



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

The Wisconsin Light

Witch Says Men Are At The Height of Their Power in June

Some call it "The Old Religion." Others speak of it as "Wicca" or "Witchcraft" and there are those who call it "paganism." But, by whatever name it goes, the faith is old, old, ancient beyond reckoning with deep roots going back into every society on earth and, today, is practiced by numbers unknown in Milwaukee, in Wisconsin and throughout the world.

This month, June, the month after the Blue Moon, is the time of one of the eight great sabbaths of the ancient ways that together, form the wheel of the year. It is the eve of the Summer solstice, Mid-Summer's Night's Eve, which begins at sundown on June 19.

In the quiet dimness of an air conditioned apartment, on Milwaukee's south side, away from the blazing heat of an early June day, Monica talks animatedly about all this and more. A tall, dark haired woman of vibrant beauty and indeterminate age, Monica, who describes herself as, "100% Polish", is a witch and has been since she was 16. Currently, she is a high priestess of her coven, has given classes on Wicca and the worship of the Great Mother at Milwaukee Area Technical College and has been arrested for fortune telling (the city lost the case.) She is proud to be called "a witch", a word, she says, that is simply a derivative of Wicca and means "wise one." Thus, the term applies equally to both sexes.



Monica

Jerry Johnson

The Old Religion has special significance to Gay women and men. According to historians Arthur Evans, John Boswell and others, thousands of years ago, before the advent of patriarchy and the sky gods, (Zeus, Jehovah, et al), humans worshiped the Great Mother. As Monica says, the goddess has ten thousand names among which are Isis, Diana, Hecate and many others.

By whatever name, her shamans were women and Gay men, the latter because it was believed that their Gayness gave them special sensitivities and powers. In ancient Babylon, for example, a Gay man was considered to be in his last and highest incarnation. According to Monica, most straight men, by the time they are 23 years-old, have let society shut down their right brains, the seat of feelings and intuition. Gay men, she says, because of what they are, retain the powers and use of the right brain.

With the coming of the patriarchal faiths, Judaism and Christianity among them, every effort was made to degrade women and eradicate Gay men, much of the hatred of whom must be understood in terms of the degradation of women. However, in the Medieval Period despite Christianity's domination of Europe, many women and Gay men continued to hold fast to the old faith. In fact, homosexuality, witchcraft, and heresy became synon-

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Jackson Campaign Betrays, Angers Supporters

By Sue Cook

Despite the hard work and dedication the Jackson campaign received from the Wisconsin Lesbian/Gay community, Polly Williams, Jackson's state chairperson, and Steve Cobble, the National Delegate Coordinator, refused to reward these efforts with a delegate spot. Even though national campaign workers promised that the Gay/Lesbian community would receive one and possibly two spots, local campaign organizers shut out Gays and Lesbians from the remaining delegate spots by selecting and endorsing others to fill these positions.



Rep. Polly Williams

Cheryl Franklin

Another labor representative has received the blessing of Williams and Cobble. The state chairperson from the Gephardt campaign who endorsed Jackson only a week before the primary, is to receive the remaining spot. State Representative David Clarenbach was also involved with the pre-selection of delegates.

Gays and Lesbians who attended the Fifth Congressional District Caucus on May 21 failed to get a delegate elected. However, after the election, Bruce Colburn, a representative from organized labor, and an elected delegate said that he would help the Gay/Lesbian community get a delegate elected at the statewide level. Marge Cleghorn, an elected delegate from the Black community, also expressed that she would support efforts to get a

delegate spot for the Gay/Lesbian community.

Since May 21, many promises have been forgotten. On Friday June 3, Williams, Cobble and Clarenbach decided who the delegate would be. Bill Meunier, state coordinator for the Gay/Lesbian community, was informed of this decision on Monday June 6 just minutes before the California polls closed. Cobble offered a token position on the Rules Committee, which was declined. Cobble also stated that he was not informed by the national campaign workers that Wisconsin was to have at least one only Gay or Lesbian delegate.

