

24 states still have sodomy laws

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Supreme Court's 5-4 ruling on June 30 to uphold Georgia's sodomy law, while not re-criminating sodomy nationwide, will likely make laws such as Georgia's harder to get rid of, according to gay activists.

Sodomy is usually defined as performing or submitting to any act involving the sex organs of one person and the mouth or anus of another and applies to heterosexual as well as homosexual acts.

The court's decision may well spell a reversal of a trend begun in 1961 when Illinois became the first state to decriminalize sodomy among consenting adults. Twenty-five other states have followed suit.

The Wisconsin sodomy statute was repealed legislatively in 1983, a year after passage of the state's gay rights law.

Citing that homosexual sodomy is not protected by the U.S. Constitution, the court upheld only the part of the Georgia sodomy law which criminalizes anal and oral sex by gays.

The court's ruling grants states the power to legislate against sodomy if they choose, by saying that such state laws are not in violation of the federal constitution. This does not, however, immediately apply to the 26 states which have decriminalized sodomy, since state constitutions may offer protections not granted by the U.S. Constitution, provided they do not violate it. But the court's decision does open the door for possible repeal of decriminalizing legislation already passed.

Gay leaders have said that prosecution of homosexual sodomy, in states where prohibitions still exist, is unlikely. Nonetheless the ruling does uphold the legality of sodomy laws in 24 states, plus the District of Columbia. (Sodomy laws are currently facing court challenges in at least four of these states.)

Under the law, you can't commit homosexual sodomy (some of these

states do allow its heterosexual counterpart) in: Rhode Island, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Idaho and Montana.



Terence Gilles, co-coordinator of the Midwest Invitational Volleyball Tournament, held in Madison July 18-20, presents a trophy to the Chicago Pouch-Bears, winners of the consolation bracket. Looking on, at the awards ceremony at the Cardinal Bar, is Brian Biedel, tournament manager. First place was won by the Cincinnati Spurs, second by Chicago Christopher St., and third by Minneapolis Gamma A. Rod's of Madison placed sixth.

states do allow its heterosexual counterpart) in: Rhode Island, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Idaho and Montana.

While 21 states have decriminalized sodomy legislatively, three have done so judicially. New York and Pennsylvania courts have invalidated sodomy laws there, while in Massachusetts, the state's Supreme Judicial Court issued an opinion that it considered the state's sodomy law unenforceable.

NOW state conference held in Madison

MADISON—Wisconsin NOW can help stop the epidemic of teenage pregnancy by helping teens develop a sense of self-worth and by supporting legislative efforts for more aggressive and open prevention programs, according to Gov. Anthony Earl.

He spoke at the 20th-anniversary conference of the state chapter of the National Organization for Women. About 100 members and guests met in Madison July 18 to 20 to make well-heated plans for the coming years and to honor Wisconsin founders of the world's largest feminist organization.

NOW was founded in 1966 out of frustration with the first National Commission on the Status of Women.

Judy Goldsmith, a native of Manitowish, Wis., confirmed at the conference that she plans to run for Congress in the future, probably for the state's 6th district seat, now held by Thomas Petri. Goldsmith was president of national NOW from 1982 to 1985 and was honored at the Wisconsin conference.

Earl said that the United States has the highest rate of teen-age births among Western nations and that Milwaukee's rate is double the national average, with 42 percent of that city's births occurring to teen-age women.

Earl said changing the messages provided to young women and men to help them understand the options to pregnancy will help bring the pregnancy rate down. He compared it to the shift in attitudes toward women in sports, adding that the task to prevent pregnancy would be more difficult.

Changes in welfare, job training, and preparation for women to work outside the home are necessary, he said. "Most likely most of them are going to be working out of economic necessity for most of their lives," he said of teen-age girls, and that they can no longer be taught that motherhood and homemaking are the major

tasks in their lives.

"It seems to me there is no group better prepared to help us with this than you," Earl told NOW members.

Goldsmith and Kathy Webb, the national secretary of NOW, criticized U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese's Commission on Pornography report. In a press conference at the Madison convention they said that while NOW supports the commission's findings that pornography

is in conflict with the religious views of the Commission or the Reagan Administration."

NOW also criticized the commission's report for failing to emphasize that most child sexual abuse is committed by relatives and family friends.

Goldsmith also called on presidential aide Donald Regan to apologize and resign for his remarks that American women did not want the United States to cut off trade with South Africa because it would hurt the diamond business.

"Giving up diamonds is not a problem for most women," Goldsmith said. The Reagan administration is "wildly out of touch" with the reality of most women's lives, in which money for rent and food means more than large jewelry purchases, she said.

Goldsmith said Regan's remarks made American women seem "self-indulgent, spoiled and stupid" and tried to turn the struggle against apartheid into a "laughing matter."

She said, "If we're going to require responsible behavior from teens, we can expect no less from our President."

