

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



# The Wisconsin Light

## Gay GI's Told: Serve Now, Face Discharge Later

[Washington, D.C.]— Openly Gay and Lesbian reservists called up for duty in the Persian Gulf, have been told that discharge proceedings will be begun against them after — and if — they return from the war.

This, according to a January 25 report in the *Wall Street Journal* as well as Gay veterans groups, activist organizations such as the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and Gay rights attorneys.

Reports indicate that at least 14 Lesbians and Gays are involved, half of whom have already been sent to the theater of war.

Informed by someone of their homosexual orientation, commanders have said "Well, it doesn't matter, you can go anyway," said Sandra Lowe, an attorney for the Lambda Legal Defense Fund. Lowe said, "Now that there's a war on, they're (the military) willing to let people go over."

Gay-rights attorneys say the recent laxity of some commanders in allowing homosexuals to be sent to the Gulf resulted from the military's "stop loss" policy, which allows commanders to delay discharge of people whose services are needed. Spokesmen for the military, however, have denied this.

Miriam Ben-Shalom of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America, said she has been contacted by 10 reservists, mainly in the medical corps, who have also been told that they will be sent to the Gulf after disclosing their sexual orientation.

## UW System Serves Gays Inadequately

[Madison]— "The University of Wisconsin System as a whole has provided inadequate services in the area of educating students about Gay/Lesbian issues," said Beverly Jenkins, United Council Minority Affairs Director. Jenkins is preparing to release a report on the subject.

The United Council of UW Student Governments is a statewide lobby

## Lisowski States Stand On Issues In School Board Race

[Milwaukee]— Michael S. Lisowski is running against 5 other candidates in the February 19th primary for the at-large seat on the Milwaukee School Board. The following is Lisowski's position on various important issues.

**BUSING** Lisowski stands opposed to forced busing "because it is an adverse burden to the Black community." He notes that the money spent on busing "could be used on education."

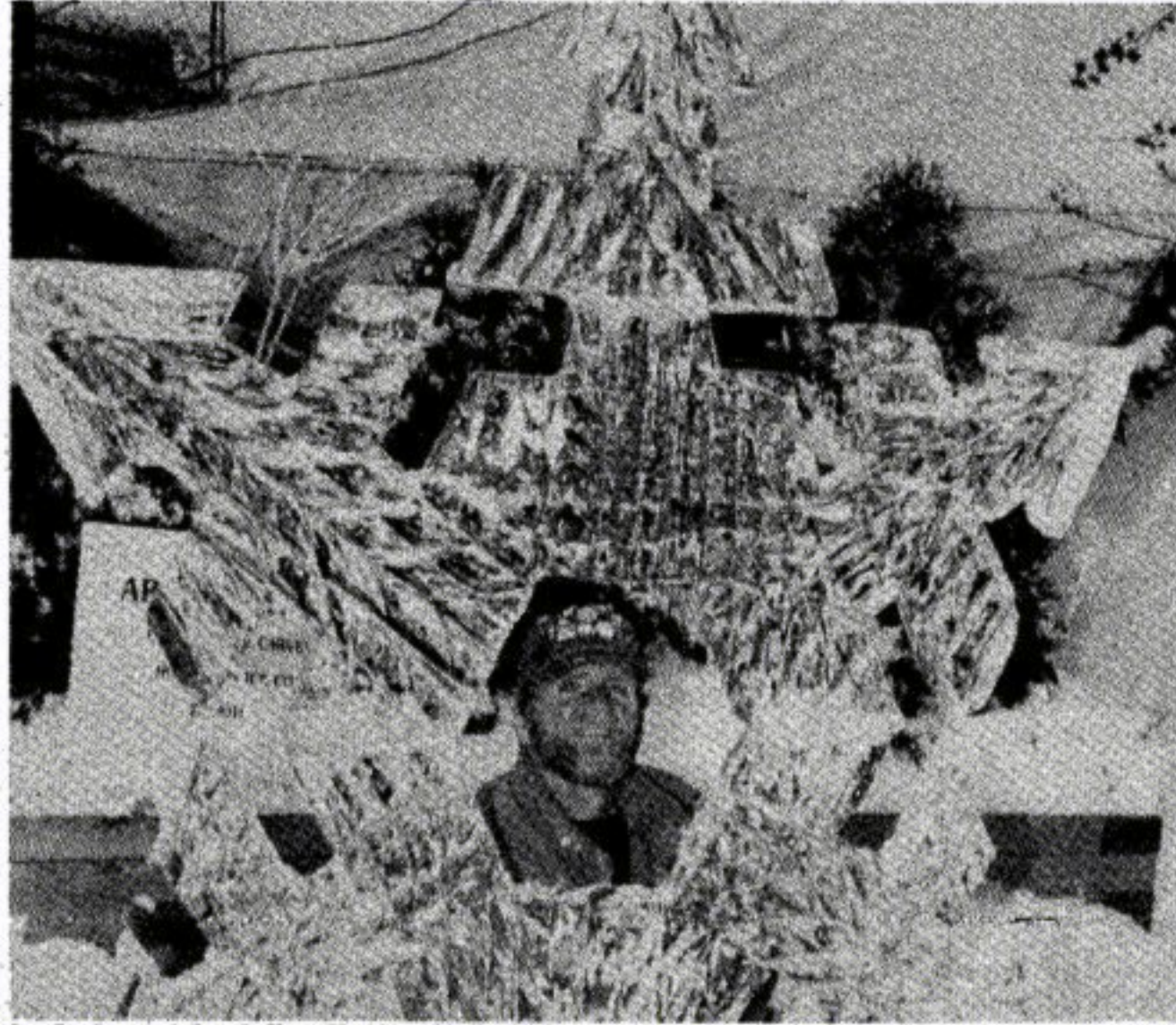
**CHOICE** Lisowski says he is "pro-choice" because it can provide a better alternative education for children who may fall through the cracks of the system."

