



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

The Wisconsin Light

A CHRISTMAS ROSE E'RE BLOOMING

BY LERRY BOUGHNER

LOUIE WENT OUT ON THE WIDE FRONT PORCH. IT WAS LATE OCTOBER IN THE MOUNTAINS. A BRIGHT AFTERNOON SUN FILTERED THROUGH THE LAST OF THE LEAVES OF THE SYCAMORES THAT LINED THE RED BRICK STREET. THE AIR WAS WARM AND REDOLENT OF SMOKY SMELLS, A SWEET OFFERING TO THE COMING OF HALLOWE'EN.

IN HIS EARLY TWENTIES, LOUIE WAS OF MEDIUM HEIGHT AND SLENDER. WITH HIS THICK VERY DARK BROWN HAIR, HIS LIGHT, WARMLY OLIVE COMPLEXION AND HIS BIG, SOFT AMBER EYES, HE WAS A LATINO DREAM WALKING. THOUGH HE WAS A SHY YOUNG MAN AND RESERVED IN MANNER, HIS SMILE COULD LIGHT UP ROOMS.

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News From The Nation



San Francisco Boy Scouts Revise Gay Policy

San Francisco-AP- The Boy Scouts' San Francisco-area chapter has adopted a more lenient "don't ask, don't tell" policy towards Gays, a move that could return it nearly \$500,000 in annual funding.

The national Boy Scouts organization opposes Gay members and leaders. The policy of the Bay Area Council of the Boy Scouts does not call for expulsion unless the Scout or leader engages in public sexual conduct.

The policy was passed in an August meeting and marked "confidential (and) not intended for public release." **The San Francisco Examiner** reported on the policy Tuesday, December 10th.

The Bay Area guidelines forbid Scout officials from investigating a member's or a leader's sexual orientation.

"The Boy Scouts of America does not ask prospective members about their sexual preference, nor do we check on the sexual orientation of boys who are already in scouting," the local council's policy says.

Barnes said each council is allowed to set policies independently. "We've communicated with the national office that this is our policy interpretation, (and) they said, 'OK,'" he said.

A spokesman at Boy Scouts headquarters in Irving, Texas, said the national policy is unchanged.

In 1992, the United Way cut off nearly \$500,000 in annual funding to seven San Francisco Bay area councils because of the Scouts' anti-Gay policies. Several major corporations also cut off funding.

Unidentified sources told **The San Francisco Examiner** that the Scouts were preparing a funding request for the United Way and that it had a good chance of being accepted.

School Board Wrestles With Gay Club Issue

Anchorage, AK-AP- The question of whether a club for Gay and Lesbian students should be allowed at Dimond High School generated electronic mail from Outside to Anchorage School Board members, and passionate testimony pro and con. But the board made no change in district policy.

School district attorney Howard Trickey advised the board that it should allow the Dimond High club, called the Gay/Straight Alliance, if it allows any student clubs not directly tied to academic offerings.

Trickey told the board federal law allows clubs to be banned if they're disruptive to education, but at the same time, the district has a legal obligation to prevent harassment, including harassment of Gay and Lesbian students.

Board member Kathi Gillespie, who had asked the board to discuss its clubs policy, said she agrees the district can't exclude the Dimond club. But, she said, she still is concerned about the club and about possible influences of national pro-Gay groups on its agenda.

The federal law governing clubs gives districts that accept federal money two choices: They can limit high school clubs to those directly related to academics; or, if they decide to allow non-academic clubs, they cannot deny any club based on a group's philosophical, political or religious viewpoints.

Domestic Partners Benefits Up For Vote in L.A.

Los Angeles-AP- A proposed domestic partners benefit plan for the nation's second-largest school district is scheduled to come up for a vote next month.

The Los Angeles Unified School District agreed Monday to postpone consideration of the proposal that has divided residents in the district and the board's first openly Gay president. Jeff Horton supports the plan to extend health benefits to domestic partners of current employees.

The Health and Welfare Benefits Committee has recommended implementing the plan, expected to cost \$3.7 million annually, in January 1998. The district's larger unions support the plan.

But critics have been vocal. At a meeting last week, a Right Wing resident gave his oft-repeated speech about "sodomites," which he tends to aim at Horton. Another person shouted that too many "homosexual programs" have been funded by the district.

Horton said the insurance proposal is long overdue, noting the city and county have already approved similar measures.

South Africa Grants Gay Equality

Johannesburg, South Africa-AP- A new constitution guaranteeing equal rights in South Africa and outlawing capital punishment finally won approval today from the Constitutional Court.

President Nelson Mandela signed the 150-page constitution, one of the most liberal in the world, into law on December 10—International Human Rights Day.

The new constitution includes a Bill of Rights that protects Gay rights and guarantees equal rights for all, a far cry from the discrimination and repression of the apartheid era.

Mandela and his governing African National Congress have hailed the constitution as a symbol of South Africa's new working democracy and a law for all its people, whatever race, gender or sexual orientation.

In prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, the new constitution opens the way for same-sex marriage. Same-sex marriages have already taken place unofficially in South Africa, but there has yet to be a court case to determine their legal status.

Clinton Claims Progress in AIDS Fight

Washington, DC-AP- Two days after the commemoration of World AIDS Day, the Clinton administration pledged to keep pressing to stop the spread of the virus that causes AIDS.

"We'll continue to fight for better and more affordable prevention strategies, vaccines" and other products that can fend off the HIV virus, Vice President Al Gore said Tuesday, December 3rd, during a photo-taking session in the Oval Office. He was joined by administration officials who briefed President Clinton on progress in the AIDS fight.

Clinton, who deferred to Gore because of severe hoarseness, said only that he was pleased with progress made against AIDS during his first term and added, "I'm determined to keep pressing until we get a vaccine and ultimately a cure."

The U.N. agency on AIDS reported last week that the global death toll from AIDS is accelerating, with one-fourth of all deaths occurring within the past year. So far this year, 3.1 million people have been infected with HIV.

AIDS is now the fourth leading killer of American women ages 25-44, and two-thirds were infected through sex.

6,000 To Get Expensive AIDS Treatment

Tallahassee, FL-AP- The state's share of the federal AIDS Drug Assistance Program will double next year but still won't be enough to give a new treatment that's both promising and expensive to all who need it.

The treatment costs at least \$10,000 a year per patient. Those not covered by Medicaid or private insurance or getting medication through some other specific program will be eligible for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

Florida's slice of the program will increase in April from \$13 million to \$26 million. But that probably won't be enough to cover Florida's AIDS expenses. Some estimates place the cost of all the state's AIDS programs at \$58 million a year, if, as expected, word of the funding spreads and more patients come forward.

An estimated 65,000 to 100,000 people in Florida have the virus that causes AIDS. Until now, the best option for AIDS sufferers who couldn't afford protease inhibitors was to seek donations from drug companies under so-called compassionate-use programs.

Denver Sued Over Domestic Partner Benefits

Denver, CO-AP- Making good on a promise made earlier, two Denver residents have sued the city alleging that providing insurance benefits to same-sex partners of city employees is an improper use of tax revenue.

The lawsuit was filed on Tuesday, December 10th, against Denver by Paul Schaefer and Irene Tader, Fundamentalists Christians, who said they object to their property and sales taxes being used to pay for such benefits.

They seek a Denver District Court order barring the expanded health benefits from going into effect in January.

Their attorney, James Rouse, said the ordinance violates state laws governing insurance and illegally attempts to redefine family relationships "by casting a homosexual as a spouse."

"As taxpayers they feel this is a bad move for the city because tax dollars spent on that won't be available for other things," Rouse said. "They are also concerned that the cost of insurance may skyrocket or that insurance carriers may drop Denver altogether."

Schaefer had warned the city council when he spoke against the measure in September. "If you pass this, we'll take it to court and it will be tied up for three to four years," he said.

Black Churches Urged to Help Fight AIDS

Oklahoma City-AP- Black churches must join forces to educate their communities about the dangers of AIDS and the need to practice safe sex, Dr. Joycelyn Elders said Saturday.

Elders, the former surgeon general, told a gathering at Mount Carmel Baptist Church that one out of every 350 black men is infected with the HIV virus, compared to one of every 800 white men and one of every 650 Hispanic men.

Among women, one of every 1,000 black women is infected, compared to one of every 15,000 white women, she said.

Besides education, Elders emphasized the use of condoms and providing clean needles to drug addicts as deterrents to transmitting the disease.

President Clinton appointed her to become the nation's top doctor, but fired her in 1994 after she was criticized for remarks about masturbation as an element of human sexuality.

Elders pointed to her willingness to speak about "unmentionables," which eventually got her dismissed.

"I said I felt masturbation was a normal part of human sexuality—that 90 percent of men masturbate, 80 percent of women masturbate and the rest lie," Elders said.

Elders denied she had encouraged teaching masturbation, as was widely reported, but had only acknowledged it as a means of preventing unsafe sex.

"Nobody needs to teach anybody the how to," she said. "God taught us how to."

Court to Hear Gay Child Custody Case

Raleigh, NC-AP- The state Supreme Court has agreed to hear a child custody case in Henderson County that involves the rights of same-sex parents.

The court on Friday, December 6, said it would accept the appeal of Carol Pulliam, who wants custody of her two sons ages 8 and 11.

The state Court of Appeals in October returned the children to Pulliam's ex-husband, Frederick Smith of Hendersonville, who is Gay. In a unanimous decision, the judges said there was no evidence that Smith exposed his sons to "improper influences" after his homosexual lover moved into Smith and his sons' home in 1994.

Smith and Pulliam were divorced in 1991 in California. Smith moved to North Carolina and had been the boys' primary custodian. His ex-wife moved to Kansas and she sued for custody when Smith's male partner moved in with Smith. A trial judge in Henderson County had ruled in favor of Pulliam.

Judge Gives Talk Show Murder Up to 50 Years

Pontiac, MI-AP- The man convicted of killing a Gay admirer who revealed a crush on him on "The Jenny Jones Show" will serve at least 20 years in prison before he is eligible for parole, lawyers said.

Judge Francis X. O'Brien on Wednesday, December 4, sentenced Jonathan Schmitz to 25 to 50 years for murdering Scott Amedure. Defense lawyer James Burdick said he'll appeal.

Schmitz shot the 32-year-old Amedure to death three days after they attended the show's taping on March 6, 1995. The show was not aired at the time but was played in court and televised as part of trial coverage.

The case, which drew international attention to the seamy side of daytime talk shows, was also tracked closely by groups concerned about anti-Gay violence. One Gay advocate who attended the trial said the sentence sent the right message because it was at the high end of what the judge could order.

"I don't disagree with counsel that you are suffering some medical illness," O'Brien told Schmitz. But, he added, "You still have to be accountable to society."

Schmitz apologized before being sentenced. Lawyers for both sides said he will serve at least 20 years in prison before he is eligible for parole.

Amedure's family is suing "The Jenny Jones Show" and its owners and distributors—Warner Bros. and Telepictures for \$25 million, claiming negligence.

Game Over for Gay Programmer

San Francisco CA- For inserting unauthorized images of two men kissing in the new computer game SimCopter, Maxis, Inc. fired programmer Jacques Servin last week. The company has stated that it was not an anti-Gay act, but merely a standard response to the "insertion of unauthorized material," in order to maintain Maxis's standard of "creating engaging software the whole family can enjoy."

In addition to the men kissing, Servin also inserted scantily clad men in some of the street scenes, noting that, "There was already a 'bimbo' in this game, but she was just a scantily clad woman. That one was authorized." Servin said that he did it in part to bring attention to the larger issue of the total lack of Lesbian and Gay imagery in computer games. "Overt gratuitous heterosexual content is present in many games," Servin noted, "but I can't think of a single example of Gay or Lesbian content."

African-American Could Be New AIDS Czar

Washington, D.C.- According to White House officials, Phill Wilson, co-founder of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, is the top contender as the new director of the AIDS Policy Council. Wilson was a director of public policy at AIDS Project Los Angeles.

Other possible candidates for the position include Pat Christen, director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Michael Isbell, director of Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York and Jim Graham, executive director of Washington, D.C.'s Whitman-Walker Clinic. Response to the speculation about the candidates has been mixed, while the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has applauded Phill Wilson, other groups, such as ACT UP/DC have expressed the need for someone of higher prominence.

Pope Condemns Same-Sex Marriage

Vatican City-AP- In a clear reference to Gay marriages, Pope John Paul II said Thursday, December 10th, that unions other than traditional male-female marriages threaten the very foundations of society.

He said Roman Catholics must not remain indifferent in the face of attempts to change family law.

"In the last few years, with strong worry, we are witnessing ... a systematic disaffection toward the family, a disaffection that puts under discussion its perennial values," John Paul said.

"With the pretext of giving attention of protecting the family and all families, one forgets that there is a model loved and blessed by God; one denies the specific character of the conjugal relationship of man and woman, diminishing this indissoluble union," the pope said in an address to bishops who head Church commissions on family matters in Latin America.

"At the same time, one tries to introduce other forms of unions of couples contrary to the initial plan of God for the human race. In this way," the pope added, "the rights of the family are turned upside down, threatening society at its very foundations and threatening the future."

The Roman Catholic Church maintains that homosexual activity is sinful. The Vatican in the past has assailed efforts to legalize same-sex marriages.

There has been no specific mention of a recent Hawaii court ruling opening the way for Gay marriages to be recognized there.

Hawaiian Judge Okays Same-Sex Marriage in the State; Decision Put on Hold

Honolulu—Joseph Melillo believes that waiting six years to get married is long enough.

"That's an awfully long engagement," Melillo said Wednesday, December 4th, after a judge put on hold his landmark order of December 3rd, that the state of Hawaii must allow same-sex marriages.

"If (same-sex) couples were allowed to marry and the decision were reversed, the (state) would be left with no remedy," said Circuit Judge Kevin Chang in issuing a stay, which will remain in effect until the state Supreme Court issues another ruling.

"We kind of expected it, but we're not happy with it," said Melillo, who sued along with his partner, Pat Lagon, and two Lesbian couples.

Ninia Baehr and Genora Dancel, two of the plaintiffs in the case, and who now live in Baltimore, stated their exuberance with the ruling.

"Our love made it possible for me and Genora to get through this long legal fight," Baehr said. "I'm looking forward to our love getting us to our wedding on a mountain slope in Maui," she said.

Hawaii Equal Rights Marriage Project attorney Dan Foley, who, along with Evan Wolfson from the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, represented the three couples, said the Supreme Court ruling could come before the end of next year.

Lambda Executive Director Kevin Cathcart said, "This victory is important progress for the civil rights of Lesbians and Gay men in Hawaii and throughout the country. Just as legal protections and recognition that come with civil marriage should be available to everyone regardless of race, religion, and ethnicity, they should be available to everyone regardless of sex or sexual orientation."

Cathcart went on to note that only a generation ago, marriage between whites and African-Americans was illegal in many states.

Lambda Legal Director Beatrice Dohm said, "Without civil marriage, Gay couples often face painful, difficult situations, like being barred from the hospital bedside of a partner in a medical emergency. Lesbian and Gay couples have had no access to the legal, economic, and political protections of

civil marriage that non-Gay couples can take for granted."

Other protections withheld from same-sex couples include access to family health coverage, immigration, divorce, and inheritance rights. Lesbians and Gay men also are denied protection for their children and may lose custody when their partner dies.

Deputy Attorney General Rick Eichor said he plans to appeal within 30 days Chang's ruling that the state failed to show any compelling state interest in denying same-sex couples the right to marry.

Because of that failure, the ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional, the judge said in the first-ever American court ruling allowing same-sex marriage. He ordered the state to begin issuing Gay couples licenses.

The dispute prompted passage of a federal law that was signed by President Clinton in the middle of the night. While the "Defense of Marriage Act" (DOMA) does not ban same-sex marriage, it does discriminate against legally married Gay couples by restricting federal protections and benefits to heterosexual couples.

In addition, 16 states have passed laws denying recognition of same-sex marriages.

Eichor, in seeking the stay, argued that allowing couples to marry immediately would undermine the state's case.

"If hundreds, or even thousands, of Gay marriages take place, the Supreme Court probably won't even hear the appeal," he said.

Following a 20-minute hearing Wednesday, Chang agreed with Eichor that the state would have a dilemma.

Eichor also argued that the three couples who sued for the right to marry would suffer no real harm if their right to marry were delayed.

Foley said he found that argument incredulous. He said his clients already had suffered from delays in the case.

Eichor's appeal will send the case back to the Supreme Court, which in 1993 ruled that the state's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional unless the state can show a compelling interest in continuing it.

Melillo and the other two couples unsuccessfully sought marriage licenses on December 17, 1990, and filed suit against the state on May 1, 1991.



Gathered together to help A fundraiser to help Dick Wagner's bid to become the first openly Gay County Executive in history was held at a private home in Madison on Friday December 6. Among those in attendance were (L-R) Sitting Dan Curd, Openly Gay Alderman Mike Verveer, Joyce Rose, Julia Belt, Donna Biddle. Standing: Margaret Mc Murry, Cynthia Cauthern, Dick Wagner and Denise Matyka. The primary for this race is in February and the general election is in April.

State Rep. Tammy Baldwin Announces Plans to Introduce Same-Sex Marriage Bill

Milwaukee—The decision in Hawaii to permit same-sex marriages brought immediate response. In Wisconsin, State Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) praised the ruling as representing "a victory for families everywhere."

At a news conference held on the steps of the state capitol in Madison, Baldwin pledged to introduce legislation in the upcoming session to recognize same-sex marriages in Wisconsin.

The bill Baldwin plans to introduce would allow same-sex couples to receive all the spousal benefits that heterosexual couples currently receive, including hospital visitation rights, family health insurance privileges, spousal inheritance and tax benefits.

"Gay men and Lesbians want and deserve the right to protect their partners in the context of legally recognized committed relationships. This is a simple matter of justice," Baldwin said.

Bills similar to Baldwin's have been introduced in Nebraska and Texas.

Baldwin said that she did not expect her bill to pass next year. But even introducing the bill will help "educate citizens about anti-Gay discrimination," she said.

"Families are the cornerstone of our society," Baldwin said. "We all have a vested interest in assuring that every family is afforded the same legal rights which serve to promote family stability."

Because the case does not immediately impact same-sex couples in the United States, activists, while praising the ruling, urged a thoughtful and considered response by all.

"We hope that policy makers in Wisconsin will discuss and debate the issue of same sex marriage in a respectful and civil manner," said Scott Evertz, first vice president of the Log Cabin Club of Wisconsin.

"Next session, legislators will have the opportunity to have a balanced debate on the issue of equal access to marriage," said David Stacy, a founding member of Action Wisconsin.

Norah Cashin, president of Action Wisconsin, said, "We can be proud of the work that was done in this case and the dialogue and extensive public education it fostered."

Juliet Brodie, the immediate past president of Action Wisconsin cautioned that "The final fate of same-sex marriages in Hawaii will not be determined until the appeal process is complete."

Trial counsel in Hawaii anticipate that the Hawaiian Supreme Court will take another year to consider the case.

The Milwaukee-based Human Rights League (HRL) issued a press release announcing its support for Baldwin's upcoming same-sex marriage bill. HRL asked "all Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender groups" in the state to "mount an effort of support" for Baldwin's bill.

"It is only fair that committed same-gender couples who live together, sleep together, eat together, love each other, and share every aspect of each other's lives, should have the same rights that married heterosexuals take for granted," said Margaret Flood, HRL co-chair.

Scott D. Gunkel, HRL co-chair, strongly urged the LGBT community to marshal the necessary resources "to take this fight to the final victory."

"Our community should start saving **TO-DAY**" Gunkel said.

Adverse reaction to both the decision in Hawaii and the Baldwin bill was also immediate.

Sen. Scott Fitzgerald, (R-Juneau), said he will propose a constitutional amendment declaring marriage in Wisconsin to be the union of one man and one woman.

"It's time for those in the majority to stand up and say enough is enough," he said.

"Where does this stop? Polygamy?" he asked.

A bill barring same-sex marriages went nowhere in the last legislative session.

Rep. Lorrain Seratti (R-Spread Eagle) has announced that she will again sponsor a bill to prohibit same-sex marriages in Wisconsin and stipulate that same-sex marriages performed in Hawaii or any other state would not be valid in Wisconsin.

Marvin Munyon, president of the Far Right Wing Family Research Institute of Wisconsin denounced both the Hawaii decision and the upcoming Baldwin bill and said his organization would work against it.

"The institution of marriage has been between a man and a woman since the beginning of time," Munyon said.

Cal Thomas, an ultra-conservative who writes a syndicated column for the **Milwaukee Journal** condemned Gay marriage and wrote about how tolerating Gays brought about the "fall of the Roman Empire."

"It would do both Munyon and Thomas good," one Wisconsin Gay activist said, "if they would learn a little history instead of trying to make it up as they go along."

Speaking about the Roman Empire, the activist said, "The Roman Empire lasted a lot longer than the US has been in existence. They must have been doing something right."

St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry Offers Support to Women with HIV/AIDS

Milwaukee—A Time to Share is a spirituality retreat for women living with HIV/AIDS sponsored by The St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry. The retreat, to be held January 17-18, 1997, will be presented by Beth Hancock of the Visiting Nurse Association of Wisconsin, Sr. Diane Barabe, SET Ministry, and Kathryn O'Connor Kuhn of the St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry.

The retreat is designed to help women living with HIV/AIDS explore the role of spirituality in their lives. Meditation, group sharing, music, art, ritual and preparing a meal together will be the tools of this journey of self-exploration and connection with one another.

Participants will gather after 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 17th, and conclude on Saturday, January 18th by 3:30 p.m. Overnight accommodations are limited, so commuters are both welcome and needed.

For further information or to make a reservation, call The St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry at (414) 259-4664. There is no fee for participation, but enrollment is limited.

Support Groups for Women

The St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry sponsors support groups for women infected with HIV. The groups meet on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month (no meeting December 25th), from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The purpose of these groups is to provide a safe place where confidential conversation can take place and supportive connections can be made.

The groups are facilitated by staff and trained volunteers of the St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry.

The groups meet at St. Camillus Campus—Court East, 10100 W. Bluemound Road.

For more information and/or to register, please call Kathryn O'Connor Kuhn at (414) 259-4664. Transportation and childcare can be arranged if you provide at least 48 hours advance notification.

Court Ruling on Same-Sex Marriage Causes Nationwide Media Flurry

Milwaukee—A media flurry followed Hawaii Circuit Court Judge Kevin S.C. Chang's December 3rd ruling in which he found that the state had failed to show compelling evidence why same-sex couples should not be granted legal marriage.

The "Baehr v. Miike" battle was far from over, though. The next day a stay was ordered until the decision is appealed to the state Supreme Court.

Regardless, the story hit the mainstream media in a big way. For example, it was covered by the Milwaukee electronic media and the major print media as well.

Nationally, it was the lead story on CBS "Evening News," with ample coverage on both ABC and NBC.

Major newspapers throughout the country carried the story. The following is a sampling:

- On December 5th, the **San Francisco Chronicle** criticized opponents of same-sex marriage in an editorial stating that "the recent House of Representatives vote on the so-called 'Defense of Marriage Act' shows that old prejudices die hard. Expect plenty more bluster about the threat to Western Civilization."
- The lead editorial in the December 4th edition of the **Honolulu Advertiser**

said that "Judge Chang's ruling was contrary to public opinion, but it was the right decision. It is time for Hawaii to move forward on this civil rights issue."

