

OUT!

OUT!
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Wisconsin's Lesbian/Gay Newspaper

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Catching up with the Council

Success, fear and frustration

By Brooks Egerton

For many people, the targeting of a member of the Governor's Council on Lesbian and Gay Issues for sexual assault—followed by allegations that police mishandled the case—served as a horrifying reminder of how unsafe lesbians and gay men still are. For better or worse, the rape of Cindi Lampman is what people will remember when they look back to the Governor's Council's first year of existence.

The incident and its aftermath gave the council itself a grim justification for existence. "It is the crystalline example of why we need the [gay rights] law, why we need the good offices of the governor," says Co-Chair Kathleen Nichols.

The attack has left the council "fearful as a group, and not unduly," Nichols acknowledges. Other members have experienced vandalism and harassment they feel is connected to their public position.

Yet the group seems determined to carry on toward its goal of implementing Wisconsin's historic gay rights legislation.

Even people who have been critical of the council's work say that the group has made important strides toward that goal. "They've been particularly important in opening up the mainstream media" to discussion of lesbian/gay issues, says veteran Madison activist Barbara Lightner. "And they've done a real service to community groups in meeting with heads of various state agencies" to identify problems.

Council members themselves are proud of what they've accomplished in a year. Council Co-Chair Dick Wagner cites as a major achievement the updating of state contracts and other written material to include gay rights language.

In the area of health, the council's soon-to-be-released annual report points out that the body secured from



Governor's Council members at their first anniversary meeting last month (from left to right, top row): Co-Chair Dick Wagner, Russell Stevens, Cindi Lampman, Shelley Gaylord, Greg Quindel, Charlene McLauclan; (bottom): Co-Chair Kathleen Nichols, Darla Kashian, Sue Burke and Ernest Clay.

Gov. Earl a proclamation of February 1984 as AIDS awareness month; co-sponsored a recent lesbian/gay health conference in Milwaukee, and successfully lobbied for a half-time paid staff position at the Division of Health for AIDS work.

The council early on adopted a tight focus, choosing to concentrate its energies on state structures and "leveraging policy," as Nichols puts it. The group's monthly meetings have consisted in large part of discussions with various state (and sometimes local) bureaucrats. Often, council members say, these encounters have produced helpful exchanges of information and strategies for change.

But the tight focus has been frustrating for some council and non-council members alike. "I'm disappointed that with so many people on the council we haven't been able to accomplish more active things," says Charlene McLauclan, a council member from the Reedsburg area.

McLauclan says, however, that she is "optimistic about this next year—we've certainly laid the groundwork" for more activity. Her plans for the coming months include hands-on work with the state Department

of Public Instruction, which thus far hasn't been too responsive to council initiatives. She talks of preparing lesbian/gay resource materials for school guidance counselors and getting school libraries to put council-recommended books on the shelves.

But McLauclan and others clearly link stepped-up activity to Gov. Earl's meeting a campaign promise of a paid liaison to the lesbian/gay community. "There does need to be a full-time person in the governor's office," she says.

Wagner, saying that lack of time for council work has been his biggest frustration, agrees that paid staff "would help immeasurably."

D'Anne Prior, a Milwaukee resident and chair of the National Organization for Women's Lesbian Rights Task Force, is blunter: "We're still on the fringes of state government," she says.

Prior charges that Co-Chairs Wagner and Nichols didn't push hard enough for paid staff last year, when the council was first forming. The co-chairs, however, have long defended their approach of gradually showing the executive office the necessity of paid staff.

Activist Lightner says that in addition to the council's lack of funding and resources, she's been most frustrated by the "limited scope" of its activities. At the group's April community meeting in Madison, she called on the council to "provide more assistance to community groups."

The council's relations with those community groups—particularly the Wisconsin Lesbian/Gay Network—have tended to be rocky this past year. WLGN's director, Sandra Lipke, declined to be interviewed for this article.

Dick Noonan, a Waupaca resident who worked with Acceptance of Appleton and WLGN last summer on an AIDS crisis phone line, says he asked the council for information and help but "got very little cooperation."

Don Fink, who worked with Noonan on the AIDS line and has attended several council meetings around the state, points to "poor communication with the council... there hasn't been a lot of blending between the council and the gay community as a whole."

But "I give them a lot of credit" for putting themselves on the line by serving on the council, Fink says. "I think they have a lot of potential."

Council members say they hope to see an increased cooperation with local groups. Co-Chair Nichols also foresees more council work "with the private sector" and government functions—such as education and law enforcement—"where the governor's office is not supposed to have any authority."

The council's community meeting last month did not get a large turnout, though representatives of some Madison-based groups did attend and make specific requests. Barbara Bordwell, speaking for the funding board of the Wisconsin Community Fund, asked the council to survey Wisconsin corporations' attitudes about making donations to lesbian/gay organizations. Such a project would at least "raise the issue" with corporations and might "spur giving," she said.

Bill Lyne of the Madison Institute for Social Legislation asked the council to help distribute a survey of non-traditional family structures. He also asked the group to push Gov. Earl to declare a state lesbian/gay awareness week.

A fact sheet on the Council

CREATED: by Executive Order of Gov. Anthony Earl, April 1983.

MANDATE: to advise the Executive Office on implementation of state gay rights legislation and issues of personal safety and health; to consult with lesbian and gay organizations and individuals in identifying community needs and concerns. BUDGET: \$1,000.

MEMBERS: Co-Chair Kathleen Nichols, Co-Chair Dick Wagner, Shelley Gaylord (Madison); Mark Behar, Sue Burke, Darla Kashian, Cheryl Williams, Greg Quindel (Milwaukee); Cindi Lampman, Norbert Dekuster (Racine); Ernest Clay (Stevens Point); Larry Rosemine (Menomonie); Charlene McLauclan (Reedsburg); Russell Stevens (Rhinelander). Volunteer positions, two-year terms.

She knows all, tells all—Our favorite advice columnist is neither *The Milwaukee Journal's* lone Quimby Griggs, nor Ursula of Madison's *Intimes*. Rather, we look to the Chicken Lady of Washington, D.C.'s *off our backs* for truly useful information. Each month this queen of the roost tells where jobs are open, where conferences are happening, and how to find alternative publications... and she's full of interesting tidbits, reporting for example in April that Ronald and Nancy Reagan celebrated Nancy's 60th birthday with a gay couple. The couple—composed of their interior

In a Nutshell

decorator, Ted Graber, and his lover—then slept over in private White House quarters.

You can, by the way, contact the Chicken Lady and *off our backs* at 1841 Columbia Rd. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. Their latest issue also includes a retrospective on the Grenada invasion by Audre Lorde.

A pox on their house—The

New EOC ruling favors lesbian family

MADISON—A hearing examiner for the Equal Opportunities Commission has ruled that there is probable cause to believe that the YMCA discriminated against two lesbians when it denied them a family membership.

One of the women called the ruling "a moral victory." The examiner's decision overturns an earlier EOC ruling which found no probable cause to believe the Y had discriminated on the basis of sexual orientation or marital status. The earlier ruling had found, however, that the women had been discriminated against on the basis of sex; that decision still stands.

The case will now proceed to a quasi-judicial public hearing unless the EOC can bring the two parties to a negotiated settlement.

The examiner's decision marks the latest round of a process that began more than a year ago, when the women unsuccessfully attempted to secure a family membership at two separate YMCA branches. A family membership would save hundreds of dollars a year over the cost of separate

rate memberships for the women, who jointly own a home and are raising two children.

After filing a complaint with the EOC last spring, the women joined the Y separately—one as an individual, the other with the children as a family. They are now seeking to have the cost of the individual membership refunded.

The Y has maintained that the women do not constitute a family under the organization's definition, which requires eligibility to file joint income tax returns.

But the women argued that heterosexual couples are not asked to produce evidence that they're married and thus able to file joint tax returns. They say they know many unmarried straight couples who've joined the Y as a family.

The women also say a Y representative told them they would've been accepted for a family membership if they had claimed to be sisters, instead of openly acknowledging their lesbianism.

Legal aid available to low-income gays

By Sue Burke

MILWAUKEE—Have you ever experienced discrimination but been unable to pursue justice because you couldn't afford a lawyer?

Well, there may now be a way around this roadblock. The Legal Aid Society here, funded by the Chicago Resource Center and private contributions, will help victims of discrimination file a complaint with the Wisconsin Equal Rights Division.

The society can help you pursue a case through any hearings and negotiations held by the ERD. It also offers aid with related problems—such as contested unemployment compensation claims—that can result from a discrimination complaint.

Thomas Zander, executive director of the Legal Aid Society, said the project will solve two problems common to discrimination complaints of all kinds. First, he said, victims of discrimination often have low incomes. "People who hold higher-income jobs tend to be less vulnerable to discriminatory and unfair conduct from employers, because they tend to be more formidable opponents" in court, Zander said.

