

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



The Wisconsin Light

Miller Brewing Gives \$10,000 Grant to The Cream City Foundation

Milwaukee—The Cream City Foundation has announced that it has "proudly accepted" a gift of \$10,000 from the Miller Brewing Company. Under the direction of Thomas F. Reed, Director of Public Affairs, the Miller Brewing Company has, once again, shown its continuous commitment to the LesBiGayTrans community.

In accepting the gift, Tony Rhodes, President of the Cream City Foundation, said that the Foundation's long-time relationship with Miller Brewing has allowed the Foundation to contribute over \$45,000 in recent years to LesBiGayTrans community events and individuals.

"This relationship with the Miller Brewing Company," Rhodes said, "not only shows the Cream City Foundation the company's commitment to the LesBiGayTrans community, but its commitment to all of the organizations here in Wisconsin and nationwide."

The Cream City Foundation is the LesBiGayTrans community's philanthropic organization. The Foundation has given grants to such events as: PrideFest (it has been a major supporter); the Great Lakes Gay/Lesbian Film and Video Festival at UW-Milwaukee; SAGE; the Fest City Singers; Lesbians of Color/Women of Color; Ujima; the Human Rights League for Gays and Lesbians; and the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM), among many others.

In addition, the Foundation gives the John Cowles Memorial Scholarship, a \$1,000 annual award and provided 21 scholarships for those attending the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's national Creating Change Conference (this last was courtesy of the Arnie Malmon Development Fund).

The Foundation was a major sponsor of the LesBiGay history exhibit, "Long Road to Freedom," held at Milwaukee's City Hall.

The Foundation was host and major sponsor of the National Conference of Gay and Lesbian Foundations held in Milwaukee in October, 1995.

"The Cream City Foundation is one of the greatest forces for unity and LesBiGayTrans liberation in our state," said activist Vincent Cantara. "Our organizations, groups and events have always received invaluable and much needed support from the Foundation when it was needed. When the Cream City Foundation says it 'is here for you,' that's exactly what they mean."

Cantara went on to strongly urge support for Foundation fundraisers.

The Cream City Foundation is a member organization of A Choice. This enables people to give to the Foundation at their work-

Please See Miller Page 27

St. Camillus and Covenant Healthcare Reach Agreement to Collaborate

Milwaukee—Two Milwaukee based Catholic health care organizations, St. Camillus Institute, Inc., and Covenant Healthcare System, Inc., have entered into a collaboration agreement effective January 24, 1997. The goal of the agreement is to enhance the abilities of both organizations, their members and affiliates to provide quality, cost-effective health care services to the greater Milwaukee community while advancing the presence of Catholic health care in Southeastern Wisconsin.

The agreement calls for the organizations to work together to improve the health status of the populations they serve in such areas as HIV/AIDS care, senior services, specialty clinics and pastoral care. Service to the poor and sick is a traditional, mission-based priority for both organizations.

"Diversity and unity are two sides of the same coin," according to the Very Reverend William F. Cronin, OS Cam, MSW, Provincial of the Order of St. Camillus in North America and President of all the Camillian sponsored health care corporations.

"St. Camillus and Covenant Healthcare

Soglin, Verveer Win Okay For Hotel Washington Grant



A Big Check Shown above (L-R) are Tom Reed from Miller Brewing Company and Cream City Foundation Board Members, Paul Milkovich, Tony Rhodes and Ross Draeger. Reed presented the group with a check for \$10,000 donated by the brewery to the Foundation. CCF is Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian foundation giving thousands of dollars in grants to a wide variety of Gay and Lesbian groups.

ARCW Remains a Heavyweight Contender as State ASO Competition Heats Up

Milwaukee—Within days after the State Division of Health announced an historic competitive process for designating AIDS Service Organizations (ASO), the competition began in earnest and the rhetoric has already heated up to a fever pitch.

The Brady Clinic and St. Camillus AIDS Ministries joined forces to create a coalition comprised mostly of individuals to urge the state to postpone the process and make changes in its approach. They held press conferences in Milwaukee and Madison and lobbied state officials.

Wisconsin Light received numerous calls from concerned members of the community on the developments. Many sources expressed disappointment and some, anger, that the efforts of the coalition were negative, especially against the work of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), and its Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP).

ARCW looms large in this process. It is the parent corporation of MAP and two other ASOs in Wisconsin. It has been a state-designated ASO from the beginning of the epidemic and over the years, has developed into the Midwest's largest ASO.

Adding to ARCW's large presence is its unparalleled fundraising capacity. It produces AIDS Walk Wisconsin which is the largest state fundraiser for any cause, and

each bring to this agreement the strengths of their individual identities as organizations, and both will carry away the special gifts which come from collaboration," Rev. Cronin said.

"Our agreement recognizes the realities of the health care marketplace and promises mutual benefits," continued Rev. Cronin. "Most importantly, it promises to benefit the thousands of people entrusted to our care."

Thomas Sheehan, Covenant Healthcare's President and Chief Executive Officer, praised the agreement. "A significant commonality of mission and philosophy have brought us together: two Catholic, faith-based, values-driven organizations joined in a unique ministry to serve the Milwaukee community."

St. Camillus Institute, Inc., along with its affiliated entities, is a comprehensive provider of health care services, independent and supportive living, skilled nursing, physical and occupational therapy, home care services and Alzheimer's/dementia

Please See Collaborate Page 8

through a sophisticated fundraising strategy, ARCW raises over \$2.5 million every year to supplement its government grants.

"Our fundraising success means two things," said ARCW Executive Director Doug Nelson. "We have an enormous amount of community support and we can deliver a huge amount of services."

"Yes, we are large, but we deliver more services than any other agency in the Midwest," Nelson explained.

"Our success enables us to do needle exchange, aggressive Gay/Lesbian outreach, the food pantry, legal assistance, the dental clinic, clinical drug trials, three housing facilities, and provides thousands of dollars in financial assistance," Nelson said.

Please See ARCW Page 8

Dick Wagner in Close Race in Dane County to Become First-Ever Gay County Executive

Madison—Openly Gay candidate for Dane County Executive, former Dane County Board Chairman, Dick Wagner, is locked in the political fight of his life in his bid to become America's first-ever openly Gay County Executive.

A Long Record of Service

Wagner who served on the Dane County Board from 1980 to 1994 was the first openly Gay office holder in Wisconsin and one of the first in the country. His tenure on the County Board was marked by his leadership on a wide variety of issues including urban planning, the environment, the arts and transportation.

In addition to his work for the general community, Wagner has been instrumental in the founding and operation of several organizations that are considered vital to Madison's Gay and Lesbian community.

Included on that list are the New Harvest Foundation, the Madison AIDS Support Network and the Rodney Scheel House.

Now after years of serving the community, Wagner's campaign has issued a call for help to Dane County's Gay and Lesbian community. With over half of the vote undecided, polls have shown him locked in a tight battle for a spot on the general election ballot. The general election will be held in April, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 18.

With a low turnout in the primary, Madison area Gays and Lesbians can swing the election to Wagner by voting on the 18th and by volunteering to help.

A Tight Race

Most observers say that only three of the six candidates for the County Executive's job have a chance to win, Wagner, Former County Board Chairman Michael Blaska

Madison City Council Ok's TIF Grant After Heated Public Meeting

By Bill Meunier

Madison—By a vote of 17 to 2, the Madison City Council approved the last piece of financing for the rebuilding of the Hotel Washington, a \$600,000 Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) package. The approval followed an acrimonious debate that lasted nearly two hours during a public meeting held on Tuesday January 21.

It came only after an impassioned appeal from the measure's sponsor, openly Gay Alderman Mike Verveer and a public scolding leveled at the Council by Madison Mayor Paul Soglin.

The TIF Package

The TIF package consists of a \$151,600 grant from the City of Madison plus a \$448,400 loan guarantee. The idea behind TIF packages is to use funds against the property tax revenue the City expects to receive from a development.

In addition to the TIF package, the Scheel family, owners of the Hotel, have lined up a \$3.1 million loan from Capitol City Bank and a \$300,000 loan from Madison Gas and Electric. The Scheels are also contributing \$1.1 million of their own funds.

Openly Gay Alderman Mike Verveer who sponsored the measure was elated that the final piece of financing was at last in place. However, Verveer told **The Wisconsin Light** that he was disturbed by the tenor and length of the debate on the package.

The Opposition

The opposition was led by Madison firefighter, Ron Greer. Greer who is also the Pastor of Trinity Evangelic Church in Madison has been recommended for suspension by Madison Fire Chief, Debra Amesqua. Amesqua recommended the suspension for insubordination and because Greer allegedly

Please See Hotel Page 8



Dick Wagner

and Assistant Attorney General Kathleen Falk.

Blaska is the best known conservative candidate, Wagner and Falk are fighting it out for the liberal vote.

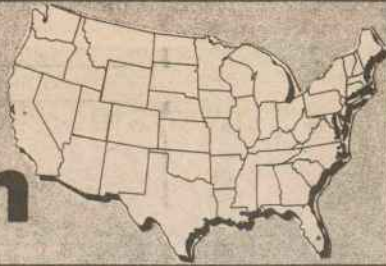
A Study In Contrasts

Some say that the Wagner and Falk campaigns seem to be studies in contrast. Wagner has raised over \$60,000 with 95% of these funds coming from individual contributions within Dane County. Falk has raised money from environmental activists and substantial sums from Political Action Committees many of them outside of Dane County.

Wagner's campaign team charges that Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist and his wife Susan Mudd have solicited and garnered Milwaukee contributions for Falk. A spokesperson for Mayor Norquist told **The Wisconsin Light** that the Mayor and his wife have been personal friends of Falk for years, "She asked for the Mayor's help and he decided to give it."

Please See Wagner Page 27

News From The Nation



Lesbian Mother Dies After Custody Case

Tallahassee, FL-AP- A Lesbian who lost custody of her 12-year-old daughter to her ex-husband, even though he had murdered his first wife, has died of a heart attack.

Mary Ward, who was in her 40s, died Tuesday night, January 21st, lawyer Charlene Carres said Wednesday.

Twelve-year-old Cassey Ward had lived with her mother until August 1995 when Circuit Judge Joseph Tarbuck of Pensacola revoked custody, saying he wanted to give Cassey a chance to live in "a non-Lesbian world."

Cassey went to live with her father, John Ward, and his third wife in Milton.

Ward pleaded guilty to second-degree murder for shooting his first wife in the parking lot of a Pensacola restaurant in 1974, reportedly after they argued over custody of their children. He served eight years in prison.

Ms. Ward appealed Tarbuck's ruling, arguing the judge changed custody just because she was a Lesbian. Five months ago, the Florida 1st District Court of Appeal disagreed, saying there was evidence Cassey was being harmed by conduct she was exposed to in her mother's home.

Virginia Considers Domestic Partners Bill

Richmond, VA-AP- A state senator has filed bills to outlaw hate crimes and discrimination in jobs and housing against Lesbians and Gays in Virginia, a state where sodomy is a crime and same-sex marriages are not recognized.

One of the three bills introduced by Sen. Patricia S. Ticer also would allow companies to provide health insurance that could be extended to cover same-sex partners.

"I personally view this whole subject as a civil rights matter," said Ticer, (D-Alexandria).

Companies incorporated in Virginia cannot offer health insurance benefits to domestic partners, Ticer said. Present law deals only with spouses and dependents.

Her bill would not require employers to provide insurance covering employees' same-sex partners, but gives them that option.

Four states already offer health benefits to domestic partners, said David Smith, a spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign. "Domestic partnership comes down to offering people equal pay for equal work," Smith said. Those benefits are worth money, and denying equal health coverage to Gay or Lesbian employees deprives them of equal compensation, he said.

Ticer said she expects the bill to run into some resistance. "People will think about cost, about opening a Pandora's box."

Sen. Stephen H. Martin, R-Chesterfield, said he would oppose giving domestic partners similar rights to spouses.

"They are not in fact a married couple ... who have the ability to create and raise a family that would warrant those benefits," he said. "I do not want to encourage an environment that would consider those relationships in the same status as married partners."

Court Rules Against Homophobic Picketing

Washington, DC-AP- A Topeka, Kansas, church whose members regularly engage in anti-Gay picketing lost a Supreme Court appeal and must continue to limit its demonstrations outside another church's building.

The justices, without comment, let stand rulings that bar Westboro Baptist Church members from picketing outside St. David's Episcopal Church in Topeka shortly before, during or shortly after any religious service.

Since 1991, Westboro Baptist's Rev. Fred Phelps and his followers began what he calls a ministry of public religious pickets with a central message of "God Hates Fags."

Phelps and other Westboro Baptist members targeted St. David's after its leadership criticized the picketing ministry. "Fag church" was one of the signs pickets toled while they marched outside St. David's.

Man Says He Didn't Kill Wife for Gay Lover

Somerville, NJ-AP- A jeweler whose gun fired a bullet that killed his wife during a March 1995 robbery testified he is engaged to be married and was not a Gay man who wanted his spouse dead.

Marqis Kennon, 33, of Kansas City, Kansas, is on trial in Superior Court for the death of Brenda Wolf. Prosecutors claim Kennon was struggling with Jeffrey Wolf when the gun fired; defense attorneys maintain Wolf intentionally shot his wife.

Wolf, 36, choked up in answering but said he became engaged three months ago to a woman he met at a singles event last year. still is awaiting trial.

Pro-Life Gays Make Waves at March

Washington, DC-The **Washington Blade** reports that the Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians (PLAGAL) created a bit of a stir at the March for Life, held every January 22nd to commemorate the Supreme Court's 1973 "Roe v. Wade" decision upholding women's right to choose abortion. Many of the marchers and those in the crowd of on-lookers couldn't reconcile PLAGAL's being Gay and their anti-abortion position.

The **Blade** reports that several people came up thanking the 15-person PLAGAL contingent, while an equal number winced and moved away.

"Each march gets more encouraging," said Michael Cerritelli, former president of PLAGAL. "We're getting more handshakes and thumbs up signs than hostility. In fact, we find more hostility in the Gay community."

School District Pulls Plug on Gay TV

Dallas, TX-AP-The decision to yank a student-produced cable TV interview of a Gay man in drag was denounced Thursday, January 23rd, by protesters who disrupted a school board meeting and accused administrators of stifling free speech.

But Dallas school Superintendent Yvonne Gonzalez defended the decision by one of her assistants last month to pull the plug on the live "Getting Personal" cablecast three minutes into a December 5 program.

The show featured a Lincoln High School student interviewing a man who wore a blond wig and a black dress and discussed what it was like to be Gay.

"It isn't the Jenny Jones show," Superintendent Yvonne Gonzalez told students and others who showed up at a regularly scheduled board meeting and demanded to be heard on the issue.

"It's a district-operated broadcast channel, so we have to be very cognizant of that. Parents in this community hold me responsible for what happens to their children and I take that duty very seriously."

ACT-UP Attacks Award to Sen. Bob Smith

Washington, DC- ACT UP has demanded that the animal rights group PETA, drop its plans to give a 'Humanitarian of the Year Award' to Senator Bob Smith (R, NH). Senator Smith, a staunch opponent of AIDS funding, is one of three US Senators who voted against the Ryan White CARE Act earlier this year. The Ryan White Care Act provides emergency relief for the treatment and care of poor people with AIDS.

The AIDS advocacy group called PETA's award to Smith the ultimate insult to people with AIDS everywhere. ACT UP spokesperson Steve Michael, who is HIV positive, said "Bob Smith is one of the most hateful men to ever walk the halls of the US Senate. Smith's record on AIDS makes him the Jesse Helms of the North."

This is ACT UP's second confrontation with PETA is less than a year. Earlier this year, ACT UP confronted animal rights groups over the use of laboratory animals for medical research. Animal rights extremist supported by PETA have broken into, burned and destroyed AIDS research facilities.

ACT UP LA reportedly is planning to present some creative activities at the Peta/Smith event.

Christian Coalition Helps Young Gays

Laconia, NH-AP- Young Gays and Lesbians in the state are now more apt to remain in their home state instead of moving to urban areas that have larger Gay and Lesbian communities.

This observation was one of many made as a group of young people shared their thoughts and experiences coming to grips with their own sexual orientation or having loved ones who are Gay or Lesbian.

In his address "New Hampshire Teens Making Sense of Their Lives," Knox Turner, a youth coordinator/consultant who sits on the Concord Outright's board of directors, said the teens of the 1990s have a better chance to know the sense of rural community in New Hampshire than the generations before them.

He said more Gay New Hampshire teens are staying home instead of feeling forced to re-settle to such cities as San Francisco, Chicago, Boston and New York City. While Gay and Lesbian people who lived in New Hampshire in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s lived in fear because of intolerance, things are changing for the better, he said. And the Gay teens of the 1990s are the ones who are making things change.

Through outright groups in Concord, Portsmouth, Nashua and now Hanover and Chocorua, Turner said, Gay teens are able to talk to other teens and have fun. They no longer feel isolated, alone or suicidal because they adopt the false belief that God does not love them.

The Internet is also providing Gay teens with a way to talk to Gay teens in other states who are experiencing the same challenges and issues they are, he said.

Turner said the Christian Coalition, a conservative political action group that is opposed to many aspects associated with Gay liberation, is actually helping Gay teens to form their own sense of community.

By thrusting the societal war upon their shoulders at home, Turner said the Christian Coalition has made the Gay teens stronger and more firm in their resolve to stay home in New Hampshire.

N.C. Court Rules in Favor of Gay Father

Durham, N.C., - Issuing an opinion that says a parent's sexual orientation should be irrelevant in custody disputes throughout the state, the North Carolina Court of Appeal Tuesday reversed a lower court which had taken two children from their father's custody because he is Gay.

Beatrice Dohrn, legal director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, and Sharon Thompson of N.C. Gay and Lesbian Attorneys QAC GALA) brought the appeal behalf of Fred Smith, a North Carolina father who had raised his two sons all their lives until losing custody in 1995.

Thompson said, "The two children in this case were uprooted from their father's home where they were thriving in North Carolina, to live with their mother in Kansas, just because our client's ex-wife discovered he is Gay." Thompson continued, "We are pleased the appeals court today clarified to judges throughout the state that decisions to modify custody must be based on concrete facts showing harm to children, not based on speculation that children are harmed by a parent's sexual orientation or private sexual behavior."

Dohrn said, "The law has always been that a change in custody is only warranted when children are being harmed in their present home. This ruling makes clear that having a Gay parent does not harm children."

North Carolina is among the majority of states that say that the law must treat Gay and non-Gay parents equally. The children in this case were happy and well-adjusted, doing well in school and in their other activities under their father's care. The appeals court found no reason to take them away from their father just because he is Gay.

Are Gay-Bashers Gay?

New York, NY- In the February issue of **Esquire**, Michael Segell's article, "Homophobia Doesn't Lie," looks into the meaning of a recent study that found homophobic men are more likely to be aroused by Gay male erotica than non-homophobic men. Discussing the University of Georgia study from last year, he notes that "80% of the participants characterized as homophobic showed moderate to definite tumescence with viewing the Gay male video, compared with only a third of the non-homophobic men."

Henry Adams, the leader of the study, says that this confirms what many Gay men have suspected anecdotally for years: men who are most upset by Gay men are quite often repressed Gay men themselves.

The Gospel According to E.J.

Phoenix, AZ- In the January 9th **Arizona Republic**, E.J. Montini wrote a column "So Sayeth the Bible," in which the author challenges the way the Far Right in general and Rep. Karen Johnson (R-Mesa), in particular use the bible to bash Gays.

Johnson is trying to get a bill passed declaring Gay sex a Class 6 felony. "I differ with Johnson," Montini writes, "not because she's a zealot who goes too far, but because she's a zealot who doesn't go far enough."

For example, "If Johnson truly believes what she says, she'll also push for a law prescribing the death penalty, as the Bible does, for anyone who works on the Sabbath."

Finally, Montini notes that, as a woman, Johnson is herself at odds with her guiding text. According to Timothy, 2:11-12, "Let a woman learn in silence with all submissiveness," and not "teach or have authority over men; she is to keep silent."

Legalize Pot in Bay State?

Boston, MA-AP-Massachusetts residents suffering from glaucoma, asthma or chemotherapy's side effects could legally possess marijuana for medicinal purposes, under a state proposal unveiled Tuesday, January 21.

The Department of Public Health proposal would not let doctors prescribe pot for patients, but would certify they had exhausted other methods of relief. A certificate would be defense against marijuana possession charges.

Similar laws passed in November in Arizona and California, and at least 35 other states have laws providing greater tolerance for the medical use of marijuana, but many are little-known and little-used.

Dismissal of charges would remain at the judge's discretion, but Judith Lindahl of the Massachusetts Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers said marijuana-possession charges routinely are dismissed by district courts.

Public health commissioner David Mulligan said only those people with certificates could claim the "compassionate use" of marijuana as a defense.

Other experts say there is no medical use for marijuana, which was outlawed in 1937.

Possession of marijuana remains a federal crime. Last week, Attorney General Janet Reno said federal officials will review "on a case by case basis" evidence of doctors prescribing drugs illegally.

LesBiGay Leaders Meet With Vice President Gore

Washington, DC-Vice President Gore pledged continued support for the Gay community in the second Clinton administration after meeting in the White House with a group of Les-BiGay leaders.

"Vice President Gore was very open to our requests and positive about continuing the dialogue we began four years ago," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign.

Medicaid, needle exchange programs, expected attacks on LesBiGay families by anti-Gay legislators were the main topics of discussion. Gore was told that 90% of children and 50% of adults with AIDS depend on Medicaid for life-prolonging treatment.

Gore was reminded that without Medicaid funding, the new generation of promising AIDS drugs are out of reach for most people. The group also urged Gore to support needle exchange programs as a way to prevent HIV infection.

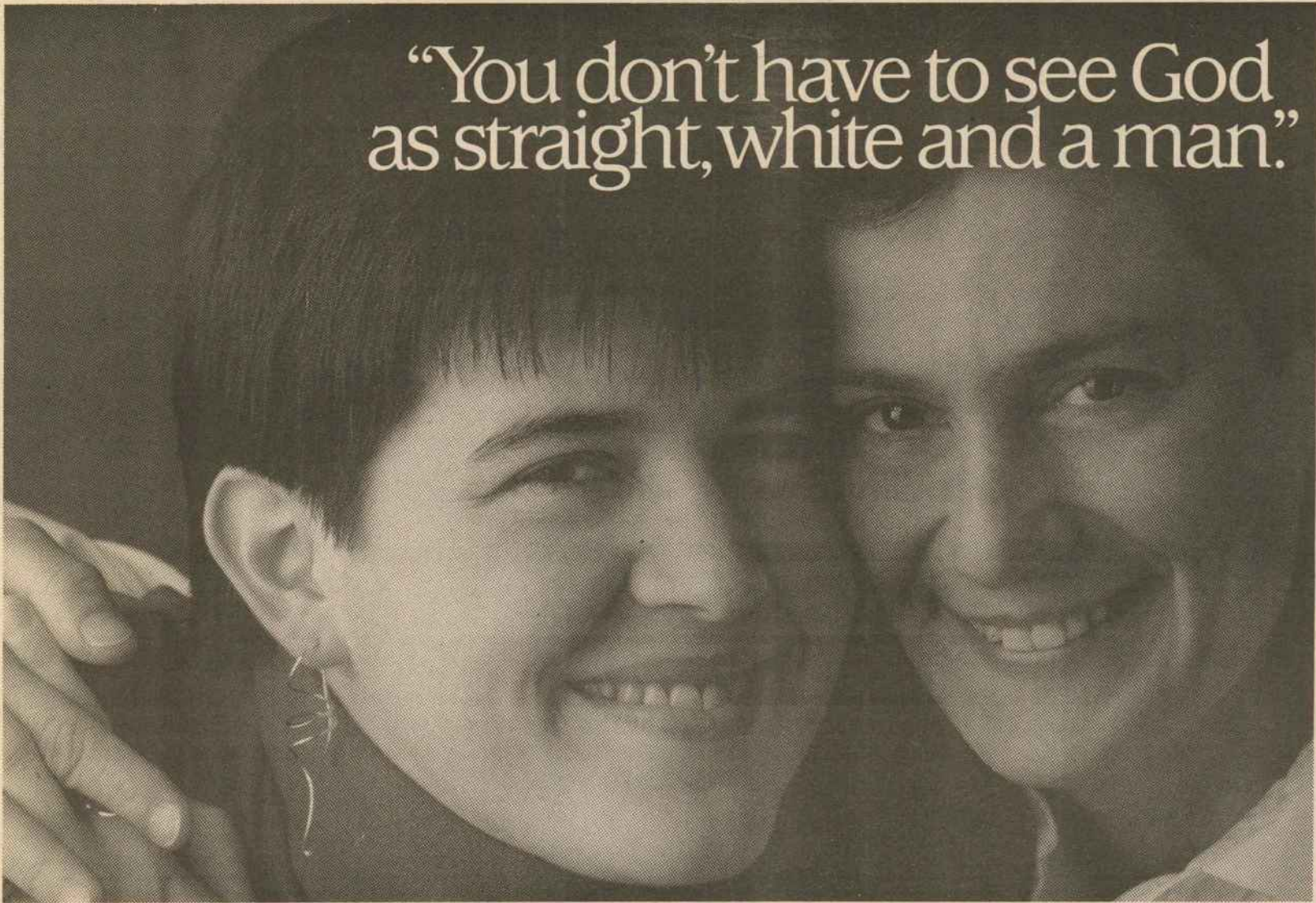
No Condoms in Prisons Say Church Leaders

Nassau, Bahamas-AP- The Bahamas Christian Council has come out against a proposal to give prison inmates condoms to control the spread of the AIDS virus.

The council, comprised of leaders of all Christian denominations in Nassau, has a list of alternatives for the government to consider.

The council recommended that Her Majesty's Prison hire more social workers and appoint an assistant chaplain to give prisoners spiritual guidance. The prison only has one chaplain.

Church leaders also advocate hiring more prison guards to protect inmates from "abuses by aggressive sexual inmates."



“You don't have to see God as straight, white and a man.”

“I hadn't been going to church for five years, because I couldn't believe in anything. I wanted something I could relate to as a woman. A Lesbian woman.”

“It was the same for both of us. Walking into a Unitarian Universalist service and feeling immediately at home. We felt welcome. We didn't have to be different people we could be ourselves.”

“We could be together...a couple. And no one was going to kick us out.”

“It goes way, way beyond tolerance. Unitarian Universalists encourage diversity. And acceptance.”
I mean, not everyone is Ozzie and Harriet, you know?”

First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation
1342 N. Astor Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

9:15 & 11:15 AM Sunday Services

February 16, 1997

Why I Perform Gay Marriages

The Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Kennedy, Minister

10:15 AM Forum



“Why Gay and Lesbian Couples Should Be Be Extended The Rights and Responsibilities Of Marriage”

Special Guest Speaker

Openly Lesbian State Representative

Tammy Baldwin

Democrat 78th Assembly District

For More Information Please Call (414) 273-5257

Editorial

Let There Be Unity

Over 15 years ago, AIDS first raised its hideous head upon the scene. First it ravaged the Gay community in America, then it spread its ugly tentacles out to engulf others. When the federal government did nothing; when President Reagan couldn't even say the name of the disease, countless caring people rushed in to help. Nowhere was that more true than in Milwaukee and has been true ever since.

The Milwaukee AIDS Project and its parent, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) has done valiant work over the years, meeting the steadily increasing needs of people as the disease grew and spread.

Under Doug Nelson's leadership, badly needed government funding was procured. The lobbying efforts necessary were difficult, but had good results. When San Francisco and New York City said, in effect, that their people with HIV/AIDS needed more money than those in Wisconsin, it was Nelson and ARCW who said, "No way!" and got the fair treatment to which Wisconsin had a right.