- The December 11th edition of the **Waco Tribune Herald** stated frankly that "The fact that up to 80% of Americans oppose Gay marriages is not the point. The majority rules insofar as it does not infringe upon the rights and freedoms granted to all Americans who must be afforded equal treatment under the law."
- Conservative **Washington Post** columnist Jonathan Yardly, who has, in the past, not supported Gay issues, wrote on December 9th, "If two people want to cohabit in a peaceful way under a formal arrangement that causes no harm to others, what right do the rest of us have to prevent them from doing so?"
- The December 7th issue of the **Los Angeles Times** in a "Community Essay" from Kirby Tepper, said, "By the time **Showboat** was written (in the late '20s), the law on inter-racial marriage was changing, even though public opinion had not. Isn't it interesting that countless people flock to see the show and take it for granted that the bad guys are the ones who try to stop the marriage between the African-American woman and the white man? Gay people deserve the same application of the law."
- The **Los Angeles Times** Syndicate featured an offensive and simplistic attack on same-sex marriage by Cal Thomas. The same column was carried in the **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel**. Thomas hauled out the old and very tired cliché about same-sex marriage bringing the country "down the road to destruction" as was the case with "ancient Rome."
- The **Chicago Tribune**, for two weeks in a row, published columns by Mike Royko mocking and dismissing Lesbian and Gay domestic violence. Royko is well-known for his homophobic diatribes.

Editor's Note: The above compilation was made, in part, by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

Action Wisconsin Meeting

On January 18, 1997, the Action Wisconsin Board of Directors will convene its monthly meeting at the Northwest Wisconsin AIDS Project located at 505 Dewey St., S., Suite 107, Eau Claire, Wisconsin at 2:00 p.m. All interested people are invited to attend and contribute to the visibility of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered community in this state.

For more information, contact Action Wisconsin, P.O. Box 342, Madison, WI 53701, or call (608) 242-9781.

Action Wisconsin needs members, volunteers and additional Board members. Contact them if you are interested in working to improve the lives we have and the lives we hope to live.

Editorial

Same-Sex Marriage

The question of same-sex marriage is one that many in the LesBiGay community did not want to confront now. Be that as it may, the issue is upon us. It is and probably will remain, a hot topic for some time to come. It must be faced.

While the word "marriage" has religious connotations, the same-sex marriage issue is not a religious question. If same-sex marriage became a reality tomorrow, no one would—or should—compel any religious group to sanction it or any member of any clergy to perform it.

We think that same-sex marriage is a legal question, a matter of equal rights under the law. Upon marriage, heterosexual couples acquire certain rights and duties that are conferred by the state. We think same sex couples must be treated equally. That is fairness, that is justice. That is the American way.

We know that there are members of the LGBT community who will not wish to marry. That is their right. However, the legal rights contingent on marriage in our society must be available to all.

We sharply disagree with the "fall of Rome" cliché—a.k.a. "there goes the neighborhood." We heard all of that and more when the bans against inter-racial marriage were being broken down. Same-sex marriage will add stability to society, not the opposite. Besides, it seems to us that banning marriage is a poor way to save it.

We strongly support Rep. Baldwin's bill on same-sex marriage.

We strongly urge all fair-minded Democrats and Republicans to work together on passing the Baldwin bill. Same-marriage is not a partisan issue. It is an issue of civil rights that impacts all of us in the LGBT community, both Republicans and Democrats and every other party as well.

We applaud the presence of a representative of Log Cabin Republicans at Rep. Baldwin's news conference along with those of a liberal bent. We urge liberal and conservative members of the community to work together on this bill.

We agree with the Human Rights League (HRL) that there will be tremendous forces arrayed against us on this issue. We should join HRL and Action Wisconsin to win our civil rights.

Finally, we think that as Judge Chang said of Hawaii, no state, including Wisconsin, has compelling reason to forbid same-sex marriage.

We think that the arguments against same-sex marriage range from the ludicrous to the asinine to the self-serving. We think that the only reason for being against same-sex marriage is homophobia that seeks to hide its banality behind a veil of religious cant.

The Hotel Washington

Santa left a large early Christmas present under Madison's tree, a soon to be rebuilt Hotel Washington. It's hard to overstate how excited the community is.

Greg and Sherry Scheel are owed the thanks of the community for the fortitude they showed in waging an uphill battle to rebuild their hotel. Kudos also go out to Capitol Bank, openly Gay Mike Verveer and everyone who helped make a new Hotel Washington possible.

It has been difficult for the Scheels. Not only was the Hotel Washington the center of Madison's Gay life, it was the center of their lives too. They have endured many frustrations, false starts, rumors and false hopes. They have endured these without public complaint but with grace, dignity and style. Throughout it all, the Scheels have kept focused on the goal and not on the problems associated with achieving it.

We commend the Scheels for planning a new building that has the same look as the old one did. The graceful architecture, balconies, parapets, style even the same color brick of the Hotel Washington have all been retained. Undoubtedly they could have opted for a less expensive design. To their credit, they have not.

They have presented Madison with more than a rebuilt hub of community life. They have given it a landmark that everyone can and should be proud of.

There is a lesson in all of this that some in our community would do well to learn. As they did with their work on the Rodney Scheel house, Greg and Sherry Scheel have set an example our community would do well to follow. They have shown us that fulfilling a dream isn't always easy, but with hard work it is nearly always possible. They deserve our thanks for that too.

Editor's Note

Give Up Christmas?

By Terry Boughner

And so it is Christmas.

Why go through it all again? Why not just forget it and let it pass? Or, if we must do something, why not stick a few lights in the front window (only a few), put up an artificial tree, throw some ornaments at it and let the holidays go by?

But I know the answer to those questions almost as quickly as they flit through my mind. I can't let the holidays (Christmas in my tradition) go by—not and suffer terrible pangs of regret for the loss.

The truth of the matter—and I know it well—is that I love Christmas. It is an old, dear and trusted friend, one that calls me to it year after year. It is like the warm glow that comes after a couple of glasses of good wine. It makes my world all mellow again.

I love Christmas. I love its music—the old carols (nothing new, thank you) sung in the traditional way (no innovations or "creativity," please). I know those beautiful, old songs all by heart. I want to hear them as they always have been: warm, soothing, majestic, grand, appealing to the common taste, not something known in concert halls.

I love the lights, red, green, yellow, orange and blue. They glow with such a soft serenity.

I love a real tree, a balsam, big, fresh, making the air redolent of the scent of pine. (I know they're messy, but who cares? Life wasn't meant to resemble a freshly washed plate.)

There will be large lights on the tree, the old fashioned kind, and bubble lights too. Every ornament, put away so carefully last year, will be taken from its box and hung where it was before. After that, the icicles must be hung, one strand at a time (Jerry and I have an on-going argument about that).

At last, we will stand back and say to each other as we do every year, "This is the most beautiful tree we've ever had." That is among the traditions that I do not want to live without.

The stockings will be hung, of course. Sometime at night on Christmas Eve, I will fill Jerry's and then go to bed. During the night, he will get up and fill mine. In the morning, we open them to see what "Santa" has brought.

I love the magic of Christmas, the ineffable hush that seems to pervade Christmas Eve, the most wonderful night of the year. It is a night of miracles, they say, when anything can happen, even the most fabulous things that make up our hopes and dreams.

For example, at midnight, they say, the animals talk. Old puss hasn't said anything yet, I don't think, but then perhaps she has a language that I don't understand. I think that just may be the case.

I put a single candle in the window on that night. Afterward, I go outside and stand, looking up, watching for the sleigh and reindeer. No, I haven't seen anything yet, but that doesn't mean anything. There are a lot of things I haven't seen. More importantly, it's a custom I enjoy. Doing it keeps open that niche inside me reserved for the little boy.

I love to read the Nativity story in the King James version of the bible. The language is incomparable, stately, full of majesty, like a mighty organ in some great cathedral church. Do I believe it actually happened: a real baby laid in a manger with angels and shepherds and all the rest? No. I believe it's a myth, but what is a myth but the diaphanous garment often donned by truth.

The truth, I think, is this—and it speaks to Lesbian and Gay people no matter of what religious tradition. The Christmas story is the account of love born on the earth.

Consider this. Love is not normal (sadly). Love most often comes when it's least expected. Love follows its own rules, seldom taking the form society imagines or requires, seldom taking the form that "fits."

A few adore it. The majority, seeing it, either ignore it or despise it and seek to put it down. But love has a will and power all

its own. If "they" attempt it kill it, as "they" are wont to do, "they" will fail. Rest assured, love, as always, will rise again.

We Gay people know love like that. It's what we're all about: love born in us out of time and place.

Give up Christmas? Not on your life. I'd rather give up believing in magic and mystery and music itself.

While visiting Yellowstone Park in late August one year, I stopped at the lodge. Everywhere I looked, there were Christmas decorations. I found out why when I read a sign.

"Christmas comes but twice a year, 'Once at home and once out here.'"

A waitress explained that the people who worked there during the summer wanted to have Christmas together—so they did. I thought then, and I think now, how wonderful that idea was.

Those who are wiser than I can let the Christmas go, but I will observe it with everything I have. In the end, I want them to say of me, as they did of Scrooge, "He knew how to keep Christmas and he kept it well."

Letters

Use Condoms

TO THE EDITOR:

In reply to Marcus ("Letter to the Editor, previous issue of Wisconsin Light). An open relationship is certainly a choice that you and your partner make after considering the ramifications. Also, that your are best friends is a tremendous asset.

But remember, the first and last word in open relationships is—CONDOMS.

Richard Mence
Milwaukee

Anti-AIDS Job Discrimination

TO THE EDITOR:

In light of the recent Hawaii decision concerning same-sex marriages, I would like to express my thoughts on a similar high profile news story. It is said that the homosexual community is trying to get "special rights" when this measure comes before Congress. Well, let me explain what took place in my situation and then make a decision on whether "special rights" is the proper term to be used.

I worked for General Electric Corporation in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, for over 16 years. I went to work daily and gave GE untold hours of overtime, and with countless emergency call-ins as a maintenance electronics tech.

In April of 1992, my other half and I were on vacation in sunny Florida where I required emergency surgery for a ruptured esophagus. When I returned to work, the attitudes toward me changed dramatically.

Because of illness-related weight loss, rumors began to spread that I had AIDS. From this very moment, I started to get harassment in the form of vandalism to my vehicle and personal belongings.

(The company supervisor in my work area insisted that I provide the management detailed medical reports from my doctor whenever I was off from work for any type of illness.)

Soon, derogatory remarks began to appear all over the company walls and in the supervisor's office by methods such as spray paint and indelible marker. My "shop" was vandalized and my personal belongings were destroyed by someone throwing an inky, oily substance all over the place.

Each and every time something like this happened, I would inform the Employee Relations Manager. Each time he would tell me "Not to worry about it."

This and much more went on for over two years. Finally, in August, 1994, I was doused with a caustic acid-based enamel from high above the plant's catwalk. This sent me to the local hospital for chemical burns on the upper torso.

The Ft. Wayne police were called in to investigate this by paramedics who responded to the emergency. A few days later, I was telephoned by a lawyer for GE who stated that GE would relocate me to another facility. I quote him as saying, "You people like San Francisco, why don't we send you out there and you can start over with a clean slate."

As though I'd done something wrong!

The EEOC investigated and determined that there was a reasonable cause to believe that the charge was true and it was imperative for GE to eliminate the alleged unlawful employment practice because the investigation revealed that I "was subjected to severe and pervasive harassment over a two year period."

As of this writing, nothing has been done to rectify the situation. I have been told by fellow workers that I am "persona non grata" by the company, and that my "safety cannot be guaranteed" if I return to work.

The point I am trying to make is that if a person who is, by all means, a loyal, productive and tax paying employee, cannot go to work without experiencing such unwarranted treatment, what legal methods are in place to redress these situations?

The EEOC has to skirt the issue of being "Gay" and hope that some other issue such as mine can be found. This is not always the case.

I believe that the majority of Americans would see the necessity of a bill such as the one (ENDA) brought to the Senate floor by Senator Kennedy. Please write your Congressional representatives and express your

views on this issue.

It would also be nice if people would express themselves to GE in hopes that the company, by including all its employees, will "bring good things to life."

James A. Smith IV
Churubusco, Indiana

Deadlines

January 2nd Issue

Articles Friday December 27th
Ads - December 30th
5:00 p.m.

January 16th Issue

Articles—Jan. 10th
Ads—Jan. 13th
5:00 p.m.

Caution

The fact that someone's name appears in this paper in no way implies sexual orientation.

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Jerry Johnson

Plans For A Bigger Hotel Revealed A Christmas Present For Madison

Madison—It's been called best Christmas present Madison's Gay community could ask for. It's the announcement that Wisconsin's best known Gay landmark, the Hotel Washington, will be rebuilt after all.

The Hotel, center of Madison's Gay and Lesbian life, burned to the ground last February 18. Now a bigger hotel will rise from the ashes. (See the full color architectural drawing of the plans on Page 28)

Appropriately the ground breaking ceremony will be held on the first anniversary of the fire. With good weather, construction could be completed by Halloween, 1997.

Plans for The New Hotel Washington

The new Hotel Washington will have the same look and feel of the old one but with some improvements.

The new Hotel Washington will include a fourth floor of hotel rooms. Greg Scheel, who owns the Hotel with his sister Sherry Nelson Scheel, told *The Wisconsin Light* that in addition to the added floor, the Hotel will expand to the East taking up the space now occupied by a gas station.

Scheel said he expects that all of the businesses in the old hotel will reopen in the new one. The eastern expansion will provide some extra space for each those busi-

nesses.

Much of the extra space will be used to meet new City codes and to provide greater access for the differently abled.

The new hotel will have double the number of hotel rooms available for guests. Plans call for 44 rooms instead of the 22 that were in the old Hotel. Greg Scheel told *The Wisconsin Light* that he is looking into hiring a hotel management team such as Excel, but has not made any decisions on that.

A Hard Fought Struggle

Just a few months ago, the Hotel was thought to be dead. The Scheels were unable to secure enough financing to rebuild and began looking into alternative sites. At that time Greg Scheel told *The Wisconsin Light* "It's much less expensive to buy or rent an existing building that it is to put up a new one."

From the beginning, the Scheels faced an uphill battle. Because they had received a HUD loan, to remodel some apartments for low income residents, they needed a waiver from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. The delays meant rising costs and that meant a need for more financing money.

That money was not forthcoming and in

July, Greg Scheel told *The Wisconsin Light* that his financing package was "around \$400,000 short." In September, Scheel said he had put his plans to rebuild "on hold."

About that time the City of Madison ordered Scheel to fill in the hole left after the debris from the old hotel had been cleared away and he laid off their remaining staff which they had kept on the payroll as long as they could after the fire.

Rumors and More Rumors

The Hotel Washington played such a big role in Madison's Gay life that the Scheels and their plans were the subject of numerous rumors circulating through the community. It was said that they had sold and/or leased the site to the gas station on the eastern end of the site.

They were also rumored to be buying or renting the site of the former Going My Way bar on Main Street. The reality was that none of these rumors were true.

The Scheels did investigate the possibility of opening up a new complex at 111 W. Main Street and even applied for a license transfer that would have allowed them to open up two bars and a restaurant at that site. In the end, they realized that their heart was in and with their dream of a rebuilt Hotel Washington.

The Wisconsin Light Spotlight editor, Bill Meunier, was repeatedly questioned during one of his trips to Madison, after the paper ran a story quoting Sherry Scheel

denying that she and her brother were going to open up at the Main Street site.

At that time the local Madison press was reporting that the Scheels were going to relocate to that site. A few people even demanded that the *Light* print a retraction.

"We knew what they (the Scheels) were going through," said Meunier. "They were on a roller coaster ride of highs and lows to keep their dream alive. We trusted what they told us. They are fine, honest people. The Scheels have kept us informed all along. They have an enormous respect for the legitimate Gay press."

The Ride Is Over

That roller coaster ride seems to have finally ended. Madison's Capitol Bank has approved a \$3.1 million dollar loan. The Scheels are using \$1.1 million of their own funds and Madison Gas and Electric is investing \$300,000.

Openly Gay Madison Alderman Mike Verveer who has fought for the Hotel, has introduced a resolution for a \$600,000 City of Madison TIF loan. Verveer helped obtain the HUD waiver and the needed building permits and he has worked hard to line up the votes needed for the TIF loan.

The Alderman told *The Wisconsin Light* that he was confident his proposal would be approved. "I can't imagine why the City would not want to contribute to this project. It means a lot of jobs for Madison."

Thanks to the perseverance of the Scheels, it appears as though those jobs will be filled by end of next year.

Asked how he felt about the rebuilding, Greg Scheel told *The Wisconsin Light*, "Excited." That feeling is one that is undoubtedly shared by the rest of Madison and much of Gay Wisconsin as well.

Oh, Christmas Tree

The photograph on our front page, taken by a *Wisconsin Light* photographer, shows the tree set up in Milwaukee's Red Arrow Park across from City Hall.

This year, the tree celebrates the city's sesquicentennial. The lighting ceremony took place on November 30th. The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus sang at the occasion. The Chorus is a proud compliment to Wisconsin's Le-BiGay community.

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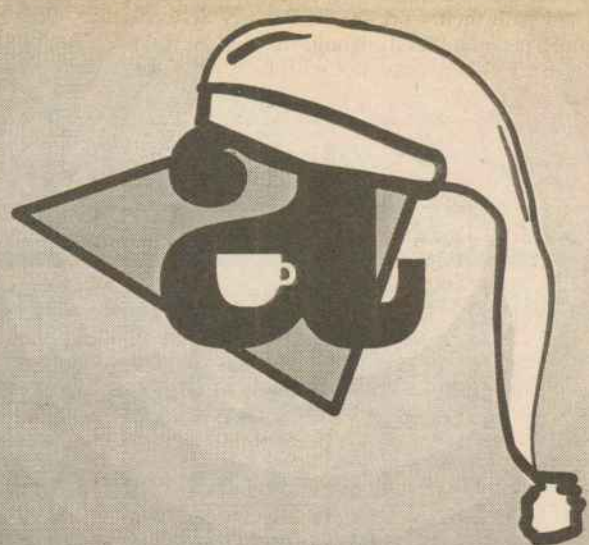
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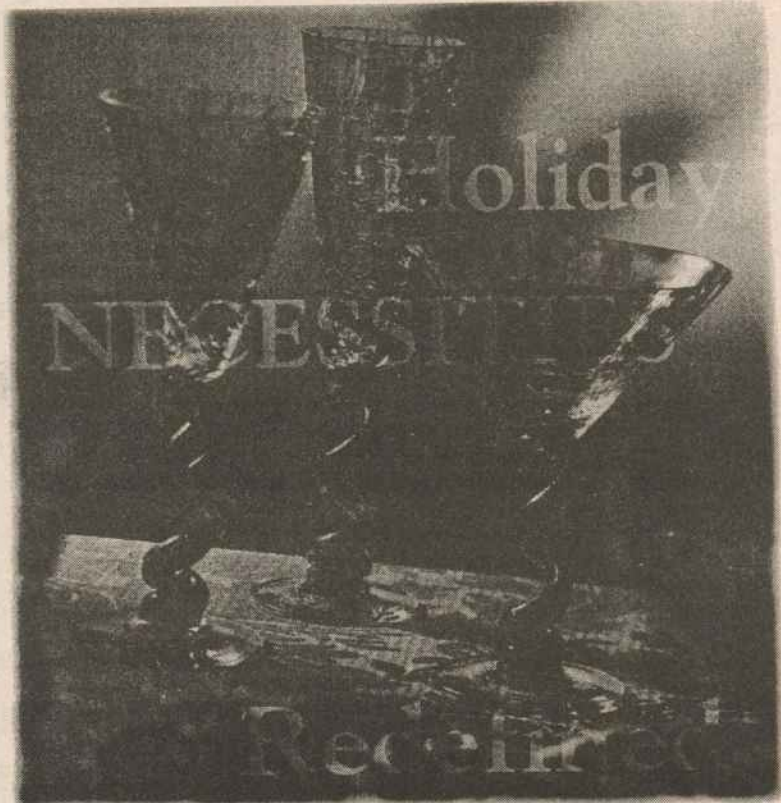
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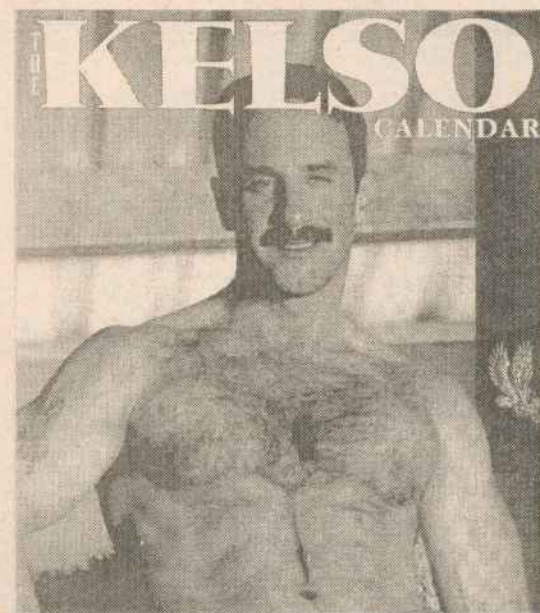
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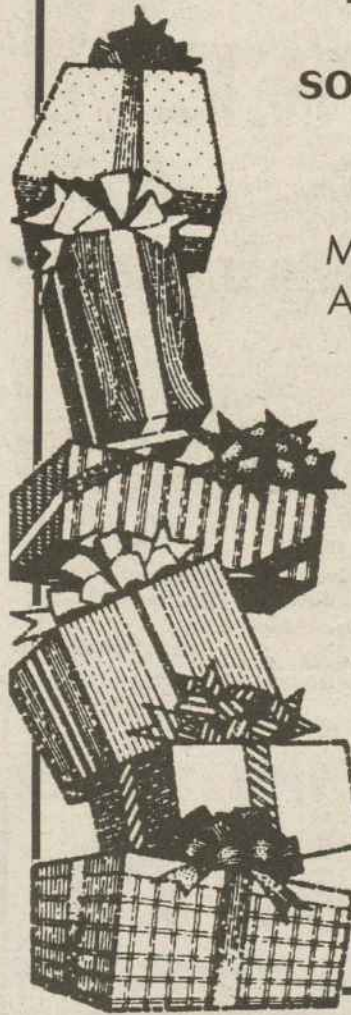
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Youth Column

'Tis the Season: Ho, Ho, Ho—Or Bah, Humbug? Which One?

Commentary by Jason Alan

To Ho, Ho, Ho, or to Bah, Humbug, that is the question.



It seems, as far as Christmas is concerned, I find myself asking that question every year. Let's see, Jason, shall we have a happy Christmas this year—or shall we have a rotten one? I seem never to be able to make up my mind on that one.

Call me old-fashioned—or anything else for that matter (except Shirley)—but I was raised to understand that the holiday season applies to the period from Thanksgiving to New Year's. So, let us see what the holiday season brought us this year.

Well, right about Thanksgiving I received a pleasant phone call from my good friend Jamie Nabozny. He called to make me aware that he had won his court settlement against the Ashland School District (which had permitted an inordinate amount of abuse to occur to Mr. Nabozny for an elongated period of time). It was a pleasant

kickoff for my holiday season. I was ecstatic when I heard the news.

However, then the holiday season turned a little dark.

On a personal note, the next news I would receive was that my Grandfather was terribly ill and needed to be rushed to the hospital on Thanksgiving Day. Would this make for a pleasant family dinner? I think not.

Soon enough, World AIDS Day came around on December 1st. I have many friends with AIDS or HIV, not to mention close acquaintances, and it has been very hard to recognize this day every year. For me, World AIDS Day is a defining moment every year I live.

In many respects, World AIDS Day is my holiday season. I suspect that perhaps it is also the holiday season for many in this community. It is interesting how life changes.

When I was a boy, it was very difficult for me to settle down during this time of year. The biggest and happiest day of my life was December 25th. For richer or for poorer, I

lived for nothing else but to get up at 5:00 in the morning, go to church and brunch, and then, oh yes, then to return home in mid-afternoon.

There they were, all wrapped in adorable shiny wrappings. A teddy bear here, a knit sweater there, a new He-Man toy over there. (I know, my childhood is getting dated.)

We may have been poor (We were.), we may have been rich (I'm not sure about that.), but my parents always did their best to insure a Happy New Year.

