

# OUT!

OUT!  
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(608) 256-7664, 256-7952

Wisconsin's Lesbian/Gay Newspaper

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## Lesbian and gay teens walk a rocky road

Compiled by Barbara Lightner  
and M. Ann Fleming

*Editor's notes: The names used in this article are pseudonyms. Long passages in italics are editor's inserts.*

In January, **OUT!** ran two articles detailing the hardships facing Madison's lesbian and gay youth.

One dealt with Briarpatch's decision against forming a support group for lesbian and gay youth, the other with Madison East High School's refusal to print a student editorial detailing problems for lesbians and gays at that school.

Since then there has been a perceptible increase in the amount of hand-wringing done by the adult gay and lesbian community in town. We have asked ourselves with renewed fervor:

"What can we do to help lesbian and gay youngsters?" Yet little concrete action has come out of our fervent concern. Perhaps we do not realize—or remember—vividly enough how immediate are the concerns of gay and lesbian young people in trouble.

"I'm 15 years old, and I feel like I'm in the 'locker'!"

"I just want to know one thing—is there ANYPLACE where I can go for some time away from my folks, WITHOUT running away?"

### School counselor to gay teens:

## Assert your 'right to be different'

The interview above reflects rather accurately the depths of the pain, confusion and isolation felt by some lesbian and gay youths. For some readers the comments of Julie, Kris and Jake will recall painful times you have tried to forget. For those readers in situations similar to those of the high school students interviewed, the pain may lie much closer to the emotional surface.

For this reason, **OUT!** decided to include the comments of a supportive guidance counselor at a nearby small-town high school. While the road is indeed rocky for teenagers in trauma, it need not be traveled alone.

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Deirdre (not her real name) has been at her present job as a guidance counselor for a small-town high school with approximately 900 students for 10 years. In that time, she estimates she has counseled only five students on the issue of sexual orientation. She says, "I think it takes an extremely strong, risk-taking adolescent to come out" to a school counselor.

When dealing with lesbian and gay

The above quotes are from two young women, Julie, 15, and her lover Kris, 17. **OUT!** met Julie and Kris earlier this summer when Julie decided to submit some writing which she had long been hiding. That first meeting led to many subsequent ones, and through both formal and informal interviews, **OUT!** has learned much about the reality of the 'locker' for area lesbian and gay youth.

Most recently, **OUT!** spoke with Julie, Kris and her gay male friend Jake, 14. They talked about coming out to one's parents as a minor, making and keeping supportive friends, dealing with physical violence at school, and cultivating broader community support for lesbian and gay youth. Excerpts from that interview follow, along with **OUT!** staff recollections from earlier meetings with the young people.

**OUT!**: For starters, how do your parents feel about your being lesbian/gay?

**Kris**: I'm damned to hell. They're sending me to a psychiatrist to get me "straightened out" temporarily, so I can make it through my last year at home. My counselor...doesn't believe in what I'm doing; he doesn't think that I should flat-out tell my parents that I'm not willing to change, that I'm happy the way that I am.

students, Deirdre says, "I don't ever separate sexuality out from the whole of a person." She looks first at how much a student's anxiety over sexual orientation is interfering with his or her life—can he or she still function reasonably well at school, at work, at home and with friends? "I think, for adolescents, that a fair amount of anxiety about sexuality is normal."

"A big part of the problem (for youth) is a feeling of isolation and ostracism," Deirdre stresses. She says she feels that it may not be enough for lesbian and gay youth to have supportive straight friends in the same way that it was not enough for her, during her divorce, to be consoled by married friends. "I needed to hear that I was going to make it, from other divorced people who had been there."

Asked how adult lesbians and gay men can help youth who are just coming out, Deirdre explains that peer support is really more important, despite the good intentions of supportive adults. Given that adult lesbians and gays often put themselves at legal risk by supporting minors, she suggests that as an alternative, gay and lesbian adults make

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At one point, you told me there had been an 'involvement' at school with you, the principal and a detective; could you tell me a little about that?

**Kris**: I had run away, my mother found a note about Julie and me, and she went 'off the deep end' for a few hours. Julie and her guardian both called our house—my mother chewed them both out! The next night, I left, and my parents called the police—we went through the whole runaway thing.

What did your parents tell the police detective about how they were relating to your lesbianism?

**Kris**: They said they were trying to work it out, that they wouldn't condemn me, and that they would let me see Julie. They were trying to be real cool, because they wanted me to come back to the house... [Since then] they've absolutely refused to let me see Julie. We have arguments, where they scream and yell a lot.

Any physical violence?

**Kris**: No, but they've threatened me with it. [For example], if I'm two minutes late, they go and look for me; they blow things all out of proportion. I'm told to sit down, or I'll be put 'in my place.' (That means I'll be slapped.)

What about running away, as an alternative? Your parents have basically kicked you out, unless you give up something very basic to your life...

**Kris**: There's nothing else offered me [as an option] in Madison; I ran away partly because I thought maybe someone would say, 'Hey, there's other kids out there like this!'

Things were further complicated for the young women where Julie tried, understandably, to comfort and counsel her lover when she had run away from home. Though Julie says she did not provide lodging for Kris at the time, Kris' parents were skeptical. Their trust in both their daughter and her partner has grown little.

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## Publisher Klehm departs

After two years of toil for the cause of lesbian/gay journalism, Peter Klehm will no longer be publishing **OUT!**

"Leaving the paper is difficult," he said. "I've put a lot of hard work into **OUT!**, and I'll miss the excitement of a newspaper office."

Klehm was a founder of **OUT!** and last year co-won an Outstanding Lesbian/Gay Achievement Award from the Wisconsin Lesbian/Gay Network. He worked more than full-time without pay for a year in launching the paper.

Under his leadership, **OUT!** grew from a small, Madison-based newsletter to a respected source of news for the entire state. Circulation more than tripled to 10,000 and subscriptions grew from zero to 500. The paper now supports three full-time-equivalent staff positions at minimum wage.

Klehm's duties for the time being will be assumed by Business



Peter Klehm

Manager Barbara Lightner and Production Manager Steve Starkey. "I have confidence that **OUT!** will continue growing and reach a more secure financial base," Klehm said. "The paper's back up to 16 pages [from 12 last month], ad sales are up, subscriptions and donations are up... I see no reason why we can't eventually pay staff what they're worth and put out a fine publication." ●

**The black and the white of it—As OUT!** has reported before (December 1983), some 40 percent of all AIDS cases have occurred in people of color—about 21 percent of them Afro-American, 4.4 percent Haitian, and 14.4 percent Hispanic. Those numbers, of course, far exceed those groups' percentages in the overall U.S. population. So why no attention to this fact from the mainstream press? "Perhaps they, for some reason, thought it wasn't newsworthy," speculated a Centers for Disease Control spokesperson in a recent Gay Press Association article. The author of that article put it more bluntly, saying that most people—regardless of race—still perceive the gay community to be exclusively white.



