

ELECTION

98

WI Light

VOTE NOVEMBER 3

SPECIAL ELECTION SECTION ★ October 22-November 4, 1998

Wisconsin Must Lead Again!

It is our turn again. Gay and Lesbian leaders around the country say they are looking to Wisconsin's LGBT community to help put in place political leaders who will fight for Gay and Lesbian equality. Once again the "Gay Rights State" can show the rest of America just how things should be done.

We can do that by turning out at the polls in massive numbers. We can do that by turning to our friends, our co-workers and families, letting them know what is at stake. We can do that by returning our friends to Congress and the State legislature, while we send those whose actions and statements show they do not stand for equality packing.

It is no wonder that so many Gays and Lesbians around the country look to Wisconsin. In many places even candidates for minor offices are running on homophobic platforms. In far too many places in this land of the free, the choice put before Gay and Lesbian voters is one of supporting candidates who say ignore us or supporting candidates who denounce us. Here in Wisconsin things are different. Here we have real choices.

Certainly, there are issues other than Gay civil rights on the minds of average voters and on some of our minds, too. But it is difficult to think of those when some of our so-called leaders denounce us on a regular basis. It is difficult to worry about who is right on cutting taxes to help families when we are not legally allowed to marry. How can we believe in politicians who compare us to criminals?

We have heard the Republican Senate Majority leader call us sick and diseased. We have heard some in Congress call it special rights when the President outlawed federal job discrimination against us. We have heard Senators say that a highly qualified openly Gay man nominated for an ambassador's post should not be confirmed because he is Gay.

We have heard all of this and more. But now it is our turn to speak. Not on national TV shows, not with expensive ad campaigns, but with our votes and our voices. Those voices must be raised at the work place, at the family dinner table, and with our friends - even our Gay friends who otherwise may not vote.

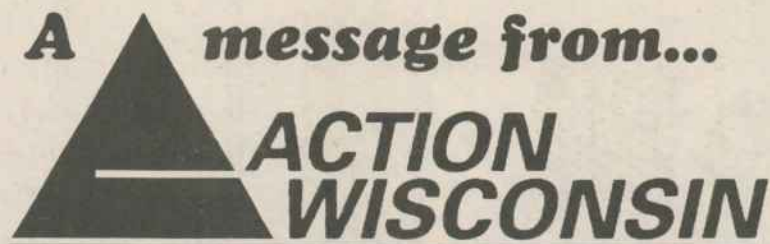
If our voices aren't raised, things will get much worse before they get better. Make no mistake about it. Although Gay civil rights issues have not often been publicly raised here, it is only because they are being raised privately in fundamentalist churches and among Christian Coalition activists around the State. Those who stand against the fight for Gay and Lesbian equality have learned from the past. They don't want to look intolerant. They hope we will be fooled into a false sense of security.

We must not let that happen. Just as we did with the nation's first statewide Gay civil rights law, and in so many other ways, Wisconsin must lead the way again. Be turned out, not turned off. Vote on November 3.



Exercise your rights!
VOTE!
November 3

A message from...



A Congress for Human Rights

This advertisement is an educational project of Action Wisconsin, Inc.
P. O. Box 342 • Madison, WI ▼ 608-283-3251 ▼ ActionWI@execpc.com

View From Brewer's Hill

by Terry Boughner

Civic Dignity

"The people, sir, the people is a great beast," Alexander Hamilton told the members of the Constitutional Convention.

There were those among his hearers who agreed. They feared the "ungoverned passions" of the "mob." These could lead to "factions" i.e. political parties, which could destroy "good order."

For this, among other reasons, the Founders avoided a democracy. Instead, they established a republic, to be governed as Hamilton and others hoped, "by the good, the wise and the rich." In practice, this meant the vote belonged to white male property owners.

Such a situation could not last, not given the ideals on which the country was based. With the passage of years (and a bloody civil war), America moved ever closer toward the democratic ideal: a democratic republic where every citizen has the right to vote. Sadly, the majority does not exercise that right.

When I was in grade school, one of Mrs. Duke's "trick" questions was to ask us to name a minority President—one who was elected by a minority of the electorate. One of the answers she accepted was Abraham Lincoln.

She was right, but the sad truth of the matter is that most, if not all, of our Presidents (and other elected public officials) are elected by a minority of those eligible to vote.

Unlike in some countries, no law compels us to vote. In America, that right is freely exercised by a free citizenry, so the idea goes. That is as it should be. As the Romans believed, civic duty and responsibility cannot be compelled. These virtues, like all virtue, must come from within; otherwise, the citizens are not truly free.

In this upcoming election, make the choice you have as a free citizen of the greatest democratic republic of this earth. Vote. If you can't do it for the country or for a particular candidate, do it for yourself. By voting you demonstrate one of the highest and most laudable attributes of a free citizen: civic dignity.



FROM THE EDITOR

A few people deserve some thanks for making this Wisconsin's first ever **LGBT Voter's Guide** possible. Starting at the top is the Chairman of our Board, Greg Quindel. His vision of a paper that serves all segments of the community, while helping to strengthen it, is one that I share. The remarkable level of support he has given to this endeavor is more than anyone will ever know. Never was our joint vision more in evidence than it is with this issue.

Thanks also go to our Publisher Ron Geiman, former Editor Terry Boughner, and our North East Wisconsin Bureau Chief, Mike Fitzpatrick for taking on extra duties. Also, to our Sales Manager, Annabelle Havlicek, who helped even more with production than she normally does. Our Copy Editor Rick Haag stayed up late at night to proofread what had been done that day and got up early the next morning to proof items sent in overnight. Our new Production Manager, Scott Deibel pitched in at *Wisconsin Light* even while he was still working at his former job. Thanks also go out to all of the writers who contributed to this edition.

Our staff put in the extra effort because of two beliefs that we share. First, the November 3rd election is extremely important. All of us must vote. Second, the basic duty of any newspaper is to keep its readers informed. As usual, the mainstream media has not given widespread coverage to Gay and Lesbian issues. LGBT voters can not make informed choices at the polls if they don't know how the candidates stand on issues of importance to our community. That is why this section primarily concentrates on Gay and Lesbian issues.

With our limited resources we have not been able to cover every aspect of the election but we have provided information on the major statewide races and those congressional races that are viewed as competitive. We have also taken a look at the battle to control the State Legislature and, through our own efforts as well as articles from national and state leaders, we hope we have provided an overview on issues of concern to our community.

Our Election '98 section was intended to help encourage you to vote and to provide a tool to be used in helping you make an informed choice. If it does that, it was worth all of the effort that went into making it possible.

Vote on November 3.

Bill Meunier
Editor, *Wisconsin Light*

VOTE FOR JON RICHARDS

DEMOCRAT FOR STATE ASSEMBLY

A Strong Voice for Milwaukee.

"Jon Richards will do the best job of representing the people of our district,"
State Rep. Barbara Notestein

"Jon Richards will be a great fighter for Milwaukee in Madison,"
Mayor John Norquist

VOTE NOVEMBER 3

Call
270-9898
for more information,
if you need an
absentee ballot, or
a ride to the polls.



Authorized and paid for by Citizens for Richards, Maureen Fitzgerald, Treasurer

REGISTER TO VOTE AT THE POLLS

In Wisconsin you can register at the polls.

Here's How:

Find out the location of your polling place by calling your local town or City Hall or asking your neighbors.

*Go to your polling place with at least ONE of the following:
A drivers license or state ID with your current address.*

A utility bill or other mail that has your name and address on it.

A registered voter who can attest to your current address.

Governor's Race like *Man of La Mancha*

By Bill Meunier

The campaign to see who will occupy the Governor's mansion for the next four years has a sort of *Man of La Mancha* quality to it. Both of the major contenders have what political observers say is their own version of *The Impossible Dream*.

In one corner is Democratic candidate Ed Garvey, dreaming of defeating the entrenched Republican incumbent, Tommy Thompson. In the other corner is the Governor with a huge campaign war chest and a prosperous Wisconsin economy to run on. Thompson also has what appears to many to be an impossible dream, a place on the GOP national ticket in the year 2000.

The one campaign issue of concern to the Gay community is the school choice program. Many members of the LGBT community resent their tax dollars going to religious schools that will teach children a religious right view of homosexuality. Garvey opposes the program. Thompson is one of its biggest proponents.

The Garvey-Lawton ticket has been making overtures to the Gay community. Last August, they became the first major party candidates for statewide office to march in a Gay pride parade when they joined the PrideFest parade in Milwaukee.

When asked about the parade, Garvey told *Light*, "I think it's important for people seeking public office to be there. In all the parades we have

been at, I can't remember a more enthusiastic reaction." Garvey and Lawton received wild cheers and thunderous applause all along the route.

Thompson is not viewed as anti-Gay. Since being elected he has not taken any actions that could be construed as anti-Gay. In fact, on at least one issue, AIDS funding, Thompson has been very supportive.

Last March, the Governor was given the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's highest award for his support of state funding in the fight against AIDS. Garvey says that he would increase AIDS funding and that he would fund the State's nine-year plan on AIDS prevention. The State has not funded an AIDS prevention plan.

Thompson's benign attitude on Gay and Lesbian issues may, however, end. During the last session of the State Legislature, Thompson said he would sign Lorraine Seratti's (R-Spread Eagle) anti-Gay marriage bill if it reached his desk. The bill, AB-104, passed the Republican controlled State Assembly by a wide margin, but never came up for a vote in the Democratic controlled State Senate.

Garvey condemns AB-104. He told *Light*, "AB-104, that's just silly. Things like that are raised not because someone has a serious concern just to stir up trouble. I would not sign it. In light of the attacks that continue

against the Gay and Lesbian community, the Governor should take the lead in asking people to respect our diversity and enjoy it. AB-104 will be reintroduced in the next legislature.

Some observers say that Thompson's pledge to sign AB-104 was typical Tommy. They believe that the Governor finds it all too easy to promise his signature on legislation he knows will never pass. Thompson did nothing to foster support for AB-104. The Governor does seem to have a history of saying that he will sign legislation if it reaches his desk and then doing nothing to get it there.

