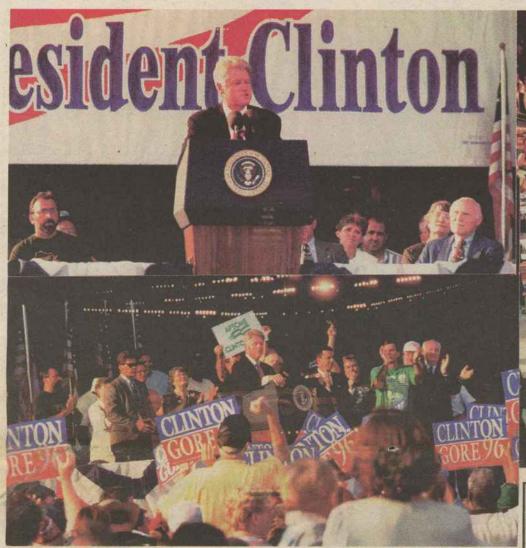
Give the People Light and they will find their own way.

The Wisconsin Light

Democrats Court Les/Bi/Gay Voters

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



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.

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 Wisconsin Light that they can still find reasons for optimism.

ENDA, the major natoinal 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.

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 vealth 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

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!

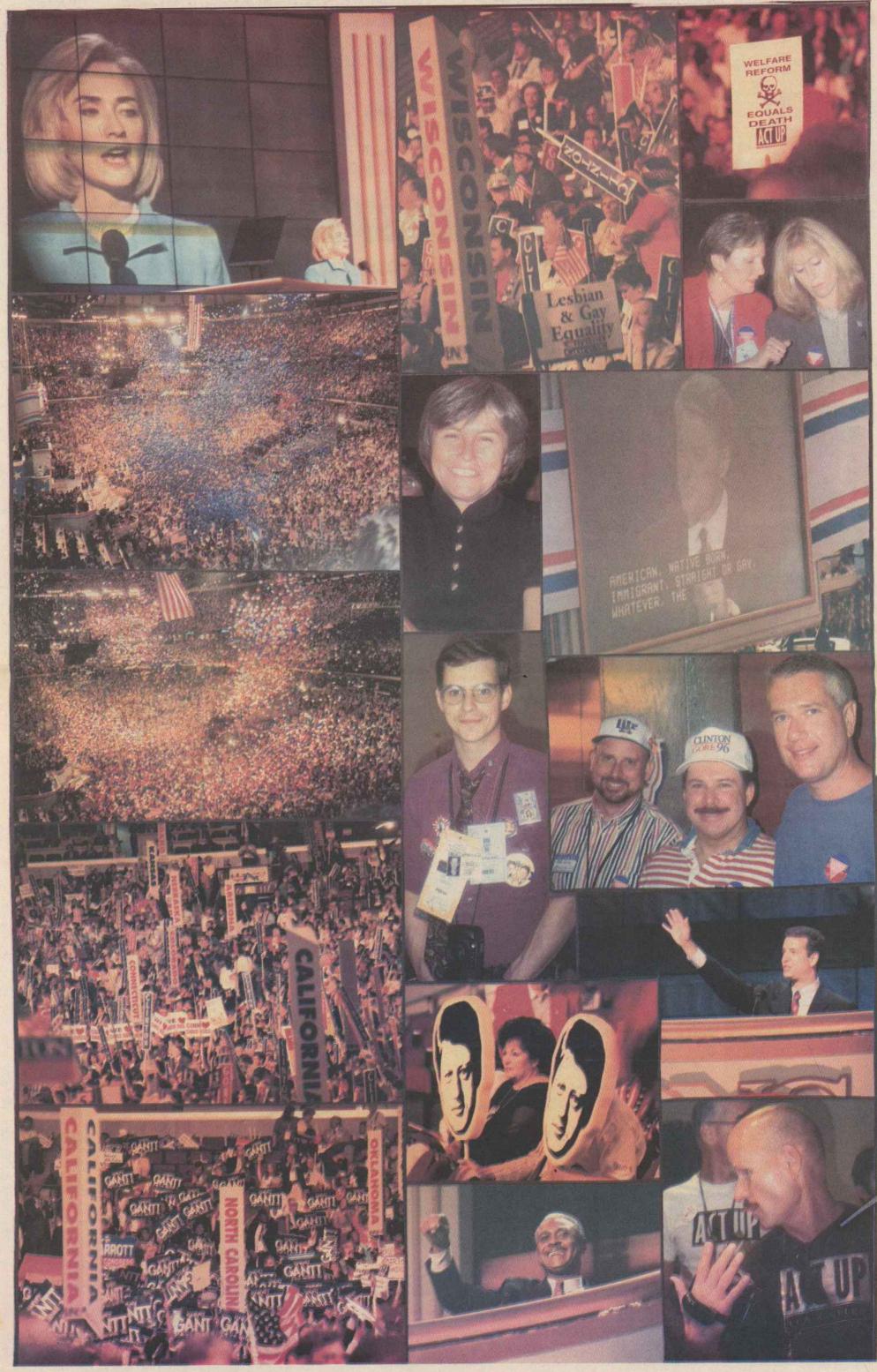
The staff of The Wisconsin Light



Ross Draegert and Dr. Robert Starcshak 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.

What's Inside...

- Complete Coverage of Gay Activity at the Democratic Convention
- **AIDS Ride Controversy Page 3**
- Carpenter Wins Big, Light Investigates Suit Against Group Page 7
- HRC's Elizabeth Birch Page 10
- The SpotLight Section Pages 11 to 23 Night With the Stars at La Cage Movie Reviews In The Life's John Catania Lesbian Variety Show Review



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

Congressman Tom Barrett (D) is the Representative from Wisconsin's 5th Congression sional 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

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



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 dis-criminating against Gays and Lesbians who want to get married?

TB: I frankly think, its 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

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

TB: I think its 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 paying more, because you would 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 mar-

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 its 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

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 its 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

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

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

Pallotta and Associates is the Californiabased 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 Pallota 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 tele-
- \$119,027—equipment purchase and rental

\$104,316—advertising.

- \$35,199-travel and rider recruitment.
- \$82,064 pledge processing staff and

Total Expenses-\$1,330,4333.

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 21st, "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 mil-

According to PGN, expenses for the DC portion of the Ride totaled \$1.47 million. The paper reported that an August 22nd 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

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 hun 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 cen-

"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

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 Ac, 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."

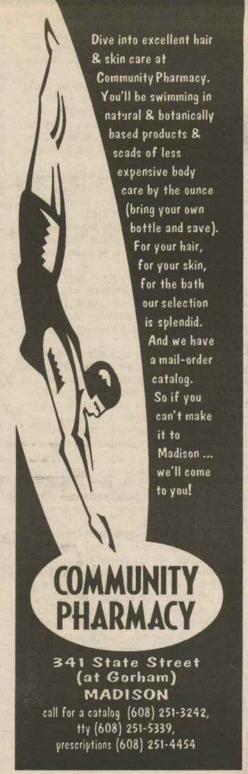
Osborne is the attorney investigating the Ride. PGN said that Osborne hopes to conclude the investigation by the end of the year.

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 toldand which Pallotta said was the Ride's goalthe 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 4th 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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Editorial

There Is No Place For Dirty Politics

The unfortunate and unhappy example of campaign tactic recently exhibited in Milwaukee by Wisconsin Christians United (WCU) is to be soundly and roundly condemned.

First of all, WCU takes a word which many people proudly identify with themselves, and tries to turn it into a term of opprobrium. This is disgusting. There is no room at any time, anywhere, for anyone to make a whole group of people—or anyone in that group—to feel less about themselves. WCU professes a faith that has as its central core the idea that love is the most powerful force in the cosmos and that all people are worthy of dignity and respect.

In our opinion, WCU has betrayed that faith, betrayed it so badly that its actions threaten to bring the very word "Christian" into disrepute. That this has not been done—and cannot be done—is due to the millions and millions of good and loving people who adhere to the faith.

Secondly, WCU, and others as well, should learn that "Gay," like "Lesbian," "Bisexual," and "Transgender," is a good and proper term designating a state of being, not an act. Some people are quite public about their beings, some are not. It makes no difference. The word is not a slur and should not be used like one, by anybody, no matter what the cause.

One good thing has come from all this. Many people have called our office, people angry about WCU's brochure. We had a chance to talk with them about what it is to be Gay. We are sure WCU didn't intend that that should happen, but it did. We should thank them for that. The more Gay people are understood, the more futile it will be to use "Gay" as a weapon or a slur.

Once, a number of years ago, Mother Theresa came to Pittsburgh, to the cathedral there, and we had an opportunity to go. Afterwards we asked her what Bible verse she thought most significant.

She said, "Be still and know that I am God." WCU should take an example from this.

Editor's Note

There is Nothing Over it, Under it, or Beside It. It's all That There Is

The other evening I was out and about and met a young man. In his 30s, he was darkly handsome, with limpid eyes and a decent build. I'll call him "Rick." That's generic enough. Since we were sitting next to each other, we fell to talking.

He told me that he liked the bars, but didn't get out very much. I asked him why. He said he could only get away when he was sure his wife wouldn't find out.

I was curious about him. "Are you Bisexual?" I asked.

Somewhat to my surprise, he told me he was not.

"I'm Gay," he said. "I've known that since I was eight or so. I knew then I was attracted to guys, strongly attracted," he added with a sweep of his hand over the bar.

Like many of us, he couldn't accept himself and had gone into denial. In high school and later, in college, he'd dated girls—"lot's of them." Finally, after graduation, he'd married.

"Did you love her?" I asked him.

He told me she was "nice," he could have sex with her if he had a couple of drinks and closed his eyes. They had a couple of kids. The grandparents were happy.

For awhile, he said, he thought he could live the straight life. He had a good job, friends, family, a nice house, the works.

Earlier this year, be went out to a Gay bar because he had to go; because, as he said, he couldn't hold it in anymore. "It was getting so hard to deny myself."

What he said he's afraid of now, very afraid, is that he's going to meet some guy and fall in love with him. "I've never been in love, you know," he told me sadly.

He told me that he thought his wife knew. At least she knew something was wrong. They hadn't had sex in a year and a half, maybe longer.

maybe longer.

"So, why don't you just tell her?" I suggested, thinking that his marriage was already a sham, and that he was right. His wife probably did know he was Gay. So why not just grasp the nettle and get it over with. Why not be happy?

But he said that he couldn't tell her. He couldn't bring himself to do that. If he did, he'd lose his kids, probably the house, and maybe even his job. Instead, he'd go on as he had, slipping out to the bars when he could—and "keep my heart closed up tight."

He glanced at his watch. It was late, he said, time to go. He finished his beer in a gulp and was gone.

Afterward—and now—I couldn't stop thinking about him. I feel sorry for both him and his wife. They're both caught in a tragedy of monumental proportions, a tragedy not entirely of their making.

The pressures put upon us, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Gay men, are, as most of us know, terrible. We are taught early on to despise who we are, to deny ourselves with everything that we've got. Constantly, the Right Wing religionists tell us that being Gay is a choice, that being straight is simply a matter of acting like it, a matter of sex, nothing more. Rick's example—and legions of others—lives to say they are wrong, dead wrong.

If you are Gay or Lesbian, you can act against your orientation, but what does that mean? Nothing at all. A Gay person having sex with someone of the opposite gender is still Gay.

Conversely, a person who has sex with someone of their own gender is still straight. Gay or Lesbian doesn't mean sex. It means

love, who you love, who fulfills you. It is this that the religionists don't understand.

I've spent a good deal of time on the phone the last couple of days learning—as if I didn't already know—how venomous the hatred against us is. Not from the callers, but in a certain pamphlet that is being distributed around, courtesy of the Religious Right. Replete with myths, distortions and outright lies, the thing is redolent of a bigotry that ruins human lives.

To a person, the callers have been condemnatory of this hatred.* Each vowed to vote the opposite way from what the hate-sheet suggests.

The pamphlet deals entirely with the physical aspect of Gay lives. It defines us, as the Religious Right always does, in terms of sex, only of sex, always in terms of sex. That is were it is wrong. That is where it dehumanizes us, reducing us to the level of animals rutting in the woods.

Of course, we who are Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual, know all the pleasure of sex. Most people do. But we know too, that at the very heart of our lives, there is something spiritual, something wondrously beautiful, glowing in us like a rose window just at dawn. That is love.

We know that love is not gender oriented. We know that the love between two men or two women is the moral equivalent of love between a woman and a man. We Gay and Bisexual people know that from earliest years.

The problem is, we have to fight so bloody hard in order to live it. Yet, if we don't live it, if we don't open ourselves to the love our nature dictates, we betray ourselves and others as well.

We betray ourselves, too, when we define ourselves purely in physical terms—or let the Right do it to us. Like all people, we have souls and those souls long for love, the love of one who in gender is like ourselves.

We Gay and Lesbian people are a magnificent people precisely because our struggle for civil rights boils down to our right, our ultimate right, the right of all humanity, the right to love.

I wish I had had the presence of mind to tell Rick all that. I did not.

Letters

No Involvement

TO THE EDITOR:

We are writing to express our dismay at the lack of involvement in our democratic process. We want you to know that all five candidates for the Eighth State Assembly district refused to engage the public with issues in a forum.

The forum was planned for August 8, for one hour, starting at 7:00 p.m. Our committee spent countless hours planning and organizing this event. The plans included live television coverage on Milwaukee cable access channel 14, call-in opportunities to the show, and a reception with a voter registration table. Despite this careful groundwork and ample lead time, all candidates declined to appear.

We approached the five candidates listed with the State Elections Commission for this race: Roberto Ascamilla (R), Pilar Gonzales (D), Walter Kunicki (D-incumbent), Victor Larriuz (D), and Tony Zelinski (D). First they were mailed invitations and we received no response. At that point, extra time was taken to do follow-up calls to the candidates. Often, numerous calls needed to be placed before a return call from a campaign worker was received. Finally, when

contact was made, we received responses such as "the candidate was too busy to attend the forum" or "a forum was not their type of campaign tactic." We went so far as to offer both Ascamilla and Kunicki the opportunity to pick a date convenient for them around which we would arrange our schedule. Both declined this offer too!

Although we all understand how busy candidates are when running for office, it seems that a televised forum with a subsequent reception would be the perfect vehicle for conveying their message. We provided abundant opportunity for the candidates to describe their positions on many of the hot topics of the day including W-2/Welfare reform, reproductive rights, school choice vouchers, and school curriculum content.

It's unfortunate that the voters in this race will not be making an informed choice when they case their ballots. We only hope that in the future the elected official from this race will be more accessible to constituents during this campaign. Community Election Coalition '96:

Action Wisconsin,
Human Rights League,
Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee,
Lesbians of Color/Women of Color,
Log Cabin Republicans,
Riverwest Rainbow Association,

Sherman Park Rainbow Association

Religious Right

TO THE EDITOR:

The following are excerpts from a letter I received from Americans United for the Separation of Church and State. This organization works to uphold and protect the constitutional guarantee of church and state separation.

"THE RADICAL RELIGIOUS RIGHT IS ON THE MARCH! They're taking working control of a major political party — ripping down the wall of separation between church and state — and forcing their extreme, intolerant agenda on you and me and every American!"

