



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

The Wisconsin Light

MAP Cuts Ribbon on Wisconsin's First HIV Dental Clinic

Milwaukee—Joined by Congressman Tom Barrett (D-Milwaukee), approximately 75 people gathered at the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) on Monday evening, December 2nd for the formal opening of ARCW's new HIV dental clinic. The opening was timed to coincide with the observance of World AIDS Day.

As reported in the last issue of *Light*, the clinic is a collaborative effort between the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) and the Rainbow Community Centers.

The clinic is the first exclusively HIV dedicated dental clinic in Wisconsin.

The clinic is equipped with the most modern and up-to-date dental equipment and will be staffed with a full-time dentist and full-time dental hygienist. The clinic is located on the third floor of the MAP building, 820 N. Plankinton Avenue in downtown Milwaukee. The clinic will become operational in January, 1997.

In his remarks prior to the ribbon cutting, Doug Nelson, MAP's Executive Director, said that the need for the clinic "became acute" with the closure of Doyno Hospital, which was operated by Milwaukee County. Prior to Doyno's closing, many people with HIV/AIDS received dental care there.

Nelson said that this need was brought to ARCW's attention by Dr. Kay Kratz who had been treating dental patients at Doyno. "It was she," he said, "who got the ball rolling." With the "strong and on-going collaboration" of the Rainbow Community Health Centers, the clinic became a reality.

Nelson said that the clinic is expected to serve "more than 600 people infected with HIV/AIDS." "No one," he emphasized strongly, "would be turned away due to financial considerations."

"We are determined to keep MAP services convenient," said Nelson. "With one visit to MAP, clients can access a dentist, a nurse, a lawyer, a housing advocate and a case manager."

Nelson was joined in cutting the ribbon by Dr. Kratz and Dr. Richard Grzybowski of the Rainbow Health Centers.

All MAP services are completely confidential, with most at no charge. MAP also offers free and anonymous HIV testing.

Those attending the ribbon cutting were offered a delectable array of canapés catered by Mr. Guy's Catering.

**See Exclusive Interview
With Super model
Steve Kelso
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Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), Dr. Richard Grzybowski, Executive Director of the Indian Health Board, and Dr. Kay Kratz, who conceived of the idea of a dental clinic serving people with HIV/AIDS cut the ribbon on December 2, inaugurating ARCW's new dental clinic.

Ruling Complicates Hawaiian Same Sex Marriage Battle



It's A Sign of the Season when Milwaukee's Cream City Chorus sings at the City's annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. The tree lighting which took place on Saturday November 30, including fireworks, singing, the Police Band and a special appearance from Billie the Brownie. The Cream City Chorus will hold its annual Holiday Concert at 8:00, Saturday December 14 at Cross Lutheran Church, 1821 N. 16 Street, Milwaukee. Tickets are available from Chorus members, and at the M & M Club, Afterwords Book Store, Designing Men, This Is It and the BESTD Clinic.

Medical College's CAIR Center Receives Grants for HIV Prevention Studies

Milwaukee—Jeffrey A. Kelly, Ph.D., professor of psychiatry and mental health sciences and director of the Center for AIDS Intervention and Research (CAIR) at the Medical College of Wisconsin, has been appointed to serve on the national advisory panel for "Mothers' Voices United to End AIDS."

The group is a national non-profit organization dedicated to mobilizing mothers in the battle against AIDS.

Dr. Kelly is one of the nation's leading researchers in AIDS prevention through community-based prevention programs in urban Milwaukee and small cities throughout the country, for at-risk populations, including Gay men, minority women and the chronically mentally ill.

Dr. Kelly has been instrumental in securing a \$4 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to establish the Medical College's CAIR Center, one of the four, major, nationally-designated centers for AIDS intervention research.

Two New Grants

Dr. Kelly has received two grants totaling almost \$1 million to replicate a prevention-intervention model and train scientists.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) awarded a \$450,000, two year grant to study Replication of Effective Community-Level HIV Prevention Interventions.

The CDC study is based on research trials of interventions to identify popular opinion leaders within social networks of Gay men and inner city women and then enlisting their support to change the sexual behavior of others by distributing messages about risk reduction.

Researchers hope to develop a package of educational materials replicating the model and then disseminate it through public health agencies.

Part of the project is to engage six AIDS service and public health organizations in Wisconsin to participate as partners. Researchers will provide assistance and follow-up assessment in what they hope will result in development of a refined model.

The second award, a five-year, \$623,233 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIH), will be used to develop a postdoctoral training program in HIV prevention research.

The NIH funding will be used to underwrite two-year training periods for four postdoctoral research fellows, emphasizing the training of women and minorities.

HIV Prevention for Young Women

A federal grant of \$125,000 will allow Medical College researchers to evaluate programs that assist mothers in talking to their adolescent daughters about avoiding risks of HIV. The one-year award from NIH establishes a collaboration between the Medical College's CAIR and the University of Puerto Rico for a pilot project directed at Puerto Rico's youth.

The focus is of particular importance because Puerto Rico has the second highest HIV/AIDS rate of all US states and territories, and because the disease there particularly affects young women.

Dr. Kelly will be the principal investigator in the program.

By Bill Meunier

Honolulu—Whether or not Gays and Lesbians will be allowed to marry in Hawaii may depend on the outcome of a new court case filed to stop a call for the a State Constitutional Convention. Such a convention would almost certainly move to ban Same Sex marriages, thereby negating an anticipated Hawaiian Supreme Court ruling that the current State Constitution requires the issuance of marriage licenses to Same Sex couples.

A controversial decision by Hawaiian Attorney General Marjorie Bronster has added more legal fuel to the firestorm over whether or not Lesbians and Gays may legally marry in the Aloha State. Bronster ruled that the results of the November election require the State to call

a Constitutional Convention.

Referendum Held

The current State Constitution mandates a referendum on holding a Constitutional Convention every 10 years. Opponents of Same Sex marriage campaigned in favor of the convention.

The referendum results were 163,869 Yes votes and 160,153 No votes. On the surface that would seem like enough for the convention to be called. Bronster ruled that "a majority of voters were in favor of the convention and ordered that one be held."

"Not so fast" say Gay activists and their labor union allies. Over 45,000 ballots cast in the election did not indicate a preference for or against the convention, popularly known as ConCon.

Those opposed to the convention say that those 45,000 ballots must be counted as no votes because language in the current State Constitution requires that "a majority of ballots cast" must be in the affirmative for the Convention to be called.

New Suit Filed

The question of what constitutes a majority of votes will now go before the Hawaiian Supreme Court thanks to a lawsuit filed by the Hawaii State AFL-CIO and 35 others

TURN TO HAWAII, PAGE 27

PrideFest Announces Dates and Theme for PrideFest '97

Milwaukee—PrideFest will be back at the Henry W. Maier Festival Park (Summerfest Grounds) on June 6, 7, and 8 in 1997. As was announced in the Milwaukee *Journal Sentinel*, the Board of Directors of Milwaukee World Festivals approved the festival's return to the park during a meeting on November 14, 1996.

PrideFest also has announced that the theme for 1997 is: "Sharing a World of Difference." The theme was adopted by the "entire council," according to Susan Cook, PrideFest Co-Director.

PrideFest has also announced the addition of Jill Clark to the PrideFest Council. Clark will be the entertainment coordinator for the 1997 festival. Clark has "years of experience working with festivals in both Racine and Appleton, doing everything from development to performing," according to the PrideFest press release.

News From The Nation



Proposed Anti-Gay Amendment Dropped

Greenville, SC-AP-The author of the latest proposed resolution to condemn homosexuality in Greenville County has abandoned the idea because of a lack of support.

County Councilman Richard Ashmore said his proposal would not have replaced a previous anti-Gay stand, which condemns homosexuality as incompatible with community standards, but could have served as a new statement of the council's beliefs.

Greenville County's original anti-Gay resolution approved earlier this year prompted Atlanta Olympic organizers to shroud the torch on its route through the county. The Tour DuPont also dropped the county from next year's bicycle race.

Ashmore's proposed resolution condemns same-sex marriages and "lifestyles that are contrary to the teachings and principles of the Judeo-Christian beliefs." It also states that county government would fight for what Ashmore described as the traditional family.

"This is a victory for us that he can't find the support to do this," said Susan Stallard, chairwoman of ProJustice Carolina, a group that formed to fight the first anti-Gay stand. Smith said the county's version "suffers the same constitutional infirmities."

Students Try Peer Counseling to Reduce AIDS Threat

Nikiski, AK-AP- High schoolers here concerned about the spread of HIV infection are working to stop the disease by counseling their peers.

Students are part of a nationwide group known as RARE-T, for Reduce AIDS Risks Effectively in Teens. About 10 Nikiski High students have joined together to advise other teen-agers about the epidemic and its prevention.

Alaska observed World AIDS Day on Sunday, December 1st, following a proclamation signed the previous Friday by Gov. Tony Knowles. Organizers across the United States and in 190 countries will show support for people with AIDS and offer information on the disease.

Events were held in Anchorage, Fairbanks and other Alaska cities. At Nikiski High School, student Travis Wellborn said he got involved in the teen group because he knew people with the fatal disease.

"It's tragic," he said. "I don't want to see anyone get hurt." The Nikiski group formed last year after a visit by an Anchorage chapter. Students complete training that includes tips on how to make presentations and stage skits.

Shanda Hall, who said she joined the group after a school survey showed her peers felt comfortable talking to her, said the chapter stresses abstinence. "It's the only safe way," she said.

The group also surveys students and parents to gauge what's already known about AIDS. The students have made presentations at health classes and a health fair.

Teens can be hardest to reach, the students say. One advantage of approaching classes is that no one gets singled out.

"This is an easy way to get things out ... without sounding like we're lecturing them," Hall said.

Students say so far the teen group has been well-received. "At first we were worried about how the school would feel about us talking about condoms but we just talk about the basics," Hall said. "They (staff and administration) have been real supportive. We've had no complaints."

Museum Draws Attention to HIV Among Native Americans

Phoenix, AZ-AP-The Heard Museum, renowned for its collection of American Indian artworks, will cover its signature sculpture on Sunday to call attention to the AIDS problem among Indians.

The one-day shrouding of "Earth Song," by Apache sculptor Allan Houser, coincided with the annual World AIDS Day and Day Without Art observances held around the nation.

"Our focus at the museum is Native American art and culture, and we wanted to raise people's awareness of the epidemic of AIDS among Native American peoples," museum spokesman Mario Klimiades said.

According to the Phoenix Indian Medical Center, AIDS cases among Indians increased 20 percent from 1995 to 1996 — a rate 20 percent higher than that of the general population.

And once they are diagnosed with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, Indians on average have a 50 percent shorter life span than any other ethnic group with the disease, medical center spokeswoman Constance James said.

The 137-bed center is the primary health care provider to five tribes and Indians living in the Phoenix area. The center serves as a referral center for members of 34 tribes in Arizona, Utah and Nevada.

The medical center also provides services and treatment to Indians who have HIV. The shroud covering the museum sculpture contained statistics about the number of Americans, including Indians, who have died of AIDS, Klimiades said. Visitors to the museum in downtown Phoenix received brochures containing AIDS information and poetry by Native Americans.

As part of the AIDS observance, the museum featured an exhibition called "Native Survival: Response to HIV/AIDS." The works by Indian artists include paintings, collages, sculpture and photographs.

On Sunday evening, Tempe Mayor Neil Giuliano lit a huge illuminated AIDS ribbon on the side of "A" Mountain near Sun Devil Stadium. A candlelight walk up the mountain followed.

GAY VICTIM AWARDED \$10 MILLION

Detroit- A Detroit man was beaten and shot six times in the lobby of his apartment building while a security guard stood by and did nothing. The victim, now a paraplegic, was awarded \$10 million by a Wayne County jury on 21 November 1996. This judgment is thought to be the largest ever in a Gay-bashing case. The judgment is against Pinkerton Security.

Sean McBride, 28, was attacked in January 1994 by three men who taunted and harassed him for being Gay. After repeated insults and slurs were hurled at Mr. McBride, the action turned violent, ending with the six gun shots. The twenty-year-old security guard watched and even laughed at some of the remarks during the half-hour incident.

Carol McNeilage, Mr. McBride's attorney, said that her client "thought [the Pinkerton guard] would have gotten the, out of there." Of the verdict, she said, "Society has finally realized that homosexuals are entitled to full respect and dignity."

TV GRANDMOTHER COMES OUT!

Los Angeles, CA — American television has been enriched by one more Lesbian character. Roseanne's mother Beverly Harris, played by Estelle Parsons on the popular sitcom, came out to her family during Thanksgiving dinner. The show pointed out the frustrations and pain Beverly felt living life in the closet and the challenge of coming out to one's family regardless of age.

For years, Roseanne has been a leader in presenting Lesbian and Gay issues. From Nancy (Sandra Bernhard) coming out as bisexual to the introduction of Roseanne's Gay business partner Leon (Martin Mull) and his recent wedding to Scott (Fred Willard), Roseanne's track record on Gay issues is unmatched. Roseanne's fair and accurate representation of lesbians and Gay men garnered GLAAD Media Awards in 1992, 1993 and 1995.

"There is no doubt that both Roseanne and the ABC television network will receive their share of bigotted attacks from religious extremists that, according to GLAAD's National Communications Director Alan Klein, "want to deny the realistic rendering of the true American landscape."

Lambda Defeats Anti-Gay Amendment in Florida

New York, —The Lambda Legal Defense Fund has won another victory in its fight against Anti-Gay Rights referendums. Florida Circuit Judge Frederick D. Smith has handed down a judgment invalidating Alachua County's Amendment 1, which would have prohibited the County's Board of Commissioners from passing Gay rights measures.

In his decision, Smith stated, "Amendment 1 is indistinguishable from the amendment struck down in *Romer*," the Colorado amendment that the Supreme Court rejected in *Romer v. Evans* last May as a violation of the Constitution's equal protection clause.

Lambda Staff Attorney Suzanne B. Goldberg, who argued against the amendment at a November 15 hearing in the case, *Morris v. Hill*, said, "Judge Smith made it very clear that minor language changes between the Florida county and Colorado state amendments amounted to a distinction without a difference. The law simply cannot single out a group of citizens for discrimination no matter the words it uses to do so."

The United States Supreme Court already has vacated a federal appeals court ruling upholding an amendment passed by the voters of Cincinnati. The amendment barred that Cincinnati Common Council from passing Gay Rights legislation. That case must now be reheard and the legal principles handed down in *Romer v. Evans*, the case that overturned Colorado's Amendment 2 must now be applied to the Cincinnati case.

Finally It's Official: Dornan Defeated

Santa Ana, CA - Arch-conservative Republican Rep. Robert Dornan lost his Orange County, Calif., congressional seat to Democratic challenger Loretta Sanchez, according to final election results.

The long drawn out count of ballots cast in the Nov. 5 election, finally came to an end with Election Officials saying that Sanchez, a 36-year-old businesswoman and political newcomer, was the winner in the House race in southern California's 46th District by just 984 votes. Sanchez garnered 47,964 votes to Dornan's 46,980, according to the final election results released Friday.

Rosalyn Lever, Orange County's registrar of voters, said, "All the ballots have been counted. These numbers should not change."

The White House threw its support behind Sanchez. Both President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Clinton made campaign appearances in the district. This was Dornan's second defeat. The nine term Congressman also made a short run for the 1996 GOP Presidential nomination.

"It's done. The people have spoken," said John Shallman, campaign manager for Sanchez, who claimed victory last week even though all of the ballots had yet to be counted. Dornan was not immediately available to comment.

Last week, Dornan said, "I will not concede to an inarticulate, flaky, non-qualified person." During the campaign he stated that Sanchez was "a dream candidate, a Catholic in favor of Sodomy and Abortion."

As it became clear that he was headed for defeat, Dornan claimed that his loss was due to "election fraud" Dornan claimed that improperly naturalized citizens and illegal immigrants were allowed to vote for Sanchez. Numerous calls for Dornan to produce any evidence that would back up his contention have been met with silence. Dornan also claimed that he was defeated by the largest outpouring of Gay and Lesbian money in history.

In reality, less than 5% of Sanchez's war chest came from Gay organizations. Dornan alienated many voters with his harsh stands. At one point, he accused Congressman Steve Gunderson, (R-WI) of having "a revolving closet door." He regularly denounced President Clinton calling him "a draft dodger."

A strong opponent of abortion, communism, gun control and Gay civil rights, Dornan's futile Presidential bid turned off voters as did his support of California's anti-immigrant proposition 209. Dornan's district is nearly 50% Hispanic.

Sanchez, a financial analyst who had never held elected office, campaigned as a moderate while painting Dornan as an extremist out of step with the needs of his largely working-class constituents. During the National Democratic Convention in Chicago last August, Sanchez appealed to the Lesbian and Gay caucus for help with her campaign.

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BiSexuals and Transgenders Play Leading Role in Creating Change Conference

Washington, DC—In the wake of the passage of the Defense of Marriage Act and defeat of the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act, the re-election of President Clinton and the Supreme Court defeat of Colorado's Amendment 2, some 2,000 Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (g/l/b/t) activists gathered from around the country to plan strategy and actions that will guide the Gay movement for the upcoming year.

The 9th annual Creating Change conference, sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), started just one day after the national elections and capped what can only be described as a roller coaster year of highs and lows for g/l/b/t people.

"We had a very strong turnout at Creating Change because of the confluence of emotional events this year," said Melinda Paras, outgoing NGLTF executive director. "There was the euphoria following the Supreme Court ruling on Colorado's Amendment 2, then collective depression after the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and the Employment Non-Discrimination bill (ENDA), then the ups and downs of the presidential elections. It seems activists anxious to figure out what's next flocked to Creating Change."

"What's next" for the g/l/b/t movement can be gauged by the workshops and plenary speeches at Creating Change, said Kerry Lobel, NGLTF executive director-designate. "The conference is an incubator for many new actions that shape our community's activism. It's when we come together, celebrate our victories, mourn our defeats and forge ahead."

Lobel, who was named new executive director by the NGLTF board in October, was formally presented to the community at Creating Change. She took the helm of the Task Force on December 1, 1996.

Creating Change in Corporate America

This year the conference featured the announcement of the new national coalition of workplace groups, COLLEAGUES. The group, which features an unprecedented array of corporate and labor supporters, will fight to change how corporate America treats g/l/b/t employees.

COLLEAGUES announced at Creating Change that its first projects will include sponsoring the Out and Equal in the 90's workplace conference; a "Lavender Seal of Approval" for the 10 best and worst companies; the "Executive Supports" group for management; and a resource clearinghouse for domestic partnership, anti-discrimination policies and other workplace issues.

So far, the group has announced an initial board of directors, which includes NGLTF and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), plus g/l/b/t employee caucus representatives from AT&T, Lucent Technologies, Pride at Work (the Gay union group), SEIU, AF-SME, Xerox, GLOBE Federal employee group, Bell Atlantic, American Airlines and more. Interim co-presidents of COLLEAGUES are Sheryl Robertson of Lucent Technologies and Steve Horn of IBM.

Grassroots Movements Highlighted at Conference

Creating Change 1996 also hosted an unprecedented number of state g/l/b/t organizations that came together in an all-day planning intensive to build a stronger grassroots movement. Activists from state lobbies grappled with the effect of the Defense of Marriage Act on their local legislatures, among other issues.

The new National Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Community Centers brought together some 100 representatives from urban and rural centers to strengthen their network. The Alliance gelled at last year's Creating Change conference and has grown ever since.

Several new community centers announced they were open for business, including the recently formed Gay/Lesbian Community Center of the Ozarks.

Bill Clinton and You: Elections in the Spotlight

Much of the buzz at Creating Change was in response to the re-election of President Clinton. At the Conference NGLTF released an analysis of the elections that, among other things, noted a six percent drop in support for Clinton over 1992 according to Voters News Service exit polling group.

In 1992, 72 percent of self-identified g/l/b voters picked Clinton, compared with 66 percent this year.

Exit polls also noted an increase in self-identified g/l/b voters from 3.2 percent in 1992 to 5 percent in 1996.

"The decision of the Dole campaign to not wage an overtly anti-Gay campaign, along with Clinton's endorsement of the Defense of Marriage Act and the "don't ask, don't

tell" Gays in the military policy, may have resulted in g/l/b/t support of Clinton diminishing," said NGLTF executive director-designate Kerry Lobel.

The Task Force welcomes the "opportunity to work with the Clinton Administration for another four years to advance an agenda of equality and fairness," said Lobel. "At the same time there clearly is a mixed relationship between the Clinton Administration and the g/l/b/t community -- sometimes positive and often strained. In 1992 we voted on our hopes with the new Administration, this year we voted on our mixed history."

In further analysis of the elections, NGLTF pointed out that every member of the U.S. Senate and House who voted against DOMA and up for re-election -- some of which faced close election races -- won their battle, debunking the election year Gay-baiting ploy of the sponsors of the anti-Gay measure.