He also had a history of voting against Gay civil rights legislation while he was in the State Assembly. During his stint there, he voted against AB-70, Wisconsin's first in the nation Gay civil rights law, and its Consenting Adults law. So which is the real Tommy Thompson? The Governor who does nothing to hurt or help the cause of Gay and Lesbian civil rights or the firebrand from Elroy who denounced Gays and Lesbians on the Assembly floor?

If he is re-elected we may soon find out. For the first time since Thompson became Governor, Republicans control both houses of the State Legislature. Advocates of Gay and Lesbian rights are fearful that if that remains the case after November's election, they will face a raft of anti-

Gay measures. If that fear turns into reality, Thompson will have to either sign them or risk alienating Republican conservatives.

Alienating Republican conservatives is not considered to be the smart thing to do for a politician who wants to be on the party's national ticket. Garvey is not sympathetic to Thompson's potential political problem. He says, "One of the problems Tommy Thompson has is that he still harbors these thoughts that he will be on a national ticket. The Christian Right controls 33 of the 50 state parties. He has to play to that audience."

Garvey insists that he will not play to that audience. He says his attitude is shaped by his experience. "I had a close friend who married a woman who used to work with me. They were husband and wife, and their children were murdered by someone from the Aryan nation who wanted to kill a Jew for Christmas. We have to take these hate groups seriously. You can't ignore them."

Despite Garvey's shoe leather campaign, Thompson is the odds on favorite. Recent polls have shown him leading the race by a huge margin. That doesn't mean that a last minute surge for Garvey couldn't make a difference, but it appears as though time is running out in the pursuit of his *Impossible Dream*.

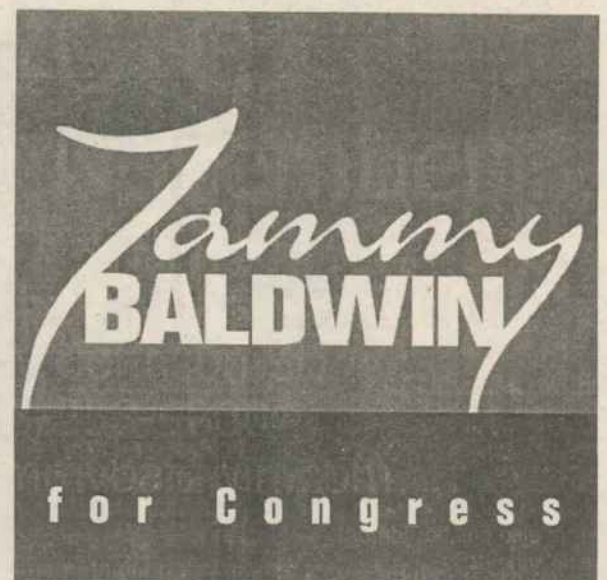
Make History!

Elect the first lesbian to Congress.

TAMMY BALDWIN

Vote Tuesday, November 3

To volunteer:
317 W. Johnson St.
608/258-9800
www.tammybaldwin.com



Authorized & paid for by Tammy Baldwin for Congress, Kevin Myren, Treasurer

The U.S. Senate Race

Feingold -vs- Neumann

The campaign to represent Wisconsin in the United States Senate is one of the most hard fought and bitter contests in recent memory. The two major candidates vying for the position, incumbent Senator Russ Feingold and his challenger, Congressman Mark Neumann, are on opposite ends of the political spectrum.

Neumann, an arch right wing conservative, has received heavy backing from the Christian Coalition and business interests. Feingold draws support from environmental, civil rights, women's, union and other moderate and progressive organizations.

The race has national significance because the Republican Party is gunning to achieve or surpass the 60-seat mark in the US Senate. A party with 60 senators can choke off debate and virtually pass legislation at will. The Republicans currently hold 54 seats in the Senate. At least six Democratic senators, including Feingold, are seen as vulnerable.

On Gay civil rights issues, Feingold has been universally supportive. He was one of only 16 senators to vote against the Defense of Marriage Act, DOMA. In a speech to the Senate, Feingold derided his colleagues for considering DOMA, which he called a prime example of "wedge politics." Feingold voted for and is a co-sponsor of ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would bar non-religious group employment discrimination based on sexual orientation.

During an appearance at a Coming Out Day reception for elected officials, Feingold noted the attacks on his votes for Gay civil rights and said, "Hate cannot be tolerated in this country. I don't care what happens to me."

Neumann has received a 100% rating from the Christian Coalition, which is expected to use churches for the distribution of thousands of voting guides the weekend before the election. A strident opponent of Gay civil rights, he voted for DOMA, against a District of Columbia ordinance allowing same sex couples hospital visitation rights, and for a resolution that would have overturned President Clinton's order banning federal job discrimination against Gays and Lesbians. Neumann has called homosexuality "a sin" and "unacceptable."

On the national stage, Feingold is known as an ardent advocate of campaign finance reform. With the Feingold-McCain Campaign Finance Reform act, Feingold raised the issue of special interest groups trying to buy elections for their favored candidates through expensive "independent expenditure" ad campaigns.

Feingold - McCain would set campaign spending limits on congressional and senate races that are lower than what is currently allowed. It would outlaw "independent campaign expenditures" and "soft money" given to political parties. Republican filibusters have prevented the bill from coming up for a vote. Independent campaign expenditures and soft money donations allow special interest groups to avoid federal laws that restrict campaign donations.

Feingold's stance on campaign finance reform has made him a target for conservative groups who see his efforts as a threat to their ability to influence elections.

Several of these groups are making large expenditures on behalf of Neumann. Feingold has said that he will abide by the provisions of Feingold-McCain even though it is not law. Between Neumann's own expenditures and those of groups supporting him, Feingold is expected to be outspent by a more than two to one margin.

As has been the case with Neumann's other campaigns, there are charges that he is deliberately misleading the voters. During his 1996 bid for re-election, the Kenosha County District Attorney

threatened to prosecute Neumann because of a TV ad run by his campaign. Wisconsin law forbids the use of blatantly false campaign materials and advertisements.

This time around Neumann has been more careful. He has run ads strongly implying, but not explicitly stating that Feingold has voted for federal programs that the Senator in fact voted against. Furthermore, Neumann has not been making campaign appearances in large cities where he may encounter demonstrators protesting his stands on various

issues. This prompted Milwaukee County Executive Tom Ament to remark, "I don't think he has ever been seen in Milwaukee County."

Whether the voters buy into the Neumann rhetoric and overlook his campaign tactics remains to be seen. The race is seen as extremely close, and it may be well into the wee hours of November 4 before we know who will assume the seat for the next six years.

Editor's Note- The Neumann campaign declined to answer our questions or give comments for this story.

DON'T FORGET...

YOU CAN REGISTER AT THE POLLS

Be turned out
not turned off

VOTE NOVEMBER 3



A Public Service Message from:

Jack H. Smith

Office: 962-4413

Direct: 961-8314, ext. 199

Home: 224-1452

<http://jackhsmith.com>

<http://shorewest.com>

Shorewest
REALTORS



Milwaukee NOW is now looking for people to participate in and lead our L/G/B/T Task Force.

Come to our next meeting or call the office to get involved!

.....

ROCK THE VOTE HALLOWEEN PARTY

Thursday, Oct. 29
The Tasting Room
\$3 cover

Call the NOW office for band information and time.

.....

ACTIVIST MEETING

Monday, Nov. 2
6:30 p.m.
at UWM, Room E307

Union Building Officer elections. Topics include: get out the vote activities; Task Force reports; and more

.....

MILWAUKEE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

414-276-3112

milwaukeeNOW
@cyberjunkie.com

www.now.org/
wi/milwaukeeNOW

Gay Issues to be Raised in Wisconsin

At the State Capitol in Madison, Gay and Lesbian civil rights will again be debated and voted on. Below is a partial list of issues that will be considered by the Wisconsin legislature.

An unofficial truce between opponents and advocates of Gay and Lesbian civil rights was broken in the last session of the Legislature when the Assembly passed AB-104, an anti-Gay marriage bill. The bill, which died in the State Senate, was the first piece of Gay related legislation to be voted on by the legislature since the late '80s when it amended AB-70, Wisconsin's Gay civil rights law.

Gay civil rights advocates dodged a bullet when the then Democratically controlled State Senate refused to consider AB-104, but the bill did show that anti-Gay legislation could get serious consideration. Fear of the voters seemed to be the number one reason why it got the support it did. The majority of legislators who voted for it said nothing in its favor. Privately, many of them said that it was "a bad bill that does nothing."

One even told *Wisconsin Light* that, while he thought it was bad policy, he voted for it because "the people didn't elect me to be a leader."

SAME SEX MARRIAGE - AB 104

This bill would forbid the state from recognizing same sex marriages, even if they were legally performed in other

states. In May 1997, the bill overwhelmingly passed the Republican controlled State Assembly, but died in the State Senate, which was then controlled by the Democrats. Governor Thompson has said he would sign the measure if it passes the legislature.



The bill's opponents fear that may in fact happen. Republicans now control both chambers of the legislature. House Speaker Scott Jensen (R-Waukesha) voted in favor of AB-104. Senate Majority leader Mike Ellis (R-Neenah) has said that passing the measure will be a top priority if his party retains control of the upper house.

Although the bill would not change existing law, Gay civil rights advocates view AB-104 as important because of its symbolic effect. They say it sends

an unmistakable message that Gays and Lesbians are second class citizens.

DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP

Towards the end of the last session of the legislature, Stephen Nass (R-Whitewater) introduced a bill that would have prohibited the use of State funds to pay for domestic partnership health insurance benefits. This bill was given a committee hearing, but was not voted on. Nass introduced his proposal after the Madison School Board approved a Teacher's Union contract that included domestic partnership benefits for same sex couples.

Its practical effect would be to put a chill on and possibly stop efforts aimed at getting State agencies and local governments to provide domestic partners health insurance benefits for their unmarried employees.

The impact of the debate on this issue extends beyond those government workers who may lose a chance to get health insurance coverage for their partners. In order to remain competitive in recruiting the best workforce, many private sector employers use the benefits provided by the government for its workers as a guideline to determine what employee benefits they should offer. If a number of local governments and state agencies begin to offer domestic partners benefits, there is a good chance that many private employers will provide them too.