1996. As time goes by, though, changes have occurred.

This year, I have lost 3 relatives—and believe me, 3 Pentecostal funerals is a bit much. I have now lost people to AIDS and many other friends to cancer. I, also, have had a few minor health incidents that have kept my mortality in check, as if the grim reaper seemingly standing behind every relative I know, hasn't.

As I sit by the fireplace writing this, it is World AIDS Day. It is evening. For many on this planet, daily life will continue its normal course, and solitary remembrance of World AIDS Day shall be filed away in favor of their stock of shares, their fast cars, the next rung they can climb on the corporate ladder, that glass ceiling we supposedly all can break.

However, for me, there are no New Years. Christmas is now a holiday I dread more than enjoy. For me, the remembrance of

World AIDS Day is a constant that shall endure far past the New Year.

For me, it is always evening. I find myself always sitting by this fireplace, always sipping this tea, always desperately in a struggle to pen down what emotion or feeling I have.

So, the question still remains. To Ho, Ho, Ho, or to Bah, Humbug? Well, I say . . .

Editor's Note: Jason Alan is a columnist for Wisconsin Light. He can be reached for comment at: J. Alan, c/o Wisconsin Light, 1843 N. Palmer St., Milwaukee, WI 53212.

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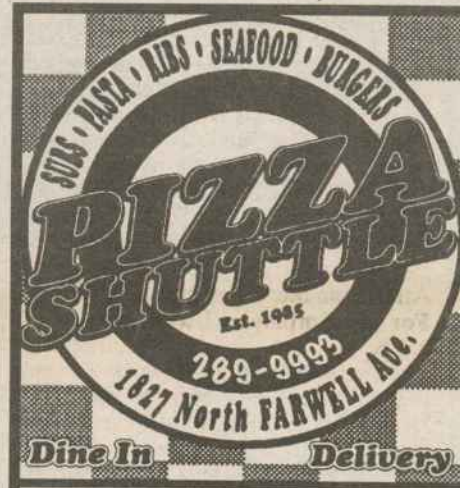
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Special Family Day Planned for PrideFest 1997

Milwaukee—PrideFest has announced its first new feature for the 1997 festival—Family Day on Saturday, June 7. Parents are invited to bring their children to the festival to play in the Children's Area and participate in the special activities that are being planned from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

To coordinate Family Day activities, Theodore Berg of Milwaukee has been recruited to the PrideFest Council. Berg had originally contacted PrideFest to offer his services as a professional clown to entertain children. He was asked if he would like to line up a whole series of activities for chil-

dren. Initial plans are being made to bring in face painters, balloon sculptors, story tellers and crafters.

One of the main activities will be the designing of a banner. "We are going to let children draw the banner all day on Saturday," said Berg. "On Sunday, it will be placed in the parade in front of the Lesbian mothers, Gay fathers contingent."

Parents are invited to send in additional ideas for children's activities. Send your ideas to: Theodore Berg, Family Activities Coordinator, PrideFest, P.O. Box 93852, Milwaukee, WI 53203 or Fax: (414) 272-3391.



Taking time off The members of the Alternative Business Association celebrated the holidays with a Christmas party at Café Melange on Wednesday December 11. Show above (L-R) Front row: Jim Bigger, Kelly Mc Nally, Alethea Banks Middle Row: Joseph Murrenus, Denis Mehalopoulos, Wayne Beatty, Mari Jo Pesch, Rick Finger Top Row: Larry Krueger, Sheldon Schur and John Chartre

Making a List and Checking it Twice Brings Peace, Joy and Love at This Time of Year

Commentary by Ted Berg

Huge, red-dressed Santas say, "If you're good, you'll get your desires." His staff of happy elves in commercials show us that love is an expensive gift: a fancy dinner or an exclusive fragrance named after someone famous, for example.

For some of our community, the holidays are not so pleasant. They are wrapped in the paper of dysfunctional families with constricting bows of denial of who we are. The season of joy can be a bit sad with little sun, cold, and a gloomy snow.

Each December, I start a "List of Thankful Things." It is so easy to get mixed up in the seasonal rush and commercialism that I

Shoreline Dancers Dedicate a Quilt Panel at Just Us

Milwaukee—It was December 7th. The Shoreline Dancers were holding their Annual Christmas Party, the first one at Just Us. The bar was bright with holiday lights, seasonal music filled the air. It was a time for fun, for merriment and cheer.

It was a time, too, for a celebration of memory.

At 8:00 p.m., the Shoreline Dancers joined the overflow crowd in attendance at the bar to dedicate their panel that will be added to the NAMES Project Memorial Quilt that was seen, for the last time, in its full expanse, in October in Washington, D.C.

The Shoreline Quilt panel is dedicated to the memories of their Shoreline members lost to AIDS. They are:

Jeff Pierotti, Shoreline's original Dance and Artistic Director. It was Jeff who designed the eye-catching costumes that are the Shoreline signature wear;

Ron Wetley, Shoreline's Music Master and line dance extrodinaire. He, too, was a founding member of the dance group;

Franklin Morse, an original Shoreline member. He was very involved with the founding of Shoreline and with determining the by-laws and constitution of the group.

That evening, the Quilt panel was hung on the wall of the restaurant at Just Us. It measures 3'x6'. Barbara Hypes, who, according to other Shoreline member, was largely responsible for organizing work on the panel, described it.

The back, she said, is of stone-washed black denim. There are three sparkling red bibs, patterned after the Shoreline costumes that Pierotti had designed for his Shoreline friends. There were boots of leather suede and silhouettes of cowgirls and cowboys with the names of Shoreline members on them. Everyone, Hypes said, embroidered their own names. Hypes said that the panel took "several months" to produce.

In the same room, there was a brightly dressed tree. Laid out on tables at its bases was a profusion of gaily wrapped packages. These contained gifts contributed by the members and would be sold for \$1 each. At the same time, a stocking would be circulated among the party-goers to stuff it with money.

Following the dedication, the merriment began, the kind of good time, someone said that Jeff, Ron and Franklin would have thoroughly enjoyed. It was generally agreed that Just Us exceeded itself in a noble cause.

The total amount gathered at the end of the evening was \$303, Hypes said. All proceeds from the gifts and the stocking would go to the NAMES Project to promote AIDS awareness so that there will be a cure.

need to remember what is truly worthwhile. Here is part of my 1996 list:

- **For Being Gay.** I think God for my genes and any other thing that caused my Gayness. Some Gay people say that they would be straight if it were possible. My 23 years of Gay life has been mainly joyful seasoned with despair, loneliness, low self-worth at small times in my life. But all the things that I'm thankful for, are pinned on my being Gay. I would not change even if I could;
- **Friends.** Milwaukee is a great place to live. In the three years this native of Chicago has been here, I've developed a network of friends and support unheard of in the big city. They envelope me in love. It feels good;
- **For the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP).** I moved on Monday, called MAP on Tuesday, was interviewed on Wednesday and started volunteering on Thursday. The staff and volunteers have become dear to me. With dedication, they deal with life-threatening disease, making life easier for their clients. The education that I've received at MAP has taken some of the fear of AIDS from me, a Gay man;
- **For My Employer.** I work for a communications company, Ameritech. They have a group of volunteers called the Telephone Pioneers of America. During this year they have sponsored: a camping trip picnic, a movie night, a Hallowe'en party and a Christmas party for children affected or infected with HIV/AIDS. In the future, there will be an Easter party. I had the honor of chairing this committee. The Ameritech Corporation sponsored a water station at the AIDS Walk and our walking employees raised thousands of dollars. Ma Bell does have a heart.
- **For a Leather Club.** A group of men in leather have stolen my heart with their caring—me, who owns nothing leather or even vinyl. The Oberons are the guardian angels of children with AIDS. At their club nights fundraisers they make raising money fun. I've even won a complete make-over. Most of my dear friends say I'd look good as a blonde—Not! Our community sometimes looks down on leather folk and drag queens. It sometimes is easy because they are different. Accepting diversity is hard even in our community. If we don't accept our diversity as healthy, how can we go out and ask the same of society as a whole?

I've many more things on my list. It wouldn't be healthy if I stopped there. With the list of thanks, I start a "Do Something New List for 1997." This list causes changes in my Thanks List. This list has got a person (one who was always picked last in gym), oh, so butch.

I've become a clown and play Santa Claus—such a ham! Life is fun and being Gay, we do it with a splash of color and beads.

In closing, I've got a secret to tell you. All families are dysfunctional at times. My family's dysfunctions have caused positive changes in my life. They are doing the best they can with what they have. I can change me. I can be affirming. I can accept who I am and rejoice in my creativity.

So bring on commercialism, greed and unattainable expectations. I know the secret of the holiday, which is Peace, Joy, and Love. These gifts have no dollar amount attached. When they reside in you, your list of thanks and things to do will be filled with a living to be envied and surrounded by people who you love. That is the true gift of the season.

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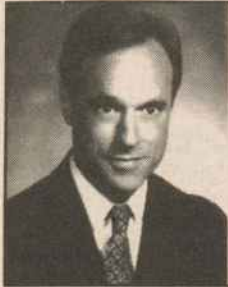
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Jerry Johnson

Good Friends and Good times A good time was had by all at Fannies annual Christmas party on Saturday December 14. The popular Milwaukee bar was packed with holiday revelers for its annual Holiday bash. Fannies is located at 200 E. Washington.

Move Toward Same-Sex Marriage Has Wide Support in Holland

The Hague, Netherlands— In what would be a significant step toward recognizing Gay marriages, the Dutch government plans to give same-sex couples almost identical rights as married people, a justice ministry spokeswoman said Thursday, December 5th.

A proposed new law will allow same-sex couples to register their relationship with their local municipality in a legally-binding process, spokeswoman Liesbeth Rensman said.

The only major difference is that the registered same-sex couples will not be allowed to adopt children, Rensman added. The arrangement is still being referred to as a "registration" and not a marriage.

The proposal has broad backing in parliament and is expected to become law in January 1998, Rensman said.

But a prominent Gay organization says it will not stop campaigning until they gain the adoption right too. "This is not enough," said Sjoerd Beumer of the Dutch Federation for the Integration of Homosexuality.

Under proposed changes to Dutch family law, "It will be all right for one person to adopt a child but people in a Gay relationship cannot," Beumer added.

A recent Dutch High Court ruling rejected a Lesbian woman's application to adopt her partner's child.

Registration will give the couple the same pension, social security and inheritance rights as a married couple and will enforce alimony payments if a couple splits.

Many Gay couples already sign "partnership contracts" which include

similar rights to those in the government proposal, but those contracts do not carry the weight of law.

Dutch society, renowned for its tolerance toward homosexuals, has a thriving Gay community and Lesbians and Gays are welcome in the military.

On Tuesday, a judge in Honolulu ordered Hawaii to begin issuing Gay couples marriage licenses --the first such ruling by a judge in the United States.

The ruling was put on hold for a year just a day later while Hawaii authorities appeal the ruling.

President Clinton has signed a federal law that says the U.S. government will not recognize same-sex marriages and allows states to refuse to recognize such unions licensed in other states.

Bay Area Lesbians See Hawaii as State that Understands Civil Rights

San Francisco—Deborah Oakley-Melvin and Denise Ratliff have new reasons to be happy they're going to spend the holidays in paradise.

Though a judge's ruling Tuesday, December 4th that Hawaii must issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples didn't clear all obstacles, but it certainly gave the San Francisco couple optimism.

"If we hurry, can we do it before (they) have the appeal?" Oakley-Melvin asked jokingly.

The couple, both 43 and publishers of a Lesbian newspaper, have taken part in two "political marriages"—a mass ceremony at the 1993 Gay march on Washington, D.C., and at San Francisco's first public domestic partners ceremony last spring.

"I'm looking forward to a real wedding," she said.

Kate Kendell, a Gay activist lawyer in San Francisco, also said Hawaii had become sacred ground.

"I think it will feel as if I'm standing on the soil of a state that actually gets it, that Lesbian and Gay families should be supported, not feared or isolated," Kendell said.

Kendell, legal director of the National Center on Lesbian Rights, flies to Hawaii Saturday for a working vacation with her partner, Sandy.

"It's actually much the same feeling I had when I moved to San Francisco from Utah," she said.

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A CHRISTMAS ROSE E'RE BLOOMING

Continued from Page 1

Louie heard the screen door squeak open and then close again. He pushed himself from the railing and turned to see Aunt Jesse, a tall woman of regal bearing despite her 70 years. She was dressed as usual, in a calf-length black dress, its severity relieved only by the little rose pin she always wore.

The pin was a thing of exquisite beauty consisting of a rose fashioned from a single ruby with leaves and stem of gold. Where she had gotten it, no one knew and Aunt Jesse never said, but she was never seen without it. She called it her talisman. No one, not even Louie, knew why.

Louie smiled in greeting. They talked a little about the beautiful weather until across the street, she spied Aleksei Martsoff walking past.

Aleksei was Louie's age, but shorter than Louie with a gymnast's solid build. He was light complected with light brown hair, and lively eyes that were a sapphire shade of blue. All this bespoke his Russian ancestry, as his name implied. Aleksei was more outgoing, irrepensible some said, with a lopsided smile that gave him a school boy's cocky charm.

"Hi, Aunt Jesse," Aleksei said with a smile and a wave. He came over to the porch. She knew he was only being polite. It was obvious from the look in his eyes that Louie, as always, had his full attention. Excusing herself, she went back into the house. The two young men were scarcely aware that she had gone.

A short while later, Louie came back in. Aunt Jesse was tidying up the parlor. When she heard his footsteps, she stopped what she was doing and looked when he approached.

"He's going to the Halloween dance," Louie said, flopping into the nearest available chair. "Oh?" She did not want to seem too curious.

"With Audrey McGee," Louie added. "Folks say he'll marry her. That's what his father wants."

Aleksei's father was the town's physician and had been mayor for the past 14 years. A heavy-set, strong-willed, blustery man, he had definite ideas when it came to his only son. The boy would marry "some good town girl," settle down, and live out his life as husband and father the way all "real" men do.

Aunt Jesse had heard the mayor say all that uncounted times before. Though she'd kept her counsel, in ways no one would understand, she'd always known that the mayor was wrong about his son. The town's young women of "single estate," might call him "Sexy Aleksei," but she knew that all their longing was in vein. None of them would ever have his heart.

Several times she'd wondered if she should not tell Louie what she knew, but each time had decided against it. Young people, she believed, must work out their own salvation. This was especially true in matters appertaining to the heart. But now, as she saw Louie sitting there, looking like some miserable little bird driven to earth by a fierce storm, she wondered if she should not rethink her position.

The days went by. November's cold, biting winds trumpeted across the mountains like wild gods heralding the winter that would soon arrive. At a kitchen window, Aunt Jesse watched as Louie and Aleksei clad in heavy coats and old jeans, worked in the yard getting her famed American Beauty roses ready to weather the season's blast.

She saw the joy they took with each other, the fun they had, the smiles they gave each other that would light up rooms. Once, not too long ago, when they didn't know she was about, she had seen them in a deep embrace, kissing as any young lovers would.

She had not been shocked by what she'd seen happen between the two young men. In her mind their obvious love was of such radiant beauty that she could only compare it to a rose window full of dawn's first light. Something like that was sacred, partaking of that which was ineffably sublime.

But she was upset. Aleksei was still dating Audrey. It was only the previous Saturday evening that he'd taken her to the movies. Though, as usual, Louie had said nothing about the pain he felt, she could easily tell from his sad demeanor, if nothing else, that his poor heart was in tatters.

She turned abruptly from the kitchen window. With the fingers of one hand, she touched the rose pin and was confirmed in her thought. Yes, something must be done!

It was Friday morning, the day after Thanksgiving. Aunt Jesse arose early that morning and made a phone call. Later, when Louie came down, she told him that she felt a bit poorly. Nothing, to be worried about, but she would appreciate his going to get her a little "snake bite," as the local corn liquor was called. She would put a tablespoon of it in her tea. It would settle her stomach, she said.

Louie gave her a skeptical look. He didn't like snake bite and he didn't think it cured anything. Nevertheless, he agreed to drive up into the hills to Zeb's to get her some of the fiery brew.

From a window in the front parlor, she watched him get into his car and drive away. It would be at least an hour before he returned, time enough, she prayed, to say what had to be said.

As she turned from the window, one hand went to the rose pin. "Please help me be an accusing angel," she said to herself. In response, the little pin glowed with warmth.

Fortified by what she had felt from her little talisman, she went to the kitchen. By the time that Aleksei arrived, coming at her call, there was water boiling for tea and good, strong coffee brewing on the stove.

She greeted him in her formal way, seating him at the kitchen table. From a shelf above the stove, she took her favorite cups, the ones with red roses painted on the sides, and put them on the table. There was coffee for Aleksei and tea for herself.

Aleksei drank some of his coffee, grimacing at the taste. The stuff was like his mother made, strong as acid. Only Louie, he thought, made coffee the way he liked it.

Aunt Jesse disliked small talk and rarely engaged in it, preferring always to come directly to the point. "I want you to stop seeing Louie. In fact, after this, I do not want you to darken this house again."

He had raised his cup half way to his lips. He stopped, looking at her in wonder and alarm. "But why?" He lowered the cup to its saucer.

"Because you are a dishonest person, one thoroughly lacking in even the vaguest semblance of integrity. Someone like you does not belong around decent folk."

He looked at her, stunned. "Aunt Jesse," he protested, "that's not true. I'm not dishonest about anything."

She fixed him with an imperious stare. "No? Then tell me, you love Louie, do you not?" He hesitated. His fingers were trembling, his palms were sweating, his stomach had tightened into knots.

With one hand, she held her cup and sipped some tea. Her other hand was on the pin to feel its reassuring warmth. "Well, do you?" she demanded. "Answer me."

Under her withering gaze, he could not deny it. "Yes." Bad as it tasted, he wanted some coffee, but his fingers were trembling so much that he could not trust himself to hold the cup.

Aleksei had loved Louie in high school and in the little community college that they'd both attended. He loved Louie with the whole of his being—but no one must ever know what he could not admit even to himself: that he, Aleksei Martsoff, the mayor's son, had been born Gay.

Now the truth was out. Aleksei lowered his head to bury his face in his hands. The old lady knew he was crying and was encouraged by that. The abscess on his soul had been lanced, now the pus must be drained and healing begun. She touched the rose pin and felt its warmth.

When Aleksei looked up, his face was wet with tears. "Yes, yes, yes," he said through his sobs. "Yes, I love him very much, Aunt Jesse. I am so in love with him. No one can know how much."

"And Louie loves you, which makes a tragedy of this. You still date Audrey McGee and, I hear, you intend to marry her." He made no reply. "That is true, is it not?" she insisted.

"Yes. No. I don't know," he stammered. "That's what my father wants."

"Do you love her?"

"No."

"Have you told your parents anything, anything at all about any of this?"

"No. They don't know anything." He looked at her with pleading eyes. "Please, Aunt Jesse, they can't know..."

She interrupted him. "So then you are indeed a dishonest person as I have said, perfectly willing to let true love go by committing acts of gross dishonesty, hiding from your parents, using Audrey to hide yourself. Incredible. Disgusting. How am I to believe you when you say you love Louie? Perhaps you are lying about that, too."

"No! No. Oh God, Aunt Jesse. I love him. I do. Don't do this to me, please. Try and understand."

"Don't bring God into this. God is a God of love. She has nothing to do with dishonesty and moral cowardice."

Aleksei stood and left the table. For a moment, she thought he would leave, but he turned back. "And if that love costs me my family, my friends, everyone, is that what's expected, Aunt Jesse? Tell me," he pleaded. Does God, do you expect that of me?"

"What is expected of you, Aleksei," she replied quietly, "is that you will take responsibility for yourself before God and all mankind." She got from her chair. "And I will tell you this."

"What?"

Her fingers sought the rose pin. "Aleksei, in every life there grows one rose, one single, perfect rose. Pluck it, Aleksei, no matter what the price. If you do it will abundantly perfume your life. Disdain it, and you will regret it all your days."

He looked at her with pleading, uncomprehending and tear-filled eyes before he turned and fled.

In the next weeks, Aleksei avoided Louie. When Louie tried to see him, Aleksei angrily pushed him away. At night, when the old house was still, Aunt Jesse lay in her bed and heard Louie's pain-racked sobs. In ways that Louie would not have understood, Aunt Jesse knew that Aleksei was crying too.

"Must there be tears?" she pleaded as she lay sleepless in her bed. "Must they hurt so much?" Her fingers sought the rose pin and, feeling its warmth, was reassured. Soon, she drifted off to sleep.

In most years, the town had a white Christmas, but not this year it seemed. Instead, the land lay bleak and drear beneath a glowering sky. Yet the ancient holiday would be no less bright for that. By Christmas Eve lights glowed in every window.

In Aleksei's house the mayor sat slumped in his favorite chair. He maintained he was exhausted from stringing all those lights. Still, he had enough energy to tell his wife, Marian, how to dress the tree.

"Where's Aleksei?" the Mayor asked.

"In his room." She brushed back a strand of gray hair.

"He should be helping you." He watched as she stood on tip-toes to hang a ball. There were dozens more ornaments to put on the tree.

"I know. But you know how he's been lately? All out of sorts."

The Mayor chuckled and shifted his considerable weight in the chair. "Probably had some little tiff with Audrey?"

"You know that?" Marian had never said anything, but she had reason to believe that Aleksei's dark mood had nothing to do with Audrey at all.

"Of course," the mayor replied. "Aleksei tells me everything, just like everyone in town does. I'm the mayor. It is, may I say, one of the burdens of my high office that I'm always the first to know about everything."

"I see." She was doubtful.

Shortly, they heard Aleksei thunder down the stairs. The closet door in the front hall opened. There was a clatter of coat hangers and they heard him go out, slamming the front door behind him.

"He didn't close the closet door," Marian said, as she fastened a little glass angel to a bough. She wasn't particularly concerned.

"Oh, don't worry about it," the mayor chided. "You can close it later. Aleksei had other things on his mind. He's off to Audrey's, I'll bet, to patch things up. In an hour, we'll see 'em in church, sitting together all lovey-dovey."

The mayor was wrong. Aleksei wasn't on his way to Audrey's. He had another destination in mind.

Jimmy Wiskerman and Mary Ann Allen came along walking hand in hand. Aleksei knew them both. They were to be married in the spring.

"Hey Aleksei," Jimmy asked in a friendly way. "What're you doing walking all by yourself? Where's Louie?"

"Why should I know where he is?" Aleksei shot back. Fear gripped him. *Did they know?*

"Why should I care where th' hell Louie is?" he demanded angrily.

The couple was taken aback by the unexpected outburst. "Well, Merry Christmas to you, too," Jimmy said sarcastically. He and Mary Ann walked on, shaking their heads over the angry outburst.

"What's wrong with him?" Jimmy asked Mary Ann. "All I did was ask him about Louie. Those two, they're never apart."

"Don't be dense," Mary Ann gently chided. "It's a lover's quarrel. Can't you tell—or didn't you know about them?"

"Sure. Everybody does. They're Gay. So what?"

In the meantime, Aleksei trudged on until he came to the bridge over the ice-filled Castlemans River. Unbeknownst to his parents or anyone else, Aleksei had been to the bridge, late at night, three times before. Each time he had stopped in the middle to stare down into the dark water rushing by. The other times, he had turned away. This time would be different. This time, he had decided, he would fling himself over the rail. It was the coward's way out. He knew that. But in his pain and blind despair, he could see no other way to go.

He went out on it, a miserable, lonely figure silhouetted in a single street light's feeble glow. Beneath his feet, the torrent that would soon receive him in its icy embrace, ran dark and deep.

Aleksei came to the middle and stopped. He had just undone the top button of his coat when a cloud of snow swirled up the deck of the bridge. Within the cloud, the flakes glittered like diamonds as they danced in the wind.

"Snow? There's no snow around," he thought, and none's been forecast for tonight.

