

# LEAPING LACROSSE NEWS

February 1988  
Volume 8, Issue 2

## EARL RUNS FOR THE SENATE

Former Governor Anthony Earl has announced his intention to seek the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate. The Wisconsin Senate seat is open because Senator William Proxmire is retiring. Governor Earl's decision is good news for lesbians and gays, because he has been a consistent supporter of our civil rights.

When I was a member of the Governor's Council on Lesbian and Gay Issues (created when Earl was Governor), he was open, sensitive, and supportive to all the concerns of the Council. Further, the attitudes and cooperation of his staff consistently reflected his attitude. I believe he is a man of integrity, rare in present day politics, and that he would not deny us support if the Council becomes an issue in the campaign.

I expect, however, that his campaign will stress more traditional issues: cutting of defense spending, support of working people, farm programs, and Social Security. His record on

environmental issues and fiscal responsibility is a legacy from his years as Governor that will be a positive factor. Also notable, is his support of comparable worth in state government.

My personal hope is that Governor Earl's support of lesbians and gays does not become an issue in the campaign. As a campaign issue, only negative publicity would result with the accompanying bigotry and stereotyping. I do not need to be reassured of his support. His record proves his commitment.

I hope everyone will vote in the primary election and that if you live in Wisconsin, you will support Tony Earl with your vote, and if possible, with your time and money.

JOY



## CELEBRATE AND DONATE TO A GOOD CAUSE

To celebrate my birthday and help out a cause that deserves our attention, I would like women to join me on February 27 to raise money for Karen Thompson and Sharon Kowalski.

In case you are familiar with these names, I will give you a little background on their story. Kowalski became disabled in an accident. At first Thompson, her lover of two years, was allowed to visit Kowalski, but when Kowalski's father found out about their relationship, he had Thompson barred from seeing Kowalski. Kowalski's father had her moved from a hospital near the home she had shared with Thompson, to a town much farther away. Thompson has been fighting an expensive legal battle ever since, in an attempt to be allowed to see Kowalski and according to the December 1987 *Off Our Backs*, Thompson has filed a new motion asking the court to declare Kowalski capable of making her own decisions, so the father would no longer have control over her life.

Free Sharon groups from around the country have raised over \$80,000 towards the \$110,000 worth of legal bills all this has cost Thompson. The groups have also attempted to pressure politicians in Minnesota (their home) to intervene in the case on behalf of Karen.

This story and the fundraising is important for two reasons. It is certainly important to Karen and Sharon and their future lives, but it is also important to every other lesbian. The outcome of this case could set precedence for other such situations in the future. If something happened to you, who would you want to be in charge of your welfare? If you want your lover or a good friend from the community-family rather than someone in your blood family to be in charge, then this case is important to you too.

I am asking for a \$3 to \$5 donation to the Karen Thompson Legal Fund, instead of any birthday cards or gifts for me. (Checks can be made payable to the Karen Thompson Legal Fund.) The party will be at 424 South Third Street in La Crescent, on Saturday, February 27, beginning at 8:00. We will be showing the video from the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. It was professionally produced and covers the entire week of happenings.

Please just bring yourselves (and a donation for the fund) and drinks and munchies will be provided. See you then.

LOTS

## ADVOCATES NEEDED

The Lesbians in Violent Relationships (LVRC) Committee has identified a need in our community for lesbians willing to volunteer to be advocates for victims of lesbian battering. Advocates would be available to assist and support victims as they seek help, from medical or legal systems, the police, and in general, support each individual woman's decisions as she takes actions to stop the abuse. Advocates would also work with the LVRC Committee, providing information to the Committee and other interested groups.

If you would be interested in volunteering to be an advocate, the most important qualification is a concern about lesbian vio-

lence and a desire to support women who are taking action to end an abusive relationship. Two to four hours of training would be required, coordinated by LVRC.

Ideally, we would like to have enough women volunteer, so that an on-call phone list could be established, but any volunteers would be very helpful. You would be able to respond as you were able to give the time needed.

For a woman who has been abused, an advocate who cares is vital and affirming. This is a way of showing we are a caring community and that we will not tolerate violence.

If you would be interested in being an advocate, please call Barb R. at 895-5666 or Dana, at New Horizons, 784-6419.



If Aphrodite, the Goddess of Love, has blessed you, celebrate with your sweetheart by having a very special evening in your home. **MASSAGE FOR TWO** - a full hour massage for each of you is guaranteed to be an unforgettable experience. The cost is \$45, which includes soothing music, scented oils, lavender candles, and your own private massage for the evening! Also included is a beautiful hand-lettered card personalized with you and your sweetheart's names, ready for giving an Valentine's Day.

Reservations will be accepted for these dates only - phone carry!

