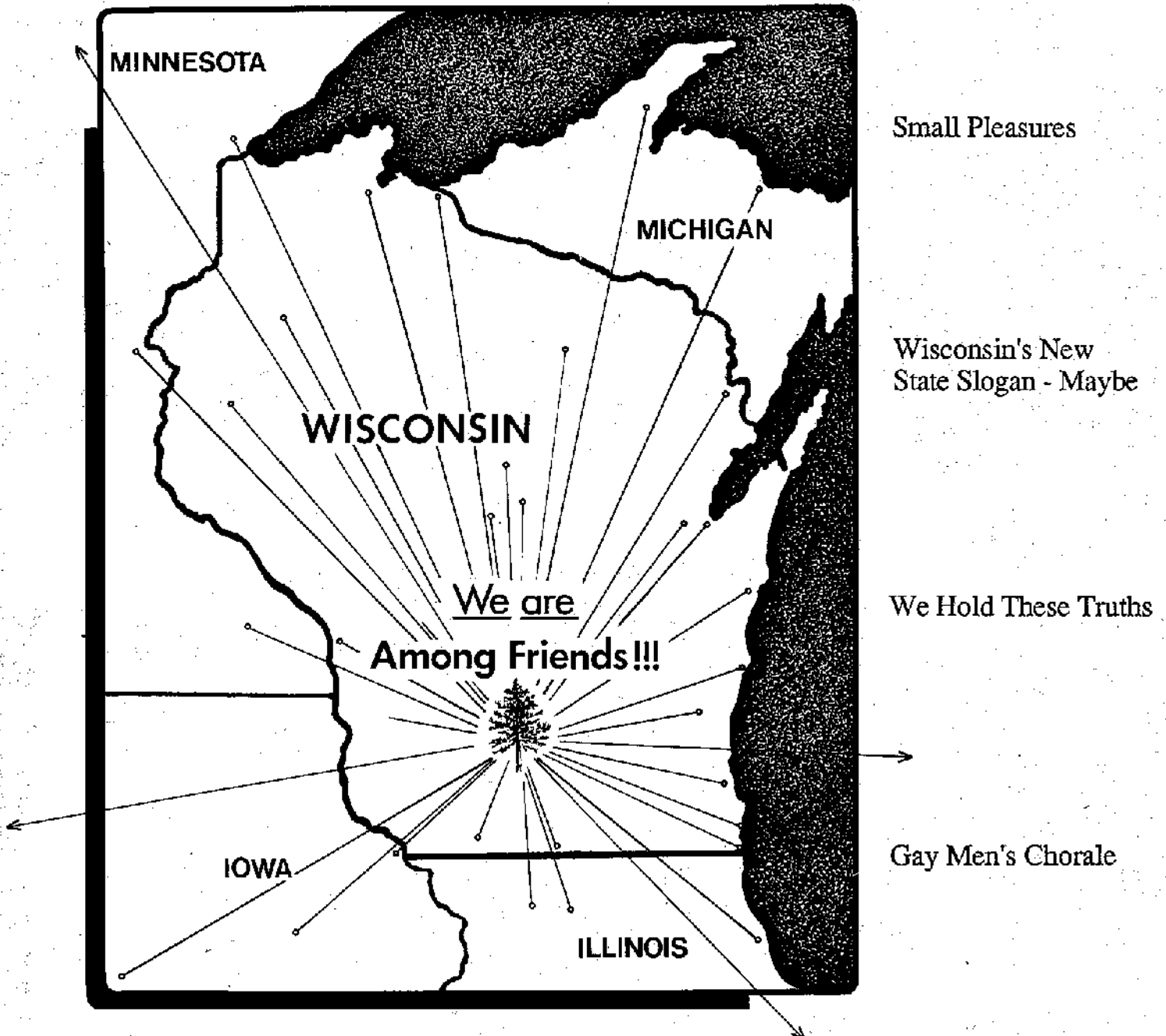


# Among friends



February 1988  
Price: \$2.00

News Magazine  
for Gays and Lesbians of the Upper Midwest



## Gay and Lesbian Media Month:

Newspapers, Books, Television, Music, Poetry  
for and by Gays and Lesbians

Among Friends  
News Magazine  
for Gays and Lesbians

February 1988

published by  
Among Friends  
PO Box 426  
Madison WI 53701

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Cover: *We are Among Friends*  
pen and ink by Jim Otney



## Wisconsin - You're Among Friends!

MADISON, WI - On February 1, the State Division Of Tourism is scheduled to officially announce its new state tourism advertising slogan:

### Wisconsin - You're Among Friends!

According to press reports, the State of Wisconsin spent \$25,000 developing the new motto, and has allocated \$7 million to push its new image nationwide.

Responding to negative publicity generated by the old slogan, "Escape to Wisconsin," the Division of Tourism initially believed that the new slogan would amply demonstrate to the rest of the country the essence of Wisconsin: a place to be among friends.

To everyone's surprise, *Among Friends News Magazine for Gays and Lesbians of the Upper Midwest* was contacted about the new slogan. In response to reporters' questions, publisher Jay Hatheway stated, "We are pleased that the Division of Tourism has seen fit to honor our work by means of a new state slogan." When asked if he believed the state really intended that Wisconsin be recognized as a nice place to be among gay and lesbian friends, Hatheway replied, "It would not be appropriate of me to second guess the State, but we certainly welcome this unexpected publicity."

And publicity there has been! Within a few days, area radio, newspaper, and television had picked up on the closeness between the new slogan and the Madison based gay and lesbian publication. Subsequent to the publicity, some state legislators and businessmen were calling for yet another motto. What is needed, they are reported to have argued, is a motto which connotes a positive image of Wisconsin, not something that could be misconstrued. Leading the cry for change is Sen Te Winkle (R-Sheboygan) and State Rep David Paulson (R-Amery). Paulson said the old slogan, "Escape to Wisconsin," is catchy and has helped promote Wisconsin for years. As for "You're Among Friends," Paulson said, "I think our Division of Tourism should escape from this new slogan."

The Division of Tourism, while initially sticking to its decision to go ahead with the new motto, is now apparently willing to reconsider, and will meet with Sen Te Winkle about "new

suggestions." For his part, Te Winkle has suggested "Wisconsin Smiles." According to the Senator, this has a much more wholesome message than the state's 'Among Friends' theme.

To add fuel to the fire, the slogan brouhaha had been reported in USA Today, prompting numerous calls nationwide to Among Friends Publications. Says Hatheway, "While we initially enjoyed the unexpected publicity this similarity has created, it now appears as though there is some real homophobia being expressed around the state. We received a report that one high state administrator has actually suggested we change our name!" When asked if this was a possibility, Hatheway responded, "We are copyrighted and registered with the State of Wisconsin. It is too bad that the Division of Tourism had to spend \$25,000 to come up with a slogan that we, for the most part, claim as our own. It was quite evident to us that Wisconsin, because of its equal protection laws for gays and lesbians, is a place where one can be Among Friends. Thus the name. When we use the title, of course we refer to the fact that in Wisconsin, you're among gay and lesbian friends. So what's wrong with this? Leave it to some homophobic senator to raise objections."

When it was noted that some of the opposition to the new slogan comes from the Green Bay area, Hatheway was not surprised, stating, "We are bringing a civil rights suit against the *Green Bay Press Gazette* and Gannett, its parent company. The slogan campaign is to kick off in Green Bay. Could there be a connection? I don't know for sure, but I wouldn't be surprised. The *Press Gazette* is not too thrilled being sued by a gay and lesbian publication for infringement of Freedom of the Press and Freedom of Expression."

On January 25, Among Friends was interviewed by Madison television Channel 3 in which Hatheway expressed some displeasure over the way the state reacted to the whole affair. The basic problem, he surmised, was that the state already spent \$25,000 to come up with the slogan; allocated \$7 million to print bumper stickers and posters; and now there is the ire of conservatives who do not want the state to be known as a "gay state." "Too bad," said Hatheway, "It already is!"

*Editor's note: As we go to press, it seems unlikely that the new slogan will be made official due to mounting opposition. We'll keep you posted.*

### Gay & Lesbian Books



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## Stoughton Student Newspaper To Retain "Gay Ad", Maybe

STOUGHTON, WI - After considerable debate and rancor, the Board of Education of Stoughton High School appeared unlikely to order the pulling of a gay and lesbian oriented ad from the *Norse Star*, the high school's student newspaper.

The ad, placed by a Madison gay/lesbian teen support group came to the attention of the school board after Bob and Jane Hill of the Buggy Scrub Car Wash raised objections to the propriety of the ad appearing in a high school paper, and threatened to cancel their own ads if the teen support group's was not withdrawn.

The Hills further threatened to organize a boycott of the paper by other local advertisers. Nevertheless, the seven businesses which initially indicated they were willing to withdraw had second thoughts in the wake of the School Board's meeting.

At issue was the First Amendment rights of students, and whether or not it was appropriate for the school board to bow to pressure from the community to force a policy change by the paper. For many students, the issue was simply one of censorship.

Although the Board of Education took no action, the fate of the ad may still be in doubt. In mid-January, the United States Supreme Court ruled that high school students are not entitled to full protection of the First Amendment when engaged in school journalism activities. In such a situation, the principal of a school effectively acts as the publisher, and may legally refuse to publish any editorial content which is deemed to be inappropriate for young readers. No guidelines were established as to what "inappropriate" included.

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The "Dreamgirls" and Kraig Miller

### Dreamgirls Perform At the New Bar in Madison

Madison AIDS Support Network held a benefit featuring the "Dreamgirls" at the New Bar on January 17th. The money raised by the performance will be used to continue MASN's work in educating the public and providing support for people with AIDS/ARC.

### Milwaukee Pride Week Being Planned

Twenty-five people representing fifteen Milwaukee gay and lesbian organizations met on January 10, 1988 to discuss and begin planning for the 1988 Milwaukee Pride Week, tentatively scheduled during the weeks of September 10 - 24.

The planning committee, co-chaired by Bill Meunier and Scott Gunkel, met at the Cream City Foundation Community Center. The goals set for this year's Milwaukee celebration of lesbian and gay pride include focusing on the variety and depth of gay/lesbian culture, rejuvenating a spirit of identity, and promoting participation in and cooperation among local gay/lesbian organizations. A talent show, a picnic, a memorial service for gay and lesbian veterans, and a ball are some of the events which were suggested.

The planning committee welcomes any who would like to join, schedule organization activities, or make suggestions for further events. For further information, contact Bill Meunier at (414) 765-0614 or Scott Gunkel at (414) 964-9971.

Wisconsin Light

## MASN Benefit: "Sweet Sunday Afternoon"

MADISON, WI - Some Madison residents have decided to do something about the sadness and frustration resulting from the tragedy of AIDS and the seeming inability for any one person to do anything about it. There is not much one can do beyond being informed, informing others and using preventive methods.

Thus was born a benefit for the Madison AIDS Support Network entitled "Sweet Sunday Afternoon," a Valentine's Day afternoon of sweets and entertainment.

The event will be held Sunday, February 14th from 1:30 to 4:30 at the Wilson Street Grill (217 S Hamilton). A \$10 donation will allow guests to partake of a smorgasboard of donated sweets, chocolates, and other "just desserts". Local ensembles including ARK, Jane Reynolds and Lynette and Chris Wagner will provide entertainment which will be interspersed with short talks.

At least 64 individuals, WORT 89.9 FM and the WSA Pharmacy are filling the roles of co-hosts of the event.

For information or advance reservations call MASN at (608) 255-1711. Tickets will be available at the door.

Sweet  
sunday  
afternoon

Valentine's Day, February 14th, 1988  
Wilson Street Grill, 217 South Hamilton  
1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

A benefit for the  
Madison AIDS Support Network

\$10 per person. A buffet of sweets, chocolates, other just desserts, and entertainment by ARK, Jane Reynolds and Lynette, Chris Wagner and Company.

Advance reservations available from  
MASN, PO Box 731, Madison, WI 53701.

## With a little help from our Friends...

With this February edition, Among Friends has now been publishing for two years, a short break notwithstanding.

