

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



The Wisconsin Light

Christian Coalition Tries to Recruit 100,000 for War on LGBT America

A Commentary

Washington, DC—On a tense day (February 18) where—on the other side of the globe—a war-ready America again risks conflict, an openly religious war has been declared by the Christian Coalition.

The Coalition's leaders, basking in their February 10 Maine "victory" which struck down government-enacted civil rights for homosexuals at the polls, now are aiming, they say, to strike down the legitimacy of same-sex affection in all 50 states and to target and worsen the basic civil rights of people who are even suspected of defying same-sex taboos.

Boasting about Maine as "Coalition-style" evidence of a divine mission at hand, the Christian Coalition has thus declared war on Gay America, calling for 100,000 recruits to repeat the "Maine miracle" from coast to coast.

Calling its program "Families 2000" the Coalition says its strategy will be to work through local Christian Coalition chapters and churches to oppose any measures that extend anti-discrimination protections based on sexual orientation.

The group will circulate a menu which gives focus to other social "evils" including gambling, pornography, and late-term abortions with which its members may want to concern themselves.

People for the American Way Foundation charges that the Christian Coalition's aggressively declared agenda masks its real troubles—losses in both money and memberships.

"The Christian Coalition's 'new' agenda — to return to the days of Gay-bashing and assaults on constitutional liberties — is the most dramatic evidence yet that the era of former Executive Director Ralph Reed is indeed over," says People For the American Way Foundation President Carole Shields.

"Gone is the effort to persuade Americans that the Christian Coalition is a mainstream organization with a broader agenda than bashing Gays and trying to outlaw all abortions.

"Randy Tate's announcement that the Coalition will return to an emphasis on social issues is evidence that the Christian Coalition, when faced with a financial crisis

Please See Recruit Page 23

The Ex Files: A Former Follower Sheds the Light on Ex-Gay Ministries.

The X Files



The X Gay Ministries

A Three Part Series

Editor's Note: In this issue we begin the first of a three-part series on the ex-Gay ministries written by award-winning journalist Kyle Young.

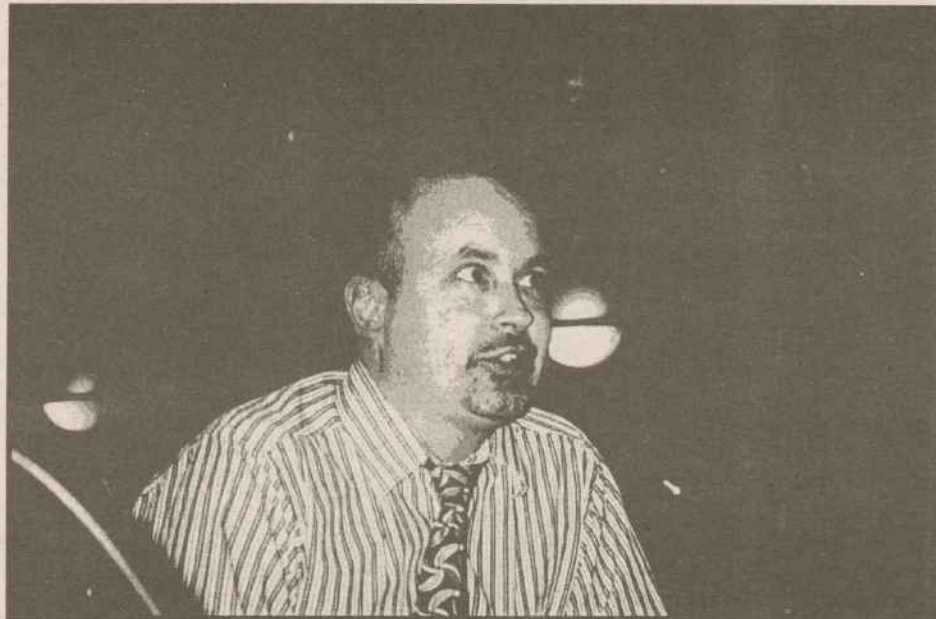
By Kyle Young

Part I

For 12 years Doug Upchurch struggled to become heterosexual. It didn't work.

For most of that period, he was heavily involved in ex-Gay ministries, a growing international movement of Christian groups whose purpose is to lead Gay people toward heterosexuality. While some Lesbians are involved in the groups, the movement is primarily directed at Gay men.

Battles On Gay Relationships Rage Here In Wisconsin



Speaking With Pride—Fomer Dane County Supervisor and Openly Gay candidate for the Wisconsin State Assembly, Mark Pocan testifies against AB-759 at a hearing held by the State Assembly's Insurance, Securities and Corporate Policy committee at the State Capitol on Thursday, February 19th. AB-759 would forbid the use of state funds to pay for domestic partnership benefits if they are offered by local governments or state agencies. Pocan denounced the Republican sponsored measure as "mean spirited" and said it was being pushed only by the religious right. Only one person its main sponsor Republican Rep. Steve Nass spoke in favor the bill. Over 30 people were at the hearing in opposition. They included elected officials, union officials and the Madison City lobbyist. The bill is also sponsored by 15 other Republicans in the State Assembly and the State Senate.

Congressman Barrett Announces Milwaukee to Get Federal Funds for AIDS Housing

Milwaukee—On February 12, Congressman Tom Barrett (D-WI) announced that the City of Milwaukee received approval from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for its \$30 million 1998 Consolidated Plan which includes various community development activities. Included in this money is \$363,000 to be used for housing for people living with AIDS.

"For the first time," Barrett said, "HUD is sending funds for a housing program for persons with AIDS."

Milwaukee will receive the Housing

Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) grant for the first time because the City now has surpassed 1,500 AIDS cases.

The HOPWA grant is intended to help people with HIV disease and AIDS secure and maintain safe, affordable housing.

Since 1994, the State of Wisconsin has received HOPWA funds and granted them to local AIDS service providers throughout the state. The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) has been a leading recipient of HOPWA funds and has built a comprehensive housing program serving 750 people with HIV and AIDS.

The \$363,000 that Milwaukee will receive is nearly equal to the amount of the HOPWA funding that the State of Wisconsin made available locally last year.

"While this is new funding for the City of Milwaukee, it is not new funding for people with HIV and AIDS in Milwaukee," said ARCW Executive Director Doug Nelson. "Our clients rely on these funds to help pay their rent and utilities so they can afford to stay in their homes. We have long been committed to the principle

Please See Housing Page 23

PrideFest Expands Area in Maier Park; New Entertainment Audition Material Needed

Milwaukee—Musicians, comedians, magicians, singers, dancers, and all other entertainers are encouraged to submit their promotional materials for consideration for this year's PrideFest celebration.

Entertainment coordinators Jill Clark and Charles Daniels are seeking new and past performers to bring hours of variety to the annual festival, which is scheduled for this August 28-30 at the Henry W. Maier Festival Park (Summerfest grounds) along Milwaukee's lakefront.

PrideFest mailed out nearly 2,000 surveys in January in an attempt to solicit community input on a variety of festival topics, including entertainment.

"The response we have had from our survey has been fantastic," commented Jill Clark. "We are seriously attempting to satisfy everyone's different tastes in

An Exclusive Wisconsin Light Report
By Bill Meunier

Milwaukee - Political activity on issues related to Gay and Lesbian relationships has noticeably increased on both a state wide and local level as activists on both sides of the of Gay marriage and Domestic Partnership issues seek to advance their agendas. At stake is nothing less than the legal definition of Gay and Lesbian relationships.

At first glance it may seem like the issues of Same Sex marriage and Domestic Partnership are separate and distinct, but they are in fact related to each other. Both deal with the right of Gay and Lesbian relationships to be treated equally under the law.

Polls taken by independent researchers show that while Americans as a whole are opposed to allowing Same Sex marriages they agree with giving many of the rights and privileges of marriage such as spousal health insurance benefits, hospital visitation rights and probate rights to Gay and Lesbian couples.

A series of bills and proposals introduced both at the State Capitol and on a local government level show that the debate on Gay relationships has come to Wisconsin in a big way.

Among the items on a growing list of recent developments on the Domestic Partnership and Same Sex Marriage issues are:

- The introduction and passage by the State Assembly of AB- 104. Sponsored by Lorraine Serratti, (R-Spread Eagle), this bill would prohibit the state from recognizing Same Sex marriages even if they are legally performed in other states;
- The defeat of a proposal to grant domestic partnership health insurance benefits to City of Milwaukee employees;
- Approval of a contract between the Madison Unified School District and its teachers union granting domestic partnership health insurance benefits to Madison's teachers;
- The introduction of a State Senate bill that would amend the State of Wisconsin constitution to place a constitutional ban on recognizing same sex marriage.
- The passage and signing of a bill that requires hospitals to grant visitation rights to those who are designated by patients, thereby allowing patients to make sure their partners can see them in the hospital even if the facilities policy only allows for the immediate family to see a patient.

Please See Relationships Page 2

PrideFest Expands Area in Maier Park; New Entertainment Audition Material Needed

entertainment, and that includes recruiting new venues such as 50's & 60's bands, Blues and Jazz. There is a following for every type of entertainment, and we really want to put a little more variety into the mix."

Also requested in the survey were entertainers who performed Big Band, Classical, Country Western, Gospel, Punk, R&B, Rock, Show tunes and regional/ethnic music such as zydeco and Native American flute.

So as to heighten the PrideFest experience, the festival grounds is being expanded this year to include the Harley Davidson Area. The area comes with an five-star stage, bringing more seating for the audience and greater performing pleasure for the artists.

Please See PrideFest Page 2

Relationships
Continued From Page 1

- Approval of a contract between the Madison Police union and the City that requires the formation of a committee to look into ways of granting domestic partnership benefits to members of the City of Madison's Police Department.

These events point to a two fold approach to legally defining Gay and Lesbian relationships. First, should the state recognize Gay and Lesbian marriages and second what benefits should accrue to the partners of those who are in committed Gay relationships?

Much of the activity related to the marriage issue grew out of attempts to gain legal recognition of Gay marriages in Hawaii. A lower court in that state had ruled that prohibiting those marriages violated the Hawaii constitution.

Most legal observers seemed to feel that the ruling would almost certainly be upheld by the Hawaii State Supreme Court. This precipitated a spate of legislation to ban recognition of same sex marriages in a over 30 states.

Those opposed to those marriages pushed legislation that would ban recognition of them even if they were legally performed elsewhere. In Wisconsin that debate hit home when State Representative Lorraine Serratti (R-Spread Eagle) introduced her AB 104.

After an acrimonious hearing on the bill in Wausau where opponents clearly outnumbered those supporting Serratti, the State Assembly overwhelmingly passed her measure and sent it to the State Senate.

Unlike the Assembly which is controlled by Republicans, the State Senate is controlled by Democrats. The Democratic Leadership in the Senate has buried the bill by putting it in a committee which will not hold a hearing on it.

But Gay and Lesbian activists are worried that AB-104 may soon come up for a vote in the Senate and sent to Governor Thompson who has said he will sign it.

The Senate is now evenly split with sixteen members from each party. There is one vacant seat that was held by Democrat Lynn Adelman until his appointment to the Federal Bench. Adelman's district is largely Republican and it is expected that the Republican nominee for the seat, will win the special election set for April. This would give the GOP control of the Senate.

"If they win that race, it is probable that AB-104 will come off the table and be passed," said one Senate staffer, who added "Fitzgerald's bill could pass to."

State Senator Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) has introduced a bill that would amend the State Constitution to prohibit same sex marriages in Wisconsin. In order for his proposal to become law it must be approved in two consecutive sessions of the legislature and then approved by the voters.

"It is not easy to amend the state constitution, but if his bill comes out of committee the best chance for stopping that from happening is to make sure the Republicans don't control the state legislature," said the staffer.

Indeed the vote on AB-104 in the State Assembly while not split along party lines certainly indicated more sympathy for Same Sex marriages among Democrats than existed among Republicans.

Nearly half of the Democrats voted against AB-104 while only one Republican vote was recorded in opposition.

But if AB-104 was a slap in the face to the Gay and Lesbian community as some have called it, it also raised the issue of how Gay and Lesbian relationships are treated under the law and led some to question public policies related to Same-Sex relationships.

The so called Hospital Visitation Rights bill sponsored by the Republican Speaker of the House, Scott Jensen (R-Waukesha) was one example of that.

One of those inequities cited during the AB-104 debate was the fact that under what was then the law, hospitals had the legal right to deny the unmarried partners of a patient access to that patient.

Jensen's bill which is now law allows the patient and not the hospital to decide who can and can not see him.

Critics called the visitation bill meaning less. According to them there were no recorded cases of a hospital denying access and the law states that the patient must tell the hospital to allow his/her partner to visit. This means that the partner of a comatose or unconscious patient could still be denied access.

But the fact remains that the state legislature passed and the Governor signed a bill that made did make at least a small advance in equalizing the treatment of Gay and Lesbian partners under the law.

The latest effort to define Gay relationships comes from State Rep. Steve Nass (R-Whitewater) with his bill, AB-759. ABA 759 has fifteen other Republican co-sponsors.

AB - 759, would forbid the use of state funds to provide Domestic Partnership health insurance benefits to unmarried Gay or straight couples.

If passed the bill would have what Madison Alderman Mike Verveer called "a chilling effect" on getting local government approval of these benefits.

Verveer who has been a force in getting Domestic Partnership health insurance benefits for the City of Madison employees said "Like other cities around the state, The City of Madison has not received its fair share of state revenues. If AB-759 passes it will make it very difficult for Madison or any local government to grant Domestic Partnership benefits because no one wants to have to raise the property tax in order to do that."

Local governments granting these benefits is considered important by those advocating them. During the debate on a proposal to grant Domestic partner benefits to City of Milwaukee employees, Mark Street head of Milwaukee's Domestic Partnership Task Force told *The Wisconsin Light* that his group hoped the granting of such benefits would set an example for local companies to follow.

At a hearing on AB-759, held in Madison on Thursday, February, 19th Nass told the Assembly Committee on Insurance, Securities and Corporate Policies that his bill was not aimed at Same Sex couples.

According to Nass, his proposal was in response to the Madison School Teacher's contract, which he said was negotiated "behind closed doors." Nass said that parents would be upset when their children came home from school and told them that their teachers were discussing the unmarried partners health insurance benefits.

He also said that he believed there would be more heterosexual couples than Gay couples taking advantage of the Madison School contract's granting of health insurance to the partners of its unmarried teachers.

Nass claimed that the benefits would cost \$300,000 a large portion of which would be paid for with state funds. He claimed that his bill had wide support throughout the state.

That support was certainly not in evidence at the hearing where Nass was the only person to speak in favor of passing his bill.

His testimony was countered not just by Gays and Lesbians but also by representatives of unions who accused Nass of trying to interfere in the collective bargaining process and City officials who said that decisions on who to give health insurance benefits too should be considered a matter of local control.

School Board member Ruth Robarts chided Nass over his statements about the cost to Madison's School District saying that only one person had so far registered for the benefits.

When asked by Rep Sheldon Wasserman (D-Whitfish Bay) whether or not she had encountered any opposition to her position in favor of the contract, Robarts replied that she received one anonymous phone call and a fax from a man who is now running against her due to her support of granting the benefits.

Madison School Board members are elected from a city wide vote. It does seem likely that if there were substantial opposition to the School Board's stand Robarts would have received more than one phone call and one fax.

Unlike the debate on AB-104, any debate on AB-759 is likely see Gays and Lesbians enlisting two powerful allies, public employee unions and local government lobbyists. Both groups bristle at the suggestion may be able to tell them what they can and can not do.

AB-759 seems to many to be pre-emptive strike to keep anyone other local government or the state itself from emulating the example set by the Madison School Board.

Indeed with Republicans in control of the State Assembly and the Governor's office, many pro-Gay activists have moved their fight from the State House to City Hall.

In Madison their efforts have struck pay dirt twice this year. First with the Madison School Board contract and then with the new Police Union contract.

Verveer told *The Light* that the committee the City and Union are forming will look at a variety of options including the cost of leaving the State insurance plan (which will not offer the benefits) and the possibility of the City purchasing a separate policy to cover the unmarried partners of its employees.

"Whatever is decided upon and ap-

proved will be given to all of the unions and City employees and not just to the Police," he said.

Activists in Madison are having greater success than they are in Milwaukee. Last Fall, at the request of Street's Domestic Partnership Task Force, Milwaukee Alderman, Paul Henningsen introduced a proposal to grant Domestic Partnership benefits to City of Milwaukee employees.

Henningsen's idea never got out of committee.

There are other differences between Milwaukee's effort and Madison's. In Milwaukee the proposal came from an organized outside group. In Madison, Gay and Lesbian union members insisted that it be given a high priority in contract negotiations and that it not be negotiated away.

Concurrent with those negotiations, a group of activists worked to educate the Madison School Board. Their efforts were so effective that in the end the School Board agreed to grant the benefits without demanding anything from the Union in return.

The problem faced by those who oppose Domestic Partners benefits is that they are losing ground. Over 30 cities and two states, Vermont and Oregon now offer them to their employees. So do a growing number of both public and private universities.

Added to that is the fact that an ever increasing number of private employers are also offering Domestic partnership benefits to their employees, making it difficult for governmental units that do not do the same to compete for top notch personnel.

The problem faced by advocates of Gay marriage and Domestic partnership benefits is that Gay marriage is not popular with the voters and that their opponents are better organized.

In Wausau the hearing on AB-104 attracted hundreds of people the majority of whom supported Same Sx marriages, but as a rule, Gay organizations with limited resources have a more difficult time in filling up the seats during debates on these issues.

While the voters may favor giving at least some marriage like benefits to Gay and Lesbian couples, there is no evidence to suggest that an enraged electorate would care enough about the issue to turn someone out of office because they voted against granting them.

Furthermore there are no Gay and Lesbian Political Action committees in Wisconsin to provide financial help and volunteers to those supporting an extension of marriage rights to Same Sex couples.

There are however, organized efforts on the other side. Sources in the State Senate say that a post card and letter campaign demanding that the Senate consider Serratti's AB-104 is underway. There has been no comparable effort on the other side.

That may change, however, as the debate continues and intensifies. Some activists believe that no matter what happens on various proposals like AB-104 and AB-759, the very fact that they are being considered is helpful, because hearings and debate on them helps to educate the general public about the nature of Gay and Lesbian relationships and the legal hurdles they face.

As one person said in the hallway during the hearing on the Nass Bill, "Every time they bring this kind of stuff up, we have a chance to educate. That's why we will win in the end."

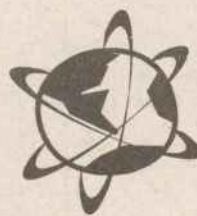
PrideFest
Continued From Page 1

"We have made a commitment to include the huge Harley Davidson Stage," said Charles Daniels. "With that stage, we will be able to use better sound equipment and the professional lighting banks to produce another awesome array of shows. Entertainers who have never played at the Summerfest grounds are in for a real treat when they hit that stage."

Entertainers are asked to forward promotional materials at their earliest convenience. Packets should include demo tapes or CDs; biographies of the entertainer(s); and at least one black and white photograph that can be used for promotional purposes.

Entertainers performing in the southeastern Wisconsin area are encouraged to include their show itineraries so PrideFest organizers can see them in person. All submissions will be reviewed for consideration. Material can be sent to PrideFest Entertainment, PO Box 93852, Milwaukee, WI 53203.

Anyone interested in taking the survey can do so by visiting the PrideFest web page <www.pridefest.com> or can call (414) 272-3378 and request one by mail.



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Milwaukee Bidding to Host International Bowling Tournament in 2000

Milwaukee—The Milwaukee bowling community is currently bidding for the International Gay Bowling Organization (IGBO) annual bowling tournament for the year 2000. The tournament, held every year over the Memorial Day weekend, attracts over 700 bowlers and friends to this event. IGBO originated in Milwaukee and it would be a thrill to bring it back.

Competing cities for the tournament are Columbus, Ohio, Atlanta, George and Denver, Colorado.

HIT needs a large delegation of bowlers to travel to Cleveland, host of IGBO 1998, to show support for the Milwaukee bid. HIT has secured a deluxe coach from Grayline Tours. It will depart from E. College Avenue Park and Ride on I-94 on Thursday, May 21, 1998, at 10:00 a.m. and will return from Cleveland on Monday, May 25, departing at 12 noon and arriving in Milwaukee at approximately 8:00 p.m.

The cost per person is \$99.95 which includes round trip bus transportation, lunch on Thursday aboard the bus, movies, games, prizes and an open bar.

Thursday night arrival will also include a free entry to the Milwaukee IGBO 2000 Hospitality Room and open bar. Transportation will be provided to the registration party at the County Courthouse and a bar crawl to the sponsor bars for IGBO '98 on Friday, May 22. Also included is bus transportation to all shifts of bowling on Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24, as well as the Awards Banquet Sunday night. A continental breakfast will be served for the return trip on Monday, May 25, along with movies, games and much more.

A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required by March 15, 1998, with full payment of the remaining \$49.95 due by April 15.

It is the individual's responsibility to se-

cure accommodations at the host hotel, the Sheraton City Centre located at 777 St. Claire Ave., in Cleveland. Phone (216) 771-7600. Tell them you are with the IGBO Tournament. Reservations must be made prior to May 1, 1998.

It is the individual's responsibility to send in a completed IGBO '98 Tournament application if you intend to bowl in the tournament.

For further information, contact Jeff Whit at (414) 332-9414, Roland Hoffman at (414) 481-9359 or Bill Conlin at (414) 443-0213.

Medical College To Host National AIDS Policy Advocate Michael Shriver

Milwaukee—The public is invited to attend a presentation by national AIDS policy expert and advocate Michael D. Shriver. The talk, titled "HIV Prevention—Where We Are and Where We Need To Be: Community Challenges and Political Implications," is sponsored by the Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) at the Medical College of Wisconsin and is scheduled for 3:00 p.m., March 5, at 1249 N. Franklin Place on Milwaukee's east side.

Shriver, currently deputy executive director for policy of the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA), has been a leader in efforts to protect and augment federal support for HIV/AIDS prevention and care.

In addition, he has been a strong and effective advocate of increased community participation in the allocation of federal funds for HIV/AIDS.

Among his many professional affiliations, he is a board member of the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AMFAR), community consultant to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and member of the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH) HIV Prevention Consortium.

Formed in 1983, NAPWA is an advocacy group that works to focus national attention on the realities faced by people living with HIV. The organization coordinates grassroots advocacy and educational programs, supports research for a cure, and lobbies federal agencies and legislators for increased attention to the needs of people with HIV disease.

A question and answer session and reception will follow Shriver's talk. For more information, please call (414) 456-7731.

Volunteers Needed to Help People with HIV/AIDS

Milwaukee—If you have an interest in working with persons living with HIV/AIDS, opportunities are available now at the St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry. The Ministry needs volunteers in all of the following areas:

- **Transportation**—provide transportation to appointments, support groups, etc. Must have valid driver's license and insurance;
- **Emotional/Spiritual Support**—(Buddy). Provide one-on-one support to a person living with HIV/AIDS in their own home, in the St. Camillus Health Center (10101 W. Wisconsin Ave.), or one of the residences on the St. Camillus Campus;
- **Bereavement**—Provide spiritual support to persons grieving the loss of loved ones due to AIDS;
- **Children's Closet**—Organize donated clothes, toys, etc., and schedule appointments for families to visit and select items from the Closet at St. Camillus Campus;
- **Special Events**—Assist in preparation and/or on the day of events such as picnics, retreats, etc.

Participation in volunteer training sessions is required. The next scheduled training for placements at St. Camillus is scheduled for Thursday, March 26th, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at St. Camillus. To fill out an application and/or register for this training, please call Karen at (414) 259-4664 by Friday, March 6th.

PrideFest Needs Tongue Tingle to Tempt the Toughest of Taste Buds

Milwaukee—In response to the community's request for more variety of food, PrideFest is now seeking food vendors who are able to fill the food orders. Requests have been made for Thai, Indian, Asian, Cajun, Soul Food, Greek, deli sandwiches, fresh bread and pastries, as well as standard festival type food. The greatest request to date has been for more vegetarian items on the menu.

"We have come to realize that PrideFest-managed food booths can supply only a limited menu," said Del Slowik, Food Coordinator. "As we have grown, so has the demand for greater variety and this year we hope to attract different food vendors to fill in some of the existing menu gaps."

PrideFest has always stressed the need to support Gay-owned and Gay-friendly businesses. Restaurants and caterers who have already established reputations within the LGBT community are encouraged to participate at PrideFest '98.

As many smart business owners know, the LGBT community is very loyal to businesses who support their organizations and events, and participation at the festival will result in increased business throughout the rest of the year.

"There are ten food buildings available to rent," said Food Coordinator Sharon Mahos. "Some buildings are suitable for operating full kitchens while others are perfect for the smaller food vendors to operate."

"There are great opportunities at PrideFest for vendors who have never been here before. They will be pleasantly surprised to see that our visitors stay for the entire day, which means people eat more than one meal while they are on the festival grounds," Mahos added.

PrideFest organizers will restrict the number of same-type menus to prevent direct competition between food vendors. This will also give planners an opportunity to see what works and what doesn't.

