

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



The Wisconsin Light

WARC to Initiate Salk AIDS Vaccine Trials in Wisconsin

Milwaukee—The Wisconsin AIDS Research Consortium (WARC) is the only test site in Wisconsin for the Remune™ vaccine trial.

Remune™, developed by the late Dr. Jonas Salk, pioneer of the polio vaccine, is a cutting-edge therapy designed to slow the progression of HIV. The goal of this new therapy is to delay or prevent the progression of HIV infection to AIDS by stimulating CD4 activity to attack HIV and thus keep the virus under control.

Out of the 150 selected testing sites in the nation, WARC is the only one with multiple satellites. Satellite sites are located in Eau Claire, Green Bay, Kenosha/Racine, Madison and several in Milwaukee.

These satellites have helped WARC obtain its original goal of 50 people participating in the Remune™ trial. However, since the goal was obtained faster than expected, WARC expanded its contract to include 50 more individuals. The new goal is to have all 100 positions filled by March 31, 1997.

The Remune trial is a three year intended study through the Immune Response Corporation, a biopharmaceutical company engaged in the development of an advanced HIV therapy.

Two other drug trials occurring
WARC is also screening HIV+ individuals for participation in two expanded access open label compassionate use studies using the Remune vaccine.

To participate in these, individuals must have CD4 counts below 300 or above 550.

WARC has gained recognition with the Wisconsin Division of Health, Wisconsin AIDS service organizations, several hospital and academic institutions, the State Medical Society and the People Living with AIDS coalition in Wisconsin.

For more information on any of WARC's drug trials, call (414) 225-1578.

The Wisconsin AIDS Research Consortium (WARC) 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.

Community Action Urged As Clinton and Thompson Budgets Come up Short on AIDS

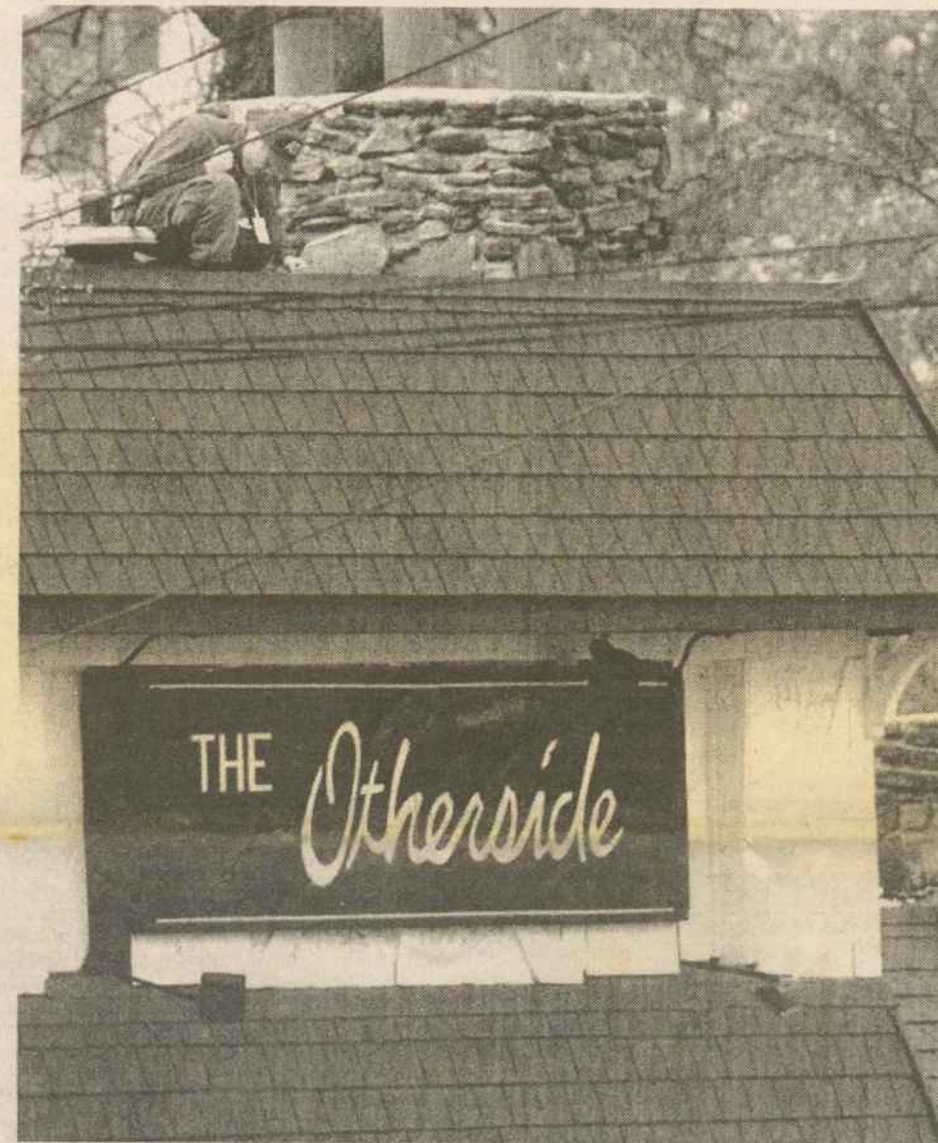
Milwaukee—Wisconsin's AIDS community needs to rally together and fight hard to surpass the disappointing AIDS funding levels proposed by both President Clinton and Governor Thompson in recent weeks.

In the details behind the great fanfare accompanying the release of the proposed federal and state budgets, AIDS advocates were dismayed by the lack of leadership on AIDS provided in either spending plan.

"We need to remember that AIDS remains a fatal, communicable disease and is the top killer of younger Americans. It's truly a shame that with the latest AIDS treatments and effective prevention strategies, that both of these budgets remained mostly on the sidelines of AIDS instead of committing aggressively to the front-lines in the fight against AIDS," said Doug Nelson, executive director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW).

President Clinton's Budget
The proposed 1998 Federal Budget includes only some modest increases in funding for HIV and AIDS services that do not meet the challenges of the worsening AIDS epidemic in Wisconsin or throughout the country. The spending plan fails to increase funding for AIDS medications and recommends the smallest increases in CARE Act funding during the Clinton administration. The budget did include increased funding for HIV prevention, AIDS research and housing for people with HIV and AIDS.

"Typically, the President's budget has been the high-water mark in terms of



Bombing Scene An Federal Investigator from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms looks for clues in the aftermath of a Friday February 21 terrorist bombing at the Otherside, an Atlanta Les/Bi/Gay. The FBI and other federal agencies are also investigating the blast which injured five people.

Feds Investigate Atlanta Les/Bi/Gay Bar Bombing

By Bill Meunier

Atlanta — Two nail filled pipe bombs brought terror to a crowded Atlanta Lesbian bar on Friday February 21. The bombs, one of which exploded in the rear patio area of The Otherside Lounge, a predominantly Lesbian bar located in a wealthy section of Atlanta, were planted without warning.

A crowd of approximately 150 people were in the bar when the first bomb exploded in a rear patio area at about 10:30 p.m. Five people were injured.

Four of the injured were taken to a local hospital and released. One woman required surgery to remove a large nail from her arm. As of press time she was still in the hospital.

A second bomb, which investigators believe was left to hamper rescue efforts was found outside of the bar. That bomb was contained in a green knapsack. Law enforcement officials detonated the second bomb in the bar's parking lot.

Two Groups Claim Responsibility

Two The Army of God and the Sons of the Confederate Ku Klux Klan have claimed responsibility for the blast. The Klan group has been described as a neo-Nazi organization affiliated with the KKK. The group was reported headquartered in Atlanta until recently. A woman claiming to represent the group called the Atlanta police to claim responsibility.

The Klan group said it carried out the blast as part of its war on the Federal government.

The Army of God sent a letter to Justice Department officials. The group also claimed responsibility for the bombing of an abortion clinic. The "Army" promised more actions against Abortionists and Gays and Lesbians. Nothing is known about this group.

Please See Bombing Page 19

Lambda Defends Use of Student Fees at UW-Madison for LesBiGay Campus Group

Chicago—Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund is urging a federal appeals court to reverse an inflammatory ruling that drastically limits the use of a university's mandatory student fees for student groups deemed too "political or ideological," such as Lesbian and Gay campus organizations.

In an amicus curiae brief to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, Lambda called for rejection of "this latest attempt to silence minority expression on college campuses."

The case concerns a federal trial court

ruling that the University of Wisconsin-Madison must refrain from using mandatory student fees to fund groups with "political or ideological" views disagreeable to some students.

On behalf of a Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual student group, Lambda argued that neither courts nor students should be allowed to infringe on funding that supports a constitutionally protected "limited public forum" for free speech. The forum in this case is the system for subsidizing student-sponsored organizations that engage in First Amendment activity at the university.

UW's system of fostering diverse groups and expression at the school is replicated at the vast majority of public universities across the country, making the case, *Southworth v. Grebe*, significant for students' First Amendment rights nationwide.

Patricia M. Logue and Ruth E. Harlow are Lambda attorneys for this amicus, the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Campus Center, and filed their brief on Tuesday, February 18th. The defendant, UW Regents, is now appealing the decision won by three UW law students. The law students are represented by the Alliance Defense Fund, a Christian legal advocacy group.

On November 29, 1996, U.S. District Judge John Shabaz ruled that UW students may insist that their mandatory activities fees not fund student groups whose views they do not share. As an ex-

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AIDS funding from Washington. This year, the AIDS community needs to exceed the President's mark to even begin to address the needs of people with HIV and AIDS," said Mike Gifford, director of Public Policy at ARCW.

The President's proposed budget also includes a \$22 billion cut in Medicaid funding over five years achieved through a per capita cap on expenditures. Nearly 53 percent of adults and 90 percent of children with HIV and AIDS rely heavily upon Medicaid for access to health care

Please See AIDS Budget Page 20

Written Plan for Milwaukee LGBT Community Center in Draft Form

Milwaukee—"The pieces of the puzzle are coming together," proclaimed Bill Dempsey, co-chair of the Strategic Planning Committee for the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Community Center at the recent Steering Committee. "We are narrowing our universe of choices at all levels to match our values, principles, mission and vision statement."

Community Center Steering Committee Forges Ahead

In what is being called a precedent-setting meeting, the L/G/B/T/ Community Center volunteer steering committee "moved mountains" at the Thursday, February 6 meeting.

"This meeting was extremely positive

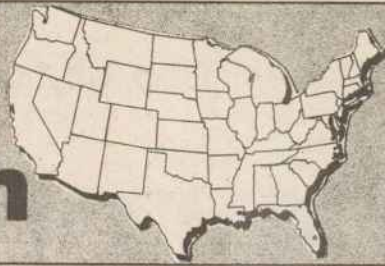
and so much was accomplished. Our progress is encouraging and we know we are within months of identifying the Center's location and services," said Leonel Marchan, one of the four steering committee co-chairs.

Among the highlights was approval to apply for articles of incorporation. The center will be incorporated within the next two weeks in order to begin applying for some very important grants.

A very inclusive membership plan was also ratified. The center hopes to have 385 regular, charter, business and organization members by the end of 1998 with a goal of providing \$28,025 of income to

Please See Center Page 9

News From The Nation



Catholics Ask Church to Change

New York, NY-AP-As Cardinal John O'Connor delivered his sermon inside St. Patrick's Cathedral Sunday, February 16th dissident Catholics gathered outside and called on the church to relax its stance on the ordination of women, celibacy for clergy and homosexuality.

Liberal Roman Catholics in New York and nationwide called on the church's leadership to catch up with its members and change the way the church is run.

"Jesus was open to dialogue with anyone, including people with whom he vehemently disagreed," said Sister Maureen Fiedler, national coordinator of the Fairfax, Virginia-based We Are Church.

At Philadelphia's Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter and Paul, one older man hurried past the activists, telling them to "shut up with all your crap here."

Members of We Are Church want the Vatican to approve the ordination of women, drop its requirement that priests remain celibate and recognize the human rights of Gays and Lesbians.

"I don't see one thing about it that's radical," said Margaret Dubbins, of Los Angeles, who signed the petition on her way into Mass at St. Patrick's. "The majority of American Catholics are moving ahead regardless of what the Pope says. ... There's a silent majority within the church that is doing this anyway."

Presbyterians Debate Homosexuality

Raleigh, NC-AP-Presbyterian church leaders across eastern North Carolina rejected a policy Saturday, February 15th, that would have barred ministers and church officers from having sex outside of marriage.

Church leaders voted 172-140 against an amendment to the denomination's constitution that would require ministers, elders and deacons to be faithful in marriage or chaste in singleness.

Although the amendment does not mention the word "homosexual," many attending the meeting saw the proposal as an attempt to deny ordination to Gays and Lesbians who are sexually active but cannot legally marry.

The vote, taken by leaders of 136 Presbyterian congregations stretching from Orange County to the coast, will be tallied with those of other regions this June when the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has its annual meeting.

Jewish Views on Homosexuality

Seattle, WA-AP- The four main Jewish movements differ significantly in their perspective on homosexuality.

The nation's 400,000 Orthodox Jews consider homosexual behavior an abomination forbidden by the Torah.

The Conservative movement, followed by about 2 million U.S. Jews, holds that people are entitled to their own sexuality. There are no openly Gay or Lesbian conservative rabbis or cantors.

Reform Judaism, representing about 1.4 million U.S. Jews, has accepted Gay and Lesbian rabbis since 1990. Last year, its Central Conference of American Rabbis voted to support same-sex civil marriages and to oppose state government efforts to ban such unions. Many reform rabbis perform commitment ceremonies.

The most liberal group, known as Reconstructionists, is also one of the smallest at 40,000. Reconstructionists don't consider homosexuality an issue, saying equality, in every aspect, is part of its main philosophy.

Court Upholds "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Policy

San Francisco, CA-AP-A federal appeals court has upheld the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on Gays in the military, rejecting a discharged sailor's claim that the policy is unconstitutional.

In upholding the discharge of Navy Petty Officer Mark Philips, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals became the first appellate court to rule on the portion of the policy that requires dismissal for homosexual conduct.

The 2-1 ruling came Friday, February 15th. Judge Pamela Rymer ruled that those reasons are not irrational or based merely on prejudice. She also cited the courts' traditional deference to military judgment.

In a dissent, Judge Betty Fletcher said the policy of discharging homosexuals, but not heterosexuals, for private off-duty sexual conduct is discrimination based entirely on prejudice against homosexuals.

"Gay men and Lesbians are no less able and no more prone to misconduct than their heterosexual counterparts," Fletcher said. "Even in the military context, an entire class may not be singled out for disfavored treatment because of animosities towards that class."

Pro-Life Gays Call for Parade Consistency

New York, NY—Phillip Arcidi, President of the Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians (PLAGAL), on February 20th, urged the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) to be consistent in their exclusionary policy and bar pro-choice leaders from their parade. Since Gays and Lesbians are excluded from the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade because their lives do not conform to Roman Catholic Church teachings, PLAGAL called for the exclusion of pro-choice politicians because they do not conform to those same standards.

In a letter addressed to Edward J. Wallace, President of AOH, Arcidi said, "It is disappointing to see the Ancient Order of Hibernians abandon its self-proclaimed consistency with Roman Catholic teachings only when those who cannot speak for themselves—the unborn—suffer the consequences."

Church Agency Names Specialist for Gay Concerns

Cleveland, OH—The Rev. Dr. William R. Johnson is the United Church of Christ's (UCC), first national staff minister for Lesbian and Gay concerns. The church has added "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and gender minority concerns" to Johnson's portfolio. Based in Cleveland, he has been the Homeland Board's HIV/AIDS ministries specialist since 1990 and will continue in that capacity. The Homeland Board is the U.S. mission arm of the 1.5 million member church. The UCC's General Synod and the church's national agencies have long supported equal rights for Gays and Lesbians, both in society and in the church.

Johnson, ordained in 1972 by the UCC's Golden Gate Association in the San Francisco Bay area, is believed to be the first openly Gay man ever ordained to the Christian ministry.

Bishop to Celebrate Mass for Gays

Rochester, NY-AP- The spiritual leader of Rochester's Roman Catholics says he can uphold the church's teachings on homosexuality while offering Gays and Lesbians a chance to participate in a special service.

Bishop Matthew Clark, head of the 400,000-member Diocese of Rochester, plans to offer a Mass for Gay and Lesbian Catholics on March 1 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle reported February 19th.

Clark told the newspaper that he hopes to make Gays and Lesbians feel welcome in the church, and said Catholics should not equate offering Mass for homosexuals with endorsing homosexuality.

The Mass for Gays and Lesbians will be a relatively rare one. Only a handful of the 150 dioceses in the United States have held such liturgies, and only about 30 have any form of outreach ministry for Gays and Lesbians, church officials said.

While the church recognizes homosexuality as an orientation, it describes homosexual activity as a sin.

Gay Marine Gets Honorable Discharge

Washington, DC-AP-A Marine who remained in active service for four years after declaring on national television that he is Gay said he was relieved to finally be retiring but he hoped the military learned from his experience.

Elzie filed a lawsuit against the military after the Marines withdrew approval for his early retirement and moved to discharge him in September 1993 after he announced he is Gay on ABC's "World News Tonight."

Elzie's Jan. 29, 1993, announcement came the same day President Clinton agreed to the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which bars inquiry into sexual orientation but allows the discharge of those who declare their homosexuality or engage in homosexual acts.

Elzie, 34, was temporarily put on standby reserve, but a federal judge ordered that he be put back on active duty in November 1993.

The lawsuit, filed in September 1993 in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., requested a declaration that Elzie's discharge and deprivations of retirement were unconstitutional and that the Marines restore him to the retirement program, his attorney, Christopher Sipes, said.

The honorable discharge ends the litigation, Sipes said.

Gingrich Discusses Life as an Accidental Activist

Morgantown, WVA-AP-Growing up as the only liberal in the Gingrich clan, Candace Gingrich used to bite her tongue when the talk turned to politics at holiday dinners, she said.

Those days ended for the Lesbian half-sister of House Speaker Newt Gingrich after a reporter posed the question: Are you Gay?

Gingrich, author of *The Accidental Activist*, said she likely would have been involved in issues important to homosexuals even if she was not the House speaker's sister.

Gingrich said she does not want anything for homosexuals that other Americans do not already enjoy.

As for her brother, Gingrich, 30, said they have never been close because he is 23 years older.

Although she disagrees with her conservative brother on many issues, she said that conservatives can be understanding.

University Studies Domestic Partner Plan

Colorado Springs, CO-AP-University of Colorado regents said they need more information before drafting a proposal on extending health insurance to the partners of Gay employees.

Several regents, though, voiced support for the idea Wednesday, February 19th, during a meeting of their Academic Planning Committee.

CU's faculty council has urged the regents to consider offering health insurance to the live-in partners of Gay and Lesbian employees. The council, which represents nearly 3,500 professors among CU's four campuses, says the university is losing valuable employees to schools and organizations that provide the benefits.

The university is the first state agency to study giving health benefits to same-sex partners of employees.

Administrators estimate that less than 1 percent of the 20,000 faculty and staff members, or fewer than 200 people, would take advantage of the offer.

Anti-Gay Group Denied Recognition

State College, PA-AP-A Penn State University student group says it denied an anti-Gay rights group official recognition because doing so would have nurtured a climate of hate against Gays and Lesbians.

The student Supreme Court also denied it had violated the First Amendment rights of the group, known as STRAIGHT, saying the organization still could promote its views on campus, as it did Tuesday during an afternoon rally against the decision.

In the written decision, the court said: "Homosexuality is a lifestyle that is accepted by a great number of people in the Penn State community, and the fact that STRAIGHT says its purpose is to 'provide students with an official and formal organization in which they can express their view regarding the refusal to accept or support homosexuality...' is very troubling."

Darin Loccarini, president of STRAIGHT, said he would appeal the decision, calling it a double standard. STRAIGHT--Students Reinforcing Adherence in General Heterosexual Tradition--is a political organization that wants to prevent Gays and Lesbians from winning university-sanctioned privileges, Loccarini said.

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Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee Sponsors First Career Workshop

Milwaukee—The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM) advises strongly that plans be made now for LAMM's Career Workshop to be held on March 15, 1997, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the UW-Milwaukee Student Union on the 2nd floor.

This workshop promises to be filled with helpful information for anyone, at any level, who wants to make changes in their career, improve their marketability, or who just wants to know where to fit in today's fast changing job market.

- **8:30-9:00 a.m.—Registration.** There will be exhibition display tables from Lesbian and Gay or Gay-friendly businesses.
- **9:00-9:15 a.m.—Welcome and overview** by LAMM's own board of director member, Mary Messerlie who is a Human Resource Specialist at Rockwell International.
- **9:00-11:15 a.m.—There will be a group self-assessment to help you identify your job market strengths, a positive and useful tool to help you on your career path.** This group is being led by LAMM member Paula Larson, who is an expert in this area and is employed by GE Medical Systems as a Manager of Human Resource Programs.
- **11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.—Lunch break with free sandwich buffet and round table discussions beginning at 11:30 a.m.** Discussions include: being "out" at work...let's discuss it; up and coming career trends in Wisconsin...is there a hidden job market; how to dress for an interview; discussing trade and technical careers.
- **12:15-12:50 p.m.—Keynote Speaker** is LAMM's own board of director member Dr. Linda Plagman. Dr. Plagman is the assistant dean at

Cardinal Stritch College. She will guide us to "charting a new course."

