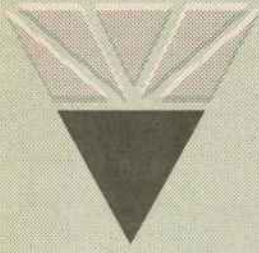


Give the People Light and they will find their own way.



The Wisconsin Light

Rep. Sensenbrenner Votes For Christian Amendment to US Constitution

Washington, DC—Americans United for Separation of Church and State and People for the American Way both denounced the House Judiciary Committee's vote in favor of a so-called "Religious Freedom Amendment" that removes the separation of church and state from the Bill of Rights.

"This amendment is a disaster of titanic proportions," said the Rev. Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United. "The Religious Right may have steered this constitutional garbage scow through the Judiciary Committee, but I'm confident there's an iceberg looming on the House floor."

Constitutional amendments require a two-thirds vote for passage. Lynn said he is optimistic that amendment supporters do not have the necessary votes in the House.

Lynn charged that the amendment would coerce schoolchildren to participate in prayer, force taxpayers to support religious institutions and encourage the display of religious symbols at government buildings.

"This is clearly a payoff to the Religious Right by Newt Gingrich for its support of the Republicans in recent elections," Lynn said. "Playing politics with religion and the Bill of Rights is deplorable."

The amendment (H.J. Res 78) passed the Judiciary Committee March 4 on a 16 to 11 vote along party lines.

Voting for the amendment were Committee Chairman Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.), joined by Reps. F. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.), Bill McCollum (R-Fla.), Howard Coble (R-N.C.), Lamar Smith (R-Tex.), Elton Gallegly (R-Calif.), Charles Canady (R-Fla.), Bob Inglis (R-S.C.), Robert Goodlatte (R-Va.), Steve Buyer (R-Ind.), Ed Bryant (R-Tenn.), Bill Jenkins (R-Tenn.), Asa Hutchinson (R-Ark.), Ed Pease (R-Ind.), James Rogan (R-Calif.) and Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.).

Voting against were Reps. John Conyers (D-Mich.), Barney Frank (D-Mass.),

Please See Sensenbrenner Vote Page 2

AIDS Activist Michael Shriver Comes to Milwaukee to Learn from CAIR Center

By Terry Boughner

AmFAR Co-Founder and Chair, Mathilde Krim, Ph.D has called Mike Shriver "an indefatigable young leader in the field of AIDS prevention and AIDS-related public policy."

Pat Christen, executive director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation calls Shriver "one of the most articulate spokespeople and one of the best AIDS advocates in the country."

High praise indeed, for Shriver who is currently Director of Policy for the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA), but nothing really prepares you for meeting him.

He enters the room at the Medical College's CAIR Center in a gust. Shriver, 34, is bright-eyed and puckishly cute with the map of Ireland on his face.

(Lace curtain or shanty? I can't resist asking, thinking of my ancestors from County Donegal. "Oh, lace curtain," he replies with a "paddy's grin." We both chuckle.)

Such is the energy and sheer exuberance of the young man that for the first 15 minutes after I meet him, I forget to turn on the tape recorder—and it's only a half hour interview, total.

By way of explaining what brings him to Milwaukee, Shriver says that a lot of what he does at NAPWA is advocacy and public policy about HIV prevention. "Frankly speaking," he says, "CAIR has one of the best prevention science programs in the country." It is one of five such in the entire country, he adds with admiration.

Milwaukee PBS Channel 10 Faces Sex Discrimination Complaint



Taking a Break—Make A Promise Dinner Co-Chairs Tim Lapp and Paul Masterson (L-R) are busy as they get ready for the annual fund raiser to provide badly needed money to help the Milwaukee AIDS Project with its prevention, education and patient service programs.

ARCW's Make A Promise Dinner Attracts Blue Ribbon List of Sponsors

Milwaukee—An impressive list of community leaders and corporate commitment has been assembled as table hosts for the 1998 Make A Promise Dinner and Auction. Tickets to the event must be purchased in advance to reserve a place at the traditionally sold-out evening.

People wishing to purchase tickets are encouraged to call Kelly Collins at ARCW, 414-225-1577, or to contact one of the table hosts for available space.

The following are people, corporations and organizations that have committed to one or more tables at the event:

Betsy Adrian; AIDS Network (Madison)

AIDS Walk Wisconsin; Neil Albrecht; Ameritech; Andersen Consulting LLP; Nick Anton; Jean Aspenleiter; State Representative Tammy Baldwin; Bret Ballinger; U.S. Representative Tom Barrett; Joan Bartels Farrell, Bartels Farrell Law Offices; Marge Beil; Marija Bjegovich; State Representative Peter Bock; T. Michael Bolger/Medical College of Wisconsin; Boulevard Inn; Mary Busalacchi; Carol L. Busche; Busche, Lukovich & Assoc., a Division of American Express Financial Advisors; Maggi Cage; State Representative Tim Carpenter; CAIR, Medical College of Wisconsin; Dr. Michael J. Chusid; Joan Clark; Cream City Foundation; Bonnie Creason; Maureen E. Daly; Patricia Davila; Barry Demet; Department of Pediatrics/Medical College of Wisconsin; Brian Dix; Janie and Daniel Donder; Catey Doyle; Eric Engstrom; Virginia R. Finn; Gamma Inc.; Tom Gazzana; Donna and Michael Gifford; GlaxoWellcome Oncology/HIV; William Godsell; Karen Gotlzer; Good Value Pharmacy; Grava Gallery; Rich Grunke; Robert Grzybowski; Father Michael Hammer; Allen Hanson; Todd Harshbarger; Edward T. Hashek; Tim Hess; Jan Hill; Roland D. Hoffmann; Hotel Metro; David Hui-bregtse; Thad and Kim Jelinske; Todd Jelinke and Colleen Barnett; State Representative Scott Jensen; Keeling & Associ-

Please See Dinner Page 2

High Court Rules that Sexual Harassment Covers Same-Sex Mistreatment

Washington, DC— On-the-job torment can be illegal sexual harassment even when the offender and victim are the same sex, the Supreme Court said Wednesday, March 4, 1998, in a decision that could touch virtually every American workplace.

The court said same-sex harassment can violate a federal anti-discrimination law as it voted unanimously to revive a Louisiana lawsuit closely watched by the nation's employers and Gay-rights groups.

In that lawsuit, a man alleged he was sexually harassed by three other men while working on a Gulf of Mexico oil rig.

Wednesday's decision provided important new guidelines for resolving sexual harassment claims, but plenty of questions

remain about the legality of certain conduct in specific employment settings.

"Common sense and an appropriate sensitivity to social context will enable courts and juries to distinguish" between what is legal and illegal, Justice Antonin Scalia wrote for the court.

The ruling allows victims of same-sex harassment to get into federal court even though Congress never has said bias based on sexual orientation is illegal.

The term "harassment" does not appear in the text of the anti-bias law known as Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. But the Supreme Court ruled in 1986 that sexual harassment amounts to discrimination if it creates a "hostile environment"

Please See Court Page 2

Milwaukee—A longtime employee at Milwaukee's Public Television stations filed a sex discrimination complaint contending that Channel 10 does not promote women from within and does not allow for opportunities and training which might lead to promotions for women.

Cindy Van Vreede, an Associate Producer employed at the station for seventeen years, alleges in the complaint submitted to the state's Equal Rights Division that the TV station and the Milwaukee Area Technical College continue to discriminate against her on the basis of her gender.

The Milwaukee Area Technical College holds the license to the public television station.

Van Vreede's complaint dates back to 1989. According to the complaint: Van Vreede was not initially interviewed for a position as TV Director/Producer in 1989;

She was eventually interviewed after she told station management that she believed that they were discriminating against her based on her sex;

She stated that at least one male employee was interviewed for the position without making a special request of management;

Van Vreede was denied the opportunity to attend a reporting seminar in Eau Claire in 1995;

Van Vreede was not allowed to interview for a position as Assistant Manager in TV Engineering Operations;

Van Vreede was not allowed to direct parts of the Channel 10 Auction in 1996. Men with experience similar to her experience were allowed to direct.

Van Vreede's complaint contends that at least four white males have been promoted from within the organization. They are Bryce Combs, Dan Braovac, Joe Bauer, and Gary Jones.

In November of 1997, an Investigator for the Equal Rights Division found for probable cause.

The division decided, "There is probable cause to believe Milwaukee Area Technical College/Channel 10 violated the Wisconsin Fair Employment Law...by

- A. Discriminating against the Complainant in terms or conditions of employment because of sex; and
- B. Discriminating against the Complainant in promotion because of sex." The investigator found for

Please See PBS Complaint Page 2

Governor to Attend Make A Promise

Milwaukee—The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) has announced that Governor Tommy G. Thompson will attend the March 21, Make A Promise Dinner and Auction in Milwaukee to accept its highest community leadership award.

Thompson was chosen by ARCW to receive the award in recognition of his leadership in supporting comprehensive AIDS services throughout Wisconsin and for supporting increased state funding of community-based AIDS services that now exceeds \$2 million annually.

This will be the first time that a Wisconsin governor has attended the historic Make A Promise Dinner.

Edward Hashek, President of the ARCW's Board of Directors will present the award to the Governor. For more information about the Make A Promise Dinner and Auction or to reserve a table or purchase tickets call Kelly Collins at 414/225-1577.

Shriver
Continued From Page 1

vative reproducible models of how to target Gay men to make sure that they don't become HIV positive. That's all happening in that middle corridor between California and New York.

"The importance of the work here at CAIR is not lost, cannot be lost—or obscured. Some of the best research for our community is being done here in the Midwest, here at CAIR.

"CAIR has some of the best models of how to get information out into the community. CAIR is looking at one of the most difficult issues for those of us with HIV disease and that's how to be in compliance with treatment regimens.

"Coming to CAIR is coming to the experts so they can tell me what they're doing—the best work in the country."

It is at CAIR, he says, that comprehensive interventions have been and are being developed. These types of interventions, he says, are most important because the system as it stands now, is so "fractionalized."

"It is not ethical," he says, "for a young woman of color to go for reproductive health counseling and not be tested for STDs and not get good HIV prevention counseling." Nor does he believe it is "ethical" for a young Gay man who goes in for HIV testing not to be screened for anal warts.

"The health provider should be capable of good, comprehensive public health. It is this issue of comprehensiveness that is being addressed at CAIR."

One of the things that deeply interests Shriver is AIDS Watch '98, May 3-5, held in Washington, DC. The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), he says, has been over the last 8 years, "a consistent participant" in AIDS Watch.

During the three days of AIDS Watch, organizations, groups and individuals go to Capitol Hill for two days and lobby Senators and Congressmen on the importance of HIV and AIDS funding.

During those days, NAPWA will provide participants with ongoing legislative updates, counterpart workshops on key issues and a succession of social events.

"The philosophy of AIDS Watch—and why I love running the program," Shriver says, "is quite simple. There are people who we pay who are public policy wonks. But the thing is I am most powerful on the Hill when I am meeting with my representative and talking about my needs with HIV disease.

"That's what AIDS Watch is about. Getting people, real people, on the Hill to meet with real members to talk about their needs. This is the practice of Civics 101."

As things stand now, Shriver says, there will be between 600-800 people lobbying on the Hill during AIDS Watch. There are 44 organizations (including ARCW) around the country who will be part of this effort. For the first time, this will be done in cooperation with the Breast Cancer community.

(For further information on AIDS Watch, call (202) 898-0414.)

"I can get so carried away in talking about AIDS Watch," Shriver says. "But here I see all these hundreds of people who, at the end of the day, know that they have done some of the most important work they can do in helping in the fight against AIDS! They have literally been advocating for their own lives! And I stand in awe. It is awesome. It is so awesome."

We are just getting started. We could have talked for hours. Just then, however, Dr. Jeffrey Kelly, head of CAIR comes in to say that it's time to go.

I leave, thinking that the strongest advice I could give someone interested in the fight against AIDS is to get involved with AIDS Watch '98.

Sensenbrenner Vote
Continued From Page 1

Jerold Nadler (D-N.Y.), Robert Scott (D-Va.), Melvin Watt (D-N.C.), Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-Tex.), Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), Martin Meehan (D-Mass.), Bill Delahunt (D-Mass.), Robert Wexler (D-Fla.) and Steven Rothman (D-N.J.).

Loss of Religious Liberty
On Thursday, March 5, People for the American Way President Carol Shields also released a special alert about the proposed amendment. She wrote:

"Every person who cares about religious liberty needs to know what happened this week. On Wednesday, the House Judiciary Committee took a dangerous step toward eroding the religious liberty of all Americans.

"By a vote of 16 to 11, the committee approved the misnamed "Religious Freedom Amendment," sponsored by Rep.

Ernest Istook, R-Oklahoma. A vote on the Istook Amendment could occur on the floor of the U.S. House as early as next week.

"Istook's amendment would dismantle the wall of separation of church and state. Americans would no longer be able to rely on the First Amendment to protect their religious liberty. The Istook amendment would subject public school children to sectarian prayer, and permit taxpayers to fund religious schools.

"We know the Christian Coalition is pushing for a vote so that they can target members of Congress with their distorted voter guides. They've pledged to distribute 45 million voter guides this year. That's what this is about.

"Please call your representative in Congress and tell her or him to vote "No" when the Istook Amendment comes up for debate. Religious liberty—not religious coercion—is the American way."

Dinner
Continued From Page 1

ates; Arlyne J. Koelsch; La Casa de Esperanza, Inc.; La Causa, Inc.; La Perla; Tim Lapp; Law Office of Christopher Krimmer; Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee, Inc.; Log Cabin; Deborah Lukovich Marcia's Second Time Around; Jon Martin; Paul Masterson; Medical Society of Milwaukee County; M.G.I.S. & Northwestern Mutual Life/Baird; Michael Best & Friedrich; Paul Milakovich; Dennis B. Miller; Miller Brewing Company; Milwaukee Gamma; Milwaukee LGBT Community Center; James Moore; Doug Nelson; NLW Advertising; Northwestern Mutual Life; State Representative Barbara Notestein; Open House Estate Sales; State Senator Mary Panzer; Potawatomi Bingo Casino; State Representative Rosemary Potter; Marguerite Powell; William Pratt; Larry Prochnow; Patrick Prudlow; William J. Radler; Rainbow; Tom Reed; Anthony M. Rhodes; Dan Riedl; State Representative Antonio Riley; Rittenhouse Group/Landmark Enterprises; State Senator Peggy Rosenzweig; Greg Ross; SC Johnson Wax; Tom Salzsieder, Saturday Softball Beer League; Salomon Smith Barney; Jim Schleif; Daniel Schmidt; Schwarz Pharma, Inc.; Susan B. and Cary Silverstein; Sinai Samaritan; Positive Health Clinic/Aurora Health Care; Kathleen M. Smith; Tamra Stark; Scott Stokes Strategic Management Associates; Richard Strong; Gary Strothmann; The Paper Ron Thelen; David Todd; Tara Tonner; Paul Toonen; United Airlines; Alderman Michael Verveer; Scott Wallace; Mike Wavra; Lisa and John Wolter; Nannette Workman; Michael L. Youngman; Robert Zwicky.

Principal sponsors for this year's Make a Promise dinner & auction are United Airlines, Miller Brewing Company and Schwarz Pharma, Inc. Other sponsors include: Northwestern Mutual Life; Potawatomi Bingo Casino; Andersen Consulting LLP; Ameritech; T. Michael Bolger, Medical College of Wisconsin; SC Johnson Wax; GlaxoWellcome Oncology/HIV; Executive Director, Inc.; Groupware Technologies, Inc.; Family Health Plan; Columbia St. Mary's; Sero Laboratories; Pfister Hotel; George M. Chester; Rockwell Automation/Allen Bradley; Cousins Submarines, Inc.; Roche Laboratories; Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; and CCU, Inc.

ARCW extends a heartfelt "thank you" to all the people who contribute their time, generosity and enthusiasm to the success of Make A Promise as a benefit for AIDS care, prevention and research.

Court
Continued From Page 1

in the workplace. In subsequent rulings, the justices said a hostile environment can come about not only by overtly sexual behavior but also by "discriminatory intimidation, ridicule and insult ... sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of the victim's employment."

Scalia's seven-page opinion said, "We see no justification ... for a categorical rule excluding same-sex harassment claims from the coverage of Title VII." But he warned lower courts about mistaking "ordinary socializing in the workplace—such as male-on-male horseplay or intersexual flirtation—for discriminatory conditions of employment."

All circumstances must be considered, Scalia said and gave the example of a football coach smacking the fanny of a player who's heading onto the field. Nothing illegal there, Scalia said, but that's not necessarily the case when the coach does the same thing to his secretary, male or female.

He said concerns that Title VII will become "a general civility code for the

American workplace" are misguided.

"That risk is no greater for same-sex than for opposite-sex harassment, and is adequately met by careful attention to the requirements of the statute," Scalia said.

He added: "Title VII does not prohibit all verbal or physical harassment in the workplace; it is directed only at discrimination because of sex," Scalia said. "The critical issue ... is whether members of one sex are exposed to disadvantageous terms or conditions of employment to which members of the other sex are not exposed."

The Supreme Court's decision allows Oncale to take his lawsuit to a jury but does not ensure his ultimate victory.

Justice Clarence Thomas wrote a one-paragraph statement in which he said he joined the court ruling because it made clear there must be proof of "discrimination because of sex."

Thomas' 1991 Supreme Court confirmation hearing was marked by sensational allegations of sexual harassment.

Night Light
Continued From Page 19

me in stopping in to thank Rick, Danny and the rest of the staff for serving our community for a quarter of a century.

Other great St. Pat's Day events can be found at *In Between* which is giving away prizes, *This Is It* where Joe O'Brehm and his staff awaits you, and in Madison, at the *Shamrock* (geez wonder why that would be) and *Manoeuvres*.

Where ever you celebrate remember to do so safely.

Friday March 20 you can find me at La Cage to help toast Miss Sage La Rue at her champagne reception celebrating her crowning as the new Miss Gay Wisconsin. Sage told me that she was shocked that she won because she had only decided to enter the pageant the week before, when La Cage owner George Prentice offered to sponsor her.

Debate Rages Over Lesbian Ceremony

Omaha, NE-AP- A Methodist pastor's decision to perform a commitment ceremony for two Lesbian members of his congregation continued to spark debate.

About 300 people attended a forum Sunday at First United Methodist Church to discuss the Rev. Jimmy Creech's actions.

Lay leader Bruce Deines said the forum was an opportunity to build bridges and come together as a community. But some participants criticized the meeting's format.

It could take up to four months for a resolution, he said.

Of course I will stay after the reception to take in the La Cage Showcase which is temporarily performing in the main bar until their new digs are finished.

Saturday March 21 I will be at MAP's Make A Promise Dinner. I decided not to join those who say they are boycotting because of the selection of Governor Thompson as an award winner. I don't like Thompson either, but not going only hurts those who need help.

I can't wait to see my friend John McGovern at the Milwaukee Rep on Thursday, March 26 when he opens a five performance run of his new show. He will be there through the weekend don't miss it. Of course after the show I will simply have to go to my favorite after the rep stop, *This Is It* to listen to some tunes on the juke box and engage in some lively conversation.

Saturday March 28 will find me at Za's in Green Bay for the Mr. & Miss Emerald City pageant. This is one of the premier shows in Title Town and shouldn't be missed.

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

PBS Complaint
Continued From Page 1

probable cause on all nine aspects of Van Vreede's complaint.

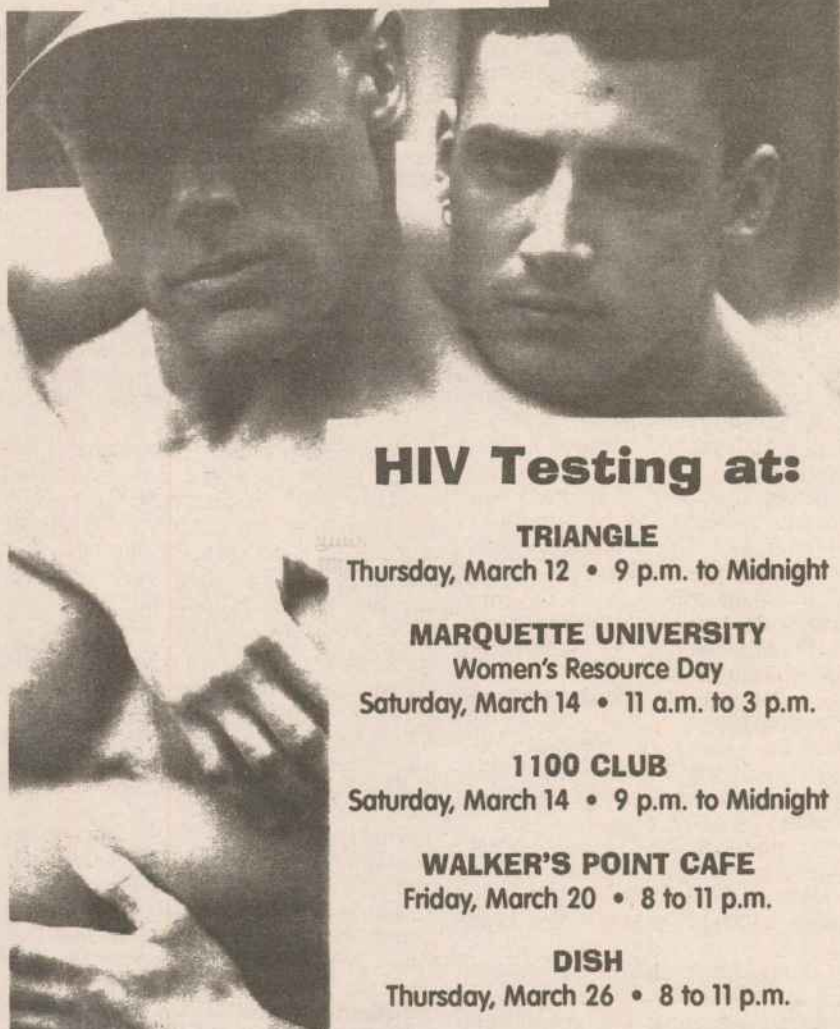
A hearing before an Administrative Law Judge is scheduled for May 13, and 14 1998. Brenda Lewison is Van Vreede's attorney.

Legal costs associated with this case can be expected to be upwards of an additional \$10,000. A special account for Van Vreede's defense has been established at the Milwaukee Municipal Credit Union. People wishing to support Van Vreede can send donations directly to:

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c/o Milwaukee Municipal Credit Union
1010 N. Water St.
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Anti-Gay Violence Increases in Maine in Wake of February 10th Referendum

Falmouth, ME—In an update to *Light's* coverage of events in Maine, Gov. Angus King denounced violence and reaffirmed his support of Gay rights at a rally prompted by concern about the recent beating of a Gay doctor.

"Violence under any guise is wrong," said King, who urged leaders of the successful effort to repeal Maine's Gay rights law to send their supporters the message that the referendum outcome does not pave the way for harassment of Lesbians and Gays.

The governor pointed to the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin two years ago as an extreme example of the violence that can take place when impressionable followers act on what they interpret as the beliefs of their leaders.

"You cannot unleash these dark forces and then disclaim responsibility," said King, noting that there has been a rash of reports of incidents targeted at Gay people since the referendum.

A standing-room crowd of about 200 packed the Falmouth Congregational Church for what organizers billed as a community speakout against fear and violence.

The March 5 meeting was near the spot where Dr. Charles Mitchell was attacked while jogging. Although police have found no evidence that the daylight attack was motivated by Mitchell's sexual orientation, the van he was driving was decorated with Gay symbols and investigators have not ruled out the possibility that he was the target of a hate crime.

The Portland psychiatrist, who suffered a concussion, facial injuries and a broken jaw, didn't talk about the beating. Instead, he focused on the importance of rearing children so that they grow up to be kind and tolerant, not filled with hatred.

King said his commitment to a Gay rights law in Maine remains unchanged, although he believes such legislation can only be passed with a referendum held during a general election.

The governor noted that 31 percent of Maine's eligible voters turned out for last month's vote and 51 percent of those voted in favor of repeal. "Sixteen percent of the eligible voters of Maine voted yes. My friends, that is not a mandate," he said.

Urging that Gay rights supporters step up their efforts to educate people on the issue, King cautioned against overreacting

to last month's repeal.

"We can't hate back," he said. "The people who voted 'yes' are not bad people."

