



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

The Wisconsin Light

Poor and down-trodden receive help at the Sanctuary

By Terry Boughner

According to an old story which may be apocryphal, St. Francis of Assisi journeyed to Rome to seek the blessing of the pontifical magnificence, explaining to His Holiness that his aim for the Order was to live according to the precepts of Jesus.

The Pope listened and then rejected the petition out of hand. It was, he intoned, totally impractical, utterly impossible for anyone to live like that. There had to be organization, sources of income.

The monk bowed in disappointed obedience and was about to turn away when an old Cardinal spoke.

"Your Holiness," said he to the Pope, "How can you deny this man the right to live by the teaching of He whose representative on earth you claim to be?"

The Pontiff listened and then gave his blessing to the new Order.

Whether this story actually happened or not is unimportant. The fact is that there is a truth in it, a spirit that is being lived out, here in Milwaukee's Gay/Lesbian Community by a young man named Brother John Paul.

John Paul is a Lay Brother of the Franciscan Order. He lives with a man he calls his partner in a 19th Century cottage at 1636 W. National Avenue where, for the past eight years, they have kept a sanctuary for the poor. These are the street people, the ragpickers, the pariahs, the lepers of our society who, day by day, drag their way along our sidewalks unnoticed by most of us except for a quick glance before we turn away.

Even at Christmas, we turn away wanting nothing to do with these who we really do not see.

Brother John Paul sees them and offers them whatever he has to give.

He was born in New York City, at 15, took to the streets as a male hustler. He was a cute Italian guy, pretty, even. He's not bad looking now. Tricks were easy to come by and he worked Christopher Street, the piers at the foot of it and the Rambles in Central Park West, a hilltop place, wooded, with a labyrinth of dim dirt paths and large rocks where furtive sex was easy. Drugs were cheap, booze, cheaper and he became addicted to both, in the process, nearly ruining his body. Money? There was always plenty of that. The "numbers" paid well and his pimp allowed him more than enough to live on, but in the end, the road led to one suicide attempt and then another and another until the man who is now his partner found him and broke the cycle with the one thing that sex does not provide. Love.

It would be easy enough to write



Brother John Paul outside the chapel.

about Brother John Paul as a reformed Gay whore for that's what he is. But as he sits across the table from me with his long dark hair and beard, looking like a cross between a Medieval saint and an Old Testament prophet, cynic that I am, I know that would be missing the point — the entire point.

He hasn't been merely reformed. His life, as he talks about it frankly and with no degree of embarrassment, has been changed by the type of human love that creates one person out of two; a kind of love that Gays and Lesbians dream about, and by the love of a second man, a man named Jesus.

I am a cynic. I don't believe in that stuff, that part about a long dead Jewish rabbi somehow, in Milwaukee, in the 20th Century, entering your life and "making all things new". I don't believe that. Not for a moment.

Yet...

The door to The Sanctuary is always open. There are only three rules: no alcohol, no drugs and no sex. Food and clothing are freely dispensed and there is a warm place to find rest.

"Where does the food and everything come from?" I ask.

The reply is quiet and said with a warm smile. "God provides. That's what Jesus said and that's how we live, exactly as Jesus taught."

The cynic in me thinks that's crazy. It can't be done. Those things that Jesus taught about taking no thought for the morrow and that God will take care of your needs, were all ideals, not meant to be actually lived, not on this earth

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Sans gloves for now...

By Jerry Warzyn

Potential disruption of the H.I.T. Awards Banquet was averted through the timely efforts of Dr. Karen Lamb, Dr. Paul Turner, members of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (M.A.P.), and members of the H.I.T. Committee. The issue arose November 1, 1987, when the service staff at the Marc Plaza served dinner to the primarily Gay/Lesbian audience at the Miss/Mr. Gay Wisconsin Pageant with white gloves. Several attendees at the dinner noted that a number of the hotel staff wore rubber gloves under their white serving gloves. The rubber gloves apparently were worn to avoid "catching" AIDS.

