



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

The Wisconsin Light

Planning Meeting for Same-Sex Marriage Working Group of Action Wisconsin

Madison—In response to proposed state legislation aimed at prohibiting recognition of same-sex marriage, a group of concerned citizens has continued to meet and work toward obtaining legal recognition of same-sex marriages. A general planning meeting for all people interested in securing equal marriage rights will be held on Sunday, February 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the UW-Madison Memorial Union, 800 Langdon Street (check "Today in the Union" for room).

This working group includes these committees with the following tasks:

Legislative Testifying: collect a diverse group of people willing to provide written or oral testimony for legislative hearings;

Media Watch: write letters to the editor and other press pieces in support of same-sex marriage, and monitor and respond to opinion pieces on this issue;

Communities of Faith: seek clergy and faith community leaders who will speak out and write public statements on theological perspectives in supporting same-sex marriage;

Communications: inform participants in a timely manner of upcoming legislative events via phone and e-mail;

Allies: identify and contact other community organizations and obtain their endorsements of a campaign for same-sex civil marriage.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but are interested in being involved, please call Action Wisconsin at: (608) 242-9781.

The End Has Finally Come; Madison's Hotel Washington Will Not be Rebuilt

Madison—So close and yet so far away. That seems to be the final epitaph of Madison's Hotel Washington.

The final chapter in the Hotel Washington saga has been written, but unlike a fairy tale, this story does not have a happy ending. In an exclusive interview, owner Greg Scheel has informed *The Wisconsin Light* that he will not be rebuilding what was once the crown jewel in Wisconsin's constellation of Gay and Lesbian bars and clubs.

Mixner and the Rath Foundation Jointly Further Gay Studies at Holocaust Museum

Milwaukee—From the beginning, the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC, has been charged with the mission of chronicling the Nazi persecution of all groups, including the LesBiGay community. At its opening in the spring of 1993, exhibits and accounts of the sufferings of Gay people were on display.

Now, a solid base of funding for expansion of the study of the Gay experience under Hitler is nearly complete.

According to Debbie Eliason, director of special campaigns for the Museum, funding from the V. Duane Rath Endowment will be in place by the end of the year.

The Endowment is a \$400,000 matching grant offered by the Rath Foundation, which was created in memory of Rath, an openly Gay Wisconsin businessman.

The Museum's contribution to gain the matching funds has been run by the Gay and Lesbian Campaign.

In the beginning, Eliason said, in 1993, funds for a Gay/Lesbian section were sparse. Though people could give to support Gay/Lesbian studies, there was no official campaign.

In 1994, long-time Gay activist David Mixner moved to remedy that situation. It was Mixner, Eliason said, who proposed a Gay and Lesbian-specific fundraising campaign to Museum officials.

Mixner had been one of the specially invited guests to tour the Museum during the March on Washington in 1993. Like others on that tour, Mixner had been powerfully moved. Mixner also came to believe in the importance of the Holocaust Museum in

Milwaukee Effort to Attract Gay Visitors Underway



It's Mardi Gras Time. Mardi Gras was celebrated all over Wisconsin as a prelude to Lent. Shown above are Pat and Jasmine at our Wisconsin Light Mardi Gras SpotLight party, held at Mama Roux, 1875 N. Humboldt, Milwaukee, on Sunday, February 9.

"Shepherd Express" Employees Debate the Paper's Future in a Series of Meetings

Milwaukee—Greg Quindel, President of Alternative Publications Employees Cooperative announced on February 10, 1997, that the Cooperative's Board has called for a stockholders meeting to make substantial changes to the Board of Di-

rectors of Alternative Publications, Inc.—the publisher of the *Shepherd Express* and *Mature American*.

Quindel was elected the Cooperative's president in October, 1996 and served as the Company's Director of Sales and Marketing from June 26th until his firing just minutes before a Cooperative Board meeting scheduled for Friday, January 31st. Quindel refused to step down as president of the Cooperative when presented that condition of employment only one day before the Cooperative Board was to meet to call for an expeditious date for the annual stockholders' meeting.

"There has been a concerted effort to prevent the employees from exercising their normal ownership rights to select the governing board of the company," Quindel said.

According to Quindel, the current Board of the Company "set a stockholders' meeting for two months past the date called for in the bylaws," Quindel said. This delay goes right to the very essence of employee ownership. There is no other mechanism for employee involvement other than the elections," Quindel argued.

In 1994, Quindel, along with Attorney and former NFL Players Association President Ed Garvey, put the financing package together that gave the *Shepherd Express* employees control of the company. Quindel also served as the publishing company's president from January through May, 1995, when the *Shepherd Express* was one of the fastest growing weeklies in the country.

Company representatives had asked for the delay to complete the process of hiring a new president. Quindel has made no secret of his desire to regain that position.

Quindel acknowledged that the fight will come down to holding majority support among the staff.

"That's the way it should be," Quindel said.

Quindel would not go into details concerning the call to remove several members of the Board. "Those are family matters," he said. He added, however, that no staff firings were being contemplated.

The stockholders' meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 14th.

Plans for the new Board include initializing The Shepherd Express Fund, which will make advertising grants to non-profit community and arts groups; updating accounting and data systems; and a renewed marketing effort.

The Board will also take a close look at

Please Turn to Shepherd Page 9

Scheel said he had faxed a letter to Capitol City Bank withdrawing his application of \$3.1 million loan. The loan which had been approved was the key piece in the Hotel's \$5.1 million financing package.

The letter, a copy of which was received by *Light*, thanked the bank for its consideration but cited unexpected mounting costs and his family's health as the prime reasons

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David Mixner

fighting bigotry.

With Mixner and Roberta Bennett, a Los Angeles attorney, Lesbian activist and a founder of the Victory Fund, as co-chairs, the campaign set out to raise \$1.5 million in five years. The initial goal has been met.

One of the results of Mixner's and Bennett's work is an inscription that has been added to the Museum's Founders Wall. The inscription reads: "American Gays and Lesbians, Families and Friends."

"I believe we're the only national institution to have the Gay community's name etched in stone," Eliason said.

Editor's Note: To make a donation supporting Gay and Lesbian studies and programming, send a check to The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Development Department, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington, DC 20024-2150.

Milwaukee—When you think of Milwaukee, do you think of the city as being a draw for tourists? Those native to Milwaukee may not think of the city and area that way, but it is.

"Milwaukee is a hot tourist destination," Bill Hanbarry of the Greater Milwaukee Convention and Visitors Bureau said, adding that the numbers of tourist inquiries was "up 100%" in the last year alone. The tourist dollar is "worth millions" to the city," he said.

Hanbarry was speaking to a group of approximately 25 Lesbian and Gay representatives of businesses and organizations who had gathered on February 6th to hear how the Convention and Business Bureau wants to attract Lesbian and Gay tourists and convention business to Milwaukee.

This was the first meeting of the Gay and Lesbian Tourism Project. It was held in the offices of the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

This meeting was a first of its kind. "No other city in the country is actively seeking Gay/Lesbian convention business," Hanbarry said.

The group was told that both Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist and Milwaukee County Executive Tom Ament support the idea of bringing LesBiGay tourists and conventions to the area.

Other cities, however, are not far behind. Prominent Lesbians and Gays from around the Midwest are being invited to the Twin Cities to discover why Minneapolis and St. Paul should be Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay tourist meccas.

Lesbian/Gay organizations represented included: La Cage, This Is It, Just Us, the Alternative Business Association, the Cream City Squares, the Cream City Chorus, SSBL, MAP, Log Cabin, the Cream City Foundation, H.I.T., Dignity, PFLAG, LAMM/LAMMEF, and Gay Youth Milwaukee.

Among the reasons, the group was told, that the Bureau is seeking out Gay/Lesbian business is that "Milwaukee is committed to the convention and tourist industry," Hanbarry said. "Gays and Lesbians are a good part of the diversity of this country."

Another reason is money. "The Gay or Lesbian tourist spends two and a half times what straight tourists spend," Hanbarry said. This means millions of dollars for Milwaukee, a lot of which will be spent in community businesses and those enterprises and cultural events that are friendly to the community.

Shelli Marquardt and Bill Meunier, Project Co-Directors, pointed out the "enormous advantages" to be gained from bringing LesBiGays to Milwaukee from around the country. Not only would businesses be expected to increase profits, as Mike Lisowski of Gay Youth Milwaukee pointed out, but the local community would have a chance to "showcase" itself to the rest of the nation and world.

Those attending the meeting were told that LesBiGay organizations who want to bring their groups to the city, will have the Bureau's staff, expertise and financial help at their disposal.

For example, the Bureau can help a group get the best possible hotel rates for those coming into the city.

The Bureau is not funded by taxpayer dollars, but by a surcharge on hotel rooms.

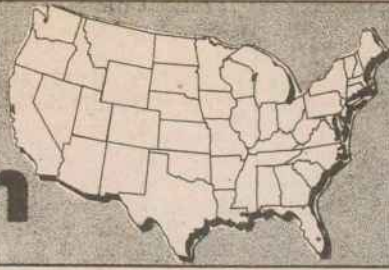
Both large conventions of hundreds and small gatherings are being sought. To this end, a visitor's guide is envisioned that would display the city's attractions and businesses to the LesBiGay visitor.

Mention was made also of the need to present the city's LesBiGay attractions to those LesBiGays who come to the city as members of non-Gay conventions and meetings.

Meunier said that those attending the February 6th meeting were not a committee or a board. They were a "working group" that would meet on a quarterly basis. In the meantime, they would go back to their organizations and explain what is going on.

Volunteers, Meunier said, would be needed to handle PR, event services and other things of that nature.

News From The Nation



Doctors Help AIDS Patients Die

Boston, MA-AP- Half of all AIDS doctors responding to a survey in San Francisco admit they have prescribed deadly doses of narcotics to help terminally ill patients commit suicide.

A report on the survey called the figure surprisingly high, "given the possible legal and ethical repercussions of such an action."

The survey was reported by The Associated Press when it was presented last summer at the 11th International Conference on AIDS in Vancouver, British Columbia. It was published in most recent issue of the **New England Journal of Medicine**.

The survey was conducted on 228 members of a San Francisco-area group of AIDS specialists. Half of them returned anonymous questionnaires, and 53 percent of those doctors said they had helped patients commit suicide by writing prescriptions for narcotic overdoses.

The apparent growing acceptance of suicide for AIDS patients comes as medical breakthroughs raise hopes that death from the disease can be delayed for years or perhaps avoided entirely.

Large-Scale Gay/Lesbian Consumer Survey

San Francisco, CA-AP- A large-scale national consumer survey of Gay men and Lesbians says popular entertainment, sport utility vehicles, computers and financial planning scored high on their lists of interests.

The Gay community is largely well educated and affluent, with a household income exceeding \$100,000 for 21 percent of the market, the survey said. Some 22 percent have graduate degrees, it found, and 58 percent hold management positions.

"This survey confirms the affluence and spending patterns for which there previously has been only anecdotal evidence," said Rebecca McPheters, president and CEO of Simmons Market Research Bureau in New York, which conducted the survey.

Advertising agency Mulryan/Nash, a New York agency aimed at Gay consumers, commissioned the survey. The intent was to index the market.

The pollsters surveyed 3,896 Gay men and women across the country, then combined the results for men and women in the totals.

The report showed Gay consumers are loyal to product brands that advertise in the Gay press, such as Absolut vodka and Subaru.

Some 72 percent of those surveyed had attended live theater within the past year, nearly double the 37 percent of the U.S. population as a whole.

And 20 percent of Gay men and Lesbians reported seeing at least two feature films in the last month, more than three times the 6 percent of Americans in general.

Galesburg Rejects Civil Rights for Gays

Galesburg, IL-AP- A Gay civil rights organization accused the Galesburg City Council of "moral cowardice" for rejecting an ordinance making it illegal to discriminate against Lesbians, Bisexuals and Gay men.

The council unanimously rejected the proposal, which was supported by the city's Human Relations Commission.

Rick Garcia, executive director of the Illinois Federation for Human Rights, condemned the vote, particularly because it was taken without discussion.

"Taking a vote without any discussion or testimony demonstrated rank arrogance and moral cowardice," he said. "The council members should be ashamed."

The ordinance would have added sexual orientation to the protected categories of race, color, gender, religion and disability.

Local resident Paul Steenis said the council's decision Monday "gave a very clear message that this is not a community where everyone is welcome."

AIDS Cases Growing in Rural Areas

Stockton, CA-AP- With AIDS diagnosed at a rate four times faster in rural areas than in cities, the next wave of the HIV epidemic is ready to hit small towns and sparsely populated areas across the country, experts said.

"Rural areas right now are at about the same place that urban areas were 10 years ago," said William Perry of the state health department's Office of AIDS.

Perry was among more than 150 people representing AIDS agencies in the United States attending Monday's conference on HIV in rural California.

These areas largely have been ignored in AIDS research, education and treatment efforts, where residents represent one of the fastest-growing groups being infected, conference speakers said.

One of the main problems behind the growing number of AIDS cases in these areas is lack of education about the virus and how it is transmitted, said Harold Rasmussen, chief of the education and prevention branch of the Office of AIDS.

"So the epidemic is ready to happen. The virus may not have hit full force, but behaviors are such that it has that potential," Rasmussen said.

Other obstacles in battling the virus include lack of AIDS specialists and access to experimental therapies that are rarely available in small medical centers and clinics, conference participants said.

Judge Who Took Child From Lesbian Mom Accused of Violating Ethics

Pensacola, FL-AP- A judge has been accused of violating judicial ethics by commenting about a mother's lesbianism in a custody ruling that sent a child to live with her father, a convicted killer.

Allan H. Terl, a retired Fort Lauderdale lawyer and Gay activist, claims Circuit Judge Joseph Q. Tarbuck of Pensacola violated a judicial canon against bias or prejudice based on sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, national origin, disability and socioeconomic status.

Terl said that he had filed a complaint with the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission based in part on Tarbuck's statement that he believed "this child should be given the opportunity and the option to live in a non-Lesbian world."

The comment came during an August 1995 hearing at which he removed Mary Ward's daughter, Cassey, then 11, from the Pensacola woman's home.

Tarbuck sent the girl to live in nearby Milton with her father, John Ward, who had served eight years in prison for second-degree murder in the 1974 shooting of his first wife during a custody dispute over another child.

Mary Ward had appealed Tarbuck's ruling, but she died Jan. 21, making the custody battle moot, Terl said. A cause of death has not yet been determined and additional laboratory tests are being conducted, according to the medical examiner's office. Foul play is not suspected.

A request to reconsider its decision or send the case to the state Supreme Court was pending when Mary Ward died.

HRC Says President's Speech Falls Short

Washington, DC- The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has offered a mixed reaction to the President's State of the Union Address. HRC commended Clinton for calling for an end to America's divisions, but lamented the "missed opportunity" to address the "rift" over the issue of sexual orientation.

By contrast, HRC spokespeople said, Rep. J.C. Watts exploited the opportunity presented to him in giving the GOP response to the State of the Union to make a "thinly veiled appeal to the very politics of fear which he also deplored," said Elizabeth Birch, HRC Executive Director.

Clean Needles Curb HIV Among IV Drug Users

Tucson, AZ-AP- Pima County is offering free and clean hypodermic needles in an attempt to slow the increasing number of intravenous drug users who get the virus that causes AIDS.

Statistics show the rate of HIV infection among intravenous drug users nation wide has more than doubled in the past decade.

Under the Pima County needle program, drug users can exchange their dirty needs for clean ones on Tuesday and Friday afternoons.

"It's a harm-reduction concept, like wearing condoms to reduce disease," said Hoover, program manager for the county's HIV and sexually transmitted disease program.

"We want to encourage them to quit, but until they can do that, we want to keep them alive, and we don't want them infecting their sexual partners and babies," Hoover said. "It's not condoning drug use, it's looking at what's happening out there."

Needle-exchange programs, offered at 80 other sites across the nation, have sparked debate between health officials looking to prevent AIDS and others who believe the practice condones drug use.

New Hampshire Gays Demand Civil Rights

Portsmouth, NH-AP- New Hampshire's Gays, living in fear their orientation will cost them their jobs, hope proposed legislation ends their need to live secret lives.

Nora Tuthill of Kingston, mother of a 36-year-old Gay son, said she hopes the bill will help remove a stigma from homosexuals.

"In everybody's eyes, they're not worthy (of equal rights)," Tuthill said. "We have four children. Three of them are totally protected, but our Gay son is not."

The anti-discrimination bill would extend protection to residents regardless of their sexual orientation.

Individuals are already protected from discrimination based on race, age, sex, color, ethnic background, marital status and disabilities. The proposed amendment would add sexual orientation to that list.

Lawmakers supporting the bill say it stands a good chance of passing because the state senate has moved toward the center and the new governor is a Democrat who has supported similar bills in the past.

No hearing date has been set for the bill.

Gay Man Wins Record Settlement

Los Angeles, CA- A Gay man who was beaten by a Los Angeles police officer during a 1991 civil rights protest against Governor Pete Wilson, has accepted a record settlement of his anti-Gay policy brutality lawsuit with the City of Los Angeles, according to the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

The negotiated settlement on the eve of the trial resulted in the city promising to pay Peter J. Mackler nearly \$90,000 in require reforms for the LAPD.

At a Republican fundraiser attended by Wilson on November 15, 1991, police tried to disperse a group of non-violent protesters. After an officer shoved Mackler in the back more than ten times with a police baton, Mackler turned to try and get the officer's badge number. The officer, David Peck, responded by lifting his baton above his head and striking Mackler in the face with such force that Mackler was knocked to the ground and his glasses were broken and thrown 25 feet.

Peck now works for the Tacoma, Washington Police Department, currently headed by former Milwaukee Police Chief Philip Arreola.

AIDS Deaths Decline in Hawaii

Honolulu, HI-AP- The largest care provider for AIDS patients on Oahu has seen a substantial decline in deaths associated with the dreaded disease.

From July through December of last year, 19 clients of the Life Foundation died, compared with 43 deaths over the last six months of 1995.

The Life Foundation attributes the decrease to new AIDS drugs called protease inhibitors. When combined in a cocktail of older medicines, they have substantially reduced the level of virus in patients and, at least temporarily, improved their health.

Adhering to the new drug regimen is time consuming and expensive.

One patient, Scott Aikens, takes about 20 pills throughout the day. He estimates the pills cost at least \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year.

AIDS Briefs

Dramatic Increase in HIV in Russia

Moscow, Russia-AP- The number of people testing positive for the virus that causes AIDS dramatically increased in Russia over the past year, a news agency reported.

The Health Ministry said 1,031 new cases have been registered in 1996. Of these, 802 people were intravenous drug users who became infected by sharing needles, the Interfax news agency said.

Since 1987, 2,316 HIV cases, including 287 children, have been registered in the country.

The number of people diagnosed as actually having AIDS, the last stage of the disease, stands at 248, including 102 children, the report said.

Russian health officials believe the actual figures are considerably higher.

Mandela Urges International Effort to Beat AIDS

Davos, South Africa-AP- The world's business and political leaders should unite in an international campaign against AIDS like the crusade that helped end apartheid, South African President Nelson Mandela urged.

"South Africans achieved victory in their struggle for freedom, thanks to the solidarity of the international community and its commitment to justice," Mandela said. "AIDS can be conquered if we work together as a global community," he told the World Economic Forum, an international gathering of government and industry leaders.

Sub-Saharan Africa, with 14 million HIV and AIDS cases in 1996, remains the region hit hardest by the disease. Mandela noted that 6 million people around the world are estimated to have died of AIDS, and that 22 million people have been infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Some 9 million children have lost their mothers to AIDS, he said.

"AIDS is not over, not even close," added Dr. Peter Piot, executive director of the Joint U.N. Program on HIV/AIDS. "In some places it has only just started."

Eastern Europe still has low infection rates, "but they are skyrocketing so incredibly fast that it will soon be a major epidemic," Piot said.

China had only 10,000 people with the virus in 1993, but this year there are likely to be 1 million, he said.

The epidemic is exploding in India, he said. Groups working in AIDS education in India say the country of nearly 1 billion has already had 1 million or more HIV cases.

"Today today alone 8,500 more people have been infected with HIV 1,000 of them children," Piot said.

AIDS Drugs Siphoned Off to Black Market

Rio De Janeiro, Brazil-AP- Health officials say supplies of free AIDS medicine are dwindling, and they fear the drugs are being siphoned off to the black market.

The inhibitors, a cocktail of drugs which block an enzyme necessary for HIV to progress, have been hailed by many as the most promising development to date in the fight against AIDS.

In November, Brazil became one of the first nations in Latin America to offer the drugs free to those who need it. The government vowed to spend \$45 million in 1997 to make the medicine available to the poor. In the United States, the drugs can cost up to \$20,000 a year per patient.

Critics here say there is virtually no control of the drugs' distribution, allowing black marketers to flourish, and doctors to dole out the inhibitors to patients who are HIV positive rather than to those who have contracted AIDS.

Nearly 95,000 Brazilians are infected with the virus, according to health ministry data. But experts say the real number is closer to half a million.

Next to the United States, Brazil has the highest number of AIDS cases in the hemisphere.

New Victory Fund Head, Speaks Out on the Issues that Face LesBiGays

By Terry Boughner

In the five years since its inception, the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund has generated almost \$1.5 million for its recommended candidates, celebrated 64 wins, and helped increase the number of openly Gay and Lesbian elected officials from 55 to 127.

On January 28, 1997, after an extensive nationwide search, the Victory Fund announced the selection of Brian Bond as its new Executive Director. Bond gave the following interview to *Wisconsin Light*.

Wisconsin Light: A little biography, please. Where were you born, grew up? Educational background? How did you get into politics?

Brian Bond: Well, I'm 35 years-old and was born and raised in southwest Missouri—on a farm. I went to college at Southwestern Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri and graduated with a degree in Public Administration.

I've been active in politics since I was 16. My mother was one the Democratic State Committee. I started out by doing door-to-door canvassing and phone banks—that's why I'm a big believer in the importance of grass roots politics.

I have run several statewide and congressional races and have worked for over seven years for the Democratic National Committee. Since August, 1995, I served both as Director of Lesbian and Gay Outreach for the DNC and Director for the Office of the Secretary—Senior Staff.

WL: During the last election campaign, many Gays and Lesbians were disenfranchised with Clinton (David Mixner, certainly among them). What do you see as the future for Gay people in this second administration?

BB: We can't overlook the importance of his court selections and the internal actions to open doors. Likewise, we should be very concerned about electing fair minded members of Congress from both parties.

My concern is that this President is a pragmatist. And he is facing a hostile Congress—we will have to watch very carefully who is nominated for Supreme Court appointments etc., because, as you know, the Senate must confirm those nominees.

WL: More and more openly Gay people seem to be achieving victory in being elected to office. Is this an illusion or is this the reality?

BB: I think we are very fortunate that more and more Lesbian and Gay men are seeking public office. We see shining examples leading the way in Wisconsin, especially, like Tammy Baldwin, Scott McCormick, Judy Olson, Shelley Gaylord, Dick Wagner, Mark Pocan and Mike Verveer and across the nation; Sheila Kuehl and Carole Migden in California, Congressman (Barney) Frank and Vermont State Auditor Ed Flanagan—this list goes on and on.

Their example not only opens the doors for others to run, it also breaks down barriers for all of us. And as a legislative matter, their elections give us our own voice at the table. But we still have many obstacles and misconceptions to overcome. That is why the Victory Fund can be and should be so important.

WL: What do you see as the major battles our community has to fight in the next four years?

BB: The forces of hate will continue to wage mean spirited attacks against us. Whether trying to deny us our basic rights as citizens and taxpayers, or continuing to perpetuate myths and stereotypes that advance their narrow agenda. Domestic Partnership benefits, job discrimination, marriage and adoption, will all be in play at various stages around the country.

WL: Do you see the same-sex marriage issue bilking large? Do you see a victory there?

BB: I think same-gender marriage "rights" will be achieved over the next few years in some states. I think we need to pick our battles as community very carefully. The more elected officials we have in legislative bodies, the better. Not just for the correct vote, but by example to put a human face to the issue for other legislators.

WL: What advice would you give to a young Lesbian or Gay man who might be thinking of a career in politics?

BB: This is an exciting, but challenging time to get into the political process. My one word of caution and this would be for either Gay or straight—don't get discouraged. Politics is a process and there is some "dues paying" in most cases that has to be done. Getting discouraged and removing yourself from the process will not solve the problem.

I think it is important for people to be involved with politics, period, regardless of the Party—only from the inside can you make real change.

WL: What is the mission of the Victory Fund as you see it?

BB: As a relatively young organization, the Victory Fund has an incredible and successful mission of bringing people together from throughout the country and electing qualified candidates. We are too small a community not to stick together and marshal our resources and efforts to make civil rights gains for all of us.

The floodgates have opened and an ever increasing number of Gays and Lesbians will be running for office and that is wonderful. With the community's help, the Victory Fund will be able to meet that challenge—my vision is to move this organization to the next level to meet those opportunities.

We must have the resources to fund our training efforts and enhance them. We must increase our donor base to fund our candidates. Trust me, narrow minded extremists will wage a total war against us and unless we stick together and understand that we need each other, we will be worse off.

WL: What is the Fund's relation to the Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force?

BB: Our relationship is fine and our missions are extremely different.

WL: What is your impression of President Clinton? Of Vice President Gore? There is some perception here that Gore is more "pro-Gay" than Clinton is. Is this correct in your view?

BB: I basically worked for the President for 6 years. I will be honest. I have had my disappointments, but I am well aware that he has done more for us than any other

President. He has taken a lot of heat out there from less open minded people as a "queer lover."