"We look forward to seeing what the independent food vendors have to offer," said Slowik. "If the chef or cook has a signature menu, we would love to feature it here. People want variety, and we want to give them what they want."

Food building packets are being produced which will detail the building dimensions, the location of equipment, and list the user fees. Fees will vary based on the size of the building vendors use.

Restaurant owners and independent food vendors interested in having a food booth at PrideFest '98 should contact the PrideFest office at (414) 272-3378 or e-mail <pridemilw@aol.com> and a food vendor information packet will be mailed out.

Members of the community who want to recommend a restaurant should also contact the PrideFest office so that the restaurant owner can be mailed information.

PrideFest, the largest Les-Bi-Gay-Trans event in Wisconsin, will be held August 28-30 at the Henry W. Maier Festival Park (Summerfest grounds) along Milwaukee's lakefront.



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Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Awarded Non-Profit Status by IRS

Milwaukee—There was little doubt that the Internal Revenue Service would recognize the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center as a non-profit organization. But in mid February, the official documents arrived and moved the Center's dream of having a "Home of Our Own" closer to reality.

The document, officially known as an Advance Ruling of 501(c)(3) non-profit status, allows donors to claim past and future contributions to the Center as tax deductible. This decision by the IRS establishes the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center as a publicly funded organization created for charitable and educational purposes.

"We are happy to receive the 501(c)(3) designation. Members and donors have given generously to the Center knowing that their contributions would be tax deductible. With this official designation from the IRS, past and future donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law," said Julie Ellsworth, Chair of the Development Committee.

The Advance Ruling will be effective until a final and permanent determination of tax exempt status is made by the IRS after four full years of operation, in the year 2002.

"The designation continues the process of establishing the Center as a viable project. It validates our mission statement, vision and programs," said Center spokesperson, Joshua Feyen.

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is a community-based organization represented by more than 100 volunteers and over 230 members. The Center's mission is to improve the quality of life for LGBT people in the Milwaukee area. This mission is supported by the vision to provide a home for organizations, businesses, culture and diversity; advocate for and provide programs and services that meet the needs of our communities; and educate the public and our communities about our lives.

The Center's board of directors is currently searching for a facility to call a "Home of Our Own," a safe place for our community where this mission and vision can flourish.

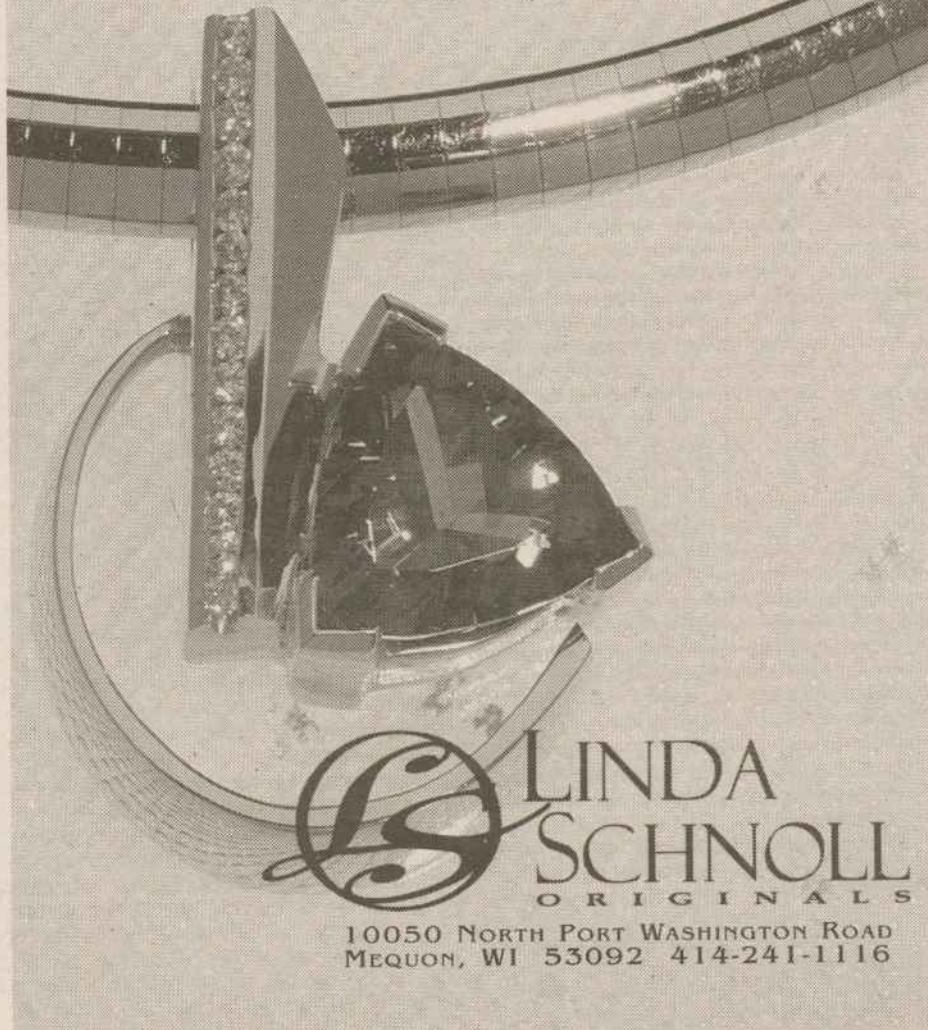
For more information, visit the Center's web site at

www.milwaukee-lgbtcenter.com

or call the Center's Hotline at (414) 483-4710.

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Speaking From the Right

Gays Should Give Credit to Newt Gingrich

Commentary by Matthew Tsien

In Gay America today there is a relentless and fashionable disparagement of Republican U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich. But let's put into perspective his great historical achievements.

If Newt Gingrich had been run over by a truck in 1993, it is almost certain that there would not be a Republican majority in the U.S. House today. Few other congressional politicians have made such a difference in partisan history.

Since the Republicans won the 1994 election—with the help of almost 40 percent of national Gay vote—the Dow has doubled, the welfare rolls have been cut by 25 percent and crime has fallen by almost as much. The American people—Gay and straight—are richer, less dependent, safer than they were just a few years ago and by margins almost no one anticipated.

It can plausibly be argued that the first two would not have happened if the Republicans had not won and held Congress—and the last would not have happened if Gay-friendly Rudolph Giuliani had not been elected Mayor of New York in 1993.

The Republican Congress and the Greenspan Fed gave heart to investors, including the generally affluent Gay community, while the GOP Congress and Giuliani's police department withdrew the sanctions other officeholders a generation ago gave welfare dependency and criminal behavior.

The Speaker's professorial style may turn off many voters; his pugnacity may get him in needless trouble with the

straight and Gay press. Still, Gingrich reminds me of one of the leading figures in Churchill's *Life of Marlborough*, William III.

Cool in his personal demeanor, William III was unloved in his country and his capital; he was an outsider who took over a great kingdom almost by accident; as King of England, he undertook responsibilities far beyond the capacity of any one man, and so her performance was often ragged.

Yet, he made a difference; in his reign began annual Parliaments, representative government and international finance as we know it today. He held the line against Catholic France and preserved the liberties of his sullen subjects and rebellious allies.

Gingrich, approaching his twentieth year in Congress, is a stranger in insider Washington and a disliked figure beyond the Beltway and in Gay America; has taken on the responsibility of long-term strategist and short-term tactician without either the institutional means or all the personal skills needed to fill them.

Like William III, he inspires little loyalty and many not be missed if he ever falls. William III had to wait until Macaulay wrote 150 years later to be appreciated; perhaps Gays today should give Gingrich a little credit.

Editor's Note: Matthew Tsien is a member of the Board of Directors of Log Cabin, Washington, DC. He served as National Field Director of President Reagan's Citizens for American from 1986-1991. He has written for *Wisconsin Light* before.

Letters

I Never Loved You

TO THE EDITOR:

My wife died recently. We had been married 37 years. I was with her when she died.

She asked me, "Do you love me?"

I think she knew the answer. I told her no.

She asked me, "Did you ever love me?"

Maybe she knew that answer to that question, too. I told her no. I told her that I'd married her because I had to, because the minister said it was my duty to marry a woman. That was God's will. I believed him.

My wife died shortly after that. If I had that minister now, I'd strangle him. I was Gay then and I'm Gay now. I've always been Gay. If it hadn't been for that minister and his religion, two people—my wife and I—might have been happy. We might have found people who loved us and we could love.

I should have divorced my wife, but she got sick and I had to take care of her. I did that.

I'm in my 60s, now, but maybe it's not too late. I'm going to see if I can't know what human love is for the first time in my life.

If you print this letter, please use my full name. I'm going to clip it and send it to everyone I know.

Mark Poblanski
Milwaukee

Gays in Fundy-Land?

TO THE EDITOR:

I clipped this article from my local rag and thought your readers might enjoy it. The writer (Sam Garrison) says out loud what I've often wondered about.

"Unless my 'Gaydar' has somehow gone completely haywire ... twinkle-eyed little Gary [Bauer, president of the Family Research Council] and Ralph [Reed, former executive director of the Christian Coalition], like a number of other prominent conservative politicians and 'family value' charlatans, both match the facial, vocal, and behavioral profile of a closeted Gay man which I have come to recognize, even from a distance, through years of direct personal experience with many such men, starting with my own former self.

Bauer and Reed match it so well, in fact, that I feel quite confident in saying, if they aren't Gay, neither are my husband and I!

Whenever either Bauer or Reed inveighs against Gay rights, all I can think about is how to make him take an expertly-administered penile erection test, or a good dose of sodium pentothal, or a polygraph, or a voiceprint analysis, any and all of which should help prove that he is turned on by guys the same way I am but just lies about it."

This appeared in the *Blue Ridge Lambda Press*. Garrison was the chief Republican counsel in the Nixon impeachment inquiry in the House in 1974.

Keep up the good work, guys. I enjoy getting news from my home state.

Michael Carnor
Roanoke, VA

Support for Clinton

TO THE EDITOR:

In your issue of January 29 to February 11 you had a very good editorial by Dr. Terry Boughner. It was "right one"! My hat goes off to him for such a well-written editorial. The editorial was titled *President Clinton and the Religious Right*.

The editorial couldn't have been written any better. It's true that President Clinton has made some mistakes—and who hasn't?, but certainly when we consider what the choices were when picking the president, we definitely did the right thing. Homosexuals and the country are better off than if somebody else had been made president!

Bertram Behrens
White Lake, WI

Kudos to ARCW

TO THE EDITOR:

In the last issue of *Wisconsin Light* I wrote in the "From the Right" column that we (the Gay/Lesbian community) ignore a governor who has a great record on AIDS. Ironically, in that same issue there appeared an article indicating that ARCW was giving its highest honor to Wisconsin's Governor Thompson at its annual Make A Promise Dinner on March 21, 1998.

I'd like to make it perfectly clear that the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin is not part of the "we" to whom I referred. ARCW is consistently nonpartisan and individuals like Doug Nelson, Executive Director and Mike Gifford, Director of Public Policy, are willing and able to acknowledge that many Republican legislators in Wisconsin, including Governor Thompson, have shown real leadership on AIDS.

ARCW's ability to work with Democrats and Republicans benefits those who are living with HIV and AIDS in Wisconsin and their caregivers. We owe those involved in the public policy effort at ARCW a debt of gratitude for their ability to see beyond political party and truly do what is best for those they serve.

Scott H. Evertz
Madison

ISP Homophobia

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing you and the GLBT community to inform you of the discrimination going on in one of Walworth County's local Internet Service Providers.

Elknet, some sort of subsidiary of State Long Distance Telephone based out of Elkhorn, has been the ISP I've used for the past six months. Up until last weekend, it seemed to be a great service, providing continuous service with little down time. I was very impressed that such a small community could boast so fine a service. My sense of good fortune was dashed away all too quickly, however, when I had the gall to suggest a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Message Board.

First, let me tell you a little about my situation. I moved to Wisconsin last April and had no idea where the GLBT community was here in Walworth County (to be honest, I still don't know where we are, but I'll be damned if I don't find out!). Getting settled, finding a job and other daily tasks of life took up much of my initial time here in Wisconsin and I have not gotten out much.

I did go to PrideFest and saw that there definitely is a community here in Wisconsin. I just had to find it in my little town. My Gaydar had gone off a couple of times when I'd been grocery shopping, but I was just too shy to do the "Hello, I'm Gay, are you?" thing. I knew there had to be a way to meet people without taking out a personal ad or making myself (or someone else) feel terribly uncomfortable in the frozen foods section. I decided to turn to my local internet message boards for a solution.

I asked for a board for the Lakes Area GLBT community to network and share information. I typed my suggestion with the best of intentions. I had no idea what was going to follow.

The response I received was inflammatory and offensive to me.

The person who wrote me, whom I later found out is Alan Fiebig, Director of Data Network Services at State Long Distance Telephone, stated on the suggestion board: "Considering that the common denominator of the groups you mention is sexual activity (as opposed to a board for gardeners [sic] the topics posted on such a board would neither comply with Elknet's Acceptable Usage Policy nor with the family nature of Elknet. Sorry..."

I was outraged at his presumption.

I wrote him expressing my feelings and letting him know that I did not appreciate his, what I deemed to be libelous wordage. My last name was hypertextually linked to that message and anyone reading the server could have seen his statements about me and the rest of the community.

I was also very disturbed that he assumed that the GLBT community was only united by their sexual activity.

I quoted the definition of libel to him, demanded his and his superior's name and told him I would go to the press, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the ACLU if I had to, because I felt he had libeled me and had been discriminatory and prejudiced in his decision.

I called him that Monday and tried to iron out some sort of resolution with him before I took the incident any further. Mr. Fiebig would not budge. He wanted to know the nature of the posts the boards would contain and I could not answer that. I could not speak for the entire community. That would be ridiculous.

The conversations was fruitless, which brings me here today.

I have contacted the ACLU about this incident and I have also contacted the press. I am very disappointed that the situation has come to this. I pay for this service. I deserve the right to be treated equally and not have my life and my choices implied to be immoral in public. Perhaps if it had been a protest or some other sort of free gathering, I would not have gotten so angry at these sorts of words, but my dollars pay this man's salary and I do not deserve his bigoted comments.

I hope that each of you reading this will look into your Internet Service Provider's policies and ask them if they discriminate regarding sexual affiliation or orientation. I've found out the hard way.

Gina M. Sapienza
Delavan

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As a matter of policy, *Wisconsin Light* will not print a letter to the editor sent to or appearing in any other publications. This is general journalistic practice.

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Camera Ready—Mar. 9rd
5:00 p.m.

March 26th Issue
Articles—Mar. 20th
Ads
Non-Camera Ready—Mar. 20th
Camera Ready—Mar. 23rd
5:00 p.m.

Caution


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

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Plans for March on Washington Put On "Pause" as LGBT Heads Bicker

Washington, DC—In an update to a story in the last issue about the proposed March on Washington in 2000, *The Washington Blade* in its February 13th issue reports that plans are now on "pause."

A press release dated February 4th announcing the March to be held in the spring of the year 2000 had been sent out across the country by the United Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC).

According to *The Blade*, at least six other national LGBT organizations expressed "serious problems" with the way that HRC and UFMCC announced the march plans.

In a conference call to HRC's Executive Director, Elizabeth Birch, heads of the organizations including the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, GLAAD and others agreed that the announcement "happened too

quickly for an appropriate amount of consideration and discussion with an appropriately broad group," according to Lorri Jean, a leader of a group representing Gay community centers across the country.

Therefore, Jean was quoted as saying, the March was put on "pause." Also put on "pause" was an idea that has been circulated by NGLTF: a plan to hold 50 marches on the 50 state capitals in 1999.

According to *The Blade*, the Gay leaders were angry over not being consulted by HRC and UFMCC. The prevailing feeling was that the two organizations had "jumped the gun" with their announcement of the March.

The controversy around what is being called "the Millennium March," is reminiscent of the heated discussions which took place in the early planning stages of the last March held in 1993. Then, too, there were heated arguments over the name, aims, goals and whether the March should be held at all.

Then, too, there was the proposal for 50 marches on the 50 state capitals, an idea that one observer said "fortunately died a merciful death."

The Blade also reported that Millennium March organizers have already scrapped plans for an actual march through the streets of Washington as was done at previous marches. The Millennium March will actually be a mass gathering on the Mall much like other, recent, "marches" made by other groups.

Birch told *The Blade* that HRC has received "an overwhelmingly positive response to the announcement of the 2000 March." She predicted that "dozens of groups will have endorsed the event within the next several weeks."

"It is very obvious to me that the time for the next Gay march is at the dawn of the new millennium," Birch said. "Right now, the vast majority of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Americans are not connected to Gay organizations. It will be these people, the rank and file, who will come to this March, in very large numbers."

Birch added, "There has never been a scenario of a Gay march on Washington that has not resulted in some turmoil. But at the end of the day, an incredible event gets delivered to the nation."

Planning Meeting for MAGIC Weekend

Madison—The first monthly organizational meeting for the 1998 MAGIC/Pride Weekend will be held Wednesday, March 4th at 5:00 p.m. at Fyfe's Corner Bistro, 1344 E. Washington Avenue, Madison. This kick-off meeting will begin all the planning that makes the MAGIC Picnic possible.

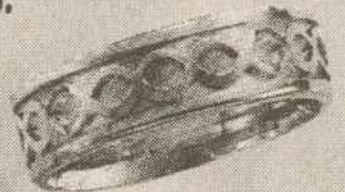
Historically, this event has been a major benefit for a wide range of Madison organizations. Any organizations as well as any person or business wanting to be involved with this 1998 event should plan on attending.

Representatives from GALVANize and a new umbrella organization for coordinating and promoting the Pride Weekend activities, Making One Madison (MOM), will be presenting some ideas for developing this and future Pride weekends.

For further information, please contact Kurt Schuhart at (608) 257-3597 or The United at (608) 255-8582.

"I Want To Be Your Jeweler."

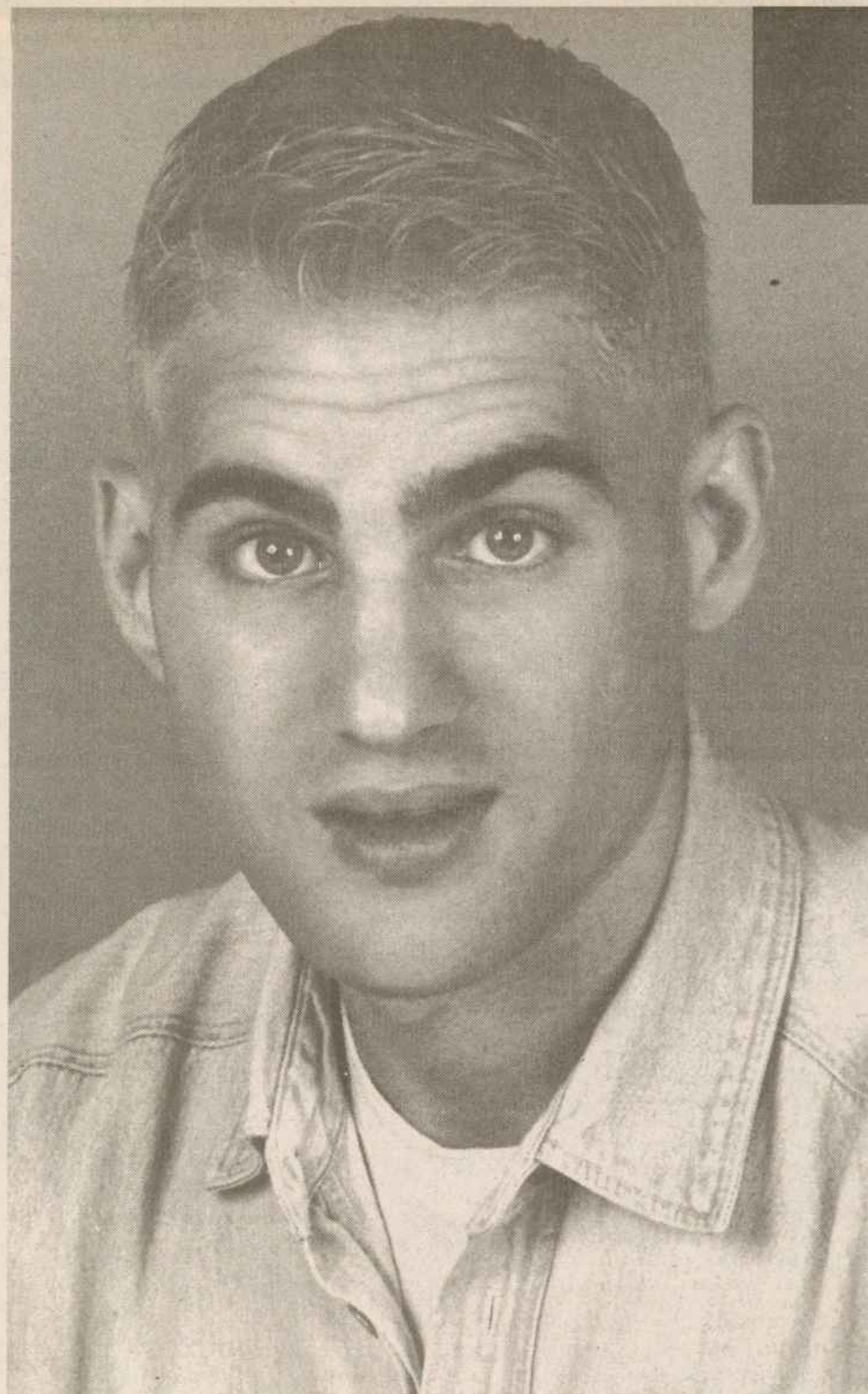
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From Small Beginnings, the Gay Games Has Become the World's Largest Sporting Event

Editor's Note: From August 1-8, 1998, the largest athletic event in the world will take place in Amsterdam. This is the Gay Games. Thousands of athletes will participate from all over the world. Uncounted thousands of people will come to watch and enjoy the fun. The following is a short history of the Gay Games.

Gay Games I

San Francisco, August 28 1982 to September 5 1982, 1350 athletes from 179 cities in 12 countries participate in 14 athletic events; 600 volunteers and a budget of \$125,000

Doctor Tom Waddell, a decathlon competitor at the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City, conceived of what would become the Gay Games as an opportunity for Gay people to demonstrate to the world that their skills and competitive spirits in sports parallel those of the rest of humanity and to show how "normal" Gays tend to be in comparison to the stereotypes.

He wanted to replace the obsession to win at all costs with the positive joys of simple participation. These games would require no minimum ability for participation. Winning would be defined as achieving one's personal best. Competition would not stress nationalism or age and men and women would compete on an equal basis.

A group called San Francisco Arts and Athletics (SFAA) was formed. Two years were spent in the planning of this event which was to be called "Gay Olympic Games." Opening ceremonies were planned for August 28, 1982 and Tina Turner agreed to perform.

Three weeks before the opening, the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) obtained an injunction in federal court prohibiting the use of the word "Olympic". This despite the fact that the USOC had ignored the use of the ancient word by Special Olympics, Police Olympics, Nude Olympics, Dog Olympics, and many others.

This created chaos and near collapse as the organizing committee scrambled to delete every use of the sacred word in advertising, merchandising, every activity, and every printed page. Somehow, the committee completed the Herculean task and the Opening Ceremonies of the Gay Games were held at Kezar Stadium (once the home of the 49er's football team, and now no longer in existence) in San Francisco on schedule.

SFAA appealed the Federal Court's injunction and a legal battle raged for two years. It was finally settled by the United States Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision in favor of the USOC in March, 1987. The still-vindictive USOC arranged to have legal fees of \$92,000 levied against Tom Waddell's residence, despite the fact he was fighting for his life against AIDS.

"However, by 1993 the USOC had changed its tune, waiving the legal fees against Tom Waddell's estate and inviting the Federation's Executive Committee to meet with the USOC in Colorado Springs, Colorado, to 'discuss matters of mutual interest,'" said Derek Liecny of the Federation of Gay Games.

The Federation of Gay Games (FGG) is the governing body and parent organization of the Gay Games. It is headquartered in San Francisco.

"A break through in communication was established," Liecny continued, "and a rapprochement is now in place. In 1994, the USOC awarded then out-of-the-closet Olympic Championship diver Greg Louganis its highest award.

In Greg's acceptance speech he dedicated the award to Tom Waddell and implored the USOC not to have Olympic volleyball played in homophobic Cobb County, Georgia, as part of the 1996 Olympic Games. It worked. In 1994 the USOC prominently listed Gay Games IV in its annual handbook under noteworthy events. The Gay Games can and do make a difference!"

Gay Games II

San Francisco, August 9th to 17th, 1986

3500 Athletes (40% women) From 258 cities in 19 countries participating in 17 sporting events with a budget of \$350,000 (\$30,000 from the city of SF)

It was never the intention of the SFAA to make the Gay Games entirely a San Francisco event. They were kept there a second time in order to refine them and clearly establish their philosophy. Having four years to plan the event, a much more diverse and entertaining set of events was scheduled by the SFAA. "Procession of the Arts", a series of cultural events complementing Gay Games II, was added.