She also blamed Regan for "inflammatory remarks" comparing abortion to slavery, murder, and the Holocaust, which she said have led to violence against abortion clinics. The Reagan administration "dragged its feet" for ten months before it repudiated what she called "domestic terrorism aimed at women."

She said the Reagan administration is also supporting a campaign to deprive women of access to birth control.

Goldsmith endorsed the candidacy of Chesie Lee against incumbent Steve Gunderson for Congress in Wisconsin's third district.

At the conference, Kathy Patrick of Madison was re-elected state president.

The conference passed resolutions

outlining plans for action on reproductive rights and an end to violence against abortion clinics as well as work on religion, lesbian rights, political campaigns, racism, and employment.

With the NAACP and other organizations, NOW organized a protest June 22 against Congressman James Sensenbrenner for what they considered an attempt to delay the Civil Rights Restoration Act by attaching an amendment against abortion. Bonny Nelson of Oconomowoc, Wis., chair of the Combating Racism Task Force, said NOW will shadow Sensenbrenner throughout his district to emphasize his "attempt to drive a wedge" between feminist and black organizations with the amendment.

She said NOW will also work against racist aspects of "workfare" welfare changes requiring women to stop out of job training to go to work, and will monitor Milwaukee Public Schools desegregation.

NOW's lesbian rights plans include working with gay and lesbian organizations on AIDS education.

Wisconsin NOW opened the conference with a reception at the governor's mansion for nine of NOW's original founders from the state. The women honored were Gene Boyer, businessperson; Analooze Clancy, former newspaper reporter; Katherine Clarenbach, university professor; Catherine Conroy, labor union leader and a member of the UW Board of Regents; Sister Austin Doherty, vice president of Alverno College; Mary Eastwood, president of Equal Opportunity Consultants; Edith Finlayson, nurse and member of the UW Board of Regents; Nancy Knack, university professor; and Sister Joel Reed, president of Alverno College.

Dorothy Witte Austin, a retired newspaper reporter, was also honored for her 25 years of coverage of the women's movement.



Kathy Patrick
phy harms women and children and that civil lawsuits should be allowed for people harmed by pornography, the commission's emphasis on obscenity laws and on "traditional family values" was disturbing.

"There is no question," Goldsmith said. "That a considerable amount of the material that is available and consumed in this country is negative and some is extremely violent," but she warned that the commission's report may be used to hurt First Amendment rights and suppress unpopular opinions.

In a press release, national NOW warned that "The Religious Right, in particular, will use the revisionism that many Americans feel against the violence and subjugation of pornography as an excuse to spread bigotry and hatred against lesbians and gay men." The release said, "It is imperative that the report not be used as an opportunity to attack those whose

Patently offensive proposal—Mere possession of a dildo could get you a year in jail under a proposed Maine law that is slated to go before voters soon in a public referendum. Also considered criminal are any "patently offensive representations or descriptions of . . . sexual acts, heterosexual or homosexual, normal or perverted, actual or simulated, including sexual intercourse, sodomy or sexual bestiality . . . representations or descriptions of masturbation, fellatio, cunnilingus, excretory functions . . . and covered male genitals in a discerningly turgid state of arousal."

Get naked!—National Nude Weekend took place near Mazomanie, Wis., in July, under the slogan, "Freedom to our still-buddled masses, shrouded in dress-code uniformity." The Give Us Liberty

Committee, an Oshkosh-based group, organized the event, which drew several hundred participants. "Clothing obsessiveness is an unrecognized pathology," a committee press release urged. "Obsessive dressing denies our vulnerability, or equality and common humanity."

Pushing the PANIC button—"Nuclear Energy Is Safer Than Sex," read a sign posted by followers of Lyndon LaRouche in California during a recent petition drive aimed at putting an AIDS-related quarantine measure on the

November ballot. The official title of the group promoting the measure is PANIC (Prevent AIDS Now Initiative Committee). Another of PANIC's signs: "Nuclear Power Plants Are Built Better Than Jane Fonda." PANIC succeeded, by the way, in gathering the 393,000 signatures necessary to force a public referendum.

People power—In Turin, Italy, some folks have no patience with religious bigotry. When a Roman Catholic priest refused recently to conduct a funeral mass

for a murdered gay man, 200 mad mourners dragged him from his church office to the altar and forced him to bless Bruno Deiana's coffin.

Russians, race and AIDS—According to Leonid S. Filarov, chief doctor at the Okzhnikidze Sanatorium in the Black Sea resort town of Sochi, some Soviet doctors believe AIDS could be caused by mixed-race marriages. "Mixed marriages can create genetic mutations and it is possible AIDS could also be a result of these marriages. We are looking at this possibility," Filarov recently told visiting journalists.