Second, while Wisconsin's unique gay rights laws provide a mechanism—the Equal Rights Division—to resolve complaints, that agency's process can be complicated and intimidating. Zander said those who file complaints with the ERD often don't know how to present persuasive arguments or gather necessary evi-

dence for ERD investigations and hearings.

Zander will be the attorney handling complaints under the society's new anti-discrimination project. He said the Legal Aid Society had already helped with several gay rights cases as part of its general work to help low-income people in the Milwaukee area. Two clients won their cases, he said, and the others settled informally.

"Most people have a pretty good hunch" when they have been discriminated against, Zander said, and the important question is often whether there is enough evidence to win a complaint.

The Chicago Resource Center, a foundation which has funded many gay and lesbian projects in the Midwest, recently awarded the Legal Aid Society funds for the anti-discrimination project. The project, which also aims to provide public education on the state's gay rights laws, will run for the remainder of 1984 and perhaps into early 1985, depending on the complexity of cases that are filed. Zander said, however, that he hopes the project can go on indefinitely.

Individuals can help by sending tax-deductible contributions to the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee, 1204 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee 53233, with a note that the money is for the anti-discrimination project.

Individuals in the Milwaukee area who feel they've experienced discrimination because of their sexual orientation, and who cannot afford a lawyer, can contact Zander at the Legal Aid Society: 765-0600.

Milwaukee Journal, fresh from its disastrous "Gays and Marriage" series in March, earned another curve from us in April for a pre-caucus rundown of where Democratic presidential candidates stand on the issues. The *Journal* said on civil rights questions only that Walter Mondale and Gary Hart "favor busing for school integration [and] oppose racial quotas," and that Jesse Jackson "favors stricter enforcement of civil rights laws, especially [the] Voting Rights Act, and extending civil rights to cover sexual preference." Somehow the paper didn't find it necessary to discuss Jackson's views on busing or affirmative action, nor did it bother to mention that all three Democratic candidates favor federal gay civil rights legislation.

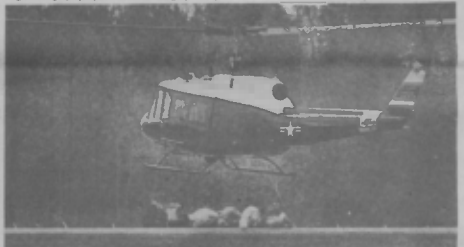
Out of the tubs, into the shrubs—In case you haven't heard by now, San Francisco's public health director has decreed an end to sex in the city's bathhouses, bowing to widely held opinions that the facilities were a breeding ground for AIDS. Dr. Mervyn Silverman had earlier indicated that he would close the clubs entirely, though he said he doubted such a step would slow the spread of the deadly disease. Perhaps trying to clean house before July's Democratic National Convention, Mayor Dianne Feinstein has called for outright closure, with the blessings of gay physicians and gay City

Supervisor Harry Britt. The gay community as a whole appears divided on the issue, according to public opinion polls.

The sex ban will be enforced through periodic inspections of San Francisco's 13 bathhouses. Patrons caught in the act will not be arrested; rather, clubs with repeated violations will be padlocked.

An avowed heterosexual—Wisconsin Associated Press chief Dion Henderson—whom AP staffers have identified as blatantly homophobic (OUT), May 1984—was honored by the UW-Madison School of Journalism in April for distinguished service to his profession. He was also toasted by the Milwaukee chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. As part of AP management, Henderson belongs to the august company that last year defended discrimination against gay workers, reasoning that "a male transvestite—a male homosexual attired in women's clothes" would not be an appropriate reporter for the White House beat.

Put her back, Jack—A federal judge in April ordered the ROTC program at the University of Maine to reinstate a lesbian it booted in 1981. The judge said Diane Matthews' dismissal "as a result of her declaration of homosexuality, without any evidence of homosexual conduct" violated her First Amendment rights, according to *Boston's Gay Community News*. The decision parallels the legal victory won by Milwaukee's Miriam ben Shalom against the Army Reserves in 1980 and still under dispute today.



The women's peace camp movement has met with strong resistance from the military. In this October 1983 photograph, the Syracuse (New York) Women's Affinity Group blockades the airstrip at the Seneca Army Depot.

Women's Peace Presence setting up camp

CLAM LAKE—The Women's Peace Presence to Stop Project ELF plans to begin setting up camp near this Northwoods town May 28, and work crews are slated to have the camp ready for a grand opening July 4.

At press time, Peace Presence organizers still had not identified a specific site for the encampment. Spokesperson Ardelle Hough said women were looking at various parcels of land in the Clam Lake area and hoped to purchase one soon.

She acknowledged that there were difficulties finding a suitable location in the area, since it is surrounded by national forest.

Hough said if suitable land could not be purchased in northern Wisconsin, the Peace Presence would consider locating in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where protests against an ELF antenna have been under way for some months. Protests in the UP might also be directed at Sawyer Air Force Base, where air-launched Cruise missiles are stationed.

Hough said women might end up having two separate encampments, one in Michigan and one in Wisconsin.

The Peace Presence has no paid staff at present and has concentrated recent efforts on fundraising. "The workload has become fairly heavy," Hough said. She said five women ultimately will be hired to help coordinate the encampment.

Hundreds of women from around the country are expected to participate in the camp, some of them spending the entire summer on the site and others coming in on weekends only. Men will staff a support camp and handle such tasks as childcare and cooking.

The Peace Presence is protesting Project ELF ("Extremely Low Frequency") as a "first-strike" weapon. ELF is a giant underground antenna set to be built in northern Wisconsin and Michigan to relay messages to nuclear-equipped submarines. The antenna would greatly reduce the amount of time it takes to transmit commands for launching nuclear missiles.

You can contact the Peace Presence in Madison at 608-257-7562; in Milwaukee at 414-272-7457; or near Clam Lake at 715-798-3515.

Journal charged with discrimination

MADISON and MILWAUKEE—On the heels of numerous complaints that a March front-page series on "Gays and Marriage" was prejudicial, *The Milwaukee Journal* now faces charges that it handles advertising contracts in a discriminatory way.

According to a complaint filed in late April with the state Equal Rights Division, the *Journal* refused to place a classified ad for a job opening at The United, a Madison gay social service agency.

The *Journal* said it would not run the ad without first seeing "detailed, written materials" about the United, according to the agency's community services director, Joyce Mahan. Mahan said she did not have time to provide the information, and the ad did not run.

"This has definitely hampered our job outreach," she said. The *Journal* is the largest-circulation daily in the state.

The paper claimed that it required such information from all its first-time advertisers, and kept it on file in case readers called with questions, Mahan said. A representative "assured me that it didn't have anything to do with our agency," she said.

But that claim didn't check out, Mahan said. "When I called another agency whose services are not directly

lesbian/gay related which has advertised with *The Milwaukee Journal* in the past, they had no memory of being asked for similar materials before publication of an employment ad," her complaint states.

The United also attempted to place an ad with the paper advertising a job opening with a fictitious social service agency for disabled adults. The ad was accepted without question or information requirements.

Journal Editor Dick Leonard said he had "no idea" why The United was asked to provide information about its work.

Journal Advertising Manager Eugene Keating told **OUT!** that the paper regularly requested information from its advertisers, though "we do not, on every ad, contact the business." He declined to describe the criteria the *Journal* uses to determine which ads are questionable.

Keating maintained that the *Journal* had the right to refuse any ad copy it found objectionable, and he stressed that ads from gay organizations were not the only ones subject to special scrutiny. For example, he said, "We take no copy from abortion clinics."

Keating said he thought the *Journal* had taken ads from gay groups in the past, though he added, "We are

not trying to satisfy the needs of all the gay community."

The complaint against the *Journal* alleges discrimination in public accommodations, an area of the law that many activists and ERD officials consider weak. The ERD investigates such cases, but then must turn probable cause findings over to the local district attorney, who then decides whether or not to prosecute.

In cases of alleged discrimination in housing and employment, however, the ERD is allowed to adjudicate

directly and can issue orders of relief. An ERD spokesperson said "very few" public accommodations complaints are filed with the agency. The penalties are light, according to Le Anna Ware, and "I've never known [a public accommodations case] to be prosecuted" by a district attorney.

While Ware said she knew of no precedent for considering a newspaper's classified ad section a public accommodation, she said that such an argument could be valid. ●

Council presses prison staff on gay issues

By Barbara Palecek

WAUPUN—Representatives of the Governor's Council on Lesbian and Gay Issues last month toured the state's maximum security prison here, meeting with corrections officials and an inmate to discuss treatment of gay prisoners.

Mark Behar, Gregory Quindel and Norbert Dekeuster met with Donna Neniskis, supervisor of the Inmate Affairs Unit, Robert Ellsworth, treatment director, and a transsexual

inmate, Simeira Dawn Peterson.

There are probably many gays in the prison, Peterson said, but most are "rigidly and frighteningly in the closet." The only uncolored gays that Neniskis and Ellsworth knew of were two inmates who filed complaints with the administration last year after being fired from their jobs in the kitchen.

