



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

# The Wisconsin Light

## Light Inside Happy Holidays

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## Jamakaya Wins UWM Award

Wisconsin Light columnist Jamakaya (J.M. Dombek) is the recipient of the A. Theodore Brown Award for Distinguished Graduate Research and Writing from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The honor was bestowed for her thesis project "The Women's Coalition of Milwaukee, 1972-1987: Feminist Activism at the Local Level."



Jamakaya

Her Thesis traces the history of the Women's Coalition and describes the contributions feminists have made to changing attitudes, reforming laws and institutions, and developing social services which more effectively meet the needs of Milwaukee women. It is available at UWM's Golda Meir Library, and copies can be purchased from Jamakaya by contacting her through Light.

Jamakaya will be the featured speaker at an event celebrating Women's History Month in March at UWM. The program, "It Changed Our Lives: The Impact of Feminist Activism on Milwaukee," will take place Wednesday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Wisconsin Room Lounge of the UWM Student Union. Everyone, especially activists in the local women's movement, are encouraged to attend and participate.

In addition to her historical research and commentaries for Light and Hag Rag, Jamakaya is currently working on her tongue-in-cheek memoirs, "Rascals, Rogues, Vagabonds and the Truly Pathological: Women I Have Loved."

We at Light wish to heartily congratulate Jamakaya. Her column is one of the most popular in the paper and her work and dedication to the women's movement have earned her the affection and respect of all who know her. There are few who know how many times she has bolstered this editor's spirits when things got rough. For that I will be forever grateful. Congratulations Jamakaya!

## BRUTAL ATTACKS INCREASE; GO LARGELY UNREPORTED



Jerry Johnson

Larry Krueger is shown holding a piece of a baseball bat left behind by Gay-bashers. First used to beat up a victim walking down the street, the bat broke while attempts were made to knock down the first door to a Milwaukee South Side bar. Blood stains can still be seen on the bat fragment pictured.

It happens in Milwaukee just the same as anyplace else in the country.

Let's call him "Tim." It was the end of September, just this year. It was 12:35 p.m. He says he will "never forget the time." He had left a bar on Second Street and was walking across the Water Street Bridge. Suddenly someone, a man, came up behind him. Tim hadn't heard him because he was wearing his Walkman. The man kicked Tim hard in the back sending him sprawling out into the middle of the bridge. Tim remembers and remembers well, screaming and crying as the man kicked him again and again while shouting "Choke on this fagot!" over and over again.

Tim was fortunate. A car came along with, as it turned out, two Gay men. Tim's attacker fled, leaving Tim badly mauled. The two men offered all the assistance they could and finally called him a cab to take him home.

As Tim finished his story, he added that two weeks later, two friends of his had been attacked in the same general area. Neither Tim nor his friends, he said, reported what had happened to them.

Jim had yet another story. He was in the men's room of the Phoenix bar when an unseen attacker came up behind him and struck him on the head with a brick. He was taken to St. Francis Hospital for stitches and, four weeks later, still feels the effects. "For two days after it happened," he said, "I did not leave my apartment." He was afraid and still feels "very skittish when I'm out alone." Like Tim, Jim knows of others who have been "Gay-bashed."

These are recent incidents, but assaults against Gays and Lesbians have been going on for years.

Two years ago, Larry was in C'est La Vie. It was toward closing time and there were only seven other people in the bar. Suddenly, someone ran in screaming that somebody outside was being attacked. Larry dashed out and found himself faced with a guy coming at him with a baseball bat. Larry ran back into the bar, closed and locked the door. The attacker broke a window and beat on the door with the bat so hard that it splintered in two. Larry still has a piece of the bat.

In addition to accounts of physical violence, there are innumerable accounts of eggs hurled at Gay or Lesbian bars, cars damaged and/or broken into as well as accounts of verbal abuse.

It should be emphasized that homophobic violence is not relegated to any one section of the city, but can happen anywhere Gays and Lesbians are known to frequent.