"The Radical Religious Right is intent on strongarming Congress — and any politicians they help elect — into re-writing the First Amendment, mandating prayer in public schools, furneling your tax dollars into their religious enterprises and much, much more."

"At an annual meeting of the Christian Coalition, Pat Robertson thundered, 'We are seeing the Christian Coalition rise to where God intends it to be in this nation: as one of the most powerful political forces that has ever been in the history of America."

"If the Radical Religious Right prevails, they will destroy our wondrous American mosaic. They'll thumb their noses at pluralism and stifle diversity. They'll inject their own moral code into our personal lives."

They are DEADLY SERIOUS! How do I know? I used to be part of that Radical Religious Right!

Don't say to yourself — "Well, someone ELSE should/could do something about this." YOU need to be that someone who does something! You and me and each one of us needs to wake up and act now! If the Religious Political Extremists have their way — who knows — being Gay could become equal to first degree murder, punishable by death! You think I'm just being an alarmist?

Well, I don't want to just sit back and wait for their death squad to come knocking on my door.

You can keep track of what the Radical Religious Extremists are up to by subscribing to Americans United for Separation of Church and State's monthly magazine, Church and State. Send a contribution of at least \$25 to: Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, 1816 Jefferson Place, NW, Washington D.C. 20036.

Al Brinkman Milwaukee

Gay Men Are Vile

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to thank David Nahmod for having the guts to tell the unvamished truth in all its wretched ugliness in his 8/15 column "Just Imagine What It Would Be Like If Gay Men Actually Liked Each Other."

Though I don't doubt that many detractors might decry his "internalized homophobia," I think it is worth pointing out that the mode of existence Mr. Nahmod is criticizing is not only an emotional and spiritual black hole, it is also often horrendously self-destructive in every possible way to the individuals living out this pattern.

The truly pathetic thing is that this kind of "life" is often chosen because these people cannot imagine doing anything else other than living out the vision of Gay existence portrayed by those who hate us.

For me personally, it has gotten to the point where I find it easier to think of myself as a straight man who just so happens to be attracted to my own gender than to identify with the vile collection of banality that has somehow become known as "Gay-Male sub-culture."

And if there is indeed some shadowy Lesbian conspiracy taking root across the country to "take over the community," to these conspirators I say, "Please do so, and do it soon!"

Thomas I Rondy

Thomas J. Rondy Madison

Republican Shoah

TO THE EDITOR:

I'll never forget a particular scene from Shoah, the epic documentary on the Holocaust. The producer visits one small Polish town that formerly had a large Jewish population, and comments on the Jewish decoration motifs found on the large houses around the town square. He then talks with Polish residents now

living in one of the houses formerly owned by Jews, and asks if they remember the former owners. He's told that Jews owned all the fancy houses around the square. He then asks the Poles where they lived. They respond, "We lived out in back, next to the outhouse."

And so it was at the 1996 Republican National Convention. The Gay Log Cabin Republicans were kept out in back, next to the outhouse.

What a contrast with the way Gays and Lesbians were received at the Democratic convention.

On Sunday, Gays and Lesbians were welcomed by Jesse Jackson and Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala.

Monday featured a brunch with Democratic National Committee Chairman Don Fowler.

Tipper Gore visited on Tuesday.

Wednesday it was California Reps. Maxine Waters and Vic Fazio and Gov. Mike Lowry of WAshington.

California's Sen. Barbara Boxer and Democratic Party chairman Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut were scheduled to visit on Thursday.

While Log Cabin Republicans were searching for the extra roll of toilet paper in San Diego, openly Gay speakers such as Congressman Barney Frank and two California state politicians were on the podium in Chicago.

Ah yes, let's have more stories by Log Cabin Republicans about what a wonderful time they had in San Diego. Our local Gay papers were so thick with such stories that they should be saved. The Log Cabiners might find them useful in the next Republican outhouse four years from now.

Al Geiersbach Milwaukee

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





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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, then 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 nondiscrimination 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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. Chicago many groups showed a political maturity that would have unthinkable a few

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

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

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.

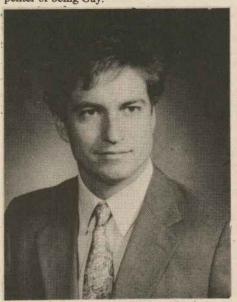
The story is the same throughout the Democratic Party. There is scarcely a faction within that Party that can't fault Clinton for something, but there is scarcely a faction that doesn't have something to thank him for as

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

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

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 vo-

ters 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 dis-tribution 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

"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

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-

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

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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 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

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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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 Melida 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

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 continuing 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.

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 Communication.

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.

President Clinton has a solid if imperfect record.

 His opponent, GOP nominee Bob Dole, has opposed almost every Gay legislative iniative.

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 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

HRC's Elizabeth Birch is A Tough-Minded **Advocate For Perilous Times**

Elizabeth Birch is a tough minded, passionate and articulate advocate for Lesbian and Gay Rights. A Corporate Lawyer she moves easily in the Board Room and in the Gay political environment.

"The Wisconsin Light" was able to interview Birch during the Democratic Convention held in Chicago.

Wisconsin Light: You've been with HRC how long now?

Elizabeth Birch: One and a half years. WL: The best years of your life?

Yes. In many ways I feel like all roads have led to this experience. But you know it's important to remember who I am? I'm a Corporate Lawyer, a corporate wonk an executive. What's been great about his job is that I have been able to blend activism with corporate

WL: What were doing before you came to HRC?

EB: I was head of litigation world wide for Apple Computer and I was General Counsel



ELIZABETH BIRCH

WL: How has HRC changed in your ten-

EB: First of all I want to pay homage to Tim Mc Feeley. He did a tremendous job and laid a firm foundation as did of those involved with the Human Rights Campaign at that

I think that key think that we've brought is two fold —one is communication. People did not understand the vibrant work of the of HRC's work in very strategic, very muscled in Washington, DC.

Tremendous harm has been turned away from the country as a result of the work of HRC

We've been communicating more effectively. When I got there membership was 80,000 and we are way over 170,000 now and that growth is in one year.

Secondly I think what my legacy will be the building the first field operation for the G/L movement.

We have often talked about field organizing and there is tremendous talent around the country, but no one has connected the dots. We have to connect the dots effectively so that we'll have both power in numbers in DC (we hope to have 1,000,000 members by the year 2000), but there's no reason why that same strength can't be transferred to existing or created statewide organizations so we can get a lot more done on the state level as well.

WL: Do you plan on opening regional offices?

EB: Yes, six by the year 2000. The target cities will likely be Chicago, Atlanta, Dallas, Minneapolis, probably Seattle, and somewhere in California yet to be decided.

WL: What is the biggest issue in this election?

"DOMA should be called The Bob Dole Needs a Scapegoat Act of 1996."

EB: The biggest issues for Gays and Lesbians is that one choice presents an opportunity to vote for you life and the other opportunity to severely damage your life.

I think there is absolutely no comparison between the candidates here. Although clearly we have some disappointments from President Clinton there are a couple of things we have to remember.

Number one: the Congress did not support Clinton in his desire to lift the ban on the military. His instincts were right, the execution was horrendous.

On marriage this is a compassionate and intelligent President. If we ever had someone who is educable, its Bill Clinton. He certainly needs to be educated on this issue. Its grossly disappointing his stance on marriage, but lets face it, this thing was orchestrated at this point in the election year precisely to scapegoat one group of people at this point in the election year and its been very effective.

WL: Are the Republicans trying to drive wedge between Gays and Clinton with things like DOMA?

EB: Absolutely That's exactly why they did this. It has nothing to do with marriage, family values or anything else. DOMA should be called The Bob Dole Needs a Scapegoat Act

WL: Senator Kennedy is going to try to attach ENDA to DOMA in the Senate. If he is successful, what do you think will happen in the conference committee between the Senate and the House?

EB: First of all, there's not that many legislative days left. Number two, there was a lot of wrangling over the gas tax and minimum wage. They wrangled for a long time. Let's put these two things in the ring and see how long it can be duked out.

The first threshold issue is can we actually get ENDA as an amendment to DOMA. Once we do that Who knows what will happen in conference, but it's possible that

WL: Do you think that Clinton made a mistake in saying that he would sign DOMA before he really had to say that?

EB: If you're a Gay person, Clinton made a mistake. If you are Dick Morris, he made an incredibly intelligent strategic political deci-

WL: Dick Morris?

EB: Dick Morris is his top political adviser (Note: This interview took place two days before Morris resigned in disgrace)

WL: Some people say that Clinton didn't have to say anything on DOMA until it

EB: I agree with that. That's one strategic move, some people think that but his advisers thought otherwise.

I can tell you as a Lesbian American, it hurt me tremendously and it hurt the people at the Human Rights Campaign.

WL: How do you balance our interests vs. Clinton's re-election?

EB: Oh, it's a no brainer. You have to have long term view. Because if you don't you let the bad guys win twice. They introduce DOMA and use us a political weapon. The worst thing to do is to let that turn into a political weapon, to keep away from the polls, to keep us out of important races

They (the GOP) would love nothing better than to neutralize us as a people. We can not and we should never be stopped.

WL: Isn't that typical strategy, to alienate the voters?

EB: But it didn't work. Since DOMA was introduced, I've been all over the country, crisscrossing it many times.

Gay people are being amazingly mature. They're not understanding, but they're not losing their spirit and they are being mature and pragmatic and understanding that we have huge amount at stake.

Its not only marriage. There would be enormous losses if we don't re-elect Bill Clinton.

"We will move to educate the country in a very thoughtful and methodical way on marriage. We'll win that just like we did on employment around dining room tables. "

WL: What are some of the things we have at stake?

EB: We have made steady progress toward good solid non-discrimination laws in a variety of settings. Clinton's done it in every

Secondly, security clearances for the first time its been removed as an impediment to security clearances. We have a chance to deliver to Gay Americans what most Gay Americans say they want most: protection in the work place. That is at hand, we are pregnant with it in this country.'

In every poll, AP, Newsweek, we are at 85%. All of the research of the Human Rights Campaign clearly shows that its very, very achievable. We should not take our eye

WL: Many Gays blame Clinton for things like the military issue. Others say that we didn't offer him enough support. What do you think?

EB: While we were busy electing this exciting new President in 1992, for the previous 25 years, we forgot our field operations.

You can't just have amazing lobbyists in Washington. By the way we muscled grade strategic lobbyists in Washington. If they are not backed up by a field operation with constituency power, you can't be proactive. All you can be is defensive.

We have a choice to make as a movement. Are we going to remain defensive and in the fox hole and sort of sucking on oxygen as we go along or are we going to build a strong field operation and get proactive and pass our legislation.

WL: If Cinton is re-elected what will HRC do?

EB: First of all HRC will move forward and pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) .Don't forget that was always a piece meal strategy, we've got to add public accommodation and housing onto that.

Secondly we have got to move forward. We will move to educate the country in a very thoughtful and methodical way on marriage. We'll win that just like we did on employment around dining room tables. It's not going to happen off in Washington. Its going to take people continuing to be engaged in the coming out revolution we are in. Everyone has to come out and then they've got to talk to other Americans about their relationships.

WL: You're talking to someone in a bar and they say I am not voting or I'm not voting for Clinton, he broke his word to us. What would say?

EB: I would say that is the most tragic message I have heard all day. When you give up your vote, you have given up a very sacred thing.

Some groups of Americans literally gave their lives so they could vote. Gay and Lesbian Americans sit here today wit ha vote, no vote should be wasted.

WL: What do you say to people who say that Gay issues are only part of my life. They're not my whole life and I won't vote on the basis of them? I'm voting Republican because I'm a fiscal conservative.

EB: I would say that it's what's most important in evaluating a representative is can that individual be trusted, is that person fair minded and intelligent. Will that person represent the wholeness of your life?

A 15% tax cut when you don't have a job is not a great gift. Gay and Lesbian Americans have got to be thoughtful. There are some good Republicans who have been very good on our issues. Gay Republicans should be very careful that they are voting for one of

WL: What would you want every Gay and Lesbian to do in this election?

EB: They should learn everything about their precinct. They should learn about how to get involved in getting people out to vote, registering voters and helping people.

They best thing they should do is find three people on their street, who need help to get to the polls. Get them in a car and get them

Informal Notes on the Democratic National Convention of 1996

By Bill Meunier Security was tight

Security was tight at many convention venues. Those entering the United Center had to go through three check points. The last check point outside the arena's doors had metal detectors set so high that even a pack of cigarettes set them off.

The Wisconsin Light had two hall passes plus four arena passes. The arena passes got you in the building but not in the convention hall. The Hall passes got you in both.

One of Light's Hall passes could be converted into a floor pass for up to 45 minutes. Fortunately the demand for floor passes wasn't that great and someone or other from the paper was on the convention floor nearly the

Trucks were used to block several bridges from vehicle traffic. Security personnel and Police officers stood along side the trucks watching for trouble.

Even the Gay/Lesbian Delegate Caucus had a measure of security with badges being given to non-delegates so they could gain admit-

Read All About It!

Free newspapers abounded in Chicago. The Washington Post, USA Today and other papers were readily available for the taking at various press centers inside and outside the United Center and convention hotels.

Several Wisconsin papers were also free for the taking at the Wisconsin Delegation offices on the Seventh Floor of the posh Palmer House Hilton.

Other give a ways on the street included Snapple which had several stands dispensing bottles containing various flavors.

The Wisconsin Delegation

The Wisconsin Delegation caucused at 8:30 in the morning at the luxurious Palmer House Hotel. The hotel has recently been restored to its original 19th Century splendor, and it is magnificent, believe me. Our people know how to live well.

Various corporate sponsors provided breakfast for the delegation, and speakers from the Party came in. Among others, Wisconsin netted Al Gore, Donna Shalala and Labor Secretary Reisch.

Breakfast consisted of scrambled eggs, rolls coffee, fruit juice and fresh fruit, the usual. The eggs tended to be on the dry side and the coffee was weak, but otherwise it was okay, I

The group also had a considerable amount of space on the Palmer House's seventh floor. This was used for offices, for the delegation, and the Wisconsin Clinton Gore Campaign.

It was not unusual to see elected officials, delegates, union members and others quietly meeting in the delegation's reception areas.

At the Bars

The Gay bars weren't really that impacted by the convention. There were 150 Gay delegates, alternates and committee members. They were joined by perhaps another 150 strategists, appointees, and those of us from the media. That brought the number to a respectably 300 +, but spread out over all Chicago's 200 Les/Bi/Gay bars we were all but

Side Tracks seemed to be the one place where most of the delegates went, although were also were to be seen at Roscoe's, and the Man Hole

Many of you are probably familiar with Side Tracks. It began small, but God, has it grown. Now it is a huge space of bars and lights and attractions galore—human and otherwise. Side Tracks was the site of a party sponsored by Miller Lite. Paris, a Lesbian bar, hosted a party of delegates and organizations of color.

Patrons in the bars indicated an overwhelming preference for Bill Clinton although, I have to admit, there were some who said they weren't going to vote or would vote for someone else.

And no, I did not spend my whole time running around asking people their political preferences. It just sounds that way.

The Illinois Federation for Human Rights is one of thirty groups that launched a voter registration drive during the convention. The federation wants to sign up 10,000 new voters. Unlike Wisconsin, Illinois does not allow

voters to register at the polls.