AIDS FUNDING

Funding for the care and treatment of those with HIV has broad based bipartisan support. The key issue on funding the fight against AIDS is the funding of prevention programs. Nine years ago, a citizen's group called the Wisconsin HIV Prevention Council developed a comprehensive plan on how to prevent the spread of HIV in the Badger State. The plan has never been funded by the State.

The impact of this is additional HIV infections, especially among young Gay men who have never had access to detailed safe sex information. Additional infections will further strain the already stretched budgets of Wisconsin's AIDS service organizations, which could have a negative impact on the quality of care of those with HIV.

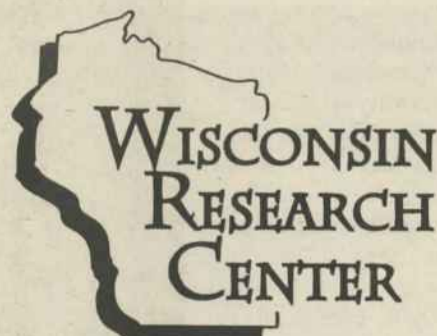
OTHER ISSUES

Some issues have been raised in other states and may find their way to our State Capitol in Madison.

These include bans on Gay adoptions and/or foster care, changes in custody law, and restrictions on the use of funds the State provides to various groups in support of the arts. Gay activists worry that beyond the impact these measures would have on those who are directly affected, they would have a psychological impact by sending a subtle but clear message that Gays and Lesbians are second class citizens. Furthermore, the type of debate these issues generate often leads to violence against the LGBT community.

**The Religious Right votes.
Make sure you do, too!**

The **Wisconsin Research Center**
is your information clearinghouse
on the Religious Right in Wisconsin



Call **414/272-9984**

P.O. Box 510051 • Milwaukee, WI 53203

Vote Democratic in State Races

By Marc Pocan

One of the most important things we can do as a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered community is get out to vote on November 3. And the single most important thing to do when we vote is to vote for Democratic candidates for public office, from the U.S. Senate to the Courthouse.

We know U.S. Senator Russ Feingold has been fantastic on our issues. And we know that we have to reelect LGBT-friendly Congressman Jay Johnson (D) in the Eighth District, as well as elect Lydia Spottswood (D) in the First District and our own Tammy Baldwin (D) in the Second District.

The level of government where the issues that affect our lives most immediately is state government.

Just think back to the past legislative session where Republican leadership in the Assembly led by State Representative Lorraine Seratti backed AB-104, the mean-spirited, anti-same sex marriage bill. Or AB-759, a bill introduced by Republican Steve Nass. The Nass bill tried to ban local governments from using public dollars to fund domestic partnership insurance. Let's not forget Republican State Senator Scott Fitzgerald trying to bully state public television into not showing Gay-friendly programming.

The bottom line is a lot of negative activity in the legislature created by Republican legislators.

Further, the odds of proactive legislation like domestic partnership benefits or extending health insurance to alternative families would have an almost impossible chance of reaching the legislative floor with Republicans dominating both the state Assembly and Senate.

And if those aren't enough reasons to vote Democratic, consider one more. With redistricting coming up in two years, the political party that is in control of the state houses will set district lines for the next decade. Currently, the Republicans have the Governorship, the Senate and the Assembly. If this doesn't change, people like anti-same sex marriage sponsors Seratti and Fitzgerald will be chairing committees that wreck havoc on our lives for years to come. **They could even try to overturn our LGBT civil rights bill.**

It is IMPERATIVE that you vote for Democrats in every race for the State Senate and assembly. With the exception of Rep. Tom Ourada (R), no Republican fought AB-104. With Democratic majorities, we will be able to block that legislation from seeing the light of day.

Democrats are far more in line with our community. While there may be a few exceptions on either side, in general a vote for a Republican congressman is a vote for Newt Gingrich, and a vote for a Republican at the State Capital is a vote for Lorraine Seratti. We cannot let that happen to our community. If we vote as a block, a large block that turns out in an election with 35 to 40% turnout, our 10% is a HUGE swing vote. In fact, it is the deciding factor.

Our 10% of the population turning out in a 40% turnout is actually 25% of the real vote! Now that's clout.

And it sends a message to both political parties that we cannot be ignored or treated as political pawns in wooing radical right voters. If we do turn out and vote Democratic on November 3, that message will be heard. And we win.

No matter where you live, you are represented by a State Representative and a State Senator. Every State Representative is up for election as are half of the senate seats. You should vote Democratic for your local state legislator. If you don't know who the Democrat candidate is in your district, email me at pocan98@terracom.net. I will let you know who it is.

Even better, volunteer to help that person with a literature drop the final weekend or call your friends and neighbors on election day to make sure they vote, too.

Final Thought: A message to our Log Cabin friends. For those of you who don't know, Log Cabin Republicans are Gay Republicans. I'm not making this up. I have friends who consider themselves to be such. If you want to be Republican because you like the tax policies that benefit the rich or you support sending public dollars away from public schools to religious private schools or you think health care is a corporate profit center, not a right or necessity — just say so. But to veil your politics under the cover of "Gay" issues doesn't fly. Just because Republicans have screwed the LGBT community over time and time again does not make them aware of sexual orientation issues. Do the right thing — support OUR community, YOUR community, by voting Democratic.

— Marc Pocan is a Democratic Candidate for the State Assembly in the 78th District. He has no Republican opponent in that race.



BEWARE

**Right-Wing
Republican Leaders
Don't Want
GAYS AND LESBIANS
To Vote.**

But We MUST Vote.

**Every vote
counts
in this close
election.**

ESPECIALLY OURS.

**VOTE DEMOCRATIC
to protect our basic rights.**

Authorized and paid for
by the Democratic Party of Wisconsin

Vote Republican in State Races

By Jim McFarland

The 1997-'98 legislative session was a banner session for the Log Cabin Republicans of Wisconsin, a Lesbian/Gay Republican group. We successfully shepherded the hospital visitation bill through the Republican State Assembly and the deadlocked State Senate (which had 16 Republicans and 16 Democrats at the time). With Republican Governor Thompson's signature the bill became law and thus guaranteed Lesbians and Gays the right to visit their loved ones in the event their loved ones are hospitalized.

But more importantly, the 1997-'98 session produced yet more tax relief for Wisconsin taxpayers. Not only did the state continue to pay two-thirds of the cost of public schools, but the legislature resisted attempts to blow the lid off of cost controls on schools, which have been vitally important to stemming the huge increases in school taxes in the years prior to the Republican takeover of the legislature.

The Republican legislature also delivered income tax relief. The Republican Assembly adopted a 5% across the board income tax during the deliberation on the budget, but the State Senate, which was controlled by the Democrats at the time, would not agree to it. As a result, only a 1% across the board income tax cut survived. When the Republicans took control of the State Senate in April with the help of Log Cabin, the legislature quickly adopted another 1% across the board income tax cut and also used the new state surplus to

provide more property tax relief.

Not only did the GOP legislature cut taxes, but it also stepped up the fight against crime by adopting the truth in sentencing legislation. Prior to this legislation, a criminal might only serve one-third of his sentence. The truth in sentencing legislation would require criminals to serve the actual sentence handed down by the judge, which only makes sense. Yet when the Democrats controlled the Senate, they refused to allow a vote on this important legislation even though it passed by an overwhelming, bipartisan majority in the Assembly. As soon as the Republicans took the Senate, the legislation passed by an overwhelming margin. Criminals will now be kept off the streets longer so they won't commit more crimes.

But the work is not done. Taxes are still too high in this state. Wisconsin consistently continues to rank in the top five. The Senate and Assembly Republicans have promised an additional 10% across the board cut in income taxes over the

next five years if their majorities are returned. They will also seek ways to increase property tax relief. If the Democrats are returned to power, they may very well increase income taxes and they will definitely blow the lid off school cost controls. If that happens, we will see school property taxes skyrocket again as

they did when the Democrats last controlled the legislature.

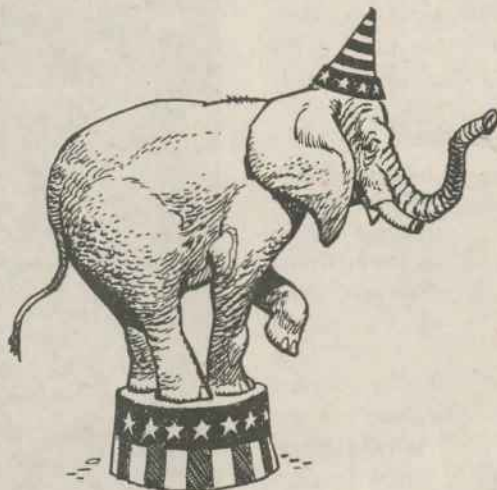
With respect to fighting crime, much more needs to be done. Since the truth in sentencing legislation will keep criminals in prison longer, more prison space will be needed.

Republicans support proposals such as shipping our criminals to states which have excess prison space, privatizing prisons which has effectively reduced costs in other states without creating security problems, and requiring criminals to work to pay for their keep. Democrats have largely fought these proposals, meaning the only solution is to build more prisons at great costs to taxpayers.

More importantly, much still needs to be done to improve our school systems, particularly the Milwaukee school system. Republicans are eager to find community-based solutions to the problems with the Milwaukee school system. They want to eliminate the bureaucracy which is bogging down the system and taking too much of the money. They want to make it easier for principals to weed out the bad teachers and reward the good teachers. This is anathema to many of the Democrats, since the teachers' union will not support measures to reward teachers based on merit instead of seniority, and will oppose measures which would make it easier to fire bad teachers.

Finally, Log Cabin Republicans looks forward to working with the legislature again on measures which will protect the rights of lesbians and gays in various areas of their lives. While a Republican legislature may mean that the anti-same sex marriage bill (which merely makes what is already illegal illegal again) will pass (and there is still some hope that we can stop it), we firmly believe that other measures which are not as radical as legalizing same sex marriage can pass. In the meantime, we will all benefit from an improved educational system, reductions in crime, and reductions in our taxes. This is why Log Cabin Republicans continues to work for a Republican majority in both the Assembly and the Senate.