The inmates contended they were dismissed on the grounds that they might pass on AIDS, which they did not have. The case was never resolved, and the two men no longer reside at Waupun.

Other than these incidents, no gay health issues have been formally addressed by the prison administration. In fact, no gay issues are explicitly addressed, and no gay prisoner support group exists. Other kinds of prisoner support groups exist at Waupun, and gay prisoners' groups reportedly exist in other states' prison systems.

Both Ellsworth and Peterson indicated that if a new inmate admits to homosexual orientation or is thought to be gay, he is immediately encouraged to use the prison's mental health services. When asked about the attitudes of corrections personnel and straight inmates, Neniskis said, "I get a sense of people not even wanting to think about it [homosexuality]. Period. There may be some kind of blocking going on . . . I don't even hear jokes about it, like you'd think there would be here."

Peterson stressed that life for gays and transsexuals was a day-to-day struggle in prison. She stressed that guards and administration are the problem, not the other inmates. Ellsworth said sexual assaults occur often against young, effeminate prisoners. He said such prisoners were careful to stay within view of guards at all times. Some inmates ask to be or are segregated for their own protection.

In some other states, prisons designate separate "gay tiers." In Wisconsin, no attempt is made to house gay

continued on page 13

MSL launches labor project

MADISON—The organization pushing for legal recognition of alternative families here now is working to secure organized labor's support for negotiating new benefits for non-married workers and their "significant others."

The Madison Institute for Social Legislation, a lesbian/gay social change group that formed last year, said in April that its labor project "addresses situations of economic deprivation suffered by those who are committed to others without legal spouse status." MSL also hopes to "address the matter of human dignity in the workplace," spokesperson Barbara Lightner said.

Leading MSL's labor efforts are Susan Green, a former Gay Rights National Lobby staffer now living in Madison, and Bill Lyne, a tenant organizer with Community Fair Share. At GRNL, Green led a successful drive to get the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees to endorse civil rights protections for lesbians and gays.

One of the things she learned from working with AFSCME, Green said, was that for workers, "In many ways, getting stuff into their contracts was just as important as getting laws passed."

Lyne echoed that theme in a presentation to the Governor's Council on Lesbian and Gay Issues in April, saying "it isn't enough to just have a statute or ordinance" granting "family" benefits to non-traditional households.

Lyne asked the Governor's Council to help distribute a survey which would document different types of alternative families. An organizer with the Milwaukee local of the clerical workers union 9 to 5 suggested the survey, according to MSL press material. That union will also help distribute the survey.

Other unions have also shown support for the idea of bargaining for alternative family benefits. Kathy Christensen, a labor negotiator and candidate for State Senate with the Labor and Farm Party, last year won a loosening of strictures on funeral leave for single people in the local health care workers union 1199 W



Bill Lyne



Susan Green

(otherwise known as United Professionals for Quality Health Care).

The Labor and Farm Party has begun drafting its own platform on alternative families, and has asked for help from the lesbian/gay community. (See Letters to the Editor, page 4.)

Some of organized labor has not been so supportive, however. Some of the unions which bargain with the State refused to go along with a

proposal that gay rights protections be included in all contract language, according to Governor's Council Co-Chair Dick Wagner.

The State, for its part, did not press the issue in recent contract negotiations, Wagner said. He said the Governor's Council planned to meet with State Secretary of Employment Relations Howard Fuller to ask him to push unions on gay rights in future negotiations. ●

Suspect held in March stabbing

MADISON—A Milwaukee man is being held in Dane County Jail on \$20,000 cash bail and faces arraignment May 18 on charges stemming from the March stabbing of a gay man here.

Thomas Kimpel, 30, stands accused of attempted first-degree murder and armed robbery. Police say it is the man who stabbed Earl Greely more than 20 times after the two met at a gay bar and went to Greely's apartment.

Kimpel reportedly told police he "lost it" during a fight with Greely but did not remember stabbing anyone.

Greely suffered partially collapsed lungs in the attack, along with stab

wounds to his face, arms, hands and chest. He and Kimpel had "foiled around" together at Rod's bar, Greely said, and he thought Kimpel wanted to go to bed with him.

But after they reached Greely's apartment, Kimpel without provocation began stabbing him with a long knife, Greely said. Kimpel allegedly also robbed Greely of more than \$100.

Kimpel, whom Greely identified from a police photograph, is a convicted felon and was on parole at the time of the attack. Police said an anonymous tip to their Crime Stop program led to his arrest.

Kimpel will also face charges of

violating conditions of his parole. A jail official said he was on "parole hold" and would not be released even if he met his \$20,000 bail figure.

Kimpel has 1972 convictions for forgery and car theft in Milwaukee, as well as 1974 convictions in Racine County for prison escape and being a party to a robbery. He was paroled in January 1982.

Dane County Assistant District Attorney John Burr told **OUT!** he saw "no evidence" that Greely had been singled out for attack because he was gay. Greely, however, said in March that he got the attack because he was motivated by homophobia, and he said he thought his attacker had only pretended to be gay. ●

Speaking OUT!

Editorial
Letters to the Editors

Intolerable

The *Milwaukee Journal's* refusal to place a simple help-wanted ad from a Madison lesbian/gay social service agency is intolerable, as is the paper's revelation that it refuses advertising from abortion clinics. (See page 3 for details.)

The *Journal's* coverage of lesbian/gay issues has never been good, and—as we noted in this space last month—it has even deteriorated of late. Nevertheless, we must confess to being surprised at the blatant bigotry of the paper's advertising policies.

Editorially, the *Journal* has professed support for gay rights and reproductive freedom. And like all media, it loves to defend free speech. Thus it is the height of irony for the paper to deny a voice to groups which put those beliefs into practice.

The old dictum that "freedom of the press belongs to those who own one" has never made more sense. Since the lesbian/gay community doesn't have much in the way of media power, we should prepare to fight back in other ways—including, if necessary, picketing and a boycott.



These cartoons first appeared in *Our Own*, a statewide lesbian/gay paper in Virginia.

Letters to the Editors

Offer of support

Editor's note: OUT! received a copy of the following letter, which was sent to assault victim Earl Greely last month.

Dear Earl:

As a fellow gay I want to offer what emotional support I can to assist you through your ordeal of assault and robbery. We've probably never met—but after reading in the newspaper about what happened to you, I felt compelled to write.

Even in a liberal state like Wisconsin, where sexual orientation has legal protection, we are yet vulnerable to fag-bashing. People continue to take advantage of our lifestyles and exploit us in any way they can. Not only physical abuse happens to us, but only those who hold their morals as the only way to be, also attempt to harm us with their judgments.

Since your name and address appeared in the daily papers, along with the fact that you met your assailant at Rod's, I presume you're hearing from

the moralists claiming this is your punishment for being gay. I hope to counteract some of this with heartfelt encouragement.

Your sexual orientation is NOT the cause of this assault. If you were a heterosexual woman you would be just as vulnerable. The cause of the assault is our fucked-up society that nurtures men to equate sexuality with power/dominance and violence. Too many men use promises of sexual pleasure to gain dominance over others—often with violent results, as you've experienced.

I sincerely hope this negative experience doesn't scare you away from seeking other men as lovers. Regardless of what I say about men being fucked-up by society, there remain many men who have rejected this propaganda to become truly loving human beings. I'm not putting in a pitch for me by any means. I just want to assure you that not all men are out to cause pain.

Several years ago I had a friend/lover who confessed that he'd spent five years in prison in Minnesota for fag-bashing. I was appalled to hear the details. After many hours and days of discussion I began to realize that this was another man violently rejecting his gayness and following what was and still is a "normal" reaction to faggots. It's pitiful that it had to run this course. It's proof that it's society that's at fault, not those of us who do what we must—not by a matter of choice but as a matter of leading a satisfying life.

Frequently I get upset when hearing that being gay is a matter of choice. Being called a queer is no fun, and growing up different is dismal at best. Who would choose this? Most gays do all they can to deny being so at first. I was married for six years—a constant denial. Finally I came to a point of accepting my karma. The only choice I had in the matter was to go on denying or to begin accepting. I graciously accept my karma and am now joyfully gay. We are meant to be for a purpose—whatever it may be. We have served a purpose through history as we will continue to.

So with this, my brother, I close. Hang in there and continue along your path. I'm wishing you strength and a quick recovery. If your assailant is caught and brought to trial, PLEASE prosecute and be strong through whatever moralistic attacks may be brought upon your character. Let our community know that this type of assault will not be tolerated. Assailants must be prosecuted.

Always with peace,
Duane Gimbel
Madison

Party asks input on alternative families

The following correspondence was addressed as an open letter to *OUT!* readers. The writer is a candidate for State Senate.

Editors:

The Labor and Farm Party is in the process of refining its platform as it relates to human services.

We would like to solicit your suggestions and comments on a topic we would like to address: the question of the delivery of health care and social services to alternate family units.

