organizers said that the festival attracted approximately 50,000 participants from all over the Continent and beyond. Events included concerts, art exhibits, and hearings in the Danish parliament.

The festival opened with a large bonfire, first held in 1948 by the National Danish Association for Gays and Lesbians. Festival spokesman Michael Nord said that the bonfire was a "Typical Danish way of celebrating midsummer's night and is a symbol of Gay warmth."

During the ten days of the festival, participants were housed in H.C. Oersted Park located in the heart of Copenhagen.

The "Gay Village" had nearly 200 booths and shops, information centers, and stages offering round-the-clock entertainment.

Included in the entertainment were the Europride At Night Parties, held each night of the festival. These featured "name" entertainers such as the British female pop group "Bananarama. The parties were held in various locations throughout Copenhagen.

Nord said that the Village offered "all kinds of alternatives to heterosexual living."

Radio Rosa, Denmark's Gay radio station, broadcast 24 hours a day, sending news from the festival throughout Denmark and beyond.

MTV-Europe, the European 24-hour music TV channel broadcast live from the festival.

The parties culminated with a giant closing party that provided over three hours of constant entertainment. This included an appearance by the Village People, Right Said Fred, the English kitsch cult-band Doreen Doreen, and the Swedish Gay pop band, Polaris.

The climax of the festival came on June 29, as a giant LesBiGay parade wound its way through the streets of Copenhagen.

"We do it to make gays and lesbians visible and to show that there are many of us and that we are different. We want to combat prejudice, which for example holds that gays have loose wrists and lesbians are big and macho," Nord said.

Europride culminated June 29 with a large parade including drag queens and floats.

The festival is always timed to coincide with the June 27 anniversary of the Stonewall uprising in New York City in 1969. The clash between police and homosexuals after a raid on a gay bar is seen as a galvanizing event in the gay-rights movement.

Previous Europride festivals were held in London, Berlin and Amsterdam.

Europride '97 will be held in Paris, and Europride '98 will be held in Stockholm.

Four HIV+ Gay Teens Stand Their Ground Against AIDS Fear and Homophobia

Paicol, Colombia—The police arrive after dinner and stay through the night, a reminder that this little farmhouse nestled in a lush southern valley is not the paradise it seems.

The four HIV-positive young men living there, along with two other youths, have endured death threats, rock-throwing and taunts from their new neighbors, who fear the AIDS virus spreads like the common cold.

The men, all Gay, most of them former child prostitutes, aged between 16 and 34, have already lived through violence and rejection in a nation where homophobia is common, and they say they won't be intimidated into leaving.

"If we leave here today, tomorrow the same thing will happen somewhere else where people are afraid of AIDS," said Marcos Loaiza, 19. "We must fight against ignorance. I am prepared to die here if that's what it takes."

But villagers have vowed to get them out by any means necessary.

The threat of violence is very real. Shortly after the four arrived in March, five armed men dressed in military fatigues and ski masks came to the farmhouse one night and threatened to kill them unless they left.

The four Gay young men refused.

The ranch has since been guarded at night by police, and the men have limited their trips into nearby Paicol, a village of 2,000 people about 185 miles southwest of the capital Bogota.

Social workers from the Roman Catholic charity Eudes, which provides housing and some care for these and other poor youths with HIV, were run out of town by 600 enraged villagers when they tried to calm fears about the virus. The farmhouse was donated to Eudes by the former owner.

When Paicol's priest called for tolerance at Sunday Mass a week ago, nearly the entire congregation walked out on him. Restaurants who have served the men have lost customers.

HIV is spread through body fluids such as blood or semen. But townspeople believe the young men have contaminated their water by bathing in a stream. They also fear their crops and livestock are infected.

"The danger of getting the disease exists if you come near them or touch things they have been around," said Rosmiro Perdomo, head of

the local farmers' committee. "If it isn't so dangerous, why have these boys' families thrown them out?"

Villagers also say they don't want Gays in town or around their children. Homophobia has been a factor in the quiet spread of AIDS, which many see as a "Gay problem" despite a rise in infected heterosexuals.

Homosexuals in Colombia are often rejected by their families and communities, and human rights groups have said Gays are one of the targets of right-wing death squads who consider killing them a form of social cleansing. There are no figures on how many gays are killed by the squads.

Gerardo Forero, the Eudes foundation vice-president, was in Paicol last week trying to negotiate a peaceful solution. He said the program will pull the youths out soon if the siege continues.

"If we leave, it will only be to protect lives in the face of this town's total ignorance," he said.

AIDS awareness has lagged in Colombia despite government and international programs to inform the public.

A poll by the newsmagazine *Semana* found 82 percent of Colombians don't normally use condoms, the most effective way to prevent the spread of AIDS short of sexual abstinence.

The Health Ministry estimates 143,000 Colombians are HIV-positive. Eudes, which houses 180 infected men in Colombia, estimates that between 500,000 and 1 million of the country's 36 million people are infected.

Eudes says it educates the public while giving relief to patients. But the program has had its problems. A home for HIV-positive youths in Bogota was bombed four years ago, although no one was injured.

Despite the threats, the young men in Paicol say they hope the town will eventually accept them.

"I've taken the worst this world has to offer," said Edgar Flores, showing a long scar down his stomach where he was shot three times by a man angered by his homosexuality.

"When I'm rejected it makes me want to show people we're not bad people. We must prove that to Paicol. If we can't they will have beaten us."

Condom for Women May Be HIV Blocker For Men But There's No Money to Test It

New York, NY—The Reality condom, a plastic contraceptive pouch for women, is quietly gaining favor among Gay men as the newest way to avoid AIDS during sex.

However, the condom remains scientifically unproven for men and the manufacturer has no plans for tests, saying it doesn't have the money and fears igniting a moral controversy over anal sex, which is still outlawed in nearly half the states.

Although Gay men who have used the condom say it works well, government regulators won't allow it to be promoted for their use without extensive clinical trials that usually involve thousands of people and cost millions of dollars.

This means that many Gay couples and heterosexuals who engage in anal sex might never find out about a potentially lifesaving product.

"I wish I had had this device sooner because then I wouldn't have contracted HIV," said Michael Petrelis, who waged a one-man campaign in San Francisco this spring that convinced the city to give away the Reality condom to Gay men at public health clinics. "I am most comfortable using the Reality condom with my boyfriend, who also likes it," he said.

"It gives the receptive partner, the person at greatest risk, an opportunity to provide protection for themselves and not have to depend on their partner," said Dr. Robert Jobst, a Chicago physician whose small 1991 study showed the condom may be effective for Gays.

But Mike Russell, a spokesman for the Christian Coalition, the conservative religious group, doubts an anal condom would be legal.

"It would be our view that the government would have a very tough time approving such a product," he said. "They are promoting an activity that is clearly illegal in more than 20 states."

Reality was approved two years ago by the Food and Drug Administration as the first condom that women can use to protect themselves against pregnancy and disease.

It's a thin, polyurethane sheath that a woman can insert into her vaginal canal hours before sex, a feature that the manufacturer, Chicago-based Female Health Co. promotes as a big advance over male condoms.

A 4-week test done by Jobst with 11 gay male couples showed none of the condoms broke or tore. However, some of the couples were turned off by the the condom's ungainly

look, it's 7-by-3 inches, while others had trouble inserting it and experienced discomfort during sex.

In the early 1990s, Female Health had hoped to market a version of the product to Gay men. It even came up with a name, Aegis, for the shield worn by the Greek god Zeus.

Mary Ann Leeper, president of the Female Health Co., said she was later told by the FDA it would never approve the product for Gay sex so the idea was dropped.

Nonetheless, small numbers of men began buying and using it anyway. This spring, a variety of Gay-oriented publications began talking up the condom and protesting what they perceived as its suppression.

AIDS activists say it's time to bring Reality up from the underground.

Carol Rogers of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, has been distributing Reality condoms to women and Gay men for a year.

"We've had a lot of response from men who have sex with men and they like it very much," she said.

Don McLearn, an FDA spokesman, acknowledges the agency had concerns about the idea in 1991, but now says there is no reason to block its approval for men — as long as someone submits tests proving it works.

It won't be the Female Health Co.

The tiny manufacturer has been losing money and spent the last year in a reorganization that delayed advertising the condom even for women.

Gaining approval for men would be "a political basketball that's going to be batted around," Leeper said. "We're too small. We couldn't survive that."

While independent groups or universities could take on the project, none has stepped forward.

"It would probably save lives," said Gabriel Rotello, a columnist for *The Advocate*, a national gay magazine. "But unless there's some sustained political pressure, the government, the company and the researchers will just pass the buck."

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Our Internet Address Is:
<http://www.gayuniverse.com/news.html>

Report Exposes Extremists' Orchestration of Anti-Gay Marriage Legislation

Washington, D.C. — Religious political extremists have orchestrated the introduction of anti-Gay marriage bills in at least 33 state legislatures and the U.S. Congress in an election-year strategy to score political points against Gay men and Lesbians, according to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC).

HRC, the largest national Lesbian and Gay political organization, has issued a report on Gay marriage to coincide with the unveiling of the first federal bill to ban same-sex marriage. That measure is being sponsored by Representatives Bob Barr (R-GA) and Steve Largent (R-OK) and being given heavy support by Rep. F. James Sennsenbrenner (R-WI).

"This is a calculated national assault on the lives of Lesbian and Gay people," HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch said at a recent news conference.

"Religious political extremists are using this issue as an election year baseball bat to bash Gay Americans and score political points. These elected leaders are supposed to be focusing on the business of the country. Don't they have anything better to do than fixate on divisive social issues?" she said.

Daniel Zingale, HRC's political director, noted that the bills are unnecessary and may be unconstitutional.

"All these bills are being positioned as preemptive strikes against the possibility that the state of Hawaii may soon legalize same-sex marriage," Zingale said. "However, Hawaii is unlikely to approve same-sex marriage for at least two years, so these states are legislating against a non-existent institution. Plus, they may violate the 'full faith and credit clause' of the U.S. Constitution."

HRC released copies of its report, **Wedded to Intolerance**, which exposes the false and defamatory rhetoric being used by religious political organizations as they spread these

bills from statehouse to statehouse, and attempt to inject this issue into the presidential campaign. To date, eight states have passed laws that would ban marriage between people of the same sex. They are: AK, AZ, GA, ID, KS, OK, SD and UT.

Anti-Gay marriage legislation remains pending in eight states, and measures were defeated, withdrawn or killed in 17 states.

Among the report's key findings is that the overall anti-Gay marriage strategy was hatched at a meeting in January of religious political extremists. That meeting included many of the same religious political leaders who were involved in crafting and introducing anti-Gay ballot initiatives.

"Since most of the discriminatory ballot initiatives failed, these extremists went hunting for a new way to scapegoat Gay men and Lesbians," Birch said. "This is just a new manifestation of the same hateful tactics they have used in the past."

Also, Jay Sekulow, an attorney affiliated with Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition, has admitted in several public forums that his mission this year is to see anti-Gay marriage bills introduced in all 50 state legislatures, according to the report.

Finally, HRC found that coordinated messages have emerged in the nationwide campaign to pass laws restricting marriage.

A primary tactic is to mischaracterize Gay marriage as an attack on heterosexuals and on traditional marriage and family.

A secondary message is to claim that legalizing Gay marriage opens the door to absurd pairings or multi-person unions.

A third line of argument tries to link Gay marriage to the spread of HIV and AIDS and plays upon the unfounded stereotype that Gay people are incapable of long-term relationships. V

New At-Home Test for the AIDS Virus Will See First Use in Texas and Florida

Washington, D.C.—Americans will soon be able to take an HIV blood test in the privacy of their home using a new blood collection kit approved Tuesday by the U.S. government.

The kit will enable patients to take their blood sample at home, send it to a laboratory and then receive the results by telephone. Until now, all blood sampling for HIV tests had to be done at clinics, hospitals or doctors' offices.

Direct Access Diagnostics of Bridgewater, New Jersey, developed the test kit and will market it under the brand name Confide HIV Testing Service for about \$40. A portion of the money will be donated to AIDS research, according to the test maker.

Jeffrey J. Leebaw, a spokesman for Johnson and Johnson, parent company of Direct Access, said the kit will be sold over the counter in Texas starting in June. It will be sold in drug stores, college health centers and clinics, he said.

Also starting in June, the kit will be available for purchase by telephone in Texas and in Florida, he said.

Leebaw said the sales are initially limited to Texas and Florida to help the company fine-tune the process.

"We felt we needed some real market experience for the product before going to a national rollout," he said.

Sales of the kit in rest of the country will start in 1997, he said.

Steve Michael of ACT-UP, an AIDS activist organization, said most patients in the AIDS community applaud the new kit.

For people in some rural communities, where confidentiality is difficult to preserve, he said, the mail-in specimen may be the only way to get HIV testing done while keeping the results secret.

However, three other organizations in Washington said they had "serious concerns" about the test kit's approval.

"Extreme adverse reaction to the news of an HIV diagnosis can and does occur," the National Association of People with AIDS, the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association and the Whitman-Walker Clinic, which serves people with AIDS, said in a joint statement.

They said people who test positive need counseling. They also noted that test results may be inaccurate during the period of up to six months when an individual may be infected but has not yet produced antibodies to HIV.

"We are confident that this new home system can provide accurate results while assuring patient anonymity and appropriate counseling," said Dr. David A. Kessler, head of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which approved the sale of the tests.

To conduct the test, a person puts a fingerstick blood sample on a test card and mails it in a protective envelope to a laboratory. The sample has a personal identification number.

The person can receive the results a week later by calling a toll-free number and giving the identification number. People with positive or inconclusive results speak with counselors. Negative results are given by a recording.

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Dances Give Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Teens a Chance to Be Themselves

Concord, NH—From a distance it looked like any other high school dance.

Teenagers arrived wearing everything from jeans and sneakers to black boots and short funky dresses. Some smoked outside on the sidewalk. Most danced to pulsing music on a second-floor basketball court laced with strings of Christmas tree lights.

Up close, there was nothing typical about it: young men were dancing with other young men; women with women.

Sponsored by the support group Concord Outright, the June 1st event was an evening for Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and their straight allies to socialize. More than 80 people—some from as far away as Massachusetts and Maine—attended the dance, which wasn't publicized in newspapers or posted on high school bulletin boards.

"We didn't put it in the newspaper because we didn't want people to say, 'We don't have anything to do; let's go get those Gays in East Concord,'" said organizer Ryan Bolin, a senior at Concord High School.

News of the dance spread to other New England Outright groups by word of mouth. Only about 20 of the teenagers who attended live in the Concord area. It's so difficult for Lesbian and Gay youths to meet people like themselves, they don't mind traveling hours to expand their social circle.

"When you start dating as a Gay teen, any kind of event, from fund-raisers to support groups, becomes a social event as well," said Bolin. "Those are excuses to bring the Gay community together."

The dance's sponsor, Concord Outright, started a year ago. The group holds weekly meetings where an average of 30 teens aged 14-22 come to talk, said Knox Turner, one of eight adult chaperones at the dance and a board member of Concord Outright. New Hampshire now has six Outright groups: Monadnock, Portsmouth, Concord, Hanover, Nashua and Chocorua.

While the group is primarily for support, many view the meetings as social events. Often, Turner said, after going through the week unable to discuss important issues with their peers, these young people consider the weekly gatherings a release.

The dance served a similar purpose. Outright has now sponsored two such events, which, like any other high school dance, give youth a chance to flirt and meet people, Turner said.

Terry Lochhead, president of the Children's Alliance of New Hampshire, said it is important for Gay and Lesbian teenagers to have a meeting place.

"Gay kids go through misery trying to figure out their identity and trying to have a social life without being martyred," she said. "When it comes to socializing, some kids are Gay. Are we going to blank them out or are we going to give them an outlet for socializing?"

Traditional social and support institutions can seem distant and unavailable to Gay and Lesbian teenagers, said Steve Smith, a guidance counselor at Coe-Brown Academy in Northwood.

"My experience would lead me to feel that people who are Gay probably suffer more depression and are more prone to suicide," he said, adding that well-run support groups and events might help students lead a healthier, more positive life.

For Bolin, living in Concord as a Gay teen is frustrating. Only a tiny percentage of the teenage population acknowledges being Gay, he said, and within that you have to find someone with similar interests.

On top of slim pickings, Gay and Lesbian teenagers often come to terms with their sexuality later than their heterosexual peers and consequently haven't developed their dating skills as much, Bolin said. He noted that few people came away from Saturday's dance with a potential new girlfriend or boyfriend. They just had a lighthearted evening of fun together.

Wearing a "March for Jesus" T-shirt and shorts, Bolin stood outside the community center on Eastman Street Saturday greeting people with hugs and hellos. Some were straight friends from Concord High. Most he had met at Outright meetings around the state.

Bolin attended his first meeting last year. He drove to one in Peterborough, far enough away, he hoped, to avoid meeting anyone he knew. At the time Bolin considered himself a confused heterosexual. What he found at the

meeting surprised him.

"These were normal teens who weren't flamers or butch girls, and they were in monogamous relationships and not sleeping around," said Bolin. "I had felt that because I didn't fit into any of the stereotypes, I couldn't be Gay."

After a while he began telling people he was Bisexual, a label he felt comfortable with because to him it meant he still had one foot in the heterosexual world. Only recently did he begin acknowledging he was Gay.

Bolin remembers hearing a guy at an Outright meeting call another guy "cute."

"I thought 'That's so weird,'" he said. "I've never felt so out of place because you never hear that."

Due in part to that experience, Bolin is careful not to make his straight friends uncomfortable by saying similar things.

Several teenagers who attended the dance said coming to terms with their sexuality had been a difficult, often painful process.

Seventeen-year-old Candida Martinez of Weare is involved in her first serious relationship with another young woman. They met at Concord Outright. Talking about herself, she said she doesn't like labels.

"I feel that if you label yourself a Lesbian, you have to conform to that," she said. "I think it's natural to be attracted to both sexes. I don't feel comfortable labeling myself. I prefer women, but I can't say I'm not attracted to men."

A few weeks ago, she attended the Winnisquam Regional High School prom with a different young woman. During the evening, people stared at them rudely, she said. When Martinez walked into the bathroom, the six teenagers applying makeup gave her a dirty look and abruptly left.

"I didn't know how to deal," said Martinez. "Going to prom with a girl, my sexuality hit me in the face."

Her father in California doesn't know, she said, and her mom thinks she's too young to label herself.

"My mom feels teenagers are too young to put a title on their sexuality," she said. "If it's just a phase, so be it, let me experiment and have fun."

Martinez is thankful that the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual teenage community has events to attend. Without them, said David Barnard of Augusta, Maine, it's difficult to approach people. He often finds himself looking for symbols to identify other Gay young men avoid making a mistake, but has nevertheless misread guys wearing earrings or bandanas in their back pockets.

"You do have to go upon symbolic things if it's not visibly clear," he said.

Barnard added that being Gay can be difficult and it's common for people to wish they weren't. "There are some great things about being Gay, but who wants to be in the minority?"

People have different ways of struggling with the issues. Travis Peters of Ashland, like many Gay teenagers, refers to himself as "queer" and "fag" to combat the frequent insults.

"I believe it's one way to combat homophobia; you're turning the words around," said Peters, who is 17 and has his hair arranged in long, light brown spikes. "Instead of having a bad meaning, they have a good meaning."

Sage Hylton-Lemons of Portland, Maine, who frequently hears classmates call him fag and queer, didn't mind driving two hours to feel comfortable with his peers. The shy 16-year-old is the only one in his school to have publicly said he's Gay. And for that he's paid a price. Last Friday, he said, two seniors cornered and punched him in an empty hallway until someone walked by.

"I'm looking to transfer to a school in the area that's more accepting," said Hylton-Lemons.

It took a long time for him to figure out he's Gay. In the fifth grade he found himself attracted to another boy but ignored the feelings. In the seventh grade he learned what homosexual meant from a vocabulary list. In the ninth grade, before coming out of the closet, he had the first of many anxiety attacks.

At events like the one in Concord on Saturday night no one asks him why he wants to be Gay, something he explained is not a choice.

"Why would I choose to be hated and harassed?" he said.

Researchers Find Long Sought Key to Cell Infection by AIDS Virus

Washington, DC—In a discovery that may open a new front in the war on AIDS, government scientists have isolated a protein that the AIDS virus needs to launch its deadly attack on cells.

Writing in the May 10th issue of the journal *Science*, researchers at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases say they have found a protein, which they call fusin, that must be present for the AIDS virus to infect white blood cells, the primary target of the virus.

The discovery was said by other scientists to be a significant milestone in AIDS research that eventually could lead to new drugs and vaccines against HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Edward A. Berger, leader of the team that made the discovery, said the finding will have no immediate impact on people infected with HIV, but it does answer a question that has confounded researchers for 10 years and slowed the search for a cure.

HIV attacks cells in the bloodstream that have on their surface a molecule called CD4. HIV uses CD4 to fuse with the target cell. But researchers discovered that CD4, by itself, was not enough. Some other receptor on the cell surface had to be present for the HIV infection to occur.

Fusin is that second receptor, Berger said. He said the finding was "a major new insight into how HIV gets into cells and suggests some things we weren't even considering about how HIV causes disease."

"This is very significant basic research that helps to solve the puzzle of how HIV gets into cells," said John Moore, an AIDS researcher at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York. "There has been very intensive

efforts by many labs to find this. Many people have given up."

Robert Gallo of the University of Maryland, the co-discoverer of the HIV virus, said the research represented "one of the milestones in AIDS research. This opens new doors for therapy and for developing vaccines."

Other labs have confirmed the finding, but their work has not yet been published.

Berger and his colleagues found fusin by genetically altering a laboratory virus, called vaccinia, to resemble HIV and to cause a cell to turn blue if it fuses with the virus.

They then exposed this laboratory virus to cultured mouse cells that had been altered to include the human CD4 gene, along with selected genes for other molecules found on the surface of human cells.

Through a painstaking process of elimination, the researchers eventually isolated fusin and identified it as the protein that is a co-factor with CD4 in the HIV infection process.

To prove the role of the protein, CD4 cells with and without fusin were exposed to HIV from blood samples. Only the cells with fusin became infected. Researchers then developed an antibody against fusin and found that laboratory cultures protected by the antibody could not be infected by HIV.

Berger said fusin does not play a role in the HIV infection of macrophages, another type of blood cell also attacked by HIV. This suggests, he said, that there is a separate molecular co-factor for the macrophage infection.

A major contribution from the discovery may be the development of animals that can get human AIDS. Animal cells normally do not become infected with HIV and, hence, there are no laboratory animal models for testing of AIDS drugs.

PFLAG's National Campaign Against Hate Speech Takes On Three New Cities

Seattle, WA—Mothers and fathers of Washington state's many PFLAG chapters joined together on June 13th to announce the debut of the second phase of "Project Open Mind"—the national campaign focusing on the effects of hate speech on Lesbian and Gay Americans.

The campaign, engineered by PFLAG, uses a two-fold strategy of multimedia communications and community outreach at the grassroots level.

The second phase of Project Open Mind began in Seattle in the third week in June, with the Twin Cities and St. Louis to follow later this year.

At a Seattle press conference a new 30-second TV advocacy ad was shown in anticipation of the \$80,000 prime time buy expected to begin June 17th on Western Washington's major TV stations.

"The campaign is about family values," said Mitzi Henderson, president of PFLAG's board of directors. "The number one family value is to love and protect your children. If our community and our society are to embrace family values, then we must love and protect all of our children. To do so, we must speak out forcefully against anti-Gay bigotry wherever it occurs—and reaffirm to Gays and Lesbians that they are entitled to the same respect, dignity and civil rights as all Americans."

The first phase of Project Open Mind targeted the cities of Atlanta, Houston and Tulsa. The campaign drew national attention last fall after Pat Robertson and his Christian Broadcasting Network threatened legal action against any stations airing PFLAG's first ads which addressed the effects of hate speech

(including excerpts of Robertson's on-air hate speech), against Gays and Lesbians.

While the first phase of Project Open Mind became known for the attacks by Robertson, the second phase is likely to be recognized for its widespread corporate and mainstream support.

Nordstrom, the national Seattle-based specialty retailer, has signed on as a corporate sponsor. Not only did Nordstrom lend their name and financial support to the project, they invited Seattle-Tacoma PFLAG chapter president Marilyn Cass to speak to 45 of their regional managers about PFLAG.

The new 30 second spot, like its predecessors, is hard-hitting and emotionally compelling.

The ad titled, "They Deserve It?" displays sunny images of children playing while the announcer states, "Some of them will be three times more likely to commit suicide than their friends. There's also a greater chance they'll be assaulted, beaten, threatened, harassed, or even murdered. Just because they are Gay or Lesbian. But look at them, they deserve it, don't they?"

The ad is designed to help open the door for PFLAG members' community outreach.

