



The Wisconsin Light

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

ARCW's Nelson Re-Elected to National Leadership Position

Milwaukee-- Nineteen ninety-seven marks the sixth consecutive year the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW) will play a leading role in setting the direction for AIDS policies nationwide.

In December, Doug Nelson, executive director of ARCW, was re-elected to the Board of Directors of AIDS Action, the national voice on AIDS.

Additionally, he was appointed Vice-Chair of the Board, one of two leadership positions. Nelson has served on AIDS Action since 1991.

AIDS Action is the nation's most powerful AIDS lobby on federal policy issues.

"Doug Nelson is among the best and brightest AIDS advocates in the country," said David Wexler, Chair of the AIDS Action Board of Directors and a Los Angeles, California, attorney. "His energy and dedication to defeating this epidemic are a positive example for the AIDS advocacy community."

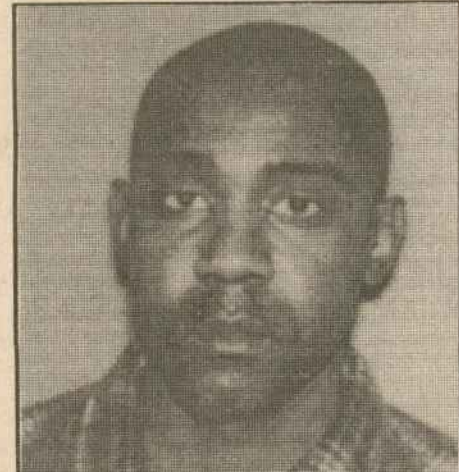
Nelson's leadership position with AIDS Action has great significance to the fight against AIDS in the Midwest.

"I am honored by this election but most importantly it means that Wisconsin will have a very strong influence in setting the national AIDS agenda," said Nelson. "It also proves that you don't need to be from epicenter cities like New York or San Francisco to be a leader in the battle against AIDS."

As 1997 begins, so too, do new battles on the AIDS front. "We need to fight hard for increased AIDS funding for prevention, treatment and research," said Nelson. "We must succeed in protecting Medicaid and Medicare from federal budget cuts. Because we now have such high hopes for successful HIV treatments, it would be tragic if access to treatment was restricted due to cutbacks in Medicaid and Medicare."

In conjunction with his selection as Vice-Chair, Nelson will also serve as Chair of the AIDS Action membership committee, leading efforts to strengthen the national AIDS community in all regions of the country.

AIDS Action is the only national advocacy organization dedicated solely to shaping fair and effective AIDS policy and represents over 1,400 community-based AIDS service organizations.



Dashielle Blackwell
Wanted!

Milwaukee—The U.S. Marshals Service of the Eastern District of Wisconsin is looking for Dashielle Blackwell in connection with bank and credit card fraud.

Blackwell, who has a long string of aliases, is an African-American male, of medium height, weighing 150 pounds.

According to Deputy Marshals, Blackwell operates in Gay bars, meets someone, goes home with him, and steals his credit cards and/or check books. With these, he gets money and assumes a new identity.

Blackwell is known to, at times, do female impersonation.

Blackwell is believed to be in Milwaukee, but operates throughout the state and the Midwest.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of this man, please call the Federal Marshals Office at (414) 297-3707. Ask for the Warrant Division. Anonymity is guaranteed.

Milwaukee Police Chief to Name Liaison To LGBT Community

Milwaukee—A meeting with the new Milwaukee Chief of Police, Arthur Jones, was held on January 13, 1997 in the banquet room of the M&M Club. Jones had become the Chief on November 15, 1996.

The meeting was for representatives of GLBT organizations. Its purpose was to acquaint the Chief with issues of concern to the LGBT community and to initiate a "good and constructive" dialogue with the

Police Department.

The meeting was opened by Karen Gotzler who chaired the meeting along with Rev. Lou Broils of the Metropolitan Community Church.

An estimated 25 people were in attendance including representatives from Designing Men, the Brady Street Clinic, the Milwaukee AIDS Project, the Cream City Foundation, the Human Rights League,

SAGE, the Boot Camp, Just Us, Station II and the M&M Club.

In his opening remarks, Jones said he had been told that GLBT people wanted to be part of the community. "I think you're already part of the community," he said.

Jones went on to assure those present that the members of the LGBT community would be given all the services of the Police Department "without reservation, without discrimination. I say that and I mean that," Jones emphasized.

Jones called on the group to provide him with any information about problems that they might be having with the Police Department or its personnel. "I need specifics," he said. "As much as you can tell me."

The Chief spoke about his "Quality of Life" program. This includes attending to littering, loitering and "the smaller things" that he feels have been ignored. These are the things, he said, "that truly irritate everybody in this room."

"We are still going to be doing those things in the parks and restrooms that we have in the past," Jones told the group. "That's part of the Quality of Life that the majority of the community may have a problem with."

Following Jones' remarks, Gotzler turned the meeting to the agenda. This involved four areas of concern. These had been compiled from issues raised at a pre-meeting held at the M&M Club on January 7th.

Each area was developed by a working group and had its spokesperson.

These four issues were: a liaison between the LGBT community and the Police Department; park harassment/entrapment; bar harassment; and sensitivity training for all police officers.

Bob Mazzacone of Designing Men opened the agenda, addressing the issue of a liaison, a contact person from the Department.

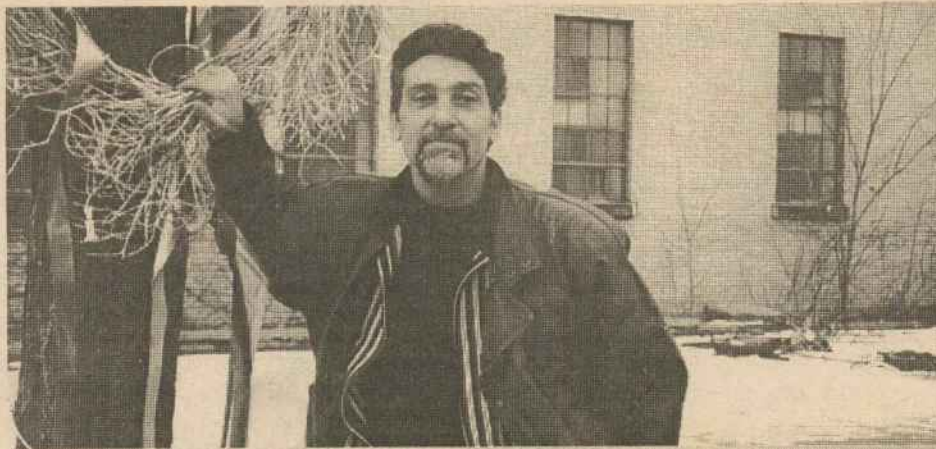
This liaison, Mazzacone proposed, would meet with a 9 member task force to be chosen from the LGBT community. The task force would be composed of two people each from the four working groups and Stephanie Hume who has been the person working with the Police on LGBT issues.

Mazzacone proposed to the Chief that there be "at least" quarterly meetings with the police representatives to discuss on-going issues.

Mazzacone proposed that there be "at least" an annual forum for the whole LGBT community to be held at PrideFest.

Mazzacone asked for a letter from the Chief to the members of the Department

Greg Scheel and Karen Gotzler Our Man and Woman of the Year



Our Choice - Milwaukee's Karen Gotzler and Madison's Greg Scheel have been named as **The Wisconsin Light's** Les/Bi/Gay Wisconsin's Man and Woman of the Year. Their long years of service and the strength they showed in facing adversity in 1996 have earned them this honor. (See articles on Page 5.)

State Sets Process in Motion to Streamline the AIDS Service Organization Network

Madison—In an unprecedented move, the state Department of Health and Family Services has announced its intention to issue a competitive Request For Proposals (RFP) to redesignate the state's AIDS Service Organizations (ASO), and award them nearly \$4 million to deliver AIDS prevention, care and treatment services.

The most dramatic change embodied by the state's RFP process is a reduction in the number of ASO's from the current nine to five ASOs. The five regions will conform to the state's five public health regions.

Approximately \$3.8 million will be awarded to the five ASOs with 56% of the funds slated for southeast Wisconsin including Milwaukee where more than half of the state's AIDS/HIV caseload resides. No new AIDS funding is involved in the financial award.

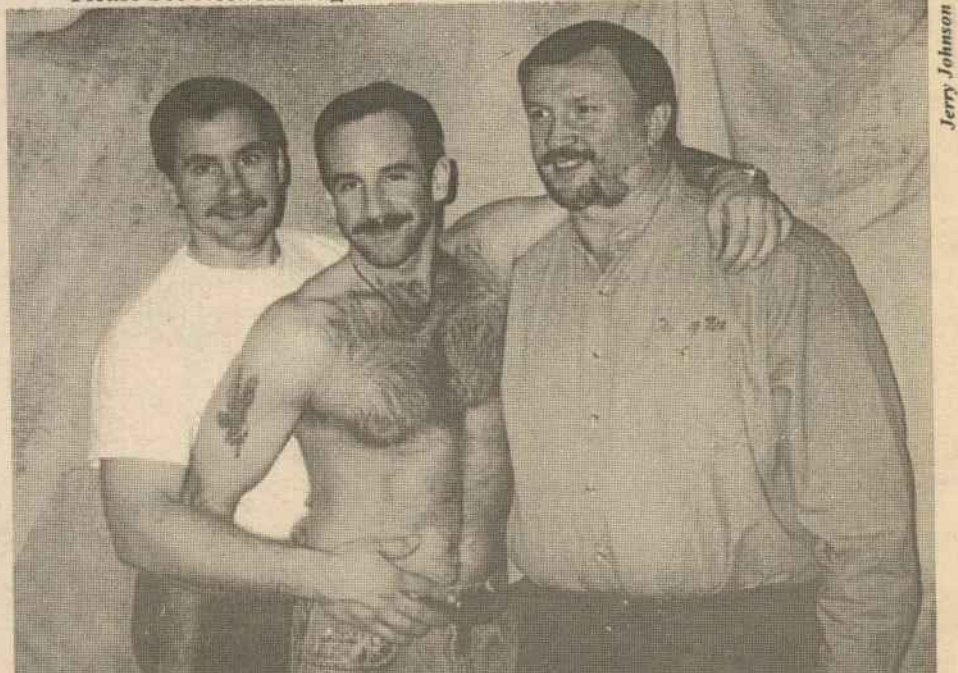
According to the state AIDS/HIV Program Director Dr. James Vergeront, the ASOs will be required to subcontract as much as 25% of the ASO funding to other community-based agencies. Vergeront said the state would also require subcontracts to minority community-based agencies.

Community reaction to the state's announcement was mixed.

Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), said he understands the state's rationale and supports the RFP process.

"The state wants to assure cost effective

delivery of AIDS services and I support
Please See Network Page 4



Three Designing Men Supermodel Steve Kelso visited Milwaukee on Saturday January 11 to help the Cream City Foundation raise money for its Grant Program. Shown above (L-R) are Kelso's Business Manager, Jeff Adams, Kelso and Designing Men owner Bob Mazzacone. Kelso appeared at Designing Men, This Is It and Mama Roux, helping CCF to raise around \$2,000. See a related article on page 20 and a full page additional pictures on page 21.

Please See Police Chief Page 12

Jerry Johnson

News From The Nation



Gay Tuscany Hits the Internet

Florence—Gay Guide Toskana Pride!, one of the liveliest non-profit-making Tuscan Gay associations, has announced the launch of the Gay Guide to Tuscany, the first complete Internet directory of Tuscan Gay life.

The guide, which is updated in real time and rigorously checked for accuracy, is intended to provide a service to anyone who, in addition to wanting to see the artistic and natural beauty of the Tuscan region, would like to get to know the descendants of Michelangelo's David a little better.

The Gay Guide to Tuscany can be found at: http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/1746/guida_e.htm

A Priscilla Tour in Australia

Sydney— They couldn't afford a bus but a group of Australian drag queens is setting out on tour across the nation's rural desert areas to entertain and enlighten the local populace, reports Brother Sister e-zine. The "Not the Priscilla Tour" will feature a transvestite performance and a Gay mini-expo at each stop.

Lawmakers Debate Gay Protection Law

Columbia, SC-AP- Protecting gays from violence is the right thing to do, one lawmaker says. But a lobbyist for a top state official says adding such language to a hate crime bill would divide the General Assembly and torpedo the legislation.

Lawmakers, who open the 1997 session in two weeks, are expected to consider two versions of a hate crime bill. One offers protection against crimes motivated by hatred of gays' sexual orientation; the other does not.

Both bills, which are expected to be introduced early in the session, would stiffen prison sentences when prosecutors prove the crime was motivated by hatred because of race or religion.

Crimes against blacks, including recent church burnings, prompted the legislation. But state Sen. Darrell Jackson, a black Columbia Democrat, says the measure should go one step further.

"I look forward to convincing people that you don't have to be a supporter of Gay rights to believe no one should have crimes committed against them because of their sexual orientation," Jackson said.

Cam Crawford, lobbyist for state Attorney General Charlie Condon, said Condon does not want to include gays because the issue is so divisive it would kill the legislation.

Majority Want Gay Sex Ban Continued

Helena, MT-AP-A majority of Montanans want to keep on the books a state law prohibiting homosexual sex, a new poll has found.

The poll was conducted for the Lee Newspapers of Montana on issues likely to face the Legislature in its current session.

The Lee poll indicated that Montanans don't want to strike from the books a law prohibiting homosexual sex. Fifty-seven percent of those polled want the law to remain intact, compared to 31 percent who want it repealed.

The poll also showed that 52 percent of those queried want the 1997 Legislature to enact a law outlawing homosexuals from getting married, while 39 percent opposed such a measure.

Montana voters appear to be evenly divided on the issue of legalizing marijuana for medicinal purposes.

Of those responding, 49 percent favored favor legalizing marijuana prescribed by a doctor for medicinal purposes, while 48 percent oppose the proposal. With the potential margin of error, that is a tie.

Utah Professors Study Domestic Partners Benefits

Salt Lake City, UT-AP- University of Utah professors have voted to give further study to a plan that would extend employee benefits to unmarried partners, including Gay and Lesbian partners.

The plan calls for domestic partners to become eligible for about a dozen benefits the university offers to its 16,600 employees.

"It is fair to be compensated the way others are compensated," said Kathryn Stockton, an English professor and a Lesbian.

Some members of the Academic Senate, composed of faculty from all of the university's colleges, opposed the proposed policy on grounds of fairness and social responsibility.

Others noted that the school's nepotism policy prohibits domestic partners from getting employment at the university and said that since the university treats domestic partners like family, it should extend benefits to them.

A 1994 article in the human-resources journal Employee Benefits and Practices said at least 47 universities nationwide have domestic-partner benefits. None is in Utah.

School Officials Consider Book Banning

Burlington, CT-AP- A book with a scene that graphically depicts homosexual child prostitution is inappropriate for high school sophomores and should be banned from their reading list, some parents say.

About 140 sophomores at Lewis S. Mills High School are reading Mark Mathabane's **Kaffir Boy**, an autobiography about a South African man's escape from apartheid.

The book contains descriptions of poverty and brutality that Mathabane experienced while living in a ghetto outside Johannesburg. Two pages of the book depicts child prostitution in exchange for food and money.

At a recent Region 10 meeting, some parents asked that the book be taken from students. "I feel (the book is) college material, not sophomore material," said parent Dawn Marie Lorenzo. "This is something I would expect to find in Playboy or Hustler."

The book, however, has been listed in two educational-book catalogs as appropriate for eighth-graders and up, said Carol Schulz, the district's language arts coordinator.

A teacher at the Housatonic Valley Regional High School has been teaching the book to ninth-graders for five years.

AIDS Shelter for Teens Struggles to Continue

Royal Palm Beach, FL-AP-Tina, an HIV-infected 13-year-old, went to a shelter that cares for homeless teens infected with AIDS or its virus and asked, "Can I die here?"

She has gained 25 pounds since being admitted four months ago and wants to go to law school.

But now some from other AIDS programs in Palm Beach County say the center isn't really needed because there aren't enough such teen-agers.

Lillian Albury and her father, William Albury, started the 12-bed shelter last April.

Albury and her father have discovered what a battlefield it can be in trying to keep grants. West Palm Beach officials have cut the federal funds for the hospice to \$80,000 this year, from \$230,000 last year.

Tina, an alias to protect the girl's identity, is thankful the hospice was there.

She saw her mother murdered when she was 4 during a trip to Haiti. She was 8 and living in Miami when she ran away and was raped. She kept the attack a secret until she was diagnosed last year with the HIV virus.

She wishes she had a chance to tell county officials what a godsend that Lillian Albury has been.

"I asked Miss Lillian when she was going to have another baby, and you know what she told me? She said, 'What do I need another baby for? I have you.'"

"I love it here," she said. "I haven't told Miss Lillian this, but she is like my second mother. I love her so much."

Test to Begin for New HIV-Fighting Drug

Boulder, CO-AP- Ribozyme Pharmaceuticals Inc. has gotten the green light from the government to test a new HIV-fighting drug on humans.

The drug will be the first the Boulder company has tested on humans. It will be administered to a group of California patients diagnosed with the virus that leads to AIDS.

"The theory behind this drug is that you can permanently modify cells to be resistant to HIV, so you don't have to continuously be given the drug all the time, like most common drugs are given," said Nassim Usman, Ribozyme's vice president of research.

The clinical trials will be conducted at City of Hope National Medical Center of Duarte, Calif., and Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

The proposed therapy eventually may provide long-lasting or permanent control of HIV, said Dr. John Zaia, a city of Hope pediatrician and the study's chief investigator.

"This approach may replace the current two- and three-drug treatment regimens followed by HIV-positive patients or provide another option for those patients for whom these therapies are inadequate or too costly," Zaia said. But he said more research must be done before the drug becomes a standard treatment.

Grocery Workers Seek Domestic Partner Benefits

Denver, CO-AP- Following the lead of Denver's City Hall, homosexual King Soopers employees from a central Denver store have called for an organizing meeting to pursue benefits for live-in partners.

They have invited employees from Safeway, Cub Foods, Albertsons and City Market with live-in partners to join them.

And the homosexual workers have the support of their United Food and Commercial Workers Local 7, local spokesman Tony Gehring said.

Employees could win the new benefits long before the overall contract for 25,000 grocery workers is renegotiated in 1999, because the board of trustees is empowered to make benefits changes without full contract talks.

The Colorado Legal Initiatives Project, a Gay advisory group that helped win the lawsuit overturning Amendment 2, is helping.

The founder of CLIP, Mary Celeste, was also a member of the city of Denver board that recommended extending partner benefits to city workers, a move approved by the city council in September.

More AIDS Ride Fallout

Philadelphia, PA—According to the **Philadelphia Gay News (PGN)**, more than seven months after the event, the Philadelphia-DC AIDS Ride continues to disappoint. Checks were distributed in the week of January 10, 1997, to the four participating groups, but they won't receive \$80,000 each as originally planned, PGN reports. Each of the four will get \$56,000.

ActionAIDS, the lead beneficiary that oversaw the Philadelphia pledge office, said the difference is because of expense disputes and outstanding pledges.

Kevin Conare, executive director of ActionAIDS, said that part of the disputed expense is with Pallotta and Associates who ran the Ride. It involves vacation payments local Ride staffers were allegedly entitled to.

PGN reports that Dan Pallotta, president of the Los Angeles-based Pallotta and Associates, did not return phone calls.

Conare is hopeful, the paper reports, that the remaining \$96,000 can be distributed.

If the expense disputes are unresolved, and additional pledges don't come in, the profit ratio of the AIDS Ride will be worse than previously announced—19 cents for every dollar raised.

World News

ILGA World Conference 1997 in Cologne

Cologne, Germany— Coinciding with its 25th anniversary of the Cologne group, the Lesbian and Gay Liberation Front (LGLF), Cologne will be organizing the next ILGA World Conference, ten years after it successfully held the 1987 ILGA World Conference.

From June 29 to July 5, 1997 ILGA World Conference will take place in Cologne, Germany, the city which is number four of the Lesbian and Gay capitals of the world. The conference sites are directly on the river Rhine and are handicapped accessible.

The ILGA World Conference is the most important international gathering for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender activists. Since the first meeting in Coventry, England in 1978, ILGA's international conferences have been held all over the Europe, in North America and in recent years, in Latin America.

ILGA's 1st World Conference in Rio in June 1995 bringing together more than 300 delegates from almost 60 nations. After Rio, for the first time, ILGA did not hold a conference during the next calendar year, and the name of the conference changed from Annual Conference to World Conference.

The conference, which has the motto "CHALLENGE & PRIDE", will focus on the following issues: Human Rights; Lesbian and Gay Lobby Work in International Organizations (UN, Amnesty International, OSCE, Council of Europe, EU); The Economic Dimension of Lesbian and Gay Liberation Work; and The Worldwide Dimension of HIV and AIDS.

In addition, on June 29 there will be one-day pre-conference with the topic: "Ideology, Religion and Homophobia".

An attractive social program will accompany the conference: an opening gala with many stars, a boat tour on the Rhine, and more. The 'grand finale' will be Germany's biggest Christopher Street Days parade, where more than 500,000 visitors are expected.

Sweden Holds Public Debate on Equal Rights

Stockholm— Six MPs from the Social Democratic, the Center and the Liberal parties have jointly put forward a motion demanding a ban against incitement to hatred against homosexuals, equal rights for homosexuals in the cohabitation legislation, the possibility to register partnerships at Swedish embassies, a Nordic convention on registered partnerships, a constitutional ban against legislation discriminating against homosexuals and a mandate for the Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination to work also against discrimination against homosexuals.

In a parliamentary motion, the Social Democratic MPs Nalin Baksi and Johnny Ahlqvist proposed that incitement to hatred against homosexuals be banned. The Social Democratic MP Juan Fonseca demands new measures against the anti-homosexual violence and hatred, e.g. a ban against incitement to hatred against homosexuals.

Amsterdam Prepares for 1998 Gay Games

Amsterdam—From August 1 to August 8, 1998, the next Gay Games will take place in Amsterdam, Netherlands. The motto of the 1998 Gay Games will be "Friendship through Culture and Sports."

Like the Gay Games held in New York City, the Gay Games in Amsterdam is expected to become a major sports event of worldwide importance. The organizers of the Gay Games have set up a web site with information on the forthcoming games. The web site can be found at <http://www.dds.nl/~gaygames>.

During Gay Games Gay groups from all over the world will have the opportunity to present their own culture and history at a stand or mini-exhibition, with video material, posters or photographs.

A Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Internet is also being set up as a permanent communication and press center for individuals, groups and organizations with clear objectives in respect of Gay and Lesbian emancipation activities.

Gays Join German Police in Common Action

Berlin—LOVE DESERVES RESPECT! The largest German Gay rights organization "Schwulenverband in Deutschland" (SVD) has joined forces with the police in the German state of Nordrhein-Westfalen. With their common action "Love Deserves Respect" the SVD and the police hope to increase the tolerance of and respect for Gay and Lesbian people.

Same-Sex Marriage in Denmark

Copenhagen—2083 Danish Gay and Lesbian couples have gotten married since Denmark became the first country to legalize Gay marriage on October 1, 1989. Seventeen percent of the couples (357) later divorced and 219 of the marriages ended when a partner died. More men have tied the knot than women - 1,149 vs. 634. But Lesbians have a higher divorce rate -- 23 percent vs. 14 percent for Gay men.

How Much Sex Is Too Much? SCA Reaches Out to Sexual Compulsives

Milwaukee—Being a member of a 12-step program carries enough of a stigma as is, but what happens when that 12-step program is for sexual compulsives? Being addicted to alcohol or controlled substances, although perhaps hard to admit, does not carry the negative perceptions as does being addicted to sex.

The fact-of-the-matter is that there are a number of people, including Gay and Lesbian community members who are, in fact, sexual compulsives. That is why 12-step programs dealing with this addiction are available.

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA) meetings are available at two locations in Milwaukee. There are sessions available at the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) on Fridays and at the Galano Club three nights a week. It is important to note that SCA meetings are supported by MAP and the Galano Club but they are not responsible for holding the meetings. Rather, they are

healthy environments in which to house the meetings.

SCA meetings are like other 12-step programs in that the members run the meetings, but they are not as stringent. Unlike other addictions, sexual compulsives need to deal with their addiction, which may or may not require abstinence. Instead, they need to find a safe level of control not only for themselves but also for the people with whom they come in contact.

Part of the SCA statement of purpose reads, "SCA is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other, that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from sexual compulsion. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop having compulsive sex."

It concludes, "Our primary purpose is to stay sexually sober and to help others to achieve sexual sobriety. Members are encouraged to develop their own sexual recovery plan, and to define sexual sobriety for themselves. We are not here to repress our sexuality, but to learn how to express it in ways that will not make unreasonable demands on our time and energy, place us in legal jeopardy—or endanger our mental, physical or spiritual health."

Two members of SCA share some of their experiences to help explain the process, misconceptions and ways in which this program can help. (Their names have been changed to protect their anonymity.)

Bob was arrested in 1992 but did not start the program until 1995 after he saw an ad in a Gay and Lesbian publication.

Steve hit rock bottom in 1994 and was in his first SCA meeting a week later.

Both agree that it was when complete fear took over their bodies that they realized how much they needed help. The fear of constantly hurting themselves and others, hating themselves for it and not knowing how to stop the pain.

"It is through the fellowship, friendship and spirituality felt at meetings that gives me the strength to get over my addiction," said Steve.

Identifying others as sexual compulsives may be difficult, but detecting yourself as one is not.

You know if you are in physically or emotionally damaging relationships on a regular basis. Sexual compulsives experience behavior which is "out-of-control."

For some, it is the thrill of the public sex environment i.e. parks, restrooms or book-stores.

For others, it is running up phone bills via phone sex lines or spending rent and food money on prostitutes, pornography or sex toys.

It may even be the difficulty in keeping your eyes or attention off certain body parts of others. Or perhaps subtle things like painful masturbation, numerous sex partners or even talking about sex excessively and using sexual humor inappropriately. Each person is different in their tolerance level or bottom line, but getting help is the main thing.

Getting help is actually the easy part. Attending SCA meetings will help you realize that there are a number of people experiencing the same feelings and emotions. It is a safe place to talk about your addiction with others who can offer advice or just offer to listen.

"For me, attending the meetings keeps me from acting on my thoughts about my addiction," said Bob. "Staying sober, so to speak, is not easy — it's work! If I would stop attending meetings, it would be too easy to start the downward spiral again and I know I deserve better."

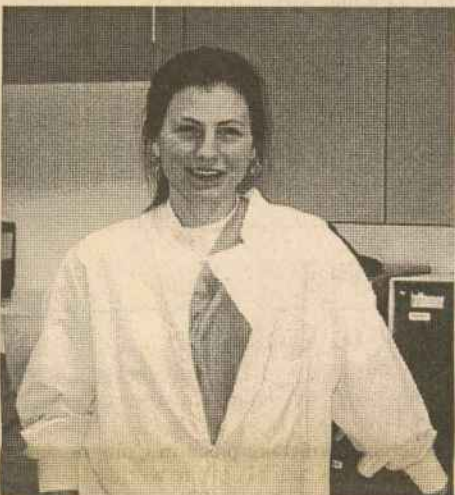
"If I may add to that," said Steve, "It was not until I attended SCA meetings that I came to terms with my addiction and realized that I was a good person. Before that, I always felt depressed and did not like myself very much."

Both Bob and Steve are grateful they took the initiative to attend SCA meetings and feel very strongly that it was the beginning of a whole new life for them. A life of positive thoughts, feelings and experiences — things they had not ever felt before.

For more information on SCA or meetings being held in Milwaukee, please call the SCA Hotline: (414) 299-0755.

MAP's HIV Dental Clinic Provide Service for First Patient

Milwaukee — January 6, 1997, marked the day Wisconsin's only HIV dental clinic provided services to its first patient. The dental clinic is located at the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP), 820 N. Plankinton Ave, Milwaukee.



Dr. Linda Stuart-William

Currently, the dental clinic is open Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. by appointment and is booked through January. Hours of operation are expected to expand as the consumer base demands.

MAP welcomes Dr. Linda Stuart-William. Dr. Stuart-William comes to MAP from Rainbow Community Health Services where she is a dentist on staff. Her shared responsibilities are part of the collaborative effort between the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW) and Rainbow Community Health Services.

For more information on the dental clinic or to make an appointment, please call (414) 225-1571.

Positive Voice Holds 4th Annual "Day of Self-Discovery"

Green Bay, WI—Positive Voice is presenting "Day of Self-Discovery IV," the fourth annual day-long conference on Gay and Lesbian issues at the Midway Motel in Green Bay on Saturday, February 8th, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A continental breakfast will precede the conference opening and welcome at 9:00 a.m.

Speakers and panels include Lawrence University professor, Tim Rodgers, who will address the issue of Bisexuality; and Ann Dwyer, travel agent from Madison, who will share with us "family" vacation options. An HIV/AIDS and safer sex update is also scheduled.

Judy Hodel, one of Green Bay's best known therapists and Gerald Wellens, Ph.D., psychologist, will direct a section on Coalition Building, "Tearing Down the Walls that Separate Us."

The conference fee is \$20 for members of Positive Voice, \$24 for non-members, if paid by January 21st. Cost to Positive Voice members is \$24, while non-members pay \$28 if paid after January 21st, but before February 4th. Cost is \$30 for all who pay after February 4th. Scholarships are available. Make checks payable to: Positive Voice, Inc., P.O. Box 1381, Green Bay, WI 54305-1381.

For more information, call Positive Voice at (414) 499-5533.

Or email: pynewglbt@aol.com



Open Wide The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin has opened the Badger State's first HIV Dental Clinic. The clinic located at the Milwaukee AIDS Project's offices, 820 N. Plankinton, Milwaukee, is open Mondays and Thursdays 9 Am to 6 PM. It is booked solid through the month of January.

GLBC Spring Programs at UWM

Milwaukee—The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Community (GLBC) at UW-Milwaukee, is cosponsoring four GLBT Speakers Series programs in the 1997 Spring Semester.