Jonathan Lee, executive director of the Maine Speakout Project that helped organize the meeting, said the attack on Mitchell, whatever its motivation, has stirred deep fears in the Gay community.

"Many of us remember another Charlie, Charlie Howard, who in 1984 in Bangor was thrown over a bridge into the Kennebec River and drowned by a group of teen-age boys, simply because he was Gay," Lee said.

Maine Tourist Towns React

Supporters of Gay rights ordinances in two Maine tourist towns say they are motivated by economic considerations as well as by a desire to prevent discrimination.

Chamber of commerce officials in Camden and Bar Harbor expressed fear that some would-be vacationers may boycott all of Maine this summer without realizing that both towns support Gay rights.

Camden and Bar Harbor voted about 3-1 in favor of the Gay rights legislation that was narrowly defeated in the February 10 referendum.

After two of its members raised the issue Tuesday night, the Bar Harbor Town Council voted to ask the town attorney to draft an ordinance that would be a focus for debate at a future meeting.

The night before, Camden real estate broker Susan Dorr asked the Board of Selectmen to adopt a Gay rights measure.

"It just makes use of the very clear message that Camden voters have said twice on this matter," said Dorr, who pointed to the town's strong anti-discrimination stance in two statewide votes.

"This is an important area to explore, to say unequivocally that Camden won't discriminate," she said.

A leader in the Gay rights campaign, Karen Geraghty of Maine Won't Discriminate, said she could understand the frustration of townspeople that prompted the local efforts but reiterated that a statewide law was the ideal solution.

"Every citizen in Maine ought to have the same basic rights," Geraghty said. "I don't think that if you grow up in Bangor that you ought to have to move to Portland or Camden or any other place in order to have protection against discrimination."

New Study Indicates Being a Lesbian is a Matter of Biology

Washington, DC—The inner ear of Lesbian women works more like that of men, according to researchers who say the finding is the first strong evidence of physiological differences between Gay and straight women.

Experts say the discovery, published today in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, adds new support to the theory that sexual orientation in women may be determined by biology and not choice.

Currently there is a controversy over the origin of homosexuality. Ultra Right and religious extremist groups believe the orientation to be a matter of choice and have spent considerable effort attempting to find a "cure" for being Gay.

Many in the scientific community, however, insist that being homosexual is a matter of biology.

Researchers at the University of Texas, Austin, said their studies show the inner ears of female homosexuals has undergone "masculinization," probably from hormone exposure before birth.

"Their auditory centers have been masculinized and the presumption is that so have the sites in the brain that direct sexual preference," said Dennis McFadden, lead author of the study. He said it has yet to be proven, however, that there is a specific site in the brain that directs women to be Lesbians.

Dr. Michael Bailey of Northwestern University, said the research is "compelling" and may be "consistent with the biological origin of Lesbianism."

He added: "The most likely interpretation is that this represents some kind of effect of early hormones on the developing fetus."

Bailey cautioned, however, that the research will not be accepted as valid until others replicate the experiment.

Sandra Witelson, an expert on brain anatomy and sexual orientation at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada, said the study results support the theory that Lesbianism may be "related to early factors in brain development."

Researchers earlier found that two parts

of the male brain are different in Gay men. Other studies have found that some genes differ between Gay and straight men.

McFadden, a professor of experimental psychology, said the inner ear difference between homosexual and heterosexual women was detected using a test that measures the function of the cochlea, a key sound amplifier in the inner ear.

The cochlea amplifier in women is more sensitive than that of men, giving women an increased ability to detect very soft sounds in a very quiet room.

The difference, said McFadden, can be measured by a test called clicked-evoked otoacoustic emission, or CEOAE. McFadden said that this test measures a very slight sound that the cochlea makes when responding to a soft clicking sound in a quiet room.

"When you present a click to a normal inner ear, it gives back a sound that is like an echo," said McFadden. "It is very, very weak and it is very short, only a few tens of milliseconds."

Females, with their more sensitive cochlea, respond more powerfully to this test than do men, said McFadden. This is true even among infants, the study said.

To test for CEOAE differences between the sexes, the researchers recruited more than 200 adults divided into four groups: homosexual women and men, and heterosexual women and men. Some from each of the four groups were later identified as bisexual. The sexual orientation of the subjects was self-identified or determined by questionnaire.

McFadden said that each subject was given the CEOAE test and the tests were then evaluated with the researchers being unaware of the subjects' sexual orientation.

The results, he said, showed that homosexual women had click-responses that were significantly weaker than those of straight women. The signal was weaker still for all males, both Gay and straight. Bisexual men and women were in the middle, although McFadden said there

was not enough of those in the study to draw firm conclusions.

What is clear, he said, is that there is a dramatic difference in the development of the hearing systems of Lesbians and of straight women, and that it is known that development of the inner ear is affected before birth by androgens, a male hormone.

Androgens, said McFadden, may also "alter the brain centers that produce sexual orientation," but he said researchers have yet to find a brain structure that determines sexual orientation in women.

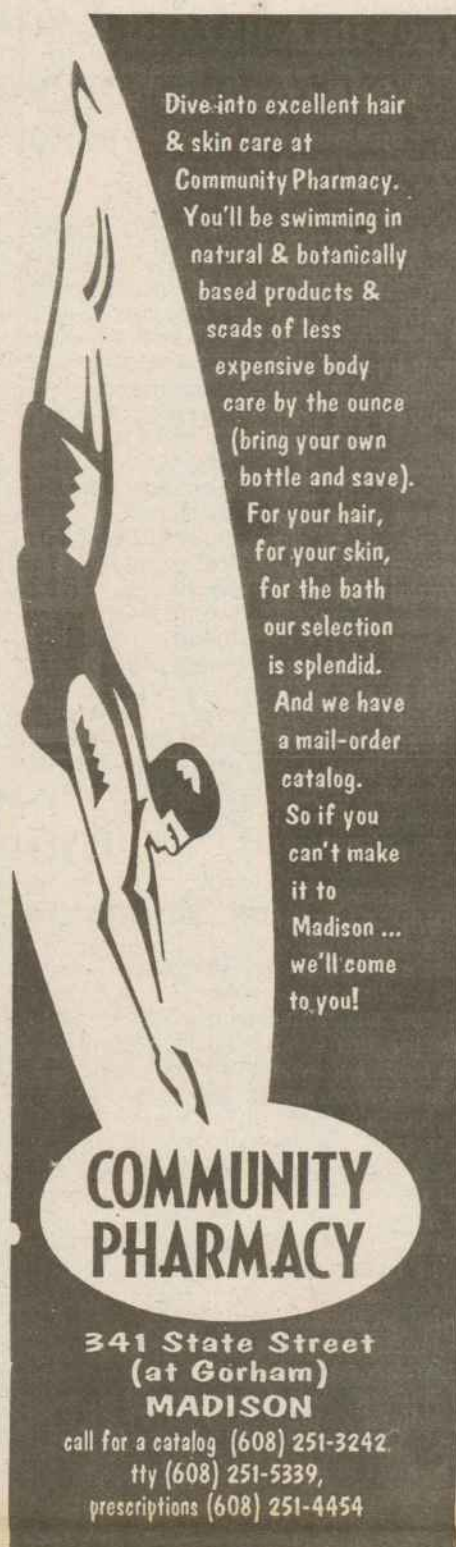
SAGE to Sponsor Discussion Groups

Milwaukee—SAGE/Milwaukee is sponsoring a new men's discussion group beginning Friday, March 27. This group will be facilitated by Jeff Buckles and will focus on topics of interest to men. Some of the topics covered will be "Dating and Sex; Forming Relationships;" and "Socialization in general."

The group will meet weekly on Friday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Participation is limited. For further information and to register, call SAGE at (414) 271-0378.



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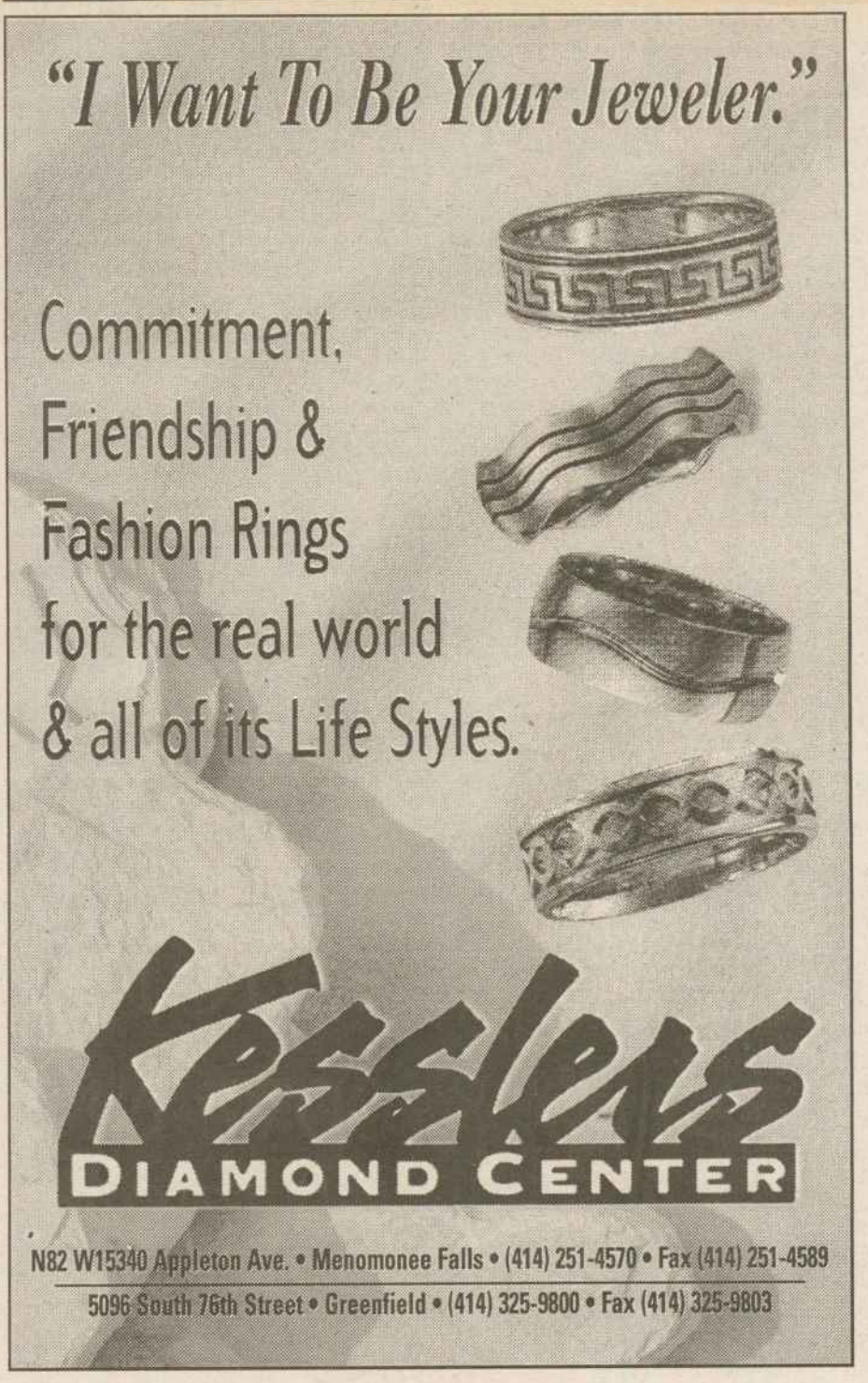


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Editorial

Possum Queen, CAIR and Governor Thompson

As noted elsewhere in this issue, three of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's (ARCW) most prestigious awards go this year to the Possum Queen Campaign, the Medical College of Wisconsin's CAIR Center and to the Governor, Tommy Thompson. The Awards will be given at this year's Make A Promise Dinner.

We heartily congratulate the recipients. Max Barnett (one of the nicest guys alive) and all those who expend untold effort and resources each year to make the Possum Queen Campaign a success deserve all the kudos they get. As they protest, they are "just having fun," but they are living proof that when you combine fantasy with a good heart, great benefits are the result. There isn't an AIDS organization in town that doesn't know of the benefits from the money they raise for the fight against AIDS. With the Possum Queen Award, recognition is also being given to the all the bars and their owners whose work in the struggle against the disease have often been overlooked.

The CAIR Center goes about its work quietly. It rarely receives the recognition it deserves from this community. This is a shame because Dr. Jeffrey Kelly and his people at CAIR have developed programs in HIV/AIDS prevention that are respected and recognized world-wide and have been instrumental in saving countless lives.

We have disagreed with Governor Thompson on many issues. The likelihood is that we will disagree with him again. This, however, must be said. Without his aid, assistance and support over the past nearly 12 years, the struggle against AIDS would have been materially more difficult. We believe that it is needful and right to thank the governor for his help. We also believe that it is needful and right to say that in the battle against AIDS there are no Republicans, there are no Democrats. There are only people. We believe that the award to the Governor says this.

Editor's Note

On the Boy Scouts and Morality

By Terry Boughner

The New Jersey court's ruling that the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) can no longer discriminate against openly Gay young men is symbolic of how all-encompassing our demands for equal rights actually is.

Previously, the battle lines were drawn over things like discrimination in housing, jobs, employment and public accommodations. Ten states and scores of cities, towns and corporations have anti-discrimination laws that include sexual orientation. Though the battle is far from won, progress has been made.

I would suspect that if a poll were taken about what our battle was aiming for, many straights and Gays alike would say it was this: a fight to end harassment and legal discrimination. It still is about that, but the judgement against the BSA illustrates the far wider area in which we fight.

The major media has come to recognize this "wider area." That's why the BSA decision has received all the attention it has. LGBT people, too have begun to realize that as well: that the frontiers of our struggle were never as close-in as we once thought.

For example, let's suppose that all forms of discrimination in employment etc., were ended tomorrow. Would the battle be over? Not by far.

Where the battle has moved, where, I think, it has always been, is in that wider area, the moral arena. It is there that we must fight and it is there that we have the real struggle on our hands.

Nothing illustrates this so clearly, I think, than the BSA decision. The BSA in its efforts to keep Gay men out is saying that in common with a number of churches, Gays are not morally equal to everyone else. The BSA in being anti-Gay is saying that it is "squeaky clean." Having men who are openly Gay in their midst would taint this "cleanness" somehow.

That "somehow" is all wrapped up with the impossibly rigid definition of masculinity—and femininity—that this society holds. For example, a male is supposedly characterized by "manly valor." "Walk like a man, my son," etc. A "moral male" is trustworthy, brave, valorous, loyal, etc., etc., etc., so the litany goes.

A "moral man" is a "real man." He never cries. He never shows undue emotion. He can't cook. He marries a woman who has "his" children, etc., etc., etc.

We all know the companion litany about women. It's just as inaccurate, just as stupid, as the one about men, but it has maintained itself for a long, long time.

Gay men "act like women," so the story goes. Hence, Gay men, not being "real men," cannot possibly be moral and whatever they feel toward each other is, by definition, immoral as well.

It is this moral issue that cuts to the heart of service in the military. Service in the military connotes valor. Gay men cannot be valorous. Neither can Lesbians be valorous. If they are, they aren't "real women." Hence, they are immoral. Like Gay men, they "don't know their place"; the "place God has put them in" etc.

Same-sex marriage is also a moral issue as much as it is a legal one. The prospect, for example, of two men marrying each other forces people to confront the fact

that there is and will be an extraordinary physical intimacy between them. In the conventional thinking (if it can be called thought) "real men" don't share physical intimacies. Hence, same-sex for men marriage is immoral.

Same-sex marriage for women is also immoral. "Real women" fulfill their "role" as mothers. They keep "the man's house." The live in relationship to a man. Silly, but that's what the Right Wing believes.

(Remember, in the American Right Wing paradigm, only "real men" and "real women" can be moral. Remember, too, that if you're deemed immoral—if you're LGBT or poor or have HIV/AIDS—it's okay to be cast into outer darkness. You only get what you deserve.)

"You can clear away all of the other layers of homophobia and the one that's still left, even among caring people, is their preconception of masculinity," said Joe Grabarz, the executive director of the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union. He is an openly Gay man.

Americans imbibe these gender definitions from birth. TV, the movies, everywhere you look, the roles are laid out. Even God has gender. I suppose what's meant by that is that God "acts" like a "real man." I don't see how it could mean anything else.

Members of the LGBT community, born to be who we are, absorb all this, too. Some shake loose of the stereotype forced upon them and go on to grow into the fullness of personhood. Sadly, others of us never do get free and languish in self-hatred and guilt. I call it "homo-homophobia."

Some LGBTs figure that if the "act" like "real men" or "real women," they will get away with "pass as moral." It won't work. In the morning, you'll be just as Gay as the night before, no matter what you did in bed and with whom.

We who are members of the LGBT community know that who we are and how we love is the entire moral equivalent of anyone else. We must assert this. We must understand that this moral area is the area in which we must fight. We must fight as if our very souls depended on it, because they do—and the souls of all succeeding generations of our kind, as well.

"The big issue is not that Gay people are a victim class who are being pummeled in employment," said Andrew Sullivan, author and former editor of *The New Republic*, after the BSA decision. "The big issue is that we're a psychologically battered class and the battle on that front is greatly enhanced by winning symbolic victories such as the military, Scouts, marriage and the church."

Letters

State Marches in 1999

TO THE EDITOR:

There has been much debate in the past few weeks about the possibility of a Millennium March on Washington for Equal Rights in the year 2000. I would like to share my thoughts with you on an exciting proposal which will more directly effect the lives of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered people at the

state and local level.

Our marches in 1979, 1987 and 1993, focused our country's attention, for good reason, on building visibility and power in Washington. But the political landscape has changed dramatically, and with that, our focus must also change.

Over the past several years we have seen the center of gravity shift from action at the federal level to movement at the local and state level. Let's use the dawn of a new millennium as the time to make our activism count at the local and state level.

We find ourselves at a time where our communities have made enormous cultural gains. Despite these gains, most Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Americans live in states that allow discrimination based on sexual orientation, that ban same-gender consensual sex, and that do not consider violence directed at the GLBT community as a hate crime.

Many states ban same-gender marriage, even though it is not legal in any state. More and more queer youth find their school groups and clubs the target of right-wing legislators that understand the power that a growing number of Gay-straight alliances holds to change communities.

Last year, a record number of bills affecting the GLBT community were introduced in state legislatures. Many bad bills were defeated and a record number of good bills were passed. Two states moved bills forward that banned discrimination based on sexual orientation. Last month, voters in one of those states, Maine, voted to repeal their civil rights bill.

Our movement is growing stronger and more people are involved in their communities than ever before. With this growth, has come many challenges. Today we find ourselves at the brink of making important decisions that will forever affect our futures. At NGLTF, we believe that our communities must be visible in every state capital in America.

NGLTF's proposal for 50-state marches and actions to be held in 1999 has been widely distributed. It has been discussed at numerous workshops, gatherings and meetings at NGLTF's annual Creating Change conference held in November in San Diego. It will be discussed again by national and state leaders in March, 1998 at our National Policy Roundtable.

The process of discussing the 50 state actions/marches has been lengthy and not always perfect. But it has reflected the belief that no one organization can control an entire movement's agenda. The road to our freedom is a long one and the process is as important as the result. A national movement is fueled by the collective energy and spirit found in towns and cities across America. It is there that our futures lie.

I'm interested in your views and I hope you'll drop me a note at NGLTF or email me at: klobel@nglftf.org.

Kerry Lobel, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Washington, DC

No To Gingrich

TO THE EDITOR:

It is great that Mr. Tsien is doing so well on the stock market. I do not think though that Gays should vote for people like Gingrich who are in favor of starving the poor. How safe can any of us be if our neighbor is cold and hungry. In a country with so many minorities, it is too easy for one to blame the next for their hardships and struggles. Only when everyone is more or less equal, will the bickering and recriminations end.

Lance Wilde
Madison

March? No March?

TO THE EDITOR:

The millennium approaches. And as it does, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community is right to focus on it as an opportunity.

The symbolism of a new century can be a powerful one for all of us to bring the civil rights struggle for the Lesbian and Gay community front and center. Coupled with an election year, the turn of the century will present us with an opportunity to make history.

Consider our recent losses in Maine and Washington State. There are several lessons for us: (1) We must be smart, move fast and work together, (2) More needs to be done to bolster our statewide organizations and (3) Educating swing voters will be key (and polls tell us that these voters are predominantly married and live primarily outside of urban areas).

Please See Letters Page 10

Policy

Letters to the Editor

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

Deadlines

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

April 9th Issue
Articles—April 3rd
Ads
Non-Camera Ready—April 3rd
Camera Ready—April 6th
5:00 p.m.

Caution

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Conservative US Senators Keep Gay Nominee for Luxembourg Post in Limbo

By Philip Shenon

San Francisco—When the State Department announced last year that James Hormel, who is Gay, had been nominated to be an ambassador, there was jubilation and not just among the Gays.

George Shultz, who returned to San Francisco after serving as President Ronald Reagan's secretary of state, said Hormel would be a "wonderful representative of our country" to Luxembourg, the European duchy where he was being posted. Don Fisher, founder of the Gap, the retailing giant, described Hormel as a "paragon of ethics."

"It would be a loss to our country to not have someone of his stellar character representing us abroad," Fisher said.

But the nomination of the 65-year-old philanthropist and heir to the Hormel meat-processing fortune appears hopelessly stalled on Capitol Hill. A group of conservative Senate Republicans has placed a hold on his nomination, and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, (R-Miss), has said he has no plans to bring the nomination to a vote.

"Mr. Hormel seems to be an amiable, congenial individual, and I'm sure he's done a lot of good things," said Sen. Tim Hutchinson, (R-Ark), who put a hold on the nomination after learning of Hormel's involvement in several Gay rights groups. "But he's very much got an agenda."

Hormel's philanthropy reaches beyond the issue of Gay rights. He supports charities for breast-cancer victims and the homeless. He is a director of the San Francisco Symphony and the Chamber of Commerce. He is a key benefactor of Swarthmore College, his alma mater, and the University of Chicago Law School, where he financed a program to encourage students to enter public-interest law.

San Franciscans who know Hormel as a civic leader are indignant at the Senate's treatment of a favorite son of this famously tolerant city. "I think it's a travesty that a handful of senators are blocking this body from voting for a qualified nominee," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, (D-Calif), a former mayor of San Francisco.

The administration has vowed to press ahead with the nomination. In a speech here recently, President Clinton praised

Hormel and urged senators to put aside any prejudice. "I have just one question," the President said. "Will he or will he not be a good ambassador?"

Traditional Values, a religious extremist group based in Anaheim, California, is organizing the campaign against Hormel. Its executive director, Andrea Sheldon, said that Hormel was the administration's "homosexual poster boy" and that he was being given the post in Luxembourg so the administration "could fill its quota of homosexuals."

Sheldon has given several senators a three-inch-thick binder filled with photocopies of sexually graphic material from the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center, which was set up at the San Francisco Public Library in 1996 with a \$500,000 donation from Hormel.

Most of the collection is duplicated in the Library of Congress. In a letter, Hormel said he did not play a role in the selection of books or magazines for the center, and the San Francisco library confirms this.