- **1:00-1:50 p.m.—#1 and 2:00-2:50 p.m. #2 each session there will be 3 topics held on simultaneously. Seccession will be facilitated by educators and business professionals from our community.**

The best way to maximize the secessions may be to attend the corresponding (a to a) topic from seccession #1 to seccession #2.

Seccession #1

1. Theory of career planning and personality.
2. Marketing yourself; creating a knock-out resume.
3. Ups & downs of starting your own business.

(This is a panel discussion that will feature entrepreneurs: Deb Topham, Ph.D., RN and co-owner of health options; Juana G. Vega, owner of Biker Express; Cathy Priem, Realtor of RE/MAX Reality and former co-owner of Custom Dentures; and the many talented community leader and former business owner and political candidate, Karen Gotzler.

Seccession #2

1. Exploring career resources: Wisconsin career information system.
2. Marketing yourself; interview skills to get the job.
3. Resources for women entrepreneurs. Karen Gotzler will be facilitating this topic.

- **3:00-??—Wrap-up and mini reception.** This will give you time to talk to the facilitators and other attendees.

The workshop will also offer resume critiques, ideas and tips, so remember to bring yours along.

Completed registration forms must be returned by March 8, 1997. For more information, call the LAMM office at (414) 264-2600.

Career Workshop volunteers are needed to set up tables, check in pre-registered attendees, prepare the lunch buffet, clean up and assist the facilitators. Call Cathy at (414) 546-8322, ext. 250 to volunteer.

GLADE Sponsors Third Annual Madison School Board Forum

Madison—The Third Annual Madison School Board Candidates' Forum on Gay and Lesbian Issues will be held on Saturday, March 15, 1997, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Church, 2146 E. Johnson Street, in Madison.

Organized by Gays, Lesbians and Allies for Diversity in Education (GLADE), the forum will give School Board Candidates who won the primary the opportunity to speak about their positions on issues of concern to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender students, staff and families in Madison's schools.

From 1:00-2:00 p.m., questions will be directed to the candidates. From 2:00-3:00 p.m., questions will be extended to current members of the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) Board of Education who are not up for re-election this year.

During 1996, the Gay community has faced many challenges in the MMSD, including the controversy surrounding the photo exhibit at Hawthorne Elementary School and the difficulty getting a GLADE appointment to the Superintendent's Human Relations Advisory Council.

In October, 1996, GLADE and the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN) presented the premiere of the film, *It's Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in the School*. This internationally acclaimed documentary featured teachers and students from Madison's Hawthorne Elementary School, which made the Madison premiere so much more exciting.

In November, a Gay former student from Ashland, Wisconsin won his discrimination suit in the first federal trial against a school district for failing to stop anti-Gay abuse. The jury in this landmark case found that three school administrators discriminated against the student. The verdict clearly justifies GLADE's repeated requests to the School Board and Administration to give increased attention to the district's anti-harassment policy.

Questions regarding these events and several unaddressed requests made of the School Board and the Administration will likely be directed to the candidates and current board members during the March 15th forum.

The forum is open to the public.

Community Center to Host Potential Tenant Reception

Milwaukee—On Tuesday, March 4 at 6:00 p.m., the L/G/B/T Community Center will co-host a potential renter and tenant reception with the Walker's Point Cafe at the Walker's Point Cafe, 1106 S. First. The interested renters were identified from the sixty business and organizational surveys returned in November and December.

All Milwaukee LGBT-owned, LGBT-friendly businesses, organizations and individuals interested in renting office/retail space, whether or not they have returned a survey, are welcome to attend.

"The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the priorities of our future tenants and renters and uncover needs we may not have addressed in the surveys. This is an opportunity for businesses and organizations to provide critical input in a volunteer capacity as the search for the building gets underway.

This reception will also help move tentative interest by renters to a more serious level of rental commitment", said Jim Schleif, one of the Center's co-chairs with Karen Gotzler, R. Rogers and Leonel Marchan.

The returned surveys have identified 16 potential tenants with an additional 17 groups identified as occasional renters who would use the space on a weekly, monthly or quarterly basis.

Projections indicate the center initially will need between 2,500 and 5,000 square feet. The strategic planning committee is in the process of finalizing an integrated business plan that incorporates sources of funding such as rental income, grant, fund raising and membership revenue to keep the space viable.

Those interested in more information about space are encouraged to attend this meeting. For more information, please call Karen Gotzler at (414) 264-4354 or Jim Schleif at (414) 272-5132 ext. 40.

UW Madison Continued from Page 1

ample of a group meriting de-funding, Shabaz singled out the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Campus Center, describing its function in politically charged terms by saying it is "primarily concerned with advancing the homosexual agenda and promoting pro-homosexual political activism.

Noting the judge's choice of words, Logue said, "The term 'homosexual agenda' is a rhetorical device that is often used by Gay civil rights opponents to denigrate claims to equal treatment and respect. It is unfortunate that the judge would characterize the Center's fine work in these terms."

Just prior to issuing this ruling, Judge Shabaz presided over Lambda's trial for Jamie Nabozny, the Wisconsin Gay man who received nearly \$1 million settlement after a jury found school officials liable for the anti-Gay abuse he suffered while a student. Logue, who is managing attorney for Lambda's Midwest Regional Office in Chicago, argued Nabozny's case before the Seventh Circuit Court and represented Nabozny at trial before Judge Shabaz.

Lambda itself joined the Center as an amicus because Lambda lawyers often are invited to campuses, including UW's, to speak about civil rights for Lesbians, Gay men, and people with HIV/AIDS.

"Education is about exposure to different points of view. No one is served by silencing provocative speech and minority viewpoints," said Harlow, Lambda's managing attorney at its New York headquarters. She added, "Three students who do not value this aspect of their education should not be allowed to silence other voices and harm the entire university community."

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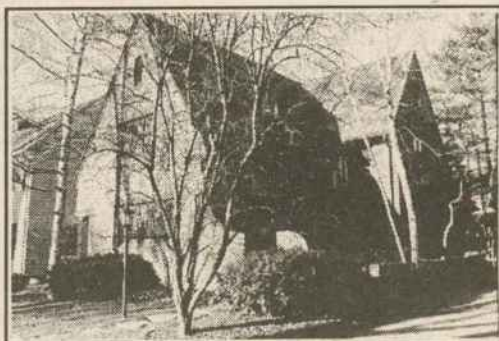
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Letters

Jehovah's Witnesses

TO THE EDITOR,

A Common Bond is a support group for Gay and Lesbian (ex) Jehovah's Witnesses. We have members throughout the United States and Canada.

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that they are the "only true religion." They teach that soon God will destroy the world and only Jehovah's Witnesses will survive into a "New System of Things," a paradise on earth.

They believe that all "immoral" people will be destroyed by God, especially Gays and Lesbians. Gay and Lesbian Witnesses are excommunicated from the church. They are thus shunned by the church, friends, and even fellow Witness family members must have NO contact with them.

Needless to say this causes a great deal of emotional trauma for Gay and Lesbian Witnesses either denying their sexuality, or losing their faith if the congregation learns of their sexuality.

A Common Bond was founded in 1989 to provide support for hundreds of Gay and Lesbian (ex) Jehovah's Witnesses. Bimonthly, a newsletter is printed which contains articles of interest, members' life stories, polls, poems, and editorials. A Common Bond is funded by donations made by members.

This letter is sent to *Wisconsin Light* in the hope that the paper can inform its readers of A Common Bond. Our greatest obstacle is letting other Gay and Lesbian ex-Witnesses know of our existence.

It is A Common Bond's mission to let Gay and Lesbian Jehovah's Witnesses know that they are never alone.

Should you wish to contact us, write: A Common Bond, 127 Harrison Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202, or call (414) 732-0451.

Timothy B. Thompson
Pittsburgh, PA

Gay Saints

TO THE EDITOR,

In the Editor's Note of Volume Ten, No. 1 (January 15, 1997), Terry Boughner asked the question if there were any other Gay saints. I can name two others.

They were St. Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury (1092-1109), who wrote a constitution for his monastery that said that good monks should "know" each other physically.

The other is St. Aelred of Rievaulx who wrote in his *On Spiritual Friendship* that men should have physical relations with each other in monasteries to keep them away from women.

Also, there is a Sodality named in honor of SS. Sergius & Bacchus for Gay Catholics from the Eastern Churches.

Like Dignity, we look to include Gays and Lesbians into the family of the Church, and the Church into our families. We are different from Dignity in that we care for the spiritual needs of Catholics from the Maronite, Byzantine, Armenian, and Melkite traditions within the Catholic Church.

Further, we seek to educate our Gay brothers and Lesbian sisters about the unique traditions that these churches have in comparison to the Roman Church. Eastern Catholics and those interested in knowing more about the Eastern Christian Traditions, and Gay Spirituality within those traditions, can write to us at 2732 Grand Avenue, S. #201, Minneapolis, MN 55408-1415 c/o Shawn Dorisian.

St. George Melkite Church in Milwaukee has a fine example of Byzantine Catholic traditions with large Arab Christian influences.

Shawn A. Dorisian
Madison

Youse Are Odd

TO THE EDITOR,

Why is it that every time someone don't agree with the Gay community, that the Gay community say your homo. I think the Gay community is saying whats wrong with being normal.

Where is it written that the Gay community has less rights than I do. Im a heterosexual. A lot of the problems the Gay community receives from a lot of the world is brought upon your selfs.

Before no time after Pandors Box is open even more. People will want to marrie the dogs, cats, hourses, and rubber girlfriend. The Gay community already has rights just like I do. Merried you are.

Your going at this way. Your trying to push this in our face and your going to fail. You can't have kids the normal way so you recruit kids and others to fill the Blank space. As you ask someone to help you.

Two men can't have kids, not two women, so again you recruit to fill the Blank Space. You people are nuts

I thought being me was hard except also in most cases. Two Gay men are tries to be the women. You tell the heterosexual we don't understand, which your kind don't understand your selfs.

You want people to accept yous, when you can't accept yourselfs. Pushing all this I want to be married that normal people, sorry you do have the some rights. But next you want us to treat you special and different. Your never going to be like us no matter how hard you try to pretend you are. Your odd, and that's all.

David (last name indecipherable)
Milwaukee

Editor's Note: The above letter was typed exactly the way it was written. No corrections of any kind were made.

Jews and Gays

TO THE EDITOR,

It is said that those who don't learn history are doomed to repeat it. So it seems today, when Gays are persecuted as if nothing had been learned from the Nazi persecution of the Jews.

Comparing modern extremist groups with Hitler's Nazis is frowned on because it evokes images of gas chambers and ovens at death camps. But the early Nazis didn't fit that terrible picture. The average Nazi of pre-war Germany was an honest, law-abiding citizen struggling to support a wife and children. He saw his country threatened internally by moral decay and externally by Soviet Communism.

Jews provided convenient scapegoats for Germany's problems. Some were Communist leaders, and some were involved in financial scandals which propagandists exploited to blame Germany's economic woes on Jews as a group. The average German wasn't rabidly anti-Semitic, but incessant demonizing propaganda gradually turned public opinion against the Jews. Tell a lie often enough and people tend to believe it.

Nazi anti-Semitic propaganda is echoed in what today's Christian Fundamentalists circulate against Gays. A Nazi film, "The Eternal Jew," showed footage of actual Jews edited to present hateful images. A Fundamentalist church in California produces videos like "The Gay Agenda" that uses selective editing to give a false picture of the GLBT community.

The Nazis pictured Jews as a threat to health, claiming ghettos were needed to control typhus epidemics. Uprooted by war and living in crowded conditions, some Jews did have high rates of dis-

ease, giving the propaganda a veneer of credibility. Today, Gays are blamed for AIDS, and fringe Fundamentalists have called for quarantine and isolation in camps.

One genre of Nazi anti-Semitic propaganda was the Jewish sex maniac. Today, Gay men are painted as child molesters. Even the mainstream press uses the frightening term "pedophile" in cases where it doesn't apply.

The Nazis classified Gays with Jews as menaces to society, and the groups were often mentioned together in propaganda. German Gays suffered less than Jews because they were harder to find, and because homosexuality was thought to be a choice that could be changed, even if by medical experiments or torture. Being Jewish was considered genetic and "correctable" only by death.

Today, Fundamentalists advocating death for homosexuals are a small minority, but a larger group admits it wants to force Gays "back into the closet," effectively ghettoizing them.

One would hope Fundamentalists could learn from the Nazi campaign against the Jews, so that history doesn't repeat itself, but there seems to be no end in sight to the stream of scurrilous anti-Gay propaganda emanating from Right Wing religious sources.

Decent Fundamentalists will object to comparison with the Nazis, but they should reflect on the damage they do in circulating hate propaganda. Even respectable churches have been duped into distributing hate literature cloaked in scientific-sounding jargon and filled with dubious statistics.

William Bell Riley founded the modern Fundamentalist movement and educated many Midwest Protestant ministers. He also distributed anti-Semitic literature and wrote editorials against Jews in the publications of his Bible school. He was an ardent supporter of Hitler right up to the start of World War II.

Since the great founder of the Fundamentalist movement didn't realize the menace of the anti-Semitic propaganda he circulated, it's not surprising

that today's lesser lights in that movement eagerly circulate anti-Gay hate propaganda. They have an advantage over Riley, however, in having the history of his example to warn them. Will they learn from it?

Al Geiersbach
Milwaukee

Deadlines

March 13th Issue

Articles Friday, March 7th

Ads
Non-Camera Ready—March 7th
Camera Ready—March 10th
5:00 p.m.

March 27th Issue

Articles—March 21st

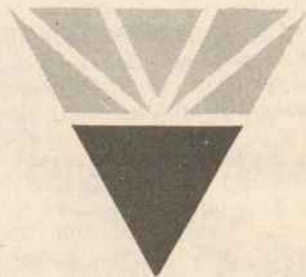
Ads
Non-Camera Ready—March 21st
Camera Ready—March 24th
5:00 p.m.

Caution

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

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

The Wisconsin Light



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Politically Speaking

Starr's Light Has Long Since Gone Out and It's Time for Him to Go

Commentary by Bill Meunier

Imagine that you own a business, a business that you have been successful at. You've achieved some measure of respect in your field and are at the top of your game.

Your competitors are not happy campers. They accused you of unethical business practices. An independent attorney investigates and says that you've done nothing wrong.

Now however, you're being investigated again but another "independent attorney," only this one is on the payroll of your competitors and was appointed by them.

Simply put Kenneth Starr is a disgrace, a bottom feeder at the public trough. Someone should pull the plug.

You'd hardly call that fair and impartial now would you?

Something similar to the above is what is going in Washington where so called independent Special Prosecutor, Kenneth Starr presides over the witch hunt directed at President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary.

Simply put Kenneth Starr is a disgrace, a bottom feeder at the public trough. Someone should pull the plug.

Controversy has surrounded Starr since his appointment by a three judge Federal Court panel. All three judges were Republicans appointed by Ronald Reagan.

The chief judge, David Sentelle, had lunch with Starr ally and mentor, Senator Jesse Helms in the week before Sentelle and his fellow panelists appointed Starr to his post.

Then there are Starr's other clients. He has maintained contact with, consulted with and performed legal services for a variety of private clients including some, such as tobacco companies, known to be hostile to Clinton.

All of this looks bad enough, but Starr's own actions make things look worse. He has spent over \$23,000,000 (that we know of) not counting what has been spent by the FBI, Justice Department and other federal agencies who have lent help to his "investigation." Yet after all that money and all this time, he has yet to issue an indictment or even an accusation.

Proof of his partisanship can be seen in his investigation into the Vince Foster suicide. Foster was the Clinton's legal counsel. His suicide early in Clinton's first term sparked a spate of right wing rumors that the Clinton's had him killed.

Never mind the fact that the coroner's investigation, the investigations of at least two Senate committees, and the investigation of Starr's predecessor as Independent Prosecutor, totally refuted these charges. Starr launched his own investigation.

Now after millions more have been

spent, it has been reported in the press that Starr has concluded Foster's death was indeed a suicide just as everyone said it was.

If a known Democrat investigating a Republican President would have acted in such a manner, there would be Congressional investigation piled on top of Congressional investigation.

Then there is Starr's abortive announcement that he was leaving his post to assume a position at Pepperdine University. There is a definite connection here.

That connection is Richard Mellon Scaife. Scaife is a long time member of the Pepperdine U Board of Regents. At least some of the radical right wing groups that accused the Clinton's of murder are being funded through a foundation headed by Scaife.

That becomes important information when you realize that Starr's position at Pepperdine included becoming Dean of its Law School and the head of its School of Public Policy.

The School of Public Policy was founded in large part with Scaife's help. His foundation contributed nearly half of the \$2.75 million needed to fund the new program.

Was there a quid pro quo here? Did Scaife offer Starr a plum position in return for his using tax payer dollars to reinvestigate bogus charges? No one but the two players can say for sure.

But one thing is certain, Starr must go.

The legislation allowing for Special Prosecutors was passed in the Watergate era. After President Nixon fired the Justice Department lawyers investigating his administration, Congress passed legislation that put attorney's investigating government abuse out of the reach of the President or Congress.

The idea was to have impartial, independent lawyers sift through the evidence and make an impartial, non partisan determination as to whether or not any improprieties took place. With Kenneth Starr, a life long Republican partisan, that noble goal has been shoved aside in favor of political advantage.

Need more evidence? Look at the statements of dismay coming from Republicans when Starr announced that he would be leaving his post. The heat was so bad, that he recanted and now says he wants to stay for as long as it takes.

As long as what takes? As it long as it takes for him to pin something on the Clinton's? As long as it takes for him to drain the national treasury? Or as long as it takes for him to lend cover to Republicans trying to delay Clinton's legislative agenda behind a morass of groundless charges.

The Republican's realize that Starr's de-

Please See Starr Page 5

ARCW Announces Sterling and Red Rose Award Recipients for Highest Service

Milwaukee—The 11th annual Make a Promise Dinner & Auction Sterling Rose Award and Red Rose Award recipients have been selected.

These community leadership awards are annual awards presented by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) to a person, organization or company for outstanding leadership and meritorious service to the community in response to the AIDS epidemic. There will be four awards presented at ARCW's Make a Promise fundraiser on March 22.

The Sterling Rose Award, ARCW's highest community leadership award will be presented to Rainbow Community Health Centers. Through their collaboration with ARCW, Wisconsin's first HIV dental clinic was able to open in January and provide services to over 75 people with AIDS in its first month of operation.

The rose is the symbol of the Make a Promise event and the Sterling Rose Award represents life as flourishing, thriving, enduring and pure.

Red Rose Award recipients this year are Janice R. Hand of Wisconsin HIV Primary Care Support Network, UPC Health Network/Stem Home Health and Bret F. Ballinger of Groupware Technologies, Inc., all of Milwaukee.

The Red Rose Awards were added in 1994 to acknowledge others who have responded significantly to AIDS issues.

"This year's award recipients have each made remarkable contributions to ARCW and the care we provide for people with HIV and AIDS," said Lisa Wolter, deputy director of community relations at ARCW.

"It is with great honor that ARCW is able to recognize these people and organizations for their significant part in the fight against AIDS and improved care for people living with HIV disease."

Award recipients are chosen based on four criteria:

- leadership -- activities to educate the public on HIV disease, promote the delivery of quality services for people with HIV and to advocate for AIDS issues;

- longevity -- length of time involved with ARCW, the AIDS epidemic and demonstrating a commitment to ARCW's mission;

- financial support -- value of financial contributions and in-kind donations to ARCW and other AIDS services in the community;

- community response -- role in mobilizing community support for ARCW, delivery of AIDS services and prevention through volunteerism, financial commitments and/or advocacy.

The Make A Promise Dinner & Auction will be held on Saturday, March 22, at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee.

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 artistry and inspirational story behind a New York doctor and her portrait series of AIDS patients.

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.

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.

Starr Continued from Page 4

parture would be taken by the Public as a sign that no prosecutions of the Clinton's will take place.

That may be the real reason for their anger. In the last election, the GOP learned that the voters aren't too happy with their Republican Congressional reps' votes on Medicare, Social Security, family leave, gun control legislation and a raft of other litmus issues for the radical right.

What's the answer? Distract, distort and confuse. A truly independent Special Prosecutor would have concluded long ago that there is no evidence of any criminal wrong doing or would have filed charges.

But then that would have removed the cover needed by Senate Republicans as

Man Who Coined the Word, Says Homophobia is the Worst Phobia of all

Milwaukee—George Weinberg, Ph.D., author of thirteen books, is the heterosexually-inclined psychotherapist who coined the word "homophobia." A pioneer, he openly critiqued his profession's anti-Gay stance when it was unthinkable to do so. In 1972 Dr. Weinberg's groundbreaking book, *Society and the Healthy Homosexual*, began: "I would never consider a patient healthy unless he had overcome his prejudice against homosexuality."

Dr. Weinberg lives in Manhattan. His latest book, co-authored, is titled *Will Power* (St. Martin's Press, 1996) and he has just finished another—not yet out—about practical principles in the Bible.

In a recent interview, Dr. Weinberg was asked how he came to coin the word "homophobia?" His instructive response is printed here.