The Vice President, as recently as the day after the Inaugural, in front of the full DNC and press corps, spoke boldly about the strength of America being based on its diversity and he included sexual orientation. I believe the Vice President is very comfortable around our community and Mrs. Gore has been very supportive as well.

Free, Anonymous, Bilingual HIV Testing Provided

Milwaukee—UMOS Inc., will be working in partnership with STD Specialties to provide bilingual HIV counseling and testing on-site at their Special Projects office at 802 W. Mitchell Street. The testing will be provided by a licensed nurse employed by STD Spe-

cialties. Services will be provided on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. Anyone interested may just walk in. No appointment is necessary. No name is associated with the test and there is no fee for the service.

The schedule for the next three months is as follows: Feb. 10th, Mar. 10th and 24th, April 14th and 28th from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

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DICK WAGNER

for Dane County Executive



State Representative Tammy Baldwin
 Dane County Supervisor Scott McCormick Former Supervisor Mark Pocan
 Former Supervisor Earl Bricker Former Supervisor Kevin Bonds
 Madison Alderperson Mike Verveer Madison Alderperson Judy Olson
 Madison Alderperson Napoleon Smith Former Alderperson Ricardo Gonzalez

VOTE Tuesday, February 18!!!

Auth. & Paid for by Wagner for Dane County, Contra Ferris Bales Trust.



SUPPORT SAME-SEX MARRIAGES!

The U.S. Supreme Court has declared a marriage a fundamental right under the Constitution.

FAMILY VALUES?

Rights that married people take for granted—such as the ability to make medical decisions for an incapacitated spouse—are denied to committed Lesbian and Gay couples because their relationships are not recognized by law.

♥ Attacks on same-sex marriage have become the leading anti-Lesbian and Gay strategy of the radical right. Despite a recent

study showing 71% of Lesbians are in committed relationships, same-sex marriage is not legal in any state. Nevertheless, radical extremists are using this issue to divide the country and target Lesbians and Gay men for discrimination. *Marriage promotes monogamous, loving relationships and should be encouraged for all people.*

♥ Government's refusal to recognize same-sex marriage is discrimination masquerading as morality. Without the legal right to marry, same-sex couples do not have rights like family health coverage, medical and bereavement leave, child custody, tax benefits and pension plans.

♥ Tradition can not justify discrimination. Not long ago, marriage was traditionally limited to members of the same race and religion, and married women were virtually the legal property of their husbands.

♥ Legalizing same-sex civil marriage will not require any religion to perform or recognize these marriages.

TAKE ACTION NOW:

♥ Prevent discriminatory legislation in Wisconsin. Call or write your state legislators to express your support of equal marriage rights. The Legislative Hotline number is 1-800-362-9472.

♥ Contact your members of Congress and President Clinton to express your support for same-sex marriages. The Congressional switchboard number is (202) 224-3121 or (202) 225-3121. The White House switchboard number is (202) 456-1111, or you can E-mail Clinton at: president@whitehouse.gov.

♥ Join NOW and, if possible, send an extra gift to support our work on the freedom to marry.

♥ Show your support of loving, committed same-sex marriages by attending our mock wedding on Valentine's Day, Friday, February 14. Join us on the steps of Milwaukee City Hall at 5pm at 200 East Wells Street.

We, the undersigned, will not tolerate the blatant discrimination against Lesbians and Gay men promoted by prejudiced members of government who author and/or support anti-marriage bills. We will actively support same-sex marriage legislation to be introduced by Representative Tammy Baldwin and any other similar legislation.

Carmel M. Price, Nancy Mathews, Linda L. C. Stanger, Human Rights League
Lou Dartman, Deborah L. Lane, Stan Mark, Jennifer Oberholzer
Dave Jabs, Robin Jans, Tracy Shred, M. C. Swanson III
Paul Baker, M-BT Community, M. Hall, Susan Smuja
Jodie, Karen Kuehl, John C. Schindler, Steven Dinwige
Dorothy K. Dean, James D. Cury, Milwaukee 9 to 5, Mike Phillips
Tammy J. Moran, Mark Street, Mary Rita Hule, Fran Fawcett, Worth
Robin Yuknis, Anne Lamb, Kenneth M. Hagan, M. C. Swanson III
Scott A. Hill, J. K. Cranner, Kirk Weaver, Margaret Tamm
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Light Endorsements

Make the Right Choice

Vote Wagner, Verveer and Olson in the Madison's Tuesday, February 18 Primary

On Tuesday, February 18, Madison's Lesbian, Bisexual, and Gay voters will be faced with a choice. They can stay home or they can continue the tradition of putting and keeping qualified openly Gay and Lesbian candidates in office.

In this election, Madisonians have a chance to help elect the first-ever openly Gay County Executive. In former County Board Chairman **Dick Wagner**, Madison voters have a candidate whose election would make national history. Moreover, in our opinion, he is easily the most capable and qualified candidate in the race.

We understand that some in our community support another candidate who they say is "sincere." Dick Wagner's sincerity can easily be matched against anyone's. Furthermore sincerity and the ability to get things done are two different things. Wagner comes in first on both counts.

We also urge Madison's continued support for openly Gay Alderman **Mike Verveer**. His principled stands and leadership on issues of importance to Madison's Gays and Lesbians and other issues merit him a second term.

We believe that openly Lesbian Alderwoman **Judy Olson** also merits a second term in office. Her perspective on the issues is needed on the Madison City Council.

With three fine candidates to support, the ability to register at the polls and a tight primary race for County Executive, there is no reason to stay home on Tuesday the 18. We urge Madison area Lesbians, Bisexuals and Gays to make the right choice in their primary election by voting for Wagner, Verveer and Olson.

Gay Tourism Project Looks Like A Winner

It's an idea whose time has come, an effort to attract increased Gay, Bisexual and Lesbian tourists and conventions to Milwaukee. And that idea got off to a splendid start at the first meeting of the Gay and Lesbian Tourism Project on Thursday, February 6 at the Milwaukee Convention and Business Bureau.

There are many reasons why this project is worthy of support. It will bring tens of thousands of dollars into the local Les/Bi/Gay economy on an annual basis. It will provide an opportunity for Milwaukee and the rest of the state to have an impact on national groups and it will give those organizations a chance to more fully understand the Midwestern perspective on Gay, Bisexual and Lesbian issues.

Already the Twin Cities have a group up and running aiming to attract LesBiGay tourists to their area. We should do equally as much—and more.

The Greater Milwaukee Convention and Visitors Bureau and its staff are to be commended for their support and help. Project Co-Directors, Bill Meunier and Shelli Marquardt, have put together a good working group to start things off. Now it is up to that group (and those asked for help) to translate their enthusiasm into actions that will benefit the entire community.

No More Delays Give Scandals Their License

We don't normally use the editorial pages to speak out on a bar-related issue, but the delay in granting a new liquor license to Scandals, a.k.a. R Place, in Madison, compels us to speak up.

The Madison Alcohol and Licensing Review Board tabled a request to grant a new license to the owners of Scandals pending a meeting between area bars and the local police. There was talk of not granting any more liquor licenses in Madison in general and on Main Street, the bar's location, specifically.

Madison's Gays and Lesbians need safe places to congregate and socialize. The City DOES have a Gay bashing problem. **The Wisconsin Light** has repeatedly heard of incidents, many of which emanated from straight bars. Straight bars, even in liberal Madison, are often not safe places to be openly Gay.

Madison may or may not have enough bars, but its Gay and Lesbian community does not. The current capacity of Madison's Gay bars is less than 500. Yet those bars serve a Madison area Gay community estimated to be in excess of 25,000. That doesn't take into account the Gays and Lesbians from surrounding areas like Janesville and Beloit who frequent Madison's Gay bars because there are none in their own communities.

With the demise of the Hotel Washington, it is more imperative than ever that Madison allow responsible bar owners the opportunity to provide a safe environment for its Gay community. We do not think that there should be no more delays in ALRC's granting the license.

Editor's Note

When Hell Was Brought to Earth

By Terry Boughner

It looked much like any elevator. It was only after we got inside that the differences became apparent.

The walls looked like they were covered in steel plates, gray, with the rivets plainly visible. The doors did not whoosh gently shut, but came together sharply with a metallic clang. Only then did we begin our slow ascent.

It was April, 1993. In town for the March on Washington, Jerry, Allan, Brent and I were in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The Museum wasn't open to the public yet, but we, along with a hundred or so others from around the country, including David Mixner, were there by special invitation to view the exhibits.

I don't think any of us were prepared for what we saw. I know that I was not—and I should have been. I had heard and seen a lot of this before.

In 1970, the year after Germany repealed Paragraph 175 that made homosexual activity a crime, I went to Germany, intent on visiting Dachau, located about 12 miles outside Munich.

I wasn't going because I knew Gays had been held prisoner there. Despite my studies in modern German history in grad school, I didn't know Gays had been persecuted by the Nazis. I went to Dachau because I'd read about it and wanted to see it for myself.

Sickened by what I saw, I returned to Munich and went to a Gay bar called the Eagle. It was early evening. I wanted to be by myself.

An old man sat down next to me and despite my looks, insisted on talking. Finally, I said to him, "Look, I've been to Dachau, okay." I thought he would understand. "Don't you know what that is? Don't you know what happened there?"

"Yes," he replied. "I have been there too." I gave him a "so-what" shrug and started to turn away.

"I was a prisoner there," he added. So, began a conversation that I never, ever will forget.

In the succeeding years, there were other talks with other Gay survivors. I published excerpts from my notes when this paper first came out.

I visited Dachau several more times and Auschwitz, too. Each time, I went with a deeper appreciation, a deeper sorrow, a deeper feeling of anguish mixed with horror than I had felt the time before.

People had been slaughtered in these camps. I shared their humanity, but with some of them I was beginning to know that I shared something more, something intrinsic to my being and to theirs.

I was Gay, they had been Gay. They wore the Pink Triangle because they were Gay. They, the nameless ones, had been murdered—many by unspeakable tortures—because they were Gay.

I had always felt a profound disgust at what the Nazis had done to millions of Jews. But now I realized that that had been a remote, almost abstract feeling because I was not Jewish.

But in Dachau and Auschwitz, the disgust was no longer remote, no longer abstract. It

was immediate. I was walking over ground that had been soaked with the blood of people, people, who in one essential trait, were just like me. I could have been one of them.

One might say that when I'd read about the persecution of the Jews, I had looked into the abyss. When I learned about the persecution of Gay people, I felt as if I had plunged into the abyss and became a part of it.

Those feelings though, had to come from my mind, my imagination. Nowhere, no-

Please See Schindler Page 16

Letters

The Catholic Church: Why Bother?

TO THE EDITOR:

The January 30, 1997 issue of the **Wisconsin Light** featured an article by Rev. Dr. Robert Goss, entitled "Why I Choose to Leave the Roman Catholic Church." Rev. Goss shares his painful 17 year journey as a Gay Jesuit priest and his difficult decision to leave the Church. His story prompted me to reflect upon my own decision to stay in the Roman Catholic Church.

For the most part, Lesbian and Gay people live in what seems like a foreign land, a heterosexual world and are reminded of their "place" in society by government law makers who say they don't need legal protection or equal rights. They are reminded of their place in the religious sector by some bishops, preachers and evangelists who blame them for the AIDS epidemic and tell the world we are a threat to "traditional family values." They are reminded of their "worthlessness" by some "Christian" communities who would rather see people die than teach them about sexuality and disease prevention.

Most Gays and Lesbians are reminded of their unfortunate reality from the time they are little kids. They are reminded by the "fag" jokes and "dyke" names, by tomboy and sissy labels, by whispers of suspicion at their friendships and sneers at their lack of conformity. All of these all too common experiences remind Gay and Lesbian people they are somehow seen as less than human.

Is it any wonder that, as we discover our sexual identity, we struggle for so long to accept that "it is Good!" Is it any wonder that we focus so much energy on our worthlessness, expecting God to treat us no better than our society does? It's no surprise that so many same-sex oriented people express self-hatred and internalized homophobia. No wonder so many good people like Rev. Goss come to the point of believing that nothing can change, so why bother?

Maybe he is accurate! When we see some Catholic leaders and Fundamentalist preachers joining forces to oppose basic human right legislation, I'm also tempted to say, "Why bother?"

When we hear the Church issue authoritative statements on the morality of same-sex relationships and proclaiming the need for dialogue while simultaneously obstructing any chance for Lesbian and Gay Christians to offer a different point of view from their lived experience, I want to say, "Why bother?"

When we realize that some Church leaders would rather people die of AIDS related diseases than to re-examine our whole theology of sexuality, or that these same leaders would prefer that people who use drugs die because they can't get clean needles because these good people of God don't want to "encourage drug use," then I want to scream, "Why bother?"

Why bother trying to bring the message of God's love to people who have created, in the words of one poet, "little concentration camps for God"? They've made it clear they will keep God locked up for themselves, thank you very much, and don't you dare ask for the privilege to meet and know Jesus until you're willing to become one of the guards who imprisons God and Christ and the Holy Spirit inside the barbed wire fence of you little narrow human mind.

Why bother? They won't listen! They don't listen! They can't listen...because they hate...and they fear. But, we still need to love!

Why do I bother? Because we are inextricably bound to those who most hate and revile, and fear us in the Church. These too are God's people. These too, are our people. God proclaims their humanity, as well as ours, as Very Good!

Gay and Lesbian people will not be able to build a new Jerusalem if we take on the separatist mentality suggested by Rev. Goss. Certainly we may need our own space. We may have to meet in separate congregations for awhile. We may have to distance ourselves until the wounds heal. We surely must never collaborate in the abuse of ourselves or others. But, in the end, we are all bound together by the great plan of God.

People may be too frightened to change. Church institutions may be too worried about losing dollars if they choose to affirm Lesbian and Gay people and fully include them in the life of the Church. Readers of the Bible may fear that reinterpreting one verse will lead to questioning the authority of all Scripture. No, we may not in our lifetimes see great strides forward. We may even see backward movement. But, at least for me, these are reasons not to leave, but to stay.

We must stay to work toward the conversion of heart that will take us "back to the basics" of the early Christian community. This will mean having to choose between "defending church teaching" and proclaiming in word and deed Jesus' message of

love. Our good and loving God created people who are sexually different from the majority.

Only with our presence can the Church grow to imitate the Jesus of the Gospels who welcomed all people into His community of friends. After all, yeast can only change the dough from the inside!

Name Withheld by Request

Deadlines

February 27th Issue

Articles Friday, February 21st

Ads

Non-Camera Ready—February 21st

Camera Ready—February 24th

5:00 p.m.

March 13th Issue

Articles—March 7th

Ads

Non-Camera Ready—March 7th

Camera Ready—March 10th

5:00 p.m.

Caution

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

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

The Wisconsin Light



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Community Endorsements

John Hendrick

The undersigned current and former openly Gay elected officials in Madison endorse John Hendrick for Mayor of Madison.

Hendrick has been a strong supporter of the GLBT community in Madison throughout his life. As an attorney with Madison Institute for Social Legislation, he authored the Alternative Families Ordinance introduced in the City of Madison. As a Dane County Board Supervisor, he helped secure and sustain funding for The United. In addition, he co-sponsored the Love Makes A Family exhibit at the WilMar center in his district.

As Mayor, Hendrick pledges to work on extending health benefits to ALL families for employees of the City of Madison.

John Hendrick mixes strong progressive values with practical solutions. As Mayor, he will be a strong advocate for neighborhoods, support living wages for organizations contracting with the City of Madison, and enact wise land use and environmental decisions.

We believe Hendrick will be the best choice for Mayor and encourage our friends to support him in the February 18th primary election.

Dane County Board Supervisor Scott McCormick; Former Dane County Supervisors Mark Pocan, Earl Bricker; Madison Alderperson Judy Olson.

Kathleen Falk

There are a growing number of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual individuals who are supporting Kathleen Falk for [Dane] County executive. A coalition of Lesbians, Gays and Bisexual people has formed to support her. We believe Kathleen's legendary competence as public intervenor for the environment helped save farms, drinking water, and stopped uncontrolled development in the past.

We believe she is a woman who knows how to exercise power with heart and intelligence. Kathleen understands systems and has demonstrated her incredible abilities as a lawyer who has revolutionized state law governing public participation.

Kathleen is known as a good listener and one with great compassion. She also stands up for fairness. This is one of the attractive qualities Kathleen has. She is energetic, a die hard, and fights for a cause if she believes in it. She's worthy of support from environmentalists and those who stand up for human rights. Kathleen believes people have the right to be treated equally.

A number of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual people who support Kathleen were asked why they chose to help her campaign. Her campaign manager, Pam Porter, is an out Lesbian and noted environmentalist. Many have decided to support Kathleen because she is progressive and supports low income and people of color. She is up on the issue of Gays and Lesbians and is a strong environmentalist with a long history of service in Dane County and the State of Wisconsin.

She intends to be a strong advocate for Gay and Lesbian issues. Many progressive organizations and individuals are supporting her campaign. We are choosing to help Kathleen's campaign because we think she provides leadership. We find her qualities as a magnetic personality attractive. She has an articulated vision of where she wants Dane County to go.

Kathleen inspires people. She fires them up. Also, we really support women holding a leadership position. Many Lesbians want to elect Dane County's first woman to the office of county executive. Although we've had capable women in county government before, they have never occupied as visible a position as Kathleen will.

In addition, Kathleen is a warm and caring individual especially when it comes to tackling hard problems in our community such as alcohol and other drug abuse. She is a sincere person who has put her heartfelt energy into helping families affected by alcoholism and/or other drugs.

One of her goals is to protect children and families while breaking cycles of poverty and dependence. Her 20 years of public policy experience and being a single mom of a 15 year-

old, give her personal and professional expertise.

Kathleen is a tough advocate and has made the government take responsibility to protect the public. She has a reputation for cutting through to the issue in tough debates to reach common ground.

Kathleen has earned the support of the current County Executive, Rick Phelps. He has held the County Executive position for two terms and has had wide support for his programs.

There is one word that comes to mind when we think of Kathleen Falk. That word is EMPOWERMENT, empowerment for Lesbians, Gay men, Bisexual people, women, children, all inhabitants and creatures who walk the earth.

Sandra Klippel

Percy Mather

Co-Chairs, Coalition of Gay and Lesbian Advocates for Falk



The Elves were busy! Map's staff members worked to organize gifts provided by Milwaukee area businesses, organizations, and individuals.

MAP Thanks Its Many Generous Donors

Milwaukee-- Thanks to generous donations from the community, the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) made the holidays much brighter for hundreds of individuals infected with and affected by HIV and AIDS.

Through the Secret Santa Program, over 400 kids received gifts from many community members as well as Alexian Village, Ameritech Cellular, St. James Church in Mukwonago, the Oberons and Lakewood Care Center. The children's holiday party had over 85 kids in attendance with toys for

the party donated by Ameritech's Phone Pioneers.

Corpus Christi Congregation-Milwaukee and Northwestern Mutual Life (NML) Insurance combined provided over 300 gifts to children and adults through various Giving Tree Programs.

Over 400 individuals and families received holiday food baskets for Thanksgiving and winter holidays. Food items were donated by community members and Ameritech Cellular, Elmbrook Church, Westbrook Church, Council for the Spanish Speaking, Boot Camp Saloon, Hunger Task Force and Potawatomi Bingo.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the holidays a happier time for MAP consumers and their families.

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From Housing to Food to Lobbying to Bilingual Counseling, MAP Fights AIDS

Milwaukee—The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) works to assist people with HIV and AIDS, as well as their friends, partners and family members, get through difficult periods.

Services are available directly through the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) and most are at no cost to a person with HIV or AIDS. We are a culturally diverse and bilingual staff experienced in sensitively meeting the needs of individuals with HIV and AIDS. Services are also available for people who are hearing impaired.

We can listen to your concerns and answer your questions, help you obtain financial assistance, provide you with medical care or help you find a place to live. We promise to be here for you. Call 414-273-1991.

Through ARCW, social services were provided for thousands of people living with HIV and AIDS throughout the state.

- ° Case management served 1,277 people
- ° Legal assistance extended counsel to 603 consumers

- ° Financial Assistance aided 104 individuals
- ° Loving Spoonful served 10,795 people and provided 13,040 bags of groceries totalling over 100 tons of food

- ° Transportation assistance filled 2,958 requests for transportation and distributed 2,672 bus tickets
- ° Practical assistance in living services visited 429 consumers

- ° Emotional support services helped 626 individuals.
- ° A family services program was initiated, providing specialized care, support and recreation for 250 women and children with HIV and AIDS.

- ° More than 600 holiday food baskets were delivered to consumer homes to help them celebrate the holidays with family and friends.

Through ARCW and its housing programs, people with HIV and AIDS were assured of a permanent residence.

- ° The Milwaukee House provided family residence for 59 people. The Wisconsin House provided a residence for 251 individuals.

- ° \$73,355 of rent assistance was provided to 596 people, enabling them to remain in their own homes.

- ° The Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded a \$1 million grant commitment to ARCW to begin construction of a six-unit residence for families with HIV and AIDS.

Through ARCW, health services were provided to hundreds of people living with HIV and AIDS.

- ° Early medical intervention provided 426 sessions for physical health assessments and mental health screenings
- ° Health education provided 478 sessions

- ° Mental health cared for people through 398 support group sessions and 340 individual counseling sessions
- ° Cooperative therapies provided 545 sessions

Profits from '96 AIDS Walk Sent and Shared Throughout the State

Milwaukee -- A record amount of money, \$681,367, which was raised during the 1996 AIDS WALK Wisconsin held in September, has been distributed to 17 statewide benefitting agencies.

Donations from corporate sponsors; ticket sales from the AIDS WALK Breakfast and VIP photo shoot with Bette Midler; and pledges raised from more than 12,600 walkers, comprised the money raised at last year's AIDS WALK Wisconsin.

"The AIDS WALK is a phenomenal event which has grown into one of the state's most recognized and participated-in single day fundraisers for any cause," said Doug Nelson, executive director of ARCW. "The huge success of the AIDS WALK enables us to expand AIDS prevention, care and services in Wisconsin and to fund vital programs like needle exchange that the government refuses to support."

There was a 27 percent increase in net income generated from the 1996 event. During the seven year history of the WALK, ARCW has distributed more than \$2.7 million to AIDS agencies throughout Wisconsin.

"The WALK is also a day of profound solidarity for everyone who has been touched by AIDS. It always generates new energy that truly helps people carry on in the fight against AIDS."

The 1997 AIDS WALK Wisconsin has been set for Sunday, September 21.

1996 AIDS WALK Wisconsin dollars were distributed by ARCW as shown in the sidebar to this article.

- ° Counseling and testing conducted 813 HIV tests

- ° Most frequented testing locations were MAP - 276 people, LIFEPOINT needle exchange - 204 people and Dennis C. Hill Harm Reduction Center - 122 people.

- ° HIV health services expanded in 1995, consisting of HIV counseling and testing, early medical intervention, mental health and cooperative therapies programs, all providing direct health care to consumers.

Through ARCW, AIDS prevention strategies reached thousands of people throughout Wisconsin.

- ° Community education and training reached 11,293 people
- ° One-on-one interventions engaged 1,000 people

- ° AIDSline attendants answered 5,457 calls
- ° Wisconsin AIDS Library was visited by 1,898 people

- ° Outreach to high-risk individuals and their sex partners reached 55,928 people
- ° Prevention materials distributed totalled 239,595

- ° Referrals to alcohol and drug abuse counseling and HIV testing totalled 1,443.
- ° The LIFEPOINT needle exchange program exchanged 158,774 needles in Milwaukee. Racine became Wisconsin's second city with needle exchange as LIFEPOINT began its operation by exchanging 519 needles.

- ° Aggressive AIDS prevention interventions began with the Gay and Lesbian community, and ARCW was awarded a major state grant to coordinate HIV risk reduction strategies among Gay men in Wisconsin.

Through ARCW, important AIDS research was conducted, bringing new drug treatments to Wisconsin.

- ° The Wisconsin AIDS Research Consortium achieved successful enrollment in several new drug trials.
- ° It secured the Remune™ trial, originally developed by the late Dr. Jonas Salk, as an immune system therapy designed to treat HIV.

- ° It provided access to the Glaxo Wellcome NUCA 3001 and 3002 and Open Label Studies all involving 3TC (Lamivudine, which received FDA approval in November 1995).

- ° Research was started on the Pharmacia Upjohn Delavirdine Clinical Trials, an important new class of HIV drugs called Non-Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors (NNRTI).

- ° The Abbott Laboratories Norvir (Ritonavir) Clinical Trial, a protease inhibitor, was initiated.

- ° Clinical sites were expanded by adding leading physicians as research investigators. Sites currently exist throughout Milwaukee as well as Green Bay, Madison and Racine/Kenosha.

Through ARCW, volunteers invested countless hours of personal time.

- ° Over 1,041 active volunteers completed hundreds of important projects and helped deliver AIDS prevention, care and support services.
- ° 150 volunteers worked year-round on fundraising projects.

- ° 516 people volunteered for AIDS Walk Wisconsin and almost 400 volunteered to work other ARCW special events.
- ° 52 Thursday Night Group sessions were held, assisting with top priority projects every week.

- ° 45 volunteers packaged 4,479 food baskets for consumers.
- ° 77 buddies volunteered emotional support

- ° 30 case management associates worked with professional case managers to provide assistance to consumers.

Through ARCW, public policy advocacy advanced an AIDS agenda benefitting the community and everyone living with HIV and AIDS.

- ° Five percent increase in state funding for AIDS care and treatment.
- ° First state increase in HIV prevention funding in over five years.

- ° Formed a grassroots network of 500 AIDS advocates.
- ° Lead the national fight to achieve equity in federal AIDS funding and to gain reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act.

