full-color photos of Madison's Pride Weekend in this issue!

The Wisconsin Light

PFLAG and Other **Gay Leaders Meet** With Clinton

Washington, DC-Parents, Families & Friends of Gays Represent 70,000 U.S.

History-Making Organization Reaches into over 400 Communities

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) President Nancy McDonald moved to bring the views of nearly 70,000 PFLAG households from across the country to President Bill Clinton during a White House meeting Tuesday. President McDonald conferred with President Clinton in a private meeting alongside a dozen Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Transgender community ac-

We are seeking to create 'safe space' for everyone, and especially in our schools and communities. I hope that Clinton and his Administration will join us in this

work," she said.

Leaders of PFLAG, an evolutionary step in the parents of Gays movement, was created two decades ago out of a mother's pain and anger as she watched her Gay son be beaten on a television newscast. She pledged this past spring at the historic President's Summit for America's Future to provide "safe spaces" for 10,000 more Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual youth and their families by the year 2002

This is in light of the fact that every day 13 Americans between the ages of 15 and 24 commit suicide, and it is estimated that perhaps 30% of these young people are

Gay or Lesbian.

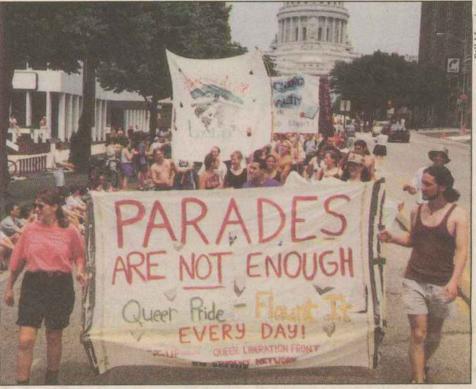
PFLAG itself had its first incarnation in 1973 in New York City, with the assistance of a prominent Lesbian-feminist



Ian Hart stars in "Hollow Reed", a critically acclaimed new Gay themed film. It opens for one week at Milwaukee's Oriental on Friday, August 1. (See review on page 26)

Domestic Partnership Benefits Proposed for Milwaukee City Workers

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



We Agree But marches and parades do help. About 3,000 people turned out for the Madison Pride March on Sunday July 20. The March was followed by a festival at Brittingham park.

New LGBT Community Center to be Located in Brewers' Hill Section of Milwaukee

Milwaukee-More than 100 volunteers have been working over the past 16 months to give the Milwaukee LGBT community a home of its own. The Center is maturing quickly, and the realization of this dream is fast approaching. A location has been chosen for the center, organizations are committed to leasing space in the center and the membership campaign is more than halfway to its goal

The site, located at 1801 N. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, previously the Sander's Bowl Building and earlier, the Dreamland Center, will be the home for the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. Extensive interior and exterior building restoration will begin this fall. The restoration, managed and funded by the Dreamland Group for by the building's owner and developer, will be complete by the time the Center opens in early 1998.

There will be 9,000 sq. feet of street level commercial and office space, and eight upper level apartments. The LGBT Community Center will be the main tenant. The property is located in the Brew-Hill section of the city. (See accompanying article.)

consists Dreamland Sherwood, Mark Franke, and BLK Construction Company owned by Bryon and Kate Kolitz.

cial Advisors, BESTD Clinic, the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee, and the Milwaukee AIDS Project have committed to leasing space in the Center. The proposed floor plan will accommodate up to ten organizational offices and retail spaces, as well as a cafe, large meeting room, central reception area, kitchen, library and small meeting room. Home of Our Own" Campaign

As of July 15, American Express Finan-

Finally, the Center's fundraising and financial teams are pleased to announce that

Milwaukee-Milwaukee Alderman Paul Henningsen has introduced a Common Council resolution to provide health insurance and other employee benefits to the domestic partners of City of Milwaukee employees engaged in same sex relationships.

The benefits would be provided if the employees and their partners meet several conditions including sharing a joint checking account, credit cards or joint ownership of property such as cars or a

Good Chance of Passage

Common Council sources who requested anonymity say that the resolution has a good chance to pass when the Common Council returns from its Summer Recess in September.

Alderman Henningsen who is recover-ing from hip replacement surgery was not available for comment, but sources in the Gay community say that he has also expressed confidence that the resolution will

If it does win approval, Henningsen's resolution would make Milwaukee the 12th City to offer what are commonly called "Domestic Partnership Benefits" to its Gay and Lesbian employees

Benefits Offered In Other Cities Other cities include Chicago where the City Council, with strong backing from Mayor Richard Daley passed legislation granting Domestic partner benefits to Gay and Lesbian employees earlier this year.

The Henningsen resolution is modeled on Chicago's ordinance according to Mark Street Co-Chair Milwaukee's Domestic Partnership Task Force.

The Task Force which began meeting

last May, requested Henningsen to introduce the resolution. Street said the Task Force is also working with Gay employee groups in the private sector and will help

them push for Domestic Partnership benefits at their companies. Experience in those cities offering Domestic Partnership benefits has shown that less than 1% of the City's employees

would take advantage of a Domestic Part-



And the Winners Are The United Awards Dinner held as part of Madison's Pride Weekend recognized some very special people. Shown above (L - R) are Jim Bennet from Frontiers, Organization of the Year, Sol Kelly Jones, Ally of the Year, Marjorie Ward, Volunteer of the Year, and Paul Hughet, Man of the Year. Our congratulations to all of them and Madison's Lesbian and Gay community which won because of their

Assembly Republican Majority Overwhelming Endorses AIDS Funding

the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc.(ARCW) expressed great appreciation for the commitment of the Assembly Republican Caucus at a recent meeting to oppose cutting AIDS funding and forward a comprehensive AIDS funding package in its version of the 1997-1999 State of Wisconsin Budget.

Even after the Department of Health and

Milwaukee-Declaring it one of the Family Services actively lobbied to elimi-most important AIDS votes of the year, nate nearly \$500,000 in AIDS funding, the Republican Caucus chose to oppose the Department and support the advocacy of the AIDS community by maintaining funding.

Wisconsin has once again lived up to its history of a bipartisan commitment to effectively address the AIDS epidemic,"



Episcopal Leaders Apologize to Gays

Philadelphia-AP- As their 10-day national convention closed Friday, July 25, leaders of the Episcopal Church apologized to Gays and Lesbians for years of rejection and mistreatment by the church.

The House of Bishops and House of Deputies, composed of clergy and lay leaders, approved the measure on behalf of the 2.5 million believers.

Earlier in the convention, the church hierarchy had passed measures allowing dio-

ceses to extend health benefits to domestic partners.

But a similar resolution that would have qualified domestic partners for the church pension fund failed. And resolutions to formally allow the ordination of Lesbians and Gay men and to create a rite for same-sex marriages were rejected narrowly.

Church leaders did agree to a three-year study on same-sex unions.

Doctors Debate Who Should Get AIDS Treatment

Atlanta-AP-AIDS doctors wrangled Friday, July 25, over who should get a morning-after treatment of drugs that might help prevent AIDS and perhaps worse, who should be refused.

Doctors, AIDS experts and patient advocates were concluding a two-day meeting called by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which is contemplating whether to endorse the morning-after treatment. No CDC decision is expected for at least six months.

The treatment, which can take about a month, uses a blast of AIDS drugs to fight the development of AIDS in people who have been exposed, such as sexually abused children and prison immates who are raped. There is little proof that such a treatment works, although some preliminary studies suggest it might.

Apple Abandons Plans for Texas Facility

Round Rock, TX-AP- Apple Computer is selling 129 acres of land that four years ago sparked a political furor in Williamson County over the company's offering of health benefits to domestic partners of Gay and Lesbian employees.

The computer maker, which has lost \$1.5 billion in the past six quarters, has put up for sale the land located in southern Williamson County, just north of Austin.

Apple bought the land in 1993 for a campus-like facility that was to house its customer corners or paration and be available for possible expansion into a research and de-

tomer service operation and be available for possible expansion into a research and development center.

That move touched off a contentious debate among Williamson County commissioners, an argument that received international attention.

Gay Basher's Probation Revoked

Houston, TX-AP- A man convicted in the 1991 Gay bashing murder of a Houston banker has had his 10-year probation sentence revoked and is going to prison.

State District Judge Brian Rains on Thursday revoked the probation of Derrik J. Attard, one of 10 men convicted in the slaying of Paul Broussard, because he failed to perform community service.

Rains ordered the 23-year-old to prison for 10 years.

Attard had been ordered to complete 500 hours of community service in his first year, but completed only 325, said Mike Anderson, an assistant district attorney. He's never done what he's supposed to do," Anderson said.

Attard told the judge he began a job as a computer technician at a software company in March, working six days a week.

in March, working six days a week

Rains told Attard that if his job prevented him from doing his community service, he should have found a new job.

Broussard's mother, Nancy Rodriguez, attended the hearing and said she was glad Attard is going to prison.

I'm glad Judge Rains gave him the 10 years," she said. "I wish it could be more."

HIV Spurs Own Reproduction

Washington, DC-AP- Scientists have proved a long-expected trait of the AIDS virus: It produces a protein that stimulates cells to enhance its deadly reproduction.

The protein is called Tat, and researchers from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute will

report Tuesday that it essentially provides a wake-up call that renders slumbering immune cells susceptible to HIV infection.

HIV works best in active immune cells, not quiescent ones. So for HIV to sustain its killer viral levels, it must continually replenish the active cells it kills, Dana-Farber research Chiang Li writes in Tuesday's Proceedings of the National Academy of Sci-

Tat secreted from infected cells enters resting neighbor cells and "activates" them, Li

discovered in a series of test-tube studies.

Li proved an HIV pathway that scientists were so confident existed that they already had hunted drugs to attack Tat, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, an AIDS expert with the Na-

So far, that research "didn't work, to the point that at least one company has abandoned their endeavors for a Tat inhibitor," Fauci said. But "that doesn't mean that somebody won't now, with this more confirmatory evidence, try another approach to blocking Tat."

Chrysler Acknowledges LBGT Group

Detroit-AP- Ellen DeGeneres lost the Chrysler Corp.'s approval when she announced she was a Lesbian, but the company's Gay and Lesbian workers are hoping for

The company drew protests from Gay support groups when it pulled advertising from the episode of ABC-TV's Ellen in which the lead character, played by DeGeneres, came out of the closet.

But since then, Chrysler has formally acknowledged, for the first time, "People of Diversity," an employee group formed early this year `to provide support for Lesbians, Gays, bisexuals and transgendered people through business and social activities."

It's part of a trend among the Big Three automakers by employees who are pushing for, and receiving, some recognition of Gay and Lesbian workers' rights.

Ford Motor Co. recognizes a similar employee group, and in November expanded its anti-discrimination bylaws to include sexual orientation. General Motors Corp. does not formally recognize Gay employee organizations but GM PLUS, a Gay group, is pushing the automaker for acceptance.

The momentum is definitely picking up and moving in the right direction," Alan Gilmour, a former vice-chairman of Ford who retired in 1994 and last year disclosed he is Gay, told The Detroit News.

Chrysler has quietly resumed advertising on Ellen.

Hepatitis A Cases Growing Among Gay Men

Des Moines, IW-AP-A growing number of hepatitis A cases among Gay men and drug users prompted officials Wednesday, July 23, to open free vaccination clinics and to warm it could spread to the general population.

As the number of cases continues to increase in the risk groups, the possibility of the disease spreading into the general population and causing a widespread outbreak also continues to increase," state epidemiologist Patricia Quinlisk said Wednesday. Free shots are being recommended for:

Family and friends of those who have had hepatitis A. Anyone who has injected drugs or used methamphetamine in the last year.

Men who are having sex with men.

Friends and family of the two risk groups.

Cunanan's Lifestyle Not Gay-Typical

Charleston, WVA-AP-Anti-Gay activists may try to use Andrew Cunanan's lifestyle as a weapon to verbally bash Gays, the leader of a West Virginia University organiza-

"I can see how some people with preconceived notions against the Gay community will try and bash it and try to tamish it," said David Welsh, co-chairman of WVU's Council on Sexual Orientation.

Cunanan, who was a Gay man, shot and killed himself while aboard a houseboat in Miami Beach, Fla. He had eluded authorities for nearly three months and was accused of killing five men, including fashion designer Gianni Versace.

Welsh said Cunanan's actions should not represent the Gay community any more

than a heterosexual serial killer would represent straight America. Other Gay and Lesbian leaders in West Virginia also fear they will be stereotyped as people who live excessively, spending all their time in trendy Gay bars and expensive restaurants

"Hopefully people will see that Andrew Cunanan is not the poster child for all Gays and Lesbians, "aid Jim King, of the West Virginia Gay and Lesbian Coalition.

Clinton Promises Support for ENDA

Augusta, ME-AP- Maine State Treasurer Dale McCormick has applauded President Clinton for his support of legislation that would prohibit job discrimination against Lesbians and Gays nationwide.

McCormick was one of a dozen Gay and Lesbian activists who met with Clinton this

week as part of his diversity campaign to reach out to different groups.

McCormick said she and other activists agreed prior to the meeting to make a concerted effort to convince Clinton to campaign actively for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. The bill, currently pending before Congress, would make it illegal for an employer with 15 or more employees to discriminate against a worker because of sexual orientation.

But before the group could make its pitch, Clinton promised to use his influence to get the bill passed.

McCormick, who was the first openly Gay elected official in Maine, says the president's active support could bring the bill up for a vote in the Congress for the first time.

Arkansas Newspaper Tells Half The Story

New York, NY—GLAAD reports that The Morning News Of Northwestern Arkansas published a story on June 3 that read like a scare story from the 1950s: "Homosexuals are becoming a problem at Beaver Lake, and Benton County Sheriff Andy Lee said he needs more deputies to deal with [it.]" The story went on to quote Sheriff Lee as stating "Where you have homosexuals, you also have pedophiles," and that "any large crowd will have some undesirable people in it...".

First it should be noted that the idea that pedophilia and homosexuality are linked in

First it should be noted that the idea that pedophilia and homosexuality are linked is patently untrue, and has been disproven by a number of studies; it is a hurtful lie used by small-minded bigots to hurt the Lesbian and Gay community by creating a climate of fear; also the characterizations by Sheriff Lee of Gay men as "undesirable" is a shameful one, based on bias and prejudice

The Morning News was contacted by GLAAD, who spoke to Rusty Turner, their managing editor. He characterized the sheriff's comments as "out of line" and "incorrect," and said that the paper welcomed letters regarding the article.

Suicide More Than A Game for Ann Landers

New York, NY-The May 25 Ann Landers column featured a letter by "Hampton, Va.," who was a 15-year-old Gay teenager considering killing himself. "I feel so alone. I am scared," he wrote. "The problem is I am absolutely certain I am Gay. I have always wanted to get married and have children, but now I know that lifelong dream is impossible....I have nobody to talk to, and I need your advice more than anything. Please, Ann, help me. I can't go on this way much longer." Ann Landers responds definitively and positively: "You are not alone. According to some studies, an estimated 10 percent of individuals worldwide are homosexual.... Homosexuals are born, not made. You need counseling to help you accept yourself as you are." made. You need counseling to help you accept yourself as you are."

North Carolina Anti-Gay Philistines

New York, NY-The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) reports that the June 23 Philadelphia Inquirer featured an expose of the Charlotte, North Carolina, "Gang of Five," a group of radical religious and anti-Gay commissioners who are voting as a bloc to implement anti-Gay measures as the "will of God."

The Commission voted to abolish the Arts and Sciences Council, after learning that it had funded Angels in America and Six Degrees of Separation because they show "perverted forms of sexuality."

The Commission further attacked basic health and active for a second control of the commission further attacked basic health and active for a second control of the commission further attacked basic health and active for a second control of the commission further attacked basic health and active for a second control of the commission further attacked basic health and active for a second control of the control of t

The Commission further attacked basic health and safety of county youth by banning county-funded crisis counselors from discussing sex, pregnancy, or sexually transmitted diseases with teens in crisis because they were worried that counselors were not giving out the message that homosexuality was "perverse and immoral." "We don't want a bunch of counselors trained in New York... who are taught that these things are normal, to be responsible for children's sexual training."

Christian Leader Called "Stealth Homophobe"

New York, NY-According to GLAAD, Randy Tate, the new executive director of the Christian Coalition shares the "same old anti-Gay agenda" as his predecessor, Ralph Reed. Although Tate, a one-term congressman from Washington state, has attempted to shy away from open bigotry, he has been accused of Gay-baiting around accusations of child molestation of a political opponent and another opponent's signs being desecrated with graffiti and swastikas, although Tate distanced himself from those actions.

Gay Congressman Speaks to Log Cabin

Washington, DC-AP- A year ago, Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., said he didn't want to be a poster child for the Gay movement after he reluctantly admitted he was Gay in response to a Gay publication's intention to expose him.

But Saturday, July 26th, he told the Log Cabin Republicans that as a Gay member of Congress he has often questioned whether focusing solely on mainstream issues compromises his desire to protect the civil liberties of Gays in society.

Nevertheless, he said members of the Gay community can advance their cause by focusing on issues that appeal to all members of society, such as education and crime. "We gain acceptance and build our bridges, not by stressing that we are Gay people who are Republicans, but that we are Republicans who happen to be Gay or Lesbian,"

he told the dinner audience.

"The cause for Gay Republicans and Gay Democrats will be advanced when Gays and Lesbians act like straight people—not when we go back into the closet, for we will never do that—but when we demonstrate our concern and our commitment ... on issues that matter to main street America," Kolbe continued.

"Being Gay was not—and is not today—my defining persona," Kolbe said. Saturday's speech marked the first time he has spoken to a national gathering of Gay and lesbian Republicans.

School Board to Use Controversial Textbook

Lapeer, MI-AP- The Lapeer Board of Education has voted to use a health textbook which some parents criticized as sexually explicit, promoting homosexuality and undermining family and religious values.

Amid chants of "Recall, recall," the board voted 5-2 this week to adopt Holt Publishing's "Health" in ninth grade classes this fall.

Opponents presented a petition to the board, urging it to reject the textbook and threatening recall against any board member who approved it, The Flint Journal reported Friday Superintendent Barry Schoenholz said the district has 30,000 residents, and all opin-

ions should be considered and respected, not just those of a vocal group that 'cloaked themselves in religious garb" to promote their brand of morals and values.

The books, which will cost about \$15,000, replace a series that dates to 1982, before such threats as ALDS.

such threats as AIDS, teen suicide and eating disorders became as prevalent as they are now, said Debbie Thompson, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.

A Brief Account of Brewers' Hill Wherein the Community Center Will Have its Home

By Terry Boughner
Locating the new LGBT Community
Center in the Brewers' Hill section of Milwaukee places it in one of the oldest of the city's neighborhood and puts it adjacent to the oldest section of that neighborhood. It is located just north of the city, on a low hill that today affords a superb view of the downtown skyline.

According to Milwaukee historian John Gurda, the site, immediately west of the Milwaukee River, was first claimed by Byron Kilbourn in 1835. Two years later, in 1837, the area was platted and called

Sherman's Addition.

Industries were built along the River, milling, tanning and the brewing of beer. These attracted settlers, Germans at first, but eventually the area became what it is

today, a rich ethnic mix.

The shopping area along King Drive (then N. Third), became the second largest commercial district in the city. Houses were built, some large, majestic, grand houses. These belonged to the wealthy of the day. Others were smaller, more humble affairs that belong to those who worked in the factories nearby.

According to local legend, one of these houses predated all the rest. In fact, the neighbors say, it is the oldest building in Milwaukee. Located at the southwestern corner of North Palmer and Vine, it was once, they say, owned by a French fur trader.

If you go looking, don't search for something that's much above ground. It was built into the side of a hill where much of it remains to this day.

In the '60s, the area fell on hard times. Many people left. Stores along King Drive stood empty and boarded up. Houses were allowed to fall apart. In the late '70s and early '80s, however, things began to change.

New people began to move in, people who loved Victorian homes and were willing to dedicate their lives and fortunes to fixing them up. From then until the pre-sent time, millions of dollars have been spent by people who make a religion of home restoration.

Who are these people who will be the Center's neighbors? They're African-Americans and those of Northern European descent. There are Hispanic families

and those who claim Native American blood. There are Gay families, too, and Lesbian ones.

There is a Brewers' Hill Association. It's very active and meets regularly. The Center may want to send a representative. It'd be a good way to meet people and become involved in the community.

For those not familiar with the area, give yourself a walking tour. If you like old houses in one stage or another of restoration, the tour will dazzle you.

What you'll see are houses of various designs, Greek Revival, Queen Anne, for example. You'll see frame houses and those that are built of cream city brick. You'll see the small houses standing cheek by jowl with the more stately ones. Workers and those who owned the facto-ries often lived side by side as a matter of convenience.

The one house I know extremely well is the largest house on Brewers' Hill. Called "The Castle" locally, its 50' tower and numerous gables present a serene de-meanor to all who pass by.

Inside are 25 rooms with 11' ceilings, 5

working fireplaces, a couple of resident bats, one pussy cat, and two ghosts.

According to what can be documented, there were two murders in the house; one in the dining room, one in the library. I sense that they're friendly. I believe that they're Gay.

The neighborhood kids (and some of their elders), have no trouble believing that specters stalk "The Castle" halls. On Hallowe'en, some of them won't even come up on the porch, but stand looking, peering up at the great old mansion that seems to be brooding in the light of the

Take a walk through the area on Hallowe'en. Jack o'lanterns flicker on porches. Orange lights gleam in the windows. It's quite a sight.

It's quite a sight at Christmas time, too. Up on 1st Street, down on Vine, over on Palmer, the houses resemble nothing so much as images plucked out of Dickens. All that is needed is a little snow.

Brewers' Hill is a good area, a safe neighborhood, a place of diversity and families, a very up and coming section of

Over \$2,000 Raised for Cream City **Foundation at Recent** Fundraiser

By Terry Boughner Milwaukee—On Sunday, July 20th fundraiser was held for the Cream City Foundation (CCF). With more than 50 people in attendance to feast on roast pig and other viands of delectability, over \$2,000 dollars was raised, according to Tony Rhodes, CCF president.

And now for a little editorial comment.

The Foundation is an organization in our community that does not toot its horn nearly loudly enough. However, without it, many of the events that go on in our community, such as PrideFest, would be far, far more difficult to stage—if they were put on at all.

The Foundation gives grants for scholarships, for projects of one kind or another, grants to worthy organizations to help them along.

CCF is an all-volunteer effort. There is no paid staff. Whatever the Foundation does, happens because dedicated people give up their time to make whatever it is

The Foundation does not have an "agenda," no ax to grind, no particular cause to favor save that of the well-being and advancement of the LGBT community and those who make it up. It is an entirely worthy organization that deserves your support.

In another fundraiser, Wisconsin Light's Spotlight Party held at This Is It Wisconsin for Ruthie raised over \$100 for the Mil-waukee AIDS Project. People had their pictures taken with our royal diva and paid \$5 for the privilege of being seen where only kings and potentates had been seen before.

Of course, I could leave it go at that, but really, it was Joe Brehm's idea to raise the money this way. It was his idea and he prevailed upon Todd, Ruthie's aide de campe, to run all over getting film for the camera. In the end, all went well and a good time was had by all.

Dignity/USA Holds **Biannual Meeting**

Milwaukee-Over 400 GLBT Catholics from around the nation met in Boston, July 7-13 for Dignity/USA's biannual convention, "We Are Called...Prophets to the World.

Dignity/USA is an organization of GLBT Catholics from 75 chapters throughout the nation.

Representatives from Eau Claire, Steven's Point, Whitewater, Madison and Milwaukee participated in the six days of meetings, workshops, lectures, liturgies, and entertainment. It was announced that Dignity/USA will have National Registry of Holy Unions. Holy Unions are to be registered through local Dignity chapters Milwaukee, Madison, Twin Cities or

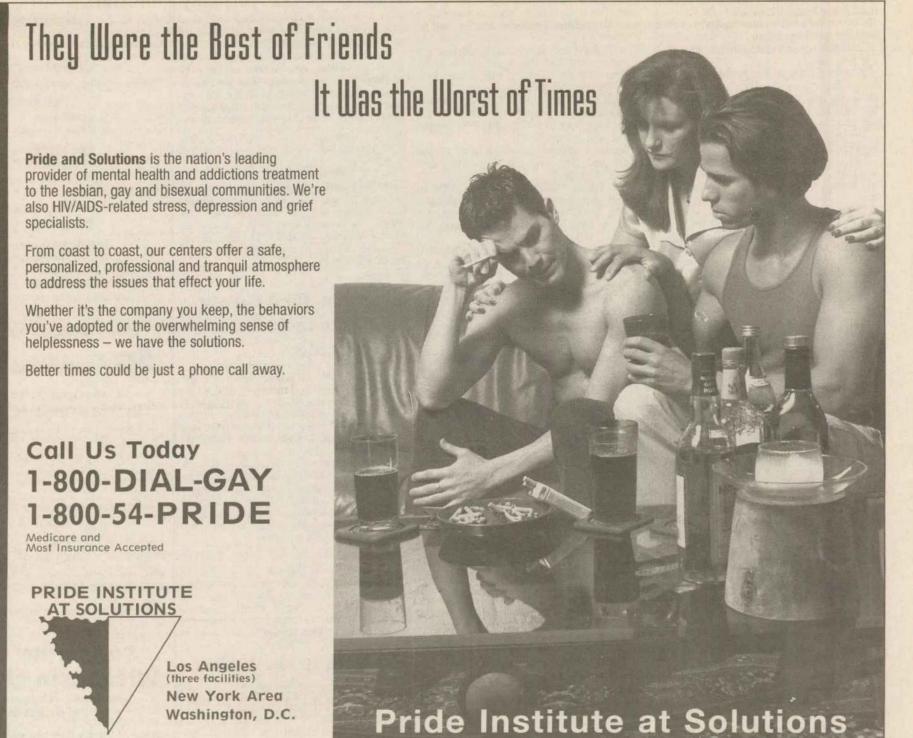
Delegates strongly endorsed the Em-loyment Non-Discrimination Act ployment ENDA), and encouraged the American Bishops to do the same as a social justice issue. Dignity recognizes that it must be more effective in its outreach to the GLBT youth. Dignity realizes that it must help the youth of the community understand that there is no conflict between sexual orientation and being Christian, that both are forms of giftedness.