- James McFarland is a founder of Wisconsin's Log Cabin Republican Club.



CURTIS LAMON STATE ASSEMBLY

**A REPRESENTATIVE FOR
OUR COMMUNITY**

- TAXES
- EDUCATION
- CRIME

THESE ARE GAY ISSUES.

PLEASE VOTE NOVEMBER 3RD.

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF CURTIS LAMON, JIM MCFARLAND, TREASURER



The Human Rights League (right) handed out their annual awards during the NCOD public officials reception held Monday, Oct. 12.

Left, Mayor Norquist is heckled by Right Wing Christians as he enters the public officials reception.

Below, Milwaukee Alderman Michael D'Amato



PHOTOS BY PATRICK ROBINSON, WI LIGHT STAFF



Right, Alderman Paul Henningsen with Senator Russ Feingold



Left, Milw. Co. Supervisor Dorothy Dean talks policy with Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist.



Politicians, Human Rights League & Community Center members got to meet one-on-one.

Add Inc Lake Country Printing

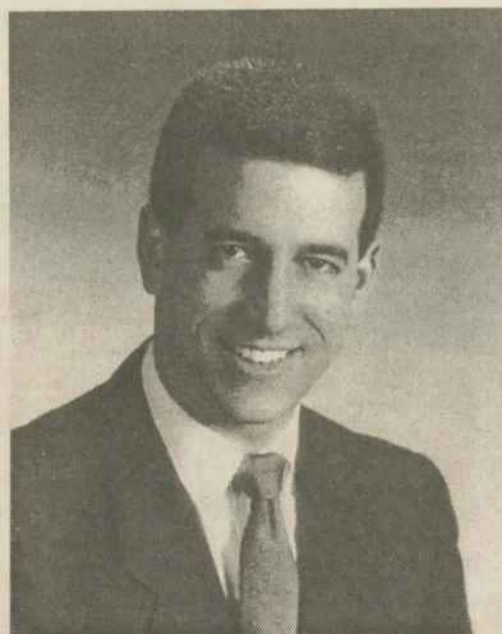
Web Printing • Sheetfed Printing
Electronic Pre-Press

For All Your Printing Needs

For an estimate or answers to your printing questions,
please call - Carmen I. Ryan, *Printing Consultant*
Crystal Hagen, *Sales Assistant*

414-369-2785 • Fax: 414-367-7414 • lakeprint@add-inc.com
440 Cardinal Lane • P.O. Box 200 • Hartland, WI 53029

**Vote on Tuesday, November 3rd
and take
Two Dozen of Your
Closest Friends With You.**



**Re-Hire U.S. Senator
Russ Feingold**

Authorized and paid for by the Feingold Committee. Reuben Damm, Columbus, Treasurer.

HUMAN RIGHTS LEAGUE FOR LGBTs

proudly endorses:

RUSS FEINGOLD



LYDIA SPOTTSWOOD



TOM BARRETT



TAMMY BALDWIN



National Vote Will Ha

By

You won't read about the importance of Gay and Lesbian issues in the mainstream press. That's because few candidates are talking about them. That doesn't mean that those issues aren't on the agenda of proponents and opponents of Gay and Lesbian civil rights.

A few weeks ago, the Republican leadership in Congress launched a series of attacks against Gays and Lesbians but things have quieted down now. These attacks included a public refusal to consider the nomination of openly Gay nominee, James Hormel, to be the Ambassador to Luxembourg, statements to the press that Gays are sick and diseased and a series of anti-Gay amendments to various appropriations bills.

The attacks lead to genuine fear that the November elections could change the national political landscape for Gays and Lesbians. That's because the Republicans currently hold 54 seats in the Senate. Their goal is to hold 60. If they can reach that number, Senate Republicans can close debate at will and thereby choke off any filibusters on anti-Gay bills.

Can they achieve that goal? According to the latest polls the answer is yes. At least six Democrats including Wisconsin's Russ Feingold, Harry Reid in Nevada, Patty Murray in the State of Washington, Barbara Boxer in California, Fitz Hollings in North Carolina, and Carol Mosely Braun in Illinois are in trouble. All of them are either in a dead heat or trailing in the polls. Some, like Mosely Braun, are trailing badly. All of these Democrats are opposed by anti-Gay civil rights Republicans.

It is certainly possible that some of these Democrats could win. However, with support of the religious right pouring millions into the campaigns of their opponents, they all face tough fights to retain their seats. The thought of a Senate that would be totally dominated by Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS), has Gay political activists working hard to turn out the vote and raise money. Lott recently compared Gays and Lesbians to "alcoholics and kleptomaniacs."

To make matters worse for advocates of Gay and Lesbian rights, the Democrats have all but conceded that they have little chance to wrest control of the House of Representatives from its archconservative Republican leadership. Just a few months ago, it looked like the Democrats had a good chance to regain control of the House.

In the wake of the Clinton scandal, the Democrats speak of being able to hold their losses to under twenty or thirty seats. A backlash against what many voters see as a partisan Republican impeachment investigation is beginning to develop but the question is whether or not that will continue to happen and how strong that backlash will be.

Wisconsin could be a bright spot for the Democrats. The First and Second Congressional seats are held by Republicans who are not running for re-election. The Democrats in the races, Lydia Spottswood in the First district and Tammy Baldwin in the Second, are given good chance to win.

There are two major issues that will be considered in the next congress. Others may come up as well.

ENDA

ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, will be introduced again in the next congress. The bill, which came within one vote of passing the Senate in 1996, would provide Gays and Lesbians with federal protection against employment discrimination.

Even though Wisconsin has a statewide Gay civil rights law, AB-70, ENDA is still important to LGBT voters here. It would provide an added layer of protection to that which exists under state law and provides protections that Wisconsin's law doesn't. The federal law would allow those who suffer employment discrimination to sue for punitive damages, emotional distress and lost wages. Under Wisconsin labor law victims of discrimination can only sue for the difference between what they did make and what they would have made had the discrimination not occurred. That difference can sometimes be so small that it is not worth the time, trouble and cost of filing a suit.

Allowing victims of discrimination to sue for punitive damages and emotional distress gives employers an added incentive not to discriminate and provides victims of discrimination with an added incentive to take action against those who discriminated.

Furthermore, federal labor laws have different standards for proving that discrimination occurred. Depending on the circumstances, it can sometimes be easier to prove discrimination occurred in a federal court than it would be in a state court.

All of the Democrats running for the House of Representatives in Wisconsin favor passage of ENDA, as does Senator Russ Feingold who is running for re-election. Among the Republicans competing in Wisconsin's competitive congressional districts, only Josephine Musser, who is opposed by Tammy Baldwin, supports ENDA. The GOP Senate nominee Ma Neumann calls ENDA "special rights."

HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION

Even in the wake of the Matthew Shepard murder, the Republican Congressional leadership refused to allow a vote on a bill that would provide federal penalties for hate crimes comm



e Impact Here

unier

ted against Gays and Lesbians. Although federal law mandates that the federal government keeps statistics on hate crimes committed against Gays and Lesbians, it does not allow for the prosecution of those crimes. In other words, under current law, the federal government has no power to prosecute those who bash or even kill Gays and Lesbians because of their sexual orientation.

The bill would allow the US Justice Department to investigate and prosecute hate crimes no matter where in the United States they occur. That is important. Remember the Rodney King case? A local jury acquitted the Police officers who beat him. The Federal government stepped in and prosecuted those officers for violating King's civil rights. Several of them were convicted in federal court.

The same type of action can happen with hate crime prosecutions. For example if a local court will not convict someone of assaulting a Gay man or a Lesbian because the jury included people who were anti-Gay, the federal government could still charge the basher with a hate crime and gain a conviction.

Passage of this bill can be vital to the safety of Gays and Lesbians who live and or work in areas of the State where local enforcement officers may be less than responsible in investigating crimes against Gays and Lesbians.

All of the Democrats running for congressional seats in Wisconsin favor passing a hate crime law that includes penalties for those who commit crimes based on the victim's sexual orientation. Senator Russ Feingold also favors passage. Among the Republicans running for congress in competitive races, not one told *Wisconsin Light* that they favored such legislation. Musser's campaign manager said that Musser would probably favor it. Neumann has said that he does not support passing this legislation.



FINANCIAL ISSUES

In the sixties and seventies, civil rights advocates used the threat of lost federal funds to force local and state governments to treat their citizens more equally. For example, Title IX legislation forced colleges and universities to provide equal opportunity for women. Those that didn't could lose access to federal loan and scholarship money as well as research grants and other financial support.

The threat of withholding federal money to force changes on a local and statewide level is, however, a double-edged sword. It can also be used to roll

back civil rights gains won on those levels. If this sounds far fetched consider the fact it has nearly happened on more than one occasion.

In the early 90's, Jesse Helms won passage of an anti-Gay amendment to a federal appropriations bill. The amendment would have cut funding for any school or school system that counseled or taught students that homosexuality was acceptable. The amendment was later stricken from the bill. But keep in mind that it passed in a Congress controlled by Democrats, some of whom were unwilling to face charges that they supported homosexuality in the schools.

A more recent example of this phenomena is the Riggs amendment which passed the House of Representatives in August. Riggs would have cut off federal housing funds for any city which required those it does business with to provide domestic partnership benefits. One City, San Francisco, has a domestic partners ordinance that includes such a requirement. If Riggs had become law, San Francisco would have been forced to choose between approximately \$60 million in federal housing funds or its domestic partnership ordinance.

There is concern that the next Congress may consider more appropriation amendments along the lines of Riggs. The religious right has an ambitious agenda. It seeks to mandate school prayer, outlaw abortions, get special treatment for churches, and of course impose its code of morality on homosexuality on the rest of the country.

A large part of that agenda would require amendments to the constitution. Therefore, even a Congress dominated by Republican conservatives may find it difficult to deliver on much of the agenda being pushed by their religious right supporters. That same Congress could refuse to provide federal funding to school districts like Madison's which has provided domestic partners health insurance benefits or cities like San Francisco that have domestic partnership ordinances or to universities like UWM which provide Gay studies programs.