Susan Fuller and Rita Paskowitz—otherwise known as The Last Laugh Theatre—appear in Madison Sept. 13, co-sponsored by The United and Madison's Gay Theatre Project. Their unique satire features such characters as the contestants in the Miss Inner Beauty Contest and the Talking Socks. The show is set for 9 p.m. at Bunk's. Don't miss it!

## Chicago suspect linked to Wisconsin slaying

KENOSHA—A Chicago-area man—already charged with two murders and suspected of 19 others in Illinois and Indiana—is now considered a prime suspect in the grisly death of a Wisconsin gay man, authorities here say.

Larry Eyer, who was charged in Illinois last month with killing 16-year-old Daniel Bridges, is a "very active suspect" in the death of Milwaukee native Eric Hansen, according to Lt. Lee Ormson of the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department.

Hansen's torso was found wrapped in a plastic bag last October in a Kenosha County park. Investigators had few leads in the case until Bridges was found slain in August, hacked up

**Multicolored voices**—New and well worth watching is *Sin Fronteras* (Without Borders), a bilingual gay Latino journal based in Denver. The first issue, which appeared this summer, features poetry, reflections on Hispanic identity and extensive discussion on the need for lesbian and gay Latinos to unite against all forms of oppression. "We do not hold all gay experience sacred," the editors say, condemning for example gays who would "organize to overthrow the Cuban government in the name of

racism." The editors also criticize the white lesbian/gay movement for its blindness to racism.

You can contact *Sin Fronteras* at P.O. Box 1551, Denver, CO 80201.

**Sickness unto death**—According to *The Progressive*, baseball bats inscribed with the words "wife beater" are on sale in Edmonton, Alberta.

**Friends in high places**—Midge Costanza, who served for a time as an assistant to President Carter, was recently elected to the board of directors of the Human Rights Campaign Fund. A national political action committee which

backs pro-gay congressional candidates, HRCF aims to raise more than \$1 million this year. It contributed more than \$600,000 in 1982 to 119 congressional candidates, more than 80 percent of whom were elected. Costanza said she was "proud to be part of one of the most important political forces in America."

**Who's afraid of whom?**—Noted gay playwright Edward Albee had his *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* shut down in Arlington, Texas, last month, following protests by conservative city councilors against its all-male casting. The play's director said he had cast the drama—which studies the self-destructive behavior of a childless couple—with gay instead of straight couples after hearing that was Albee's original intent. Albee denied that, saying, "If I had wanted to [write a homosexual play], I would have." He said the Arlington presentation aesthetically violated his writing. Hmm...

## WLGN sets conference for state's activists

MADISON—The Wisconsin Lesbian/Gay network will host its fifth annual statewide conference here October 12-14.

Featured speakers for the event—which in past years has drawn hundreds of activists from around the state—include Denise Matyka, acting executive director of the Wisconsin Women's Network, and Tom Chorlton, executive director of the National Gay Democratic Clubs.

With national elections fast approaching, both speakers likely will stress a "get out the vote" message. "It's so important that conditions be formed for November," Matyka says. "There's a stark contrast between presidential candidates."

Matyka has been active with the National Organization for Women since 1980, and for two years served as state NOW president. She's had an acquaintance with WLGN since her college days in Stevens Point, where the organization is based. "WLGN serves a very useful purpose in the state, and is really a lifeline" in Stevens Point, she says.

The theme of the WLGN conference is "A Vision of Boundless Means." In addition to keynote speeches, it will feature a perfor-



Denise Matyka

mance by the Madison Gay Men's Chorus, a political forum, workshops on everything from self-defense to the politics of drag, and an awards banquet. The conference for the first time is being held in Madison, and may well attract its largest attendance ever.

WLGN began operations in 1979 with the goal of improving communications between individuals and organizations around the state. In addition to hosting an annual conference, it has lobbied for gay rights and consenting adults legislation, and has developed a brochure on fighting employment discrimination.

The conference will be held at the Concourse Hotel in downtown Madison. To get more information or to register, contact WLGN at P.O. Box 851, Stevens Point WI, 54481. ●

## New ROTC study ordered

MILWAUKEE—A new task force will be appointed this month to make recommendations on the stalemate between ROTC and the UWM. ROTC refused to allow known lesbians and gays to participate in its military training programs, despite state laws outlawing discrimination.

The UWM Faculty Senate asked a year ago for an end to the bias, but an apparent technical error made by

UWM Chancellor Frank E. Horton when signing a contract allowed the discrimination to continue. The Army has since said it will leave the campus if it is forced to allow gays to be members, according to Eric Jurnberg, a student active on this issue for several years.

The new task force, appointed by the Faculty Senate, should have a report by December, he said. ●

## Med school drags feet

MILWAUKEE—The Medical College of Wisconsin, located here, was the only medical school in the U.S. that failed to respond to a recent survey of admission policies regarding student sexual orientation.

The survey, conducted by Lesbian and Gay People in Medicine, a task force of the American Medical Student Association, also found that the UW-Madison medical school had no policy on sexual orientation.

At its Aug. 25 meeting in Appleton, the Governor's Council on Lesbian and Gay Issues decided to contact the schools to clarify state law for them.

The AMSA survey results were distributed at an August lesbian and gay health conference held in Chicago. For a copy of survey results, send \$2 to IGPIAM/AMSA, 1910 Association Drive, Reston VA 22091. ●



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# PFOG coordinator fired but fighting back

By Sue Burke

MILWAUKEE—The head of the local Parents and Friends of Gays chapter has filed a complaint with the state Equal Rights Division against his former employer, claiming he was fired because he is Jewish and gay.

Roger Beyers told **OUT!** he was fired from his job in the file department of Old Line Life Insurance Co. June 29. He had been with the firm five years.

His supervisor and a subordinate, who had been refusing to work with him, were retained, Beyers said.

Beyers is founder, president, and director of PFOG in Milwaukee, and has helped found other chapters of the organization in Madison, Appleton, Fond du Lac and Green Bay.

The Legal Aid Society, as part of its anti-discrimination project for low-income gays, is assisting with Beyers' complaint. Beyers said he has largely avoided publicity in hopes of bargaining more effectively with the

company for reinstatement. But, he said, the gay community should know what is happening to him.

For some time, Beyers said, he suspected he was being treated unfairly at the insurance company. He said he has collected a thick file proving a "history of discriminatory action by my boss... the company itself has been involved in a coverup of his actions."

Specific problems began early this year, Beyers said, when his boss and subordinate insisted on telling an anti-Jewish joke.

Last February and March, after mainstream newspapers ran articles on Beyers' work with PFOG, he received anonymous telephone calls from a man saying that his days at

Old Line Life Insurance were numbered. The newspaper articles, however, had not mentioned Beyers' employment. He believes the caller was his boss.