Bisexuals and Transgenders Create Change

Representatives of the Bisexual and Transgender community held a first-ever meeting at the Conference with a White House representative to discuss discrimination, violence, ENDA, Bi and Trans visibility and inclusivity in the Administration and other issues.

Richard Socarides, outgoing White House liaison to the g/l/b/t community, met with the Bi and Transgender leaders to hear their concerns in a meeting that was described as productive and promising. Among other things activists pushed for future meetings with White House officials, including President Clinton.

Meanwhile, some 50 Bi, Trans, Gay and Lesbian activists picketed outside the national headquarters of the American Psychiatric Association during a torrential downpour. The protest was one of the first times that mainstream Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual groups, including NGLTF, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, National Center for Lesbian Rights, Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and BiNet USA, joined transgender activists for a jointly-coordinated action.

The activists protested the use of Gender Identity Disorder to pathologize transgender people and gender-variant youth as "mentally ill." In 1973, the National Gay Task Force successfully pushed the APA to remove homosexuality from its list of mental disorders.

Workshops Galore and a Call To Progressive Action

Creating Change featured more than 100 workshops and caucuses clustered under several main "themes," including: Anti-Violence, Campus, Elections, Families, Fighting the Right, Fundraising, Health, International, Leadership, Legislative, Marriage, Media, Organizational Development, Organizing, People of Color, Political Questions, Public Schools, Aging/Ageism, Sex/Sexuality/Gender Identify, Spirituality, Surviving and Thriving, Transgender, Workplace, Youth and more.

The youth track in particular attracted a large crowd as the leadership of the young g/l/b/t community convened to lay out organizing and visibility strategies.

Creating Change plenary speaker Carmen Vazquez, public policy director at the N.Y. Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center and long-time activist, galvanized the conference with her speech, titled "Wounded Attachments."

A call to action for a real progressive movement, Vazquez exhorted, "I believe in our spirit and I believe in our capacity to embrace not only freedom--individual freedom -- but liberation. I believe in our capacity to understand, and to take hold and give voice, leadership and vision to the notion that liberation isn't solely about the attainment of individual rights but about the attainment of justice for all. I believe that despite our wounds...we are uniquely positioned to take leadership in an American Movement for Social Justice."

Openly Gay Congressman Barney Frank and African-American Lesbian poet Cheryl Clarke also delivered moving plenary speeches.

Next Year in San Diego

Next year's Creating Change conference, the 10th annual event, will be held over the Veteran's Day weekend in San Diego. Workshop proposals are welcome. Contact Sue Hyde, NGLTF conference organizer, at (617)492-6393, shyde@nlgf.org, for more information.

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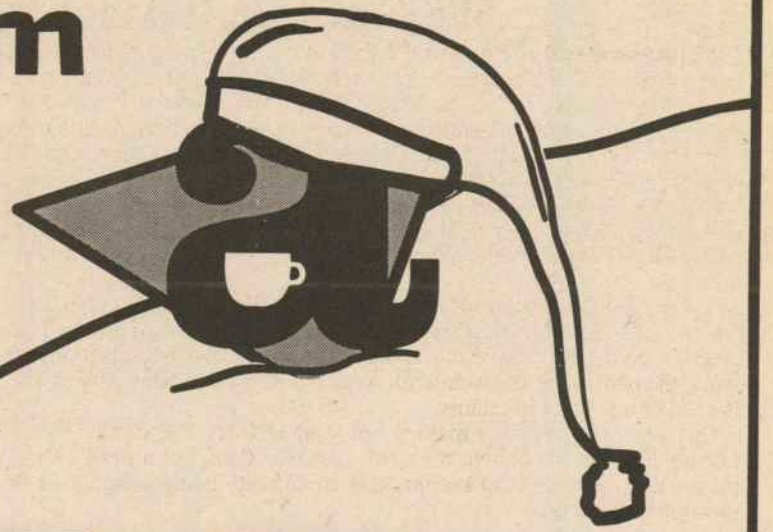
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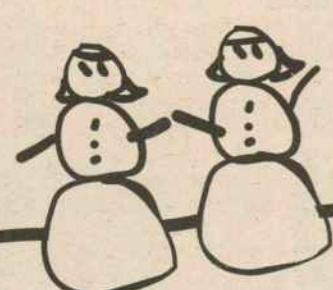
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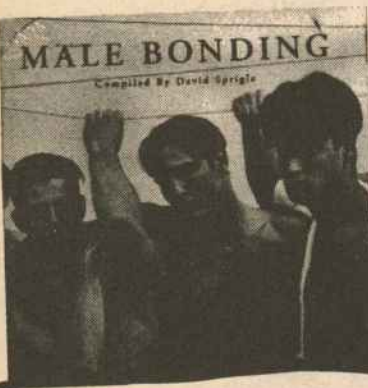


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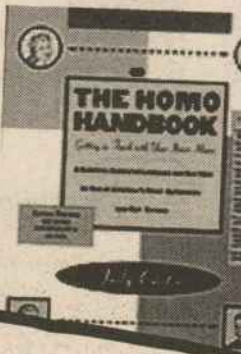
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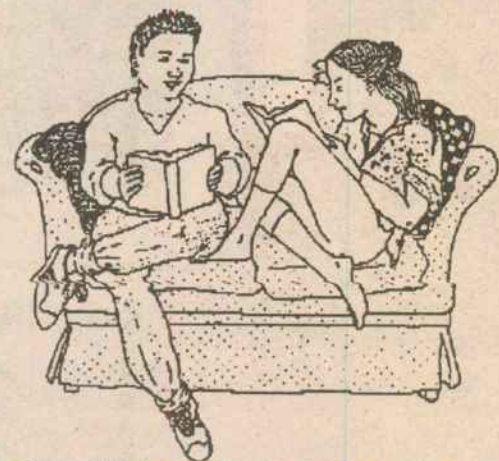


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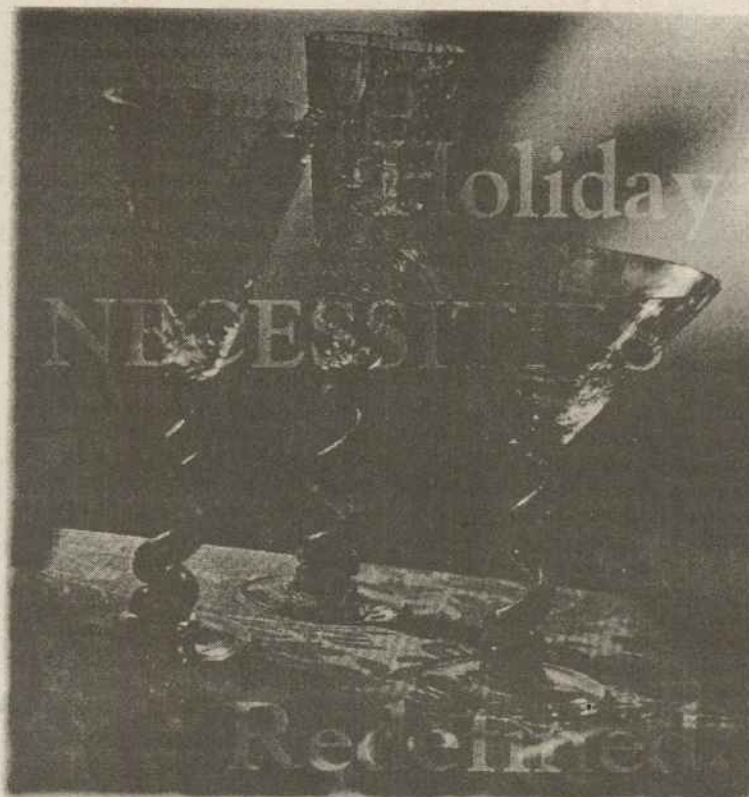
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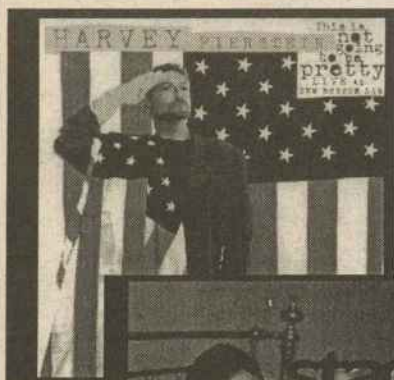
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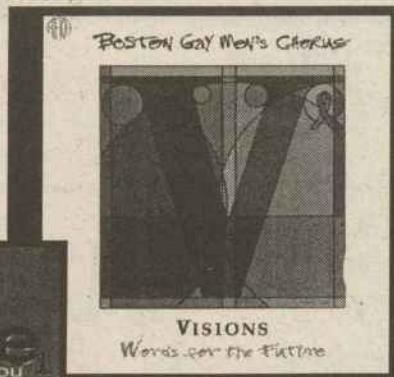
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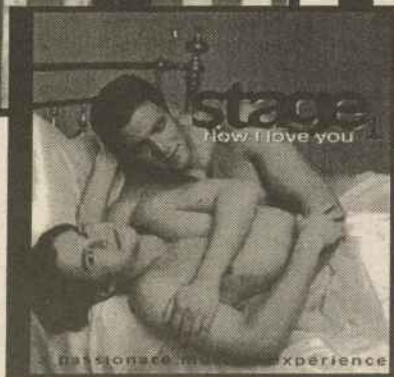


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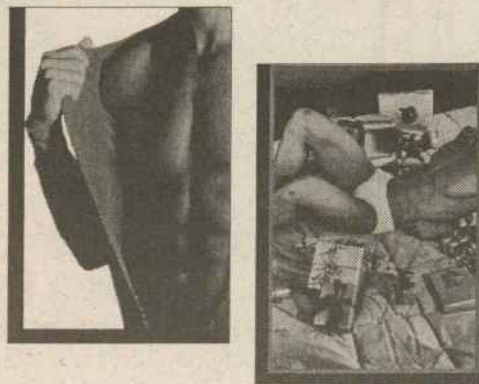
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Nearly \$1 Million Settlement Reached in Anti-Gay Student Violence Case

Eau Claire, WI—In a landmark case Wednesday, November 22, 1996, Wisconsin school officials agreed to pay nearly \$1 million to settle a federal lawsuit by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund on behalf of a young Gay man who suffered brutal anti-Gay assaults and harassment at the hands of fellow students during his years in school.

Lawyers for the former student, Jamie Nabozny, now 21, of Ashland, Wisconsin, worked through the night to reach the unprecedented settlement with the school after a federal jury in Eau Claire found three Ashland school officials liable for not protecting Nabozny while he was a student.

Patricia M. Logue, managing attorney for Lambda's Chicago-based Midwest Regional Office, said, "This is the first time ever that a federal jury has had the chance to judge a school for its response to anti-Gay violence. The entire country should learn a lesson from the results."

In an agreement reached before the jury had a chance to consider damages in the case, the Ashland officials agreed to pay \$900,000 plus up to \$62,000 in Nabozny's potential medical expenses.

Logue said, "Countless Gay kids have paid a high price for abuse. Now the tables

have turned, and it is prejudice that is costly."

Logue was Lambda's lead attorney for Nabozny's trial and also successfully argued his case to the Seventh Circuit United States Court of Appeals, whose ruling in July opened the door to this week's trial.

"I'm very glad that the truth came out. Now I can go on with my life. I hope I can go to college and have the normal educational experience that I waited a long time for," said a jubilant Nabozny when the settlement was announced. "I feel like I have justice, and that this means justice for all other kids out there who aren't sure if they should stay in school or stay alive," he said.

Nabozny, who dropped out of school and eventually obtained a graduate equivalency diploma, tried to kill himself several times during the years of abuse he suffered as an openly Gay student in middle and high schools in Ashland. He required surgery for injuries suffered in one of the more vicious attacks by fellow students, who also acted out a mock rape on him in a classroom and pushed him down in a bathroom and urinated on him.

Lambda Staff Attorney David Buckel, who assisted with the case and recently wrote a legal manual for responding to anti-

Gay abuse in public schools, said, "Nearly one third of all Gay teens drop out of school. This verdict will help more kids hang on to their futures."

A five-woman, two-man federal panel concluded that the two Ashland school principals and an assistant principal, Mary Podlesny, William Davis, and Thomas Blauert, were liable for not protecting Nabozny from abuse by other students from 1988 to 1992.

At a two-day trial, Nabozny and his mother, Carol Nabozny, testified that school officials brushed off repeated pleas for help with statements like "Boys will be boys," and "If you're going to be Gay, you have to learn to expect such abuse." The officials testified they did not recall such incidents.

Carol Nabozny said of the settlement, "This sends a message of hope to all those parents watching how school abuse crushes the spirits of their sons and daughters."

At Lambda's New York headquarters, Lambda Legal Director Beatrice Dohm said of Nabozny's experiences, "This is not an isolated incident. Anti-Gay student violence has been reported throughout the country, from Utah and Texas to Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. Schools have got to understand that they need to not only protect their Lesbian and Gay youth from abuse, but provide support and teach tolerance among all their students to prevent atrocities like Jamie experienced."

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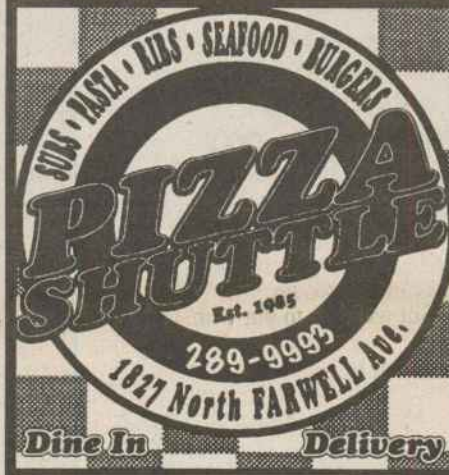
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When Compared to Other Therapies, Protease Inhibitors are Cost Effective

By John G. Bartlett, M.D. and Richard D. Moore

Protease inhibitors have revolutionized therapeutic strategies in managing HIV infection. Many feel, however, that their high cost threatens to bankrupt the system.

The new regimens that are now widely advocated normally cost between \$9,000-12,000 per year. The potential impact of this price tag on provider organizations is awesome: the projected cost for AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAP) is \$436 million per year.

These projections introduce the dual challenge of finding sources of funds and justifying this expense at this time of cost reduction throughout the system.

A model of cost-effectiveness that we have constructed is based on projections using available data for combination treatment with protease inhibitors compared to AZT monotherapy. The regimen used in the model was "triple therapy" with AZT, 3TC, and indinavir. The drug costs used in the model were based on average wholesale cost plus a 20% mark-up.

This resulted in a total cost of \$700/month for triple therapy plus \$50/month (on average) for viral load monitoring.

The cost of AZT monotherapy was estimated from a prior study which examined the cost-effectiveness of AZT monotherapy compared to no therapy.

Costs for medical care are based on the report of Hellinger, stratified by CD4 count and reported for 1992, resulting in the following costs for care, per month:

CD4 count 200-500 cells/mm³, without AIDS: \$430;

CD4 count 200 cells/mm³, without AIDS defining condition: \$990;

AIDS: \$1890

AIDS, 6 months prior to death: \$4000

Estimates of morbidity and mortality with AZT monotherapy are based on our experience at Hopkins.

The incremental cost of triple therapy is

greatest in the early stage of the disease because pharmaceutical costs exceed those for resource utilization in the care of complications. Cost benefit increases with prolonged duration of asymptomatic disease, delays in the time to AIDS, and delays in the time to death.

Our model shows that if triple therapy is associated with an average 3 year extension of life, there would be an incremental cost of \$30,000. This equates to a cost-effectiveness ratio of \$10,000 per life-year gained.

If there was no decrease in health care costs except for pharmacy costs, the incremental cost would be \$54,000 (\$750/month x 6 years) or \$18,000 per life-year gained.

A critical question for health care planners concerns the merits of treatment with protease inhibitors compared to other therapeutic strategies using cost effectiveness based on cost per life-year gained. Comparisons for some treatments that have been readily accepted as medical standards are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Cost Effectiveness of Protease Inhibitor Regimens Compared to Other Selected Medical Interventions

Intervention	Cost/Life-Year Gained
Triple therapy for HIV (AZT + 3TC + indinavir)	\$10,000-18,000.
Screening mammography, age 40-79 years	\$30,000.
Renal hemodialysis	\$50,000
Prostate specific antigen screen, 50 yr. old men	\$113,000
Coronary bypass surgery, 50 yr. old men with triple vessel disease	\$113,000

The conclusion from this analysis is that the cost of the new regimens advocated for HIV infected persons appears to be cost effective compared to other commonly accepted strategies in medical care.

This article is from *The Johns Hopkins University AIDS Service, The Hopkins HIV Report*, a bimonthly newsletter for healthcare providers.

Better make that a double order for Clarence Thomas and Anthony Scalia.

Locally we have a few needs too. Our Cream City, New Harvest and Wisconsin Community Foundations can use some additional donors. They do wonders with the funds they have been able to raise, but we all know that a some extra dollars can turn wonders into miracles.

Then there is a crying need in Wisconsin for a Les/Bi/Gay PAC. Bring us some ideas on how to get one going.

I am sure that the people at ARCW would love to find someone as popular as Bette Midler under their tree to head next year's AIDS Walk. Speaking of Bette, she was just wonderful in helping to raise over \$1,000,000 at AIDS Walk Wisconsin. Bring her something extra special.

The Packers could use a home date with the Dallas Cowboys. It looks like they

could also use a little luck if they are going to make the Super Bowl.

A cheap protease inhibitor would be extra special to the hundreds of thousands infected with HIV. That's one gift that would be appreciated by everyone.

Greg and Sherry Scheel can use an angel to help them rebuild the Hotel Washington and Rainbow Over Wisconsin can always use some help.

Bring us a sense of pride in who we are and what we can do. Remind us that the only dreams that go unfulfilled are those we don't try for. Last but not least send us something that keeps the spirit of the holidays alive in us all year long.

As for me Santa, whatever you think is best will be fine. Just remember, I can drive a stick shift or an automatic, I love convertibles and lavender is my favorite color.

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Politically Speaking

Dear Santa....

Commentary by Bill Meunier

Dear Santa, Boy have I got a long list for you this year. We've been really good (well most of us have been) and can use a helping hand.

Most people don't believe in you anymore. And may be they are right, but on those cold winter nights when I look up at the sky, I can feel something watching all of us scurrying around down here.

May be it isn't a man in a red suit but it is an embodiment of love that the legend of Santa Claus symbolizes. (Or did symbolize until the Department stores got a hold of it. Whatever it is, here is my wish list for friends and community.

We are ever so pleased that you brought us a new Congresswomen to replace the old worn out Bob Dornan. We were thrilled to see that two new Congressional friends

Numbers of HIV Infections on the Rise in Russia, China

Beijing, China—More than 1 million Chinese, or 10 times the present number, could be infected with the virus that causes AIDS an official newspaper said Wednesday, November 27th.

"If our country does a good job of prevention and control, it is possible the number of people infected with the AIDS virus by the year 2000 can be kept to within 200,000," the newspaper said, citing experts.

Experts believe 100,000 people in China may be infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, although just 4,305 cases had been confirmed by the end of August, the newspaper said.

Meanwhile, a senior health official in southeast China has called for special hospitals to be set up to diagnose and treat people infected with HIV, the Xinhua News Agency said.

In Russia

Russia could be facing a huge increase in the number of AIDS cases in the next few years.

So far, Russian doctors have identified only 2,105 people in Russia with the HIV virus, which causes AIDS. Of those, 245 have full-blown AIDS.

But the head of the nation's AIDS prevention and treatment program, Vadim Pokrovsky, told the Interfax news agency that the number of people carrying the deadly virus could rise to 500,000 by the end of 1998.

were elected over Right Wing conservatives here in Wisconsin.

But we have to put with another two years of Mark Neumann. Do you think that in addition to the richly deserved coal you are going to leave him, you could bring him some honesty, some electoral ethics or at least a modicum of decency? He may not use them, but it would be nice to know that his conscience is bothering him for what he did to and said about Lydia Spotswood.

Tammy Baldwin our openly Lesbian State Legislature has done a great job, Santa. So have our other openly Gay and Lesbian elected officials in Madison. But Milwaukee, Green Bay and other areas of the state could use a few openly Gay officials too.

Dick Wagner can use some help. He is running for Dane County Executive. If he wins he would not only be a great County Exec, he would also be the first ever Gay County Exec anywhere. Bring Dick lots of luck, volunteers, and money. He's always been good and he deserves them.

We can't forget our President and First Lady. I think they would like to see an end to all these worthless investigations so they can take of business. May be you can bring that political hack, Kenneth Starr, the so called "Special Prosecutor" a good sized helping of justice.

Speaking of politics, Dr. Terry Boughner, the editor of this paper can use a special device to filter out any mention of politics. Most of us (even me sometimes) are tired of the political games, but Terry is especially tired of them.