There is no way to know what amendments may be attached to appropriations bills this far in advance. That makes it impossible to determine how those running for office would vote on them. Past experience does suggest that those candidates favoring Gay civil rights will be more likely to vote against attempts to roll back local gains. Candidates who do not favor Gay civil rights will be more likely to vote them.

The issues listed above are just a few of the many that may come up for and be approved by votes in the next Congress. What can LGBT voters do to prevent that from happening? Get out to the polls and vote and encourage everyone you can to do so as well.

PrideFest™

encourages you to



WITH



November 3

See you at
PrideFest '99
August 6, 7 & 8
Henry W. Maier Festival Park



PrideFest, Inc.

P. O. Box 511763
Milwaukee, WI 53203-0301

Competitive Congressional Races In Wisconsin

SPOTTSWOOD SPEAKS OUT FOR GAYS, RYAN SILENT

by Ron Geiman

Wisconsin's 1st Congressional District, covering much of south-east/central Wisconsin, south of Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties, currently is represented by Republican Mark Neumann. Neumann won the seat in 1994 in a close race against Democrat Peter Barca (1% point). In 1996, Neumann again won by just 1% in a race against Lydia Spottswood, in a

campaign that many called ugly and in which Neumann was threatened with a fine by the Kenosha County District Attorney unless he pulled a dishonest ad from the air.

Neumann is giving up the seat this year to run for the U.S. Senate against Democratic incumbent Russ Feingold. Once again, Spottswood will represent the Dems. Political newcomer, Paul Ryan, has taken up the Republican standard.

Spottswood's credentials are well known after numerous campaigns at the local level and from her previous

run in '96 for this seat. Ryan, on the other hand, although a long-time Washington staffer and Beltway insider, has never run for public office. Some warn he is "just a stealth version of Neumann."

Lydia Spottswood responded immediately to *Wisconsin Light's* queries. Ryan did not return our calls.

Spottswood's 'Issues '98' lists 10 major points: the 10th being Equal Rights for Gays and Lesbians. She makes no bones about her support for LGBTs in her official campaign literature or web site. Ryan's literature or

web site offer nothing. The words Gay or Lesbian do not appear at all on his 'Issues' list.

Spottswood says that she believes "in the Constitutional right of all people to live free of discrimination and that Gays and Lesbians share this fundamental right" of non-discrimination, and of "an equal opportunity to have a good job, a decent home and a loving family." Ryan did not return our calls.

Lydia Spottswood says "the basic issue at the heart of Gay and Lesbian rights is fairness . . . equality under the law, good health, safe environments and strong families." Ryan did not return our calls.

Lydia Spottswood supported state non-discrimination laws, and supports ENDA, the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would expand current employment protections to LGBTs. Ryan did not return our calls.

Spottswood is a nurse. She says that AIDS continues to be a national health crisis. Spottswood supports the federal funding of medical research, public education and even the hot-button issue of needle exchange. Ryan did not return our calls.

In summation of her stance on LGBT issues, Spottswood comments that she "understands the Gay and Lesbian community embraces the same values and beliefs as all Americans and therefore deserve the same opportunities and respect as all Americans." She believes "extremists must stop singling out LGBTs and their families with discriminatory legislation." And, she believes that as Democrats "we share a common goal of strong families and healthy communities — a goal that embraces all and excludes no one."

Ryan did not return our calls.

SECOND DISTRICT RACE HISTORIC

By Bill Meunier

The campaign to be the next Congressional representative sent from Wisconsin's Second Congressional District to Washington is an historic one. With two women carrying the standards of the major parties, it is clear Wisconsin will soon send its first Congresswoman to Washington. The District covers the area around Madison.

There is another element of history in the race as well. State Representative Tammy Baldwin, the Democratic nominee, is openly Lesbian. Not only could she become the first Wisconsin woman in Congress, she could also become the first open Lesbian ever sent to Congress by any state.

On issues of concern to the Gay and Lesbian community, the two candidates hold somewhat similar views. When one of her primary opponents, Ron Greer denounced the idea of a Lesbian serving in Congress, Musser spoke out against him saying "Hate is not a qualification for Congress."

According to Ruth De Witt, Musser's Campaign manager, Musser is opposed to crime motivated by "bigotry, hate or preconceived notions," but De Witt said that she was unsure of Musser's stance on Federal Hate Crime legislation, "although I think she would lean towards support of a hate crimes bill." Baldwin supports extend-

We're drag queens



AND WE VOTE!

Sure, we spend a lot of time on our makeup, picking out the perfect outfit and rehearsing those production numbers you love to see, but that doesn't mean we can't find the time to vote. If we can do it, so can you!

Vote November 3rd!

A public service message brought to you by:

LeCage
801-805 South 2nd Street
Milwaukee, WI

ing federal hate crimes protection to Gays and Lesbians.

De Witt also said that Musser would be supportive of ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would ban discrimination against Gays and Lesbians in employment as would Baldwin. Musser supports funding for AIDS programs at their current level. Baldwin would increase funding for the fight against AIDS. Musser, however, opposes Needle Exchange programs. Baldwin favors Needle Exchange programs and in increase in funding for AIDS programs.

While Musser was State Insurance Commissioner she scuttled a student health insurance plan that would have provided coverage for the domestic partners of the students. According to Action Wisconsin, a statewide Gay civil rights group, Musser forced provisions on the plan that made the insurer unwilling to continue providing it. De Witt said she was unfamiliar with both the plan and Musser's actions.

On the key issue of health insurance reform the two candidates are far apart. Baldwin believes in the concept of a single payer health insurance system. To those who say such a system would never be implemented, Baldwin replies, "We are Americans and in America, it is the people who decide what is possible." Baldwin rails at health insurance companies for making decisions on what type of treatment a patient will get and for creating an expensive administrative system. Baldwin believes that a single payer plan would drastically cut health insurance costs by eliminating that system.

Musser favors the establishment of "an advocacy network" for dissatisfied patients, industry wide standards on care that would be covered and making health insurance premiums paid by farmers, small business persons and the self employed, 100% deductible.

Musser has been heavily criticized by consumer advocates for her actions or lack of actions during her tenure as Insurance Commissioner and her term as President of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. Her campaign has received a substantial amount of financial help from the insurance industry and those employed within it.

Both women are receiving help from their national parties. Democratic stars including First Lady Hillary Clinton have come to Madison to campaign for her. Musser is reportedly the beneficiary of a \$300,000 ad buy from the national Republican party. The ads attack Baldwin. The Republican help may be halted, however. There are reports that the party is not pleased with Musser's pro-choice stance.

Which woman will win is still anybody's guess. Most observers say that the race is close but that Baldwin appears to have an edge. If they're right, November 3 will be an historic day not only for Wisconsin, but for all of GLBT America.

EIGHTH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL RACE

By Mike Fitzpatrick

The race in Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District has garnered nationwide attention and local appearances by the likes of Vice-President Al Gore and House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Freshman Democrat Jay

Johnson is hoping to re-write the history of this traditionally Republican-leaning northeast Wisconsin district by defeating Wisconsin Assembly majority whip Mark Green (R-Green Bay) who is running for his first federal office.

Johnson won the 1996 race in large part because of his name recognition as a former local news anchor and because of a brutally divisive Republican primary, which in its final moments had dirty tricks operatives circulating flyers suggesting that one of the candidates was Gay.

Overall Johnson's first term in office could best be described as "playing it safe." Although he is an active cosponsor of ENDA, winning a place in the Human Rights Campaign Hall of Fame in the Fall of 1997, Johnson's overall voting record generally reflected the conservative views of his district.

Johnson voted to ban late term, so-called "partial birth" abortions and was the only Democrat in Wisconsin to vote against needle exchange legislation to slow the spread of HIV/AIDS. On other AIDS issues however, Johnson has been in the forefront seeking increases in research, treatment and HOPWA (Housing for People With AIDS) funding.

Green's history in the assembly shows him to be a partisan team player. He voted with his party for the new Milwaukee Brewers stadium, despite little support for the project in his own district. Green's record on spending for HIV/AIDS issues was also consistent with the state Republican leadership's supportive stance.

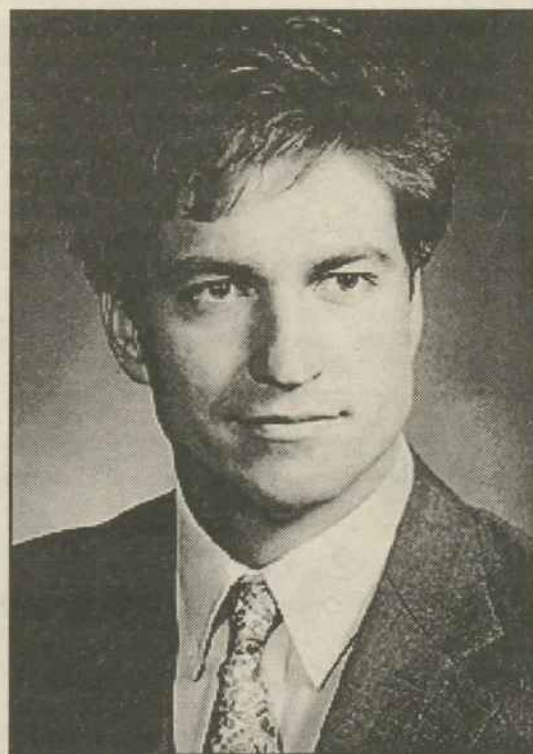
Over the last two years Green's stance on social issues also has reflected the increasing influence of the Religious Right in the state GOP. He led the floor fight in support of AB-104, the anti-same sex marriage bill. Interestingly, the plaintiffs in the Supreme court case which confirmed the state's marriage laws as a heterosexual institution prior to AB-104 live in his district.