Stephanopolous Speaks at Side Tracks

When George Stephanopolous got up to speak at a special Sunday afternoon party sponsored by Miller Lite and held at the Side Track Bar, the crowd went wild. Stephanopolous has become something of a political icon for the Gay community and much of Gay Chicago was abuzz with the rumors that he would attend the Miller reception.

When the rumors turned out to be true and he did walk in, the crowd gawked. Jerry, who apparently had not taken the rumor seriously, had forgotten his camera and had to run off and get it. Meanwhile, George made his way along through people so obviously eager to hear what he had to say.

Well, let's be frank about it. For many of us in the Gay male community, George is something more than a mere "political" icon. To put it mildly, there are those who think he has a certain-how shall I say it?--sensual appeal. But of couse, that had nothing to do with the fact of the crowd's rapt attention to his speech-or with the fact that some patrons at the bar said they were setting up a "George Watch" in case he returned.

The convention floor was so crowded that it was difficult to move around on it.

Photographers set themselves up at aisle intersections. Colorful signs and all kinds of banners were everywhere, while little impromptu meetings went on whenever people could find space.

Reporters, like myself, found that it was often easier to wait outside the Hall and grab interviews out there than it was to interview people in the Hall itself. That's where I got most of my "good stuff."

Throughout the convention, organizers would pass out signs they wanted to delegates to wave at the next speaker. Some promoted education, or the environment. The most popular ones seemed to be the "Welcome Hillary" signs for her Tuesday night speech.

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Clinton

Continued From Page 8

the polls.

Several speakers including Barney Frank and TV star Judith Light accused the Republicans of trying to drive a wedge between Clinton and his Gay supporters.

There is no doubt that the Republicans have played the politics of division," said on HRC organizer. "DOMA is a win win for them. If Clinton vetoes it they will pound him over it, if he signs it they know he will lose votes in our community. Publicly we have to oppose his signing, but privately we know that he had no choice. This country is not ready for Gay marriages."

Many speakers particularly those in the daily Lesbian and Gay Delegate Caucus tried to address the problem of alienation head on.

For example Congresswoman Maxine Waters counseled patience and told the group.

"I know there are some disappointments, but if anyone thinks they would be better off with Bob Dole and that lying ass Jack Kemp they better think again," Waters said.

But as the delegates headed home and the strategists packed up their lap tops it was obvious everyone was thinking. "This was great, but tomorrow we go home to convince those who sent us," said one delegate, "The election may very well hinge on how successful we are doing that. We can't afford to lose The stakes are high very high."

Convention Notes: The Inside Scoop

Continued from Page 9

Delegates were not allowed to bring in their own signs, but many "Equal Rights For Newt's Sister" and "Gay and Lesbian Equality Signs" made it in anyway

People at the Gay and Lesbian Caucus became experts in how to sneak them in. No one was asked to remove sign once they had it on the convention floor and there more than a few of people I took to be straight delegates holding up the Gay signs.

Jackson Speaks

Some of you may have heard Jesse Jackson speak when he came to Bruce Hall in 1988. Then, he had 6000 people almost constantly on their feet. In Chicago it was no different. Speaking on Tuesday night, he electrified his audience—not too strong a description at all.

He started out with an open admission of the disagreements he has had with Clinton. Afterward, he moved to a passionate defense of Clinton's overall record and an emotional pitch to "Keep the Faith," speaking with a fervent passion, driving the delegates to repeatedly to their feet. He ended by counseling patience and blasting those who don't vote as 'cowards.

One delegate from Montana was overheard saying "That's the best speech I have ever heard anyone give.

The Big Scandal

The Dick Morris scandal broke on Thursday morning. If you listened to the mainstream media commentators and news readers, you probably think it was the talk of the convention. It was not. I heard no one at the Wisconsin caucus or in the Delegation offices talking

Most who were asked about it weren't worried about the demise of Morris, who is widely credited for pushing Clinton further to the right. Many thought that given Morris's work for dozens of Republican candidates like Jesse Helms, Clinton wouldn't be hurt too much at all.

Morris was so unpopular with some elements in the Party who I spoke with, that off the record many delegates and minority caucus leaders were expressing anything but sadness over Morris' trouble. In fact, many were chor-

Speaking for background, one Administration official I spoke with, conceded that while Morris may be a political strategist of some genius, he is "piss-poor" as a people person. The man had this propensity to run rough shod over just about everyone, giving the impression that it was "Morris, alone in the White

"He's gone. Good riddance. That's the way it is with those family values types," my

At the Human Rights Campaign Reception Room, a New York Post with the headline "Clinton's Bad Boy" was being passed around. The Post story included pictures allegedly showing Morris with a call girl.

So, the Convention went on about its business, yet the media continued to hype it. Probably because there was nothing else to talk about and people who are addicted to the afternoon "soaps," love anything to do with

Helms Targeted

If the reception Harvey Gantt received is any indication, Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) is a prime target in the Democratic bid to take over the US Senate.

Harvey Gantt was one of the most talked about Senate candidates at the convention. Gantt who is running against North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms was even given a speaking spot AFTER Hillary Clinton's speech

Apparently the convention organizers were hoping to get him on network TV in prime time. The trick didn't work and many delegates had already left the Hall by the time Gantt took the podium.

Nevertheless Gantt buttons were among the most popular with Convention delegates.

There's more here, I think, in the Gantt-Helms race than just the Democrats' obvious thirst to regain control of the Senate. Helms has done nothing to hide the fact that he is one of the most mean-spirited, bigoted people in that august body. He's a man who has out-lived his time—if there ever was a time for him, which I doubt. In my opinion and the opinion of many others as well, he long since should have been retired and sent out to pasture herding sheep. Pity the sheep.

According to Southern Political Report, a poll taken in mid-August shows Gantt is leading Helms 46% to 44%, with the remaining voters undecided.

Caucus Dispute

Some Gay and Lesbian delegates and alternates were upset by the way the Gay and Lesbian Caucus was run. One of the reason was that most meetings weren't really meetings at all. They were simply a parade of speakers urging greater effort to ensure a Democratic victory in November. For awhile it was interesting hearing them, but the interest soon

faded-especially when they all seemed to be reading from the same script. Bo-rring.

Some delegates openly complained that the group should be developing lines of communication and tactics for use after the convention.

Furthermore there were some complaintsa lot, actually—that the speaker list seemed tilted towards California. For example, Shelia McKuen, Lesbian State Legislator from California was a featured speaker at both the Caucus and in the convention. She's effective, no doubt about that, but she was too much of a

Tammy Baldwin Wisconsin's openly Lesbian State Representative is a very able speaker and has served in office much longer than McKuen. She's also from a state which has the oldest Gay rights law in the country. But Baldwin wasn't asked to speak. As always, Baldwin was gracious, saying that she didn't mind since there were so many other things going on at the Convention. But to my mind, Baldwin's not speaking left a hole that was never filled

After a heated Caucus discussion about how many speakers came from California, one delegate outside in the Hall indicated he was tired of the "California Bashing." Then he saw a Wisconsin Light reporter with his tape recorder. He asked if it was on and was told 'No, but I did hear what you said."

The man then went on to say he felt that California was dominating the Caucus and there should because the Midwest wasn't being represented.

I didn't say anything, but afterward, I couldn't help thinking that while the separate states may be a political figment of the imagination, regionalism in this country is alive and

There is the south, the northeast, the midwest, the southwest and the west. Each of them has their own identity, and nowhere was that more clearly seen than at this convention. That identity may be somewhat nebulous, but it's there nonetheless. They're like nascent nations. I couldn't help thinking that.

Parties For the Faithful

A convention is a serious business. There are dozens of meetings, conferences, speeches and other events. But there are also some very good parties, some very, very good parties.

There were four major parties for Gays and Lesbians. The big Saturday night shindig for all delegates, media and guests on Navy Pier, (hosted by the City of Chicago and sponsored by a variety of corporations like Miller, Phillip Morris, Chrysler, Ameritech and others), was a big hit. Thousands crowded the renovated pier and took advantage of free food, rides, boat cruises and entertainment

You should have seen it. God knows how much it cost-Who's counting?--but it was really spectacular. I hate to say it, but after awhile, I thought I'd had my fill of lobster and shrimp. You would just be walking along and someone would thrust a beer in your hand.

The Delegate reception on Sunday afternoon at Side Tracks Bar, sponsored by Miller Lite produced a packed house including, as I've said, Presidential chef de cabinet, (or something), George Stephanopolous.

The Human Rights Campaign party on Wednesday evening at the Hyatt Regency was attended by about 500 people who paid \$20.00 each for two free drinks and a wonderful pasta buffet where a chef made your dish to order.

Last but not least was the Victory Fund's "United In Victory" party at the Museum of Contemporary Art. This one exceeded ex-There were so many people it took at least 30 minutes to get a drink from one of the four bars and the waiters had a hard time keeping canapés supplied. Over 1,500 people were in attendance.

The staff at the Museum could be heard complaining that the crowd was too large for

Biggest Involvement Ever

The Les/Bi/Gay involvement in the convention was the largest ever. Over 150 Lesbians and Gays were delegates, alternates or committee members.

Part of the reason for this is that some state parties have set aside delegate spots for Les/Bi/Gay Democrats. Part of the increase stems from a national Democratic Party policy to include all minority groups in the conven-

In addition to the delegates there were four openly Gay and Lesbian speakers at the Convention itself

I can't help adding that the Republican convention had only four Gay delegates and no Gay speakers at all.

Log Cabin Club Not Popular

There was real anger directed at the Log Cabin Club over its endorsement of Bob Dole. Some delegates called the GOP group's action "treasonous," one said "They've excommunicated themselves from the community."

Dole returned a \$1,000 contribution from Log Cabin last fall. Then during the GOP convention in San Diego, the Log Cabin asked for a request to endorse him. None ever came.

After making the endorsement, Log Cabin

hoped that Dole or a major figure from his campaign would come to the press conference announcing it. That didn't happen either.

The joke of the day on Tuesday was "Why did Log Cabin endorse Dole?" "Because he saved them \$1,000."

Some strategists privately sympathized with the group. They believe that the Log Cabin Club had no choice. As one elected official put it "If they don't endorse the nominee they can't say they are part of the party and if they aren't part of the party then why bother to ex-

Zell Scores Points

Zell Miller, Governor of Georgia, had some of the best lines of the convention. Speaking for adoption of the Democratic platform he said "In 1988 the Republicans said 'Read our lips,' in 1994 they said 'Read our contract,' now in 1996 they say 'Don't read our platform."

He went on to say "They talk alot about shame, the Republicans. Yet they see no shame in criticizing movies they have not seen, records they have not heard, books they have not read and a first family they can not match.

The delegates responded with lusty cheers. Candidates Appeal For Help

Congressional candidates asking for support were common place. Most prominent among them was Rick Zbur. Zbur is the first openly Gay congressional candidate to win a contested primary. His Long Beach, California district has a substantial Gay population and a 15% edge in Democratic over Republican registration.

Zbur's Republican opponent is Congressman He is trying to raise \$1,000,000 through house parties around the country.

While he admits that he is behind, Zbur says that Horn is claiming that he is not in sync with House Speaker Newt Gingrich, but his voting record shows he votes with Gingrich 97% of the time.

Zbur says he is confident that if he can raise the money to publicize Horn's record he will

Making MAJIC In North Carolina

Making MAJIC were two North Carolina grandmothers, Patsy Clarke and Eloise

Both of these women lost their sons to AIDS. Clarke wrote Jesse Helms asking him to be more compassionate towards people with AIDS. Helms wrote back telling her, ' homosexuality, the Bible judges it, I do not." and telling her that her dead son had "played Russian Roulette" with his sexuality and "I am sorry for you and your son but there is no escaping the reality of what happened."

Clarke and her late husband had been Helms' supporters and considered him to be a friend. Outraged she and Vaughn formed Mothers Against Jesse In Congress (MAJIC)

The group is raising money to defeat Helms in the November election. Clarke now calls herself "A recovering Republican."

The Democratic Convention was only the 18th largest to be hosted by Chicago this year. The biggest, A Hardware Trade Show, is expected to attract over 90,000 people to the

While the convention may not have been as

big as some, it carries far more prestige than nearly any other event.

Therefore its not surprising that the City used the convention as an excuse to spruce up its downtown. The City of Chicago set up special information stands "Chicago '96' staffed by volunteers to provide directions and information to the conventioneers.

If you couldn't find a stand, you only had to ask. Almost anyone you talked to on the street was very friendly and helpful.

No Repeats

Determined to avoid a repeat of 1968, the City of Chicago gave away march and speaking permits without too much of a hassle.

Perhaps the most interesting side event was "The Festival of Life" held at the Patrillo Band shell in Grant Park.

Tie dyed t-shirts were the order of the day and little kids drew marijuana leaves on the side walks while vendors sold pipes, merchandise and food.

Although the organizers said there were thousands at the band shell on Saturday, on Monday evening there were less than 200 despite extensive promotion.

Two blocks away the Communist Party held a rally attended by even fewer people, perhaps 50. The Communists set up a very loud system that blasted a good part of downtown with their oratory

One block away from the Communists was an AIDS memorial set up by a Los Angeles AIDS foundation. A scheduled rally never took place when no one other than the speakers showed up. The group had run large ads in Chicago's major Gay papers and put flyers up and down Halstead.

Kennedy Accosted

Senator Ted Kennedy was accosted after finishing a speech at the Human Rights Campaign fund raiser.

A pro-life protester leaped on the stage and unfurled an anti-abortion poster.

The protester, who was immediately surrounded said he was a "pro life Democrat from Philadelphia." Shouting into the microphone he said "Senator you used to be pro-life, now you are killing babies, why have I been excluded from this convention? I have the right of free speech."

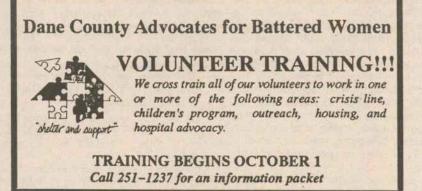
Kennedy, his face beet red, charged back onto the stage and confronted the man saying "Yes sir you do have the right of free speech, but I have rights too, including the right to not listen." The crowd heartily applauded the Senator.

As he was being escorted out, the man was joined by an elderly woman pro-life protester who stood in front of the stage shouting out that they had nothing against Gays and Lesbi-ans, "You aren't the problem," said the woman, "You don't have children."

Buttons and Bows

There were a variety of buttons at the convention but very few free ones. Prices ranged from \$7.00 for a "100th Anniversary of Campaign Buttons" button that came with a red "Delegate" ribbon it, to \$1.00 for a standard Clinton Gore pin.

The Gay and Lesbian Delegate Caucus was giving away signs, bumper stickers and buttons with Clinton Gore '96 on them. The 96 was printed inside a pink triangle.







John Cantania (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, hut 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 airwayes.

But his real push for a television program began a few years later when he joined WNFT, New York1s flagship PBS

"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 toseek 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

When asked to name "In The Life's" most important contributions to its viewers, relies 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 exis-

And John Catania: "Gay magazines are important, Gay newspapers are importtant. 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

"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. 26th St., 7 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

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

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 gratfying, 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

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

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

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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Comedy by the DEAD ALEWIVES

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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 cloppingly "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.