John McNeil, author of The Church and the Homosexual; Taking a Chance on God and Freedom, Glorious Freedom, was given a special award for extraordinary service. McNeil was expelled from the Society of Jesus for his work with the GLBT community.

Speakers and workshop leaders included authors Chris Glaser, Coming Out to God, and several other books; David Schinmel, Passions, a monthly publication on GLBT spirituality; and Daniel Helminiak, What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality. Comedian Kate Clinton entertained the delegates with her reflections as a Lesbian raised in the Catholic tradition

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Editorial

Domestic Partnership in Milwaukee

Paul Henningsen's proposal to offer Domestic Partnership benefits to City Employees engaged in same-sex relationships is a welcome step forward in the fight for achieving equity for Gays and Lesbians everywhere. It is quite simply put a matter of fairness.

Why should Gay and Lesbian employees involved in committed relationships not be able to enjoy the same benefits offered to their heterosexual counterparts? Do they work any less? Are their jobs less important? Do they not serve the City as well? Are they concerned for their spouses any less deeply?

Other cities have provided these benefits for their Gay and Lesbian employees without any problems. There is no reason to believe that Milwaukee's experience would be any different.

We know all too well that the forces of bigotry will raise their ugly heads and voice tired old complaints about recognizing homosexuality as "a legitimate lifestyle." These complaints are, of course, nonsense,

All Henningsen's proposal does is recognize that some employees of the City of Milwaukee are being treated unfairly. The approval of that recognition is important to all of us. It's passage would send two important signals.

It would tell the City's Gay and Lesbian employees that their employer thinks the value of their work is no less than the value of work done by those who can get married. It would tell Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian residents that their City recognizes their overall worth as contributing members of the community.

A Domestic Partnership program for City of Milwaukee employees won't solve all of the problems and bigotry faced by same-sex couples, but it would be a good step in the right direction. It could help some in the private sector realize the need to follow suit.

Thanks to Alderman Henningsen, the members of Milwaukee's Common Council has an opportunity to function as true leaders and stand for equality and fairness. We urge them to do so without delay.

Women Dying Silently

Breast Cancer is a leading killer of women in this country. In this country, a woman dies from Breast Cancer every 11 minutes of every day. Despite this, the danger that it poses is not as recognized as the danger posed by some other diseases. As one activist put it, "Women having been dying silently for years.

One of the few known risk factors is not having children before age 30. That means that most Lesbians are considered to be at high risk for this killer which has no known cause, prevention or cure.

We are heartened by the efforts of Leslie Waltke, the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee and Fannies Bar to raise awareness and money to fight Breast Cancer. In November, Waltke will be engaging in an all female coast to coast bike ride to raise On August 10, LAMM and Fannies will produce money and public awareness. On August 10, LAMI BreastFest '97 to raise money for Breast Cancer research.

This is a worthy cause that we hope everyone male and female alike will support. Stop by Fannies on August 10, have a beer, listen to some good music, buy a raffle ticket, play some games.

Together we can work towards the day when women will die silently no more.

Editor's Note

Andrew Cunanan

By Terry Boughner

I was out and about the other night and met a man who was visiting Milwaukee from San Diego. He said that he had met Andrew Cunanan. Immediately I asked him the question that he's probably been asked recently uncounted times: what was Cunanan like?

He added little to the picture that I had from the major media; Cunanan was talkative, had an unusual laugh, bragged a lot, inflating himself by exaggerating himself and his possessions.

"No one believed him, though," the man

I was talking to said and went on. The last time he talked to Cunanan was at a party. Cunanan said that he was going to Minneapolis to "visit family and friends. The man I was talking with did not like Minneapolis for reasons we never pursued, so he advised Cunanan not to go. "I have to, I'm lonely," he reported

Cunanan said.

The rest of the story is well-known. Cunanan allegedly killed five men. Four of the murders received relatively little play in the press. The fifth was Gianni Versace. Only then did the story explode.

There are those in our community who see homophobia in the lack of attention to the first four murders. Gay man kills Gay men. Who cares? That sort of thing. Homophobia may be there, but I wonder if there wasn't something else at work?

Gianni Versace was a famous and wealthy man. It's unfortunate, but I think true, that in this society, if someone without much money and no fame at all com-mits a crime, relatively little attention is paid. However, if, for example, a wealthy and famous man kills his wife and a bystander, the media goes into a feeding

As another illustration, take a look at the July 26th Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. "Cunanan, the drifter and accused murderer of...Gianni Versace and four other men," the editorial wrap-up said.

There are more firmly grounded complaints about how the story was handled by the press. The most egregious example of mishandling came from Tom Brokaw who led into the Versace murder using the phrase 'homicidal homosexual.'

Other reports talked about the "Fast Gay lifestyle, making it seem like all of us make \$50,000 + a year and live in the fast lane, going to "Circuit Parties" and all sorts of wild doings in various clubs.

Yeah, right. There was also much use of "alleged

Gay killer" or something of the like, as if Andrew Cunanan's alleged spree was somehow a function of his being a Gay man. The truth is that Cunanan was a man who allegedly did terrible things—and he happened to be Gay. I sincerely doubt if Mr. Brokaw and his peers would lead off a story about the Watergate break in by announcing, for example, that it was done by "heterosexual burglars.

What it all shows, I think, is that though we have come a long way, we still have a long, long way to go in educating people about who we really are.

We are a minority in which there are the good and the bad, just like any other group of people.

We are a minority, the majority of whose members work hard at making a living, building homes with someone we love, and, as Wilder put it, get along "by the skin of our teeth.

As far as the way the authorities handled the situation, all I can say is this. From all I've read, the Miami cops must have the Keystone Cops as their role models. The FBI didn't do much better, certainly not when it came to contacting the Gay community and seeking its help.

When all is said and done, however, two things remain. One is a sense of relief that the killings (at least in this case) are done.

The second thing is a question. Why did happen? What got into Andrew Cunanan's head?

The most likely explanation is his own personal insecurities. We've all met or know people such as he. Riddled with in-security, they puff themselves up, tell lies to inflate themselves—and, if anything happens to "blow their cover," things can turn nasty.

That's satisfying, but only part way. The truth, I suspect, will never be wholly known. That's because most of us believe in Reason as the best lens by which to perceive reality. When non-rationality creeps in-as it so often does-we find ourselves a bedlamic abyss with no clear reference points to go on.

What we have to say, I think, that this was a tragedy, a tragedy for all concerned, a tragedy for the five victims, a tragedy for their families and loved ones, a trag-edy for Andrew Cunanan himself.

Already there are reports of made for TV docudramas in the works-and, at least, one book. Forget it. This whole sad, sorry episode needs a great novelist or tragedian to handle it—and I don't see any of those around.

Letters

Madison's Spirituality

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to Ching Shing Shi's letter ("Try Harder Madison," (7/17/97), there is one thing to be said in defense of Madison: It is a good place to learn that the reality that we each experience is a direct metaphysical result of our own thoughts and feelings.

Before responding to the critique of Madison, some readers may or may not recall an outburst of mine a few months back on this very page entitled "Gay Men Are Vile." While I have no illusions about my own personal importance, the recent alleged murder-rampage of a self-loathing Gay man named Andrew Cunanan has forced me to realize that the last thing we need is any one of our number voicing demoralizing sentiments, however ill considered and inane. I apologize for that outburst of ego and darkness, and anyone who I offended may rest assured that I received just karmic recompense.

What does this have to do with Madison? I have come to realize that the world in which we all live is a school for spiritual learning; we are, in essence, spiritual beings having a biological experience. Our societies, countries, and cities, including Madison, are the classrooms of this school.

If Madison seems especially socially atomized, I believe that its status as a university town simply causes it to reflect more intensely the social atomization that afflicts this entire country. This atomization, in turn, is part of a complex of spiritual ills that make the United States perhaps the most troubled country in the so-called First World.

How do Gay men fit into this theory? I be lieve that as the male component of the people that some Native Americans called "the Two-Spirited People" (i.e., containing elements of both genders), we feel our emotions more intensely than do most of our heterosexual counterparts. Sometimes it does indeed seem that we are feeling only the negative emotions; perhaps that is because part of this country's, and this world's, spiritual sickness is a male population (both Gay and straight) with a shutdown heart-center, or "heart-chakra," if you'll pardon the hippiespeak.

Because all of us are part of this classroom called "America," there is something within our individual consciousness that we can do to remedy this problem if we are each truly ready for it: Call upon the Love of God to free us from the dark prison of the ego. God is not the vindictive little patriarch that some misguided dogmatists would have us believe; nor does God condemn people for being Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual or Transgendered.

For anyone ready to take this step, I would refer you to the book Return to Love by Marianne Williamson. While what you read in this book may be difficult to accept, for anyone reading this letter who is languishing in a Hell of drugs, alcohol, promiscuity, and cruelty, this book can be your ticket out of that

torment once you decide that you have had quite enough.

And to address a specific point in Ching Shing Shi's letter, while it is certainly tempting to look at the young demigods walking around the downtown area and wish fervently that 'scoring" with one of them could be as easy as a financial transaction, that sort of thing in real life causes more problems than it solves

Thomas J. Rondy Madison

Evanston, First City in Illinois to Include **Transgenders**

Chicago—On July 28, Evanston be-came the first Illinois municipality to include protections for the Transgendered by passing an amendment adding Transgendered individuals as a protected class under jurisdiction of its Human Relations Commission.

The unanimous 9-0 vote followed testimony from members of the Transgendered community and supporters. Queer Nation Chicago members were on hand to support the amendment and applaud the City of Evanston for taking a leadership role in the fight for equality.

Policy Letters to the Editor

As a matter of policy, Wisconsin Light will not print a Letter to the Editor sent to or appearing in any other publication. This is general journalistic

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August 14th Issue Articles Friday, Aug. 8th

Non-Camera Ready-Aug. 8th Camera Ready-Aug. 11th 5:00 p.m.

August 28th Issue Articles-August 22nd Non-Camera Ready—August 22nd Camera Ready-August 18th

Caution

5:00 p.m.

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Publisher Jerry Johnson

Executive Editor Terry Boughner. Ph.D. Arts & Entertainment Editor

Geno SpotLight Editor

Bill Meunier **Advertising Manager** Jerry Johnson

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Vermont Set to Join Hawaii as Battleground in the Same-Sex Marriage Issue

Colchester, VT- For 25 years, Lois Famham and Holly Puterbaugh have built a life together, committed in every way except one: legally.

On Tuesday, July 22nd, they and two other couples sought to fix that. They sued the state and their hometown of Milton, asking a Chittenden Superior Court judge to declare legal marriages between couples of the same gender.
Stan Baker and Peter Harrigan of Shel-

burne and Nina Beck and Stacy Jolles of South Burlington joined the lawsuit, which thrusts Vermont into the center of a national debate over whether society should recognize unions between Gays and Lesbians.

Twenty-five years ago when we met and fell in love marriage was not something any of us that were same-gender couples thought about," Puterbaugh said. It just was not in the conversation, it was not in the thinking."

She and Farnham, who describe them-selves as being in their "early 50s," thought about but never ended up having a commitment ceremony in honor of their 20th anniversary. Then two years ago, they attended a conference devoted to the notion of a civil marriage between couples

of the same gender.
"We walked out of that conference, looked at ourselves and said, 'That's what we want," Puterbaugh said.

But the Milton town clerk, relying on a 22-year-old opinion from the attorney general's office, refused to issue them a marriage license when they applied on

Baker and Harrigan applied in Shel-burne on June 13 and Jolles and Beck applied in South Burlington six days after that. All were denied and lawyers decided they had a case.

Finding a partner, finding a mate and getting married is a basic human right," said Middlebury lawyer Susan Murray.

The state of Vermont should not be allowed to step in and tell two consenting adults that they cannot marry one an-

Attorney General William Sorrell, who was asked but declined to overturn the 1975 opinion, said the issue should be decided in the Legislature, not the courts. Lawmakers already have extended civil rights protections to Gays and Lesbians and included them among the classes protected in a hate crimes statute, he said.

If the Legislature had intended to include marriage among those rights, it would have said so, he argued.

"The Legislature has done nothing that we can find that affirmatively extends the right to same-gender marriage in Vermont," Sorrell said. "The Legislature for 22 years has had the opportunity to change that law. It has not done that.'

Gov. Howard Dean said he believed the Legislature should avoid the issue for the time being. "I would prefer this not be addressed in the Legislature until it's re-solved in the courts," he said. "I think it's a very personal matter. This is a very difficult issue and I think the courts are the place to resolve it.'

Murray and the other lawyers said no change in the law was necessary. Denying Gays and Lesbians marriage licenses violates not only state marriage statutes but also Chapter 1, Articles 1 and 7, of the Vermont Constitution, the couples claim in their lawsuit. The first article states people are born equally free and independent; the seventh says the government exists for the common benefit, and not for

any particular set of people.

We are challenging the notion that a couple in love can't marry each other simply because they made the mistake of falling in love with someone of the 'wrong' gender," said Mary Bonauto of Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, a New

England-wide Gay group.

Vermont statutes describe marriage as a union between a "bride and groom," but say nothing any more explicit about whether that couple has to be of opposite genders. Sorrell said the plain dictionary meaning of the phrase proved lawmakers intended marriages to be between men and

The lawsuit asks only for the legalization of civil marriages and does not ask churches opposed to same-sex unions to recognize them or perform ceremonies. It's not going to affect any religious or-

ganization at all," Murray said. It would, however, offer them a wide range of civil benefits. "Married couples receive over 150 supports and protections under Vermont law, which are not available to Gay and Lesbian couples, no matter how long they have been together, no matter how committed their relationship is, and no matter how much they need those legal protections," Bonauto said.

Among the benefits she listed were

family leave; bereavement leave; retirement and pension benefits; health insurance; inheritance; and the right to make medical decisions on behalf of a same-sex

No state in the nation currently recognizes Gay and Lesbian marriages, although Hawaii courts have said they are guaranteed by the state Constitution. An appeal of that ruling is pending before the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Congress has weighed in on the issue, also, approving a law last year defining a marriage as the union between a man and a woman and giving states authority to not recognize same-gender marriages performed in another state.

A proposal also is still alive in the Vermont House Judiciary Committee that would outlaw same-gender marriages.

Air Conditioners Needed by AIDS **Ministry for Those** With HIV/AIDS

Milwaukee-St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry is seeking donations of used or new air conditioners for distribution to persons living with HIV disease who

cannot afford to purchase their own.

According to Eric Gravenkamp, Social Services Program Manager at St. Camillus, "We have clients who are really in need of air conditioning units during these hot and humid summer days.

The Ministry is able to pick up do-nated units and deliver them to individuals and families in need. All size units are in demand. "I delivered on last week to a guy who was really suffer-ing," said Gravenkamp, "when you're sick already, the extreme heat and hu-midity can be torturous."

Anyone able to assist is asked to call

St. Camillus at (414) 259-4664.

The Ministry is also seeking: child car seats, cribs, beds, TVs and household furniture. All donations are tax deductible and a certificate of receipt is avail-

The Magic Picnic Was Once Again A S-U-C-C-E-S-S Spelled With Smiles

By Brian Harder

Wisconsin Light Madison Bureau Madison- For many, the return of the rain at this years Magic Picnic was tradition. Of the past four years since I have lived back in Madison, it has rained every year except last. It didn't hamper the festivities though. This year's Magic Picnic was once again a great way to spend the third Saturday in July with

While many of the picnic participants stayed well inside the beer garden and kept their cups continuously full, a great many others enjoyed the variety of offerings available to them.

The food was once again better than normal picnic fare with potato salad, baked beans, watermelon, fresh strawberries and a choice of hamburgers, chicken or vegetarian lasagna. A multitude of vendors hawked everything from tee shirts to titty clamps and a number of organizations had their group information

The United's weekend long silent bachelor auction (sponsored by the Wisconsin Light continued at the picnic.

The auction included about 8 Gay and Lesbian volunteers who gave a description of the type of date you could win with them and then you bid on who you wanted to go on a date with.

(It seemed though, that a number of the

participants weren't single at all and they made the most money because their partners kept having to outbid anyone who did bid. Next year the United should call it the 'Bid on your Boyfriend Benefit'.)
Madison's Manoeuvres softball team

added some fun this year with a dunk tank and a car demolition to let out your frustrations on.

Early in the afternoon there was a drag show. This was especially entertaining to the park locals who watched the show in amazement. The DJ continued to spin great songs throughout the afternoon.

Of course all the favorite activities took place. There was the jail and bail which

was occupied early by Tammy Baldwin. The ever popular "Drag Race" was quite entertaining due to the wet conditions. Those girls just slid all over the place while trying to run in the wet grass with their pumps on.

The water balloon toss didn't draw as many people this year, maybe because it wasn't very hot temperature wise, but as the afternoon wore on, the temperature of some libidos sure rose. "Show me Yours" was heard, and played, occasionally during the afternoon.

This year's fee for the picmic was \$10, of which the proceeds go to the many charitable organizations which help organize the picnic.

The Scheel family was happy as ever as they greeted the guests this year. With the shadow of the Hotel Washington's fate gone from this year's picnic, the event felt more community oriented.

This should convince everyone that the Scheel's motivation for this event is largely based on the spirit of their brother, Rodney, rather than on how it would effect the Hotel.

And in my mind's eye, Rodney made his appearance late in the afternoon, when the sun poked through the clouds and made everyone smile just a little more than they already were.



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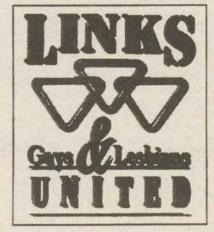
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Survey Results Good and Bad for One Colorado LBGT Community

Boulder, CO- More than a year after a statewide anti-Gay law was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, at least one Gay and Lesbian community still cites expanded civil rights protection as a major concern, according to a new survey

"For all the supposed political/civil protections, I think Boulder is a lonely place to be queer," wrote one survey respondent. Responses were anonymous.

The survey represents the opinions of about 500 LBGT respondents in Boulder County. It was conducted by the Open Door Fund, a group that received a matching grant to conduct a needs assessment survey of the Gay and Lesbian community and award grants.

Other areas of concern for Boulder's Gay and Lesbian community include family issues, which include both coming out to families and creating same-sex families, services for Gay youths, communication and media advocacy, establishing a sense of community and dis-

rimination in the workplace.

About one-third of the respondents reported having problems at work or school because of being Gay or Lesbian. Those problems include feeling like they have to hide their sexual orientation from peers or, once they are out, being denied promo-tions or reasonable treatment because of

being Gay.
"While my employer has a non-discrimination policy, the practice is much different," wrote one respondent.

Another wrote: "There is not enough room here (on the questionnaire) to describe the year of torture with a homophobic boss.

In all, however, the Gay and Lesbian community in Boulder reported fewer problems, with discrimination, hate crimes, isolation and poverty, than similar communities nationwide.

The good news is that we are in the enviable position of having a community in which most forms of homophobia have been tamed, at least to some degree," said psychologist Glenda Russell, who worked

Washington, DC- A coalition of anti-

Gay political groups on July 23rd stepped up their attack on the Walt Disney Com-

pany because the family entertainment gi-

ant continues refusing their demands to

"These groups are promoting discrimination in the trappings of faith," said David M. Smith, communications director

and senior strategist for the Human Rights

Campaign. "Fortunately, both Disney and

most Americans understand that faith,

family and fairness go together, and that it is wrong to punish a company simply for treating people fairly."

Spokespeople from the anti-Gay Con-cerned Women for America and the Fam-

ily Research Council said that they and

representatives from other groups had been scheduled to meet with an official from Disney on July 23rd. At a news conference after the meeting was supposed to

have occurred, they blasted the company, claiming that a subordinate had been sent

to the meeting in place of the official that had originally been scheduled.

Concerned Women for America re-

leased a paper at the news conference in

which it attempted to draw a parallel be-

The stepped-up attack on Disney came in the wake of last month's vote by the Southern Baptist Convention to boycott the company. On June 18 at its annual meeting in Dallas, the Southern Baptist Convention called for a nationwide anti-

Gay boycott of Disney and all its subsidi-

Among the factors contributing to that decision were Disney's willingness to allow Gay people to visit its theme parks, its policy of extending equal benefits to the demostic partners of its Gay and I to

the domestic partners of its Gay and Les-

bian employees, and its decision to allow

tween Disney and Hitler.

Boycott of Disney

discriminate against Gay people.

Right Wing Extremists Continue to Push

on the survey along with coordinator Su-

san Marine.

That puts us in the position of being able to move beyond having to fight for day-to-day survival and being victims,

Demographically, the respondents nearly matched the general population of Boulder County. They were, on average, 38 years old, 64 percent live in the city of Boulder, 10 percent are people of color, and 42 percent have lived in the county between three and five years. About 55 percent of respondents have more than a college education.

About 25 percent report their incomes to be \$20,000 or less; another 24 percent report earning over \$50,000 per year, compared to 31 percent of overall county residents that earn that much.

The questionnaire asked if respondents use and have access to a range of health services, including general medical, den-tal, mental health, HIV treatment or testing. Only a small minority of respondents reported not having access to services, and the primary barrier was affordability.

Respondents also showed considerable support for the creation of a central meeting place or community center at which to gather or meet.

The survey was required as part of a \$100,000 matching grant received by the Open Door Fund of The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County. The grant, which The Community Foundation applied for and won in April 1996, requires a local match of \$50,000. About \$30,000 has been raised so far through lo-

The money will be used to award grants based on the results of the needs assessment survey. The grants will go to organizations serving the county's Gay and Lesbian community.

The survey results, Russell said, "mean we can ask, 'What can we as a community create and take on and do that takes us in a truly forward direction?'

the star of its ABC sitcom Ellen to be-

come the first lead character on network television to honestly acknowledge being

In response to the Southern Baptist Convention's vote to boycott Disney, HRC launched a drive encouraging members and supporters to purchase Disney gift certificates and donate them to children in homitals across the country. With

dren in hospitals across the country. With

the help of a special \$5,000 contribution, HRC kicked off the effort June 26 by

donating hundreds of Disney stuffed ani-mal toys to children in four Washington-

positive to help families with children in

need, while at the same time showing our

support for Disney's fair-minded policies," said Smith, noting that HRC is continuing to encourage such donations to hospitals

A recent Newsweek poll suggests that most Americans disagree with the South-em Baptist Convention's decision, with

fewer than one in five people saying that their families would go along with the boycott. The telephone poll of 753 adults was conducted June 19-20 by Princeton

Research Associates and has a margin of

Smith also pointed to another recent poll

showing that 70 percent of Christians believe Gay and Lesbian people should be protected from discrimination in the workplace, compared to 23 percent who

don't. Sixty percent of evangelicals share

Those polling results come from a national survey of 1,007 voters conducted November 5-8, 1996, for the Human

Rights Campaign by Greenberg Research

Inc. The poll's margin of error is plus or

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this belief, while 34 percent do not.

error of plus or minus 4 percent.

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Milwaukee-The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) recently par-ticipated in a landmark survey of 1,100 nonprofit organizations (excluding churches and foundations) in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington

The survey revealed that area nonprofit organizations contribute greatly to the quality of life in our community.

The survey, commissioned by the Mil-waukee-Area Nonprofit Awareness project, stated that nonprofit organizations are a stable force in the community with 66 percent of all organizations having been in existence for 10 to 49 years and an additional 17 percent with a history of more

than 50 years. Nearly 700,000 volunteers contributed time to nonprofit organizations in one year with 1,400 volunteering for ARCW.

According to Public Awareness cochairs, Paul Sturm and Laura Zahn, you do not have to be "in need" to benefit from the work of nonprofit organizations. "If you enjoy arts and recreation, participate in education or religious activities, work or live in a safe and clean environment or enroll your children in a youth program, you are touched by the work of a nonprofit organization," said Sturm.

In fact, nonprofits in the area served more than 10 million people (duplicated count) in 1995. The average nonprofit organization serves about 4,000 individuals per year, ranging from 800 to two million people annually, according to the survey. Area nonprofit organizations are far reaching, providing services on a neighborhood, citywide or multi-county basis.

In addition, 12 percent of the nonprofit organizations provide services on a national and even international level.

