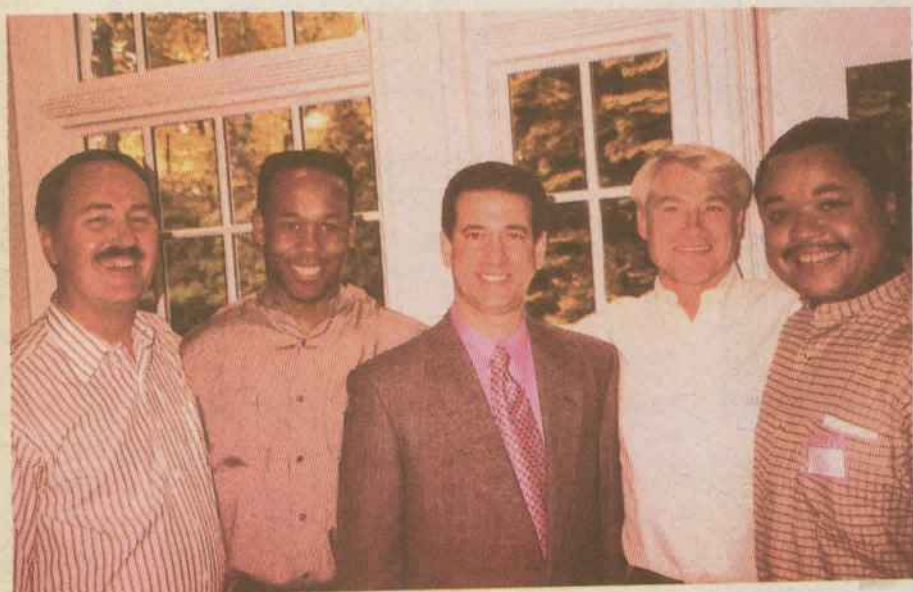
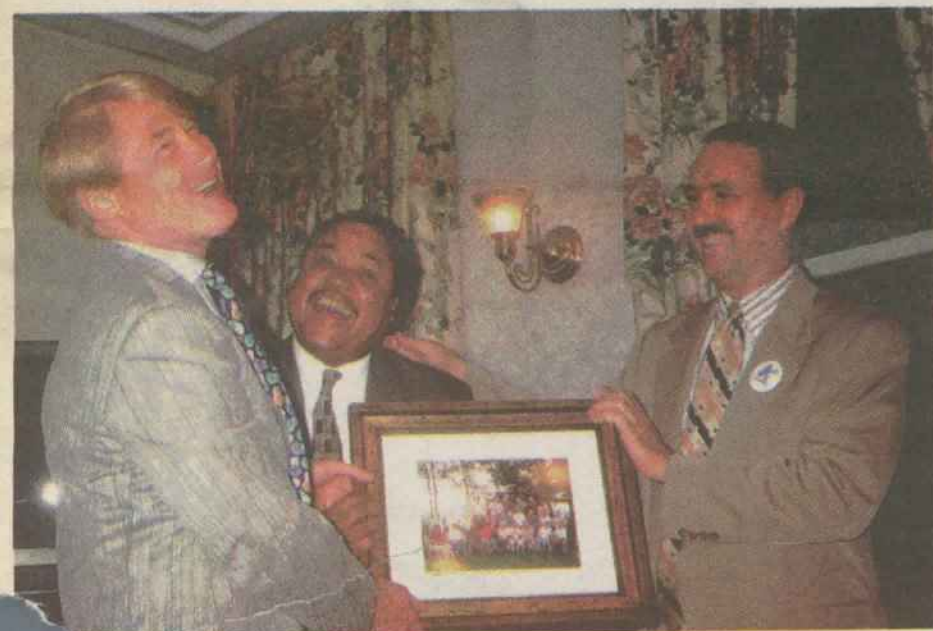


"A Decade of Light"



1997—Successful Fund Raiser—Among those attending a Saturday, June 14, fund raiser for U.S. Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) were (l-r) Dr. Robert Starschak, Blaine Roberts of Connecticut, Senator Feingold, Ross Draegert and Tony Rhodes. The event which was hosted by Dr. Starschak and his partner, Ross Draegert at their Fox Point home, raised several thousand dollars for Feingold's 1998 campaign. *Jerry Johnson*



1996—Ross Draegert and Dr. Robert Starschak were surprised by their friends with a special presentation thanking them for their long years of commitment to Milwaukee's LesBiGay community. The couple is moving to New York where Dr. Starschak has obtained a new position. Shown with them is Cream City Foundation President Tony Rhodes. The presentation took place following a farewell dinner held at Milwaukee's M&M Club. *Jerry Johnson*



1996—The rain and strong winds on the outside didn't douse the spirits of those inside the Shepherd Express Café for the PrideFest '96 opening ceremonies on Friday, June 7, 1996. Pictured above and ready to cut the ribbon to open PrideFest are: Dr. Karen Lamb, wife of the former Mayor of Milwaukee, the late Henry W. Maier; Rev. Lou Broyles; Milwaukee Police Chief Phillip Arreola; and Milwaukee County Executive Tom Ament. Standing on the stage behind them is PrideFest founder and Co-Director, Bill Meunier who gave the emotional and rousing Call to March and Celebrate. *Gary Hawkins*

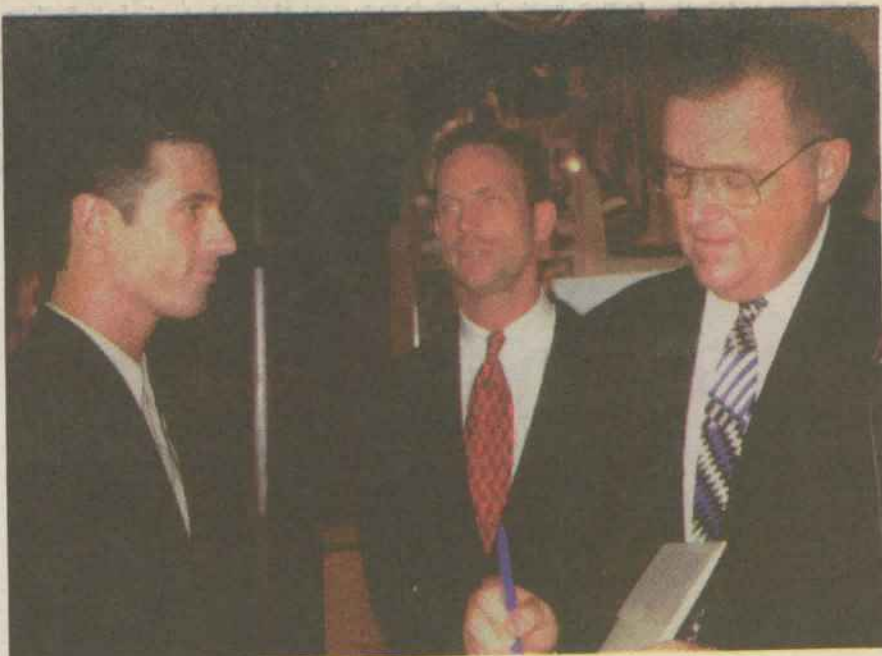


Jerry Johnson

1997—Getting Ready. The PFLAG contingent forms up and gets ready for the 1997 Pride Parade held on Sunday, June 8.



1996—Tom Reed, Director of Public Affairs for the Miller Brewing Company, presents a check for \$10,000 to Tony Rhodes, President of the Cream City Foundation. The Miller grant will allow CCF to continue its important work of providing grants to Gay and Lesbian groups.



Jerry Johnson

1996—David Mixner signs a copy of his book at a special reception held in his honor at the Broadway Theater Center in Milwaukee. The affair was a benefit for MAP. David's partner, Patrick, is standing behind him.



Jerry Johnson

1996—There would be no Silence and No Death if the cast of "Quilt: A Musical Celebration" had its way. Part of that cast is shown above during a scene from the show which has opened to good reviews. "Quilt" will be at Milwaukee's Circlestage Theater, which is located at the Prospect Mall.

“I’m not an athlete. I’m not a cyclist... but I’d scale Mt. Everest to make a difference in the struggle against AIDS.”

—Marty Starr,
California & Boston→New York AIDS Rider

This is not a time for things that are easy.

Last July, over 1,650 people did something that most of them never dreamed they could. Together they rode their bicycles 500 miles for six days, from the Twin Cities through Wisconsin to Chicago, to raise over \$5 million for the fight against AIDS. And they defined what it means to make a difference. Next July, it happens again. And you can join them. Grandparents. Brothers and sisters. Friends and lovers. All united by a feeling that it is time to make a difference again. Time to do something big. As a rider in Twin cities→Wisconsin→Chicago AIDS



Photo: Paiwei Wei

Ride 3 you can participate in the most successful AIDS fundraising effort in history...and make a powerful statement in the battle against AIDS.

It's a ride, not a race.

The AIDS Ride is about commitment, not speed. You set your own pace, so you can ride as quickly or as leisurely as you like. Riders of all ages, from all walks of life, will bicycle six days through some of the most spectacular scenery in America. It will raise millions of dollars for AIDS services in Wisconsin, and leave you a changed person.



Photo: Paiwei Wei

No way, I could never do that, could I?

The Ride is not easy...nothing this gratifying is. It's demanding and challenging...and you can do it! Thousands of people have proven it. The Ride is your chance to stop thinking and start acting...to stop wishing for change and start doing something to create it. It's about setting a goal and proving you can meet it. And through the organized training rides we offer throughout the year, your strength, stamina and confidence will build.



Photo: Timothy McAfee

Taking action has never mattered more.

In any cause there are remarkable people who give of themselves to make a difference. They're defined by courage and nobility, risk and sacrifice...not hoping for easy answers. Easy doesn't cut it when the AIDS virus has already infected up to 24 million adults.

OK...where do I eat, sleep, shower?

The Ride is expertly organized and fully supported with hot and cold showers, hot meals, five daily water and snack stops, transports for your gear, volunteer massage therapists, roving medical and tech support, and much more. We even provide two-person tents.



Photo: Matt Mendelsohn

Where does the money go?

The money raised will benefit the HIV/AIDS related services of seven Wisconsin-area AIDS service organizations: AIDS Network, Inc., AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc., CAMP HEARTLAND, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Opportunities Industrialization Center of Racine County, Inc., United Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc. and National Minority AIDS Council.

How do I register or volunteer?

Call now. Our staff will answer all your questions and send you a free color brochure and registration form. We need volunteers, too. This is no time to give up. This is a time to take action. Call today.



Photo: Matt Mendelsohn



Twin Cities→ Wisconsin→Chicago AIDS Ride③

BENEFITING:

- AIDS Network, Inc.
- AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc.
- CAMP HEARTLAND
- Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council
- National Minority AIDS Council
- Opportunities Industrialization Center of Racine County, Inc.
- United Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc.

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DONATIONS TO THE CAUSE
(608) 287-0700

**2000 RIDERS • 500 MILES • TWIN CITIES THRU WISCONSIN TO CHICAGO
6 DAYS • JULY 6-11, 1998**

It's All Our Fault - Viewers of Pat Robertson's 700 Club show have been told that all the cold weather and snow we've had in the Midwest is due to "God's displeasure with Gays, Lesbians and Pro-Abortion activists." Furthermore we are also apparently responsible for the earth quake in L.A., the blizzards in the East, flooding in the Mississippi Valley, Hurricane Andrew, famine in East Africa and the war in Bosnia.

Let Them Marry Says Europe's Parliament - The European Union should allow Gay and Lesbian couples to marry and adopt children, the European Parliament said on February 8. The body composed of deputies from throughout Europe passed a resolution sponsored by a German member, Claudia Roth.

Poll Shows Coming Out Helps - A poll conducted by Newsweek shows that the majority of Americans continue to oppose Gay and Lesbian adoption rights and marriage but support for ending anti-Gay job and housing discrimination remains above 70%. The poll also shows that people who knew someone who is Gay or Lesbian were much more likely to be supportive of Lesbian/Gay civil rights.



Street Art- Artist Kitty Dyble-Thompson recreated the Art for AIDS poster on May 2, 1994 at the corner of Wisconsin Avenue and Water Street in downtown Milwaukee to help promote the May 22 art auction and brunch benefit for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

March

STATE WIDE NEWS

Wisconsin Medical College Named National Center for AIDS Prevention Research - The Medical College of Wisconsin has been designated as one of only three national centers for AIDS Prevention and Intervention Research. The designation came with a \$4 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to establish a new Center for AIDS intervention research (CAIR). The Center will be under the direction of Dr. Jeffrey Kelly, a nationally recognized expert in AIDS research. Dr. Kelly has already garnered nearly \$18 million in grants since 1990 to conduct prevention and mental research on AIDS.

Gay Studies Program at UWM Provokes Furor - A new Gay Studies Certificate program at UWM has drawn fire from three Republican State Representatives, Bonnie Ladwig, Steve Nass and John Dobyns. The three sent a letter out condemning the program and asking their colleagues to sign a letter of protest to George Steil, President of the UW Board of Regents. David Mulroy, Chair of the Classic Department at UW-Milwaukee also objected saying "In the classics, for years before it was fashionable, we were teaching that it was not taboo in ancient Greece and Rome to be homosexual." Nonetheless Mulroy says that he doesn't think Gay and Lesbian studies constitute a discipline.

Others came to the defense of the proposal. Several professors issued a joint paper denouncing the "misrepresentations that have appeared in the press elsewhere." Their paper also said "the deliberately provocative attacks on the program are outlandish and disturbing. It is both erroneous and offensive to suggest the objectives include a mockery of religious principles and the denigration of the family unit."

The program would include three courses: AIDS and literature, Gay and Lesbian Literature in the 20th Century and Lesbian Literature. It is planned to begin in the fall semester of 1994.

State Supreme Court Begins Hearings on Lesbian Adoption Case - The Wisconsin Supreme Court will hear arguments on a case involving Lesbian adoption. The case concerns Angel Lou Anne Grinkey aged 10. Her mother Georgie Grinkey adopted Angel who has spent most of her life with Georgie and her life partner Anne Grinkey. Now Anne wants the right to adopt Angel too. The proposed adoption was approved by Angel's court appointed lawyer and an adoption agency social worker.

Brown County Circuit Judge Richard Dietz ruled that the adoption would be in the best interests of the child, but said that Wisconsin law did not permit it. Therefore he ruled against it. In at least two states with laws similar to Wisconsin's, their state's Supreme Court has ruled in favor of Lesbian adoption. "We weren't trying to promote Gay or Lesbian rights or anything," Georgie said, "We sought the adoption so that if anything happened to me, Angel would be secure."

New Statewide Group Picks Up Steam - Gay and Lesbian organizations and individuals from throughout the state are gathering to become a powerful political force. The new as of yet unnamed group includes representatives of dozens of organizations and businesses.

NATIONAL NEWS

Randy Shilts Dies - Randy Shilts, considered by many to be America's leading Gay journalist and author, died from complications due to AIDS. Shilts was the author of the best seller **And The Band Played On: Politics, People And The AIDS Epidemic**. The book chronicled the failings of the government and the medical establishment in the early years of the AIDS crisis, but also faulted the Gay community accusing some activists of endangering lives to protect sexual freedom.

Shilts also wrote the best selling **Conduct Unbecoming: Gays and Lesbians in the US Military** published last year and **The Mayor Of Castro Street: The Life and Times of Harvey Milk** published in 1982.

Shilts was also an activist. He was once quoted as saying "when heterosexuals start hiding their wedding rings, I'll start covering up the fact that I am Gay."

On Tuesday February 22, nearly 3,000 people gathered to remember Shilts. Inside Glide memorial Church where the service was held more than 1,200 people spilled into the aisles. Outside an even larger crowd listened to the service over loudspeakers. The so called "Reverend" Phelps came from Topeka, Kansas and picketed the service, but fled from the scene under Police escort as the crowd threw eggs and rotted fruit at him.

Another OJ Boycott - In the late 1970's, Gays and Lesbians boycotted Orange Juice to protest its spokesperson Anita Bryant's drive to repeal Miami's Gay civil rights law. Now there is a call for a new boycott to protest the Florida Citrus Commission's hiring of Rush Limbaugh as the product's pitchman.

Boston Cancels St. Pat's Day Parade- Saying that he was "overruling" the Massachusetts Supreme Court decision that Gays and Lesbians must be allowed to march in South Boston's St. Pat's Day parade, John "Wacko" Urley, President of the South Boston Allied War Veterans Council announced that the parade won't be held



It's Miller Time-Tony Rhodes, Cream City Foundation President, presented Tom Reed, representing Miller Brewing Co., an award for the company's outstanding support of local and national Gay-related causes. Held June 4 at the Miller Pavilion of Milwaukee's O'Donnell Park, over 200 attended the gala dinner to show their gratitude to the Miller Brewing Co.

this year. Meanwhile in San Francisco, Irish Gays and Lesbians made their St. Pat's Day parade debut. "We wouldn't be consistent with our stand on no political or religious discrimination in Northern Ireland if they were kept out" said Joe O'Donoghue, the parade chairman.

New AIDS Cases In US Double - The number of new AIDS cases in the US doubled last year, thanks, in part, to a broader definition of the disease and a sharp increase in the number of heterosexual infections. The CDC had projected a 75% increase, but the actual increase was 111%. The actual numbers show a rise from 49,016 confirmed cases in 1992 to 103,500 in 1993.

April

STATE WIDE NEWS

Zima Is Exposed - In an exclusive **Wisconsin Light** report, it was revealed that the popular new malt beverage Zima is in reality brewed by the Coors Brewing Company. The report details accusations against the Coors family and its use of corporate profits to promote a right wing agenda. Within days of the paper hitting the streets, bartenders at various Gay and Lesbian bars reported a steep decline in Zima sales.

Attacks Never Happened Says Student- A woman who claimed to have been the victim of an anti-Lesbian attack on the UW Stout campus has recanted her story say University Police. Amber Withrow has left the University and returned to Minnesota. Police began to suspect Withrow's story after getting medical records from a local clinic. The records showed that Withrow didn't have the separated shoulder, fractured cheek and concussion that she claimed to have suffered in the attack.

Big Bite Gets Big Sentence - A man who bit a Police officer during after claiming to have AIDS has been sentenced to six years in prison. Charles Rucker, 32 was also given five years probation after he serves his sentence. Rucker pleaded guilty to First Degree Reckless Injury and Battery to Police Officer. In exchange for the plea a more serious charge of attempted First Degree Intentional Homicide was dropped.

Johnson, Geiman To Be Grand Marshals - Jerry Johnson, publisher of **The Wisconsin Light** and Ron Geiman, editor and publisher of **In Step** have been named Grand Marshals for the Wisconsin Pride Parade scheduled to take place during PrideFest on June 12th.

Louis Stimac Local Civil Rights Fighter For Gays Dies - On April 8, 1994, Louis Stimac died after a seven year battle with throat cancer. He was 53 years old. Stimac was a true pioneer in the battle for civil rights for Gays and Lesbians. He helped incorporate Gay People's Union, Milwaukee's first Gay and Lesbian organization and made numerous other contributions to the cause of equality.

Statewide Network Named - The new statewide organization formed in response to Openly Lesbian Tammy Baldwin's call for a new state network has chosen a name. It



Our Time To Shine-Barbara Peterson poses with the framed original PrideFest '94 logo which she designed. A graphic artist by profession, she stated that she was pleased to volunteer her services in order to put something back into the community.

1994

The year 1994 had its share of highs and lows. America's Gays and Lesbians celebrated a quarter century of their country's Gay Liberation movement. PrideFest drew a record crowd, and two statewide Anti-Gay referendums were defeated.

On the AIDS front, ARCW's Doug Nelson led the successful fight to get a more equitable AIDS funding formula in the Federal Budget. His efforts resulted in a 60% increase in AIDS funds for Wisconsin.

Speaking of efforts, the Medical College of Wisconsin was named as one of three national centers for AIDS prevention/intervention research largely due to the work of Dr. Jeffrey Kelly. But despite their work and the work of so many others, AIDS continued its scourge. Along with so many others, the disease snuffed out two leading lights in our community, journalist author Randy Shilts and MTV star Pedro Zamora.

By the end of the year, liberal activists were shattered by election results that put conservative Republicans in control of both the Wisconsin State Legislature and both Houses of Congress. The political landscape had changed.

All that and more happened in 1994.

January

STATE WIDE NEWS

UW Stout Student Attacked - Amber Withrow, a UW Stout Sophomore, was attacked by four individuals who covered her head with a pillow case and dragged her to a secluded area where they beat her while yelling anti-Gay epithets. She suffered a separated shoulder, a fractured cheek, cuts and bruises. The attack occurred last October.



800 MAKE PROMISES - Among the 800 attended the Milwaukee AIDS Project's annual Make A Promise dinner were: (L to R) Eric Knecht, Michael Verveer, State Rep. Tammy Baldwin and Dayna Versteegen of Madison.

La Crosse Gets New Bookstore - Linda Henkelman says "It is our time to have a revolution." Therefore she has founded La Crosse's first alternative bookstore, The Rainbow Revolution.

Landlord Pays Couple \$2,000 to Settle Complaint - Terry and Rene White of Madison paid Rachael Spector and Lesbian partner, Margot Krippner, \$2,000 in a no fault settlement of the couple's housing discrimination complaint. After Terry White told Spector and Krippner that renting to them would violate his religious beliefs they filed a complaint with the Madison Equal Opportunities Commission.

PrideFest to Move - PrideFest Co-Director, Bill Meunier announced that the annual Milwaukee Pride celebration will be moving to a new location. Due to the large crowds drawn in the celebration's first two years, the festival will be moved to Veterans Park. It will be held on June 11 and 12, and will for the first time include two full days. Other new features include: a dance tent sponsored by Madison's Club 3054 and **In Step**; a History tent; a games area; a multi-cultural tent; a volleyball tournament and a second entertainment stage.

Film Fest in Milwaukee January 29 to February 3 - The annual Great Lakes Film and Video Festival will provide screenings of nearly 30 Gay and Lesbian films, and shorts.

NATIONAL NEWS

Most Challenged Book - "Daddy's Roommate" A children's book about a divorced Gay father and his lover, told from the perspective of his son, has the distinction of being the most challenged book this year, according to Alyson Publications. Of 45 complaints against the book, five have resulted in its placement in the adult section, but not a single library has removed it.

Tales of the City - The PBS miniseries "Tales of the City" based on Armistead Maupin's six novels chronicling life in San Francisco during the 70's and 80's has been a ratings hit for PBS. The radical right attacked the series and is threatening to put pressure on Congress to cut PBS funding.



MARDI GRAS 94— The top winners are pictured above at the Feb. 5 Mardi Gras held in Milwaukee's Mitchell Park Domes. The event was a fundraiser for the June 11- 12 PrideFest.



Mayoral Presence—Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist met with the Gay/Lesbian community on May 24, 1994. With the Mayor was Marg Beil (center) who has recently been assigned by the Mayor to handle problems that the community may have.

Condom Ads Upset Everyone - The Clinton Administration has begun using the hype of Madison Avenue, soap stars, rap artists and TV actors to create a series of TV ads promoting both abstinence and the use of condoms. The ads are aimed at young people between the ages of 18 and 25. While the religious right and conservatives denounced the ads for promoting condom use, ACT UP also denounced them for not being explicit enough. None of the ads show an actual condom.

"Sneak Previews" Film Critic Anti-Gay - Michael Medved, a film critic on the PBS Show, "Sneak Previews" did nothing to endear himself to Gay and Lesbian fans of the cinema during a recent appearance on Bill Maher's "Politically Incorrect" show on the Comedy Channel. When Maher asked his guests if children "should be taught about alternative lifestyles in school," Medved weighed in with invective. The critic told Maher, the panel and the show's national audience that, "until they start doing courses in heterosexuality, they should just leave the issue alone." Medved also attacked AIDS education, lambasted the children's book, "Heather Has Two Mommies" and argued that "the (Lesbian and Gay) agenda is " to create more homosexuals."

Cincy Boycotted Too! - The American Historical Association will move its 1995 conference out of Cincinnati because that voter's approved a City charter change that repealed a Les/Bi/Gay civil rights law and forbid the passage of any new Gay rights ordinances. A federal judge has blocked implementation of the charter change pending a trial on a lawsuit filed by Gay rights activists. The Association's annual conference attracts between 3,000 and 4,000 people. The American Library Association has also cancelled its plans to hold its 1995 convention in the Queen City.

Justice Department Investigates Attacks in Mississippi - The US Justice Department is investigating attacks on two Lesbians in Ovett, Mississippi. The ongoing volatile situation erupted when the women moved to the town and began renovations to their property to make it into a Lesbian retreat called Camp Sister Spirit. The town held two meetings to condemn the women and come up with ways to force them to leave.