"The damage caused by hate speech affects every community—large and small," said Cass. "That's why our local outreach program is so important. The television ad may get people's attention, but our personal speaking engagements will be able to connect with audiences in a way a TV ad can't."

PFLAG affiliates are located in more than 390 communities across the U.S. and in 11 foreign countries.

Looking for a Family?

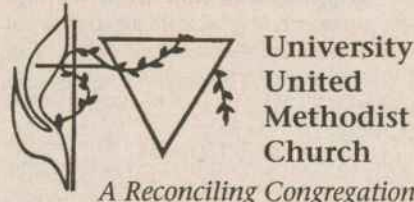


Being a family is probably one of the most cherished experiences in life. And families come in all shapes and sizes.

One such family is Unitarian Universalism where your feelings and experiences count. We are a welcoming congregation.

James Reeb
U.U. Congregation

2146 East Johnson Street · Madison
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10am Sunday Service



A Reconciling Congregation
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Pastor: Dianne Reistroffer

**Celebrate God's love
with us at our regular
Sunday worship
at 10 a.m.**

Join us at the Galvanize March
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madison AIDS support network

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600 Williamson Street, Madison 53703
PH 608.252.6540
TF 800.486-6276

for people with HIV disease, their
partners, families and friends

THE SPOTLIGHT



Pride on Parade—A scene from the 1995 Madison rally, heading down State Street with the State Capitol building in the background.

The Magic Picnic, Pride And More!

A PROUD AND MAGIC TIME IN MADISON

If you love to party, show your pride and have a great time, then make your plans to be in Madison for the weekend of July 19, 20 and 21.

On that weekend, Madison will be the center of Wisconsin's LesBiGay universe. For three days, Madison forgets about the Hotel Washington fire, the Reverend Overdahl and the Police in the woods to party, show its pride and party some more.

A visit to Madison is always special, but on Magic Picnic/Pride Weekend, its extra special. The parties, the bars, the special events and the general atmosphere make things extra special.

10% Dance Friday Night

The weekend starts off with a 10% Society Dance on Friday July 19th. The 10% Society is UW-Madison's LesBiGay student group.

10% Society Dances are a popular monthly event in Madison. Held in the Great Hall of the UW Memorial Union (Langdon and Park Streets), the dance will begin at 8:00 and continues until Midnight. There is a \$4.00 cover.

The Magic Picnic

On Saturday July 20, the 23rd annual Magic Picnic gets underway in Brittingham Park. Beer, soda and food along with games and a market place will keep an expected 3,000 people occupied from 1 PM to 7 PM. Unlimited beverages and a plate of food from the buffet are just \$8.00.

In 1995, Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals from throughout the state and Northern Illinois, contributed to a crowd of over 2,000 people who turned out despite a light rain. Over the years, the picnic has raised over \$150,000 for Madison's LesBiGay groups.

Womyn's Dance

On Saturday evening, Apple Island celebrates its anniversary and pride with a womyn's only dance at the Wil-Mar Center. This smoke, alcohol, substance and scent free event will feature DJ's. Admission is a sliding scale of \$3 to \$5.

Alumni Brunch

Sunday morning, July 21, the LesBiGay UW-Alumni produce their annual brunch. The brunch will take place in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union, (Langdon and Park). The cost is \$10.00 per person. For reservations call Russell Betts at (608)262-5895.

The Pride March

The brunch is followed by Madison's Wisconsin Pride Parade. Assembly is at the State Capitol. A rally featuring March Grand Marshal, Melinda Paras, Executive Director of the National Gay, Lesbian Task Force begins at 1:30 PM. The march steps off at 2:00 and proceeds down State Street. A post march party featuring some great entertainment will take place from 2:30 to 5:00.

Other Events Happening Too

In addition to these major events there are other parties happening in Madison throughout the weekend. Chief among these are the Miss Capital City Pageant at R Place and the appearance of porn star/singer David Burrill at Manoeuvres both of which take place on Sunday evening.

Madison's other popular LesBiGay places like the Shamrock Bar and Geraldines will be set to handle the large crowd of Madisonians and out of town visitors.

The weekend of July 19, 20 and 21. Its a Magic and Proud Time in Madison. Don't miss it!

Madison's Magic Weekend Schedule

Friday July 19

10% Society Sponsors Dance

The 10% Society will be hosting another of its monthly dances on Friday July 19th. The dance will be the first event of Madison's MAGIC Picnic/ Pride Weekend. The dance will be held in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union at the corner of Langdon and Park Streets. It will begin at 8:00 and run until Midnight.

A DJ will play a wide variety of music ranging from Motown to the latest dance tunes. A \$4.00 cover will be charged and there will be a cash bar.

Saturday July 20

The MAGIC Picnic

Madison's social event of the year, the 23rd annual MAGIC picnic will take place from 1 to 7 PM at Brittingham Park located at West Washington and Park Street. Food, drinks, games, dancing and more await an expected 3,000 people.

Tickets are just \$8.00 for a great plate of food and unlimited beverages (beer and soda). Other activities are free.

The picnic raises money for Madison area LesBiGay groups. Its a don't miss event.

Apple Island Dance/Anniversary Party

Apple Island may have lost its site but not its soul. The group is still alive and well. To prove it Apple Island is sponsoring a Womyn's Dance with WISH (Women In Support and Healing) as a prelude to the Sunday July 21st Pride March and Rally.

The event will be Womyn's Dance. This will be a fun smoke, alcohol, substance, scent free, evening in a safe accessible environment.

It will be held at the Wil-mar Neighborhood Center located at 953 Jennifer St. This womyn's only event is just \$3.00 to \$5.00. (sliding scale) The party begins at 9:00 and ends at Midnight.

Sunday July 21

UW LesBiGay Brunch

The annual UW Gay Lesbian Bisexual Alumni Council Brunch will take place from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union. Barbara J. Cox and Richard Uspel will receive the 1996 Distinguished Alumni Awards. The cost is \$10.00 per person. For reservations call Russell Betts at (608)262-5895.

Madison Pride Parade/Rally/Party

Drag out those Rainbow Flags, pink triangle pins and that pride wear T-shirt. The festivities get underway with a Rally at the Capitol beginning at 1:30. The parade steps off at 2:00 and is followed by a post parade party on State Street at the UW Library Mall at 2:30. The party features some great entertainment, food and merchandise vendors.

David Burrill at Manoeuvres

David Burrill, porn star and singer will be strutting his stuff at Manoeuvres. 150 S. Blair Street. The show starts at 11:00 and is well worth the \$5.00 admission charge, \$6.00 for a reserved seat at table. Burrill tours the country with his show and is very popular among the dance crowd set.

Miss Capital City Pageant

A new queen of the Capital City will be crowned at the conclusion of the Miss Capital City Pageant held at R Place 121 W. Main Street. Talent, gown and interview competitions will determine who will reign over Mad Town for the next year.

For more information contact Randy or John at (414)730-0440.

CLIP AND SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

Madison's United Awards Dinner July 12

Madison— Four individuals, a community organization and a local business will be honored at The United's 4th Annual Awards dinner on Friday July 12th at 6:00 PM. at Madison's Sheraton HOrtel, John Nolen Drive at the Beltline.

Newly appointed Madison Fire Chief, Debra Amesqua will be speaking at the dinner, which costs \$30 - \$50 (sliding scale.)

A reception begins at 6:00 PM with dinner to follow at 7:00. The Sheraton is located two miles south of downtown Madison across from the Dane County Coliseum. Tickets are available by advance purchase only. To order tickets call the United at (608)255-8582.

Pat Calchina, a long time civil rights leader and community organizer will be recognized as "Woman of the Year" at the dinner. A press release issued by the United praises Calchina's work as an organizer in Madison's LGBT community.

Tony Lucchesi will receive the "Volunteer Of the Year" award. Tony

volunteers as a peer counselor, a speaker and trainer for the United's Speaker's Bureau and serves on the organization's Volunteer and Special Events Committees.

The Organization of the Year award goes to Kissing Girls Productions. Kissing Girls has produced the "Annual Celebration of Lesbian Culture Weekend" in Madison for the last 10 years.

The Hotel Washington staff and owners will be honored with a special award for the significant contribution it has made to the community over the years.

Help Us To Cover Madison:

The Wisconsin Light is looking for Madison area writers and photographers to cover the news and social scene of Madison.

If interested call the Wisconsin Light at (414)372-2773

This Picnic is Magic: Saturday, July 20

Madison—On Saturday July 20 when thousands of people gather for Madison's premier social event, the MAGIC Picnic, they will be celebrating a tradition that began over 20 years ago.

Colorful booths selling rainbow flags, t-shirts and other pride items, a large supply for brew, and soda, great food and more are in store for those attending this year's event on Saturday July 20.

Picnic Activities

The 1996 MAGIC picnic will be held at Brittingham Park (located on West Washington and Park) on the shores of beautiful Lake Monona. The fun starts at 1:00 with food being served at around 2:30 and picnic games commencing at around 4:00.

In addition to a meal of Burgers, chicken sandwiches, veggie lasagna, salads, fruit, chips and side dishes, the picnic also includes some very creative activities. Games like the high heel drag race, and the purse toss are a scream to watch and participate in. You can buy a chance to throw a missile at your favorite (or least favorite) homophobe. There is also a raffle with some fabulous prizes.

The Market Place will be open all afternoon and DJ Chris Hackbarth will be back spinning all your favorite tunes from his spot in the park pavillion throughout the picnic. Miller, Pabst and Bud Beer will be served as will Pepsi products.

There's even a free shuttle bus will transport people from the Dane County Mental Health Parking lot to the park. Parking is also available in a small lot in the park and on surrounding streets.

Rodney Scheel may be gone, but every July his spirit lives on as thousands gather to celebrate the summer and his dream of one community

Picnic Raises Thousands

The picnic is fun, but it has a serious side too. It is a major fund raising event for Madison's LesBiGay organizations. Last year's MAGIC Picnic was the most successful ever. A record, \$7,500 was raised.

The funds were distributed to: Apple Island, Bi?Shy?Why?, the Campus Women's Center, Dairyland Cowboys & Cowgirls, Frontiers, Galvanize, Lesbian Parents Network, PFLAG, the Rodney Scheel House, The Scheel Family Fund for PWA's, SAGE-Madison, the Unicorns, the United, UW_Whitewater Gay/Lesbian Student Union and the Women's Transit Authority.

A Magic History

This year's picnic follows in a long line of quality events. In 1973, a group of people organized what was then an employee, customer appreciation party of the Back Door, Rodney Scheel's first tavern. Out of that first party grew what is now known as the premier social event of the year for Madison's LesBiGay community, the MAGIC picnic.

In 1977, the Back Door party became the MAGIC picnic. MAGIC stands for Madison Area Gay Interim Committee, it also stands for Magic. Thanks to the picnic over \$150,000 has appeared to help Madison's LesBiGay organizations. In fact it was the need to raise funds and consciousness for an impending vote on gay rights legislation that led to the change in focus.

Rodney Scheel may be gone, but his spirit lives on every July as thousands gather to celebrate the summer and his dream of one community. This summer will be no exception.

To get to the picnic the most uncomplicated route is take 1-94 to the State Capitol exit. That puts you on E. Washington. Follow Washington through town and take it to Park Street. (Washington ends at Park Street) The park is on your left.

For more information about the MAGIC Picnic call Mark, Greg or Sherry at the Hausman Insurance Agency - (608)256-3360 extension 134.

Madison's Pride Parade: July 21

Madison—The Madison Pride Parade will step off from the steps of the State Capitol at 2:00 on Sunday June 21. The event organized by GALVANize, is expected to attract around 2,000 marchers along with hundreds of others lining State Street to cheer them on.

The festivities begin with a rally which begins at 1:30. Speakers include Medlina Paras, Executive Director of the National Lesbian Gay Task Force, NGTLF, De Ette Tomlinson, Executive Director of the United, and Greg Walsh, from Teens Like Us.

Entertainment Follow March

The march down State Street will be followed by a Post March Show at the UWM Library Mall. A dazzling show emceed by Alan Stozak and Linda Lenzke will include Bugattityke 35, Mary Waitrovitch, Tracy Swenson, Dykeapella, Ben Doran, Daryl Wagner (as Mable Kane), Patty Cakes and Ms. Lenzke.

In addition to the variety of shops on State Street there will be food and drink vendors at the Post March show along with vendors selling merchandise.

While the march doesn't include floats, it does include decorated cars and plenty of interesting people walking the route. Its a perfect opportunity to see Madison on parade!

But if the march has a serious purpose, that hasn't kept it from being a fun event.

First March in 1988

The Madison pride march began in 1988 as an outgrowth of the October 11, 1987 Gay Rights and Pride March on Washington. Tim O'Brien and Pam Jacobson were among those in Washington for the big event. "It was the overall experience more than any one specific thing I saw there," says O'Brien, "The sense of strength you felt while you were there. And you went home knowing that hundreds of thousands of other people were also returning home determined to make some new things happen.

Several months later O'Brien and Jacobson decided to make something new happen in Madison. The result was a local gay pride march in 1989.

The event was a big success with an estimated 8,000 marchers coming from across Wisconsin. It was largest Gay rights demonstration in the state's history and the second largest civil rights demonstration ever held in Wisconsin.

GALVANize (Gay And Lesbian Visibility Alliance) organized a second march in 1991. This one attracted over 5,000 people. Despite its success, GALVANize collapsed under the weight of putting together a big event on an annual basis. then in 1994, a revitalized GALVANize held another march.

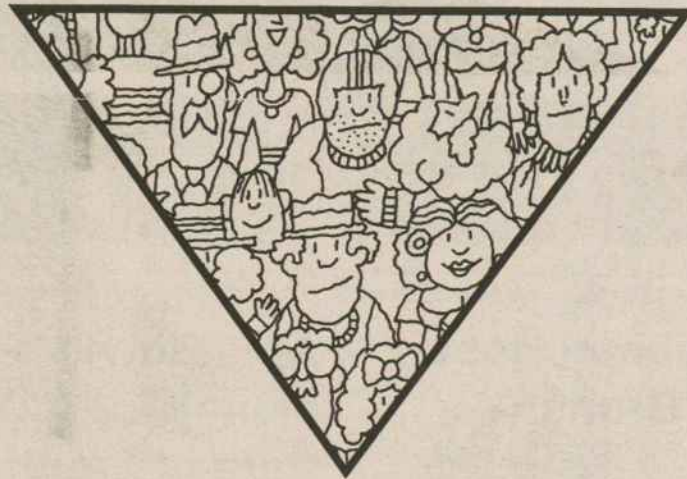
The March Is Reborn

The new leaders abandoned the trappings of the two earlier marches with all of their surrounding events in favor of a simpler approach that puts more emphasis on community and pride and less emphasis on glitz and glitter.

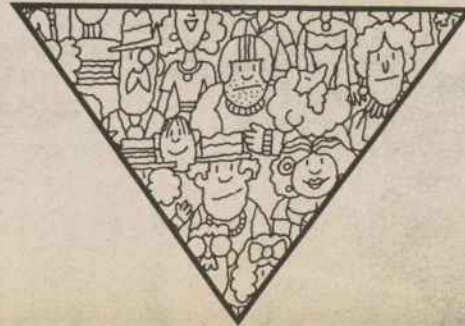
But if the march has a serious purpose that hasn't kept it from being a fun event. As one, 1995 marcher put it, "Pride is always a special time especially when its your state capital. This march isn't as big as some of the others but it has a special charm of its own and as they say 'Good things come in small packages.'

Groups interested in pre-registering for the march should call Steve Starkey at (608)251-6834.

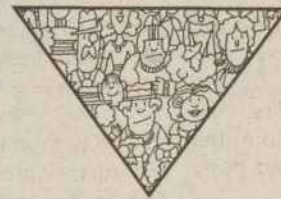
CELEBRATE MADISON PRIDE



Don't Be Just Another Face in the Crowd



Join GALVANize for the 1996 Pride Parade and be a part of the crowd!



Sunday, July 21, 1996

1:30 pm - Pre-Parade Rally

on the Capitol Square (Madison)

2:00 pm - Parade/March

down State Street (Madison)

Parade Grand Marshall

Melinda Paras, Director of NGLTF

2:30-5:00 pm - Post Parade Show

at UW's Library Mall (Madison)

for more information call 608.251-6834



Part of the crowd from last year's MAGIC picnic is shown above. In 1995, over 2,000 people helped the picnic raise over \$7,500 for Madison organizations. This year's picnic is on Saturday July 21.

UW Alumni Host Pride Brunch

Madison—The Gay, Lesbian Bisexual Alumni Council of the Wisconsin Alumni Association will be hosting its 5th annual Pride brunch on Sunday July 21, as a prelude to the Madison Pride celebration. The brunch is open to the public. It will be held in the Great Hall of the UW Memorial Union from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The cost is \$10.00 per person. For reservations contact Russell Betts at (608)262-5895.

Barbara J. Cox and Richard Uspel will receive the 1996 Distinguished Alumni Awards.

Cox received her Judicial Doctorate from the UW Law School in 1982. She is now a tenured professor of law at California Western School of Law. Her duties include teaching Civil Procedure, Property, Women and the Law, Sexual Orientation and the Law and Legal Process. She also serves as a faculty representative to the School's Board of Trustees and is a member of the trustee/faculty planning committee.

Richard Uspel received both his bachelor's and masters in English from UW Madison in 1967 and 1972. Richard was a 1994 Fulbright scholar and taught for 22 years at Waukesha County Technical College. He has been active in bringing lesbian and gay speakers, issues and resources to the campus.

Cox, Uspel and professor emeritus George Mosse will be recognized at the brunch.

10% Dance Opens Magic Weekend

The 10% Society will be hosting another of its monthly dances on Friday July 19th. The dance will be the first event of Madison's MAGIC Picnic/ Pride Weekend.

The dance will be held in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union at the corner of Landon and Park Streets. It will begin at 8:00 and run until Midnight.

A DJ will play a wide variety of music ranging from Motown to the latest dance tunes. A \$4.00 cover will be charged and there will be a cash bar.

Apple Island's Anniversary Party July 20

Madison—Apple Island may have lost its site but not its soul. The group is still alive and well. To provide it Apple Island is sponsoring a Womyn's Dance with WISH (Women In Support and Healing) as a prelude to the Sunday July 21st Pride March and Rally.

The event will be Womyn's Dance. This will be a fun smoke, alcohol, substance, scent free, evening in a safe accessible environment.

This womyn's only event is just \$3.00 to \$5.00. (sliding scale) DJ Betsy Brown will be spinning all of our your favorites (assuming she can fit them on the turntable). It will be held at the Wil-mar Neighborhood Center located at 953 Jennifer St., Madison.

The Apple Island party begins at 9:00 and continues until Midnight.

Area Bowlers Raise Money for AIDS Care in South Central Wisconsin

Madison—The Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN) received a check for \$9,882 from the April 20th Milmaids Bowling Tournament held at Bowl-A-Vard Lanes in Madison. Tournament proceeds are designated specifically for direct assistance to people with AIDS.

Milmaids ("Milwaukee Madison") is a charitable benefit tournament that started in 1985 in response to the AIDS crisis. The tournament alternates locations between Madison and Milwaukee with all proceeds going to the host city's AIDS



Let the Games Begin! These members of the 1995 MAGIC picnic crowd were all dolled up for the drag race. Don't miss this year's competition at the 1996 picnic on July 21 Brittingham Park 1 to 7 PM.

service organization.

The event is organized by volunteers and relies heavily on donations from the community to keep expenses to the absolute minimum so that money raised can be used to support people with AIDS.

"The Milmaids volunteers do an outstanding job of reaching out to businesses and individuals to support this event," said Connie McElrone, MASN Director of Development. "Their hard work and dedication, year after year, has had a direct impact on the lives of our clients and has eased financial stresses many people with AIDS experience."

Over 300 bowlers came from across the midwest to participate in the 11th annual Milmaids event. Bowlers paid a \$25 entry fee and bought raffle tickets and T-shirts to raise a total of \$12,170. Event expenses (bowling lane rental, T-shirt purchase and printing) amounted to

\$2,288—just 19% of the total raised.

Fundraising events such as Milmaids are critical to the success of MASN's mission of providing care to people with AIDS and conducting aggressive prevention outreach to our communities.

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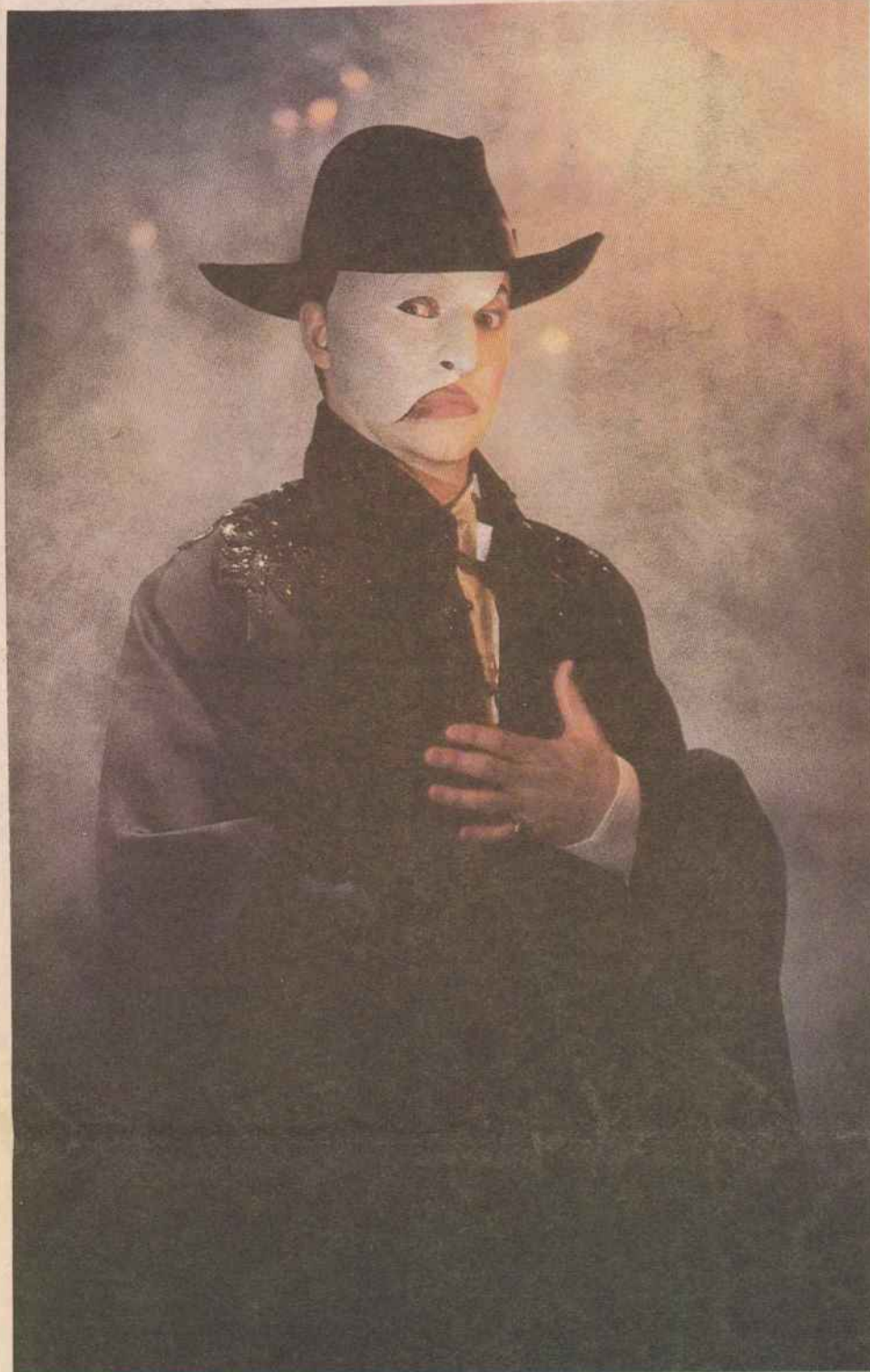


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Curtain Calls



Thomas James O'Leary, *The Phantom of the Opera* will be haunting Milwaukee's PAC from July 18 to August 24. Only a few tickets remain for the entire run of this smash Broadway musical, which won seven Tony awards. The cast includes Milwaukee native, John Schroede as Roux.

The Great White Way Shines Again With a Full Panoply of Musicals

Review by Geno

Last year I reported that at least nine Gay-themed plays were appearing on and off Broadway, including Pulitzer Prize-winning *Love! Valour! Compassion!* by Terrence McNally. Critics also noticed a trend toward total male frontal nudity in a number of plays — total and prolonged. And it was a meager season for musicals; so few were playing that many categories were dropped from the Tony awards.

Not so this year. Musicals are back in full panoply and so are big production revivals, *The King and I*, *State Fair*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and *Victor/Victoria* among them. Theaters are playing to full houses and *The Wall Street Journal* has reported that Broadway is enjoying one of its biggest seasons financially.