Steve Cobble at first blamed the lack of the delegate spot on the Gay/Lesbian community itself, stating that it should have run more people. He fails to realize how difficult it is to convince someone to go public with his or her sexual orientation; the risks involved are numerous. And it is sad to say that our community's efforts will not be recognized because the majority of the Gays and Lesbians were doing campaign work in the closet.

The Gay/Lesbian community is not about to walk away from the Rev. Jackson; Jackson has our issues in mind. However, the Rev. Jackson's message was not picked up by other members in his campaign. This was quite apparent a day before the May 21 caucus. A message was left on an answering machine that said, "Ha, ha, got your letter today. No way am I going to vote for a faggot." Obviously, the caller was one of the people who attended the caucus.

Another mystery caller placed phone calls to other caucus attendees urging them to endorse a Lesbian candidate that was not even running. The caller was NOT a member of the Gay/Lesbian community and had not even spoken with the person everyone was supposed to endorse. This created a shortage of votes for the actual Gay delegate contender and resulted in the failure of acquiring a delegate spot.

Even within the "Rainbow Coalition" Gays and Lesbians have not been accepted. The hours and hours of organizing, leafletting, calling and mailing were left unrewarded.

TURN TO JACKSON, PAGE 3

Women Must Redirect Energy and Establish Feminist Centered Culture

By Julie Kleppin

Women's music festivals are a celebration of women's culture, a place where Lesbian-feminist philosophy gets serious consideration. Sonia Johnson, better known as the woman excommunicated by the Mormon Church (some might call it "graduation"), was a featured speaker June 4th and 5th at the National Women's Music Festival in Indiana. During last year's festival, Johnson released her provocative first book, *Going Out of Our Minds*. In it, she candidly relates the progress of her personal philosophy through her hunger strike for the E.R.A., her candidacy for President, her becoming a Lesbian, and her experiences in different feminist groups.

Eager to hear of new developments, some 600 women came to Johnson's talks this year at Bloomington. Though her delivery is gentle and humorous, her message to today's feminists is blunt. Women must leave the patriarchal system. It's time to give up trying to change it or interact with it. Instead, "Women must be about their own 'business'", namely, establishing a feminist culture. "We have been trying to change the patriarchy for 5000 years without success. It is a system of violence, based on domination and

submission, where women are automatically considered inferior. Within the patriarchy, men own the law. They make it, interpret and enforce it — all to protect their system of privilege and they aren't going to give that up." Women must take themselves out of this system and use their

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First in a Series Fifth District Congressional Candidates Profiled By LIGHT



Charlie Dee

Charlie Dee is running for Congress from Wisconsin's 5th Congressional District which includes much of Milwaukee. And he is running hard.

It is a beautiful May morning, with sun streaming through plant-filled windows of his house in Milwaukee's River West sector. It is 10:00 but the candidate has been up since 5:00 and hurries into the room in short gusts, a large smile on his face as he welcomes his visitors. He is intense. That is the first impression. He has a look about him, an energy, that calls to mind the activists, the idealists, of the '60s who saw material possessions as only secondary to the quality of life.

Dee was born in St. Louis. He was one of eight children, as he describes it, a member of a family of high achievers. He took a Bachelors Degree in History and an

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Fred Kessler

Fred Kessler is running for Congress from Milwaukee's 5th Congressional district. He is, as a recent edition of the *Congressional Quarterly*, called him, "among the early favorites" in the Democratic race. The seat he seeks, being vacated by Jim Moody who is running for the U.S. Senate, is not only the most German-ethnic urban district in America, but is Wisconsin's most Democratic district and is considered one of the safest Democratic seats in the nation. No Republican has been elected from the 5th district since 1952. In 1984 and 1986, the G.O.P. did not even think it worthwhile to field a candidate.

Kessler was born and raised in Milwaukee, in the 5th District whose representatives he seeks to be. He is the son of German immigrants with a long career of

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