Dates and Topics include:

1. Wednesday, Jan. 29; "Homophobia and Its Internalization: A Practical and Research Prospective; Gary Hollander, Ph.D.
2. Thursday, Feb. 20; Members of PFLAG will discuss their reactions and feelings when they learned of their child's sexual orientation, and its effect on them and their families.
3. Wednesday, Mar. 5; Randy Neff, ACSW, CICSW, and Cathy Arney, MSW, CICSW, will discuss issues related to the continuing process of coming out.
4. Wednesday, April 16; Members of Gemini Gender will discuss Transgender and Transsexual identities, awareness and the coming out processes involved.

All GLBC Speakers Series programs are free and open to the public. Programs will begin at 7:00 p.m. in Room E280 of the Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd.

Other sponsors include the UWM Office of Student Life and The Women's Resource Center at UWM.

The GLBC will also host a Gay, Lesbian,

Bisexual and Transgender Awareness Week from February 17-21. For more information, call (414) 229-6555.

Save the Date Eleventh Annual Make A Promise Dinner

Milwaukee—The eleventh annual Make A Promise Dinner and Auction will be held on Saturday, March 22, 1997, at the historic Pfister Hotel in downtown Milwaukee.

This year's theme, **A Vision of Hope... A Celebration of Care**, will uncover the significant research and care provided by some of Wisconsin's leading HIV doctors along with spotlighting the vibrant artistry and inspirational story behind a New York doctor and her AIDS patients portrait series.

Master of ceremonies is Mike Gousha, anchor on Milwaukee TV station TODAY'S TMJ4.

All proceeds will go to benefit the education, research, prevention and advocacy programs of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc.

Ticket prices are \$175, \$100 and \$75 per person. For more information or to reserve tickets, call Jim Moore at (414) 225-1549.

Quality Dental Care

for the HIV/AIDS Community

Linda Stuart-William, DDS



MAP

MILWAUKEE AIDS PROJECT

Wisconsin's First HIV Dental Clinic

MAP is pleased to announce the opening of its new dental clinic, dedicated to caring for adults living with HIV and AIDS. Services include examinations, cleanings, x-rays, fillings, partials, oral hygiene education, dental assessments & referrals. Clinic hours are Monday & Thursday 9 a.m.-6 p.m. All forms of insurance are accepted. Everyone is welcome, regardless of ability to pay.

CALL 225-1571 FOR AN APPOINTMENT

MAP is a service agency of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW).
Dental services are provided in collaboration with the

RAINBOW
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

Think There's Nothing To
Do This Evening?

Call (414)299-0857
The Wisconsin Light
SpotLine

And Think Again!

Editor's Note

Go Packers!

Commentary by Terry Boughner

I am not a sports fan. No one has ever accused me of that.

The Pittsburgh Pirates won the pennant. Ho-hum, yawn.

The Steelers (In the land of the Three Rivers, this is pronounced Stillers), won the Superbowl. I couldn't have cared less.

I went with my father to a baseball game. I took a book.

So, has professional sports ever caught my interest? Let me say that I have a greater curiosity about the Second Punic War.

Suddenly, here come the Green Bay Packers and I find that things have changed. Why they've changed, I'm not sure, but they have. I find myself caring about that team and its fate. I want them to win, to take it all, to go all the way, to sweep New England from the stage and bring the trophy home.

Pittsburgh is a big city. The "Stillers" are just one more event. They call them "the home team," but that's not strictly true. Most of the players don't live in the city or anywhere near it.

Green Bay, however, is smaller. When they call the Packers "the home team," the mean it. The Packers live there, so I've been told.

Yes, I know, they are highly paid professional athletes, but still they make their homes where they make their money. They seem to imbibe the spirit of the town. They seem to care about Green Bay. I like that.

As far as much of Pennsylvania is concerned, the Steelers don't exist. Here, it's different.

In Wisconsin, the "fever" spreads out from Green Bay to sweep the state. From Superior to Racine, from Madison to Appleton, Packer Mania reigns supreme. A whole state caught up in this? Amazing—

and wonderful.

I find myself liking the cheese hats. (Can you imagine what a Pittsburgher would look like with a foam steel mill on his or her head? It boggles the mind.) I like the green and gold banners, everywhere snapping in the wind. In short, I find all the hoopla exciting, wonderfully exciting, like a revisited, smaller version of New Year's Eve.

I am looking forward to Superbowl Sunday. A great hush will fall over all. In the bars, Lesbian bars, Gay bars, all kinds of bars and clubs, people will be glued to the TVs, watching, yelling, hoping—and I will be one of them. My parents would never believe that.

Sure, I know there's a lot of homophobia in professional athletics. I imagine that the Packers have their share. But I'll forget that for the moment.

The Superbowl is not a Gay event. But it is a state-wide event, an event that has absorbed much of the larger community to which I and we all, belong.

It is good, I think, for the LGBT community to show that it is indeed a part of the larger whole. That is the reason that this LGBT publication joins with nearly everyone else in the Badger State and proudly displays the green and gold.

It is good to be a part of the excitement (even if I don't understand much about the game).

I don't think I'll be running off to buy the first available ticket to some professional sports event. But, winning or losing, I do like the Packer spirit.

(I deeply regret that the Packers aren't playing the Steelers. I would have enjoyed rooting for the Packers to send those "Steel boys" packing.)

GO PACKERS!

lacy were discussed. Strong opinions were expressed on both sides of the issue. The result was their recommendation that the nominating committee rethink its position and remove my name from consideration at this time.

In a letter to me, the chair of the nominating committee expressed his regret at this decision and the hope that I would continue to attend and serve the church where possible. While the situation will not be resolved quickly, he stated that the discussion prompted by my letter has been healthy and will lead to better education and awareness.

As we vote on the amendment here in Milwaukee later this month, and the conclusion of the national voting this spring, I will be watching and waiting to see how the church decides this issue. I have always felt a warm welcome at my local church, but if I sense that this is changing as a result of the stand that I have taken in my deciding to come out and to bring this issue out for discussion at my church, I will reconsider membership.

Anyone wishing more information on the proposed amendment and efforts to defeat it, can access the web site of Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns at:

<http://www.epp.cmu.edu/~riley/PLGC.html>

Richard A. Meyers

Milwaukee

NETWORK

Continued from Page 1

on March 21st and awards made by the state on May 2, 1997.

them in that goal," Nelson said. "Moving from nine to five ASOs will surely reduce administrative costs and increase direct services to individuals and communities."

Nelson said that the state formulas for distribution of the AIDS/HIV funds were excellent. "They are fair and equitable because they are based on the AIDS caseload, the general population, and minority population," he said.

Representatives from the Brady Street Clinic and St. Camillus Ministries joined with other individuals to ask for a six month delay in issuing the RFP to allow time to correct deficiencies they have identified with the RFP process. In a draft letter to Dr. Vergeront, the group endorse the five region approach and the competitive RFP process, but cited five issues that needed correction.

According to the draft letter, the group is asking for a two year funding cycle and the opportunity for as many as 20 ASOs to be designated by the state.

"So as to foster such healthy competition, we recommend that funding be allocated within each of five regions in each of four categories outlined in the RFP," the letter stated.

Other issues stated by the letter include program evaluation by program users, anonymous testing, and fiscal agents not having direct interest in funding.

Dr. Vergeront expects the RFP to be issued on January 31st with applications due

While Barbie Comes Out of the Closet, Ken Is Out Doing Drag

San Francisco—Trailer Trash Barbie, with her bad dye job and a cigarette dangling from her lips, may not be as giggly as Tickle Me Elmo, but Castro Street holiday shoppers clamored for her just the same.

Thanks to Christmas publicity, gift givers nationwide have also been asking for nose-pierced Big Dyke Barbie, Drag Queen Barbie (Ken in a wig and gown) and Hooker Barbie complete with negligee and condom.

"If I had 2,000 of them in stock, I would have sold them all," said Bill Tull, owner of the In-jean-ious store on Castro Street, which sells the dolls. "I am awe-struck by how this has taken off."

Tull and a computer graphics designer created the "anti-Barbies" this year as an alternative to the Mattel classic.

Their dolls share the same impossible measurements as Mattel's Barbie, but they've added a few accessories. Carrie Barbie, inspired by the Stephen King thriller, is decked out in a blood-drenched prom dress. And Trailer Trash Barbie also comes with a baby bouncing on her hip and a bubble that reads: "My Daddy Swears I'm the Best Kisser in the County."

Nationwide news coverage about the counterculture Barbies has brought Tull more orders than he can fill and calls from Rush Limbaugh and People magazine.

He's also fielded suggestions from fans across the country, including ideas for a Mormon Ken that comes with four Barbie wives and a Homeless Barbie that comes with nothing at all.

The only call he hasn't gotten is one from Mattel. But just in case he's accused of trademark infringement, Tull says he's going to drop direct use of the "Barbie" name and approach the doll maker directly about purchasing her in volume for "renovation."

Mattel, based in El Segundo, has said it doesn't object to having Barbie re-dressed and re-accessorized, as long as she's not re-

packaged.

"The reality is that Barbie has become a cultural icon and she has been adapted to all different aspects of society," Sean Fitzgerald, Mattel vice president for corporate communications, said earlier this month. "We're a very diverse society — Barbie respects that."

Deadlines

January 30th Issue
Valentines Day Issue

Articles Friday, January 24th
Ads - January 27th
5:00 p.m.

February 13th Issue

Articles—February 7th
Ads—February 10th
5:00 p.m.

Caution

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

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

The Wisconsin Light



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Letters

Bibles at PrideFest

TO THE EDITOR:

Ardent racists are still fond of using the Bible to justify their bigotry as they once used it to support slavery. There's much on which they can draw. The Ten Commandments include a passage supportive of the property rights of slave owners, and there are many passages telling that slavery was perfectly acceptable to God's people, as long as they enslaved only "strangers" and not each other.

The "strangers" were identified by slavery supporters as African-Americans, and various racial passages in the Bible are used to support this position, particularly the suggestion that African-Americans are the descendants of Noah's son Ham, who, the Bible says, were condemned by God to be slaves to the descendants of Shem, another of Noah's sons.

Let us suppose that an ardent, well-known supporter of racial segregation asked the Summerfest board for a permit to distribute Bibles at Milwaukee's African-American ethnic festival, and threatened to sue the board if not allowed to be a part of the festival. What would the reaction be?

It is in this light that the attempt by Robert Braun to distribute Bibles at PrideFest should be viewed.

Al Geiersbach

Milwaukee

Editor's Note: In the Friday, January 10th issue of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, it was reported that Braun had "filed an application to pass out Bibles from a booth at this year's PrideFest."

Braun, a Fundamentalist Christian, is head of the Christian Civil Liberties Union. He was arrested for disorderly conduct at last year's PrideFest.

The Journal reported that Braun has sent a check to PrideFest organizers to pay for the booth. He is quoted as saying, "If I don't get a booth, I will file a lawsuit."

As one Gay activist said, "Fundamentalist Christians always seem to be better at using the Bible than learning from it. Instead of handing Bibles out, why doesn't Braun take one and read it?"

Gay Presbyterians

TO THE EDITOR:

The Presbyterian Church, like many other religious organizations, is struggling with the issue of ordination of Lesbian women and Gay men for service as ministers and as officers at the local church level.

At its national General Assembly meeting last July in Albuquerque, a proposed amendment to the Church's "Book of Order" was passed by a vote of 313 to 236. Known as the "Fidelity & Chastity Amendment," it must now be passed by a majority of the regional presbyteries before it becomes part of the church law. The Milwaukee Presbytery, covering southeast Wisconsin, will be voting on Tuesday, January 28th.

The full text of the proposed amendment reads:

Those who are called to office in the church are to lead a life in obedience to Scripture and in conformity to the historic confessional standards of the church. Among these standards is the requirement

to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage of a man and woman, or chastity in singleness. Persons refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice which the Confessions call sin shall not be ordained and/or installed as deacons, elders, or ministers of the Word and Sacrament.

A minority report, signed by 19 members of the 50-member Ordination and Human Sexuality Committee, called for the Assembly to approve an authoritative interpretation of the constitution that would have allowed each presbytery and session to decide whether to ordain or not—known as the "local option."

The minority report was defeated by a vote of 226 for, 323 against. Among the members of the committee signing the minority report was the Rev. Fiona Nicholaisen of Milwaukee.

The proposed "Fidelity & Chastity Amendment" is misguided in its intent and would take a historically enlightened church down a morally misguided and restrictive path.

The Presbyterian Church has a long tradition of inclusion and has, for example, welcomed African-American members for generations and 40 years ago brought women into the ordained ministry. In its attempt to bar homosexuals from ordination, the amendment casts a far wider net, to include all persons who engage in a variety of activities that in the past, have been called sins. These include such things as blasphemy, adultery, divorce, prostitution, and working on the Sabbath.

At a time when Christian ministry to the Gay and Lesbian community is desperately needed, with a significant group of committed and caring people awaiting confirmation that their call to serve Christ and His church is not in vain, the Presbyterian Church can make a giant step and a statement to the world by defeating the proposed amendment.

Recently, this issue became very important to me, as a Gay man living in a committed relationship. In November, I was asked by the nominating committee of my local Presbyterian Church to stand for election as a church deacon. This request placed me in a difficult position.

Should I decline the nomination, without explanation, or accept it and hope that no one would reveal my secret and challenge my service to the church?

Either of those choices would be to hide away and lie, ashamed and fearful of discovery. Instead, after much prayerful consideration, I decided to stand before the church and say, "Yes, you are cutting me out—ME! Is that what you really want?"

I did this by writing a letter to the nominating committee, informing them that, while it was an honor to be asked and that I would appreciate the opportunity to serve the church, my election and ordination at this time would be controversial. In my letter I offered my views on homosexuality, the church, and the amendment, in order to foster enlightened discussion.

The letter has had the effect I intended. The nominating committee voted unanimously to let my nomination go before the congregation, but because of the possible controversy, decided to seek the advice of the Session, the group of ordained members that serve as the governing body at the local church level.

At the next Session meeting, my letter and candi-

Speaking From The Right

HRC: Not a Non-Partisan Organization

Commentary by Jim McFarland

In previous columns I have questioned the claim of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the national Lesbian/Gay political action committee and lobbying organization, that it is non-partisan. Some have told me that it is changing and becoming more "bi-partisan", and pointed to HRC's contribution of \$5000 to the National Republican Congressional Committee. An analysis of HRC's endorsements and contributions in the recent election, however, show that HRC has not changed at all.

Perhaps the most startling evidence of HRC's allegiance to the Democrat Party was its decision to endorse Massachusetts Senator John Kerry over his opponent Governor William Weld.

Even many Gay liberals were appalled at HRC's refusal to issue a dual endorsement, noting that Governor Weld is the most pro-Gay Governor in the country and has been a leader on our issues, while Kerry has voted correctly on our issues but has never been a leader on our issues.

Closer to home, HRC made a similar move in its decision to endorse Madison Mayor Paul Soglin over GOP Congressman Scott Klug. This endorsement was made despite the fact that Soglin's record on Gay issues as Mayor was quite poor (he opposed domestic partner health insurance for city employees and proposed funding cuts for the Madison AIDS Support Network);

While Klug's was very supportive (he supported allowing the District of Columbia to have domestic partner registration and has been a leader on AIDS funding issues in Congress).

HRC backed up this endorsement with money, contributing \$2000 to Soglin, and contributing nothing to Klug in the general election. Fortunately, Log Cabin's PAC and LCR-WI members combined to contribute \$1000 to Klug.

During the 1996 election cycle, HRC contributed over \$700,000 to at least 179 Congressional candidates, but only 4.6% went to 13 Republican candidates.

Of these, two of them, Congressman Steve Gunderson (\$2500) and Senator William Cohen (\$5000), did not run for re-election.

The other, Congressman Tom Campbell (\$5000), received his contribution after he won a special election in which HRC refused to endorse him even though he had a perfect record of support on Gay issues when he previously served in Congress.

Perhaps what is more startling, however, is the amount of money contributed by HRC to Democratic Party organizations.

While GOP candidates received only \$32,000 during the 1996 cycle, Democratic Party organizations received \$112,607.

The money contributed to the Democratic Party organizations by HRC was used in one of two ways: to assist general campaigns in favor of Democrats (like the "Stop Newt" brochures many of us received in the mail during the campaign);

And as contributions to specific Democrat candidates.

When HRC contributed the above mentioned \$5000 to the Republican Congressional Committee, it was roundly criticized by Gay liberals because the money could then have been distributed to anti-Gay Republicans like Bob Dornan.

They are not, apparently, concerned that the \$5000 which went to the Dem. Congressional Campaign Committee might have gone to anti-Gay Democrats, many of whom were leaders in the Defense of Marriage Act effort.

In any case, HRC's contribution to the Republican Congressional Committee will, apparently, never be repeated, as HRC's Executive Director, Elizabeth Birch, stated in May of 1996 that the contribution was "a mistake" which she "would not repeat".

Clearly, HRC is not changing--it is regressing. Just one look at this partial list of Democrat organizations graced by HRC's funding shows that:

Dem. Senatorial Campaign Committee (\$23,000); Democratic National Committee (\$18,000); Committee for a Democratic Majority (\$10,000); Victory USA (\$10,000); Dem. Congressional Campaign Committee (\$5000); Massachusetts Democratic Party (\$5000); Oregon Democratic Party (\$5000); Michigan Dem. Coordinated Campaign (\$4270); Iowa Dem. Coordinated Campaign (\$3801); and New Jersey Dem. Coordinated Campaign (\$3697).

Not only does this mean that Lesbian and Gay Republicans who contribute to HRC are seeing the vast majority of their money poured into Democratic coffers (sometimes without regard to the candidate's support on our issues through contributions to Demo-

crat Party organizations), but it also means that all HRC contributors are supporting efforts which hurt Gay supportive GOP candidates.

If it were not enough that HRC actually refuses to support such GOP candidates as Weld, Campbell, and Klug, their efforts in support of Democratic Party organizations helped defeat other pro-Gay Republicans.

In Massachusetts, for example, HRC flooded the state with contributions to Democratic candidates and Democratic Party organizations.

By assisting the Democrats' efforts to tar every Republican as a clone of Newt Gingrich, HRC contributed to Weld's loss and helped topple GOP Congressman Peter Torkildsen, one of our champions in the House.

It was Torkildsen who held hearings in his committee on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, the first House hearings ever to be held on a bill banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

As I have stated before, HRC can do what it wants with the money it raises, and it is valuable as an organization which can effectively motivate Democrats to support us on our issues.

What I object to is the intellectual dishonesty of pretending it is a non-partisan organization, and I object to the fact that too many Lesbian/Gay Republicans continue to contribute to HRC.

More importantly, HRC's latest fundraising efforts for the Democrats points even more strongly to the necessity of LCR's work, since HRC will continue to be ignored by Republicans in Congress as yet another Democrats-only PAC.

First-Ever Lesbian Inaugural Ball to Be Held

Washington, DC—It will be the first Lesbian Inaugural gala—and, according to Arden Hoffman, one of the organizers, it all began with some artichoke dip.

It was October. Beth Hughes had been holding a fundraiser in her home for a PAC. Afterwards, Hughes and the clean-up detail of seven women were in the kitchen where there was some left-over artichoke dip. The stuff was good. They were munching, when someone mentioned that there was little in Washington for Lesbians to do.

Since the PAC they'd been holding the fundraiser for had just announced the candidates the group was supporting in the upcoming November election, talk drifted naturally enough, to the inaugural.

A lot of Gay people would be coming to the event. There would be balls and parties galore. But what would there be for Lesbians?

It was then and there that the idea of throwing an inaugural for Lesbians, their supporters and friends, was born.

The seven women, Hoffman and Hughes among them, have put up their own money--\$8,000 to \$10,000—to stage the event. It will be held on Saturday, January 18, at the Galleria at Lafayette Center.

For those not familiar with the Galleria, it is one of the largest and most grand spaces in DC.

Tickets to the soiree cost \$40. (Tickets to the official inaugural balls cost \$150.) Proceeds from the gala will go to the Lesbian Services Program of the Whitman-Walker Clinic, the Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer, and the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

For those who wish to contribute money above the \$40, there will be an hour-long VIP reception at \$100.

Serving as co-chairs of the event are Award-winning Lesbian filmmaker Debra Chasnoff and Roberta Achtenberg, formerly President Clinton's highest ranking openly Gay appointee. They will be attending the VIP reception prior to the ball.

The Women's Inaugural Gala will also feature a comedy performance by Marga Gomez, music by the all-female band, "2 Funkin' Heavy," and tunes spun by DJ Tracy Young.

The Gala will be held from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. The Galleria is located at 1155 21st Street NW. The VIP reception is from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. For tickets, call Box Office Tickets at 1-800-494-8497 or (301) 738-7073.

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

Youth Column

Teenage Wasteland

Commentary by J. Alan

It is 12:38 a.m., and all through the house, not a creature is stirring. Except for the mouse? Anyway, needless to say, it is nice and quiet in ye olde town of Brookfield, Wisconsin. All that can be heard in the rocking of this old house, and Christian music.

Yes, if you look hard enough, there is still a true Christian music station on the air waves. It is tucked up there, a lonely, low power station at the top of the dial.

It's nice to have this music on this evening, and in true J. Alan form, there is a fire softly burning, of course. I so enjoy this music that it's worth the wait to hear it, even though it is quite past my bedtime.

It is on nights such as these that I ponder my past and what is, unfortunately, all too often, the present for my peers in this community. I think of the pain I endured in my upbringing and how it has developed character in my adulthood. I, of course, wonder why, with the facilities that are available to us now, it is seemingly as difficult as ever to "come out?"

Suddenly, with the music in the background, I believe I have thought why that is. Laugh if you will (I know that you will), here it is.

I believe that the primary difficulty in the "coming out" process for young people today lies within the subculture that young people have developed for themselves.

Specifically, I would define our youth subculture as a brothel of sex, illicit drugs and, a factor that our parents often ignore, rock and roll. I know that I may have many of my peers rolling on the floor by now, however, it is what I hold to be the truth.

I feel that if we would simply allow our minds to develop, we would retain the ability to separate from and remain objective about our culture. We would realize how small we really can be. Remember, for "The love of a foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds," my friends.

MIT's David Baltimore to Lead National AIDS Vaccine Search

Cambridge, MA—Ever since the HIV virus and AIDS were detected, the bulk of scientific research has focused on treating those already infected—not on finding a way to halt the spread of the disease.

Now, the National Institutes of Health has commissioned a Nobel prize-winning MIT professor to help breathe new life into the search for an AIDS vaccine.

"There are thousands of people infected daily and our goal would be to prevent those infections," said David Baltimore, who will spearhead the new NIH committee.

About a year ago, a study by 114 scientists who supported AIDS research set out a series of guidelines for the NIH research program. Tops on the list was reinvigorated AIDS vaccine research, said Dr. William Paul, director of the NIH's Office of AIDS Research.

"We will only be able to conquer this disease if we are able to develop a vaccine," Paul said. "We need good drugs, but we recognize that treatment isn't going to solve our problems."

New drugs to treat symptoms of AIDS have shown promise recently. Combinations of drugs called protease inhibitors have been slowing symptoms and giving hope to HIV-infected patients.

Still, there's been no sign of a cure. Since 1988, more than 15 AIDS vaccines have been tested, but so far none has proved successful.

Although several vaccines are in early stages of clinical trials, it's too soon to tell whether they will work, Paul said.

"But our position is that we cannot rely on that. This is too important a problem not to be planning for the eventuality that these vaccines may not be as effective as we would wish," he said.

Enter Baltimore, who won the Nobel Prize in 1975 for his discovery of the reverse transcriptase enzyme—the basic enzyme by which HIV is able to multiply.

NIH's top AIDS scientists hope Baltimore will help guide them to a cure. "He combines both rare insight with a very strong technical background," Paul said.

Attempts to find a vaccine have so far followed the approach of vaccine development for other major illnesses. But what worked for polio and mumps has not been working for AIDS, said Didier Trono, a molecular biologist at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in San Diego.

"Someone needs to go back to the blackboard and coordinate all kinds of efforts for people who, I wouldn't say have lost hope, but who are at a loss in terms of ideas," said

My young peers are prompt to dismiss the suffering of our forefathers in this Community as an escape mechanism to avoid our own indolence. While our forefathers had to "come out" into a world of intolerance, we force our peers to "come out" into a world of behavior that is indicative of an idolatry so profound, American society would prefer to dismiss it as an attitude of eras past.

The primary difficulty for young people "coming out" today has a good deal to do with the accelerated state we live in. When Right Wingers say we choose to live a lifestyle that is wrong, they are correct when they point to young people. Our Communal lifestyle is by choice, not force.

It may be difficult for my peers to see this. However, the error in our Communal lifestyle has everything to do with the level of drugs we inject, the alcohol we ingest, and rock music we absorb. The average person who is my age listens to over 80 hours of music per week. Between background and what CDs we play, that is the figure.

Now, it doesn't take an Einstein to figure out that when an absorbent human brain choose to ingest lyrics such as "Whenever I see you, I want to touch myself" and "You let me violate you, you let me penetrate you, you bring me closer to God," there might be a slight problem. The problem in question is that we forcefully attempt to pull others into this.

Our Community has enough problems and heartache. Please, we owe our younger peers better than to walk into a world such as this.

So, next evening, why don't you just turn on a little 107.7 FM or 93.3, the new jazz station, which they own.

(Remember, the individual who owns this station used to run power rock on it. Fortunately, he has since seen the light.)

You might enjoy WVCY more than you think.

If you have comments, write: J. Alan, c/o Wisconsin Light, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

Trono, who studied under Baltimore at the Whitehead Institute in Cambridge in the late 1980s.

Baltimore plans to assemble a panel of experts to come up with new approaches to finding a vaccine. It's something Baltimore has been thinking about already for more than a decade; in 1985, he headed a national AIDS panel that recommended an increased research effort.

The Nobel laureate will continue as a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, splitting his time between Cambridge and the NIH.

In 1996, NIH spent \$109 million on AIDS vaccine research and has increased funding to \$129 million for 1997; the NIH spends \$400 million each year on research for AIDS treatment.

Since the onset of the AIDS epidemic more than a decade ago, 29 million people worldwide have become infected, Paul said.

Currently, the leading cause of death in the world is tuberculosis, with an estimated 3 million people dying annually. But with 3.1 million new HIV infections each year—and still no cure—it's simply a matter of time before AIDS becomes the world's number one killer, Paul said.

In the United States, roughly 80,000 new AIDS cases are diagnosed each year.

Many AIDS researchers applauded Baltimore's appointment.

"He's certainly one of the world's leading investigators. He is a very productive thinker and I think he may be just the right person to do this," said Dr. Martin Hirsch, director of AIDS clinical research at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Said Trono: "In terms of coordinating an effort which so far has been sort of left-and-right, it's really the best thing that can happen."

Although Baltimore is well known for his research contributions, he has also been in the media spotlight for a case of alleged scientific fraud that dragged on for a decade. An MIT scientist who carried out a study under Baltimore was charged by the NIH with faking the results.

Baltimore was vilified in some circles, and the subject became known as the "Baltimore case." The scientist who led the study, Thereza Imanishi-Kari, was exonerated this summer.

For his part, Baltimore remains optimistic an AIDS vaccine will eventually be found.

But, he said, "I have no idea whether we're getting close or not. It's one of those things that you only know you have when you have it."

Politically Speaking

National LGBT Political Organizations Made A Significant Difference in 1996

Commentary by Bill Meunier

In 1996, it seemed as though the focus of Gay political efforts was on the national election. Groups like the National Gay Lesbian Task Force worked on getting out the Gay vote, while the Human Rights Campaign provided staff and money to selected candidates and the Victory Fund worked hard to elect and re-elect more Gay and Lesbian office holders.

Other efforts including those that will have a most lasting impact than November's vote were being made as well. The efforts of these groups centered on three areas, political action, advocacy, training and organization building activities.

Political Action

The political action programs of the Human Rights Campaign and the Victory Fund were probably their most visible activities this year.

Victory Fund Helps Elect Gays

The Victory Fund works solely with Gay and Lesbian candidates for public office. Among its efforts were helping Tammy Baldwin win her position as Wisconsin's First Openly Lesbian Legislator and helping Karen Gotzler in her unsuccessful bid for Alderman on Milwaukee's East Side.

Kathleen DeBold, Deputy Director of the Victory Fund told *The Wisconsin Light*, that in 1996 the group helped elect 28 of the 47 candidates we worked with.

HRC Had a Big Year

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) got involved on an even bigger scale. HRC channeled money to about 180 Gay and Non-Gay candidates and according to HRC Spokeswoman, Kim Mills, 84% of those candidates won their races.

All told the Human Rights Campaign donated over \$1.1 million exceeding the magic million mark for the first time ever.

But money wasn't the only HRC contribution. The organization also provided staff and trained organizers for dozens of races.

NGLTF Educates

The National Gay Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) is a non-profit non-partisan educational group. In late September, the group did a mass mailing to 200,000 Gays and Lesbians and friends, comparing the Clinton and Dole records on issues of importance to the Gay and Lesbian community.

NGLTF also had a very visible presence at the Republican convention held in August in San Diego. Kerry Lobel, Executive Director of NGLTF told *The Wisconsin Light*, "Starting with the primary caucus in Iowa, we challenged the Republican party throughout the year on their scapegoating tactics." Lobel says that "GOP scare tactics on same sex marriage launched the wave of legislative attacks on our community in 1996."

"We conducted a series of demonstrations and visibility actions in San Diego," said Lobel. "This catalyzed the San Diego community to be more involved politically and it provided an important opportunity for national groups to work together cooperatively."

Lobel said that NGLTF sponsored or

Rep. Tammy Baldwin To Speak on Same-Sex Marriage

Madison—According to a recent cover story in the *Advocate*, the prospect of the legalization of same-sex marriage is scaring much of America to death. It is, the magazine says, an issue far hotter and more controversial than "Gays in the military" ever was.