This included concerts, exhibits, plays, conferences, films, dances, cabarets, and an old-fashioned Circus Parade! The events promoting the talents and creativity of the Lesbian/Gay community, spanned the entire month of August.

In 1982, AIDS was virtually unknown. But by 1986, it was an ominous and very scary black cloud that threatened the Gay community. Gay Games II was a psychological boost as it demonstrated our strength, spirit, and unity. Dianne Feinstein, Mayor of San Francisco, welcomed the crowd at the Opening Ceremonies.

Doctor Tom Waddell, founder of the Gay Games, died of AIDS on July 11, 1987.

Gay Games III

Vancouver, BC, Canada - August 4th to 11th, 1990 7,500 athletes from 39 countries participating in 23 athletic events 2,000 cultural participants with a budget of \$2.1 Million

The Gay Games grew immensely in both size and stature in the four short years since San Francisco. Vancouver, a very beautiful and friendly city, rose to the occasion. A portion of this effort was funded by the Canadian Federal Government. Vancouver's City Government and its police department were very supportive. Athletes were allowed free use of public transportation!

Gay Games IV

New York City June 18th to 25th, 1994 10,864 athletes from 2000 cities in 40 countries participating in 31 athletic events 7000 volunteers and a budget of \$6.5 million.

More athletes competed in Gay Games IV than any other event including the Olympics! The games were held in June in New York City instead of August because 1994 was the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in 1969.

The Stonewall "March on the United Nations" took place the following morning.

Gay Games V

Amsterdam, Netherlands - August 1st to 8th 1998 12,500 Athletic and 2,500 Culture Participants from 5 continents are expected to gather in Amsterdam 30 sporting events

"Friendship Through Culture and Sports" is the motto of Gay Games V being held on the first eight days of August 1998 in the beautiful city of Amsterdam.

This is the first time Gay Games will be held outside of North America. It will be interesting to see how the games evolve when a European flavor is added to the blend of forces influencing their path.

From a humble beginning in a half-filled stadium in San Francisco, the games has grown in a mere sixteen years to be the largest sporting event of all times!

Gay Games V has received enthusiastic financial support from the city of Amsterdam and the government of the Netherlands. Major corporate sponsors include KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Speedo, and Levi Strauss Europe. A campaign by diver Greg Louganis and tennis star Martina Navratilova has raised nearly \$500,000 in the United States for the Gay Games.

Registration for participation started in December, and over 8,000 people have already registered. Tickets for the opening and closing ceremonies and events are available through the Gay Games website and merchandise such as T-shirts can be purchased as well.

Entrance to many performances, exhibitions and sporting events will be free.

There will be 30 athletic events and a large variety of cultural programs. Opening and closing ceremonies will be held in a beautiful new 50,000 seat arena which has a transparent retractable roof. A week-long party including free concerts every night will be held in the center of Amsterdam to celebrate Gay Games V.

Included among the cultural events will be an international festival of Lesbian and Gay choirs featuring more than 2,000 singers. On the afternoon of the opening day a gigantic flotilla of decorated boats will parade through Amsterdam's canals to celebrate the spirit of GAY PRIDE.

On November 13, 1997, The Federation of Gay Games, meeting in Denver, Colorado, chose SYDNEY AUSTRALIA to be the host for the 2002 Gay Games VI. Other cities that bid for the Games are Toronto, Montreal, Dallas, and Long Beach. Gay Games Sydney will be held in September, 2002. The slogan will be "Under New Skies".

Senate Censors Seek New Ways to Put Limits on the Internet

By Patricia Conklin

Washington, DC—Senator John McCain (R-Ariz) wants all U.S. libraries and public schools to install screening software or face the loss of federal funds for computer education.

The problematic Internet issues, he believes, are online pornography, gambling and consumer fraud. The software to be installed would block access to an estimated 28,000 pornographic sites.

Senator Dan Coats (R-Ind.) has introduced a bill that would slap criminal penalties upon anyone who distributes sexual material "harmful to minors" on the Internet for profit. Only those sites which provide their visitors free preview images need be concerned, according to authoritative reports.

People for the American Way (PAW) a 300,000-member organization dedicated to defending civil rights; promoting the democratic values of religious freedom, free speech and respect for diversity, sees government censorship in the McCain screening plan, however.

Carole Shields, PAW president, criticized Senator McCain's proposal, one which would require schools and other public institutions to "filter" Internet access in order to qualify for federal discounts for Internet service.

"The Internet is becoming a vital tool for educating our children," Shields said, "and the universal service discounts are meant to extend that opportunity to every child. These discounts should not come with federal strings of censorship attached."

People for the American Way and the ACLU are contributing assistance in a lawsuit seeking to overturn a similarly restrictive Internet filtering policy in Loudoun County, Virginia public libraries. That lawsuit, with PAW serving as co-counsel, was filed in federal court in December.

Other opponents of government-sponsored censorship include the American Library Association, the ACLU, and the computer industry, all of whom argue that both the McCain and Coats bills impose unfair burden on educational institutions.

Last summer the U.S. Supreme Court delivered a unanimous decision striking down a previous attempt by Congress—the 1996 Communications Decency Act—to crack down on so-called pornography.

Currently, gamblers with modems, are

able to access sites if they have credit cards, using online slot machines, poker and blackjack games, lotteries, off track betting, and roulette wheels.

"On the Internet," complained Representative Frank LoBiondo (R-N.J.) "gambling is virtually a free-for-all. Gamblers have no assurance they will be paid their winnings, and, unlike Atlantic City, there is no floor supervisor to complain to if you feel you're being treated unfairly."

Two states, Missouri and Minnesota, already ban Internet gambling, while other locales are considering such legislation. Foes of such bans—the Internet gambling industry—claim that these laws infringe—not on free speech—but on free commerce.

Software that interferes with so-called "sexual" material routinely blocks all educational information about AIDS, safe sex, and access to any Gay-friendly sites that provide avenues to self-esteem and news about civil rights and social equality. The word "Gay" is often the only indicator seized upon by such software to provoke access denials.

In the public libraries in Loudoun County, Virginia, for example, entire daily issues of the San Francisco Examiner are blocked whenever individual Examiner columnists discuss questions relating to Gay and Lesbian rights or to AIDS.

The McCain plan, according to People for the American Way, would take away from parents and teachers the decision about what children may have access to, putting that decision in the hands of the federal government.

"While the vast majority of Internet content is appropriate for children, it should be up to parents working with their local school districts, and not the federal government, to decide how to limit their children's exposure to inappropriate content," said PAW officials.

Carol Shields points out that Internet filters have often proved problematic and ineffective, "screening out a large amount of educationally valuable material—making their forced installation in schools particularly onerous."

Schools, she believes, now have a variety of less intrusive means of controlling inappropriate material, such as supervising the students or teaching them about the possible dangers they face on the Internet.

In an Era of State Budget Surpluses, AIDS Must Vie with Other Programs

Montpelier, VT—Chuck Kletecka once spent a great deal of his time planning for his own death.

But startling advances in the treatment of AIDS have changed his perspective, so he and thousands like him are able once again to think about their futures.

"We're not necessarily planning for death. We're planning for life," he told a legislative committee recently.

It is not as simple a task as it might seem. So the state is being asked to help Kletecka and thousands like him by spending an extra \$100,000.

That request illustrates how decisions on the annual state budget, which so often seems like nothing more than a dry exercise in numbers, can make a huge difference in people's lives.

As wonderful as it is to be able to make life plans again, the dramatic changes in the lives of AIDS patients are incredibly challenging and complex. Where once they gave up on careers to focus on the slow and debilitating evolution of their disease, now they have to struggle with complex medical regimes, insurance, keeping a roof over their heads, in short, all the challenges of life.

The issues are complicated, though, by the changing nature of the people's health, which still is precarious but manageable with constant attention.

"It's a very, very complex issue," Kletecka said.

So AIDS services organizations such as Vermont CARES are asking the Legislature to help them help their clients.

The additional \$100,000 they're seeking, above the roughly \$400,000 they already get and that the governor proposed funding again, would help provide AIDS patients with the broad range of services they need, from psychiatric counseling to housing assistance to job advice.

"The effects of medicines has resulted in the wonderful aspect of serving people for a much longer period of time," said Tim Palmer, executive director of Vermont CARES, which provides AIDS services in 10 Vermont counties. "That reality also provides new challenges."


Kletecka, of Waterbury Center, has been

on disability but his improving medical condition might enable him to go back to work again. That raises the problem, however, of health insurance. The coverage through his disability pays the \$2,500 monthly cost of his prescriptions. That would end if he got a job, however, and the new coverage might not be as generous. So he is able to use the services of Vermont CARES to explore all his options.

The problem for the AIDS service organizations, though, is they are not alone in facing ever more challenges and looking to state governments to help meet them.

In a year when many states are expected to have a budget surpluses, that would appear to be a simple chore. But it isn't. Much of the money already has been committed to paying for a variety of new programs such as new education funding laws.

And there are serious concerns on the state level about whether the big surpluses can be sustained in future budgets. So lawmakers are cautiously sifting through what the state can, and in some cases must, afford.



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Governor Thompson's Commitment to AIDS Fight Earns Him ARCW's Highest Award

Milwaukee—The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) is pleased to present Governor Tommy G. Thompson with its highest AIDS Community Leadership Award for his Administration's decade of leadership in the fight against AIDS.

The award will be presented at ARCW's annual Make A Promise event at the Pfister Hotel in downtown Milwaukee on Saturday, March 21, 1998.

"The Governor has always supported comprehensive AIDS programs and has delivered state funds that are essential to make them happen," said ARCW Executive Director Doug Nelson. "Wisconsin is far ahead of most states with more than \$4 million of annual state funds for AIDS due to the Governor's historic commitment."

Nelson praised Governor Thompson's

ARCW Prepares for 12th Annual Make A Promise Dinner

Milwaukee—The Twelfth annual Make A Promise dinner & auction sponsored by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin will take place on Saturday, March 21, 1998, beginning at 5:30 p.m. It will be held at the Pfister Hotel, 424 E. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee.

The evening will include an original, live performance accompanied by a musical score.

This year's theme, "VOICES" will unveil five actors □ a volunteer, a teen, an HIV case worker and two individuals living with HIV or AIDS, each communicating AIDS awareness messages of hope and change regarding the AIDS epidemic.

Mike Gousha, anchor on TODAY'S TMJ4, will once again be master of ceremonies.

The dinner & auction is dedicated to the strength and power of the many voices united in the fight against AIDS. All proceeds will benefit programs and services provided by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. Ticket prices are \$175, \$100 and \$75 per person. To reserve tickets or for more information, call 414-225-1577.

recent approval of a 15 percent increase in state AIDS funding. "He knows that AIDS is far from over and at a time when many states are cutting back or doing nothing, Governor Thompson continues to be a strong partner in the fight against AIDS."

Over the past ten years, the Governor and his Administration have worked closely with Wisconsin's AIDS community to develop effective programs. Specifically, the Governor has strengthened Wisconsin's response to AIDS through:

In 1989, support for a state funded Life Care Services program supporting HIV case management and food, transportation and support services at agencies throughout the state;

- In 1993, initiation of statewide HIV early intervention health services to enhance the Life Care Services program;
- Proposing and supporting increases in state funding for AIDS services in the past five State Budgets resulting in a \$2 million annual commitment to community-based services;
- Significant access to triple combination AIDS drug therapies by fully funding Wisconsin's AIDS Drug Reimbursement Program for residents with HIV/AIDS (thus avoiding the unconscionable cost-reduction tactics of other states such as closing down drug programs or creating a lottery system to determine who will receive AIDS drugs);
- Building one of the top State Medicaid programs in the country that provides a full range of primary acute and long-term care services for people with HIV/AIDS;
- Supporting a comprehensive street outreach HIV prevention strategy reaching injection drug users, their spouses, the homeless and others at high risk for HIV;
- Innovatively allocating federal and state housing resources to prevent homelessness among people with AIDS and increasing their ability to adhere to new drug regimens;
- Expanded access to comprehensive

health care by developing a unique program designed to provide hundreds of people with HIV/AIDS access to the private health insurance market;

- Investing in a strong community-based response to HIV that assures any person with HIV/AIDS, wherever they live in the state, has access to comprehensive services;
- Providing start-up funding to create community-based AIDS research on emerging new drug therapies, thus bringing state-of-the-art drugs to Wisconsin residents with HIV and AIDS;
- Approving a harm reduction model for AODA treatment as one of only 12 pilot treatment programs in the country that helps hard core drug addicts by teaching risk-reduction instead of preaching abstinence.

"Across the broad spectrum of AIDS policy issues, the Governor has supported positions that will reduce the impact of AIDS statewide. His leadership on these issues has enabled Wisconsin to develop an AIDS delivery system that is among the best in the country," said ARCW Director of Public Policy Mike Gifford.

In 1993, as the opening speaker in the annual State AIDS/HIV Conference, the Governor expressed his commitment to AIDS saying, "We're doing a lot. If it requires money or more help, the State of Wisconsin will be there."

Since his remarks in 1993, the Governor and his Administration have constantly met his pledge to increase their commitment to AIDS. The Governor's commitment positions Wisconsin well to meet the challenges of AIDS far into the next century.

Town Hall Meeting to Be Held to Discuss 1998 Possum Queen Campaign

Milwaukee—A meeting has been scheduled to begin planning for the 1998 Possum Queen Campaign. This town hall meeting will be held on March 10, 1998, at 7:00 p.m. at the M&M Club Banquet Room. This meeting is open to everyone within the community.

The purpose of the meeting is to reflect

upon Possum Queen Campaigns of the past and make plans for the 1998 event. A steering team will also be formed that evening to ensure the success of this annual fundraising event benefiting people living with HIV and AIDS.

Everyone attending this open forum will be given the opportunity to express his or her concerns, ideas and opinions about past Possum Queen events and to help shape the size and scope of the 1998 campaign.

"Now is the time to speak your mind," said Max Barnett, coordinator of Possum Queen for the past several years. "This will be an opportunity for those members of the community who want to positively influence the future of the Possum Queen campaign."

Barnett went on to say that the Possum Queen Campaign had grown beyond all expectations. For it to continue to grow and succeed in giving even more help to those living with HIV/AIDS, volunteers are badly needed.

"For those persons living with AIDS who benefit from our efforts," Barnett said, "I want the 1998 campaign to be the best ever!"

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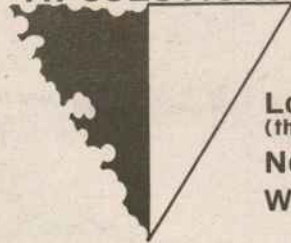
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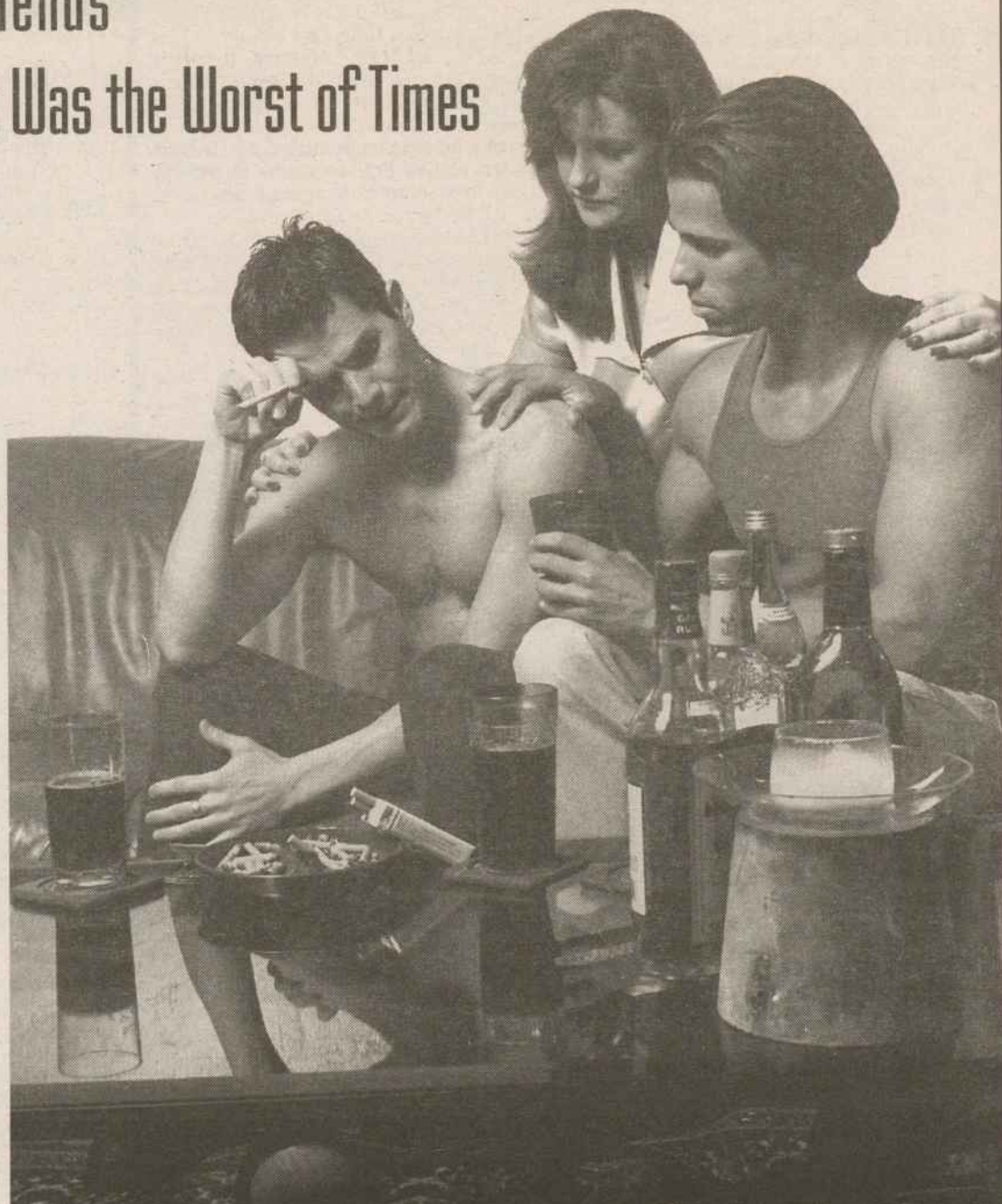
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Father of Gay Activist Militancy Isn't Discouraged by Recent Losses

By Jack Nichols

Washington, D.C.—Franklin E. Kameny, Ph.D., the father of Gay activist militancy, is neither discouraged nor disillusioned by the LGBT defeat in Maine on February 10. "We should be prepared to continue to do battle, both reactively and proactively," he said.

In 1961, the earnest 72-year old Harvard astronomer single-handedly made himself the nation's foremost authority on how to thwart the U.S. Government's anti-Gay policies. Kameny was also the first American to attempt the elimination of anti-Gay government discrimination, taking his case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Under the unflappable scientist's leadership, the Mattachine Society of Washington, America's first militant/activist group, introduced bold activist strategies into the Gay movement. After four decades of persistent, dedicated Gay movement work, Kameny remains as involved as ever in the historic struggle that reflects, as it grows, much of what began in his always-controversial, carefully-reasoned statements, clearly marked roadmaps to equality for same-sex affection under the law.

In the wake of the February 10 defeat for Gay rights at the polls in Maine, Kameny says that the Lesbian and Gay movement's tactical responses to declarations of war by the Christian right must be waged "more competently than we have in the past."

The pioneering Gay leader predicts, however, that "full success" is ahead for Gays who request nothing less than full equality with fellow U.S. citizens.

Nevertheless, he says, "we have not done nearly as well as we should both strategically and rhetorically. They (the Christian Coalition) have come up with effective sound bites, of which their special rights has been the most devastating. We have not come up with adequate counters."

Kameny believes that such "sound bites and rhetoric are crucial!" He points at how

"the opposition raises arguments which have no relationship to relevant reality, and has no compunctions about inventing 'facts' to suit them."

The veteran Gay strategist insists it is "necessary to LISTEN to what is said, and to refute, rebut and otherwise counter it point by point." He thinks that thus far such countering of arguments has been less than effective.

"There has been too much of a tendency as (apparently) in Maine, to be complacent. We should always approach these fights as if it were absolutely certain that we will lose unless we make an all-out effort, and then make that all-out effort. These fights are no place for timidity or closetry."

"Further," says Kameny, "our people tend to be 'nice guys'; theirs are not. They have respect neither for truth nor for civility. They fight 'hardball'; our people must learn to do likewise, as alien as that type of fighting is for many of us."

The Christian Coalition's declaration of war on Gay America, he says, is marked by a "marshalling of troops" and their "coming out in full force in shameless celebration of prejudice, bigotry, discrimination, and undiluted hatred, in the evident hope of extending their success."

"Ultimately," according to Kameny, "of course most, if not all of these battles will be trumped by the enactment of ENDA (the Employment Non-discrimination Act pending in Congress) and so it is there that we must continue to direct our efforts in full force and relentlessly. While ENDA deals only with employment discrimination, once it has become law, additional protections in housing and public accommodations will probably be relatively easy to enact."

Kameny says that Gay men and Lesbians will win most of the battles ahead because "we are right, moral and American and they are wrong, immoral and unAmerican."

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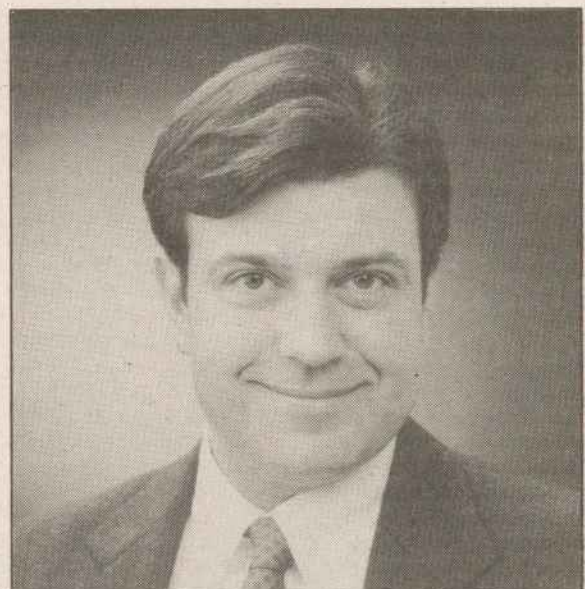
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National LGBT Groups Move Cautiously in Call for Maine Boycott

Washington, DC—Boycott the Pain in Maine! was one of many slogans that are being considered for buttons and bumper stickers, produced by veteran Southern Gay activist Bob Kunst of The Oral Majority.

Kunst, who directs The Oral Majority (he founded it shortly after the emergence of Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority) has, in the past month, marshaled forces to encourage tourist boycotts of the Cayman Islands.

The Associated Press (AP) has disseminated news of the boycott filed in Augusta (February 18) and headlined "Florida Gay group plans boycott of Maine."

Finding—in the South—groundswells of support for this idea, Kunst's Miami Beach-based organization has suddenly added Maine to its boycott list and is presently shipping thousands of boycott buttons and bumper stickers from Miami to New Orleans where they will become a visible part of the Mardi Gras scene there, he says.

A member of the pro-Gay rights group, Maine Won't Discriminate, Kunst said, had asked him not to announce such a boycott. This Gay and Lesbian activist group has been silent about its forthcoming strategies and is said to be reviewing its options in the week since Maine became the first U.S. state to rescind state-government-sanctioned same-sex protections in employment, housing, credit, and public accommodations.

Kunst asked the Maine Gay activist, he

said, to give reasons for his objections to a national boycott. "Because we live here," the member is reported to have replied.

None of the mainstream lesbian and gay organizations, including the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Human Rights Campaign, have suggested boycotts. The HRC, in fact, issued a press release saying, in effect, that the repeal of protections did not truly reflect Maine's more tolerant majority.

Others believe that the state's voters would have turned out to defeat the repeal had the February 10 referendum not taken place in the immediate wake of fierce ice storms. It appears, nevertheless, that Christian Coalition stalwarts did arrive in sufficient numbers at the polls.

Are there reasons for caution? Another veteran activist, Dr. Franklin Kameny of Washington, D.C., said he thought that Maine's Gay activist group needs, perhaps, more than a couple of weeks to map out its next strategic moves. Kameny also expressed reservations—as a general rule—about the efficacy of Gay and Lesbian political strategies that are hatched outside of an affected area, in this case, Maine. "It is possible to be too far from the center of what's going on," he said.

Kunst argues that the anti-gay vote in Maine is hardly a local issue. "If the rest of the country fails to show Maine how we feel about this, its going to happen elsewhere...in other states. That's why silence isn't the right answer. Boycotting is."

Complacency, Lack of Education May Have Contributed to Defeat in Maine

Augusta, ME—Gay-rights activists outspent their opponents 3 to 1, put Maine's popular governor on television to stump for them, and even had a poll saying 62 percent of voters were on their side.

But they still narrowly lost the February 10th referendum that repealed the state's law protecting Gays and Lesbians from certain forms of discrimination. What happened is an instructive lesson on the power of grassroots activism and how not to run a campaign, experts say.