1994—Scott O'Hara, porn star, magazine editor and author, leans back for a photo while being interviewed in Madison by "Wisconsin Light."

February

STATE WIDE NEWS

State wide Network Being Formed by Tammy Baldwin - Openly Lesbian State Representative, Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison), is putting out a call to Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual organizations and individuals to join forces in a state wide network. "The objective of the organization is to get Lesbians, Gay men and Bisexuals from all over Wisconsin in communication with each other. We must develop a power statewide organization that will be protect against the assaults on our community and our rights," said Baldwin. The network is in the early stages of development and has had two meetings so far.

Sheldon Speaks in Waukesha - The "Reverend" Lou Sheldon, considered to be one of America's premier Gay bashers, spoke at a rally in Waukesha. Sheldon, who heads the Traditional Values Coalition, a Right wing religious group, has been quoted as saying "We would have no argument if they had stayed in the closet." He attracted only 250 listeners.

Madison's New Harvest Foundation Creates Endowment Fund - Madison's New Harvest Foundation's Board of Directors has voted to create an Endowment fund. The purpose of the fund is to provide a stable source of income for the foundation. New Harvest funds Les/Bi/Gay projects in the Madison area.

Make A Promise A Huge Success - 1,000 people attended the annual Make A Promise Dinner and raised more than \$100,000 to help ARCW fight AIDS.

NATIONAL NEWS

Clinton Blasts Anti-Gay Initiatives - President Bill Clinton blasted anti-Gay ballot referendums and initiatives saying "I am committed to the fight for equality for all Americans....Those who would legalize discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or any other ground are gravely mistaken about the values that make our country strong. The essential right to equality must not be ended by a ballot initiative or otherwise." Gay and Lesbian leaders hailed the President's statement which he encouraged them to use in fighting attempts to have voters deny Gay civil rights through the ballot box.



Kitty Barber and Karen Gotzler

this situation is placed in the proper perspective. These allegations should in no way negatively reflect on the vast majority of Madison citizens who are Lesbian Gay or Bisexual."

Sex Is... Screening to Benefit BESTD Clinic - The movie "Sex Is..." will have a special screening sponsored by *The Wisconsin Light*, *Instep*, *Afterwords Bookstore* and *Espresso Bar* and *Outside Productions*. The screening on May 26 will be held at Milwaukee's *Oriental Theater*.

PrideFest Awards Announced - In honor of Stonewall 25, PrideFest will be giving out a new category of awards, "The Stonewall Awards." The first recipients of this annual award are Miriam Ben-Shalom, Nate Dawson, Shirley Fitzpatrick, HIT, Eldon Murray, Lula Reams all of Milwaukee, Sarah Hinkel, La Crosse, Robert Jansen, Superior, Steve Jones, Green Bay, Dick Wagner, Madison. PrideFest will also give its Community Service Award to Karen Gotzler and Kitty Barber and to BJ Daniels. Gay People's Union announced that its Alyn Hess Award will be given to County Supervisor Dorothy Dean.

NATIONAL NEWS

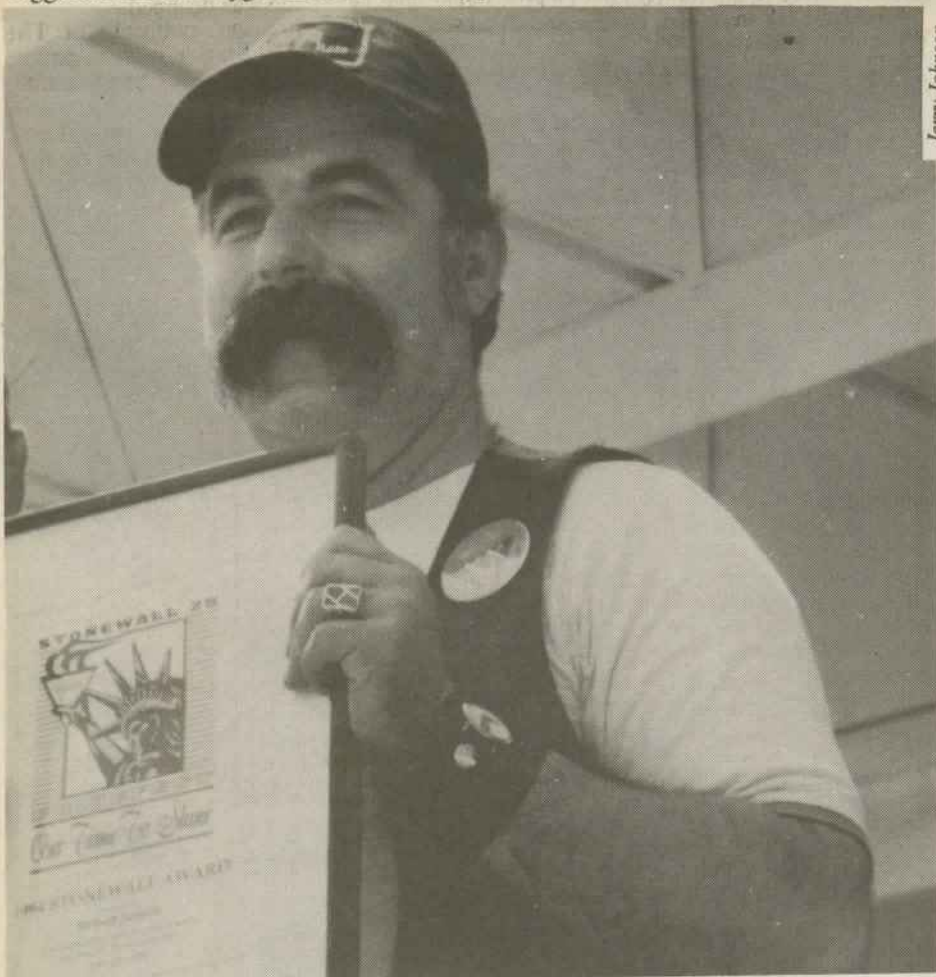
Hawaii Supreme Court Issues Stunning Ruling - The Hawaiian Supreme Court has ruled in favor of three Gay/Lesbian couples who filed suit to protest the state's denial of their request for marriage licenses. The court reinstated the suit, which had been dismissed and ordered the state to show "a compelling interest" that would outweigh what it considers to be unconstitutional discrimination.

Anti-Gay Initiatives - Anti-Gay initiatives in Washington State have received support from individuals and organizations connected to the KK and the neo Nazi movement.

May

STATE WIDE NEWS

Letter Causes Furor in Sheboygan - A letter to *The Sheboygan Press* which suggested that Sheboygan have its own Gay pride festival, caused an uproar. While the



1994—Bob Jansen receives his Stonewall Award at PrideFest '94 in Milwaukee.

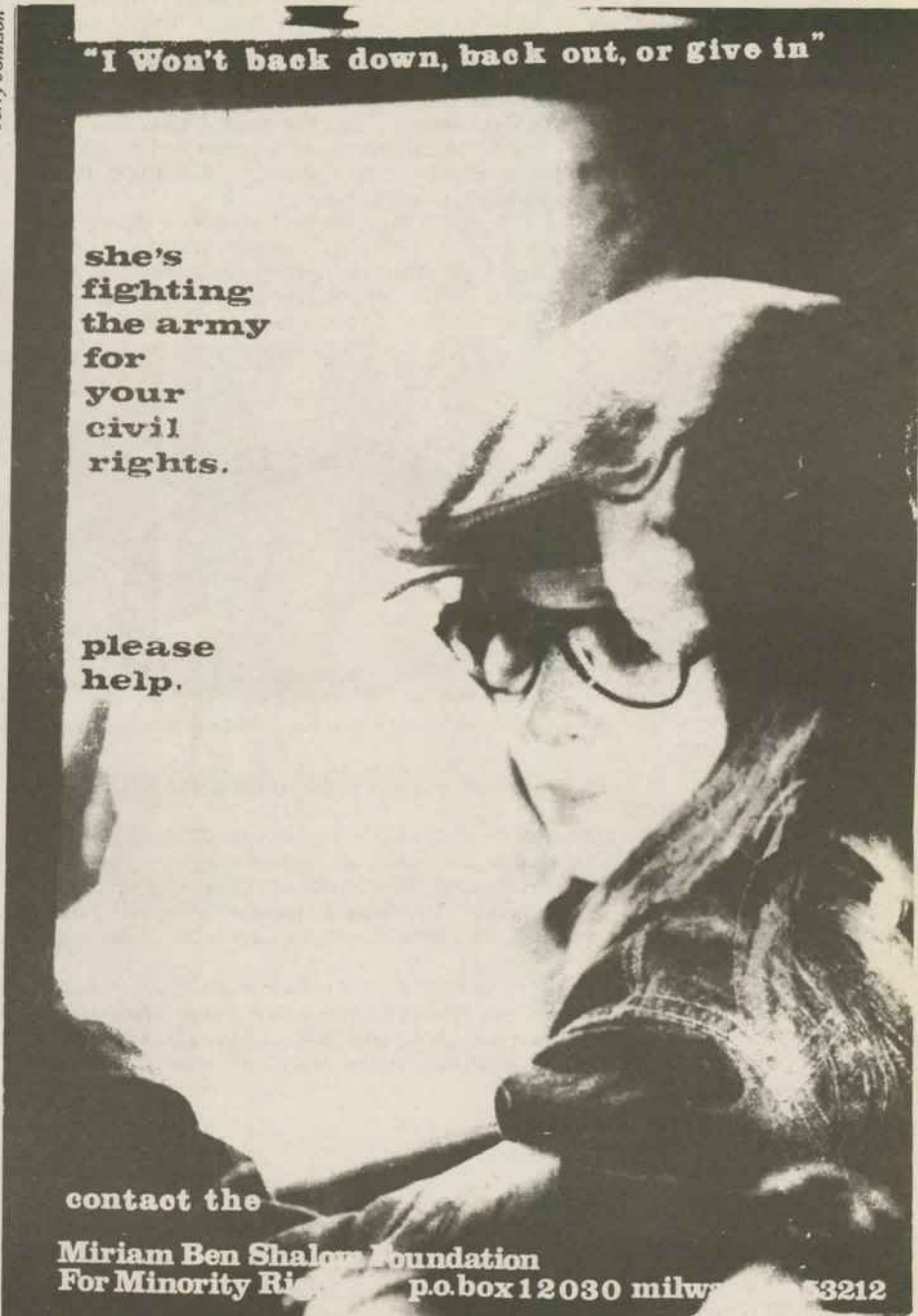
proposal was for an event to be held in Sheboygan, the Reformed Church of Gibbsville was so upset it sent a petition with more than 200 signatures to the Sheboygan Common Council demanding that it not issue any permits for the parade, even though no one has requested any. Christine Menard, Chair of the Council's Judiciary and Legislative Committee said "This is goofy. Why should Gibbsville care unless they're going to march in Gibbsville.?"

Madison's United Announces Awards - The United will honor seven community leaders and a pioneering organization for their valuable contributions at an awards dinner and community banquet on Friday June 3. Recipients are, Dick Wagner, Sunshine Jones, Jack Siebert, Gue Goldwomon, Tom Neal, Joann Elder, Jane LaFlash and the Madison Gay and Lesbian Resource Center.

Madison Bar Under Attack - Madison's Club 3054 was the target of an undercover investigation conducted by Madison's Police Department. The investigation reportedly uncovered unsafe sex taking place on the bar's patio and in its basement leather bar, Wings. Owner Cheri Lynn Becker was formally charged by the Madison City Attorney's office with 13 violations of city codes for sexual activities that allegedly occurred at the Club. Becker denies the allegations.

Madison Gay and Lesbian leaders are concerned that the publicity about the bar and a related story about sex in Olin Park which was the subject of an investigation by the *Capitol Times* newspaper will generate bad publicity about their community and

Jerry Johnson



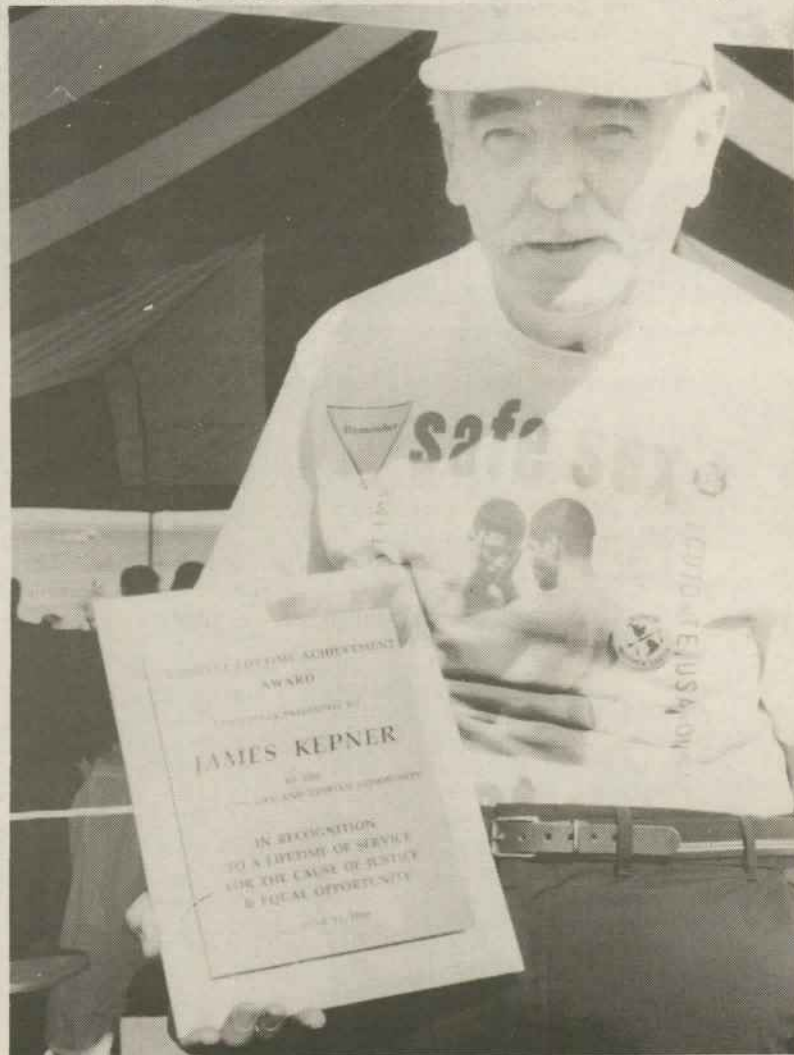
Won't Back Down—Miriam Ben-Shalom is pictured in this 1976 poster which was circulated by friends shortly after her dismissal from the U.S. Army in November of that year.

create an excuse for bigots to lash out at the Les/Bi/Gay community. Madison Mayor Paul Soglin met with Gay and Lesbian leaders to identify ways to limit the damage. A mayoral aide, Enis Ragland, told *Light* that the Mayor "wants to do everything possible to work with the leadership of L/G/B community to ensure that

NATIONAL NEWS

Clinton Denounces Cobb County Bigots - President Clinton said that he agrees the Cobb County, Georgia Commissioners are "spreading hatred" with their 1993 resolution that said Gays and Lesbians do not meet community standards. The President's remarks come at a critical time. The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games is embroiled in an appraisal of where to hold the Olympic Volleyball competition. The earlier choice of the Galleria Centre in suburban Cobb County has drawn a hail of protests from Gays, dozens of members of congress and Civil Rights organizations world wide.

The President's comments came in response to a comment made to him by Anthony Vicari, an active duty member of the Air Force on leave. Vicari a member of "Olympics Out of Cobb County" said he told the President "It's just spreading hatred." Clinton responded saying "Yes, yes I know." The President discussed Gay issues with



1994—Jim Kepner receives his Lifetime of Service Award at PrideFest '94 in Milwaukee.

Jerry Johnson

will be called "Action Wisconsin A Congress For Human Rights." The name was selected after a lengthy debate.



1994—The Bovine Babes, Wisconsin's soccer team at Gay Games IV in New York, pose for a picture after receiving the Silver Medal.

Vicari for five minutes while his planes engines were running and his aides were urging him to get on board.

Domestic Partnership Supported by Majority - A new Newsweek poll shows that a majority of Americans (67%) believe that Gay and Lesbian employees should have access to the same employment benefits available to married employees.

Ron and Erick To Get Hitched On "Northern Exposure" Ron and Erick, two recurring characters on the popular CBS Show "Northern Exposure," will be married during an episode to be shown in May.

New Anti-Discrimination Bill In Congress - Representatives Gerry Studds and Barney Frank have announced that they will introduce a new bill to ban employment discrimination against America's Gays and Lesbians. The Employment Non-Discrimination Act is intended to help deflect the effects of anti-Gay civil rights referendums in various states.

June

STATE WIDE NEWS

Wisconsin Republican Platform Wants HIV Tests Made Public - The Wisconsin Republican Party passed a platform resolution calling for making the results of HIV Tests Public. The resolution was approved 1,527 to 1,285. It was proposed by Don Brill, a retired Eau Claire Teacher who is challenging openly Gay Congressman Steve Gunderson for the Republican nomination to Congress in Wisconsin's Third Congressional District.

Madison Club Agrees to 60 Day Suspension - Madison's Club 3054 and the City of Madison have reached a tentative agreement to resolve a dispute over a City



1994—Several of the costumed revelers show off their creations at the Mardi Gras held at the Mitchell Park Domes as a benefit for PrideFest. The event was sponsored by "Wisconsin Light" and "In Step."

undercover investigation at the bar. That investigation allegedly turned up incidents of unsafe sex occurring there primarily in the downstairs leather club, Wings. Under the agreement, Club 3054 will be close for a period of 60 days and Wings will not be allowed to reopen.

LAMM To Produce Lesbian Variety Show - The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee has announced plans to sponsor Milwaukee's first Lesbian Variety show. The show will be held at the Skylight Theater on August 27th.

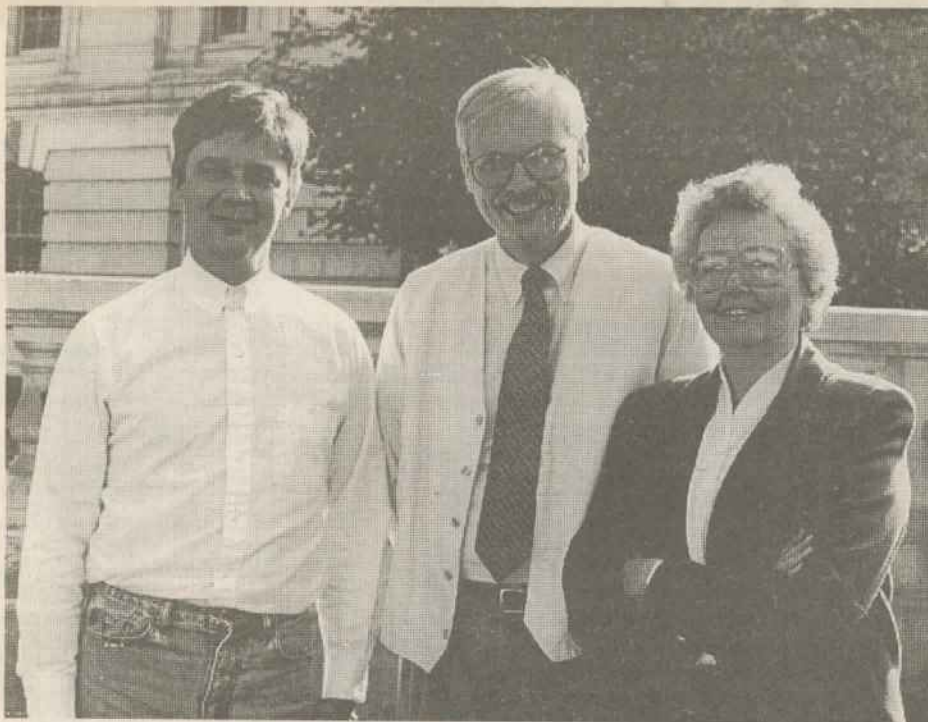
Thousands Turn Out For PrideFest - With over 70 acts, a new site, and other new features like a Dance tent and a History tent, PrideFest 94 was a smashing success. Despite periodic downpours throughout the day on Saturday, the celebration smashed all attendance records. For the first time, the festival asked for a voluntary donation of \$1.00. Based on the money received a crowd of 15,500 is believed to have been in attendance for the two day event.

ARCW Battles For Equitable Funding - The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin is at the center of a fight to install a new funding formula for Federal money earmarked to fight AIDS. Executive Director, Doug Nelson took his case to the AIDS Action Council which endorsed his proposal to re-evaluate the CARE Act's funding formulas. Nelson and others believe that the current formula benefits high incidence cities giving them three or four times as much money per AIDS case than cities like Milwaukee get. For example, the City of San Francisco gets \$5,441 per AIDS case versus Milwaukee's \$963 per case.

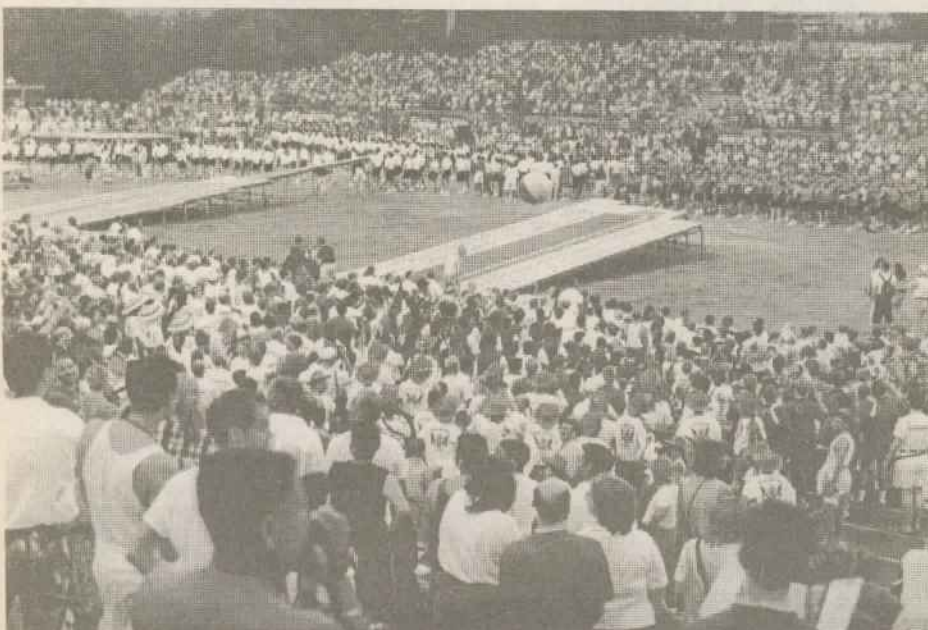
NATIONAL NEWS

Swedes Give Gays Right To Marry - The Swedish Parliament has followed Denmark and Norway in passing a bill allowing same sex couples to marry. After a lengthy debate, the Riksdag voted 171 to 141 with five abstentions to accept the Registered Partnership Law. The new law takes effect in January, 1995 and gives Gay and Lesbian couples the same rights as married heterosexual couples.

New Yorkers Come Out - In a prelude to the giant Stonewall 25 Celebration, more than 1,000 New Yorkers came out in a full page ad run in the June 2 editions of *The New York Times*. The ad read in part "In New York State we can be fired just for



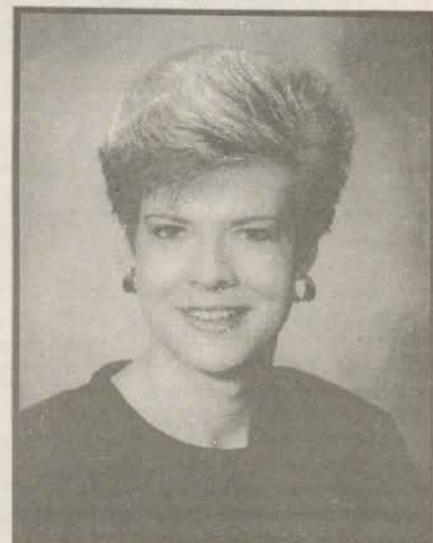
1994—In Madison, (l-r) Tom Neal, Dick Wagner, Joann Elder



1994—Gay Games IV—Over 11,000 Gay and Lesbian athletes from 43 nations gather in Columbia University's Wien Stadium in New York, Sat., June 18, during opening ceremonies to kick off the Games. The Games form one of the world's largest athletic events with 31 events at 42 locations around the metropolitan area.