Both candidates declined to answer the 1998 Action Wisconsin (AW) questionnaire on GLBT issues despite follow-ups from AW's regional leadership. In 1996, however, Johnson scored 100% in his responses to a similar AW questionnaire. Green responded to a 1998 Family Research Institute of Wisconsin questionnaire indicating he does not support domestic partner benefits legislation and favors banning homosexuals from the military. Green's campaign manager has reported that the candidate has had a number of discussions with the state's Log Cabin Republicans on GLBT issues but the group has not officially endorsed him to date.

Northeast Wisconsin's GLBT community has been energized of recent due to Packer Reggie White's anti-Gay comments and Matthew Shepard's death reminding the community that the potentially homophobic murder of Jeff Whalen remains unsolved a year and a half later. Whether that energy will release itself at the ballot box remains to be seen.

- WI Light Northeast Wisconsin
Bureau

Editor's Note: Although there are nine Congressional Districts in Wisconsin we have focused only on the three which are viewed as so competitive that either of the major party candidates could win.



Tim Carpenter
Democratic Representative
9th Assembly District

Proud to
represent
ALL my
constituents

Get OUT
and vote
November
3rd

Authorized and paid for by Carpenter Committee

Electing Gay Candidates Is Important

We don't live in a democracy, we live in a representative democracy. Who those representatives are matters tremendously. One of the first openly Gay people to run for office, San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk said, "There is a major difference between a friend in office and a Gay person in office - no matter how good those friends may be. We must give people the chance to judge us by our own leaders and our own legislators."

Radical political extremists have become adept at using the electoral process to undermine the democratic

Commentary by Kathleen De Bold, Deputy Director, Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund to the U.S. Congress.

foundation of our country. Shining the political spotlight on exceptional openly Gay Americans like Tammy Baldwin is one of the best ways for us to beat them at their own game. And the only way to do that is to get out and vote for her.

As a recent profile in *Out* magazine noted, "If any district can elect a Lesbian to Congress, it's Wisconsin's 2nd." And, with no time to rest after her stunning Democratic primary victory in September, Wisconsin State Representative Tammy Baldwin is poised to make history as the first open Lesbian and only openly Gay non-incumbent ever elected

The good news is that 58% of Wisconsin's 2nd District voters are Democrats and Tammy is much more qualified than her Republican opponent. The bad news is that Tammy is targeted for defeat by religious, political extremists and pollsters universally predict this year's Democratic turn-out will reach an all-time low. That means Tammy needs your help now.

A former member of the Dane County Board of Supervisors, Tammy is an immensely popular legislator, as evidenced by her reelection to the Assembly

with more than 70% of the vote. Throughout her lifetime of public service, Tammy has established herself as a leader dedicated to giving a voice to individuals and groups who have historically been excluded from the political process.

Her campaign has consistently focused on the issues important to her constituents, highlighting her solid record on health care, education and the environment. That record has earned her the support of major political organizations, including EMILY's List, Service Employees International Union, Women's Campaign Fund, AIDS PAC, Human Right's Campaign and Independent Action, and her broad base of support helped her raise over \$1 million from more than 500 donors.

As we've seen time and time again, Tammy's uncompromising honesty about her sexual orientation has made her a top target of the Radical Right. When she declared her candidacy for Congress, a local pastor informed her that, "We certainly have no intention of sitting by as quiet bystanders while you flaunt God's law and attempt to assume an office which would put you in a position of direct authority over us and our loved ones." A group calling itself "Wisconsin Christians United" erected huge billboards in Tammy's district declaring, "Homosexuality is not a family value. Homosexuality is a sin."

In the heat of the primary battle, Tammy was attacked by right-wing extremist candidate Ron Greer. He sent fundraising letters to tens of thousands of religious conservatives that said, "politicians like Tammy Baldwin are waging a war of intolerance and intimidation against Christians" and "she wants to force her radical anti-family agenda on all Americans!"

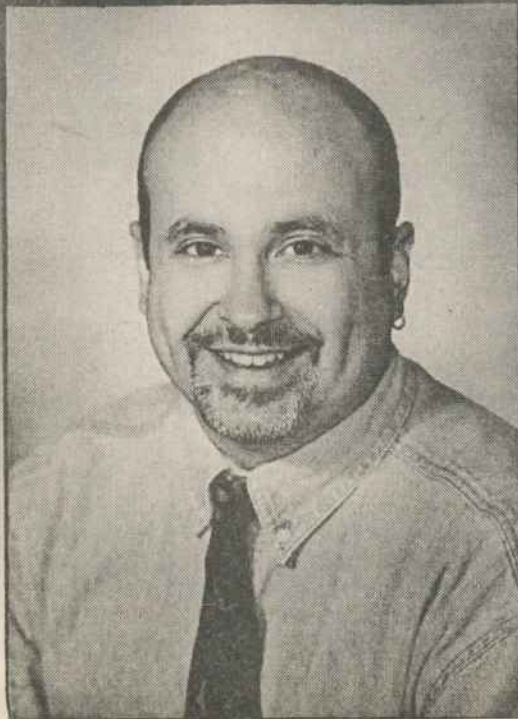
Though Greer lost the Republican primary (by the small margin of 400 votes!), he continues to spread his hateful message. "Tammy Baldwin represents all that is wrong with the Democratic Party," he told Madison's *Capital Times*. "She represents all that is dangerous to the culture."

Make no mistake, what Tammy really represents to Ron and his ilk is everything that is dangerous to their ongoing plot to demonize our community. Shining the public spotlight on outstanding Gay men and Lesbians is one of the best ways to destroy antiGay stereotypes - the same stereotypes upon which the careers and pocketbooks of right-wing demagogues like James Dobson and Pat Robertson and Gary Bauer depend.

It is very fitting that exactly twenty years after Harvey Milk's assassination, we have the opportunity. Power is never relinquished; it has to be taken. The power we gain by electing qualified openly Gay candidates to public office is the power to change laws and policies that oppress us. The power we gain by electing qualified openly Gay candidates to public office is the power to make laws and policies that protect all of us. The power we gain by electing qualified openly Gay candidates to public office is the power to break down homophobia and change public attitudes about Lesbians and Gay men.

Before he was shot and killed, Harvey Milk said "If a bullet should enter my brain, let that bullet destroy every closet door." The power we gain by electing qualified openly Gay candidates like Tammy Baldwin to public office is the power to destroy every closet door. Vote on November 3.

Editor's Note - Kathleen De Bold is the Deputy Director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, a national organization dedicated to the election of the openly Gay and Lesbian candidates.



Continue the Tradition...

Mark Pocan for State Assembly

DEMOCRAT

STOP the mean-spirited, anti-LGBT legislation in Madison and Washington.

Vote for Democrats on November 3

Endorsed by: The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, Mike Vermeer, Margaret McMurray & Denise Matyka, Dick Wagner, DeEtte Tomlinson, Pam Porter, Richard Kilmer, Judi Trampf, Patrick Wojahn, Tom Neal & Patrick Jones, Deb Vogt, Chad LaFlash & Dale Decker, Monica Serrano, Tim O'Brien & Tom Otto, Martha Popp & Alix Olson, Rex Loehe & Jim Moe, Juliet Brodie, Ricardo Gonzalez, Paul Hughet, Walt Jackson & over 500 others!

Mark
Pocan
STATE ASSEMBLY

78th District - Madison

To Volunteer - Call:
(608) 294-9898

To Make a Donation:
Mark Pocan for Assembly
P.O. Box 1671
Madison, WI 53701

Authorized and paid for by Mark Pocan for Assembly, Pam Porter, Treasurer

A Democratic Perspective on Gay Politics

Commentary by Mark Spengler, Director of Gay and Lesbian Outreach for the Democratic National Committee

Editor's Note: In the interests of fairness Wisconsin Light offered a half page of space to both the National Log Cabin Republican Club and the National Stonewall Democratic Clubs. The Log Cabin Club declined our offer to present reasons why Wisconsin's LGBT voters should support the Republican Party.

In 1993, President Clinton took office and became the first American President to acknowledge the contributions, value, and needs of the Gay and Lesbian community. President Clinton and Vice President Gore emerged as leaders for our community.

Finally, we had leaders who would listen, respond, and try to understand the issues facing our community and an administration that would support the work of our allies in Congress. They understood inequality. They understood what it meant when some people deny others equal access, equal protection, and the normal pursuit of happiness.

Today, after some huge steps forward (and some disappointments), we look at our core of supportive Democrats in Congress and the leadership of President Clinton and Vice President Gore and realize that these lawmakers have edged us forward. This teamwork has established massive Gay and Lesbian participation in politics and public policy. This participation has led to progress.

No, we haven't achieved all that we want and deserve but we have made tremendous steps forward. Steps that we took with Democrats.

Accomplishments are extensive. Fighting workplace discrimination has been the centerpiece of Democrat's commitment to Gay and Lesbian equality. President Clinton appointed the first Gays and Lesbians to senior level Administration positions ever. The President issued an Executive Order banning discrimination based on sexual orientation in the federal civilian work force. We have moved the issue of employment discrimination, based on sexual orientation, to the mainstream of the national political debate.

The American public, in poll after poll, tells us that they don't believe that an employee should be discriminated against based on sexual orientation. Members of Congress of both parties now understand this issue, whether or not they support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Our dialogue has done this.

But there is still a divide. The divide lies primarily along party lines. Most Republicans do not support ENDA. The majority of Democrats are on our side. 91% of Congressional Democrats voted to defeat the Hefley Amendment that would have nullified the President's Executive Order. This vote is the clearest indicator of support in Congress for ENDA. If Democrats controlled the House, we would pass ENDA. Isn't that worth working for?

Each day, we move closer to new victories. Sometimes we can't move fast enough. Unfortunately the need for stronger federal Hate Crimes legislation has been made painfully clear. We have still more sobering evidence that discrimination and violence against Gays and Lesbians is pervasive. Republicans and extremist right wing leaders would like to deny the need for awareness and increased protection.

The President and Congressional Democrats have been urging the inclusion of sexual orientation in our federal Hate Crimes laws. The Republican leadership has been stalling on this legislation. They have been unwilling to commit to include sexual orientation in the language of the bill. Again, if Democrats controlled Congress, Gays and Lesbians would have these protections.