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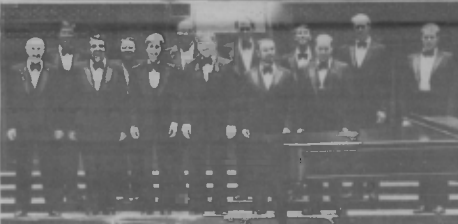
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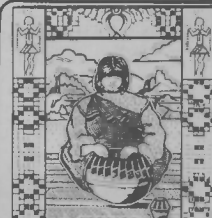
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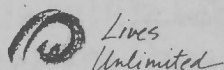
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Alternative-family law clears big hurdle

MADISON— Alternative-family rights are one giant step closer to being enshrined in law.

The Madison Equal Opportunities Commission in late July approved a proposed ordinance that would grant lesbian, gay and other non-traditional families many of the rights presently enjoyed only by heterosexual married couples and their dependents.

The proposal, which covers such key areas as employment benefits, public accommodations, housing and credit, has been sent to the city attorney's office for review. From there, it will be forwarded to the City Council for a vote.

The proposed ordinance draws heavily from a document drafted by the Madison Institute for Social Legislation, which has been pressing for alternative-family rights for three years.

After the commission vote to approve the ordinance, MISL coordinator Barbara Lightner said she was "very, very heartened. It has taken a long time, and a lot of movement has occurred" among commission members.

"We've passed the major midway hurdle" toward getting an alternative-family ordinance enacted into law, Lightner declared. She said MISL now would begin a campaign to contact and educate all City Council members about the proposed ordinance.

Major debate occurred among commission members over whether to require employers who provide traditional-family insurance policies to also provide alternative-family policies. This issue is considered one of the most controversial questions surrounding alternative-family rights because it carries a price tag.

Commission member Sue Bauman, a conservative Democrat who also is a member of the City Council, led the charge to make alternative-family insurance optional. But after impassioned speeches from openly lesbian commissioner Barbara Cox and commission executive director J.C. Wright, the commission voted 7-4 to require it.

"This is one of the most important parts of the ordinance," Cox said. "I know lots of people who cannot get

the health care they need" because of prejudice against alternative families.

Wright characterized Bauman's position as saying that "a little bit of discrimination is all right" and urged the commission to push for the strongest ordinance possible.

Bauman and commissioner Nino Amato continued to maintain, however, that the commission's proposal would get torpedoed on the City Council floor if alternative-family insurance were mandatory.

After the meeting, MISL's Lightner minimized the potential costs of alternative-family insurance. The city of Madison, she noted, found in a

survey that only about three percent of its employees were in alternative families. Adding their partners to their insurance policies would only increase the city's health insurance budget by eight-tenths of one percent, she said.

The commission left unanswered some details about termination of alternative-family status and vowed to take up those matters in August at its next meeting. For the most part, though, it has completed its work on the ordinance—whose fate now rests with the city attorney and, ultimately, with the City Council. A council vote could come as early as this fall.

Ben-Shalom case to be heard August 7

MILWAUKEE—Miriam Ben-Shalom's attorney is scheduled to make oral arguments Aug. 7 before the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., on whether or not Ben-Shalom should be reinstated into the U.S. Army Reserves.

Ben-Shalom, a drill sergeant, was discharged from the Army in 1976 for saying she is a lesbian. After four years of administrative appeals and court hearings, she won a ruling from Federal Judge Terence T. Evans in Milwaukee that "her sexual preference had as much relevance to her military skills as did her gender." The Army was ordered to reinstate her with back pay.

But the Army did not let her back in, and she returned to Evans's court in 1983 to ask him to rule that the Army was in contempt of court.

In 1984, Evans ruled that the Army was not in contempt. He also found that it owed her \$991 in back pay but did not have to reinstate her. She appealed that ruling to the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago.

In January 1986, the court ruled that Evans was wrong because Ben-

Shalom had not asked for back pay. The Chicago court ordered Evans to define his original order for reinstatement.

Evans then ordered reinstatement with a March 1, 1986, deadline. Ben-Shalom's teen-age daughter threw a party to celebrate the decision, but 555 hours before the deadline, the Army won a stay from the Washington court while it appealed Evans's order.

Ben-Shalom's attorney, Patrick Berigan, asked to have the stay lifted while the appeal was under consideration, but his request was denied. He also asked the court to postpone the Aug. 7 oral arguments. If that request is granted, he said, he may file a motion to transfer the case to the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago, which had earlier ruled in Ben-Shalom's favor.

Assuming the Aug. 7 date holds, Berigan said he and the Army's attorney will have 15 minutes each before the three-judge Washington court to argue their cases. The court then might rule by the end of the year, although it can take as long as it feels necessary to consider the case. ●



The National Association of Black and White Men Together poses with the Milwaukee contingent of BWMT at the New York City Gay Pride Parade.

MSF supports gays

MADISON—The Madison Sustaining Fund, the only local umbrella fund-raising group to support lesbian and gay organizations, has launched a campaign to expand its membership.

"We hope that more lesbian and gay groups will consider applying," says fund coordinator Denise Matyka. "We really pride ourselves on

all the groups pitch in with such activities as an annual book sale, which is held each August during the University of Wisconsin-Madison's registration week. (Dates this year are Aug. 25-29.)

