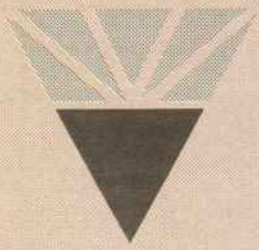


Give the People Light and they will find their own way.



The Wisconsin Light

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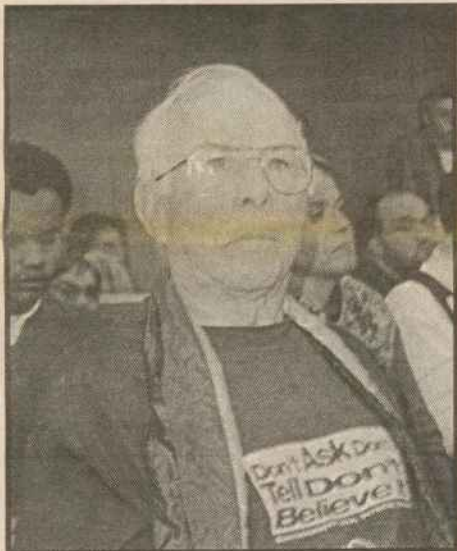
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LGBT Opponents In Majority at Anti-Gay Marriage Bill Hearing in Madison

By Bill Meunier

Madison-- For the third time in less than a year, a State Legislative Committee held a hearing on a bill related to Gay and Lesbian relationships. And for the third time supporters of Gay Civil Rights outnumbered their opponents.

The hearing held by the State Senate Committee on Judiciary Campaign Finance Reform and Consumer Affairs, on Wednesday March 18th dealt with AB-104. The legislation which was passed by the State Assembly in May of 1997,



At The Scene - A Gay rights support at the State Senate Hearing on AB-104 listens intently. His shirt reads "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Believe It!" would ban state recognition of Same Sex marriages even if they were legally performed elsewhere.

Same sex marriage is already prohibited under Wisconsin law. The bill's opponents have characterized it as a "mean spirited attempt to 'slap Gays and Lesbians in the face.'"

In response to an inquiry from the **Wisconsin Light** a Committee staff person said that 142 of those at the hearing registered opposition to the bill while only 97 registered in favor. Out of 62 speakers 32 spoke against passage while 29 spoke in favor and one took no position but provided information.

The outpouring of opposition to the bill eased the fears of activists who worried that the hearing (which was called with only one week's notice) would provide a forum for right wing Christians.

Along with the hearing on AB-104, the Committee also heard testimony on a bill **Please See Hearing Page 27**

Nelson Praises Gov. Thompson; Criticizes Mayor Norquist Over Needle Exchange



All Smiles - Doug Nelson, Micheal Youngman Northwest Mutual Life, VP of ARCW Board Of Directors, Governor Thompson and Mark Bugher, Secretary of the State Department of Administration were all smiles after the Make a Promise Dinner and Silent Auction held at Milwaukee's Pfister Hotel on Saturday, March 21. The event raised a record \$160,000 to help with the fight against AIDS.

Clinton Advisors Demand Administration Support for Needle Exchange Programs

Washington, DC-- President Clinton's AIDS advisers unanimously expressed no confidence in the administration's commitment to reducing the spread of AIDS, accusing officials of playing politics with people's lives.

"The administration's current policy on needle-exchange programs threatens the public health, and directly contradicts current scientific evidence," said the resolution approved Tuesday, March 17, by the Presidential Council on HIV/AIDS.

It was the harshest criticism yet from the panel, whose members are furious that the administration has not allowed federal funding for programs giving IV drug users clean needles in exchange for dirty ones that may be contaminated with the deadly HIV virus.

"Our patience is exhausted," said the panel's chairman, Dr. Scott Hitt, who treats patients with HIV and AIDS in Los

Angeles.

Hitt estimated that tens of thousands of new HIV infections could be prevented through needle-exchange programs. More than half of all people who become infected with HIV catch the deadly virus through contaminated needles or sex with injecting drug users or are children born to infected addicts.

"Tragically, we must conclude that it is a lack of political will, not scientific evidence, that is creating this failure to act," the council said in a March 17 letter to President Clinton.

Using taxpayer money to buy needles for addicts has become a politically touchy issue, with conservatives arguing that these programs send the wrong message.

One council member, Terje Anderson of **Please See Supreme Court Page 27**

U.S. Supreme Court Is Set to Weigh Whether HIV Is a Disability

New York, NY-- A Supreme Court case about discrimination against people who carry the virus that causes AIDS offers the justices a surprisingly blank slate on which to write an opinion with major implications not only for the law on the disease itself but for disability-rights law in general.

In a sense, the justices will simply be catching up with recent history when they hear arguments in the case later this month. In the 17 years since AIDS was first reported, the court has never decided a case about the disease or HIV. Nor have the justices yet interpreted the Americans With Disabilities Act, an 8-year-old law that in language as sweeping as it was imprecise extended federal civil-rights protection to people with disabilities.

The question before the court is whether the federal law, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of "disability" in em-

ployment, housing and public accommodations and services, applies to a person with HIV who has not developed any of the acute conditions that come under the label of AIDS.

The case was brought, and won in two lower federal courts, by a woman whose dentist refused to treat her in his office after she informed him that she carried HIV.

At first glance, the question of whether the Americans With Disabilities Act covers people with asymptomatic HIV infections appears an unlikely vehicle for this first Supreme Court test of a law more identified with the image of a public building being retrofitted for wheelchair access than of a person with no visible impairment walking without assistance into a private medical office.

Please See AIDS Prevention Page 27

Milwaukee--In what many observers said was the most hard-hitting and potentially controversial speech of his career, Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) harshly criticizes both the Clinton Administration and Milwaukee Mayor John O. Norquist for not supporting funding of needle exchange programs.

At the same time, Nelson praised Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson for being open on the issue and promised to push the legislature and governor to enact an HIV non-discrimination bill.

Nelson made his remarks to an overflow crowd at ARCW's annual Make A Promise Dinner in the Grand Ballroom of Milwaukee's Pfister Hotel held Saturday, March 21st to raise money for ARCW's work against AIDS. The audience included political leaders from state and national levels including Governor Thompson.

After renewing ARCW's pledge to do "everything humanly possible" to help relieve the suffering of those with HIV disease, Nelson went on to say that in the fight against HIV prevention, "the overwhelming preponderance of scientific evidence shows that needle exchange reduces HIV and doesn't increase drug usage."

Nelson chastised Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala for her "continuing delay" in lifting the federal ban against funding needle exchange. This delay is "appalling," Nelson said.

"It is increasingly difficult to believe," Nelson said, "that your administration (the Clinton Administration) is truly committed to ending new HIV infections."

Please See Needle Exchange Page 27

Miller Brewery to Sponsor Major Victory Fund Event

Milwaukee--As we go to press, word has been received of an up-coming fundraiser in Milwaukee for the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

The Victory Fund is the D.C.-based organization which extends financial help to viable, openly Gay and Lesbian candidates around the country. Its success record is impressive. Most agree that without its help, many of our candidates would not be able to run for office.

The fundraiser will be held on Sunday, May 17, 1998, at the Boulevard Inn beginning at 1:30 p.m. One of the confirmed guests of honor is State Rep. Tammy Baldwin who is running for Congress. Baldwin is one of the candidates to whom the Victory Fund is giving support.

Miller Brewing Company is proud to be the major sponsor for this important fundraising event.

We have been told that there are other special guests who are expected, but have not yet confirmed. These will be announced later as names become available.



Award winners - Awards were given to those who have been helping leading the fight against AIDS in Wisconsin, at ARCW's Annual Make a Promise Dinner held at the Milwaukee Pfister Hotel on Saturday, March 21. At the far left is William Godsell II presenting Max Barnett representing the Possum Queen campaign with a Red Rose award. Next is Chad Carlson from Ameritech Small Business Services receiving a Red Rose Award from Michael Youngman. Second from the right is Governor Thompson receiving the Sterling Rose Award from Ed Hashek, Chair of the ARCW Board of Directors. At the far right is Dr. Jeff Kelly PHD of the Wisconsin Medical College's CAIR program receiving a Red Rose award from Brian Buggy MD, ARCW's Medical Director.



Standing Together! Lauren Azar, State Representative Tammy Baldwin, Wisconsin's only Gay State Legislator, Herb Moses, and his partner openly Gay Congressman Barney Frank were among a large crowd in attendance at a fund raiser for Baldwin's Congressional Campaign held in Milwaukee on Saturday, February 28.

Lambda Legal and Other Groups Sue Salt Lake Schools Alleging Anti-Gay Rules

Salt Lake City—Three civil rights groups have sued the Salt Lake School District over its restrictions on student clubs, sparking anew debate over whether Gay students should be allowed to form school-sanctioned organizations.

The federal-court lawsuit, backed by Gay-rights advocates and the American Civil Liberties Union, contends the district's 1996 decision that school clubs must be directly linked to the curriculum is arbitrarily applied and unconstitutional.

The complaint filed Thursday, March 19, gives new life to a controversy over Gay rights in predominantly Mormon Utah's public schools that has raged since late 1995 when the East High Gay-Straight Alliance tried to organize as a sanctioned group.

As the district moved to thwart Gay clubs by banning all "non-curricular" campus organizations, students walked out of classes by the hundreds in protest. At one point, the Utah Legislature considered doing away with all school clubs in order to keep Gay students from organizing on campuses.

"This is the only case we know of in the nation where a school has actually taken the ax to many valuable non-curricular clubs just to keep out an alliance of Gay

and straight students," said David Buckel, a staff attorney for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York.

Lambda was joined by the American Civil Liberties Union's Utah and Northern California chapters and the National Center for Lesbian Rights in filing the lawsuit on behalf of the East High Gay-Straight Alliance.

The 23-page lawsuit, also filed on behalf of East High students and alliance members Ivy Fox and Keysha Barnes, charges the district's ban in practice did not include all non-curricular clubs, and thus violates the Equal Access Act and the Constitution.

Along with the alliance, other clubs affected by the ban range from Young Republicans and Young Democrats to numerous ethnic and recreational clubs. Even Students Against Drunk Driving was cut in order to keep out the alliance, the suit maintains.

"The attempt to form a Gay-straight alliance is not unique to Salt Lake. There's been an increased number of Gay-straight alliances throughout the country. They now exist in the hundreds," said Kelli Evans of the ACLU's San Francisco office. "We're seeking to reinforce the importance of public education as a marketplace

of ideas."

The Equal Access Act, a bill co-sponsored by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, that originally aimed to protect student religious activities, requires any public secondary school accepting federal funds to allow all school clubs equal access to its facilities.

The lawsuit, which also names as defendants district superintendent Darline Robles and assistant superintendent Harold Trussel, says the genesis of the dispute was a previous Gay-straight alliance's efforts to organize at East High in December 1995.

Rather than grant permission, the district's board voted Feb. 20, 1996, to prohibit all groups "not directly related to the curriculum."

As a result, 46 clubs previously recognized were terminated. As students protested, conservative lawmakers and anti-Gay groups charged the clubs were being used to corrupt students and lure them into Gay lifestyles.

Gay clubs were the topic of a secret caucus of state senators during the 1996 Legislature, a meeting that brought an ACLU lawsuit charging lawmakers had violated the state's open meetings act. A year later the Senate settled, admitting it broke the law and paying \$10,000 in ACLU legal bills.

"The 46 clubs that were destroyed and the Gay-Straight Alliance mattered," Fox said in a statement to reporters at an afternoon news conference at ACLU headquarters. "We are no longer going to stand for these unjust situations."

Barnes, a 16-year-old junior, sat beside Fox, a 16-year-old sophomore, but did not issue a statement. Neither of the girls would take questions.

Thursday's lawsuit attacked the district's enforcement of the ban, noting that it has allowed the Future Business Leaders of America and Future Homemakers of America as sanctioned clubs even though they were not directly linked to the curriculum.

In a statement released late Thursday, district spokeswoman Sherri Clark defended the policy, saying that the State Office of Education had specifically declared both the FBLA and FHA to be part of Utah's Applied Technology Education curriculum.

She also noted the school board has "made possible for nonprofit organizations to rent school facilities for a nominal charge."

East High's current Gay-Straight Alliance has been allowed to meet after school hours under that arrangement, but civil liberties attorneys stressed Thursday they still do not enjoy the privileges extended to sanctioned clubs such as being able to use the school's bulletin boards and public-address system to announce activities.

Carol Gnade, executive director of the ACLU's Utah office, said the decision to file suit came after it became clear the district had no intention of budging on its policy. She also said civil rights attorneys delayed in hopes controversy over Gay clubs would subside, and because they were concerned about possible retaliation against alliance members.

The lawsuit also alleges the district's policy violates both students' rights to freedom of speech and association, due process and equal protection. It seeks temporary and permanent injunctions against the district's policy and payment of compensatory damages and legal fees.

Deadlines

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

April 23rd Issue
Articles—April 17th
Ads
Non-Camera Ready—April 17th
Camera Ready—April 20th
5:00 p.m.

Caution

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

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The Wisconsin Light



Executive & Editorial Offices
 1843 N. Palmer
 Milwaukee, WI 53212
 (414) 372-2773

LIGHT FAX: (414) 372-1840

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Publisher
 Jerry Johnson
Executive Editor
 Terry Boughner, Ph.D.
Arts & Entertainment Editor
 Geno
SpotLight Editor
 Bill Meunier
Advertising Manager
 Jerry Johnson
 372-2773

Columnists and Reporters
 Glenn Bishop, Ruthie, Brian Treglow, Barbara Lightner, Bill Meunier, Dasty Sass, Dr. Karen Lamb, Carl Szatsmary, Dr. Suzie Shovelit, Sasha Alyson, John Jahm

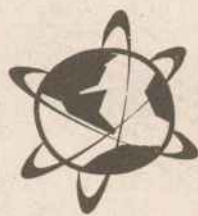
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Policy

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.

Max Barnett Accepts Red Rose Award on Behalf of the Possum Queen Campaign

At the 1998 Make A Promise Dinner held Saturday, March 21, 1998, the Red Rose Award was given to the Possum Queen Campaign. The Campaign has raised over \$88,000 for the fight against AIDS. Accepting on behalf of all those who make this Campaign possible was Max Barnett.

After Max had spoken, many commented about how moving and sincere his acceptance speech was. We heartily agree and print it here in full.

I am thrilled and I am humbled to accept an honor of this prestige on behalf of the members of the steering team of the Possum Queen Campaign.

To think that something that started as a joke (much laughter) and obviously, still is (more laughter along with thunderous applause) could get this far, is awesome.

I want to say Thank You to the tavern owners who have allowed us to carry on our antics; to the members of our community who have supported and continue to come to the rallies and look forward to each year's campaign; to the Polubinski family who lost their beloved Tommy in 1996 who won the campaign in 1994. He is memorialized in the Tommy Polubinski Award. Thank you. To the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin for your efforts this evening. What you do is acknowledge us and you validate our campaign. You give us tremendous pride.

In the house this evening, Jack E. O'gasm, the current reigning Possum Queen (loud and prolonged applause).

The 1998 Campaign will begin shortly. We greatly appreciate this honor. Thank you.

Final Plans Laid for 1998 Possum Queen Campaign

Milwaukee—The 1998 Possum Queen Campaign is under way. On Tuesday, March 10th, approximately 25 members of Milwaukee's LGBT community met at the M&M Club Banquet Room to discuss the upcoming campaign. A Steering Team was formed and will include, once again, Max Barnett as Director of the Campaign, Renee Polubinsky as Co-Director, Lizzie Bordeaux (an original founder of the campaigns) as Events Coordinator and Show Director and new recruits Jack E. O. Gasm (the reigning Possum Queen) and Kevin a.k.a. Hiza Kite, a former candidate, acting as Team strategists and community outreach promoters.

The decisions made at the meeting, which was open to all members of the community who were interested, were reached via input from all present.

This year the Campaign will officially begin on Sunday, April 19 and run six

weeks through Friday, June 5th. Watch for information on individual campaigns, some of which have already begun.

Potential candidates who haven't heard from the Steering Team should feel free to contact Max at (414) 221-0093 for more information. Keep in mind that the official start is still a couple of weeks away. The Steering Team will be developing welcoming packets and distributing them throughout the bars very soon, if not already.

In 1997, the Possum Queen finale hosted an audience of hundreds of statewide on-lookers, some of whom were getting their first glimpse of the Campaign, at Milwaukee's PrideFest on the Maier Festival Grounds. Community feedback throughout the last year suggests that the move to PrideFest was a practical and wise decision. This enthusiasm towards the PrideFest booking was echoed by those present at the town hall meeting and thus stands.

Forthcoming releases will update the final show details as soon as they are available to the Possum Queen Steering Team. Until then, good luck to all candidates and "Let the Possum Fur Fly!"

AIDS Running Rampant Among African-Americans New Survey Shows

Black Leaders Accused of Ignoring the Epidemic

Cambridge, MA—Black Americans are twice as afraid of getting AIDS than all Americans combined, a new survey shows.

With good reason. More than 40 percent of all new AIDS cases are among blacks, even though blacks comprise just 12 percent of the U.S. population.

Worse yet, black leaders are ignoring the epidemic in their community, according to a prominent group of African-American scholars, physicians and policy analysts who gathered Tuesday, March 17, at Harvard University.

"Our community is at war with a terrible disease and we are equally at war with a sense of denial among our leadership," said Henry Louis Gates Jr., chairman of Harvard's Afro-American Studies Department.

If white racists were responsible for the black AIDS epidemic, Gates said, "there'd be Negroes lined up from here to China" to protest.

The Kaiser Family Foundation randomly surveyed 811 African-Americans last fall. The results were compared with another Kaiser study of 1,200 randomly-polluted Americans representing all racial groups released in December. A separate survey of Hispanic Americans will be released this spring.

According to the latest study, which has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent, 52 percent of African-Americans consider AIDS to be the nation's most pressing health concern, compared with 38 percent of all Americans combined.

Forty-nine percent of blacks know someone who has HIV or AIDS or who has died from the disease, compared with one-third of the national sample of all races.

When the AIDS epidemic began more than a decade ago, it mostly infected Gay, white men. Yet as AIDS cases among whites has been steadily dropping, the number of blacks and Hispanics with the disease has been rising at a disproportionate rate.

The annual AIDS case rate among black men, for example, is six times that of white men. Among black men aged 25-44, AIDS fatalities outpace homicide deaths.

Among women, the AIDS case rate is 16 times higher for black females than for whites, according to figures from the At-

lanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"This is an emergency for our community," said Dr. Helene Gayle, director of the National Center for HIV at the CDC.

For both genders, AIDS is spread mostly through sexual intercourse (heterosexual as well as homosexual) and injected drug use.

In 1996, whites represented 38 percent of the AIDS cases, blacks 42 percent and Hispanics 19 percent. Whites, however, make up 72 percent of the population, while blacks and Hispanics each represent about 12 percent, the CDC said.

Although the number of reported AIDS cases dropped for all racial groups between 1996 and 1997, the percentage decrease was much smaller for blacks and Hispanics than it was for whites. The same is true for AIDS deaths, Gayle said.

Providing more needle exchange programs to reduce the risk of transmission and teaching children about safe sex and not abstinence would help lower the AIDS rate, conference participants said.

The survey, released March 17, by the California-based health care philanthropy, also found that blacks believe their religious and government leaders aren't doing enough to control the AIDS crisis.

The survey did not address whether blacks are changing their behavior to reduce the risk of contracting AIDS. But it did show that the overwhelming majority of blacks know how the disease is transmitted. Fifty-six percent of blacks have been tested for HIV, compared to 38 percent of all Americans.

Awareness of the disease is a good first step, said LeRoy Whitfield, a 28-year-old editor who has been HIV-positive for 8 years.

"But it's a separate thing to change behavior or address policy," he said.

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Medical College's Brenda Coley Elected Co-Chair of Wisconsin HIV Planning Council

Milwaukee—As a senior research associate for the Medical College of Wisconsin's Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR), Brenda Coley works to ensure that the people most at risk for

up of 35 Wisconsin residents from the various ethnic groups and geographic areas of the state.

"The diversity of the members is clearly a strength of the Council," says Coley. "Because HIV increasingly effects minorities, it's important for the Planning Council to understand how social problems like homophobia, racism, poverty, and sexism can play a role in the spread of HIV and AIDS."

Coley is looking forward to her new responsibilities as co-chair. "As a member of the Council, I have advocated for others from my own personal and job-related experiences. Now as co-chair, my role will be to maintain and foster an atmosphere where diverse and differing opinions can come to the front of the discussion," says Coley.

For more information on the Wisconsin HIV Community Planning Council, call current co-chair Andy Bagnall at (414) 225-1502, Brenda Coley at (414) 456-7747, or Mari Gasiorowicz, Wisconsin HIV Prevention Community Planning Coordinator, at (608) 267-9489.



Brenda Coley

HIV and AIDS are not forgotten. She has helped develop and evaluate HIV prevention programs for low-income women, young men, families, gay and heterosexual men, and women in residential treatment programs.

Recently, Coley was unanimously elected to co-chair the Wisconsin HIV Community Planning Council.

Formed in 1994, the Council works in collaboration with state government to develop a plan identifying HIV prevention needs and determining priorities for funding. Coley has been a member of the group for two years.

"I'm delighted that my colleagues elected me to this position," says Coley. "I have a lot of respect for the Council. It's a very dedicated group of people who are working to find solutions to the challenges posed by HIV and AIDS."

Coley assumes her new role in October. The Council's unique structure requires that co-chairs be elected nine months before their terms begin. This arrangement allows them to "shadow" the current co-chair before taking over the responsibilities of the job.

Coley is the first minority woman elected to lead the group, which is made

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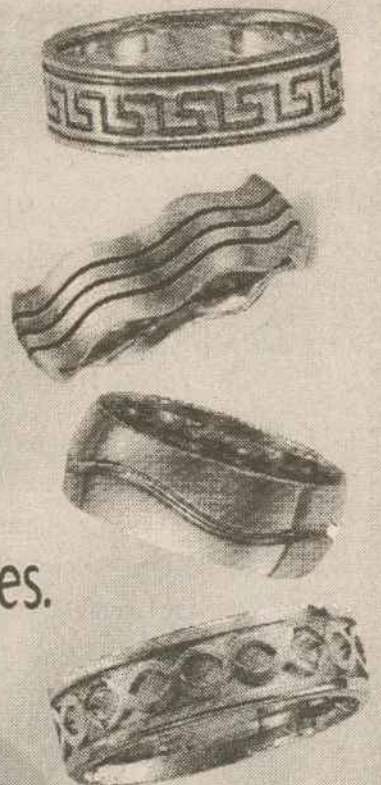
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OUT & About

Tammy Baldwin For Congress Fund Raiser in Milwaukee



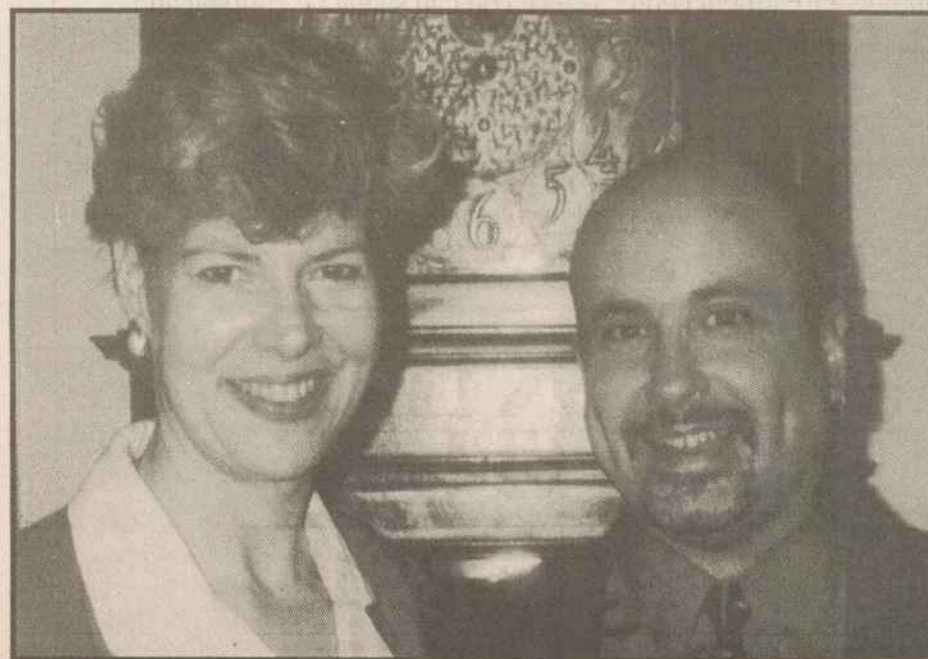
Famed Milwaukee Artist Steve Slaske chats with openly Congressman Barney Frank (D-Mass)



Tammy poses with State Representative Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee)



Congressman Frank chats with ARCW Executive Director, Doug Nelson



Tammy poses with Mark Pocan, Pocan is openly Gay candidate for Baldwin's Assembly seat

Vatican's Apology Falls Short Some Gays and Jews Maintain

New York, NY—On March 16, the Vatican released for public view a long-awaited 14-page document dubbed an "act of repentance" apologizing for the Church's virtual ignoring—during World War II—of Hitler's mass murders of the Jewish people. It was titled "We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah."