We believe that the human services delivery system is skewed toward traditional nuclear units. This rigidity on the part of government and industry (in compliance with fundamentalist religions) insures that large numbers of people who are involved in other living managements are denied benefits.

It is really a "heads I win, tails you lose" system. Persons in a non-sanctioned relationship are denied the types of family coverage available under most health care and retirement benefit programs because they are not deemed by the law to be in economic relationship to each other. However, the same relationship leads officials to the opposite conclusion if one of the persons involved falls upon difficult times and finds it necessary to apply for welfare benefits. Suddenly, in this latter situation, a non-sanctioned relationship is deemed to have an interdependent economic aspect.

Clearly such results are legally inconsistent and morally wrong.

It would be helpful to our platform deliberations if your readers could provide us with examples of such discrimination and with suggestions about remedies that might be most productive.

Kathy Christensen

Chair, Second District of Labor and Farm Party
Madison

No more

Editors:

Do not send us any more of your newsletters—we do not need this type of paper in our store.

Peoples Food Co-op
Rice Lake

OUT! Vol. 2, No. 7 May 1984
P.O. Box 148, Madison, WI 53701
(608) 256-7664, 256-7952

OUT! is a non-profit corporation based in Madison, WI, established for the lesbian and gay communities of Wisconsin and their friends. **OUT!**'s primary focus is to publish a monthly, reader-sponsored newspaper that is distributed free of charge.

OUT! is committed to providing a forum for the diversity of ideas and experiences emanating from and relevant to all parts of Wisconsin's lesbian and gay communities.

OUT! is financed solely by advertising, contributions and subscriptions. Display ad rates are \$3 column-inch for for-profit businesses and \$6 column-inch for non-profit organizations with an annual budget less than \$25,000. Classifieds are \$1c/line, 40 characters per line. Payment is due by the 10th of the month following printing. **OUT!** does not accept responsibility for advertising claims; we reserve the right to refuse explosive advertising. Subscription rates are \$15/year (\$10 low-income).

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OUT! encourages letters to the editors; they should be typed and double-spaced. Letters must be signed and include an address or phone number. We cannot print unsigned letters but names will be withheld by request. Letters and articles with a byline do not necessarily represent the views of the **OUT!** staff.

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OUT!'s next staff meetings are May 3, 7:30 p.m. and May 17, 4:30 p.m. at the ever-so-cramped, fashionable near-east side **OUT!** office. Call (608) 256-7664 for details.

GRNL speaker: Diversity a mixed bag

By Sue Burke

MILWAUKEE—There is no "gay lifestyle," Gay Rights National Lobby staffer Jerry Weller told a UWM audience in April, and that fact is both a strength and a weakness.

Weller spoke as part of a gay awareness weekend sponsored by the UWM Gay Community and the Cream City Association Foundation. Having no single lifestyle is a strength, he said, citing a recent *Los Angeles Times* poll which showed that while most people oppose what they perceive as the "gay lifestyle," they also oppose discrimination. "We know how diverse we are," Weller said. "We live the same lifestyle they do. We've got to get that message out."

But diversity also weakens efforts of lesbian and gay people to build a community, Weller said. As former co-chair and later acting director of GRNL, he has seen first-hand some "destructive" diversity. GRNL's executive director, Stephen Deande,

recently resigned under fire from that gay leaders.

Vickey Monrann, formerly a special assistant to Eleanor Smeal when Smeal was president of the National Organization for Women, became GRNL's new executive director May 1.

GRNL has successfully pushed more than 60 members of Congress to become co-sponsors of a national gay and lesbian civil rights bill, although Weller stressed that it will take many years to get it passed. In Wisconsin, Reps. Robert Kastenmeier (D-Madison) and Jim Moody (D-Milwaukee) have already signed on as co-sponsors and Les Aspin, who represents Racine and Kenosha, is being lobbied now.

A bill to outlaw discrimination against gays and lesbians in immigration matters will probably pass Congress sooner, Weller said. Rep. Ron Dellums (D-California) may soon introduce a bill banning discrimination in the military. Walter Mondale has agreed to support the bill, although Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colorado)

has not.

Weller praised Rev. Jesse Jackson for "always being right there" in support of gay rights, and for getting other blacks to support the issue. The political clout of lesbians and gays also convinced other presidential candidates like Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-South Carolina) to become co-sponsors of the gay civil rights bill, he said.

On the local level, Weller urged people to get involved in campaigns of pro-gay family court judges so that

lesbians and gays could be awarded custody of children in divorce proceedings. "We say we destroy the family, but we have families, too, and they're destroying our families by taking our children from us."

The heralded 1982 film *Pink Triangles* preceded Weller's speech. It compared the politics of Nazi Germany with current right-wing politics. Also featured during UWM's gay awareness weekend was a performance by the Robin Flower Band. ●

Fund steps up lesbian/gay outreach

MADISON—The Wisconsin Community Fund announced in April that it will step up its efforts to provide funding for lesbian and gay organizations.

WCF plans to increase "outreach efforts" — to inform potential donors of the Fund's Donor Advised Option," whereby donors can earmark tax-deductible contributions specifically for lesbian/gay community work—with the assurance of complete anonymity.

A foundation that supports progressive social change efforts around Wisconsin, WCF has since its 1981 inception shown commitment to lesbian/gay issues. A seat on the organization's funding board—which makes all grant awards—is specifically reserved for a lesbian or gay activist. And the group has put its money where its mouth is, having in the past awarded money to two lesbian/gay groups.

A WCF representative attended a recent meeting of funders in Chicago to discuss ways of counteracting the lack of funding for lesbian/gay work. It was reported at the meeting that nationwide, only about one percent of all foundation money goes to

lesbian/gay projects, although lesbians and gay men are estimated to comprise 10 percent of the nation's population.

The meeting was hosted by the Chicago Resource Center, the nation's largest funder of lesbian/gay organizations. About one-fourth of the CRC's \$1.1 million annual funding budget goes to such groups.

At the meeting, WCF and other funders resolved to set up a Midwest regional technical assistance program aimed at helping groups overcome the "mystique of grantwriting." The fund also said it hoped to spur Wisconsin's Governor's Council on Lesbian and Gay Issues to help open up funding sources to the community. ●

You can contact the Wisconsin Community Fund at 1444 E. Washington Ave., Suite 203C, Madison 53703; 608-251-6834.

Other state groups which provide funding to lesbian/gay organizations are the Cream City Association Foundation (P.O. Box 204, Milwaukee 53201; 608-276-2204) and the New Harvest Foundation (c/o 739 Jenifer St., Madison 53703).

Local journal settles in name dispute

By Barbara Palecek

MADISON—The feminist men's journal *M*, in April won a \$20,000 out-of-court settlement from Fairchild Publications, a New York corporation which last fall began a high-fashion magazine called *M* (without the period).

M, a nationwide, cooperatively-run chronicle of the emerging feminist men's movement, charged in a suit filed earlier this year that the new magazine had "changed the value" of its trademark title.

Michael Bierbaum, an editor of *M*, said the suit was filed because of reader confusion over the similar names of the magazines. He cited letters of disappointment from subscribers who thought the magazine had changed its style.

The new *M*, a slick, colorful production, is subtitled "The Civilized Man"; the original *M*, which was founded in 1979, has a black-and-white format and the subtitle "gentle men for gender justice."

The settlement in effect sold the use of the name *M*, to Fairchild Publications. "If we were on sound financial footing, we would make them give up their name [by following the suit in court]... but we're not absolutely stable yet," Bierbaum said. The feminist men's magazine has about 1,100 subscribers and relies almost entirely on volunteer labor.

Bierbaum said he was happy with the settlement, which he says will be used to pay contributing writers and artists, and improve the magazine's physical image.

Plans are under way for a contest to determine a new name for the Madison-based journal. ●

New student group pushes for recognition

EAU CLAIRE—An organization of lesbian and gay students on the UW campus here is rapidly attracting members.

Since beginning weekly meetings in March, the Gay/Lesbian Organization has tripled in size to some 30 members, according to Maggie O'Rourke. A first-year student from Wausau, O'Rourke has headed up a GLO drive to get the UWEC library to subscribe to lesbian/gay periodicals.

Some group members plan to present panel discussions to university classes, O'Rourke said, while others come to meetings just for the chance to socialize.

The group is loosely organized at present and has no officers, though O'Rourke said the GLO had drawn up a constitution and would apply for status as an official student organization.

She predicted that the constitution would win official approval, saying that gay as well as non-gay students

and faculty had expressed support for the group. O'Rourke cautioned, however, that "there's kind of a large fundamentalist following here" which might raise objections.

Official status would give the GLO access to campus facilities, such as a meeting place and a telephone. "We really feel that we need a room," O'Rourke said.

Currently, publicity for the group is done almost exclusively by word of mouth, and meeting times and places change from week to week.