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. V

Next Act Theatre Opens "Sylvia", the Perfect DogLovers' 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

Group discounts of 15% are available fro 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

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. V



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. V

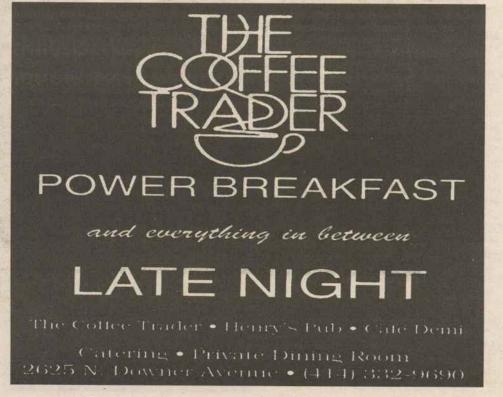
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Newsweek calls David Mixner "the most powerful gay man in America."

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Saturday, September 21 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

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The Wisconsin Light





OUT & About





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



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THE SPOTLIGHT

Quotes From The Democratic National Conver

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 solider 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

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 Citizen's 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.





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



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 Presi-

"Well I would definitely urge Gays and Lesbians to support Bill Clinton because I think the

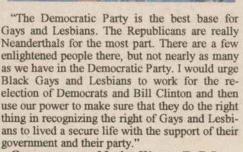
Republican Party has made it extremely clear

that there is no conversation around the issue of

"We're starting out a few points behind, but if we can get his voting record out to the voters, and raise the money to do that, we should win the race. This is the most Democratic seat held by a Republican in the state of California. There's a 15 point registration edge in favor of the Democrats. So it's one of the Democratic them. I want marriages and relationships to be Party's prime targets.

"You know they selected only 20 Congres-Convention and we were very fortunate to get one of those spots. They've only really allowed those who have a shot at winning to speak. We've gotten great support from the Party.

Rick Zbur, America's first ever openly Gay Congressional Candidate talking about his crats but you know as we go into this election we chances of winning and the support he's received from the Democratic Party.



Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-Cal)

There are those who support you but backed 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 based on love and caring with heterosexuals. want it to be the same way in the homosexual sional challengers in the country to speak at the 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 demohave to realize what the choices are, can you imagine Dole and that lying ass Kemp.

Congresswoman 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

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.

Lee Kang-Sheng stars as Hsiao-Kang in Vive L'Amour

Vive L'Amour: An Exhilarating Film With a Gay Twist

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Devoted readers of the Wisconsin Light will be familiar with Glenn's constant lament over the dismal level of the seemingly endless stream of mindless motion pictures Glenn must endure to find those rare, unique cinematic experiences. For every **Showgirls**, sure there's always an **Emma** but there just seems to be so very many more **Showgirls**.

Nothing pleases Glenn so very much as to be able highlight a small little film that can and generally does get overshadowed by such over-hyped schlock as Independence Day or even The Birdcage (Gee, Glenn, won't you ever let up on The Birdcage?). Such a film is Vive L' Amour, the new film from Malaysia-born writer/director Tsai Ming-liang.

Set in the soulless urban jungle of Taipai, Vive L'Amour follows three individuals who spontaneously but in isolation seek sanctuary in an empty apartment. The stage seems to be set for a bedroom farce a la Billy Wilder's The Apartment or even Sonke Wortmann's Maybe ... Maybe Not, instead Tsai Ming-liang uses the large, spartanly furnished apartment to highlight the relative isolation of the film's three protagonists.

With its many bedrooms and narrow corridors, the apartment seemingly takes on its own persona, almost emerging as a fourth character.

May (Yang Kuei-mei) is a professional real estate broker, no longer young at thirtysomething but still attractive, if perhaps not especially successful. For her the apartment is a place in which to bring

men for the occasional brief encounter.
Ah-jung (Chen Chao-jung), is one such a young man, the ultimate entrepreneur who purchases clothing wholesale in Hong Kong to sell on the sidewalk in one of Taipei's nighttime marketplaces. He steals a key from May in order that he might use the apartment for the very

Rounding out the denizens of this surprisingly overcrowded empty apartment is Hsiao-kang (Lee Kang-sheng) a

shy young gay man who sells burial plots by day but is apparently homeless by night. He too has obtained a key by stealth.

Featuring an absolute absence of background music of any kind, sparse exchanges of dialogue and only occasional incidental sounds, at almost every turn **Vive L'Amour** seems to compound the virtually complete isolation of each its three protagonists.

Particularly refreshing is Tsai Mingliang's inclusion of a Gay man within his desolate terrain. Hsiao-kang is a beautiful young man, doubtlessly too shy to be successful in the cut-throat business of selling space in Memorial cupboards.

Mostly he stuffs flyers in mail-boxes, ironically including one in a building that May is trying to sell. Days are likely to go by for Hsiao-kang without ever making a connection to any other individual.

Desperate to break out of his sterile black & white suit and tie existence, Hsiao-kang at one point dons and dress, joyous in a momentary escape.

Inevitably there must be a moment when the characters accidentally discover each other in the empty apartment. Heart breaking is a moment when Hsiao-kang suffers under the bed of the fornicating couple.

Glenn can only fantasize over a time in the future when the roles might be reversed in a film such as Vive L'Amour and a heterosexual character must hide under the bed of a Gay couple otherwise engaged.

Briefly, May and Ah-jung connect as do Ah-jung and Hsiao-kang but these are just fleeting moments in their otherwise uninhabited existences.

Quite absurdly, Vive L'Amour, despite (or perhaps because of) the bleakness of the urban landscape emerges as oddly exhilarating.

Rating: \$\$\$\$ (scale \$ to \$\$\$\$\$\$)
Vive L'Amour is playing at the UWM
Union Cinema, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd.,
Milwaukee, September 19-21

'Basquiat' Has All the Sparkle of Mr. Roger's Neighborhood—and Less

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Impossible as it is to imagine but the seemingly absolutely unceasing fascination for all things Warhol seems to be ... well, absolutely unceasing. Following the surprisingly effective (and successful) I Shot Andy Warhol, the cinematic chronicle of minor Warhol character and would-be assassin, Valerie Solanas comes Basquiat.

For those, like Glenn himself, who are sadly, pathetically, yes fatally ill-informed of those critical moments within the dynamic known as "modern art", the name Basquiat may mean nothing. Brilliant that he may have been in the eyes of some, inevitably those in the know, it is inconceivable that any such motion picture proposal would, should or certainly could have come about sans his connection to the once and future king of pop art, Andy Warhol.

At the helm is Julian Schnabel, the eminent practitioner of modern art, whose painting and sculptures have been exhibited throughout the known world. Contemporary (and some claim discoverer) of Jean-Michel Basquiat, Schnabel certainly knows of the frantically superficial world of the New York art scene he here recreates. Questions arise over the veracity of the portrait.

What is certain is that Basquiat (Jeffrey Wright) catapulted from a downand-out existence as a graffiti artist and sometime musician to international fame and success as one of the most soughtafter, glamorous and controversial artists in the world. The year was 1981. Basquiat was 19 years old.

Within seven years, however, this media darling would be dead of a heroin overdose. Difficult to imagine that such

Please Turn to Basquiat on Page 18

'Maybe...Maybe Not' is a Warm Film, But With Every Gay Stereotype Intact

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Reviewing films is not all glamour and hot, fresh buttered popcorn. The right-eously responsible, politically conscious Gay film critic often is faced with tremendous personal and professional challenges. Sex comedies, particularly Gay sex comedies with romantic pretensions have always been and presumably will continue to be problematic for any self-respecting Gay critic with national syndication pretensions.

After all, any film that lampoons obsessional sexual behavior, trots out easily recognizable stereotypes and for good measure throws in some wildly improbable, sexually compromising situations just can't help but be a tasteless, sleazy, superficial and invariably homophobic film? Or maybe not?

It was then with great trepidation that Glenn, who knows a little something about obsessional sexual behavior and about being generally morally bankrupt, went to screen Maybe ... Maybe Not, a new German sex farce.

Based upon a wildly popular comic strip by Ralf Konig, Maybe ... Maybe Not has become one of the top grossing films in Germany. The film focuses on a young man named Axel (Til Schweiger), perhaps not be the brightest apple in the barrel but quite likely too be the best looking. All told, Axel is a genuinely good-hearted heterosexual man who loves to love women.

When his current girlfriend Doro (Katja Riemann) sees him once too often loving another woman, she throws him out on his ear and in the process sets the stage for all the farce sexual hijinks that follow.

Axel continues to strike out in finding a place to stay while Doro presumably cools down until eventually ending up on the sofa of Gay man named Norbert (Joachim Krol). Norbert, a bit frumpy and rather sad-eyed Gay man, is quite predictably dazzled but his luscious-looking boarder.

Also quite predictably Doro finds a naked Norbert in bed with the scrumptious Axel (although even Glenn didn't expect her to find them where she found them). And while also quite predictably nothing actually happens between Axel and Norbert, at least not physically, the two establish a refreshingly unpredictable friendship.

Meanwhile, Doro has learned that she is pregnant and quite predictably she and Axel get married. An old-fashioned wedding (one in which the 8-month pregnant bride wears white and no one laughs out

loud) follows. Happiness and bliss. End of story? Well, no. Seems that Doro has suddenly become sexually insatiable, a turn-off for the suddenly chaste and old-fashioned Axel.

Even worse, Doro still has lingering doubts that her man is Gay (actually thinking that by breaking up with her, that Axel would suddenly turn Gay, Glenn thinks not!). When Axel's eye wonders over to an old flame, he talks goodhearted Norbert into lending him his apartment for the night.

Predictably, things go awry but writer/director Sonke Wortmann manages to keep things moving along to a surprising satisfactory conclusion.

Writer/director Wortmann appears all too willing, nay eager to stoop to any level no matter how low, in his seemingly obsessive quest to leave absolutely no Gay stereotype unturned. In fact, the more absurd the better.

Particularly irritating is the repetitive and increasingly tedious "where's the sausage routine" (presumably quite amusing to heterosexual audiences) and ultimately culminating in the vegetarian Norbert allowing a gross, fat, sexually impotent butcher to shack up with him.

But... yes, dear readers, there is a "but". But, Wortmann's talented cast has invested their characters with a surprising amount of warmth. Til Schweiger's Axel is so very attractive, to all of the film's female and Gay male characters (and to this so very jaded critic) precisely because he seems totally oblivious of his charms. It is impossible for anyone in the film to stay mad at poor, guileless Axel.

Glenn for one is still holding out for a director, any director, to have the courage to not to feel obligated to put his Gay characters into a dress. Well, no surprises here. Not five minutes go by in the film and there's poor Norbert in drag. Yet amongst the film's lengthy list of dysfunctional characters, Norbert proves to be the least dysfunctional. Obviously, this is all relative.

How Gay and Lesbian audiences will respond to Maybe ... Maybe Not is likely to largely depend upon them leaving their political consciousness at the concession stand. Although Glenn is sure to hate himself in the morning, he must admit that he quite smitten with the film. If nothing else, at least it wasn't The Birdcage!

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

Maybe ... Maybe Not opens September 20 at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater.

'Stonewall' May Not Be the Best History, But the Characters Are Given Respect

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

There is perhaps no event within the history of the Gay and Lesbian community that has taken on such mythological proportions as the civil disobedience known as the Stonewall Riots. Except perhaps the very first White Party.

Despite suggestions from Glenn's dear friend Kiki, who can certainly be an evil queen, Glenn is anywhere near old enough to have attended either event. Absolutely no where near old enough.

Nevertheless, like so many others, Glenn has been eagerly awaiting the arrival of Nigel Finch's recreation of those celebrated nights back in June of 1969, based on the book **Stonewall** written by Martin Duberman.

Actually Glenn has read Martin Duberman's Stonewall. By tracing the lives of six individuals, that is, six real people, among them Craig Rodwell, Jim Fouratt and Sylvia Rivera, Duberman contrasted the pre-Riot "Homophile movement" as it was then known with the "Gay Liberation movement" that would follow those nights when the drag queens threw the first stones on the steps of the Stonewall Inn.

Glenn would have to say that Finch's film Stonewall has even less to do with the book upon which it is based than the recent The Celluloid Closet had with Vito Russo's book.

Stonewall begins with an adorable Midwest boy, Matty Dean (Frederick Weller) just off the bus and arriving in the Big City (New York). Immediately our handsome hero finds his way to Greenwich Village where he is immediately befriended by a group of drag queens and taken for a drink at, you guessed it, The Stonewall Inn.

Ah, fate does move in mysterious ways. It's a typical night at the Stonewall Inn, a mafia run dive catering to a very specialized clientele. So typical, in fact that Matty Dean is treated to his first bar raid, carried off with chillingly brutal matter-of-

factness.

LaMiranda (Guillermo Diaz) might be a tough-talking drag queen but she finds that her heart's a-melting when the simple, idealistic Matty Dean comes to her aid.(Glenn asks you to imagine a Gay John-Boy Walton falling in love with a drag queen!).

Meanwhile, Matty is befriended by Ethan, a handsome middle-aged teacher who is involved in one of the early "homophile groups" planning a demonstration at Liberty Hall in Philadelphia. A demonstration where Gay men were "men", wore dresses and drag queens were not invited. (Imagine a party without drag queens?)

A secondary plot focuses on Bostonia (Duane Boutte), LaMiranda's friend and fellow drag queen (Glenn wonders if "fellow drag queen" is an oxymoron?) and her relationship with Vinnie (Bruce MacVittie), the white, deeply closeted manager of the Stonewall Inn. Poor, conflict-torn Vinnie deludes himself into thinking that if only Bostonia, a regal black drag queen resplendent in Jackie Kennedy drag, would have a sex change, they could live happily, heterosexually ever after.

If Rikki Beadle Blair's screenplay weighs heavily on melodramatic histrionics, there remains an appealing undercurrent of dignity and respect for all of the film's characters, however broadly drawn. Even better, there seems to be few concessions made to make them acceptable for mainstream audiences.

If the scenes recreating the riot nights fall a bit flat, Finch and Blair have packed Stonewall with a variety of fascinating, if often disparate moments. The frighteningly violent first police raid on the Stonewall Inn does contrast nicely with those amusing scenes where our homophile heroes seek to get arrested in straight bar after straight bar as a protest

Please Turn to Stonewall on Page 18

'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 BÜRSTYN 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 Into this depressing waiting to die. 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

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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 When this money load of 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 uninvolving twohour 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

The Spitfire Grill opens in Milwaukee on September 6 at the Oriental Theater. The Spitfire Girl is now playing at Mil-

waukee'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 Gretal, 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 Gretal'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 selfrevelation.

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 levels 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 SPOTLIGHT

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

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.



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 selfdescribed 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

Hart and Zimmerman

Saturday, September 27th will be a night of murder and mayhem at After-Words 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 mur. 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. 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 After-Words event, please call (414) 963-9089.



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Lesbomania **Arrives**

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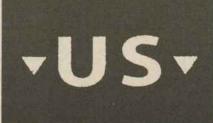
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Milwaukee Lesbian Gay Film Festival to be Held

The Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian Film festival is scheduled to be held at the UWM Union Cinema from Thursday September 6 thru Thursday October 3.

