

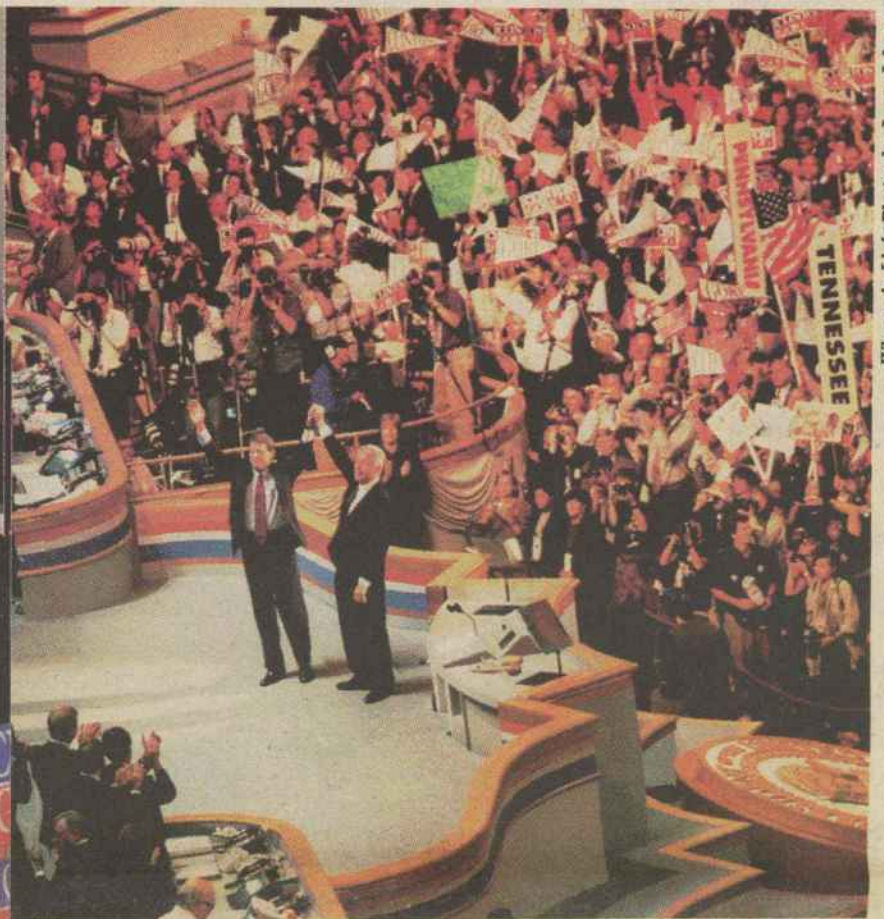
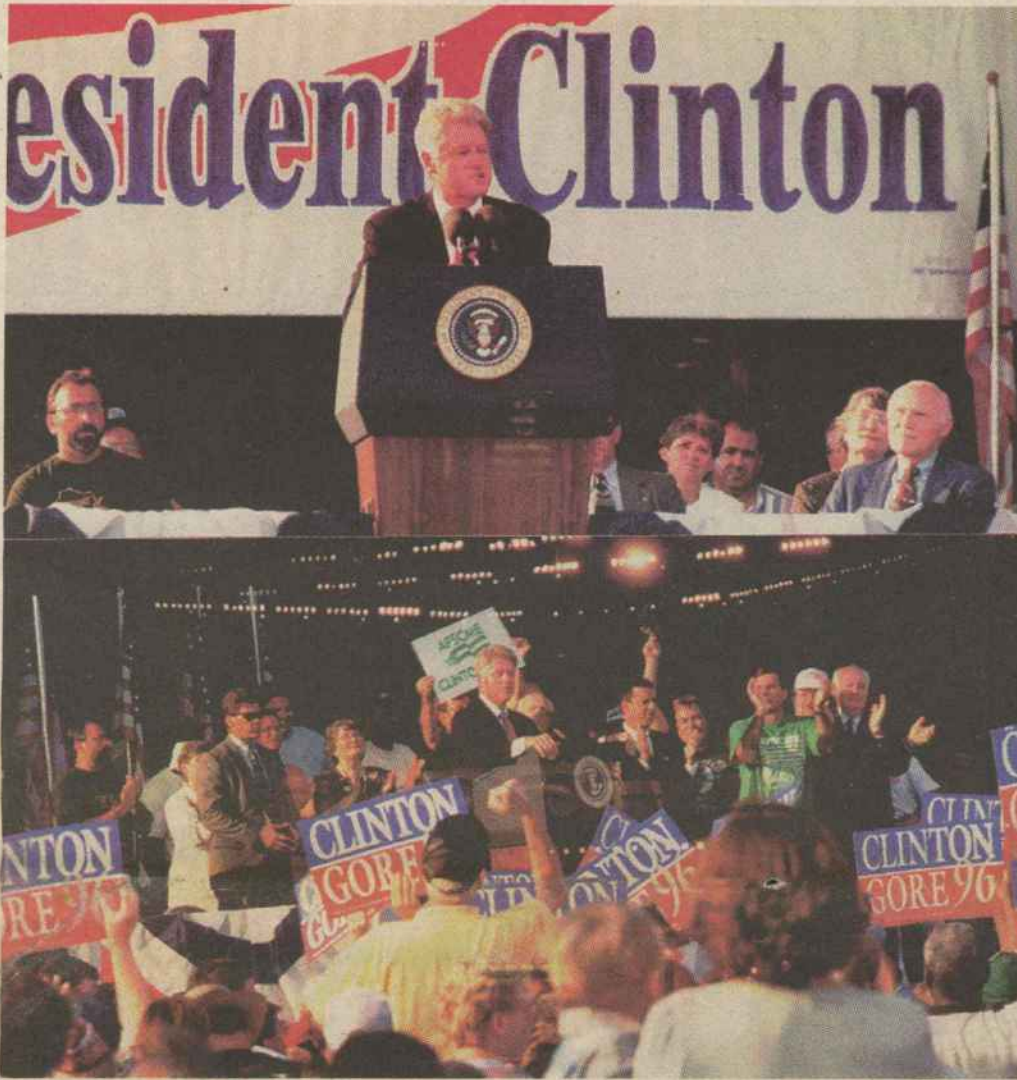


Give the People Light and they will find their own way.

# The Wisconsin Light

## Democrats Court Les/Bi/Gay Voters

Exclusive *Wisconsin Light* On the Scene Convention Coverage: Interviews, Articles and Photos



Wisconsin Light Photos by Jerry Johnson

The Campaign begins. The 1996 Presidential Election Campaign has now begun in earnest. Shown above are scenes from President Clinton's Labor Day appearance at Milwaukee's Labor Fest held at Henry W. Maier Festival Park. Shown at the right are President Clinton and Vice President Gore on the final night of the Democratic Convention held in Chicago, August 26 thru August 29. This issue of *The Wisconsin Light* contains over 50 of our exclusive full color pictures taken by our photographers, in addition to numerous quotes gathered by our staff during interviews they conducted at the Convention.

### Republican Senate Leaders Give Les/Bi/Gay Rights A Double Defeat

As "*The Wisconsin Light*" prepared to go press the United States Senate took two historic votes on Gay and Lesbian rights. The story below is the result of exclusive interviews conducted by the "*Light*" with staff members of the National Gay Lesbian Task Force and the Human Rights Campaign and others involved in the vote.

By Bill Meunier

Washington DC— Senate Republican leaders handed advocates of Gay and Lesbian Rights a double defeat when the Senate rejected ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and passed DOMA, the Defense of Marriage Act.

Nevertheless, lobbyists and Gay organizers in the nation's capitol have told *The Wis-*

consin *Light* that they can still find reasons for optimism.

ENDA, the major national legislative priority for Les/Bi/Gay organizations, and the top civil rights priority for the Clinton administration would have outlawed employment discrimination directed against Gays and Lesbians.

ENDA lost by just one vote, when 49 Senators voted in favor and 50 voted against.

#### Democrats Supported ENDA

Out of 47 Democrats in the Senate only four voted against ENDA. Keeping in step with the Republican Senate leadership only seven of the 53 Republican Senators voted to end employment discrimination against Gays.

DOMA passed by a vote of 85 to 14. All fourteen opponents were Democrats.

Wisconsin Senators Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold voted for ENDA. Kohl also voted for DOMA while Feingold voted and spoke out against it.

One Senator, David Pryor of Arkansas, missed the votes. Pryor who was expected to vote in favor of ENDA, was with a sick child back in his home state.

#### President Clinton Fought For ENDA

The drama of the ENDA vote followed a blitz of lobbying activity. Sources in Washington, told *The Wisconsin Light*, that in keeping with his promise to the Gay community, President Clinton ordered his staff to make phone calls to Senators asking them to vote for ENDA. The President's lobbyists augmented a phalanx of Gay and Lesbian organizers and lobbyists from the Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay Lesbian Task Force, GLAAD, the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and other

Please Turn to Senate Vote on Page 24

### An Open Letter to Our Readers:

In this issue of *The Wisconsin Light*, in addition to our regular features you will find a wealth of information on the Democratic National Convention that you will see in no other place. Our dedicated staff spent nearly a week in Chicago, to bring you the complete behind the scenes story of what went on.

*The Wisconsin Light* is proud to say that unlike some others, it did not buy someone's packaged perspective. Our staff made the short trip to Chicago. To better serve you, we wanted to be on the scene to experience, photograph and write about the convention from a Wisconsin perspective.

We are also proud that many of our national leaders knew who we were, telling us that they pick up *The Wisconsin Light* at bookstores in Washington because it's one of the few Les/Bi/Gay papers in the country to do more than just reprint press releases. As one put it "You guys actually are a newspaper, you actually inform people and write about real news."

Our coverage includes exclusive interviews with Cabinet Members, elected officials, and national Les/Bi/Gay leaders. It also includes exclusive photos, and the inside story of the Convention from the floor of the Hall, to the Caucus rooms, to the parties.

We hope that you are as proud of our effort to bring you to whole story as we are to present it to you. With this election being so critical for all of us, we urge you to read this entire issue carefully. Only an informed people can make an informed choice in November. Good reading!

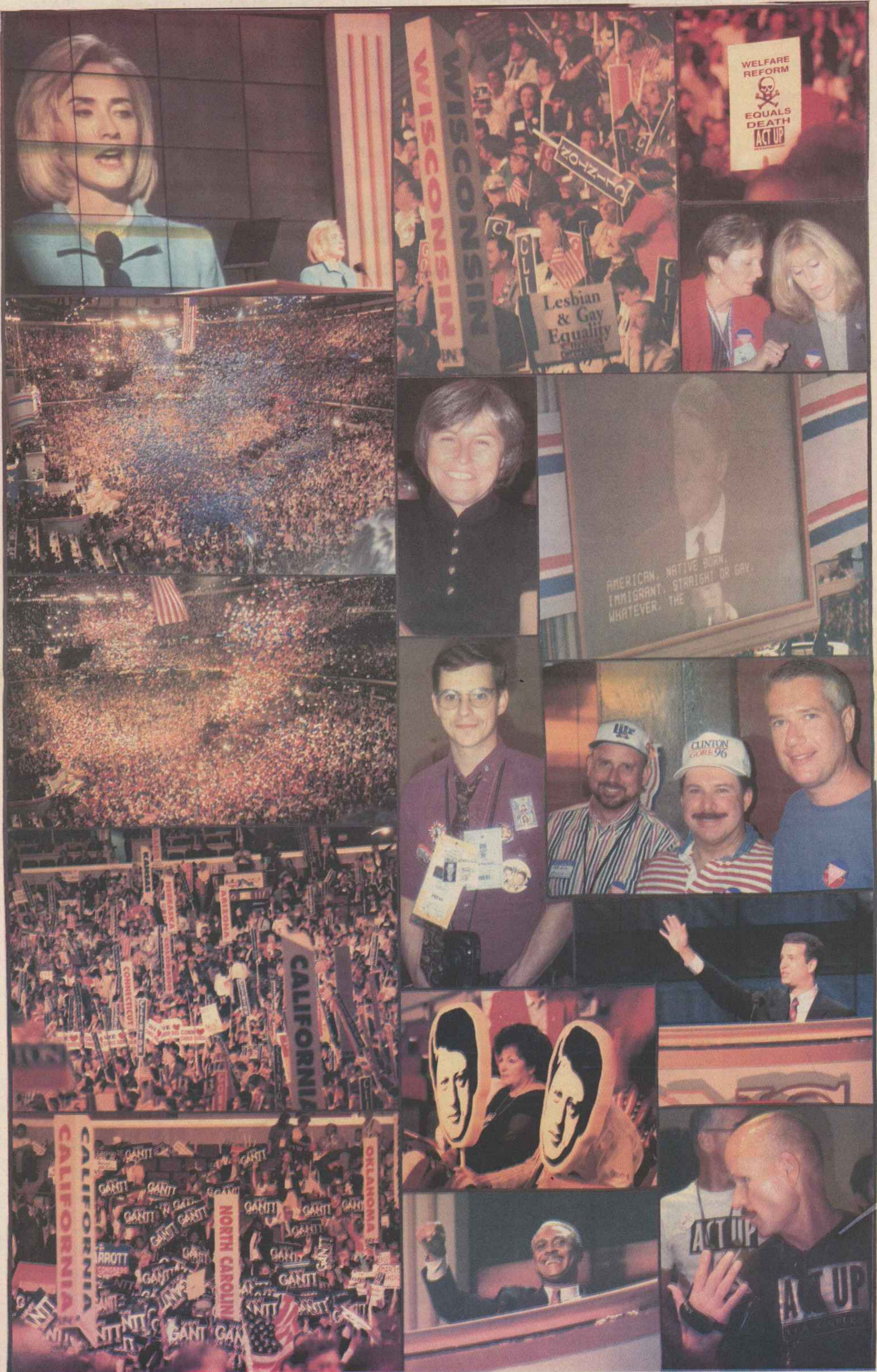
The staff of *The Wisconsin Light*

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- > HRC's Elizabeth Birch Page 10
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  - Lesbian Variety Show Review



Ross Draegert and Dr. Robert Starshak were surprised by their friends with a special presentation thanking them for their long years of commitment to Milwaukee's Les/Bi/Gay community. The couple is moving to New York, where Dr. Starshak has obtained a new position. Shown with them is Cream City Foundation President, Tony Rhodes. The presentation took place following a farewell dinner held at Milwaukee's M & M Club.