The UWEC campus had an active student group some years ago, but it folded. Formation of the GLO means that virtually all UW campuses now have some lesbian/gay student organization.

The GLO is open to both students and non-students, though non-students don't have the right to vote. You can contact the organization through Maggie O'Rourke at 156 Sutherland, Eau Claire 54701; (715) 836-3646. ●

NOW conference will toast Prior

MILWAUKEE—D'Ann Prior, national chair of the National Organization for Women's Lesbian Rights Committee, has been elected Wisconsin NOW's Feminist of the Year. She will be honored at NOW's 1984 state conference May 19 in Brookfield.

Prior is also co-chair of Wisconsin NOW's Elections Task Force. She has previously served as Wisconsin NOW's state coordinator, Milwaukee NOW's coordinator, and chair of Wisconsin NOW's Lesbian Rights Task Force. She was a founder of the Wisconsin Women's Network.

She told OUT she is being honored for "longevity" in NOW. "What I've done hasn't been extraordinarily unusual for a NOW member. I've just been an activist, like us all."

She said activism on lesbian issues has neither hurt nor helped her in the organization.

In a speech at the state conference, Prior said she will talk about the importance of women being involved in electoral work this year. "No one can take the time to be burned out."

Northeastern gays organizing

GREEN BAY—A new organization which aims to serve gays around northeastern Wisconsin is taking shape here.

"We're trying to reach out to people from Oshkosh to Wausau, and even to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan," says one of the organizers of Concern, a multi-purpose group that began forming in late 1983.

Stressing careful planning, Concern organizers currently are dis-



D'Ann Prior

Prior said. "There is never a good year, but this especially isn't it."

NOW's annual state conference, slated for May 18 through 20, carries the theme, "Changing the Face of Politics—Campaign '84." It will feature workshops, speakers and elections of state officers. For information on attending, contact Madison NOW c/o Karen Godshall, 4921 Fladd Avenue, Madison 53711. ●

tributing a survey which they hope will help them determine the area gay community's most deeply felt needs. Some possible projects for the group include education on legal issues and formation of a free clinic for treatment of sexually transmittable diseases.

Concern also plans to host a number of recreational activities this summer.

You can contact Concern at P.O. Box 1087, Green Bay 54305. ●

Gay teens ask for an open door

By Jay C. Jones

High school can be a pretty scary place. The straight-A student who actually likes science and carries three ballpoint pens in his shirt pocket is labeled a "nerd." The kid who's going through puberty later than everyone else is the "retard," always the last to be chosen when teams are picked in gym class.

But what about the teenager who's gay, and who realizes it? Or, worse yet, who's gay—and everyone knows it? It happens, and it can make high school so traumatic, especially when there's nowhere to turn for help.

When he was 15 and a high school freshman, J.R. was a solid athlete. But instead of being popular, J.R.'s teammates called him "the queen bee of the track team." By his own description, J.R. is rather effeminate. During his two years at Madison's West High School, he usually hung around with girls instead of boys.

J.R., now 18 and employed in Madison, says that ever since he was in junior high, most of his peers had assumed he was gay. He has never tried to persuade them otherwise. "I can't think back that far!" is J.R.'s response when asked when he first realized he was homosexual.

Like J.R., Paul has known of his sexual preference most of his life. Now 17, Paul is a senior at West High. But unlike J.R., he says no one at school suspects he is gay; in fact, he went through a period when he deliberately tried to prove he was straight, both to himself and to his friends.

Advocate looks hard at Wisconsin

Despite its status as a "milestone" in protective lesbian/gay rights legislation, how much do state laws really do for lesbians and gay men? How protected are we, as compared to people in other areas of the country?

On Wednesday, May 16, Tim Sweeney of New York City's Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund will address these questions in a presentation scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Memorial Union on the UW-Madison campus.

His Madison visit is designed to broaden Lambda's visibility unlike the National Gay Task Force and other groups, Lambda doesn't by nature build a field network, and currently needs some financial help.

Sweeney's May 16 agenda includes discussions of domestic partnerships (known as alternative families in Wisconsin) special problems facing



Recalling his early adolescence, Paul says his wet dreams and fantasies while masturbating were always about men, sometimes a favorite male teacher. But he didn't confront his gayness until he was 15, when he came face-to-face with a middle-aged gay man.

Paul was hitchhiking on a hot afternoon during the summer of 1981; he was wearing only a pair of shorts when a man offered him a ride. Paul says he got visibly excited as the

lesbians and gay men in child custody battles; AIDS-related discrimination, and other issues of interest.

The executive director of the New York organization, Sweeney worked with community groups in Montana, California, and Massachusetts before moving to New York. He has a "good basic grass-roots orientation—and that's important," says Susan Green, a Madison friend of Sweeney's and former Gay Rights National Lobby staffer.

Sweeney stresses that he is not an attorney; he plans to explore issues in his Madison presentation in a manner interesting and comprehensible for people with little or no legal background.

His appearance is sponsored by The United; for more information, contact Susan Green at 244-6034. ●

Gay church in the North Country

DULUTH, MINNESOTA—A "worship service affirming lesbians and gay men" will be held at 1802 E. First St. here on Sunday, May 13 at 7 p.m. The service will be sponsored by the nationally known, gay-oriented Metropolitan Community Church, which currently is moving to establish a congregation in the Duluth/Superior, Wis., area.

"We're really quite happy and pleased" about the new church, said a representative of Gays and Lesbians

of Duluth/Superior. The representative said GLDS was also sponsoring its own Bible study each Tuesday evening at 1813 N. Third St. in Superior. Furthermore, he said, GLDS is working to set up a lesbian/gay telephone hotline. A fundraiser for that project is set for Friday, May 11 at the Main Club in Superior, at the above Third St. address.

For more information about the new Metropolitan Community Church, call Carol at 715-394-9467. ●

Gay bar tear-gassed

MILWAUKEE—An unidentified man threw a tear gas canister into a gay bar here in the early morning hours of April 20.

Randy Frank, a waiter at the Factory II, said he followed the man out into the street and got the license

number of his van. Frank said he reported the number to police and wire out a complaint.

Police at press time said they had no memory of such an incident being reported. ●

man ran his hand up a bare leg; the 15-year-old's first sexual encounter followed.

A huge guilt trip accompanied the experience. Although Paul had enjoyed the gay sex, he wasn't ready to accept his enjoyment as all right. The following month, he had sex with three women. "I got prone to myself I wasn't gay," he began wearing the most masculine clothes he could find, and hanging around with "a butch crowd" to show the world he was straight.

Not until March of 1983—nearly two years after his first sexual encounter with a man—did Paul stop the self-denial. After extensive therapy he began to accept himself as gay, and to come out.

Both Paul and J.R. are now out to their families. Paul says his parents try to ignore the truth. "They try to forget, but they think about it a lot," he explains.

When J.R. came out, he was disowned by his real parents. That was a couple of years ago, and he has since lost touch with them; the last he knew, his father was in Minnesota, his mother in Texas. He now lives with a foster family on Madison's West side.

Both foster parents are supportive, so much so that J.R. has taken his mom to three gay bars in town. "She loves all of them," he says with pride.

Both young men describe their adolescent years and their struggles for sexual identity as traumatic. They agree that the pain might have been eased if Madison had had a gay youth center where they could have turned for advice, and also support from other young gays.

Recalling the years they both attended West High, Paul says, "A lot of people used to call him [J.R.] 'faggot,' and wouldn't hang around with him." Paul accepted his own gayness, but never approached J.R. for friendship; he was fearful that the name-calling might be wrong. "It wasn't until only recently when both men were in the same bar at the same time that each finally realized the other was gay!"

For a good time, call . . .

MADISON—Under pressure from lesbian/gay activists, the UW Hospital and Clinics will revise an audio tape on homosexuality. The tape, part of a series ironically titled "Straight Talk," is targeted at teens and pre-teens.

"There was a lot offensive about it," according to Joyce Mahan of The United, a local gay social service agency which pressured for revision of the tape. She said the primary concern was the tape's long discussion of possibly "causes" of homosexuality.

"If one knows the causes, then no one knows the causes and let's leave it at that," said Mahan. Among the several circumstances the tape says can lead to homosexuality are overdependence upon members of the same sex, lack of proper parental identification, and confusion of sex roles.

"The theories on causation can place tremendous guilt and feelings of being sick [on a young listener]," Mahan charged. A "negative, negative self image" could result for young gays and lesbians who don't have access to other information.

An additional problem, Mahan said, was that straight and gay were defined strictly in terms of sexual relationships. Also, the tape's terminology was outdated and often offensive, she said, citing this line: "Female homosexuals are also called lesbians, while male homosexuals are usually referred to as homosexuals." ●

Paul thinks a gay youth center would help eliminate guessing games such as he and J.R. played. "There's really no place you can talk," he says with dismay. That, he believes, only perpetuates the thought that "I must be the only gay kid in school."

J.R. agrees that there is a crying need for a gay youth center. He says it could be modeled after video arcades and other youth hangouts, "like the ice cream shop on Regent," just down the street from West High.