Nearly 2,500 area nonprofit organizations touch people's lives in a variety of ways such as providing food and living assistance to those in financial need, creating a greater awareness of the environment, providing health and nutrition edu- 344-3933, or for information on ARCW cation and providing family learning ex- call (414) 273-1991.

ARCW is an organization that provides a comprehensive range of client services including HIV education; support services such as housing, financial, legal, transportation and benefits planning assistance: health services such as mental health counseling, dental care, cooperative therapies, STD diagnosis and treatment, support groups and the Early Intervention

It is also home to a food pantry, the Wisconsin AIDS Library, the Wisconsin AIDSline and the Wisconsin AIDS Research Consortium, which is Wisconsin's only statewide HIV clinical drug trial program comprised of an impressive network of physicians.

The Prevention Services Department educates in the work place, at schools and within the community targeting at-risk populations. In 1996, ARCW reached over 100,000 Wisconsin residents with effective prevention messages about HIV and AIDS.

The Public Policy Advocacy Program is a leading advocate for people affected by HIV and AIDS. Its success in working with local, state, and federal governments has received much recognition and has secured increased public funding on several fronts for Wisconsinites living with HIV

and AIDS.

ARCW's Executive Director and Dir tor of Public Policy are active Board and Committee members of the National AIDS Action Council.

The Milwaukee-Area Nonprofit Awareness Project is dedicated to promoting the value of the ARCW and other nonprofit organizations through increased community awareness and understanding of the nonprofit industry. In the coming months, intense efforts will be implemented through a organized campaign to demonstrate this impact.

For more information about the Mil-waukee-Area Nonprofit Awareness Proj-ect, please call Susan Palabrica at (414)

Judy Tenuta Will Not Be Serving as AIDS Walk Honorary Chair

Milwaukee-Judy Tenuta will not be coming to Milwaukee in September to be the honorary Chair of the Wisconsin AIDS Walk, according to Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW). The comedienne/singer was unable to attend because of a scheduling conflict, Nelson ex-

Nelson said that at this time, no other single person is on the horizon. However, he added that this does not mean that the AIDS Walk will not have numerous celebrities among its tens of thousands of

participants. "The AIDS Walk," he said, "traditionally attracts many, many people, those who are known and many thousands of who are known and many thousands of others who are committed to the fight can do so by calling 1-800-346-WALD, against AIDS. There will be those, like or by signing up at your favorite bar to be part of a Walk team in a bar competition.

July 31, 1997—August 13, 1997—WISCONSIN LIGHT—7 men, people who do this Walk every single year to help out in the fight against

He went on to say that though there have, indeed, been many advances in drug therapies, and happily those with HIV disease are living longer, the fight is far, far from being over."

"ARCW and those agencies like it around the country are being called upon to furnish services as never before. Our resources are strained to the max. The need, therefore, for support of all kinds remains high and that will stay that way for the indefinite future," Nelson empha-

Marge Beil, ARCW Director of Special

Events echoed Nelson's words.

"Look at you!" she said, using a comment made by Bette Midler, last year's AIDS Walk Honorary Chair. "You are all here, all walking-and in a fight like AIDS, when too many have moved on to something else, that commitment means a

AIDS Walk Wisconsin is Sunday, September 21. If you have not registered, you can do so by calling 1-800-348-WALK,

You are not alone.

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★For people living with HIV who have lost loved ones to AIDS

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♠ Participants will complete a number of assessments and will be paid up to \$200

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Gays Making Headway In Repealing State Sodomy Laws, But Many Still Stand

steadily shrinking number of states.

Earlier this month, Montana's ban on

same-sex sex was thrown out by the state Supreme Court as a violation of the state's constitutional right to privacy. Sodomy laws in Kentucky and Tennessee also were struck down by state courts in recent years.

Many other states have repealed laws that banned oral and anal sex for Gay

people and heterosexuals as well.
"We've made incredible headway," says
Ruth Harlow of the Gay rights Lambda

Legal Defense and Education Fund.

But about 20 states, operating under a green light from the Supreme Court, still have laws making sodomy a criminal offense. Consenting adults have no federal constitutional right to private same-sex conduct, the court said when it upheld Georgia's sodomy law in 1986.

Arkansas, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri and Oklahoma ban sex between same-sex partners. Sodomy is banned for Gays and heterosexuals alike in Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah and Virginia.

Penalties vary widely, with maximum jail terms ranging from 30 days in Arizona to 20 years in Virginia and Rhode Island, or even life in Idaho.

Laws banning sodomy also are on the books in Texas, Massachusetts and Michigan, but they have been cast into doubt by court rulings. Sodomy laws in all other states have been repealed or thrown

That is quite a change since 1961, when all states had some type of ban on sod-

Sodomy, labeled a "sin" by those who misinterpret the Bible and considered by some to be a "crime against nature," was outlawed for centuries in England. States in this country followed Britain's example, banning such sex acts in 19th century criminal codes.

There is vocal support for anti-sodomy

laws today.

The Rev. Lou Sheldon of the Traditional Values Coalition, a religious extremist or-ganization, said, "The sodomy law tells us that heterosexuality is a preferred status in society." It was fairly obvious that Sheldon either didn't know what sodomy was, or thought heterosexuals couldn't or didn't do it.

Robert Knight of the Family Research

Washington, DC-What lovers do in Council added. "I would think that in-private still can land them in jail, but in a stead of taking laws off the books, there would be a public outcry to have them put back on in all 50 states.

These days, hardly anyone is prosecuted for private, consensual acts of sodomy, says William Eskridge Jr., a Georgetown University law professor who is writing a book on how laws affect Gay people.

Instead, prosecutions tend to be for public solicitation of sodomy or for situations involving rape or coercion.

But sodomy laws are used indirectly in other cases involving Gay people, such as custody or employment disputes. A Gay person might be judged a bad candidate to have custody of a child because he or she is assumed to be breaking a state's sodomy

In Georgia, then-Attorney General Michael Bowers withdrew a job offer to a lesbian in 1990 after learning she planned to marry another woman in a religious

The woman sued, but a federal appeals court ruled this spring that Bowers, who successfully defended Georgia's sodomy law before the Supreme Court, was entitled to think the public would be confused if he hired someone in a same-sex mar-

The Georgia Supreme Court upheld that state's sodomy law last year, saying it was a valid exercise of the state's authority to promote moral welfare.

Courts that threw out sodomy laws in Montana, Kentucky and Tennessee said they violated the right to privacy under their state constitutions. The Kentucky ruling also said the law violated a state guarantee of equal protection under the

Gay advocates hope an equal protection argument may eventually be used to throw out sodomy laws in the states that target only same-sex conduct.

Last year, the Supreme Court cited equal protection grounds when it invalidated a Colorado constitutional amendment that forbade laws protecting Gay people from discrimination.

The Kansas law now is being challenged on equal protection grounds in a case be-ing handled by the American Civil Liberties Union's Lesbian and Gay Rights Proj-

ect.
"It's a tremendous priority of ours,"
Harlow said. "Sodomy laws cast a dark
cloud over gay people getting equal rights.
We will keep making them a priority until
all of them are gone."



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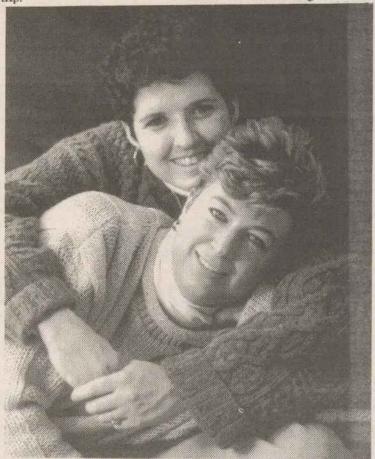
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Milwaukee Woman Rides to Raise Money, **Awareness of Breast Cancer**

By Bill Meunier

Milwaukee- A Milwaukee area woman who lost her partner to Breast Cancer will be joining over 25 others on a coast to coast bike ride to raise money and awareness to fight against Breast Cancer. Leslie Waltke, is the only Wisconsin woman to make the trip.

Cancer she also sees some differences. We've learned a lot from AIDS activists" she says. "One of the things we've learned is that you only get attention when you stand up and scream. The breast cancer movement learned this from AIDS activists. Now they are banging on the Presistre. dent's door and raising a ruckus. That's



A warm snuggle Andrea Reimer (Upper) and Leslie J. Waltke This picture was taken three weeks before Andrea died from Breast Cancer

The ride will begin on November 1st in San Diego California and continue to

Jackson Florida. It is expected to end on Thanksgiving Day, November 27.
The riders are expected to cover about 100 miles a day in the 28 day trip. Waltke, a physical therapist and avid cyclist sees this first of its kind all female ride as an opportunity to raise more than money, she sees it a chance to raise awareness as well.

"Breast cancer reality is not real well known. Women having been dying si-lently for years," she says. Along the way The Pedal For the Cure" riders will stop for events that will seek to educate the public and make them more aware of this disease that kills one woman every 11

minutes, every day of every year.

Leslie points out that Lesbians are at higher risk for Breast Cancer than other women are. "Lesbians are at a higher risk for Breast Cancer because they tend not to go to the doctor as often and because they don't have children as often. Not having children before age 30 is one of the few known risk factors.

Despite this, there are concerns that Lesbians either aren't aware of or are ignoring the danger. "It's very frustrating" says Waltke. "It's easier to fight something that can't hurt you. It's scary to look at Breast Cancer because the numbers are scary and there is nothing you can do to

She adds "It's really frustrating to walk into a women's bar and see 50 red ribbons for AIDS and no pink ribbons for Breas cancer."

While Waltke sees some parallels be- BreastFest will include bands, live en-

the only way you get noticed."

Like HIV, changes in behavior can not prevent the onset of Breast Cancer. Only to 10% of all diagnosed cases are genetic. There is no known cause, cure or prevention. Every year over 180,000 women are diagnosed with the disease. Mortality rates are higher among Lesbians, women with low incomes and women of color. Breast cancer takes 46,000 lives on an annual basis.

Waltke has personal experience with the devastating effects of Breast Cancer. Her partner, of three years, Andrea Reimer died of the disease in February of 1995.

"When we met, Andrea was a Breast Cancer survivor. Then she was diagnosed as having metastatic breast cancer. Andrea was diagnosed at age 22 died at age 25.," said Waltke.

In order to better protect themselves, Waltke suggests that women engage in "continual, regular self-breast exams. Any woman finding a lump in her breast should see a doctor as soon as possible.'

She also says that raising money can elp. "Money buys us several things. It buys us education and it buys us research.

If we can't prevent it for ourselves, maybe
the next generation will be able to. "

Fannies, one of Milwaukee's most popular women's bars, the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM) and Waltke are joining forces to help raise research and education dollars to fight this killer with a festival, BreastFest '97, on August 10. The fest will be held at Fannies 200 E. Washington.

tween the AIDS epidemic and Breast tertainment, food and drink, games, raf-

fles, a silent auction and more. "We certainly hope that everyone will take some time out on August 10 to support our efforts and that includes men. This will be a good time for everyone."

The theme of BreastFest is "I wondered why someone wasn't doing something. Then I realized that I am someone.

BreastFest and the "Pedal For the Cure" will benefit the Susan G Komen foundation. The foundation is America's largest

provider of research dollars dedicated solely to fighting Breast Cancer.

Waltke says that her late partner Andrea used to say "One of the worst things about having Breast Cancer is that we'll have to watch it happen over and over again to people we love." Leslie Waltke and the folks at Fannies and LAMM who are organizing BreastFest '97 are working hard to break that cycle.

N.O.W. Passes TransInclusion Resolution At Its National Conference

Memphis, TN—After three years of ongoing debate and a final four days of intense dialog, the National Organization for Women (NOW) passed a transgender inclusion resolution at its National Conference here on July 28, 1997.

The measure's success owed a great deal to the personal support of NOW President Patricia Ireland—who had arranged for GenderPAC's Executive Discourse of the personal support of NOW President Patricia Ireland—who had arranged for GenderPAC's Executive Discourse of the personal support of the p rector, Riki Anne Wilchins, to address NOW's National Board the preceding Thursday—as well as to intensive consensus-building effort by NOW Lesbian Rights Coordinator, Kimberlee Ward, and NOW-NJ State President, Bear Atwood. "This was a landmark resolution whose

time has clearly come... It's not just the resolution, but the acknowledgment that the transgender community is today's cutting edge. Transgender people are now doing the pioneering work in exposing artificial constructs of gender and breaking down the stereotypes and barriers which divide us all," declared NOW Action Vice-President and long-time activist

Rosemary Dempsey.

GenderPAC's Terri McCorcal, who had helped steer the resolution over three years, agreed.

"In its own way, this was as historic a moment as NOW's affirmation of lesbian inclusion over 25 years ago. After all the

debate, seven amendments, and scores of small compromises and dialogs, it was a truly emotional moment when nearly every hand in the Convention went up in support. Women who had worked on this for years were crying and hugging in the

The resolution had been originally introduced and unanimously passed at NOW-NJ's State Conference in 1994. The next year, a dozen activists from the Transexual Menace showed up at the NOW's 1995 National Conference in Columbus, OH and gathered hundreds of signatures on petitions,

agnatures on petitions.

The resolution was introduced from the Conference floor, only to be tabled to the National Board, where it languished in spite of apparently overwhelming support. The breakthrough came when NOW-NJ's Bear Atwood was able to arrange an institution for representatives from Gender. vitation for representatives from Gender-PAC and allied groups to address NOW's state presidents at their annual State Co-ordinators Conference in San Francisco last January

As a result, a number of State Presidents came out in support of the measure. In addition, Ms. Ireland herself was present at the presentation, and an invitation to

address the full National Board came shortly thereafter.



BreastFest, A Great Time for a Good Cause, August 10 at Fannies

Milwaukee- A great time is in store for those attending "BreastFest '97, at Fannies on Sunday August 10th. BreastFest is an important fund raiser to help fight against Breast Cancer.

This very special event is a Wisconsin Light Spotlight Event. It will be held from 2 PM to 9 PM. Fannies is located at 200 E. Washington. All proceeds will be turned over to the Susan Komen Founation. The Komen foundation is the largest provider of funds dedicated exclusively to Breast Cancer Research.

Despite its serious purpose BreastFest will be a fun event. There will be plenty of live entertainment including Lu Shanti, the Shoreline Dance Troupe, and the al-

ternative group FWEEP. There will also be lots of great food, games, a big raffle and a silent auction.

The raffle has dozens of prizes ranging from Dinners for two, to sports equipment, movie passes and rounds of golf.

The Silent Auction will have many fine

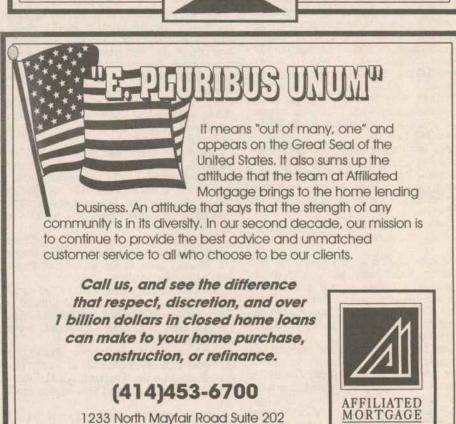
items including works of art, a Harley Davidson Vest, memberships in health clubs and more.

Breast Cancer kills more than 180,000 people every year. Lesbians are said to be at higher risk for Breast cancer than their heterosexual counterparts are. There is no known cause or cure

Sharon, owner of Fannies, one of the event's sponsors, wants everyone to come and share in the fun and support this important cause.

Everyone should be aware of the danger that Breast Cancer poses to our community. This is a chance to support a very good cause and have a great time doing

The Wisconsin Light's Dusty Sass is one of those planning on being there. He says, "Look, Lesbians have been supporting Gay men in their fight against AIDS for years. We can certainly stop in buy a beer or two and offer some support



Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Breast Fest 97

An Annual Block Party Fundraiser to Combat Breast Cancer

Sunday, August 10 at Fannies 2-9pm

Join Leslie J. Waltke in raising funds for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation & support her in her November Cross Country Bike Ride from California to Florida in November.

All proceeds will be donated to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, the largest provider of Breast Cancer Research Dollars.

Sponsored by Fannies & The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM)

Live Music Entertainment Great Food and Drink Games Raffles Silent Auction and much, much more!





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SINCE I WANT AN EXCUSE TO LOITER OUT HERE INSTEAD OF WORKING.

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



TO SED. TO

DOWN AT THE BOOKSTORE

SINCE WHEN DO YOU

CAN I BUM A CIGARETTE,

Two School Districts Face Suits Charging Anti-Gay Harassment

Seattle, WA-When Mark Iversen discusses his junior high and high school years, his memories aren't fond ones.

Instead, he recalls hearing anti-Gay epithets daily. He remembers the classmate who slammed into his chest a handwritten note that read, "You're dead."

written note that read, "You're dead."

The teacher who told him, "I already have 20 girls in my class. I don't need another."

And the student who called him names and used a broomstick to push him into the lockers, while two teachers watched.

In a lawsuit filed Wednesday, July 23rd in U.S. District Court, Iversen alleges those and other incidents happened over a period of six years.

He also contends administrators and teachers in his suburban school district did nothing to prevent them and that, in some cases at least, they encouraged other students to harass him.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Washington filed the lawsuit on Iversen's behalf. The suit names the Kent School District, two top administrators and three school principals

school principals.

Iversen, 18, said the harassment culminated in October 1996, when he was beaten by eight students in a classroom across from the school's security office while 30 others watched.

while 30 others watched.

District officials declined comment.

"I want youths to know it's time to take a stand," Iversen said at an ACLU news conference. "Schools need to change. I don't want other students to go through what I went through. It has to stop."

Alice Iversen, Mark's mother, said she spoke repeatedly with school administrators and sent them written accounts of the incidents.

"He was told that if he is Gay, he should expect to be treated this way," said James Talbot, Iversen's attorney.

The district has a policy that is meant to protect all students from harassment, Talbot said. The lawsuit seeks unspecified monetary damages, stricter enforcement of the anti-harassment policy, and stronger protections in the policy for targeted students.

lversen said the incidents started when he was in junior high school. He switched high schools four times before graduating this year from Kentwood High School.

At the news conference, the statewide Safe Schools Coalition issued its third annual report on harassment and violence. The organization has documented 77 anti-Gay incidents in 25 school districts since 1994, said Tom Page, co-chairman of the coalition's research committee.

"Over time, it escalates from namecalling to physical attacks and beyond," Page said.

Nabozny Case Sets Precedent

After the first federal trial of a school district accused of failing to protect a Gay student from harassment, a Wisconsim man accepted a \$900,000 settlement last year. Jurors found three Ashland, Wisconsin, school district administrators guilty of violating Jamie Nabozny's rights by failing to protect him from years of Gaybashing.

"The Nabozny case sent a ringing message to school districts throughout the country that henceforward, harassment of Lesbian and Gay teens in schools would be taken seriously," said David Buckel, who helped prosecute the case for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. He spoke to the AP on the phone from his New York office.

"Because our facts are so similar, we are basically mirroring the Nabozny case,"

Talbot said.

In May, Connecticut became the sixth state to enact some prohibitions against sexual-orientation discrimination in schools, Buckel said, joining Minnesota, Wisconsin, Vermont, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

Attorneys are also using the Nabozny case, which focused on equal protection under the U.S. Constitution, to pursue other legal strategies, Buckel said. An Illinois attorney cited the Nabozny case but used tort law to win a settlement for a Gay student who had been harassed.

Title IX, the federal law prohibiting sex discrimination is schools, is also becoming more protective of Gay and lesbian students, Buckel said. In March, the U.S. Education Department issued examples of anti-Gay harassment that would be prohibited under the law.

"Nabozny made everybody sit up and take notice," Buckel said. "Title IX makes them stand up and salute."

In Pacifica

A 12-year-old Pacifica, California boy says his classmates have been calling him 'faggot,' 'girl' and 'Gay-Gay' since kindergarten.

But last year, the taunting got worse, and he developed migraines, lost 30 pounds, and considered suicide. After getting little help from school officials, he and his mother have decided to sue the district for not protecting him from sexual harassment.

They served notice of intent to sue the Laguna Salada Union School District, Ortega Middle School and a handful of administrators and counselors they say failed to protect him from sexual harassment

"I want them really to know how much we suffered, how really terrible it was," he said. "It's not just some kid being called

names on the playground."

The district has amended its sexual harassment policy to say no student should be subject to any kind of sexual harassment, "including harassment because of sexual orientation." The most serious penalties include expulsion.

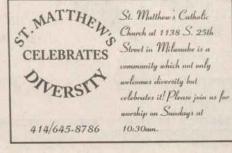
But months of working with administrators at Ortega Middle School apparently have not stopped the slurs, so the mother decided to sue.

Milwaukee—Program has announced its am

"We went through all the channels and hit brick walls," the woman said. "For my son, it's more hate harassment, sexual harassment, homophobic harassment. I came to Ortega to say, 'Please help me, please help my son.' The policy needs to be clarified."

The boy has since left Ortega for an alternative school in Pacifica, where the principal and teachers keep close tabs on him. He has gained back all the weight he lost and his migraines and asthma have vanished.

Religious Faiths



White House Amends Its Reaction to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Ruling

Washington, DC-Trying to smooth over a wrinkle in its relations with the Gay community, the White House on Monday clarified its statement on a federal judge's ruling on the ``don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy for homosexuals in the military.

OH, I UNDERSTAND! YOU ONLY SEE ME WHEN YOU WANNA BUMP "LIBIDINAL SURFACES" INSTEAD OF THEORIZE ABOUT THEM!

MMM...T LIKE

Presidential spokesman Mike McCurry said that, after hearing "legitimate concerns" raised by Gay activists, his reaction to the ruling should have included that a review under way at the Pentagon analyzing how the law is being implemented.

"In retrospect, I would have pointed that out if I had looked into the issue more," McCurry told reporters. "I had a typically McCurry off-the-cuff reaction."

Earlier this month in New York, U.S. District Judge Eugene Nickerson ruled that the policy violates free-speech rights of Gay service members and subjects them to separate, discriminatory regulations.

Gay activists told the White House that more Gay and Lesbian service members have been discharged since the policy was adopted by the Clinton administration in 1993.

Last year, 850 Gays were discharged from all branches of the armed forces except the Coast Guard, according to Pentagon data compiled by the Service Members Legal Defense Network, an independent legal advocacy group. In 1994,

there were 597 discharges.

The Justice Department is appealing Nickerson's decision, and the issue is expected to ultimately be decided by the Supreme Court. There are several cases nationwide challenging the 1993 policy, adopted by the administration as a com-

The policy bars commanders from asking service members what their sexual orientations are. It allows Gay troops to

Community Activist Awards Announced by Progressive Milwaukee

Milwaukee—Progressive Milwaukee has announced its annual Community Activist Awards. The Awards are given to honor the best in community activism.

The Living Wage Award goes to: Milwaukee County Supervisors Beth Coggs-Jones, Penny Podel, Roger Qunindel and James White. Each played a critical role in the passage of the Living Wage resolution in the County Board.

Paulette Copeland is the newly elected President of the Milwaukee Teacher Education Association. She is being recognized for her commitment to improving the quality of public education for Milwaukee's children.

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Organizing Effort is being recognized for bringing together the members of the LGBT community in an organizing vision that embraces self-empowerment, economic development and activism.

The Service Employee International Union, Local 150, Dignity Campaign is being recognized. While Wisconsin Works (W-2) continues to plunge women further into hopelessness, Local 150 attacks poverty through its campaign to organize health care industry workers.

The Honorary Tommy Thompson En-

The Honorary Tommy Thompson Enemy of the People Award goes to Mark Belling for his Right Wing, wrongheaded, loud mouth musings.

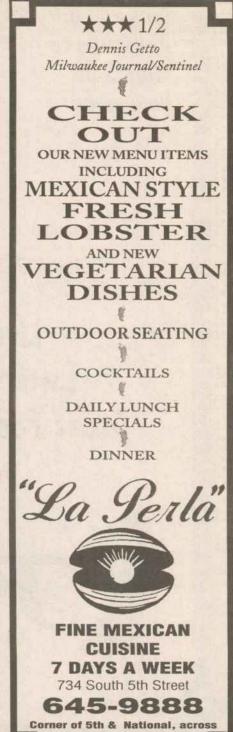
serve as long as they refrain from homosexual acts and don't reveal their orientation.

When Nickerson issued his ruling, McCurry said "we continue to believe the policy is a good one" and was being implemented satisfactorily.

McCurry said he had neglected to mention that Defense Secretary William Cohen "has expressed some concern about the implementation of the law" and had ordered a review group to study it.

"The bottom line is, the law is still the law," McCurry said. "We must continue the work of effectively administering the law and making sure we do so with the kind of sensitivity that Secretary Cohen has said should apply."

"The good news here is that Mike McCurry, in thinking a little bit longer about his comments, recognized that ... there are some problems with enforcement of this policy," said Winnie Stachelberg, legislative director of the Human Rights Campaign, the country's largest Gay political organization.



from the Milwaukee Ballet

Politically Speaking

The Battle Is Joined Will We Join In?