Many thanks to all of you who have supported us through our trials and tribulations. As you may recall, money was, and to a certain extent still is, a problem.

Some of you have received or will receive renewal notices. If you enjoy your publication, and have not renewed, we urge you to do so. To those subscribers who have already renewed, thanks for your help.

A small press such as ours cannot hope to succeed without your help. This month is National Gay and Lesbian Media Awareness Month. Included in this issue are some articles which may shed some light on the difficulties which we, as a profession, face. We urge you to read them.

In the course of the last year Among Friends staff has worked overtime in an attempt to retire a debt. In the main, we have been successful. Nevertheless, our new style and format has necessitated delaying full payment. We felt it was important to show you what we could do, and in the process solicit your suggestions for further improvement. Your comments are always welcome.

We are, however, once again turning to our readers for help. After much work, our total debt now stands at only \$980, down from a little over \$2,000 just 18 months ago. Your donations to help us retire this last remnant of our past is heartfully welcome. We would like to expand beyond our present format, yet until these last remaining bills are paid, we are stymied. Can you help?

No member of our staff is paid, and all monies received go directly to production. Exclusive of this debt payment, we are at the break-even point. If you enjoy Among Friends, and would like to contribute to its future growth, please consider helping us. All donations of \$50.00 or more will receive a free one year subscription. Checks or money orders may be sent to Among Friends, PO Box 426, Madison WI 53701.

For businesses wishing to advertise, please contact us for special advertising-donation rates.

## National Conference on Homophobia

CAMBRIDGE, MA - From May 22 - 24, the first National Conference on Homophobia Education will be held in Washington, DC. The event, organized by the Campaign to End Homophobia, is planned as a working conference for approximately 150 leaders in the field, and its aims are to exchange strategies and resources for teaching about and reducing homophobia, to build the capacity for development and distribution of resources on homophobia, and to plan for a larger, public conference in 1989.

Conference planners identified areas in which homophobia education now occurs or should occur: religion, public health, formal education, the media, law, politics, community organizations, and psychology.

The Campaign to End Homophobia is a project initiated by the National Organization for Changing Men, and is based on the belief that homophobia can be reduced through education.

## Lambda Rights Network

MILWAUKEE, WI - The Lambda Rights Network, a Milwaukee-based political action organization, is dedicated to eliminating discrimination and promoting equal rights on issues of importance to the gay and lesbian community in Southeastern Wisconsin.

"Our purpose is non-partisan and educational, rather than to promote any specific candidate for public office. As our name implies, we attempt to facilitate 'networking' within our community and among our friends."

For more information, contact the Lambda Rights Network, PO Box 93252, Milwaukee WI 53203.

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## Expansion of AIDS Antibody Test Proposed

MADISON, WI - If the Legislature has its way, two segments of Wisconsin's population may be required to take the AIDS antibody test: "violent criminals" and individuals insured by small group health insurance programs. AIDS antibody test provisions that now apply only to individual insurance policies would be expanded to policies written for small groups under Governor Thompson's budget proposals.

If approved during the Legislature's coming budget debates, the proposal would allow an insurance company to require an AIDS antibody test, or require access to results from previous tests, for individuals getting insurance through certain small groups.

Amid the call for greater security, Wisconsin jailers are also calling for the mandatory testing of so-called violent criminals, those incarcerated individuals who have a past history of violent behavior. Should an inmate test positive to HIV, assignment to an individual cell will result. Tim Cullen, Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services, estimates that the number of individuals who would be tested under the proposed regulations would be slightly over 800.

## GLALU Becomes Lawrence GALA

NEW YORK, NY - The officers of GLALU have unanimously voted to change the name of Gay and Lesbian Alumni of Lawrence University (GLALU) to Lawrence GALA (Lawrence University Gay and Lesbian Alumni).

"Most gay and lesbian groups use the GALA acronym in the name (Harvard GALA, Yale GALA, etc.) thus we feel this will keep us in the mainstream with other gay and lesbian alumni groups, as well as give us a more easily identifiable name. This decision was made in conjunction with GALA joining Net-GALA, the newly formed National Network of Gay and Lesbian Alumni/ae Associations."

Lawrence GALA can be reached at GALA, Box 234, Old Chelsea Station, New York NY 10011.

## NGLTF Lobbyist Radecic to Serve on Board of National Feminist Network

WASHINGTON, DC - Peri Jude Radecic, a lobbyist for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, was elected on November 22, 1987, to serve on the Board of Directors of the National Women's Conference Committee. This committee is the Continuing Committee established at the National Women's Conference held in Houston, Texas, in 1977. At the ground-breaking Houston conference, several thousand feminist activists met to form a comprehensive agenda for action to achieve women's equality. The NWCC has for ten years monitored and promoted the implementation of the resolutions passed at the 1977 conference.



Joe Chapple adds another Visa card to the protest banner (photo: Raymond Proulx)

## Clip Your Visa!

BOSTON, MA - The *Clip Your Visa* campaign, protesting Visa's support of the anti-gay US Olympic Committee, will continue through next year, its organizer says.

Gay publisher Sasha Alyson, who began the campaign in August, explained that originally he saw it as a short-term project. "My first thought was that we should simply register our disgust with them and then move on to other things," he said. "But Visa's response has been appalling. They have steadfastly refused to address the issue of homophobia. Furthermore, they've announced that their support of the Olympics will go on at least through September 30, 1988."

Alyson began the *Clip Your Visa* campaign after reading in a Visa ad that, "Every time you use Visa, we'll contribute to the 1988 US Olympic Team." He explained that after the way the US Olympic Committee had homophobically denied Tom Waddell the right to call the "Gay Games" the "Gay Olympics," he had no intention of using his Visa card again.

Several hundred other people have already joined Alyson in clipping their Visa cards in half. Others who wish to participate in the campaign should send one half of their card to Visa with an explanation of why they are cancelling, and may also send the other half to Alyson, who is making a banner of them. His address is Sasha Alyson, Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton St, Boston MA 02118.



## Human AIDS Vaccine Tested

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) of Bethesda, Maryland has begun testing an experimental vaccine against AIDS in human volunteers. This is the first clinical study of an AIDS vaccine approved by the FDA to be conducted in the US.

The vaccine is manufactured by Micro-GeneSys, Inc, a biopharmaceutical firm in West Haven, Connecticut. It consists of purified protein derived from the genetic material of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the virus thought by many researchers to be the cause of AIDS.

Sixty healthy, HIV antibody-negative gay males, whose recent and present sexual behavior can be described as "low risk" will be the first volunteer subjects. This test will be only the beginning of a long series necessary to determine the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine.

Dr Anthony S Fauci, NIAID director, explained that the material being used in the vaccine is pure protein, not the virus itself. "Therefore, no one can get AIDS from the vaccine, and we expect no adverse effects beyond those that sometimes occur from other immunizations, such as the redness and soreness at the site of the injection." This first test will not measure the vaccine's ability to protect against AIDS. That will only be determined through later tests based on the success of this initial one. According to Dr Fauci, "If we obtain good results from this study, we will expand our research."

If you wish to volunteer for the AIDS vaccine study, travel expenses to the Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD will be paid for by NIAID. For further information, call (toll free) 1-800-634-3027.

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## Helms Amendment Modified

WASHINGTON, DC - The 1987 Congressional session closed after modification of the Helms Amendment, barring the use of federal funds for gay-positive and gay-oriented educational materials, was approved.

The Helms Amendment prohibited the use of federal AIDS education funds for any material which "promotes or encourages, directly or indirectly, homosexual activity." The Amendment also required that all AIDS education materials encourage monogamy and abstinence from sex outside of marriage. In mid-October, the Amendment had been passed overwhelmingly by both the Senate and House of Representatives.

Since that time, the House-Senate Conference Committee has added explanatory language and deleted the word "indirectly" while leaving the balance of the original wording intact, including that regarding monogamy and abstinence. The Conference report states that the Amendment shall not be construed "to prohibit descriptions of methods to reduce the risk of HIV transmission," "to limit the eligibility for federal funds of a grantee or potential grantee because of its non-federally funded activities," nor "to limit counseling or referrals to agencies that are not federally funded."

Jeffrey Levi, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, noted that it remains to be seen if the modified language will be interpreted by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to allow grants to gay-identified service providers. NGLTF also expects that Helms-like amendments will be introduced in state legislatures.

## Jackson Campaign Names Lesbian/Gay Desk

WASHINGTON DC - Jerry Austin, national campaign manager for Jesse Jackson, has announced the hiring of Randy Miller to staff the lesbian/gay desk of the campaign. Miller is a former staffperson of the recent National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

Addressing why he supports Jackson's Presidential Campaign, Miller said, "Jackson's politics are very much in line with many in the lesbian/gay community. He's the only candidate who talks about needing to fight racism and homophobia as part of the struggle against AIDS. He's the only candidate who understands the levels of discrimination that we face - be it racism, sexism, or homophobia."

Miller's hiring coincides with the launching of local Lesbian and Gays for Jackson Committees around the country, and lesbians and gays are active at all levels of the Jackson Campaign.

The Lesbian/Gay Committee can be reached by writing to Gays and Lesbians for Jackson, Jesse Jackson Campaign, 733 15th St NW, #326, Washington DC 20005. (202) 783-3747.

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## Alternative Family Rights Opposed by Mayor

MADISON, WI - Mayor Joseph Sensenbrenner said he opposes a plan that would give gay and lesbian couples and others in non-traditional family relationships some of the same rights as traditional families.

The proposal calls for the city to provide family-type health insurance benefits for people who are in non-traditional relationships.

Although the proposal is backed by seven members of the Madison City Council, this is still a minority and there is concern by supporters that a mayoral veto will not be overridden. Sponsors of the proposed law stress that only through public support will the bill have any chance of success.

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## Congressional Candidate Survey Issued By NGLTF

WASHINGTON, DC - The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) issued a model survey of United States Congressional candidates and urged state and local organizations to undertake surveys in the upcoming election year. The survey covers the areas of gay and lesbian civil rights, bias-motivated violence, immigration, AIDS funding, and AIDS testing.

"In the upcoming election year, it will be very useful for lesbian and gay activists to gather information on which Congressional candidates support full civil rights for gay and lesbian citizens, so that we can educate our community and target the candidates who need special attention," observed Peri Jude Radecic, NGLTF lobbyist, who wrote the model survey.

Radecic noted that NGLTF has begun files on the voting records of members of Congress on issues of concern to the gay and lesbian community. The files also log constituent contact with Congressional members. Said Radecic, "If we know what they are promising at the local level, we'll be better able to hold them to it here in Washington."

The Congressional Candidate Survey is available from NGLTF at 1517 U Street NW, Washington DC 20009.

## NGLTF Launches \$1.46 Million 1988 Budget

WASHINGTON, DC - On November 16, 1987, the Board of Directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force approved a record \$1.46 million dollar budget for the nation's oldest and largest gay civil rights advocacy organization.

The NGLTF 1988 budget contemplates expansion of NGLTF's grassroots organizing, development, and public education programs. NGLTF currently houses three major organizing projects - the Privacy Project, which works to repeal sodomy laws; the Anti-Violence Project; and the State Action Lobby, which works closely with state and local activists to advance gay and lesbian interests on a full range of issues, from AIDS-related bills to local gay rights ordinances. Under the budget, these programs will be strengthened with staff and resources. Two new organizing projects will be launched in 1988: the Campus Project, an effort to work with gay and lesbian students across the country, and the Gay & Lesbian Families Project. The Families Project is proposed as a joint undertaking of NGLTF and the Lesbian Rights Project. It would organize for recognition of gay and lesbian relationships as well as seeking to expand parenting and reproductive options for gay and lesbians.

Development and public education are also slated for expansion in 1988. The cornerstone for the budget increase is an aggressive membership development and fundraising program.

### Gay and Lesbian Press Association Announce February As Media Awareness Month

UNIVERSAL CITY, CA - For the second year, the Gay and Lesbian Press Association has announced February as Gay and Lesbian Media Awareness Month. The purpose of this activity is to promote not only GLPA and its educational foundation, the Media Fund for Human Rights, but also to draw attention to the role our broadcasts and publications play in the "gay and lesbian nation".