Wisconsin Light Photos by Jerry Johnson

## Wisconsin Fifth District Congressman Tom Barrett Explains Why He Voted for DOMA

*Congressman Tom Barrett (D) is the Representative from Wisconsin's 5th Congressional District (Milwaukee). On the recent vote in the House on the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), Congressman Barrett voted for the bill.*

*This interview took place at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.*

**Wisconsin Light: Why did you vote for DOMA?**

**Tom Barrett:** As you know, my history has been a history of not discriminating against anyone. I felt that that bill was designed to make individuals vote against it as a dictionary definition of marriage. And I didn't see this as having much of a practical impact in our state.



Congressman Tom Barrett brought his son to the United Center during the Democratic Convention.

**WL: What do you mean a dictionary definition?**

**TB:** The bill defines marriage as a union between a man and woman. And I think that's how most people would define it. I have absolutely no problem and I certainly support individuals who want to enter into a loving relationship.

**WL: So you don't see DOMA as discriminating against Gays and Lesbians who want to get married?**

**TB:** I frankly think, it's an issue where people shouldn't get hung up on the word marriage, that it's better to say, we have a domestic partnership.

I felt it was an attempt to try and marginalize people who have supported equal rights for Gay people, equal rights for minorities. And I think it was a sophisticated way to try and isolate people who have supported equality.

**WL: So you don't think Gays and Lesbians getting married puts their relationships on an equal basis with straight relationships?**

**TB:** I think it's a definitional problem more than anything. The way you address a definitional problem is to say that a domestic partnership can be a union between two men, or two women.

**WL: Are you saying that would sponsor legislation that Gay lovers could declare they are domestic partners and file joint income tax returns?**

**TB:** Well frankly if you did you would be paying more, because you would be paying the marriage penalty, but I understand your point. That is something that I would be far more likely to support than this legislation that I felt was just a definition issue.

Again I support having people who are in

long term monogamous relationships having the benefits if you will and the penalties as others. But I felt that this was an attempt again, a very politically charged bill and I felt it was in a sense an attempt to marginalize many of us, and for that reason and because I really didn't see any impact in the State of Wisconsin.

**WL: There wouldn't be any impact?**

**TB:** Well as you know there is no domestic partnership law in the State of Wisconsin.

**WL: But if Hawaii legalizes marriage as appears likely then it would have an impact in Wisconsin.**

**TB:** That's right but at the same time though, the issue would be whether there was a constitutional prohibition based on full faith and credit. If this bill violates the Full Faith and Credit provision of the Constitution. Then regardless of what Congress does it would be struck down by a court. There are 14 states that have passed non-recognition.

**WL: Does the Full Faith and Credit provision apply to the Federal Government as well or just to the states?**

**TB:** There are limitations on Full Faith and Credit, yes it does, yes it does and so that's the point I am trying to make.

**WL: So the Federal Government would have to recognize the marriages anyway?**

**TB:** Yes, if the Constitution says it does. I felt that way. I think that even (openly Gay) Gerry Studds for example made that argument in a Caucus we had. That issue is not a real issue in this bill. Again I felt that in the end the guts of the bill was a dictionary definition of marriage and they wanted people to vote against a dictionary definition of marriage.

**WL: So it was a trap?**

**TB:** No comment.

**The Congressman requested that he make an additional comment.**

**TB:** People in your community, they have been interested in legislation that prohibits discrimination and I am a co-sponsor of ENDA. They are interested in funding for AIDS and I have been active in funding including the Ryan White formula. They have been interesting in making sure there is no discrimination in housing and other policies. I frankly have had very few people come to me and say 'This is an area where we want the Federal Government to become involved.' So it's not an issue that came out of the Gay community. It's an issue that came from people who are opposed to the Gay community. And I think you would agree with that.

**WL: Well we want the right to be married, of course we wanted the military ban to be lifted too.**

**TB:** As you know I supported that.

**WL: Now we understand that Senator Kennedy is going to try to attach ENDA to DOMA.**

**TB:** I think that's a great idea, Think it's a wonderful idea.

**WL: But what happens when it goes to Conference Committee?**

**TB:** I don't know. We are running out of time obviously. The clock is ticking right now. There's only three or four weeks left.

**WL: Do you realize that many Gay and Lesbian, whether they want to get married or not will think that for Congress to say they can't is nothing but a slap in the face?**

**TB:** I don't think you should get hung up over this definition, this dictionary definition because the important thing is whether you have the ability to have a long term legally recognized relationship and it may not have the term marriage. It may have the term domestic partnership.

I think you are more interested in your life than you are in legal definition.

## AIDS Ride Continues to Stir Strong Controversy Out East

**Milwaukee**—In an update to earlier stories about the Philadelphia-DC AIDS Ride, the **Philadelphia Gay News (PGN)** in its August 30-September 5 issue, in its lead story that local beneficiaries of the Ride will share \$333,740 in proceeds from the event, or "21 cents of every dollar generated locally from the Ride."

This figure is based on "unaudited financial figures" provided by Dan Pallotta and Associates, PGN said.

Pallotta and Associates is the California-based promotional firm responsible for the Ride and similar rides such as the Twin Cities-Chicago AIDS Ride.

According to PGN, in a breakdown printed in the paper and provided by Pallotta and Associates and the Philadelphia AIDS Ride beneficiaries, the June 21-23 AIDS Ride raised \$4.5 million. Expenses listed in the paper included the following:

- \$417,628—staff salaries and benefits
- \$180,000—production fee. This is the fee Pallotta and Associates gets for putting on the event. In a letter to **Wisconsin Light**, Dan Pallotta said his company's "fees are below industry standards for special event production."
- \$133,628—postage, printing and telephone.
- \$119,027—equipment purchase and rental.
- \$104,316—advertising.
- \$35,199—travel and rider recruitment.
- \$82,064—pledge processing staff and legal fees.

**Total Expenses—\$1,330,433.**

PGN reports that a \$200,000 advance from the Philadelphia beneficiaries to Pallotta to cover expenses before sponsorship money came in was not included in either Philadelphia's total revenues or total expenses. The money has been returned to the agencies, the paper reports.

In a letter to **Wisconsin Light** from Dan Pallotta dated August 21, "The Philadelphia-DC AIDS Ride netted \$1,890,000. In Philadelphia, the Ride netted \$320,000. In addition, the Ride netted approximately \$1,600,000 for our two Washington, DC beneficiaries. These are enormous sums of money—nearly \$2 million."

According to PGN, expenses for the DC portion of the Ride totaled \$1.47 million. The paper reported that an August 22<sup>nd</sup> press release issued by Pallotta and Associates said that "45% of the DC AIDS Ride fundraiser went to expenses. This compares to Philadelphia's 79% in expenses, the paper said.

As reported in PGN, Pallotta stated that a "60 percent net revenue factor" was the goal for Philadelphia, but "gross revenue fell significantly below budget." He also blamed Philadelphia for lack of support, the paper said.

As we reported earlier, the Pennsylvania attorney general began investigating the Philadelphia-DC AIDS Ride in April after a local donor expressed concerns about where

## AIDS Vaccine Could Be Tested On Humans Within The Year

**Cleveland**—An experimental AIDS vaccine developed by Cleveland Clinic scientists could be tested on infected people in a year, researchers said.

The vaccine has been tested only on laboratory cultures, but it could be used in the regular treatment of infected humans in three years, researchers said Tuesday.

The vaccine contains live HIV with a vulnerable gene that can be killed with medicine. The vaccine attaches a gene from the common herpes virus to HIV, then kills it with a common herpes medicine.

Harry W. Kestler, Bimal K. Chakrabarti, Ratan K. Maitra and Xu-Zhong Ma published their findings in the journal, "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences."

Kestler said the vaccine could eventually be used both for therapy in people with HIV and for prevention in those not infected. He has concentrated on the vaccine's use in therapy, figuring infected people might be more willing to test it than healthy people.

The \$250,000-a-year study has been funded in part by the American Cancer Society and the American Foundation for AIDS Research. Their lab is part of Case Western Reserve University's Center for AIDS Research, one of 12 federally designated AIDS research centers.

"This is obviously a very encouraging and important step," said Gary Nabel, a professor of internal medicine at the University of Michigan and chairman of the AIDS Research Advisory Council of the National Institutes of Health.

Most AIDS vaccines under study have no live material.

his money was going.

PGN reported that Janice Anderson, the deputy attorney general who is overseeing the investigation, said the donor wanted to make sure the groups involved with the Ride were in compliance with the state's Solicitation of Funds for Charitable Purposes Act.

According to that Act, solicitors are prohibited from representing "directly or by implication that a charitable organization will receive an amount greater than the net proceeds reasonably estimated to be retained by the charity for its use."

At issue here is whether the 60-40 ratio (60% to the AIDS organizations, 40% for expenses) was the stated goal.

In the Philadelphia portion of the Ride, 79% went to expenses.

"A 60 percent revenue factor was our goal," PGN quotes Pallotta as saying in a release. "We kept our costs in-line, but the gross revenue fell significantly below budget."

"I think the key is what (Pallotta) reasonably estimated," Mary Beth Osborne, is quoted as saying. "I know that the 60-40 has been met by Pallotta in other rides similar to Philadelphia's, so they could have reasonably expected the same ratio here."

Osborne is the attorney investigating the Ride. PGN said that Osborne hopes to conclude the investigation by the end of the year.


In their lead editorial, PGN said that "Accountability and arrogance... are words that come to mind when reviewing the Pallotta and Associates press release that discloses 'unaudited financial figures' for the Philadelphia-DC AIDS Ride."

The editorial went on to say that "The bottom line is this: For every dollar raised in Philadelphia, an estimated 21 cents will go to the participating groups. Instead of the 60/40 ratio as many riders and donors were told—and which Pallotta said was the Ride's goal—the Ride generated a 79/21 percent expense/profit ratio"

In the September 6-12 issue of PGN, in a front page story, the paper reported that the AIDS Information Network and the Philadelphia Community Health Alternatives announced on September 4<sup>th</sup> that they will not be involved in another ride.

A third group, Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition, declined in July to participate in another ride.

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## Log Cabin Convention Delegates Vote Overwhelmingly to Endorse Dole

Washington, DC—By a nearly 3-1 margin, the delegates to the 1996 Log Cabin Republican National Convention voted to approve an endorsement of the GOP presidential ticket of Bob Dole and Jack Kemp. Through this vote, Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) becomes the first Gay and Lesbian organization to endorse a Republican nominee for President of the United States.

"Our endorsement reflects both an acknowledgment that the Dole/Kemp ticket has made historic overtures in our direction and it provides us the opportunity to work with this campaign on the issues we care about," said LCR Executive Director Rich Tafel. "It is important to remember that Bob Dole has a better track record on AIDS issues and civil rights going into this election, than Governor Clinton had coming out of Arkansas four years ago on first run for President. What the Gay community received from candidate Clinton were promises, most of which remain unfulfilled."

The 1996 LCR convention delegates voted on August 11 to delay an endorsement decision until after the Republican National Convention in San Diego. This delay was approved to give Log Cabin time to accomplish LCR's four RNC convention goals: no Gay bashing, no prime time Buchanan, influence platform language and having an openly Gay speaker.

During the convention, Log Cabin pressed the Dole campaign in private meetings about a range of concerns, including a public request for LCR's endorsement. The campaign responded swiftly with a positive answer only hours later, "The Dole campaign welcomes the endorsement of the Log Cabin Republicans as a sign they share the same beliefs as Bob Dole. Bob Dole has always believed in an inclusive GOP."

After the four convention goals were successfully achieved and the campaign welcomed the Log Cabin endorsement, the endorsements committee recommended an endorsement of Dole/Kemp, which was announced at a press conference held in the official RNC press briefing room in San Diego, with the approval of the Dole campaign.

The Log Cabin-Bob Dole story has come full circle with the public welcoming of a Log Cabin endorsement. In August of 1995, the Dole campaign returned a \$1,000 PAC contribution from Log Cabin, citing "they disagreed with Log Cabin's agenda."

After weeks of controversy, Dole said the decision was "a mistake," that he was not consulted about the decision to return the check, and if had been he would have advised against it.

In the weeks before the convention, the Dole campaign actively sought the support of the Log Cabin Republicans. Senator Dole

lead the battle for the American's with Disabilities Act, which for the first time included people with AIDS as protected like any other disability.

He has been a leader on the Ryan White Care Act, the leading HIV/AIDS care bill.

Sen. Dole also adopted a non-discrimination policy in his Senate office, which protected Gays and Lesbians from being treated unfairly.

Log Cabin Republicans is the nation's largest Gay and Lesbian Republican organization with 54 chapters in 32 states and more than 10,000 members.

## Community Election Coalition '96 Denounces Wisconsin Christians United

Milwaukee—Milwaukee's Community Election Coalition '96 (CEC '96) has denounced the unfair attacks by "Wisconsin Christians United (WCU), on State Representative Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee).

CEC '96 is a Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual organization which educates candidates about the L/G/B community and informs L/G/B groups about all candidates, regardless of their sexual orientation or political affiliations.

"Wisconsin Christians United are hypocritical and un-Christian," said Mark Street, CEC '96 Chair. "Their use of innuendo and dirty tactics only blemishes thoughtful political discourse. Wisconsin elections have a proud reputation for honesty and fairness. Obviously with stunts like this, WCU does not speak for Wisconsin voters."

The CEC '96 evaluates candidates based on what they do in the statehouse. Rep. Carpenter has been an attentive and concerned legislator who represents all his constituents — Gay and straight — with integrity. To be sure, WCU clearly lacks such values by engaging in anonymous, unfair attacks.

The CEC '96 is appalled that this so-called Christian group seeks to undermine this hard working and effective State legislator. We encourage voters to judge elected officials based on their record. We call upon all voters to denounce the homophobic tactics of WCU and support candidates who are responsive to community needs. ▽

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## Politically Speaking

### At the Chicago Convention, President Clinton Puts His Stamp on Democratic Party

Commentary by Bill Meunier

Presented with an opportunity to elect a Democrat to two terms for the first time since Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the Democratic Party is rallying around the New Democratic Politics promoted by President Bill Clinton.

With one its biggest proponents carrying the Party Standard into the November elections, the new politics of social liberalism on issues like abortion and Gay rights and conservatism on fiscal issues like the budget deficit is gradually changing the face of the Democratic Party.

**Clinton has adopted a strategy of taking slower steady progress on issues instead of trying to make dramatic leaps that are unpopular with the voters.**

Like other Presidents before him, Bill Clinton is attempting to make his Party as strong as he can. He is trying to remold the Democrats into a party that is capable of recapturing Congress while holding the Presidency.

If the 1996 Democratic Convention is any indication, he may be succeeding in doing that.

The New Democratic politics began in the ashes of the Dukakis defeat of 1988.