The Victory Fund could use a whole lot money to replenish its coffers after the campaign. Ditto for the Human Rights Campaign. Both of these groups did great jobs and they can really use the help.

Leave coal in the stockings of everyone who voted for DOMA and against ENDA. Some of these guys can also use a body sized condom. You know what they say Santa, "Every prick should wear one."

There are thousands of Gay and Lesbian couples who want to be married legally. Do you think you could do something to speed up the Same Sex Marriage Case in Hawaii?

And there are thousands of Gay and Lesbian parents worried about losing their children. That seems especially cruel at this time of year. A ton of coal to those relatives AND judges who would rip a child away from loving parent who happens to be Gay or Lesbian would be most appropriate.

Speaking of Judges, there are a few on the Supreme Court that could use an inherent sense of fairness in their stockings this year.

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Rep. Frank Gets US Justice Dept. to Respond on Sexual Orientation Discrimination

Washington, DC—Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA), released a letter on November 26, 1996, from the US Justice Department announcing that it had corrected its forms regarding anti-discrimination information to include sexual orientation as one of the categories to which full protection is granted.

Frank had received a letter in October from an individual who had received a notification from the Justice Department about anti-discrimination rights which omitted any reference to sexual orientation.

Since the Clinton Administration, at the urging of Frank and others, had promulgated a policy banning discrimination within the federal service based on sexual orientation, Frank protested this omission to the Justice Department.

On November 19th, Assistant Attorney General Andrew Foiss responded.

Foiss said that "The letter in question is not a form letter per se, but does utilize standard 'boilerplate' language to describe the indi-

Free Talk on Eating Disorders

Madison—There will be a free talk on "Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gay Men and Eating Disorders: Time to Bring the Problem Out of the Closet and Deal with It!"

The talk will be given by Meredith Whelan, CICSW and Madelyn Branwen, Ph.D., Psychologist and Eating Disorders specialist.

The talk will be held on Wednesday, December 17th from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Integral Psychology Center, 1619 Monroe Street (near Camp Randall), in Madison.

For more information, call (608) 255-9330.

vidual rights of appeal."

Foiss assured Frank that "all Department Personnel and Equal Employment Opportunity Offices have been notified of the requirement to specify that sexual orientation is a basis protected from employment discrimination in all personnel and EEO materials, including vacancy announcements, policy statements and correspondence outlining adverse language in personnel correspondence."

Frank acknowledged this action by the Justice Department and thanked Attorney General Reno for correcting this omission.

Scot Alans

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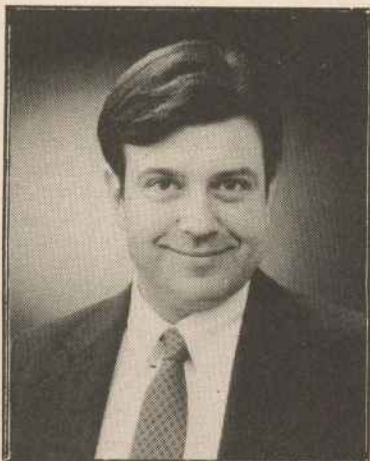
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Gay Concepts of Love and Sex Could Change the Traditions of Society as a Whole

Commentary by Ted Berg

Have you kissed so many horny toads you have warts? Have you been waiting so long for Prince Charming that you have white or no hair?

(When Mr—or Ms.—Right finally comes along, are you going to shoot him for taking so long?)

Is a romantic dinner McDonald's Drive Thru? Was the last time you ate by candle light because of a power failure? Was the last movie that you saw where the actor and actress were fully clothed, the **Sound of Music**?

Is love, romance and the warm fuzzies dead?

If I said "yes," this would be a short article. I think part of our problem is our concept of what love is. The ideal is a monogamous relationship—but over and over again we see that the truly popular men on TV are the ones with many lovers.

A woman (they tell us by implication if in no other way), should be a virgin to be desired for marriage, but men need to sew their wild oats before marriage. If this axiom is true, homosexual relationships for unmarried men should be at an astronomical rate.

Just think about it for a second or two. Sex sells everything from ties to vacations. Maybe we need to re-examine the ideas that straight society promotes. If those ideas are bad, we should reject them and create others.

I believe we sometimes look to our beloved to fulfill us emotionally and sexually. He must meet all our unexpressed desires the way lovers do in the movies. We sometimes see our self worth in whether we are in a love relationship. Don't lovers always live happily ever after?

If you operate on that assumption, what happens if the "happily ever after" doesn't occur?

Is there emptiness because our perception of happiness—wellness—is gone? If we hold to this ideal, could it be that we are trying so hard to get happiness that we are chasing people away? Is this not a very needy person?

We sometimes ape straight relationships because that is what is "normal" without exploring whether it is a healthy tradition or not. We fail even to check if it is a valid tradition in the straight community. Do they still accept the values of the tradition we are trying to copy? We may be, at times, trying too hard to be "normal."

What is Gay sexuality, Gay love, Gay fulfillment and Gay relationships? I don't have all the answers, but I do have some observations. Please take what is healthy to you and dismiss the rest.

I believe that if we thought of who we wanted in a partner, using a fraction of the time we spend watching TV, our choices would be around longer. By discovering our

needs and desires, we are in touch with ourselves and become better people.

In our quest for a partner, we need to explore what characteristics of ours would be valuable as a part of another person's life; what traits have we that would make another's life more joyful and happy.

Be proud of them. If you do not like yourself, no one will like you. If you do not love yourself, no one else can love you. It was truly said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." The trouble is, we forget the "yourself" part.

One thing that turns me on in Gay relationships is independence. You never hear people say partners should stay together for the kids. In healthy Gay relationships, a man is with me out of free will. If he stays, it means something is special. It should be celebrated, especially with most of society working against it. Independence in our relationships gives us opportunities of developing respect and true partnership.

In this day of AIDS, safer sex is a must. Some say safer sex is not as pleasant as unprotected sex. Our community has always been noted for its creativity. Why don't we employ that creativity to give our partners and ourselves a pleasure to be celebrated?

My second lover, Jose, and I did that. On our first anniversary, I pretended to go to work. After he left for work, I decorated the house with 50 candles with cinnamon scent because Jose loved cinnamon. In our bedroom, I put a floral arrangement. I placed a bird of paradise flower on his pillow. All was set.

I used scent, taste and decor to create a true statement of my love. That was the most important night of my life. We were entirely safe in our love-making. To this day, cinnamon scent triggers warm memories.

Each year of the 12 that Jose and I were together, we surprised each other. You could do the same. Make your own warm memories.

The act of loving engages our minds as well as our sex organs. We must free ourselves from the misconceptions and develop a community that is supportive of our love-making. That supportive community would spill over into all aspects of our life and society as a whole.

Do I condemn love stories? No. I even enjoy them as fantasies—as fairy tales (pardon the pun). I am no separatist. There are good things that we hold in common with the hetero community, things that may be places where bridges can be built.

But our differences are there as well, and those differences can, perhaps, cause a re-evaluation of sexuality which can cause a revitalization of our sexual traditions. The sex ethics from this interchange could create a healthy society in which to grow up.

Editor's Note: Ted Berg is a minister, a volunteer at the Milwaukee AIDS Project, a businessman and "lover."

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



he said. "I needed to get back in tune." He credits his rebound, in part, to support from friends and family.

"I'm one of the lucky ones. I have a good support system," Stash said, adding, "I've had no negative feedback (from the community) at all. I'm really surprised."

"My son, a student at Saginaw Valley State University, is handling it well," Stash said. "Actually, (the move) has given me and I more time to be together. He'll come up here and just and talk or I'll go down to his mom's to see him."

"What are my long-term plans? I want to be around to bounce my own grandkids on my knees," he said.

Still, society's misconceptions about the disease and how it is contracted also are a part of his life. Members of his family cannot bring themselves to be near Carpenter for fear they will be infected.

"My youngest brother I, I never see him," Carpenter said. "Last year, one sister passed away and (her funeral) was the last time I saw my brother. My oldest brother and his wife, they call. They are very concerned. But they don't come. I know they have a phobia."

According to the American Association for World Health, body fluids that can contain HIV include semen, vaginal secretion, blood and breast milk. Transference of the virus cannot be done through casual contact, information states.

"You do not get HIV from: donating blood, mosquito bites, sharing cups and utensils, sneezes or coughs, hugging, touching or dry kissing a person with HIV, sharing telephones, computers or coffee pots, going to any public place with HIV-infected people, drinking fountains or toilets," the AAWH said in a written statement.

"If (people in the community) know anyone who has a disease, be warm, heartfelt be a friend to them, be there to talk to them," said Carpenter, whose friends help him get to Saginaw Cooperative Hospital for blood work every three weeks.

"It's hard accepting the illness, seeing yourself go down," said Carpenter, who used to accept speaking engagement requests in the area. "I can't do everything I used to do. I get frustrated. I want to do stuff and I can't do it."

But having seen the chronic ups and downs that go along with AIDS, Carpenter's friends say he will recover from this bout, too.

"Even though Ricky is not feeling well, there is more hope now than ever with new medications," Lopez said. "He will pull through. We haven't given up hope."

Stash Yields to God For That Good Night

There are days when Stash doesn't feel very spiritual. But he has contented himself for years with the thought that when it was time to face death, God would guide him.

"I've always said I'm going to let God do his thing," said Stash, who asked to be identified only by his nickname. "I thought it was the best way."

Still, when doctors advised the HIV-positive man to begin treatment on AZT and new protease inhibitors, which keep copies of the virus from infecting new cells, he declined.

"I guess it was kind of like, 'I'm not ready to get sick yet,'" he said in a telephone interview on November 29th. "I watched so many of my friends go up and down, like

TELL YOUR FRIENDS:
"I read all about it in
The Wisconsin Light

Some Facts on Teens and HIV

New York, NY Here are some facts on teen-agers and the AIDS virus:

An estimated 25 percent of new HIV infections in the United States occur among young people ages 13 to 21, who are contracting the AIDS virus at a rate of more than one per hour, said a March report by the White House Office of AIDS Policy.

Seven of every 100 Gay and Bisexual males ages 15 to 22 in the United States are infected with HIV, according to a study by epidemiologist Linda Valleroy at the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

By comparison, the infection rate among young people applying for the Job Corps is two per 1,000.

A San Francisco study, based on a survey of men interviewed at Gay meeting places, found 9.4 percent of 425 Gay and Bisexual men ages 17 to 22 were infected with HIV, and more than two-thirds of them did not know they were HIV positive. The study, led by the San Francisco Department of Public Health, was published in the **Journal of the American Medical Association** in 1994.

By December 1994, a total of 14,082 U.S. males between ages 13 and 25 had been diagnosed with AIDS from unprotected sex with other men, the CDC said, representing about 3 percent of the 484,940 cases reported at that time. Almost 52 percent of those cases involved men infected through sex with other men.

In New York City, at least 81 percent of male AIDS patients reported through June 1996 were infected by male-to-male sex. An additional 11 percent reported two behaviors considered to increase the risk of AIDS.

For Those Living With HIV and AIDS, Life is Taking It One Day at a Time

Editor's Note: World AIDS Day, observed annually on December 1, was a global effort to increase awareness and stop the spread of AIDS. Last year at this time, we printed the stories of two men—*one diagnosed with HIV, and the other with AIDS. In light of the international observance, the two men were again interviewed to see how this devastating virus has impacted their lives in just one year's time.*

Midland, MI—The mention of his age brings an uncomfortable pause on the telephone line.

For Ricky Carpenter, the thought of his next birthday is an unsettling one.

"My sister passed away at 46 from lung cancer and my mother died at 46 of pneumonia," said Carpenter, his voice soft and hoarse over the telephone line. "I'll be 46 in July, and we're hoping I live that long."

"It's really hard to say things like this," he said. "Every day gets worse."

Carpenter tested positive for HIV in the summer of 1992. By June 1995, the virus had developed into AIDS. For Carpenter, it has meant battles with chronic fatigue, esophagus problems and dangerously low white blood cell levels.

Today, his struggle continues.

"I'm not doing so well physically," said Carpenter, who, unlike last year at this time, is too weak to do much more than rest. "My (white blood cell) counts are really low now. I'm in a lot of pain. I was having a lot of discomfort, when I walked, in my back and legs. The muscles are being attacked by the virus."

While some AIDS patients have found a degree of success with so-called protease inhibitors, which prevent copies of the virus

from infecting new cells, Carpenter, who does not talk about how he contracted the disease, said he is physically unable to handle side effects of the treatments. He wears pain killer patches for some relief.

"He's got his good days and his bad days," said Marge Lopez, who with Carpenter established Among Friends, a support group that meets at St. Boniface Church in Bay City, Michigan. "I don't think he's dying. He's going to pull out of this."

Carpenter, who has lost 14 pounds in the past year, has an extensive support system. Friends call regularly to chat and gauge his condition.

"I'm really blessed by a lot of people who care," said Carpenter, a Tri-City resident who recently moved to Essexville.

Ricky (Carpenter,) who, when he goes down, seems to have a real bad spell."

But Stash did follow doctors' suggestions that he cut back on his work and get some rest.

"About six months ago, my cell (count) fell. That was when I decided to move home."

Stash now lives in Albright Shores near his family, including his parents and a brother. He is faring well, confident his white blood cell count will continue to rise.

"It went down another time, three years ago—about the time I was taking care of Jack," Stash said of a former lover he cared for until his death from AIDS. "Now my counts are back up again."

Stash has been spending time with family and friends and plans to continue giving lectures, though on a more limited basis.

"Now that I'm feeling better, I've learned to relax more and not take life for granted,"

With the New AIDS Drugs, Do You "Hit Hard" Now or Do You Wait?

Boston, MA—The latest, and perhaps, best advice from many leading researchers who specialize in the field of HIV treatment research is to "Hit Hard, Hit Early." This means tightly controlling HIV as soon as possible by taking combinations of antivirals that drive down the amount of virus to undetectable levels.

There are sound arguments behind this recommendation, but many practicing physicians and people living with HIV disease remain hesitant. There would be no debate if there were an antiviral that always worked to stop HIV with no side effects. But so far, every combination has had side effects and limitations whose long term implications are unknown.

This has led to a debate: Should people follow the new advice and hit the virus as hard as possible immediately with drugs now available, or follow a less stringent course while waiting for more information and better drugs?

Many studies show that most people can now reduce the amount of HIV in their bloodstream (viral load) to levels that are not detectable by current tests. Should doctors and people with HIV do anything they can to achieve this effect?

For people with full blown AIDS, the answer is an emphatic YES! This is the only strategy which can lengthen lives and ward off opportunistic infections. Unfortunately, not everyone with AIDS can get their viral loads low enough, given the drug options presently available. For this population, hope depends on the ever more powerful combinations now being developed.

On the other hand, there are people with HIV where the "Hit Hard, Hit Early" approach is only one of several possibilities. The latest antiviral combinations are impressive, but have a limited track record. Soon much more will be known about the growing arsenal of drugs in the pipeline, so for some people it might be a good idea to forestall treatment.

Regardless of health care status, it is essential for people living with HIV to begin wrestling with treatment decisions, taking into account the central considerations: "What should I take and when?"

Hit Hard

The Argument in Favor

The virus makes billions of copies every day, and many of them are mutations. It is likely a mutant strain of the virus will eventually become resistant to the available antivirals when taken alone (known as monotherapy). In order to delay resistance, antivirals are now used in combinations.

"Hit Hard" is an effort to "knock down" HIV to levels that cannot be detected by the most sensitive viral load tests. (Currently, the most sensitive tests available measure virus down to 400 or 500 copies per milliliter, and even better, more sensitive tests should be available next year.)

The good news is that hitting hard usually works and works well. Effective use of drug combinations can reduce viral load to undetectable levels in most people, and it is believed will stop further damage to the immune system. There is evidence that people who experience dramatic reductions in viral load usually get a significant increase in T cells, and fewer opportunistic infections than those who use other, less aggressive, treatment regimens.

Such an aggressive treatment strategy has added long-term benefits as well. Maintaining a low viral load can avoid the problem of drug resistance. HIV can only become resistant to the combination of drugs when it is reproducing in large numbers and mutating. Therefore, reducing viral load to extremely low levels, which means HIV is not reproducing rapidly, should make sure the drugs will remain effective longer—perhaps indefinitely.

Hit Hard—The Rules to Follow

The "Hit Hard" approach can involve some risks. It reduces viral load to undetectable levels about 60-90% of the time, but there are no clear options for people for whom it does not work.

An aggressive treatment regimen can be like putting all the eggs in one basket. If it does not keep viral load in check, for whatever reason, it may take away the chance to use these kinds of drugs and perhaps even some other antivirals later. The very reason that "hit hard" is important, which is to prolong the drugs' effectiveness, implies that if it fails, future options may be lost.

Two Crucial Rules

First, if you are on an antiviral or a combination that may not be working, do not just add another medication (say a protease inhibitor) on top of your current regimen.

If the old drugs are no longer effective then only the new drug is actually working. A single drug, will probably stay effective for only a limited amount of time before a resistant strain emerges.

Second: take these combinations accord-

ing to schedule. With hard-hitting combinations, the whole idea is to keep viral load to undetectable levels all the time, in order to avoid drug resistance. It can not be over emphasized that missing doses can cause treatments to fail.

Holding Something in Reserve

There is not doubt that some people feel afraid to use the most powerful antiviral combinations, leaving nothing in reserve if they don't work.

One reason for waiting to use a hard-hitting combination is that it is unknown whether the use of these drugs forecloses future options. It is possible that using a particular antiviral now, for example, will take away the option of using others later. Waiting for more information before using a very powerful combination might be a wise choice. However, this strategy of "Holding Something in Reserve" has only one rule you might want to follow:

First, decide what "Hit Hard" combination (usually involving a protease inhibitor), will be held in reserve. Then pick a combination for immediate use, one which has a chance to get viral load down to undetectable levels, but which does NOT decrease the likelihood that the "Hit Hard" combination will still be effective when needed.

Reserve is Not for Everyone

Clearly, "Holding Something in Reserve" is not a choice everyone can make. Many people have used up so many antivirals that there are practically no options left except one "Hit Hard" combination.

But some people, especially those who have never used any antivirals, may have a chance to get two bites of the apple.

For example, the antiviral ddI plus a cancer drug called Hydroxyurea, or the antiviral combination of ddI plus D4T can reduce viral load to undetectable levels for some people, leaving the triple combination of AZT-3TC plus protease inhibitor still available for later.

But for those who have already used many drugs, or those whose T-cells are so low they should not wait, hitting hard right now is the best option.

Soon nearly everyone may have more than one hard hitting way to get viral load down to undetectable; most people will then be able to have their antiviral cake and eat it too.

When to Begin

For people with full blown AIDS, or with high levels of virus in their blood (over 20 or 30 thousand copies), or with fewer than 300 T-cells, there is no question on when to begin hitting hard: The answer is—NOW!

For everyone else, the decision depends on a number of factors. There are a number of arguments for waiting. One is that in time, we will know more about available treatments. This is a sensible view for people with not much damage to their immune system (especially for people with T-cells over about 700, not dropping quickly, and low viral loads).

A second argument for waiting says if you are currently healthy, taking strong combinations, which usually involves taking lots of pills, may make you feel worse due to side effects. This loss of quality of life may be a factor in deciding to wait.

Another argument for waiting acknowledges that if a powerful drug combo fails, there may not be a good combination available later, when it is really needed. On the other hand, some would choose not to wait, counting on the development of other effective combinations and new drugs now being studied.

The major argument not to wait is simple: while you wait your immune system could continue to deteriorate.

As yet there is no sure-fire way to restore immune function. It appears that the less damage there is, the easier it will be to restore what has been lost.

In addition, if you wait too long, your viral load could reach levels, from which it would be difficult to get it back down to undetectable levels.

Keep in mind that people with higher viral load have a more difficult time getting HIV under control. "Hitting Hard" is the best way to avoid resistance and prolong the usefulness of the antiviral drugs.

Editor's Note: The above article was published by the Boston AIDS Writers Group which consists of Robert Folan and Lou Pesce of ACT UP Boston; David Scandras, Robert Krebs, Derek Libby, and Larry Bresslour from Search for a Cure.

The Review Panel includes Dr. Cal Cohen, Research Director of CRI, New England; Dr. Ken Mayer, Director of The Brown University AIDS Project; Dr. Steven Boswell, Medical Director at The Fenway Community Health Center; and Dr. Alfred DeMaria, Assistant Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

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THE SPOTLIGHT

Madison's Annual Lesbian Cultural Weekend; a Celebration of Sexuality

By Barbara Lightner

The days are over for some of us, perhaps, of a strange silence.

Whether it was getting "clean for Gene," to volunteer in Eugene McCarthy's presidential campaign; or getting clean for feminism, to establish ourselves as the "lavender menace" within the women's movement; or getting clean for just plain Mom and Dad, to get right with our birth families again, we were—many of us, at any rate—talking like it didn't exist.