But while he likes the idea, Paul isn't sure Madison is ready for a gay youth center. A native of the city, he says Madison is "liberal on the surface," but adds, "There's still a lot of underlying animosity toward gays." He feels "the straight community has to make just a little more effort" to understand and accept the gays among them.

When and if that happens, he feels a gay youth center could get the community support it would need. As he puts it, "If they give us a crack, we could probably open the door a lot." ●

The two young men interviewed for this story are not identified by their real names.

Women in Print

From June 15-17 (Friday through Sunday), the UW-campus will be the site of the Midwest Women-in-Print Conference. The gathering is scheduled to include workshops on everything from new print technology to biases and prejudices within the women's movement. In addition, there will be displays presented by regional publishers, bookstores, printers, periodicals, and libraries supporting the work of women in print. The conference includes a Saturday night dance to fill participants' needs for frivolity.

Housing, food and perhaps child care will be provided; registration forms are available at Madison's Room of One's Own bookstore, and must be turned in on or before June 1.

See you there! ●

The tape does serve a valuable function, Mahan maintained. The tape urges acceptance of gays, she noted, and—aiming to allay adolescent fears—points out that single homosexual experience does not necessarily mean that a person is gay or lesbian.

A staff change at UW Hospitals will delay revision of the tape for at least two months. The current administration has agreed to submit a revised script to The United for approval within one month.

The original tape was prepared by the Mental Health Association in Waukesha and Milwaukee Counties. In Milwaukee, it can be heard as part of the DIAL HARMONY series (414-547-3826). In Madison, the tape can be heard by calling UW Hospitals at 608-263-1100 and requesting tape 4409. ●



BREATH MAI

'The Great Purge of '62'

By Ron McCrea

The year 1962 was not the UW-Madison's most liberated moment. The doctrine of *in loco parentis* was firmly in place. Women were required to be in their dorms by 10:30 on weeknights. Students had to stay in campus housing until they were 21.

In the midst of this generally repressive setting a purge of campus gays was conducted by the Department of Protection and Security and by the dean of men. Between October 1962 and February 1963 the gay community was terrorized by a full-scale inquisition.

What follows are a survivor's notes. The gay man who is the subject of this interview, which was conducted in 1977, is presently on the UW academic staff. His request for anonymity is discussed in the interview. His recollections have been edited for continuity.

OUT: What are your memories of how this purge took place?

At the time of what has come to be called the Great Purge of '62 I was a sophomore. I was living at the time with one straight man and one gay man. I began receiving a phone call or two a week from the Department of Protection and Security. For some reason, I got it into my head that they were looking for a stolen bicycle or that I had a parking ticket. Since I had no reason to correspond with the Department of Protection and Security that I could think of, I just said to hell with them.

One evening I received a call from a gay graduate student friend of mine who happened to be in the French department; he immediately began speaking to me in French. This was unusual since I rarely spoke French to American friends, except at the French House.

George told me he had heard of phone calls from the Department of Protection and Security to other members of the gay community, and that was why he was speaking French. He was afraid that either his phone or mine might be tapped. He told me that several people had been called and asked to come and see a Detective [Peter] Rordam. I will never forget his name as long as I live.

What they were being told was that information had come to P&S from a "source" indicating that they were "practicing homosexuals." The people who were called represented a broader spectrum than just university students. There were members of the community and state employees—university employees at least, if not faculty and staff.

George told me it had started in the following manner: There was a young student in the university who had gotten involved with an older man through a sexual encounter, or at least a meeting of sorts in a public place. This student apparently was not out, or was on the fence in some sort of psychological way, and was living at home. He decided after several meetings with the older person that he wanted to go back into the closet, and he tried to get this man to stop seeing him.

The man apparently didn't want to do that, so the younger man decided to take a complaint either to the city police or to P&S. I don't recall which. As you know, they cooperate rather closely still and did even more so in certain respects at that time.

Well, the first thing that P&S did was interview this particular student; they told him they had known there was a problem of homosexual "misconduct" on the campus. They asked him for names and other pertinent information about all the gay men that he knew. P&S said this would help them protect him and would not affect his record in school.

P&S now had a starter list. They began calling in students, telling them, "We have knowledge that you are practicing homosexual on campus and that you are engaging in conduct which is simply not tolerable. We want you to tell us whether you know any of the people on this list, and if so, if you had homosexual relations with any of them. And if you will then give us further information—such as other people you know in the community who are gay—nothing will happen to you in terms of your student status." They eventually compiled a list of at least 200 names.

One of the people who ultimately complied was my gay roommate Tom. He had been harassed by telephone calls and letters and finally went in. (He was a nervous type.) The P&S people were particularly hard on him, possibly because he refused to furnish information or possibly because they could see he was unstable.

The pressure got to him, and I came home late one night and found a squad car outside my apartment. I immediately assumed, of course, that they were there to arrest me, to question me, to do something or another about me. It was only when I entered the apartment that I discovered that Tom had attempted suicide, tried to slash his wrists.

I agreed with the police that I would take care of him. I took Tom down to University Hospitals and saw that he got proper attention. He was in the hospital for a while and, believe, on the psych ward. He subsequently dropped out of school and I lost touch with him.

There's one graduate student who's probably worth some comment. I have to say that I know this only second-hand, but if I remember the story correctly this graduate student was not dealt with *primarily* because he was a homosexual. He was working on his dissertation in German. I have the feeling that he was not progressing as well as he might have.

He was told that he needn't bother to complete his dissertation because there was no way his departments was going to grant him a degree. And so he went off and got a job.

I also have a good personal friend, an employee of University Hospitals, who was told by the director of nursing to resign or be fired. He resigned.

My own case started out typically, except that I may have had an advantage. Most of the people who were called in early in the purge didn't know what they were going in for. Well, I knew after I received the phone calls and they kept sending me notes.

I wouldn't even answer the phone when I was at home. Also, I had support from some straight men and women in the Law School who advised me to ignore P&S until I simply could not ignore them any longer.

I was working full-time then at University Hospitals. I was in surgery one afternoon when the chief nursing supervisor came into the operating room and called me out. By her side was Detective Rordam. He presented his credentials and said, "I need to have a talk with you." I was shaking in my surgical boots, literally, but I tried to retain some composure. The nursing supervisor left and we sat down.

"Do you know why I'm here?" Rordam asked. I said, lying through my teeth, "No, I don't think I've ever met you. What do you want?"

"You have deliberately refused to cooperate with us," he said. "You have not answered our phone messages. You have ignored the mail that we sent you."

"Well, I really can't say that I've received any phone messages or letters." I said, thinking how clever I was at the time to make up this wonderful story about how I didn't know anything—innocence personified.

Rordam didn't exactly call me a liar, but he presented me with the direct facts and said, "You will be in my office tomorrow, otherwise this matter will be taken directly to the university officials."

By that time I was scared and I decided that maybe I had better go in and bluff my way through as best I could. It was that night that I met my friends from the Law School, the same night that I came home and found my roommate having slashed his wrists. I was up until four or five in the morning with him in the emergency room, and I decided that there was no way I was going to make my noon appointment with this schmuck Rordam. He'd caused enough grief and he could just stick it. So I went through another two or three weeks where I didn't hear anything from him.

Then I was called by the dean of men. That was a more serious matter. Knowing what I knew at the time, I felt there was no way I could not keep my appointment with Dean [Theodore] Zillman.



Sailors stroll along Union Terrace.

Courtesy: UW-Madison Public Information Dept.



... and young men register for classes at the Armory, circa 1948.

And you had to lie your way out of it.

Oh, yes, I did. There are still a few people today I would lie to. Not many, though.

Well, Zillman asked me point blank first of all whether I was homosexual, and I said, "Certainly not"—which, of course, today I wouldn't do, I hope. And he said, "Well, I have this four-page typewritten report here that I would like you to read." The report was about me and said that I was a homosexual, and that I had slept with the following individuals who had said so to the Department of Protection and Security.

Almost everything in the report was inaccurate. He had me living at a place where I wasn't living and rooming somewhere where I had no roommate; and although I could vaguely recognize some of the names, they could hardly be considered friends or bed partners of mine.

I said, "First of all I'm not a homosexual, in spite of what this says. And secondly, the following facts (I cited three or four of the most obvious errors) are not correct."

I left him with the impression that the report was inaccurate in every respect. The result was a very short letter which said the committee had reviewed my case and had decided, in view of my statements refuting the allegations, to drop the matter.

I guess I got off easy in comparison with people who tried to commit suicide and who were in fact suspended from their jobs or from the university. But I did lose a scholarship as best I can tell. I was told before I saw Dean Zillman that I had been given a tuition remission for a junior year abroad the following year—a hefty amount since I was an out-of-state student.