The theme for 1988 is "Our Community is Our Business".

The GLPA can be reached by writing PO Box 8185, Universal City, CA 91608-0185.

## Gays and Lesbians in the Military

A manuscript concerning gay experiences in the military is being compiled. The author is looking for information from individuals who are veterans of any branch of the military and of any rank. Of special interest are those who may have been involved in "homosexual purges," those who have been otherwise investigated for sexual orientation, or those who have received a less than honorable discharge. Present and active members of the service or those who have received honorable discharges may also respond.

Strict confidentiality will be maintained. Subjects will be screened after initial contact. If interested, write to:

Manuscript Subject  
PO Box 2370  
Portland OR 97208-2370

## Gay/Lesbian Counseling Services Merged

Two groups serving Madison's lesbian and gay community have agreed to merge their counseling and referral services to avoid duplication.

The United and the Madison Gay/Lesbian Resource Center plan to hold an open house from 2pm to 4pm on Feb 14 to introduce the new program. The open house will be at 1127 University Ave, where both groups maintain offices.

The new program will include people from both groups, said Doug Bander, The United's administrative coordinator.

The program will offer information and referral on various resources, events, business and professional services, and housing and employment opportunities, Bander said. Peer counseling by trained volunteers is available in person or by telephone. The United will help organize counseling support groups and the Center will handle social support groups.

*The Capitol Times*

Every individual has a place to fill in the world and is important, in some respect, whether he chooses to be so or not.

*Nathaniel Hawthorne*

## AIDS 1988 Appropriations Emerge Relatively Intact

WASHINGTON, DC - Fiscal year 1988 AIDS program appropriations fared better than most federal programs as the Congress instituted a 4.3 percent across-the-board budget cut designed as a step to manage the national debt. Going into conference, the House and the Senate each agreed to \$946.7 million as the AIDS program appropriation figure for FY 1988. This amount represented nearly a 100 percent increase in AIDS program funding over 1987 appropriated levels. The 4.3 percent deduction against the 1988 AIDS appropriation figures, resulting in a figure of \$906 million,

still represents an approximate increase of 90 percent for AIDS-related programming over 1987 program levels.

In addition to the \$906 million figure, the conference report included \$20 million in AIDS research facility construction grants for the National Institutes of Health and an AIDS specific appropriation of \$25 million to the Food and Drug Administration. The NIH and FDA were considered as separate appropriations. The final 1988 AIDS appropriations figure after the 4.3 percent cut and including the FDA and NIH construction grants is \$949 million.



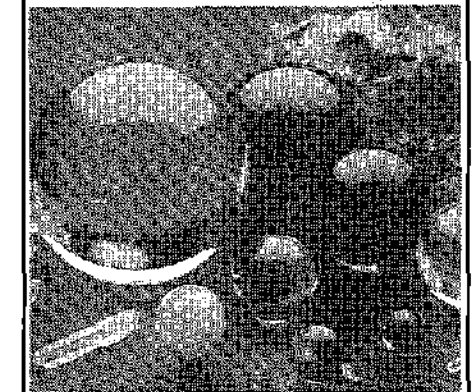
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# Obeying a Life Commandment

Jack Johnson

We all have "Life Commandments" which plague us throughout our lives. Some of them remain helpful guides like, "Be on time," "Look before you cross the street," and "Brush your teeth after meals." Others are commandments that we need to break as we outgrow them - such as the commandment to the small child of not going into or crossing the street without holding an adult's hand. A life commandment I learned was, "Be honest and be truthful."

This commandment came home to me the week before Christmas through a phone call from my brother in California. It was one of the best conversations we have ever had. He let me know that he and our mother had suspected that the major cause of my divorce was that I was gay. He said, "Jack, I love you and you're still my brother." He asked that I write to our mother and "come out" to her. Wow! What a Christmas present!

After a few days, I wrote to my brother and among other things I said, "To hear you say that you love me and I'm still your brother means more to me than I can ever put into words. I hope you can feel my hug of love and gratitude even though I'm not there to give it to you personally. You gave me the best Christmas present I have ever received."

Then I wrote this letter to my eighty-seven year old mother...

December 28, 1987

Dear Mother,

This is not an easy letter to write; however, I have known for some time that I needed to do it. In a phone call I received from Richard last week, I learned that you and he had discussed the possibility that the major reason behind my divorce was the fact that I was gay. Now, I must admit that your suspicions are correct. In my own experience I have learned that it is easier to deal with the truth than it is to try to deal with doubts, suspicions, lack of information, and lies. However, I obviously have not practiced this in my relationships with other people.

I do not expect you to understand. People who are not gay simply do not understand what it is to be gay any more than someone who is not black can understand what it is to be black. I hope, however, that you can forgive me for whatever pain this has caused you and still accept me as the person I have always been.

There are many people who think that we make a conscious decision to become gay. The decisions we make are not whether or not we want to become gay. The decisions are

--- whether or not to admit to oneself that one's basic preference and need is to have the closest relationships be with persons of the same sex.

--- whether or not to place oneself in an atmosphere in which these relationships are available - or to do what I did for so many years, forcing myself into the lifestyle I thought others expected of me, yet at the same time forming attachments from time to time with male friends to the extent that a tremendous strain was placed on my marriage. Nancy didn't understand what was happening. Each time she blamed herself and made valiant efforts to fix it.

--- whether or not to admit to the family that one is gay and be willing to accept the consequences, whatever they might be. In some cases, this results in alienation and hostility; in others there is acceptance, adjustments are made, and the family life continues; however, in most cases, separation is necessary and sometimes the separation can be amiable and an opportunity for everyone to grow, as in my case.

--- how "out" one becomes in the community. There are many gays who choose, as I did for a long time, to remain closeted to the community. Many are able to discretely maintain this status, but there are others like me who become objects of malicious gossip spread by a former "friend." There are gays who are very open in the community and feel most comfortable just being who they are. I have become and am becoming one of these.

I've been gay all my life, Mother, and not permitting myself to be honest about it for most of my life has resulted in a lot of pain for me and for others. I want you to be assured that you didn't cause it and that it is not something of which I can be "cured."

You taught me the life commandment, "Be honest and be truthful." It feels good now to be able to obey this life commandment admitting to myself and to those I love who I really am.

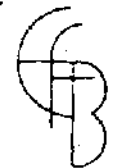
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your son, Jack



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# Ask Auntie Max

Greetings, Dear Readers. What's that you say? Auntie Max isn't letting you have fun anymore? Peee-Shaw! You may have all the fun you like, just remember to let your manners show (and not the rest of you - at least not right away!). When I say behave yourself, I don't mean not to have fun. Just show courtesy while doing it.

After the holiday season, I've decided that some of you need to review the rules of party-going. Have you ever been to one of those cocktail parties where you don't know a soul and the major happening is an awkward silence? Aren't they a bore? They don't have to be. In fact, these parties afford you the opportunity to shine in the eyes of others. No, I'm not going to give you carte blanche to become a show-stopper, that would be immodest (did I say that?). I'm merely saying that there are things you can do (in public) to make the party more enjoyable for yourself and others.

When entering the fateful fete, begin by greeting your host and thanking him or her for inviting you. Hopefully, your host will proceed to introduce you to other guests, but don't count on it. There are a lot of rude (or at least ill-mannered) people out there. If your host fails to do introductions, it's up to you.

Look for the friendliest face and introduce yourself. You've just put yourself in a vulnerable position. But not to worry, you've been in this position before. Some of us are in that position most of the time. Oops! I'm getting off the track.

As I was saying, you're in a vulnerable position because you are now expected to initiate the conversation. This is easy,

because you look for something about that person you can honestly admire - her sweater, his eyes, her appearance. Be sure you comment on something you *truly* admire, or it may sound like an insincere pick-up, and he or she will know it. Anyway, having made a statement, the person will thank you (if they have an ounce of breeding) and the burden of further conversation still rests with you.

Proceed with a comment generally related to your initial compliment, perhaps, something like this:

*What beautiful black hair you have!  
It reminds me of a Greek man I used  
to know. Do you come from a  
Mediterranean background?*

The trick to being a good conversationalist is to make other people talk more than you, and about themselves. After all, most people prefer to talk about themselves more than any other topic.

After you've engaged in conversation for a while, begin looking discretely for other people you'd like to talk to. Perhaps the person you're speaking with will introduce you to others, but don't expect it. She or he may not *know* anyone else! Or if they do, they may not be polite enough to do so.

Now, Auntie Max was raised in an old-fashioned manner and was taught that it was impolite to speak with people to whom she hadn't been introduced. But let's face it, we're living in the 80's and the old-fashioned ways many times no longer apply. So take courage, little ones - introduce yourself.

If you're single and find a particularly attractive specimen, I've often found that you can meet that person by introducing

yourself to a companion of his or hers. This maneuver allows you to meet a person while not appearing too forward. It doesn't appear you are challenging him or her to notice you because the companion will probably introduce you.

By now, you'll have met a few of the party-goers and should be feeling more at ease. Now is the time to circulate. Ask others if you can freshen their drinks for them and move to the kitchen. Get yourself some hors d'oeuvres - all the time speaking with people you meet along the way. (Avoid the potato chips though, as they give you bad breath!) You'll soon know most of the people there. Hopefully, you will have introduced others to one another en route to make them feel more comfortable, too.

Before you know it, you'll be the belle of the ball. Others will be doing little courtesies for you (hopefully socially acceptable ones), allowing you to enjoy yourself more. By the time you're ready to leave, you'll have received at least one proposition, made some new acquaintances, and transformed an initially awkward situation into an enjoyable evening (and possibly morning as well!).

The point, in case you missed it, is to put others more at ease, allowing them to have a good time which is the *right* thing to do - and which affords your host a successful party, which is the *polite* thing to do!



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# "Nothing To Hide"

Article by Speak Its Name  
- funded in part by a grant from the  
New Harvest Foundation

MADISON, WI - It's called "Nothing To Hide" and it's Madison's gay cable TV program, aired weekly on Wednesdays at 9:30pm on cable channel 4.

It's truly a one-man show and the man in question is Dave Runyon.

An Assistant Professor of Art and director of the Crossman Art Gallery at UW-Whitewater, Runyon began his "extra-curricular" career in television production in 1979, when he "inherited" the forerunner of his current show from its founder, Michael Henry. The former program was "Glad To Be Gay," a weekly half-hour show which was a project of The United, a Madison gay/lesbian social service and advocacy agency. Wanting a show that was independent of The United, Runyon quit and predicted the show would die with his departure. A few months later, he was proven right.

In 1981, he founded "Nothing To Hide," a weekly hour-long show. It began as a "studio" show, and featured a magazine format of news, book reviews, panel discussions and entertainment. But by early 1983, Runyon switched the show's format to filming on the road with his "port-a-pak."

Since then, he's been everywhere in the midwest, filming everything gay and lesbian as well as other topics of interest. National celebrities such as Geraldine Ferraro, Angela Davis, Leonard Matlovitch, Virginia Apuzzo (current gay/lesbian liaison for New York Governor Mario Cuomo), and San Francisco City supervisor Harry Britt stand out in the political realm of those filmed. Locally, such activists and politicians as Dick Wagner, Ron McCrea, Kathleen Nichols, Earl Bricker and Barbara Lightner have appeared. Also in the political realm, former Governor Lee Dreyfus is on tape signing Wisconsin's gay rights bill into law.

Runyon has also done shows with a host of lesbian writers and publishers, including Barbara Grier, Judy Grahn, and Karla Jay. In the gay male realm, he's filmed poet Alan Ginsberg and gay historians Jonathan Katz and John Boswell.



David Runyon

As for performances, he's taped the Madison Gay Men's Chorale, the Windy City Singers, the National Women's Chorus, the Lion Heart Gay Theatre in Chicago, and Womensong, Madison's feminist chorus.


But over the years the show has hit snags, locally as well as when on the road. In 1983, Runyon's equipment was stolen when his car windows were smashed in Chicago. Soon after, the Madison Citizens Access Committee, the station which aired "Nothing To Hide," went bankrupt and the remaining

producers had to band together to form a new agency, WYOU, the current station.