- ° Helped preserve Medicaid as an entitlement for people living with HIV and AIDS.
- ° Laid the groundwork for expansion of Wisconsin's AIDS Drug Reimbursement Program to include the new protease inhibitors and to double the number of medications included in the program.

- ° ARCW Executive Director Doug Nelson elected as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the National AIDS Action Council.

Through ARCW, generous donors invested their resources to support AIDS prevention, care, research and advocacy. Private support totalled \$2,020,321, the largest amount ever raised for ARCW.

° Corporate grants	-----	\$147,858
° Foundation grants	-----	\$336,660
° Individual giving	-----	\$135,099
° Survival/Revival resale shop	-----	\$97,784
° Religious donations	-----	\$10,883
° Memorials/planned giving	-----	\$100,525
° AIDS Walk Wisconsin	-----	\$766,464
° Art for AIDS auction	-----	\$59,977
° Athletes Against AIDS golf tournament	-----	\$38,846
° Danc'n for AIDS	-----	\$47,672
° Make A Promise dinner and auction	-----	\$114,888
° MAPfest	-----	\$28,459
° NOWAP events	-----	\$14,063
° SEWAP events	-----	\$18,114
° 3rd party events	-----	\$67,792
° Arts Action Committee	-----	\$26,860
° World AIDS Day luncheon	-----	\$8,377

Editor's Note: The above information was taken from *The 1995 ARCW Annual Report*.

AIDS Memorial Quilt Coming to Delavan to Benefit Local AIDS Groups

Delavan—The Names Project Foundation is bringing the AIDS Memorial Quilt to Delavan Darien High School, February 13-16, thanks to the support of the Delavan Junior Woman's Club.

By bringing the quilt to Delavan, the Delavan Junior Woman's Club hopes to:

- provide a creative means for remembrance and healing;
- illustrate the enormity of the AIDS epidemic;
- increase public awareness;
- assist with HIV prevention and education;
- raise funds for community-based AIDS service organizations.

"The AIDS quilt is an amazing tool to educate young and old on the affects AIDS has on us all," said Mike Obinger, Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project (SEWAP) director. "We're glad to have the quilt stopping here because not only does it raise AIDS awareness in the community, but money raised will in part benefit the Southeastern Wisconsin AIDS Project's programs and services in Walworth, Racine and Kenosha counties."

In 1996 alone, SEWAP's Life Care Services Department served over 100 men, women and children with HIV disease and

Hotel

Continued From Page 1

for abandoning the project.

"We just couldn't take anymore," said Scheel. "Over the last year we spent over \$400,000 trying to get this thing going. But it wasn't enough. We kept running into unexpected expenses. It was starting to affect my parent's health, my sister's health and my health."

Scheel said that the last straw was a demand from the bank that his family come up with \$85,000 to post a building bond. "We simply didn't have the money," he said.

The building bond was one of what Scheel said were 50 conditions attached to the bank releasing a \$3.1 million loan to help finance the rebuilding.

"We realized that it just wasn't ever going to end," he said. "Everytime we turned around there was another cost that we didn't know about."

Delays in starting the reconstruction made matters worse. "If we could have begun last summer or this fall, we would have been okay, but as things stood we wouldn't have been able to reopen until October or November. That's simply the worst time to open a hotel. It would have added to our losses and cost us more money that we didn't have."

The Hotel which housed several popular Gay bars was once considered Madison's community center. It was destroyed in a fire on February 18, 1996.

The Scheel family worked hard on getting a rebuilding project off the ground, but ran into numerous obstacles.

They had to wait for the Department of Housing and Urban Development to lift a deed restriction. HUD lifted that restriction but only after a two month delay.

By this time however, it was clear that the Scheels were falling short on their financing package.

In September, they laid off the last of the management staff they had kept on the payroll to help plan the rebuilding. At that time Greg Scheel, told *The Wisconsin Light* that the rebuilding plans were on hold.

The Light's story generated new financing leads and Scheel was able to put together a package that included a \$3.1 million loan from Capitol City Bank, \$600,000 from a TIF financing package funded by the City of Madison, \$300,000 from Madison Gas and Electric and \$1.1 million of his

AIDS. Services include nutrition and food services, rent assistance, counseling and support groups, early intervention care, legal assistance, transportation assistance and in-home practical assistance.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt in its entirety consists of 36,199 three-foot by six-foot panels and has been visited by nearly seven million people.

Opening ceremonies for the quilt will be Thursday, February 13 starting at 6:30 p.m. Friday viewing hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. are reserved for local school children. General public viewing will be Saturday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a closing ceremony on Sunday to present the new quilt panels.

###

SEWAP is a service agency of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW). ARCW is dedicated to the fight against the worsening AIDS epidemic through prevention, care, research and advocacy.

1996 AIDS WALK Wisconsin

Agency Disbursement

Milwaukee AIDS Project	-----	\$310,060
AIDS Network (Madison)	-----	\$95,391
Wisconsin AIDS Research Consortium	-----	\$67,180
Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project	-----	\$62,012
AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc.	-----	\$51,677
Center Project Inc. (Green Bay)	-----	\$35,601
Northwest Wisconsin AIDS Project	-----	\$25,838
Camp Heartland	-----	\$9,020
Sheboygan County AIDS Task Force	-----	\$6,699
Visiting Nurse Association	-----	\$3,985
Counseling Center of Milwaukee	-----	\$3,616
East Central Wellness Project	-----	\$3,256
Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin	-----	\$2,803
AIDS Ministry, WI Conf. of Churches	-----	\$1,588
Great Lakes Hemophilia Foundation	-----	\$1,485
Northwestern AIDS Network	-----	\$1,084
Milwaukee Indian Health Board	-----	\$72
Total Disbursement	-----	\$681,367

family's funds.

The delays were costly. A steam of cash was flowing from the Scheel family without any revenue coming in to replace it. "All of these delays were very expensive" said Scheel. "They meant increased costs and they kept pushing back the reopening date."

In fact, in its last issue *The Wisconsin Light* reported that the final financing piece, the City of Madison TIF grant, was in place.

A week after that issue had come out, Scheel called *The Light* to tell it that the ground breaking, which had been set for February 17 was being postponed.

Scheel knows that Madison's and Wisconsin's Gay community will be disappointed by the news, but said "I am grateful to the community for their support. I have been thinking about the community from day one, jumping over hurdles, struggling to remove all of the obstacles put in our path. Now I have to think about myself and my family."

"One of the most frustrating aspects of this whole thing was that so many people worked so hard to make this work, said Scheel, who singled out openly Gay Alderman Mike Verveer for special thanks. "I know they are all going to be disappointed, and I wish that wouldn't be the case. Everyone who helped can take pride in the fact that we got as close as we did."

Verveer told *Wisconsin Light* he was devastated by the news. "Like Greg, I can't even think about what to do now. We all worked so hard for so long. It's a real blow to the community. My heart goes out to the Scheels who I am sure are even more heartbroken over this than anyone else is."

"If it was just my money I would go ahead, but it isn't just my money, it's my sister's money and my parents' money. I have no right to jeopardize their financial future." He added, "I just wish it could have worked, we did everything we could and then some, but it wasn't meant to be."

Scheel also told *The Wisconsin Light* that he currently has no current plans to open a bar or bars in another location. "I can't even think about that right now. All of my efforts went towards rebuilding the Hotel." Scheel said the much of the insurance money for the Hotel was contingent on rebuilding it "Before I can even think about opening a new place, I have to assess what funds would be available."

Debate Over Same-Sex Marriage Rages On in the Several States

Milwaukee—In an update to previous stories, the same-sex marriage issue continues to be a hot item of debate in the several states.

Mississippi

The first law of the 1997 session may be a ban on same-sex marriages.

The House sent Fordice the much publicized Gay marriage bill on Wednesday, February 5th, but some people questioned whether the prohibition will hold up in court or if the bill was being rushed.

The proposal would ban same-sex unions and deny recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other states. The Senate had passed the bill last month.

Rep. Mark Formby, R-Picayune, said lawmakers were trying to rush the bill to the governor without proper wording "for some court to swiftly throw back on our laps."

"I don't want the governor to sign something that six months from now will be challenged and beaten," Formby said.

"If you want this on the governor's desk tomorrow morning, you'll pass it," Rep. Ed Perry (D-Oxford) said. "There's not a tinker's difference in the language."

Perry said the bill could be the first one Fordice signs in 1997. Several other bills have passed both the House and Senate, but none have been signed into law.

Also Wednesday, the House voted to change Mississippi's 1890 Constitution to prohibit same-sex marriages and the recognition of marriages granted by other states. The constitutional change would require voter ratification.

"We need to be careful how we judge people," said Rep. Tomie Green, D-Jackson, one of three House members who opposed both proposals.

Forest Thigpen, president of the Mississippi Family Council, said the Legislature should approach the issue a different way.

"We want to make a positive statement about what marriage is — that marriage is one man, one woman, period," he said. "It would not single out a class of people."

At least 16 other states have passed similar bills and last fall Congress voted to deny federal government recognition to the marriages.

Colorado

A bill providing legal status to couples who live together but are not married was killed in the Colorado legislature on Wednesday, February 5th, by a legislative committee that acknowledged there are problems, but said the measure was a step too far.

"Politically for me it's a difficult vote, morally for me it's a difficult vote. I'm not prepared to vote for it right now," said Sen. Ed Perlmutter, D-Wheat Ridge.

After hearing several stories of partners losing their rights in relationships after their loved ones died, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted 5-3 against SB161, which extended legal rights such as power of attorney and visitation rights to domestic partners.

Sen. Dottie Wham, (R-Denver), voted for the bill but suggested to supporters they seek broader community support. Last session, Wham was unsuccessful with her attempt to amend the bill banning same-sex marriages to order a study of such relationships.

Communities in Colorado can acknowledge domestic partnerships. In Boulder, 53 couples, including four heterosexual couples, have registered with the domestic partnership registry there. But that registry provides "no legal rights and responsibilities" as Pascoe's bill did.

Sue Anderson of Denver, told the committee how her partner's family kicked her out of their house after she called them to tell them their estranged daughter had died of leukemia.

Anderson left with just a bag of her clothes and nothing else they had accumulated in their 6 year relationship.

Sen. Sally Hopper, R-Golden, voted against the bill, saying she didn't like its impact on heterosexual couples.

"We are encouraging people who are not married to live together who could get married," she said. "We are making this so legal and so accepted."

North Dakota

John Strand says he is not asking the North Dakota Legislature to legalize homosexual marriage, a philosophical decision he says should be left to the U.S. Supreme Court.

But the Legislature's decision on a proposal to prohibit homosexual marriage will send a message of hope or despair to Gay teen-agers in the state, the editor of a Grafton weekly newspaper said Wednesday, February 5th.

"No one in North Dakota taught me how to be Gay," Strand told the Senate

Judiciary Committee. "God knows, no one in their right mind would choose such a thing."

Strand was one of many to speak against a proposal to strengthen a state law that defines marriage as a contract between a man and a woman. Sen. Randy Christmann, (R-Hazen), sponsored the bill.

The proposal says same-sex marriages performed in other states will not be recognized in North Dakota.

Supporters of the bill who spoke Wednesday, many of whom represent religious organizations, say Christmann's bill preserves the institution of marriage.

"Both sexes must be present in order for there to be a marriage," said the Rev. Clinton Birst, executive director of the North Dakota Family Alliance. "If it is only based on feelings, then anything is possible."

But Keith Elston, the Bismarck director of the American Civil Liberties Union, described the proposal as "pointlessly mean-spirited."

Existing state law is sufficient to prevent Gay marriages, and the bill is little more than prejudice, Elston argued.

New Mexico

Two women who applied for a license in Santa Fe to marry each other say their action was based in part on principle.

"I don't understand why we should be treated differently than any other committed couple," said Patti Levey, 37, who showed up at the Santa Fe County clerk's office Tuesday, February 4th, with Beth Saltzman, 34, to apply for a marriage license.

The women also said they have a financial motivation. Because they are not legally married, they are denied many benefits married couples take for granted.

The clerk's office turned down their application, saying the attorney general needs to issue an opinion on the legality of same sex marriage in New Mexico.

After County Clerk Rebecca Bustamante rejected the application, Saltzman said she and Levey had been discriminated against.

Aside from a reference to bride and groom, and male and female applicant on the marriage license application, nothing in New Mexico law specifies a married couple must be a man and a woman.

Kay Roybal, spokeswoman for Attorney General Tom Udall, said state attorneys would have to research case law on the subject.

Linda Siegle, a lobbyist for the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Rights in New Mexico, predicted Saltzman and Levey will not be the last Gay couple seeking to have their partnership recognized as a legitimate marriage.

State Sen. Leonard Lee Rawson, R-Las Cruces, said he's concerned that if New Mexico doesn't take a stand on same sex marriage, the courts "will rule liberally and accept Gay marriages."

Rawson expects a bill to be introduced in the 1997 session that would recognize a heterosexual union as the only legally valid form of marriage in New Mexico.

Hawaii

The emotional issue of same-sex marriage is testing the strength of the new policy of the state Senate Democratic majority for cooperation and collaboration among its members.

Sen. Robert Bunda touched off a strong exchange of words on the Senate floor Tuesday, February 4th, when he challenged Monday's quick action by the Senate Judiciary Committee to approve two

same-sex marriage bills following a five-hour hearing.

One calls for a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriages and the other calls for giving some benefits of marriage to same-sex couples.

Committee member Bunda said committee co-chairmen Matt Matsumaga and Avery Chumbley refused to give the members or the public time to review drafts of the two bills they handed out just prior to calling for the members to approve them.

Chumbley and Matsumaga said the committee members were given every opportunity to ask questions and discuss the measures before the vote, but declined to do so.

Committee member Norman Sakamoto also objected, saying lawmakers owe the public a chance to respond to the specifics in pending bills.

Matsumaga and Chumbley said the issue has been debated for years and that the contents of the bills now up for a full Senate vote were taken from bills that were posted for yesterday's public hearing.

Virginia

Same-sex marriages are illegal in Virginia, and legislation approved Tuesday, February 4th, ensures they won't be recognized here, even if the marriage is sanctioned by another state.

The Senate approved a bill banning same-sex marriages 37-3 and the House of Delegates passed it by a 87-9 vote. Gov. George Allen said he supports the measure.

If the bills become law, any same-sex marriages performed in other jurisdictions will be void in Virginia.

Supporters said the bill was necessary to defend the sanctity of marriage.

"We strongly support the traditional family and we feel (same-sex marriage) will erode that," said Robin DeJarnette, a lobbyist for The Family Foundation.

Washington State

Vancouver City, Washington, Councilman Jim Moeller brought his spouse to the Capitol to help lobby against a ban on same-sex marriage.

Pointing to Clark Crawford on the marble steps, Moeller told a cheering rally "We are married. Together. This (proposed ban) is anti-marriage. It is any-family."

The measure, which Washington's con-

servative-controlled Legislature is poised to approve, stereotypes and divides people, Moeller said Monday, on the eve of House and Senate hearings.

Clark and several hundred Gay-rights activists said public opinion is opposed to discrimination against homosexuals, but that the battle against the same-sex marriage ban will be bruising.

If the ban question goes to the ballot this fall, it probably will be accompanied by a citizen initiative that bans employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, activists said.

The House and Senate, both dominated by Republicans, planned committee hearings today on identical proposals to declare marriage the exclusive province of heterosexuals and to make clear that if Hawaii or any other state legalizes same-gender marriages, Washington won't recognize them.

About 200 Gayactivists with Hands Off Washington got a head start on the debate. They converged Monday, February 3rd, on the Capitol for a rally, to attend volunteer lobbying school, contact reporters and meet with individual legislators.

Activists conceded that blocking the Gay-marriage ban in the Legislature is a long shot. But they said Gov. Gary Locke has assured them he will veto it and that enough Democrats will side with them to block a veto override.

That means the ultimate battle is in the court of public opinion, assuming sponsors place the issue on the ballot as a referendum, Murray said. Recent polls show weak support for the marriage ban, but strong support for the notion of fighting discrimination, he said.

Laurie Jinkins of Tacoma, president of the Hands Off Washington board, said conservatives are misreading the message of the last election.

"Washington remains ... a progressive state on social issues" and Republicans make electoral gains on fiscal conservatism, not on a rigid social agenda, she said.

"It's the whole right wing being divisive and using people's fears to advance their fund raising and to advance their own agenda," said Jan Bianchi, executive director of Hands Off.

If the ban bill is referred to the ballot, it's likely that Gay activists will seek to place an anti-discrimination initiative before the voters as well.

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Politically Speaking

Wagner In Close One

Commentary by Bill Meunier

Yes, I know many of you are still tired after the big national campaign that concluded only a few months ago, BUT that shouldn't stop Madison's Lesbians, Bisexuals and Gays from going out and voting in their municipal primary on Tuesday, February 18.

That election gives them a chance to give a big boost to former County Board Chairman, Dick Wagner. If elected in the general election in April, Wagner would be the first ever openly Gay County Executive in the county.

His record of service to Madison's Gay and Lesbian community is long and distinguished. Unlike some candidates who say they will be advocates for Gays and Lesbians, Wagner HAS been an effective advocate for them.

We certainly should have learned by now that no one will fight for us like of our own. Anyone who thinks otherwise should match Tammy Baldwin's record on our issues with any other legislator. If that's not enough they can match openly Gay Madison Alderman, Mike Verveer against anyone in any City government.

But Wagner's Gay and Lesbian record would not and should not be enough to recommend him for office. He is also easily the most qualified candidate in the race.

He served on the County Board for 14 years, six of them as its Chairperson. His visions, plans, and stands on the issues helped make Madison what one magazine called "the best place to live in the United States."

Despite his stellar record, Wagner may lose out by finishing third in the February primary. As we go to press, he is slugging it out with two other major contenders, Mike Blastik and Kathleen Falk.

Blastik is also a former County Board chairman. His tenure in that position was marked by bitter fights on the Board. The only conservative with a chance to win the race, Blastik is well-funded.

Falk is another matter. A liberal attorney and advocate for the environment, she has no experience in county government. Unlike Wagner she has never managed a multi-million dollar budget, never gotten controversial legislation passed and never had to deal with the day to day realities of governing.

Falk has garnered some support from a handful of Gays and Lesbians. They say they like her stands on poverty and her compassion. They call her sincere and say that she's a good listener. They say that Falk is committed to empowerment.

When Dick Wagner formed the New Harvest Foundation he did it to empower his community. When he helped get the Rodney Scheel house going, he did it out of compassion for homeless people with HIV who couldn't afford their own housing.

Sincerity and belief is simply not enough. Experience, demonstrated ability and sincerity is what Dane County voters should be looking for.

They need look no farther than Dick Wagner to find those qualities, that experience and that ability.

Correction?

Speaking of Madison and Dane County, one of Madison Mayor Soglin's supporters is a little miffed over a column from Jim McFarland that appeared in this paper a couple of issues ago.

In that column, McFarland said that Soglin vetoed a domestic partner health insurance ordinance.

HRC may or may not be non-partisan but according to openly Gay Madison Alderman Mike Verveer, McFarland's comment wasn't true. "The legislation never got to his desk," he says, "It didn't pass the City Council."

McFarland's point was that the Human Rights Campaign tends to endorse only Democrats.

Of course, when so few Republicans vote against DOMA and for ENDA, (we can only think of one who did that and he didn't run for re-election) it does make it difficult to find Republicans to endorse.

And you can hardly blame HRC for endorsing Clinton over Bob Dole. Even the Log Cabin Club had to call a special meeting to get their members to approve their endorsement of the former Kansas Senator.

However, part of McFarland's point is well taken. There is a debate in our community over how extensively our national and local groups should involve themselves in issues other than those related directly to our community.

On the one side there are those who say that given our diversity as a people, these groups should limit themselves to Gay and Lesbian civil rights.

On the other hand, there are those who say that by involving themselves in other issues, HRC, NGLTF and others are building coalitions.

The argument is as old as our movement and probably will never be fully settled. There is evidence supporting both sides.

Perhaps those who think our national groups are on the wrong track should form a non-partisan group of their own.

Already?

The other day, the esteemed editor of this publication, Dr. Terry Boughner, called me to tell me about this obscenity he had just seen in *Time Magazine*. I quickly began thumbing through my copy, (only in the interest of reporting on it mind you) as Terry explained that the obscenity was the statement that the Presidential campaign for 2000 had already begun.

Poor Dr. Boughner. He and others who were up past their necks with the last one are not looking forward to this at all.

The reality is that the next campaign began well before the last one was finished. You could see that when Collin Powell stumped for Bob Dole. You could see it when Clinton started giving Al Gore more visible responsibilities.

There is nothing new in any of this. The only difference is that the press is paying more attention to political processes than it has in the past.

Four Weeks Extension Granted By Release of RFP

Milwaukee—In an update to the story in the last issue on the state's plan to award AIDS/HIV services funds through a competitive request for proposals (RFP), Dr. James M. Vergeront announced the state's new timetable for the RFP process.

Vergeront is head of the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program of the Division of Health.

The RFP involves the distribution of \$3.8 million in state and federal moneys for HIV/AIDS services.

On December 12, 1996, the Division of Health sent a request for information (RFI) letter to over 1,800 organizations and individuals inviting public comment on the Division's plan to award AIDS/HIV services funds through a competitive RFP. The comment period ended January 16, 1997.

March 3, 1997—Announcement of the Division's plan for the RFP;

June 2, 1997—RFP released;

September 2, 1997—Proposals due;

October 1, 1997—Notice of intent to award.

The Wisconsin HIV/AIDS Care Coalition (WHACC) said in a press release that it was pleased that an extension of four weeks had been gained from the state in the release of their RFP.

WHACC attributed this extension to "the tremendous public response to this process" which "has forced the Department of Health and Family Services to take more time to consider community input."

The press release stated that WHACC would continue lobbying legislators and department officials "to ensure equity in funding and a competitive grants process throughout Wisconsin."

NGLTF Releases Review of LGBT-Related Legislation for 1996 and a Peek at 1997

Washington, DC—State legislatures emerged as one of the hottest and most important places in the battle for and against Gay civil rights last year. In 1996, Gay-related measures in state legislatures surpassed what many believe was a record high in 1995. And 1997 has begun where last year left off.

Already, dozens of both pro-and anti-Gay bills have been introduced. Preliminary data suggest 1997 may set yet another record. These are the summary findings of **Capital Gains and Losses: A State by State Review of Gay-Related Legislation in 1996**, the second annual survey on state legislative developments conducted by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

Marriage

Same-sex marriage bills were a major focus in state legislatures during 1996, with Governors from 15 states signing into law legislation that makes same-sex marriage illegal.

Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Tennessee all banned same-sex marriage. The language in some of the bills was especially mean-spirited. For example, Georgia's bill declared that "no marriage between persons of the same sex shall be recognized as entitled to the benefits of marriage."

Health

Legislation limited the rights of people with HIV took a front seat in many state legislatures. Bills were introduced dealing with everything from criminalization of sex by HIV+ people to mandatory reporting of HIV test results.

In Florida, a proposal requiring the mandatory reporting to the state of HIV test results was signed into law. And in Kansas, a bill was introduced that would have made it illegal for a judge to consider a person's HIV status when recommending sentencing. Fortunately, heavy lobbying efforts by activists were successful and the bill died in committee.

Schools

The most disturbing school measure in 1996, both for its content as well as the debate preceding and surrounding its adoption, arose in Utah. Young Gays and Lesbians came under attack from the state legislature, and state and local school boards when they attempted to form a Gay and Lesbian club at East High School in Salt Lake City. The legislature, meeting in special session, adopted a measure to require school boards to ban certain clubs from school grounds, including Gay and Lesbian clubs.

Families

Many state legislatures targeted Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual parents and families for attack. In Alaska, the Governor signed into law an Anti-Domestic Partnership bill that allows the University of Alaska to discriminate based on marital status when issuing benefits to its employees.

One of the most negative pieces of legislation adopted into law in 1996, was in Oklahoma, which prohibited placement of a child for foster care or adoption with an individual who is Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual.

Hate Crimes

After much work by local activists in Arizona to get hate crimes legislation introduced and passed by the legislature, in the end, all the hard work will have to be repeated because the Governor vetoed the bill.

The proposal would have increased the punishment for crimes because the victim was selected because of his or her sexual orientation.

There was one positive development on the hate crime front. Massachusetts expanded its previously existing hate crimes law to include bias crimes based on sexual orientation and disability. In so doing, the Bay State joined 19 other states, including Wisconsin, that already

include sexual orientation in their hate crimes law.

Civil Rights

In Nebraska a bill preventing discrimination based on sexual orientation in the workplace was introduced for the fifth time and once again failed to get enough votes to advance to committee.

1996 Summary Findings

- NGLTF tracked 160 pieces of legislation:
- Gay-friendly legislation appeared in 25 states and anti-Gay legislation appeared in 40 states;
 - When bills relating to marriage are included, the figures show 60 Gay-friendly measures and 100 anti-Gay measures;
 - When marriage bills are removed, the figures show 56 Gay-friendly bills and 50 anti-Gay bills.

A quick comparison with 1995 reveals that 1996 witnessed significantly more legislative activity and in a larger number of states. There was:

- Legislative activity on 160 bills in 1996, compared to 105 bills in 1995;
- Gay-friendly bills in 25 states in 1996, compared to Gay-friendly bills in 16 states in 1995;
- Anti-Gay bills in 40 states in 1996, compared to anti-Gay bills in 29 states in 1995.

1997 Preview

Preliminary data based on the first 6 weeks of the new year suggests 1997 will also be a busy one for state legislatures, possibly surpassing 1996 activity. In the wake of the Hawaii court decision, marriage remains the hot topic, especially in those states that did not pass same-sex marriage legislation last year.