Over the years, MAP inaugurated legal services for its clients. MAP gained housing for People Living with AIDS. MAP fought the battle (and continues to fight) for needle exchange. MAP inaugurated the Dental Clinic for those with HIV/AIDS. These are only a few of the services MAP gives. No one is ever turned away, not because of sexual orientation, age, gender, color of skin, not for any reason. You need 'em, they're there.

Ironically, some people think MAP's rich, but the opposite is true. One needs only to take a look at their published annual budget to know that they operate on a shoestring.

In addition, Milwaukee was, and is, well-served by the BestD Clinic. BestD's counseling services are second to none. It is BestD's volunteers who go to bars, clubs and stores, offering free, anonymous HIV testing to everyone. If that weren't enough, BestD does everything that it can to get people to come in to find out the results—and helps them with compassionate advice.

It was BestD who took the courageous step of putting out erotic material that encouraged the use of condoms. We editorialized in strong support of that at the time.

As does BestD, St. Camillus AIDS Ministries offers caring counseling to people with HIV/AIDS. As BestD and MAP do, St. Camillus offers spiritual support and guidance. It offers health care and housing and a great deal else.

This city and southeastern Wisconsin are very, very well-served by these agencies. The literally thousands of volunteers who work in them are truly saints of human kind. They deserve every possible thanks.

Wisconsin Light praises these organizations and the people who work in them. We praise them without stint. We urge unity and we urge peace in the honest exchange of differences and views.

The AIDS pandemic rages on. We must all bend our backs to continuing the task of caring and helping as we have been charged to do.

Someday, it is our fervent hope that Wisconsin Light will carry one word on its front page: CURE!! When that happens, the people at MAP, BestD and St. Camillus will hear the well-deserved words, "Well done, good and faithful servants."

Until that time, let there be unity and peace.

Dick Wagner for Dane County Exec

Wisconsin Light fully and whole heartedly endorses Dick Wagner for Dane County Executive in the February 18th primary race. This is not a case of asking for support for someone simply because he is Gay. It is a case of asking for the support of a highly qualified Gay man.

As the article elsewhere in this issue points out, Wagner comes to the race with all of his credentials intact. His experience is long, his support of and fight for progressive issues is a long-standing fact. Dick Wagner, in our opinion, is without doubt, the candidate to whom our LesBiGayTrans community should give its support.

In these few weeks before the primary on February 18, help the Wagner campaign in whatever way you can.

Most importantly, on February 18, VOTE for Dick Wagner. Urge all of your friends to do the same.

Miller Grant

Wisconsin Light would like to thank Miller Brewing Company for its generous contribution to the Cream City Foundation. We would also like to thank Tom Reed who, we understand, made possible the grant. Miller Brewing Company has steadily, through the years, been a faithful friend to the entire Milwaukee community. It has included the LesBiGayTrans community in that friendship. We thank them for that. We appreciate that deeply.

The Cream City Foundation has, over the years, granted tens of thousands of dollars to help make possible such things as PrideFest, not to mention the tremendous help it has given to organizations and individuals.

By its philanthropic donations and actions, the Cream City Foundation has contributed mightily to the unity and strength of our community. It is through this unity from which comes our strength, and from our strength, will come our liberation.

We thank Miller Brewery, and the Foundation which join and assist all those people and organizations who help the community achieve freedom.

Editor's Note

Heaven's Gold

By Terry Boughner

There's a story that is told in Arab lands. According to the tale (apocryphal perhaps), there was a poet in old Granada wide-famed for the exquisite beauty of his art. It was said that he could take the lyrical Arab language and make it sing.

(You should know that in the Arab culture there is a deep appreciation of poetry. Arab warriors would often recite poetry to one another while riding back from battle or the hunt.)

In any case, it seems that this particular poet fell in love with a black haired, doe-eyed youth of lathesome form and lips like the petals of a red rose, moist with morning dew. The love was deeply and amply returned.

It was high love, the kind of love that makes ones chest feel as if it is shot through with burning arrows; the kind of love whose sublime beauty makes the wild gods weep in envy at seeing it. This, the legend says, was love of the kind earth so rarely sees because Heaven, like a miser, seems to dole it out with a parsimonious hand.

The poet and the beautiful young man were rapturously happy together. Merely looking at each other was a form of the act of love.

The youth was Beatrice to the poet's Dante, inspiring him to write, the story goes, as he had never written before. Lines

of verse flowed lavishly from his pen, rich verse whose words reminded one of a rose window full of dawn's first light.

According to the ancient Greeks, the gods become jealous at too much human happiness and will send afflictions to remind humans of their place. Such was the poet's and his lover's fate.

One day the young man sickened. The finest doctors were summoned. They could do nothing. The poet was in a frenzy as the disease grew worse. One winter's day, the young man died.

The poet was beside himself with grief, a terrible grief, a heart-wrenching sorrow that was horrible to be seen. He could not eat, he could not sleep, but could only hold his lover's cold form close to him as if by that means he could give him life.

So many times the poet contemplated suicide. By that means, he thought to rejoin his lover and live together forevermore.

Finally, however, he decided against it. Where he to kill himself, friends told him, he would be depriving the world of the marvelous talent Heaven had given him. This would be a sin against almighty God.

The poet reconsidered. He would live on, as painful as he knew that was going to be. He would write, inspired by the memories of what once had been. One thing, however, he could not do. He refused to allow the earth to consume the body that had once

held the spirit of his golden love.

Instead, the poet had his lover's body consigned to the flames. Afterwards, he took the ashes, mixed them with the finest clay and fashioned for himself a cup. It was from this cup that he drank while he wrote, sipping sweet liquid and remembering his lost love's lips.

I first heard this story one evening while I was visiting Saudi Arabia many years ago. I was struck by the tragic beauty of it and later, was overjoyed to find it in the preface to a book. To me it has always expressed the longing of all people—Lesbians, Bisexuals, Transgenders and Gay men in particular—for that most ineffable of feelings, love, the kind that an Arab poet called "Heaven's Gold."

Which brings me around to Valentine's Day.

It is a warm holiday, shy in the wake of THE holidays, but glowing softly with love and romance. It is a time for crimson and gold, when couples, long-standing and those in the first blush of love, look fondly into each other's eyes. They think life is a box of bon-bons and they've chosen the most special one.

To me, this is what being born Gay is all about—love, that single most powerful force in all the world. There is nothing worth having beside it—nothing of any value, anyway, nothing that I would want. Compared to love, all else is sham.

The ignorant and the bigoted define Gay people by sex. That's silly. What really defines us is love itself.

This is what the volunteers at MAP and the Brady Street Clinic know—and put into practice every day of the week. And that's what I wish to you all this Valentine's Day: love, a cup full to overflowing of Heaven's Gold.

Letters

Let There be Bibles

TO THE EDITOR:

Al Geiersbach in a recent letter to Light, objected to Robert Braun's request to distribute the Bible at PrideFest. Geiersbach's argument was based on the premise that the Bible has been used to support slavery and the denigration of African-Americans (and to condemn homosexuality). Although the Bible is the book of Pat Robertson, it was also the book of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.! Neither Blacks nor Gays have anything to fear from the message of the Bible; it should not be repressed at PrideFest.

My recommendation to the PrideFest Council is to permit Braun "his day" on "our turf"—with either of two caveats: 1. Distribute with no supporting homophobic literature or, preferably, 2. Distribute it with a one page Braun statement accompanied by a one page statement supporting "our" position.

Our statement would be drawn on the work of such scholars as the late John Boswell, former Chairman of the Yale History Department; Peter Gomes, the preacher to Harvard University; James B. Nelson, a Professor of Christian Ethics at United Theological Seminary, Twin Cities; and Virginia Ramey Mollenkott, a Professor of English at the William Paterson College of New Jersey.

I am sure that MCC's Lew Broyles (and/or I) could draft such a one page document. We are not afraid of the truth.

The Bible, through 20th Century exegeses, is NOT homophobic (or anti-African-American). Jesus is quoted (John 8:32) as saying that it is only through knowing the truth that we can be set free.

Bob Moore
Milwaukee



Deadlines

February 13th Issue

Articles Friday, February 7th

Ads - February 10th

5:00 p.m.

February 27th Issue

Articles—February 21st

Ads—February 24th

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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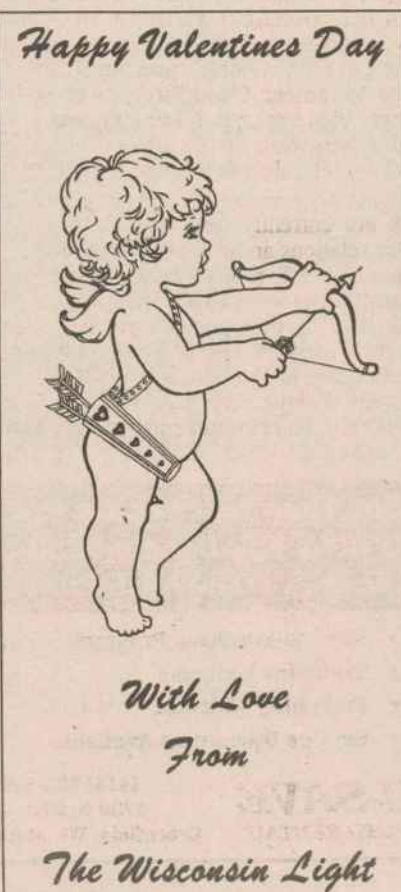
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News from the L/G/B/T Community Center Project; Next Town Hall on February 15

By Jim Schleif and Karen Gotzler

Milwaukee—The Community Center Steering Committee has moved into its "interim phase" with the continued diversification of its structure and volunteers. R. Rodgers and Leonel Marchan have joined the center's efforts in co-chair roles with Karen Gotzler and Jim Schleif.

The community is encouraged to attend the next **Town Hall meeting on Saturday, February 15 at 3:00 p.m. at UWM's Union Rm. E240** to learn more about the planning and unveiling of the feasibility results. Please plan ample time for parking.

Four new committees, bylaws, diversity/youth, search and strategic planning have been formed which will take the center into its final organizing and structural stage.

The **Bylaws Committee**, being organized by Denise Wise and Neil Albrecht, will be drafting bylaws for the final board of directors. The bylaws will be approved by the community at a town hall meeting this spring.

The **Diversity/Youth Committee**, co-chaired by Naomi Guzman and Edward Carr, will begin early planning stages of programming for the center and continue to provide leadership around the issues of diversity and youth. The diversity committee is currently planning an outreach evening in the next two weeks to continue to gather surveys from people of color.

The **Strategic Planning Committee**, co-chaired by Bill Dempsey and Debbie Weills will be responsible for writing the final business plan, synthesizing the information gathered by all committees and release the final report to the community in approximately sixty days. The building search will begin

after the final document is released.

The **Feasibility Committee**, co-chaired by Mark Street and Nancy Snow, launched its final data collection effort on November 17 with a targeted survey mailing to more than 200 organizations and businesses.

The comprehensive survey, developed by Gwen Kibbe, Nancy Doughty and their subcommittees, will gather critical data for potential users, renters and supporters of the LGBT Community Center.

To date, sixty of the surveys have been returned. The surveys have already identified six possible renters. Volunteers will continue phone follow-up through January.

The organizations and business survey efforts are to augment the data collected from 1,600 individuals (chaired by Henrik Christensen).

Ralph Serpe, executive director of the Billy De Frank Center for Lesbians and Gays in San Jose, California visited Milwaukee this past November and called Milwaukee's feasibility committee's efforts "the most comprehensive in the country." No other effort in the country has secured as much input as Milwaukee in order to launch the opening of a community center," said Serpe.

The results of the feasibility survey will be unveiled at this upcoming Town Hall meeting and will be published in early spring. All feasibility efforts are volunteer.

The **Finance Committee**, co-chaired by Larry Stocks and Gwen Kibbe, reports healthy fiscal standings and a positive cash flow.

"The Center is under budget thanks to the generosity of many in-kind donors," said Stocks. Special thanks to the **Cream City Foundation** (our fiscal agents) and our sisters at **LAMM** for their generous recent contribution of \$248, proceeds from their recent Creating Change Gay'la at the Hilton.

The **Fund Raising Committee**, co-chaired by Julie Ellsworth and Patrick Flaherty, is in the process of creating a two-year integrated plan that incorporates a membership drive, public dollars, contributions from private local, regional and national foundations, corporations, special events, and major gifts.

It appears that membership will be a major focus of sustaining operating dollars, especially as the center gets off the ground. In addition to membership, fund raising efforts and rental income will be crucial to the survival of the center.

The committee is currently investigating membership structures and fund raising programs of other local and national community centers. A founding members program intends to be launched this Spring.

It is important to stress that the current L/G/B/T Community Center project is a community-based volunteer effort to establish a community center. There are currently no fund raising or building fund efforts. The Community Center does plan to fund raise in 1997 to sustain the operations and eventual programming once the center opens.

The Steering Committee and Fund Raising Committee feel it is critical and responsible to develop a fund raising plan with targeted goals before we approach the community for support.

The **Public Relations Committee**, co-chaired by Wendy Radish and Mike Phillips, is currently gathering names from the "Name the Center Contest" (launched this past December). The top ten names will be returned to the community for final votes at the next town hall meeting. Watch for ads, posters and volunteer outreach evenings for your chance to vote. Voting closes April 13.

The **Volunteer Committee**, co-chaired by Esther Altergott and Naomi Guzman, will hold a gathering on Saturday, February 1, 1997 for all volunteers (there are fifty!) who are currently working on the project. Volunteers are currently needed to serve on the public relations and volunteer committee.

The L/G/B/T project is gathering major momentum as we enter the final stages. This is an exciting time to get involved! Please call us at (414) 483-4710 to join our efforts. Please come to the next town hall meeting, Saturday, February 15 at UWM Rm. E-240 at 3:00 p.m. to learn more about our community and future center.

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Dignity Milwaukee Celebrates Twenty-Two Years of Service

Milwaukee—Dignity/Milwaukee celebrates twenty-two years of service to the GLBT community on Sunday, February 9, 1997. Dignity will host a mass of celebration at St. Pius X (2506 N. 76th St.), to be followed by a social featuring a buffet at the church.

Dignity/Milwaukee is one of 85 chapters that make up Dignity/USA. According to chairperson Kevin Quader, "Dignity's mission is to foster better relations between the GLBT Roman Catholics and the Roman Catholic Church. To do this, we work toward showing the Church that homophobia within the Church tarnishes her record of social justice. We strive to help individuals and the Church to see and understand the gifts that GLBT people bring to the Church in our Gayness."

This year's theme is: We Are Called; We Are Chosen In Our Diversity; We Are Sent Forth To Minister.

Quader continued, "We counter homophobia in the Church, in society, and within ourselves by seeing the face of Jesus in the face of each person. We are commissioned to spread this Gospel entrusted to us. Locally, we have never had a large membership, however, over the years, we have served thousands in integrating their sexuality with their spirituality. We are proud of the many members that serve the GLBT and Catholic communities."

For seventeen years, Dignity has worshipped at St. Pius X every Sunday at 6:00 p.m. All are invited to the anniversary. For more information, call Joe at (414) 873-9591.

L/G/B/T Community Center Town Hall to Release Feasibility Results

Milwaukee—One of the moments we've all been waiting for is the culmination and announcement of the nine month individual feasibility survey results (organization and business results forth-coming).

Please join the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Steering Committee for this exciting town hall meeting scheduled for **February 15, 3:00 p.m. at UWM's Union Rm. E-240**. The meeting is being co-hosted by the LGBT Community at UWM who remind us to allow ample time for parking.

The results have identified the Center's future neighborhood, essential services, user demographics and in general, interesting information about our community and friends.

In addition, the public relations committee will be returning the top ten names from the "Name the Center" contest held in December to the community for votes.

After the town hall "launch", the top ten names will be posted in Gay-owned and Gay-friendly businesses along with ballots to allow the entire community to vote on the final name. Deadline for all votes to be returned is April 13, 1997.

The Center's 1997 six month projected budget will also be ratified at the town hall.

For more information, please write the LGBT Community Center; P.O. Box 92722; Milwaukee, WI; 53202 or call the hotline at (414) 483-4710.

L/G/B/T Community Center Project To Launch Final Name Contest

Milwaukee—What's in a name? We want you to tell us! The community center's development plans are progressing rapidly and now we are ready to put a name to it all. To select the final name, the public relations committee will be returning to the community the top ten names submitted to the "Name the Center Contest" this past December.

This is your chance to vote on the name you want on your center. Look for posters and ballots at Gay-owned and Gay-friendly businesses. Let your voice be heard.

Please mail your votes to: LGBT Community Center; P.O. Box 92722; Milwaukee, WI; 53202 or call the hotline with your vote at (414) 483-4710. One vote per person. Your entry is needed by April 13, 1997 (extended deadline).

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HRL Seeks Nominations for Annual Awards

Milwaukee—The Human Rights League for Lesbians and Gays (HRL) is seeking nominations for the annual Cream City Brick Awards. Nominations are due by February 15, 1997. Presentations will be made at HRL's annual meeting during the last week in February.

Originally created by the Cream City Business Association (CCBA), in the early 1980's, these awards have been given almost every year, first by CCBA and then by HRL.

For work in 1996, there are eight categories:

- Torch Bearer Award—given to a non-Gay or Lesbian identified person or group that has advanced understanding and acceptance of the LGBT community;
- Pace Setter Award—given to a Lesbian, Bisexual or Gay person(s) who have promoted our community in a positive fashion;
- Group Spirit Award—given to a Lesbian, Bisexual or Gay group or organization whose efforts establish or promote our community in a positive fashion;
- Spotlight Award—given to a media person(s), department or station or paper whose coverage best promotes understanding and/or acceptance of our community;
- Groundwork Award—given to a business which has made a significant contribution to the GLBT community;
- President's Award—given to a person(s) whose service to our community has been above and beyond the call of duty;
- Bridge Award—given to a person(s) who has acted as a "bridge" between the LGBT community and the broader community by initiating programs or projects through his or her professional life that address LGBT needs and issues;
- Ambassador Award—given to a LGBT person(s) who has made an outstanding, significant and long-term contribution in the area of human rights, demonstrating the highest principles of HRL and representing our responsibility to participate as active citizens in a diverse world.

Nominations should include a description of the reasons for your nomination of the person, group or business and identify which award you wish to nominate them for. Nominations should include the name(s) and telephone number(s) of the person making the nomination.

Nominations should be mailed to: Human Rights League, PO Box 92674, Milwaukee, WI 53202. For more information, call Karen at (414) 264-4354.

Richard Strong Lives Up to His Name When it Comes to Waging War Against AIDS

By Lynn Heimbruch

Milwaukee—Silent is not an adjective used to describe Richard Strong, systems and projects consultant in Compliance and Sales Practices at Northwestern Mutual Life (NML). His dedicated efforts on behalf of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW) are well known within the community, ARCW and NML.

Strong was nominated for the NML Employee Community Service Award by Meridee Maynard, vice president of Annuities and Accumulation Product Marketing. This is the first year NML is handing out these prestigious awards to 12 employees as well as contributing \$65,000 to non-profit organizations in the names of the award winners.

"In addition to raising a lot of money, Richard's involvement with AIDS Walk Wisconsin has increased awareness of HIV and AIDS issues along with educating NML employees," said Maynard.

"I first became involved with AIDS Walk Wisconsin five years ago when it was one of the Mutual Friends volunteer projects," said Strong. "At the time, I was a typical Generation Xer, drifting for a cause to support that meant something to me. I had lost several friends to AIDS, so getting involved with the Walk made sense for me."

For the 1996 Walk, Strong served as co-chairman of outreach, recruiting as well as organizing and facilitating meetings to increase awareness of the event. During the four months preceding the Walk, he volunteered about 30 hours per week. He also coordinated NML's "Team for Life," comprised of 102 walkers and 55 volunteers.

His efforts paid off. On September 22, 1996, 12,600 walkers raised \$1,005,042 for agencies that provide AIDS-related education, research and patient services in Wis-



Richard Strong

consin. NML's "Team for Life" raised over \$16,000 and won first place team honors.

"Richard has become a community ambassador of AIDS Walk Wisconsin," said Doug Nelson, executive director of ARCW. "He has initiated many events to increase NML's team participation but has also been able to increase awareness of AIDS and HIV issues."

"The progress that is being made to cure this epidemic motivates me and keeps me involved," Strong said. "In 10 years, I hope we're done with our mission."

ARCW is the Midwest's largest private, non-profit AIDS service agency dedicated to the fight against the worsening AIDS epidemic through prevention, care, research and advocacy.

The author is Special Events/Public Relations at NML.

From Hawaii to Camp Sister Spirit, the Debate on Same-Sex Marriage Goes On

Honolulu—Same-sex marriage has been stamped a rush item in the state House after three years of long debates.

This time, the House Judiciary committee on January 22nd, has overwhelmingly approved a proposal for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage in the first week of the legislative session.

Rep. Ed Case was the only opposing vote after a 3 1/2-hour public hearing involving about 100 testifiers.

Members also voted unanimously to approve a bill giving certain benefits currently reserved for married couples to people who can't legally marry. But committee members had reservations regarding benefits that weren't included in the bill.

The constitutional amendment proposal defines marriage as between one man and one woman. It will require voter approval.

"The citizens of this state are the ultimate constitutional authority that the Constitution is an expression of their will, and not the will of any branch of government," Judiciary Chairman Terrance Tom.

The second proposal for a "reciprocal beneficiaries" law would give people who cannot marry certain benefits—the right to visit and make health decisions for their partner, the right to hold property as joint tenants, the right to sue for wrongful death and rights of inheritance.

Rep. Cynthia Thielen said she thought health benefits should have been included, but Tom said the financial impact of health benefits were still too obscure.

The Rev. Marc Alexander, executive director of the Hawaii Catholic Conference, said his group which represents 230,000 Catholics is open to the idea of giving certain benefits to unmarried couples. But he criticized possibilities of giving any more benefits to unmarried couples.

"The language and effect of this bill is to establish a category which is parallel to marital status in all but name," Alexander said.

Same-sex marriage advocates said, as they've said in previous hearings, that plans for a constitutional amendment could take away one of their civil rights.

"I would have hoped that this Legislature would not be the first in the history of this state to take the unprecedented step to make individual rights subject to popular referendum," said Dan Foley, the attorney for the three same-sex couples suing the state for denying them marriage licenses.

If the constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage is eventually approved by the Legislature, the public would vote on it in 1998.

Tom is trying to resolve the same-sex marriage issue early this session. He scheduled a hearing on the emotionally charged issue just one week after the session began.

But the issue could still be held up.

Foley said the issue will become most pertinent when the Senate and the House compromise on the issue later in the session.

The Senate has made no announcements that it will be rushing the same-sex marriage issue, but has introduced similar bills.

Circuit Judge Kevin Chang ruled following a September trial that the state failed to show a compelling public reason to keep Gay couples from marrying.

The state has appealed the decision to the Hawaii Supreme Court, which ruled in 1993 that the state's refusal to give same-sex couples marriage licenses violated the state Constitution's provision against gender discrimination.

Mississippi

The Mississippi House Constitution Committee approved an amendment Wednesday, January 22nd, that would ban Gay couples from marrying.

The amendment would also bar the state from recognizing same-sex marriages that are performed in other states.

The committee approved the resolution with no debate. The next vote is in the full House.

If the House and Senate approve the resolution, the issue will go to a statewide vote in November, 1998.

Rep. John Reeves, R-Jackson, wanted the issue put to voters during city elections later this year, saying it would have more "punch" because of recent interest in the issue.

The committee decided to wait until 1998, when the next statewide election is held.

Camp Sister Spirit

Brenda and Wanda Henson said they don't need a piece of paper from the state to affirm their relationship, but they feel the state should give them the right to wed.

Testimony from the Lesbian couple highlighted a tense public hearing Thursday, January 23rd, on a state constitutional ban of same-sex marriages.

"We are in love and have been waiting for almost 13 years for this basic human right, the right to marry," Wanda Henson said, her voice breaking. "The decision to get married must belong to the couple who is in love. This decision is not a decision for the state to make."

The subcommittee endorsed the ban, setting up a vote in the Constitution Committee. One member, Rep. Willie Bailey, D-Greenville, said the courts will eventually determine Gays' rights.

"I don't think we can prevent same sex marriages in this country," he said.

Forest Thigpen, president of the Mississippi Family Council, told the subcommittee that "no one in this state should be required to recognize relationships that they consider immoral."

Brenda Henson, who cried quietly during the testimony at the capitol, told the all-male

subcommittee to be more open-minded.

"There are Gays and Lesbians in each of your families," she said. "They're afraid to tell you. They have to change the pronouns when they come up at Christmas time."

Exchanges between the Hensons, who have an educational center for women called Camp Sister Spirit in Ovett, and lawmakers were at times combative.

"More Mississippians are concerned by this issue than you may believe," Rep. Mark Formby, R-Picayune, told the couple. "The other side appears to be in the majority."

"I am here asking you to listen with a heart that has not been hardened by homophobia and heterosexual superiority," Wanda Henson said.

She said she knows of many Gay couples in Mississippi who want to wed.

Rep. John Reeves, (R-Jackson), chairman of the subcommittee, said if the Legislature changes the law and not the constitution, Gay couples may sue.

"It is going to take about as long for the governor's ink to dry for some state judge to find that it (law) violated the state's constitution," he said.

Rep. Robert Clark, (D-Ebenezer), who cast the sole vote against the resolution, said he religiously opposes marriages between people of the same sex, but "this governmental body has no business messing with this issue."

"This constitutional amendment is mean-spirited because it targets Lesbian and Gay Mississippians for discrimination," Wanda Henson said. "Don't you think a constitutional amendment is overkill? Is that what we deserve for living our lives with integrity?"

The Rev. Carl Matthews-Naylor, pastor of a Jackson church, said he and his companion of 28 years "have jumped through all kind of legal loopholes, at great expense" to have rights similar to married couples.

Maine

Gov. Angus King has suggested that he would not oppose a citizen initiative to bar recognition of same-sex marriage in Maine, despite his concern that the effort may be constitutionally flawed.

King's comments came Tuesday, January 21st, as Concerned Maine Families filed what it said were 62,157 signatures with elections officials. If verified, the petitions would force a referendum on the same-sex marriage ban unless it wins approval in the Legislature.

The initiative is an outgrowth of a 1993 ruling by the Hawaii supreme court that said it might violate that state's Constitution to deny marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

The Concerned Maine Families proposal includes language declaring that "persons of the same sex may not contract marriage." It also would require the state to refuse to recognize such marriages performed in other states.

Critics of the initiative have maintained that same-sex marriages are not legally recognized in Maine now and that the Hawaii case has not yet reached a final resolution making legislative action in Maine at least premature.

King partially allied himself with that view telling reporters he believed it was "unfortunate having to deal with this because it's not at this point very much of a live issue."

Nonetheless, even while saying he was unfamiliar with the specifics of the Maine initiative, King declared that he "would be inclined to sign it" if it were passed by the Legislature.

King heavily qualified his remarks, however, adding that not only had he not seen the initiative or determined how it would work, he would want to hear a full debate about it before making a final decision.

King, moreover, volunteered that he perceived "an issue of whether a state can do something like this," given constitutional language promoting state-to-state cooperation.

"Clearly this would end up in the Supreme Court," King said.

In sketching his attitude toward the initiative, King noted that he had been a strong supporter of Gay civil rights legislation aimed at outlawing discrimination against homosexuals in a number of areas.

In 1995, Concerned Maine Families spearheaded an unsuccessful campaign to restrict Gay rights in Maine.

A multi-issue public opinion survey released January 22nd by Strategic Marketing Services in Portland found 56 percent of Maine citizens favoring, and 42 percent opposing, a ban on same-sex marriages and a refusal to recognize such marriages performed in other states.

Survey authors said the results were based on interviews with 450 citizens statewide between Jan. 9-14 and carried a statistical margin of error ranging from plus or minus 7.7 percent to 8.3 percent.