Tuesday, Feb 18 - 6:00 pm  
Thursday, Feb 19 - 6:00 pm  
Friday, Feb 20 - 1:00 pm  
Sunday, Feb 21 - 6:00 pm

781-1006  
Via Internet, Massage Protocol

P.S. I promise to leave early!!

L.L.N. 8-2

## LETTERS FROM NEPAL

Three women from La Crosse are adventuring in Nepal and have been sending wonderful long letters of their travels. Some of these have made it to potlucks, but they are too long to put into the newsletter. However, the most recent letter, dated December 11, 1987, was excerpted by Rim (who spent some time with the intrepid travelers), and I have included it this month. (ED.)

Hello Everyone, dear friends and family,

We just returned from our 33 day, 180 plus mile trek around the Annapurna Circuit - through and around the Annapurna mountains - 6 to 8 of them are over 24,000 feet. We enjoyed this trek more than I can say...

We started in a subtropical jungle and ended in jungle, saw 2 dozen or more monkeys all jumping in the trees, enjoyed poinsettia trees with huge flowers/leaves and marigold bushes 3 feet high and wide. We ate fresh bananas, mandarin oranges, apples, and lemons. As we climbed higher we went through alpine-like areas and pine forests with occasional turquoise colored ponds and followed a big rushing mountain river and its valley. The houses and "hotels" where we stayed changed from bamboo/reed with thatched roofs to lean-to's made out of big pine branches to wooden 2 story buildings to houses made out of rocks piled one on the other with flat roofs out of mud or clay. People would share their space with us and provide food and shelter. Still higher, above 11,000 feet, the land is arid with giant sand-like hills formed from years of erosion and the Himalaya lowering above...

After about 2 weeks of hiking, we came to the pass, Throng La at 17,750 feet, which we crossed to get to the big river valley to complete the circuit around the Annapurnas. We did a lot of day hikes to prepare for this and avoid altitude sickness. The day of the pass, we started out at 4:30 a.m. in the dark. It was very cold and very steep for the first one and a half hours. We were hiking along ledges and dropoffs in the pitch black. Our flashlights with new batteries died after 45 minutes. Fortunately, we had teamed up with a Dutch couple and their flashlight worked great, so we all walked slowly like ducks in a row. Finally the sun rose in time for us to cross a glacier with glare ice above and dropping below for about 1,500 feet. There were several places that day where we didn't want to fall. We would all surround ourselves and each other with protection and good energy. The worst was the cold. We had to stop and warm up Kathy's and my feet before continuing, so they wouldn't get frostbite. We made the pass at 11:00 a.m., a 2,500 foot climb, and had lunch on the top. If I walked faster my heart started pounding and I got short of breath, and Kathy was very tired and nauseated, but we made it with really no problems. It was very rewarding to be up there, because we knew we had made it. Downhill from there and the views were wonderful. Even so, going down was hard and long, to around 13,500 feet, at times over mountains of scree (uneven rocks left behind by glaciers), ice and snow fields. We finally

arrived at a tea house at about 4:00 p.m., a long 11 hours of work...

The views and the challenge of the pass and the entire trek are something we will never forget...

Another thing we loved about the first side (of the mountains of Annapurna) was the many nice mani walls, prayer wheels, and gumbas (all religious artifacts). Many of the hill people follow a Buddhist tradition. They have monks and monasteries called gumbas, which are usually at the highest point in the town. They also build mani walls, which are rectangular walls out of layered stone, about 4 feet by 10 feet by 12 feet, where they place other stones which have carved letters or script or pictures on them. People will make these stones and then carry them great distances and place them on the mani wall. You find them out in the middle of nowhere, on mountain tops and in forests...

The Buddhists also make prayer wheels, which are round cylinder-shaped pieces of copper that have script pounded or cast into them. These are placed 5 to 20 in a row, so you can spin each one and say a prayer... The older ones are made of wood and are painted, and inside are rolls of rice paper with prayers written on them... The prayer that is always recited or written is, "Om mani padme hum," which means, "a jewel in the lotus," and has something to do with praying for the right reincarnation...

Our greatest joy has been connecting with the people. We continue to be moved by these open warm friendly folk. Their lives are hard by our standards, yet they appear happy... The average family here makes \$150 a year, average life expectancy is 45 years. Everything is done by hand... no electricity, a community tap for water, no toilets, no heat... They eat what they can grow in this area, which isn't a big variety above 8,000 feet... They plow the fields by hand or with buffalo... The women hand spin wool into yarn and use hank-strap looms... They cook on one burner kerosene stoves or on a small fire... Any supplies not immediately available have to be carried in by porters from one of the two cities in Nepal. They follow the same footpaths we did and carry up to 200 pounds in each load...