- Already, at least 49 anti-Gay bills have been introduced, with 22 bills (in 18 states—including Wisconsin) banning same-sex marriage.
- 25 pro-Gay bills, including 3 bills legalizing same-sex marriage, have also been proposed to date. Wisconsin is one of these states.
- Besides anti-Gay marriage bills, states seem to be focusing their anti-Gay attacks in the health area (14 bills, with 9 requiring mandatory HIV testing) and on school-related issues (8 such bills).
- The relative success of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) in the U.S. Senate in 1996, combined with the claims last year of many anti-Gay marriage bill supporters that they oppose anti-Gay employment discrimination, is expected to lead to an increase in state bills banning such employment discrimination.
- Pro-marriage bills are pending or will be introduced in Nebraska, Rhode Island, Washington and Wisconsin. Marriage may also become a ballot question in Maine. In Oregon, a petition drive is underway creating the prospect for a similar initiative in 1998.
- States likely to see employment non-discrimination bills include: Washington, Virginia, Arizona, Nebraska and Colorado.

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Bi Definition Accepting New Members

Milwaukee—Bi Definition, Milwaukee's Bisexual community organization, is currently accepting new members for socials, support and activism.

Non-alcoholic, non-smoking socials/discussions are held the first Saturday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the BestD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady Street, including Bi Definition's next event on Saturday, March 1st starting at 7:00 p.m.

A one year membership and newsletter subscription is just \$10. Otherwise, a \$3 donation covers the cost of an individual social.

Bi Definition strives to have as diverse a membership as possible, so a special invitation goes out to all various ethnic, orientational, aged, ability, and gendered persons.

For further information, contact either Steve Butler at (414) 483-5046 or Carol Ringo at (414) 562-4058, or write: Bi Definition, P.O. Box 07541, Milwaukee, WI 53207.

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TRAVEL

From Paradise to a Garden Of Leather; Gay Hawaii to Mr. Leather Festival

By Sasha Alyson

Gay-owned and Gay-friendly businesses in Hawaii are eagerly anticipating the onslaught of new visitors should the "Gay marriage" initiative become law. Although no one can predict exactly how many same-sex couples might choose to have their union officially sanctioned in the 50th state, the measure is expected to draw several thousands of new visitors to the islands each year.

While Hawaii's airports, hotels, and restaurants are well-equipped to handle the multitudes of American and Japanese tourists who visit each year, a recent visit showed that establishments catering to a Lesbian and Gay clientele still have room for growth.

On Oahu, Honolulu boasts several excellent bars and the state's only Gay hotel, the Hotel Honolulu (800-426-2766), but Gay-operated guesthouses are springing up on other islands as well, particularly Maui, Kauai, and the Big Island.

Most islands can also claim at least one beach, usually nude, popular with Lesbian and Gay visitors.

If it's nightlife you're after, then Honolulu will probably be your destination. A three-block section of Kuhio Avenue in Waikiki contains most of the Gay bars and businesses in Honolulu.

The legendary Gay watering hole, Hamburger Mary's, has closed, but Trixx, an outdoor bar famous for its Sunday afternoon barbecue, has taken its place.

Adjoining Trixx is Hula's, a wonderful outdoor video bar popular with both locals and visitors. Other bars on Kuhio include Angles, a relaxed second floor bar, and Fusion, a late-night dance club.

Also in Waikiki are the friendly Michelangelo, featuring karaoke and occasional appearances by strippers, and Windows on Eaton Square, a relaxed lounge next door.

In Honolulu itself is Metropolis, Hawaii's only nightclub for women. It's open Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, and features dancing each night.

On Maui, your choice are more limited, but the scene is more relaxed than the hustle and bustle of Oahu. Most Gay visitors make their way to Little Beach in Makena, a nude beach popular with locals as well as tourists.

Nightlife revolves around Hamburger Mary's, a terrific restaurant and bar in Wailuku. Saturday and Tuesday nights are busiest.

For accommodations on Maui, Andrea & Janet's Maui Condos (800-289-1522) in Puunene offers oceanfront one- and two-bedroom condos, and in nearby Kihei,

The Triple Lei Bed & Breakfast (800-871-8645) is a clean, friendly, clothing-optional guesthouse for Gay men.

No visit to Maui would be complete, however, without a visit to Hana, a beautiful town whose beauty is only surpassed by the winding 40-mile coastal drive leading to it. The road to Hana is a spectacular trip that should be savored, not rushed, to allow full enjoyment of the waterfalls, tropical jungle, and clear swimming holes along the way.

In Hana, Lesbian and Gay visitors are warmly welcomed by Blair's Original Hana Plantation Houses (800-228-HANA), a Gay-owned business that rents quite a range of properties, priced from \$70 to \$160 per night.

The Big Island and Kauai both boast a number of Gay guesthouses and beaches, and more are expected in the future. For more information pick up a copy of *Island Lifestyles Magazine*, *Odyssey*, and *The Pocket Guide to Hawaii* when you arrive.

When planning your trip, it would be worthwhile to have a copy of *The Pages*, which contains a wealth of information on accommodations, nightlife, and other businesses. To order *The Pages*, send \$4 to Lifestyle Publishing Co., PO Box 11840, Honolulu, HI 96828. Gay guidebooks, such as those published by Dameron, Ferrari, Fodor, Out & About, and Spartacus are also helpful.

Like the swallows to Capistrano, every May leathersmen from around the world flock to Chicago for the International Mr. Leather Contest. This year's event will be held Memorial Day weekend, May 22-26, and feature more rugged leather types

than a year's supply of *Drummer* magazines.

In addition to Sunday night's IML competition and show are a four-day leather market, a candlelight AIDS vigil and walk, and plenty of parties, climaxing in the infamous Black & Blue Ball.

This will be the 19th consecutive year for the event, and more than 2,000 leathersmen and women are expected in the Windy City. A package that includes reserved seating at the contest, admission to all official events, a video highlights tape, t-shirt, poster, and shuttle service runs \$125; call (800) 545-6753 to order. The official hotel is the Congress Hotel on Michigan Avenue, near the Art Institute. A special rate of \$93/night single or double occupancy is available by calling (800)635-1666.

Send questions or comments about Gay travel to Sasha Alyson, Alyson Adventures, P.O. Box 180179, Boston, MA 02118, or via email at AlyVenture@aol.com.

Chefs Join to Produce AIDS Network's Red Ribbon Affair

Madison—Nine restaurants will collaborate on Red Ribbon Affair, a fundraising dinner for AIDS Network (formerly the Madison AIDS Support Network). The dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m., Friday, February 28, 1997, in the Grand Ballroom of the Madison Sheraton Hotel, 706 John Nolen Drive in Madison.

AIDS Network provides AIDS care and prevention services in 13 counties in south central Wisconsin with offices in Madison, Janesville and Beloit.

The entire dinner is donated by the participants and showcases the culinary talents of some of the area's finest chefs, restaurants and other purveyors including: Bluephies, Blue Plate Catering, Café Rome, Deb & Lola's, Pasta Per Tutti, Savory Thymes, Sheraton Madison Hotel, the Opera House and Taqueria Gila Monster. Bread will be provided by Madison Bread Company, chocolates by Candinas Chocolatier, wine by L'eft Bank Wines and coffee by Victor Allen's Coffee and Tea.

"Guests at Red Ribbon Affair will enjoy an incredible six-course gourmet dinner and, thanks to the generosity of participating restaurants and donors, will certainly also enjoy the fact that 100% of their ticket price goes to providing care to people with AIDS and preventing the spread of HIV," said Connie McElrone, Director of Development and Communications at AIDS Network.

The event also features a silent auction with over thirty items to bid on including round-trip air transportation for two, quilts, original art, wine, home furnishings, antiques, jewelry, theater tickets, dinners and spa services.

Corporate sponsors of Red Ribbon Affair include: AT&T, American Family Insurance, Dean Medical Center and Firstar.

The public is invited to attend. Tickets are \$65 and may be reserved by calling AIDS Network at (608) 252-6540 or 1-800-486-6276. The reservation deadline is February 21, 1997.

Shepherd Continued From Page 1

will make advertising grants to non-profit community and arts groups; updating accounting and data systems; and a renewed marketing effort.

The Board will also take a close look at *Mature American*, API's seniors publication, possible scaling down its age demographics to fit the aging baby-boom population. Upgrading Company offices or a move to a more convenient location is also being considered.

A re-examination of all employee and benefit policies will also be forthcoming.

The *Shepherd Express* has achieved dramatic growth since the employee takeover in 1994 and recently hired local commentator and former *Milwaukee Journal* columnist Joel McNally as its editor.

"We all look forward to supporting Joel

as he shapes the new *Shepherd Express* and takes the paper to another level of journalistic excellence," Quindel commented.

Quindel was an early Board member and Chairman of the Development Committee of the Cream City Business Association, the Gay and Lesbian organization that set up the Cream City Foundation. He was also on Wisconsin Governor Tony Earl's Council on Lesbian and Gay issues, and was involved in the effort to gain initial state funding dedicated to AIDS support and services.

Quindel is State Treasurer of Wisconsin Community Fund, a Madison-based fund that supports grass roots community organizations. He is also Chairman of the Board of the Body Inspired, Ltd., a popular East Side fitness center operated by his sister, Lisa Quindel and is brother to County Supervisor Roger Quindel.

The new Board will include present members Greg Quindel, *Shepherd Express* Editor Joel McNally, and Ad Director Mary Henschel. Also asked to remain is Finance Committee Chair, Sandra Hays. Hays has indicated that she may not have the necessary time.

The Board slate includes employees Company Administrator Constance Venezia and *Shepherd Express* Arts & Entertainment Editor Dave Luhrssen. Elliot Maranis, former Publisher of the *Madison Capital Times* and a member of the *Shepherd Express* Editors Search Committee will also be asked to serve along with Barry Sattell, Managing Partner of Sattell Johnson Appel & Company S.C., a Milwaukee accounting firm established in 1930, and progressive businessman Greg Koller, President of Prostar, Inc.

Discussions are ongoing concerning the appointment of a marketing professional and a local attorney.

Gaybonics A Quick Course

Commentary by Brian Treglown

There has been a lot of talk lately about ebonics. The term is a combination of the words "ebony" and "phonics", and applies to African-American street language. The Oakland, California School Board endorsed the use of ebonics in teaching recently, pre-

sumably to extort some extra dollars out of the Federal Government's Bilingual Education Fund. Ebonics gives legitimacy to sentences like "I ax him if he be goin' out."

Well, now, if ebonics really does constitute a new language like the Oakland School Board says, then how about "Gaybonics?" Sure, you know Gaybonics. You've all used it numerous times. You just didn't know it made you bilingual.

Gaybonics is a language you can turn off or on depending on the setting. Just as Blacks turn on ebonics when talking to friends in "the hood," and turn it off when speaking to, say, Hillary Clinton at an awards ceremony, so can Gays turn Gaybonics off and on.

You'd want to turn it on when sitting in a Gay bar watching a RuPaul video—"You go, girl!"—and turn it off at your family's Easter Sunday dinner—"Sure, Uncle Paul, those Packers really kicked some ass."

But like every language, Gaybonics has rules to follow, grammar to use. Here are a few of the rules to follow when speaking in Gaybonics:

1. He generally becomes she is this rule. For instance, "Gawd, look at the pecs on that one. She's been pumping iron."
2. Extra s's. The simple, 6-letter word "sister," becomes "ssissster."
3. Reaction to nouns. In Gaybonics, the listener can never be passive. Some nouns or places require ecstatic ooo's. Some require vociferous hisses. Proper nouns like Judy Garland, Key West, Antonio Banderas and San Francisco require ooo's. Jesse Helms, the suburbs, Ronald Reagan, and the State of Utah require a hiss.
4. Use of Mary. Names, particularly men's names, should be changed to Mary. For example, if your friend Brad leaves his barstool to go to the restroom, you shout, "If you're not back in 5 minutes, Mary, I'm coming to get you."
5. Use of Queen. Every Gay man is some kind of queen. A guy who dresses in women's clothes is a drag queen. A man who likes Asians is a rice queen. One who likes body builders is a muscle queen, etc.

Of course, there are lots more rules. Once we get our grammar down, we just may get the Harvey Milk School in San Francisco to qualify for bilingual funds. Let's work on it.

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Prisoners Vania (Sergei Bodrov Jr.), far left and Sacha (Oleg Menshikov) are held hostage in "Prisoner of the Mountains" a Russian film that has been nominated for Best Foreign Film. It opens at Milwaukee's Downer Theater on Friday February 21.

Schindler

Continued from Page 4

where at all, not until the Holocaust Museum, were Gays and Lesbians mentioned in the roster of victims.

Even after the liberation of the camps, Gays were not free. Gays were required to finish out the sentences levied on them by the Nazis.

The elevator at the Museum stopped at the fourth floor. We got out and begin to walk down a corridor that would end up on the first floor.

On every side there were exhibits, pictures, many pictures, a huge pile of shoes, a cattle car, a scale model of the gas chambers at Auschwitz including a description of how it worked. The gas they used caused convulsions. It took a long time to die that way.

The great writer, Elie Wiesel, himself a prisoner at Auschwitz, had written of the time when 1,000 teenage men were brought into Auschwitz, all wearing the Pink Triangle. Wiesel called them "the most beautiful young men" he had ever seen.

Can you imagine them? Confused, badly frightened, some sobbing, others, their eyes wide with terror as they saw the guards surrounding them.

They tried to resist, but that was futile. They were clubbed into submission by guards pounding them into the dirt. Those among them who could still walk carried those who could not. Clubs continued to fall on them, driving them to the gas chamber.

I had read Wiesel's moving, poetic account of "The Thousand" as he calls them. I had heard the story from one other, a Gay survivor, who was there. I had visited the site. I have never been able to get the images out of my mind.

Further on in the Museum, there was a display of black and white striped jackets, the kinds that camp prisoners wore. One I noticed particularly because it had a faded Pink Triangle on it.

I stood there looking at it, wondering. Who was he? What did he look like? Who

had he loved? Who had loved him? What were his dreams, his ambitions, his hopes?

The jacket was small. I remembered that I'd been told that sometimes parents or other family members would turn a boy in who they suspected of being Gay. Had that happened to him?

But why was I asking those questions? I didn't even know his name. No one would ever know his name. All that was left of this Gay man was a jacket, that's all.

Let me make some things clear. First, there is no evidence whatsoever that Hitler and his henchmen were Gay. Ernst Rohm was the exception.

Secondly, it was easy enough for the Nazis to find out who was Gay. Keep in mind that in the 1920's, Gay life was more open in Germany than it had ever been before. Gays I talked with said that they thought that liberation had finally arrived. They would never suffer oppression again.

Thirdly, according to Joan Ringelheim, director of the Museum's oral history department, since Paragraph 175 targeted Gay men and not Lesbians, "few Lesbians were sent to the camps based on their Lesbian identity."

To say therefore, that Lesbians were unaffected is not true. The Nazis destroyed Lesbian bars, clubs and publications, the whole of Lesbian social structure was driven underground by the macho state that relegated all women to the demeaning position of being ornaments to men.

Why go into all of this? Because, on February 23rd, NBC will present the movie **Schindler's List**. Whether you have seen it or not, I recommend that you watch it again.

We must remember, we have to remember that Nazism was not a German phenomenon, it was a human phenomenon. It demonized whole groups of people for being who they were, all in the name of conformity to some misshapen ideal.

The same thing is going on today. It goes on all the time. Those who want to drive us to earth and bury us, may not call themselves Nazis, but the mind-set is the same, exactly the same.

A Lesbian, a Bisexual, a Gay man is assaulted physically or verbally. The difference between the Nazis and those who commit such acts now is in degree, not kind.

I strongly advise seeing **Schindler's List**. I strongly advise, too, that you visit the Holocaust Museum if you get the chance.

Admission to the Museum is free. Advance reservations are recommended and may be made by calling ProTix at 1-800-400-9373.

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Speaking From The Right On Hypocrisy and Same Sex Marriage

Commentary by Scott Evertz

We've all heard it before. Perhaps some of us have even said things like, "Our families are just like yours" or "I'm in a committed relationship that is just like a marriage."

These things are often said when Gay men and Lesbians find themselves arguing for equality, particularly in the area of the right to get married, but they are all too frequently utterances from people who have no business whatsoever making such claims. And our community must mature to the point where we recognize, and, in face, say, "That's just not true." We must have more integrity than that or our movement for full equality, particularly the right to marry, is doomed to failure.

Now, if you're scratching your head and wondering, what the f*** is this guy trying to say, let me provide you with some examples.

Let's say there's a Congressperson who gains a significant amount of notoriety because this individual is "out" on Capitol Hill and in their district, has a long-time companion to whom this Congressperson appears to be committed and this Congressperson is even quite conservative in their approach to "family values" because of a "strong, religious upbringing."

Let's say, as well, that you knew for a fact that this same individual and their partner frequented bars in search of a "third party" for sex. Should you necessarily condemn them? I don't think so. But would you want this person standing before the cameras saying their family is just like the average family in their congressional district? I don't think so.

Perhaps you're starting to understand where I'm coming from (and going) with this column. Perhaps another example may help.

Let's say that there is a well-known leader in the Gay/Lesbian community who has helped a great many openly Gay/Lesbian candidates get elected to office at all levels and that this person even has a personal friendship with a very high ranking official, like...say the President.

Let's say, as well, that this person also made his intentions quite clear regarding marriage. Unlike many in the Gay/Lesbian community who greeted the marriage debate with a significant amount of cynicism ("Why, of all things, are we arguing about this?"), this community leader has said that he and his partner absolutely intend to get married as soon as they are able.

Let's say that you also knew that this person was, to put it nicely, always on the prowl. Would you want this person and his partner to be our national poster children for marriage? I don't think so.

I'm sure you understand what I'm trying to say, but please indulge me while I present just one more example.

Let's say that you and your partner had two friends who were also partners and that you knew that the two of them frequently "surf the net" in search of third parties for sex.

Let's say that you were also able to assess, based on conversations with these friends, that either one of them would cheat on the other in an instant if given the chance and that you had to indulge (or ignore) either one of them any time you were in public as they gawked at cute men.

Let's say that they also found themselves in a position with certain frequency to comment on the right to marry and they referred to their relationship as one that is just like their parents. Would you want them doing so? Again, I think not.

Now, before you call me a sexual fascist, opposed to any sexual expression or "lifestyle" except the most conservative, just stop. I am not condemning anyone. I really don't care what the individuals to whom I referred thus far in this column choose to do with their lives or their bodies.

I'd even add that I don't care what members of NAMBLA (The North American Man-Boy Love Association) or guys who avail themselves of anonymous sexual encounters in public places or women who choose not to enter monogamous relationships and date a number of women (perhaps concurrently) are doing.

While these choices may not be ones that I would make at this point in my life and I would definitely be hard pressed to defend an organization devoted to pedophilia, at least members of NAMBLA and j/o clubs are honest and, for the most part, are not standing on the front lines of the marriage battle. They are beneficiaries of relaxed attitudes concerning sexuality and are expressing themselves as they so choose.

Any condemnation—and I think that may be too strong a word—is directed at those who profess one thing and live far differ-

ently.

I agree wholeheartedly with the sentiment Elizabeth Birch, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign, was expressing when she asked Congressman Bob Barr, lead sponsor of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which of his three marriages he was attempting to defend with such legislation?

Her point, while unfortunately made at an inopportune time during the debate, was crystal clear. She was, in essence, calling the Congressman a hypocrite for being such a vocal proponent of the "family values" agenda.

Similarly, all of the couples to whom I referred earlier in this column are hypocrites. They want to be able to appear to be conservative, family-oriented individuals whose lives only differ from mainstream America because they are a couple of the same sex.

Their private behavior, however, makes them quite different, at least from the image of mainstream American couples, and we must call them on this. This hypocrisy is damaging in at least two ways.

First, the witnessing of such inconsistencies is demoralizing to those Gay and Lesbian couples who are in committed relationships and dream of the day when they can get married.

Secondly, the inconsistencies feed right into the arguments of our opponents. They will, in fact, be correct when they assert that Gay marriage is only about financial gain and destruction of the traditional family if our only spokespeople have no apparent interest in monogamy and commitment.

Gay and Lesbian couples like those I have spoken about in this column should just give it up; the act, that is. You need to quit playing the role of the straight married couple because you believe this is what your co-workers or your parents (or whomever) want you to be and be honest, at least with yourself.

And please, stop being our community's advocates for marriage. My side hurts from laughing so hard every time I have to listen to you.

Editor's Note: The opinions of the author of this column are his own and do not necessarily reflect those of any organization with which he may be affiliated.

Eleventh Annual Make A Promise Dinner and Silent Auction

Milwaukee— The 11th annual Make A Promise Dinner & Auction will be held on Saturday, March 22, at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee. This powerful and moving event is a benefit for AIDS care, prevention and research produced by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW).

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

"This very special evening will recognize and honor Wisconsin physicians who have dedicated their careers to caring for individuals with HIV and AIDS," said Marge Beil, director of special events at ARCW. "A video to premiere the evening of the event will spotlight four Wisconsin physicians showing the diversity of people this disease affects, proving that AIDS has no prejudices."

Master of ceremonies for the evening is Mike Gousha, anchor on TODAY'S TMJ4. Co-chairs are Trish Gillespie of Whitefish Bay, Dr. Timothy Lapp of Milwaukee and Paul Masterson of Bayview.

Included in the 1997 auction are trips via United Airlines, autographed Bette Midler merchandise and a baby grand piano. All proceeds from Make a Promise will benefit the education, research and prevention programs of ARCW's service agencies: Milwaukee AIDS Project, Northwest Wisconsin AIDS Project, Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project, Wisconsin AIDS Research Consortium.

Principal sponsors for this year's event are: Seagull Enterprises, Miller Brewing Company, and United Airlines.

The Make A Promise Dinner & Auction sold out quickly in 1996, so be sure to reserve your tickets soon. Ticket prices are \$175, \$100 and \$75 per person. Tables of 10 may also be reserved. For more information or to reserve tickets, call (414) 225-1549.

MAP Dental Opens With Rush of Activity Fulfilling a Long-Felt Need

Milwaukee— On January 6, the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) opened the state's first HIV dental clinic and by month's end, more than 75 individuals with HIV and AIDS received dental care.

"We knew the need for this clinic was urgent," said Doug Nelson, executive director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW), MAP's parent organization. "After only one month of operation, we are sure that use of the clinic will exceed our expectations."

Initial projections are that more than 600 people will use the clinic in its first year.

The dental clinic, located on the third floor of MAP, is open to HIV-positive adults and guarantees treatment regardless of a patient's ability to pay.

"It also guarantees high quality, sensitive care for the HIV issues in people's lives," said Nelson.

The dental clinic is well-equipped and able to treat patients as if they were receiving services at a private practice.

"We want people to get back to optimal dental health," said Dr. Linda Stuart-William. Her other goals are to further public education about HIV and AIDS, to serve as a resource for dentists in the area and to network with similar clinics around the country.

The clinic is a collaboration between MAP and Rainbow Community Health Centers, which supply dental services and where Stuart-William works when not at MAP.

Wayne Schick, one of the first patients treated at the clinic, recalls an attempt to find a dentist some years back. "When I identified myself as HIV positive, he did just about everything but pick me up and carry me out."

Wayne was highly impressed with the quality of care and facilities on his first visit to the MAP dental clinic.

The HIV dental clinic was showcased at an open house on World AIDS Day in December, and was soon booked for appointments through January. At the open house, the clinic was dedicated to Kay Kratz, D.D.S., a local dentist who was the moving force behind the establishment of the clinic.

MAP's HIV dental clinic is the first of its kind in Wisconsin and one of two in the Midwest (the other is in Chicago). It was largely furnished with about \$50,000 worth

of equipment donated by Milwaukee County and Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital in the aftermath of the closing of Doyno Hospital and the Doyno dental clinic last year. The Doyno clinic had a large HIV-positive clientele.

Consumers of the HIV dental clinic who have dental insurance will be billed for services. But every patient is assured of dental services regardless of ability to pay, said Nelson.

"We will not turn anyone away," Nelson said. "For those who don't have private health insurance or don't qualify for Medicaid, we are making the commitment to pay for people who might be considered indigent or very low income. Our ability to do that is because of the very extensive fund raising that we do throughout the year with individuals and through events such as AIDS WALK Wisconsin."

Nelson said treatment at the clinic is cost-effective, with the charge structure the same as that at the Rainbow Community Health Centers, where charges are generally lower than in the private sector.

"At the Milwaukee AIDS Project, we are concerned about the breakdown in the social safety net in Milwaukee, which raises a very large concern about access to health care for people with HIV and AIDS," Nelson adds.

"How tragic it would be at a time when there's so much new hope with regard to effective HIV treatment that access to those treatments and access to health care would be restricted. So it's out of that great concern that we make this commitment to the dental clinic and because, in the past year after the closure of Doyno, it was very clear that this was a huge gap in care. We felt compelled to move quickly to close that gap."

As the HIV dental clinic's patient load grows, hours will be expanded. Hours now are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. The number to call for appointments is 414-225-1571. Like all other MAP consumers, dental patients are assured of confidentiality.

Financial contributors to the clinic included: the Wisconsin AIDS Fund of the Milwaukee Foundation, the Elizabeth Elser Doolittle Charitable Trust, the Emery T. Clark Charitable Foundation and the First Financial Foundation.

Linda Stuart-William, DDS



Quality Dental Care

for the HIV/AIDS Community

MAP

MILWAUKEE AIDS PROJECT

Wisconsin's First HIV Dental Clinic

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

CALL 225-1571 FOR AN APPOINTMENT

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

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THE SPOTLIGHT



Young Tennessee A young Tennessee Williams played by Johnathon Wainwright (far left) is seen in this scene from the Milwaukee premier of Williams' autobiographical play *Viux Carre*, which opens at Theater X on Thursday February 20. Wainwright is joined by Suzette Nelson playing Jane, and Robert Bruce Janacek as Tye.