Commentary by Bill Meunier

Of special interest to Gays and Lesbians date's message across. is the candidacy of openly Lesbian State Those skills are especially important in Representative Tammy Baldwin. Of spe- primaries because the turnout is generally of openly Straight former Dane County tion. Executive, Rick Phelps and openly Straight State Senator Joe Weinecke.

sembly since 1992, has several things going for her. She could well become the first Lesbian to make it to Congress and the first woman elected to Congress from

Of prime importance to Baldwin is the fact that she is the only woman in the race. Women are doing well politically in Madison right now.

Last April Madison area voters elected two women to major offices. Kathleen Falk the new Dane County Executive won handily in her race. Madison Mayor Susan Baumann won in a closer race.

Their victories show that the glass ceiling has been broken. A woman can win a major race in Central Wisconsin.

Tammy also has shown herself to be on the right side of issues that grass roots activists care about. Her work on behalf of the environment, Senior Citizens, unions, fighting for a living wage, child care and other issues has won her friends and admirers from a broad swath of people from a wide variety of organizations.

These are the people who can be

Twelfth Annual AA Roundup to be Held at War Memorial

Milwaukee-Commitment announces Commitment '97, the 12th annual Gay and Lesbian AA roundup to be held at the Milwaukee County War Memorial, September 5,6 and 7. Commitment is an annual event organized and held for Gay and Lesbian recovering individuals. It begins Friday evening and concludes on Sunday morning with a spiritual breakfast.

Commitment encompasses many 12 step programs including AA, AlAnon, OA, SCA, and others. Participants can expect to find workshops on a wide variety of recovery topics which are presented by people from our own recovery community.

If you enjoy volunteering, there are opportunities for workshop participation and other volunteer activities.

The theme for the workshops will be Step 12: "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to other addicts, and to practice these principles in all our affairs" in celebration of Commitment's 12th an-

Highlights Kick off the weekend Friday evening with an early bird session, open speaker meeting, and a fabulous play.

Five keynote speakers Saturday morning and afternoon workshops. Saturday evening Italian dinner, dance, and fellowship.

Live entertainment and other fun. Full registration includes: Friday and Saturday workshops, Saturday's Italian received by August 15, is \$40.

Registration for Saturday only is, by August 15, \$30. Registration for Sunday only is \$15 before August 15, and \$20

after August 15. To register, please remit checks payable to: Commitment '97 and send to: P.O. Box 92794, Milwaukee, WI 53202. Include your name, address, phone number, and 12-Step program affiliation. Please include whether you are in need of a signer for the hearing impaired, and whether or not you would like to complete a Fifth Step, Requests for signers or fifth steps must be received no later than August 25.

Any questions, call the Galano Recov-

ery Club at (414) 276-6936.

BestD Outreach Schedule

C'est La Vie-Aug. 3, 6:00-9:00 p.m. La Cage-Aug. 6, 10:00-1:00 a.m. 1100 Club-Aug. 9, 9:00-12:00 p.m.

counted on during primary campaigns. It may be over a year away but the cam- They are the envelope stuffers, the phone paign to replace Second District Con- callers, the folks who ring door bells and gressman Scott Klug is already getting drive out the vote. They identify likely voters and work hard to get their candi-

cial interest to Tammy are the candidacies much lower than it is in the general elec-

Tammy also should be able to count on traight State Senator Joe Weinecke. solid support from Wisconsin's Gay and Baldwin who has been in the State As-Lesbian community. She has served that community well in the Legislature with her work on advancing civil rights for evervone.

> Furthermore if elected, Tammy would be America's first ever Lesbian congressperson. And she would be first Congressperson elected as an open Gay or Lesbian.

> Of course that last advantage will only help if Gays and Lesbians in her district (and elsewhere around the State) pitch in

> Congressional races are expensive and this one will be no exception. Tammy needs her supporters to open their wallets and give until it hurts. And she needs volunteers just as badly.

> Tammy's being an open Lesbian can also hurt her. Madison area newspapers continually refer to her as "a Lesbian candidate." Funny how they don't talk about the other candidates' sexual orientation.

> You can expect that from now until primary day, Madison's Democrats will be reminded of the fact that Tammy Baldwin is, in fact, a Lesbian.

> This becomes important if those Democrats worry about whether or not a Lesbian can beat the Republican candidate in

The District is heavily Democratic. Furthermore, its residents are said to be very disenchanted with the Republican controlled Congress. You won't find many (if any Democrats) who want to see Newt Gingrich serve another term as Speaker of the House.

It's unfair to depict Tammy as "a Les-bian candidate," Baldwin may be a Lesbian, but she has not subverted the interests of her constituents to some so called Gay agenda.'

No, she has fought for economic and social justice for everyone,

Baldwin's main opponent is likely to be Richard Phelps, the former Dane County Executive. Phelps was very popular and had high approval ratings while in office.

Furthermore, he has an established fund raising network and a wife who could help him cut into Baldwin's support among women's groups.

Also in the race is State Senator Joe Weinecke. Some people think that Wein-cke and Phelps will cancel each other out.

I don't happen to be one of those people. First off, Weinecke's Senate District isn't totally within the Congressional District. That means he can't count on his Senate District to provide him with a solid base of voters.

Second, Weinecke doesn't have the name recognition or popularity of Phelps. Weinecke will cut into Phelps's votes, but not to the extent that some people think he

So what we have here is an opportunity to help the Second District elect an outstanding candidate, who would truly represent the interests of all of its residents, and at the same time help ourselves by putting an honest open advocate of equality for all Americans in the House of Representatives.

The question is whether or not we will take advantage of this chance to make

history. Yes, there are many people I have talked to who are more than happy to chant "Run Tammy Run." But winning an election takes more than chants, it takes hard work

and money. It takes long hours of stuffing envelopes, calling voters, knocking on doors, getting up signs and other assorted mundane tasks. It takes people willing to put up some bucks so that there are phones to use, signs to put up and commercials on

Can Tammy Baldwin win? Yes, she can. Whether she will or not will depend in part on how many of us do more than

urge her forward. The time to donate is now, the time to volunteer is now. Every day that passes is another day that can't be recovered later on. It may be more than a year away, but the battle to win the Democratic Congressional primary in Wisconsin's Second district has been joined.

The question before the house is how many of us will join it?

It's Time for Gay Christians to Give Up on the Churches and Walk Out-for Good

Commentary by Terry Sanderson

Why do they continue to do it? Why do members of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement keep banging their heads against the church door that will be for-ever locked against them? It's not only undignified and demeaning for them, it's humiliating for the rest of us, too-even for those Gay people who are indifferent to religions of any hue.

The overwhelming impression I get from the publicity that surrounds the debate in the Episcopal and other churches about homosexuality is that all Gay people are "hurt" at being rejected by the church. There is the feeling, I think, that we are all wringing our hands and praying furiously about why we are misunderstood by our fellow Christians. It seems— if you believe all you read—that Gay people in America and elsewhere are crying themselves to sleep every night over the willful "misinterpretation" of the condemnatory passages in the Bible

Gay Christians insist that when the biblical god says we are abominations, he doesn't really mean it. When the biblical writers write that we should be stoned to death, they are actually referring to temple prostitutes in ancient times, not good, kind monogamous Christians like us

Gay Christians, and their liberal supporters, will tell you that the verb "to was mistranslated and consequently the Sodom and Gomorra myth is not really about homosexuality at all, but about lack of hospitality.

It is quite pathetic to see the apologists in action. There is no doubt that the Bible does condemn homosexuality, repeatedly and in violent and intemperate terms. The Fundamentalists who are leading the bat-tle charge against church acceptance of homosexuality, have got the interpretation absolutely right. And they are correct to say that if they make an exception for homosexuality, they're going to have to tolerate an awful lot of other "sins" too. There's no doubt about it—the biblical god is a homophobe.

That's if God exists at all, which in-creasing numbers of Gay people doubt when they compare their own personal experience of life with the biblical version of it. The hostility to organized religion that is very apparent in the Gay commu-nity inevitably trails atheism in its path.

And there is no escape for those "spiritual" Gays who are seeking an alternative to Christianity. Islam wants us dead, and even the non-religious religion of Buddhism is making hostile noises. Recently, the Dalai Lama opined that, from the

Buddhist point of view, "men-to-men and women-to-women is generally considered sexual misconduct." That comment even caused the ever-trendy Boy George to cast doubt on his chosen path. It seems that Gays who give expression to their sexual impulses are no more welcome in Nirvana

than they are in Heaven.
I find the liberal Christian stance on homosexuality equally annoying. The patronizing way that they argue for our " ceptance" and "inclusion" sends my blood pressure soaring. Who wants to be "accepted" by or included in anything that involves the unpleasant, authoritarians who constitute the Christian churches, es-

pecially their far Right Wing? How do Gay Christians put up with such stuff? The Southern Baptists, America's largest body of Protestants, have called a boycott of Disney and continue to push it. The reason is that Disney is "too pro-Gay." This seems to mean that Disney has taken its commitment to equal opportunity for its employees seriously. Because it won't persecute its Gay employees, and because it welcomes Gay people to its theme parks, the Baptists are going to

"We believe homosexuality is a perverted, twisting of God's plan," said Tom Eliff, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention. He will not rest, he says, until Disney renounces its commitment to the Gay dollar and embraces "family val-ues" as defined by himself and other Christians of similar stripe.

For my own dignity, I would encourage Gay men and Lesbians who find religion's age-old hatred of them too much to bear, to abandon the whole shebang. Leave the churches and chapels and temples to their own devices and, for the sake of all Gay people, look to a more sensible and humane way to order your lives.



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The United's Annual Awards Dinner Offered a Glittering Rainbow of Love

By Brian Harder

Wisconsin Light Madison Bureau Madison-The Fifth Annual United Community Awards took place at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison to kick off a weekend long celebration of Gay pride.

The United Awards seek to honor community members who have conveyed a message of community involvement and individual and group perseverance to Madison area Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered people and our friends, families and allies.

Any community member can nominate someone for the awards. They are then chosen by an ad-hoc committee of non-United community members.

The award for Ally of the Year went to Sol Kelly-Jones. Sol is best remembered as the ten year old girl who spoke before the Committee on Children and Families at the AB104 hearings in Wausau this past year. She spoke then about her love of her two moms and her hope that the members of the committee would work to uphold the principles of the Constitution

against hatred and fear.

Her words there in Wausau touched many and inspired countless more to write to newspaper & television editors and legislators. "...In ten or twenty years, when our community looks back on those dark hours of the hearings in Wausau, we will also remember the shining light of Sol's work and words." were some of the words used by the Lesbian Parents Network to nominate Sol.

Her acceptance speech was one of the evening's highlights. Some of her quotes from a completely memorized and/or impromptu speech follow. "I love this community and there is no award I could feel prouder about getting...each time we stand together for love and truth, we win no matter what...Isn't it sad that Loraine Sorratti and all the supporters of AB104 will miss the colorful rainbow of beauty in this room...Trust in what you have to

say, no matter how scared you might be.
"You never know what kind of difference it might make...I didn't know how people would react when I did a survey about Gay and Lesbian issues for fourth and fifth graders (laughter) but my survey eventually ended up with the Superintendent of Wisconsin Schools...
"You and I know that we all have great families filled with love. I promise you

that I will keep working for justice.

Needless to say, she received a standing ovation.

The Organization of the Year went to Frontiers. Frontiers is a Madison-based Gay men's social club providing recreational, cultural and educational activities for its members. Each month they offer a number of programs for their members including evenings with guest speakers, dining out, tours of historic places, biking and canoeing.

The United Volunteer of the Year went

Marjorie Ward who began volunteering at the United in 1995 after two friends committed suicide. She felt she needed to reach out to others who felt desperate and alone and she became a phone line volunteer and peer counselor. She volunteers three hours a week, which helps emphasize the fact that you don't have to give up much time at all to make a difference.

The Man of the Year award went to Paul Hughet. Paul's contributions to the GLBT community centers around his organizing skills and efforts to help out to the GLB7 Madison's GLBT members acquire and awards next year.

manage their own community center. He also is responsible for the wildly popular New Years Eve Out "Pink Party" which draws people from many states and is an event not centered in a bar.

The Woman of the Year award went to Martha Popp who has worked to promote a safe environment for GLBT students and staff in Madison area schools for the last twelve years.

Martha educates school administrators and teachers about GLBT issues and is an "out" role model for her students at Middleton High School. Martha was stranded in Chicago because of bad weather conditions but her co-worker Vicky Schaeffer accepted the award and spoke on her behalf.

A special award was given to Jamie Nabozny who accepted via a videotaped interview. The United recognized him for his courageous court battle to ensure protections for all children in school.

The singing group Perfect Harmony provided some great entertainment. After each award winner was announced but before they spoke, the group would sing a little tribute to them based on the melody of popular songs but with made up words, like the salute to Paul Hughet which was entitled "He's a Grand Old Fag'

After the dinner but before the awards, Kathleen Falk, Dane County Executive, spoke briefly about her campaign for Dane County Executive and how she realized that the GLBT community has a lot of leaders in government and how we should be proud and thankful for their accomplishments.

She was followed by State Rep. Tammy Baldwin who gave a brief synopsis of the year in review. From the Defense of Marriage act to progress in the educational field, from Jamie Nabozney's landmark case to the strides being made in Hawaii, from the realization that the unofficial community center of Madison, the Hotel Washington, would not be rebuilt to the loss of AB 104, from recommended policy changes at the University of Wisconsin in favor of GLBT rights to national recognition of Madison as a Gay friendly city.

Tammy is excited about the change,

progress, eye opening and understanding which we are certain to see in our lifetime and are already seeing in the Gay community. She feels we are already a part of the defining civil rights movement of our generation.

Tina Fleishman, the Master of Ceremonies, provided some very colorful commentary and kept the awards flowing

Especially funny was her story about how Tammy Baldwin spoke to Tina's Mother's church one morning at 8:00 the day after Halloween and how that day, Tina's mother had an awakening to the fact that Lesbians do exist in positive ways and that Tammy's speech had a direct influence on her mother's acceptance of her.

This years awards dinner was well attended by 261 people. director De Ette Tomlinson said that she was very pleased with the amount of people who turned out to support the work of the award recipients, especially with all the other options available to them, including the Grand Opening of the Monona Terrace Convention Center.

She also hopes to continue to make the event grow by getting more information out to the GLBT community about the Community about the

Thousands March and Rally For Pride in Madison's GALVAnize Celebration

Madison - Thousands of Gays and Lesbians rallied and marched through the streets of Wisconsin's Capital City in the annual GALVAnize Pride Celebration on

Sunday July 20.

Waving Rainbow Flags, holding hands and decked out in their best pride wear a crowd of about 1,000 cheered speakers at a pre-parade rally. The biggest reaction from the crowd came when openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin was introduced by emcee Mark Pocan as "The next Congressperson from Wisconsin's Second District.'

In a moving address, Baldwin spoke about a card she received shortly after AB 104, Wisconsin's Anti-Gay marriage bill was overwhelmingly passed by the State Assembly. The card said "It takes Sun-shine and Rain to make a rainbow."

She went on to talk about the sunshine and the rain she has seen fall on Wisconsin's and America's Gays and Lesbians in the last year.

The parade started almost immediately after the rally. This year the parade route did not include State street, proceeding

down West Washington Avenue instead. It was led by the Dykes on Bikes and included floats from Scandals, Manoeuvres, We Are Family and Geraldines as well as several decorated cars and trucks including a restored classic pick up truck that carried The Wisconsin Light's advice columnist Dear Ruthie and friends, including a delightful young man with a shy, evanescent personality, named Billy.

Ruthie, dressed to the nines, said she was overwhelmed by the generous and happy reception that she received in Madison. Many wanted to meet her, including Tampy Baldwin who shook

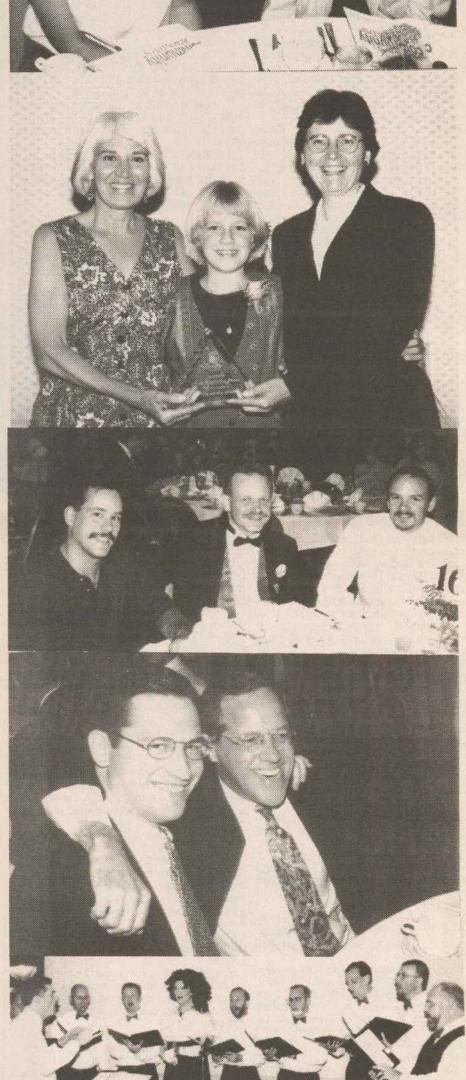
hands with Ruthie on the Capitol steps.

The parade also included about 2,000 marchers. Hundreds of onlookers cheered as the various units marched by. Included among the crowd was Greg Scheel who stood in front of the site of the former Hotel Washington cheering for the various marching and motorized units.

A Pride Festival was held at the end of the parade route, Brittingham park. The festival included food and drink and en-

tertainment.





A Gala Evening The United's annual Awards dinner in Madison was a huge success, and everyone had a great time as shown by these photos. At the top is openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin with a friend, next are Sol KellyJones (middle) and her two Lesbian Moms. Sol won the "Ally" of the Year" Award. Next are three handsome men enjoying the festivities. Second from the bottom are openly Gay Madison Alderman Mike Verveer and former State Representative David Clarenbach. The bottom are the members of Perfect Harmony. Madison's new Gay chorus performed at the dinner. Our congrats and thanks to everyone who made this night such a big success.

Delegates from Thirty-Two States Gather to Launch New LBGT Federation

Washington, DC-An important chapter in the movement for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) equality was marked on the weekend of July 18-20th by activists from statewide political groups from 32 states. At the meeting, activists officially launched the Federation of Statewide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Political Organizations.

The Federation's purpose is to bolster the efforts of these statewide groups through a network that will foster strategizing across state lines, building stronger state organizations and developing good working relationships between state and national groups.

The meeting was the result of an eight month collaboration between the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the Federation. It was the largest gathering ever of statewide groups.

States represented were AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, GA, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, ME, MD, MI, MS, MO, MT, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, OK, PA, RI, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WV.

The three day Federation meeting was held at the renowned Highlander Center outside Knoxville, Tennessee. For over fifty years, the Highlander Center has been a training center for labor, civil rights and other social justice movements. There, activists focused on adopting the organizational structure for the Federation and debating strategies on legislative issues.

These issues included sodomy law repeal, passage of civil rights bills and family recognition strategies, as well as building strategies for effective multicultural and coalition organizing.

The need for the Federation grew out of meetings of statewide activists during the past two years at NGLTF's annual Creating Change Conference. The Task Force coordinated the logistics of the Tennessee meeting, providing scholarships and staffing and assisting in the planning.

"We have known for many years that the real battles facing our communities would be fought in the State Houses across the country," said Paula Ettelbrick of the Empire State Pride Agenda, who is a founder and a co-chair of the Federation. "It is essential that we create an organizing structure that helps us to strategize as a national network of Lesbians and Gay men in order to support each other, share resources, and fight our common enemy of homophobia."

The Federation will consist of 13 Executive Committee members, selected from each region of the country, who will set forth the mission of the Federation. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force will serve as coordinator of the Federation for the next three years. NGLTF will coordinate and support the Federation's work through the dedication of staff and resources including the creation and dissemination of information and materials, regular conference calls, cyber resources and more.

"States are ground zero in the struggle for equality and justice, and it is essential that these state groups become better resourced and supported if we are to ensure our ultimate success as a movement," said NGLTF executive director Kerry Lobel.

"I am thrilled that the state LBGT groups have united to form this Federation. The Federation will focus on strengthening state organizations so that we are better equipped for the upcoming civil rights battles we are facing state by state," said Dianne Hardy-Garcia of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas and co-chair of the Federation.

"The formation of the Federation would

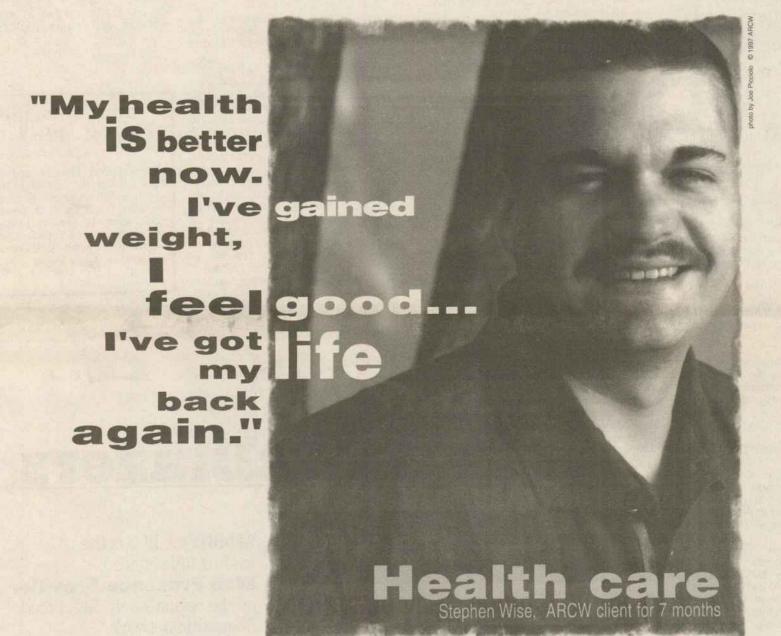
not have been possible without the assistance of NGLTF. NGLTF has provided the resources needed to pull together the Federation. The Task Force continues to illustrate a real understanding that our movement must be a local, state and national movement if we are to succeed," added Hardy-Garcia."

The Federation is planning its next meeting for November's NGLTF Creating Change conference in San Diego, California. In addition to the meeting, there will be a series or workshops geared towards activists doing statewide work, especially on legislation. These workshops will be

open to all.

Federation Mission

The purpose of the Federation is (1) to facilitate cooperation and communication among organizations whose primary mission is to seek state legislative change that benefits LBGT persons; (2) to establish a clearinghouse for exchanging information and ideas among statewide Gay political organizations; (3) to assist existing and new groups in addressing their organizational development needs; and (4) to provide a structure for better working relationships between statewide Lesbian and Gay political groups and national Lesbian and Gay organizations.

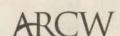


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Register Now for ARCW's Athletes Against AIDS Golf Tournament

Milwaukee, The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), the Milwaukee Brewers and Miller Brewing Company invite you to join in the fight against AIDS at the third annual Athletes Against AIDS Golf Tournament to be held Thursday, August 28, at the Country Club of Wisconsin in Grafton.

Among those swinging their clubs to benefit AIDS care, prevention and research in Wisconsin will be the Milwaukee Brewers, local sports celebrities, corporate leaders and other golfers.

This year, Milwaukee Brewer and Honorary Chair Mark Loretta will lead the event with his teammates Jeff Cirillo, Scott Karl, Jeff D'Amico, Jesse Levis and Jeff Huson; Milwaukee Wave Head Coach Keith Tozar; WKLH sports guy Kevin Brandt; Marquette Warrior great Ulice Payne, Jr.; and other celebrities and athletes. The 1996 Athletes Against AIDS Golf Tournament raised nearly \$40,000 with over 120 golfers participat-

"Recent progress in the fight against AIDS lends all of us great hope, but there is still a lot of work to be done," said Loretta. "I encourage everyone to join me by making your commitment to be a corporate sponsor or individual golfer to help raise money for the fight against AIDS.'

The days festivities include a buffet huncheon; a round of challenging golf;

contests and prizes; an all-day auction featuring an autographed Robin Yount jersey and two round-trip tickets on Midwest Express; an hors d'oeuvres reception and awards presentation.

Golfers have a chance to win tickets to a Green Bay Packer home game in the put-ting contest, then make a hole-in-one and drive home in a new Subaru Outback or Ford Escort ZX2. Additional prizes will be awarded in both men's and women's categories for other fun on-course con-

Registration begins at 11 a.m. Tickets are \$175 and may be purchased by calling ARCW at 414-225-1570.

Tournament sponsors include: Miller Brewing Company; T-3 Group, Ltd.; American Family Insurance; Braden Plumbing, Inc.; Davis and Kuelthau, S.C.; Michael, Best & Friederich Subaru; United States Fire Protection; Universal Outdoor, Inc.; Walgreens; Front Row Ticket Service; Conditioned Air Design, Inc.; Gary Grunau, Grunau Company; Owen Dunne, creator, "You Damn Kid"; Daryl and Minda Devorkin; Employees of Zilber, Ltd.; Gary Stein, The Polacheck Company; Gerald and Louise Stein; Michael Weiss, General Capital Group; Zilber Family Foundation; HM Graphics; Angela Core; Carol Curley; Hiller Ford; and Midwest Express Airlines

Miami Police Stumble and Fall on Matter of Cunanan Corpse

Commentary by Carl Reekins

Thanks to the Amazing Collins Avenue Houseboat Raid, a worldwide TV audience now believes Miami Beach police are either liars or hapless boobs.