The station apart, keeping his own show financially afloat hasn't been easy for Runyon, either. At first, he used UW-Whitewater's equipment and got free tapes from the UW-Madison Department of Social Work in return for letting the department keep the completed tapes in its library. He's also received funding from Madison Arts Grants and from the New Harvest Foundation to archive "significant" tapes at the Wisconsin State Historical Society and with the Gay/Lesbian Resource Center Library. In addition, he co-founded "coat check" at local gay bars, the funds from which have gone to "Nothing To Hide" as well as many other local gay/lesbian organizations.

Another difficulty has been reaching his audience. Runyon notes with resignation that the show "never really caught on in the gay community." To this, he attributes two reasons: many gays don't have cable TV; and the refusal of local bar owners to air, and thus popularize, the show in their bars. (One person who was a regular watcher is the Reverend Richard Pritchler, arguably Madison's most notorious anti-gay voice. "He'd watch my shows, then call me up and bitch," says Runyon.)

Continued on page 11



**Among  
Friends**  
Magazine  
Gay & Lesbian News, Resources  
PO Box 426  
Madison WI 53701

Continued from page 10

After Wisconsin's passage of the gay rights and consenting adults laws and the '84 presidential elections, Runyon sensed that "everything began to quiet down. People thought there was nothing to do. Or, they were too tired and wanted to recharge their batteries before taking on another piece of legislation."

It was in 1985 that Runyon began to think of a new format. "I realized that if I was going to appeal to more people, I had to build coalitions." He began the "coalition" format of the show a year later.

"Nothing To Hide" remains gay, but not exclusively. The first show of every month is gay or lesbian, and the last is a women's show, for which he's received a grant from the Independent Producers Fund. ("Am I not the perfect person to do a women's show?" Runyon jokes, adding frankly that he hopes this spurs women to create their own show.) The middle shows of each month now focus on Latin America and Africa.

Runyon says that basic tenets of his program have been never to interpose his own bias on his guests and rather "to just let them talk," and to do "upbeat stories" ("as opposed to the gay print media," he adds.) When the AIDS epidemic manifested itself, he began to do quarterly health updates and programs focusing on AIDS, though called it "a difficult decision" to stray from the original tone of his show.

Among upcoming gay shows, Ron McCrea, former Governor Tony Earl's press secretary, will talk on Madison gay history. Next summer, Runyon plans to film the National Black and White Men Together conference in Boston.

"I did the show as an educational process for myself," says Runyon, who came out in 1978 at age 47. "It gave me the opportunity to meet very interesting people and learn what the issues were."

Runyon, who holds four Masters Degrees (in Theology, Art History, Education and Landscape Architecture), keeps on learning and plans to continue the show "indefinitely." In his "spare" time, he is a counselor at The United and has begun three different support/social groups for gay men.

On top of all this, he's currently vice-president of WYOU and, as of February, expects to be president. "It's a case of no one else willing to take on the job," he says. "I just go on filling vacuums."

## And The Band Played On: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic

Randy Shilts. St Martin's Press. 630 pp.  
\$24.95

Reviewed by Jeff Kirsch.

If you've read about Randy Shilts' *And The Band Played On* in the mainstream press, no doubt you heard about "patient zero," Gaetan Dugas, a Quebecois airline steward to whom some 40 of the first 248 AIDS cases in the United States were traced. Gaetan, it seems, after having been told that someone "gave" him "gay cancer," had a penchant for giving it back and making post-coital bathhouse chat with his partners, telling them, "I've got 'gay cancer.' Maybe you'll get it too."

That the mainstream media has focused on this one aspect of Shilts' book is a perfect typification of the way it has covered the entire AIDS epidemic: report the sensational and ignore the rest.

Although Dugas is the most sensationalistic aspect of this book, he only occupies a fraction of it. The rest of the time, Shilts is jumping from Zaire to Denmark to Paris to San Francisco gay politics; or from Congressional hearings to the New York Gay Men's Crisis to the Centers for Disease Control to the National Institutes of Health. Intertwined with these are a number of personal narratives, concerning early under-funded AIDS researchers and valiant, fearful PWAs, stories which humanize this book and keep it from getting bogged down in statistics. But, ultimately, people form the core of this work. The list of "dramatis personae" which leads off the book includes 55, and these are only the "major" figures.

There are times when *Band*, so thinly stretched across so many scenarios, threatens to cave in on itself, but the narrative manages to push on, fairly intact. In spite of the bureaucratic and medicinal concerns which necessarily

figure as central to the epidemic, Shilts usually knows just when to switch off and go back to a "personal" narrative, occasionally straight but usually gay, of the epidemic's victims. (Not glossing over anything, Shilts regularly uses the words "victim" or "sufferer," rejecting the more politically correct term of PWA as "AIDSpeak.") These stories break the monotony of morbid curiosity, since early on the reader realizes that sooner or later (four years later, in the case of Dugas), most of these individuals will be dead of AIDS-related complications.

Shilts doesn't have to and doesn't melodramatize; these stories are tear-jerkers in themselves, whether studies in desperation - trips to Mexico or France for drugs unapproved here - or in bravery. The final word remains out regarding certain medical aspects of the epidemic and some would reject Shilts' information, part of which will inevitably become dated or disproven. Already, subsequent to the book's publication, "episodic" cases of AIDS in the US have been "discovered", dating back to 1969. According to Shilts, the first westerner to die of AIDS was a Danish surgeon (also a lesbian), who contracted the HIV virus (known early on by about 5 other names) while working in Zaire and died in her homeland in 1977.

More than anything, *The Band Played On* is an indictment of those who did nothing during the first years of the epidemic. Those most roundly upbraided are the Reagan administration, the National Institutes of Health, the media, most blood banks, and retrovirologist Dr Paul Gallo (who tried to "steal" the discovery of the AIDS-causing virus from the French and, at the behest of his Republican bosses, timed the announcement of its discovery with the 1984 Reagan re-election campaign). The Centers for Disease Control emerges more or less a hero.

Shilts casts blame where he sees it (and can prove it) and for starters, attacks the bathhouses, closeted New Yorkers and the politically correct San Francisco gay newspaper, *The Bay Area Reporter* - all of which has earned him more than a little wrath from segments of the gay community. Some might have wished Shilts write not a work of journalism (as he has) but of propaganda, not to say lies. Of those we've had enough.

# The Declaration Revisited

Jay Hatheway

A few years ago, a very wise man named Thomas Jefferson penned a few words that ran something like this: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the consent of the governed. That, whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly, all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed..."

Now, as I recall, this little ditty has generally been referred to as the Declaration of Independence, but unfortunately it seems to have fallen into disrepute these days. The last time that I talked with Tom, he was deep in thought about the relationship between the central government, the local government, and the responsibilities of the individual. Exasperated, he threw up his hands as if to chuck the whole project, and stated emphatically, "Screw it! The basis of society is the individual, and each of us retains unto ourselves unalienable rights that not even this, nor any other future government can take away. The government you see, does not place limits upon my actions; rather, I, as the sovereign individual, place limits upon what the government can and cannot do. In any event, it is quite clear to me that any legitimate government cannot take away rights which do not belong to it. When a government attempts to do so, it becomes illegitimate. Such behavior is both unnatural and indicative of despotism. After all, what is our revolution about, if not for putting to an end the arbitrary and capricious invasion of my privacy by 'well meaning' but ill-spirited public servants, over-zealous schoolmarm, and other dolt-headed cuckolds and busybodies. Many in our midst would even deny basic rights of citizenship solely due to race, color, gender, sexual preference, age, and if they had their way, utterers of views unpopular with the majority."

Although I didn't get a chance to pursue my conversation (it turned out that Tom was on a speaking tour) his words got me to thinking about some of the more recent and disturbing developments in my own neighborhood. It seems to me that much of what he was concerned about just a few years ago is still problematic today.

Take for example, the flagrant abuse of governmental power and authority surrounding the Iran-Contra affair (Oh sure, God Bless America), or the decision by the Reagan Administration to suspend federal monies to any family planning clinic that even so much as whispers "abortion" to its clients or AIDS education monies to agencies which instruct in matters concerning gay sex (read: homo-sex-u-al); the recent Supreme Court decision to place restrictive limits on the Freedom of the Press and Freedom of Speech rights of high schoolers; mandatory HIV antibody tests for numerous segments of our population who cannot speak for themselves; mandatory drug screening and testing; attempts to repeal sexual preference equal protection laws; textbook censoring; race discrimination; Congressional attempts to foster specific sexual moralities; and the push by the religious right to legitimize through federal and

state legislation its own peculiar phobic and ideologic view of the world. All at the expense of, as Tom would say, our unalienable rights.

An unfortunate state of affairs exists today in which all levels of government are attempting to delimit what actions citizens can and cannot engage in. With increasing frequency and intensity, we are being told who we can and cannot sleep with; when we do so, what activities we may or may not engage in; what books are approved, which are not; what we can write, and what we cannot; the correct God to pray to; the correct radio and television show to watch (those 7 dirty words!); what movies we can send our children to; whether to have children or not; and even the correct view of how the universe was created. The list goes on and on. In short, we are faced with a government which is hell-bent on telling us what to think and feel, how to behave, and all the while it is going broke trying to tell the rest of the world as well!

Our present unfortunate state of affairs has a history almost as long as the US is old, and consequently it cannot be remedied overnight. Nevertheless, it is evident that unless and until individuals take the responsibility to emphatically put a stop to the governmental rape of our basic rights - life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness - there will be those in and out of government who will push for ever more coercive and chilling legislation. Who would have thought just 20 years ago that the likes of Roberston or Kemp would be taken seriously in a presidential election? What gives these self-proclaimed guardians of public morality the right to speak for me? And what about those who, because of health or economic reasons, cannot speak for themselves? The infirm, the aged, the incarcerated, the poor, the sick, the homeless? What new guards for their future security can we offer?

To many millions in our midst, Tom's conclusions may seem prophetic and appealing. In many ways they are as relevant today as they were 212 years ago: "When a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them [the sovereign people] under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security."



# Gay and Lesbian Publishers: Weathering the Storm

Jon S Robbins



Pioneers are most often thought of as unsung heroes whose perseverance to a vision helped bring about great change in this century. America's history is full of pioneers. So is gay American history, though little of it ever makes its way into history books. If it had, there should doubtlessly have been a place for the publishers of gay and lesbian publications, whose first attempts to provide communication among an often fragmented community, chronicles the very evolution of what we now know as our "gay culture." Neither then, nor now, was it an easy task.

The first early attempts at gay newspapers were usually mimeographed sheets detailing community calendar items and organizational meetings. Explained Don Michaels, publisher of the *Washington Blade*, "Our first effort in October, 1969 was one 8-1/2 by 11 inch mimeographed sheet that we put on windshields. The biggest problem was finding people willing to help. With the climate at the time, it was difficult to find people who wanted to be associated with a gay publication."

Finding a printing house for a gay/lesbian publication, at a time when the mere mention of homosexuality was considered "pornographic" was problematic. Explained Dan DiLeo, publisher of *Gay Chicago*, "We found one printer who agreed to print our paper. It turned out they were owned by a Christian organization that hit the ceiling when they discovered they were publishing a "homosexual newspaper."

Commented *Philadelphia Gay News* publisher, Mark Segal, "One printer refused because of certain 'words.' I told him our money was as good as anyone else's. He's now out of business and we've been publishing for 13 years. The lesson here is 'stick by your principles.'" Surprisingly enough, not all gay publishers encountered this problem.

Explained Michaels, "The *Blade* had been printed by a gay man who opened a printing shop, so we found an offset web press in Arlington. The owner was a

conservative Republican, but he took the job anyway. He now belongs to a Rotary Club and takes the *Blade* with him to show people."