To find out what same-sex marriage is all about, Frontiers, Madison's Gay and Bisexual Men's social club, has invited State Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) to speak on the subject of Gay marriage.

Baldwin has announced her intention of introducing legislation that would recognize same-sex marriage in Wisconsin.

Baldwin will discuss her legislation and its implications for health care, property holding, child rearing, pension rights, and a host of other vital matters affecting the lives of Lesbians, Bisexuals and Gay men.

Baldwin will be speaking on Saturday, January 25th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Inn on the Park Hotel, Capitol Square at Carroll and Main Streets in Madison. Baldwin will be speaking in the Assembly Room.

Frontiers extends an invitation to attend this event to all singles, couples, Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and others.

For more information, call (608) 274-5959.

helped organize a massive demonstration raising AIDS awareness, a Queer Visibility March and a mass demonstration for "people across a lot of political issues."

Political Efforts in 1997

In 1997, the Victory Fund will be concentrating on local races around the country. One of those may be Dick Wagner's bid for Dane County Executive here in Wisconsin.

De Bold says that local races are important. Candidates elected to local office often run for higher office later in their careers. Local elections allow these candidates to hone their political skills and build a base of support.

Advocacy

A broad based coalition of groups fought against DOMA, the so called Defense of Marriage Act and came within a whisker of getting ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act passed. Efforts were also mounted against anti-same sex marriage bills in various states and some important court rulings were handed down.

The Human Rights Campaign took the lead in working to pass ENDA and came within one vote of approval of the bill in the US Senate.

ENDA Proponents Optimistic

Ironically, the vote on ENDA came about because of DOMA. Democrats in the Senate threatened to attach ENDA to DOMA. When the Republican leadership balked, the Democrats threatened a filibuster. With time on the legislative clock running out the Republican leadership finally agreed to allow ENDA to be brought up for a vote.

Kim Mills of the Human Rights Campaign believes that ENDA has a better chance in this Congress than it did in the last one. "When the last Congress began we had 30 yes votes for ENDA in the US Senate. When this one began we have 47 Yes votes." In the House we have also gain strength. Two years ago we had 119 confirmed supporters in the House, we start the 105th Congress with almost 150."

Her viewpoint is shared by Lobel who says "We're cautiously optimistic on ENDA. Our culture are changing. People in local and state communities are educating their representative. It's not anything we are doing here, it's what you all are doing where you live."

Mills also points to a very important statistic that came out of the last campaign "No one who voted against DOMA and ran for re-election, lost."

"And no one voted for ENDA and ran for re-election lost to an anti-ENDA opponent."

She adds "Plus we now have polling data that shows that ENDA is a main stream, middle of the road piece of legislation."

Hate Crime Legislation Targeted

Another HRC target is the revision of Federal Hate Crimes legislation. The current law requires the appropriate law enforcement agency to keep statistics on hate crimes committed against Gays, but it does not allow the Federal Government to prosecute those crimes as it does with other groups.

Presidential Appointments

In addition to these very visible efforts, leaders of our national organizations also worked hard to keep the Clinton administration a diverse one.

Even before the votes in the November election were cast, the Victory Fund, HRC, NGLTF and other groups were already lobbying hard to ensure the appointment of qualified openly Gay and Lesbian officials of the second Clinton administration.

"We need to do this," DeBold told *The Wisconsin Light*. "When people have no reference points, they are vulnerable to the negative stereotypes spread about us. Furthermore, these appointments allow us to have a Gay and Lesbian perspective at the table when policies are set and enforced."

That is a viewpoint DeBold shares with the Human Rights Campaign. Kim Mills, spokesperson for HRC, told *The Light*, "We are letting people know that we are interested in helping people obtain administration jobs and we are working with the Administration letting them know that we have a pool qualified applicants."

Mills says that HRC and other national groups are in constant communication with appropriate parties within the administration. "They have indicated a willingness to work with us on these issues."

Lobel told *The Light* that Bob Nash, Director of White House Personnel held a meeting with representatives of national Gay organizations. At the meeting Nash indicated a willingness to work with these groups.

"There two aspects to this kind of work," said Lobel. "One is the quiet diplomacy that

no one hears of and the other is the more public holding the feet to the fire. We've made it clear that we expect greater progress, than we saw in 1992."

Lobel and others believe that Republican control of the Senate will make it difficult to get Openly Gay and Lesbian confirmed by the Senate. But as Lobel put it "We have to try. Most Americans want the best qualified person no matter what their sexual orientation is. It would be hard, but not impossible to get Senate confirmation."

Training

Taking a page out of the Right Wing's organizing handbook, more and more Gay organizations are turning to training conferences as a valuable tool in building a community. These sessions are critical to many organizations around the country.

They provide information on everything from how to run for office to how to write a press release that will get printed in the local paper.

Creating Change

The biggest training conference is held by NGLTF. Over 2,000 activists attended Creating Change 96 in Alexandria, Virginia. This annual training conference provides tips, advise and ideas on a wide variety of nuts bolts organizing techniques, such as fund raising, and public relations.

Lobel says that the value of Creating Change is not limited to the actual training. "The cross fertilization of ideas, sharing perspectives is also very important," said Lobel. "The center of gravity for us is not in Washington DC, it's in the states."

Training Political Activists

The Human Rights Campaign produced the "Out Vote 96" conference which was aired on C-Span. The Out Vote conference was preceded by a "Youth College" open to selected activists between the ages of 18 and 24. This conference provided training to work in national political campaigns not as envelope stuffers but as managers. As soon as the Youth College ended, the two dozen attendees were sent out to work in various campaigns around the country.

The Youth College and Out Vote '96 were the first ever national Les/Bi/Gay political conferences, designed specifically to provide training on campaign organizing.

These weren't the only training sessions either. Dozens of potential candidates attended the Victory Fund's Candidate training seminars. These seminars offer an intensive three day course on how to run for office and how to manage campaigns. Dozens of

Florida AIDS Patient Takes the Stand to Plead for His Right To Die

West Palm Beach, FL—The last living patient in a lawsuit seeking the right to die survived to take the stand and tell of indescribable pain and suffering and why he should be allowed to die with dignity.

Charles Hall is suing the state for the right to die. He rolled his wheelchair up to a courtroom microphone Monday, January 6th, to tell his story of pain and a ravaged immune system.

"I can't even describe the pain," a haggard and pale Hall said. "There are some days I don't even remember. I don't think anybody should have to suffer."

Hall barely survived a bad bout with the flu last week.

A 128-year-old law is the only thing standing between Hall and a doctor who is willing to give him a lethal dose of drugs.

The doctor isn't willing to violate the law—a felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison—and Hall told a West Palm Beach judge he shouldn't have to.

Circuit Judge S. Joseph Davis will decide whether or not Hall and his doctor should be able to decide to end the AIDS patient's life.

"The resolution will have a profound impact on how people die in our society," said Michael Gross, the Florida assistant attorney general representing State Attorney Barry Krischer of the 15th Circuit in West Palm Beach.

Suicide remains a common law crime for good reason, Gross said. The state has no way of evaluating the individual's motives and competency, and it must protect vulnerable citizens from abuse, he said.

The U.S. Supreme Court sent a message when it allowed the removal of life support and noted that such action was distinctly different from introducing a lethal agent to hasten death, Gross said.

Extending the right of assisted death to terminally ill patients could later be applied to minors and the mentally incompetent, he warned.

Hall takes up to 40 pills a day for pain and to stave off pneumonia and other viruses that routinely attack his weak immune system.

During his testimony, Hall listed the health problems that promise to cut his life short: a brain cyst, hepatitis B, no feeling in his bladder, herpes, arthritis and partial blindness.

openly Gay and Lesbian office holders got their start through the Victory Fund's seminars.

Organization Building

Building a sound and solid organization capable of carrying on the fight for Gay civil rights is an ongoing process. All of America's national Gay and Lesbian groups have worked to strengthen themselves in 1996 and have plans to continue that work in 1997.

HRC recently announced that it had hired Donna Red Wing, who is considered to be one of the best political organizers in the country. Red Wing will become HRC's National Field Director. HRC already has a network of contacts around the country.

According to Mills, Red Wing, will work to expand this network and to provide more substantive activities for its members to engage in. Red Wing's appointment generated a considerable amount of excitement at both NGLTF and the Victory Fund.

HRC is also forming a business task force to increase corporate support not just financially but also politically.

"We want to identify companies with ENDA like policies, we want these businesses to help us lobby the federal government on these issues as well."

The Victory Fund is looking to expand its candidate training seminars and hopes to hold six candidate seminars this year versus the two that were held in 1996.

De Bold says "We're getting ready for 1998 and beyond. A lot of municipalities have elections. We will be endorsing and supporting candidates running for local office. We will also be recruiting and training candidates. We are going to build our membership base so we are able to support an increased number of candidates."

Lobel says that NGLTF will be focusing on organization building activities by working with existing groups and helping to form groups where none exist. Lobel says that the group will work with a different region of the country each year. This year NGLTF is planning to concentrate on the South.

Lobel also said that NGLTF is looking at ways to be more pro-active. "We started looking proactively at issues like Family, looking at things like what do we want our families to look like and what do they need."

In addition, Lobel says "We are supporting the development of a federation of Statewide organizations that will provide information, education, training and skills training on an ongoing basis."

Hall wants the judge to issue an injunction to stop prosecutors from charging Dr. Cecil McIver with a crime if he assists in Hall's suicide.

"The two of them want to be left alone and free from government interference," said Hall's attorney, Robert Rivas.

Hall and his lawyer are arguing that the Florida Constitution grants special privacy rights entitling him to choose physician-assisted death.

The U.S. Supreme Court is currently hearing similar legal arguments in two right-to-die cases.

Hall's trial is taking place in West Palm Beach before Davis because it's the seat of the judicial circuit where McIver practices medicine and would be prosecuted. The trial is expected to wrap up within a week.

Lambda Supports

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, supporting decriminalization of physician-assisted suicide, represents people with AIDS as a friend of the court in the landmark case currently before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Lambda submitted a brief to the High Court jointly with the Gay Men's Health Crisis, arguing that the state should not prohibit people in the process of dying from ending their suffering with the assistance of their treating physicians.

"The right to determine when meaningful life has come to an end is a fundamental aspect of personal autonomy and self-empowerment," said Catherine Hanssens, Lambda AIDS Project Director. "These values are at the heart of the struggle of people with AIDS, who have fought for access to experimental drugs and for an active role in determining the course of their treatment."

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AIDS Fight Sees New Hope and New Challenges In 1996

By Bill Meunier

The year, 1996, was a watershed year in terms of the fight against AIDS. No one is or should be saying that the nightmare is over, or that it's even close to being over. But, for the first time there is real hope that there may be drugs that can eliminate the HIV virus from the blood stream.

We are far from a cure, but we are also far from where we were in the fight against AIDS at the end of 1995.

The development of protease inhibitor cocktails, still must undergo much study and how long their effects last is not determined. Furthermore, these new drugs are extremely expensive costing around \$20,000 a year.

Caveats on Protease Inhibitors

That high price tag puts these new "miracle drugs" out of reach of tens of thousands of HIV infected individuals. Furthermore, while the Protease Inhibitors do apparently fight HIV in the blood stream, HIV also can be found in places that these drugs can not reach.

The nightmare isn't over, but if the next 12 months see as much progress as the last 12 have, in January, 1998, we MAY be able to finally see a tiny glimmer of light at the end of the AIDS tunnel.

The cost of protease inhibitors have moved at least part of the battle against AIDS into State Legislatures around the country, as AIDS activists battle to make certain they are available to the largest possible number of people.

Many states have been forced to close down enrollment in programs. Some have resorted to conducting lotteries to see who will get help with paying for the treatments.

With most of the world wide AIDS population located in underdeveloped countries, the cost of protease inhibitors almost assures a continuation of the epidemic.

Protease Research To Continue

In 1997, a great deal of research on the long range impact of using protease inhibitors to fight HIV will be conducted.

This research may center on three questions:

- 1) Can protease inhibitors "cure" AIDS if they are used within the first few months of an HIV infection?
- 2) Can protease inhibitors allow longer term survivors of HIV infections to fight a holding action by keeping their blood streams clear of the virus and treating them for opportunistic infections arising out of HIV's presence in bone marrow, lymph glands and other parts of the body? Or will the HIV cells outside of the blood stream in these patients develop a resistance to the drugs?
- 3) What, if any, will be long term side effects of using protease inhibitors?

Other Progress Made Too

In addition to the protease inhibitor Development, there was other news on the War on AIDS.

Here in Wisconsin, the Wisconsin AIDS Walk featuring Bette Midler as its Honorary Chair, raised over \$1,000,000 for the Milwaukee AIDS Project. Over 12,000 people from all walks of life participated.

The Ryan White Care Act (RWCA) was reauthorized by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton. Thanks to the efforts of Milwaukee AIDS Project Executive Director, Doug Nelson, the RWCA included a new funding formula that garnered an additional \$3,000,000 in AIDS funding for

Wisconsin.

The City of Milwaukee increased its support of HIV Prevention Programs by \$50,000. This was the first increase in funds provided by the City since 1993.

The fight to secure it was led by MAP and East Side Alderman, Mike D'Amato, with strong support from near South Side Alderman Jim Witkowiak. Both Alderman have large Gay and Lesbian constituencies.

(It should be noted that Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist has never put an increase in AIDS funding in his budget. Always, the money has to be inserted by the Common Council. That is primarily due to the work of MAP.)

In Madison, openly Gay Alderman, Mike Verveer beat back an attempt to cut that City's support for AIDS programs. Verveer who is known for his effectiveness and his safeguarding of Gay and Lesbian interests was able to save a good chunk of the Madison AIDS Support Network's budget.

New Regs for Insurance Companies

On the regulatory front, a bipartisan effort led by Openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison), State Representative Scott Jensen (R-Waukesha), and State Senator Peggy Rosenzweig (R-Wauwatosa) secured the passage of legislation to regulate the Viatical Settlement Industry in Wisconsin. Viatical Settlement Companies buy life insurance policies of terminally ill people providing them with cash to meet expenses. When the individual dies, the Viatical Company receives the death benefit from the policy.

Looking Ahead at 1997

In 1997, there will be many issues that must be confronted by those in the trenches fighting against AIDS.

Increased Case Loads

The need to come up with more funds to provide life supporting services to People With AIDS is a critical one. As new drug therapies are developed, people infected with HIV are living longer than had been the case in the past. That means expanded case loads for AIDS Service Organizations.

For example, Wisconsin has had a sharp increase in AIDS cases, (15% since July, 1995), but the death rate has declined. That means AIDS Service Organizations (ASO's) must come up with more money to handle higher caseloads.

More Money Needed

The fight to increase funding for the new drug therapies is as important to many people with AIDS as the development of those therapies. The new triple therapies can cost as much as \$15,000 a year PLUS the cost of other drugs needed by Persons With AIDS. The Milwaukee AIDS Project is working to convince the State of Wisconsin to add more funds for drug therapies and to lower the income eligibility level of those seeking State assistance to pay for them.

There is also talk that State Representative Tammy Baldwin will introduce legislation allowing for the medical use of marijuana. Many AIDS sufferers use the illegal drug to maintain their appetites.

We're Not There Yet, But Maybe....

These struggles for increased funding for drug therapies, to find new ways to deal with expanded caseloads, and figuring out the best use of Protease Inhibitor drugs, will highlight the battle against AIDS in 1997. The nightmare isn't over, but if the next 12 months see as much progress as the last 12 have, in January, 1998, we MAY be able to finally see a tiny glimmer of light at the end of the AIDS tunnel.

Gay Man Succumbs to Tension and Harassment from Religious Right

Grand Rapids, MI—This is a news story. It is also an obituary of one Gay man.

Gerry Crane, who was forced to resign as a music teacher because he was Gay, died Friday, January 3rd from complications of a heart attack. He was 32.

Crane, who began teaching music at Byron Center High School in 1993, quit his job last July after months of unrelenting hostility from Far Right elements of the Christian religious community.

Byron Center, 15 miles south of Grand Rapids, is typical of many western Michigan communities where ultra conservative Christians have significant influence.

Crane's family declined comment through Saint Mary's Health Services, the Grand Rapids hospital where he died early Friday.

"Mr. Crane's family and loved ones request prayers, support and that their privacy be respected at this time," spokeswoman Micki Benz said in a statement.

Benz said Crane suffered a heart attack December 27 and had been in intensive care

all week. She said funeral arrangements were pending.

"We are stunned and saddened by this sudden and unexpected tragedy," Byron Center Education Association President David Prindle said in a release. "He will be missed."

A release put out by Byron Center Public Schools said officials there were saddened to hear of Crane's death.

"Despite the prior public controversy, Mr. Crane's dedication to teaching and to music was unwavering and unquestioned," the release said. "He will be missed by the many friends he made while working in the district."

The campaign against Crane included the threat of dismissal after school board members discovered he married his same-sex partner. The board was also made aware of an explicit video that had been mailed to the parents of his students that showed graphic depictions of male-male sex.

The anti-Gay packages mailed last Febru-

ary that he "made a choice that imperils the morals of our community. The issue is the biblical authority that teaches that homosexuality is immoral."

Though there is strong disagreement on whether there is a genetic factor in determining sexual orientation, psychologists agree that homosexuality is not a choice, but something deeply ingrained in the personality.

A woman who answered the phone at the church Friday said Gregory would have no comment on Crane's death.

Although the school board did not fire Crane, it issued a statement that December, making its stance clear.

"Individuals who espouse homosexuality do not constitute proper role models as teachers for students in this district," the board said in pledging to keep him under scrutiny.

Stung by the criticism, Crane nonetheless pledged to stick around. But by July, he

opted to take a severance package and move on.

Crane received support from his students who gave him a standing ovation during a holiday concert on December 7, 1995.

"We want him to know we are 100 percent behind him," senior Joe Pennington said at the time.

ary included a letter signed by 38 people associated with a far Right Wing religious group called Parents for Traditional Values.

Crane will be remembered by his supporters as an excellent teacher who revived a mediocre music program and produced the school's first musical.

The Right Wing Christians, however, believed his sexual orientation set a poor example for teen-agers.

Richard Gregory, pastor of Byron Center Bible Church, had said just as news of Crane's homosexuality was spreading through the community in December, 1995

From Fishing to Foreign Relations, Openly Gay Rep. Gerry Studds Caps His Career

Washington, DC—Just over a year ago, Rep. Gerry Studds, angered by anti-Gay rhetoric on the House floor, took the microphone to explain why Congress should not block a local ordinance extending health coverage to domestic partners.

For District of Columbia employees, it meant leave to care for an ailing family member, or to arrange or attend a funeral.

"I have had more experience than I would like to have had attending such memorial services, and I am damned if anybody in this institution is going to tell me or anyone else that they can be forbidden the right to attend a memorial service for someone they love," Studds said.

The instance was typical of Studds' advocacy for Gay men and women and people with AIDS; something that increased during his congressional career.

Now, the resilient politician who overcame scandal to serve 24 years in the House is retiring, leaving a legacy not only of advancing Gay rights but laws to conserve fish, protect the environment and create a rich network of national parks, including the newly designated Boston Harbor Islands.

"I'm very proud of most of those years," said Studds, 59, in a recent interview with The Associated Press. He has moved into a new home in Boston with his partner, Dean Hara, and is considering consulting, writing and possibly teaching.

"On the whole, it was very much worth the effort and the time and the expense," said Studds, who added that retiring was made easier by the fact that civility in Congress has been on the decline.

Still, "It becomes a major part of you, a piece of you, and when you say goodbye to that, there's a certain amount of emotion in that," he said. "... deep down inside, this was the right decision. It was time."

Erudite, witty and reserved, Studds is a liberal Democrat who never fit into the back-slapping cronyism of old-time Massachusetts politics.

But he skillfully combined strong constituent services, including legendary town meetings, and work on local projects such as the revitalization of the Quincy shipyard with national interests. In the 1980s, for instance, Studds was among the most vocal critics of Reagan administration policies in Central America.

As a result, Studds built a loyal constituency that returned him, over 12 elections, with an average of nearly 70 percent of the vote.

In 1983, that loyalty was sorely tested when it was revealed that Studds had had sex with a 17-year-old male congressional page. He was censured for sexual misconduct by the House and went home to face his constituents, answering questions in a series of public meetings and giving interviews to local reporters.

Studds admitted an error in judgment but did not apologize and, in 1984, was re-elected with 56 percent of the vote. Today, Studds says it would have been preferable to admit his homosexuality without the pressure of a scandal, but blames, in part, the times.

"All of my life, one assumed that would be the end of any professional life, maybe the end of any personal life," he said. "Remember, I grew up in the '50s. There was no such thing as proud, openly Gay people that I knew."

Since then, Studds evolved into what Gay-rights advocates call one of their most articulate supporters. Policy-wise, he has sponsored legislation to prevent employment discrimination based on sexual preference, urged the Clinton administration to lift the ban on gays in the military and led funding fights for AIDS research, prevention, housing and care.

"There are members in Congress who have voting records (that) are equal," said

Winnie Stachelberg, legislative director for Human Rights Campaign. "But there are few members who match Gerry Studds' eloquence, his ability to work with diverse members, constituencies and voices. That's what we miss."

Studds' intellectual bearing and Ivy League schooling could make him seem arrogant. But colleagues said he was not difficult to work with and, if he didn't attend every delegation powwow, he was there when he had to be.

"He's very pedantic," said Rep. Joseph Moakley, (D-MA), who was sworn-in on the same day as Studds. By virtue of alphabetical order, though, Moakley was considered the delegation dean. "When you're speaking to Gerry, you knew you were speaking to someone who's an educated person."

If Studds didn't share a background with the blue-collar factory workers and fishermen of the 10th District, he didn't let it show. In 1970, encountering many Portuguese speakers during his first House campaign, Studds promised to learn the language.

He lost the race but kept the promise, traveling to Providence, RI, for a six-week language course and then spending time in Portugal, the Azores and Cape Verde. By 1971, he was conversational and won the seat the next year. For a few years, his office put out a Portuguese-language newsletter.

Studds' interest in fishing came naturally. Raised in Cohasset, he worked on a lobster boat and, today, enjoys living in Boston in part because it's close to Cape Cod. He keeps a home in Provincetown.

Over the years, the former chairman of the now-defunct Merchant Marines and Fisheries Committee was instrumental in crafting many environmental laws, from measures to protect dolphins and stop foreign fishing within 200 miles of the U.S. coast to those preventing and increasing liability for oil spills.

In recent years, as domestic over-fishing devastated stocks, Studds found himself trying to balance the need for conservation with those of economically strapped fishermen in his district. He supported the closure of Georges Bank, a government-sponsored boat buy-back and a law boosting opportunities for New England fishermen to work international waters.

A rare clash with environmentalists came in 1994, when Studds backed the importation of polar bear trophies from Canada to the United States. He argued the measure would promote better conservation by discouraging native Inuits, who can legally sell hunting permits to sportsmen, from killing young and female polar bears.

"There are a lot of great members ... but Gerry Studds has had the opportunity and has been willing to expend political capital in order to preserve and protect the environment," said Betsy Loyless, political director of the League of Conservation Voters, based in Washington.

Pressed for what his greatest policy legacy may be, Studds can't say. After so many years in office, he seems content to unpack and unwind, preparing for the arrival of a new dog, an English springer spaniel, with the new year.

"I know that I want to be in Boston as opposed to Washington or anywhere else," he said. "Because I love it here, and it's home. ..."

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Out-Going Washington State Governor Pushes Same-Sex Marriage Bill

Olympia, WA—As one of his final acts, outgoing Gov. Mike Lowry is sponsoring legislation to authorize same-sex marriages.

The bill is doomed in the Legislature, where majority Republicans intend to pass a ban on same-gender unions. But a Lowry spokesman said Thursday, January 9, that the governor considers the ban blatant bias and hopes to begin a dialogue that will eventually end discrimination against Gays and Lesbians.

Rep. Ed Murray, D-Seattle, the only self-identified Gay man in the Legislature, will introduce the Lowry bill in the House. The senator from his district, Democrat Pat Thibaudeau, will sponsor an identical bill in the Senate. Their 43rd District includes Seattle's Capitol Hill, which has the state's heaviest concentration of Gay couples.

Murray and Thibaudeau also will sponsor legislation aimed at barring discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation. Lowry also has given his endorsement to the bill, which is a portion of a perennial anti-discrimination bill that Gay rights activists long have sought.

Rep. Bill Thompson, R-Everett, will again sponsor a bill to ban same-gender marriages. His plan would simply declare marriage to be a union between a man and a woman, mirroring both new federal legislation and a 20-year-old state court ruling.

The issue was the No. 1 priority of religious conservatives in the Legislature last year, but Thompson's bill died in the Senate, where Democrats held a one-seat majority. Republicans took over the Senate in the November elections, and Majority Leader Dan McDonald, R-Bellevue, says passage of the legislation is certain.

Thompson will introduce his bill Monday or Tuesday.

"We are hoping it will be a little less confrontational this year," he said in an interview. "We're not out to bash anybody, but we feel the institution of marriage is a very fragile thing and we want to shore it up."

He said the bill will be sent to the new governor, Gary Locke, who is sworn in next Wednesday. Thompson said he hopes Locke will follow the lead of President Clinton and sign the measure. If Locke vetoes it, it's quite possible enough Democratic votes can be rounded up to override, Thompson said.

The last resort would be placing the measure on the fall ballot as a referendum for the people to decide, he said.

"We don't want to go that way if we don't have to," Thompson said. He said he sympathizes with critics' worries that it would be a divisive issue if it goes to the ballot.

At a Thursday news conference in Seattle, Locke repeated his distaste for the ban bill, but stopped short of saying he would veto it, saying he would want to see its exact wording. During the campaign, Locke said he would sign a Murray-style bill.

Murray's bill would authorize a civil marriage contract to provide the same marital benefits that heterosexual couples get, such as the right of inheritance, health coverage, or to visit a spouse in the hospital.

Lowry's press secretary, Jordan Dey, said the governor believes the civil contract approach avoids some of the moral or religious overtones of church weddings. He said Lowry doesn't mind launching an uphill fight.

New Study Shows Lesbians Make Better Moms Than Men—Straight of Gay

Philadelphia, PA—The Philadelphia Inquirer recently reported on the potentially controversial findings of a small but groundbreaking study of Lesbian and heterosexual families. The findings were released at a Winder University symposium.

The results showed that children raised by Lesbian couples are just as psychologically healthy as children of heterosexual couples.

Ilda Fisher and David Flaks, the study's authors, wrote, "These results indicate that psychologically healthy children need not be raised by opposite sex, heterosexual parents—a conclusion with broad psychological and legal implications."

The researchers recruited 15 Lesbian families who had children by artificial insemination and 15 heterosexual families who were demographically alike. They then used standardized tests and statistical analyses to assess the development of children in the families, the quality of the couples' relationships and the couples' skills at parenting.

The only area in which the researchers found significant differences between the two groups was parenting skills—and upon closer scrutiny, that turned out to be related to gender, not sexual orientation.

The women, both Lesbian and heterosexual, had better parenting awareness skills than the men.

The study is important, the researchers believe, because more Lesbians are raising children in this country.

The researchers acknowledged the limitations of the study during questioning at the seminar: The sample of families was extremely small and was not randomly chosen. Several Lesbian families were found through a Lesbian mothers' support group in Philadelphia and several heterosexual families were friends of the Lesbian families.

Still, the researchers said their results are consistent with prior studies, all of which suggest the sexual orientation of custodial parents is not a determining factor in successful child development.

Scot Alaus

HAIR STUDIO

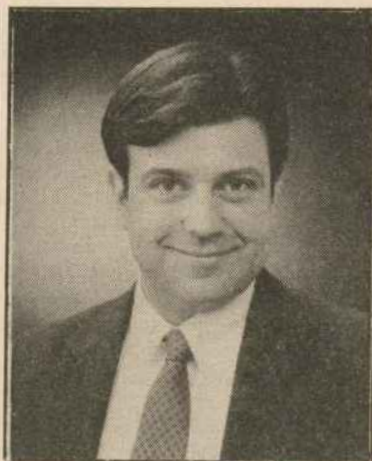
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1996 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Milwaukee—1996 was a year that held out both hope and disappointment. We learned that Protease inhibitors can give hope to those infected with HIV, then we learned that the cost of the new drugs would keep them out of reach for many PWA's. We cheered as President Bill Clinton won re-election, but were disappointed that Congress would remain under the leadership of homophobic Republicans. An openly Lesbian candidate finished first in her Aldermanic primary, but lost in the general election. We saw two major fires that took the heart of a community, the Hotel Washington fire in Madison and the Main Club fire in Superior. For better or worse, 1996 is over. Here it is in review from a Gay and Lesbian perspective.

JANUARY

LOCALLY: AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin Executive Director, Doug Nelson, is named Vice-Chairperson of the country's most powerful AIDS lobby, the AIDS Action Council. The Victory Fund announces its support for Karen Gotzler's bid for Milwaukee Alderman in the City's East Side Third District.

Openly Lesbian Comedienne Kate Clinton appeared at the ACLU's Bill of Rights Dinner in Milwaukee, and Gay Comic Jason Stuart appears in Green Bay.

On January 14, Timothy E. Mande, a.k.a. Mandy McCall, a popular Milwaukee Gay entertainer was found slain. His assailant Joseph Fishboch is later arrested and sent to prison for the crime.

NATIONALLY: A new report, Hostile Climate, showed Anti-Gay violence on the rise in all levels of society. The report issued by People For the American Way documents what the group called, "a surge in anti-Gay activity across the United States."

CompuServe obeyed orders from the German Government and censored over 200 Internet news groups including some non-sexual Gay and Lesbian ones.

San Francisco's Board of Supervisors voted to allow the City Clerk to issue "marriage licenses" to Gay and Lesbian couples.

In the world of Sports, Figure Skater Rudy Galindo became the first openly Gay skater to ever win a national championship and CBS ousts, Golf Commentator Ben Wright 7 months after he made derogatory remarks about Women and Lesbians in Golf.