Other sources of funds are private and public payroll deduction plans and a voluntary tax or "chip" collected at the Williamson Street Co-op and other businesses.

MSF supports several groups that are considered "too political" by the United Way, the largest of the umbrella funding agencies. Also, it does not place tight restrictions on how member groups may spend their money, as the United Way typically does.

The United Way has a poor record of funding lesbian/gay issues. During the struggle to change Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Dane County's anti-gay policy on volunteers, it refused to pressure that agency. More recently, it failed to award a grant to the Madison AIDS Support Network, citing that other applicants better met the criterion of serving a wide segment of the community.

MSF member groups include OUT: The United, Rape Crisis Center, Community Action on Latin America, The Rainbow Project, the University YMCA, the Madison Community Health Center, Commonwealth Development, Design Coalition, the Tenant Resources Center and the Welfare Rights Alliance. ●



Denise Matyka supporting groups that don't receive funds" from mainstream sources. The fund, which celebrated its 15th anniversary in June, is an association of 11 member social-change groups that cooperatively raise funds to support themselves. Volunteers from

Labor-Farm slates pro-gay candidates

MADISON—The Labor-Farm Party/Partido Laborista-Agrario last month announced the candidacies of six pro-gay candidates for Dane County offices. Among the contenders are two women, Marsha Rummel and Carolyn Helmke, who have worked extensively on feminist issues.

Rummel, 29, seeks the post of county treasurer. Active in the Reproductive Rights National Network and Amigas de AMES, a group that supports women's projects in El Salvador, Rummel works as a purchaser for the Mifflin Street Co-op. Helmke, 21, is running for county clerk. A University of Wisconsin-Madison student and food-service worker, she has worked on anti-prostitution efforts and has pushed for increased student government funding of Women's Transit Authority and other progressive organizations.

clude Madison peace activist Gillam Kerley, who wants to be sheriff; Daniel Grossberg, for register of deeds; Tony Castaneda, for coroner; and Harry Richardson, for clerk of courts.

If elected sheriff, Kerley promises to work closely with citizen groups of all kinds to "ensure that law enforcement activities respond to public concerns."

Kerley, 25, currently is employed as executive director of the National Committee Against Registration and the Draft.

A UW student and a residential property manager, Grossberg, 26, was active in the Labor-Farm Party's efforts to oppose the tax-free referendum in 1985 and has pressed for stronger city affirmative action policies. Currently, he is working for passage of an alternative family rights ordinance in the city. ●

Clarenbach announces run for re-election

MADISON—State Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison) will seek a seventh two-year term in the Wisconsin State Assembly this fall. Clarenbach is Speaker Pro Tem and is a leading proponent of gay civil rights.

Clarenbach's committee assignments include Labor, Agriculture, State Affairs and Elections. He chairs the Agriculture Special Committee on Rural Priorities.

"This fall's election will be, in many ways, a referendum on the future of our state. Citizens are being

asked to accept cuts in programs and services which will greatly affect their quality of life," Clarenbach said.

"We also find a mounting challenge to our state's anti-discrimination laws. The lesbian and gay community must be more active than ever in defending its civil rights gains in Wisconsin."

As part of a progressive coalition, I have tried to present an alternative to this ultra-conservative trend that is based on the principles of social justice and economic democracy," said Clarenbach. ●

Other Labor-Farm candidates in-

Speaking Out

Making Wisconsin's gay rights law work

By Jay Hatheway

An open letter to the gays and lesbians of Wisconsin:

It is appropriate at this time to clarify the issues which are at stake in the case of *Among Friends* vs. the *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

The *Press-Gazette* refused to run an ad for a gay and lesbian organization simply because the ad was directed to a specific sexual preference audience. Under Wisconsin law, gays and lesbians are a protected class of people, and that protection covers public accommodations. The state has ruled that classified sections of newspapers fall under the "public accommodations" clause. In June the Equal Rights Division of the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations ruled that there was probable cause to believe that the *Green Bay Press-Gazette* had engaged in illegal discrimination due to sexual orientation by denying *Among Friends* equal access to a public accommodation: use of the classified section of the paper.

This suit has nothing whatsoever to do with freedom of the presses. We are not attacking their right to print what they want in the non-classified section of their paper. However, when a paper establishes a classified section, it engages in market activities, and thus falls under the classification of public accommodation—only within the bounds of the classi-

fied section. If the paper uses a classified section, then it is bound to adhere to Wisconsin state law prohibiting discrimination and equal access to the "market place," in this instance, the classes. This is one issue.

Of equal or greater importance is the reason of the *Press-Gazette* and the Brown County District Attorney to the ruling of the Equal Rights Division. In response to an attempt by the state to reach conciliation (as provided for by law), the *Green Bay Press-Gazette* stated: "We do not believe that conciliation in this matter or an attempt thereat would accomplish anything. There are Constitutional issues involved and if the Petitioner [*Among Friends*] sees fit to pursue the matter, the issues will be addressed therein . . . please be advised that conciliation is not an avenue that we wish to pursue."