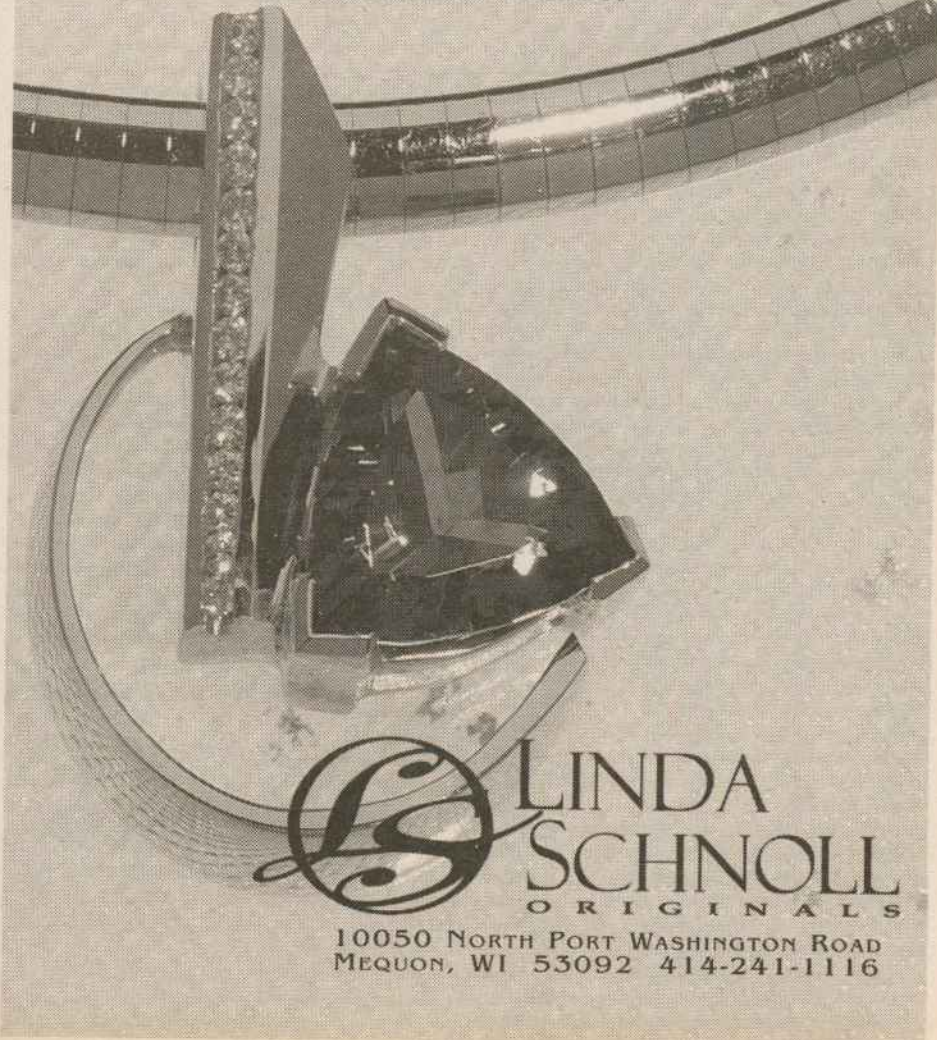
Hormel answered some of his critics in a letter to Sen. Gordon Smith, (R-Ore), a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "I will not use, nor do I think it is appropriate to use, the office of the ambassador to advocate any personal views I may hold on any issue," Hormel said.


The letter apparently satisfied Smith, who has said he would support the nomination. He and another prominent Republican, Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, last month called for an early vote on Hormel's nomination because, Smith said, Hormel has the "makings of a very successful ambassador."

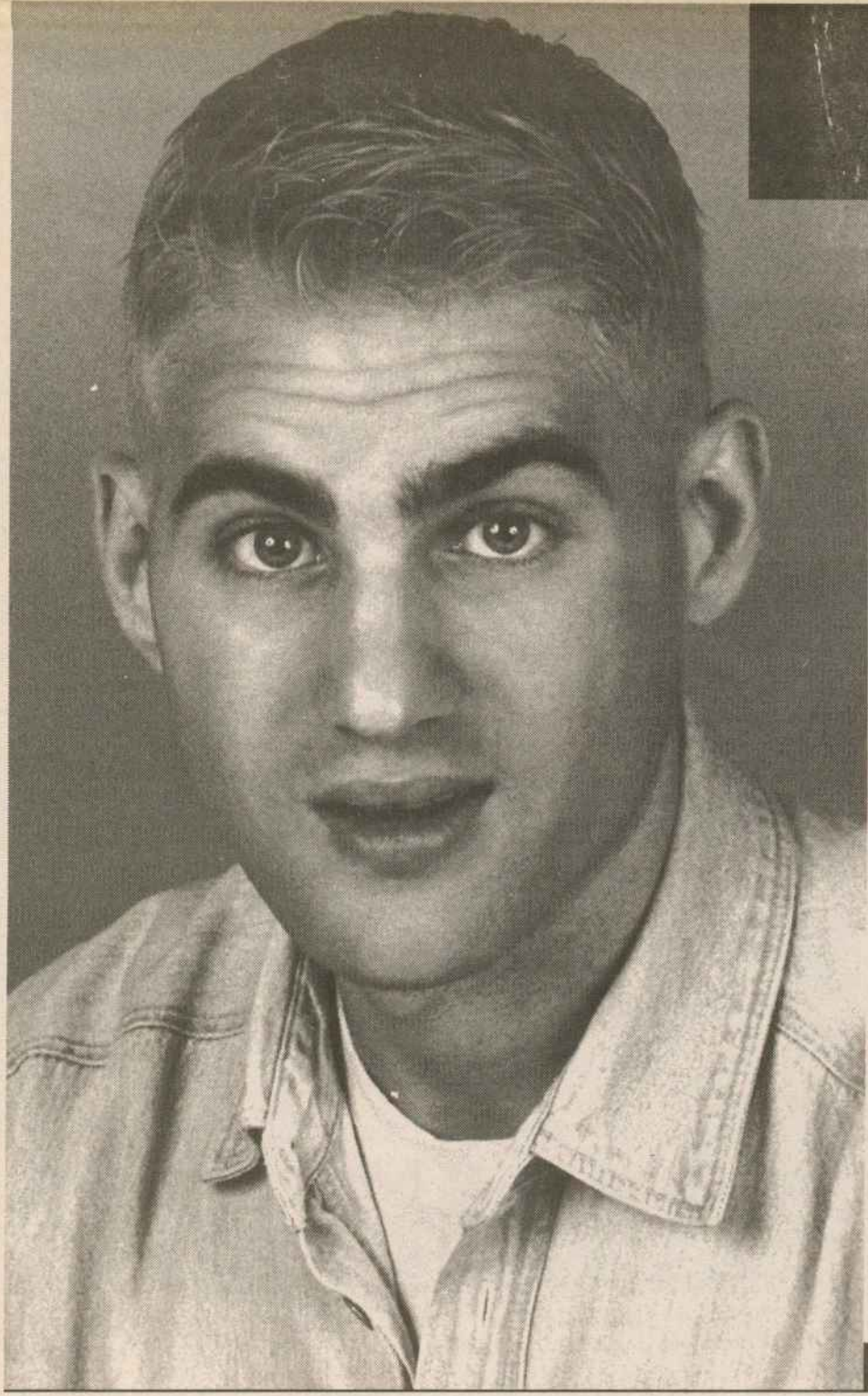
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Medical College of Wisconsin's CAIR to Receive Leadership Award from ARCW

Milwaukee—The Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) will receive the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's (ARCW) Red Rose Community Leadership Award at the Make A Promise Dinner on March 21, for its historic commitment to research and implementation of behavioral intervention models designed to reduce the incidence of HIV infection among diverse populations.



JEFFREY A. KELLY, PH.D.

Jeffrey A. Kelly, Ph.D. who is a Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin and the Director of the Center for AIDS Intervention Research will accept the award.

"The Center for AIDS Intervention Research at the Medical College of Wisconsin is deeply honored to receive this award from ARCW," said Kelly.

"The challenges of stopping new HIV infections and of ensuring that persons now living with HIV benefit from treatment advances require a coordination of

efforts. We are fortunate in Wisconsin to have dedicated AIDS researchers, AIDS service organizations, public health departments and community members all working closely together and committed to bringing this epidemic to an end," Dr. Kelly said.

CAIR is widely known for initiating strong local and national networks and collaborations to carry out research focused on finding ways to decrease the spread of HIV disease.

ARCW and CAIR have worked together on several projects including the "Men At Work" effort to help Gay men stay HIV negative, and the current five year project funded by the Centers for Disease Control to gather data, create and implement effective HIV prevention strategies to reach young men who have sex with men.

CAIR staff also provide HIV prevention education sessions for high-risk women of color at ARCW's Dennis C. Hill Harm Reduction Center.

"We are very grateful for the many opportunities we have had to access the resources and expertise of CAIR," said Neil Albrecht, ARCW Regional Director. "CAIR has consistently emerged as a community leader in the fight against AIDS. This award is our applause to all the hard work of Jeff Kelly and his staff."

Under the direction of Dr. Kelly, CAIR has been extremely successful securing research grants from national funding sources thus bringing much needed research and intervention dollars to Wisconsin to help reduce the spread of HIV infection.

"This award is long overdue for Dr. Kelly and his excellent staff at CAIR," said Doug Nelson, ARCW Executive Director. "Dr. Kelly is a national leader in HIV related behavioral research. Every AIDS agency in the country benefits from CAIR's work in developing cutting edge prevention strategies."

Brian Buggy, M.D. a Milwaukee based infectious disease physician and member of the ARCW Board of Directors will present the award.

Silent Auction at Make A Promise Dinner Offers Fabulous Things

Milwaukee—The most unusual item donated to be bid on at the Make A Promise Dinner and Auction on March 21, may be the original painting on handmade paper from Nepal done by indigenous community artists of Jarkapur.

But other close runners-up for most unique at the benefit auction will include a whimsical parrot painted highback chair with furry seat, acupuncture treatments, an evening of harmonica music, and an entertainer who will engage your favorite senior citizens in a sing-a-long at the nursing home of your choice.

Slightly more traditional and highly valuable auction items that can be purchased at the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's (ARCW) gala event include everything from trips to Beanie Babies, leather to diamonds, collectibles to edibles, and lessons to limos.

United Airlines has again donated three sets of round trip tickets to help raise money for AIDS care, services and research.

Two United Airline round trip economy tickets to Amsterdam have been paired with two nights at Ruben's Bed and Breakfast in the Netherlands.

If you prefer to stay in the United States, you will want to bid on the two first class round trip tickets any where in the United States including Hawaii and Alaska, or the two first class round trip tickets to any where United flies in the contiguous 48 states.

Other trips to be bid on include a golfer's holiday at Nippersink Country Club and Lodge, seven nights at a condo in Cancun, Mexico, and many other get-away weekends at hotels, bed & breakfasts and even a log cabin.

Pridefest has donated a three hour limo ride anywhere in Milwaukee.

Several premiere items have been donated for the first time to the auction. Madame Kuony, of the internationally known Le Postillion school of culinary arts has donated five, full day cooking classes at her Fond du Lac kitchen. Madame Kuony will personally do the instruction.

Mimma Megna has donated a fabulous Italian dinner and beverages for 10 people at Mimma's Cafe, on Brady Street. Mimma's generosity promises a party that will rival a dinner in Italy.

For the bidders who want to do their own cooking they can bid on six, 6 oz.

certified Angus beef filet mignon and other gourmet food items.

"There are really two kinds of generosity going on for the auction," said Paul J. Masterson, Volunteer Auction Chair. "The generosity of the donors of the items and the enthusiastic and generous bidding of the people who attend Make A Promise. I've been really grateful for the wide range of individuals, artists, companies and organizations who have donated because they all care about fighting AIDS."

The Beanie Babies Cubby and Nip have been donated to be auctioned plus the rare and collectible Princess Beanie Baby. A Japanese jewelry box and vintage 1940's cigarette case from Japan are also among the collectibles.

Paul's Jewelers has donated a diamond cocktail ring with 1/2 carat of diamonds in a 14K yellow gold waterfall setting, Frank O. Kloiber Jewelers has donated a 14K yellow gold ring set with six opals and two diamonds, and Kessler's Diamond Center has given a 14K yellow gold 18" Omega necklace.

Bidder's looking forward to the Harley Davidson 95th anniversary will find an official Harley Davidson leather jacket, collector's plate, figurine, steins, t-shirts and a plush Harley Hog. Sports collectibles to be featured at the auction include a XXXI Super Bowl football, Al McGuire autographed basketball, and Chicago Bears, Minnesota Vikings, Milwaukee Bucks, and Brewers items. Even use of Herb Kohl's Bradley Center Suite for a Bucks game will be up for auction.

"People know our auction will present a broad spectrum of fabulous items," said Masterson. "It's fun to see people get into competition bidding over an item they really want. Often they even bid over the stated value of the item because they want it and they want to give more to raise funds for AIDS care and research."

The auction at Make A Promise is a silent bidding auction that runs as part of the event from 5:30 p.m. until the auction closes prior to the program at approximately 9:30 p.m. People who make the winning bid will be able to pay for and pick up their items and gift certificates the evening of the event. The goal for the auction portion of this year's Make A Promise is to raise \$45,000 to support AIDS services. For tickets call (414) 225-1577.

ARCW to Praise Possum Queen Campaign at Make A Promise Dinner

Spotlight Will be On its Amazing Success

Milwaukee—The outrageous, fun, and important fundraising efforts of the Possum Queen Campaign will be honored on March 21, as the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) presents it with a Red Rose Award at the Make A Promise Dinner and Auction.



Max Barnett will receive ARCW's Red Rose Award at Make A Promise on behalf of Possum Queen Campaign.

The Red Rose Award is given to recognize outstanding community service in the fight against AIDS and the support of people living with HIV and AIDS. The Possum Queen Campaign was chosen for the award for its fundraising commitment to AIDS service organizations throughout the Milwaukee area.

Over the past seven years the Possum Queen Campaign and its supporters have

continuously worked to generate money through a series of fundraisers, often sponsored by community bars and restaurants. The Possum Queen Steering Team, the participants and donors have raised over \$87,000 for AIDS care and services since the campaign began in 1991.

The Possum Queen Campaign was chosen by the ARCW Make A Promise Community Service Award Committee from many worthy nominees.

"The Possum Queen Campaign effort has enriched the lives of people living with AIDS as well as raised awareness and involvement in the community," said Doug Nelson, ARCW executive director. "ARCW is pleased to honor the caring work of everyone in the community who has ever helped or donated to Possum Queen. We value this involvement immensely."

According to Max Barnett, of the Possum Queen Steering Team, the emphasis is on fun and fundraising, not competition or winning. Each Possum Queen raises money in creative ways during the six-week campaign. The number of "votes" each Possum Queen gets is equal to the dollars they collect. The participant who raises the most money becomes that year's Possum Queen and is crowned at a final show.

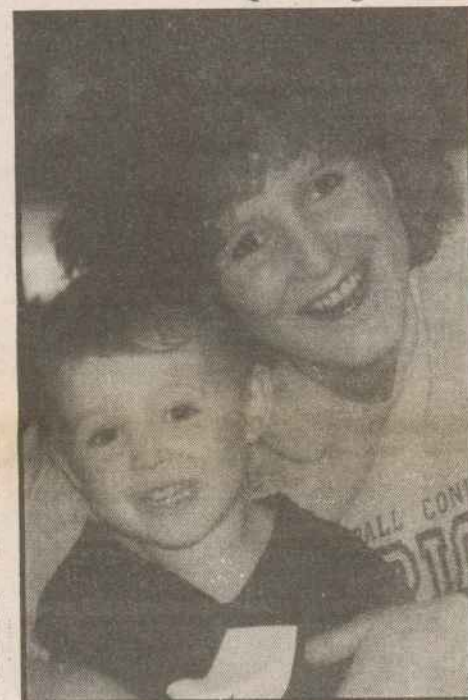
Past Possum Queen's are Jack E. O'gasm, 1997, from the M&M; Dinah Thirst, 1996, of the Ballgame; Althea Later, 1995, representing the Triangle; Wednesday Adams, 1994, sponsored by Please See Possum Queen Page 27

Original "Voices" Will be Heard at Make A Promise

Milwaukee—"This year's Make a Promise theme "VOICES" will include an original, live production accompanied by an original musical score and is dedicated to the strength and power of the many voices united in the fight against AIDS," said Marge Beil, ARCW special events director.

The production, written and directed by volunteer Maripat Wilkinson especially for ARCW's Make a Promise event, 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.

Actors include Margaret Pierson-Bates, Joel Spice-Kopischke, Cathy Eimerman,



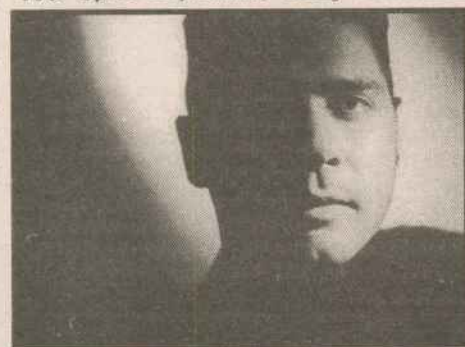
Maripat Wilkinsen and Julia
Writer/director of "Voices"

Ryan Dance and Jack White, star from "Angels in America."

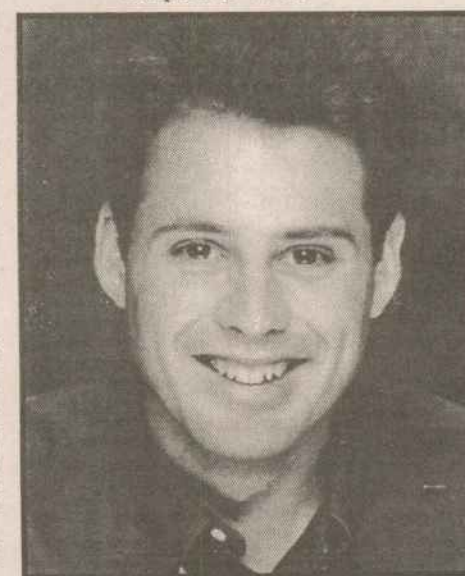
The final touch of the evening will be the presentation of the song "VOICES," which Wilkinson wrote the lyrics to. "VOICES" was composed by Rob McWilliam and will be performed by the band Great Outdoors at the event.

A chorus consisting of students from Alverno College, members of the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus and Concerned Voices will execute the vocals along with soloists Rebecca Spice-Kopischke and Denise Hogan.

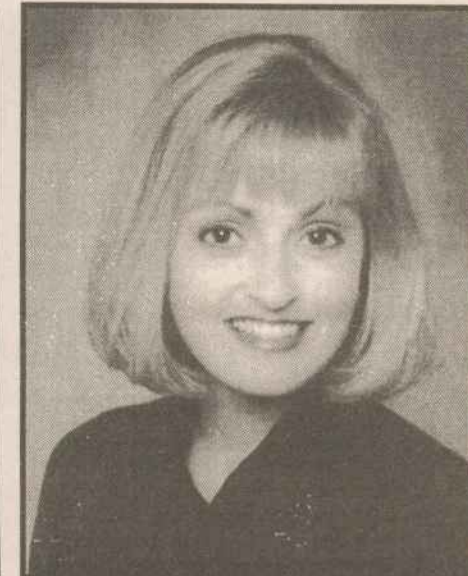
"VOICES" will also be performed at Alverno College on April 17 and 18. Set design for Make a Promise is being provided by Alverno College's Theater Department.



Rob McWilliam
Composer of "Voices"



Joel Spice-Kopischke
Plays Randy in "Voices"



Rebecca Spice-Kopischke
Featured soloist in "Voices"

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GLADE to Hold School Board Candidate Forum

Madison—The Fourth Annual Madison School Board Candidates Forum on Gay and Lesbian issues will be held on Saturday, March 21, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Church, 2146 E. Johnson Street in Madison.

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

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

During 1997, GLADE worked tirelessly to enlist the School Board's support for several initiatives for the MMSD, including in-servicing of MMSD staff regarding Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual issues. Ques-

March 12, 1998—March 25, 1998—WISCONSIN LIGHT—7
tions regarding this and other issues, including how MMSD handles harassment and safety of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender students, staff and parents will be directed to the candidates and current Board members during the March 21 Forum. The Forum is open to the public.

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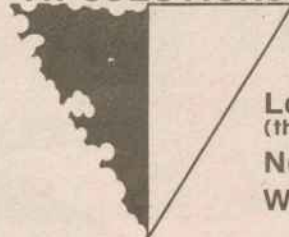
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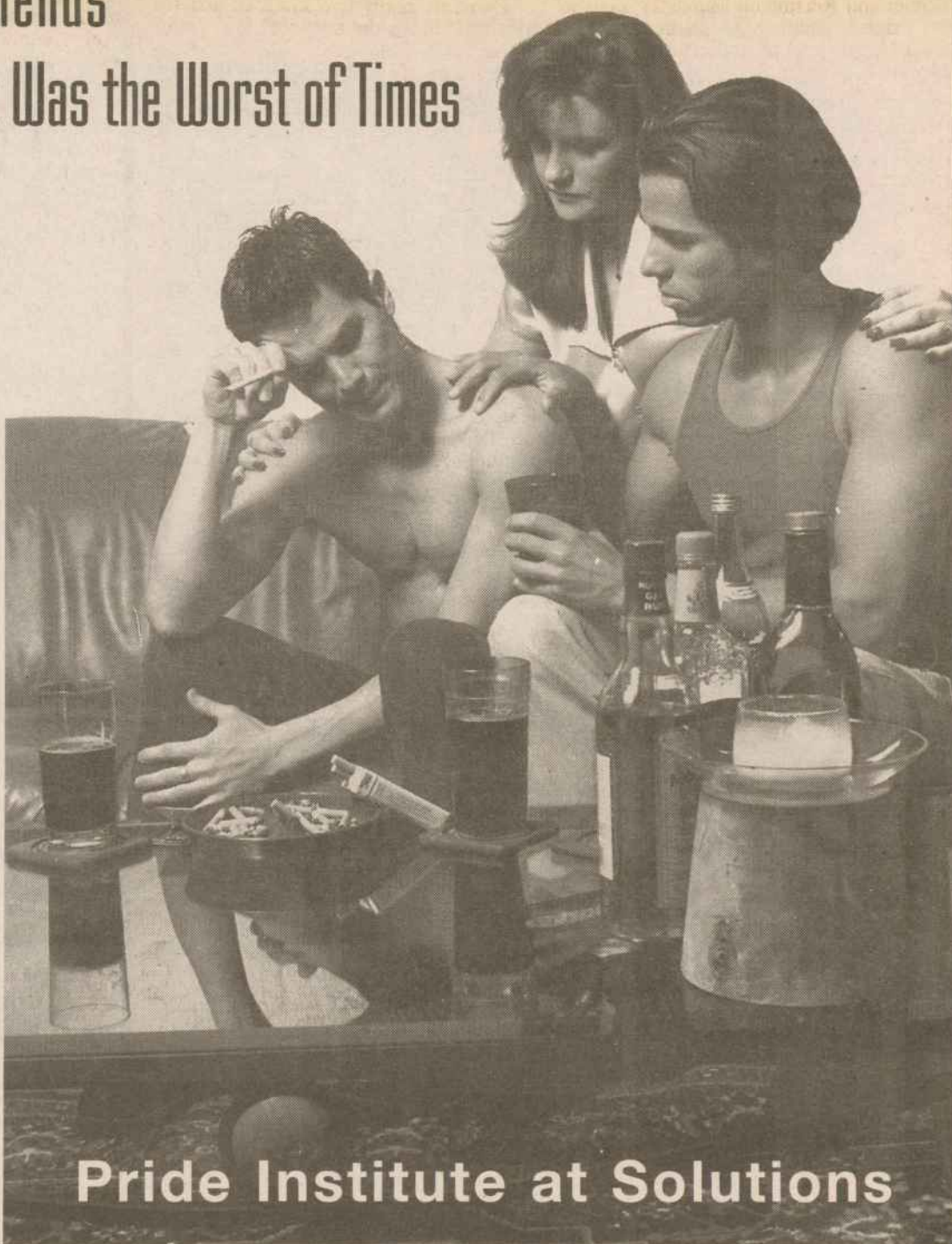
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LAMM Holds Successful Annual Meeting; Elects Officers, Plans Upcoming Events

Milwaukee—The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee's (LAMM) annual membership meeting, hosted by Jo Bruns, outgoing Chair, was held on February 19 at the Miller Inn. At the meeting, LAMM/LAMMEF financial information and the accomplishments of 1997 were reviewed. Members also had the opportunity to express their gratitude to Bruns and others on the Board for their hard work and efforts in serving the LAMM membership. Additionally, two new Board members were elected: Laurie Fountain, Chairperson and Sharon "Shortcake" Dreckman, Treasurer. Other Board members hold positions that have not yet expired.

During the meeting, Fountain stated, "I am excited to be taking on the responsibility of Chair and look forward to working with members to determine how LAMM can best serve their needs. As an organization that focuses solely on women, we would like to reach out to the community and expand the diversity of LAMM membership. We plan to do this by hosting a variety of events to draw women from many backgrounds."

This event was generously sponsored by the Miller Brewing Company which provided a variety of Miller products and soda along with a buffet dinner prepared by The Catering Company.

The annual meeting was the kick off event for the 1998 LAMM activities. This year LAMM will hold monthly member meetings on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the M&M Club, 124 N. Water St.