Total Loss Above is a picture of all that was left after the Hotel Washington fire in February.

FEBRUARY

LOCALLY: On February 6, Karen Gotzler comes in first in the crowded Third Aldermanic District primary on Milwaukee's East Side.

The Hotel Washington burns to ground in an early morning fire on Sunday February 18th. The blaze deprives Madison of the center of its community life. The community is outraged when a local fire fighter, Ron Greer, says he's not sorry the building is gone. His remarks are denounced by local officials.

The Radical Right announces its intent to prohibit same sex marriage in Wisconsin. Openly Gay Republican Congressman, Steve Gunderson, leaves the door open to running again.

Milwaukee's BESTD Clinic and MAP announce a joint effort to produce a new Outreach program

NATIONALLY: The Log Cabin Club announces that it finds Bob Dole, Lamar Alexander, Richard Lugar and Steve Forbes as "acceptable" Presidential candidates, even though all but Lugar had endorsed a Right Wing Christian platform opposing Same Sex marriage. The unimpressed Human Rights Campaign endorses Bill Clinton.

South Dakota passes legislation to ban same Sex Marriage becoming the second state to do so. Legislation to join Utah and South Dakota is introduced in other states.

Vice President Al Gore attends a conference of Democratic Gay and Lesbian activists and urges them to become more involved in the party and the coming campaign.

The Salt Lake City Board of Education bans all student clubs rather than allow a Gay student club to exist. Hundreds of students walk out of classes to show sympathy for the Gay group which vows to meet anyway.

MARCH

LOCALLY: Rep. Dean Kaufert (R-Neenah) announces that he has changed his mind and won't introduce legislation to ban recognition of same sex marriages in Wisconsin.

Karen Gotzler narrowly loses her Aldermanic race on Milwaukee's East Side. Bob Dole and Bill Clinton win the Wisconsin Presidential Primary.

In response to an announced \$120,000 donation to be paid at \$1,000 a month for up to 10 years pledged by Ross Walker and Erv Uecker to help fund a Gay and Lesbian Community Center in Milwaukee, over 125 people attend an initial planning meeting.

The Wisconsin Light celebrates issue number 200.

MAP's Make a Promise Dinner sells out.

Two men are arrested and charged in a Gay bashing that occurred outside of a bar in River Falls. Both are UW-River Falls students, one is a member of that school's football team.

Milwaukee's PBS Station, Channel 10 edited out an interview with a drag queen during a replay of an episode of **This Old House**.

Greg Louganis draws a huge crowd during his appearance at Milwaukee's AfterWords Book store.

Oral arguments are heard in the law suit filed against the Ashland School District by James Nabozny. Nabozny sued the district because it failed to protect him against Gay bashing while he attended school there.

NATIONALLY Perry Watkins, the only openly Gay service person to win reinstatement via the US Supreme Court dies from complications due to AIDS.

Mindful of the boycott caused by Amendment 2, Colorado Governor Buddy Roemer vetoes legislation to ban that state's recognition of same sex marriages.

President Clinton submits a proposal to increase AIDS funding even while other federal programs are being cut back.

Presidential Candidate Pat Buchanan announces that he won't hire openly Gay staff people if he wins the Presidency.

APRIL

LOCALLY: ARCW announces that the Divine Miss M (Bette Midler), will be the honorary Co-Chair of AIDS Walk Wisconsin

In a highly controversial move, PrideFest's Board of Directors ousts the group's founder, Bill Meunier, after Meunier had led the celebration to the Summerfest grounds.

Superior's Bob Jansen is named honorary Grand Marshal of the Twin Cities Pride Parade. In La Crosse, Logan High School Administrators recalled a student newspaper, **The Ranger Report**, after the paper's "April Fools Day" edition ran a column calling for Gays to be shot. While the columnist was merely sent home early, a student who protested the column was suspended.

In Step was sold to Bill Attewell and his partner of Wells Inc., the publisher of **Q Voice**. AIDS advocates are outraged when State of Wisconsin Health Secretary, Joe Leann withdrew his own request for funds to pay for protease inhibitor drugs for those who can not afford them.

NATIONALLY: A Gallup poll shows that 68% of Americans oppose Same Sex marriage.

The US Olympic Committee announces that the Olympic Torch will not pass through Cobb County Georgia. The move is in response to a Cobb County Board resolution that condemned homosexuality.

MAY

LOCALLY: Milwaukee County Executive Tom Ament appoints Gerard Randall as Milwaukee County's Les/Bi/Gay liaison.

Over 20 teams including 18 from outside of Wisconsin play in the annual Milwaukee Classic Softball tournament.

The Wisconsin Light launches long contemplated, new entertainment section, "The SpotLight." The new section which covers the bar, film and arts scene, is an instant success.

ACT UP Milwaukee demonstrates outside of Milwaukee's City Hall demanding more City money for a needle exchange program

Rainbow Over Wisconsin, a business organization in Northern Wisconsin and the Fox Valley, Green Bay area forms.

ARCW announces that it will run a clinical trial of the Salk AIDS vaccine.

NATIONALLY: In a 6 to 3 decision, the US Supreme Court strikes down Colorado's Amendment 2, which prohibited Gay rights legislation from being approved in that state. The ruling halts efforts to pass similar measures in other states.

DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act), a bill to ban federal recognition of same sex marriages is introduced. Just one week after its introduction, House Republicans hold a sub committee hearing on it.

An Episcopal Church Court drops heresy charges issued against Bishop Walter Righter. The charges had been issued because Righter had ordained openly Gay non-celibate Gay Priests. The Court ruled that there was no church doctrine prohibiting such ordinations.

JUNE

LOCALLY: PrideFest is held at Milwaukee's Summerfest grounds. Despite weather that resembles mid-March, the festival attracts 10,600 visitors. A controversy erupts when condom distribution at the Fest is prohibited.

Madison's United names De Ette Tomlinson as its new Executive Director.

Milwaukee's Cream City Foundation announces that its 1995 Workplace Giving Campaign garnered more than \$22,000, a new record in donations.

Governor Thompson announces that he will support a Republican Party, Platform Plank prohibiting same sex marriage.

An investigation by **The Wisconsin Light** reveals that the donors to Tanqueray AIDS Rides being held around the country can expect a large percentage of their contributions to go to the ride's organizers. The investigation grew out of the sponsors ignoring Wisconsin AIDS groups even though one of the rides was scheduled to go through the Badger State.

Madison's New Harvest Foundation launched a new Endowment Fund Campaign.

Madison's openly Gay Alderman, Mike Verveer succeeds in defeating an ordinance that many felt was an attempt to harass Gay men using area parks.



Clouds Over PrideFest. The PrideFest name showed through the gloomy weather on the Summerfest grounds.

NATIONALLY: The House Judiciary Committee approves DOMA after two days of hearings.

Southern Baptists pass a resolution calling for a boycott of Disney, because of its acceptance of "Gay nights" and its provision of health insurance benefits for same sex partners of Disney employees.

Michigan, North Carolina and Delaware join the list of states banning same sex marriage bringing the total number of states banning Gay marriages to 14.

July

LOCALLY: Madison's MAGIC Picnic/Pride Weekend is a rousing success. The weather is picture perfect as the MAGIC Picnic has one of its best years ever and the very spirited Pride Parade held the following day draws over 5,000 participants and spectators.

"Quilt: A Musical Celebration" opens on July 12 at Milwaukee's Circle Stage Theater. It is the first time the musical has been produced anywhere outside of New York.

Miller Brewing Company donated \$10,000 to Milwaukee's Cream City Foundation.

Two Green Bay Pastors, Chuck Mize and Kay Krejci of Green Bay's Union Congregational Church agree to preside over Same Sex Unions.

Please See 1996 Page 18

Jerry Johnson



Pride March - The Galvanize banner led off a spirited Madison Pride Parade in July. The parade drew 5,000. Openly Gay Republican Congressman, Steve Gunderson agrees to run for re-election as a write-in candidate, but then backs out after reportedly after House Speaker Newt Gingrich tells him that the Right Wing is lining up against him and will spread rumors that he and his partner have HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

NATIONALLY: Former Wisconsin Legislator, David Clarenbach resigns as head of the Victory Fund.

A measure to require the discharge of HIV+ Service members is defeated in a Congressional Conference committee. The defeat is a stinging rebuke of California Congressman Bob Dornan who had managed to get it attached to the Defense Authorization bill.

The House of Representatives passes DOMA, the so called Defense of Marriage Act by a vote of 342 to 67.

The 11th Annual AIDS conference held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, sends a message of hope over the new combination drug therapies.

AUGUST

LOCALLY: Racine forms its first ever Gay Youth Organization YFY, Youth For Youth. Ralph Overdahl's Wisconsin Christians United, a Right Wing group, circulates a flyer claiming that State Representative Tim Carpenter (D-Mil) is Gay. The basis for this allegation is an article that Carpenter once wrote for *Wisconsin Light*. (Ed. Note: No inference concerning sexual orientation can be made from one's name or picture appearing in the paper.)

A federal court ruled that James Nabozny, had a right to sue the Ashland Wisconsin school district for failing to stop homophobic harassment directed against Nabozny when he was a student in the district.

Rainbow Over Wisconsin holds a Pride Weekend in Green Bay and Appleton. The events raised money for ROW's charity work.

The Rodney Scheel House in Madison celebrates its First Anniversary. *Wisconsin Light* SpotLight Editor, Bill Meunier attends the celebration but not before Meunier and two residents who met him at the Badger Bus Depot are accused of dealing drugs by overzealous members of the Dane County Drug Task Force. The three were told they were stopped because Meunier got off of a bus without carrying any luggage.

A fire at Madison's Manoeuvres Bar is labeled Arson by Madison Fire Department. The blaze caused little damage and no injuries.



Democratic Support Support for Gay Rights was visible throughout the Democratic Convention in August.

NATIONALLY: The campaign heats up as both major parties hold their conventions. Gay activists see a stark contrast between the two parties. While the Democrats openly embrace a Gay caucus that has over 150 members, the Republicans pass a platform that denounces Gay rights. Vice President Gore's wife Tipper, heads up a list of Democratic big wigs who attend Gay Caucus meetings at the party's national convention in Chicago.

Wisconsin Light provides the LBGT community in Wisconsin the most extensive coverage of the Democratic National Convention with articles and interviews from its reporters on the scene.

Meanwhile the Internet was buzzing with rumors that Bob Dole's GOP running mate, Jack Kemp, was secretly Gay.

Congressman Jim Kolbe (R-AZ) comes out of the Closet after he is threatened with outing following his vote for DOMA.

A study done by a Georgia University reveals that "straight" men with anti-Gay feelings are aroused by Gay porn while those who don't harbor such feelings are not.

President Clinton becomes the first President to address an openly Gay meeting when he speaks (via a Video feed) to the Human Rights Campaign "OUTvote '96 meeting.

SEPTEMBER

LOCALLY: AIDS Walk Wisconsin takes in a record \$1,000,000 as the Divine Miss M, Bette Midler, struts her stuff before thousands of excited fans.

Dick Wagner announces that he will run for Dane County Executive. The openly Gay politician is a former Chairman of the Dane County Board of Supervisors.

Wisconsin Christians United again distributes campaign literature accusing State Representative Tim Carpenter (D-Mil) of being Gay. The piece includes copyrighted material printed in the *Wisconsin Light*. The group stops distribution after *The Light* threatens a lawsuit. Despite WCU's efforts, Carpenter easily wins his primary race.

Things look bleak for rebuilding the Hotel Washington when the Scheel family announce that they are putting plans for the reconstruction on hold due to an inability to raise needed financing.

NATIONALLY: The Senate passes DOMA by a wide margin while rejecting ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act by just one vote.

A ban on spending federal money on immigrants with the HIV virus is quietly removed from a bill after President Clinton threatens a veto.

A Human Rights Campaign Poll shows Bill Clinton winning 70% of the Gay vote versus only 12% for Bob Dole. The poll also shows the vast majority of Gays intend to vote.

Hawaii's Same Sex Marriage Case, finally begins in one of that state's Circuit Courts. The trial resulted from a Hawaiian Supreme Court order directing the state to show a compelling reason for denying marriage licenses to Same Sex Couples.



Bette Midler

OCTOBER

LOCALLY: Greg and Sherry Scheel deny rumors that they will relocate their Hotel Washington Gay bars to W. Main Street in Madison.

Josie Lynn wins the Miss Gay Wisconsin US of A crown at Appleton's Pivot Club.

The Human Rights Campaign calls Wisconsin's Congressional Races, "crucial" to efforts to oust Newt Gingrich as Speaker of the House of Representatives

Scott Evertz and Michelle Mohr address the Midwest Regional Conference of Amnesty International. The standing room only workshop was very well received.

NATIONALLY: The AIDS Quilt returns to Washington where it is fully displayed on the Capitol Mall. President Bill Clinton becomes the first President to visit the Quilt.

Melinda Paras announces that she is leaving her job as Director of the National Gay Lesbian Task Force, NGLTF. The NGLTF Board names Deputy Director Kerry Lobel to replace her.

Lawyers in the Hawaii Same Sex Marriage case submit their final briefs to Circuit Judge Kevin Chang. The state contends that allowing Same Sex couples to marry would threaten the well being of children.

NOVEMBER

LOCALLY: Wisconsin voters give the Democrats a net gain of two seats in Congress when they vote for Democrats in the Third and Eighth Congressional Districts. Republicans keep control of the State Assembly and Democrats retain the State Senate.

The Medical College of Wisconsin was named as one of only five recipients nationwide to receive a two year grant to develop programs to reduce AIDS among the 15 to 25 year old population.

Openly Gay Madison Alderman Mike Verveer, beats back an attempt to cut City support for the Madison AIDS Support Network.

Over 250 people attend the New Harvest Foundation Dinner Dance in Madison.

Hundreds of bowlers compete in the Holiday Invitational Tournament in Milwaukee.

David K. Dellis is the subject of an intensive man hunt in Milwaukee's and Green Bay's Gay communities and in Door County after witnesses said they saw him near the dismembered body of a 15 year old friend. He is captured within a few days.

NATIONALLY: Bill Clinton wins re-election but the Republicans pick up two seats in the US Senate and retain a narrow margin of control in the House of Representatives.

A Gay man becomes the first to win statewide office when he is elected Comptroller of Vermont, but two openly Gay Congressional candidates lose.

Bob Dornan, the number one homophobe in the House of Representatives loses his bid for re-election to Congresswoman elect Sanchez. Dornan claims voter fraud.

Chastity Bono leaves the Human Rights Campaign to be named "Entertainment Media Director" for the Gay Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)

A mostly Gay American Legion post, the Alexander Hamilton Post No 448 of San Francisco, sues its state headquarters saying the organization distributed anti-Gay videos and literature and discouraged Gay vets from joining.

A new Human Rights Campaign poll shows that a majority of Americans favor Gay rights including those traditionally enjoyed only by married couples.

DECEMBER

LOCALLY: Greg and Sherry Scheel announce that the Hotel Washington will be rebuilt after all. Capitol City Bank agrees to finance most of the \$6,000,000 project. The bank is picketed by Right Wing Christian Activists.

A *Wisconsin Light* SpotLight Event at Madison's Manoeuvres raises over \$1,700 plus hundreds of pounds of food for Madison's homeless shelters and programs.

The Milwaukee AIDS Project opens Wisconsin's first HIV Dental Clinic with a gala ribbon cutting ceremony.

The Cream City Chorus, a primarily Gay and Lesbian group sings at Milwaukee's Christmas tree lighting ceremony for the fifth consecutive year.

The Ashland Wisconsin School District agrees to pay James Nabozny nearly \$1,000,000 in compensation for its failure to prevent him from being Gay bashed while he attended school there. The case is hailed as a legal landmark.

The Twin Ports (Superior/Duluth) Gay community is devastated when Superior's Main Club burns to the ground. Two Gay men are killed in the fire which began in the early morning hours of Friday, December 27.

Openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) announced plans to introduce a bill legalizing Same Sex Marriage in Wisconsin.

Please See 1996 Page 18



Tragic Fire A firefighter looks over the still smoldering Main Club in Superior after a December fire.

Associated Press Photo

Bill Meunier

Jerry Johnson

Jerry Johnson

New Drugs, New Hope for Many: From Dying of AIDS to Living With It

San Francisco—There was no doubt but that he'd die an early, ugly death. Chuck Johnson had come to accept that. He had AIDS, so he was going to die. It was that simple.

As a Gay man living in San Francisco, Johnson had seen the disease kill hundreds of friends and acquaintances. A year ago, he watched it start to kill him.

An AIDS-related infection, his fifth in 18 months, sucked 30 pounds (13 kilograms) from Johnson's body-builder physique. He was so nauseous he couldn't eat, and a catheter in his arm provided his only nourishment. At age 37, he walked like an old man. He gave himself a year, at most, to live.

Then an amazing thing happened. Chuck Johnson got better.

Last December 28th, a date he remembers as if it were his birthday, for in a way it was, Johnson started taking Crixivan, one of a class of potent new AIDS-fighting drugs known as protease inhibitors.

By February, the AIDS virus had dropped to an undetectable level in his bloodstream. Today, there's still no trace of the virus, and Johnson's weight and health have returned. His once-pallid cheeks are rosy again, and gym-buffed biceps and pectoral muscles bulge once more beneath his T-shirt.

One recent morning, Johnson sat outside his apartment, trying to describe the ecstasy of a sunny day. "Just sitting on this deck and looking at the bay—it's wonderful!" he said. "It's incredible!"

Even more incredible: Researchers say Johnson's turnaround is the rule, not the exception. For many, protease inhibitors appear to have transformed AIDS from a death sentence to a chronic, manageable disease.

The news has had a profound impact in San Francisco, ground zero of the AIDS epidemic. In a city where nearly half of all Gay men are infected by the AIDS virus, 15 years of death and desperation have given way to hope and giddy relief.

"Before, if you were HIV-positive, the assumption was that you were going to die. It was just a matter of time," Johnson said. "Now, the assumption has changed from death to life."

A thousand cautions are in order. Protease inhibitors keep AIDS in check, but they don't cure it. While the drugs control HIV in the bloodstream, the AIDS virus can linger in the brain and other tissue, and many wonder if the seemingly miraculous effects will wear off over time.

Also, protease inhibitors are of little help to some people at high risk of AIDS, such as crack addicts who can't follow the strict pill-popping regimen required. And the expensive new drugs, covered in the United States by Medicaid and private health insurance, are beyond the reach of most of the world's 22 million HIV-positive people.

Even among those taking the new drugs faithfully, about 10 percent don't respond.

"I still have friends who are dying," said Paul Wisotzky, an HIV-positive San Franciscan who's had only moderate gains—and

side effects including severe nausea and headaches—from taking Crixivan and another protease inhibitor called Saquinavir.

"I've been on this roller coaster for a long time," Wisotzky said. "I've learned you have to modulate your hope."

That said, spirits are riding higher than ever among those with HIV. More and better drugs are in the pipeline, and in San Francisco's Gay circles, parties are starting to outnumber funerals. Like bears emerging from hibernation, people who once lay dying in dark rooms are back on the streets.

"I see people I haven't seen in years," Johnson said. "I didn't know they were alive."

"There's tremendous hope out there," agreed Dr. James Dilley, a psychiatrist and director of the AIDS Health Project, which runs support groups for those with HIV.

But Dilley said there also are suspicions, in a community hurt before by false hopes, that the good news might not last. And even support-group participants find that once the euphoria subsides, they must grapple with issues long subjugated to their illness.

"They have to learn how to reinvest in their lives," Dilley said.

Not to mention their bank accounts. Some with AIDS, aiming to make the most of what they assumed were their final months, cashed in life-insurance policies and drained savings.

"They threw caution to the wind," Dilley said. "Now, they're suddenly fearful they're going to run out of money."

Derek Gordon and his partner, Arturo Fernandez, both HIV-positive and responding well to protease inhibitors, are trying to reconcile the prospect of living rather than dying together.

"We never thought of ourselves growing old, having children, planning retirement, buying a home," said Gordon, 33. "We never thought about money before. We just spent it. Now we're fighting about money and saying, 'Gosh, isn't this great?'"

Johnson said his rapid recovery caught him emotionally unprepared. He had moved to a place where he was ready to die—and now he might live? He was angry for weeks.

More recently, he has found himself hurrying to make up for lost time.

"I'm very impatient these days," Johnson said. "Every aspect of my life is subject to reevaluation. If it doesn't work, I don't want it there."

He and his partner are seeing a counselor, revisiting a relationship they both had assumed would end in the near future when one of them died.

No one would call Johnson cured. Still on AIDS disability, he tires easily, and his days revolve around his illness. His kitchen cabinet looks like a pharmacy, crowded with bottles of the 26 pills he takes daily to battle HIV and keep infections at bay.

"It still lives with me," he said. "It's like having a stalker. If I turn the corner and look back, I get a glimpse of it, and I worry that it may still come up and hit me on the head."

A World Without Gays? It's Not Fantasy, But a Distinct Possibility

Commentary by Tom Sena

"Well!" I fumed as we emerged from the movie house. "I guess as far as *Star Trek*'s concerned, there are still no Gay people in the 24th Century."

Greg and I had just seen *Star Trek: First Contact*, and as we walked out into the December night, I pointed out in exasperated detail that every other minority group was represented among the crew of the "Enterprise" except Gays and Lesbians. Not that we needed to be popping out from every control panel or beaming down on every transport just to make a point, I acknowledged, but we needed at least to be there.

Greg flashed me a mischievous smile and replied, "Well, who knows? Maybe we're not there. Maybe they finally found the Gay gene and we were all eradicated before the days of Kirk and Spock."

He chuckled at his own joke, but suddenly he sobered. "You know," he continued thoughtfully, "it is possible, isn't it? I mean, if science could isolate the Gay gene, we could be engineered out of existence—and maybe in the next thirty years instead of the next three hundred."

And, of course, we could be. The discovery of the "Gay gene," which most of us are convinced exists, will be a double-edged sword for Gays and Lesbians when and if it happens.

On the one hand, it would demolish forever the argument that Gays "choose" their orientation and are thus undeserving of protected minority status like African-Americans or the handicapped.

But on the other hand, if the exact cause of

our sexual orientation could be determined, it would be no time at all before science offered a "cure" for homosexuality—perhaps not for those of us who are already legally recognized as persons in our own right, but certainly for prospective parents who might be "at risk" of giving birth to a Gay son or Lesbian daughter.

And if the "cure" turned out to be too expensive, well, there would be another option for parents who didn't want the responsibility of bringing a "different" child into the world. Thanks to "Roe v. Wade," they could always choose abortion.

What's that you say? No woman would choose to abort a child simply because of his or her sexual orientation? I'm "fear mongering" in an effort to drive a wedge between Gay activists and the pro-choice movement? Not at all. I'm simply a Gay man who's looking the facts squarely in the face and inviting my brothers and sisters in the community to do the same.

If some women are already having abortions because the child they're carrying is of the "wrong" sex, do you really think that women in the future will hesitate to abort a child because he or she has the "wrong" sexual orientation? Remember, one of the grounds on which pro-choicers justify abortion is that every child should be "wanted." You don't want a Gay child? Fine! You can get rid of it.

And such fears are anything but exaggerated. For example, John Fortunato, in *Embracing the Exile*, recounts that after a young man named Tim came out to his parents, "his mother approached him. She put

her arm around his shoulders. Tim took this to mean that she was going to accept him. 'Tim,' she said, 'I've made only one mistake in my life.' Tim asked her what she meant. 'Twenty-two years ago,' she said, 'I should have had an abortion.'"

This is no isolated instance. In the now-famous report on teen suicide that Dr. Louis Sullivan suppressed during his tenure as United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, there is an account of a Gay teenager who was thrown out of his home when his parents discovered his sexual orientation.

When he tried to reconcile with his parents by calling them from a pay phone, the boy's mother told him point-blank that had she known when she was carrying him that he would grow up to be homosexual, she would have aborted him then and there.

A rare case, you say? Enlightened, liberal, and well-meaning parents wouldn't dream of doing such a thing? It's comforting to suppose so, but I wouldn't bet on it.

In fact, some might very well decide that aborting their unborn Gay child would be in the child's best interest.

As one woman put it: "Why should I bring a child into the world whom I know is going to have to deal with all this bigotry and hate? Why bring up an innocent child to face that? So, yes, I would have an abortion if I knew my child would grow up to be homosexual."

In other words, "Trust me, dear, you're better off dead."

Given the hard facts, the great question becomes, what are Gays and Lesbians going to do now to prepare for a time when a woman's "right to choose" becomes a hunting license to exterminate our kind?

For that time may well be coming—perhaps as soon as within the next two or three decades.

Do we really think that we can educate society out of its anti-Gay prejudices by then? Or do we as a Lesbian and Gay community need to reconsider the whole issue of abortion?

After all, if a woman's "right to choose" is absolute, then a woman is free to have an abortion for any reason—even blind, irrational, anti-Gay prejudice.

If Gays and Lesbians want to object to aborting the Gay and Lesbian unborn on grounds that we are persons of worth and dignity who have a right to grow up and lead productive and fulfilling lives, then we have another issue to confront. Because if we have a right to life, doesn't every other unborn child have that same right?

In the end, Gays and Lesbians may find that for us, the issue of abortion boils down to a choice between defending the lives of all unborn, or sanctioning our own extinction. As science closes in on the Gay gene, "going boldly where no one has gone before," it may be that more and more "pro-choice" Gays and Lesbians are going to start listening to the arguments of their pro-life brothers and sisters and then say, "Beam me up, Scotty."

POLICE CHIEF

Continued from Page 1

saying that "you" are "fully willing" to work with the LGBT community.

The Police Chief agreed to write the letter. "Your request for a formal liaison," the Chief said, "the answer is yes."

"Meetings quarterly?" the Chief went on. "Absolutely." The chief also agreed that the liaison would meet with the whole community once a year.

The Chief also said that there would be an opportunity to "talk to the whole Police Department" during in-service days.

Bar Issues

Deb Procknow, manager of Just Us was introduced to talk about bar issues.

This had been described as an issue of special concern due to plainclothes police activity since November, 1996, in some of the bars.

Police Harassment

For example, police issuing citations for over-crowding, for not having a license to play recorded music, for the bar not being well enough lit (the bar in question had 500 Christmas lights up and on at the time, according to the bar owner); the seizure of magazines being sold in a bar on the grounds that they were pornographic. (No citation has been issued to date, but the magazines have not been returned.)

There are incidents reported by bar owners of police entering the bar, checking licenses, carding everyone present, and refusing to give their name and badge numbers in a clearly audible manner.

These, and numerous other incidents, such as people being confronted by police outside some bars, have occurred within the Second Police District in recent months.

Procknow told the Chief that the bars were important to the LGBT community because, traditionally, there were a safe place to gather. She also told the Chief about the Stonewall bar and its importance to the community.

Procknow said that there were two things she wanted to discuss with the Chief. One was the Incident Report.

When a police officer comes into a bar, regardless of the source of the complaint, or whether it's valid or not, that bar is "written up." The bars, she said, are concerned about the "use or misuse" of these Incident Reports, because these reports have a direct impact on the bars license renewal.

"We concerned that minor Incident Reports are being used...in order to block renewal of licenses."

Procknow cited the example of Police objection to license renewal of a bar based on two false alarm tickets. "These were the only things on file," she said. "And the police said [the bar] should not have its license renewed."

She told the Chief that other bar owners had told her that the fear of Incident Reports is so pervasive as to scare some bar owners from calling the police when they do need assistance.

Procknow asked the Chief to review the policy on Incident Reports and how they are used in licensing. "We want the assurance that we can call the police when we need them," she said.

The Chief responded, saying that there were licensed businesses in Milwaukee that needed to be closed down "because of the incidents that occur there."

Jones went on to say that with the liaison to the LGBT community, Incident Reports could be "reviewed."

"If what you say is true," Jones told Procknow, "and I believe you, the situation is ludicrous." If there are police objections to a license, they will be reviewed with the person(s) concerned. The liaison person can also be talked to, he said.

Jones emphasized that the purpose in an Incident Report is for a violation on the part of the owner of the bar, not for situations beyond the owner's control.

The second issue raised with the Chief was the matter of undercover officers refusing to give their names.

"Call my office," Jones said, "the next time an officer comes to your establishment and refuses to give their name. Give me the date, the time. Do it the next day. I promise you, I promise you, that I will initiate an investigation (within a half hour of your call), and I will get back to you. Trust me on that." He offered to take names and incidents right then.

Jones emphasized that it is the bar owners who must report to him when something has happened.

Jones said that the Captain of the Second District had been changed. Jones said he would be talking to the new Captain "about what you are telling me tonight."

Training

Scott Gunkel and Nancy Snow introduced the topic. Snow said that they definitely wanted the current program for training recruits to continue. She also asked the Chief to explain his ideas on in-service training.

The Chief replied that what was involved in sensitivity was "up to you." He said he was providing the opportunity. "I want to give you a block of time to do that."

Gunkel said that he hoped that in training cadets, there could be more emphasis on "what is a hate crime" and how the officer is to report that.

Gunkel noted to the Chief that the current 3-hour time allotted to talk to the officers isn't long enough.

The Parks

Andy Bagnall from MAP's Gay Outreach Program addressed the final topic on the agenda which involved police harassment and entrapment in the parks.

Bagnall's "first concern," he said, was with male prostitutes. He told the Chief that he hoped that the Police would not simply arrest these people, but be able to refer them to places, such as Pathfinders, or programs at MAP, where they can get help in "dealing with problems in their lives."

The Chief asked for brochures or handouts that could be given out. He said that he had "no problem" with letting someone know after their release, that there were programs available.

As to harassment and entrapment, whether in the parks or around the bars at closing, the Chief said that he hoped that could be dealt with through the liaison and sensitivity training at in-service which every officer must take part in.

As to entrapment, Jones said that ultimately, only the arresting officer and the person arrested know if entrapment has taken place. When someone suggested a video tape, Jones said, "Absolutely. Bring me a video tape" and there will be a case.