Rent, the rock opera, is the hot ticket this season, most seats go for \$75, with long lines clamoring for standing room, anything. By itself, *Rent* fills the void as far as Gay themes and offbeat characters are concerned with Gays, Lesbians, performance artists, a gogo dancer in an S&M bar, and one of the most fetching transvestites on any stage played by Wilson Jermaine Heredia as Angel, beloved by all, dying of AIDS.

By this time, everyone knows that Jonathan Larson, the composer, suffered an aortic aneurysm after the final rehearsal of his work and did not live to see the critical acclaim for his play or to experience its move from a 150-seat theater in the East Village to Broadway. Actually, the *Nederlander Theatre* is an old war-horse of a theater on 41st Street,

out of the theater district and near the Port Authority Bus Station where druggies and street people are part of the landscape so that audiences encounter the grunge atmosphere of the rock opera early on.

The set is very much like the one for *Hair* — no curtain, stage open to the back wall, some backstage metal stairways and balconies, a 25-foot high pile of metallic junk on one side and a kind of shed for the on-stage orchestra on the other side. Characters amble on and off stage as the orchestra tunes up before the actual play begins.

Larson envisaged *Rent* as an updating of *La Bohème*, Puccini's opera about down and out students and artists sharing their lives and loves in an 1830's Paris garret. Larson's characters, about a dozen, live in a loft in the East Village, and as in *La Bohème*, it's Christmas and they have no money to pay the rent.

There are echoes and parallels as well as differences between the two works. Roger/Rudolfo (Adam Pascal) is writing a piece of music, and as he strums his guitar, the strains of Musetta's Waltz by Puccini come through loud and clear. Both first acts have the lovers meet when Mimi (Daphne Rubin-Vega) like her namesake in the 19th-century opera comes to light her candle. In Puccini's opera she drops her key and in the semi-darkness both get down to look for it, and as he touches her hand he breaks into one of the most emotional arias in all of opera.

TURN TO BROADWAY, PAGE 17

'Quilt: A Musical Celebration', to Open at Milwaukee's Circlestage

Milwaukee— The midwest premiere of *Quilt: A Musical Celebration*, stories for, from and about the NAMES Project AIDS memorial quilt, opens at Circlestage, Milwaukee's only theatre-in-the-round, on Friday, July 12.

"This is one of the most powerful books I've ever read," said Don Hoffman, director and artistic director of Circlestage. "The idea comes from the AIDS quilt itself. The voices of those who died and of their family and friends who contributed to this memorial come alive to tell the individual story of many different kinds of people affected by this plague."

Composer Michael Stockler and lyricist Jim Morgan bring to life the vignettes put down by Morgan, Merle Hubbard and John Schak. The stories are based on those of real people who contributed to the quilt. Famous people like Liberace and Elizabeth Glazer are commemorated, as well as the everyday people — of every race and political disposition — who have been affected by AIDS.

This show is not just about Gay people and Gay issues," Hoffman said. "It's a show about how this illness has touched so many people. About how no one is immune to its treachery. Men, women and children — teenagers are among the group where it's spreading most quickly. It touches each of our lives every single day."

Hoffman decided not to double cast the show even though there are more than thirty parts. His intention was to involve as many people as possible to make the point that the show makes — AIDS affects us all.

The devastation of the disease can be read in the stories written by Circlestage's *Quilt* cast, Hoffman said. Key cast and production members have painted replicas of the real quilt panels on the walls outside the theatre, hung stories from the cast about how AIDS has affected them and hung replicas of real quilt panels down the hallway of Prospect Mall where Circlestage is located. In addition, sections of the Wisconsin AIDS quilt will be hung on the walls inside the theatre.

"You can't move in that place without seeing or bumping into a quilt panel," Hoffman said.

The Quilt Comes Alive

There are now more than 33,000 panels in the Names Project AIDS memorial quilt and the number continues to grow. The quilt is so powerful that it inspired a musical. Director Don Hoffman decided to stir some excitement and interest in the quilt by having a mural painted on the outside walls of the theatre at Circlestage in the lower level of the Prospect Mall. "The quilt panels are so moving and so beautiful that I wanted to be sure we could share that with our audience and with anyone who comes to the mall,"

Hoffman said.

The project took three people a little over ten days, and about ten gallons of paint, to complete. It includes replicas of panels of famous people — the glitzy gold and silver of Liberace's panel and the Hollywood rainbow of Rock Hudson's — along with those of AIDS activists, costume designers and everyday people.

"Patty was 16 years old when she contracted AIDS. She was getting her wisdom teeth removed," said Joshua Parkes, the artist behind the mural, of a blue panel. She died six years later. It reads simply, "Patty," and is decorated with a few balloons and a flower. "Her parents were afraid to include their last name because of the ridicule and scorn often directed at people with AIDS."

While Parkes knows the ins, outs and stories of each panel that he painted, Circlestage has supplied placards with the typed information at each panel. The effect is very much like a museum and a quiet seems to descend passersby as they stop to view the panels and to read about the people.

The devastation of the disease can also be read in the stories written by Circlestage's *Quilt* cast, Hoffman said. Nearly everyone involved in the show, cast and production staff alike, has a view on the disease and how it has affected their lives.

Their stories are mounted on a wall in the hallway. The backdrop is an improvised American flag that Parkes painted. Instead of the 13 stars of the original Union, the stars are mixed with symbols of other regions and races. "Because everybody can get AIDS," Parkes said.

In addition, sections of the Wisconsin AIDS quilt will be hung on the walls inside the theatre and replicas of panels that are used during the show, made from cloth by cast members, are hung from the ceiling in the hallway.

The World Health Organization tells us that 3 million people worldwide have died from AIDS, and that 6 million more are now HIV positive. The NAMES project quilt, now with more than 33,000 panels, will be brought together again in Washington D.C. in October of this year.

"This disease has affected so many that I was easy for us to get help in the form of donated services or items to make this show a great event," Hoffman said. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP). The following organizations have contributed: Ticketmaster, Badger Becker Printing, St. Michael Hospital, Wisconsin Light, MAP and countless members of the *Quilt* cast.

The show opens July 12 and all seats are \$12. Tickets can be purchased through the Circlestage box office, (414) 277-9550, or through Ticketmaster at (414) 276-4545. ▽



Fresh from their dynamite performances at PrideFest '96, these three members of *Singsational* were caught on camera at the M & M Club on Saturday June 22 at Milwaukee's M & M Club, where the group performs on alternate Saturdays. Shown above (L-R) are Mike Bord, Terri Wedner and Corliss Morgan.

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Celebrities Rally to Help A Leading Lesbian Magazine Stay Afloat

San Francisco--Last year life threw many curveballs at *Deneuve* magazine. The cost of paper went up, the reliability of distributors went down and the French actress, the other *Deneuve*, sued for trademark infringement.

So the popular 5-year-old Lesbian publication realigned itself and came up with a new name--*Curve*.

Now, with the help of Lesbian celebrities and a dedicated community of readers, *Curve* is fighting to stay afloat. Organizers of a benefit on Sunday, May 12th, called "Alive and Kicking" raised over \$50,000, in part from auctioning off autographed memorabilia donated by k.d. lang and Melissa Etheridge and dates with comedian Lea Delaria and actor Scott Thompson.

"We got phone calls and letters every day from people thanking us," said Publisher Frances Stevens. "A lot of our readers don't live here. For them, we are their only connection. They don't know another Gay woman."

Stevens said the magazine's financial problems were "led by the lawsuit" filed by *Deneuve* a year ago in Paris and Los Angeles courts and later settled out of court.

The lawsuit contended that the name of the magazine, which also runs a catalog business, conflicted with the actress' right to market her name and image.

Stevens has always said that the magazine was named after her first love, a woman whose full name she will not disclose. She never intended the magazine as a namesake for the famous actress.

Speaking about the lawsuit requires, as the French say, "delicatesse." Both sides have said what they think of it in the past but neither one can say anything now. The gag order is part of the settlement.

"I'll make sure you have my name spelled right. Then I'll say no comment," said David Wrobel, the actress' New York attorney.

Curve's Los Angeles lawyer, Mercedes Cruz, similarly declined to comment.

To Anita Lofton, a disc jockey helping with the benefit, the lawsuit by *Deneuve*, who has a sizable following in the Gay community, had more to do with homophobia than trademark infringement.

"If it had been *Deneuve* the boating magazine, she wouldn't have minded," she said.

Wrobel in the past has said the lawsuit had no anti-Gay intentions.

What can be said is that *Deneuve* voluntarily changed its name to *Curve* and wants to carry on its tradition of printing bold stories covering Lesbian issues and figures.

"*Curve* is not straight," said Stevens. "I think the new name is great. It's hot and sexy."

Stevens, 28, came up with the idea for a Lesbian magazine in her early 20s when she was a student at San Francisco State University. She planned to become a veterinarian, until she discovered she

was allergic to practically every kind of animal.

She began noticing that bookstores and newsstands had few Lesbian publications to offer. So she spent most of a year in the library reading books on publishing.

In 1990 Stevens posted a handwritten notice in A Different Light bookstore. Within a month she'd gotten calls from more than 300 people who were interested in starting a Lesbian magazine. More than 100 showed up for a subsequent meeting.

"I think the magazine chose me," she said. "I didn't choose it. Women came up and said, 'I'm a designer' or 'I'm an editor.' People found me."

Stevens, "a little kid with a business plan," was 22 when she started the magazine. She had three credit cards, applied for on the same day, and \$70,000, most of it from working three jobs and none of it from outside investors.

Production space was the living room of her Castro District apartment, which she shared with Anabelle, a potbellied pig and the one animal she was not allergic to.

As circulation grew, she moved the magazine to a South of Market office and eventually to its current, professional-looking office at the foot of Haight Street.

The magazine now has a staff of nine full- and part-timers, 14,000 subscribers and a circulation of 60,000. Published bimonthly, it is sold for \$3.95 around the country.

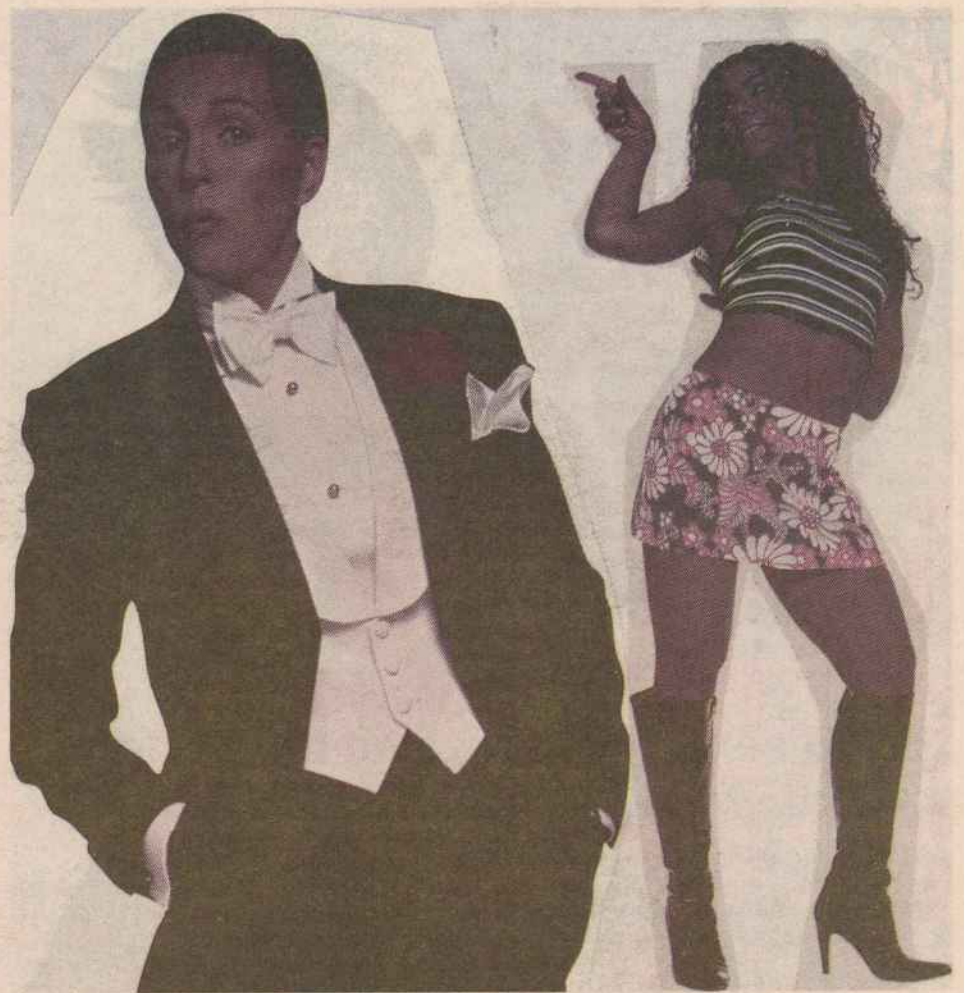
Its importance lies in giving a voice and identity to Lesbians, many of whom are isolated, said Lofton. Not everyone can live in San Francisco with its many resources for the Gay community, she said.

Over the years, the magazine has gone from looking like a low-budget literary magazine to a full-scale glossy publication. It's carried stories on such famous Lesbians as Martina Navratilova and k.d. lang as well as features on custody battles, Gay civil rights and popular hangouts. The "Lesbofile" column dishes up gossip.

In 1993 and 1994, the magazine was in the black. But in 1995, according to Executive Editor Katie Sanborn Brown, expenses went up and two distributors filed for bankruptcy. What Stevens calls "colossal legal fees" and the cost of changing the name—including on stationery and promotional items—added to financial woes.

Even so, sales are up 12 percent over last quarter, Stevens said. Although readers might have been temporarily confused about the name change, they now know to look for *Curve*, said Dylan Berkeley, a buyer at A Different Light.

"It's an awesome magazine and Lesbians have so few things that are awesome," said Lofton. "It's what *Life* is to white America or what *Ebony* is to Black America. If someone took them away, there would be rioting in the streets."



Julie Andrews in "Victor Victoria" (l) and Dophne Rubin-Vega, who plays Mimi in "Rent."

the Lake County (IL) Health Department to offer the first Gay-based HIV testing site north of Chicago — previewed by a one-hour special with radio's first on-air HIV test.

LesBiGay Radio also became the first Gay radio business to exhibit at the National Gay/Lesbian Business and Consumer Expo in New York.

Major Sponsors, Events

Corporate sponsors have lined up behind the venture. Citibank Illinois FSB provided the lead underwriting.

Other significant advertisers include Bert Weinman Ford, Budweiser and Bud Light, Stop AIDS, Naked Furniture, Cupid's Treasures, The Unicorn Club, the Illinois Department of Public Health and Amber Automotive.

Other instantly recognizable names coming on board include Miller Lite, with educational funding from Viaticus, Coram Health Care and Merck Pharmaceuticals.

A vibrant series of events and appearances began in February with the Gentry/LesBiGay Cabaret Talent Search, a standing room only competition at Gentry on Rush Street which will yield hot Chicago talent for live performance on the radio. The grand winner of the search will solo with the Windy City Gay Chorus' Pride Concert.

Dr. Honey West, LesBiGay Radio's own expert, teamed with Michael James and Associate Host Rick Beech to do The Great Sex Dating Game at locations around Chicagoland. This fun bar game promotes romance while firmly laying down the guides to sex in the '90's

New Associate Hosts, Comprehensive Coverage

New Associate hosts, Rick Beech and Mary Morten, joined Alan Amberg to provide comprehensive and up-to-the-minute program-ming about Gays and Lesbians from around the world. Chicago actor/singer Rick Beech brings a wry sense of humor and a more alternative music sensibility to the days he hosts. Mary Morten, mayor Daley's Chairwoman of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Women's Issues and former President of Chicago NOW, brings remarkable acumen on women's' and African-American issues.

Diversity is a priority in this show which now boasts listeners in over 91 Illinois communities outside of Chicago, plus communities in nearby Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan. Communities' profiles are made available to all of Chicago's Les-Bi-Gay clubs and businesses. A plethora of groups taking advantage of this opportunity range from support groups for disabled Gays to Pacific/Asian Lesbians.

For more information on Lesbigan Radio Chicago, call (312) 973-3999 or send email to LesbiganRC@aol.com. ▽

BROADWAY

Continued from Page 16

In *Rent*, Mimi says she has dropped her stash of drugs and when they both look for it she asks Roger, "Are you admiring my ass?" Updating romance with a vengeance.

Audiences certainly get their money's worth. Larson's music exhibits great

versatility ranging from straight ballads, punk and hard rock, gospel, tribal drumming, reggae and two moving anthems sung by the full company.

Most of the singers' voices show evidence of training, but it is a little unnerving when Roger and Mimi declare their love at the top of their voices standing face to face and toe to toe wearing head mikes. The sound level at times can be pretty intense.

Of the fifteen people in the cast, each has a story to tell, and like the members of *A Chorus Line*, they tell it like it is. La Boheme had only a consumptive Mimi whose death ends the opera. But several of the loft dwellers in *Rent* are either HIV+ or PLWA's as we learn when their beepers go off signaling AZT time.

Angel dies earlier and so does Mimi at the end of *Rent*, as Roger sings his song to her most movingly. But since there is no curtain, they have tacked on a happy ending with Mimi coming back from the dead to announce, "I was in Heaven and I saw Angel. Man was she lookin' good!" Curtain Calls!

Rent was also awarded a Pulitzer and together with *Bring in Da Noise, Bring in Da Funk*, walked off with more Tony Awards than some of the big, showy musicals. Both have been taken to signal a fresh trend in musical theater.

Well, same time next year it will be interesting to see whether a plethora of grunge operas have developed such a trend.

Afterthoughts: Nathan Lane certainly deserved his Tony for *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and he did it without one high pitched scream. Michael Nouri revealed a strong baritone-bass voice in *Victor/Victoria* and together with his acting deserved a Tony nomination.

Julie Andrews did absolutely the right thing in turning down her Tony nomination after the snub to Nouri and others in the cast.

State Fair with John Davidson is excellent family entertainment and although he portrays a middle-aged Iowa farmer with a limp, the youthful energy and voice are still there. ▽

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4

traordinary ends to support AIDS all across the United States. To single them out and suggest boycotting them simply because they have not done enough in Wisconsin (according to ACT UP) is grossly unfair. Why would anyone go after a company who has stepped forward to help when there are so many who have taken no steps? Moreover, Tanageray is a sponsor—to my understanding they play little or no role in deciding which agencies are beneficiaries. So in addition to being unfair, the attack is misdirected.

Thirdly, the article itself was biased and absent substantive facts that a reader might need to make their own judgment. While it is certainly acceptable to present the position of ACT UP, it seems it would also have been appropriate to present the other side of the issue.

Next Monday, I leave on what will be a great week and I look forward to spending much of the week cycling across Wisconsin and coming to know many of you. In advance thanks for your hospitality and reception that I know will be extraordinary.

Darrell L. Lewis

Duluth, MN

LesBiGay Radio Show Blossoms With Unique Format on the Third Coast

Chicago — What began two years ago as an experiment in Chicago radio, not unlike one of the many community or university Gay/Lesbian radio shows on the continent, has blossomed into something absolutely unlike anything else in North America.

When a weekly show, LesBiGay Radio Chicago (WNDZ-AM 750) already had impressive credentials to its name: a four-hour format with guests like Melissa Etheridge, Greg Louganis, U.S. Senator Carol Moseley-Braun and Mayor Richard M. Daley, for extended reach, it broadcast a seamless mix of news, music and interviews on FM radio and simulcast on Cable TV.

It was the first Chicago electronic medium to openly discuss Gay male safer sex, the first to get national and international notice for introducing Gay characters in commercials on the airwaves and the first Gay show in America to boast a full-time paid staff.

On November 13, 1996, LesBiGay Radio Chicago took the next quantum leap by becoming America's first Gay rush hour show in North America. Producing ten and then fifteen hours per week of radio programming, LesBiGay is the largest producer of this kind.

"The amazing part," says LesBiGay President Alan Amberg, "is that the programming is available in radio's prime time through the metro area. Studies show that most radio listening takes place in the car either to or from work. This is

the first show in America that is available at the time most people are listening.

The reaction is wonderful. Even longtime activists tell us that the feeling of not having to go anywhere or do anything special to find connection to the Gay community is unlike anything they've experienced."

"As It Happens" Coverage for the First Time Ever

The sad news of the Radical Right introducing and ramming through the Illinois Legislature the mean-spirited SB1773 (the Gay anti-marriage bill) provided Great Lakes area Gays and Lesbians with a historical first.

As events unfolded at high speed in the legislature, LesBiGay Radio teamed up with activists, legislators, listeners and advertisers to educate the public about legislative happenings. Listeners were kept informed to within one business day of legislative movement. LesBiGay staff went to the state capitol to lobby and hundreds to listeners got involved with phone calls and letters.

Never before has a Gay political issue had both real-time and multi-dimensional/educational coverage from the Gay/Lesbian perspective other than on the Internet.

Other Firsts

In March, LesBiGay Radio became the first Chicago Gay business to use 10'X20' billboards through the north side of Chicago to garner listeners.

LesBiGay Radio also teamed up with



"The Cowboy Sweethearts: a Dyke-U-Mentary" video by the Cowgirl Sweethearts of Madison will have its premiere party on July 18th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin, Madison.

Gay, Bisexual and Lesbian Net Surfers: A Dream Market in the Online World

San Francisco-- It's the unspoken secret of the online world that Gay men and Lesbians are among the most avid, loyal and plentiful commercial users of the Internet.

On any given evening, one-third of all the member-created chat rooms on America Online, the largest online service in the United States, are devoted to Gay topics. CompuServe users were so eager that they created their own space. On the Microsoft Network, such spots notch as many as 350,000 visits a month.

And yet, until recently, the Gay market has been something no one's really wanted to claim.

"When I first logged on to America Online, you couldn't even create a 'People Connection' room with the word 'Gay' in it," said Quirk, the one-named entrepreneur who now manages AOL's Gay and Lesbian Community Forum.

She was part of a group whose members first started a Gay and Lesbian mailing list on AOL and then, in 1989, began meeting in an online room they created called Lambda Lounge. They lobbied and wrote letters and, finally, AOL allowed them to start a very small area, with no art and no chat room.

"Now we're the most popular space on AOL. We do close to 1.8 million hits a month," Quirk said.

AOL management is proud of its community-building, but perhaps a little cautious of being somehow pegged as a Gay service.

"It's a very popular area, but the mom's area is also popular," said president Ted Leonsis. "I think the way we've always looked at it is that it's more our members' network than our network. We just provide the tools to let these communities blossom."

It's community that Gay men and Lesbians are seeking when they go online, said Tom Rielly, founder and president of PlanetOut, a Lesbian and Gay service currently available on the Microsoft Network and debuting on the World Wide Web in September.

"Gay people still fear every day losing their job, their home or their families if it were found out that they're Gay. So they're afraid of visiting Gay establishments or even subscribing to Gay publi-

cations," he said.

"Online is the first medium that addresses the unique needs of the community, because it offers a sense of anonymity and safety. Gay online services bring the Gay community into their homes, where they're shielded from their neighbors and coworkers."

It took some companies a long time to see the light, and the market.

On CompuServe, America's second-largest computer service, a loyal group of Gay and Lesbian users had been begging for an official Gay space for 10 years.

Tom Rielly himself first came out of the closet on CompuServe.

"I was a student at Yale in 1984," he said. "Back then, there was only the human sexuality area. I sent out kind of clueless 'I don't know where to go' e-mails and people wrote back with the names of books and organizations for me to get in touch with."

Although CompuServe opened an official Gay and Lesbian area this month, it's had a rocky history with the community

because of the unpopular ways it tried to deal with the issue over the past decade.

"They always pegged us in areas liked 'Alternative Lifestyles' or 'Human Sexuality.' It's a faux pas, like calling black people colored. Being Gay is about more than sexuality," Rielly said.

Called "Pride," the area on CompuServe is controlled so parents can block their children's access if they chose to.

"We didn't have parental controls before but, since we do now, we can address the concern of our members who might have felt this wasn't appropriate material," CompuServe spokeswoman Daphne Kent said.

By the time the Microsoft Network went online in 1995, there was no question that a Gay and Lesbian space was mandatory for any online community, just as most large American cities have their own Lesbian and Gay neighborhood.

"It's not like we sat around and agonized about it," group product manager Larry Cohen said. "The demographics were there. It was a no-brainer."

PlanetOut is one of the most visited areas on the network, and also a lifeline for people who don't have anyone else to turn to.

"There's this guy in Caracas, in Venezuela, who lives with his mom because there you don't move out until you get married. We're his only link to the Gay and Lesbian world," Rielly said.

Online, he believes, is a medium where Gay men and Lesbians can really have a major role.

"Whereas we've traditionally been locked out of television and radio," he said, "this is a medium we can really own, because it's affordable."

