

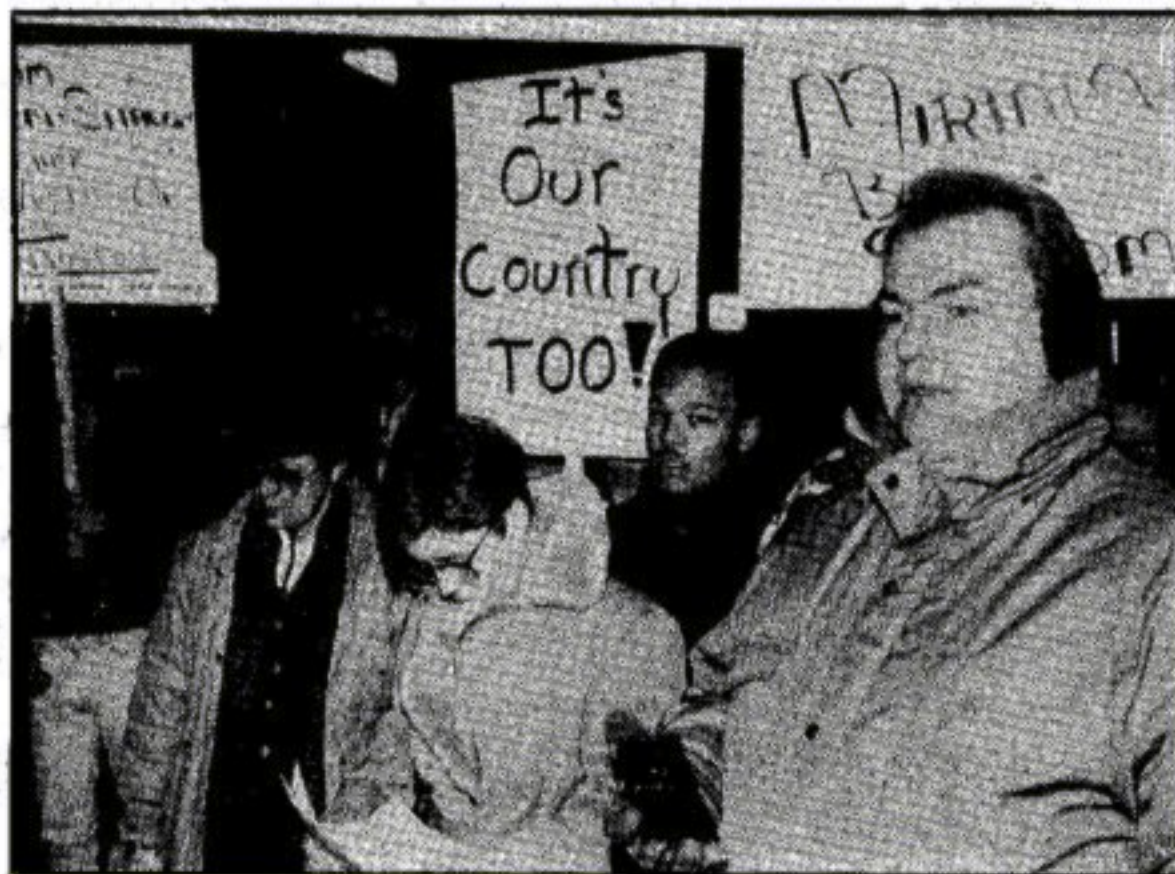


Give the People Light and they will find their own way.