The first of these monthly meetings will be held on March 19. This first meeting will focus on learning what members want LAMM to be as an organization and what LAMM can do to serve the needs of its members. Refreshments will be provided.

LAMM will also be hosting a "Spring Fling" at Just Us on March 26 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Appetizers and music will be provided. The cost is \$5 per person.

To request tickets, send a check (payable to LAMM) along with your name and the number of tickets needed to: LAMM, P.O. Box 93323, Milwaukee, WI 53203.

Anyone interested in learning more about LAMM is invited to attend these events. If you have any questions or want more information, please call the LAMM office at (414) 264-2600.

Ten Percent Society Seeking Ideas

Madison—The University of Wisconsin - Madison Ten Percent Society has been selected to host the Eighth Annual Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender College Conference.

The event will be held from February 19-21, 1999 at Madison's Monona Terrace Convention and Community Center and will feature 3 keynote speakers as well as over 90 workshops related to BLGT issues.

The 1998 conference was held at the University of Illinois at Chicago and was attended by over 1100 students from across the region. This year's conference is held in conjunction with the sesquicentennial of UW and is tentatively titled "Moving Forward, Looking Back."


A conference planning committee will be organized later this spring. Anyone interested in joining this committee or in receiving emails about the development of this conference should email jcrasmus@students.wisc.edu and ask to be added to our mailing list. We are also interested in workshop proposals and fundraising ideas.

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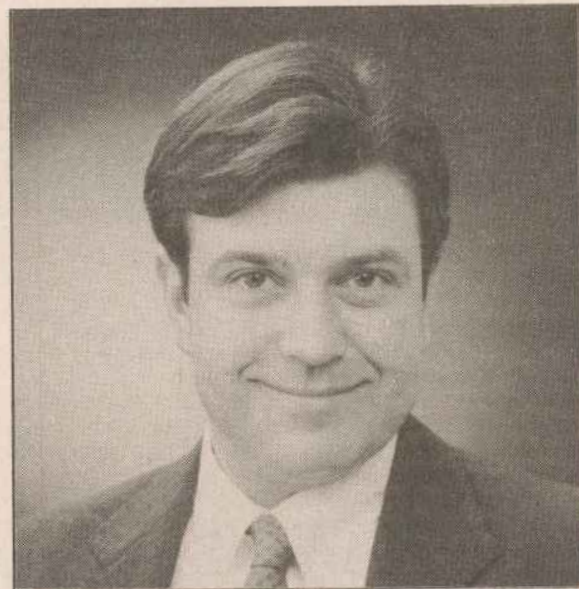
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Fri., Mar. 20—8:00-11:00 p.m.
Dish
Thurs., Mar. 26—8:00-11:00 p.m.

I Spent Three Years as an Airforce "Wife"

By Perry Brass

Reading the headlines in *The New York Times*, last Saturday (January, 12, 1998) about Senior Chief Petty Officer Timothy R. McVeigh (not to be confused with Timothy L. McVeigh, the McVeigh associated with the Oklahoma City bombing) who had been allegedly "outed" by his user profile on America Online—and quickly thereafter found himself facing dismissal by the Navy—brought me back to that time, from 1978 until 1980, when I was an Air Force "wife."

How I went from being an openly Gay, New York-based writer to the not-always-so-secret partner of a German airman in the hilly sticks of Germany, still seems like a dream and mystery to me, one of those things brought about by falling too much in love, maybe.

My story was fairly simple. I met Rex (not his real name, but now I am paranoid—there is no telling who is reading this and what they'll try to do with it) while he was on a one-weekend trip to New York. He had been stationed for two years in the Southwest, in a grimy hellhole of an Air base laden with mosquitoes and rednecks. He knew all along that he wanted to be in Europe. Germany specifically.

He put in for a transfer and finally got it and with it, on-route, a few days in New York. We met at Riis Park, a Gay beach, spent a gorgeous summer weekend together, and realized that something more was there than we had anticipated. He took off and we started writing one another twice a week. I wrote to him through his base APO box number; he wrote back to me in Manhattan. I thought nothing of it, did not even think that our letters might be intercepted. Luckily, they were not.

The writing became more personal, more confidential, and I realized that, in a truly old-fashioned way, I had fallen in love with him by letter. I called him a few times overseas at his job. He was living in an Air Force dorm, but we managed to hear each other's voice, and that was all that mattered. I decided that a year after meeting him, I would move to Germany.

In preparation, I took a German class, made all the contacts I could with German magazines and media, gave up my New York rent-controlled apartment, and put my things in storage.

Rex got a small, secluded house in the local village off-base, told his friends that a writer friend of his from New York was coming to visit, and then I flew over.

I had been to Europe before, but never to Germany. I had never lived in such a rural setting.

The area he lived in, a kind of hard-scrabble-farming German version of Appalachia, was dotted with NATO Air Force and Army bases. It was crawling with soldiers, and for the most part, stony, resentful German farmers.

The two groups rarely spoke to each other. I landed in the middle-living what I came to realize was a much more closeted and secretive life than I had bargained for. After the initial few weeks of rosiness wore off, it began to dawn on me where I was—in a place cut off from other "out" Gay men, and where an almost daily disappearing act had to be perfected.

Rex on the other hand could not have been happier. He was deeply romantic, hated the Service, and now had someone to share his "Gay" life with. He had got into the Air Force as a last resort, after a bad marriage and being stone-broke in the Midwest.

Everything that he had been promised by the Air Force—that he would be trained for a "real" job, get choice locations, get usable college credits while in the Air Force—were all lies. I learned later that he was very much an exception to the "average" Gay airman or G.I. In other words, he knew what was going on, and loathed it. Most of the other Gay servicemen I met either refused to know what was going on, knew but were in complete denial; or even worse—bought one hundred percent into the whole military snow-job (something even most straights with an I.Q. over 80 could not do) and were sure that

this little tick about themselves, this little "personality problem" (being "you-know-what"), would never bother or harm them if they kept their noses clean and their mouths shut.

All I can say to this is: wrong, Mary! Rex and I went to the base often. We had to shop there (it was almost impossible to live on the German "economy" with prices double what they were for "Uncle Sugar"'s boys). On base I could somewhat pass as an out-of-uniform airman, or as a visiting relative. We made up a little game called "stupid." The idea was to act as dumb as possible. Pure "dumb-shit" was even better than half-stupid.

The less personality (or "affect") you had, the better. Rex and I would lower our voices on base, and grunt. Sometimes, if we had things to say that needed to be said in private, we'd switch to German, or a language we made up between us, kind of a Germ-glish.

Sometimes, this was a hard call. Rex's buddies often overlooked me or anything I said because I was, after all, visiting from New York. They had all heard how crazy New York people were. One of my great aids to going stir-crazy was the tiny base library. It was basically a basement full of books. In my time there I read about half the fiction in it. I also discovered (like we did not know?) that a lot of the base "basoons" might be found at the library.

Paradoxically, from a purely looks point of view, being on base in the late 70s was kind of like being in a huge "Gay" environment. The boys on Christopher Street were all wearing butch army fatigues, bomber jackets ("clone coats"), and very short military hair cuts. So, hey, this was the real thing. Except that unlike Christopher Street, at the base nobody smiled, seemed the least happy, looked at anyone else, or showed any connection with what was around them.

The military was either very serious, or brainless; with scant humor in between.

For professional as well as social reasons, I got out of the military environment as much as I could. For the most part, being on an Air Force base was like being on a depressant drug. It was a constant downer. The only way to survive it was to keep lowering your emotional needs.

This attitude would backfire, and violent flare-ups occurred: husbands beating up their wives (even killing them); fights in the dorms. There was a constant atmosphere of suppressed violence on base. It kept most people locked tensely within themselves.

Rex, being alert to what was going on, quickly met up with a Gay clique. Every base had one, and there was often a kind of underground network from one base to another. The network was based mostly on individual friendships, and occasional tricking.

There were about a dozen men in Rex's clique. They met together in a couple of private homes to party, camp, dish, drink, and let their hair down—sometimes in each other's faces. Self-hatred could be waist-deep. The clique called itself "the Family."

Rex, who had thought the Family would "take me under their wing," was bitterly disappointed, and my being there—as an object both of jealousy and ridicule—actually moved him away from other Gay men on the base, who could not establish an ongoing relationship with another man.

Since Gays were considered, for the most part, "single," they were judged by their superiors either not to have a private life, or to be neutered. The attitude (which despite Clintonism, I'm fairly sure has not changed) was: "we ask-you hide—we ask more—until we get you into a position where you can't say no."

This went for disclosing being Gay, as well as for doing exactly what the Military demanded. Queers could not say no to weekend duty, to the most stressful schedules ("We can't do this to married men," Rex's boss told him, "they have to be home with their kids."), or dangerous jobs.

Having a close sexual relationship in the Air Force with another airman was almost

impossible. The Service had a way of figuring out when two men were becoming closer, and transferring one of them. More casual friendships though were easier.

Some straights also floated into Family life. In a way, they became like male faghags. They wanted to be somewhat included, but sexually you did not touch them.

For the most part Gay men bought into the Military picture completely and saw any breach of it as an insult to the Air Force—and their careers—instead of to them.

The worst fire came from a series of investigations done by the Air Force's Office of Military Investigations, which during my time overseas went from base to base, investigating basically one crime: homosexuality. The degree of this investigation impressed me considering how much embezzlement and waste, by any account, went on in many military situations.

Several members of the Family were investigated while I was there. One was older, and married with a front marriage cardboard enough to look like the set from a Hollywood "B" western. Jeff and his Lesbian wife had never spent a night together. The Air Force would from time to time figure this out, and call him back in.

Since Jeff had never been "caught," as Timothy McVeigh allegedly had, he simply stood his ground each time, went home, drank himself to sleep, and waited for the next round. He figured by the time anything really happened, he'd be pensioned.

As in any homophobic situation, where you are working so hard to hide both your own homosexuality and your own "Gay" feelings (which, as the comedy "In & Out" showed, can seem even more threatening than sex), there is a feeling that people will play along with you as long as you keep the game going at a certain constant level. Instead of "don't ask, don't tell," it's: "I'll play hard at being straight and you'll play just as hard at pretending that I am straight."

In Timothy McVeigh's situation, the latest pitch in this war, he said, "I was shocked" that he was relieved of his duty, after a 17-year, unblemished military record, the very day that AOL had verified that his user profile had included the word "Gay" in it. To most civilians, this sounds like utter naiveté. McVeigh could not believe that the Navy—in other words, the U.S. Government itself—would invade his

privacy especially in the light of Bill Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which was meant to keep the Military out of the bedrooms of its employees.

Of course, it's easy to see that this invasion of privacy has been going on through most of the Navy's history. It has actually been stepped up lately, as the sexual stakes involved have come out more into the open. In many ways, the game has become more subtle and more revolting.

And anyone's feeling that "Since I am working so hard to hide myself ('Don't tell'), why shouldn't the Navy just play along with the charade (and 'Don't ask') will be met with even more effort on the military's part to uncover alleged Gays.

Editor's Note: Perry Brass's newest books are *The Harvest*, a Gay science-fiction novel, and *The Lover of My Soul*, *A Search for Wisdom and Ecstasy*, a collection of poetry and other writings. His new website is www.perrybrass.com, where you can reach him and learn more about his work.

With the exception of Timothy McVeigh's, he has changed all the military personnel names used in this story.

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AIDS Message From Pulpit

Detroit-AP- The fight against AIDS will take center stage at Perfecting Church in Detroit one of the first cities to join the Gospel Against AIDS effort.

The effort is a collaboration between activist Mary Fisher's Family AIDS Network and the Winans family of Detroit. Twenty other cities are expected to join the program.

The Rev. Marvin Winans of the Perfecting Church and his brother, Carvin, met Ms. Fisher at the Republican National Convention in 1996.

"We just began to talk," Marvin Winans told the Detroit Free Press, and that talk led to the formation of Gospel Against AIDS.

AIDS is the leading cause of death for black men and women between the ages of 25 and 44 and it occurred to Fisher and the Winans brothers that the involvement of black churches would be an effective way to deliver the message.

Gospel Against AIDS includes messages of hope and compassion for those infected, education and prevention for those at risk, and a support effort from church congregations as well as friends and relatives of HIV patients.

Letters
Continued From Page 4

It is in the context of these lessons that any proposed tactics for welcoming in the millennium must be evaluated.

Several ideas are currently being considered. The Human Rights Campaign and Metropolitan Community Church, recognizing the opportunity that the new millennium will present, have called for a national march on Washington in the spring of 2000.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force along with the Federation of Statewide Organization Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Political Organizations, recognizing the need to mobilize locally, have proposed a fifty state initiative in 1999.

As these proposals are considered, a key question emerges: how do we best utilize the valuable resources of our community to maximize the opportunity presented by the millennium? Remember that resources should be broadly defined to include time, energy and money.

A set of other more specific issues flows from the broader question above, each of which must be thoughtfully considered before moving forward.

1) If we are going to educate the public (with an eye on those swing voters) about hate-driven initiatives, we must have strong operations at the local level. Strong, vibrant state and local organizations, focusing their resources within, will be the linchpin. What strategy best addresses this?

2) In the year 2000, we have the opportunity to re-shape the political face of America by electing both national and local candidates supportive of our civil rights. How are our financial resources best allocated? Perhaps our money needs to stay in the trenches where we can focus efforts on fighting local and state ballot initiatives and electing supportive candidates.

3) Who will we be speaking to in the spring of 2000? When you consider that a new president and many new members of Congress will be elected later that year, a national march may be more effective the following year when we have an opportunity to engage a new administration and a new Congress in the issues of our community.

4) Is there ample time funding and organization to mount successful statewide actions around the country? 1999 is just around the corner and there is much work to be done.

We look to this letter as a means to expand a vigorous scrutiny of all ideas under consideration. We believe strongly that decisions are richer for the debate. Further, we as community leaders recognize our responsibility to engage our constituents in a public conversation on issues such as these and we commit to developing both formal and informal mechanisms for that conversation.

The Human Rights Campaign, Metropolitan Community Church and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force deserve our thanks for identifying the turn of the century as the extraordinary opportunity it is. We can set a new tone for a new century. But we must all be careful to avoid setting our tactics before we have agreed on our goals.

Joan M. Garry, Executive Director, Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation; Brian K. Bond Executive Director, Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund; Lorri L. Jean Executive Director, L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center; Kevin M. Cathcart, Executive Director, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund; Jubi Headley, Executive Director National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum

March 2000? Yes!

TO THE EDITOR:

I am excited by the strong grassroots support the proposed Millennium March on Washington is receiving, and pleased with the growing number of local, regional and national organizations which are endorsing the 'first human rights march of the new millennium.'

I warmly welcome the growing number of organizational endorsers, and I also welcome the healthy debate as some of our national Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered organizations continue to explore their options for participation in this national human rights event.

As a human rights activist with 30 years of experience in the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered communities, I believe the Millennium March on Washington for Equality in April of 2000 is a vital step in consolidating our gains, mobilizing our community, and taking the next step toward justice in the new millennium.

Why do I believe this? Why a Millennium March?

It's already been too long. Seven years will have passed since the last March on Washington. I believe in the value of demonstrating to our nation the strength of our numbers and the passion of our commitment to justice. If we have learned any lesson, it is how quickly and easily our elected officials forget. It's time to

remind our government and our nation that millions of her citizens are still denied equality.

The new millennium presents a strategic opportunity. The dawn of a new millennium, by its very nature, heightens society's sensitivity. Commentators, pundits, the press and society at large will be looking for messages and trends for the new millennium. We have an opportunity at this strategic time to move our message to the forefront.

The year 2000 is a presidential election year. In our society, much of our progress is contingent upon getting the ear, and then the support, of our elected officials. The presence of one million Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered persons is designed to make our voice heard—by Democrat, Republican, Reform and other political party candidates.

In addition to Millennium March itself, one million Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Americans will have an opportunity to walk the halls of Congress, to meet with their Congresspersons and Senators and to make a compelling and personal case for equality for all citizens.

It will birth a new generation of activists. Each of our previous marches has served to birth new activists. In fact, as with many GLBT organizations, there are several members of my own staff whose first taste of activism came through the previous Marches on Washington.

With two years of lead time, we have an opportunity to become intentional about using this Millennium March to inspire and birth new activists who will continue to work toward the dream of equality for all our citizens.

It will energize our movement. I am convinced that this March, along with the 1999 50 State Initiative, will energize the GLBT rights movement, strengthen all of our organizations, and present untold opportunities for Gay human rights, justice and spiritual organizations to grow in terms of members, influence, accomplishments and media access.

The march's theme is focused, simple and understandable. Our society still hasn't got the message. We need look no further than the recent repeal of the equal rights law in Maine to know that the message of simple equality has been neither heard nor embraced. The theme of this Millennium March is simple — and designed to build allies. To accomplish the goal of equal human and civil rights, it is imperative that we strategically build allies and support throughout society.

One million Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered persons have an opportunity to call upon our nation and its citizens to live out our nation's creed of "liberty and justice for all." Every element of this march will be focused on the call for equality, and every sub-theme will directly relate to the march's purpose.

For 30 years, I have lent my voice and strength to the work of building a just and equitable society for all of our citizens. Three decades of this work have taught me two lessons: (1) We must use every means at our disposal to get our message out and (2) We must not rest until our nation's highest ideals have transcended promise and become reality for all our citizens.

Through the Millennium March, I will stand with one million of my brothers and sisters, and each of us will proclaim:

- This is our country, too.
- This is our flag!
- This is our constitution!
- This is our military!
- This is our nation's promise!
- This is our contribution to America!
- This is our spirituality!
- This is our love!
- This is our freedom!
- This is our life!
- This is our dream!

Until that day, I will continue to join hands with my Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered brothers and sisters — and with our enlightened allies — to raise my voice... to call for justice... to tirelessly work for equality... and, yes, to march on our nation's capital — to use every means at our disposal until we, too, are 'free at last.' That's why I passionately believe in the Millennium March on Washington for Equality.

Rev. Troy Perry
Moderator, UFMCC

We Must March in 2000

TO THE EDITOR:

In the spring of 2000, our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community will once again "March on Washington." This is a crucial time in our history, and we need to have a National March. Although we have received some cultural acceptance, and are finally recognized as a community by the media, and certainly are targeted by corporations as consumers, the plain and simple fact is we have no rights.

On the Federal level, we have not passed ENDA, and do not have the right to work. DOMA (the defense of marriage act) is to stop us from marrying. James Hormel's confirmation as an ambassador is almost dead, not because he isn't qualified, but because he's Gay.



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The 'don't ask, don't tell' military policy has escalated the number of Gays and Lesbians who are being forced out of the military.

Because we have become more visible, violence against us has increased enormously.

Many organizations want to do state marches in 1999. They feel that more work needs to be done to bolster statewide organizations. I agree. But, as an older activist, and an organizer for over 30 years, we must not erase our history. We have been working at all levels, city, state and national, for decades. We have had state marches (here in California we had two, the first being as a result of the March on Washington). We must continue to organize on the state level. We must continue to keep the pressure on at every level of government.

To March on the States in 1999, and to follow this with a March on Washington in 2000 will be very, very powerful. There is nothing as moving as the visibility of hundreds of thousands of us gathered together in Washington, and a National March allows those who will not come out on a state level, to participate.

The last March was held after the presidential elections. That was too late. We relied on the promises of political parties that were not kept. This time, we will show our strength, our unity and our commitment, and our goals before the elections.

Historically, in previous Marches, organizations either did not want us to March (as in the first March in 1979, where we were told we would threaten the gains of our movement and "drain the resources of our community") or organizations came very late to the table (as in the second March in 1989, where we were told a March on Washington would "drain the resources of our community").

Of course, we went through the battle of 'Don't March' in 1993 as it would conflict with our celebration of Stonewall in 1994 and also, "drain the resources of our community." But we felt it was up to the community to decide where to spend their money.

All three times, despite being battered by the forces of our own people who did not want us to have a National March, we continued to organize successful Marches on Washington. These marches acted as reinforcing fuel to the life force of our movement. They energized us for years.

In 1979, 100,000 of us attended the first march, and we wept as we embraced each other by the Washington Monument, faced the White House, and demanded our Rights. I emceed and line-produced the main stage. The rally was heard over National Radio. We knew we had made history.

The second March (attendance 1 million) gave birth to "The Quilt" and "The Wedding Ceremony." The wedding ceremony was so controversial within our own community at that time. Little did we know that only a decade later, we would fight for this to become a reality for our community.

I produced the Main Stage Rally and although television and newspapers covered the March, both Time and Newsweek did not. They said we had not notified them in time. Today we have been on the covers of Time and Newsweek.

By the 3rd March in 1993, we still had no rights, but more and more people, including famous personalities, were beginning to come out. Melissa Ethridge, Martina Navratilova, Sir Ian McCallen, the Indigo Girls, as well as straight celebrity supporters such as Cybil Sheppard and Judith Light appeared on that stage. We honored those of our community who had served and were forced out of the



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military, and wept, as the mother of Alan Shindler (the young Gay man who was murdered in the navy) and one million of us paid tribute to his memory.

And for the first time, CSPAN covered us, and we were seen all over this Nation, and on CNN, all over the world. And once again, we called for equal rights. I co-produced that stage. Since that third March, the media has given us tremendous coverage and recognized us as a community.

But we are more than just a community. And we are not the Gay 'industry.' We are a movement, and movements in order to survive and thrive, must move. We must mount a successful state-wide action in 1999 and we must March on Washington in Spring of 2000.

We have received overwhelming support from grassroots members of our community who attended other Marches on Washington, or who have heard of them and want to participate in the next one. UFMCC and HRC came aboard immediately, and the National Latino/a Lesbian & Gay Organizations have been unwavering in their support.

This should not be a battle over state marches vs. a national March. I presented a financial plan to HRC and MCC that I believe will raise enough money not only to cover the March, but to possibly raise money for organizations who are fighting for our rights on every level. This march will be televised nationally and all over the world, so millions of people who cannot afford to participate in any March, can be a part of this great experience.

We will put our children on stage, and our parents, and show our diversity, and our unwavering commitment. We will honor our youth and our elders. Our courage, our will to live, and our strength through the struggle, while maintaining our humor and our ability to love, have made us extraordinary.

We will not stop until we have equal rights. This includes the right to work, to live without violence, to marry, to keep our children, to serve our country, to support our health issues, and all of the other benefits non-Gays have in this country. And until that happens, like the Phoenix, against all odds, we have and will continue to rise, again and again, and to March on Washington, and to never stop the struggle until we have full equality. We owe it to our future generations.

Robin Tyler, Executive Producer Millennium March on Washington for Equal Rights 2000

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NGLTF Issues State-By-State Update on Lesbian and Gay Issues

Washington, DC—"Last year we made great strides in our struggle for tolerance and equality. We will work diligently to defeat these attacks through unfavorable bills introduced and move forward a progressive family agenda," stated Kerry Lobel, National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) executive director.

NGLTF has released its first summary of state legislative activity for the 1998 session. Thus far a total of 24 Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgender (GLBT) or HIV/AIDS-related state legislative measures have been introduced in 15 states.

Seven of the ten unfavorable bills are against GLBT families in the form of anti-adoption and foster care, anti-domestic partnership, and anti-marriage bills.

Since 25 states already having laws to ban same gender marriage, activists worry that GLBT families will become the focus of right wing legislation this year. With positive gains such as the recent consent decree in New Jersey giving same-gender couples equal status in adoptions, favorable legislation in other states will be introduced.

In addition to attacks on families, at least two anti-GLBT initiatives will be on statewide ballots. The first is the February 10 vote in Maine to repeal a law passed last year to add sexual orientation to the state's civil rights code. In November, Hawaii voters will decide whether to give the state legislature the power to restrict same-gender marriage. This initiative is in anticipation of an upcoming Hawaii court decision legalizing marriage in the state.

The two anti-marriage bills introduced this year, in New Mexico and Washington both contain referendum clauses. California is another target for an anti-marriage ballot measure.

A broad-sweeping homophobic statewide initiative proposed by the Oregon Citizen's Alliance, sponsor of similar previous attacks.

NGLTF monitors state legislative activity. Periodic legislative updates will note the progress of favorable and unfavorable measures. A final report at the end of the year, Capital Gains and Losses, will summarize the year's activity.