We have been fortunate to win some hard fought battles, build support for our issues, and hold off assaults from the right. In this Congress, even with a

Republican majority, we have been able to minimize legislative attacks on our community. However, the attacks have grown more blatant and become more common. The greater the Republican majority, the easier for extremist leadership to use our community for political gain.

We know what Republican Senate Leader Trent Lott thinks of us; likening Gays and Lesbians to "kleptomaniacs and alcoholics." What would Lott do with a filibuster-proof majority of Republicans in the Senate? Everything extremist Republicans tried last Congress but we successfully fought off: repeal of the President's Executive Order prohibiting discrimination in the federal civilian work

force, denying federal funding to localities with domestic partnership benefits policies, banning same sex joint adoptions, and more.

When you vote, remember the stakes. Remember what Democrats stand for: fairness, inclusion, and non-discrimination. Remember what Republicans want to advance: unfair treatment under our laws, invisibility, and blatant discrimination. If Republicans advance their majority, Gays and Lesbians lose.

Yes, the choice is clear. But we can't just know it's clear, we have to talk about the stakes of this election. You have to help get our voters to the polls.

What can you do? Make sure you vote. Contact your local Stonewall Democratic Club or Democratic campaign. Volunteer to help get Gay and Lesbian voters to the polls. Write a check to help underwrite the cost of an ad in your local Gay and Lesbian newspaper. Help with visibility rallies with signs, stickers, and flyers. Tell your community about what's at stake by writing a letter to the editor or calling into your local talk radio program.

Tell the story. Make fairness the law of the land. Get your family and friends to the polls to vote for fairness, inclusion, and non-discrimination. Vote Democrat. This is our party. This is our life.

Fight for your rights!

Get out and vote!

OUTREACH

Madison's GLBT social services agency
14 West Mifflin Street, Suite 103
Madison 53703

Call the Outline at 608-255-4297

A public service message from OutReach

Fight AIDS With Your Vote

By Laurie Marks

Local, state and federal governments have an important role to play in the fight against AIDS. Therefore, candidates vying for public office should be asked questions about their willingness to enlist in the fight against AIDS in Wisconsin.

In the days ahead you will have candidates knocking on your door and handing out literature at public events in hopes of your support in the November 3 elections. Take the opportunity to find out if candidates are with us in the fight against AIDS in Wisconsin. Ask them: (All candidates) Do you support fund-

ing for needle exchange programs for intravenous drug users and increased funding for aggressive HIV prevention programs for populations at high risk such as gay and bisexual men, women and youth?

Needle exchange is the most political and frustrating issue facing the AIDS Community. Needle exchange provides clean needles to intravenous drug users (IDU's) in exchange for dirty ones. Despite the fact that numerous federal studies have shown that needle exchange reduces HIV infections by as much as

33% without increasing drug use, few public officials have put scientific fact ahead of politics and shown leadership in supporting needle exchange.

HIV prevention funding has not been increased by the State of Wisconsin or the federal government for years. President Clinton proposed no increase for prevention in the 1999 federal budget and both the House and the Senate passed appropriations bills leaving HIV prevention flat funded.

(U.S Congressional candidates) Will you support increased and equitable

funding through the Ryan White CARE Act?

In the year 2000 the federal government will debate and vote on the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act, and again Wisconsin will lead the fight for more equity in funding among States. During the last reauthorization there were vast inequities regarding how much funding each state would receive from the CARE Act for each individual living with HIV/AIDS in each state.

While some of this inequity was eliminated, on a per case basis some states still receive far more funding than others. For example in Wisconsin we receive \$3,146 for each person living with AIDS, while our neighboring state of Minnesota receives \$5,234 per person. Candidates for Congress in Wisconsin should be asked to make equity in funding a priority and work hand-in-hand with the AIDS Community to achieve fairness for Wisconsin. However, mere equity is not enough. With increasing case loads, expensive drug therapies and increased needs in community based services and housing, increased funding will also be essential.

(Candidates for the Wisconsin Legislature) Will you support increased funding for care and treatment of people with HIV/AIDS?

On the state level, we will pass a new biennial budget next year and while the number of people with AIDS accessing services reaches an all time high, Wisconsin will have to renew its commitment to the care and

treatment of people with HIV/AIDS. Wisconsin's Life Care Services/Early Intervention Grant will have to be increased and expanded if we are going to keep service at an adequate level and assist people in living longer, healthier lives. Further, the state will need to find innovative ways to assure access to primary care, better counseling and testing methods and increased access to the AIDS Drug Reimbursement Program (ADRP).

(Candidates for the Wisconsin Legislature) Do you support the expansion of Medicaid to include HIV+ individuals?

The tragic reality of the Medical Assistance program in Wisconsin and Medicaid programs across the country is that low income people with HIV do not qualify for coverage, and therefore do not have access to medications and health care that will prevent their HIV from progressing to AIDS. Candidates for the Wisconsin Legislature should be asked to support a federal waiver that will allow Wisconsin to provide access to medical care and drug therapies through the Medicaid program for eligible HIV+ individuals. As election day approaches, take the time to find out where the candidates stand on these important issues. Now is the best time to secure their commitment which will help us advance responsive public policy for everyone affected by HIV & AIDS in Wisconsin. If you have any questions on AIDS public policy issues and this year's campaigns, call the AIDS Action Wisconsin office at the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (225-1597) and they will be happy to give you the information you need to be a strong voice on AIDS policy.

- The author is a member of the staff at the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin

Peter L. Steinberg

for

Dane County District Attorney Vote November 3, 1998

What do Marijuana Smokers Want from Our Neighbors?

Most of the marijuana smokers of Dane County are law-abiding, taxpaying, hardworking citizens.

What percentage of the voting age population of Dane County do you think smokes marijuana? What do we want? We want an end to the excesses of cruelty under prohibition, which are as inevitable as they are outrageous.

September 16, 1986: John Graham was shot and killed in Sauk City by Sauk Prairie Police Officer John Mueller, while lying face down, in handcuffs, in the driveway of his apartment building. Sauk County Sheriff Alan Shanks said: "It was a legitimate drug Stop. There was marijuana found in the back of the pickup truck." Mueller shot Graham twice in the head, and later said he was "inspired" by President Reagan's television speech two days before, declaring War on Drugs. The Sauk County District Attorney let Mueller plead insanity.

April 17, 1995: Scott Bryant was shot and killed in Beaver Dam by Sheriff's Detective (and chairman of the Dodge County Republican Party) Robert Neuman, while he sat in his living room watching television and smoking a bowl of pot. Bryant was unarmed, and his 7 year old son was asleep in the next room. Criminal charges were never even filed against Neuman.

This raises the question: Does the War on Drugs encourage the casual killing of marijuana smokers as a lamentable but unavoidable consequence of its "Zero Tolerance" policy? The fingerprints of premeditated intent are all over the legislation and court decisions forfeiting marijuana smokers' rights, property, and liberties in every dimension.

When we see a Republican party leader shoot & kill an unarmed man in a marijuana raid, and not one Republican or Democratic leader in Wisconsin speaks out to denounce this as the foul crime it would be if it were not "justified" by the War on Drugs; when everything that is done to a marijuana smoker in a drug raid, short of murder, is legally approved: physical arrest at gun point, ransacking of private papers, destruction of furnishings and household effects, seizure of any cash or other valuables, and then, if evidence is actually discovered, disgrace, imprisonment, shipment out of state to be warehoused in Tennessee or Texas with violent, mentally disturbed criminals, we conclude that, since all these injuries to marijuana smokers are deliberately inflicted under laws made and approved by the Republican Party, with the shameful complicity of the Democratic Party, the actual, if unspoken, policy of both parties is:

"You have to spill a little blood to reach a Drug Free America."

I was drafted to run for District Attorney to confront and oppose this attitude. Listen to what we ask:

We Want You to Stop Lying About Us. We Want You to Stop Robbing Us. We Want You to Stop Killing Us in the Name of the War on Drugs.

As long as the War on Drugs lasts, its program will be More Police, Prisons, and Prosecutions; there will be more violence, more deaths, unless we have the courage to end a failed policy. Accept marijuana use by law-abiding adults. Legalizing marijuana would be a small, confidence-building step, so people can see that society will not collapse just because we discard the Zero Tolerance paradigm for how to treat our neighbors and replace it with the Golden Rule.



Leadership for the 21st Century

"Peter has been my friend for over 30 years and I have the highest regard for his ability and integrity. He has my enthusiastic support for Dane County District Attorney."

DAVID CLARENBACH, former State Representative from the 78th Assembly District and former Director of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund.

visit our website at
www.mailbag.com/users/plsteinberg/

Authorized and Paid for by Steinberg for District Attorney, P.O. Box 2614, Madison, WI 53701.

Where Do I Stand on Other Issues?

- **Reproductive Rights:** I believe that a woman's right to reproductive choice is a fundamental constitutional right, implicit in the 9th Amendment, which I will defend with all the authority of the District Attorney's office.
- **Hate Crimes:** I feel personally violated by assaults on Gay or Lesbian members of this community and will prosecute offenders to the full extent of the law.
- **Race Relations:** No one should live under a cloud of suspicion because of his or her race. I will work to prevent discriminatory law enforcement to the best of my ability.
- **Sexual Assault:** These are crimes of violence, not passion, and must be made unacceptable in society. Complainants should be treated with respect, not suspicion, by the District Attorney and the police.
- **Domestic Violence:** We must distinguish between people who need to be convicted and people who need to be counseled. We need to keep sight of the larger goal, which is not to break up families in every case, but to help families overcome the reliance on screaming, throwing things and hitting each other to resolve conflicts. Conflict resolution is a learned skill.
- **Censorship:** Freedom of expression is essential to a free society. The wish to suppress "dirty, vulgar or bad" words or images wrongly relies on force to impose subjective judgments about right and wrong.

Women's Issues Are Important

Voting Affects Women's Rights

Commentary by Jennifer Olenchek, Vice President - Wisconsin National Organization for Women

The women's movement has a rich background in political activity. Our political activities, however, have needed to increase over the last years because all the issues NOW and other feminist organizations have worked so diligently on for the past thirty years are still being attacked in Congress. In order for these attacks to stop, we must use our voice and our vote to elect representatives who represent us—and we must get others to do the same.