"Viux Carre," Tennessee Williams' Coming Out Drama, Plays at Theater X

Milwaukee—It was in 1975, when helped by the post Stonewall era climate, noted American author, Tennessee Williams, wrote his memoirs and came out of the closet in print. It was four years later when with his autobiographical play *Viux Carre*, he came out on the stage as well.

Viux Carre has the distinction of being the first Williams' play where he exists as an openly Gay central character. That distinction is part of the reason why Theater X will provide the Milwaukee premier of *Viux Carre* from February 20 through March 23.

"Viux Carre deals with human beings not just Gays or Straights, who are searching for happiness. That's a theme that's pretty universal no matter who you are."
Mike Ramach

John Schneider Directs

The play which was called "filth" by New York theater critics when it opened on Broadway, is part of Director John Schneider's look at Gay and Lesbian playwrights. Two years ago, Schneider directed *Lord Alfred's Lover*, a look at Oscar Wilde's life. That production won critical acclaim and was a solid success at the box office. "Nearly every performance was sold out," said Schneider.

Four Months in New Orleans

Viux Carre covers a four month period in the life of Tennessee Williams, from December, 1938 through March, 1939. It was during this time that he lived in a New Orleans French Quarter Boarding House. Nearly destitute, Williams even pawned his typewriter to make ends meet. He is only 28 and he dreams of becoming a famous writer but he has not yet been dis-

covered.

It was during this time that Williams first experienced Gay sex. The play covers that subject both in conversations he has about his experiences and in love scenes.

That is one of the work's aspects that attracted Schneider's attention. "I like this play in part because it's a 67 year old man writing with complete confidence about being Gay at the age of 28."

Cast of Characters

In addition to Williams, the production features a motley assortment of characters who lived with him at 722 Toulouse Street, just around the corner from Bourbon Street. These include: Nightengale, a Gay painter, who suffers from the AIDS of his day, Tuberculosis; a straight couple, Jane and Tye, who engage in a stormy relationship; Mrs. Wire, the mentally unstable landlady who owns the boarding house and who acts as a surrogate mother for Tennessee Williams; Miss Carrie and Mary Maude, two aging Southern Belles; and Nurse, a mulatto housekeeper.

Whether these exact characters were actual parts of his life or were representations of others who were, can not be known for certain. What can be said is that at the very least, they were based on real people who had an impact on Williams as he was crafting the art of words on the stage.

Role Models?

Great writers, write about their life experiences. It should not be surprising that audiences will find themselves somewhat familiar with these characters.

Mrs. Wire has a vague resemblance to Amanda, the mother figure in *Street Car*

Please See Theater X Page 23

Gutzman Brings "Company" to the Stage With Gay Themes Restored

Milwaukee—For 25 years everyone has been wondering what is wrong with Robert?

The award-winning Stephen Sondheim, George Furth musical comedy, *Company*, concerns the worries of Robert's married friends over why he just can't seem to commit to a relationship, get a wife and settle down. Even his girlfriends bemoan his unwillingness to follow through.

In one show-stopping show song, "You Could Drive a Person Crazy," the girlfriends sing "I could understand a person if a person was a fag!"

Now Dale Gutzman will introduce America to the newly revised version of the show, a version that recently took London critics and audiences alike by storm.

It seems the Sondheim and Furth are just a bit more brave than they were 25 years ago. The show now contains a

scene cut from the original in which one of Robert's young married male friends asks him if he has ever had a Gay experience? When Robert answers that he has, the friend suggests that they have sex.

In the end, we still do not know for sure if Robert is Gay, but we know he is coming to grips with the feelings that he has had for years.

The show is fast paced and very funny. Sondheim's upbeat New York-type score reflects the hectic lives of these people while they cope with problems like alcoholism, drugs, being overweight, getting older and, most importantly, being alone.

Gutzman's production of the Tony and Drama Desk winning musical will take place at Vogel Hall on February 28th and March 1st, 7th, and 8th at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$16 and may be ordered by calling the Marcus Center Box Office at (414) 273-7206.

Slideshow with Music Previews Symphony's Rainforest Concert

Milwaukee—On March 14-15, 1997, the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, in collaboration with the Milwaukee Public Museum and Riveredge Nature Center and other Milwaukee area cultural institutions, will present a special Rainforest Concert in Uihlein Hall of the Marcus Performing Arts Center. This special *Song of the*

Dale Gutzman and Company to Perform at M&M Club

Milwaukee—Dale Gutzman, Milwaukee's most creative and successful independent producer/director, will present an evening of music and comedy entitled *Show Songs From Broadway and Hollywood* at the M&M Club on Saturday, February 15, beginning at 9:30 p.m.

The show will feature some of Milwaukee's favorite performers. Gutzman's *Show Songs From Broadway and Hollywood* includes excerpts and selections chosen from the highly successful music and comedy revues he took to Russia, England, and Thailand.

Included in the show will be such well-known hits as "Hooray for Hollywood," "No Business Like Show Business," "As Time Goes By," "Makin' Whoopee," "Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend," and many, many more.

The show also will include a special section of songs by Stephen Sondheim, and lots of comedy bits. Gutzman brings the audience into the show when he invites them to sing several songs with him and cast members single out audience members as "Objects of Devotion" for some of the love songs.

For this very special evening, Gutzman has assembled the cream of Milwaukee's stage personalities. With Tina Davis a the piano and Gutzman leading the evening's events, the show will include: Karl Miller performing his Marlene Detrich impersonation that stopped the show in Thailand last November. Miller also entertains as Carmen Miranda.

Jack Wilson, who performs revues at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater will croon some touching Sondheim ballads, while Ellen Lloyd will charm the audience with several solos as well as rocking the place with a couple of duets with Gutzman.

Other performers include: Michael Weiser, Fred Ollerman, and surprise visits from a dozen other stage and cabaret performers.

After writing to the maestro in early 1990, Poniewaz received a letter from Bernstein's agents saying that due to illness, the conductor found it hard to keep up with project to which he was already committed and could not take on any new ones, no matter how interesting. A short time later, Bernstein died; ironically he who might have dramatically staged this concert to save the rainforests—sometimes called the lungs of the planet—expired due to the deterioration of his own lungs by a lifetime of cigarette smoking.

When he read in 1995, that Milwaukee Public Museum and Riveredge Nature Center were collaborating to acquire-for-preservation 800 acres of actual rainforest

Please See Rainforest Page 23

FEBRUARY 28,
MARCH 2 & 4, 1997



Verdi's Classic Opera of Love, Sacrifice & Tragedy!
UIHLEIN HALL/ MARCUS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
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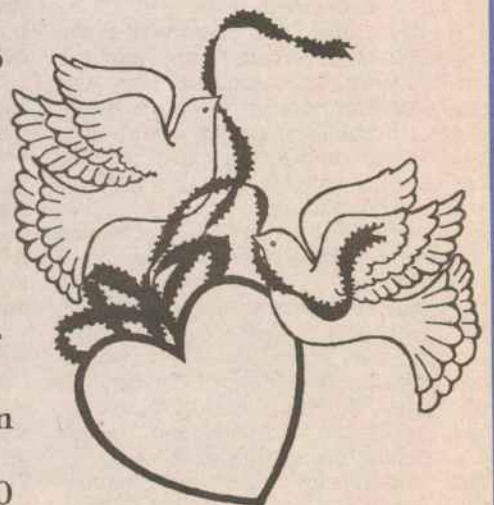
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LOC & LAMM presents

"Together With Love We Can Fly"

A Valentine's
Dance
Saturday,
February 15
7pm-1am
War Memorial Center

Tickets are \$10 per person
and can be obtained by
calling LAMM at 264-2600



Gay Comedy Jam to Come to Madison, Appleton and Milwaukee This Month

Milwaukee—The Gay Comedy Jam: Freedom Tour starring Scott Kennedy and Kevin Maye comes to Wisconsin in February. The comic duo who have been de-

Boulevard Theater to Hold Auditions for Season Finale

Milwaukee—The Boulevard Ensemble is seeking actors and actresses for the final production of its 1996-'97 season, Pierre de Marivaux's comedy, *The Triumph of Love*.

Auditions for the production are by appointment only and will be held on March 1st and 2nd at the Boulevard Theater, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue. Auditioners must call to schedule an interview time. Auditioners should prepare a one-minute, language-oriented comic or dramatic monologue.

The Triumph of Love will be directed by Steve Young.

To schedule an audition, call Mark Bucher at (414) 672-6019.

Author Readings at AfterWords

AfterWords is pleased to announce a very special author appearance on Sunday, March 9th at 1:00 p.m.

Scheduled to read on March 9th are Eric Beeman author of *Tales for the Obsessive Gay Romantic* (Andersonville Publications Pb. \$9.00) and J. E. Robinson, a poet and short story writer including in the best-selling collection, *Men on Men 6* (Plume Pb. \$12.95).

In Beeman's collection of eight tales of love in its many forms and variations, eight marvelous short stories, the reader is challenged to discover if they might be obsessive or romantic and that they are not alone.

For further information about Eric Beeman and J. E. Robinson's appearance at AfterWords on March 9th, please call (414) 963-9089 or visit our website: afterwords.com.

scribed by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* as "two of the hottest stand-up comedians in the country," will be appearing on Madison on February 23rd; in Appleton on February 25th; and in Milwaukee on February 26th.

Kennedy and Maye have headlined most major comedy clubs from Maine to Washington State including: The Improvs, Laff Stops, Puchlines, Funny Bones, Comedy Works, and Las Vegas show-rooms.

They have also opened in concert with Garth Brooks, The Temptations, The Four Tops, David Sanborn, and Judy Tenuta.

Those with cable may have seen them on HBO's "Comedy Channel," or on A&E's "An Evening at the Improv."

The Gay Comedy Jam: Freedom Tour is sponsored by *The Advocate Magazine*. The tour began in 1994 and has sold out in almost every major market. 1997 is shaping up to be the most successful year yet.

While the show is structured for a LGBT audience, it is widely enjoyed by the straight crowd as well.

"Funny is funny, whether it is Gay or straight, people laugh," Kennedy said.

"I know that 25 years ago to have an openly Gay performer at a 'mainstream' venue was unheard of," Maye said. "Today, we are selling out shows all over the nation."

Kennedy and Maye share not only the stage together, but also their lives off stage as well. They are domestic partners and live in Houston, Texas when they are not on tour (They tour 150+ days a year).

Maye has gone public about his HIV+ status. Kennedy is negative. Maye is one of only two HIV+ comics in the world doing HIV+ comedy.

The Gay Comedy Jam will be at the Funny Business Club, 188 State Street in Madison, February 23rd at 8:00 p.m.

The Jam will be in at the Skyline Comedy Club, 1004 S. Olde Street in Appleton on February 25th at 8:00 p.m.

The Jam will be at the Stooges Comedy Club, 639 W. Layton Avenue in Milwaukee on February 26th at 8:00 p.m.



The Gay Comedy Jam

"Freedom Tour '97"

DIRECT FROM LAS VEGAS!

STARRING
SCOTT KENNEDY



GAY
STAND-UP COMICS
PERFORMING
GAY STAND-UP COMEDY
NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED
AND ACCLAIMED
GAY HEADLINERS
AS FEATURED IN
THE ADVOCATE MAGAZINE
AND HBO'S COMEDY CHANNEL

ON NATIONAL TOUR!

STARRING
KEVIN MAYE



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Tickets: \$12 Advance/\$15 Day Of Show, Plus Tax. No Coupons/Discounts. Advance Purchase Recommended.

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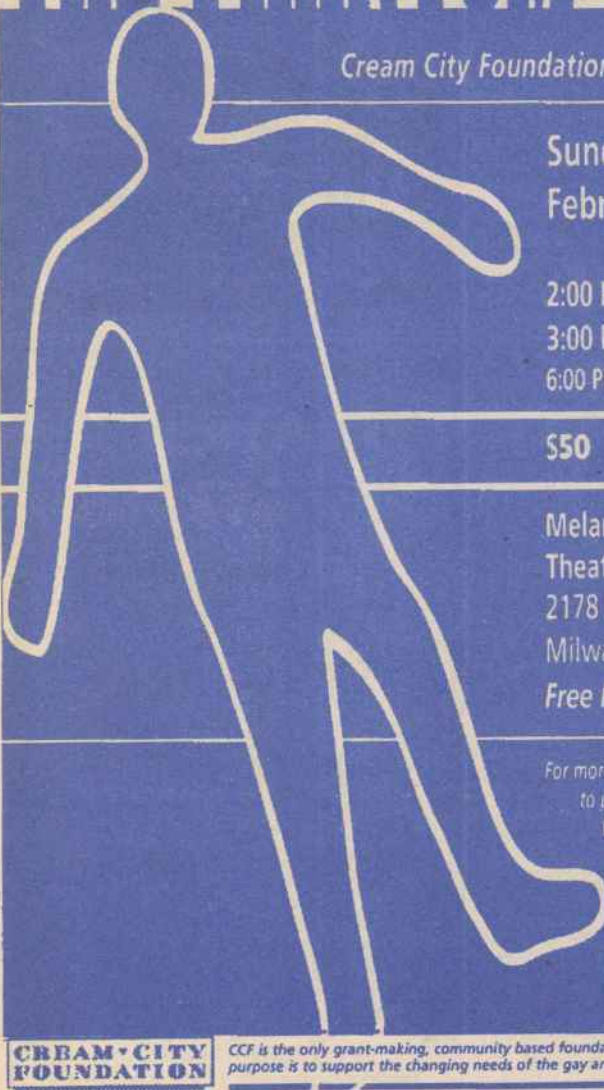


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Sunday,
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2:00 PM -cocktails
3:00 PM -dinner and show
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\$50

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Mama Roux, 1875 N. Humboldt;
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Landmark Enterprises at 276-6355
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(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.

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

OUT on Film

Branagh's 'Hamlet' is Enthralling, But, on the Whole, a Little Bit too Much

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Given Kenneth Branagh's (can it be long before it is Sir Kenneth Branagh?) tediously obvious obsession with The Bard (Shakespeare, don't you know), one can easily imagine him scurrying across the English countryside looking for clues for some mysterious, hereto unknown Shakespearean text that he might discover.

While he searches, he might as well rework some of the familiar old chestnuts. Following "Much Ado About Nothing" and "Henry V", here his choice is "Hamlet."

Following generations of fabled Shakespearean actors, including the immortal Sir Lawrence Olivier, Branagh is similarly too old for the part, despite his surprisingly virile musculature and some curiously blond-dyed locks.

A true Shakespearean actor, yes, but Branagh is first and foremost a theatrical impresario of the old school. Knowing that much of the potential audience for his intended labour of love is likely to have seen Hamlet before, Branagh decided he needed a gimmick or two (a page right out of Gypsy Rose Lee's book!).

Actually Branagh's deck is loaded with magician's hat full of tricks, not the least of which was to cast some popular (i.e. big box office) international stars in bit parts and to preserve the oh-so sacred text uncut.

Does Branagh's Hamlet work? Well, yes and no. Glenn was dazzled. Glenn was meant to be dazzled. But was Glenn moved? Aye, that is the question.

By now Glenn imagines that faithful readers of the *Wisconsin Light* are familiar with the basic scenario of Shakespeare's "Hamlet." Hamlet's uncle killed Hamlet's father, who just happened to be king, and married Hamlet's mother (who just happened to be queen). A distraught Hamlet plots his vengeance. Plenty of intrigue, lots of blood and by play's end, more corpses than even Wes Craven could shake a stick at.

In casting Hamlet, Branagh has surrounded himself, at least in leading roles, with a breathtaking cast, a veritable Shakespearean "Dream Team" including

'The Beautician and the Beast' is a Frothy Bit of Predictability

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

During one of the few moments that Glenn was at home during the past few weeks relaxing, doing a bit of channel-surfing (good works normally keep Glenn and the television separate), Glenn happened upon a preview of *The Beautician and the Beast*. Glenn imagines that this was most likely on CBS, where Ms. Drescher's "The Nanny" has, for some inexplicable reason, become something of a hit sitcom.

The preview's few, fleeting clips left no doubt that this obvious rip-off of the classic, much parodied, much abused *The Beauty and the Beast* would surely prove to be dreadfully delightful. Delightfully dreadful?

Glenn shrieked and then immediately called his dear friend Kiki (a beauty school dropout) to plan a date to see this sure to be marvelous big-screen, cinematic effort. Kiki declined, claiming a head cold (sour grapes for having flunked out of the Vidal Sassoon academy, perhaps?).

Alone went Glenn to see another sitcom darling (Fran Drescher) seek fame and fortune away from the friendly confines of the 27" screen. Could she succeed where so very many have failed?

We meet Joy Miller (Fran Drescher) in one of the film's few inspired moments. As the film opens Joy daydreams as she awaits her big break: doing a makeover for a local television station's Ms. Lotto. Dreaming herself into a Disney-inspired Snow White, Joy's virginal heroine throws over tradition by refusing the handsome cartoon Prince.

Sadly, there is no such originality the rest of the way. Following a genuinely amusing fire that devastated her classroom, raging predictability takes over.

Joy is heralded a hero teacher by every New York City tabloid. Her gallant exploits bring her to the attention of Grushinsky (Ian McNeice), an emissary for a tiny, mythical Eastern European country, Slovetzia. Just so happens that Slovetzia's tyrannical dictator Pochenko

a tiny cameo from Sir John Gielgud, once upon a time a legendary Hamlet himself.

In other, shorter versions of Hamlet, the role of Claudius is often reduced to a mere walk-on but here Derek Jacobi gets to feast on this fascinating role demanding both towering vengeance and cowardly weakness. Julie Christie makes for a pleasingly full-blooded Gertrude and looks terrific besides.

Particularly effective is Kate Winslet as Ophelia. Here again, Branagh's use of the full text allowing for Ms. Winslet, surely one of the finest young actresses today to create an intensely moving, heartbreakingly vulnerable heroine.

Casting the likes of Robin Williams, Billy Crystal, Gerard Depardieu and Charlton Heston in Hamlet struck Glenn as having more to do with bolstering potential box office appeal than with casting the finest ensemble around. Branagh insists that Castlerock made no such demands but...

In Heston's case, the gamble paid off royally, his Player-King cutting a majestic figure. Less effective are an incessantly mugging Robin Williams as Osric, a befuddled Jack Lemmon stumbling about as Marcellus and Gerard Depardieu on and off so quickly as Reynaldo that if you nod off for even a moment, you're likely to miss him. And as for Billy Crystal, the less said the better.

Much is being made of Branagh's devotion to the text and at nearly four hours, Hamlet proves to be a commitment that most moviegoers are rarely forced to make. Still, even the most dedicated (not to mention alert) in the audience are likely to find themselves on autopilot during the film's many tedious chunks of tedious dialogue. Throughout the film, it is abundantly clear that Branagh's dancing as fast as he can.

When all is said and done, Branagh's mammoth, regal Hamlet proves both entertaining and enthralling but really just too needlessly exhausting. And as for Branagh as Hamlet, he's mesmerizing. But at his age, shouldn't Hamlet have gotten that degree, gotten a job and found his own place?

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

(Timothy Dalton) needs a nanny, that is to say a tutor for his three children.

What follows is a pleasant although not a particularly original romantic comedy where east meets Lower East Side and the beautician makes-over the beast, complete with a haircut and a shave. Who could ask for anything more?

Glenn might, for one. As the beautician Joy Miller, Fran Drescher proves to be something of a surprise. Lurking behind her trademark nasal voice and Barbara Frank's Day-Glo colored outfit's lies a genuinely appealing character. Still, Drescher is simply too old to be entirely believable in the role of virginal heroine.

Timothy Dalton, a former cinematic James Bond looks a bit uncomfortable through much of the film, perhaps wondering what career misfortune led to this romantic comedy purgatory.

Few in the surprisingly colorless supporting cast warrants much mention, except for a delightful, warm & fuzzy turn by Ian McNeice as Grushinsky.

As long as the film focuses on the romantic sparring of the two leads, *The Beautician and The Beast* remains pleasant, if predictable entertainment. A minor, under-developed sub-plots involving a youthful dissident merely distracts focus.

One disturbing moment does however warrant mention, though will likely sound silly on the printed page. Glenn wondered why the director included the scene, which featured a rather talented chicken apparently committing suicide. Audible groans from the audience suggest that this curious scene might have best been left on the cutting room floor.

The Beautician and The Beast seeks to be the sort of frothy, fluffy romantic confectionery in which the likes of Clark Gable, Carole Lombard and Cary Grant dazzled moviegoing audiences during Hollywood's Golden Era. Just goes to show that Hollywood just ain't making them like they used to.

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



Giving Direction Director Kenneth Branagh directs John Gielgud who plays Priam in Shakespeare's "Hamlet." The movie is a rarely produced full rendition of the entire play. It opens on Friday, February 14 at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater.

'Sling Blade' is a Charming Film of Intriguing Characters

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn imagines that he was able to span the length and breadth of filmmaking in just one day that featured an early morning screening of Billy Bob Thornton's poignant *Sling Blade* to be followed that evening with the new, the improved, the bigger and better than ever *Star Wars*.

Sling Blade is a small, little film, an intensely personal story of Karl Childers (Billy Bob Thornton). Slightly retarded, Karl has been in a state facility since the

be encountered by a person such as he within the confines of a small town.

Still Karl is not the only "outsider" in the film. Through the character of Vaughan, a rather brutal image is created of a Gay man living in a small, narrow-minded community, rarely portrayed in the cinema. John Ritter is something of a revelation here in *Sling Blade*. Unlike the smarmy "Gay acting" character he played for years on "Three's Company," Ritter plays Vaughan with an impressive, dispassionate dignity.

Equally good is country music star Dwight Yokam as the erratic, violent Doyle, one moment tormenting whomever he thinks is least able to defend themselves (usually Vaughan or Karl) but who backs down when confronted.

At 135 minutes *Sling Blade* is a touch long, or at least seems to be, due largely, Glenn imagines, to Thornton's leisurely pacing. Still it impossible not to get caught up in *Sling Blade's* masterly storytelling and wonderfully endearing characters.

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



John Ritter in a scene from the critically acclaimed "Sling Blade," which opens on Friday, February 21 at Milwaukee's Downer Theater.

age of twelve, when he killed his mother and her youthful lover upon finding them in the throes of passion. Decades later finds the bewildered Karl "cured" and about to enter the real world.

As the film opens, a rather doubtful high school journalist attempts to interview the reluctant Karl on the eve of his release. She asks him the question, blunt that it may be but which Glenn assumes all in the audience would like to ask, whether he'll ever kill again. Karl ponders the question a bit and then says quite plainly, "I reckon I got no reason to kill no one. Uh, huh."

As the hesitant Karl finds freedom being thrust upon him, with no family to speak of and no money besides, his prospects look bleak.

The head of the facility Jerry Woolridge (James Hampton) finds Karl a job as a repairman and is quickly befriended by a young boy, Frank Wheatley (Lucas Black), perhaps the first person to accept Karl as a friend without fear or judgment. Settled in his new life and a new home in the Wheatley's garage, Karl begins to flourish.

Dramatic films need conflict and in *Sling Blade* the conflicts come fast and furiously in the person of Doyle Hargraves (Dwight Yokam), an abusive southern redneck in love with Frank's mother Linda (Natalie Canerday). Vaughan Cunningham (John Ritter), a Gay man trying to live quietly in the small-minded southern Bible Belt community is Linda's manager at the local dollar store and also Linda's best friend.

If *Sling Blade* seems to recall Forrest Gump, it really shouldn't. Billy Bob Thornton's Karl is an intriguing, if unsettling character. Lurking somewhere beneath his slow, plain speaking and almost saintly countenance is the reality that he was a killer at age twelve. Like Karl, we in the audience too wonder if he is cured, if he is ready to face the difficulties sure to

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Dennis Getto

Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel

'Star Wars' Begins the Fabled Trilogy's Magnificent Return to the Big Screen

Review by John A. Jahn

It was May, 1977, the last time *Star Wars* appeared nationwide on the big screen. If you went to see it then, chances are you saw it in unimpressive 35mm, and with a standard sounding soundtrack. Twenty years ago, *Star Wars* had only a handful of special 70mm (widescreen) engagements; those prints had magnetic soundtracks which, according to the trilogy's producer and creative genius, George Lucas, "enabled the sound to be heard in its full glory."

Unfortunately, the majority of theaters at that time exhibited the film with optic tracks which, even using the then-new Dolby System, did not have the sound quality of the 70mm prints.

The newly remastered digital sound surpasses even that of the 70mm prints of *Star Wars*, thus giving the 20 year later release of the Special Edition a range of sound that's been impossible to achieve until now.

A better-than-ever soundtrack is just the beginning of the improvements made to the original *Star Wars*. As the first film in this historic theatrical trilogy reaches its 20th birthday, the film, famously set "a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away," is a "must see"—even if you saw it dozens of times in theaters in '77; even if you have it on home video.

The wonder and awe of seeing all the memorable characters and special effects wizardry and artistry provided by Lucas-film's own Industrial Light & Magic (ILM) visual effects division, the ability to see the entirely new scene between Han Solo and Jabba the Hut, as well as the digitally added characters and creatures inserted into existing footage, make seeing *Star Wars-Special Edition* all but obligatory.

The visual changes to the film are quite stunning, and were three years in the making. The ILM team was determined to ensure that the computer-generated (CG) elements wouldn't "jump off" the screen when compared to the film's two decades old opticals.

"The challenge was to...enhance and not change," said CG supervisor John Berton.