"It was always going to be close, and it was going to go to whichever group was able to mobilize their supporters, get their people to the polls," said Oliver Woshinsky, a political science professor at the University of Southern Maine.

The 51-49 percent victory, he says, "is a tribute to the organizational talents" of the forces that fought to repeal the law passed last spring by the Legislature and signed with much fanfare by Gov. Angus King.

Those forces largely consisted of extremist Christian groups that focused all their energy on convincing their sympathizers to turn out and vote. Although most of the low-key effort during the storm-shortened campaign was in the rural areas that carried the vote, work also was done marshalling the faithful in urban Cumberland and York counties.

Television ads against the Gay rights statute did not start appearing on television until the weekend before the vote, about a week after the other side led by Maine Won't Discriminate had hit the airwaves.

However, despite spending more than \$150,000 on television in the month leading up to the referendum, Maine Won't Discriminate lost what should have been a decisive edge, one expert says.

"They squandered their TV budget," said Bowdoin College professor Christian Potholm, a pollster who worked with the media firm that helped Maine Won't Discriminate during a 1995 referendum against Gay rights.

The firm was not rehired for this year's battle.

"They took their biggest advantage and they squandered it, and they have nobody to blame but themselves," said Potholm, who also advises the independent governor.

Because the Gay rights groups won in 1995, they might have been lulled into a sense of complacency this time around, said Ken Hayes, a University of Maine political scientist and former Democratic state senator.

"I really think there was a belief among many of the supporters of the so-called Gay rights movement that the issue had been resolved," Hayes said, describing the repeal effort as "the stealth campaign."

Commercials featuring King telling the public how he intended to vote but not overtly urging viewers to vote the same way lacked the sense of urgency needed to convince voters to turn out for a midwin-

ter, single-issue referendum, Potholm said.

Karen Geraghty, campaign manager for Maine Won't Discriminate, defended her group's efforts, pointing out the vote was decided by "a very, very, very small group of the electorate."

"Given the fact that this campaign was run during the holidays and during one of the worst storms we've ever had, where two-thirds of the state was without power, I think we did a really great job," Geraghty said.

Campaign spokesman Joe Cooper said the pro-repeal groups had one advantage his side could not match: a captive audience.

"In the rural areas, where does everyone come together? In the churches," Cooper said. "We didn't have that option."

Although Geraghty maintains Maine Won't Discriminate had volunteers in two-thirds of the towns in the state, her organization first focused its efforts on those towns where it won 55 percent or more of the vote in 1995. Those included some of Maine's biggest cities.

Next in order of importance: towns where Gay rights supporters won 51 to 55 percent. After that, the emphasis was on areas where the vote had been about 47 to 50 percent, Geraghty said.

"We had a lot of ground to cover in a short amount of time," she said.

Paul Volle, executive director of the Christian Coalition of Maine and one of the repeal effort's principal leaders, acknowledged the churches were a "cornerstone," but he emphasized the campaign did not stop there.

Volle and his "ground troops," as he calls them, put a special emphasis on Cumberland and York counties because those two areas had solidly rejected an anti-Gay rights referendum proposal in 1995.

"We had to minimize those losses so the rest of the state could carry us through," he said.

Although the two counties voted against repeal this time, Volle believes the margin could have been much higher.

Volle said his group would continue to poll Mainers to identify friendly voters, asking them two questions: Do you favor special rights for homosexuality, and do you favor partial-birth abortions?

The Christian Coalition also will examine the lists of people who voted to look for duplicate votes and "questionable registrations," especially in southern Maine, Volle said.

Meanwhile, Gay-rights supporters are regrouping to carry on the crusade, this time with particular attention to rural areas.

"Election returns identify the need to reach Mainers outside our cities and better educate the public about the need for anti-discrimination legislation," the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance said in a statement Friday.



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A misconception many in Maine have, the statement said, "is that Gay people don't come from small towns."

"It's time for us to share our lives with all the people we know, whether that means coming out in the small towns where we still live or returning to the small towns we came from," MLGPA President Betsy Smith said.

Maine Defeat Brings Fallout, Debate and Threat of Boycott

By Bill Meunier

Milwaukee—They had a 62% to 27% lead in pre-election polls and they outspent their opponents by a 3 to 1 margin. Yet on February 10th proponents of Maine's new Gay Civil rights law saw it overturned at the polls by a margin of 51% to 49%.

With talk of a national boycott of Maine and products produced there, a threat to establish a new national network of churches to "build on the Maine victory" issued by the Christian Coalition, it is clear the repercussions of the Maine vote may be with Gay and Lesbian America for a while.

What Happened

The Maine Gay Civil Rights law passed its legislature and was enthusiastically signed by Governor Angus King in May, 1997. The ink on King's signature was hardly dry when a coalition of right wing Christian fundamentalists announced a petition campaign to exercise "a peoples veto."

The Maine constitution allows for referendums on laws passed by the legislature provided a sufficient number of signatures are gathered within a strict time limit. In October, the Maine Secretary of State was presented with enough signatures to force a referendum on the issue.

This was the second referendum Maine had held on Gay civil rights. In November, 1995 Maine votes rejected a measure that would have prohibit local governments from passing Gay Civil rights ordinances by a vote of 53% to 47%.

Pre election polls showed that by a margin of 62% to 27% Maine's voters favored retaining the new law. But on election day only 35% of those voters turned out and a majority of them voted for repeal.

Leaders of Maine Won't Discriminate, a coalition that opposed repeal, blamed a bad storm that left the two thirds of the state without power and the captive audience their opponents had gained through churches in rural areas.

Some Maine political observers tell a different story. They say that the storm affected everyone equally and given their past victory in 1995 and big margin in the polls backers of the law became complacent.

One pollster who worked on the 1995 campaign said that the pro Gay civil rights forces "squandered their advantage" by running poor TV ads. The ads Maine's featured popular independent Governor, King. In the ads, King said he was going to vote against repeal but did not specifically urge others to join him in doing so.



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Others also blame those who managed the pro-Gay civil rights campaign pointing out that they outspent the proponents of repeal by a three to one margin.

The Fall Out

As a result of its victory in Maine, the Christian Coalition announced a new campaign designed to re-energize itself. The campaign calls for the recruitment of 100,000 "liaisons" in churches around the country. The liaisons would help mobilize their church memberships to lobby against Gay rights and abortion and to mobilize their congregations at elections.

The Christian Coalition was helped by its victory in Maine. The group had been losing members and contributions were down following the resignation of its founder, Ralph Reed and the announcement of an IRS investigation that could result in its tax exempt status being revoked due to political activity the group is alleged to have engaged in.

The Human Rights Campaign was quick to denounce the Coalition plan. A statement issued by Elizabeth Birch, HRC director points out that polls show that 70% of America's Christians believe that it is wrong to discriminate against Lesbians and Gays.

Boycott?

Meanwhile, a Florida group, the Oral Majority has called for a boycott of Maine. That call has not been taken up by national Gay and Lesbian groups. In fact HRC issued a press release that seemed to be discouraging boycott talk. The release said that the vote did not reflect Maine's more tolerant majority.

The Oral Majority says that has shipped thousands of stickers to New Orleans to be worn during that city's Mardi Gras celebration. The groups head, Bob Kunst said the anti-gay vote in Maine is not just a local issue. "If the rest of the country fails to show Maine how we feel about this, its going to happen elsewhere...in other states. That's why silence isn't the right answer. Boycotting is."

Others aren't so sure. Veteran activist Dr. Frank Kameny has urged outsiders to give Maine Won't Discriminate a chance to come up with its own strategy. "Strategies from the outside seldom work."

There may be debate about what caused the defeat and what should be done in reaction to it, but one thing is clear, the issue of state wide Gay civil rights law in Maine seems to be a dead end for the foreseeable future. Even King who has been an ardent support of the idea said the legislature should move onto to other things.

A Gay Sailor's Life Under "Don't Ask" is a Revolving Door

By Peter Cassels

"You have to live two separate lives," says Sean (a pseudonym), a career non-commissioned officer, during an interview on what it's like to be Gay or Lesbian and live under the Pentagon's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue" policy. "They say sooner or later you're going to cave in to one or the other. You have to realize that any day they can take your whole career away from you and that's really hard."

Sean agreed to the interview if he were not identified.

Closets in the military have revolving doors. "We're in the closet when we are [on duty] and out of the closet on our personal time, like at a party," he explains. "But then we are back in the closet if someone from work shows up at the party, but we are out if we are on vacation far away."

Such a paranoid schizophrenic existence can be unbearable. The pressure sometimes can cause sailors to wash out. "That makes it tougher for the rest of us," Sean says. "We need to show that we are, to paraphrase the Army slogan, the best of what we can be. We always feel that we have to be better than anyone else because if you're Gay and you're a dirt bag, you're out of here, buddy. They'll kick you out in a heartbeat. If you're Gay and a stellar performer, then they'll look the other way, because it's convenient for them."

The policy is being applied unequally and, despite assurances to the contrary, some commanders continue to carry out illegal witch hunts.

"Commands are inconsistent. Some will bust you just because of a rumor."

He says one sailor was suspected of being Gay or wearing drag because he had women's shoes in his locker he was holding for his girlfriend.

"Others will praise you and say it's really great. I've had officers try to fix me up with other enlisted personnel because they know the guys are having the same problems. But I won't go for anything like that. You have to be very cautious and make sure there's no hidden agenda."

He acknowledges that life is somewhat easier under Don't Ask, Don't Tell because witch hunts are not as rampant. "I believe it is happening in some commands, but a lot of commanders don't want to deal with it anymore. They really don't want to know."

Sean enlisted many years before the policy was implemented, in part to escape his homosexuality. "I joined because I thought they'd kill me. I figured why should I exist if I were Gay? Back then, I didn't know what to do. I figured there were no Gays in the Navy and they would straighten me out."

It wasn't long before he realized he was not alone. "I was in boot camp and one of the guys propositioned me, but I blew it off because I didn't know whether he was serious. I was afraid. I didn't want to do anything wrong. I didn't want to get kicked out."

He worried about his mannerisms and how he talked. "I even had a picture of a girl and said it was my girlfriend. People would ask me 'What's her name?' 'How come I don't see you with her?' So now I tell people I'm Gay, 'but, look, I'm not a threat so don't worry about it.' Some say, 'you know, I never met Gay people before', yet they've been working with them all this time."

His "Gaydar" picks up signals from others. "Just the way they carry themselves, you know that they're Gay. I think what's important is you have to pretend that you're not Gay by going out of the way to pretend that you're straight. That causes a lot of people to ask questions."

Over the years he has encountered discrimination. He sometimes didn't receive awards and battle citations he deserved. "My superiors said, 'Well, just as long as we all keep our mouths shut, we'll let you stay in. You're lucky we don't say anything.'"

Promotions are based on periodic performance evaluations, which before Don't Ask, Don't Tell were used indiscriminately against suspected Gays. "Once I was marked 'perfect' in all areas," he recalls. "It made it look like I was the model sailor. They even wrote that on the report. They were very pleased with my performance."

However, the evaluation also had a section labeled 'personal behavior'. "They marked me low on that, so I asked why. They said 'Because what you do on your personal time is against the Navy's rules.'"

He credits Admiral Jeremy M. Boorda, the chief of naval operations who com-

mitted suicide in May 1996 amid allegations that he was wearing unearned combat ribbons, with making life easier for Gays and Lesbians. Beloved by the enlisted ranks, he was called a "sailor's admiral." Sean says Boorda was Gay friendly. "He didn't like the discrimination that was being brought on single people in the Navy. It's assumed that if you were not married you're Gay. That's a bad assumption. There are a lot of single people who are not."

The admiral dropped 'personal behavior' from the performance evaluation form. Unfortunately, Boorda was not as popular in the officer ranks, and rumors were spread that he was homosexual.

"A lot of things he did for Gays - the enlisted people, the junior people - was really good and people up [in the chain of command] didn't like that."

Sean has thus far survived his kafkaesque life, but it has not been easy. Discrimination is always present. "I've been questioned by people whom I have not come out to and I asked, 'Why are they treating me this way?' They said, 'Well, let's just say that assumptions lead to suspicions, which lead to accusations, which lead to the truth.' What they implied was 'Okay, we can't prove it or we don't know, but if you want to further investigate it, we will.' And that's not right."

"We have met the enemy and he is us" is Pogo cartoonist Walt Kelly's well-known paraphrasing of War of 1812 naval commander Oliver Hazard Perry. Ironically, it suits the modern Navy.

"You have to separate the enemies among us first," Sean says. "A lot of Gay people will out other Gays. That's so wrong. It's not happening nearly as much as it did before Don't Ask, Don't Tell was adopted. Someone would say to me, 'you know, that guy's a faggot', yet he would be sleeping with the same guy off duty. Unfortunately, that was the way to get promoted, to show that they were supportive of the military's policy."

Sean says the argument that openly Gay and Lesbian military personnel would hinder combat operations makes no sense. "Straights who feel that way don't realize that they are already showering with and sleeping next to Gay people when they are on ships."

He recalls news coverage when the policy was implemented. TV crews were brought aboard a submarine, where they interviewed sailors. "They asked, 'How would you feel if the guy next to you was Gay?' Now on nationwide TV with cameras in my face I would say, 'I wouldn't like it'. Only because I'm protecting myself. It's called CYA - cover your ass. I know two of the guys who were on that submarine. They were openly Gay outside the Navy."

Homosexuality is so common that combat operations surely would be impeded if all were discharged. Some jobs are held predominately by Gays and Lesbians. "Yeomen secretaries and personnel staff who take care of service records are mostly Gay," he says. "So are medical corpsmen and dental technicians."

Cracks are appearing in the wall of resistance to change. A captain who writes on a variety of topics under the pseudonym Buster Pittman for the Navy Times, an independent weekly, called for deep-sixing Don't Ask, Don't Tell in a November 10, 1997 column: "The ban that prevents Gays and Lesbians from serving openly in the U.S. military is an unjustifiable violation of the principles of freedom upon which this country was established." He said U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge William A. Norris predicted in a speech that the policy would eventually be buried in the "national cemetery of shame" along with earlier Supreme Court decisions that permitted slavery and segregated public facilities.

The column elicited several letters to the Navy Times editor. In one, Capt. Joseph Ragan of the medical corps at Camp Pendleton, Calif., wrote: "A service member's sexual orientation is not relevant either to his or her ability to serve in the military - or to the military's ability to fulfill its mission. Don't Ask, Don't Tell was a politically expedient compromise which has outlived whatever usefulness it once might have had. Let's bag it now."

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St. Matthew's Catholic Church at 1138 S. 25th Street in Milwaukee is a community which not only welcomes diversity but celebrates it! Please join us for worship on Sundays at 10:30am.

Dallas UFMCC Passes \$6 Million Mark for New Cathedral of Hope

Los Angeles—The world's largest predominantly Gay and Lesbian church passed the \$6.2 million mark in fundraising for its new worship facility in Dallas, Texas.

The Rev. Troy D. Perry, founder and moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC), the largest and oldest Gay spirituality organization, congratulated the members of the Cathedral of Hope Metropolitan Community Church for this historic milestone.

"UFMCC members in Dallas have once again demonstrated those qualities that continue to make UFMCC one of the world's fastest growing religious bodies: commitment and sacrifice," said Perry.

"In Dallas, Texas, and in cities and towns around the globe, the members of UFMCC are living out our Vision Statement to 'meet the justice and faith needs of people in growing numbers of countries and cultures,'" said Perry. "This magnificent new cathedral in Dallas will be a powerful reminder that Gays and Lesbians are a deeply spiritual people and are a vital part of God's work in this world," he added.

Plans by the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) in Dallas call for construction of a \$25 million dollar cathedral which will seat 2500 persons. With a membership of 2000 persons, the Cathedral of Hope MCC is the largest UFMCC congregation.

UFMCC African American Conference

"In Our Own Language: A Conference for African Americans in UFMCC" will be held in suburban Washington, DC April 16-18, 1998. This historic national conference is the first organized entirely by and for African American friends and members of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the world's largest predominantly Gay spirituality organization.

According to the Rev. Elder Darlene Garner, conference organizer, "This conference will provide an opportunity for African Americans in UFMCC to affirm who we are in UFMCC and to celebrate the diversity of gifts and experiences we bring to the growing Gay spirituality movement, and to the greater g/l/b/t communities."

Conference participants will include Dr. Kelly Brown-Douglas, professor of theology at Howard University School of Divinity; the Rev. Dellyne Russell-Hinton, associate pastor of Belair United Methodist Church in Belair, MD; the Rev. Sandra Robinson, president of Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies; and the

Rev. Darlene Garner, a member of the International Board of Elders of UFMCC and senior pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Northern Virginia.

Conference brochures and registration information are available from UFMCC Headquarters by phone at (310) 360-8640 or by e-mail at info@ufmcc.org.

9th Annual Rita Bowl

Milwaukee—Join the Holiday Invitational Tournament (HIT) for an evening of zany and wacky bowling on Friday, March 13 for the 9th Annual Rita Bowl.

Cost per person is \$15 or \$18 for the bowling and bus transportation. Check in time is 8:30 p.m. and bowling begins at 9:15 p.m. at the AMF Red Carpet Regency. Tickets can be purchased from any HIT Board member or contact the HIT Hotline at (414) 332-7142.

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Consumer Advisory Panel To Hold Informative HIV Related Talk

Milwaukee, February 1998 -- The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's (ARCW) Milwaukee office is inviting the HIV community to participate in an important talk on Tuesday, March 10, concerning human herpesvirus sex (HHV-6) and its relationship to HIV infection.

Dr. Konstance Knox, PhD, director of research for Herpesvirus Diagnostic, Inc. will present emerging research which has shown that virtually all people infected with HIV have active HHV-6 infections that infect and destroy CD4 + Lymphocytes raising the possibility that HHV-6 may synergize with HIV in destruction of the immune system. The presentation will be followed by a brief question and answer period.

"This is the first presentation of the year which is being hosted by ARCW's Consumer Advisory Panel (CAP)," said Neil Albrecht, ARCW regional director. "Throughout 1998, ARCW and CAP look forward to offering several beneficial presentations for the HIV and AIDS community."

While HHV-6 has been an important opportunistic pathogen in immune compromised individuals, it has been identified as the cause of severe nervous system diseases and possibly Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

This free-of-charge presentation is sponsored by the Consumer Advisory Panel of ARCW and will be held in the ARCW 4th floor conference room, 820 N. Plankinton, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. with refreshments served at 5:30 p.m. For more information, contact Cheryl Vaughn at 414-225-1523.



April 1 Deadline for Those Seeking Asylum in U.S. Because of Sexual Orientation

Washington, DC—Persecution against sexual minorities is a tragically routine occurrence throughout the world. Consider how in Islamic fundamentalist countries, homosexuality may be punished by the death penalty; in Russia and China, homosexuals are subject to electroshock therapy to convert them into heterosexuals; and in several Latin American countries, death squads hunt and exterminate homosexuals as part of their "social cleansing" efforts.

This persecution goes unpunished when the government inflicts or condones the abuse or mistreatment. Without legal redress available, many victims flee to the United States for safety given the relatively better treatment and rule of law they can find here against such violations.

Homosexuals who have experienced or fear persecution in their homelands have been eligible for asylum in the United States as members of a particular social group since June, 1994 when *Toboso-Alfonso, 2 I&N Dec. 819 (BIA 1990)*, the Board of Immigration Appeals case involving a Cuban Gay asylum-seeker, was designated as precedent.

On April 1, 1998, an unprecedented one-year filing deadline on asylum claims will take effect, requiring that all asylum

applicants file within one year of arrival in the United States unless they can prove "exceptional circumstances" for their failure to file.

Concerned that sexual minorities will fall through the cracks without greater outreach and education to advocates and the Gay and Lesbian community, the Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights and the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force have produced the innovative, practical publication entitled *Preparing Sexual Orientation-Based Asylum Claims: A Handbook for Advocates and Asylum-Seekers*.

Authored by Heather McClure, Christopher Nugent and Lavi Soloway, the 178-page handbook provides an in-depth focus on preparing affirmative applications for asylum by Gays and Lesbians, and insightful information and resources to aid sexual minority asylum-seekers and their advocates in the preparation and representation of bona fide asylum claims.

Foregrounding the needs of sexual minority asylum-seekers, the handbook includes chapters on the history of asylum based on sexual orientation; client-centered approaches to working with the applicant; techniques to raise relevant information and facilitate the client's informed decision of whether to file; step-by-step preparation of the application and the client's affidavit; guidelines and resources for securing supporting documentation for sexual orientation-based claims; considerations when preparing the client to testify; and further resources for legal, social, medical and psychological support for the asylum-seeker. The handbook also addresses legal concerns for HIV-positive asylum-seekers.

The handbook is a component of the Emergency Asylum Campaign launched by the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force and the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission to alert potential Gay and Lesbian asylum-seekers to the April 1st deadline.

Asylum claims by Gays or Lesbians have been rare with less than two hundred identified by the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission in San Francisco.

There are several reasons for the low numbers of these asylum claims: clients' unfamiliarity with their eligibility to apply; reluctance to disclose their fears based on their sexual orientation to a lawyer in this "foreign" land; and advocates' difficulties in eliciting from clients such relevant information or, once discovered, the difficulties in evaluating or developing asylum claims.

"It is our hope that the handbook will serve as an invaluable resource to get the word out to potential asylum-seekers about the April 1st filing deadline and to support practitioners' rigorous evaluation, preparation and representation of Gay and Lesbian asylum-seekers before Asylum Offices nationwide," said Christopher Nugent.

Preparing Sexual Orientation-Based Asylum Claims: A Handbook for Advocates and Asylum-Seekers is available through the Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights at (312) 629-4500 ext.4531.

A Decade of
Light

Bi Definition Meets Twice Monthly and Welcomes New Members

Milwaukee—Bi Definition, Metro Milwaukee's Bisexual social, support and activist organization, is accepting new members and will discuss the upcoming international Bisexual and empowerment conferences in April, as well as other topics at the BestD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady St. at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 7 and Tuesday, March 17.

The organization gathers on the first Saturday and third Tuesday of each month to provide information about Bisexuality, local, regional, national and international Bi events and offers time to talk about personal questions and concerns. This is accomplished via fact sheet handouts, newsletters and group discussion.

An annual membership, which includes newsletter mailings and free admission to all Bi events at the Clinic, is just \$15. Otherwise, \$5 covers the cost of a single gathering. In case of financial hardship, a donation of time to the organization can

be arranged for membership.

Bi Definition strives to have a diverse membership, so a special invitation is extended to all various ethnicities, youth, aged, orientations and physically and mentally challenged persons.

For more information, call Steve at (414) 483-5046.

Gay and Lesbian Arab Society Launches New Site

New York, NY—The Gay and Lesbian Arab Society (GLAS) has launched their new on-line site called "Ahabab" (Loved Ones). The site will serve as an on-line community center allowing Gay and Lesbian Arabs anywhere in the world to meet, network, and discuss issues of relevance to their needs. The site features a news section, an area for articles and essays, an arts area, entertainment, recipes, links, and a chat room. The address of the site is:

The Gay and Lesbian Arab Society was established in 1988 to serve as a support network for Gays and Lesbians of Arab background and to educate both Arab and Gay/Lesbian communities everywhere on the realities of the Gay Arab experience.

Milwaukee LGBT

Leadership Building

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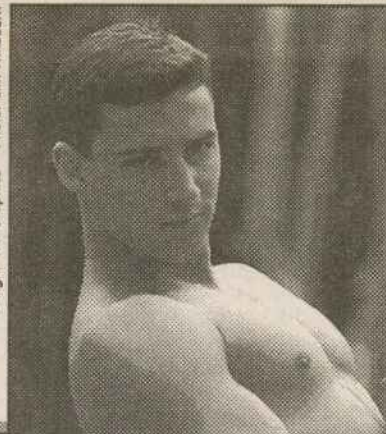
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THE SPOTLIGHT

Riki Wilchins, Author of "Read My Lips," is Coming to Milwaukee

Milwaukee—Riki Wilchins, author of *Read My Lips, Sexual Subversion and the End of Gender*, is being hosted in Milwaukee on March 14 for a book-reading and book-signing by Gemini Gender Group and AfterWords Bookstore.

Riki, considered by many the brightest and most articulate transgender spokeswoman of her activist generation, is famous for her rapier wit, razor tongue and street-smart activism.

Read My Lips, currently number four on the Lambda list, changes current thinking about bodies, sex, and gender. Riki's voice is outraged, outrageous, sad, and hilarious as she weaves theory and personal experience into her account of what it means to be "gendered" in the postmodern world.

Her story of self-discovery is compelling both by the way she lives it and thinks it through in the highly accessible personal and theoretical narrative she constructs. *Read My Lips* is a unique mix of theory and application, anecdote and affront. Some may study and discuss postmodern gender theory, but Riki knows her Judy Butler in her bones.

Riki will appear for a reading and book-signing at 1:00 P.M. Saturday March 14 at Milwaukee's AfterWords Bookstore and Espresso Bar on 2710 North Murray Ave.