Legislative Update
January 31, 1998

As of January 31, 1998, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force tracked 24 Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgender (GLBT) or HIV/AIDS-related state legislative measures. They have been introduced in fifteen states. Seven of the ten unfavorable bills are against families in the form of anti-adoption and foster care, anti-domestic partnership, and anti-marriage bills.

The fourteen favorable bills the Task Force tracked are spread over the areas of civil rights, families, hate crimes, domestic partnership, sodomy law repeal, and HIV/AIDS.

Marriage

The previous year ended with a total of 25 states with same-sex anti-marriage laws on the books. The New Mexico and Washington State legislatures had bills introduced in January.

The New Mexico measure, a joint resolution, would put a marriage ban initiative on the November ballot.

If Washington Governor Locke were to veto that state's measure, which he did last year, a referendum clause attached to the bill would put it on the November ballot.

In addition, there is movement in California to put an anti-marriage measure on the statewide ballot.

This effort is reportedly being spearheaded by State Senator Pete Knight. The state Attorney General's office is reviewing initiative language. Once approved, supporters of the initiative can begin gathering signatures.

Life Lobby, California's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender statewide political group reports that Knight would have to collect over 400,000 valid signatures in a month to qualify for the November ballot - an unlikely feat.

In Hawaii a court decision that could legalize same-sex marriage is eagerly awaited. In anticipation of this decision, voters in November will decide whether to amend the state constitution to give the legislature the power to restrict marriage.

On February 12, communities throughout the country will be marking National Freedom to Marry Day. For more information, contact Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund at (212) 809-8585.

Civil Rights

Two states, Maryland and Iowa, and the

territory of Puerto Rico have measures pending that would ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment, housing, credit, and public accommodation.

In addition, a civil rights bill passed by the Maine legislature and signed by the Governor last year goes to a statewide vote on February 10. Local anti-Gay groups collected signatures during the summer to put the law to a vote in a process known as the "people's veto."

If the referendum passes and the law is defeated, Maine would be the only state in New England without a civil rights law which bans discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Domestic Partnership

Two states face unfavorable measures that would limit the provision of domestic partner benefits.

In Georgia, the bill would prevent state and county employees from receiving domestic partner benefits by specifying "spouses and dependent children" in place of the term "dependent" in reference to employment benefits.

In Washington the bill would prohibit the state - including state agencies and universities - from granting domestic partnership benefits to same-sex couples. It specifically lists but is not limited to housing, health care, and insurance. It could also be interpreted to prohibit cities, counties, and some non-profit organizations that receive state funds from granting domestic partnership benefits.

In California, three favorable domestic partnership bills have been introduced. One measure, modeled after a San Francisco ordinance passed last year, would have required government contractors to provide equal benefits to employees with spouses and those with domestic partners. The measure died in committee. The other bills are still alive.

One of them would allow agencies in the state pension system to voluntarily offer health benefits to partners of teachers and employees of other state and local entities.

Another would require group health plans to offer domestic partners coverage on the same basis as other dependent coverage.

In Massachusetts, a favorable domestic partnership measure passed a voice vote in the state senate. The bill would give state employees domestic partnership benefits to unmarried employees and their unmarried partners. The measure now

moves onto the house.

A domestic partnership bill has also been introduced in Puerto Rico.

Hate Crimes

South Carolina and Virginia both have hate crimes bills pending. In Virginia, the measure would add sexual orientation to the state hate crimes law. The South Carolina measure is left over from the 1997 session.

Families

In Oregon, an effort is underway to put a broad-sweeping attack on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender families on the November ballot. The effort is being led by the Oregon Citizens Alliance, the same group responsible for past anti-Gay ballot measures in the state. This initiative would limit the definition of family to one man and one woman. In addition, it would forbid state and local government agencies from in any way positively considering same-sex relationships.

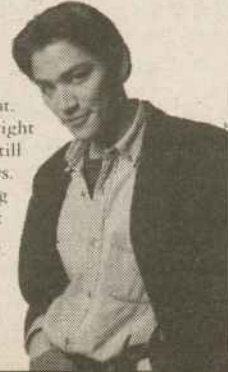
The initiative also states "the male/female gender is determined at the moment of conception." This clause would be used to discriminate against Transgendered people.

In addition to direct attacks on GLBT families, the initiative would prohibit domestic partner benefits, while cementing the legality of discrimination in employment. Nearly 100,000 signatures must be collected by July 3 to qualify for the November ballot.

Please See State Issues Page 28

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Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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

The X Files



The X Gay Ministries

Second of A Three Part Series

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

By Kyle Young
Part II

After graduation from college, Doug Upchurch returned to Houston. He put his teenage dream of becoming a minister on the back burner, postponing plans to attend a seminary in Los Angeles. He soon joined a small church in the Heights, the Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Houston.

Vineyard had a structured program, where members had "accountability partners" to make sure each other was following the right path. Upchurch's partners, Bob and Kent, pushed him to continue "getting over" being Gay. They also served as support to insure that he wasn't acting on his sexual desires.

Weeping at the Altar

Bob and Kent paid for Upchurch to go to an ex-Gay workshop in Los Angeles sponsored by Desert Stream Ministries, another national ex-Gay organization.

The event started with Gay men and Lesbians weeping in front of the altar for their flawed childhood relationships with their parents. They were sprinkled with holy water. "As I was watching, I really wanted something to happen to me," says Upchurch. "I kept thinking, Why are they getting all of the good stuff and I was getting none of it. How come something's not happening to me in my seat over here. I want to walk down and cry. You end up coming to a point where you either force yourself to start doing it and hope something will happen or you just totally zone out. I think that I just zoned out and I went to the bathroom."

He returned to Houston, disillusioned. Occasionally he would venture to local Gay bars looking for anonymous sexual encounters. Relationships were not an option, and sexually "acting out" reinforced the notion that homosexuality was dirty and sinful. Guilt led him to become active in the Christian Coalition for Reconciliation. The group was affiliated with Exodus International.

Christian Coalition

He became good friends with a member of the group. The two began to share each other's frustrations. Upchurch had read every book there was to read on the subject. He'd been to numerous seminars. He'd spent years through the church and ex-Gay groups trying to change his sexual orientation.

"As time went on, we began to realize this just really, for both of us, wasn't working," says Upchurch. "We'd try to go to these groups and it was like, this doesn't make any sense. By this point in

time, it was so regurgitated—your father hurt you, how did he hurt you, what can we do to heal that, how can God come in and do that—and I thought, You know, I've heard this for almost 12 years of my life. I don't get it."

In January of '93, Upchurch decided to take a break from his efforts to change.

"I decided to not put any rules on myself about what I could or could not do—I'm just going to see for a couple of weeks who I really am," says Upchurch. "I went out one night to JR's and happened to meet Craig Stevens. I had been to JR's a couple of times, and each time I thought I had fallen [from grace] -- but I happened to meet Craig and he seemed so nice, such a great guy."

Gay Christians

Stevens told him that he was a Christian, too—a Gay Christian. Soon, Upchurch met others.

"I wondered why all of these people who said they were Christian and Gay were so OK with it," says Upchurch. "How does that happen and how does that work, and why is it that certain churches say one thing about homosexuality and certain other churches don't say that at all? I was really beginning to see the discrepancies, which I think I always knew were there—but before, I always said, Oh well, those people just aren't saved. Now I was really beginning to question it."

Christian Ostracization

The next week he told Hope, one of his closest friends from church, that he was questioning some of his beliefs about homosexuality. She said they could no longer be friends. "I thought, What do you mean, we can't be friends anymore?" says Upchurch. "What's that about?"

That weekend he was to attend a dinner at the home of Brian and Janet, some other friends from church. He called them to tell them about his conversation with Hope. Brian told him that it would be best if he didn't come.

"I hung up the phone. I just lost it," says Upchurch. "I thought, This is not what love is all about. This is not what Christianity is about. It's not about turning your back on somebody because they're questioning something or going through a thought process—something's really not right with this picture. I still wasn't sure that I could accept my sexuality, but I knew something was off. I didn't go back to church after that experience."

A month later it was announced from the pulpit of the church that Upchurch had been "turned over to Satan." It was suggested that members of the congregation not associate with him.

"At that point it was rotten in Denmark all over the place, and I was hurting," recalls Upchurch. "It was a very painful time, I really lost all of my friends, because my church was my life."

Upchurch says he is grateful that Mel White's book, *A Stranger at the Gate*, came out at that time. Through the Gay minister's autobiography, Upchurch felt like he was reading the story of his own life.

Being Gay is God's Gift

"I cried and cried, and I thought, I know these feelings. That was the point at which I realized I can be Gay and I can be a Christian, or whatever I am religiously, but for me to try and deny my sexuality would be denying God's gift. Whether I was straight or Gay, sexuality was God's gift. That was something that I needed to accept and integrate into my life, so it was

two things happening at once—one, some really great reading material and, two, being completely and totally rejected by all the people I loved and trusted."

PFLAG

The next month, Stevens took Upchurch to a meeting of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

"It was the first time that I ever found people who were not Gay who said, 'You know, it's OK for you be this way.' That was really odd," says Upchurch. "I remember [PFLAG mom] Jane Montgomery listened to my story, and she couldn't believe what I'd been through, and she said, 'We're really glad you're here—you're always welcome here.' I thought, Wow, these are people who look like the people in my church, and they're acting like the people in my church are supposed to be acting. It just blew me out of the water."

He continued to go to PFLAG meetings, as well as read more books that affirmed Gay and Lesbian people. His view about being Gay was changing.

"All of a sudden you realize it's OK for you to be the way you are, and things that used to be real issues are not a real issue anymore," says Upchurch. "For example, I no longer had this issue of I got to have sex at the front of my mind. It was like it dissipated. I realized my life is so much more than sex, and I began to see that being Gay meant more than just having sex. Sure that's a part of it, but it was just a part of it."

Several months after he left the Exodus group, Upchurch came out to his parents.

"They cried, but they were still very accepting, very loving," says Upchurch. "Dad just kind of smiled the whole time through and said, 'We knew and it's OK.' I knew that they always knew, but I didn't know how they'd respond to what I was going through. They were more hurt at what had happened to me in the church than anything else, and that just about killed them. My mom especially has a real hard time with that whole issue—that something like that could happen to somebody in a church."

Michael Newman, executive director of the Christian Coalition for Reconciliation, still remembers when Upchurch turned away from "God's best for him."

"We talked about it, and of course there's great regret and sadness on my part that that's the decision he made," says Newman, "but you know I still care about him, and I still haven't forgotten him. I can't guarantee people success. It's not up to me, it's up to God."

"He may say it's up to God," says Upchurch, "but they teach that it's all dependent on the individual—how much you pray, read the Bible, go to counseling. It's all directed at you actively trying to change the way God made you, and when that doesn't happen, it leaves you depressed and vulnerable. There were several times I strongly contemplated suicide, and that's true of many people I've talked to who were once involved with ex-Gay ministries."

TO BE CONTINUED

Editor's Note: The author is the winner of the top Vice Versa Award, the Randy Shilts Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Vice Versa Awards.

"The Ex-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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THE SPOTLIGHT

The Ball Game Celebrating 25 Years of Good Times

By Dusty Sass

Milwaukee - In these days when it seems like our society is more and more geared to disposable products and services it's nice to know that some things last and endure. The Ball Game bar located at 196 S. Second street is one of those.

Need proof? How about the fact that on St. Patrick's Day the bar will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary with another of its patented St. Patrick's Day parties.

Anyone who has ever been to one knows they are full of great food, tons of people and a festive atmosphere that would make that old Irishman, the Ball Game's co-founder Gene O'Brien proud. (O'Brien died the day after St. Pat's day in 1984)

This year of course, will be exceptional as friends gather to salute a quarter century of celebrating, socializing and gathering at the Ball Game.

In addition to the big party, the Polish Princess, Ron Helizon is coming to Milwaukee on Sunday, March 15, to help celebrate the occasion. Ron is bringing an entire busload of friends with him. Their arrival will be celebrated with a special buffet around noon.

The Ball Game is more than just another place to stop in for a good drink and pleasant conversation. It is a Gay Milwaukee institution. But don't get the idea that the bar is in some sort of time warp. It isn't. The bar has consistently changed with the times. It's sort of like, everything being the same only different.

Over the years, it has seen tremendous changes not just in the Gay bar business, but in the Gay community itself. Yet while it has not stood still, the Ball Game has kept its time-honored formula of friendly service at reasonable prices.

Walk into the bar and you notice that something is different at this establishment. It is a downtown bar yet the customers interact with each other like it was neighborhood bar. It is hard not to get involved in the action because the customers are often as friendly as the staff.

That's the way owner Rick Kowal likes it. Kowal and his partner O'Brien opened the bar during an era when there were few places for Gays and Lesbians to congregate in safety. Rick had been working at various Gay establishments on a part time basis. O'Brien wanted to own his own bar.

"I was working for Boston Store," says Kowal. "They wanted to transfer me out to Philadelphia and I didn't want to go. Gene came along and said let's open a bar up together. The rest is history."

The two purchased the building from Jimmy Zingale in 1971 and opened The Ball Game just in time to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The Ball Game's St. Patrick's



Getting Ready to PAARTEE!! - The current staff of the Ball Game took time out for a picture as they get ready for the bar's big 25th anniversary party on Tuesday, March 17th. The celebration will feature food, entertainment and many friends new and old stopping in to thank owner Rick for 25 years of service to Milwaukee's Gays and Lesbian.

Day parties are also the bar's anniversary parties

Rick and Gene were not the first people to try and set up business at that site. Prior to their opening, there was a series of straight bars occupying the address at 196 S. Second Street. And there two other Gay bars there. First came the Castaways II, and then there as Jamies which was owned by Otto Schueler.

The building that houses the bar also has historical significance. It was built in the late 1880's. The structure was designed to hold a bar with a rooming house upstairs. "I got this plaque from a historical group" says Rick, who then admits that he doesn't know where it is or even who gave it to him. "The building has its own history long before we got here."

Rick and Gene added to that history. They were among the first, if not the first, show bar in Gay Milwaukee. "The kids needed a place to put on shows. We had some space and so we provided it," says Kowal matter of factly.

Those shows in the old days were legendary events and some of the greatest names in Gay Milwaukee entertainment appeared on the Ball Game's stage including stars like Tiger Rose, Mama Rae, Michael Roberts, Ronnie Marx, Jamie Gay, the list goes on and on.

Other bars began offering shows in bigger spaces so eventually the Ball Game's stage fell silent, but talk to anyone who was out in Milwaukee back in the 70's and chances are they will tell you they saw their first dose of Gay and Lesbian entertainment at the Ball Game.

Pageants and shows weren't the only big

contribution that Rick and Gene made to the Milwaukee Gay community. In the beginning and for years afterwards it was information central for Milwaukee's Gays and Lesbians.

"It's hard to imagine now," said one long time customer, "but back then there weren't any hotlines and little in the way of organizations. You didn't see "Ellen" on TV and very few people used the word Gay or Lesbian, we were all "homosexuals." If you needed help with anything from finding a roommate to finding a good doctor or just some place to go and talk this is where you came."

Asked about this Rick says, "Oh yeah, things are different now though. There are a lot more organizations helping people then there were back then. Back then there as almost nothing. We were glad to be able to help."

The Ball Game was also one of the first Milwaukee Gay bars to bring in television sets.

"Some people thought I was wrong," says Kowal while flashing that famous smile of his. "I said well a few other bars (straight bars) are doing it and people seem to enjoy going out and watching some TV with their friends rather than sitting home alone. So we did it."

So how did that translate into becoming a "sports bar" even before that term came into popular usage? "Well, we found that especially on the weekends, people would ask us if we would turn on their games We said sure," says Rick. "Eventually more and more people started coming in

to watch the games and cheer for their favorite teams."

Of course The Ball Game does more than show games, it also sponsors some. It is a founding member of Milwaukee's Saturday Soft Ball League, and has fielded a team in the league every year since its inception. In addition to that, the bar sponsors bowling and dart teams and was part of the Gay pool league when it was existence.

How does Kowal and his staff, some of whom like his manager Danny, have been with him for nearly two decades enjoy their work.

"Every day is different," Kowal says. "Every day brings in something new and fun. I have never been bored with it or tired of it."

Neither have Rick's customers. That's why after 25 years, the Ball Game is still around, still doing its part to make life a little better for the rest of us and still going strong.

SSBL Now Signing Teams and Players

Milwaukee—A simple phone call to (414) 454-9204, SSBL's 24 hour hotline, can put any person interested in summer softball in touch with a team that is looking for players. Any team interested in joining the League can also call the hotline and a League official will inform the Manager of all pertinent details.

SSBL is getting ready for its 21st consecutive season and hopes to add at least 2 new teams and 50+ new players between now and the start of the Season in May. By calling now, interested players can get on a team and practice with them to shake off rust and be in top form for opening day.

"SSBL has teams on all skill levels and will play a 2 division schedule this summer," said Bob Melig, Assistant Commissioner. "Teams will be grouped by skill level and compete for two separate sets of trophies. Every team will have an equal chance in this format and divisional races will go down to the wire. So, even if a person has not played in years, there is a team for them."

SSBL was one of the first LBGT leagues to form in the US. Each year, the League invites 25 out of town teams to Milwaukee for the Annual Memorial Day Classic tournament. In addition, most teams travel to one or more tournaments throughout the country. SSBL also sends a team to the National World Series, which will be held in Atlanta this summer.

"We are an active organization that offers all sorts of opportunities for players to experience the best in softball right here in Milwaukee and play in tournaments held in more than 30 cities in the US," said Dan Nelson, Commissioner.

SSBL is a founding member of the G/L National Softball Association.



Sprucing It Up - The picture above shows some of the work being done at Fannies, 200 E Washington as the bar prepares for its grand reopening on Saturday March 14. The popular Lesbian hot spot was destroyed by a fire last year. Shown above are work on a new second bar and the new DJ booth.



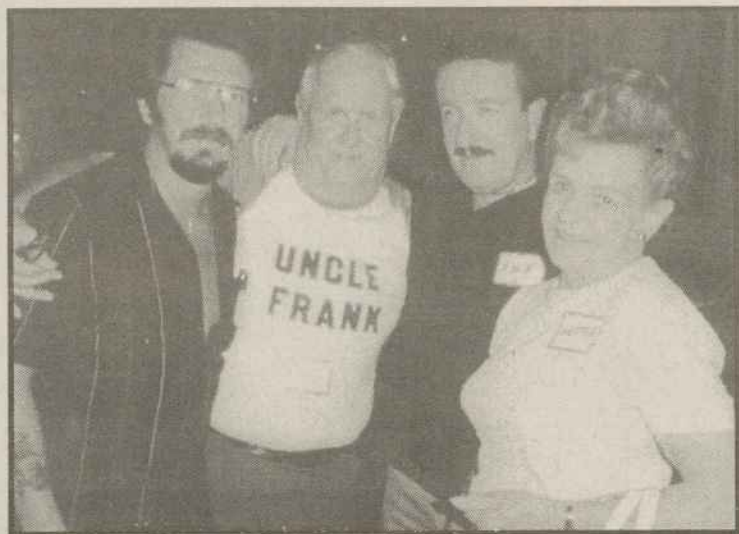

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1998—The Fest City Singers performed in "Abra-ca-Dazzle" to sold-out crowds

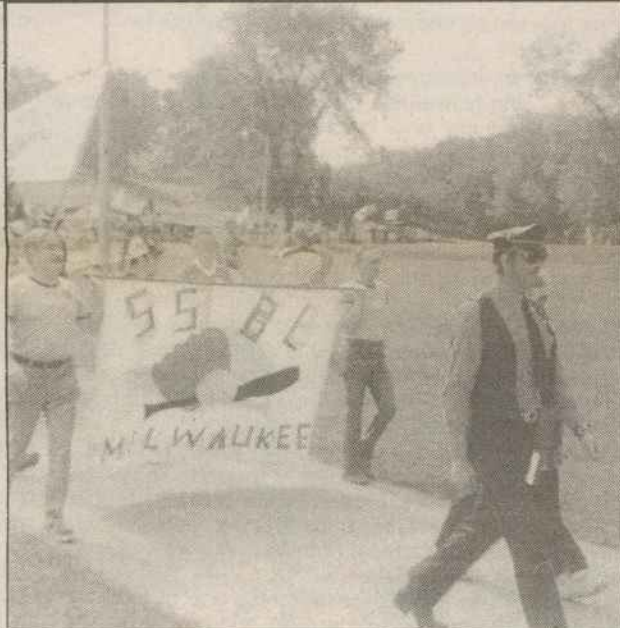
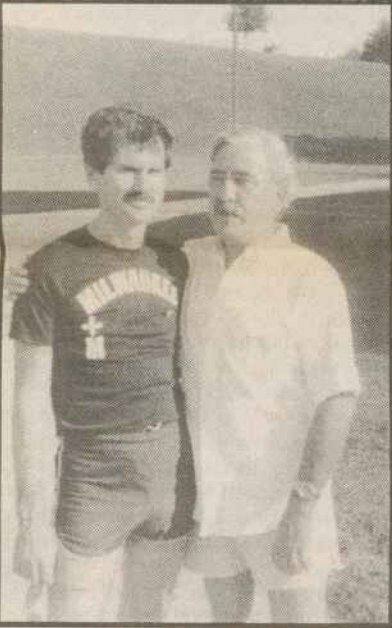


Dan, Nettie

About 1990—Bar manager Danny, Uncle Frank of Chicago, Bar owner Rick and his mother, Nettie

Halloween, 1985—Bartender Ken

Christma



1984-'86—For years Dave has played the piano for sing-alongs on St. Patrick's Day

1998—Bartender Dick at 1998 Packer Party



Sports—Ballgame team 1993; OZABOBO Golf tournament early 1980's; Ron and Tom of Softball League late '70s or early '80s; (above) opening softball season ceremony at Mitchell Park early '80s

Christmas—The tradition continues since 1973, with a flocked tree in the bar. The 1997 version featured a Green Bay Packers theme

Rick and Gene (1978)



Ken (left), manager of the Ballgame for 12 years, is shown with another Ken and bar owner, Rick



1978—Jim, Nettie and Rick



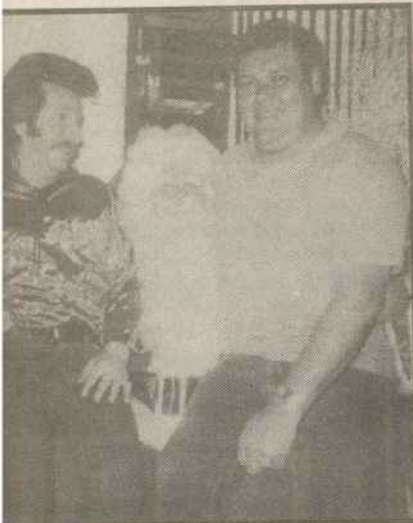
1980s—Jim and Jerry



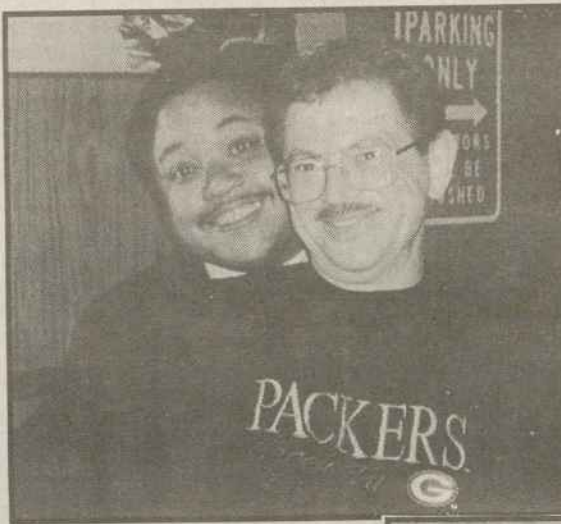
le and Rick - Halloween 1988



Mid-'80s—4th of July party founder, Jim



as Eve-1989-Dan and Ken sit on Santa's lap



1998-Tony and bartender, Dale



THE ballgame

Milwaukee, WI

25th Anniversary

March 17, 1973 - March 17, 1998



4th of July Parties—For several years, the Ballgame celebrated the nation's birthday in festive style. (left) 1983-'85 (bottom left) Rick, Nettie and Wayne. Circa 1984-'86 (bottom left) Jamie and (bottom right) Rhona as the Statue of Liberty in mid-'80s

The first Miss Gay Wisconsin Pageant was held in the Milwaukee Swan Theater of the Antlers Hotel. Guests included: (top right corner): Wayne; Jim and Ken (in drag); (above, left) Dan; Contest winner Jammie and Kick; (above, right) Ballgame bartender, David.