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MAGIC MANOEUVRES

FRIDAY, JULY 19 DANCE AFTER DANCE

The perfect place to **start the MAGIC!** Join us after the 10% Dance for specials 'til close. Yes, there's a DJ - no, there's **not a cover charge!**

SATURDAY, JULY 20 POST-PICNIC PARTY

Watch for our **Jail & Bail** at the Picnic to benefit the **MAGIC** organizations, then come over here! No cover! Regular **Saturday Night Specials** plus some surprises! Brand new **Manoeuvres T-Shirts** available. Bar opens at 3pm.

SUNDAY, JULY 21 DAVID BURRILL LIVE

Rest your tired feet after the **GALVANIZE** March and then join singer, performer and pron star **David Burrill** for his fantastic show. \$5 cover at showtime. \$6 per person for reserved table. 11pm.

MAGIC Weekend at Manoeuvres

MANOEUVRES

One-Fifty South Blair Street, Madison, Wisconsin

And the slightly naughtier...

MAD BAR



Sunday, July 21 • 10pm
MISS CAPITAL CITY PAGEANT

hosted by
LORETTA LAMOUR
Miss WI USofA '95-'96

4 GREAT PLACES TO PARTY!

1 DANCE ROOM

2 FIREPLACE ROOM

3 GAME ROOM

4 BAR ROOM

HAPPY HOUR
4-9pm

Monday - Saturday

HAPPY HOUR & BEER BUST
4-8pm Sunday

OPEN:
2pm-Close Weekends
4-Close Weekdays



121 West Main Street Madison,
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WANTED
FOR OUTRAGEOUS LESBIAN ACTS



Cowgirl Sweethearts
A Video Premier

The Cowgirl Sweethearts: A Dyke-u-mentary

July 18 5-7 pm
Madison Senior Center
330 W. Mifflin

hours of movies & videos start at 5 pm
Premier showing at 6:30 pm
Donation requested at the door \$5
More info: 244-3449



YOU'RE INVITED

Wednesday July 3

La Cage To Unveil Hot New Light Show

After seeing the big fireworks show outside on Milwaukee's Lake Front, come down to La Cage to see their indoor fireworks display. That's right, the bar known for bringing Milwaukee the cutting edge of dance floor technology has some new features being added to its bar.

The new Light show extravaganza will be unveiled at Midnight.

Thursday July 4

SPOTLIGHT PARTY AT MAMA ROUX

If you are one of those people who doesn't have any place special to go on July Fourth, don't cry, rejoice. Now you won't have to make any stupid excuses so you can duck out and be with us at Mama Roux for our big Amendment 2 Party: A Fourth of July Bash, where you'll have a lot more fun than you would have had listening to all those nieces and nephews fighting with each other!

This is one party you won't want to miss. It's got everything. Food, (brats salads, chips, snacks etc.), Free Miller Light Beer, Live Entertainment (Lu Shanti), a Costume Contest (Come as your favorite character from American history), Gay Jeopardy and more!

The fun starts at 6:00 and goes until 9:00. Don't miss it!

Eau Claire Picnic Hosted by Wolfe's Den

The Wolfe's Den is sponsoring an Independence Day bash at noon at the island in River View Park. There will be food, drinks, volley ball, a drag race, and other fun activities along with loads of fun people to be. Manager Harold Morris promises a fun time and lots of fireworks for everyone.

Nine Inch Males at Club 219

The Nine Inch Males will make Club 219, 219 S. Second, Milwaukee, their home away from home with performances on July 4, 5 and 6. Show time is 11:45 each day. The cover is just \$4.00 (very little money for some very hot men).

Friday July 5

Men's Room Opens at Geraldine's

Geraldine's holds the official grand opening of the Men's Room, its new second floor built designed to appeal primarily to men. The ribbon cutting takes place at around 9:00.

Saturday July 6

Starr E. Nite's Independence Day/Birthday Celebration at Just Us!

She's at it again! Starr E. Nite joined by a few hundred of her very closest friends will be giving us the perfect way to end the Holiday weekend. Her big Independence/Birthday Bash includes some of your very favorite performers: Sandy Beach, Dee (who will sing live), Lady Belle Bradley, Mona, Maggie Mae, Lana St. James and Jessica.

Starr will be celebrating her birthday along with America's birthday in a star spangled salute to a great performer and a great country. The fireworks begin at 10:00. This is a FREE show!

Sunday July 7

Nine Inch Males at Manoeuvres!

The nine inch males will be in Mad Town for a special show at Manoeuvres, 150 S. Blair St. Madison. All the thrills and chills of a professional troupe performing just for you can be had for just \$5.00 (\$6.00 for a reserved seat at a table.) Manager, Charley insists that every one of these dancers has at least nine inches. Check them out for yourself. The show begins at 11:00.

Art Show At BESTD Clinic

The BESTD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady, Milwaukee, will be home to a one woman show produced by Heather Sewery from July 7 thru Labor Day. Sewery's charcoal and pastel drawings have been called a metamorphous of self - a point of transition both physical and emotional.

Tuesday July 9

Afterwords 3rd Anniversary Party

Stop in at Afterwords Books, 2710 N. Murray, Milwaukee for their special day long party. There will be special sales, and surprises held throughout the day. Congrats to Carl and his staff and many, many happy returns.

Friday July 12

Quilt: A Musical Celebration Opens in Milwaukee

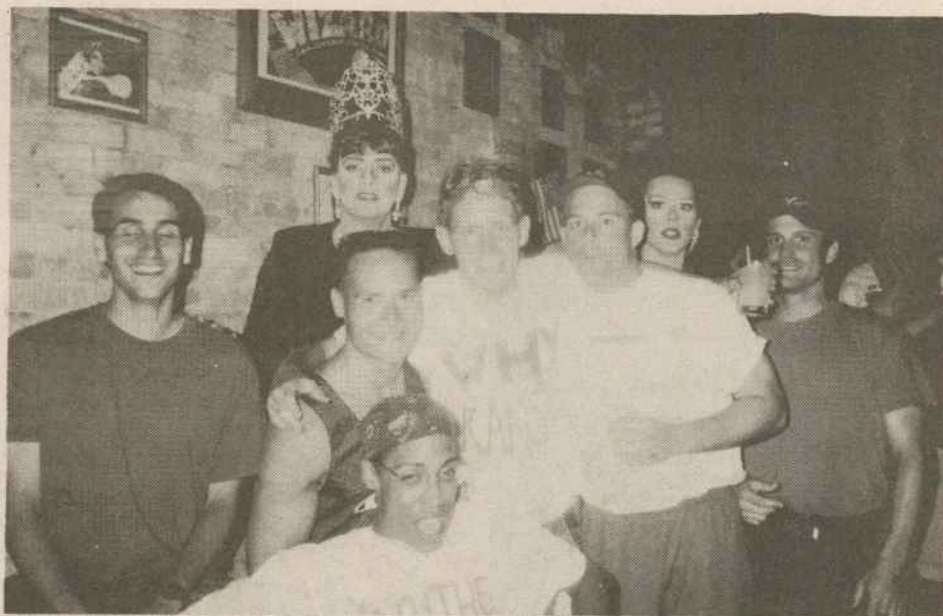
Quilt: A Musical Celebration opens at the Circle Stage Theater. To order tickets call (414)277-9560. The musical takes stories for, from and about the NAMES Project AIDS memorial Quilt and sets them to music. The show features David Flores and Kathleen Matts. It is directed by Don Hoffman. Tickets are \$12.00. Performances will take place on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through July 28th. The play is a benefit for the Milwaukee AIDS Project. It is sponsored in part by The Wisconsin Light.

Madison's United Holds Annual Award Dinner

The United will hold its annual Award Dinner at the Madison Sheraton Hotel, John Nolen Drive at the Beltline. New appointed Madison Fire Chief, Debra Amesqua will speak.

Awards for "Woman of the Year," (Pat Calchina), "Volunteer of the Year" (Tony Lucchesi), Organization of the Year (Kissing Girls Productions), and a special award to the Hotel Washington owners and staff will be presented.

Tickets are \$30 to \$50. (sliding scale). Tickets must be ordered in advance by calling the United (608)255-8582.



Some of the members of Madison's Manoeuvres Softball squeezed together for this team picture during In Between - Milwaukee's Softball fun raiser on Saturday June 22. In its debut year in the Saturday Softball League, Manoeuvres has made a big splash. The team is popular due to its great attitude and as you can see for a few other things as well!

Saturday July 13

Miss Eau Claire Pageant

Miss Gay Wisconsin, Lorreta Lamore, will head up an all star cast of performers and contestants who will vie for the title of Miss Eau Claire, Gay US of A. The Wolfe's Den will be decked out in its finest ready to celebrate with the new queen of Eau Claire.

The show begins at 10:00 there will be a \$3.00 cover. Don't miss this one, its one of the best events in Northern Wisconsin this summer.

Sunday July 14

Benefit Show for Robert Parnell At Manoeuvres!

Robert is bar back who has fallen on hard times. First he lost his job when the New Bar burned down and now due to eye cancer he is unable to continuing working at Manoeuvres. Now some of his friends are trying help ease the financial crunch. The show starts at 10:30. Come on in and help Bob out.

Lisa Star Spencer Benefit Show at Cest La Vie

Cest La Vie, 231 S. Second St., Milwaukee, will host a special benefit show to help send Lisa Star Spencer to the Miss Black Universe Pageants. Show time is at 10:30 and a galaxy of stars will be on hand to help. Performers include: Dance, Bo Derick, Mr. James, Kenya Moore, Shannon Dupree, Janice Er-Hal, Eartha Quake, Vanessa, Miss Gina, Bambi, Bouji and Savannah Duvaul. There is a \$3.00 cover.

Thursday July 18

Cowgirl Sweethearts Premiere Video in Madison

Wisconsin's own, Cowgirl Sweethearts have announced the release of a new music video THE COWGIRL SWEETHEARTS: A DYKE-U-MENTARY. The video will premiere on July 18th from 5 to 7 PM at the Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin, Madison. For more information call (608)244-3449

The band urges you to "Hold on to your hat while this dyke-u-mentary takes you on a rowdy roundup of toe tapping Country Western music.

Watch and listen as the Cowgirl Sweethearts serve up their own brand of country-fied music! Lasso your friends, put your boots up and enjoy never before seen footage of the Cowgirl Sweethearts backstage and in concert. Take a ride down the herstorical trail of how Country Western was lesbianized!"

Notoriously unreliable sources say that the band hasn't heard from MTV or TNN yet, but was keeping the lines open just in case.

Friday July 19 - Sunday July 21

Magic Picnic Weekend In Madison

A variety of activities take place throughout the weekend. See articles throughout this issue for details.

Sunday July 21

David Burrill at Manoeuvres

Nationally known porn star David Burrill is best known for his cinematic exploits, but he is also a pretty accomplished vocalist. Manoeuvres, 150 S. Blair St., Madison, is proud to present David as a special MAGIC Picnic/Pride Weekend treat. The show begins at 11:00. Admission is \$5.00 or \$6.00 for a reserved seat at a table.

Miss Capitol City Pageant at R Place

The 1996 Queen of Mad Town will be crowned at R Place, 121 W. Main St., Madison. A great show and a great competition will take place for your enjoyment. The contest begins at 10:00.



Chicago Bound—Gargoyles bar in Milwaukee sponsored a bus to Chicago's Gay Pride Parade on June 30th. Shown above are several people entering the sold out bus tour.

circlestage presents

Quilt: A Musical Celebration

Stories For, From And About The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt

Lyrics by Jim Morgan

Music by Michael Stockler

Book by Jim Morgan, Merle Hubbard

& John Schak

Featuring: David Flores & Kathleen Matts

Directed by Don Hoffman

July 12 - July 28 Friday through Sunday

All Seats \$12



circlestage

Call 277-9550

Benefitting MAP (Milwaukee AIDS Project)



Hollywood's Gilded Closet Door is Opening Bit by Bit

By Frank Sanello

Lauren Lloyd, the head of Disney's Hollywood Pictures, has come out in a national magazine as a Lesbian. (The same studio offers health-insurance coverage to the lovers of its Gay and Lesbian employees.) Bruce Cohen, a producer and protégé of Steven Spielberg's, declares his homosexuality in a national Gay magazine. David Geffen, the richest man in Hollywood, starts his speech at an AIDS fund-raiser, "As a Gay man, I..."

So, has Hollywood finally come to grips with and accepted homosexuality? Has the nation's dream-maker finally opened its arms and embraced the people who have always been there in front of and behind the camera?

Sorry, Toto. We're still closer to Kansas than to Burbank.

At least the film and TV industries aren't as homophobic as they used to be. A Lesbian wedding episode of *Friends*, despite being blacked out by affiliates in the boonies, landed the sitcom in first place in the Nielsen's. In the movies, Tom Hanks was the first star of his dimension to play an openly Gay character. And dying of AIDS to boot. Far from hurting his career, Philadelphia won him an Oscar.

The closet door opened a little wider to let out a hit drag comedy, *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar*, about three raging queens, played by three raging heterosexuals. Its commercial success helped ease the way for more Gay-themed films like *The Normal Heart* and *The Birdcage*, an American version of *La Cage aux Folles*.

A Final Frontier

But there is one ultra taboo left in Hollywood, one final frontier where no man (or woman) has yet dared to go. Conventional wisdom, which I feel is more like congenital cowardice, says that it would be career suicide for an actor who plays romantic leads or action heroes to announce, "Sorry, folks, I'm a fag." Ditto for a Lesbian leading lady.

I don't know what pisses me off more: the belief that a Gay man can't play a straight lover convincingly or that a Gay guy is too limp-wristed to operate a machine gun in an action film. That's the implicit message of the reigning taboo: If you want to kiss Sharon Stone on-screen or blow up a block of downtown Los Angeles for Joel Silver, stay in the closet.

In an alleged interview a while back, a closeted (and of course unnamed) superstar explained why he had to stay in the closet, even though he'd, ahem, really much rather be honest about the whole thing:

"I don't blame the industry for their silent blacklisting of openly Gay actors from leading-man status," the anonymous actor said in *Movieline's* January/February 1995 issue. "I understand why they think the way they do. It's business. They have to worry about the audience. Sex scenes are a strange kind of movie magic, and if people knew the guy up there on the big screen kissing the beautiful girl was Gay, they'd have all kinds of static in their heads: 'Is he enjoying that? Is that what he does when he kisses guys? Is he disgusted by her?'—all of it useless, distracting horseshit. It would ruin the scene.... My coming out of the closet would mean the end of whatever stardom I had."

Talk about horseshit. If the anonymous superstar actually exists (and that's questionable, since *Movieline* claimed it found the tape of the interview in the rubble of the Los Angeles earthquake!), I don't know what's worse: his self-delusion or his self-loathing.

Maybe I'm just a beauty chauvinist pig to ask this, but did anybody really think Nick Nolte had the hots for Barbra Streisand when they performed their G-rated nude scene in *The Prince of Tides*? Or even less likely, did James Caan ever come close to getting a hard-on with Bette Midler, even though they played lovers in *For the Boys*?

The only big-time leading man who ever came out was dragged out kicking and screaming—and dying: Rock Hudson. Openly Gay super-manager Barry Krost told *The Advocate* that if any of his clients wanted to come out, he'd say, go for it. But appended to his advice was the implicit caveat that such a move would be terminal for the actor's career.

"If you're already a big star, you already have enough money. Why stay in the closet and be unhappy just to make another \$20 million when you already have \$20 million? Enjoy your life."

There is some evidence, albeit pretty puny, that being a fag isn't fatal. Okay, he's no Hugh Grant, but studly British actor Rupert Everett came out years ago, and he still gets roles as raging heterosexuals. He was the womanizing clothing

executive in Robert Altman's *Ready to Wear* and the priapic Prince of Wales (the future George IV, not Camilla's boy) in *The Madness of King George*. It didn't seem to bother Altman that on camera Everett's character is balling both his movie wife and another model while off screen he's probably making love to the handsome young man I see him working out with at my gym in Hollywood.

An even bigger fish has been caught in the outing net. And his career has thrived. In 1990 Paul Barresi, who said he was John Travolta's porn-star boyfriend, told all to the *National Enquirer* for a reported \$100,000. Now before you go saying the story probably ran right next to one about a two-headed pig abducted by a U.F.O. in a Kansas wheatfield, it was accompanied by home snapshots of the men a deuce.

Travolta never sued, and later told *People* magazine, "I hear those rumors, and I ask myself, 'What's the motivation of people spreading them?'"

At the time, Travolta's career was in the toilet. He had this annoying habit of staring in film after film about babies and household pets that talked. Revelations about his sexual orientation couldn't hurt a career that barely registered a pulse. Then a minor miracle occurred called *Pulp Fiction*, and Travolta was nominated for an Academy Award. Nobody gave a shit what some over-the-hill porn star had or hadn't done with Travolta years ago. Although there were some smirking references to the incident in interviews for *Pulp Fiction*, they were drowned out in the hosannas that accompanied the Second Coming of Saturday Night Fever's Tony Manero.

Then there's the leading lady whose Lesbianism is the worst-kept secret not only in Hollywood but in the rest of the country as well.

When a friend of mine told his 82-year-old grandmother in rural Florida that this Oscar-winning actress pumped iron at his gym in Hollywood, Grandma's jaded response was, "I heard she was a dyke."

When I told my lover's sister, who is a nun, I was writing an unauthorized biography about a superstar, Sister Anne (and everybody else for that matter) asked, "Is it true he's Gay?"

Oh well.

Staying in the closet is a dirty job, but apparently somebody has to do it. Don't feel too sorry for all the self-loathing and nerve-wracking subterfuge the inmates must have to put up with. At least these stars' closets are surrounded by ten-bedroom homes and five acres of manicured lawns. The closet may be a cage, but it's also pure gilt.

On a more encouraging note, character actors and actresses keep marching out of their closets. A British agent recently said, "Hollywood lives by the Eleventh Commandment: Thou shalt not be found out." He obviously hadn't been across the Atlantic recently and met some of these actors:

In Boze Hadleigh's coffee-table opus *Hollywood Lesbians*, actress Patsy Kelly says, "I'm a dyke. So what? Big deal!"

By day, Dan Butler plays the macho, skirt-chasing sports commentator on the highly rated *Frasier*, while at night he describes a lifetime of pants-chasing in his autobiographical one-man stage show.

It seems you can't go to an AIDS fund-raiser in Hollywood without running into Amanda Bearse, equally famous as the co-star of *Married...With Children* and as Sandra Bernhard's ex.

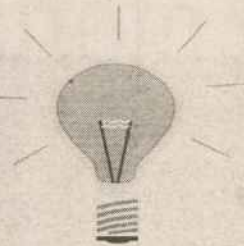
Both the director and the star (Nicholas Hytner and Nigel Hawthorne) of *The Madness of King George* were nominated for Oscars, and both men are way out of the closet.

Ian McKellen, the brilliant star of *Richard III*, came out years ago, but that didn't prevent the Queen from knighting the first openly Gay actor in history. (His left-wing friends fumed that he had been co-opted by the homophobic Thatcherite government. But in a grand gesture of "let them eat cock," Sir Ian gently explained that it was more important for a self-declared homosexual to secure a seat at the Round Table than to quibble about Mrs. Thatcher.

Where does Hollywood go from here? It's hard to predict, but here are some of my guesses.

On a slow-circulation week when there hasn't been an O. J. or U.F.O. sighting, one of the tabs will find incontrovertible, photographic proof that a major actor or actress is having a homosexual affair, and the magazine will spill its guts. More likely, it seems inevitable that one day a Gay version of the Hugh Grant affair will greet us in the morning newspaper. A star will throw caution to the wind and get

The Night Light



By Dusty Sass

Well kiddies are we all warmed up enough now? If not there are plenty of hot events coming up in the next few weeks. I am going to run myself ragged getting to all of them, but some sacrifices must be made.

On Wednesday July 3, I will start out at Milwaukee's Lake Front for the big fireworks display. Then it will be off to join the packed house at **This Is It**. That bar is always a great time, but it's especially fun when something big is happening downtown. Course I won't be able to stay too long, I don't miss the indoor fireworks that will take place when **La Cage** unveils its new light show at Midnight. Hey if I'm lucky I may be able to make some fireworks of my own that night!

Thursday July 4 is Independence Day. What better way to celebrate it than to attend our **Spotlight Amendment 2 party at Mama Roux 1875 N. Humboldt**. From 6 to 9 PM. There will be lots of free food, brats (I want a large one thankyouverymuch), salads and stuff, free Miller Lite beer (while it lasts), games, entertainment and more including a costume contest! Come as your favorite character from American History! I am going to dress up as one of those fabulous Supremes. No not Mary Wilson, I meant one of those lovely Justices who put us on an equal footing with everyone else.

After the party, it will be time to head down to **Club 219** to catch the show from the Nine Inch Males. I may have to personally check them all out to see whether or not this is false advertising. Oh, the sacrifices we journalists make to make sure that our readers are not misinformed.

On Friday July 5, it will be off to Mad Town for the opening of the new Men's Room bar. I wonder if you have to sit in a stall when you order a drink.

Then on **Saturday, July 6**, I'll be at **Just Us** to help celebrate Starr E Nite's and America's birthday at their joint celebration. The old girl looks pretty good for being 221 years old. (I meant the country not Star E. The show starts at 10:00. It has a star studded cast.

On Sunday, July 7, I'll be back in Madison to check out the Nine Inch Males at **Manoeuvres**. They may be expecting my inspection at Club 219, so I figure I'll pull a suprise inspection up in Mad Town. The show there starts at 11:00.

Assuming the troupe doesn't ask me to join it on **Tuesday July 9**, I'll be at **Afterwords Books** for its 3rd Anniversary Party. Attending this all day long event is a great way to thank Carl and his staff for all of the hard work they have put in.

On Friday July 12, it'll be back to Mad Town again. The occasion is the **United's Annual Award dinner**. This organization does a great job and deserves everyone's support.

On Saturday July 13, I'll be making a trip to Eau Claire for the Miss Eau Claire pageant at the Wolfe's Den. I've never been in a Wolfe's den, although I have fended off a few wolves. The show starts at 10:00.

On the way there I will stop in Madison for the Art Fair on the Square. My friends at **The Shamrock Bar** will be getting ready to celebrate their 11th anniversary and the place is always crowded for events like the Art Fair.

On Sunday July 14, I am torn being two benefits. **Manoeuvres** is holding a benefit for Bob Parnell. Parnell lost his job when the Hotel Washington burned down and now has eye cancer and can't work. **Cest La Vie** is holding a benefit to send Lisa Star Spencer out of town. No, no no! Not on a rail and not permanently, just for a few days to the Miss Black Universe Pageant. Both start at 10:30.

Both of these events deserve your support. Parnell is really in bad financial shape and Ms. Spencer has devoted years of her life to supporting various causes with her talent. Pageants are expensive propositions and we want to be represented properly, and Lisa is an excellent representative, then we should be willing to cough up a buck or two to help.

On Thursday July 18, I will be back in Mad Town for the duration of the **Magic picnic and Pride celebration**. That evening features a world premier of the **Cowgirl Sweethearts** new video, **The Cowgirl Sweethearts: A Dyke-U-Mentary**. Anyone who has ever seen this talented group knows this should be worth watching.

On Friday July 19, the big doings are at the UW Memorial Union for the **10% Society Dance**. The Dance goes from 9 to Midnight.

Then on **Saturday July 20**, it's the Magic Picnic in **Brittingham park**. The picnic is always a ripping good time and I wouldn't miss it (or all of those hot men running around with their shirts off pant, pant pant)

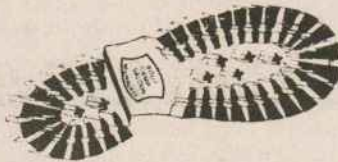
On Sunday July 21, it will be time to get out the Pride Wear and march proudly in Madison's Pride Parade. Before that though, I will have to take in the **UW Alumni Brunch**. I wonder what an Alumni tastes like when you have him for brunch.

Then after having fun in the streets all day, (like that's something new huh?) I'll party in the bars all night. **R Place** is hosting the Miss Capital City pageant at 10:30 and **Manoeuvres** will present porno star/singer, David Burrill at 11:00. If I'm lucky perhaps I can get an "in depth" close up and personal interview with that big hunk, I mean fine performer. If you're really good, maybe I will write a review of his um er performance.

That about wraps it up for the next couple of weeks. Hope to see you out soon! And remember in the meantime, play safe and be proud!

caught in a police sting on Santa Monica, not Sunset, Boulevard. Then the Hollywood power brokers will take a deep breath and wait to see what happens.

My guess is that if his movie is entertaining, even homophobes will go see it. But if it's something like *Waterworld II*, even his Gay fans will stay home.