Beyers' subordinate said she could not deal with homosexuality and told him he would pay for it, according to Beyers. Despite attempts to solve the problems through the company's personnel department, he said, things got worse.

He said he wants more than reinstatement to his job. "I want to send a clear-cut message all across the country that the [equal rights] law is meant to be enforced. I testified for that law... I intend to put it to work," Beyers said.

"If I can stand up for what I



Roger Beyers

believe by working with parents and spouses [if gays], I can stand up for myself."

## United facing financial crunch

MADISON—Faced with fundraising shortfalls and worsening debts, The United may be forced to close its doors by this fall.

The lesbian/gay social service agency is running several thousand dollars behind its 1984 fundraising goal and currently has only one paid staff member, Joyce Mahan.

Earlier this year, the organization suffered a funding cut of some \$3,000 from the UW. It has since been unable to fill a vacant staff position.

Following an August meeting at which the possibility of dissolution was discussed, board members appeared split over the organization's prospects for survival.

"Everybody woke up" to the fiscal crisis at that meeting, according to Treasurer Mark Borns. He said "if the situation deteriorates any further, we'll fold."

But Co-Executive Secretary Vickie Burcham was more optimistic. "We're in much better financial shape than we were at the beginning of the summer," she told **OUT!** "I think we're going to be able to come out of this OK."

The United does receive city funding—some \$16,000 worth in 1984—but that money is earmarked for Mahan's salary and benefits. Other expenses must be covered by grassroots fundraising.

The agency has been busy of late, setting up a number of support groups, fighting a discrimination case against *The Milwaukee Journal*, and conducting panel discussions at area high schools. Calls to its volunteer-staffed crisis line have doubled in recent months, according to Mahan.

The United will be testing community support in coming weeks with an "intensive" funding appeal, according to Mahan. Also, as a cost-cutting measure, the agency will move to cheaper quarters in a church on University Ave.

Anyone who wishes to be contacted can contact them in the University YMCA at 306 N. Brooks St., Madison 53715.

## EOC forum slated

By Thomas Kane

MADISON—The Equal Opportunities Commission will hold a public forum Sept. 20 to address proposed "alternative families" legislation. This legislation, which has yet to be drafted, would extend the rights enjoyed by the traditional nuclear family to alternative families, including lesbians and gays.

The forum will conclude a year-long investigation by the EOC's Alternative Families Task Force, according to that body's chair, Barbara Cox.

The forum aims to gain "input from citizens who haven't been given the chance for testimony," said Joyce Wells, a task force member and representative of the Madison Institute for Social Legislation. MISL has been the leading advocate of alternative family rights.

Following the forum, the task force will prepare a lengthy report on their findings for the EOC. That commission, in turn, will decide whether to recommend the ordinance to the City Council.

Cox said that no council vote could be expected before March.

A "great deal" of the testimony on the proposed ordinance thus far has been positive, Cox said.



MISL member Joyce Wells

The task force's working definition of family would include "two or more adults unrelated by blood, marriage, or adoption, who are involved in a mutually supportive, committed relationship..."

The actual language of the ordinance will be drafted in consultation with the city attorney, if the EOC approves the task force recommendations.

The forum is slated for 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 20, at the Lapham School Auditorium, 1045 E. Dayton St. All are welcome to attend.

## Suicide AIDS-related

MADISON—A man who thought he had AIDS died after hanging himself in a room at the downtown YMCA last month.

James Nichols, 30, was bisexual and "believed himself to be in a very high risk group" for developing the deadly syndrome, according to a source close to the victim.

The source, who spoke with **OUT!** on the condition that he not be identified, said Nichols "had a number of things that were bothering him... I have no doubt that the suspected AIDS situation figured in" his decision to commit suicide.

The dead man left no suicide note, nor was he known to have told anyone that he planned to kill himself.

Nichols had "developed a lymphatic condition about a year ago" but was not a confirmed AIDS patient, according to the source. He had not contracted any of the so-called

secondary illnesses necessary for a firm AIDS diagnosis.

However, doctors at University Hospital had "ruled out almost everything" except AIDS, the source said.

Released from prison two years ago after serving time for sexually assaulting a woman, Nichols jumped parole and drifted around the country for several months. During that time he engaged in prostitution to support himself, and said he had "several hundred" sexual contacts, according to the source.

Nichols was also a carrier of hepatitis B, police records show.

After serving time for jumping parole, Nichols had only recently been released from prison again. He had found employment and—except for health concerns—"his life was going quite well," according to the source.

## CCAF boosts clinic

MILWAUKEE—The Cream City Association Foundation last month awarded its largest-ever grant, allocating \$1,800 to the Brady East Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic for an AIDS education project.

The Milwaukee-based lesbian/gay charitable group was able to make the award after receiving funds from an anonymous donor. Donors to CCAF can have their identities protected and receive a tax deduction, according to the group's president, Don Schwamb.

He said the anonymous donor had stipulated that his money go toward

AIDS-related work. CCAF judged the BEST Clinic proposal to be the most impressive of the funding applications it received, Schwamb said.

BEST will use the grant to develop a resource manual promoting awareness of various gay health concerns. The clinic marks its 10th anniversary this month, making it one of the oldest STD treatment facilities in the country. Since the onset of the AIDS crisis, it has stepped up educational efforts. It has already compiled a list of gay-supportive physicians in the Milwaukee area.

Here are some answers to commonly-asked questions about Madison's proposed alternative families legislation. This fact sheet was prepared by the leading advocate of the proposal, the Madison Institute for Social Legislation (MISL).

**What is an "alternative" family?**  
An alternative family is a family defined by voluntary association rather than ties of blood, marriage or adoption.

**What groups would be included under this definition?** Lesbians, gay men, senior citizens, single parents, handicapped persons and their attendants, stepparents and other adults in relationships of commitment outside of traditional marriage.

**What kinds of rights and benefits might an alternative family ordinance confer?** The ordinance

could give members of alternative families: "first right" visitation privileges in hospitals, nursing homes and other institutions; the right to live in areas where housing is restricted by reference to family status; the right to health care coverage under a "significant other's" medical insurance policy; and the right to join organizations under "family" membership policies. Other important considerations: medical care authorization, bereavement leave, and co-parenting rights.

**How would the City identify alternative families?** Such families would be self-identified by registering with the City Clerk. It has been suggested that a registration fee be designed to cover administrative costs, with any surplus to be donated to the Senior Fund or to social services for those facing family violence.

# Speaking OUT!

## Come to the forum!

If ever there were a time to get off your duff and testify for the cause of justice, this is it. The City of Madison's Task Force on Alternative Family Rights will hold a public forum Thursday, Sept. 20, at 7 p.m. in the Lapham School, 1045 E. Dayton St. It's absolutely crucial that as many lesbians and gays as possible turn out for that hearing.