Curtain Calls

The Macabre Meets the Musical in the Gutzman Production of "Assassins"

By John A. Jahn

Some strange events and personages have been the subjects for many a musical production, but few can rival **Assassins**, with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim.

It's quite a task to take a series of successful and would-be U.S. presidential assassins and make them the central focus of a musical, but that's what Sondheim did. Just the notion of doing so brings all kinds of knee-jerk reactions to mind: controversial, repellent, outrageous, absurd, impossible, ridiculous, etc. But the fine Dale Gutzman Production Company put the lie to those initial responses at Centennial Hall on the evenings of February 27 & 28 and March 1st.

Assassins essentially involves the stories of infamous people - some of them quite deranged, others bent upon revenge or fame, but all of them seeking to find their way into the American Dream. Having failed to achieve even a small portion of that dream in the traditional sense, they now inhabit its dark and depressed flipside. If one cannot make it to renown and fame, then perhaps notoriety and infamy will suffice.

Performers represent John Wilkes Booth, Giuseppe Zangara, Leon Czolgosz, Samuel Byck, John Hinkley, "Squeaky" Fromme, Emma Goldman, Charles Guiteau, and the man who rejuvenates them all through his most terrible act, Lee Harvey Oswald.

Performances of these characters were generally quite good, as the actors strove to recreate not only the mental and psychological anguish of these infamous people, but also their motives and dementia (more pronounced in some than in others). Rather than sink into morbidity and melancholia, they are placed in a musical setting which is much lighter-toned than one might imagine possible.

Dale Gutzman Unveils His Company's 1998-1999 Theater Season

By John A. Jahn

Centennial Hall of the downtown Milwaukee Public Library will be home to five new productions - including one world premier and one Wisconsin premier - during its upcoming theater season.

This September will see the Gutzman Company performing the Wisconsin premier of **Kiss of the Spider Woman**, the award-winning Kandler and Ebb musical. It's a haunting song and dance extravaganza filled with passion, politics, prison and patriotism in which two men learn to understand each other and the world by escaping from their prison nightmare - figuratively if not literally - through the magic of their musical dreams.

November will bring us a production of over 40 (!) George & Ira Gershwin tunes, served up with comedy, dance and lots of love in **Gutzman Goes Gershwin**. Songs will include "I Got Rhythm," "Someone To Watch Over Me," "Strike Up the Band," "S Wonderful," "But Not for Me," and over thirty more. Gutzman will be at his best as Milwaukee's master of musical reviews!

February, 1999 will bring to the Centennial Hall stage another Stephen Sondheim show, **Into the Woods**, his most popular creation. **Into the Woods** is a sly, sometimes cynical look at the world of make-believe in which famous fairy tale characters join forces to defeat the wicked giant, but things are not quite what they seem. This laugh-filled musical also teaches a lesson

Though certainly not without humor (one cannot help but laugh at the outrageous Byck (Gutzman) as he harangues into a cassette player at Leonard Bernstein before attempting to crash a plane into the Nixon White House!), the overall message is quite serious.

The message of **Assassins** lies within its songs. Each of the characters has his or her own ballad in which they attempt to tell their side of the story to the audience, who in their eyes have only heard the "official, sanitized" version of history which, of course, is most at odds with the assassins'. This comes across most clearly in "Another National Anthem," in which (according to the playbook): "They insist their own voices and causes be heard." The assassins' version of our anthem "proclaim(s) that every American now feels he 'deserves' a prize just by living here. 'Where's My Prize?' they demand."

Assassins certainly does make you reflect upon the price we pay in this country for having such a strong emphasis on fame and fortune. It came across most potently and entertainingly thanks to the fine production by the Gutzman Company.

What the Sondheim musical may lack in memorable melodiousness it more than made up for in thought-provoking content and fine writing, and the Gutzman Company once again pulled a difficult task off tremendously well. I was particularly impressed with the strong stage presence, convincing portrayals, and fine singing voices of both the Booth and Guiteau characters (Joel Kopischke, Philip D'Amore respectively).

Thanks to the Gutzman Company for bringing this unusual musical to life in Milwaukee, and for asking us to ponder the following (again from the playbook): "What do we sacrifice for our 15 minutes of fame? Step right up! Who's next?"

or two about personal responsibilities.

April, 1999 has the Gutzman Company performing David Henry Hwang's powerful drama of love and deception, **M Butterfly**, which entails a diplomat's obsession with a Chinese Opera performer. Secrets are compromised and the plot has more than a few shocking twists. "Is love blind?" it asks us. Based upon a true story, **M Butterfly** will amaze and move you like few other plays you've seen before.

Finally, in June of next year we will be treated to the world premier of Dale Gutzman's own new comedy-thriller, **Harry and Al**. It involves an imagined meeting between escape artist legend Harry Houdini and one of this century's greatest singing stars, Al Jolson.

Songs from the period and vaudeville jokes spice up this duel between two giant show biz egos. Throw in Eddie Cantor for good measure and you have a crazy concoction which will leave you rolling in the aisles.

Will Houdini close the show with a great escape? Not if Jolson can help it! Cops and gangsters join the trio to further bring to life this romp through the earlier part of this century.

All five shows can be subscribed to presently for only \$60.00, with tickets being mailed out as early as mid-summer. For further information, call (414) 466-4049.

Broom Street Theater Presents Original Comedy "Control Freaks in Love"

Madison—Everyone falls in and out of love and never stops asking, "Why did I do that again?" Broom Street Theater presents its latest production, **Control Freaks in Love**, a new comedy about relationships, the story of a group of people who discover that love and relationships are rarely the same thing.

Control Freaks in Love is the fourth original Broom Street Theater play by writer-director Rick Vorndran. Unlike his previous plays, **I Am Star Trek** and **Michangelo, Renaissance P.I.**—which were both period pieces—and his **Please, Please, Please Love Me**—which was adapted from a 17th century revenge tragedy—**Control Freaks in Love** uses a unique story telling device.

The cast of eight in **Control Freaks in Love** stars Broom Street veterans Shelly

Johnson, Luke Delwiche, Rob Matsushita, Betsy McNeely and Dan Jacobson.

Control Freaks in Love is the 200th production at Broom Street Theater. All shows of **Control Freaks in Love** are at 8:00 p.m., Friday, Saturday and Sunday from through April 12th at the Broom Street Theater, 1119 Williamson Street in Madison. Tickets are \$7 at the door only (Sorry, no reservations). For more information, call (608) 244-8338.

Auditions

Actors are wanted for **Judge**, a new play based on an actual murder, a brutal stabbing in Darlington, Wisconsin, during the mid-1980s. Men and women may audition 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., Monday and Tuesday, March 16 and 17 at the Broom Street Theater. Call playwright-director Callen Harty at (608) 222-9086.

"Peter Pan" Succeeds in Taking its Audience Back to Neverland Once More

By J. R. Baker

The never aging Peter Pan flew back again into our lives and invited us all to be as children and fly with him to the imaginary isle of Neverland. Both children and adults in the audience at the March 3rd opening of the show at Milwaukee's Marcus Center willingly and happily accepted the invitation.

Cathy Rigby has the boyish appearance, vocal sound and great zest and energy to bring Peter Pan believably alive on the stage. She sings very well with just a touch of the Mary Martin stage sound and when she flew through the air, this former world-class gymnast delighted and thrilled the audience with her swoops and spins and sure footed landings.

Peter's nemesis, Captain Hook, played by Paul Schoeffler, was wonderfully evil in a comical story book way. He is tall and commanding in appearance, has a very strong speaking voice and an excellent singing one. When this almost cartoonish villain and his pirate crew sing and dance while celebrating various evil plans and triumphs, it creates a wonderfully entertaining sight.

All of the supporting cast were very good indeed—full of energy and fun—and singing and dancing very well. In fact, one of the biggest musical dance numbers of the show was the Indian dance number, "Ugg-a-Wugg", in Neverland with Peter, Wendy and the boys joining Tiger Lily and the Indians in a terrific drum driven number that got the biggest and most prolonged applause of the evening.

A special mention should be made of the

actors who donned the costumes of the Darling's oversize, but friendly dog and the not so friendly crocodile that keeps hungrily chasing Captain Hook.

A good deal of the show's entertainment and magic can also be attributed to the special lighting effects that created the illusion of the Fairy, Tinker Bell, being present and moving things about; the flight of Peter and the Darling children over "clouds" and into a starlit night sky on their way to Neverland; a multi-leveled pirate's ship; a watery grotto like Marooner's Rock with a mermaid; a pirate's rowboat that seemed to be traveling over water; the boys' living quarters—as if it were underground, while we also see what's going on above them; and of course, a number of well-sung and acted songs by Peter and friends or Captain Hook and crew including "Neverland," "I Gotta Crow," "Another Princely Scheme" and "I'm Flying."

The only reservations concerning the show would be that it should have begun at 7:30 p.m. instead of at 8:00 p.m. because of all the young children in the audience facing a school day Wednesday morning.

Also, the sound seemed loud and the words of the actors blurred during the first scenes. A little later, I'm happy to report, this was corrected and the dialogue came through loud and clear.

The show ended with lots of happy applause and Peter Pan taking a final curtain call by flying spectacularly right out into and over the audience, while sprinkling all of us with magic fairy dust.

Amethyst Productions Brings Tale of Art in Stalin's Russia to Milwaukee's Stage

Milwaukee—**Hope Against Hope** is a drama of intrigue, personal freedom and the power of faith.

In November of 1933, the Russian poet Osip Mandelstam wrote a satiric poem about Josef Stalin. Shortly thereafter, he recited it to a group of friends at a small, private gathering. One of the eleven people who were there that evening, memorized it on the first hearing and subsequently, repeated it to Stalin himself. The following May, 1974, Mandelstam became one of the first writers (certainly the most famous), to be singled out for individual "treatment." What followed for Mandelstam was a four-year odyssey of exile, torture and eventual death.

Yet, woven into this fateful tale, is a beautiful love story between Mandelstam and his wife Nadezhda. Nadezhda, which means "hope" in Russian, survived this horrendous ordeal and not only saved her husband's manuscripts, but wrote a wonderfully detailed memoir, **Hope Against Hope**.

Published in 1970, it is surely one of the most illuminating accounts we have (or are likely to have) of life in the Soviet Union during the Stalinist purges of the 1930s. Sadly, **Hope Against Hope** has never been published in Russia and the work remains almost completely unknown both there and in this country as well.

In March, 1998, Amethyst Productions

will present the world premiere of **Hope Against Hope**, an original play by Peter Reeves, based on the Mandelstam memoirs. The cast, under the direction of Maureen Kilmurry includes Pamela Brown as Nadezhda.

Brown is one of the most talented actresses working today on the Milwaukee stage. Her talent is luminous, reminding one of the great lights of the theater like Ethel Barrymore and others of her kind. Brown would do well on the Broadway stage, but chooses to make Milwaukee her home. If, for no other reason, go to **Hope Against Hope** to see Brown. You will not be disappointed.

Brown and seven other talented actors, such as Tom Schimmels, William Clifford, Janet Petersen and Howard Goldstein offer audiences an incisive glimpse of Russian life during the Stalin reign of terror.

Hope Against Hope opens at the Broadway Theatre Center Studio Theater, 158 N. Broadway in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward on Friday, March 13 at 8:00 p.m. There will be two "pay what you can" performances (\$5 minimum), Thursday, March 12th at 7:30 p.m. (preview) and Thursday, March 19th at 7:30 p.m. All tickets are \$15. Special group discounts are available. For more information, call Amethyst Productions at (414) 299-0435 or (414) 963-0522.

Gay Comic John McGovern Returns to Milwaukee

Milwaukee—John McGovern, Milwaukee's nationally acclaimed Gay comic is returning to the Cream City for a five performance run of his new show "John McGovern - Back Home Again" at the Milwaukee rep.

McGovern was last seen in Milwaukee during PrideFest weekend last June. His riotous performance piece played to packed houses and was called "one of the best theater events of 1997 by the **Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel**."

McGovern's has performed his original works for appreciative audiences around the country and has won praise from straight and Gays alike. Of his shows the **Washington Post** wrote "John will send you into fits of laughter and have you choking back tears. Don't miss this hilarious poignant and thought - provoking piece of theater."

The **Wisconsin Light** called John's work "moving, hilarious and well worth seeing."

Don't miss this special early spring treat. Tickets are available by calling the Milwaukee Rep at (414) 224-9490.

New Gay Comedy Video to be Shown at Milwaukee Bars

Milwaukee—On the Boulevard, a new half hour skit comedy video series produced exclusively for a national Gay and Lesbian audience, is about to make its debut in over 45 major US cities in March. The cities include Milwaukee.

Up-beat, fast-paced and totally irreverent, the show takes a new approach to traditional skit comedy, putting a Gay '90s spin on the genre. Similar to other successful skit comedy shows such as "The Kids in the Hall," "In Living Color," "Mad TV" and "Saturday Night Live," On the Boulevard adds a fresher, Queerer twist.

But you won't see it on TV. Instead, the video will be distributed directly to the Gay and Lesbian audience, exclusively through Gay and Lesbian video bars, clubs, resorts and the like—over 120 of which in more than 45 cities have already agreed to showcase the program.

The release date is March 18. In Milwaukee, you can see On the Boulevard at: 1100 Club, C'est La Vie, Dance, Dance, Dance, the M&M Club (screening on March 23 and 30), the Triangle and Grubb's Pub.

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Performances are interpreted for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

This program is supported by a grant from The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency
and a CityArts Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs.

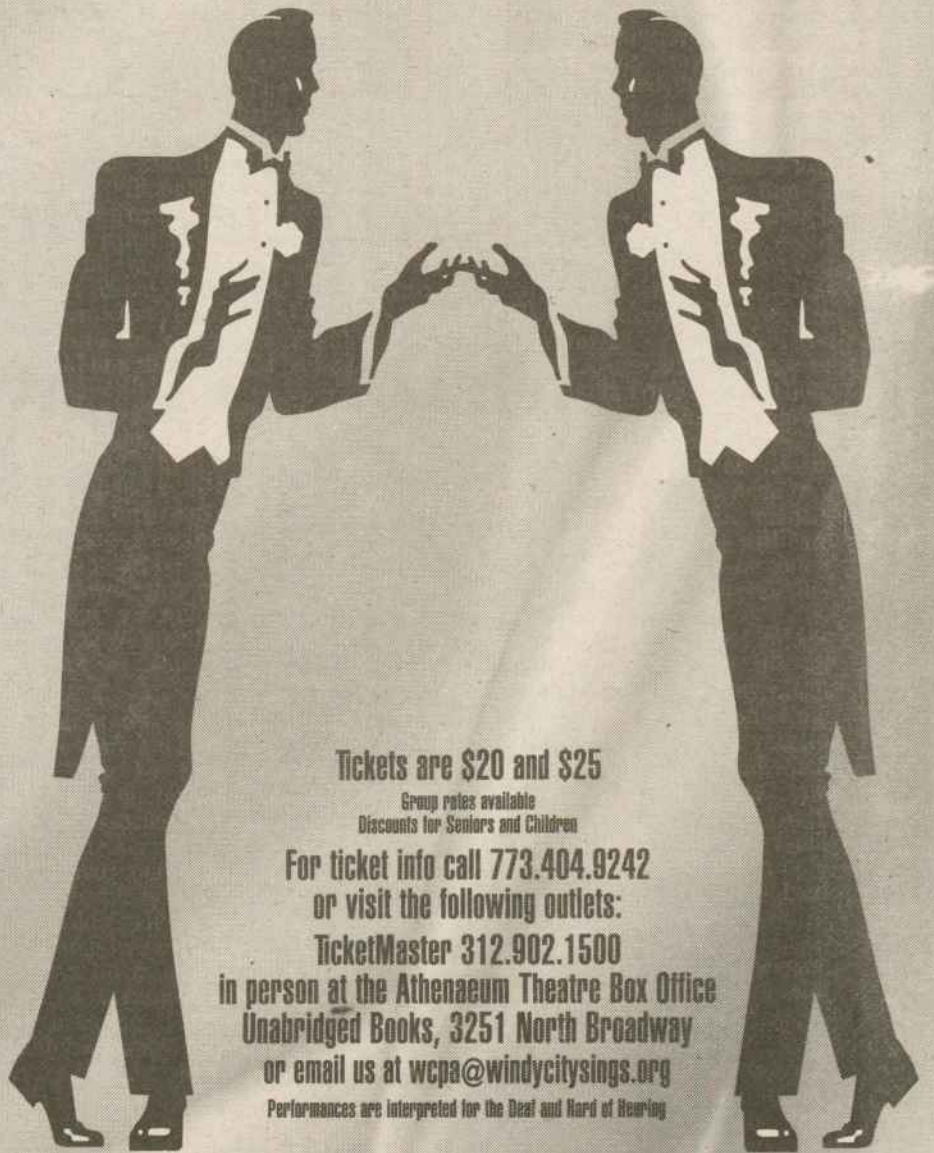
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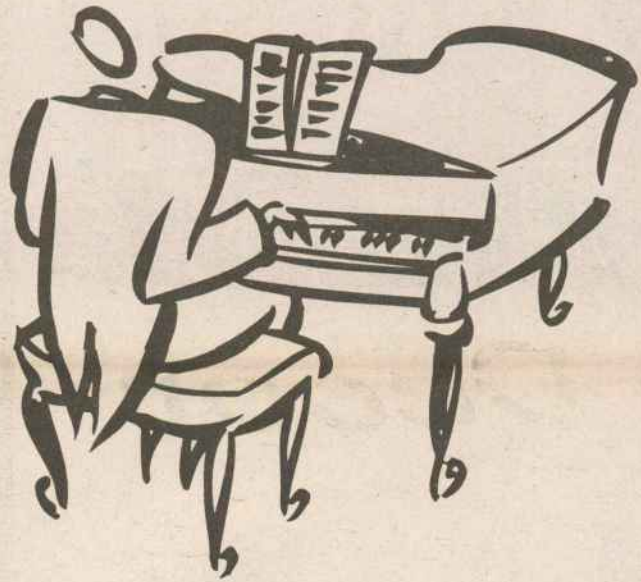
Welcome to our
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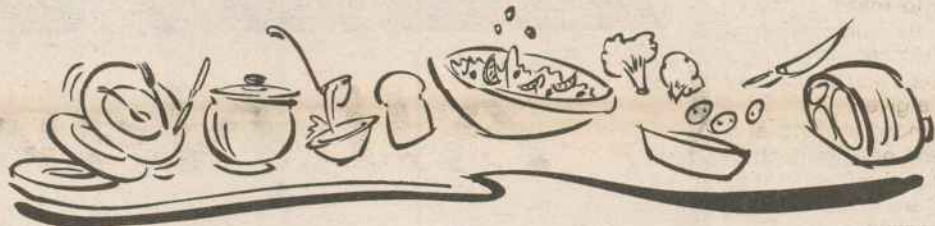
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THE NIGHT LIGHT

News... Well we have a correction on an item in our last column. Seems that Club 219 isn't for sale at a price of \$300,000. It's only \$200,000 at least that's what we were told in an email message we received from Club 219 owner, Bobby Lyons who adds that Club 94 is not up for sale and as far as he knows will NOT be replaced by some state highway clover leaf. Sorry Bobby. BTW, \$200,000 is a bargain.

We also have heard that another Milwaukee bar is up for sale and that it's sale is imminent.

I have it on good authority that Chase Hunter is planning a return visit to Milwaukee. Internationally renowned adult Gay video star, Hunter, was last in the Cream City for Light's 10th Anniversary bash. Now he's coming back! Oh la la! (Guess he missed me)

I hear there's a new late night place to stop in for a bite to eat. It's called **The Silver Dollar Café** and is located at 831 S. 16th Street. Haven't been there yet, but I am told that the food is quite good. It offers a wide variety of entrees, sandwiches and appetizers. Milly's breakfasts are, they say, especially good.

Bring your crew to The Silver Dollar after hours on Fridays and Saturdays. They tell me that it's soon to become one of our community's haunts.

Soap Box ... A few weeks ago I was at a bar (which shall remain nameless) and a bar tender complained to me that he had not been getting much in the way of tips. He wanted me to mention something in my column so that what he called his "cheap bastard customers" would cough up some dough.

I hear complaints from some bartenders that they are not getting good tips, but I also hear complaints from bar patrons that they are not getting good service. There is probably some truth to both.

I DO think everyone should tip their bartenders. Those who are serving up the drinks depend on tips to make a decent living and you would be surprised how many people seldom if ever tip.

BUT at the same time I must also say that a tip is gratuity not a given.

So if you are a bartender working at a busy Gay bar and aren't getting much in the way of tips perhaps it is you and not all of your customers who are at fault.

Ask yourself these questions...

Do you instantly greet people as soon as they come in or do you sit in one corner of the bar talking to your friends while those you don't know stand around waiting to be served wondering if they are welcome?

Do you say thanks and smile or do you simply throw your customers change on the bar and act like you are mad because they disturbed you?

Do you pay attention to all of your customers (not just your friends) or do you just stand there waiting for someone to send up a signal flare to indicate they would like another drink?

Do you bad mouth the bar and/or the bar's owner other bartenders or customers when they are not around and then expect their friends to throw money at you?

Is your bar clean (except in a really busy period) or are your customers wading through a sea of used napkins and overflowing ashtrays while you talk on the phone to your latest boyfriend?

Do you move quickly to serve a customer or do you act like you couldn't care less when your customer finally gets his drink?

Bartending is a harder job than it looks and everyone can have off days too. And I ALWAYS try to tip something with every beer I buy no matter what.

But as I said tips are a gratuity given in return for service. The better the service the higher the gratuity will be. In general the bartenders who realize that do well. They attract customers to their establishments too, and they don't call their cus-

tomers cheap bastards either.

On the other hand here's a word to some of the bar customers I have seen.

Do you think you are God's gift to mankind and that your bartender can live on your ever so good looks, or do you understand that it takes real money to pay the rent, eat and otherwise provide oneself with life's necessities?

Do you realize that despite people saying you are a queen, you aren't royalty and therefore have to wait your turn for a drink when a bar is busy?

Do you understand that your bartender is there to serve drinks, not to provide you with sex nor to be pinched, prodded and/or constantly pestered for a phone number or a date?

Do you pick up that quarter left in change after paying for your drink with the thought that you will leave "a big tip later" but then fail to do so?

Do you quietly mumble your order and then find your voice to loudly complain when the bartender "screws up?"

Does your bartender have to walk on water or do you tip regularly?

The point I am trying to make here is that customers aren't allowed to pour their own drinks (although I have seen some try) and need bartenders do it for them.

Bartenders in turn need customers or they are out of a job.

I have seen jerks on both sides of the bartenders. There are bartenders who don't seem to realize they are in the service industry and there are customers for whom the word service seem to take on a whole new meaning.

I am not talking about large groups in either direction, but we have all seen it. So I suggest that those bartenders who think they should be tipped better consider how to do a better job and those customers who are always complaining no matter which bar it is and no matter who serves them ought to do some thinking too.

Recaps ... I had a great time at Tammy Baldwin's fund raiser in Milwaukee. Congressman Barney Frank was there and he and his lover are real class acts.

The **Boot Camp Club** night on Wednesday, February 25th as fun too. I actually won \$50.00!!!

Speaking of the Boot Camp there was a big turnout for the Brew City Bear's club night.

The food at **Mama Roux's** Mardi Gras party was quite good and there was a good sized crowd on hand to help celebrate its anniversary. Alas not many customers were wearing masks (at least while I was there)

Speaking of food, I had a nice fish fry at **Just Us**.

I wasn't there but I hear they had a rip roaring time at the Mardi Gras party held **Manoeuvres** in Madison on Fat Tuesday.

Coming up... There isn't much on the agenda in the way of special events. Seems most places are waiting for St. Pat-

rick's Day to throw a party.

Nonetheless there are some nice events on the calendar.

On **Saturday March 14** I will head to **Club 94** for its seventh annual Miss Club 94 pageant. Miss Josie Lynn (one of my favorite people) will be on hand to help give away the coveted title.