Renowned Playwright Michael Neville, Brings Humor to Milwaukee Stage

By Noah Archer

Michael Neville, whose play, *School Girls in Uniform*, opens March 14th at the Broadway Theater Center, has the look and laugh of a grown up bad boy. Not the kind of bad boy who's chased down the back alleys in "Cops," but the mischievous older brother who sets all the clocks in the house an hour ahead. Neville confesses to spending much of his high school career in detention. "The Salvatorians used to make us kneel on our hands," he laughed. "I did it so often, my mother thought I was getting arthritis."

Neville brings this same puckish subversiveness to *School Girls in Uniform*, a comedy set in a girls' military boarding school in Virginia. "The play goes after what I think is a pretty obvious target, the military establishment that persecutes Gay people," Neville said. "Unfortunately, a lot of military power brokers get off on sexual McCarthyism."

"Most of the characters in *School Girls* are minorities: Lesbians, people with many, many marriages, REO Speedwagon freaks. Call it the zany adventures of bent lovers in an ultra-straight society."

Neville describes his own sexual orientation as "openly Bi."

"I won't reveal the secrets of my boudoir," he said. "Let's just say my toy soldiers come to life after midnight."

Quentin Crisp, author of *The Naked Civil Servant*, calls *School Girls in Uniform*, "wickedly funny."

Neville, whose plays have been produced on and off Broadway and in regional theaters around the country, has turned most exclusively to comedy in recent years.

"I've had six plays done in Playwrights Studio Theater's 'Festival of Ten-Minute Plays,' and all but one of them are comedies.

"It's my response to the outlandish number of family and friends who've died in recent years. You might call it a Celtic retort to mortality," Neville said. "After all, my people refer to the obituaries as 'the Irish sports pages.'"

Neville said he uses humor as a weapon against "the basic terribleness of life." "Laughter is better than Prozac," he said, "and it doesn't squash your libido."

Neville adapted three musicals, *Eileen*, *One Touch of Venus* and *Music in the Air* for Broadway in the 1980s during the first wave of the AIDS epidemic.

"The producer died of complications

nue 414-963 9089).

At 7:00 P.M. she will be presenting the evening's program at Gemini Gender Group, which meets at Unitarian Universalist West, 1301 W. North Avenue in Brookfield (one mile west of Hwy 45). A donation from non-members will help defray the evening's expenses.

Riki Wilchins is the cofounder of the Transsexual Menace, a direct action group, calling attention to the discrimination and violence facing transgendered people.

She is also Executive Director of GenderPAC, a public advocacy coalition dedicated to pursuing gender, affectional and racial equality. For the past two years, Riki has been one of the main organizers of National Transgender Lobby Days, which has brought these issues directly to Washington. She is currently working on two more books.

Schedule

1:00 P.M. AfterWords Bookstore, 2710 North Murray Ave, Milwaukee, WI.

5:00 P.M. GPAC Fund-raiser, Radisson Hotel Lobby Lounge, Mayfair Rd & North Ave., Wauwatosa, WI.

7 P.M. GGG Meeting, Unitarian Universalist Church, West 13001 West North Ave., Brookfield, WI.



Michael Neville Francis Ford Photography

from AIDS during the run of *Music in the Air*," he said. "Since then, more than half the people in those casts got hit and went down from the same thing."

Neville has responded to the AIDS pandemic with more than just comedy. Since moving back to Milwaukee from New York City where he lived for fifteen years, in 1988, he has donated his time and work to the Milwaukee AIDS Project, ArtReach Milwaukee and the BestD Clinic.

Most recently, a staged reading of *School Girls* at the Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theater raised \$250 for BestD Clinic.

Despite, or perhaps because of, Neville's black sense of humor, *School Girls in Uniform* is surprisingly upbeat.

"Sure, I like to see my heroes prevail over the vile bastards who oppress them," he said. "It may not always be that way in life, but it's the way it ought to be."

School Girls in Uniform opens Saturday, March 14th at 10:30 p.m. at the Studio Theater of the Broadway Theatre Centre, 158 N. Broadway in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward.

The remaining four performances will be Sunday, March 15th at 7:30 p.m., Friday, March 20th at 10:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 22nd at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10. For reservations and further information, call the Broadway Theatre Centre box office at (414) 291-7800

Suzanne Westenhoffer Set to Perform at UW-W Young Auditorium

Whitewater—UW-Whitewater Cultural Affairs and IMPACT welcomes stand-up comedienne Suzanne Westenhoffer to the Irvin L. Young Auditorium on Friday, March 13, 1998, at 7:30 p.m. Westenhoffer is the first openly Lesbian comic ever to have her own HBO special and has become one of the most recognized comedians around today. Her successes include an appearance on HBO's *Comic Relief VII*, as well as her most illustrious moment to date, a nomination for the highest honor in cable programming—the ACE Award. Suzanne's first comedy recording, "Nothing in My Closet But My Clothes," was released in January, 1997, on the Uproar Entertainment Label.

Besides being the first Lesbian comic to have her own HBO special, Suzanne was the first known Lesbian to ever be featured on *Evening at the Improv*, *Caroline's Comedy Hour* and *Out There on Comedy Central*.

Major TV exposure has also featured Suzanne on ABC's *Day One*, VH-1's *Buster's Comedy Hour*, *Politically Incorrect*, and a host of other appearances.

She is a favorite of the talk show circuit having appeared on *Sally Jesse Raphael*, *Marilu* and *Real Personal*, to name a few. Articles in *The New York Times*, *Village Voice*, *Entertainment Weekly* and *Newsweek* all say the same thing—she's fresh, a standout and "disarmingly funny."

Although Westenhoffer has the ultimate goal of having her own sitcom, she still hits the road, continually touring throughout the year. Her club performances have included headlining at *Caroline's Comedy Club*, *Punchlines*, *Improv*s and *Comedy*

Lesbian Brother, Lisa Kron, To Perform Solo in Sheboygan

Sheboygan—Lisa Kron, a founding member of the Obie and Bessie Award-winning theater troupe, *The Five Lesbian Brothers*, goes solo. Don't miss the Midwest premiere of a new work written and performed by this rising star of contemporary theater. Kron will lead you on a roller-coaster ride through her Midwestern family album.

Meet her aunts who travel to an amusement park for the hamburgers, her father who loves dangerously fast roller coasters, her mother who refuses to have her picture taken, her closeted uncle and his large collection of Gay pornography, her brother and his bride whom he met over the Internet and her Irish Catholic partner, Peggy.

Find out how all of these characters come together as Kron presents her captivating theater piece, "2.5 Minute Ride" at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, March 27th at 7:30 p.m. A Family Informance, featuring excerpts from Kron's repertoire along with a discussion will be held on Wednesday, March 25th at 7:30 p.m.

"2.5 Minute Ride" is a richly layered theater piece. Kron switches back and forth between a journey she took with her 74-year-old father to Auschwitz, an over-the-top portrayal of her family's annual pilgrimage to Cedar Point Amusement Park, her brother's wedding to his Internet bride and the way she and Peggy fit into her family. What emerges is a captivating and emotional trip with an extraordinary family who, in spite of everything—or because of everything—are willfully and absurdly bound together.

Kron began her solo career in New York in 1984. Since then, she has performed in a multitude of spaces both large and small. Her solo piece, "101 Humiliating Stories" (nominated for a 1994-95 Drama Desk Award), was originally presented at

Please See Lisa Kron Page 16

Connections across the US.

Her theater performances have included playing to sold out audiences at major venues such as Town Hall, Zellerbach Auditorium, the Rainbow Room and the Great American Music Hall. *The New York Daily News* calls Westenhoffer "a center stage Diva who bursts out of her closet with little explosions of outspoken bemusement that could make even Bette Midler blush."

Tickets for Westenhoffer's performance are \$2.50 and \$5 for UW-W students with identification and \$10 and \$12 for the general public. For tickets, call the UW-W Ticket Center and charge by phone at (414) 472-2222 (Voice or TTY) or stop by the ticket outlet at the Young Auditorium weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for tickets or more information.

Promotional support is being provided by IMPACT, UW-W's official Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual student organization, in addition to media sponsorship from WLKG 96.1 FM (Lake Geneva), WKPO 105.9 FM (Janesville), *Janesville Gazette*, *Walworth County Week*, *Jefferson County Union*, *WIN Media of Burlington* and *Marcus Cable*.

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Curtain Calls

Despite Rough Spots, the Florentine's Production of "Abduction" is Grand

By J. R. Baker

Mozart's "Abduction from the Seraglio" was first performed over 200 years ago in Vienna. This German comic-romantic opera or "singspiel," however, has proven timeless and the Florentine Opera Company presented it again to a delighted audience in Uhlein Hall at the Marcus Center the weekend of February 20-22.

"Abduction" is a charming way for the Florentine to celebrate 65 years of musical excellence in the field of opera and to make a notable addition to Milwaukee's International Arts Festival this year.

The plot, in brief, concerns two pairs of lovers attempting to flee from captivity in the Turkish palace of Pasha Selim. Selim has romantic designs on the leading lady, Constanza, while his palace guard, Osman, is determined to conquer the affections of Constanza's maid, Blonda.

Constanza's and Blonda's lovers, Belmonte, a young Spanish nobleman and Pedrillo, a servant, are determined that all of them shall escape, while Osman is just as determined that they shall not. That's when all the comic fun begins, interspersed with Mozart's wonderful arias of hope, love, anguish and determination. Many a musical and comic-dramatic moment intervenes before the final joyous notes are played and sung.

On stage, the depiction of a Turkish palace and garden were nicely realized by one basic set with a plaza raised several steps, 4 minarets, a great central door, two side towers with shuttered windows on the second floor that could be opened. All this was bathed in bright, Mediterranean sunlit colors that, along with the vividly colored costumes, helped to complete the picture of a Turkish palace and garden by the seashore.

Pasha Selim, played by Ronald Marx, with his imposing height and strong speaking voice, created a very striking and handsome appearance and easily dominated the stage during his appearances.

Erie Mills as Constanza continued to reinforce her international reputation by meeting with commitment and a clear coloratura soprano voice all the musical demands of the part, whether it was love, sorrow, joy, longing or defiance.

Lynette Tapia as Blonda was delightful as a willful and spirited person in her own right, but vocally she seemed small voiced and lacking the intensity to match the fire of her acting.

Jonathan Boyd who played Pedrillo, proved to have an excellent tenor voice capable of both an exciting war cry in "On to Battle" and the softness of a romantic serenade in "In Moorish Lands." However, he needs to learn to act in a more natural way than "Look at me, isn't this a cute pose or move?"

Belmonte, played by Bradley D. Wil-

liams, on the other hand, moved and acted in a much more realistic manner, but though he sang all the coloratura notes of his role, his light, lyrical tenor voice lacked the passion and intensity to really move our hearts when he sang of his anguish or joy.

The singer who reminded us that this is a romantic-comic opera was Kurt Link playing and singing the part of Osman the palace guard. His was a strong bass voice that had an excellent range and he knew how to make us laugh with his comic rages, romantic failures and drunken foolishness.

One reservation about this charming opera production would be that the overhead projections that conveyed the German translations into English were often poorly timed to what was being spoken or sung on stage and also at times, not very accurate.

No heroes or heroines die in this opera. Mozart has written a happy ending. The lovers all sail back to Spain. Love conquers all. It is a timeless truth set to the immortal music of Mozart.

"Hedwig and the Angry Inch" Opens Off-Broadway to Wild Applause

New York, NY-- Hedwig Schmidt is not your average Transsexual.

She, er, he never quite completed the operation that would have transformed him into her. There was a little bit left over, so to speak, which is where *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, a wild and wonderful neo-glam, post-punk rock musical, gets its title.

We are talking identity crisis here, of both Hedwig, a self-styled "girlie boy," and of the American musical, stretched into a provocative evening of ditsy humor, punctuated by a terrific rock score. Both survive the transformation.

What author and star John Cameron Mitchell has done is create something that defies easy categorizing, although its vibrant theatricality is not in doubt.

Mitchell's Teutonic title character, an "internationally ignored" song stylist, delivers what is essentially an 80-minute cabaret show in the faded ballroom of the real-life Hotel Riverview on the far west fringes of Greenwich Village. It's hilarious mock-confessional autobiography, chock-full of political and show business asides and a liberal dose of raunch.

Hedwig's story certainly is exotic. Born in what was then East Berlin, our hero, then called Hansel, finds fleeting happiness with an American serviceman who suggests marriage and then a sex-change operation, in that order.

The operation doesn't quite succeed, but

Hansel, now Hedwig, finds himself in a Kansas trailer park.

Hedwig finds relief with Tommy Gnosis, a young rocker on his way to superstardom. Tommy later abandons Hedwig, too; in fact, as *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* opens, he is performing just across the Hudson River at a major stadium concert in New Jersey's Meadowlands. Is Hedwig bitter? You bet, which leads to much lamenting, a lot of it hostile and a lot of it very, very funny.

Mitchell, looking like the offspring of Farrah Fawcett and Rum Tum Tugger from *Cats*, handles the pulsating, heavy-duty score written by Stephen Trask, with surprising ease. He is a strong singer and an accomplished actor.

Hedwig is accompanied by a band called the Angry Inch, in reality a gritty rock troupe called Cheater, and a sexually ambiguous backup singer named Itzhak, portrayed by Miriam Shor.

Yet it is Mitchell who must carry the show and he does. The dynamic performer turns *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* into a tough-talking and hard-driving tour de force.

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A Premiere - David Parsons and his Dance troupe will perform the Midwest premiere of his new work Channeling at Milwaukee's Pabst Theater on Wednesday, March 12 and Thursday, March 13. Channeling is based on the influences of television and the mass media. It was co-commissioned by the Pabst Theater. For tickets call Pabst Theater Box office at (414) 286-3663.



THE NIGHT LIGHT

News... There is so much to tell you about. We have heard that **Club 219** is up for sale. The asking price is reputed to be \$300,000. We also heard that **Club 94** will be closing. Supposedly the state is building a clover leaf that will take up the land, the bar is sitting on. Hmm, guess Bobby Lyons wants to get out of the bar business.

Also we understand that **Walker's Point Café** is now once again owned by George. Yes we have heard the rumors about what happened, but for details read some other paper. This ain't the National Enquirer and since we've been unable to contact everyone involved, it would be grossly unfair to print anything about the reasons for the change over.

Last but not least we must say yes and no with regard to the **Manoeuvres** situation in Madison. Yes they are looking for another site and believe they may have found one. NO it is not located way out in Middleton (where do some people get their information from?), but it's not in the Madison downtown area either.

I could tell you about where it is, but guessing games are so much more fun! The real reason is that I don't want to spoil the betting pool on where Ed and his crew will relocate to. I can tell you that new place is bigger than the current digs, but not nearly as large as the site Ed had his heart set on a block away from his current location.

Now, before I forget (How could I?), Gus who owns the Milwaukee Eagle has opened his new restaurant, **Gus' Mexican Cantina**. Of course, I was there—and so was the immediate world. We'll review it later because it's grossly unfair to review a restaurant that's just opened.

Anyhow, the Cantina is warmly elegant. There's two bars, one for smokers (which I appreciate), and a quietly stylish restaurant. There was a nice buffet with all sorts of good things to eat. The restaurant is located across from Mader's on Old World Third Street in the same building as the Third Street Pier. Check it out! Great go-

ing, Gus and good luck!

I also managed to finagle myself a tour with **Grayline**. The coach was extremely nice, very modern. The tour was well done, a very efficient and friendly tour of two of the landmark churches in Milwaukee. Now, I'm not much into churches, but I learned a lot. Got out-of-towners coming n? Why not give **Grayline** a buzz. You won't regret it.

We hear that a good time was had by all at the **La Cage's** weekly Tuesday night Prize night. Apparently **In Between** owner Curt Peck pulled **Triangle** owner Rob Bruckner's number during one of the drawings, to the delight of **La Cage** owner George Prentice. And you thought that our bar owners don't support each other.

Recaps ... I had a wonderful time at our Valentine's Day party at **In Between** Curt was so dashing in that tacky game show host sports coat he wore for the Dating Game, and Lana St. James made an elegant Vanna White!

I stopped in at **Dish** on Friday the 13th. It turned out to be my lucky day because I had a great time. Even though this is primarily a women's bar, men are more than welcome there too. And more than a few men can be found in the bar at almost anytime. I commented on this to Julia La Loggia, the owner of **Dish** who told me that she is happy that both men and women feel comfortable at her bar. "Everyone is always welcome here whether they are male or female." I can personally attest to the truth of that statement.

On Valentine's Day I had to leave my many sweethearts in Milwaukee (as if...) and head to Mad town for our big Spotlight event at **Kirby's Klub**. As usual Kirby was the perfect host.

The shindig was a benefit for the AIDS network Emergency Services Fund. It included a fabulous show. The walls of the main bar room were suitably decorated with valentines purchased by the customers. Due to a miscommunication Tammy Baldwin got there after the show was over, but you know Tammy, she couldn't help but pitch in and help sell the last few Val-

entines. She got \$5.00 for each of them. Thanks Tammy.

I also stopped in at the **Shamrock** and at **Manoeuvres**. Both places were crowded with couples celebrating the day and singles looking for someone to celebrate with. **Shamrock** owner JJ looked like a real stud and Brian his bar manager was cute as ever. The Marguerita seemed to be the drink of the evening over at the **Shamrock** with one table consuming them almost as fast they could be made.

Over at **Manoeuvres**, DJ Tony Richarts was keeping things hopping (like when doesn't he) in the front room, while Charlie was on duty at the **MAD** bar. Love those videos Charlie!!

I was exhausted after my trip so unfortunately I missed the Pageant at the Milwaukee Hilton. But I do want to offer my congrats to **Sage La Rue** who won the Miss Gay Wisconsin title. Sage is one of my all time favorite performers. She is a real sweetheart and I am so pleased for her. I don't know who won the Mr. Title since the organizers didn't call us and let us know.

Other great times in the last couple of weeks included an evening of great conversation and great tunes over at Milwaukee's **This Is It**.

Let me say that **This Is It** raised nearly \$300 for the Cream City Foundation in a raffle of Bernadette Peters tickets. Thanks to all the folks there that made that possible.

Before going to **This Is It** I stopped in at the **Milwaukee Room** where we had an absolutely great dinner. The food and service at this Gay owned establishment can hold its own against any of Milwaukee's "name" restaurants. I urge you to try it.

Speaking of food, I popped in at the **M & M** club for lunch one day and usual I ran into some friends. M's does a great lunch business and rightfully so. I like the airy atmosphere in the Glass Menagerie and the lunch menu is quite good.

I also checked out the **Milwaukee Eagle** on a recent Saturday evening. Yup the men were butch and ever so hot.

I still didn't win at **The Boot Camp's** club night, but one of my friends Jake won \$50.00 there. The Wednesday night drawings there are fun to watch as Si tries to make a deal for the envelopes selected by his lucky winners.

Coming up... There isn't much on the schedule in the way of special events. Most places are waiting for St. Patrick's

Day but then again you can be like me and make your own special event.

One very special event will be at **Mama Roux** on **Saturday February 28th**. It's a combination Mardi Gras/Anniversary celebration. Yes it will be held after Fat Tuesday, but no that's not an excuse not to attend. Mardi Gras is special at this popular East Side club which is known for its Cajun food. They will have a mask contest with prizes for the sleaziest, most elaborate and most original masks. Guess which one I am going for?

After indulging myself at **Mama's**, I will head over the **Boot Camp** for its Brew City Bears Club night. I am bringing my bear hunting license.

If I was I Green Bay that evening I would definitely stop at **Za's** for its Turn About Night celebration. If you are in Green Bay I hope you will be there to make up for my absence.

Tuesday, March 3rd, I am going to be at **La Cage** for its weekly Prize night drawing. You can win bar tabs, and all kinds of stuff. Plus when you win you are eligible for the grand prize drawing of a trip to two to a hot Gay resort. Grand prize drawings are held every three months.

Thursday March 5 I will stop in at the **Triangle** for its Showbiz Thursday party. I have been to similar parties at Sidetracks in Chicago and I loved it there.

Friday March 6, I will spend some time at **In Between**. This is a fun bar and I can honestly say that there has seldom been a time when I didn't see someone to die for there.

Saturday March 7 I will be at **La Cage** to dance the night away with Ruthie and her bind date of the evening. I just hope this one wears shoes.

Tuesday March 10th I am going to join the crowd at **Ball Game** for its cocktail hour. You do know that the bar is getting ready to celebrate it's 25th Anniversary on Saint Patrick's day didn't you? You didn't? Well now you do.

Wednesday March 11 is distribution night in Milwaukee so I will be all over the place. Just get those Miller Light tappers ready for me.

Friday, March 13 can be your lucky day if you join me for a fish fry at **Just Us**. They have great fish fries there.

Well that's it for now. Hope to see you out and about soon. Meanwhile stay safe and be proud.

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SOCIAL GATHERING PLACE

"One of four Milwaukee bar Highlights"
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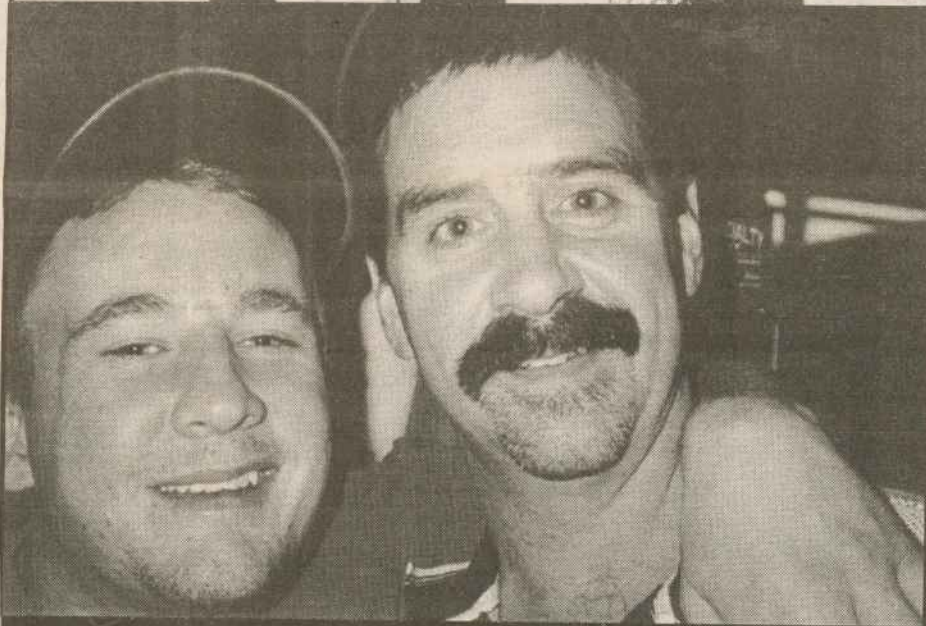
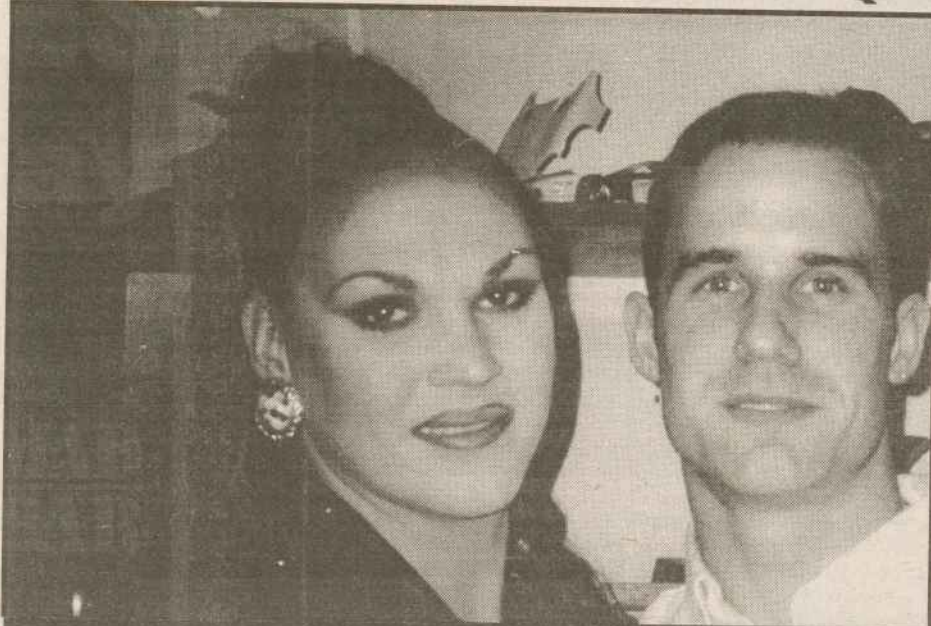
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SATURDAY: Pitcher Special

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Bloodys, Screws, Greyhounds - \$2.25
(until 6pm)
- ➔ Sundays Bloodys, Screws,
Greyhounds - \$2.25 (until 6pm)
Tap Beer 80¢ ('till 6pm)
\$1.75 Rail (9pm 'til close)

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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28

TURN ABOUT AT ZA'S

One of the premiere events of the season will take place at Za's with its annual Turn About Night party. Turn about nights (for those who don't know) are parties where the bar tenders and the drag queens trade places.