For the third consecutive election, the GOP had been able to characterize the Democratic nominee as being too liberal. For the third consecutive election, the Democratic nominee had lost and lost badly.

A group of moderate Democrats including Clinton formed a centerist organization called the Democratic Policy Committee.

The Policy Committee set out to develop ways to put the more moderate elements in control of the Party. Many in the group gave key early backing to Clinton's Presidential bid.

Since 1964 the only Democrats to win the Presidency have been two moderate Southern Governors, Jimmy Carter of Georgia and Bill Clinton of Arkansas. Liberals like Hubert Humphrey, Walter Mondale and George McGovern went down in flames with most of them losing and losing badly.

Conversely in 1992, the voters were repulsed by the Right Wing extremism they saw at the Republican Convention in Houston. The result was Clinton's victory.

The new Democrats like Clinton say this is proof that the electorate will almost always choose the candidate closest the middle. The Republicans while pushing a conservative agenda have been able to paint the Democrats as extremist tools of minority groups and special interests.

The practical effect of the New Politics is that Clinton has adopted a strategy of taking slower steady progress on issues instead of trying to make dramatic leaps that are unpopular with the voters.

Some would call it "sell out" and "betrayal" when Clinton takes an action like signing the Welfare Reform bill. But others noting the mood of the American people call it smart politics.

**In Chicago many groups showed a political maturity that would have unthinkable a few years ago.**

For example when asked if Clinton would mention the words "Gay and Lesbian" in his acceptance speech, Bruce Lehman, Assistant Secretary of Commerce and the highest appointed openly Gay official in the Clinton administration said "The Republicans want us to go back to a politics where Democratic candidates had a laundry list of about 100 different groups in every speech they gave. They will make mince meat out of us on that. People who live in the suburbs of Milwaukee don't want to hear that. That doesn't mean they aren't good people, that doesn't mean that we can't educate them to be better through leadership, but we don't want to turn them against us."

Lehman and others maintain that if Clinton vetoes bills like Welfare Reform and DOMA he will appear to be too liberal to the voters and despite Bob Dole's handicaps, Dole could win the election on November 5.

Republican bills like the so called Defense of Marriage Act are designed to paint the President in a corner. If he vetoes them he will be unpopular with the general electorate, if he signs them he will alienate some of his core supporters.

These tactics are called "wedge politics" because they are designed to drive a wedge between the office holder and his supporters. They have been an effective weapon used

against Democrats in the past.

But for them to work properly, offended Democrats have to go along. They have to either sit on their hands, refuse to turn out of the polls or actively oppose the incumbent. In this case and with this President they didn't.

How well Clinton has done at playing the game of new politics was in evidence even before the convention in Chicago. Clinton was the first elected Democratic President since Woodrow Wilson not to face any challenges in the primaries. It was even more in evidence at the convention.

For example during the convention, Gays and Lesbians expressed disappointment with the President's decision to sign DOMA. The Labor Caucus was still smarting over Clinton's backing of the NAFTA and GATT trade treaties. African Americans and some of the progressive caucuses were unhappy about the Welfare Reform act.

Of all the speakers at the convention Jesse Jackson best summarized the positions of these and other groups. He spent the first few minutes of his Tuesday night prime time speech going over his disagreements with Clinton.

Then he went on to praise the President for what he believed Clinton did well. Jackson concluded that on the balance some progress was better than none at all and issued a ringing endorsement of Clinton that had the delegates on their feet cheering.

Gay leaders like Elizabeth Birch of the Human Rights Campaign say they agree with Jackson. While they complain about Clinton's statement that he would sign DOMA, they also say they understand and that he had no choice.

Birch says that if Gays refuse to support Clinton because of DOMA or the military ban, they are letting the Republicans win twice on those issues.

Birch, Jackson, Labor leaders like AFL-CIO President Sweeny and others all tend to emphasize the things that Clinton has done for their constituencies. They believe that despite some disappointments, with Clinton their segments of the American public have made real progress.

When you consider the fact that at past conventions elements of the Democratic Party have gone berserk over not being mentioned in a speech, you realize what a how different the attitude was at this convention. In Chicago many groups showed a political maturity that would have unthinkable a few years ago.

**Birch says that if Gays refuse to support Clinton because of DOMA or the military ban, they are letting the Republicans win twice on those issues.**

Part of the reason is that with Congress likely to stay Republican, many see Clinton as their only protector.

With Newt Gingrich in the House and Trent Lott running the Senate, Democratic constituencies are running scared.

As one person put it "Bill Clinton is the only thing standing between us and the Right Wing Freight train that has Newt Gingrich as its engineer."

But part of the reason is also that although Clinton took positions that offended many of the traditional Democratic groups, he also made certain that whenever he could he took actions these groups would like.

Labor may not have been pleased with Clinton's pushing NAFTA through the Senate, but it was thrilled by his veto of a bill that would have stripped unions of a great deal of their power and his support of the minimum wage bill.

Gay and Lesbian leaders denounce Clinton's intention to sign DOMA, and are disappointed with his failure to lift the ban on military service. On the other hand they are pleased with his increases in AIDS funding, his support of ENDA, his appointments of openly Gay and Lesbian officials and his lifting the ban on security clearances among other things.

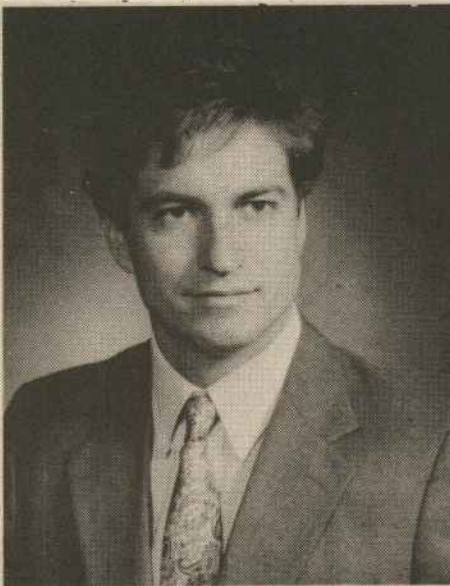
The story is the same throughout the Democratic Party. There is scarcely a faction within that Party that can't fault Clinton for something, but there is scarcely a faction that doesn't have something to thank him for as well.

The question is at this point is how well these leaders can transfer that gratitude to their constituents. If they succeed in doing that, the 1996 Democratic Convention may prove to be as big a change in Democratic politics as the 1968 convention also held in Chicago was. Bill Clinton will have made an impact on the Democratic Party that could far outlast his Presidency.

## Carpenter Wins Big, "Light" Investigates Suing Opposing Group for Copyright Infringement

**Milwaukee**—Primary voters in Wisconsin's Ninth Assembly District, located on Milwaukee's South Side delivered a hard slap at the "Rev." Ralph Overdahl and his Christian Civil Liberties Union giving incumbent State Representative Tim Carpenter an overwhelming victory in his race against Jim San Filippo.

Carpenter's margin of 72% to 28% for his opponent was a landslide expression of support for the State Representative who was attacked by Overdahl. Overdahl accused Carpenter of being Gay.



REP TIMOTHY CARPENTER

In early August Overdahl and members of his organization, (which is located in Monroe, Wisconsin) went door to door in Carpenter's district distributing a flier that alluded to a 1993 *Wisconsin Light* article written by Carpenter.

San Filippo won nearly universal condemnation when he publicly challenged Carpenter

to tell the voters whether or not he was Gay. Stating that his private life was just that, "private," Carpenter declined and ran a campaign that focused on his record.

On Friday, September 6, the group returned. Their flier included *The Wisconsin Light* logo, address and phone number and a full copy of the article written by Carpenter. The paper received numerous calls from voters protesting the distribution.

*Wisconsin Light* publisher, Jerry Johnson, called Overdahl and demanded that the distribution stop immediately. Johnson accused Overdahl of "copyright infringement" and cited the portion of the *Light* masthead forbidding reproduction of any portion of any issue of *The Wisconsin Light* without the express written permission of the paper.

Overdahl told Johnson that he thought what he did was legal, but promised to stop distribution of the fliers if his attorney advised him to do so. The distribution was stopped after Johnson's call.

*The Wisconsin Light* is in the process of contacting attorneys to investigate filing a law suit against Overdahl, Wisconsin Christians United and everyone responsible for the flier's distribution.

"There is a reason why federal law protects copyrights" said Johnson, "And that reason is to prevent situations like this. Judging from the number of protest calls we received, Overdahl and his group damaged the reputation of this paper. People were confused and thought we had put out this literature."

Carpenter who has no Republican opponent in the General election thanked the voters. In an exclusive interview with *The Wisconsin Light*. The State Representative said "It's a smashing victory. It proves that outside hate mongering, doesn't sell in Wisconsin. This should send a clear message to those groups that their desperate tactics don't sell. I am very proud of my supporters for their help with this victory."

## Youth Column

### Memories of the Democratic National Convention

By Jason Alan

In 1968, Mayor Richard Daley, Sr.'s thugs were out and about abusing innocent people protesting Vietnam at the last DNC held in Chicago. David Mixner, now one of the most powerful Gay men in the world, was just beginning his young political career here. In 1968, the Windy City became host to a country then, more at war with itself than with Vietnam.

In 1996, Mayor Richard Daley, Jr., was hosting a grand reception at Chicago's prized Navy Pier. David Mixner has written a book describing the last 30 years in American politics and Gay liberation. The Windy City played host to a country for whom Vietnam is history, a country living in a time of neo-conservatism.

To people my age, 1968 is ancient history. We have no recollection of the excitement people in the late '60's lived through. It seems as if the spirit of 1968, the spirit of radical political change and a spirit of endless possibility and opportunity, has been lost for good. It seems this way, until the spirit of 1968 is unearthed from its burial ground some 28 years later.

Outvote '96 would be the site of this unearthing. Outvote started one week prior to the actual Democratic Convention. Throughout Outvote '96, and into the Gay Caucus that ran through the close of the convention, many Queer VIPs gathered. For example, there was George Stephanopolous, Elizabeth Birch, Chastity Bono, Barney Frank, Rick Zbur—you name it, they were all there.

This convention was truly the hub of political diversity. The convention illustrated quite clearly how diverse our leaders are.

Stephanopolous works in the White House. Frank is a Congressman. Bono is the daughter of Cher and works for the Human Rights Campaign. Candace Gingrich is fighting her brother, the Speaker of the House, at every turn. Political hopefuls, such as Zbur, who is the fist openly Gay man to win a primary for a seat in Congress, and Loretta Sanchez, who is running against homophobe, Congressman

Bob Dornan, were there and joined in the fight to speak out for our rights.

The Gay scene in Chicago felt very much like 1968 throughout this convention. It felt this way because many of our leaders were able to put aside their differences and successfully run our first political convention. The first-ever Queer convention went off so well that Tipper Gore addressed us and President Clinton mentioned the fact that Gay people exist in his acceptance speech.

All of this was possible because we were able to come together and work together. That is the point.

As a young person, I know first hand how many divisions there are between people of my generation. We often fail to listen to one another. Despite our being raised in a time of AIDS and despite the fact that we are currently engaged in the art of killing one another with drugs and handguns, we fail as a generation to adhere to one another's needs. We fail to solve our problems. Instead, we perpetuate them.

Call me idealistic, however, I feel, after witnessing the triumph we achieved in Chicago that anything is possible.

I feel that we, as the next generation, can benefit one another by working together.

I feel we can solve all of our problems if we would only work together.

The spirit of '68 is not only alive and well inside this community's leaders, but it is also alive and well inside this young person.

Is it in you?

If it is, start helping yourself and write the address below. I guarantee you won't regret it.

Jason Alan is a writer for *Wisconsin Light* newspaper. He can be reached for comment at: Jason Alan, c/o *The Wisconsin Light*, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

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# The Democratic National Convention

Chicago, Illinois August 26 - 29, 1996

## NGLTF Applauds Democratic Platform on Gay Issues; Cites "Room for Improvement"

Washington, D.C. — Citing strong language on AIDS, support for ending discrimination against Gay men and Lesbians, and opposition to the scapegoating of immigrants, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has praised the proposed 1996 Democratic National Platform.

At the same time, NGLTF criticized the serious shortcomings of the platform, including its exclusion of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender relationships and families, failure to address the continued witch hunts of Gay people in the military, and attacks on welfare recipients.

"We applaud the Democratic platform's language of inclusivity for Gay and Lesbian people and people with AIDS," said Melinda Paras, NGLTF executive director. "Especially when you compare it to the GOP platform, which gave all of 16 words to AIDS and opposed the 'distortion' of civil rights laws to include sexual orientation."

### The Good News

NGLTF cited several positive planks of the platform. These include:

**Health and AIDS:** The platform contains strong and explicit support for AIDS research, prevention and treatment, and a commitment to "finding a cure for AIDS, combating HIV-related discrimination, supporting HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS ACT) funding...and working to ensure that all Americans living with AIDS have access to new and potentially life-saving drugs." Also of importance to people with HIV and AIDS is the strong stand on holding "the line against Republicans' mean-spirited Medicare and Medicaid cuts..."

The GOP platform's statement on AIDS, while positive, was seriously lacking in terms of support of funding for research and care. The GOP language on AIDS in its entirety is: "We remain committed to, and place a high priority on, finding a cure for HIV disease." The next sentence of the GOP platform went on to call for "increased funding for research targeted at conditions that touch the families of most [emphasis added] Americans, like Alzheimer's, breast cancer, prostate cancer and diabetes." Paras questioned the GOP's "commitment" to finding a cure for HIV when the Republican's Congressional record emphasizes cuts in funding and punitive AIDS laws.

**Discrimination and Inclusion:** NGLTF saluted the platform's inclusion of sexual orientation in a list of those needing protection against discrimination. "We continue to lead the fight to end discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion, age, ethnicity, disability, and sexual orientation," stated the platform. The document also calls for the vigorous

## Clinton is First Sitting President to Say "G" Word in Convention Speech

Milwaukee—The loudest roar of the convention erupted when President Bill Clinton said the "Gay" word during his acceptance speech. The Lesbian/Gay Delegate caucus asked the Clinton people to include the words "Gay and Lesbian" in his speech.

Not many thought that he would do it, but towards the end of the speech he did, to the delight of the delegates who went wild to show their approval.

Clinton became the first sitting President to say the "G" word before his party's convention. That one word told many in the party that his heart is still in the right place despite four years of Right Wing attacks.

While lashing out at those who look for differences and speaking out for tolerance Clinton said:

"Look around here. Old or young, healthy as a horse or a person with a disability that hadn't kept you down, man or woman, Native American, native born, immigrant, straight or Gay -- whatever. The test ought to be I believe in the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Declaration of Independence.