The survey authors said this month's findings were similar to those in the organization's October 1996 poll.

AIDS Quilt Display

Delavan, WI—On Thursday, February 13th, and continuing through Sunday, February 15th, the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display at the Delavan-Darien High School. There is no admission fee and the display is open to the public.

For more information, call Jody Hart at (414) 728-3168 or Ellen Reddy at (414) 728-6518.

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Best Lesbian Erotic 1997, edited by Tristan Taormino, Cleis Press Pb \$12.95

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Two Hearts Desire: Gay Couples on Their Love, edited by Michael Lassell & Lawrence Schmel, St. Martin's Press HC \$12.00

February Special

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Obituary

Richard Ness

Richard Ness died on January 15, 1997 at approximately 10:45 p.m. in Milwaukee. He was 51.

Richard a partner in Trio Travel, a small agency that arranged many trips for those in the community who wanted to "get away from it all." He was invariably friendly, a soft-spoken man, with a shy twinkle in his clear, bright eyes.

Richard was partnered for 14 years with Izak Kolodny.

Richard was close to his family, two brothers, Kenneth of Racine and sister-in-law Susan, Jerry of California, one sister, Deborah Case, her husband, Ray, his god-daughter Jenny, and his mother, Margaret. He will be sorely missed by nieces, nephews and cousins.

Richard had suffered some setbacks of late. He'd been mugged and his leg was broken. His car had been stolen. Things, however were looking up. His leg was healing nicely and he expected to have to wear the cast only a short time more.

The night of his death, he was cheerful, sitting, talking with friends when he suffered an apparent heart attack.

While someone called 911, a young man named Ken went to his side. With a tender compassion I have seldom seen, Ken held Richard in his arms to calm and comfort him.

Later, I would ask Ken if he were a nurse. He told me no, that he worked for a taxi company.

The paramedics arrived in less than two minutes and did everything they could. Twice, they lost him. Twice, they brought him back. The rest of us stood, hoping that everything would be alright, but unable to help. There was nothing we could do.

A man named Jerry said, "Its frightening to be confronted with your own mortality, isn't it?" All the rest of us could do was to nod in agreement.

There was hope. Richard had been revived. He was put on a stretcher and taken to Sinai Samaritan Hospital. One of us called later and was told that he had died.

In life, Richard was a beautiful person, serving the community in every way that he could.

In his dying, he served those of us around him, too. He taught us that young or old, rich or poor, death reaches out to take us all. We don't pick our time or place. That is up to something greater than ourselves.

Ken taught us too that it makes no difference what credentials you have or your status in life. When someone has need of you, it is your heart that must respond and respond spontaneously. It's what's in your heart that counts.

Richard will be sadly missed by those of us privileged to know him.

There will be a memorial service for Richard on Saturday, February 1st at This Is It, 418 E. Wells Street in Milwaukee, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

In Celebrating February as Black History Month, Remember to Include Gay People

Commentary by Bernard Tarver

In case it has escaped your attention, February is Black History Month. For more than 20 years now, the shortest month of the year has been set aside as the month when mainstream (read White) America recognizes the contributions of its Black citizens.

I don't know about the remaining eleven months, but turn on your television set in February and you'll see no shortage of 30 second featurettes on African-American historical figures, done by local school children.

If you watch during prime time, you will see more slickly produced ones sponsored by McDonald's, AT&T or Coca-Cola. With Madison-Avenue-like conciseness, you may actually believe you've learned something.

Now it wasn't always this way. Years ago, you couldn't even find this much information. I can recall when February meant getting either Washington's or Lincoln's birthday off (they always alternated) and exchanging cards on Valentine's Day, a custom I never really embraced. In fact, when I was in elementary school, way back in the '60's and '70's, there really was no such thing as Black History, not in school at any rate.

My American history texts made ample reference to the aforementioned presidents, as well as other great Europeans and their descendants; like Columbus, who supposedly discovered America (despite the presence of indigenous people); Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, countless Kings and Queens of England, France, Italy and Spain, religious figures, generals, dictators, inventors, captains of industry, you name it. Yet none of them were Black.

In fact, my Black classmates and I sat patiently waiting for the Civil War to break out before we read of any Black contribution to history. "Slaves were brought from Africa..." or some similar quote, was usually the way we were introduced to our heritage.

When we read about European royalty, my White classmates sat up with pride. As we read about slavery, my Black classmates and I, felt the unease of knowing our ancestors had been bought and sold and that we had no knowledge of our connection to specific tribes or regions of Africa.

After the slavery reference, Black people disappeared, only to pop up again in the 1950's with the Civil Rights movement. Since much of that was still being written at the time, you can imagine how scant the information was.

Having one's culture marginalized and pushed to the edges of our consciousness, can have a damning effect on the self-esteem of young children. It is often said that to know where you are going, you must know where you've been. Denied any sense that our people had a rich history too, many of my classmates questioned the value of their own lives.

Unaware that the bones of the oldest known human being on the planet Earth were found on the continent of Africa, indicating that this is where civilization began; that we too had Kings, Queens, explorers and inventors in our past; and that African descendants have a 500 year experience in the Western hemisphere, many young Black children exist only in the present, unable to dream of the future.

As I've come to realize over the course of 36 years, there is a marked difference between writing the history of this country, and writing the history books. Much of this nation's past has been chronicled by those with selective memory; "revisionist history" long before the term was even popular.

So why should anyone other than Black people care about Black History Month? Look at what I wrote two paragraphs above. "To know where you are going, you must know where you've been." Couple that with, "He who fails to learn from history is doomed to repeat it."

So many of the problems facing the country today, we've faced before. Unemployment, homelessness, inadequate health care and disease, are not new problems. Developing solutions that take into account the needs of everyone, black, white, brown and yellow, is a new challenge, and one requiring a greater depth of knowledge and sensitivity.

A perfect case in point is the AIDS epidemic. While treatment, education and outreach programs aimed at the White Gay male population have led to a discernible decrease in the spread of the disease among that population, AIDS is on the rise among Black Gay men, and Black women.

Existing programs have been slow to address that specific segment of the population, either out of indifference or a basic lack of understanding on how to effectively reach these people.

Black history, like Gay history, is American history, and to move forward as a nation, we need to recognize and value the contributions of all of our citizens. This month is not just a time for Black people to learn more about our own culture, but for others to learn as well, and in so doing, allow us all to build the bridges that will enable us to work toward common goals.

Now I'm not so idealistic as to believe that we will all break out in a chorus of "We Are the World", but I do believe mutual respect among people of differing backgrounds is an attainable goal. But that can only come about through learning about each other's culture.

Now I'd be remiss if I didn't make one final point about Black History Month. I am critical of the Euro-centric nature of my early history books, but I'm no less critical of the selective research done by some of our Black historians. I thirsted for images of myself in those other books, and I continue to with these, but for a different reason.

You see, some Black historians would have you believe that all the noteworthy people were heterosexual. Well now that just ain't so.

While it is difficult to find accurate references concerning the sexual orientation of Black achievers from the distant past, some things are known and have been carefully researched and chronicled.

Just a few worth mentioning: Benjamin Banneker, self-taught mathematician, astronomer and inventor who designed Washington, D.C.; Josephine Baker, the chorus girl who rose to fame in the Folies Bergere in Paris.; Rev. James Cleveland, world-renowned gospel singer; Langston Hughes, the great writer from the Harlem Renaissance; Alberta Hunter, one of the last of America's original blues/jazz stars; Audre Lorde, world-renowned writer of prose and poetry, and Bayard Rustin, chief organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, and a aide to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Right in our community are two Black people who have made significant historical contributions, who also happen to be Lesbian and Gay; Barbara Smith, the founder and former publisher of *Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press*; and Keith St. John, Albany's Second Ward Alderman, and the first Black openly Gay elected official in the nation.

There's a lot you can learn in 29 days. But even more in 365.

Wisconsin HIV/AIDS Care Coalition Begins Lobbying Effort Opposing State Funding Plan

Milwaukee—In press conferences held January 14, in Madison and Milwaukee the newly formed Wisconsin HIV/AIDS Care Coalition (WHACC) announced its opposition to a proposed Request for Proposals (RFP) by the state Department of Health & Family Services (HFS).

The press conference, attended by more than forty (40) members of the Coalition, began an intensive lobbying effort by agencies and individuals that say want to see a more open and competitive process than that proposed by the Department.

"This RFP is designed to funnel all of the state and federal funds to a handful of agencies without any competitive safeguards," stated WHACC spokesman Tim Russell, "To ensure that the best and most effective programs are funded, we are asking HFS to change their proposal to create an open and competitive grants process."

In a copy of its letter to the Division of Health obtained by *Wisconsin Light*, WHACC suggests that a delay of up to six months may be necessary to make the needed changes. In its letter, the Coalition also states five major points of opposition to the plan as presented by HFS. They are as follows:

The four year funding cycle is too long.
With significant advances and changes in treatment options occurring almost monthly and ongoing research into prevention methods constantly developing, it is vital that a short funding cycle be used to force programmatic evaluation and adjustment as necessary to keep up with these changes.

We also understand the need for some stability in funding and a desire to keep the administrative costs of provider agencies to a minimum.

Therefore we would suggest a biennial funding cycle to match that of the Department (and the rest of State government).

The responsibilities are too large to allow real competition.

This system is not designed to foster healthy competition and, in fact, seems designed to present only the illusion of competition. There are no agencies, with the exception of one in each region, that would be able to meet all of the requirements of this proposal within the stated time frames.

As previously stated, we believe that true competition can better the services and the service provision system.

So as to foster such healthy competition, we recommend that funding be allocated within each of five regions in each of the four categories outlined in the RFI (specifically HIV Care & Treatment, General HIV Prevention, Minority HIV Prevention, and Intensified HIV Outreach Counseling & Testing).

Program evaluation by program users is essential.

Proven to be one of the best ways to gauge the efficacy of programs funded for care and

prevention is talking to the users of these programs. It is also important that these program participants be randomly selected from the universe of all participants in order to ensure greater objectivity in their evaluation, not simply selected by the agency whose programs they will be commenting upon.

We suggest that independent "Consumer Advisory Panels" be convened and utilized by the Department for program evaluations.

Anonymous testing data.
Presently all funding formulae for HIV/AIDS funds use only results from name associated testing to determine the number and location of HIV/AIDS cases.

This method leaves out a huge number of tests and a large number of positive results. Many who utilize anonymous testing centers are people who exhibit a much higher incidence of risk behaviors, thus being in much greater need of direct intervention and prevention activities. The largest number of these people would not use name associated testing centers and therefore not be so easily accessed for prevention efforts if testing were not anonymous.

We have determined that an appropriate method of including anonymous test results for the purpose of allocating funding is necessary.

Fiscal agents should not have a direct interest in funding.

Two very different skill sets are necessary to effectively provide HIV/AIDS services and to serve as fiscal agents for the dispersal of funds through sub contracts to other agencies as fiscal agent.

We believe that service providers should be encouraged to concentrate on their programs and that an independent fiscal agent should be used by the Department to administer funds to AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs) and to administer the subcontracts of those ASOs with other community based agencies.

Furthermore, having the present ASO for a region acting as fiscal agent effectively prevents any agency presently sub contracting with that ASO from independently participating in the grants process for fear of losing its contract with the existing ASO or suffering other reprisals.

We encourage the use of independent fiscal agents for the administration of grants contracts and sub contracts.

WHACC said that it has more than 175 signatures from people and organizations that are supporting their call for changes in the proposal to distribute nearly \$4 million of state and federal funds for AIDS care and prevention.

The Coalition was formed in 1997 to respond to the Division of Health's request for public comment on the DOH plan.

AIDS Briefs

No AIDS Cure Anytime Soon

Washington-AP—Despite researchers' high hopes, one year of drug therapy has failed to rid newly infected men of HIV, so a highly publicized attempt at an AIDS cure will have to continue for at least another year.

The doctors have found evidence that the virus remains hidden in the lymph glands after they had hoped it would be gone.

"Has HIV been eradicated from any of our patients? The answer is unequivocally no," Dr. David Ho of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York said.

The experiment has produced more promising evidence that the AIDS virus can be vastly knocked down by aggressive treatment, but the researchers say it is too soon to know whether an AIDS cure is even possible.

Combinations of drugs that include medicines called protease inhibitors can stop the AIDS virus from making new copies of itself. The researchers theorized that after a year, all infected cells would have died off, leaving the body completely free of HIV.

However, they worried that infected cells might remain hidden, perhaps in the lymph nodes or the brain.

The experiment involved 24 volunteers who began receiving the drugs within three months of catching HIV. The plan was to treat them for one year, then stop the drugs and check their lymph nodes for the virus.

Ho outlined the results so far at the opening session of the annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections.

Four patients have dropped out of the study, and the rest have taken the drugs for periods ranging from seven to 16 months.

All signs of HIV have disappeared from the patients' bloodstreams, even using the most sensitive tests that can detect as few as 25 copies of the virus in each milliliter of blood.

The virus has also vanished from the men's semen, raising the possibility that they may not be able to spread the disease sexually.

However, tissue samples removed from five of the patients' digestive tracts turned up evidence of viral genes still hiding inside lymph cells of three of them. Ho said these copies of the virus may be defective and unable to reproduce.

Nonetheless, the doctors will continue the treatment for at least another year to allow more time for infected cells in the lymph system to slowly die off.

South African AIDS Cure Disputed

Johannesburg, South Africa-AP—Three South African scientists told South Africa's Cabinet on Wednesday, January 22, they had developed a new drug that kills the AIDS virus and can reverse the effects of full-blown AIDS.

But other scientists questioned their claims and criticized the South Africans for going public with their findings without first subjecting them to peer review, a standard practice in publishing research.

They also expressed concern that the drug, called Virodene P058, was tested on 12 people, apparently without first going through laboratory and animal trials.

Miller and Dr. Robin Gorna of the Higgins Trust, a British-based international AIDS organization, cautioned that the findings were questionable.

The South African team, in presenting its findings to President Nelson Mandela's Cabinet, asked for more money to continue their work.

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Politically Speaking

Hypocrisy Reigns Supreme in Congress

Commentary by Bill Meunier

Once again it is business as usual in Washington with Congressional Republicans showing even more than their usual quota of hypocrisy.

In 1994, when the Republicans captured Congress, many Americans hoped that they would finally see some changes in the way the government does business. Guess again.

ITEM: The GOP announces that Congressman J.C. Watts of Oklahoma will give the Republican response to President Bill Clinton's State of the Union address. Watts scored a big fat zero on the Human Rights Campaign score card. He even refused to say that he wouldn't discriminate against Gays and Lesbians in his own hiring practices. So much for the party of the big tent.

By the way, we have yet to hear of any protests over this selection coming from the Log Cabin Club. Big shock there eh?

ITEM: House Speaker Newt Gingrich gets a slap on the wrist for this twisted version of our tax code. In an unbelievable turn of events, the House actually bought into Gingrich's claim that he didn't know you can't use a tax exempt foundation for political purposes.

If Newt Gingrich really didn't know this, then he is not qualified to be the Speaker. Perhaps the House should require its members to take a High School Civics classes so they can learn about the system they are supposed to be running.

If he did know (and he undoubtedly did) then he should be booted out, not just of the Speakers chair but the House itself.

Gingrich claimed he got bad legal advice. Yeah sure. Every activist around the country knows that you can't use a tax exempt group for political purposes and most of them don't have lawyers. Strange that despite these claims, Gingrich retains the same legal team that he had while making a mockery of our tax laws.

ITEM: After acting suitably contrite on the House floor over his actions, Gingrich went home and told his constituents that he had done nothing wrong. The gospel according to Newt is that he was singled out because he is a conservative.

Gingrich also claimed that the real blame lied with the media, his lawyers, and of course the liberals. So much for "heart felt apologies."

ITEM: Revelations of political fund raising plans being devised at the White House have several Congressional committees, panting to get at more investigations of the Clinton White House.

What clap trap. Up to this point the only person charged with, let alone jailed for, soliciting illegal campaign contributions is a Dole operative. If these guys were really interested in campaign reform they would start by investigating the Dole campaign.

Don't hold your breath waiting for the investigation of Republican (and some Democratic) House members accepting contributions from big polluters and then voting against renewal of the Clean Air Act either.

What really bothers the GOP is that Clinton outsmarted them. It is their party that brought us to this new level of lows in American politics.

It was George Bush who attacked Mike Dukakis with the infamous (and unfair) Willie Horton ad. Now Republicans complain about Clinton's Medicare ad.

It was the Republican Senate leadership who held up the Feingold-McCain Campaign Reform act. Now they act sanctimonious about supposed Democratic abuses.

What really bothers them is the fact that Clinton has broken their monopoly on getting support from the wealthy. Yes, he used the White House to do this. But as a middle class Democrat from the South he had no choice.

Unlike Mr. Dole, Bill Clinton was not connected to the Gallos and other wealthy families whose water he had carried for years.

Unlike the Republicans, Clinton could not call the 100 richest men in America "personal friends." What Clinton did in the White House, Republicans have been doing inside and outside of the White House for generations.

What was so wrong with it? Does anyone really believe that Republican occupants of the White House didn't invite big contributors to spend the night? Isn't the President entitled to meet with his supporters and personally thank them for their help?

Had he done this outside of the White House in say a hotel, you can imagine the outcry and investigations over the expense for security personnel, travel etc.

It should be noted that the Republicans still outspent the Democrats by around 40 million. Imagine what that figure would have been if Clinton had not acted.

But big money has always been a Republican weapon. They have used it to fool people into thinking that the Republican party is really on their side. They have used it to alienate those segments of the electorate who are not likely to support them.

The idea that the Democrats can do what the GOP has been doing for decades upsets them. Strategies like those employed by the Clinton campaign threaten the political balance of power.

The bottom line is that the next four years is likely to be more of the same things we saw in the last four with one exception. Of course they will have to find something to investigate Al Gore over because he is the likely Democratic nominee in 2000.

While the Republicans in Congress practice this hypocrisy, the budget continues to be unbalanced, more drugs are brought into and sold in America, the balance of trade is still out whack, and America's Gays and Lesbians still don't have full civil rights.

Of course it's much easier to attack the President and launch meaningless investigations while covering up your own abuses than it is to take on America's real problems.

That's the thing about hypocrisy. What it really means is the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Hotel

Continued from Page 1

passed out anti-Gay literature while on duty.

As the Hotel burned on February 18, Fire Fighter Greer (who was off duty) stood with his children at the site and told the press that he didn't mind the Hotel burning down.

The debate began with testimony from Rev. Richard Pritchard. Pritchard likened homosexuality to alcoholism and drug addiction. He went on to say that he would like to help Gays recover. "Rather than spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to fund the homosexual life style, the money should be used to encourage homosexuals to overcome that behavior."

Greer told the Council "I think it is a misuse of tax payer dollars." Greer claimed that Gays live a "depraved and perverted lifestyle" adding "I think its irresponsible leadership to spend tax money on something that endangers people's lives" said Greer.

Greer went on to list his friends and relatives who he claimed are suffering from AIDS. Greer also claims to have friends who are "recovering homosexuals."

"If the Inn on the Park had burned down this discussion would have been over an hour ago, if it even ever got started."-Madison Mayor Paul Soglin.

During his testimony, Greer took issue with the decor of Rod's. He said that while he was a rookie Fire Fighter he was sent to bar for a bogus inspection by veteran Fire-Fighters. Greer said that while he was at Rod's he saw men's underwear hanging from the ceiling, posters of men in what he called provocative poses and a stuffed penis hanging over the bar.

In response to a question from Alderman Napoleon Smith, Greg Scheel said that while he may be guilty of bad decorating, the bar did operate within the law. Smith who is said to be gay questioned Scheel as to whether or not illegal pornography was shown at Rod's.

Opponents on the Council

The package was opposed by Aldermen Mike Ellestadt and Ron Reif. Ellestadt remained silent during the debate.

Prior to the debate Ellestadt had sent out a memo stating among other things that if the City funded the package it should also consider funding a children's sweatshop in Madison.

Reif offered an amendment that would have gutted the deal by requiring the Scheel's to put up additional money. Under Reif's amendment, the Scheels would have been required to put up 75% of the total funding for the rebuilding. The amendment was voted down on a voice vote.

Verveer took exception to Reif's comments. "Our normal procedure is to require that the developer put up 10% of the costs. If Alderman Reif's amendment had passed it would have busted the whole deal."

Verveer made an 15 minute speech in favor of the project. He argued that the Scheels were not getting special treatment and had been treated just as any other TIF applicant.

He also argued that unlike other projects which are supported only by developers, the Hotel had broad based support from throughout the community. "The Hotel is made up of more than bricks and mortar, he

said. "For twenty years, it was Madison's unofficial Gay and Lesbian community center. I know of no other project that would have gotten over 1,000 people to come out for a rally and memorial service the day after it had burned down."

Verveer told the Council that the project is a monument to one of Madison's greatest strengths, its tolerance for diversity.

A Bittersweet Victory

Verveer told *The Wisconsin Light*, "I don't think diversity or tolerance is part of Greer's or Pritchard's vocabulary."

Verveer went on to say that he was happy and relieved that his long fight to secure the HUD waiver, permits, and financing had finally come to a successful conclusion. He also told *The Wisconsin Light* that the debate "left a bittersweet taste in my mouth."

"I was happy that the package passed but angered over some of the comments made before the debate by Alderman Ellestadt and many of the comments made by Mr. Greer and Rev. Pritchard. I am disturbed about what I considered to be inappropriate questions asked by certain other members of the City Council."

Double Standard?

Verveer pointed out that just a few months ago, the Madison City Council unanimously approved a 6 million TIF package for an office building, Block 89. "None of my colleagues demanded that the developer have a 75% financing level. No one questioned the decor or the appropriateness of giving a TIF package to a non-industrial development. Nor was there any talk about attaching special conditions to the package. Yet during this debate, all of those things were raised. I am very disappointed with the double standard I witnessed."

Mayor Soglin Weighed In

Madison Mayor Paul Soglin was also upset and publicly took the Council to task for the attitudes of some of its members. Soglin said the opposition amounted to underhanded attempts to derail the hotel. Soglin told the Council "I think this has been one of the most shameful actions of this Council." He added "If the Inn on the Park had burned down this discussion would have been over an hour ago, if it even ever got started."

Ground Breaking Scheduled

Despite Ground breaking is scheduled for Monday February 17 at 5:00 PM. That date has special significance. It is the day before the first anniversary of the fire that destroyed the Hotel Washington. The public is welcome to attend.

For his part Greg Scheel is focusing on the soon to begin rebuilding. However, he took the time to tell *The Wisconsin Light* that he was grateful to both Alderman Verveer and Mayor Soglin. "Soglin was very eloquent. He really told it like it was."

For details on the ground breaking see the next issue of *"The Wisconsin Light."*

ARCW

Continued From Page 1

"I applaud all the agencies laboring in the fight against AIDS," Rhodes said. "Agencies such as the Brady St. Clinic which is known for its r positive outreach in the community especially in the area of HIV testing in the local bars and other locations," he said.

"This applause goes too," Rhodes added, "to the many, many other organizations in Wisconsin, such as St. Camillus who have worked and worked hard through the years to improve the quality of life for their clients with HIV and AIDS."

"All these agencies in our community help the quality of life of all people as well as those in the GLBT community," Rhodes concluded.

"I applaud the efforts that Doug Nelson and all the ARCW employees and volunteers have made through the past 8 years of my association with MAP (ARCW), said Tony Rhodes, President of the Cream City Foundation.

"Many clients have come and gone, unfortunately because of the epidemic proportions of the illness. However, today, more clients are living because of the advancements in AIDS and health care," Rhodes said, noting that their needs were great.

"Nelson and his staff, such as Mike Gifford and Paul Milakovich," Rhodes continued, "have led the struggle on a nationwide level for financial support, especially in the area of the Ryan White Care Act and the reappropriation and distribution of funds."

"These funds," Rhodes noted, "not only help ARCW but all AIDS agencies, not only here in Wisconsin but all over the nation. We continue to applaud ARCW's efforts, under the leadership of Doug Nelson, that has enabled the organization to continue to meet the needs of those with HIV/AIDS."

Ironically, according to *Light's* sources, it is precisely the success and strength of ARCW that makes it a heavyweight contender in the ASO competition. Yet, this success makes ARCW a prime target for attack in order to "even the playing field" in

the up-coming competition.

While ARCW's funding is substantial, Nelson contends that it turns over a high amount of funds to other HIV/AIDS organizations in the community. He reports that more than 75% of Ryan White Program funds in Milwaukee are slated for other community agencies.

In addition, the ARCW-produced AIDS Walk this year will likely generate more than \$160,000 for other organizations.

Compounding this dilemma for ARCW is its high profile role in public policy advocacy.

From its national fight for equity in Ryan White funding that won millions of dollars for Wisconsin, to its hard-fought, narrow victories to increase City of Milwaukee AIDS funding, and its state legislative lobbying which has scored several key funding victories over the years, ARCW has been remarkably successful in its advocacy.

Yet, it is this very success that is perceived by some as representing too much political clout. Some members of the newly created coalition contend that ARCW has had a heavy hand in writing the state Request for Proposals (RFP).

"I am amazed by that perception," Nelson said. "ARCW's relationship with the state has always been rather contentious because of our differences on policy and our belief that the government is not doing nearly enough to fight the AIDS epidemic."

"I am sure there have been a few laughs at the Division of Health about that charge," said Nelson.

Nelson seems resigned to the fact that the attacks on ARCW will continue throughout the competitive process, expressing an understanding of the political dynamics that are present.

"This is the first time since the beginning of the epidemic that there will be a competitive process to designate ASOs," Nelson explained. "I believe competition is good and I hope that it will be on a high level that will enrich the community and enhance AIDS services," Nelson said.

In spite of the initial negative rhetoric, Nelson expressed praise for ARCW's likely competitors.

"The Brady Clinic and St. Camillus make vitally important contributions to AIDS service here," said Nelson.

"They do wonderful work and their staff and volunteers are truly saints," Nelson said. "Regardless of the outcome of this competitive process, they will be essential to the continuing fight against AIDS in the future."

Rhodes agreed with Nelson concerning the great value of those fighting AIDS.

Collaborate

Continued from Page 1

care. Sponsored by the Camillian Priests and Brothers, the organization offers other speciality and community outreach programs, including a full continuum of HIV/AIDS care and services.

The Order of St. Camillus has carried out its health care mission for over 75 years in the Milwaukee community, and is recognized as a leading provider of continuing care and speciality programs.

Covenant Healthcare's integrated regional delivery system consists of five Milwaukee area hospitals, clinics, subacute and extended care facilities and physician, home health, behavioral health, assisted living and medical laboratory services. Covenant Healthcare is co-sponsored by the Felician and Wheaton Franciscan Sisters and is committed to a philosophy of respect for the dignity of all persons.

Have A Happy Valentines Day



Atlanta Comes Up With Innovative Housing Program for People With AIDS

Atlanta, GA—James Price wanted a roommate. Mark Germain needed a place to live.

Both valued their privacy. Each had a cat. Price and Germain had something else in common—HIV.

They are among 150 people in Atlanta who have been matched as roommates through a government-funded shared-housing program for people with HIV or AIDS.

"This allows people who are independent enough to live in a safe, stable environment, so they don't have to be institutionalized prematurely," said Rita Zadoff, director of the nonprofit roommate matching program Home But Not Alone. It is believed to be the only such program in the nation, according to the National Shared Housing Research Center.

Germain shared Price's three-story town house in suburban Decatur for more than a year. He died in June.

"You try real hard not to get too attached," Price said. "After he died, I thought I would take a break from it. I wasn't sure I wanted to have any more roommates. Let's face it—I'm looking at my own mortality."

Nationwide, the need for affordable housing for people with AIDS is on the rise, because more people are contracting the disease, medication is getting more expensive, and people are living longer, said Gerry Ansel, a spokesman with AIDS Project Los Angeles.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), estimates that between 650,000 and 900,000 people were living with HIV in 1995. The average lifetime cost of medical care after the disease is diagnosed is \$119,000, the CDC said.