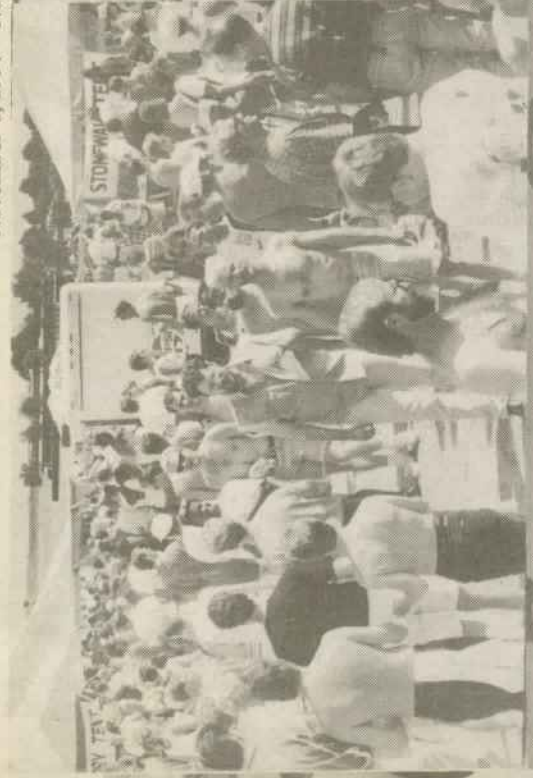
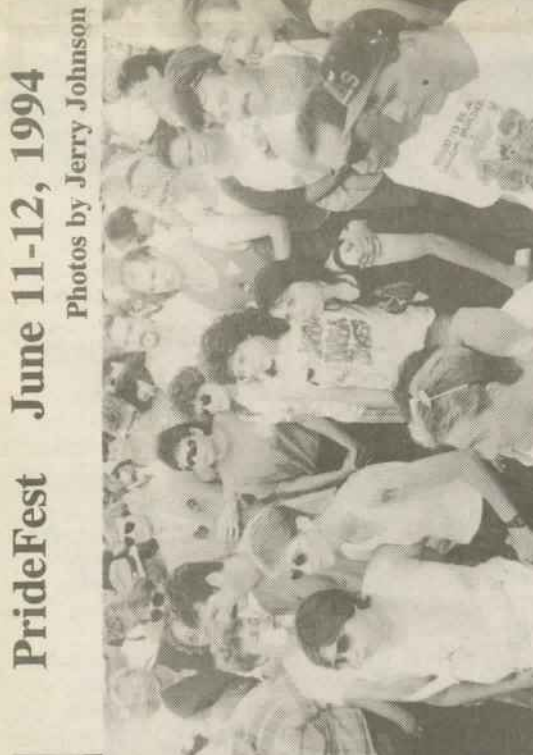
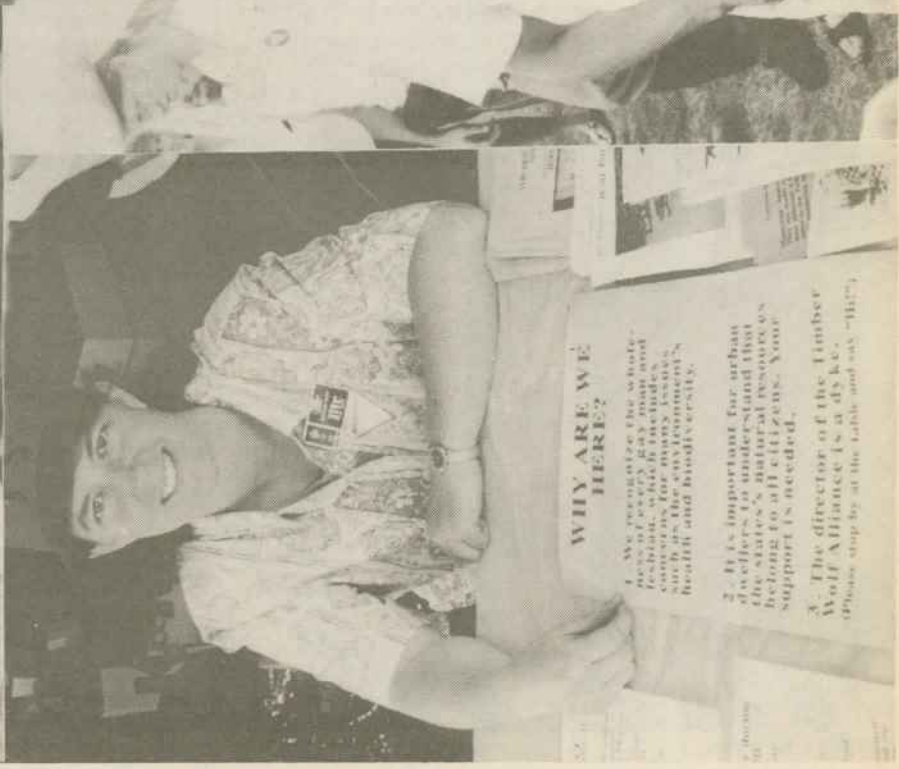
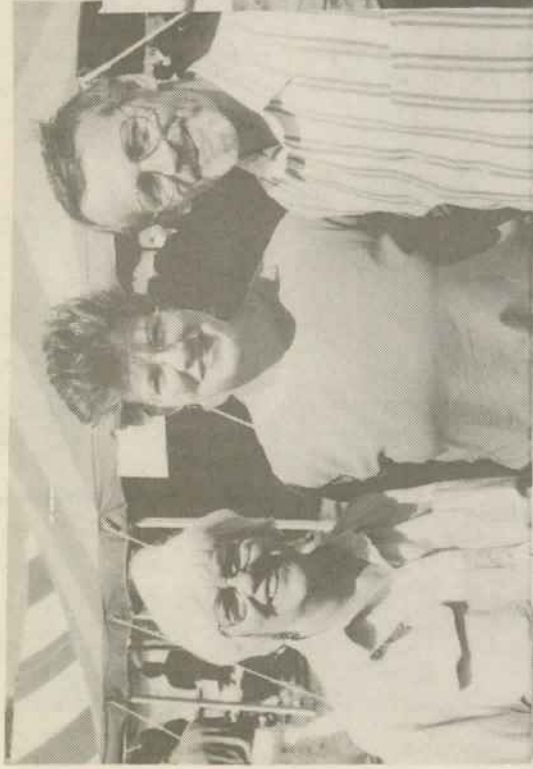
Congratulations
to the
Wisconsin Light
for 10 years of Enlightenment

Your Fan,
Tammy Baldwin
Wisconsin State Representative



PrideFest June 11-12, 1994

Photos by Jerry Johnson





Jerry Johnson

1994—B. J. Daniels dances to a wildly appreciative crowd at PrideFest.

signing this ad." New York City Gays and Lesbians do not have a city ordinance or a state wide statute protecting them from job discrimination.

HRCF Documents Discrimination - The Human Rights Campaign Fund has hired a full time staff member to document anti-Gay job discrimination. The effort has uncovered discrimination in every area of the country, adding ammunition to the fight for anti-discrimination legislation in Congress. HRCF appeals to anyone who has been fired because they are Gay or Lesbian to contact them.

It's Good Business - According to *Advertising Age*, the trade journal of the ad world, more and more companies are spending dollars to reach the Gay and Lesbian market. Among them are: AT & T, Dewars Scotch, Levi Strauss, Continental Airlines, American Express, Miller Brewing, Sony Music and Campari USA. The article says that not only are corporations finding that Gay and Lesbian consumers have money, they are also learning that those consumers are loyal to those who make an effort to be supportive of their community.

Gay Games IV - More than 11,000 Athletes from 43 Countries are entered in the Gay Games IV in New York City. Thirty One Events at 42 locations will be contested. The competitions are expected to attract over 500,000 people and generate \$110 million for the New York City economy.

July

STATE WIDE NEWS

MAP To Move - The increased case load generated by the AIDS crisis in Milwaukee has made it necessary for the Milwaukee AIDS Project to relocate to larger quarters. As of September 1, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, parent agency of the Milwaukee AIDS project will move from its current location on Court Street to new quarters at 820 N. Plankinton in downtown Milwaukee.

Wisconsin Popular In New York March - March marshals commented "You guys really know how to have a good time." People watching it called it "a floating party." It was the Wisconsin contingent in New York's Stonewall 25 March. The group which started out as 150 strong wound up the parade with over 1,000 marchers as people from other states and Wisconsinites watching the parade, joined in the fun.

Henry Maier Dies - Henry Maier, longtime Mayor of Milwaukee died at age 76. As Mayor he signed Milwaukee's Gay Civil Rights ordinance. He was the husband of *Wisconsin Light* columnist, Karen Lamb.

Gay Republican To Run For State Assembly - Scott Evertz, a leader in the Wisconsin Log Cabin Republican Club, has announced his candidacy for the State Assembly seat currently held by Barb Notestein, a consistent supporter and leader on Gay and Lesbian rights issues.

AIDS Toll Mounts Here - Wisconsin lost 18 residents to AIDS in June. The total number of AIDS cases for the Badger state since 1982 now stands at 2,414. The total number of deaths has risen to 1,334. A year ago Wisconsin had 1,925 confirmed cases and 997 deaths.

NATIONAL NEWS

Idaho Anti-Gay Measure on the Ballot - Idaho's Anti-Gay initiative has garnered enough signatures to make it on the ballot. The Idaho Citizen's Alliance which



FLEX HEAVEN—Men and women body builders competed in the Gay Games IV in New York City.



Jerry Johnson

A MIDWEST FIRST— T. Michael Bolger, President and CEO of the Medical College of Wisconsin (far left); Jeffrey Kelly, Ph.D., Director of the Center for AIDS Intervention Research; Leonard Mitnick, Ph.D., Associate Director of the Office of AIDS Research, National Institute of Mental Health and Harry Prosen, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry and Mental Health Sciences of the Medical College of Wisconsin attended the press conference on March 23 that announced that the College had been awarded a four million dollar grant for AIDS Intervention Research.

proposed the measure, was promised a tough fight by Gays, Lesbians and their supporters.

Hundreds of Thousands March To Commemorate Stonewall 25 - An estimated 500,000 people joined in or watched a giant march held to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots that launched America's modern day Gay/Lesbian Civil rights movement. In an exclusive article *The Wisconsin Light* reported that the march organizers refused to allow New York Mayor Rudy Guiliani to lead the parade despite the Mayor's request to be allowed to do so. When the Mayor's staff insisted, they were told that if he did try to lead off the march, "We will surround him with every drag queen we can find and that's what will show up on the news." The Mayor



Jerry Johnson

1994—Festival Time—Former Milwaukee Mayor Henry W. Maier, his wife, Dr. Karen Lamb and Terry Boughner pause for a photo just before the start of the City of Festivals Parade.

declined that honor.

The Mayor's participation was controversial because his administration refused to allow the march to begin in the Greenwich Village area where the Stonewall riots erupted, would not allow organizers to collect money in Central Park to help pay for the march and provided no sanitary facilities for the rally following it.

Entertainers at the rally included a who's who among American stars of the stage and screen. Perhaps the most emotional moment came when Liza Minelli, daughter of Judy Garland (whose death was said to have helped precipitate the riots), reminded the hushed crowd that her mother had died 25 years ago to the day. Then she noted "Judy would be so proud of you right now," to the wild cheers of the throng.

Senator Goldwater Speaks Out Against Discrimination - The Republican nominee for President in 1964, former Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater spoke out in favor of banning anti-Gay job bias in a column he wrote for *The Washington Post*. Goldwater took conservatives by surprise last year when he endorsed efforts to lift the ban on military service for Gays and Lesbians.

Ballot Measures Failed In All But Two States - Right wing organizers who hoped to get anti-Gay measures on the ballot in 10 states have fallen far short of their goals. Only Idaho and Oregon will have referendums on this issue this fall. In seven states, organizers failed to get enough signatures to put the measures on the ballot. In Florida a sufficient number of signatures were gathered but the State Supreme Court threw the measure out because of its wording.

Gay TV Star Dies - Dick Sargent, former star of the popular sitcom 'Bewitched' died from prostate cancer on July 8. He was 64. Sargent made headlines when he came out of the closet on *Coming Out Day* in 1991.



1994—Pride Marshals—Ron Geiman, editor/publisher of "In Step" and Jerry Johnson, publisher of "Wisconsin Light" ride in the Pride Parade.



Jerry Johnson

Survival/Revival is the name of the new resale store which opened December 1, 1994 at 246 E. Chicago St., in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward. Shown above cutting the red ribbon officially opening the store are (l-r): Ed Hashek, Chair of ARCW's Development Committee; Lisa Wolter, Director of Development; Thomas Ament, Milwaukee Count Executive; and Doug Nelson, Executive Director of MAP which will receive the profits from the store.

August

STATE WIDE NEWS

Senator Kohl Votes With Helms - Wisconsin Senator Herb Kohl, outraged Gays and Lesbians by voting for a Jesse Helms Amendment that mandates cutting federal funds off from any school district that teaches or counsels students that being Gay or Lesbian can be a healthy lifestyle or that refers students to programs or organizations that either encourages or supports homosexuality as a positive lifestyle.

The amendment which passed on a vote of 63 to 36, would make it impossible for schools to refer students to AIDS programs, suicide prevention programs or any group that may help confused Gay and Lesbian teens. Kohl's office said he voted for the amendment because "it is not the place of schools to encourage sexual activity."

Wisconsin's other Senator, Russ Feingold voted in the minority, opposing Kohl and Helms.

Kohl also voted for a Helms Amendment that would ban Department of Agriculture employees from funding a position to hold seminars that "encourage its employees to recruit on the basis of homosexual orientation or to accept homosexuality as a normal lifestyle. The Amendment passed 92 to 8. Senator Feingold voted against it.

Kohl also voted for a Helms Amendment that would prohibit NEA funding "for any activity or work that involves bodily procedures on human beings dead or alive or the drawing or letting of blood." That amendment was tabled on a 49 to 42 vote. Senator Feingold voted to table, Kohl voted not to table.

Senator Kohl did not return Wisconsin Light's calls to inquire about his views and votes.

Another Serial Killer In Milwaukee? - Alleged Serial Killer Gary Ray Bowles, a Chicago native wanted in connection with killings in three states, may be in Milwaukee. Bowles, who is said to pick up his victims at Gay bars, was spotted in Kenosha on August 15. He reportedly sought lodging in a homeless shelter in Milwaukee using his own name on August 16. At the request of the FBI, The Wisconsin Light ran Bowles' picture on its front page with a warning about him.

ARCW Wins Funding Fight - The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin won a major victory in getting a better break from CARE Act funds distributed to fight AIDS to organizations throughout the country. As a result of intense negotiations over the last three months, there will be a 60% increase in AIDS funding for Wisconsin. ARCW Executive Director, Doug Nelson led the effort and has won great praise for doing what many considered to be an impossible task.

Jay Hansen Dies - Milwaukee lost another outstanding activist and artist to AIDS when Gregory Jay Hansen died from complications due to AIDS at the age of 21 on August 12, 1994. Several hundred people turned out for a celebration of Jay's life held at Café Melange on August 24.

NATIONAL NEWS

Promise Keepers Protest - About 500 people marched through Boulder Colorado to protest the "Promise Keepers," the group founded by Colorado Football Coach Bill Mc



Jerry Johnson

BestD Gift—Representing the Holiday Invitational Bowling Tournament (HIT), Cindy Olscki is shown presenting Erv Uecher of Milwaukee's BestD Clinic with a check for \$1,000.

Cartney One of the brochures distributed by the group includes this quote on homosexuality from Romans 1:32 - "Knowing God's righteous decrees that anyone who would do such things deserves to die." One marcher, Jef Roush said "I am horrified that anyone in the name God, in the name of Christianity says that people deserve to die."

Atlanta Bishop Recants - The Rev Bennett J. Sims, retired Episcopal Bishop of Atlanta, announced that he has changed his mind on homosexuality. "I no longer believe as I did in 1977 that homosexuality is primarily an amenable dysfunction, a stubborn but changeable deviation from created norms. In my view it is a matter of bestowed identity.

Hate Manual Put Out - The Idaho Citizen's Alliance celebrated its effort to get an anti-Gay measure on the state wide ballot by putting out a hate filled manual. According to the manual, "promiscuous sodomite activists are the most violent and irrational people on earth." It also states that "Homosexual men enjoy being beaten up by homophobes and Christians." ICA says it has distributed hundreds of the books throughout the Northwest.

Depp To Play Cross Dresser - Johnny Depp will play the cross dressing movie producer, Ed Wood in the movie "Ed Wood." Wood who was considered the king of



Activist, Artist, Gregory Jay Hanson
May 6, 1963-August 12, 1994

the worst B-movies ever made was in real life a heterosexual transvestite.

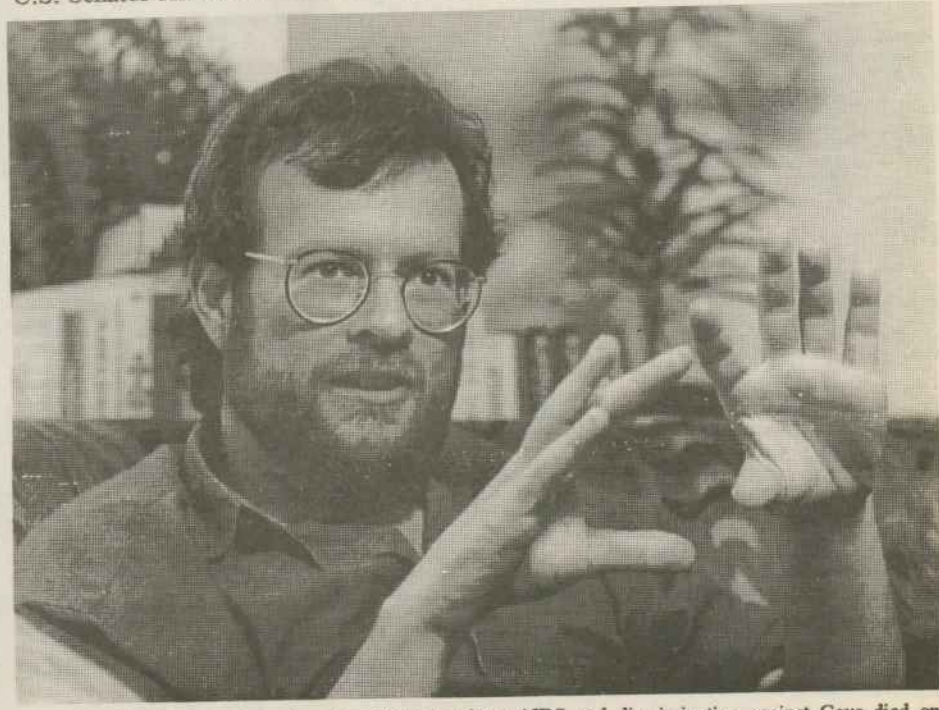
Gay World Series in Bible Belt Raises Religious Ire - Thousands of indignant church goers have signed a petition to stop the Gay World Series from being held in Nashville, Tennessee. The 3,000 petitioners did not sway City officials however. Barbara Jones, Sports Supervisor for Nashville's parks says that the local finals leading up to the World Series each year have become a favorite of umpires and park employees. "They form a committee to pick up the trash after the tournament and make sure the place is left clean. You can bet the others don't do that. They clean the bathrooms- just everything."

September

STATE WIDE NEWS

Madison's United Launches "Pride And Power" Campaign - Madison's United is launching a new chapter of its 17 year history. It has started a new effort to target discrimination and to increase the network of support for the LesBiGay community. "Pride and Power" is a five year plan for growth and outreach involving the expansion of workshops and the library, media training, new grant development, the creation of a learning center and extensive networking throughout Wisconsin.

Primary Results Discouraging - Buoyed by right wing Conservative groups, State Senator Robert Welch grabbed the Republican nod to run against incumbent Democrat U.S. Senator Herb Kohl in November. Third place finisher, Kate Zueske blamed two



1994—Randy Shilts, acclaimed author of books about AIDS and discrimination against Gays died on February 16, 1994, at his Sonoma, California home from complications due to AIDS.



Nancy Gedney and Michael Lisowski from the Milwaukee AIDS Project passed out red ribbons and condoms to passersby in front of the Grand Avenue on World AIDS Day, December 1.

organizations, Wisconsin Right to Life and the National Rifle Association for Welch's lopsided win. Second place finisher, Matt Gunderson (who was endorsed by **The Wisconsin Light**) agreed saying "Our people, the moderates, the independents, need to get off their duffs." Republican State Senator Barbara Lorman, a State Senator since 1980, lost her party's primary for re-nomination. Her opponent, Scott Fitzgerald, took full advantage of the support extended to him by Wisconsin Right to Life.

Support Groups Forming At Milwaukee's Counseling Center - New support groups for men are forming at the Counseling Center of Milwaukee. The groups are designed to be a safe place for men to gather and share their problems/challenges in a supportive atmosphere.

Gala Celebrates BESTD Anniversary - Members of the Milwaukee Symphony and Milwaukee Ballet Orchestra's joined forces to produce a special concert celebrating the BESTD Clinic's 20th Anniversary. The concert, held at Milwaukee's Pabst Theater, was a benefit for the BESTD Clinic.



1994—It's Miller Time—Tony Rhodes, Cream City Foundation President, presented Tom Reed, representing Miller Brewing Co., an award for the company's outstanding support of local and national Gay-related causes. Held June 4 at the Miller Pavilion of Milwaukee's O'Donnell Park, over 200 attended the gala dinner to show their gratitude to the Miller Brewing Co.

NATIONAL NEWS

Study Says We Earn Less - An independent study conducted by the University of Maryland shows that Gay men and Lesbians earn less than their non-Gay counterparts with similar training and occupations. The study, "Economic Evidence of Sexual Orientation Discrimination," marks the first scientific economic research conducted on the problem of job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The study found that Gay men earned 11 to 27% less than their non-Gay counterparts. Lesbians earned 5 to 14% less.

One in Five? - A recent survey conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health and the Center for Health Policy Studies in Washington DC found that between 6.2% and 20.8% of American men and 3.3% and 17.8% of American women could be considered 'incidentally homosexual.' The lower estimates are based on reported same



Costumes on Parade—Hallowe'en was celebrated as usual across the state. Many bars held costume contests including in Milwaukee. This Is It, whose winners are shown above, was held on Oct. 29, 1994



1994—ACT UP Milwaukee member Yuri Keegstra spoke at a December 1 World AIDS Day demonstration in downtown Milwaukee. ACT UP Milwaukee members distributed information which stated a plea to more readily find a cure for AIDS. Dan Fons and Heather Sjolund held the banner.

October

STATE WIDE NEWS

PrideFest, Summerfest Talking - PrideFest Co-Director Bill Meunier in an exclusive **Wisconsin Light** article revealed that he is negotiating an agreement to move the Milwaukee Pride Celebration to the Summerfest grounds. Meunier said that in the last three years, the celebration had gotten out of debt, raised attendance to over 15,000 and added many new attractions. He would like to bring in national entertainment, but a move to the Summerfest grounds would be needed to make that a viable option. Reaction from the Les/Bi/Gay community was uniformly positive.

Kohl Co-sponsor ENDA - Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI) has become a co-sponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, ENDA.

Gay Philanthropist V. Duane Rath and His Lover, Frederick Hurdman Found Dead - Millionaire Philanthropist V. Duane Rath, 53 was found stabbed to death in his Janesville mansion in what Police say was a "murder-suicide." Rath's lover, Fred Hurdman was found dead on the floor of the couple's garage. His death was caused by carbon monoxide poisoning. Sources who knew the men say the tragedy may have been caused by a jealous rage. Rath was a major contributor to a variety of Gay causes.

Three Men Charged With Hate Crime in Eau Claire Bar Fight - Three Eau Claire men accused of verbally abusing and hitting patrons outside of a Gay bar, have been charged with disorderly conduct and battery as a hate crime. Steve W. Endle, 42, Rocky P. Mozenti, 37 and Thomas M. Alley, 41 launched their attacks outside of Scruples.

Stevens Point Elects Gay Man, Lesbian Homecoming Royalty - UW Stevens Point students voted to elect Trevor Ilk and Nancy Le Baeau, Presidnet and Public Relations Director of the 10% Society respectively as the campus Homecoming King and Queen.

NATIONAL NEWS

Colorado Supreme Court Strikes Down Amendment 2 - As expected, Colorado's Supreme Court struck down the controversial Amendment 2 which changed the State Constitution to ban the passage or enforcement of Gay and Lesbian civil rights laws within the boundaries of the state. The justices 6 to 1 decision was published on October 11, Coming Out Day.