Digital technology, pioneered by ILM in

such films as *Jurassic Park* and *Twister*, was used extensively to add greater depth to two key scenes: the entrance into the city of Mos Eisley, and Han Solo's confrontation with Jabba the Hut. Even the massive explosions of Alderaan and the Death Star were enhanced.

Lucasfilm has come full circle with the current theatrical release of the epic *Star Wars Trilogy-Special Edition* Creator George Lucas, who was particularly limited by time and traditional effects technology during the seminal 1975-'77 production, had to make creative compromises that were cut into the final film.

Nearly two decades later, Lucas was able to return to the entire trilogy and enhancing the classic films to the point where Lucas is now "85% happy" with the films (I can't imagine what could possibly be in that last 15%!).

Oh, and there's one more special effect to mention. Seeing *Star Wars* can be like entering a time machine. There I was, a 13 year-old boy again, seeing this precedent-setting spectacular as if for the first time. If only this effect could last longer!

If you want to see *Star Wars*, don't dither—it's in theaters only until February 20th. On the 21st, *The Empire Strikes Back* opens, playing until the *Return of the Jedi's* re-release on March 7th. And, as if this weren't enough, get set for the three prequels: Episode One premiering in May, 1999; Episode Two in 2001; and Episode Three in 2003.

On a 1-10 scale, the Special Edition of *Star Wars* easily rates a 10 (this is the stuff film making and film going are all about). May the Force be with you.

AfterWords Events

Thursday, February 13
Afterword's Gay/Lesbian Writers Club
7:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 20
Afterword's Lesbian Book Club - 7:00 p.m.
Serving in Silence by Margarethe Cammermeyer & Chris Fisher

Friday, February 21
Anonymous HIV testing 7:30-10:30 p.m.,
Sponsored by Afterwords and BESTD Clinic



Yoda Speaks Yoda trains Luke in the re-released version of "The Empire Strikes Back," the second film in the *Star Wars* trilogy. The updated version will open on Friday, February 21 at theaters around the state.

Bleacher Bums In Brookfield

Bleacher Bums a comedy about fans in the Bleachers at Chicago's Wrigley Field will be presented by the Brookfield Players on Feb. 20, 21, 22, 27 and 27 and March 1 by the Brookfield Players. The production centers on 11 fans who dominate the bleachers, drink gamble and get rowdy.

All performances will be held at Brookfield Central High School, 16900 W. Gebhardt Rd. For tickets and more information call (414) 821-5767.

Senator Bradley At Schwartz's Feb 20

Former US Senator Bill Bradley will give a talk and book signing at Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop in Shorewood, 4093 N. Oakland on Thursday February 20 beginning at 7:00.

Bradley, one of the most respected members of the US Senate declined to run for re-election. He has often been mentioned as a possible Presidential cand His Senate voting record was very pro-Gay and Lesbian.

A former basketball star and a Rhodes Scholar, Mr. Bradley brings a wide variety of experience to his talks with citizens

around the country.
The event is free and open to the public.

Valentine's Weekend

Special Valentine's Sweetheart Menu
Friday & Saturday Night
(reservations recommended)
or join us as always for our Friday Fish Fry!



Saturday, Feb. 15th • 9:30pm

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Announcements

Madison

10% CLUB VALENTINES DAY DANCE AT UW UNION

The 10% Club, is holding another of its famous get togethers at the UW Memorial Union on Friday February 14.

The theme of this one is Valentine's Day. Everyone is welcome to attend the ball which begins at 8:00.

The Frontiers Group will be holding a get together at Saz's prior to the Dance. Saz is located at 558 State Street.

FRONTIERS WINTER POT LUCK FEBRUARY 22

Frontiers will be hosting a Winter Pot Luck at 6 PM on February 22. The feast will include a special presentation Iquote Taiwan through Bette Davis Eyes, a special slide presentation on Dave Runyon's recent trip to the famed island as he sees it through his own unique perspective.

MILWAUKEE

LAMM, LOC HOLD THE VALENTINES DAY DANCE SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15

The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee and LOC are co-sponsoring THE Valentine's Day event for Milwaukee area Lesbians on Saturday February 15.

Entitled "Together With Love We Can Fly" the Valentine's Day Gala at Milwaukee's War Memorial Center begins at 7 PM and continues to 1 AM.

The party offers a safe, smoke free environment for womyn of all ages to enjoy the holiday with their partners and friends. par \tab Your \$10.00 admission helps two very worthwhile organizations continue their important work for the community.

par \tab For more information call LAMM at (414) 264-2600.

SAGE VALENTINE'S POT LUCK SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16

Sage will be holding its annual Valentine's Day Pot Luck at 1 PM at Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell. Entitled "Hearts and Flowers" the event will feature door prizes, games and great fellowship.

Bring a dish to pass. For more information call SAGE at 271-0378.

SHERMAN PARK GAY GROUP MEETS FEB. 20

The Sherman Park Rainbow Association will hold a 7 PM meeting at Good Shepard Lutheran church, 3617 N 48) St. The group will be recognizing BESTD

Clinic for its good work in the community. A Guest Speaker from the Metro Milwaukee Fair Housing Council will also speak.

Womyn's Flapjack Flip at Atwood Community Center February 23

There will be hot time at the Atwood Community Center, 2425 Atwood Ave as women gather together for pancakes, coffee and juice.

Women are encouraged to some brunch food to help supplement the menu. Donations to help cover the cost of pancakes and juice etc. are also welcome.

For more information or to volunteer to help flip those cakes, call (414)241-1574.

SHERMAN PARK TRIVIA, FEBRUARY 23 AT 10% CLUB

A Trivia contest sponsored by the Sherman Park Rainbow Association will be held starting at 3:00 at the 10% Club February 23, 4322 W. Fon Du Lac. Everyone is invited to participate.

SAGE Theater Party

Sage will be sponsoring a special theater party to see the new Theater X production of the Tennessee Williams Play, "Vieux Carre". This stunning production of Williams autobiographical work concerning his coming to terms with being Gay will be followed by an after the theater party with the cast and crew. This event is by reservation only.

To reserve a ticket call SAGE at 271-0378.

PRIDE YOUTH GROUP MEETS IN SUBURBS FEB 22

A local youth group for Suburban area teens. The group co-directed by Wendy Polichak and Bill Hanel will meet on Saturday Feb, 22 from 1 to 3 PM.

A hike (weather permitting) will be the main focus, otherwise the group will be treated a showing of "The Adventures of Two Girls in Love."

If you are 20 or younger and interested in attending please contact Pathfinders at (414) 271-1560 for more information.

KENOSHA

UW- PARKSIDE VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE FRIDAY FEB 21

UW Parkside is sponsoring a Valentines Day dance "Valentines Day in A Queer Way" on Friday February 21, from 9 to Midnight

The free event will be held at the Parkside Union Square, for more information call (414) 595-2278.

Directed by John Schneider, the piece remains almost as controversial now as it was in 1979 when it was first performed in New York. Back then the New York critics called it "filth." But now you can judge for yourself. The play runs from February 20 through March 23. Theatre X is located at 158 N. Broadway in the Broadway Theater Center.

Most performances are expected to sell out so advance ticket purchase is highly recommended.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22

MADISON SYMPHONY PERFORMS THE KADDISH FROM HARVEY MILK

The Madison Symphony Orchestra performs the Kaddish from the American Opera, "Harvey Milk."

Guest soloist, Randall Wing will sing and conduct this high point of the only major opera with a title character who is openly Gay.

The performance beings at 8 PM at the Madison Civic Center 211 State Street. For ticket information call (608) 266-9055.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23

CREAM CITY FOUNDATION MURDER MYSTERY THEATER BENEFIT AT THE WHEEL HOUSE

Ever want to be in one of those Sherlock Holmes murder mysteries you see on TV? Now is your chance to play amateur sleuth as the Cream City Foundation visits Melanec's Wheel House for a special performance of their Murder Mystery Theater.

Your \$50.00 ticket entitles you to dinner, a great show and a free drink at Mama Rour's (which is just a block away).

Murder mystery theater at the Wheel House is unique in that some members of the audience will be able to play roles in the play.

For more information call the Cream City Foundation, 265-0880.

MISS SOUTHERN GAY WISCONSIN PAGEANT AT MANOEUVRES

The popular Manoeuvres, 150 S. Blair St, Madison, is hosting a fabulous pageant. This Miss Southern Gay Wisconsin pageant gets underway at 9:00.

A \$3.00 cover gets you a fabulous show with some great entertainment.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27

LESBO VAMPIRES FROM SODOM OPENS AT THEATRE X

That's right folks, the play you have heard about, the one that had an extended three year run in Chicago has finally made its way to Milwaukee. "Lesbian Vampires From Sodom" starring BJ Daniels will hit the stage at Theatre X beginning February 27 and running through March 23.

This is a late night show that will be seen at 10:00 on Weekend evenings only, so don't miss your chance to see the play that had critics all over the country howling with laughter.

It's high drama and high camp and of course with BJ Daniels, it will be high talent too.

Theatre X is located at 158 N. Broadway in the Broadway Theater Center. Advanced ticket purchase is recommended.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28

LA TRAVIATA AT THE FLORENTINE

Verdi's La Traviata opens at Milwaukee's Florentine Opera with an 8 PM performance at the Marcus Center for the performing arts. This powerful, compelling work will be repeated on Sunday March 2 at 2:30 and Tuesday March 4 at 7:30 PM.

The work will be sung in Italian with English subtitles. It is considered one of the finest operas ever.

The Florentine sells out nearly every performance so advance ticket purchase is essential. To reserve your seats call the Marcus Center Box Office (414) 273-7206.

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

YOU'RE INVITED

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.

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.

LOC, LAMM VALENTINES DAY DANCE AT WAR MEMORIAL

Those wonderful folks at LOC and LAMM are putting on THE Valentine's Day bash of the season for Milwaukee area Gays and Lesbians.

Entitled "Together With Love We Can Fly!", the hearts and flowers gala will begin at 7 PM and go until 1:00 AM. This is the perfect chance to spend some time with your sweetheart in a nice setting. Don't have a sweetheart? Come anyway maybe you can find one.

Your \$10.00 admission fee helps benefit two very worthwhile organizations.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20

VIUX CARRE AT THEATRE X

Milwaukee theater goers are in for a treat as Theatre X presents the Milwaukee premier of Viux Carre, Tennessee Williams autobiographical play about a turbulent four month period during which he began to come grips with being Gay.

WEEKLY SPECIALS

WATCH FOR OUR REDECORATING, COMING SOON

BETWEEN

MONDAY

DART TOSS
9pm-1:30am
\$300 in prizes

TUESDAY

SHAKE A DICE
for your drink price
9 to Close

THURSDAY

SPIN THE WHEEL
for your drink price
9 to Close

MONDAY thru FRIDAY

2-4-1 • 5-9pm
PLUS Free Pool and Darts

SATURDAY

3-9pm
2-4-1
PLUS Free Pool and Darts

SIGN UP for SUNDAY Cribbage & Sheephead

Black History Month Celebrates With A Wealth of African-American Writers

Bookstores across America celebrate February, Black History month, with prominent displays of new and noteworthy works by African-American writers. Too often within the Lesbian and Gay Community, African-American writers receive much less attention by publishers, book-sellers and readers alike.

Thanks to the phenomenal success of James Earl Hardy's brash, sexy and very funny novel, **B-Boys Blues** published by Alyson Press, more works by African-American writers are increasingly able to find their way into print.

Emerging Gay and Lesbian writers of color such as Hardy, E. Lynn Harris, Jacqueline Woodson, April Sinclair, Craig Hickman and Sapphire have a long and magnificent tradition which includes such writers as Audre Lorde, Alice Walker, Langston Hughes, and James Baldwin.

An activist, writer and teacher, Audre Lorde sought to challenge accepted notions of racism, heterosexism and a homophobic society. While focusing upon affirmations of racial and sexual identities, love in its many variations remains a constant, as shown in such works as **Zami: A New Spelling of My Name**, **Sister Outsider** and **The Cancer Journals**, just a few of Lorde's impressive cannon of writing.

James Baldwin proved to be a forerunner in twentieth-century Gay literature. His first two novels, **Go Tell It on the Mountain** and **Giovanni's Room**, remain two of the finest Gay novels in their themes of adolescent homosexual awakening and exploration of sexual identity. Like Lorde, Baldwin confronted issues of racism in his writing and his activism.

One of the many, impressive writers of the Harlem Renaissance, Langston Hughes wrote in almost every genre from poetry and prose to essays. Less well known was his sexuality. Increasingly scholars are focusing on the homoeroticism in much of Hughes' poetry.

BestD Displays Works of Wally Pate and Uyvari

Milwaukee—BestD Gallery will open a new exhibit on March 7th featuring the work of Wally Pate of Milwaukee. Pate describes himself as a singer, dancer, song writer, arranger and artist. Each of these talents have enabled Pate to touch the lives of others throughout his career, and take the etched memories of them and transcribe them artistically on canvas and paper.

Through the years, Pate has lived in New York, San Francisco, Las Vegas, New Orleans and in Canada, supporting himself by caring for the insane, alcoholics and the dying. He has known poverty, sleeping on newspapers while looking for work in the streets of New Orleans.

He sang in the seediest of clubs, performing while strippers danced and drunks fought and died in the streets outside. Throughout the vast range of experiences, he sketched and drew the faces of the eager, the hungry, the desperate and the rejected.

This self-taught artist has never displayed his works in galleries or shows, but has sold pieces privately. His partner and friend of 43 years has assisted Pate by effectively displaying his work, cutting glass, framing, backing and repairing.

"The Art of Wally Pate: And When I Dream" will run through the end of May at BestD Gallery, 1240 E. Brady Street in Milwaukee. Gallery hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Thursday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For further information, please call BestD at (414) 272-2144.

Uyvari Painting at BestD

An early Uyvari self-portrait in oil has been given to BestD Clinic by the estates of Larry Colle and Glen Looker. Looker and Colle, formerly of Milwaukee, both died in Florida and the gift was arranged by Ed Shill and Floyd Woldt, both Florida friends.

Although the Clinic was given the option of selling or auctioning the piece, it was decided to display it in the BestD client reception area so that the community could enjoy it. Special thanks to Mike Wavra of Grava Gallery who cleaned and restored the painting and its original frame.

Uyvari, a nationally known Gay artist with roots in Milwaukee, died of complications due to AIDS in 1986. His diverse works are still sought after by collectors. BestD Clinic is grateful to be the recipient of this significant piece.

Much of Alice Walker's prominence came on the heels of **The Color Purple**, her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel and later a controversial motion picture starring Whoopi Goldberg. In her subsequent works, poetry, fiction and non-fiction, Walker calls for resistance, resistance to stereotypical representations.

Three recent anthologies prove to be an invaluable introduction to emerging Lesbian and Gay African-American writers. Shawn Stewart Ruff's **Go the Way Your Blood Beats** (Owl Pb. \$14.00) is a superb collection of both Gay and Lesbian writers from such writers as Lorde, Walker and

Selected African-American Gay & Lesbian Book List

Fiction

- Barbara Burford, **The Threshing Floor** Firebrand Pb \$7.95
- Melvin Dixon **Vanishing Rooms** Plume Pb. \$10.00
- Larry Dupechan **Captain Swing** Alyson Pb. \$9.95
- Jewelle Gomez **The Gilda Stories** Firebrand Pb. \$11.95
- James Earl Hardy **SecondTime Around** Alyson Pb. \$11.95

- E. Lynn Harris **Invisible Life** Doubleday Pb. \$10.95
- Randell Kenan **Let the Dead Bury Their Dead** Harcourt Brace Pb. \$10.00
- Gloria Naylor **The Women of Brewster Place** Viking Penguin. Pb. \$10.95
- Sapphire **Push Knopf** HC \$20.00
- Darriek Scott **Traitor to the Race** Plume Pb. \$10.95
- April Sinclair **Coffee Will Make You Black** Avon Pb. \$12.00
- Jacqueline Woodson **Autobiography of a Family Photo** NAL/Dutton Pb. \$9.95

Poetry

- Cheryl Clarke **Experimental Love** Firebrand Pb. \$8.95
 - Craig Hickman **Rituals** Parfait de Cocoa Pr. Pb. \$12.95
 - Essex Hemphill **Ceremonies** Plume Pb. \$10.00
 - June Jordan **Haruko: Love Poems** High Risk Books Pb. 11.99
 - Audre Lorde **Our Dead Behind Us** Norton Pb \$9.00
 - Assotto Saint **Spells of a Voodoo Doll** Richard Kasak Book Pb. \$12.95
- #### Non-Fiction
- Keith Boykin **One More River to Cross** Anchor Bks. HC \$23.95
 - Samuel Delany **The Motion of Light in Water** Richard Kasak Book Pb. \$12.95
 - Audre Lorde **Sister Outsider** Crossing Press Pb. \$12.95
 - Emmanuel Nelson **Critical Essays: Gay & Lesbian Writers of Color** Harrington Park Press Pb. \$19.95
 - Leon E. Pettitway **Honey, Honey, Miss Thang: Being Black, Gay & on the Streets** Temple Univ. Press Pb. \$19.95

- RuPaul **Lettin It All Hang Out** Hyperion Pb. \$10.95
 - Makeda Silvera, **Piece of My Heart: A Lesbian of Colour Anthology** Sister Vision Pb. \$17.95
 - Smith, Barbara ed. **Home Girls: A Black Feminist Anthology.** Kitchen Table Press Pb. \$10.95
- Baldwin to Randell Kenan, Richard Wright and Toni Morrison.
- In **Shade** (Avon Pb \$12.00), Bruce Morrow and Charles H. Rowell have compiled a collection of fiction by Gay men of African descent. The focus is on contemporary black lesbian writing in **Afrekete** (Doubleday Pb \$14.00), an anthology edited by Catherine E. McKinley and Joyce Delaney.

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Sunday - Request Night



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Cuervo with John
- Wednesdays — Super Bust
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and their Guests
- Saturdays — Where Milwaukee
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Photos by Bill Meunier



Celebrating Mardi-Gras Our SpotLight Party at Mama Roux's, 1875 N. Humboldt, Milwaukee on Sunday February 9 was a huge success as you can see from the pictures above. At the top is Jasmine and two friends wearing festive masks, next are two celebrants enjoying the All U Can Eat Crawfish boil, in the middle are Joe St. Claire Co-Owner/Manager sharing a laugh with Walt from Melanec's Wheel House, second from the bottom are three cards who walked around giving out lucky beads and selling raffle tickets and at the bottom are some of the contestants in the How Many Crawfish can you eat in 60 seconds contest. Needless to say as usual, everyone had a great time at Mama Roux.

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The Black Panthers, the Palestinians, Gay Culture and Jean Genet

By Edmund White

Jean Genet was a great French writer, perhaps the greatest this century has produced. He was also a convicted criminal who defended prison life, an outrageously accurate iconoclast, a hustler, a common thief, a man into S&M, and an openly Gay man.

Edmund White, also a great writer, but one who has lived a more conventional existence, wrote an article for *The Harvard Gay & Lesbian Review* discussing his fellow author and his sexual orientation.

Prison and Gay Life

As White sees him, in his novels Genet presents the role-playing, sado-masochistic form of homosexuality that he learned in reform school and prison. Whereas other ex-cons deplored the violence of prison, made pleas for reform, and bitterly denounced the forced homosexuality of an all-male penal society, Genet was virtually the only one to defend the system; as he put it, "As for me, I've chosen; I will be on the side of crime. And I'll help children not to gain entrance into your houses, your factories, your laws and holy sacraments, but to violate them."

As a teenager in the prison colony of Mettray, he was sought after by the other boys because he was attractive—and possibly because he really was a Gay man who took a genuine pleasure in the sexual acts he was forced to do—and the fact that he was forced to do them.

He was treated as "a high-born lady" by his rough admirers.

Love in Syria

When he was 18 Genet went as a French soldier to Syria, where he had his first true love affair with a boy, a 16-year-old Damascus hair dresser.

What impressed Genet was the affectionate, teasing attitude of the Syrians towards this romance:

"At least everyone in the street I knew I was in love with him and the men had a good laugh over it. The women were veiled and scarcely visible. But the boys, the young men and the old men all smiled and were amused. They said to me, 'Aha! Go with him.'"

Although Genet previously and subsequently had many quick sexual encounters, the sex act for him was always linked to affection. As he put it in a conversation in old age, "I never lived out my sexuality in a pure state. It was always mixed with tenderness, perhaps it was just a brisk, cursory affection, but until the very end of my sexual life there was always, well, I never made love in a void, I mean, without a bit of human feeling.

"Otherwise I would make love with certain guys just for the money."

Rough Trade

In his thirties, the period when he was writing fiction, he seemed to distinguish between his romantic crushes on men, almost always tough straight men whom he was able to seduce only as "trade," and Johns who paid him and whom he despised and sometimes beat up and robbed.

Even after he'd become celebrated as an author and was living with a hoodlum nicknamed "Java," he would encourage Java to roll Queers. His sense of solidarity with other thieves was certainly stronger than his links with other homosexuals.

Since Genet was attracted almost exclusively to straight men, he had to tolerate (and sometimes even seek out) their girlfriends and wives.

In dealing with Lucien Sénémaud, his lover just after World War II, Genet became friendly with Lucien's wife and kids and paid for their house to be built (Java helped out with the physical labor).

This kind of homosexuality, so recent and yet so distant from us, was common throughout the old Mediterranean world, until the simultaneous enrichment of the working class and the weakening of traditional morality. Because of these two developments, young men were now free to marry young, and premarital heterosexual adventures were increasingly tolerated. The ugly spectre of heterosexual dating had raised its sordid head.

Previously, no one spoke of it as "exploitation" or "perversion" if a kindly older man, well-heeled and avuncular, took a close interest in a poor youngster's prospects.

Look at the case of J. R. Ackerley's father (recounted in *My Father and Myself*), who went from being a penniless if handsome guardsman to becoming one of the most prosperous merchants in

England because of the intervention of a rich French aristocrat.

Of course, if the word "homosexuality" was ever so much as whispered, the jig was up, but as long as the nature of the affection remained vague no one quibbled, certainly not the parents of the lucky boy.

Genet himself fell into the habit of referring to himself as the "father" of his lovers, who were at first younger, then much younger, finally just young.

Genet gave the first real money he ever earned (the royalties from *The Maids*) to Lucien to build his house as well.

Nevertheless, Genet was not a rich bourgeois helping out working stiff but rather an ex-thief and vagabond, a child of Public Welfare, who'd made good by glorifying evil in his plays and novels.

The only affair Genet ever had with another pur sang homosexual, an Italian gigolo, was a disaster. The hustler broke his heart when he left Genet for a rich Englishman.

Gay Isolation and Gay Culture

As a result Genet wrote an extremely gloomy text about homosexuality that he could never finish and that was eventually published in 1954 under the title *Fragments*.

In *Fragments*, Genet tells us that homosexuality "is experienced as a theme of guiltiness." There is no way of getting used to it, of living with it. Homosexuality cuts each homosexual off from the world—even from the world of other homosexuals.

"Because language itself is built on a sense of shared human community, homosexuals can do nothing more than mock language—alter it, parody it, dissolve it."

Homosexuality, he writes, does constitute a civilization, but it is a civilization, a culture, if you will, that isolates rather than unites its citizens.

A second method of escaping the isolation of homosexuality is precisely through art, but a very special art, one consecrated to death, Genet's most enduring subject.

Genet's strategy is to devise a book of the dead for a ghostly civilization, a homosexual Egypt of the imagination.

The Black Panthers

As the years went by, Genet acquired a more optimistic view of homosexuality. In the 1970's he took up two great causes, the Black Panthers and the Palestinians, and he was quite open about his erotic interest in both groups (though there's no evidence he ever had sex with anyone of either group).

He never disguised his homosexuality (or his atheism) from the Palestinians, who were shocked by both eccentricities, but who admired Genet for his courage in owning up to his predilections.

Genet never marched in a Gay pride parade in France, yet he never downplayed his homosexuality either. He was sufficiently irritated by the Panthers' repeated references to their white male enemies (especially Nixon) as "faggot" or "punks" that he made strong objections, which caused Panther leader Huey Newton to issue his groundbreaking essay, "The Women's Liberation and Gay Liberation Movements, August 15, 1970."

Newton said that "through reading and through my life experience and observations," he knew "that homosexuals are not given freedom and liberty by anyone in the society. They might be the most oppressed people in our society."

Newton called for the freedom for each person "to use his body in whatever way he wants." He said that although some homosexuals were not revolutionary, others were: "maybe a homosexual could be the most revolutionary. When we have revolutionary conferences, rallies and demonstrations, there should be full participating of the Gay liberation movement and the women's liberation movement."

Gays as Revolutionaries

Genet himself had a few ideas about Gays' revolutionary potential, which he expressed in a 1972 interview:

"One is not a revolutionary just because one is a homosexual. ... There are some homosexuals who wish to affirm their difference and their special quality, and this need leads them to unmask the arbitrary character of the system in which they live. But there are others who wish to pass unnoticed and to blend into the system, thereby strengthening the system."

One night Genet took too many of his

powerful sleeping pills and danced in a pink negligée for four Panthers. Angela Davis later felt that Genet was communicating something serious about sexual identity and its flexibility to his audience. Kate Millet published her groundbreaking feminist study, *Sexual Politics*, at this time as well, in which she calls Genet's *Our Lady of the Flowers* a feminist work since it shows that "femininity" is not a biological reality but a social role anyone can assume, especially a man.

Genet remarked that artistic and political revolutions do not take place at the same pace and that quite genuine revolutionary messages are often presented in a lackluster, conventional academic style.