As of press time, The Wisconsin Light had not received a schedule. See our next issue for details on this important event or call 229-5900 or 229-4825





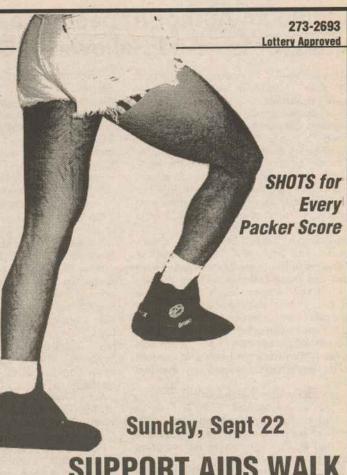
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FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13

70'S PARTY AT C'EST LA VIE Join in the fun at C'est La Vie's 70's Party as the Dazzling, Daffy Divas get down and funky. Cest Le Vie is located at 231 S. Second Street in Milwaukee. Show time is at 10:30.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14

MISS 3B'S CONTEST

3 B'S, 1579 S. Second St., Milwaukee will be the site of an exciting pageant, the Miss 3 B's contest. Join in all the fun starting at 10:30 PM. Your \$3.00 donation benefits the BESTD Clinic.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15

BABY JANE'S TURNS 29 AGAIN AND CELEBRATES AT LA CAGE

It's that time of year again! Time for Baby Jane Hudson's annual 29th birthday party.

Everyone is welcome to join in the fun which begins at 2 PM at La Cage, 2nd and National, Milwaukee, as Baby Jane and her friends celebrate with food, drink specials and surprises!

Don't miss this once a year opportunity to wish Baby Jane a Happy 29th B-Day for the 10th time.

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16

MADISON BUSINESS SOCIAL

The Madison Business Alliance will have a social from 5:00 to 7:30 at the New Turner Hall. For more information call Tom Neal at (608) 256-2667

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17

LESBIAN BOOK CLUB MEETS

The Afterwords Lesbian Book Club meets at 7:30 to discuss "Mysteries" by Elen Hart. Ms. Hart will be appearing at Afterword's special "Murder Mystery Night" on Friday September 27.

Afterwords is located at 2710 N. Murray, Milwaukee.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20

LESBIAN HUMORIST AT AFTERWORDS BOOKS

Georget Harper, author of Tales From the Dyke Side will be on hand at Afterwords, 2710 N. Murray, Milwaukee, beginning at 7:30 for a book reading and

Ms. Harper is well known for her fine wit and a sense of humor that transcends the genders.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21

DAVID MIXNER RECEPTION TO **BENEFIT MAP**

Have you ever wanted to meet a big name celebrity up close and personal? If so the David Mixner reception at the Broadway Theater Center, 158 N. Broadway gives you a perfect chance to

Mixner is the political guru who helped the Les/Bi/Gay community to help Bill Clinton win the White House in 1992. His new book, "Stranger Among Friends" has received quite a bit of attention from the major networks, newspapers and magazines.

This VIP shindig is a benefit for the Milwaukee AIDS Project. It's sponsored by Miller Brewing, The Advocate, Landmark Enterprises, The Wisconsin Light and Sky Vodka.

Your \$40.00 ticket does more than get It includes a personally you inside. autographed copy of Mixner's new book, hors d' oeuvres, beer wine, access to a martini bar and gift bags.

The reception starts at 5:00 and runs until 7:00. For reservations call 276-6355.

SHEEPSHEAD TOURNAMENT AT **BRANDY'S II IN GREEN BAY**

Brandy's II will be the site of a sheepshead tournament. Sign up is at

AIDS WALK RUMMAGE SALE & PARTY AT MAMA ROUX

Don't miss the fun and pre-AIDS Walk excitement at Mama Roux, the unofficial Milwaukee East Side headquarters for AIDS Walk Wisconsin is holding a rummage sale to add to its team total.

All receipts will donated to AIDS Walk Wisconsin. The sale begins at 8:00 and continues to 3 PM.

A Corn Roast for Mama Roux AIDS Walk team members and sponsors begins at 3:00.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22

AIDS WALK WISCONSIN

Wisconsin's largest AIDS fund raiser gets underway at 9:00 with a breakfast with Honorary Chair, Bette Midler. Other pre-Walk activities include a reception for Bette at 11:00, and Opening Ceremonies at Noon.

The Walk begins on Milwaukee's Summerfest grounds at 12:30 and concludes with a Grand celebration at

MAMA ROUX'S AIDS WALK BRUNCH & PARTY

Your Mama is always cooking up something good and today is no

Mama and her helpers will be serving up a very fine pre-AIDS Walk brunch to help fortify those who couldn't get tickets to the Bette Midler Breakfast.

Brunch starts at 9:00 AM to give you plenty of time to get down to the Summerfest Grounds and turn in your

An AIDS Walk Party begins at 3:00.

AIDS WALK PARTIES

Those wonderful folks at In Between, 625 S Second Street, Kathy's Nut Hut, 1500 W. Scott, Just Us, 805 S. Fifth Street and Mama Roux, 1875 N. Humboldt will be ready to meet and greet all of those who helped make AIDS Walk Wisconsin, a big success.

All of these establishments are having parties for their teams and special guests like you. Make sure you stop in and thank these establishments for their support of AIDS Walk Wisconsin.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27

SPOTLIGHT SHOW BENEFITS BESTD AT LA CAGE

Our SpotLight Party for September is a spectacular show at La Cage featuring many of your favorite performers.

Entitled "An Evening With the Stars", the 10 PM extravaganza is sure to be a big hit.

Among the many performers who have volunteered their time to raise money for the BESTD Clinic and its HIV prevention programs are: Lena Chavez, Miss Gay Continental Wisconsin, and a star performer at Club 219, In Between Owner, Curt Peck will be joined by the bar's Lana St. James, Karen Valentine, star of the M & M Club stage will be joined by members of the fabulous Singsational including Garret James and Teri Wedner, Brittany Morgan from 3 B's and Walker's Point Cafe will be on hand as will members of the hilarious Drag-orama. Robert Nugent Jones will bring his vocal stylings to the stage and so will Mama Roux's Lu Shanti, who will be joined by Mama's favorite impersonator,

Even BJ Daniels will making a special guest appearance.

All of this fabulous entertainment plus many surprise guests can be yours for

Show time is at 10:00, don't miss it!

ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND BEGINS AT JUST US

Just Us, 807 S. Fifth streets begins its Second Anniversary celebration with a free party at the bar starting at 10:00.

Entertainment, surprises and door prizes will be on hand throughout the

MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT

There will be murder, and mayhem as Afterwords celebrates "Murder Mystery Night" with two well known authors.

Gay writer, R.D. Zimmerman will be joined by Lesbian author, Ellen Hart for an evening of murder and mystery.

Be on hand starting at 7:30 to see if you can solve the crime. After-words is located at 2710 N. Murray, Milwaukee.

NINE INCH MALES AT ZA'S

The Nine Inch Males are continuing their tour of the Badger State. Determined to show off their um er physical attributes, the troupe will be at ZA's (1106 Main St, Green Bay) for another fine show.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28

FASHION EXRAVAGANZA AT SURVIVAL/REVIVAL

Are you looking to augment your wardrobe? Are you among the fashion impaired? Well whether you are or not, Survival/Revival, the resale shop that benefits the Milwaukee AIDS Project will be holding a special benefit fashion show you should be at. Its called "Street Beat!"

The Fashion Show includes commentary by Sister Cash Box, music by the Spangelmakers and comedy by the Dead The whole thing will be Alewives. emceed by the always delightful BJ

Admission is just \$8.00 or \$6.00 for students. Survival/Revival is located at 246 E. Chicago, which is off Water Street and a couple of blocks North of the Milwaukee river.

MISS Gay WISCONSIN US OF A PAGEANT AT THE PIVOT

The Pivot Club will be the site of the Miss Gay Wisconsin US of A pageant with the preliminaries held this evening and the finals held on Sunday September

As of press time we had not yet received information as to the times and prices. For more information call the Pivot at 1-800-401-2748.

JUST US ANNIVERSARY SHOW

All of your favorites will be on hand for a grand Just Us Diva show to help the popular South Side bar celebrate its Second Anniversary.

Just Us is known as the place where Gay Men and Lesbians mix freely The Anniversary show will together. reflect the bar's philosophy in helping build bridges, with a variety entertainment sure to please everyone's

Drink specials, and surprises will be on hand for everyone!

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29

JUST US PACKER PARTY AND PIG ROAST WINDS UP ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND CELEBRATION

Just Us will be the place for Packer and Pig Roast Fans, as the bar located at 807 S Fifth Street winds up its Anniversary Weekend with a huge FREE Packer Party and Pig Roast.

A succulent porker will be served at Half Time of the game. To make sure you have plenty of beverages to wash down, the Just Us Sparfankle, Deb, Steve, Rick and crew will have plenty of drink specials thoughout the day.

The fun gets underway at 2:30, game

time is at 3:00.



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AIDS WALK **WEEKEND**



SATURDAY, SEPT 21

AMERICAIN ...

GRILL

8am-3pm

AIDS Walk Rummage Sale

All receipts donated to the AIDS Walk 3pm-???

Corn Roast

Free Miller Lite for Mama Roux Team members and sponsors.

SUNDAY, SEPT 22

9am-3pm

AIDS Walk Sunday Brunch

3pm - ???

After the Walk Party

Free Beer & Corn Roast for Mama Roux team members and sponsors.

Grill Hours

Monday thru Thursday: 4-10 pm Friday and Saturday: 4-11 pm Friday Fish Fry - Cod or Catfish Sunday Brunch from Ham-3pm plus full menu with grill open to 8 pm Carry-out Orders Available MasterCard/Visa Accepted Personal Checks upon Approva

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EVERY NIGHT OF THE WEEK \$1 RAILS AND DOMESTIC BOTTLES



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SUPPORTING THE 1996 WISCONSIN AIDS

WALK



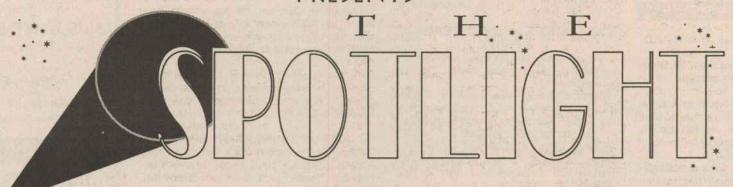
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PRESENTS



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

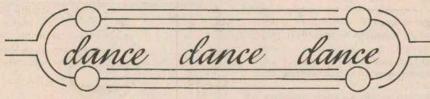
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ROBERT NUGENT JONES

SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE BY BJ DANIELS

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The Night Light



By Dusty Sass

They say there is no rest for the wicked and I must have been really bad at some time in my life, because with everything going on in the next few weeks, I will have very little rest.

Of course one of the things that's keeping my awake at night is wondering when Mama Roux is going to have another Seventies Party. Even during my trip to Chicago, some people who had read about it in the Wisconsin Light wondered if there would be another one. So I spoke to Manager Joe and he assured me that Mama's will be having another one and

Anyways, on to the things that are already scheduled on my very full social calendar.

Friday September 13 will see me at C'est Le Vie, for its 70's show put on by the Dazzling Diva's. Show time is at 10:30. The girls are hard at work getting funky so it should be a good show.

Saturday September 14,I'll be at 3 B's in Milwaukee for its Miss 3 B's contest.

Sunday September 15 I'll be joining with the crowd paying its annual tribute to Baby Jane Hudson for her 10th annual 29th birthday party. The fun includes food, drink specials and other surprises. The B-Day bash will be held at La Cage.

In Between slabs of cake, I'll be checking out the Packers at In Between. That bar is

LASSIFIEDS

Accomodations

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

Inn at Pine Ridge, a B & B esp. for womyn. Hot tub, sauna, veg. brunch. Hike, bike. Near Eau Claire. By res. (715)984-2272.

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Services Offered

Has your life been touched by HIV/AIDS? Confidential pastoral counseling & monthly support meetings available. St. Frances Cabrini Parish, West Bend, (414) 338-2366.

Have building and beginning. NEED diversity and energy. HOPE: A Christian community for the post-Christian age. Interested call David (414) 672-0400.

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rpeting, vinyl, paint. Pets, sig- Call Jerry or Terry (414) 372-2772 nificant others welcome! \$530 a month w/heat avail. 9/1. Mark/Todd (608) 835-9115

November 1 - West Allis, 3 Bd lower \$650 heat incl. Security, lease (414) 302-9753.

Sleeping Room for Rent

231 South 2nd Street (Above C'est La Vie) New Paint & Carpets * Very Clean Call (414) 291-9600

NAME

sort of like Packer central on game days. There are free shots with every Packer score and Gay Milwaukee's number 1 Packer Fan, In Between Owner, Curt Peck.

On Thursday September 19, I'll be taking a side trip up to Madison. Don't worry I'll be sure to carry some luggage off the bus, so I don't get hassled like some other Wisconsin Light staffer did.

It's been a while since I have been to Mad Town and I miss my friends at Man-ouevres and R Place. They are both great bars, with fantastic service (and good bartenders too!)

Friday September 20 I'll be joining the crowd at Afterwords Books. occasion will be the appearance of Lesbian humorist Georget Harper. Hey you don't have to be a Lesbian to appreciate good Lesbian humor.

Saturday September 21, I will be very busy. First of all there is the AIDS Walk Rummage Sale at Mama Roux. The sale begins at 8 AM (like I would ever get up that early) and runs until 3:00.

At 3:00 the Mama Roux Customer and AIDS Walk Team appreciation party begins.

If I have time, I may run up to Brandy's II in Green Bay for the big sheepshead tournament. It starts at 2:30.

But I can't stay long because I plan on taking on the tres posh VIP reception for David Mixner. Mixner is a nationally fa-

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Moving? One item or everything, careful, experienced, insured. Call (414) 479-0595 or 230-9916.

Real Estate

Bar For Sale

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

Historic Walkers Point

Milwaukee, private location, beautifully remodeled by local artist. All new interior 3 BR, 1.5 BA, gourmet kitchen, luxury main bath, fenced yard with deck. \$69,000 David Wiske, ERA, Wroth Rity, (414) 871-

Organizations

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

Personals

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

Public Notices

Madison Apartment: 2 Bdrm apt. in 4 unit bldg. 2nd Wisconsin Light seeking writers to cover local news floor w/stairway to private fenced back yard. Parking in Madison, the Fox Valley and Northern Wisconsin.

> Wisconsin Light seeking volunteer to do filing one afternoon or evening a week. Call Jerry (414) 372-

Author with over 500 publishing credits wants to help lead writers to the next level. Inexpensive and fun. Call David (414) 672-0400.

Travel

Plan Ahead

Avail Jan 18-25, 1 bdr full furn cond slps 4 Top of line Sheraton buganvilias Resort in sunny Puerto Vallarta. A deal at \$725. Roger Weekends (414)

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CLASSIFIED ORDERS: Completely fill out this form and mail to WISCONSIN LIGHT, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

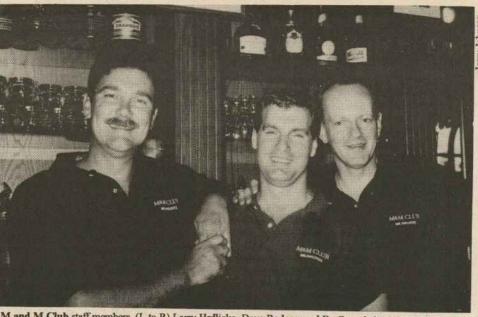
RATES ARE \$2 for each line. Each line can contain up to 42 characters, (including spaces). Indicate if you would like a BOLD HEADLINE of up to three words above your ad for an additional \$2.50. Also indicate classification under which your ad is to be run.