Long after Andrew Cunanan's body was located Wednesday in the famous skyblue houseboat, the Beach police continued to assert that the search had come up

No one could have been more baffled by this announcement than the Metro cops who'd found Cunanan - extremely dead -in an upstairs bedroom, and reported it in-

Miami Beach Chief Richard Barreto has attributed the initial false report to misunderstanding of terminology" between his officers and those of the Metro Special Response Team that had stormed the houseboat.

To avoid future confusion, we respect-fully recommend that the Beach police undergo immediate re-training, to famil-iarize themselves with the following crime-scene terminology:

Phrase No. 1: "Hey, there's a dead guy in this houseboat!"

Improper interpretation: The houseboat

Proper interpretation: The houseboat

contains a deceased person.

Phrase No. 2: "If you get a chance. scope out that dead guy in the houseboat!"

Improper interpretation: The houseboat is empty. Proper interpretation: The houseboat

contains a deceased person.

Phrase No. 3: "Say, buddy, could you help me hose this blood and brains off my boots? That dead guy in the houseboat really did a number on himself.

Improper interpretation: The houseboat

Proper interpretation: The houseboat contains a deceased person.

Another technical term evidently mis-understood by Beach police is "public in-formation office." As the name suggests, that's normally the section of a police department assigned to provide important information to the public.

to qualify as precisely the sort of pertinent news that a public information officer should promptly share.

It might also be assumed that any facts officially provided about such an event are true. The Beach police, however, Fathers may expect to live their lack of Fathers may expect to live their lack of their children. chose a more flexible interpretation.

Initially they stated the raid on the houseboat wasn't connected to the

Cunanan dragnet, but rather was a routine

response to a burglary in progress.

SWAT teams, helicopters, a hundred cops closing Collins Avenue - routine? Oh sure. Happens every time there's a break-in on the beach.

That lie was the first dumb move. The second dumb move was announcing that the houseboat was empty. The third dumb move was failing to retract the second

Instead the Beach brass decided to stay mum about the falsehood and let it lie.

Cunanan's body could have been taxidermied in the time it took them to admit it was there. By then, they looked like

Investigators had tipped many reporters to the truth. Consequently, the world al-ready knew a corpse had been discovered, and that it likely was Gianni Versace's killer.

Then came a fourth dumb move, as Beach cops labored to explain how an "empty" boat now held a dead fugitive.

Their answer: Metro police had missed the body on the first sweep, but spotted it on another pass.

This was more rubbish that insulted everyone who'd been following the story, not to mention the SRT searchers who'd risked their necks charging in.

Cunanan was sprawled in plain view on a bed; Barney Fife couldn't have missed

Nor could he have done a more bumbling job of getting the facts out.

author and a courageous Gay Activist Alliance militant. Why?

A front page report in a 1973 Gay newspaper tells of activists meeting in Manhattan when "a 16-year old boy came in with tears in his eyes. His grandmother was kicking him out for being Gay. Her sons were beating him up saying it would knock the Gayness out of him.'

Though African-American, the boy chose a white woman to approach to tell of his experiences and she assumed later that it was because she'd represented a mother figure to him.

Parent Richard Ashworth, known to For instance, the suicide of the most author Eric Marcus as a member of Par-hunted man in North America would seem ents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays gives in Is It a Choice? another reason that brings parents, especially fathers, to examine their own roles.

success in that area through their children.

Five Serial Killers of Gay People Still At Large

New York, NY-While the threat of Andrew Cunanan is gone, many wonder if law enforcement will now step up their efforts to find five serial killers of Gay men and transgender people still at large in the U.S..

According to a 1994 report released by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), a group committed to ending hate crimes against the Lesbian and Gay community, five serial murderers who have targeted primarily Gay men and

transgender people still remain at large. In Atlanta at least six male-to-female transgender people have been shot dead since 1987. Since 1991 six Gay men have been murdered and dismembered in the New York area. In Denver, four Gay men have been stabbed to death, while in Virginia, nine African-American male-to-female transgender people have been found dead. In total, these five serial killers have been linked to the deaths of at least 35 people.

Clinton **Continued From Page 1**

I think (with a Gay son) you may find more disappointment from the father at first. I don't think you find that as much in a mother.

Following the historic 1973 founding of the first parents of Gays organization, a banner headline on GAY, America's first weekly, exclaimed:" Parents of Gays Or-ganizing!" Activist media whiz Randolfe Wicker wrote the GAY news scoop, dated

It said, "Several couples, all parents of Gay children, were brought together on Sunday afternoon, March 11th in a lounge of the United Methodist Church at 13th Street and Seventh Avenue to discuss their mutual experiences and see how they could help other parents handle their rela-tionships with their Gay offspring."

"Gay activists Barbara Love and Morty Manford organized the meeting and served as informal moderators of the discussion after explaining that they hoped to be but "temporary catalysts" in getting the

parents' group going."

Love and Manford's hopes bloomed in novel ways in yesterday's meeting-1997—of PFLAG's President with the American President. The PFLAG president's attendance now vividly recalls how two long-ago temporary catalysts succeeded in creating an important liberation organization with chapters in 11 nations.

PFLAG, many activists believe, is Ga liberation's natural beachhead into the five children and five grandchildren. heterosexual community's longing for families whose members live in affection

and understanding.

With PFLAG President McDonald's presence at the White House, a significant milestone is reached in a year of unparalleled token triumphs, a milestone that could hardly have been dreamed about in 1973 when Republican same-sex marriage opponent and anti-porn crusader Richard Nixon occupied the Watergate- rocked White House

Then, a photo under GAY's banner-headline shows GAA's handsome and earnest Morty Manford with his mother, Jeanne and the well-known author of popular childcare-advice books, Dr. Ben-jamin Spock in 1972. Jeanne Manford is carrying a sign that says, "Parents of Gays: Unite in Support for Our Children!" On page 10 is a picture showing Manford

with both parents (Jeanne Manford and Dr. Jules Manford principals both in the

founding of Parents of Gays) and Morty's sister, Suzy Manford.

At Tuesday's meeting a quarter century later, PFLAG President Nancy McDonald delivered a message, in essence, to the President of the United States:

"We are mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, cousins, neighbors and friends who want to live in a society where everyone is valued. We are seeking to create 'safe space' for everyone, and especially in our schools and communities. I hope that you, as the President, and your Administration will join us in this work," she said.

McDonald is a community educator who lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

PFLAG, a national family organization, currently serves more than 400 communities, has been headed by McDonald since October 1996. She coordinated the group's public educational program, Project Open Mind, during its initial launch in Tulsa, and is the founder of the city's PFLAG

McDonald is an education consultant. having previously worked in the Tulsa Public Schools developing and coordi-nating the School Volunteer Program and Partnerships in Education with Business and Industry. Her many honors include being named Tulsa Woman of the Year and Administrator of the Year by Tulsa Classroom Teachers.

She and her husband of 35 years have

In Memoriam Albina G. "Bina" Cazel

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'Any Mother's Son' Offers Few Surprises and Fewer Challenges

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

It was with extreme trepidation and a great deal of apprehension that Glenn approached Any Mother's Son, a Lifetime Original Movie starring Bonnie Bedelia that will air August 11.

How could the cable network dedicated

to providing contemporary and innovative entertainment for women possible do justice to bringing to the small screen the story of the brutal slaying of sailor Allen Schindler?

Unfortunately, Glenn has to report, by slapping this tragic incident into a patently "disease-of-the-week" formula. hands of screenwriter Bruce Harmon, a veteran of many such ventures, Any Mother's Son is suitably sanitized for middle-class hetero-America.

Allen Schindler's story is a particularly nasty chapter in the Navy's admittedly dreadful treatment of Gay men and Lesbians. Followed into a public restroom, Allen Schindler was brutally beaten and killed by two of his fellow shipmates.

Although Schindler was given a military funeral, it would be months before Dorothy Hajdys, Allen's mother, learned that her son had been killed by other sailors and that the reason was that Allen was Gay.

The film opens with Allen (Paul Popovich), a genuine "all-American boy", home on leave. He is shown troubled, wanting to talk to his mother about something but unable to find the words. The tearful family scene at the airport as Allen is about to return to his unit in Japan is filled with a sense of foreboding.

Some of his shipmates have learned of Allen's sexual orientation and have responded in typical homophobic fashion. When informed, Allen's superiors did nothing, leaving the stage set for Allen's murderous assault in a public restroom.

Any Mother's Son isn't really about the killing of Allen Schindler. Rather, the fo-

Murder of Gay Sailor to be Subject of Original Made-For-TV Movie

Washington, DC-Lifetime Television will air "Any Mother's Son: The Dorothy Hajdys Story" on Monday, August 11, 1997. The film tells the true story of one woman's fight for justice in the murder of her Gay son by Navy shipmates

Four and a half years ago, Allen Schindler was brutally beaten by Terry Helvey and Charles Vins while stationed onboard the "USS Belleau Wood" in Sasebo, Japan. Every organ in his body was destroyed. Mrs. Hajdys could identify her son only by a tattoo on his arm.

A court martial convicted Helvey and sentenced him to life in prison for Schindler's murder. Helvey is eligible for parole in the year 2002, after serving only 10 years of his sentence. Based on a plea agreement, Vins was discharged from the military after serving only 78 days in

To commemorate the premiere of "Any Mother's Son," the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) will hold a special screening of the film in Chicago on Monday, August 11, with Hajdys as the special guest. The screening will be held at the Chicago Public Library/The Harold Washington Library Center. The reception will be from 6:00-8:00 p.m., with film to follow. Tickets are \$50 each.

SLDN will also host a series of house parties throughout the country on the dates that the film is aired on Lifetime Television. For more information, call (202) 328-3244.

"Every Mother's Son" will air on August 11, 17 and 23 at 7:00 p.m. CDT. On August 14, it will air at 8:00 p.m. CDT and on August 31 at 11:00 a.m. CDT.

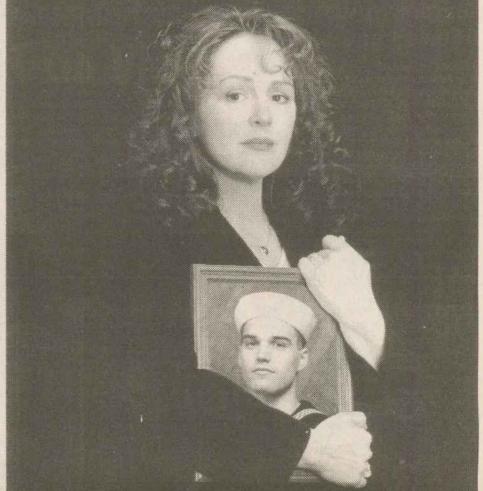
cus of this tele-film is the emotional and spiritual journey his mother must make, from her initial refusal to accept that her son was "a queer" to ultimately confronting the Navy for their attempts at covering up the real reason that Allen Schindler was

In the course of Any Mother's Son, all the usual Gay stereotypes and psychobabble are trotted out. Early in the film, for example, mom is seen insisting to her daughter that her son wasn't a dresswearing, limp-wrist pervert. Later Dorothy's ex-sister-in-law, Doris (Fiona Reed), one of the most virulent homophobes Glenn has seen on the small box in many a moon, demands that Allen's body be exhumed so as to perform tests to prove he

was not a pervert. Conversely, Allen's teenaged sister Kathy (Hedy Burgess) is at the opposite end of the spectrum, a raging liberal, outraged at the Navy's deceptive and deceitful manner in handling the case against the two men charged with Allen's murder.

One isn't particularly surprised by the Gay-positive spin in Any Mother's Son being a creation of the hip Lifetime chan-Sadly, Any Mother's Son offers viewers few surprises and no thoughtprovoking challenges.

Still, Glenn has to wonder that in this day and age we still need movies that plead to Middle America that we don't deserve to be murdered simply because we are Gay



Victim of a Gay Bashing - Bonnie Bedlia stars in "Any Mothers Son" the tree story of a woman, a US sailor, was murdered by his shipmates because he was Gay. The original Lifetime Movie airs on the Lifesailor, was murdered by his simplified to 10 PM August/September episode. The first,

History and Highlights, "In The Life" **Celebrates Five Years!**

New York--For its August/September 1997 episode, a special edition of In The Life celebrates its first five years on the air. The hour-long special takes a nostalgic look at the stops and starts that made up In The Life's early episodes, and continues on through five seasons as the series evolves into an in-the-field newsmagazine.

When In The Life debuted five years ago the idea that Gays and Lesbians should have a regular slot on national television was completely new -- this was five years before Ellen.

Correspondents Tanya Barfield and Darius de Haas join host Katherine Linton for the for these stories in this look back at five years of In The Life.

The Early Years

The story of In The Life's first two season's make up this opening segment. The pilot episode aired June 1992 with political "fumorist"-- that's feminist/humorist -- Kate Clinton as the host. When that episode hit the airwaves in 1992 it didn't take long before the new Gay series, on national Public television, came under attack in the PBS funding wars of the early 90s.

In a sense, In The Life has Bob Dole to thank for letting America know it was out there - his June 12, 1992 attack on In The Life from the floor of the US Senate made headlines. Dole called In The Life the "Gay Ed Sullivan Show" -- in a way he was right. In The Life stayed with, and played with, a variety show format for the first

Clips will remind In The Life connoisseurs of episodes like In The Life goes Country, Lily Tomlin reading letters from Vito Russo, and In The Life goes to the Movies with Charles Busch, where the famous drag artist played a handful of char-

Other guests highlighted from those early episodes include the Lavender Light Gospel Choir, the singing group The Flirtations, writer/actor David Drake, country band Doug Stevens and The Outband, and comio Lea DeLaria.

The Great Events

From political conventions to cultural celebrations, In The Life cameras have been there to record history as it happens. Millions of people have been lucky enough

to be there at these significant events, and millions more have turned to In The Life, as it has marked the milestones in the struggle for Gay and Lesbian civil rights.

This segment includes reports from the 1993 March on Washington; Stonewall 25 and Gay Games IV, the 1994 remem-brance of the 1969 Stonewall Riots; and the 1995 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, China. Also included is an In The Life look at the 1996 Republican Convention in San Diego for a story about Gay men and Lesbians both under and outside the "Republican Big Tent." In The Life and the Arts

Even though In The Life eventually moved away from the original variety-show

format, it never lost its commitment to profiling artists and entertainers who help shape and define Gay and Lesbian cul-

Music. Art. Dance. Drama. Humor. In any area of the arts, Gay men and Lesbians have made great contributions both to the Gay community and to the mainstream, by challenging stereotypes, celebrating difference, and confronting the devastation of AIDS.

In celebration of the many talented individuals who have appeared on In The Life during its first five years, this segment features Marga Gomez, scenes from the Broadway musical Rent, choreographer Bill T. Jones, British actor Sir Ian McKellen, playwright Tony Kushner, and Artistic Director of The Public Theater, George C.

An In The Life Tribute

This segment pays tribute to the many people who have appeared on In The Life who have since died. Included are singer/activist Michael Callen, International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival director

Mark Finch, drag artist Randy Allen, writer Andrew Kopkind, comedian Frank Maya, filmmaker Marlon Riggs, civil rights activist Dr. Betty Shabazz, Dick Sargent of "Bewitched" fame, and Lesbian pioneer Peter Worth, who lived on Fire Island from the 1940's until her death last year.

Memorable Segments Three past stories from In The Life will be shown in their entirety on the about a young man from Romania, is an example of coverage beyond U.S. borders as international reporting has been an important part of In The Life.

History has also taken a front-seat from the beginning of the series and a segment about persecution of homosexuals during the holocaust, one of In The Life's most powerful segments, will be shown. And in it's fifth season, In The Life introduced a regular story feature called A Day In The Life, and an unforgettable Day In The Life with The Lady Chablis from Savannah will

August Horoscope

By Dean Poh

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)
Happy Birthday, Leo! It is said that strange fates await us all. That's the case with you, Leo. This could be bad, it could be good. It will be up to that dominant personality of yours to turn your fate this month to your advantage. Be extremely careful of one near you. Despite appearances, he does not wish you well. Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept 22)

Wise men of old say that fantasies are better left where they are, in the realm of imagination. Try to bring them into reality (a sore temptation, sometimes), and they can become surreal copies of themselves. That is a warning you should take to heart, Virgo.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

The world may seem to be against you right now, Libra. Malignant forces may seem to swirl about your head. Take heart. The dark clouds are about to be blown away by someone who you least expect. In the meantime, watch out for someone coming from the east.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

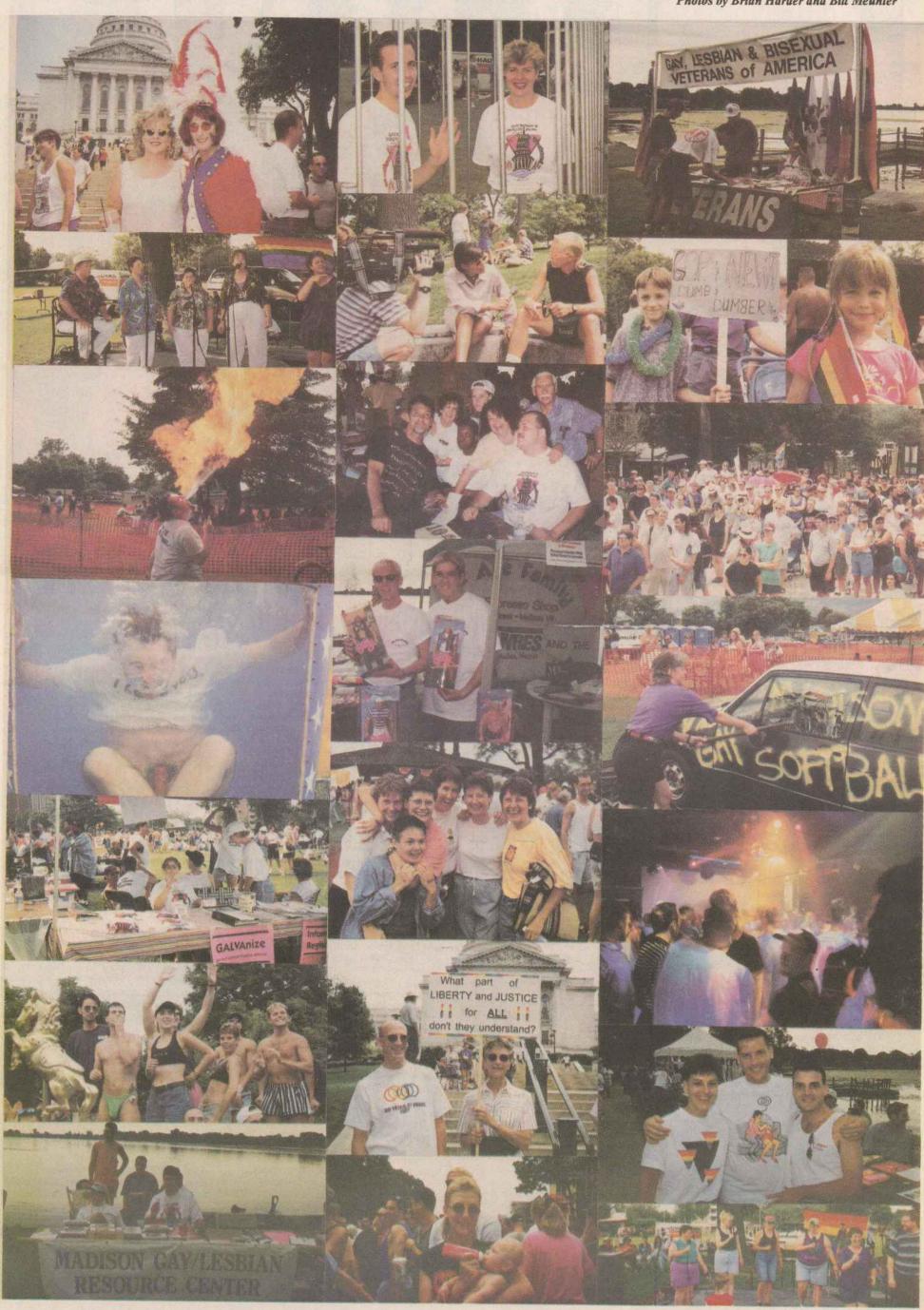
August is going to be much better for you than July was. You will see new opportunities in your career. The big question is, should you take advantage of them. The answer is an unqualified yes, but beware of someone who doesn't want you to succeed. They'll advise you not to take the risk.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You are thinking about that "dream" vacation. Should you take it? Should you not? Can you afford it? Is it worth the Please See Horoscope page 18

Celebrating with Pride In Madison

July 18 to July 20, 1997

Photos by Brian Harder and Bill Meunier



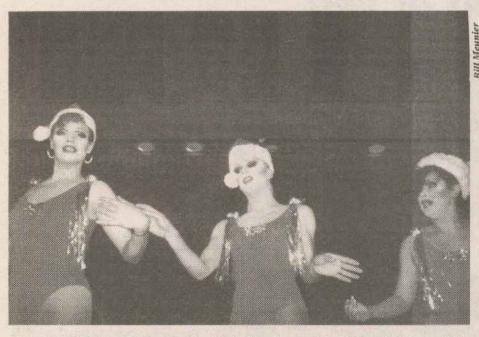
THE SPOTLIGHT SECTION

Celebrating with Pride In Madison

July 18 to July 20, 1997

Photos by Brian Harder and Bill Meunier





Christmas in July It was Christmas in July at the La Cage showcase. The La Cage girls put on a fabulous Christmas show on Friday, July 25 and Sunday, July 27 at La Cage, in Milwaukee. The show was so good that our photographer felt compelled to stay for the whole thing, and who can blame him. The Showcase is said by many to be one of the hottest shows in town. See it and judge for yourself on Fridays at 11:30 PM.

God Returns to Madison in "Tales of A Millenium"

Madison-God is coming back from a two thousand year vacation in the Universe and the fun begins in Madison's Broom Street Theater's latest play, "Tales for a Millenium," a wacky comedy with a hopeful ending, written and directed by Brian Wild. The new production opened 8:00 p.m., Friday, July 25 and runs until August 31.

The plot of "Tales" thickens as God returns to take over the heavenly driver's seat. Peter and Jesus are nervous that God is going to be really angry when He sees what shape the world is in currently. In God's absence, Jesus has been running

the world and hasn't exactly left the place in perfect condition.

According to Wild, longtime Broom Street actor who is making his playwriting debut, "Tales" is not only about family relationship (the first dysfunctional family in history is dramatized in the play), but is also about how to find a pleasant way out of the chaotic world.

In the cast are Broom Street veterans Callen Harty as both God and Satan, Brad Knight as Jesus Christ, Buck Hakes at St. Peter, Isa Norwood as Mary Magdalene, Joe Wiener as Beethoven, Mark Edwards as both Desi Amaz and Buddha, Betsy McNeely as White Buffalo, and Cindy Toth as Jessica Savage. Mathew Duckett makes his Broom Street debut as Noah.

The Broom Street Theater is located at 1119 Williamson Street. Tickets are \$7 at the door only (sorry, no reservations). Call (608) 244-8338 for information.



OUT on Video

August "Herself" **Features Feminist** Science Fiction

Milwaukee—The August edition of "Herself," Milwaukee's feminist video

magazine, includes interviews with noted science fiction authors, Melissa Scott, Pat Murphy and Karen Joy Fowler. Susan Sturgis, a science fiction book editor, is also interviewed.

Melissa Scott (Trouble and Her Friends, Mighty Good Road and other books) talks about why she writes science fiction and especially why she writes cyberpunk involving women, Lesbians and

Pat Murphy (The Falling Woman, The City Not Long After) and Karen Joy Fowler (Sarah Canary) discuss the hilarious beginning of the James F. Tiptree Award for gender bending science fiction.
Also interviews in the August edition of

"Herself" are Milwaukee writers Sue Burke and Suzanne Alles Blorn.

"Herself" is cablecast Sundays at 8:00 p.m. on channel 14 in the City of Milwaukee. The August program is shown each Sunday in the month of August.

"Herself" is produced in cooperation with the Milwaukee Chapter of the National Organization for Women and MATA, our First Amendment promoter and protector.

Unedited Version of Greg Louganis Film to Be Released Soon On Video

Milwaukee-Culture Q Connection and Phoenix Distributors have announced that they will be releasing Breaking the Surface—The Greg Louganis Story on

The film stars Mario Lopez as Louganis. Lopez is a smoldering, doe-eyed Latino prince who appeared previously in the TV sitcom "Saved By The Bell."

The video is unedited and will include "the kiss" which was not seen on TV.

If you want to see the unedited version, urge your favorite video store to order and stock the video.

Madison Gay Video Club

Fri., August 8-Madison Gay Video 18-30 Club

Sat., August 9-Madison Gay Video

"The Priest" (dir. Antonia Bird, 1995) "Summer of '44" (dir. Bill Hunter, 1997) Fri., August 22—Madison Gay Video 18-30 Club

Sat., August 23-Madison Gay Video Club

"Oliver, Oliver" (French w/subtitles, dir. Agnieska Holland, 1991) "On Your Knees" (dir. Matt Sterling,

1997) Editor's Note: On July 25th, the Video Club introduced a separate showing for Gay men ages 18-30 on the 2nd and 4th

Fridays of each month—in addition to the regular showings (open to all men over 18 on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays). The same features will be shown both nights. Showings begin at 8:00 p.m. For more information, call (608) 244-8675 (eves)

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All proceeds benefit the STD Specialties Clinic in Milwaukee and the AIDS Network in Madison. Post-performance reception at the White Horse Inn.