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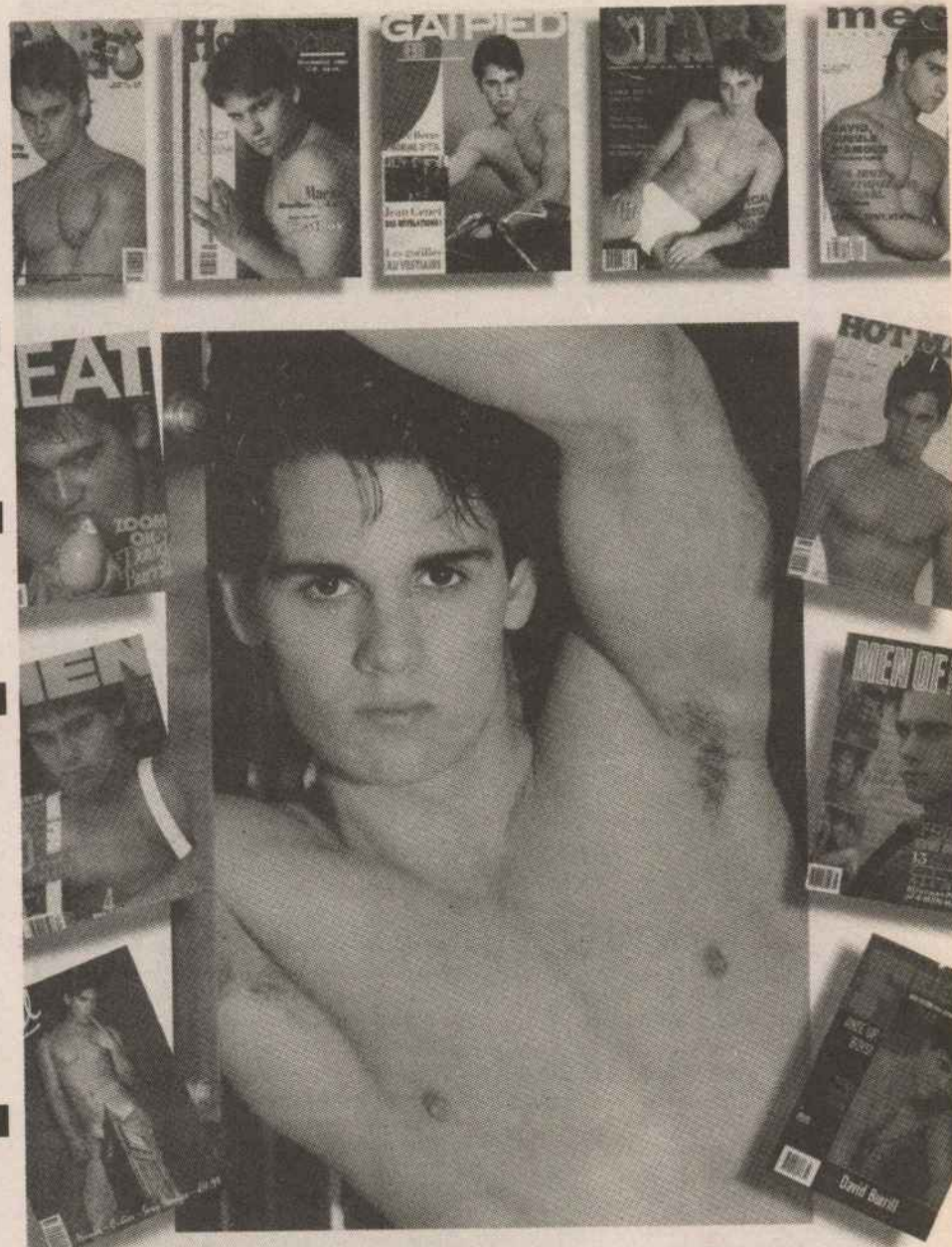
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Entertainment Guide



DAVID BURRILL

Singer David Burrill who has also appeared as a star of X-rated videos and in numerous magazines brings his show to Manoeuvres on Sunday July 21. Burrill has a fine voice to match his um or other attributes. Show time is at 11:00. Tickets are \$5.00 each or \$6.00 for a reserved seat at a table.

APPLETON

Rascals Bar & Grill
702 E. Wisconsin
Appleton, WI 54991
954-9262

The Pivot Club
4815 W. Prospect
Appleton, WI 54915
730-0440

DOOR COUNTY

Black Smith Inn
PO Box 220
Baileys Harbor, WI
839-9222

Chanticleer Guest House
4072 Cherry Rd
Sturgeon Bay 54234
746-0334

EAU CLAIRE

Trading Company
304 Eau Claire St.
Eau Claire, WI 54701
838-9494

The Wolfe's Den
302 E Madison
Eau Claire, WI 54703
715-832-9237

GREEN BAY

Brandy's II
1126 Main St
Green Bay, WI 54301
437-3917

Laona Hostel
5397 Beech St.
(HWY8)
Laona, WI, 54541
(715)674-2615

Napalese Lounge
515 S. Broadway
Green Bay, WI 54303
432-9646

Sass
840 S. Broadway
Green Bay, WI 54304
437-7277

Za's/Java's
1106 Main St.
Green Bay, WI 54301
435-5476

KENOSHA

Club 94
9001 120th Ave
Kenosha, WI 53140
857-9958

What About Me?
600 6th St.
Racine, WI 53403
632-0171

LA CROSSE

Cavalier Lounge
114 N 5th St.
La Crosse, WI 54601
782-9061

LAKE MILLS

Cross Roads Bar
W6642 Hwy B
Lake Mills, WI 53551
648-8457

MADISON

A Room of One's Own
317 W. Johnson
Madison, WI 53703
257-7888

Geraldine's
3052 E. Washington
Madison, WI 53704
241-9335

Green Bush
914 W. Regent St
Madison, WI 53715
257-BUSH

Manoeuvres
150 S. Blair
Madison, WI 54703
258-9918

Praire Garden Bed & Breakfast
W13172 Hwy 188
Lodi, WI 53555
1-800-380-8427

R Place
121 W. Main Street
Madison, WI 53703
257-5455

The Shamrock
117 W Main St.
Madison, WI 53703
255-5029

Sunprint Cafe
638 State Street
Madison, WI 53703
255-1555

MILWAUKEE

Afterwords Books
2710 N. Murray
Milwaukee WI 53211
963-9089

B's
1579 S 2nd St
Milwaukee WI 53204
672-5580

Ball Game
196 S. 2nd
Milwaukee WI 53204
273-7474

Boot Camp Saloon
209 E. National
Milwaukee WI 53204
643-6900

Cafe Melange
720 N. Old World St.
Milwaukee WI 53203
291-9889

Cest La Vie
231 S. 2 St
Milwaukee WI 53204
276-8890

Club 219
219 S. 2nd St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
271-3732

1100 Club
1100 S. 1st St.
Milwaukee WI 53204
647-9950

Gargoyles
354 E. National
Milwaukee WI 53204
225-9676

Fannies
200 E. Washington
Milwaukee WI 53204
643-9633

In Between
625 S. 2nd St
Milwaukee WI 53204
273-2693

Just Us
807 S. 5th St.
Milwaukee WI 53204
383-2233

Kathy's Nut Hut
1500 W. Scott
Milwaukee WI 53204
647-2673

La Cage
801 S 2nd St.
Milwaukee WI 53204
383-8300

La Perla Mexican Restaurant
734 S. Fifth St.
Milwaukee WI 53204
645-9888

Mama Roux
1875 N. Humboldt
Milwaukee WI 53212
347-0344

M & M Club
124 N. Water
Milwaukee WI 53202
347-1962

Nomad
1401 E. Brady St.
Milwaukee WI 53202
273-3866

Rene's Cozy Corner
3500 W Park Hill
Milwaukee WI 53208
933-RENE

Station 2
1534 W. Grant
Milwaukee WI 53204
383-5755

10% Club
4223 W. Fon Du Lac
Milwaukee WI 53216
447-0910

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NEW CD Features Music Composed by Gay Americans

New York, NY— This month, CRI releases a new disc, **Gay American Composers**, the first recording to survey the music of living Gay composers. The disc features music written by eleven self-identified Gay men in recordings drawn from the label's catalogue. The composers, ranging in age from early thirties to mid-seventies, each contributed their own original liner note on the controversial topic of music and sexuality. The composers are: Ned Rorem, David Del Tredici, Chester Biscardi, Conrad Cummings, Lee Hoiby, Lou Harrison, Robert Helps, Robert Maggio, and the late Chris DeBlasio, William Hibbard, and Jerry Hunt. The disc includes performances by Kronos Quartet, pianist Anthony deMare, soprano Phyllis Bryn-Julson, and baritone Peter Stewart, among others. Also, five of the composers perform their own works at the piano and Lou Harrison performs with a gamelan ensemble. **Gay American Composers** joins a stream of new recordings marketed to the Gay community and follows on the success of BMG's **OUT Classics**. While **OUT Classics** featured music by deceased composers, some of whom were only presumed to be homosexual, **Gay American Composers** features a variety of contemporary styles by predominantly living composers and includes their own written thoughts on music and sexuality. "**Gay American Composers** is more than a sexy cover and mood music," remarks Joseph Dalton, Managing Director of the non-profit label. "With this disc, CRI continues its historic role as an alternative to the major labels by presenting an enjoyable collection of today's finest composers which we expect will appeal to new audiences for CRI and for American music. We hope that it will also encourage listeners to further pursue the music of these fine artists — on the CRI label or wherever their music can be heard." The release of **Gay American Composers** was made possible through a generous gift from label trustee Maury Newburger. The disc will be distributed to retail outlets in the US and Canada exclusively by KOCH International. The street date for the disc is May 21, 1996. Proceeds from the sale of the disc will help continue the work of CRI. For more information on the distribution of this disc or on the participating composers, contact CRI by phone at (212) 941-9673 or by fax at (212) 941-9704. ▽

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Why Didn't I Think of That? Department Queer Epigrams

Compiled by Dan E. Boy

Ever at a loss for words when arguing with simpletons? Sure, we all are. Fret no more!

Homophobic breeders often spend a whole thirty seconds at a time thinking about homosexuality.

At least, the "intelligent" ones do. They then share this inept wisdom with fellow breeders, who unfortunately lack the proper attention span to do any thinking on their own. So, at work, in bars, and in the locker room, the wiser breeders donate their "amazing intellect" and insight in the form of a couple of sentences, comparable to a 10-second sound bite.

[Note: the average ignorant breeder has the attention span of 15 seconds. This leaves them with five whole seconds to think about what has been said. In those five seconds, they are usually able to mutter, "Fuckin' faggots."

Then, with their attention span faltering, "Wow! Look at those tits. I would sure like to get inside of her," or some other poorly thought out, perverse suggestion of sex.] In any case, these erroneous droplets of complacent humanism become the anthems of every dope who hates homosexuals and wants to give the air of a "learned man." Being that the average homosexual has thought about homosexuality almost all of their lives, the homosexuals' arguments are often too complex and lengthy for the average football-watching, beer-drinking Joe or Loretta to comprehend.

(However, it is fun to watch their eyes glaze over when they hear a word they don't understand.)

In order to communicate at this lower-capacity level, here is a handy guide. It has their pitiful smorgasbord of idiocy complete with proper responses. These responses are short and "big" words have been omitted. Some of them require thought on their part, but if you say it fast they can have an entire ten seconds of processing. Have Fun!

1. "Homosexuality is a choice."

Epigram 1A: "If homosexuality is a choice, then let's all fuck!"

(Note: If they are really stupid, they will assume this is a pass and attempt to overpower you with their amateur pugilistic skills. Try to use it in "good humour." However, if they are stupid, of the opposite sex, or a family member, try one of these instead:)

Epigram 1B: "So then, what exactly turns you on?"

Epigram 1C1: "Would you choose to be hated by half the country?"

Epigram 1C2: "Would you choose to have your family reject you?"

Epigram 1C3: "Would you choose the reason one-third of teenagers kill themselves?"

or

=Epigram 1C4: "Would you choose to lose your good friends?"

or

Epigram 1C5: "Would you choose (fill in the blank and keep it simple!)

(The "smarter" ones will then retort):

2. "It is an unconscious choice."

(I love this oxymoron. It's cute, just like a puppy chasing its own tail.)

Epigram 2A: "Unconscious means I have no choice. Please consult the dictionary."

Epigram 2B: "So is breathing. What's your point?"

(This is sometimes followed by):

3. "They have places where they cure homosexuals."

Epigram 3A: "It's called a Hos-pital and they cure lots of people there."

Epigram 3B: "I know, I go there to get laid."

Epigram 3C: "How do you know?"

Epigram 3D: "They used similar methods in the Victorian era to cure children of masturbation. It worked for about six months, solely by fear of repression or suppression. Some of the children went neurotic. Some masturbated double-time to make up for their losses."

(Okay, maybe that one is too long. The truth is, it works for about six months by getting the "patient", usually willing, to repress their homosexuality. One of the methods for men involves attaching wires to the penis and scrotum. When the man becomes even slightly aroused, while being shown pictures of naked women and air in pleasing scents.)

Epigram 3E: "Ever seen or read A Clockwork Orange?"

4. "If homosexuality were natural, then homosexuals could reproduce."

Epigram 4A: "If heterosexuality were natural, then men's and women's sexual patterns and desires would match up better."

Epigram 4B: "That's OK. A nice christian family in Kansas is having extra children in my name."

Epigram 4C: "Oh, thank you, I keep forgetting. The purpose of life is to mindlessly breed for the glory of god."

Epigram 4D: "So, every infertile man and woman is therefore unnatural?!"

5. "All homosexuals are child molesters."

Epigram 5A: "I don't know where you got that. According to the official reports I've read, the majority of child molesters are heterosexuals who molest boys."

(These reports do exist and are easy to find. The breeders, however, usually get their information from another "Joe" who got his information from a paper with "Christian", "family" or "citizen" in the title, never trustworthy sources.)

Epigram 5B: "Did you know that if an 18-year old man has sex with a willing 17-year old man, it's usually considered child molestation? If a 55-year old man has sex with a willing 14-year old girl, it's statutory rape with a lighter sentence."

6. "Homosexuals like feces and urine."

Epigram 6A: "What have you been thinking about in your spare time? And why?"

Epigram 6B: "I don't."

7. "Anal intercourse is not sanitary."

Epigram 7A: "Neither is male-female intercourse. Ever hear of a yeast infection?"

Epigram 7B: "Then why are so many heterosexuals doing it?"

8. "God hates Fags."

(No use arguing, they're probably legally brain dead, but you can try):

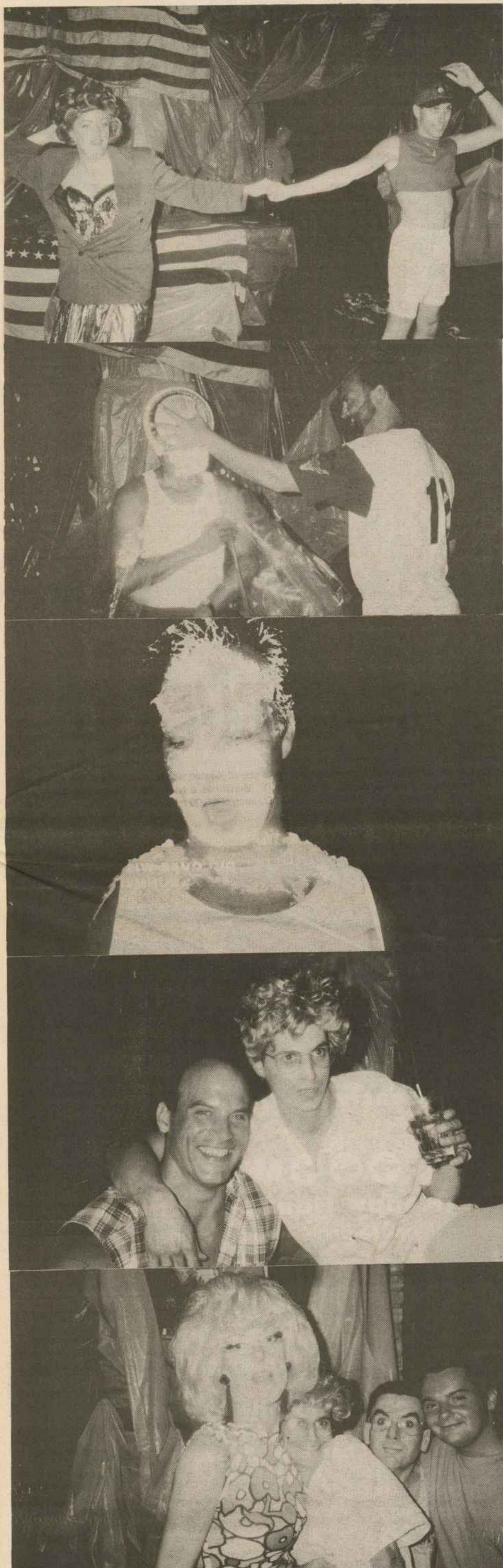
9. "Gay men like to have sex with lots of different men in parks and bathrooms."

Epigram 9A: "Straight men like to have sex with lots of different women and they can't. Na-Na Na-Na-Na."

Epigram 9B: "I'm sure they would like to have sex at home, but their wives won't let them."

Epigram 10B: Choose one of the breeders in the group and say: "Oh, hi! Are we still on for Saturday night?"

Editor's Note: The writer's youth compels him to remain anonymous.



As shown above a Funtastic time was had by all at Milwaukee's In Between fun raiser for its Softball Team on Saturday June 22. Shown above (from the top) are Patty Cakes and Friend bringing the house down with their second encore of a show stopping routine, Frank from the Wreck Room team got a pie in the face from team mate Steve during the Pie Toss Auction, JR, of the In Between team also got a pie in the face, Adaly Drama (alias In Between owner Kurt Peck) camps it up with Ed, Lana St. James gets a well deserved hug from Adaly Drama after a well performed number.

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OUT on Film



'The Hunchback of Notre Dame' Is the Best Disney Studio Film in Many Years

By Dale E. Kuntz

As a film historian and teacher, the one thing I emphasize is that film is a timely art. It captures time on film and is recorded for all time.

BUT--and it is a big but--it has to be judged by the time in which it was filmed. While the time has been recorded, it is forever locked into its own time period.

Therefore, you can not judge a 1940s or 50s or whatever film by 1990s standards. It must be judged by the moral standards of its own day, not ours.

You can compare films, books or whatever to a previous version, adaptation, idea or what have you, but the original can only be judged by its own time, for it is forever frozen in that time period no matter when or how you view it.

That's why I have always felt it unfair for critics to compare a recent Disney film to *Snow White*, *Pinocchio* and all the others. Of course the recent ones aren't like those. Remember that Walt Disney is no longer with us.

While Disney was alive, his personal influence and talent were the guiding lights and twin forces behind every Disney film made. That's over.

Styles have changed. Techniques have changed, and sometimes not for the bet-

ter. Computer animation is now a reality. Music, singers, composition and lyrics are a far cry from the charming operatic voice of Snow White. So what you get is a 90s film with a 90s look and feel to it.

With this in mind, I can truthfully say that the Disney Studio's 34th animation film, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* is the best "Disney" film in years.

While I thoroughly enjoyed *Aladdin* and to a lesser degree, *The Lion King*--and *The Little Mermaid* not at all--*Hunchback* tops them all.

Based on Victor Hugo's classic novel, *Notre Dame de Paris*, it brings the beloved story to the screen as it has never been seen before. Do not look for the story as you read it or remember it. Some major, and many minor, changes have been made in the story to market it as a family film.

Characters have been changed and even dropped entirely. Most noteworthy is Gringoire, the impassioned poet who marries Esmeralda, was completely written out of the screenplay.

Phoebus, the self-centered soldier, has been transformed into a loving hero--who wins Esmeralda this time around. It is a role greatly expanded from the novel and

TURN TO "HUNCHBACK", PAGE 25



Quasimodo finds himself the center of attention at the annual Gypsy festival during this scene from Disney's critically acclaimed new film, "The Hunch Back of Notre Dame."

'Strip-tease' is a Mindless Flick Made Moreso by an Attempt at a Plot

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

"Wasn't *Showgirls* enough?!", ponders Glenn. No, apparently not. Here's Glenn again on assignment, reviewing mainstream American T & A entertainment. Besides, this is Ms. Demi Moore, everyone's favorite scarlet actress.

As if the entire population of this country, most of Europe and several 3rd world nations haven't already taken a gander or two at Ms. Moore's knockers, *Strip-tease* promises even more nude footage of our little Demi.

Demi's twin peaks would hardly hold much promise in offering Glenn either a good time or even a remotely satisfying moviegoing experience yet still Glenn managed to leave the cinema disappointed.

Strip-tease is not a good film, heaven forbid, no. Rather, *Strip-tease* (unlike the gloriously horrendous *Showgirls*) just isn't so misguidedly self-righteous, just isn't so badly cast and acted, and finally just isn't nearly so splendidly trashy that a worthwhile cinematic experience is even humanly possible for that increasing

jaded film critic, Glenn Bishop.

Too difficult to image that a film, any film, particularly a film such as *Strip-tease*, a film that radiates, virtually shimmers with delightfully cheesy potential might be faulted for possessing too much plot.

Convuluted extremes that this film's plotting might achieve notwithstanding, at least in *Strip-tease*, to much plotting just might be director Andrew Bergman's ironically fatal mis-step.

Despite the rampantly overexposed promos (all puns fully intended), *Strip-tease* isn't simply a cheesy rip-off of *Showgirls* masquerading as a Demi vehicle which allows her to bare her celebrated flesh in a major mainstream motion picture.

Certainly surprising Glenn, *Strip-tease* is, oddly enough, based on a delightfully quirky murder mystery written by a Miami journalist named Carl Hiaasen. Occasionally faithful to the book, Bergman has ultimately woven a rather curiously uneasy mix.

TURN TO "STRIPTease", PAGE 25



John Travolta stars as George Malley in Touchstone Picture's "The Phenomenon," a film about a middle aged man who suddenly develops an insatiable appetite for learning. The movie is playing now playing everywhere.

'Phenomenon' is a Charmingly Effective Character Study Of Everyman

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

"Some things in life just can't be explained." Such is so often the response parents offer to their bright and oh-so precocious children when faced with the usual "hard" questions. "Where do babies come from?" "Why can't I ask Santa for a Barbie?" Glenn knows. Glenn has asked these questions. Glenn was that precocious child.

"Some things in life just can't be explained." Glenn recently found himself shuttled briskly back to his idyllic youth and once again facing the inexplicable.

No, Glenn's loving if unbearably insufferable parents did not make another surprise visit. Glenn feels quite confident that after triggering the house alarm and their brief detainment at the 3rd District Police station, they have been cured of attempting another such misadventure.

Rather, the occasion was at the screening of the latest John "I'll never be a has-been again" Travolta film, *Phenomenon*.

"Some things in life just can't be explained" exclaims the poster for *Phenomenon*.

Okay, sure some things can't be explained. Still, many imperative questions remain unanswered. Why, for example, schedule a virtually special effects free film during the dreaded summer blockbuster season?

Why has John Travolta's career been resurrected?

Phenomenon is indeed a curious summer release. A simple little film about an ordinary guy, George Malley (John Travolta). It's his birthday, his 37th and he wants the beautiful but ever-so distant Lace (Kyra Sedgwick) to attend it, with him.

A miraculous event happens to George, one that only George sees (and one which made Glenn begin to think that this just might be, after all, just another typical mindless summer flick).

Suddenly George discovers his lucky library card and begins to read books faster than you can say, Barbara Cartland. Unfortunately, the unruly masses of the small town of Harmon begin to become wary of George's new-found comprehension and insatiable thirst for knowledge. Has George, they ask, been abducted by aliens?

Thankfully George doesn't start to make mashed potato mountains at the dinner table but needless to say, Glenn won't give any of the plot away.

As directed by Gerald DiPego and written by Barbara Boyle, *Phenomenon* is a surprisingly effective character study and a charmingly disarming love story.

Travolta's George Malley is portrayed as an American everyman: a "good guy", perhaps not the quickest on the uptake but certainly everyone's friend. He is the square peg fitting into the square hole.

Then suddenly he's not. Suddenly he's different. He reads books, actually he reads lots of books. He grows mutant vegetables. He starts to predict natural disasters. He is no longer everyman, he is no longer everyone's friend.

Gradually, if inevitably, old friends begin to keep their distance, begin to look at George with various levels of fear and loathing. Well, not quite everyone. A few stalwart friends remain true to George, Doc (a warm and fuzzy Robert Duvall) for one, and particularly the lovely Lace, herself something of an outsider.

TURN TO "PHENOMINON", PAGE 25



Demi Moore with her real life and on screen daughter, Rumer Willis in "Strip-tease."

'Stealing Beauty' is Unquestionably One of the Dumbest Movies of All Time

Reviewed by Christopher Null

Stealing Beauty is a "bad" movie. Bernardo Bertolucci, the Academy Award-winning director of 1987's *The Last Emperor*, is dead. He has been replaced with a hormonal and juvenile kid, masquerading as a filmmaker, desperately trying to appeal to a cerebral audience yet maintaining enough accessibility for the moviegoing public.