DEADLINE for placing a classified ad in WISCONSIN LIGHT is noon Wednesday prior to publication. If you mail your ad we must receive it on or before Wednesday. NO CREDIT or BILLING SERVICES are offered, and we **DO NOT** accept any classifieds on the phone for placements or

ADDRESS

STATE PLEASE CHECK THE ISSUE[S] IN WHICE YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR AD TO APPEAR.

Sept. 26; Oct. 10; Oct 24



M and M Club staff members, (L to R) Larry Hrdlicka, Dave Rodgers and De Gross helped the Club to celebrate two decades of fine service to Les/Bi/Gay Milwaukee. Look for more pictures of the celebration in our next issue (assuming the photo lab can find them.)

mous, political guru for the Queer community. My \$40.00 ticket benefits MAP and even gets me an autographed copy of David's new book. The big shindig is at the Broadway Theater Center, 158 N. Broadway in Milwaukee.

Of course Sunday September 22 is AIDS Walk Day. I am going to be a full participant. I'll be at the Breakfast with my good friend, Bette Midler in the morning. Then I'll be seeing Bette at the special "Divine Reception" that follows the Breakfast. After that I'll be ready to work off those great meals with a healthy walk to raise money to fight AIDS.

Following the Walk, I'll have to check out the post Walk parties at In Between, Mama Roux, Kathy's Nut Hut and Just Us. Hope you will join me.
Friday September 27 is the big Spot-

Light Party at La Cage. A fabulous show to benefit the BESTD clinic will begin at 10:00. A \$5.00 donation (and its cheap at twice the price) gets you plenty of great entertainment and admission to La Cage.

After the show, I'll have to run down the street to Just Us to help them begin the celebration of their Second Anniversary. The bar has plenty of stuff going on all weekend long. I really like this place because it's one of the few places where Lesbians and Gay men mix freely and

If I was in Green Bay, I would be at Za's to drop in my friends from "The Nine Inch Males." These guys just can't get enough of Wisconsin. They must like the cheese or something.

Saturday September 28 is the Survival/Revival Benefit Fashion Show, "Street This should be a fun event with music, fashion and comedy. Street Beat runs from 8 to 11 PM.

Course I will have to stop at Just Us for day two of their fab anniversary weekend. They are planning a great show with all my favorite performers. Show time is 9:30.

Being down in Milwaukee, means that I will miss the beginning of the pageant of the year at The Pivot Club. It's the Miss Gay Wisconsin US of A pageant. The preliminaries are on Saturday and the finals are on Sunday. Sunday September 29, I'll be back at

Just Us for the big wrap of their weekend long anniversary party. They are throwing a big Packer Party and Pig Roast (no I am not going to be on the spit). Kick off is at 3:00. The party and the pork are free!

After stuffing myself with fresh Sparfankel, it'll be off to the Pivot club for the finals of the Miss Wisconsin Gay US of A pageant.

Well if all that is not enough activity for you it sure is enough for me. Its wonder I have the time to write these columns the way I get run ragged. Speaking of ragged, has anyone seen Dr. Suzie Shovelit lately?

Fall Edition of Movie Collectibles **Show Coming to** Milwaukee

Milwaukee-The fall edition of Milwaukee's only Movie Collectible Show is coming to Milwaukee on Sunday, September 15. The semi-annual show is sponsored by Dale E. Kuntz, President of Milwaukee Film classics.

Dealers will be at the event from around the Midwest offering over 30 tables of movie posters, magazines, 8x10 photos, 16mm films, videos (new and used), video posters, souvenir books and many

The show runs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Burnham Bowl Hall, 6016 W. Burnham St., in West Allis. Admission is \$2 per person. For more information, call (414) 466-1877.

Deadlines

September 26th Issue

Articles - Sept. 20th Ads - Sept. 23rd

October 10th Issue

Articles—October 4th Ads-October 7th

International Gay Penpals Working on 1997 Newsletter

Half-Rates for Men with HIV/AIDS

Hollywood, CA-(International Gay Penpals) 1997 newsletter will list more than 750 Gay men from more than 50 countries. Any man interested in being listed should contact IGP now for information. Corresponding with men in other cities and countries is a great way to find free vacation accommodations, to make a new friend, to learn about another culture, to practice a language or to find romance.

Among the countries to be included in the newsletter will be the USA, Great Britain, France, Ghana, Japan, Australia, Spain, Germany, Sweden, Italy, Turkey, India, Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Russia, the Ukraine, South Africa, Mexico, Cuba, Brazil and China.

The 1996 newsletter is still available. Half rates are offered to men with HIV and AIDS. A barter system is available to those who cannot afford the fee.

For more information, send a SASE to: IGP, Suite 320, Box 7304, North Hollywood, CA

Nominations Sought by HRL for National **Coming Out Day** Awards

Milwaukee-The Human Rights League for Lesbian and Gays (HRL) is seeking nominations for its National Coming Out Day Awards to be bestowed on individuals on October 15, 1995 at the Public Officials Re-

The awards are intended to "recognize the efforts of those who are promoting and reflecting a positive Gay/Lesbian image through participation in our community"

Nominees must be out about their sexual orientation and active three years or less. The categories for the awards are:

Individual; Business; and

Organization.

Nominees' names must be submitted in writing. Include the nominee's address and phone number, your phone number and the reason for the nomination(s). Nominations must be sent in by October 1, 1995, mail them to:

Human Rights League c/o Awards Committee PO Box 92674 Milwaukee, WI 53202

Any questions please call Rick at (414) 273-0895 or Stephanie at (414) 483-4711.

Think There's Nothing To Do This Evening?

> Call (414)299-0857 The Wisconsin Light SpotLine

And Think Again!

Partying With the Democrats in Chicago

By Dusty Sass

Okay, so now that you've read all of the serious stuff about the Democratic Convention, it's time to tell you all about what you really want to know. Was it FUN, how many parties were there and who came to them.

Well, as The Wisconsin Light's official (okay semi-official) party reporter, I am here to tell you that the Windy City was a blast.

The first big event was so good that it didn't wait until the convention. It was the Chicago '96 Party

The City of Chicago invited all of the delegates and even lowly media types like me to come to Navy Pier and party their brains out. Thousands took them up on it.

They had lots of food booths set up all over the place. Imagine, grilled lobster, steak burritos, gyros, ribs, Italian beef (the sandwiches not the men, well okay some of the men too)

Of course I noted that the pier was well stocked with Miller Lite. In fact there were a number of Miller Lite stands all over the place. I took this as a sign that Chicago has good taste and as a good omen of things to

There we were chowing down and drinking with Senators, Congressmen/women and Governors of States you wouldn't want to

The pier has four different cruise ships. So of course being an expert cruiser, I boarded one of these vessels and had a wonderful trip around the Chicago harbor. During the half hour tour, I found out that Chicago is named from the Native American word "Chicgaga" which means smelly onion.

(Maybe like Mark Twain (no fan of James Fennimore Cooper) said, it's pronounced 'Chingachgook.")

While we were walking, eating, cruising and sailing, there were planes buzzing overhead releasing fireworks as they buzzed the

The whole thing was concluded with a big fireworks display. Although the pyrotechnics were nice they didn't match most of those I have seen at Milwaukee's festivals.

The next big event was on Sunday afternoon at Side Tracks, one of Chicago's biggest and best Queer bars.

Miller Lite and some other people threw a big bash for the Gay delegates and invited guests. Since I am an official Miller Lite taster, an invitation was extended to yours

This was a very nice event. First off, it was an open bar, although all I needed open were some bottles of Lite.

Second, they had very nice looking, um er I mean attractive waiters serving the most delicious appetizers.

Third there were various activities keeping everyone occupied.

Not the least of these activities was the Chicago Gay Men's chorus, and George Stephanopolous who gave a rousing speech.

After the party, the bar showed videos of musicals during with the whole bar joining in singing along. Amazingly enough there were no big social

events on Monday or Tuesday, but there were two on Wednesday night.

First up, was the Human Rights Campaign Fundraiser at the Hyatt Regency. About 500 people paid \$20.00 to munch on a made to order pasta buffet and to drink.

After giving everyone about an hour to socialize, the organizers got underway with the speeches, presented by a series of Congresspeople. This led up to San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown and Senator Ted Kennedy.

Two anti-aborition protestors put a damper on the evening when they charged the stage after Kennedy was done talking. But it wasn't enough of a damper to keep most people from heading over to the other party, the Victory Fund's "United In Victory" party.

This one was tres posh. Held at the Museum of Contemporary Art, United In Victory drew well over 1,000 people.

Guests paid \$35.00 to browse the artwork, listen to the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, eat more of those wonderful hors' d' oeuvres that seemed to keep turning up everywhere and of course to drink.

We ran into several people from Milwaukee including Tom Reed, from Miller who was just beaming, as well he should have been with Miller being a major sponsor of the evening, Laurie Gibalt from LAMM and Stephanie Hume from the Human Rights League.

It was a smashing success and the Chocolate covered Strawberries were especially good. The only problem was that there were so many people it was difficult to get a drink and they ran out of Miller Lite. (Hey, just like the MAGIC picnic.)

The patio was especially popular and full of

Of course there were things to do between the parties. Such as tripping down Halstead

Only for you did I make nightly trips to the bars, so I could report to you just how good some of them were.

First let me say that the people in these

places (with a few exceptions) are not that friendly. In fact the longest conversations I had (outside of telling the bartenders at the Man Hole what I thought of the establishment for not serving Miller products) were with people from out of town.

Second, there are definite codes of dress. For example out of about 300 people at one bar on Sunday evening, not one wore glasses or a hat, very few smoked and no one had a hair out of place.

I fell in love with Side Tracks. The staff there is great and so is the atmosphere. The musical sing alongs on Sundays and Monday evenings are a real scream.

The Man Hole is pretty good, except for its lack of Miller products. This sad fact caused Dusty to engage in a few discussions with some of the bartenders, only to find out that they wished the place had Miller too.

The Man Hole almost redeemed itself by having an Underwear Party on Saturday. Almost but not quite.

Spins was pretty good too and so was Buck's. They were the only Halstead street bars I could find where the beer wasn't \$3.00 a bottle. Spins is a dance bar and Buck's is a um, er, well its hard to describe. Think of a cross between a South Side of Milwaukee neighborhood bar and a Gay sports bar.

The Lucky Horse Shoe was interesting. They have some pretty hot strippers, I mean exotic dancers and some interesting videos in the back bar.

The Annex 3 was boring, Buddies was alright and Roscoe's was cliquey. down on the Loading Zone.

Little Jim's was fun and very friendly. Those were the only bars I was able to get to although Chicago has many, many more.

So there you have it folks, it was fun. But to be honest after five nights of parties, and bar hopping, it was good to return to the Badger state where the people are friendly, the Lite is on tap and you can spend an enjoyable evening without busting your budget.

I guess its true there really is no place like

Senate Vote **Continued From Page 1**

optimism.

One Gay lobbyist told The Wisconsin Light that he characterized Clinton's efforts as "strong action taken by a determined President.'

Washington insiders say that Clinton's determination was matched by the Senate's Republican leadership which was solidly against ENDA and maneuvered to engineer its defeat. The Republican platform passed at the GOP's national convention in San Diego had denounced any attempt to pass what it called 'special rights" for Gays and Lesbians.

Close Vote Had Been Expected

It was recognized that the vote on ENDA would be tight. As the vote neared neither side was willing to claim victory. As the vote was taken, Vice - President Al Gore's Staff was on the Senate floor ready to summon him to break a tie in favor of the bill should one develop. Gore is reported to also have helped in the lobbying effort on behalf of ENDA. In the end though the effort fell one vote short.

Activists Buoyed by Coming Close Even though ENDA fell short, the activists contacted by The Wisconsin Light expressed

Bob Kearney, Northern States Field Organizer for the Human Rights Campaign, HRC, said, ""It's disappointing to lose, but there are so many causes and civil rights legislation that take years to even get a hearing. Here we are with ENDA being in its second congress and coming within one vote of passage by the Senate."

Ironically, the vote on ENDA was helped by the introduction of DOMA, the Defense of Marriage act. DOMA, if upheld by the Courts would define marriage as a union only between a man and woman.

DOMA was introduced in response to a State of Hawaii court case. The case resulted from a suit filed by a Lesbian couple after they were denied a marriage license. The Hawaii Supreme Court refused to throw out the suit and indicated it was likely to rule in the women's favor.

Back Door Deals Described

The vote on ENDA was originally to have taken place on Thursday, September 5. That vote was part of a agreement between supporters and opponents of DOMA.

According to Wisconsin Light' sources, under the terms of the agreement, supporters and opponents of DOMA, would have been allowed to introduce four amendments to the bill. One of those amendments would have come from Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Mass). Kennedy had vowed to offer ENDA as an amendment to DOMA. The agreement fell apart when both sides backed away from it.

Anti-Gay Republicans like Senate Majority Leader, Trent Lott (R-Miss), fearful that an ENDA amendment might pass, worried about being faced with a choice of voting No on DOMA which would have been a vote for Gay marriage and against Gay rights or voting

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel









against Gay marriage and for Gay rights with

DOMA's opponents also backed away from

the deal, when Republicans threatened to

attach anti-union amendments to the bill.

Faced with pressure from Senate Democrats

Gay lobbyists and the President's staff, Lott

agreed that both DOMA and ENDA would be

voted on with no amendments being offered

Strategy May Have Hurt Gavs

This strategy may have helped the anti-Gay

forces in Congress more than it helped Gays

and Lesbians. With the end of the legislative

session only a few weeks away, it was very

unlikely that ENDA would have come up for a

vote in the House of Representatives even if it

On the other hand, amendments to DOMA

would have forced a "Conference Committee"

to be called between the two Houses of

Congress to iron out differences between the

House and Senate versions of the bill. The

delay could have meant that DOMA would not

The House had passed DOMA by an over-

whelming margin. This prompted Maxine

Waters (D-Cal) to wonder why "...people

working on their second and third marriages

had the gall to say they were protecting the

In the end Les/Bi/Gay activists decided it

was better to go ahead and get ENDA passed

by the Senate then it would be to fight what

they considered to be a losing battle against

Passage of DOMA was widely expected

although the margin of that passage amounted

to what one observer termed "a crushing de-

publican leadership who hoped to attack any

In an interview with The Wisconsin Light.

HRC Executive Director, Elizabeth Birch, called DOMA, The Bob Dole Needs A Scape

Goat Act of 1996." (See interview on page 9).

Birch and others like Melinda Paras,

Executive Director the National Gay Lesbian

Task Force, has spent much of the year

Paras told The Wisconsin Light that her

group expected DOMA for two years. She

called it "wedge politics" designed to alienate

President Clinton from his Les/Bi/Gay sup-

Birch agreed with Paras' assessment telling

Light that if Gays and Lesbians refuse to

support the President they let anti-Gay Re-

Helen Gonzales, of NGLTF told The

Wisconsin Light that the anti DOMA forces

considered a filibuster, but didn't have the

votes to keep a cloture vote from passing.