Many communities are seeking ways to expand housing for people with AIDS beyond hospices and hospitals, which are costly and available only to those in the final stages.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has created a division,

Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS, to funnel money to such housing programs.

The Atlanta Jewish Community Center sponsors Home But Not Alone, which receives about \$45,000 a year in combined funding from HUD, the city of Atlanta, the United Way and several AIDS organizations.

The 2-year-old program is a spinoff of HOUSEMATES, a national home-sharing program that matches the elderly with younger roommates.

At least one person in the match must be HIV-positive. A doctor must verify the applicant has HIV, Zadoff said.

"We have a very private office. All our cabinets are locked. When we do reference checks, we never discuss the person's health," she said. "We sit down and kind of counsel them. We tell them this is an option that's cost-effective. If they're not ready or don't feel comfortable, we don't push them."

Several people who are not HIV-positive have taken roommates, but almost all want to be matched with someone who also has the AIDS virus, Zadoff said. There are few women and no children in the program.

"There's comfort there, knowing you're sharing the same frightening situation," said Price, who was diagnosed with having the AIDS virus in 1987. "You want to live with someone who knows the score."

Rent typically runs between \$350 and \$500 a month, Zadoff said.

Price, 49, has been living on disability checks and a modest retirement fund for more than five years. He used to advertise for roommates before he heard of Home But Not Alone.

"One of the first things I would tell them is that I was HIV-positive and ask them if that was going to be a problem. Most of the time, I never heard from them again," he said.

The former insurance claims adjuster said the rent he collects goes toward his mortgage payment and upkeep of the house.

signed to confuse, manipulate, and mobilize.

Editor's Note: The author is the Director

of the Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Celebrate Mardi Gras At Our Next SpotLight Party: Feb 9 at Mama Roux

Milwaukee— Did you miss out on all that great food being chowed down by Packer Fans at the Super Bowl in New Orleans? Don't fret dear, get ready to party, Mardi Gras Style at Gay Milwaukee's favorite Cajun Bar and Restaurant, Mama Roux, 1875 N. Humboldt.

Our next SpotLight Party will be a very special Mardi Gras celebration. It will be held on Sunday February 9 at the popular East Side neighborhood bar starting at 4:00 and lasting until ????

"Mama Roux is known for its Cajun cuisine so its natural that we would want to a Mardi Gras party at the bar," said Wisconsin Light's Dusty Sass, (who has been known to party with or without an excuse.)

As usual Mama and her crew will be pulling out all the stops. She's been cooking up a

storm for Mama Roux's special Mardi Gras menu (see ad on page 15 for a complete listing) consisting of delicious, delectable and AUTHENTIC New Orleans cuisine.

There will be free Miller Lite taps (of course) while they last. Mama is cooking her special Crawfish Boil for \$8.00. (In addition to the regular menu), plus a costume contest at 7:00, featuring some great prizes, drink specials and some great surprises.

Everyone will get some special Mardi Gras beads. Tradition says these beads are supposed to bring you good fortune and help you get through the Lenten Season.

So don't wait until fat Tuesday. Give your taste buds a treat, put on that wild costume and head down to Mama Roux to celebrate Mardi Gras like only your Mama knows how.

Become Informed About What You Need to Know About Same-Gender Marriage

Hawaii — Same-gender marriage is almost legal in Hawaii. We'll win in court. But we might lose at the ballot box. Our enemies are working overtime to kill our right to marry. We can win, and we need your help. Get the facts and find out how you can become part of this historic event.

What's the big deal about marriage?

Legal certification of marriage automatically confers hundreds of rights and benefits that are unavailable to couples who do not, or cannot, obtain a marriage license.

What is the legal basis for the marriage case in Hawaii?

Hawaii's state constitution is more generous than the U.S. Constitution because it contains an equal rights amendment forbidding discrimination "because of race, religion, sex, or ancestry". The Hawaii State Supreme Court ruled that the state's refusal to issue licenses to same-gender couples constitutes sex discrimination under this equal protection clause.

Is the case about marriage in the religious sense?

No, it's about the right to have a civil marriage license issued by the State of Hawaii. Many Jewish synagogues and churches are already performing same-gender marriages, including Quakers, Unity, Unitarian and Buddhist. But these marriages are not yet certified by the state.

Will all churches perform same-gender marriage?

No. The Hawaii court has already ruled that no religion or church will be obligated to perform marriage ceremonies that clash with its beliefs.

What civil rights are conferred by marriage?

Literally hundreds including:

- tax code benefits
- adoption and guardianship rights
- insurance benefits
- pension and social security benefits
- estate and transfer tax benefits
- immigration and naturalization benefits
- rights to make critical decisions and arrangements on behalf of ill or deceased partners

Won't Domestic Partnership do the same job?

Not at all. If marriage offers a banquet of benefits, then domestic partnership offers only a slice of pie. Domestic partnership benefits are not standardized, not transferable to other states, and they might not be recognized when the couple is traveling. The multitude of sought-after rights under federal and state laws, as well as those of employers and unions, are available only to couples who are married. Therefore, marriage is the only means to obtain all these rights.

Can my partner and I protect ourselves with wills, trusts and legal documents?

Not really. Wills and trusts have been

broken. Courts have ignored guardianship documents. And couples who postpone their legal paperwork might find the law regards them as legal strangers in times of crisis.

If I get married in Hawaii, will my marriage be legal in my home state?

Some states will recognize these marriages under the full faith and credit clause of the U.S. Constitution. Others will not. Just because a state passes a law saying it will not recognize same-gender marriage does not mean that law is constitutional.

Because recognition of other states' marriages is a federal issue, newlyweds can sue in their home states. Ultimately the cases will be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Hawaii is so far away. Why is legalization of same-gender marriage important to me?

It's a giant step in achieving equality under the law. Even if you don't have a partner or believe in marriage, prevailing in Hawaii will advance civil rights for all Gays and Lesbians. If the case fails, it might be a very long time before same-gender marriage is recognized in any state.

Hawaii's marriage case looks like a sure thing. What could stop it now?

Political and religious extremists are targeting Hawaii with well-funded campaigns. These groups want to amend the state constitution to specifically prohibit same-gender marriage.

Well-funded extremist groups have financed the campaigns of Hawaii's legislators opposed to our civil rights, and they have launched a public relations drive to sway public opinion against us. For months now these groups have run negative radio and television spots as well as large newspaper ads — with little paid media response from us. They have also directed a campaign of daily harassment of legislators who care about our rights.

Who are these guys?

We are up against the enormous resources of the Catholic, Mormon and Evangelical Churches, Concerned Women of America, The Christian Broadcasting Network, Operation Rescue, the Rutherford Institute and many others.

How can I help?

Make a contribution for same-gender marriage today, and make the Hawaii case your case too.

How will my contribution be used?

To conduct a coordinated media campaign, to help elect supportive legislators and to educate the voters. Much time and talent are being donated, but we need to pay the hard costs. V

Editor's Note: To make a contribution, make a check out to: Hawaii Equal Rights Marriage Project (HERMP), and send it to 1521 Alexander Street, #503, Honolulu, HI 96822. For more information, call (808) 942-3737.

In the War Against LesBiGays, "Judicial Tyranny" is the New Mantra of the Right

Commentary by John D'Emilio

Homophobia is an ever changing foe. It shifts its form as society changes and as our movement progresses.

Forty years ago, homophobia expressed itself through massive police harassment. Raids of Lesbian and Gay bars were common fare in U.S. cities; sometimes hundreds of folks were arrested on a single night in a single city. Today, police harassment hasn't stopped, but it is no longer the primary way we experience a lack of personal safety.

Instead, homophobia displays itself through hate-motivated violence randomly directed at Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered people.

Similarly, the content of political homophobia shifts with the changing political landscape. In the first half of the 1990s, the right wing coined the message of "special rights" as a way of rousing their forces and creating confusion among the many well-meaning Americans who ought to be our allies.

"Special rights" was employed in support of anti-Gay ballot measures in Colorado, Oregon, and Maine. It was used to drive a wedge between our movement and the African-American civil rights community. It played upon irrational fears of a powerful "homosexual lobby" trying to win extra privileges for itself.

"Special rights" hasn't vanished entirely, but the failure of the ballot initiative tactic, especially in the wake of the Romer decision, has weakened its effectiveness. But not to worry. Right-wing ideologues are hard at work refining new slogans designed to confuse Americans and inflame the passions of their constituents.

What's their newest one? "Judicial tyranny."

I started noticing it a year ago as the political campaign season was beginning. Republican candidates, from Dole to Buchanan, threw out the phrase now and then. But in the wake of Judge Kevin Chang's historic ruling in the Hawaii same-gender marriage case, the slogan has become a mantra.

In a recent debate on CNN about the decision, Andrea Sheldon of the Traditional Values Coalition repeated it again and again. Each time her arguments were successfully challenged, she came back with "judicial tyranny." I expect we'll be hearing more of it.

As used by the right wing, "judicial tyranny" is an especially dangerous political idea. It is much more than a weapon of homophobia. It attacks the very foundations of our political system, threatening the demo-

cratic rights and freedoms that make dissent possible.

The U.S. Constitution rests on a system of checks and balances. Three branches of government—a legislature, executive, and judiciary—are each given different powers, so that no one part of the government can amass too much power. The federal system has been copied by each of the fifty states.

Why did the framers of the Constitution do it this way? For two reasons. First, they had just fought a war against colonial rule, in which they felt themselves subject to tyrannical rule at the hands of the King's appointed officials. So, they wanted to make sure that power was spread between an executive and an elected legislature.

Second, they worried about the destructive effects of popular passions. They created checks and balances, and especially a judiciary designed to comment on the constitutionality of laws, because they were most concerned about the tyranny of the majority!

In other words, the judiciary exists precisely as a check against the will of the majority, when the majority threatens constitutional rights and privileges. Its role, in part, is to make sure that the rights of unpopular minorities are not trampled upon by a majority whose prejudices have been inflamed.

So, when judges do something like overturning a law or a ballot measure supported by the majority of voters or elected officials, they are not behaving like tyrants. They are doing their jobs.

"Judicial tyranny" as a concept is insidious. It creates a climate of hostility toward the proper workings of our Constitution. It makes judges the target of popular anger, and indirectly attempts to intimidate them. It builds support for efforts at the state level—and even nationally—to call a constitutional convention or recklessly amend the constitution which, in the context of the extremist right's current power, is truly frightening.

"Judicial tyranny" is politically shrewd. It has the power to weld together religious extremists and political conservatives; it speaks to resentments about race, gender, and sexual identity; it appeals to a business community annoyed by judicial decisions that protect the environment.

The slogan "judicial tyranny" is also hypocritical and cynical. Right-wing conservatives claim to speak in defense of tradition. But there is hardly anything more traditional in the United States than the independence of our judiciary.

So, when you hear the phrase, don't let it slip by. Recognize it and expose it for what it is: the latest right-wing sound bite, de-

Her Majesty's Government Sees Lavender

London, England—AP-A tabloid claims to have uncovered a Conservative lawmaker's illegal homosexual affair, embarrassing Conservatives as they launched a re-election ad campaign Monday that stresses family values.

The alleged partner in the affair was 18 at the time, under the age of homosexual consent in Britain.

"We need this like we need a hole in the head," the right-wing Daily Telegraph newspaper quoted an unidentified senior Conservative Party official as saying.

The News of the World alleged that married Conservative lawmaker Jerry Hayes, 43, had a 16-month Gay affair with teen-ager Paul Stone in 1991.

Hayes, who has been an advocate of Gay rights, denies the affair took place and said that he has begun legal action.

The newspaper paid Stone \$168,000 for his story, the Daily Express sniffed. British law sets the age for homosexual consent at 21, as opposed to 16 for heterosexual consent — a distinction that has been criticized by human rights groups.

Sex with minors carries a possible prison sentence, although no one has been charged for sexual relations with an 18-year-old in recent memory.

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If You're Gay, How do You Prove It, a Right Wing Group Asks

Cincinnati, OH— A coalition of groups opposed to what it calls special rights for Gay people has reaffirmed its support of an appeals court ruling that Gays are not specifically entitled to civil rights protection.

Gay activists on Wednesday, August 9, asked the U.S. Supreme Court to throw out a Cincinnati charter amendment forbidding the city from enacting or enforcing laws based on sexual orientation.

Alphonse Gerhardtstein, a lawyer for the activists, said he hopes the court will decide in October on whether to hear the case. His side faced a deadline today for filing the appeal.

Phil Burress, chairman of Equal Rights, Not Special Rights, a Right Wing Christian organization, said his group was happy to see the case go before the Supreme Court.

"We are extremely confident we will win," Burress said in an interview on August 9.

The appellate court's ruling threw out U.S. District Judge S. Arthur Spiegel's August 1994 decision that said the amendment was unconstitutionally vague. Spiegel said it violated free-speech and equal-protection rights of Gay people.

Voters approved the amendment in November, 1993.

"Those persons having a homosexual orientation simply do not, as such, comprise an identifiable class," Judge Robert B. Krupansky wrote for the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, with Judges Alan E. Norris and Cornelia G. Kennedy concurring.

Scott Greenwood, an American Civil Liberties Union attorney for the plaintiffs, said the appellate court's decision was wrong.

"The 6th Circuit ignored thousands of pages of evidence and Judge Spiegel's 75-page opinion, and made up factual conclusions of their own," Greenwood said in a telephone interview.

Burress's group supported the 1993 amendment. He said the 6th Circuit decision was the right one, and that Gays are not a definable class.

"If a person claims he's Gay, how does he prove it?" Burress said. "This isn't about political rights or housing anyway, what they want is for sodomy to be accepted as normal behavior, so they can get married and have sex in the streets."

Burress cited a Supreme Court ruling in 1986 that upheld Georgia's anti-sodomy laws.

"What we're saying is, homosexuals already have all the rights they need in the Bill of Rights," Burress said. "They don't need any more rights. Right now, they've got all they're going to get."

Earlier, Burress had been reported as saying that the only real right a Gay person had was the right to be dead. He cited the bible as proof.

The Equality Foundation of Greater Cincinnati, a group called Housing Opportunities Made Equal and five Gay residents are seeking to have the amendment overturned.

They said the Cincinnati amendment denies Gay people a fundamental right to political participation and that the amendment should not be allowed to exist because it represents a private prejudice made into law.

City Council in 1992 had approved a human rights ordinance forbidding discrimination in public housing and public accommodations. The law listed sexual orientation among anti-discrimination categories including race, color, religion and age.

The 1993 amendment approved by voters repealed the sexual-orientation provision and prohibited the city from enacting or enforcing any similar laws. The vote led some organizations to cancel conventions in the city in protest of what they said was prejudice against Gays.

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Gay Emancipation in the Netherlands; Is Holland What The US Could Become?

By Henk Krol

The Netherlands have an extremely liberal image abroad. For centuries, our almost proverbial tolerance created a climate where people of other beliefs and ways of life, in search of a shelter, were glad to find a haven.

Even so, the liberal attitude towards Gays and Lesbians is not really of very long standing.

Twenty-five years ago, the Dutch still despised or looked down on people who were 'sexually different'. But this negative attitude changed very quickly, partly due to the relatively strong Gay movement and its high media profile. It is precisely because Dutch personalities have been coming out for much longer than in our neighbouring countries, that young people were given the opportunity to identify themselves as Gay people.

Jewish children have Jewish parents, Turkish children have Turkish parents, and Black children have Black parents, but homosexual children, unlike them, have to learn to cope on their own, without the guidance of parents who share their situation. That is why it is even more important for homosexual children to be able to identify with role models than for children belonging to other minority groups.

For almost thirty years now, generations of Dutch children have had public figures to model themselves on. Many artists, such as the author Gerard Reve, but also an increasing number of politicians and captains of industry, make no secret of their homosexual feelings. This has obviously been very beneficial to the younger generation.

Almost nowhere else in the world does the whole population have such a positive opinion of their Gay compatriots. Here, people who consider homosexuality an illness are considered ill themselves.

This integrated tolerance is also very manifest in the choice of the spokesmen and spokeswomen who served as advocates in the past, either self-appointed or at the request of the Dutch Gay movement.

It was already in the fifties that Prof. Dr. Trimbos, a talented speaker, used his radio and television columns to promote understanding of Gay people. The impact of his message was very strong precisely because he himself was an affirmed heterosexual.

The same was true for people as Koos Postema and Mies Bouwman, well-known Dutch TV hosts, who regularly pleaded for more understanding in their TV shows. Coming from them, the message was given more weight than if it had been presented by one of their many openly Gay colleagues.

It was particularly the less well-educated section of the population that was positively influenced by Mary Searva, one of the most popular entertainers of her time. Of all people, it was this singer of tear-jerkers, married and beyond any suspicion of personal interest, who took a very forceful stand in favour of Gays and Lesbians in her simple, but very direct songs. She became a veritable champion of the cause.

Today, her role has been taken over by such people as the singer Anneke Grönloh and TV host Robert Ten Brink. As a consequence, Holland has not developed any ghettos. In contrast to many other countries, there are no Gay neighbourhoods, and special bars, Gay discos and Gay restaurants

Nobel Winner: AIDS Vaccine Within Ten Years, Won't Stop Virus

Stockholm, Sweden—A winner of this year's Nobel Prize in medicine predicted Saturday, December 7th, that within 10 years there will be a vaccine sharply slowing the outbreak of full-blown AIDS in infected people.

Rolf M. Zinkernagel also said the vaccine he envisioned would vastly reduce chances that an HIV-infected person would transfer the virus to other people.

But Zinkernagel said it would not completely eliminate chances of contracting the infection.

Zinkernagel, a Swiss researcher, spoke at a news conference with co-winner Peter C. Doherty, an Australian who is a professor in the Department of Immunology at the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

The two men were awarded the prize in October for their studies into the body's immune system in the 1970s.

"HIV will not be a virus that we can eliminate completely from an infected person," Zinkernagel said. "... We will not be able readily to prevent the infection completely, and we will not be able to control the virus completely."

He said a vaccine would only greatly delay the outbreak of the AIDS, which ravages the body's natural ability to ward off dis-

ease.

"I would think that within the next 10 years, we will have something reasonable in terms of this type of vaccine," he said.

At present, the incubation period of AIDS can be 10 years or longer. Zinkernagel said that any vaccine would keep the viral infection in check so that full-blown AIDS would take between 20 to 40 years to develop.

By that time, a person's likelihood of dying of another disease "may be as good as dying from AIDS," said Zinkernagel, a professor at the Institute of Experimental Immunology in Zurich.

Doherty said a new class of drugs called protease inhibitors, now being used to manage AIDS in wealthy Western countries, are too expensive for victims in poor and developing nations.

He said that "it's very hard to know" how successful the AIDS vaccine research will be.

"But, of course, a vaccine is the only possibility for controlling AIDS worldwide," Doherty said.

Doherty and Zinkernagel received their awards on Tuesday, December 10th along with other Nobel Prize winners, from Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf, at a pomp-filled ceremony in Stockholm.

are an exception. We can do without them. Everyone is aware that the most famous Dutch chef is a Gay man. Both homos and heteros like to eat at his place, not on account of his sexual orientation, but on account of his exquisite cuisine.

The same goes for well-known artists and politicians. They are appreciated by the whole population, not because of their sexual orientation, but simply because of their widely appreciated qualities.

That is why large Gay demonstrations like those in New York, San Francisco, Sidney and London, have never really got off the ground in Amsterdam. This year, even the annual Gay Pride event seems to have become a thing of the past.

Dutch Gays do not limit their pride to one day, they enjoy it all the time. This has certainly contributed to the relative ease and speed with which aids education got underway here. AIDS was never considered as a typical homosexual disease. Because it is a fact that the virus is easily sexually transmitted, the Dutch are aware that people who have many sexual partners run the greatest risk. That holds for a small number of homosexuals as well as for promiscuous heterosexuals. But they too can effectively protect themselves by always using a condom.

The Netherlands, because of rapid and effective information and advice and in spite of, or maybe thanks to, its liberal attitude towards sex, has a significantly lower percentage of HIV-positives than the countries where a more bigoted attitude to sex prevails.

Even most Dutch churches know how to approach the subject with the utmost care and discretion. In fact, the Gay battle seems to be over in this little country behind the dikes (excuse the pun).

Has discrimination of homosexuals completely disappeared then? It appears so. If you check the last five volumes of De GAY Krant (The Dutch national Gay newspaper) you will see that at most, there have been a few minor incidents. There certainly is no evidence of underlying discrimination. At the very most, certain conservative Christian circles still have some reservations about homosexuals.

Soon however, a new problem might well be caused by the growing group of Dutch people from a foreign background. Many immigrants, who were used to a completely different climate regarding homosexuals at home, still have to get used to Dutch tolerance. Especially in secondary schools, this can give rise to misunderstanding.

Children from a strict Islamic or other orthodox religious background are increasingly having difficulties with their homosexual Dutch class-mates. In this respect, it will become necessary to pay attention to Dutch tolerance in the so-called acculturation courses organized for new citizens by the Dutch government, instead of only to typical customs like eating a herring with onions while standing up.

Now that Holland has recently changed over to a regular army, similar problems with conscripts have disappeared. Soldiers with foreign parents did not always understand why they had to share their sleeping quarters with boys who openly dared to admit their homosexuality. In any case, that

was something they would never had have to experience in their own culture.

When the Dutch troops in the Balkans were sent pin-up magazines, the Ministry of Defence thought it the most normal thing in the world to send some copies of **Ma-GAYzine** along with the batch of Playboys.

Many foreigners are still trying to get used to the fact that army advertisements for military personnel are placed, among other places, in **De GAY Krant**. Especially in countries where Gays and Lesbians are still banned from military service, such a personnel policy is seen as very liberal.

When President Mugabe of Zimbabwe visited the Netherlands at the end of 1995, and repeated on this occasion that, in his view 'homosexuals are less than pigs' and 'sexual deviation should be eradicated like ragwort', criticism in the Second Chamber (the Dutch Parliament) was unanimous.

Mugabe voiced these remarkable views at a congress in Maastricht, under the watchful eye of Mr Pronk, the Minister for Development Cooperation. Pronk did not intervene, but he did try to elicit reactions from the participants.

Afterwards, most politicians did not think that was a good policy. Pronk subsequently reassured parliament that he is a great supporter of Gay emancipation, and again emphasized that he abhorred the utterances on the subject by the president of Zimbabwe.

Putting his money where his mouth was, Pronk decided to allocate development funds to Third World Gay groups that promote Gay emancipation. This is how the Netherlands has become the first country in the world where government funds are reserved for supporting the struggle for emancipation of Gays and Lesbians abroad.

1996 saw the start of a political debate that is very important for the Dutch and even for the international Gay movement. Chances are that the Dutch politicians will decide to open up the existing civil marriage to Gay and Lesbian couples.

The first step in this direction was made this year in the Second Chamber. The American state of Hawaii is the only place where a similar debate is taking place, but the Dutch approach seems much more fundamental.

In the meantime, the Scandinavian countries (Denmark, Sweden, Greenland and Norway) have developed a partner legislation that is accessible to people who are excluded from marriage. Gay couples can register in a separate partner register, giving almost the same rights as the marriage register.

This is precisely the main objection of practically all Dutch Gay-lib associations, who argue not for 'almost the same rights', but for 'exactly the same rights'. In the Netherlands, they clearly want to go one step further.

This fits in entirely with the liberal Dutch tradition described above. Not for nothing does Article 1 of the Constitution state that all people are equal, regardless of race, religion, origin or sexual orientation.

Moreover, for three years now, the Netherlands has been the only country in the world to have a national law forbidding unequal treatment.

A legally valid marriage does not take place in a wedding chapel, but in the town hall. This legal marriage is the only one to have so-called "third party effect". That means that others, such as the national and local authorities, employers, pension funds and all other authorities and citizens, are obliged to attach certain rights and duties to this form of relationship.

If a couple signs a contract in the presence of a solicitor, this means that only the partners themselves are bound to the contract. Besides, marriage is free of charge in Holland, and the solicitor's fee for a private partner contract can easily amount to several hundred Euros.

Armed with these weapons, and so far very successfully, the Gay movement has been lobbying national politicians not to create an arrangement resembling the Scandinavian model, but one that is far simpler. Ultimately, the majority seem to prefer to extend the existing civil marriage. In the Netherlands, the authority to conduct marriages has always been the prerogative of the boroughs, and so they have the greatest expertise.

For that reason, it is encouraging to see that these same boroughs are taking on a special role in the achievement of an optimal result. In the meantime, more than 130 Dutch cities and towns have established a special 'marriage register' for Gay and Lesbian couples, used in addition to the traditional marriage register.

In the future these 130 boroughs, altogether representing at least 60% of the Dutch population, want to fuse these two registers into one big partner register for everyone. The fact that, if they were to do this, the Netherlands would be out of step with other countries naturally plays a part in this debate. Still, for a country like the Netherlands, this would be nothing unusual;

their liberal attitudes on the subjects of euthanasia and the use of marijuana were quite out of step with other countries (in the past).

Actually, for most Dutch people, this being out of step has been a positive experience. Most Dutch are proud of the liberal ideas that make pioneers of them.

The only other objections against extending the existing marriage system are raised by extreme Christian groups, who are a minority in national politics. Here and there, in certain circles within the largest Christian party, the CDA, and in smaller right-wing parties, the misconception lives on that Gay and Lesbian couples would not be fit to adopt children.

Fortunately, the majority of politicians (consisting of socialists and two groups of liberals) and the population know better. That has been shown many a time by surveys. The Dutch are supported in their view by many scientific studies which confirm that children who are raised by same-sex couples are, on average, better off than children who are born in a heterosexual relationship.

After all, in certain heterosexual relationships, it is quite possible that the child was not really wanted. If two Lesbians or two Gay men, after mutual deliberation and mature consideration, decide to sacrifice a part of their personal careers in order to devote themselves to raising children, in almost all cases this will provide a much greater guarantee that the child will be brought up in a caring environment.

In the Netherlands, 20,000 children are already being raised in non-traditional family situations, and this is experienced as extremely positive.

The advantage alluded to earlier, of married people having the right to their partner's pension, is almost old hat in the Netherlands. The two largest pension funds have already established a partner pension. So this financial snag has already been removed.

It is quite likely that, apart from the extension of the civil marriage, a new, lighter relationship contract will become possible. Many politicians are in favour of this. This new contract will be open to homos and heteros. What is very striking about the whole debate on the extension of the existing civil marriage, is that it is something Dutch newspapers, radio and television programmes hardly look twice at.

Apparently, most journalists consider the wishes of the Dutch Gay movement quite normal and not the subject of dispute (and therefore not worth reporting). This is not the case for foreign journalists. Television stations from Belgium, Germany, France, the UK and the United States, covering this question for their viewers, struggle to be first at the front door of De GAY Krant, the two-weekly Gay and lesbian paper that brought this item up as a political subject.

This again shows that the Netherlands are apparently quite a way ahead on this point. Still, it is a very good thing that this debate is starting up, both here and in the rest of the world.

When, shortly, the Netherlands take this political decision, as one of the first countries to do so, this will also permeate to other countries. As we witnessed earlier in the debate on the toleration of marijuana and the legalisation of euthanasia, a positive spark might spread to discussions taking place abroad. Who knows, this question might become a subject for discussion in the rest of the world much quicker than is currently anticipated.

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THE SPOTLIGHT

Madison's R Place Expected to Reopen Soon as Scandals

By Bill Meunier

Madison- Thanks to Openly Gay Madison Alderman Mike Verveer and the Madison City Attorney's office, the City apparently will not be losing one of its more popular Les/Bi/Gay social spots, R Place.

On January 16, Mike Newman shut the doors on Madison's popular R Place which was located at 121 W. Main Street. But **The Wisconsin Light** has learned that the closing is not expected to be permanent. The bar will reportedly reopen sometime in the next few weeks under a new name, "Scandals."