As a project of the city's Equal Opportunities Commission, the task force has studied alternative family issues for the past year. Predictably, the group has heard some opposition to the idea of giving unmarried people in committed relationships the same benefits and rights granted married couples. (That opposition, interestingly enough, has largely come **not** from conservative, save-the-nuclear-family types, but from so-called liberals who claim new benefits would cost too much. As if a price tag could be put on equal rights!)

But by and large the task force has heard that an alternative families ordinance is both feasible and necessary. With the help of the Madison Institute for Social Legislation, it has brought to light facts that before were invisible: that we can be denied visitation rights when a lover is hospitalized; that we can be denied family membership in health clubs, YMCA's and the like; that we can be denied health care coverage under a lover's medical insurance policy. Perhaps most significantly, the task force has projected that alternative families legislation would cause an average increase in health care costs—for both public and private sector employers—of a negligible one percent.

The task force soon must recommend steps to right these wrongs being done to non-traditional family groupings. To urge the group on its way toward a positive recommendation, come to the public forum later this month. Let's put Madison on the road to being the first city in the country to give alternative families their due.

## Editorial

### Letters to the Editors

## Happy ending

Good news for a change!

Last month in this space, we reported that the public library in the Northwoods town of Rice Lake had refused a gift subscription to **OUT!**—not for lack of shelf space, the librarian said, but because the paper was "too sensitive." The librarian acknowledged that she carried no lesbian/gay-related materials whatsoever.

This month, we're happy to report, the library has changed its mind. We had appealed the refusal to the librarian's board of directors—and they, after consultation with a city attorney, apparently decided that a policy of discrimination was indefensible. Out of the closet and onto the shelves!



Madison's Take Back the Night march and rally will be held Saturday, Sept. 15, with participants gathering at the GFF-2 Building on King St. at 7 p.m. "The march is primarily for women," says one organizer, though "mixed space" for both women and men will be available. The rally offers a variety of music and speakers, including Dane County Sup. Kathleen Nichols and Citizens Party presidential candidate Sonia Johnson.

In Milwaukee, Citizens Against Sexual Assault will hold a rally and march Thursday, Sept. 13 at 6 p.m., with participants gathering at the head of the lakefront bikepath (near Juneau Lagoon). Marchers are asked to wear purple ribbons and leave porchlights burning all night.

## Letters to the Editors

### Appalled

Just got done with your August issue, and was appalled to learn that fully 95 percent (!) of the readers of **OUT!** don't pay to read this fine publication. The August issue was only the second copy of **OUT!** I'd read (my own coming out has been in progress for the last couple of

months—'em 26), but already I can tell a good thing when I see it. I'd hate to see **OUT!** disappear right after I began enjoying it!

Please, readers—contribute something! I'm not a wealthy person, but I love a good donation to a good cause. Being a student at UW-M, I can stop in the gay student group's office for a free copy of **OUT!**, so a subscription per se is not necessary. Please accept the enclosed check as a donation on my part. Thanks for being there.

**Tom Robinson**  
Milwaukee

### Whining and screaming

#### Editors:

I would advertise in and/or subscribe to your publication if I really considered it worth my reading. To date it has not been. The tone of the writing goes from a whine to a scream. It is often too self-righteous, or too esoteric. In my opinion it is unreadable.

**Bill Bremner**  
Madison

### Get out the vote

#### Editors:

I was pleased to see in last month's article, "Confronting the Challenge of Violence," mention of the 1984 platform of the Democratic Party. That document made history in regards to gay men and lesbians. Not only did it mention gay men and lesbians by name for the first time (as opposed to being lumped in a general category), it also called for an end to discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, immigration, and the military. In addition, there was a pledge for an "enhanced effort to learn the cause and cure of AIDS, and to provide treatment for people with AIDS." In short, this platform substantially expands the commit-

ment of the Democratic Party to lesbian and gay civil rights.

This dedication in the face of possible conservative backlash deserves some support in return from the gay and lesbian community. As this is an election year, I think that voter registration deserves some attention in our community. As a veteran Democrat, I would naturally hope that all voters registered under such a project will vote for Democratic candidates. As a gay man, I want gay men and lesbians to get the respect we deserve as a voting bloc.

The success of such a voter registration project depends on people like you who read **OUT!** If anyone who reads this letter is interested enough

to actively participate in a voter registration project in the gay and lesbian communities around Wisconsin, write me and we'll get going on it. If there has ever been a clear choice for gay men and lesbians in a presidential election, it is now. Just think about Ronald Reagan back in the White House, unimpeded by an election, able to appoint anyone he wants to important positions in government and the Supreme Court. But don't think too long—or it will be too late to make a difference.

**Earl Bricker**  
Field Director  
Democratic Party of Wisconsin  
126 South Franklin Street  
Madison

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**OUT!**'s next staff meetings are Sept. 10, 7:30 p.m. and Sept. 24, 4:30 p.m. at the **OUT!** office. Call (608) 256-7664 for details.

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## Commentary:

# Porn ordinance targets violence, not obscenity

**Editor's note:** In the following article, Dane County Sup. Kathleen Nichols attempts to answer some of the most commonly asked questions about her proposed anti-pornography ordinance. That ordinance, which has yet to be drafted, would define pornography in terms of sexual violence against women. It would not ban porn outright, but rather would give women who feel they have been harmed by it the right to sue its producers and distributors for damages. Thus the ordinance does not constitute censorship, Nichols claims, "because there's no a priori restraint."

In an interview, Nichols stressed that her proposed ordinance wouldn't apply to most gay male porn, "because the proscribed images focus on women and children." Sado-masochistic gay porn doesn't have the "same dynamic" as violent straight porn, she said, because it doesn't necessarily confer "second-class status" upon its subjects. However, lesbian s/m images could be challenged under her ordinance, Nichols said. Those images, whether or not they depict consensual activity, "contribute to an image of women that's unacceptable," she said.

Nichols acknowledged that the economic pressure of lawsuits might cause some adult bookstores to close, thus eliminating places where many gay men meet for sex. "I'm not too sorry about that," she said. "That kind of anonymous sexual congress has resulted in 5,300 cases of AIDS."

By Kathleen Nichols

What is the background of your ordinance? Has its effect ever been tested?

The anti-pornography ordinance I am proposing is an adaptation of legislation first introduced in Minneapolis earlier this year. Drafted by attorney Catherine MacKinnon and lesbian-

feminist activist Andrea Dworkin, the legislation twice passed the Minneapolis City Council and twice was vetoed by the mayor.

More recently, another adaptation of the "Minneapolis ordinance" was passed into law in Indianapolis. The Indiana Civil Liberties Union and several magazine distributors obtained an injunction against enforcement of the law, so its impact has yet to be determined.

Why is this approach different from other anti-pornography approaches?