Idaho Poll Spells Trouble - A newly released poll shows that the vote on Idaho's Measure 1 is too close to call. 44% say they intend to vote no on the anti-Gay measure. 35% say they will vote yes and 21% are undecided. Similar numbers were seen in Colorado prior to the passage of Amendment 2.

Two Gay Men Shot Death Near Camp Sister Spirit - Two Gay men, Robert Walters, 34 and Joe Shoemake, 24, were found shot to death on Saturday October 8, near Laurel, Mississippi, a town located about 15 miles from Camp Sister Spirit. One body was found laying across abandoned railway tracks the other was found in a nearby ditch. The deaths come in the wake of over 10 months of violence directed at the Camp. The same evening they were killed shots were fired into Camp Sister Spirit, sex sexual activity or attractions since the age of 15.

Robertson Protest Fizzles - Pat Robertson's call to the faithful to protest Visa's support of Gay Games IV has not achieved what he hoped for. According to the company, Visa received 200 to 300 calls in and 600 letters in support of the company's sponsorship and only 20-30 calls and 10 letters of protest.

Wilson Vetoes Another One - California Governor Pete Wilson vetoed legislation that would have allowed unmarried couples, Gay or straight, the right to register with the state and gain certain legal rights afforded to married heterosexual couples. The law would have allowed registered partners hospital visitation rights,, probate rights and the right to act on behalf of each other should one become incapacitated.

Agassi Is a Bad Boy - Tennis star Andre Agassi's homophobia has once again made him the center of attention. Agassi who loudly told Pete Sampras not to accept flowers from Elton John because John is "a fag," called an official with whom he disagreed "a faggot" during a televised match. Sampras went and accepted the flowers.

November

STATE WIDE NEWS

Wisconsin Election Results - For the first time in recent years, the Republican party took control of the State Assembly. The first ever openly Gay Republican candidate for the Assembly, Scott Evertz, lost by a wide margin to incumbent Democrat, Gay civil rights supporter, Barbara Notestein.

With the GOP in command in of the Assembly, the State Senate, and the Governor's Office, hopes for a Domestic Partnership bill quickly faded. Later openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) shelved plans to introduce domestic partnership legislation. "It won't even get a hearing now," she told **The Wisconsin Light**.

In Wisconsin's first Congressional District, homophobic, Christian Right-backed Mark Neumann upset Democratic incumbent, Peter Barca. Barca who was generally sympathetic to Gays and Lesbians, angered them by voting for "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." He lost by less than 1,500 votes.

The only consolation for Wisconsin's Gay and Lesbian voters (and some would say it wasn't much of one at that) was Senator Herb Kohl's easy win over Christian Coalition backed candidate, State Senator Robert Welch. In his first term, Kohl voted for several vicious anti-Gay amendments sponsored by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC). However, with a month to go in the campaign he signed onto ENDA and pledged to work for an end to discrimination.

NATIONAL NEWS

Congressional Election Results Dismal - Conservative Republicans seized control of the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate in the mid term elections. Gay



All of Us—Just Us, Milwaukee's newest Gay/Lesbian bar, opened at 5:00 p.m. on Sept. 28, 1994. Among those who helped ready the bar for its opening were: Patrick Prudlow (expediter) (above, left); Lory Patin (manager); Janet Mueller (co-owner); Deb Procknow (asst. Manager); and Steve Byers (co-owner). Just Us is located at 807 S. 5th St. In Walker's Point.

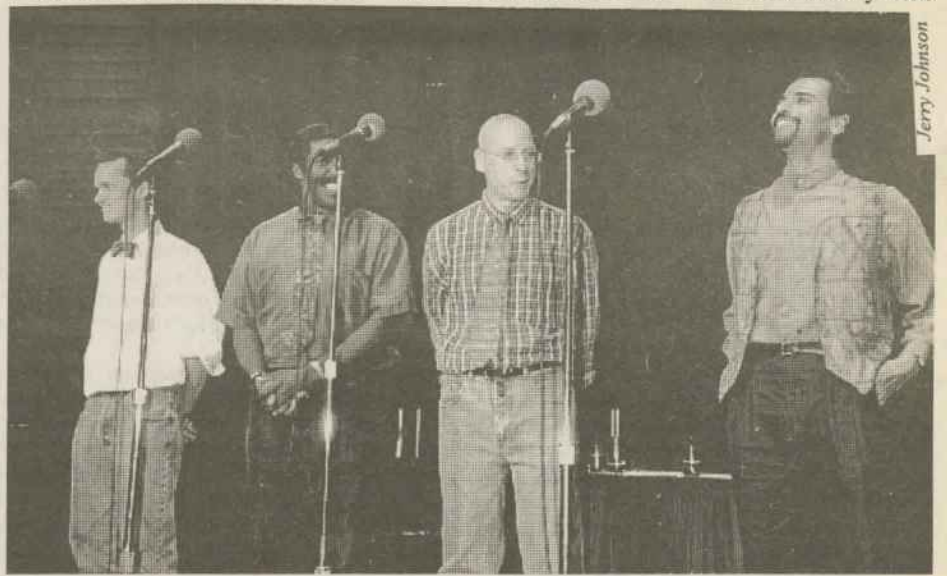
and Lesbian liberal activists were in a state of shock over the number of homophobic candidates who won. In fact over 60% of the candidates backed by the Religious right won election.

Even Wisconsin Light Political Columnist Bill Meunier who had predicted the GOP victory while the Democrats were still ahead in the polls, was stunned by the margin of that victory. A new political reality had dawned on Gay and Lesbian America and it was obvious many adjustments in strategy had to be made.

AIDS Leading Cause of Death in San Francisco - AIDS is now the leading cause of death among men in the entire city of San Francisco. It is the first time AIDS has emerged as the Number 1 killer in any major city.

Anti-Gay Referendums Lose in Oregon and Idaho - Two anti-Gay referendums modeled on Colorado's Amendment 2 lost on election night. By a paper thin margin, the citizens of Idaho voted against Measure 1. Analysts say that the measure might have passed except for the strong opposition of Idaho's substantial Mormon population. The Mormons are in general anti-Gay but were concerned that they may be next on the Christian Right's hit list. In Oregon a new effort at a state wide referendum that would have codified discrimination lost by a margin of 54% to 46%.

Pedro Zamora Dies - Thousands mourned the death of Pedro Zamora, a Cuban-born actor who served as a role model for American Gay and Lesbian teens. Zamora, who



1994—The Flirtations, the world-famed a capella Gay men's group, performed at MAPFest to a packed house.

starred on MTV died from AIDS. The AIDS Action Council, of which he was a member, received over 10,000 calls and messages of condolence. One of his last wishes was to see the family he left so long ago in Cuba. That wish was granted but in a coma, he never even knew they were there.

December

STATE WIDE NEWS

Resale Shop Opens - Survival Revival, a resale shop that benefits the Milwaukee AIDS Project had its grand opening on December 1, 1994. The shop located at 246 E. Chicago Street in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward, held a gala party for its Grand Opening.

NATIONAL NEWS

Discharge Board Keeps Lesbian - For the first time a Navy Discharge Board voted to keep a open Lesbian in the military. Lt. Zoe Dunning, won her case after her lawyers pointed out that since she was just promoted it would "be insanity" to dismiss her from the service.

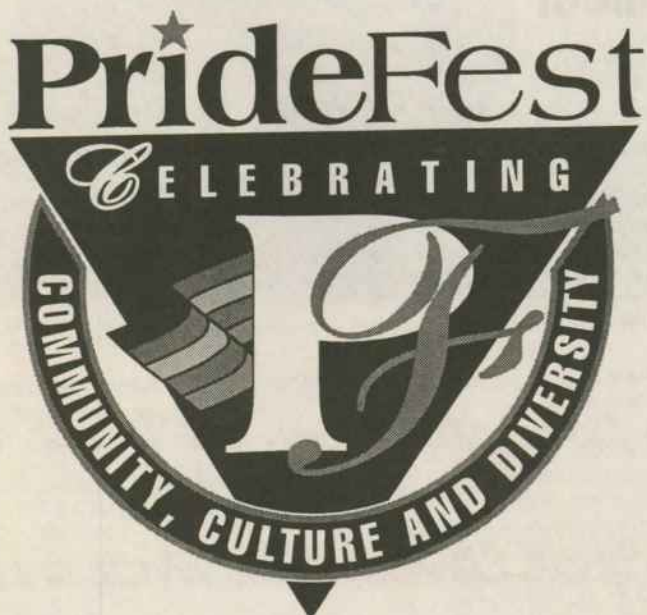
Israel's Supreme Court Issues Victory for Same Sex Couples - In a landmark decision, the Israeli Supreme Court issued a 50 page decision forcing the national airline, El Al, to grant the partner of flight attendant, Jonathon Danielevitz, the same annual free tickets and other benefits given to the spouses of heterosexual employees. Activists there said that the ruling would have widespread significance.

Alleged Serial Killer Captured In Florida - Gary Ray Bowles, a confessed serial killer who preyed on Gay men, was arrested in Florida on November 22nd. Bowles was featured on the front page of *The Wisconsin Light* at the request of the FBI when it was reliably reported that he had come to Milwaukee after leaving Chicago. He was also featured five times on the TV Show "America's Most Wanted." He has admitted to three killings in Florida, two in Georgia and one in Maryland. All of his victims were Gay men.

Congratulations

Wisconsin Light!

*PrideFest salutes your commitment to
bringing Light to the Community!*



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Celebrate with us again

August 28, 29

& 30, 1998

at the

Henry W. Maier

Festival Grounds

1995

In 1995 we saw beginnings and endings. The odious practice of putting Gay and Lesbian civil rights up for a vote appeared to be ending. A Religious Right referendum designed to avoid the legal problems being experienced by Colorado's Amendment 2 failed in Maine, and the Supreme Court's hearing on Amendment 2 seemed to indicate that the US Supreme Court would agree with Colorado's Supreme Court in overturning it.

Meanwhile, however, we saw the start of a new fight as conservatives in several states began gearing up to pass Anti-Same Sex Marriage bills. Fear that Hawaii may legalize Same Sex unions prompted conservatives to call for legislation prohibiting their states from recognizing Hawaiian Same Sex marriages.

PrideFest also saw a new beginning when Co-Director, Bill Meunier announced that he had negotiated a deal to move the festival to the Henry W. Maier Festival grounds, the home of Summerfest, and a new statewide organization, Action Wisconsin was born as Lesbians and Gays from throughout the State answered Tammy Baldwin's call for a statewide network.

The fight against AIDS saw new beginnings as well. Even as the toll mounted, researchers announced a new promising drug therapy, "protease inhibitors," to be used in combination with other drugs. A new oral test costing a fraction of blood tests was approved, the Rodney Scheel House opened in Madison and the Wisconsin AIDS Walk raised over \$750,000.

Jamie Nabozny filed his landmark suit against the Ashland School District for failing to protect him from Anti-Gay discrimination while he attended school there. All that and more happened in 1995.



1995—Ron Geiman, publisher/editor of "In Step," is shown at the reception at the Renaissance Place in Milwaukee given in his honor by a grateful community.

January

STATE WIDE NEWS

PrideFest to Stay Put For Now - PrideFest announced that it would stay at Milwaukee's Veteran's Park for at least one more year. Due to conflicts with the Summerfest grounds schedule, it would have been impossible to move the festival there and still hold it in June. Negotiations to relocate PrideFest will resume after this year's PrideFest.

Baldwin, Zander Honored - The Wisconsin Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union has honored openly Lesbian State Representative, Tammy Baldwin by awarding her the group's 1994 Special Recognition Award of her work to support civil rights. The 1994 Outstanding Lawyer award went to openly Gay Milwaukee attorney, Tom Zander. Zander is best known for his work on behalf of people with mental illness.

NATIONAL NEWS

Oral HIV Test Approved - The first AIDS virus test that uses saliva instead of blood has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. The new test, OraSure is made by Epitepe, Inc., and will cost about \$2 to \$4, a fraction of the price of blood tests.

AIDS Cases Top 1,000,000 - For the first time the official number of AIDS cases worldwide has topped the million mark. The true figure is more than four times as high, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on January 2, 1995.

HRCF Names New Director - Elizabeth Birch, the 36 year old Chief Litigator at Apple Computer has been named the Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, a Washington DC based organization that has more than 80,000 members nationwide. Birch was Co-Chair of the National Gay Lesbian Task Force, (NGLTF) from 1992 to this year. She joined Apple in 1989.



Autograph Time—Suzanne Westenhoffer signed T-shirts after her sell-out concert on March 17 at Milwaukee's Centennial Hall.



Jerry Johnson

1995—Chris Lupis climbs up a Milwaukee city lamp post to attach to it a Rainbow Flag in honor of Pride Week. The flag is the first of many that will fly from light posts around town. This shot ran on "Light's" front cover the first time the paper ran full color.

Helms Is At It Again - Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) has introduced two bills that would promote hate speech and discrimination against federal workers. The first bill S-23 would give a special exemption from workplace non discrimination policies to government employees who voice hate speech against Lesbian and Gay coworkers. The second bill S.25 would target Lesbian and Gay Employee groups by denying them the same rights to free association and free speech guaranteed to other employee groups.

Did He Or Didn't He? A story circulating in Europe and in this country says that film star Keanu Reeves and film/record mogul, David Geffin were married to each other recently.

February

STATE WIDE NEWS

Madison "Welcomes" Cracker Barrel - A new Cracker Barrel Restaurant got an unscheduled welcoming reception from activists and a group of public officials during its grand opening on January 30. Carloads of activists joined by openly Lesbian and Gay public officials shuttled out to the new restaurant which is part of a chain which had explicitly prohibited the employment of Gays or Lesbians. The chain says it no longer has that policy. The activists and officials who held a press conference outside the restaurant said they were just making sure Cracker Barrel was aware of Dane County's, Madison's and Wisconsin's anti-discrimination laws.

Kenosha Residents Try to Get Bigot Off the Air - Residents of Kenosha are concerned about local TV station showing "Bobby Enyart Live!" Enyart is considered to be a virulent homophobe. His show, which airs out of Denver, is now being aired on WHKE-TV 55. A petition given to the station was sent on to Enyart who proceeded to call some of the signers while on the air. The surprise late night calls angered some of those who were phoned.



Jerry Johnson

Auction Time!—Milwaukee Mayor John O. Norquist, Doug Nelson and Susan Mudd were enjoying themselves in one of the silent auction rooms at the March 25, 1995, Make A Promise Dinner.

*Congratulations and Thank You
 to Jerry & Terry
 Your Efforts Have Made a Better
 Community For All
 From Julie & Holly*

Enyart also scrutinized the names of the petitioners and was said to have smirked at names that sounded Jewish. The petition was circulated at the Beth Hillel Temple Synagogue as well as the Bradford Community church.

Dane County Sage Offer to Great Start - Over 20 fired up folks showed up for the first SAGE/Dane meeting last month in Madison. SAGE, Senior Action in a Gay Environment, is open to members of all ages.



Newly Elected, openly Gay and Lesbian Madison Alderpersons Mike Verveer and Judy Olson.

Cream City Brick Awards Announced - The Human Rights League gave out its annual awards at its meeting on February 8. The winners were: Torchbearer - The Counseling Center of Milwaukee; Certificate of Merit - Ken Munson, Executive Director of the Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission; Spotlight - Joanne Weintraub of **The Milwaukee Journal**; Certificates of Merit - David Bhrendt, and Sue Ryon also of **The Journal**; Groundwork Award - TT Tulip Florist; Certificate of Merit - Havlicek and Associates; Pace Setter - Eldon Murry, long time activist; Certificate of Merit - Lula Reams; Bridge Award - Ceci Chapple; Certificate of Merit - Jayne Dunnun; President's Award - Ron Geiman of **In Step**; The Ambassador Award - Attorney Tom Zander.

Wisconsin Teen Sues School Board for Harassment - Jamie Nabozny, 19 has filed a federal lawsuit accusing the Ashland, Wisconsin School District of ignoring his repeated requests for protection. Nabozny, who dropped of school in December, 1992, is seeking \$350,000 in damages. The suit says that word of Nabozny's sexual orientation spread quickly after he was sexually assaulted in 1987. After he was physically attacked, Nabozny and his parents pleaded for protection, but to no avail.



Honoring the best—Madison's United presented awards on July 8 to the following: (l-r) John Fernsler (Organization of the Year, the New Harvest Foundation); Steve Starkley (Man of the Year); Maria Hansen (Woman of the Year); Diana Summers (Ally of the Year, WTSO Radio and Sunday Night Out); and Jim Seals (Volunteer of the Year).

NATIONAL NEWS

New Freedom Riders Travel to Camp Sister Spirit - Enraged by reports of violence, threats and murder, a new group of freedom riders intends to converge on Camp Sister Spirit in Laurel, Mississippi over the Memorial Day weekend. Once there, they will work to finish the property, something its owners have been unable to do given the routine of daily harassment they have been subjected to. The call for the freedom riders came from nationally known Lesbian comic, Robin Tyler and from Troy Perry, head of the Metropolitan Community Church.

Republican Majority Leader Apologizes - US House of Representatives Majority Leader, Dick Armey (R-TX) has apologized for using the term "fag" to refer to Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA). In an interview with radio reporters, Armey said "I like peace and quiet and I don't need to listen to Barney Fag er Barney Frank haranguing in my ear." Armey immediately apologized and characterized the "slip" as an unintentional mispronunciation of Frank's name. He also said he hadn't had his morning coffee yet.

Frank accepted the apology but also said "It must have been floating in the back of his mind."

String of Texas Murders Chills State - A string of at least eight brutal murders of Gay men has the Gay community in Texas reeling. The murders have been the subject of a recent article featured in **Vanity Fair**.

Mississippi Jury Convicts Man of Gay Killings Near Laurel - A jury convicted 17 year old Marvin McClendon of murdering two Gay men, Joe Shoemake and Robert Walters, last October. The jury ignored the defendant's claims that he was only defending himself against the sexual advances of the two men. McClendon will be eligible for parole in 2015.

March

STATE WIDE NEWS

Chris Fons Dies - Christopher Fons, a Milwaukee AIDS Activist, died from AIDS at the age of 27. Hundreds mourned the death of the co-founder of Milwaukee ACT UP. Fons died peacefully at his home with his partner Yuri Keegstra and his long time friend Eric Berna at his side. Fons was known one of the main strategists and organizers for ACT UP Milwaukee.

Arnie Malmon Dies - A community already reeling from the news that it had lost one of its foremost fighters against AIDS, was shocked to learn that a day after the death of Christopher Fons, another local leader in the fight against AIDS, Arnie Malmon, had also died. Malmon worked hard as an AIDS educator and activist. He wrote a regular column for **In Step** magazine about living with the disease. He was one of



1995—Dignity/Milwaukee members gather outside the church to pose for a photo as they celebrate their 20th Anniversary.

the founders of the Cream City Foundation.

Hate Crimes Charge In Madison - Two men who robbed and beat a man because as one of them said "I don't like homosexuals and anything like it," have been charged under Wisconsin's Hate crimes law. Ryan D. Meiller, 18 of Madison and Erik Jacobson, 20 of Waumakee were released on \$1,000 bonds. The men face up to 10 years in prison for robbery and aggravated battery and an additional 5 years for committing an hate crime.

The Gores To Chair AIDS Walk Wisconsin - Vice President Al Gore and his wife Tipper will be the honorary Co-Chairs of AIDS Walk Wisconsin on September 17 on Milwaukee's Lake front.

NATIONAL NEWS

US Supremes To Look at Amendment 2 - The US Supreme Court has announced that it will review Colorado's infamous Amendment 2. The Amendment to the Colorado State Constitution was approved by the voters in a referendum held during the November elections in 1992. It voided local Gay civil rights ordinances in several Colorado communities and prohibited the passage and enforcement of any additional Gay rights laws anywhere in the state. The Colorado Supreme Court in a 6 to 1 decision set aside the amendment which set up the confrontation before the highest court in the land.

Louganis Has AIDS - Olympic Gold Medal Winning Diver, openly Gay Greg Louganis, announced during an interview with ABC's "20/20" program that he is HIV+. Louganis said he had tested positive for the HIV virus just before the 1988 Games in Seoul. During those games, Louganis cracked his head on a reverse dive and became "paralyzed with fear" when he started bleeding in the pool. He did not reveal his condition to the US Olympic Committee doctor who gave him five stitches and felt sure the chlorine in the water would kill the virus. The interview was televised on February 24, 1995.

Sex Habits Change - Nearly one in three Americans say they have changed their sex habits to avoid AIDS, including using condoms more and sleeping with fewer partners. Some have given up sex entirely. The survey was conducted by researchers from the University of Chicago.

Colorado Hate Crimes Amendment Dies - A bill to protect Gays and Lesbians from violence by including crimes against them in Colorado's Hate Crimes Statute died in Committee. The proposal was opposed by Colorado For Family Values (CFV) which also sponsored Amendment 2. During the Amendment 2 Campaign, CFV claimed that it was not in favor of violence against Gays and Lesbians.

Alaska Weighs In - An Alaskan Court has ruled that denying benefits to the same sex partner of an employee is a violation of Alaska State Law prohibiting discrimination based on marital status. The decision came in the case of two University of Alaska employees who were denied benefits for their same sex partners. The University said it will appeal.

TV Talk Show Murder - A Gay man, who was among the "Secret Admirers" on the "Jenny Jones Show," was killed three days later by the man he said he admired. Scott Amadure of Rochester, Michigan was killed by Jonathan T. Schmitz of Iron Township. Schmitz was arraigned on March 10 on charges of first degree murder and using a firearm in a felony.

Congratulations
to the
Wisconsin
Light

Alderman Paul Henningsen
Milwaukee's Fourth District
278-3774

April

STATE WIDE NEWS

PrideFest Announces Fireworks, New Features - PrideFest may not be moving to the Summerfest Grounds, but it will still be a great festival. The 1995 celebration will, for the first time, include a gala fireworks display, a Venetian-style boat parade, a fine arts fest, and a new activity tent. The Milwaukee Pride celebration will be held on June 10 and 11. Openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin will be the Grand Marshal of the Wisconsin Pride Parade.

Sum Of Us Has Special Screening - The "Sum of Us" an Australian movie about a Gay man and his Father was shown in a special screening sponsored by **The Wisconsin Light**. The showing sold out and raised nearly \$2,500 for Milwaukee's PrideFest.

GLB Professionals Meet In Madison - The newly formed Gay, Lesbian Bisexual Business and Professional Alliance attracted over 100 professionals to its meeting on April 10 at Fyfe's Corner Bistro in Madison.

Madison Gets Two New Gay/Lesbian Council Members - Openly Gay Mike Verveer and Openly Lesbian Judy Olson won election to the Madison Common Council on April 4. This brings the total of openly Lesbian and Gay candidates elected in Dane County to 14. No other locality or even state comes close to that number.

Out And About Week in Mad Town - The Ten Percent Society held its annual "Out and About Week" celebration in Madison. Events included a graduation reception, lectures, a comedy night and a dance.

Ron Geiman Honored - Hundreds of well-wishers and admirers turned out to honor **In Step** founder and former publisher, Ron Geiman at a special reception held in his honor. The event was organized by the Cream City foundation and sponsored by Miller Brewing, the Aids Resource Center of Wisconsin and **The Wisconsin Light**.



Raymond Murray autographed "Images in the Dark", his new book on Gay and Lesbian films for Peter L. Gebhardt at AfterWords Bookstore on April 14. A 25 minute retrospective video of Gays and Lesbians in the history of film was shown to an appreciative audience.

NATIONAL NEWS

Bible Belt Pride March - More than 3,000 marchers stood side by side on Saturday April 8 at the nation's kick off Pride event held in Columbia, South Carolina.

Brienza Suit Settled, Eliason Made to Pay - Fired UPI reporter, Julie Brienza, announced a \$255,000 settlement of a lawsuit she brought against UPI and Fundamentalist Milwaukee radio preacher, Vic Eliason. Brienza was fired from her job by UPI after Eliason mounted a campaign to have her terminated. Brienza charged that her termination was without merit and was based on Eliason's homophobia. As part of the settlement, Eliason also agreed to issue a public statement in which he acknowledges "the principle of equal employment opportunities for Gay man and Lesbians in the media."

Irish American Gays Take Case to US Supreme Court - The US Supreme Court held a hearing in the case of Hurley v Irish American Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Group on April 25. The suit seeks to determine whether the Massachusetts Public Accommodations Statute applies to the Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade. Parade organizers cancelled last year's event rather than include Gays and Lesbians. They claim that they are



1995—Tony Rhodes, President of the Board of the Cream City Foundation (l), presents an Award of Honor for Tom Reed, Director of Public Affairs for Miller Brewery. Accepting the Award for Reed is Jon Martin, Reed's partner.

not discriminating because "Lesbians and Gays are welcome to march as long as we don't know who they are."

