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The Wisconsin Light

WISCONSIN HATE CRIME BILL IN SERIOUS TROUBLE

By Bill Meunier

Wisconsin Light has learned that the so-called "Hate Crimes Bill," is in serious trouble and is unlikely to pass in this session of the Legislature. A source close to State Senator Lynn Adelman (D-Waukesha) told Light that Adelman "intends to bottle up the bill in his committee."

The Hate Crimes Bill would add additional penalties when someone is convicted of a crime and it can be shown that the crime was committed due to prejudice based on race, sex, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation. Twenty-nine states and the Federal Government currently have similar laws.

When contacted, Adelman denied that he was going to bottle up the bill. "I don't know what I am going to do about it right now. I'm not planning on calling an Executive Session to vote on the bill in committee and I don't think that even if I did, there would be enough time left in this session to pass it. You can draw your own conclusions from that."

Adelman said he objected to the bill

because he doesn't think it's needed. "No one introduced any evidence that indicated a single case when someone would have gotten a heavier sentence had this law been on the books."

He cited vandalism as an example. "If someone did enough damage to a person's property because they were prejudiced against them, they could be charged with a felony. They could get two years in prison, but I've never seen anyone getting a two year sentence for vandalism."

Adelman also objected to Attorney General Hanaway's attempt to amend the bill. The Attorney General wants amendments that would not require the commission of a crime. He said that Hanaway wanted the bill to include provisions that would ban the sale of any product that "made fun of people."

Adelman also claimed that the bill would be unenforceable. He questioned whether or not it would be possible to prove that someone committed a crime because they were bigoted. The Senator stated that he

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China's 100 million Gays live quiet but open lives

"Gay sex? There's a tremendous amount of it. It goes on all the time, everywhere. I'll tell you, restroom contact is so open. You can't go into a men's room without being cruised or touched. Nobody cares. Nobody looks. Nobody pays the slightest bit of attention."

New York? San Francisco? Neither one or any of the other more familiar places you might have guessed. The place Louie Crew is talking about is The Peoples Republic of China from which he has just returned after a four year stint as a professor, first, at the University of Beijing (Pin Yin spelling or Peking, traditional spelling) and then at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Crew now lives in Chicago with his lover but came to Milwaukee to read selections of his poetry from his book, *Midnight Lessons*. Crew is no stranger to Wisconsin having lived in the state and been a member of Governor Earl's Advisory Council on Lesbian/Gay Affairs. He is a very open Gay man.



Louie Crew

Whatever you say about China staggers the mind. Its recorded history covers some 5000 years going back to about 3000 B.C. when the Pharaohs ruled Egypt. The country's population according to the latest United Nations figures is somewhere over a billion people (no one is quite sure by how much.), living on a land area roughly the size of the continental United States. Just think about it for a moment. If the usually accepted percentage is correct, that means that living in China today are over

100 million Gay and Lesbian people or over five times the number in the United States.

If Gay sex is so open, Crew is asked? Are there any Gay bars in China?

Crew replied in the negative and then added, "But it's easy enough to meet someone. Eye to eye contact on the street is not furtive. In fact, it's much more open than in America and if — or when — you make contact, it's not 'my place or your's.' You go to one of the public parks and hope to find a free bush."

All this, he told Light happens in broad daylight and if there's no "free bush," you find some open grass. This goes for straight couples as well as Gay ones. With the population that China has, living in a density of 278 people per square mile (compared to 64 per square mile in the United States), there is little of what we call "privacy" or even any concept of it. "People go to the parks," he said, "because there is nowhere else to go," and nobody pays any attention. "If you're in the park, you walk along and pretend not to notice what's going on. That's just being polite."

Crew told Light that if anyone is going to try and understand Gay life in China, they

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1987 AIDS State and national statistics released

Since the recognition of AIDS in 1981, more than 27,764 persons have died from this disease nationally; 159 in Wisconsin have died. In 1987, 89 deaths due to AIDS were reported in Wisconsin. (These 1987 data are provisional; as some deaths which occurred in 1987 may not yet have been reported to the AIDS/HIV Program.)