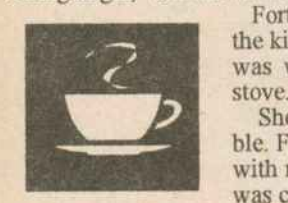
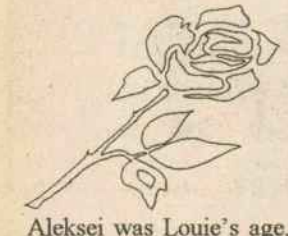
He watched with wondering eyes as the cloud went by him. As it did, he heard a clinking sound, as if something had been dropped on the bridge. When the cloud had gone, he looked and looked again. There was no mistaking it. Lying on the deck of the bridge was Aunt Jesse's little rose pin. It had to be hers. There couldn't be two pins like that, he thought, not here in town, not anywhere. She must have lost it.

Aleksei knelt and stretched out his hand to pick it up. To his surprise, he found that the pin was far too hot to touch. He tried again, and a third time, but each time the pin seemed hotter than before.

He was puzzled, but suddenly he remembered. Pluck the rose, Aunt Jesse had said, no matter what the price. "Louie." The name came unbidden to his lips. "One rose, one love. Pluck it no matter what the price. Take responsibility before God and all mankind. That's what she meant."

Once more he reached for the pin. This time, he was determined to touch it no matter what the cost; even if it burned clear through his hand, but that didn't happen. When he picked it up, he felt only a gentle, comforting warmth.

Please see Christmas Rose page 12



CHRISTMAS ROSE

Continued from page 11

"Louie, Louie," he cried aloud. "Oh, Louie." He knelt on the bridge, back bent, head down, clutching the pin as hot tears coursed down his cheeks. "I love you, Louie," he sobbed. "I love you. I love you. It's a good love, Louie, good an' true. And Louie, I promise you, I'm gonna do what I must to have our love, to make you really mine."

The little rose pin glowed even more warmly in his hand and a healing peace seemed to pervade his ravaged soul.

Aleksei left the bridge and went to the church, running all the way. In the sanctuary, Candles burned brightly, the chancel was banked with pine. Over all, the organ played softly, a medley of carols whose music and words all knew by heart.

He stood at the foot of the aisle and saw his parents up ahead. As they made their way to their pew up front, the mayor, as usual, nodded grandly to this one and to that. Aleksei started after them. His strong legs quivered. His gut was tied up in knots, but the little pin that he clutched in the palm gave him comfort. It pulsed with a gentle, somehow reassuring warmth that brought courage to his heart.

When he was about half way down the aisle, he stopped. On the aisle, to his right, sat Louie and beside him, Aunt Jesse. He turned his head to see Louie looking back. Love filled his big, soft eyes.

Up front, Aleksei's mother was taking her seat. His father hesitated, looking back with a questioning expression at his boyishly handsome son.

For a long moment, father and son stared hard at each other.

"Come, sit with me, my son," his father seemed to say.

"No, Father, I cannot," Aleksei's look replied. "There is a love in my life that I will not give up, father, not for you, not for anyone. I will confess that love openly and honestly to the entire world because only then, father, can I quit living a lie."

Did his father understand what his son was trying to tell him? No, but Aleksei could not care.

"May I sit down?" Aleksei asked Louie. But he didn't get the chance to sit, for just then there came the great triumphant introit, "Adeste Fideles," and, as the choir in flowing scarlet robes, swept up the aisle, everybody stood.

A tear glistened on Louie's cheek as he moved over a little. Aleksei stood staunchly beside him, and then as the ancient carol rose in all of its majestic beauty, Aleksei took Louie's hand and with a soft and loving smile, gently squeezed it.

"I love you, Louie" Aleksei said. "And I want to marry you."

There was a huge lump in Louie's throat. All he could do was smile and nod.

The music filled the little church. Huge tears of joy glistened on Louie's cheeks. Aunt Jesse, who had seen it all, took out her handkerchief, the one with just a trace of scent, and daubed her eye. In her heart, there was peace. Beside her true and honest love was blooming like one perfect rose sent from Heaven's hall.

Oh how Louie and Aleksei sang that night. Not well since neither of them could carry a tune. Though they were off-key, they were off-key together. As Aunt Jesse thought, that made perfect sense.

Toward the end of the service, Aleksei remembered something. He dug into his pocket, intending to retrieve the rose pin and return it to Aunt Jesse after church let out, but it wasn't there. For a moment, he thought he had lost it. However, when he looked, he saw, much to his surprise, that it was there it had always been—pinned to Aunt Jesse's black dress.

In questioning wonder, Aleksei looked over at Aunt Jesse. She returned the look with an uncharacteristic twinkle in her eye. With one hand she patted the little pin as if, by that gesture she was trying to tell Aleksei something—or, perhaps, to welcome it home.

"Aunt Jesse's magic," Aleksei whispered in Louie's ear.

"She's an angel," Louie whispered back, with a knowing gleam in his soft amber eyes.

Aleksei was not about to dispute that.

When the benediction had been given, the congregation left the church to find snowflakes dancing in the hushed and silent night. The people marveled. The weather forecast had been wrong. It was going to be a white Christmas after all.

"Jesse Baumgartner, you knew about this," Mayor Martsoff thundered, pointing to Aleksei and Louie now standing on the walk. They were holding hands and waiting for Aunt Jesse. "You know everything and you knew those two were queers. Why didn't you put a stop to it? And, may I ask, why didn't you tell me?" He put one puffy hand on his ample chest. "I am totally, bodaciously horrified! You can tell my son he is not welcome anymore in my house. I am ashamed, ashamed of him, and ashamed of you, too!"

Aunt Jesse reared herself up to her full six feet and fixed him with an icy stare. "It is I who am ashamed, ashamed of you, ashamed that you are such a hard-hearted, small-minded person."

With that, she turned on her heel and went off down the walk, into the snow-filled night. Her long, black coat swayed at her heels, the ostrich feather in her hat bobbed and swayed as she walked. Though the mayor couldn't see it, the rose pin glowed.

"Guess she told you," Ward Kelp, the town's gadfly, said through a sly chuckle. "Hell, Mayor, anybody in town coulda told you 'bout them two boys. They's been stuck on one another for years. Can't hide love, now can ya?"

The mayor hrumphed and stalked off. His long-suffering wife followed in his wake.

Marian was concerned about how Audrey would take all this, but she needn't have worried. Audrey had suspected for a long time that Aleksei was Gay. She had always enjoyed going out with him. He was fun to be with (when he wasn't boring her to death talking about Louie), but she had never had any intention of marrying him. She wanted to go to law school, and she went. Eventually, she became a lawyer and was elected to Congress.

Aunt Jesse lived for ten years more. During that time, she saw the love that had bloomed that Christmas Eve, send up flower after flower, a steady procession of beauty that was devotion and commitment, as glittering as the gold rings Louie and Aleksei wore.

And the town? Well, as Jimmy and Ward had both said, everybody had long known about the two young men. When it came out in the open, people simply shrugged and went on about their business. The two men lived peacefully, worked hard and minded their own business.

"Wouldn't it be nice if everybody tended to their knitting and tended to business like those two do?" Cora McCune said to Grace Wagner.

Grace was the town busy-body, a person who had the appearance of a fish recently deprived of its guts. "Humph," she sniffed. "Their relationship—or whatever you call it—endangers the very foundations of marriage itself."

"Can't save marriage by stopping it," Cora replied. "Don't make no sense."

Grace went off in a huff.

Even Aleksei's parents finally came around. The following May, on a fine spring day when the dandelions bloomed upon the hills, they invited Aleksei and Louie to dinner.

"So what do you call him?" the mayor asked his son, with a glance at Louie.

"Louie's my husband," came the quiet, firm reply.

"So that makes you . . ." He stopped, not knowing what word his son would use to describe himself in this relationship.

"Aleksei's my husband," Louie replied.

The Mayor considered that for a moment. He didn't understand this same-sex business, but what the hell. Maybe Marian was right. Was it really all that important to understand?

"So, you two gonna vote for me?"

"Of course," they replied together.

"Good. Let's have a drink."



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THE SPOTLIGHT

Santa Is Wearing Lavender Christmas Miracles in Gay Wisconsin

By Bill Meunier

And they say there is no Santa Claus. THEY obviously don't know about Wisconsin's Gay and Lesbian Community.

At Mama Roux's dozens of customers kicked in to send bartender Jasmine home to visit her terminally ill mother in North Dakota.

For nearly two months, members of the Milwaukee's Oberon Leather Club have been holding fund raisers to raise money for children with AIDS.

Meanwhile in Madison, Manoeuvres has been holding a Toys For Tots Drive that has netted dozens for presents for needy children.

In Green Bay, Sass has been holding a holiday drive for needy children. The Sass effort will be capped off with a gala holiday show on Saturday, December 21. It also includes a great contest. For 50 cents a guess, customers try to figure out how many holiday lights are decorating the bar. All of the money is donated to the kids.

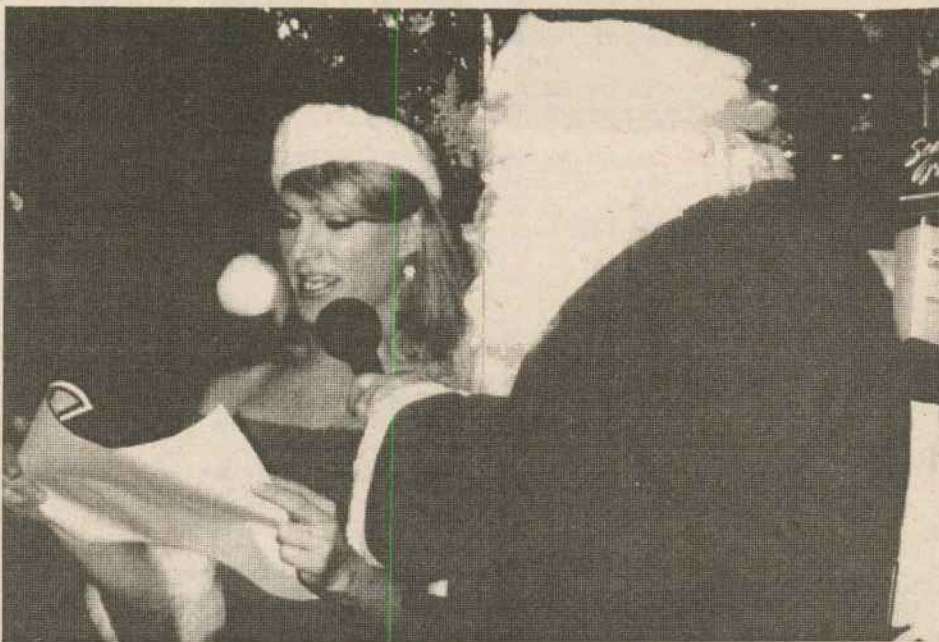
Manoeuvres, **The Wisconsin Light** and Simply Divine teamed up to raise money for Madison's homeless at a gala fundraiser held at the bar on Sunday, December 15.

Over 20 businesses including some from Milwaukee donated prizes for raffle drawings sponsored by **The Wisconsin Light**. A packed house paid \$5.00 a head to enjoy a star packed show produced by "Simply Divine." Nearly \$1,700 was raised.

Plus, a straight-owned Milwaukee business, the Crock and Keg, donated over 200 pounds of sausage to Madison's meal programs for the homeless.

Christmas Eve at C'est Le Vie

C'est Le Vie in Milwaukee will be holding its annual Christmas Eve party. John



The girl has a lot of friends. Customers at Milwaukee's Mama Roux bar took up a secret collection and presented bartender Jasmine with a very special surprise during that bar's fabulous Christmas party. Her gift is a trip to North Dakota so that she can visit her dying mother. "This is what Christmas is all about," said Bar Manager, Joe St. Claire. "In just two hours on a weeknight, without any raffles, or special promotion or anything, our customers kicked in enough money to get her home for the holidays. We were talking about selling buttons that said 'Get Nelly out of town' but the customers who were there said we didn't need buttons we just needed to ask." Needless to say there wasn't a dry eye in the house as the shocked Jasmine received her present from Santa Claus. Hey! may be this is why they call that place "The little bar with the big heart." Merry Christmas Jasmine.

Clayton will again offer holiday cheer to those with nowhere to go on Christmas Eve.

And it isn't just C'est Le Vie either. Many, if not most, of Wisconsin's Gay and Lesbian establishments will be open on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day offering holiday cheer to those who don't have families they can go to—or who would like to get away from the "family

circus."

These and other efforts to help the less fortunate shatters the image that some hold of our Gay community. Perhaps we are not the cynical, self absorbed community that some seem to think we are.

Perhaps there is a Santa Claus after all, but instead of wearing red he's wearing lavender.

Steve Kelso Coming to Milwaukee

Milwaukee—In his interview in **Wisconsin Light**, supermodel Steve Kelso, said he would like to come to Wisconsin. Kelso will get his wish.

Sponsored by Designing Men, Kelso will be coming to Milwaukee on January 11, 1997 in a benefit for the Cream City Foundation.

Kelso will be appearing at the store to sign his calendars, posters and other articles. The time and other details have yet to be announced. Designing Men is located at 1200 S. 1st Street.

For more information, call Designing Men at (414) 389-1200.

remarked "Divine looked like Madonna in her ninth month." No one laughed harder than Divine herself. It was that kind of evening.

In a final pitch Carol, who did a sparkling job of keeping things moving, implored the crowd to tip her with donations for the homeless. A large bowl was brought out and circulated through the crowd. By the time the bowl made its way back it was overflowing with cash.

Carol's gesture and the crowd's response was typical of the evening when Gay and Lesbian Madison pitched in to help those in need.

An Encore?

At closing time when the crowd began filing out, one patron was overheard saying "That was great, the show, the raffles, everything. I wonder what they do for an encore."

Don't worry, Ed, Bill and Divine are already talking about that.

A "Simply Divine" Fund Raiser

Manoeuvres and "The Wisconsin Light" Raise \$1700 For Madison's Homeless

By Bill Meunier

Milwaukee—On Sunday evening, December 15, Manoeuvres, **The Wisconsin Light** and Simply Divine teamed up to raise money for Wisconsin's homeless at a **Wisconsin Light** SpotLight party.

Manoeuvres in Madison donated the space and the door cover. Simply Divine donated her considerable talents and organized a first-rate show. **Wisconsin Light** Spotlight Editor, Bill Meunier solicited and collected prizes and organized raffles.

Big Crowd

Reserved tables were sold out well in advance, but that didn't stop scores of people from paying \$5.00 to be part of the crowd sitting on the bar or standing in an area where they had to watch the show on a monitor.

The crowd bought hundreds of raffle tickets and won dozens of prizes donated by business from Milwaukee and Madison.

Fabulous Show

They cheered Simply Divine, a.k.a. Big Daddy, a.k.a. Brian Fermite, as she opened the show with a hot number. They went wild when Sister George did "I'm Telling You" from the musical **Dream Girls**. They cheered as Mrs. Claus made a special surprise appearance roller blading around the stage digging in her sleigh and throwing presents out to the crowd.

The Snow Queen also paid a visit as did many other of Madison's best performers including Kitty Ligore and Cass Marie Domino. All told 10 of Madison's finest put on one of the best shows of the year.

New Madison Record?

The end result of this combined effort was what some local observers said was the most successful bar fund raiser in Gay Madison history.

At the end of the night, Bill and Divine were hugging each other, while Manoeuvres' owner, Ed, stood by and just kept saying "I am ecstatic."

He wasn't alone. After the last note from the final number had receded, the Emcee for the evening, Carol, announced that the total raised was over well over \$1,500.

Great Show, Great Audience

The excited crowd went wild and the party was on. When Manoeuvres DJ extraordinaire Tony started up the tunes, many couldn't wait for the tables to be cleared off the dance floor. They simply used them and the chairs surrounding them as mini dance floors to celebrate.

One observer said "I've don't think I have ever seen a bar crowd as excited as this one was. And the end of the evening was an incredible sight, a fabulous end to a wonderful evening." He added, "I just can't say enough about Divine and Ed, they are wonderful to work with."

Raffles A Hit

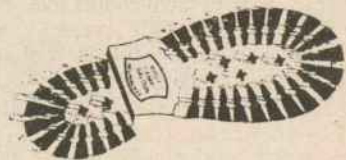
Dozens of raffle prizes donated by the Miller Brewing Company, Clowning Around, the Madison Repertory Theater, We Are Family, Manoeuvres, the Shamrock Bar, **The Wisconsin Light**, Soap Opera, and Milwaukee's In Between Bar, Just Us Bar, Boot Camp Saloon, Crock and Keg, and Afterwords Books among others helped push the total upwards.

Before each half hour drawing, Carol

implored the crowd to buy more tickets. And buy they did.

Fittingly before the final drawing of the evening for a first run "Evita" movie poster donated by movie buff and **Wisconsin Light** publisher, Jerry Johnson, and two gift certificates from the Madison Rep, Divine, did her rendition of "Don't Cry For Me Argentina."

It brought the house down. When Carol



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Dancing up a storm Our camera caught this stunning shot of dancers at La Cage, Milwaukee's largest dance bar. On Jan 5 Dance Dance Dance closes. Watch issue for details of our January 7 Madonna party at La Cage.



A Rainbow Christmas We Are Family, Madison's new Gay boutique and coffee shop has lots of fine gift ideas to help you fill your Christmas list. The shop is located at 524 E. Wilson a few feet away from Manoeuvres.

"Seasons Greetings" is a Comedy That Tries, But Just Isn't Funny

Reviewed by Bill Meunier

The performers were for the most part good, the set was appropriately decorated and the direction was fine, but the play is the thing. That's why the Madison Rep's production of *Season's Greetings* is less than the sum of its parts. Simply put, Alan Ayckbourn's comedy is not funny.

Ayckbourn is a prolific writer. All told he has produced over 50 scripts since 1959. This is one script that should have been left on the shelf.

The play revolves around eight relatives and one invited guest who spend Christmas eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day together in England.

There is no plot. Rather there is a series of vignettes containing little if anything to laugh about.

The problem with Ayckbourn's script is that it doesn't contain some of the basic elements of good humor. First and foremost, the characters are so overdrawn that with a couple of exceptions they are fairly pathetic. Laughing at some of them would be akin to laughing at someone falling out of a wheel chair.

Second, the situations are not realistic. Who would believe that after a one minute introduction, a housewife would have sex under a Christmas tree in her own house while her husband, children and relatives slept upstairs? I certainly know that heterosexuals are capable of debauchery, but this was unbelievable.

Even more unbelievable was her husband's refusal to believe what had happened and ignoring what he had seen with his own eyes.

Third the few laughs that do exist are often stifled by the cruelty the characters show towards each other. One of the subplots was the presentation of an annual puppet show hated by the children

and adults alike. When the puppet show finally starts it is genuinely funny, but the laughs it evokes are soon snuffed out as the presenter without much reason begins calling his helper cruel names. This angers another character who wrecks the set. The audience sits in stunned disbelieving silence.

Other situations simply aren't funny un-



A serious discussion- Clive (Thomas Green V and Phyllis, (Colleen Burns) discuss English literature and traindrivers in this scene from the Madison Reps "Season's Greetings."

der any circumstances. What is so funny (especially given today's headlines) about giving children real guns at Christmas and then urging them to go the gravel pit for a "shoot out?"

What is hilarious about a man being shot and mistaken for dead by a doctor who says he is such a loser he can't tell

the difference between the living and the dead?

The play ends as the house guest is carried out after being shot. The last line of the production comes from the spinster who invited him. She shouts "I don't care." By this point neither did most of those in the audience as shown by the lukewarm applause that greeted the final fade out.

Give credit to the cast especially Catherine Lynn Davis, Tony Dobrowolski, and Colleen Burns for doing their best with

Michael Lord Gallery Featuring Recent Works of Luis Roldan

Milwaukee—The Michael H. Lord Gallery is featuring an exhibition of the recent paintings of Luis Roldan. The exhibition will run to January 11, 1997.

In his most recent paints, Roldan explores the relationship between color and pure abstraction in the series titled "Sabrosito Ya." A word not easily translated, Sabrosito Ya exemplifies dualities such as security and danger, beauty and ugliness. It also conveys the chaos that is created when these dualities co-exist. With color and non-representational abstraction, Roldan seeks to depict energy created through conflict.

Roldan was born in Colombia. He has shown extensively throughout the country, where his works have been acquired for public and private collections. Roldan has resided in Milwaukee since 1982. His paintings can be found in the collection of the Milwaukee Art Museum, as well as other institutions in the United States.

Winter Group Show

The Winter Group Show features work by such photographers as Jan Groover, Clarence John Laughlin, Henri Cartier-Bresson, and Susan Johann.

The Lord Gallery also features works, both old and new, by Milwaukee photographers Tom Bamberger, Steven Foster, J.P. Atterbury, and Eugene Von Bruenchenhein.

The Michael H. Lord Gallery is located at 420 E. Wisconsin Ave., in the Pfister Hotel. Gallery hours are Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Chase Hunter, Adult film superstar, is shown with Club 94 owner, Bobby Lyons (far right) and friends during his recent visit to the popular stop in Kenosha. Hunter, who made his name in such videos as "Basic Plumbing," "The Chase is On," and "Hold Me Again," was recently interviewed in the most recent issue of *Manshots*. In the interview, Hunter said that he is an Ohio native, but lives, now in Florida. Unlike some of the men who perform in Gay videos, Hunter is proudly Gay. He went to his first Gay bar at age 18, and learned "Oh, my gosh! There's a bunch of 'em (Gay men) out there!" Hunter describes himself as "basically conservative" and "relationship oriented." He was introduced to making videos by his then partner, Tony DiAngelo, who he met while they were both competing in the Mr. Gay Columbus, Ohio Contest (DiAngelo won). Hunter says he "loves live performing." That's obvious from the pictures above.

Milwaukee Rep's "Inspecting Carol" is a Rich Recipe for Laughs

Reviewed By Bill Meunier

Take a warped view of *The Christmas Carol*, add in a heaping portion of lampoons aimed at the theater, the holidays, political radicalism and the National Endowment for the Arts, fold in a good script and mix together with a fine cast and you have the recipe for the Milwaukee Repertory Theater's laugh riot, *Inspecting Carol*.

Charles Dickens would spin in his grave, if he could see what the incompetent, financially strapped theater company featured in this hilarious spoof does to his Christmas classic.

Charles Dickens would spin in his grave, if he knew what the incompetent, financially strapped theater company featured in this hilarious spoof does to his Christmas classic.

The play is set in a small Midwestern theater. The company is busy getting ready for its annual production of *The Christmas Carol* otherwise known as "the cash cow."

The problem is that the troupe's subscriber base is down by half and its badly needed National Endowment for the Arts grant is being held up due to questions about its artistic ability. The NEA has sent a letter informing the company that it will be sending an inspector.

Enter one, totally inept and messed up actor, Wayne Wellacre. Wellacre is going from theater to theater seeking an audi-

tion. The troupe becomes convinced that he is an undercover inspector from the NEA.

Taking advantage of the situation is Larry Vauxball, the actor to whom the company has given the role of Scrooge. Vauxball is somewhat of a problem. The previous year he attempted to perform his role in Spanish as protest to the oppression in Central America.

Vauxball wants to rewrite Dickens and put some political punch into the Englishman's Christmas classic. Working through Wellacre, Vauxball manages to cow Zorah Bloch, the troupe's artistic director into making changes that turn *The Christmas Carol* into political street theater.

Naturally the real NEA Inspector arrives just in time to see the final dress rehearsal of the most unusual, and funniest production of *The Christmas Carol* known to man.

In lesser hands, this play would not work nearly as well. But this cast handled the script deftly.

Angela Iannone is brilliant as Zorah Bloch, Peter Silbert is a delight playing the oddball Vauxball, and Lee Ernst is wonderful as Wellacre. Their performances were ably supported by fine work put in by a fine cast. Director J. R. Sullivan has done a great job in wringing every last ounce of humor out of the play.

Inspecting Carol is playing at the Rep's Powerhouse Theater. Its run will continue through December 31. It's well worth seeing.