On the very same day, the New York Times reported the death in Manhattan of 87 year-old Richard Plant, a Holocaust scholar, critic and professor of literature. Plant's book, *The Pink Triangle: The Nazi War Against Homosexuals* (1986) told, with significant research, how thousands of Gay males were massacred or interred in concentration camps under Nazi directives.

The Times reported that Jewish reactions to the apology were noticeably cool, but it said nothing about the reactions of persons who are both Jewish and Gay, and who are aware that the Vatican continues presently to foment anti-Gay sentiment just as it did anti-Semitic sentiment throughout the centuries.

On February 10, for example, The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia formally denounced three proposed city ordinances that would extend health and pension benefits to the same-sex partners of all city employees. In Maine, where voters recently repealed same-sex anti-discrimination laws, the Roman Catholic Church played an active part, throwing its "moral" weight against Gays and Lesbians.

Upon hearing of the Vatican's apology, Gay and Jewish activist Bob Kunst fumed, "The Vatican was the first to recognize Hitler," he said, "and Pius XII kept silent when the first killings began in September of 1941 and remained silent through the establishment of the death camps."

Rabbi David Rosen, director of the Israel office of the Anti-Defamation League and its co-liaison with the Vatican, called the so-called apology "disappointing in certain respects."

Gay Author Jack Nichols, quoted his latest book, *The Gay Agenda*, drawing attention to church-persecuted scapegoats of the present: "Pope John Paul II made reference to the scriptural death penalties for homosexuals in a 1986 letter: 'In Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13, in the course of describing the conditions necessary for belonging to the Chosen People, the author excludes from the People of God

those who behave in a homosexual fashion.'"

Reports in recent years about the Vatican's culpability in the face of genocidal Nazi treatments of the Jews were made by the bishops in France and other European nations. These reports went considerably further than the Vatican has now done in describing what amounted to Vatican collusion with Hitler's pogroms.

Both Kunst and Nichols spoke harsh words about current Vatican maneuvering. "There are many brave Catholics," said Nichols, "who know that the war against women, Gay men and Lesbians that the Vatican pushes is currently in full swing. In previous centuries Jews were the Vatican's scapegoats. Now it's Gays. Pope John Paul II is very much afraid of women in his church too—scared of a wondrous sea change which we recognize as the establishment of the equality of the sexes."

Pope Pius's collaborative conduct during the Second World War, according to an editorial in the *New York Times*, needs further investigation. "He did not encourage Catholics to defy Nazi orders. Church officials after the war helped Nazis escape to freedom," said a March 18 *Times* editorial.

Kunst said, "The Vatican's hands are covered and stained with Jewish blood, and their sins can not be washed away."

MCC Milwaukee to Hold Special Service

Milwaukee—On March 29, 1998, the Fifth Sunday in Lent, Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church, a member of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Churches, will conduct a Special Service of Healing with Anointing with Oil and Prayer, immediately after its regular 11:00 a.m. service.

The Anointing of the Sick with Oil and Prayer is an ancient Christian rite practiced since New Testament times. All are invited; those affected by AIDS, HIV disease and other spiritual, mental, emotional and physical ailments are particularly welcomed. The congregation meets in the Walker Room of the Astor Hotel, 924 E. Juneau, Milwaukee. The pastor is the Rev. Lewis Broyles.

For more information, contact Pastor Broyles at (414) 332-9995.

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For more information, call 800-334-AIDS. ARCW

The United Hosts Fourth Annual "An Evening With Friends" Benefit

Madison—Mark your calendars for the chi-chi place to be on Friday, April 17. The United is hosting its Fourth Annual "An Evening With Friends" wine tasting benefit.

The event will be held at 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Madison's beautiful Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Avenue. As guests sample wines from around the world, nibble on hors d'ouvres crafted by the chefs of Fyfe's Corner Bistro, and hobnob with the (relatively) rich and famous, they can listen to the smooth sounds of live jazz featuring the Jan Wheaton Trio.

Showcased wines include both domestic and imported beauties provided by Edison-West Liquor Corporation, General Beverage Sales Company, Import, L'Eff Bank Wine Company, Metropolitan Liquors and Purple Feet. There will be non-alcoholic beverages available from each purveyor and a cash bar for those who prefer the grain to the grape, or soda, if you're so inclined.

"It's one of the most popular 'see and be seen' events," said DeEtte Tomlinson, Executive Director of The United. "Wine enthusiasts and amateurs alike learn how to choose a good wine, and also about which wines are available at their favorite restaurants. And, of course, everyone who comes is supporting The United's unique services for the LGBT community."

All are welcome, but tickets must be obtained in advance. Tickets are \$25, or you may choose to be listed in The United's "Evening With Friends" program for \$100 as a proud sponsor of The United. Tickets may be purchased in Madison at Borders East and West, Community Pharmacy, Home Environment, A Room Of One's Own and The United. Or you can call The United at (608) 255-8582 and charge by phone (Mastercard/Visa).

Sponsors of "An Evening With Friends" include Pick N Save-Sun Prairie, Edison-West Liquor Corporation, General Beverage Sales Company, Import, L'Eff Bank Wine Company, Metropolitan Liquors and Purple Feet.

And while you're enjoying your "Evening With Friends," don't forget to pick up a nomination packet for The United's

Sixth Annual Community Awards Banquet to be held Friday, July 17, 1998 at the Madison Sheraton Hotel. Help The United celebrate LGBT pride and accomplishments—nominate someone you admire.

California High Court Says Boy Scouts Can Discriminate

Los Angeles—Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (Lambda) deplored March 23rd's California state Supreme Court ruling which held that the state's law does not reach anti-Gay discrimination by organizations like the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

Lambda, co-counsel in the case, "Curran v. Mount Diablo Council of the Boy Scouts of America," emphasized that the court made a narrow ruling that applies only to California and does not stop efforts against BSA's anti-Gay discrimination elsewhere in the country.

"Although the decision applies only to California law, it is a shame that even one state tolerates blatant discrimination by an important American institution," said Jon W. Davidson, supervising attorney for the Lambda Western Regional Office in Los Angeles. He argued the "Curran" case on January 5, on behalf of the ACLU Foundation of Southern California which is lead counsel.

"A Scout is Prejudiced," should not be the thirteenth point of the Scout law," Davidson said.

Davidson added, "Discrimination by the Boy Scouts is wrong, whether it be this ruling banishing Gay people and religious non-believers, or the organization's past racial segregation of troops and exclusion of Japanese-American children after World War II."

In the Curran case, the California state Supreme Court ruled that the BSA is not a business establishment subject to the state's Civil Rights Act and can therefore discriminate at will.

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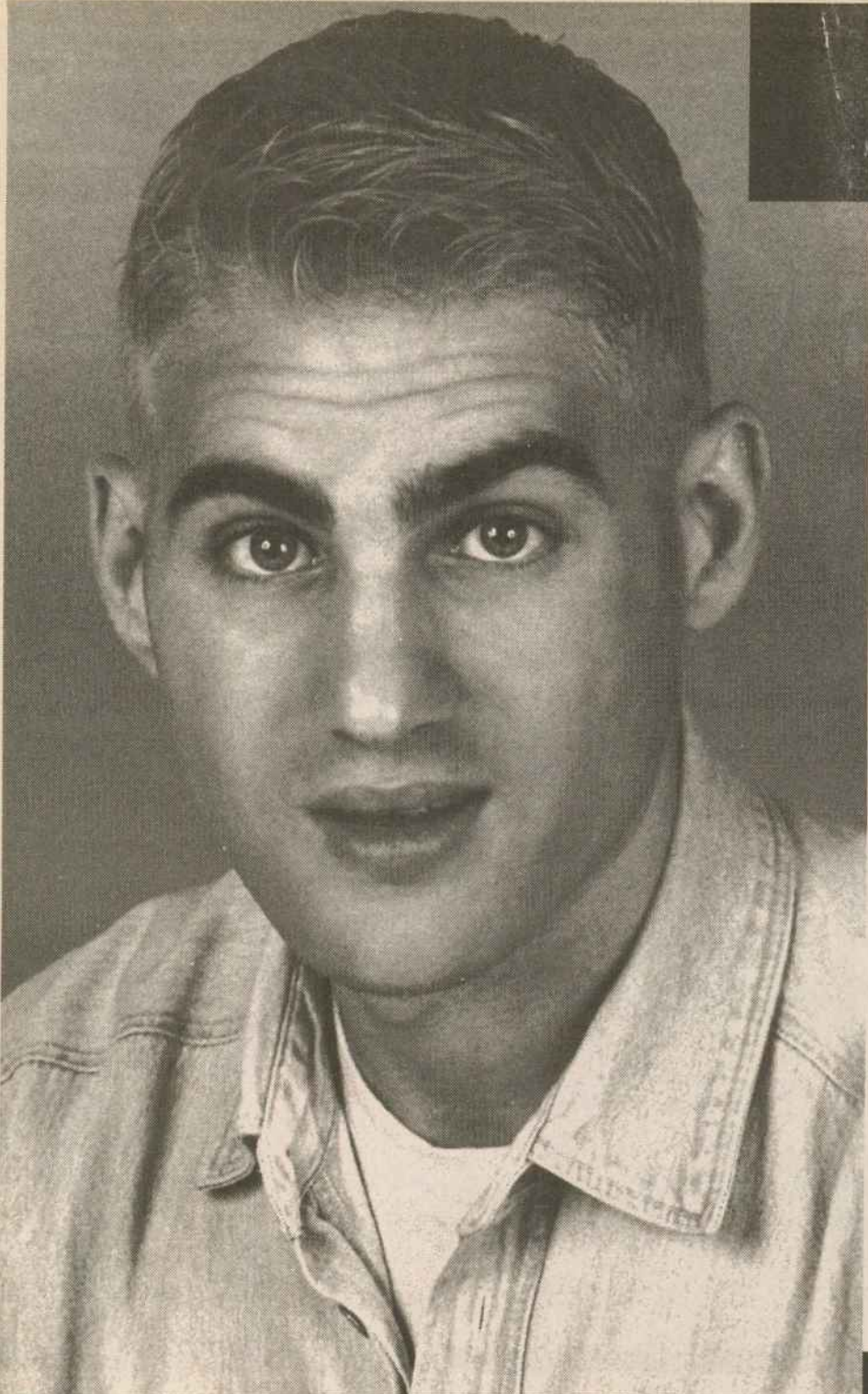
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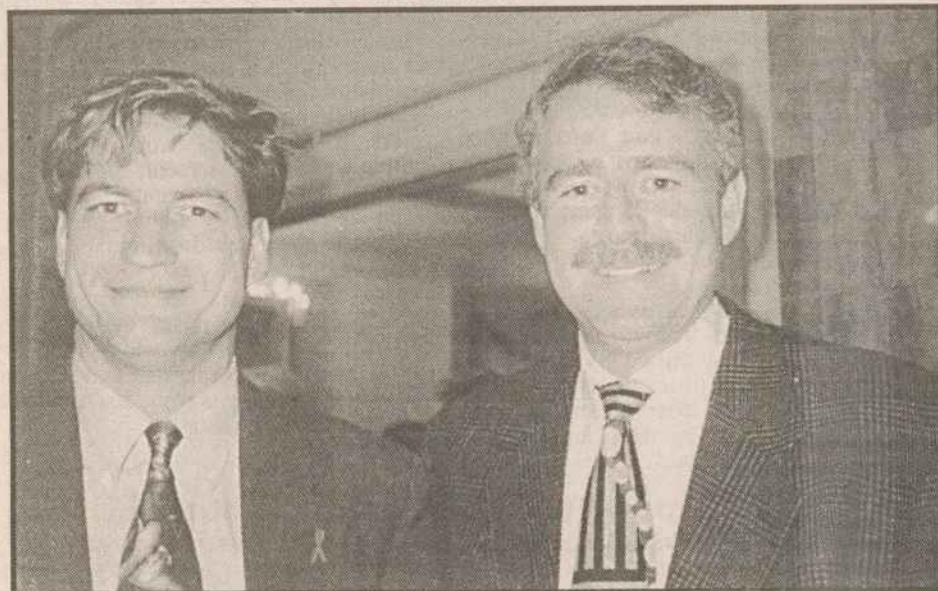
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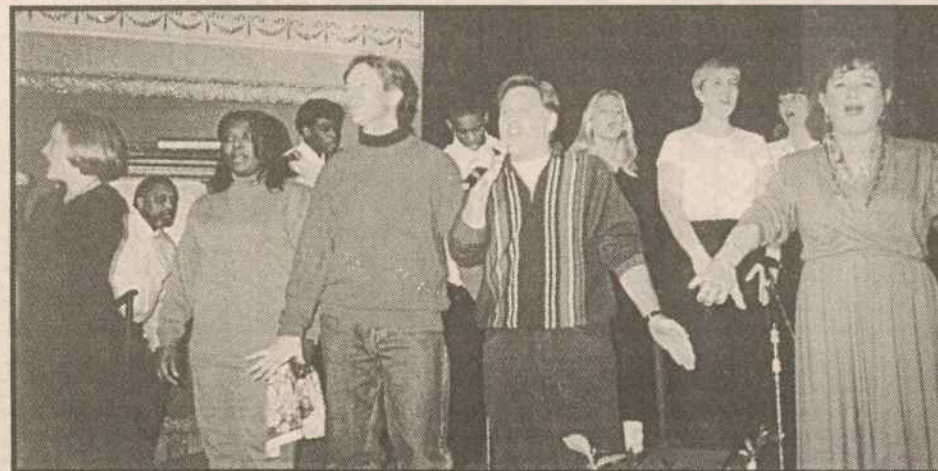
Secretary of the Department of Administration Mark Bugher, ARCW's Doug Nelson and Bugher's wife Carol at ARCW's Make a Promise Dinner and Silent Auction



State Rep. Tim Carpenter, (D-Milwaukee) and Congressman Tom Barrett took time for perusing the Silent Auction to pose for this picture.



Shopping for Bargains – A few of the large crowd of guests that bid on hundreds of items at the fabulous Make a Promise Dinner and Silent Auction



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Bi Definition to Discuss Sex-Positive Issues at Next Meetings

Milwaukee—Bi Definition, metro Milwaukee's Bisexual social, support and activist organization, will gather on Saturday, April 4 and Tuesday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss sex-positive issues pertaining to Bisexual identity at the BestD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady Street.

Meetings are held on the first Saturday and third Tuesday of each month to discuss the current topic as well as to provide time for support along the line of personal issues. Numerous handouts, flyers, fact sheets, books and newsletters are available as well.



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A nominal cost of \$15 for an annual membership or \$5 for a single event is asked at the door. In cases of extreme financial hardship, fees can be waived in exchange for a donation of time served to the group.

Bi Definition strives to have a diverse membership, so a special invitation is extended to all various ethnicities, ages, abilities and orientations.

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



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LGBT Youth To Hold National Day of Silence on April 8

Charlottesville, VA—The National Day of Silence, the largest national (US) Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) awareness event run by and for youth, will take place on April 8, 1998. Already more than 100 high schools, colleges and universities have signed on to participate.

The first Day of Silence was held at the University of Virginia in April 1996 and has since spread nationwide.

On the National Day of Silence, supporters of LGBT rights take a nine-hour vow of silence (8:00 AM – 5:00 PM) to draw attention to the silence that homophobia causes.

Instead of speaking, participants hand out cards that read: "Please understand my reasons for not speaking today. I support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender rights. People who are silent today believe that laws and attitudes should be inclusive of people of all sexual orienta-

2000 Bid Committee to Host Easter Bowl Fundraiser

Milwaukee—The Milwaukee 2000 Bid Committee will be sponsoring a 9 pin tap bowling tournament on April 11, 1998. This is a fundraiser for the Committee's quest to bring the International Gay Bowling Organization (IGBO) annual tournament to Milwaukee in the year 2000. Milwaukee is currently in the bidding process, competing with three other cities, Atlanta, Columbus and Denver, for the first tournament of the new millennium.

Join the Bid Committee for a fun-filled afternoon of 9 pin tap bowling at AMF-Bolwero Lanes at 17th and Burleigh in Wauwatosa. Bowling begins at 2:00 p.m. and the cost per person is \$15. There will be cash prizes for the tournament, an Easter bonnet contest, raffle prizes and much more. So, sign up individually or with friends to help support the Bid Committee's quest to bring the tournament back to the city of its origin—Milwaukee!

For more information or to register, call Bob at (414) 482-1964.

tions. The Day of Silence is to draw attention to those who have been silenced by hatred, oppression, and prejudice. Think about the voices you are not hearing. What can you do to end the silence?"

After the silence hours, organizers hold events to further educate people about homophobia and other LGBT issues.

The National Day of Silence is organized by a volunteer staff of full time students. Jessie Gilliam and Maria Pulzetti, co-chairs of the event, are featured in the "Profile in Courage" in the March issue of Oasis Magazine (www.oasismag.com).

They have also been invited to appear as keynote speakers at Youth Pride Day in Washington, D.C. on April 18.

National Day of Silence Co-chair Maria Pulzetti comments, "I have watched this event grow from a first-time event at a conservative university to a national and even international movement of youth working to end homophobia. The strength of this event lies in the fact that it fills a real need for solidarity among youth concerned about LGBT rights. The National Day of Silence is the only national event created and organized by youth. The collective statement we make is staggering."

The National Day of Silence has received organizational endorsements from the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN), Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC), Advocates for Youth, !OutProud!, And Justice for All, and Youth Guardian Services.

If you or someone you know attends a school, college, or youth group and would like to participate in the National Day of Silence, please contact your regional coordinator (see web page:

<http://www.youth-guard.org/ndos>

or send e-mail inquiries to:

mkp6n@unix.mail.virginia.edu

Maria Katherine Pulzetti

University of Virginia

mkp6n@unix.mail.virginia.edu

<http://www.youth-guard.org/ndos>

"We solemnly vow that there should never be another season of silence until we have the same rights everywhere on this green Earth." --Elizabeth Cady Stanton, 1881

Poll Says Solid Majority Extends Non-Discrimination to Gays and Lesbians

Washington, DC—By a margin of more than two to one, a solid majority of American voters oppose repealing state laws that protect Gays and Lesbians from job discrimination, according to a bipartisan poll released Tuesday, March 17, by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC).

The survey found 59 percent of U.S. voters oppose repealing these laws, including 35 percent who strongly oppose repealing them. Just under one in four -- 24 percent -- favor repealing such state laws.

Majority opposition to repealing state anti-discrimination laws extends to every region of the country, the survey found. More than two-thirds of Western voters (68 percent) and nearly two-thirds of voters in the Northeast (65 percent) oppose repealing such laws, including 44 percent in both of these regions who strongly oppose repeal. Even a majority of Southern voters -- 51 percent -- and North Central voters -- 56 percent -- oppose repealing state anti-discrimination laws.

The Human Rights Campaign draws two clear conclusions from the poll results, according to David M. Smith, HRC's senior strategist.

"The first is that last month's repeal of the statewide anti-discrimination law in Maine was a fluke caused by factors including low voter turnout, a single-issue ballot in the middle of winter and a disingenuous campaign by religious political extremists," Smith said. "The second is

that a plan by the Christian Coalition to use Maine as a model to be exported to other states is bound to fail."

The pollsters--Celinda Lake of Lake Sosin Snell Perry & Associates, a Democratic firm, and Linda DiVall of American Viewpoint, a Republican company--predict that over time, Americans' support for non-discrimination laws is only likely to grow because younger voters are more likely to oppose repeal than older.

Among registered voters under age 35, 70 percent oppose repeal, according to the survey. Among voters over 35 years old, 54 percent oppose. Younger women are most strongly opposed to repeal, with 45 percent of women under age 40 strongly opposed.

Survey results are based on a national random sample of 1,010 American adults who were interviewed from March 4-8, 1998, including a subset of 788 registered voters. The margin of error for the entire sample was +/- 3.1 percent; for registered voters, it was +/- 3.5 percent.

Ten states currently include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination laws: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wisconsin. Federal law and the civil rights laws of the remaining states do not yet protect Americans from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

HIV Tests Drop After Anonymous Testing Ends

Durham, NC-AP-The number of people seeking HIV tests in Durham County dropped in the four months after the state ended anonymous testing at health departments in North Carolina.

Durham County has the highest rate of AIDS among the state's 10 most populated counties.

Twenty-three percent fewer people were tested in the four months after anonymous testing ended in May compared to the four months before that.

Anonymous tests were replaced with confidential tests, which require a name and address. The person's identity is protected by federal and state laws. Under anonymous testing, no identifying information was required.

Dr. Ron Levine, the state health director, said four months was not enough time to draw definite conclusions.

"There will be individual dips and peaks by months," said Levine, who pushed to end anonymous testing.

It will be 18 months to two years before HIV-testing data reveal the impact of the change, he said.

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

The X Files



The X Gay Ministries

Third of A Three Part Series

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

By Kyle Young

Part III

Gays are Great as Long as They Change

Michael Newman (executive director of Christian Coalition for Reconciliation) says that promoting ex-Gay ministries is God's will. He views himself as bridging a gap between the Gay community and the church.

Through numerous speaking engagements and Christian radio appearances, he encourages the church to welcome Gays, as long as they are working toward recovery. He says that conservative Christians are mistaken when they label homosexuality as the worst sin—"A sin is a sin is a sin"—but he's dedicated his life's work to irradiating this particular sin.

"Our understanding of scripture is that homosexuality is a sin, not in accordance with God's plan," says Newman. "That means sexual activity in a relationship, on a one-night stand or whatever, all of those are outside the standard we see in the Bible. In the Bible, the plan has been the committed, monogamous relationship between male and female recognized by the church, and anything outside of that is not according to the plan."

Marry a Women? Well, Not Just Yet

Newman, who now views himself as heterosexual, says his homosexual urges are no longer "that horrible thing that's intensive." He has dated women and hopes to marry, although he thinks God may be holding off that possibility in order to allow him more flexibility to travel to seminars and speaking engagements for Exodus.

Newman avoids the claim that he can change people's orientation through counseling and group work. He says that he is "a resource for people who are struggling with homosexuality and are feeling that it is inconstant with their value system."

Critics of the ex-Gay movement say that leading people toward celibacy is not the same thing as changing people's orientation.