Distribution was still another tedious problem. There were few, if any, retail outlets. The *Advocate's* circulation grew dramatically by soliciting discrete mail-order subscriptions in plain brown wrappers to small-town closets. Vending machines had a short lifespan before they were eventually vandalized. Most gay and lesbian bars would accept the publications, if you could deliver them. Described Jinx Beers, publisher of the *Lesbian News*, "Some bars would take them, while others just threw them away. We were always at the mercy of how much room they had on top of the cigarette machine."

Initially non-profit ventures, many of these early attempts survived entirely on donations by sympathetic friends. Beers explained, "Our biggest problem was when we did find a professional staff, we couldn't pay them anything. We were all volunteer staff in 1975, and still are. We never knew until the last minute if we even had enough money to print again."

Soliciting advertising dollars was the logical solution to a shortage of funds, but convincing the local gay or non-gay businesses took years of persuasion.

Explained former editor of both *Edge* and *Frontiers*, and current publisher of *Skin Magazine*, J B Morris, Jr, "Because gay/lesbian papers were mainly distributed in bars, they got the reputation of being just 'bar rags.' We had to convince businesses that we were professionals. It has a lot to do with the community believing in itself and leaving behind the belief that anything gay or lesbian was second rate."

Though the climate of gay/lesbian publishing has changed, problems still remain. Commented DiLeo, "Our biggest problem is getting non-gay businesses to realize that gay people have a lot of disposable income and patronize their establishments. They are more concerned with their reputation." Explained Beers,

"Our biggest problem is still money. We still never know from month to month if we will have the funds to print. On the other hand, we now have a volunteer staff of 70."

Reported Michaels, "Our paper is very well respected, but there are still places where we cannot distribute, like supermarkets and family-owned retail stores." Described Morris, "Some gay people still cannot imagine a gay/lesbian publication that isn't sexually explicit because it might have pictures of boys with their shirts off. So, we get stuck beside other 'skin mags.' We are victims of our own homophobia."

Segal added, "Our biggest problem is 'AIDS morale.' It's not easy to write about death and dying each and every day and watch the community drift away and die. We have an obligation to chronicle this tragedy, but the level of burn-out in the gay press is as high as in the medical profession."

If the gay/lesbian community has truly come of age, much of the credit for this rite of passage must belong to gay/lesbian publishers. True, it is a business and the few that survived these obstacles have grown to become money-making ventures. But, it is also a passion. One simply does not enter into the gay/lesbian publishing business with an eye to making money. Publishers still report threats on their businesses, a limited advertising market, lack of comprehensive distribution, a limited pool of workers and little money to pay the few professional journalists who have the desire to work within the community.

Still, gay and lesbian publications are flourishing, with as many as 10 papers now currently published in Los Angeles alone, and approximately 400 nationwide, most publishing in-depth coverage of important local, state, and national events as well as continuing to document the AIDS saga. This, because a handful of visionaries fought the odds and succeeded. Remember, though, you won't read about it in the history books.



## New Women's Music

Pat Berwick

*Sisterlove* is the latest release from the duo who call themselves Labrys. Elena Jordan's many talents as musician, songwriter, and producer are showcased with instrumental and vocal support from her partner, Patricia Lyons.

Like their earlier album, *Turn Around*, released in 1985, *Sisterlove* offers the listener a wide range of rhythms - from ballad to calypso. The two themes of love and protest appear repeatedly throughout the album, which opens with the cut, "Got To Stand Up" (for who you are). Instrumentally, *Sisterlove* continues to rely heavily on Elena's lead guitar and Patricia's bass, supplemented by electronic percussion and synthesized sound.

The overall sound of *Sisterlove* is more sophisticated, richer, and fuller than their earlier music. Elena plays trumpet on some cuts, creating a brighter and more varied sound. The strongest songs on the album are those which lean toward jazz and funk sound. My personal favorite is the instrumental piece, "One Sunday Afternoon." Smooth and mellow, with a light swing, its musical arrangement is the tightest - a great balance between the guitars and other instruments.

"Freedom" puts protest music in a new light. Rather than powerfully forceful, it grabs the listener with its upbeat latin mambo. The Caribbean influence pours through on the title track, "Sisterlove," in the form of a light calypso, and in the reggae beat of "Standing On The Edge of Love."

With proper promotion and a slicker mix, some of Labrys' music could make it in the mass market today. Perhaps their weakest point is repetitiveness and an underlying similarity of sound that even the variety of rhythms can't break. While Elena's voice works well for some songs (it's haunting, persistent, and darkly brooding in "What You Did Was Wrong"), it tends to be a bit too thin, lacking the range to sustain an entire album without stronger support.

Labrys has matured. *Sisterlove* provides evidence of that in nine individual, enjoyable songs that stand solidly on their own.



Patricia Lyons and Elena Jordan  
**LABRYS**

## The Law of Return

Alice Bloch. Reissued by Alyson Publications. \$8.95

Reviewed by Evelyn Torton Beck

*The Law of Return* is an evocative, deeply Jewish, deeply lesbian text, whose wisdom surprises and delights.

On one level, it is the story of a young woman's coming to adulthood in Israel and the United States in the turmoil and hope of the late 1960s. Ellen Rogin, a recent college graduate, travels to Israel to escape her parents' hold on her, to live a religious Jewish life, and because a boyfriend "had told her she would like it there." Arriving in Israel, she takes a bold first step by becoming "Elisheva", a name she signs painstakingly, in Hebrew, "letter by letter. The result, her own name in her own handwriting, looks like what it is: a word she is learning to spell."

Her journey takes her to an ulpan to learn Hebrew, to a kibbutz to learn work, to an Orthodox neighborhood in Jerusalem to learn Jewish history and prayer, to marketplaces and little shops in the old city, to Eilat, to Lake Kinnereth, to the very borders of the country. The sounds and smells of Israel, its many languages and ancient prayers permeate the text, giving it unusual richness and texture.

Returning to the United States after two years, Elisheva finds her way to Greenwich Village and becomes active in the women's movement and eventually gay liberation. The people Elisheva befriends in her travels remain incredibly vivid: Yardena, her Sephardic neighbor

from whom she learns that class discrimination and prejudice exist in Israel; Zahava, from whom she learns the power of grief and its eventual transformation; Miriam, a confidante and partner in prayer and study; Daniel, a convert to Judaism who is gay, with whom she determines (but mercifully fails) to try marriage; Deborah, the artist, the woman she grows to love. Ironically, it is this love for a woman which brings about Elisheva's final disillusionment with Israel. Israeli society limits women, particularly lesbians, who are specifically excluded from the "right to return" extended to all Jews except criminals, mental defectives, and other undesirables. The book thus becomes a "sad love song to a lost homeland."

But this is also a book about questions which resonate beyond the specificity of Elisheva's story. "Hazzak hazak v'nit-hazek - strong strong and we will strengthen ourselves," runs like a litany throughout the text. But where is our power? it asks. How shall we strengthen ourselves, as women? as Lesbians? as Jews? Who are my people? Where is my place? What is my work in the world?

Finally, this is a novel about hope and peace and the refusal to deny. "We will live no more as outsiders," is Elisheva's fervent wish as she tries to convince herself she is not a lesbian. But these words, said at first despairingly, become a call to hope, a call to continue the struggle toward community, to build trust and understanding between all those who are now at war. "As long as we have breath, we will raise our imperfect voices and join the clamor of humanity."

*The Law of Return* is as fresh, poignant and thought provoking today as it was five years ago. New historical circumstances and the spread of AIDS may make us read parts of this book differently today, but a contemporary perspective in no way blurs the brilliance of this novel, nor diminishes our pleasure. In fact, because the passage of time makes every text seem more vulnerable, I appreciated *The Law of Return* even more on a second reading: its poetic prose was even more powerful. New readers as well as re-readers can expect a rare treat.

## OUR COMMUNITY IS OUR BUSINESS

Don L. Volk

President, Gay and Lesbian Press Association

For gay and lesbian publications and journalists, "Our Community Is Our Business" represents the media's commitment to the gay and lesbian nation. I believe that we often overlook the impact and traditions that have moved our community forward over the past several decades.

As the lesbian/gay nation has developed in political and social power and recognition, so have our presses and broadcasts grown in professionalism. And in responsibility. No longer is a mimeographed sheet passed among friends and acquaintances sufficient to serve the burgeoning role of gays and lesbians throughout the world.

Journalistically, everything that happens within our communities from Portland, Maine to Portland, Oregon is the business of lesbian and gay journalists. The national perspective our community has been forced to develop in response to AIDS is reflected in our publications and broadcasts. We had to become more proficient as interviewers, commentators and investigators in order to ensure that our community is protected from attack by those for whom diversity is seditious.

Our community's most vital resource is the gathering and analyzing of information, a process which has grown in excellence and prestige as more and more publications and broadcasts have committed themselves to top-quality journalism. Very simply put, without the lesbian/gay media, our movement would never have moved forward so rapidly, so confidently, so well.

While newspapers, magazines, radio, and television shows continue strengthening their journalistic credentials, there is a flip-side to our slogan, "Our Community Is Our Business."

Through the awakening years of the gay and lesbian movement, gay-owned and operated businesses had few, if any, opportunities to shore up and improve the economic strength of the gay/lesbian nation. Advertising generally depended upon which business had the best "word-of-mouth."

Even in 1988, many non-gay publications and broadcasts still refuse advertisements for gay/lesbian events, organizations, or enterprises. But, now gay and lesbian businesses have an advertising vehicle that best serves them - the gay media's clearly targeted market of interested consumers.

Although the gay/lesbian media has grown to a \$50 million a year industry, publishing and broadcasting in our community is certainly not the road to fortune.

To sustain publishing and broadcasting businesses, however, requires an enormous commitment of finances, energy and resources. Most publications have at least two to three years of little or no profits during which they must support writers, graphic artists, sales representatives, clerical help, photographers and editors. They must also consider supplies, expensive typesetting and photo equipment, telephones, office equipment and postage, among other things.

And the journalists who devote themselves to our community are often underpaid in comparison to their skills and talents. Each of them makes financial sacrifices to work in a still-growing industry because they have made a conscious decision to serve our community with quality journalism.

While many publications and broadcasts do operate with volunteer staffs, and do some very fine work in their communities, it is incumbent upon the entire community to remember that the future of the lesbian/gay nation depends on a strong free press to continue its on-going battle for human rights.

What the Gay and Lesbian Press Association and its educational foundation, the Media Fund for Human Rights, honor during our Gay/Lesbian Media Awareness Month are those individuals who - journalistically and economically - have given the gay and lesbian nation a voice of its own.



## To Beautiful, and others

"I'm so alone," the Poet cried,  
his heart awash in tears.  
"The world's a cold and empty place,  
a hell of dream-fed fears.  
Oh, why can't someone love me?  
I've got so much to share!  
Won't someone come and softly say  
those simple words: 'I care?'"

And through his misty eyes he saw  
approaching, as through smoke,  
no saintly form, a common man;  
a parody; a joke.

"I'd like to care," the stranger said  
in shy and quiet tone.

"But who asked you?" the Poet sneered,  
and wandered off, alone.

Roger Margason

## La Crosse Newsletter, "New Beginnings"

*New Beginnings* is a newsletter aimed at the lesbian and gay community of La Crosse and the surrounding area. Its emphasis is on support and information for coping with life in a society dominated by heterosexuals. Anyone wishing to contact *New Beginnings* to request a subscription or submit articles, ads, or artwork (due on the 20th of each month), may write to: New Beginnings, PO Box 25, Westby WI 54667-0025.

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# Madison Gay Men's Chorale

Jeff Kirsch  
for Speak Its Name, funded in part by the  
New Harvest Foundation

MADISON, WI - They've performed at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis and at Lincoln Center in New York City, where they formed part of the first gay group ever to be reviewed in *The New York Times*. Their number hovers around a mere twelve members.

The Madison Gay Men's Chorale - with usually around ten singers, plus accompanist and conductor - is one of the smallest gay/lesbian choruses in the nation, says current conductor Max Ward. He estimates that there are some fifty such groups in this country and Canada, a sufficient number to have spawned a national organization, the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses, to which the Madison group belongs.

"San Francisco started the first gay chorus in the nation in late 1978. The news then spread around the country that such a group existed," says Bill Bremmer, the GMC member who has sung with the group the longest.