Stealing Beauty fails miserably on

both counts.

The story is simple, after you put it together (Susan Minot's script hides the real plot for a good hour). Liv Tyler plays Lucy, a 19-year old virginal American who travels to Italy to lounge around with old family friends, talk about her dead poetess mother, and find her sexual awakening.

Or, How to Make an Italian Quilt. Lucy

TURN TO "BEAUTY", PAGE 25



Gary Hawkins

Dennis G. Bartley is shown here receiving his First Place award in the Mr. Wisconsin Fantasy Contest. The contest held at Milwaukee's 1100 Club was part of Milwaukee's Wisconsin Leather weekend. Also shown are Beth Kelly, Miss Leather Madison, 1995 and JD Buchert, the 1995 International Mr. Fantasy Texas, USA. Our staff was wondering if Dennis would like to fulfill some of their fantasies. (Or perhaps let them fulfill some of his.)

From Milwaukee

On a local note, Milwaukee is well represented in **Hunchback**. James Kimbrough (Marquette grad) is the voice of Victor, the third gargoyl.

Former Milwaukeean, Doug Krohn, was one of the animators working on the character of Esmeralda under the supervision of Tony Fucile.



R Place will be welcoming Loretta La Mour, Miss Gay Wisconsin who will be on hand for the Miss Capital City Pageant on Sunday July 21. The bar is located at 121 W. Main Street in Madison. The pageant begins at 10:00 PM.

"PHENOMENON"

Continued from Page 24

Phenomenon succeeds largely due to an marvelous ensemble of fine performances, particularly Travolta and the ever reliable Robert Duvall. Only poor little Kyra Sedgwick, so memorable in **Something to Talk About**, here seems restrained by her underwritten, rather single dimensioned character.

Trekkies will be sure to spot Next Generation's Data (Brent Spiner) in the small role of one of George's doctors.

True, elements in **Phenomenon** prove to strain reasonable levels of credibility but for the most part Travolta and company have crafted a warm and wise motion picture, one which should prove refreshing to those tired of a constant diet of the same old mindless summer blockbusters

Rating \$\$\$\$\$ (scale \$ to \$\$\$\$\$)
Phenomenon is currently playing at a theatre near you.

"BEAUTY"

Continued from Page 24

moves in with about a dozen bizarre characters-- I have no idea who they are or why they are together except that some of them knew her mother--some are English, some American, some Italian -- they're just living in a big villa in Italy -- and Lucy basically makes herself at home.

A lot of people have a lot of sex, and Lucy watches or listens to a lot of this, when she isn't posing half-naked for a statue being carved in her image. As Jerry Seinfeld would say, "Who *are* these people!?"

On screen, this set of situations is as ridiculous as it looks on paper. The movie makes little or no sense, being at its heart a far-too simplistic tale of a girl losing her virginity that is told in a far-too round-about way so as to make even this fact almost lost upon the viewer.

The story is so simple, yet at the same time, Tyler's character is wholly unbelievable as a real person. Quite frankly, she is contradicted in her actions with every progressive scene. Whether this is Tyler's fault or the script is anyone's guess.

As for the titular **Beauty**, there ain't a whole lot of it around, unless you consider scenes of Lucy drooling, Lucy looking at a bidet, Lucy talking with her mouth full, Lucy singing off-key, and Lucy vomiting as "beautiful." *Stealing* beauty? You can have it!

And you can keep Liv Tyler as an actress altogether as far as I'm concerned. (Am I the only one who had the misfortune of seeing **Silent Fall**?)

In fact, the only real beauty in the film is Bertolucci's ultra-stylish/ ultra-cutesy photography, which ultimately does little to enhance the story.

(Note to the producers: "please" cut out the superimposition of Lucy's poetry on the screen while she looks wistfully into the camera.)

And lest you think I'm too negative, the only decent character in the film is the terminally ill Alex (Jeremy Irons). I have no idea "why" he was in the movie, but his scenes were the only watchable ones, and he's the only likable character.

Bertolucci tries to win us over by showing a lot of naked people, but I certainly wasn't sucked in. In fact, I was just shocked at the amount of lechery and sluttiness that goes on that is essentially "endorsed" by the film.

My favorite line in the picture: "What am I doing here with these kids?" I couldn't have said it better myself.

Rating: Unquestionably awful

"STRIPTEASE"

Continued from Page 24

For those who have been living under a rock, here's the story. As **Striptease** opens, Erin Grant (Demi Moore) has just lost a custody battle for her daughter. To make matters even worse, she had lost her job as a secretary with the FBI because of her deadbeat husband.

Desperately needing \$15,000 to stage an appeal, our gal Erin does what any wholesome apple pie-eating American mom would do: strip. That's right, go find an Eager Beaver (check your local phone books for the local strip joint near you) and learn to strip to various hits by Annie Lennox.

Fair enough, sounds at least to Glenn like more than ample plotting. Not, however to director Bergman who has sifted through Hiaasen's book to locate mystifyingly murderous elements involving an unsavory, degenerate Congressman (Burt Reynolds) who himself has become totally obsessed with Erin.

For spice, throw in for good measure Shad (Ving Rhames), the Eager Beaver's bouncer and a thug with a heart of gold who casts a wary eye out for Erin.

Then there is Jerry Killian (William Hill) the nerdy regular who worships the pole Erin dances 'round and who will later get himself killed while chivalrously acting in Erin's behalf.

Let us not forget Al Garcia, a puppy-dog loyal hunk o' cop who soon loses his heart to Erin.

In fact, the only person who isn't madly in love with Erin is her ex-hubby Darrell Grant (Robert Patrick), a sleaze bag through and through. You know he's a sleaze because, for heaven's sake, he steals wheel chairs for a living.

And if that isn't bad enough, his poor young daughter is his unwitting accomplice.

Shouldn't Angela (Moore's real daughter via Bruce Willis, Rumur) be in school?

Any further description of **Striptease's** contemptible characters or thoroughly preposterous plotting might suggest that the film is far more entertaining than it is and Glenn would hate to have anyone get misled.

Surfice to say, **Striptease** would be a heck of a lot more fun if didn't taken itself so gosh darn seriously. You might say **Striptease** is suffering from a severe case of "righteous sobriety"

Ms. Moore is the film's worst offender, playing every scene as if each was a matter of life and death. If Bergman's preposterous dialogue doesn't clue you in, the tedious melodramatic swell of music accompanying any and all mother daughter scenes ought to clue you in. Glenn says, "lighten up Demi, it's only a cheesy stripper movie."

No such problem with Burt Reynolds who plays Congressman David Dilbeck with a wickedly delicious depravity. Okay, maybe he isn't a credible character but at least Burt seems to enjoy taking the money.

Striptease isn't any less mindless than any of this summer's other mindless blockbuster but let's face it, Demi's bare breasts, perky that they may well be, just don't rank as much of a special effect.

Rating \$\$ (scale \$ to \$\$\$\$\$)
Striptease is currently playing at Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre and other theatres.

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A Conversation with the Directors of 'Independence Day'

When *Stargate* opened to great success, breaking October box office records, critics hailed it as the bellwether for the resurgence of epic-scale entertainment. Not content to rest on their box office and critical laurels, however, Roland Emmerich and Dean Devlin were already hard at work on *Independence Day*.

Shortly after they completed work on the script, Twentieth Century Fox grabbed the rights, and pre-production began almost immediately thereafter.

As *Stargate* paid homage to the ancient Egyptian epic films of the past, Emmerich and Devlin hope to revive another bygone genre with *Independence Day*: the multi-character disaster film.

"Roland and I are fans of the disaster films of the seventies," says Devlin, "and as we were talking about the kinds of films we don't get to see anymore, we thought it would be great to revive that genre. We knew we had to put a new twist on it, so in this film, we use an alien invasion as a way of creating a worldwide, international disaster. This gave us the opportunity to make a film with scope and adventure, much larger than anything we'd ever attempted before."

The genesis of *Independence Day* can be directly traced to *Stargate*.

According to Devlin, when he and Emmerich were promoting the film, a reporter asked the director if he believed in space aliens.

Emmerich answered that he did not and, as Devlin recalls, "... the reporter became indignant and said, 'How can you make a movie like *Stargate* and not believe in aliens?' Roland replied, 'I believe in fantasy. I believe in the great 'What If?' What if aliens showed up, what if tomorrow morning, you walked out of your door and these enormous spaceships hovered over every single city in the world? Wouldn't that be the most exciting thing that could happen?' Of course, he then walked over to me and said, 'I think I've got our next movie.'"

"Clearly the script had an appeal," muses Devlin. "Roland and I created a story which would be played out on an enormous, international scale. Everyone who read it recognized that we hoped to attempt something special, in terms of size, scale and adventure. Nothing like this has ever been seen before."

Special Effects

The company returned to Los Angeles, where filming has been completed on locations throughout the city and on stages at the former Hughes Aircraft facility, now converted into the *Independence Day* lot.

There, several unique and integral effects teams created magic in onetime airplane hangars, including a motion control unit, a pyrotechnics squadron and a huge model department.

According to Devlin, the model shoot is "the largest ever attempted for a feature

film, with four camera crews, working every day. We are incorporating what we've learned over the last several years of movie-making into this film. We hope to extend special effects way beyond anything we've ever attempted, to really push the limits of what can and can't be done, with a mixture of high technology and old-fashioned filmmaking.

"We're using digital composition and digital animation alongside techniques as simple as airplane models on a wire."

This mixture of 'high' and 'low' technologies allows each department to come up with solutions that are ingenious and creative and we think that will result in special effects that have never been seen before."

Some of those effects included some spectacular, in-camera explosions, the combustible handiwork of the model and pyrotechnic units.

The *Independence Day* script calls for the destruction of several cities, courtesy of the alien visitors' "take no prisoners" approach to world domination. One of their favored methods of devastation was something the filmmakers dubbed a "wall of destruction," a massive phalanx of fire that would engulf cities from the sky.

This wall-of-destruction shot is just one of many that required models.

"After I read the script and we did the breakdown of the miniatures, I realized there were more of them in this movie than any two other films combined," recalls Mike Joyce, who created all the models in *Batman Forever*. "There are cities to build, there are alien spacecraft, helicopters, fighter jets ... it just runs the gamut of everything you could do in miniatures."

To achieve the maximum amount of on-screen authenticity, the models also required a tremendous amount of detail.

Joyce attributes this extensive use of models to Emmerich, who "knows how to use miniatures, how to photograph them." He adds that for the type of shots required in *Independence Day* miniatures work best. "A lot of explosions, a lot of pyro, lots of fires, elements that, even today with sophisticated computers, are still tricky to do. Plus, in the long run, if we did everything that we're trying to do with the models in computer, it would be very expensive to generate all that artwork."

Casting the Film.

In addition to bringing audiences large-scale adventure, *Independence Day* features a talented cast of some of today's most popular and highly-regarded actors. Devlin explains that this casting was in keeping with the traditions of the films to which *Independence Day* pays homage.

"The style of this movie is reminiscent of the great war and adventure movies, like *The Longest Day*, which had numerous characters, instead of one main ac-

tion hero. Many superb actors appeared in these epic adventure and disaster films.

The tradition of this genre was to have strong actors because the better the actor is, the more the audience gets involved with the characters and their adventures. Since these are multi-character pieces, you really need actors who can bring the audience into what they're doing and what their story line is about. So, we're fortunate to have exceptionally strong actors."

While several cast members have previously starred in large-scale projects, notably Jeff Goldblum (*Jurassic Park*, *The Fly*), Bill Pullman (*Casper*) and Brent Spiner (*Star Trek: Generations*) and the TV series "Star Trek: The Next Gen-

eration"), *Independence Day* marks Will Smith's first foray into the genre. A versatile actor known for his work in the features *Six Degrees of Separation* and *Bad Boys*, as well as the long-running television series "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," Smith says *Independence Day* also offered him an opportunity to try something new with characterization. He portrays Marine Captain Steve Hiller, a cocky, gifted fighter pilot.

"The role is interesting because it's definitely serious but he's also able to be funny. I've never experimented with that before; it's either been one or the other." Smith looked to Harrison Ford's performance as the roguishly likable Han Solo in the *Star Wars* films as a point of reference for his work in

New York's Gone! Because "They" Have Arrived for Independence Day

The film starts with giant alien ships arriving into Earth orbit and immediately begin to pulsate a cyclic tone down to the nations of Earth. The world is frantic to try and understand the aliens intentions-till Dr Levinson decodes the message and finds out that it is a countdown.

He decyphers this code using orbital satellites. Goldblum says, "I intuit, in fact, that it's a countdown signal that's reducing itself everytime it recycles. Eventually it's going to disappear, at which point they're going to attack. I then rush heroically--and romantically--to get my former wife, Constance, who I'm still very much in love with, in Washington, where she works as the President's communications director.

The aliens are stationed over Washington, Los Angeles, and New York--those bastards!--and they're going to decimate all of them. Constance alerts the president and we all go up in Air Force One just before the capital is destroyed."

Goldblum neglects to say that before he and our cast leave the smoldering capitol behind, that the President of the United States attempts to talk and make peace with the aliens, but it becomes evident that they have presented Earth with an ultimatum; become their willing slaves, or die and be exterminated as a species from the planet.

As Air Force One makes good it's escape, the aliens demonstrate their massive orbital firepower by totaling major cities of the United States, the U.S. and World powers launch military attacks to try to respond to this demonstration of power, but against impossible odds.

Meanwhile, safely aboard the jet, Levinson learns that it is headed for Area 51, the super secret military facility in the Nevada desert that, in real life, has been a hotbed of reported UFO sightings and a long rumored testing ground for alien technology.

The movie posits that the key to defeating the extraterrestrial menace is an alien craft recovered nearly intact from a crash site in Roswell, New Mexico, in July of 1947.

Levinson then devises a technological weapon against the alien terror that's somewhat like the biological ammunition used in H.G.Wells' *The War of the Worlds*, and it is deployed with assistance from both the military and civilian sectors.

The story, which begins on July 2nd, initially presents the idea as a force of nature--with 15 mile-wide atmospheric phenomena igniting the skies above the planet and descending on its largest urban centers.

"Rather than have little spores live inside of people and slowly take over," says screenwriter Dean Devlin, "our movie really starts with, They're here. They've arrived, and they're blowing the shit out of our planet. Now what do you do? So we track different characters from all around the world to see how they deal with this disaster."

Devlin views *Independence Day* as a vaccine of sorts to the superheroic action adventure movies popularized by Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger. "This is an ensemble of characters that you can relate to, that are like people you know. They're not superheroes; it's you," according to Devlin. If anyone is performing superheroics, it's the FX crew, which includes motioncontrol model master Doug Smith and explosive expert Clay Pinney. The film also will contain a fair amount of digital work, but only where necessary.

"We love CGI, but we still feel--and we're going to get a lot of flak for this--that it doesn't look as good as a really well-built model. I don't know if it's because of the lighting or texture mapping, but for some reason they still haven't done it," Devlin said.

Independence Day represents the largest model shoot ever attempted on a feature. You'll see a sequence in the movie where 150 F-18 jets are fighting 250 of these [he gestures toward the full-scale alien craft on the other side of the sound stage], and in the foreground, the first 30 will all be models and everything behind it will be CGI.

In backgrounds, we find that CGI stuff looks great. But in foregrounds, I think the models still hold up better than anything else. Our FX people have created some of the most phenomenal images I've ever seen. We're aiming to set the new standard for aerial battles."

The film wrapped in 70 days of live shooting, though that does not include the 200 plus days of shooting models.

"Will Smith's character has a dogfight with one of the alien craft. The aliens crash and then Hiller sort of punches one

TURN TO ALIENS, PAGE 30

CALENDAR

Weds. July 3

New Light Show Premiere
La Cage - Midnight
801 S. Second, Milwaukee

Thurs. July 4

The SpotLight Amendment 2 Party
Food, Miller Lite, Entertainment, Games & More
6 to 9
Mama Roux
1875 N. Humboldt, Milwaukee

Independence Day Picnic
Noon, River View Park, Eau Claire
Sponsored by Wolfe's Den

Nine Inch Males
Club 219 - 11:45 (\$4.00 cover)
219 S. Second, Milwaukee

Friday July 5

Men's Room Grand Opening
Geraldine's 8 to Close
3054 E. Washington, Madison

Saturday July 6

Star E. Nite's Birthday Show
Just Us - 10:00 (No Cover)
807 S. Fifth St. Milwaukee

Sunday July 7

Nine Inch Males
Manoeuvres 11:00 (\$5.00 Cover)
150 S. Blair St., Madison

Tuesday July 9

Anniversary Party & Sale
Afterwords Books
2710 N. Murray, Milwaukee
11:00 AM to Close

Friday July 12

The Quilt A Musical Celebration Opens Its Run
Circle Stage Theater \$12.00
Friday, Saturday, Sunday
Performances thru July 28
(A Benefit for MAP)

The United's Annual Dinner
Sheraton Hotel 6:30 (\$30-\$50)
John Nolen Drive at the Beltline

ARTICLE DEADLINE FOR OUR JULY 18TH ISSUE

Saturday July 13

Miss Eau Claire US of A Pageant
Wolfe's Den 10:00 (\$3.00 Cover)
302 E. Madison, Eau Claire

Sunday July 14

Robert Parnell Benefit
Manoeuvres 10:30
150 S. Blair St., Madison

Lisa Star Spencer Benefit
Cest La Vie 10:30 (\$3.00 Cover)
231 S. Second St., Milwaukee

Tuesday July 15

Ad Deadline for our July 18 Issue

Thursday July 18

Cowgirl Sweethearts Video Premiere
Madison Senior Cent. 5 - 7 PM
330 W. Mifflin, Madison.

Wisconsin Light Distribution Night

Madison's Magic Weekend

Friday July 19

10% Society Dance
UW Memorial Union 9 to Midnight
(\$4.00 Cover)
Langdon & Park Streets

Saturday July 20

The MAGIC Picnic
Brittingham Park, 1 to 7 PM

Apple Island Anniversary Dance
Wil-Mar Coop 9 PM \$3-\$5
953 Jennifer Street

Sunday July 21

UW LesBiGay Brunch - \$10.00
UW Memorial Union 11:00

Madison Pride Celebration
Rally 1:30 - State Capitol
Parade 2:00 - State Street
Show 2:30 - UW Library Mall

David Burrill
Manoeuvres 11:00
150 S. Blair Street, Madison

Miss Capital City Pageant
R Place - 10:30
121 W. Main Street, Madison

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Wisconsin

HEY GUYS I'm a 20 year old Gay White male, 5'10, 145lbs, good shape. I like the outdoors, shopping, and more.(Appleton) #18955

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

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

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE I'm a health minded individual interested in meeting sincere and honest people 18 to 40 in the Fox Valley area. Call me. (Fox Valley) #21186

ORDINARY GUY looking for companionship with someone who is honest, sincere, and has a good outlook on life. Call me. (Fox Valley) #21201

LEATHER MASTER SEKS 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

SONNIE DELIGHT We are a super hot bottom couple who want to meet Gay, bi, White males for adult fun and to have delights with. Call us. (Green Bay) #20254

LOOKING FOR FRIENDS I'm an attractive 22 year old Gay White male, 6'2, 190lbs. I'm looking for friends to have fun with. Call me. (Green Bay) #19235

BUILT TO LAST I'm a 38 year old Gay White male. I would like to meet guys for fun and games. I'm muscular, masculine, and well equipped. Call me. (Green Bay) #19358

GOOD LOOKING GUY IN GREEN BAY I'm very good looking and I'm looking for someone to spend time with. I'm into what ever you want to do. Nothing kinky. Call me. (Green Bay) #18366

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

BIG AND BOLD I'm 6'1, 250lbs, linebacker build, big not fat. I'm 38 years old, attractive, healthy. I'm looking for a Gay White or Hispanic male. I have many interests. I'm looking for a friends first relationship. Call me. (Kenosha) #19888

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

NOT INTO THE BAR SCENE I'm a Gay White male, 185lbs, 5'11, clean cut, dark brown hair, dark brown eyes, curly hair, 34" waist. If you would like to know more please call me. (Madison) #18377

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 hunk 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

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

IT'S A BI MAN'S WORLD I'm a Bi White male. I like camping, auto racing, and being outdoors. Call me. (Marshfield) #19302

PLOW THIS BOY I'm 6ft, 190lbs. I'm looking for an interesting top man to plow me. (Menomonie) #20561

OH NO! IT'S MR. BILL I'm 47 years old, 5'7, 178lbs, and hairy. I'm looking for another hot leather man to be in touch with. I'm willing to experiment and explore. I like to dominate. Call me. (Milwaukee) #20606

CUMING STRAIGHT ON TO YOU I'm looking for straight acting friends to hang out with. I'm 24 years old, 6'2, 170lbs, Brown hair, Blue eyes. If you want to get in touch with me please call. (Milwaukee) #19828

SUB DUDE I'm 31 years old, 5'7, 140lbs. I'm an inexperienced submissive bottom looking for an aggressive top. (Milwaukee) #19337

CHUBBY HUBBY WANTED I'm 5'9, 160lbs, 40 years old. I'm looking for a heavy set man for cuddling, movies, and popcorn. (Milwaukee) #19486

LET ME BE YOUR LITTLE GIRL I'm a Bi white male, 23 years old, shy, mature, and submissive. I'm looking for dominant men to make me submit. make me dress like a girl and use me. (Milwaukee) #19867

LITTLE FURRY BEAR WANTED I'm 5'7, 178lbs, 47 years old, good shape. I enjoy little furry bears 5'10 or shorter. I'm into biking, working out, videos, movies, good dining, and good company. Call me. (Milwaukee) #3544

ARE YOU READY FOR A STEADY? I'm 33 years old, 5'11, dark Brown hair, Hazel eyes, 165lbs. I'm looking for a man for good times and a possible long term relationship. Please be honest, sincere, and caring. (Milwaukee) #18019

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. Please leave a message. (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

MORE THAN THIS I'm a straight acting Gay White male, 29 years old, 5'7, 140lbs, blonde hair, blue eyes, clean cut, and attractive. I'm seeking a straight acting Gay White male 1 to 35 for a sincere relationship as friends or maybe more. (Osh Kosh) #19970

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

LET'S GO FOR A BIKE RIDE I'm a White male, 40 years old. I like country music, bike riding, and long walks. (Racine) #19586

STRAIGHT TO THE POINT I would like to meet some guys in my area for fun and more. Call me. (Stevens Point) #19640

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

WE CAN WORK IT OUT I'm 25 years old, 6'1, 185lbs, medium build, blonde hair, blue eyes. I enjoy tennis, movies, biking, and exercising. I'm looking for friendship and a possible relationship. Call me. (Wausau) #11144

YOU AND ME GWM, 27, 160, 5'8", enjoys sports, seeks GWM, 18-28, for outings and friendship. Please leave a message. (Wisconsin) #12286

PLEASURE SEEKER GWM, 30, 5'8", 150, attractive, new to area, seeks other local GWM's. Please leave a message. (Wisconsin) #1095

USE AND ABUSE THIS BOTTOM I'm an inexperienced submissive bottom looking for a physically dominant top for wrestling, bondage, S&M, and more. If you would like to use and abuse me pleas call. I'm 35 years old, 5'9, 190lbs, clean, and discreet. #21247

WHY CANT WE BE FRIENDS I'm 23 years old, 6'2, 170lbs. I have long blonde hair, and blue eyes. I'm looking for cool guys to hang out with for friendship only. Straight acting guys only. Call me. #1889

ANYTHING GOES I'm 18 years old, 5'10, 150lbs, light brown hair, light blue eyes. I'm Bi sexual. I'm into everything. Call me. (Addison) #20384

YOUNG AND RESTLESS I'm 18 years old, 5'10, 150lbs, light brown hair, light blue eyes. I'm into every thing and anything. Let me be your slave. I'm new at this. Teach me. (Addison) #19784

NEW AT THIS I live in the Omaha area and I'm looking for new friends. #7935

YOUNG PUP SEKS OLDER MAN I'm 19 years old, 5'7, 200lbs, Brown hair, Blue eyes. I've never been with a man. I would like to meet an older man 30 to 45 for fun and more. #20939

SMOOTH, YOUNG, AND SKINNY? I'm looking for men 18 to 25 who are slim, skinny, and smooth. I'm 5'9, 150lbs, male model. Call me. #21057

BATMAN'S FANTASY I'm a dominant Gay White male top, 33 years old, 6ft, 170lbs. I'm searching for submissive, Bi or Gay, single White men, 21 to 40, who are under 6ft tall. I want to be Batman and I want you to be Robin the Boy Wonder. Call me. #10435

I'M A PLEASER NOT A TEASER I'm 5'10, 150lbs, Brown hair, Blue eyes, 18 years old. I'm really hot and horny. call me. Lets please each other. #20383