After seeing in the 1950's and 1960's the enormous brutality against Gays and seeing that I myself couldn't introduce known, professed homosexuals even to my friends who were supposedly liberal or psychoanalysts --that they always had reasons for avoiding these people. They weren't at all distressed by the worst kinds of brutalities toward Gays.

I realized that something else was going on-- more than simple mis-education. This was some deep emotional misgiving these people had, some phobic dread. It seemed to me the problem was theirs, not the homosexual's.

I knew a landlord who had two Lesbians living on the 5th floor of his brownstone and he couldn't sleep at night at the thought they were up there making love, and obviously the problem was his, not theirs.

After trying to introduce Gay friends of mine to heterosexuals in those days I just almost couldn't make the bridge. They always found reasons not to invite them to their homes and I realized that this is a classical phobic revulsion. They exhibited the same trait as your claustrophobic, your agoraphobic except that they were traits toward Gays.

I realized when I went to Washington D.C., a woman I met there was terrified about being alone in a room with me. As soon as her male friends left the room she began to tremble and almost couldn't speak and I realized she thought I was a homosexual and she was extremely phobic about me.

I recalled a comment by Oscar Wilde's brother: "I don't know why they say Oscar's immoral. Any woman is safe with him." and it turned out-- I realized this was something that had a very deep root, a classical phobia, but of all the phobias, the most destructive being homophobia.

Claustrophobia or agoraphobia--if you can't go to the theater or outside--or you have almost any kind of dread but it doesn't ordinarily get converted into the violence.

These were recognized as phobias, but this--homophobia-- was not recognized as one.

I'd felt such sensitivity in Gay people, whether it was Tchaikovsky, or Michelangelo, or Shakespeare or my Gay friends who discussed literature, art and music with me... Since states could put two consenting adults in jail for 10 years for nothing more than a homosexual act, the culture was haywire. That's homophobia's destructiveness. That makes it the worst of all.

they launched numerous investigations of the Clinton administration.

"Concerned about the elderly? Geez I'd like to help but I am kind of tied up investigating the President right now."

"Worried about education? So am I. It will be my top priority as soon as my special committee investigating whether or not Hillary smoked forbidden Cuban Cigars at a White House tea last week."

A Special Prosecutor saying that the Clinton's have done nothing illegal would expose these partisan inspired investigations for what they are, wastes of money, wastes of time and a chance to provide jobs for freshly scrubbed young Republican hacks from around the country.

It's high time that this elaborate charade be ended. Let Starr go to Pepperdine and let his "independent" investigation die the death it so richly deserves.

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Pride Institute at Solutions

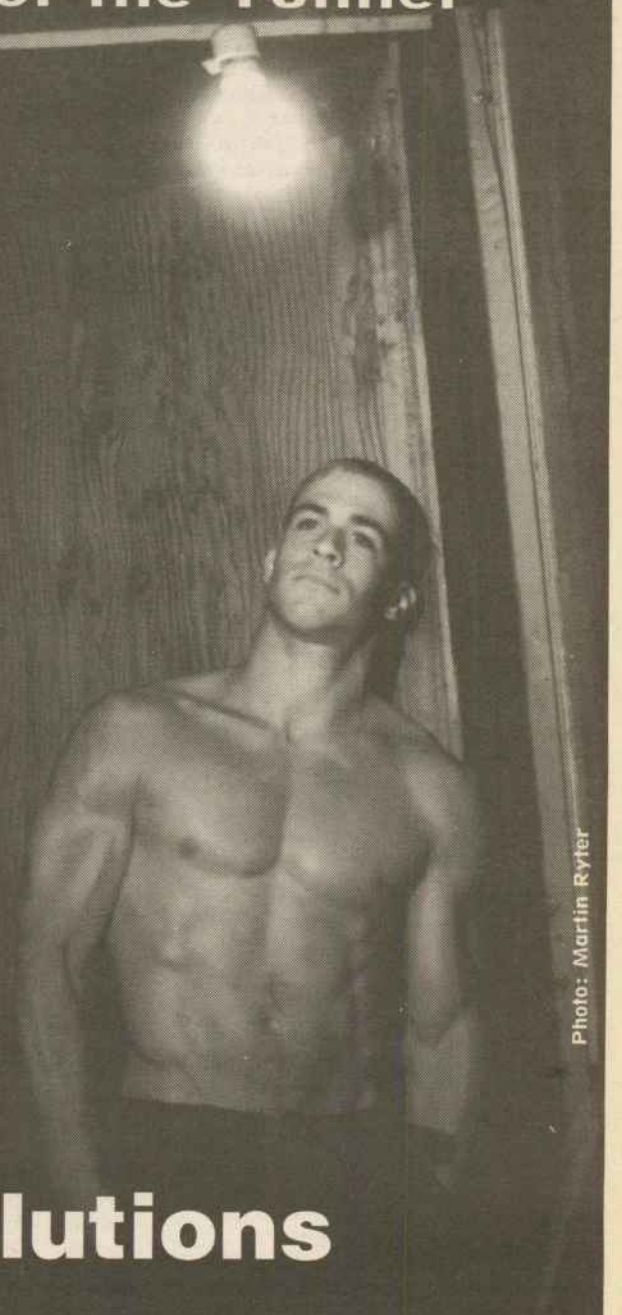


Photo: Martin Ryter



Money for Intervention — George Litts from the Sherman Park Rainbow Association and Dale Sigvaldsen from the 10% Club, 4223 W. Fon Du Lac, Milwaukee, present BESTD Clinic Board Members Irv Uecker and Ross Walker with a check for \$750 for the BESTD Early AIDS Intervention program. The money was raised by SPRA and through donations from the 10% Club's patrons.

Wagner Defeat for Dane County Executive May Raise Questions in Madison

Commentary by Bill Meunier
Madison— Dane County voters dealt Gay and Lesbian activists a stunning defeat in the race for Dane County Executive.

Meanwhile two openly Gay Alderpersons Mike Verveer and Judy Olson easily finished first in their primary races. Verveer and Olson both received well over 50% of the votes in their bids for re-election.

Wagner finished third in the race to replace retiring Dane County Executive Richard Phelps.

Despite being what many called the most experienced candidate in the race, Wagner finished third, losing to Kathleen Falk, an attorney with no County government experience and Michael Blaska, a former Dane County Board Chairman characterized by most observers as a conservative.

Falk received 24,675 votes, to Blaska's 17,347 and Wagner's 13,777.

Falk vs Wagner
 Some observers said the primary race was really between Falk and Wagner who were fighting for the liberal vote because it was expected that which ever candidate survived would win the general election.

Those political observers contacted by **The Wisconsin Light** speculated that Falk won because of a slick ad campaign, the fact that she is woman, her ability and willingness to raise funds outside of Dane County, and her support from organized labor.

Wagner spent \$90,000 on the campaign raising 93% of his funds from within Dane County. He consistently refused to solicit contributions from sources outside of the County.

As **The Wisconsin Light** reported earlier in an exclusive story, Falk solicited contributions and fund raising help from outside of Dane County.

Organized labor supported Falk in a big way. In November of last year, representatives of **The Wisconsin Light** were told that a member of one labor union board informed the Wagner campaign that despite Wagner's support of organized labor, the union would not endorse him because the it "couldn't ask its members to vote for someone who is Gay." That union did in fact endorse Falk.

Wagner's Record
 Wagner was a County Board veteran. He served on the Dane County Board for 14 years from 1980 to 1994 when he decided not to seek re-election. Wagner had what even those supporting his opponents characterized as a "distinguished record" of service to Dane County.

Wagner's tenure as County Board Chairman was marked by his achieving consensus on a variety of issues. Included in his accomplishments were instituting a county wide 911 system, developing plans to preserve the environment and developing plans for future growth.

He was the first openly Gay officeholder in Wisconsin history. During the cam-

paign, Openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin, called Wagner "a mentor" and a "role model."

In an interview with **The Wisconsin Light**, Wagner said he had no future plans to run for public office. "I am going to do some work around the house and work on my garden."

Wagner thanked **The Wisconsin Light** for its support along with those other Gays and Lesbians who gave time, votes and money to his campaign. While he said he was satisfied with the help he received from the Gay and Lesbian community, he also expressed disappointment that some elements of Madison's community did not stand with him.

"There are some segments of the general community, who have benefited from my work and help in the past. I am disappointed that in this campaign they chose to support one of my opponents," he said. When asked who those elements were, Wagner declined to comment further.

Wagner's Service to the Gay Community
 In addition to his accomplishments on the Dane County Board, Wagner had a solid record of work on behalf of Madison's Gays and Lesbians. His work in the Les/Bi/Gay community includes founding the New Harvest Foundation, helping to build the Rodney Scheel House and numerous other projects.

Despite Wagner's record, a handful of Gays and Lesbians chose to support Falk. Some observers say that Falk's Gay and Lesbian supporters lent "cover" to those who might otherwise have supported Wagner rather than alienate the Gay community. Others see their support of Falk as a sign of the diversity of the Gay community.

Can A Major Gay Candidate Win?

Wagner's defeat marks the second time an experienced Gay candidate has lost a major Madison area race to an inexperienced opponent. In 1990, then State Representative David Clarenbach lost the Democratic Congressional primary to Native American activist Ada Deer. Deer was then trounced by incumbent Congressman Scott Klug.

What role sexual orientation played in these races is uncertain. Madison does have its share of openly Gay and Lesbian elected officials, but none of them have won a City wide or County wide race.

It is easier to win an election in a smaller district where Gay money and volunteers can be concentrated and where the candidate can meet most of the electorate face to face.

Some may question whether or not an openly Gay or Lesbian candidate can win a major office in Madison. That question seems especially relevant when for the second time many in the liberal community and even some Gays and Lesbians found reasons to support someone else.

Some Madison activists may be asking themselves whether or not Madison liberals will support Gays and Lesbians for public office only when the race is a district wide election.

That may be especially true after this race where even many of those backing Wagner's opponents said they respected him and the work he had done for progressive causes over the years. Yet they chose to support someone else.

Whether or not Madison deserves its reputation as a place where sexual orientation doesn't matter remains an open question. For the moment no one is saying that isn't the case, but as one person put it, "When is it our turn?"

For now the voters and Madison's "liberal" community have answered that question. Apparently it isn't "our turn" yet.

ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

MADISON

Ten Percent Society Dance

The UW-Madison Ten Percent Society will be holding their Spring Dance on Friday, March 14th at 8:00 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union. There is a \$3 admission, a DJ and a cash bar.

Madison Wrestling Club

The Madison Wrestling Club will meet on March 9th at 1:00 p.m. for practice and instruction. Beginners welcome. Call (608) 244-8675 (evenings) for more info.

The Club will meet on March 23rd for practice and instruction at 1:00 p.m. Call above number for more info.

Madison Gay Video Club

The Madison Gay Video Club will meet at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 8th to view **The Art of Cruising Men** (British, 1995) and **Desert Train** (dir. Kirsch & Cam, 1996)

The Club will meet on Saturday, March 22nd to view **Total Eclipse** (dir. Agnieszka Holland, 1995). 5th Annual Gay Erotic Video Awards. 8:00 p.m. Call (608) 244-8675 (evenings) for more info.

Red Ribbon Affair

Don't forget the Red Ribbon Affair, Friday, February 28th. It is a dinner to benefit the AIDS Network and will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton Madison Hotel, 706 John Nolen Drive. Call (608) 252-6540 for more info.

WAUKESHA

Lesbian Network Program

The Waukesha Area Lesbian Network (WALN) is sponsoring a free program for the Lesbian community on Sunday March 2.

Rhoda Miller Ph.D will present a lecture on "Women and Anger," at the Maple Avenue church. The presentation will begin at 4 PM and end at 5 PM. Socializing will occur afterwards.

For more information and directions to the Church call WALN at 297-9412.

MILWAUKEE

Sherman Park Rainbow Association Bowling Party

The Sherman Park Rainbow Association's March Social event will be a bowling party held on March 8 at the Marble Arcade, 1101 S. Second Street.

The bowling begins at 4:00. The cost is

\$8.00 per person. Please RSVP to Dale Sigvaldsen at the 10% Club, 447-0910 no later than Wednesday March 9.

Riverwest Rainbow Association Open Party

The Riverwest Rainbow Association will have an open party on Saturday March 15. The party which will run from 8:00 PM to 10:30 PM will be held at the Riverwest Artists Association Art Center, 3178 N. Fratney.

Everyone is welcome to attend and to bring a friend. A dish to pass is appreciated but not necessary.

LAMM Career Workshop Saturday March 15

LAMM is holding a Career workshop on Saturday March 15 on the second floor of the UWM Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd.

The workshop will help attendees to assess their skills and provide valuable information on how to market yourself in the job market.

There is no cost for the day long event which includes a free lunch. For more information call LAMM at 264-2500.

1997 Possum Queen Meeting

There will be a "town hall" meeting to begin planning for the 1997 Possum Queen Campaign. The meeting will be held on March 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the M&M Club banquet room. Everyone is invited.

Jocelyn Taylor

Taboo Series #1, a new video by African-American Lesbian filmmaker Jocelyn Taylor, created especially for the UW-Milwaukee Art Museum, will be on view there March 1-31. Admission is free. For more information, call: (414) 229-5070.

SUPERIOR/DULUTH

Bob Jansen Benefit

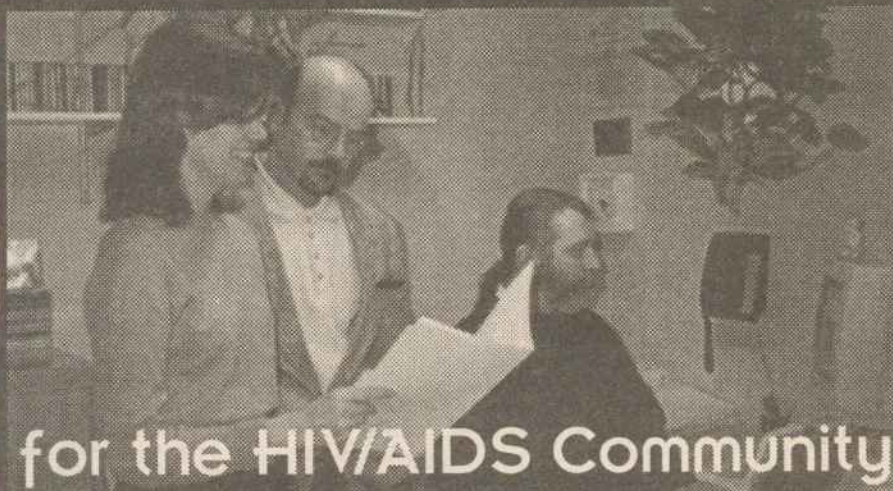
Bob Jansen's friends are throwing him a party to help Bob through some financial hard times caused by losing his business the Main Club (which burned down in December). The benefit will be held at the Moorish Room of the Greysolon Plaza, 231 East Superior Street, Duluth.

Those in attendance can expect an evening of laughter, support and total humiliation of Bob. Tickets are \$25.00 for one or \$45.00 for two.

The benefit includes a cocktail hour and a buffet dinner. A Silent Auction will also be held. Tickets can be purchased at in Duluth at Uniquities, At Sarah's Table. In Superior tickets can be found at the Trio Bar and at Express Yourself.

If you are not able to attend but wish to help you can send a contribution to :Bob Jansen Fund c/o North Shore Bank of Commerce, 131 West Superior Street, Duluth MN, 55802.

Free Legal Assistance



for the HIV/AIDS Community

ARCW

AIDS RESOURCE CENTER OF WISCONSIN, INC.

Know Your Rights!

Through ARCW's Legal Assistance Program, two attorneys and legal assistant are available and specialized in how the law impacts the lives of people living with HIV disease and AIDS. Confidential legal consultation is provided at no charge to help HIV positive individuals resolve discrimination, landlord/tenant and debtor/creditor issues; breach of confidentiality; disability benefits; government entitlements; insurance problems; and basic testamentary documents such as wills, living wills and powers of attorney. Free, bimonthly legal workshops are sponsored by ARCW to address commonly asked questions and concerns.

CALL 414-225-1554 FOR AN APPOINTMENT

Attorneys are available for home and hospital visits.

New Titles at Afterwords

Gay Fiction

A Parisian From Kansas by Philippe Tapon, Dutton HC \$23.95

Lesbian Fiction

As Francesca by Martha Baer, Broadway Books HC \$22.50

Lesbian Non-Fiction

Melissa Etheridge: The Only One by Chris Nickson, St. Martin's Press Pb \$11.95

Gay Non-Fiction

Body, Remember: A Memoir by Kenny Fries, Dutton HC \$21.95

In the Fight Against AIDS, Researchers See Reason for Hope, but There is No Cure Yet

Boston, MA—The 4th Annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections presented data and trial results showing that the new combination of therapies are working.

In New York City, the death rate for people with AIDS has fallen by half, from 20 deaths a day in November, 1995, to about 10 a day by November, 1996. Other data released during the conference showed that hospitalization rates are falling, and that the cost of caring for people with HIV is decreasing when people used strong antiviral therapies.

With two new antivirals (one a protease inhibitor) expected to receive approval in the next few months, and optimistic reports on several others, the best news is that a number of new combinations may help those whose previous combinations have failed.

The conference announced many successes, but not all the news was good. Dr. Peter Piot, of the Joint UN program on HIV/AIDS, sounded a sobering note when he reminded the conference that the

therapies that are doing so much in North America and Europe are unavailable and unaffordable in most of the world. For this reason and more, there is increased interest in finding a preventive vaccine for AIDS.

The Test of Time

Dr. David Ho of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, *Time Magazine's* Man of the Year for 1996, was the Keynote Speaker. Can HIV be cleared from an infected person's body?

"We don't know," Dr. Ho said, as he recapped his findings that the virus does not lie dormant in the body.

From the day of infection, the virus and the immune system are constantly battling. A billion or more viruses are created each day with a similar number being eliminated (cleared). With the new antiviral combinations available during the past year, we have learned a lot about what happens during a period when the immune system gets the upper hand over

Please See AIDS Cure Page 8

Pop a Few Pills and AIDS Will Be a Thing of the Past? Think Again, Think Hard

Commentary by Corrine Hicks

In spite of good news from a major AIDS Conference held in January in the nation's capital, experts say it would be foolish—because of myths and rumors circulating—to believe AIDS must no longer claim our constant attention.

And yet, with each hype-fest about the new protease inhibitors, many who assume a cure is around the corner have already begun to behave as though there's nothing more to worry about.

Safer sex still remains the primary responsibility we have to ourselves, say the experts. Where once utter hopelessness resulted in AIDS denials, now, conversely, the renewal of hope is causing another kind of denial, a denial just as deadly.

Young people in their twenties haven't yet faced AIDS as a reality. Along with a false sense of immortality usually common to that age group, the hopes that recent press stories have inflamed makes twenty-somethings all the more likely to fool themselves, saying "It's nearly curable now, so I can do what I want without worrying," or "I'm young, I can't get the virus."

Youthful Gay men and some Lesbians may follow many of these thought-paths. "There are cures now," they say without knowing, "and even if they aren't here yet, it won't be long. I don't have to wear a condom. That's something for the old folks, those from yesterday's generation. Besides, I have a friend who has been doing just great since he started taking the protease inhibitors."

HIV Home Testing Kits Criticized by Some, Accepted by Most

Omaha, NE—With a quiver in her voice, a nervous telephone counselor told Tom Spring that he had the deadly virus that causes AIDS.

She then referred him to a pediatrician whose telephone had been disconnected for three years. She also asked how he planned to tell his wife.

Spring is Gay.

His story has fueled criticism in Nebraska against the AIDS home test kits that went on the market in May with promises of telephone sensitivity and helpful referrals.

"It's inbound telemarketing masquerading as counseling," said Joseph Hall, director of the Nebraska AIDS Project and coordinator of the review that Spring participated in a few months ago.

A bill has been introduced in the Legislature to encourage pharmacists, grocers and other retailers to put labels with the state's AIDS hotline number on the kits. The Health Committee heard testimony Thursday in Lincoln on the bill (LB619), which would provide the labels free to retailers from the Nebraska AIDS Project.

Hall wants to make sure that those who have the virus are referred to the state's largest AIDS advocacy group. "We want to give them (retailers) an opportunity to do this voluntarily and then come back next year, if we find out people are not complying," he said.

Spring took the test at the group's suggestion and to examine for himself the tests. Spring has been HIV positive for 10 years. "It's not to be Mr. Mean, but to correct the problem," he said.

Several AIDS groups contacted across the nation reported few if any complaints.

What those who look only on the sunny side of AIDS ignore, is that protease inhibitors, while no doubt highly beneficial to many, are not so to all. In fact, the side effects of these inhibitors can be more devastating than AIDS itself.

Users must stay with a demanding schedule—hour by hour, and it is preached that if they miss a few doses, the virus may once again revive and become uncontrollable in their systems.

Also, and not least, the cost of protease inhibitors is frightening, well beyond the reach of the uninsured.

Some patients tell of the onset of side-effects after dramatic increases in their T-cell counts. One such side-effect is what drug companies call "kidney sludge," a condition which is akin, according to one patient, to "carrying a bowling ball within."

If a person's HIV status is somewhat advanced the wonder drug, Crixivan, can trigger herpes zoster, creating ugly sores over the entire body. In other cases of side effects, patients feel extremely unpleasant reactions in their digestive tracks.