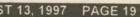
Tickets: 266-9055

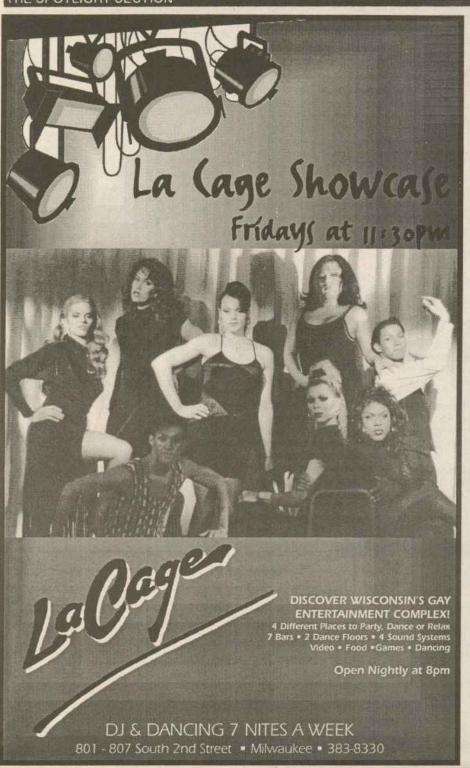
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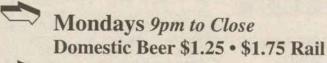






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MISS GAY AMERICA



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SUNDAY, AUG 24

MISS GAY FOX VALLEY US OF A PAGEANT

The Calendar

WEDNESDAY JULY 30

TRIANGLE'S ANNIVERSARY

The Triangle will be celebrating its 9th anniversary with a gala party. The bar located at 135 E. National, Milwaukee will be offering prizes, great music and special surprises.

Stop by and help them celebrate.

SATURDAY AUGUST 2

SILENT AUCTION FUND RAISER AT THE BALL GAME

Silent Auction to benefit the world series thought? Just remember, Capricorn, that fund of its SSBL team, the Ball Game

Items up for bid include tickets to the Packers - Vikings game. The Ball Game is located at 196 S. 2nd Street.

FIREBIRDS CLUB NIGHT AT THE BOOT CAMP SALOON

Time to drag out those harnesses, leather chaps and that stunning leather hat. It's Firebirds Club Night at the Boot Camp, 209 E. National, Milwaukee.

Club nights at the Boot are always a great time and this will be no exception.

GOLDEN GUERNSEY GALA AT SASS IN GREEN BAY

The annual Golden Guernsey Gala will be held at Sass, located at 840 S. Broadway, Green Bay.

The gala will include the crowning of the Guernsey Queen, the person who has raised the most money for Green Bay's Center project.

Be there for all the excitement and a fabulous show. And don't forget to support your favorite cow (we mean candidate). You can vote right until the time the show begins.

FRIDAY AUGUST 8

JENNINGS BENEFIT AT ZA'S

Za's 1106 Main Street, Green Bay, will host a special benefit show to help Jeff Jennings in his quest to become the next Mr. Gay US of A.

Don't miss this chance to help Jeff pay for all the expenses associated with entering a national pageant. He will do us

SATURDAY AUGUST 9

MR. DRUMMER CONTEST AT SOUTH WATER ST. DOCKS

There will be A Mr. Drummer Contest this evening at South Water Street Docks. Unfortunately despite several phone calls and a visit to the bar, we were not provided with any information about this

Docks is located at 354 E. National.

SUNDAY AUGUST 10

BREASTFEST AT FANNIES

A great time will be had by all at this festival to raise money to fight against Breast Cancer.

BreastFest will include plenty of great music, good food, raffles, a silent auction, games and other fun.

It will be held from 2 PM to 9 PM in the streets surrounding Fannies which is located at 200 E. Washington.

So bring yourself (and your breasts) to Fannies for a great time and a good

THURSDAY AUGUST 10

CURT'S B-DAY PARTY AT IN BETWEEN

Well it's that time again, time for In Between Owner, Curt Peck's Annual 30th Birthday party.

What's that you don't believe that Curt is really 30? Well then you can join the crowd of disbelievers at In Between, 625 S. Second Street.

Anyone who has been to one of Curt's special parties knows that they are fabulous. As usual Curt has the birthday but the patrons get the gifts.

So be on hand to wish Curt a happy 30th (remember practice makes perfect)

SATURDAY AUGUST 16

MISS GAY WISCONSIN FINALS AT DIVERSIONS

The Miss Gay Wisconsin America Finals

will be neld at wisconsins newest and biggest Gay entertainment complex, Diversions located at 1413 Green Valley Road, Neenah.

Contestants from around the state will compete for the coveted crown. The festivities will include Vicki C, last year's winner and the reigning Miss Gay America, Lauren Taylor.

This is a two day event with preliminary competition on Saturday and the finals on

Horoscope

Continued From Page 15

money and the time? Stop thinking so much Sagittarius. You do too much of that, too much analysis. Go with your feelings more. That way lies happiness.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan 19)

Did that which was sown in July turn out The Ball Game will be site of a fabulous to be not as sweet a harvest as you'd you were warned. But all is not as hopeless as it seems. Look over your shoulder. That "special someone" is about to apprear.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Your "river" is running strong and clear, Aquarius. The juices are really flowing. They're flowing so hard and hot, that you are strongly tempted to abandon all and let them sweep you along. Do not yield to that temptation. If you do, disaster awaits. Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

You are by no means a "bar fly," Pisces, but you do like to go out. In August, near mid-month, you will go out and someone will put a "fishhook" through you, drag you away, for a wild, tempestuous night of bacchanalian delights. You are to be



Birthday Bash - The Triangle threw a big birthday bash for two of our favorite people, Jamie, photographer for In Step and Real Estate Agent extraordinaire, Jack Smith. Show above are (L-R) Triangle owner, Rob Bruckner, Jamie and Jack. Happy B-Day guys and our best wishes for many more.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is the month when you will feel less than well. It won't be as serious as you think. You tend to be something of a hypochondriac anyhow. Go to a doctor, take care of yourself, get some exercise that you've been putting off. Everything's

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

There are fairs in your area, Taurus. Go to one. At one of the exhibit booths, you will be looking at what's on display. Suddenly, you will turn and see someone, a stranger, perhaps, or a person you have not seen in sometime. Oh, it will be good.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

You tend to be idealistic in the extreme. This can be painful at times, such as now. This pain can cause you to be bitter, can

make you hold a grudge, hold it and hold it. Give it up, Gemini. Life's too short. If

you can't forgive, at least forget. Cancer (June 22-July 22) Money, fame, you want it all, Cancer. You think these things can lead to happiness. That's not true. Establish your goal, the one you have in the back of your heart. Pursue it. If money and fame result, so be it. If not, at least you'll be happy and fulfilled.

Editor's Note: Dean Poh is currently living in Manila. He is an astrologer of wide experience, but he is also a gifted seer who, as he says, uses many means to divine the future. He ascribes his

sensitivity to his being Gay because "Gay

people are on the seventh and highest rung of spiritual evolution."





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Sunday, July 20

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CONGRATULATIONS & THANKS

to everyone involved in the Madison Pride Weekend



It was also true that there was great fun at the the B-Day party for Jack Smith and In Step Photographer Jamie at The Triangle. The bar put out a nice spread and thoughtfully reduced the number of candles on the cake (Fire codes you know)

The Christmas In July show at the La Cage Showcase was wonderful. I had only intended to drop in for a few minutes but the show was so good that I stayed for the whole thing. If you haven't seen the Showcase yet, make a point of putting it on your calendar.

Last, but not least, I had wonderful time inaugurating the Packer Season at In Between. Gay Milwaukee's Packer Headquarters is already in mid-season form as it welcomes all those who want to cheer our Pack onto victory.

Not that I'm a baseball fan, mind you, but I understand that the Pittsburgh Pirates will be coming to town in late August to play the Brewers. (Now, why would I know that?). Anyway, the good folks at Station II may want to know that, I've been told.

Coming Up ... Wednesday July 30 is the big Anniversary bash at The Triangle. It really has been nine years since the place opened. Light's editor and publisher (they're MUCH older than I), tell me of all the good, good memories they have of the bar. There was "The Beautiful Miss Goldie Adams," the immortal Holly Brown, the incomparable Garreth (what a hunk!), and so many more. Happy Birthday, Triangle! And a thousand more!

Thursday July 31 you can find me at The M & M Club for their double bubble from 9 to Midnight.

Friday August 1 I'll be at Just Us for one of their fab fish fries. The place is really hopping under the management of Steve and Jan.

Saturday August 2 is I will be at the Silent Auction benefiting the Ball Game Rangers at the Ball Game. The auction goes from 5 to 7:00 and even includes Packer Tickets. Later on I will drag out the dead animal skin so I will be in style at the Firebirds Club Night at The Boot Camp.

Sunday August 3 I am planning a quick trip up to Mad Town to catch the Sunday Night show at Manouevres. They always have good shows there.

Saturday August 9, I will be at the Drummer Contest at Docks. No I will not be entering it just wouldn't be fair to the other contestants.

Sunday August 10 | want everyone to help me pitch in at BreastFest '97. This is a fund raiser to have raise money to fight Breast Cancer. Did you know that men can get that too? Now stop checking those mammerys check your wallet and be

Thursday August 14, is Kurt Peck's Birthday at In Between. Milwaukee's number Gay Packer Fan admits to being 30 (yeah right, if he's only 30, I'm still sweet 16 and have been kissed). should be a great party. As usual there will be plenty of presents for everyone who

Are we all recovered from celebrating pride in Mad Town yet? Well I hope so because the next few weeks offer some very exciting events that I just know you will want to be part of.

News... We hear that Joe St. Claire will no longer be the Manager of Mama Roux at least until further notice. His restaurant business in Wautoma has taken off and between that and helping his sister run Diversions in Neenah, the boy was running himself ragged and something had to give. Since Wautoma is closer to Neenah than Milwaukee is...

But not to worry, he says he will still have a residence in the Cream City and may well be back sometime in October.

Recaps...Madison's Pride Weekend was a real blast. On Friday, The United's Awards dinner was great so was the 10% Society Dance at the UW Memorial Union. Saturday of course was the MAGIC picnic. It rained (like it does most of the time) but the crowd didn't let the water dampen it's

Saturday night I had a great time at Scandals, Manoeuvres, the Shamrock and Geraldines.

Despite all that partying, I still was up for the big Pride March and Festival on Sunday. It was great to see so many openly Gay and Lesbian people gather at the Capitol. I was particularly moved by Tammy Baldwin's speech (like when doesn't she speak well?).

The March was fun too. It stretched for blocks and there were lots of people on the sidewalks cheering us on. Our special thanks to Jeff for providing the pickup truck that contained our own Dear Ruthie. She almost looked butch for a change. And to all those people who yelled how much they enjoy the Light and Ruthie what can I say except thank you!!!

The festival had some really good entertainment. I especially enjoyed seeing "Perfect Harmony" Madison's new Gay chorus. The group sold out its first ever concert. (and I didn't even solo) I also really liked Dyke-a-pella. Those womyn can sing for me anytime.

I also had fun on Sunday evening at Scandals where the Portfolio men put on a great show. (They wanted me to dance too, but it just wouldn't have been fair. I mean how could I show up all those pro-

I wasn't there but I heard a great time was had by all at Za's Anniversary celebration. Congrats to Mark, Ken and all the gang on eight great years. Here's hoping for many, many more.

The SpotLight party for our Dear Ruthie at This Is It was great fun. Ruthie's poetry was a real stitch and a good time was had by all. What was really great was that some \$100 was raised for MAP when people paid \$5 to have their photo's taken with Ruthie.

While I'm on the subject o This Is It, Tommy and Loren are back from the Isle of Man. Welcome home, guys. It's good to

have you home (Kurt, do you remember a night at the Boot Camp, long ago, when you sat and talked with a couple of guys about books?)

Anyhow, Happy Birthday, guy! On Saturday August 16 & Sunday August 17 you can find me up at Diversons for the Miss Gay Wisconsin America pageant. This is a real class affair run by

Z & L Productions. And no I am not entering that one either. It just wouldn't be fair besides I don't do

Well that about wraps it up. Hope to see ya out and about soon. Meantime be safe and stay proud.

> **TELL YOUR FRIENDS:** I read all about it in

The Wisconsin Light

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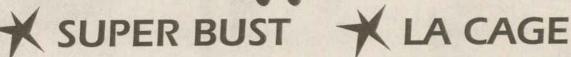
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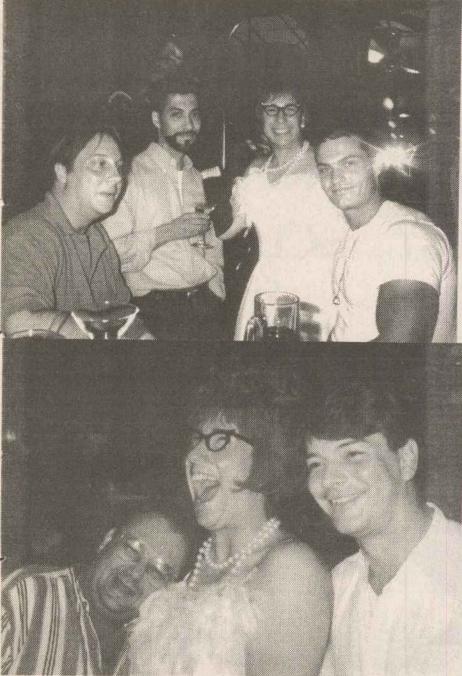
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This Is It







Queen of the bar Ruthie, The Wisconsin Light's exclusive advice columnist found time to leave the trailer park and attend a party in honor thrown at This Is It, on Tuesday July 22nd. As you can see, Ruthie was the perfect model of decomm dispensing advice, lending an ear (and a shoulder) and enjoying the company of her many fans who turned out to meet her in person.

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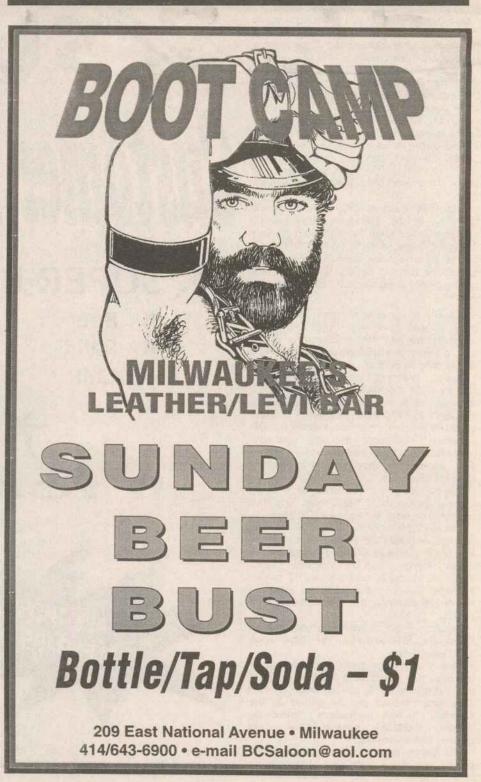
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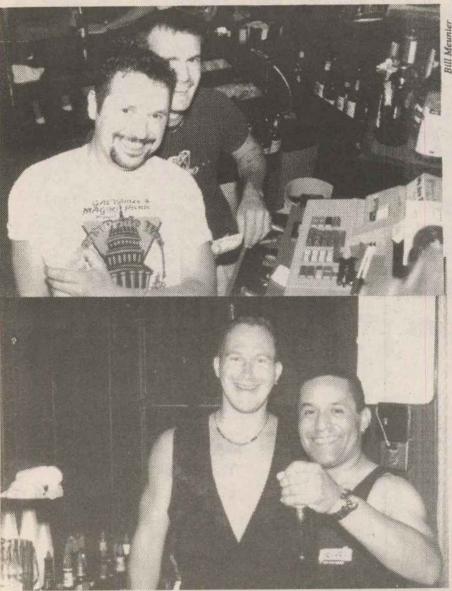
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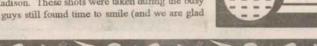
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In Print

Just III

Summer Reading

Now that PrideFest is a mere fond memory and the hot and humid weather has finally arrived signaling the arrival at long last of summer in Milwaukee, what is more appealing than lounging at the beach with a good book?

Mysteries

It is difficult to imagine a catchier title than Death Wore A Smart Little Outfit (Berkeley Pb \$5.50), the debut mystery by Orland Outland. Boasting one of the most unlikely pairs of amateur sleuths to be found anywhere, Death Wore a Smart Little Outfit's Doan and Binky are so smart, so sophisticated, so smashingly sassy that no criminal would be caught dead in the same outfit.

Popular Gay mystery writer Mark Richard Zubro's The Truth Can Get You Killed (St. Martin's HC \$21.95) is his fourth entry into his Paul Turner series.

The New Year has an inauspicious beginning for Paul Turner. Following an argument with his lover, Ben, the corpse of homophobic federal judge is found in an alleyway. As Turner works to unravel the tangled threads of the murder, he soon suspects the solution to the crime lies far too close to home.

Fans of Steven Saylor's Roma Sub Rosa series of novels will welcome The House of the Vestals (St. Martin's HC \$22.95), nine finely wrought mystery tales set in the period between Saylor's debut novel, Roman Blood and Arms of

Michael Craft's debut mystery, Flight Dreams (Kensington HC \$19.95) introduces investigative journalist Mark Manning, a Gay man just learning to accept his sexuality. Dedicating nearly seven years to the disappearance of Chicago socialite Helana Carter, Mark is given an ultimatum by his publisher: prove his case by January 1 or his career is over.

Lambda Award-winning Mary Wings presents the fourth mystery featuring P.I. Emma Victor, She Came By the Book (Berkeley HC \$21.95). San Francisco is caught up in a nasty three-way mayoral race and Emma Victor is trying to catch a man trying to blackmail one of the candidates. By the time Emma tracks down her man, the blackmailer has been murdered.

In Jackie Manthorne's Sudden Death (Gynergy Pb \$10.95), Harriet "Harry" Hubbley, self-appointed sleuth and seasoned dyke from Montreal has returned

Author

home to tie up loose ends. Feeling nostalgic, she attends her last gym teachers' convention. When the convention culminates in murder at a Lesbian bar, nothing can stop Harry from prying into the lives of friends and foes alike to find the killer.

ReBecca Beguin's Torrid Zone (New Victoria Pb \$10.95) finds Ida Muret, after two decades of quietly working a country farm reluctantly abandoning her solitude, agreeing to conceal babydyke Viv Lovejoy from a stalker. But Viv doesn't believe in laying low. Ida and the farm are placed in danger when she begins to dig up the story of Ida's tangled and secret history.

Lesbian mystery fans can also look for the recent paperback release of Sandra Scoppettone's Let's Face the Music and Die (Balantine Pb \$5.99) and Katherine Forrest's Liberty Square (Berkeley Pb

Science Fiction/Fantasy

Engaging Gay fantasy and science fiction titles are decidedly rare, making Fiona Patton's **The Stone Prince** (Daw Pb \$6.99) and David Feintuch's **The Still** (Warner Books Pb \$12.99) such a treat.

In The Stone Prince, the eternally rebellious Heathlands plot a bold new campaign of war. Crown Prince Demnor must not only overcome traitors within the court and the ever-growing rebel forces, but he must also master the birthright power of the Flame which could well prove his doom.

A uniquely compelling coming-of-age novel, David Feintuch's The Still finds young Prince Rodrigo heir to the throne of Caledon--and the most powerful magic that belongs to the kingdom's rulers. When his mother dies, leaving him at the mercy of a scheming uncle, Rodrigo learns that eclaiming his empire will require courage, statesmanship, the support of his beloved companion Rustin--and winning the fiercest battle of all.

Dreaming Metal (Tor HC \$22.95) is the latest from the highly acclaimed Melissa Scott. In this sequel to Dreamships, Melissa Scott tackles the concept of artificial intelligence and how it will impact society. Not the theoretical society of chess playing and super computing, but the gritty society where coolie laborers struggle for existence, and where political groups fight their battles on the streets through protests, riots, and bombings.

The Millennium approaches in Elizabeth Hand's latest offering, Glimmering

Please See Summer Reading Page 30

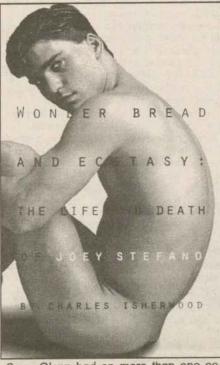
book reviews



The Bio of Joey Stefano is a Mangled Book About a Mangled Life

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn finally succumbed. It was, perhaps, inevitable. If there was one book that all of Glenn's firends had read, it was **Wonder Bread & Ecstasy**, Charles Isherwood's biography of the tragic life of one of Gay porn's legendary bottoms, Joey Stefano



Sure, Glenn had on more than one occasion picked up a copy. The divine cover photo so graciously furnished by those wonderful folks at Alyson depicts a gorgeous, nude (of course) Stefano sporting the most dazzling "come-hither" look that Glenn has ever encountered.

What hot-blooded Gay man could possibly resist such a package? Well, not even Glenn, apparently.

Joey Stefano, or rather Nicholas Anthony lacona as he would be christened, was born on January 1, 1968. Little seems to be known of his youth except that he attended Claymont High School in Claymont, Delaware and that his father died when Nick was fifteen years old. Isherwood hints at a history of sexual abuse in the book's early chapters but offers precious few facts. Nor are Nick's beginnings as a hustler uncovered.

The reader does learn that Nick sought out Tony Davis who was "dancing" at Manhattan's Jock Theater, asking the pom veteran for possible contacts. Enter Chi Chi LaRue, Gay porn's drag diva and Little Nicky was soon making quite a name for himself in dozens of porn flicks.

Isherwood paints Stefano's initial entry

into the wonderful world of Gay porn as if an overgrown kid let loose in the proverbial candy store. An avid fan of Gay porn, Stefano would enthusiastically rattle off lengthy lists of porn stars he'd love to be paired with on film. The reader is left with the idea that Joey would have been content to have done these films for free, just as many of the readers would.

Less clear in Wonder Bread & Ecstasy is Joey's transformation from happy little fuck bunny to sullen porn has-been. Isherwood makes much of Stefano's HIV status and reoccurring drug problems but sadly is incapable of offering any real insights into Stefano's badly mangled life.

Inquiring minds will no doubt gleeful savor all of the unsavory tidbits about the Gay porn industry Isherwood is happy to uncover but others are likely to find Wonder Bread & Ecstasy a real disappointment. Even the most basic facts in Stefano's life seem beyond Isherwood's grasp, such as even including the specific date of Stefano's overdose.

As Joey Stefano, Nick lacona's life was little more than many a Gay men's wettest of wet dreams: a legendary Gay porn performer who was paid for having sex with some of the most beautiful men imaginable.

Poor little Nick, even in death deserves far better than Isherwood's incompetent hack job.

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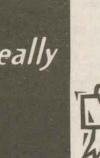
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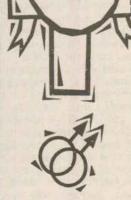
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Milwaukee--Afterwords is pleased to announce an appearance of Daniel A. Helminiak, the author of the best selling book What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality (Alamo Square Pb \$9.95) on Saturday, August 16 at 1:00pm.

What the Bible Really Says About

Homosexuality is Helminiak's groundbreaking work which shows that those who perceive Bible passages as condemning homosexuality are being misled by faulty translation and poor interpretation.

The Bible has been used to justify slavery, apartheid and the subjugation of

In a clear and lucid prose, Heminiak reveals what the Bible really says about homosexuality.

Appearances

Early this year, Daniel A. Helminiak published The Human Core of Spirituality: Mind as Psyche and Spirit (State University of New York Press Pb \$21.95).

Daniel Helminiak is a psychotherapist at the Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute. As a pastoral counselor, social scientist and theologian, he is concerned to integrate religion and psychology in theory and practice. His special areas of interest are adult development and human sexuality. His work in progress is "Mediations for a New Christianity."

Daniel A. Helminiak's appearance at Afterwords will include a reading and time for questions and discussion.

This appearance is free and is open to the public.

For further information concerning Daniel A. Helminiak's appearance or any Afterwords event, please call (414) 963-9089 or visit the Afterwords website at www.afterwords.com

on Film

'Mrs. Brown' is a Film Replete with **Passion and Historically Correct**

By Terry Boughner It was the last half of the 19th century. Britain was at the height of her power, an imperial state that girdled the globe. The symbol of all this magnificence was Queen Victoria who had come to the throne in 1837 at the age of 18 and would reign until March, 1901, when she would die in the arm of her beloved grandson, Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany.

She was, if anyone was, the imperial woman, the embodiment of an age that lauded a social conformity that escaped morality for a prudery that would have made John Winthrop proud.