It's all in fun and it's always a great time. Za's is located at 1106 Main Street, Green Bay.

NOWAP FUND RAISER AT SCOOTERS

Scooters, 411 Galloway Street, Eau Claire

Lisa Kron

Continued From Page 12

Performance Space 122 and subsequently at Serious Fun! at Lincoln Center and the New York Theater Workshop.



Lisa Kron

Claire, will be scene of a fund raiser for the NOWAP, the Northern Wisconsin AIDS Project. There will be a fine show and a tv giveaway, (the kind you watch at home not the kind you watch on the stage). So stop on in and lend some support to those trying to help us all fight against AIDS.

MARDI GRAS PARTY AT MAMA'S

Nobody knows how to party at Mardi Gras like your Mama does, so Mama Roux is throwing a combination Mardi Gras/Anniversary bash.

Mardi Gras is always special at Mama Roux which is known for its fine cajun food. The party will include prizes for the most elaborate, most original and sleaziest mask.

Plus you get half off your first drink when you wear a mask.

Mama Roux is located at 1875 N. Humboldt.

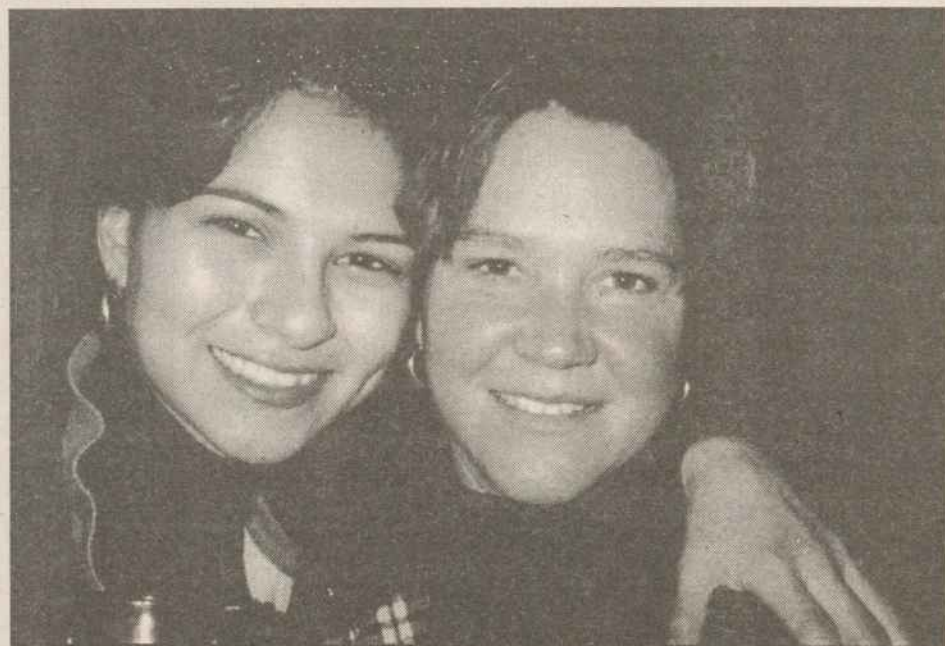
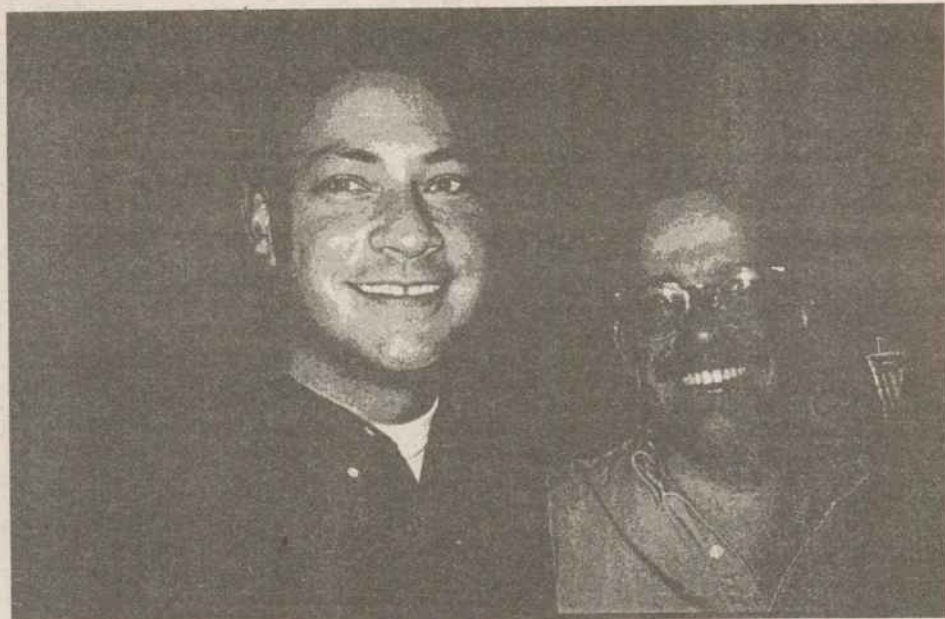
BREW CITY BEARS NIGHT AT THE BOOT CAMP

It will be open season on Bears at the Boot Camp located at 209 E. National Ave, as the Brew City Bears hold a club night at the bar.

The party starts at 10:00 p.m.

In addition to her solo work, Kron is a founding member of The Five Lesbian Brothers. The Brothers have recently completed a book of Lesbian humor for Simon and Schuster and an original script for the Joseph Papp Public Theater.

Tickets for the Family Informance are \$4 for JMKAC members and students and \$6 for the public, or \$10 for a family pass which admits one or two parents and up to five children under the age of 18. Tickets for the Performance are \$12.50 for members and students and \$19 for the public. For more information, call (920) 458-6144.



Valentines Night Out - Here are two happy couples we found celebrating Valentines Day in Madison the evening of Saturday February 14th. Don't you just love people in love? There were lots of them out at Kirby's Klub, Manoeuvres and the Shamrock celebrating the holiday with each other and their friends.

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OUT on Film

'Live Flesh' is a Sensual, Sometimes Melodramatic, Spanish Thriller

By John A. Jahn

Judging from his earlier writing & directing efforts, namely *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* (1987), *Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down!* (1989), and *High Heels* (1991), you'd expect Pedro Almodóvar's latest effort, *Live Flesh*, to be just as interesting: quirky characters, inventive plot, sexy, humorous, soap opera-romantic, and a tad violent. You'd be right, I'm glad to say, as *Live Flesh* certainly stands comparison to his earlier, successful efforts at breaking into global, mainstream film making.

Pedro Almodóvar is something of a Spanish visionary, a writer-director who grew up (and became a compulsive movie-goer) during the last years of the Franco dictatorship, working in Super-8mm and 16mm initially, with his first feature film release coinciding with the birth of democracy in Spain in 1980.

Live Flesh, his current effort based upon a novel by Ruth Rendell, is a sensual thriller about the vagaries of chance, guilt and destiny, and for which he's quite up to the task.

When he is sent to jail for a crime he didn't commit, Victor Plaza (Liberto Rabal - a gorgeous Spaniard who gives Antonio Banderas a run for his money) unknowingly becomes a catalyst in the lives of two Madrid cops, 25 year old David (Javier Bardem) and 40 year old Sancho (Fepe Sancho).

In a wheels-within-wheels plot that only slowly reveals its secrets, Victor finds himself in the middle of a whirlpool of philandering, lies, deceit and revenge. Victor

spends 7 years in jail, from which he emerges still in his late 20s and full of promise, yet haunted by anger at the years he lost - all due to being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

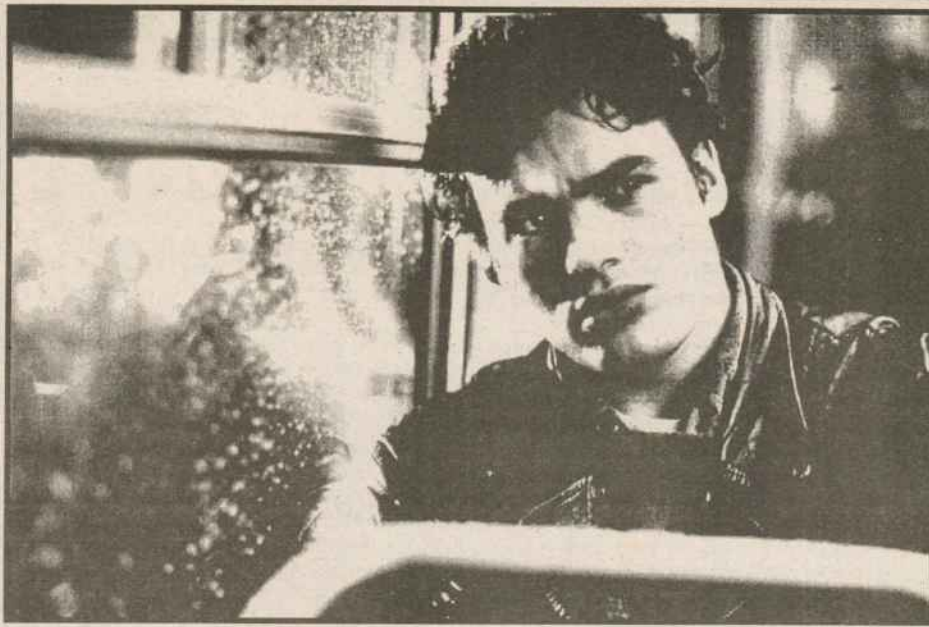
Throughout the film we follow Victor on his path of revenge, seeking to rupture the marriage of the now wheelchair-bound David. Though an adorably cute young man, it's hard to actually like him at first, but gradually Victor finds redemption rather than revenge.

Live Flesh is the first release of MGM's newly-creative specialty films label, Goldwyn Films. It is an expertly written and directed film, with an intriguing plot and fascinating characters that keep your attention throughout. If faults do appear, they are only of the hairline variety. One is the somewhat melodramatic, almost soap opera-esque plot. It plays to some extent like a feature film version of one of those smoldering Spanish soap operas on Univision.

Live Flesh is basically a serious film, but Almodóvar's witty dialog coupled with the absurdity of some of the situations in which the characters find themselves give it a needed, humorous touch as well. True, the characters and plot are a bit over-the-top - appearing at times just too well scripted and rehearsed to be convincing as "real" people in a "real" story, but the film's charm and intrigue somehow manage to overcome its few faults.

It opens Friday, February 27th exclusively at Milwaukee's Landmark Downer Theater.

★★★



Liberto Rabal stars as Victor Plaza in the Paramount film "Live Flesh"

'Ma Vie en Rose' is an Interesting, But Ultimately a Disappointing Film

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Leaving the preview screening of the sweet and charming new film, *Ma Vie en Rose (My Life in Pink)*, Glenn was puzzled? Puzzled by the film, but also puzzled by the reaction of so very many of fans who mobbed Glenn as he left the cinema.

The overwhelming response to *Ma Vie en Rose* was startlingly enthusiastic. Both women and men found the story of cute little Ludo (Georges du Fresne), a cross-dressing seven-year-old to mirror many of their lives.

As a youngster Glenn often fantasized that he was adopted - Glenn just could not, after-all, be related by blood to the dreary working class family that fed, inadequately clothed and gave shelter to fabulous little Glenn.

Wearing women's clothes, on the other hand never seemed to appeal to Glenn. On one distressingly horrific occasion, Glenn found himself playing "dress-up" with a cute little neighbor boy. Glenn enjoyed the all-to-brief moment of his friend's nudity but quickly found himself dressed up in the pale lavender (always a favorite color of Glenn's) cocktail dress of his friend's mother. The dress was strapless. Glenn was nine.

Years of therapy have not diminished the terror Glenn experienced looking into that full-length mirror and which Glenn continues to experience from subsequent nightmares.

Yes, it can be told, Glenn is simply not a pretty girl.

But back to *Ma Vie en Rose*.

Unlike little Glenn, little Ludo is absolutely adorable in female attire, catching even the eye of little Jerome, the son of his father's boss. Ludo's dressing up and Ludo's friendship with Jerome soon turn the neighborhood topsy-turvy.

The final straw occurs during a school play performance. Glenn imagines it is of "Snow White". Quite ingeniously Ludo locks the little girl playing the sleeping princess in the little girl's room and takes her place, knowing that Jerome, playing the handsome prince, will kiss her awake.

Well, the town is utterly outraged. Then the parents of every one of Ludo's classmates sign a petition demanding that Ludo

be removed from school. Apparently, at all costs, innocent minds must be saved from such perversion!!!

Ma Vie en Rose disappointingly settles into the familiar "Afterschool Special" formula. Initially little Ludo's "antics" were found to be amusing. Yet all that changed when Ludo turned seven. Who doesn't know that by the time one turns seven, all such foolishness must end. Here the focus of the film turns to how Ludo's "antics" are effecting the rest of the family - Dad loses his job, Ludo's brothers made fun of at school, etc.

Much more interesting is the magical world of "Pam", the fabulous, day-glo television world to which Ludo increasingly turns when his real family (excepting hip Grandmother Elisabeth) begin to distance themselves from and ultimately disown him. Often imagining himself/herself as "Pam", Ludo seems certain that in such a marvelous place as "Pam-land", there would be a place for a little girl mistakenly born into a little boy's body.

First-time director Alain Berliner has obvious affection for Ludo and Georges du Fresne's performance is quite touching. Ludo's hope that a miracle might still happen and his earnest attempts to reconcile his family are portrayed with great warmth and sensitivity. Sadly, at the close of *Ma Vie en Rose*, Berliner ultimately does his delightfully headstrong protagonist a disservice.

Dad's gotten a new job. Ludo reluctantly returns to his parents, following their move to a new neighborhood. Mom has new friends in which to share coffee and cigarettes. And Ludo meets Chris, a prototypical tomboy.

By introducing such a marvelous counterpoint for Ludo, Glenn thought that Berliner was offering Ludo's parents a perfect opportunity to gain some new insight. Yet, against the merry background of a child's birthday party, there occurs yet another moment of violence so shocking that even Berliner's obligatory "happy ending" can't entirely dispel it.

Rating \$5.30 (scale: No cents to \$7.00)

'Ma Vie en Rose opens March 6th at Milwaukee's Downer Theater.

An Intriguing Crime Puzzle and a Touching Romance Imbue 'Zero Effect'

By John A. Jahn

Daryl Zero (Bill Pullman), private detective, has taken the 20th century art form of complete detachment to its pinnacle. He's a mysterious, strange sort of man who maintains no personal connections, no foolish passions, no real life to speak of, frankly. Yet he's one of the world's greatest private investigators with sharpened powers of impartial observation.

Zero's so introverted that he does all his business with the outside world through a frontman, Steve Arlo (Ben Stiller). Arlo's job is to not only find clients for Zero's great powers, but also to keep Zero's neurosis and reclusive lifestyle a relative secret.

Zero Effect involves the mysterious Mr. Zero attempting to uncover the source of blackmail. Portland timber tycoon Gregory Stark (Ryan O'Neal), originally interested in having Zero discover who took a very important set of keys from him, eventually has to reveal that he's being blackmailed, and has been for years, costing him hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Bill Pullman really carries *Zero Effect* along on the strength of his fine acting - he's perfectly suited to the task of being a

paranoid, anti-social genius. His fine performance is all the more surprising given his flat and bloodless version of the President in *Independence Day*.

Zero Effect starts out very confusing and not altogether entertaining as a kind of comedy. In fact, there were a couple people who got up and left at the screening I attended, and at the time I was beginning to envy them!

Slowly, as the mystery begins to unravel, it draws you in as it gets more serious and intriguing. Finally, we get drawn into a touching romance that develops between the awkward Zero and a woman he encounters at a gym where he's gone to clandestinely observe Stark, Gloria Sullivan (Kim Dickens).

Zero Effect, although it takes a while to grow on you, ends up being a nifty, classic, murder mystery with a comically dysfunctional detective hero at its center. It also marks the directing and screenwriting debut of Jake Kasdan, who puts an original and outrageous new spin on the classic Sherlock & Holmes detective genre.

I look forward to more work from Mr. Kasdan, as *Zero Effect* makes a surprisingly good freshman effort. ★★★

'Palmetto's' Noir Elements and Fine Acting Partially Overcome Weak Script

By John A. Jahn

Palmetto is a curious creature - a German-American coproduction, directed by the undeniably quirky Volker Schlöndorff (*The Tin Drum*, 1980; *The Handmaid's Tale*, 1990), featuring an impressive cast, and a setting in the Florida Everglades during one hot, sultry summer.

Schlöndorff's intent here is to create the latest entry into the burgeoning genre of 1990's film noir (a genre which arrived at somewhat of a peak with last year's *L.A. Confidential*). But *Palmetto* is no *L.A.*, and despite the best efforts of a strong central cast and a cinematographer (Thomas Kloss) who knows how to play with odd camera angles, light and shadow, the film is marred by something of a B-movie script.

Instead of playing it tongue-in-cheek (which its tone cries out for), Schlöndorff keeps it entirely serious, and given the often silly twists and turns of plot and quirky characters, it just doesn't completely work dramatically that way.

Nevertheless, *Palmetto* will keep you interested throughout its nearly 2-hour length, driven largely by the strong acting of its central cast and unpredictable course of events.

Harry Barber (Woody Harrelson) is a hard-luck case. After spending 2 years in prison for something he didn't do (and was framed for), he is suddenly sprung owing to an ex-cop's testimony. He reunites with his girlfriend, Nina (Gina Gershon), but is utterly unable to find anything to do except hang out in the local watering hole ordering shots he can't quite bring to his lips.

In walks a rich and sexy woman, virtually falling out of her dress. She is Rhea Malroux (Elisabeth Shue), the wife of a wealthy retired businessman. Rhea offers him a one-time job which can net him \$50,000. However, "in exchange," she says, "there's an element of risk." The "risk" involves Barber's taking part in the faked kidnapping and ransoming of Rhea's stepdaughter, Odette (Chloe Sevigny). The victim will be Rhea's rich, dying husband (Rolfe Hoppe).

A seemingly straightforward scheme, but one which goes terribly, terribly wrong for Harry.

A main element in *Palmetto's* favor is the acting. Harrelson, Gershon, and Michael Rapaport (as Rhea's bodyguard) give gritty, noir-ish performances. Shue, on the other hand, goes in the opposite direction, acting every bit the vamp her character requires, though one with not quite all her marbles accounted for. Meanwhile, Sevigny manages the perfect

mix of ripe, teenage sexuality and innocence.

Palmetto happily doesn't paint Harry Barber as a goody two shoes who can do no wrong, nor as an up-and-coming action hero. He does things that are blatantly stupid, and is clearly not out to be the suave and sophisticated expert criminal you'd think Rhea would want for this job...but then again, maybe she knows that, but wants him for it anyway.

There are lots of twists and turns in *Palmetto*, not all of which are explained or well achieved, but it does provide you with a fascinating plot and strong performances enough to marginally recommend it. (2 1/2 stars)

Times Cinema to Screen 'The Men' and 'The Old Dark House'

Milwaukee—The Times Cinema will be screening Marlon Brando's first movie, *The Men*. The film, made in 1950, will have a four day run, March 6-9, Friday through Monday at 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. There will be a matinee on Saturday and Sunday at 3:30 p.m.

Brando delivers an excellent, subtly shaded performance as an injured war vet who must make a difficult adjustment to civilian life. The film co-stars a youthful DeForest Kelly and Teresa Wright.

The Old Dark House will be shown at the Times Cinema March 10 through 12, Tuesday through Thursday, 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.

A delightfully weird horror film made in 1932, from the director of *Frankenstein* shows Charles Laughton and his traveling companions, Melvyn Douglas, Raymond Massey and Gloria Stuart (the elderly survivor in *Titanic*) stranded in a storm. They happen upon a gloomy house owned by Ernest Thesiger, who reluctantly offers them shelter. Over the course of one harrowing night, the uneasy guests learn the foul secrets of Horace Femm and his family. Boris Karloff (as the disfigured butler, Morgan) is all menace.

The Times Cinema is located at 5906 W. Vliet Street. Admission is \$3.50 at all times. Call (414) 453-2436 for more information.

Fabulous Salaries and Technology Make Modern Films Less than Art

By Steve Stavron
Part II

American films were loathe to give up the already jeopardized star system, and whereas American film directors became increasingly more important in the 50's and 60's, the seamless expertise of studio products remained in demand by the majority of the movie-going public. Interestingly enough, even Rita Hayworth's most famous film *Gilda* (1946) is less renowned for its subtle manipulation of film-noire themes than for its famous star.

But not only was the star system taking on a different hue, but directors themselves were given an excess of financial and artistic freedom which as long as it remained in the hands of such capable artists as Frank Capra, Billy Wilder, Zinnemann, and Alfred Hitchcock, could transduce a balance between a newly contemptuous dismissiveness toward former Hollywood romanticism, and a need to match European new-wave realism with its own American variation.

MGM continued to make Fred Astaire Musicals; attempts were made to popularize the steamier novels and plays of the day such as *Peyton Place* [1956], and *Picnic* [1955]. Super spectacles such as *Ben Hur* [1959], *Quo Vadis* [1950], and *Ten Commandments* [1956] were meant to lure audiences away from the luridness of downbeat European morbid wool-gathering as well as the impending threat of television; but the dichotomous relationship between director and actor seemed a disadvantage to both.

Audiences in America were attracted to very few directorial names, and stars could no longer be the singular factor guaranteeing a film's success. If nothing else, the foreign influx had placed a premium on quality. The enduring popularity of *Ten Commandments* and *Ben Hur* was in no small measure attributable to De Mille and William Wyler respectively, both of long standing reputation, but paradoxically these standard audience-pleasers outlasted the esoteric products of European cinema verite, although neither film was much of an auteur classic.

However, European neo-realism influenced many fine post-war American films even if in modified form which never deviated completely from the studio-polished "Hollywood look".

Wilder's *Sunset Boulevard* and *Stalag 17* took an "honest" look at cinema personalities and prison camps respectively. William Holden's presence assured box office. Stanley Kramer's *On the Beach* [1959] and *Judgment at Nuremberg* [1961] were no less smoothly tailored, but even more pessimistically haunted by the war as were Fred Zinnemann's *The Men* [1950]- Marlon Brando's first film- and *From Here to Eternity* [1953]. The sincere earnestness of these fine films was at some small cost in ecstatic fluency and emotional momentum of Hollywood's Romantic period.

Only George Stevens attempted the unlikely union of lyricism and realism, albeit finely honed to a quiet hypnotic moodiness. By slowly dissolving concluding shots into subsequent ones he created a quasi-Romantic toniness which worked well in *A Place in the Sun* [1951] and proved that Elizabeth Taylor could act. He transformed *Shane* [1953] into a poetic ode to movie Western mythology which was widely admired, but his style was too limited to wear well.

British director David Lean took an ambivalent look at ambivalence itself in *The Bridge on the River Kwai* [1957]—the conflict between moral compulsivity, duty, and common sense. Too studied AND ambivalent to be understood, the film was widely praised for its "realistic" look at conflicting and self-canceling war-time ideals. The film's polite but hypocritical nihilism is often regarded as a dry wartime classic.

As the new wave of American directors Altman, Brooks, Bogdanovich, De Palma, Schlesinger, began taking license with their artistic freedom, it was becoming apparent by the 1970's that something was being lost. Such innovative films as *Day of the Jackal* [1975], *Nashville* [1975], *The Last Picture Show* [1971], *Looking for Mr. Goodbar* [1977], *Dressed to Kill* [1980] have not stood the test of time—only subject to a particular limited time in our cultural evolution [although I might make a small plea for Bogdanovich's *Last Picture Show*].

Similarly, the first wave of the "new" American film stars- Brando, Clift, and James Dean, quickly deteriorated, were short lived, or as in the case of Brando, developed a deserved contempt for their profession- a contempt even shared by such a popular actor as Harrison Ford in the 90's.

While it is true that popular stars of the later 50's and 60's such as Gregory Peck, Kirk Douglas, Burt Lancaster, provided a pretty good body of work, they failed to displace memories of studio directed stars such as Humphrey Bogart, Gary Cooper, Henry Fonda, and Cary Grant.

Ironically, the on screen longevity of actors such as Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant, and James Stewart, and the aura of élan which they transferred from their work in the 40's gave them a dubious, but not undeserved reputation of 'class' which may have been more inherited than earned. But the point is that some subliminal pleasure obtained from movies was gradually being lost.

The aforementioned directors were becoming subsumed as contributors to a body of work too "trend-directed" to develop the unique individuality that only a Hitchcock retained. As films became more timely, they lost their claim to timelessness.

The Golden Age was dead and an appropriate and perhaps deserved ugliness was permeating the arts of the 20th century. We were getting the backwash of the century's legacy.

To further complicate any analysis of current filmdom, it was becoming correspondingly apparent decades earlier that fewer and fewer "great films" would be forthcoming in the last half of the Twentieth Century despite a plethora of free-wheeling experimentation, and a very determined stable of aggressive new actors with a killer instinct to succeed. Their were exceptions of course; Hitchcock's famous trilogy, *Psycho* [1960], *Vertigo* [1958], *North by Northwest* [1959] and Coppola's *Godfather 1 and 2* [1972-74].