Marc Plaza management responded to an inquiry from *In Step* publisher, Ron Geiman, by letter published in the

In Step Nov. 19-Dec. 2, 1987 issue. Kenneth F. Buss, Executive Director of Sales and Marketing, wrote that "... we extended 'white glove' service to give the appearance of a more formal affair... It is our understanding that a few of the service personnel took the liberty of wearing rubber gloves underneath the formal gloves. We sincerely appreciate your bringing this incident to our attention so that it will not repeat itself at any of our future functions..." *In Step*, Nov 19-Dec 2, 1987, Page 15.

On Wednesday, November 25, 1987, sources at the Marc Plaza notified *Wisconsin Light* that this statement was not totally accurate and that service staff were planning to wear rubber gloves at the H.I.T. Awards Banquet:

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Cream City Foundation offices open

After months of work, the Cream City Foundation (CCF) began part-time operation of The Foundation Community Center on December 14, 1987.

Maintaining hours of 1:00 PM-5:00 PM each business day, the office will be staffed by an aide who will take calls, refer inquiries to the proper agency or organization and provide various services to the Gay/Lesbian Community as well as handle CCF business.

During scheduled evening meetings, the Center will be staffed by volunteers who will admit guests and close up after meetings.

Several items still must be obtained to completely outfit the office. These include typewriters, a computer, desk chairs, mats, locking file cabinets and a copier.

Most of the furniture and carpeting were in place during the first week of December along with comfortable chairs and ashtrays all around.

Sundays appear to be shaping up as possibly the busiest days with several church groups looking forward to using the building for their services.

The Foundation Community Center has been made possible by generous donations of furniture and facilities and by crafts-people who gave of their time over months to remodel the 100-year-old building.

The Center will be open to all Gay/Lesbian groups for meetings and other events. The Center will also house the offices of CCF's Tri-Cable Tonight and the Community Calendaring and Forum. ▽

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Madison AIDS Support Network

By SPEAK ITS NAME

Madison— "We are increasing our staff to respond to the number of clients we anticipate in coming years," said Marjorie Hurie, vice president of the Board of Directors of the Madison AIDS Support Network.

Hurie, who as vice-president will become board president next June, said that the expansion has already come in the form of a recently hired Public Health Educator, Susan Krause. It will continue with the hiring of a Case Manager, expected by the end of 1987.

Ideally, according to current board president Bob Enghagen, MASN would also like to hire a Volunteer Coordinator and an Executive Director, in addition to Krause and Sandy Starrett, who is MASN's Project Director.

"More likely, though," Enghagen said, "we'll have to settle for a staff of three: a combination volunteer coordinator and office manager, a case manager and our public health educator."

MASN currently supports half of Starrett's position through donations, but has as its goal that all staff be supported through grants, such as the one received from the Wisconsin Division of Health to cover the costs of Krause's position. The City of Madison covers half of Starrett's position.

Additional grants received include \$25,000 for emotional support from the City of Madison and a grant from the New Harvest Foundation to send a second volunteer, Mark Sweet, to San Francisco to get Sahnti training in AIDS SUPPORT PROVISION.

The Shanti Project, originally a death-and-dying group founded in Berkeley in the 1970's, became the first AIDS emotional support service in the nation. MASN's first volunteer to receive the intensive 10-day training was Will Handy, who with Sweet is codirector of Life Care Services and responsible for training of emotional support volunteers.

A recent proposal to the County's Unified Service Board was submitted jointly by MASN and Hospice Care for \$84,000 for provision of service to PWA's. The County instead chose to set aside \$52,000 to be used on a per-request basis for "chore care" instead of funding any one AIDS organization, claiming that such funding would give PWAs (persons with AIDS) freedom of choice regarding where they obtained these services. Enghagen criticized the

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Tri-Cable airs

Mark Behar and Bryce Clark, Co-executive Producers of Tri-Cable Tonight, Milwaukee's Gay/Lesbian cable television program announced regularly scheduled broadcasts for the TV show's monthly airing. Tri-Cable Tonight is broadcast over cable Channel 14.

According to the published schedule, the program will air on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. and on the last Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

The only exception to this will be in December, 1987 when the cablecast will be seen on the fourth Tuesday and the last Sunday. The times remain as regularly scheduled.

Tri-Cable Tonight is a program of news and views of interest and importance to the entire Gay/Lesbian Community of Milwaukee. Its first airing in October enjoyed great success and has been greeted with high praise.

Tri-Cable is sponsored by the Cream City Foundation of Milwaukee. ▽