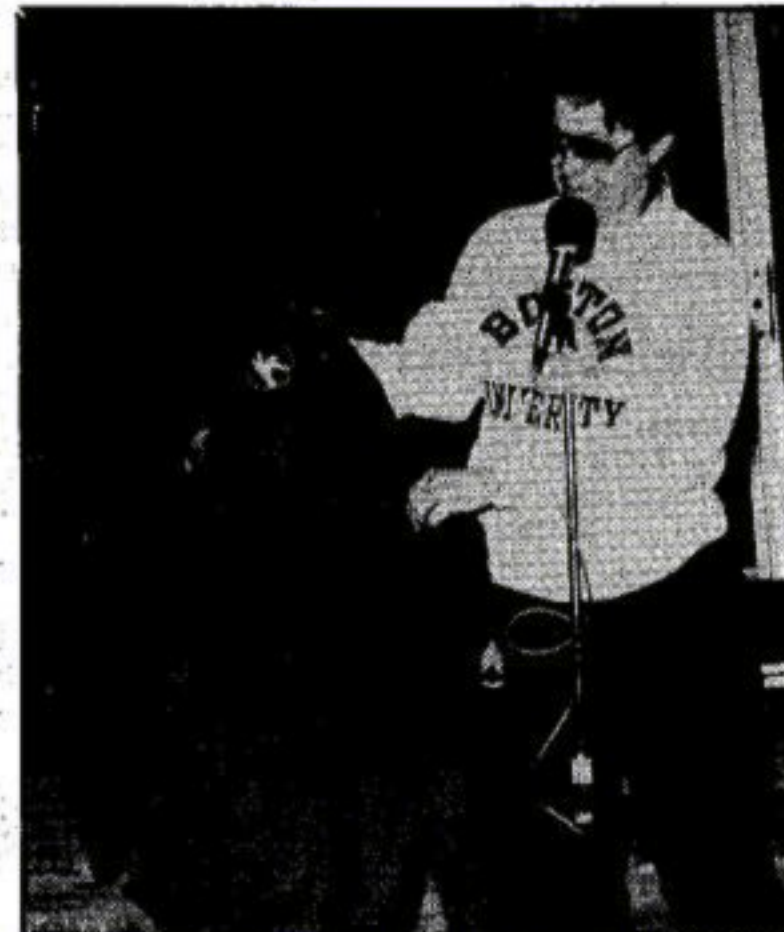
# The Wisconsin Light



Dan F. Schramm



Jerry Johnson



Jerry Johnson

Left- Staff Sergeant Miriam Ben-Shalom speaking at the March 6 rally in Milwaukee and wearing her army uniform; Center- Ben-Shalom (at left) with a portion of the rally crowd; Right- Ben-Shalom removing her uniform for the last time as a U.S. soldier.

## Ben-Shalom Discharged From Army As Supreme Court Refuses To Hear Appeal

### Madison Attorneys Volunteer Services to Persons with HIV

By Heidi Nass and Liz Barbour

[Madison]- In 1989, a new case of AIDS was reported in Wisconsin every two days; one person died of the disease every three days. Today, an estimated 8,000 to 12,000 people in the state are infected with the HIV virus, many of whom do not yet know it.

While it is a misnomer to call AIDS a "Gay disease" (the fastest growing AIDS population is women and children), society's attitude toward homosexuality and the early incidence of AIDS among Gay men has made it difficult for many people to seek and find life care services. In addition to the stigma of a much-misunderstood contagious disease, people with AIDS often face discrimination-- by employers, insurance companies, health care facilities and sometimes even relatives.

In situations where there is legal recourse or where an advocate is needed,

### Milwaukee Police Chief to Speak March 13

[Milwaukee]- On Tuesday, March 13, 1990 at 7:00 p.m., Milwaukee Police Chief, Phillip Arreola, will address an open forum. The forum is sponsored by the Lambda Rights Network (LRN) and will be held at the Cream City Foundation Community Center located at 225 S. 2nd St. in Milwaukee.

Reservations for the forum can be made by calling LRN at (414) 445-5552. There is a suggested minimum donation of \$2.00 per person. People with reservations will have the right seating first.

Recently, Arreola met with Kitty Barber and Cheryl Johnson of the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM) at the invitation of LRN's President, Ralph Navarro and Scott Gunkel.

Arreola will have the first 30 minutes of the forum to address subjects of his choice. Questions will then be asked by a panel whose inquiries have been prepared based on the first meeting with Arreola! Following that, the floor will be open to questions from the audience.

If you have specific questions for the chief and cannot attend the event, you may call them into the reservation line so that the prepared panel will ask for you.

services are often too expensive for those who have been suddenly disabled by the disease and are unemployed as a result. Those who, suddenly facing the unexpected possibility of death, need to organize their legal affairs, sometimes do not know where or how to begin to do so.

In response to the AIDS crisis, the Center for Public Representation (CPR) and the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN) have established an AIDS Legal Services Project to provide supportive legal assistance to persons with HIV infection, their families and significant others.

The Project, headed by Attorney Nina Camic, has established a network of area volunteer attorneys who provide services in a variety of areas such as: estate planning, insurance, discrimination, government benefits, bankruptcy and guardianship. The three law students who staff the Project determine what services are needed by clients who contact CPR and refer them to an appropriate attorney. Cases that can be handled by CPR staff remain in-house.