Skin can become so sensitive that the new drug users imagine they're suffering from extreme sunburns. It can hurt, they say, even to comb one's hair.

Others find themselves, of necessity, mapping out the public bathrooms in their neighborhoods, enduring embarrassments that have bypassed any other condition—like facial lesions—for the humiliation experienced.

The companies stood by their counselors.

Ellen Scofield, spokeswoman for Confide in Bridgewater, N.J., said each person counsels differently and the company continually updates its referral base.

She said 75 percent of Confide's counselors have master's degrees in counseling, social work and education and the average length of a call with an infected person is 20 minutes.

A spokesman for Home Access said that in response to the Nebraska test, the company's referral base has been updated, the pediatrician's phone number has been removed and counselors are told not to assume everyone is heterosexual.

"Don't make assumptions," said Kevin Johnson with Home Access in Hoffman Estates, IL.

In fact, the once-controversial kits have generated little interest, said Mike Shriver, a spokesman for the National Association of People with AIDS in Washington, D.C.

"People aren't stampeding to the store to buy the kits, nor are they not buying the kits," Shriver said. "It doesn't seem to be a big deal."

Most of the people taking the test are the "worried well" or repeat testers. People at high risk, including those in the nation's poorer communities, cannot afford to take the \$50 tests, Shriver said.

The kits are sold under the brand names Home Access Express and Confide. Spring took both tests on the market and was not happy with either company's counselors.

"It was very cold, callous and calculating," he said. "I just didn't think they cared."

Needle Exchange Programs Effective in Stopping Spread Of HIV, Study Shows

Washington, DC—A federal report concluding that needle exchange programs are effective in slowing the spread of HIV and AIDS represents a critical step toward taking the politics out of public health, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) said.

"The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reached the only scientifically honest conclusion possible," said Winnie Stachelberg, HRC's legislative director. "All the evidence to date shows that access to clean needles decreases the spread of HIV and AIDS."

"In light of this report, we call on the administration, the public health community and Congress to work together to lift the ban on spending federal money on needle exchange programs."

The report found that the scientific evidence is not strong enough to indicate that such programs do not promote intravenous drug use. For that reason, it stopped short of recommending an end to the prohibition on spending federal money on needle exchange programs.

HHS issued the report on February 18, 1997, in response to a request from the Senate Appropriations subcommittee for the Departments of Labor, HHS, Education and related agencies.

The report's principal conclusion is that "needle exchange programs can be an effective component of a comprehensive strategy to prevent HIV and other blood-borne infectious diseases in communities that choose to include them."

"This is the first time in the history of the AIDS epidemic that the federal government has publicly stated this conclusion," Stachelberg added. "We believe that this will have a positive impact in those communities that are considering but have yet to institute needle exchange

programs."

The National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA) called the report "a significant first step," but added that it "was not enough."

"For the thousands of people who deserve and need a well-funded and accessible needle exchange program right now, this shallow report does not lift the prohibition of federal funding for these programs," said Cornelius Baker, NAPWA's executive director.

AIDS Action Council, the nation's leading AIDS advocacy organization, called on President Clinton and Congress to heed the results of the report, which a spokesperson called "an important first step."

Approximately one-third of reported AIDS cases are related to intravenous drug use.

According to the AIDS Action Council, over a third of reported adult AIDS cases and over half of all AIDS cases among children, are related to injection drug use.

In the second week in February, a panel of public health experts at the National Institutes of Health concluded that needle exchange programs are a powerful and proven weapon in the war against AIDS. They also charged that misguided politics continue to block institution of such programs.

And many respected public health organizations have reviewed the research on needle exchange programs and agree that they work. These organizations include the National Academy of Sciences, the National Commission on AIDS, the American Medical Association, the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors, the American Foundation for AIDS Research and the American Public Health Association.

AIDS Briefs

Bill Seeks to Prevent AIDS Education

Olympia, WA—AP—Washington lawmakers are studying a "parents' rights" bill that would ban counseling students or teaching them about AIDS prevention or sex without written consent from their parents.

The Senate Education Committee held a hearing Thursday, February 20th, and the House Education Committee heard testimony the following day on legislation that is gaining popularity nationally with religious conservatives and "pro-family" groups.

The legislation is favored to pass the Republican-controlled Legislature, but Democratic Gov. Gary Locke is expected to veto it. Lawmakers then could choose to send an identical bill to the November ballot, bypassing the governor.

Senate Bill 5555 would reverse the procedure for classes about AIDS prevention, human sexuality, alcohol and drugs, and course units on suicide and health-related topics. Currently, parents have to inform schools when they don't want their children to take such classes. Under the bill, they would have to sign a permission form for their children to receive the education. Counselors could not work with students without express permission from home.

Currently, only about 1 percent of students are withdrawn from such classes, the committee was told.

Marijuana May Have Medicinal Uses

Bethesda, MD—AP—Sparse but promising evidence indicates smoking marijuana may ease the suffering of some seriously ill patients, but more study is needed before the drug's medical value is understood, a panel of experts said Thursday, February 20th.

"For at least some indications (medical uses), it looks promising enough that there should be some new controlled studies," said Dr. William T. Beaver, a professor of pharmacology at Georgetown University School of Medicine and the panel's chairman.

Although a final committee report is not complete, "the general mood was that for some indications, there is a rationale for looking further into the therapeutic effects of marijuana," Beaver said.

But smoking marijuana presents serious technical problems in medical research, said Beaver. Most drug trials are blinded, with one group of patients taking the real drug and another taking a placebo.

Smoked marijuana, he said, is impossible to disguise.

Another problem is that smoking marijuana includes the same risk to the lungs as cigarette smoking, Beaver said. Both tobacco and marijuana smoke contain chemicals that can cause cancer and other diseases.

AIDS Group Pulls National Ad

Dallas, TX—AP—An AIDS charity yanked a nationwide ad campaign after receiving complaints that messages such as "Prayer won't cure AIDS. Research will" insulted people who believe in the power of prayer.

The American Foundation for AIDS Research said objections to the campaign focused on two of three ads that ran on public buses: "Prayer won't cure AIDS. Research will" and "Sexual abstinence won't cure AIDS. Research will."

"AmFAR seeks to educate, not offend the public," said Dr. Mathilde Krim, chairwoman of the board of directors of New York-based AmFAR, a pet charity of actress Elizabeth Taylor.

KCBI-FM news director L.B. Lyon said a caller to the Dallas Christian radio station complained about the ads, and he followed with a news story. That generated more protests, he said.

IV Drug Use Spreads to Rural Areas

Denver, CO—AP—Most of Colorado's injection drug users live in the Denver metropolitan area, but health authorities say they are seeing evidence of the problem in rural counties as well.

A state health report published in September showed Coloradans contracting AIDS increasingly are women who inject drugs or have sex with men who do, and unborn babies of those women.

The state alcohol and drug abuse division estimated in 1995 that there were 540 IV drug users in Weld County. As of last year, there was a total of 68 reported AIDS cases.

In comparison, the six-county Denver metro area with a combined population of more than 2 million, had an estimated 10,900 IV drug users and a total of 4,732 total reported AIDS cases.

Needle exchange programs are being considered by state legislators and the state board of health to help prevent the spread of AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among intravenous drug-users.

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AIDS Cure

Continued from Page 7

the virus with the help of the drugs.

It is important to remember that antivirals don't directly eliminate the virus; they stop it from reproducing. It is the job of the immune system to get rid of the virus.

Free floating virus in the blood is eliminated very quickly, and thus is the easiest to clear. Active infected T-cells take a little longer, but it is the other cells that take longer to clear.

In addition, there are parts of the body, such as the central nervous system (CNS), including the brain, where protease inhibitors don't get to very well.

Dr. Ho is continuing to experiment to see if people can eventually stop combination therapy without the virus returning, but it will be some time before they believe it will be safe enough to allow volunteers to discontinue treatment.

If the virus can be cleared, the strongest combination should be started as early as possible.

However, until clearance is a viable option, antivirals need to be chosen with an eye toward keeping them working as long as possible, and leaving other options open when they no longer work.

If, in the end, viral clearance is not possible, keeping antivirals working will be the course to follow.

In the Meantime

Some of the most important announcements at the conference concerned new antivirals soon to be available, and the data showing which of the increasing number of potential combinations are working best.

Agouron Pharmaceuticals is applying to the FDA for approval of their new protease inhibitor "nelfinavir" (trade name Vircept). Trials with nelfinavir may be as potent as Merck's indinavir (Crixivan) or Abbott's ritonavir (Norvir), and when taken in combination with either AZT plus 3TC or ddI plus D4T, many people can lower their viral load by over 99%.

Nelfinavir is also being tried out in combination with Roche's protease inhibitor saquinavir (Invirase). The early results, while not as good as for ritonavir plus saquinavir, may be good enough to be a choice for people who have used up

other options.

Besides nelfinavir, many expect the FDA to approve the drug delavirdine (Rescriptor). Delavirdine, like the previously approved nevirapine (Viramune), is a Non-Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitor. The data on delavirdine is not as strong as other antivirals, but for people who are already resistant to some antivirals, there are some new combinations that include a non-nuke to consider.

And Beyond

With the dizzying number of new combinations, the consensus of the conference was that it is more important than ever that people use a doctor who follows HIV treatments closely, preferably a specialist.

This year's conference didn't change the rules, but they did help to refine them. The message remains, if you have a high viral load, talk with your physician about a powerful antiviral combination, one that can get your viral load to below detectable levels to avoid resistance.

The choice of the best therapy depends on your medical history, including what antivirals you have used in the past.

Editor's Note: The above article was written by The Boston AIDS Writers Group and reviewed by a panel of eminent physicians.

Afterwords Events

Sunday, March 9
Author Appearances - 1:00 p.m.

Eric Beeman, author of
Tales for the obsessive Gay Romantic
and

J.E. Robinson, poet and author
appearing in
Men on Men 6

Monday, March 10
Afterword's Book Club - 7:30pm
Man of the House by Stephen McCauley

Thursday, March 13
Afterword's Gay/Lesbian Writers Club -
7:00pm

Thursday, March 20
Afterword's Lesbian Book Club -
7:00pm
Virtual Equality by Urvashi Vaid

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Gays and Lesbians Should Accept the Bishop's Apology at Face Value

Commentary by Jack Langley

A Roman Catholic olive branch such as that offered last week (second week in February) by Orlando Bishop Norbert Dorsey, isn't something at which we can just sneeze. Open-minded clerics within the Catholic hierarchy are expressing, with the establishment of such Gay and Lesbian ministries as that which Bishop Dorsey has just opened, brave and honest regrets about the harmful effects of the centuries-long sexual persecutions that are seemingly implicit in most current Roman Catholic policies.

"We may have hurt or wounded our Gay and Lesbian brothers and sisters through ignorance or misunderstanding," said Bishop Dorsey, and "In the name of our church, if that has happened to any one of you, I ask your pardon and the pardon of God."

A letter from the Vatican, intercepted in 1992 and published in *The Washington Post*, ordered American bishops to oppose legislation that promotes civil rights for Gay men and Lesbians. It labeled homosexuality—in spite of the contrary view of the American Psychiatric Association—"an objective disorder."

The *Post* said the Roman Catholic Church declared its support "for discrimination against Gay people in such areas as public housing, family health benefits, and the hiring of teachers, coaches, and military personnel." The Vatican, it reported, insinuated that homosexuals are mentally ill and insists that any denial of rights to Gays will promote family values.

The Vatican letter read: "The church has the responsibility to promote public morality of the entire civil society on the basis of fundamental moral values." The rights to housing and employment, continues the extraordinary church directive, are not absolute, and employment, it says curiously, is "a privilege."

Fortunately, two American Catholic bishops reacted swiftly to this Vatican skulduggery, and, in *The Washington Post* took out an ad, a public statement deploring the Vatican's backward stance.

Now, with the addition of such clear voices as Bishop Dorsey's, a campaign among American Catholic clerics, at least, gathers steam during the closing years of this decade. How long it may take before truly meaningful changes in church policy occur is anybody's guess.

Currently, Gay-sympathetic American bishops remain a minority within their

church, risking the displeasure of a disgruntled Pope who seems not afraid, as he showed recently in the case of a Sri Lankan priest, to excommunicate any Catholic clergy he regards as renegades or "heretics."

It is in the light of such dire threats to their positions that the recent apology to American Gay men and Lesbians, spoken on behalf of the church by Bishop Dorsey, deserves the heartfelt thanks and appreciation of all same-sex lovers, no matter their religious orientations.

In an institution which, through its emissaries, once lit fires under the bodies of its doctrinal opponents, civilized progress comes all too slowly. It takes courage, since the present pope is hostile to same-sex affection, to oppose him from within his church.

On February 8, 1994, as reported in the pages of this paper, the European Parliament presented its nation-members with a non-binding resolution recommending that Gay and Lesbian couples be granted marriage and adoption rights.

The resolution passed 159-96, and on its heels Pope John Paul II reacted with uncharacteristic fury. He attacked the European Parliament in a statement accusing it of conferring "institutional value on deviant behavior."

Though Vatican attacks on political bodies remain rare, the pontiff departed from his prepared text and—according to newspaper reports—his voice-pitch rose in evident alarm as he pontificated thusly: "A relationship between two men or two women cannot make up a real family."

There are some who would say, "Who cares about what the Pope thinks about anything?"

There are those who would summarily dismiss Bishop Norbert Dorsey's olive branch to Gay and Lesbian believers as a shameful church supported money making-scam, one he hopes will turn "fallen away" Catholics into regular Mass-attending tithe-makers. But because the good bishop is bucking those top dogs at the bureaucratic Vatican center on his hierarchical totem pole, such a hurried dismissal would be manifestly unfair.

He appears instead to be a religious man who has looked carefully into real-life issues and is attempting to introduce long-needed changes for millions of Gay men and Lesbians who feel, as a result of old-fashioned papal ravings, a deep-seated spiritual depravation.

Hanged, Stoned, Dropped or Halved; The Fate of Gays in Today's Iran

By Patricia Conklin

Gay men and Lesbians live in frightening closets in this ancient land once known as Persia. A theocracy, ever since fundamentalist religionists seized government control following a 1979 uprising against the autocratic Shah, primitive "religious" death penalties for same-sex love are now used to strike terror into Iran's fragmented Gay communities.

Those charged with love-making are given a choice of four deathstyles: being hanged, stoned, halved by a sword, or dropped from the highest perch.

During the past decade, however, Iranian men and women, primarily exiles, have bravely confronted the rampant homophobia loosed in their country, publishing an impressive magazine, *Homan*, and courageously establishing worldwide outposts of their organization, also called *Homan*.

Hit-squads sanctioned by the Iranian government operate brashly in locales outside the nation, murdering nationals who oppose the current "religious" regime. The bravery, therefore, of Iranians who publish and agitate against the anti-Gay policies of the regime cannot be underestimated.

A perusal of the anti-Gay penal code passed by the fundamentalist Iranian parliament in 1982 gives evidence of the insanity that motivates homophobic nit-pickers.

"One may become aware of the complexities and intricacies of Iranian sex laws and appreciate the extraordinary flatulence of their creators," writes one critic.

According to Article 152, if two men not related by blood are discovered naked under one cover without good reason, both will be punished at a judge's discre-

tion.

Gay teens (Article 144) are also punished at a judge's discretion. Rubbing one's penis between the thighs without penetration (*tafheed*) shall be punished by 100 lashes for each offender.

This act, known to the English-speaking world as "frottage" is punishable by death if the "offender" is a non-Moslem.

If frottage is thrice repeated and penalty-lashes have failed to stop such repetitions, upon the fourth "offense" both men will be put to death.

Even heterosexually-inclined Iranians must now be exceedingly careful. Should they introduce two men who are likely to be found nude under the covers or to rub their penises between thighs or buttocks, they too are liable for 70 lashes (if they are men) or 75 lashes (if they are women.)

According to Article 156, a person who repents and confesses his Gay behavior prior to his identification by four witnesses, may be pardoned.

Even kissing "with lust" (Article 155) is forbidden. This bizarre law works to re-route old Persian male-bonding customs, including common kissing and holding hands in public.

Who can determine what constitutes lust? Some Gay liberationists joke about the "boner police."

In fact, morality police do thrive in modern Iran, seeking out not only Gays and Lesbians, but opposite sex couples too, those who picnic together without being related by blood.

Center

Continued from Page 1

plained Debra Weill, co-chair of the Strategic Planning Committee.

Draft fund-raising plans and financial projections along with the location priorities and program options will comprise the heart of the strategic plan and immediate implementation plans for the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

The final written information will include a review and analysis of LGBT Community Centers around the United States as well as information from other community and neighborhood centers in the Milwaukee area.

A second major component of the re-
Please See Milwaukee Page 19

Obituary

Pioneer Gay Journalist and Civil Rights Leader, Don Slater. Dies in L.A.

By Jack Nichols

Pioneering journalist and scholar, Donald R. Slater, who, in the 1950's-dawn of Gay American activism, established an undeniable place for himself, is dead at 78. He died Valentine's Day at the Veterans Hospital in Westwood, a Los Angeles-area locale.

Slater, the editor of *ONE* magazine in 1954, pushed forward victoriously with *ONE*'s landmark Supreme Court case when the staid little magazine fought for its right to publish against post office censors attempting to hamstring bold published examinations of same-sex affection.

Suing on behalf of *ONE*, and proud winner of this major legal battle, Slater actually helped establish the right of same-sex love to speak its name. Rodger Streitmatter, Ph.D. a professor of journalism at the American University and author of the definitive study of Gay/Lesbian journalism, *Unspeakable*, says the FBI sent investigators to harass *ONE*'s editor and writers, making FBI investigations known to non-Gay employers and to the Los Angeles police, among the most homophobic in the nation.

In his well-researched Gay journalism history, Dr. Streitmatter quotes strong arguments by Slater, making clear the importance of *ONE* as it figured in the earliest struggles by American liberationists.

"These early publications," said Slater, "were not a forerunner of anything. They were the start of the homosexual movement in America."

In the 1960's Slater was editor of *Tangents*, a magazine that was similar in size and content to *ONE*.

Slater preferred to use the term "homosexual," to either "Gay" or "Lesbian." He was a sexual integrationist who saw no reason to make pointed distinctions be-

tween same-sex and opposite-sex lovers.

"It is as individual human beings—as individuals" he taught, "that we win battles for free expression and free assembly."

In another definitive journalism history, Edward Alwood's *Straight News*, (about the mainstream's treatment of Gays) Slater is quoted as saying that he and other founders of *ONE* "certainly didn't want to institutionalize homosexuality, a la heterosexuality, or make ourselves into a special class or culture group."

After the opening of Slater's Homosexual Information Center in Los Angeles, the feisty scholar and collector of avant garde homosexually-inclined manuscripts said he saw room in his worldview for every different kind of individual, but as individuals, not as members of a class.

"Is there room in your movement for all types of homosexuals, from the very straight to the drag queen?" asked Ken Gaul, a reporter for the Manhattan-based weekly, *GAY*.

"Sure," replied Slater, "let them all come. I like to treat everybody as an individual, from drag queen to hustler."

GAY's reporter asked if Slater opposed male prostitution and he replied, "I'm not against hustlers. If a man wants to pay that's his business....Frankly I'm domesticated. I don't pay. I don't like the idea of going to bed with somebody for money, but some people, that's all they have." Don Slater is survived by his long-time companion, Tony Reyes.

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THE SPOTLIGHT

Theater X Presents 'Lesbian Vampires,' A Howlingly Good Performance Piece

Milwaukee--Lesbian Vampires From Sodom will probably NOT go down in history as a classic piece of American theater. No, it has no redeeming social value, there is no moral to the story, and no revelations on someone's "unique" perspective.

Lesbian Vampires From Sodom is however, a howlingly good performance piece. That's why Theater X has produced a Milwaukee version of the production that had a record nine year run in New York and a three year run in Chicago.

Starring BJ Daniels and Elaine Thorton-Wyler, Lesbian Vampires traces the paths of two, shall we say, unique creatures in the course of their existence, from biblical Sodom to present day Las Vegas.

The two link up in Hollywood during the roaring twenties and again in Vegas in the present day.

The 50 minute production Written by Charles Bush, who also wrote such American classics as Psycho Beach Party is, according to Theater X artistic director Michael Ramach, "high camp, high style and high comedy."

"I first saw this play in New York," said Ramach. "I couldn't stop laughing for days. It's simply hysterical. Basically, Lesbian Vampires follows the adventures of these two Ladies and I use that term loosely. It's the caftight of the centuries."

When asked what the play is about Ramach replies, "It's a play about friendship." Then he laughs and says "It's really about men in heels."

The main characters, keep changing names and looks through the century. One of the stars, BJ Daniels begins the play known only as the virgin girl. (That alone brings guffaws from the audience), Elaine Thorton-Wyler plays the Succubus, also known as La Condesa, (the countess in Spanish). They are joined by four other cast members.

Ramach says that the repartee between the characters is the key to the plays success. "The wit is sharp and biting."

Theater X Costume designer Carri

Cream City Chorus 10th Anniversary Celebration Continues

Milwaukee—Look for an on-going historical theme this spring when the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus performs Faure's "Requiem" and a selection of other pieces commemorating the times of our lives as part of the Chorus's on-going 10th Anniversary Season.