Newman was forced to close after his

son Danny, who was the license holder left Madison. Danny Newman and his lover Rich Fromm had been operating R Place since its opening last spring.

Their sudden departure generated a spate of reports regarding why they left and where they went. The bar even threw a "Good Bye Rich and Danny Party" in absentia.

Mike and Nancy Newman kept the bar going after their son left. A new sound system was installed for the dance floor, and plans were underway to keep R Place a vital part of Madison's Les/Bi/Gay social

Please See R Place Page 27

Murder Mystery Event To Raise Funds for Cream City Foundation

Milwaukee-The Cream City Foundation (CCF) will hold a Murder Mystery event to raise funds for the Gay and Lesbian community.

The event on February 23, 1997, will begin at 2:00 p.m. with cocktails and a silent auction at Melanec's Wheelhouse Dinner Theatre in Milwaukee. At 3:00 p.m., guests will be enjoying a dinner including entree choices of beef tenderloin, orange roughly, chicken breast or a vegetarian lasagna. Following dinner, Melanec's theater group will present "Phantom Cruise," a delightful murder mystery. At 6:00 p.m. Mama Roux bar will host a "cast party" for attendees of the event and actors from the show.

"We're having a lot of fun putting this event together," said Tony Rhodes, president of the Cream City Foundation.

The Foundation celebrates its 15th anniversary this year.

"The Foundation," Rhodes continued,

"decided that we needed to provide a greater variety of events to include as many in the community as possible. We hope to be doing that once a month and we are very happy with the help we've received this time from Melanec's Wheelhouse."

Tickets for the event are \$50 per person. Parking will be free.

Melanec's Wheelhouse is located at 2178 River Road, Milwaukee.

The Cream City Foundation is the only grant-making, community-based foundation in the state of Wisconsin whose sole purpose is to support the changing needs of the Gay and Lesbian community throughout the state.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact: Designing Men, 1200 S. 1st Street; Mama Roux, 1875 N. Humboldt; or call the Cream City Foundation at (414) 265-0880.

Concert Showcases World Premier of 'Kaddish' from Opera "Harvey Milk"

Madison-Directly from its world premiere performances in the opera houses of San Francisco, New York and Houston, Stewart Wallace and Michael Korie's opera **Harvey Milk** finds its way to the concert stage as the Madison Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and guest soloists under the baton of Maestro John DeMain perform the final "Kaddish" from this opera about the assassination of two of San Francisco's most prominent politicians.

Scheduled for Saturday, February 22nd at 8:00 p.m. in the Oscar Mayer Theatre of the Madison Civic Center, this performance will also feature Haydn's "Symphony No. 101 in D major and Strauss's "Concerto in D major for Oboe and Small Orchestra.

In the "Kaddish" from **Harvey Milk**, Wallace returns to the events that inspired the opera. The opera tells of the day in November, 1978, when San Francisco was shaken to its core by the assassinations of City Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone.

The murders were committed by a disaffected former supervisor named Dan White, who had stormed into City Hall. Milk, targeted by White because of his activism on behalf of San Francisco's Gay community, has since become a martyred focal point of Gay consciousness and activism in America.

Wallace writes the following in his program notes:

"Following the murders of Harvey Milk and George Moscone, San Franciscans responded by gathering for a silent, candlelight march up Market Street from the Castro District to City Hall. This music is a response to that silent tribute and includes, interspersed with the choral chanting of the Kaddish, remembrances of those who were instrumental in Milk's life and work."

The opera **Harvey Milk** has received favorable reviews at its second American performance in San Francisco. A reviewer in **The San Francisco Chronicle** wrote: "Milk was a brassy street politician, an opera lover. He liked the fact that his City Hall offices faced the opera house and the Saturday before his assassination, he sat through a three hour war-horse production. What would Milk think today of his own story, an outsider who breaks down tall castle gates and dies at his moment of triumph?"

Wallace, composer of the "Kaddish," will be presenting a free prelude discussion starting at 7:00 p.m. the evening of the performance in the Marquee Room of the Madison Civic Center.

Tickets for this concert are available at the Civic Center Ticket Office, 211 State Street, (608) 266-9055. Tickets range from \$18 to \$35.

This concert has been generously funded by the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission.

MADISON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

John DeMain, Music Director

presents the world premiere of

"Kaddish"

from the new American opera - Harvey Milk

Saturday, February 22 • 8pm

Madison Civic Center

211 State Street • Madison

Guest soloists and the Madison Symphony Orchestra and Chorus under the baton of Maestro John DeMain perform the final "Kaddish" from **Harvey Milk**, an opera about the assassination of two of San Francisco's most prominent politicians.



Randall Wong
Male Soprano/Countertenor

Concert sponsored by the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission

Call (608) 266-9055 for ticket information

MURDER!

A B O A R D

THE PHANTOM CRUISE!

Cream City Foundation Murder Mystery Event

Sunday,
February 23, 1997

2:00 PM -cocktails
3:00 PM -dinner and show
6:00 PM -"cast party" @ Mama Roux

\$50

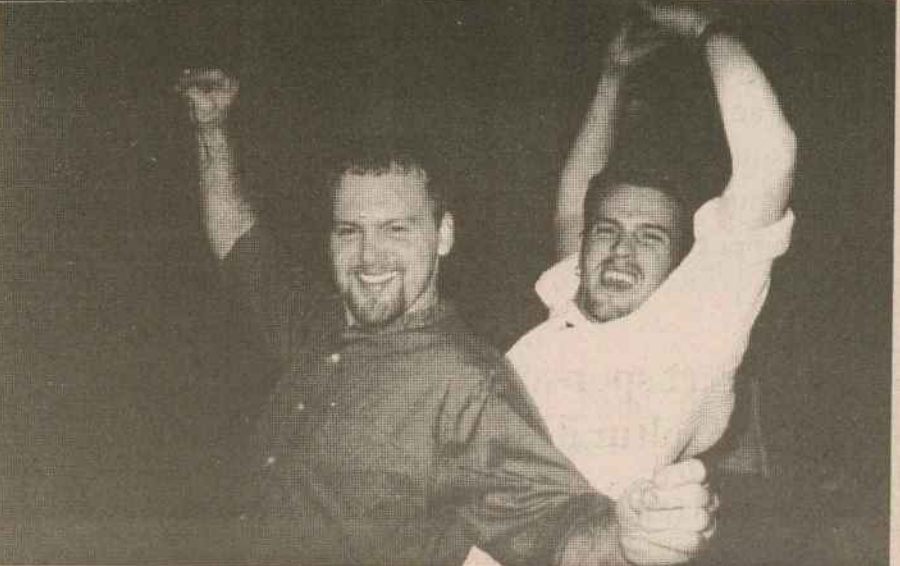
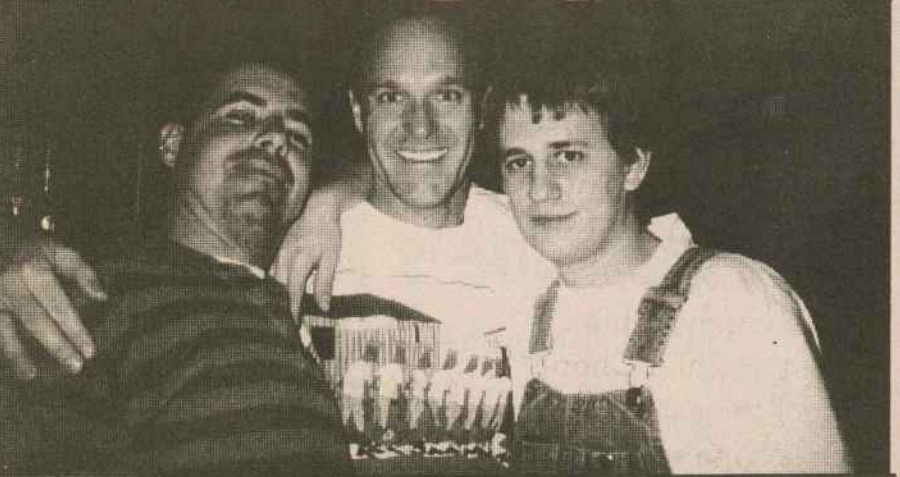
Melanac's Wheelhouse Dinner Theatre
2178 North Riverboat Road
Milwaukee
Free Parking

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact:
Designing Men, 1200 S. 1st Street;
Mama Roux, 1875 N. Humboldt;
or call
Landmark Enterprises at 276-6355
or Cream City Foundation at
(414)265-0880.

CREAM CITY FOUNDATION

CCF is the only grant-making, community based foundation in the state of Wisconsin whose sole purpose is to support the changing needs of the gay and lesbian community throughout the state.

Photos by Bill Meunier



Manoeuvres does Milwaukee Manoeuvres owner Ed took his employees on a four hour Milwaukee Bar crawl, Monday January 20. The group had a great time at the M & M Club, In Between, the Boot Camp and La Cage.

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Tues, Feb 11

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Fri, Feb 14

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Drink Specials Nightly

Boulevard Theatre Presents Two One Act Plays in February

Milwaukee—The Boulevard Ensemble will again introduce Milwaukee audiences to challenging and entertaining theater by premiering two works by playwrights Eugene O'Neill and Jon Robin Baitz.

O'Neill's seldom produced two character dark comedy, *Hughie*, and Baitz's monologue play, *Three Hotels* will play under the collective umbrella title *Heartbreak Hotels* February 14th through March 9th at the Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic. Local director and actress, Maureen Kilmurry, will direct both shows.

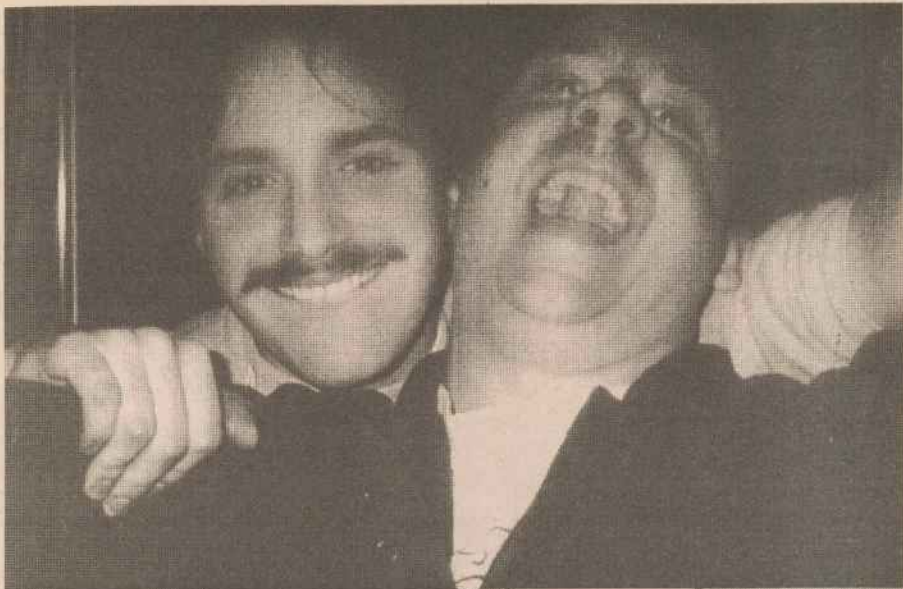
O'Neill's *Hughie* takes place in a dingy hotel lobby in New York in the late 1920's as a down and out gambler vainly struggles to converse with a bored and disinterested hotel clerk. Ensemble Artistic Director, Mark Bucher, and Milwaukee playwright and actor, Howard Goldstein, will appear in this dark comedy.

Baitz's *Three Hotels* features Tom Schimmels and Pamela Brown as a corporate couple who explore and discuss their dissolving corporate and personal relationships over the course of staying in a series of international hotels. Both Schimmels and Brown are widely known to Milwaukee audiences and highly respected throughout the theater community.

This Milwaukee premiere is by the author of the upcoming film, "The Substance of Fire." Carl Eiche will contribute his talents as both scenic designer and stage manager for this double bill.

Since the Boulevard Theatre has been selling out this past season, please book early by calling (414) 672-6019.

Photos by Bill Meunier



La Cage Does Madison Okay perhaps there were a few Madison men out on the evening of Monday January 7 that weren't done by the La Cage staff, but they were probably very few. La Cage owners George and Corey treated their employees and guests to dinner followed by a whirlwind tour of Madison's hot spots. A great time was had by all at stops at Geraldine's, R Place (soon to be reopened as Scandals), the Shamrock and Manoeuvres. A great time was had by all.

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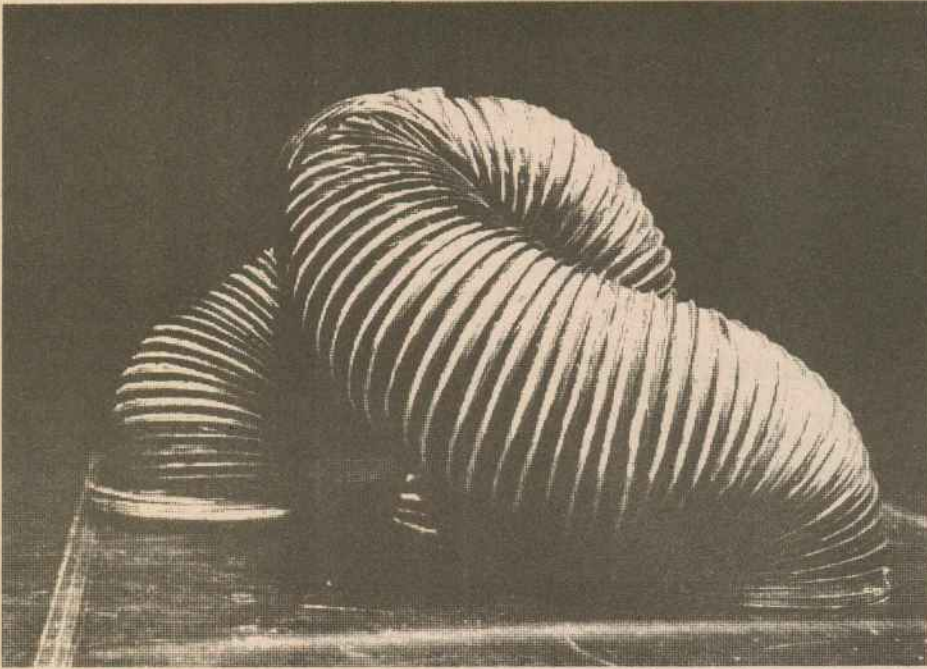
Saturday, February 15th

Just Us Diva's

Valentine's Day Show

At 10pm • No Cover

with Starr E. Nite, Sandy Beach, Mona & Special Guests



Is it a Slinky? This giant whatsamajigger is part of the act during the Mummenschanz trio's performance. The renowned mimes will be at Milwaukee's Pabst Theater on Friday February 7

A Troupe of Marvelous Mimes Comes to the Pabst Theater

Milwaukee—The lights dim, the theater falls silent, and a giant hand appears as the curtain opens. Immediately, the audience burst out laughing. The mime trio known as Mummenschanz are delighted. Within seconds of starting "Parade," their 90-minute retrospective show, they have made contact with everyone present.

Mummenschanz's unusual form of silent theater ends up appealing to all ages. By using face and whole body masks, the three players assume a bizarre array of abstract, insect-like and symbolically human shapes that convey powerful, timeless emotion.

The name Mummenschanz which is pronounced "moom-un-schonz," comes from a term used to describe Medieval Swiss soldiers who wore masks to hide their reactions, but that explains little to-

day. Is it dance? Theatre? Mime? "It's a masked theater and body sculpture of sorts," Floriana Frassetto, one of the three performers.

The troupe first performed in the U.S. in 1973 and acclaimed ever since.

"It's all very simple," said Bernie Schurch, another of the performers. "We all wear black costumes. We are not supported by music or scenery. We become an abstract piece or shape or volume or sculpture or character. But all depends on the performer, who must give his 100% to make the abstract mask live."

In the end, however, it is the audience that brings the creatures to life. "The basic wish is to make people feel something, whatever it is," Schurch said. "We want to send a message from the stage and open up a dialogue, whether through laughter or silence or sigh or any other kind of noise."

Mummenschanz will be appearing at the Pabst Theater in Milwaukee on Friday, February 7th, at 8:00 p.m. For tickets and other information, call (414) 286-3663.



The Pabst Theater is pleased to welcome back The Chenille Sisters on Saturday, February 1, 1997 at 8:00 p.m. A PBS favorite, the Chenille Sisters proved laughter, grace and rhythm for their audiences




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The Rainbow Steps Aside For a Moment as We Celebrate the Green and Gold

By Terry Boughner

A picture-perfect snowfall blanketed Milwaukee. All was quiet in a wintry hush. The stillness, however, had nothing to do with the snow.

In Milwaukee and throughout Wisconsin, it was Superbowl Sunday. For the first time in nearly 30 years, the Green Bay Packers had a chance to bring the Lombardi Trophy back to where it was meant to be, back home to Title Town, to Green Bay.

For two weeks, ever since the Packers had kicked the 49ers' out of contention, the only subject anyone could talk about was the Packers in the Superbowl.

Green and gold were everywhere you looked, there were songs on the radio—lots and lots of songs played over and over again ad infinitum. From the TV newscasts came more about New Orleans than anyone wanted to know. Toward the end, there were those who were heard to say (not too loudly), that enough was honestly enough.

Every bar in town was holding a Packers Party. Why not? Superbowl Sunday (now become "Packers Sunday") is no time to be alone—especially if it's your team out there on the field. So, Jerry and I set off through Milwaukee's own version of the frozen tundra to see what there was to see.

Station II was filled to the brim. Green and gold balloons, helmets and banners festooned the bar. Women and men crowded around the TV sets and shouted to the echo as Green Bay got a touchdown in the opening minutes of the game.

"They're gonna win!" Cheryl assured me, a bright smile wreathing her face.

I nodded in agreement, but thought, *Oh Lordy, what if they don't win? This state is counting so heavily on a victory—it's predestined, it's in the bag. But nothing's predestined, nothing's in the bag.*

But, when New England pulled ahead, no one seemed discouraged in the least. It was a temporary setback, nothing more.

Just Us was serving their half-time lunch when we got there. There were

brats (of course) and everything else to make a tailgate party. Everyone in the packed house was having a great time amidst the green and gold.

By this time, the Packers had gone ahead again. "They're winning," I said to someone. She gave me a look as if to say, "So, what did you expect?"

The 1100 Club had more green and gold balloons than it was possible to count. Grandma and Mike had gone all out—and prepared a fantastic meal.

"Smile," someone told me. "They're winning! We're gonna do it! We're goin' all the way!"

I nodded. I could only hope.

By now, however, the hope was stronger. Green Bay's Desmond Howard had scored a 99 yard touchdown. Jerry and I had missed that. We'd been in the car, but we heard about it and later, saw it on tape.

Fannies was jammed as well. People, by this time, knew Wisconsin had victory in its grasp. The crowd was very definitely in a party mood.

There wasn't a space left in the Boot Camp's parking lot. Water Street Docks was crowded too. In La Cage, TV screens looked down like benevolent eyes telling of the victory that was now, only a quarter away.

And so it went. Happy people packed In Between. M&M was full. "They've won!" someone exclaimed.

"You mean it's over?" I asked, thinking I'd missed something.

"No, it's not over," came the reply. "But why doesn't New England just pack it up and go home!?"

At that point the TV showed the very glum-looking face of the Patriots' coach. Jerry, looking at it, said, "He knows."

It was in the fourth quarter when I got to This Is It. The three TV sets placed at strategic locations about the bar, each had its cluster of eager, expectant fans. While Jerry went off to Mama Roux to get some pictures, I sat, watching, like everyone else.

And then it really was over. The Green Bay Packers had won the Superbowl and all was right with the world.

may read this, know that the LesBiGay-Trans community of the Badger State had a Packers Sunday the like of which will probably not be seen again.

Oh, I know. The Packers may go back to the Superbowl. I honestly think they will. But never again will we here feel the same rush that can only come with a victory after nearly 30 years.

Those of our community beyond our state should know that for a single, bright moment, the rainbow colors gave pride of place to the green and gold. And it was great!

Entertainers Invited to Send Demos for PrideFest '97

Milwaukee—Wisconsin's PrideFest is interested in previewing the up-and-coming acts that can be found throughout the Midwest. Entertainers are invited to submit demo tapes, both audio and video, for consideration for this year's festival. Acts can include song, dance and comedy.

"PrideFest has hosted many fine entertainers in past years," said Entertainment Coordinator Jill Clark, "and we want to build on that foundation. We are well aware there are many new entertainers working the circuit and we are very interested in seeing what they've got."

Clark added, "We welcome music from all venues, including high energy, hip-hop, salsa, blues, jazz, folk, classical, bluegrass, cajun, and rock. And, since this is Milwaukee, we would even consider throwing in some good, old fashioned, polka. If the group thinks it has a good sound, they should send in a demo."

Entertainers selected will be invited to perform at this year's festival to be held on June 6, 7 and 8, at Milwaukee's Henry W. Maier Festival Park, locally known as the Summerfest grounds. Over 12,000 people are anticipated to attend this year's event.

Interested parties should send their demo tapes to: PrideFest Entertainment, P.O. Box 93852, Milwaukee, WI 53203. For more information, contact Jill Clark at (414) 954-9214. Demo tapes will not be returned unless requested.

I would like
to thank
Everyone
for the Christmas
Gift of a trip to see
my mother in
North Dakota.
Special Thanks to:
Joe St. Clair
Bob Mazzacone
Tom Dace of
Travel Directions
The Oberons
and all my friends at
Mama Roux.

I will never forget the
honor you have
given me.
You have shown me
the real meaning of
family and friends.

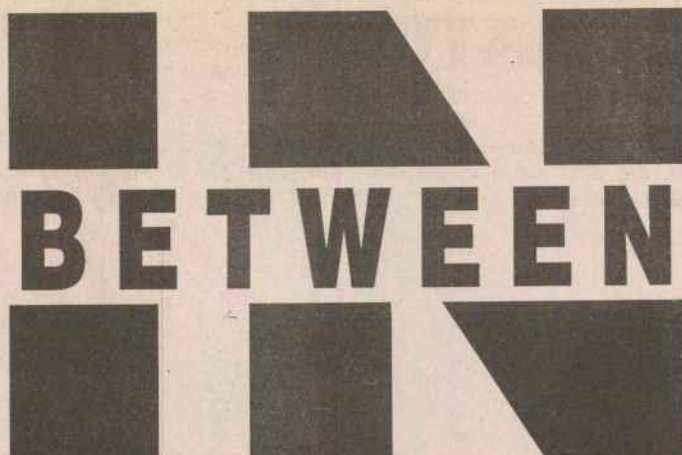
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Jasmine
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THURSDAY
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B.J. Daniels Talks About Her Show at Theater X, Her Career and Her Life

Interviewed by Terry Boughner

B.J. Daniels was one of the most luminous stars of the drag queen stage. She was one of a gifted handful that included people like Rona, the late Holly Brown and the late Ginger Spice. Together and separately, they wooed them and whowed them in Milwaukee, in Madison, across Wisconsin and throughout the Midwest. Individually and together, they were "class acts," highly talented people who raised drag performing to the level of fine performance art.

*Holly and Ginger are gone. B.J. remains. She is in retirement now, but will be seen again in a Theater X late night production of Charles Busch's **Vampire Lesbians of Sodom**. Directed by Amy Zeh, the play begins on February 27th and runs through March 22nd.*

Recently, B.J. sat down for an interview. Snow was piling up on the streets below her windows. Her cats sought top billing. When they couldn't get it, they huffed away. B.J. took some wine, lit a cigarette and settled back.

Wisconsin Light: You're staring in "Vampire Lesbians in Sodom. I thought you were in retirement."

B.J. Daniels: Well, yes, in a way. I've retired from doing the typical "Gay" drag show. I did that for (chuckles) a long time. That was enough. I felt that I had accomplished quite enough in that arena and so now, I'm still involved in AIDS benefits, but in a different way.

But this show is different. It's a different way for me show my talent—and it just so happens that I am playing a character in drag. That makes it different because it's different for me to play a character instead of basically being myself.

So that made it okay for me, but this (show) does not mark a return for me to do anything more than a theater piece now and then.

Theater X's late night series is really been doing some neat things. So, I was interested. I thought about it and I thought this is a chance for me to get out there and do something different.

I'm confident I can do it, but you gotta take the challenge, you know? Who knows when they're going to stop offering.

WL: When did rehearsals start?

BJD: They haven't started yet. They start on Monday (January 27th). They'll go for a month. But, you know, that's very typical.

WL: What part do you play. Describe it.

BJD: Well, the show is a spoof of old vampire horror movies only with a very decided Gay-ish slant to it. I play a character that builds.

I start out as a virgin sacrifice for the dreaded Succubus in biblical times. That's the first scene.

(It is a one-act play. I have to tell people that who are afraid it might be too long it's 45 minutes long.)

In the first scene, I don't have a name. I'm just "the virgin."

The second scene is Hollywood in the 1920s when I meet the Succubus again. She is now a silent film star. I am a Broadway actress. She doesn't have a clue that I am the virgin from years before. There is a confrontation between the two of us and all hell breaks loose.

The third scene is set in Las Vegas. I'm a movie star in decline. I meet up once again with the Succubus who has fallen on hard times. We come sort of a general agreement.

It's a cute play, actually rather sweet. It's all the things we need to have good entertainment: funny characters, a little bit of corn, sentiment, and a lot of outrageousness.

It's not a great stretch for me to play this character, I don't think. (She pauses, laughs) Maybe the virgin.

WL: Let's talk a little bit about B.J. Are you a Wisconsinite?

BJD: I'm from Wisconsin. I grew up in a little town called Rockdale. It's near Madison. Tobacco farmer. I grew up on a tobacco farm. But it was always my destiny, I think, to do something in the theater. I always wanted to play make-believe. I'd get up on the back of a tobacco wagon and it would be my stage.

I remembering discovering late movies on Channel 6. My parents would go to bed and I would sneak down and watch. I remember taping *42nd Street* from the TV. I must have been about 9. I loved that. *Flying Down to Rio*, that was one that I really liked.

I would play those tapes and act out the numbers. I loved it.

WL: Fast forward. You come to Milwaukee . . .

BJD: I came here in '82 on invitation of Ginger Spice who was forming a show. She came to Madison to have a show there. She met me—I was Miss. Gay Madison at that time—and she said, "Would you like to come to Milwaukee and do shows with us?" I jumped at the idea.

So, when I first came to Milwaukee, they introduced me as B.J. from Madison. That was my name.

It was Rona, now at M&M, who gave me B.J. Daniels because it was the early '80's. Everybody partied a lot and I drank Jack Daniels. Haven't touched it for a decade, but Rona decided I should marry the bottle of Jack Daniels. She actually altered a bottle of Jack Daniels and put a "B" on it and crossed out the "ack" and I became B.J. Daniels.

WL: And you performed at Club 219?

BJD: 219 for 13 years.

WL: Talk about some of the people you knew, especially Holly Brown.

BJD: Holly was inspiring to me because she was sooo theatrical. The thing that was neat about Holly was that we shared a common love of old films and the glamour of Hollywood in the '30's and '40's.

Holly was the one who said, "It's all about costume, darling. You should always be glamorous. You should always be beautiful." And I took that to heart.

That was really when people started to recognize me, I think, as more than some bar drag queen. Under the influence of Holly and Ginger (Spice), I blossomed.

Holly taught me about food and wine. She was the one who got me interested in art. Now, I love art. I go to art galleries. I have a lot of friends who are artists. Holly showed me that being a performer in drag did not mean what the public thinks about performers in drag.

Holly showed me that you be intelligent, that you can be witty, talented, do all these things and still be a drag queen. Have the title "drag queen" mean value, not low class, not some drunk, not some cheap, tawdry thing.