Dale Gutzman's 'Holiday Punch' Set to Deflate Some Pretentious Balloons

Milwaukee—Once again this winter, producer/director Dale Gutzman will present one of Milwaukee's oldest and best loved holiday traditions, *Holiday Punch*. This is a slightly askew revue of comedy and music that was begun at the Skylight Theater in the seventies. It has played every Christmas since.

Creator Dale Gutzman looks at the hype and hypertension of the holiday season. He pokes fun at the big news stories of the year and mocks the year's fads and fashions. Gutzman and his talented company do parodies of the big entertainment hits of the year and, of course, there is a liberal dose of traditional holiday songs.

Each year the show has been different, and yet the mood of the evening—a kind of anything-can-happen craziness—is always the same. Audiences have made *Holiday Punch* as much a part of Christmas in Milwaukee as "The Nutcracker" and *A Christmas Carol*.

New Books at AfterWords

Lesbian Fiction

Inner Circle by Claire McNab, Naiad Pb \$10.95

Lesbian Non-Fiction

Ceremonies of the Heart: Celebrating Lesbian Unions edited by Becky Butler, Seal Press Pb \$16.95

Gay Fiction

Pagan's Father by Michael Arditti, Soho Press HC \$24.00

Gay Non-Fiction

Showtune: A Memoir by Jerry Herman with Marilyn Stasio, Donald Fine Books HC \$24.95

Holiday Punch 96 begins and ends with the Presidential election. Attention is also given to the mud slinging of some of the local races.

The show has fun with the Skylight's winter musical *My Fair Lady*, by merging it with the '96 fad of horror and supernatural and presenting "My Fair Frankie" (A musical Frankenstein).

A tribute is given to the Marcus Center's huge success with *Phantom of the Opera* by presenting a Christmas Andrew Lloyd Webber musical parody done on roller skates and called "Deers." Sketches poke fun at *Independence Day*, *Twister* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

A Christmas choir falls apart during a candlelight concert. A hard look is taken at those who escape Christmas by taking winter cruises.

TV talk shows are lampooned when the Hamlet family airs their dirty laundry on national TV. The cast performs the very latest dance craze, "The Iraqirana."

No one in Milwaukee escapes the potency of *Holiday Punch*. The song, "I took My Harp to the Party," includes references to local wife abuse by judges, egotistical radio talk show hosts, and city organizers and businessmen.

Here is, indeed, a show that has something for—or against—everyone.

Holiday Punch plays at Vogel Hall of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts on Fridays and Saturdays, December 20, 21, 27 and 28. All shows begin at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$16.

There will be two special New Year's Eve shows at 8:00 and 10:15 p.m. Tickets are \$22.

For tickets, call the Marcus Center Box Office at (414) 273-7206.

OUT on Film



Restored and Reissued Helmut Berger (Right) and Fabio Testi (Left) star in the *Graden of Finzi Continis*. A restored print of the 1971 Oscar winner for Best Foreign film will be showing at Milwaukee's Downer Theater beginning on Christmas day.

'Jerry McGuire' Shows Tom Cruise at the Top of His Acting Career

Reviewed by Bill Meunier

Jerry McGuire, is a funny film, a graceful film, a film about joining the human race.

Tom Cruise plays the title character, Jerry McGuire, a sports agent who hates what he has to do to remain successful. McGuire issues a memorandum at a Sports Agents' Conference decrying the inhumanity of the industry that has made him successful. His missive receives much applause and earns him a pink slip a week later.

McGuire tries to retain as many of his clients as he can. He succeeds in keeping just one, an Arizona Cardinal wide receiver, Rod Tidwell, ably played by Cuba Gooding Jr. Joined by Dorothy Boyd, an accountant from his former employer who believes in what he wrote, McGuire sets out to bring some sanity and humanity to the business of sports management.

In his prime, McGuire is a whirl of activity traveling from airport to airport with a cell phone permanently attached to his ear. Now stripped of the trappings of power, he must start over with only Boyd and Tidwell to help.

While McGuire puts all his intensity into his profession, ignoring his personal relationships, Tidwell puts his focus on family and friends while taking a tough as nails, chip on his shoulder approach to football. Together the two set off on an often funny journey to find the right mix of hard and soft in their personal and public lives.

Tidwell has placed all his hopes in McGuire. Mc Guire in turn has his future riding on Tidwell. "Have fun playing the game," he tells his sullen client who wants a \$10 million four year contract but is offered \$1.7 million for three years.

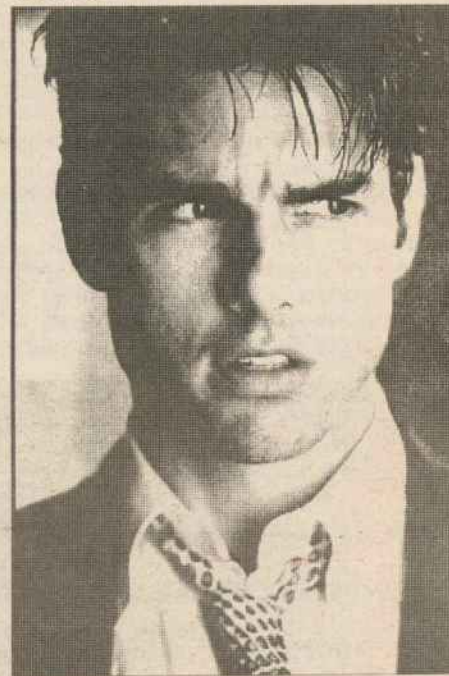
For his part Tidwell tells Mc Guire to lighten up on the home front. The two of them become more than client and agent, they become friends as they pursue their joint yet individual dreams.

Cruise and Gooding play off of each perfectly in what may be Cruise's best performance ever. The handsome actor effectively shows a good number of emotions ranging from rage to indifference, from affection to nonchalance.

Gooding is equally good in his role as a player who learns that arrogance can have a high price.

The interplay between the McGuire and Tidwell characters rises well above the

typical "buddy picture" syndrome as the two help each other confront inner as well as outer demons. With McGuire's help, Tidwell becomes a first team star, with Tidwell's help, McGuire opens himself to intimacy.



The two are very ably supported by Zellweger, the single mother accountant, who Cruise marries ("out of loyalty"), Jonathan Lipnicki, her scene stealing carrot topped son, Bonnie Hunt, her sarcastic sister and Jay Mohr, the snake oily agent who fires Cruise and then conspires to keep him down.

Cameron Crowe who wrote and directed *Jerry McGuire* has done an outstanding job. His script is feel good but without sugary sappy emotion. It is funny without being offensive. It is realistic without being overly harsh.

Crowe points out the excesses in sports without hammering away at them and while showing the good things at the same time. His script offers a fresh look not just at sports, but at life in general without leaning on clichés.

Jerry McGuire is not a sports film, as much as it is a film about friendship, personal growth, loyalty and real heroes. Don't miss it.



The Boulevard Ensemble rehearses for "Little Egypt." The play runs at the Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic in Milwaukee, from December 19 to January 12th.



An Angel from Heaven - Whitney Houston and Denzel Washington star in "The Preacher's Wife."



Lavish costumes - Charles Berling and Fanny Ardant (center) star in the critically acclaimed award winning French film, "Ridicule."

'The Preacher's Wife' Is a Pleasant Film, But Lacks the Sparkle of the Original

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn was first introduced to a little 1947 black & white Christmas classic, *The Bishop's Wife* a yule...oops, a year ago. A curious little film, *The Bishop's Wife* starred David Niven as a Bishop seeking, perhaps misguidedly, to erect a magnificent cathedral.

The ever dashing Cary Grant played the angel sent to help him during his moment of crisis and the ever adorable Loretta Young played Niven's adorable if disgruntled wife.

In Hollywood's most sensible fashion (why create original films when re-makes and sequels are so much simpler?), *The Preacher's Wife*, an updated remake, now serves as a star-vehicle for pop diva Whitney Houston with the ever dazzling Denzel Washington doing Cary Grant duty as the angel Dudley. The results, shall we say, are mixed.

The Bishop's Wife itself seems a variation on a theme from that most Christmasy of all Christmas films: *It's a Wonderful Life*. David Niven's Bishop is basically a good man but tempted. Does he forego his principles to get his cathedral built? A troubled man of the cloth, he prays for guidance.

Enter the angel Dudley (Cary Grant). David Niven is a bit dubious, especially when Dudley seems to be showing off his wings to his wife. After all, just who's angel is this?

Niven's counterpart, Henry Biggs (Courtney B. Vance) is basically a good man but overwhelmed, overwhelmed with work, with duty, with responsibilities, with problems. Sure, there's a cathedral in the picture but here it is the dream of slimy Joe Hamilton (Gregory Himes) who all but strong-arms the poor beleaguered Henry Biggs into supporting his fabulous uptown project.

Henry's wife is irate, her fabled father wouldn't do such a thing! Henry prays for guidance.

Enter the angel Dudley (Denzel Washington). Henry is a bit dubious, especially when Dudley seems to be showing off his wings to his wife Julia (Whitney Houston).

In proper Yuletide fashion, when *The Preacher's Wife* is all wrapped up, all is forgiven (and in this case forgotten by at least all of the adult characters) and eve-

ryone lives happily ever after.

While certainly entertaining, Glenn left the cinema feeling like something was missing: the pre-requisite lump in the throat. Christmas movies are supposed to have that big tear-jerking moment, aren't they? Even *Jingle All the Way* had a big payoff moment.

(And while we're on *Jingle All the Way*, Glenn would like to say that he has gotten enough harassment for liking that film, thank you very much.)

Somehow, somewhere in the updating process, much of the earlier film's magic has been lost in bringing the story into the 90's. Courtney Vance is wonderfully warm and human as Henry Biggs but here his character has been shuffled off to a mere supporting player. Instead of an angel, what Henry seems to need most is a wife who stops comparing him to good ol' dad, a decent vacation and enough money to put his current church into a proper state of repairs.

Whitney Houston is simply not a very good actress and lacks the necessary warmth as Julia. While Whitney has a great voice (think of those soundtrack sales!) and has a great and pleasing smile, too often it feels just a tad calculated. Glenn also found her vocal gymnastics a bit wearying.

Denzel Washington's Dudley on the other hand is sensational, all but stealing the film. Dressed in a smart grey suit, grey fedora and a dazzling white smile, Washington's Dudley is an angel filled with awe and wonder and has a generous innocence, even if he may lack Grant's roguish charm. His Dudley is all too human, his great joy at finally, at long last returning to earth all too touching.

Fine too was the supporting cast with a hilarious Jennifer Lewis particularly scoring as Julia's blunt mother Marguerite and an adorable Justin Pierre Edmund as the adorable Jeremiah.

When all is said and done, Glenn couldn't help but think that while *The Preacher's Wife* was pleasant, lacked a certain enchantment. Curious, Glenn felt, that it was not any of the human characters who seemed to discover the real meaning of Christmas in *The Preacher's Wife*, but rather it was the angel Dudley.

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

'Ridicule' Presents an Opulent Picture of Pre-Revolutionary France

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

The elegance and the decadence of the French aristocracy immediately prior to the French revolution has been well documented. Their souls, if indeed they had souls, they hid. Souls hidden behind glittering fabrics, hidden behind mammoth, hideous powdered wigs, hidden behind wit, words that would wound as if razor sharp, miniature blades.

Such is the world of *Ridicule*, a brilliantly vicious costume drama directed by Patrice Leconte (*Monsieur Hire* and *The Hairdresser's Husband*).

Not content with simply crafting a typical piece of costume drama, Leconte immediately alerts the viewer that wit and witticisms, regardless how brilliant, will prove to be no laughing matter.

As the film opens, it is 1783, six years prior to the revolution. In years previous, an aristocrat was nicknamed "Monsieur Stumblebum" following a mis-step by that generation's most celebrated wit, Count de Blayac. Now the revenge-seeking aristocrat confronts the aged, ancient man responsible for his exile from soci-

ety. With rueful satisfaction, he urinates on the helpless old man.

Into this glittering, brittle world of exquisitely dressed courtiers and courtesans comes Ponceudon de Malavoy (Charles Berling), a good and honest young man determined to seek assistance from the King to drain the swamp that is causing so much death amongst the peasants of his region. Seeking audience with the recently deceased man, he is told he can be recognized by his widow.

A man of worth is worth nothing unless quick (and preferably viciously) witted. To reach King Louis, de Malavoy must first learn the rules of the game. Fortunately de Malavoy is prerequisitesly apt with a bon mot readily available and soon becomes befriended by the veteran of such parlor war, Marquis de Bellegarde (Jean Rochefort).

Marquis de Bellegarde, a chronicler of all witticisms which cross his path provides de Malavoy with an introduction into court life. His youth, good looks and sharp tongue soon catches the eye of one of the king's mistresses, one Madame de

Blayac (Fanny Ardant). de Malavoy soon learns that becoming the favorite of a courtesans has more than its share of costs, perhaps more than offsetting as its benefits.

With great relish and grand flourish, Leconte and writer Remi Waterhouse satirizes this decadent, corrupt society. Yet amidst their obvious abhorrence of the inherent viciousness and the absurdity of the petty court intrigues, so too is their fascination (dare Glenn say admiration) for their splendid, genteel savagery.

Production values by production designer Ivan Maussion and cinematographer Thierry Arbogast are admittedly fabulous. The shimmering opulence of the court is presented in sharp contrast to the desperate poverty experienced by de Malavoy's peasants.

Similarly fabulous is Leconte's handsome cast. Charles Berling, in his screen debut, makes for an appealing hero, honest and sincere yet not without faults. Jean Rochefort makes for an amusing, sympathetic de Bellegarde. As de Bellegarde's beautiful young, willful daughter Mathilde, Judith Godreche makes a worthy opponent to Fanny Ardant's deliciously vicious Madame de Blayac.

All that glitters is not gold, an old adage perhaps but one well served by Leconte and company in the glittering *Ridicule*. Highly recommended!

Rating \$\$\$\$\$ (scale \$ to \$\$\$\$\$) *Ridicule* opens on Christmas Day at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater.

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Two Milwaukeeans Attend the World Premiere of "Evita" in Los Angeles

Milwaukee—The Galano Club's Garth Wangemann, won two tickets to the world premier of *Evita* in Los Angeles. The screening was held in the Shrine Auditorium on Saturday, December 14th.

Wangemann was one of 25 winners in the *Evita* Movie World Premiere Contest the Official Madonna Fan Club was running. The passes were FedExed on December 10th from Disney Studios in California.

Wangemann said that when he received the news that he had won, he "was in shock." He said he'd been a member of the Fan Club for 10 years and had never won a contest that the Club had sponsored.

On Thursday, December 12th, Wangemann and his partner, Roy, headed for L.A. to attend the world premiere of *Evita* scheduled for December 14th.

Evita, which everyone is raving about, has its world premiere in Los Angeles and New York to qualify for the Academy Awards.

As Wangemann reports, the Premiere was held at the Los Angeles Shrine Auditorium which is across the street from the University of Southern California campus. The Auditorium has been the site for numerous Oscar and Grammy telecasts and will hold the Oscars again for this year's awards.

Wangemann and his partner checked out the place on Friday, finding that what Madonna's Fan Club president had told them was true. This event going to be an all out Hollywood premiere.

The bleachers were set up, the front entrance to the Auditorium was draped in a huge scarlet banner with the word "Evita" written in gold. A red carpet was being laid for the guests and 125 news organizations were setting up their equipment in anticipation of the following night.

Wangemann says that the following afternoon as he and Roy dressed in their tuxedos he was "as nervous as Madonna must have been."

"I knew from talking to her Fan Club president that the likelihood of meeting Madonna would not be possible. Nonetheless, I was hoping to at least catch a glimpse of her."

A Hollywood Gala

The event at the Shrine was nothing like I've ever seen. Thousands of people jammed the street hoping to catch a glimpse of some favorite star. Giant searchlights swept back and forth across the sky. Limos were backed up for blocks, while the crowd in the bleacher section roared to the echo as each star passed their way.

Wangemann and his partner, along with other contest winners, were ushered into the theater first and watched the rest of the festivities on a large closed circuit TV screen.

When Madonna entered the bleacher area from her limo with Carlos Leon on her arm, the roar of the crowd was deafening. Even in the auditorium one could hear them cheer.

Madonna was dressed in a 40's style magenta gown designed by Givenchy designer John Galliano with a matching 40's veiled hat. It was truly spectacular. It seemed to take her forever to enter the auditorium. With every step down the red carpet, she was stopped by a reporter to answer inane questions regarding her daughter or how she was feeling at the moment. However, Madonna handled it well and when she entered the auditorium the audience inside went wild as well.

Wangemann and his partner were seated in the lower section of the balcony which, he said, was actually the best place to view the film. He pointed out that the Shrine is a carnivorous place to show a film. It seats 6,300 people with the balcony holding 3,600 seats alone.

And There She Was!

Once Madonna entered the auditorium Wangemann said that he lost track of her until she started walking down the aisle next to where he was.

"She smiled as she walked past our seats." Wangemann said, "and sat down about ten rows from us. She was flanked by bodyguards, but I finally got to see the object of my obsession for so many years. The only thing that struck me upon seeing her up close was how tiny she is. I expected this larger than life woman and instead she is quite small and petite."

Soon other stars gathered in the area and within ten minutes Wangemann and his partner were sitting in the midst of Antonio Banderas and Melanie Griffith, Andrew Lloyd Webber, and Tim Rice.

The Gay community was represented by Greg Louganis and Melissa Etheridge

along with her very pregnant partner Julie Cypher, who is due to give birth in January.

Wangemann reported that not long after that the film started, the audience went berserk as each star's name appeared on the screen.

The Film

"I've read many glowing movie reviews regarding *Evita*," Wangemann said, "including Madonna's performance in this film. The soundtrack to the film is glorious with strong singing performances by Antonio Banderas and Madonna, but I was curious to see how they translated from the on-stage production to film."

To my relief they translated intact and with a style and power that the Broadway soundtrack could not match.

This sixty million dollar movie is glamorous and paints 1940's Argentina in dark tones that evoke a sense of mystery. It is truly a beautiful looking movie, grand in scale and feeling, like any production of *Evita* I've seen on the stage. This movie stands on its own.

Antonio Banderas as the narrator (Che Guevera) is stunning both in presence and in his singing. This is a part that could either break or make the movie and he stands up to the demands of the role. From rock to soft ballads Banderas brings a playfulness, sexuality, and energy to the role of Che who follows *Evita* from small town girl to First Lady of Argentina.

Jonathan Pryce as Juan Peron, brings his extensive stage experience to the role of the Argentine President, seduced by *Evita* and pushed and prodded to reach for the Presidency and make *Evita* the First Lady.

Madonna as *Evita*? Many were skeptical about her playing this strong and demanding role. Most of Hollywood viewed this performance as being her last chance in the Hollywood star game. Did she make it? Yes, with flying colors.

This is a new Madonna. The Material Girl has grown up and she is now a woman. Madonna, with extensive voice lessons, has a powerful singing range and depth of performance that she has never given. This is not the MTV Madonna mugging for the camera.

This is a Madonna who is sure of herself and pulls out all the stops to portray *Evita* as a woman who was a saint to some and a monster to others.

Not unlike Madonna herself, this *Evita* is arrogant, pushy and demanding and at the same time poignant. Madonna has never acted better and I believe this will be the signature role of her career.

Whether the public thinks so is another thing. *Evita* will be a hard sell to the movie going public. It took 20 years for this film to be made. The last successful Hollywood musical was *Grease*.

The entire movie is musical with little additional dialogue. Will the public be able to sit through a 2 hour plus film about an Argentine dictator and his manipulative wife? Only time will tell, but no matter what Madonna and the rest of the cast have scored a total knockout.

Editor's Note: Wisconsin Light will be sponsoring the Milwaukee premiere of *Evita*.

Afterwords Events

Thursday, December 19th
Lesbian Book Club - 7:00 p.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 9am-5pm.

December 25th Closed.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Tuesday, December 31st
New Year's Eve
Store hours are 10am-5pm.

Wednesday, January 1st Closed
Happy New Year

Thursday, January 9th
Gay & Lesbian Writer's Group
7:00 p.m.

Monday, January, 13th
Afterword's Book Club - 7:30 p.m.
Boys Like Us by Patrick Merla

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Photo by Terry Boughner

A great time was had by all at the Shoreline Christmas party held at Just Us on Saturday, December 7. The party included the dedication of an AIDS Quilt panel. The popular award winning South Side bar is known for its mix of Lesbians and Gay men. It's located at 807 S. Fifth Street in Milwaukee.

At Age 50, 'It's A Wonderful Life' Is Still Pure Schmaltz—And We Love It!

By Lynn Elber

Los Angeles--The film's hero is a lanky chump, a man unable to escape the grip of the hick town he disdains. There's no sex and little violence in the story, unless you count Clarence the angel biting a cop.

But talk about hit movies: After 50 years, *It's a Wonderful Life* has yet to outstay its holiday welcome. As sure as egg nog and overspending, the Frank Capra film is woven into America's yuletide experience.

We feel George Bailey's pain, again and again. We despair at the fate that keeps him from fulfilling his dreams of adventure, but salute as George selflessly aids his family, friends and community.

We ache with nostalgia for a small-town America of innocence and fellowship we're unlikely to have known and which, we suspect, may have existed only in a Capra-created universe.

In other words, we wallow shamelessly and tearfully in the operatic tragedy and redemption of suicidal George Bailey, Everyman, forced by an angel to recognize the value of his life--and to show us the value of ours.

"Frank Capra made you pay for those happy endings," the film's star, Jimmy Stewart, has been quoted as saying. And we have done so, gladly.

Even the 51 minutes of commercials that NBC stuffed in last year's exclusive TV broadcast of *It's a Wonderful Life* and which could accompany this year's December 21 airing, can't keep us away.

Lawsuits swirling around the picture, thwarted parodies and a small flood of merchandise tied to the 50th anniversary aren't deterrents, either.

And why? Motive and opportunity. Opportunity first. In the 1970s, a clerical error allowed the studio copyright to lapse, and a number of television stations seized the chance to run the Christmas-themed movie for free each holiday season.

George Bailey's story--the good man who can't shirk his responsibility to the family business, the girl (Donna Reed) who loves him, or the town he keeps from the clutches of greedy Mr. Potter (Lionel Barrymore)--became as familiar as Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

Capra "loved the fact it went into the public domain," says his son, Tom. "It became this exorbitant hit and much more popular than it ever could have possibly been before."

"He always said, 'Thank God those fools let the copyright lapse,' otherwise no one might ever have seen it."

That may have been an exaggeration, but it's certainly true that *It's a Wonderful Life* outgrew its modest beginnings.

Although the 1946 film received five Academy Award nominations, including best picture and best actor for Stewart, its box-office performance and reviews were lackluster.

When it debuted, the *New Yorker* magazine dismissed it as "baby talk" (and has relented only reluctantly: A 1977 *New Yorker* piece said, "In its own icky, bittersweet way, it's terribly effective").

It echoed other Capra films in exploring the fight of the idealistic individual against a cynical, greedy villain, but the theme that resonated with Depression audiences proved less persuasive to postwar America.

Contemporary movie fans have proven more open-minded, and film scholars understand why: *It's a Wonderful Life* is a superbly crafted film with much to offer.

Jimmy Stewart is an incredibly likable performer, and in this film, he's a person who's done nothing but good throughout his entire life," said Jonathan Kuntz of the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television.

Audiences can identify with Stewart's Bailey, and with the spiritual crisis he suffers over the life he perceives as

wasted, Kuntz said.

"We also would like to feel that we're being watched over by a guardian angel. That's a wonderful thought. ... And, finally, we also would love to have a happy ending, where everybody is redeemed," he said.

The movie's joyful conclusion, with a reborn Bailey in the arms of family and friends, is exceptional for a memorable film, said Howard Suber, Kuntz's colleague at UCLA.

In most enduring movies, such as *Gone With the Wind* or *Casablanca*, the

hero or heroine is left to cope with a crucial loss, such as love, Suber noted.

But buoyant populist Capra, after forcing audiences through Bailey's nightmare of how lousy the world would have been without him, didn't abandon us. George would emerge content, darn it, and so would we.