In the early '80s, Exodus founders Mike Bussee and Gary Cooper announced that their orientation had not changed. The two became a couple, as well as a thorn in the side of Exodus Ministries.

Exodus International spokesman John Paulk said that in the 21-year history of the organization, they have not come to a definitive statement about what they consider success to be.

"That's something Exodus at large is wrestling with," said Paulk. "In the next couple of years we want to develop a uniform definition for what we consider to be change." Paulk, a former drag queen married to a Lesbian, is quick to add that he feels the goal should be heterosexuality, not just celibacy.

"At the onset, Exodus did not know whether orientation change was even possible," says Paulk. "But what we've seen in the latter 10 years is that more and more people—their orientation is changing and they are marrying."

He added that marriage, in itself, doesn't necessarily mean a change in sexual orientation for the Gay individual. In Houston, Newman says that many of his clients "move out of homosexuality."

"My success rate is hidden because many of them don't desire to be public speakers or do public testimony," says Newman. "They're quietly moving on with their lives, getting married, having kids, family, active in their churches because they've mainstreamed into the world."

Doug Upchurch, an ex-ex-Gay, says that ex-Gay groups do not have the ability to

tum Gay people straight.

"I know I couldn't change, and I know I gave it the good old college try," says Upchurch. "I know a lot of other people who have tried too, and I know that the majority of people who have tried have failed."

Upchurch does not discount that some Exodus participants report a change in sexual orientation.

"Sure, there are some people out there who say that they've been cured," he says. "Either they're greatly in denial and they are living a life to satisfy the perceived demands of a harsh God or they are bisexual, which is a rare possibility, or that they were really never Gay in the first place. There are a lot of people in ex-Gay groups who were molested and therefore think they're Gay."

Newman says it is mainstream science that is misleading by promoting a possible genetic basis for homosexuality.

Gays Have Existed for Only 20 Years

"I am constantly frustrated that the average person on the street believes that homosexuality is normal because they've heard that it's normal," says Newman. "I have not come to the conclusion by reading the information that [homosexuality is] unequivocally genetically, biologically, hormonally determined. There's 2,000 or so years of recorded history. It's all been in the last 20 years that all of a sudden homosexuality is considered an alternative or something. To me the burden of proof is on the part of people saying that it is the norm."

Newman, however, is eager to believe the work of a handful of Christian theorists who label any form of homosexuality as a disorder. Houston psychologist Bob McLaughlin says that ex-Gay ministries have a "narrow-minded interpretation of science."

"They are as guilty as they accuse others of being of using simplistic models to explain everyone's adaptations," says McLaughlin.

Newman admits that he only gives credence to "scientific findings that are in accordance with God's words." He says he would "hold to God's word" if presented with studies that are "blatantly in opposition" to his ideas.

It is possible that a small segment of people who've had sexual experiences with someone of the same sex may be inherently heterosexual, according to McLaughlin. In those cases, he says life experience may have drawn them into a different adaptation. He says it is also possible that because of psychosexual developmental issues, such as molestation during childhood, these individuals "may be acting out some pathological adaptation through same-sex behaviors."

"For those individuals, it may well be that some course of counseling or self-exploration or even clerical counseling would be helpful in their self-discovery of who they truly are in a healthy way," says McLaughlin, "and I would say a similar model to that are people who are inherently homosexual, who either because of life experience or as a result of early childhood psychosexual developmental issues are drawn into heterosexual adaptations as part of their pathological defense against their true inherent sexuality."

Newman says that mental health professionals are misguided when they allow the idea that it is possible to be inherently homosexual. He urges clients to ignore studies that present homosexuality as normal.

"Unfortunately, AIDS, in many cases, is a consequence of unhealthy behaviors, sexual promiscuity or drug abuse," says Newman. "So even if science says it's OK, there's this factor. So go ahead and kill yourself with unhealthy, inappropriate behavior?"

The idea that the "Gay lifestyle" is dangerous has been promoted by many conservative churches. McLaughlin says the AIDS epidemic has been a powerful sales tool for the ex-Gay movement. He says that Gay men and Lesbians who've never experienced affirming, positive same-sex relationships often have only engaged in sexual contacts that are otherwise. "Since those are, in many incidences, high-risk circumstances, a lot of these people are scared by their own adaptation," says McLaughlin.

He says it is natural, then, for some to seek a way out.

"They're moving into an ex-Gay ministerial program as a way out as opposed to seeing that another way out is legitimacy of balanced, egalitarian,

consensual relationships with other same-sex adults," says McLaughlin. "That hasn't been presented to them as a viable option in the settings where they've been exposed, which is in churches, in schools, in their families or in the primary culture."

McLaughlin says most people who approach ex-Gay ministries have tried to change their sexuality on their own for years. He says this may make it difficult for the individual to clearly see who has his or her best interest at heart.

"At no time is it particularly useful to narrow your sources of support to a single view, because what you're dealing with is a very complex phenomena—that is, what it is that makes you human, and particularly that piece of you that is your sexuality," says McLaughlin. "So, I would suggest talking to a variety of people, and see who really seems attentive to you personally, as opposed to appearing to force their own agenda onto you."

Upchurch hopes his Web site will deter some people from taking the path he chose. The ex-Gay movement has a growing visibility on the Net. Groups like Exodus, which has 85 affiliated chapters in North America, now have Web pages. One click on the Exodus Web site gives you a world of links including Aberrant Sexuality in the Bible, Homosexuality in America: Exposing the Myths, and Masturbation and the Bible.

The information paints homosexuality as a life of sadness and sexual promiscuity often leading to disease. The causes of depression in homosexuals stem less from societal oppression and more from childhood unmet needs and abuses. The bottom line—being Gay is a sin.

"To them being Gay means sex with men," says Upchurch. "It doesn't mean a relationship necessarily. It really doesn't mean someone you can care for and be intimate with. It really just means the act of sex."

The ex-Gay Web sites make numerous references to a few Bible verses which the groups say prove God's disdain of homosexuality.

"Homosexuals will never be able to live a 'good life' and go to heaven, in their eyes," says Upchurch. "It is unnaturally enlarged as a focus in their mind, and what happens is that as they focus on it and it is so big, they can't get around it. They can't see that that is not a big deal."

Upchurch says that misinformation on an ex-Gay Web site can be very alluring to Christians who are struggling with their sexual orientation.

"When you hear homosexuality can be cured, most people don't really care how, they just want the cure," says Upchurch. "What I want to do is make sure people understand what these groups are all about, what they do, and understand the reality is that most people who go to these groups end up coming out on the other side either more integrated with their sexuality and more accepting of it, or they end up in these groups for a very long time and their orientation doesn't change."

The Ex.Ex Web site will include personal stories from former ex-Gays. Upchurch also plans to provide statistical information about Exodus groups provided by Ron Brasgalla, an active member in the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Brasgalla tallied how many Exodus affiliates have folded since the organization's inception.

Upchurch says that most ex-Gay groups fail because the leadership "fell into immorality."

"It is typically not the result of, Oh, let's not do this anymore," says Upchurch. "It's typically that there was a problem."

Brasgalla, a Gay man who lives in Signal Hill, California, started researching

Exodus several years ago using information from official Exodus newsletters and documents. Studying 19 years of national Exodus referral lists, Brasgalla says the overwhelming majority of Exodus groups don't last.

By early 1995, Exodus had started 210 different agencies around the country since its inception—only 63 agencies remained. From the beginning of Exodus in 1996 through February of 1995, 70 percent of their agencies folded.

"I am the vice chairman of the board, and that's not an accurate statistic," says Exodus spokesman Paulk. "We don't really track what ministries fail . . . usually about every year, maybe two to three agencies. Usually, it's for family reasons that the director will decide that he no longer wants to keep the agency going, but honestly it is usually no more than two or three a year."

But Brasgalla grins when he hears that Exodus repudates his findings.

"When I first wrote it, I didn't realize that I was the first person who had done such an in-depth expose of them," says Brasgalla. "This showed the failure of them as a group. We know about the individual failure, which is hard to document, but what I have is documentable."

It is the type of information Upchurch wishes he had 10 years ago before he entered his first Exodus meeting.

Today, Upchurch and his partner, Tyler Reeves, are active on the Houston PFLAG board. His parents are co-presidents of the organization.

"The interesting thing that happened to me is that for 12 years of my life I'd been blaming my 'bad relationship with my father' for my homosexuality," says Upchurch. "As soon as I told my folks and accepted my homosexuality, my relationship with my parents totally did a 180-degree turn. Not only did they accept me and care for me and love me, but I have the best time with my folks. I really have fun with them."

He says the experience with ex-Gay groups also had an affect on his conservative Christian world view.

"I don't know that I can even say I'm a Christian," says Upchurch. "The word has such a dirty meaning to me now, and that's unfortunate. I consider myself to have a very spiritual relationship with God, whomever or whatever that is, and I consider myself to be a person who is caring to those around me. I love others in any way I can."

Maybe through the creation of the Web site, Upchurch has fulfilled his teenage dream. In a sense, he has finally found his ministry. How to reach Ex.Ex: <http://members.aol.com/exexGay> email: exexGay@aol.com.

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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Financial Planning

Estate Planning Essentials For Gays and Lesbians

By Carol L. Busche, CFP

It's never pleasant to think about what will happen if you die or become incapacitated. But for Gays and Lesbians, proper estate planning is especially critical if events are to unfold the way you'd want should the unthinkable occur.

Estate planning involves specifying how your assets will be organized and distributed upon your death or when you are no longer able to care for yourself.

assets.) If you have no children, your parents would receive all of your estate. If your parents are not alive, your brothers and sisters would be next in line. If you have no siblings, the state would then look for other blood relatives such as grandparents, uncles, aunts or cousins. If no blood relatives were found, the state would get everything.

Did you notice who is missing from this scenario?

No matter how long you've been in a relationship, if you're a Gay man or a Lesbian your partner has no automatic right to receive any part of your estate. Your partner would inherit anything the two of you owned jointly—as long as the ownership designation is set up properly—and any assets where he or she is listed as a beneficiary such as life insurance and your IRA.

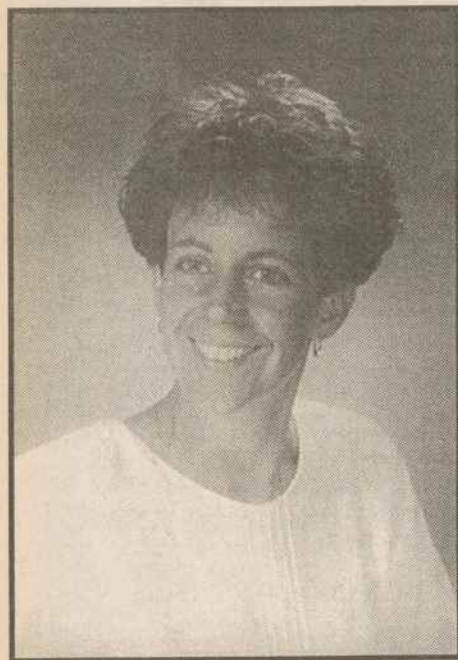
Everything else—including such items as furniture and jewelry—would be divided up as the state saw fit.

And there's more. Without proper estate planning, your relatives would get to choose your medical care if you were incapacitated and be able to decide your funeral arrangements—your partner would have no legal say in these highly personal decisions.

No matter how good a relationship you think your partner has with your family today, the only way to make sure your partner can legally decide vital issues about your life and death is to spell it out in your estate plan.

With proper estate planning, you can help ensure that your loved ones will receive the consideration, respect and support they deserve when you can no longer provide for them. Before you act, seek the help of a financial advisor who can help you decide what will work best for you and your partner.

Editor's Note: Carol L. Busche, CFP is the Senior Financial Advisor American Express Financial Advisors Inc., located at 1110 N. Old World Third Street, Suite 218, Milwaukee, WI 53203; Phone (414)-224-1430; Fax (414)-224-1680. We welcome her as a regular columnist in Wisconsin Light.



Carol L. Busche CFP

If you don't make these plans while you're alive, the state where you live will do it for you. It's called dying "intestate," or without a will—the state makes a "will" for you without your consultation.

If you're Gay or Lesbian, here's a potential scenario of how your state might handle your assets if you have not made an estate plan.

If you have children, they'd inherit everything. (If the children are minors, the probate judge would appoint someone to manage the money for them; that person would be entitled to be paid out of your

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Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



New Survey of LGBT Youth Shows Young People Coming Out Earlier Than Ever

New York, NY—!OutProud!, The National Coalition for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth and Oasis Magazine have announced the publication of the results of the first-ever survey of Queer and questioning youth on the Internet. A summary report of responses from the survey, which included more than 150 questions and ran from August 15 through October 31, 1997, is now available to the public on the World Wide Web. The results can be viewed online or downloaded as a 60-page report at www.oasismag.com/survey/

Early in 1997 !OutProud! and Oasis embarked on this ambitious project with the goal of understanding more about the

queer youth communities they serve. The result was a survey which explored a wide range of issues in the lives of Queer youth: school, coming out, sexual activity and health, the role of the media in forming self-image, harassment and suicide, religion and spirituality, community, relationships, and the future.

More than 2,000 youth - the youngest ten years old - responded. The average respondent was 18 years old; 78% of all respondents were male, 21% female, and 1% Transgendered or other.

A few key findings of the survey include:

- The typical respondent first realized that they might be queer at 12 years of

age, but it typically took them another three years before they accepted their orientation.

- Youth are coming out earlier than ever, telling their friends or family for the first time at 16 years old, on average; typically, they tell their best friend first and the response is overwhelmingly positive. 75% of all respondents have come out to at least one person.

- Youth are becoming sexually active at earlier ages, with the typical Queer teen reporting their first sexual experience at 14 years of age. Although they believe that they are adequately informed on issues of safer sex, a significant number report that they have had, or would have, unprotected oral or anal sex.

- More than half of all boys and girls responding to the survey indicate that they want to marry someone of the same gender, and even more say that they want to have children of their own.

- 10% of the queer youth watching the Coming Out episode of Ellen gained the courage, from watching the show, to come out for the first time. This finding provided the basis for the launching of the new Save Ellen campaign at <http://www.oasismag.com/save-ellen/>, helping protect this valuable resource.

With the results of this survey, there is now data that pinpoints exactly what it is that must be done to better advocate for the needs of queer and questioning youth and to provide them with support.

Never before have we had such a window into the lives of Queer and questioning youth, said Christopher Kryzan, Executive Director of !OutProud! Thousands of youth across the country - Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender - responded, typically spending 30 minutes to tell us more about themselves in ways that help us understand, for the first time, who they are, how they live, and of what they hope and dream.

This survey was undertaken with such goals as providing information to community service organizations for use in their outreach efforts, to social service agencies providing services to at-risk youth, to those organizing queer youth in the community and at school, and to those who set government policy, so that they may be accurately informed about the issues these youth face, and the needs which must be met. The survey was unique in its ability to reach in-the-closet youth, one of the most invisible of all minorities.

The survey took approximately thirty minutes to complete, and was delivered electronically via a special Web site.

Minneapolis' Gay Nineties Bar Mixes Gays and Straights and Some Gays Don't Like It

Minneapolis, MN—This is the rhythm of two cultures keeping a curious distance, at times clashing, at times chatting, but never quite embracing.

It takes place almost every Friday and Saturday night at the Gay 90's, the Twin Cities's most recognized Gay nightspot. It unfolds like clockwork. Just sit on a bar stool and watch.

Friday, shortly after 8:00 p.m.

From the perch along the massive bar on the main floor where the male strippers will perform later, the dinner hour is in full swing. Nearly 100 baby-boom men laugh and talk.

There is an intimacy here, of the private club sort. No matter that a handful of women dot the crowd. All around are clues to who lays claim to this cavernous lair.

But the certainty that this is a Gay men's nightclub erodes with every tick of the clock.

About a quarter-to-nine, a couple arrives whose difference is apparent. She: makeup picture perfect, dress disco-snug. He: skin heavily cologned, suit freshly pressed. Their gaze says they belong to each other. A man eating dinner gives them a long once-over.

By 9:30 p.m. straight couples are pouring in. A pink-sweatered woman already a couple of sheets to the wind is stuffing a \$1 bill into a dancer's red G-string on the strip bar.

"I like it the way it used to be," says one man as he watches the display of skin and lust. At 10:15 p.m., he becomes one of the last of the regulars to leave.

The Gay 90's, a bastion of Gay nightlife for the past 20 years, has become a forum for a peculiar movement between Gays and straights. The crowd on weekend nights is split 50-50 between the groups.

Two lawsuits were filed against the club alleging straight men and women were denied admittance or received poor service once inside because they are straight. The club's owner denied it. The suits were settled on March 14, after voluntary mediation.

"It was the kind of case that was really begging for the parties to sit down and just put some semblance of reason on it," said Timothy Hickman, attorney for the plaintiffs.

The club's owner had denied the claims but apologized and agreed to uphold the bar's policy allowing admittance regardless of sexual orientation.

As part of the agreement, both sides are making a joint contribution to Camp Heartland, a Wisconsin summer retreat for children with AIDS.

The settlement aside, the issue of cultural assimilation always has been vexing. What happens when a group wants to

maintain its culture but also wants mainstream acceptance? How is that balance reached in light of state human rights laws that bar discrimination against people of any sexual orientation? And what happens when people act on their desire to see how the other group lives?

"It's like now you (straights) have an opportunity to immerse yourself in this freaky culture at the 90's," says Ken Darling, a Gay columnist who has been one of the loudest opponents. "I don't think it's worth winning back. It's been made clear that we're not welcome."

Drag performer Miss Camille Collins warms up the crowd. Everybody knows he is a she. That's why they're here.

"Are you boys straight?" she asks three men seated to her right.

The men nod coolly, unruffled by the question.

"I know the Gay community gets upset because this is a Gay club, and I know some don't like straight people here. I can appreciate that," says Troy Smith, 22. "But, hey, it's a cool place. I don't know if the owner wants straight people to come in, in a way to promote understanding, or whether he's trying to make a buck. But it's a fun place."

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Gay liberation was in the spotlight and many prominent pop culture images were Gay, To Wong Foo, The Birdcage and RuPaul.

As "we see more and more straights going to Gay dance clubs, it's a sign of acceptance and interest in Gay culture, where just 20 or 30 years ago it was a very underground phenomenon that was mentally associated with the criminal underground, sexual violence and danger," says George Chauncy, a history professor at the University of Chicago, and author of Gay New York.

Steve Abrams is a co-owner of Rumba, a restaurant in Chicago's primarily Gay Boystown district that features nightly drag performances. His customer base is mostly heterosexual.

"All we as Gay men and women wanted was to be accepted," Abrams says. "Now we seem to be doing the same thing that was done to us. It's a sort of self-segregation that just doesn't make sense to me."

Stephen Cooper, a lawyer and former state human rights department director, says shared space is simply the down side of progress.

"What's going on here is a sexual-orientation litmus test," Cooper says. "How do you simultaneously allow people to feel, 'We're a part of the whole,' but also feel 'We're part of a subset?' It's a complex question that nobody's ever going to get the answer to."

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Politically Speaking

Letters I Wish I'd Written

By Bill Meunier

Do you get behind in your correspondence like I sometimes do? Well I have been so busy lately that I decided to kill birds with one stone and use this space to write some letters that I should have sent out weeks ago.

**

Kenneth Starr
Office of the Inquisition
Washington DC

Dear Ken,
I am writing to let you know that I categorically deny any and all rumors that I had sex with President Clinton in the Oval Office, and even if you call me to testify before the Grand Jury, I will continue to deny these scurrilous charges.

Yes, I know those phone logs showing all those late night calls from the President (or my Big Bubba as I call him) may look suspicious to you, but actually he only called to say hi and to ask me about what he should about the Bosnia situation. Yes that's the ticket. All those calls were to seek my advice about Bosnia.

You need not bother questioning the Secret Service about this either, because none of them were around when we didn't do it.

I also deny the rumor that I had sex with Al Gore in his office. Now I know that we were alone together for quite a while on more than one occasion, but there is a perfectly logical explanation for it.

Mr. Gore (or Really Big Al as I like to call him) was just giving me some um er ah, Macarena lessons. Yes that's what it was Macarena lessons. Mr. Gore can be quite limber when he wants to be.

So as you can see there is absolutely no reason to call me to testify since it was all so perfectly innocent.

That includes the \$100,000 that mysteriously appeared on my door step the other day with the note "Thanks for everything. A Democratic Friend." I am sure someone was just trying to thank me for my consistent support of democracies around the world. It was just a nice little gesture, that's all there is to it.

Nothing you say or do can shake me up or force me to tell the searing truth. I mean get me to deviate from my story. Of course you could try to make me crack under pressure, but I don't think it would work.

I do feel especially pressured when I am in elegant hotel rooms near Du Pont circle after having been suitably wine and dined. Of course the longer I am there the more pressure I seem to feel.

So if you were to fly me Washington DC put me up in a nice hotel near Columbus Circle and provide me with a very handsome Gay attorney who has an affinity for Midwestern Gay political columnists, I might feel some pressure to tell you about that late night party where the

President held a "Dress Up and Act Like Hillary Contest" but I doubt that you would get any of the details out of me. Besides the pictures I took didn't turn out very well.

My friends like our Editor In Chief, Dr. Terry Boughner, are experts at applying pressure to me when they have also been suitably accommodated, but I doubt that they would ever tape my secret conversations regarding the nature of my relationship with the President and Vice President.

So go ahead Ken, try to get me to crack. Fly me and a dozen or so of my confidants to Washington. See if all that pressure can get me crack.

Of course if I were to find another monetary tribute from "A Republican Friend" on my door step, well then I might remember a few minor things but nothing major mind you. Like I said I won't crack not an inch.

Sincerely
Bill Meunier

P.S. Please call first before delivering the subpoena I only accept them during certain hours.

**

State Representative Lorraine Seratti

(R- Spread Eagle)
Office of Bigotry
Wisconsin State Assembly
Madison Wisconsin

Dear Lorraine,
I just had to write and thank you for all you have been doing for Wisconsin's Gay and Lesbian community. Your anti-Gay marriage bill has proven itself to be a big boon to us and I just can't thank you enough.

Of course no one knows that you are really on our side, but I figured that one out long ago. There is no other way to explain your actions.

Thanks to you, Gays and Lesbians around the State are organizing, paying attention to what their State Legislators are doing and getting ready to vote in the November elections.

Not only that but hundreds of us have turned up for hearings on your bill. We now have a substantial mailing list to draw on in future organizational work.

It really was a stroke of genius for you to propose AB-104. Everyone thinks you are just a stupid bigot trying to outlaw something that is already against the law.

I, however, know the truth. You wanted to give us an issue to galvanize our Gay and Lesbian community. I hope you realize that you succeeded beyond your wildest dreams.

So keep up the good work and don't worry your secret is safe with me. I won't tell a soul.

Sincerely
Bill

Center, the number of organized hate groups in the United States grew last year, mostly through new chapters of established white power organizations.

The research group said 474 hate groups and their chapters engaged in some form of racist behavior in 1997.

The center used a different methodology to count the groups so previous numbers cannot be directly compared. But if the old methodology had been used, the latest figures would represent a 20 percent increase from 1996.

Most of the newer groups, according to the center, come from a growth in the number of chapters of groups like the Ku Klux Klan and churches belonging to the Christian Identity movement, whose followers cite the Bible as the source for their racist views.

The growth in hate groups has been fueled by the Internet and rock music touting white power and advocating violence against minorities, the report said. It said

there are 163 Web sites that advocate racial hatred; less than three years ago, there was one.

The center reported that the newest ways of spreading racist messages have turned upper-middle-class teen-agers into prime targets for hate group recruitment.