Jones was asked about what someone should do in the case of a homophobic police officer. "Report it immediately," he answered.

The meeting was conducted with great cordiality and frankness. Chief Jones said that he would return for other meetings when he was invited.

SPOTLIGHT



Common Ground can be found at Uncommon Grounds a new Gay friendly coffeehouse in Beloit

Beloit's Uncommon Grounds Opens As a Queer-Friendly Coffeehouse

By Barbara Lightner

Uncommon Grounds, a coffeehouse with a pun as good as its name, celebrated its grand opening on December 21, 1996, in Beloit. The opening drew well-wishers from throughout the state of Wisconsin to welcome Beloit's first-ever espresso coffee bar.

Proprietor Cheryl Kader, of Beloit and Milwaukee, is known for seeing what needs to be done, and doing it. Before her coffeehouse venture, Kader, who is Lesbian, began the first-ever Lesbian and Gay Studies course with a Gay colleague while she was in graduate school at UW-Milwaukee.



Cheryl Kader

Inscribed on its menu are words indicating both the dedication and the fun of the coffeehouse.

"How do you take your coffee?" the menu reads. "We take ours seriously."

Cheerful, yet intimate, the coffeehouse is located in the rear of *A Different World Bookstore*, one of those bookstores--feminist, progressive, friendly and alternative--that is distinguished from the big chain book mills by its connections to the communities it serves.

Kader had just completed a stint of teaching at Beloit College, where she'd heard many a student lament the lack of a coffeehouse in a college town. She'd had a long-time interest in coffeehouses, and word got around town. The women who owned *A Different World* contacted her about starting a coffeehouse in the bookstore. Eight months later *Uncommon Grounds* was officially open for business.

Although she had carefully researched opportunities for financing, Kader found that none of the avenues for financing were open to a woman who wanted to start a coffeehouse. So she did as so many women have done, and relied on the financial assistance of friends.

Daughter Judith, who is rehabbing a house in Milwaukee's Harambee, pitched in to help with the required renovation. Daughter Dana, owner of *Mind Your Business* (a desktop publishing company), designed and printed menus,

business cards, ads, and the various signs Kader needed.

Once the coffeehouse preparation was underway, the City of Beloit came up with a \$10,000 loan.

Aware of the "town-and-gown" split that exists in cities with a prominent college population, Kader intends *Uncommon Grounds* to be "helpful in breaking down the barriers that exist [in Beloit] between the city and the college."

She emphasizes that "all people are welcome." The day of the opening, children also found a place of their own in the Children's Corner nestled in one corner of the coffeehouse.

Kader speaks with pride of the fact that *Uncommon Grounds* is a "very queer-friendly place in Beloit." Underlining this point, the opening also celebrated the 40th birthday of Kader's partner, Julie Magida, with parents serenading their daughter in a birthday duo of popular song and Bartlett's-type quotes appropriately rewritten for time and occasion.

Kader is justly proud of the coffees she serves. The café mocha was excellent, and word from others on the latté and the regular cup was that they were fine brews as well-- all at a decent price. A good-sized mug of coffee is \$1.00; a pint, \$1.50. Espressos range from \$1.00 for the straight, to \$1.50-\$2.35 for the single Cappuccino, Latté, and Mocha. The espressos are full-sized, too, not dripped into the deceptively heavy-sided, small-inside, coffee cups so frequently used.

In addition to coffee and other beverages, Kader offers an all-vegetarian menu of light foods. For those who want breakfast at any time of day, there are the "24-Hour Breakfasts" (muffins, at \$1.60, croissants, at \$1.35, scones, at \$1.25, and granola and milk, at \$2.25). My middle-of-the-afternoon raspberry scone had just the crumbly-crisp crust good scones are known for.

Those with a hearty appetite can find "Your Not-so-Basic-4 Sandwiches," all of them tantalizing as their names: The Princess Di (a three-decker, gorgeously delectable with its three slices of English Muffin bread "direct from the palace," at \$3.50), the Fallen Angel (don't ask who has fallen from grace, at \$3.00), the Monkey Business (peanut butter-- with banana, of course, at \$3.25), and the PB & J (peanut butter and jelly, "for the less adventurous," we're told, at \$2.00).

And there are soups (served with bread basket, for \$2.50), quacamole and chips (\$2.25), and hummus and pita (\$2.25).

Completing the menu, what more appropriate to a coffeehouse than a variety of "Sinful Desserts," changing each day? *Uncommon Grounds* is located at 414 E. Grand Avenue in downtown Beloit. Hours are Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-midnight; and Sunday, noon-midnight.

Our Super Bowl SpotLight Party at In Between Is For The Real Fans

Okay, so now just about everybody has caught Packer Fever (even our Editor, Dr. Terry Boughner), but many of the real fans, the ones who've been there all season, say that Gay Milwaukee's Packer Headquarters is at In Between, 625 S. Second Street.

Starting with the exhibition season, In Between has attracted a legion of young and old Packer fans who make this popular bar their home on Packer Sundays. Yes, they give out free shots with every Packer score. Yes they have plenty of TV's so no matter where you sit you can get a good view. But it's more than that.

This bar has the atmosphere, and camaraderie that makes watching a Packer game there extra special.

Look at the walls, and you'll find them covered with Packer Pictures, flags, and schedules. Look at the bar and see dozens of 16 oz Packer Glasses with the names of Packer fans etched into them, waiting for their owners to fill them for just 75 cents a tap.

All of this tells you that In Between is where many of the real fans come to watch the Pack trounce their opponents. Packer games are special at In Between, so it's natural that *The Wisconsin Light* would hold a SpotLight Super Bowl party there.

Curt and his staff have worked hard to make this game extra special. There will be free Miller Lite Taps (the official drink for Gay Milwaukee Packer Fans) for the entire first quarter. They have garnered some great door and raffle prizes and they are even bringing in a special big screen TV.

The Super Bowl Kick off is at 5:18, but

the bar is likely to fill up early so we recommend getting there at least an hour before game time. Join Curt, Doug, their staff, their legion of Packer fans and *The Wisconsin Light* at In Between, Super Bowl Sunday, January 26 and help us root our the green and gold onto victory.

Al Thomas, Former Owner of The Triangle, Will Not be Opening A Bar

Milwaukee--Al Thomas, former owner of Milwaukee's Triangle bar, has announced that he will not be opening another bar.

Thomas told *Light* that in September, 1996 he had a signed agreement (an offer of purchase) with Jim Balistreri to buy what was once Your Place (YP). By October, 1996, Thomas said, the financing was complete.

Thomas said that what was very nearly a "done deal," fell through because of "complications with the deal."

On January 10, 1997, Thomas withdrew his request for a Class B/Cabaret License from the City of Milwaukee. He also withdrew from the agreement that he had with Balistreri.

Thomas said that is future plans include moving back to Chicago this coming summer and, perhaps, opening a Gay nightclub in Chicago or the Northern Illinois suburbs.

"I have enjoyed my life here in Milwaukee," Thomas said. "I have made many wonderful friends."

TIME MAGAZINE says:
"YOU MUST SEE 'EVITA'!"
 --Richard Corliss

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BEST PICTURE
(Musical or Comedy)

BEST ACTRESS: Madonna
 BEST ACTOR: Antonio Banderas
 BEST DIRECTOR: Alan Parker
 BEST ORIGINAL SONG: "I Wanna Be Like You" by Madonna & Antonio Banderas

NEWSWEEK says:
**"IT'S GORGEOUS!
 IT'S EPIC!
 IT'S SPECTACULAR!"**
 --David Ansen

WNBC-TV says:
"UNFORGETTABLE!"
 --Jeffrey Lyons

SISKEL & EBERT say:
"TWO THUMBS UP!"

MADONNA ANTONIO BANDERAS JONATHAN PRYCE
 ALAN PARKER

EVITA

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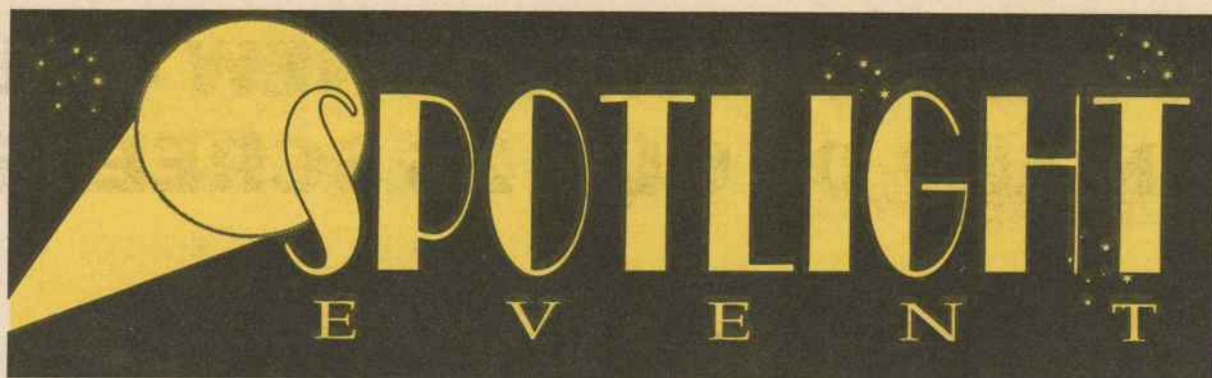
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OUT on Film



For Suspense, Claustrophobia, Darkness and Terror, see 'The Relic'

Reviewed by John A. Jahn

Perhaps there is no more uneven ground in the world of film making than that of the horror/monster movie genre. When done well, some of these films can be among your favorite movies overall. There are the classics of the '30s and '40s (*Frankenstein*, *Dracula*, *The Mummy*, *The Wolfman*); and in more recent years, *The Thing* (1982), both *Alien* movies (1979, 1986), both *Fly* movies (1958, 1986), *The Shining* (1980)—to name a few of my favorites in the genre.

Then, of course, we have the real dogs. It's no secret that bad horror or monster movies are often also some of the worst movies ever made, period. Very infrequently does a movie come along in this field that just seems to lie in between these two extremes. *The Relic* is such a movie.

To its credit, this film is well acted at all levels, well written, suspenseful, and the creature is really neat.

To its detriment, though, the film is a bit sluggish at times—taking a long time before "the action" finally gets rolling. Secondly, the monster itself (the "Relic" of the film's title), isn't very well explained, despite several attempts to do so throughout the movie.

Nevertheless, I was pleasantly surprised by this horror/monster flick which, for one thing, dispenses with several old clichés common to this body of work.

There's no big romance between the leading man and leading lady. The creature doesn't dispose of the dozens and dozens of victims common to many such films. The ending is quite uncertain. No

opening for a sequel—at least no obvious one—in the closing shots (What? No "Son of the Relic?").

The Relic is a combination of ancient South American Indian superstition and biological chemistry, as John Whitney, anthropologist with the Chicago Museum of Natural History, finds out to his horror in the opening scene.

And it is within the museum that nearly all the action henceforth takes place. The creature makes its way to the museum boxed in a crate, and from there stalks the dank and dark corridors of the building's underground areas.

The climax is reached only gradually—when a huge gala event is taking place at the museum including all sorts of high mucky-mucks, including the mayor. When the Relic finally, completely reveals itself, it's a huge reptilian nightmare—well-realized by the people at VFX and Stan Winston (Special Effects).

Since this is a suspense thriller and monster movie which I'm recommending for those of you into such things, I won't go further into the plot or outcome. Suffice it to say I found *The Relic* to be a pretty good entry into its genre, and even if you don't want to see it at the show, I'd highly recommend it for future video rental or purchase.

The Relic stars Penelope Ann Miller, Tom Sizemore, Linda Hunt, and James Whitmore, is rated R (naturally enough), directed by Peter Hyams, and is based upon the novel of the same name by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child.

On a scale of 1-10, "The Relic" rates a 7.



A big hit - Johnathan Pryce, Madonna and Antonio Banderas star in *Evita*, the smash hit movie adaptation of the Broadway musical. The movie chronicles the life of Evita Peron, one of the century's most controversial women. *Evita* is now showing at theaters around the state.

The Glorious Hollywood Musical Makes a Triumphant Comeback with 'Evita'

Reviewed by John A. Jahn

It's been a long time since a major film studio had the guts to produce a musical. The genre seemed to have run its course by the early 1980's, after having gone through five successful decades.

The '30's gave us such classics as *42nd Street* (1933), the various *Gold Diggers* films, *Hollywood Hotel* (1937), and probably most people's all-time favorite, the timeless masterpiece, *The Wizard of Oz* (1939).

During the war, the musical often took the role of patriotic national cheerleader, as in 1943's *I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy*. Perhaps the '50's was the big production musical's zenith, producing theatrical spectaculars like *Oklahoma!* (1955), 1951's *Show Boat*, 1956's *High Society*, and my personal favorite, *South Pacific* (1958).

By the '60's, the musical was definitely showing its age—especially in the counter-culture latter half of the decade. Nevertheless, there were such triumphs as *The Sound of Music* (1965), and *West Side Story* (1961).

The '70's gave us a few gems, like *Cabaret* (1972) and the lesser disco era films like *Saturday Night Fever* (1977). The genre reached its nadir with such atrocities as *Xanadu* in 1980. Yes, it's been a long dry spell for those of us in love with the Hollywood musical.

Along comes *Evita*, finally, in late 1996. Was it worth the wait? Decidedly so!

The brief, but spectacularly rich life of Eva Duarte (nee Eva Peron after her marriage to Juan) is retold in this film by the Argentine everyman, Che, portrayed and sung surprisingly well by one of Hollywood's rising stars, Antonio Banderas. Che is no fan of Eva Peron, constantly bringing her image back into focus lest we get caught up in the Eva adoration sweeping through the country.

Eva Duarte (Madonna) as a teenager, attaches herself to a small town Tango star, Agustin Magaldi (Jimmy Nail), who she accompanies to "the Big Apple," which, in their world, means Buenos Aires. Eva's ambition and natural beauty gain her greater and greater attention as she steadily climbs the social ladder.

Evita wonderfully pulls off this ascent from nothing to stardom by an excellent musical number showing Eva's parade of boyfriends of ever greater stature—all of whom are eventually left alone and rejected.

Eva's relationship with an Argentine military officer serves to introduce her to the love of her life, the rising politician, Juan Peron. The couple marry and Juan (Jonathan Pryce), is elected president—owing his success largely to his inspirational wife.

Eva Peron now sets about making a name for herself, not only at home, but abroad, including her "Rainbow Tour" of Europe and the founding of her own foundation to help the poor. Eva Peron's power and popular support grow so influential as to propel her to being a candidate for the vice presidency! (Not even

Hillary in her heyday ever dreamt of that possibility!)

Tragically, Eva's life was cut short. She was diagnosed with terminal uterine cancer. She bade a tearful farewell. On July 26, 1952, Eva Peron died at the age of 33, and Argentina went into deep and frenzied mourning. Thus, also ends *Evita*.

There are many reasons to recommend this film. Musically, it is sumptuous, containing the hit "Don't Cry for Me Argentina," and a new song written just for the movie, "You Must Love Me," that Madonna sings to clarify Eva's relationship with Juan.

Altogether, there are 49 musical selections in this two and a quarter hour-long movie. In fact, unlike most musicals, virtually every word in this movie is sung. Frankly, sometimes you just wish they'd stop it and talk for awhile, but I guess the director, Alan Parker, thought this worked better than dialogue with musical interludes.

Cinematography, costumes, choreography, set designs; all these crucial elements are basically flawless. One of the most moving and emotional moments comes when Eva (Madonna) sings "Don't Cry for Me" on the Casa Rosada balcony—the very spot where the real Eva Peron gave speeches some 40+ years before.

The numbers for this film are remarkable: 84 days of shooting in 3 countries; 299 scenes on 320,000 feet of film; 40,000 extras; 5,500 costumes. Madonna alone wears 85 different outfits, 39 hats, 45 pairs of shoes, 56 pairs of earrings.

It's difficult for a film to actually live up to something like the huge amount of pre-release hype that *Evita* had, but by and large, it does. If I have any complaints at all, they are these (small ones at that):

The two hour barrage of constant singing can wear a little thin at times, especially during some of the lesser numbers; apart from two songs previously mentioned, there aren't any other big, stand out hits from this film (although this is a Webber-Rice problem, not necessarily a film problem per se);

While Madonna's is superb voice (far, far better than any of her pop recordings), the other principle singing roles in this film aren't quite so hot. While Banderas' voice is alright, his accent sometimes makes him difficult to understand, and Jonathan Pryce's voice struck me as being pretty thin (He doesn't have much to say anyway. Juan pretty much just glows adoringly at Eva).

That said, I still have no problem recommending *Evita* for musical and Madonna fans alike.

On a 1-10 scale, "Evita" rates an 8.

'Ghosts of Mississippi' Haunts Wrong People, Wrong Events

Reviewed by John A. Jahn

Shortly after midnight on June 12, 1963, an assassin's bullet from a high powered rifle ripped into the back of civil rights activist Medgar Evers in his own driveway, thus ending the life of the first field secretary of the NAACP in the state of Mississippi. His killer, rabidly racist and unrepentant Byron De La Beckwith, is brought to trial twice within the year, both trials ending in hung juries (mistrials, that is).

Fast forward to 1994—when justice finally arrives for the Evers family in the third and final trial of De La Beckwith. Through perseverance and faith, the Evers case was resurrected and Mississippi—along with the rest of the US—would take a significant step towards atonement and racial equality.

Director Rob Reiner's *Ghosts of Mississippi* is a true account of the Medgar Evers murder and its subsequent trials which had a profound impact on many lives. Alec Baldwin stars as Assistant D.A. Bobby DeLaughter who, against the wishes of everyone close to him, reopens this notorious case, considered impossible to win (especially since it's three decades old, and much of the evidence has disappeared and witnesses have died).

Whoopi Goldberg stars as Myrlie Evers, Medgar's widow, who refuses to give up the pursuit of De La Beckwith and justice for her husband.

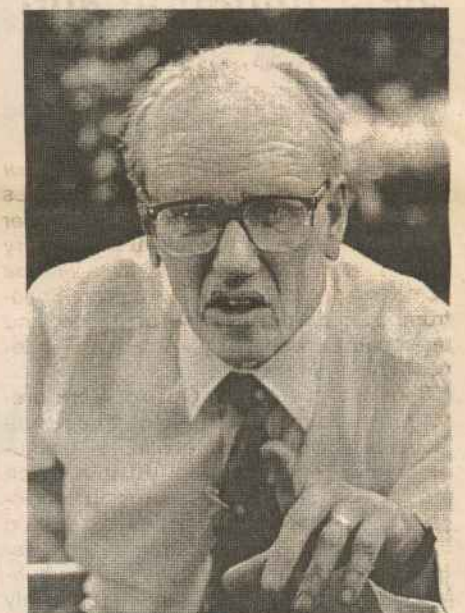
Finally, James Woods gives the best performance of the film as Byron De La Beckwith.

So, you say, who plays Medgar Evers? He's the main subject of this film, after all. No one you've ever heard of (James Pickens, Jr.?), and that's where the problems with this well-intended, but poorly focused film begin.

I went into this movie expecting to learn something about what it was really like in Mississippi in 1963, amidst the civil rights turmoil. I wanted to learn who Medgar Evers really was, what kind of person he was, and why he was killed the way he was.

Also, I really wanted to get into the head of his assassin, De La Beckwith. That's precisely where this movie falls flat.

The film revolves entirely around the lawyer character, DeLaughter (Baldwin)—how he recovers the evidence, how he finds witnesses, how it affects his per-



James Woods

sonal life. The resulting 1994 trial is hugely anti-climactic and unmoving. It shouldn't have been.

We are let down by this film because Medgar Evers appears on screen for all of maybe 5 minutes—just long enough to die. After that, we see a few seconds of video footage of him played on DeLaughter's VCR.

As for Mrs. Evers (Goldberg), her scenes are few and far between. In fact, for all but the beginning and closing of the film, she wasn't even in the state! Goldberg basically phones in her performance in a detached way (incidentally, she ages almost nil in the 30-odd years. Hope I have such luck).

Alec Baldwin's performance as the crusading lawyer/hero is acceptable, but I kept wanting the film to focus on someone else. Of all the fascinating characters in this tragic drama, he was the least interesting. Why center the story on him?

The best performance in the film is that of James Woods as the contemptible killer, but again, his screen time is very limited.

Reiner really missed the boat on this one. Great subject matter for a future film, alright, just waiting to really move us the way a similar film did some years ago, *Mississippi Burning* (a far superior film, too, by the way).

True to its title, the supposed main characters in this film are little more than "ghosts," occasionally haunting the screen, while we sit through two hours of the "trials and tribulations of Bobby DeLaughter." Highly unfortunate.

On a scale of 1-10 (10 being the highest, of course), this film rates a 5.

Free Tickets for Hamlet Premiere !!!

See the next issue of *The Wisconsin Light* for information on how you can get free tickets for the Milwaukee premiere of the critically acclaimed movie "Hamlet."

The film featuring an all star cast will be shown in an advance screening on February 11 at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater.



Brothers - Real life brothers, Woody Harrelson (left) and Britt Harrelson portray Larry Flynt and Jimmy Flynt respectively in the critically acclaimed true to life drama, *The People vs. Larry Flynt* now showing throughout Wisconsin.

'People vs. Larry Flynt' Presents a America With a Stark View of Itself

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Inundated by the media hype swirling around *The People vs. Larry Flynt*, Glenn finds himself wondering if he had actually viewed a different film from the other critics across the country. Had Glenn really just previewed one of the best films of 1996?

For the uninformed, Larry Flynt is the infant terrible of the slick heterosexual

New Films Show Discrimination and Violence Against Gays

New York, NY—Out At Work, a new film documenting the continuing struggles of Lesbian and Gay workers will premier at the Sundance Film Festival on January 17, 21 and 23, 1997. The film will be screened as part of the "American Spectrum" series, a showcase of 22 new and provocative works by American independent filmmakers.

Shot over five years, *Out At Work* presents an intimate portrait of three individuals—Cheryl Summerville, a restaurant cook in suburban Atlanta; Ron Woods, an auto plant electrician in Detroit; and Nat Keitt, a library circulation clerk in the Bronx—who struggle with discrimination in the workplace. The subjects speak intimately and articulately about the impact that homophobia and the lack of legal protection has caused on their jobs, in their relationships, and at home.

The 55 minute documentary follows its characters as they encounter discrimination and finally take action to fight for their rights.

"One of the most rewarding aspects of directing *Out At Work* has been witnessing the profound transformation of each of the main characters over the past five years," said co-producer/director Kelly Anderson. "Cheryl, Ron and Nat remind us that civil rights issues are, at heart, about the humanity of us all."

Out At Work will be released for distribution in early 1997 by AndersonGOLD films.

Licensed To Kill

Another Gay-themed film was presented at the Festival by Peabody-Award winning independent filmmaker Arthur Dong. The film, *Licensed To Kill* has been described as his "most disturbing work to date."

Chinese-American, Dong grew up in San Francisco's Chinatown during the 1950's and '60's. In his early 20's he was attacked by a gang of male teens out to bash Gay men. He managed to escape, but the gang subsequently battered a priest who they believed to be Gay. From these experiences and others, comes the inspiration for the film.

Traveling around the country for the past two years, Dong met with 15 men convicted of murdering Gay men. His portraits of these killers are some of the most probing and harrowing insights as to why men kill Gay men.

The film will be released on April 2, in New York at the Film Forum.

skin magazine biz, turning a small-town stripper-club newspaper into a multi-million dollar financial publishing empire based on *Hustler* magazine. But, asks Milos Forman, the director, who was the man behind the magazine? Who indeed?

As played by former Cheer's alumnus Woody Harrelson, Larry Flynt is initially something of a good-'ol' boy enjoying sex and money, with an eye for any career opportunity whose potential might encompass both of these obsessions. Yet somehow, somewhere along the line Larry Flynt became a national celebrity and his countless obscenity trials emerged as pivotal First Amendment rights debates.

From his humble, backwoods beginnings, Flynt finds himself the proprietor of a sleazy dance club. Wanting to boost business, Flynt decides to promote the club with a nude newsletter. Consisting of little other than black & white photos and quite primitive in design and execution, right from the start Flynt finds problems in getting someone to print these early issues. Forman includes a scene in which a printer insists that Flynt's newsletter had to have some text. Flynt balked.

The initial widespread appeal of these early issues seems to surprise even him. Larry Flynt was not one certainly to let such a golden opportunity pass by and begins to expand his efforts.

Still, true success, not to mention national notoriety only comes with the publication of nude paparazzi photos of the former First Lady, Jackie Kennedy Onassis. Overnight success is Flynt's.

Designed as a blue-collar alternative to classy (read that acceptable) *Playboy* and *Penthouse*, *Hustler* proved to ruffle feathers any and everywhere. To no one's surprise, Flynt soon found himself engulfed in a variety of legal battles.

Looking for all the world as innocent as a boy scout, Alan Isaacman (Edward Norton) proves to be Flynt's first and only lawyer. "I'm your dream client. I'm fun, I'm rich and I'm always in trouble." Prophetic words.

Forman follows Flynt's many escapades and countless courtroom appearances over the next decade. Yet everything changes for Larry Flynt when a would-be assassin's bullet leaves him paralyzed.

That a self-admitted pornographer such as Larry Flynt would emerge as a folk hero for those celebrating liberal causes, particularly those involving freedom of speech issues, possesses an irony clearly not lost on Milos Forman. Unfortunately Forman (and Harrelson) are less successful in bringing to life the man behind the porn.

Although the early Flynt seems to harbor few illusions over the nobility of his efforts, everything changes upon meeting Ruth Carter Stapleton (Donna Hanover). Suddenly Flynt discovers religion and seeks to infuse Christianity into the pages of *Hustler* (and in the process almost brings down his own magazine).

Woody Harrelson unfortunately never brings this controversial character to life and in the process leaves the film a bit cold and calculating.

Courtney Love scores as the tragic Althea Leasure, Flynt's fourth wife. Edward

Norton follows up his terrific *Primal Fear* performance as Alan Isaacman, Flynt's much beleaguered attorney and friend. Richard Paul also makes a deliciously delightful target of fun, Jerry Farwell.

The *People vs. Larry Flynt* is a mar-

Four Gay-Themed Films Are Among the Worst Films of 1996

By Glenn Bishop

In the last issue of the *Wisconsin Light*, Glenn was requested to select his list for the best films of 1996. From an estimated 175 films viewed during the past 12 months, this proved to be a rewarding process.

But what about the dozens of bad films released each year, those true god-awful dogs that somehow manage to find their way to the big screen?

Glenn is rather fortunate because, unlike many critics subjected to every new bit of celluloid gracing a cinema near you, Glenn has some opportunity to pick and choose films to review. Still Glenn managed to subject himself to some particularly perfectly appalling efforts

Hustler White

Could there really be as bad a film as *Hustler White*? Starring La Madonna former boy toy Tony Ward, this latest effort from current queercore favorite Bruce LaBruce proposed itself as an exploration of the seedy sexual underbelly of Hollywood. Ripping off such classic films as *Sunset Boulevard* and *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane*, *Hustler White* is perverse in a most unappealing fashion, leaving all but the most desperate limp in the process.

Better Dead Than Gay

Another Milwaukee Lesbian and Gay Film Festival entry, *Better Dead Than Gay* seemed more suited for Pat Robertson's *700 Club*. This inhumanly tedious documentary explores the suicide of a young Brit man who could not reconcile his religious faith with his homosexuality. The young man's father now counsels young men who seek to rid themselves of the evil Gay lifestyle. Unbelievable.

Kids in the Hall BRAIN CANDY

Achieving cult status on cable television, at best, the Kids are an acquired taste. Not especially surprising is that their first (and might one dare hope last) feature film, *Brain Candy* is a mostly unfunny spoof of society and recreational drugs.

More surprising is that *Brain Candy* manages to dust off almost every negative Gay stereotype imaginable. Surprising because openly Gay Kid Scott Thompson is such a self-proclaimed activist.

Mr. Wrong

Believing like so many sit-com stars before her, that true success is only to be

velously stark portrait of America and Larry Flynt's saga is always fascinating. That said, Foreman's film is somewhat less than involving.

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

measured by feature film stardom, La Ellen found herself in *Mr. Wrong*. But also like so many before her, La Ellen flopped on this first effort. A heterosexual romantic comedy? Really Ellen! It was just wrong.

Striptease

It boggles the mind that some Hollywood executive paid Demi Moore \$15 million to play a single mom turned lap dancer in this misguided cinematic adaptation of Carl Hiaasen's delightfully off-beat murder mystery. Just to see Miss Demi bare all? No one cared.

The Birdcage

Glenn had the opportunity to rent *The Birdcage* from AfterWords last week and found it even more insufferably self-righteous than the first time around. Hank Azara remains a joy as the hunky house boy and Robin Williams proves to be more restrained than usual but how can any Gay and Lesbian audience support a film that dares to ask us to stay in the closet?

Independence Day

Is it any surprise that ID4, combining plenty of overblown special effects with ludicrous adolescent dialog, implausible situations and sophomoric patriotism, would emerge as one of the biggest grossing film's ever in Hollywood? What must the rest of the world think us?

Frisk

Fortunately this unbelievably perverse film based on a Dennis Cooper novel of the same title never found screen space in Milwaukee. Those who are truly depraved might find this misguided exploration of death and desire curious. Ultimately, *Frisk* is more sad than shocking.

Kingpin

At every screen there seemed to be another sports flick: *The Fan*, *Celtic Pride*, *Sunset Park*, *Eddie* and even the genuinely entertaining *Tin Cup* (who's calling Kevin Costner a has-been?) to name a few. But the absolute worst of the bunch must have been this course and crude bowling flick (bowling flick???) starring Woody Harrelson.

Space Jam

It must have seemed like a good idea at the time: a looney tunes cartoon starring the incomparable Michael Jordan. Neither a basket ball film nor an entertaining looney tune cartoon. Pretty much of a mess.