I believe in religious liberty. I believe in freedom of speech. I believe in working hard and playing by the rules. I'm showing up for work tomorrow. I'm building that bridge to the 21st century. That ought to be the test.

In 1988, Democratic nominee Mike Dukakis' refusal to say the words Gay and Lesbian during his acceptance speech angered many delegates and others who were present in Atlanta.

enforcement of the Americans with Disability Act, which includes PWAs.

The platform goes further by supporting federal protections against discrimination for Gay and Lesbian people and the inclusion of Gay people in society. It states, "We support continued efforts, like the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, to end discrimination against Gay men and Lesbians and further their full inclusion in the life of the nation."

The GOP platform says, "...we oppose discrimination based on sex, race, age, creed, or national origin, and will vigorously enforce anti-discrimination statutes. We reject the distortion of those laws to cover sexual preference..."

NGLTF also praised the platform's appeal to stop the scapegoating of immigrants and opposition to ending affirmative action. "We deplore those who blame immigrants for economic and social problems," stated the platform. While calling for an end to illegal immigration, the platform urges all Americans "to avoid the temptation to use this issue to divide people..." and "...as a pretext for discrimination." The platform opposes barring children of "illegal immigrants" from schools, and that such efforts are "mean spirited and short-sighted." NGLTF agreed with the platform in "oppos[ing] Sen. Dole's promise to end affirmative action."

### The Bad News

The Task Force strongly criticized the platform's lack of attention to two critical issues affecting Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Americans: our families and relationships, and our right to serve our country in the military. NGLTF also objected to language on welfare reform.

### Same-Gender

#### Marriage and Families:

"There is no recognition in the platform of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender families, including our loving relationships, and the importance of ending discrimination against our families," said NGLTF's Melinda Paras. "Same-gender marriage and our right to keep or adopt children all are key issues for us. The platform spends considerable space talking about strong heterosexual families, but ignores the loving, caring, but vulnerable families we as Gay people foster."

The GOP platform is openly hostile to Gay families, in particular on same-gender marriages. It "endorse[s] the Defense of Marriage Act to prevent states from being forced to recognize same-sex unions." President Clinton has also opposed same-gender marriage and said he will sign DOMA if passed.

#### Gays in the Military

Paras also criticized the lack of mention in the platform of the continued witch hunts by the U.S. military of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender service members. Paras commended the Administration's strong fight against Rep. Bob Dornan's attempt to oust HIV-positive service members. At the same time she said the lack of inclusion of Gays and Lesbians in the military was an insult to their brave and courageous contributions, despite the "don't ask, don't tell" policy — which many experts say has actually resulted in more hardships for Gays in the armed forces.

While the Democratic platform is silent on Gays in the military, the GOP platform states, "We oppose Bill Clinton's assault on the culture and traditions of the Armed Forces, especially his attempt to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military. We affirm that homosexuality is incompatible with military service."

#### Welfare Reform

While the Task Force agrees with the importance of providing job opportunities as stated in the platform, it is critical of both the GOP and Democratic platforms and attacks on the poor. "We are very concerned that welfare families will be left with no safety net of support as they are taken off of welfare," said Paras.

"The President and both platforms all approach this issue by cutting off assistance first and then hoping recipients get jobs so they can buy health care and other critical needs."

"Ultimately, both the Democratic and GOP platforms should be rated on the basis that they reflect the actual records of the Clinton Administration and of the Gingrich-Dole Republican Congress," concluded Paras. "Despite attempts by the Republicans to downplay the importance of their platform, it remains the foundation of the party's ideology and was clearly dominated by the Hard Right in San Diego. At the same time, the Democratic platform, while clearly more positive, has much room for improvement." ▽

## Tipper Gore Praises Gay Community for Efforts that Elected Clinton in '92

*In an unprecedented speech, Tipper Gore, wife of Vice President Al Gore addressed the Gay and Lesbian Caucus at the Democratic Convention. Her appearance was greeted with wild enthusiasm. Her speech was repeatedly interrupted by applause and standing ovations. She left the room to a thunderous chant of "Four More Years."*

*After making some introductory remarks during which she thanked a number of Gay and Lesbian leaders and officials, Tipper, spoke from her heart about the issues and the election. Below is a transcript of her remarks exclusively prepared by "The Wisconsin Light" from a tape our staff made of her speech.*

*The speech began with the introduction of more than a dozen openly Gay and Lesbian leaders, friends of the Gore's and administration officials. Ms. Gore continued saying....*

All of these are very important people just as you are. I want to thank you for your public acknowledgment of those who have worked so hard to accomplish our goals. We don't consider them accomplished yet. Your hard work and advice has been absolutely invaluable.

To all of you, I want you to know that Al and I are very proud, very, very proud of your presence here in Chicago at the Democratic Convention. You are absolutely terrific in what you stand for and in what you help us to do. We appreciate it.

The Democratic Party, because of you, is sending a message to everyone else of all us working together. It's sending a message of inclusiveness, which is so important because we have now across the country, representative here over 150 openly Gay and Lesbian delegates, alternates and Committee members and I think that's fantastic.

I think probably all of us heard the Christopher Reeve speech, last night. He talked about family values. He said it beautifully, and I want to quote him. He said 'I think family values means that we are all family and that we all have values.'

You have defined these words with your courage, and work and your outspokenness in the American quilt that makes up the fabric of our society. You have helped us to invite other people to join us and join in continue the work of the Democratic Party and the work we must do to re-elect this President. Our compassion as members of the family that Christopher Reeves described is the common thread that

## At Chicago Convention, Gay/Les/Bi Leaders Unite Behind President Clinton

Chicago—With a unity that has been rarely if ever seen, the leadership of all three major National Les/Bi/Gay organizations spent much of the Democratic convention praising President Bill Clinton and urging support for him in the November 5th, Presidential Election.

"The stakes are high," said Elizabeth Birch, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, "We can either continue the steady progress that we have seen under the President or we can suffer a setback that will take years to overcome."

Those sentiments were echoed by others throughout Les/Bi/Gay parties, meetings, caucuses, press conferences and fund raisers held here during the Democratic Convention.

Aware that many Gays and Lesbians are disappointed with Clinton on the issues of military service and the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), Gay leaders, joined by dozens of celebrities, elected officials and even Tipper Gore wife of the Vice-President, hammered home their three part message.

1. President Clinton has a solid if imperfect record.
2. His opponent, GOP nominee Bob Dole, has opposed almost every Gay legislative initiative.
3. The Les/Bi/Gay community must show political maturity and realize that Clinton's failure on the military and DOMA were the result of the Republicans in Congress playing "wedge politics."

Among the Clinton accomplishments cited by Birch and others are:

- Ending the ban on Gays and Lesbians receiving security clearances;
- Increasing AIDS Services by 108% and AIDS Research Funds by 26% and AIDS Prevention money by 33% despite Congressional Budget cutting;
- Hiring a full time staff member to serve as a Liaison to the Gay community;
- Supporting ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act;
- Issuing an Executive Order banning discrimination in all federal departments and

unites us, and we must always look to the common thread that unites us not the matters that can divide us. Its very important that we continue to do that.

President Clinton and my husband, Vice President Al Gore have challenged us to examine that thread and to seek common ground. You've been part of that and I appreciate it. I know its not always easy. They have fought against discrimination and decisive politics more than any other leaders in our national government ever have.

We can celebrate the fact that President Clinton outlawed sexual orientation as grounds for the denial of security clearances. And that the President has endorsed civil rights legislation protecting Gays and Lesbians. And I am also proud to say that there are over 100 openly Gay people that serve within the Clinton administration.

The President has made the federal government a full partner in the continuing war against AIDS. With your help we will continue to fight to protect Medicaid and people living with AIDS. We will work hard to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. Together we have made a great deal of progress.

But I want to thank you very much for everyone in the administration, especially the President, the Vice-President and First Lady for your help in 1992. I don't think we would be here today at this Democratic Convention with a bid for a second term, united without the kind of strenuous effort that you had happen in 1992 for us. I want you to know that we very much appreciate the part you played in the first election of this administration.

Now we have the task to re-elect the President and Vice-President and the entire administration that will continue to push and fight for things that we know are extremely important.

We're not completely where we want to be, we all know that, but we are not that great at Mental Health either. And I think that's what happens with certain things. At the same time every fight that you make you gain ground even if you don't win that particular battle. You have to look at the ground you gain and take a look and see who you are fighting with. And we will continue to fight shoulder to shoulder with you.

Thank you for being here.

programs;

Appointing over 100 openly Lesbian and Gay officials including the first ever Lesbian Federal Judge, Deborah Batts, and two cabinet level officials, Bruce Lehman and Roberta Achtenberg;

Meeting with Les/Bi/Gay elected officials and other leaders;

Publicly denouncing referendums on Gay Rights laws such as Colorado's Amendment 2;

Allowing Gays and Lesbians from other countries to seek asylum in the United States;

Protecting Medicaid and Social Security programs that help persons with AIDS; and

Taking several initiatives to insure a Les/Bi/Gay presence in public policy conferences and policy formulation meetings.

"This President has done more for us than every other President combined," said Melinda Paras, Executive Director of the National Gay Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

Combined with their praise of Clinton these leaders and others issued consistent warnings of the consequences of a Clinton defeat.

Speaking at a pre-convention party held at Chicago's Side Tracks bar, Presidential Adviser George Stephanopolous told the cheering Les/Bi/Gay delegates and media "Imagine what it would be like if we lose. Trent Lott running the Senate, Jesse Helms running the Foreign Relations Committee, Newt Gingrich running the House and Bob Dole sitting in the White House with Pat Robertson and Pat Buchanan pulling the strings. Let's not forget that the next President will appoint at least one and possibly three members of the Supreme Court. Anyone who thinks that Justice Scalia needs any help is probably at the wrong party."

Along with the praise and warnings there was a clear recognition that many in the Les/Bi/Gay community are unhappy with Clinton.

Privately some leaders admitted they were concerned about the effect that GOP "wedge politics" may have on Les/Bi/Gay turnout at

Please Turn to Clinton on Page 9







# T H E S P O T L I G H T



John Catania (left) and his partner.

## Milwaukee Native, John Catania, Talks About "In The Life's" New Season

By Lester Strong

"In The Life (ITL) is New York based, says John Scagliotti when interviewed.. about the show along with host Katherine Linton and Director of Communications, Milwaukee native, John Catania, "but its locus is national—even international. The staff works hard to produce a program Lesbian and Gay viewers everywhere can feel is theirs."

Scagliotti is no longer professionally affiliated with the program, but as its founder he should know.

The earliest glimmerings of what would become "In The Life" go back to his days in the 1970s as Public Affairs Director of a commercial radio station in Boston when he produced "Lavender Hour," the first Lesbian and Gay cultural program ever to go out over US airwaves.

But his real push for a television program began a few years later when he joined WNFT, New York's flagship PBS station

"Because my work in the media has been of a cultural nature," he says, "I've always felt it's important to reach people through cultural programming not just news. In 1980 we had the backing of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to develop a Lesbian and Gay cultural series for PBS, but the project fell through when Reagan was elected."

Eventually PBS did fund a single program, "Before Stonewall," which Scagliotti produced. The show won an Emmy in 1986, but it was clear that in the political climate then prevailing, neither PBS nor large corporate sponsors would back an ongoing series financially.

So in the late 1980s Scagliotti and others interested in the project decided to seek funding from the Gay community itself. This was the start of "In The Life's" National Membership Network, still the financial backbone of the series.

John Catania explains the show's finances: "Total costs for an episode are around \$150,000—about 30% of your average budget for a one-hour PBS show, but still not cheap. We receive no money from PBS or CPB. We get funds from foundations and some corporate sponsors, but we still rely heavily on our membership. That's upwards of 5000 individuals across the country committed to donating an average of \$40 or more a year to see positive Lesbian and Gay images on TV regularly. We're always looking for new members—two people on our staff work full time on that end of fund-raising."

ITL currently has five on its staff: Executive Director Ben Prayz, Executive in Charge of Production Charles Ignacio Associate Producer Desircena Almoradie, Director of Membership and Foundation Relations Gary Scharfman John Catania and Katherine Linton.

Three positions in development were filled this summer, which brought the total full-time staff to eight.

With so few staff members, some wear several hats. Catania is Producer as well as Director of Communications. Linton is not only host but also Senior Producer and because ITL is not officially sponsored by PBS, she works with program directors of PBS stations around the country to schedule air time for each episode.

When asked to name "In The Life's" most important contributions to its viewers, replies vary.

John Scagliotti: We need a national television program where you can see Gay and Lesbian people in a positive way week after week after week ITL isn't quite there yet in terms of scheduling, but it's moving in that direction."

Katherine Linton: Real people telling real stories—the show validates us as lesbians and Gay men in our daily existence.

And John Catania: "Gay magazines are important, Gay newspapers are important. But they have limited circulation and not everyone feels comfortable buying them. Television is everywhere.—we reach areas with information about Gay and Lesbian life that haven't been reached before."

When asked to name the most valuable contributions viewers can make to ITL on the other hand the reply is unanimous

In the words of Linton: "Last season we did five episodes. Next season we plan to do six. Join our National Membership Network, so we can go to once a month programming, or even once a week. And if your local PBS affiliate doesn't show "In The Life," start a grass roots campaign.

"A viewer in Toledo, Ohio, has collected the signatures of 600 local viewers on a petition, and is working to bring us on air there; another viewer in New Orleans has collected 500 signatures. Start the process in your community. PBS program directors respond to what their audiences want.

"In The Life" will air this fall in the Milwaukee area on Channel 10. For dates and times of individual episodes, check your local listings.

To join ITL's National Membership Network (all contributions are tax deductible), contact ITL directly at 30 W. 26<sup>th</sup> St., 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10010.

**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

Jerry Johnson

Friday September 27 at 10:00

## An Evening With the Stars At La Cage

The Wisconsin Light SpotLight party for September is going to be huge. So huge that we chose to hold it at Milwaukee's largest Les/Bi/Gay bar, La Cage, 801 S. Second Street. (The corner of Second and National)

It's called "An Evening With The Stars" and it's a benefit for Milwaukee's BESTD Clinic. Show time is at 10:00. Admission is \$5.00 and that includes admission into La Cage.

Many of your favorite performers will be on hand to make you laugh, dance and sing along as they show everyone that special quality that defines a true star from the also rans.

Milwaukee bars like In Between, Club 219, Mama Roux's, the M & M Club and 3 B's are contributing their best performers to help The Wisconsin Light raise badly needed funds for the BESTD clinic's HIV testing and education programs.