I took Holly and Ginger Spice as examples of class. They really pushed home the message that if I wanted to be, I could be any kind of performer that I wanted to be. I was no cheesy, sideshow thing. That I could actually have some value to people; that I could impart meaning to the performances that I was doing.

My performances were more than just throwing on a wig and some make up. They could have substance.



BJ Daniels

Holly and Ginger instilled in me the desire for respect for my performances and for the talent that I had. I think about both of them every day. They taught me to expect more of myself and my audiences to expect more, too.

I think Holly influenced Ginger a lot, too. It was Holly who brought head dresses to Milwaukee. Holly taught me how to sew. She told Ginger and me, "People don't go to see a show to see somebody in crap they bought in a mall. They want to see something."

Holly, Ginger and me, we were really kind of a "holy trinity" there for awhile. We did an act. We toured, the three of us. We took it out of the Gay bars. We went to straight clubs.

I think that's why drag is in such bad state right now. It just is in Milwaukee because there's no commitment to the art form. There's a commitment to the cheap fame and the cheap gratification of people knowing who you are. That does not

equal talent or respect.

WL: Talk about Rona. She's one of my favorite people.

BJD: Oh, I love Rona.

WL: Rona impresses me as an extremely talented person.

BJD: (claps her hands) Extremely talented! Yes!

I first saw Rona way before I ever met her. She was on the cover of *Escape* magazine. She was wearing a black and white dress and had won Miss Gay Wisconsin. I saw that cover and I said, "I will be Miss Gay Wisconsin!" I saved that cover. I still have it.

(Rona reigned as Miss Gay Wisconsin from 1981-1982. Ginger Spice reigned as Miss Gay Wisconsin from 1988-1989.)

Rona was an icon to me. I remember that she came to Madison and I thought she was just so beautiful and she dressed so wonderfully. She was somebody who I could aspire to be like. So, I credit Rona with me entering the Miss Gay Wisconsin competition in the Pageant in the first place.

WL: You've had a long and brilliant career. What was the highlight?

BJD: I think the highlight for me was winning Miss Gay Wisconsin in 1984 because titles meant something to people. It used to be a fun event to go to—and I'm not putting down what's going on now. Times change. But at that time, there was excitement. There was something special going on. People aspired to the title, they worked hard on it. The title was held in high regard and I worked hard on that.

I can still remember the people standing up and crying. People appreciated something I had worked hard to prepare and show them. That was it.

It meant something to have Rona say, "You're Miss Gay Wisconsin now."

I'll be real candid. I think now, there's far too many people who just don't care. They don't care who Miss Gay Wisconsin is, but they did then.

You were asked to do thing, benefits. I did them gladly. I can't even tell you how many I did.

Now, there's a sad quality about drag now where people think that they're better than they are and they expect a lot and they don't deserve it. They haven't earned anything.

WL: When I interviewed the late Divine, she talked about her "persona" that she took off and put on. Is that how you see it?

BJD: I think at the base of every character that you do, every queen, I think you are taking elements of yourself that you couldn't express in any other way, and you're bringing them forward. As B.J. Daniels, I was bringing the feminine side of me out, but I don't think you can say that there was a separate entity.

WL: Looking back on your career, what was the funniest moment?

BJD: Quiet a few. Probably, the funniest

Please See BJ Daniels Page 18



The Late Holly Brown



Jerry Johnson

The Late Ginger Spice

BJ Daniels Continued from Page 17

est things I did with Holly and Ginger when we were out on the road. They were both of them, very mischievous people. They loved to play jokes. There were so many, I can't even think of one particular thing.

For example, when Holly or I was on stage, Ginger would take a piece of a wig and put it on a wire. Then, she'd say, "Did I tell you, there's bats up here. I saw bats."

Of course, Holly and I didn't believe her and we'd forget about it. But the next thing you knew, you'd have this hair in your face—even when you were on stage.

WL: What was the most embarrassing thing?

BJD: When Robert Uyvari (d. June 4, 1986) constructed a stage, he really didn't give too much thought to the performer. He loved the aesthetics of things. He designed a stage once at 219 that had little round stairs, just circles, no supports. I was to do a grand number coming down those stairs every so beautifully. I missed an entire stair, landed on my

Former Milwaukee Residents Open B&B in Key West

Milwaukee—Les Vollmert, long-time Historic Preservation officer for Milwaukee, and Paul Masse, a Milwaukeean, have purchased and opened Knowles House in Key West, Florida. The bed & breakfast, currently accepting reservations, caters to the Gay and Lesbian community.

Knowles House is a restored 1880's Conch House located at 1004 Eaton Street in the Old Town Historic District of Key West. Gay-owned and operated, the small, intimate bed & breakfast has five guest rooms.

Vibrant hibiscus and lush tropical gardens blanket the property which also includes a secluded sun deck and a "clothing optional," heated plunge pool. An ample continental breakfast is served daily and on weekends there is a social hour with complimentary beverages.

Vollmert, an architect, and Masse, an interior designer, bring years of practical experience to their hosting duties at Knowles. They have already redecorated the entire house using fine furnishings and designer fabrics to create an atmosphere of casual elegance unique among Key West's Gay guesthouses. Vollmert and Masse plan to continue renovating the residence through 1997.

"If you are vacationing in paradise, you shouldn't stay at just another guesthouse," Masse said. "Knowles House is more like a home than a hotel and we want to pamper our guests with attentive personal service in a comfortably stylish setting. You are not just a room number to us—you're among friends at Knowles House," he said.

Vollmert added, "We look forward to seeing many of our Milwaukee friends."

Knowles House is located in a handsome residential area near many of the city's popular Gay guesthouses. Only five blocks away is bustling Duval Street, the site of Key West's fine restaurants and interesting shops, and the center of its scintillating nightlife.

For rates or additional information, please call 1-800-352-4414 or (305) 296-8132.

butt and wound up in the audience. I stood up, got back on stage and went on.

Uyvari was another person who told me not to think of myself as a drag queen, but an artist.

I go back to that. If you want respect, you have to earn it. If you want applause, you have to earn that too.

WL: Do you ever go out to see shows?

BJD: Rarely. I go when asked. It depresses me pretty much. It really does, the ingenuity that Holly and Ginger had, the glamour, they're gone. It's not there.

There are a couple of people performing today who go the extra mile. One is Lily White. The other one is Shauna. They're not afraid to look different, to try different things.

You can't do the same tired old ballads, the same costumes. There's nothing interesting for the audience to hear or see.

I say no wonder the audiences don't want to go and see it. I don't blame them.

If you're going to perform, hopefully, you've got some sort of message, something that you can do to give. It's not all about taking tips and making money. It's about giving something back that's of value to the community.

Whatever I've done, pales in comparison to the people on the front lines of AIDS research, working at the (Brady Street) Clinic, at MAP (the Milwaukee AIDS Project). Those people are my heroes.

Those people are the real stars, not me. Those people are the saints of the community. These people should have their pictures plastered in *Wisconsin Light* all the time.

WL: You, Holly, Ginger and Rona were—are—class acts.

BJD: That's true. None of us ever did any of this crotch grabbing. I see these queens doing this stuff and it's just sick. There's nothing wrong. Don't get me wrong. I'm all for the First Amendment. But I don't think it's talent, doing sleazy stuff. What happened to talent?

It bugs me to go to these shows because the people who are doing these things are really bad. They've set back drag years and years. It adds no value to our community.

I retired when I realized that I couldn't return to the glory days of Holly and Ginger. That's why I'm doing this play, to bring some kind of fun, Gay theater for people to see; to get them out of the bars and into the theater to see something they'll like.

WL: The play is a coat rack on which to hang memories, isn't it?

BJD: It is, it really is. In my role, I'll be using bits of Holly, bits of Ginger because these were real, larger than life broads. They had a real empathy with their audiences.

I'd love to see more Gay people go to the theater. We've gotta stop limiting ourselves to Gay themes.

But this show is great. Even if you're the butchest guy on earth, there's still something funny about Lesbian vampires.

WL: Do you ever get the urge to come out of retirement?

BJD: No. Some things are better left to memory.

**Tell Your Friends That
You Read All About it
in *The Wisconsin Light***

GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

MILWAUKEE

Skylight Opera Theatre

The Skylight Opera Theatre is presenting "Cowboy Cabaret" after each Friday and Saturday evening production of *Così Fan Tutte* through February 9. "Cowboy Cabaret" is free and open to the public, and is sponsored by Miller Brewing Company. Miller Cabaret performances are in the Skylight Bar and begin at 11:00 p.m.

Woodland Pattern Book Center

Kenny Fries, award-winning writer, will be appearing at Woodland Pattern Book Center, 720 E. Locust Street in Milwaukee on Saturday, February 8th. Fries will be reading from his recently published book of poetry, *Anesthesia*. Tickets are \$5 and \$6. Call (414) 263-5001 for more information.

Will Fellows at Schwartz's

Will Fellows, author of *Farm Boys: The Lives of Gay Men from the Rural Midwest*, will be discussing his book at Schwartz Bookshop in Shorewood on Wednesday, February 5th, beginning at 7:00 pm. The event is free and open to all.

Walking on Eggshells

A support group for family members, partners and friends of those with borderline personality disorder (BPD) meets at 11:00 am every Saturday at the Recovery Center, 5225 N. Ironwood Rd., Suite 216 in Glendale, Wisconsin. The group is led by addictions counselor Anna Gillette and is based on the booklet "Walking On Eggshells." Call (414) 961-1447 for more information.

WAUWATOSA

Village Playhouse

The Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa is proud to present selections from *Quilt: A Musical Celebration* on February 15 at 7:30 pm. at Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire. A donation of \$5 is asked.

Video Club

The Madison Gay Video Club will meet on Saturday, February 8th at 8:00 pm to view *The Bird Cage and Possession*.

On Saturday, February 22nd, the Video Club will meet to view *Wild Reeds and The Road Home* at 8:00 pm. Call Larry at (608) 244-8675 (evenings) for more information.

Ten Percent Society Dance

The Ten Percent Society at UW-Madison will be holding its Valentine's Ball on Friday, February 14 beginning at 8:00 pm in the Great Hall, Memorial Union. Admission is \$3. There will be a DJ and a cash bar.

GREEN BAY

Have A Heart Dinner

Have A Heart '97, 6th Annual Dinner, Show and Silent Auction, will take place on Saturday, February 8th in the Phoenix Room, on UW-Green Bay's campus. The event is sponsored by Center Project, Fox Valley AIDS Project in Appleton, and Manitowoc Outreach Project in Manitowoc. All money raised stays in northeast Wisconsin to help fight AIDS.

For reservations or more information, call Stan Kocos at (414) 437-7400.

MADISON

Advocates for Battered Women

Dane County Advocates for Battered Women (DCABW) is currently recruiting and cross-training volunteers for its 24-hour crisis line, Children's Program, Housing Program, Hospital Advocacy, Outreach and Shelter Programs. If you would like to join their efforts, please call (608) 251-1237. Training begins on February 3rd.

Wrestling Club

The Madison Wrestling Club will meet on February 9 for practice and instruction at 1:00 pm. Beginners are welcome.

On Sunday, February 23rd, the Wrestling Club will meet at 1:00 pm for practice and instruction. Beginners welcome. Call (608) 244-8675 (evenings) for more information.

Mary's

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14
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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1

**1100 CLUB & THE OBERONS
HOLD LEATHER SWAP MEET &
SALE**

Milwaukee's 1100 Club, 1100 S. First Street will be the site of a Leather Swap meet and sale starting at 3 PM.

The "meat" will include a spaghetti feed. It will be followed by a 10 PM Beer Bust and an after hours party hosted by the Castaways.

The Swap meet will also be held on Sunday February 2nd.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 6

**MANOEUVRES HOLDS FOAM AND
UNDERWEAR PARTY**

Those ever so creative minds at Madison's Manoeuvres have put together a wild time. It's a Foam and Underwear Party.

So if you are into foam or underwear or both head on down to Manoeuvres, 150 S. Blair Street.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 7

ZA'S PRESENTS A SPECIAL SHOW

Za's in Green Bay, 1106 Main Street, will help everyone get over those post Super Bowl blahs with a special show. Miss Gay Wisconsin US Of A, Josie Lynn and Miss Gay Green Bay US of A, Kelli Jo Klein will be on hand with some very special guests.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8

CENTER PROJECT DINNER

The Center Project's Annual Have A Heart Dinner will be held at UW-Green Bay's Phoenix Room.

For tickets and reservations contact Stan Kocos at the Centra Project, (414) 437-7400.

**OBERON KIDS WITH AIDS FUN
RAISER AT MILWAUKEE'S
MAMA ROUX BAR AND GRILL**

Those butch men in leather, the Oberons are at it again. They will be holding a Club Night at Mama Roux, 1875 N. Humboldt, Milwaukee.

You can win a fabulous Mountain Bike (work those thighs girl) and other prizes. There will be a \$5.00 Beer Bust too.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9

**THE WISCONSIN LIGHT
MARDI GRAS SPOTLIGHT
PARTY AT MAMA ROUX**

Mama Roux, 1875 N. Humboldt will be the site of our very special Mardi Gras Party. The popular East Side Bar and Restaurant has some of Milwaukee's best authentic New Orleans Cajun Food.

The party which begins at 4:00 will feature an all you can eat Crawfish Boil for just \$8.00. There will also be free Miller Lite taps (while they last) a costume contest, door prizes and drink specials. The costume contest will be held at 7:00.

The party is part of the bar's Mardi Gras celebration which begins on Thursday February 6. Don't miss it.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11

MANOEUVRES MARDI GRAS FETE

Manoeuvres 150 S. Blair Street will be celebrating Mardi Gras with its second annual Mardi Gras bash.

Food fun and more will be yours for the taking at this fabulous celebration of "Fat Tuesday."

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 14

MARY'S OPENS IN MADTOWN

Mary's a new Les/Bi/Gay bar in Madison will be holding a Grand Opening party this evening. The new digs located at 2526 E. Washington (just up the street from Geraldine's) will be ready to welcome Gay men and Lesbians alike.

The Party will include live entertainment. There is no cover.

THIS IS IT VALENTINE'S PARTY

This Is It will be holding its special Valentine's Day gathering where couples can bill and coo and singles may find the wonder of their heart's desire.

M&M Club

The M&M Club's Glass Menagerie is always a-glow on Valentine's Day. The lighting is soft, candlelight flickers in lovers' eyes—and the food, as always, is extra special. **But CALL FOR RESERVATIONS.** The Glass Menagerie is always packed. (414) 347-1962

**SOUTH WATER ST DOCKS
HOSTS UNDERWEAR PARTY**

South Water Street Docks located at 354 E. National Ave, will be holding a Valentines Day Underwear Party and Contest.

There will be special prizes for those with the best um er assets. For more information contact the bar by calling 225-9676 or better yet see your favorite South Water Street Docks bartender.

MADISON'S MANOEUVRES

HOLDS VALENTINES DAY PARTY

Manoeuvres will be holding a very special Valentine Day Party to help you celebrate with your special Valentine or if need be to find a Valentine.

You can bet that Ed, Charlie and their staff will be ready with some special surprises for everyone in attendance. Manoeuvres is located at 150 S. Blair, Madison

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15

JUST US VALENTINE'S SHOW

Those sweeties at Just Us, 807 S. Fifth

Street, Milwaukee will be holding a Valentine's Day Show featuring Starry Night, Mona, Sandy Beach and special guests.

This free show will be a star studded tribute to love and Valentine's Day. Be on hand early to make sure you get a good seat for this 10 PM revue.

**Bootmen and Gay
Harley Group to
Hold Leather Swap
Meet at 1100 Club**

Milwaukee—Members of the Wisconsin Boot Men (WMB), and the Great Lakes Harley Riders (GLHR), are holding a Leather Swap Meet & Sale, followed by a 10:00 p.m. beer bust at the 1100 Club, Saturday, February 1st, starting at 3:00 p.m. and continuing till closing. The day will also include a spaghetti feed hosted by the Oberons. The Castaways MC will host an after hours party.

This event is in conjunction with the 1100 Club's Annual Club Appreciation Day held on Sunday, February 2nd, and is open to all individuals and retail vendors wishing to display, sell, trade, or buy new and used leathers, boots and related accessories. Space will be available on a first-come basis. Persons with one or two items for sale can consign same to the GLHR/WBM table. There is no admission, consignment or selling fees.

Other activities throughout the afternoon and evening include: a WESCO Boot Company representative available to answer Boot-related questions, advise and measure for custom boots; several well-known boot blacks from Chicago; bondage and other demonstrations by special interest groups from Minneapolis, Chicago, Milwaukee, and Madison.

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Famous Mozzarella Sticks

- Mondays — "Shake A Drink"
- Tuesdays — Beer Bust + Rail Price
Cuervo with John
- Wednesdays — Super Bust
- Thursdays — Super Bust
- Fridays — No Cover for Cardholders
and their Guests
- Saturdays — Where Milwaukee
Parties

Cocktail Hour, 8-10 Nightly • "Shake A Drink"

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Super Bowl Sunday Parties In Milwaukee



Just Us 807 S. Fifth Street



This Is It 418 E. Wells



The 1100 Club 1100 S. First Street



In Between 625 S. Second Street



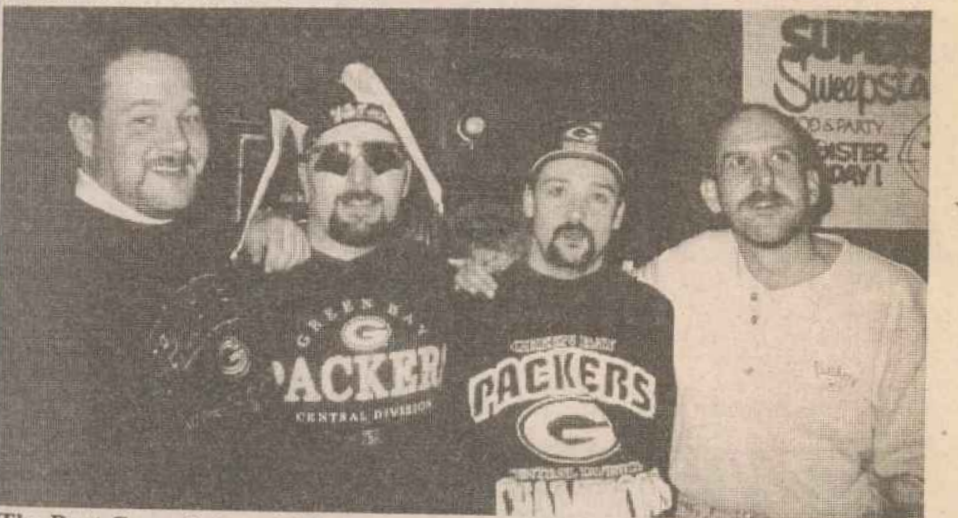
Station 2 - 1534 W. Grant



Mama Roux - 1875 N. Humboldt



Fannies - 200 E. Washington



The Boot Camp Saloon 209 E. National



The M & M Club 124 N Water St.



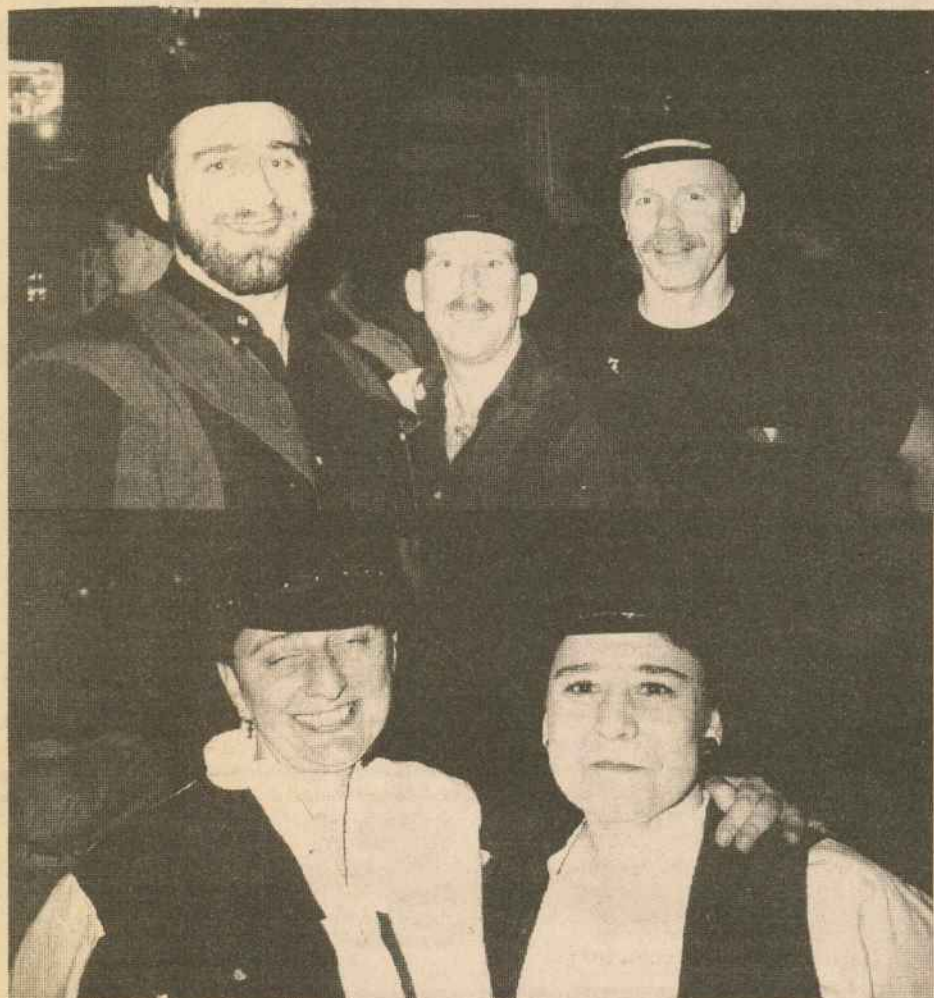
South Water St. Docks 354 E. National

Photos by Jerry Johnson and Bill Meunier

SAY CHEESE!



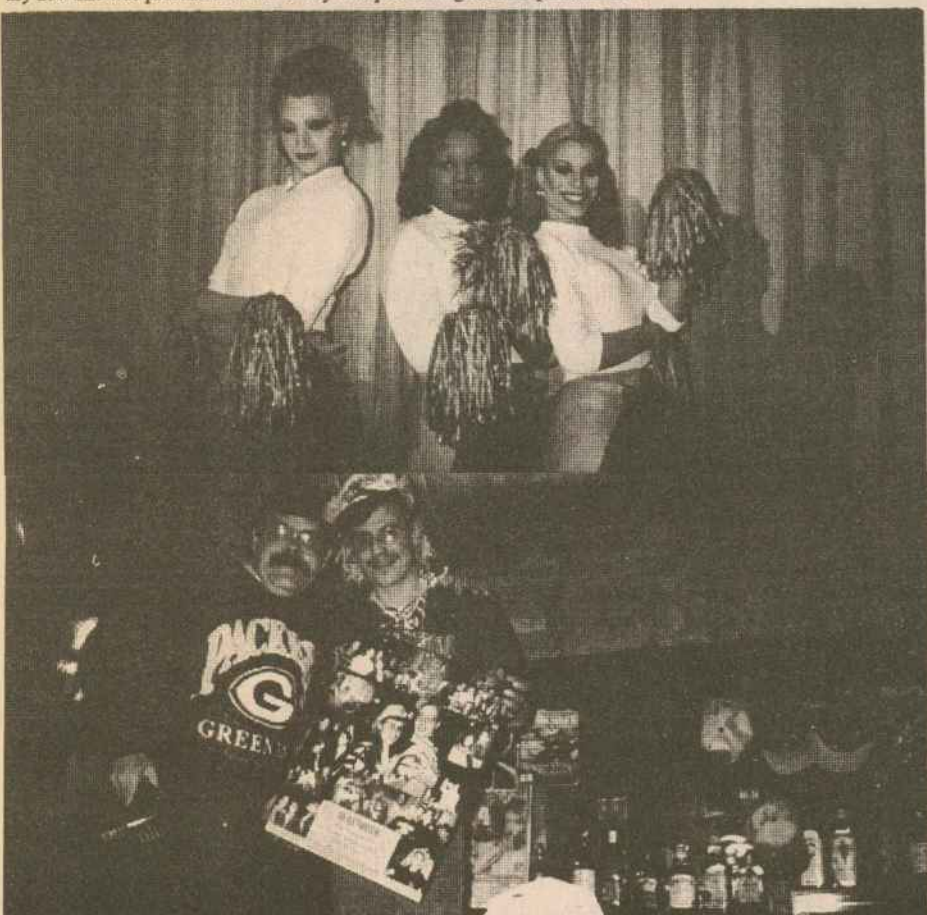
OUT & About



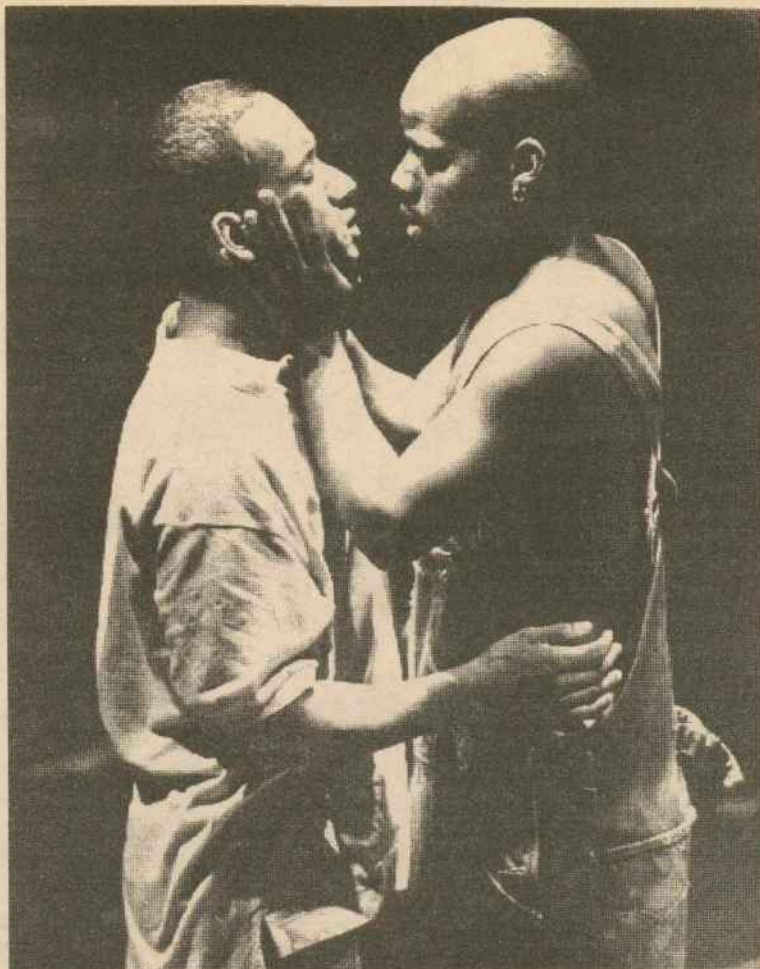
Kicking their heels- The Shoreline Dancers celebrated their first anniversary at Just Us. A large crowd enjoyed the dance and a fine show. Our congrats to Shoreline and Just Us.



Roses for a Rose Jasmine as Mama Roux's contribution to the Stars For AIDS benefit at B's on Saturday January 25. She was presented with a lovely bouquet during her fine performance.