It Took a Four-Decade Long Journey to Get "The Crucible" to the Screen

New York, NY—Nicholas Hytner has impeccable theater credentials, so why not have him direct the film version of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, a play Hollywood has resisted putting up on the big screen for more than four decades?

After all, Hytner, in his movie-directing debut, had made *The Madness of King George*, a critical and financial hit that garnered several Academy Award nominations last year.

"But I had no plans after *George*," the 40-year-old Hytner said in a recent interview. "I didn't even know if I was going to be a good film director or whether I was going to enjoy it."

He was—and he did. So after the success of his first film, scripts flooded in, most of them "rubbish," according to the soft-spoken yet very definite Englishman. Among the dreck, he received a script that promised something more—*The Crucible*, with a screenplay written by Miller himself.

Most of the great Broadway plays of the 1940s and '50s inevitably were made into movies, usually sooner rather than later, Hytner explained. Yet Miller's tale of the Salem witch trials of late 17th-century New England wasn't.

Seen by critics as a metaphor for the McCarthy blacklisting of the 1950s, *The Crucible* traces the hysteria that grows in a small Massachusetts community after a group of young women accuse other townspeople of being witches. The story focuses on farmer John Proctor, whose wife Elizabeth is accused of witchcraft by the vindictive Abigail Williams, spurned by the earnest John.

Too close to its time, sniffed some producers and directors; then, after years had gone by, past its time, said others.

Miller's film adaptation had been sitting on the shelf at Twentieth Century-Fox, when Hytner was offered it.

"When I went to see Arthur originally, he was pretty skeptical about getting the project filmed," Hytner recalled. "He had been through it all before."

"I'm not sure if Miller had seen any of my stage work in London, although perhaps the fact that I came from the London theater was a big plus for him because that is where, frankly, he has been the most respected in recent years. He is treated with a reverence that the English rarely accord to their own."

Hytner's theater successes have spanned both sides of the Atlantic. He's done a lot of opera and Shakespeare in England. Most theatergoers know him for *Miss Saigon*, a transplanting of *Madam Butterfly* to the Vietnam War, as well as for a striking revival of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Carousel*, first done at Britain's Royal National Theater, then at New York's Lincoln Center and now touring the United States.

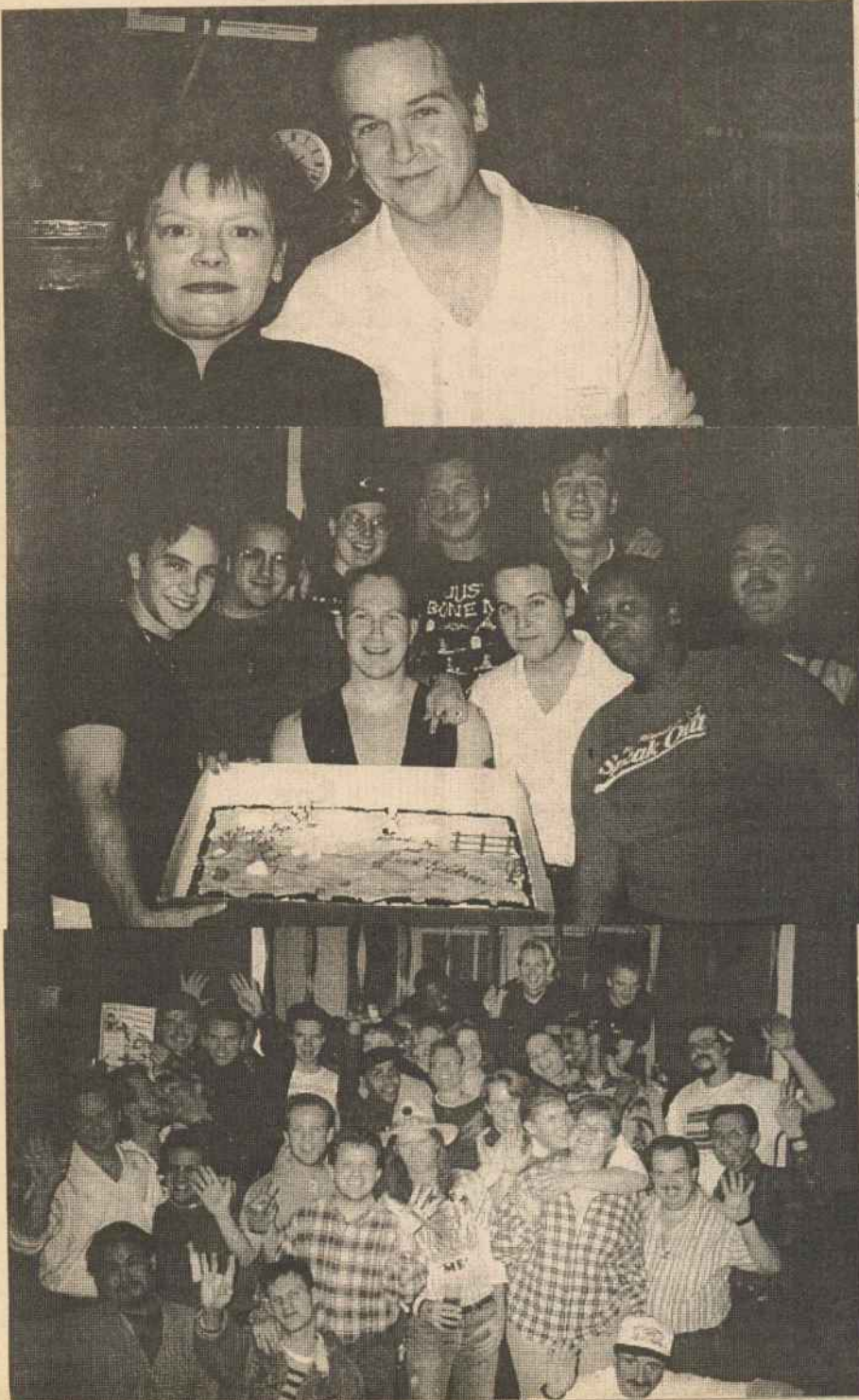
Hytner and Miller sat down and reworked the film script.

"The substance, the language, the interaction of character and scene. That's all Arthur. What changed was the way it was put together," the director said.

"What the first drafts of the screenplay had done was to suggest ways of embracing a community which, in the play, is off-stage. What I got totally interested in was more, not just this rather loose term they use of 'opening up' the play."

"Obviously, you are going to start this film with those girls and, obviously, you are going to go into the courtroom. What

Please See *Crucible* Page 22



Photos by Bill Meunier.

Bye To Rich and Danny

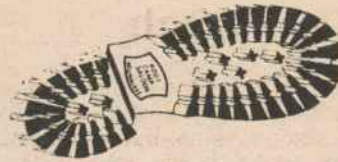
Saying Bye - R Place held a gala Good Bye Party for former R Place owners, Rich and Danny on Friday January 3. The pair left Madison without saying Good Bye, so the new owners, Danny's parents, Mike and Nancy (who by the way are wonderful people) threw a Good Bye party. Show to the right are (from the top) Nancy and Mike, the R Place Staff holding up a cake that read "Good Bye and Good Riddance," and a few of the many "heart broken" patrons who were there waving Good Bye to Rich and Danny.

Kirsch to Read From his New Novel that is Set in Madison

Madison—Madison Author J. Allen Kirsch will read from his new novel, **God's Little Isthmus**, at Canterbury Booksellers, 315 W. Gorham Street in Madison on Thursday, January 23, at 7:30 p.m.

Kirsch's comic novel, a sequel to **Madlands**, features Gay male and Lesbian couples among its protagonists, who live on Madison's colorful near-east side. A nudist running for City Council, a battle for tenure at the University of Wisconsin, and a boycott of Ho Chi Minh's Bar and restaurant, strain political correctness on the infamous Isthmus.

The event is free and open to the public.



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In Second Season TV, NBC is The "Hot" One Worth Watching

By Terry Boughner

Milwaukee--Traditionally, January sees the debut of a number of "second season" television shows. This year is no exception, as NBC introduced a new soap opera on January 6, 1997. It's called "Sunset Beach" and it's on Channel 4 at 4:00 a.m. (that's a. m., as in morning).

Lured by the commercials for the show—and because I'm usually up and about at that hour anyhow, I decided to take a look. I think I understand why Channel 4 decided to put the program on in the wee hours. "Sunset Beach" definitely pushes of envelop of commercial TV.

From what I've seen, the show appears to be chockful of good-looking male stars (the kind with faces and bodies to die for—chests sweaty with sensuality and all of that). No, there's no Gay action, but the young, buffed male physiques make up for it—almost.

The reason you see those well-defined bodies is that like the commercials showed that hyped the show, most of the male characters like to spend a lot of time in swim wear.

Cast members include Timothy Adams, Peter Barton, Ashley Hamilton, Clive Robertson, Randy Spelling, Dax Griffin and Nick Stabile.

If you like what you see and want to see more of the cast members, check out NBC's website at www.nbc.com

Greg Collins, from "America's Hunkiest Home Videos #4" was a big winner on the "Wheel of Fortune," seen in Milwaukee on Today's TMJ4. If you're curious what Greg looks like, check out the February, 1997 issue of **Men's Workout**. It includes a

few small photos of Greg on pages 58 and 60. It also includes lots of other pictures of well-conditioned guys in rather brief workout gear.

In fact, the February issue seems to include a lot of guys wearing nothing but a strategically placed towel—definitely a good magazine to check out if you get a chance.

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Advertisers May Not Care, But ABC Waffles on Lesbian and Gay Characters

Washington, DC—According to the Associated Press, ABC's "Ellen" is ready to "come out." However, AP reports, "it's another question whether ABC is ready to let her."

ABC Entertainment President, Jamie Tarses, admitted on January 10th that an episode of the sitcom that reveals that Ellen DeGeneres' title character is a Lesbian is in the works.

"We are very seriously considering going in the direction everyone is speculating on," Tarses said.

"These days Gay characters [on TV] rarely bring advertiser backlash."

However, Tarses would make no guarantee that the episode would air.

According to ABC, "Ellen" will go off the air in March and April so that it's Wednesday time slot can showcase a new romantic sitcom starring Arsenio Hall.

In addition, ABC has announced that "Relativity" will be bumped during the February sweeps.

The Saturday, January 11th episode of "Relativity" featured a passionate kiss between Rhonda Roth, a Lesbian character played by Lisa Edelstein and her new girlfriend that was in keeping with the character's romantic development.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) has called this shuffling "a disturbing trend."

"It is a great tragedy that ABC is now

waffling on what could be one of the boldest and most dramatic steps ever taken by an American television network," said GLAAD's Managing Director William Waybourn, referring to "Ellen". "It defies understanding that ABC would float yet another trial balloon to determine if they should air this groundbreaking episode of "Ellen."

Reason for Optimism

On CNN, a December 27th report by correspondent Sherri Sylvester revisited the "Is She or Isn't She?" "Ellen" theme once again, emphasizing that while "Ellen" continues to play coy, having Lesbian or Gay characters on prime time TV is becoming more commonplace and, as it does, carries less of a stigma for advertisers.

"These days," Sylvester reports, "Gay characters rarely bring advertiser backlash. Jack Kenny, an openly Gay writer and producer, says such storylines are seldom seen as risky business."

Sylvester also asks, "Does the average TV viewer care? Behind the scenes Gay writers work on many of the top sitcoms and are partly responsible for the increased presence of Gay characters. Ellen Morgan still remains halfway in, or out, of the closet. But all around her, more and more Gay characters are stepping out of the shadows and into sitcom families."

'My Fellow Americans' Is Political Humor at its Best, With Just a Gay Touch

Los Angeles--Being a former U.S. president can be harmful to your health, as Jack Lemmon and James Garner discover in *My Fellow Americans*. They get in more scrapes than Harrison Ford in *The Fugitive*. Is that any way to treat ex-presidents?

Lemmon, a straight-arrow Republican, and Garner, a Democrat with a reputation for womanizing, have been voted in and out of office. They hate the humiliation of being rejected by their fellow Americans, hate the loss of the presidential jet and other perks. Now, they are faced with the boredom of having nothing important to do.

Garner suffers the indignity of huckstering his new book; Lemmon gives speeches to Japanese executives. They are interrupted by a call from the current president, Dan Aykroyd, to attend another state funeral. They detest such duties almost as much as they dislike each other.

The pair learn that Aykroyd plans to accuse them of a malfeasance that he himself had committed. Lemmon and Garner decide to fight back. They join forces, only to learn that certain agents are willing to kill them to protect the president. The chase begins.

It's a wild, wild premise that could deflate like a souffle. Happily, it does not.

With two of the screen's best comedic actors, a script that crackles with wit and surprise, and perfectly tuned direction, *My Fellow Americans* scores a bull's-eye.

Unlike most road pictures, this one is not an aimless travelogue. The two ex-presidents are doggedly trailed by assassins of the "National Security Agency" (at last, the beleaguered CIA escapes being the villain).

The journey takes Lemmon and Garner through the American heartland, where the citizens recognize them with astonishment. In one hilarious scene, they flank a local at a latrine.

In yet another, they find themselves in a

Jazz Singer, Jerry Grillo, Exhibiting His Paintings

Milwaukee—Jazz singer, Jerry Grillo, will be exhibiting six acrylic paintings of a series entitled "I'm Still Here." The paintings will be part of the current Gallery H2o Lonna Parker show which is now on display.

The paintings are available for purchase, and Gallery H2o is happy to be able to present another Milwaukee artist to the public.

Grillo has also exhibited at Gallery 218. Grillo has recorded two compact discs of jazz standards and regularly plays in jazz venues in Milwaukee.

Gallery H2o is located at 221 N. Water Street in Milwaukee. For more information, call (414) 271-8032.

Gay Pride march. One of the astonished marchers ask Garner if he's "coming out?" Garner says no, but with a nod at Lemmon who's busily waving to the crowd, says, "He is."

The chase ends at the White House, where the filmmakers indulge in a bit too much slapstick. But director Peter Segal (*The Naked Gun 33 1/3*) maintains a fast pace so that the outrageousness of the premise can be overlooked.

Lemmon and Garner run a dead heat in playing their well-written roles, remaining presidential throughout the indignities. Aykroyd is a winner as the devious president, and John Heard plays the malaprop vice president (sound familiar?) marvelously. Lauren Bacall adds dignity as Lemmon's wife, though her screen time is slight.

A special nod to the writers, E. Jack Kaplan and Richard Chapman, with the original story by the pair and Peter Tolan. The political jabs are right on target.

My Fellow Americans is a Warner Bros. release produced by Jon Peters. It opened Friday, December 20, in the United States. Running time: 100 minutes.

B's To Host "Stars For AIDS Benefit"

Milwaukee--B's located at 1579 S. Second Street, will be the site of the Eighth annual Stars For AIDS Benefit Show.

The annual extravaganza will be held on Saturday, January 25 at 10 PM. The \$3.00 cover is entirely donated to the Milwaukee AIDS Project's Patient Care Services.

The Stars for AIDS Show includes representatives from many of Milwaukee's best bars. This year for the first time, representatives of South Water Street Docks, In Between and Just Us will be joining the cast.

Anyone interested in displaying their talents and helping MAP raise badly needed funds should contact Bobby at B's (414) 672-5580.

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Second Annual "Oscar Madison" Academy Awards Fundraiser Set

Madison—The second annual "Oscar Madison" Academy Awards fundraiser is set for Monday, March 24th, to be held concurrent with the live Academy Awards program in California. The group organizing the fundraiser donates all profits to the GLBT community through donations to this year's beneficiaries: The United and the Rodney Scheel House for people with AIDS.

This second annual fundraiser will again be held at the Barrymore Theater in Madison. The awards program will be played on the theater's big screen as well as on TVs throughout the lobby. A VIP reception will precede the awards program. Also, live entertainment will be provided on stage before and during the program.

"We expect this year's event to be even larger and better than last year," said event organizer Scott Thorton. He added, "We are already lining up more sponsors and surprises to make the 1997 party even more like being at the real event in Hollywood."

Last year, over a thousand dollars was given to non-profit organizations from proceeds to the fundraiser.

"We are also looking for additional help and volunteers to help with organizing, promoting and executing the event," Thorton said.

Those interested in helping out can call (608) 255-5969.

New Titles at AfterWords

Gay Men's Fiction

The March by Walter R. Holland, Masquerade Books Pb \$6.95

Lesbian Fiction

2nd Fiddle by Kate Calloway, Naiad Press Pb \$11.95

Gay/Lesbian Non-Fiction

Out & About: USA, Hyperion Pb \$14.95
Feast For Life: A Benefit Cookbook by Linda Provus Bartlett and Gretchen Sandin Jordan, Collins HC \$35.00

Gay Fiction

The House on Brooke Street by Neil Bartlett, Dutton HC \$21.95

Lesbian Fiction

Meeting Magdalene by Marilyn Freeman Naiad Pb \$11.95

Gay Non-Fiction

Christopher Isherwood Diaries Volume One, edited by Katherine Bucknell Harper Collins HC \$40.00

Lesbian Non-Fiction:

Finger-Licking Good: The Ins and Outs of Lesbian Sex by Tamsin Wilton, Casell Pb \$17.95

Cream City Chorus Begins New Season

Milwaukee—The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, Ltd., returned from its holiday leave, with rehearsals that began January 15, 1997. The primary focus of the spring season rehearsals will be the upcoming concert, "To every season..." This musical commemoration of the times of our lives and the changes they bring, will feature Faure's "Requiem."

The Cream City Chorus is accepting new members for the upcoming season. Interested persons are encouraged to leave a message at the Chorus' office, (414) 344-WCCC, or attend one of the weekly rehearsals at the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, 1342 N. Astor, to arrange for an audition.

The concert, "To every season..." will be held at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, April 5, 1997, at the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee.

For more information, write to the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, P.O. Box 1488, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

Supermodel Steve Kelso is a Hit in Milwaukee

By Terry Boughner

Milwaukee—Sponsored by Designing Men, supermodel Steve Kelso, came to Milwaukee on January 11th. Kelso's appearance was held as a benefit for the Cream City Foundation (CCF). Kelso made three, two-hour appearances: at the Designing Men store; This Is It; and at Mama Roux.

All Kelso's and his partner's expenses incurred in the visit, were paid for by Designing Men. Bob Mazzacone, owner of Designing Men, is a member of the Foundation's board and is a strong supporter of CCF's goal of providing financial assistance to worthy causes and individuals in the LGBT community.

The crowds were very heavy at all three places. It's difficult to estimate numbers. Many people came and went, but in the two bars, you had to wedge your way through.

Those attending included both women and men. One woman told me that she'd come to support the Foundation. Another said, "Because Kelso's a drop-dead gorgeous guy. I like to look at handsome men."

Kelso is a hunk. His deep chest and washboard abs confirm that. But there was something else to him as well, something, perhaps, more important.

Most of the people I talked to or overheard, were impressed with his personality; with how unassuming he was; with how out-going he was—out-going without being overwhelming.

"He's a really nice guy," one man told me in a wondering tone.

Another said, "He treats everyone like he's glad to see them."

They were both right.

Soft spoken and with a shy smile, Kelso stood with his shirt off, greeting everyone with pleasant words. He posed for pictures tirelessly. He signed autographs without stint. It's a subjective impression, but he honestly seemed to be marveling at times that so many, many people were interested in him.

I know, he's been through all this countless times before, yet he was able to convey the impression that this was all a first-time thing for him.

Kelso's physical beauty made the event a fun time. But it was the warmth of his personality that made the fundraiser a great time for all who were there.

Before he left, he sought out those involved with each event and thanked them. There's a good feeling in that.

According to Tony Rhodes, president of the Foundation's board, the Foundation received over \$2,000 from the fundraiser.

You can still get an autographed Colt calendar of Kelso. They are on sale for a limited time at Designing Men, This Is It, and Mama Roux. All proceeds from the sale of these calendars go to the Cream City Foundation.

AfterWords Autumn Bestsellers

Gay Men's Fiction

1. **Men on Men 6: Best New Gay Fiction** edited by David Bergman, Plume Pb \$12.95
2. **Northridge High Football Camp** by S. Joseph Krol, Gay Men's Press Pb \$12.95
3. **The Man Who Fell in Love with the Moon** by Tom Spanbauer, HarperPerennial Pb \$14.00
4. **President's Son** by Krandon Kraus, Alyson Pb \$5.95
5. **2nd Time Around** by James Earl Hardy, Alyson Pb \$11.95
6. **Father of Frankenstein** by Christopher Bram, Plume Pb \$10.95
7. **Time to Check Out** by Grant Michaels, St. Martin's Press HC \$21.95
8. **Tribe** by R.D. Zimmerman, Dell Pb \$5.50.
9. **The Beauty of Men** by Andrew Holleran, Morrow HC \$24.00
10. **Goldenboy** by Michael Nava, Alyson Pb \$9.95

Lesbian Fiction

1. **A Small Sacrifice** by Ellen Hart, Ballantine Pb \$5.99
2. **Women Who Run With the Werewolves** edited by Pam Keesey, Cleis Press Pb \$12.95
3. **Memory Mambo** by Achy Obejas, Cleis Press Press Pb \$12.95
4. **Wild Things** by Karin Kallmaker, Naiad Press Pb \$10.95
5. **Five Minutes in Heaven** by Lisa Alther, Plume Pb \$11.95
6. **The Wish List** by Saxon Bennett, Naiad Press Pb \$10.95
7. **Liberty Square** by Katherine V. Forrest, Berkley HC \$21.95
8. **Robber's Wine** by Ellen Hart, Seal Press HC \$21.95
9. **Pay Dirt** by Rita Mae Brown, Bantam Pb \$5.99
10. **Women on Women 3** edited by Joan Nestle and Naomi Holoch, Plume Pb \$12.95

Gay Men's Non-Fiction

1. **Breaking the Surface** by Greg Louganis, Plume Pb \$12.95
2. **Farm Boys: Lives of Gay Men from the Rural Midwest**, collected and edited Will Fellows University of Wisconsin Press HC \$27.50
3. **Damron '96 Damron** Pb \$13.95
4. **My First Time: Gay Men Describe Their First Same-Sex Experiences** edited by Jack Hart, Alyson Pb \$10.95
5. **Letting It All Hang Out** by RuPaul, Hyperion Pb \$10.95
6. **Finding True Love in a Man-Eat-Man World** by Craig Nelson, Delta Pb \$12.95
7. **Becoming Gay** by Richard A. Isay, M.D., Pantheon HC \$23.00
8. **Gay Love Signs** by Michael Jay, Plume Pb \$15.95
9. **Stranger Among Friends** by David Mixner, Bantam HC \$22.95
10. **What the Bible Really Says?** by Daniel A. Helminiak, Alamo Square Press Pb \$9.95

Lesbian Non-Fiction

1. **The History of Lesbian Hair** by Mary Dugger, Doubleday Pb \$10.95
2. **Women's Travel in Your Pocket Ferrari** Pb \$14.00
3. **The Second Coming: A Leatherdyke Reader** edited by Pat Califia and Robin Sweeney, Alyson Pb \$12.95
4. **So You Want to Be a Lesbian** by Liz Tracey and Sydney Pokomy, St. Martin's Press Pb \$12.95
5. **My Point... and I do have one** by Ellen Degeneres, Bantam Pb \$6.50
6. **Women's Traveller '96**, Damron Pb \$11.95
7. **Tales From the Dyke Side** by Jorjet Harper, New Victoria Pb \$10.95
8. **Between Us: A Legacy of Lesbian Letters** edited by Kay Turner, Chronicle Books HC \$17.95
9. **Lesbianism Made Easy** by Helen Eisenbach, Crown HC \$20.00
10. **Early Embraces: True-Life stories of women describing their first Lesbian experience** edited by Lindsey Elder, Alyson Pb \$11.95

AfterWords Events

Thursday, January 16th
Afterword's Lesbian Book Club - 7:30pm
Amnesty by Louise A Blum

Monday, February 10th
AfterWords Book Club - 7:30pm
Let's Get Criminal by Lev Raphael

Thursday, February 13th
Gay/Lesbian Writer's Group - 7:00pm
Everyone welcome

Jerry Grillo to Sing at La Perla and City Grille in January

Milwaukee—Nationally known Milwaukee vocalist Jerry Grillo will be performing at the City Grille and at La Perla in January.

Grillo will be performing at the City Grille on Fridays, January 17, January 24, and January 31. All times are from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Grillo will be performing at La Perla on Sunday, January 19, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; and on Sunday, January 26, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The City Grille is located on the corner of Brady and Van Buren on Milwaukee's East Side. (414) 273-2489.

Grillo will be accompanied by either Bill Stone or Jack Grassel on the guitar.

La Perla is located at 734 S. 5th Street. (414) 645-9888.

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PEPPER

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at

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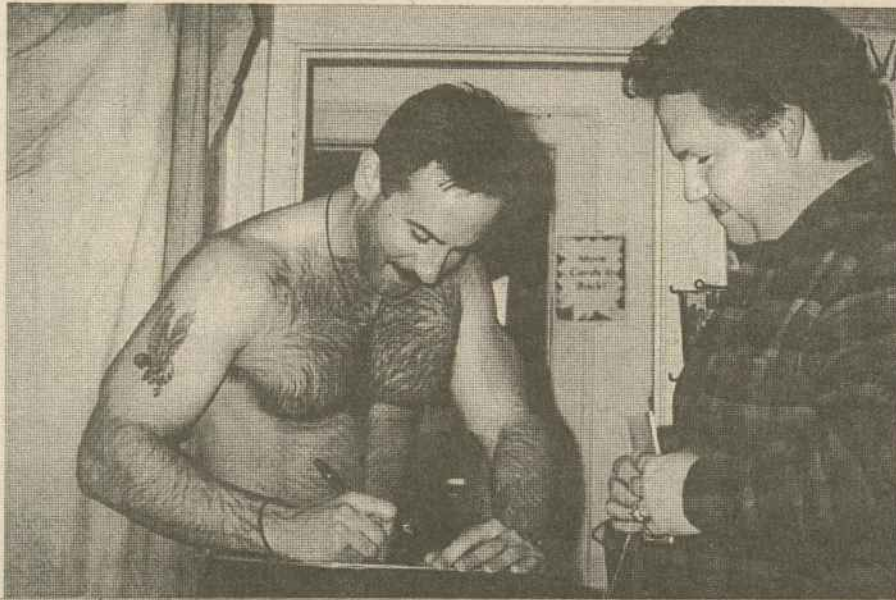
Corner of 5th & National, across
from the Milwaukee Ballet

★★★ 1/2

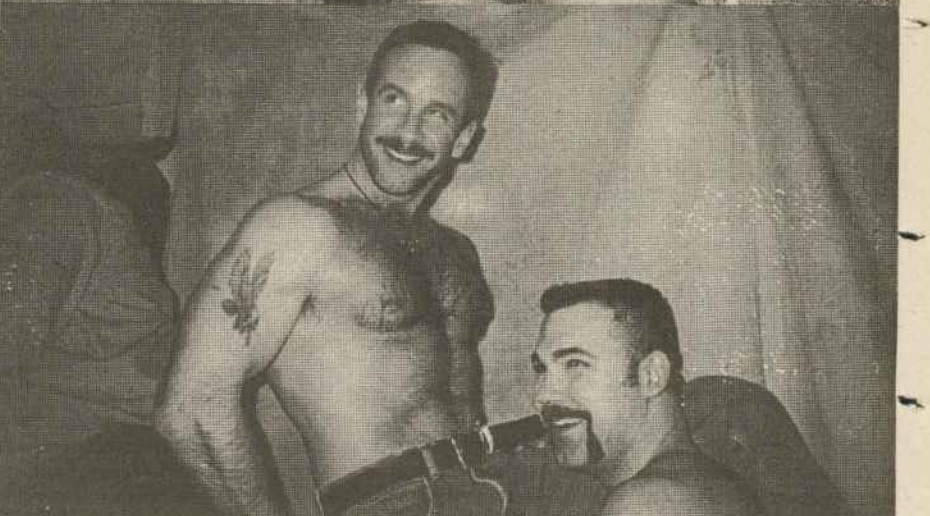
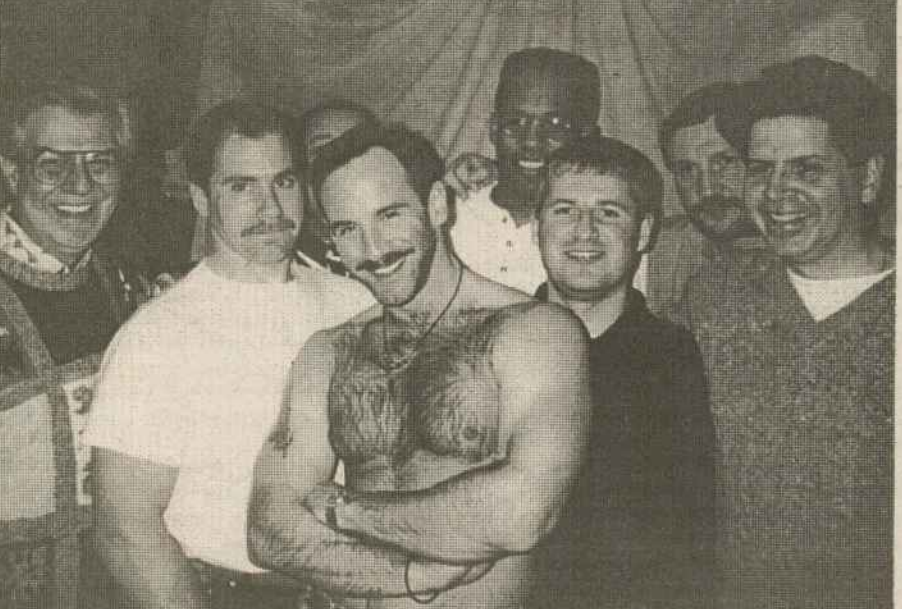
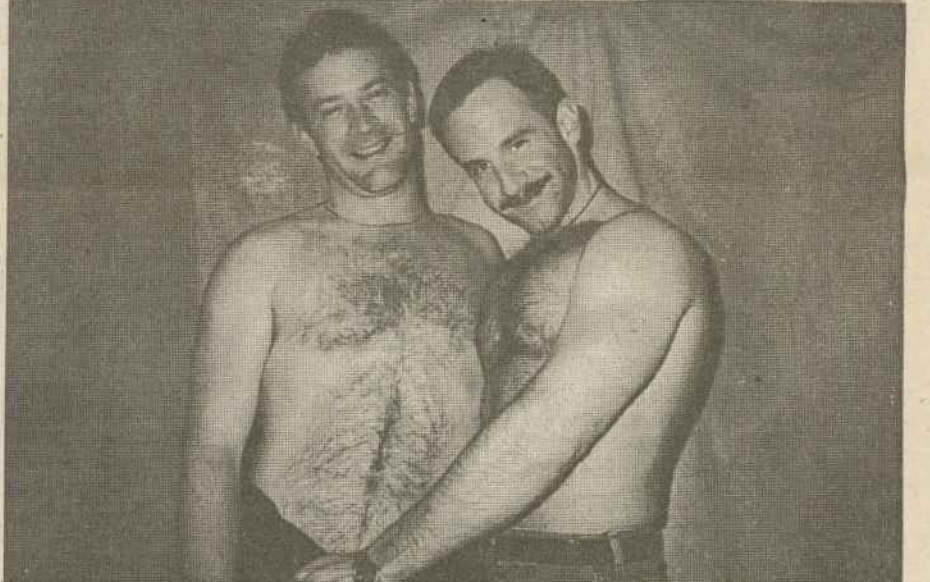
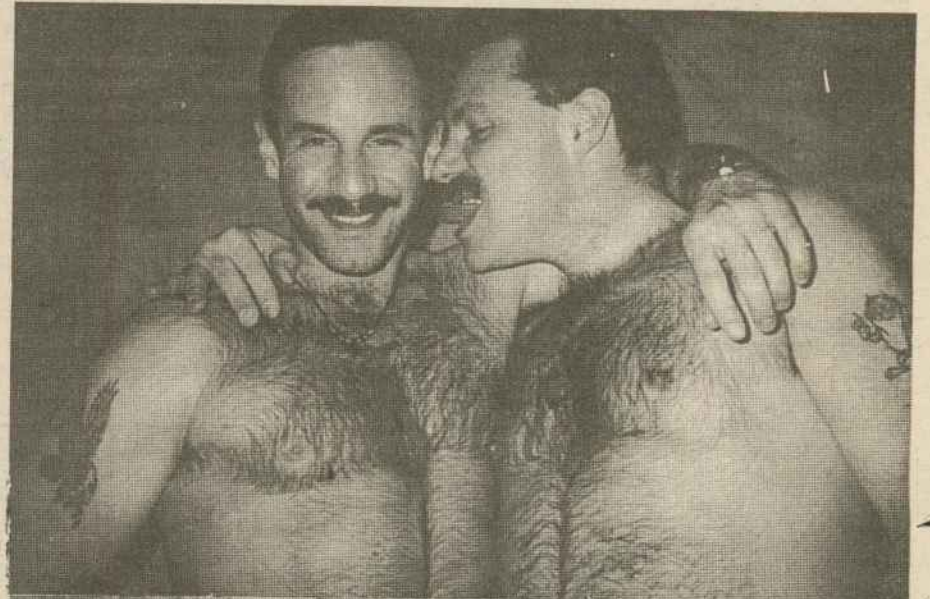
Dennis Getto

Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel

Steve Kelso Comes to Milwaukee For CCF



Photos by Jerry Johnson and Bill Meunier



A hot time with a hot man—Supermodel Steve Kelso visited Milwaukee to help the Cream City Foundation raise badly needed funds. The Foundation which gives grants to a wide variety of Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian organizations, raised around \$2,000 thanks to Mr. Kelso. The frigid weather didn't prevent patrons at Designing Men, This Is It and Mama Roux from paying \$5.00 to have their picture taken with the hunky video star, and snapping up scores of calendars, videos and CD-Roms and greeting cards which Kelso gladly autographed. A great time was had by all including Kelso who told *The Wisconsin Light* that he loves Milwaukee (except for the cold of course)

The Night Light



What a Year It Was

By Dusty Sass

Well it has been a busy year hasn't it? Without meaning to slight anyone or anything, I thought it would be interesting to list some of the highlights of special events that I covered for you in 1996 since we started the "SpotLight" section.