In a typically perverse aside, he also observed that the man who had done the most to liberate homosexuals, although he himself was heterosexual and in no way liberated, was Freud, by expounding the theory of universal bisexuality and the undifferentiated sexuality of children.

No matter how quirky Genet's opinions, he must be credited with having lived out his homosexuality more candidly than any other writer of his generation.

Whereas the narrator in Proust's novel

is heterosexual and Gide published *Corydon* anonymously and Cocteau never fully acknowledged his authorship of *Le Livre Blanc* and Montherlant and Mauriac were closeted, Genet wrote novels in the 1940's in which the homosexual narrator is called "Jean Genet" - what's more startling, he's a passive homosexual (for if anyone were to admit to being Gay it was naturally to strut about as a top man, whereas it's well known almost all writers are bottoms).

The Gay Ghetto

Genet showed the Gay ghetto, not just some abandoned castle where aristocratic lovers embraced, he showed drag queens and their pimps, he mingled the races, he recorded Gay slang.

Most importantly, with *Divine*, the protagonist of *Our Lady of the Flowers*, he invented the drag queen for French literature (his most memorable character). Moreover, at a time when middle-class Gay authors were promoting the metaphor of homosexuality as illness and mounting pleas for sympathy and compassion, Genet embraced the only other two alternatives—homosexuality as crime or sin, a far stronger position designed to frighten his hapless reader.

GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Midwest Womyn Music Fest Seeks Performers

De Kalb, IL Performers are being sought for the Third Annual Midwest Womyns Autumnfest which will be held in De Kalb Ill on Sunday August 31, 1997.

Autumnfest is a one day outdoor Womyn's Music festival celebrating womyn's music and culture. Athena Productions, the event's sponsor, is seeking performers for the day and evening stages. Musicians, comics, dancers and performance artists of all ethnic, cultural and artistic backgrounds are urged to apply.

Interested performers should send an audio or video recording to Athena Productions, 217 S. Second Street, #193, DeKalb Il, 60115, no later than April 8. Athena asks that you include a SASE if you want your materials returned. For more information call Athena at (815)748-5359.

Dane County Collects at the Madison Art Center

Dane County Collects an exhibition of over 70 twentieth century paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints and photos selected from 20 important private and corporate collections in Madison and Dane County will take place at the Madison Art Center, 211 State Street from February 16 to March 23.

Dane County Collects is the first serious attempt to have a comprehensive survey of works in all media from region collections. It presents an overview of the evolving history of regional taste, the artists, styles and subjects that have interested local collectors to the present day.

Works by important American artists such as Milton Avery, Jacob Lawrence, Alice Neel and Louise Nevelson will be featured along with works by significant international artists such as Henry Moore, David Hockney and Andreas Gursky.

Great Response Extends Chicago Run of Gay Play

Chicago—The Organic Touchstone Theater Company has extended the run of its popular production of *Love! Valour! Compassion!* The award winning play has drawn sold out houses. *Love! Valour! Compassion!*, follows four Gay male couples while they vacation for the summer in Upstate New York. The play has won numerous awards including a 1995 Tony for Best Play, the Outer Critics Circle Award and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play. The play can be seen at the Organic Theater Building, 3319 N. Clark St. The extended run goes through Sunday February 23. For tickets and information call (773) 477-5779.

African American Author to Speak

Walter Mosley, a best selling African American Mystery writer will give a talk on Saturday February 15 at the Milwaukee Public Library's Centennial Hall.

Mosely will introduce his new book *Gone Fishin'* published by Black Classic Press. The 3 PM talk will be followed a book signing. A portion of the book sales from this event will be donated to America's Black Holocaust Museum.

The event which is sponsored by Harry W. Schwartz Bookshops is free and open to the public.

Think There's Nothing To Do This Evening?

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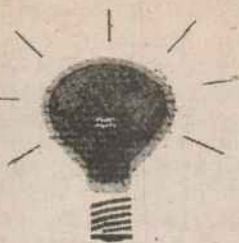
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Saturday, Feb 22
10pm-Close

The Night Light



Dusty Sass

In our last issue our very astute publisher and editor brought you the first installment of what I am sure will be a very popular feature for **The Wisconsin Light** "Ask Ruthie." Just about everywhere I went people were talking about the column.

- Well to clear up a few things:
- 1.) I am not Ruthie. I wish I could take credit for half of the things she has done, but, alas, I can't. I am not a woman, I have never done drag nor do I enjoy being referred to as a woman. (Which means I am also not Dr. Suzie Shovelit either)
 - 2) Ruthie is currently living in Milwaukee. (The exact location is a well guarded secret known only to a few close personal friends and a few hundred of last weeks tricks)
 - 3) I have been in contact with the good woman and we are setting up a special party to be held at **This Is It** in the next month or two. This will be sort of her coming out at home party.

We certainly want to thank **Mama Roux** for hosting our Spotlight Mardi Gras party. The place was crowded, the costumes were wild, the crawfish were delicious (cooked by that Cajun Queen Jeannie),

and the mood was very festive.

Speaking of Mardi Gras, I had a blast at the **Manoeuvres** Mardi Gras bash. They always make out of towners feel at home at that bar. In fact several of us who came up for the occasion felt so at home, that we didn't want to leave.

The Oberon bash held at the East Side hotspot was the previous evening was also very fun.

That having been said, I hope you are ready for Valentine's Day. I know I can't wait to go to all those great parties. There will be great underwear party at **South Docks on Water Street**. Now don't be shy, if you got it flaunt it.

The **M & M Club**, and **Just Us** are planning special Valentine's Day Dinners. Just Us will also have a Valentine's Day show on Saturday the 15th.

Up in Madtown, **Manoeuvres** is also planning a big bash. They do love to party at that place don't they?

There are some great theater premiers coming up in the next couple of weeks. I plan to be there for opening night of the Tennessee Williams play **Viux Carre**. It's an autobiographical piece that covers the time when he began to realize that he was Gay. It's directed by my good friend, the very talented John Schneider.

Then there is the fabulous "Lesbian Vampires From Sodom" starring the ever so popular and ever so talented BJ Daniels. (You go girl!) This play had a remarkable run in Chicago and it's about time that it was brought to Milwaukee. Kudos to Theater X for running two Gay positive pieces at the same time. And BJ, break a leg!!!

There's also a very nice cultural offering from Madison. The Madison Symphony will be performing the Kaddish from the opera **Harvey Milk**. The opera is about Harvey Milk, the openly Gay San Francisco politician who was gunned down while in his office.

The Kaddish is one of the highlights of the work and its in English!! For ticket info call (608) 266-9055.

Last but by no means least is the Florentine Opera's **La Traviata**. This is a lavish production sung in Italian with English subtitles. It's the third and last opera in Verdi's so called popular trilogy.

Of course too much culture can be a little overwhelming so I will be out and about at my favorite haunts after the theater.

Among other places you can find me on Mondays at **In Between**. They have a really fun balloon toss on Mondays and a great cocktail hour. Course the bar is fun to go to at other times too.

I'll be checking out the crowd at **This Is It** a great spot to have a nice drink and some great conversation.

And how can you go wrong by cruising the dance floor at **La Cage**? Great techno effects, a fine DJ, hunky bartenders and plenty of cruising material!!!

The **Boot Camp Saloon's** Club nights on Wednesdays are always a good time. Even moi won some money a few weeks ago.

And sometime in the next couple of weeks, I am planning on hitting Madtown (hope it doesn't hit back) for some fun at

Geraldine's, Manoeuvres and The Shamrock. Here's hoping that openly Gay Alderman Mike Vervøer succeeds in getting a license for **Scandals**, the former R Place. That bar really picked with the new owners, Mike and Nancy.

That's all for now, hope to see ya out and about soon and in the meantime be safe and stay proud!!!

Music for Any Occasion

Jerry

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Entertainment Guide

APPLETON

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

DOOR COUNTY

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

EAU CLAIRE

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

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

GREEN BAY

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

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

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

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

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

KENOSHA

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

LA CROSSE

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

LAKE MILLS

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

MADISON

A Room of One's Own Book store
317 W. Johnson
Madison, WI 53703
257-7888

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

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

Mary's
2526 E. Washington
Madison, WI 53704
244-2939

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

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

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

MILWAUKEE

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

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

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

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

Cafe Melange
720 N. Old World St.
Milw, WI 53203
291-9889

C'est La Vie
231 S. Second St.
Milw, WI 53204
276-8890

Designing Men
120 S. First
Milw, WI 53204
389-1200

MILWAUKEE Continued

Club 219
219 S. 2nd St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
271-3732

1100 Club
1100 S. 1st St.
Milw, WI 53204
647-9950

Fannies
200 E. Washington
Milw, WI 53204
643-9633

In Between
625 S. 2nd St
Milw, WI 53204
273-2693

Just Us
807 S. 5th St.
Milw, WI 53204
383-2233

La Cage
801 S 2nd St.
Milw, WI 52304
383-8300

La Perla Restaurant
734 S. Fifth St.
Milw, WI 53204
645-9888

Mama Roux Bar & American Grill
1875 N. Humboldt
Milw, WI 53212
347-0344

M & M Club
124 N. Water
Milw, WI 53202
347-1962

Rene's Cozy Corner
3500 W Park Hill
Milw, WI 53208
933-RENE

S. Water St. Docks
354 E. National
Milw, WI 53204
225-9676

Station 2
1534 W. Grant
Milw, WI 53204
383-5755

10% Club
4223 W. Fon Du Lac
Milw, WI 53216
447-0910

This Is It
418 E. Wells
Milw, WI 53202
278-9192

MILWAUKEE Continued

Triangle
134 E. National
Milw, WI 53204
383-9412

Walkers Point Cafe
1106 S. First St.
Milw, WI 53204
384-7999

Zippers
819 S 2nd St.
Milw, WI 53204
645-8330

RACINE

JoDees
2139 Racine St.
Racine, WI 53403
634-9804

What About Me?
600 6th St.
Racine, WI 53403
632-0171

ROCKFORD

The Office
513 E. State St.
Rockford, IL, 61104
815-965-0344

SHEBOYGAN

Blue Lite
1029 N. 8th St.
Sheboygan, 53081
457-1636

STEVENS POINT

The Platwood Club
701 Highway 10W
Stevens Point, 54481
341-8862

SUPERIOR

JT's Bar
1506 N 3rd St.
Superior, WI 54880
394-2580

Trio Club
820 Tower
Superior, WI 54880
392-5373

WAUSAU

The Mad Hatter
320 Washington
Wausau, WI 54401
842-3225

Chorus Seeks Additional Singers to Perform Faure's "Requiem"

Milwaukee—In a departure from their usual style, the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus is undertaking a performance of the complete "Requiem" by Faure. The work, approximately 35 minutes in length, will be the musical focus of the Chorus' spring concert, **To Every Season...** to be held on April 5th.

For this special performance, the Chorus has opened its doors to non-members who have the interest and talent to perform this wonderful piece. Interested persons should contact the Cream City Chorus office at (414) 344-9222 or stop by the 7:15 Wednesday evening rehearsals at the Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, 1342 N. Astor. Auditions close for this performance on February 26th.

To Every Season... will be held at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, April 5th, at Cross Lutheran, an affirming church which welcomes Gays and Lesbians into their membership. Cross Lutheran is located at 1821 N. 16th Street, between Walnut/Lisbon and Fond du Lac Avenues, three blocks from the I-145 west spur. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door.

For more information, write to: P.O. Box 1488, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

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MANFINDER

Illinois

BI EXCITEMENT Hi. I'm a White, Bi-curious, male, in search of other Bi, or Bi-curious, well-endowed males, for new and exciting experiences. (Chicago) #26111

COME TO EARTH Are you a down to earth, good guy? Maybe you're the one for me. I'm a 25 year old guy who has been in the area for just a couple of months. I'm honest, laid back, and fun. I hope to meet similar guys, between 25 and 30, who are attractive, have nice bodies, and aren't into the bars. We can go in a number of directions if we begin as friends. (Evanston) #26947

TOTAL DOMINATION Totally dominant top, looking for young, under 35, totally submissive bottom. I'm 32, 5'10, 170lbs, with Brown hair, Green eyes, and goatee, from the southwest suburbs. You know what to do. (Evanston) #23972

BLACK ON BLACK Attractive, Gay, Black male, bottom, seeks Black male tops for hot times and friendship. I'm 6ft, 240, with a nice physique. I have Brown eyes, and short hair. I also have a beard and mustache. Please call today as I am getting anxious. (Evanston) #20591

PASSIVE ACTIVIST Are you an activist? I don't see how you can avoid it. I'm a 23 year old, Russian born, community college student. I am 6'2, 190lbs with Black hair and Hazel eyes. I have a slim and muscular frame. I'm into the industrial scene and alternative culture in general. I'm very literate and politically active. I want to meet muscular tops, between 23 and 40, who are well read and understand the need for activism. (Homer Township) #23016

REBEL WITH A CAUSE 23 year old, college student, seeks rebel with a conscience. I'm 6'2, 190lbs, with Black hair, and Hazel eyes, and a lean, muscular, build. Industrial music and alternative culture interest me. Also raves, concerts, and dark-themed movies like "Natural Born Killers" & "Fargo". I'm cultured, literate, and an activist. You are a muscular, rebel, 24 to 30, who understands the importance of activism, and likes the same things I do. (Lockport) #23595

LET THE MUSIC PLAY Come out and party with me. I'm a Black, and Hispanic, male, 29, looking for someone fun. I'm 6ft, 190lbs, and I like to dance the night away. I'm interested in meeting other guys, between 20 and 25, to trip the lights with. Peace. (Oak Park) #23373

ONLY MEN KNOW This 40 year old, Gay, Black male, is looking for friends with whom to have fun. I mean the kind of fun that only men know how to have. Hurry, I can't wait. (Rockford) #25301

EVER AFTER I'm seeking a guy who knows what he wants, likes to have fun, and is commitment minded. I'm a 21 year old, Gay, White male, 5'10, with Brown hair, and Hazel eyes. Call for application. (Tampico) #25848

Iowa

WHAT'S YOUR PLEASURE? I'm pretty easy. I want to meet other guys to go out with, have a relationship, or just have some casual fun. I'm a hard working, business owner, with a nice deep voice. Let's talk and make some plans. (Des Moines) #26579

BI MALE FRIENDS NETWORK Are you all wrapped up in watching videos, and doing housework? Do you need help deciding what to do with your life? Call the Bi male hotline, in my box. I'm a Bi male, and we can help each other sort out our lives. Don't waste another moment, call now. (Des Moines) #23232

MYSTERIES OF THE UNIVERSE I'm tall, and handsome, and looking to exchange some new ideas and thoughts. I'm 29, 6'2, 220lbs. I'd like to talk to other guys who are interested in exploring the unknown. Let's talk about how to do that. (Des Moines) #19689

Minnesota

MANKATO MANFINDER I'd like to have a relationship with another guy, in south central Minnesota, who enjoys sports, music, and hilarious times. I'm a good looking, Gay, White male, 34, 5'11, 175lbs, with Blond hair, and Hazel eyes. I prefer guys between 24 and 39. (Mankato) #8428

BRING YOUR MACHETE Outdoorsman in Marshall is looking for a trailblazing partner. I'm 34, 6'7, and totally into the outdoors. I like to fish, camp, hike, bike, and swim. I also like quiet times, indoors, talking and hanging out. (Marshall) #22922

VOLUNTEER CADET CORP Where are the well hung, horny, handsome guys? This extremely good looking, 27 year old stud, 5'11, 160lbs, with dark Blond hair, and Blue eyes, wants to orally please you. I have a military haircut, but want to serve my country in your lap. If you're a generously endowed guy, between 25 and 35, and long for discreet, hot sex, days or evenings, I'm the man for the job. (Minneapolis) #1633

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED Experienced master is looking for safe, sane, consensual encounters, with hot, experienced submissive bottoms, under 40. I'm 41, 6'2, 235lbs, and ready to expand your boundaries. If you're a novice, have fun, but call me only when you've experienced the rest, and are ready for the best. (Minneapolis) #17025

GIVE ME A LIFT TICKET I'm looking for guys, of around my age, who are interested in dating, and a possible relationship. I'm a 21 year old, White male, 5'11, 150lbs, with Brown hair, and Hazel eyes. I'm a college student majoring in music, but I'm also interested in outdoor sports, such as skiing, tennis, hiking, and sailing. (Minneapolis) #5726

THE BACK WAY If you like to turn around, and have your backside completely serviced, I'm your man. I'm a 45 year old, hungry man, 135lbs. I'm extremely oral, and very raunchy. Try it, you'll like it. (Minneapolis) #5574

TONED TORSO TALKFEST Wanna talk to a very well equipped bodybuilder? Leave me a message. I'm 28 years old, 5'8, 170lbs, and in great shape. Let's rap. (Minneapolis) #27091

SPANK ME If you're dominant, assertive, in great shape, and want to date before doing the nasty, give me a call. I'm a 28 years old, Single, White male, 5'5, 140lbs, with a great body. I'm a submissive and inexperienced bottom. I need a man, 20 to 40, who wants to get to know me before we get naked. I also like to be spanked. (Minneapolis) #26813

LET'S WRESTLE I'm a muscular, good looking, 20 years old, into wrestling. I'm 5'11, with Blond hair, and Blue eyes. I want to meet other hot guys, for movie going, hot times, and sweaty grappling. (Minneapolis) #26156

INTERROGATION SESSION I'm a good looking, masculine, aggressive top, 26 years old, looking to meet another well built guy for an intense interrogation session. I'm well endowed and have a great body. I'm also interested in foot and tickle fetishes. I'd like to try some mild torture and punishment. Of course, I'll respect your limits. Let's talk. (Minneapolis) #26551

SAID IT ALL IN ST. PAUL This highly motivated, intelligent, African American man, seeks another honest, open communicator for a long term relationship. I love reading, writing, history, anthropology, board games (especially chess), sports, and long, intense conversations. My life partner will be goal oriented, non-materialistic, self-aware, and non-violent. Men of color encouraged to respond. (St. Paul) #10024

THE CONVERSATION I'm a 38 year old, Gay, White male, interested in music, movies, reading, and travel. I'm disabled, and have a speech and hearing impairment. I'm looking for a man, between 35 and 65, who shares these interests, and likes pleasant conversation. I'm especially attracted to guys with medium builds, and hairy bodies. I'll look forward to hearing from you. (Minneapolis) #25978

GO WITH THE FLOW Ever think about trying water sports? I'll assist. I'm 28, and into all forms of oral stimulation. Tap into my expertise. (Minneapolis) #25663

TALL, DARK TOPS, STOP HERE I'm a 21 year old, Gay, White male, 5'9, 180lbs, with shoulder length Blond hair, and Bluish Green eyes. I like hot, assertive tops, with dark features. Long hair is a big plus. Call me now. I've got what you need. (Minneapolis) #3940

ROCKER & BULLWINKLE I'd like to meet other rocker types or guys into rocker types. I'm a Gay, White male, 33, 5'11, 140lbs, with long Brown hair and Brown eyes. I'm slim and masculine. I like movies, music, Nintendo, cards and I'm a smoker. I want to hang out and have some good times. Give me a ring. (Minneapolis) #25274

GIVE SHY A TRY I'm kinda shy and hoping to meet some guys to hang out with. I'm 18, 5'5, 125lbs, with Auburn hair. You make the next move. (Minneapolis) #25517

APPLY IMMEDIATELY Master wanted. I'm an experienced slave, with an opening for an experienced master. I'm a successful, 30 year old, Gay, White male, 6ft, 195lbs. I'm a non-smoker, looking for a permanent, master/slave relationship. Leather, B&D, S&M, love, honor, and commitment, are just a few of the words we have in common. (Minneapolis) #24038

ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING This Twin City guy is looking to meet that special, submissive person, who is B&D, and wants to be of service. Looks, age, race, and experience are less important than the right attitude. (Minneapolis) #24321

AND THERE'S MORE How soon can you move in? Athletic, slim, White male, is looking for a relationship with a guy in his 20's. I'm 39 years old, and can provide secure, long-term, stability, for the right guy. Share my Victorian home, and all the trimmings. (Minneapolis) #23464

COTTON CANDY I'm a pre-operative Transsexual looking for Gay men to date and have casual encounters. I'm 21, 6'3, 150lbs and in need of sensual fun. I love to show off my body. I've got the sweets for my sweet. (Minneapolis) #22999

YOUR WILL IS MY LAW I'm a submissive bottom looking for a dominant top. I need to be controlled. Bend me over your knee and use me to make your will, my law. (Minneapolis) #21304

NOT YOUR RUN OF THE MILL GUY Pierce me again! I'm 22, 5'10, 185lbs with short, short Blond hair, Blue eyes and a goatee. My nose and tongue are pierced. I'm proud to show off my endowment. I like to smoke and drink and I'm into guys who hang out on First Avenue and the CC Club. Let's punk out. (Minneapolis) #24343

WELCOME WAGON I'm a Gay, White male that recently relocated to Minnesota. I'm 27, 6'2, 175lbs, with a nice build. I'm looking for someone between 22 to 30 for companionship and possibly a relationship. I am into numerous outdoor sports like rollerblading. I also like movies and cuddling on the couch. Where's the welcome wagon? (Minneapolis) #20772

CREATIVITY REWARDED Dating is fun. The more creative you are, the more interesting it is. I'm a handsome, White male, with well defined muscles, 5'8, 165lbs, Blond hair & Blue eyes. I like working out, wrestling, and I love dating. Let's go out. (Minneapolis) #17823

VOYEUR I'm a 29 year old Gay male, good shape, 5'7, 165lbs. I'm looking for fun. (Minneapolis) #17909

THE BIG ONE I'm feeling like getting real physical with hot guys of all types. I'm 27 years old, and weigh 145lbs. I feel an urge in every ounce of me. Let's do it. (Princeton) #10173

SCANNING THE AREA I'm interested in checking out some other guys in southeast Minnesota. Let's hang out and see what happens. (Rochester) #25015

EMOTIONALLY FIT I'm emotionally and financially stable and looking for the same. I'm a Gay, White male, 47, 5'6, 145lbs, with sandy Brown hair, and Blue Green eyes. I love camping, travel, and the outdoors. I'm drug and disease free. I'd like to meet a guy, between 18 and 45, with similar interests, for a relationship. (Rochester) #24056

SAID IT ALL IN ST. PAUL This highly motivated, intelligent, African American man, seeks another honest, open communicator for a long term relationship. I love reading, writing, history, anthropology, board games (especially chess), sports, and long, intense conversations. My life partner will be goal oriented, non-materialistic, self-aware, and non-violent. Men of color encouraged to respond. (St. Paul) #10024

BIG PLANS This 27 years old, Black male, is looking for a tall, slender, and well endowed, Gay, Black male, for dating. Call me for the rest of the story. (St. Paul) #26207

GOT A PRESENT FOR YOU I want to have a relationship with a young, 18 to 31, aggressive bottom. I like White guys, Hispanic guys, Asian guys, and Native American guys, as long as you're healthy, and hearty. No time like the present! (St. Paul) #26113

DISCREET FUN IN APPLETON This 25 year old Appletonian, is on the lookout for Gay, White, or Hispanic, males, for discreet fun. Let's get to the core of the matter. (Appleton) #23551

BASKING IN MOONLIGHT I like movies, and moonlit walks, and want a masculine mate. I'm 5'9, 180, with curly, Blond hair, and Blue Green eyes. I'm a submissive bottom, looking for that special top. (Boyceville) #44165

ROCK MY WORLD I'm a very, very, very submissive bottom, 27, 5'10, 190lbs, with Auburn hair, and Blue Green eyes. I need a hot, aggressive top man to handle me. I was going to install handbars but like the contact. Manipulate me. (Boyceville) #3939

COUNTRY CROONER If you're sincere about a lifetime commitment, and don't mind love handles and children, call me right away. I'm a 33 year old, Gay, White male. I'm romantic, passionate, and have long term goals. I want to meet a friend, who can become my lover. You must be interested in relocating to lacrosse for a country life. (LaCrosse) #23466

FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELTS! That first hill is a doozy! I'm a 28 years old, Gay, White male, 6ft, 215lbs, interested in meeting a masculine guy to have fun with in public and in private. I like roller coasters, music, movies, thunderstorms, and roller coasters. (Madison) #26597

CHEESY RIDER I just moved to Madison, from Indiana, and am interested in making some new friends. I'm a White male, 29, 5'11, 165lbs, with Brown hair, and Green eyes. I'm very versatile between bottom and top. I like movies, cuddling on the couch, and hanging out. I'm counting on a tour guide to show me the ways of Wisconsin. Let's go for a ride. (Madison) #22930

THIS TOY COMES WITH GUARANTEE I aim to please. I am a 30 year old, Gay, White male, very clean cut, who is looking for a Gay, White male, top man. I'm 6'1, 175lbs, with Brown hair, and Green eyes. I'm fit and hope you are too. Tell me what makes you feel good. That's what I'm here for. (Madison) #23019

STROKIN' I'm new in Madison and would like to meet a sexy bottom, between 18 and 30, who wants to service me and show me a good time. I'm 29, 6'1, 190lbs, with light Brown hair, and Brown eyes. I'm straight appearing and am attracted to similar guys. Hurry, I could explode at any time. (Madison) #22820

COFFEE TALK Social butterfly in Madison wants to meet other guys for morning coffee or evening fun. Care to join me? Pass the sugar, please. (Madison) #1779

HOW ARE YOU AT PLOWING? I need an experienced hand, who knows how to blaze a trail. I'm a very submissive, Blond guy, 21, with Blue eyes. I need hot, and hard, tops, to have their way with me. (Menomonee) #17473

FIT THE BILL? I'm a 35 year old, Bi, White male, looking for other Bi guys who meet the following criteria: height over 6ft, weight over 200lbs, sexual tops. Simple as that. Let's play. (Milwaukee) #27218