Thus, after the state had ruled probable cause for discrimination, and after the state had given an opportunity to respond to those charges, the paper refused, and on top of this the Brown County District Attorney will not prosecute because he does not believe any law has been violated—in spite of the ruling of the Equal Rights Division! Thus the necessity of our suit.

The Green Bay paper thumbs its nose at the civil rights law; the Brown County DA backs out and disregards the state's ruling. The question is: who is going to enforce our civil rights laws? If the paper won't ad-

here, and the DA won't prosecute, what good is the law?

Suppose a gay or lesbian is fired just because of sexual orientation or kicked out of a house just because of sexual orientation—and the DA backs away? If we as a community allow our detractors to disregard any element of our civil rights without so much as a whimper, then they will begin to totally strip away all of them.

The challenge to public accommodations is the first to be attacked. If they win, then comes employment, then housing. Do you really want to live in a country where you could be denied access to a bar, a supermarket, a house, a job? Everyone of us could suffer in all aspects of our lives! It is imperative for us to realize that there really are people who want to make us second- or third-class citizens. Witness the recent Supreme Court ruling on sodomy, the referendum to quarantine people in California who are AIDS patients or who test positive, and Rawhide Boys Camp's attack on the employment clause of our anti-discrimination statute.

Thus the case of *Among Friends* vs. the *Green Bay Press-Gazette* is more than just an attempt to gain access to its classified section. In a very real way our civil liberties are at stake. The frightening thing is that even those whose job it is to enforce this law will not enforce it. Consequently we must do it ourselves—and this is precisely what we are attempt-

ing to do. But—we need your help! This fight cannot be done alone. We simply do not have enough money to match the owners of the *Green Bay Press-Gazette*: Gannett, Inc., with assets of close to 125 million! We should not underestimate the seriousness to this attack on our civil liberties. If we don't fight back, if we don't tell them "Hell no!," then we could really find ourselves at the short end of a stick.

Never forget what happened to the Jews of Europe during World War II. It can't happen here, you say. It is beginning. All over the country gays and lesbians are under attack. To make things worse, in the minds of many, gays are "murderers" because we "spread AIDS." Our detractors have a spectacular weapon—fear and death—and they use it.

Please join us in stopping this insidious attack on our rights. If you can spare a couple of dollars or more, it will help us send a very strong message to those who would see us in chains, or worse. If, however, we allow them to run us down without a struggle, then they will have won and the closet door will be nailed tight. Our goal is to raise \$4,000.

Contributions may be sent to: *Among Friends*, P.O. Box 881, Madison, WI 53701 or Attorney Mark Borns, 222 S. Bedford St., Madison, WI 53703.

Please make checks payable to "Among Friends Defense Fund." All donations strictly confidential. ●

Military "reformers" sidestep the issues

By Ken Lau

"The right to serve" is the call of lesbian/gay military reformists. In the name of "liberation," they demand lesbian/gay community support for their efforts. Questions about the military's role as a tool of oppression are dismissed with patriotic mumbblings, pleas of ignorance, and allusions to lesbian/gay "solidarity."

They vehemently denounce the persecution of lesbian/gay military personnel, but consistently fail to acknowledge other forms of oppres-

sion within the military or perpetrated by it. Directly related issues which call into question the desirability and/or morality of military servitude, and thus the validity of their crusade, are for them non-existent, are irrelevant, or will somehow disappear once "we" achieve "equality."

According to the UW-Madison Task Force on ROTC Policy Reform and pro-military activists Miriam Ben-Shalom and Jay Hatheway, "equality" is apparently confined to lesbian/gay access to "all rights and privileges of American citizenship." In other words, it is the "right" to be exploited and exploitative regardless of sexual preference. This vision promises only narrow, accommodating reforms; it reflects middle-class liberalism at its vulgar best, fed by insidious nationalist alliegances.

This has become all too evident in recent months through a conversation with a task force member, a viewing of the film *Sergeant Matlovich vs. the U.S.A.F.*, and a recent task force sponsored "panel discussion" featuring Ben-Shalom, Hatheway, and Gordon Baldwin, director of officer education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

When confronted with the ethical problems arising from voluntary military servitude, the task force member could only respond with an allusion to an imminent Soviet invasion. Questioning American government motives behind violent intervention throughout the world was for him incomprehensible.

The task force's showing of *Matlovich* is another case in point. Billed by the task force as a "documentary," it is in fact a made-for-TV "docu-drama" with all of the creativity and in-depth analysis of an episode of "Barnaby Jones." This viewer left immediately following a

particularly "touching" scene, which showed Matlovich playing altar boy while a priest administered communion to compliant Vietnamese peasants and warplanes thundered overhead. The purpose of those warplanes and the death and destruction they caused were never questioned.