In 1840, she had married Albert of Saxe-Coberg Gotha, an arranged match put together by "dear Uncle" Leopold, king of the Belgians, among others. But though arranged, it was nevertheless a love match, at least on Victoria's part. While the sun never set over the empire, the same might be said of her love for her "darling" Albert.

And then, in 1861, he died of typhoid. The disease was brought on, she believed, by a rain-soaked trip to Cambridge where he had gone to get their eldest son Edward out of some gambling debts. The Queen would never forgive her son and never let him forget what she saw as his complicity in his father's death.

Albert's death plunged Victoria into an abyss of mourning, one from which, it seemed, there could be no release. Victoria turned into a hermit, bathed herself in self-pity and resolved never to show her-

Monarchy must be visible. Victoria was not. There was talk of "disestablishing" the monarchy; of turning England into a re-

Distracted courtiers sought for a way to relieve the situation and fastened upon John Brown. He was a Scotsman, a ghillie, a fishing and hunting guide, who Albert had known at Balmoral, the royal highland estate. Brown was brought to Windsor in 1864 to draw the Queen out of her three year retreat.

Brown was a hard-drinking, rough hewn man who managed to cut through to the Queen. The two forged an unlikely friendship that had the court agog and set the country on its ears. Malicious gossip had it that they were (gasp) having an affair.

Mrs. Brown which tells the story of the relationship between Victoria (Judi Dench) and the ghilli (Billy Connolly) is one of those films only the British seem able to produce. It is historically accurate in ever detail, yet does not let the history interfere with plot. This, after all, is a tale of two people. The film never allows the viewer to lose sight of that.

Dench plays the Queen, not as a symbol of Britannic glory, but as a woman, full of very human passion and painful contradictions, caught in a struggle between duty and her own real needs.

Connolly, portrays Brown as history says that he was: bluff, rough as a highland road. Beneath that craggy exterior, however, there is a tender side. He is an exquisitely vulnerable man who, in the end, must come to terms with a love that he cannot hope to possess.

Antony Sher is absolutely perfect as Tory Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, He is the consummate politician, the perfect courtier, oily, slippery, manipulative, a man who Shakespeare would have loved to

This is a film you should see, not only because it's a good story, but to realize that art and movies are not necessarily contradictions in terms.

Mrs. Brown opens on August 1st in Milwaukee, exclusively, at the Oriental Theater.



Tamiyo Kusakari stars in "Shall We Dance?" The critically acclaimed film opens at Milwaukee's Oriental on Friday, August 1st.

IMAX's 'Cosmic Voyage' is a Great **Trip Through Time** and Space

By John Jahn

With the unaided human eye, we see only a tiny slice of our universe-even on the clearest nights in the blackest conditions. Through the use of expertly realized computer graphics, Cosmic Voyage takes you where no one has gone before-and where no human being may actually ever go-the the edges of the universe.

But first, we start out in Venice, where the inventor of the telescope, Galileo, did his work. How we get from there to the edge of the universe-some 15 billion light years away-is a fascinating and superbly realized aspect of this film.

We start with a 1 meter in diameter circle. From there, we expand in powers of ten, moving past our own solar system, neighboring stars, the Milky Way Galaxy, other galaxies. It's a remarkable trip, and the IMAX format is ideal for it.

Just think of the microscopic world that exists in a drop of pond water. Cosmic Voyage is not only a trip through outer space, but also inner space. By the same process, we move into ever smaller do-

mains, until, at last, we find ourselves inside the nucleus of a single atom. We're confronted with a whole new world here on earth most of us never think about-certainly never see (minus powerful microscopes).

Cosmic Voyage, an IMAX film fro the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum, brings into focus the inner and outer world beyond our sight. It's an unprecedented portrait of the cosmos, from the unimaginably small to the incomprehensibly large.

Narrated by Morgan Freeman, Cosmic Voyage is the ultimate excursion to the extreme limits of the universe in full IMAX glory. It shows exclusively at Milwaukee's Humphrey IMAX Dome Theater through January 9, 1998. Call (414) 319-IMAX for show times.



NIGHTLY SPECIALS



Embracing Joely Richardson and Jason Flemyng in "Hollow Reed", opening August 1 at Milwaukee's Ori-

Hollow Reed' is a Wonderful Film That Reflects What Many of Us Endure

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

If Glenn had any questions growing up over his sexuality, they were answered in no uncertain terms on a warm September afternoon in the shower room following his first gym class in junior high. Glenn was

For others, discovery can be a later and lengthy journey. Such an individual is Martyn (Martin Donovan), the protagonist a of a terrific new film, Hollow Reed.

Martyn is a man who has long struggled with his sexuality, choosing initially a heterosexual marriage with Hannah (Joely Richardson) rather than accept his homosexual desires. The marriage was doomed to failure from the start, ending on barely civil terms but not before the birth of a little boy, their son Oliver (Sam Bould).

What follows is a tense, surprisingly engrossing drama which, with great intelligence, explores such potentially loaded subjects as Gay parenting and child abuse.

Custody of Oliver, quite naturally, was given to Hannah. Working a great many evenings, Hannah often leaves Oliver in the care of her new boyfriend Frank (Jason Flemyng). Yet something is not quite right. Oliver begins to suffer a series of mysterious injuries, injuries which lead Martyn to become suspicious.

Suspecting Hannah's new boyfriend, Martyn questions the boy who cannot or will not speak. Nor is Hannah willing to consider that Frank may be responsible, blinded partly by her rage at Martyn's leaving her.

A particularly vicious custody battle ensues, putting particular strain upon Martyn's relationship with Tom (lan Hart).

Martyn and Tom find themselves in court, forced to defend the validity of their lives, a scenario familiar to many Gay Men and Lesbians.

Martyn is torn between his love for Tom and the desire to keep his son safe. Similarly, Hannah refuses to consider that Frank may be responsible for fear that she might once again be left alone.

Director Angela Pope provides Hollow Reed with a definite Gay-positive perspective on the issue of custody of Oliver. Martyn is shown as a loving, caring father, his relationship with Tom stronger, more stable than that of Hannah and Frank's. Still, Pope is aware that it will require considerable justification to award custody of a little boy such as Oliver to his seemingly perfect father and his Gay lover.

What elevates Hollow Reed well beyond the scope of the typical issue-driven movie-of-the-week fare is the complexity of the characters motives and desires as well as a host of superlative performances.

Martin Donovan is thoughtful and believable as Martyn. Better still is Joely Richardson whose Hannah is a frighteningly believable portrait of a woman torn between her love for her son and the rancor she feels for her ex-husband. lan Hart also shines as Martyn's loving, surprisingly patient lover, Tom.

But the real star of Hollow Reed is young Sam Bould whose performance as the withdrawn Oliver is nothing short of heart-breaking.

In a summer flooded with inane action flicks and mindless teen comedies, a thoughtful and thought-provoking film such as Hollow Reed is a particularly welcome.

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

'Air Force One' Presents an All-Star Cast at the Top of Its Form

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Disaster films have been a summer cinema staple for several years and for the most part, 1997's disaster flicks have been pretty much of a disaster.

Speed 2 sans the always yummy Keanu Reeves has quickly sped to the budgets. The Lost World was a herd of dinos desperately seeking a plot. Remember Ice Cube's turn in Anaconda? Didn't think you would.

Desperate film producers are turning the Oval Office to boost box office, sometimes in fact (Contact) ore often in fiction (Mars Attacks, Independence Day). Our nation's leader, as embodied by the ever sturdy, reliable Harrison Ford is at the center of Air Force One, the latest blockbuster to invade cinemas across this fair

It is the simplest of stories that propel the action in Air Force One: The film opens with the daring capture of the brutal fascist General Alexander Radek (Jurgen Prochnow in a silent cameo), the man responsible for the deaths of millions in far off Kazakhstan. A celebratory dinner at the Kremlin finds an impassioned President James Marshall (Ford) declares that the good guys, er... the United States will never, ever again negotiate with terrorists.

Even the small child who kept trying to sneak some of Glenn's popcom was heard to say, "They're going to get 'um".

Before you can say (or pronounce) Kazakhstan, the bad guys, here a group of rabid Radek loyalists led by Ivan Korshunov (the ever mesmerizing Gary Oldman) have gotten control of the fabled aircraft, Air Force One.

With the American government, led by the hard-as-press-on-nails Vice President Kathryn Bennett (Glenn Close) left totally impotent on the ground, it is left up to the

Chief Executive to crush the naughty terrorists, save his noble wife (Wendy Crewson) and spunky little girl (Liesel Matthews) and generally make the free world safe once more.

Is Harrison Ford's President James Marshall up to this monumental task? You can't imagine Glenn giving away the ending, now can you?

Sure, Glenn has a few quibbles. For one thing, the terrorists do seem to have a time finding their Force One. Screenwriter Andrew W. Marlowe's often stilted dialogue makes for a few unintentional chuckles, for another.

Quibbles notwithstanding, Glenn finds it unlikely that most in the sure to be packed cinemas will not buy into this over-baked nonsense hook, line and sinker.

Director Wolfgang Peterson clearly knows a little something about keeping an audience caught up in the excitement and suspense of even the most outlandish plot. And don't forget Harrison Ford.

In the hands of a less capable superstar or, heaven forbid, in the hands of any of the most recent candidates for the Presidency, such action hijinks would be nothing short of laughable. Yet Ford's performance manages to be believable not only as "the leader of the free world" but more importantly for box office prospects, as a pretty convincing action hero.

Big film blockbusters aren't often known for strong acting ensembles but Air Force One boasts an all-star cast at the top of their form, from Oldman's thankfully restraint as the villainous Van to Close's determinedly noble Vice-President.

Nothing profound, perhaps but Air Force One is one hack of a roller-coaster ride and the smartest action flick Glenn has seen in a month of Sundays!

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



A Real Queen - Bette Davis in one of her most famous portrayals as Elizabeth the First in "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex (1939). It was her first color film

All Bette Davis photos are from the private collection of Dale E. Kuntz

Bette Davis In Retrospect

Part Three of a Series A Wisconsin Light Exclusive By Steve Stavron

The Golden Years

By Steve Stavron

It is hard to explain why Bette Davis became so enormously popular in the late '30s and early '40s. Movie stars are supposed to shine with an extraordinary brand of larger than life charisma without obvious conceit or obnoxiousness, but Bette Davis had her own definition of cinematic glow. She could be both haughty and unpleasant with the bite of honest reality. Her characters always seemed genuine and authentic because she illuminated them from within. The authenticity stemmed from creating accessible and contemporary people whatever the period. She never gave the same performance twice although the mannerisms were always there to some degree. She was intelligent. No Davis character remained the same at the end of the movie. Her ability to metamorphosize her characterizations effortlessly has never been equaled as demonstrated in Dark Victory and Jezebel. To miss a Davis film would have been the loss of a rewarding moviegoing experience. And the majority of filmgoers knew

All This and Heaven Too But she was neither hostile or aggres- Her insistence helped. Goldwyn had seen

sive in All This and Heaven Too (1940) in which she plays a shy, gentle-natured governess whose warmth inadvertently drives her loving employer, French aristocrat, Charles Boyer, to bludgeon to death his carping, psychotic, unfoundedly jeal-ous wife (Barbara O'Neil)—remember Scarlett's mother in **GWTW**). Bette doesn't seem to have much to do besides registering humble fortitude alongside O'Neil's stunning hysterics (a role Bette could have managed easily) and opposite Boyer's suave suffering poise, but Bette makes humility interesting, subtly varying her covert, mult-faceted reactions to increasingly disturbing events with quiet dignity and poise, warning us that when disaster occurs, it will not be of her making.

Her performance balances out the film's obvious Victorian sense of high melodrama. Still, it's interesting, if overlong, period piece, well mounted and intelligently written, if not an ideal Davis vehicle.

The Little Foxes The Little Foxes was the next high water mark in Davis' career, joining Dark Victory, Jezebel and The Letter as the crème de la crème of her career legend. It holds up well today. Samuel Goldwyn, holding screen rights to the famous play by Lillian Hellman, paid a small fortune to Jack Warner to lend out his greatest star.



The Empress - The one time Bette allowed herself to be photographed beautifully is shown above. Bette starred as the Empress Carlotta in "Juarez" in 1939. Her co-star, Brian Aherne played the Emperor Maximilian.

but terrified other cast members. Bette aimed at a cold, steely interpretation of the rapacious, greedy Regina Giddons, who serves as a catalyst for her ambitious, Southern, neuveau riche brothers, while dominating her angina-ridden husband and intimidating her daughter. Wyler sought a softer, more beguiling model of Regina whose ambitions, he felt, must rely on gentle persuasiveness. Conflict on the

an early screen test of Davis at Universal

a decade earlier (her pre Warner Brothers

days), and is credited with the famous

comment, "Who did this to me?" His words

In his third and last collaboration with

Davis, the brilliant William Wyler was also

reputed to have made an early observa-

tion about the neophyte Davis, "Why do all

these babes with big boobs think they can

act?" Being in great demand, he agreed to

direct Foxes only if Davis was available. He, too, may have had occasion for regret. There were fireworks on the set that all

were to come back and haunt him.

most incidental to Mary Astor's stronger role. Bette and George Brent (again) adopt neurotic pianist Astor's unwanted child from a brief marriage to George. Interested only in her career, Astor still manages to cause mayhem, steals the film-a generous give away from Bette-and wins the Oscar as Best Supporting Actress.

But soap opera was popular in pre-TV days. The Bride Came C.O.D. (1941) is hardly worth mentioning. Warners decided to "lighten up" Bette in a vacuous comedy with big star James Cagney. The silly story emphasizes Bette's derriere, with Cagney using it as a slingshot target and Bette parachuting onto a cactus bush. She was good sport.

Much better was Watch On the Rhine. As the stalwart, self-sacrificing wife of anti-Nazi underground German Paul Lukas. she is appropriately contained and dignified in a supporting role. Bette thought Paul Lukas should receive top billing (He

was to win Best Actor for 1943), but the



The Bitch- Bette plays the cold, calculating Regina in "Little Foxes" a 1941 release

set became so intense that Goldwyn threatened to shut down production, even threatening Davis with a breach of contract. She was ready to walk out.

Both star and director were right as evidenced by the superlative results on the screen. With Wyler's insistence on re-peated retakes and with Bette required to conform to scrip and perform in ensemble with other talented actors rather than assume solo center stage, her performance contains less conspicuous bravura than ever, but in tandem with a fine cast, she glides smoothly through difficult scenes earning her star billing against more difficult odds.

The diamond hard edge of the performance is pure Bette Davis, but finely controlled without a trace movie star mannerism. Wyler had done his job. And she, like all gifted artists, was instinctively correct and unique in playing Regina as a woman terminally bored by her own sarcasm and greed. Much imitated was Bette's famous attack (in slow, deliberate tones) to her dying husband: "I hope you die. I hope you die soon. I'm waiting for you to die.

It's a shame that Wyler and Davis never collaborated again. Jezebel, Little Foxes and The Letter represented an epoch of filmmaking long gone. Living in an era where films are assembled rather than created, by ambitious, technically proficient directors of undetermined abilities, one might ask if we have actors who are even interested, let alone talented, or if today's movies will outlast their audiences' attention span?

Davis and Wyler were rumored to have been lovers at one time, and, according to one biographer, the Foxes fights resembled "lovers' quarrels." One can only imagine what an alliance between these two might have produced-artistically speaking, that is.

Bette was not always used so ambitiously by the studio. Her name was used to insure box office appeal to many slighter films. In The Great Lie she is alstudio said no. Her name alone would sell the tickets for such serious material.

More interesting was Davis' previous film and the one she herself always claimed to have disliked intensely. In This Our Life contains her foray into the dubious arena of the neurotic femme fatale. The neurotic portion suited her well. As the monstrous, but irresistible Stanley Timberlake, she abandons her finance (George Brent-last film together), steals her sister's (Olivia De Havilland) husband (Dennis Morgan), drives him to suicide, exploits her doting, near incestuous uncle (masterfully played by Charles Copburn), and, failing to win back George—no engaged to Olivia—tries to blame a Black servant for her reckless driving killing of a little girl. "I never could help anything," she later pleads piteously, almost regaining audience sympathy.

Lacking the sensual allure the role required, Bette focuses on the more primal nature of Stanley's wicked character. She substitutes a venomous force of will, splaying at the mortified cast members like a fire hose out of control. But structure is never lacking in a Davis role. Far from being distasteful, she tightly focuses the entire production on the sheer fascination of her portrayal of determined female dominance. Scenes without her are almost dull. The other three principals look appropriately intimidated by the star's pyrotechnics. Critics were aghast.

Perhaps her hostility may have been inspired by her dislike of director John Huston-and equally forceful personality, but without Wyler's polish. However, the results were intriguing. The film remains one of Davis' best maverick performances. Few movie stars at that time would have so blatantly dared audiences to hate them. Only she could have screamed at her hapless dying uncle, "All right, so you're going to die! But you're an old man! My life is just beginning!" leaving movie goers startled, but coming back for more.

And "more" was to be the unforgettable

Now Voyager.

Dear Ruthie

Everyone seems to be into partying lately so I thought I'd throw in two questions about parties. I love a good party. A little wine. A little dancing. Getting men drunk, taking them to your hotel room, and prenting they're Fabio ... God bless America. We love to party.

I'd like to thank the great folks in Madison, Wisconsin for having me at their Pride March and Magic Picnic. What a

great bunch people.

The crowd at the This Is It bar in Milwaukee, Wisconsin are also the best. It was a Wisconsin Light Spotlight Party last week, and it was wonderful. Thank you all!! Watch for your questions in my next column! Your showing of support means so much to me! Thanks everyone!

Dear Ruthie,

The past few summers my partner and I have had parties; one for our Gay and Lesbian friends and another for our family and co-workers. This year we decided to mix 'em up. The party went over great! Everyone seemed to have a great time, even better than we expected! After dark, out behind one of our sheds, I happened on my brotherin-law in a "heavy" make out session with one of our gay friends. They didn't see me, but the next day our friend told me that he got it on with my brother-inlaw. I'm not a big fan of my brother-inlaw anyway, but I do care a lot about my sister and her 4 kids. Should I tell her about it? Or, just leave it be? Thanks, (signed)

Oh my! This is quite the juicy little e-mail Where do you live? you've sent me. Melrose Place? Dallas? Is your brotherin-law's name J.R.? This is just crazy. Why wasn't I invited to this party? Then none of this would have happened. would have told your testosterone hungry brother-in-law to sit down and I would have taken your friend out to the old wood shed myself! Geez! Out of all of my husband's I've never had one leave me for another man. One left me for his cousin, One Eyed Shirely, but that's another story.

Is there any way you can let your brother-in-law know what you saw? After all, you haven't heard his side of the story. Although, I can't image any reason he'd have to stick his tongue down some guy's throat while his unknowing wife was enjoying a lovely chicken sandwich and, perhaps, a dollop of cole slaw. That bastard. While his wife was eating some chicken, he was out back getting a little piece of chicken himself. Thank God you didn't serve Butt Steaks. Who knows what you would have seen going on behind the shed?

By asking him directly, he may shed (no pun intended) some light on the whole thing. This could change your mind about what you're feeling right now. brother-in-law may dispute your story, but by acknowledging this to him, it could keep him on his toes where his faithfulness to your sister is concerned. You might feel better in confronting him, too. I don't know this "Barbecue Gigolo," but remember, he may run to your sister, telling her that you've created this story. He may be the



Powerful Women Tammy Baldwin (Left) and Ruthie got together to discuss the fate of the free world during Madison's Pride Weekend.

one to bring your sister into things, so be careful of that.

Perhaps the guy needs a friend to help him out with any questions he may have regarding his sexuality. Not that you have to be this person, but you might be able to point him in the right direction of a therapy or support group. In the long run, he may decide that he's not sure what he wants out of a marriage. While the hurt would be immense in the beginning, making this decision would really benefit your sister's ultimate happiness and that should be your goal here.

After you talk to him, reconsider your feelings before moving ahead. After all, perhaps this was just a kiss and a poor choice on his part. Maybe he had too much alcohol, or maybe he already told your sister and things have worked themselves out.

If that doesn't work, let me at him. I'll tell him to hang up his tennis racket and stop swinging both ways behind your sister's back. Unless they have some sort of understanding in their relationship, he shouldn't be on the court without her - or in the men's locker room for that matter! mean, its one thing to take a second look at an attractive person behind your partner's back. After all, just because you're on a diet doesn't mean you can't look at the menu. However, that night your

brother-in-law must have thought, "Screw the diet! Slice me off a hunk of that beef cake and make room at the buffet!"

But that's me. You need to carefully choose your words and think this through.

I just have one more concern. Who is this "friend" of yours? What the heck was he thinking? Surely he knew the lumberjack he had his lips around was your sister's husband! Didn't that upset you? How dare he put you in such an uncom-fortable position! Well, that's another issue I suppose and I guess I'd have to let that one slide. But I wouldn't turn my back on that "Alexis/Maria Maples/Heather Locklear' wannabe if MY husband was around.

Dear Ruthie,

What do you do when you're not writing your column? For example, what did you do last weekend? Tell us everything.

(signed) Nosey Rosey Dear Rosey,

Well, I can't tell you everything! My publisher would rip up my contract if I told you about Crisco Twister, Senior Naked Water Ballet class, and an evening of checking my neighbor over for tick bites and odd shaped moles.

I can, however, tell you that I had a little party at my trailer park last weekend. rented the party room and invited a few good friends. Things got a little out of control so to make a long story short, I'll leave you with ...

The Top Ten Things Over-Heard at

Ruthie's Party Last Weekend "Who's the tramp Jerry Falwell brought?"

09. "Tell Frank Gifford to stop grabbing my

08. "If I hear that 'Mmm Bop' song one more time things are going to get ugly." 07. "I don't care what they say, Angela

Landsbury is stacked." 06. "If you had to murder one of the Spice

Girls, which one would it be?" 05. "No one ever satisfied me like Bob

04. "Boy - that Janet Reno can really shoot

a game of hoops. "Someone PLEASE get John Tesh

away from that piano.' 02. "My God - That isn't a pinata - it's

Tammy Faye Baaker. And the number one thing over-heard at Ruthie's party;

01. "Quick - get some Band-Aids! Tyson just gave Reagan a titty-twister."

Entertainment Guide

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K.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The Shamrock 117 W Main St. Madison, WI 53703

We Are Family 524 E. Wilson Madison, WI 5303 258-9006

255-5029

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Continued

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Designing Men 1120 S. First Milwaukee, WI 53204

389-1200 1100 Club 1100 S. 1st St. Milwaukee, WI 53204

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643-9633 In Between 625 S. 2nd St

Milwaukee, WI 53204 278-96114 Just Us

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

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

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

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

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

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MILWAUKEE Continued

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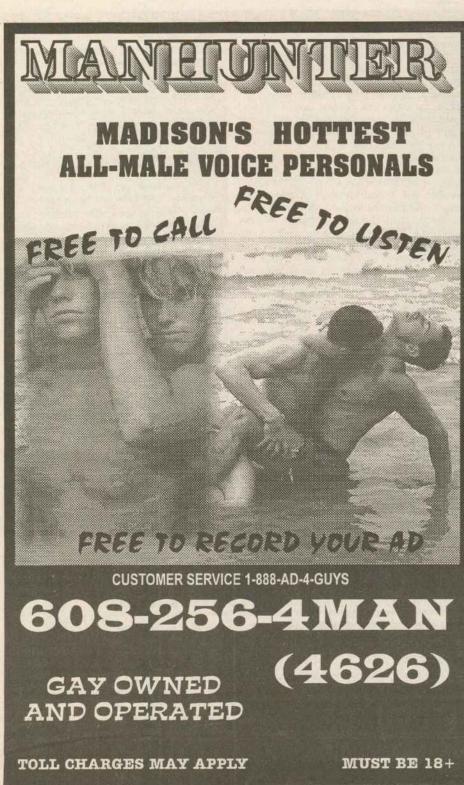
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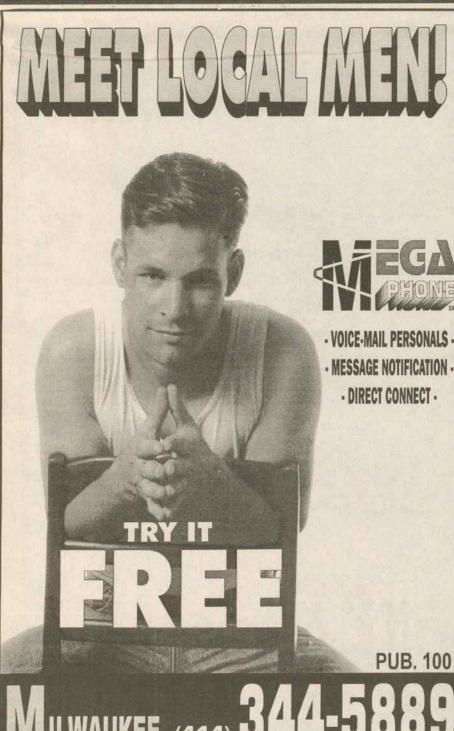
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Illinois

GET INTO MY TRUNKS You'll definitely be won over by this hot, 22 year old, college student, and former swimmer. I'm awesomely built, with equipment to match. (Chicago) #3912

SHINE THE BATPOLE This hot, healthy, dominant, Gay, White male, top, 34, 6ft, 170lbs, needs a totally submissive, White male, bottom to act out my fantasy with. I'm Batman and you're Robin. I want you to polish the batpole in the batcove, then assist me in interrogating the Riddler for his evil crimes. (Cicero) #10435

WILLING TO EXPLORE
Novice, White male, 44, 5'10,
186lbs, seeks top men and
daddies. I'm willing to explore
with the right individual. (DeKalb)
#4008

A YEN FOR MEN I'm looking for new friendships with other fun loving guys in the area. I'm a good looking, 29 year old, White male, 5'10, 150lbs, with long dark hair, Green eyes, and a nice build. I like to work out, lift weights, jog, and go out on the weekends. (Joliet) #3557

MARRIED ON A MISSION
Horny, Bi, White, Married male,
35, 5'10, 175lbs, with Brown hair
and eyes seeks other Married men
for discreet fun. (Pontiac)
#3837

lowa

WHAT'S GOING ON? Shy, fun loving, guy wants to talk to other guys in the area. Let's hang out together. (Cedar Falls) #3352

NICE GUYS FINISH FIRST I wonder if leaving this ad will be a good way for me to meet a nice guy to hang out, and do stuff with. I'm a nice looking, 27 year old, White male, with sandy Blond hair, Blue Green eyes, and a stocky build. I like to go to sporting events, out to dinner, to movies, and various other things. Wanna tag along? (Des Moines) #3795

CARE PACKAGE This sexy, White male needs someone to take care of me. I'm into just about anything. (Des Moines) #3304

PAGAN PAL I want to correspond, and bond spiritually, with other men interested in paganism. I have a relationship so am just interested in friendship. (Des Moines) #3219

Minnesota

HEART OF GOLD Kind, caring, Gay, White male, 28, 5'7, 140lbs, with Blond hair and Blue eyes, seeks an honest, nice guy, for friendship or more. I'm attracted to White males, in their 30's, who have good personalities. (Cannon Falls) #1025

CLEAN CUT CAPERS
Attractive, clean cut, Bi curious,
White male, 26, 5'10, 155lbs,
with Brown hair and eyes, seeks
other healthy, masculine, clean
cut, guys, 20 to 30, for friendship
and good times. I'm clean shaven,
well endowed, uncut, and lots of
fun. (Chanhassan) #3580

DOES TEACHER WANT AN APPLE? I'm a 26 year old, white male, 5'10, Brown hair and eyes, medium build, uncut, with a smooth body. I'm looking for guys to hang out with and have good times with. I'm rather inexperienced and looking for a good teacher and definitely will pass with good grades. (Chanhassen) \$\textit{\$\textit{\$\textit{\$a\$}}\$} \textit{\$\textit{\$\textit{\$a\$}}\$} \textit{\$\textit{\$\textit{\$a\$}}\$} \textit{\$\textit{\$a\$}} \textit

YA GOTTA CALL FIRST

Wanna make friends with a good looking, 20 year old, White male, 6'3, 220lbs? Give me a call. Let's hang out. (Lindstrom) #4102

To talk LIVE, in groups
PRESS O

at the main menu.