O! Yes, didn't we just. We talked as if Lesbian sex didn't exist. It was essential fully to affirm ourselves as sexual beings, of course; it was equally essential, of course, to put to the quiet any talk that even slightly suggested we actually had sex.

Last weekend, November 23-25, Kissing Girls performers were at it again. Shay and Renee, celebrating their 26th anniversary in performance for KGP, performed as they first had eleven years ago, sealing their song to each other with a kiss.

To be sure, those things we had in common with heterosexual women—vibrators, acts of self-love—were taken up in public by us, as if to challenge our oppression. But we Lesbians, perhaps denuded and deluded by our own upbringing as female, covered up, even as we knew (in secret bedrooms across the land) our particular wonder.

Eleven years ago, a production company out of Madison, WI, began a timid foray into this silence of our wonder. Quietly—and for the first time in this part of Wisconsin, concretely—an erotic act became a public name, and *Kissing Girls Productions (KGP)* came out. Today of course, kissing isn't much in the grand scale of things sexual. But in that asexual time, the tactile (and for some, the visual) image of girls kissing was an O! so sweet foray into that we didn't speak.

So began the history of Madison's *Lesbian Variety Show*, produced by the slyly courageous production team, *Kissing Girls Productions*.

Last weekend, November 23-25, *Kissing Girls* performers were at it again. Shay and Renee, celebrating their 26th anniversary in performance for *KGP*, performed as they first had eleven years ago, sealing their song to each other with a kiss. It was a significant moment then, and remains for us in historical memory a meaningful moment now, as a public outing from our silence.

This year, other performers participating in the outing from silence brought Lesbian bawdy to the scene. From Friday night's small stage cabaret entertainment, to Saturday's night's big stage variety show, to Sunday's more intimate poetry stage, we Lesbians in the audience were affirmed as—what can I say?—sexually interactive.

Notable here were several professionally polished performances. DykeAppella, five women singing in four-part harmony, were the hit of the cabaret with their rendition of Monthly Python's love bawdic, "Sit on My Face" ("and tell me that you love me; I'll sit on your face, and tell you I love you").

Later on the big stage, interpreter Richie Hammett brought a new dimension (and an exquisite humor) to DykeAppella's "Wet Underpants," the Dyke response, of course, to being totally turned on—a turning on fully realized, by the way, only with Hammett's interpretation.

Flaming Dykosaurus brought an incredible wit and remarkable talent to improv comedy, picking up on audience suggestions to create wonderful and funny stories about vacations. Somewhere in their extemporaneity, they picked up on one bawdy line that was to be repeated throughout the evening, a reference to the "big purple strap-on." "What is this thing," one of the troupe demanded to know in mock naiveté, "about shoes?"

Among poets, Judy Cygnor showed that

bawdy can be delicately female with "Constructing Desire," a finely wrought and playful poem about seeing a "usual object in an unusual way"—in this case, her embroidering a hanger filled with such nips, tucks and fold-overs as became the almost-palpably-rendered lower anatomy of woman.

Cheryl Rompa, in absolutely gracious majesty, introduced us in her poetry to the erotic pleasures in the fat Dyke—totally, lasciviously, deliciously, lovely in her folds and mounds.

Outstanding in its accomplishment was Kat Sojourner's *Baubo*. Reciting a "goddess monologue" she had herself written, Sojourner performed the part of the Greek goddess, Baubo, a real Greek goddess, she told me. Retelling the story of Baubo's lament with Demeter over daughter Persephone's wayward interest in the underworld, Sojourner not only recapitulated the age old tale of mother needing to let daughter go.

Incorporating part of the actual mythology as it has come down to us, Sojourner also mimed Baubo flashing Demeter in a recitative to the goddess of their past attraction, and future Lesbian connection.

The story brought down the house in laughter—unbelievable I said, thinking about the extensive classical knowledge, and deep spiritual meditation, that lay behind Sojourner's monologue. But there it was, *Baubo*, clearly the best performance poetry one might ever hope to see, popular even while being learned, bawdy even while being spiritual.

At times, the celebration of Lesbian sexuality was a little bit tawdry, a little too mimicking of heterosexual forms of seduction and sexual objectification. But we had for the most part a wondrous celebration of ourselves as Lesbians—with sex.

Of course the weekend was not only a celebration of the Lesbian erotic. We of the hearing community were introduced to much of what the deaf and hard-of-hearing had for a long time known, the subtleties and nuances and beauties of ASL (American Sign Language). What highlighted the weekend for me was the interweaving of communities, voicing and interpreting both, as if (wonder of wonders) they belonged together.

From Friday night's small stage cabaret entertainment, to Saturday's night's big stage variety show, to Sunday's more intimate poetry stage, we Lesbians in the audience were affirmed as—what can I say?—sexually interactive.

Performances by two women in the deaf and hard-of-hearing community were clearly outstanding. In ASL concert to her mother joining her on the stage, Nancy Gerber interpreted the words, "If you love me as much as I love you, then you'll love me even if I'm not like you."

And in a moving performance from the poetry stage, Hilda Ritchie gave witness to the poetry of ASL as a fully-developed language with its own poetic beauty, allowing the rhythms of the interpreted poem "Hands" to speak silently even to those of us whose language was not ASL.

There were other high points in the performances of the weekend. Minnie Carey, who had last year dwarfed the poetry stage with the strength of her delivery, was given full play this year on the larger stage of the variety show, where her African-American experience gave the lie to gun control, a form (in Carey's poem) of genocide. It was not Carey's politics, though, but her presence that distinguished her performance, filled with the deep and rhythmic intonation of her voice, presented with a majesty of bearing that resonated in and through the poetry.

DykeAppella, beginning quietly, then building in crescendo, sang of old-style butches and femmes, often looked down

upon now; but as our precursors, our beginnings, and our strength, DykeAppella reminded us, were Lesbians to be honored, not despised.

Jillian Clark, currently Ms. Gay Wisconsin, belted out Lesbian country as only a woman who has already recorded Nashville

| TURN TO MADISON, PAGE 16

Our Next SpotLight Party Dec. 15, At Manoeuvres

Help Us Help Madison's Homeless

Madison—Manoeuvres, *The Wisconsin Light* and *Simply Divine* are working together to help Madison's Homeless Shelters get through what is expected to be a brutal winter. Our next SpotLight Party will be held at Manoeuvres on Sunday, December 15 as a fund raiser for Madison's Homeless Shelters.

"The idea actually came from *Simply Divine*," said Manoeuvres owner Ed Gruenewald. "She wanted to do a Christmas show as a benefit for the homeless." Ed quickly agreed and scheduled the show for 10:30 p.m. Sunday, December 15.

When SpotLight Editor, Bill Meunier, heard about the show, he contacted Jerry Johnson, Publisher of *The Wisconsin Light*, and with Johnson's agreement, Meunier offered to put the resources of *The Wisconsin Light* to work for Ed, *Simply Divine* and Madison's homeless.

Meunier, a dyed in the wool Packer fan, even missed most of the Packer-Bear game, making the trip up to Madison to meet with Ed and begin the planning.

What had been planned as a wonderful show has now become an evening long fundraiser with live entertainers and impersonators IN ADDITION to *Simply Divine's* fabulous Christmas show.

"We are thrilled to work with *The Wisconsin Light*," said Ed. "The feeling is

mutual. Ed runs a class operation and the man has a heart of gold." said Bill who adds, "I can't wait to see *Divine* perform. While I was in Mad Town everyone was telling me how fantastic her last show was."

That show, a benefit for the Gay Lesbian Straight Teacher's Network, was held on November 24. It was a wild success and won the popular entertainer much acclaim.

The party will begin with some special performances starting at around 8:00 p.m. *Simply Divine* and her troupe will take the stage at 10:30 p.m.

Ed, Bill and *Divine* are rounding up prizes to be given away in regular drawings throughout the evening. Raffle tickets will be sold by volunteers from the Unicorn Leather Club.

Businesses wishing to donate gift certificates or merchandise can do so by contacting *The Wisconsin Light* at (414) 372-2773 or Manoeuvres at (608) 258-9918.

Admission will be \$5.00, tables can be reserved for just \$25.00. All ticket sales and admissions will be donated to Madison's homeless shelters. A sell out of tables is expected so get your reservation in early.

Help make the Holidays a little nicer for those in need, join us at Manoeuvres on Sunday, December 15.

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Café Melange's Beaujolais Nouveau party on Thursday, November 21 was a big success. The popular downtown Milwaukee bar celebrated the opening of the new wine with a first class bash, that included a nice buffet, great music and of course some great wine. This year's crop is one of the best in recent years and a large throng eagerly used it to wash down mussels, meatballs, sausage and other treats provided by the bar. Shown above (L-R) are owner Larry Krueger and waitress Phyllis, and a few of the many people enjoying the evening.

OUT on Film



'Jingle All The Way' May Make Dickens Spin in His Grave, But It's a Good Film

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Faithful readers of the *Wisconsin Light* might be surprised to learn that Christmas is not a particular favorite holiday with Glenn.

Sure, Glenn loves to drive down to the southside and see all of the wonderfully tacky lawn decorations. ("Gee, Uncle Glenn, were Santa and Rudolph really at the first Christmas?"). But ever since the neighbors made Glenn take down his annual All Boy Christmas Choir from the roof...

Actually, *Jingle All the Way* might just be the perfect Christmas picture for the '90s. To begin with, protagonist Howard Langston (Arnold Schwarzenegger) is a workaholic with no time to share traditional family holiday values with his lovely, cookie-baking wife Liz (the lovely Rita Wilson) or his adorable little boy Jamie (the adorable Jake Lloyd). But even more importantly, *Jingle All the Way* features a perfect, built-in tie-in: the Turbo Man doll.

(Didn't Glenn see such a toy advertised on the TV this past weekend? Supplies limited: Hurry! Hurry!!)

The film's premise is suitably simple: For all of his broken promises, Dad can only redeem himself before son, wife, and neighborhood if he manages to procure the illusive Turbo Man doll for little Jamie in time for Christmas.

Equally simple is the chosen dramatic conflict: Dad forgot. It was just that simple: Dad forgot. Come Christmas Eve morning, a fine, beautiful sunny, crisp morning. Does Howard spend it with his loving family? Will the Langston's finally all go together to the Christmas parade?

Nope, the poor fool must seek out the one and only toy (Turbo Man, natch) that

will prevent his son from becoming the schoolyard loser, a certain path to adolescent delinquency.

The remainder of *Jingle All the Way* follows Howard as he finds himself stumbling into increasingly dangerous (not to mention ludicrous) escapades in order to get the last unpurchased Turbo Man in the known world, in the process tangling with an equally determined if not downright psychotic letter carrier, Myron Larabee (Sinbad), a crooked Department store Santa (James Belushi) and a fanatical cop (Robert Conrad).

As is the way with such holiday film entertainment, everyone in *Jingle All the Way* is likely to live happily ever after (at least those characters who deserve to). Hey, come on, it's Christmas after all.

Still, those with young children (or sensitive maiden aunts and uncles) should be forewarned. *Jingle All the Way* is at times shockingly violent (old hat stuff for someone who has been through as many Christmas retail wars as has Glenn). But even Glenn must question the suitability of Arnold punching out a reindeer, an incident many in the filled-to-capacity crowd found far more amusing than did Glenn.

After a series of comic bombs, Arnold Schwarzenegger scores here with a winning mix of wonderfully on-target retail humor, some pretty untraditional stunts and special effects and plenty of Christmas cheer.

Dickens and Frank Capra may be spinning in their graves but those finding the upcoming holiday season a little too saccharine are likely to find *Jingle All the Way* a mildly diverting break from shopping and baking cookies.

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

Suspense, Meaty Performances, Make 'Ransom' an Engrossing Thriller

Reviewed by John Jahn

Director Ron Howard, who proved he can give his audiences loft, heroic performances with the wonderful *Apollo 13*, switched gears completely to make this fall's engrossing, suspenseful thriller, *Ransom*.

There are no true heroes in this movie. All the characters are flawed in some way, and certainly the villains are purely evil. This doesn't mean you're left with no one to cheer for, just that the characters are more believable in realistic.

Mel Gibson plays a wealthy self-made man, an airline owner, who has made some enemies on the way up. When his 10-year-old son disappears from a New York City outdoor science fair, he immediately suspects that the forces behind the kidnapping may be some people he screwed over in the past; in particular, a union boss with whom he had some shady dealings who's now in prison because of Gibson.

He convincingly anguishes over what to do to find his son. His wife (played by Rene Russo) is given several good scenes instead of just sobbing hysterically on the sidelines.

But we know almost from the beginning who's behind the kidnapping and why, so where's the suspense?

Well, again I have to return to the central performances, including a particularly mean and snarling Gary Sinise as a New York policeman, and also the desperate attempts of Gibson and the FBI to find his son and pay the \$2 million ransom. Or, should the ransom be paid at all?

Ransom is a well-paced drama, keeping you completely involved until the very end. If I have any complaints, it's only in the final scenes, which lovingly detail spurting bullet wounds a little too graphically for this otherwise intelligent film. The slow-motion crash through a plate glass window could've been left on the cutting room floor.

Nevertheless, *Ransom* is a film well worth seeing.

On a 1-10 scale, this film rates a 7.

The Festival of 10 Minute Plays: So Nice They're Having it Twice

Milwaukee—Playwrights Studio Theater (PST) is mounting the 5th and 6th Annual Festival of 10-Minute plays in repertory, January 30th through February 16th at the Stiemke Theater of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater.

"We couldn't get the perfect space we needed last year, so we have twice the quantity of high-quality scripts," said Michael Neville, PST's Artistic Director.

The two festivals will feature an all-star lineup of locally and nationally recognized playwrights, including Milwaukee Rep alumni Amlin Gray (*A Christmas Carol*) and John Leicht (*Hula Hoop Sha Boop*); alderman-playwright Wayne Frank (*The Sun Also Rises*); ComedySportz's Dick Chudnow (*Spy Hard*); popular actor-playwright James DeVita; ComedySportz's Marvin Berkowitz; and PST's Howard Goldstein and Michael Neville.

Included among the featured actors will be John Schneider, Artistic Director of Theater X; Onedia-Ojibwe Hoop dancer Thirza DeFoe; Jonathan West of Bialystock & Bloom; and a nightly mystery guest from Milwaukee's political, cultural and business community.

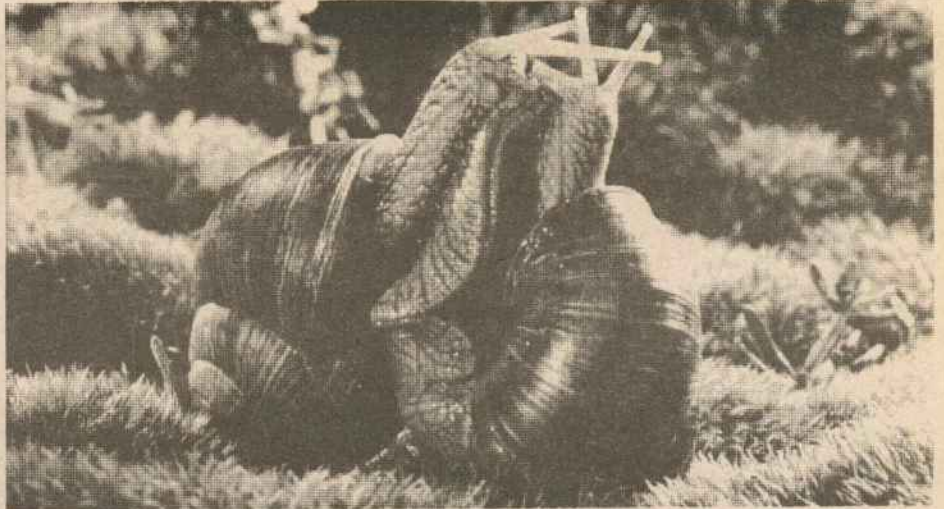
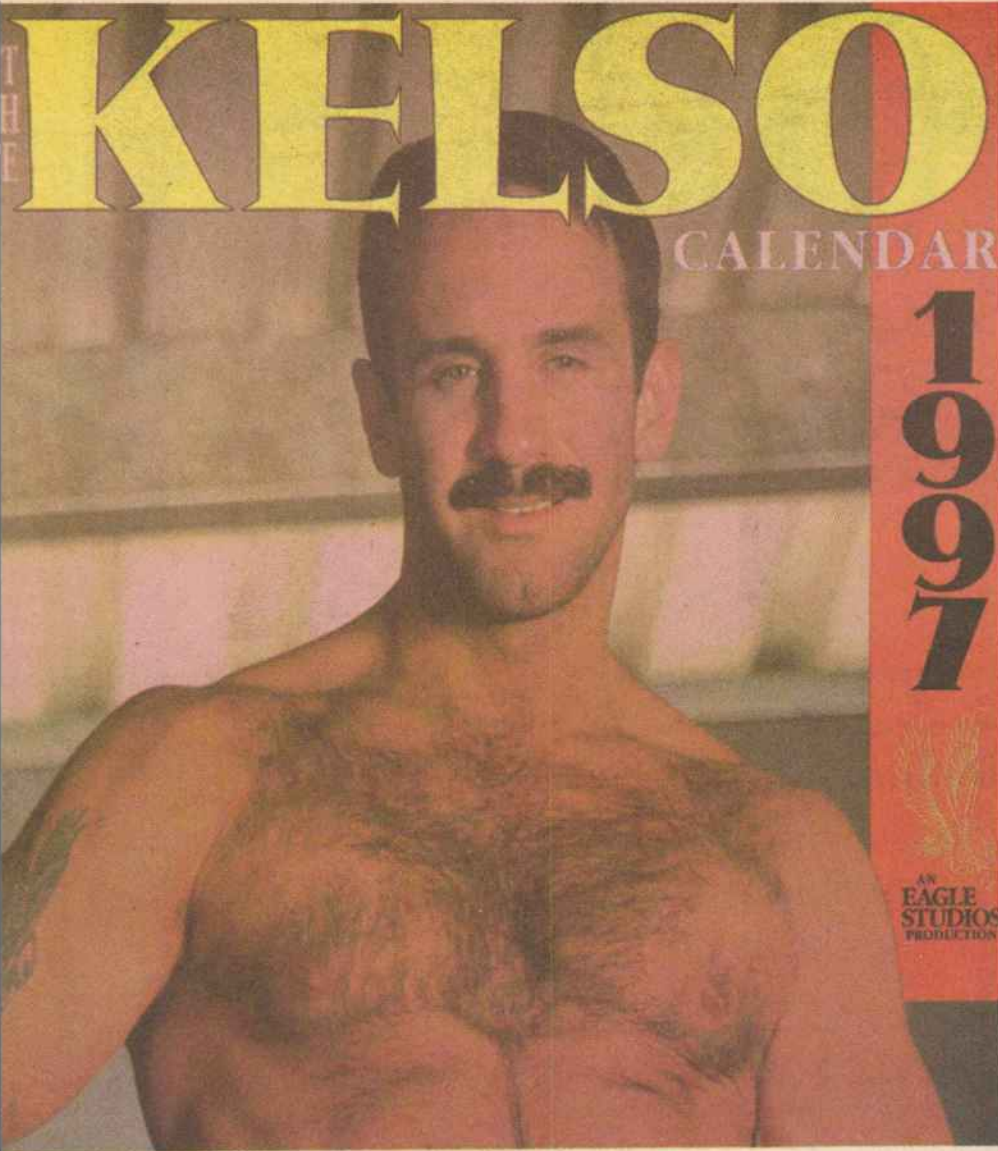
The directors will include Mark Bucher, Artistic Director of the Boulevard Ensemble; Pamela Brown, Artistic Director of Amethyst Productions; and Stephen Roselin, Channel 24's "Andy."

In keeping with PST's commitment to premiering new plays by and about Les-BiGay authors, this year's festivals will include New York playwright Jefferson D. Arca's *Are You Gay?*, Chicagoan Scott Sandoe's antic Tennessee Williams parody *Southern Tradition Got Me All Demented*, and Neville's gentle comedy about William's early career, *Eddie and the Bird*.

For ticket information and reservations, phone the Milwaukee Repertory Theater box office at (414) 224-9490.



A wonderful pre tournament show was provided by the Holiday Invitational Tournament Board of Directors and their friends at Club 219 on Thanksgiving night. A large crowd was on hand to cheer and laugh as the troupe did its stuff. Shown above are some of the highlights of this very creative show which included a production number of "Copa In Havana" complete with some Fidel Castro look alikes, an Elvis Presley Blue Hawaii number and a funny piece where one of the cast sang to her true love. The ever popular and talented Karen Valentine (shown at the far right) was the emcee for the evening. Not shown is co-emcee Kim, the Club 219 DJ whose banter with Karen kept the crowd laughing.



Fifteen years of research, dozens of "observation diaries," two years of designing the cameras and other equipment, three years of shooting, six months of editing were needed to bring "Microcosmos" to the screen. Above, see to of the "stars" in the throes of passion. "Microcosmos" opens at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater December 6th for a limited engagement.

thing, raising money for charities is a good place to start. I am always looking for outstanding AIDS-related organizations that provide needed services to our community that can use help.