To Every Season..., to be held on April 5th, will include a musical tribute to those who are no longer with us, and an uplifting second half as we move forward through what life has to offer. Those who love grand performances will not want to miss this concert!

To Every Season... under the musical direction of Chuck Ellingson and Kris Nedrow, will be held at 8:00 p.m., Sunday, April 5th, at Cross Lutheran Church, an affirming church which welcomes Gays and Lesbians into their membership. Cross is located at 1821 N. 16th Street, between Walnut/Lisbon and Fond du Lac Avenues, three blocks from the I-145 spur.

For the fun-hearted, look for the third annual The Gay Concert, The Gay Soiree in June. The Gay Soiree, the climax of the Chorus's 10th Anniversary celebration, will feature camp, silliness, and a variety of entertaining music, as well as some special surprises.

Tickets for the April 5th concert, To Every Season... are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door, and are available at BestD Clinic, AfterWords Bookstore, Mama Roux, and through the Chorus office. Write: P.O. Box 1488, Milwaukee, WI 53201 or phone: (414) 344-9222.

A Look at John Beeman, Author of "Tales for the Obsessive Gay Romantic"

By Stefan Cholinski

These days, Eric Beeman, the man the FBI once dubbed the "pee wee bandit," is spending less time clearing Boston banks, and more time clearing the shelves of Gay bookstores around the country, bookstores like Milwaukee's AfterWords.

The first printing of his book, Tales For The Obsessive Gay Romantic has sold out, and suddenly, the con, (who lives now in Chicago) has become the artist to watch out for.

When I spoke to him, he had just finished speaking on the phone to his agent in New York. I asked him how this transformation, this metamorphosis, as it were, came about?

"Well, it was less of a transformation," Beeman replied, "and more of an undoing. An undoing of the layers that were never really me. The Eighties, the materialism...the values that were never mine."

He is generous to himself in this assessment because, with a bit more probing, one can find a Beeman who relishes his past. With a raised eyebrow and a crooked smile, he will tell you of the day he robbed one bank on his lunch hour. The bank was down the street from another bank where he worked as a teller and right across the street from police headquarters.

"Yeah, without prison, there would be no me," he said. "I had no identity before prison. I don't recommend it as a way to find yourself, there must be an easier way, but I have to say, without prison, there'd be no Eric Beeman the author, there'd be no book."

It is with this same raised eyebrow and cooked smile that you will read his stories, not for the traces of the author's own dubious past that rise to the surface here and there in the stories, but for the obsessive reflections of Gay love you see (in your friends, not yourself!...of course...).

For instance, in the story "Get a Job, Find a Boy," the protagonist goes to the theater to see the man he

has a date with, a "miscellaneous pirate" performing in the play the Pirates of Penzance, only to fall in love with a musician in the pit.

By the time he gets to the cast party, he's putting the moves on the lead of the play, "the King of the Pirates," instead. And at the end of the night, he goes to the home of the man he's "just been sleeping with" for a year, while speaking of a crush he has on a cartographer who has just joined his running club. Sound like anyone you know?

Perhaps it is his prison experience that turns up the tension between freedom and confinement in Beeman's "I" characters. Love seems to liberate and imprison them simultaneously.

"Yeah, it's autobiographical," Beeman readily admits, "But a lot of those guys in the book are really just one guy. So don't think I'm a total trash heap."

Each tale psychologically illuminates the workings of a Gay man in love in a new

Please See Beeman Page 20



BJ Daniels stars in "Lesbian Vampires From Sodom"

Skoczek has really gone all out. The costumes range from the sublime to the ridiculous. How often do you go from a slave girl in ancient Sodom to present day Vegas. The possibilities are endless.

The play consists of three scenes. In the first scene, Daniels is sacrificed to Thorton-Wyler. The next scene plays on their relationship when one is a Hollywood star and the other is rising star.

In the third and final scene, one of our protagonists is a big star in Vegas while the other one cleans floors.

Producing this play is somewhat of an experiment. There are other good Gay and Lesbian theater pieces floating around. Whether or not they are seen here depends on how well Lesbian Vampires does.

Join Us at Just Us for Our SpotLight Party

Even if you aren't Irish you are as welcome as the shamrocks in County Donegal to attend our St. Patrick's Day SpotLight Party on Saturday, March 15, at Just Us, 807 S. Fifth Street, Milwaukee.

The popular Just Us is known as the bar where Lesbians and Gay men mix freely. They have made a name for themselves with good food and great Country dancing.

The evening will begin at 8:00 with some Country Dancing provided by the Shoreline Dance troupe which will happily help show you some new steps. Yes, we know that Country dancing is technically not Irish, but then again it does involve two things the Irish love, dancing and music.

Next up will be a fabulous show celebrating the Birthdays of two stars of the Just Us Stage, Mona and Sandy Beach. They and all of their friends (well both of their friends—just kidding) will be on hand to delight and entertain you.

The free event will include drink specials, free Miller Light and a great 10:00 Birthday show celebrating Sandy Beach's and Mona's birthdays.

As always there is no cover. So celebrate the green and save on the gold, join us at Just Us, 807 S. Fifth Street, Saturday, March 15. Be there or the leprechauns will get you.

"If there is an audience for this type of theater, we will provide more of it in the future," said Ramach.

Lesbian Vampires From Sodom is a late night show. With Theater X also producing Tennessee Williams' Viux Carre, the story of Williams coming to grips with being Gay, Theater X is offering something of a Les/BI/Gay double feature.

Performances of Lesbian Vampires from Sodom are scheduled for 11:00 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays through March 22.

Don't let the late curtain time keep you away, the play runs for 50 minutes leaving you plenty of time to hit your favorite club afterwards. The Theater X bar will be open prior to each performance and patrons are welcome to watch while sipping on their drinks.

Tickets are \$10.00 and can be reserved only by calling the Theater X office (414) 278-0555.

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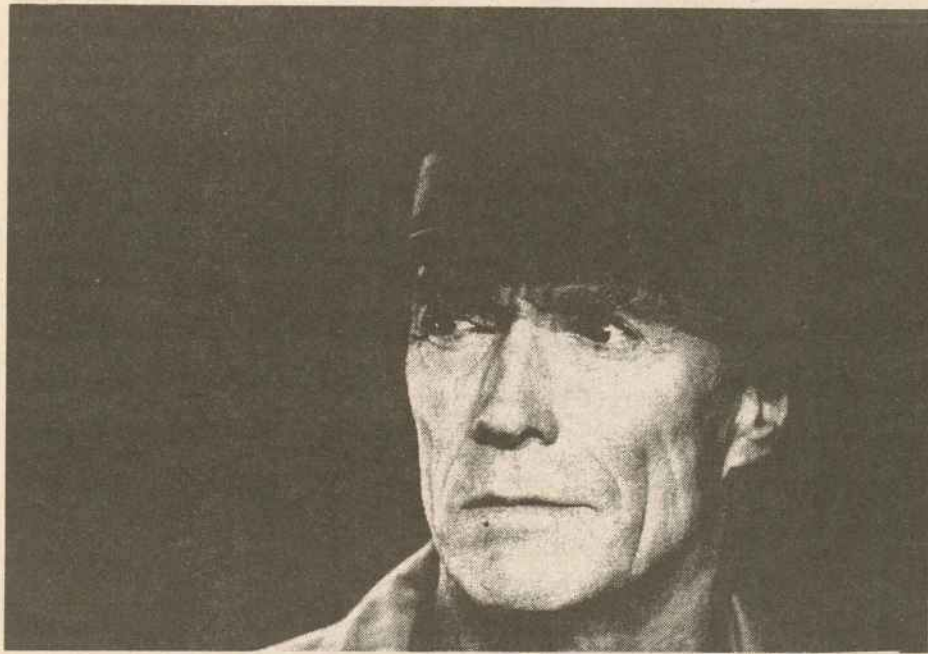
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OUT on Film



Tough Guy Clint Eastwood plays a master thief in and directs "Absolute Power"

Eastwood's 'Absolute Power' is More Likely "Absolutely Preposterous"

By John Jahn

I've been a big Clint Eastwood fan for, oh, as long as I can remember; back to all those wonderful westerns he made in the late '60s and his legendary "Dirty Harry" films of the '70s. To be sure, his output has been uneven, but on the whole, he's been on of my favorite movie actors.

After his greatly successful revisionist, bleak western *Unforgiven*, I went into *Absolute Power* expecting another excellent film from Eastwood; after all, like *Unforgiven*, he produced and directed this film. Unfortunately, I was quite disappointed.

In *Absolute Power* (Rated R), Eastwood plays a master thief on the run from the law. The film opens with Luther (Eastwood) plying his trade at the luxury item-filled home of a powerful Washington power broker (veteran actor E.G. Marshall). He's about to make his stealthy exit when a couple arrives in an adjacent room, and Luther witnesses their sexual playfulness rapidly deteriorate into a vicious murder. Very soon, secret service agents and a presidential secretary arrive to clean up the mess. Why, you might ask? Because the murderer is none other than the President of the United States.

It's precisely at this moment that what

started out as an intriguing film descends into little more than an average, trivial, tasteless, totally preposterous "thriller." Which isn't to say *Absolute Power* doesn't have its moments. For one thing, it certainly has star quality, with not only Eastwood's extremely well-written and acted performance as the master sleuth, but also stars Gene Hackman (another of my favorites) as the President, Ed Harris, Scott Glenn, Judy Davis, and Laura Linney a Luther's estranged daughter. Truly, the father-daughter relationship is actually the best aspect of the film. Hackman is one of our 2 or 3 finest actors today, but this was a role a dozen lesser people could have done.

I won't go into all the plot inconsistencies and silliness. Suffice it to say that I found the whole premise of the story to be incredible, and that broke the film for me. Still, there are some fine performances—I just wish these characters could've found themselves in another venue. Some reviews have called *Absolute Power* a comedy because they found it so ludicrous; others are calling it one of Eastwood's best works. Such a wide variety tells you something: this is a mediocre film at best.

On a scale of 1-10, I rate this one a 4.

'Fools Rush In' Is a Mindless Hetero Date Flick Cum TV Sit-Com

Review by Glenn Bishop

Faithful readers of the *Wisconsin Light* are unlikely to be surprised to learn that with great interest Glenn has followed the many difficult hurdles that same-sex marriage legislation is encountering in Hawaii and throughout this great land of ours. Many of Glenn's friends are hopefully planning Hawaiian vacations. No such plans for Glenn however, Glenn is currently between boyfriends.

What has all this to do with *Fools Rush In*, the latest cinematic effort starring All-American *Friend* Matthew Perry? Quite simply, opponents of same-sex marriage keep alluding to the sacred sanctity of heterosexual matrimony and few films in Glenn's memory present such a glowing and positive portrayal.

The focus of this romantic comedy is one Alex Whitman (Matthew Perry), a career-minded workaholic. A New Yorker through and through, Alex finds himself a fish out of water (a fish in the desert?) when sent to supervise the construction a fabulous new nightclub in that mecca of sin, sex and gambling: Las Vegas.

With all the magic of a cheap porno (so Glenn understands), Alex meets Isabel (Salma Hayek) his one true love and soulmate while standing in line for a public toilet in a sleazy bar. Who cannot be dazzled by all of this romance.

A bit of chat and before we, or seemingly they themselves know it, for that matter, they are between the sheets. Morning finds Isabel making a quick getaway (aren't straight guys usually the one's to do this?).

Bing, bing, bing and it's three months later and Isabel pays Alex a little visit. Seems that during that one magical night, a baby was conceived. Alex dutifully blubbers and throwing caution (plus an extremely important meeting) to the wind, journeys with Isabel to meet her parents.

Wait, this sounds a bit like last year's *A Walk in the Clouds*, except that in that film, Keanu Reeves was being gallant without having knocked up the pretty girl.

Enchanted by Isabel's family, alternatively charming and threatening, Alex declares his love for her. Another night between the sheets? No, a cheap and sleazy wedding chapel marriage ceremony witnessed by an Elvis impersonator. Didn't Glenn recently see such a ceremony highlighted in *New Bride* magazine?

Coming from radically different backgrounds and perhaps a bit hindered by not knowing a whit about each other, the newlyweds experience the predictable foibles faced by newlyweds on sit-coms since the dawn of television. So predictable are their subsequent foibles that homage seems to have particularly paid to that most classic of all sit-coms, "I Love Lucy."

Is *Fools Rush In* a total bust? Those looking for a pleasant, mindless little hetero date flick aren't likely to be unduly disappointed. Matthew Perry and Salma Hayek prove to be an engaging pair and exhibit surprising romantic chemistry.

Unable to rise above the mediocre writing is the equally uninspired supporting cast who seems to be content with phoning in their performances, particularly an especially disappointing Jill Clayburgh. *Fools Rush In* producers seem to have wasted an awful lot of money to have Clayburgh playing such a throw-away part as Alex's tipsy mother.

The exceedingly likable Perry and the admittedly ravishing Hayek almost compensate. Yet, with the increasingly high cost of movie admissions these days, you might want to wait 'til *Fools Rush In* is available on a two-for-one video special at Video Adventures. Or better yet, wait 'til it's on television.

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

'Rosewood' is a Film that Should be Seen Because We Must Not Forget

By Dolores Barclay

In January 1923, a violent gang of white thugs ravaged the prosperous African-American community of Rosewood, Florida, burning it to the ground and slaughtering many of its residents. The mob had been incited by a white woman's false accusation that a African-American stranger raped and beat her.

The residents who survived the attack fled to the swamps and never again returned to their homes or their land. And for more than 70 years, their story remained a dark and tragic secret.

Now, John Singleton (*Boyz n the Hood*) retells that brutal slice of American history in *Rosewood*.

What richly deserved to be a powerful story, however, is greatly diluted in Singleton's Hollywood distillation. His use of a mysterious stranger who rides into town and helps save Rosewood's women and children turns the movie into a formula, and he weakens things even further by adding a lame romantic subplot.

Worse still is his reliance on stereotypes, right down to the obligatory "mammy," in this case, Esther Rolle as family matriarch Sarah Carrier, and cartoon white bigots. These guys were crazed and frightening terrorists, but Singleton's whites are straight out of central casting.

The movie opens with a sweeping shot of the pristine village of Rosewood, with its neat, wooden houses and vegetable gardens made up of tidy, straight rows. The streets are clean and uncluttered, the houses well-maintained. Inside the Carrier house, a china closet holds blue china and fine crystal, and an upright piano stands in the living room.

Rosewood is a prosperous, proud community, very unlike the poor white trash enclave of nearby Sumner.

The white residents of Sumner hate, and are jealous of, thriving Rosewood, and any excuse to obliterate the town will do. They find their answer when Fanny Taylor, a white married resident who sleeps around, is beaten by her white lover. She claims a African-American man did it. And though everyone knows this is not the case, her allegation provides a reason to destroy Rosewood.

Much of the two-hour and 22-minute movie is devoted to the burning and de-

struction of the town and the slaughter of its residents.

Also near the forefront are the romance between Mr. Man (Ving Rhames) and Scruppie (Elise Neal), a young schoolteacher, and the story of John Wright (Jon Voight), a white shopkeeper who lives in Rosewood.

Wright recently has remarried after his first wife's death and is struggling to deal with his new relationship, as are his sons. He absorbs the collective guilt of his white neighbors and becomes a buffer between their rage and the defense of the Rosewood African-Americans. In the end, he teams with Mr. Man.

As the mysterious stranger, Rhames is a strong, attractive presence. But is he a romantic leading man? More compelling is Don Cheadle (*Devil in a Blue Dress*) as Sylvester Carrier, a gentle piano teacher who stands up for his rights and those of his family.

But by putting the focus almost entirely on the destruction of the community and a few, mostly superficial, characters, Singleton misses a big opportunity for a more dramatic presentation: the story of the survivors.

Why did they remain silent for so many years and how did they cope with the terror that haunted them? Why didn't they seek outside help and get back their land from the whites who stole it from them? And what was the journey to some small form of justice such as for Arnett Doctor, the son of a survivor who finally got the state of Florida to make reparations?

Still, *Rosewood* is a movie that deserves to be seen, because the story it tells must stay alive.

Gays, Bisexuals and Lesbians should see this movie precisely because racism and homophobia both have the same root. The virulent prejudice and ignorance that caused the burning of the town and its citizens to be scattered, should be, unfortunately familiar to the LesBiGay community.

Rosewood was produced by Jon Peters with Penelope L. Foster as co-producer and Tracy Barone as executive producer. The script by Gregory Poirier is weak, but Johnny E. Jensen's excellent cinematography deserves a mention. The movie is rated R for violence.



Hunky Family Man Pierce Brosnan and his family race against the clock in the sci-fi thriller "Dante's Peak"

'Dante's Peak' is Visually Compelling, But Otherwise is Disappointing

By John Jahn

Dante's Peak is the latest in a once thought extinct, but apparently only dormant, Hollywood movie genre: the Disaster Movie.

The genre got its start in that great Decade of Disaster (in more ways than one), the Seventies. 1972's *The Poseidon Adventure* kicked things off, not only because it was a huge commercial success, but also because it's actually a decent movie. One of the most compelling disaster films was 1974's *The Towering Inferno* which was even nominated for an Oscar for Best Picture.

There are all kinds of theories as to why disaster films became trendy during their "golden era" of the '70s. The main theory goes something like this: Americans were feeling mighty low about themselves and their country for a number of reasons—the continuing morale-destroyer which was the Vietnam War, Watergate, rampant inflation, the Arab oil embargo, and Jimmy Carter. So-called disaster films played right into the nation's confusion and malaise; having a cathartic effect, as it were.

Fast forward two decades and we have films like *Twister* and now, *Dante's Peak*,

which play on our nation's current emotional issues (AIDS, crime, drugs, general "moral decline"), in much the same way. Our sense of unease in the nervous '90s is likely the culprit in the new wave of disaster flicks.

Okay, now let's dispense with the psychobabble and commence with a brief review. Is *Dante's Peak* worth seeing? Yes, if (and only if) you like dazzling, computer-generated special effects.

No, if movies with predictable plots, cardboard characters, and totally unrealistic "action" sequences aren't your game.

Incidentally, Pierce Brosnan, who plays a volcanologist on a crusade against all the world's "evil" volcanoes, is in this one purely for the money, and it shows. For all his many fans out there—and I trust many a *Light* readers is a Brosnan fan—you'll be disappointed in this sense: he doesn't shed a stitch of clothing (though they do get dirty and singed), and his only kiss comes in the last minute of the film (and it's a grimy-looking one at that).

"*Dante's Peak*" is probably worth a movie rental in a few months, but otherwise, forget it. On a 1-10 scale, this film rates a 4.

Oscar May Ignore Them, But the Great Films Make the Nominees Parodies

By Steve Stavron

Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet* might be viewed as a form of public service: a testament, not only to the source material, but to the awesome power of the big screen in opening up classic works in their entirety without the sec dry tidiness of PBS TV. The effect is breathtaking. But four hours of poetry? You've got to be kidding!

What we have here is a reputed cornerstone of Western culture—enough to scare anyone away. Those who stuck it out for two hundred and forty minutes with a single intermission (there should have been two), may have found themselves rewarded with the revelatory experience of Shakespeare's eloquent language as drama rather than ritual.

Branagh brings the play into the light with sets that look like something out of *Student Prince*. This takes a bit of getting used to, but he never slackens the pace.

Sex with Ophelia makes her mad scene more moving; Polonius is almost a dirty old man making his famously sanctimonious "advice" something hypocritical and his murder less appalling. The ghost, complete with earthshaking effects, seems more threatening than pathetic. The famous "To be or not to be..." is delivered into mirrors behind which Claudius and Polonius hide and eavesdrop, and the camera circles suspiciously, those characters *Hamlet* doesn't like.

The mystery of *Hamlet* himself, (played by Branagh with fast-fire determination), has no solution nor should it have. Shakespeare's intention was always to illustrate the fact that man's greatest mystery is himself. Here, the mystery is not diluted, but expanded onto a greater scale since there's no getting away from the verse which flows seamlessly without relent.

But what else can you expect from a master writer who supercedes Milton, Plato, Sophocles, Aeschylus and Tom Clancy.

Given the proper time and attention, the fluency of Shakespeare's language is mesmerizing—besides, you've got the big screen to fall back on here, put to good use for a change, and, if you're more accustomed to Luke Skywalker's kind of force than the force of language, you might be pleasantly surprised at what great poetry can do.

Not to pick on *Star Wars*, which loses and gains with the passage of time. If Lucas's added effects seem too much like technocratic obsession, and if advanced computerized technology diminishes its startle, the miniaturized conflict between Good and Evil, evidently inspired by the old Flash Gordon serials, enhances the movie's nostalgic effect.

Star Wars is no four star masterpiece. The characters still seem a bit two-dimensional and the film doesn't quite have the universal tenderness of *Snow White*, or the melancholic elegance of the *Thief of Baghdad*, or even the mystic metaphysics of *2001*. Still, it's a very likable film. Even the robots are loveable.

The current Oscar nominations are here to remind us that action and sci-fi films are not all that's rotten with the state of film land.

Can't do much for an industry that nominates, but was most likely stuck, with the populist vulgarisms of *Jerry McGuire*, *Shine* and *Fargo* as top notch films. Not that these films are bad, but they appeal only to the most common denominator of audience involvement—the ground-entry level of drama and comedy.