By April 1981, Madison's own gay chorus first met, founded by David Runyon with two phone calls and a poster. With Kent Peterson as its first conductor, the group met at Madison's First Congregational Church, on Broese Terrace. It gave its first concert ("more of an 'appearance'," says Bremmer) with approximately fifteen performers at the Brooks Street YMCA.

After a short tenure, Peterson left and the group became "polarized," according to Bremmer. GMC's second conductor was Charlie Seltzer, and the group took a turn toward the "politically correct."

"Warm-ups with Charlie were more like encounter sessions, with back rubs," recalls Bremmer, who has his own piano service business. "We spent lots of time on things other than music. Rehearsals were barely two hours. Most people associated with the group were not very vocally skilled then, and we worked through things slowly. Charlie also had us sing more politically oriented songs."

Under Seltzer's conductorship GMC's membership plummeted from fifteen to

five. Max Ward then became conductor in February, 1982.

GMC is technically a UW-Madison student organization and must always have at least one UW student among its ranks. Its stated policy, the idea of its founder, is that the group is "primarily social." Says Runyon, "I'd always wanted to be in a singing group. I was there not based on a good voice, but to have a good time." Since the group has grown more "professional" over the years, Runyon has recently left the group to form a gay/lesbian chorus with an initial meeting scheduled for February.

Bremmer likens GMC not so much to a professional group, but to "a serious student organization." "After the work, we play. We socialize together, we usually go out for a late dinner after rehearsals and get together for other things, too. But Max is always striving for musical excellence."

In its earlier days, GMC made appearances at the Cardinal Bar, the Back East, the Mr Rod Show, UW's gay/lesbian cultural series, *Out & About*, and the annual MAGIC picnic. More recently, the group performed at Madison's first Festival of the Lakes. Other recent appearances have included singing Christmas carols at Madison Meriter Hospital and performing at a memorial service for a PWA, once a member of the group.

The Chorale has generally been well received by the public, but not always by reviewers. At its last concert, a reviewer from *The Wisconsin State Journal* gave a vehemently negative review. "He was angry. They sent him to a concert he didn't want to go to and was determined not to like it," Bremmer affirms. "The review hurt people's feelings, made them upset. Such reviews can weigh heavily on a group while trying to perform, but are something you have to deal with. As a group, we concluded it was a vindictive review and not to take it seriously. The reviewer showed his anti-gay sentiment by making comments such as, 'You'd think ten healthy men would be able to

take a deep breath'."

GMC has had its humorous, if not embarrassing moments. One was when the group went to perform a concert in Milwaukee and had an audience of one. ("Only because they'd advertised the wrong date in the newspaper," notes Ward.) Nevertheless, the group performed its full concert for its single listener.

Another memorable moment occurred at their "Manhattan Transfer" concert, where they performed the pop and jazz group's music. "We'd rented a smoke machine for one of the numbers," says Bremmer. "It had oil and a heating element which made the oil hot enough to smoke, but not ignite. We'd OK'd it with the Madison Fire Department to turn off the fire alarm for that one number. But the night of the first concert, it didn't get disconnected and went off. According to university policy, the premises had to be evacuated." After the surprising and awkward interruption, the group concluded its concert.

"We love to have new voices in the group," says Ward. Bremmer adds that GMC "takes anyone who comes, but people who aren't up to it will climinate themselves. You have to be willing to make a very strong effort. We have one strong voice in each section and the rest are supporters. In each concert, though, each performer gets a chance to shine."

"I get a lot of personal gratification in both the artistic and social sense," says Bremmer. Other members concur, calling the group "a nice alternative to bars, a non-threatening, non-sexual atmosphere."

*Continued on page 17*

*This place now  
with desire breaking my heart,  
light reaching what I cannot touch.  
What keeps us from giving what we have?  
Even when we paint angels on our faces  
they become heavy with pain.  
How many eons to make us love who we are  
and not go out again  
giving birth to another stranger?*

Greg Zak

*Continued from page 16*

"We have a central focus, turning into ourselves as well as out of ourselves," elaborates Ward. "We take a finished product on stage with pride. Some pride spills over into the pride of being gay. We're not a strongly political group, but as we entertain, we certainly raise consciousness and make a statement."

Ward is a native Madisonian who has studied at UW-Madison and privately in New York City. He has wide performance experience and today does private teaching at the Voice Box.

GMC's accompanist is Ed Walters, a professor of piano at Edgewood College in Madison.

Upcoming performances include a May 1988 date in New Orleans, with selected gay choruses from around the country, a 1988 Festival of the Lakes invitation, a possible joint concert with the Champaign/Urbana Gay Men's Chorus this summer, and a trip to Seattle in 1989 for the third triennial GALA Choruses Festival.

Major funding for the group has come from a Dane County gay/lesbian philanthropic organization, the New Harvest Foundation. The group has also received arts grants through the City of Madison. "We've never been turned down for funding," Ward boasts.

The group rehearses weekly at the Memorial Union on Tuesdays from 6:00 to 9:00pm. Any interested persons may simply show up or may call Ward for more information at 256-1161.

## Personals

GWM in 40's wants companionship, relationship from 38 to 50. I'm neat, clean, honest and sincere. Like movies, antiques, dining out and outdoor activities. No drugs or alcoholics. Send phone number and address to Among Friends Y-11, PO Box 426, Madison WI 53701.

GWM, 27, 6', 165#, healthy physically, mentally, and financially, wishes to meet men 18 to 29 for honest loving relationship. Interests include winter sports, biking, swimming, movies, and light partying - in general, being social and having fun. Please respond with phone # and photo if possible to Boxholder, PO Box 141, Ripon WI.

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- 4. Fill in the form below.** We must have the information asked for on the form, should we need to contact you or verify information given in your ad.
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- 6. Clip and send.** Clip out the completed form and send it with a check, money order, or paper cash (no coins, please) for the cost of your ad, if any. Ads are run only during the month in which they are submitted. If you want to run an ad for more than one month, you must resubmit it. Address and mail your ad by the 20th of the month to:  
Among Friends Classifieds, PO Box 426, Madison WI 53701.

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*I hereby state that I am 18 years of age or older,*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

All information on this form must be completed for us to print your ad.

early August, northern Wisconsin  
 a lake fringed with pines  
 and summer houses, small and noisy, tacky  
 the moon is coming up, just past full  
 small yellow lights are coming on  
 in cottage kitchens, on porches  
 all around the shoreline  
 each sketching a glimmering pencil stroke  
 upon the night-cool northern water  
 me sitting alone, weary, not sleepy  
 on the new pier I built for Dad  
 (well, little sister helped  
 carrying lengths of lumber  
 sweet, yellow-smelling pine  
 one eight-foot 2 x 4  
 or one four-foot 2 x 8  
 that was her capacity  
 down the long hill  
 and down the long steps  
 her hands sticky with sap  
 but I carried ten times as much  
 and did all the sawing and measuring  
 and my hands were much stickier  
 and blood-blistered besides  
 from a slip of the sledgehammer  
 Dad paid for it, but I built it  
 it is mine now)

sitting alone at the end of my pier  
 escaping the chatter of my family uphill  
 watching the reflections dancing  
 wavering on the water  
 (vacationers playing cards  
 watching TV, drinking beer  
 someone on the point is laughing very loud  
 someone in the cove is playing a radio)  
 watching the lights, and thinking  
 wishing, imagining, wondering  
 if any one of them  
 if any light I see tonight, on the shore  
 or in the water  
 if it illuminates a man like me  
 a man as lonely as me  
 (I love this lake, this countryside  
 the tacky houses and the pine-sweet shores  
 though alone, quite alone, somehow  
 no one to share it with, no one)  
 but each and every streak of light is silent  
 and the moon's bright dancing water-path  
 wide and white, almost hurting my eyes  
 (that is why I am weeping, really)  
 is most silent of all

Larry Wilson



Trivia Answers: 1-b, 2-a, 3-a, 4-a, 5-b

God Loves Gays, Too

The Church of the Supreme Presence, a national religious organization which wholeheartedly accepts gays and lesbians, announces the availability of a free 60-minute stereo cassette tape, entitled "Gays Can Defeat Bible-Based Prejudice."

The cassette, narrated by Rev Dan Frederick Schramm, provides numerous facts, discussions and arguments that gays can use to defeat the arguments of fundamentalists and others who condemn the gay lifestyle. The tape also totally refutes the idea that AIDS is a punishment from God, or the result of nature's revenge against gays.

The cassette is available free and without obligation. A donation of \$1.00 to cover first class postage and handling would be appreciated, but is not required. To obtain a copy, write: CSP Inc, Publications Services, PO Box 11366, Shorewood WI 53211-0366.

Note: "Among Friends" has not heard this tape and therefore cannot recommend or endorse it.

**Nothing To Hide Schedule, February 1988**  
 Cable 4 Television, WYOU  
 Wednesdays at 9:30pm

Feb 3 Black and White Men Together National Conference, 1987

Feb 10 The Atomic Comics - their last team performance, from the Barymore Theatre

Feb 17 Training the Artist for the 21st Century

Feb 24 Asian Pacific American Women's Film Conference

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Trivia Quiz  
 1987 March on Washington

Jeff Kirsch

- Although the US Park Police estimated the crowd at 200,000, and most organizers put it between 300,000 and 600,000, CBS TV estimated how many people in attendance at the March?  
 a) 700,000 b) 800,000  
 c) 900,000 d) 1,000,000
- Fundamentalist demonstrators standing across from the White House numbered approximately:  
 a) 10 b) 100  
 c) 500 d) 1000
- Which of the following celebrities did not lead off the March or speak at the rallies?  
 a) Gloria Steinem b) Jesse Jackson  
 c) Cesar Chavez d) Whoopi Goldberg
- The smallest state "delegation" (it only had 2 people) carrying a banner in the March came from:  
 a) Alaska b) Montana  
 c) Utah d) Arkansas
- A group of 25 students carried a banner calling which "college town" the "San Francisco of the Midwest"?  
 a) Grinnel IA b) Madison WI  
 c) Yellow Springs OH d) Ann Arbor MI

Sam

Black dancer,  
 I am spellbound.  
 Beneath your creamy satin garb,  
 your long muscles slide past one another  
 powerful,  
 sleek,  
 pantherlike.  
 With a flurry of black capes,  
 you swoosh and swirl  
 like some magnificent,  
 winged,  
 puma.  
 Your dark animal eyes  
 flash and burn;  
 their sparks fire my heart  
 and I burn with you,  
 for you.

Black dancer,  
 wrap me in your musky capes;  
 against your satin blouse,  
 your chocolate velvet skin, hold me,  
 enchanted.

J Jahateh

THOUGHTS  
 On Small Pleasures

Roger Margason

I heard it coming - it was the kind of sound you recognize instantly, though you may never have heard it before; a deep ominous rumble which grew louder and more insistent and was joined by the creaking of walls and rattling of windows, then the clatter of dishes and lamps falling. It was just after 6am on February 9, 1971 - the day, they say, that all Los Angeles woke up at the same time.

That was probably the day I had my first passing thought about the possibility of returning to the midwest, though it took almost 13 more years before the thought became a reality.

Why leave Los Angeles? Everything - and, it seemed at times, everyone - was there. With a conservatively estimated 250,000 brothers and sisters around, our community was and is a world in itself. I lived completely and totally within that world. I edited a popular men's magazine, shopped in our stores, ate in our restaurants, went to our cultural and social events.

But it dawned on me slowly, over the years, that every day was June 25th. I realized just how much I missed the sound of thunder and a good, old-fashioned, lightning-slashed thunderstorm. Decorating the avocado tree at Christmas began to wear thin.

And so, finally after 18 years, I came back to the midwest. Not just to the midwest: to a very small corner of northern Wisconsin where the local library may have 200 books, but none of them published after 1924.

Do I miss Los Angeles? Of course I do - not so much the city as my friends and the community. I had forgotten just how truly paranoid many midwesterners can be. Though there are members of the community hereabouts, there is no community. I see kindred spirits here, and they look at me through the keyholes of their closet doors. They know who I am, and I know who they are. We do not speak.