There are measures of the movie's impact beyond audience loyalty. There are the calendars and books spun off by actors in the film (sparking a legal battle with Republic Pictures, which is reasserting its ownership rights).

Also noteworthy was an abortive attempt by Comedy Central to create a parody of the film, a plan that fell apart when sister division Republic--both are under parent company Viacom--objected.

Tom Capra thinks his father would have been amused by a spoof. But that doesn't mean he didn't take *It's a Wonderful Life* very seriously. The filmmaker, who died in 1991 at the age of 94, deemed the film his masterwork.

"It was his favorite," Tom Capra said. "He really thought that he just put everything into it."

"All his films were about the worth of a single person, about how much one person can change the world," said the son. "He believed that. And why not? He was one of those people."

It's A Wonderful Life will have a rare theatrical showing at Milwaukee's Times Cinema. Its one week run begins Friday, December 20 and ends Thursday, December 26. The Times Cinema is located at 60 and Vliet.



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GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

MILWAUKEE

GRAPEVINE HOSTS WINTER POTLUCK DECEMBER 22

Grapevine, a Milwaukee area Lesbian group will be holding its Winter Potluck at the Falk Park Pavilion on Sunday December 22.

In keeping with the Holiday Season, the event will include a White Elephant Gift Exchange. All attendees are invited to wrap those little household trinkets and objects that have somehow managed to avoid a rummage sale.

The White Elephant Gift Exchange is a real hoot. Some people have been known to try and sneak out without their-uhm-er-present.

To help bring variety to the table, please bring a dish that begins with the same letter as your last name.

Falk Park is located at 2013 W. Rawson on the South side of the street. Doors open at 4:00 with dinner served at 5:00. For more information contact Julie at 778-1269.

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.

WAUKESHA

WALN OFFERS NEW PROGRAM

The Waukesha Area Lesbian Network (WALN) 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 Mennonite 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.

MADISON

GLB ALUMNI COUNCIL TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Alumni Council of the Wisconsin Alumni Association will be holding its annual meeting on January 13th, at the new Martin and Florence Below Alumni Center located at 650 N. Lake Street. If you are interested in attending any of the meetings or would like to be placed on the mailing list, please call (608) 262-5895.

SAGE-DANE COUNTY MEETS

SAGE-Dane County will meet on Friday, January 3rd at 3:30 p.m. for High Tea and Talk at Monty's Blue Plate Diner on Atwood Avenue, across from the Barrymore Theater.

SHAKE IT UP GATHERING

Shake It Up, an event-oriented GLBT & friends "Pride/Gaggle/Group," will gather on Saturday, January 4th, to feed the ducks at the pond in Vilas Zoo, then to Clasen's Bakery in Middleton and to the Old Feed Mill, 114 Cramer St., in Mazomanie for lunch. Meet at the pond in the Zoo at 10:00 a.m.

Shake It Up will gather on Saturday, January 4th at 7:30 p.m. for a video movie at 4701 Judy Lane. You bring the movie. We decide among ourselves which ones that have been brought the group will see that night. The video need not have a Gay theme. The video seen last time, November 23rd, was *Three Days of the Condor*, which most of the group had never seen.

GREEN BAY

ANGELS OF HOPE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Angels of Hope, MCC, will be holding a Christmas Eve service at 7:00 p.m. at their building at 614 Forest St., in Green Bay. For more information, please call (414) 432-0830.

APPLETON

"FARM BOYS" AUTHOR TO READ FROM HIS BOOK

Will Fellows, author of *Farm Boys: Lives of Gay Men from the Rural Midwest* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1996), will read from and autograph his new book at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, January 9th, at Barnes & Novle, 4625 Michaels Drive, Appleton. For more information, call (414) 830-6960.

"Go-Go Boys X-mas Songs" Should be on All LGBT Gift Lists

Reviewed by Louie Chan

If you're like me, you love Christmas music, especially the old-time favorites—and you think you'll never tire of them. I don't get tired hearing them, rendition after rendition, over and over again.

But, now and again, I would like something different. Like me, you know, *different*. Every time I hear "don we now our *Gay apparel*" from "Deck the Halls," I find myself wishing the word "Gay" in the lyrics really meant what I'd like it to mean.

Well, my wish has been granted. Just the other day, I stopped in to Designing Men. I was looking for some rainbow pins, and I happened upon a new CD put out by Ring Records called *The Go-Go Boys Gay Apparel X-mas Songs*. I couldn't resist. I bought it, took it home and played it. Somewhat to my surprise, it's good, very good.

The music is arranged, directed and performed by Georges Montalba, Jr., a man with a beautifully clear voice that has just the right touch of impishness to it. He sings 14 of the old Christmas tunes, but with decidedly different and (to my Gay sensibilities), very appealing words.

"Boys To The World," "A Christmas Wish from the Goddess," "The Gay Hotel," and my favorite, "Chickenhawk is Coming to Town" are only a few of the titles. Always irreverent, they are fun to hear, providing that (to me) necessary "lift" from tradition at this time of year.

The other night, I had a party and played *Go-Go Boys X-mas Songs*. It was a big hit. It's being played, too, at one of the bars I go to, and everyone likes it there as well.

I recommend it highly, either for yourself, or as a gift to a Lesbian or Gay friend. I bought mine at Milwaukee's Designing Men, 1200 S. 1st Street. Check it out.

Present Music Brings a Musical Epiphany to the Cabot Theater

Milwaukee—With incredible contrasts from lyric solo cello to a phalanx of percussionists, Present Music's "New Year-New Music II" program has something to satisfy the soul of any music lover who walks through the doors of the Cabot Theater on Saturday, January 4th.

The Cabot Theater is located in the Broadway Theater Center in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward.

The 8:00 p.m. program will feature a chorus of the area's finest singers in Morton Feldman's delicate and mystical "Rothko Chapel," conducted by UWM Music Chair Sharon Hansen; "Seven Tunes Heard in China" for solo cello, composed by Bright Sheng and played by Paul Gmeinder; "A Doll's House Story" by Hungarian composer Istvan Marta that features the choreography of UWM Professor of Dance Ed Burgess performed by a corps of seven dancers; and "The Paha Sapa Give-Back," a powerful percussion-driven polemic on the taking of the Black Hills, composed by former Milwaukeean Jerome Kitzke, in his most ambitious work to date.

Tickets to this performance are \$20 for premium seats and \$14 for general admission seating. Limited student seats are available for \$7.50. Order in advance by calling (414) 271-0711.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

JUST US HOLIDAY GALA

The Just Us Divas will be out in force to spread some holiday cheer (and a few other things as well) at the popular bars FREE Holiday Show.

Lead by Diva Sandy Beach, the Just Us troupe including Starr E. Nite, Mona, Joey Black, and Eartha Quakes, will take to the stage at 10:00.

In addition to the fab entertainment, the bar is offering some specials. 12 oz Miller tappers are just 75 cents, 16 oz Miller tappers are only \$1.00. Plus Miller bottles are just \$2.00 and there will be shot specials as well.

SASS HOLDS SHOW TO BENEFIT THE KIDS AT CHRISTMAS

Sass located at 840 S. Broadway in Green Bay will hold its special Toys for Christmas Show at 1:30. Your \$3.00 cover will be donated to children.

The show includes Brad, Lasha, Elsie, Kelly Jo, Becky, Katrina, Christian and Kevira Nicole.

And don't forget to enter Sass "Guess How Many Lights We Have" contest. All the money is donated to the kids.

HOLIDAY SHOW AT THE TRADING POST IN EAU CLAIRE

The Trading Post will be holding its

BestD Gallery to Exhibit the Art of Marlon Banks

Milwaukee—The art of Marlon Banks will be featured in a one-man show opening Friday, January 3rd, at the BestD Gallery. According to the artist, the show will be entitled "Marlon Banks: The Storyteller."

"Over the last several years," Banks said, "I've had opportunities which have allowed for a number of career changes. I've gone from being a commercial artist for *The Milwaukee Journal* in the mid-'80s to a tour as a soldier in the regular army which I completed at the end of 1990.

"Today," Banks continued, "my career focuses on the three R's (reading, writing, arithmetic), as a middle school teacher in Madison, Wisconsin."

Banks was a long-time resident of Milwaukee.

"Throughout these stages," Banks continued, "I've also been able to continue my development as an artist.

"I am anxious to continue this growth process as an artist as begin graduate studies this summer in the UW-Madison, Masters of Art Program," Banks said.

Speaking of his work, Banks said: "As an artist, sometimes I'm expected to limit myself to certain types of images because of the simple fact that my skin is Black. I try to ignore limiting expectations by addressing this concern with multi-cultural images.

"As I get older I also see it more and more my purpose to be that of a recorder. As a recorder I can define myself by focusing on the positive things we do as Black people, instead of waiting or hoping to be defined positively by someone else. This is why I try to always record the beauty of being in the minority.

"I like to do this for my own personal balance of negative mass media recordings of African-Americans which have become customary.

"My art makes me feel good about myself and allows me to feel that I can do anything. Still, whatever the motivation behind my work, I'm always most comfortable in being described as just a storyteller.

The public is invited to view the exhibit and meet the artist at an opening reception on Friday, January 3rd, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the BestD Gallery.

The Gallery is located on the first floor of the BestD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady Street, in Milwaukee's lower East Side. Please use the side entrance.

Gallery hours are Monday through Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Thursday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For information on the exhibit or the opening reception, please call (414) 272-2144.

Holiday Cameo Show and Customer Appreciation Night beginning at 10 PM.

The Trading Post is located at 304 Eau Claire Street in Eau Claire.

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.

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THIS IS IT

Joe, June and the entire staff will be on hand at This Is It to welcome you to their annual Christmas party. There'll be food, good cheer, and fun galore.

The festivities begin at 3:00 p.m. and continue through the evening.

This Is It is located at 418 E. Wells St. in Milwaukee.

LA CAGE HOLIDAY PARTY

George, Corey, and their wonderful staff are all set to help you liven up your holiday season with their annual Holiday bash.

The party which begins at 8:00 will include a Santa's Gift Bag for those in attendance, a buffet, drink specials and of course plenty of great dance music.

La Cage is located at the corner of S. 2nd and National

CHRISTMAS EVE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

CEST' LE VIE BUFFET

It's a Milwaukee tradition. The annual Christmas Eve Cest' Le Vie party. This year the fete will include a free buffet, entertainment and an open bar for all of those in attendance.

This is John Clayton's way of thanking his customers for another wonderful year of their support and taking care of those who want to spend Christmas with their chosen family.

Cest Le Vie is located at 231 S. Second Street, Milwaukee. The party begins at 9:00 PM.

NAPALESE CHRISTMAS PARTY

The popular Napalese Lounge located at 515 S. Broadway in Green Bay will host a fabulous Christmas Eve party beginning at 9 PM. The event includes a buffet lunch. Santa will be arriving at 10:00 with surprises as he makes his world wide rounds.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

IN BETWEEN BADGER BOWL PARTY

The Packers won't be playing today, but you can still get your football fix by attending In Between's Copper Bowl Party.

Cheer our Badgers onto victory as they take on Utah in the Copper Bowl Classic. In Between will have plenty of surprises, drink specials and a free shot with every Badger score.

In Between is located at 625 S. Second St., in Milwaukee.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE!!

From Superior to Kenosha, from Green Bay to Madison and Milwaukee, all of the bars will be having their usual New Year's Eve bashes. In Wisconsin, the bars can be open all night. Some will stay open, others will not, but regardless, they'll be serving food in the wee hours to sop up the booze.

Have a wonderful time. Wisconsin has some of the best Lesbian and Gay bars in the country. You're can have a great time.

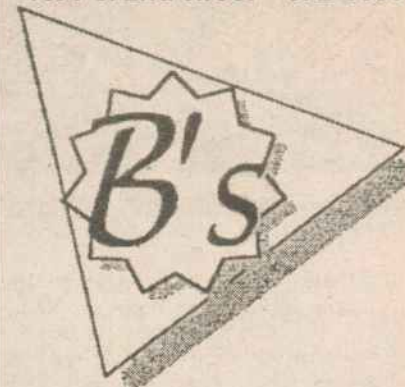
But—
Please play safe. Name a designated driver—and use condoms if that "certain someone" comes along.

10% CLUB

4223 West Fond du Lac
Milwaukee, WI 53216
(414) 447-0190

*Celebrate the
New Year
with Us
Food
Party Favors
Surprises
Come to Our
First
Anniversary
Party
January 18*

1579 S. 2nd Street • 672-5580



Where Neighbors Meet

CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S

At Milwaukee's
South Side
Neighborhood
Gay Bar

Party Favors
Free Champagne

Cocktail Hour
Mon-Fri, 3-7pm
Daily Specials
9pm-Close

HAPPY NEW YEAR

JOIN THE PARTY AT JUST US

Dancing Starts at 9:30pm (Open until 4am)
FREE FOOD AT 1am!!!!!!!

**START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT
SPECIALS (Midnight-4am):**

**JANUARY 1st SPECIALS
(Open at 3pm)**

\$2 All Domestic Beers

Champagne & OJ \$1.75

\$2 Shots of Doctors

Miller Tappers \$1.75

\$2 Shots of Cuervo

Bloody Mary \$1.75

**CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT: January 19th at
JUST US. Ask Bartender for Details**

807 S. 5th Street • Milwaukee • 383-2233

Friday Fish Fry

5-10pm
Also serving
sandwiches,
Weekly Specials,
Baked Fish,
Appetizers, Soups,
etc.

JUST

US

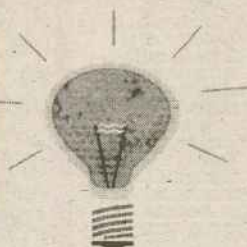
Thursdays & Saturdays

6-8pm
Sandwiches &
Appetizers

We Do Parties &
Banquets

WINNER - Human Rights League Nat'l Coming Out Day Award, Nov. 1996

The Night Light



By Dusty Sass

Whew, things have gotten so hectic that I don't know if I am coming or going. With all of the great parties and special shows, it's a good thing the Holidays only come around once a year, I mean once is clearly enough.

The Cream City Chorus Concert was wonderful and so were the Christmas parties at **Mama Roux**, **Fannies**, **B's The Boot Camp** and **In Between**. I am sure that other parties in other places were equally fun, but these were the only ones I was able to get to.

I must also mention the Holiday Gala Benefit for MAP (the Milwaukee AIDS Project) held at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater (a.k.a. "The Milwaukee Rep.") It was wonderful! I haven't eaten that good in months! And who could resist all of the tempting items: from escargot (snails, for those of you who are not gourmets as moi is) to caviar (little fish eggs).

(Honestly, people do eat the *strangest* things. Once, when moi was in Hong Kong, she was served this long slithery beast (dead), which she later found out had, when alive been some kind of venomous reptile. But I digress)

Some of Milwaukee's finest restaurants donated their time and food.

The open bar was nice too. (Thank you Miller and Skyy Vodka very much.)

The play, **Inspecting Carol**, was very funny and the desserts that followed the performance were heavenly.

Kudos to the MAP staff and to Cliff Heise and his committee for putting together what I hope will become an annual highlight on my social calendar—and everyone else's as well.

But enough of that. On to the future and the future, as they say, lies ahead.

Thursday, December 19th, I am going to take a friend out to **Mike and Anna's**. If you've never eaten at this fine restaurant you don't know what you are missing. Every day there is a new menu to take advantage of the choicest and freshest items in the local markets. That's why the food is always fabulous.

Friday, December 20th, I'll be enjoying one of those fabulous **M & M Club Fish** fries in **M&M's Glass Menagerie**. For those of you out-state and those visiting our city who may not be familiar with the **Glass Menagerie**, it is a glassed-in restaurant made for romance. The food is superb, the lighting is subdued. All you can wish for in addition, if you're there with your honey is for a little snow fall.

Since moi doesn't have a honey (anyone interested, apply NOW!) she will

finish her dinner and head out to **After-Words Bookshop** and to **Designing Men** for some last minute Christmas shopping.

All that shopping will make me ready for a nice treat at **Brew Bar**. This is a new Coffee Shop at 1457 N. Farwell. It's a real nice place and the Gay couple who own it are super friendly.

On **Saturday, December 21st**, you can find me at **Just Us** for their fabulous Holiday Show featuring many of my favorite performers including the ever popular **MONA**. We put her name in caps and bold because a few issues ago, we printed her name as Monc. Hey you try reading what someone scribbled on a piece of paper at 3:00 in the morning. Moi was sleepy and couldn't find her glasses.

Speaking of 3:00 in the morning did you know that the East Side's favorite Pizza place, **Pizza Shuttle** is open until 4:00 a.m.? What a great alternative place for a late night snack or meal.

Sunday, December 22nd, is the final Packer game of the season and I'll be watching it at **In Between**. After the game it will be off to **La Cage** for their annual Christmas party. It will be real blast. George says that Santa is going to come early and leave a whole mess of gift bags to be given to those who are in attendance. Plus they are going to have a buffet and plenty of drink specials.

No matter how busy **December 22nd** is going to be—and it will be busy for these legs of mine (maybe I should switch from heels to flats), I'm going to have plenty of time and energy to stop in at **This Is It**. The bar is very festive. Joe has outdone himself with decorations this year. It's a must-see. The Christmas party starts at 3:00 p.m. and goes till ?

Of course there are some fine events on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and many bars are going to be open to be sure that those who don't have a family to go home to, come celebrate with some Holiday cheer with their Gay family.

Then on **Friday, December 27th**, I will start out at **Mama Roux** for one of their fabulous fish fries. This is the only Gay fish fry I know of where you get a choice of cod or catfish, regular or Cajun. And Chef Thad expertly prepares it in the midst of a wonderful friendly atmosphere.

Saturday, December 28th, I will be over at **Just Us** for some line dancing. I can NEVER get that line straight.

On **Sunday, December 29th**, I'll be at **In Between** to cheer on our Wisconsin Badgers as they play in the Copper Bowl.

After all that I am going to rest up for the big event on New Year's Eve. As I am sure you know, just about every bar is going to have a New Year's Eve bash. I plan to make as many of them as I can. Just pick me up from underneath that table, put me in a cab and send me home.

If you are planning on doing some heavy partying, remember to drink responsibly, take a bus or a cab as you go from place to place, or make sure you have a designated driver you can trust and go to a bar with a buffet so you can soak up some of the alcohol. We want you to be around for all the fun events in 1997.

As this is my last column of 1996, I do want to thank all of the wonderful people who have shown me around, been supportive and helped to spread the word about our "SpotLight" section, time and space don't permit me to name them all, but two in particular, Jerry Johnson, **The Wisconsin Light** Publisher and Terry Boughner **The Wisconsin Light** editor deserve special mention, their faith and confidence have been a big boost.

So that's it for this year and what a year it's been. See our next issue for our big recap of the most memorable social moments of 1996. And look for bigger and better things in 1997. There are a few "little" surprises in store.

Company Offers New Search Engine for GLBT Sites on the Web

Los Angeles—BoxTop Interactive (www.boxtop.com), one of the country's leading interactive entertainment firms, has soft-launched the company's first original content project. Outbox (www.outbox.com) is a web site for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender communities that features a comprehensive search index for news and information.

Outbox's mission is to make sense of the Internet with a fresh, creative approach that reflects the character of the community it is designed to serve. Outbox.com aims to expand the presence of the GLBT community via the Internet and extend it to those who may otherwise feel removed from it. An ambitious project, the site aims to achieve these goals by developing unique services including public affairs, online outreach and original entertainment areas on the site.

Outbox provides a user-friendly, comprehensive search engine for the more than 1,100 sites currently catalogued and indexed. The free service will continue to search for and index new sites that offer vital information and links to the GLBT community online.

Outbox features include "The Commons," an interactive area which offers message boards and chat rooms to dish, discuss and debate on a variety of topics; and "INSites," which features commentary, site reviews and perspectives on the Web.

1506 North 3rd Street • Superior, WI



(715) 394-2580

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

TUES, DEC 31 - 7PM - ? NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

COMPLIMENTARY CHAMPAGNE

DJ, 10PM TILL CLOSE

FABULOUS MIDNIGHT BALLOON DROP

PARTY FAVORS

HATS, HORNS, ETC.

WED, JAN 1, 1997 - OPEN AT 4PM NEW YEAR'S DAY

50¢ TAPS

\$1.50 RAILS

\$2 JUICE DRINKS

OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE, 7PM-?

COMING TO FANNIES IN JANUARY, 1997

WE'LL BE OPEN MONDAYS BEGINNING JAN. 6

COME SUPPORT OUR MONDAY NIGHT BASKETBALL TEAM

THURSDAY NIGHT POOL LEAGUE STARTS JAN. 9

3 PEOPLE PER TEAM - SIGN UP NOW

WATCH FOR OUR PAJAMA PARTY

BEST EVER SUPER BOWL PARTY



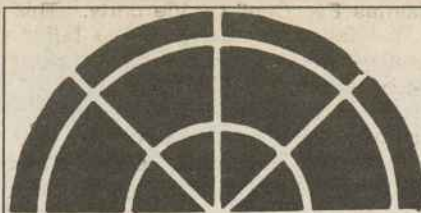
200 E. Washington, Milwaukee, WI. 414. 643. 9633

Fannies

"For the Best Seats in Town..."

ID's REQUIRED

FANNIES HAS ALWAYS BEEN OPEN TO THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY



THIS IS IT!



New Year's Eve Lives At
This Is It!

Welcome 1997
At This Is It!

Party Hats, Confetti, Fun Galore With
Friends Old and New

HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM JOE, JUNE AND STAFF

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

Photos by Bill Meunier



A fabulous show, a worthy cause a packed bar and great fun who could ask for more? The Wisconsin Light SpotLight Party at Manoeuvres in Madison on Sunday, December 15, raised nearly \$1,700 for Madison's homeless shelters. Shown above are some of the many fabulous performers who turned out to help the needy. Also shown are two handsome raffle ticket salesmen. Now we know why those tickets sold so well! Much credit goes to Simply Divine who organized and produced the show, the performers and to Manoeuvres owner, Ed, DJ Tony, Manager Charlie and the rest of the staff. It was a first class, first rate evening.

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&
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 11 am-3pm
plus full menu with
grill open to 8 pm
Carry-out Orders Available
MasterCard/Visa Accepted
Personal Checks upon Approval

Mama Roux Bar and Grill and its staff would like to thank our patrons for their generous support and loyalty over the past year. Your generosity has enabled us to show that we truly are
"The little bar with the big heart."

Remember some of our events this year like The Possum Queen, Mud Wrestling, 70's Parties, AIDS Walk Wisconsin July 4 Amendment 2 Party, Cook outs, Children With AIDS Party, Muscular Dystrophy support, Christmas Visits With Santa, Election Night PFLAG's Christmas Party and Jasmine's trip home

Please join us in toasting the old year and welcoming the promise of the New Year
New Year's Eve.



**Party Favors
Midnight Champagne
Breakfast Buffet at 2:00 AM**

We wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous 1997

See ya at the Party

Joe, Pat, Jasmine, Jeanne, Thad, Robin, Steve, Doug and David

Located in the Wilson Hotel
150 S. Blair Street, Madison • 608.258.9918 • Fax 608.258.9007
E-Mail MANOEUV9918@aol.com (Look Soon for Our Website)

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New Year's Eve At
Manoeuvres and the
MAD Bar

Midnight Champagne, Balloon Drops, Hats,
Horns, Buffet, Dancing

Celebrate 1997
Open All Night

RING IN THE NEW!

Thank you for Your Support the Past Two Years
We look forward to serving you
for many years to come

A BIG Thanks to Simply Divine and Cast and All of You for Breaking a
Benefit Record for the Homeless Shelter on December 15, 1996
\$1,700 Was Taken in That Night

Thanks to Your Support of the Toy Drive and Food Drive.
We Couldn't Have Done it Without Your Help
Your Support Made Many Families Have a Warmer
and Happier Holiday—Ed Grunewald

**MAD
BAR**

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

Books for the Holiday Season That Will Guarantee You or a Friend, a Good Read

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Faithful readers of *Wisconsin Light* will remember that Glenn offered up suggestions for those perfect videos to place under the tree or to stuff that special stuffing. So popular was that feature that Glenn has been similarly asked to propose a similar list of gift books for those Gay men and Lesbians near and dear.