A Super Sunday There were many fine parties on Super Bowl Sunday including two shown above. The La Cage Girls did a great routine as part of that bar's half time show. Meanwhile over at In Between, SpotLight Editor presented owner Curt Peck with a collage of pictures he had taken at the bar during the season. Later the La Cage Cheer Leaders came to In Between to do their thing too! (Way to show community spirit ladies)



In The Life The February installment of the nationally syndicated Les/Bi/Gay Television show, "In the Life" features a segment "Insurrection Holding History" a new comedy about sexual and racial ethics. Shown above are two actors from "Insurrection" Robert Barry Flemming and Jermeiah Bichett

"In The Life" Celebrates Gay Culture, Image, Diversity in Black History Month

By Lester Strong

Controversy, culture, identity, diversity, image, Black History Month, *In The Life's* February/March, 1997 episode offers a smorgasbord of eight segments:

- **Controversy**—New Orleans is famous for its Mardi Gras celebration every spring, and has a reputation for "anything goes." But despite the city's friendly image, its home state of Louisiana still has a strict sodomy law on the books. In the show's first segment, host Katherine Linton profiles the work of two New Orleans men—Gay, white lawyer John Rawls and straight, African-American law professor John Penny—as they seek to forge a successful strategy for challenging the statute in the courts.
- **Culture**—Of course, New Orleans is famous for its rich cultural and historical ambiance. The second segment therefore joins Bob Batson on his Gay Heritage Tour, as he points out locations in the city's French Quarter associated with Gay contributions to that mix.
- **Identity**—The third segment moves on to Savannah, Georgia, home of "The Lady Chablis." Born male, but living as a woman since her teens, Lady walks ITL viewers through a "fabulous" day in her life, including a visit to her midnight show as a female impersonator at Savannah's Club One.
- **Diversity**—Next, ITL talks with collaborative art team of Hillary Loone and Jennifer MacDonald. Their latest project is "Passing," a stunning video installation that explores some of our society's deepest fears—among them homophobia and racism—to explain how and why people feel they must "pass" for something they are not.
- **Image**—In the fifth segment, ITL correspondent Tanya Barfield explores the current "Gay Marketing Moment" and why companies as diverse as Ikea, NAYA, AT&T, and the United Colors of Benetton are chasing the "Gay dollar." The story offers glimpses of some extraordinarily frank TV and print ads aimed at the Lesbian/Bisexual/Gay populace.
- **Identity redux**—the sixth segment takes a look at being Gay and Jewish from the perspectives of two films currently in production: Sandi Dubowski's *Trembling Before G-d*, which explores the world of Gay Orthodox and Hasidic Jews, and Alisa Lebow's and Cynthia Madansky's *Treyf* (a Yiddish term meaning "nonkosher"), which examines through the medium of their own lives what it means to be Jewish, progressive, and Lesbian or Bisexual or Gay in today's America.
- Correspondent Darius de Haas visits New York's Public Theater and the set of *Insurrection*, playwright Rob-

ert O'Hara's imaginative recreation of Nat Turner's 1831 slave rebellion in Virginia that places a Gay love affair at its center.

And in the eighth segment, two Black writers—Shawn Steward Ruff and Samuel R. Delaney—discuss the growing market for Gay African-American writing. This episode of *In The Life* airs in Milwaukee Thursday, February 6th, at 11:00 p.m. on Channel 10.

Jerry Grillo, Jazz Vocalist, to Perform at Art Museum in February

Milwaukee—Jerry Grillo, celebrated Milwaukee-based jazz vocalist, will be performing on February 7th at the Milwaukee Art Museum from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Grillo will be performing on Fridays, February 14, 21 and 28, at the City Grille, Van Buren and Brady Street, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

On Saturday, February 8, Grillo will perform at Café Café, 7214 W. North Avenue, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

There is no cover at any of these events.

AfterWords Events

Monday, February 9

Afterword's Book Club - 7:30p.m., **Lets Get Criminal** by Lev Raphael

Thursday, February 13

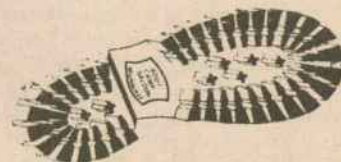
Afterword's Gay/Lesbian Writers Club - 7:00p.m.

Thursday, February 20

Lesbian Reading Group - 7:00p.m., **Serving in Silence** by Margarethe Cammermeyer & Chris Fisher. New members are always welcome!

Friday, February 21

Free, Anonymous HIV Testing BESTD Clinic Outreach 7:30p.m. - 10:30p.m.



BOOT CAMP SALOON
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LEATHER / LEVI BAR

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OUT on Film



Panic Attack The very funny John Cleese has a panic attack in this scene from "Fierce Creatures." The comedy is now playing everywhere

'Fierce Creatures' May Not be Profound, But it is Just Plain Riotous Fun

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn does not like sequels, period. Unquestionably, an original idea (or at least as close a facsimile as Hollywood is likely to be able to come up with) is vital to the creation of a successful, entertaining major motion picture. Sequels are pale imitations, period.

Upon receiving his assignment to review *Fierce Creatures*, the latest madness from the wild and wacky people that brought us outrageous *A Fish Called Wanda*, Glenn was suitably dubious. Glenn is usually suitably dubious. Needlessly suitably dubious as it turns out since *Fierce Creatures* is not actually a sequel. Ah, but is *Fierce Creatures* an equal? Only worldwide box office (and Glenn, of course) will tell.

At the center of *Fierce Creatures* is a small British zoo which somehow ends up being purchased by a rough and tumble corporate magnet named Rod McCain (Kevin Kline). Rod McCain is a simple man with one simple rule in business: a 20% return on investment. No "ifs", no "ands", and definitely no "butts", oops.. no "butts".

Immediately McCain finds just the right man for the job of running the zoo and turning the zoo into a "cash cow": Ex-Hong Kong cop Rollo Lee (John Cleese).

How, you might ask? Well, Glenn tells all: A *Fierce Creature* policy. A *Fierce Creature* policy? Simple. Make the zoo a real, bonafide tourist destination by eliminating all of those boring old domesticated animals and make the zoo 100% fierce. What about cute and cuddly? What indeed.

Meanwhile, back in America, Willa Weston (Jamie Lee Curtis) has just been hired by McCain to run one of his businesses. Oops, he just sold that business. No problems, McCain has lots of businesses, lots of jobs.

For reasons that remain anonymous, Willa requests and receives assignment at the above mentioned zoo. As part of her assignment Willa is required to take along and supervise McCain's dorky,

oversexed son Vince (Kevin Kline again).

Hey, hold your horses, that enterprising Vince comes up with some pretty novel ideas for making hay at the zoo. Wouldn't the zoo keepers look cute costumed as the animals under their care? You bet they do, especially if the costumes are in magnificent day-glo colors.

On the other hand, how about corporate and celebrity sponsorship for the various exhibits? You'd pay to see Bruce Springsteen's tortoise, wouldn't you? What about "Absolute Fierce"? Pretty gosh, darn clever. As proved in *Fierce Creatures*, the possibilities are absolutely endless, pun fully intended!

What about romance? *Fierce Creatures* really delivers the goods. Vince and Willa. Willa and Rollo. Rollo and a variety of some not some not so fierce creatures.

A warning to those ever so discriminating moviegoers who seek out truly great cinema: literate, profound, monumental: *Fierce Creatures* just ain't it. Then again, few cinematic comedies in recent memory have been as inventive, as original, or simply just plain fun.

The *Wanda* alumni generally prove to be a delight. John Cleese (also co-scriptor) concocts a perfect blend of bluff autocrat and romantic marshmallow. John Cleese has never been so human, never been so funny. Jamie Lee Curtis is that rare actress to can act smart, intelligent and funny while all around her is descending into madness. Michael Palin is a stitch as Adrian "Bugsy" Malone, the man who can't shut up. And Kevin Kline? Well, he isn't anymore annoying than usual, 'nough said!

Fierce Creatures is not a great film, no Oscars are on the horizon. But. Oh yes there is a but. But, *Fierce Creatures* is easily one of the most fun cinematic ventures that Glenn has experienced in a long, long time. Just about had Glenn almost peeing in this pants. What greater compliment!

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

'Portrait of a Lady' May Not be Satisfying, But It's Always Fascinating

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

The critical acclaim (not to mention the financial success) of the recent Austen cinematic adoptions plus those wonderful Kenneth Branagh Shakespeare ventures has created a market for big screen classics, formerly the fodder of PBS's "Masterpiece Theatre," on the small screen.

As Jane Austen wrote but a mere seven novels, a sad fact to be sure, nonetheless true, filmmakers have increasingly begun to seek out other literary masterpieces for big screen treatment. The results have been decidedly mixed. Trevor Nunn's *Twelfth Night* was a feast for the eyes and the mind but cinematic adaptations of Defoe's *Moll Flanders* and Thomas Hardy's *Jude the Obscure* were tedious

efforts, only for the most hardy.

Jane Champion is an intelligent, perceptive and innovative director of such films as *The Piano* and *An Angel at My Table*. The striking lobby poster creates an expectation of Ms. Champion's feminist perspective to Henry James' original vision of love, of innocence and loss in *The Portrait of a Lady*.

Unfortunately Champion's leisurely sweeping camera never quite manages to peer behind, beneath the exotic locales, the opulent settings and the brittle, sophisticated characters that people the film.

Nicole Kidman's Isabel is, yet never quite becomes, the heart and soul of Champion's film. Isabel's quest for independence and experience is perceived by



Alas Poor Yorick! The critically acclaimed cinematic production of "Hamlet which opens on Friday February 14 at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater.

all around her as arrogance and folly. Her many suitors see this beautiful girl and mindlessly proceed as if to conquer. Truly, Glenn began to look for likely bachelors lurking behind any and every shrub.

She repeatedly rejects all who seek to possess her: the wealthy if uninspired Lord Warburton (Richard E. Grant), the dashing but dim (although quite persistent) Casper Goodwood (Viggo Mortensen) and even her charismatic if dying cousin Ralph Touchett (Martin Donovan). But without money, what is an independent gal gonna do?

Fortune, both figuratively and quite literally, fall upon her. Money, more money than she could have ever hoped for is hers but sadly, her quest for experience is all too brief. She is quickly introduced to the oh-so deliciously decadent Gilbert Osmond (John Malkovich) and is dazzled.

Before Isabel (or those of us in the audience) have even a moment to take a breath, she is carefully but quite decidedly ensconced within the gilded cage of her own making. Osmond, with the continued assistance of Madame Serena

Merle (Barbara Hershey) amuses himself by diabolically pulling the strings to all the puppets who surround him. Isabel's efforts at rebellion give *Portrait of a Lady* its dramatic tensions.

Portrait of a Lady is a visual, if somewhat barren, feast. Never quite capturing an initial innocence, Nicole Kidman's Isabel is not given the opportunity to emerge as either truly sympathetic or her plight as entirely tragic.

Nor is Champion's film helped by John Malkovich's excessive performance as Osmond. Oozing evil from every available pore, Osmond simply isn't believable in initially dazzling Isabel.

Better are Martin Donovan as Isabel's consumptive cousin who loves from a distance and Barbara Hershey as the clever but not clever enough Madame Serena. While Christian Bale and Valentina Cervi as appealing as the young lovers Rosier and Pansy, Shelly Winters and John Gielgud make for an absurd couple as Isabel's aunt and uncle.

Not always satisfying, *Portrait of a Lady* is never less than fascinating.

Rating \$\$\$\$ (Scale \$ to \$\$\$\$\$\$)

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

HAMLET

A KENNETH BRANAGH FILM

CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS
 HAMLET KENNETH BRANAGH
 JULIE CHRISTIE BILLY CRYSTAL
 GERARD DEPARDIEU CHARLTON HESTON
 DEREK JACOBI JACK LEMMON RUFUS SEWELL
 ROBIN WILLIAMS KATE WINSLET
 WITH SPECIAL GUESTS PLACIDO DOMINGO
 AND NEEL FARBELL WITH TIM HARVEY
 MUSIC BY ALEX THOMPSON
 COSTUME DESIGNER DAVID BARBON
 DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY KENNETH BRANAGH

Starring in association with
 Kenneth Branagh
 Julie Christie
 Billy Crystal
 Gerard Depardieu
 Charlton Heston
 Derek Jacobi
 Jack Lemmon
 Rufus Sewell
 Robin Williams
 Kate Winslet

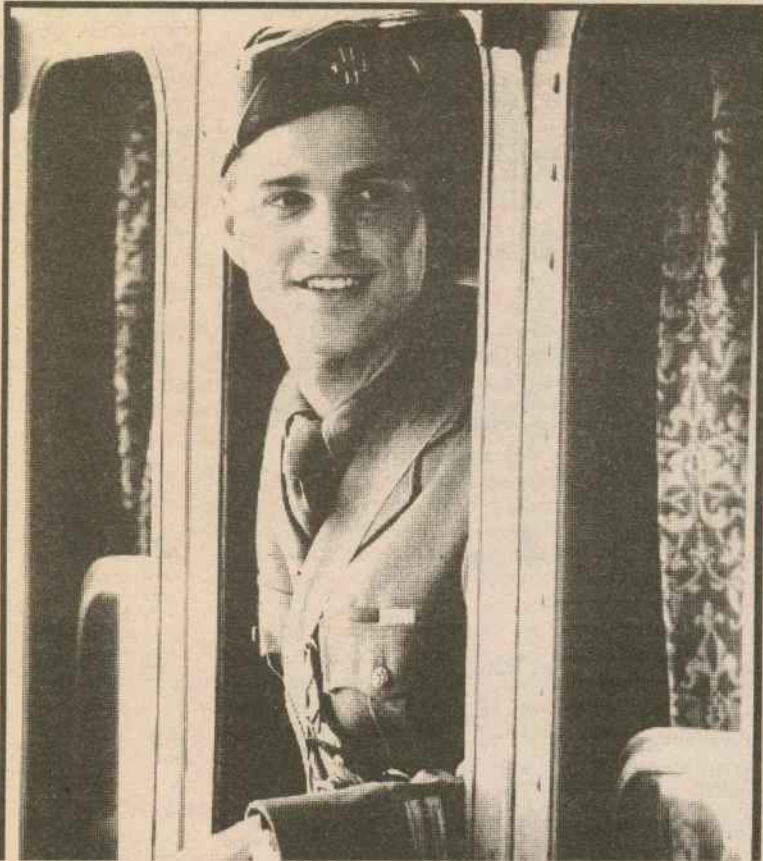
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Hunky Hemmingway! Chris O'Donnell stars as Ernest Hemingway in the new epic love story, "In Love and War." Currently playing everywhere.

'Everyone Says I Love You' is a Film Best Viewed in an Alcoholic Haze

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Several months ago Glenn received a very strange call (actually Glenn tends to receive a lot of very strange calls but we won't go into those, thank you very much).

There was a new musical being filmed in New York and could Glenn be asked to receive a small role? Glenn pleaded with the producers: "I can't sing a note!" "Doesn't matter," replied the producers. Nevertheless Glenn demurred.

Making a big-budget Hollywood musical and then finding some of the worst singers available is an anomaly that continues to puzzle Glenn. Having just attended the musical in question, *Everyone Says I Love You*, Glenn found that the ability to sing truly did not matter. Fancy that!

For those who have just experienced Madonna's all-singing, all-dancing extravaganza more commonly known as *Evita*, a word of warning. *Everyone Says I Love You* isn't at all like that overblown music video.

Evita wasn't perhaps all that thrilling but at least Madonna and her co-stars were somewhat higher up on the sing-a-long chain. Glenn especially enjoyed the singing shower room scene... but why did the young men shower with their shorts on? But Glenn digresses.

Everyone Says I Love You is set solidly in Woody Allen's usual universe: the New York City of the well-to-do. Love is at the heart of Allen's story. Old love, young love, lost love.

Holden (Edward Norton) is in love with Skylar (Drew Barrymore). Skylar's mother Steffi (Goldie Hawn) dedicates her life to her many and varied causes, the latest of which involves the early release of a prison convict named Charles Farry (Tim Roth). Charles Farry quickly seduces Skylar.

Meanwhile Steffi's first husband Joe (Woody Allen) has been just dumped (again) by his latest girlfriend. Joe and Steffi's daughter DJ (Natasha Lyonne) falls in and out of love throughout the film with a variety of adorably toothsome young men while her sisters, Lane (Gaby Hoffman) and Laura (Natalie Portman), both spend the film obsessed with the same boy. Only their brother Scott (Lucas Haas) remains oblivious to any notion of love but then again it turns out he has some personality altering disease throughout the film.

Allen's admittedly lightweight plot proves to be an adequate framework upon which to hang a series of warm and fuzzy love songs from the 1930's and 40's beginning with the title song sung by the amazingly versatile Edward Norton amidst a Central Park awash with the radiantly glowing pastel colors of spring.

From this marvelously enchanting opening, subsequent musical numbers range vary enormously in terms of musical quality.

Ensemble pieces such as the Halloween sequence and the marvelous Marx Brothers inspired "Salute to Captain Spaulding" sung in French work wonderfully well. Leading players fare less well with a few particularly falling flat (pun

fully intended -- just wait until Woody Allen and Julia Roberts get their magical, musical moments and remember that Glenn warned you!). Goldie Hawn proves the only exception in the dreamlike musical fantasia along the Seine that closes the film.

Glenn left the cinema feeling quite puzzled. As sung by his cast of the musically challenged, *Everyone Says I Love You* at best has moments sweetly charming yet poignant. Overblown production numbers might have topped Allen's confectionery but then again might have saved us the embarrassment of Woody Allen singing "I'm Through With Love". And speaking of Woody Allen, isn't he getting a little long in the tooth for believable romantic liaisons with gorgeous women like Ms. Robert.

A must for Allen fans, others might best experience *Everyone Says I Love You* under the warming glow of daiquiri inspired haze.

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



Tough Love? Cynstia Kaplan and Sonja Sohn deliver critically acclaimed performances playing two women in love in Rachel Reichman's "Work" a movie about an out of work, desperate America that is rarely seen on the screen. It plays at UWM's Union Theater on February 6, 7 and 8.

Let There Be No Doubt That, in 'Evita,' Madonna is at the Top of her Career

Commentary by Steve Stavron

Let me say at once that *Evita* is the crowning achievement of Madonna's career and a stunning measure is attributable to the star whose restrained, self-effacing performances stand in relief to a production which might have showcased a greater actress, but would have lost the eerie, uncanny quality that Madonna imparts to her incantation of Eva Peron—curiously shadowy and even naïve, but well on its way to becoming definitive.

Those reviewers who have decried the "lack of characterization" in the film never quite specify any "wrongness" in her performance. Perhaps her absolute "rightness" for the role was in itself, a source of frustration.

Madonna is not a skilled actress. Her voice is sometimes thin and untrained, but I cannot overestimate her contribution to *Evita*. Gone is the crude, smug narcissism of the queen of MTV. Gone is the slutty self-assurance which so appeals to the terminally promiscuous who have iconized her as the fag fad emblem of self-justification.

Madonna plays *Evita* as a fragile act of redemption and, of course, redemption is what *Evita*'s life was all about. The woman who slept her way to the top and became a savior of the "shirtless ones" understood the means to power as well

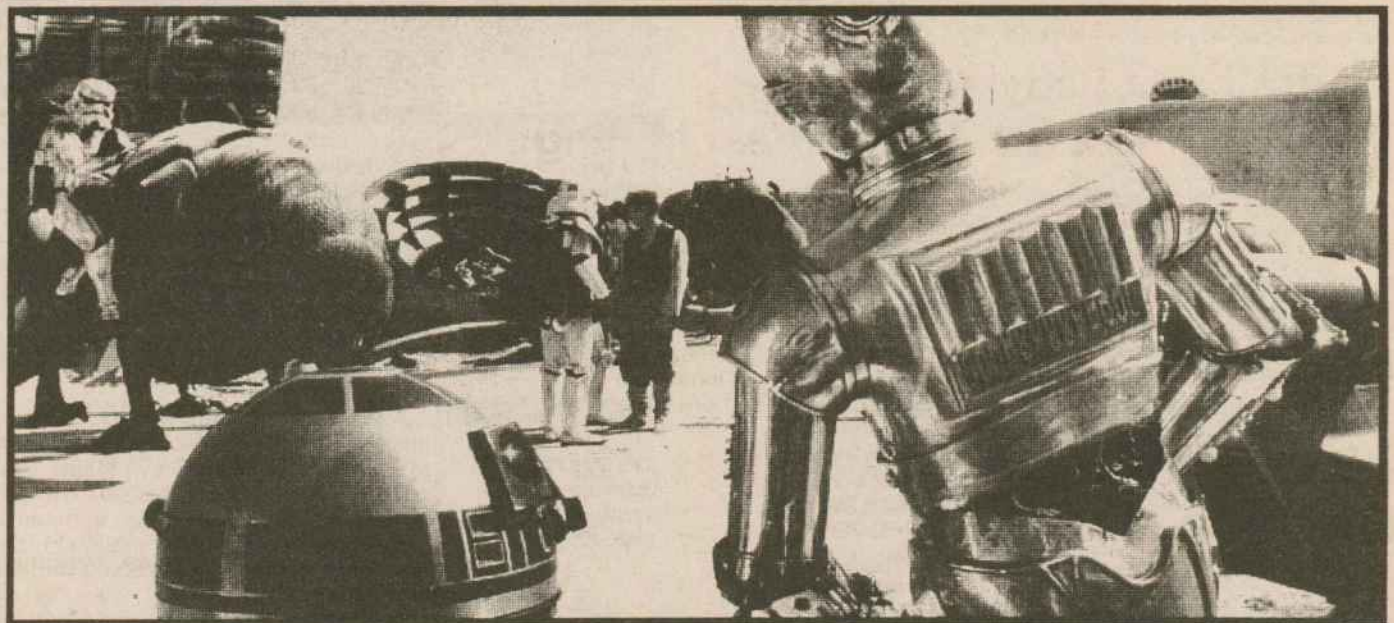
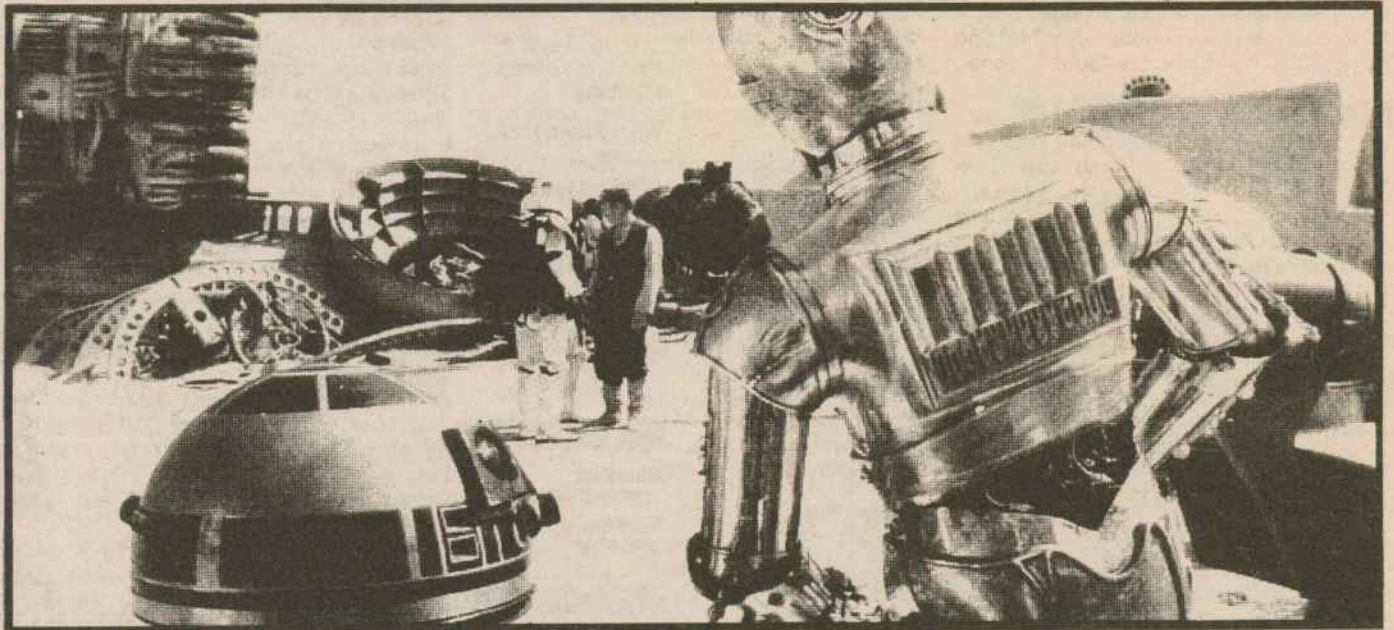
as the meanness of poverty. There has never been reason to doubt that the demagogic methods of the Perons were at odds with *Eva*'s good deeds. She understood both power and humility. She was frail. She died at 33.

Translating a stage musical with no spoken dialogue to speak of (pun intended) onto the vastness of screen time, poses problems upon which the detractors of the movie did not hesitate to pounce.

The largest factor was that a constant score limited developmental details in the chronology of *Eva Peron*'s life. On stage events can be rapidly dispensed by musical narration with minimal movement of characters. On screen director Parker does not slacken pace, but greatly expands and elaborates rapid sequences of mini-uprisings and street brawls without losing tempo.

Always included in screen events is the narrator Che (Antonio Banderas) acting as Greek chorus, visible only to the audience. Banderas adds spark and guts to the film, always reminding us that hype surrounds *Eva*'s ascendancy.

(I didn't know Banderas could sing.) While on-screen crowds exhort us to share their adulations of *Eva*, the film boomerangs back to the cynical Che, **Please See *Evita* Page 27**



Revised and Reborn The thrilling Sci-Fi classics, the *Star Wars* Trilogy is being re-released with updated sound and effects. As you can see from the scenes "Stars Wars Special Edition has some new digitally created creatures.

Dear Ruthie

By Ruthie

Editor's Note: There is no doubt about it, Ruthie makes an impact wherever she goes. For example, on a Grand Tour of Europe, she spent a weekend dallying with Charles, Prince of Wales. When she left, he was so devastated that he promptly divorced his wife. No one could compare with Ruthie.

In Paris, Ruthie's salon was unequalled for its brilliance and wit. When she left, it was noticed that the Crown Jewels had disappeared. If Ruthie had something to do with it, she was thought cheap at the price.

Arriving in Moscow she created a storm. When she departed, the Soviet Union promptly collapsed.

Recently, the British government received a message from Beijing, asking if Hong Kong couldn't remain a Crown Colony for another 100 years. Was it a coincidence that Ruthie was in Hong Kong at the time?

Now, fresh from a whirlwind tour of the Middle East (where and Arab Prince wanted to do strange things to her body), Ruthie has decided to rest a bit and give to our readers the salubrious benefit of her wisdom.

We thus introduce the first of her columns.

Dear Ruthie,
My friend and I just moved in to-



Ruthie

gether. We have a 2 bedroom apartment, but it's fairly small. Lately, I have not been able to get much sleep because my roommate snores. I have tried everything from those nose patches to waking him up. I am at my wits end! Is there anything more we can do? I've got to get some sleep. Sleepless in Cedarburg

Dear Sleepless,

Just do what I did when my late husband, Vinnie, snored too loud. Quietly

sneak into your roommate's room, and hold a pillow over his head until he stops. That apartment will be dead quiet for days! However, you may find several police officers pounding at your front door a few nights later—and would that really be all that bad?

You could try the old "sew a marble in the back of his night shirt" trick. That's assuming, of course, that he wears something to bed at night. If he doesn't, give me your address. Ruthie's got her own cure for him.

Dear Ruthie,

My lover, Juan, and I have been together for a year. Lately, Juan has been going through a series of mood swings. I have tried to do everything to help him, from offering my support to giving him his own space. He seems to be distancing himself from me more and more each day. I don't feel as though I know him anymore. What should I do? Is there anything more complicated than love?

Larry Loveless

Dear Larry,

There is nothing more complicated than love and my hairdo. And, maybe, Michael Jackson's personal life. Have you really tired everything?