PRIVATE

CLUB Nice looking, White male, 6'1, 190lbs, with Blond hair, seeks Married, and Bi, men for discreet encounters. Maybe we can even start our own private, discreet, club. I prefer well hung guys. I'm very talented and versatile. (Minneapolis) #4186

SHE MALE FUN Interested in she males? I'm a good looking, White male, 5'10, 175lbs, thoroughly interested in she male fun. (Minneapolis) #4250

smooth and muscled; top, with a pretty smooth body. I'm a very good looking, slender, 27 year old, White male who can make you feel great.

(Minneapolis) #4109

rough and rugged, very tall, White male, to give myself up to. I'm a virgin, Gay, Black male, 5'11, 190lbs, with good looks and a healthy attitude. I know the meaning of the work monogamy. (Minneapolis)

WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD? Attractive, submissive, Bi, White male, in my late 30's, seeks a mature gentleman to serve. How can I please you? (Minneapolis) #3963

ALL YOURS I want to meet one or two hot guys into hard-core kink, watersports, a little bit of partying, and more. I'm a good looking, well endowed, White male, oft, with Blond hair, a nice body, and it's all yours. I wanna serve. (Minneapolis) #4007

SWEET AND NICE I'm a little lonely and want to meet a sweet, and nice, young man, 18 to 24, for good times hanging out and messing around. (Minneapolis) #4032

YOUR PLEASURE IS MY
AIM Attractive, masculine, Bi,
White male, in my late 30's, is
very submissive. I'm looking for
mature gentlemen to serve. I
hope you'll call and let me know
how I can please you.
(Minneapolis) #3839

TICKLE TORTURE Looking for very ticklish guys who are willing to let me fie them up and tickle the hell out of them. The feet, stomach, and ribs are my favorite places. I'm also into role reversal and being tied down myself. (Minneapolis) #3270

Wisconsin

PLANT YOUR APPLESEED
I'm a very well built, smooth,
Single, White male, 28, 5'7, and
I'm ready to serve guys who need
special attention. If you have a
big, hard, problem, my mouth
and throat can make it all better.
I'm especially interested in men
between 18 and 28. I'm disease
free and can travel throughout
the area. If you like, we can meet
first to check each other out. I'm
very discreet. (Appleton)
#4096

BE MY FRIEND Nothing complicated here. I'm a young, White male just looking for someone to talk to who'll be my friend. (Beaver Dam) #4006

SOUNDS LIKE A BEAVER WARNING! This nice guy seeks friends or just people to talk to. (Beaver Dam) #3261

FAR EAST YEARNING

Good looking, lonely,
White male, 49, 5'9,
170lbs, wants to meet
Asian males, 18 to 26, for
good times and
companionship, (Columbia
County) #3514

BLOW MY HORN Hot, masculine, White male, 35, 6ft, 190lbs, with Brown hair and Green eyes, seeks other horny men, 20 to 30, for fun times. (Eau Claire) #7099

READY FOR ACTION Gay, White male seeks hot, young, Gay friend for good times. Let's talk about it. That's half of the fun. (Madison) #4166

THE WEE HOURS I want to hook up with hot guys in the mornings or late evenings. Let's party. (Madison) #3606

BUD BOWL XXVI I'm a good natured, 26 year old, White male, 5'9, 200lbs, with Brown hair and eyes. I like fishing and hanging out, drinking a few beers.

(Madison) #3214

BODY SAFARI Young, White male, 19, wants to meet men in the area for hanging out, and physical exploration. (Menasha) #3777

FOOT LONG AND FANCY FREE It's a foot long and I love men. That's right. A foot long. Get to know me. (Milwaukee) #4345

VIDEO VOYEUR I want to meet other guys who like to watch porno videos and get off together. (Milwaukee) #3759

LET IT BE OUR SECRET I want to have some discreet fun with another hot guy in the area. I'm a 20 year old, White male, 6ft, 160lbs, in good shape, with a worked out body. (Milwaukee) #3776

I DIG DEFINITION Good looking, 19 year old, mixed race male, 6ft, 135lbs, with Black hair, Brown eyes, and a light complexion, seeks hot men, 18 to 25, for good, clean, fun. I love guys with great legs, butts, arms, and stomachs. (Milwaukee) #3563

JUST ONE MORE TIME I'm good looking, 5'11, 150lbs, and looking for any Bi or Gay guys. I'm Straight, but I've been with a guy before, and it would be fun to do again. (Milwaukee) #3492

INTO THE RECEIVER This sexy, masculine guy loves to have hot phone conversations with other horny men. Let's talk. (Milwaukee) #3196

ORAL FANTASY This masculine, hairy, Bi curious, Italian male, 38, 5'8, 170lbs, has an oral fantasy involving a very well endowed man. Please leave me a message. (Milwaukee) #3015

NEEDY IN NEENAH Hi guys, I'm looking for hot times with hot guys. Give me a call. (Neenah) #3491

END MY WAIT Good looking, 20 year old, Gay, Asian male, 5'2, is waiting for you in Oshkosh. (Oshkosh) #3913

GET ON WITH THE SHOW
Good looking, 30 year old, White
male seeks hot, well built, Gay
males, 18 to 20, only, I have lots
of interests including X-rated
videos. Let's get together and
play. #4267



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Summer Reading Continued From Page 25

(HarperPrism HC \$22.00). By 1999 the world has gone to hell: global warming, AIDS, urban decay, environmental disasters, and, above it all, the Glimmering. The Glimmering is an accident of modern society, a phenomenon that is destroying the ozone layer and killing the earth. In these last days, In the violence- and pollution-stricken world of 1999, HIV-positive publisher Jack Finnegan is drawn into the seductive web of Leonard Thorpe, who possesses a magical elixir that cures Jack and transforms his world.

From Simon LeVay, the man behind the controversial "Gay brain" studies comes Albrick's Gold (Richard Kasak \$20.95) a chilling tale of medical experimentation run amok. Dr. Roger Cavendish, finds himself faced with a medical mystery straight out of his worst nightmares. Cavendish's rival, Guy Albrick's recent studies seem to reflect that sexuality is somehow linked to innate brain struc-

Albrick goes further in claiming to have developed a clinical procedure for the manipulation of sexual orientation. Cavendish gradually uncovers evidence that Levitican University students have become the subjects of highly unethical, scientifically unsound experiments in genetic engineering. With a little help, Cavendish begins to unravel the mystery behind the shocking crimes on the Levitican campus; even as the wave of violence threatens to overtake him and all others in its path.

Gay Fiction This summer's fiction highlight is certainly Ethan Mordden's Some Men Are Lookers, a delicious depiction of Gay Manhattan and the fourth in a series that has entertained Gay men throughout the 1980s. In Some Men Are Lookers, Mordden returns to his best-loved characters including Dennis Savage; Little Kiwi; cowboy hunk Carlo plus a delightful assortment of new characters. Blending the comic and the sexy, these stories find Ethan Mordden at his very best!

In his first novel, The Men From the Boys (Dutton HC \$22.95), William J. Mann turns his attention to delineating the process by which boys become men and men become Gay. Set in Massachusetts, Mann's characters enter and leave relationships, sleep with cute boys, deal with AIDS, face death, and generally learn what it means to be responsible, caring, sexually active adults in a culture that does its best to inhibit all three. The Men From the Boys is a debut novel that delights and challenges, but more importantly, understands how we live today.

An incisive, savvy political thriller, Gossip (Dutton HC \$23.95) by Christopher Bram tells the story of Ralph Eckhart, a denizen of the Gay East Village and ACT UP member, who meets and starts an af-

fair with Bill O'Connor, a closeted Gay Regay orgy 24-Hr. Relief

publican journalist. After Ralph dumps Bill with an angry phone call (that has been taped), and O'Connor is soon found murdered, the police think they know who did it. Christopher Bram has written a novel of contemporary Gay politics that is as complex and exhilarating as our lives.

The poetic language of In Awe (Harper-Collins HC \$24.00) places images like mutilated mannequins and a defunct miniature golf course in a weird, dark Kansas setting. Scott Heim's lyrical tale of three outcasts (a 17-year-old boy, a 32year-old woman, and an old woman) works its eerie magic on two levels.

On one level, it's about people so vilified by society that their ambitions come from horror stories On another level, it's about an obsessive desire for a love object (Boris's for another boy he sees as "halfhyena, half-swan") that is so fierce, it can only be consummated in death.

Hot off the press is If This World Were Mine (Bantam HC \$23.95). From E. Lynn Harris, the author of Invisible Life and Just As I Am comes a first-rate story containing plenty of important life-lessons.

Ten years after their graduation, four friends, all alumni of Howard University, reunite for a weekend of fun. On the first night of their get-together, they play a game called "If This World Were Mine." As the game progresses, dark secrets, sexual tensions, and hidden animosities are revealed with startling results.

Lesbian Fiction

Blanche McCrary Boyd, the author of the widely acclaimed The Revolution of Little Girls now drives deep into the heart of the revolution itself in Terminal Velocity (Knopf HC \$23.00), from the unique vantage point of the radical feminist underground in the days of rage. Seemingly by accident and nearly overnight, a young, happily married editor for a small Boston press finds herself in communal California with a new name and a newfound set of preferences and politics.

Irish writer Emma Donoghue, author of Hood and Stir-Fry has in Kissing the Witch (HarperCollins HC \$14.95) created a lively reworking of the European fairy tales many of us grew up with. The girls in these versions, however, do not wait to be rescued by handsome princes. Instead they run away with, are rescued by, and seduce handsome women.

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Down (Alyson Pb \$9.95) introduces Lacy, a heroine for the conflicted, overheated '90s. Orphaned when their high-flying, hard-drinking parents stand up in a roller coaster, Lacy and her brother--who has begun to notice that he and Jesus have a great deal in common-live in the sultry world of Key West, Florida, where each day brings another adventure.

What better summer read than Linnea Due's collection of Lesbians, sex and travel, Hot Ticket (Alyson Pb \$11.95). Reader will travel through exotic landscape and familiar locales as writers such as Lucy Jane Bledsoe, Barbara Wilson and Jane Futcher offer tales of intimacy that break boundaries.

Kate Paine, a quiet Lesbian artist is the Jane Futcher's latest novel, Dream Lover (Alyson Pb \$9.95). Ellie Webster is a married socialite used to getting her own way. Twenty years ago Kate and Ellie had a brief fling, passionate affair. Now in their

forties, they've met again. Suddenly love flares up anew - and neither Kate's nor Ellie's life will ever be the same

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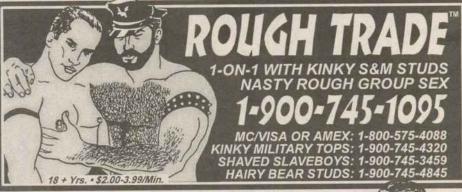
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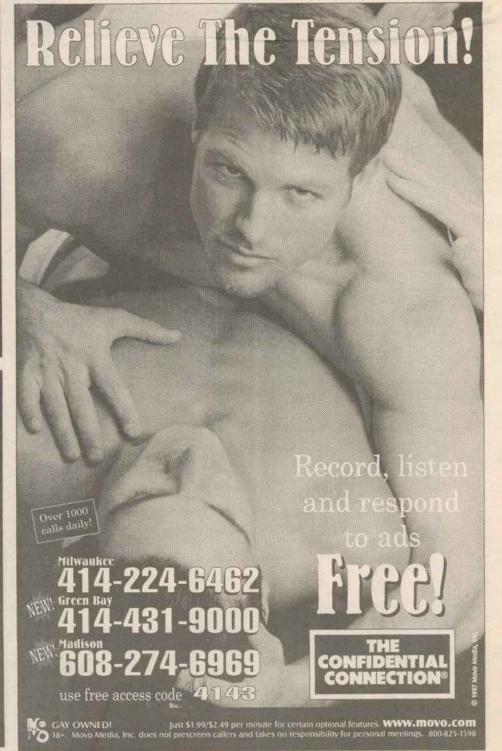
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Community Center Continued from Page 1

during June, more than \$18,000 in memberships and lead gifts were pledged to the "Home of Our Own" campaign. This money, donated by Center volunteers and the community at large, will support LGBT services and programs, building space and assist organizations as they move into the Center.

The Center's Steering Committee vol-unteers kicked off the "Home of Our Own" membership drive by pledging an astounding \$10,000 in lead gifts. Following that incredible vote of confidence, LGBT community members gave an additional \$7,000 in membership support during PrideFest. These donations represent over half of the \$26,000 goal needed to open the center.

A community-wide appeal is now un-derway to continue the "Home of Our Own" campaign. Membership brochures will be mailed to community members in

Watch your mail to make an investment in helping build a "home of our own." Make the Milwaukee LGBT Community

Center a reality today! A regular individual membership starts at \$30/year and a household membership starts at \$50/year. Sustaining Memberships start at \$10 or more per month. Membership in the Major Donor Circle start with a Charter Member of \$300, Cornerstone Gift of \$500, and Major Do-nor naming opportunities at \$1000 or

To become a member, please call the membership hotline to request a brochure; (414) 483-4710. Gifts can also be sent to: LGBT Community Center, P.O. Box 92722, Milwaukee WI 53202.

AIDS Funding Continued From Page 1

exclaimed Doug Nelson, executive director of ARCW. "Governor Thompson has supported the Life Care program since its inception. This Assembly Caucus vote is another powerful message about the importance of funding for community-based AIDS services.

Nelson, however, strongly cautioned too much optimism with so much work left to do on the next State Budget. The budget is currently bogged down in the Senate and Wisconsin is already four weeks into the

new budget period.

After the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee recommended increases in funding for the State's AIDS Drug Reimbursement Program, its AIDS/HIV Insurance Continuation program and the Life Care Services/Early Intervention Grant, AIDS funding came under attack from the Department of Health and Family Serv-

"Last month, Joint Finance supported a

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solid funding package to address the AIDS epidemic over the next two years. We were shocked to learn the Department was actively lobbying to eliminate a key part of that package -- cost effective community-based care for people with HIV and AIDS," said ARCW's Director of Public Policy Mike Gifford.

The Department's rationale focused on a few lines in the reauthorized CARE Act about the federal maintenance of effort requirement on state AIDS funding. "Basically, the Department said 'if you add this money to the Life Care Grant now, you have to spend it for the same purpose every subsequent year' which just isn't said Gifford.

He explained that the overall level of AIDS funding needs to be maintained while the individual funding levels of programs can vary from year to year.
"Unfortunately, there seems to be a mis-

conception in the Department about the value of this program and that caseloads are going down which again isn't accurate," continued Gifford. "Caseloads are higher now than ever, and people with HIV and AIDS need more services than ever before.

AIDS Action Wisconsin Establishes New Political Power

Initially, the Department turned to Rep. Gregg Underhiem(R-Oshkosh), the Chair of the Assembly Health Committee, to offer the motion to strip away the proposed \$500,000 increase in funding.

"Once Rep. Underhiem heard from his constituents about the importance of AIDS funding in the Fox River Valley region he quickly backed away from the Department's position and supported the proposed increase," said Gifford

Gifford indicated that several calls from advocates of the new AIDS Action Wisconsin advocacy network played a critical role in Rep. Underhiem deciding to not follow the Department's lead on this issue.

AIDS Action Wisconsin went on to play a key role in the Caucus vote methodically contacting nearly every mem-

"In some cases, this was the first time members of the State Legislature heard directly from their constituents back home on AIDS issues. It proved to be a powerful strategy as just eight members of the Caucus voted to eliminate the proposed increase," said Gifford.

Of particular note, Gifford expressed gratitude to advocates in Northeast Wis-consin for their work to convince rural and conservative members of the Caucus of the importance of this funding

With much work left on this year's budget and other AIDS policy issues everyone is encouraged to join AIDS Action Wisconsin and lend your voice to advo-cacy on effective AIDS policies. To join AIDS Action Wisconsin, people can call 414-225-1597 or leave an e-mail message at marksla@execpc.com.

Leaders in the Fight Unable to secure the support of Rep. Underhiem, the Department persuaded Rep. Glenn Grothman(R-West Bend) to offer the motion to eliminate the increase

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Organizations

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A full Assembly Republican Caucus meeting provided all 52 Assembly Republicans an opportunity to debate Rep. Grothman's motion, requested by the Department, to cut the proposed increase in AIDS funding. Gifford was particularly pleased with the outcome, "Not a single member of the Caucus rose to speak in favor of Rep. Grothman's motion.

In the debate, he stood alone while urban & rural, moderate & conservative members indicated their opposition to the motion and support for a strong response to AIDS." In the end Rep. Grothman's motion was soundly defeated, garnering just eight votes. The complete AIDS funding package recommended by the Joint Finance Committee is in the proposed budget which is poised to move to the floor of the Assembly.

Speaking strongly in favor of maintaining the funding were Rep. Scott Jen-sen(R-Waukesha), Rep. Scott Walker(R-Wauwatosa), Rep. Frank Urban(R-Wauwatosa), Rep. Frank Urban(R-Brookfield), Rep. Tom Ourada (R-Antigo) and Rep. Sheila Harsdorf(R-River Falls). This isn't the first time these members have distinguished themselves as leaders in fight against AIDS. We all need to express our appreciation for their work to address the epidemic," said Gifford. If you live in ANY of these districts Gifford encourages you to call your Repre-sentative and thank them for their leadership on this issue.

Echoing Joint Finance Committee Chairman Rep. Scott Jensen's support of the life care services grant, reported in the Wisconsin Light last month, Rep. Scott Walker said, "There are still a lot of people in Wisconsin in need of AIDS care and medication, this grant and the proposed increase will help address some of those needs."

Benefits

Continued From Page 1

nership program in Milwaukee. That would mean that between 50 and 80 of the City's 8,400 employees would take advantage of the plan.

Richard Gaeta, a Lead Inspector for the Health Department, is an openly Gay employee for the City of Milwaukee says he knows of at least 10 Gay or Lesbian employees who would take advantage of Henningsen's plan.

"I think society places a tremendous value on marriage," said Gaeta. "While it does that it also denies same-sex partners that privilege. This would begin to ad-

dress the question of equity by extending Health Insurance coverage.

"This is a small incremental step on the long road to equality. Even if this passes, there will still be Gay bashing, it will still be legal to fire us in 41 states, Gay teens will still be at higher risk for suicide. But none of these things will change unless and until we take steps towards equity. Small Numbers, Big Impact

While the number of employees who would take advantage of Henningsen's plan may be small, Domestic Partnership advocates say the impact of such a pro-gram can be much bigger. "We are hoping that this will set an example that others will follow " said Scott Gunkel a member of the Domestic Partnership Domestic Partnership Task Force in an interview with The Wisconsin Light.

Gunkel says that City of Milwaukee passage would help prompt private employers and other governmental units to grant similar benefits.

"We looked at various types of legislation dealing with domestic partnership and decided that this was the best option," said Gunkel, who is also Co-Chair of Milwaukee's Human Rights League.

Wendy Slusar Co-Chair of the Domestic Partnership told The Wisconsin Light that the Task Force will be working with other groups to marshal support for the measure. Anyone wishing to help can call the Task Force at (414) 384-1787.

Those efforts may be needed. The radi-cal Christian Right has objected to similar plans whenever and where ever they have been discussed. The recently called Southern Baptist boycott of the Disney Corporation was predicated in large part on that company's offering Domestic partnership benefits to its Gay and Lesbian employees.

A Common Council Committee hearing on the Henningsen proposal is expected to be held sometime in September. If the proposal is approved by the Committee, a Common Council vote is expect to follow shortly thereafter.

National Issue

David Smith, spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, (HRC) a national Les/Bi/Gay civil rights political action says passage of Henningsen's resolution would be significant. He told The Wisconsin Light

"Domestic partnership efforts are a way

of equalizing the workplace for Gay and Lesbian employees. It's basically a question of equal pay for equal work."

"The bottom line is that it is important

that these benefits are implemented. This is a strong step forward. We applaud Alderman Henningsen for taking it."

According to HRC there is a growing list of employers who provide marriage like benefits to their Council Legisland.

like benefits to their Gay and Lesbian employees with domestic partners.

Many corporate employers including such well known names as IBM, Xerox, the Chevron Oil Company, Apple Computer, Eastman Kodak, and the conservative Adolph Coors Brewing Company offer Domestic Partner benefits to their em-

Even a pro sports team, the San Francisco 49ers football team offers domestic partnership benefits to its employees.

They are joined by religious groups such as the American Friends Service Committee (the Quakers), the Episcopal Diosease of Newark, N.J. and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

HRC has compiled a list that includes scores of employers offering Domestic Partnership benefits to Same Sex couples. Just a few years ago, this concept was almost unheard of.

Marriage Debate Has Helped Some analysts believe that the debate over same-sex marriage has accelerated the rate of employers offering such benefits. They argue that the Marriage Debate points to the inequities faced by Lesbian and Gay couples and that in turn has led to the private and some elements of the

public sector taking action. Mark Johnson of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is among them. Johnson told The Wisconsin Light "The same-sex marriage debate forced a relook at the whole domestic partnership issue. Some people suddenly realized that this is an issue of fairness.

Johnson adds that many companies have begun offering these benefits to stay com-

Madison Has Domestic Partnership The only other major city in Wisconsin offering Domestic Partnership benefits to its employees is Madison. Those benefits include paid bereavement leave, and family medical leave for Domestic partners

but do not include health insurance Openly Gay Madison Alderman Mike Verveer said that the State Department of Trust Funds, which organized the insurance group that includes Madison City employees "was a big roadblock."

The City's Health Insurance costs would be huge if it wasn't part of the State's group," said Verveer.

The group's rules specifically prohibit the offering of Domestic Partner health insurance. Verveer told The Wisconsin Light that the City has included language in all thirty-five of its Union contracts that Domestic Partners of same-sex couples will be offered Domestic Partner health insurance "if it becomes available.

Verveer also said that he has begun discussions with Madison Mayor Susan Bauman on a plan that would provide extra compensation to Gay and Lesbian employees whose partners can not be cov-ered by the City's health plan.

Madison also has a Domestic Partnership registry open to any non-married couple. Those registering receive a certificate recognizing their relationship.

Under Madison civil rights ordinances Domestic Partnership is a protected class. That means that Madison business offer-ing family benefits such as health club memberships must offer the same benefits to registered Domestic partners.

According to Verveer, the YMCA stopped offering family memberships after Domestic Partner Registry plan went into affect.



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