Past attempts to control or ban pornography have centered on defining obscenity and preventing obscene materials from being printed or distributed. Under a 1973 Supreme Court ruling, obscene material has been defined as depicting any graphic sexual or defecatory act, having "no redeeming social value" and violating existing "community standards." That's not a very satisfactory definition: First, it includes depictions of consensual sex, which clearly aren't the problem; second, "community standards" is a hopelessly vague term. Progressive Wisconsin legislators have long opposed bills based on this Supreme Court definition.

The "Minneapolis ordinance" approach rejects the issue of obscenity, focusing instead on the social impact of pornography. It asserts that the violent, coercive images in porn—not those which are merely sexually explicit—are the problem. It says that these images debase women and others, such as children, to the extent that they become second-class citizens, unable to exercise the same personal freedom as men. They are unable to even walk down the street free from fear. This approach says that pornography reinforces and creates a social climate that impairs women's civil rights.

Why is any law necessary? Why not organize economic boycotts instead?

This ordinance, in creating a legal framework for civil damages, is similar in goal to a boycott. Both strategies attempt to apply financial pressure to pornographers. But boycotts

alone simply aren't sufficient to the task.

The effects of violent porn on women's lives can no longer be ignored. For example: A woman dies at the hands of her husband, who was acting out "fantasies" from the magazine *Housewives in Bondage*.

For example: Extensive studies (by the UW's Ed Donnerstein, among others) show that relatively short exposures to violent porn increase subjects' acceptance of victimizing attitudes toward women—and that these attitudes disappear outside the experimental framework.



Andrea Dworkin

## Porn conference slated

MADISON—A conference on "Pornography: Through the Eyes of Women" will be held here Sept. 15. Co-sponsored by a number of parties, including the local *Feminist Connection*, it will feature presentations by such luminaries as Sonia Johnson, Dane County Sup. Kathleen Nichols and Catherine MacKinnon, a co-author of anti-porn legislation in Minneapolis.

Preceding the conference, on Sept. 14, Andrea Dworkin—the other co-author of the Minneapolis legislation—will speak on "Pornography: The New Terrorism." That speech

will take place in Mills Concert Hall on the U.W. campus. It is free and open to the public.

The conference itself is billed as the nation's first symposium on proposed anti-porn legislation (see above article for details). Documentary slide shows will take up much of the morning, with lectures and panel discussions on "Legal Status and Implications of the Ordinance" and a panel discussion set for the afternoon.

To get more information or to register for the conference, call the *Feminist Connection* in Madison at 238-3338/256-1400.

## Light bail in rape case

MADISON—Despite a 1981 rape conviction, a man accused of sexually assaulting another man in August was released on \$20,000 signature bond.

Harold Ward, 39, is charged with second-degree sexual assault of a 21-year-old Madison man. The victim suffered a fractured nose and abrasions to his lower back in the attack.

Dane County Court Commissioner George Northrup defended the signature bond—which is considerably easier to meet than cash bail—on the grounds that Ward had strong ties to the local community and had made all previous court appearances on other charges. The district attorney's office had requested an order of cash bail.

Only a quarter to a third of all sexual assault defendants in Dane County receive cash bail, according to Judy Witt of the City-County Committee on Sexual Assault. She said more cash bail orders would make her "more comfortable . . . as a woman in the community, I'd like to see a repeat offender guarded as closely as possible."

In addition to his prior sexual assault conviction, Ward also has been convicted of child molestation and petty theft. In the most recent case, he allegedly shouted, "Let's get married!" and "I'll make a woman out of you yet!" when attacking the victim.

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# Community notes

The Gay Community at UW-M resumes weekly meetings for the fall semester Sept. 5, with a get-acquainted social slated for 5:30 in the student union. Elections for new officers will be held within two weeks, according to Joe Coppernith, current president of the group. Over the summer, he said, the organization was awarded a \$700 general purpose grant from the Chicago Resource Center. You can contact the Gay Community in Milwaukee at 963-6555.

A lesbians of color support group is forming in Madison under the auspices of The United. That organization is already sponsoring support groups for gay fathers and for straight partners of gays. In the formative stages is an educational project aimed at Madison-area high school students, teachers and parents. Contact The United at 255-8582.

Things are hoppin' in western Wisconsin! A "Faggot and Dyke Autumn Equinox Picnic" is coming soon—contact the La Crosse Area Gay Association for details at P.O. Box 2561, La Crosse 54602. LAGA is also sponsoring a legal rights workshop Sept. 22—call Patrick for details at 782-0963. In early October, the ever-hardy women of Out and About will bring Ferron to town—contact them for details at P.O. Box 2794, La Crosse 54601. And the women of

Tattoo's pulled off an extremely successful benefit for OUT! last month—THANKS!!

Don't forget the Midwest Men's Conference Sept. 7-9 at the South Madison Neighborhood Center. It's not too late to register for the pro-feminist, pro-gay gathering. Contact Chuck Schobert in Madison at 255-9507.

The Madison Gay Men's Chorus presents its fall concert Friday, Sept. 7 at 8 p.m. in the UW Memorial Union's Great Hall. The theme is "Hollywood to Broadway." The chorus has won praise in past months from no less than the *New York Times*, and their show promises to be hot. Cash bar and dance will follow the performance; black tie is suggested. Contact Mark for more info at 274-3884.

Some 60 members and guest enjoyed the annual picnic of Milwaukee's Cream City Business Association in August. Special guest was Peter Krembs, consultant with Management Development Strategies in Minneapolis. He led a discussion about integrating gay identity with professional identity. CCBA's Wine Tasting Club also held special activities last month. For more details about the lesbian/gay professionals' group, contact Ralph Navarro in Milwaukee at 445-5552.

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By Sue Burke

Gays and lesbians have no place in the military, under current U.S. policy. In 1982, several thousand people were discharged from the four branches of the armed services for homosexuality.

Andrea Glerum of Wauwatosa was one of those people. In a recent interview with **OUT!** she described the "witch hunt" that encompassed herself, her lover, and others around her in her three-month struggle to be released from the Air Force.

"The primary reason they don't want gay people [in the military] is that we're a security threat," Glerum explained that the military fears "some little Russian" could approach a gay or lesbian servicemember and threaten to turn him or her over to the authorities; "of course" the servicemember would then divulge to the Russian U.S. security secrets, to protect him/herself.

"But if it were legal to be in the military and be gay, there would never be that problem. You don't get blackmailed for something everybody knows about," Glerum asserts.

"The other reason is the morale problem. If it was known that there were gay people in the military, and that was okay, then think of all the little het boys who wouldn't want to join up because they would think they'd living with a bunch of faggots," said Glerum.

Glerum entered the Air Force in Milwaukee in November 1981, to get training, learn self-discipline, have a job, and leave her parents' home and their suburban lifestyle. While she enjoyed basic training and appreciated the diversity of people in the military, Glerum soon began to feel uncomfortable.

"When I got there, I started realizing that I was not comfortable having to live that kind of lie. I realized what they could get me for, and that they could throw me in jail and do all kinds of things to me if they found out.