Speaking of the debate, Gonzales said that she

was especially moved by Senator Charles

Robb (D-Va) who voted no on DOMA.

publicans "win twice on this issue."

opposing DOMA while promoting ENDA.

The bill had solid backing from the Re-

feat" for Gay rights advocates.

Democrats who voted against it.

sacredness and sanctity of that institution.

pass before Congress adjourns next month.

This set the stage for a second agreement.

a Yes vote.

for either one.

DOMA

had passed the Senate.





Courageous Votes Against

"The one who I believe was most courageous was Senator Robb (D-Va)," said Gon-"He spoke for 40 minutes and gave an excellent speech, telling the Senate 'Time has been the enemy of discrimination in America. It has allowed our views on race and gender and religion to evolve dramatically, inevitably, in the American tradition of progress and inclusion. But we are not there yet,

Kearney singled out Bob Kerrey (D-Neb) for special praise. "He comes from a culturally conservative state. This is clearly not a politically advantageous position for him. But like his stance on Gays in the military, he stood up for us because it was the right thing

Wisconsin's Senator Russ Feingold took to the Senate floor to denounce DOMA questioning why with all of the major issues facing Congress, the Senate "was wasting its time on this unnecessary bill."

Hawaiian Couple Joins Debate As the Senate prepared for the debate on

DOMA, the Lesbian couple at the heart of the Hawaii marriage case that may bring legalized Les/Bi/Gay weddings to the Aloha State stood outside of the Senate.

"Why are the politicians trying to make life so hard for us? We just want to get married and live in peace," said Ninia Baehr who with and her partner, Genora Dancel, filed suit when the couple was denied a marriage license. "This federal bill is a bigoted attack on people in love."

Dancel called DOMA, "marriage aparthied." And added "It does not make child care easier, or secure health insurance, jobs or decent incomes for people - now those things might defend marriage.

DOMA marks the first time the federal government has ever attempted to define marriage. Its passage follows a Hawaii Supreme Court decision that made it clear the Court will probably rule in favor of Gay marriages.

Significantly, Hawaii's two Democratic Senators voted against the bill. Sources say the two Senators were angry over what they considered to be an attack on the right of their state to determine its own marriage policies.

DOMA May Be Unconstitutional

Many legal experts say that due to the "Full Faith and Credit" clause of the U.S. Constitution, bills like DOMA and laws passed by various states around the country are unconstitutional. The clause directs all states and the federal government to honor and abide by each other's laws.

What's Next

With these key votes behind them, Lesbian and /Gay activists are turning their attention to the November elections.

As Kearney puts it, "We need to get those last votes. We must also look at the House and get control of the House. We have to make sure that Newt Gingrich is not in control of the House next term. It's clearly back in the lap of people in states like Wisconsin voting in the November elections.

Call The 900 number to respond to ads, browse unlisted ads, or retrieve messages. Only \$1.99 per minute. 18+. Customer Service: 415-281-3183

Wisconsin

SECRET LOVER I'm a Bi White male, 27 years old, smooth, good looking. I'm looking for a younger White male 18 to 29 to be my secret lover. I can travel the whole state. Call me. (Appleton) **8732*

APPLETON GUY I'm 22 year old Gay White male looking for someone to have fun with. Call me. (Appleton) #6976

LOOKING FOR A GOOD FRIEND I'm a 22 year old Gay White male new to the area. I'm attractive, 5'9, 150lbs, Brown eyes. I'm looking for someone 18 to 25 who loves to have fun and who can be a good friend. Call me. (Appleton) =6949

ORDINARY GUY I'm an ordinary guy from Appleton looking for someone who is fun and sincere and likes to do a variety of things. If you a interested please call me. (Appleton) #21201

DISCRETION A MUST I'm a 33 year old professional Bi male. I enjoy sporting events. I tend to be shy. My profession does not allow me to meet people freely. I look forward to meeting someone. Please be discreet. (Fond du lac) #32076

NO GAMES NO TRIPS I'm 6'1, Brown hair, Blue eyes, 178lbs, slim, good shape, good looking. I would like to meet someone for a long term relationship. Casual friends welcome. I enjoy sporting events and masculine men. (Fond du lac)

LETS PLAY BALL I'm a 22 year old Gay. White male interested in meeting someone for friendship or other reasons. I have dark blond hair and blue eyes and I love sports. If you are interested please call me and leave a message. (Kenosha) #43128

JUST FUN I'm 6ft, 155lbs, Blande hair, Blue eyes, hairy, 21 years old. I'm looking for guys 18 to 23 in my area. I'm not interested in a relationship, just fun. (Kenosha) #28952

I'M LOOKING FOR FRIENDS I'm new to the area. I'm a cute 22 year old Gay Asian male, 5'6, 120lbs. I'm looking for White guys 18 to 25 for friendship and maybe more. Call me. (Modison)

LETS GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER I'm in my early 30's, well built, tall, clean shaven, healthy. I would like to meet men 18 to early 30's to get to know and have fun with. Call me. (Madison) #8996

MUSCLE MADNESS I'm 5'8, 155lbs, Blond hair, Blue eyes. I'm looking for muscular and hairy men who like to have fun. Call me. (Madison) #8511

LETS CELEBRATE OUR DIVERSITY I'm looking for someone to have a good time with. I like to do lots of different things. Call me. (Madison) =6750

WISCONSIN DELLS I love to 69. Call me if you are 35 and under. (Madison) #5610

TORRID ENCOUNTERS I'm a Gay Latin male, 6ft, 195lbs, 26 years old. I seek muscular, lustful, Gay White males or couples 20 to 40 for torrid encounters. Call me. (Madison) #4016

ARE YOU KIND HEARTED? I'm 23 years old, Asian male, 5'7, 135lbs, dark hair, dark eyes, very healthy, very athletic and good looking. I enjoy weight lifting, biking, and summer movies. I'm looking for a White male 20 to 32 who is fit and muscular. (Madison) #3688

ARE YOU IN KNEED? I have Brown hair and Blue eyes, moderate build. I love to have sex and give and receive massage. If you are into having fun or a possible relationship call me. (Madison) m4127

MISSING LINK SOUGHT I'm late 40's, husky build, beard, mustache. I would like to meet of type 30's to 50's who is very hairy. Call me. (Madison) #4366

HAIR WE GO I'm 18 years old, 6'4, 210lbs. I'm looking for someone 18 to 30 who likes to do just about anything. Hairy men are a plus. (Madison) #3262

ARREST ME I'm a submissive Gay White male, 511, 155lbs, Brown hair, Hazel eyes. I'm looking for a dominant man 21 to 45 who is in law enforcement. Call me. (Madison) #2840

ISN'T THAT YOU ON THE SCREEN? I would with some guys in my area. I you are into adult via

together. (Madison) #1314 MADISON BEAR I'm 28 years old, 6'2, heavy set, short Brown hair, hairy all over. I like big hairy men like myself. I'm into movies, theatre, reading, and good conversation. Call me. (Madison) #1163

TAKE A CHANCE ON ME I'm a Gay White male, 6'1, 175lbs, Brown hair, Green eyes, 30 years old, fit, clean cut. I'm looking for a top Gay male for fun, friendship, and possibly more. Try m No disappointment (Madison) #34680

LOCAL MOTIVE I'm a 34 year old Gay White male looking for friends in my area and a possible relationship. Call me. (Marion) #1989

THIS BOTTOM WANTS YOU I'm 27 years old, 5*10, Auburn hair, Green eyes, glasses, mustact I'm looking for men around my age for fun and more. Call me. (Menonomie) #3939

POSITIVE AND HEALTHY I'm 31 years old, HIV positive, healthy. I'm looking for men in my area. If you have left a message in the past please leave one again. Thanks. (Milwaukee) #7328

STRAIGHT TO THE POINT I'm a 33 year old White male, 5'10, 165lbs, Brown hair, Brown eyes, handsome. I'm looking for men 29 to 35 who are attractive and straight acting. I'm interested in casual dating and a possible relationship. Call me.
(Milwaukee) = 10017

COOL CALM AND SLICK I'm 6ft, 160lbs, nice looking, clean shaven, 23 years old, lonely. 1 enjoy movies, exercise, travel, etc. I'm seeking a very attractive bottom 18 to 22. Call me. No games.

CLEAN AND INTELLIGENT? I'm a 27 year old Bi Black male looking for friendship. I like racquetball, fishing, working out, etc. I'm looking for someone 18 to 31 who is clean, intelligent and a non smoker. Call me. (Milwaukee) #10181

years old, 6ft, 150lbs. I'm a Gay White male, 29 years old, 6ft, 150lbs. I'm looking to meet other men 18 to 35 for friendship and possible relationship. I like the outdoors, good fimes, etc. Call me. (Milwaukee) 90137 m9137

RELATIONSHIP ORIENTED I'm a handsome professional Gay White male, 33 years old, 5'10, 165lbs. I'm relationship oriented and I'm seeking attractive Gay White men 29 to 35 for dating, fun, and possible relationship. I'm straight acting and appearing. (Milwaukee) #9218

SMOOTH BOY I'm 5'9, 125lbs, smooth body, smooth chest. I'm looking for someone in my area for fun times. Call me. (Milwaukee) #8967

ON THE SIDE I'm a Gay White male, late 30's, 5'8, 150lbs, hairy chest, receded hair line. I'm looking for an East Side top for fun on the side. Call me. (Milwaukee) #7373

LETS GET WET I'm 6'3, Bland hair, Hazel eyes, 155lbs. I like swimming, walking, biking, camping, etc. I'm interested in meeting new friends. Call me. (Milwaukee) #6599

HELP ME GET OFF I'm 25 years old, smooth bottom boy looking for a hot top muscular man. A hot construction worker, body builder, cop, etc. to take control of me. Make me do it sir. Make me your dirty little boy. (Milwaukee) #7498

READY FOR A CHANGE I'm a single White male, 30 years old, 6ft, 200lbs. I'm looking for a Transvestite. I need a first time experience with a kinky cross dresser. (Milwaukee) =5255

SIT BACK AND RELAX I'm a handsome and bored Gay White male, early 30's, slim, discreet, very oral. I'm looking for Gay or straight White men who would like to be serviced. Call me. (Milwaukee) #5879

LIVE IN SLAVE WANTED I'm 48 years old and I'm looking for a slave boy or she male slave 18 to 35. I'm willing to train someone. This is a possible live in situation. (Milwaukee) #3680

THE WILD NIGHT IS CALLING I'm a very attractive 32 year old Gay White male, Blande hair, Hazel eyes, 6'1, 165lbs, trim muscular build. I enjoy working out, camping, etc. I'm looking for guys in my area for fun and friendship. Call me. (Milwaukee) #3897

istian-Brown

Chr

David

THE COLOR OF MY DREAMS I'm a 29 year old Black male, 6'3, 180lbs, mustache, attractive. I'm seeking other men of color in my area. Call me. (Milwaukee) #3985

NO CRIMINAL RECORD I'm a Bi White male, 6'1, 29 years old, 217lbs, athletic build,
Blue eyes, handsome, GQ looks, drug free, disease
free, no criminal record. I'm looking for a Bi White or
Hispanic male 21 to 35 who is muscular and good
looking. (Milwaukee) #3378

MORE THAN THIS I'm a caring Gay White male looking for the same for friendship and possibly more. I'm 51 years old, Brown hair, Brown eyes, 5'8, 145lbs. If you are inter (Milwaukee) =1720 rested please call me.

LOOKING FOR A HOT HUNG TOP I'm a Gay White male, 25 years old, Brown hair, Blue eyes, slender build. I'm looking for a hot hung top man. Call me. (Milwaukee) #1774

SMALL ENDOWED BOTTOMS WANTED I'm on older young looking 44 year old Goy White mole, 5'9, 165lbs, Brown hair, Brown eyes, clean shaven, hairy chest, nice legs, top man. I'm looking for younger guys who are small endowed bottoms. Call me. (Milwaukee) #1878

LETS PLAY A GAME Lets turn up the heat together.
I'm 41 years old, honest and caring. 1 enjoy boating, fishing, hiking, black jack, and cribbage. Call me.
(Milwaukse) #2582

TOP MAN WANTED I'm a 20 year old Gay White male, Reddish Brown hair, Brown eyes, 6ft, 200lbs, freckles. I'm looking for a top man 18 to 25. Call me. (Milwaukee) #2611

DANCES WITH NATURE I'm a Gay White male, Brown hair, Blue eyes, 6'1, 25 years old, nice body. I love dancing and the outdoors. Give me a call.

I LOVE TRANSVESTITES If you enjoy cross dressing call me. I enjoy the company of another gu when he is in drag. Call me. (Milwaukee) #1626

MAKE ME LAUGH I'm 5'7, 180lbs, well built. I'm looking for the same in a guy with a good sense of humor. Lets go out. (Milwoukee) =1316

BLACK MEN ONLY I'm a 21 year old Drag Queen. I have Brown hair, Brown eyes, 5'9, 155lbs, flexible. I'd like to meet a very fun toving and caring guy who likes to do a lot of things as well as cuddle. I'm only interested in Black men. Call me. (Milwaukse) #42795

LEATHER TRAINING I'm into leather. I'm looking for a slave boy or she male. I'm in my 40's, good build. I'm looking for someone to train. (Milwaukee) #32154

FUZZY LITTLE LEATHER BEAR? I'm 47 years old, 5'7, 178lbs. I enjoy working out, hiking, biking, stoying fit, etc. I'm looking for fuzzy little leather bears 5'10 and under. (Milwaukee) #3544

SMOOTH LITTLE BOTTOM WANTED I'm a top man, 41 years old, 6'5, 230lbs. I'm looking for a smooth little bottom 18 to 25. I'm secure and a workdohlic. If you would like to know more please call me. (Nina) #8686

9 INCH NAIL I'm a 30 year old construction worker, 1 80lbs, very muscular, very well endowed, big biceps, lightly furry chest, Blond hair, Blue eyes, Bi, versatile. I'm married but I like getting it on with other guys. Call me. (Northwestern) #8037

HERE I AM I'm 21 years old, 5'8, 145lbs, dark Bland hair, Blue eyes. I like the autdoors, dancing, the movies, animals, etc. I'm looking for someone 18 to 23 who likes to go out and have fun. Call me. (Sheboygan) #9110

LONG WALKS AND CUDDLY NIGHTS I'm a 42 year old Gay White male, 6'1, 275lbs, Brown hair, Blue eyes. I'm looking for a Gay male who is interested in a long term relationship. I have many interests. Call me. (Sheboygan) #6524

DAD WANTS BOY I'm a Gay White male retired professional seeking a cute young dude, son, brother, for affection, companionship, and more. Call me. (Sturgeon Bay) #34420

GOOD LOOKING WELL BUILT BLOND I'm a 22 year old college student. I like weight lifting, travel, friends, dancing, etc. I have Blond hair and Blue eyes. I have a good body and I'm good looking. Call me. (Tomahawk) #8641

HEY GUYS I'm a Bi guy looking for a male 18 to 30 who is in for a long term or short term relationship. Call me. (Wassau) #2950

OPEN TO NEW THINGS I'm 26 years old, 6'1, Bland hair, Hazel eyes, well built, big guy. I like to party. I'm looking for someone to hang out with. Call

GOOD TOP WANTED I'm a bottom looking for a top. If you are good and would like to meet me, please call. #31407

TOP THIS BOTTOM I'm a Gay African American man, 5'3, 170lbs, Brown eyes, stocky, solid. I'm seeking a very dominant person who loves sports, walking, movies and more. Call me. #32768

Illinois

LETS GET DOWN AND DIRTY I'm 30 years old

61, 165lbs, Brown military cut hair, Blue eyes, nice swimmers build. I'm looking for non professional guys 18 to 30 who like to hang out and party. If you

TURN TO THE LEFT I'm 47 years old, White male

very dominant. I'm looking for young guys who like to show off and pose. (Downers Grove) #9371

OF HIGHER INTELLIGENCE I'm a Gay male, 5'11, 155lbs, Brown eyes, bald head, mustache, goatee, 21 years old, Black and Filipino, very attractive. I'm a very intelligent young man. I'm looking for a Gay or Bi black man who is attraction and stable. Call me. (Evanston) #10512

LETS GET WET I'm a 37 year old White male, 5'5, Brown hair, Brown eyes, 158lbs, clean shaven. I would like to meet White men 30 to 50 for water

sports and oral fun. Call me. (Evanston) =9831

LOVE THE CITY I'm 27 years old, 5'5, dark hair, Blue eyes, 135lbs, aerobic instructor. I'm looking for someone older than me, someone secure and fit. If you like to have fun call me. (Evanston) #8494

STRAIGHT TO THE POINT I'm looking for a straight acting guy 18 to 25 to have fun with. I prefer guys who are White or Hispanic. (Evanston)

WEST SUBURBS I'm interested in meeting guys.
I'm very oral and I will make your toes curl. Call me.
(Evanston) =6295

SUBURBAN ESCAPE Professional Gay White male, 43 years old, 5'11, 165lbs, top. I'm seeking a Gay White male 18 to 23 for friendship and more.

