



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

The Wisconsin Light

Lesbian Alliance Plans Coming Out Day Reception

[Milwaukee]- The new Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM) will celebrate National Coming Out Day, October 11, with a reception on that day from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Foundation Community Center, 225 S. 2nd St. The Alliance welcomes all Lesbians, Gay men and their supporters to "come out" to meet members and to learn about the group's plans.

LAMM is the result of a series of meetings Milwaukee Lesbians have held in the wake of the political controversies surrounding Lesbian/Gay Pride Week this Summer. The perception that local Lesbians were unprepared for the conservative backlash at that time spurred the current organizing effort.

LAMM hopes to: "better unify and organize the Milwaukee area Lesbian community 1) to provide education and role models to the Milwaukee community; 2) to impact relevant issues in the political and legislative arena as they affect Lesbians; and 3) to provide meeting space and opportunities for more social contact, communication and support among Lesbians."

Committees on Political-Legislative Action, Networking, Community Education, Media Relations, Consciousness-Raising, Social Events and Womanspace have formed and are open to all Lesbian activists. Women can call 931-0008 or 264-4354 to get involved in the Lesbian Alliance.

The next regular meeting of the Lesbian Alliance will take place on Thursday, October 19th at the Milwaukee Enterprise Center, 2821 N. 4th St. (There is a lighted parking lot and security guard.) It will feature a potluck starting at 5:30 with the meeting to follow at 6:30.

October 19th is the tenth anniversary of the first historic Take Back the Night March which brought 3,000 angry women into the streets of Milwaukee to protest violence against women. A videotape of that exciting march will be played at the potluck.

On Sunday, November 5th, LAMM will host an All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner at the Shorewood Women's Club in Hubbard Park from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 in advance at Outpost Co-op and People's Bookstore. It will cost \$6 at the door (\$3.50 for children) and will be another opportunity for Lesbians to socialize and share political ideas.

Madison To Host Officials Conference

[Madison]- The Fifth Annual Conference of Gay and Lesbian Officials will take place in Madison, Wisconsin, from Friday, November 17 through Sunday, November 19, 1989.

Past conferences have occurred in West Hollywood, Washington, D.C., Minneapolis and San Diego.

The bulk of the 1989 Conference meetings will be held in the Wisconsin State Capitol. Other events are planned for Conference participants and interested parties. Madison is home to a total of seven Gay and Lesbian elected officials, comprising 10 percent of the Madison City Council and 10 percent of the Dane County Board of Supervisors.

Those welcomed and encouraged to attend are elected and appointed officials, candidates, future candidates, campaign workers and their life partners.

Those interested in attending and seeking more information should write: FORWARD, 739 Jenifer St., Madison, WI 53703; or call: Richard Wagner, (608) 257-5270 or Tammy Baldwin, (608) 258-9298.

New Era National Fundraising Institute Founded In Milwaukee



A portion of the group of people is pictured above who walked in the Milwaukee AIDS Project's first annual 10K walk at the lakefront on October 1. On a beautiful fall day, nearly \$3,500 was raised through the walker's pledges.

McFarland Voted Against Abortion Resolution to Maintain Neutrality

By Jim McFarland

Recently, *Wisconsin Light* printed a letter characterizing my vote against a symbolic Madison City Council resolution condemning the U.S. Supreme Court's Webster decision as indicating that I would be willing to deny women the right to privacy. For a number of reasons, this is inaccurate.

First of all, throughout each of my campaigns for City Council, I pledged to maintain a neutral stance on the issue of abortion. This was because I did not consider it necessary to subject the voters of my district to the polemic aspects of the abortion issue when the City Council does not have jurisdiction over the abortion issue. Whenever I was asked about abortion during my campaigns, I



Alderman Jim McFarland

promised that I would vote against any resolution calling for the overturn of the Roe v. Wade decision (which granted women the right to abortion) to maintain my neutrality. It would be inconsistent of me not to similarly vote against a resolution calling for Roe v. Wade to be upheld, as this resolution did. That is why I voted against this particular resolution. My vote was thus really in favor of the City Council taking no position on this issue.

Secondly, I do not consider laws restricting abortion to be comparable to laws restricting sexual activity between consenting adults. In some ways abortion is not the same kind of right to privacy issue.