"Youths who would have never considered attending a Klan rally are now exposed to ... hate sites on the Internet and the sophisticated marketing of the purveyors of violently racist rock music," the center said in a news release today.

There is also more attention being paid to the year 2000, which some hate groups consider a sort of Armageddon and a reason to go to war, the center said.

It also said one chapter of the Ku Klux Klan, the American Knights, expanded from one to 12 chapters last year and that racist and neo-Nazi Skinheads made a violent comeback in Denver, Los Angeles and the Pacific Northwest.

Gay Students Need Openness in Schools

Anchorage, AK-AP- Gay students will continue to feel unsafe at school as long as educators keep homosexuality in the closet, a Gay high school teacher and author told an audience in Anchorage.

Dan Woog came to Alaska after watching a Gay student controversy in Anchorage last year from his home in Connecticut.

Through the Internet, Woog closely followed the emotional issue that erupted when Dimond High School's Gay-Straight Alliance was formed. The club was created to promote acceptance and awareness, but ignited protests and heated community debates instead.

The public discussion since has quieted, but that won't last, predicted Woog, a high school soccer coach and author of the book *School's Out: The Impact of Gay and Lesbian Issues on America's Schools*.

Woog also is a faculty advisor for the Staples High School Gay-Straight Alliance in Westport, Conn.

Gays Say Schwacke Shouldn't Have Been Outed

Charleston, SC-AP- Some Gays are upset that Solicitor David Schwacke was forced to announce his homosexuality after political leaders made allegations of misconduct in office.

"Coming out is a very personal and private matter and should not be forced onto any individual against their wishes or for any political agenda," said Mike Schwarzott, a co-chairman of the Lowcountry Gay and Lesbian Alliance.

"We must consider what our actions will cause for anyone being outed against their wishes, to their family and in their personal lives," said Schwarzott, who decided seven years ago to live openly as a Gay man.

Members of the local group gathered Sunday at a park for a local celebration of National Coming Out Day.

Schwacke, who may be the first announced homosexual to hold office in South Carolina, said he does not want to be seen as a pioneer and just wants to do his job. He has said his sexuality has nothing to do with how he does his work.

Anti-Gay Violence Grows Nationwide as Number of Hate Groups Increase

New York—As Gay visibility increased last year, so did anti-Gay violence and harassment, according to a new report.

A survey released by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs Tuesday, March 3, found that violence against Gay people increased by 2 percent nationwide in 1997.

The coalition of Gay-advocacy groups attributed the rise to publicity surrounding events such as the February 1997 bombing of a Gay and Lesbian nightclub in Atlanta and the coming-out episode of the TV show "Ellen."

"Tragically, there appears to be a direct correlation between the community's heightened visibility and an upsurge in violence," said Christine Quinn, executive director of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project.

The coalition compiled the report based on statistics obtained from local groups that track crimes against Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals. The report tracks 14 areas across the country.

According to the report, there were 2,445 documented cases of anti-Gay violence and harassment last year in the 14 areas, which include New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles. The number of murders related to anti-Gay violence dropped to 18 in 1997 from 27 in 1996, the report said.

New York City had the most reports of anti-Gay violence (658), followed by the San Francisco Bay area (402) and Los Angeles (350). More than a third of the cases involved harassment, verbal or by mail or phone. About one-fifth involved assault, and close to a third intimidation.

Among the more brutal examples of harassment include that of a Gay Chicago man who reported a year's worth of violent assaults by an elderly neighbor. One night, he said, she attacked him with garden shears, cut him 22 times and yelled "Die of AIDS..."

Police response was indifferent to hostile, the report said, with officers once threatening to arrest the victim if he kept complaining. Eventually the neighbor was charged with misdemeanor assault.

The report also found that anti-Gay violence was most prevalent in June, the time of year when Gay communities nationwide celebrate Pride Month. But the report also blamed the increase on publicity surrounding the February 1997 bombing of The Otherside Lounge in Atlanta, a Gay and Lesbian nightclub, which injured five people.

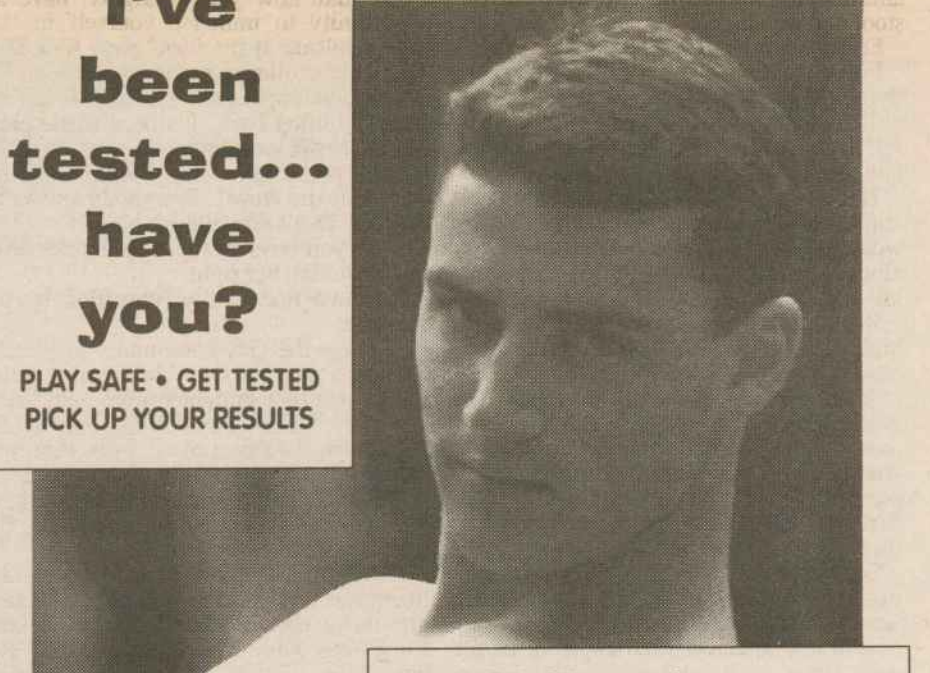
And last April's episode of "Ellen" in which TV character Ellen Morgan announces she's a Lesbian, contributed to attacks on Gay people, the report added.

The other 11 cities or areas the coalition tracked were: California's central coast; Chicago; Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio; Washington, D.C.; Detroit; El Paso, Texas; Massachusetts; Phoenix; St. Louis; and Virginia.

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs is a coalition of organizations serving lesbian, Gay, bisexual, transgender and HIV-positive crime victims.

Hate Groups Grow
It is no accident, observers say, that the growth in anti-Gay violence is proportional to the rise in hate groups,

According to the Southern Poverty Law



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SPOTLIGHT



Riding Together - John Hurt and Jason Priestley star in "Love and Death On Long Island" The Gay themed film opens March 27 at Milwaukee's Downer Theater.

'Love and Death on Long Island' is a Pleasing, Must-See Film

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Familiar with both John Hurt's famed, decidedly mannered performance as Quentin Crisp in *Naked Civil Servant* as well as the cinematic adaptation of Thomas Mann's distressingly cautionary tale of obsession, *A Death in Venice*, Glenn felt sure that *Love and Death in Long Island* to be fraught with potential disaster.

Based on a Gilbert Adair novel that pays great homage both to Mann and Nabokov's *Lolita*, *Love and Death on Long Island* is the story of an effete scholar and literary figure seemingly trapped in earlier era. Every moment in the life of Giles De'Ath (John Hurt) has been happily measured into a long perfected routine.

Little does Giles know that by the simple and surely innocent act of locking himself out of his home one rainy afternoon, his former comfortable and reassuring life will change forever!

Deciding to escape the rain, Giles finds himself at his local multiplex, deciding to attend a screening of the latest cinematic adaptation of a E. M. Forster novel. By some mischievous whim of fate, Giles mistakenly wanders into a cheesy teen comedy suitably titled, *Hotpants College 2. Heavens!*

Realizing his error, Giles prepares to leave. Then, in one miraculous moment, Giles is truly, madly, deeply and quite utterly transfixed by the angelic male beauty of one Ronnie Bostock (Jason Priestley).

As if a love-sick schoolgirl, Giles becomes obsessed with the celluloid image of the comely if rather blank Ronnie Bostock. Tentative at first, Giles is shown furtively sneaking teen fan magazines under his coat but as time progresses, Giles emerges into the 20th century in his pur-

suit of Bostock-mania.

Hurt is a delight in this early scenes, whether he is quizzically puzzled by the need for the television so necessary on which to watch his increasing collection of Ronnie Bostock videos or when furtively hiding his lavishly leather-bound collection of Ronnie memorabilia from the prying eyes of his primly proper housekeeper.

Ultimately Giles must take the next, logical step in his Ronnie Bostock-quest: to go to America and meet in person the all too real flesh and blood man behind his celluloid fantasy. Able to glean precious nuggets of information of Ronnie's personal life from his collection of fan magazines, Giles sets off for the small Long Island town in which Ronnie resides.

America holds promise for a fresh set of discoveries for Giles, which both Hurt and director Richard Kwietniowski seem to delight in.

John Hurt is absolutely wonderful as Giles, a man as much perplexed in his choice of obsession as Glenn himself was -- Jason Priestley is, after all, no Keanu Reeves, for example. The Oscars will likely ignore Hurt's performance but that will be a darn shame.

Jason Priestley, too, shines in this film, although Glenn must wonder if his wonderfully blank Ronnie Bostock was acting genius or Priestley merely playing himself.

Giles destined meeting with Ronnie and his subsequent insinuation into the life of this rising young movie heartthrob offers less surprises than Glenn might have hoped for but indeed, *Love and Death on Long Island* quickly comes to a pleasing, pleasantly unexpected conclusion.

Highly recommended.
Rating \$6.38 (scale No cents to \$7.00)

'Happy Together' is a Film that Captures Gay Love in All its Messy Splendor

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

The popular Gay news monthlies always seem to be filled with tantalizing tales of wonderful Gay films that never seem to reach lowly Milwaukee, as if refusing to wonder away from New York, Los Angeles or San Francisco. Glenn often wants to shout (and sometimes does in his sleep or in the shower), "Hey, we Gay men deserve good Gay movies even if we don't live on a coast!"

While Bent and Wilde appear to be shimmering, elusive dreams far more likely to turn up on the shelves of our favorite video stores than at a cinema near Glenn, *Happy Together* arrives with little fanfare.

Haven't heard of *Happy Together*? Neither had Glenn.

From acclaimed director Wong Kar-Wai and a popular entry on the festival circuit, *Happy Together* is an intriguing portrait of the lives of two young Gay men caught up in a rather sloppy, complicated relationship.

As *Happy Together* opens, Lai (Tony Leung Chiu-Wai) and Ho (Leslie Cheung Kwok-Wing) have been together for "a long time" but are once again fighting. Told from Lai's perspective, we learn that once again Ho has promised that they can start over and once again Lai acquiesces.

As if to mark this new beginning, this handsome couple quickly find themselves caught up in a brief interlude of surprisingly passionate and quite noisy lovemaking.

Lai and Ho decide that a holiday will further forge their new beginning and set off from Hong Kong to Argentina. Argentina? What about Provincetown or Key West, Glenn muses.

So off to Argentina they go, on a quest to find the Iguazu Falls, the waterfall that is depicted on a delightfully tacky lamp that Ho had bought and which Lai (and Glenn) liked very much.

As so often happens in life, their plans go awry. Choosing to drive to the Iguazu Falls instead of taking a long, dusty bus ride, Lai and Ho get lost and soon find their new beginning has quickly gone very, very wrong. For Lai and Ho, breaking up might be hard to do but something they've done quite often and something they do once more.

Instead of returning home, each stay in Buenos Aires. Lai gets a boring job as a doorman for a tango bar while the cute-as-a-button Ho becomes a prostitute. Having separated, oh-so fickle fate brings Ho to the tango bar Lai works at, draped over a hunky Argentine client.

Sometime later, good hearted Lai again takes in his former lover after Ho is badly beaten by a client. In one small, shabby room the two men bicker endlessly as Ho convalesces. Glenn thought it quite naughty of Lai to hide Ho's passport, re-

fusing to give it back when Ho demands it. Eventually Lai kicks Ho out.

Lai takes a new job, as a cook in a Chinese restaurant and there meets Chang (Chang Chen) and the two men become friends. Glenn thought that they might take their friendship a step further and Chang certainly seems more than willing, but Lai remains too preoccupied with Ho. Yet through his friendship with Chang, Lai finds the way to start over, able to once again find the way to go home.

Although surprisingly satisfying, *Happy Together* is an often difficult film. Director Wong Kar-Wai is much less interested in traditional linear narrative structure than he is in favor of experimental filmmaking techniques, particularly radical uses of color and a jagged, edgy editing technique.

Happy Together is a film that grew on Glenn, proving to be a film which manages to perceptively capture a love affair between two Gay men in all its wonderfully messy splendor!

Rating \$5.76 (scale No cents to \$7.00)

Happy Together will be screened at the UW-Milwaukee Union Theatre, Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., 2nd floor, Thursday through Saturday, April 2, 3, 4 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$4.50 to the general public and \$3.50 for students.

Michigan Womyn's Music Festival

Walhalla, MI—Continuing strong after 23 consecutive years, the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival will be the destination of thousands of women for the August 11-16 Festival. The annual event attracts 5-8000 women for a week-long event that includes 40 performances, 200 workshops, a Film Festival, Crafts Fair and 650 secluded acres for camping.

Artists scheduled to appear include Sweet Honey in the Rock, Indigo Girls, Alice Walker, Ferron, Toshi Reagon & Big Lovely, Karen Finley, Marga Gomez, The Topp Twins, Ubaka Hill, Kinnie Starr, Carole Pope, Teres Trull & Barbara Higbie, Rhiannon and others.

For more information regarding the 1998 Festival, write to: WWTMC, P.O. Box 22, Walhalla, MI 49458 or call (616) 757-4766.

Cream City Chorus to Present Spring Concert

Milwaukee—In keeping with its spring tradition of building a diverse concert around the classics, the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus will present "Folk Songs, Spirituals and a Little Light Music" on Saturday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m. at St. James Episcopal Church, 833 W. Wisconsin Avenue. This will be the second performance by the Chorus under the direction of Ken McMonagle.

McMonagle is well-known in the metropolitan Milwaukee area for his work with other community-based choirs.

Tickets for the concert are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. They are available at the M&M Club, BestD Clinic and Afterwards Bookstore or by contacting the Chorus office at (414) 344-WCCC.

The Chorus is currently open to new members. Anyone interested in joining should contact the Chorus office or attend weekly rehearsals, 7:00 p.m., Wednesday evenings, at the First Unitarian Society, 1342 N. Astor.

Annual Meeting
The Cream City Chorus will be holding its annual meeting on Wednesday, April 1, 1998, at 8:30 p.m. at the First Unitarian Society, 1342 N. Astor. All current and on-leave members are asked to attend. Elections will be held for several offices and other important matters are on the agenda.

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Curtain Calls



Gripping Performance — A scene from the Madison Rep's production of the classic "Long Day's Journey into Night." The production runs through Sunday, April 5.

Madison Rep's Production of O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey" is Powerful

By Chris Fallek

Bare lathing, missing shingles and the haunting sound of a distant foghorn set the stage for the Madison Rep's production of Eugene O'Neill's soul-baring autobiographical play, **Long Day's Journey into Night**, currently running at the Madison Civic Center.

Long Day's Journey into Night, considered by many critics to be O'Neill's greatest play, is a spiral descent into the heart of a dysfunctional family, condensed into the course of a single day. In 1912, (the year of the Titanic disaster), Irish patriarch, James Tyrone and his wife, Mary, summer on the Atlantic coast with their two sons, Jamie and Edmund.

D. Scott Glasser, the Madison Rep's artistic director, sees **Long Day's Journey** as a grim dance of life.

In his director's notes he writes, "1912 was the seminal year for Eugene O'Neill. He had just returned from Central and South America and travels on the sea. He divorced his first wife, his work was published for the first time (as a reporter and poet), and a diagnosis of tuberculosis sent him to an extended stay in a sanitarium. It was here that he became a voracious reader, which, in turn, propelled him to write about the world as he saw it."

O'Neill's vision was complex, his characters often drowning in worlds built on social illusions and personal tragedy. Written in 1941, **Long Day's Journey** was both anguish and triumph for O'Neill. In the Madison Rep production, Glasser chooses to focus on the triumph, showing the strength of O'Neill's compassion and love for his family, even as it sinks deeper into a fogbound hell.

The case does a wonderful job of portraying a tightly-knit, yet unstable family. Edmund Tyrone, played by Tom Lee, is the young O'Neill himself. Lee creates a portrait of a youngest child, fighting to keep the fantasy of family happiness alive while, at the same time, giving in to tuberculosis and alcohol. While struggling at times with a subtle role too passive to offer easy opportunities to build character, Lee shines when Edmund uncharacteristically reveals his passion for isolation and the sea to his father. The poetry of Edmund's soul pours readily from Lee, who, late in the second act, is given a chance to express the stark, creative imagery found in all O'Neill's work.

Meanwhile, Mark Ulrich, who plays Edmund's older brother, Jamie, brings and over-abundance of compassion to his role. Ulrich's Jamie, an alcoholic and a failed actor, shows too much strength of character early in the play, leaving it difficult for the audience to believe his drunken ravings later, when he warns Edmund that he will be destroyed if he tries to love his older brother. The hatred and jealousy underscoring the brothers' relationship is missing, and the audience is left with ordinary sibling rivalry.

James Tyrone, who loves money more than his family, is well-played by Paul Boesing. If Boesing makes any mistake, it

is that he imbues Tyrone's protestations of love with more sincerity than he gives to Tyrone's parsimonious habits. Boesing's strength lies in his convincing stage presence as a fading matinee idol, with his striking looks and throbbing voice softened by deepening wrinkles and alcohol.

Mary Ann Thebus' portrayal of Mary Tyrone, a woman lost in a haze of morphine addiction and soul-bone loneliness, is the anchoring performance—appropriate to Mary's anchoring role in the family. Mary's early normality and warmth is a thin veneer that rips all too easily, and Thebus delicately tears deeper and deeper into Mary's addiction.

Every family pronouncement that falls from Mary's mouth ("There's nothing to be upset about. Edmund just has a summer cold."), proves to be a lie, though her husband and two sons valiantly struggle to pretend they are truth. But as Thebus explores Mary's depths, she brings grace to a woman who gives in to the pain in her heart and expresses real truth through morphine, saying, "The only way is to make yourself not care." By the end of the play, Thebus is a ghost seen wandering through the tower room where Mary takes her "naps."

Glasser builds a vision of summers lost in a haze of repetition and failure through tight direction and a talented cast. The world he creates is intense, though marginally too compassionate—a world of love, facades and devastating honesty.

Difficult to watch only because O'Neill wrote it that way, the Madison Rep's production of **Long Day's Journey into Night** is well worth seeing, though you should take along a sweater to use for a seat cushion (the show, like most Rep productions, is in the unpadded Isthmus Playhouse). Believe me, you'll be better able to appreciate the play if your butt doesn't hurt.

Long Day's Journey into Night runs through Sunday, April 5. Performances are in the Isthmus Playhouse of the Madison Civic Center, 211 State Street. Shows run Wednesdays through Sundays. Tickets are available through the Madison Civic Center Ticket Office (608) 266-9055; TDD (608) 267-2674. A sign interpreted performance is scheduled for April 3.

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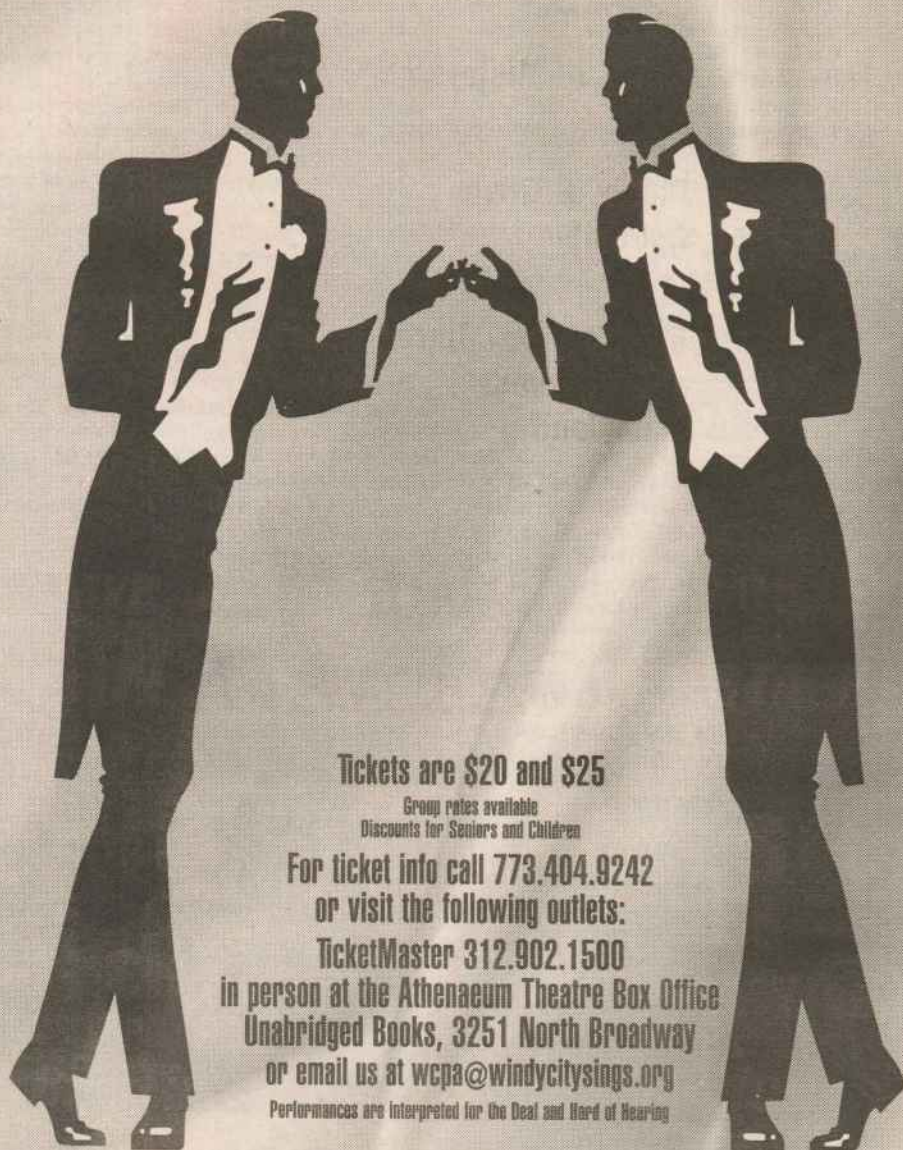
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This program is supported by a grant from The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency and a CityArts Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs.

THE NIGHT LIGHT

News... Well there are a few little tidbits to report you. As of this writing Fannies has still not reopened. Owner Sharon told me that the electricians screwed up the dance floor wiring and that has caused the delays. But she does expect to reopen soon probably the last weekend in March.

I really can't wait to see the new digs there. No less an expert on bar decorating than George Prentice of La Cage told me he has seen the new Fannies. George said, "She did a great job."

Speaking of George, he was taken to the hospital with stomach problems. After several tests, it was determined that his gall bladder had to be removed. The operation was a success and George should be back on duty soon. Get well soon guy, losing at bar dice there just ain't the same without you.

Zippers is now reopened with a new look new management and under a new name, **Fluid**. I was there on opening night, March 17th and the place was quite busy. Jimmy Balistreri and Bill Wardlow who were last seen together at the Triangle, are holding court there.

The place looks fabulous and is going to be a popular stop for Gays and Lesbians looking for a cool place.

