



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

The Wisconsin Light

Light Inside...

- **RELIGIOUS OUTREACH**
..... Page 6
- **LIVELY ARTS**
Skylight's "Die Fleudermaus"
Reviewed..... Page 8
- **FILM**
Interview With Tom
Cruise..... Page 9
- **MEDICALLY SPEAKING**
Hepatitis B Can Be
Deadly..... Page 11
- **TRAVEL**
A Trip Through Wisconsin
Backroads..... Page 16

Madison Alternative Measures Pass

By David Burrill

Madison- Before a record crowd of over 300, the Madison Common Council passed into law two parts of the alternative family rights ordinance August 2nd, making Madison a leader in alternative family issues. Although the City Council also voted down two more controversial elements of the proposed ordinance, supporters were heartened by the fact that the votes on these two proposals were so close.

While many alternative family organizers were disheartened about the prospects for their proposal, much of the pessimism changed to optimism when key members of the Board of Estimates, the city's budget committee and the last committee to review the alternative families ordinance, announced that they were going to try to split the ordinance into its various parts since it was felt that some of those parts could pass the Council.

TURN TO MADISON, PAGE 13

ARMY REENLISTS MIRIAM BEN-SHALOM; MAY APPEAL

By Sue Burke

"It was hard not to cry" as she was sworn in, said Miriam Ben-Shalom after she reenlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves on Sept. 12. For her it was the latest victory in a 14-year-long battle to remain in the Army even though she is a Lesbian.

If the Army hadn't let her in, it would have had to begin paying a \$500-a-day fine for contempt of court. U.S. District Judge Myron L. Gordon in Milwaukee had ordered the Army to let her reenlist or pay the fine until he makes a final ruling on whether she may permanently remain in the Army.

Ben-Shalom's attorney, Patrick Berigan, said the final ruling should be issued by Gordon in September or early October. If

it is in Ben-Shalom's favor, Berigan said, the Army will probably appeal the case to the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago.

The Army has also appealed the contempt order allowing Ben-Shalom to temporarily reenlist, he said.

But in the meantime, Ben-Shalom was able to sign up for another six years. She began her duties on the weekend of Sept. 17. She hopes eventually to complete 20 years in the service.

The evening of reenlistment was a happy one for her. Ben-Shalom, a drill sergeant, came in her dress uniform to the headquarters of the 84th Division, 4828 W. Silver Spring Dr.

She was accompanied by her daughter, Hannah Richter, who was eight years old when her mother's fight against the Army began. Ben-Shalom was also accompanied by her friend Alyn Hess, who has stood by her since the beginning, and by Berigan.

Also present were a television crew from WTMJ, a photographer from UPI, and a reporter/photographer from The Wisconsin Light and Chicago Outlines. Only a few other people were in the building that night.

Ben-Shalom took an oath from Col. Thomas Swett, who shook her hand and congratulated her. Ben-Shalom signed her return to SHALOM, PAGE 16



Openly Lesbian Sergeant Miriam Ben-Shalom was sworn in by Col. Thomas Swett as she reenlisted for a six year term with the U.S. Army Reserve on September 12 in Milwaukee, following a Federal Court order finding the Army in contempt of court.

National Coming Out Day To Be Held October 11

"Our silence is k'ling us."

"Our invisibility is the core of our oppression."

Among the many messages coming from Gays and Lesbians at the Democratic National Convention to our community at large, is that our political strength is being greatly undermined by the large numbers of us who are hidden, in the closet, shivering cold, sweat-drenched in fear. It is the silence of our "hidden majority" that is allowing society to make the rules for us, permits ignorance and intolerance to oppress us all.

In an attempt to solve this problem, the National Gay Rights Advocates and The Experience Weekend are sponsoring a National Coming Out Day to be held October 11, 1988.

The event is being co-chaired by Jean O'Leary and Rob Eichberg, both of California.

According to one spokesperson for the two groups, "Coming out is a continuum, a series of steps that often take place over the course of months or even years."

As one delegate at the Convention told Light, "the difference that most people miss is that to be a homosexual is one thing, being Gay is another. Being Gay is an advance step toward personal integration, acceptance and the good of the Gay/Lesbian community. You may have accepted that you are a homosexual," she explained. "But only when you realize that you are part of a community, part of a movement and actively involved in some way, can you call yourself 'Gay' or 'Lesbian.'"