"For the gay people who are in the service there is a daily fear. You know every day that somebody could see you, that somebody could start to wonder about you. You have to wonder if there's somebody looking in your window or if there are 'bugs' in your room." In Glerum's case, there were many "bugs"—Air Force personnel tapped her phone,

read her private mail, and even followed her.

Glerum was eventually stationed in England at the R.A.F. Bentwaters base where she worked on the gun systems of anti-tank attack planes. Britain's war with Argentina over the Falkland Islands and the possibility of U.S. involvement there helped her decide to leave the service.

But she said the final clue that she had to get out was when the airmen working in her shop started calling her "butch." She knew it was innocent—it was their way of teasing her about being the first woman to work in that shop—but it made her nervous. So on May 3, 1982, Glerum took the first step.

"I decided that I did want to get out, and that the way that I had to do that was by following my chain of command. I couldn't just go to the base commander and say 'Hi, sir, I'm queer, throw me out.' I had to start with my immediate supervisors in my shop."

Her shop supervisor didn't know what to do immediately. After some checking, he learned he had to send Glerum to the branch chief, but he told her she was a good worker and was welcome to stay in his shop.

To her surprise, the branch chief had the same attitude—but she repeated that she wanted out. The next stop was with the base psychiatrist.

"He was supposed to determine whether I was actually gay, or if it was just a homestick-like airman who knew that I could get an honorable discharge if I turned myself in," she said. The psychiatrist admitted he had no way to tell who was gay and who was not. All he could do was state that Glerum was not gay if she had changed her mind and decided to stay with the Air Force. But she wanted out.

From the psychiatrist Glerum went to the Area Defense Counsel, the lawyers who represent airmen. They were supportive, but said they couldn't do much until she had been to the Office of Special Investigations.

"That was where it really got nasty." The OSI, Glerum said, spends most of its time trying to find "queers and druggies." They interviewed her for 10 to 12 hours over several days.

# Out of the closet,



By Sue Burke/Continuum

"It was in this little room with a bare lightbulb, sitting at a table with three guys on the other side of the table taking notes. The OSI wanted specific details. It was not enough to tell the OSI that I was a lesbian and wanted to get out. I had to recount specific incidents proving my lesbianism.

"I think a large part of that whole thing [recounting specific sexual encounters in detail] was more for their pleasure than for anything else. But at that point they had the power to decide whether or not I

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was going to get out. It was what I had to do.

"I was under constant pressure to give names of other individuals on that base or on any other base that I knew were gay. That was not something I was willing to do. The way I felt about it was that it was me, Andrea Glerum, that wanted to get out, and that wasn't anything that involved anybody else.

"They [the OSI] do a lot of their work by intimidation," Glerum said. Because she wouldn't supply names, she said OSI officers told her they didn't believe she was really a lesbian. They said the base commander could discharge her, but if he did not, OSI would watch her. If they learned that she was really gay, they would build a case against her and press any charges they could, including fraudulent enlistment—Glerum knew she could land in jail.

Two days after the OSI completed its investigation, she went before her commanding officer to request a discharge. "He was as obnoxious as could be," Glerum recalled. "The OSI had definitely talked with him. He harassed me pretty much and he wanted names."

He also lied to her, Glerum said. At the beginning of their meeting, which was also attended by the branch chief and a shop supervisor, the commander offered to talk off the record. He asked her if she had known any homosexuals at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, where she had attended technical school. She said "Yes."

Far from being confidential information, "That specific thing resulted in him sending a memo to the OSI at Lowry," Glerum said. "My lover at the time was stationed at Lowry, and she was the only female instructor in the whole hangar." Although neither woman knew it, Glerum's lover immediately became a target of OSI investigations.

Glerum was eventually granted an honorable discharge—but her personnel record today carries the notation "homosexual/bisexual." On August 11, 1982, she left the Air Force—but she would confront the OSI one more time.

She returned to Denver at the end of August to be with her lover. "We went camping up in the Rocky Mountains, and there were these guys in the campsite right below us who took pictures of us as

we were up early on a Saturday morning sitting at a picnic table," Glerum recalled.

"I hadn't seen the woman in six months. We were holding hands, and we kissed each other a couple of times. We were aware of this guy taking pictures. He had been taking pictures of birds before. When we looked at this guy, he had this huge zoom lens and he was taking pictures of us," Glerum said that interestingly, the photographer had a Lowry Air Force Base sticker on his truck.

Realizing that she was under investigation, Glerum's lover went to the Area Defense Counsel at Lowry. She learned that the OSI had not only watched her and Glerum, but had discovered that some of her ex-roommates had been discharged from the military for homosexuality. She was advised to turn herself in immediately in order to avoid persecution. Glerum said her lover was discharged only two weeks later "because they believed her" when she said she was a lesbian. It had taken Glerum much longer.

Glerum lives with her parents now, working and saving money to attend college in Seattle next year. She offered this advice to other gays and lesbians considering joining the service: "Unless you're a games-player and into the whole false image thing, don't do it. It's not worth it."

She said she knew of many lesbians who married gay men to help hide their homosexuality. But even that might not help. "No matter how much you do to cover yourself, you can never be sure that they're not going to get you. There's always the threat that somebody else on base is going to get busted for [homosexuality] and talk and give your name. If your name's given and they start an investigation on you, you're going to have a hell of a time talking your way out of it.

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# Counselor

*continued from page 1*

themselves available to straight parents when a child comes out to them.

"This may be real pie-in-the-sky," Deirdre, herself a parent, says, "But one of the most difficult things for a parent is seeing a child grow up and leave," making his or her own decisions along the way. She says that if any of her children were grappling with the issue of sexual orientation she would want to talk to a lesbian or gay adult to see what kind of life awaited her youngster.

But until adult lesbians and gay men make this move to support families of lesbian and gay youth, the kind of confusion and hostility expressed by Kris above will await many youngsters coming out in their homes. Interestingly, Deirdre says she suspects that Wisconsin's movement to protect the rights of minors may make life more difficult for some families. She has spoken with juvenile court judges and with social workers who are frustrated because recognition of a youngster's right to privacy makes it very hard to order a family to seek counseling. If a family will not take this important step on its own, "a dangerous family pathology may continue," Deirdre states.

If support for gay and lesbian

youth does not begin at home, school may be the next best place. Deirdre states that she has been much impressed by the support and sensitivity administrators at her school have shown for gay and lesbian youth being victimized by their straight peers. A school official once warned Deirdre that her efforts to change the attitudes of abusive straight students toward their gay and lesbian peers might amplify the issue rather than settle it; but overall, she has been supported when she counsels students to confront their tormentors, asserting their own right to be different.