In an effort to sensitize attorneys to the unique circumstances of people with AIDS, CPR and MASN conduct training seminars on AIDS as a disease and relevant legal issues.

"Because these attorneys already have expertise in given areas, it is not so important to give them additional legal training," remarked Attorney Camic, "but to prepare them for the situations that are particular to persons with AIDS and to inform them about Wisconsin laws which apply specifically to our clients."

In addition to providing direct legal services, the Project is putting together a booklet to help people identify whether they might need legal assistance and in what areas. **AIDS: The Law**, the first AIDS legal guide addressed to clients rather than lawyers, provides information in an easily accessible question-and-answer format.

While the booklet is not designed to provide comprehensive legal information, it does answer a broad range of questions relating to such areas as health care, confidentiality, employment and housing discrimination and estate planning. According to Attorney Camic, "Our main objective with **AIDS: The Law** is not to identify every existing legal issue, but to

TURN TO ATTORNEY, PAGE 11

[Milwaukee]- After 16 years of battle, Miriam Ben-Shalom lost her bid to remain in the US Army Reserves when, of February 26, 1990, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear her petition for a review of a lower court decision that upheld the Defense Department's policy of discrimination against Lesbians and Gay men.

The High Court's decision left intact the Defense Department's Directive 1332.14 which states, in part, "Homosexuality is incompatible with military service."

On March 6, Ben-Shalom learned that her discharge papers were "in order" and she would be dismissed from the military she had served with distinction.

On Tuesday, March 6, over 50 of Ben-Shalom's friends and supporters gathered in freezing cold on the steps of the old Federal Building in Milwaukee to express their thanks to Ben-Shalom for her struggle and their on-going support.

The rally was sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Support Coalition (GALS), a broad-based community organization and covered by most of the major media.

Organizations, groups and individuals from both Madison and Milwaukee were represented at the rally. These included

Gay Youth-Milwaukee, The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM), the United of Madison, Gay/Lesbian Youth- Madison, Milwaukee's Gay Peoples' Union (GPU), the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP), Wisconsin In Step and Wisconsin Light, the Lambda Rights Network (LRN), Milwaukee's Gay/Dignity-Milwaukee.

Those sending letters of support and affirmation included State Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison), Madison Council member Jim McFarland, Dr. Karen Lamb, Perry Watkins, the first openly Gay man to run for the Vice Presidential nomination of either party and the Gay/Lesbian Law Students of UW-M.

Individuals also spoke including J.J. Newmann, Mr. Gay Wisconsin, Sue Burke and Attorney Pat Barrigan and Milwaukee County Supervisor, Elizabeth Cogg-Jones, the only elected official present.

The rally lasted for well over an hour as person after person paid tribute to the gallant woman soldier.

Sue Burke lauded Ben-Shalom for loving America so much "that she was

TURN TO BEN-SHALOM, PAGE 11

### Military Fight Will Continue In The Courts and In Congress

[New York, NY]- "We will go forward with additional challenges in court and in Congress," said Nan D. Hunter, Director of the American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) Lesbian and Gay Rights Project.

Hunter was reacting to the refusal by the U.S. Supreme Court on February 26 to review lower court decisions in two cases which upheld the military's policy of excluding all persons who are Lesbian or Gay, whether conduct is proved or not.

One of these cases involved Milwaukee's Miriam Ben-Shalom (see story this issue). The other was that of former Navy Ensign James Woodward, who was discharged in 1974. Upon enlistment, Woodward had indicated that he had homosexual attractions, but had never acted on them. He was accepted into pilot training, but discharged after having been seen socializing with an enlisted man who was undergoing administrative discharge for homosexuality.

"The refusal to allow Lesbian and Gay Americans to enlist in the military constitutes what is probably the most blatant example of open discrimination by

the federal government today," Hunter said.

A new facet of the ACLU's strategy is to challenge the military's anti-Gay policy by pressuring Congress to repeal it.

"We can win this issue in any one of three arenas: the courts, the Congress or the Defense Department itself," said Hunter. "In the past, efforts have been concentrated only in the courts, but we believe that the future resolution of this issue may lie in Washington."

Beginning about a year ago, the ACLU started work on a congressional strategy for repeal of the policy as part of the Military Freedom Project, a coalition of organizations including the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Organization for Women and the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

Our coalition work will also focus on encouraging more grass-roots activity, especially on campuses," said Hunter. "We expect more and more universities to be forced to expel openly discriminatory ROTC programs, and that pressure will be keenly felt in Congress."