Before I go though I will be stopping at **Fannies** which is having its Grand Re-opening that evening. Stop in and see the totally remodeled bar.

Then on **Tuesday March 17** I will be heading to a few select St. Pat's Day parties or my name isn't Dusty O' Sass.

Of course my first stop will be **The Ball Game** which is also celebrating its 25th Anniversary. The Ball Game hosts Gay Milwaukee's longest running St. Pat's day party.

Expect lots of great food, good company and plenty of people. I hope you will join me in stopping in to thank Rick, Danny

Please See Night Light Page 2

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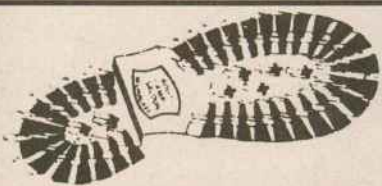
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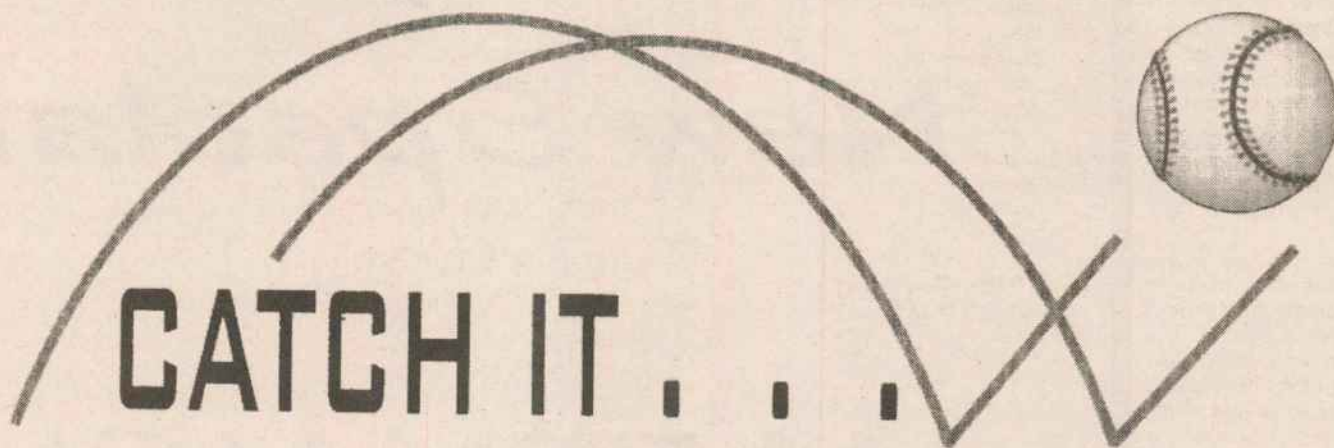
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OUT on Film

"Twilight's" Actors and Melancholy Mood Combine for a Genuine Film Noire

By John A. Jahn

"I'm getting to be a danger to myself," grumbles Harry Ross - a slight stoop to his walk, a permanent squint in one eye, in a dry, raspy voice. Ross is portrayed by none other than that handsome leading man of decades gone by, Paul Newman, 73, in writer/director Robert Benton's slow-paced noiresque whodunit, *Twilight*. Newman is so perfect for this role that he hardly seems to be acting at all - age has truly liberated him to the point where he can play a broken-down former private detective with absolute ease and perfection.

Harry Ross is unwilling to admit he's on the wrong side of the calendar - obviously not ready to pack it in even though his prospects aren't too bright as a private eye (he doesn't even have a license to practice anymore). There's plenty of melancholy to go around in the little world Harry inhabits outside L.A. as hanger-on to a movie star couple - Jack & Catherine Ames (Gene Hackman and Susan Sarandon).

He gets no money from them, but they let him live for free above their garage ever since he was shot and wounded by their wayward teenage daughter Mel (Reese Witherspoon) after he was sent to Mexico two years ago to retrieve her.

Ross scarcely conceals his lust for Catherine, whose aging husband Jack is dying of cancer, but he should have wondered why she suddenly made herself available to him. What makes Sarandon appealing is her openness. Unlike her husband, whose agenda is never clear (made all the more convincing by Hackman's foxily amusing performance), she

simply states her wants.

Ross is not surprised to find, after his tryst with Catherine, that he's being sent on nocturnal errands having to do with the mysterious circumstances surrounding the death of her first husband many years ago - a convenient death that brought her and Jack together.

Although Harry is truly a man of the world whose profession has caused him to see it all, he has things to learn about love - including the way Catherine and Jack can't stop playing to each other for approval.

Twilight, by writer/director Robert Benton (*Kramer vs. Kramer*, *Places in the Heart*, *Nobody's Fool*) runs against the grain of today's youth-obsessed culture by making its central characters - all in their 50s to 70s - the focus of the story. The plot twists and turns - and does so at a leisurely, meditative pace. It escapes dullness by being filled with punchy dialogue, a good mystery and fine performances.

The film stars some fine L.A. architecture, too. The couple's home is an Art Deco dream, Frank Lloyd Wright designed the mountain retreat where the answer to the big mystery lies, and Harry's friend Raymond Hope (James Garner) lives in a mountaintop, glass-walled home.

Twilight possesses a bluesy mood and leisurely pace, is driven by veteran actors, and plays very much like an authentic 1940s noir. Benton shows that somebody remembers how to make these things. Autumnal melancholy simply doesn't get any better.

★★★1/2

Though Visually Stunning, 'Dark City' Fails to Find Unique Cinematic Ground

By John A. Jahn

Just the title of this film hints at what's both right and wrong with Alex Proyas' *Dark City*. Visually rich, futuristic, displaying great cinematography and set design skill, it's a stunning extension not only of the world Proyas created in *The Crow*, but also reminiscent of such films as *Blade Runner*, *Altered States*, *Hellraiser*, *Scanners* and *Metropolis*.

That rather generic title, though, could have applied to almost any film noir of the '40s, and the truth is that this film's attempted blend of noir and sci-fi comes off as forced and synthetic. The strength of *Dark City* lies exclusively with its production design.

John Murdoch (Rufus Sewell) is a befuddled sufferer who wakes up in a hotel room remembering only that he became separated from his wife and now is wanted for questioning in a series of gruesome prostitute murders. The other two human characters of any significance at all - homicide detective Bumstead (William Hurt) and Kiefer Sutherland's vaguely central European Dr. Schreber, are at least as much for the confused Murdoch as against him. It's a nightmare scenario, alright, but it gets even worse.

Floating through the streets of *Dark City* are a race of malevolent aliens called *The*

Strangers. Elongated, cadaverous, spectral, humanoid and waxy-looking in their black cloaks, they suggest the silent vampire in *Nosferatu* or the villains of the *Hellraiser* films.

Using their collective will and personality (not unlike the *Borg* of *Star Trek*), they customize the world Murdoch inhabits, playing sinister mind games, morphing one cityscape into another as Murdoch - reunited with his wife Emma (Jennifer Connelly) - frantically tries to figure out what *The Strangers* are up to and why they're tormenting him so.

The fact that *Dark City* is so reminiscent of past films is part of the problem. It's not that it's just too weird a movie to get into, it's just that it isn't weird enough (that is, unless you haven't seen any of the dozen or so films it's derivational of). The acting is generally O.K. (though Kiefer Sutherland has yet to prove to me he's really supposed to be an actor), but this isn't an actor's movie where differentiation between the characters really matters.

Rather, *Dark City* is a screenful of lush, classy, visual borrowing (hey, that's it! Why didn't they call this film *The Borrowers*?). It's much more fun to simply look at than it is trying to figure out what the puzzling game of *The Strangers* might be.

The Imax's 'Everest' Takes You on a Breathtaking Trip to the Top of the World

By John A. Jahn

Starting Saturday, March 7, Milwaukee's Humphrey IMAX Dome Theater will be one of only a handful of American theaters to take part in the world premier of *Everest* - a very widely anticipated, large format film.

Everest takes you on a (literally) breathtaking journey of spirit, adventure, tragedy and sheer will. Filmgoers join (almost literally) a 1996 expedition team as they ascend the most famous of the Himalayan mountains all the way to the top - the highest point of land on the Earth. It's such a harsh environment that the simple act of breathing is a tremendous challenge.

The 1996 team was the first to take an IMAX camera with them (weighing some 42 lbs. on its own) along with 50 porters, 100 yaks and 2 1/2 tons of food.

We begin in the cloud-enshrouded capital of Nepal, Katmandu, on March 20, 1996. The ascent begins, but by May 8th, at an elevation of over 24,000 feet, the weather turned miserable and the team found themselves trapped by a vicious Spring blizzard. Hurricane force winds drove the temperature down to 100 below

zero. By the time the storm passed, 8 climbers had lost their lives.

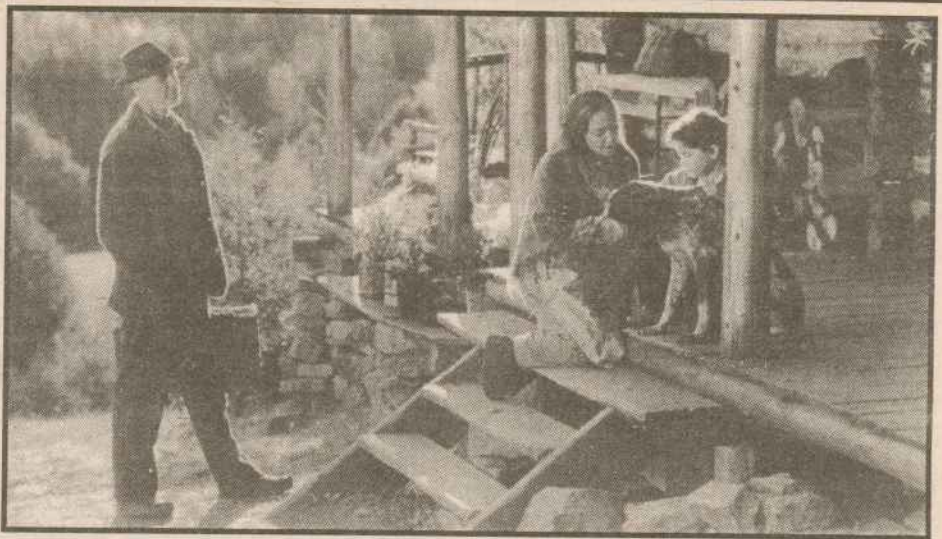
The IMAX film team, after helping many survivors to safety (we witness the first helicopter rescue ever undertaken at such altitude), resumes the push towards Everest's summit - literally the top of the world.

On May 23, 1996, climber/filmmaker David Breashears and the rest of them film team sat perched on Everest's peak, camera in hand. They brought back the first large-format images ever taken of that king of the mountains and its immediate environs, as well as a dramatic story of both personal triumph and tragedy.

This 45-minute film, filled with stunning images and complimented by an original score composed by none less than former Beatle George Harrison, is well worth your time. You will never see this fascinating part of our globe the same way again.

★★★

Everest is currently showing at Wisconsin's only IMAX theater, the Humphrey Dome, in downtown Milwaukee on a daily basis. Also showing is *Africa-The Serengeti*. Call 319-IMAX for showtimes and more information. Advanced ticket purchases are recommended.



Saying Good Bye - Gramma and Grandpa say their goodbyes as Little Tree leaves for school in "The Education of Little Tree."

'The Education of Little Tree' is Good, Wholesome, Family Entertainment

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

The crowds of small children running up and down the cinema aisles, making Glenn return to the concession stand for a refill of his "Biggie" popcorn, should have clued in Glenn sufficiently to know what to expect from *The Education of Little Tree*.

Sure, in the deepest recesses of his brain, Glenn dimly recalled something of the literary controversy that has surrounded Forrest Carter's best-seller. Once topping the venerable *New York Times*' non-fiction lists, now *The Education of Little Tree* is widely acknowledged to be a glorious fiction from which the true life-stories of other Native American may have inspired Mr. Carter's tender and simple story.

Not having read *The Education of Little Tree* (and not being particularly inclined to do so now), Glenn fully expected an evening of good old-fashioned family entertainment. Sadly, Glenn was not to be disappointed.

At the center of the story is sweet, little Little Tree (Joseph Ashton), an orphan who narrowly escapes the horrors of growing up in a depression-era mining village when rescued by his grandparents. Grandpa (James Cromwell) is moonshining white man who is married to an Indian woman, played by Tantoo Cardinal.

A lengthy, somewhat meandering pastoral idyll is forthcoming. Leisurely paced, *The Education of Little Tree* offers staggeringly breathtaking sunrises, monumentally glorious sunsets with excruciatingly tedious scenes in between, scenes brimming with folksy homespun humor and Native American folklore buried, more often than not under an insulting barrage of mind-numbing platitudes. Yawn.

Nodding off briefly, truly only resting his eyes for the most fleeting of moments, Glenn regained the narrative following a big ol' rattle-snake taking a big ol' bite out of Grandpa, who was in the process of saving young Little Tree from a similar fate.

Teetering on death's door, Grandpa sur-

'The Big Lebowski' is Nothing but a Whole Lot of Fun

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn is a bowler from way back. Way, way, way back. Hey, Glenn comes Milwaukee, ya' know. Hey, Who, after all doesn't enjoy a sport during which beer can be consumed?

But bowling movies are an entirely different matter, not that Glenn can recall many other than the perfectly dreadful *Kingpin!* Need one say more?

Those thoroughly wacky Coen brothers, Ethan and Joel are back and with a bowling ball in each hand with *The Big Lebowski*, which stars an almost unrecognizable Jeff Bridges and John Goodman, recently freed from Roseanne.

Seriously, could any follow-up film to the wonderfully irreverent *Fargo* not emerge as something of a disappointment to even the least sophisticated moviegoer?

Glenn's expectations were very high, indeed!

Offering a quick yet coherent summary of *The Big Lebowski* is no easy matter. First we meet "the Dude" (Jeff Bridges), a warm and fuzzy featherbed of a guy who is terrorized by a group of thugs looking for a millionaire named The Big Lebowski. Apparently these not-so-bright thugs got the wrong address, but nevertheless pee on the Dude's rug. That's right! They pee on his rug. The Dude is suitably outraged. As Glenn would certainly have been outraged.

Best buddy Walter (John Goodman) and flunky friend Donny (Steve Buscemi) convince the Dude to take his claim to the real

vives a nightmarish night only to wake up to yet another threat. Seems Little Tree has been skipping school to run Grandpa's whiskey and the "Feds" have decided to take the boy away, sending him to an "American" school that is little more than a prison.

As is ripped from the pages of Dickens, Little Tree's experiences at the brutally harsh "American" school reminded Glenn of poor little Oliver Twist. Only Oliver wasn't arbitrarily given a new name or refused even the merest utterance of his native tongue.

Sentenced to bread & water in solitary confinement for a ridiculously minor infraction, Little Tree calls out his prayers to the "dog star" and, his message having been heard, is once more rescued by Grandpa.

A brilliantly sundrenched homecoming awaits Little Tree but once again their hopes of a pastoral idyll are immediately dashed. The "Feds" continue to seek out Little Tree, determined to return him to the "American" school. Fleeing one day, Grandpa takes a wrong step and takes a fatal tumble. Doesn't seem to Glenn that little Little Tree brought Grandpa and Grandpa much in the way of luck!

Better films have and will continue to be made showing the inhumanity suffered by the many Indian tribes throughout American history at the hands of our government and peoples than offered by first-time director Richard Friedenberg who also wrote the screenplay.

Performances are painfully earnest, although James Cromwell manages to keep a wry glint in his eye while youthful Joseph Ashton is mercifully free of the usual Hollywood kid cuteness as Little Tree.

Perhaps best suited for The Learning Channel, *The Education of Little Tree* is likely to find a more appreciative audience than that of Glenn Bishop for its pretty-as-a-picture, wholesome family entertainment.

Rating: \$1.85 (scale No cents to \$7.00)

Big Lebowski (David Huddleston). From there the narrative begins to go topsy turvy. Somehow the Dude, Walter and Donny get involved within an existential existence which will include a kidnapped wife, "nihilist" kidnappers and a bowling tournament.

Hey, Glenn saw *The Big Lebowski* and still hasn't figured out parts of the Coen brothers outrageously convoluted story!

Ultimately *The Big Lebowski* never quite manages to equal the sum of some pretty splendid parts.

Best of all are the Coens' usual collection of terrifically quirky characters. Jeff Bridges has a field day as the White Russian-drinkin' Dude, an innocent who has never quite left the 60's. Whether he's smoking dope or boasting that he was one of the Seattle 7 (although admitting there were six other guys), Bridges' Dude so wonderfully likeable and engaging a character that no matter how demented *The Big Lebowski* gets, you'll still be right in there rooting for him.

A perfect contrast is John Goodman's buzzed-hair Walter, a man would furiously rant and rave at the injustices of the world, particularly the bowling world. Walter is so obsessed with bowling that he pulls a gun on a fellow bowler who refuses to admit to a foul.

Yet Glenn found it impossible not to feel that many of the clever bits of business and some of the superfluously quirky

Please See *Lebowski* Page 22

All The Films of '97 Reflect the Trash Culture of This Era

By Steve Stavron

The Academy Award nominations for 1997 are a disheartening and sorry sight. Not a single film of real distinction to be seen—not even much in the way of memorable performances—especially in the female category. Perhaps if the Academy announced a one year sabbatical of NO awards, it might restore its prestige, but it's not to blame that there is so little to choose from.

Motion pictures are rapidly becoming trivial sources of entertainment, some times amusing—occasionally engrossing for kinetic excitement, but as insignificant as last week's dinner menu. No sense of the universally humanistic that we can ascribe to art. Movies are trapped in the immediacy of 90's psychobabble and technocratic overkill, grounded in talk show social issues, and contaminated always by a cleverly written smart-ass jargon which passes for dialogue.

But where's the heart? In this sense movies are LESS realistic than some of the romantic fantasies of yesteryear which at least aimed at the sentiments of a wider-based audience.

Films have always been meant to be popular entertainment, but if the nouveau elitists of today's "independent films" dismiss the former studio products as psychological watering troughs for the escapist masses, at least the polished products that once came out of Hollywood afforded a more nutritious form of entertainment.

Even the slightest studio films had richer character basis. The screen pickings today range from indigestibly ugly aberrations of studied sadism to Opra "Win-fried" servings of social issues to incomprehensible screenplays buried in techno-jargon.

Sub standard stereotypes and often sub-human characters register far worse than sex and violence. The prevailing glibness of even seriously intentioned films leaves little room for involvement. **Wings of the Dove** was a hollow bore.

The larger question that "jumps on board" the juggernaut to rush **Titanic** to the forefront of Oscar reward based upon its huge commercial success, is why this particular film has such a large repeat audience, and what is really wrong with most modern films.

Titanic—a film I didn't particularly like but which I reviewed generously—at least made a stab at straightforward romance and drama with some haphazard attempts at charm, even if the onscreen results were just this side of hokey. It will never maintain the longtime stature of **It's a Wonderful Life**, **Casablanca**, **Singing in the Rain**, not to mention **Vertigo**, none of which overwhelmed critics on first release, but it's temporarily holding its own. It hasn't yet occurred to many that its appeal might rest with the tragic mystique of the ship itself, and not with its dazzling production values.

What is amazing is the almost incredible stupidity of today's film conglomerate "marketing experts" [who actually get paid for this type of work] who have deduced that the size of a film's budget, the timing of its release, and first week-end grosses determine a film's ultimate success. Their concern is understandable when one considers that today's blockbuster movie is tomorrow's discounted video in super market bins, but it seems to have escaped their notice that those films that endure have formed a collective bond in the minds and hearts of the audience.

Gone With The Wind was at least as successful in repeated reissues as it was in 1939.

Yes, the films were better half a century ago.

Critics are as much to blame for the degeneration in public taste as movie makers themselves who are trapped into making films which unwittingly depict the lowest common denominator of an emotionally threadbare decadent culture glossed over with a precarious and sadly poignant need for instant gratification with the least amount of effort.

These are shallow and timid times. We

Lebowski
Continued From Page 21

characters in **The Big Lebowski**, David Thewlis' giggling video artist for example, to seem awfully contrived. In **Fargo**, the Coen boys conversely invested extraordinary sincerity and warmth for their oh-so clueless characters.

Although not a 300-game, only those expecting another **Fargo** are likely to find **The Big Lebowski** anything but a whole lot of fun.

Rating \$4.32 (scale No cents to \$7.00)

understand that Siskel and Ebert would not keep their jobs with constant downward digital designations, but they should at least be able to distinguish between the superficial pleasure afforded by such forgettably callow if clever bon bons as **Wag the Dog** and **As Good As It Gets** and movies of genuine distinction.

Other reviewers attempt to follow the complex maze of incomprehensible high-tech film editing as if they were describing a catalytic converter. They describe rather than analyze, having given up the search for quality depth beyond the scenario.

It would be equally unfair to blame young people—the most targeted audience—for poor writing, implausible story lines, and clumsy editing. They, after all, have inherited a fragmented social order comprised of artificial values and being deprived of a sense of cultural continuity in the arts which was never provided for them, it's no wonder that they don't take movies—or anything else—seriously.

What they have inherited is an intimidating technological society which places little stock in the exploration of the personal psyche. There is too much else to do. If a basic humanism has lapsed out of most contemporary films, it accurately reflects a society which lacks a unified interior life, and which minimizes the unique unfathomable mystery of the individual in favor of a socially comfortable generic stereotype.

Please See '97 Films Page 26

As "That Night" Approaches, Glenn Ventures to Predict the Oscar Winners

By Glenn Bishop

One can almost feel the tension in the air. It's Oscar time. Oscar news is everywhere, from rumors that Leonard DiCaprio's Oscar-snob is likely to result in his absence from the Oscar ceremony to the news that cancelled performances of **Amy's View** will allow its star, Dame Judi Dench, to on hand to accept the fabled statue should her performance as Queen Victoria be so honored.

As faithful readers of the **Wisconsin Light** plan suitable Oscar night reveries, Glenn has thoroughly pondered this year's nominees and offers these humble predictions.

The Supporting Actor category greatly disappointed Glenn. Where is Rupert Everett's name for his picture-stealing turn in **My Best Friend's Wedding**? Could it be that Hollywood's homophobia is showing? Give an openly homosexual actor an award for playing... what, a homosexual? Ridiculous. Not in 1998.

While Glenn cannot pretend possessing any knowledge of Greg Kinnear's sexual orientation (nor admittedly being particularly interested), but must presume he's as straight as an arrow to be nominated as a Gay artist in **As Good As It Gets**. Mr. Kinnear has come along way since sneering his way through episodes of **Talk Soup**, still not far enough to nab an Oscar.

The other likely loser is Robert Forster. A surprise nominee despite his fine per-

formance in the much under-rated **Jackie Brown**, Forster will be an even bigger surprise should he emerge as winner.

Like Meryl Streep in years past, oh-so English Anthony Hopkins (**Armistad**) can never be ruled out but the favorites must be Robin Williams (**Good Will Hunting**) and **Boogie Nights**' Burt Reynolds. Reynolds' role proved why he was a star once upon a time while Glenn must admit to thinking Williams nothing special in **Good Will Hunting**.

The nod to Burt Reynolds, along with the hope that he never need Vaseline his body again (on film at least), as he did not so very long ago in the perfectly dreadful **Striptease**.

Despite Leonardo DiCaprio's Best Actor snub, (clearly on par with Madonna's similar fate last year) the sun continues to rise and set each day. Have faith, little Leo, your time will surely come — only not for **Titanic**.

Truth (and Glenn) must tell that many far more worthy performances were equally snubbed in the Best Actor category. Where are the deserving nominations for Ralph Feinnes for the thoroughly ignored **Oscar and Lucinda**, Ian Holm's terrific performance in the equally ignored **Sweet Hereafter** or Robert Carlyle delightful performance in **The Full Monty**?