Vermont Republican To Sponsor ENDA - Senator James Jeffords (R-VT) has agreed to be the lead sponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) which is designed to protect Gays and Lesbians from job discrimination. The Human Rights Campaign Fund asked Jeffords to assume the lead on the issue since Republicans now control the US Senate.

In the House of Representatives, the bill is sponsored by two openly Gay Congressmen, Barney Frank and Gerry Studds, both Democrats from Massachusetts and one Republican, Connie Morella from Maryland.

May

STATE WIDE NEWS

Mel White Draws 500 in Green Bay - More than 500 people turned out for a lecture by former Pat Robertson speech writer, Mel White. White called for a dialogue between the Religious Right and Gays and Lesbians.



Time to Sing—Artist Barry Manilow was given several gifts at his August 14 Milwaukee concert by the Cream City Chorus members, including a copy of **Wisconsin Light** which covered the 1994 Milwaukee concert at which the Chorus sang (See related article on page 9).

Mixner Leads Successful Fight in Montana - In a quick about face, the Montana State Senate, meeting in emergency session, dumped a provision in a bill requiring people convicted of homosexual acts and those with HIV and AIDS to register with the Police. The bill included homosexuality along with child molestation and rape as a crime for which a convicted person must register with the police. In Montana any same sex contact including kissing is punishable by up to 10 years in prison and fines of up to \$50,000. Sources say that Mixner turned the tide. By noon the day after the Senate had originally approved the bill, Mixner had over 6,000 telegrams and calls flooding the Governors office.

MASN Marks Ten Years - The Madison AIDS Support Network will celebrate its 10th anniversary with an open house on Monday, June 5.

Scheel House Construction Ahead of Schedule - Construction of the Rodney Scheel House for people living with AIDS is ahead of schedule. The 22 unit complex of apartment homes is nearing completion and will soon be accepting applications for residents.

Flying the Flag In Downtown Milwaukee - In a surprise gift to Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian Community, PrideFest Co-Director, Bill Meunier raised the money for and organized a massive display of the Rainbow Flag from light poles in downtown Milwaukee. The colors of Gay liberation now fly from 18 poles along Milwaukee's main street, Wisconsin Ave. and from 18 poles on Kilbourn Blvd, in the heart of what many consider to be the "Gay neighborhood." The flags will fly until October.



1995—National Spotlight—Several openly Gay and Lesbian state representatives were in Milwaukee July 16-20 for the National Conference of State Legislators' annual meeting including (l-r) Rep. Glen Maxey (Texas); Rep. Ken Chevront (Arizona); Rep. Tammy Baldwin (Wisconsin); and Time Van Zandt (Missouri).

NATIONAL NEWS

Gay Survivors Visit Dachau - About 1,000 Gay and Lesbian survivors of Dachau, the Nazi Concentration Camp, paid the camp a visit to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of their liberation. The Nazi's imprisoned, tortured and killed an estimated 1,000,000 Gays during their reign of terror. After liberation, Gays were forced by the Allies to serve out the sentences meted out to them by Nazi courts. To this day the German government has refused to apologize to Gays as it has to other groups.

Chicago Gay Men Win Round One - In the first test of Cook County, Illinois' new anti-discrimination law, an official with the Human Rights Commission ruled that a local sports bar discriminated against four Gay men when it had them removed and arrested for dancing together. The officer, Joanne Kinoy, recommended that the bar pay the highest possible fine. Her decision now goes to the full Commission for review.

Clinton Vetoes AIDS Housing Fund Cut - President Bill Clinton has vetoed a Congressional resolution that would have cut \$30 million from the \$186 million AIDS housing program, Housing Opportunities For People With AIDS. The veto means that Wisconsin will receive more than \$650,000 in AIDS Housing funding.

Rhode Island Joins In - Rhode Island became the Ninth State to offer civil rights protections to Gays and Lesbians within its borders.

June

STATE WIDE NEWS

Lesbian Avengers In Madison - The Lesbian Avengers, a new in your face Lesbian group, has formed a chapter in Madison. The new group has already planned its first action, a field trip to Chicago to link up with the Lesbian Avenger group there.

Wisconsin Supreme Court Upholds Lesbian Visitation Rights - In a far reaching decision, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled that Lesbian, Sandra Holtzman of Madison, may be legally entitled to visitation rights with the six year old son, a child who she helped the boy's biological mother, her former lover, raise. By a 4 to 3 margin, the court said that Elsbeth Knott, the boy's mother, may be required to grant the visitation rights.

Wayne Beatty

Jerry Johnson

Jerry Johnson

Jerry Johnson





1996—Milwaukee's In Between bar entered this prize-winning float in the 1996 Pride Parade which marched through the streets of downtown Milwaukee on June 9. Up against stiff competition, In Between's entry won a well-deserved first place award in the Float Category.

SINCE 1977

MILWAUKEE

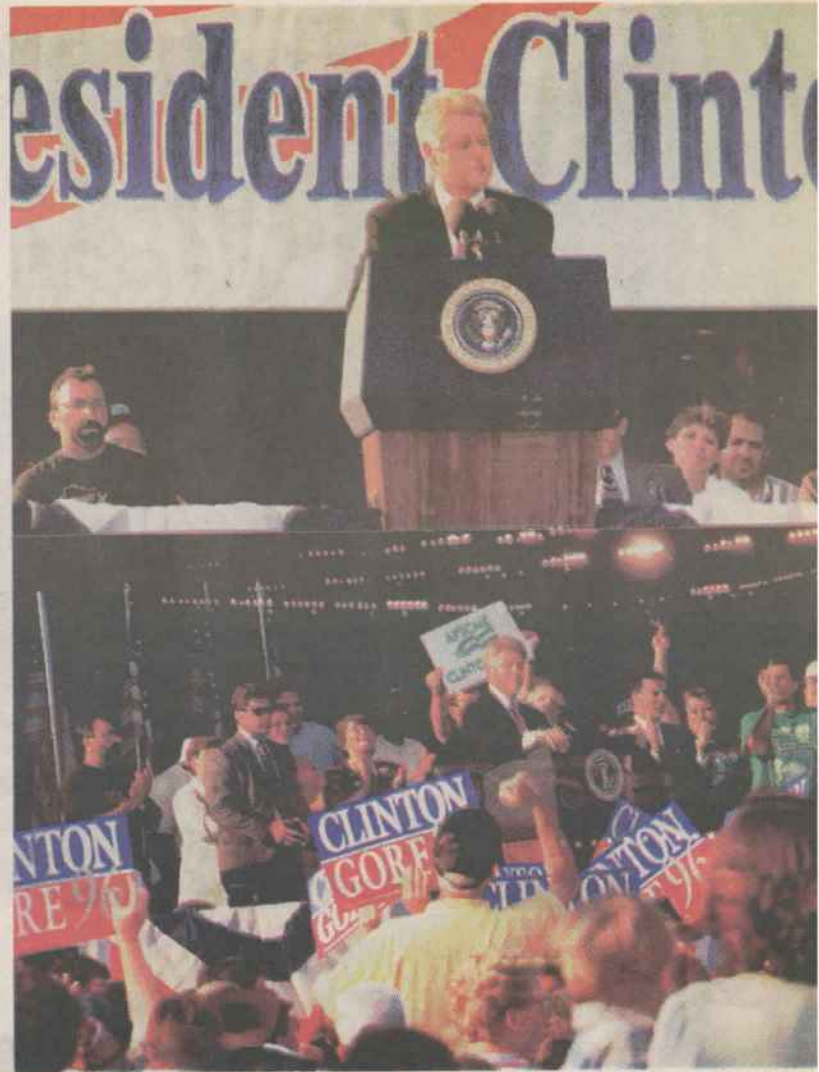
SATURDAY

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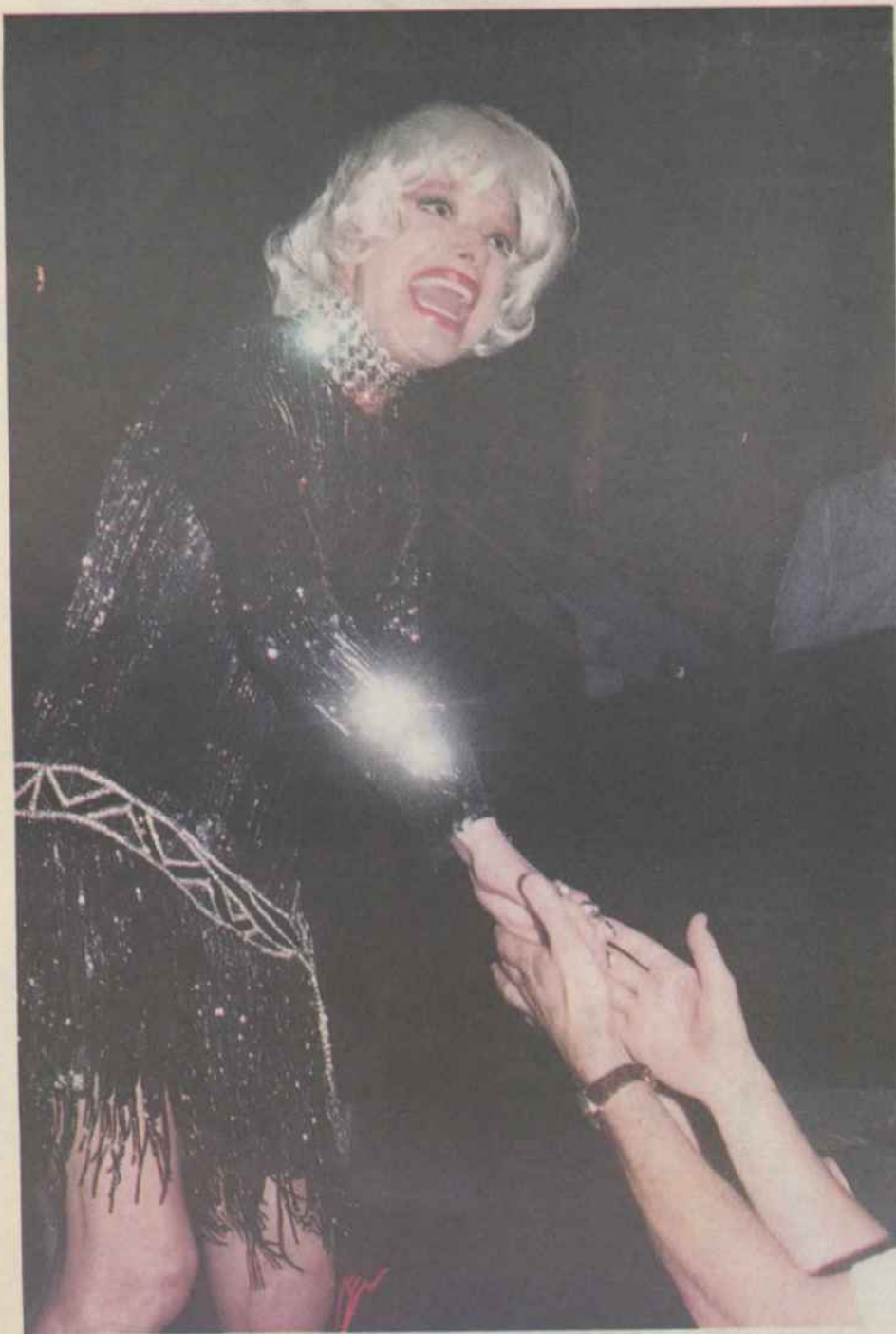
BALL

LEAGUE

Jerry Johnson



1996—The Campaign begins—The 1996 Presidential Election Campaign has now begun. Above are scenes from President Clinton's Labor Day appearance at Milwaukee's Labor W. Maier Festival Park. Shown at the right are President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore at the night of the Democratic Convention held in Chicago, August 26-29.



1995—Smiles All Around—Broadway star, Carol Channing greeted a capacity crowd at Milwaukee's Club 219+ bar on June 21, 1995. A benefit for the Milwaukee AIDS Project and the Broadway Cares Equity Fights AIDS, Miss Channing brought with her about 15 cast members from the national touring company of "Hello Dolly!" who performed a dance fantasy entitled "One Night in Heaven." The event raised about \$3,000.



1996—The morning after. The above photo shows the ruins of Madison's Hotel Was devastated by fire.



1996—The Cows Come Home—Miss Mona (center, left photo), won the client emergency fund. All contestants raised a total of \$5,700. The crowning is shown in the two photos.



Jerry Johnson



1996—Madison's The United gave awards to some of Mad Town's most distinguished Gays and Lesbians during its Awards dinner on July 12. Shown above (l-r) are: Pat Calchina, Woman of the Year; Larry Davis, Man of the Year; Jan Sheppard, Ally of the Year; the Board from Kissing Girls Productions, Organization of the Year; Jade River, Angela Prestil and Terri Vamey, Tony Luchessi, Volunteer of the Year; Greg Scheel and Sherri Scheel Nelson received a special award for the contributions of the Hotel Washington.

"A DECADE OF Light"

Jerry Johnson

est. Shown
ld at Henry
on the final



following a



1996—Bette Midler

Jerry Johnson



1997—Ruthie Wow's 'em at PrideFest.

Jerry Johnson



1996—With the State Capitol in the background, a group of marchers proudly carries the Rainbow Flag down State Street in Madison's Pride March on Sunday, July 21.

Bill Meunier



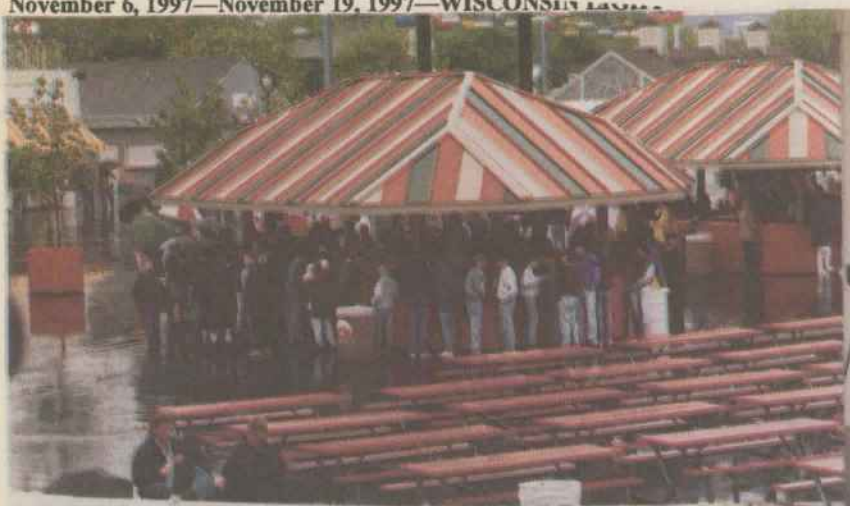
iss Gay Gala Gurnsey by raising the most money for Green Bay's Center Proj
d August 17, at the Napalese Lounge. The other contestants surround Miss Mc

Paty Cassidy



1997—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 Huguet, Man of the Year.

Brian Harder



Dornan Finds Backers Detractors in Wisconsin - California Congressman Robert Dornan's speech at the State Republican Convention found its share of its supporters and protestors. Dornan lashed out at Gays and Lesbians in his speech. About a dozen out of the 1,100 delegates, including some members of the Log Cabin Club, walked out of the hall in protest over his speech.

Thousands Attend PrideFest - Over 12,000 people attended PrideFest 95. The festival included 86 acts on three entertainment stages, a giant fireworks display, the Wisconsin Pride parade, a dance tent and more. Ron Geiman was given the Lifetime Achievement Award. Stonewall Awards went to Jan Doleshal, Mike Fitzpatrick, John Quinlan, Gary Wells and Dr. Terry Boughner of *The Wisconsin Light*. The Community Service Award was presented to Ross Walker and Erv Uecker of the BESTD Clinic.

NATIONAL NEWS

Helms Holds Up Ryan White Care Act - Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) has put a "hold" on consideration of the Ryan White Care Act. The hold indicates to the Republican Leadership that he will filibuster against the bill. Helms was one of only four Senators to vote against the Act in 1990. It is up for a five year reauthorization.

More Evidence That It's In the Genes - Researchers who transplanted a gene in male fruit flies turned the insects into Gay males that formed all male courtship chains and circles. The flies normally court with elaborate gender specific activities. Flies with the transplanted gene formed courtship chains of five or more individuals. Even when female fruit flies were added to the mix, the male suitors "rarely abandoned their partners to court the females." Transplanting the same gene into female fruit flies did not produce Lesbian flies.

States Line Up on Marriage Issue - Concern over the potential that Hawaii may soon legalize Same Sex Marriages has conservatives in several state legislatures rushing to pass bills that would outlaw recognition of Same Sex marriages performed there. The laws would be of questionable legal value. Many legal experts say that under the US Constitution all states are forced to recognize marriages performed in any other state. Others say that isn't necessarily true and states that pass these bills have a good chance to avoiding recognizing Hawaiian Same Sex marriages. So far only Utah has passed an anti-Gay marriage law. An effort to do the same failed in South Dakota, but activists there expect it to be brought up again.

Supremes Say Gays Can Be Banned From Parade - In a unanimous decision, the US Supreme Court ruled that the South Boston Veterans Council, which sponsors that City's St. Pat's Day parade, may bar Gays and Lesbians from joining in. The Justices said that the veterans have a free speech right to put on a parade that represent their viewpoints.



Pride on Parade—A scene from the 1995 Madison rally, heading down State Street with the State Capitol building in the background.

Dianna Summers, Ally of the Year and Jim Seals, Volunteer of the Year. The Dinner was part of Madison's MAGIC Picnic/Pride Weekend. An estimated 2,000 people attended the MAGIC picnic and an estimated 1,500 people marched in the annual Pride Parade.

NATIONAL NEWS

Thousands March As St. Patrick's Bells Ring Out - Some say it was coincidence, some say it was deliberate, but whatever the case was, as New York's Gay Pride Parade marched past its venerable St. Patrick's Cathedral, the church bells began to ring out the jubilant and victorious "Song of Joy." Inside, Cardinal John O'Conner, long a target for Anti-Gay protests gave a sermon in which he called for peace and reconciliation with Gays and Lesbians.

"Most people whose sexual orientation differs from the majority are good decent people who try to lead responsible lives," O'Connor said from the pulpit. He went on to condemn violence against Gays and Lesbians and urged the congregation not to judge people "because of their of their sexual orientation."

DC Court Rules In Favor of Gay Adoption - A District of Columbia Court has ruled that a Gay couple may adopt a child under District of Columbia law as long as the adoption is in the child's best interest.

NGLTF Keeps Legislative Score - A new report issued by the National Gay Lesbian Task Force titled "Beyond the Beltway: State of the States 1995," says that anti-Gay attacks in State legislatures are pervasive throughout the country. According to the report Gay related legislation moved forward in 33 states with 30 states being the sites of anti-Gay measures. The report notes that many of the anti-Gay measures focused on the areas of the family and education, curtailing rights to adoption and foster care and mandating only negative references to Gay-related issues and individuals.

Actor Comes Out - Dan Butler who plays Bulldog Briscoe, a confrontational sportscaster on the TV hit sitcom 'Frasier,' has come out of the closet and announced that he is Gay.



1995—A Historic Evening—Al Calbreath, Larry Krueger and Alderman Paul Henningsen were among 250 who attended the gala reception to celebrate the Milwaukee opening of "The Advocate" magazine's 25 years of Gay/Lesbian history exhibit at Milwaukee's City Hall on Sept. 5. The benefit raised \$5,000 for the 1996 PrideFest celebration.

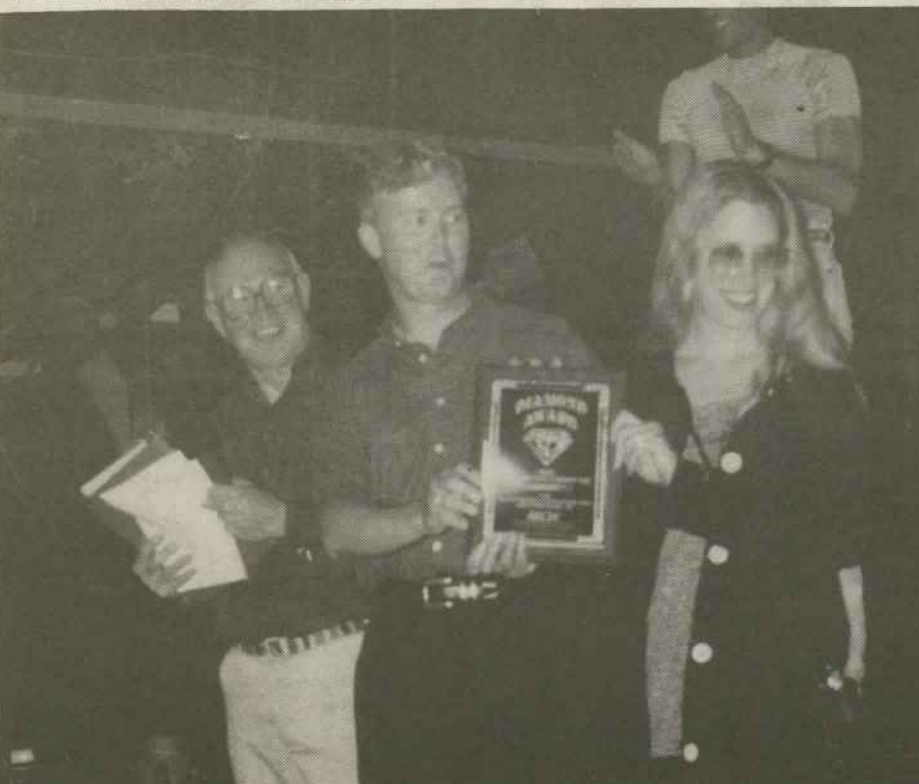
July

STATE WIDE NEWS

Carol Channing Wows 'Em In Milwaukee - Carol Channing greeted a capacity crowd at Milwaukee's Club 219 where she performed in a special AIDS benefit. Channing, who is in town for with her nationally touring show "Hello Dolly" brought along cast members from her troupe. Half of the proceeds were donated to the board of Equity Fights AIDS and half went to MAP. The show raised about \$3,000.

Madison Radio Show Celebrates First Birthday - Madison's only LesBiGay Radio Show "Sunday Night Out," celebrated its first year on the air by broadcasting live from the Hotel Washington on Sunday, July 16 from 6 to 8 PM. The anniversary show featured a Gay and Lesbian spoof of the "Family Feud" game along with a community speak out.

United Awards Dinner - Madison's United held its annual Awards Dinner and presented awards to: Steve Starkey, Man of the Year, Maria Hansen, Woman of the Year,



40 Carat Volunteers—Bill Manly, member of ARCW's Development Committee, presented MAP volunteers John VandeWalle and Susie Bauer a plaque in honor of their having helped raise \$75,000 for the organization. They serve as co-chairs of the Arts Auction Committee of MAP. The presentation was held on June 21 at Milwaukee's Club 219+ bar. Earlier, Broadway star, Carol Channing, had awarded John and Susie her famous Diamond Award.



We at
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**THE
 WISCONSIN LIGHT** on its
 10th year of advancing the
 covert homosexual agenda.

**COMMUNITY
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341 STATE STREET, MADISON, WISCONSIN 251-3242. PRESCRIPTIONS 251-4454

August

STATE WIDE NEWS

Rodney Scheel House Opens Doors - A dream was realized as the Rodney Scheel House opened its doors to people living with AIDS. The 22 unit Apartment Complex was the dream of the late Rodney Scheel, a community leader who died from AIDS in 1994.

Long Road to Freedom Exhibit Coming to Milwaukee - The nationally renowned exhibit "The Long Road to Freedom," a chronicle of *The Advocate's* first 25 years, will be coming to Milwaukee thanks to the efforts of Attorney Steve Brondino and PrideFest. A gala opening night reception will be held at Milwaukee's City Hall. The reception will be a benefit for PrideFest. It is the first time any Gay or Lesbian group has held an official event at the 100 year old building.