Perhaps the most perplexing occurrence was the initial enthusiasm for, and later idealization of, of the comic book fantasy, the Star Wars Trilogy [1977]. It established Lucas Foss as that curious hybrid- the directing technocrat. Perhaps the fun-filled Star trilogy was a reaction to an earlier dead-serious science fiction effort. The very talented Stanley Kubrick had created *2001* [1968] as an almost religious exercise in metaphysical fantasy, complete with unctuous silences and disposable actors. His mellifluous style of making violence and horror exotically beautiful as in *The Shining* [1980] and *Clockwork Orange* [1971] almost outdid the most sophisticated European efforts, but the embalmed nature of his technique exasperatingly revealed in *Barry Lyndon* [1975] almost undid him, despite his successful [and under appreciated] stab at satirizing the cold war in *Dr. Strangelove* [1964]. Ironically only *2001* remains a memorable curiosity of effete distinction and is still widely admired.

But as film directors undercut the prestige of stars, even highly paid ones, and the stars started demanding directorial control themselves, both were being subverted by a threat more dangerous to the artistic future of films than television had ever been—computerized technology.

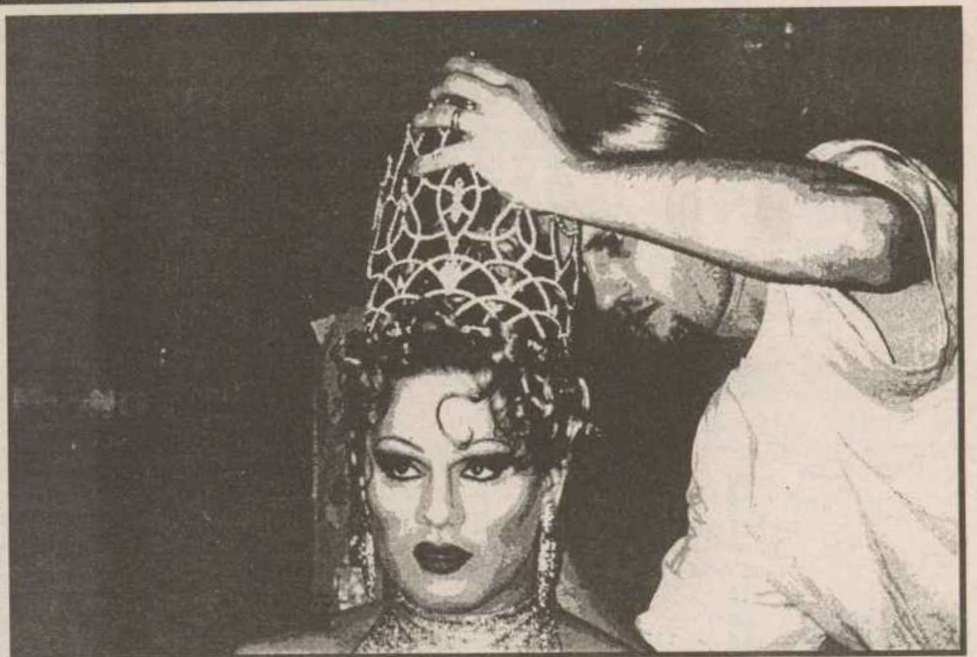
Star Wars had been intended to create a moral allegory using technology as the core basis of man's hope for the future. Considering the mechanical aspect of his achievement, the end result was surprisingly tender and even sentimental.

However, the new technocracy began to overwhelm the film industry to the same extent that the giant enclosed shopping mall were replacing open store fronts—and with the same hot house, claustrophobic effect.

By the 80s, movies had become more expensive, and as the new crop of directors Figgis, Tarantino, Spike Lee, Ken Russell, Oliver Stone, Larry Clark (the creep that did *Kids* and came up with an unprintable follow-up film), became obsessed with ambitions beyond their talents, and as a group of non-acting film stars - Swartzenegger, Seagal, Van Dam, along with as minimally talented stars as Cruise, Moore, Stallone, Pitt, received salaries almost equaling the film's budget, both star and director became subservient to the demands for super expensive takes which were too costly to be edited out.

The stars popularity depended on their kinetic prowess, very much like trained circus performers rather than for personal or histrionic attributes which they generally did not possess.

Please See Film Directors Page 23



Doing It for The AIDS Network - As the pictures above show there were lots of great performers who did their stuff before a packed house at our SpotLight Valentines Day party at Kirby's Klub in Madison. The addition of the Portfolio to the efforts of some of Madison's finest entertainment ensured a star studded line up that everyone enjoyed. The party and the Valentine Sale that preceded it raised approximately \$400 for the Madison AIDS network Emergency Services Fund. The fund is used to pay for emergency transportation, medical and housing expenses for those with HIV. The evening was sponsored by Kirby's Klub and The Wisconsin Light.

Out In Print



"White Rose of Night" Tells of Gay Love and Medieval Daring Do

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

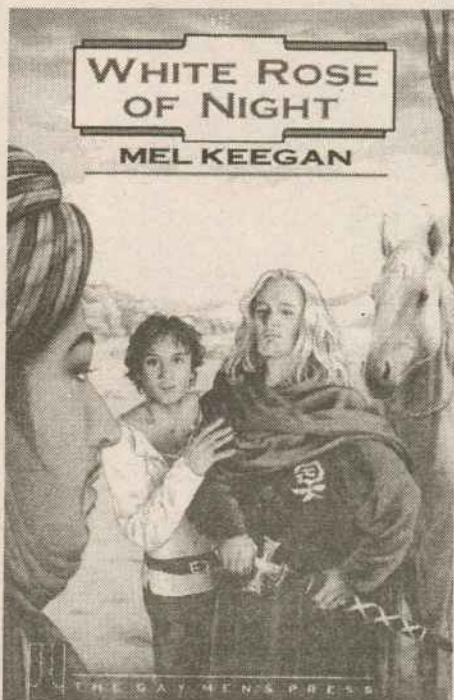
Not long ago, a local bookseller suggested to Glenn a Mel Keegan book titled, **Fortunes of War**. Part Elizabethan pirate adventure, part Harlequin romance but with plenty of sex thrown in, Glenn found **Fortunes of War** an absolute delight. Keegan seemed to be offering a deliciously homoerotic take on the kind of pirate story Hollywood made starring handsome Tyrone Power and which Glenn fantasized over endlessly as a youth.

Ever on the lookout for similar escapist fare, Glenn found himself appropriately excited when into his grateful hands landed Mel Keegan's latest novel, **White Rose of Night**, a historical romance set during the Crusades.

An avid history buff (Glenn can and does often find himself reading books with redeeming social value), Glenn never imagined the homoerotic delights experienced by those religious zealots, those soldiers of no particular fortune who during the 12th century went off on the Crusades, leaving home and family to travel thousands of miles away to fight in a Holy War.

Keegan's protagonist and narrator is an attractive (naturally), orphaned 16 year-old waif named Paul who finds himself squired to the hauntingly beautiful master of the manor, Edward of Aethelstan. The joys of serving someone he loves is off-set by the knowledge that as a servant, Paul surely cannot possibly hope his love and passion for an Earl and such an Earl as Edward of Aethelstan might be reciprocated? Or can he?

Lean and muscular, blond and beautiful as only angels can possibly be, yet possessing a warrior's skills with a lance(?) and sword, Edward is everything that a



young Gay lad might want and desire. Yet as a Saxon Knight during the Norman era in English history, Edward found he must fortify his rank and his fortune by embarking upon the Crusades. Paul naturally comes along as his personal servant.

Surely Glenn need not mention that there simply no needs or wants of Edward's which Paul doesn't desire to fill? Against the religious hypocrisy of the era, Keegan takes great pains in offering the dangers as well as the joys of Paul's and Edward's love story. As "noble" soldiers setting forth on a "Holy" mission, their relationship must be careful kept behind closed doors (or rather, secured tent flaps).

Not until they are captured by the surprisingly "Gay-friendly" Saracen leader Imrahan is their love given the opportunity to flourish.

Also fascinating to Glenn is how desirable as (sex?) slaves these white-skinned, fair-haired male beauties would be on the open market! As can easily be seen, Glenn's already fertile imagination would grow ever more rampant upon each of Paul's adventures. (Glenn must briefly take a moment to compose himself...)

White Rose of Night is a thoroughly enjoyable romp! Paul is lively and candid narrator and Keegan blissfully sends Paul and Edward on an exciting set of adventures that offer seemingly endless sexual opportunities. A happy ending is a happy certainty!

During these dreary winter nights, **White Rose of Night** is sure to warm the hearts as well as a variety of other body parts of even the most reluctant reader.

- her New Victoria Pb \$12.95
- 6. **Lady be Good** by Barbara Grier and Christine Cassidy Naiad Press Pb \$14.95
- 7. **Toward Amnesia** by Sarah Van Arsdale Riverhead Books Pb \$11.00
- 8. **Wildwood Flowers** by Julia Watts Naiad Pb \$10.95
- 9. **Baby's it's Cold** by Jaye Maiman Naiad Pb \$10.95
- 10. **Stolen Moments** by Judy Francesconi, Judy Francesconi \$25.00
- 8. **The Intimacy Dance** by Betty Berzon, Ph.D. Plume Pb \$12.95
- 9. **Bending the Landscape** edited by Nicola Griffin and Stephen Pagel, Borealis Publishing HC \$19.99
- 10. **Stealing Jesus** by Bruce Bawer, Crown Publishing HC \$26.00

Enjoyed both by Men and Women

- 1. **What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality** by Daniel A. Helminiak, Ph.D., Alamo Square Press Pb \$9.95
- 2. **Permanent Partners** by Betty Berzon, Ph.D. Plume/Penguin Pb \$14.95
- 3. **Out Magazine's Guide to the Web** by J. Harrison Fitch, Que Lycos Press Pb \$29.99
- 4. **Inn Places** by Ferrari Guides, Ferrari International Publishing Pb \$16.00
- 5. **The Homo Handbook** by Judy Carter, Simon & Schuster Pb \$12.00
- 6. **Out Facts** Universe Publishing HC \$16.95
- 7. **Sex Changes** by Pat Califia, Cleis Press Pb \$16.95

New on the Shelf At Afterwords

Non-Fiction

Sing Out: Gays and Lesbians in the Music World, by Boze Hadleigh, Barricade HC \$21.95

Much has changed since the first edition, *The Vinyl Closet* first came out. CDs have replaced vinyl and Lesbianism has become chic. So many artists have come out in the past decade, Melissa Etheridge, Indigo Girls, Elton John and Michael Feinstein to name a few. Boze Hadleigh's informal history shows how homosexuality has shaped music -- and vice versa.

Maurice Vellekoop's ABC Book: A Homoerotic Primer, by Maurice Vellekoop, Gates of Heck HC \$12.95

The alphabet has never been so Gay as in the hands of award-winning artist Maurice Vellekoop. In delightfully naughty cartoons, Vellekoop's ABC Book is a celebration of Gay male archetypes, from Jailbirds to Opera Singers, Hairdressers to horny Truckers. Each letter of the alphabet provides the key to a scenario of Gay sex which is both hot and funny. A great gift!

Fiction

A Moment's Indiscretion by Peggy Herring, Naiad Press Pb \$11.95

From the author of such best-selling erotic Lesbian romances as *Love's Harvest* and *Hot Check* comes *A Moment's Indiscretion*. Unlucky in love, advertising executive Jackie Knovac has had more than her share of unfaithful and lovers. She vows never to let another woman get close enough to love her... to hurt her, again. No one, that is, until beautiful Valerie Dennison walks into her office. Jackie is torn between better judgment and the overwhelming attraction she feels. Will Jackie be opening herself to a world of hope and passion... or a nightmare of betrayal and shattered dreams?

Trashtown by Robert Tait, Blackwattle Press Pb \$13.95

At thirty, Andrew heads to the small Australian coastal town to visit his mother and grandfather. But if it tranquility he seeks, Andrew is destined to be disappointed. The community has seen a shocking spate of vandalism, fervent religious revivalism and homosexuality of a dangerous, closeted kind. In seeking to expose the town's secrets, Andrew has to fight not only for justice but also for his own life!

Afterwords Schedule

Lesbian Reading Group
Wednesday, Feb. 25th 7:00pm **Revolution of Little Girls** by Blanche McCrary Boyd

Afterwords Book Club
Monday, March 9th 7:30pm **Gay Metropolis** by Charles Kaiser

Author Appearance
Saturday, March 14th 1:00pm
Riki Anne Wilchins
Author of *Read My Lips: Sexual Subversion and the End of Gender*

Afterwords Best-sellers

Books mostly enjoyed by Women

- 1. **Liberty Square** by Katherine Forrest Berkley Pb \$5.99
- 2. **Damron Women's Traveller '97** Damron Pb \$12.95
- 3. **Chain Letter** by Claire McNab Naiad Pb \$11.95
- 4. **Season of the Heart** by Jackie Calhoun Naiad Pb \$11.95
- 5. **Solitaire and Brahms** by Sarah Dre-

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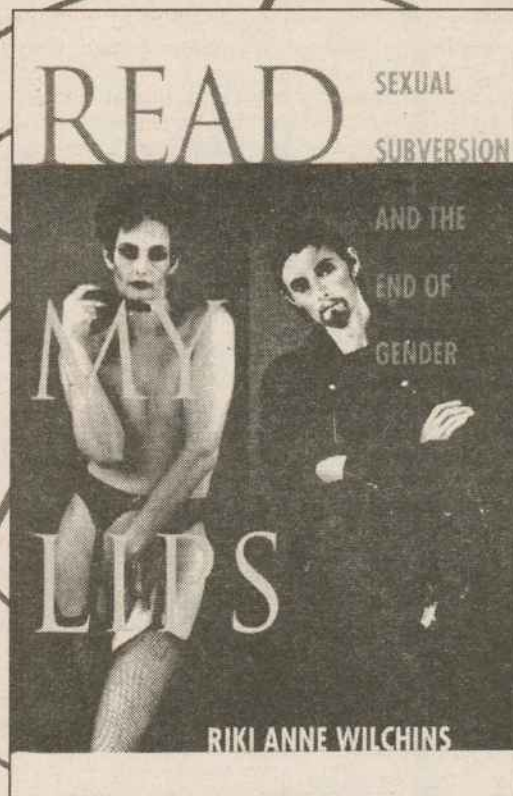
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Afterwords Presents



Riki Anne Wilchins
transsexual menace and author of **Read My Lips: sexual subversion and the end of gender**

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for more info call 963-9089

Great Places In WISCONSIN

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Rascals Bar & Grill	MW, Food	702 E. Wisconsin	54991	954-9262
Eau Claire				
Scooters	W,m	411 Galloway	54703	835-9959
Trading Co.	M,w DJ	304 Eau Claire St.	54701	838-9494
Wolf's Den	M,W	302 E. Madison	54703	832-9237
Green Bay				
Brandy's II	Mw	1126 Main Street	54304	437-3917
Buddies	MW	1264 Main Street	53204	437-9256
The Napalese Lounge	MW, DJ	515 S. Broadway	54303	432-9646
Sass	WM	840 S. Broadway	54304	437-7277
Za's/Java's	MW, DJ	1106 Main St.	54301	435-5476
Kenosha				
Club 94	MW, DJ	9001 120th Ave	53140	857-9958
La Crosse				
Cavalier Lounge	Mw	114 N 5th St.	54601	782-9061
Players	S/G MW	218 Main Street	54601	782-9279
Rainbow's End	Retail	417 Jay St.	54601	
Lake Mills				
Cross Roads	G/S MW	W6642 Hwy B	53551	648-8457
Madison				
Geraldine's	WM, DJ	3054 E. Washington	53704	241-9335
Kirby's Klub	MW, DJ, Shows	121 W Main St	53703	251-1030
MAD Bar	M, L/L	150 S. Blair	53703	258-9918
Manoeuvres	MW, DJ, Shows	150 S. Blair	53703	258-9918
Room of One's Own	Books/Expresso	307 W. Johnson	53703	257-7888
Shamrock	MW	117 W. Main St	53703	255-5029
We Are Family	Retail/Expresso	524 E. Wilson	53703	258-9006
Milwaukee				
Afterwords Books	Retail/ Expresso	2710 N. Murray	53211	963-9089
Ball Game	M, Sports Bar	196 S. 2 nd	53204	273-7474
1100 Club	M, L/L, Food	1100 S. 1st St.	53204	647-9950
Boot Camp	M, L/L	209 E. National	53204	643-6900
Cest Le Vie	M Shows	231 S. Second Street	53204	276-8890
Clinton St. Antiques	Retail	1110 S. 1 st Street	53204	647-1773
Club 219	Mw DJ, Shows	219 S. 2nd St.	53204	271-3732
D's Place	Wm, DJ	4025 N Port Washington	53212	962-9487
Designing Men	Retail	1200 S. 1 st	53204	389-1200
Dish	W, DJ	235 S. Second	53204	273-Dish
Emerald's Lounge	MW	801 E. Hadley	53212	265-7325
Glass Menagerie	Food	124 N. Water	53202	347-1962
Grubb's Pub	MW, Food	807 S. 2 nd St.	53204	384-8330
In Between	Mw, Sports Bar	625 S. 2nd St.	53204	273-2693
Just Us	WM, DJ	807 S. 5th St.	53204	383-2233
Kathy's Nut Hut	Wm	1500 W. Scott	53204	647-2673
La Cage	Mw DJ, Shows	801 S 2nd St.	53204	383-8330
La Perla	Mexican Food	735 S. 5 th Street	53204	645-9888
M & M Club	MW, Food	124 N. Water	53202	347-1962
Mama Rous	Mw, Food	1875 N. Humboldt	53202	347-0344
Milwaukee Eagle	M, L/L	300 W. Juneau	53203	273-6900
Milwaukee Room	Dining	316 N. Milwaukee	53202	277-7666
Rene's Cozy Corner	MW	3500 W. Park Hill	53208	933-7363
S Water Street Docks	M, L/L	354 E. National	53204	225-9676
Station 2	Wm	1534 W. Grant	53204	383-5755
This is It	Mw	418 E. Wells	53202	278-9192
Triangle	M	135 E. National	53204	383-9412
Walkers Point Café	Food	1106 S. First Street	53204	384-7999
Woody's	M	1579 S 2nd St.	53204	672-0806
Neenah				
Diversions	MW, DJ	1413 Green Valley	54911	725-3374
Racine				
JoDees	MW, DJ	2139 Racine St.	53403	634-9804
What About Me?	MW	600 6th St.	53403	632-0171
Sheboygan				
The Blue Lite	MW	1029 N. 8th St.	53081	457-1636
Stevens Point				
The Platwood Club	G/S, MW DJ	701 Highway 10W	54481	341-8862
Superior				
JT's	MW DJ	1506 N 3rd St.	55880	394-2580
Main Club	MW	1217 Tower Ave	54880	392-1756
Trio	Wm	820 Tower Ave	54880	392-5373
Wausau				
Oz	MW, DJ	320 Washington	54401	842-3225

Dear Ruthie

Hey there folks! Have a good week? A good Valentines day? Well, I've got a couple of letters here and I've poured myself a nice little Hot Chocolate and Vodka, so whattya say we answer a few.

As you know, I love getting your letters, so if you're interested in writing me with your questions, comments, and whatnot, I'll get to it just as soon as I can. You can reach me via my good friends at the **Wisconsin Light**. Write me care of the Wisconsin Light, 1843 N Palmer St., Milwaukee, WI 53212.

Thanks and I'll see you next time! Have one helluva week everyone!!!!



Ruthie

Dear Ruthie,
Can you send us a pair of your old panty hose? Can you send us any of your junk?
(signed)
Two Lonely Guys

Dear Guys,
You are lonely! Can I send you ALL of my junk? How about an Elvis hairdryer, a "Tina Turner Tuna Twister," or my "Fabio Nipple Enlargement Kit" - I'm sorry Fabio - but it hurts and the damn thing pulled my nipples back so far, I had to wear a turtle-neck for weeks.

Can I send you boys my souvenirs? I have some toe lint I got out of the Lincoln Bedroom while visiting Jimmy Carter. "Sure - they want my nylons - but I can't give Carter's toe jam away! What's wrong with you people?"

How about the dog statue I have made out of toilet paper rolls, or my Monica Lewinsky nightlight? I have over 150 shower curtains that I've stolen from celebrities' homes and a kitchen full of mushroom cups, cookie jars, and refrigerator magnets. Send you some of my junk? Boys - I wouldn't know where to begin.

Dear Ruthie,
You keep answering questions from people who are married and Gay. They didn't know they were Gay when they got married and are just realizing it now - blah-blah-blah.

I'm the opposite. I know I'm Gay and so does the girl who wants to marry me. She thinks marrying will help us both. Her family wont get off her back about finding a guy and getting married, and my family keeps harping me about settling down with a "little nuisus" (I'm in the closet where they are concerned).

We thought a marriage between us friends would kill two birds with one stone. We agreed that we would live together, but continue our lives as best friends and remain "single" - eligible to date and carry on as we please. Didn't sound bad at first, but now I'm beginning to get cold feet. What do you think?
(signed)

Here Comes the Bride
Dear Bride-Wannabe,

I think I can sum up my answer in one, simple quote. In the words of radio host, and advice guru, Dr. Laura, "Are you nuts?" That's it.

What in the heck will a wedding accomplish? You thought your parents were on your back about finding a bride - just wait till you have one! They are bound to figure out that things aren't on the up-and-up with you and your "little missus."

I created this proverb after my fifth husband and I honeymooned in Brazil: A marriage without love is like an imitation Gucci

handbag. It may look nice, but it ain't the real thing and it never will be.

Not to mention the fact that a bunch of little kids were probably locked in a sweat shop sucking asbestos and cat hair, sewing that stupid bag for you.

"Take, Lady, take," the kid saying to me. How could I resist those great, big, puppy-dog eyes? "I got bag for you. You like, Lady?" The little Brazilian kid took my ex-husband and I to an abandoned building at the end of the block. There he showed me dozens of shirtless children whose little ankles were tied to chairs behind sewing machines. Each working their fingers to the bone, while a recording of a beating drum blared over the loud speaker. The kids made "Calvin Clean" jeans, "Naughtyca" sportswear, and "Polio" shirts.

"You buy this Lady? Buy it, Lady, buy it," my little blue-collar tour guide said as he was pulling my sleeve. My heart filled with pain and my eyes with tears. I walked out of that warehouse with a broken heart, a damaged spirit, five leather wallets, and a Halston suit. I've never been able to forget that place as those kids looked so unhappy, and the suit never fit me right around the hips.

Now where was I? Oh, yes, your "marriage" idea. If you are willing to go to such extremes to lie to your parents, I'm sure that keeping your sexuality from them can't be that hard. Don't do this to yourself. I guarantee you'll be sorry you did in a very short time. Do this, and you'll be writing me another letter asking how to get out of it.

I also have to wonder about this friend of yours. She's willing to marry a man who doesn't love her - and never will in the way one partner loves another. Why in the world would she want to do that? Just to shut-her parents up? That's crazy! No - I think there's more there.

Part of me thinks that her feelings for you go slightly deeper than what you think and getting married would only justify to her that her feelings are correct. I'd bet that if you agreed to this proposal today, she'd beat you to the church.

Don't do this to her or yourself. Your parents are nagging you to get married - deal with it. Don't try to fix it by pulling a Gucci handbag over their eyes.



The Dating Game - Dating game "host" and In Between owner, Curt Peck poses with In Between's own version of Vanna White, Miss Lana St. James and a lucky contestant during In Between's Dating Game Show held at the bar on Thursday February 12th.