In Katipani, we connected with a neat family... Kusair is a 28 year old single woman, unheard of in Nepal, and she doesn't want to get married. Although she'd had offers. She told us that when you marry, a woman has to go live with her husband's family and doesn't have much say and doesn't get to visit her family very often. She would rather stay and help with her family's business, their lodge. The mother was a real matriarch. You could feel her presence when she entered the room. She ran the lodge for 30 years and raised very independent children. The father was a governmental official and we heard many stories about his wastefulness concerning money. We had fun talking to Kusair -- us "single girls."

2-8-77

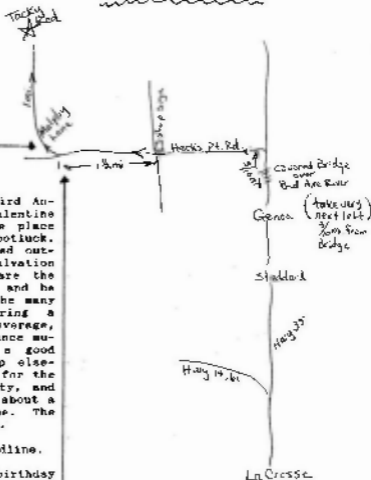
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

...We have received letters, usually 10 to 11 days after mailing. Thanks so much. It's great to hear how your lives are moving. If our plans (we really never have any) work out and the money holds out, we will probably not be back until April...

Well dear friends, ... we will be thinking of all of you...  
Love and peace from all of us.

Love: Nancy, Kathy, Andi

POTLUCK MAP



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

February 13: The Third Annual Tacky Red Valentine Dance will take the place of this month's potluck. Find the tackiest red outfit you can (the Salvation Army and Goodwill are the in places to shop) and be set to win one of the many tacky prizes. Bring a friend, munchies, beverage, and your favorite dance music. Be set for a good time. See the map elsewhere in this issue for the location of the party, and make sure you allow about a half hour travel time. The party starts at 8:00.

February 18: LLN deadline.

February 27: Lois' birthday party and fundraiser for Karen Thompson and Sharon Kowalski. See the article elsewhere in this issue for more details.

## A WEEKLY RADIO PROGRAM FOR LESBIANS AND GAYS

*insideOUT*, a new internationally-produced and distributed program series by, for, and about lesbians and gay men (and their friends) will make its debut on public radio station coast to coast in the U.S. and Canada during the first week of April.

The half hour program was produced as a result of grants and donations. It is designed to run weekly and will include segments on news briefs and more in-depth coverage of stories of special concern to lesbians and gay men, including coverage of the special concerns and unique perspectives of lesbian and gay men of color, physically challenged lesbians and gays, and other minorities within a minority. The program will also include reviews of books, films and videos, and tv programs of interest, plus some multi-segment programs on the our history and other related topics.

So far, KPAL in Minneapolis and WORT in Madison are signed up to carry the program, but perhaps we could lobby WLSU asking them to carry it as well. The producers of the program have sent promotional material to all Public Radio stations, but says Greg Gordon the coordinating producer, "Sometimes a station or program director or general manager need to be reminded of the lesbian and gay constituency in their listening audience, and local community groups can provide the pivotal in-person type of support for this series that promotional mailings and phone calls alone can't do."

If you would like to see WLSU carry *insideOUT*, write to the station manager at WLSU, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, La Crosse, WI 54601. Wouldn't it be great to turn the radio on and hear a program for us? Write your letter today.

MARY O

### BT CETRA

Washington March Calendar: Frontline, the pro-gay progressive political action organization has collected photographs taken at the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in October and compiled them into a 1988 calendar. Called *Marching for Love and Survival*, the calendar is available by mail from Frontline, PO Box 2809, Dept. Q, Oakland, CA 94608. (Sorry, my source didn't list a price. You'll have to write and ask. RO.)

National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference: Black and White Men Together and the National Coalition of Lesbians and Gays is sponsoring a conference in Los Angeles from February 12 to 14, to respond to "the challenges of AIDS, racism, homophobia, and sexism across the country..." For more information, contact BWNT/LA, PO Box 29812, Los Angeles, CA 90027, or call Bevan Duffy or Phil Wilson at (213) 854-4716 or 657-2549.

L L N B - 2

## REMEMBER SUSAN H. ANTHONY

I have been in on, or have overheard, some interesting comments in the past few months. Paraphrased, they all say something like the following: "Oh, it was a terrific book (or movie, or article, or whatever), except that the author went on and on about women's lib. I thought that fad had passed." I had not been aware, previous to these conversations, that feminism was either a fad, or that it had passed. But as I think about, the evidence is all around me. For example, now that feminism is *out of fashion*, who ever pays any attention to Susan B. Anthony's birthday?