NATIONAL NEWS

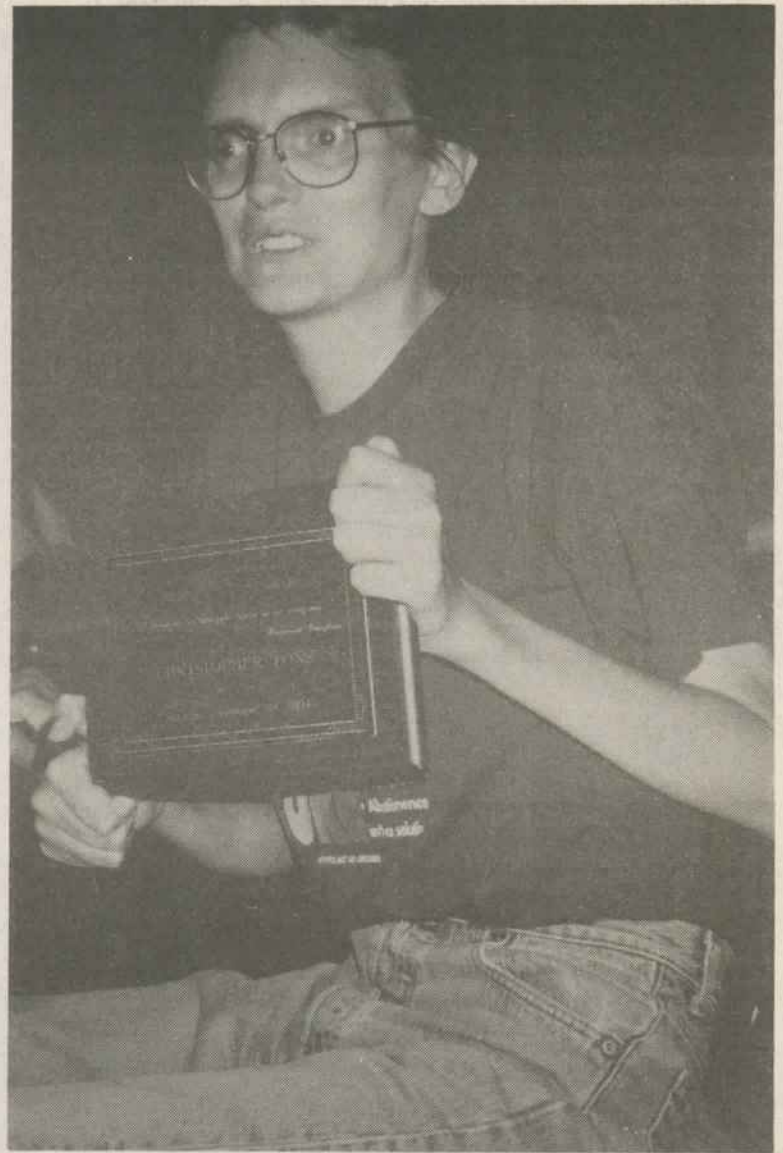
Zimbabwe Bans Gay Books - The government of Zimbabwe demanded that a Gay literature exhibit be withdrawn from Southern Africa's biggest book fair, accusing organizers of trying to force "the Gay lifestyle" on the public. In past years, Gay activists have been threatened with arrest. Meetings of Gay groups have been disrupted by government police and literature has been seized but there have been no prosecutions. Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe denounced Gays as "sodomists and sexual perverts." His actions were condemned in a letter signed by 70 US Congressmen. Mugabe lashed out at the US saying, "Let the Americans keep their sodomy, bestiality, stupid and foolish ways to themselves."

Maine Will Vote on Gay Rights - The Maine Supreme Court cleared the way for an anti-Gay measure to come up for a vote. The court said that referendum question posed by Concerned Maine Families (CMF) was neither misleading nor a disguised attempt to amend the State Constitution.

Clinton Ends 40 Years of Discrimination - President Bill Clinton wiped out 40 years of discrimination against Gays and Lesbians seeking security clearances with the stroke of a pen. The President signed and then issued a 13 Page Executive Order that states in part "The United States Government does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation in granting access to classified information."

Gay Republicans Hold Convention As Dole Returns Their Money - A Gay Republican group, the Log Cabin Club, decided to embrace rather than boycott the city of Cincinnati even though it had voted overwhelmingly to deny basic civil rights to its Gay and Lesbian population. While they were meeting, the Log Cabin group learned that Presidential Candidate Bob Dole had returned the donation the group had sent to his campaign. A Dole spokesperson said the Senator returned the donation because he "does not agree with their views."

To Wong Foo...Jeffery Open in September - The hilarious movie, "Too Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything Julie Newmar" and the movie "Jeffery", based on the hit play of the same name, open in September. "To Wong Foo" stars Wesley Snipes and Patrick Swazye, two actors who normally play macho action heroes along with John Leguizamo as three drag queens on a cross country trip. "Jeffery" is the story of a Gay man who gives up sex because of the AIDS crisis.



CHRISTOPHER FONS
HEART AND SOUL OF ACT UP MILWAUKEE
Gay ACTIVIST
1967-1995

Shocking Gray Mail Order Goes Under - In what should not have been a shock, Shocking Gray, a Gay and Lesbian mail order business, went out of business. Shocking Gray was one of the nation's leading mail order companies for Gays and Lesbians. Sources say that poor management policies were responsible for its demise. In recent months there had been persistent reports of slow service with some customers waiting for months to receive items they had ordered.

October

STATE WIDE NEWS

Alderman Verveer Rescues MASN Funding - Openly Gay Alderman Mike Verveer led the charge to rescue MASN's City of Madison funding. Verveer helped to convince the powerful Board of Estimates, of which he is a member, not to cut funding for the Madison AIDS Support Network. The funding, \$25,820, is used to provide money for MASN's Gay and Lesbian outreach. Verveer had an hour-long meeting with Madison Mayor Paul Soglin about the matter. When the MASN money came up for a vote, the Mayor broke a 3 to 3 tie by voting in favor of the allocation.

Human Rights League Coming Out Day Awards - The Human Rights League presented its Coming Out Day Awards at an elected officials reception. The awards are given to those who have been "out" for three years or less. The winners were Attorney Steve Brondino, Ujima, Afterwords books, and SAGE-Milwaukee.

NATIONAL NEWS

Maine Ballot Measure To Be Voted On In November - Well funded Christian Right organizations are pouring money into Maine to help boost a state wide referendum. There are fears that if it passes, "clones" of the measure will appear on the ballot in other states around the country. The measure is specifically designed to resist the kind of court challenges seen in the battle over Colorado's Amendment 2. It does so by listing the groups that would be eligible for civil rights protection. Gays and Lesbians aren't on the list.

Disney Extends Domestic Partnership Coverage - The Walt Disney Company will offer health insurance to partners of its Gay and Lesbian employees and their dependent children. The new policy goes into effect on January 1st.

Clinton Comes Out For ENDA - Fulfilling another of his campaign promises, President Bill Clinton announced his support for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, ENDA. ENDA would ban job discrimination based on sexual orientation.



1995—"Liberace" is joined by other assorted characters to celebrate Hallowe'en at This Is It.

September

STATEWIDE NEWS

City Hall Gayla A Success - Over 250 people attended the Milwaukee City Hall Gayla, opening night reception for "The Long Road to Freedom" The exhibit, which chronicles the first 25 years of *The Advocate*, will be moved to the Milwaukee Public Library where it will be on display for three weeks and will then go to Madison where it will be on display for two weeks. The event raised \$5,000 for PrideFest. It was sponsored by the Cream City Foundation, Miller Brewing, the Seagrams Company, *The Wisconsin Light* and PrideFest.

Cream City Foundation Hosts Conference - Milwaukee's Cream City Foundation will host a national conference of Gay and Lesbian Foundations in Milwaukee. Co-hosts are the New Harvest Foundation in Madison and the Philanthrofund of St. Paul, Minnesota. The conference will include workshops and seminars focusing on topics such as fund development, staffing issues, and community relationships.

Record Breaking Crowd at AIDS Walk Wisconsin - Over 10,000 walkers raised \$750,000 at AIDS Walk Wisconsin. The honorary chairs for the event were Vice President Al Gore and his wife Tipper. The Vice President was unable to attend in person, but his wife Tipper did an admirable job in firing up the walkers. Ms. Gore praised Gays who are out of the closet during an exclusive interview with *The Wisconsin Light*.

Coming Out Day Celebrations - Coming Out Day activities are being planned around the state. The Human Rights League in Milwaukee and UW's 10% Society in Madison have taken the lead in promoting the celebration by sponsoring a wide variety of events.

NATIONAL NEWS

Fallout Continues Over Dole Returning Money - Presidential Candidate Senator Bob Dole (R-Kansas) has continued to get fallout for returning a \$1,000 donation made to his campaign by the Log Cabin Club, a group of Gay and Lesbian Republicans. Gay Congressman, Steve Gunderson (R-WI) sent Dole a letter questioning his action. Furthermore, the news media has been continually questioning Dole about the matter.

New Hampshire School Board Vote Inspires Controversy - A vote by the Merrimack New Hampshire School Board to ban books, discussions or counseling that presents Gay people in a positive light, has attracted a national spotlight to this New England town.

Gay School Board Member Loses in Iowa Election - Jonathon Wilson a member of the Des Moines School Board for 12 years, lost his bid for re-election. Wilson who had announced that he is Gay, was targeted for defeat by the Christian Coalition.



Showing their Colors—On October 7, twelve leather/levi social clubs gathered in Milwaukee. Six clubs represented Milwaukee, Madison and Green Bay, while six clubs represented Chicago. Representatives from several clubs were photo grouped at the Wreck Room. They are (front l-r): Kurt Von Rayoum, Firebirds; T. Philln, Hellfire; Paul Laws, M.A.F.I.A. Chicago; (back row l-r) Staarr S.A. Petersen, Unicorns of Madison; Tom Ryan, Castaways; Steve Jones, Argonauts of Green Bay; John Wilke, Oberons; Nancy Lee Weinberger, Leather United of Chicago. Proceeds of \$210 were donated by the clubs to MAP's hospice.

Cautious Optimism Follows Supremes Hearing on Amendment 2 - Gay and Lesbian leaders were cautiously optimistic after the US Supreme Court's hearing on Colorado's Amendment 2. That optimism is founded on the questions asked of the lawyers for both sides while they were arguing their cases before the highest court in the land. Judge Sandra Day O'Connor opined that the law seemed "so broad" that it "would seem to allow a library to refuse books" to Gay people. Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a Clinton appointee, struck hard, asking Colorado's Defense attorneys "whether in all of US History there has ever been any legislation like this that earmarks a group." Colorado Solicitor General Tim Tymkovich stumbled admitting that Amendment 2 was "unusual."

On the other side of the coin, Justice Antonin Scalia, a Reagan appointee, said the Amendment 2 case reminded him of the 1986 Bowers v Hardwick decision that said states could prohibit sodomy between same sex couples. Scalia also said that the amendment represented "special protection" for Gays and Lesbians.

Jean Dubofsky, lead attorney in the team challenging the Amendment, countered saying that there was no such thing as "special protection;" that the amendment didn't involve that. What it did involve, she said, "is the right everyone has to be free from discrimination." By Amendment 2, she went on, Lesbians and Gays and Lesbians and Gays alone, are singled out as being precluded from laws protecting them against discrimination.

Observers say Dubofsky's argument gets to the heart of the what pro-Gay attorneys and the Colorado Supreme Court were saying; that voters can't block any identifiable groups from using the political process as all citizens can. The law must be uniform they argue. If Gays are not to be protected then Italians, African-Americans and whoever, can't be protected either.

Many observers said that given the tone of the questions and the fact that only one Justice seem hostile to those opposing Amendment 2, seems to bode well for a favorable outlook. There is no way to determine when the Court will issue its decision.

November

STATE WIDE NEWS

Summerfest Grounds Here We Come! - The Summerfest Board unanimously approved a deal to bring Milwaukee's PrideFest celebration to Henry W. Maier Festival Park, the Summerfest grounds. The deal negotiated by PrideFest Co-Director, Bill Meunier and the Summerfest staff means that effective June, 1996, PrideFest will be held in one of the most prestigious festival locations anywhere in the world. The unanimous vote culminates almost two years of trying to move the festival to Summerfest. Responding to Community concerns, Meunier pledged that the move will not "change the character of the festival," promising that PrideFest would never be just a Gay party.

MAP Starts Client Advocacy Position- The Milwaukee AIDS Project has announced the creation of a Client Advocacy position. The position was created following a series of community forums about MAP and its service delivery. A common complaint heard in the forums was that Gay and Lesbian clients were having trouble accessing MAP services. "That's unacceptable," said Doug Nelson, Executive Director. "The Client Advocate will break down the barriers, cut through the red tape and get quick action on client complaints." When asked what he meant by "quick action" Nelson responded "Within 24 hours."

Gotzler Announces Candidacy For Alderman - Milwaukee Lesbian activist, Karen Gotzler, announced her candidacy for Alderman in Milwaukee's liberal East Side. Gotzler, who co-founded the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee, has been involved with a number of Les/Bi/Gay organizations over the years.

CAIR Center College Gets \$2.6 Million Grant - The Medical College of Wisconsin's CAIR Program has received a grant of \$2.6 million to study ways that can be used to transfer successful AIDS prevention approaches from the research arena to the field staff of AIDS organizations in 75 cities around the country.

Gay Float In Duluth Christmas Parade - The Northland Men's Center of Duluth (MN) and Superior (WI) announced that it has been invited to and will display a float in the 37th Annual Duluth Christmas parade. The float which was designed by members of the Twin Ports Gay and Lesbian community, will be decorated to reflect the theme "A Country Christmas." Several people plan to dress in costume and share their singing talents.

NATIONAL NEWS

Victory Over Religious Right In Maine - The voters of Maine rejected a Religious Right wing attempt to legalize Anti-Gay discrimination by a 52% to 48% vote. The right wing poured tens of thousands of dollars into their campaign to make Maine the first state East of the Rockies to "forever" forbid measures that protect Gays from discrimination.

The amendment known as Measure 1 was insidious in its wording. Rather than single out Lesbians and Gays and risk running into the legal problems experienced by Colorado's Amendment 2, Measure 1 simply listed groups that would be eligible for civil rights protection. The Human Rights Campaign was so concerned about the outcome of this vote that it sent eight of its own staff to fan out across the state and help mobilize supporters of equality.

On election day, Right Wing zealots tried to intimidate pro-civil rights voters by turning out in force taking pictures at polling places with video cameras. The Religious Right had observers at every polling place and challenged voters to prove they were registered. This took time and the lines were long.

The count see-sawed for hours after the polls had closed before the trend against the measure became irrefutably clear.

Some analysts say that fiercely independent Maine residents resented the outside interference of Radical Right organizers from other states. Furthermore, they said that the campaign backfired, instead of pushing Gays and Lesbians back into the closet, it prompted many especially those living in rural areas to come out of the closet.

New AIDS Drugs Approved - The Federal Food And Drug Administration has approved the use of two new drugs that will help increase the effectiveness of other AIDS medications. The drugs are known as "protease inhibitors" The new drugs are, Saquinavir and 3TC. They are the first of what is expected to be a whole new line of drugs to fight the AIDS epidemic.

House Republicans To Gays: "Die Lonely" - The Republican controlled House of Representatives voted on November 1 to repeal a DC law allowing hospital visitation rights and equal access to health benefits for two people living together as a family for more than six months. In voting to revoke the law, Conservatives repeatedly denounced the fact that it would include Gays and Lesbians. "Denying hospital rights to two people who live together and care for each other is about as mean spirited as you can get" said HRC's Executive Director, Elizabeth Birch.

December

STATE WIDE NEWS



Making History—On Sept. 5, some 250 people attended the Milwaukee opening of "The Long Road to Freedom" history exhibit at City Hall. The exhibit then moved to the downtown library. The display will move to Madison where it will be on exhibit through October 30 at the Civic Center (See related photos on pages 5 and 6).

STATE WIDE NEWS

Concert Is Joint Fund Raiser - A special concert of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra will benefit six Milwaukee area organizations, MAP, PrideFest, the BESTD Clinic, the Galano Club, LAMM and St. Camillus. The program which will be offered on Thursday April 4 features works by Mozart and Bernstein.

Woman Wounded At End of Madison Police Chase - Kitty Barber, a Milwaukee Lesbian activist, was wounded by Madison Police following a high speed chase at 2:00 AM, Friday morning, December 1st. According to reports the Police spotted Barber's minivan speeding. A high speed chase resulted from her refusal to pull over. Twenty minutes into the chase, Barber pulled into a Super America Gas station. She exited the van and pulled out a gun. The police then shot her three times. Barber had moved to Madison to attend the University of Wisconsin Law School.

NATIONAL NEWS

Religious Right Grinches - The Lower Keys Ministerial Association, organizer of the Key West Christmas parade refused to allow the Metropolitan Community Church to participate in this year's festivities. The exclusion brought a sharp response from the area's sizable Gay and Lesbian community. Some 200 Gay churchgoers held a prayer vigil as the parade passed them by.

Book Banning Overruled - A federal Judge, G. Thomas Van Bebber ruled that School Board members in the Olathe (KS) School District violated the first amendment when they removed the book "Annie on My Mind" in January, 1994 because they disagreed with its Lesbian content.

Harvey Milk Remembered - San Francisco's first openly Gay Supervisor and its Mayor George Moscone were assassinated on November 27, 1978 by former Supervisor Dan White. Each year since the killings, the Harvey Milk Democratic Club sponsors a candlelight vigil that begins in the Castro and ends at City Hall. This year was no exception. Over 300 marched quietly down Market Street to remember America's first openly Gay elected official.



Cream City Bricks—The Awardees gathered after receiving their awards at the February 8, 1995 Human Rights League's Annual Meeting.

1996 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

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

JANUARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FEBRUARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Party Cassidy

Pageant Finalists Several of the runners up winners at Pageant 96 are shown above. For Miss Gay Wisconsin the runners up are first Trey C. Share, Second Lillie White, Third Billie Blaze, and Fourth Vanity Fair. The Mr. Gay Wisconsin runners up are First Johnny B. Good, Second Kelvin Heyden, Third Charles Daniels, Fourth Juan Rodriguez.

MARCH

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

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

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

The Wisconsin Light celebrates issue number 200.

MAP's Make a Promise Dinner sells out.

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

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

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

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

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

Mindful of the boycott caused by Amendment 2, Colorado Governor Buddy Roemer ve-

toes legislation to ban that state's recognition of same sex marriages.

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

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

APRIL

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

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

Superior's Bob Jansen is named honorary Grand Marshal of the Twin Cities Pride Parade.

In La Crosse, Logan High School Administrators recalled a student newspaper, *The Ranger Report*, after the paper's "April Fools Day" edition ran a column calling for Gays to be shot. While the columnist was merely sent home early, a student who protested the column was suspended.

In Step was sold to Bill Attewell and his partner of Wells Inc., the publisher of *Q Voice*.

AIDS advocates are outraged when State of Wisconsin Health Secretary, Joe Leann withdrew his own request for funds to pay for protease inhibitor drugs for those who can not afford them.

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

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



1996—Tom Reed (l) of Miller Brewery presents a check for \$10,000 for the Cream City Foundation (CCF) to Tony Rhodes, CCF's president.

MAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JUNE

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



Jerry Johnson

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



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

OCTOBER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



1996—Mandi McCall, popular female impersonator, was murdered in January.

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

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

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

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

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

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

DECEMBER

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

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

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

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

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

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

NATIONALLY

Schmitz Sentenced - Jonathan Schmitz is sentenced to at least 20 years in prison following his Michigan conviction in the murder of Scott Amedure. Amedure went on the "Jenny Jones Show" and announced that he had a crush on Schmitz, who was then brought on stage. Three days after the show, Schmitz murdered Amedure.

Marriage—The battle for same-sex marriage in Hawaii heated up when the State Attorney General ruled that a Constitutional Convention must be called. Such a convention would undoubtedly outlaw same-sex marriages. Lawsuits immediately followed the Attorney General's decision.

Time Magazine - Dr. David Ho, the scientist who developed the new AIDS drugs treatment using protease inhibitors is named by Time as its Man Of The Year.

Court Goes Too Far - An appeals court in Washington State ruled that a lower court "went too far" when it ordered a Gay man not to show affection for his lover in front of his children.



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

NOVEMBER

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

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

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

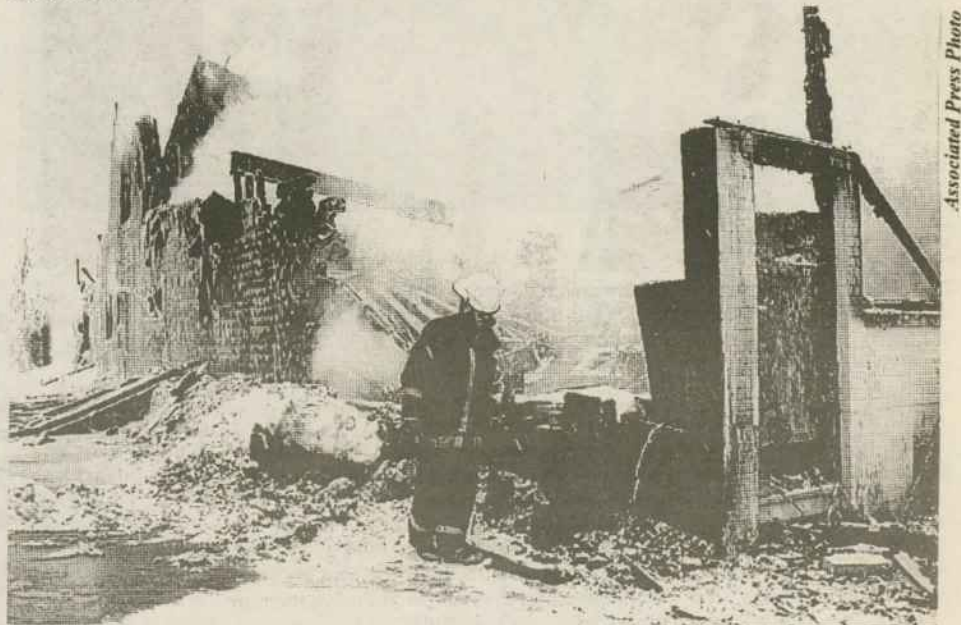
Over 250 people attend the New Harvest Foundation Dinner Dance in Madison.

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

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



Wedding Bells - The Kenwood Methodist Church in Milwaukee was the site of a Gay wedding on Saturday December 21. The ceremony was followed by a wonderful reception at Just Us. Shown above L-R are Groom/Bride Rob Gerpoltz, MCC Minister Ted Berg and Bride/Groom Yuri Koegstra. Rumor has it that they are planning a honeymoon trip to the Caribbean. (Don't you just hate them for that!)



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

Decade
of
Light



1996—Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist presents his Proclamation to the GLBT Community at PrideFest.

dom distribution at the Fest is prohibited.

Madison's United names De Ette Tomlinson as its new Executive Director. Milwaukee's Cream City Foundation announces that its 1995 Workplace Giving Campaign garnered more than \$22,000, a new record in donations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

July

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

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

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

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



The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation held their 8th annual GLAAD Media Awards on Sunday, March 16, at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles. Local business man, Jon Martin and Paul Milakovich of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) attended the event. Martin is CEO of Landmark Enterprises, a division of The Rittenhouse Group. Milakovich has just celebrated his 6th Anniversary of service at MAP.

Prior to the Awards ceremony, Martin hosted a cocktail reception for VIPs in his suite at the Century Plaza. Among those attending were David Mixer, William Waybourn, managing director of GLAAD, and Chastity Bono who got added support from her mom, Cher. Martin is pictured above with Ms. Bono.

The affair continued with a silent auction followed by a dinner and the awards presentation, one of whose sponsors was Miller Brewery. Among those attending the ceremony was Ellen DeGeneres, Gregory Peck, Ed McMahon, Tracey Ullman, Valerie Bertinelli, Mitchel Anderson and Lily Tomlin.