These are NOT listed in any order of importance or preference. They ARE listed in chronological order.

In May, I had a great time at **Theatre X** watching the troupe's production of **Beneath The Oval Office**. This innovative theater company which also featured a late night performance schedule of **Girls, Girls, Girls** is worthy of our community's support.

Also in May I participated in the annual **Milwaukee Classic Softball Tournament**. This is always a great event and even though my team was not among the top finishers, it was still a great time.

Then in June we had our first SpotLight party at **This Is It**. We honored the Thursday Night Volunteer Group from the Milwaukee AIDS Project. It was a wonderful evening as literally scores of people poured into the bar.

There were three big highlights for the month of July. First up was the Amendment 2 SpotLight Party at **Mama Roux**.

A packed house chowed down on a free BBQ Buffet, played Gay History Jeopardy and in general carried on. It was a great party and a great time was had by all.

People all had fun at the SpotLight Trailer Trash Party at **In Between**. Curt and his staff went all out in doing one of the best makeovers I have ever seen at any bar. They literally had the place looking like a trailer park (and a pretty trashy one at that.)

Next was the Magic Picnic/Pride Weekend in Madison. Besides the picnic which was great as usual, there was also the Hotel Washington Party at the Depot, the 10% Club Dance, the Miss Capital Cities Pageant at **R Place** and singer/porn star David Burrill's appearance at **Manoeuvres** and of course the Pride Parade and rally.

All in all it was splendid weekend with something for everyone.

Needless to say the big highlight in August was the Democratic Convention in Chicago. We had an especially good time at the big party thrown by the City of Chicago on Navy Pier. The bash included loads of free food, free drinks, fireworks, rides, boat cruises and all of the attractions at the pier.

The next day was equally good when Miller Brewing hosted a bash at Side-tracks bar. There I was nibbling on appe-

tizers with George Stephanopolous, and listening to the Chicago Gay Men's chorus.

Then on Wednesday of Convention week, the Victory Fund (with the help of Miller and United Airlines) threw a huge bash at an art museum, the name of which escapes me right now. On the posh scale of 1 to 10, this one was a 20.

Also in August I discovered how much fun it is to watch Packer games at **In Between** in Milwaukee, even if it was exhibition season. It's so much nicer than arguing with a room mate over what to watch on TV and Curt and his staff always do a first rate job.

The 70's Party at **Mama Roux** was also a real hoot. Dozens of people dug through their closets and dragged out their paisly shirts, bell bottoms, and leisure suits. Everyone looked ghastly, but it was a great time.

So was the SpotLight Party at **Just Us** which was a fund raiser for the Shoreline Dancers. A taco buffet, hot cowboys, lots of Miller Lite, dance lessons and a great show made for a wonderful day and evening.

September saw the Wisconsin AIDS Walk top a million bucks. It was a great day for everyone concerned about AIDS and HIV. Bette was fabulous. (She's much shorter in person than you would expect her to be from her movies.) The pre-walk breakfast was great and so were the parties that followed.

Congrats again to **Mama Roux** for having Milwaukee's number 1 AIDS Walk bar team.

Also in September was the David Mixer reception at the Skylight Theater. Mixer gave away and signed copies of his book at this benefit for MAP.

Last but not least was our SpotLight benefit for BESTD Clinic at **La Cage** on September 27. A great show, a good crowd and of course lots of great music made for a complete evening which raised over \$500 for the clinic.

September also saw the finale of the **M and M Club's** year long 20th Anniversary celebration. Our congratulations to Bob, Rona and all the staff.

In October we had our first SpotLight Party in Madison. It was a Badger Red Party at **Manoeuvres**. It was centered on the televised Badger Game. Unfortunately, the weather outside was great, but that didn't stop about 75 Badger fans from coming inside and cheering their hearts out.

Then of course there were all those Halloween Parties. I made a lot of them and to be honest I couldn't pick a favorite, but I did have a great time at them all.

In costumes, people outdid themselves. I mean, those things, as elaborate as they are, cost MONEY. That doesn't begin to talk about the time and effort involved in getting all dressed up. But then Halloween is "Our" night, is it not?

This year—1997—Halloween falls on a Friday, so I imagine things will be hotter than ever. I'm looking forward to it.

November of course saw the election, (finally!) and the end of those obnoxious Mark Neuman commercials. Our Election Night parties at **R Place** in Madison and **Mama Roux** in Milwaukee didn't turn out as well as we had hoped, thanks to the "Great Internet Crash," but they were fun and they were packed wall to wall with people.

Another highlight was the Pageant held at the new Hilton in downtown Milwaukee. A first class meal, a first class show, make for an elegant evening and keep this annual event the number 1 pageant in Wisconsin.

Nonsense opened at **Melanec's Wheel House** in Milwaukee. It is the first musical put on by the Wheel House which normally does Murder Mysteries. I really enjoyed opening night and I look forward to more musicals in 1997.

The Beaujolais Nouveau Party at **Café Melange** was excellent. Larry and his staff pull out all the stops for this once a year world wide wine opening party. The free buffet, the wine and the entertainment were all first rate.

The HIT show at **Club 219** was also a good time. The HIT Board put together one of the most very creative and entertaining revues I have seen in a while.

Speaking of first rate, one of my favorite parties of the year was the Milwaukee AIDS Project benefit at the Rep on December 3. About three dozen restaurants donated their chefs to serve appetizer sized portions of everything from pizza to escargot, risotto, shrimp and much more.

Plus those in attendance got to see **Inspecting Carol**, one of the funniest plays I have seen in a long time. The performance was followed by desserts served in the Rep lobby.

Another big highlight in December was our SpotLight party at **Manoeuvres**. We were very gratified by the response which

set a record for Madison bar fund raisers. Over \$1,700 was raised for the homeless. Needless to say much credit goes to Ed the owner and to Brian, a.k.a. Simply Divine, who produced a stunning show.

Then there were all those Christmas parties. I especially liked the Carol A Long at **The M & M Club**. The crowd was festive and really in the mood to sing. The party at **In Between** was another highlight. Curt gave away hundreds of dollars in cash PLUS dozens of prizes and even had an open bar for about 15 minutes, plus some great food. **La Cage** also had a nice party with a good buffet and their famous grab bags given away at the door.

We are already amassing highlights for 1997. Don't miss out on any of the fun and excitement. Keep reading the SpotLight and we'll keep you informed and amused.

And, at last, there was New Year's Eve. All over Wisconsin, the bars can stay open all night—and things were humming, I can tell you that.

This Is It had a bit of bad luck when Tom, one of their star bartenders broke his ankle and was laid up in the hospital. That happened just at the time when Louie, another star bartender, had gone to visit a friend in Belarus.

So what do you do? Simple. Have a celebrity bartenders night with everyone pitching in to help out—Tony, Juan, Terry, Andy, and many more.

(While moi is indeed a celebrity, she just doesn't DO things like that. Besides, without someone like moi ordering drinks, what would the other celebrities do?)

Well, everything worked out. All's well that ends well, as they say. Midnight came. The horns all blew. There were fireworks blasting off in the night. 1997 was officially here. Poor year. The only reason it's getting any notice is that it's one step closer to 1999—and THE biggest bash of all!

Poor moi, too. She can't even begin to think about that now. Have a good one honeys. See you soon.

Brad Pitt to Start Work on Gay Love Flick, Reports Say

Milwaukee—For those of you are Brad Pitt fans, this may be good news. The November 4, 1996 issue of Adam Curry's **Cyber Sleaze** reports that Pitt and Enrique Iglesias (son of Julio) are considering starring together in a controversial Gay love story, set to begin filming next month, February.

Variety reports that Pitt was "eager" to do the film, which is said to include a kiss between Pitt and his costar, Iglesias. Pitt is reported of have had "no problem" with the homoerotic content of **Interview With the Vampire** in which he costarred with Tom Cruise.

Now, the next thing we might wish for is for Pitt to link up with Keanu Reeves in something like **My Own Private Idaho**—only a little more explicit.

CRUCIBLE

Continued From Page 13

I got terribly interested in was the juxtaposition of that communal hysteria and the intensity of the individual trauma.

"It was a matter of finding a way of telling a story or shooting it so that you weren't just setting a communal scene beside an intimate scene, but you were actually bashing the two up against each other.

"I had a feeling that the whole hysteria should work like an infection, like a virus, which immediately suggested that the thing should be moving around. You should not only see the hysterics, but you should actually feel the hysterics traveling from one place to another, which means traveling people and traveling cameras."

With a budget of \$25 million, modest by action-adventure film standards, and two bankable stars, Daniel Day-Lewis as Proctor and Winona Ryder as the avenging Abigail, the movie was filmed last year from mid-September into November on an island off the coast of Massachusetts.

The director wanted the change of seasons; from what looked like summer into autumn and then a bleak winter.

Hytner cast the movie with veteran stage actors, starting with the eminent Paul Scofield as the judge assigned to investigate the hysteria. It also includes Joan Allen, Bruce Davison, Jeffrey Jones, Rob Marshall and Frances Conroy.

The film opened November 27 in New York and December 13 in Los Angeles. It opened nationwide December 20.

Crucible opened January 1st at Milwaukee's Downer Theatre.

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

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

LAKE MILLS

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

MADISON

A Room of One's Own Book store
317 W. Johnson
Madison, WI 53703
257-7888

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 52304
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
383-5755

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

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

What About Me?
600 6th St.
Racine, WI 53403
632-0171

ROCKFORD

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

SHEBOYGAN

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

STEVENS POINT

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

SUPERIOR

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

Trio Club
820 Tower
Superior, WI 54880
392-5373

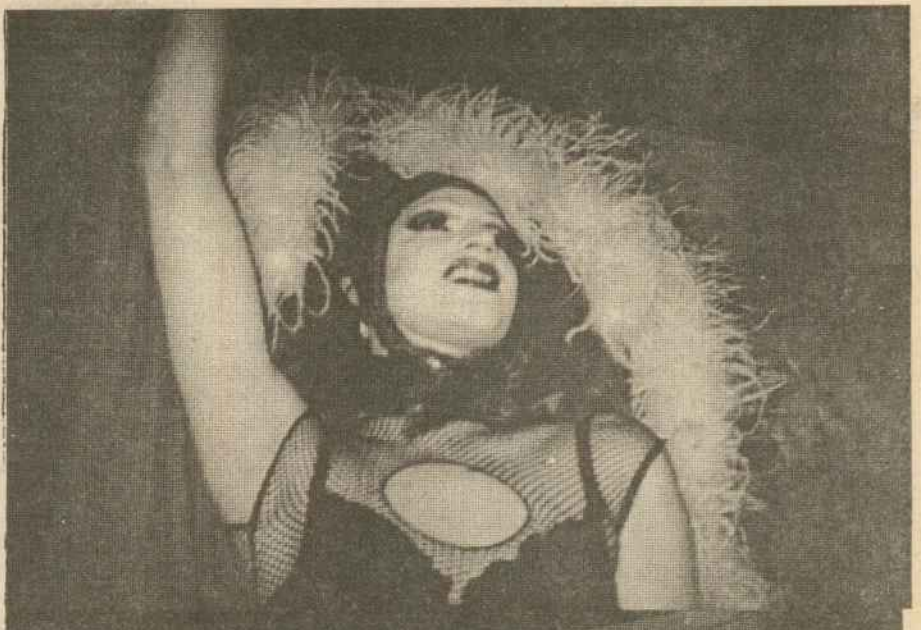
WAUSAU

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

The Last Dance at Dance Dance Dance



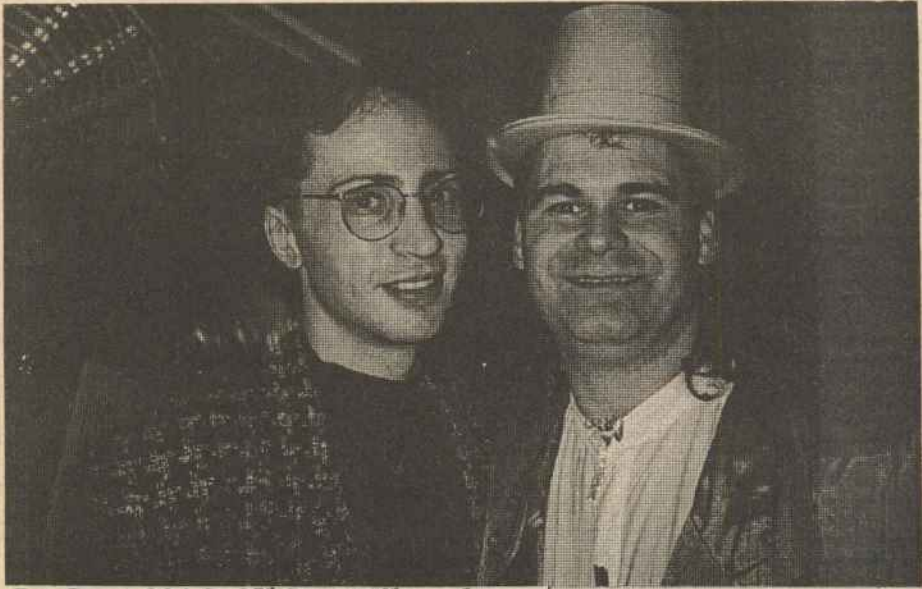
Photos by Bill Meunier



The Last Dance - La Cage held a gala tribute to the late Holly Brown as it brought down the curtain on Dance, Dance, Dance on Sunday, January 5. A great cast kept a-packed house throu entertained with production numbers, solos and monologues from Emcee, Baby Jane Hudson. Look for a new bar with an exciting new concept to open in the space that was used by Dance Dance Da Keep reading The Wisconsin Light for details on all of the changes at La Cage. Our congratulations to George, Corey and their staff for putting on a very entertaining evening.

Happy New Year From All Your Friends At.....

Photos by Bill Meunier



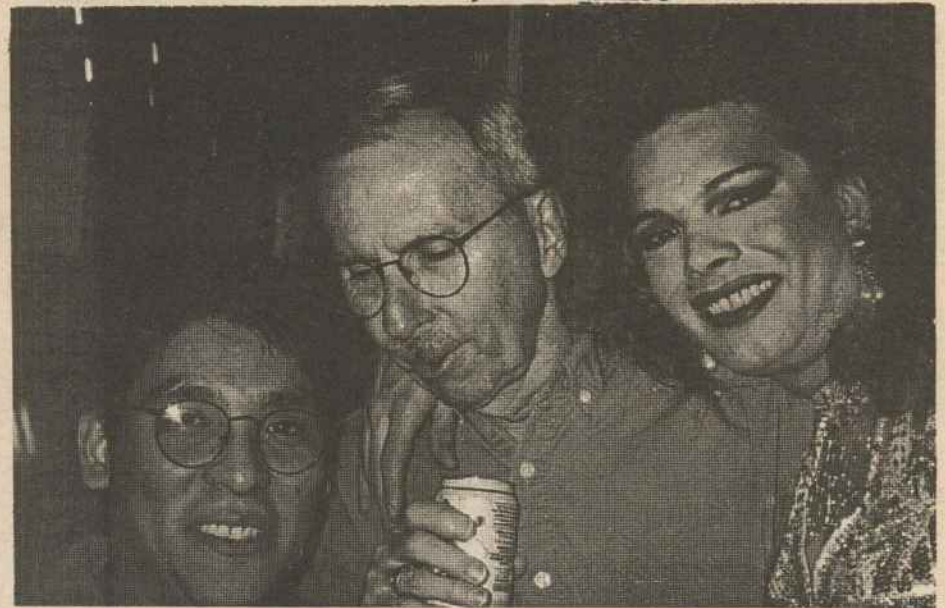
La Cage 801 S. 2nd St. - Milwaukee



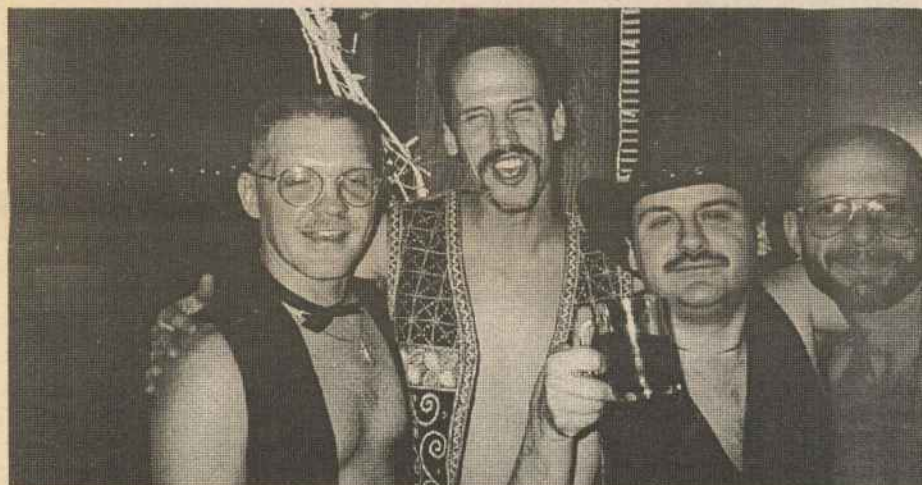
The M & M Club 124 N. Water, - Milwaukee



Fannies 200 E. Washington, - Milwaukee



Cest Le Vie 231 S. 2nd St. - Milwaukee



S. Water St. Docks 354 E. National - Milwaukee



Just Us 805 S. 5th St. - Milwaukee



Mama Roux 1875 N. Humboldt - Milwaukee



In Between 625 S. 2nd St. - Milwaukee



The Ball Game 196 S. 2nd St. - Milwaukee



This Is It 418 E. Wells St. - Milwaukee

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MANFINDER

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MANFINDER

Illinois

BEND OVER, I'LL DRIVE I'm a top man looking for a larger Black man. (Addison) #18693

SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST I'm 6'4, weigh 190lbs, Brown hair, Green eyes, clean-shaven, good build. I'm looking other guys in the area, for friendship, good times, and maybe something more serious. My name is Mike. Put your answer in my box. Thanks. (Chicago) #24216

MEET YOUR MATCH Transsexuals of any race wanted by this 37 year old single White male. Weight proportionate, please. I'm 5'9, weigh 150lbs, and live in the western suburbs. All responses will be answered. (Chicago) #24483

MR. VERSATILITY Think of me as an interchangeable cog in a machine. I can fit in all over. In other words, I like to be a top, and a bottom. I'd like to meet other versatile guys, in the Chicagoland area, who want to have some good times. (Chicago) #23569

EVERYTHING BUT THE GIRL I'm a Bisexual White male, 5'10, 160lbs. I like everything. (Chicago) #18323

BATMAN & THE BOY WONDER Do you have an active imagination? Are you into super heroes? I'd love to play Batman & Robin. I'm an aggressive, dominant, White, top in the Cicero area. I'm searching for a submissive, White male, 21 to 35 years of age. This Batman wants to throw the Boy Wonder down on the floor and work him over. If we play it safe. Call me and let's explore each others fantasies. (Cicero) #10435

OBEY THIS AD, NOW 40 year old male, living in Downers Grove, seeks submissive guys. You must like to get spanked, enjoy bondage, and kink. If that's you, and you want to obey, give me a call — Now. (Downers Grove) #24364

TOTAL DOMINATION Totally dominant top, looking for young, under 35, totally submissive bottom. I'm 32, 5'10, 170lbs, with Brown hair, Green eyes, and goatee. From the southwest suburbs. You know what to do. (Evanston) #23972

BLACK ON BLACK Attractive, Gay, Black male, bottom, seeks Black male tops for hot times and friendship. I'm 6ft, 240, with a nice physique. I have Brown eyes, and short hair. I also have a beard and mustache. Please call today as I am getting anxious. (Evanston) #20591

ONLY THE BEST NEED APPLY I'm a unique, 21 year old, Gay male looking for an older, mature, professional man who is intelligent and secure, with whom to share my life. I am half Black, half Phillipino, with Caramel skin, a shaved, bald head, and a mustache and goatee. I am very attractive, both physically and emotionally. I love spontaneity, shopping, cooking, the outdoors, and have many other interests. I am free of tobacco and drugs and use alcohol very infrequently. Are you my soul mate? (Evanston) #22391

SPIRITUAL SOURCE Greetings! I'm a Gay Black male, 6ft, 185lbs, with a football players build. I'm a very spiritual brother and would like to meet other spiritual, masculine, Black men. I'm looking for friendship first because that is the foundation of a relationship. God bless! (Evanston) #17920

DO YOU WANT TO FEEL A MAN? Hey! If your straight, Bi, White and are tired of your girlfriends then let's talk. I'm an average Gay White boy from next door and I'm extremely discreet. Call and let's chat. HIV negative Athletic build preferred and absolutely no smokers! (Evanston) #21808

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

PASSIVE ACTIVIST Are you an activist? I don't see how you can avoid it. I'm a 23 year old, Russian born, community college student. I am 6'2, 190lbs, with Black hair, and Hazel eyes. I have a slim, muscular frame. I'm into the industrial scene, and alternative culture in general. I'm very literate, and politically active. I want to meet muscular tops, between 23-40, who are well read and understand the need for activism. (Homer Township) #23016

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

REBEL WITH A CAUSE 23 year old, college student, seeks rebel with a conscience. I'm 6'2, 190lbs, with Black hair, and Hazel eyes, and a lean, muscular, build. Industrial music and alternative culture interest me. Also raves, concerts, and dark-themed movies like "Natural Born Killers" & "Fargo". I'm cultured, literate, and an activist. You are a muscular, rebel, 24 to 30, who understands the importance of activism, and likes the same things I do. (Lockport) #23595

LET THE MUSIC PLAY Come out and party with me. I'm a Black, and Hispanic, male, 29, looking for some fun. I'm 6ft, 190lbs, and I like to dance the night away. I'm interested in meeting other guys, between 20 and 25, to trip the lights with. Peace. (Oak Park) #23373

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

ALMOST NEXT DOOR I'm a 31 year old, Gay, White male, 5'10, 190lbs, with Hazel eyes, goatee, and short Blond hair. I'm a professional who enjoys biking, walking, movies, sporting events, and more. Looking for someone with the same interests, for a relationship. #17944

Iowa

WHISPER IN MY EAR Do you like to talk on the phone? I do. I'm a 25 year old, moderately hairy, Gay male, with dark Brown hair, and Green eyes. I weigh 170lbs. I'd love to talk to you and possibly get together. What do you say? (Cedar Rapids) #22633

BI MALE FRIENDS NETWORK Are you all wrapped up in watching videos, and doing housework? Do you need help deciding what to do with your life? Call the Bi male hotline, in my box. I'm a Bi male, and we can help each other sort out our lives. Don't waste another moment, call now. (Des Moines) #23232

MYSTERIES OF THE UNIVERSE I'm tall, and handsome, and looking to exchange some new ideas and thoughts. I'm 29, 6'2, 220lbs. I'd like to talk to other guys who are interested in exploring the unknown. Let's talk about how to do that. (Des Moines) #19689

INTO YOU My name is Rob. I'm looking for one or several guys I can take care of. Let me take care of you. (Des Moines) #8214

ANYTHING OUTDOORS My interests include all outdoor activities. Give me a call and we can ride our horses through the cornfields. (Iowa City) #18095

Minnesota

HERE FOR THE SNOW I'm new from LA, in Elk River for the next four months. I'm 19 year old and looking for some guys to hang out with. Shopping, rollerblading, movies, it's all good! Let's hang out together. (Elk River) #2845

BRING YOUR MACHETE Outdoorsman in Marshall is looking for a trailblazing partner. I'm 34, 6'7, and totally into the outdoors. I like to fish, camp, hike, bike, and swim. I also like quiet times, indoors, talking and hanging out. (Marshall) #22922

APPLY IMMEDIATELY Master wanted. I'm an experienced slave, with an opening for an experienced master. I'm a successful, 30 year old, Gay, White male, 6ft, 195lbs. I'm a non-smoker, looking for a permanent, master/slave relationship. Leather, B&D, S&M, love, honor, and commitment, are just a few of the words we have in common. (Minneapolis) #24038

ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING This Twin City guy is looking to meet that special, submissive person, who needs B&D, and wants to be of service. Looks, age, race, and experience are less important than the right attitude. (Minneapolis) #24321

AND THERE'S MORE How soon can you move in? Athletic, slim, White male, is looking for a relationship with a guy in his 20's. I'm 39 years old, and can provide secure, long-term, stability, for the right guy. Share my Victorian home, and all the trimmings. (Minneapolis) #23464

COTTON CANDY I'm a pre-operative, Transsexual, looking for Gay men, for dating, and casual encounters. I'm 21, 6'3, 150lbs, and scads of sensual fun. I love to show off my body. I've got the sweets for my sweet. (Minneapolis) #22999

YOUR WILL IS MY LAW I'm a submissive bottom looking for a dominant top. I need to be controlled. Bend me over your knee and use me to make your will, my law. (Minneapolis) #21304

NOT YOUR RUN OF THE MILL GUY Pierce me again! I'm 22, 5'10, 185lbs with short, short Blond hair, Blue eyes and a goatee. My nose and tongue are pierced. I'm proud to show off my endowment. I like to smoke and drink and I'm into guys who hang out on First Avenue and the CC Club. Let's punk out. (Minneapolis) #24343

OUTGOING RELOCATOR I'm a fun, outgoing, Gay, White male, who recently relocated to Minnesota. I'm 27, 6'2, 175lbs, with a nice build. I'm looking for someone between 22-30 for companionship and, possibly, a relationship. I am into numerous outdoor sports, like rollerblading. I also like movies, and cuddling on the couch. Where's the welcome wagon? (Minneapolis) #20772