Would you advise anyone else to work as a model?

Sure. But be careful. I would never advise anyone to take unnecessary chances having sex for money, but posing nude for pictures, I would have to highly recommend. (The worst that could happen is a flash burned penis and that will heal.)

Do you like all the public recognition?

Recognition is a strange thing. I never thought that I would ever get to where I am now. It's always humbling when people recognize you for something you've done (in my case, sporting wood). But, like anything else, it grows tiring very fast.

Believe it or not, I am very shy. Sure, you would never know it if you see me in front of a crowd, but that comes from being behind a bar for 16 years always putting on a show. I am a very private person and I am very lucky people have always been respectful of that. I love meeting and talking to new people all the time. No one has ever been too overwhelming—well, maybe that's not entirely true, but it doesn't happen all the time.

What's it like on the set?

It's mostly setup, standing around while the lights are being moved around until the shot is ready. It gets a little tiring after awhile, but I always cut up so I have a good time. It just makes the day go faster.

Is there a career after modeling?

Sure. I've said several times before, I am 33 and I can't keep doing this forever. (Things are starting to drop; my breasts have never been this low, EVER.)

I have been in acting classes and last year, I was in a film in Hollywood called "George Sale" that was going around to the film festivals. I had a part playing a

cop. Now my interests lie in doing commercials, but it's impossible to find the time this year to go to auditions. Next year I will pursue this more.

Is there any possibility that you will come to Wisconsin?

I would love to if someone will have me. (Don't start!) I will be in the Twin Cities in the middle of December, however.

(Editor's Note: Kelso will be appearing at Town House Country, 1415 University Avenue, in St. Paul, on Friday, December 13th at 9:00 p.m. His appearance is a fundraiser for The Aliveness Project. There is a \$5 cover and net proceeds will benefit the Project.)

My Eagle Studios calendar is available for \$15 (taxes and postage included) with \$5 of the sale going to AIDS organizations. You can direct the donation to an organization of your choice, or I will personally distribute the funds to groups that I feel are providing outstanding services.

If requested, I will personalize any calendar order that mentions this interview. Indicate how you would like it to read or if it is a gift to be sent to a different address.

Please include a signed statement that you are over 21.

Visa, MC and Discover orders can be faxed to: 908-364-4595 or mailed to: Steve Kelso c/o Eagle Studios, P.O. Box 951, Lakewood, NJ 08701-0951.

Calendar Model Steve Kelso

Interview With Calendar Model and Superhunk, Steve Kelso

Where were you born? Grow up?

I was born in Somerset, New Jersey and lived in the town of Middlesex for most of my life. About eight years ago I moved to a farm in Jackson township, surrounded by cows, pigs, ducks, geese, dogs and sheep (Only for company, not for amusement).

What's your work-out regimen?

Usually it's four days on, one day off when I'm getting ready for a photo shoot. This will go on for two to three months. When I'm on the road, I try to go to a gym whenever I can. It's tough to go to the gym when you're in and out of cities like I've been in these last three months.

How did you get started posing for calendars?

I met Rip Colt when I was in L.A. visiting a friend. He was interested in photographing me. This goes back about six years ago. They put me on the cover of the 1993 calendar which sold out very rapidly, so they gave me my own calendar in 1994. This was the first time COLT gave one guy his own calendar; it was quite an honor. The 1997 calendar is not the fourth year where I am the solo feature model.

What's it like working for COLT?

Working for COLT is great. The shoots can be rough. You try standing around for half a day with a hardon and let me know what you think. If you can, CALL ME!

Seriously, the shoots are always fun. It was a little nerve wracking at first, but like anything else, the more you do it, the easier it becomes.

Do you consider yourself Gay? Bi? Straight?

Oh, I am definitely Gay! (I lack fashion sense, but I'm learning.) Yes, I have always been Gay and don't have any problem with telling anyone who asks. If they don't like it, well kiss my ass. That's who I am and I don't have any intention of lying about it.

Do you have a lover?

No. That's a big drawback about being in the public eye. Meeting people is difficult because I'm never home long enough to start a relationship. When I travel and go out to a club or the beach, people start coming up to say that they are fans and have seen my work.

(Don't get me wrong. I appreciate the attention and love meeting everyone, but it's difficult to talk to someone, one-on-one, and get to know the person.)

What are your interests? Hobbies? Sports? Leisure activities?

I love music. I play piano, guitars and have a recording studio in my house in Middlesex. Most people don't know it, but I wrote and recorded the music on my "Intimate Hours" video. People never get to the credits on porn films. It's always spank the monkey, get something to drink

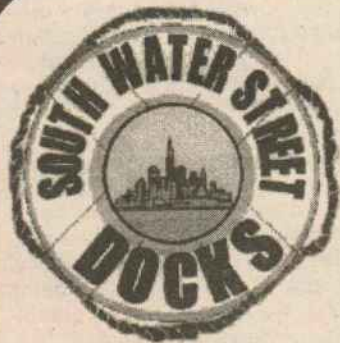
and bitch at your lover for not being more like the guy on the video.

As for hobbies, I enjoy going to the gym and just being home. I am on the road quite a bit touring or on photo shoots, so it's nice to be home.

How many calendars have you done? CDs? Films?

1997 is my sixth calendar. I'm in photo books, one video and calendar CDs. There are actually two calendars out this year, one from COLT and one by Eagle Studios.

I left COLT so that I could produce my own calendar. This gives me a tool to use for AIDS related fundraising throughout this country and Canada. I figure if I'm going to use this so-called fame for any-



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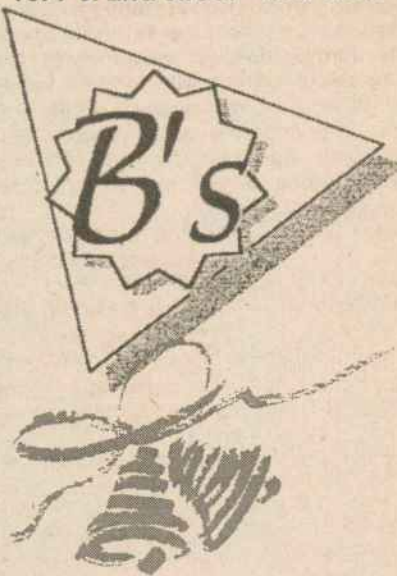
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9pm-Close

Tribute Acknowledges Mary Richards' Talent, Professionalism and Friendship

I did not meet Mary Richards in all her elegant finery. I met her in a department store, where she was dressed in simple blue jean overalls, shopping for cosmetic accessories. I knew her reputation as an engaging entertainer, but had never seen her. Yet, when my eyes first fell upon her, I knew exactly who she was—she was Mary Richards—the Mary Richards.

At the time, I was not fully aware of her legacy of talent and professionalism in the world of drag, but I would soon be exposed to it full force. Since then, I have only been present for a privileged few of her performances, the most notable of which was the creative performance that won her the Miss Continental Wisconsin title. And during this short-lived period, I considered her my friend, as we were both quite involved in one another's day-to-day life through a string of events neither of us planned for nor anticipated.

They were odd and stressful circumstances, but we made the most of it until fate lent a hand, creating a wide space of separation between us that boiled down to differing perspectives about life, love, truth and justice.

Life and truth? No, this tribute isn't about brilliant, painstakingly designed costumes or hours of sweaty dance rehearsals. It isn't about nights in sad hotel rooms found in small towns that book Mary Richards to perform for a handful of people in the Gay and Lesbian community. These experiences are a given in the tough world of drag.

This tribute is about the desire to destroy a former self in an effort to create a dream, a personal reality that answers to a call from inside oneself to be the bright, shining individual that lies within each and every one of us as humans.

Mary Richards has heard such a call and has answered it. She has accomplished her dream and deserves recognition that validates not the number of crowns won, but the personal, emotional and psychological toll that is effected by choosing a pursue this rebirth of self.

I acknowledge her in this regard, despite our ongoing silent battle, because she unknowingly taught me a lesson just by living her life while I watched.

Mary Richards is one of the best things to ever happen in my life and she will, undoubtedly, be taken off-guard at this painful disclosure. Besides giving me great advice about eye liner application, she demonstrated in way that were not particularly comfortable to me that "giving up" on a truly desired goal is not an option.

MADISON

Continued from Page 13

can. And Sterling Jones, big, strong, bawdy, leather Dyke on the cabaret stage, amazed us with the strength and timber of her voice on the variety stage by the depth—and breadth—of notes held in amazing suspension.

On the poetry stage, Jane Vanderbosch recited an eloquent poetry of the personal in which, as she put it, she was a psychiatric survivor in a real world "North Northeast of Memory," in a place where "lions are fed to lilacs"—really, in this psychiatric survival she had known.

But we had for the most part a wondrous celebration of ourselves as Lesbians—with sex.

Wrapping up the evening on the big stage were the interpreters, all of them signing and dancing in a wild choreography of interpretation, interpreting while dancing "Leaping Lesbians," a song about Lesbians as a danger because an irresistible presence to those outside the community, leaping Lesbians "who'll get ya' yet."

An old song in a new venue, it was the only time I had seen interpreters given their due, I thought, full performers all of them, little recognized by us of the hearing community, for their "artful" addition to the "main attraction."

—Until I considered that perhaps for many women interpreters are as much of the main attraction as my "main attraction," leaping Lesbians, all of them, who'll getcha yet in a moment of consciousness—maybe bawdy, maybe humorous, maybe interpreting pain transformed; some really good, some only pretty good; signifying in this silent language of its own artfulness and grammar and meaning and particular history; a language different from mine, certainly, but signifying— in unison.

And I said, "Thank you, KGP, for your kissing girls, and your leaping lesbians—such forays into silence."

I should know, for she and I once had the misfortune of setting our sights upon the same goal. While in pursuit of this goal, my weak and self-loathing nature sparked a "war" in our relationship, although she and I both knew the war was raging on spiritual, philosophical ground.

In an act of self-preservation, I retreated from the battle, which gave me the opportunity to peel away my anger and hurt that lay underneath. I discovered that she and I were made of the same material, only she had believed she could reach goals she had set for herself—it wasn't just a question of desire or "want."

She believed she could be better than she already was and she fought instincts of complacency, always charging off to defend her dreams. When Mary Richards wanted something, she was determined to get it.

From first-hand experience, I can confidently assume she has also incorporated these same strategies in her transformation from a shy, quiet individual to the energetic, dazzling enigma she is known to be on stage and in her personal life.

Mary Richards may only be somewhat aware that in recent months our war has continued to rage. Fought upon my own turf, the aggressor and aggressed upon became myself. The weapons used against my fear and self-effacing mediocrity were all those she herself so expertly wielded against me: will, self-esteem, conviction, and belief in self, despite all real and perceived obstacles.

At one point in this deeply spiritual battle, when I had prematurely proclaimed myself triumphant, an anonymous ally surfaced on the scene.

This individual's influence essentially pushed me up against a wall, challenging my self-proclaimed victory. The informant was evaluating the potential use of these same weapons against his or her own self, and we momentarily teamed up to clarify the true nature of our individual battles.

By pausing to consider the very similar experiences of my ally, a realization slowly washed over me that somehow turned my attentions back to the war I had believe I was fighting against Mary Richards. I discovered that I was really fighting that which I did not have: her total and absolute faith in self-actualization.

As my ally quickly disappeared from away to initiate self-war, I was left with the undeniable sense that Mary Richards must affect people in this same way very often.

In the future, I am optimistic that a peace-making mission will develop; this most unusual, but honest, tribute to Mary Richards is the raising of a white flag and a first effort at reconciliation.

The color white is significant because it symbolizes for me the new self I have only begun to learn to create because she showed me how to do it. More importantly, she proved without a doubt that she held the conviction to maintain and defend who she had created herself to be in the face of dreams and desires being threatened.

Mary Richards, this tribute to the underlying qualities that make your career as a female impersonator so powerful and evasive is made all the more sweet by this proclamation: You Win.

Revel in the victory because I have not lost all. I have won an important battle as a woman, one that finally savors the pleasure of believing in myself and the bright, positive future that lies ahead.

I thank you for being a part of this process and I wish you luck as you face unfamiliar battles and challenges in your new home far away. You taught me the benefits of utilizing passionate fire in my own life. As always, I expect nothing less from you.

Editor's Note: In her covering letter, the writer, who requested that her name be withheld, writes: "I believe that most female impersonators, including Mary Richards, are often not recognized for the very personal strength and conviction needed to have such a career and life, as the two are inexplicably entwined with one another."

The writer goes on to say that she wrote this tribute so that the whole community might know what a "positive influence and value" Mary Richards has had on her life and the lives of others as well.

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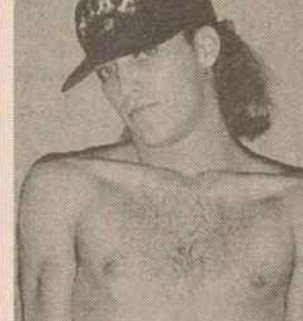
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'In The Life' Focuses on AIDS and the Issues of Transgenders in December

By Lester Strong

New York, NY—An old year ends, a new one begins. In saying good bye to 1996, *In The Life's* December/January episode examines several issues and events of continuing interest to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered community.

- First off, AIDS:
- Was 1996 the year medical research finally turned the corner on the epidemic? In the lead story, correspondent Hal German explores both the promise of and the problems connected with two recent medical advances on the AIDS front—the introduction of protease inhibitors and the use of "pharmaceutical cocktails" to stop production of HIV in the body.
 - Fifteen years into the AIDS crisis, the arts community is still responding. A second segment explores the powerful feelings that led to **Of Rage and Remembrance**, composer John Corigliano's recent choral symphony memorializing friends lost to the epidemic.
 - A third story goes behind the scenes of **Rent**, the current Broadway hit by playwright Jonathan Larson that puts AIDS front and center in its chronical of life on Manhattan's Lower East Side. Correspondent Darius de Haas talks with cast, crew, and friends of Larson about the Tony and Pulitzer prize-winning play.
 - AIDS is not just a white Gay male disease. "A Day in the Life" profiles African-American activist Michelle Lopez. A member of the Presidential Council on AIDS and a determined advocate for women of color fighting the disease, Lopez shares what it means to be a Lesbian single parent, raising a son and a daughter in the face of her own and her daughter's diagnosis of AIDS.
 - Last, but not least, the pets people with AIDS are given their due, as *In The Life* visits POWARS, an acronym for Pet Owners with AIDS Resource Service. This New York group helps people with AIDS when the tasks of walking their pets, feeding them, and taking them to the vet become too difficult because of the disease.

AIDS, of course, was not the only issue of interest to the Gay community during 1996. In the remaining two segments of the episode, *In The Life* shifts its focus toward two very different groups:

- Transgender folk played their part in 1968's Stonewall Rebellion, and these days they're coming out as never before to assert their rights. In "TRANSgender is . . ." correspondent Tanya Barfield explores the issues and politics of this growing movement.
- It's competitive, exciting, and a way of life for thousands of Gay men and Lesbians across the country. In *The Life* host Katherine Linton visits the 10th Annual International Gay Rodeo finals, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, this fall, for a look at the fun—and among animal rights activists the controversy—generated by this aspect of Gay culture.

An old year ends, a new one begins. Commenting on the display last October of the full NAMES Project Memorial Quilt in Washington, Hal German notes early on in this *In The Life* episode: "So many names, so many quilts, we may remember 1996 as the last year this Mall could hold them all. But it was also

a year of hope."

Not a bad place for *In The Life* to leave viewers on the doorstep of 1997.

This episode of In The Life will air on PBS TV in Madison and Milwaukee on December 19th.

Thirty Things I Hate (About Being Gay)

A General List in No Particular Order by Tuber

1. Right Wing Yahoo Christians
2. Most "Gay" films
3. The Village People
4. In Living Color's **Men on Film**.
5. Working in Springfield.
6. Repressed homosexuals. Let's face it, they're bad.
7. Gee, I don't know, the OCA maybe. Although, the OCA did help me become more vocal.
8. Thanks OCA. XXXXXX
9. The world's loudest Gay "spokespersons" tend to be the most stereotypical, just look at Liberace or Elton John for Christ's sake.
10. People don't know why the numerous "well-meaning" - 'Straight But Not Narrow' buttons disturb me. If you don't know, figure it out.
11. Homosexuals are not allowed to "get

angry," because that is doing just what "they" are.

Fuck that noise.

11. Coming out to friends and family is stressful and generally a big pain in the ass.

12. Gay people cannot even be recognized in the eyes of the government as having a relationship of love, marriage.

13. Breeders make fun of Gay men by talking with high voices and lisps while limping their wrists. They're not funny, they just look stupid. Simple minds, simple pleasures.

14. The integration of people of color with people in power has theoretically been slowly accepted, yet the integration of homosexuals into the military is not reaching favorable light.

Hmmm, Gay men are not allowed to join the elite scum club of the basest men in our country's slaughter force, maybe I shouldn't care. I'm a little biased against the military in case you can't tell.

15. Homosexuals are worked into TV plots and AIDS is also somehow worked in, when the mention of AIDS is not a prerequisite for heterosexual characters. In one "Murphy Brown" episode, my mouth was scoured when a reasonably good non-stereotypical Gay man uselessly recited the line, "...not when you've been attending as many funerals as I have lately."

16. I hate being associated with a disease.

17. Lesbians are never worked into a media plot unless they are sleazy villains. This is probably because breeders get off

on looking at naughty Lesbians and Lesbians are not a threat probably because they are the lowest risk group for AIDS.

18. Gayness is not accepted to such a degree that a dating scene in high school, like that of heterosexuals, is basically impossible. Gay people miss out on the naive early dating period, making later relationship experiences awkward and inexperienced.

19. It is very hard for an isolated Gay person to meet other Gay people for relationships or dating without visiting an establishment that somehow suggests immediate sex. Thus sex becomes a co-dependent of Gay dating. This is avoidable, but when you're lonely, who cares.

20. Breeder men are irrationally afraid of some of the treatment they give women being turned onto them by Gay men (i.e. objectification, sexual harassment, etc.)

21. Fear of Gay bashing.

22. People who say "fag" in a derogatory fashion.

23. Bad Gay literature.

24. Militant homophobics.

25. The untrue connection made between homosexuality and child molestation. That would make half the Christian right homosexuals.

26. Dating pool = 5 percent.

27. Gay support groups that talk about being Gay to no end. So we're Gay and you're Gay and he's Gay we're all Gay. Let's bask in our Gayness.

28. Madonna.

29. Arsenio Hall.

30. Being associated with actors that use gerbils.

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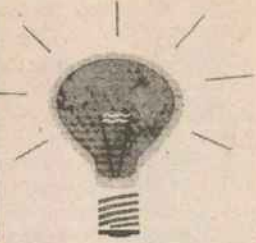
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- Curt

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Holiday
Greetings

The Night Light



By Dusty Sass

Wow the last couple of weeks have been really busy. Here's a few highlights: The Spotlight party at **In Between** was a real blast even if our Packers were thumped by the evil ones from down South. The World AIDS Day show at **Manoeuvres** put on by Z & L Enterprises was very good. The HIT Tournament Show at **Club 219** was a real hoot, very creative and a pleasure to watch as well.

The Oberon fund raiser for Kids With AIDS at **Mama Roux** was packed (like this was unusual?) and a great time was had by all.

I had a nice time watching the Pack beat the Bears at **R Place** in Madison and then I had the chance to see that great show benefiting Camp Heartland and the AASPIN Foundation on World AIDS Day at **Manoeuvres**.

Speaking of which I must tell you what a great guy owner Ed G. is. Just about every week he gives away the door to help some cause that needs help.

On Sunday the First, it was Camp Heartland and AASPIN, then on December 15 it will be Madison's Homeless Shelters. Plus he put out a free Thanksgiving buffet, plus he has a Toys for Tots campaign. AND we hear that he is planning on working the bar himself on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day so that his customers will have a place to go and his employees can spend some quality time with their friends and family.

Speaking of R Place, owners Rich and Danny are back from Florida. They were wonderful hosts of our Election Night party and put out a bunch of bucks for the Internet hook up with Milwaukee. Unfortunately the hook up didn't work because of the big Internet crash. Nonetheless they deserve much credit for the effort and for the community spirit they showed in hooking up the **Shamrock** so its customers could enjoy the show.

Community spirit like that shown by Ed, Rich and Danny, the Oberons and the crowd at **Mama Roux** should inspire us all.

With the Holidays fast approaching, it's hard, I mean difficult for me to find the time to do all my shopping and the next few weeks aren't going to be of much help. There is so much going on that I'll just have to race around filling my list.

First off, I will be at the **Boot Camp's** annual AIDS dinner on Saturday December 7th. This bash is always a first class event. It will be held upstairs at the M and M Club. Your \$25.00 donation gets you a great dinner and a chance at some great items in the Silent Auction. For tickets see your favorite Boot Camp bartender or Si at the Boot Camp.