I was in Madison and heard some people complaining that **Kirby's Klub** is serving Bud again.

At the Make A Promise Dinner, there were a bunch of people who stood out in the hallway rather than listen to Governor Thompson's speech. Tammy Baldwin seemed to get the loudest applause of the evening and she didn't even make a speech. Tammy told me she was just "thrilled." Hey honey you deserved all those cheers.

The dinner raised over \$160,000 to help ARCW fight against AIDS. By the way a special guest from Washington D.C. (name is Tom) told our Editor In Chief that he always reads **The Wisconsin Light** especially this column because it gives him a good feel for what is happening in the community. So Hi Tom!

La Cage owner George Prentice tells me

that the remodeling work is actually ahead of schedule and coming in under budget. We were going to run a big story about the remodeling but George was taken ill before we were able to connect. So next issue....

The folks at **Walker's Point Café** are managing to keep the place going despite some financial problems created by the recent unpleasantness down there. Give owner George credit for sticking to his dream. Better yet give him some support. Stop in and have some good eats.

And speaking of good eats, I was at the **1100 Club** recently for a fish fry. God, it was good. The batter on the fish was as light as a feather and the french fries are home made—not from the freezer, but from the potato itself! Nice and crisp on the outside, utterly delightful.

We also hear that the bar we told you was soon to be sold, has been pulled from the market. Our sources tell me that an offer was made but shortly before the deal was supposed to go through, the owner changed his mind and decided to keep it.

Speaking of bars, we still can't tell you what is going on with **Manoeuvres** in Madison, other than the fact that Ed continues to pursue alternative sites.

We hear that the **Back In Black Leather Shop** at **Diversions** in Neenah is going great guns. Well it should. It's the only leather boutique in that area of the state. So if you live around the Fox Valley and like wearing butch clothing stop in and do some shopping.

Recaps... I had a great time at the **Ball Game's 25th Anniversary** party held on St. Patrick's Day. There was a huge crowd on hand, the food was great and the staff was fabulous. Dave Wiggins once again made "Gay" at the piano. The man has magic fingers on the piano. He played all the good old songs and always had a crowd gathered round for a sing-along.

Later that evening I went to **Fluid** for its opening night. I expected to find only a few people there since the decision to open had been made just a few days before and the only publicity was generated

by Managers Billy and Jimmy calling a few of their friends. I was surprised to find a full bar including Sharon from Fannies, on hand to wish the new place well.

I really like the look and feel of **Fluid**. Quieter music to allow you a chance to talk, great service from two of Gay Milwaukee's most popular bartenders, and a nice decor. Looks like a big hit to me.

This Is It was going strong. Lots of green beer and shamrock stickers helped to make everyone "Irish" for the evening. It was great fun.

As usual, **In Between** rocking. There's always a crowd there for good times and St. Paddy's Day was no exception.

Speaking of hits, the next night I was in **Mad Town** and **Manoeuvres** DJ Tony Richards was playing plenty of them. Its always a pleasure to listen to Tony's selection.

Speaking of pleasures in Madison I also had a good time at **Kirby's Klub** and the **Shamrock**.

The Sage La Rue Champagne Reception at **La Cage** was also a good time. There was some nice food and a wine fountain. The reception was followed by a great La Cage showcase presentation starring the aforementioned Sage who was great as usual, and my good friend John Mc Givern, the nationally known Gay comic from Milwaukee.

The next night was the **Make A Promise dinner** at the Pfister. The dinner was sold out. Max Barnett who received recognition for his work with the Possum Queen Contest, was the hit of the evening among the speakers. The Silent Auction was great and I am now the proud owner of a nice original water color donated by the artist and a year's worth of Internet Service donated by **GLINN**.

After the dinner the staff of **The Light** headed over to **This Is It** where we were joined by many of those who were in attendance. MAP Deputy Director, Paul Milakovich was glowing as well he should have been.

Paul's parents are the sweetest people on earth. His father does one mean pig roast. Word has it that he will again be doing the honors at an up-coming **Cream City Foundation** fundraiser. I can hardly wait.

Coming Up ... Well there aren't a lot of things coming up in the next couple of weeks. You know it's that time of year between Spring and Winter and everyone is tired and bored and wants winter to be

gone so we can all party again in warmth. BUT that shouldn't stop you from going out and enjoying yourself anyway.

Wednesday March 25 is **Wisconsin Light Delivery Night** so get those Miller Light tappers ready for me.

Friday March 27 I will be at **La Cage** for the La Cage Showcase. After the show I will dance the night away to Wisconsin's best DJ tag team, Tanya and Dave.

Saturday March 28 you will be able to find me at **In Between**. I hear their softball team (which moved to the bar from Mama Roux) is holding a sign up night at the bar for the next two Saturdays.

I might also head to **Green Bay** that evening for the big **Miss Emerald city Contest** at Za's.

Sunday March 29 is the **Miss Gay Madison America Pageant** at **Manoeuvres**. It will be hosted by Vicki C and feature a bevy of stars including Susie Saranwrap, Kelli Jo Klein and Brittany Morgan.

Monday March 30 **SAGE** is showing "Total Eclipse" which features Leonardo DiCaprio in a Gay role (yes I hear he kisses some men in this flick). Show time is 7 PM at the Sage Room which is located at Lake Park Lutheran Church.

On **Wednesday April 1**, I will be stopping at **The Boot Camp** for its weekly Club Night drawings.

Friday April 3 I will be doing my weekly tour. I will start out at **This Is It** which is always a good place to start because it's always a good time and great way to get your evening going. From there I will move to the **Ball Game** to make sure they are all recovered from the big Anniversary St. Pat's Day bash and the over to **Dish** which is one the coolest bars I have ever been in, then onto the **In Between, the Triangle, Fluid and La Cage**.

After all that, I will need a day or two to recover and get ready for the next issue.

Oh yes, before I forget, word has it that there's going to be a big fundraiser on Sunday, May 17, in Milwaukee for the **Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund**. That's the organization that gives financial help to open Lesbian and Gay candidates around the country. Anyway, the fundraiser will be sponsored by **Miller Beer** and Tammy Baldwin will be one of the special guests. Stay tuned. There will be more later.

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

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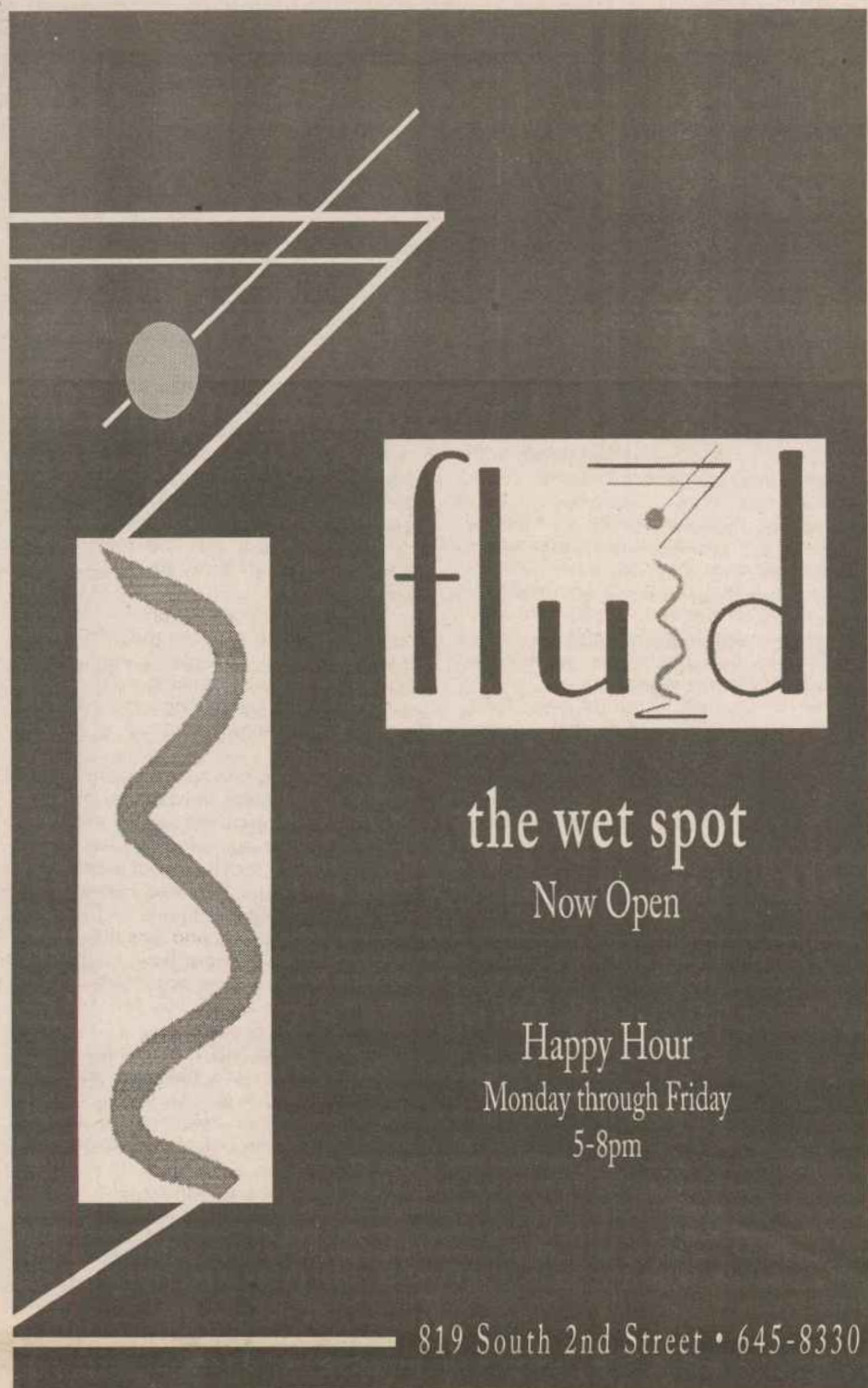


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Advice to "Ellen": Make Your Point, But Make Us Laugh

Commentary by Lisa Brodrow
Los Angeles--"Seinfeld," which is about nothing, is wrapping up its nine-year run covered with glory as TV's most popular sitcom. "Ellen," a show that is very much about something, is dying a slow and painful death.

But "Seinfeld" isn't popular because it's about nothing, and "Ellen" isn't facing cancellation because it has a point to make. The difference between the two is more fundamental, at least in TV terms: One is funny, the other isn't anymore.

"I'm Gay, the character's Gay and that's the problem everyone has with the show. It's just too controversial, nobody wants to deal with it," star Ellen DeGeneres said last week on "Entertainment Tonight," the TV program.

She's right, of course, when it comes to the network. ABC undoubtedly would love to bid goodbye to the headaches "Ellen" has brought it, but it couldn't, and wouldn't, if the ratings for the show (9:30 p.m. EST Wednesday) were high enough.

DeGeneres has done little recently to help herself in that quarter.

There is room on sitcoms for messages, sermons, even politics, when they are the seasoning in the stew. But when comedy becomes afterthought, too much is being demanded of viewers.

Plots can revolve around teen-age drug use ("Home Improvement") and drinking ("Boy Meets World" this Friday), around cancer ("Murphy Brown") and weight bias ("The Drew Carey Show") because they are the exception, not the rule.

The shows also know to follow the trail blazed by such 1970s TV pioneers as Norman Lear with "All in the Family" and Larry Gelbart with "M-A-S-H": Even racism, death and war can be dressed up as sitcom fodder with humor as the sugar coating.

"My take has always been we can tackle any subject as long as we're not preachy, as long as we remember we're trying to entertain with it," says Bruce Helford, executive producer of "Drew Carey" and an alumnus of "Roseanne," which explored such issues as domestic abuse.

The Warner Bros. network's kid-oriented

comedy "Smart Guy" focuses Wednesday on the difficult subject of sexual predators who find young victims on the Internet.

"Twenty-one out of 22 episodes, we're doing something amusing and funny and not this kind of thing, so we can draw them (the audience) in to pay attention to this one," said executive producer Bob Young.

Such series are playing by TV rules. But not "Ellen," a show trying bravely, but badly, to illuminate an aspect of life which at least some Americans prefer to pretend doesn't exist.

DeGeneres and "Ellen" rose to that challenge with last season's sharp and funny coming-out episode, and she drew a sizable audience. But now she and the show seem overwhelmed by the task.

A recent fantasy episode pictured Ellen and her pals in a Gay and Lesbian world in which heterosexuals are the minority. It had all the wit of an Army training film on hygiene.

A few good lines were scattered throughout, but the premise mostly fell flat as we watched Ellen's gang mock straights for their dancing and their dreadful taste in decorating and Norman Rockwell art. Satire demands a lighter hand.

DeGeneres, who has railed against ABC for slapping warning advisories on her show, scored a point with a TV-watching scene in which an episode of "Mad About You" is labeled for adult subject matter.

"It's so silly. Just because Helen Hunt kisses that guy," Ellen mutters.

Absolutely dead on, and absolutely unfunny because we know how angry DeGeneres is. As a viewer, one starts to feel like a character in a bad '80s film, whining "What about MY needs?"

DeGeneres was right to continue exploring her character's new life, its challenges and joys. And she rightly moved Ellen into a Lesbian relationship, just as she had dated men before acknowledging her homosexuality.

But the episodes began to take on the feeling of a primer rather than a comedy, revealing the exploration of a woman's new life. Here's Ellen learning how to be open, here's Ellen helping her friends adjust, here's how narrow-minded the world



He's BAAACCK!!! - The hilarious John Mc Govern has returned to Milwaukee with his one man show. He is shown above cracking up the crowd during the La Cage showcase. Mc Govern's critically acclaimed show can be seen at the Milwaukee Rep March 26 through March 29.

Perhaps driven by the belief that this season would be "Ellen's" last, DeGeneres hastily crammed in a master's thesis on Lesbian sensibility and life.

The result: Viewer affection and influence DeGeneres had gained previously were squandered, and ratings began to fall. She charmed us straight; she could have charmed us as a Lesbian.

(DeGeneres gets a little help from a friend this week when real-life girlfriend and A-list actress Anne Heche appears on the show. The episode was unavailable for preview).

DeGeneres has said she fully expects ABC to cancel her series after this season. Network officials insist the matter isn't decided, but it's clear they would welcome the show's falling ratings give them an easy out.

The network could argue that it's not getting rid of the first TV program to feature a Gay or Lesbian lead character; it's merely cutting loose a weak show.

But if ABC would give DeGeneres one more try, with the breathing room and support she needs to do "Ellen" right, and if the actress could give the show the comic edge it must have, it could be turned around.

Maybe we expect too much of DeGeneres and too much of the network. But if they could deliver, viewers might be willing to ask more of themselves.

"In the Life" Plans Most Ambitious Episode to Date

New York, NY--Producers for *In The Life*, America's Gay and Lesbian television series, have recently returned from five countries in preparation for an episode that will be landmark for the national Gay and Lesbian series.

The April/May 1998 edition of *In The Life*, shot on four continents, represents the series' most ambitious program to date as it looks at Gay and Lesbian life from around the world.

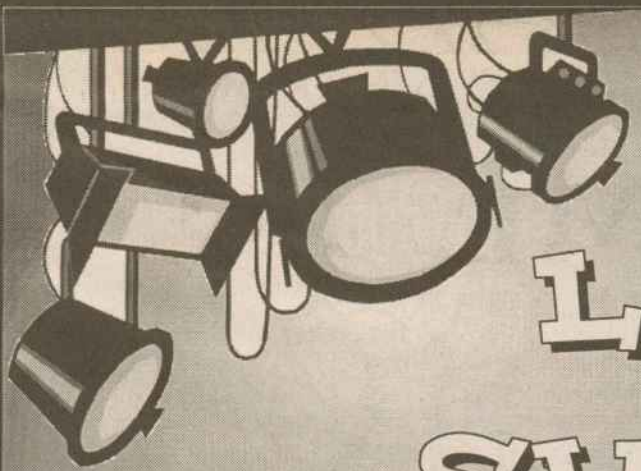
From China to the Netherlands, from the Philippines to Brazil to France, the episode will examine first hand countries where progress on Gay civil rights outpaces advances in the U.S. and countries where awareness and understanding of Gay issues is decades behind, often dangerously so for Gay and Lesbian people living there.

The stories will be personal ones, illuminating the struggles behind the politics, the progress, and often, the persecution.

The episode will air nationwide throughout April and May. Some selected airdates are listed below. A complete list of airdates or can be found on the internet at

In The Life is produced by In the Life Media Inc., a not-for-profit, member-supported organization, and is presented by Thirteen/WNET in New York. The bi-monthly newsmagazine series chronicles the history and contemporary experience of the Lesbian and Gay community, and airs on over 100 public television stations nationwide. Correspondent Tanya Barfield joins Host Katherine Linton for this special April/May 1998 edition of *In The Life*.

- Some selected Midwest airdates by city/state:
- Milwaukee (WMVS / WMVT), channel 10 -- Wednesday, April 29, 11:00 p.m.
 - Wisconsin Public Television (statewide) - Thursday, April 30, 11:00 p.m.
 - Chicago (WTTW), channel 11 -- Wednesday, April 15, 11:00 p.m.
 - Minneapolis, St.Paul (KTCI), channel 17 -- Tuesday, April 7, 10:00 p.m.
 - Minneapolis, St.Paul (KTCA), channel 2 -- Sunday, April 5, Midnight.




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Fiction

The Short History of a Prince by Jane Hamilton, Random House HC \$23.00

As she did in **A Map of the World**, Hamilton once again knowingly evokes the timbre of midwestern life through the character of Walter McCloud, the prince of the title and the novel's smart, funny, and altruistic narrator. Hamilton tells Walter's story in two time frames.

In his high-school days in the early 1970s, Walter falls in unrequited love with a fellow dancer named Mitch. As an adult nearing 40, Walter returns to Wisconsin after a lively but largely frivolous interlude in New York City and seeks to heal old wounds. Hamilton's extraordinary insights into human nature that make this novel shine as she transforms ordinary occurrences into nothing less than intimations of the divine.

Cavedweller by Dorothy Allison, Dutton HC \$24.95

Lesbian author Dorothy Allison's debut novel, **Bastard out of Carolina**, was an extraordinary success. Here is her second, **Cavedweller**, a mama-bear of a book that will send readers deep down into another realm, far from everyday consciousness. Here is a premier storyteller who in **Cavedweller** is working in the rich, family-focused, and secret-filled tradition of southern literature.

Allison begins this long, dramatic novel with an arresting short sentence, "Death changes everything," and by the time she wraps up her saga of Delia Byrd and her three daughters, she has charted the course of many births, deaths, and rebirths, both physical and spiritual.

Non-Fiction

Putting Out 4th ed. by Edisol W. Dotson Cleis Press Pb \$14.95

Putting Out, now in its 4th edition, is the essential reference tool for all lesbians and gay men who write. Listed in this indispensable guide are over 500 book publishers, magazines, newspapers, news-

letters, theatre groups and agents, all of whom publish, produce, or agent Gay and Lesbian writing; phone numbers of editors-at newspapers, newsletters, magazines, and book publishing companies—who read unsolicited manuscripts from new writers; how to submit your book to editors and agents—and what specific kinds of work they are looking for; book publishers' marketing budgets; which publishers receive the most manuscripts and how they choose what to publish. **Putting Out** is like a Writer's Market for Lesbians and Gays.

Completely Queer edited by Steve Hogan & Lee Hudson, Henry Holt HC \$50.00

Containing nearly five hundred articles on every aspect of lesbian and gay life which are linked to a detailed chronology of gay life and achievement, **Completely Queer** is a unique, comprehensive volume of information. Ranging from "Abbott, Berenice" to "Zapata, Luis," "Activism" to "Zoology", circa 12,000 B.C. to the present, **Completely Queer** is the most inclusive Gay and Lesbian reference on the market today that is also wonderfully entertaining as it informs. Includes hundreds of quotes, little-known facts, useful tables and more than two hundred photographs and illustrations.

Afterwords Schedule

Wednesday, March 25 7:00pm
Lesbian Reading Group

Paxton Court by Diane Salvatore

Monday, April 13 7:30pm
Afterwords Book Club

Gore Vidal's *The City and the Pillar* and

James Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room*

Tuesday, April 14 7:30pm
Author Appearance

Will Fellows, *Farm Boys*

Wednesday, April 15 7:00pm
Lesbian and Gay Writers' Group

"Call Me" is a Book that Cuts to the Heart of Gay Life in the '90s

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn must always be the first to see the most current cinematic masterpiece or read the latest scintillating new novel. So imagine Glenn's horror when all of Glenn's friends had claimed to have read that shocking new novel, **Call Me**, which is about this young guy who gets hooked on personal ads.

Impossible! Intolerable!!

Over a delicious cappuccino Glenn began P.P. Hartnett's novel with no expectations other than thinking it to be simply a deliciously squalid little saga of a 26 year old Gay man, Liam, trying to get a few cheap kicks by acting out various sick and sordid fantasies as "Bike Boy".

How very wrong Glenn was! How very misleading Glenn's friends were!!

Call Me begins as Liam nurses a cocktail in a Soho pub. So familiar seemed Liam that Glenn imagined he could have been any one of several of the oh-so aloof young men Glenn encountered at the Triangle over the weekend.

Liam glances through a few of the free bar rags before finally settling on the personals section. Just like so very many personals neophytes Glenn has met, Liam is convinced that he would be able to write a better, more appealing, more intriguing 30-word contact ad.

Gee, Liam, if it were so easy, everyone would be doing it!

Still, even Glenn must admit that Liam's wickedly provocative "Bike Boy" ad would probably have captured Glenn's attention and Liam soon finds himself inundated with dozens and dozens of replies.

He should be happy, right? All Liam had wanted, or so he claimed, was just a bit o' fun, didn't he? He will get more than he bargained for!

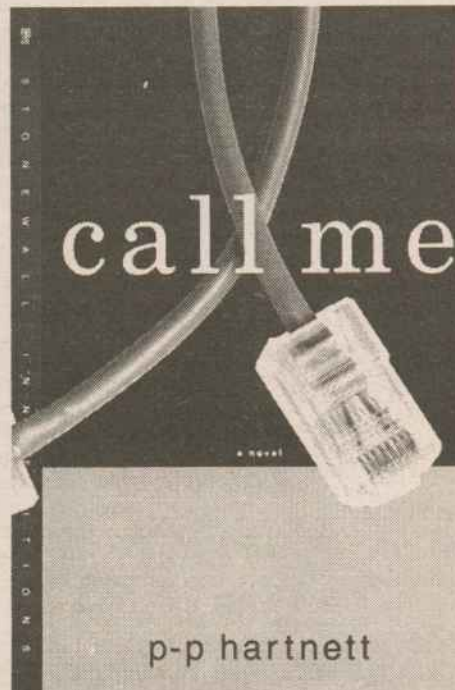
It quickly becomes quite apparent to Liam (as well as to the reader) that there is far more at work here than a mere "f**k-and-tell" chronicle of one sleazy sex episode after another. As Liam goes from encounter to encounter, he slowly begins to reveal the all too human soul behind the "Bike Boy" facade.

A Gay man who lives alone, Liam seems to have quite recently lost his lover, Ray to AIDS. Gone perhaps, but Ray is anything but forgotten. Fragments of memories of his time with Ray continue to haunt Liam, at the most improbable times, during the most unlikely situations.

Through it all, Liam's own loneliness increasingly seeps to the surface, as each fresh encounter brings him face to face with the sort of desperation he grows to recognize as his own.

So sure is his writing and so confident Glenn must express astonishment that **Call Me** is P.P. Hartnett's debut novel. With a deft and deceptive simplicity, Hartnett slashes through the facades of his roster of lost souls, equally able to reveal beauty, pain or naked desire.