A similar lack of critical analysis was, unfortunately, the rule rather than the exception throughout the above-mentioned "panel discussion." Quotation marks are used here because there was no panel but rather three speakers, and discussion was in fact severely limited.

"Discrimination" within the military was angrily denounced; discussion of the role of the military as enforcer of socio-economic oppression was clearly unwelcome and skillfully avoided.

Hatheway declared his faith in "progress," citing decreased racial discrimination within the military as evidence. When it was pointed out that "blacks" became more "acceptable" only as the need for fresh cannon fodder increased, the military reformists were, not surprisingly, silent.

Ben-Shalom declared, "I dearly love my country, even though she is sometimes wrong," and stated her overriding desire to "serve her" militarily. She persistently refused to address directly related issues of tremendous magnitude, such as poverty, draft, and the military's role in Central America and in domestic labor disputes. As for student protests, she claimed to have once stood in uniform, between students and police during a Milwaukee show-down. Asked if she would ever consider disobeying orders under similar circumstances if she were reinstated into the Army Reserves, she declined to comment.

Whatever else she may be, Ben-Shalom is not an unthinking person. She has artfully dodged these issues far too many times to be unaware of them. It is not overtly presumptuous to assume that she avoids them in order not to expose her true allegiances, especially in light of her past attacks on peace activists and others who have questioned the validity of her cause and her self-proclaimed martyrdom.

Ben-Shalom, Hatheway, and many other lesbian and gay men have no doubt suffered greatly from the actions of an extremely homophobic military establishment. But millions of others around the world have also suffered from its long-standing role as brutal enforcer of American capitalist rule, a fact which Ben-Shalom, et al. refuse to acknowledge. This self-serving denial of reality is unforgivable, and they should no longer be allowed the luxury of selective "ignorance."

There are those within the lesbian/gay community who express well-intentioned but naive hopes that sex and possibly romantic love between same-sex enlisted men/women and their officers will somehow subvert the military's hierarchy, and thus its effectiveness and/or its oppressiveness. This assumes that sex and romantic love diminish the desire for and worship of power, and that lesbian/gay sex is *in and of itself* subversive and thus qualitatively different from and perhaps superior to heterosexual sex.

The first assumption is clearly divorced from reality; the truth of the second is at best, highly doubtful, and all available evidence points to it being a pleasant, but mistaken, illusion.

As proven by the emergence of
continued on page 5

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Festival of the Lakes:

Gay Men's Chorale gets invitation

MADISON—Hot on the heels of a bravura performance in Minneapolis, the Gay Men's Chorale has landed a spot in the lineup of groups performing in September's Festival of the Lakes.

The show will take place on Friday, Sept. 19, at 8 p.m. in Mills Auditorium on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus.

The chorale originally wasn't invited to perform because festival organizers "didn't know we existed," said chorale director Max Ward. But after

the singers asked for a chance to show their stuff, they were accepted without resistance.

The chorale sang at GALA Festival II in Minneapolis July 2-6, where "the comment came over and over again that we were the group that really entertained," Ward said.

He said the group got a standing ovation after its first number, "It's Hot Up Here," from the musical "Sunday in the Park With George."

"We try to be as varied as possible," Ward explained, citing a

repertoire that ranges from Broadway to barbershop and even includes some classical offerings.

"I think anybody passing by one of our shows would want to stop in—I think they'd be wooed by our entertainment value."

Ward said audiences at the chorale's programs once were composed almost exclusively of gay men, but "now are about 50-50 male-female. And the non-gay ratio is definitely increasing."

"People too often underestimate the non-gay community," he continued. "They think they'd have no appreciation for us, but that's not true."

Ward describes the Gay Men's Chorale as "a social organization—a nice alternative to the bars that both entertains and enlightens." The group has fostered gay pride in many of its members, he thinks, and also helps provide role models for gay youth.

Issues unquestioned

continued from page 4

openly gay Republicans, sexual preference in and of itself does not determine one's politics. We possess no divine gift of subversion that somehow arises from our "gayness." A relatively large presence of radicalism within our community is the result of our awareness of oppression—our own and that of others—and our sexual preference in and of itself.

The causes of oppression are many and complex, and the alleviation of lesbian/gay oppression alone is just that; it will not in and of itself lessen anyone's suffering but our own. Without a coinciding massive transformation of the socio-economic world, it will not even touch the lives of those lesbians and gay men who are at the bottom of that order. We are a community which encompasses all socio-economic and racial classes, from the privileged top of the social ladder to its most economically oppressed bottom rungs. All-encom-

passing "liberation" is much more than the mere elevation of some within the social hierarchy; it is necessarily the very elimination of that hierarchy.

We must recognize the necessity of building coalitions with other victims of oppression, whether that oppression is sexual, racial, or economic in nature. We must develop broader platforms which, if enacted, will achieve meaningful change rather than largely cosmetic, merely accommodating "reforms."