"The fact that so many people from different clubs and bars were willing to come out and help out is especially gratifying," said Wisconsin Light Spot-Light Editor, Bill Meunier. "The BESTD Clinic is a very worthy cause and deserving of everyone's support."

The Clinic offers HIV testing, counseling and support groups, a Women's STD Clinic and a Men's STD Clinic.

Below are just a few of those scheduled to perform:

**Lena Chavez**, the Latin firecracker, who walked away with the Miss Wisconsin Continental US of A crown. Chavez, known for her spicy, high energy numbers, is sure to have the audience on its feet. Lena is also a member of the Club 219 Girls.

Songstress, **Lu Shanti**, a regular performer at Mama Roux, PrideFest and other Les/Bi/Gay events will be on hand. Shanti, is well known for her disco and cabaret style of singing.

The sassy, **Jasmine**, aka Nellie Mae Jones, heartthrob of Mama Roux, will take the stage to dazzle you.

**Britanny Morgan**, the fabulous impersonator who graces the stage at 3 B's brings her comic and her serious side to the proceedings.

Speaking of comedy, those wickedly funny folks from **Drag-o-Rama** have promised to deliver some of their funniest routines yet.

So will the M & M Club and Cream City Chorus star **Karen Valentine**. Karen's monologues are famous for their biting wit.

**Lana St. James** from In Between will be on hand with her flowing dresses for a wonderful routine.

She will be joined by **Curt Peck**, In Between's owner, who will be performing live. Peck's voice may be the best kept secret in Milwaukee.

Of course, it's no secret that **Singsational** can sing. Members of Singsational Productions, which performs every other Saturday at the M & M Club, will be on hand for your listening pleasure.

TJ from C'est La Vie doesn't sing, but he does dance. And when he dances the room temperature goes up more than a few degrees. You'll have to be there to find out why.

**Robert Nugent Jones**, a recent transplant from Madison will also be there to sing some of his original techno style disco.

The show will also include a very special guest appearance by **BJ Daniels**. As everyone knows BJ is always willing to lend his support to worthy causes in the community.

And these are just a few of the performers who have agreed to help put on this benefit for BESTD. There will be more, lots more to surprise and delight you.

So mark your calendars now for the show of the season, Friday September 27, 10:00 at La Cage.

## Circlestage Postpones Chicago Run of 'Quilt'

**Milwaukee**—Circlestage has postponed its plans for opening **Quilt: A Musical Celebration**, stories for, from and about the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, and **The Fantastics** at Chicago's Bailiwick Theatre Center this November.

"After auditions in both Chicago and Milwaukee, it became clear that we simply do not have the cast we need to mount the shows correctly," Don Hoffman, artistic director of Circlestage said. "We refuse to make our debut in Chicago with anything but spectacular shows."

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# Curtain Calls

## Milwaukee's Lesbian Variety Show Has Another Good Year

By Barbara Lightner

Performers in the Third Annual Lesbian Variety Show played to a full and appreciative house on Saturday night, August 26, 1996. In spite of serious technical difficulties that added nearly an hour to the show, the audience was for the most part willing to wait things through in order to reaffirm community.

A community event it was. Dyke dress among members of the audience reflected much of our diversity, with everything from heavy leather to high femme to down home. Acts more reminiscent of The Amateur Hour than an audience-savvy gig received as much applause as those of professional cast. "We are having fun yet!" was the clearly predominant mood of the evening.

Topping the acts with a professional cast to them was the performance of vocalist/guitarist Linda Smith, named best unsigned singer of 1996, Linda's voice, underscored by her fine guitar work, was strong, well-modulated, and movingly capable of the songs she performed. With some coaching in body posture and language (Smith stood almost cloggingly "grounded," dead on her feet on the stage), she could become one of the very good signed singers who are out, another of our own to join k.d. lang.

As a professing poet, I was most pleasantly surprised by the positive audience response given the poetry readings. Performance savvy was clearly demonstrated by Carmen Alicia Murguia.

As a crystallization of the crushes we had when we were young, Judy Cygnor's work, *Sixth Grade Poem*, is certain to join classics like Meg Christian's *Gym Teacher*. With her fine sense of dramatic presentation, Cygnor left us with images of Sister Bernard Marie that incorporate her dress, her body language, and her indomitable spirit, all in one swift run around the bases of a baseball diamond, also understood as the good sister's approach to life in general:

*Sister Bernard Marie*

*rolls up her wide black sleeves, pins them high under the stiff white bib, ... smacks that baseball out of sight. Sister Bernard Marie's skirts rush around her legs.*

*Sister Bernard moves straight down the line and never looks back.*

Kudos for the evening also go to *The Comedy Crones*, a duo of old Lesbians (both 65 years old, plus), who do much to show us the fun of age. Crones Lynn Morgan and Beth Barfield were show stoppers, both of them receiving spontaneous after-their-act applause as they walked into the theater to take their seats to watch the remaining acts.

In spite of somewhat too much repeat material, *The Crones* have sharpened their performance since last year. They have improved their timing, and apportioned their fall-guy lines so that response is given to both — no longer so much of a Laurel and Hardy act. Barfield could improve her delivery so that it is crisper, and not so overly emphatic. Morgan might want to consider looking to her partner before looking to the audience in delivering lines in an act that feeds off the interplay between the two women.

Emcees Jo Bruns and ReDonna Rogers provided their usual fine entertainment with their between-the-acts banter. Penni Wiler, whose performance in the depleted heterosex mode of tight, slinky, dress and conventional hip and breast wiggles, was nevertheless spunky and full of energy. She was clearly delightful in her several impromptu stage walks with wine glass in hand during the technical difficulty soundouts.

As a political junkie, I viewed the premiere of the video, *Visible Women, Invisible Lives*, as a significant statement, bringing awareness to the public in general, and to ourselves in particular. Producer/directors Margaret Flood and Nancy Harder have put together a very good documentary that moves beyond the endlessly boring talking heads of so many films intended to enlighten. That "Lesbianism is not a choice, but a blessing" — a rallying cry that appeared on a sign in one of the marches in the film — suggests some of the zest and vision of this documentary that is not only for the heterosexuals among us. One can only hope that the

two women who produced and directed the film will continue to progress in their documentary technique, and make even more invisible lives, visible.

Lesbians of color might have been more fully represented among the performers, and thought should be given to widening diversity in the future.

Lack of an interpreter unfortunately marred the evening. Interpretation has become an integral part of Lesbian events, both as performance accompanying and enriching the spotlighted performers, and as a sign of commitment to people who are deaf. None other than Holly Near has spoken to the importance of bringing Lesbians of disability into our community by outreach to various agency programs, where little heed is given among the physically challenged to women who are Lesbians. The show did not honor that imperative this year. Wheelchair accessibility was provided.

I would like to have seen a good dyke play. (Why did no one write a play for this year?) But the evening did bring a certain sense of diversity. And a certain sense of professionalism. And a fine sense of community — for which we can all be a little bit pleased — and which we can, and I am confident will, continue to more successfully bring together in the future as we remind ourselves through shows like this that lesbianism is indeed a blessing.

The show was sponsored by the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee Education Fund (LAMMEF). Shelli Marquardt produced it. Nancy Troia was stage manager, and Vertna Bradley assistant stage manager. Publicity was by Jane Beaudelaire, and program design by Martha Louise Reyna. Countless other volunteers gave of their time as well in seeing to the endless details that were a part of this evening of good community spirit. ▽

## Next Act Theatre Opens "Sylvia", the Perfect Dog-Lovers' Play

**Milwaukee** — Next Act Theatre presents the Milwaukee Premiere of A. R. Gurney's recent Broadway hit, *Sylvia*. This brand new romantic comedy plays September 19 through October 6, 1996, in the Stiemke Theater at the Milwaukee Center, located at 108 East Wells Street, Milwaukee. The production is being sponsored in part by a grant from Lucy and Jack Rosenberg.

Gurney's story is a fresh and funny tale that will warm the hearts of dog-lovers and theatre-goers alike. Greg brings home Sylvia, a stray dog he found in Central Park, to his Manhattan apartment. His wife Kate is neither pleased nor amused. As Greg becomes more and more obsessed with the dog, he seems ready to abandon both his wife and his career. But Sylvia's cold-nosed loving and loyalty brings Kate and Greg happily together again.

The delicious twist in Gurney's romantic comedy is that Sylvia is played by an actress, which makes Greg's 40-something crisis all the more true to life.

*Sylvia* will run from September 19 through October 6, 1996. All performances are staged at the Stiemke Theatre located at the Milwaukee Center, 108 East Wells, in downtown Milwaukee. The Stiemke Theatre is wheelchair-accessible.

Single tickets are currently available at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater Box Office, 108 East Wells, (414) 224-9490. Ticket prices are \$18.00 for the Wednesday Matinee and Thursdays, \$26.00 for Fridays and Saturdays, and \$22.00 for Sunday performances. Preview performance tickets (Thursday, September 19 at 7:30 p.m.) are \$15.00 each.

Group discounts of 15% are available for groups of 10-19, and a 20% discount is offered to groups of 20 or more. Seniors receive a discount of \$5.00 per ticket. Students with valid I.D. may purchase 1/2 price tickets, subject to availability. ▽

## "Hula Hoop Sha-Boop" Shakes, Rattles and Rolls the Stackner Cabaret

**Milwaukee**—The sights, sounds and songs of the fun-loving '50s and the sock hop '60s return to Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Stackner Cabaret on September 7 for a run through November 24 (There will be a preview performance at 8:00 p.m. on September 6).

*Hula Hoop Sha-Boop* premiered at Milwaukee Rep during the 1990/91 season and was presented again during the 1992/93 season. In response to sold-out performances, both productions were extended.

Written by the creative trio of Larry Deckel, John Leicht and John Tanner, *Hula Hoop Sha-Boop* is a musical stroll through the early years of the baby boomer generation. This nostalgic piece brings to life over 60 old favorites from the years 1953 to 1963, including *The Twist*, *Book of Love*, *Da Doo Ron Ron* and *Johnny Be Good*.

Leading audiences down memory lane are veteran "Hula Hoopers" Thad S. Avery and Jon Ford, and newcomers Deborah Solomon, a Milwaukee native who has performed across the country and worked/studied with Charles Strouse and

Uta Hagen, and Cheryl Sylvester, who recently completed a successful run of *The House of Martin Guerre* at Chicago's Goodman Theatre.

*Hula Hoop Sha-Boop* is directed by Larry Deckel, with set design by John Story, costumes by Ellen Kozak, lights by Michael McNamara, and choreography by Darci Brown Witz. The musical, vocal and instrumental arrangements are by Larry Deckel and John Tanner. The stage manager is Mark Baughman.

Tickets to this fad-filled musical revue are \$11.00 and \$15.00 and can be purchased in-person at the Milwaukee Rep Box Office, 108 E. Wells Street, or by phone at (414) 224-9490. ▽

Read  
The Wisconsin Light Online  
Our Internet Address is:

<http://www.gayuniverse.com/news3.html>



## LeftEye Productions Presents Chicago Premiere of "Sweet Land of Liberty"

**Chicago** — Christi Stewart-Brown's dark Gay/Lesbian comedy, *Sweet Land of Liberty*, depicts a not-too-distant future where blonde is the national hair color and urine tests are routine. Under this latter-day dictatorship, two couples — one Gay, one Lesbian — must swap partners to protect themselves from their intrusive government.

Directed by Nadine Warner, *Sweet Land of Liberty* premieres on Friday, September 13 at 8:00 p.m. at the "O" Bar & Cafe, 3343 N. Clark, Chicago, and will run Friday and Saturday nights through October 19. Tickets are \$10, and voter registration will be available at all performances. For ticket reservations or more information, call (312) 802-9167. ▽