Still, there are many pleasures - some of them verging on joy - that come with being away. There is time to think, and the quiet in which to do it; there is the opportunity to sharpen any number of senses dulled or overwhelmed by the physical and emotional babble of cities. There is, with a little practice and fine-tuning, a heightened awareness of exactly where one stands in relation to the rest of the world; an awareness that puts a comforting perspective on how unimportant many of my own personal problems really are.

City dwellers are too often denied the interplay of senses and the seasons. A city's scattered trees can't possibly impart the same effect as the at first imperceptible gauze-green mist which slowly envelops the forest as winter gives way to spring. Concrete and asphalt aren't conducive to rekindling the child-like delight in discovery and wonder of watching tiny green buds expand into leaves, or seeing the tight-wound tiny questionmarks of ferns pushing their way up through last year's dead foliage.

Geese and ducks leave no contrails as they honk and quack their way north or south, depending on the season. The calm of an afternoon rain soothes the spirit; last week's snowfall is as white today as when it fell.

Life is an endless series of compromises and tradeoffs. To spend too much time yearning to be where you aren't robs you of the time to appreciate where you are, and in the end you find you've lost both. The Indians have a saying: "White man build big fire, stand far away; Indian build small fire, stand close." Enjoying life is a lot like that - big fires can be exciting, but in the long run, it is the small fires which keep us warm longer.



AREA RESOURCES

Iowa (selected)

- Ames**  
 Bars Lucullan's Party Bar, (G/L on Mon)  
 400 Main St, IL 61104;  
 Support Gays and Lesbians of Ames,  
 PO Box 2283, IA 50010; (515) 292-7000  
 Publication: Resource Directory
- Cedar Rapids**  
 Bars Warehouse, (M/W)  
 525 H Street SW, IA 52404; (319) 365-9044  
 Religious MCC c/o People's Unitarian Church,  
 600 3rd Ave SE, IA 52401; (319) 393-7974  
 Support Gays of East Iowa;  
 (319) 365-5436 or 383-8025
- Davenport**  
 Bars Club 506, (M/W, juice bar)  
 506 Brady Street, IA 52801; (319) 323-2072  
 Religious Dignity/Quad Cities, PO Box 2224, IA 52809  
 Metropolitan Community Church (MCC),  
 PO Box 4095, IA 52808; (319) 322-5055
- Des Moines**  
 Archives A Mind of Your Own, Nonsexist Library,  
 3500 Kingman Blvd, IA 50311; (515) 279-7312  
 Bars Brass Garden, (M/W)  
 112 4th Street SE, IA 50315; (515) 243-3965  
 La Cage, (M/W)  
 416 E Walnut, IA 50309; (515) 243-9025  
 Surprises, (M/W)  
 2016 Forest Ave, IA 50311; (515) 288-2016  
 Support Gay Coalition of Des Moines,  
 PO Box 851, IA 50314; (515) 279-2110  
 Publication: Des Moines GC Newsletter  
 Gay and Lesbian Resource Center;  
 (515) 277-1454
- Dubuque**  
 Bars DJ's Bistro, (M/W, rear door)  
 951 Main Street, IA 52001; (319) 588-3131

**Religious Support** Dignity, PO Box 1424, IA 52001  
 Dubuque Lesbian/Gay Support Group,  
 PO Box 1424, IA 52001

**Grinnel Support** Grinnel College Gay Community,  
 PO Box 805, IA 50012; (515) 236-2500  
 Publication: *Just Shy*

**Iowa City Bars** 6:20, (M/W)  
 620 South Madison; (319) 354-2494

**Support** Gay & Lesbian Academic Union,  
 PO Box 3396, IA 52244; (319) 351-3557  
 Publication: *GLAU Bulletin*  
 Gay People's Union, University of Iowa  
 Memorial Union, Activities Center, IA 52242;  
 (319) 353-7162  
 Publication: *Gaily Iowan*  
 Switchboard: Gayline; (319) 353-7162

**Mason City Support** Gays and Lesbians of North Central Iowa,  
 PO Box 1092, IA 50401;  
 (515) 923-3939

**Sioux City Bars** Rowdies, (M/W)  
 1127 4th Street, IA 51101; (712) 277-9115

**Waterloo Bars** Dutch Mill,  
 823 Franklin, IA 50703; (319) 234-9403

### Minnesota (selected)

**Statewide Publications** *Equal Time*, 711 W Lake Street #504,  
 Minneapolis MN 55403; (612) 823-3836  
*The James White Review*, PO Box 3356,  
 Traffic Station, Minneapolis MN 55403

**Religious** Lesbian/Gay Interfaith Council  
 of Minnesota, PO Box 8503,  
 Minneapolis MN 55408; (612) 874-9192

**Support** Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays  
 (PFLAG), PO Box 908, Burnsville MN 55337;  
 (612) 474-3739

**Alexandria Support** Friends Together  
 PO Box 982, MN 56308

**Duluth Bookstores** A Woman's Bookstore, (L/G/Fem books)  
 8 N 2nd Ave E #208, MN 55802;  
 (218) 722-8532

**Radio** Wise Woman Radio (KUMD, 103.3FM),  
 130 Humanities Bldg, Univ of Minn at Duluth,  
 MN 55812; (218) 726-7181

**Support** Gays and Lesbians of Duluth/Superior,  
 PO Box 6044, MN 55806

**Fergus Falls Support** Free Spirit, PO Box 39, MN 56537

**Grand Forks Support** Greater Grand Forks Gay/Lesbian  
 Community, c/o 117 10th Ave NW,  
 East Grand Forks, MN 56721;  
 (218) 773-1286

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**Minneapolis and St Paul**

**Alcohol Abuse** Lambda Sobriety Center,  
 2217 Nicollet Ave, Mpls MN 55404;  
 (612) 874-7430 or 922-0880

**Lesbian AI-Anon**,  
 at 1900 Nicollet Ave, Mpls MN 55403;  
 (612) 871-7400 or 920-3961  
 at 2104 Stevens Ave, Mpls MN 55404;  
 (612) 871-2603 or 920-3961

**Archives** Quatrefoil Library, 1619 Dayton Ave, St Paul  
 MN 55704; (612) 641-0969

**Bars and Restaurants** Brass Rail Lounge, (M) 422 Hennepin Ave,  
 Mpls MN 55401; (612) 333-3016  
 Cloud Nine Express, (M/W)  
 829 Hennepin Ave, Mpls MN 56403;  
 (612) 339-4135  
 Gay Nineties / Happy Hour, (M/W)  
 408 Hennepin Ave, Mpls MN 55401;  
 (612) 335-3366  
 Ladies Night, (W) 1183 University Ave W,  
 St Paul MN 55104; (612) 646-2288  
 Nineteen, (M/W) 19 W 15th Street,  
 Mpls MN 55403; (612) 871-5553  
 Ruby's Gem Cafe, 2827-1/2 Hennepin Ave S,  
 Mpls MN 55408; (612) 871-1441  
 Rumors, (M/W) 490 N Robert Street,  
 St Paul MN 55107; (612) 871-0703  
 Townhouse, (M/W) 1415 University Ave,  
 St Paul MN 55104; (612) 646-7087  
 Y'All Come Back Saloon, (M)  
 830 Hennepin Ave, Mpls MN 55403;  
 (612) 332-0835

**Baths** Three Fifteen, (24 hrs)  
 315 1st Ave, Mpls MN 55401; (612) 332-5081

**Bookstores** Amazon Bookstore, (L/Fem)  
 1612 Harmon Place, Mpls MN 55403;  
 (612) 338-6560  
 A Brother's Touch, (G/L/Fem)  
 1931 Nicollet Ave, Mpls MN 55403;  
 (612) 872-1412

**Counseling** Gay and Lesbian Counseling Program  
 (FCS), 414 S 8th Street, Mpls MN 55404;  
 (612) 340-7444

**Legal** Minnesota Gay and Lesbian Legal  
 Assistance, PO Box 75224,  
 St Paul MN 55175; (612) 870-9193  
 St Paul Human Rights Commission,  
 Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 515 City Hall,  
 15 W Kellogg Blvd, St Paul MN 55102

**Publications** GLC Voice, 1517 La Salle, Unit E,  
 Mpls MN 55403; (612) 872-8325

**Support** Black and White Men Together,  
 PO Box 40272, St Paul MN 55104;  
 (612) 343-0063  
 GAMMA, (social and sport events)  
 PO Box 9536, Mpls MN 55440  
 Publication: *Gamma News*

### Wisconsin

**Statewide Publication** *Among Friends*, (G/L newsmagazine)  
 PO Box 426, Madison WI 53701;  
 (608) 255-3349  
*Hag Rag*, (Fem bimonthly)  
 PO Box 93243, Milwaukee WI 53203;  
 (414) 372-8850 or (608) 255-1227  
*Wisconsin Light*, (G/L newspaper)  
 1843 N Palmer, Milwaukee WI 53212;  
 (414) 372-2773

**Hotlines** AIDS Atlanta; (404) 872-0600  
 Centers for Disease Control;  
 (800) 447-2437 or (800) 342-AIDS  
 (M-F, 9-7pm EST)  
 Legislative Hotline; (800) 362-9696  
 Milwaukee AIDS Project; (800) 334-AIDS  
 National Gay Task Force; (800) 221-7044  
 (M-F, 3-9pm EST)  
 New York Gay Men's Health Crisis;  
 (212) 807-7035

**Legal** Equal Rights Division; (608) 266-6860

**Appleton Bars** 1101 West, (M/W, dancing)  
 1101 W Wisconsin Ave; (414) 733-9839  
 Pivot Club, (M/W, dancing)  
 4815 W Prospect; (414) 730-0440

**Support** GAI, Lawrence University,  
 115 S Drew St, WI 54911  
 Lawrence University Gay and  
 Lesbian Alumni (Lawrence GALA)  
 Old Chelsea Station, PO Box 234,  
 New York NY 10011

**Ashland** Gay and Lesbian Support Group,  
 1411 Ellis Ave, Box 247A, WI 54806

**Eau Claire Bars** Maggie's, (M/W)  
 505 S Barstow, WI 54701; (715) 832-1457

**Support** UW-Eau Claire Gay/Lesbian Organization,  
 UW-Eau Claire, Union Box GLO, WI 54701

**Fort Atkinson** Old Fort Lounge,  
 10 E Sherman Ave, WI 53538; (414) 563-8711

**Green Bay Bars** Brandy's, (M)  
 409 S Washington; (414) 432-3917  
 Grand West (food, snacks)  
 1441 Main St, WI 54301  
 Loft, (W, dancing)  
 2328 University Ave; (414) 468-9968  
 Nepalese Lounge, (M/W, dancing)  
 515 S Broadway; (414) 432-9646  
 Who's, (M/W, rear door)  
 720 Bodart; (414) 435-5476

**Clubs** Argonauts of Wisconsin, (leather/levi)  
 PO Box 1285, WI 54305

**Religious** Angel of Hope MCC Church,  
 PO Box 672, WI 54305; (414) 437-3816  
 Dignity, PO Box 2283,  
 WI 54306; (414) 739-8030

**Support** Center Project (AIDS testing, counseling)  
 824 S Broadway, WI 54303; (414) 437-7400

**Hurley Lodging** Lambda House, (bed and breakfast)  
 609 Hwy 77, Pence WI 54550; (715) 561-3120


**Kenosha Club** 94, (M/W, dancing)  
 9001 120th Ave; (414) 694-1597

**La Crosse Bars** Loveboat, (M/W)  
 411 S Third Street; (608) 784-4420  
 Tattoos II, (M/W, dancing)  
 1552 Rose; (608) 784-5833