CREATIVITY REWARDED Dating is fun. The more creative you are, the more interesting it is. I'm a handsome, White male, with well defined muscles, 5'8, 165lbs, Blond hair & Blue eyes. I like working out, wrestling, and I love dating. Let's go out. (Minneapolis) #17823

BIG MOUTH I'm a submissive, bottom looking for well endowed, dominant tops who are in need of good oral service. I'm 33, 6ft tall, weigh 180lbs, and have Blond hair and Blue eyes. (Minneapolis) #4863

FRENCH SPEAKERS I am looking for some other French speakers. People that just want to get down, speak some French and have a very hot time. I'm smooth, lean, athletic and in great shape, a hot unit and definitely looking to have some fun. (Minneapolis) #5821

ANDROGYNY FOR ME Androgynous men desired. This big, hairy, 39 year old, Gay guy from St. Louis Park, likes men who embrace both the masculine and feminine in themselves. I'm a 5'11, 255lb, physically active, professional seeking a long term relationship with a smooth, slender to muscular, 35 to 45 year old man. Race is open. (Minneapolis) #4203

A BEAR SEEKS A BOY I'm a bearded 48 years old top Gay male, genuine, real. Seek young hungry bottom genuine honest slave boy to give him a place to belong. Contact me. Don't screw around. Make me proud and be real. You will live for me. (Minneapolis) #22238

READY FOR THE WORLD I'm a 30 year old Gay male, I'm about 5'3, 125lbs and disabled. I have a hearing and speech impairment. I'm looking for a man who is inexperienced and would like to try something new. Please no disrespectful people. Give me a call. (Minneapolis) #12680

LET'S WRESTLE I'm 28 years old, 5'11, and 185lbs. I'm looking for other guys who are interested in wrestling. Get a grip and give me a call. #22496

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! #21591



FOOT MASSAGE I'm a 44 year Gay White male, HIV positive, 5'8 130lbs. I'm looking for guys who love their feet massaged. (Minneapolis) #19287

THE KINKIER THE BETTER 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. Preter 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

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

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

EMOTIONALLY FIT I'm emotionally and financially stable and looking for the same. I'm a Gay, White male, 47, 5'6, 145lbs, with sandy Brown hair, and Blue Green eyes. I love camping, travel, and the outdoors. I'm drug and disease free. I'd like to meet a guy, between 18 and 45, with similar interests, for a relationship. (Rochester) #24056

OPEN TO THE NEW I'm a 30 year old White male. I'm 5'10, 160lbs, with Brown hair and Green eyes. I like bike riding and roller blading. I'm looking for guys 18 to 30 years of age to experience fun and good times. Give me a call if you are interested. (Rochester) #20457

ACTIVE ENDEAVORS I'm a Gay White male. I'm looking for a man between the ages of 18 and 30 to have fun with. I like roller blading, bike riding, and movies. Call me. (Rochester) #15752

HEY, BOY Looking for submissive bottoms between the age of 25 and 40. I am into everything but I will respect your limits. (Rochester) #18392

IT'S A MANS WORLD I'm just looking for a person to hang out with. I like sports and hanging out with guys a lot. (Rochester) #16987

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

DISCREET FUN IN APPLETON This 25 year old Appletonian, is on the lookout for Gay, White, or Hispanic, males, for discreet fun. Let's get to the core of the matter. (Appleton) #23551

LONGING AT THE LAKE Are there any friendly guys in the Balsam Lake area? I'd like to get acquainted and see what happens. I'm a Gay, Latin male, 5'11, 150lbs. I'm interested in hanging out and getting to know some other guys. Maybe you can fill the void in my heart. (Balsam Lake) #19007

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

COLD NIGHT HEAT Long term relationship sought by Gay, White male, 29 years old, 5'3, 135lbs. I have Brown hair, and Blue-Green eyes. I'm stable, healthy, non-smoking, non-drinking, drug free. I enjoy country life, movies and cuddling at home. If you share these qualities and interests, and are ready for love and romance, let's heat up the cool, winter nights together. Age unimportant. (Elsworth) #1697

FRISKY IN FOND DU LAC I'm a Gay male, who cannot meet people freely. I'm looking professional, Bisexual men, in the area, for frisky friendships. (Fond 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

KNOCK ON MY BACK DOOR I'm a 46 year old Bisexual married White male looking for a discreet man for fun and games. I am new to the scene and I'm eager to learn. If you want to have fun with a hot virgin call me. (Green Bay) #18380

CHEESY RIDER I just moved to Madison, from Indiana, and am interested in making some new friends. I'm a White male, 29, 5'11, 165lbs, with Brown hair, and Green eyes. I'm very versatile between bottom and top. I like movies, cuddling on the couch, and hanging out. I'm counting on a tour guide to show me the ways of Wisconsin. Let's go for a ride. (Madison) #22930

THIS TOY COMES WITH GUARANTEE I aim to please. I am a 30 year old, Gay, White male, very clean cut, who is looking for a Gay, White male, top man. I'm 6'1, 175lbs, with Brown hair, and Green eyes. I'm fit and hope you are too. Tell me what makes you feel good. That's what I'm here for. (Madison) #24019

I NEED HELP I'm new in Madison and would like to meet a sexy bottom, between 18-30, who wants to service me and show me a good time. I'm 29, 6'1, 190lbs, with light Brown hair, and Brown eyes. I'm straight appearing and am attracted to similar guys. Hurry, I could explode at any time. (Madison) #22820

COFFEE TALK Social butterfly in Madison wants to meet other guys for morning coffee or evening fun. Care to join me? Pass the sugar, please. (Madison) #1779

DISCREET PLEASURES I'm a 26 year old, Bi curious male, desiring new experiences. I'm fun, outgoing, and discreet. Let's start with friendship and see what happens from there. (Madison) #3161

I'M SO HAPPY YOU'RE HAPPY I'm orally active and extremely enthusiastic. This Gay, White, professional male, in my 40's, is very oral and submissive. I am looking for Gay, and Straight, males, under 40, who want to receive oral pleasure on a regular basis. Spread 'em. (Milwaukee) #24703

EDUCATED PROFESSIONAL I'm an educated, professional male, looking for companionship. I am 49, 5'8, 168lbs. My interests include travel, theater, the arts, antiques, humor, and conversation. I'm very relationship oriented and hope to meet a similar person. (Milwaukee) #24719

THIS WAS MEANT TO BE I'm looking for a trim, financially secure, Transsexual, for a relationship. I am a 34 year old, White male, into physical fitness, and weight lifting. Baby, come to me. (Milwaukee) #24383

ACTION, NOT WORDS Hot, Kenosha man seeks built, friendly, fun-loving guys. Enough said. (Milwaukee) #23891

SILK STALKING I'm on the prowl for older men, and other crossdressers. I'm a very attractive crossdresser. I'm 5'11, and a submissive Brunette. I have an affinity for silk stockings, corsets, and high heels. I hope you appreciate my pumps. (Milwaukee) #23614

AU NATURAL I wanna get naked with a man, hug, engage in some mutual hand work, and have some oral fun. Anyone out there have the same hankering? (Milwaukee) #23128

SOMEONE TO LOOK UP TO I travel a lot and would like to meet guys all over the place! I'm 6ft, 200lbs, with short brown hair, and Blue-Green eyes. I like taller guys, especially over 6'4. My interests are varied and I hope yours are too. Give me a call. Maybe this ad is what we've both been waiting for. (Milwaukee) #23468

PANTING IN PANTIES I'm a passionate Transvestite looking for take-charge, top men, of all races, for kinky times. I make love in high heels and makeup. I'm also into stockings, and panties. I'm panting for you. (Milwaukee) #19832

BAY CITY ROLLER I'm a 20 year old Gay White male in Green Bay looking to meet guys 21 to 35 for friendship and possible relationship. I like movies, music, and going to the clubs on occasion. I'm a light drinker and a non-smoker. If you're interested in getting together, give me a call. (Milwaukee) #22569

SUBMISSION IMPOSSIBLE I'm your French Connection in Green Bay. I'm a Gay White male, 5'9, 155lbs, Brown hair, Brown eyes. I'm a well educated professional. I like biking, long walks, foreign movies, fine restaurants, coffee houses, and dancing. I'm a non-materialistic, non-smoker, and non-drinker. I'm looking for in-shape guys, 22 to 26, of any race, for massage, both giving and receiving, and other good times. The code word is fun. (Milwaukee) #5390

WHEN ONLY THE BEST WILL DO I'm 27 years old, 5'10, 180lbs. I'm looking for a Transvestite or Transsexual for fun and fellowship. A feminine fellow might be nice too. Please be nice and smooth and call me as soon as possible. (Milwaukee) #22617

DEEP VOICE, SIMPLE NEEDS If you're a Gay, Asian male who is looking for more than a one night stand, this husky-voiced man may be the one for you. I'm a Gay, White male, am 5'11, and weigh 165lbs. I have Black hair and Brown eyes. I am very warm, caring, and romantic. I love movies and being outdoors. Please be serious and have a sense of humor. We'll get along great. (Milwaukee) #18863

A BLACK MAN'S BOY I'm 39 years old, White male, looking for Black guys in the Milwaukee area. You can use this white boy whenever you see fit. Pleasure Guaranteed! (Milwaukee) #6157

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL I'm a Gay male, 180lbs. I'm looking for other guys in my area for good times and friendship. If you would like to know more about me please leave a message in my mailbox. (Milwaukee) #20332

SADDLE UP AND RIDE I'm a Gay bottom boy looking for hot top men to have fun with. If you like topping hot bottoms then I'm the one for you. (Milwaukee) #20351

ARE YOU EXPERIENCED? I'm a 31 year old Gay White male, 5'8, 190lbs. I'm into science fiction. I'm inexperienced and I'm looking for other White males 18 to 35 to experiment with. Discretion is a must. (Milwaukee) #18726

DIAL-A-MAID I'm a 44 year old, Gay, White Transvestite. I'm looking for a position as a maid, or servant. I like to cook and clean, and be domesticated and feminized. I have a car and can travel. (Milwaukee) #20281

SLICK 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

69ING... I'm a 36 years old Bisexual man, 5'8", 170lb, in very good shape. Looking for guys to have fun and 69ing. Preferred well-hung guys. (Park Falls) #2109

RACINE RACER I'm a sharp 39 year old, Racine resident, who loves to cuddle. I'm 5'8, 177lbs and have Brown hair and eyes. People tell me that I'm attractive and good-looking. I like movies, the theater, and dining out. I also love staying in, for those special evenings, with just the right person. Let's spend some cold winter nights in each other's arms. (Racine) #18827

LIFE, LOVE, AND HAPPINESS I'm a 45 year old, Gay, White male, looking for a friend, and potential romantic partner. You should be between 21 and 50, HIV negative, and a lover of all things outdoors. I am 5'7, have Brown hair, Green eyes, and have a trimmed beard and mustache. I drink very little and don't hit the bars much, but like to go out to dinner, travel, and gaze at the stars. I guess I'm a traditional romantic. (Rice Lake) #14410

BORED IN ROBERTS I can't find much adventure in Roberts. Can you help me? I'm a Gay male, 6'2, dark Blue eyes, long Blond hair. I work out at least two times per day and have a full-body tan. I hope to meet an adventurous guy who likes to try new and different things. Help me make something new happen. (Roberts) #19159

DISCUSS AMONGST YOURSELVES I'm a deeply spiritual, Gay, White male, who is very "out", and into gay issues. I'm interested in going to bars, dancing, seeing dramatic movies, playing computer games, and reading gay literature. I enjoy spiritual conversations very much. I'd like to make some new friends, with an eye toward a long term relationship. (Superior) #21797

YOUNG AND ACTIVE IN WAUSAU I'm a Gay, White male, 25, 6ft, 190lbs, with Blond hair, and Blue eyes. I have a sturdy, medium build. I'm a non-drinker and non-smoker, into tennis, biking, exercise, and the movies. I'm straight acting, and not into the bar scene. I'd like to meet guys with similar attributes for outdoor excitement, and indoor exoticia. (Wausau) #11144

NEXT I'LL SEND UP A SATELLITE I decided to try an ad, since you didn't respond to my smoke signals. I'm a Gay, Black male, 21, 5'8, 135lbs, with Black hair, and Brown eyes. I'm an attractive non-smoker, and non-drinker. I would like to meet a tall, slim, attractive, Black, or Hispanic, male, between 20-32, for a romantic relationship. I'm into movies, tv, shopping, and quiet evenings at home. Please be honest, caring, and monogamous. #13034

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

Money Problems Threaten AIDS Foundation

San Diego, CA-AP—The region's largest AIDS organization is struggling with a \$300,000 deficit and may have to shut down programs as a result of its deepening financial problems, officials say.

Ten members of the AIDS Foundation San Diego's 12-member board have resigned. Clients say the food bank has dwindled.

Utilities threatened to unplug services. And employees say credit cards have been canceled.

County officials presented the foundation Monday with a rescue proposal that could result in layoffs and the closing of several programs such as a hotline, mental health counseling and a companionship program.

Its yearly budget is about \$4.5 million a year, and 70 percent of that comes from federal and state grants.

The agency's financial problems stem primarily from its purchase of a \$1.2 million, 27,000-square-foot building near the University of California at San Diego two years ago.

More than \$1 million in construction work was required before the foundation could move it, although its federal grant amounted to only \$900,000. Loan payments total nearly \$11,000 a month, and efforts to refinance fell through earlier this month.

Mann, who has been criticized by the agency's employees, said she made it a priority to look at whether the foundation could maintain its high rate of growth, given the decline in donations to the AIDS cause in recent years.

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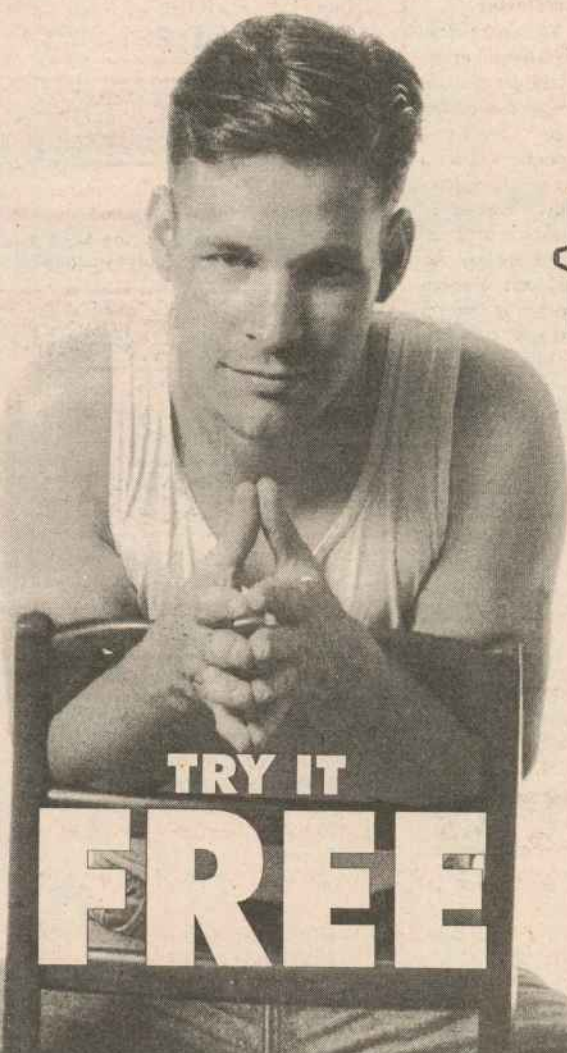
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CLASSIFIEDS

Organizations

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

Employment

Interior Designer—Bachman Furniture has an immediate full-time position open for an interior designer. Individual must be a self-motivated, professional with a strong desire to succeed; enthusiastic, and sales-oriented. As a member of our team, you will represent Milwaukee's most unique store in furnishings and design. We offer highly competitive pay and bonus package. Contact Diane at (414) 461-9000 to schedule an interview. b

Special Events Assistant

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW), is seeking a Special Events Assistant. Primary responsibilities will be to provide administrative support to the Director and department, organize and maintain data base information, coordinate volunteers, handle department correspondence, bulk mailings and retail sales. Ideal candidate will have strong organizational and communication skills, ability to work independently, computer literacy, and volunteer and/or special events fundraising experience. Send your resume with a cover letter including salary requirements by January 25, 1997 to: ARCW Operations Manager, P.O. Box 92487, Milwaukee, WI 53202-0487. EOE.

Clinical Trials Assistant

The Wisconsin AIDS Research Consortium (WARC), a service agency of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW) is seeking a full-time Medical Assistant or someone with comparable medical qualifications to join this research organization as a Clinical Trials Coordinator at its Milwaukee site. Qualifications include strong communication and organizational skills, phlebotomy experience and a commitment to high quality clinical research, understanding and sensitivity to HIV/AIDS related issues. Please submit a resume along with salary requirements to: ARCW Operations Manager, P.O. Box 92487, Milwaukee, WI 53202-0487. EOE.

Advocacy Coordinator

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW), is seeking an Advocacy Coordinator to assist in the coordination of the Agency's political organizing, lobbying and the public policy efforts to develop a multilevel network of volunteer AIDS advocates throughout the state. Ideal candidate will be able to identify, train, inform and activate AIDS advocates, as well as develop and maintain a database, and research AIDS issues. Strong organizational and communication skills, computer literacy, experience in public policy advocacy, lobby and/or research along with a BA in a related field. Send your resume with a cover letter including salary requirements by January 25 to: ARCW Operations Manager, P.O. Box 92487, Milwaukee, WI 53202-0487. EOE.

Special Events Outreach Coordinator

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW) is seeking a high energy professional to coordinate effective organizational strategies for increased community participation in major fundraising events. Primary responsibilities are major event promotion, volunteer/committee development, and team recruiting. Preferred qualifications include strong organizational and communications skills, computer literacy, a minimum of 2 years experience in fundraising, sales, marketing or community organizing. Assertive goal oriented applicants should send cover letter with resume and salary requirements by January 25, 1997 to: ARCW Operations Manager, P.O. Box 92487, Milwaukee, WI 53202-0487. EOE.

Outreach Specialist—Gay Youth

The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP), a service agency of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW), is seeking an Outreach Specialist who will be responsible for conducting focus groups, maintaining reports and statistics, and networking with Gay Youth Organizations and Gay Community Leaders to assess HIV prevention needs. Ideal candidate will possess effective written and verbal communications skills, with a strong comfort level discussing issues of sexuality and sex, along with experience working with Gay young men and Gay men of color. Reliable vehicle and a willingness to work flexible hours required. Send cover letter and resume with salary requirements to: ARCW Operations Manager P.O. Box 92487, Milwaukee, WI 53202-0487. EOE.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

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Public Notices

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Season's Greetings!

Gay Male, 6'1", 195 lbs., Dark, exotic features, financially set, extremely handsome, athletic, loves traveling. Seeks friends to correspond. If sincere and seeking romance or new friendships. Send photos. Write: James Bush, Jr., 4224 N. 22nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53209. Relocated from Michigan to area.

US Appeals Court Asked to Grant Political Asylum to Russian Lesbian

San Francisco—Lesbians in Russia still face institutionalization and persecution, attorneys told a panel of federal judges in an effort to win political asylum for their client.

The case marks the first time a federal appeals court has considered sexual orientation as a basis for asylum, said attorneys for Alla Pitcherskaia, who faces deportation if her appeal fails.

"She was repeatedly threatened with forced psychiatric institutionalization solely because she is a Lesbian, and repeatedly detained for political actions on behalf of Gay civil rights," said Pitcherskaia's lawyer, Suzanne Goldberg of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Her client was once kidnapped by criminals for her activities and police refused to help her, Goldberg said.

Pitcherskaia, 34, who now works for a San Francisco travel agency, went to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals after the Immigration and Naturalization Service refused her asylum request. The three-judge panel heard arguments in the case Wednesday, December 11th, but did not indicate when they might rule.

The INS now recognizes that aliens can be persecuted for their sexual orientation and has granted asylum to about 40 people on that basis.

But on Wednesday, Justice Department attorney Stephen Funk said Pitcherskaia's case failed to meet standards set by the INS, which ruled she did not have a well-founded fear of persecution.

"There was no electroshock therapy, there was no long-term detention," Funk said. "The threat (to institutionalize her) was 1996

Continued from Page 11

NATIONALLY: Jonathan Schmitz is sentenced to at least 20 years in prison following his Michigan conviction in the murder of Scott Amedure. Amedure went on the Jenny Jones Talk Show and announced that he had crush on Schmitz, who was then brought on stage. Three days after the show, Schmitz, murdered Amedure.

The battle for same sex Marriage in Hawaii heated up when the State Attorney General ruled that a Constitutional Convention must be called. Such a convention would undoubtedly outlaw Gay marriages. Lawsuits immediately followed the Attorney General's decision.

Time Magazine names Dr. David Ho, the scientist who developed the new AIDS drugs treatment using protease inhibitors as its Man of The Year.

An appeals court in Washington State ruled that a lower court "went too far" when it ordered a Gay man not to show affection for his lover in front of his children.

made by the former Soviet government, and for eight years that threat was never carried out."

And in any case, Funk said, the government intended only to help Pitcherskaia, not harm her.

Her arrests for "hooliganism," a catchall charge that included homosexual activity, stopped in 1983, even before the Soviet regime ended, he said. And the new Russian government has repealed laws that banned such activities, he argued.

Funk said the civil liberties and Gay civil rights groups supporting Pitcherskaia were looking for a broad ruling by a federal appeals court recognizing homosexuals as a class that could be persecuted. Funk told the judges that Pitcherskaia's was not the proper case.

Goldberg in turn argued that Pitcherskaia was required to attend psychiatric counseling sessions until she left Russia and applied for U.S. asylum in 1992.

Federal Judge Betty Bins Fletcher questioned Funk sharply on whether the threat of institutionalization—and, potentially, electroshock therapy, as happened to Pitcherskaia's former lover—was irrelevant simply because the government had good intentions.

"During the Inquisition, they put people on racks to save their souls," the judge noted.

Funk conceded that would be persecution under the law, but noted again that Pitcherskaia was never institutionalized or tortured.

Although the INS has granted asylum based on sexual orientation, Funk said the agency and the attorney general retain the right to determine the facts of each case. He urged the judges not to compromise that right.

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Through the Lens of History: A Year of Great Hope and Progress

Commentary by Elizabeth Birch

In a few years when we all have some true perspective, Gay and Lesbian Americans will look back on 1996 as a turning point for our movement for two very critical reasons. First, 1996 was the year that Gay marriage hit the national consciousness -- for better or for worse (although I would argue ultimately for better).

The other watershed was the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in the Colorado Amendment 2 case, an opinion that tantalizingly hints at how this court will deal with other Gay and Lesbian civil rights questions.

Religious political extremist organizations shoved Gay marriage into America's collective face in their quest for a new fund-raising tool that they hoped would have the added bonus of torpedoing Bill Clinton's re-election. Their scheme was clever and dexterous, as their shills methodically introduced anti-Gay marriage bills in state houses across the country in a build-up to the mother of them all, the Orwellian and unconstitutional Defense of Marriage Act.

In the short run, their strategy was both a success and a failure. A total of 16 states and the U.S. Congress passed anti-Gay marriage laws.

(The governors of Alabama and Mississippi pettishly issued executive orders after their state legislatures refused to pass such spiteful bills.)

I can only presume that this issue proved to be a cash cow for the such hate groups as the Christian Coalition, the Family Research Council and the Traditional Values Coalition.

But 19 states that considered such bills did not enact them. President Clinton disarmed the Gay marriage missile targeting him by announcing that he would sign the federal legislation.

By plucking the question of Gay marriage out of the Hawaiian universe and depositing it in the living rooms of Americans everywhere, religious political extremists have, I believe, helped advance our cause in the long run.

Rather than pouring into the streets to stop the terrifying Gay marriage juggernaut, people are pausing to think about the question, most for the first time. And as more and more grasp for valid, logical reasons to deny Gay people legal marriage, more and more are having to admit there are no valid, logical reasons.

There are emotional and historical and, perhaps, religious rationales for barring same-sex marriage; but this is not a theocracy -- Pat Robertson, are you listening? -- and our legal system and our Constitution were created to protect the interests of the minority from the tyranny of the majority.

The other result of this anti-Gay marriage campaign has been to evoke new empathy from reasonable people who have suddenly thought about and now understand how unfair it is to deny committed Gay couples the same privileges and responsibilities enjoyed and endured by married couples.

Opinion leaders like William Safire and Ann Landers agree that Gay spouses should be entitled virtually everything heterosexual spouses can claim, but they stumble on the word "marriage."

In the meantime, DOMA defenders (like sponsor Rep. Bob Barr, R-Ga.) sound increasingly absurd as they rail that Gays, by seeking this most conservative of institutions, are somehow threatening civilization's very foundation.

Amendment 2

The other seminal event of 1996 was the Supreme Court's ruling in May in the case of Romer vs. Evans. This eloquent decision embodied a quantum leap in juridical thinking, particularly when held up against Bowers vs. Hardwick, the last ruling that had such broad implications for Gay Americans. That decision, handed down in 1986 by a far more liberal court, found nothing unconstitutional about sodomy laws that solely target Gays.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, a Reagan appointee, opened the Romer opinion with a quote from the infamously wrong-headed Plessy vs. Ferguson decision, which legalized the "separate but equal" system for African-Americans. He could not have been clearer when he wrote that there is nothing "special" about laws protecting Gay people from discrimination -- thereby tearing down the hateful claims that what we seek is not basic equality.

And he proclaimed almost poetically that no state has the authority to make one class of people "a stranger to its laws." This is a strong signal that a majority of this court is ready to listen to cases relating to the treatment of Gay people in society and judge them on their legal merits alone.

This was not a unanimous decision, how-

ever. Justice Antonin Scalia wrote one of his typically scathing dissents -- and was joined by former Milwaukeean Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justice Clarence Thomas -- arguing that it is perfectly proper and constitutional for society to deplore and legislate against Gays, just as our system discriminates against convicted felons.

But they gave voice to a kind of irrational prejudice against Gays that is becoming less common and less acceptable in our society. While it is unfortunate that three members of the court harbor such illogical malice, it's heartening -- and a social barometer -- that the other six do not.

ENDA

Finally, those who know how invested I am in passing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act might be wondering why I didn't mention the Senate's near-passage of ENDA among the chief reasons why 1996 will go down in Gay history as a signal year for our community. That's because I fully expect ENDA to pass before the turn of the century. And once that has happened, the fact that 1996 saw the first vote on the bill in one congressional chamber will be only a footnote to the larger victory of enacting the first civil rights law covering Gay and Lesbian Americans.

Editor's Note: The author is the head of the Human Rights Campaign

If You're Looking For the Person of Your Dreams, Try the Internet

Milwaukee—Hunting for the "Right One?" If you are, don't lose hope. Maybe you're not looking where you should—the Internet, for example?

At www.msnbc.com, Reid Goldsborough, and MSNBC correspondent has written an article titled "On Net, Love Is a High Speed Connection," about people finding romance and relationships online. Goldsborough writes about a number of couples who found each other in cyberspace, one of whom is Gay.

"Travis describes himself as a Gay white male in his early 20s who says he was celibate for three years before meeting his friend online. They exchanged many email messages, revealing the intimate details of their lives. 'When we finally did meet, it was as if we had known each other for a long time,'" says Travis. They're now a couple," Goldsborough writes.

"Happy endings like this are surprisingly common," Goldsborough adds. "The Internet is bringing together lovers from across the country and around the world, both the young and the not-so-young, heterosexuals and Gay people."

Anyone who has surfed the net, knows there are uncounted numbers of sites listing personals from Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay or Transgendered people looking for "just the right one."

O'Meara to Perform Play, 'Teratology,' at The Black Shamrock

Milwaukee—The Black Shamrock, an Irish Public House on Milwaukee's East Side, presents an O Tempora! O Mores! Production of **Teratology or, the Monstrosity Here Beside Me**, a play for one

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



actor written and performed by Dave O'Meara.

The word "teratology" means "the knowledge of monsters." In particular, it refers to the study of the bizarre, yet benign, tumors called "teratomas," which often contain fully developed tissue, such as hair or teeth—as if the body were having a nightmare, or trying to tell a joke.

Inspired by such carnal incongruities, **Teratology or, the Monstrosity Here Beside Me**, traces the journey of an immobile man, trapped overnight in a train station, who struggles to hold himself together amid transformations both comic and terrifying.

O'Meara is a writer, actor and director, based in Milwaukee, where he is active in Milwaukee Irish Arts, Late Night Theatre X, and his own production company, O Tempora! O Mores!

Teratology or, the Monstrosity Here Beside Me will be performed at The Black Shamrock January 20 and 27, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5. The Black Shamrock is located at 2311 N. Murray Avenue. For more information, call (414) 273-5253.

Doctors Report Signs of Resistance to New AIDS Drugs

Newark, NJ—Doctors say signs of resistance to a powerful new class of AIDS drugs are showing up in a small but significant number of patients in New Jersey.

They are sufficiently concerned that the state health department and the federal Centers for Disease Control will soon begin programs to monitor patients in Newark and

New Brunswick. "We are seeing resistance in some of our clients," Lu Navarro, a nurse at the Eric B. Chandler Health Center in New Brunswick, told a New Jersey AIDS conference on Monday, December 9th.

Navarro said most clients who use the new drugs, called protease inhibitors, in combination with older drugs such as AZT and DDI, show improvement. After six months, however, some are no longer responding, he said.

Studies have found that the combinations of drugs significantly reduce the levels of HIV in the blood of patients. But there is fear that patients who fail to take the medicine regularly will develop resistance to the drugs and may pass on drug-resistant forms of the virus to others.

Regular use of the drugs is important because the AIDS virus constantly replicates in the body and the battle against it is continual.

"You cannot go on holiday with these medications," said Dr. John W. Sensakovic, an AIDS expert at St. Michael's Medical Center in Newark.

Some at the conference said they feared that patients who are feeling better and believe they are cured may engage in unprotected sex. The result could be sexual transmission of a drug-resistant strain of AIDS, they said.

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