They have neither the distinction, nor the emotional charisma to deserve the "best" of anything.

I can't honestly include *English Patient* in this negative grouping. It made a stab at classiness, but unfortunately based itself on overrated source material and ended up being dryer than its own sand.

Shine, a cold, clumsy film, in two parts badly welded together, also illustrates that good intention do not a good film make.

I haven't seen *Secrets and Lies*, but the subject matter sounds dangerously trendy.

I also have trouble with what passes for acting these days. Watching Cruise, Harrison, Rush, and Gooding, I'm seeing more caricature than characterization, like watching grotesque vulgarizations of nature.

I can accept Francis McDermont who kept mugging at a minimum and used as much restraint as the script would allow. Only Lauren Bacall eschewed all this tomfoolery and gave a straight, distinguished performance. Kristin Scott-Thomas gazed into the camera. That's all.

The cruelest rub of all was the Academy's ignoring the lovely *Evita* and the

virulent *Hamlet* in all major categories. Granted *Eva* and the Prince of Denmark would make strange bedfellows, but their films share a common quality.

Both engage the audience in moving, cinematic translations of material not usually thought to be entirely suitable for the screen.

Both demonstrated that the added dimensionality of the screen can sometimes break the static boundaries of the stage and give new emotional focus to the overly familiar.

The motion picture industry always tries a balancing act between "artistic" films and populist fodder for the common herd. Even if the artistic films are never nominated, everyone knows they're there mocking the nominees that make the audience the fall guy.

But as long as filmmakers have forgotten that movies were once made largely for mature thinking individuals, and that not everyone under 25 operates in a hill-billy vernacular upgraded to street-wise jargon, things won't change much. Perhaps the final rationalization for making those dead-ended serious films that no one enjoys is that last frame we see so often on the screen—"This film is based on a true story."

Who cares?

Like 'Star Wars,' 'The Empire Strikes Back' is Not to be Missed

By John Jahn

Where were you in the summer of 1980? Well, I was enjoying a few months of freedom before entering my Senior year of high school, and, like millions the world over, anticipating the release of the second "Star Wars" film that year, *The Empire Strikes Back*. Even after seeing *The Return of the Jedi* three years after that, *The Empire Strikes Back* has always remained my personal favorite of the trilogy. It's by far the darkest, most serious of the three films, and, to me, the best written, acted, and scored.

Lucasfilm, Ltd.'s re-release (started Feb. 21st everywhere) retained all the original glory, and, in fact, only made computerized additions to a couple of scenes, sufficing mostly to "clean up" the existing film. *Star Wars* creator George Lucas, wanted almost no changes to *Empire* because it's his personal favorite of the three films, too (great minds think alike).

As the film opens, we find that the Rebels have been forced to relocate to the desolate ice planet of Hoth, while Darth Vader, in search of young Luke Skywalker (his, shall we say, "estranged" son), has ordered the dispatching of imperial probes all over the galaxy. When one such probe alerts the Empire to the Rebel base on Hoth, all hell breaks loose.

The Empire Strikes Back adds several new places, people, and creatures to the

saga. The Hoth scenes give us Tauntauns (domesticated snow creatures), the fierce wampa (a huge abominable snowman-type), and finally, the great land battle between Rebel ground troops and fighters, and the massive, armored, lumbering Imperial Walkers (At-Ats, by name).

There's the treacherous ride through an asteroid field (for which Dramamine is recommended), Luke's abortive training with Jedi master Joda on the swamp planet of Dagobah, and finally, the climactic scenes taking place on the planet Bespin at the beautiful floating metropolis known as Cloud City, administered by Han Solo's old smuggling buddy, Lando Calrissian.

It is, in fact, at the magnificent "City in the Clouds" where most of the computer updating was done for this re-release, making it even more glorious and gorgeous than originally was the case.

Need I say it? A 10 on any scale.

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Jerry Johnson

Starry Line Up Shown above is the cast from "Stars For AIDS" benefit held at B's, (Second and Lapham) in Milwaukee earlier this month.

Dear Ruthie

Dear Ruthie,
Where can a nice guy, like myself, go to meet hot men. Please, don't say the bars.

(signed)
- Mr. Nice Guy

Dear Nice Guy,
If I knew where all of the hot men hung out, you think I'd be sitting here reading these letters?

I have this little fantasy about a secret hideaway where all the gorgeous men go to sun themselves. A sort of watering hole for studs. Dozens of men - lounging, frolicking, oiling one another's beefy bodies - each one eagerly awaiting big-boned, red-heads who write advice columns to stop by.

Unfortunately, I've never found such a place ... well ... except for a poolside barbecue I attended at the home of Sigfreid and Roy - but that's another story.

Some people say they can't find a good man. I say those people aren't looking hard enough! Why don't you try looking for a friend instead. You can't have too many friends and quiet often friendship leads to something more. They may even introduce you to that special someone.

Have you thought about volunteering for a charity group? What about a local AIDS organization? Not only will you be helping others and giving something back to the community, but you'll find yourself working with a lot of kind, giving people.

Even if the love bug doesn't bite, you'll have the chance to do some good and make some new friends. So stop the pity party! Go get 'em and when you do find that hot man, tell him Ruthie sent ya!

Dear Ruthie,
My boyfriend of 6 months has suggested an open relationship. I don't like the idea, but really like him. What do you suggest I do?

(signed)
- Boy Trouble

Dear Trouble,
This reminds me of an idea my second husband, Lloyd, had. One day Lloyd comes up to me and says that he'd like each of us to name two fantasy people we'd like to sleep with. This way, if we were ever lucky enough to meet these people we could try to pursue them and fulfill these fantasies without guilt (much like on that "Friends" show the kids are so crazy about).

Well, Lloyd picked Suzanne Summers and Farrah Fawcett. I, on the other hand, chose our pool boy and the guy across the alley, Gordon.

Very upset, Lloyd insisted I change my two people to Phil Donahue and Gopher from the "Love Boat." I protested saying that Phil was all right, but I'd like to replace Gopher with Mr. Kotter. I was told that Kotter was out, but Lenny or Squiggy would be acceptable. I asked about the delivery boy from Toy's Asian Holiday restaurant.

At that, Lloyd called an end to the plan and shortly moved back in with his mother.

Needless to say, I think you should dump this Don Juan and find yourself a man with different morals. The most important aspect of a relationship is that the two people involved believe in the same way of treating each other. They need to have the same morals - I'm not saying good or bad, just the same.

Obviously, you two disagree on the monogamy thing and that's a big issue. I know it will hurt you to say good-bye to him, but you deserve a man who will treat you the way you want to be treated. Have you ever met Mr. Nice Guy? Let me set you kids up.

Dear Ruthie,
Years ago when I was much younger and in the Air Force, I would go to the bars and all kinds of people would buy me drinks. It was really a lot of fun, and I met so many nice people. I am now

over 50, and for the last several years I have noticed that when I go out no one ever offers to buy me a drink. I am not having nearly as much fun as I once did. Tell me, Ruthie, do you think it was the uniform?

(signed)
- Lonely in San Antonio

Dear Lonely,
There's only one thing I like better than a man in uniform - and that's a man out of his uniform.

I've been with many uniform clad gentlemen in my day; policemen, firemen,

Khadafi, the manager from Taco Bell, the delivery boy from Toy's Asian Holiday - the list goes on and on.

I'm sure the uniform created some immediate physical attention, that's how I felt about Schwartzkoff anyway, but it ends there.

You see, I believe you make your own fun. Think about it. Was the drink buying really the thing that created the fun? Or was it the nice people, the atmosphere, and/or the way you felt about yourself. It wasn't really the uniform or the drinks at all, was it? Listen, none of us are as young and pretty as we used to be. We've all had our moments as the center of attention.

Even if you feel those days are gone, don't let that stop you. I say, go on out there and make your own fun. A few good friends and a little confidence in yourself can go a long way. Remember the past, but live in the present! Otherwise - dust off that uniform and I'll meet you on the corner of 5th and Main in an hour. We'll order food from Toy's Asian Holiday.

Ruthie has graciously agreed to answer any and all questions. None are too frivolous. With quill in her lovely hand, she will dip into the well of her wisdom, gained from the crowned heads of Europe (at their expense). All this while engaging in her daily toilette.

Send your queries to Ruthie, c/o Wisconsin Light, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212. Or should you encounter her at some gala or other, you may place your written missive in her delicate hand.

Workshop for Fund Raising, Promotion for Artists

Milwaukee—"Money for Artists: Fundraising and Promotion for Individual Artists" will be held on Saturday, March 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Pangolin, 828 E. Locust Street in Milwaukee. Jen Benka and Jennifer Geigel, both professional fundraisers and local artists, will facilitate. The workshop will include information on grant writing, publicity, and effective communication with funders and patrons.

Benka has worked as a grant writer, special events coordinator and professional fundraiser with social service and arts groups for the past seven years. She is also a published poet, comic book writer and performer and has received grants from Intermedia Arts, the Xeric Foundation, and the Poetry Film Workshop.

Geigel has worked with several non-profit organizations as a grant writer, event coordinator, program evaluator and policy analyst. Also a published poet, she received a grant from the Wait Whitman Center for Culture and Democracy to support her writing.

The workshop costs \$20-\$30 (sliding scale). To register, call (414) 374-7408 or e-mail: lucky@execpc.com.

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- Wednesdays — Super Bust
- Thursdays — Super Bust
- Fridays — No Cover for Cardholders
and their Guests
- Saturdays — Where Milwaukee Parties

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YOU'RE INVITED

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27

LESBO VAMPIRES FROM SODOM OPENS AT THEATER X

"Lesbian Vampires From Sodom", the hit comedy that took New York and Chicago by storm has finally come to Milwaukee courtesy of Theater X.

The company's production of the high camp spoof premieres on Thursday February 27 and runs through March 20 with 11:00 performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

The piece stars BJ Daniels, runs for about an hour (leaving plenty of time to visit your favorite Wisconsin Light advertiser and is real scream.

For tickets call 278-0555.

SATURDAY MARCH 1

SCANDALS GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

Scandals, 121 Main Street, is now open for business and to celebrate their new license and new owners, they are throwing a two day Grand Opening celebration.

On Saturday March 1, the party will feature an 8:00 show produced by Z and L productions.

Sunday March 2, the party will include a 4 to 8 PM beer bust. Drink specials will be featured both days.

GERALDINE'S STARTS AFTER HOURS FOOD SERVICE

Geraldine's located at 3054 E. Washington has heard you. They know that after bar time there is no place to go and have a bite or linger over a cup of coffee with a friend.

Owner, Ray, being the big hearted soul that he is, is starting an after hours restaurant just for you. Of course there will be plenty of great food, reasonable prices and good company.

Ray is expanding his kitchen and plans

to start serving lunches soon. Watch The Wisconsin Light for details.

US OF A ON PARADE AT EAU CLAIRE'S TRADING CO.

Katrina Kaye Productions presents an extravaganza celebrating the Miss Gay US Of A pageant at the Trading Company, 304 Eau Claire Street, Eau Claire.

The 10:30 show will include many of your favorites.

FRIDAY MARCH 7

MISS GAY GREAT LAKES AT ZA'S IN GREEN BAY

Jingle Productions presents the Miss Gay Great Lakes, US of A pageant at Za's, 1106 Main Street, Green Bay.

The Show begins at 10:00 PM (interviews are at 8:00 PM) and features Miss Du Wanna Moore.

There is a \$4.00 cover.

MAMA ROUX ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND BEGINS

Mama Roux, 1875 N. Humboldt, Milwaukee launches its anniversary weekend. Friday March 7, everyone who orders one of the bar's fabulous fish fries gets a free Miller Lite.

Saturday March 8, the bar puts on the dog with "The Big Bash," featuring a great buffet, drink specials and live entertainment. Sunday March 9, the bar features a Sunday Summer Picnic with Happy Hour prices from 3 to 9 PM and a buffet.

Find out why the East Side parties at this popular neighborhood hot spot. Stop in and wish Mama and all her children a happy anniversary.

SATURDAY MARCH 8

MAMA ROUX ANNIVERSARY BASH

You'll be kicking up your heels, enjoying free champagne and munching on a great



Jerry Johnson

Condom Cupids These two Cupids are MAP volunteers who made their way around Milwaukee's bars distributing condoms to help insure a safe Valentine's Day.

buffet if you attend Mama Roux's "Big Bash" to help the bar celebrate its third anniversary.

The party gets underway at 8:00 and includes special surprises and fun for everyone.

Mama Roux is located at 1875 N. Humboldt, Milwaukee.

MISS CLUB 94 PAGEANT

Club 94, I-94 and Hwy C, is the place to be as the popular Dance bar holds its annual Miss Club 94 contest.

Special guests Josie Lyn, Miss Gay Wisconsin US of A, 96-97, Sage La Rue and the ever so talented Du Wanna Moore will be on hand to help keep you entertained and amused.

OBERON CLUB NIGHT AT THE 1100 CLUB

The Oberons will hold their monthly club night at the 1100 Club, located at 1100 S. First Street, Milwaukee.

The leather group's party will include a beer bust, raffles and prizes. Everyone is welcome.

SATURDAY MARCH 15

SPOTLIGHT PARTY AT JUST US

Our SpotLight party for March will be an early St. Patrick's Day celebration. There will be free dance lessons courtesy of the Shoreline Dance troupe, free Miller Lite,

while it lasts, and a great show celebrating the birthdays of Sandy Beach and Mona.

Even if you aren't Irish make sure you join us. Just Us is located at 807 S. Fifth Street.

CC RAE AT ZA'S

CC Rae has escaped from the asylum and is on the loose again. She and her friend Polly Griffin will be at Za's, 1106 Main Street, Green Bay with their all new show.

There will be a \$4.00 cover, or you can sit at a table for \$5.00 extra. We hear that proceeds will be put towards, CC's treatments. Thankfully for the rest of us, her madness is incurable.



BOOT CAMP SALOON
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LEATHER / LEVI BAR

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Milwaukee, WI
414-643-6900

1875 North Humboldt • Milwaukee
347-0344

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Monday thru Thursday: 4-10 pm
Friday and Saturday: 4-11 pm
Friday Fish Fry - Cod or Catfish
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plus full menu with
grill open to 8 pm
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GRILL

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MARCH 7**

**SATURDAY,
MARCH 8**

**SUNDAY,
MARCH 9**

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with every
FRISH FRY

**THE BIG
BASH**

Live Entertainment
Free Champagne
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A SUNDAY
PICNIC

Happy Hour
3-9pm
Buffet

Remember... Your Mama Knows the Best Excuses to Party!



Mardi Gras in Mad Town It was a hot time at a hot bar. On Tuesday February 11, Manoeuvres and the Mad Bar celebrated Mardi Gras with a great party. A good sized crowd braved the snowy weather to celebrate, enjoy wonderful drink specials, chow down on some really good food and dance the night away. As usual Ed and his staff did a great job. A contingent from Mama Roux in Milwaukee made its way up the snowy highways to join in the fun.

Photos by Bill Mennier

Author Readings at AfterWords

Milwaukee--A Gay literary afternoon will take place at AfterWords on Sunday, March 9th with readings from two emerging Gay authors: Eric Beeman and J.E. Robinson.

Eric Beeman is the author of *Tales for the Obsessive Gay Romantic* (Andersonville Publications Pb. \$9.00).

Beeman's tales take the reader's mind and heart on an extraordinary mission to extraordinary love. The stories' settings are real and familiar, from the Gay Games in New York to the fatal and oppressive heat of a Chicago summer. Beeman's tales of obsessive, occasional, unrequited love prove to have a universal theme.

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.

J. E. Robinson, a poet and short story writer whose work has appeared in *New Directions*, *Janus*, *Galley Sail Review* and *The Wittenberg Review*. His story "Waiting on Eurydice" (which took twelve years to complete) is included in the best-selling collection, *Men on Men 6* (Plume Pb. \$12.95).

The appearance with Eric Beeman and J.E. Robinson is free and everyone is welcome.

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.

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Friday & Saturday - DJ
Sunday - Request Night

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ST. PATRICK'S
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Dennis Getto
Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel

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(608) 251-1030

Scandals

**GRAND OPENING
CELEBRATION**

Saturday, March 1

Rolling Rock, Miller Lite & Shot Specials

8pm - A Fabulous Revue

presented by Z & L Productions

BEER BASH

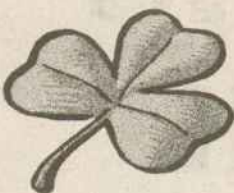
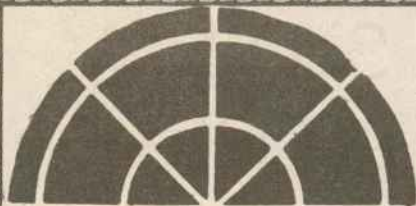
SPECIAL SUPRISES

5-7pm - Happy Hour

Monday through Friday

4-8pm - Beer Bust

Sundays



**THIS
IS IT!**

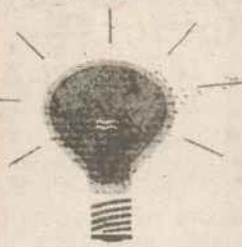
May Fun Always be Your Lot & May He Be Out of the House
Five Minutes Before Your Lover gets Home

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

From Joe, June and Staff

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

The Night Light



IN THE PUBLIC EYE

By Dusty Sass

Well alrighty then, its time to assess what all went on the last two weeks and what's going to be happening for the next couple.

Thank you Madison for giving **Scandals** their license. Mike and Nancy are great people and will be very good owners. Plus, with the sad demise of the Hotel Washington, Madison needed another bar closing like it needed another Ron Greer.

I can't wait to get up there and personally convey my regards.

Speaking of Madison it's a shame that Dick Wagner didn't make it to the County Executives office. You did vote didn't you?

In other news, I had a great time at Rick's B-Day party at **In Between**. Kurt really knows how to roll out the welcome mat.

And what's been going on at **Mama Roux's**? This has always been a popular bar, but lately it's been even more crowded than usual. Course there's always room for more.

Same goes for **This Is It** which is always packed with a good mix of people. The popular downtown cocktail lounge also hosted a great birthday party for Tommy, my good friend from the Isle of Man. I hear the food was not only great, it was out of this world especially the cake and the chocolate chip cookies.

The **Boot Camp Saloon's** Red Plaid Night was a big success. As usual, Si and his staff did a great job.

I also had a great time with Singsational

at the **M & M Club**. This group is one fantastic singing group that deserves the highest possible notice. They added a fantastic touch to **M's**. This is one place where you can always count on seeing a great live act every Saturday night.

Getting on to things ahead.

Thursday, February 27 I am going to be there for the opening night of **Lesbian Vampires From Sodom**. My New York and Chicago friends tell me this is a must see play. Of course the fact that it stars my good friend, the ever so talented BJ Daniels doesn't hurt either. **Vampires** is the late show at Theater X, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays through March 20.

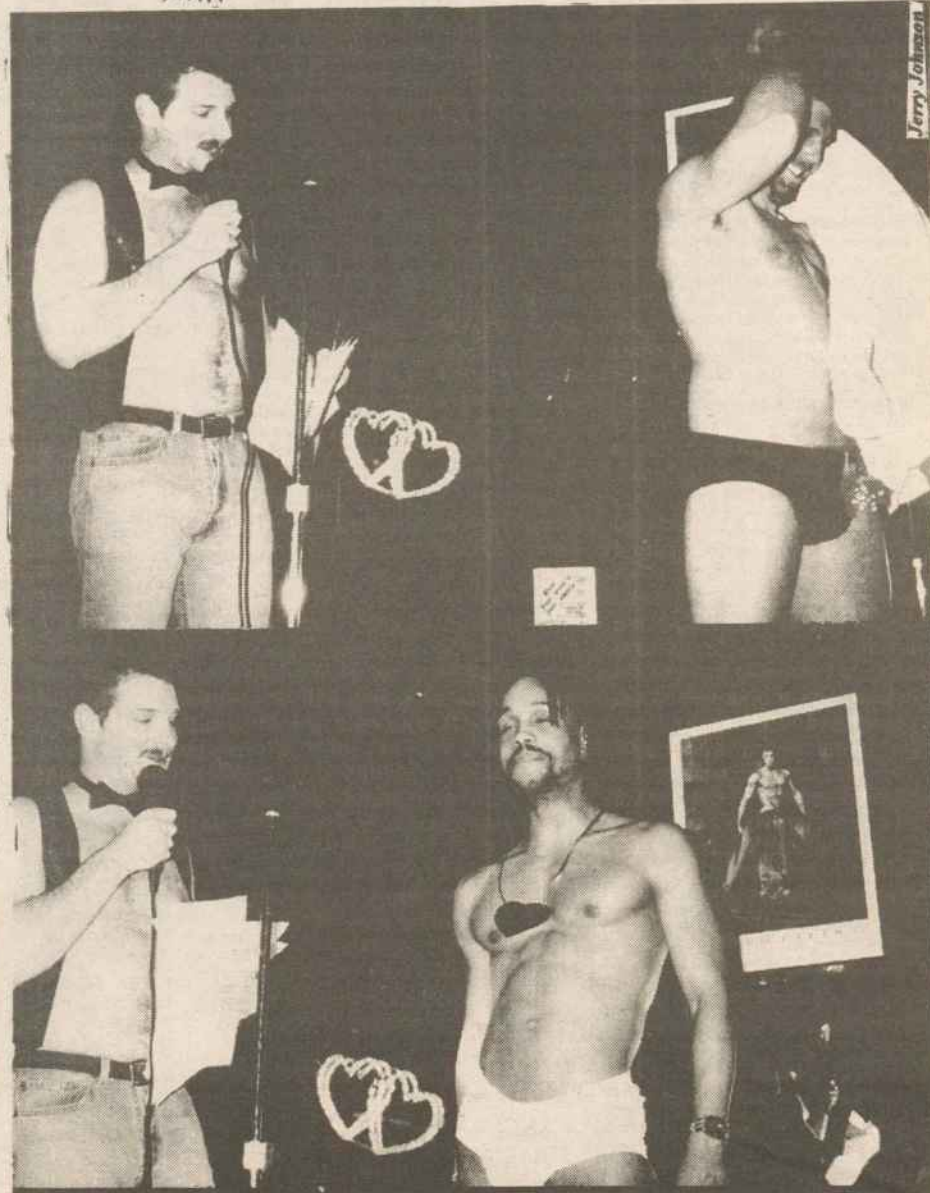
Don't let the 11:00 start time throw you, it's only a hour long leaving plenty of time to enjoy the evening with friends at your favorite bar.