**Support** La Crosse Area Gay Association (LAGA),  
 PO Box 2561, WI 54602-2561  
 Publication: *CrossCurrents*

**Publication** Leaping La Crosse News,  
 PO Box 932, WI 54602-0932

**Lake Geneva Lodging** Eleven Gables Inn on the Lake, (resort)  
 493 Wrigley Dr, WI 53147; (414) 248-8393



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**Madison (608)**

- Bars and Restaurants  
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 508 E Wilson; 256-7104  
**Cafe Palms**, (restaurant)  
 636 W Washington; 256-0166  
**The New Bar**, (Mixed, video, dancing, upstairs)  
 636 W Washington; 256-8765  
**Rod's**, (M, rear basement)  
 636 W Washington; 255-0609  
**Shamrock**, (Mixed, restaurant)  
 117 W Main; 255-5029
- Bookstores  
**A Room of One's Own** (Fem/L/G)  
 317 W Johnson; 257-7888  
**Four Star Fiction and Video** (G/L; sci-fi)  
 315 N Henry; 255-1994  
**Pic-A-Book**  
 506 State St; 256-1125
- Culture and Media  
**Gay Men's Choral**;  
 251-1509, ask for Reynold  
**Gay Theatre Project**,  
 PO Box 726, WI 53701; 251-6489  
**Nothing to Hide**, Weekly TV Program, Cable 4,  
 (Wed, 9:30pm); 241-2500
- Hotlines  
**All Gays Crisis Line**; (608) 255-4297  
**Legislative Hotline**; (608) 266-9960
- Religious  
**Integrity/Dignity**  
 at St Francis House, 1001 University Ave.  
 PO Box 730, WI 53701; 256-8204 or 836-8886
- Support and Social  
**Adolescent Group for Children of Gay**  
 Parents, Donald Cooper at  
 Madison Psychotherapy Associates; 251-0839  
**AIDS Info** (Division of Health),  
 Holly Dowling; 267-3583  
**Bette Davis Bowling League**;  
 Bob at 831-4038  
**Blue Bus STD Clinic**,  
 1552 University Ave; 263-7330  
**Crossdressing Support Group**  
 (at The United); 255-8582  
**Democratic Party Lesbian/Gay Caucus**,  
 255-5172 or 273-4483  
**Equal Opportunities Commission**,  
 City County Bldg #500; 266-4910  
**Gay Alcoholics Anonymous**,  
 1021 University Ave; 257-7575  
**Gay Fathers Support Network**; 257-7575  
**Gay Issues Audio Tape**; 263-3100, tape #3333  
**Gay/Lesbian Teens**;  
 Dan at 241-4399 or Jane at 271-0270  
**Gay Men Over Thirty Support Group**;  
 Larry at 244-8690  
**Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous &**  
**Lesbian Al-Anon**,  
 406 N Pinckney on Fridays at 6:30pm  
**Lesbian Informal Drop-In Support Group**;  
 255-8582, (12 - 4pm)  
**Lesbian Mothers Support Group**; 249-0434  
**Lesbians of Color**; 255-8582, (12 - 4pm)  
**Lizards**, Support Group for Lesbians Over 30;  
 Jane at (608) 592-4534


- Madison AIDS Support Network**,  
 PO Box 731, WI 53701; 255-1711  
**Madison Gay/Lesbian Center**,  
 PO Box 1722, WI 53701  
 Office: 1127 University Ave, B104; 257-7575  
**Madison Institute for Social Legislation**,  
 935 Jennifer St, WI 53703; 256-6475  
**Madison NOW Lesbian Rights**  
 Task Force; 255-3911  
**Madison Wrestling Club**,  
 PO Box 8234, WI 53708
- Mixed Lesbian/Gay Alcoholics**  
 Anonymous; 255-8582
- Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays**  
 (PFLAG), PO Box 1722, WI 53701;  
 271-0270 or 257-7575
- Police Liaisons to Lesbians and Gays**;  
 Alix Olson, Donna Winter,  
 or Jim Witalison at 266-4248
- Straight Partners of Gays, Lesbians, and**  
**Bisexuals Support Group**;  
 Marsha at 255-0914
- Ten Percent Society, Gay and Lesbian Students**  
 Box 614, Memorial Union, UW-Madison,  
 WI 53706; 262-7365
- The United**, for Gay/Lesbian Social Change,  
 PO Box 310, WI 53701; 255-8582
- UW Gay Assistance**, Dean of Students Office;  
 263-5700
- Volleyball, Team and Social**; Jeff at 251-8716

**Menomonie**


- Support **Gay Community**, UW-Stout, WI 54751

**Milwaukee (414)**

- Bars and Restaurants  
**Angelo's Mint Bar II**,  
 819 S 2nd Street; 645-8330  
**Ballgame**, (M, w)  
 196 2nd Street; 273-7474  
**Beer Garden**, (W, m, food)  
 3743 W Vliet Street; 344-5760  
**Boot Camp**, (M, leather/levi)  
 209 E National Ave; 643-6900

*Gay Women* 

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 Santee, CA 92071

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**Club 219**, (M, w, dancing, leather/levi)  
 219 S 2nd Street; 271-3732  
**Dance, Dance, Dance**, (M, w, dancing)  
 801 S 2nd Street; 383-8330  
**Fannie's**, (W, m, dancing, food)  
 200 E Washington Ave; 643-9633  
**Grand Ave**, (G/L Sun nights only)  
 716 W Wisconsin Ave; 271-9525  
**Hot Legs**, (W, m, video, dancing)  
 814 S 2nd Street; 645-8572  
**Jet's Place**, (M/W)  
 1753 Kinnickinnic Ave; 672-5580  
**La Cage**, (M, w, video, dancing)  
 801 S 2nd Street; 383-8330  
**Loose Ends**, (Mixed, food)  
 4322 Fond du Lac Ave; 442-8469  
**M&M Club**, (M, w, food)  
 124 N Water Street; 347-1962  
**Phoenix**, (M, w, dance)  
 235 S 2nd Street; 278-9727  
**This Is It**, (M)  
 418 E Wells Street; 278-9192
- Wreck Room**, (M, leather/levi)  
 266 E Erie Street; 273-6900  
**Your Place**, (M, w, dancing)  
 813 S First Street; 6747-0130
- Baths  
**Club Milwaukee**, (M, rear)  
 704-A W Wisconsin Ave; 276-0246
- Clinic  
**Brady East STD Clinic**, (Best)  
 1240 E Brady Street; 272-2144
- Culture and Media  
**Cream City Chorus**,  
 c/o 124 N Water Street, WI 53202; 277-0434  
**Fest City Singers**,  
 PO Box 11428, WI 53211; 476-SING  
**Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Cable**,  
 PO Box 239, WI 53201; 277-7671
- Medical Info  
**Milwaukee AIDS Project**,  
 PO Box 92505, WI 53202; 273-AIDS  
**National Coalition STD Services**,  
 PO Box 239, WI 53201; 277-7671  
**Professionals for Alternative Lifestyles**,  
 PO Box 239, WI 53201; 277-7671
- Publications  
**Hag Rag**, (Fem bimonthly)  
 PO Box 93243, Milwaukee WI 53203;  
**InStep**, (local news, bar events)  
 225 S 2nd Street, Milwaukee WI 53204;
- Religious  
**Christian Gay OK**,  
 PO Box 93433, WI 53202; 933-3662  
**Dignity**, PO Box 597, WI 53201; 444-7177  
**Integrity**, PO Box 10109, WI 53210; 871-7417  
**Lutherans Concerned**,  
 2511 N Farwell, Unit L, WI 53211; 963-9833  
**New Hope MCC Church**,  
 PO Box 93913, WI 53202; 442-7300

- Support and Social  
**Alcoholics Anonymous** (request gay meeting);  
 272-3081  
**Beer Town Badgers**, (leather/levi cycle club)  
 PO Box 166, WI 53212  
**Black and White Men Together**,  
 PO Box 12292, WI 53212; 265-8500  
**Castaways M C**, (cycle club)  
 PO Box 15152, WI 53215  
**Cream City Business Association**,  
 PO Box 92614, WI 53202; 372-2773  
**Cream City Foundation**,  
 PO Box 204, WI 53201-0204  
**Galano Club**, Alcohol Free Recovery Club,  
 1428 N Farwell Ave; 276-6936  
**GAMMA**, (sport/social events)  
 PO Box 1900, WI 53201  
**Gay Community at UW-Milwaukee**,  
 Student Union, Rm E364; 963-6555  
**Gay Hotline**, (referral, events); 562-7010  
**Gay People's Union**,  
 PO Box 208, WI 53201; 562-7010  
**Gay Youth**,  
 PO Box 09441, WI 53209; 265-8500  
**Grapevine**, (women's group)  
 2211 E Kenwood; 964-6117  
**Holiday Invitational Tournament**,  
 (G/L bowling) c/o 144 N Water St,  
 WI 53202; 278-8686  
**Metro Milwaukee Friendship Group**,  
 PO Box 71012, Shorewood WI 53211-7112  
**Milwaukee Area Gay Fathers**,  
 PO Box 08236, WI 53208; 871-2362  
**Saturday Softball Beer League**,  
 PO Box 92605, WI 53202  
**Silver Star**, (cycle club)  
 266 E Erie, WI 53202

**Mineral Point**

- Lodging **Chesterfield Inn**, (bed and breakfast, restaurant)  
 20 Commerce Street, WI 53565;  
 (608) 987-3682

**Norwalk**

- Social **Wisconsin Womyn's Land Co-op (WWLC)**,  
 Route 2, Box 42, WI 54648; (608) 269-5301

**Oshkosh**

- Support **Lambda Connection**;  
 (414) 424-1491, ask for TLC representative

**Platteville**

- Support **Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GALA)**,  
 PO Box 249, WI 53818

**Racine**

- Bars **Jo Dee's**, (M/W)  
 2139 Racine Street (Hwy 32); (414) 634-9804
- Support **Gay/Lesbian Union of Racine**,  
 625 College Ave, WI 54303

### Steven's Point

Support and Social First Call for Help,  
PO Box 457, WI 54481; (715) 345-5380  
Monday Night Dance Club,  
PO Box 1016, WI 54481  
UW-Steven's Point People's Union,  
Slap Box 30, WI 54481; (715) 346-3698

### Superior

Bars Main Club, (M, dancing) 1813 North 3rd Street,  
WI 54880; (715) 392-1756  
Trio Bar, (W) 820 Tower Ave, WI 54880

### Wascott

Camping Wilderness Way, (women only camping),  
PO Box 176, WI 54890; (715) 466-2635

### Waukesha

Support Window to the World Services,  
PO Box 632, WI 53187

### Winter

Lodging Flambeau Forest Resort,  
Star Route, WI 54896; (715) 332-5236

### What is Your Group Doing?

Let others know about your group or organization's regularly scheduled meetings and activities or about special events you are planning for the up-coming months.

Community notes are a free service of **Among Friends**. Send your notes to:  
Among Friends Community Notes, PO Box 426, Madison WI 53701.

## A REMINDER!

**Among Friends** is published only 10 times a year: **February through June** and **August through December**. We have received a number of inquiries asking about our January Edition. The Winter Edition 1987 covered both December 1987 and January 1988. The Summer Edition will cover both July and August, 1988. The breaks are an important rest period for the publisher and editor, and a period to catch up on work long delayed.

We encourage anyone who would like to write, draw, or design for **Among Friends** to get in contact with us. We are specifically looking for individuals who would like to do book reviews (both Lesbian and Gay), feature articles, and artwork. If you are interested, drop us a line, or call. Your participation will be greatly appreciated!

## HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

from the staff of



**AMONG FRIENDS!**



### Editorial Guidelines

**Among Friends** welcomes written and artistic contributions in the form of original articles, short stories, essays, book reviews, poetry, humor, photographs, line drawings, or cartoons). Written contributions should be typed and should not exceed 1200 words. All materials must be signed, and include an address and phone number where you may be contacted by the editors. When sending in previously published items, please include the original publisher's name and copyright permission. Materials will not be returned unless a self-addressed, stamped envelope is included. Contributions will be reviewed and selected at the discretion of the editors. Written works may be edited for clarity, spelling, grammar, or space requirements. Manuscripts which the editors feel require substantive changes will be returned to the authors for resubmission at a later date. **Due date:** 20th of each month prior to publication.

**Display Ad Rates** are available from the publisher upon request.

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**Wisconsin AIDS Hotline: 1-800-334-2437**