In areas of the country with high prevalence of HIV infection, AIDS has become a leading cause of death. In San Francisco, the total number of deaths due to AIDS exceeds the number of soldiers from San Francisco who died in WWI, WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, combined. In New York City, AIDS is the leading cause of death for men 25-44 years old and for women 25-34 years old.

In Wisconsin, the mortality due to AIDS has steadily increased since the first cases were reported in 1982. By 1986, AIDS had become the fifth leading cause of death in men 30-39 years old, as shown on

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Film "Last Emperor" fails to say that title character was Gay

It is an unprepossessing glass door to a restaurant in Milwaukee's east side, the kind of door you'd find in entrance-ways all over the city. But this one is different. On the inside, looking out on the traffic of Brady Street, is a full-length portrait done in stained glass of a lonely looking Oriental boy dressed in the ancient dragon robes worn by the emperors of China.

Nobody, it seems, pays much attention to the picture. Who looks at doors? Which is a shame for the little boy pictured there is Pu Yi, the last emperor of China, the Celestial Empire, then, as now, a vast and mysterious land whose civilization is the oldest on earth.

They've made a movie about Pu Yi called "The Last Emperor" which is now being shown in theaters throughout Wisconsin.

Wherever it's played in other parts of the country, it's received rave reviews especially by the Gay/Lesbian press because, though the movie doesn't mention it, Pu Yi, according to his biographers, was Gay.

Pu Yi was born in 1905 into a China that was tottering to collapse. Her ancient culture could not or would not change to meet the challenges of modern technology hence, the Western powers, particularly Britain, were able to dominate her, using her to their own advantage. The imperial court at Peking, secreted behind the walls of the Forbidden City, the great compound where the emperors and their entourage lived, was corrupt beyond imagining. To make matters worse, the Manchu or Qing

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Actor Richard Vuu appears as Pu Yi upon his coronation in 1908 in the film "The Last Emperor" which is now showing in theaters throughout Wisconsin.

Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Celebration set for Sept.

Amidst vigorous debate, the second meeting of Milwaukee's planning committee for a Lesbian/Gay pride celebration took place on Sunday, January 31 at the Gay/Lesbian Community Center on South 2nd Street. There were 33 people present representing many of the Gay/Lesbian organizations of the Cream City.

The Committee, chaired by Scott Gunkel and Bill Meunier, is sponsored by Milwaukee's Gay Peoples Union (GPU).

Talk centered on three issues; the name to be given to the celebration, the relationship of the committee to GPU and the organization of the committee itself.

The sub-committee on names reported that it was bringing two names for the approval of the full committee. These were "Rightfully Proud '88" and "Milwaukee

Lesbian/Gay Pride Celebration."

Following the sub-committee's presentation of its report, there was a great deal of discussion, quite spirited at times, as to whether the sub-committee had violated the vote taken at the previous meeting of the full committee when it had been decided not to use the terms "Lesbian" or "Gay" in the title of the celebration.

In the final outcome, it was decided that the accepted name would be Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Celebration with Rightfully Proud '88 as a theme. It was also reaffirmed that the dates for the celebration would be September 10-24, 1988.

On the question of the committee's relationship to GPU, many on the committee felt a need for a precise definition of that relationship and the need of the committee for GPU's 501-C3, tax-exempt status.

Opinions varied as to the need for GPU's 501-C3 status but the arguments and debate seemed to focus on what kind of association, if any, the committee should have with GPU.

Karen Gotzler, President of Milwaukee's Cream City Business Association (CCBA), suggested that a sub-committee be formed to study and report back on the situation. She said that, in her view, many on the committee did "not want to get caught in a situation where the GPU Board of Directors put restrictions on us (the committee)." Gotzler called for a definition of the relationship that was "clear and that everyone on the committee could feel

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