After dinner, I'll race over to **Just Us** for the Shoreline Christmas Party at **Just Us**. Don't miss this even if you don't like Country type music. This is a very special event which will include the dedication of a panel for the Names Quilt. The party also includes free line dancing lessons for those who want to scuff their heels on that nice wooden dance floor.

If I am lucky I'll have time to race over to **Club 94** for their Arctic Blast Christmas show. Don't let the name fool you, this is going to be one hot show! (No we aren't talking about my sex life lately its been as cold as the weather)

But there is no rest for the wicked (or me either for that matter) and the next weekend will be even busier. In fact things start on **Thursday December 12** with the kick off of the Ken Rhode Birthday Weekend. Being such an extra special guy, Ken needs three days to celebrate his B-Day. And being such a generous guy, he is letting his celebration benefit **Rainbow Over Wisconsin**.

On **Thursday the 12th** Ken has a special Kick off bash at **Brandy's II**. I can't wait to see him and Za in the Wet Jockey Short contest. (The camera will be ready guys). Of course that same night, Duwanna Moore and friends will be at **Club Cheeks** for a special show that I won't miss. Duwanna is soooo talented and such a sweet heart too.

Then on **Friday the 13**, we all get lucky because Ken is having a bash at **Za's** featuring a special show hosted by Miss Emerald City. (I wonder about that title. Does she really come from Oz)

After the show I'll be leaving the Bay City and heading back to Milwaukee so I don't miss **The Cream City Chorus** concert at Cross Lutheran Church. **Saturday December 14**. If you have never been to

a Gay Chorus Holiday concert there is not time like the present to attend one. I snuck into one of the rehearsals and I can tell you this is going to be one good event.

After the concert, I'll be off to one of my favorite bars, **Fannies** to help them celebrate the Holidays with their annual party. What better way to have some holiday cheer than with good friends and good music at **Fannies**.

Being at **Fannies** will allow me to run down the street to the **1100 Club** for the Oberons last fund raiser for their Kid's With AIDS project. The Oberons are a great group of guys who have worked very hard on this (as they always do). Let no one say the Leather Community doesn't do its part.

On **Sunday December 15**, I'll start out my day at **B's** for its annual Holiday Party. Then it's off to the **Boot Camp** for its Christmas Bash, and then its off to **Manoeuvres** in Madison for our special Spotlight Party and Show to raise funds for Madison's homeless. Ed, Tony, Charlie and staff are going all out as is **Simply Divine**. As long as I am there, I will have to make time to shop at their new Gay Boutique and Coffee Shop, **We Are Fam-**

ily they have some wonderful merchandise all of it reasonably priced.

Unfortunately, my schedule won't allow me to be at PFLAG's Party at **Mama Roux**. Mama is all excited over the prospect of meeting other parents of Gays and Lesbians. At this point Mama has so many kids that she needs some birth control advice. (Any volunteers?) But I do hope that they get a good crowd. It's a great chance to introduce your own parents to a fine group.

Last but by no means least I will be attend the **SAGE** Holiday Buffet at **Just Us** on **Sunday December 22**. The free buffet is open to everyone but you got to make a reservation by calling 271-0378 between December 5 and December 17.

Don't forget to remember your community by throwing some of your holiday dollars to some well deserving groups. Gay People's Union could use some financial help to maintain its hot line, the Cream City Foundation always can use some extra funds to give to deserving groups as can the Wisconsin Community Fund. And with all the planning going on for a new community center, the LBGT Community Center Trust Fund should not be overlooked either.

Other good local charities include, the New Harvest foundation and the United in Madison, Positive Voice in Green Bay, GLEEDA in Appleton and your local AIDS charities.

See ya soon. In the meantime, be safe be proud and be as queer as you want to be.

TALENTED PEOPLE

By Todd M. Lachn

Those lives that brush past ours: Always vital, deeply affected, never ineffective, at once important and insignificant

Like a fire-formed rock: Prehistoric and primal, perpetual and fossil-like, a mountain range, yet gem-precious and fragile as mist.

Portraits and sculptures, writings, performances, deeds and speeches and presences—
The nearness of grandeur and beauty.

The ever present loss of importance and knowledge, ebbed by the lack of time and the magnitude of suffering.
A molted feather drifts the same air currents as its host did.

Waste and sadness and anger:
A time capsule of dreams and medical events, a loss; challenges to the spirit which awards steadfast reverence.

In memory of those lost to AIDS

The poet is a Milwaukeean who has been writing for 25 years. The above poem was published in October, 1996, in the anthology, **Forever And A Day**. The publication coincided with the AIDS Quilt display in Washington, DC in October.

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GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

MADISON

JEWISH LESBIANS

CELEBRATE CHANUKAH

Madison's Jewish Lesbians will gather for a special celebration of Chanukah on Saturday December 7, at the Wilmar Neighborhood Center, 953 Jennifer Street, Madison. All Jewish Lesbians and their womyn friends are invited to a vegetarian potluck.

The Latke Brigade will begin frying Latke's at 4:30 P.M. Anyone interested in helping is more than welcome to join them. Schmoozing and decorating begins at 5:30 and dinner will begin at around 6:00 PM.

Everyone is welcome to bring their menorahs and candles to join in creating the light of the third night of Chanukah. There will be a voluntary gift exchange. Gifts should be limited to \$10.00.

The group is also collecting non-perishable food items for donation to the Atwood Community Center's Food Pantry. For more information call (608) 246-8002.

MILWAUKEE

LBGT CENTER MEETING ON DECEMBER 8TH

A town meeting for those working on and/or desiring input into the planning of a new Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center for Milwaukee will be held at the UWM Union Room E-280 at 8 PM on Sunday December 8th.

All members of the LGBT community are welcome to attend, listen, learn, provide new ideas and hopefully volunteer.

BUSINESS ASSOCIATION TO PUBLISH GUIDE

The Alternative Business Association has announced that it will publish a Resource

Guide for the Greater Milwaukee area in the early part of 1997. The guide will consist of listings of all Gay and Lesbian friendly businesses, service providers and organizations in the greater Milwaukee area.

Anyone who wishes to have a listing should contact ABA before December 31, 1996. For more information call PO Box 65, Milwaukee, WI 53201 or call (414) 389-1200.

PFLAG HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 15

Everyone is welcome at the PFLAG Christmas Party on Sunday December 15 at Mama Roux's, 1875 N. Humboldt. The party begins at 5:00 and it offers a great opportunity for Lesbians and Gays to bring their parents for a party where they can meet other parents in a friendly atmosphere.

There is no cost to come, but donations are appreciated.

ST. SEBASTIAN'S CHOIR TO HOLD CHRISTMAS CONCERT

St. Sebastian's Adult and Children's Choirs with Bell Choir and Ensemble will perform a Christmas Concert with works from Handel's "Messiah," Baroque Madrigals and traditional Christmas Carols on Friday, December 13th, at 7:00 p.m., St. Sebastian Catholic Church, 5400 W. Washington Blvd. Phone (414) 453-1928 for more information. Free will offering appreciated.

WAUKESHA

WALN OFFERS NEW PROGRAMMING

The Waukesha Area Lesbian Network will be offering a free presentation on how to prepare income taxes tailored to meet Lesbian family needs.

The presentation given by Carol Van Duser CPA will be on Sunday January 5

from 4 to 5 PM at the Maple Avenue Memonite Church. All Lesbians and Lesbian friendly womyn are welcome.

In an effort to reach even more Lesbians, the Network will be alternating its regular first Sunday of the month discussion meetings with programs. For more information on WALN call (414) 297-9412.

CHICAGO

SISTER2SISTER CALENDAR PARTY

Sister2Sister, a Chicago-based social organization of African-American Lesbians, has completed Chicago's first women-of-color calendar for women. Come celebrate at the calendar release party, Thursday, December 12, 7:00 p.m. at Paris Noir, Paris Dance, 1122 W. Montrose.

A portion of the proceeds from sales of the calendar benefit MAAT DOMPIM, a Women of Color Land Project, and other community organizations.

ST. PAUL

STEVE KELSO FOR AIDS BENEFIT

Supermodel Steve Kelso, will be appearing at Town House Bar and Dance Club, 1415 University Avenue in St. Paul, on Friday, December 13th, at 9:00 p.m. as a fundraiser for The Aliveness Project. There will be a \$5 cover. Net proceeds will benefit the Project.

GREEN BAY

Positive Voice Christmas Party at The Woodside on Dec. 13

The Positive Voice Christmas celebration will be on Friday December 13 at the Woodside Supper Club. Cocktails are at 6:00, dinner is at 7:00.

The evening will include entertainment, a white elephant gift exchange, and family style dinner.

Tickets are \$14.00 for PV members and \$16 for non-members. Guests are asked to bring two gag gifts wrapped in newspaper.

Reservations are due on Tuesday December 3. For more information contact Positive Voice.

We Have **EXPANDED** to serve you better. Come in and see our **HUGE**, new addition. Then **CHECK OUT** our 14 foot Chili Pepper.

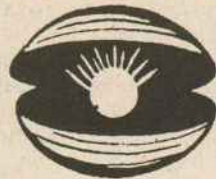


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MANOEUVRES

Sunday, December 15 • 7pm Show

SPOTLIGHT "Christmas Show"
EVENT

Special Guests featuring some of Wisconsin's Best Live Performers

AND AT 10:30pm

Simply Divine's Christmas Show

Raffles, Prizes • All Proceeds Benefit Madison's Homeless Shelters

Sunday, December 8

It's A Wanna Be Christmas with S. Suzie S.

Manoeuvres and the MAD Bar will be open on December 24 & 25 at 6pm & Plan on Being Here for our New Year's Eve Celebration with free champagne, tiaras, plus a great buffet.

MAD BAR

OPEN
9PM TO
CLOSE, MON-SAT
5PM TO CLOSE
SUNDAY

Join Our Toy's for Tots Drive

Bring an unwrapped toy before close on December 19 & receive a Free Drink!

YOU'RE INVITED

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7

BAY CITY CHORUS HOLIDAY CONCERT IN GREEN BAY

The Bay City chorus will present their annual Holiday Concert at Union Congregational Church, 714 S. Madison Street, Green Bay at 7:30 PM today and at 4:30 PM on Sunday.

Entitled "Noel, Noel, Bells Are Ringing" the concert will be an enchanting holiday treat for those in attendance.

SHORELINE CHRISTMAS PARTY AT JUST US IN MILWAUKEE

The Shoreline Dance troupe will be celebrating the Holidays with a special party at Just Us, 807 S. 5 St., Milwaukee that will help raise money for the Names Quilt.

The event includes the dedication of a Names Quilt Panel, free dance lessons, raffles and lots of fun.

BOOT CAMP'S WORLD AIDS DAY DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION

Join your friends from the Boot Camp for their annual dinner commemorating World AIDS day. This annual fund raiser includes a delicious dinner and a silent auction.

For more information contact the Boot Camp 643-6900.

CLUB 94 CHRISTMAS SHOW

Club 94 and Samantha D'Carlo present their Arctic Blast Christmas Show at 11:00. This breath of fresh holiday air features the Follie Girls, Josie Lynn, Miss Gay WI US of A, Vickie C.- Miss Gay WI of America and Kierra Nicole- Miss Fox Valley US of A.

With a hot line up like this how can ya miss. So bring your mistletoe and yourself to Club 94, located at 9001 120th Avenue, Hwy C-1-94, Kenosha.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 8

IT'S A WANNA BE CHRISTMAS WITH SUZIE S. AT MANOEUVRES

Suzie's Annual Holiday Show at Manoeuvres is guaranteed to be a real hit. Suzie and friends have some extra special holiday treats in store for everyone who is there. Manoeuvres is located at 150 S. Blair St., Madison.

STAR PACKED SHOW AT MADISON'S R PLACE

The stars will be out in force at R Place for an extra special gala. Included in the line up are Kitty Ligore, Miss Gay Madison, the ever popular Cass Marie Domino, Celeste Olds, Miss Gay Great Lakes US of A At Large, Lauren Lemour and other fine performers.

Showtime is at 10:30. R Place is located at 121 W. Main St., Madison.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 12

DUWANNA PUTS OUT AT CLUB CHEEKS IN GREEN BAY

One of our favorite and most talented impersonators will be putting it out for you and all your friends at Club Cheeks on December 12 and December 20th.

That's right its the Duwanna Moore Show and she will be "Do 'in It To Ya" with her 10:30 Shows.

Club cheeks is located at 232 S. Broadway, Green Bay.

ROW BENEFIT AT BRANDY'S II

Rainbow Over Wisconsin will be the beneficiary of the "Ken Rhode Birthday Bash Kick Off at Brandy's II, 1126 Main, Green Bay.

The bash includes a Wet Jockey Short-T-Shirt contest, and drink specials.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 13

ROW BENEFIT AT ZA'S

The weekend long celebration of Ken Rhode's birthday continues with a Birthday Tribute Show at Za's, 1106 Main Street, Green Bay.

This special show hosted by Miss Emerald City, Kelli Jo Klein will benefit Rainbow Over Wisconsin.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 14

CREAM CITY CHORUS HOLIDAY CONCERT AT CROSS LUTHERAN

Cross Lutheran Church will be host for this year's annual holiday treat presented

by the Cream City Chorus.

The theme of this year's concert is "Christmas Is Not For Everyone." It will feature music from Chanukah, Christmas and Kwanzaa.

Cross Lutheran Church is located at 1821 N. 16th St. (Just North of 16th and Lisbon) The concert begins at 8:00.

OBERONS KIDS WITH AIDS FUND RAISER AT THE 1100

The 1100 Club will be the site of the final Oberon "Kids With AIDS Fund Raiser" of the year. This is your last chance to win some great prizes and to help the Oberons make sure that Kids With AIDS have a great Christmas.

There will be a beer bash beginning at 10:00, raffles, prizes and loads of fun. The 1100 club is located at 1100 S. First Street, Milwaukee.

NINE INCH MALES WRAP UP BIRTHDAY WEEKEND AT ZA'S

Three members of the Nine Inch Males will be on hand to conclude the festivities surrounding Ken Rhode's birthday. Their show at Za's, 1106 Main Street, Green Bay, will help Ken forget his age and remember how much fun everyone had at his three parties all of which, including this one, raised money for Rainbow Over Wisconsin.

FANNIES CHRISTMAS PARTY

Everyone is welcome at Fannies for its Christmas Party. Entertainment, drink The party is free, but donations are appreciated.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 19

LAST DAY FOR TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE AT MANOEUVRES

Manoeuvres concludes its "Toys For Tots Campaign" today. Bring in an unwrapped toy anytime, any day before closing on Thursday December 19 and receive a free drink.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 22

SAGE HOSTS FREE BUFFET AT JUST US IN MILWAUKEE

Those fine folks who make up SAGE, Senior Action In A Gay Environment want everyone to come to their annual holiday buffet at Just Us, 807 S. 5th St., Milwaukee.

Dinner begins at 1:00, but you MUST make a reservation by calling 271-0378 between December 5 and December 17. specials and more await the holiday revelers at this annual holiday treat.

Fannies is located at 200 E. Washington, and they will be very happy to see you there.

FILM SHORT SHOWING AND POSTER SALE

Landmark Theatres will be presenting their Ninth Annual Vintage Movie Poster Sale from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM. at the Oreintal Theater, Farwell and North, Milwaukee.

The event also includes a showing of vintage movie trailers and short films including *Precious Images* and *Words* which contains clips from hundreds of films.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 15

SPOTLIGHT PARTY FEATURES SPECIAL GUESTS, THE DIVINE CHRISTMAS SHOW AND MORE

There will be plenty of fun and surprises in store for everyone at the special Manoeuvres Christmas Party beginning at 7:00.

The evening is a benefit for Madison's Homeless Shelters and will include some very special performances by some of Wisconsin's finest singers and impersonators. It will also include a very special Christmas Revue put on the by ever so talented Divine.

What could be better than a wonderful show, a great cause and a great time. Admission is \$5.00. Reserved tables are just \$25.00.

Manoeuvres is located at 150 S. Blair Street.

BOOT CAMP HOLIDAY PARTY

Bring out those Leathers and don that Gay apparel for the Boot Camp's annual Christmas Bash.

Si and his staff of elves will be there to help make your Holiday Season even better. The party begins at 3:00.

B'S ALL DAY CHRISTMAS PARTY AND EVENING SHOW

B's located at 1679 S.2nd St., (corner of Second Lapham), will be holding their annual Christmas Bash.

The party starts at Noon and goes to 6 PM with drink specials. The Christmas show will be at 9:00. Brittany Morgan and her intrepid band of entertainers will be on hand to help make your holiday season a little brighter.

Proceeds from the show will benefit the BESTD Clinic.

PFLAG PARTY AT MAMA ROUX

Those lovely folks from PFLAG, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays want you to bring your parents and family members to their holiday party at Mama Roux, 1875 N. Humboldt, Milwaukee.

The 5:00 gathering is a great opportunity for Gays and Lesbians to aquaint their parents with other parents in a social atmosphere.

New Books at AfterWords

Lesbian Fiction

Murder, She Meowed by Rita Mae Brown and Sneaky Pie Brown, Bantam HC \$22.95

Lesbian Non-Fiction

The Wild Good: Lesbian Photographs & Writings on Love, edited by Beatrix Gates, Anchor Books Pb \$19.95

Gay Fiction

For a Lost Soldier by Rudi van Dantzig

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(715) 394-2580

Thursday - Karaoke
Friday & Saturday - DJ
Sunday - Request Night

The Gay Men's Press Pb \$14.95

Gay Non-Fiction

Male Bonding compiled by David Springle, FotoFactory HC \$40.00

AfterWords' Schedule

Monday, December 9th
AfterWords Bookclub - 7:30p.m.
Northridge High Football Camp
St. Joseph Krol

Thursday, December 12th
Gay & Lesbian Writers' Group - 7:00p.m.

All interested writers welcome to join in this monthly group.

Sunday, December 15th
AfterWord's 2nd Fabulous
Packer Sunday
Special Opening Time: 11a.m.
Food, Fun and more...

Thursday, December 19th
Lesbian Book Club - 7:00p.m.
Four Figures in Time
Patricia Grossman

Tuesday, December 24th
Christmas Eve
Finished Christmas shopping?

Stop in for a relaxing cappuccino or some Holiday Nog. Enjoy some last minute Holiday Specials.

Store hours are 9a.m.-5p.m.

Wednesday, December 25th
Closed.
Merry Christmas

Tuesday, December 31st
New Year's Eve
Store hours are 10a.m.-5p.m.

Wednesday, January 1st
closed
Happy New Year

Monday, January 13th
AfterWords Book Club
Boys Like Us edited by Patrick Merla



THIS IS IT!

MAY LOVE WITH YOU BE LONG ABIDING,
MAY YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS APPEAR
MAY YOUR HEART FIND ITS FULFILLMENT
IN THIS GRACIOUS TIME OF YEAR

BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAY
SEASON
AND
FOR A JOYFUL NEW YEAR

FROM JOE, JUNE AND STAFF

418 E. Wells Street, Milwaukee (414) 278-9192

THE CALENDAR

Saturday December 7

Bay City Chorus Holiday Concert 7:30
Union Congregation Church
714 S. Madison, Green Bay

Shoreline Christmas Party
Just Us
807 S. Fifth St. Milwaukee

Boot Camp's AIDS Dinner & Auction
Upstairs at M & M's
Call 643-6900 for reservations

Club 94 Christmas Show 11:00
Club 94 Hwy. C and I-94, Kenosha

Sunday December 8

R Place Holiday Gala 10:30
R Place, 121 Main Street, Madison

A Wanna Be Christmas Show 10:30
Manoeuvres, 150 S. Blair St. Madison

Bay City Chorus Holiday Concert 2:00
Union Congregation Church
714 S. Madison, Green Bay

Thursday December 12

Duwanna Moore Show 10:30
Club Cheeks, 232 S. Broadway, Green Bay

ROW Benefit
Ken Rhodes Birthday Bash Kick off
Brandys II, 1126 Main Street, Green Bay

Friday December 13

Deadline for Articles for the December 18 issue of The Wisconsin Light

ROW Benefit Show 10:00
Za's 1106 Main Street, Green Bay

Saturday December 14

Cream City Chorus Concert 8:00
Cross Lutheran 1821 N. 16 St., Milwaukee

Kids With AIDS Fund Raiser 10:00
1100 Club, 1100 S. First St. Milwaukee

Fannies Christmas Party
Fannies 200 E. Washington, Milwaukee

Sunday December 15

Wisconsin Light SpotLight Party at Manoeuvres
Raffles, Prizes, Live Performers, the Divine Christmas Show and More, Proceeds to benefit Madison's Homeless Shelters

Boot Camp Holiday Party 3:00 to ???
Boot Camp Saloon, 209 E. National, Mil.