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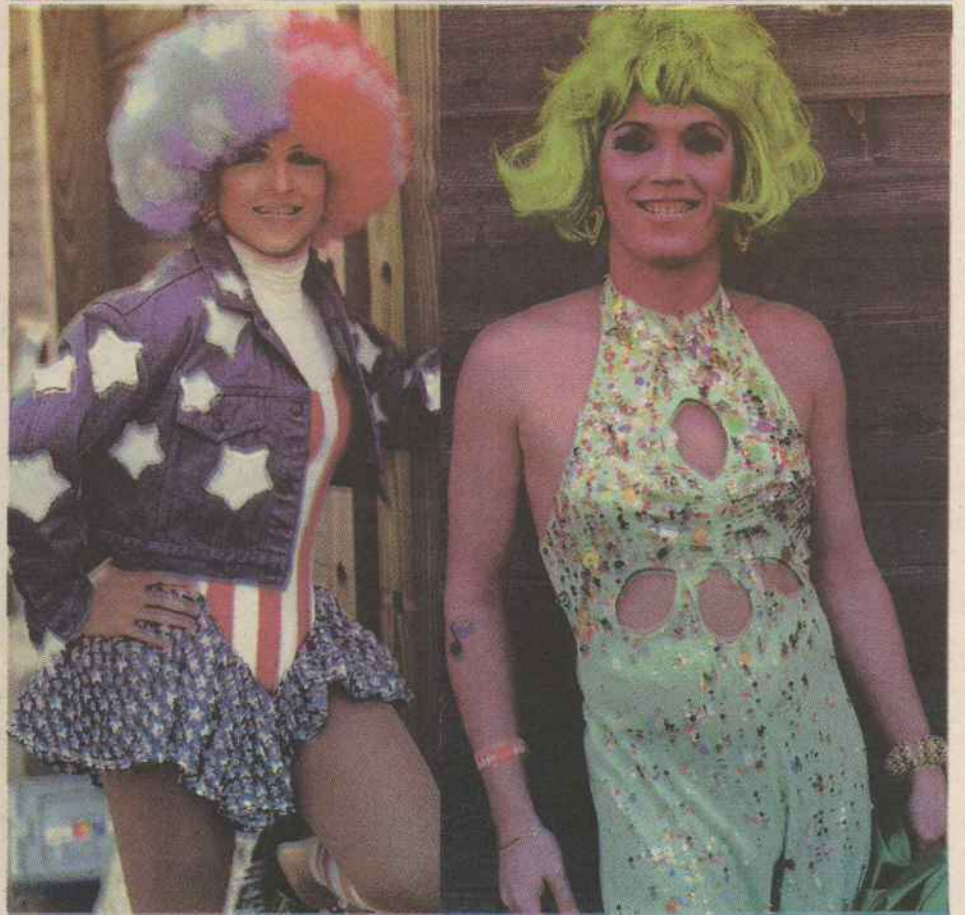
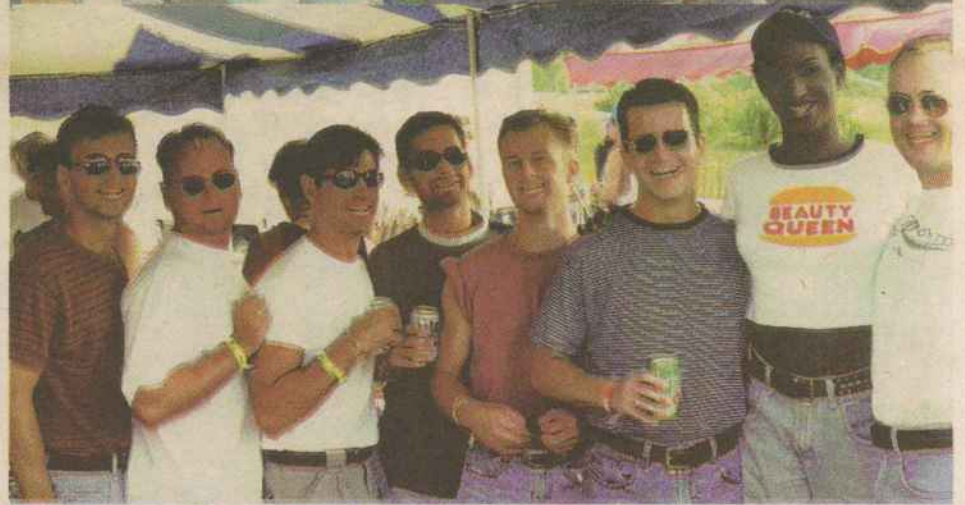
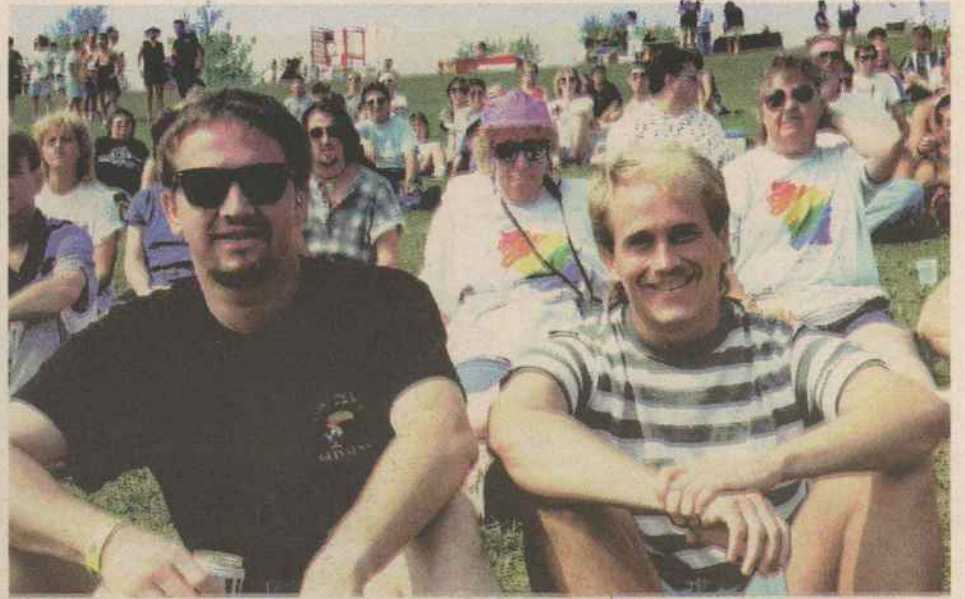
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**OUT & About**



The Labor Day weekend was a real blast for Les Bi Gay Wisconsin as these photos show. The column on the left shows some of the fun at the Link's Block Party held in Milwaukee. At the right are scenes from Rainbow Over Wisconsin's Pride Picnic in Appleton's Memorial Park. Both events were held on Sunday September 15 to raise money for charity. As you can see a good time was had by all.



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# Quotes From The Democratic National Convention

Wisconsin Light Photos by Jerry Johnson and Bill Meunier



"These past two years have seen America turn to extremism and make it popular. Bob Dornan has continued his diatribes against our Gay pride and our community. Each and everyone of us stands as a soldier on the battlefield for our family....You must tell Senator Dole that it isn't enough to take our check today. It's what you do. "We must get rid of the Speaker of the House. To the Human Rights Campaign: Get on the Train! It is the train of human dignity. We of the family of Gays and Lesbians will overcome. We will win!"

Congresswoman Jackson Lee (D-Tex)



"I have no question about that. When you spread hatred, when you breed hatred, you put others at risk. It's that kind of attitude that spreads the belief that you can strike out at people based on their sexual orientation." Former Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts when asked if the Oregon Citizens Alliance activities prompted the murder of two Lesbian activists.



"Even in this day and age, you have to be proud of somebody for being as against something as repugnant as the Republican Congress's legislation is against Gays and Lesbians. Tonight I'm going to say that I'm proud that my father has come from an Irish-American family and more proud that his politics couldn't be farther from the Patrick Buchanans and Bob Dornans of the world....We have the oldest synagogue in the country, the Torah synagogue in Newport and in a letter to George Washington that became the foundation of the separation between church and state, the famous letter had the following inscription: To bigotry, no sanction; to persecution, no existence. It's the model, I think, for what I want my career to be like in politics." Congressman Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) speaking of his father and his beliefs.



"All of us make life choices, the Dole, Kemp, Gingrich, Clarence Thomas side of history, are hostile to civil rights, human rights, workers rights, gender equality, Gays and Lesbians. Their tent is not big enough to include us. In the Clinton, Charlie Rangel, Dick Gephardt tent. You can agree, disagree or agree to disagree but at least you're in the tent. The struggle in life is inside the tent. With the Right Wing you're not in the tent."

Jesse Jackson responding to a question about why Gays and Lesbians and other minorities should support President Clinton.



"Well I would definitely urge Gays and Lesbians to support Bill Clinton because I think the Republican Party has made it extremely clear that there is no conversation around the issue of acknowledging people's humanity, whatever their sexual orientation is. Case closed. End of conversation."

Wisconsin State Senator Gwen Moore on why Les/Bi/Gays should support the President.



"It's kinda become a lost art form in this country, but you can disagree with someone and not hate them. It is possible. I have denounced the Speaker of the House. I've denounced his public policy. I've denounced the fact that he doesn't think that Gays are worthy to have the same rights and protections as non-Gay people. I've not denounced him. As a politician, he may be a bit misguided and a little off, but I'm still respectful of my brother and I'm still proud of him."

Candace Gingrich speaking of her relationship with her brother, Newt Gingrich, homophobic Speaker of the House.



"The Democratic Party is the best base for Gays and Lesbians. The Republicans are really Neanderthals for the most part. There are a few enlightened people there, but not nearly as many as we have in the Democratic Party. I would urge Black Gays and Lesbians to work for the reelection of Democrats and Bill Clinton and then use our power to make sure that they do the right thing in recognizing the right of Gays and Lesbians to live a secure life with the support of their government and their party."

Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-Cal)

"There are those who support you but back away from same sex marriage. I want you to know that I want you to get married. I want you to find somebody and love them and stay with them. I want marriages and relationships to be based on love and caring with heterosexuals. I want it to be the same way in the homosexual community. So I am going to stand with you, I'm going to fight with you I'm going to call my friends who say they support you to stand up for your rights to be joined in matrimony in any way you want to be."

"You know sometimes I get angry with democrats but you know as we go into this election we have to realize what the choices are, can you imagine Dole and that lying ass Kemp." Congressman Maxine Waters (D-Cal)



"Vote Get involved, get involved in your local campaigns. Do what ever you can to get President Clinton re-elected, and to get other fair minded Americans in the Congress and just get out there and vote. -Chastity Bono"



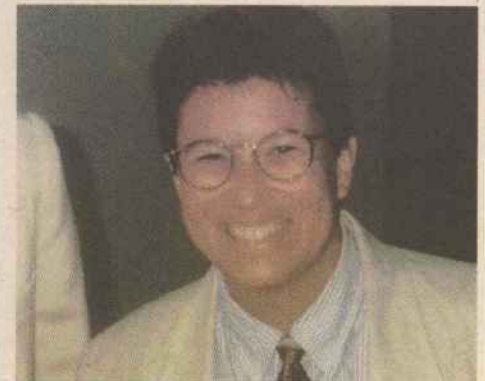
"Let me tell you of a personal story. It happened a couple of weeks before my son died in West Palm Beach, Florida. They called me and told me you'd better come. He's much worse. I got my bags together and went. I went straight from the airport to the hospital with the bags hanging down from my arms. I went down the hall to where I knew Mark's room was."

"He was sleeping and I thought, 'Oh my soul, he's gone.' I sat very still because there in the back was my six foot, seven inch son sleeping. He was dying."

"Seated next to him, facing him, was his partner, his eyes closed, sleeping the sleep of the grieving and the exhausted, and their hands were clasped together. I said, 'Oh Lord, please don't let me forget this.' I have never seen such devotion, such love since that time."

"We mothers will defeat Jesse Helms, the father of bigotry."

Patsy Clark Co-Founder of MAJIK (Mothers Against Jesse In Congress)



"I was at the Republican convention. Overwhelmingly the climate and atmosphere surrounding that convention was that Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered people were part of the unaccepted part of America. They were part of America that that convention and the momentum around that convention I felt was incredibly hateful and bigoted and vicious towards our community. Despite the way the public big tent thing was handled, I was sitting at lunch with those delegates and the real language they talk about, is the language of putting us all off in concentration camps."

"They didn't show you that when Colin Powell was speaking those delegates were stone faced and angry. They don't like him and they didn't want him."

Melinda Paras Executive Director of the National Gay Lesbian Task Force.





## 'The Spitfire Grill' is an Often Lifeless Film That Never Makes You Care

Review by John Arthur Jahn

Lee David Zlotoff, both writer and director of *The Spitfire Grill*, makes his feature film debut with this movie, and in my estimation, the film shows many signs of being someone's first major work. By and large, I was underwhelmed and unmoved by this movie.



ELLEN BURSTYN stars in *Spitfire Grill*

The film is set in the tiny town of Gilead, Maine in contemporary times. Gilead is a town which probably saw its heyday some 30 or more years before, when logging was all aboom, but now seems to be waiting to die. Into this depressing atmosphere walks a young girl just released from prison named Percy Talbott (Alison Elliott). The old, indomitable owner of the town's only eatery — the Spitfire Grill — agrees to take her in and gives her a job.

Grill owner Hannah Ferguson, played by veteran actress Ellen Burstyn, has one of the few well-acted, well-scripted roles in the movie. Eventually, Hannah warms up

to Percy, who also makes friends with a young, timid girl in town named Shelby Goddard (Marcie Gay Harden) who's domineering, insensitive husband Nahum (Hannah's nephew), is ever-suspicious of the ex-con, interloper.

Shelby and Percy make a great team, and they concoct a scheme to help Hannah sell the old grill which nets her a load of money. When this money disappears, all hell breaks loose and the natural suspect is, of course, Percy.

Zlotoff credits three sources as the inspiration for his script. First, he read an article about Appalachian poverty in Ohio (Percy's originally from Ohio); then he heard a report on public radio about the selling of an inn in Maine; and thirdly, he read in *Newsweek* about states that use prison inmates to staff their tourism offices!

These are credible and interesting sources alright, but what do you do with them? Zlotoff's answer in *The Spitfire Grill* was apparently to create a fairly slow, often lifeless and uninvolved two-hour movie that never really grabs you and makes you care.

To its credit, the film contains good acting by all the principle characters. It's also well-photographed and certainly evokes the richness and briskness of New England at the turn of Spring. Further setting the atmosphere is a delicate, unprepossessing score by the superb composer James Horner (*Apollo 13*, *Braveheart*, *Star Trek II*).

Truly, this movie has its moments, but far too few to recommend it. Several of the main actors have (mysteriously) southern accents, including Nahum (played by Will Patton, a South Carolina native) and Sheriff Gary Walsh, played by Gailard Sartain of *Mississippi Burning* and *Hee-Haw* fame. People talk like that in Maine?

Then there's the ridiculous side show of Hannah's deranged, Vietnam veteran son, who she claims was killed and who the whole town believes dead and gone for 20-odd years, but who in reality lives just outside town in a shack in the woods!

The fatal flaw comes with the main character. We don't know anything about her past life as either child, adult, or

convict until literally the last five or ten minutes of the movie, and by then, do we really care anymore? The payoff is so contrived and tardy that we barely feel a desire to know. Finally, Alison Elliott also plays her role with a southern accent. This, plus her appearance makes her come off as a cut rate Jodie Foster, minus the natural talent.

So many elements in *The Spitfire Grill* are obviously aimed at reaching our hearts, but none successfully make the trip. On a scale of 1-10, this film rates a 3.

*The Spitfire Grill* opens in Milwaukee on September 6 at the Oriental Theater.

*The Spitfire Girl* is now playing at Milwaukee's Downer Theater.

### Basquiat

Continued from Page 17

sensational material could be synthesized, actually trivialized to such a fundamentally pedestrian level. Then again, maybe it isn't.

The oft-proclaimed "artist of the gutter" was black but actually the product of a middle-class family. Mother may have ended up in an insane asylum but father was an accountant.

As the film opens Basquiat's abode is a single-room unit of the cardboard variety but quickly he shacks up with the very beautiful Gina Cardinale (Claire Forlani), a waitress by day, would-be painter by night. Spray can in hand, Basquiat wonders the city, leaving profound bits of magical realism, much like the bread crumbs dropped by Hansel and Gretel, here and there and everywhere, be it on street corners, alley ways or even the clothing of friends near and dear.

In much the same way evil vultures swooped down and feast upon Hansel and Gretel's ill-chosen link to home and happiness, art dealers, critics and professional hangers-on quickly descend upon Basquiat, gobbling up each and every scrap of paper bearing his mark.

Fame follows, as does friendship with the likes of Andy Warhol (David Bowie) but happiness remains ever so illusive. Familiar story but one sadly lacking the typical Hollywood moment of self-revelation.

Not that Basquiat is utterly lacking in a variety of pleasures. On the whole, Basquiat's high-powered, high-profile cast works hard to propel the film to lev-

els higher than the screenplay would warrant. David Bowie is an absolutely delicious Andy Warhol, all icon facade but bereft of even the least glimmer of substance or talent. His is the star turn in the film.

Claire Forlani is a radiant Gina, offered a wee bit unconvincingly as the love of Basquiat's life. Christopher Walken has a striking moment as a weary interviewer desperately badgering a beleaguered Basquiat into responding intelligently to any question.