There is plenty of sex in **Call Me**, fear not faithful readers. Not perhaps the sort of sexually explicit stories commonly found in friction fiction. As Liam's obsession



grows, his encounters include, but certainly are not limited to, a rendezvous with a dangerously over-sexed, under-aged lad, an outing with an amputee fetish club, a hot scene with a S&M leather queen who lives with his mother and a dangerous encounter with a tragically affection-starved Welshman who ultimately stalks the supremely disinterested Liam. And through it all, the only attachment Liam makes in the course of the entire novel is with the "budgie" owned by the lady who lives across the hall. **Call Me** is a true novel of the 90s.

Tune Reviews

By Jeffery L. Newman

Streisand & Others Help With Celine Dion's Latest

Celine Dion
Talk About Love
Epic 550

If you're sappy and you know it clap your hands. So should be the title of the new Celine Dion recording, "Let's Talk About Love." Undeniably, Dion, who has one of the purest, most remarkable voices of the 20th Century, has fallen comfortably into the "let's sing about schmaltz mode," as she delves deeper into the world of syrupy, light-weight love songs.

Still, that's part of the 28-year old singer's appeal. Less is more. Simple is easy. And love is universal. Dion holds all of these things to be true, and in doing so, is able to ignite a fire within herself, and breathes life and honesty into even the thinnest and insipid of material.

Dion's newest opus is perhaps her most exciting and adventurous musical exploration yet, as she teams herself with some of the biggest names in the business - Barbara Streisand, Luciano Pavarotti, the Bee Gees and Carole King. (The latter who wrote a track specifically for the songstress.)

With plush arrangements, deep orchestrations and the songwriting talent of David Foster and Diane Warren, among others, Dion does what she does best - tug at the heart, inspire romantic yearnings and celebrate matters of the heart.

She experiments with other genres. She

gets dancey on the discoesque "Just A Little Bit Of Love," moves into a funky rap mode as Diana King jumps in as songwriter and singer on the dancehall-styled "Treat Her Like A Lady," and goes gospel on "Love Is On The Way." But it's likely her duet with Streisand, "Tell Him," and the sweet "My Heart Will Go On," the love theme from the upcoming movie "Titanic," that will boost this album. Although, her finest moment can be found on the mid-temp "Miles To Go," which more than aptly does her justice.

Dion, without question, will go down in the history books as the Streisand of our generation - one of the few guaranteed pop artists of the 1990s who will have staying power for as long as she wants, and will likely be selling 30 years from now. And, while even she'll admit the music may fall on the lighter-side of the musical landscape, it's just pure joy to listen to a voice like hers.

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OUT on Film



'Primary Colors' Looks at the Alternating Idealism and Cynicism of the Clinton Era

By John A. Jahn

Primary Colors - the new film based upon the controversial novel by "Anonymous" (Joe Klein) - has one basic question at its heart: can a candidate's ability to govern justify his personal failings or the means by which he's elected? It isn't answered, and it certainly reverberates today in the real world regarding the Clinton White House. Can Clinton's intelligence, political skills and compassion compensate for his tabloidesque personal life? **Primary Colors** provides no clear answer, but lots of food for thought. Question is: do you want to think about it?

Throughout this long movie (2 1/2 hours) we follow a group of political professionals with high ideals and watch those ideals crash upon the rocky shores of a brutal electoral system and bloodthirsty media culture. The candidate's wife, Susan Stanton (Emma Thompson) says "We all find a way to survive." Reflecting upon her idealism of the late 60s, she admits: "We were young, we didn't know how the world worked." Sad but true, we all have to admit.

She and her Southern governor husband, Jack (John Travolta) are not totally based on Bill and Hillary, but the parallels are obvious. **Primary Colors** follows them and their political allies through the 1992 presidential primaries - in particular the first one in New Hampshire. With them are Richard Jemmons (Billy Bob Thornton), an advisor based on James Carville; former Arkansas chief-of-staff, Betsy Wright is played by Kathy Bates, a gun-toting, outspoken Lesbian who dubs herself "The Dust Buster," Daisy Green (Maura Tierney), another staffer who becomes involved romantically with Bates (and who's a lot like Clinton's 1992 media advisor Mandy Grunwald); and Henry Burton (Adrian Lester), a role based upon George Stephanopoulos, who alternates between passion and revulsion for Clinton...uh, I mean Stanton.

Travolta's semi-impersonation of Bill Clinton is riveting, every bit as charismatic as the real McCoy. He has ravenous appetites - for junk food as well as women

If You Don't Take 'Wild Things' too Seriously, You'll Have a Good Time

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Faithful readers of the *Wisconsin Light* will probably have guessed that Glenn loves movies filled with themes of love and betrayal, offering delicious plot twists and generous glimpses of male flesh, particularly perfectly superfluous moments of male frontal nudity. **Wild Things**, a new film featuring the more than ample talents of Kevin Bacon, seems to fulfill all such requirements. So why did Glenn leave the cinema disappointed?

Set in the perpetually sunny, hot, steamy, social-conscious Blue Bay, **Wild Things** is a movie in which nothing is quite as it appears to be and where there is far more lurking beneath the surface of each and every character.

As if a big-screen transfer from television's popular, adolescent *90210*, **Wild Things** opens at Blue Bay High School, where Sam Lombardo (Matt Dillon) is a highly regarded educator and occasional ladies' man. Every time he turns around, pretty little Kelly Van Ryan (Denise Richards, last seen as the bug-killing ingenue in *Starship Troopers*) is eyeing him up, going so far as to hose herself down while washing Mr. Lombardo's car.

With naked desire (something Glenn knows all too much about!) in her eyes, she confronts Mr. Lombardo with her true feelings. Pause. Then a quick cut to a pouty Kelly storming from Mr. Lombardo's home.

Something is wrong, but no one, especially Glenn, was expecting her cries that poor Mr. Lombardo raped her. This moment will prove to be the green light for Stephen Peter's screenplay to make more twists and turns than the latest roller-coaster ride at Six Flags.

As if any further proof were needed that **Wild Things** was on a new course, in pops up Bill Murray as the sleazy lawyer (and wearing the phony neck brace that is every sleazy lawyer's calling card) Sam Lombardo chooses him to defend him. This puzzles Glenn. On cheesy television

(including the underage babysitter for his son!). Jack at first seems ridiculous - a shameless politician with no moral core, but he begins to connect with people - and with us - as the film progresses.

In a very Clintonian way Jack laments: "I just can't catch a break!" - being obviously less than honest with himself about the consequences of his own behavior.

Primary Colors realistically conveys not just the inner workings of a modern political campaign, but also the sense of fragility and uncertainty surrounding the flawed Jack Stanton...uh, I mean Bill Clinton...no, Stanton!

Director Mike Nichols and writer Elaine May both previously worked on *The Birdcage*, a light, entertaining film to be sure. **Primary Colors** retains that film's comedic elements and timing, but obviously possesses a much more serious plot. The main problem this reviewer had with the film was the central character - Henry Burton - he never justifies the ample footage he gets. Adrian Lester's performance is too bland, too emotionally distant, and thus it's hard to sympathize or identify with him.

With Lester a wash-out, **Primary Colors'** strengths lie in the rest of the cast, primarily the superb performances of Travolta and Thompson as the soon-to-be First Couple, Thornton and Bates as long-time friends forced to suffer through Jack's foibles, and Larry Hagman as Fred Picker, a retired Florida pol and Stanton's reluctant rival (Picker's reluctance to enter the race for the Democratic nomination is revealed toward the end of the film, and it has a Gay angle to it).

Primary Colors is at times a fairly sharp political satire - one that will be far funnier for the politically savvy among us than those who are not; at other times it's more like a drama (though one without much emotional clout). What the American film-going public will say about its timely subject matter remains to be seen. It may have some immediate interest and appeal simple due to its uncanny timing, or it may not. Either way, this reviewer highly recommends it.

movies, accused rapists always get women to defend them, don't they?

The trial proves to be a ridiculous sham. Surprised? Not Glenn. But the question remains, who is shaming whom?

Here the story again changes direction as straight-as-an-arrow cop Ray Duquette (Kevin Bacon) smells a rat and continues to investigate Mr. Lombardo, convinced that he, Kelly and a little piece of trailer park trash named Susie Toller (Neve Campbell) have been in on it together all along, seeking to bilk millions from Kelly's super-bitch mom, Sandra (Teresa Russell).

This getting any clearer?

Clearly director John McNaughton is enjoying himself as the many plot twists and narrative surprises reveal the greed and lust and simple, general evil lurking in the hearts of the various residents of Blue Bay. But to what goal?

Glenn felt cheated by the end of **Wild Things**, cheated not because Glenn couldn't guess the solution to the film's intricate puzzle, but cheated because Glenn felt McNaughton seemed to have created a shell game where the pea ends up not under any of the shells, but through some dazzling sleight of hand, ends up in your ear or up your nose.

There are no doubts in Glenn's mind whatsoever that the film's highlight was a brief moment when Mr. Lombardo confronts a very naked Ray Duquette taking a shower. Mr. Bacon kindly faces the camera, offering a tantalizing glimpse of, does Glenn dare say, "the whole hog!"

As if to add further titillation to the legions of adolescent males that will form the audience of **Wild Things**, director McNaughton adds a few moments of gratuitous Lesbian lovemaking" between Ms. Campbell and Ms. Richards.

Do not take **Wild Things** too seriously and all but the most discriminating moviegoer should find this twice-baked tale of greed and lust a rollicking good time.

Rating \$4.15 (scale No cents to \$7.00)



Leo - Leonardo DiCaprio from a scene in "Man in the Iron Mask"

'The Man in the Iron Mask' is a Richly Staged, Old Fashioned Swashbuckler

By John A. Jahn

It's 1660 and France is starving. Louis XIII, the greatest King whose throne the Musketeers served has died and been succeeded by his arrogant and cruel heir, Louis XIV (Leonardo DiCaprio)...while at the infamous Bastille a mysterious prisoner has lived for nearly a decade encased in an iron mask. To save France, the aging Musketeers must reunite and embark upon their most dangerous mission ever: to free the masked prisoner and unlock the secret of his identity. "One for all and all for one!"

Randall Wallace (screenwriter for *Braveheart*) makes his directorial debut with *The Man in the Iron Mask* (which he also scripted), bringing with him the same delicacy he brought to his earlier film. As such, he took great artistic license with the classic novel of 1850 by Alexandre Dumas (not to mention playing fast and free with history). At best you could say Wallace's screenplay for this film is "inspired" by the Dumas novel and real events.

The story also differs considerably from that of the 1939 chestnut. Does this alone make it bad? Not necessarily, and this reviewer thinks the Wallace take on the iron mask legend works quite well - in a lighter, amusing but nevertheless interesting kind of way.

Lovely Leonardo DiCaprio - heartthrob to millions of women (as well as men of good taste, present company included) - plays two roles in *The Man in the Iron Mask*. One is of course the vain, spoiled, arrogant, womanizing King Louis XIV. DiCaprio doesn't quite pull off this role, coming off as somewhat less than truly malevolent, somewhat more callow, bratty and yes, charming. I don't think luscious Leo's quite ready to adequately play the heavy, way too much boyish charm and good looks here!

His secondary role as the shy, decent, noble Phillippe is one he's much more suited to and obviously comfortable with. Despite wooden dialog and an overpowering supporting cast however, DiCaprio

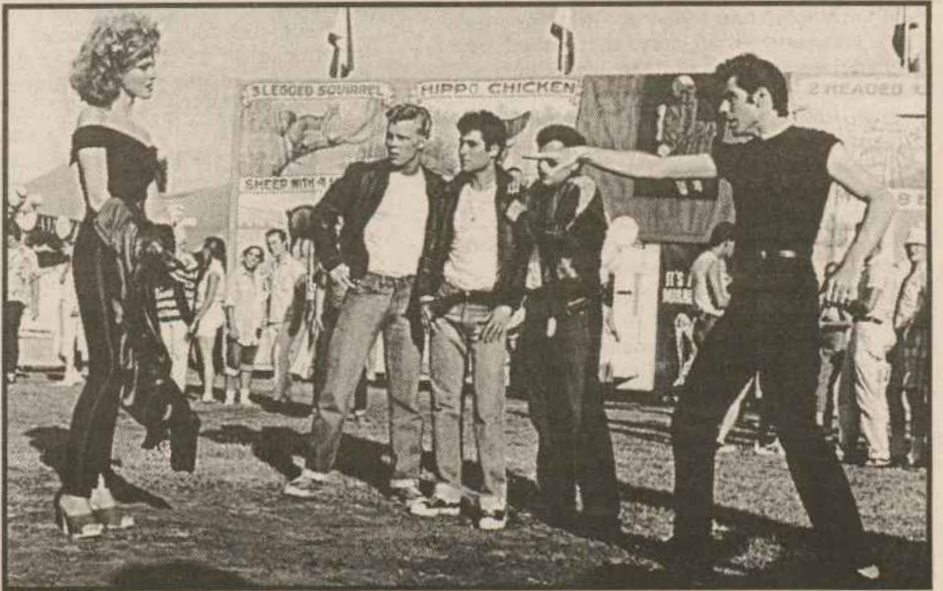
still manages to illustrate his appeal, and he grabs your attention in practically every scene. Over all he fares well, given the shortcomings of his evil King performance.

Frankly, this reviewer admits to being somewhat more disappointed that he had relatively few love scenes, and we barely manage a peek at his smooth chest - regretfully, "that's all, folks!"

Surrounding Leo is a superlative cast which truly makes this film worth seeing. The aforementioned Musketeers include Athos (John Malkovich), who swears vengeance against Louis XIV for the death of his only son in battle; Aramis (Jeremy Irons), the chief plotter of the group; Porthos (Gerard Depardieu), who misses no chance to play the fool; and finally Louis' bodyguard D'Artagnan (Gabriel Byrne), who remains loyal to his deeply flawed King, vainly hoping he'll one day become good. These swashbuckling, legendary heroes live for us on the screen largely because the actors portaying them are visibly enjoying themselves in this film, and thus we enjoy watching their exploits all the more.

The main female roles are those of Queen Anne (Anne Parillaud), the far too lenient mother of naughty Louis XIV, and the latter's doomed love interest, Christine (Judith Godrèche). Neither is a stand-out performance or role - this is a male-dominated culture in 17th century France, and it clearly shows in the marginalized, supporting female roles.

Essentially, *The Man in the Iron Mask* is an old-fashioned, richly staged period adventure, employing beautiful costumes and a lovely setting to aggrandize the story (the Chateau Vaux-le-Vicomte makes a handsome Versailles - more so in the interiors than the exterior). The adequately swashbuckling score by Nick Glennie-Smith (*The Rock*) finds the peaks of emotion whenever possible. For all its cheesiness, *The Man in the Iron Mask* remains a light, highly watchable diversion.



Re-Released - The classic rock and roll movie musical "Grease" is being re-released for its 20th anniversary. It can be seen starting Friday, March 27 at theaters around Wisconsin.

In 'Mrs. Dalloway' the Characters Steal the Film and Then Your Heart

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

After the harrowing moviegoing experience of *Nil by Mouth* (see accompanying review), Glenn was quite reasonably afraid to go back to the cinema. Even after soothing words from his dear friend Lois, Glenn was still a shattered mess and was seen desperately clutching a "Biggie" popcorn and Diet Pepsi as he slowly shuffled down the aisle for a preview of *Mrs. Dalloway*.

At least on a sane, rational level, Glenn knew that *Mrs. Dalloway*, based on a celebrated novel from the eminent British novelist Virginia Woolf held great promise for a thoughtful and literate moviegoing experience.

And so it did!

Starring the always superb Vanessa Redgrave in the title role, *Mrs. Dalloway* explores one single, sundrenched June day in the life on one of Ms. Woolf's most appealing heroines.

Mrs. Dalloway, now in her 50s, is shown to be a fashionable London hostess whose greatest joy in life is in the preparation of "enchanting evenings", parties where her guests can, if only for one night, forget the demands of their everyday lives. As she prepares for yet another of her celebrated parties, two seemingly unrelated events compel Mrs. Dalloway to reflect on her life and upon the choices she made so very many years before.

The first event occurs at a flower shop. As Mrs. Dalloway delights amongst the lovely and fragrant blossoms, for just one brief, startling instant, she is confronted with the tortured face of a young man in the window of the shop. But he is gone, as if a ghost, before she can reach the sidewalk.

This is Septimus Warren Smith (Rupert Graves), a soldier in the first World War suffering from delayed shell-shock. Woolf offers Septimus's tragic story as a curious yet bold counterpoint to that of Mrs. Dalloway.

Even more significant to Mrs. Dalloway

is the arrival of Peter Walsh (Michael Kitchen), so terribly inconvenient, on the day of her party. As a young woman Clarissa Dalloway (Natascha McElhone) was a lively and vivacious girl, as much in love with the splendid young Peter (Alan Cox) as he was of her. Shown too, is a telling flirtation Clarissa entertains from her equally vivacious friend Sally (Lena Headley)

Yet Clarissa would instead choose another suitor altogether, one Mr. Dalloway (played by John Standing in the present, by Robert Portal as a young man), a man Clarissa feels is a safer choice, both more reliable and less demanding and dangerous than Peter.

Director Marleen Gorris (best known for the Oscar-winning *Antonia's Line*) largely eschews a traditional narrative as *Mrs. Dalloway* languidly explores the difficult decisions we are so often faced with between romance and sensibility, and the necessity of facing the subsequent consequence.

Glenn didn't always find *Mrs. Dalloway* an easy film to follow, with many confusingly shifts from Septimus's story to that of Mrs. Dalloway as well as shifts from the present to the past and back. That there was often little resemblance between actors playing young and older versions of the same character also did not help Glenn.

Instead strength and success of the film rests in the hands of its very talented cast.

So believable is Rupert Graves as the doomed Septimus that Glenn longed to take him in his arms and offer him the warmth and security he so desperately needs but was unable to find.

Yet it is a pair of radiant actresses, Vanessa Redgrave and Natascha McElhone as the older and younger Clarissa Dalloway who steal the film and stole the heart of as jaded a moviegoer as Glenn.

Rating \$5.95 (scale No cents to \$7.00)

"Mrs. Dalloway" opens Friday April 3 at Milwaukee's Downer Theater.

'Nil by Mouth' is One of the Most Darkly Depressing Films to Come Along

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Perhaps the most difficult type of film to review is that which offers strong characters, meaningful situations, terrific insights into the human condition, sensational acting and yet proves to be a thoroughly depressing and unpleasant moviegoing experience.

Just such a film is *Nil by Mouth*, a debut dictatorial effort from Gary Oldman, probably best known as an actor for his vivid portrayals of the original punk rocker, Sid Vicious (*Sid and Nancy*) and Gay playwright Joe Orton (*Prick Up Your Ears*)

To say that *Nil by Mouth* is a raw depiction of the mean streets of impoverished South London would be an extraordinary piece of understatement. Few films in Glenn's memory capture the desperation of such a collection of lost souls in whose lives drugs and violence are routine affairs.

At the center of Oldman's semi-autobiographical screenplay is the hard-drinkin', coke-snortin' Ray (Ray Winstone), his slovenly pitiful pregnant wife Val (Kathy Burke) and their extended, exceedingly dysfunction family.

Ray doesn't seem to have a job. Sure, he always seems to have a few petty cons up his sleeve but mostly Ray spends his day killing time watching endless hours of television and telling pointless foul stories with other loser friends. In between, he somehow manages to buy some drugs, get drunk and maybe take a quick trip to a Soho stripper club.

Did Glenn forget to mention that when Ray is on a bender, he turns into a mean and violent drunk. In one especially harrowing scene, Ray confronts Val's teen-aged brother Billy (Charlie Creed-Miles) about a missing stash of drugs. Val intercedes but not before Ray manages to take a vicious bite out of Billy's nose.

When Oldman's often jerky, hand-held camera is not revealing Ray's pitiful life, the focus shifts to Billy, who is surely not meant to be seen as a victim. Oh-no! Billy himself possesses quite a coke addiction and is repeatedly shown shaking his poor ol' mum down for the money for that day's fix. Billy's manipulations even go so far as having his poor ol' mum drive him to the desolate block of flats where Billy will make his score and then, as rain pours down on their van, in chilling silence she watches as he shoots up.

Yet even amidst the routine daily violence that surrounds Oldman's lost souls, no single scene can compare to the dis-

play of extraordinary violence that Ray inflicts on his pregnant wife Val when he decides she is sleeping with another man. Most disturbing is the pity Glenn could not help but feel for Ray, realizing as Val herself does, what a ridiculously improbable idea this supposed affair is.

You faithful readers of the *Wisconsin Light* must by now be asking yourselves, "Why even bother to go see *Nil by Mouth*?"

Glenn wishes he had a surer answer.

To be sure, Oldman elicits extraordinary performances from all concerned. Ray Winstone beautifully captures the complete despair which so often drives this hulk of a man to drunken bouts of both violence and self-realization.

No less shattering is Kathy Burke's extraordinary portrayal of the haunted and haunting Val. No simple victim, Burke's Val is a woman who still manages a quiet strength and improbably maintains the impossible hope for "a bit o' fun" even as she endures another beating at the hands of her husband.

Still, *Nil by Mouth* is almost unendurably long at 128 minutes, thick accents render much of the dialogue unintelligible (although Glenn must admit that this is something of a mixed blessing) and its unrelentingly depressing subject matter is enough to leave all but the most optimistic individual a broken and shattered mess.

Rating \$4.75 (scale No cents to \$7.00)

"Nil By Mouth" opens at Milwaukee's Downer Theater on Friday, March 28.

THE FILMS
Love and Death On Long
Island and
Happy Together Are
Reviewed on
Page 13.

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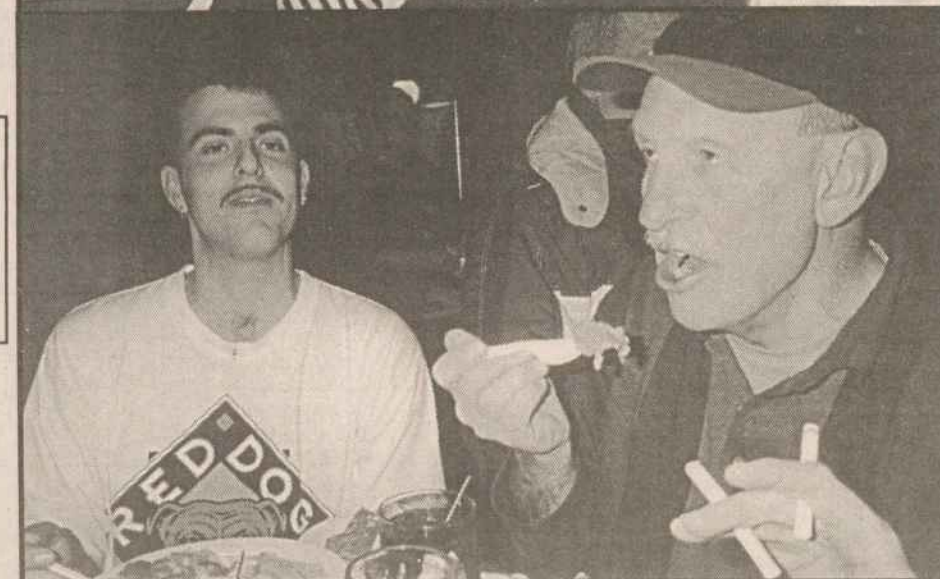
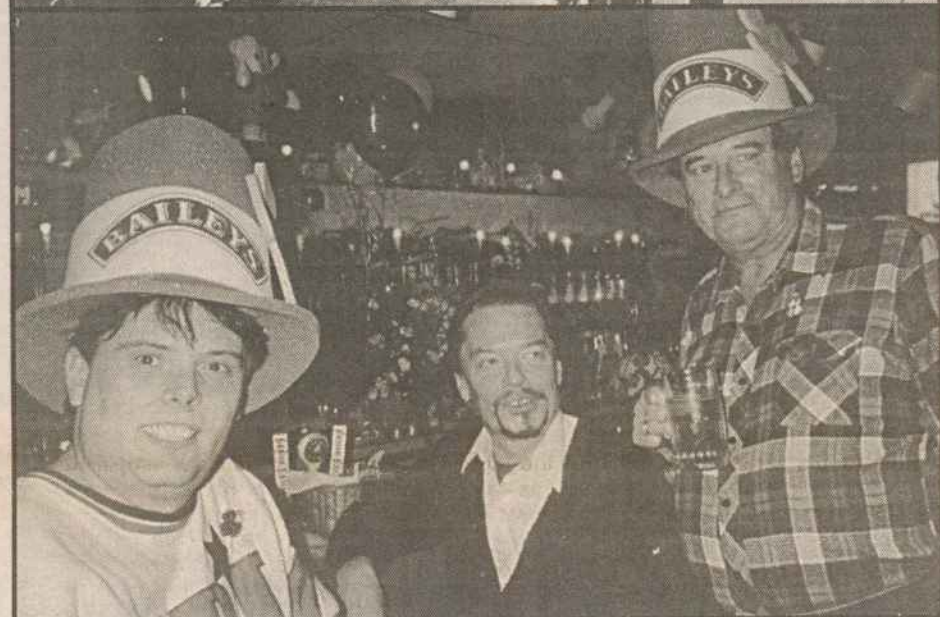


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Jerry Johnson



A Great Time - The St. Pat's Day party at Milwaukee's Ball Game offered an extra special reason to celebrate, the bar's 25th Anniversary. The occasion was marked by great food, a large crowd, and Dave Wiggins leading a sing along on the piano. As you can see from these pictures everyone had a great time (like when don't they have fun at this popular bar?)