Abortion does not occur within one's own bedroom as sexual activity usually does. Abortion takes place in a clinic or hospital in the presence of doctors and nurses. This could hardly be called a situation of privacy.

Restricting abortion does not directly restrict one's right to privacy; one is still

free to do whatever one wants to in the privacy of her/his own home. When abortion is restricted, it simply means that the consequences of sexual activity in the privacy of one's own home may be different. Restrictions on abortion can certainly be considered a restriction on one's reproductive freedom, but reproductive freedom can be ensured in other ways as well, such as by the use of contraceptives.

In the age of AIDS, it is not just heterosexuals who need to be responsible when engaging in sexual activity. Therefore, if I believed abortion should be illegal, it wouldn't be accurate to say that I was "willing to take away a woman's right to privacy."

At the root of my personal feelings about abortion is my belief that life begins at conception. This is not a religious belief as I am pretty much of an agnostic. It is a conclusion that I have come to after much study of the human reproductive system.

I realize that many who have studied the reproductive system as much or more have come to different conclusions, but I can really find no other point in the cycle of life where there is something uniquely different from that which existed a fraction of a moment before.

At conception, a genetically unique living human cell exists where a fraction of a moment earlier an egg and a sperm existed, each containing only half the genetic material necessary for life. There is no other point in the life cycle where something uniquely different occurs — the rest is all part of a gradual process.

In other words, there is nowhere to draw the line and say that what exists after a particular point in the development of a human is a living person, whereas before, it was just a mass of cells.

Having come to this conclusion, it is difficult for me to justify the destruction of that which I consider to be life unless it threatens the life of the woman in which it resides. Such destruction would be done in self-defense which is acceptable.

Obviously, I recognize the immense difficulties this produces for a woman with an unwanted pregnancy. Women find themselves in a society which tells them that if they are sexually active, they are "loose", but since men are supposed to be sexually active (with women only, of course), some women naturally have to be sexually active. Then, because men so rarely take responsibility for the possible outcomes of sexual activity, these women become pregnant

In an effort to assist Gay/Lesbian organizations to conquer the "Unique Barriers" they face in raising the funds they need to carry out their programs, a new national organization has been founded in Milwaukee by former CCF board member Bob Melig. Called the New Era Institute, the group will offer a number of services to Gay/Lesbian organizations around the country.

"Our goals are to research, inform and advance Gay/Lesbian funding beyond the limits that presently restrict fuller implementation of programs on the local level," said Bob Melig, President. "A few national groups are raising more than a million dollars a year, and through public funds a number of AIDS service agencies are doing likewise, but generally the barriers faced by Gay/Lesbian organizations has held back funding all over the country," he added.

Through a national publication entitled, "Our Causes," an annual professional journal, original research, a library of How-to manuals and national conferences, the Institute will attempt to identify the best and/or model programs that work. The bi-monthly publication will be a major effort to exchange ideas and publicize successful efforts being conducted so that others may put the programs to use in their locality.

The Institute will not be a fund raising organization, but rather a support organization that will attempt to synthesize, disseminate and disseminate at the level of sophistication of Gay/Lesbian funders. Funds for its operations will come from membership dues from participating Gay/Lesbian organizations and foundation grants.

In addition to publications, research papers, and conferences, New Era Institute will also develop a sophisticated computer-based data base of information and resources for the further support of its mission.

Unity Is Theme Of Women's State Confab

[Kenosha, WI]- The University of Wisconsin-Parkside near Kenosha will be the scene of the UW System's 14th Annual Statewide Women's Studies Conference, "Unity in Diversity," on October 13-14.

Some of the finest feminist and Lesbian scholars in the state, including the *Light's* own Jamakaya, will present papers and participate in panels and plenary sessions.

The keynote address, "Getting Minority Women Out of the Margins: Initial Steps in Curriculum Integration," will be delivered by Elizabeth Higgenbotham of the Center for Research on Women at Memphis State University.

For more information and to register, please call (414) 553-2312 or 553-2162.

Boughner To Host WISN Talk Radio Show

Wisconsin Light editor Terry Boughner will host a call-in talk radio show in Milwaukee on Sat., Oct. 7 on WISN Radio (1130 on the AM dial) from 7 to 10 a.m. In addition, he will appear with Mark Belling's show between 5 and 6 p.m. on Fri., Oct. 6. Listeners are encouraged to call in on Oct. 7.