Enough of those who should have been nominated, what about those who did

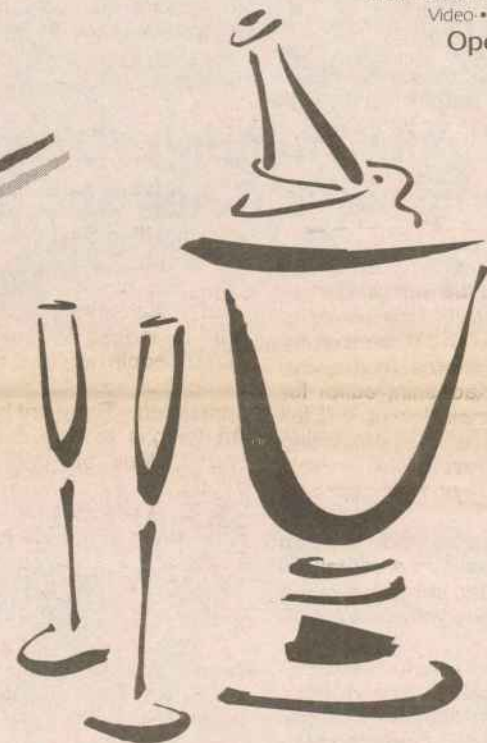
Please See Oscars Page 27

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Out In Print



Author and Activist Riki Anne Wilchins Discusses Gender in American Society

By Carl M. Szatmary

Prior to appearances at Afterwords Bookstore and the Gemini Gender Group, Riki Anne Wilchins, the outspoken author of the controversial new book, *Read My Lips: Sexual Subversion and the End of Gender* consented to the following interview.

Wisconsin Light: What motivated you to write *Read My Lips*?

Riki Anne Wilchins: The book was originally written to help get the word out about GenderPac. I think the idea behind GenderPac, its motto: gender, affectional and racial equality is hard for most people to bring all together. In part, its hard for people to think of a group which doesn't have a particular identity at the core: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, women, Black. The idea behind GenderPac was to get to a post-identity that wasn't a function of oppression. That's a complex idea for people to swallow.

The idea behind *Read My Lips* was to get that knowledge out there in a way that was easily accessible.

W.L.: You, along with Kate Bornstein and Leslie Feinberg have emerged as the leading voices in the (quote) Transgender movement (unquote).

RAW: Thank you for the quotes.

W.L.: How has that come about? How do you feel in that role?

Book Editor to Tell About New Gay Biographies Series

Madison—A soon to be published series of books dealing with the life stories of Gay men and women will be discussed by the series editor at the March 28 meeting of Frontiers. Raphael Kadushin, editor for the University of Wisconsin Press, will tell how he originated this unique publishing concept, *Living Out*, devoted exclusively to autobiographies of Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals.

The first title in the series, *Wide Screen Dreams*, is due for release in early fall. In it, author Patrick Horrigan relates how he grew up Gay under the beguiling influence of Hollywood movies.

Editor Kadushin is known locally as a columnist with the weekly newspaper *Isthmus* and as a writer with *Bon Appetit* magazine. His work as editor with the University Press gives him special insights into today's rapidly changing book publishing business.

Frontiers, a social club for Gay and Bisexual men, extends an invitation to all, whether members or not, to hear more about the *Living Out* series, as well as the fascinating world of books and authors.

The time: Saturday, March 28, 7:30 p.m. The place: Inn on the Park Hotel (Assembly Room), 22 South Carroll, Madison (on the Capitol Square at Main Street. For more information, call (608) 274-5959.



Riki Anne Wilchins

RAW: I don't believe that I'm a Transgendered person. GenderPac is not a Transgender organization. I would fight the idea. I think a Transgender movement is an important thing, I just don't particularly want to be a part of it. I think that gender-based oppression is something that affects many kinds of people, gender is not a "trans" thing, it affects Gay people who are gender-variant, it affects "bi-people" who are gender different.

It affects a totally straight girl in the East Village with a Sind O'Connor haircut and a pin through her nose and a leather jacket and goes home for the holidays and gets beat up because that's not the way women are supposed to look. Almost none of those people would identify as Transgendered but all of them are gender-oppressed. The point behind anything that I'm doing is to link those kind of things and to look at how those things play through.

W.L.: A movie that is soon to open in Milwaukee is *Ma Vie en Rose* (My Life in Pink)...

RAW: You've got to love that movie. They never name that kid! That's what is so neat. A post-identity movie... they never say the kid is homosexual, they never say he's Transgendered. The kid is just being that kid. That's what is so

Afterwords Schedule

Saturday, March 14 1:00pm

Author Appearance

Riki Anne Wilchins, *Read My Lips*

Wednesday, March 18th 7:00pm

Lesbian and Gay Writers' Group

New members always welcome!

Wednesday, March 25th 7:00pm

Lesbian Reading Group

Paxton Court by Diane Salvatore

neat about that movie.

W.L.: What about your childhood? How did it compare to the kid in *Ma Vie en Rose*?

RAW: I will say that my parents don't speak French and I had no interest in women's clothing and never had. I live in sweats and blue jeans. The only time I put on a dress is to go in to work.

So a lot of the stereotypical things with Transgender don't work well with me. I played football in high school. I went hunting, killing things with my father. I think I'm trying an entire new identity, of male to female to male.

W.L.: My next question was going to be when and why did you decide to live as a woman, but from your comments, you aren't.

RAW: I really haven't. Here is where autobiographical questions become pertinent. I think that there was certainly a time when the only way that I could have been able to explain myself or have others understand me and certainly what I thought was that I was a woman inside of a man's body. I lived that way for about 10 years. This whole thing about what I am inside and what I've become, its just nonsense. All I've become is more comfortable. I don't think there is any more meaning to be found in a sex change operation than there is to be found in getting your tummy tucked or your boobs enlarged. Which is to say that when I got my nose done, nobody asked if I was trying to live as a "small-nosed" woman trapped in a "large-nosed" body.

W.L.: There is a point in *Read My Lips* where you refer to yourself as a "gendertrash- reject". Could you explain?

RAW: Being put into this political category as "Transgendered" is a process of rejection. You have this system which basically creates what are considered normal genders and anybody that doesn't fit ends up in this binary zoo called

Please See Wilchins Page 27

New on the Shelf

Fiction

Soul Kiss by Shay Youngblood, Riverhead Pb \$12.00

Soul Kiss, an eloquent first novel from well-known African-American playwright Shay Youngblood, opens as seven-year-old Mariah Kim Santos is unceremoniously deposited by her mother to live with two maiden aunts in rural Georgia. The only parting words from Mama are "Mama loves you." Mariah is then directed to wait for her mother's return. Years pass and Mariah forms a unique and loving relationship with her surrogate parents feeling emotionally complete only with other women.

Dead as a Doornail by Grant Michaels, St. Martin's Press HC \$22.95

Intrepid hairdresser and amateur sleuth Stan Kraychik is back and funnier than ever. Rich and bored, Stan has bought a crumbling brownstone and scheduled meeting contractor Tim Shaughnessy—a cutie who's also a dead ringer for Stan—to discuss refurbishing it. But when they are to meet on site, Tim turns up dead. Murder? The ever hunky Lt. Vito Branco of Boston's finest isn't saying but urges Stan

to keep out of sight. Before you know it, Stan's donning dark glasses and pursuing with a vengeance Michael's usual colorful cast of suspects.

Non-Fiction

On My Honor: Lesbians Reflect on their Scouting Experience by Nancy Manahan Madwoman Press Pb \$18.95

From Nancy Manahan, one of the co-authors the ground-breaking, *Lesbian Nuns, On My Honor* is an important book which celebrates the experiences of Lesbians who spent their childhoods in the Girl Scouts. Whether readers were Girl Scouts themselves, *On My Honor* is filled with a collection of youthful memories that will entertain, educate and outrage as well as encouraging the Girl Scouts to further embrace diversity.

The Best of Gay Adult Video 1998 by Mickey Skoe, Companion Press Pb \$12.95

What Gay man does rent the occasional Gay porn video? Come on, 'fess up! In *The Best of Gay Adult Video 1998* is that perfect reference, lavishly illustrated with photos glorious black & white photos of everyone's favorite Gay video personalities and filled with delicious behind-the-scenes dish from the sets of Kristen Bjorn, Chi Chi LaRue and, of course, those toothsome Bel Ami boys!

March Events at A Room of One's Own

Sunday, March 15
3:00 p.m.

Author reading: Riki Anne Wilchins, reading from her new book, *Read My Lips: Sexual Subversion and the End of Gender*. Getting rave reviews from Susie Bright, Pat Califia and Sarah Schulman, this book addresses the issues of sex, gender and identity as they relate to the burgeoning Transgender movement. (See the interview with Riki in this issue of *Wisconsin Light*.)

Saturday, March 21

7:30 p.m., Sapphire Ballroom

Margie Adam benefit concert for A Room of One's Own in the Sapphire Ballroom of the Northgate Mall at 1133 N. Sherman Avenue in Madison. Tickets are available at the store. \$15 general seating, \$17 day of show. \$25 preferred seating includes a reception with Margie after the show.

Sunday, March 22
1:00 p.m.

Wind Quintet, "En Cinq," will perform in the coffee house.

Monday, March 23
6:30 p.m.

Author reading: Martha Shelley will read from the new *Haggadah* from Aunt Little Press.

Sunday, March 29
2:00 p.m.

Carolyn Lei-Lanilau will read from *Ono Ono Girl's Hula*, a linguistic romp through her past, Hawaiian history, popular culture, feminism and multiculturalism.

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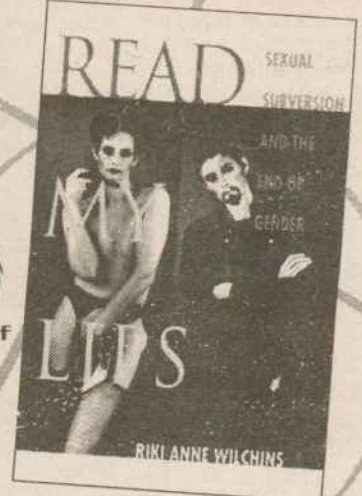
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Illinois

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

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

HEART UP FOR GRABS I'm new in town and looking for love. This attractive, 40 year old, White male, 6'3, 180lbs, with long, light Brown hair, Green eyes, and HIV positive, seeks a long term relationship with a well built guy, 40 to 50. Touch me, hug me, kiss me all over, and steal my heart. (Oak Park) #6747

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

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

FEEL THAT BURN This nice looking, White male, 6ft, 220lbs, is a versatile bottom, seeking good times. I love being submissive but can play any role. Let's have some fun. (Burnsville) #12339

HOT IN HUTCHINSON This good looking, White male, seeks some hot action in the area. (Hutchinson) #14321

EXTREMELY HOT HOST I love to host groups of hot, well hung guys. I'm extremely oral and can go for hours and hours. Let's see how many studs I can cram into my apartment. I'm extremely hot so you'll be glad you called. (Minneapolis) #14202

I PLAY EVERY POSITION I'm a good looking, 48 year old, White male, 6ft, 220lbs, who is more of a bottom guy. On the other hand, I can be versatile, depending on who I'm with. I'd like to meet men interested in some steamy good times. (Minneapolis) #14276

INTO BONDAGE Bondage top looking for bondage bottom for intense scenes. I'm looking for anyone between the ages of 35 to 45 years old. I'm 6ft, 42, 185lbs, blond hair, Blue eyes, with a mustache and a goatee. (Minneapolis) #13751

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

SHARE THE ROMANCE I'm a restaurant manager who loves to cook. I'm also interested in movies, reading, moonlit strolls, romantic evenings, and relaxing in front of the tv. I'd love to share these things with you. (Minneapolis) #6715

I DIG EXPERIENCE This good looking, sexy, White male, 32, 6'2, 175lbs, with Blond hair and Blue eyes, seeks fun, and a possible relationship, with attractive, older guys, 30 to 50. (Rochester) #14057

PRO STYLE OR FANTASY I'm looking for guys between 20 and 40 years old, that are smooth, muscular, White, and good looking, into pro style wrestling. I'm 5'9, White, 180lbs, very discreet, good looking, with a good body and want to get together for hot wrestling. (Milwaukee) #13476

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 males, 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

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

HANDY HUNK This very attractive, certified massage therapist, is interested in giving hot oil, full body massages, to accomodating, professional, clean, discreet, masculine, intelligent guys. I'm a very mature, 24 year old, Black male, 5'9, 190lbs, with short, curly, Black hair, Brown eyes, and medium Brown skin. Feel my hands. (Milwaukee) #7031

30 LOVE This fun loving, 29 year old, Asian male, 5'4, 120lbs, seeks friends and especially, a tennis partner. I love tennis but don't have anyone to play with. Let's start on the court and see what develops. (Milwaukee) #6797

BOY NEEDS DADDY I'm 18 years old and I'm looking for someone 30 or older, in my area. I want to service a hairy, daddy type, and let them have me anyway that they want. (Oshkosh) #13708

AWAY FOR THE WEEKEND This attractive, 20 year old, White male, 5'8, 165lbs, with Blond hair and Brown eyes, into alternative and techno music, seeks a companion to have fun with. I love dancing, weekend getaways, and the casinos. I also play guitar. #13899

FIRST TOUCH I'm a very horny, Bi curious, White male, 40, seeking another Gay, White male, who is willing to help me with my first time. I want you to be everything to me, then I want to do everything to you. #14008

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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NASTY NEED This young, sexy, Bi curious, White male, is horny all the time. I like it nasty and I want to experiment with other hot guys. (Rochester) #12938

IN SEARCH OF I'm heavy set, White, 230lbs, and I'm looking to meet someone who can appreciate me and go forward with a relationship. (South Minneapolis) #13380

HEAVY HITTER I'm White, 230lbs, into all sorts of play. Leave me a message so that we can get into some playtime. (South Minneapolis) #10125

BUTT PLAY BUDDY Good looking, masculine, White male, 34, 6ft, 185lbs, with a moderately hairy body, loves butt play. I have a large selection of dildoes, the hugest of which are my favorites. I'm seeking other anal enthusiasts who'd like to hook up and get down and dirty. (St. Paul) #12876

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

Wisconsin

WAYWARD IN HAYWARD I'm a nice looking, romantic, White male, 22, 5'9, 180lbs, with short, light Brown hair and glasses. I hope to meet some other guys, around my age, with interests similar to mine. I enjoy horseback riding, moonlit walks, hiking, camping, fishing, road trips, and lots of other fun. I'm a submissive bottom, especially interested in hot tops. (Hayward) #44165

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

EXPLORING, EXPANDING This good looking, White male, 30, mostly dominant, seeks bottoms, for hot times. I'm also interested in an older man to serve and obey. (Madison) #6953

THE BOND THAT TIES Good looking, 23 year old, White male, 6ft, 180lbs, seeks dominant, aggressive men who are into bondage. (Madison) #6419

SMOOTH AND SEXY This very sexy, well hung, smooth bodied, Gay, Black male, 5'9, 150lbs, wants to meet another hot guy for good fun. (Milwaukee) #14354

THRILL SEEKER This attractive, masculine, well built, White male, 27, 6ft, 180lbs, with light, Brown hair and Blue eyes, is looking for friendship and hot fun, with other good looking, muscular guys, 21 to 35, who, like me, are well educated and adventurous. I enjoy working out, the outdoors, dining out, dancing, the beach, and road trips to Chicago, among many other things. (Milwaukee) #13032

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'97 Films

Continued From Page 22

The common vernacular which reduces movies to guy and chick flicks is not just a stab at younger audiences, but generalizes an underlying superficiality in all interpersonal relationships.

In *Good Will Hunting* Matt Damon had to demonstrate that he was a tough punk before asking audiences to accept him as a genius—one who doesn't study, by the way. The movie was greatly overrated.

The unique appeal of the Rosebud symbolism in *Citizen Kane* [1940] is that it bypasses any real attempt to explain the puzzle of Kane's motivations even to the man himself. A similar mystique is what gives *Hamlet* its timeless sense of wonder.

It's difficult to blame even adult audiences for their abysmally shallow tastes, but one can fault them with never having provided much of a cultural legacy for their offspring. They were too busy pleasing them at children's level.

But surely parents must have sensed the difference between the tenderness of *Snow White* and that dreadful *Pochahon-*

tas.

But since our spiritual vocabulary is limited to the grammar of talk show psychoanalysts, it's no wonder that great literature such as *Great Expectations* is being rewritten in "plain English" to match the updated movie version, or that *King Lear* will soon appear in cartoon form. If trash culture is the final legacy at the close of the 20th century, at least we have the dubious assurance that it will be commercially compatible with our life style and as palatable as instant oatmeal.

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ARCW to Present Six Forums for Those Who are Experiencing Renewed Health

Milwaukee --The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) is presenting "HIV & Renewed Health," a six week series of free, community educational forums for people living with HIV and AIDS who are currently on disability and feeling better because of new HIV drug treatments.

The six forums will begin on March 18 and are being held at ARCW's Milwaukee office located at 820 N. Plankinton Avenue from 5:30 to 7:30 PM and will address the pros and cons of re-entering the work force either full or part time as well as other practical and emotional concerns that ironically come from renewed health.

"For clients experiencing long-term improvements in health due to new drug therapies or other factors, the concept of returning to work is both appealing and concerning," said Neil Albrecht, ARCW southeastern regional director. "We want to make sure people with HIV feeling a renewed health have all the information necessary to make an informed decision, particularly as decisions relate to financial benefits, insurance coverage, debt management, Medicare and vocational rehabilitation."

Albrecht added, "Actually, this series will be beneficial to anyone living with

HIV and AIDS who is looking for help with rebuilding their finances, their career and their emotional well being."

"Common Concerns, Questions & Issues" will kick-off the six-part series on Wednesday, March 18.

Albrecht said, "A panel of experts will present and respond to attendees' medical, financial and emotional concerns and dilemmas surrounding issues they've encountered after experiencing better health from the HIV drug treatments."

The second forum on Wednesday, March 25, "Long-term Effects of Drug Therapies" will help attendees understand the biological mechanisms of HIV and AIDS, how the new drug therapies, particularly the protease inhibitors, work to fight HIV, and the real hope behind the myths and hype of protease inhibitors.

Throughout the six-week series, speakers will include ARCW's Medical Director, Dr. Brian Buggy; Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Representatives; Social Security representatives; ARCW staff attorneys; area clinicians; and other local experts.

The four other scheduled forums include: "The Psychology of Feeling Better" on April 1; "Impact to T19, Social Security, Long-term Disability & Other Bene-

fits," April 8; "Addressing

Long-term Money Management," April 15; and concluding the series on April 22, "Final Decision: Should I Return to Work?"

After completing the "HIV & Renewed Health" series, individuals who have made the decision to return to work are then paired with a case manager for continuous assistance.

ARCW was selected by AID Atlanta as one of ten locations nationwide to implement its pilot program "Reconstruction." All "Reconstruction" based programs are funded by Hoffmann-La Roche Inc., in cooperation with the National AIDS Fund.

Prior to each session there will be a reception at 5:30 PM. For more information, call (414) 225-1523. Advanced registration not required.

State Issues

Continued From Page 11

Georgia, Arizona, and Tennessee have bills pending that would prevent same-sex couples from adopting and foster parenting. The Tennessee measure is limited to foster parenting only and is a hold over from last year's legislative session.

A favorable measure in Arizona would prevent foster homes from being denied a license base on the marital status of the foster parents.

Sodomy

Sodomy repeal measures have been introduced in Georgia and Virginia. A Massachusetts bill to reform that state's archaic sex laws - including removing the ban on sodomy and adultery - was introduced in 1997 and assigned to a study committee. It is unlikely to move in this session.

Five states currently have existing same-sex only sodomy bans in place (AR, KS, MD, MO, OK).

Fifteen states have opposite and same-sex sodomy laws (AL, AZ, FL, GA, ID, LA, MA, MI, MN, MS, NC, RI, SC, UT, VA).

In at least three states, court challenges to the sodomy laws are in process (AR, KS, MD).

HIV/AIDS

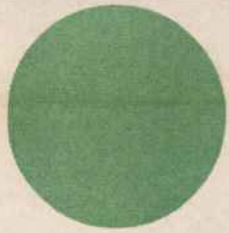
HIV/AIDS-related measures have been introduced in at least five states (AK, AZ, CO, MS, MO). The bills include an Arizona measure that would make the knowing exposure of someone to HIV a class three felony.

A Missouri measure that would allow pharmacists to refuse distribution of medicines to which they morally object. This is intended to apply to an abortion drug but could apply to any medication. The Colorado bill would support needle exchange programs.

Infected or affected by HIV & AIDS;

currently on disability and feeling better

because of new drug treatments?



Part of a national project, "Reconstruction," based on the work of AID Atlanta. Funded by Hoffmann-La Roche Inc., in cooperation with the National AIDS Fund.

ARCW

AIDS RESOURCE CENTER OF WISCONSIN

presents six educational forums on

HIV & Renewed Health

Forums address the pros and cons of re-entering the work force.

- Common Concerns, Questions & Issues.....March 18
- Long-term Effects of Drug TherapiesMarch 25
- The Psychology of Feeling Better.....April 1
- Impact to T19, Social Security, Long-term Disability & Other BenefitsApril 8
- Addressing Long-term Money Management.....April 15
- Final Decision: Should I Return to Work?.....April 22

LOCATION ARCW, 820 N. Plankinton Ave.
RECEPTION 5:30 PM
PROGRAM 6:00 PM

For more information, call 414-225-1523.

All forums are free for interested individuals.

RECONSTRUCTION





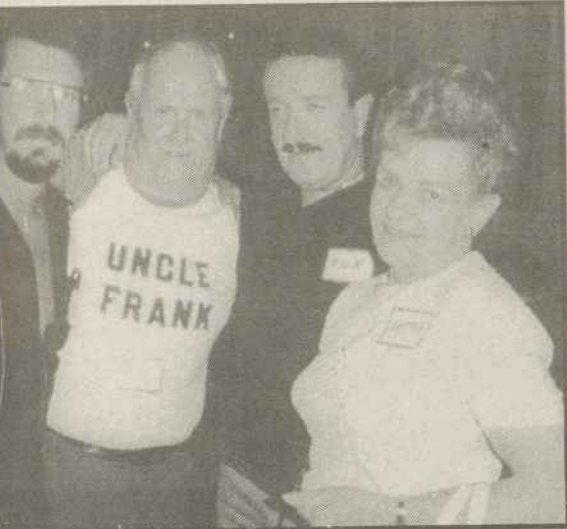
1998—The Fest City Singers performed in "Abra-ca-Dazzle" to sold-out crowds



Dan, Nettie and Rick— Halloween 1988



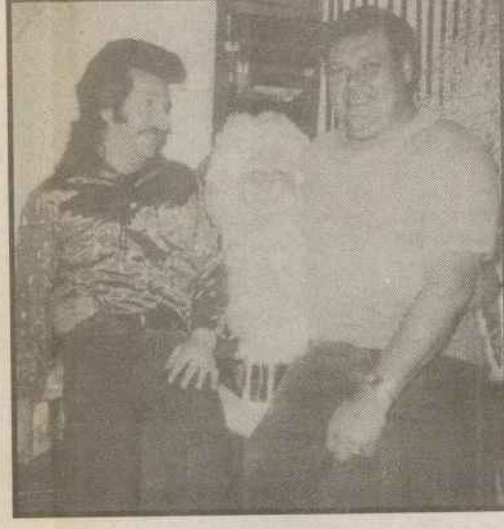
Mid-'80s—4th of July party founder, Jim



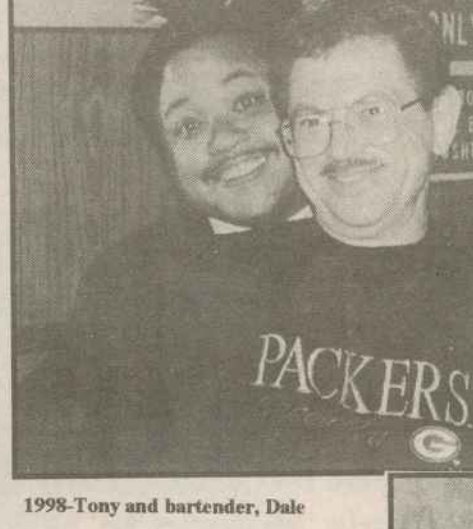
Bar manager Danny, Uncle Frank of Chicago, Bar owner Rick and



Halloween, 1985—Bartender Ken



Christmas Eve-1989-Dan and Ken sit on Santa's lap



1998-Tony and bartender, Dale



1984-'86—For years Dave has played the piano for sing-alongs on St. Patrick's Day



1998—Bartender Dick at 1998 Packer Party

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Ken (left), manager of the Ballgame for 12 years, is shown with another Ken and bar owner, Rick



1978—Jim, Nettie and Rick



4th of July celebration 1983-'88 as the S



1980s—Jim and Jerry