B's Holiday Party and Show Noon & 9:00
B's 1679 S. Second (2nd and Lapham) Mil.

PFLAG Party 5:00
Mama Roux, 1875 N. Humboldt, Mil.

Thursday December 19

Last Day for Toys For Tots
Manoeuvres, 150 S. Blair St., Madison

OPEN DAILY AT 1:00

LIVE DJ FRI & SAT

121 W MAIN MADISON, WI 608-257-5455

Entertainment Guide

APPLETON	LAKE MILLS	MILWAUKEE	MILWAUKEE
Rascals Bar & Grill 702 E. Wisconsin Appleton, WI 54991 954-9262	Cross Roads Bar W6642 Hwy B Lake Mills, WI 53551 648-8457	Continued	Continued
The Pivot Club 4815 W. Prospect Appleton, WI 54915 730-0440	MADISON	Club 219 219 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 271-3732	Triangle 134 E. National Milw, WI 53204 383-9412
DOOR COUNTY	A Room of One's Own Book store 317 W. Johnson Madison, WI 53703 257-7888	1100 Club 1100 S. 1st St. Milw, WI 53204 647-9950	Walkers Point Cafe 1106 S. First St. Milw, WI 53204 384-7999
Black Smith Inn PO Box 220 Baileys Harbor, WI 839-9222	Geraldine's 3052 E. Washington Madison, WI 53704 241-9335	Fannies 200 E. Washington Milw, WI 53204 643-9633	Zippers 819 S 2nd St. Milw, WI 53204 645-8330
Chanticleer Guest House 4072 Cherry Rd Sturgeon Bay 54234 746-0334	Manoeuvres 150 S. Blair Madison, WI 54703 258-9918	In Between 625 S. 2nd St. Milw, WI 53204 273-2693	RACINE
EAU CLAIRE	Praire Garden Bed & Breakfast W13172 Hwy 188 Lodi, WI 53555 1-800-380-8427	Just Us 807 S. 5th St. Milw, WI 53204 383-2233	JoDees 2139 Racine St. Racine, WI 53403 634-9804
The Trading Co. 304 Eau Claire St. Eau, Claire WI 838-9494	R Place 121 W. Main Street Madison, WI 53703 257-5455	Kathy's Nut Hut 1500 W. Scott Milw, WI 53204 647-2673	What About Me? 600 6th St. Racine, WI 53403 632-0171
The Wolfs's Den 302 E Madison EauClaire, WI 54703 832-9237	The Shamrock 117 W Main St. Madison, WI 53703 255-5029	La Cage 801 S 2nd St. Milw, WI 52304 383-8300	ROCKFORD
GREEN BAY	Sunprint Cafe 638 State Street Madison, WI 53703 255-1555	La Perla Restaurant 734 S. Fifth St. Milw, WI 53204 645-9888	SHEBOYGAN
Brandy's II 1126 Main St Green Bay, WI 54301 437-3917	MILWAUKEE	Mama Roux 1875 N. Humboldt Milw, WI 53212 347-0344	Blue Lite 1029 N. 8th St. Sheboygan, 53081 457-1636
Club Cheeks 232 S. Broadway Green Bay, WI 54303 430-9854	Afterwords Books 2710 N. Murray Milw, WI 53211 963-9089	M & M Club 124 N. Water Milw, WI 53202 347-1962	STEVENS POINT
Napalese Lounge 515 S. Broadway Green Bay, WI 54303 432-9646	B's 1579 S 2nd St Milw, WI 53204 672-5580	Rene's Cozy Corner 3500 W Park Hill Milw, WI 53208 933-RENE	The Platwood Club 701 Highway 10W Stevens Point, 54481 341-8862
Sass 840 S. Broadway Green Bay, WI 54304 437-7277	Ball Game 196 S. 2nd Milw, WI 53204 273-7474	S. Water St. Docks 354 E. National Milw, WI 53204 25-9676	SUPERIOR
Za's/Java's 1106 Main St. Green Bay, WI 54301 435-5476	Boot Camp Saloon 209 E. National Milw, WI 53204 643-6900	Station 2 1534 W. Grant Milw, WI 53204 383-5755	JT's Bar 1506 N 3rd St. Superior WI 54880 394-2580
KENOSHA	Cafe Melange 720 N. Old World St. Milw, WI 53203 291-9889	10% Club 4223 W. Fon Du Lac Milw, WI 53216 447-0910	The Main Club 1813 N 3rd Superior, WI 54880 392-1756
Club 94 9001 120th Ave Kenosha, WI 53140 857-9958	Cest La Vie 231 S. 2 St Milwaukee WI 53204 276-8890	This Is It 418 E. Wells Milw, WI 53202 278-9192	Trio Club 820 Tower Superior, WI 54880 392-5373
LA CROSSE			WAUSAU
Cavalier Lounge 114 N 5th St. La Crosse, WI 54601 782-9061			The Mad Hatter 320 Washington Wausau, WI 54401 842-3225

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AMERICAN... Alternative
&
GRILL

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

Saturday, December 14 • 10pm
Christmas Party
Buffet
Drink Specials
Show

Sunday, December 15 • 5pm
PFLAG Holiday Party
Everyone's Invited - Children & Parents
Free Miller Lite
Buffet

Find Out What's Going On

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OUT in Cyberspace

CU-SeeMe Is One of the Best Ways For Gays to Have Fun on the Net

By Garry Convery

Romper bomber stomper boo Tell me, tell me, tell me, do Magic mirror tell me today Have all the Gays had fun at play? I can see AssHunter, AusseMAN, and ButchTopNC, There is ChgoTony, Hot Latin3 and Cowboy too!

And I can CU-SeeMe. If Miss Kim had had access to the internet, she would not have had to look through an empty hoop and pretend to see what fun everyone was having. With a Quickcam and CU-SeeMe software, she may have been in for a bit of a shock.

CU-SeeMe has been developed to allow video conferencing on the net. But, like all good cyber technology, is has been appropriated by Gay men for their own beautifully perverted purposes.

And what fun that is! A better name could very well be "Show me yours-show you mine".

Its primary use for Gay men is to socialize and sexualize both via IRC (Internet Relay Chat) and CU-SeeMe, making it possible to talk and watch at the same time. Gaycuseeme are friendly IRC channels and are usually as large as the other popular Gay channels such as #gaysex or #jackoff.

Since most men are interacting via CU-SeeMe, the IRC channels tend to have correspondingly less talk on them. Using CU-SeeMe software you can have one-to-one on-line video sessions where anything goes, or group session fun and games by using a reflector.

There is #gaycuseeme on the Australian Undernet, which can be accessed through your closest server: au.undernet.org Have a look at their home page on the web at <http://www.tpgi.com.au/users/world/gaycuseeme/>

This site provides information about the channel, the software required, where to get a camera in Australia and links to some of the users' nicks, photos and home pages.

There is, of course much more happening on the global Undernet, as well as on EFNet. There are home pages for the gaycuseeme channels on both IRC networks.

The official Undernet #gaycuseeme WWW page can be found at <http://www.gaycuseeme.com/> There is a lot of information here about the technology, the users, and about reflectors. Access the EFNet #gaycuseeme home page at: <http://www.webwidget.com/gaycuseeme/>

There are of course some rules to follow when using these channels.

Do Be:

- Polite on the channel - if you must argue with someone, do it in a private chat.
- Moderate and tolerant - it will make everyone's time on the channel a lot more fun.
- Prepared for constant sexual advances and pressures to show all.
- A transmitter and not a lurker, it is the best way to have one-to-one fun.

New Website Has Been Set Up for Gay, Bisexual and Lesbian Youth

Chicago—Pride USA, a new national organization formed to help establish Gay youth clubs in the nation's high schools, recently launched its new website to help link Gay high school student and Gay youth on the Internet. The new website is at: www.studentalliance.org/prideusa.htm

The website will serve as a Gay youth "safe space" where Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered and questioning youth can interact with each other and help fight the isolation that many of them feel in their schools, their families and their towns and cities.

In addition, the website provides a link for students who want to help establish a Gay youth group in their high school and are seeking assistance and information in doing so.

Don't Be:

- A nuisance.
- A harasser of other users, there is immediate banning for abusing the rights of others.
- A trader of pictures in kiddy porn channels.
- A basher, a nacker, or a flooder.
- A jerk in front of everyone, you could well get kicked and/or banned.
- A lurker, since there is no gratification back to the transmitter.
- Someone who freezes their image or stays dressed or positions their cameras not to be revealing.
- Someone who goes one-to-one without gaining permission, it is considered very bad manners.

Privacy can be an important issue. It is very easy to screen capture and/or video capture your CU-SeeMe transmissions from both a reflector and a one to one session.

Beware! Anything you do can be recorded without your knowledge or consent. You only have recourse provided by the legal system if someone posts or sells your image without your consent. However, if you are doing this on a public reflector, then you could be construed as publishing into the public domain, which could affect your legal rights. Other uses of your image (in newspapers, on TV, for private exhibition) may be perfectly legal, just as if you were photographed on a nude beach in public.

The bottom line: never do anything that you would not like your Mother to see - on either a one-to-one or a reflector - if you are worried about it. Otherwise, never show your face, or always use one CU nickname for your face while dressed, and another CU nickname while your are nude and never show your face.

Above all CU-SeeMe is fun, an opportunity to take control of new technology and mould it to suit our purposes. So...

Come with me and gallop, and gallop, and gallop. Come with me and gallop on CU-SeeMe today.

Boulevard Theater to Stage Milwaukee Premiere of 'Little Egypt'

Milwaukee—The Boulevard Ensemble will again introduce Milwaukee audiences to challenging and entertaining theater by premiering Chicago playwright Lynn Siefert's dark comedy *Little Egypt* December 19th through January 12th at the Boulevard Theater, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic. Ensemble Artistic Director Mark Bucher will stage the production.

The production will include the talents of Michelle Waide, Jane Hanley, Megan Powell, Robert Kennedy, Jim Gallagher, and Craig Halstead (*Shepherd Express* voted Best Actor of the Year).

Mary Bailey, the Boulevard's Production Stage Manager, will stage manage the production.

Little Egypt paints a portrait of love, lust and romance gone awry in Cairo, Illinois when two waitress sisters and their less than saintly waitress mother pair off (respectively) with the town stud, a nerdy security guard, and an adulterous mayor.

Siefert's odd comedy explores the character's shaky foray into love and trust with a quirky, eccentric humor that neatly dovetails with her compassionate respect for their many, many flaws.

Little Egypt was first staged by Chicago's prestigious Steppenwolf Theatre Company.

For reservations, tickets and other information, call (414) 672-6019.

Tell your friends that you read all about it in *The Wisconsin Light*

The Bar and Club Life of Paris Includes Everything That Will Make You Drool

By Tony Claffey

As expected Gay travelers who tire of London (How can anyone tire of London?), have finally realized that the Euro Tunnel is a quick and easy way to travel with a minimum of discomfort between France and England. No more of those awful delays in airport lounges or queues at Passport Control, just get your ticket, board the train, find a seat and sit back and relax. 3 hours after leaving Waterloo Station in the heart of London, you find yourself at Gard Du Nord right in the heart of Paris.

Paris is a beautiful city no matter what the time of year. You certainly don't have to wait until April to find romance. It's warmer in winter than you might think.

And you certainly don't have to worry about finding the right Gay friendly place to stay if you book your trip through your local Gay or Gay-friendly travel agent.

So pack your favorite guide book, take a map of the city, and go!

One thing worth of note. Paris is a wonderfully easy city in which to get around. For those of you not into walking, taxis are abundant, and the drivers are friendly (sometimes "super friendly"—especially those of Mideastern descent.)

The subway system, like the French themselves, is rational. Unlike just about everything in the French capitol, however, they're not expensive. There's highly colored maps in every station to put you on the right train to take you just about anywhere in town.

If you are intending to give the City of Lights a try then why not include a Thursday? Well known stripper, model and porn star, Marc Anthony, entertains at the Underground at The Queen once a month on a Thursday.

Bar owner and DJ, Troy, bring the American and British sounds to the French capitol. The Queen (next to Les Halles) is a seven nights a week club that opens at 11:30 p.m., closes at 6:00 a.m. and is nicely laid out with a large dance floor, balconies to cruise, and several bars to booze in.

What surprised us was the crowd; we've always thought that the French were stuck up and unfriendly but that isn't the case anymore. We were even offered sips of drinks by passing strangers...and some of them were very cute. We were very grateful as the one drawback in Paris is the price of drinks which generally cost between F50-F60 (about \$5) but if you're buying spirits you get double measure plus the mixer for the price.

The guys are much raunchier in their dress sense than expected and there's a good mixture of types, many skinheads with tattoos and piercings as well as the boys with a fashionable bent.

The club is busy most nights and apart from Marc's Thursday the other night you should attend if you can is on a Sunday - it's definitely a fun day with the musical emphasis on the '80s.

It's not all over when The Queen closes either as you can grab a cab, which are quite inexpensive, and go to L'Enfer on Rue Du Depart which stays open until early afternoon. If you enjoy Trade then you'll probably go for this one. The early morning sessions take place every Saturday and Sunday morning.

Almost everyone who's been to Paris will have at sometime gone to the famous Tea Dance at The Paradise (near Les Halles) on a late Sunday afternoon. It was closed for a couple of weeks recently and every other club in Paris tried, unsuccessfully, to grab the crowd. It's all back to normal now and you can go and feast your eyes on some of the most attractive people in the world. For many Gay guys this is the only club they go to, so you won't find them anywhere else.

If you're not a clubby type then you'll find plenty of bars to keep you interested. Like other great cities there is an enormous variety to suit every taste. Most of them are located in the Marais area close to Les Halles (just get yourself a map).

The newest is Le Cox on Rue Des Archives which is smallish when compared to some bars but is extremely popular. This is one of the few bars in Paris not offering back-room facilities, most of the others unashamedly do like the ever popular Le Bar on Rue De La Ferronnerie which seems to offer just about everything.

Jean-Claude Van Damme

Close by is Banana, which is more for socializing and chatting and is populated by some of the cutest people we've seen. While we were there Jean-Claude Van Damme popped in for a drink accompanied by his bodyguard who is even more

gorgeous than he is - can you believe it?

If you're into leather then the place for you is Transfer on Rue De La Soudiere where you'll find the place heaving late evening. It opens at 11.30pm and stays open until at least 7am.

Not far away is La Reine which has a downstairs bar and small cubicles upstairs. There are several other bars of a similar kind very close by, which we are sure you'll find for yourselves.

Saunas

Paris is also famous for its saunas which are many. The most famous one is probably the I.D.M. in Rue Du Faubourg Monmartre. This one took over when the Continental burned down several years ago and is enormously popular and you area almost certain of a shag. It has a very large gym, saunas, steam room, bar and a great many rest rooms upstairs.

If you prefer a more intimate and friendly sauna then you should try Univers Gym in Rue Des Bons Enfants. Located close to Les Halles in Palais Royale, it is very clean, has a nice sized gym, some cubicles and surprise, surprise a back-room. But why oh why do they show films about underwater exploration on their giant video screen downstairs?

Writing Contest Held By Council for Wisconsin Writers

Madison—Entries are now being accepted for the 1996 annual awards competition of the Council for Wisconsin Writers, Inc., (CWW). Prizes totalling \$8,000 are offered in 11 categories along with the Lynde and Harry Bradley Major Achievement Award.

The awards are for works published or drama produced in 1996.

For entry forms or information about award categories, send a SASE to: CWW, P.O. Box 55322, Madison, WI 53705.

From Outer Space to Cyberspace, Gay Entrepreneur Soars to Success

New York—While working for NASA, Bill Pinyon envisioned a Gay website that would provide not only erotica, but news, current events, reviews, travel information, forums—you name it.

Pinyon met two other NASA employees who shared the same vision. The result was Badpuppy (<http://badpuppy.com>).

As a result of Badpuppy's enormous success, Pinyon officially resigned from NASA in May of this year. He now has 22 employees (Gay, Bi and straight), over 11,000 subscribers, and tons of contributors.

"I insist my employees set priorities for their lives, placing themselves first, their families second, and Badpuppy third," Pinyon said.

Badpuppy is so important to Pinyon that he gives new meaning to the concept of customer service. For example, each email that is sent to Badpuppy (approx. 1000 per day) is answered within 24 hours. He takes subscribers' opinions very seriously.

As for the future, Pinyon sees Badpuppy delving into the world of virtual reality. One day soon, Badpuppy subscribers will touch and interact with the bevy of men who are served up on the site. Sound too bizarre to be true? Give him time. With his know-how and drive, cybersex will become a reality.



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Bill Meunier

A very special World AIDS Day show was held at Manoeuvres on Sunday December 1. Produced by Z & L Productions, all proceeds from the event were donated to Camp Heartland and the AASPIN foundation. Shown above are some of the fine performers who donated their time. They are (L-R) Cass Marie Domino, Mitch, Trisha Reese, Kitty Ligore, and Sommers Eve. Also performing were Kelly and Valerie. Dusty Sass who was on hand was very impressed with the quality of the performances.

SAY CHEESE!



OUT & About



Bill Meunier

Mama Did Leather with a little help from her friends, the Oberons on Saturday, November 30. The Oberon Leather Club held on of its "Kids With AIDS" Fund raisers at the popular East Side neighborhood bar. As usual Mama went all out inviting all her friends and the bar was packed throughout the evening. As the pictures above show a good time was had by all. Congrats to Mama and her "boys and girls" and to the Oberons. The next and last Oberon "Kids With AIDS" fund raiser for this year will be held at the 1100 Club on Saturday December 14.



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OUT on Video

'French Twist' is Well Worth Seeing, But Leave Your Ideas of Gender Roles Behind

By Kathy Sennott

Just so that the reader has a bit of knowledge, this reviewer has never reviewed anything in this paper before. My background is 25 years, approximately, of study and work in the area of school psychology. What I'm looking for in this or any other movie, is what the characters are doing, saying and feeling, and how all that impacts on the total picture of the character's experience.

Given that background, I will also admit that I cheated and read the review of this movie in *Sight and Sound*, a British magazine (Britain has three outstanding film magazines for which there is no match in America. The two others are *Premier* and *Empire*. All of them are available at AfterWords).

Actor/director and also one of the featured actresses in this movie is Josiane Balasko. Her credits in terms of the many areas of film are extensive and of high quality. This is the fourth movie that she has written, directed and has also played as one of the key actresses. Her credentials strongly suggest an excellent background in many films involving comedy which she has mastered to the extent of being able to utilize comedy to present her

message.

In this movie she plays the very masculine type woman who becomes attracted to a young married woman. She attempts to make the point that we are all able to engage in truly unique relationships which feature many aspects of our characters that do not fit into the rigid role models and role behaviors dictated by society.

Balasko asks that we come to the movie prepared to view it with an attitude of tolerance and also with the idea that perhaps, in each of us, there is a capacity for many forms of love. In an age in which families are usually presented as mostly dysfunctional, Balasko offers us the possibility of developing multiple relationships with entirely new behaviors that could possibly even be call utopic.

That is not to say that she does not rely heavily at times on the use of stereotypes to indicate to the audience how they themselves probably would look and feel in the same situation. She does. But she asks us to rise above these limits and reach out for that unique form of relationship which, even at the end of the movie, suggests that there are yet steps beyond that we can take.

If you as the audience are prepared to be tolerant and rise above the narrow limits of our gender roles, you should find this movie leading you into a wider scope of possibilities in human relationships.

The Plot

The husband in a philanderer. But he has no real intention of leaving his wife even though the bedroom is boring.

The wife is very happy with her role as a housewife and mother. She loves her hus-



From left to right, Josiane Balasko, Victoria Abril and Alain Chabat in Josiane Balasko's "French Twist."

band, but is not about to accept any more of his philandering ways. Her "salvation" comes in the form of a masculine woman.

While she may, indeed, be masculine in appearance, she has a gentle, loving side to which the wife eventually responds.

As the movie progresses, the wife finds herself torn between her female lover and her husband. Eventually, she decides to remain with her husband who, she hopes, has learned his lesson. What she does not know is that her female lover and her husband have had an affair.

French Twist is billed as a comedy, but it hardly fits my definition of comedy. There is just too much "front brain" activity going on. So what then makes it "comic?"

According to *Sight and Sound*, the film is comic in the modern tradition of the café theatre. This type of comedy stipulates that the humor is used to engage the audience in the awareness of issues of the day through derision and naturalistic performances. In that sense the film is indeed comedic.

This reviewer has one slight problem with the film; that is the fact that the theme of a baby as a major solution to almost any adolescent and adult problem seems to be one of the "problems" of today. I wonder at the attempt made to introduce the boundless possibility of personal relationships by using a baby.

French Twist is well worth seeing, but as I have said, to fully enjoy it and gain the most from what Balasko is trying to say, you will have to suspend your idea of gender role and put in its place a tolerance for new ways, new ideas.