THE WRITTEN WORD In town I'm rather new, but I've come to look for you. This attractive, Gay, White male, 18, 5'5, 130lbs, with Brown hair, and Blue eyes, seeks other Gay, White males, between 18 and 28, for friendship. I enjoy books, music, theater, poetry, and snuggling with a specially chosen someone. My arms await. Maybe that someone is you. (Milwaukee) #27257

HOW ABOUT A TEST DRIVE? I'm in the market for a young, boyish, guy who'd like an older man to take care of him. You should be a submissive bottom, and willing to accept all the love I have to offer. The compensations are tremendous, and, if we're both happy, this could turn into a full time gig. (Milwaukee) #27155

LIFT AND LICK I'm looking for the right man to pull me the rest of the way out of the closet. I'm a bottom, and I'm totally turned on by guys in drag. For the right guy, I can be persuaded to dress in drag myself. I want to lift your skirt up and lick your privates. (Milwaukee) #10475

MILWAUKEE MYSTERY This 29 year old, Gay male, 5'9, 170lbs, is looking for fun. Find out more about what amuses me by calling my box. (Milwaukee) #8333

SUBMISSIVE APPLICANT Are you an S&M slave-master? I'm your boy. I'm a Gay, White male, 41, 5'11, 185lbs, clean shaven, with Brown hair, and Green eyes. I'm in very good shape from years of tennis, cycling, and hiking. I want to talk to you if you are interviewing applicants for slave boy. (Milwaukee) #8615

WAIT ON THE STOOL This tall, masculine, hot, 40 year old man, is experienced in Brown hanky action. I want to meet other White males, who can dump their problems, and get into some sexual movement. I'm looking for buddies, or a lover. (Milwaukee) #6476

CUDDLY OLDER MEN, READ THIS AD This 25 years old, east side guy, is looking for a cuddly older man for a relationship. I'm 5'9, 140lbs, with a trim, swimmer's build. I'm very active, and want to meet a man who is active, as well. You don't have to have a gym bud, just be fit. I like dark hair and Blue eyes. You should be sensitive, yet firm, and enjoy going out to movies, dinners, and the bar. (Milwaukee) #26624

BROWN HANKY CODE I'm looking for hot, Gay, White males, who know what a Brown hanky means, and follow where it goes. I'm a very tall, 40 years old, masculine, White male, in extremely good shape. I'd like to meet a buddy for regular, code conscious, encounters. (Milwaukee) #26683

HARD AND HARDY I want to meet a straight acting, horny guy, who is honest and discreet. I want us to be able to get off together, but I also hope you're the type I can take home to meet mom. Race is not an issue. Call now. (Milwaukee) #26333

ONLY THE BEGINNING Being HIV positive does not mean the end! I'm a handsome, Gay Black man, 6 ft, 160lbs, 46 years old. I'm looking to meet with other Gay men, 35 to 45 years of age, who are also HIV positive, for friendship and possibly more. Everyone needs a friend. My friendship is extended to you. I'm in the Milwaukee area. (Milwaukee) #26201

I LOVE MEN I like 'em Black, White, Hispanic, however they come. I'm an 18 years old, Black male, 5'10, 190lbs, with a football player's build. People say I'm attractive. I'm versatile, and am attracted to muscular guys, between 18 and 29. We can take turns calling the plays. (Milwaukee) #25611

ROVING EYE I wanna catch you in the act. I like to meet exhibitionists, between 35 and 50. If you like to be watched, and sometimes need a helping hand, give me a call. I check messages between 8:30 and 9:30pm, and like late night sessions. Show me your stuff. (Milwaukee) #25553

I'LL SCRUB THE CORNERS Do your dishes need washing? This submissive slave is willing to do your dirty work. I'm 6'1, 200lbs, and very eager to please. Maybe you'll reward me now and then. (Milwaukee) #25384

VIOLIN & PIANO SONATA I'm a caring, classical music enthusiast. This Gay, White male, is looking for a new friend to share good times with. I'm 47, 5'11, 150lbs, with Brown hair and eyes. (Milwaukee) #25435

SERIOUS TRAINING Muscular topman seeks boy into serious training. I'm a White male, 33, with a great body. You should be between 5'7 and 5'10, and clean shaven. We begin now. (Milwaukee) #25342

I'M SO HAPPY YOU'RE HAPPY I'm orally active and extremely enthusiastic. This Gay, White, professional male, in my 40's, is very oral and submissive. I am looking for Gay, and Straight, males, under 40, who want to receive oral pleasure on a regular basis. Spread 'em. (Milwaukee) #24703

EDUCATED PROFESSIONAL I'm an educated, professional male, looking for companionship. I am 49, 5'8, 168lbs. My interests include travel, theater, the arts, antiques, humor, and conversation. I'm very relationship oriented and hope to meet a similar person. (Milwaukee) #24719

THIS WAS MEANT TO BE I'm looking for a trim, financially secure, Transsexual, for a relationship. I am a 34 year old, White male, into physical fitness, and weight lifting. Baby, come to me. (Milwaukee) #24383

ACTION, NOT WORDS Hot, Kenosha man seeks built, friendly, fun-loving guys. Enough said. (Milwaukee) #23891

SILK STALKINGS I'm on the prowl for older men, and other crossdressers. I'm a very attractive crossdresser. I'm 5'11, and a submissive Brunette. I have an affinity for silk stockings, corsets, and high heels. I hope you appreciate my pumps. (Milwaukee) #23614

AU NATURAL I wanna get naked with a man, hug, engage in some mutual hand work, and have some oral fun. Anyone out there have the same hankering? (Milwaukee) #23128

SOMEONE TO LOOK UP TO I travel a lot and would like to meet guys all over the place! I'm 6ft, 200lbs, with short Brown hair, and Blue-Green eyes. I like taller guys, especially over 6'4. My interests are varied and I hope yours are too. Give me a call. Maybe this ad is what we've both been waiting for. (Milwaukee) #23468

PANTING IN PANTIES I'm a passionate Transvestite looking for take-charge, top men, of all races, for kinky times. I make love in high heels and makeup. I'm also into stockings, and panties. I'm panting for you. (Milwaukee) #19832

STABLE PARTNER I want to have a long term relationship with a mature, honest, caring, masculine Gay, White male, between 25 and 45. I'm a 38 year old, Gay, White male, 5'10, 160lbs, with thinning Blond hair, and Blue eyes. I enjoy gardening, dancing, antique, travel, and quiet evenings. Please call if you're looking for a stable partner, and don't smoke or drink. (Oshkosh) #26630

MY HEART IS RACINE I want to meet nice guys for dining, movies, and fun get togethers. I'm 5'9, 185lbs, with Blond hair, and Blue eyes. I'm attracted to clean shaven guys between 25 and 35. (Racine) #961

WILD BEAR Cuddly, Blond teddy bear, 39, is combing the woods for other wild bears. I'm interested in other hairy guys, under 40, for sexual pleasure. No strings attached. I'm primarily a top but can be flipped over by a racer predator. (Racine) #26852

RACINE CRAZY I'm a sharp 39 year old, Racine resident, who loves to cuddle. I'm 5'8, 177lbs and have Brown hair and eyes. People tell me that I'm attractive and good-looking. I like movies, the theater, and dining out. I also love staying in, for those special evenings, with just the right partner. Let's spend some cold winter nights in each other's arms. (Racine) #18827

SEXY REXY This handsome, muscular, professional Gay, White male, is looking for other muscular, masculine guys, for erotic fun. I'm a college instructor, and a businessman. Leave me a sexy message for a quicker callback. (Shawano) #25387

DISCUSS AMONGST YOURSELVES I'm a deeply spiritual, Gay, White male, who is very "out", and into gay issues. I'm interested in going to bars, dancing, seeing dramatic movies, playing computer games, and reading gay literature. I enjoy spiritual conversations very much. I'd like to make some new friends, with an eye toward a long term relationship. (Superior) #21797

YOUNG AND ACTIVE IN WAUSAU I'm a Gay, White male, 25, 6ft, 190lbs, with Blond hair, and Blue eyes. I have a sturdy, medium build. I'm a non-drinker and non-smoker, into tennis, biking, exercise, and the movies. I'm straight acting, and not into the bar scene. I'd like to meet guys with similar attributes for outdoor excitement, and indoor erotica. (Wausau) #11144

YOU HOLD THE FLASHLIGHT I'm looking for friends, with whom to share the joys of life, in central Wisconsin. I'm 36, 5'8, 165lbs, with Brown hair and eyes. If we explore together, maybe we'll find we don't want to be alone any more. #26952

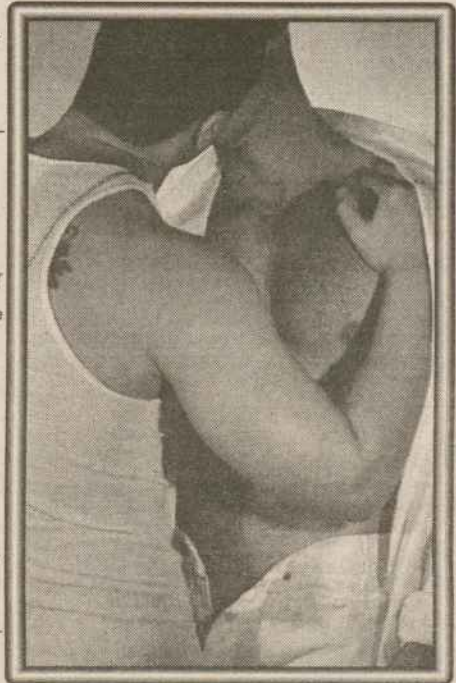
QUALITIES ALIKE I'm a Gay White male, 49 years old, giving, open, honest, and possesses a great sense of humor, with a positive personality. I'm in search of another Gay White male, 30 to 45, with like qualities, for a long-term relationship. #26167

LET OUT A BI CRY If you're on the prowl for discreet get togethers, give me a call. I'm a good looking, Married, Bi, White male, 5'9, 180lbs, in central Wisconsin. I want to arrange some exciting encounters with other hot Bi or Gay men. #25097

ANY OLD MUSIC WILL DO I'm your private dancer. I'm 6'3, 210lbs, very hot and very well hung. I'm an exotic dancer and one on one male performer. I'd like to do some gymnastics for you. #24917

BLEEP MY BLEEP BLEEP I'm interested in doing several things which may not be printable in this publication. To give you a general impression, they include licking, sucking, thrusting and stroking. Call me for details. #24774

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Gays' Fight Against Abortion Often Gets Them a Double Dose of Rejection

Washington, D.C.—Last weekend (January 20th-21st), on the eve of the annual March for Life, members of the Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians were turned away from an anti-abortion convention where March president Nellie Gray returned their \$50 registration fees and took away their convention badges, according to a recent article in the *Washington Post* bylined to Cindy Looose.

Gray also ordered Gay marchers not to carry their banner with a drawing of a fetus inside a pink triangle, an order they defied.

"It's a most egregious—a sinful lifestyle—and for them to want to parade it around is just shameful," Gray said in a telephone interview with the *Post*. "Homosexuality is sinful by anyone's definition, and there is no way I was going to have a banner promoting sinful acts."

But just as their fellow abortion opponents ridicule them for being Gay, other Gay people revile them for opposing a woman's right to choose abortion. At a Gay Pride festival in Boston last Summer, Pro-Life Alliance members had to flee their booth after about 50 screaming abortion rights advocates knocked over their tables, said Philip Arcida, the Alliance president.

Gay abortion opponents have staked out territory in two of the most volatile battlefields of American life. They never expected either fight to be easy, but being attacked by people they would like to think of as comrades and allies makes both so much the harder.

As one of the 500 Alliance members, Donnie Marie Kearney knows how it feels to be despised by people who approve of one, but only one, of the two central facets of her being. With deep hurt in her eyes, she describes two scenes: one at the March for Life, where several men shouted slurs and threats at her as she walked, bearing a banner; the other at a

Gay newspaper office, where an angry editor recently rejected Kearney's anti-abortion literature and looked as if she might spit in Kearney's face, the *Post* reported on Saturday, January 27th.

Gay people are widely assumed to advocate not just Gay rights, but women's rights, minority rights and any other rights on a generally liberal agenda. Among the public at large, Alliance members said, they often find more tolerance for their Gayness than they find for their abortion views.

Leaders of Gay rights groups express tolerance of abortion opponents in their midst, in contrast to the anti-Gay rhetoric of some leaders of the anti-abortion movement. But among the rank and file on each side, Alliance members said, a different picture emerges.

At that level, "there is not as much hatred from pro-lifers as there is on the Gay side," said Kearney of Rochester, New York. "Most pro-life people are either very welcoming or they'd don't say anything."

The worst hurt comes from taunts from fellow Gays.

"We are at our core Gay, and pro-life is a belief, so it is more painful to be heckled by our own community," said Mary Jane Mulherin, of St. Paul, Minnesota. "The Gay community celebrates diversity," including drag queens and leather fetishes, she said. "But we are the one group that can't be celebrated."

Gray said she thought the Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians was attempting to be "provocative" and to push its "sinful homosexual agenda" at the March.

"Why should we want to provoke them?" asked Tom Sena, founder of the Alliance. "This is a serious issue; human lives are at stake."

He said that when he came out in the Gay community about six years ago, he wanted badly to fit in and saw that abortion rights was the view to be held.

"I tried to convince myself to go along with that and came up with what I thought were good reasons," he said. "But every time I considered the humanity of the unborn child, all other reasons crashed on the rock of that fact."

"Our experience at being dehumanized and depersonalized should be put squarely on the side of the unborn," Sena continued. He is sure that one day scientists will find a genetic marker for homosexuality, giving parents the option to abort a fetus who will be Lesbian or a Gay man.

"It is the ultimate form of Gay-bashing," Sena said.

Anti-abortion Lesbians and Gay men are left with an overwhelming feeling of being alone, said Alliance vice president Chuck Vols, who volunteers at a pregnancy crisis center in Philadelphia and is raising two adopted children—one adopted when he was married, before his wife's death.

Every member who was interviewed by the *Post* is said to have groaned at the thought of having to choose between a rabidly anti-Gay anti-abortion candidate in November and one who supported both Gay and abortion rights.

Following the March, Alliance members met with Rep. Henry Hyde (R-IL), the Chair of the Judiciary Committee. Alliance members urged him to support a ban on abortions based on both gender and sexual orientation in the future.

Beethoven's Ninth in Berlin to celebrate the reunification of Germany during December, 1989, Poniewaz determined to try and interest Bernstein in his Rainforest Concert idea. Poniewaz had revered Bernstein ever since the flamboyant conductor's televised Young People's Concerts helped Poniewaz get into classical music when he was a teenager during the '60s.

Poniewaz felt that Bernstein had the international charisma to make a rainforest concert be an international event, perhaps televised around the world from the United Nations.

in Costa Rica, Poniewaz approached the Museum's rainforest curator, Allen Young, with his Rainforest Concert idea.

Young's enthusiasm, combined with Poniewaz's own, was a decisive factor in persuading the Milwaukee Symphony to undertake this unusual concert of unfamiliar repertoire.

The concert, which Poniewaz calls *Song of the Rainforest*, will finally take place on March 14, 15 and 16 with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and Chorus under MSO Resident Conductor Neal Gittleman.

Poniewaz is a poet who often performs with his long-time friend, Antler. As a UWM lecturer, he teaches the course he devised, "Literature of Ecological Vision." During February, Poniewaz has been giving an audio-visual presentation summarizing the global rainforest crisis and previewing the upcoming Rainforest Concert. The \$3 admission at these previews will benefit the six local nature centers that are hosting Poniewaz's presentation and the Tirimbina Rainforest Preserve.

The three remaining presentations include: Schlitz Audubon Center, 1111 E. Brown Deer Road, Fox Point on Tuesday, February 18 at 7:30 p.m.; Maywood Environmental Center, 3615 Mueller Road, Sheboygan, Wednesday, February 19 at 7:30 p.m.; Havenwoods Environmental Center, 6141 N. Hopkins Street, Milwaukee, Wednesday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m.

For *Song of the Rainforest* ticket information, call (414) 291-7605, or, outside the Milwaukee area: 1-800-291-7605.

Theater X Continued from Page 12

Named *Desire*, a character Schneider calls "The mother from hell." Miss Carrie and Mary Maude share some aspects of their characters with the infamous Blanche DuBois.

But if Schneider is daunted by the prospect of presenting a play that contains characters who can at once be familiar, yet unfamiliar he isn't saying.

Filthy or Courageous?

He does say that while *Vioux Carre* was a wild success in Europe, it didn't do very well in the United States.

"The New York critics panned it saying it was 'filthy and dirty.' It only lasted for five performances on Broadway," Schneider said.

Schneider sees the work as a act of courage "This was a courageous play when it was first performed." Schneider said. "It still is a very daring piece stylistically and in subject matter."

Mike Ramach, the Producer Director for Theatre X, agrees with that assessment. He says that audiences may be surprised by the way that Williams put this play together. "There are points in the play where Williams speaks directly to audience breaking up the sequence of events.

The play's structure is different from other Williams pieces as well. *Vioux Carre* is not nearly as naturalistic as Williams other works," says Ramach.

Wait to Produce Play Is Over

Ramach says that he has been waiting to produce this play for several years. "I met Williams in 1977 while he was going through his public coming out process. He was a great old gentleman." Ramach adds that he had been carrying around *Vioux Carre* for several years hoping to be able to expose an audience to this look into Williams soul and life.

Universal Appeal

"This play will appeal to all theater goers." Says Ramach, "*Vioux Carre* deals with human beings not just Gays or straights, who are searching for happiness. That's a theme that's pretty universal no matter who you are."

Ramach adds "I was really pleased to find that John and the company here absolutely loved *Vioux Carre* when I showed it to them. I will finally get to see this daring work on stage."

So will Milwaukee theater audiences thanks to an innovative theater company and the memories of aging Gay writer.

Performance times for *Vioux Carre* are as follows: Wednesday and Thursdays 7:30, Fridays and Saturdays, 8:00, Sundays 3:00. Advance ticket purchase is recommended.

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GWF, 36, Blonde hair, quiet butch, looking for friendship with femmes ages 30-42, like love, shopping, videos, women's music and Chinese food. Please write to Tania Bruce, 803 W. 11 St., Dubuque, IA, 52001

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I Don't Want to Die and Have God Say, 'You Have a Beautiful House'

Editor's Note: Occasionally a story crosses our desk that seems especially moving. This is one of those stories. As you read it, be reminded that every day faithful volunteers from the Milwaukee AIDS Project, St. Camillus, the Brady Street Clinic, the AIDS Network (formerly MASN), and other agencies around the state live out compassion and faith to reach out to those in need. These selfless volunteers are indeed among the Children of God—or as someone once called them, "The Children of the Sun".

Westerville, OH—Compassion forges unlikely friendships.

In a world long on boundaries, barriers sometimes are crossed and cultures collide.

People such as Natalie Roberto and Roger Whittington become friends, sharing laughs, fears, hopes and life's harshest reality: death.

Whittington died October 19, more than a year after the two met. Roberto was his faithful friend.

They were friends by choice, united by a cruel fate: He had AIDS; she volunteers with Project Compassion, the AIDS ministry of Westerville's Vineyard Christian Fellowship.

Like the St. Camillus AIDS ministry in Milwaukee, the Vineyard ministry reaches out to people with AIDS, many of whom have been abandoned by family and friends. The patients live in nursing homes, homeless shelters and prisons. They need a friend, not a judge or a conversion.

"I don't agree with it (being Gay) from a biblical standpoint," said Roberto, 36, a wife and mother of two. "It's not God's plan for us to live that way, but it doesn't interfere with my relationships. You can still love someone but not agree."

It would be easy for Roberto to ensconce herself in her Hilliard home, tending to family business.

"I struggle every day living in the suburbs," she said. "I don't want to die and have God say, 'You have a beautiful house.' I don't want that to be my whole life's work, making everything right for me. I'm not a happy person when I focus on me for too long."

She like what she is doing because the work is God's.

"I don't go thinking I'll get anything," she said.

When they met, Roberto and Whittington talked about their differences.

"He asked me. I told him," Roberto said.

She learned about him and concluded, "I may not agree with all of what he's done, but he doesn't agree with everything I've done either."

That said, a friendship blossomed.

"Ninety-nine percent of the people who we reach out to are Gay," said Sharon Fryer, founder of Project Compassion. "But that's not an issue for us."

The nonprofit program has more than 275

HIV + Character on NBC's "ER" To Remain Healthy

Los Angeles—Gloria Reuben, who plays an HIV-positive doctor's assistant on NBC's "ER," reassures viewers that her character is going to stay healthy this season.

As Jeanie Boulet, Reuben has received a huge response from viewers after her character contracted the AIDS virus from her estranged husband, who had unprotected sex with another woman.

"Dealing with the public for the most part is OK, but you know, I think emotionally and almost psychologically it gets a little disturbing when a lot of people's comments have to do with death," Reuben said.

"They say, 'Are you going to die?' I always say, 'No. Jeanie is going to be fine,' in order to get a line there between reality and fiction," she said.

Her role is enriched by HIV-positive friends, she says.

"I do know a few people who are positive, and from this happening to them, they have really learned to honor themselves and to live for today," Reuben said. "I really admire how nothing is taken for granted."

She acknowledged that "it's a lot" to carry such a dramatic line.

"I'm aching to do comedy," she said.

"But the good thing is that it's not going to be heavy for the whole season. It's not going to be the focus of Jeanie through the whole rest of the time she's in the ER. It's just another facet of her personality and character."

volunteers, who do everything from raising money to educating the public about HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Part of the educational effort is directed at churches.

"I think the world is much more accepting of AIDS, and unfortunately the church isn't," Fryer said. "While we get a little discouraged and frustrated at the church's response, we don't give up hope."

Roberto initially wanted to be a part of the ministry from a distance. She offered to cook. She never envisioned working with the sick, let alone the dying. She didn't think she could do it.

No one does, said Fryer, who pushed Roberto into a friendship role.

Roberto met Whittington at Bristol House, an East Side nursing home, while she was visiting a young mother who had AIDS. The woman died in August 1995.

"I knew when I first met Roger, I would go back and see him," Roberto said.

The two quickly became friends, going on unscripted weekly outings. One day, the 36-year-old Whittington skipped down the aisle of an office-supply store. He wondered whether he was embarrassing Roberto.

"As long as you can skip, Roger, go right ahead," she told him.

Another time, they had three lunches in one day.

"Whatever he wanted to do," said Roberto, who was eager to see him add pounds to his lean 6-foot, 4-inch frame.

And they hunted for an apartment for him.

Whittington filled out application after application, only to be denied for reasons Roberto never knew.

But he persisted.

"I can't wait until I can sit at home on my couch with my TV and my coffee and not worry about this," he said one August afternoon.

"I wasn't going to be another person who was going to take those hopes and dreams away," said Roberto, as she listened to a man struggling to keep his dignity and independence in a place he neither wanted to be nor felt he deserved.

"It's horrible," he said. "I watch little old people die every day."

Many people with AIDS are abandoned out of fear of the virus, Fryer said. When Fryer can, she encourages families to get involved. Those from Project Compassion become the family's strength, showing that it's OK to reach out, to hold a hand, to say, "I love you."

Fryer has attended too many funerals and cried too many tears. She is angered by the rejection those who have died received, but she understands it. She neither knows nor wants to know the family dynamics.

"They did the best they knew how," she said.

When family members aren't there, the volunteers, who call themselves "faithful friends," are.

Roberto and Whittington talked about death, his computer business and AIDS.

"I knew I couldn't fix things for Roger," Roberto said. "It was more complicated than that. I found out what I could do for him: be a friend to him and love him."

Whittington's condition worsened and, by September, he was using a wheelchair. A few weeks later, he canceled an outing with Roberto the first time he'd done so.

Whittington became more candid, talking about his death and his funeral. He wanted to be cremated. By the end of September, Whittington spent the days, like the nights, in bed.

Roberto's last visit with Whittington came four days before he died.

He wandered in and out of reality. She fed him, gave him water, talked to him.

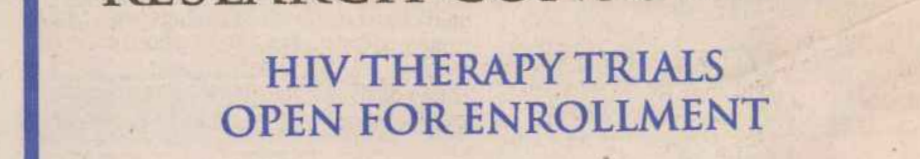
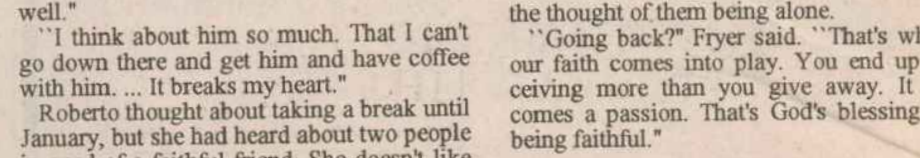
He did not respond. She told him she loved him.

His last words, in a whisper: "I love you, too."

From her home a few weeks later, Roberto reflected on Whittington's death and the pain inside her.

"I feel like he's with God, and the only peace you can get out of all this is that he's not in pain anymore," she said. "If I didn't know that, I wouldn't be handling this as

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



well." "I think about him so much. That I can't go down there and get him and have coffee with him. ... It breaks my heart."

Roberto thought about taking a break until January, but she had heard about two people in need of a faithful friend. She doesn't like

the thought of them being alone. "Going back?" Fryer said. "That's where our faith comes into play. You end up receiving more than you give away. It becomes a passion. That's God's blessing for being faithful."

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