But after Dean Zillman interviewed me, I received a letter telling me I was not one of the recipients. I had already told my parents I'd gotten it and it was very embarrassing to have to tell them I had not, because the first thing they wanted to know was why not. I told them it had to do with the fact I had seen a psychiatrist the summer after my freshman year, which was true. That seemed to satisfy my parents. I'm convinced to this day that I lost that scholarship as the result of that purge.

MADISON'S VENEER

1948: Red-baiting and gay-hating

By Joe Linzmeier



Courtesy: U.W. Madison Public Information Office

The tail end of the story is that the then-chairman of the Psychiatry Department called President [Fred] Harrington and said that the number of people they had been seeing in the clinic because of this purge had increased significantly and that it was a danger to the mental health of students to pursue them in this manner.

It was almost Hitlerian—Nazi tactics without the physical violence . . .

And I don't think anything would come of someone admitting that he'd engaged in sodomy behind closed doors. They'd say, "Oh yeah? So what?" On the other hand, if we had an upsurge of tearoom trade—of course it's never stopped, I doubt if it ever will—it would be a matter of the city enforcing the regulations.

But this purge wasn't so much directed against people who had drawn complaints because of public sex.

I don't think so. It was against people who became known through McCarthyistic tactics, snooping around and hearsay. I don't think the purge got started because of a mass problem of sex in public places. There were incidents of that, but there was a snowball effect in the way it was handled.

Do you think the fact that there is an organized gay movement in Madison now is a deterrent to such a purge?

Yes, I definitely do. I think now P&S would have a hell of a problem if they actually infringed on the rights of people or denied assistance to anyone who was charged with doing something against the law. The existence of organized gay groups in Madison must have a bearing on that.

You don't want to be named in this interview. Why is that?

I can answer that pretty honestly. If I knew, for example, that [current Dean of Students] Paul Ginsberg was the only person who was going to see this, it wouldn't bother me in the slightest; in fact, it would make me feel sort of proud to have contributed something. (As you know, I'm not a very political person.)

There are some members of the administration who probably know that I'm homosexual, but it would be very hard for me to admit that. It would be hard to be identified. But it's not a sexual preference issue. The real reason is that things are unstable enough in my profession that I wouldn't want to face even the remotest possibility that this could be used against me. I know that deep down in the hearts of the people I work with there's a hell of a lot of homophobia. ●

This interview first appeared in the Feb. 1977 issue of Madison's now-defunct Renaissance Newsletter. It is reprinted here in condensed form by permission of the author.

In June 1948, the Milwaukee Brewers were in second place—in a minor league called the American Association. The Braves were based in Boston. Dewey beat Taft of Ohio and Stassen of Minnesota for the Republican presidential nomination.

Red-baiting was already apparent. A June 1948 headline detailed the hiring of Ring Lardner, scriptwriter, by a Hollywood studio. What made the incident newsworthy (since Lardner had written movie scripts before) was that he was the first blacklisted member of the Hollywood community to get a job.

The fame and significance of the Kinsey Report was spreading.

And gay men made the front page of the *Wisconsin State Journal* and *The Capital Times*.

The *Journal* broke the story on Wednesday, June 9, with a bold front-page headline: "RAID REVEALS OBSCENE READING: TWO MEN ARRESTED ON MORALS COUNTS." The lead paragraph read: "Two Madison men were arrested Tuesday night on morals charges after police raided their home and discovered a huge supply of obscene literature and other evidence indicating unnatural sexual activities."

The *State Journal* listed the men's names and the address of the house they shared, and stated that University of Wisconsin police were investigating four other men. The *Journal* quoted Assistant District Attorney Glenn Henry as saying the two men were part of a "ring."

"Their lavishly furnished small home . . . is believed by police to have been used as a 'den for lewd activities by men,'" a Detective Capt. Milsted told the *State Journal*. "One room of the home where police found much of the sexual evidence was lavishly decorated in an Oriental motif and contained expensive-appearing incense burners and perfume atomizers."

Though the story had no byline, the journalist does tell us that Milsted, University Police Officer Joe Hammersley, and detectives William J. Taylor, John Harrington, and Ralph Horbeck found . . . a library of obscene books and literature, innumerable pictures and drawings, a large box of letters written between the two men, and other evidence.

There are a few footnotes I would like to add. I guess what strikes me most is that for the younger people there seemed to be just no place to turn in 1962. You couldn't talk to your parents because you were in the closet as far as they were concerned, and you could only talk to other gay people.

We were even afraid of each other for a while. There was a feeling of paranoia. I knew a lot of people who were just afraid to go to the bar anymore. At the time the bar was the 602 Club. *Did you try to become more straight-appearing?*

Yes, I remember going through a phase at that time, as gay boys often did, where I decided that I'd wanted to be a blond all my life. So I went through the home treatment and bleached my hair, which turned out more orange than blond.

But the minute I got involved in [the inquisition], the first thing I did was run to the barber and get as much cut off as possible. I had no desire to get it cut off—I wanted to make it blond in the worst way. But I wanted my hair to be short and neat, and I didn't want to look like a fairy.

Was there any talk of organized resistance to the purge?

Yes, there was, but not by gay people, interestingly enough. A number of [straight] law students complained that the university was infringing on our right. But gay people were just hiding like crazy.

You were here then and you're here now. Have things changed so much that this couldn't happen again?

I was thinking about it the other day. I don't think a purge would happen again. If I understand the law, no one can be expelled from school, so there are certain things that wouldn't happen again.

What provoked police to search a home for love letters? The investigation began when Officer Ham-

mersley and university police officers found two of the suspects in a car the previous weekend. They put the squeeze on a 19-year-old beauty school student; under pressure, the student surrendered a letter inviting him to a "party." On the basis of this evidence, Superior Judge Roy H. Proctor issued a search warrant.

Later *Capital Times* reporting was more restrained. A two-paragraph story on page 20 was headed: "2 PLEAD GUILTY TO SODOMY HERE." The article identified the suspects, *The Capital Times* also reported something missed by the *State Journal*: Interestingly, the case was to be heard before Judge Proctor. The next morning the *State Journal* ran a front page headline: "12 MORE FACE MORALS COUNTS." *The Capital Times* reported on that afternoon's front page that an unidentified third man had been arraigned, and that two others would face charges of disorderly conduct on Saturday.

The next day the *State Journal* put the unidentified man's denial on the front page, along with campus officer Hammersley's claim that the suspect "had been involved in licentious activities since March 1947, with five men."

In *The Capital Times'* front page story that afternoon, the paper named the new suspect, but provided no new information beyond that. On Saturday, June 12, newspaper reports of the case climaxed—and stopped. A *State Journal* headline read: "SEVEN MORE MEN FACE MORALS PROBE." The article pointed out that four of the seven accused men were university students, and that two were "members of Haresfoot, a university musical show club." Credits to the police and to the D.A.'s office for the men's arrests followed. A tedious list of names, addresses, occupations and places appeared for good measure.

Although the probe was expanding, after these stories the papers were silent. The cause for this new silence may lie in a paragraph at the bottom of page three of the *State Journal* article (and not reprinted in the *Capital Times*): A 12-year-old Madison boy was arrested June 11 for indecent exposure in the University of Wisconsin library.

The arrest of this youth was decidedly controversial: either the papers or the investigating officials decided that enough was enough. The only further coverage in the two dailies consisted of two letters to the editor printed in *The Capital Times*.

The first letter, dated June 14, was signed "A Doctor." It began, "Is it not a disgrace in a city that houses one of the proudest universities in the country that the police should be indulging in a witch hunt? The case against [two of the accused] for having filthy post cards and dirty stories in their possession has had no counterpart except in the excesses of the Inquisition and the purges of Nazism." The author next cited the Kinsey report, and pointed out that "Homosexuality is a disease in the way alcoholism is a disease . . . Cures [for homosexuals] are through therapy, not punishment! Disease is not a crime; to treat it as such is!"

Two days later, *The Capital Times* printed a second letter. In a scathing attack on the newspapers' role in the investigation, the author accused the newspapers of sensationalizing the situation, and concluded: "The newspapers seldom, if ever, print the names of people committed to mental hospitals. Those men picked up were also sick—any doctor will verify that. Why make pornographic journalism out of their lives?"

Why indeed? For many of us living in the relatively "safe" state of Wisconsin in the 1980s, the reminder of this "witch hunt" is rather chilling.

In a follow-up to this article, **OUT!** asked the current associate editor of *The Capital Times*, John Patrick Hunter, whether gay news is handled more sensitively today than this article on "morals charges" was handled in 1948. Hunter assured us that *The Capital Times* judges each story on its merits, and that lesbians and gay men are not "singled out" for sensational coverage. Hunter added that he feels that "lesbians and gay men are a responsible part of the community . . . [they] have proven their right" to exist here. ●

Gay men

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I would contend that gay men are ostracized by society primarily because we choose to love other men. This behavior directly contradicts the dog-eat-dog dictum of capitalism and militarism. This is why I don't see male bonding as an obstacle to the women's movement, as Vanderbosch obviously does.