Saturday, March 1 I will head up to Madison for the Grand opening party at **Scandals**. Z & L is putting together the show and from what I have seen of their other productions, I know it will be good.

While I am there, of course I will check out Mad Town's other new bar, **Mary's** and I will have to stop in at **Manoeuvres** and the **Mad Bar** to see Ed, Charlie and all the gang.

While I am at, I will stop in **Geraldine's** to sample their late night bill of fare. Thank goodness, that Ray and his staff are going

Please See Night Light Page 20



Jerry Johnson

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'sJava'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

Scandals
121 W. Main St.
Madison, WI 53703
251-1030

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
Milwaukee, WI 53211
963-9089

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

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

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

Cafe Melange
720 N. Old World St.
Milwaukee, WI 53203
291-9889

C'est La Vie
231 S. Second St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
276-8890

MILWAUKEE Continued

Club 219
219 S. 2nd St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
271-3732

Designing Men
120 S. First
Milwaukee, WI 53204
389-1200

1100 Club
1100 S. 1st St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
647-9950

Fannies
200 E. Washington
Milwaukee, WI 53204
643-9633

In Between
625 S. 2nd St
Milwaukee, WI 53204
273-2693

Just Us
807 S. 5th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
383-2233

La Cage
801 S 2nd St.
Milwaukee, WI 52304
383-8300

La Peria Restaurant
734 S. Fifth St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
645-9888

Mama Roux Bar & American Grill
1875 N. Humboldt
Milwaukee, WI 53212
347-0344

M & M Club
124 N. Water
Milwaukee, WI 53202
347-1962

Rene's Cozy Corner
3500 W Park Hill
Milwaukee, WI 53208
933-RENE

S. Water St. Docks
354 E. National
Milwaukee, WI 53204
225-9676

Station 2
1534 W. Grant
Milwaukee, WI 53204
383-5755

10% Club
4223 W. Fon Du Lac
Milwaukee, WI 53216
447-0910

MILWAUKEE Continued

This Is It
418 E. Wells
Milwaukee, WI 53202
278-9192

Triangle
134 E. National
Milwaukee, WI 53204
383-9412

Walkers Point Cafe
1106 S. First St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
384-7999

Zipper
819 S 2nd St.
Milwaukee, 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, WI 53081
457-1636

STEVENS POINT

The Platwood Club
701 Highway 10W
Stevens Point, WI 54481
341-8862

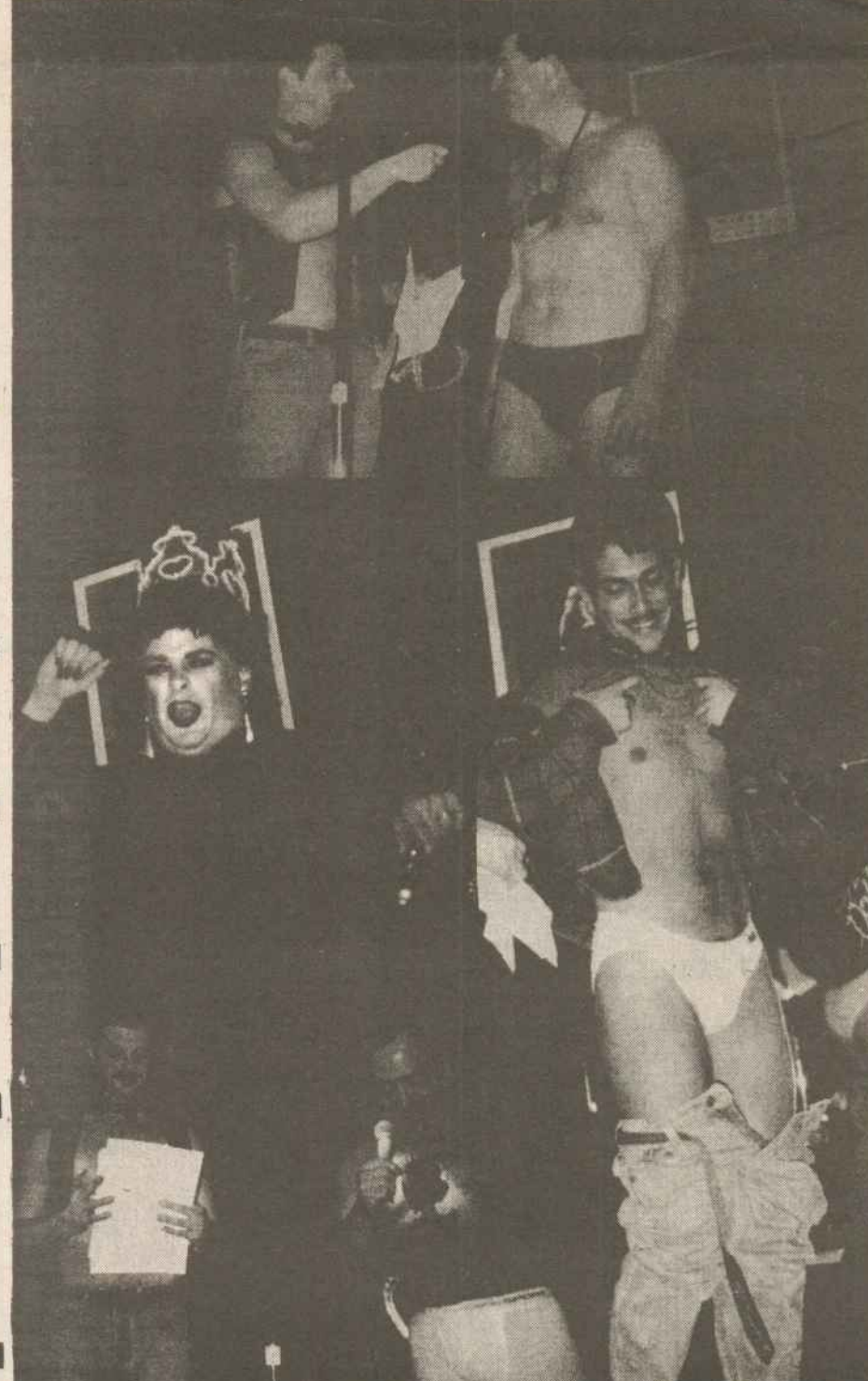
SUPERIOR

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



Showing it off - South Water Street Docks, 354 E. National was packed for its Valentine's Day Underwear contest. So many choices!!! We are glad that we didn't have choose the winner from among the hot entries.

WISCONSIN LIGHT PERSONALS

TALKING PERSONALS! HUNDREDS OF GUYS TO CHOOSE FROM! CALL NOW!

1-900-370-1626

MANFINDER

Call The 900 number to respond to ads, browse unlisted ads, or retrieve messages. Only \$1.99 per minute. 18+. Customer Service: 415-281-3183

MANFINDER

Illinois

SMORGASBORD OF MEN This 36 year old, submissive, Bi bottom, 6'1, 195lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, is looking to hookup with other horny guys for hot times. Be between 25 and 50, Bi, Gay, or Straight, and of any race and body type as long as your height and weight are proportionate. Dominant, well hung, bodybuilders and construction workers are particular turn ons. Let's just have fun with no strings attached. (Chicago) =11919

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

THE POLISH PRINCE They call me the Polish Prince. I'm a clean cut, Single, Gay, White male, 5'11, 185lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, and a smooth body. I'd like to meet another hot guy, between 21 and 40, who is interested in finding a one on one relationship. (Evanston) =11152

A TASTE OF THE CARIBBEAN A good looking, 29 year old, Puerto Rican male, 5'4, 145lbs, seeks a White or Hispanic male, between 25 and 35, for a deep, long lasting, relationship. I'm loving, and lovable, honest and caring, and interested in movies, music, and quiet evenings at home. Please call soon if you're a sincere non smoker. (Evanston) =28040

I GO AT ALL SPEEDS This clean shaven, outgoing, White male, is into lots of scenes. Sometimes, I'd like to have a dominant mistress, to uncover my submissive side. I'm looking for more than just sex, or one date, however. Maybe we can talk, hang out, or catch a show. Let's just keep it exciting. (Evanston) =27536

SPIRITUAL BOND This masculine, ambitious, spiritual minded, Black male, is looking for similar Black males, with whom to create a special bond. I live in the west suburbs, and am interested in movies, music, and live theater. (Evanston) =27272

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

WHERE ARE YOU HIDING? I know I'm not the only Gay person in the Rockport/Joliet area! I just don't know where you are. I'm an 18 year old, college student, and I'd especially like to meet other guys between 18 and 21. I'll look forward to talking to all callers, however. (Joliet) =27332

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. (Rockport) =23595

WE HAVE TO START SOMEWHERE If we're going to have a relationship, we have to like each other so let's start as friends. I'm an Italian and Irish, Gay, White male, 26, 5'4, 135lbs, looking to meet other guys for whatever happens. (Lombard) =12163

LET THE MUSIC PLAY Come out and party with me. I'm a Black, and Hispanic, male, 29, looking for some fun. I'm 6ft, 190lbs, and I like to dance the night away. I'm interested in meeting other guys, between 20 and 25, to trip the lights with. Peace. (Oak Park) =23373

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

CAN WE TALK? This Bi curious, White male, 37, is looking for a man I can feel comfortable talking to, in order to sort out my feelings. I'm an attractive, honest, open minded guy, 5'8, 160lbs, interested in fishing, camping, and outdoor sports. You should be a masculine, trim, good looking guy, between 25 and 40. Race doesn't matter. I want quality friendship, not necessarily quantity. (Des Moines) =27659

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

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKING I'm an attractive, college educated, masculine, Single, Bi, White male. I am 26 yrs old, 5'10 and 160lbs. I have short Brown hair and Brown eyes. I am versatile with a very nice tool. I like other masculine, rugged guys, who like to have a good time. Don't let opportunity pass you by. (Chanhassan) =27515

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

ARE YOU TALL AND TONED? I want to find a special friend who can become my partner. I'm a clean cut, clean shaven, 37 year old, White male, 6ft, 185lbs, with Brown hair, and Blue eyes. I like pool, darts, movies, and theater. You should be between 37 and 45, into working out, as I am, and, if I'm lucky, a tall top. (Minneapolis) =11019

I'M READY FOR YOU I'm a 38 year old, White male, with Cerebral Palsy and a hearing impairment. I'm able to deal with those challenges, but I'm still lonely without you. I'd like to meet a hairy man, with a medium build, who is well endowed and, perhaps, shares my interest in movies, travel, swimming, and computers. I also like long conversations. (Minneapolis) =12680

EVERYBODY PLAYS THE FOOL They say there's no fool like an old fool, but don't fool yourself, I can really make you happy. No foolin'. This hot stud, White male, 42, 6'3, 195lbs, seeks smallish, smooth guys, between 18 and 30, who yearn for good times. Transvestites, Transsexuals, and crossdressers are more than welcome. I can be a daddy type for you. (Minneapolis) =6475

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 horizons. 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 fetishism. I'd like to try some mild torture and punishment. Of course, I'll respect your limits. Let's talk. (Minneapolis) =26551

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 needs B&D, and wants to be of service. Looks, age, race, and experience are less important than the right attitude. (Minneapolis) =24321

AND THERE'S MORE How soon can you move in? Athletic, slim, White male, is looking for a relationship with a guy in his 20's. I'm 39 years old, and can provide secure, long-term, stability, for the right guy. Share my Victorian home, and all the trimmings. (Minneapolis) =23464

VOYEUR I'm a 29 year old Gay male, good shape, 5'7, 165lbs. I'm looking for fun. (Minneapolis) =17909

I'M RATED XXX I'm a Bi guy and I'm feeling very kinky. I'm 5'9, 145lbs, and I want to get to know you in many ways. I'm into making X-rated movies, playing with toys, and many other pleasures. Talk to me. (Princeton) =10232

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

SET A COURSE FOR ADVENTURE Serve it down the line for a clean winner. This masculine, Gay male, 45, 5'11, 175lbs, likes to play tennis and travel. I'm interested in meeting men, under 55, who seek fun, friendship, and whatever else happens. (Rochester) =27675

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

SOUTH OF THE CITIES I live about an hour south of the cities, but am worth the trip. This clean cut, young looking, 36 year old man, 6ft, 190lbs, with short Brown hair, Bluish Green eyes, and a good build, wants to make new friends and see what develops. I have a variety of interests. Let's talk. =28338

Wisconsin

DISCREET FUN IN APPLETON This 25 year old Appletonian, is on the lookout for Gay, White, or Hispanic, males, for discreet fun. Let's get to the core of the matter. (Appleton) =23551

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. (Boycerville) =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 handlebars but like the contact. Manipulate me. (Boycerville) =3939

YOUR PLEASURE IS MY FAME This masculine, discreet, versatile, White male, is always looking for hot times with other dudes in their twenties and thirties. If you're hot, and horny, anything goes. (Eau Claire) =7099

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

HOT TIME TONIGHT This attractive, professional White male, 25, has dark features, a mustache, and a variety of interests. I want to meet nice looking men, 21 to 38, who are masculine, well endowed, and have good builds. Let's start with hot times. I'm open to all possibilities after that. Facial and body hair are big pluses. (Madison) =11130

HOW DEEP IS YOUR FANCY? Need a hot top to tickle your fancy? I'm eager to take on the job. I'm a well endowed, White male, 26, 6'1, 185lbs, with light Brown hair, and Brown eyes. I'm looking for erotic encounters with willing bottoms, between 18 and 30. (Madison) =22820

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 working out, music, movies, thunderstorms, and roller coasters. (Madison) =26597

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. (Menomonie) =17473

CRUSH ON CROSS-DRESSERS This Single, White professional male, 36, 6ft, 180lbs, is clean and discreet, and wants to meet crossdressers, Transvestites, and hermaphrodites. I promise to answer all responses. I can't wait to hear from you. (Milwaukee) =11132

I'LL COME TO YOU I'm a Married, Bi, White male and I want to meet other Bi males, or couples with a Bi male, for fun times. I'm professional, attractive, clean, and discreet and hope the same of you. I'm open to all scenes. If I haven't tried it but I'll give it a go at least once, so the unusual is fine. I travel the state so I can come to you, so to speak. (Milwaukee) =12114

I'M HOLDING BACK I'm a 25 year old, boy next door with Brown hair and Blue eyes. I like to go to movies, and listen to music. To find out more, call right away. (Milwaukee) =11433

SHE'S A LADY I'm a 21 year old, Black male, college student, and I'm looking for a special man who will treat me like a lady. You should be a Single, White male, between 25 and 35, who likes to cuddle, kiss, and do lots of other things. (Milwaukee) =10696

THE BEST OF EVERYTHING This very attractive top is looking for hot bottoms for frequent fun. I'm 21, half Puerto Rican, half White, 5'8, 135lbs, with short Brown hair, Brown eyes, full lips, and a washboard stomach. I have a slender, athletic build. You should be under 25, very attractive, masculine, in shape, self confident, and interested in me. I prefer guys who aren't into the bars. (Milwaukee) =10552

DAY OF DISCOVERY I want to meet other guys in the area to explore my sexuality with. I'm an attractive 29 year old male, 6'9, 170lbs, with Brown hair, and Green eyes. Let's discover together. (Milwaukee) =8333

NIIPLEMANIA I'm looking for a gentleman who enjoys good nipple work. I loved to have mine worked on for hours and I'd like to return the favor for you. Mine are at attention just at the thought. (Milwaukee) =27442

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

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 bag, 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 57 and 5'10, and clean shaven. We begin now. (Milwaukee) =25342

'STACHE IT HERE I find men in mustaches very sexy and want to meet you if you have one. I'm a 32 year old, Gay, White male, with dark Blond hair, and, believe it or not, a mustache. (Oshkosh) =11649

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 years 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) =4961

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 crafty predator. (Racine) =26852

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

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

FOR YOUR FREE AD CALL 1-800-546-6366. THE SYSTEM WILL DO THE REST!

Ross Perot Company Offers Domestic Partners Benefits To Employees

Dallas- Perot Systems, where officials say they want to remain competitive in the high tech industry has begun offering domestic partner benefits_ an apparent

first for a major Texas based company. Perot Systems began offering health insurance benefits to partners of its Gay and Lesbian employees in this fall's enrollment for the 1997 benefit year. A spokeswoman for the Dallas based computer services company says it wants to stay competitive with other high-tech firms that offer the benefits.

"We want to attract, develop and recognize talented people," said Perot Systems Spokeswoman Tara Sexton. "Caring for them and their families is one way you inspire employees not only to come to work for you, but to remain."

Perot Systems was founded in 1988 by Ross Perot, who owns stock in the company that has been run for years by Mort Meyerson who is now its chairman.

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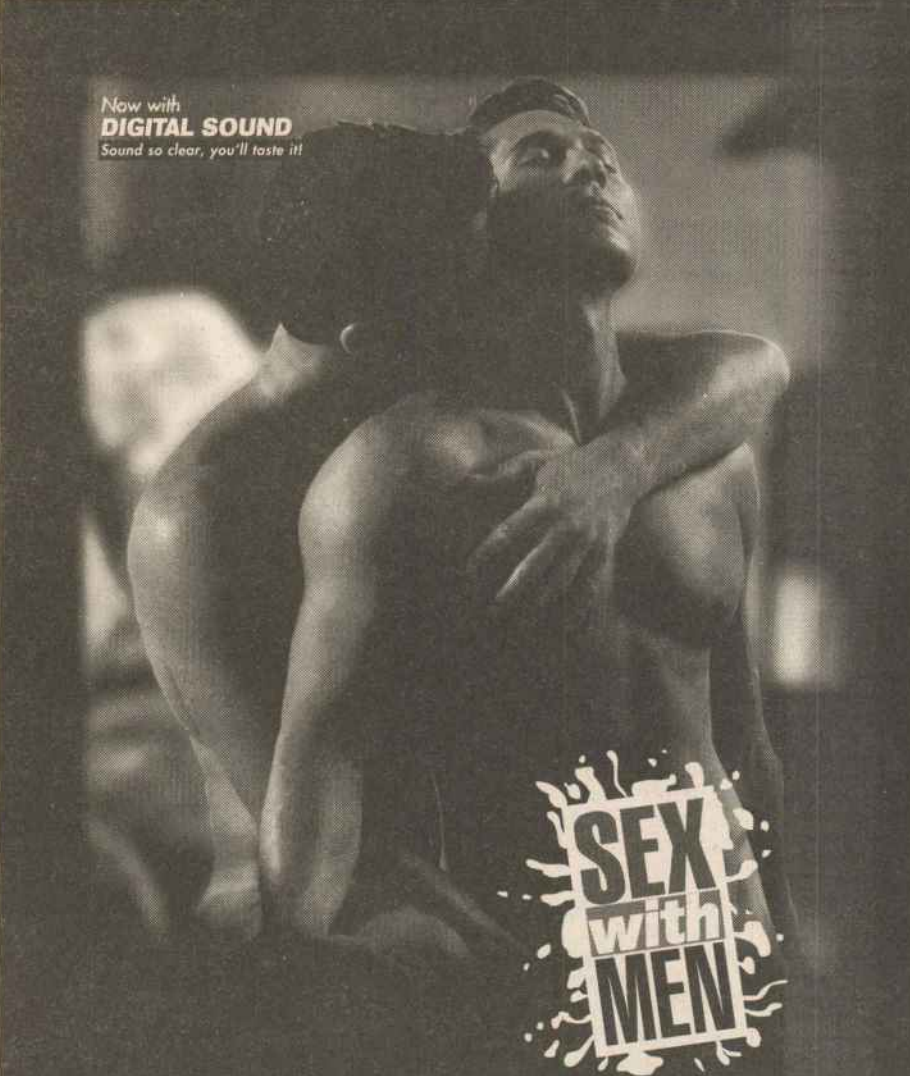
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port will be a compilation and analysis of the individual, organization and business surveys collected over the last eight months. Descriptions of the fund-raising plans and finance procedures also will be included. Committees creating a volunteer program as well as specific projects and activities such as Information and Referral, Youth and Shared Office Services will develop other sections of the final report.