Ben-Shalom et al. cry "oppression" and see only their own. They declare "liberation" and limit it to their own relatively petty self-interests. They battle "discrimination" while seeking tacit approval of an unjust, inhumane society, if only they, too, are allowed to climb to the top. For this, they deserve loud and clear condemnation. In the name of "liberation," we cannot ourselves become oppressors, or their willing agents.

Lesbian/gay rights advocate, bishop dies

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.—Rev. Marjorie Matthews, a gay-rights advocate and the first woman elected as a bishop of the United Methodist Church, died last month at a nursing home here. She was 69.

Matthews served as bishop for the church's Wisconsin Conference from 1980 to 1984, working out of a Sun Prairie office. During that tenure, she was the highest-ranking woman in mainstream church structures in the U.S.

A vocal advocate for Wisconsin's gay rights laws, Matthews had worked as an ordained Methodist minister for some 20 years before

becoming a bishop. She also spoke out forthrightly on feminist and peace issues.

In a 1984 interview with OUT!, Matthews criticized conservatives who opposed accepting gays and lesbians in the United Methodist Church. "It's my understanding that the word of God is available to everyone—to all the children of God, to every man, woman, and child. I certainly would not presume to tell God who should receive his grace... I don't know that being homosexual is a sin."

A Michigan native, Matthews had suffered from cancer in recent years.

U.W. grad gets award

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA—A gay/lesbian public affairs radio program in Anchorage, Alaska, has received three awards for excellence in two recent competitions.

"Out in the North," a weekly half-hour program produced at public station KSKA-FM, featured the winning entries during broadcasts in 1985. It is the second year in a row the program has received such recognition.

The program received two first-place awards—for health and science reporting, and for editorial writing—from the Pacific Northwest region of Sigma Delta Chi, the professional journalism society. The awards were announced May 10 in Seattle. Journalists from a five-state region competed.

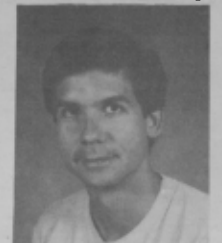
David McCartney, a volunteer reporter at KSKA-FM, produced a four-part series on use and abuse of the AIDS virus antibody test. He also wrote a review of the Academy Award-winning documentary, "The Times of Harvey Milk."

In addition, "Out in the North" received third-place honors from the Alaska Press Club for best ongoing public affairs radio program in the state. That award was announced May 17 in Anchorage.

McCartney, 30, is a 1979 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a reporter for KENI-AM in Anchorage and produces "Out in the North" in his spare time.

"Out in the North" offers news, music and features of interest to Alaska's gay/lesbian community. It is heard on KSKA-FM (91.1 MHz) every Sunday evening at 8:30 p.m.

Who's OUT!?



Gene Yuran has worked as typesetting coordinator and volunteered as typesetter for OUT! over the last two and a half years. Gene has also worked for The United, has done typesetting for the Madison AIDS Support Network and has composed while editing the Gay/Lesbian Community Calendar for the last six months. A seven-year resident of Madison, he has a Bachelor's degree from Penn State University, an M.S. from UW-Madison in Plant Pathology and is currently finishing a Ph.D. in Horticulture.

OUT! DEADLINES
All editorial copy and items for *Community Notes* and *Calendar* must be received by the following dates:
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B. Somebody

Dear B.,

This isn't a desperate situation. In fact, you may refuse to print this on the grounds that it's too trivial, but it's still my problem.

How do you decide whether the relationship you're in is fulfilling enough or whether you need to move on?

Two months ago my live-in Patrick and I hit a gay men's slump. It just wasn't there for me anymore. I was reaching out but not getting what I needed. So we mutually decided to split up. We went into a friend's arms and I was left to myself.

I had no idea how lonely it would be to live alone again. Trying to meet/dote new men was uncomfortable and discouraging. I just wanted something new and I guess I never found it. Soon I began to feel the loss of Patrick. I really missed the security and pleasure of being with someone I really cared for. I love him. He is the best friend I've ever had. So by a decision from both of us we decided to regroup our lives. Now we're living together again.

I think I made the right decision but it's only been a couple of weeks. I'm really scared the non-fulfillment complex will come back. There's a happy medium here and the "married life" and "foot-loose and fancy-free?" I'm so filled with questions and can't come up with my own answers.
Fickle as a Pickle

Dear Fickle,

I think you may know more answers than you're admitting. First of all, you don't have to feel guilty because you're not happy. It's OK to want something else. You just have to know when to go for it. I suspect you may not have given the separation enough time if you're still unsure. Don't be a yo-yo.

The dilemma that you have been going through is one that many gays/lesbians and other alternative couples go through. The difference between some of us and some legally married folks is 1) children, 2) a legal/religious vow, 3) guilt.