French Twist is now available to rent at your favorite video store; Video Adventures and Video West in Milwaukee, and Four Star Video Heaven in Madison.

HAWAII

Continued from Page 1

challenging Bronster's ruling.

Bronster's ruling means that only a "simple majority" from the "yes" and "no" ballots count in determining whether there should be a convention. Herbert Takahashi who filed the Union law suit disputed that reasoning.

Takahashi said the language in the constitution referring to the question of convening a constitutional convention uses the words "ballots cast," as distinguished from "votes cast" or "votes tallied." He added "And we believe that use of the word (ballots cast) communicates very clear intent that you must count all the ballots."

A Majority?

When the language was adopted in the first Constitutional Convention in the 1950s, Takahashi said, the framers used the words "votes tallied" when it came to ratification of specific amendments.

"But when it came to the calling of a constitutional convention, they used the words

"ballots cast," he said. There is a "clear distinction" between adopting a specific amendment or calling for a convention, he said.

"They couldn't win in Court, they couldn't win in the State Legislature so now they try this. So much for trusting the system and playing by the rules."

The constitution also requires that a majority of ballots cast be in the "affirmative," Takahashi said. The same section, spelling out rules for adoption of revisions, required at least 50 percent of the total vote cast in an election, he said.

"In our view, the election officer should not have excluded the votes for those voters who decided to defer to other voters, in effect. If they had not cast a ballot it would be a whole different question. But they decided they were unclear which way they wanted to go and it must be resolved as the framers intended."

Question Is Critical

The question of who is right is important.

In a 1993 decision the Hawaiian Supreme Court ruled that the failure to issue marriage licenses to Same Sex couples violated the State Constitution's protections against Sex Discrimination. The court ordered a new trial of a suit filed by two Lesbian and one Gay couple who sued over the State's denial of their marriage licenses.

Because of the strongly worded Supreme Court opinion, it is expected to rule in favor plaintiffs when their lawsuit reaches it again.

A new Constitution formed at a new convention would in all probability prohibit Same Sex marriage, in effect making the lawsuit moot. Bronster as Attorney General is charged with opposing Same Sex marriage.

Marriage Case Continues

Ironically a lower court decision on the Hawaiian Marriage case is expected to be issued within a few days. In presenting their arguments to that court, the plaintiffs said that Gays and Lesbians were, entitled to the same rights enjoyed by Heterosexuals including the right to marry. Bronster's office argued that allowing Same Sex marriages would pose a threat to children.

The referendum and potential convention may engage in a race with the Marriage case. Both sides have stated they will appeal an adverse ruling to the Hawaiian Supreme Court. That Court would not hear an appeal until 1998.

Meanwhile unless the Hawaiian Supreme Court overrules Bronster, the process of selecting delegates to ConCon will get underway. Under the law the delegates would have to be chosen by the voters during the next General Election which would take place in 1998. The Convention must then be held within five months of the 2000 election. Voters would then approve or reject it during that election.

Time Table Uncertain

Mindful of the Same Sex Marriage case, conservatives want to move up the dates. The State Legislature does have the right to call for a special election for delegates. If it does so the new constitution could be submitted to the voters during the 1998 election.

That could open up the prospect of a flood of Gays and Lesbians trying to get married while it is still legal. What would happen to those marriages if the new constitution outlaws them after they have been performed is anyone's guess. It could also open up the prospect of other states refusing the recognize these marriages.

To some the prospect of a new constitution smacks of changing the rules in the middle of the game. As one observer put it, "They couldn't win in Court, they couldn't win in the State Legislature so now they try this. So much for trusting the system and playing by the rules."

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New Yale Study Shows that Needle Exchange Programs are Effective in Fighting HIV

Hartford, CN—Critics who oppose distribution of free hypodermic needles and syringes to drug users are attacking a program that saves Connecticut taxpayers millions of dollars as well as human lives, health officials say.

A Waterbury, Connecticut state senator and town officials in Windham have called for an end to the program, which allows ad-

dicts to trade in their used needles for clean ones.

The Windham Board of Selectmen said it opposes the program because of the many discarded needles that were found in parks and on local streets this summer.

State Sen. Thomas F. Upson, R-Waterbury, cited the Windham situation, in which a toddler reportedly was injured by a discarded needle.

"I've always been against it," Upson said. "Drugs are illegal. Why are we promoting the use of drugs?"

Upson called the needle exchange "naive." He said money should instead be spent to teach parents about the dangers of illegal drugs.

But Yale University researcher Robert Heimer disagrees. The needle exchange programs in Connecticut and in cities around the country help health officials identify addicts and get them into drug rehabilitation, he said.

Studies made nation wide of needle exchange programs have shown they inhibit the spread of AIDS among addicts who would otherwise be sharing contaminated

with a limit of 10 needles at one time. When the program guidelines are being followed, Heimer said, it means there will be fewer discarded needles because the addicts save them for trade-in.

Weinstein said the problem in Windham came about because the local organization administering the program wasn't following the guidelines.

"They were handing out more needles than they were getting from the addicts," she said.

She said the situation has been corrected and all needle exchange programs in the state are being carefully monitored. "Everybody is very aware of the situation, I assure you," she said.

Weinstein and Heimer said it would be terrible if the state were to close down the needle exchange program.

"If you want to increase the rate of AIDS and hepatitis in the state I can't think of a better way than to phase out the needle exchange program," Heimer said.

needles.

Heimer, a molecular biologist, helped initiate New Haven's needle exchange pilot program in 1990. He estimated the program has prevented more than 100 drug addicts in the city from becoming HIV-positive, with a savings of about \$100,000 a year for each case avoided.

The state Department of Public Health has funded needle exchange programs in Bridgeport, Danbury, Hartford, New Haven, Stamford and Windham County since 1992.

The state currently spends \$404,000 on the program. Beth Weinstein, director of the health department's AIDS office, said the money is very well spent.

"The program has significantly reduced the sharing of needles among addicts," she said. A study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed that 71 percent of Connecticut drug users were sharing their used needles in 1991. By June 1995, that figure was down to just 15 percent, Weinstein said.

In Connecticut, addicts can get a clean needle for each used needle they turn in,

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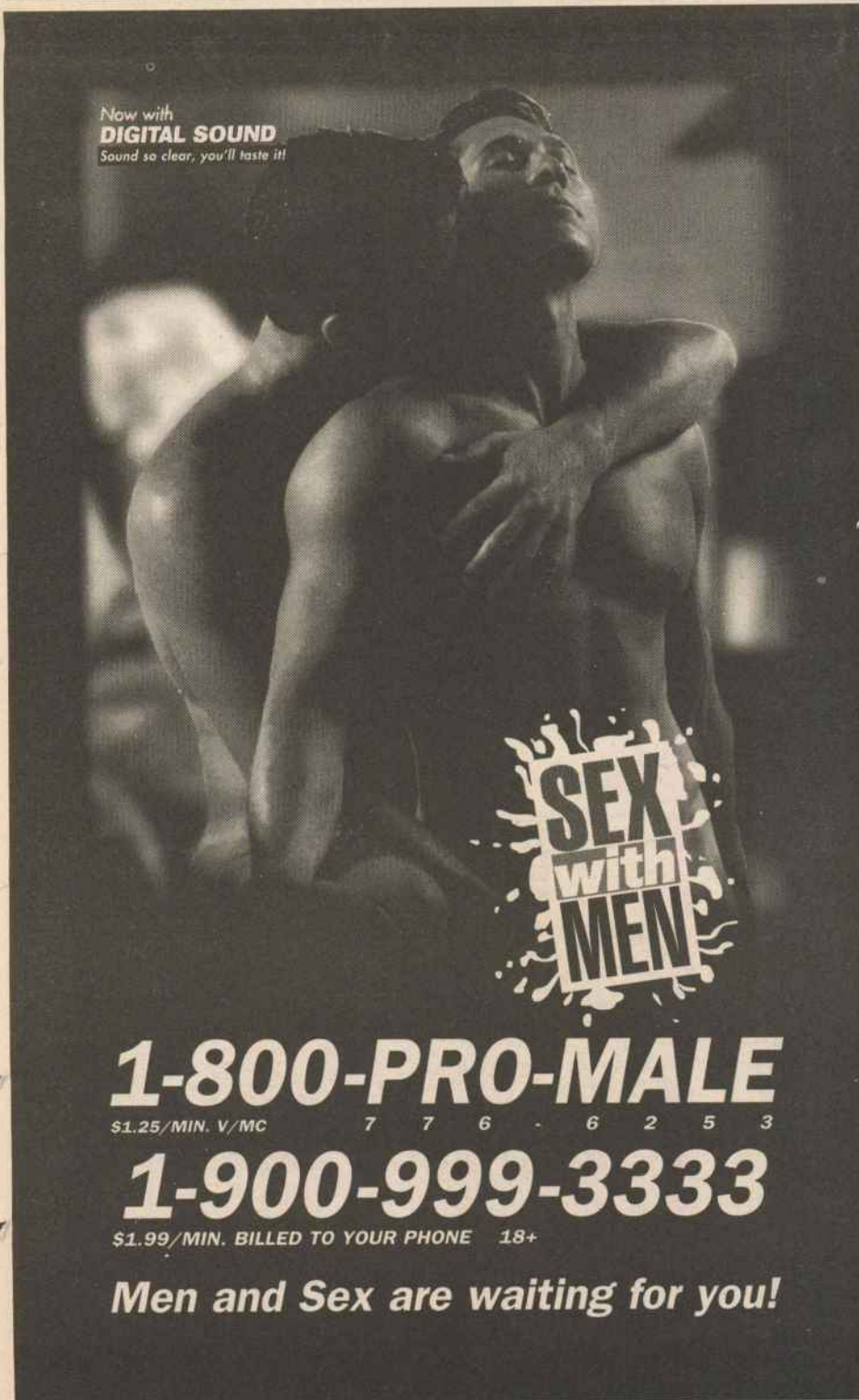
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The Epidemic of Prison Rape and the Spread of HIV; Breaking Silence

By Keith Clark

A first-degree murder trial in Phoenix, Arizona underscores many of the complexities and conundrums in the nation's prison systems. It is a difficult story, layered with staggering estimates of the numbers of male-male rapes that routinely go on and the spread of HIV at alarming rates.

It also plays out, year after year, against a political-social background of an America that is terrified by rising crime rates and demanding more and more criminals be sent to prisons for longer periods of times in jails that can be ill afforded in states already seeking every way possible to cut budgets.

But it is ultimately a story that, the longer it is ignored, will demand an ever higher price - in medical treatment of people infected with HIV and ex-cons paroled back into society after spending years in prisons where they learned nothing except that sex and violence go together.

Michael Edward Simmons, 23, is on trial in Pima County Superior Court in Phoenix for the October 6, 1994, killing of Carl Wayne Howard, 25. Howard was strangled to death in the cell he had moved into with Simmons at Arizona State Prison in Tucson just 15 hours earlier.

Simmons has admitted that he killed his prison cellmate, but he has pleaded not guilty to the murder charge, claiming he acted in self defense because Howard had made unwelcome sexual advances after telling Simmons that he was HIV-positive. At the time, Simmons was serving a 30-year sentence for kidnapping and armed robbery; Howard was serving a life sentence for murder.

Simmons told authorities that after Howard had moved into the cell with him by mutual agreement, Howard had said he wanted to have oral sex with him and the two men began discussing HIV.

Howard, Simmons said, produced test results indicating he was in fact HIV-positive, and continued to press Simmons to have sex. Finally, Simmons says, his cellmate came toward him with a razor blade.

Simmons, a junior high school wrestler, says he put Howard in a headlock to subdue him, but the other man suddenly went limp and never regained consciousness.

Another Arizona State Prison inmate, Christopher Holden, told a prison investigator shortly after the killing that his cellmate had advised Simmons to say Howard had made sexual advances and that the man was infected with HIV. But in court he said his statement to state corrections officials had been a lie.

Prison officials say they have no records of whether Simmons or Howard was in fact HIV-positive.

While a court will have to ferret out what is true and false in Simmons' murder trial, prison experts and prisoner advocate groups agree that it represents a typical set of problems endemic in the nation's penal institutions, where sex and violence form an increasingly common combination. In Carl Wayne Howard's case, the mixture proved fatal.

Prison inmates are undoubtedly the most controlled population group imaginable, far more rigidly regimented than even military personnel, very little documented information is available about the daily realities of life behind bars - not even the causes of many prison deaths.

In 1993, for example, the federal government reported that 84 inmates were killed in U.S. prisons. But the number may be meaningless since, according to the same Justice Department statistics, of the 2,431 inmates who died in state prisons that year, 200 were also listed as "unspecified cause." In other words, nearly 10 percent of the prison deaths that year were entirely unexplained.

So it may not be too surprising that when it comes to sex in prisons, even less is known. The largely male heterosexual inmate population isn't exactly forthcoming about discussing sexual encounters with men in their institutions—other inmates, guards and prison staff. And prison officials, fearful they may look incompetent or permissive, often downplay or dismiss the issue of sex behind bars altogether.

But in one of the best studies available, a 1994 survey by Cindy Struckman-Johnson, a psychology professor at the University of South Dakota, suggests that rape is an enormous problem in America's prison systems that can only be ignored at our own risk, above and beyond the damage it does both physically and mentally to inmates.

Struckman-Johnson surveyed 1,793 inmates at four Nebraska facilities: the Nebraska State Penitentiary, the Lincoln Correctional Center, the Omaha Correctional Center and the Women's Center.

According to her study, 22 percent of the men and 7 percent of the women said they

had been coerced into sex of one kind or another while incarcerated.

Those numbers would be shocking in almost any state, but Struckman-Johnson says they are probably lower in Nebraska's prisons than they would be in more-populous, urbanized states such as California, New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey or Illinois.

"I'm sure the rates are much higher in other places," she said. "I think you've got a greater number and harder type of inmate [there]."

There are more than 1.3 million men of all ages behind bars in the U.S. If Struckman-Johnson's figures are accurate, that works out to more than 290,000 men and boys who are sexually assaulted in this country's prisons each year. Many of them, of course, are repeatedly attacked so there's no way to accurately estimate the actual numbers of male-male rapes that take place in prisons, but no one who's studied the issue of prison rape believes the figure can be less than half-a-million male-male rapes annually.

For comparison, according to Justice Department figures for 1994, there were 102,096 forcible rapes reported in the U.S. in 1994 with an estimated 77 out of every 100,000 females in the country reported as rape victims.

If Struckman-Johnson's data is extrapolated to the U.S. male prison population, it would mean 22,000 out of every 100,000 male inmates are rape victims.

There's not much agreement about why heterosexual prisoners rape other men behind bars. Stephen Donaldson of the Stop Prisoner Rape organization, said in a 1993 *New York Times* article that in most prisons "rape is an entrenched tradition, considered by prisoners a legitimate way to 'prove their manhood' and to satisfy sexual needs and the brutal desire for power."

But Struckman-Johnson doesn't agree that prison rape has anything to do with power. "It's a sexual release," she said. "It's simply a way of having sex in prison. If it was a power thing, they'd just be beating people up."

She also found that the victims of the assaults tend to be younger (between 20 and 34 years of age), white, physically smaller, and newer inmates. On the other hand, the assailants tend to be larger men who have been convicted of violent crimes and are serving longer sentences. They have been in prison long enough to "work the system" and know how to avoid getting caught.

The men who are assaulted are nearly helpless in prison because the perpetrators have all the advantages. They have plenty of time to plan their attacks, they can get help from other inmates, and they can stage attacks almost anywhere, Struckman-Johnson said.

In some cases, as in the killing at Arizona State Prison above, prisoners go after a new cell mate within hours of their assignments. And, Struckman-Johnson says, the perpetrators usually get away with the attacks because the prisons have limited staff and can't watch everything. "They just don't have the person-power to do it," she says. "There might be as few as three or four guards watching over several hundred of them in the yards. It's an extremely big problem for prison administrations to deal with."

That was, at least in part, why Randy Payne died after he was sent to the Terrell Unit, one of the most modern - and most deadly - prisons in Texas.

During a 2-hour period of August 5, 1994, shortly after he entered the institution, Payne was raped and beaten by as many as 20 other inmates. The attack started in the prison showers where a group of inmates demanded sex of the 23-year-old in exchange for "protection." Payne resisted and he was savagely attacked, beaten with a padlock knotted inside a sock, as prisoners raped him repeatedly. Finally, an inmate with steel-toed boots kicked him in the temple, killing him with a fatal blow.

It happened without prison guards putting a stop to it because other inmates had caused a distraction in one of the recreation rooms that had kept most of the available officers on duty in that section of the prison preoccupied elsewhere while Payne was being attacked in the showers.

No one even remotely connected with America's prisons ever says there are enough guards and staff to cope with the difficult inmate population and environment.

But perhaps equally problematic is the pervasive denial that exists among many prison officials.

For example, Steven King, the director of planning and research with Nebraska's corrections department, says Struckman-Johnson's survey results aren't accurate and that many of the inmates who responded



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probably lied.

"We see a lot of inmates trying to manipulate the system, and a survey is an opportunity to do that," King said. "Internally, we just don't see the level of sexual assault

at the level in that study."

He said the number of rape victims was less than 1 percent and that prison staff take measures to prevent sexual assaults. "Our prisons are safe and secure," he says.

Now, At Long Last, I Can Proudly Say It: "I Am a Bisexual"

Commentary by Bill Clearlake

I'm Bisexual.

When I say that to people in the course of a conversation the reaction is usually a blank, slightly embarrassed look followed by a sudden change of subject.

Being Bisexual has meant being misunderstood, mistrusted, even feared. I've been told that I'm confused or going through a phase. I've been told that I don't really know what I want, or that I'm just trying to be different - or following a fad. The fact is that all of those things have been true at different times in my life.

When, as a pre-teen, I developed a crush on a boy I met at YMCA camp, I was confused. I was having feelings that I had never seen demonstrated on television or talked about in school or at home except in the most negative of terms. Was I a homo? A fag? One of "those"? I liked girls too.

It was confusing. I went into denial for a while. I shoved all those strange feelings aside. I swallowed them back to the point of losing part of myself. I became depressed.

In my late teens I used drugs, ran with a gang, failed school. But I wasn't a fag - I wasn't. I couldn't be. I had girlfriends. I was tough. I carried weapons. I got in trouble. No sissy me.

Later, I had friends who pretended to be Bisexual because they were into David Bowie and thought he and bisexuality were cool. I went along with the gang, and the fad, but I never let on that I wasn't pretending. I was just pretending. Of course I was. I was no fag.

Of course, I had a male lover at the time. He was a neighbor. He liked to go down on me in the woods behind his house. He kept telling me that I was Gay. I kept telling him I wasn't. I couldn't be. He knew I loved him, but I wouldn't allow myself to admit it (if you're still out there, I'm sorry).

But the denial was just a phase.

It was years before I came back to myself. First I had to leave my hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and breathe the freer air of San Francisco, California. I was 17 years old. The year was 1973.

After a couple of years, I met a guy I'll call Mat. We became close friends. I had a girl-

be free to explore my sexuality. I was afraid of where that freedom might take me. I didn't know what I wanted.

Years later I met a guy at a party - I'll call him Jontelle. I really liked him. He seemed to like me. We became a couple. I introduced Jontelle to my friends and family. He was beautiful - trim and dark and handsome. My mother liked him. My father friend at the time - I'll call her Marsha. Mat liked Marsha. I liked Mat. One day the three of us ended up in bed together. In the course of events, Mat and I got physical. I felt very comfortable being with both sexes.

This, for me, was normal, healthy sexuality - expressing my affection and desire for people I cared for - and these people were each male and female. I felt at home.

Mat, however was at square one. He was confused, scared. I remember him saying, "Hey, that was cool, man, but I'm no fag, alright?" We remained "just friends." I loved him though, and I wanted him to stay with us. I also didn't - how would I explain it? I wanted to declare my Bisexuality to the world. The thought terrified me. I wanted to wasn't surprised to find out that I was Queer.

I was out - at 32 years of age. Everyone I cared about knew that I had a male lover. I waved him like a flag - declaring my freedom. I used him like a token, showing him off to anyone and everyone, whether they cared to know or not. I was different. I knew I was different and I was going to make damned sure that everyone in the whole world knew it too.

Jontelle left me after a few months, but my deep, dark secret was out - to me. Through him, I came out to myself and finally accepted me for what I was... am.

I'm Bisexual. I love men and women. It's confusing sometimes, and sometimes I don't know what I want. We all have days like that. There are times when being Bisexual will be more or less popular. I'll probably rise and fall with those tides like everyone else.

What I know for sure, and what will never change is that I have at least double the capacity to love and be loved as most people, and for that I am very grateful... and very lucky.



(Left to Right) Russ (Vincent Gallo), a wanna-be tough guy attempts to show Sid (William Forsythe) that a "momentary shift in lifestyle" may be the solution to their unemployment problems in "Palookaville," which is now playing at Milwaukee's Downer Theater.

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