Counselors can be wonderful and Milwaukee is full of them. More importantly, have you told Juan how you feel? Does he know that you feel as if you don't know him anymore? Telling him your feelings might just be enough to give his spirits a kick-start back to where they used to be.

If you tell him this, and he doesn't change or make an attempt at changing, think about your own needs and what you want from a partner. If it was up to me, I'd tell Juan to hit the tracks! You can always go out and find yourself another

beefy burrito to wrap your arms around. Tell 'em, "Hasta Manana, Jack. There's a bus leaving in 15 minutes—be under it."

Dear Ruthie,

My best friend and I have gone into business together. Due to her customer savvy, she handles all of our clients. The problem is that "Rita" always has really bad breath. I mean bad. I know this can be offensive to our clients, but how can I tell her? What should I say to her?"

Weak in the Knees

Dear Weak,

Tell your friend—she stinks. Really. Try and talk to her before meeting with a client. If her breath straightens your hair, pop a breath mint in your mouth and then offer her one. If she refuses, flat out tell her, "No, honey, take one." I know this sounds rude, but part of your business are riding on this.

Let her know. Actually, make her paranoid. Check her breath all of the time—get her thinking about it. I had this same problem with my third husband, Sal. My stars! His breath was so bad, it could peel the skin off a potato. Let me know how things turn out.

Dear Ruthie,

Why do people who love each other break up?

Romeo

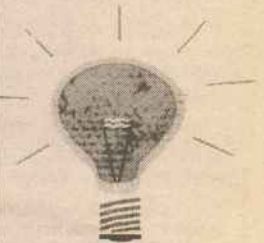
Dear Romeo,

The reasons most often cited for breaking up a relationship are: 1. Snoring; 2) Mood swings; 3) Bad breath.

Editor's note: Ruthie is desirous of addressing any problem whatsoever. None is too complicated, too outrageous, or too strange. Anonymity is guaranteed. Simple write: Ruthie, c/o The Wisconsin Light, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

Entertainment Guide

The Night Light



By Dusty Sass

Well the Super Bowl is over and not a moment too soon. Did you have as good a time as I did watching the game and cheering on the Pack?

With the help of our staff, **The Wisconsin Light** managed to make a whole bunch of Super Bowl parties. Kudos to **Station 2, Just Us, the 1100 Club, Fannies, M & M, South Water Street Docks, Mama Roux, This Is It, The Ball Game, C'est La Vie, La Cage and Just Us** for their parties. And our special thanks to Curt and his staff at **In Between** for hosting our special **Wisconsin Light SpotLight Party**. The place was packed, the food (provided by Walker's Point Café) was great and the beer was cold.

Now that the Super Bowl is over, its time to look forward to Valentine's Day and all of those special parties many of which will be attended by yours truly.

On Saturday February 1, I'll be at **The 1100 Club**, 1100 S. First Street, Milwaukee for the Oberons Leather Swap Meet. The meet includes a great spaghetti dinner, a beer bust (at 10 PM) and more.

Thursday February 6 you can find me in Mad Town attending **Manoeuvres Foam and Underwear Party**. I am not quite sure what one has to do with the other, but I am certain I will have a great time finding out.

While I am there, I will check out the merchandise at **We Are Family**, 524 Wilson Street, (just around the corner from Manoeuvres). They are running a big Valentine's Day Sale with up to 50% off.

On Friday February 7, I am going to head up to Title Town (that's Green Bay for the sports impaired) to take in the special show at **Za's**, 1106 Main Street. The revue includes Miss Gay Wisconsin US of A, Josie Lynn and Miss Gay Green Bay US of A, Kelli Jo Klein.

While I'm in Green Bay, I will attend the **Center Project's Have A Heart '97 Dinner** on **Saturday February 8**. The dinner will be held at elegant Phoenix Room on the UW-Green Bay campus. For reservations call Stan Kocos at the Center Project.

Being in Green Bay means that I will miss out on the fabulous Oberons fund raiser for Kids With AIDS at **Mama Roux** 1875 N. Humboldt, Milwaukee. The men in leather are giving away a mountain bike (hopefully with a mountain man attached!) There will be a \$5.00 beer bust and other prizes too.

Sunday February 9 is our **SpotLight Mardi Gras Party** at **Mama Roux**

Whether or not you are into Mardi Gras don't miss this party. Everyone who has ever been to party at Mama's, 1875 N. Humboldt, knows that only Mama knows the best excuses to party. This one will feature a Crawfish Boil (all U can eat for just 8 bucks) free Miller Lite (of course) a costume contest, door prizes and drink specials.

Of course as everyone knows, Mama's has authentic cajun cuisine. Check out their ad in this issue for a listing of delectable New Orleans offerings they will make available during Mardi Gras.

Speaking of Mardi Gras, I'll be back in Madison on **Tuesday February 11** for **Manoeuvres 150 S. Blair, Mardi Gras party**. This traditional Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday celebration should be a real blast.

On Friday February 14, Dr. Shovelit and I will start out with dinner at **Just Us** 807 S. Fifth Street. They have a special Valentine's Day dinner for two in addition to their fabulous fish fry. Actually, since Dr. Shovelit is a woman and I am a Gay man, we are not a couple, but... since this bar is known as the place where Gay men and Lesbians mix freely, I don't think it matters. For reservations call the bar (414) 383-2233.

Neither Dr. Shovelit or I want to miss the Valentine's celebration at **This Is It**. I'm told that if you're single, you just might find that hunka hunka burnin' love there that night. Well, I'm not single, but if someone "chewy" came along...??

After leaving **This Is It**, we are heading up to Madison for the grand opening party at **Mary's**. This new bar is conveniently located at 2526 E. Washington. That's just down the street from Geraldines.

Saturday February 15, I will be front and center when the **Just Us** troupe headed by Sandy Beach, Starry Night and MONA! take the stage for that bars Valentine's Day show. As usual there is no cover. Just Us is located at 807 N. Fifth Street, Milwaukee.

The Napalese Lounge in Green Bay, 515 S. Broadway, will also have a show that night. Elsie Bovine and her friends will be on hand for your viewing pleasure. There is no cover.

Closing Thought Sometimes we have the best of intentions, but mistrust and/or misinformation leads to misunderstandings, tempers flare and things can get out of hand. The important thing to remember is that in the we ARE on the same side and move on trying as best as we able to work together and to get along.

Stay safe and be proud. Hope to see you soon.

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Milw, WI 53204
672-5580

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Milw, WI 53204
273-7474

Boot Camp Saloon
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Milw, WI 53204
643-6900

Cafe Melange
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Milw, WI 53203
291-9889

Cest La Vie
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Milwaukee WI 53204
276-8890

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Milw, WI 53204
271-3732

1100 Club
1100 S. 1st St.
Milw, WI 53204
647-9950

Fannies
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Milw, WI 53204
643-9633

In Between
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Milw, WI 53204
273-2693

Just Us
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Milw, WI 53204
383-2233

Kathy's Nut Hut
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Milw, WI 53204
647-2673

La Cage
801 S 2nd St.
Milw, WI 53204
383-8300

La Perla Restaurant
734 S. Fifth St.
Milw, WI 53204
645-9688

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1875 N. Humboldt
Milw, WI 53212
347-0344

M & M Club
124 N. Water
Milw, WI 53202
347-1962

Rene's Cozy Corner
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Milw, WI 53208
933-RENE

S. Water St. Docks
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Milw, WI 53204
25-9676

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Milw, WI 53216
447-0910

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278-9192

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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

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Wausau, WI 54401
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Eau, Claire WI
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The Wolfs's Den
302 E Madison
EauClaire, WI 54703
832-9237

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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

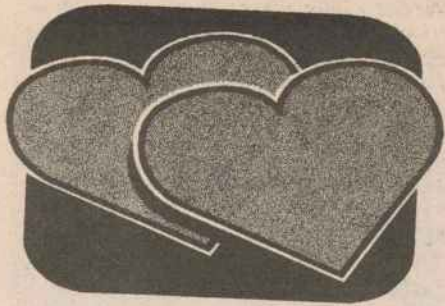
Za's/Java's
1106 Main St.
Green Bay, WI 54301
435-5476

KENOSHA

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

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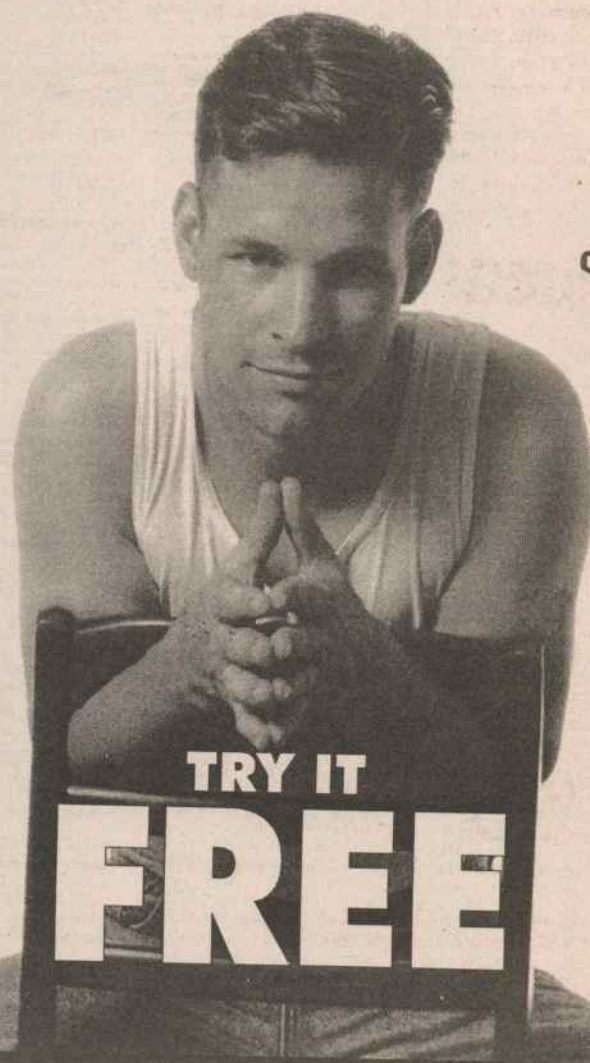
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Wagner
Continued From Page 1

Milwaukee Support for Falk

Among those who have sent contributions to her campaign are several Milwaukee politicians who in the past have supported Gay and Lesbian rights. The list includes State Representatives Barb Nottstein, Shirley Krug, and Peter Bock, Milwaukee County Supervisor Dorothy Dean, State Senator Gwen Moore, and Congressman Tom Barrett.

One Milwaukee Gay political activist bitterly commented that in future that city's Gays and Lesbians should start looking at who those it supports are supporting in other races. "This is an important race for us locally and nationally. I don't understand why these people have turned on an outstanding, well qualified leader like Dick Wagner and intervened in a race that has no impact on their own constituencies."

The Wisconsin Light contacted several of these officials. Congressman Barrett commented that his support came from the fact that he had known Falk for years, but added that if Wagner survives the primary he will have Barrett's support.

State Representatives Potter and Nottstein told The Wisconsin Light that while they believed that Dick Wagner is a very well qualified candidate, they also feel that Falk is qualified too. Both said that Falk has asked for their support and that Wagner didn't. Both also said that some Gay and Lesbian leaders were supporting Falk. As Potter put it "Kathleen asked me for my help. Dick didn't."

Nottstein added that Falk is extremely bright. She also called Wagner an able, qualified person adding that she would be delighted if he won, but felt that Falk's record on a wide variety of issues qualified her for the job.

One of the leaders mentioned by both of

them is Steve Starkey of the Wisconsin Community Fund. The WCF, contributes to a wide variety of organizations committed to empowerment. Starkey says that he believes that Wagner is well qualified for the position, but that his priorities are the environment and the poor. "Dick has a good record on these issues," he says, "But Kathleen does too and I believe that they will be priorities for her."

Some would say that the point about some leaders supporting Falk is well taken, but others would say that no matter what the minority group is, there will always be those who will look at issues other than that group's interests in setting their priorities. For example there were African Americans who refused to support Jesse Jackson's bids for the Presidency.

Mark Pocan, an openly Gay former Dane County Supervisor says, that while Falk and Wagner are similar in their positions on the issues, "When you look at issues affecting the Gay community, Wagner wins hands down. His qualifications are unmatched by any candidate that's ever run for office in Dane County. In the past Dick has delivered on a wide range of issues."

Wagner Refuses PAC Money

Wagner has refused to accept Political Action Committee money. He even declined financial help from the Victory Fund, a national Les/Bi/Gay PAC dedicated to electing openly Les/Bi/Gay office holders.

Furthermore in an interview with The Wisconsin Light, conducted in November, Dick Wagner said that while he would welcome support from outside Dane county he would not solicit it. He said he believed the race should be decided by Dane county residents and not by outside interests.

Union Support For Falk

In addition to her outside Dane County support, Falk has strong support from Madison's chapter of AFSCME, Dane County's Public Employees Union. Wagner's people say the some in the union favored Falk be-

cause it questioned whether or not an openly Gay candidate could win. This is the same reasoning the union is said to have used in refusing to endorse Tammy Baldwin during her successful primary campaign in 1992.

Wagner Claims Broad Support

Wagner has the endorsement and outspoken support of a broad bipartisan group of over 50 current and former office holders, including Openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin, Madison Mayor Paul Soglin, former Republican Sheriff Jerome Laacke, several members of the Dane County Board of Supervisors and Dane County area State Legislators.

Some say that it may not be enough. Falk is raising more money and it is believed that she can count on AFSCME's considerable political machinery in turning out her supporters on primary day.

Falk's Experience Questioned

Falk has never run for public office. At a recent public forum when asked about her experience in County government, Falk replied that she had volunteered for "a couple of campaigns" for the County Board.

Baldwin, Soglin Praise Wagner

In her endorsement letter, openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin called Wagner, "a role model" and "a mentor." Baldwin credits Wagner for paving the way for her own bids for office.

Madison Mayor Paul Soglin also sent a letter to his supporters. In his letter Soglin said "Now more than ever, county government needs an experienced leader like Dick Wagner who can bring people together, open minds and move our community forward."

If Falk should finish first or second in the primary, her Milwaukee money connection may become an issue in the general election against Blaska who is currently leading among those who have decided on a choice in every campaign poll

Blaska a former County Board Chairman is considered to be very conservative. Blaska's critics say that during his Chairmanship the Dane County Board was marked by deep divisions and an inability to achieve consensus on important issues.

Although Blaska may finish in front of the field in the February primary, it is expected that Dane County's liberals will unite behind the second place finisher in the general election. With a hotly contested Mayor's race in Madison, Blaska's first place finish may mean nothing in the general election.

But that may mean nothing to Dick Wagner if he doesn't survive the primary. As his a member of his campaign team said, "If Gays and Lesbians really want to make an impact there is no time like to present to speak up with the dollars and their time. All they have to do is call 257-5270."

Miller
Continued From Page 1

place. In 1995, according to the Foundation's spring/summer 1996 newsletter, the Cream City Foundation received grants in excess of \$32,000 from workplace contributions to A Choice. This money was awarded to various

LesBiGayTrans community organizations, individuals and to the support of events that heightened the pride of the community.

Evita
Continued From Page 23

warning us not to be too easily swayed, and in prophetic terms, he influences our reactions and gives the film balance and stability.

In one remarkable surrealistic scene before her death, he tangoes with the imaginary Eva, still rebuking her for her un-lived life, her unfulfilled promises. But when she dies, he, too, sheds a tear—a final note of irony.

Because the sequences of Eva's rise to power must be accelerated in keeping with the score, many reviewers have accused the film of limp characterization, of no clear portraiture of the "real" Eva, and of no specific point of view about the woman herself.

If there ever was a "real" Eva Peron, she has long since been subsumed into the mythical "Evita," and myth is the real meat of the music. This is, after all, a musical portrait, not a dramatic allegory, and music always deals easily with myth, especially one containing an overtone of untimely death. Memory, then, has plenty of room in which to linger.

The music itself suits the screen well. Although combined with superb cinematographic images edited in intelligent sequences for a change, the film score remains close to Weber's original stage conception, not appreciably altered.

One new song is unobtrusively added. Although it has been reorchestrated with discretion to match Parker's sensitive and stunning cinematography which, in turn, enhances the metaphorical content of the

music, the score is not as sophisticated as Weber's later *Phantom of the Opera* and *Sunset Boulevard*. Neither is it as "rock bound" as *Jesus Christ Superstar* and what it may lack in sheer melodic invention, it gains in momentum, spiraling around the signature tune "Don't Cry" which completes the incantation of Evita.

While a pre-recorded score must limit the action to some degree, here, its musical economy increases the dramatic scaling of events, and seems more alive and expansive than the one tune show of the stage production.

Yet, nothing seems overblown or bombastic unlike other screen musicals. Everything seems tight and in correct proportion to the material. Weber's score is all of a piece, and, as his subsequent works, approach musical-opera hybrid. In retrospect, *Evita* seems to have gained a new lease on life.

Nothing more is needed. I did not miss the spoken dialogue.

In comparison, with the deadly emotional sterility of most of this year's "top" films, the pretentious *English Patient*, the cynical cackles of *Fargo*, the disjointed melodramatic chunks of *Shine*, the shouting matches vying for emotion in *Jerry McGuire*, the distorted self-parodying of Courtney Love and Woody Harrelson in *Larry Flynt*, much, much sound and fury signifying nothing—we can be grateful for Madonna's humbly poignant reincarnation of Evita. It's easy to cry for her and many in the audience did.

R Place
Continued from Page 12

scene. The Newman's quickly became popular bar owners and many patrons commented on their fondness for the couple. Mike and Nancy Newman were the main financial backers of R Place.

Legal Complications

Legal complications arose when Danny Newman refused to sign the bar license over to his father, even though Danny had made it clear that he would not be returning to Madison. The City of Madison requires that license holders reside within the city. When Mike Newman tried to get a new bar license issued to him, the City said the process would take several months.

The City told Mike Newman that Madison ordinance requires that a license cancellation hearing take place before a new license could be issued. This hearing required a 30 day notice. After the hearing the license holder would have 30 days to appeal the result. Only then could a new license holder apply. All of that meant a delay of several months in reopening the bar.

The City also informed Newman that he was operating with an invalid license. Upon hearing that, he voluntarily closed the bar until the legalities of the situation could be worked out.

Verveer Intervenes

Enter openly Gay Madison Alderman, Mike Verveer and the Madison City Attorney's office. Verveer asked the City Attorney's office to investigate the situation. The results of that investigation revealed that the original license was improperly issued. The reason for this finding was that the license holder did not himself sign the lease for the premises occupied by R Place.

Asst. City Attorney, Rick Petri, sent a letter to the ALRC recommending that the license be transferred because the original license holder had left town.

Alderman Verveer then went to work and cleared Mike Newman for quick approval for a new license application in his own name. Newman is scheduled to appear before the ALRC on Wednesday January 29, to ask for approval on his request. Verveer will be testifying at the hearing in favor of the application.

Verveer told The Wisconsin Light "Given the unfortunate circumstances regarding Mike's son Danny leaving Wisconsin and his total cooperation and honesty in his dealings with the City, I can not imagine this request being denied."

If the Alcohol and License Review Committee approves Newman's request, The full council will vote on that request on February 4. Scandals should be able to open later in the week.

Verveer said he was pleased with the cooperation his office received from the City Attorney and the ALRC.

"The expeditious manner in which the Alcohol and License Review committee has acted in scheduling this matter for a special meeting allows Madison to retain an important Les/Bi/Gay social gathering place right off the Capitol Square," Verveer said.

Keep reading The Wisconsin Light for updates on the reopening of Scandals.

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Organizations

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National Gay Pilots Association

welcomes all aviation enthusiasts. Newsletter, Events, Personals
NGPA, Dept. MKE PO Box 27542
Washington, DC 20038-2742
(703) 660-3852 n

Personals

GWM, 36, 5'10", 190 lb., br hair/eyes. Looking for friendship/relationship. I'm handicapped/w speech impediment. Am mobile. Will relocate. Am social drinker and smoker. Call Mark at (414) 253-0921. c

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.

Why I Choose to Leave The Roman Catholic Church

By Rev. Dr. Robert Goss

I embarked on a journey into exile as both an unlicized Catholic priest and lover seventeen years ago. I left active ministry as a Jesuit priest and began to explore love and alternative ministry as a priest on the margins of the Catholic Church.

In the early days, Dignity, a Gay and Lesbian Catholic organization, challenged the Catholic bishops with a vision of inclusion and justice. In the last years, Dignity has faltered from a lack of vision on the national level and a well-orchestrated plan to render it useless by the U.S. Catholic bishops.

While I spent six months on research in Boston in 1993, I asked the local Dignity chapter to allow me to preside at the Sunday Eucharist on the anniversary of the death of my lover of 16 years. Frank had been president of that chapter for 2 years, and I was on the board of directors for 2 years and chaplain for several years.

The title of my book, published in 1993, *Jesus ACTED UP*, terrified the decision-makers of the Boston chapter and I was denied presiding at the funeral anniversary of my lover who had given much to that chapter. The chapter leaders were only interested in duplicating the structures of Catholic parish life or stretch those structures to accept their sexual lifestyle.

On a local and national level, Dignity has been unable to offer Queer Catholics a vision of justice that comprehended homophobia as embedded in misogyny or connected to racism, ageism, classism, etc.

Where are the Catholic voices? I have received quiet support for *Jesus ACTED UP* from many Gay Catholics from religious orders such as the Jesuits, Dominicans, Franciscans, Tappists among others.

Many lay voices such as Kevin Calegari, the prophetic leader of Dignity, have expressed thanks for the courage to speak a challenging vision of Queer Christian liberation. We will always share Christ's body.

Where are the Catholic voices on Amendment 2? Two Catholic legal associations have filed briefs with the Supreme Court in support of the infamous Amendment 2.

Where are the voices of the theologians of the Catholic Theological Society of America? They have not filed any briefs against Amendment 2. The Quakers and several other religious organizations have filed briefs against Amendment 2.

Outside of the few voices such as John McNeill and myself, where now are the Catholic Gay and Lesbian voices? Jeanine Grammick and Robert Nugent have caved into the terroristic climate; they now involve themselves with PFLAG and lead tours of the Holy Land.

Priests, nuns and theologians have remained

Advocate of Marijuana for AIDS Patients Says Arrest Will Not Stop Him

Providence, RI— As Todd McCormick sits in an Ohio jail, charged with possessing 31 pounds of marijuana, he eagerly awaits the day when he can resume giving away the drug.

McCormick and his girlfriend were arrested while driving from San Diego to Providence to start a "compassion club" for seriously ill people who use marijuana to dull their pain.

"When I get home this time, I'm going nuts," McCormick, 25, said in a telephone interview from the Correction Center of Northwest Ohio in Stryker. "I'll have fields in my front yard. I'm going ballistic, no holds barred. If they want to come get me, put me in jail, so be it."

McCormick estimates there are between 30 and 50 compassion clubs across the country. The 3,200-member San Francisco Cannabis Buyer's Club is believed to be the largest such group.

As reported in the last issue of *Light*, the clubs are organized by people who grow marijuana and then visit support groups for patients with AIDS and other diseases. They offer the drug for free or very cheaply.

McCormick, who runs the 20-member San Diego Compassionate Use Club, said members must provide photo identification and a doctor's letter describing their condition. They also must sign a statement indicating they know they are breaking the law.

The Drug Enforcement Administration says it is aware of compassion clubs but has not targeted them for enforcement.

The Food and Drug Administration has granted marijuana prescriptions to 15 people suffering from cancer, AIDS, spinal cord injuries, multiple sclerosis and glaucoma. Seven have since died.

The Bush administration put a stop to medical testing and medical use of marijuana in 1992, saying it could harm patients who had safer alternatives. The Clinton administration upheld the ban last year.

"Sound scientific studies supporting these claims are lacking despite anecdotal claims

silent. The Queer community has too painfully discovered the truth of the ACT UP slogan "SILENCE = DEATH." Where are now the voices on the blessing of our unions and ordaining openly Gay clergy?

The Catholic Church is a dead institution. Its liturgies are necrophilic when they fail to include Catholic women and Queers. Its theologies of sexuality are impoverished, promoting an anti-choice position, the secondary status of women and the exclusion of Queers.

Its response to the AIDS pandemic has been too little and too late. Institutional necrophilia has numbed the Catholic Church to certain justice cases.

There are, however, a number of Catholic-based communities here and in the Third World, quietly resist and struggle against the terrorism of the Catholic hierarchy. But their justice issues have barely included women's issues and have hardly imagined Queer justice issues.

I prayed for discernment on the direction to move: Whether to start a new movement to challenge Catholic homophobia or to leave altogether.

I have maintained contact with a number of Queer Christian prophets in a number of denominations. I have investigated the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) in St. Louis for the last two years and have been impressed by its commitment to social transformation.

In other parts of the county, the churches of the UFMCC have been fire-bombed and members have been killed for being Queer and Christian. Even though the UFMCC has met all the admission requirements of the National Council of Churches, it has been denied admission because of the issue of Queer sexual ity.

This Spring I took the initial step of offering my theological and teaching expertise to Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies which provides theological training for UFMCC clergy candidates. My offer was accepted and I was immediately put to work to teach theology and sexuality in the dual enrollment program with Chicago Theological Seminary and invited to join a steering committee for Samaritan's first theological conference in 1996.

The UFMCC is by no means the perfect Christian community. It is growing and struggling with issues of racism, classism, economic oppression, etc. The UFMCC is generations ahead of Catholic Christianity with a vision of justice and compassion. The UFMCC is, I believe, where a Queer Catholic Christianity needs to grow.

I recognize that God's Spirit is actively transforming the UFMCC into a prophetic change community, posing an alternative vision of justice-love and inclusions to the mainline Christian denominations.

that smoked marijuana is beneficial," Assistant Health Secretary Philip Lee said in announcing the decision to members of Congress who support medical marijuana use.

But McCormick says there are studies which claim marijuana can ease the pain of cancer and AIDS treatments, alleviate muscle spasms for people with spinal cord injuries and relieve the eye pressure that blinds glaucoma sufferers.

He has used marijuana to ease the pain of Histiocytosis X, a cancerous overgrowth of the cells that normally protect people from infection. The disease attacks bone marrow, the blood, liver and spleen. McCormick had the first five vertebrae of his spine fused when he was 2 and underwent eight more operations over the next seven years.

McCormick, who was in constant pain, first discovered marijuana while riding in a car with his mother as she smoked it. "I went from not wanting to do anything to 'Can I go out and play?'" he said.

He said marijuana reduced the nausea and loss of appetite caused by radiation treatments and chemotherapy. He continued to use it after his cancer went into remission because it eased the pain from his fused vertebrae and the side effects of radiation treatments, which stunted the growth of his left hip, leaving his left leg two inches shorter than the right.

"(Marijuana) sets your mind at ease which sets your body at ease which allows your body to heal," McCormick said. "If I don't have cannabis it's too uncomfortable to stretch. It dulls the pain enough that I can sit and concentrate on movement."

McCormick and Natalie Byrd were pulled over July 18 by an Ohio state trooper because the curtains on their van were drawn, blocking the rear view. Three days later, Drug Enforcement Agents raided McCormick's San Diego club, seizing marijuana, growing tools and signatures supporting a California ballot initiative to legalize marijuana.

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



McCormick and Byrd, who were both still jailed as we go to press, could get up to 30 years in prison if convicted of drug possession. Whether McCormick planned to use the marijuana for medicinal purposes makes no difference in the case, prosecutor William Bish said. A group called the Todd McCormick Alliance is campaigning on the Internet computer network and through marijuana legalization

groups to raise money for McCormick's \$150,000 bail and legal expenses. They hope the case will draw attention to their fight for legalized marijuana.

McCormick said the risk of arrest is worth giving other sick people the opportunity for relief. "I'm trying to remove the criminal element," he said. "You shouldn't have to go on the street."

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