If you're looking for ways to promote harmony for a long period of time, I suggest the three C's: communication, commitment and compassion. Let your loved one know when you need something else. Tell them when you're happy with anything. Then be willing to have that go both ways. When/if your lover is in a down period and he lets you know that, maybe you can pick up the cue to do something special (i.e., backrubs, tropical flowers, colognes, toys, etc.).

It takes a very special couple to withstand the storms of a moody world. It takes work. Natural compatibility helps too. All couples go through hard times. There are some who work it out—and others who don't because: a) they were impatient; or b) they weren't right for each other anyway. There's a lot to be said for the Alcoholics Anonymous Serenity Prayer: Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things that I can and the wisdom to know the difference.

Good luck.

Love, B.

Community notes

Lesbian authors are sought by **The Naiad Press**. Two particular genres are especially desired: science fiction/fantasy and international intrigue/svov novel. To submit work, start by writing a single-page letter about yourself, along with a one-page precis of your novel; send to Naiad at P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, FL 32302. For more information, call (904) 539-9322.

The annual **Take Back the Night** march and rally will take place in Milwaukee in September, accompanied by all sorts of events. Sponsors are the Anti-Crime Coalition and the Common Council's Task Force on Sexual Assault; contact those groups for more information.

Allyson Publications seeks coming-out stories from lesbians and gay men of every stripe. For a set of guidelines, write Allyson at 40 Plympton St., Boston, MA 02118. Especially welcome are inquiries from the physically challenged, minorities, older people and others who often have been made invisible.

The **National Association of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs** will hold its third biennial national convention in Washington, DC, in November, with final dates and times to be announced soon. Previously, the convention had been slated for Seattle in early August. For more information, contact Tom Chorlton at (202) 547-3104.

OUT! RESOURCE GUIDE

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OUT! Resource Guide Listings include: name, address, phone number 2 lines of description, 1 one line equals 40 characters, 3 consecutive months \$22.50 6 consecutive months \$40.00 Original typed/paste-up charge \$2.50 Logos: \$5.00/in/insertion. Additional description above 2 lines, add \$1.00/line/insertion. Deadline: 25th of the month preceding publication. Send to: OUT! Resource Guide, P.O. 148, Madison, WI 53701. Be sure to include your city of location in your listing.

Rodney Walter

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Peer-counseling and Support • Library • Housing Board • Monthly Calendar • Referrals • Workshops • Support Groups (coming out, over 30, gay fathers, AIDS Support Network)

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Calendar

Madison

Madison Draft Resistance Coalition, 731 State St., 7:30 p.m., for more info call 257-7562 or 831-0457.
25—Tue
Community Picnic for Visiting Soviets at Old Park, Sponsored by Madison Society for American-Soviet Friendship. For more info call 256-6109.
Star Wars and Arms Control presented by Sidney Drell, Deputy Director of Stanford's Linear Accelerator Center, State Historical Society. For more info 262-2473.
14—Thurs
The Lesbian Rights Task Force of Madison NOW is meeting at 4 p.m. at the NOW office (625 W. Washington, #204). For more information, call 255-3811.
17—Sun
Anti-Intervention/Anti-Draft Rally, Speakers: Iris Christensen and Gilliam Kerley. Location T.B.A. For more info 257-7562 or 831-0457.
21—Sun
Madison Gay/Lesbian Bowling League organizational meeting at 3 p.m. at the Back East, 508 E. Wilson. Bring a dish to pass. For more info call Bob 831-4038, Peg 244-0561 or Back East 256-7104.
22—Fri
Benefit for Big Mountain at Womyn's Cafe, 8:30 to Midnight, Wil-Bar Center, 955 Jennifer St. This is a women only event.
24—Sun
Lesbians Considering Motherhood picnic, pot-luck meeting from 5-7 p.m. in Hoyl Park across from overlook. For more info 238-2221.

25—Mon, Fri.
Madison Sustaining Fund's 15th annual book sale at the Library Mall. Benefit for MSF member groups, of which **OUT!** is a member. Good books, cheap!

Whitwaukee

8-10—Fri-Sun
Homosexuality and the Bible workshop presented by Reverend Sylvia Pennington at U.W.M. Union Bldg, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. For more info (414) 421-6868.
8-W.M.T. Heat of Summer Picnic at Lake Park Area 5, with special guests Dignity and Christian Gay OK. 11 a.m. to dusk.
21—Thur

Wisconsin Gay/Lesbian Community Forum: Antibody, insurability, and sex-partner referral, 7 p.m. Raskin Auditorium, Mt. Sinai Medical Center, 850 N. 32th St. Featuring Joanne Williams, moderator; Holly Dowling, Dr. Jeff Davis, Dr. Jim Veigelroni. Convened by Mark Behar.

La Crosse

6—Wed
Tattoo's Sotball Powell, 7 p.m.
Tuesdays
Lesbian/Gay Social Group meets at Crossroads, 17th and State Sts. at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesdays
Lesbian/Gay AA meets at 8 p.m., corner of West Ave. and Jackson St.

Michigan

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