For more information or to volunteer for the Strategic Planning Committee or any of its sub-groups including Programming, Location or Financing, call the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center at (414) 483-4711.

Youth Activities of the Community Center Slated for Spring

Activities and programs for youth, ages 16 to 25, will begin this spring, sponsored by the Youth Committee of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

Monthly alcohol-free nights, or youth "Rainbow Nights," at local bars and area churches will begin in March, organized and promoted by the seven adults and fifteen youth on the Community Center's Youth Committee.

An important focus for these "Rainbow Nights" will be promoting respect and appreciating diversity within the LGBT community.

Among the projects underway is a collaboration with Gay Youth Milwaukee on "Gay Prom" to be held in spring.

The Committee also is developing youth activities for PrideFest this summer, including the possibility of a float in the parade.

The Committee is beginning to plan activities and procedures for a proposed youth "drop-in center," considered a high priority program for the Community Center by thousands of survey respondents over the past eight months.

The "drop-in center" activities and other program ideas are based on surveys returned by youth at various locations around the Milwaukee area as well as current members in youth groups.

Naomi Guzman, one of the Committee co-chairs, explained, "The need is so great for activities for Gay/ Lesbian/ Bi-

sexual and Transgender youth and the enthusiasm level is so high that the Community Center Steering Committee decided not to wait for the Center to have its own space before sponsoring and organizing programs."

The Youth Committee meets biweekly to plan programs and assess projects. A key priority for the committee is coordinating their activities with existing programs for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered youth through agencies, churches and schools.

Guzman and Edward Carr, co-chairs of the Youth Committee, also are developing a Diversity Committee to review and recommend training for volunteers and policies for the Community Center as the planning progresses. Their first meeting of the Diversity Committee was on February 22nd.

"We need the participation of all sectors of our community to make this Community Center a huge success," said Carr.

To learn more about the youth activities or to volunteer with the Youth Committee or Diversity Committee, call the Community Center at (414) 483-4710.

Albrecht and Wise will take the steering committee through the final rounds of by-law approval at the March 6 meeting in addressing the topics of finance, the composition and powers of the board of directors, officers, executive committee and standing and special committees.

"We hope to begin the nomination process for a formal board of directors within the next forty-five days," said Wise.

The strategic planning committee continues to meet with organizations and businesses who are potential renters and is currently synthesizing their needs in developing a final business plan.

A location team of Leonard Sobczak and Sura Faraj is identifying buildings meeting the criteria from the individual and organization/business survey results. It appears the building is going to need between 2,500-5,000 square feet.

Individuals, organizations or businesses wanting to get involved or who are interested in more information may call the center at (414) 483-4710.

The mission of the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Community Center is to improve the quality of life for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people in the metro Milwaukee area. The mission statement is supported by the L/G/B/T Community Center vision which is to:

- * Provide a home for the birth, nurture and celebration of our organizations, culture and diversity;
- * Initiate, implement and advocate for programs and services that meet the needs of our communities;
- * Educate the public and our communities to encourage positive changes in the systems affecting our lives;
- * Empower our individuals and groups to achieve their fullest potential;
- * Cultivate a culture of diversity and inclusion in all phases of the project.

Plan in Draft Form

Criteria to finalize the business plan include: investing in a neighborhood, supporting L/G/B/T-owned businesses, encouraging and providing collaborative services to the community, providing public advocacy and new program development.

These criteria have been developed through a multi-tiered consensus-building process with volunteers in strategic planning, the Steering Committee and other non-Gay-identified Milwaukee community leaders.

"These criteria will drive the selection of a location as well as the choice of initial programs to be sponsored by and offered at the Community Center," ex-fledgling center.

Hours and hours of local and national research was conducted by several volunteers to provide backbone to the plan. "We are excited to kick off the membership drive in late spring. The community will be proud of this plan because virtually everyone will have the opportunity to become a member or "owner" of their community center," said Patrick Flaherty, fund raising co-chair. Membership benefits will be outlined to the public next month as soon as they are finalized.

Bylaws Approved

If you thought it takes, on average, one - two years for a Gay/Lesbian organization to approve their bylaws, the community center just reduced the mean.

Denise Wise's and Neil Albrecht's well-researched facilitation lead the steering committee through the swift approval of the first four sections of the community center's by-law draft, discussing voting rights, membership rights, the center's annual meeting, purpose and name.

Bombing

Continued from Page 1

City Promises More Security

Atlanta Police promised beefed up protection for that city's Les/Bi/Gay community, but according to Chris Cash, Editor in Chief of Southern Voice, Atlanta's Les/Bi/Gay newspaper, "We are still trying to pin them down on exactly what protection they will provide."

Cash described The Otherside as a bar that attracts a few Gay men and many Lesbians. She said the choice of that bar as a target was a curious one. "It's not the most popular bar, but it has been around for a long time. It's the kind of bar that people go to early in the evening. Then the older Lesbians go home and the younger ones go on to another place."

Cash said the Atlanta community was shaken, but that the bombing hadn't caused people to stay home. "Saturday evening was a busy night for our bars. People aren't going to let this dissuade them from enjoying themselves."

As word of the bombing spread, Atlanta bars instituted a policy of denying admission to anyone carrying a package or knapsack.

Atlanta's Third Bombing

Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell issued a statement condemning the bombing. It was the third pipe bomb incident suffered by the City in the last six months.

The first incident occurred during the 1996 Olympics. Two people died at Centennial Park, the location of that explosion. An Abortion Clinic, the Northside Family Planning Clinic was the scene of another bombing last month.

Seven people were injured in the clinic bombing during which two pipe bombs exploded.

Mayor Campbell has publicly said that the City believes it is dealing with "a serial bomber." Pipe bombs were used in all three incidents. All three bombs contained dynamite and nails. Pipe bombs were used in all three incidents.

Similar Methods Used in Bombings

In two of the bombings, the Clinic and the Otherside, there was a second bomb designed to hurt rescuers.

Federal officials were called to the scene

and launched an investigation. They remained on the scene through Sunday combing the area for clues that might lead them to a suspect.

Officials were denying an ABC report that they had concluded the same person committed all three bombings. The network reported that the bombs used in the three incidents all contained the same trigger mechanism, the same explosives and the same type of nails.

Jay Spadafore, an FBI spokesman, said that the agency has not concluded anything about the identity of the bomber. "Two weeks from now, we might have a much better idea if these bombs are made by the same person. More clues are left behind each time a device is discovered or detonated."

Bobby Browning of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms told the press that while there are similarities between the bombs used at The Otherside and the other Atlanta bombings there are differences too.

"We are certainly exploring the possibility that they were made by the same person or group, but we are not ignoring the possibility that they were not" said Browning.

Feds Called In

Spadafore announced that the Federal Task force investigating the Clinic bombing will also investigate the bombing of The Otherside Lounge. Additional federal and local law enforcement personnel will be added to that group. The Olympic Centennial Park bombing will continue to be investigated by a separate task force.

National reaction to the bombing was swift, major National organizations such as the Human Rights League (HRL), the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, and others condemned the bombing and called for federal action.

But according to Cash and others, many members of Atlanta's Les/Bi/Gay community are upset that President Clinton did not condemn the bombing. As one person contacted by The Wisconsin Light put it, "Clinton weighs in quickly enough when it's an abortion clinic, he should have issued a public statement immediately."

Gingrich, Clinton Condemn Bombing

Candace Gingrich who was in Atlanta for a conference, called upon the President and her brother House Speaker Newt Gingrich to condemn the bombing with same vigor they used in condemning the Abortion Clinic bombing.

"If you recall when the (clinic) bombing happened in Sandy Springs, within minutes ... the president and my brother were denouncing what happened," she said of the abortion clinic blast.

Following her comments, the Speaker's office issued a statement quoting Newt Gingrich as calling the incidents "inexcusable acts of terrorism."

President Clinton finally spoke up on the Monday evening after the bombing. The President called the bombing terrorism and called upon all Americans to "stand together against hate crimes of this nature."

Georgia Militia Involvement?

Speculation on who might have committed these acts runs rampant. It is worth noting that the day before the bombing, three members of the Georgia Militia, a radical right wing group were sentenced from 6 1/2 to 8 years on pipe bomb conspiracy charges.

When asked if the sentencing had anything to do with the bombing, Mayor Campbell said that the possibility was being investigated.

Last Spring members of an Arizona Militia group were arrested on bombing conspiracy charges. In that case, the group had been planning to bomb, abortion clinics and Gay bars among other targets.

Lambda Defense Fund Speaks Out

Calling the bombing "a cowardly, despicable act of hatred," a Lambda attorney met on Monday, February 24th, with local Lesbian and Gay lawyers to discuss civil rights issues, including anti-Gay violence.

"We will not be bombed back into the closet," Lambda Staff Attorney David Buckel said.

Lambda Executive Director Kevin Cathcart said, "Martin Luther King, Jr., warned that the fight for justice is often met by violence. No terrorist will deter our work toward achieving full recognition of civil rights for Lesbians, Gay men, and people with AIDS and HIV."

Cathcart, who is to meet soon with Atlanta supporters, added, "There is much civil rights work to do in the Southern Region. We have no doubt that, just like the Lesbian and Gay community in Atlanta, Lambda will thrive in this region."

Cathcart was referring to the fact that Lambda is planning to open a Southern Regional Office very soon.

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Organizations

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Personals

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An Absolut Success - Shown above is one of the celebrants at the Absolut's Los Angeles Mardi Gras party was its biggest ever. The party held in chic, tres Gay West Hollywood climaxed a month long celebration. It is sponsored by Absolut Vodka.

The Night Light
Continued from Page 16

to provide a place to eat after bar closing.
Friday, March 7, you can find me having a great fish fry at the **M & M Club**, where the men and the fish are always hot.

Saturday, March 8 I will be at **Mama Roux** for their **Big Anniversary Bash**. Hey offer me great live music, free food, free champagne and drink specials and I am there. Hope you will be there too.

Sunday, March 9, it's back to Roux's to help them wind up their anniversary weekend with their Sunday Summer Picnic.

Saturday, March 15 you can find me at **Just Us** for our big SpotLight Party. Free Miller Lite, Country Dance lessons and a great B-Day show for Mona and Sandy Beach, (like they really needed another Birthday) will make for a very enjoyable evening.

If I was in Green Bay I would be at the CC Rae show at **Za's**. CC is very funny and Za's is always a fun place to spend some time at.

Well that about wraps it up. Hope to see you out and about soon. Remember in the meantime, stay safe and be proud.

Beeman
Continued from Page 10

and challenging setting—The Gay bashing St. Patrick's Day in Boston...job hunting in a downsized America...at the zoo with a young lover...an athlete alone amid throngs of "half a million naked men on drugs."

In the end, Beeman (I mean, Beeman's character), while tricking out, leaves us with a surreal vision of the most powerful love, dare I say "monogamy?"

"Two people, what they can do! God, anything!"

Which, I think, is just about what this con-turned-artist can and will do.

Editor's Note: Beeman will be reading at **AfterWords Bookstore** on **Sunday, March 9th** at 1:00 p.m.

Beeman's book represents a Gay grass roots Gay success story. Unable to publish his book anywhere else, Beeman and his friends printed the book, and hand sold the collection to Gay bookstores nationally, selling out in six months.

AIDS Budget
Continued from Page 1

treatments and effective prevention strategies, that both of these budgets remained mostly on the sidelines of AIDS instead of committing aggressively to the front-lines in the fight against AIDS," said Doug Nelson, executive director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW).

President Clinton's Budget
The proposed 1998 Federal Budget includes only some modest increases in funding for HIV and AIDS services that do not meet the challenges of the worsening AIDS epidemic in Wisconsin or

throughout the country. The spending plan fails to increase funding for AIDS medications and recommends the smallest increases in CARE Act funding during the Clinton administration. The budget did include increased funding for HIV prevention, AIDS research and housing for people with HIV and AIDS.

"Typically, the President's budget has been the high-water mark in terms of AIDS funding from Washington. This year, the AIDS community needs to exceed the President's mark to even begin to address the needs of people with HIV and AIDS," said Mike Gifford, director of Public Policy at ARCW.

The President's proposed budget also includes a \$22 billion cut in Medicaid funding over five years achieved through a per capita cap on expenditures. Nearly 53 percent of adults and 90 percent of children with HIV and AIDS rely heavily upon Medicaid for access to health care including the new AIDS treatments. A federal per capita cap may result in greater financial pressure on all states to provide comprehensive care, which may result in states initiating cost-saving plans that could include eliminating non-mandatory services such as coverage for medications.

"Wisconsin has constructed a strong Medicaid program for people with HIV and AIDS. We cannot let Washington undercut our efforts to deliver health care to its population," said Gifford.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) also finds the President's budget discouraging.

"The good news is that the president is asking for increases for care, prevention, housing and research at a time when other discretionary spending is static," said Winnie Stachelberg, HRC's legislative director. "Unfortunately, these increases are not enough considering that we could be on the threshold of beating back this epidemic. To achieve the goals articulated in the White House strategy, President Clinton must commit the money now, for treatment of those already infected and for research aimed at finding a cure."

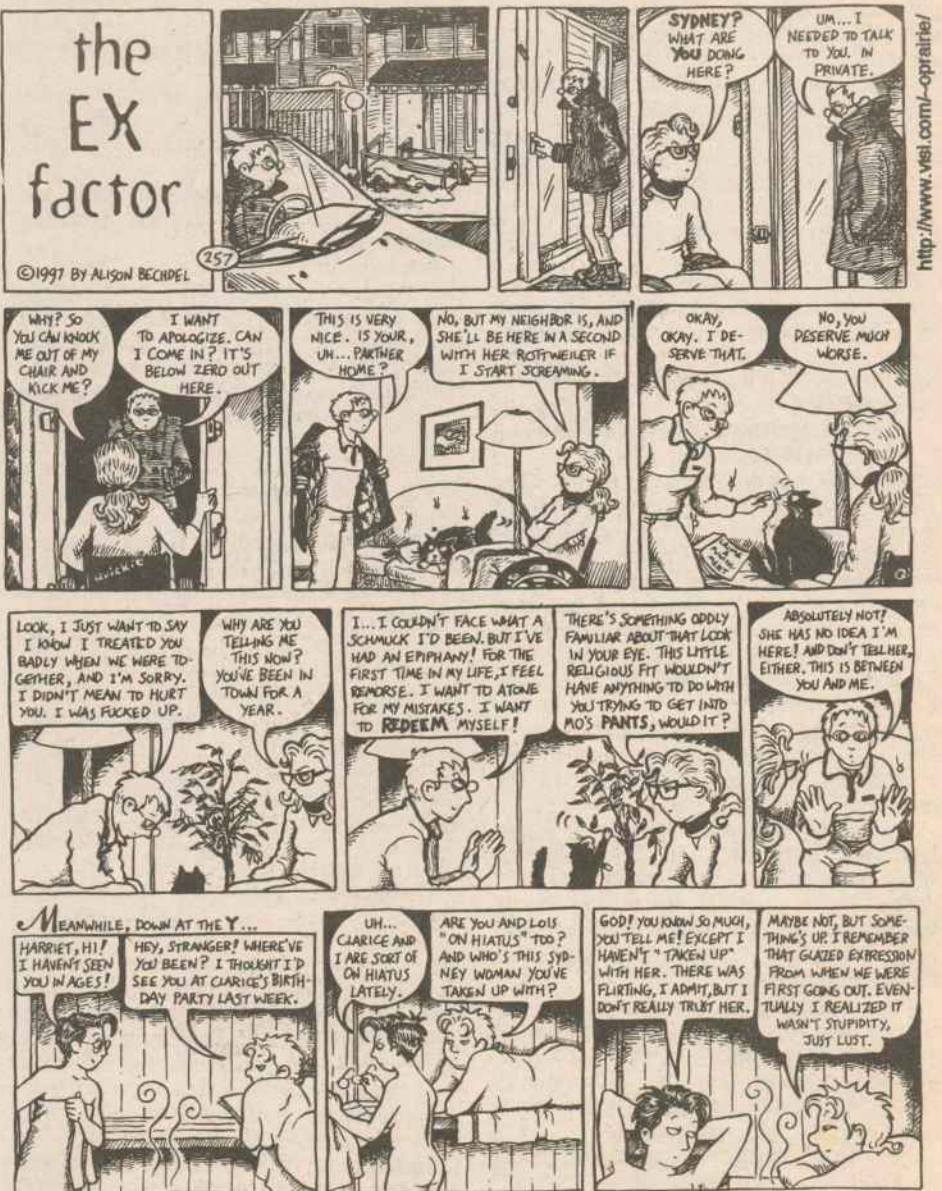
Stachelberg went on to say that "Imposing such restrictions on Medicare could be devastating to thousands of people living with HIV and AIDS and might limit their access to the new class of drugs that have improved and prolonged so many lives," she said.

A bipartisan National Governors Association and a bipartisan roster of senators have joined a chorus of groups opposed to such caps.

Stachelberg said, "We also continue to believe that the administration should encourage states to implement needle exchange programs because such programs have been shown to slow the spread of HIV in one of the most vulnerable communities."

Governor Thompson's Budget
"At least Governor Thompson increased funding for access to AIDS medications," began Gifford's analysis of the Governor's proposed 1997-1999 State Budget.

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



Both the state's AIDS Drug Reimbursement Program (ADRP) and Insurance Continuation Program, which subsidizes private health insurance premiums for people with HIV disease and AIDS, are slated for increases under the Governor's plan. The Governor should be commended that he has recommitted Wisconsin on this front.

The two-year Thompson plan fails to provide increases in funding for community-based AIDS services and for the eighth straight year, does not increase general state funding for HIV prevention services. The plan does provide about \$400,000 more in state funding for the ADRP and contains a new, yet to be explained HIV insurance initiative.

"It's troubling that the state has created this new health insurance initiative and not asked anyone in the AIDS community about the structure or need for the program," said Gifford.

With the Thompson Administration supporting key health initiatives in the proposed budget including women's health issues, health insurance for kids and better services for older women on Medicaid, Gifford was hopeful that health issues would remain at the forefront of debate as the legislature deliberates on the budget.

The Need has Never Been Greater
"AIDS remains a top public health threat in Wisconsin. Government leaders need to acknowledge it as a crisis and need to enact policies that provide leadership in the fight against AIDS," said Gifford.

State of Wisconsin statistics report that 799 new AIDS cases have been diagnosed in just the last two years. This total represents about 25 percent of all AIDS cases reported in the state during the 15 year history of the AIDS epidemic.

More than ever, Wisconsin is struggling to deal with the AIDS crisis. The astronomical cost of AIDS care which is quickly surpassing \$200,000 per person identifies the strong need for increased HIV prevention services so that AIDS does not overwhelm the limited available resources.

The stringent protocols to ensure the highest level of effectiveness of new AIDS treatments requires a greater reliance on community-based services and medical management of HIV. A patient on these medications must adhere to strict diets and can barely miss a doctor visit without potentially harming their health status. Both transportation and nutritional services are key to successfully following drug protocols and therefore critical to successfully treating AIDS.

Because any significant gap in taking the medications can lead to drug resistance, continuous medical coverage for access to the medications also requires strong benefits planning.

Even basic AIDS services like case management are being overwhelmed. Some parts of the state report client to case manager ratios potentially exceeding 100 to 1. With the difficulties of maintaining the strict new protocols, these ratios make the hard work of case management even more difficult. As AIDS caseloads across the state continue to increase while the AIDS death rate declines by 25 percent in Wisconsin, community-based services are in even greater demand.

Additionally, ARCW reports that the number of new people accessing services for the first time on a monthly basis has doubled and requests for everything from legal assistance to food services are up by 50 to 100 percent.

Your Help is Needed
"President Clinton's and Governor Thompson's budgets must be the top public policy issue for the AIDS community. If significant increases in funding levels, restoration of full Medicaid funding and expansion of Wisconsin's AIDS Drug Reimbursement Program are not achieved, then all of the recent advancements in the fight against AIDS will be for naught," said Gifford.

Everybody in the AIDS community is encouraged to recommit to an aggressive advocacy effort to assure the needs of people with AIDS or at risk of contracting HIV receive comprehensive services.

"Fortunately, in the recent past, both the U.S. Congress and State Legislature have been very supportive of HIV and AIDS issues and funding," said Gifford. The real challenge is motivating that support into elected officials prioritizing HIV/AIDS funding in these budgets.

To help achieve a greater commitment to the fight against AIDS from both the state and federal government, people can call ARCW's Public Policy Department at 414-225-1547 and sign-up to become an AIDS Advocate.

As an advocate, you will receive information on the latest developments on budget and policies fronts and have an opportunity to express your support for a strong AIDS commitment to elected officials.

"If nothing else, we need to let the co-chairs of the State Joint Finance Committee know that more funding is needed in the fight against AIDS," said Gifford.

Assembly Chairman of the Finance Committee is Rep. Scott Jensen (R-Waukesha) who can be reached at (608) 264-6970. Senator Brian Burke (D-Milwaukee), the Senate Co-Chair of the Committee, can be called at (608) 266-8535.

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. is dedicated to the fight against the worsening AIDS epidemic through prevention, care, research and advocacy.