Openly Gay Republican Congressman, Steve Gunderson agrees to run for re-election as a write-in candidate, but then backs out after reportedly after House Speaker Newt Gingrich tells him that the Right Wing is lining up against him and will spread rumors that he and his partner have HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

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

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

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

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

AUGUST

LOCALLY: Racine forms its first ever Gay Youth Organization YFY, Youth For Youth. Ralph Overdahl's Wisconsin Christians United, a Right Wing group, circulates a flyer

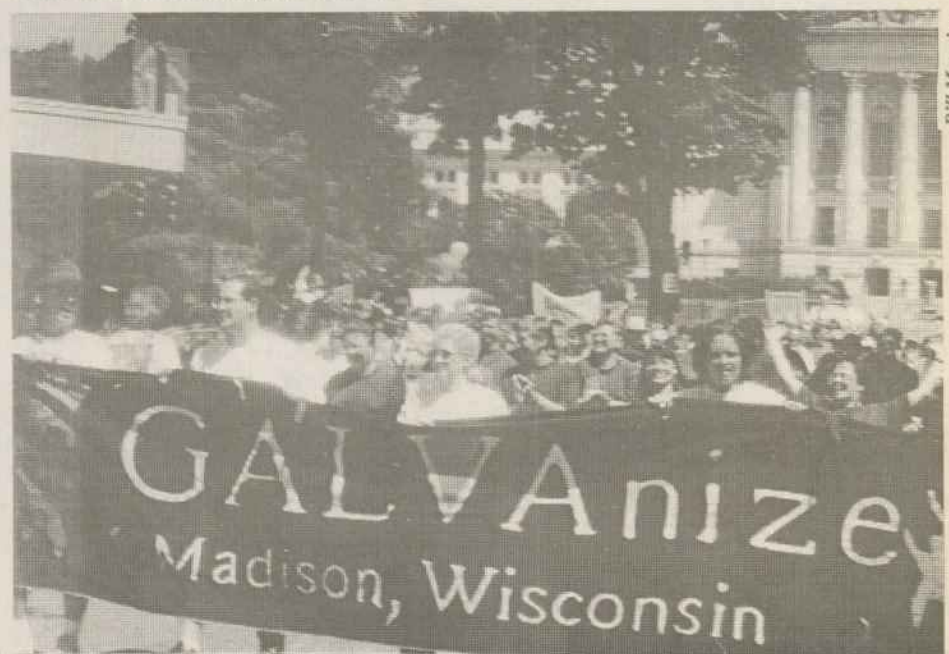
claiming that State Representative Tim Carpenter (D-Mil) is Gay. The basis for this allegation is an article that Carpenter once wrote for **Wisconsin Light**. (Ed. Note: No inference concerning sexual orientation can be made from one's name or picture appearing in the paper.)

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

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

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

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



Pride March - The Galvanize banner led off a spirited Madison Pride Parade in July. The parade drew 5,000.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEPTEMBER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1996—Bette Midler, AIDS Walk Wisconsin's Honorary Chair

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



A Group Shot - Richard Elovich, Director of the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York (front row left) posed for this shot with participants in the workshop he led at the Milwaukee AIDS Project.

1997

At this writing, 1997 is not yet complete but it has been a very interesting year. We began 1997 with the news that a tragic fire in Superior took the lives of two Gay men and destroyed one of Northern Wisconsin's finest Gay gathering places, the Main Club. We leave the chronicle of our history with the Decade of Light celebrations.

In between we saw the bigotry of the Religious right surface in Wisconsin during the debate on the Anti-Same Sex Marriage bill. The bill passed the State Assembly, but the debate convinced many State Representatives that something had to be done to protect the rights of Gay and Lesbian couples.

We also saw the US Supreme Court refuse to even consider overturning the hated "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on Gays and Lesbians in the military.

On the plus side President Bill Clinton made more Gay and Lesbian appointments. Tammy Baldwin began preparations to run for Congress and Milwaukee's new community center is getting off the ground.

Ellen came out of the closet and this fall there are more Gay and Lesbian characters on TV than ever before.

The AIDS crisis continues. The hope raised by the new protease inhibitors has begun to fade with the news that they will work on only half (or less) of those suffering with HIV. Still, a recent report indicates that the study on which the news was based is, itself, flawed. Nevertheless the fight against this killer goes on as it must. The Center Project in Green Bay merged with the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, MAP began a new Dental Clinic and AIDS Walk Wisconsin raised over \$800,000.

All that and more has happened (so far) in 1997.



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

January

STATE WIDE NEWS

Two Die As Superior's Main Club Burns Down - The Main Club, one of Les/Bi/Gay Wisconsin's most endearing landmarks burned to the ground in an early morning fire that occurred shortly after closing on Friday December 27. Laird Rengo, 40 of Duluth and Montrio "Troy" Burchard 34, were killed in the fire. The two men were in Burchard's apartment above the bar. The blaze was reported at 3:00 AM. Superior's Fire fighters arrived within minutes but the building was already engulfed in flames by that point. The bar, which was the first Les/Bi/Gay bar in Northern Wisconsin, was THE stop for vacationers and locals alike. Most of the Twin Ports community had "come out" at the Main Club. It's very existence flew in the face of those who thought that Gay culture could only exist in "big cities."

A Devastated Gay community was left mourning the loss of two of its more popular members and of its favorite place to gather. By Sunday, flowers left by concerned regulars and other members of the community were seen at the site. The cause of the fire is under investigation, but initial reports indicated that arson was not suspected.

Evita Screening - A special advance screening of the new movie "Evita" based on the smash hit Broadway play of the same name was held on January 7th. A packed house enjoyed the film which was followed by a special Madonna Party at La Cage. Both the screening and party were sponsored by The Wisconsin Light

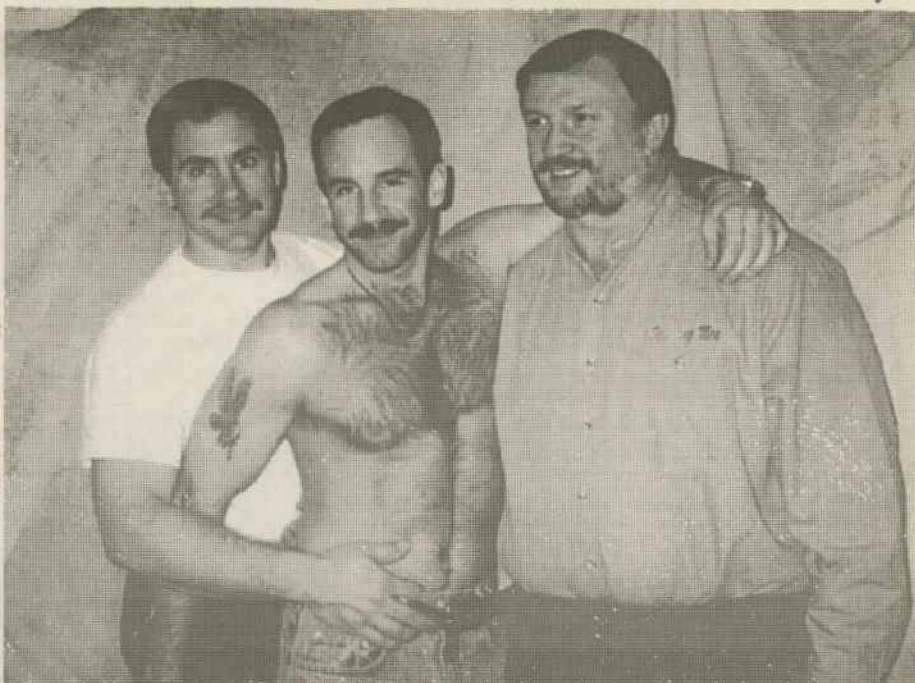
Wisconsin Light Names Woman, Man of the Year - The Wisconsin Light named Madison's Greg Scheel as its man of the year and Karen Gotzler of Milwaukee as its woman of the year. Scheel has been working hard to rebuild the Hotel Washington. Furthermore he is instrumental in making sure the MAGIC picnic continues, helped to found the Rodney Scheel House for people with AIDS and has supported a variety of Gay and Lesbian causes. Gotzler is a long time Lesbian activist. Gotzler lost a bid for alderman last year. Both were cited for the strength and courage they have shown in the face of adversity.

Supermodel Raises \$2,000 for CCF - Supermodel Steve Kelso was in Milwaukee raising money. By the time he was done, the Cream City Foundation was \$2,000 better off. Kelso posed for photos and sold videos and calendars at Designing Men, This Is It and Mama Roux.

Hotel Washington Grant - Madison Mayor Paul Soglin and Openly Gay Alderman, Mike Verveer, led the way in getting approval for a TIF Grant to help rebuild the Hotel Washington. The TIF package was the last piece of needed financing to get the Hotel construction underway.

Run Dick Run - Former Dane County Board Chairman, openly Gay Dick Wagner, is engaged in the political fight of his life. Wagner is in a close race for Dane County Executive. The other major candidates are Attorney Kathleen Falk and current County Board Chairman, Michael Blaska.

Milwaukee Chief Names Les/Bi/Gay Liaison - New Milwaukee Police Chief Arthur Jones has named a liaison to help resolve complaints and issues between the Police and Milwaukee's LGBT community.



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

NATIONAL NEWS

US Gives Asylum to Gays and Lesbians - In a quiet change in policy the Clinton administration has ordered the Immigration Service to consider granting asylum to Gays and Lesbians who were forced to flee their country due to homophobic persecution. More than 40 Gay men and Lesbians have been granted political asylum because of the persecution in their homelands.

Talk Show Murder Conviction - On December 4 Jonathan Schmitz was convicted in the shotgun slaying of Scott Amedure. The March 6, 1995 murder attracted national attention. Schmitz was angry because Amedure identified him as the object of a secret crush on the "Jenny Jones" show. Schmitz was sentenced to 25 to 50 years in prison. His attorneys say they will appeal.

Court Reverse Decision on Gay Father - The Washington State Appellate Court reversed a lower court decision ordering a Gay father not to display affection with a partner in front of his four children. The Appellate panel said the trial court had abused its discretion by restricting parental rights on the grounds of sexual orientation. They added that there was no evidence that the father, Ward Wicklund had behaved inappropriately in front of his children.

Israeli President Apologizes - Israeli President Ezer Weizman apologized to Lesbians and Gays for his statements about homosexuality. The remarks sparked calls for Weizman's resignation. The President told High School students that homosexuality "disgusted" him and was "completely deviant." He added that "like alcoholism, I don't think we need to encourage it or say it is something wonderful."

The speech drew harsh criticism and liberal members of parliament called for Weizman's resignation. In Israel consenting adults have the right to engage in homosexual relations. In 1994 the Israeli Supreme Court ruled that Gays and Lesbians have the right to get married.

February

STATE WIDE NEWS

"Wisconsin Light" Web Site Debut - The Wisconsin Light has begun traveling on the Information Super Highway with its own Web site at www.wisconsinlight.com. The site includes a news ticker with the latest information on breaking stories, articles from our current and back issues, letters to the editor and more. There are even web pages that can be used to send The Light letters to the editor and press releases.

MAP Opens Dental Clinic - The Milwaukee AIDS Project opened the state's first dental clinic intended to provide dental services to those who are living with HIV.

Milwaukee Effort to Attract LGBT Visitors Underway - A new effort to work with the Milwaukee Convention and Visitors Bureau to attract more Gay and Lesbian tourists and LGBT conventions has begun. The as of yet unnamed project was begun by Wisconsin Light's SpotLight editor, Bill Meunier. Meunier has been a member of the Bureau's Board of Directors for several years. Staff assistant is being provided by openly Gay staff member, Miles Carson of the Convention Bureau.

Same Sex Marriage Debate Expected - In response to a proposal to outlaw state recognition of same sex marriages performed in other states, Action Wisconsin has formed a working group to develop a strategy for dealing with the proposal. The bill



Long Live the Queen! - A gala event at Appleton's Pivot Club crowned the new Ms. Gay Wisconsin, US of A 1997. Shown above L-R are Janice First Runner Up, Kristina, Ms. Gay WI, US Of A, 1997, Jill Clark, Ms Gay WI US of A, 1996, and Sarah Van Horn Second Runner Up.

AB 104 proposed by Lorraine Seratti (R- Spread Eagle) is expected to pass the State Assembly which is dominated by Republicans.

Hotel Washington Project Dies - Just one month after getting the last piece of financing to rebuild the Hotel Washington in place, owner Greg Scheel threw in the towel. Scheel told The Wisconsin Light that unexpected rises in costs plus the emotional toll the project has taken on him and his family were the straws that broke the camel's back.

Packers Win Super Bowl; Gays and Lesbian Celebrate - Thousands of Gays and Lesbians celebrated the Packer's first Super Bowl win in 28 years with parties at bars, clubs and homes around the state on Sunday January 26.

Lambda Legal Defends UW's Use of Fees - The Lambda Legal Defense Fund has filed an amicus curiae brief with the US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in the

case of Southworth vs Grebe. The case could affect the funding of every Gay and Lesbian campus group around the country. The brief urges the Federal Judges to overturn an earlier ruling that restricts the University of Wisconsin use of student fees to fund groups that are deemed too "political or ideological" such as Lesbian and Gay campus organizations. The suit was filed by the Alliance Defense Fund, a radical right Christian legal group. The earlier ruling issued by Federal Judge John Shabaz said that UW students may insist that their mandatory student fees not be given to groups they don't agree with.

LAMM Sponsors First Career Workshop- The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee will sponsor its first Career Workshop at the UW Milwaukee Student Union on March 15th from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. The workshop is intended to help women at any level who want to make changes in their career, improve their marketability or who just want to know where to fit in today's changing job market.

Openly Gay Wagner Loses Race - Openly Gay Former Dane County Board Chairperson lost his bid to become the first openly Gay or Lesbian County Executive in the country. Wagner finished third in the February primary.



1997—Money for Intervention—George Litts from the Sherman Park Rainbow Association and Dale Sigvaldsen from the 10% Club 4223 W. Fon Du Lac, Milwaukee, present BestD Clinic Board members Erv Uecker and Ross Walker with a check for \$750 for the BestD Early AIDS Intervention Program. The money was raised by SPRA and through donations from the 10% Club's patrons.

NATIONAL NEWS

Feds Investigate Atlanta Bombing - Two nail filled pipe bombs brought terror to the crowd at an Atlanta Lesbian bar on Friday February 21. One of the bombs exploded inside the club, the other was detonated in a street outside of "The Otherside" bar. Federal officials from the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, descended on the site to begin an investigation. Two groups "The Army of God" and the Sons of the Confederacy Klu Klux Klan claimed responsibility for the blasts.

Penn State Bars Anti-Gay Group - Penn State University's Student Supreme Court denied official recognition to a new student group called STRAIGHT because doing so would have "nurtured a climate of hate against Gays and Lesbians." STRAIGHT said its purpose is to "provide students and official and formal organization in which they can express their view regarding the refusal to accept or support homosexuality."

March

STATE WIDE NEWS

Gays Outnumber Bigots at Anti-Gay Marriage Hearing Draws Hundreds to Wausau - In a stunning development, Gays and Lesbians opposed to passage of AB 104, Lorraine Seratti's (R-Spread Eagle) Anti-Gay Marriage bill outnumbered the bill's supporters at a packed hearing held at the Wausau Technical college. Despite the heated hateful rhetoric of the Christian Right (one man was congratulated for calling for the public execution of Gays and Lesbians), Gays, Lesbians and their supporters kept their cool. A highlight of the hearing was 10 year old Sol Kelly Jones who read a letter to the Family and Children's Services Committee of the State Assembly. In her letter, (which was printed in it's entirety by *The Light*), Jones asked the Legislators to show the same kind of courage that the founding fathers did in granting African Americans the right to marry whoever they chose.

Center Project, ARCW Merge- Green Bay's AIDS Service Organization, the Center Project and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin announced that they will become one organization on April 1, 1997. The merger was the result of several months of negotiations between the two groups. It was unanimously approved by the Board's of both groups. With the merger, ARCW will have a budget of \$7.5 million, 130 employees, and over 1,400 volunteers. It is the largest AIDS Service Organization in the Midwest.



A- Friends at Last- Republican Scott Evertz and incumbent State Representative Barb Notestein shared a hug after the Assembly's Committee on Family and Children voted to approve an anti-Gay marriage bill. Evertz and Notestein had squared off against each other in the 1994 general election.

The Academy Awards Party in Madison - The annual Academy Awards Party to be held on Monday March 24 at the Barrymore Theater in Madison will be a benefit for the United and the Rodney Scheel House.

Tammy Baldwin Preparing Congressional Bid - Openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin is preparing a bid for the congressional seat in Wisconsin's Second Congressional District. Baldwin in an exclusive *Wisconsin Light* interview said that she was considering making the race even before incumbent Republican Scott Klug announced that he would not run for re-election.

SSBL Turns 20 - Milwaukee's Saturday Soft Ball League will be celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. The SSBL was one of the first LBGT leagues in the country and runs the Milwaukee Classic, America's first and oldest Gay softball tournament.

NATIONAL NEWS

Gay Group Sues State Rep - The Detroit based, Triangle Foundation, a Gay and Lesbian anti-violence organization has filed suit against State Rep. Deborah Whyman (R-Canton) saying she made campaign comments alleging the group engaged in illegal activity by encouraging men to have sex with boys. Whyman distributed campaign materials which said the Triangle Foundation had made large contributions to her opponent. "the group has proclaimed its support of sex acts between grown men and boys!," the literature said. When called by the Associated Press, Whyman repeated her allegation.

Texas Court Says GOP Can Discriminate Against Log Cabin Clubs - A Texas Judge has ruled that the State Republican Party has the right to deny a GOP Gay and Lesbian group an exhibit booth and space at the party's state convention.

Pro-Gay Bills Outnumbered - Pieces of Legislation to help advance equality for America's Gays and Lesbians were outnumbered by anti-Gay bills by a score of 40 to 48. Of the 48 anti-Gay bills introduced so far this year, 39 seek to prohibit same sex marriage. GOP lawmakers introduced about 75% of all anti-Gay legislation. The statistics were compiled by *The Washington Blade*.

April

STATE WIDE NEWS

Wisconsin Public TV Refuses to Pull Program - Wisconsin's Public TV network refused the demand of State Senator Scott Fitzgerald, that it pull an episode of the nationally syndicated Gay and Lesbian program, "In the Life" from its line up. Fitzgerald was upset because the episode will contain a segment filmed in Wisconsin. The segment shows rural Gays and Lesbians and talks about their lives.

The Senator, who won election in 1994 with strong backing from the Christian Coalition, said he had not seen and would not watch the episode but knew it would be offensive because he said it was based on Will Fellows book "Farm boys: Lives of Gay Men From the Rural Midwest." Fitzgerald also said he hadn't read the book but claimed he didn't have to after reading the jacket cover.

A Spokesperson for Wisconsin Public TV said the network had no plans to pull In the Life and that it was receiving more calls in support of showing it than calls objecting to the airing.

Two MAP Nurses Recognized - Bob Pomeroy RN and Doug Nelson RN have been certified as two of the best professionals specializing in HIV Nursing according to the Association of Nurses and AIDS Care. In other MAP news, the annual Make A Promise Dinner raised nearly \$145,000 a new record.

Over 100 Attend Gay and Lesbian Prom in Milwaukee - Over 100 Gay and Lesbian Youth attended the first Gay and Lesbian Youth Prom at Milwaukee's Park East Hotel despite Christian right wing protestors who picketed the event. The prom King and Queen were Knutson Ver Bunker and Shalimur Vega.



Going out with Tammy! Some of the people who came to Wausau a day early to get ready for the Anti-Gay marriage bill hearing went out on the town to relax with openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin. Our photographer caught up with them at a local restaurant and got them to pose.

NATIONAL NEWS

Charlotte Bans Funds for Arts - Gay activists in Charlotte, North Carolina are weighing their next move after the Mecklenburg County Commissioners voted 5 to 4 to adopt a resolution that will cut money to groups that offer "exposure to perverted forms of sexuality."

British Set to Lift Ban - According to the *London Times* the British military is set to lift the bans on Gays and Lesbians. A new code of moral conduct that has been drawn up effectively would remove the ban on military service for the UK's Lesbians and Gays.

Two Literary Giants Die - Allen Ginsberg, the openly Gay counterculture guru who shattered conventions as the poet laureate of the beat generation died on April 5 at age 70. The poet was diagnosed with terminal liver cancer just eight days before his death. Marvin Liebman, conservative Gay political columnist is dead at age 72. Liebman broke with the conservative movement, and Republicans in 1995 column run in *The Advocate*. "I can no longer call myself a conservative, a Christian or a Republican. I am a Gay American and I will retain my independence from any other label."

Ellen Comes Out - Ellen Degeneres came out as a Lesbian on the April 30th of her



Out In Force The Lesbian Avengers were out in force at the No on AB 104 rally held in Madison on Monday May 12. After delighting the crowd of over 500 people by literally eating fire the Avengers joined others in lighting candles.

hit show "Ellen." Conservatives around the country railed against the idea of showing an openly Lesbian title character in Prime Time.

Meanwhile the Human Rights Campaign Fund put out an ad calling for an end to Anti-Gay job discrimination. The ad was shown in several cities around the country during the "Ellen" broadcast. HRC has also sent out thousands of "Ellen Party Kits" to organizations and individuals around the country. The Wisconsin Light sponsored two "Ellen" parties, one at Scandals in Madison and one at La Cage in Milwaukee. Both parties attracted large crowds.

Hawaii Legislature Agrees to Ban on Same Sex Marriage - In a desperate effort to head off an expect Hawaiian Supreme Court decision allowing Same Sex Marriages, the Hawaiian Legislature reportedly has agreed on a State Constitutional Amendment that would ban Same Sex marriages. In return for their support of the amendment, supporters of Same Sex marriage won a benefit package including some of the most critical rights such as health insurance coverage, for Gay and Lesbian couples who register with the State as Domestic partners.

North Dakota Votes to Legalize Confinement For Those With HIV - A new North Dakota law would make it the first state to legalize the confinement of people suspected of having HIV. According to the law, emergency personnel including police officers, fire fighters, patients, health care workers and others can secure a court order confining individuals to whose blood the have been "significantly" exposed. The confinement may last up to five days and no criminal charges need to be filed to be imprisoned. The law goes into effect on July 1st.



ARCOW Says thanks! Their motto is "The Quiet Company," but the employees at Northwest Mutual made a lot of noise at last year's AIDS Walk Wisconsin. The Northwest Mutual team won the first place team award for raising \$15,581. Shown above at the award presentation (L-R) are Doug Nelson from ARCOW, and Michael Youngman and Scott Wallace from Northwest Mutual. Nelson said that the Milwaukee based company, which is one of the largest life insurance companies in the world has shown "great leadership" in the fight against AIDS.

May

STATE WIDE NEWS

Anti Gay Bill, AB 104 Passes State Assembly 78 to 20 - Lorraine Seratti's Anti-Gay marriage bill, AB 104 passed the State Assembly by a wide margin after a day long debate, during which the bill's proponents spoke in favor it only once. Throughout the day opponents of the bill railed at the legislation and the "hateful" comments made in support of it at the March hearing on the bill which was held in Wausau. A particularly bitter pill for activists to swallow was the fact that a majority of Democrats voted for the bill. Voting against were 19 Democrats and 1 Republican.

The Assembly vote was preceded by rallies in Milwaukee and Madison denouncing what many felt was a thinly veiled attempt to Gay bash. Wisconsin already has laws prohibiting Same Sex marriage.

US Supreme Court Let Wisconsin Ruling Stand - A Madison woman who was penalized because she refused to let a Lesbian be her housemate and share the rent on a home lost a US Supreme Court appeal of that penalty on May 12, 1997. The Justices without comment left intact Wisconsin state court rulings that said Anne Hacklander-Ready violated Madison's fair housing ordinance. State courts had ordered her to pay Cary Sprague damages of \$300 and her lawyer fees that reportedly total more than \$10,000.

Milwaukee Center Picks Name - The new Milwaukee Community Center will be known as the LBGT Community Center. Plans are well underway for the selection of a site for the center. It is hoped that it will become a focal point of Gay and Lesbian life in Milwaukee.

NATIONAL NEWS

Clinton, New HRC Poll Boost ENDA - President Clinton issued a ringing endorsement of ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and a new HRC polls shows that a growing number of Americans believe the bill should be passed. The President said that ENDA, "is about our ongoing fight against bigotry and intolerance in our country and in our hearts."

His statement was released after a meeting held on April 24 with Vice President Gore, Human Rights Campaign Executive Director, Elizabeth Birch and other civil rights leaders. Meanwhile a new national poll commissioned by HRC shows that 80%



1997—A very special night—Milwaukee's first Annual Gay Youth Prom held at the Park East Hotel on Saturday, April 19, was a big success attracting over 100 celebrants. Seen above (l-r back row) are: Kelly Chech, Franklin; Heather Thompson, Chris, Waterford; Chris, Milwaukee; Knutson VerBunker (Prom King); Shalimur Vega, Milwaukee (Prom Queen); Alisha Hunt, Milwaukee; Melanic J. Keller, Kenosha; Amanda Henes, Franklin; seated are: Chryl Angelroth and Nikki Hass, Milwaukee; Best Female Couple.



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 decorum dispensing advice, lending an ear (and a shoulder) and enjoying the company of her many fans who turned out to meet her in person.

of Americans believe Gays and Lesbians should have equal rights in terms of job opportunities. Furthermore 68% said they would favor passage of ENDA with only 25% saying they were opposed. 7% were undecided.