With so many "all-star cameos" (Hey, ain't that ugly hooker Courtney Love?), much of the focus on Jeffrey Wright's Basquiat is lost. Not that Mr. Wright's limp performance helps much. Wright's Basquiat has about as much artistic spark as Mister Rogers.

Those seeking insight into Basquiat's soul, what passions burning brightly would motivate his art but which in turn would lead him blindly to a patently predictable B-movie demise: death by overdose, are going to be disappointed. Still, there's a terrific soundtrack and Bowie's fabulous performance to help pass the time.

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

Basquiat is now showing at Milwaukee's Downer Theater.

### Stonewall

Continued from Page 17

to the absurd law that made it illegal to serve homosexuals.

Likewise, audiences are likely to find the actual Fire Island scenes more than a touch ironic following Ethan's glowing descriptions to Matty (plus Fire Island's subsequent, infamous decadence).

Perhaps it is impossible to translate the events leading up to those sultry June evenings in 1969 onto the silver screen, necessarily balancing historical fact with entertainingly fictitious pleasures. Finch, Blair and company do try really, really hard and if their efforts are not always successful, there at least is truly never a dull moment!

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

Stonewall will be playing at Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian Film festival which will be held at the UWM Student Union Cinema from September 26 to October 3. For show times call (414) 229-4825.

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## Additional Author Appearances at AfterWords—And Hallowe'en Besides

**Milwaukee**--On Friday, September 20th AfterWords will welcome Lesbian humor columnist Jorjet Harper for an author appearance. Harper is a self-described *Lesbomaniac*, a term she has coined to express her enthusiasm and delight for all things Lesbian.

Virtually anything can prompt the intelligent, mischievous Harper. She can teach about Lesbians in ancient Egypt or sing a parody of *West Side Story* to "Martina, Martina" or observe the Clintons from her own, unique perspective.

Described by Allison Bechdel as "smart, hilarious and depraved", Jorjet Harper is the author of the recently released, *Tales From the Dyke Side* as well as the delightful *Lesbomania*. Both books prove that her writing is sharp and insightful and flows with a delicious sense of irony and bubbles over with humor.

Harper will be appearing at 7:00pm and will read from her new book and present a slide presentation based on the two books.

### Hart and Zimmerman

Saturday, September 27th will be a night of murder and mayhem at AfterWords as welcomes crime novelists Ellen Hart and R. D. Zimmerman for readings of their newest books.

Ellen Hart is the author of the popular series of Jane Lawless mysteries which include *Hallowed Murder*, *Vital Lies*, *Stage Fright*, *A Killing Cure* and *A Small Sacrifice*. Joining Jane in her crime-solving adventures is the always funny and flamboyant, Cordelia Thorn.

Hart's visit to AfterWords Bookstore and Espresso Bar coincides with the publication of the newest Jane Lawless mystery *Robber's Wine* (Seal Press HC \$21.95). In this latest outing, Jane and her chum Cordelia Thorn are all set to vacation in Northern Minnesota when their friend Anne asks for a lift home. Their plan to stay with Anne's mother, Belle and her lover Helvi. But when Belle is discovered dead, Jane and Cordelia must extend their stay to find the murderer.

Reading with Ellen Hart on Friday, September 27th is the Lambda Literary Award-winning mystery writer R.D. Zimmerman who has just published his second Todd Mills mystery, *Tribe* (Dell Pb \$5.50). *Closet* is the title of R. D. Zimmerman's first mystery which was also Edgar nominated.

Ellen Hart and R.D. Zimmerman will be reading at AfterWords at 7:00pm.

### Achy Obejas

On Saturday, October 19th AfterWords is pleased to welcome Achy Obejas who will read from her debut novel, *Memory Mambo* (Cleis Pb \$12.95). From the author of *We Came All the Way from Cuba So You Could Dress Like This?* comes the story of Juani Casas, a twenty-four-year-old Lesbian struggling with violence, desire and the meaning of love. Having escaped from Cuba with her irresistibly imperfect family of "cousins", she is fixated on memory, of extracting the truth of her life from the nostalgic mythology of exile.

Achy Obejas will read and sign copies of *Memory Mambo* at 7:00pm. This event is free and all are welcome.

### Pam Keesey

For our 3rd Annual Halloween Bash on Wednesday, October 30th AfterWords welcomes author and editor Pam Keesey who with her latest book has gone from vampires to werewolves, *Women Who Run with the Werewolves: Tales of Blood, Lust and Metamorphosis* (Cleis Press Pb \$12.95). In this latest collection, Keesey shows the female werewolf as dangerous and alluring, often using her sexuality to destroy men. Ms. Keesey will explore the mythology of the werewolf as well as read selections from the book.

Everyone is invited to the Halloween Bash (AfterWords promises that no female werewolves will be allowed to destroy any male attendees!) for a night of horrific fun and refreshments. The party begins at 7:00pm. Don't be late!

For further information on any AfterWords event, please call (414) 963-9089.



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## Lesbomania Arrives

at AfterWords  
Friday,  
September 20th  
7:00pm



Jorjet Harper  
*Lesbomania & Tales From the Dyke Side*

A Mysterious Evening  
at AfterWords  
Friday,  
September 27th  
7:00pm  
with



Ellen Hart  
*Robber's Wine*



R.D. Zimmerman  
*Tribe*

AfterWords

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## 2nd ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

FRIDAY, SEPT 27

- ▼ ALL Miller Bottled Beers - \$1.75
- ▼ Door Prizes
- ▼ FREE Specialty Shots after Midnight
- ▼ Special Performance by SHORELINE

Friday Fish Fry  
5-10pm  
Reservations Encouraged.

807 S. 5th Street • Milwaukee • 383-2233  
BANQUET & MEETING FACILITIES

JUST

US

JUST ▼ US opens at 5pm SUN thru THUR; 4pm FRI; 6pm SAT. Cocktail/Happy Hour until 8pm.

SATURDAY, SEPT 28

- ▼ The JUST US Divas featuring Monda, Starr, Sandy & Special Guests
- ▼ Door Prizes
- ▼ ALL Miller Beers - \$1.75, 9pm to Close
- ▼ FREE Specialty Shots after Midnight

NEW Expanded Menu

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- ▼ FREE Packer Party Pig Roast (served at half time)
- ▼ Door Prizes
- ▼ ALL Imports - \$2
- ▼ 75¢ Miller Tappers
- ▼ \$1.50 Rail Cocktails
- ▼ FREE Green & Gold Shot When Pack Scores

HELP US KICK-OFF OUR 3RD YEAR

# Entertainment Guide

**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**

**Cavaller 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

**Prairie 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 52304  
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

**Popular News**  
225 N. Water  
Milwaukee WI 53202  
278-0636

**This Is It**  
418 E. Wells  
Milwaukee WI 53202  
278-9192

**Triangle**  
135 E. National  
Milwaukee WI 53204  
383-9412

**Walkers Point Cafe**  
1106 S. First St.  
Milwaukee WI 53204  
384-7999

**Zippers**  
819 S 2nd St.  
Milwaukee WI 53204  
645-8330

**RACINE**

**JoDees**  
2139 Racine St.  
Racine, WI 53403  
634-9804

**ROCKFORD, IL**

**The Office**  
513 E. State St  
Rockford, IL 61104  
815-965-0344

**SHEBOYGAN**

**Blue Lite**  
1029 N. 8th St.  
Sheboygan, WI 53081  
457-1636

**STEVENS PT.**

**The Platwood Club**  
701 Highway 10W  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
341-8862

**SUPERIOR**

**JT's Bar**  
1506 N 3rd St.  
Superior WI 54880  
394-2580

**The Main Club**  
1813 N 3rd  
Superior, WI 54880  
392-1756

**Trio**  
820 Tower  
Superior, WI 54880  
392-5373

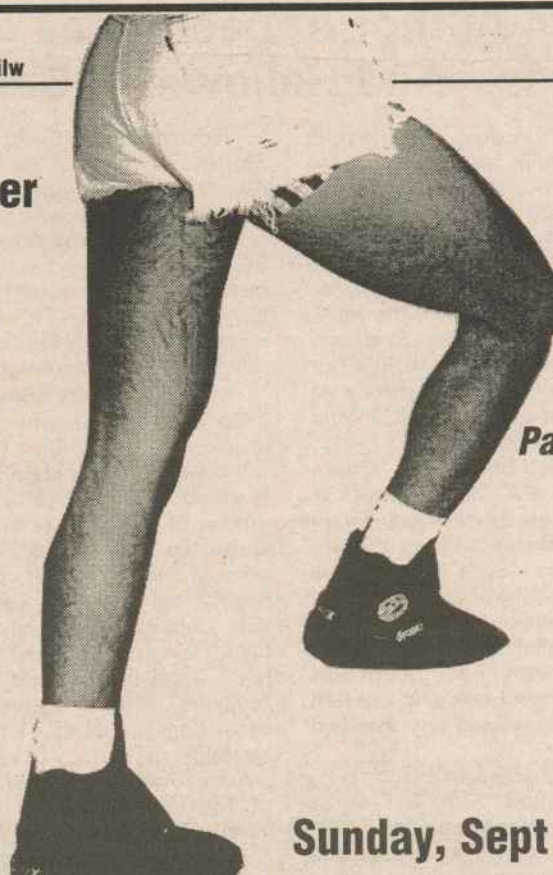
**WAUSAU**

**The Mad Hatter**  
320 Washington  
Wausau, WI 54401  
842-3225

IN BETWEEN  
625 S. 2nd St. • Milw

273-2693  
Lottery Approved

**Sunday, September 15  
OPEN AT NOON FOR THE KICK-OFF**



**SHOTS for Every Packer Score**

Sunday, Sept 22

**Bottled Imports Grab Bag Special (IF YOU CAN WAVE)**

**SUPPORT AIDS WALK WISCONSIN**

**Join the IN BETWEEN Team**

**Sign-Up at the Bar!**

**Attend our FABULOUS**

**Post Walk Party**

**IN BETWEEN**

**Milwaukee's Ultimate Social Bar**

**AIDS WALK WISCONSIN**

**WAY TO GO!**

**Thanks to Wisconsin's Gay & Lesbian Bars for sponsoring teams in AIDS Walk Wisconsin through Footsteps for the Future!**

**MILWAUKEE TEAMS & MEMBERS AS OF 9/10/96:**

Mama Roux . . . . .	206	This Is It . . . . .	20
Blue Lite . . . . .	45	In Between . . . . .	18
Just Us . . . . .	41	Kathy's Nut Hut . . . . .	17
M&M . . . . .	24	Club 219 . . . . .	6
Fannies . . . . .	22	La Cage . . . . .	5

**REGISTER AT THE BARS! JOIN YOUR FAVORITE TEAM AND SUPPORT THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS.**

AIDS Walk Wisconsin benefits the AIDS prevention, care and research programs of AIDS service organizations throughout Wisconsin and is produced by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW)




## THIS IS IT!

**Days Get Shorter, Fall Arrives  
T'is Time for Cheer at This Is It  
From Joe, June and Staff**

**418 East Wells Street Milwaukee (414) 278-9192**



*LaCage*

**DISCOVER WISCONSIN'S GAY ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX!**

4 Different Places to Party,  
Dance or Relax  
7 Bars · 2 Dance Floors  
4 Sound Systems  
Video · Food  
Games · Dancing

**WISCONSIN'S  
FINEST VIDEO  
AND DANCE CLUB**

The Wisconsin Light

PRESENTS

T H E  
**SPOTLIGHT**

**AN EVENING WITH THE STARS**

A BENEFIT FOR THE BESTD CLINIC

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 · 10PM · \$5 COVER**

**LENA CHAVEZ, MISS CONTINENTAL WI (CLUB 219)**

**LU SHANTI, MAMA ROUX**

**JASMINE, MAMA ROUX**

**BRITTANY MORGAN, 3B'S**

**DRAG-A-RAMA**

**KAREN VALENTINE, M&M'S**

**SINGSATIONAL, M&M'S**

**LANA ST. JAMES, IN BETWEEN**

**CURT PECK, IN BETWEEN**

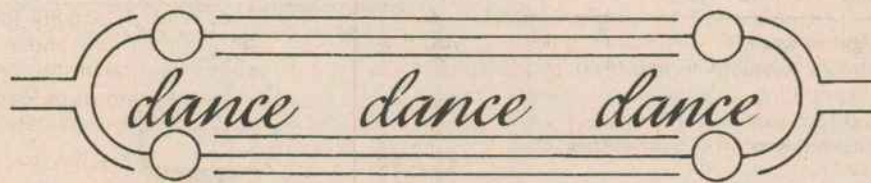
**TJ, C'EST LA VIE**

**ROBERT NUGENT JONES**

**SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE BY BJ DANIELS**

**PLUS MANY SURPRISE GUESTS**

SPONSORED BY THE WISCONSIN LIGHT & LA CAGE



**Grubb's Pub**  
Food And Drink



**Milwaukee's Newest  
Gay Nite Club Just Happens to be Milwaukee's  
Oldest Gay Nite Club!**

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 HOT-AS-HELL ROUGH GROUP SEX  
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 18+ Yrs. • \$2.00-3.99/Min.

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 WILD LATIN TOPS: 1-900-745-1250  
 HORNY BLACK DUDES: 1-900-745-7273  
 INTERNET CHAT: WWW.dudejack.com



The Original USA **Gay Party Line**  
**1-809-404-5462** as low as 74¢ a minute  
 WHY PAY MORE? WHY SEARCH?  
 Here You Get Everything

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 011-5690-2503

**LIVE! 24 Hours**

**THE HOTTER... THE HARDER**  
 Night Meetings-Live  
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**Special Live Gay Party**  
**WILD & DIRTY**  
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International LDD Rates .74c to \$1.27 Per Minute. 18+

**EXXXTREME HOT SAMPLES**  
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**Live Gay Cruising**  
 Cruise through 100 telephone lines for a live one-on-one chat.  
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Live Psychic Advisor 011-592-563-287

Now with **DIGITAL SOUND**  
 Sound so clear, you'll taste it!



**SEX with MEN**

**1-800-PRO-MALE**  
\$1.25/MIN. V/MC 7 7 6 6 2 5 3

**1-900-999-3333**  
\$1.99/MIN. BILLED TO YOUR PHONE 18+

**Men and Sex are waiting for you!**

**Gay Rights Group Launches 900-Line for Equal Marriage Rights Campaign**

**Telephone Calls to 1-900-97-MARRY Raise Funds for the Fight Against Intolerance**  
**Honolulu, HI** — A new telephone line, 1-900-97-MARRY, established by the Friends of Hawaii Equal Rights Marriage Project (h.e.r.m.p.), is available nationwide to Gay and Lesbian rights advocates, their families and friends. Contributions of \$5, \$10, \$20 or \$25 are accepted electronically in less than 90 seconds, simply by using a touch-tone phone. Donations appear on the caller's monthly telephone bill.