Throughout her article, Vanderbosch creates a rather distorted picture of the issues central to the gay and feminist movements. She suggests that gay men's concerns do not extend beyond the arena of sexual freedom, i.e., "revolutionizing sexuality, or freeing lust from love, or exploring intergenerational intimacy." (I must confess to having been naively unaware that "exploring intergenerational intimacy" was an issue at all.)

Perhaps it was true 10 years ago that gay men's concerns focused primarily on sexual freedom, but I am confident that most gay men today would agree that job and housing discrimination, assault and harassment, health care, child custody, and chemical dependency are more germane issues.

The right to define our own sexuality is of fundamental importance to gay men, just as it is to everyone. Yet Vanderbosch carelessly depicts gay men as self-serving, lascivious, women-hating penis-worshippers. Furthermore, she implies that the overarching issues of sexism, militarism, racism and classism are "lesbian rights" issues not shared by gay men. I find this patently unfair and offensive.

In the end, the important goals of the gay and feminist movements are probably far less disparate than Vanderbosch would like us to believe; the effects of sexism, heterosexism and racism are essentially the same. Gay men don't need a self-righteous, condescending sermon on how to feel and how to identify with the suffering

of women. We know what fear of violence is, we know what disenfranchisement is, and we know the frustration of being considered less than completely human.

Gay men don't need to further identify with women in order to understand that rape, patriarchy and sexism must be stopped. We don't need to deny our masculinity or have to affiliate with males. We have the right to be happy with our bodies and our sexuality.

We don't need to challenge, confront and encounter ourselves. What we do need to challenge is a society that tolerates rape!

Instead of holier-than-thou scoldings, we need solid, specific ideas on how to act most effectively for change. The problems we face are enormous and their roots extend deep into law, economics, education, culture and individual men and women. I don't have solutions. But I am looking for some, and I am open to suggestions.

I think we need allies—lots of them. As Alexa Freeman said in her recent Madison speech, there is room for great diversity in our movement, and we need everyone's talents.

We all hope to create an egalitarian society, but God forbid that we should end up with a homogeneous one. As allies, we need only one common characteristic—genuine, mutual respect. With this common link, we can tolerate or overcome all

other distinctions between us.

In spite of my criticism of Vanderbosch's article, I do appreciate her honest, thought-provoking message, as well as Andrea Dworkin's article in the same issue on a similar topic. Both pieces bluntly communicated to me the need for men to see "women's issues" as everyone's issues and to take a more active role in renouncing all forms of sexism.

Perhaps I have misinterpreted or overinterpreted Vanderbosch's words; if so, I invite anyone to correct my mistake. I especially invite anyone to use this forum to suggest specific ways for myself and others to become more effective contributors to the feminist movement.

Council

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inmates together.

Sexual contact—including kissing, touching and holding hands—is strictly forbidden by state regulations. About 100 cases of sexual behavior were cited at Waupun in 1983, though some of these included heterosexual contact in the visiting rooms. Security appears to be very tight at Waupun, and Peterson doubted that much voluntary contact occurs between the men. "There's just no place to do it," he said.

Unless they are related, inmates cannot request to see one another. There is some social contact during recreational periods, as well as at work or in classes, however. There is no rule against inmates using the federal postal system to send letters to one another, though mail is received open and sent unsealed.

Governor's Council members Behar, Quindel and Dekeuster at the end of the visit expressed to Ellsworth a number of concerns. Behar said the Governor's Council would be willing to provide gay sensitivity training for prison staff. Council members also proposed hiring staff to oversee treatment of gay prisoners. The council also advocated gay support groups within the prison as well as access to cultural and political groups outside the prison.

Ellsworth said that Wisconsin's prisons are making progress on gay issues, revealing a time in the 1950s when prisoners guilty of rape, child molestation, prostitution and homosexuality were forced to wear blue identification patches on their shirts.

The Governor's Council on Lesbian and Gay Issues is also planning tours to other state correctional facilities, including Taycheedah, the women's prison.

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WWLC:

A farm of one's own

By Barbara Palecek

Up in the highlands of western Wisconsin, there is a wild place where all lucky womyn hold stewardship over woods, plains, rocks and sky. The place is Daughters of the Earth Farm, and the lucky womyn are members of a land cooperative dedicated to preserving a natural womyn's culture on and with the land.

The drive to D.O.E. Farm is long and is perhaps the ideal buffer period between a pressured world that stultifies the woman spirit and one that embraces that same woman spirit. A woman who has been here must always have known she would come here. The clean and powerful beauty of this land is familiar to some part of the mind, and the intense quiet and safety is known to the heart.

D.O.E. Farm is the accomplishment of the Wisconsin Womyn's Land Cooperative. The farm is located near Norwalk, about 50 miles east of La Crosse. The fundamental premises of the cooperative are to conserve the resources of this bountiful land for future generations of women and to maintain a place where women can share the special knowledge and self-sufficiency traditionally denied them.

Moire, Senecarol and Kate, three of five daughters of the earth who live on the farm as caretakers, personify deep respect for the land. They are gentle, strong women who would like other women to join in their experience of a simple life.

The development of the Wisconsin Womyn's Land Cooperative was fortuitous and quick. In 1976, about 40 Milwaukee and Madison women dreamed of starting a cooperatively-owned, self-supporting women's space and began to look for some land. Within a few months a large family farm became available. \$37,500 bought almost 40 acres of tillable land with a house and a barn and 40 more acres of scenic woods and bluffs.

The actual organization of WWLC is almost unique in this country; only two other strict, women-only cooperatives exist, both of them in the state of Oregon.

A coordinating council of nine women is responsible for the implementation of decisions made at monthly meetings. Nothing can be done to change the coop's land without a consensus reached on a formal, written proposal. Any member who takes the time to travel to the farm for the monthly meetings may take an active role in decision-making. This reflects WWLC's philosophy of participation. "Women are given the chance to communicate and run things [without] Robert's Rules of Order," says Kate Otter.

Last year the farm spent \$4,000 for a new well; the barn roof was also replaced, and a portion of the hayfields reseeded. In the farm's seven years of existence, no money has ever been borrowed to meet a budget.



Goats graze in the rolling meadows at Daughters of the Earth Farm.

Most of the income used to sustain D.O.E. Farm and the cooperative itself comes from membership, workshop and camping fees. Five resident workers pay rent to the coop. It also relies on donations, benefits in supportive Wisconsin cities, and farming proceeds from hay, honey, vegetables and berries grown on the farm.

If there is one phrase defining the relationship between a woman and her environment at the D.O.E. Farm, it is "give-and-take." Even the pleasure involved in a weekend camping trip seems to impart some joy to the land.

Away from the farm there is little opportunity or encouragement for women to build, repair, maintain and be otherwise self-sufficient. None of the current farm residents had any such practical experience before coming to D.O.E. Farm, yet each learned to construct a chimney, floor a barn, stone-mason a wall and build an outhouse and sauna. Kate and Moire think that cooperative learning between women is very different from patriarchal education. This may be due to greater patience and nurturance, to societal pressures on women to teach, or perhaps to the harmonious relationship all women can make with their environment.

Many supporters of WWLC are urban women from Chicago, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Gary, Champaign or Madison. Some use the facilities, while others do not but choose to support the idea of women-owned land. Land-use decisions are responsive to the membership.

Feedback from visiting members has been positive, and some women express the desire to live on the farm permanently. Each woman who visits here, the residents indicate, appears to learn the cooperative's philosophy in her own way. They fondly remember the joy of a Chicago woman who had never before spent a night outdoors, and who gained tremendous personal satisfaction out of setting up a tent.

Neighbors' reactions to the farm have been generally good in this conservative corner of the state. This may be due to D.O.E. residents' low profile within the farming community. Another factor contributing to the peace may be the exchange of services between farmers. For example, D.O.E. Farm lacks the equipment to produce hay; a neighboring farmer works the land by contract and receives one-half of the crop in payment. Resident workers at D.O.E. occasionally lend themselves out to nearby farms as farmhands at harvest time. Incidents of harassment at the farm have been rare and minor. Once, Senecarol remembers, a drunken neighbor boy drove up and yelled obscenities at the house, but "we told his mom and his mom yelled at him." The residents feel that some neighbors are aware of their lesbian orientation, but others seem to ignore that such a lifestyle is possible.

Future goals of Wisconsin Womyn's Land Cooperative include increasing the self-sufficiency of the farm. The land could make more money, but more resident workers, housing and farming equipment are needed. Fundraising has been started to pay resident caretakers for a portion of their labor. Active members request the aid of urban-based members in organizing more benefits to raise money for improvements. Also on the wish list is a greater diversity of women as members of WWLC, especially in terms of age, race and fitness.

For more information about Wisconsin Womyn's Land Cooperative, please send 40 cents in stamps to: WWLC, Rt. 2, Box 42, Norwalk WI, 54648.



WWLC members (from left) Kate Otter, Moire and Senecarol.