FLY THIS FRIENDLY GUY I'm 20 years old and I'm looking for guys around my age. I'm 5'11, 140lbs, Brown hair, Blue eyes. I'm looking for fun and someone to hang out with. Call me. #16585

GENEROUS DAD SEKS 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. #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. #7623

STAIHT 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. #8598

TELL DAD ALL ABOUT IT I'm a White male, 40 years old, good looking, discreet, and honest. If you are 18 to 24 and want a new future please call me. #10547

HAIRY MAN WANTED I'm 28 years old, 5'11, 270lbs, chubby. I'm looking for young guys 22 to 29 who are hairy and in shape. I'm ready for a good time. (Minneapolis) #19712

FRENCH EXPERT I'm a French expert looking for straight or Bi curious men, mid 30's to mid 50's, who like to receive. I'm 35 years old, nice body, healthy, and discreet. You should be similar. (Minneapolis) #18393

OUR LITTLE SECRET I'm an attractive Blonde, 6'1, 180lbs, good shape. I'm looking to hook up with Bi and married guys for massage. If you are very discreet and well endowed please call me. (Minneapolis) #16203

MASTER WANTED I'm a submissive Gay White male, 6'1, 185lbs, 35 years old. I'm a slave looking for a master who can give me the discipline I need. I'm into water sports, bondage, abuse, etc. Please call me sir. I'm here to take orders. (Minneapolis) #16519

I GOT THE MUNCHIES I'm 5'11, 150lbs, Brown hair, Brown eyes, smooth, slender. I'm looking for hairy, muscular men who like to be serviced and butt munched. Call me. (Minneapolis) #16590

HOT FOR TEACHER I'm 21 years old, 6'1, 210lbs. I'm new at this. I'm looking for someone to teach me the ropes and to do things with. (Minneapolis) #16916

BOY TOY WANTED I'm a 40 year old Gay male, 6ft, 170lbs, good shape. I'm looking for a baby queer who is into bondage, dominance, and S&M. I'm serious and you should be too. If you are 18 to 26 and want to service a master call me. (Minneapolis) #17601

ATTRACTIVE AND SUBMISSIVE I'm a submissive male in my early 30's looking for a dominant hung top man. If you like to take control please call me. I'm into French, Greek, golden showers, body worship, and many other kinky scenes. Call me sir. (Minneapolis) #17731

NEW KID IN TOWN I'm a 22 year old Gay White male, 6ft, 200lbs. I like to ride my bike, camp, go to amusement parks, etc. I seek men 18 to 35 to have fun and hang out with. Leave me a message. (Minneapolis) #18027

THE BUDDY SYSTEM Gay White couple seeking other young couples or singles for friendship, camping, outdoor sports, and good conversation. Call us. (Minneapolis) #15314

CURIOUS 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

IN NEED OF A SPANKING I'm a bad boy in need of a firm spanking with a paddle or belt. Spank me till I cry. I've been bad. (Minneapolis) #10841

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, light, 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

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

NEED A GOOD SPANKING? I'm a Gay White male teacher looking for in shape college student 18 to 25 to spank. Let me put some discipline back into your life. (Minneapolis) #21554

READY FOR THE WEEKEND I'm 53 years old and I'm hoping to meet some younger guys for early morning phone fun and intimate weekend get togethers. Call me. (Minneapolis) #20150

EAST OF ST PAUL I'm a White male, 5'8, 175lbs, looking for guys 25 to 30, 5'8 to 5'9, 165 to 170lbs, who like the outdoors as well as indoors. Call me. (Minneapolis) #18859

READY FOR A CHANGE? I'm a tall, well built, cross dresser, who is looking to be submissive for you. Train me and get to know me. (Minneapolis) #18960

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

BODY BUILDER I'm a Gay body builder, good looking, Brown hair, Hazel eyes, 5'8, 180lbs, 44" chest, 32" waist, great legs, educated, and masculine. I'm looking for friends, fun, or maybe more. Call me. (Minneapolis) #21098

BLACK ON BLACK Bi Black male, 5'9, 150lbs, nice tone body, good shape. I'm looking to hook up with another well built, masculine, and well endowed Black man for discreet encounters. Call me. (Minneapolis) #21238

BLACK ON BLACK Bi Black male, 5'9, 150lbs, nice tone body, good shape. I'm looking to hook up with another well built, masculine, and well endowed Black man for discreet encounters. Call me. (Minneapolis) #21238

BLACK ON BLACK Bi Black male, 5'9, 150lbs, nice tone body, good shape. I'm looking to hook up with another well built, masculine, and well endowed Black man for discreet encounters. Call me. (Minneapolis) #21238

BLACK ON BLACK Bi Black male, 5'9, 150lbs, nice tone body, good shape. I'm looking to hook up with another well built, masculine, and well endowed Black man for discreet encounters. Call me. (Minneapolis) #21238

BLACK ON BLACK Bi Black male, 5'9, 150lbs, nice tone body, good shape. I'm looking to hook up with another well built, masculine, and well endowed Black man for discreet encounters. Call me. (Minneapolis) #21238

BLACK ON BLACK Bi Black male, 5'9, 150lbs, nice tone body, good shape. I'm looking to hook up with another well built, masculine, and well endowed Black man for discreet encounters. Call me. (Minneapolis) #21238

Photo by: David Christian-Brown



SUBMIT TO THIS I'm a 31 year old totally dominant top man, 5'10, 175lbs, Brown hair, Green eyes, and goatee. I'm looking for a totally submissive guy under 35 years old. (La Grange) #16412

WE CAN WORK OUT TOGETHER I'm 25 years old, 6ft, 175lbs, Blonde hair, Blue eyes, well built. I enjoy movies, golf, night clubs, etc. I seek a White male 21 to 30 who is a non smoker and drug free. I'm also looking for a workout partner. Call me. (Lombard) #16627

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 a message. (Brainerd) #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

DO IT WITH ME I'm a total bottom looking for someone to do something with me. (Grand Forks) #21532

START ME UP I'm 5'7, 155lbs, 30 years old, long Brown hair, Brown eyes, good shape, Bi curious. I'm looking for Bi or Gay guys to help get me started. Call me. (Mankato) #23982

ILLINOIS

ANYTHING GOES I'm 18 years old, 5'10, 150lbs, light brown hair, light blue eyes. I'm Bi sexual. I'm into everything. Call me. (Addison) #20384

YOUNG AND RESTLESS I'm 18 years old, 5'10, 150lbs, light brown hair, light blue eyes. I'm into every thing and anything. Let me be your slave. I'm new at this. Teach me. (Addison) #19784

NEW AT THIS I live in the Omaha area and I'm looking for new friends. #7935

YOUNG PUP SEKS OLDER MAN I'm 19 years old, 5'7, 200lbs, Brown hair, Blue eyes. I've never been with a man. I would like to meet an older man 30 to 45 for fun and more. #20939

SMOOTH, YOUNG, AND SKINNY? I'm looking for men 18 to 25 who are slim, skinny, and smooth. I'm 5'9, 150lbs, male model. Call me. #21057

BATMAN'S FANTASY I'm a dominant Gay White male top, 33 years old, 6ft, 170lbs. I'm searching for submissive, Bi or Gay, single White men, 21 to 40, who are under 6ft tall. I want to be Batman and I want you to be Robin the Boy Wonder. Call me. #10435

I'M A PLEASER NOT A TEASER I'm 5'10, 150lbs, Brown hair, Blue eyes, 18 years old. I'm really hot and horny. call me. Lets please each other. #20383

HAIRY MAN WANTED I'm 28 years old, 5'11, 270lbs, chubby. I'm looking for young guys 22 to 29 who are hairy and in shape. I'm ready for a good time. (Minneapolis) #19712

FRENCH EXPERT I'm a French expert looking for straight or Bi curious men, mid 30's to mid 50's, who like to receive. I'm 35 years old, nice body, healthy, and discreet. You should be similar. (Minneapolis) #18393

OUR LITTLE SECRET I'm an attractive Blonde, 6'1, 180lbs, good shape. I'm looking to hook up with Bi and married guys for massage. If you are very discreet and well endowed please call me. (Minneapolis) #16203

MASTER WANTED I'm a submissive Gay White male, 6'1, 185lbs, 35 years old. I'm a slave looking for a master who can give me the discipline I need. I'm into water sports, bondage, abuse, etc. Please call me sir. I'm here to take orders. (Minneapolis) #16519

I GOT THE MUNCHIES I'm 5'11, 150lbs, Brown hair, Brown eyes, smooth, slender. I'm looking for hairy, muscular men who like to be serviced and butt munched. Call me. (Minneapolis) #16590

HOT FOR TEACHER I'm 21 years old, 6'1, 210lbs. I'm new at this. I'm looking for someone to teach me the ropes and to do things with. (Minneapolis) #16916

BOY TOY WANTED I'm a 40 year old Gay male, 6ft, 170lbs, good shape. I'm looking for a baby queer who is into bondage, dominance, and S&M. I'm serious and you should be too. If you are 18 to 26 and want to service a master call me. (Minneapolis) #17601

ATTRACTIVE AND SUBMISSIVE I'm a submissive male in my early 30's looking for a dominant hung top man. If you like to take control please call me. I'm into French, Greek, golden showers, body worship, and many other kinky scenes. Call me sir. (Minneapolis) #17731

NEW KID IN TOWN I'm a 22 year old Gay White male, 6ft, 200lbs. I like to ride my bike, camp, go to amusement parks, etc. I seek men 18 to 35 to have fun and hang out with. Leave me a message. (Minneapolis) #18027

THE BUDDY SYSTEM Gay White couple seeking other young couples or singles for friendship, camping, outdoor sports, and good conversation. Call us. (Minneapolis) #15314

CURIOUS 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

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. (Minneapolis) #13129

MUSCLEMANIA GWM, body builder, 40, 5'11", 180, handsome and hairy, seeks muscle studs for submissive encounters. (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. (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. (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. (Minneapolis) #12529

IT'S A MAN'S WORLD I'm a Gay White male looking for guys in my area. I'm 5'8, 160lbs, clean cut, great shape, good looks. I'm looking for a buddy to kick back with. I'm a versatile, rugged, outdoor type. (Moorhead) #19183

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, stached, seeks masculine and well built truckers or construction workers for pleasure and satisfaction. Drug/Disease free a must! (Rochester) #12789

ALTERNATIVE GAY WHITE MALE 26 years old, 5'10, shaved Brown hair, Brown eyes, mustache, moderately hairy, slender, small waist, tattoo's, body piercing. I'm looking for alternative Gays 25 to 35 for casual fun and possibly more. Call me. (Saint Paul) #20565



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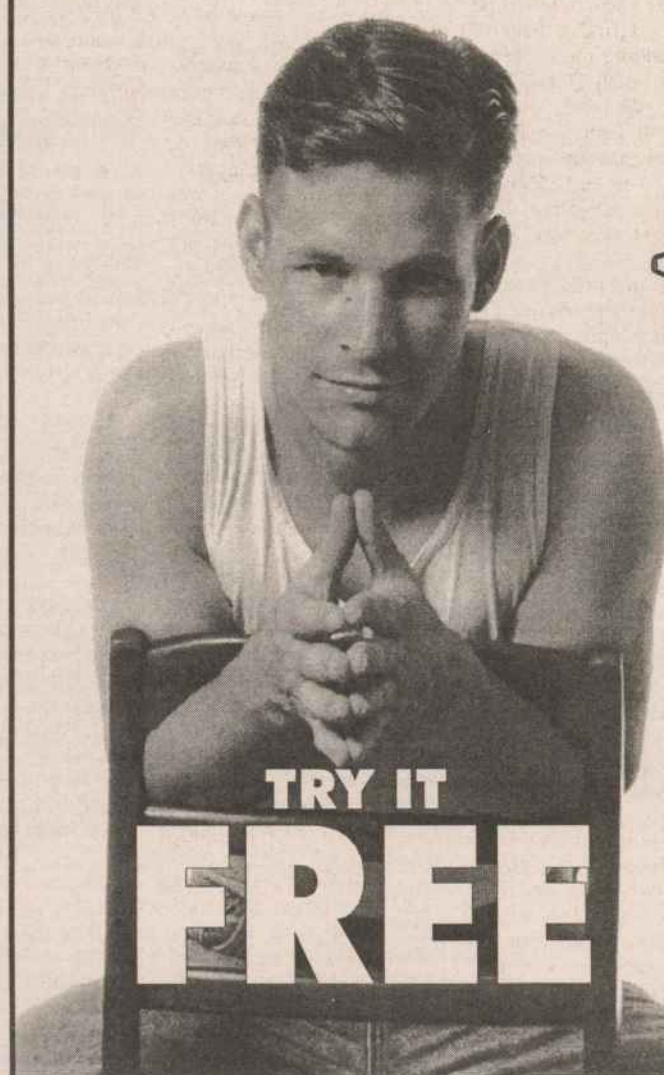
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Slowly, Very Slowly, The Closet Door Is Swinging Open in Professional Sports

By Steve Wilstein

East Lansing, MI—Two young women lay languidly in the sun along the 18th fairway, T-shirts rolled up above their bellies, arms and legs braided in a casual embrace.

Beth Daniel, and the gallery that followed her at this PGA tournament, paid no attention to the couple. On a Sunday when about half of the 27,000 spectators were lesbians, walking around together, holding hands, hugging and kissing, nothing about this couple seemed unusual.

Half a century after the color barrier was broken in baseball, a social shift of no less significance is occurring on playing fields and in locker rooms, in corporate offices and in public debate: the acceptance of homosexuality in sports.

It is happening slowly, with anger and denial on all sides of the issue, but the movement to end this most secret and powerful taboo in athletics cannot be stopped.

"We have to start talking about it," said Dr. Dee Mosbacher, a psychiatrist and producer of a documentary about homophobia in women's sports. "There are too many Gay and Lesbian athletes in sports for this to be ignored or hidden much longer. Ultimately, it's a question of justice and freedom and fairness."

Three of America's most famous male athletes—an NFL player, an NBA player and a track and field star—have been talking to *The Advocate* about coming out, according to its editor. As more and more Gay and Lesbian athletes follow, propelled by the scourge of AIDS and a younger generation's openness, the initial shock is certain to shatter the stereotypes of athletes and homosexuals.

Tennis player Gigi Fernandez came out when she appeared on stage with Martina Navratilova during the March on Washington in 1993. Fernandez's relationship with defending Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez had been an open secret on the women's tour among other players, writers and fans.

So, too, have been the sexual orientations of at least half a dozen other players among the top 50, though none have talked about it.

When asked if she's a role model for other Gay athletes to come out, Navratilova turned around and said, "I don't see any line forming behind me."

Daniel, the PGA Player of the Year in 1994, has a huge following among lesbians, but refused to discuss her sexual orientation when asked about it in a recent interview at the Oldsmobile Classic. She carried her own tape recorder to the interview, saying she had been misquoted before.

"I would just say that that's my personal business and it's no one else's business at all," Daniel said. "And I would feel that anyone would have the right to say that."

The possibility of losing endorsements was not a concern, she said, adding, "I just don't feel like whether I'm Gay or not should be an issue to people. I want people to watch me play golf for my golf skills, and I want to be able to give that to them... I find it hard to believe that someone is standing on the other side of the rope, going, 'Is Beth Daniel Gay or is she not Gay?'"

No one expects a flood of coming-out announcements right away, despite the fact that there have been more Gay men and lesbians in entertainment and politics revealing their sexual orientation in the past two years than in the previous two decades.

"Coming out is one of the best ways of fostering understanding inside and outside the Gay community, because if people know that Gay people are everywhere it becomes less of an issue than if they're only in certain arenas," said Jeff Yarborough, editor of *The Advocate*.

The sports world and the film industry are the two final frontiers—the sports world because it's the last bastion of heterosexuality in this country, and the movie industry because it's built on image.

The call for discussion and education about homosexuality in sports has been embraced by the Women's Sports Foundation, especially after the flap over CBS golf commentator Ben Wright's reported remarks that widespread lesbianism on the PGA Tour was hurting sponsorship. The debate that ensued illustrated the passion, fear and ignorance that the topic of homosexuality in sports engenders.

The issue in women's sports has been kept under the table for a long time by physical educators and athletes who fear the allegation of lesbianism, and by leaders of women's sports who would rather not be controversial," said the foundation's executive director, Donna Lopiano.

Yet Lopiano denied that lesbians appear to make up a large part of the crowds at many women's college basketball games, at PGA tournaments, and in women's softball leagues throughout the country.

"I think that's where you're playing into the stereotype," Lopiano said. "You're talking about appearance. You cannot stereotype by looks."

At the Oldsmobile Classic, where many

lesbians estimated their percentage of the crowd at more than 50 percent, some laughed at Lopiano's statement about appearances.

"That's ridiculous," said Tami Banovic, an "out-and-proud" 37-year-old lesbian from Lansing. "You can tell by the way we dress and the way we look. But even the ones that don't look it, you can tell. There's a camaraderie here. It's an uncommon, unspoken thing. I'm not saying I have radar on, but I can pick them out. I'm sure lesbian golfers can, too. They just can't talk about it."

There is a generation gap within the Gay and Lesbian communities. Those in their late teens and 20s, in general, are more comfortable with their sexual orientation than their elders, a trend that is likely to carry over to young athletes in colleges and the pros.

More established, older Gay athletes and coaches, meanwhile, fear that coming out will result in the same terrible consequences that befell former Green Bay Packers and Washington Redskins running back Dave Kopay in the 1970s.

The first pro athlete to acknowledge his homosexuality publicly, Kopay has felt blacklisted from the NFL. Instead of coaching in the league, he lives in West Hollywood and sells linoleum.

Despite all the sympathy and understanding that the public had for Greg Louganis, and all the popularity that Navratilova has gained in recent years, Gays and Lesbians worry that coming out would threaten their jobs, scare away sponsors and alienate teammates.

"It would destroy my career if people knew," confided a Gay member of one of the NFL's most successful coaching staffs. "I've got eyes and ears, and I'm sensitive to what goes on. I could tell you some names of players on our team that are very homophobic. I don't talk to anyone on the team about it, ever."

"There are some players who I wonder if they might be (homosexual), like the quarterback. I've heard things about him. But nobody talks about it. We're all too afraid."

Olympic women's basketball coach Tara VanDerveer, formerly head coach at Stanford, said one of the reasons Lesbian coaches are afraid of coming out is the fierce recruiting process.

"There are definitely people out there who will trash you, say things like, 'What's this person's lifestyle?' It's used by men, but also used by women against other women coaches," VanDerveer said.

Recruiters use homophobia to stir fears among parents and high school players of predatory behavior by coaches at rival schools, VanDerveer said. The Women's Sports Foundation last year issued an information packet discussing intimate relationships between coaches and athletes.

"It's part and parcel of the homophobia question," Lopiano said. "The truth of the matter is that it is absolutely inappropriate for any coach, teacher or authority figure, male or female, to engage in an intimate relationship or sexual encounter with a student."

The parents of a number of young women tennis players have worried about sending them out on the tour, said Seena Hamilton, founder and director of the Easter Bowl tournament for junior players.

"There are parents who wouldn't ever let their kids go out on the tour by themselves because they knew of other girls who were enticed by older players," Hamilton said.

"But I also know specifically of three girls under the age of 16 who were involved in affairs with male foreign coaches under USTA direction. That's also inappropriate. It's not just a homosexual problem."

The late Los Angeles Dodgers and Oakland Athletics outfielder Glenn Burke, the only major leaguer to acknowledge his homosexuality, wrote in his autobiography, *Out At Home*, that he knew of many Gay ballplayers—both when he played and currently in the majors.

"There is no sport that accepts Gays less than baseball," Burke wrote. "... Some of those (Gay) contemporaries of mine were superstars... Football seems to be a little more open about homosexuality than baseball, but not by much."

Burke claimed that of the four major team sports, the NFL had the most Gay players. Some insiders in the Gay community estimate that at least 50 NFL players are homosexual or bisexual.

"If all those players came out tomorrow, it wouldn't change the popularity of the NFL at all," said Nye Lavalley, president of the Sports Marketing Group in Dallas. "The public really doesn't care. There would be a 'Nightline,' a lot of stories, then we'd get on with our lives."

The three athletes in the NFL, NBA and in track and field who have been talking with *The Advocate* are worried about different problems if they come out.

"The basketball player and football player are really terrified, more of the reaction from their team than the reaction from the media," said Yarborough, who did not disclose their

names. "They're afraid of walking into the locker room and getting called a fag. That will hurt them. In the sports world, they're household names. With the track and field star, the issue is endorsements. He doesn't know what will happen if he comes out, but that conversation is very active."

Since Wright's reported comments, more people are calling for Gay and Lesbian athletes to end the secrecy that contributes to the stigma of homosexuality, said Gary Reese, Gay author of *The Uneven Playing Field: Homosexuality in the Sports World*.

"That's a valid point to make," Reese said. "On the other hand, if the players don't feel that they have an atmosphere of acceptance and understanding that they can step into, we really are expecting a lot of them. It's just as legitimate to ask why their teammates or colleagues can't say ahead of time, 'It doesn't make any difference to me.' Why does a Gay player have to walk the plank, take the leap into the unknown?"

Reese sees signs of change and greater ac-

Does the High Court's Amendment 2 Decision Mean the End to the Military's Gay Ban?

Commentary by Ron Davis, Esq.

On May 20th, the Supreme Court, on equal protection grounds, struck down Amendment 2, Colorado's constitutional amendment that barred the state and local governments from protecting homosexuals from discrimination.

As a result of "Romer v. Evans," the government will now have a more difficult time justifying anti-Gay laws. But it remains to be seen just how far the high court will go in applying equal protection to Gay people.

The next big test likely will be "don't ask, don't tell," the law that bars open homosexuals from military service. As positive a statement for homosexual rights as "Romer v. Evans" is—and it truly is a landmark decision—it does not necessarily predict an overturning of the military's Gay ban.

History indicates that the "Romer v. Evans" majority may not hold together in a "don't ask, don't tell" case. Justice Sandra O'Connor voted to strike down Amendment 2. Yet, she remains one of the only two Justices still on the Supreme Court responsible for the 1986 "Hardwick v. Bowers" decision that upheld Georgia's sodomy law (Chief Justice William Rehnquist is the other).

Perhaps Justice O'Connor's stance in the Colorado case indicates that she, like many Americans over the past ten years, has become more informed about and tolerant of Gay people. But given her "Hardwick" vote, it is impossible to really count on Justice O'Connor to help overturn "don't ask, don't tell."

Justice Anthony Kennedy likewise voted to strike down Amendment 2. In fact, he wrote the majority decision. But Justice Kennedy (a 1988 Ronald Reagan appointee), like Justice O'Connor (a 1981 Reagan appointee), has previously voted against Gay rights in a crucial case.

In 1980, when still a judge on the Ninth Circuit Appeals Court, Justice Kennedy, in "Beller v. Middendorf," voted to uphold the policy excluding homosexuals from military service.

In his book *Conduct Unbecoming*, Randy Shilts describes Kennedy's "Beller v. Middendorf" ruling as "the most significant disaster" up to that time in the fight to overturn the military's Gay ban.

And it was. In all the hoopla and speculation surrounding the Colorado Amendment 2 decision and what it might possibly mean to future Gay rights cases, legal analysts should keep in mind "Beller v. Middendorf." Justice Kennedy's ruling in that case seems to predict that the author of "Romer v. Evans" will switch sides and vote to uphold "don't ask, don't tell."

Rational Basis

Further, it is enormously significant that the Court in "Romer v. Evans" chose to use the "rational basis" standard of constitutional review to judge laws that single out Gays for discrimination.

Rational basis is the most lenient standard available. When courts employ it, they must uphold laws that are somehow related to furthering a permissible government objective.

Moreover, what is "a permissible government objective" generally is relaxed in cases involving the military because courts traditionally defer to the armed forces.

As Justice Kennedy explained in upholding the Gay ban in "Beller v. Middendorf," "the nature of the employer—the Navy—is crucial to our decision. What it is clear that one does not surrender his or her constitutional rights upon entering the military, the Supreme Court

has repeatedly held that constitutional rights must be viewed in light of the special circumstances and needs of the armed forces."

If the Supreme Court uses rational basis to judge the constitutionality of "don't ask, don't tell," it probably will uphold the law on grounds that it is rationally related to furthering the permissible government objective of maintaining the good order, discipline, and morale of the armed forces.

Under strict scrutiny the federal government probably cannot successfully defend "don't ask, don't tell." So the "Romer" Court's failure to apply this heightened standard of constitutional review to anti-Gay laws is not a very good sign at all for those opposed to the military's Gay ban.

In conclusion, the strong wording of the Colorado Amendment 2 decision offers opponents of "don't ask, don't tell" some real cause for optimism. But Justice O'Connor's "Hardwick v. Bowers" vote and Justice Kennedy's "Beller v. Middendorf" opinion, combined with the Supreme Court's refusal to strictly scrutinize anti-Gay laws, means "Romer v. Evans" probably does not predict an overturning of the military's Gay ban.