Dear Ruthie

Dear Ruthie,

My brother called yesterday asking that I not bring my lover (of two years - a very happy two years I might add), to his son's birthday party. My nephew will be 1 year-old. My parents are great with my lover and I, so I was surprised by this request from my brother.

My first reaction was not to go to the party at all. My partner, however, assured me that she would not be upset if I went without her and encouraged me to go.

What do you think I should do? I'd like to go, but I'm not sure what sort of signals I'd be sending to my family, and I'm not sure how my partner would really feel about the whole situation when the time actually comes for me to go. I hope you answer this letter. I read your column each week.

Thanks,
A Friend

Dear Friend,

Thanks for your letter and I'm thrilled to hear that you like the column. Your problem reminds me of one I had with my friend Harriet a few years ago. Harriet didn't want me to bring our friend, Pearl, to Harriet's birthday party. Harriet said that Pearl had gotten so out of control when it came to sleeping with men, that she wasn't any better than a professional prostitute. I asked Harriet how she could make such a ridiculous statement when everyone knows that Pearl gives it away for free.

Things got more and more heated as the conversation went on, and it ended with me hiding Harriet's heart medication and returning the foot massager I got her. On the night of the party Pearl and I sat in a bar crying over margaritas and stale popcorn. It was a sad and emotional night - one that I'll never forget. Later that night we went home with two Mexican car mechanics named Jose and Nacho. Jose and Nacho, or "Crazy Cheese" as he liked to be called, turned out to be two lovely young men who gave us pedicures and changed the oil in our cars the next morning.

Now where was I? Oil ... feet ... margaritas ... Pearl ... birthday ... your nephew. Yes, your nephew's birthday.

Well... I think you need to talk to your brother and find out what the real problem is here. You need to find out why your brother suddenly can't have you and your partner together in the house. I'm assuming that you and your partner have been together for as long as you say, and that the relationship is a strong one where you behave in an acceptable manner when others (particularly kids) are present. It seems like he's afraid of your "lifestyle" around his newborn. Yes - that's wacked (as the kids say).

Ask "Brother Do-Good" what he's afraid of. Don't let him squirm out of this. Find out why things have changed now. Is it the kid? Is he afraid you and your partner are going to strip down right there and make it on the dining room table? "Can someone pass me a piece of birthday cake? Can someone pass me a fork? Can someone pass me a dental dam?"

C'mon! Ask your brother if he thinks you two will be sending out some sort of lesbo vibe. Ask him if he thinks he'll need to fumigate after you leave. In any event, get to the real problem.

I wouldn't go to this birthday without your partner if your relationship is as serious as you say it is. The kid's going to have other birthdays. Let your brother know that you can't come without your spouse. Drop off a gift if you want. Remember that you've made a commitment to this woman you're with. Show your brother that your commitment is strong and normal and that his reasoning is not.

Dear Ruthie,

Can you believe the nerve? I have a best friend and a new lover who are behaving badly.

I told my friend to treat my new love nice. Talk to him and make him feel welcome at this party we went to. My new boy did not know anybody there and I did not want him feeling left out.

Well, Ruthie, let me tell you what happened next. I came back into the room after fixing myself a little drink (us girls love our drinks), and there was (the best friend) sitting on my new man's lap. They were laughing and stuff. When they saw me, (the best friend) got off and sat down on the couch.

There was room at the party for him to sit. He did not need to be all over



Ruthie

(the boyfriend) like that. I bitched (the best friend) out good the next day. He says I am nuts and taking things too seriously. Am I? Do you think I damaged this friendship forever? Who is wrong here?

I do not know if people really come up with those ways to sign their name or not. Here is the best I could do.

(signed)
Party Pooper

Dear Pooper,

Sitting in laps??? Boy are you asking the wrong dame! Honey, I've been in more laps than a napkin. I've got so many belt buckle and zipper impressions on my butt, I look like I've been branded by Levi.

It sounds like your amigo - I can't stop recalling my night of ecstasy with Jose and Nacho - took your request too literally.

You have to consider the situation too. You kids were at a party, there was some alcohol involved, and it sounds like everyone was having a good time. I mean, there's a difference between being silly at a party in front of everyone, and doing a down and dirty lap dance. There's not much of a difference if you're anything like Pearl, but there's a difference nonetheless.

You've warned your friend that you didn't like this behavior and that he seemed to get a little carried away - leave it at that. Just watch his behavior around the boyfriend in the future to make sure this doesn't continue. If it does, you've got yourself a problem. Watch the boyfriend too. Who's to say he didn't encourage this? After all it was his lap and his beefy burrito your friend was sitting on. I'm sure there's nothing to worry about. Don't end your friendship over one little incident like this.

Now I've got to go. All this talk about laps, parties, and burritos has gotten to me! Pearl and I are gonna drain the oil out of our cars and give Jose and Nacho a call. Oh - the toe nails will be flying tonight! And, hey, if you want to drop me a letter, I'd love to answer it.

You can reach me at The Wisconsin Light - 1843 N. Palmer St. - Milwaukee WI 53212. Yes, I read all of them and yes, people really do come up with those nifty little ways to sign their letters. If not, I just add "a friend" when the letter is printed. I don't like to include real names. See ya next time!

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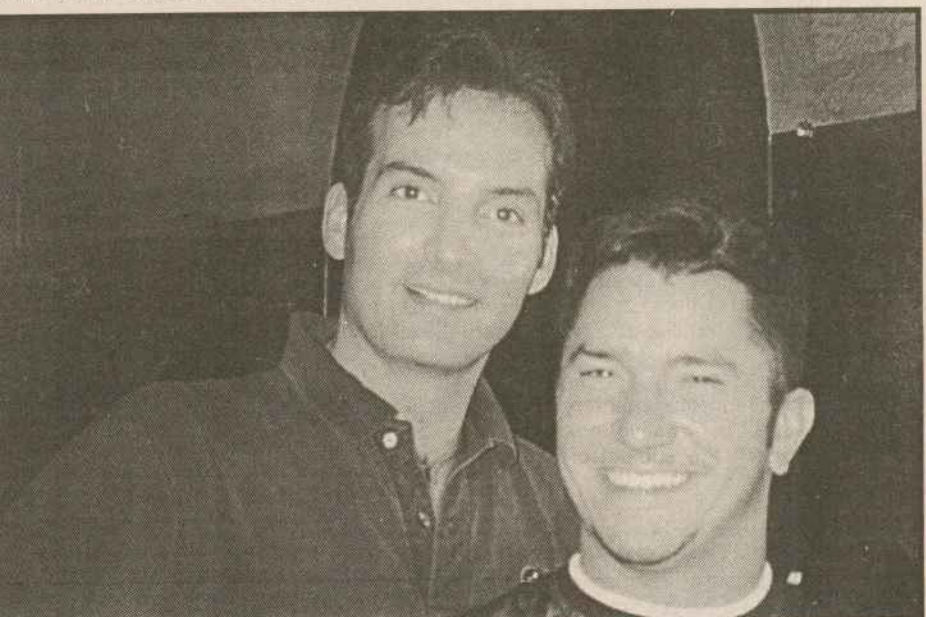
Mardi Gras At Mama's! Show above are two the revelers at Mama Roux's Mardi Gras / Anniversary Party held at the bar on Saturday February 28th.



In Between Owner Curt Peck and a bag piper who treated the bar's St. Pat's Day crowd with a special performance



Curt S and Friend at In Between on St. Patrick's Day



Bill and Jimmy, managers of the new Milwaukee Bar, Fluid, during their opening night on St. Pat's Day.

Great Places In WISCONSIN

Appleton				
Rascals Bar & Grill	MW, Food	702 E. Wisconsin	54991	954-9262
Eau Claire				
Scoters	W,m	411 Galloway	54703	835-9959
Wolf's Den	M,W	302 E. Madison	54703	832-9237
Green Bay				
Brandy's II	Mw	1126 Main Street	54304	437-3917
Buddies	MW	1264 Main Street	53204	437-9256
The Napalese Lounge	MW, DJ	515 S. Broadway	54303	432-9646
Sass	WM	840 S. Broadway	54304	437-7277
Za's/Java's	MW, DJ	1106 Main St.	54301	435-5476
Kenosha				
Club 94	MW, DJ	9001 120th Ave	53140	857-9958
La Crosse				
Cavalier Lounge	Mw	114 N 5th St.	54601	782-9061
Players	S/G MW	218 Main Street	54601	782-9279
Rainbow's End	Retail	417 Jay St.	54601	
Lake Mills				
Cross Roads	G/S MW	W6642 Hwy B	53551	648-8457
Madison				
Geraldine's	WM, DJ	3054 E. Washington	53704	241-9335
Kirby's Klub	MW, DJ, Shows	121 W Main St	53703	251-1030
MAD Bar	M, L/L	150 S. Blair	53703	258-9918
Manoeuvres	MW, DJ, Shows	150 S. Blair	53703	258-9918
Room of One's Own	Books/Expresso	307 W. Johnson	53703	257-7888
Shamrock	MW	117 W. Main St	53703	255-5029
We Are Family	Retail/Expresso	524 E. Wilson	53703	258-9006
Milwaukee				
Afterwords Books	Retail/ Expresso	2710 N. Murray	53211	963-9089
Ball Game	M, Sports Bar	196 S. 2 nd	53204	273-7474
1100 Club	M, L/L, Food	1100 S. 1st St.	53204	647-9950
Boot Camp	M, L/L	209 E. National	53204	643-6900
Cest Le Vie	M Shows	231 S. Second Street	53204	276-8890
Clinton St. Antiques	Retail	1110 S. 1 st Street	53204	647-1773
Club 219	Mw DJ, Shows	219 S. 2nd St.	53204	271-3732
D's Place	Wm, DJ	4025 N Port Washington	53212	962-9487
Designing Men	Retail	1200 S. 1 st	53204	389-1200
Dish	W, DJ	235 S. Second	53204	273-Dish
Emerald's Lounge	MW	801 E. Hadley	53212	265-7325
Fannies	Wm	200 E. Washington	53204	649-9003
Fluid	MW	819 S. Second	53204	645-8330
Glass Menagerie	Fine Dining	124 N. Water	53202	347-1962
Grubb's Pub	MW, Food	807 S. 2 nd St.	53204	384-8330
In Between	Mw, Sports Bar	625 S. 2nd St.	53204	273-2693
Just Us	WM, DJ	807 S. 5th St.	53204	383-2233
Kathy's Nut Hut	Wm	1500 W. Scott	53204	647-2673
La Cage	Mw DJ, Shows	801 S 2nd St.	52304	383-8330
La Perla	Mexican Food	735 S. 5 th Street	53204	645-9888
M & M Club	MW, Food	124 N. Water	53202	347-1962
Mama Roux	Mw, Food	1875 N. Humboldt	53202	347-0344
Milwaukee Eagle	M, L/L	300 W. Juneau	53203	273-6900
Milwaukee Room	Fine Dining	316 N. Milwaukee	53202	277-7666
Rene's Cozy Corner	MW	3500 W. Park Hill	53208	933-7363
S Water Street Docks	M, L/L	354 E. National	53204	225-9676
Silver Dollar Café	Food	831 S. 16 th St.	53204	645-8860
Station 2	Wm	1534 W. Grant	53204	383-5755
This Is It	Mw	418 E. Wells	53202	278-9192
Triangle	M	135 E. National	53204	383-9412
Walkers Point Café	Food	1106 S. First Street	53204	384-7999
Woody's	M	1579 S 2nd St.	53204	672-0806
Neenah				
Diversions	MW, DJ	1413 Green Valley	54911	725-3374
Racine				
JoDees	MW, DJ	2139 Racine St.	53403	634-9804
What About Me?	MW	600 6th St.	53403	632-0171
Sheboygan				
The Blue Lite	MW	1029 N. 8th St.	53081	457-1636
Stevens Point				
The Platwood Club	G/S, MW DJ	701 Highway 10W	54481	341-8862
Superior				
JT's	MW DJ	1506 N 3rd St.	55880	394-2580
Main Club	MW	1217 Tower Ave	54880	392-1756
Trio	Wm	820 Tower Ave	54880	392-5373
Wausau				
Oz	MW, DJ	320 Washington	54401	842-3225



Together Again - Former Triangle Bartenders Bill Wardlow and Jimmy Balistreri posed with former Triangle owner, Al Thomas and a few of the many friends who were at Fluid on Friday, March 20. Bill and Jimmy are managing the new bar which is located at 819 S. Second Street. (the former Zippers) The bar has been redone and is said to be a great place to meet your friends and make new ones. From the crowds that have been observed visiting Fluid, it looks like it will become one of Gay and Lesbian Milwaukee's most popular stops.



Cheers - La Cage Showcase members, Michelle, - L and Sasha Mitchell - R toast the new Queen of Wisconsin, Miss Sage La Rue (Center) Sage won the Miss Gay Wisconsin Contest last month and La Cage celebrated by throwing a nice champagne reception in her honor on Friday, March 20. The reception was followed by a performance of the La Cage Showcase featuring Sage as a special guest. Sage brought the house down (like when doesn't she) with her numbers. Also featured that evening as Milwaukee native Gay comic, John Mc Givern. Mc Givern is in town for his one man show which will be at the Milwaukee Rep March 26 through March 29.

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Nations Grapple With the Gay Lives of Their Greatest Muses

By Jack Nichols

As reported in a recent issue of *Wisconsin Light*, Germany has been rocked by the publication of a carefully researched study based on 2,500 letters written by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe—long regarded as The Fatherland's greatest cultural genius—letters proving the Muse was homosexually inclined. The book, *The Tender Caress of the Tiger*, by a highly respected biographer, Karl Hugo Pruys, has found its author's "Goethe was Gay" thesis favorably received by non-German scholars and critics.

Pruys has been angrily castigated by many of Germany's own critics, however, who seem to accuse him of dragging Goethe's name through the mud.

At a news conference Tuesday, October 14, Goethe's controversial biographer said he hoped his countrymen wouldn't pay attention to the nation's alarmed and disgruntled pundits and would read the new book to make up their minds individually. He hopes his study of Goethe, he said, will ignite more open discussions about Goethe both in Germany and abroad.

In the United States, Walt Whitman's recognition in other lands became finally responsible for spotlighting his poetic genius among his countrymen. American academics could no longer deny Whitman recognition, therefore, though some "high-minded" researchers continue to suggest that while Whitman may have been homoerotic in tone, he was probably celibate.

Gary Schmidgall, author of the acclaimed biography of Oscar Wilde, *The Stranger Wilde*, now watches with considerable wonder as his latest book, *Walt Whitman: A Gay Life*, sparks heated controversies about the sexual orientation of The Poet of Democracy. Schmidgall dances, say some reviews, with noticeable ease into scintillating arenas of high scholarship.

The Manhattan-based researcher succeeds in humanizing Whitman, while maintaining a deep-going affection for the great Gay poet that is apparent on nearly every page.

Along with other Whitman-myths debunkings, Schmidgall takes on David Reynolds' recent cultural biography, *Walt Whitman's America* (1995) for Reynolds' attempt to downplay or dismiss Whitman's homosexuality. Schmidgall's *Walt Whitman: A Gay Life*, rescues the poet's sex life in grand style for which the Philadelphia Inquirer congratulates him for successfully linking Whitman's sexual desires—as Whitman himself did—with his greatness as an inspired seer.

An enraged mini-sized review in the *New York Times*, however, blithely scolded Schmidgall for once again daring to tell readers that Whitman was Gay and for not only repeating this (the review says) unnecessary point but for making it beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Admirers of this Whitman biographer, however, say that the author has performed with passion, humor and finesse. They note that the *Times* reviewer would seem, sadly, to prefer that Americans pretend, just as German intellectuals do, that a great Muse's compelling spiritual affirmations—can't be acknowledged as Gay-inspired. Or, if a great genius' same-sex attractions are actually demonstrable, say the shocked ones, then those very facts must be allowed no public emphasis.

The response of Great Britain to the approaching centennial of the death of one of its foremost homosexually-inclined geniuses, Oscar Wilde, has been more festive. Wilde, a contemporary of Whitman's, suffered imprisonment because of 19th century sodomy statutes. He then watched his reputation sink in what he believed would spell eternal infamy for his progeny. Wilde's grandson, Merlin Holland, was so hounded in childhood that his name—like that of Wilde's wife—was changed to protect him from public taunts.

Today, however, as his own son nears adulthood, Wilde's grandson is again taking for himself the Irish playwright and

poet's name. Wilde festivals are currently being held throughout the nation and at last count, it is said, 400 books about Wilde have been published.

Wilde, speaking of Walt Whitman whom he met, said that America's poet was the precursor of a fresh new kind of man. Whitman, on the other hand called Wilde "frank and outspoken and manly." Gary Schmidgall uncovers similarities both men demonstrated in their strategies and what drew them together from separate cultures to make of them such admiring friends.

Schmidgall, also critiques David Reynolds' deliberate attempt at neutering Whitman as well as all such mystification of the poet's nigh-blatant sexuality. Such scholarship only signals, he seems to say, a ostrich-like burial of scholarly brains, a pose instilling a suffocating and unhealthy "high-mindedness" about sex.

The problem, it seems, that some straight intellectuals have, is that they think that the words "Gay" and "genius" are contradictions in terms. It is time, high time, they woke up and began to understand the truth.

Rev Perry

Continued from Page 12

He says he has not spoken to her in 35 years.

"It's one of those things - I just have to leave it alone," he says of his marriage. "My ex-wife and oldest son have made it clear they do not want me to contact them. It still bothers me, but I have to respect their wishes."

In 1984, however, his youngest son suddenly contacted him and the two have become friends. Perry even served as preacher for his son's wedding.

For James Michael Perry, a 33-year-old Midwestern construction worker, coming to terms with his Gay father has been a hard lesson in unconditional acceptance.

"My perception of my father growing up, from what my mother had told me, was that he was an evil man, that homosexuality was the devil's work," he says. "Now that I know him, I'm proud of what he's done. I don't understand homosexuals, but I don't think Gay jokes are funny anymore. I'm different now, thanks to my father."

Perry recalls meeting with his adult son for the first time, at a Mexican restaurant near his home in Silver Lake, with his lover and mother in tow. "I was gonna be big, bad and butch - I was not going to cry," he says. "But as soon as we joined hands for prayer, everyone was blubbering. The waitress took one look at us and came over to ask if the tamales were too hot."

After three decades of steady growth, Perry's movement has become a growing financial force. Last year, U.S. parishioners alone donated more than \$15 million to his churches.

By all accounts, Perry lives modestly. He shares a two-bedroom condominium with DeBlicke and is paid an annual salary of \$62,000. Still, he's amazed by his success.

"A friend once said he thought we'd become a living room [operation] in West Hollywood and maybe one in San Francisco," he says. "But we never dreamed of this."

Last year, with the help of a \$1-million down payment raised through church collections, his movement paid \$3.8 million for a complex in West Hollywood - its present worldwide headquarters - with plans to transform the building into a church space, visitors center and Gay and Lesbian museum.

Perry continues to advocate for Gay rights, both inside and outside the church. He has been invited to the White House conferences on both AIDS and hate crimes.

In recent years, his churches have gained legitimacy among the religious community at large, accepted into a growing number of interfaith councils.

"When you think of where the religious community was in 1968 in respect to homosexuality, something had to give," says the Rev. Albert Cohen, executive director of the Southern California Ecumenical Council, which last year voted to accept Perry's churches for membership in its group.

The author of four books on homosexuality and religion, including *The Lord Is My Shepherd*, and *He Knows I'm Gay*, Perry remains an inspiring speaker, a man well-versed in Scripture, who mixes passion and storytelling with a touch of the absurd.

"So many times he's made me laugh," says L.A. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, a friend of Perry's whose

district includes West Hollywood's sizable Gay population. "The only difference between Troy Perry and me is that I'm a Jew and he's a Christian. But if I was Christian, I'd want him as my minister. He'd keep me awake."

Ask Perry about his challenges and he talks about reaching out to self-loathing Gays and Lesbians who ask, "How can God possibly love me?" He also copes with what he calls the narcissism and sexual obsessions of the Gay community and with the "oppression sickness" that he says leads to increased alcohol and drug use.

His biggest battle, though, is against death. Especially difficult are services attended by parents who shunned their Gay children while they were alive.

"They're the ones I want to drop-kick, Jesus, right through the goal posts of life," he says.

In his funeral services, he reminds such parents of precious moments with their sons that they missed. "I tell them what wonderful men they turned out to be, how proud of them we all were, even if they weren't."

Just the other day, Perry went through

his address book and crossed out the names of those friends just in Los Angeles who had died from AIDS in the past few years. There were 86.

And Perry prepares for others, such as a clergyman in his church whose AIDS related illness has brought him near death. On his office phone, he consoles the man's lover with an explicit set of directions.

"Remember to tell him to meet at the Eastern Gate."