1-900-97-MARRY, the first 900-line of its kind, was created to raise critically needed funds to make equal marriage rights a permanent reality for Gay men and Lesbians across the nation. Friends of h.e.r.m.p. intends to use the money raised through 1-900-97-MARRY to finance public education and advocacy to legalize same-gender marriage. The grassroots organization also hopes to defeat well-financed extreme conservative and radical religious campaigns aimed at quashing equal marriage rights in Hawaii and throughout the nation.

"This fall, with the latest round of court decisions, we expect Hawaii will be much closer to recognizing with dignity and respect the union of two men or two women," said Tracy Bennett of the Hawaii Equal Rights Marriage Project. "It is critical that we act now and take a stand for Lesbian and Gay civil rights. We must not allow conservative and religious extremists to set us back, and even a small contribution to 1-900-97-MARRY will help us fight the forces of hatred and bigotry."

Friends of h.e.r.m.p. will also produce a media campaign to counter ads now being placed by religious radicals on radio and

television and in newspapers throughout the country. Ms. Bennett added, "our media campaign will fight their lies by addressing the real issue: fairness. Gay and Lesbian couples want what every American wants — insurance benefits, adoption and guardianship rights, immigration and naturalization benefits and the right to make critical decisions and arrangements on behalf of ill or deceased life-partners. Without equal marriage rights, we will continue to be treated as second-class citizens."

1-900-97-MARRY is endorsed by Astaea National Lesbian Action Foundation; Gay and Lesbian Medical Association; Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers Network; Human Rights Campaign; Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund; National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum; National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; and Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Contributions are not tax deductible.

Friends of Hawaii Equal Rights Marriage Project is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to working with the public to defend Hawaii's constitution against assaults by religious and political extremists thus protecting the pending victory in the courts for same-gender marriage. V

**Gay College Boys**

*Listen or Join In*  
**1-900-745-2398**

\$2/Min. 18+

**AIDS WALK WISCONSIN SEPTEMBER 22**

**HONORARY CHAIR BETTE MIDLER**

**MEET LOCAL MEN!**



**MEGA PHONE™**

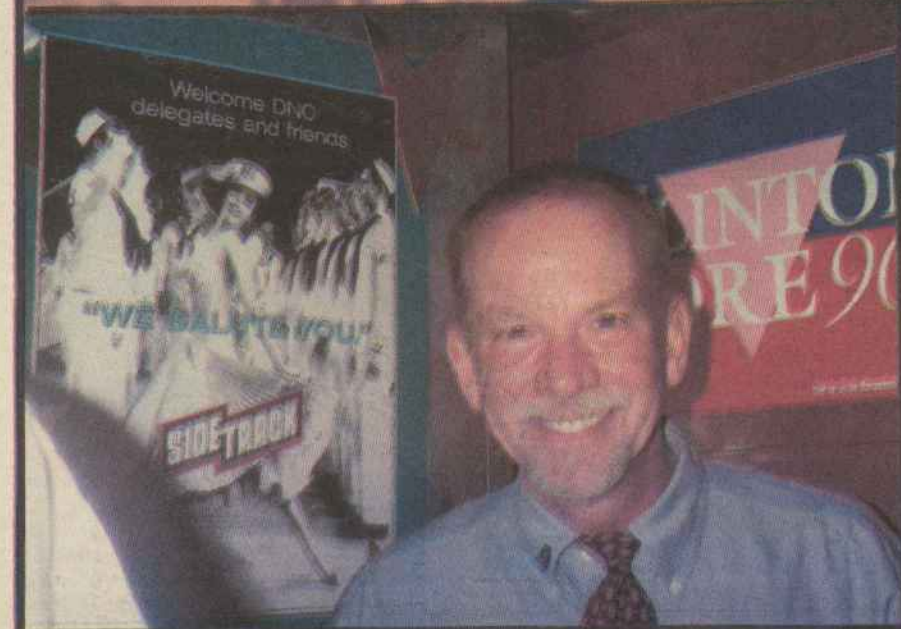
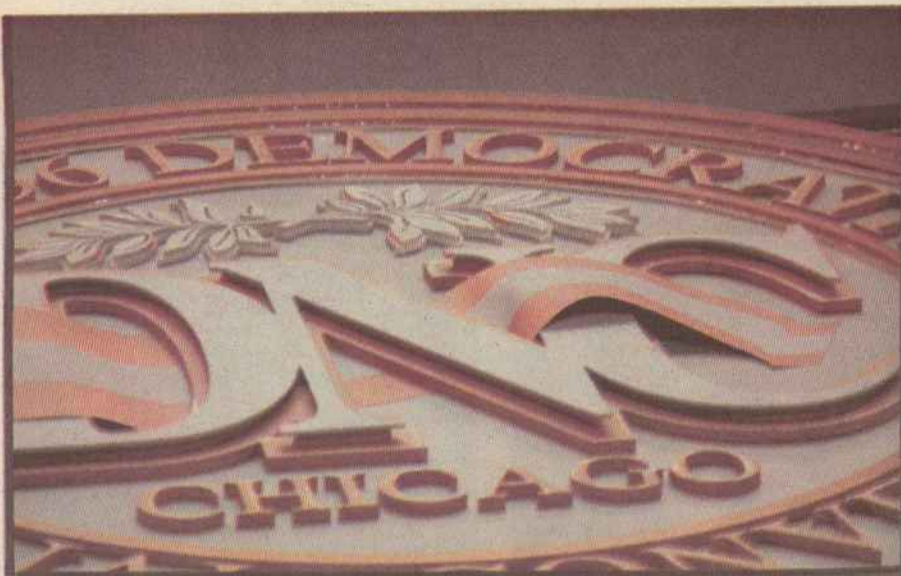
- VOICE-MAIL PERSONALS •
- MESSAGE NOTIFICATION •
- DIRECT CONNECT •

**TRY IT FREE**

**MILWAUKEE (414) 344-5889**

PUB. 100

We do not pre-screen our callers and assume no liability for personal meetings. 18+



Wisconsin Light Photos by Jerry Johnson

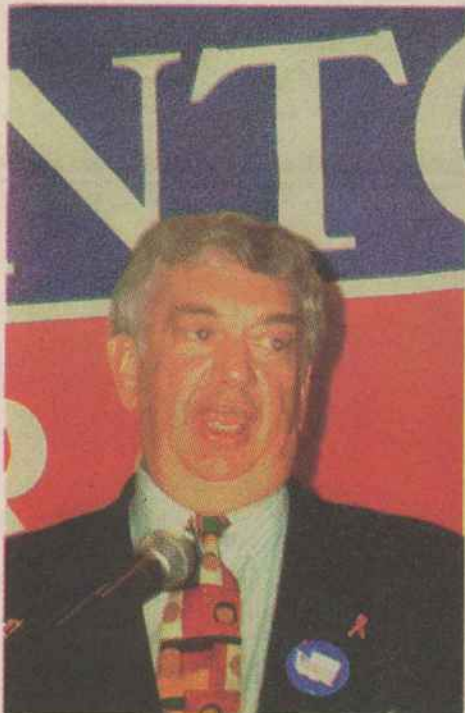
# Quotes From The Democratic National Convention

Wisconsin Light Photos by Jerry Johnson and Bill Meunier



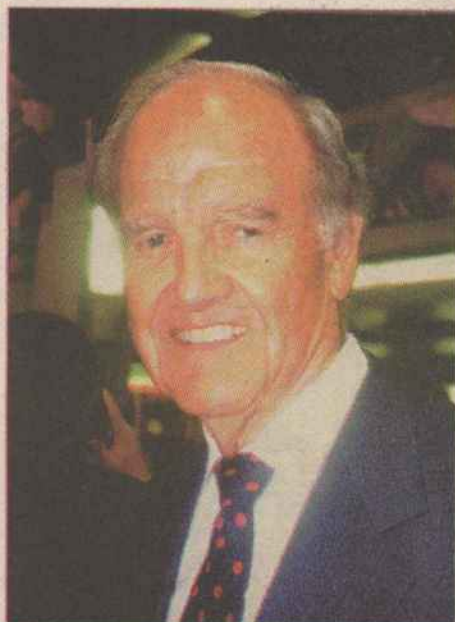
"I frequently think back to four years ago before Bill Clinton took office. We never had a sitting President who had even uttered the words Gay or Lesbian in public. Nor did we have access to the White House in any way at all, let alone a meaningful way. In the past four years, I have felt genuine access to this administration, not only through their openly Gay and Lesbian appointees—which number over 100—but directly to the White House."

**Openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin** on why she wants Gays and Lesbians to support Bill Clinton



"Mary and I have been married for 28 years and we have a 21 year daughter who graduated magnum cum laude, I mean laude. I promise you we do not feel any danger by loving couples of the same gender getting married."

**Governor of Washington Mike Lowery**



"I just have a basic principle, you treat everybody alike and sex preference is a personal matter."

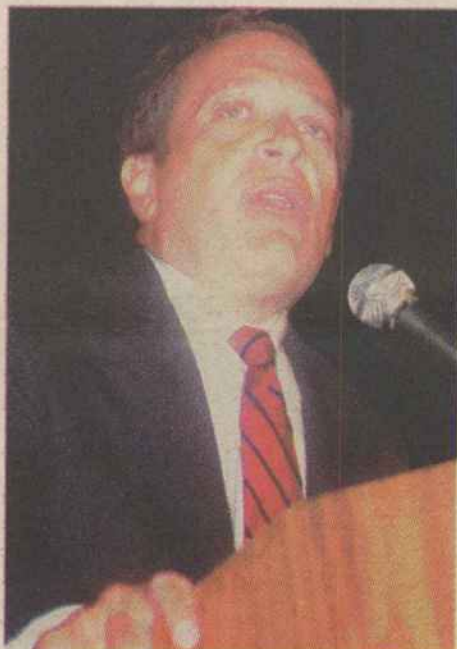
**Former Democratic Presidential Nominee George McGovern** on the in response to a "Wisconsin Light" question about Republicans and DOMA



"They say there's a new Bob Dole. But let's not lose sight of the old Bob Dole - he wasn't exactly a merry old soul. He was the compliant partner in the so-called Gingrich revolution. Newt Gingrich thought it up, but Bob Dole swallowed it. Hook, line and sinker."

"When our opponents put their ticket together, they left out the last name. Their real ticket is that famous Republican trio of reaction - Dole, Kemp and Gingrich."

**Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Mass)**



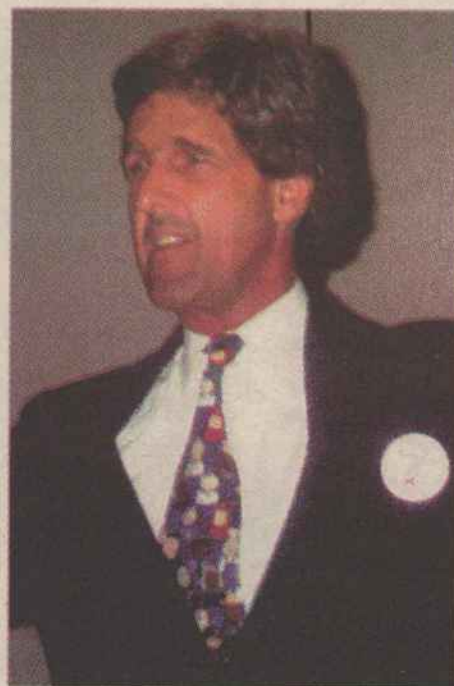
"I would simply say that this President and this Party represents tolerance. The other presidential candidate and the other party represent intolerance. Look at the records. Look at Dole's record. Look at Clinton's record. I don't think there's any question. Obviously, nobody is going to be absolutely perfect on every single issue for every single particular group. But let's not make an enemy of the better, the clearly preferable alternative."

**Labor Secretary Reisch on President Clinton's record on Gay issues.**



"I could not cast a vote that said some Americans won't count. The Republican Party is sending a message to the country which says which Americans don't belong. That's what this election is about: who belongs and who doesn't. The answer is, everybody belongs. My husband and I: he was 17, I was 18 when we married. We're still married. I believe in marriage for me and I believe in marriage for you. I am proud to have you as my friends."

**Congresswoman Lynn Rivers (D-MI)** speaking at the HRC Fund Raiser about her vote against DOMA.



"It is never a matter of courage, it is a matter of conscience."

**Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass)** Speaking out about DOMA



"First of all I am going to teach for a while and then I am going to see if I can get through the 12 Step Recovering politician program."

**Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Col)** responding to a Wisconsin Light question about her retirement plans.



"Bill Clinton can't appoint anyone who is Gay or Lesbian because he'll never get it through the Senate. We have people, Democrats, who give into the nearly overwhelming pressure from Republicans. We must take back the Senate particularly."

**Openly Gay Congressman Barney Frank (D-Mass)**

"Bill Clinton has gone part of the way with us, not all the way, and the question we have is this: Do we wanna keep what we've gained under Bill Clinton, which is considerable and try and go further, or do we once again want to defend ourselves as Bob Dole undoes the gains we've been able to make?"

**Congressman Barney Frank**



"When Gays and Lesbians are being discriminated against, America has a problem. When people in the military are afraid of taking showers with Gays and Lesbians and therefore try to keep them from serving their country, it is not Gays and Lesbians who have a problem. When people are so afraid of Gays and Lesbians, acquiring equal status for their relationships that they feel compelled to enact preemptive legislation to 'Defend Marriage' it is not Gays and Lesbians who have a problem."

"One of the difficulties in our country is that the wrong people have had to pay the price for other people who have a problem."

**Television Star and HRC Board Member Judith Light**



"The highest priority of the Clinton Administration in terms of Civil Rights is the passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act."

That will transform the lives of Gay men and Lesbians in this country and lead them to the next step in our struggle. So Gay and Lesbian people have to be sophisticated about all this.

I am always surprised and there are many people who want to criticize someone like President Clinton or even leaders of our movement who don't have the guts to come out to their mother or father or even to their boss.

They should stand to think for a minute. Are we at the point where they want to walk down the aisle and put it in *The Milwaukee Journal*. When we are ready to do that, then we'll be at the point where we'll have it all."  
**Bruce Lehman Asst. Secretary of Commerce, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks and the highest Openly Gay official in the Clinton Administration.** Please note our complete exclusive interview with Mr. Lehman will begin running in installments in our next issue.