It should also be stressed that it is not something that happens only to Gay men. Sue Burke said, "It happens to women all the time. It is a form of terrorism," she said. It's less well organized that terrorism in other parts of the world, but the effect is the same. It prevents people from living freely, from moving about without fear.

Cindy told Light that when a woman is out, "she has to know where everyone on the street is." Cindy continued, "If I see anyone who I think is suspicious, I go to the nearest lit house and wait on the porch until I know I'm safe."

John, a man prominent in the Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian community for the past 19 years told of friends beaten up, eggs thrown and names called. "Gay bashing happens all the time," he said.

These are chilling words in light of the recent killing of Dennis Owens. According to The Milwaukee Journal, December 5, Owens, 31, was murdered and his body dumped in a parking lot in the 300 block of

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## Milwaukee June 17-26 Pride Week Planning Begins

During 1989, we will begin the Second Generation of Gay Pride throughout the United States and Canada. During the period of Saturday, June 17 through Monday, June 26, Milwaukee will celebrate its Second Annual Gay & Lesbian Pride Week. This celebration will coincide with Celebrations being planned in most Major Cities throughout the United States and Canada and we're looking forward to a very big 10-day week of Pride Events here in Milwaukee.

The Committee began meeting to plan activities to commemorate the National Celebration: 'STONEWALL 20: A GENERATION OF PRIDE.' A number of community-wide events for your participation and a tentative schedule in the works include the following and we will be giving you all the details along with status reports in the coming months:

SATURDAY, JUNE 17- PARADE and RALLY (First Annual)

SUNDAY, JUNE 18- SECOND ANNUAL INTERDENOM. CHRISTIAN SERVICE

SUNDAY, JUNE 25- BUS TRIP TO CHICAGO PRIDE PARADE

MONDAY, JUNE 26- STONEWALL RUN (On the 20th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in New York)

There are a couple of other items we would like to report at this time. The Board/Steering Committee is being expanded to include some well-known Milwaukeeans to lend their expertise and community presence in planning and carrying out the schedule. The new Board Members will be announced in January after confirmation at our next meeting. A

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## Melig Resigns From CCF Board

As we go to press, word was received that Bob Melig has resigned his post with the board of Milwaukee's Cream City Foundation (CCF). The resignation was effective Monday, December 12, 1988.

Melig told Light that his resignation was prompted by the pressures of business. "The upcoming year is going to be tough, tough, tough," he said.

Melig has served as a CCF board member for three and a half years, he said.

policy was established during the First Year to ask all community organizations and businesses to host/sponsor events

## Green Bay Announces AIDS Conference

Center Project, Inc., an AIDS/HIV resource center for northeast Wisconsin, will be sponsoring their third annual AIDS in Wisconsin conference, "Reaching Out . . . For Each Other," on February 21 and 22 at the Regency Conference Center of the Embassy Suites Hotel in Green Bay. The two-day conference will offer over forty different workshops and ample opportunities for participants to update their knowledge of AIDS/HIV and how it is likely to affect our lives.

As a special feature of this conference, there will be opportunities for people to meet each other and to form and expand the networks that will be needed by an increasing number of persons with AIDS. Though there are some hopeful signs on the horizon, the fact remains that AIDS will be with us for quite some time.

As the title of the conference implies, Center Project is encouraging people to reach out for each other, not only directly to each other, but also on behalf of each other. AIDS, like no other disease, is challenging us to use our resources to their limits. What one group or person does to help also helps each one of us who is working to meet the needs of those who need us. Together, we can better meet the challenge of AIDS.

To obtain detailed registration information concerning this conference, "Reaching Out . . . For Each Other," please contact Center Project, Inc., P.O. Box 1062, Green Bay, WI 54305. Phone (414) 437-4700.

Since the Wisconsin Light staff will be taking a holiday break there will be no paper published on December 29. Look for the next issue on January 12. Happy Holidays!