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HOUSEKEEPING! This Single White Male, 30, extremely submissive and petite, seeks a dominant master. I want you to humiliate me, totally control me, and make me serve you. I'll be your French maid, strip for you, or do whatever you want me to. (Milwaukee) #15914

NO VANILLA HERE This White Male, 32, 6'2", 175 lbs., blonde, smooth, seeks a master who's into serious bondage/discipline, humiliation, light S/M, and cross-dressing. I'm also into nude beaches, nature, walks, music, and dancing. This is my first ad, so please call. #15525

YOU ONLY I'm a very versatile Bi Male, 38, 5'7", 192 lbs., stocky and orally talented, with a beard, mustache, and a shaved head. I'm looking for you only. Race doesn't matter. #15525

ARAB ADMIRER This Hispanic Male, 33, 5'9", 165 lbs., masculine and straight-acting, seeks Arab, Middle-Eastern, or White Men who are masculine, good-looking, and height/weight proportionate for friendship and a possible long-term relationship. #15330

ANY AND ALL I'm a Gay Male looking for any kind of Male who's Gay. #15533

ARE YOU BEING SERVED? This submissive Male, 40's, seeks an overweight White Male master into foot worship, humiliation, and oral servitude. Make me a slave. #15306

DON'T HOLD BACK I'm looking for large, musclebound Men who are uninhibited and not afraid to show off what they've got. (Minneapolis) #15355

SHARE THE HEAT This 27-year-old Male, 5'11", 185 lbs., wants to hook up and share hot times with other Guys. (Minneapolis) #15423

SERVE AND OBEY Slave wanted for ongoing training and absolute submission. Experience preferred, but novices will be considered. Applicant must desire to serve and obey. (Minneapolis) #5710

THE WETTER THE BETTER I'm a 39-year-old Male living in the downtown area. I'm very into water sports, so give me a call if you're interested. (Minneapolis) #15623

WHAT'S IN YOU HEAD? I'm a Bi Native American Male, 22, 6', 200 lbs., with dark brown hair and hazel eyes. I'm looking for intellectual Guys my age who want to have good conversations and good times. (Northeastern Wisconsin) #16118

I LIKE YOUR IMAGE This retired civil engineer and historian, 50, would like to meet some younger Guys, 20's to early 40's, who are beefy and well-muscled to photograph for my own personal collection. I'm not looking for any kind of relationship really, just the opportunity to appreciate young Male bodies. I'll treat you kindly. (Milwaukee) #15719

FRIENDS FIRST This good-looking professional Hispanic Male, 23, would like to make new friends, ages 20-30, with the possibility of a relationship later on. (Milwaukee) #15240

DOWN FOR THE COUNT I'm a masculine, in-shape Male, 5'10", 185 lbs., looking for Guys to exercise with. I wrestled in high school, and am also interested in Judo. Let me know if you have experience on the mat. (Southeast Wisconsin) #15592

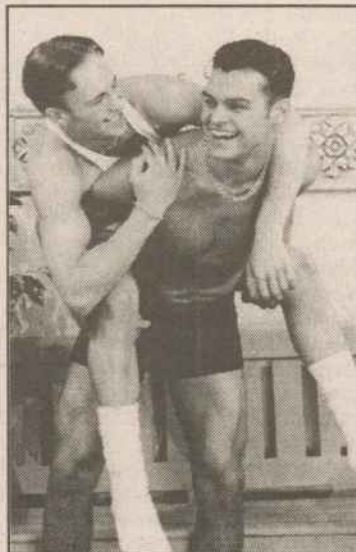
TWO, FOUR, MORE? I'm a 26-year-old Male, 5'8", 160 lbs., height/weight proportionate, seeking Gay Men, Gay couples, or groups who are open to anything and want to get wild. (Rockford) #15918

NOT AFRAID OF THE DARK I'm a Gay Male, 40, 5'10", 150 lbs., HIV+, with dark blond hair and blue eyes. I'm looking for a friendship and possible relationship with the right Guy. I particularly like dark-skinned Men, such as Blacks, Latinos, and Asians, but all interested Males are welcome to respond. (Rockford) #15982

GOODBYE GREEN BAY Good looking, rugged, White male, 34, 6'2", 168lbs, into snowskiing, waterskiing, motorcycles, and other fun stuff, seeks a guy to enjoy life with. I'm moving to Texas in a few months. (Green Bay) #14092

BE A YOUNGSTER This good looking, good natured, White male, 33, seeks a younger, Bi male, 18 to 22, who loves the outdoors and believes in safe sex. I like jogging, swimming, camping, and lots more. #14445

BUTT PLAY ALL DAY I'm an attractive, 43 year old, Gay, White male, bottom, into guys of all ages and races. I'm especially turned on by butt play and am extremely oral. (St. Paul) #14469



NEW TO ALL THIS I'm a 42-year-old Male, 6'3", 220 lbs., with greying brown hair and green eyes. I've been in the closet my whole life and am just coming out a little bit. I'm looking for understanding Gay Males to talk to. I'm trying to figure out just what it is that I want. (Milwaukee) #15863

IT'S ALL GOOD This Bi Male, 20, 5'9", 150 lbs., is looking for Males 18-25 to do anything and everything with. #15236

ON MY KNEES I'm a submissive White Male, 40, with a foot fetish. I'm looking for dominant Males for master/slave games and to orally service. Heavy or chubby is a plus. I'll be on my knees waiting. (Milwaukee) #16005

PASSIONATE AND BUILT I'm a clean-shaven, well-built Gay White Male, 6'2", 190 lbs., in search of other fit Gay White Males for passionate, discrete relationship. (Rochester) #16189

HERE TO PLEASE This Gay White Male, 41, seeks Married Men, attached Guys, inexperienced or curious Guys, or Males who haven't been with another Male for a long time. Let's get together and have some fun. (Rochester) #16283

A CONNECTION IS MADE I'm a good-looking Male, 35, 5'11", 185 lbs., with brown hair and green eyes. I like a lot of things and am very versatile. I'm hoping to connect with some new people. (Minneapolis) #16116

THREE-FOR-ALL I'm a Gay White Male, 39, 5'11", 185 lbs., HIV-, looking for discrete 3-way action with a masculine, healthy, mature Gay White Male couple, 35-50, who have been together for at least two years. You should have average to nice looks, be versatile, and enjoy mutually satisfying activities. The possibilities could be endless. Ongoing encounters would be great. (Minneapolis) #16317

PLEASURE WITH YOU This very versatile Black Male, 38, 5'7", 190 lbs., dark complexioned, with a shaved head, beard, and mustache, seeks a well-endowed Man of any race, preferably a top, for mutual pleasure. I'm stocky and very talented orally, and I'm waiting to meet you. (Milwaukee) #15624

SOMETHING IN COMMON Attractive, well built, White male, 35, 5'10, 180lbs, a versatile top, with dark hair and Green eyes, wants to hear from other horny men. (Minneapolis) #14557

RIDING THE TRAILS Fun loving, White male, 5'11, 220lbs, with Brown hair and Blue eyes, wants to meet someone to spend time with. I like camping, long walks, mountain biking, and hanging out at home. (Appleton) #11582

EARLY RISER This 38-year-old Bi Male bottom is looking for top action, preferably in the mornings. I need something big to fill me up. #14813

A NEW BEGINNING This 30 year old, White male, just coming out of a rocky relationship, seeks new friends to pal around with. I live about 30 miles out of Appleton. (Appleton) #11492

GREEN BAY BOY I'm hot to meet someone for good times. Let's get together and make our fantasies come true. (Green Bay) #12744

LIFT A LOAD This good looking, pretty well built, White male, college student and weightlifter, 23, 5'11, 235lbs, seeks other guys, around my age, to have fun with. (Oshkosh) #13457

KINKY CAPERS This big, White male, 235lbs, likes all sorts of men, especially if they are a little on the kinky side. I don't want a relationship but I do want to have fun. (Minneapolis) #14430

KNEEPADS ARE WORN Submissive, White male, in my forties, seeks a dominant, White male, preferably over 40, for humiliation, foot worship, and oral servitude. Heavy or chubby guys are welcome. I'm eager to serve and am waiting on my knees. (Milwaukee) #14170

MUSCLED FOR MEN This muscular, young stud, new to the Gay scene, wants to meet some guys and get with it. (Davenport) #14448

HOW BI AM I? I'm a Married White Male, very, very, very Bi, looking for a Guy to get together with on a regular basis. I'm 48, 5'9", 180 lbs., with a good build. I enjoy the outdoors and watching videos, and thong underwear really turns me on. Let's meet. #25097

LACY LUST Extremely horny, Bi, White male, 36, into lingerie, stockings, garter belts, bras, and anything lacy, wants to be gang banged by a group of extremely well hung, Black men. I want to rev up the video camera and capture it all on video. (Minneapolis) #14650

SAUSAGE FACTORY Good looking, well hung, White male, 33, 6'2, 175lbs, seeks fun and more with other hot men in the area. (Rochester) #14057

VIVE LA FRANCE This 37-year-old Bi married male would like to meet men or women for hot times. I'm French and very horny. (Minneapolis) #14564

TO THE POINT This slave boy needs dominant men to control and humiliate me. (Milwaukee) #15105

LEAVE IT TO THE PROFESSIONAL I'm a 22-year-old Hispanic Male, professional, looking to meet another guy for good times. #14973

CLEAN FUN I'm a clean Male, 25, 6'2", in search of other clean Males for good times, nothing serious. I'm in the Mankato area, but travel to the Cities often. (Mankato) #15028

LOOK INTO MY EYES This Single Male with dark blonde hair and hazel eyes finds black-haired Males with green, blue, or grey eyes attractive. I have a variety of interests and don't like gay bars. #15057

THE SEEDS OF LOVE We're both fit, trim, and masculine. You have a passion for goals and are emotionally secure. HIV-, 31-38, 5'8"-6', non-smoking, and a light drinker only. I'm an attractive Gay White Male, 33, 6'1", honest, mellow, communicative, funny, independent, and thoughtful. We both want a long-term relationship. Gardening is my passion, what's yours? (Madison) #15057

EXPANDING MY CIRCLE You can't have too many friends, right? This Gay White Male, 33, 6'1", 180 lbs., with dark blonde hair and hazel eyes would like to locate new friends, Gay, Bi, or Straight, in the Madison area. My interests include gardening, biking, golf, UW sports, movies, art, dining out, and just talking. I have an overall great personality, according to my friends. You be the judge. (Madison) #15064

THIRD SHIFTER Attractive, White male, in my mid forties, 57, 170lbs, with Brown hair and Blue eyes, seeks other guys to get together with in the mornings. I work third shift and have mornings to spare. Maybe we can have some coffee and if we hit it off, some good times. I'm a smoker. (Milwaukee) #14470

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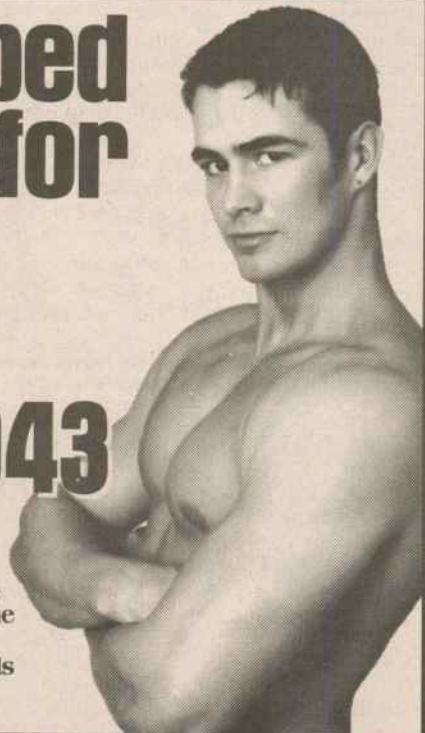
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AIDS Prevention
Continued From Page 1

But far from being an anomaly, this case brings to the fore one of the most important unresolved issues under the disability law: the definition of disability.

In the 1990 law, Congress did not specify diseases or conditions. Rather, it brought people under the law's umbrella in essentially two ways, to quote the statutory language: if they have "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities" or if they are "regarded as having such an impairment."

Although regulations issued by the Justice Department have provided more specific guidance, explicitly identifying "HIV disease (whether symptomatic or asymptomatic)" as an example of an "impairment," the lower courts have found the definition troublesome.

Lower courts have ruled that conditions like epilepsy, insulin-dependent diabetes, breast cancer and various forms of mental illness are not covered by the law. The courts are divided over whether asymptomatic HIV infection is a disability.

"The utility of the statute for people with significant medical disorders is before the court right now," Wendy Parnet, a law professor at Northeastern University in Boston, said in an interview.

Parnet, one of the lawyers representing Sidney Abbott, the plaintiff in this case, said that increasingly, "courts are creating high hurdles, cutting plaintiffs off at the pass" by questioning whether a condition actually amounts to a disability.

In the case now before the court, Bragdon vs. Abbott, No. 97-156, the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in Boston, applied the disability law to Abbott on the ground that her HIV-positive status had led her to conclude that she could not have children; she testified that she feared both infecting a baby and not living long enough to raise a child. She was therefore "substantially limited" in the "major life activity" of reproduction, the appeals court ruled last year.

Dr. Randon Bragdon, the dentist who refused to treat Abbott in his office, in Bangor, Maine, told her instead that he would fill her cavity in a hospital. In his appeal,

Bragdon is asking the Supreme Court to rule that Abbott was not disabled when she came to his office in 1994 and that the 1990 law consequently did not apply to their interaction.

Bragdon's brief also includes an alternative argument based on an exception that Congress wrote into the law, providing that a disabled person whose condition "poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others" need not be served.

It is the prospect that each plaintiff might have to not only prove that he or she suffers from a particular condition, but to also demonstrate from scratch in each case why the condition should be considered disabling, that has mobilized a wide range of disability groups, from hemophiliacs to people with mental retardation and multiple sclerosis.

Bennett Klein, who will argue the case for Abbott before the court on March 30, said, "In our view, HIV is always a disability."

"It's not the Social Security Act, where being disabled means you can't work," said Klein, a lawyer with a Boston public-interest law firm, Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders.

Hearing
Continued From Page 1

that would ban partial birth abortions. Sources at the Capitol, told **The Wisconsin Light** that most of those favoring AB-104 also registered in favor of the partial birth abortion bill.

Nearly all of the supporters of the bill quoted from the Bible or gave their interpretations of the Bible. One minister seemed to be calling for the public execution of Gays and Lesbians. Another minister denounced any clergy who would bless Same Sex unions.

The bill's opponents (including a representative sent by **The Wisconsin Light**), countered by telling the Committee about their own relationships and the problems they face due to the prohibition on Same sex marriage. Some also addressed growing anti-Gay violence in Wisconsin and charged that the bill was an attempt to force the religious beliefs of some on everyone living in the State.

Openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) was present for much of the hearing but did not testify due to Assembly protocol under age demonstrated by those who spoke against the bill. I was very touched by their eloquence. That activism went a long way towards slowing down, the bill's

which members do not testify against bills proposed by other members.

Afterwards Baldwin told **The Light**, "I was very proud of the visibility and progress."

AB 104 easily passed the State Assembly after a bitter six hour hearing held in Wausau. That passage came when all but one of the Assembly's Republican majority voted for it and only 20 of the chamber's 46 Democrats voted against it. The bill's prime sponsor was Lorraine Seratti, (R-Spread Eagle)

Stung by criticism that they did not do enough to stop AB 104 in the Assembly where they are in the minority, Senate Democrats (who control the State Senate) refused to hold a hearing on the bill.

In an effort to force a vote on AB-104, Wisconsin Christians United (WCU) began a post card and letter writing campaign demanding that the Senate pull the bill from the Judiciary Committee and vote on it.

A copy of the WCU letter received by **Wisconsin Light** and signed by the head of the religious extremist group, urged recipients to write to various legislators, but had the names of the legislators spelled wrong.

Governor Thompson had announced that he would sign the legislation if it were passed.

Sources at the Capitol say that Senate Democrats felt caught in an election quandary. On the one hand they did not want to alienate their Gay and Lesbian constituency. On the other hand they recognized that Gay marriage is not popular with the voters.

The hearing, these sources say, was held to hold off any motion to pull the legislation from the Judiciary and bring it a vote on the Senate floor where most observers say it would pass.

Complicating matters were factors of timing. The Republican candidate in the special State Senate election to be held next month is expected to win and that victory would give the GOP control of the State Senate. Furthermore the legislative session is scheduled to end on March 25th.

The Committee Chair, Senator Robert Wirth (D-Kenosha) has been quoted by several media sources as saying that the bill will not come up for a vote in his committee making it unlikely that it will pass in this session of the legislature.

But opponents of the legislation should not celebrate yet. The election in November may give Republicans (who largely favor the bill) control of both houses of the Legislature. As one State Capitol Source said "I have a feeling this one will rear its ugly head again come next January."

Needle Exchange
Continued From Page 1

In this, Nelson was quoting from a recent report from the President's advisors on HIV disease sent to the Shalala and the White House.

(For a more complete story on this report, see article in this issue.)

"Every day that passes without action," Nelson continued, "can be measured in needless new infections that we know how to prevent."

In agreeing with the President's advisors, Nelson said that, "Sadly, we must conclude that it is a lack of political will and not scientific evidence that is creating your (Shalala) failure to act."

"This political treatment of a serious public health issue is killing people and it must cease," Nelson emphasized strongly.

Nelson said that it was four years ago this month that ARCW launched its first needle exchange program "right here in Milwaukee."

"Over four years," Nelson said, "we have given out one million needles in this city. We have also taken back one million dirty needles and properly disposed of them."

Nelson noted that ARCW's experience in the past four years is that more IV drug users than ever before are seeking drug counseling and treatment through ARCW's drug treatment program.

"Wisconsin has the 7th lowest per capita rate of HIV infection in the country," Nelson noted.

Nelson said that lives are being saved, but that more lives could be saved if the government would allow "the millions of dollars" it spends on AIDS prevention to help fund needle exchange.

ARCW, Nelson told his audience, is able, with current funding from private sources, to "reach only one-third of IV drug users."

"We are struggling to find the resources to reach the other two-thirds and to begin needle exchange programs in Madison, Beloit, Kenosha and Green Bay," Nelson said.

"We are disappointed," Nelson said,

"that in this city (Milwaukee) which is the epicenter of AIDS in Wisconsin that Mayor (John) Norquist has closed the door on any discussion of city funds for needle exchange."

On the other hand, Nelson said, "Governor Thompson, we are pleased that your door is open."

Saying that prejudice against AIDS is "continuing its 'long, ugly course here in Wisconsin," Nelson said that "We cannot allow AIDS discrimination in our state."

Nelson said that ARCW will "ask the legislature and the Governor" to enact an HIV anti-discrimination law so that the civil rights of people with HIV are completely protected."

Supreme Court
Continued From Page 1

Colorado Springs, CO, spoke of his past heroin use and argued that availability of needles is no more likely to cause drug use than matches are to cause smoking.

"The question should be, 'Do you care about the lives of people like me?'" said Anderson, who no longer uses drugs but is HIV positive. "Are you willing to take steps, perhaps politically risky or unpopular steps, in order to save lives?"

Federal law allows funding of needle-exchange programs, but only if the Department of Health and Human Services concludes that they are effective in reducing the spread of HIV without increasing drug use.

HHS Secretary Donna Shalala has already agreed with leading scientists that the programs are effective in fighting HIV. But she says she is still reviewing drug use data, promising to make the decision on good science.

"We will operate on the best information available," agency spokeswoman Laurie Boeder said.

Council members say the proof is already there, citing six government-funded reports, including an independent group of experts convened by the National Institutes of Health.

"Does needle exchange promote drug use? A preponderance of evidence shows either no change or decreased drug use," the NIH concluded more than a year ago, saying the ban on funding for these programs will lead to "many thousands of unnecessary deaths."

But Shalala is still waiting for studies by drug abuse experts and is still reviewing the data already available. Boeder said. The results of studies will not be available for several months, she said, adding, "There is no timetable" for announcing a decision.

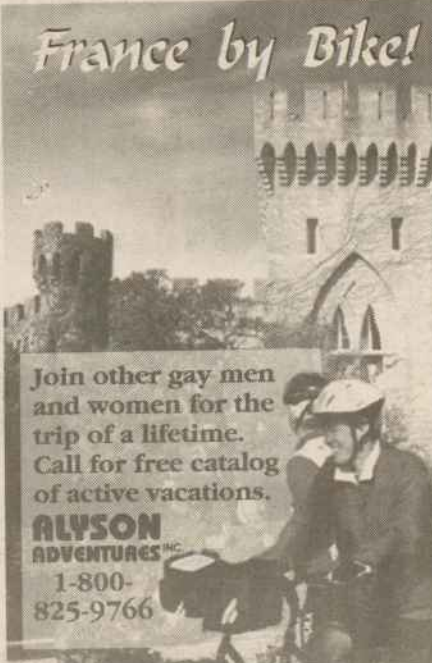
Council members accused Shalala of letting politics dictate policy, but they stopped short of calling for her resignation, as some members have suggested. They have also rejected suggestions that they resign in protest.

More than 80 needle exchanges, paid for by private, state or local money, already operate in the United States, but AIDS activists say expanding them will require federal funding. More importantly, Hitt said, more private money would be generated if the government gave its endorsement.

"Many people in this country and the world are looking to the secretary to say the science is there," he said. "It's time for her to come out and say where she stands."

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The Pros and Cons of Vacationing With and Without Your Gay World

By Sasha Alyson

Whenever you plan a vacation, the process involves more decisions than you might realize. Some of these choices are made consciously; others may be resolved without your ever realizing that you had a choice.

Will you travel by yourself, or with a friend? Independently, or with a group? A big group or a small one? Go back to a favorite spot, or visit a place you've never been?

Do you want total relaxation, with no challenges and no stress; or something more active? Will you choose a destination where you speak the local language, and therefore can interact with the locals; or one with a language barrier, offering more new experiences, but more limited interaction?

If going as a couple, do you look forward to meeting other people, or do you primarily want time together? If single, are you seeking to maximize your odds of a little romance?

For Lesbians and Gay men, there's one more choice. Do you prefer to be amidst

other Gay people (i.e., on a Gay or Lesbian tour, or in a Gay resort town), or is a straight environment just fine?

I asked a number of Gay and Lesbian travelers whether they would prefer a Gay or non-Gay group. Many were open to either, depending on circumstances.

Among those open to a non-Gay environment, three reasons were voiced repeatedly:

Attitude. Several individuals found too much "attitude", or aloofness, in Gay groups. Yet a larger number said it had never been an issue. (As I note below, the "comfort" of a Gay trip was the top reason given by people who preferred that option.)

My conclusion: Gay attitude does exist, but it's often in the eyes of the beholder. If you frequently feel you're "getting attitude" in Gay situations, you'll probably feel the same way on a Gay trip. If it hasn't been a concern before, it's not going to become one now.

Variety. Tina, who waits tables in a predominantly Gay restaurant, said quite sim-

ply, "I needed to get away from where everybody's Gay. It's refreshing to see other types of lives." She goes on biking tours which—unlike bus tours—draw a higher percentage of younger people.

Cost. "I looked at a Gay trip to Egypt and a similar one with a regular tour company. The straight company charged \$700 less," reports Matthew. "I went with them and had a great time."

Not everyone reports such price differences, and it's tricky to be sure you're comparing similar trips. RSVP cruises, for example, may cost a bit more than others, but the entertainment is typically better. Do compare; but don't assume Gay trips will cost more.

As for those who preferred a vacation with a Gay and Lesbian group, four factors stood out:

Comfort level. Jim told me, "When I was more closeted, I preferred Gay trips because I didn't have to watch what I said. I'm now out to everybody, and I still prefer Gay groups. It's just more comfortable." That word "comfort" came up often in my interviews.

New friends. "I've never made long-term friendships from the straight trips I've been on, whereas I have several good friends I met on Gay trips," says my officemate

Strider. Others made the same observation.

Romance. Whether you're looking for sex or love, or both at once (You optimist!) the benefits of a Gay or Lesbian group are obvious.

In addition, look for trips with activities that serve as ice-breakers. "I got to know fewer people on a cruise with 700 people than when I went to China with 25," says Ellen. "The China trip's tour director understood group dynamics, and how to get people to interact. I'm still in touch with many of them."

Age. "I took a mainline bus tour in Switzerland. Half the people were retired married couples, and most of the others were single straight women," recalls Marc. "I never really connected to any of them."

Some mainstream tours draw a younger crowd, but for many, the breakdown that Marc experienced is typical. Ask blunt questions (but without revealing what answer you're hoping for) of a tour company before making a decision.

Send questions or comments about Gay travel to Sasha Alyson, Alyson Adventures, P.O. Box 180179, Boston, MA 02118 (email address: AlyVenture@aol.com).

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