There is a crisis in Congress right now—women's rights are being attacked, with no end in sight. If you don't think there is an urgency in our Congress, think again:

* There were intensified efforts of the right wing leadership to advance various anti-equity measures in education.

* The senate leadership has held up confirmations of important Clinton administration nominees, including one for the EEOC that could have actually forced a halt on enforcement and pursuit of sexual harassment and other discrimination complaints.

* Since 1995, Congress has taken an unprecedented 100 votes (and counting) on legislation that either banned reproductive options for women outright or placed restrictions on abortion and reproductive services.

So, yes, election work is part of the feminist movement. The slogan "If we can't change their minds, we'll change their faces" has echoed in many post-election parties as the number of feminist women and men in elective office has increased in this country.

Now, more than ever before, our hard won rights are in great jeopardy. We need to change the face of politics, so our issues will be addressed and fought for at all levels of political office.

To have our voices and our issues addressed, we need a collective legislature willing to protect women's reproductive rights, enforce affirmative action policies, guarantee civil rights for Lesbians and Gays, introduce pay equity and comprehensive health care coverage legislation, support the ERA, and increase the enforcement of domestic violence laws. But to have such a legislature, more women and men who support these issues need to be elected to public office. But, this won't happen if we don't vote.

Voting does matter. If everyone who supports and fights for equality votes in this election, candidates who support equality will be elected. Yes, it really is that simple. We are spending so much of our time trying to prevent the passage of bad legislation, that there is little time to develop or promote legislation that would further women's progress. Isn't it time for this cycle to end? Use your vote and help elect candidates who will sponsor, introduce and support legislation that promotes equality for everyone.

Our political decision makers (95% of whom are men) are making decisions that affect women's bodies, our homes, our children, the air we breathe, the food we eat, the money spent on breast cancer research, children's immunizations, and whether we go to war. Shouldn't

you help choose who is making these decisions for you?

Be part of this historic election and help start the process of electing officials that truly represent the interests of all their constituents. On Tuesday, November 3rd, make your voice heard by voting for issues you care about. The next Congress will be making decisions that affect you, including: education funding, quality health care services,

equal opportunity programs, social security, the minimum wage, child care, anti-discrimination programs and women's reproductive choices. We must be part of the process of determining which candidates will represent the needs of all of us, including women and families.

When women and progressive thinkers fail to vote, legislators claim a mandate for their policies without input

from absentee voters. Don't let Congress count you out.

In 1960, a change of one vote in each precinct in Illinois would have changed the outcome of the presidential election. Your vote does count—use it!

Tom Barrett makes the grade for us in Washington, D.C.

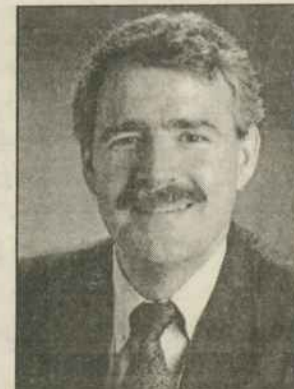
BARRETT EARNS HIGH MARKS:

- **NAACP**
BARRETT RECEIVES PERFECT SCORE ON 1998 NAACP LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD
- **Peace Action**
BARRETT PERFECT ON PEACE ACTION CONGRESSIONAL VOTING RECORD SCORECARD
- **ENVIRONMENTAL VOTES**
BARRETT GRADES AMONG THE HIGHEST BY LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

Democrat for Congress

Please Vote Tuesday, November 3rd

Tom BARRETT
United States Congress



Authorized and paid for by Barrett for Congress, Catherine Shaw, Treasurer

So... a skewed look at the Election Season

By Ron Geiman

So... I've decided to name myself Queen of Wisconsin. After consultations with my concubines and courtesans, and interviews with the candidates in my private chambers, I will pick who will represent our state in the political arena. **No more campaigns, no more soft money, no more mind-numbing commercials on TV and radio.**

I'll instantly wipe out the cynicism and un-kept promises with a wave of my regal scepter. Soft Money? Campaign Funding? Who needs the fat cats money? I'm above approach, and I'll pick and choose. Then, eventually, if I don't like the way my choices are handling things, I'll just replace them at my whim.

As Terry Boughner has said, I won't be greedy. Some other Queen can do it in other states, just give me Wisconsin.

So... it is Halloween, too, you know. I just had to throw a draggy Queen character to assure your placement in this Election section wouldn't deter me from getting a little fun in.

So... got that off my chest, err crown, err sash, now onto the reality of today. Don't you just love our precedent setting LGBT Voter's Guide? As far as we are able to ascertain, no other LGBT publication has ever attempted such a complete section, and I'm really proud we were able to do so. It's also impressive we were able to get a number of state and national groups to support us in our effort.

Now, it is up to you to take this information and process it in your brain (believe me there is more than enough of a capacity available) and get your ass out

and vote on November 3rd. Wisconsin may be ignored in the largely Coastal Gay Mentality that pervades the large national organizations, but even they've begun to realize that we have it more together on LGBT issues than they do.

After all, Wisconsin is the original Gay Rights State. We were one of the first with Consenting Adults legislation, and Madison pioneered the concept of Domestic Partnership legislation. And yes, LGBTs are covered under our Hate Crimes statute that is being used as a model for other states.

Madison has had numerous out Gay and Lesbian candidates for well over 15 years, and Governor Tony Earl had the first Governor's Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues back in the early '80s. Before Earl, it was Republican maverick Governor Lee Sherman Dreyfuss who signed AB70 (The Gay Civil Rights Law) into existence to the dismay of many in the GOP.

So... It's time for us to lead the way again. Re-elect LGBT friendly pelicans such as Senator Russ Feingold. Elect out Lesbian Tammy Baldwin to the US House. Elect Mark Pocan to take over Tammy's seat in the State Legislature.

We must support Lydia Spottswood for Congress against Paul Ryan, vote for

Ron Kind, Jay Johnson and Jerry Klezka.

If you read the Voters Guide thoroughly, and follow our Endorsements, which appear in the main section of the paper, it should help you so our community continues to set trends. It's our only hope for a happier future.

Thankfully, there are others not facing an election — State legislators and Senators who are LGBT but closeted, yet supportive of our community. We also have many other political supporters and friends who don't like where the country is headed.

So... even the Republican Right is covered by the Religious Right. But those church going, fundamentalist people vote, in very high percentages — compared to most other groups. It's pounded into them from the pulpit, both in their church and on their religious right television and radio stations. These people have entire Networks, for Christ's sake... warning if they don't elect Mr. Right, this country will "face the wrath of God." (I fear the opposite— can anyone say oppression?)

So... The December '98 *Genre* included an interview with Sandra Bernhard where she commented, "The only difference between Clinton and the Republicans is that he gets it for free and they probably pay for it."

So... Vice President Al Gore has been heard to say Republicans haven't been

able to agree on much of anything — it's gotten to the point where the right hand of the Republicans doesn't know what the far right hand is doing. (Love his droll sense of humor...)

Feingold's Republican opponent for Senator, Mark Neumann, threw a hissy fit (as did all the conservative radio squawkers) when Tammy Baldwin's Republican opponent, Josephine Musser, said, "I don't know if I can vote for him." This because of his rabid stand against abortions of any sort, much less late term abortions.

Muser runs similar in thinking to both Neumann's opponent Feingold and her opponent Tammy Baldwin on partial birth issues. Most agree the procedure would be appropriate only if "exceptions are made to protect the life and health of women."

Whereas Neumann equates them with "murder."

Muser has probably lost some Republican Party support for her moderate view, because "there is so much distortion. I would almost like to take this on as my mantra — go out and educate people about this issue. There is just so much misinformation."

(Yeah Josephine, LGBTs can relate to a lot of misconceptions and misinformation out there about our community, as well. So... chin up *grrrrllll*, when Tammy whumps you at the polls Nov. 3, maybe you can go on the lecture circuit and talk some sense into 'em!)

So... to wrap things up, if any of you bought one of those blue GAP dresses to wear for your Monica Lewinsky costume... I'll gladly stain it for you.



If you think that Gay-Rights
is not a religious issue--
know this one thing:
They Do

Plan your November schedule now. Come join us,
as the Rev. Lew Broyles preaches:

The Every-Other Sunday
Night Series

Nov. 1st "Not a Sin, Not a Sickness"- or-
"Died for All--Hmmm... I wonder what that means?"

Nov. 15th "The Clobber Passages" - or
"Who you callin' an abomination anyway?"

Nov. 29th- "My Paul, my Paul, Why have you forgotten Us?"
Or "Romans Road--Freedom for All?"

Dec. 13th- "What's a Sodomite, anyway?"
"Do not call unholy that which God has made Holy"

7:00 P.M. ---Hotel Astor--Milwaukee
924 E. Juneau St. -- Walker Room

Milwaukee M.C.C. on T.V.--

8:00 P.M. Ch. 47--"Gay: By God's Will"--shown in West Allis
sometime after Midnight

Live on Tuesdays after "The Queer Program"



On November 3rd



Vote

**DAWN MARIE
SASS**

State Treasurer

"Best candidate for a new beginning"

Authorized and paid for by Dawn Marie Sass for State Treasurer

Make equality a reality.

VOTE

Nov. 3



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN

For more information,
or to get involved, call 202/628-4160
or visit our web site at www.hrc.org

There are **2** Things
you can do for
Your Community this Fall:

#1

Make a donation to the
Cream City Foundation

#2

Vote November 3

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Evening Phone: _____ Best time to reach you: _____

YES! I wish to make the following donation to the Cream City Foundation. Enclosed is my
 check; money order; please charge the amount below to my credit card: MC; VISA

\$25 \$50 \$100 Other Amount: \$ _____

Name as it appears on card: _____ Expiration: _____

Number: _____



Complete and return the form above
with your donation to: Cream City
Foundation, Box 204, Milwaukee, WI
53201. Thank you for your support.

SUPPORT THE

**CREAM CITY
FOUNDATION**