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Illinois

YOUTH RULES This rugged, White male, wants to hook with a guy between 18 and 25, and see what happens. (Bartlett) #13436

A LITTLE BATTY This dominant, Gay, White male, top, 34, 6ft, 175lbs, seeks submissive, White male, bottoms, 21 to 30, under 5'10, who get into role playing. I'm Batman. You're Robin. I want you to polish the batpole in my batcave. Then we'll go out, capture, and torture, the Riddler. No strings attached. Discretion a must. (Cicero) #10435

SEX AND SOCIALIZING Good looking, athletic, masculine, White male, 30, 160lbs, with a nice build, seeks discreet sex and good company. I like music, auto racing, and lots more. (De Kalb) #12789

HOT FUN I'm looking for hot fun with White and Hispanic man, between 18 and 21. I'm a very good looking, well built, 18 year old, White male, 6ft, 165lbs, with short, dark, Blond hair, Brown eyes, and a masculine demeanor. (Joliet) #6921

ARTY PLEASURES This art loving, White male, 28, 5'10, 140lbs, into movies, music, hanging out with friends, drawing, painting, and taking classes, wants to meet an interesting, down to earth, intelligent guy for a friendship or relationship. I hope you're comfortable with yourself and enjoy talking. (Joliet) #6766

GOOD AT WHAT I DO Clean shaven, well built, Gay, White male, 32, wants to meet some new guys to have fun with. (McHenry) #13018

COME HERE LITTLE PUPPIES I'm a good looking, well built, well endowed, White male, 40, 5'9, 160lbs, with Brown hair and Hazel eyes, seeking very oral, playful bottoms, in the area, to have fun with. (Spring Valley) #13414

LAID BACK LAD Fun loving, clean cut, Irish and Italian, White male, 6ft, 185lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, seeks other White males, 22 to 30, who are good looking, masculine, down to earth, and humorous. I enjoy movies, concerts, music, travel, dining out, and much more. I want to make new friends and hope to find a relationship with the right guy. (Western Suburbs) #12216

Iowa

GOT WHAT IT TAKES Attractive, smooth bodied, White male, 19, 5'10, 160lbs, with Brown hair, Brown eyes, and a sexy, swimmer's build, seeks other men to hang out with. I'm well endowed and ready to go. (Des Moines) #12647

Minnesota

SUBMISSIVE SORT I'm a handsome, 48 year old, White male, 6ft, 220lbs, and I want to be your sex slave. I'll do whatever you'd like. (Burnsville) #12339

KINKY CHARACTER This sexy, kinky, White male, 31, 5'10, 180lbs, into buttplay, diapers, golden showers, and anything messy and raunchy, seeks other kinky characters for hot times. I can often get away during the day and sometimes I can play at my place. (Minneapolis) #13235

PASSION PLAY This sexy, twin cities boy, 5'9, 165lbs, with Brown hair, Blue eyes, a hairy, lean build, and a very large, fat endowment, wants to play with other, similar boys. I'm not into anything rough. I like long, passionate sessions, with lots of kissing and body contact. (Minneapolis) #13145

HOT AND SWEATY I love hot, sweaty sex, with other good looking, well built guys, under 35, with tall, lean bodies. I'm an attractive, well endowed, 35 year old, White male, 5'11, 165lbs, with Brown hair, Hazel eyes, a killer smile, and a lean, smooth build. I'm not concerned about race as long as you're hot and ready to go. (Minneapolis) #12470

ALL SHAPES AND SIZES This big, Black male, 6'2, 370lbs, seeks to meet smaller guys, in the area. (Minneapolis) #12701

TOP OF THE LIST I have a variety of interests but my main one is meeting a nice guy to have a relationship with. I'm a nice looking, White male, 5'7, with Blond hair and Blue eyes, into golf, bowling, movies, and lots more. I'm especially interested in meeting a man who's also involved with women. (Minneapolis) #12337

PEOPLE PERSON I like to do just about everything with all sorts of people. I'm a handsome, somewhat heavy set, White male, with a mustache and goatee. I smoke. Let's hook up and have some fun. (Minneapolis) #12149

BOY NEXT DOOR This discreet, professional, White male, the boy next door type, masculine, attractive, and in shape, 27, seeks guys around my age for fun times and hot encounters. I'm open minded and safe, 6'1, 180lbs, with Brown hair and Blue eyes. I like to go out and party on the weekends. (Eau Claire) #6956

WINTER SPORTSMAN Very well built, good looking, masculine, White male, 28, 5'8, 170lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, seeks buddies for good times. I like working out, the outdoors, 4-wheeling, jetskiing, snowmobiling, hiking, and many sports. (Ironwood) #9488

COVERED WITH HAIR This very hairy, well built, Bi, White male, 48, 180lbs, seeks other hot, Bi and Gay guys, White or Black, for fun. I like the outdoors, the beach, videos, magazines, massage, underwear, and lots more. (Madison) #13243

MUSCLED IN MADISON Muscular, very solid, professional, White male, 30, 5'10, 180lbs, seeks similar friends, 21 to 35, who are also muscular and big. I prefer guys around 200lbs who lift weights and work out. Hairy bodies are a plus. You should like to go out and have fun without smoking, drinking, drugs, and sleeping around. (Madison) #12638

FEELING FRISKY? This 32 year old, butch boy, 6'2, 175lbs, and easy on the eyes, seeks a frisky top, 21 to 35, for obvious reasons. (Madison) #7180

SERVITUDE SLUT This handsome, very submissive, White male, 42, seeks a dominant master, preferably White, to use me. Overweight or chubby guys turn me on. I'm into foot worship, humiliation, and oral servitude. I'm very eager to serve. (Milwaukee) #13468

FEELS GOOD ALL UNDER This attractive, Gay, Black male, 28, 5'11, 163lbs, with curly, Black hair, light Brown eyes, a medium build and a goatee, seeks another masculine, Gay, Black male, over 30, for fun times and bodily pleasure. (Milwaukee) #13663

WAITING ON MY KNEES This masculine, but very submissive, White male, in my mid forties, seeks a dominant master into foot worship, humiliation, verbal abuse, and being orally serviced. I'm very obedient but need a master to train me. Chubby guys are a big plus. (Milwaukee) #13175

SMALL BUT EFFECTIVE Submissive, petite, 30 year old, Single, White male, 5ft, 105lbs, likes dining out, music, and trying new things. I hope to meet a dominant guy with a taste for adventure. (Milwaukee) #13043

PAPA INTO SIZE This macho, papa bear, seeks Married, Bi, or Gay guys, 20 to 50, who are versatile and experienced. Your inches are more important than your pounds or years. Get with me. (Milwaukee) #12906

Wisconsin

EVERY ORIFICE This good looking, 43 year old, Gay, White male, into oral action and butt play, seeks other hot guys, of any age and race, who want to have some fun. (White Bear) #5782

AWESOME SERVICE I love to service hard, slender, well hung, Black and White males, 20 to 35, who are cut, horny, and delicious. I'm a youthful, clean, White male, in my 40's, 5'10, 175lbs, with dark hair and Green eyes. Let me relieve the pressure. (Duluth) #7220

GOT TO GET YOU INTO MY LIFE Good looking, slim, 27 year old, Gay, White male, with dark hair, seeks a very masculine, well built, Gay, White male, 30 to 40, who's interested in a special relationship. (Eau Claire) #12236

I DO ALL THE WORK This talented, White male, 55, 5'10, 165lbs, wants to orally please you, with no reciprocation. I prefer guys who don't sleep around very much. Call and let me know how you like it. (Milwaukee) #12740

SOMETHING'S GROWING This Gay couple wants to meet, and get together, with other couples and singles for friendship, fun, and more. We like gardening, walks, cooking, football games, and quiet times in front of the fire. I'm 6'2, 170lbs, and a former marathon runner. He's 5'10, 165lbs, with a hairy chest. Let's talk. (Milwaukee) #12243

LAKESIDE MASTER This good looking, 42 year old master, 185lbs, wants to meet a slave into bondage and discipline. If you long to serve a master, I'm the man to call. (Milwaukee) #7044

MARRIED MASSEUR I'm a Bi, Married, White male, in central Wisconsin, into the beach, videos, massage, and the outdoors. I'm seeking similar guys who want to hang out and have good times. #12899

NATURAL WONDER Nice looking, stable, Gay, White male, 5'7, with Brown hair, Green eyes, and a trimmed beard and mustache, seeks a romantic guy, 21 to 50, who knows what he wants out of life. I enjoy fishing, camping, nature walks, star gazing, movies, travel, quiet evenings in front of the fire, and more. #12562

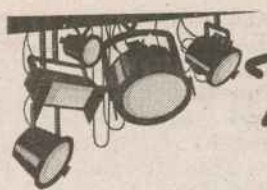


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Talking to the Stars

Martha Wash, the Diva of Gay Clubs Where "It's Raining Men"

By Jeffery L. Newman

Anyone who has been in a Gay bar in the last 25 years undoubtedly knows the soaring voice that belongs to Martha Wash. From her early beginnings with Sylvester to her diva run as part of Two Tons of Fun and the Weather Girls, Wash's powerhouse talent has become one of the most recognizable voices in clubland, belting some of the most well-known and treasured dance classics of all time, including the club anthem "It's Raining Men."

"The Gay community has been the base of my success," says the singer. "I'm one to know how supportive the Gay community can be. They started with me when I was with Sylvester, who had a large following, and have grown with me all through the years. They've been there and supported me, even when I didn't have an album."

Having endured the ups and downs of roller coaster career, Wash may finally be getting her much deserved due thanks to Logic Records, which will release a collection of her best loved songs, including a 1997 remake of her Weather Girl's signature tune, "It's Raining Men," with dragster RuPaul.

"We thought it would be totally hilarious. No one would think to put us together," she says of her pairing with America's most popular drag queen. "We were trying to bring it into the '90s, and keep it fun, by adding a different twist" she says. "It's a cult classic. It will never die. I wasn't sure how well it was going to work, but it turned out to be great."

This is Wash's first full-length album since her 1993 solo debut on RCA Records, and features hits from her nearly three-decade old career, including "It's Raining Men," with the Weather Girls, "It's True I Do," with Two Tons of Fun, "Strike It Up" with Black Box and "Sweat" with C&C Music Factory.

It also features "Taking Away Your Space," which was written for her by Sylvester, "Keep On Jumpin'," with Jocelyn Brown, and "Carry On," "Someone Who Believes In You" and "Give It To You," from her solo release. There are also three new tracks.

The idea for the project came from Logic Records, which wanted to put together a collection of songs celebrating Wash's career. While hardly one disc could capture everything she's done from the early days with Sylvester, to her '70s and '80s run with Izora Armstead, her former Two Tons of Fun and Weather Girls partner, through her solo and collaborative work today with Todd Terry and Luther Vandross, "Martha Wash - The Collection," is a small peak into her vast catalog of tunes.

"I had never thought about releasing a greatest hits package before. I didn't realize that I had recorded as much as I had," she says of the new opus. "I'm very pleased with it. It goes all the way back to the beginning and up to new stuff."

Wash still finds it difficult to shed her Weather Girls association. It has been more than a year since she spoke with Armstead, who now lives in Germany. An still carries on the Weather Girls act with her daughter singing in Wash's place.

But she hopes to shed some of that with her upcoming U.S. club tour beginning in February. But don't expect it to be the kind of club gig that most of her fans of come to know her for - a three song set, lip-synched in the middle of a smoky dance club. Wash is assembling a band, with back-up singers and musicians, and rehearsing a live show to take on tour to small venues and R&B clubs in the U.S. It will give Wash a chance to showcase her powerhouse vocal chords.

Born and raised in San Francisco, Wash got her start at the age of two singing in her parents' church choir. In the early-'70s, she joined a local gospel group, where she met Armstead. A year later, the two answered an advertisement in a San Francisco paper seeking two large-sized Black women who could sing. Unbeknownst to them, the singer they auditioned for was the late, disco-queen, Sylvester, who died in the late-80s of complications from AIDS.

Calling themselves Two Tons of Fun, Wash and Armstead became a staple in Gay clubs and on the R&B circuit, eventually landing a recording deal, and releasing several top-selling R&B albums.

But it was their 1984 campy disco ditty, "It's Raining Men," that catapulted them to

stardom, and prompted them to change their name to The Weather Girls. The fun, upbeat tune went on to top the dance and pop charts all over the world. Their debut release, "Success," was certified gold.

But after two less-than-stellar follow-up albums, and years of playing the clubs, the two women parted company in the late-1980s.

Soon after though, Wash went on to lend her voice to songs for such groups as C&C Music Factory and Black Box, singing some of their top selling hits including, "Sweat (Everybody Dance Now)" and "Strike It Up," respectively. Black Box's debut set, "Dreamland," featured four number one Billboard dance singles and three top 40 hits sung by Wash.

Those stints also landed Wash on the front pages of the national press, when the two groups replaced the singer in their respective videos with a svelte, perfectly shaped, caramel-colored woman, lip-synching to Wash's voice, and failed to credit her on their albums.

Die-hard fans recognized Wash's distinctive voice. They saw the video, with the skinny, beautiful female singer, but anyone who knew Wash, knew it wasn't the same person. "It was blatant," she recalls. "I was able to deal with it. It wasn't pleasant, but I survived it. I felt vindicated. The situation was not true. I wanted people to know that."

She also adds that her law suit was also a victory for heavy-set women. "We live in a society where everything has to be immediate - it's all about the visual and the marketing, instead of the whole picture," she says.

"As large as I was, I still could sing. I'm never going to be a size eight. I'd look horrible if I were," Wash adds. "I'm not going to buy into the idea that thin is the thing. I have a problem with people's idea of beauty. Everyone is not the same size. Folks have to get over it. People can be large and sexy."

Her victorious law suit earned her more than just due credit and justice, it also landed her an exclusive recording contract with RCA Records, which released her critically acclaimed, but commercially disappointing self-titled solo debut.

After several years of a quiet period, Wash took the dance world by storm once again last year, when she teamed up with former disco diva Jocelyn Brown for the Todd Terry produced "Keep On Jumpin'," which topped the dance charts all over the world.

She also covered Elton John's classic "I'm Still Standing," on the **First Wives Club** soundtrack, and teamed with Luther Vandross for a duet on his last album. Her newest offering, a remake of her Weather Girls' classic, "It's Raining Men," with RuPaul in Armstead's place, debuted in the top spot on Billboard's dance chart when it was released last December.

Off stage, Wash has been very involved in the fight against AIDS, having lost many close friends, including her close friend Sylvester. "I used to tell people that I really hated having to do this," she says of the AIDS benefits she sang at. "None of us should have to do this. AIDS shouldn't exist. All we can do though is try and support people with AIDS, raise money. But my think is not so much for research, but for people who need assistance and home care. That money is not trickling down from Washington. Those are the people who need the help. It's up to us to go out and raise the money, cause Washington isn't going to give it to us. We have to help people with food, medicines, doctor appointments."

And losing Sylvester was one of the toughest things she's had to do. "He was ready for it when it happened," she recalls.

"I went to see him six months before he passed away. I knew it was coming. I resigned myself for it. I knew it was just his time. I miss him still. He was a survivor."

Wash is trying not to think too far ahead. She is hopeful the greatest hits collection will spark a renewed interest in her to record labels and land her a deal for a recording of new material by year's end. But, regardless, the veteran songstress, says she'll just keep on doing what she does best - survive.

"I'm still surviving. Each day I wake-up and try to maintain what I'm doing and just do my best," she says. "It's been an adventure. I've had many ups and many downs. Sometimes you have to go along for the ride," she says of her nearly three-decade old career. "It's all a part of a learning experience. It's not been good or bad all the way, it's been both. I've just learned you have to ride it out until things change. I've always just hoped for the best."

In the Damp Dishrag Days of Late Winter a Little Insanity Can Brighten Things Up

Milwaukee—A new and completely fascinatingly insane group has formed whose purpose more than faintly resembles a guidebook to Arab democracies. Of course, that's not being entirely fair—fair? What's fair? But anyway, there really isn't much of a purpose except to have some fun and raise a little money for charities.

How it actually got started, heaven only knows, but they call themselves the Milwaukee Homosexual Police Department (MHPD). The motto is "Honor, Duty, Insanity, Insipidness" which more or less—really, more—says it all.

Like any good bureaucracy, there's gotta be officers and so MHPD has officers. They are: Richard Marie who serves as chief, the head honcho on the last sidewalk of time; Mickey Marie is Assistant Chief; Kenny Marie is the Lieutenant; Michael Marie is the Sergeant-Ethnic Liaison Officer; June Marie is Community Health Nurse; Joe Marie is Municipal Judge; and Esmeralda is Director of Homosexual Jail Facilities.

Asked if it was any coincidence that everyone associated with MHPD has the same last name, the Chief answered, "Why yes, of course. Aren't all bureaucracies incestuous?"

Asked what the qualifications were to be an officer, he answered that in the train of thought, all of them had to be having cocktails in the caboose.

Like any good department of this sort, MHPD hands out tickets. For example, there's one for ignorance. That gets you a fine of 70 cents. There's one for "Flights of Fancy." That's 75 cents. There's one for "Talking about exhaustion due to continual kitchen renovations." That's a dollar fine. Hysteria is 25 cents. Obsession with Judy Garland is 50 cents, while lying about not having pumps in your closet is a 70 cent fine.

These are only examples. There are 53 "offenses" in all for which tickets are handed out. And if you don't pay your fine, well the penalty is stiff. You are to have "the fleas of a thousand camels infest your ampits."

If you want to become a member, it's easy enough. A dollar gets you a lifetime membership. For this fee, it is guaranteed that there are absolutely no benefits of any kind; no meetings and no newsletter. It is

rumored that there will be a membership Ball, which case there will be no food, no drinks and probably no entertainment.

Yes, it's insane. It's all totally nuts. But it is a fun way to raise a little money for good causes like AIDS—and have a little fun, besides.

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Film Directors

Continued From Page 18

Even budding actresses were expected to be athletically proficient as well as sufficiently aggressive sexually to compensate for penislessness. This may partially account for the lack of major female stars today.

Other explanations would have to address the distasteful effects of women's "liberation."

Not only did audiences of the 90's become increasingly subjected to unintelligible monstrosities such as *Batman 2* and *Batman 3*, *The Shadow*, *Cable Guy*, *The Saint*, *Mission Impossible* [although this one had "possibilities"], but the serious films acquired a badly-textured hurried and hurried look with little of introspective subtexts of emotion which illuminate most art forms.

Uninspired vehicles such as *English Patient* [my favorite target] began winning awards for their cerebral proficiency in replicating the sterile efficiency of the computer icon.

Even such fine current directors as Spielberg, Scorsese, Coppola seem to be going through an identity crisis judging from their uneven output.

The computerized velocity of the most recent films not only emasculated directors and stars by giving guts to the special effects man with the most balls but became the overriding marketing consideration for film exploitation.

The delay in the release of the *Titanic* movie affords no better example of the dominance of the technician over the artist. Directors no longer have the luxury of reevaluating or rethinking their work. The 'pinpoints of light' that initiated films almost a century ago are no longer the director's handiwork, nor is the glow of "starlight" screen personas like Garbo, part of our moviegoing experience.

Instead we may be subjected to the boredom of an endless supply of computer bits ordered into being by monitor keyboards. Even serious independent films such as *Ice Storm* seem fragmentedly piecemeal rather than "all of a piece"

The "age of information" is transfiguring the ever-improving triumph of technocracy into a hollow triumph.—at least as far as the arts are concerned.

Recruit

Continued From Page 1

sis and a profound legal challenge, is returning to the red meat issues that motivate its members.

"Staring down the twin barrels of flagging contributions and an FEC lawsuit, the group is returning to a narrow Religious Right message, calculated to stir up its members and fill its bank account."

Shields noted that just before Christmas, the group announced it was laying off employees and severing ties with its so-called "Samaritan Project," which sought to convert communities of color to the Religious Right political agenda.

"The Coalition's outreach to minorities obviously did not resonate with its membership," Shields said.

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Shields added that the Christian Coalition finds itself having to compete with groups such as the Family Research Council and Focus on the Family for members.

"Essentially, all of the Religious Right political groups have to compete with each other to see who can be the most extreme," Shields said. "They're going after the same base and they have to involve anti-gay, anti-Constitution and anti-Bill of Rights rhetoric to appeal to prospective members."

Bob Kunst, director of The Oral Majority and spearheading both Maine and Cayman Islands boycotts, referred to right-wing religious assaults on President Clinton's private life, recalling "non-partisan" Kenneth Starr's address to a large Pat Robertson contingent.

Taunting the Christian Coalition director and linking the White House scandal with the Coalition's shameless political allies, the Oral Majority director said that Americans are "sick and tired of a sex-bashing mentality" that puts too much moral focus on sex acts alone.

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dirty politics are very clear," Tate was told by the angered Kunst.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) denounced the new Christian Coalition Campaign as a "shallow ploy"

"The repeal effort was the result of a campaign of lies and distortions by its promoters. This is another shallow fund-raising ploy to pad their coffers at the expense of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered community," said Kerry Lobel, executive director of NGLTF.

Lobel was also critical of Christian Coalition executive-director Randy Tate, who characterized the passage of the discriminatory ballot measure in Maine as "a clear victory for people of faith."

The NGLTF director stated, "In every community there are people of every race, gender, and religion who stand for equality and know that discrimination is wrong. Randy Tate and the Christian Coalition have no right to speak for all people of faith."

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) charges that the Christian Coalition is seeking to promote discrimination nationwide. An HRC statement says that Pat Robertson's and Randy Tate's group has misread the results of the Maine election.

"It is unconscionable that a group purporting to speak for Christians would embark on a systematic national campaign promoting discrimination in the trappings of faith," said HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch. "Recent polling has found a strong majority of Christians -- 70 percent -- believe that Gays and Lesbians should be protected from discrimination in the workplace."

"Poll after poll demonstrates that -- when Americans learn that currently, in most of the country, there is no legal protection from discrimination based on sexual orientation, they overwhelmingly support rectifying that," said HRC Communications Director and Senior Strategist David M. Smith. "Americans understand that discrimination is wrong. The path of faith points toward fairness -- not the politics of fear."

Ten states currently include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination laws: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wisconsin. Of these, only two states -- Massachusetts and California -- have initiative or referendum procedures that may allow for a Maine-style repeal effort.

According to the February 13 edition of *The Washington Blade*, seven state legislatures are currently considering bills to protect their citizens from discrimination based on sexual orientation: Arizona, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Nebraska, New York and West Virginia.

Housing

Continued From Page 1

that in Milwaukee, no one with AIDS will ever be homeless."

Nelson noted that people with HIV and AIDS across Milwaukee are facing a crisis in accessing safe, affordable housing. The 750 requests for rent and housing assistance from HOPWA funding that ARCW filled in 1997 was three times higher than 1996.

More clients are seeking assistance every day. The housing crisis for people with HIV and AIDS has worsened in recent years because welfare reform and changes in Social Security Disability have cut funds available to people with HIV and AIDS by about one-third.

The housing crisis is even more acute due to the good news of effective HIV drug therapies.

"Stable housing is a critical component to overall AIDS care to ensure people have the opportunity to maintain rigorous new treatment regimens and receive the potentially life-saving benefits of AIDS drug therapies," said Nelson.

Efficient City administration of this funding is essential to serving as many people with HIV and AIDS as possible Nelson said.

"Historically, HOPWA funding has served as a lifeline that has enabled us to get people with HIV and AIDS into housing. We need to ensure that the changeover in administering this grant from the State to the City doesn't disrupt

the good housing situations developed for people with HIV and AIDS in Milwaukee," said Nelson.

ARCW's comprehensive housing programs are available to all people with HIV and AIDS in the metropolitan Milwaukee area including clients of the City's minority community-based organizations.

In addition to these organizations, ARCW has developed a strong partnership with the St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry for the provision of AIDS housing.

"While there continues to be a need for more dollars for housing for people living with HIV and AIDS, the HOPWA program has been efficient and well run," commented Brother Stephen Braddock, executive director of St. Camillus. "Our houses are filled to capacity and we have people approaching us almost daily for a place to live. It is my hope that HOPWA continues to be an effective client focused program with low administrative costs," added Braddock.

X Files

Continued From Page 1

really are hurting, and you feel that if you don't get this off your chest and get it done with, you're never going to live a normal life."

During his sophomore year, he was told that he could not be a leader in his church in Waco unless his homosexual feelings were "dealt with." Upchurch's college minister suggested prayer, reading the Bible and involvement in a weekly group that met in Dallas. The group was affiliated with an organization called Exodus International, the largest of several ministries who claim a "way out" of homosexuality.

Each week Upchurch would make the 90-minute trek to Dallas. In the group were men of all ages. Some married. Some promiscuous. Some whose homosexual thoughts had not led to "acting out."

The leader lectured weekly on the causes of homosexuality, which was thought to be a symptom of a larger problem.

Dad Didn't Love Me

"That larger problem could have been unmet personal needs as a child," explains Upchurch, "that my father either didn't love me enough or wasn't there enough or perhaps that it was abuse. It could have been a number of things, but I vividly remember the drawing on the blackboard of the iceberg, and the tip of the iceberg was homosexuality, and everything below it was the real problem you had to get rid of."

The faithful students were taught that the way to overcome homosexuality was to replace the void left from a dysfunctional childhood with the love of God.

Upchurch began seeking the void in his family. Through group discussions as well as weekly writing and reading assignments, he started to believe that he experienced a "lack of caring" as a child. At times he would weep for the loss he felt.

After spending the summer with his parents, Upchurch returned to Waco to find that the group had disbanded because the leader "fell into immorality."

Exorcism

He continued to bargain with God for a change in orientation throughout college. He dated girls and increased his involvement in church activities. His senior year, he requested an exorcism to rid himself of homosexuality. He fasted for three days before the ministers at his church surrounded him and screamed at the demons they believed were inside him.

"I basically cowered on the floor for a couple of hours wanting something to happen, and nothing happened," says Upchurch. "When it was all over, I felt very awkward and very weird. I felt like a complete idiot to ask for something like this. I mean this was like self-torture."

Upchurch says from that point on, he no longer viewed homosexuality as demonic—but it still was wrong, and needed to be changed.

TO BE CONTINUED

Editor's Note: The author is the winner of the top Vice Versa Award, the Randy Shiltz Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Vice Versa Awards. "The X-Files" is an outstanding piece of journalism, exploring the topic of ex-Gay ministries. The above article first appeared in Outsmart Magazine (Houston).

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