The most spectacular gift book this Christmas (or for any in Glenn's recent memory) is the new, comprehensive collection of photographs by Herb Ritts, simply titled, *Work* (Bulfinch HC \$125.00). In addition to a superb selection of his justifiably legendary nudes, *Work* features celeb pics ranging from Madonna and RuPaul to K. D. Lang and Cindy Crawford.

Photographer John Gettings used the Stonewall 25 celebration in 1994 to capture portraits of Lesbian and Gay couples. Later, Gettings recorded comments from selected couples of their lives and their love and put them into a marvelous new book, *Couples* (University Press of New England HC \$25.00).

The name Gianni Versace brings to mind fabulous images of style and beauty. Two extraordinary coffee table books more than bears this out.

Do Not Disturb (Abbeville HC \$75.00) offers a revealing look at Versace at home: the lakeside villa near Como, the baroque palazzo in Milan and the Art Deco fantasy in Miami. Such top photographers as Bruce Weber, Herb Ritts and

Richard Avedon interpret the Versace Man, a man without a tie in, *Men With Ties* (Abbeville HC \$75.00).

Nothing says lovin' like somethin' from the oven, so what better gift than a cook book? This holiday season there is quite a choice. The most lavish entry is *Feast for Life* by Linda Bartlett and Gretchen Jordan (Collins HC \$35.00). Featuring over 100 celebrities and chefs sharing their favorite recipes, *Feast for Life* is an absolutely beautiful book and a benefit to Pediatric AIDS Foundation and Diffa/Chicago.

Another benefit cookbook, *Food for Life...and Other Dishes* (Cleis Press Pb \$14.95) edited by Lawrence Schimmel offers the personal, often comic glimpses into the lives of Gay and Lesbian celebrities through their recipes. Tom Bianchi, tennis legend Martina Navratilova's and porn-star Aiden Shaw are amongst those including their favorite foods.

The Lesbian coffee table need not be bare any longer with a nice selection of pictorial works available this Christmas. *Damn Fine Art* (Cassell HC \$29.95) edited by Cherry Smyth is a lavishly illustrated book featuring the first in-depth study of contemporary Lesbian Art.

Nothing But the Girl (Freedom Editions HC \$29.95) edited by Jill Posener and Lesbian sex expert Susie Bright is the first exploration of Lesbian erotic photography. Sexy, funny, occasionally shocking but always exciting, *Nothing But the*

Girl must be seen to be believed! The daring coffee table book for the daring Lesbian household.

Long associated with photography of the male nude, Tom Bianchi turns his camera upon women, beautifully and sensitively capturing their relationships: between friends, between lovers, between mother and daughter in *Among Women* (St. Martin's Press HC \$40.00).

Celebrity biographies make for fascinating tattle-tale reading and this holiday season there a few that especially caught Glenn's eye. Calling all "Show Queens". Just released is *Showtune: A Memoir* by Jerry Herman (Donald Fine HC \$24.95). Here for the first time is the true story behind the man responsible for such fabulous musicals as *Hello Dolly!*, *Mame* and *La Cage Aux Folles*.

Everyone still seems to love Lucy. Lucille Ball, that is. Eagerly awaited since the surprise announcement is last year is Lucy's actual memoirs *Love, Lucy* (Putnam HC \$24.95). Equally lovable is drag diva RuPaul whose best-selling autobiography *Lettin It All Hang Out* (Hyperion Pb \$10.95) is now available in paperback.

Certain to send chills down the spines of many Gay and Lesbian readers is *The Accidental Activist* (Scribner HC \$23.00), a personal and political memoir by Candace Gingrich, who had the misfortune to grow up the half-sister to the most newt or newts, Newt Gingrich and lived to tell.

No Gay man's coffee table need go bare (!!!) this holiday season as many fabulous books featuring the artistic male nude are available.

Next to Herb Ritt's *Work*, this season's stand-out book, *Douglas Clothier* (HC \$65.00) comes from the folks that publish *Provocateur* magazine, Alluvial. Filled with stunning duotones of the male nude, this glorious oversized book is sure to be welcome under the tree.

Perhaps the hottest name in young male photography is Bel Ami and in *Bel Ami: Intimate Friends* (Bruno Gmunder Pb \$39.95), Bel Ami depicts young men of stunning beauty and perfection in all of their enduring narcissism and playfulness. In delightful innocent poses, these youths with the bodies of men are shown to be eagerly interested in pleasure and willing to try anything. Not to be missed.

The men Dean Keefer photographed in *Exposed* (Bruno Gmunder Pb \$39.95) are virile, strong men with steeled bodies. *Exposed* captures these men exhibiting their full, sensual beauty whether amid wild nature or surrounded by industrial settings.

For that tiny coffee table or as a marvelous stocking stuffer, there comes from Bruno Gmunder a series of smaller for-

mat photo books featuring stunning black and white photography of the male nude by such photographers as Clifford Baker, Andrew Melick and Mark Brickell. At \$16.95 these books make for delightful gifts!

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

★★★★ 1/2

Dennis Getto
Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel

"La Perla"



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from the Milwaukee Ballet

Entertainment Guide

APPLETON

Rascals Bar & Grill
702 E. Wisconsin
Appleton, WI 54991
954-9262

The Pivot Club
4815 W. Prospect
Appleton, WI 54915
730-0440

DOOR COUNTY

Black Smith Inn
PO Box 220
Baileys Harbor, WI
839-9222

Chanticleer Guest House
4072 Cherry Rd
Sturgeon Bay 54234
746-0334

EAU CLAIRE

The Trading Co.
304 Eau Claire St.
Eau, Claire WI
838-9494

The Wolfs's Den
302 E Madison
EauClaire, WI 54703
832-9237

GREEN BAY

Brandy's II
1126 Main St
Green Bay, WI 54301
437-3917

Club Cheeks
232 S. Broadway
Green Bay, WI 54303
430-9854

Napalese Lounge
515 S. Broadway
Green Bay, WI 54303
432-9646

Sass
840 S. Broadway
Green Bay, WI 54304
437-7277

Za's/Java's
1106 Main St.
Green Bay, WI 54301
435-5476

KENOSHA

Club 94
9001 120th Ave
Kenosha, WI 53140
857-9958

LA CROSSE

Cavalier Lounge
114 N 5th St.
La Crosse, WI 54601
782-9061

LAKE MILLS

Cross Roads Bar
W6642 Hwy B
Lake Mills, WI 53551
648-8457

MADISON

A Room of One's Own Book store
317 W. Johnson
Madison, WI 53703
257-7886

Geraldine's
3052 E. Washington
Madison, WI 53704
241-9335

Manoeuvres
150 S. Blair
Madison, WI 54703
258-9918

Praire Garden Bed & Breakfast
W13172 Hwy 188
Lodi, WI 53555
1-800-380-8427

R Place
121 W. Main Street
Madison, WI 53703
257-5455

The Shamrock
117 W Main St.
Madison, WI 53703
255-5029

Sunprint Cafe
638 State Street
Madison, WI 53703
255-1555

MILWAUKEE

Afterwords Books
2710 N. Murray
Milw, WI 53211
963-9089

B's
1579 S 2nd St
Milw, WI 53204
672-5580

Ball Game
196 S. 2nd
Milw, WI 53204
273-7474

Boot Camp Saloon
209 E. National
Milw, WI 53204
643-6900

Cafe Melange
720 N. Old World St.
Milw, WI 53203
291-9889

Cest La Vie
231 S. 2 St
Milwaukee WI 53204
276-8890

MILWAUKEE

Continued

Club 219
219 S. 2nd St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
271-3732

1100 Club
1100 S. 1st St.
Milw, WI 53204
647-9950

Fannies
200 E. Washington
Milw, WI 53204
643-9633

In Between
625 S. 2nd St
Milw, WI 53204
273-2693

Just Us
807 S. 5th St.
Milw, WI 53204
383-2233

Kathy's Nut Hut
1500 W. Scott
Milw, WI 53204
647-2673

La Cage
801 S 2nd St.
Milw, WI 53204
383-8300

La Perla Restaurant
734 S. Fifth St.
Milw, WI 53204
645-9888

Mama Roux
1875 N. Humboldt
Milw, WI 53212
347-0344

M & M Club
124 N. Water
Milw, WI 53202
347-1962

Rene's Cozy Corner
3500 W Park Hill
Milw, WI 53208
933-RENE

S. Water St. Docks
354 E. National
Milw, WI 53204
25-9676

Station 2
1534 W. Grant
Milw, WI 53204
363-5755

10% Club
4223 W. Fon Du Lac
Milw, WI 53216
447-0910

This Is It
418 E. Wells
Milw, WI 53202
278-9192

MILWAUKEE

Continued

Triangle
134 E. National
Milw, WI 53204
383-9412

Walkers Point Cafe
1106 S. First St.
Milw, WI 53204
384-7999

Zippers
819 S 2nd St.
Milw, WI 53204
645-8330

RACINE

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Illinois

BEND OVER, I'LL DRIVE! I'm a top man looking for a larger Black man. (Addison) =18693

LET'S GET DOWN AND DIRTY I'm 30 years old, 6'1, 165lbs. Brown military cut hair. Blue eyes, nice swimmers build. I'm looking for non professional guys 18 to 30 who like to hang out and party. If you are straight acting and looking call me. (Aurora) =10942

EVERYTHING BUT THE GIRL I'm a Bisexual White male, 5'10, 160lbs. I like everything. (Chicago) =18323

TURN TO THE LEFT I'm 47 years old, White male, very dominant. I'm looking for young guys who like to show off and pose. Call me. (Downers Grove) =9371

ATTRACTIVE AND ALONE Hi out there, I'm living in a Chicago suburb and I like to go out to the movies or out for dinner. I'm looking for someone special. I'm a Hispanic, 5'8, Dark hair and eyes, mustache and goatee, and am considered good looking by my friends. Looking for someone who might want to get serious, if your the right guy. (Evanston) =20454

WILLING TO PLEASE I'm a Gay male. Discreet, open minded, ready to please. Looking for fun and excitement. You won't be disappointed. (Evanston) =7935

MENTOR WANTED I'm an 18 year old African American male, 5'8, 140lbs, swimmer build, dark hair, dark eyes, clean shaven. I'm looking for an older gentleman to teach me a few things. I would like to try being on bottom. (Evanston) =17379

ADORED AND EXPLORED I'm Mexican and Filipino. I'm 20 years old and I'm looking for friends around my age for dating, talking on the phone, and more. (Evanston) =14695

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

LET'S GET WET I'm a 37 year old White male, 5'5, Brown hair, Brown eyes, 158lbs, clean shaven. I would like to meet White men 30 to 50 for water sports and oral fun. Call me. (Evanston) =9831

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

I LIKE 'EM SWEET AND STRONG I'm a Gay White male, 24 years old. I like hiking, computers, swimming and sports. I'm looking for a gentleman 26 to 30 who is masculine and muscular. If you would like to know more about me please leave a message. (Joliet) =10808

THIS CREAM TEAM WANTS YOU I'm 5'9, 185lbs, very muscular, dark hair, Green eyes, goatee. My other half is 6'4, Brown hair, goatee, Brown eyes, furry. We are into singles or couples for hot fun. If you want something different to do call us. (Joliet) =9538

SISSY FRENCH MAID I'm a sissy French maid, submissive Gay white male Transvestite 25 years old. I'm looking for aggressive dominant men to service. Treat me like your little girl. Call me. (Joliet) =10398

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

A QUEST FOR BLACK I'm 6ft, 240lbs. I'm a bottom looking for big top. I have Brown skin, beard, and mustache. I'm looking for a hot Black man to have fun with. (Oak Park) =17297

ROCK HARD IN ROCKFORD I'm a 40 year old Black male, looking for other Gay males, for friendship and paling around together. I'm looking for an exciting time. Nothing kinky. (Rockford) =16856

SEE YOU AT THE FINISH LINE I'm a Gay male 5'11, dark skin, hairy. I enjoy theatre, traveling, jogging and staying at home. I'm looking for guys 5'10 or taller who enjoy life and have a good sense of humor. Race is not important. =22059

BOY NEXT DOOR I'm a 31 year old Gay White male, 5'10, 190lbs, Hazel eyes, goatee, short Black hair, professional. I enjoy biking, walking, movies, sporting events, and more. Looking for someone with the same interest for a relationship. =17944

Iowa

DRESS UP TIME I'm a 49 year old Bi male. I enjoy cross dressing and sex toys. I would like to get in contact with a TV or another cross dresser for a little phone rendezvous. (Cedar Rapids) =14683

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

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

ANYTHING OUTDOORS My interests include all outdoor activities. Give me a call and we can ride our horses through the cornfields. (Iowa City) =18095

BIGGER IS BETTER I'm 6ft, 185lbs, nice build, large 9 1/2", top or bottom. I like trying new things. I'd like to meet well endowed men. (Iowa City) =14407

Minnesota

BOTTOM LINE I'm looking for a friend and a possible relationship. I'm a bottom looking for a top person. Lets chat. (Brooklyn Park) =10665

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

LET ME KNOW I'm looking for a person to have a friendship with. I'm pretty open. If you are 19 to 30 please respond. I'm single and free most of the time. (Elk River) =4903

ELK RIVER COMPANION WANTED I'm in my 50's. I'm looking to meet a younger man 19 to 30 for friendship and the possibility of a relationship. I look forward to your call. (Elk River) =5714

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

SLENDER GUYS ONLY I'm looking for men 18 to 30 who are slender. I'm very active and I like golf, music, theatre, nature, etc. I'm an honest man looking for honest and sincere guys of any race. (Maplewood) =14722

MAKE OUT MAVERICK I'm 30 years old, 5'7, 155lbs, long Brown hair, Brown eyes, good shape, runner, cyclist. I'm looking for my first Bi experience. If you like to make out and you are very good looking and horny, call me. (Marshall) =15797

BOTTOM SLAVE BOY I'm a Gay, White male. I'm about 5'10, 160lbs, with a military cut, Blond hair and Blue eyes. I'm a bottom slave boy looking for a dominant top. Anything goes! (Minneapolis) =21591

FOOT MASSAGE I'm a 44 year old Gay, White male, HIV positive, 5'8 130lbs. I'm looking for guys who love their feet massaged. (Minneapolis) =19287

SLAVE BOY I'm a submissive male, attractive, 6'2, 190lbs, tight buns and hairless. I'm looking for a dominate hung top male to take control. Prefer uncut. I would like to worship you. The kinkier the better. (Minneapolis) =18435

YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED I'm a 22 year old Gay man, 5'10, 170lbs, muscular and work out regularly. I play hockey, football and basketball. I'm looking for a hot, athletic, muscular, straight looking and acting man. (Minneapolis) =18455

I AIN'T TOO PROUD TO BEG I'm a 36 year old slave. I'm looking for a dominant man into bondage and discipline. Call me. I will be a good boy for you. (Minneapolis) =13189

STRICT BONDAGE I'm a 30 year old White male into bondage and S&M. I'm a bottom looking for a top. I'm into strict bondage. (Minneapolis) =16661

ROUGH TRADE I'm a well endowed 32 year old Gay White male into kink and ranch. I'm looking for men who are into the same. (Minneapolis) =17503

FILL MY SADISTIC NEEDS I'm a 41 year old, 6'2, 230lbs, experienced master looking for a slave boy to fill my sadistic needs. You will learn to serve me in absolute obedience. (Minneapolis) =17025

CREATIVE MIND I'm a White male, 5'9, 160lbs, attractive. I like to do a variety of things. I like movies, skiing, and skateboarding. I'm looking for an attractive guy who is intelligent, creative, and fun. I'm into being more submissive. (Minneapolis) =16820

CAT LOVER I'm 5'11, 265lbs, Brown hair, Brown eyes, clean shaven, hairy. I seek men, 22 to 35, who like a little extra padding. I love cats, music, and more. I like White and Hispanic men who are clean shaven tops. Call me. (Minneapolis) =15360

AND THE KITCHEN SINK TOO! Attractive, 41 year old, Gay, White male, 170lbs, Brown hair, Blue eyes, masculine, with a hairy chest and stomach. I seek an attractive, Gay, Black male, 30 to 50 year old top, who has a nice build, is well endowed, drug free, down to earth, and sincere. (Minneapolis) =15424

MY AGE I'm a student, 21 years old, Brown hair, Hazel eyes, 5'11, 150lbs. I'm looking for friendship and a possible relationship. I enjoy tennis, skiing, hiking, movies, and concerts. I'm only looking for men around my age. (Minneapolis) =15497

DROP YOUR PANTS If you are a bad boy and need some firm discipline, my belt and paddle are ready to put you in line. This dominant male knows what you need. I'll treat you the way you deserve. (Minneapolis) =15725

PASSABLE TV OR TS WANTED I'm a 38 year old White male, 6'2, Brown hair, Brown eyes, attractive, muscular, work out. I like music, dining out, movies, casinos, travel, and quiet times with someone special. I seek a passable Transvestite or Transsexual. I'm seeking friends for good times and casual dating. (Minneapolis) =9438

FRIENDLY TAQUITOS WITH MEAT I'm looking for friends. I am 26 years old, look much younger, Mexican, cute. I'm want to meet me please call. (Minneapolis) =12820

VINO MAN Do you speak Italian? Check out this mailbox. This guy sounds really hot!! (Minneapolis) =13128

PRIVATE DANCER I'm Blond, 6'1, 185lbs, attractive, in shape, smooth, late 30's. I'm looking for well hung Bi or married guys for discreet encounters. Privacy assured. (Minneapolis) =1067

SPANKINGS GIVEN To in shape college students to age 25. I'm a discreet teacher. Bottoms up! (Minneapolis) =14541

CHOCOLATE CITY Looking for a chocolate bar. I like men who are tall, 28 to 40, well endowed, tone, great head on his shoulders, etc. Let's spend some time. (Minneapolis) =14419

TAKE A BREAK FROM THE BOOKS I'm a college student looking for a person around 21 years old for dating and a relationship. I'm 5'11, 150lbs, good shape. I enjoy music, skiing, reading, writing, hiking, nature, etc. I seek a guy with similar interests who is clean shaven. (Minneapolis) =14576

SEARCHING FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL I'm a good looking Latino, 28 years old, 5'8, 145lbs, great shape. I'm looking for another good looking guy under 30 for a long term relationship. If you are interested in a monogamous relationship call me. (Minneapolis) =10680

LOOK WHO'S COOKING I'm a 28 year old Gay Black male, 5'8, 220lbs. I'm looking for a similar Gay Black male 25 to 30. I like going out, cooking, etc. (Minneapolis) =10722

EASY TO GET HARD I'm a 23 year old White male, very friendly, easy to get along with. I'm hoping to have good times with men 20's to 30's. Call me. (Minneapolis) =10775

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

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

TRUCKER SERVICE I'm a 44 year old White male, 6'2, 180lbs. I'm looking for Bi or Straight truckers to service. You must be clean, healthy, and good looking. Call me. (Rochester) =8607

DADDY BEAR I'm a 47 year old Gay White man, 6'1, clean shaven, a little over weight. I'm looking for a daddy bear in his late 40s or 50 to cuddle up with. (Saint Paul) =19325

Wisconsin

BE MY SECRET LOVER I'm a 27 year old Gay, White male with a good looking, smooth body. I'm straight acting and discreet. I'm looking for a male, 18 to 29, to be my secret lover. Satisfaction is guaranteed. (Appleton) =9712

ENCOUNTER THIS I'm a 31 year old, Gay, White male, 5'11, 190lbs, Brown hair, Blue eyes. I'm seeking well hung, top men, 21 to 40 years old, for hot encounters. (Eau Claire) =16562

BISEXUAL MALE WANTED I'm a Gay male, cannot meet people freely. Looking for 33 years old professional bisexual male in my area. (Fon du lac) =18752

CHEESE NEAR THE BAY I'm a 27 year old, Gay male, with Blond hair and Blue eyes. I'm looking to meet other guys in the Green Bay area. Give me a call (Green Bay) =19721

IT'S ALL IN THE GAME I'm looking for someone to just have fun with. I'm 5'11, muscular build, 160lbs, clean cut, shaved. I'd like a man in his early 20's. I'm a versatile top man. (Madison) =17764

NEW TO MADISON I'm 5'7, 180lbs, 26 years old, Brown hair, Brown eyes, muscular build. I'm into outdoor sports (especially downhill skiing), movies, and dancing. I'm looking for friendship and possible relationship. Serious replies only. (Madison) =14270

HUNTER I'm 6ft, Blond hair, Blue eyes, medium build, very well endowed. I'm looking for men who are good looking and well endowed. (Madison) =17253

EARLY MORNING HARD ON I'm looking to get together with someone in the mornings or late evenings. (Madison) =17456

MUTUALLY SATISFYING I'm new to the Madison area. I'm 5'11, Blond hair, Blue eyes, 33 years old. I'm looking for men for friendship and possibly more. (Madison) =17106

DISCREET FUN IN MADISON I'm looking for a good looking, Gay, White male. I'm 31 years old, 5'11, 170lbs, nice body, Blue eyes, friendly and easy going. I'm interested in very discreet fun. Call me. (Madison) =5829

I'M LOOKING FOR FRIENDS I'm new to the area. I'm a cute 22 year old Gay Asian male, 5'6, 120lbs. I'm looking for White guys 18 to 25 for friendship and maybe more. Call me. (Madison) =10278

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

LET ME MODEL FOR YOU I'm 5'10, 195lbs, muscular build, professional model. I'm looking for a friends first relationship. (Marion) =16614

MENASHA MAN I'm a Gay male in my early 30's. I enjoy the outdoors. I'm new to the area. Call me. (Menasha) =16411

SUCK RICK Hello, I'm 36 years old, 5'8, 165lbs, with Brown hair and Brown eyes. I'm looking to get into the leather scene. I am a total submissive, obedient, and eager to please bottom. I seek a master 40 to 50 years of age to train, and utilize me. (Milwaukee) =20929

DO AS YOUR TOLD! I'm a 50 year old Gay White male. I'm 5'11 with Gray and Black hair, Green eyes. I'm pretty and dominant. I seek a very submissive bottom who is capable of total service and worship. (Milwaukee) =20856

SQUIRT ON ME I'm a 40 year old Gay White male looking for a relaxed gentleman who want to use a White boy. (Milwaukee) =19075

BROWN HANKY I'm a handsome 39 year old Gay white male. I'm 6'5, 190lbs and very well hung. I'm looking for other Gay White males for Brown hanky fun! (Milwaukee) =19214

SOME OF US WANT TO BE ABUSED I'm 6ft, 160lbs, White, submissive, slave. I'm seeking a dominant Black man or a group of dominant men to use me on a regular basis. (Milwaukee) =12191

SMOOTHIE? I'm 6'1, 175lbs, 30's. I swim and I dance. I have a nice smooth body. I like to give and receive massage. (Milwaukee) =17702

ASTRO GLIDE If you are interested in body shaving. I would like to shave your entire body. (Milwaukee) =17826

TOE AND BOOT LICKER I'm into boots and feet. Hope you are too. Let's talk soon. (Milwaukee) =13168

WIDE RECEIVER I'm a Gay, White male, in search of other men who are into football gear and football. In shape guys only. Discretion assured. (Milwaukee) =17403

LET ME TOP YOU OFF SAFELY I'm a White male, 32 years old, 5'11, 150lbs. I'm looking for bottom men for safe sex. I love getting it on with other men. (Milwaukee) =17554

BROWN HANKY WIENERSNITZEL Hey Brown Hunky wearers. I'm a hot German, Gay, White male, 6'5, Brown hair, Blue eyes, late 30's, 190lbs, masculine and looking for a buddy who wears a brown hanky. I'm not into bondage, but I enjoy leather. I'm usually a bottom, but I can top a submissive boy. (Milwaukee) =17314

STRAIGHT UP I'm a Black male, 6'2, 150lbs. I'm seeking a man who is straight acting and appearing. (Milwaukee) =16937

HOT WIRED WHEELS I'm interested in meeting hot guys in the Milwaukee area. I'm 5'7, 150lbs, Brown skin, good looking, and very well maintained. (Milwaukee) =15990

SADDLE UP I'm 28 years old, Blond hair, Blue eyes, 148lbs, top man. I like riding guys. (Milwaukee) =15781

RAUNCHY AND UNINHIBITED I'm a hot, 39 year old, Gay White male, 6'5, 190lbs, very well hung. I'm looking for Gay, White males, who like butt worship. (Milwaukee) =13543

CHUBBY DADDY 48 year old top, chunky build, 5'11, Blond hair, Hazel eyes. I'm looking for a male slave 18 to 35. If you want to be daddy's boy call me. (Milwaukee) =14429

TRANSSEXUAL DOMINATRIX WANTED I would like to meet White, Hispanic, or Asian Transsexuals who like to dress up and get into new and exciting scenes. I'm 5'9, 175lbs. I would like to meet someone to dominate me. (Milwaukee) =14446

FINE, YOUNG THING I'm in my late 20's, tall, slim, straight acting, cute. I'm looking for an older gentleman 35 to 50 who is clean, discreet, and masculine. I'm submissive and seek an in shape older man who is aggressive. (Milwaukee) =14334

FOR THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE I'm new here from Chicago. I'm tall, 200lbs, work out, dark skin, live on the East side. If you would like a companion call me. (Milwaukee) =12586

DRESS UP TIME I'm a submissive, non passable cross dresser, mid 30's, Bi sexual, looking for a strong, attractive top to use me as his toy. I also can be versatile. (Milwaukee) =14236

HOT, BLACK BROTHER I'm an African American male, 5'11, 170lbs, Brown skin, bald head, nice body, well endowed. (Milwaukee) =13995

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

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

COOL, CALM AND SLICK I'm 6ft, 160lbs, nice looking, clean shaven, 23 years old, lonely. I enjoy movies, exercise, travel, etc. I'm seeking a very attractive bottom 18 to 22. Call me. No games. (Milwaukee) =9613

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

OUT AND ABOUT I'm a Gay White male, 29 years old, 6ft, 150lbs. I'm looking to meet other men 18 to 35 for friendship and possible relationship. I like the outdoors, good times, etc. (Milwaukee) =9137

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

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

9 INCH NAIL I'm a 30 year old construction worker, 180lbs, very muscular, very well endowed, big biceps, lightly furry chest, Blond hair, Blue eyes, Bi, versatile. I'm married but I like getting it on with other guys. Call me. (Northwestern) =8037

HERE'S THE SKINNY I'm a Gay White male, Blond hair, Green eyes, skinny, 120lbs. I like cuddling, watching movies, and the beach. If I sound interesting to you please call. (Racine) =17609

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

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

BIG HEARTED BEAR If you are looking for a big hearted bear to love call me. I'm 43 years old, 6'2, Blue eyes, Brownish Grey hair, moderately hairy. I'm looking for a cuddly young cub 21 to 35 who would like to pamper and spoil this papa bear. (Wisconsin Dells) =15656



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Lambda Legal May Hold High School Graduation Ceremony for Abused Teen

Superior, WI—In an update to previous stories, Jamie Nabozny, 21, who won a \$900,000 settlement from the Ashland, Wisconsin school district after suffering years of Gay bashing, still dreams of graduating from Ashland High School.