As part of National Coming Out Day, each individual is being asked to pledge to "Take Your Next Step." As the sponsors

say, this step must be appropriate and comfortable to you, but, at the same time, you should be willing to push yourself a little.

Suggestions for Coming Out include:
Put your lover's photo on your desk at work.

Tell three people you're Gay or Lesbian
Wear an openly Lesbian or Gay symbol or button for a week.

Acknowledge that "those roses" are not from your mother.

Call a radio talk show and introduce a Gay/Lesbian topic.

Read a Gay/Lesbian paper on a bus or in a restaurant.

Hold hands publicly.

Tell the truth when asked, "So are you engaged yet?"

Move your favorite "fantasy" poster to a prominent place in your house.

Send flowers to that "special someone" and don't use initials on the card.

Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper commenting on Gay/Lesbian coverage or lack of coverage. Use your full name.

Include your Gay/Lesbian family in traditional family or religious functions.

TURN TO COMING OUT, PAGE 7

**Now! Read
Wisconsin Light
Every Other Week!
Next Issue Out
Thursday, October 6**

Introduction A TIME TO DIE

By Terry Boughner Ph.d.

This is not a pretty story. For those who think that the more bloody parts of history should be sanitized, this series is not for you. You, Gay women and men and non-Gays, should read no further.

This is the story of the Pink Triangle, the Holocaust of the Gays in Nazi Germany, told in all its horrors, much of it as remembered by Gay survivors. Beginning with this issue, this tale of blood, torture, destruction and death, will continue until next June, ending in the month that is given over to Gay/Lesbian Pride.

The Holocaust of the Jews at the hands of the Nazis has been described in countless volumes of prose and poetry. Some of the finest writers that the Jewish people have produced in this century have given their talents over to recounting the horrors of the systematic extermination of 6,000,000 of their fellows. This is not to mention the museums and memorials to the victims that exist in the United States, Europe and Israel.

But the Jews were not the only ones marked out for genocide. There were millions of others and among them, Gays.

Until very recently, there were no memorials of any kind commemorating the Holocaust of the Gays. Even now, there are only two books on the subject. In the histories of the Holocaust, if Gays are mentioned at all, it is only in passing or if some incident is so terrible, so brutal, that it can not go unnoticed.

Much of this has been by design. According to Ira Glasser, head of the American Civil Liberties Union, in the September 10, 1975 issue of The New York Times, "the pink triangle . . . lies buried as a virtual historical secret." Glasser went on to say that "During World War II, no king, no premier, no president, no prominent citizen came forward wearing a pink triangle, as it is said the yellow Star of David was worn by the King of Denmark." He might have added that afterward, for all our sufferings, we received no recompense of

any kind. No one mourned our losses or raised tear-filled and haunted eyes to commemorate our dead. We were outlaws before and so we remained.

Raul Hilberg, author of *The Destruction of the European Jews* and a former member of the President's Commission on the Holocaust, was quoted in the December 10, 1979 issue of the New York Village Voice as being opposed to including Gays in any memorialization of Holocaust victims. "That would be a travesty," Hilberg said, implying that any mention of Gays would somehow detract from the blood sacrifice of the Jews. That Gays were not worthy to be mentioned in the same breath with those who had been driven to the gas chambers for their faith, whether Jewish or Christian.

There are those historians, like Hilberg, who insist that Gays were "highly valued" prisoners in the camps. There is, as we shall see, not one shred of evidence to support this contention and quite a bit to the contrary. Eugen Kogon, a highly respected authority on the Holocaust, himself interned at Buchenwald and author of *The Theory and Practice of Hell* states uncatagorically that "The fate of the homosexuals in the concentration camps can only be described as ghastly." We shall see that this is true.

We shall see as well that the mechanisms of genocide were set up to murder us. We Gays were the first. context for the story of the Pink Triangle has been easy enough to dig out, finding Gay survivors who were willing to talk was much more difficult. Remember that Gays, who were criminals before the war remained criminals afterward. The German law (175) under which Gays were persecuted by the Nazis remained on the books throughout the Allied occupation and up until 1969. Even when it was finally removed, the prejudice and hatred remained. These victims had no reason to trust anybody.

There is one other thing to keep in mind as well. These people had been through
TURN TO PINK TRIANGLE, PAGE 4