No drugs. You must be straight acting and not into the bar scene. (Evanston) #4253

BRING YOUR BUDDIES I'm a White male model, 37 years old, 5'9, 150lbs, I'm looking for a Black male or group of Black males who are hung, uncut, and ready to gang bang me. Call me. (Evanston)

ROMANTIC Gay White male, 41 years old, 5'6, 130lbs, South West suburbs. I'm a loving and caring person. I'm looking for a Gay White male 30 to 45 for friendship or maybe more. (Evanston) #3198

THIS CREAM TEAM WANTS YOU I'm 5'9,

are straight acting and looking call me. (Aurora)

SISSY FRENCH MAID I'm a sissy French maid, submissive Gay white male Transvestite 25 years old. I am looking for aggressive dominant men to service. Treat me like your little girl. Call me. (Joliet) =10398 LOOKING FOR A BOTTOM I'm a 49 year old Gay White male, Brown hair, Blue eyes, very muscular. I'm looking for a bottom man for good times and possibly relationship. Call me. (Joliet)

WILLING TO GO ALL THE WAY White male novice seeks White male companion. I will go all the way with the right person. Call me. (Joliet) #5916

LETS DO THINGS TOGETHER I'm interested in meeting someone who has a hairy chest and medium build. I want to get to know the person pretty good. If you are interested in meeting someone who likes to have fun call me. (Joliet) #1384

ANYTHING GOES I'm 21 years old, 5'11, 210lbs, Brown hair, Brown eyes, Bi, into everything. Call me, (Oakpark) #6182

lowa

OUT AND ABOUT I like to camp and spend time outdoors. I would like to meet some male friends to have fun and do things with. Call me. (Des Moines) =9509

CUM AS YOU ARE I'm a young man looking for fun. I like to camp and have lots of guy friends. If you are interested call me. (Des Maines) #8213

THE MORE THE MERRIER I would like to meet lots of guys for fun and friendship. Call me. (Des Moines) #5035

YOUNG AND RESTLESS I'm a 19 year old White male looking for guys who are good looking. I have a nice body and a moderate income. Call me. (Des Moines) **=2730**

Minnesota

YOUNG AND WILLING I'm a 20 year old male. I have never done anything like this before. I'm not into kinky stuff but I'm willing to try anything new. I would like to meet guys to have fun with. I like to have se all the time. Call me. (Chaska) #9069

TIRED OF PLAYING GAMES I'm very athletic, Brown curly hair, hairy chest. I like athletic dudes and I'm looking for a long term relationship. Its cold here and I'm willing to drive. I'm 30 years old, 185lbs. I love scuba diving and wrestling. (Duluth) 77480 **=7480**

ALONE IN ELK RIVER I'm a single man looking for a friendship and relationship. I live alone and have lots of hobbies. I'm looking for a guy 18 to 25. Call me. (Elk-10450)

ELK RIVER COMPANION I'm looking for companionship with a young man. If you are interested please call me. (Elk River) #2832

SHOW OFF I'm a master masturbator, I'm 39 years old and very well hung. I would love to perform for you. Call me. (Minneapolis) = 9534

WE'LL HAVE A GAY OL TIME I'm looking for a single Gay male 18 to 29 for a good time. If you are him call me. (Minneapolis) #9611

READY FOR A CHANGE I'm interested in meeting Transsexuals and cross dressers. I'm interested in you. Please call me. (Minneapolis) #9782

AS YOU WISH I'm a single White male, 35 years old. I'm looking for a dominant Bi White male to do with me as he wishes. I will do anything. I love to cross dress and submit to my master. There is nothing I won't do for you. (Minneapolis) #9890

MILD TO WILD I'm a 55 year old Bi White male looking for Gay males who have day time play time. I enjoy everything from mild to wild. Call me. (Minneapolis) #9930 WEEKEND BOYFRIEND WANTED I'm a 50 year

old cute bearded cub seeking a big bear for long term relationship and tender loving care. I would like to meet one special man. Call me. (Minneapolis)

PICTURE THIS I'm a Gay White male, Bland hair, Blue eyes, hard of hearing, attractive, 34 years old. I Blue eyes, hard of hearing, attractive, 34 like communication, walks, outdoors, etc. (Minneapolis) #8207

KINKY RAUNCHY UNINHIBITED I'm a 27 year old Goy White mole with HIV looking for other HIV positive Gay men for hot, raunchy, kinky, uninhibited sexual encounters. Call me. (Minneapolis) #8220

WEIGHT TRAINING BUDDY WANTED I'm a 38 year old Bi White male, Brown hair, Blue eyes, 5'10, 186lbs, muscular, 32" waist, 46" chest. I'm looking for a weight training buddy for training sessions at the gym and maybe more. discretion assured. (Minneapolis) #7613

ROMANCING THE LATINS I'm a 24 year old Spanish and French male, 6'2, 165lbs. I like roller blading, movies, romance, etc. I'm seeking Latin men 21 to 24 for a relationship. Call me. (Minneapolis) =7752

WHY DON'T WE DO IT IN THE ROAD I'm o Black Transsexual, very beautiful, very sexy. I'm in search of very well endowed men who are clean, sexy, open minded, and like to do things outdoors. (Minneapolis) =5538

LETS CUDDLE I'm oft, 175lbs, very good shape, beard, hairy chest. I enjoy the outdoors, movies, dinners, quiet evenings, cuddling, etc. I'm looking for a hairy man who is in shape and is drug free. Call me. (Minneapolis)

BROTHER TO BROTHER I'm a Gay Black male, 6ft, 195lbs, nice body, good shape. I'm looking for other well built masculine Black men. Call me.

GOOD TIMES ARE WAITING I'm 40 years old, 6ft, 180lbs, dark, masculine, good looking, discreet. I'm looking for a friend under 50 who is in shape and good looking. Call me. (Minneapolis) #5635

ARE YOU READY FOR A CHANGE? I'm a Transsexual interested in guys who are masculine, straight appearing, well endowed. I like to dance, dine out, cook, shop, look sexy all the time. (Minneapolis) =5678

DOMINANT ALL AMERICAN TOP I'm a dominant, all American, clean cut, White male. I'm hot, horny, hung, 30's, 5'11, 180lbs, work out, great looks, disease free, booze and buds are OK with me. I demand a curious, obedient, slender male under 35 transics me. (Mispenpolis). 25202 to service me. (Minneapolis) \$\pi6202\$

HOPELESS ROMANTIC I'm o Gay White male, 46 years old, young looking, good looking, young acting, good shape, hairy chest, good looking, passionate, loving, caring, etc. If you are interested please call me. (Minneapolis) #1515

WANTED MEN I'm 29 years old, 6'6, 200lbs, swimmers build, Blue eyes, Brown hair, fair skin, shy, very smooth, bottom. I love to serve uncut men of all kinds. Make me do what you want. Call me. (Minneapolis) #4916

BEND ME OVER YOUR KNEES SIR I'm a Gay male, 33 years old, into bondage, leather, and S&M. I'm looking for a hot top to bend me over his knee and to his will. Call me. (Minneapolis) #4569

CUTE YOUNG BOY Hot 28 year old Blond, long hair, very nice, honest, decent job, versatile, fun, adventurous, party, drink, (but never create problems), mellow. I will do anything I can to please a cute young boy 18+. Please call me. (Minneapolis)

HOT 28 YEAR OLD BLOND long hair, honest, decent job, versatile, fun, adventurous, party, drink, mellow, been in naked magazines. I want to experiment with servicing you and your friends. If you are real I will send nice photos. Call me. (Minneapolis) #4665

I NEED A TOP MAN I'm 5'10, Auburn hair, Green eyes. I'm looking for a top man for fun and good times. If you are interested please call me. (Minneapolis) #3940

THE REAL THING I'm 29 years old, Brown hair Brown eyes, 6ft, 190lbs, smooth, cute. I'm looking for honest and real people who are not into games for good times and more. Call me. (Minneapolis) good him #4186

LETS WORK IT OUT I'm a 38 year old Gay male looking for some fun times this summer. It can be totally casual with no strings or it can be more than that. I'm open the possibility of a relationship. Call me. (Minneapolis) #4424

DON'T WORRY BE HAPPY I am a deaf White male looking for good clean fun, sex, and more. If you would like to know more about me please respond to this mailbox. Thank you. (Minneapolis) #4483

LOOKING FOR FRIENDS I'm a Gay White male in Minneapolis looking for friends. If you are out there reading this ad please call me. (Minneapolis)

WHERE ARE YOU? I'm an attractive 41 year old Gay White male, 170lbs, Brown hair, Blue eyes, masculine, nice body. I like weight lifting, running, etc. I'm looking for a Gay Black male 30 to 45 for fun, triendship, and more. Leave a message. (Minneapolis) #2319

THIS TOP WANTS YOU I'm a Gay White male, 26 years old, Bland hair, Blue eyes, 6'1, 200lbs. I'm looking to meet bottom men in St. Paul or River Falls. If you are 21 to 29, straight acting, attractive and interested in a top man please call me. (Minneapolis)

BOUND TO PLEASE I'm a submissive Gay White male, 6'1, 185lbs, 35 years old. I'm a slave looking for a master who can give me the discipline I need. I'm into bondage, water sports, verbal abuse, etc. Call me sir. I'm made to take orders. (Minneapolis) m33462

NEW KID IN TOWN I'm 34 years old, 6'3, transplant. I'm looking to make some friends and a possible lover. I like dining out, movies, walks, video's, etc. I'm easy going and I'm looking for a



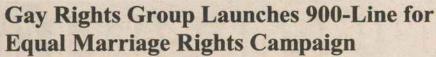
1-900-740-4897 EXT. 13

FOR YOUR FREE AD CALL 1-800-546-6366. THE SYSTEM WILL DO THE REST!

185lbs, very muscular, dark hair, Green eyes, goatee. My other half is 6'4, Brown hair, goatee, Brown eyes, furry. We are into singles or couples for hot fun. It you want something different to do call us. (Joliet) #9538







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 lifepartners. Without equal marriage rights, we will continue to be treated as second-class citizens."

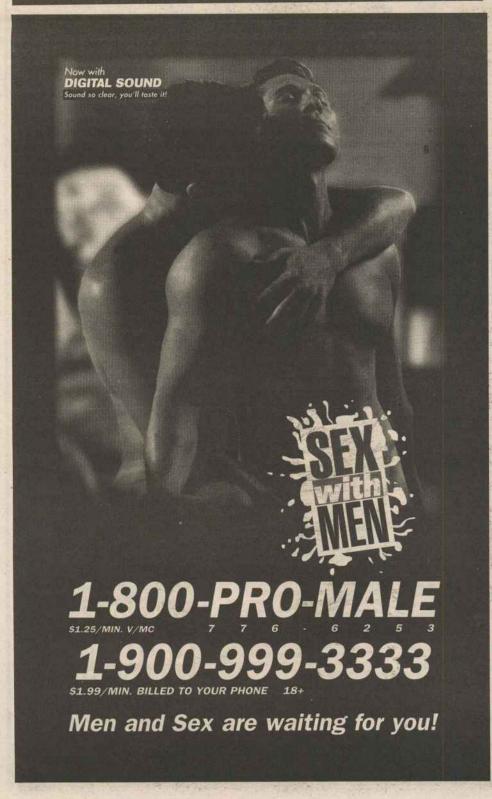
1-900-97-MARRY is endorsed by Astaea National Lesbian Action Foundation; Gay and Lesbian Medical Association; Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers Network; Human Rights Campaign; Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund; National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum; National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; and 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. ∇

ADS WALK WISCONSIN SEPTEMBER 22

BETTE MIDLER









Wisconsin Light Photos by Jerry Johnson

Quotes From The Democratic National Convention

Wisconsin Light Photos by Jerry Johnson and Bill Meunier



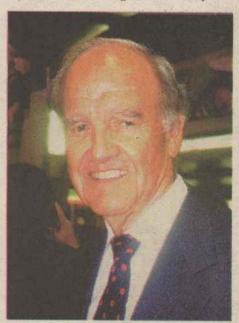
fore Bill Clinton took office. We never had a sit- Hook, line and sinker. ting President who had even uttered the words alone a meaningful way. In the past four years, I Kemp and Gingrich." have felt genuine access to this administration, Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Mass) not only through their openly Gay 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 loud, 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 mat-

Former Democratic Presidential Nominee George McGovern on the in response to a "Wisconsin Light" question about Republi-



"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 Gin-"I frequently think back to four years ago be- grich thought it up, but Bob Dole swallowed it.

"When our opponents put their ticket together, Gay or Lesbian in public. Nor did we have ac- they left out the last name. Their real ticket is cess to the White House in any way at all, let that famous Republican trio of reaction - Dole,



'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 alter-

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 ticularly. sending a message to the country which says which Americans don't belong. That's what this (D-Mass) election is about; who belongs and who doesn't. The answer is, everybody belongs. My husband 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.

vote against DOMA.



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

Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass) Speaking out



"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 par-

Openly Gay Congressman Barney Frank

"Bill Clinton has gone part of the way with us, and I: he was 17, I was 18 when we married, 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 our-Congresswoman Lynn Rivers (D-MI) selves as Bob Dole undoes the gains we've been speaking at the HRC Fund Raiser about her 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 county, 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

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

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.