But a top administrator of the school district said it won't happen unless Nabozny returns and finishes class work first.

adults have come to him with their own high school horror stories, he said.

"This wasn't just something that happened to me because I was in Ashland, Wisconsin," he said.

Nabozny said not everyone who has contacted him is Gay. Some are shy, had weight problems or other differences that made them targets.

"For whatever reason, they don't fit in, they're different," Nabozny said.

Nabozny, who is preparing for college, said he also found support during the court case.

Town police officers and even those who once harassed him, and the parents of his attackers, came forward in court to verify what happened, he said.

"There's been a tremendous amount of support from people in town," he said. "I haven't had one negative response whatsoever."

Nabozny spoke recently at Boston's Amherst College. He said he is glad others

gain strength to fight their battles from hearing about his own.

"It just makes me feel so good that people read this and get themselves inspired," he said.

Nabozny left the high school in his junior year and earned an equivalency diploma in spring of 1994.

He won the settlement November 20, 1996, over what he contended were years of harassment from other students while he attended middle school and high school in Ashland. He accused school officials of failing to stop the Gay bashing.

The settlement came hours after a federal court jury found that three school administrators violated his rights, although it found the district as a whole was not guilty of discrimination.

The school district has denied Nabozny's request for either a diploma or a ceremony.

Stephen Kelly, Ashland district administrator, said Nabozny did not meet the requirements for necessary class hours to receive a diploma and the school has no plans to issue one.

"We treat everybody the same and if you don't attend the school, you don't get a diploma," Kelly said.

He said the issue was raised during talks on the settlement, and it was clear Nabozny could not graduate because he left in his junior year and didn't have the necessary class credits.

About the only option, Kelly said in a telephone interview, would be for Nabozny to return and complete the class work.

Nabozny said Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, organization that supported him through his lawsuit, may stage an unofficial spring graduation ceremony in Ashland for him and other Gay and Lesbian students from Wisconsin who dropped out of school because of harassment.

The ceremony would not be at the same time as any high school graduation this spring, Nabozny said.

"I don't want to take away from any of the other kids," he said.

The harassment started when he entered Ashland Middle School in 1988 until he dropped out of Ashland High School in 1993.

After filing his lawsuit, Nabozny said he discovered that he wasn't alone in facing harassment at school. He said he has received hundreds of letters, and e-mail contacts from around the world. Kids and

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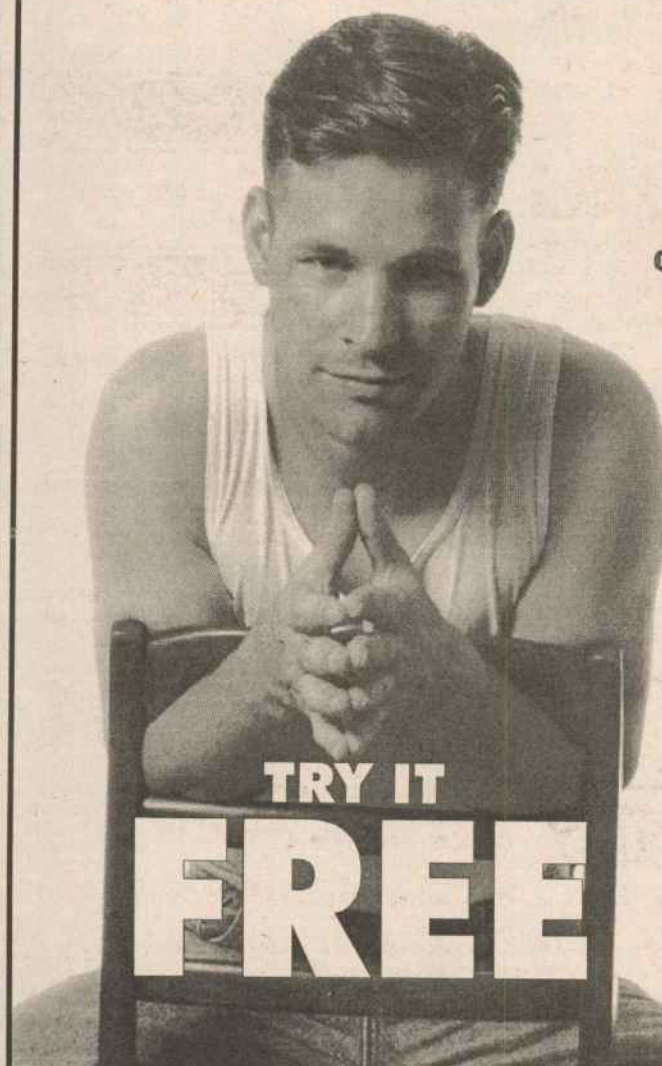
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AIDS: The Challenges and Opportunities to All of Us Presented by the Disease

Commentary by Jim L. Prentice

AIDS—People with AIDS. Here is a story of the most immense grief and disaster, one almost unimaginable to conceive and take hold of fully. In this article, I will attempt to explore AIDS in an enlarged sense and further uncover some new (or perhaps overlooked) meanings for us to consider.

"...AIDS belongs to each and every human being, no exceptions, anywhere, any time."

As I contemplate this disease, struggling for sense, sanity and reason, I recognize foremost that AIDS belongs to each and every human being, no exceptions anywhere, any time—no mitigating circumstances, either. Here, the whole human race stands, pivoted at the end and beginning of a

century. We have, in the 20th century, developed extraordinary technologies, communication and information systems—no endeavor appears to have been overlooked.

At this particular placing in time and history, we are led to believe that we have effected exceptional accomplishments in every department of our lives (hygiene included!). And we are mostly highly gratified as we freely express, in self-laudatory terms, our accomplishments. As we have advanced so impressively in all departments of endeavor, have we still overlooked anything?

Amongst all of our grand and glorious achievements, have we somehow fashioned for ourselves a zone of deficit? I aver that we have indeed, and that the appearance of AIDS specifically and compellingly directs our attention to that deficit. I propose that we have failed to substantively advance our essential core humanity.

I am addressing caring, compassion, giving comfort and holding the strings of understanding as foundation elements of our humanity.

And I am further addressing the need of these elements to be fecundated by real involvement and participation. This means the taking hold of a disease which we all share in and suffer from. I am herewith stating, flatly, that we ALL are AIDS sufferers, and in many cases, this includes those still unborn. Not in more than a century's time have we had a phenomenal appearance of disease, suffering and death with the power to encompass every corner and outreach of the globe.

What Is AIDS Attempting To Teach Us?

One of the things AIDS is attempting to teach us is that it is unequivocally and graphically forcing us to realize our very real interconnectedness, one to another, one to the whole of us, the whole of us to one.

At a very immediate level, we recognize that, in this pandemic, we are either affected or infected. That allows for no measurable or discernible dividing line between us.

At other levels, also not removed, AIDS reveals the very manifold and intricate interactions and exchanges that take place between and among us, many on very intimate terms. In no similar manner do we stand in the same relationship to our pet dogs, cats, cage birds, or to a garden toad, for that matter.

We are, as human beings, expressing as an organic body, giving and getting something from each other. Here I am contemplating more than the exchanging of a virus, a disease pathogen. Through and by way of our vast and intricate web of exchanges and interactions, we are imparting and receiving loss, suffering, despair—all neatly knitted into a network of death and dying.

"We are being offered the chance of being better people by being people doing better."

These persons have husbands, wives, parents, partners, children, friends, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces—all constellated in meaningful human experiences. As these vital groupings become sundered by AIDS, how can any individual suppose that he/she could maneuver around the disease?

AIDS is a pandemic that transcends communities, cultures, race, nations, continents. Within these patterns, we face paralysis in our attempts to formulate the "me" vs "not me" terms that, in so many areas we facetly implement to demarcate our lives and to ensure safe and sacrosanct identities for ourselves.

AIDS is a Message

To restate: We all suffer from AIDS. And this brings me to the next point. AIDS is more than a virus. AIDS is more than a disease. AIDS is also a message. It is a relentless message, like a pit bull that refuses to release its bite.

Deep within, I know that we are being urged to evolve as humans beyond the level of "averages." I am over and over moved and overwhelmed by the steady dignity and courage maintained by AIDS patients and their caregivers throughout a process of cruel physical, emotional and mental disintegration—and all the while, being helpless onlookers to the events occurring to and within them.

All too frequently, this process is compounded by poverty, isolation and abandonment by family and friends. Such are the circumstances we assign to our heroes. Persons with AIDS are heroes in our midst. Are we paying attention to them? For, if not, we are missing the message.

We cannot afford to miss the message. These days, as I, myself, move into the disease process, I am reminded of my life partner and also my closest friend of 25 years standing. Both have preceded me in the disease process. Both are dead.

I am deeply grateful to both of them for their request to me for care and companionship through their difficult days of living and dying. I am, moreover, deeply grateful for their showing me how it is done. I am now impelled to live and, most likely, die of AIDS. From the very depths of my being I thank both Charlie and Mike. They were my teachers and healers alike.

AIDS as Challenge and Opportunity

Thus far, I have presented AIDS as a disease and as a message. More importantly, I am proposing that AIDS is a challenge and opportunity for each and every one alive. The following scenario comprises a commonly held misperception and misconception about AIDS:

Cancer patients, Alzheimer's sufferers, heart disease patients, people with multiple sclerosis and diabetics, have an easy time compared to those with AIDS. Society does not feel the same about AIDS as it does about other diseases.

Cancer is, in a sense, an okay disease. True, we are somewhat embarrassed by people's misfortune and seek to spend our leisure time with the fit and healthy "like ourselves." But AIDS—AIDS is so very different!

Nice people don't get AIDS (Let's forget hemophiliacs and intrauterine infections). But everyone knows you get AIDS by having the wrong sort of sex, or sex with the wrong sort of people.

The other way you get it is from needles, dirty needles, shared by dirty and already invisible people. "AIDS people" are simply not respectable. Of course, saying that in

your upscale restaurant or at the company picnic would not be "politically correct."

Why do people get so steamed about AIDS? Matters are improved now. We are educated and we know *intellectually* that anyone is susceptible, but deeply and uneasily within, we are afraid. We are afraid because it is a mysterious and fatal illness and we are afraid of contracting it. Being terrified, we would rather not get involved. So we shun people with AIDS, marginalize and condemn and isolate them—people with AIDS. And not "those AIDS people."

An Added Cross

People with AIDS have an added cross to bear: they are ill, with no hope of an eventual cure and live in rejection. For myself, I have been abandoned and rejected by my own family and even friends of long standing. I experience isolation that grips me in an every tightening ring. I am deeply concerned that others are not and will not be forced to withstand this same heartbreaking experience.

It is now wonder that AIDS sufferers need a strong platform of support. What then, can we do to correct this drastic wrong; to approach AIDS for what it is, a very serious disease that requires *compassionate* care?

Once we have understood the facts about AIDS, then we need to understand the people with AIDS, change our responses and welcome them into our hearts and lives. This requires an opening of our hearts to caring, love, compassion, community—in deeds of involvement and participation, not as a mere sentimental nod.

There is another reason for fitting ourselves to accompany these people—that is we may share in their special gifts and strength. As we involve with these people, we are sharing not just in their pain, but in a treasure which is rightly theirs.

I would like to point out that there is no such thing as a typical AIDS patient. They are individuals, each with a richly woven tapestry of life narrative. They are positioned squarely face-to-face with death. "Why me?" is the most frequently asked question. This question is one which is reserved for those going through the process. It is patently shameful that there are people who detachedly consider and claim that they hold in hand the key of insight to this existential question.

Apathy Towards People with AIDS

About four or five years ago, I began to notice a trend occurring, a drifting away from compassion and concern toward AIDS and AIDS sufferers. I have observed it in statement such as: "These AIDS people need to take personal responsibility for their disease3," or "What did he expect, being such a whore," or "He/She brought it on him/herself and has no one else to blame."

Also disturbing is the mounting trend of trivializing and minimizing the disease. Probably most alarming have been expressions of romanticizing death and dying.

To my sensibilities, none of the above abstractions contribute to either compassionate or realistic responses to AIDS. I have been reprimanded by friends for grieving the loss of loved ones with the reminder of an imperative to "heal" instead.

Should we ever "shut up shop" on another's grief and pain?

One acquaintance stated to me after the loss of my friend, Mike, that "He has become so spiritual that nothing bothers him." He reiterated the same statement a little over a year later upon recognizing my continuing grief.

I ask: And this is being spiritual??? I understand the highest spiritual expression to be the unfolding of compassion. Compassion, among other things, I propose is a ten-

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Employment

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Send letter of introduction and resume by Friday, January 17, 1997 to:

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Public Notices

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Madison Police Department



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The Madison Police Department is seeking mature-minded men and women who possess integrity, and self-confidence. Strong written and verbal communication skills, as well as a desire to work with the community are essential. We are currently accepting applications for Police Officer, with an expected hire date in the Summer of 1997. No prior law enforcement experience or training is required! Successful past applicants have typically had significant educational and/or life experience. Many have previously worked in teaching, social work, business, or a variety of other professions.

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Rising from the ashes The "new" Hotel Washington will have the same look and feel of the old one as this architectural drawing shows. The new building will be larger, have an additional story and take up the space currently being used by a gas station to the East. For details on the new hotel see our story on page 5. Ground breaking for the new structure will be held on February 18, the first anniversary of the Hotel Washington fire. Our congratulations to the Scheels for winning their hard fought effort to rebuild what many consider to be the most endearing landmark in Gay Wisconsin.

Speaking From The Right

Dole Endorsement Had Impact

Commentary by James McFarland

As has been reported previously in this newspaper, the endorsement of Bob Dole by the Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) was by no means unanimous. Some members both nationally and within the Wisconsin chapter did not feel that Bob Dole's record on Lesbian/Gay issues was supportive enough to warrant an endorsement.

In addition, LCR has taken much criticism from outside of the organization for deciding to endorse Dole.

What most people have missed, however, (mostly because the news broke too late for the Gay media in Wisconsin to carry it be-

As it Faces Religious Hatred, PFLAG Holds its First Holiday Party

Commentary by Ted Berg

Milwaukee—The Religious Right celebrates the birth of the Prince of Peace with shouts of hatred for Gays.

Meanwhile, in a Milwaukee Gay bar, a mother says, "When someone says something against Gay people, I tell them my son is Gay and he is the nicest person you could ever want to meet."

While blue-faced preachers yell warnings of "Gay agendas," two people plan a Gay agenda that consists of visiting all their friends' Gay children when they visit San Francisco.

The Religious Right says that Gay people will destroy America if they get what they call "special rights."

In the meantime, a group of people in Milwaukee gather to celebrate diversity.

On December 15th, PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), held its holiday party at Mama Roux's. The group of approximately 40 people enjoyed the music of Lu Shanti and Steve Polifka.

Like most people of our community, I had heard of PFLAG. They were the ones at the Italian restaurant at PrideFest. They've marched with us in the Parade. At the party, I saw people who cared about me, a Gay man.

Some were outgoing, some weren't. Some laughed, others were serious. In 1973, when I came out, there were (and, sad to say, are), horror stories of family rejection and of people denying their children because they were Gay. What I experienced at PFLAG's party made me feel very special. With people like these, the horror stories are fewer. With their love, the healing of the wounds caused by the horror stories can happen.

PFLAG has no bull horns to trumpet themselves, but they heal our community with accepting love, one son, one daughter at a time. One member of PFLAG told me how she and her whole family, including an infant in a stroller, had marched with her Gay son.

Another member of PFLAG, said she loved her Gay son, but wouldn't see equality in her lifetime. Her remark made me more determined than ever to press on with the cause.

This was PFLAG's first holiday party, and the first time for many of the members in a Gay bar. Their experience, all agreed, was positive, as was mine with them.

fore the election) was the real impact the LCR endorsement had on the Dole campaign.

While the impact LCR had on Dole and his campaign is meaningless now that Dole's political career is over, it is a symbol of what LCR can achieve by choosing to work within the Republican Party instead of simply protesting from the outside.

When the LCR national convention debated the issue of endorsing Dole, many of the proponents of endorsement cited the importance of, as LCR Executive Director Rich Tafel puts it, remaining in the arena. Only then would LCR have an impact on the Dole campaign in the months ahead.

Of course, there were other reasons for endorsing Dole. When, contrary to what has been stated in this newspaper in a prior issue, Bob Dole's campaign publicly requested LCR's endorsement at the beginning of the Republican National Convention (which was reported by much of the mainstream media), an historic occasion took place.

Never before had a Republican candidate for President asked for LCR's endorsement, much less that of any other Gay group.

After receiving this request for our endorsement, and after seeing an incredibly inclusive convention which was completely free of Gay-bashing, many LCR members felt that a refusal to endorse Dole would severely set back LCR. What kind of message would that have sent to future Presidential candidates?

Future candidates might feel there would be no reason to stop Gay-bashing at future conventions since LCR would refuse to endorse the candidate anyhow.

Some in LCR did not feel that this was enough and wanted clearer statements from Dole on Lesbian/Gay issues. The majority, however, disagreed, and chose to work within the Dole campaign to cause him to enunciate his position on Lesbian/Gay issues in a positive fashion.

The result was an incredibly important meeting between Rich Tafel, Bob Kabel (the President of the LCR Board of Directors), and Sheila Burke, one of Dole's top policy advisors. Burke told Tafel and Kabel that Dole would retain a Clinton administration policy banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation against civilian employees of the Federal Government.

Burke also reiterated Dole's support for full funding for important AIDS programs such as the Ryan White Care Act and funding to ensure patient access to breakthrough AIDS drugs such as the new protease inhibitors.

Not only was Dole willing to inform LCR of his position on these issues, but he was willing to make these positions public, as the Dole campaign approved an LCR press release concerning the historic meeting (unfortunately, the press release missed the deadlines of publications in Wisconsin, but it was carried by **The Washington Blade**).

The importance of this goes beyond the Dole campaign. Frankly, Dole's positions on these issues constitute the standard against which all future Republican Presidential candidates will be judged.

Moreover, it sets a standard for all Republican candidates considering their positions on non-discrimination issues and AIDS funding: if it was good enough for conservatives like Bob Dole and Jack Kemp, then it must be good enough for all

Republicans.

None of this would have been possible, after all, if LCR had not endorsed Dole's campaign. Why would Dole have allowed his senior policy adviser to meet with LCR officials if LCR had refused to endorse Dole? He would have assumed nothing could be gained by this, as LCR members would have demonstrated that they could not be loyal Republicans.

By demonstrating that we are loyal Republicans, LCR gained the trust of the Dole campaign and gave Dole a reason to reach out further with his supportive positions. Some critics of LCR have labeled us "Uncle Toms" for following this course of action.

(Frankly, I wonder if these people have even read the book **Uncle Tom's Cabin** since if they had, they would never use that term in a derogatory fashion, and I consider it a compliment to be called an "Uncle Tom"—but I digress.)

While this course of action may not be suitable for some, here we have concrete evidence of the results it can achieve.

And this course of action has found suc-

cess in many other campaigns as well. LCR-WI has found time and again that demonstrating our loyalty to the Republican Party has, at the very least, gained us access to GOP elected officials, and often encourages them to take more supportive positions or to take leadership roles on our issues.

This is merely a fringe benefit, however. The vast majority of LCR members are loyal Republicans (including most of those who opposed endorsing Dole).

We truly believe that the government that governs best is the government that governs least. We strongly support reducing the size of government and reducing taxes and getting government out of our lives.

Unfortunately, however, some in the Republican Party do not immediately recognize this. They believe the lies spread by the Fundamentalist Christians who claim that we are a Democrat front group bent on making the Republican Party more liberal.

The rational Republicans are soon disavowed of this notion when they see the work of LCR. Thus, our ability to get into the arena has had a far greater impact than merely screaming outside of the door of the arena, and I hope that LCR will continue to follow this course of action.

AIDS

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der pain, long with a willingness to assume another's suffering as one's own. The pain we permit is what deepens the cup. Spirituality, it seems to me, is something other than modest personal improvements accompanied by enhanced self-comfortability. All this, moreover, upheld by certain savants in reference to a vague, self-selected higher power of some sort.

The great teachers of humanity have all stated that before one can come into the light, the heart must be thoroughly broken open again and again. We must recognize that our challenge is our opportunity. If we take hold of AIDS as our disease and carry out a healing work by involvement and participation, we will elevate our human status a full octave or two at the least.

We are being offered the chance of being better people by being people doing better. If we fail to take hold of this crisis, we, as humanity, will be the car in the ditch.

Editor's Note: The above article first appeared in **Client News**, a publication of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin and is used with the permission of the author.

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