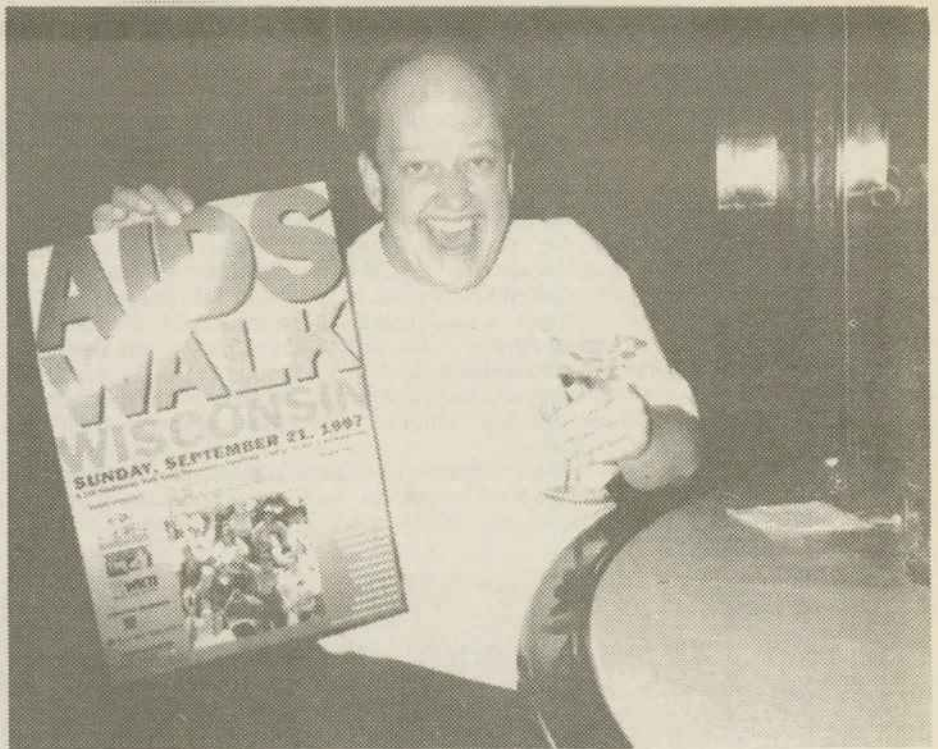
Ex Dornan Aide Comes Out - Brian O'Leary Bennet, a trusted aide of former Right Wing Congressman Bob Dornan (R-CA) has announced that he is Gay. Dornan was one of the most virulent opponents of Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights while he was in Congress.

President Clinton Calls For AIDS Vaccine Program - President Clinton evoking the memory of John F. Kennedy's challenge to America to put a man on the moons in the 1960's promised that the United States would find an AIDS vaccine within a decade. Clinton said that a special research center would be established at the National Institutes of Health to spur the effort.

June

STATE WIDE NEWS

Congressman Mark Neuman Blasted for Homophobic Remarks - Congressman Mark Neuman was heavily criticized after reports that he told a Christian Coalition group, he wouldn't hire anyone who was openly Gay or Lesbian. Neumann who is preparing to run against US Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI), received scathing criticism from the left and the right. The right is angry because Neumann signed a pledge not to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in hiring his office staff. The left is angry because Neumann apparently will break his word. Neumann's remarks brought to light a little known article run in the *New York Times Magazine* last November. In the article, Neumann was quoted as saying "If I were elected God for a day, homosexuality wouldn't be permitted."



Toasting A Success - Dean Dayton owner of Sheboygan's Blue Lite bar toasts all those who are participating in this year's Bar Competition for AIDS Walk Wisconsin.

PrideFest Celebration - The annual PrideFest celebration had great weather and had an attendance of 12,600. The attendance figure was 33% above last year's attendance when it rained heavily all three days.

MAP Rent Assistance Program Provides \$250,000 - A Rent Assistance Program run by the Milwaukee's AIDS Projects provided over \$250,000 in assistance during 1996. The program works with people who can no longer work, but are in the six month waiting period for social security benefits to start. Of the 350 clients who were helped, 80% were single and 20% were families.

Cruising With SEWAP - The Southeast Wisconsin AIDS project will hold its Seventh Annual Benefit Cruise and Raffle on Saturday June 21. The cruise is a major fund raiser for SEWAP. Last year it netted over \$20,000.

Milwaukee Classic A Success - Twenty teams from Milwaukee, Chicago, St. Louis and Cincinnati competed in the annual Milwaukee Classic. The National Division Crown was won by the Side Track Rage, with Milwaukee's Club 219 finishing second and the Cincinnati Comets coming in third. In the American Division, Milwaukee's Ball Game team finished on top. The Saint Louis Buzzards finished second and the M & M Mustangs from Milwaukee earned third.

Superior's Main Club Rises From the Ashes At New Location - The Main Club, a landmark Superior Wisconsin, Gay and Lesbian bar is open once again. The club which burned to the ground in a late December fire that took the lives of two Gay men is now located at 1217 Tower Ave.

Film Screening Benefits Milwaukee's Center - A special screening of the new film, "Love Valor, Compassion!" was held at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater on June 11th. The screening sponsored by The Wisconsin Light raised badly needed funds for Milwaukee's new LBGT Community Center. The film is the story of eight Gay men who gather at a home outside of New York City and their relationships with each other.

Feingold Fund Raiser Does Well - Several thousand dollars was raised for the reelection campaign of US Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) during a fund raiser held at the home of Dr. Robert Starshak and Ross Draegert.



1996—The Main Club as it was before the fire in 1996. The above photo was taken in 1983.



1997—Ribbon Cutting opening the New Main Club in the summer of 1997 by the Superior, Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce.



1996—The Main Club in Superior lies in ruins after a disastrous fire in December, 1996.

NATIONAL NEWS

American Airlines Attacked For Supporting Gay Civil Rights - Several major Right wing groups launched an ad campaign on May 28 by placing an open letter to American Airlines Chief Executive Officer Robert Crandall in newspapers around the country. The ad outlines what its signers claim is the airlines support of homosexuality, including discounted fares for domestic partners, sponsorship of Gay pride events and donations to groups such as PFLAG. Some newspapers including USA Today refused to carry the ad.

Maine Becomes a Gay Rights State - Governor Angus King signed a statewide Les/Bi/Gay civil rights bill into law on May 16. The Governor said he would work to keep the law from going before the voters in a referendum. Maine had a referendum on Gay rights last year. The ballot measure would have prohibited Les/Bi/Gay civil rights protection. Maine voters rejected the measure by a 52% to 48% margin.

Activists Protest United Airlines - San Francisco Lesbian and Gay activists launched a protest aimed at United Airlines. The airline has refused to go along with San Francisco's new Domestic Partnership law which requires employers doing business with the City to offer Domestic partnership benefits to unmarried employees with partners. United which uses the San Francisco airport and a coalition of 24 other airlines has filed a suit against the law.

ENDA Reintroduced With Wide Support - The Employment Non-Discrimination Act which lost in the US Senate last year by just one vote, was reintroduced with 150 House and 35 Senate Sponsors.

July

STATE WIDE NEWS

AIDS Activist Found Dead in Green Bay Hotel Room - Jeff Whalen, 45, an AIDS activist was found dead in his Green Bay hotel room on Tuesday June, 24. Whalen, who had been working with the Center Project to form an AIDS Task Force in Marinette County, received multiple stab wounds to his chest. He was found laying next to his bed by the staff of the Motel 6. Whalen had checked into the hotel alone the previous day.



Jerry Johnson



Side by Side- Both of the top sites being considered for Milwaukee's new LGBT Community Center are shown above. At the left is Sanders Bowl located on Vine and Martin Luther King, Drive. At the right is a Walker's point building located on S. Fifth Street between National and Mineral.

Thousands At Madison's Pride Weekend - For the first time organizers of the MAGIC Picnic, Pride Parade and festival and other events held around them have gotten together to present a united celebration. The result was highly successful as large crowds attended a variety of events throughout the weekend of July 17 to July 20. The Wisconsin Light joined in with a float in the Pride March and by sponsoring a bachelor auction to benefit The United.

Speaking of The United, its annual Awards Dinner was a big success. Winners this year were Frontiers- Organization of the year, Sol Kelly Jones, Ally of the Year, Marjorie Ward, Volunteer of the Year and Paul Huguet, Man of the Year.

Tom Martin Dead in Suicide - Tom Martin, a brilliant Milwaukee Gay lawyer killed himself by jumping off of the Hoan Bridge in Milwaukee. Martin was a former Deputy US Attorney who helped in a major prosecution that broke up a Mafia family in Milwaukee. After leaving the Justice Department, he began a new career that included helping serve his community. Friends say that Martin was very distressed over the recent death of his father. A memorial service from Martin attracted a capacity crowd to an East Side Milwaukee church. Among those in attendance were local judges and politicians.

Ruthie Holds Court - The Wisconsin Light advice columnist, Ruthie, held court at This Is It bar with a special SpotLight party. The well attended event featured much good cheer, great conversation and lots of laughs.

Two Men Attacked In Green Bay Hate Crime - Two Gay men were maced in the face by two Green Bay men who said it was "to teach you faggots a lesson," early Monday morning July 14. The attackers reportedly saw the men holding each other in a parking lot used by patrons of Za's, a Green Bay Gay club and other bars. Following the attack the brother of one of the victims, who had witnessed the encounter, tracked the attackers down to an apartment house. He shouted out of his car for someone to call 911. After the Police arrived, he identified the attackers and the Police arrested them.

Madison Homophobic Firefighter Suspended Plans Suit - An African American clergyman who opposes Gays, integration and affirmative action wears a T-shirt that says "Intolerance is a beautiful thing." Ron Greer's lawyer though says that intolerance by the City of Madison against his client isn't so beautiful. Greer's attorney, Michael Dean of Waukesha plans to file suit over disciplinary action taken against Greer by the Madison Fire Department.

On June 25th, Madison's Police and Fire Commission suspended, Greer for two months without pay for handing out homophobic pamphlets while on the job. The pamphlets called homosexuality "a filthy scourge" and recommended discrimination against Gays and Lesbians. The pamphlets violated Department rules against workplace harassment. The Fire and Police Commission also punished Greer for saying that a Deputy Fire Chief is "a phony" in a newspaper story. His comments violated a Department police to show respect for superiors.

Dean says the Department is guilty of a double standard. He cites calendars and magazines that offend Christians but which nonetheless are in fire stations.

New Center Has Site - The new LGBT center has selected a site at 1801 N. Martin Luther King Drive (the corner of Martin Luther King Drive and Vine) as its new home. It is hoped that renovations to the building can be completed by January.

Domestic Partnership Benefits Proposed For City of Milwaukee Workers - Milwaukee Alderman Paul Henningsen has submitted a proposal calling for the City of Milwaukee to provide Domestic partnership benefits for it's employees.

Openly Gay Mark Pocan Prepares Assembly Bid - Openly Gay, former Dane County Supervisor, Mark Pocan is preparing to run for the Wisconsin State Assembly according to an exclusive report from The Wisconsin Light. Pocan's candidacy is attracting wide spread support from activists, environmentalists and business leaders. He is planning to run for the seat now held by Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin. Baldwin is planning to run for Congress.

NATIONAL NEWS

Hawaii Partnership Benefits Not Enough Say Activists - Recently enacted legislation allowing unmarried couples to obtain some of the rights afforded to married couples does not go far enough say activists involved with the issue. The Hawaiian Legislature provided about 60 "marriage like" benefits to domestic partners out of the hundreds of such benefits that exist under Hawaiian law. Because of poor wording under the law, even brothers and sisters or room mates can obtain the benefits by registering as Domestic partners.

Dade County Says No Again - It's been 20 years since singer Anita Bryant made headlines with her fight to kill Dade County's Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights ordinance, but not much seems to have changed. The Dade County Board of Commissioners killed a proposal Gay rights law without even debating it.

August

STATE WIDE NEWS

"The Wisconsin Light" Announces Party of the Decade - The tenth anniversary celebration of *The Wisconsin Light* will include a gala party featuring national entertainers, celebrities and more on Sunday, November 9th at Milwaukee's Downtown Hotel Hilton. Among those who will be featured are African American Lesbian Disco Diva, Joi Cardwell and the fabulous new Gay a cappella group, Men Out Loud. Celebrities expected to attend include President Clinton confidante David Mixner. The gayla will be a benefit for the Cream City Foundation.

Popular Bartender Drowns - Kevin Rotar, one of Milwaukee's most popular Gay bartenders drowned in a boating accident on August 9. Rotar who was with a group of friends on a boat owned by Club 219 owner, Chuck Cicerello, had jumped into Lake Michigan to retrieve a hat that had blown into the lake. After getting the hat, Rotar had trouble swimming back to the boat and disappeared under the water. Rotar worked at Club 219 and had been a bartender at other clubs in the past.

Victory Fund Backs Tammy - As it did when she ran for Wisconsin's State Assembly, the Victory Fund announced its support of openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin's bid for the US Congress.

Breastfest A Success - Breastfest, a fund raiser to raise money to fight against Breast Cancer was a huge success. The street party held outside of and sponsored by Fannies on Sunday, August 31 raised over \$6,000 for a Breast Cancer foundation.

Labor Day Weekend Full of Events - There will be a full schedule of events on Labor Day weekend. The ROW Pride Celebration in Green Bay will include a bowling tournament in Green Bay and a farm party in Forest Junction, the Twin Ports Pride celebration in Duluth (MN) and Superior (WI) offers three days of fun. The Links Block Party in Milwaukee will be held on Sunday August 30th. The Walker's Point Block Fest, a joint effort of two Gay and four straight bars will take place on Saturday August 29 and Sunday August 31st and the M.I.S.T. (Midwest Invitational Softball Tournament) makes its debut in Milwaukee on the 30th and 31st. MIST, a Gay softball toumey, rotates between four cities. This is its first appearance in Milwaukee.

Wisconsin's Fine Arts Season Offers Promise - From Broadway musicals to touring companies, Wisconsin's new Fine Arts Season shows rich promise. Among the chief attractions are the Milwaukee Repertory and Milwaukee Chamber Theater's productions of *Angels in American Parts 1 and 2*, *Miss Saigon* which will play in Green Bay and the Broadway tour of *Showboat* at Milwaukee's Marcus Center for the Performing Arts.

NATIONAL NEWS

Pro-Gay Initiative On the Ballot in Washington State - Washington State's Secretary of State, Ralph Munro, announced that a sufficient number of signatures had been gathered to place a pro-Gay initiative on the ballot next November. The referendum will be on a proposal that would allow people who believed they were discriminated against based on sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation to sue for damages. It would exempt work places with less than 9 employees.

Psychologists Denounce So Called Reparative Therapy - The American Psychological Association passed a resolution that attacked "conversion" therapy which same say can "convert Gays into straights." The resolution resulted from requests by "reparative therapists" to have their theories validated by the group. The resolution says that homosexuality is not a mental disorder and that the APA opposes all attempts to portray Gays and Lesbians as ill or to discriminate against them. It further states that there. The resolution passed overwhelmingly.

New AIDS Drugs Not a Cure - The new protease inhibitor drugs used in "cocktail" combinations to fight against AIDS are not a cure for AIDS. Furthermore the effects of the drugs which seem to slow down HIV may not be permanent say researchers.

Chicago's Halsted Street Gets Fae Lift - Chicago Mayor Richard Daley has announced a major renovation project for Chicago's famed Halsted Street, the center of its "Boystown" area. The \$3.2 million project will include rainbow arches and gate ways.



Win-Tammy-Win That was the chant heard at Café Melange during the fund raiser for State Representative Tammy Baldwin's bid for Congress in Wisconsin's Second Congressional District. The openly Lesbian politician is said to have a good chance to become the first open Lesbian ever elected to Congress. Shown above (L-R) are *In Step* founder Ron Geiman, Baldwin, Aids Resource Center of Wisconsin Executive Director, Doug Nelson and *This Is It* Owner, Joe Brehm.

September

STATE WIDE NEWS

AIDS Walk Wisconsin Raises \$800,000 - The 1997 AIDS Walk Wisconsin Raised over \$800,000 as 10,000 marchers joined Honorary Co-Chair Greg Louganis and Badger Basketball Coach, Dick Bennett in fighting against AIDS in Wisconsin.

PrideFest 98 to Be Held in August - PrideFest has announced that it moved its annual celebration from June to August next year. The festival will be held on August 28-30 on the Summerfest grounds.

Assembly Adopts Visitation Rights Bill - The State Assembly adopted a bill to allow hospital patients to name those who are allowed access to them and their medical records. The bill, if enacted into law, would ensure that Gays and Lesbians as well as anyone else wishing the companionship of loved ones who are not blood related, can get it.

NATIONAL NEWS

Disney Gives Them Cookies - Disneyland employees served lemonade and cookies to Right wing Christian protestors who were picketing the theme park to protest its pro-Gay policies.

Another Fight In Maine - Maine's new Gay rights law was put on hold after its opponents gathered enough signatures for a possible referendum. The opponents turned in their signatures the day before the new law would have taken effect. Election officials have 30 days to certify the petitions as valid. If enough signatures are found to be valid, a referendum will be scheduled after November and before April. In 1995, Maine voters narrowly defeated an attempt to outlaw Gay civil rights.



Angels On High - A scene from the Broadway production of *Angels in America* is shown above. The critically acclaimed play will be produced in Milwaukee by the Milwaukee Repertory and Milwaukee Chamber. Part one of Milwaukee production runs from September 19 to October 19. Part two runs from October 18 to November 9.

October

STATE WIDE NEWS

Madison Mayor Declares "Wisconsin Light Day" - Madison Mayor Susan Bauman declared Wednesday, November 5 as *Wisconsin Light* day in the City of Madison to commemorate the publishing of the Decade of Light Anniversary Issue of *The Wisconsin Light*.

Milwaukee Domestic Partnership Proposal Falls Short - A Milwaukee Common Council Committee voted against recommending approval of Ald. Paul Henningsen's Domestic Partnership proposal. The Finance and Personnel Committee said that the cost of the proposal was too high. Henningsen was forced to amend the proposal to include unmarried heterosexual partners due to a City Attorney's opinion that stated it would violate Wisconsin's landmark Gay civil rights law, AB 70, because it would discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. The committee heard evidence that the cost of the proposal could be as high as \$900,000 and would be at least \$300,000. Proponents of the proposal disputed the numbers.

Madison's The United Has A Ball - Madison's United will host its first ever Masquerade Ball on Saturday November 1 at the Dane County Expo Center. Admission to the event is \$10.00 in advance or \$12.00 at the door. The ball is a fundraiser for the many programs sponsored by the United.

State Budget Includes Increase In AIDS Funding - The new State of Wisconsin budget includes increased funding for community services, and expanded access to health care including AIDS medications.

NATIONAL NEWS

US Supremes Refuse Don't Ask, Don't Tell Appeal - For the third time in the last 12 months, the US Supreme Court has refused to hold a hearing on the controversial "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that effectively bans openly Gay and Lesbian individuals from serving in the military. Air Force Captam Richard Richenberg, a decorated veteran of the Gulf War had appealed a decision against his reinstatement in the military. Richenberg was thought to have a chance for hearing based on his superiors testifying on his behalf during his discharge hearing.

Clinton Makes Another Lesbian Appointment - Virginia Apuzzo, the former Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force was named as Assistant to the President for Management and Administration. Apuzzo who headed NGLTF from 1983 to 1985 has been serving as the Associate Deputy Secretary of Labor at the US Department of Labor. Her new post is highly visible and includes responsibility for White House administration. She began her new job on October 2.

Clinton Taps Gay Man To Be Ambassador - In another first from the Clinton administration, James Hommel, a Gay activist who is heir to the Hormel meat fortune has been nominated to be the US Ambassador to Luxembourg. If confirmed by the Senate, Hommel would be the first ever, openly Gay ambassador from the US.

Catholic Bishops Speak Out For Gay Civil Rights - A statement from the US Conference of Roman Catholic Bishops calls on the parents of Gay and Lesbian children to love their children regardless of church doctrine. It also calls for the end of discrimination based on sexual orientation.

One Third of Gay Men Say HIV Is NOT a Crisis - Nearly a third of Gay men no longer consider the current HIV threat a "crisis" according to the results of a new survey released on October 8. Respondents were split evenly among those who believed the HIV threat has grown in recent years, those who believed it remained the same and those who thought it had lessened.

AIDS Cocktails Fail Half the Time - New protease inhibitors that seemed to stop the advance of the HIV virus and revive patients from near death are now beginning to fail in about half of those who've been treated with them. The disappointing reports that the tough virus is coming back after being knocked briefly into submission have the AIDS community worried.

November

STATE WIDE NEWS

The Decade of Light - Les/Bi/Gay Wisconsin celebrated the first ten years of *The Wisconsin Light*. The *Light* celebrated by producing the largest ever Gay and Lesbian publication in Wisconsin history. Congratulations and proclamations have come to the paper from the President of the United States and elected officials in both Milwaukee and Madison. On Sunday November 9, a gala "Decade of Light" party will be held at the Milwaukee Hilton. The party will feature nationally known entertainers and celebrities. The publisher, Jerry Johnson, the editor Dr. Terry Boughner and the staff of *The Wisconsin Light* extend their thanks to all of the advertisers, writers and readers who made it possible to reach this milestone in Les/Bi/Gay Wisconsin history.

LIGHT
Light
is
the
symbol
of
truth.

- James Russell Lowell

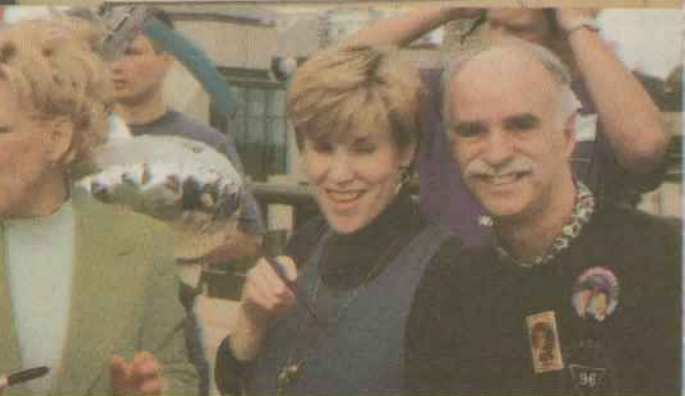
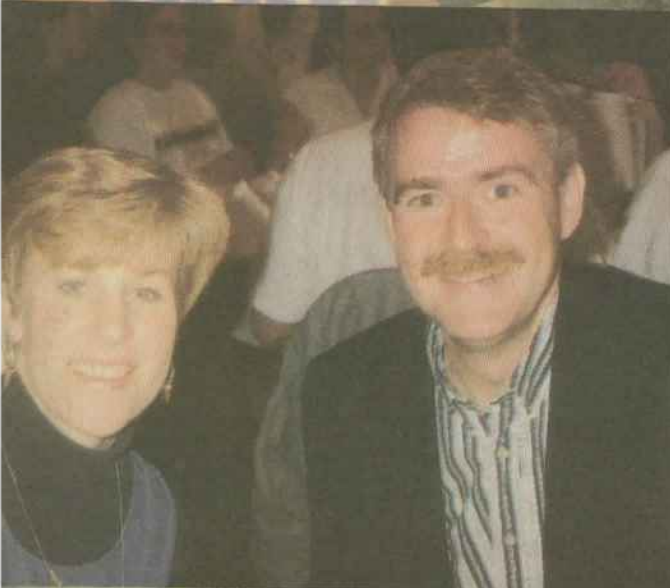
Congratulations to
Editor Terry Boughner,
Publisher Jerry Johnson
and all who have
contributed to
The Wisconsin Light.

Thank you for
providing Wisconsin's
LGBT community with a
decade of enlightenment
and truth.

ARCW

AIDS RESOURCE CENTER OF WISCONSIN

AIDS Walk Wisconsin September 22, 1996 Milwaukee's Lakefront



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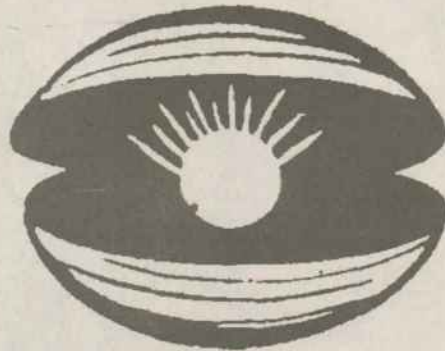
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