A Deal on the Court?

To the contrary, I wonder if a deal has been struck at the high court? The constitutional challenges to "don't ask, don't tell" have, in some cases, already reached the appellate level. The justices who voted to strike down Amendment 2 did so knowing full well that they will soon have the opportunity to rule on Gays in the military.

In return for establishing the general principle that homosexuals should not be discriminated against, are the centerist Supreme Court justices now prepared to side with the conservatives in upholding "don't ask, don't tell?"

Ron Davis is an attorney in private practice in Bethesda, Maryland.

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Ron Davis is an attorney in private practice in Bethesda, Maryland.

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ALIENS

Continued from Page 26

of them out on the ground, but then...one comes down and kind of reveals himself to be alive when he seems to be dead and sort of takes over this guy and certain people get to shoot at him after he does some mean things and articulates their plan, which is to parasitically invade the population and take over Earth.

And they've got their whole culture on these enormous ships. They've come here, they're ready to go and they don't want anybody else here," according to Goldblum.

NEW HARVEST

Continued from Page 1

The video, which will be an important tool in the endowment campaign, was the work of videographer and board member Melissa Dopp, and was produced through the facilities of Capitol Lights Productions.

"Our endowment campaign is a landmark development on the road to our long-term stability and maturity as a foundation," said New Harvest co-chair John Fernsler. "Several generous contributors have laid the base for the endowment, which will eventually be a major source of on-going revenue for the foundation, and the important work we fund in the community."

"One of the most satisfying aspects of our event was that it brought our supporters together in common cause," said co-chair Cris Derrick. "And in the months ahead, we hope to reach out into the community to involve

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more and more of the LesBiGay community in our efforts."

"There are a variety of ways that people can become involved," Derrick added. "By volunteering their time and talent, through their tax deductible contributions, by donating to the newly established endowment, through bequests and other planned giving, and by connecting use with deserving organizations and projects."

For more information, call New Harvest at (608) 256-4204 or write to P.O. Box 1786, Madison, WI 53701.

MADISON PARKS

Continued from Page 1

While the ordinance is dead, the issue remains. Smith issues a warning to potential cruisers "The ordinance may be defeated but that hasn't stop the Police from continuing their harassment. It still isn't safe for unwary men out to enjoy the park."

Some in the Gay community responded to the proposed ordinance by starting an ad hoc group, Save Our Space (SOS). Members of the group wrote letters to local papers, appeared on radio and TV, testified during public hearings, met with the Police and researched the issue.

"Basically they started busting people left and right and people were getting \$500 fines," said SOS Leader, area businessman, David Smith. "It wasn't just sex in the parks, it even included locking your bike to a tree and being in the park after hours. But clearly the focus was on harassing Gay men."

Olin Turville Woods was the focus of the Police activity. The police and the **Wisconsin State Journal** launched an effort to focus attention on Gay men having sex in the Woods. Periodic stories in *The Journal* like one that quoted Park employees who claimed that they found pornography in the waste baskets kept the issue alive. These stories were soon augmented by local TV and radio coverage.

Smith says that many in the Gay community didn't care about the issue. They weren't willing to defend men getting arrested for allegedly having sex in a park. He takes exception to that. "The area being used here was very

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remote. I sincerely wonder if its appropriate for the Police to go sneaking around trying to arrest people for having sex in public when in fact they are totally hidden from view."

Due to Verveer's opposition, the proposal was watered down and the six month "banishment" was changed to 24 hours and then to no time limit at all. Under the provisions of the final version of the proposal, Madison Police would have been able to banish someone from Madison parks for an indefinite time.

The ordinance would have allowed the Police to order individuals out of the parks and give them a fine of up to \$250.00 if they reentered any parks.



MIKE VERVEER

"To some extent the last proposal was the worst," said Verveer. "It left it up to the discretion of a Police officer. In theory, an officer could give someone a ticket a year after having ordered them to leave."

It was that concern along with others that helped Verveer, convince Madison Mayor Paul Soglin and even the sponsors of the proposal to kill the idea.

Verveer argued that the ordinance was unconstitutional and that there was no possibility of bringing into conformance with the constitution.

"If this had passed there is no doubt we would have spent a considerable sum of money defending the City against a law suit from the ACLU," said Ald. Verveer. "It seems pointless to pass a law that you know will be thrown out as invalid. This was just another conservative attempt to waste taxpayer dollars by oppressing those who have the least amount of power."

HOTEL

Continued from Page 1

found. "We received letters from all over the country. Everyone of them urged us to rebuild. The outpouring of support has really helped buoy our spirits."

The "New" Hotel Washington

The current plans call for adding a fourth floor and an expansion eastward. The Citgo station adjacent to the hotel, sits on land owned by the Scheels. The station will be razed to create more room for the rebuilt complex.

The new Hotel Washington will have the feel and look of the old one. "We will keep the parapets, the deck and patio, the balconies outside of the rooms, even the same color brick that was used in the original construction," said Sherry Scheel. "The Cafe Palms, the New Bar, Rods, Club DeWash and the Barber's Closet in fact all of the businesses that were there will be there again."

While all of these businesses will get more spacious quarters in the new complex, most of the extra space will be used to meet City Codes, doubling the number of hotel rooms, (from 22 to 44) and to provide greater access for the differently abled.

The Scheels are working hard to clear away the last of the obstacles standing in their way. "We had such a quick start. "We went through the city permit process quite quickly," said Sherry. "We didn't get preferential treatment, we had our act together. Its so frustrating now waiting," adds Greg.

One of the things the Scheels are waiting for is a waiver of a HUD Deed Restriction. In 1992, the City of Madison approved a HUD Loan to the Scheels for \$174,000. The money covered part of the cost incurred to remodel 10 of the Hotel's rooms. The rooms were to be used for low income housing for 10 years. Because of the fire, they were only used for 3 years and a special HUD waiver is needed to lift the restriction.

"We didn't even know about this until we tried to pay back the loan" said Greg "When we tried to give a check to the City, they told us they couldn't accept it without HUD's permission."

In May, 1996 the Madison City Council passed a resolution sponsored by Verveer. It put the City on record asking HUD to lift the waiver. On May 17, Madison Mayor Paul Soglin sent HUD a letter asking the agency to lift the restriction.

In addition to Verveer, Mayor Paul Soglin and the Madison City Council, the Scheels have also gotten help from Congressman Scott

Klug, and Senator Russ Feingold. "Special credit is owed to Feingold's office," Greg said. "Mary Murphy called us to offer her help even before we had a chance to ask for it."

Waiver Approval Expected Soon

Lana Vacha from HUD's Milwaukee office told Light that a letter requesting the waiver was sent to HUD in Washington on May 23rd. "Usually we get a response in 30 days. We haven't heard yet, but this is not a complicated request. This sort of thing happens all the time. Its unfortunate but buildings do burn down. I really don't anticipate any problems with waiving the restriction."

Financing Package Being Put Together

The Deed Restriction issue has not, however, kept the Scheels from making progress on financing the rebuilding. They are seeking \$3,000,000 in financing from Associated Bank and the Small Business Administration. An additional \$2,000,000 would be raised through various other sources both governmental and private.

Beth Korth, Vice President of Business Financing, at Associated Bank is helping to put together the financing package. Korth said the Deed Restriction is a concern but not a major obstacle to putting together the needed funds. "The Bank is making a very sincere effort to find the funding. We believe that it can come together," said Korth.

Putting together a finance package for a major project like the Hotel Washington isn't easy. Korth has been dealing with the many players involved in the financing effort,

"There are so many groups the City of Madison, the Federal Government, a local utility company and others all working on pieces of this. When you have that many people and organizations involved it gets very complicated. It just can't be done that quickly," Korth said.

Korth confirmed information received by Light that she expected to make a presentation to the bank's loan committee during the first week of July.

City Help Sought

The Scheels are also asking for a TIF grant from the City. A TIF grant is tool used by local governments to help finance redevelopment projects. Verveer is working hard to get the TIF approved.

One opponent, City Alderman, Mike Ellestad, has vowed to oppose any city help from the Hotel's rebuilding effort. Ellestad claimed that the expected grant would be "special treatment."

According to Ellestad. "The Soglin and Verveer crowd pushed through the HUD waiver resolution and this is special treatment for certain types of people."

Verveer whose district includes the Hotel Washington site, was instrumental in gaining quick City approval for the needed permits and licensing. He denies that helping the Hotel rebuild constitutes special treatment.

"The Hotel has been a good corporate citizen of the community. It contributes hundreds of jobs to the local economy and pays its taxes on time. As an Alderman its my job to help all of my constituents. I would take the same actions for any business in this situation," Verveer said.

Verveer is confident that the City will approve the TIF money.

"The Mayor has already indicated he is in support., and the Hotel means so much to so many people from those who get jobs there, to live music lovers, and of course to the LesBiGay community as well. I can't imagine the Madison City Council not offering its assistance," Verveer said.

The Scheels are still battling to recover the limits of their insurance settlement. The Hotel's insurance carrier, Indiana Insurance, has paid out the policy limits for the physical damage. Scheel maintains that he is owed \$175,000 on the Business Interruption portion of the policy. "They paid us \$200,000 on the Business Interruption Insurance, but we are owed more. Every time I give them the information they say they need, they come up with more requests."

Scheel has hired an Insurance Consultant to review the policy and help in getting the company to pay to its limits.

A Frustrating Wait

While they wait, the Scheels keep working on the new plans. They have kept some of their employees on the payroll so they will be available to help with the rebuilding. But they are frustrated by the wait. Typically they are just as worried about others as they are about themselves.

As Greg Scheel put it "One of my frustrations is that in the past we have helped so many different groups like the Rodney Scheel house, MASN (Madison AIDS Support Network), The United and other important groups and even non-Gay groups such as the Brier Patch, a home for teen runaways, the Heart Association and the MS Foundation. Now we are not in a position to be very helpful, but helping others has always been a big part of my life and of the Hotel Washington's existence. Now I am the one who needs help."

At this point in time there are many solid indications that help will soon be arriving. When it does, the Hotel Washington will rise again from the ashes.

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Our Community Should Support Neither the Democrats Or the Republicans

Commentary by Scott D. Gunkel

As an activist in this community for over 13 years, I have expressed my concerns about many issues that effect our community. I have personally worked on many political campaigns and many community organizations. So, when I recently received a letter from the Democratic National Committee soliciting me to support the President's re-election campaign with both my time and money, I felt I had to write.

While it is true that President Clinton has done many things for this community, it is also true that he has done many things to this community.

Candidate Clinton supported an end to the ban in the military against homosexuals which would have made it possible for us to serve our country with honor.

However, not only did President Clinton settle on the current "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, which allows the witch hunts to continue, he also told the U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno to enforce this policy in case after case.

President Clinton has appointed more openly Gays and Lesbians to Administration jobs—over 100. He was not able to find the time to attend the historic 1993 March on Washington—or maybe he was afraid to meet with the community en masse—over one million.

President Clinton held meetings with our community leaders in the White House, which is good, but . . .

At one of those meetings these same leaders were greeted with security personnel wearing rubber gloves. Why did the Administration not inform its security staff on the ways in which AIDS is transmitted?

President Clinton nominated an open Lesbian to the U.S. District Court in New York,

making her the first open Lesbian or Gay judge in the nation's history.

However, Clinton was deafly silent and inactive about Colorado's Amendment 2. While he had a perfect opportunity to show that he opposes bigotry at all levels, much less making an amendment re-enforcing it, he failed to do so.

President Clinton has approved and supported an increase in the Ryan White CARE programs. However, as a candidate, he stated that he would create and support a Manhattan-type project to bring about the end to AIDS. Not only has he not done this, but his AIDS czar seems to be a title position with no power behind it.

And yes, while candidate Clinton stated that he did not support same-sex marriages, something that I cannot seem to find in writing anywhere, he did not tell this community that he would support legislation that would outlaw same-sex marriages, thus disallowing our community the equal protections and benefits that our heterosexual counterparts now take for granted.

I do not know about anyone else, but I am tired of being treated like a second class person. President Clinton with one hand, tries to raise us up, while with the other hand, he holds us down. A real friend would not just throw platitudes and parties for our community, but would make sure that we are treated and respected the same as everyone else.

Being treated like everyone else means supporting Gays and Lesbians in the military, same-sex marriages, and having a real AIDS program for this nation.

The bottom line to all this is that our community should no longer support President Clinton.

We also cannot support Bob Dole because we know what an enemy of our community he is.

The only thing to do is to support a third party candidate. For my part, that will be Ralph Nader.

Nader is not a politician beholdng to any special interest group or to either party. He has been working on behalf of the people of this nation for over 25 years and he knows how to deal with Washington, D.C. He stands for progressive change in this country, not regressive change, like the Republicans do. And he will bring up issues and keep them before the public; issues that would otherwise not be debated at all.

Finally, if supporting Nader would lead to Dole being elected, well I have survived eight years of the most regressive Administration in my lifetime, that of Ronald --- "I cannot remember that I killed thousands of people by ignoring the AIDS pandemic—Reagan, I think I can survive four years of Bob Dole.

And just maybe the Democrats, who say they support us, might just understand that we want real support, not just slogans.

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Presbyterian General Assembly to Focus on Gay and Lesbian Issues

Albuquerque, NM—Presbyterian Rev. Laurene Lafontaine considers her homosexuality a gift. But her colleague in the clergy, the Rev. John Clark Poling, believes being Gay is a sin.

Their differences hit at the heart of the division in the Presbyterian Church (USA) over leadership roles for Gays and Lesbians. The issue is expected to dominate the 208th General Assembly—the church's annual decision-making conference.

The 568 elected commissioners, or delegates, will be faced with the question of whether "self-affirming, practicing homosexual persons" should be ordained as deacons, elders or ministers. The eight-day meeting opens Saturday, June 29 and runs through July 6, with final debate and action on the issue scheduled for July 5.

"Our hope is to get through it without the anger boiling over," said Poling, a Las Cruces, New Mexico, pastor.

"I'm saying our church needs to begin an active ministry to help Gays look at changing their behaviors," said Poling, one three candidates for moderator, the highest position of Presbyterian Church (USA).

But Presbyterian Gay and Lesbian advocates, some of whom have dubbed themselves "Presbyqueerians and Lesbiterians," say they don't need Poling, or anyone else, to change their sexual orientation.

"I believe I was born Lesbian and for many years I tried to be heterosexual," said Lafontaine, a Denver pastor.

"Now I repent denying who God created me to be," she said. "That is my sin. After coming out, I was no longer sinning. I definitely see being Lesbian not as a sin, but as a gift."

While church officials have long welcomed Gay and Lesbian members, the General Assembly policy has been that "self-affirming, practicing homosexuals" are ineligible for ordination.

However, the ban has never been placed in

the church's "Book of Order," or constitution. It gives the responsibility to ordain deacons and elders to congregations and the authority to ordain ministers to presbyteries, the 171 geographic governing bodies of the church.

Forty-five overtures on Gay ordination have been submitted to the General Assembly by presbyteries. Of those, 24 propose amendments to the "Book of Order" that would make the ban on Gay and Lesbian ordination constitutionally explicit, and 20 favor letting congregations and presbyteries continue to make their own decisions about whom to ordain. The remaining overture asks no action be taken and a three-year study period begun in 1993 be extended.

In recent years, some pastors have come forward and told their congregations they are Gay, while others were ordained after coming out. There are about 20 openly Gay pastors within the church.

In addition to the debate on the roles of homosexuals in the church and the election of a moderator to succeed Marj Carpenter of Big Spring, Texas, the General Assembly will elect a new stated clerk to succeed the Rev. James E. Andrews, who is retiring after 12 years as the church's top ecclesiastical official.

The General Assembly also will be asked to approve expanding the functions of commissioned lay pastors to include such things as performing baptisms and marriages.

It also will be asked to consider a policy paper on sustainable human development that examines the social, economic and ecological effects of U.S. international economic policies on the world's poorest nations and recommends direction for reform.

Presbyterian Church (USA) has about 3 million U.S. members. By comparison, the United Methodist Church has about 10 million members and the Roman Catholic Church has about 48 million members in the United States.

In This Election Year, Let's Start Putting Political Stereotypes to the Test

Commentary by
Richard E. Sincere, Jr.

Stereotypes are pervasive in American political culture. When we stereotype people we make it easy to draw conclusions about them. An economist might argue that stereotypes reduce intellectual transaction costs. Unfortunately, stereotypes are often inaccurate — as a result, they obstruct clear thinking and make useful dialogue fuzzy.

For instance, a common stereotype is that African-Americans are all liberals who always vote Democratic. Then what explains Representatives Gary Franks (R-CT) and J.C. Watts (R-OK), two members of Congress who are both black and conservative? Other counterexamples abound, from conservative economists Thomas Sowell and Walter Williams to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, who has been denounced as an "Uncle Tom" for his audacity to think independently.

Take another example: All rich people are conservative Republicans. That may come as a surprise to Senators Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), two of the wealthiest members of Congress — and two of the Senate's most liberal members.

Any of us can offer similar stereotypes: All Jews are liberal. All Hollywood celebrities are Democrats. All computer programmers are Libertarians. The list is endless, it seems.

One stereotype that endures largely because those who are stereotyped nurture the image is this one: All Gays and Lesbians are liberal Democrats. Certainly, if one listens only to the self-appointed leaders of national Gay rights groups (such as the Human Rights Campaign or the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force), it would be hard to disagree with that assessment. Yet the facts prove otherwise.

The Gay and Lesbian community is actually far more diverse in its political and economic philosophy. Though they are not as richly endowed financially, groups such as the Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) and Gays and Lesbians for Individual Liberty (GLIL) offer themselves as alternatives to the left-liberal agenda pursued by the "big" Gay rights groups. And individuals who belong to no organized groups at all are as likely to vote Republican as Democratic — in fact, polls after the 1994 congressional elections showed that more than a third of self-identified Gay voters cast their ballots for Republican candidates. This is news from a group assumed to be in the Democrat's left pocket.

Now along come author Bruce Bawer and companions, who make a serious intellectual effort to challenge "Gay left orthodoxy." In *Beyond Queer* (The Free Press, \$24.50), Bawer has assembled 40 essays by a wide variety of writers, all of whom question the

received wisdom that being Gay and being liberal are always and everywhere linked.

The essays are drawn from a number of different sources, from the *Washington Post* to *Reason* magazine to *The New Republic* to Chicago's *Windy City Times*. The writers are Gay and straight, male and female, Christian and Jewish, liberal and conservative. All convey the message, as one activist recently put it, that just being Gay doesn't mean one must oppose "welfare reform, a flat tax, and smaller government."

These essays are particularly pointed in light of the recent debate on the legalization of same-sex marriage. This debate, while not launched by the Gay rights movement, has thrust Gay and Lesbian activists and intellectuals into a brighter spotlight than they have seen in a long time. Even the controversy on Gays in the military did not have such a sharp edge.

It is to Bawer's credit that, in putting together this anthology long before the marriage debate became so public, he included trenchant essays on the topic by Andrew Sullivan, former Bush White House official James Pinkerton, and Jonathan Rauch. Their contributions bring intellectual rigor to a debate that has been characterized, frankly, by hyperbole and emotion rather than reason and common sense. (One social conservative told a rally in Iowa that legalizing Gay marriage would mean "the end of civilization as we know it" — hardly a claim supportable by either evidence or logic.)

When Americans have real, compelling problems facing them — such as jobs for the rising generation, keeping Social Security solvent, and preventing the further decay of our inner cities — the freedom of Gay men and Lesbians to marry is surely near the bottom of the list of legitimate worries. It is hard to understand why conservatives have made it such a key issue in this election year — except that, as a scare tactic, it's a terrific fund-raising device.

At the same time, the Gay and Lesbian leadership elite make common cause with radical feminists, pro-Castro Marxists, and fringe elements from every discredited left-wing cause. They try to dismiss Gay libertarians and conservatives as unimportant — yet as *Beyond Queer* shows, it is hard to dismiss clear thinking and genuine social concerns emanating from Gay people who are not "of the left." Bawer and his colleagues have done a great service by dispelling the stereotypes that have infected our political discourse. ▽



Openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin (seen above wearing a red top and white pants) held a garden party at her home on Saturday June 22. The party raised badly need money for GALVANize and its Madison Pride Celebration. Thanks Tammy! Madison's Pride Parade will be on Sunday June 21. The parade will be preceded by a 1:30 rally at the State Capitol building and followed by entertainment at the end of its State Street route.

AIDS Sweeping Africa, Killing Thousands and Straining Governments' Resources

Harare, Zimbabwe—The skeletal young man with jerking, sweat-drenched limbs waited four hours for care in the emergency room of Harare's main hospital.

He finally made it to a ward with other AIDS sufferers, where he spent a few days before being sent home to die. With him went a leaflet on basic AIDS care with tips for those unable to afford medication, such as sucking overripe tomatoes to soothe mouth lesions.

Zimbabwe's state hospitals and clinics offer little else for victims of "mukondombera"—which means "the big kill" in the local Shona language.

AIDS has spread so far and fast in the southern African nation that government resources and medical care cannot keep up.

No one is exempt—soldiers, scholars, politicians, babies in the womb are being infected. In a chilling example of priorities, the handful of AIDS patients requiring expensive kidney dialysis treatment have been cut off by the government, which decided it could not afford to spend scarce health funds on dying people.

The situation is similar in other impoverished African nations where AIDS is rampant and the governments are short of money for treatment or even education campaigns. Zimbabwe now has the highest infection rate in Africa, partly because horrendous death tolls in Uganda and other spots in central Africa have wiped out many of the afflicted.

At the end of 1995, nearly 97 of every 100,000 people in Zimbabwe were infected with the AIDS virus, the World Health Organization says. The number was 66 in Botswana, 58 in Congo, 49 in Malawi, 45 in Ivory Coast, 33 in Togo, 25 in Kenya, 24 in Guinea-Bissau, 23 in Uganda and 20 in Chad.

In comparison, the United States had a rate of almost 23 for every 100,000 people. But health experts stress that WHO's figures are based only on reported cases, and the U.N. agency says African nations grossly understate their AIDS cases.

Health Minister Timothy Stamps estimates that by the end of this year, the epidemic that began in the early 1980s will have killed 270,000 of Zimbabwe's 10.8 million people.

At least 300 victims die each week, according to official statistics, and the actual figure is believed to be two or three times higher because many people do not disclose they have the disease. By contrast, a little over 800 people die from AIDS each week in the United States, which has nearly 25 times the population.

Up to 60 percent of Zimbabwe's military is believed infected with the AIDS virus and AIDS-related diseases are also prevalent in poor areas rife with prostitution and traversed by trucks.

In the cities, one in three babies born in government clinics is infected in the womb and will die before age 5, doctors say. An estimated 25 percent of urban adults aged 19-45 have contracted the AIDS virus, mostly from heterosexual promiscuity rooted in polygamous African traditions that idolize sexual conquest.

President Robert Mugabe's government encourages voluntary testing but shies from mandatory examinations, saying that could lead to discrimination against infected people. The government also worries about creating a moral obligation to provide care it cannot afford.

Superstition, ignorance and fear are hindering attempts to educate people about pre-

venting AIDS.

Helen Jackson, director of SAFAIDS, a southern African AIDS information service, said many people wrongly believe AIDS can be spread by coughs and sneezes, by everyday contact at school or work and by toilet seats, telephones, towels, cutlery, cups and glasses.

"People are afraid of telling anyone (they are infected) because they will be ostracized by colleagues and friends," she said.

Stamps, the health minister, pointed out that using condoms is sneered at in sexual custom that emphasizes "skin to skin" contact.

"You don't take a shower with a raincoat on. One hears this quite a lot," he said. "But I think things will change. Human nature is such that even the most obtuse person will eventually avoid things that kill him."

Unlike some regions of central Africa, AIDS has yet to reach epidemic proportions that wipe out villages and communities. But the U.N. Children's Fund forecasts that by the end of the decade, Zimbabwe will have more than 500,000 AIDS orphans, about 5 percent of the population.

The independent National AIDS Coordination Program believes AIDS will reduce average life expectancy from 68 now to 40 within years. It says that could cancel out one of Africa's highest birth rates—3 percent, which produces an average of six children per family.

Many teachers, engineers and top ranking professionals, including prominent politicians, have died from AIDS. Poor migrant workers forced to live apart from their families also are in the high-risk category.

"AIDS is attacking the vital areas of our economy," Stamps said. "The disease is coming to its maturity after a peak infection period in the late 1980s and early 1990s."

Since 1985, numerous public figures, entertainers, television stars and at least three government ministers have died from AIDS complications, but each time the secondary infection was given as the cause.

Only one personality, David Mankaba of the Bhundu Boys pop group, publicly admitted he had AIDS. On April 6, Vice President Joshua Nkomo became the first prominent person to announce an AIDS death in the family—his son Edward Thutani, 41, a prominent former guerrilla and businessman.

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