Deirdre says that her own sensitivity, as a straight woman, has come from knowing lesbians and gay men and seeing that their self-image and partnership issues were basically the same as hers. "We are all insecure, with doubts about our own acceptability," she says. But unfortunately, the insecurities of gay and lesbian youths are often magnified by living outside of the norm within a culture that expects uncompromising conformity. Deirdre counsels gay and lesbian teens to realize what it will mean to confront a hostile culture for years to come.

"I think homophobia is pretty well entrenched in this area, and not likely to change in my lifetime. (But) I'm a believer in dealing with reality—and then preparing for it."

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Madison 53703  
(608) 257-3346



ID offers worship in a warm supportive environment for gay and lesbian Christians twice monthly. Call or write for brochure.

**State Agencies**

**Wisconsin Equal Rights Division**  
201 E. Washington Ave., Rm. 403  
Madison 53702  
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# Calendar

## Madison

4—Tuesday

**Madison Men's Center Workshop** for the Midwest Men's Conference '84, 55 Vesey St., 7:30 p.m. Call Chuck at (608) 255-9507 for more info.

5—Wednesday

**18th Society Film Kick-Off.** The film "Word is Out" with discussion. Memorial Union. See TTU for info. 7:00 p.m. Call Matthew at (608) 262-1081 for info.

7-9—Friday-Sunday

**Midwest Men's Conference '84.** South Madison Neighborhood Center. For info call Chuck at (608) 255-9507 or George at (608) 233-0036.  
**Blue Bus Outreach.** Rod's, 9:30-12:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 5-8 p.m. Sunday. Call Blue Bus (608) 262-2384 for info.

8—Saturday

**Women's Transit Authority** orientation. Memorial Union 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Call (608) 266-3170 for pre-register.

8-30—Saturday-Sunday

**Works of Doris Mayer and Joe Balluff** at Survival Graphics, 853 W. Williamson Street.

9—Sunday

**Womyn's Spirituality Forum.** Book review and discussion of "The Politics of Women's Spirituality" at the YWCA on the Square, Vilas Room. 5 p.m.

11—Tuesday

**Madison Men's Center Workshop** for the Midwest Men's Conference '84, 953 Jennifer St., 7:30 p.m. Call Chuck at (608) 255-9507 for info.

12—Tuesday

**East Laugh Theatre,** a lesbian comedy troupe. A benefit for the United and the Madison Gay Theatre Project. Bank's 9 p.m. \$4 donation (\$3.50 for United members).

16—Friday

**Free Speech by Andrew Breitbart.** "Pornography: The New Terrorism." UW-Madison Mills Concert Hall Humanities Bldg. 7:30 p.m. Call (608) 236-3338 for more info.

16-18—Friday-Sunday

**The Atomic Comics** from San Francisco will be doing 2 nights for the Ice House. Call Link House at (608) 233-6967 for info.

15—Saturday

**"Pornography: Through the Eyes of Women."** An all-day symposium. Concourse Hotel, 1 W. Dixon St. Call (608) 236-3338 for info.  
**Take Back the Night March.** Gather at the GEI III, Corner of King and Webster, 7 p.m. Child care available.

16—Sunday

**Gay Fathers Meeting.** Call (608) 257-7575 or (608) 255-8582 for info.

19—Wednesday

**18th Society Meeting.** Memorial Union. See TTU for info. 7 p.m. Call Matthew at (608) 262-1081 for info.

20—Thursday

**Public Hearing** on Alliance Family city ordinance at Lapham School. Call (608) 246-5315 for info.

21-22—Friday-Saturday

**Wisconsin Intercultural Activating, Advancing, & Affirming.** UW Memorial Union. Call (608) 262-7360 for info.

22—Saturday

**Birthday Party** for Wisconsin Women's Network. Talk by Ronnie Gilbert, and featuring a concert by Madison's Women's Memorial Union 4 p.m. \$5 donation.

22—Saturday

**"Romie Gilbert with Susan Frenchick."** Wisconsin Women's Network. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$11 and \$13.50. Call (608) 255-9809 for info.

22-23—Saturday-Sunday

**United Women's Network.** 23—Sunday

**United Coffeehouse.** Basement of 1001 University Ave. 1-4 p.m.

23—Sunday

**"Recovery as the Caring Person."** One day workshop for people concerned about someone else's alcohol/drug use. Moon Fire Register (608) 256-5115.  
**Womyn's Spirituality** Group: Karma, Fate, Destiny and Devotion. At the YWCA on the Square. Vilas Room 5 p.m.

25—Tuesday

**Forum on Race Relations** Wisconsin Center, 702 Langdon St. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Call (608) 262-2790, Carolyn DeJoy for info.

28—Friday

**Gay Fathers Meeting.** Call (608) 257-7575 or (608) 255-8582 for info.

29—Saturday

**Womynism/Notis/Nemstid** will perform for a benefit concert for the Women's Program at the Madison Community Health Center. Wilma Center, 953 Jennifer. 8 p.m. \$6 ticket includes a copy of the Madison Women's Health Directory.

October 2—Tuesday

**"Gastronomy: When the Mountain Tremble."** Sponsored by Madison Sanctuary and CASA. All proceeds go to benefit Guatemala refugees. Majestic Theatre. Madison 7:15 and 9:30 p.m.

## Milwaukee

**Milwaukee Gamma** 6th Annual corn roast and watermelon sack(?!). Meet, hats, lemonade, corn, and watermelon. Volleysball and other games. Lake Park Area 6. Milwaukee 12 noon-6 p.m. Call John at (414) 931-2862 for info.

13—Thursday

**"Citizens Against Sexual Assault"** will hold a march and rally at 6 p.m. March begins at the West of Lakefront Bike path thru Junction Avenue. Wear purple ribbons. Call Carol at (414) 276-3368 for more info.

## Other Wisconsin Areas

8—Saturday

**Take Back the Night March** and Festivities. Superior. WI. Call (715) 392-8428 for more details.

9—Sunday

**NOW's Annual Women's Festival** Billings Park, Superior. WI. Call (715) 392-8428 for info.  
**11—La Crosse Area Gay Association** planning meeting. Call Larry (608) 782-1383 for location.

22—Saturday

**Lesbian/Gay Legal Rights Workshop** by La Crosse attorney Jack Schwab, 921 West Ave., St. La Crosse 7:30-10 p.m. Sponsored by LAGA.  
**Women's Peace Prouce** Autumnal Equinox, Hayward, WI.

## Looking Good at the Willy Street Fair

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## Another Outstanding Benefit for OUT!

September 16, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Wisconsin NOW Equality PAC has endorsed the following candidates in the primary races:

Helen Casper (77th AD)  
Christopher Blythe (39th AD)  
Ted Miner (10th SD)



Barbara Notestein (12th AD)  
Helen Forster (37th AD)  
Carol A. Wilson (33rd AD)

## VOTE SEPTEMBER 11

Authorized and paid for by WI NOW Equality PAC.