On February 15, 1820, the woman who spent 50 years of her life working to get women full citizenship, was born. She was a teacher, paid a quarter of what a man was paid for the same job, and spent literally her whole life working for equal rights for all people. She worked for women's rights, abolition of slavery, and temperance, but it was the women's rights issue that she gave most of her time to. Neither she nor Elizabeth Cady Stanton, with whom she worked, lived to see the Nineteenth Amendment passed in 1920. But the work they spent their lives on made its passage possible.

Remember: George Washington helped win the vote for fewer than 2 million white males; Abraham Lincoln helped win the vote for fewer than 1 million black males; Susan H. Anthony helped win the vote for 26 million American women! But whose birthday do we celebrate in February? I am not saying that Washington and Lincoln and their work, is not worth respect, but I am saying that Susan B. Anthony's work deserves recognition too.

I don't know about you, but this year, I am going to celebrate Susan H. Anthony's birthday by making sure I mention her in my conversations throughout the month, and I am going to remind the people that I talk with that a movement that has been alive for over a hundred years is not a fad. Feminism is not out of fashion, nor are feminists out of fashion. We were never in fashion; we had more important things to think about, and still do.

(The figures cited in the above article were taken from a TABS poster.)

MARY O

## ET CETERA

Lesbian and Gay Parents Meeting: The Ninth Annual Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition Inc. World Conference will meet June 3-5 in Columbus, Ohio. The group believes that lesbians and gays can love and

nourish children and provide an environment where their children can mature into loving and productive adults. For more information, contact Columbus/Central Ohio Chapter of GLPC; at PO Box 13179, Columbus, Ohio 43213.



## ET CETERA

National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays: The NCBLG, founded in 1978, is celebrating its tenth anniversary and is inviting new members to join. The group has provided a support and information network, sponsored two Third World Lesbian and Gay Conferences, held annual conventions, organized the first national conference on AIDS in the Black Community, worked in coalition with numerous other groups on issues of racism and sexism, and publishes a news magazine called *Black/Out*. The board of directors (Angela Bowen, Audre Lorde, Michelle Parkerson, Barbara Smith) invite new memberships and say the tenth annual conference will be in Washington next October. For more information contact the NCBLG at PO Box 2490-W, Washington, DC 20013 or call (202) 286-7117.

Satisfied Lesbians: Shere Nite's latest book on the sex life of American women has been really criticized by media and reviewers who say the methodology of her study was sloppy and the results, therefore, inaccurate and unbelievable. I have a feeling they are saying this primarily because they do not want to believe the results. The book says, among other things, that 84% of heterosexual women are NOT satisfied emotionally with their relationships. Generally, it paints a pretty dismal picture of heterosexual women's love life. What the media isn't paying attention to is Nite's report

on lesbian women. She says about lesbians: 11% of the women in the study have relationships only with other women; 81% of women over the age of 40 now living with a female lover were previously married; of the total lesbian population, 31% are in relationships, 62% are living together, and 17% are single; in contrast to the heterosexual women, 96% of the lesbians said they felt "they were loved equally, or in an emotionally satisfying way by their women partners." Nite ended the section on women loving women by asking, "why should anyone have to defend lesbianism as a way of life? It seems imperative for us to review our entire concept of sexuality-as well as our priorities in terms of friendship/feelings for other women."

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Isn't it time they really  
bring good things to life?



LLN 8-2

# The Mill Road Cafe

PROUDLY  
PRESENTS

# In Concert

2 FEBRUARY

6<sup>pm</sup> SPARKY RUCKER \$4.50 8:30 PM  
In celebration of Black History Month Sparky performs blues, folk, gospel, ballads  
and work songs from Black History. A slide guitarist extraordinaire!

13<sup>pm</sup> NO CONCERT... OPEN TO 9 PM... NEWS FLASH: PETER OSTROUSHKO  
AT PUMP HOUSE!!

4<sup>pm</sup> ♡ CLAUDIA ♡ SCHMIDT ♡ VALENTINE ♡ \$7.50 3:00 PM  
a very special  
her favorite sweetheart returns after 2 years! Reservations required...  
A SECOND SHOW HAS BEEN ADDED... 7:00 PM

20<sup>pm</sup> NORTHERN LIGHT "\*\*\*\*" \$5.00 8:30 PM  
Album Release Concert!! More wonderful music from some  
of Wisconsin's Best --- Early reservations recommended

27<sup>pm</sup> CHUCK PYLE \$4.00 8:30 PM  
Tasty denim cowboy - Folk, poet, jagelberg style.  
original songs - rich voice & guitar.

Lift your spirit during February Blaks with a  
good concert and yummy food!

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