## The Wisconsin Lesbian/Gay Network proudly presents its

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### Employment

MADISON

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### Counseling

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MADISON

**Recovery as the caring person**—one day wkshp. Sun., Sept. 23, for people concerned about someone else's alcohol/drug use. Increase understanding of disease and how families are affected. Focus on healing and recovery. Limited enrollment. Registration needed. The Moon Fire, 256-5115, Mrs. Tran-Non-MSW, C.A.O.D.A.T.

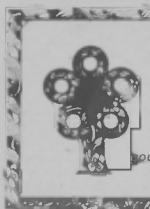
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# HORSE RACES

## Key seats up for grabs in Madison and Milwaukee

By Brooks Egerton

### SENATE DISTRICT 26—MADISON AREA

In anticipation of political primaries Sept. 11, OUT interviewed candidates in some key progressive-controlled districts. Our assessments here are based upon candidate's responses to the following questions:

1) Do you support Wisconsin's historic legislation banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation?

2) Would you support a proposal giving the financial benefits and other protections of marriage to unmarried people in committed relationships?

3) Would you support legislation stiffening penalties for crimes of harassment and violence targeted at lesbians, gays and other groups?

Virtually all candidates answered positively to the first question; it was the answers to questions two and three that proved interesting. Read on, and you'll see what we mean.

The man many thought had an iron grip on his Senate seat is facing a run for his money. Senate President Fred Risser, a 22-year legislative veteran, has a good voting record on gay issues—for example, he was principal Senate author of gay rights legislation. And he says he has "no problem" with alternative family legislation. But he's drawn fire from many activists for not showing leadership for a progressive agenda; he says this charge is "without merit."

Michael Brendt, his opponent in the Democratic primary, has a strong record of environmental activism. Basically he seems supportive of gay rights, though he "doesn't know" about supporting alternative families legislation.

Kathy Christensen, a labor organizer and outspoken critic of Risser, is the wild card in this race. As a Labor

and Farm party candidate, she's not directly involved in the Democratic primary—but she will affect and be affected by it. She must receive at least six percent of the total vote cast in the 26th district's primaries September 11 in order to qualify for matching state funds.

Christensen undoubtedly is the strongest gay-rights advocate in this race. Her Labor and Farm Platform has a fully articulated alternative families plank, and she promises to "run point" on the issue. She has extensive labor backing—most of which had gone to Risser in years past—and also shares a Wisconsin Women's Political Caucus endorsement with the incumbent. She has been endorsed by the lesbian/gay Eleanor Roosevelt Political Action Committee.



Kathy Christensen

### ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 76—MADISON'S WEST SIDE

Of the eight candidates standing for the Democratic nomination in this traditionally liberal district, two have previously held elected office—but neither of these big-name contenders shows much promise on lesbian/gay issues. Four-term Madison Common Council member Jean Steuart has a past record of anti-gay voting, and expressed concern that alternative family legislation would "erode the marriage and family relationship."

Becky Young, a current member of the Madison School Board, has endorsements from outgoing Rep. Mary Lou Munis and the Wisconsin Women's Political Caucus. She, too, equivocates on alternative family issues, and says only that she "would consider" supporting stiffened penalties for anti-gay violence.

Other leading candidates appear to include Tim Kehl, a United Church of Christ minister, and Tom Reed, a social worker and co-chair of the City-County Committee on Sexual Assault. Both, it could be argued, would prove strong on lesbian/gay issues, having given firmly positive answers to all OUT's questions. Kehl has endorsements from the Madison Federation of Labor and an environmental political action committee, among others; Reed has the individual backing of openly lesbian Dane County Supts. Kathleen Nichols and Lynn Haanen.

Of the remaining candidates, Bonnie Albright and Leslie Schoenfeld both have extensive experience working in state agencies—but both seem hesitant and unfamiliar with alternative family issues. Schoenfeld supports new anti-violence measures; Albright supports "a study... to determine the depth and the breadth of the problem."

Michael Stein, who has worked for several years as an assistant to Sen. Mordcai Lee (D-Milwaukee), seems somewhat more supportive but still cautious on alternative families, and very supportive of new anti-violence measures. Charles Oehler could not be reached for comment.

### ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 12—MILWAUKEE'S EAST SIDE

Barbara Notestein clearly has the popular endorsements—NOW, labor, the Wisconsin Women's Political Caucus—in this three-way horse race for the Democratic nomination. Active with NOW and WWPC, she served on the state Women's Council and for seven years was director of the Milwaukee Hunger Task Force. She answered all OUT's questions positively and said she would give "active support" to alternative families legislation.

Leon Rouse also looks like a strong candidate, having previously

shown leadership as an openly gay man. He was a lobbyist for state gay rights legislation, and long had pushed ROTC at UWM to quit discriminating against gays or leave the campus. On other issues, however, many perceive him to be the most conservative of the three contenders. He could not be reached by OUT for comment.

Tom Williams, too, is an advocate. A Presbyterian minister, he pushed church endorsement of gay rights and consenting adults legislation. He calls the current lack of recognition for alternative families a "tragedy."



Leon Rouse

### ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 77—MADISON'S WEST SIDE



Helen Casper

This district, similar to the 76th in its liberal reputation, has an even larger pool of well-known Democratic candidates. Most of them are basically supportive of lesbian/gay issues, though there are clear differences in degree—some have more experience working on the issues, some seem more likely to show leadership, etc.

Helen Casper is one frontrunner, with endorsements from the Wisconsin NOW Equality PAC, the lesbian/gay Eleanor Roosevelt PAC, and the Wisconsin Women's Political Caucus (shared with Liesl



Spencer Black

Blockstein). She seems perhaps the ideal candidate, combining experience with willingness to push—not just vote for—issues like alternative families.

Spencer Black, another frontrunner, has endorsements from labor and environmental groups. Like Casper, he expresses readiness to lead on alternative families, and he also has experience as a lobbyist—but unlike Casper he has no record of work for gay rights.

Liesl Blockstein, past state president of the Women's Political Caucus, equivocates on alternative

families. She is supportive but not excited about developing stronger anti-violence legislation.

Carol Brooks, a past producer of Her Turn for WORT-FM, "absolutely" favors anti-violence legislation, but is cautious about the "fiscal impact" of alternative families.

Nan Cheney is a respected progressive voice and past chair of the Dane County Democratic Party. She gave positive answers to all OUT's questions, but her interest in taking a leadership role on the issues is unclear.

Eve Galanter is perceived by some to be both a frontrunner and the most conservative candidate in the race. A three-term Common Council member and past executive director of the Wisconsin Democratic Party, she may be haunted by an endorsement from the Wisconsin Realtors Association. She fears that alternative families legislation would cost too much.

Jenny Armstrong and Thomas Grogan, both attorneys and less prominent candidates, seem unenthused about alternative family legislation, with Grogan opposing it outright.

Current Madison Common Council member Judy Bowser could not be reached for comment.