**RESIDENCY** Lisowski supports residency requirements because "I believe that if the Milwaukee Public Schools are good enough to teach in, then the city should be good enough to live in. To say that a non-resident should be allowed to teach in the city because they may be better qualified, implies that Milwaukee lacks quality people to teach her own children."

**LEARNFARE** Lisowski believes that Learnfare "imposes unfair negative consequences on families and individuals who are struggling to get by."

**DISTRICT REFORM** Lisowski "supports the current reform programs dealing with the redistricting of MPS." His only concern is that "6 service

## Queer Nation Political Group Forming In Milwaukee



Ice Sculptor, Arlyn Jeffrey Kampen is displaying one of his works of art at Milwaukee's "Big Cool" Winterfest in Cathedral Square. (See related story on Page 12.)

organization representing over 170,000 students in Wisconsin on the administrative level and at the State Capitol.

"Gays and Lesbians, in some cases, still have not been incorporated into a school's policy on nondiscrimination," Jenkins said. She added, "In light of the upcoming National Conference on Gay/Lesbian Graduate Studies (to be held at UW-Milwaukee), it will become clear to administrators and students just how inadequate UW services are on a nation-wide scale."

Jenkins welcomes any input from the community, especially information on existing courses which address Gay/Lesbian issues. For more information, contact the United Council, c/o Minority Affairs, 122 State St., Suite 500, Madison, WI 53703.

delivery areas do not become another bureaucratic layer." He "totally" supports school-based managements which allow for "each school to express and develop" its own personality.

**AFRICAN AMERICAN IMMERSION SCHOOLS** Lisowski "wholeheartedly" supports the implementation of the African American Immersion schools. "I believe that a person's achievement potential can only be truly won when accompanied by an appreciation of who they are, where they come from and where they belong in their culture."

**MOST CRITICAL PROBLEMS** Lisowski sees "racial tension, the lack of any policy that deals with supportive services for sexual orientation issues that many students must deal with, and the lack of many supportive services still needed for many disadvantaged students, stressed and frustrated teachers and overburdened and angry parents."

Lisowski says his campaign is going well and is optimistic about the outcome. He still needs help, however. Volunteers are welcome. If you can lend a hand, please call 372-2773.

As always in political campaigns, there is a need for funds. If you would like to contribute, please make checks payable to "Friends of Lisowski" and send them to P.O. Box 93044, Milwaukee, WI 53203.

[Milwaukee]— "Tie Down the kids! Shutter the windows! We're conquering Milwaukee!"

With these words a group of Milwaukeeans announced the formation of a local chapter of "Queer Nation." The activist group, popularly known as "QN", has chapters nation-wide.

According to the press release and as described in other papers, Queer Nation is an informal political action group committed to increasing "Queer" visibility and fighting homophobia through direct and "imaginative" action.

Queer Nation chapters in other cities have held kiss-ins and "Queer Nights Out." The latter involves "a horde of Queers" invading a straight bar. QN also holds "Queer Shopping Networks" which are "adventures" in straight shopping malls and department stores.

The first Milwaukee meeting of Queer Nation will be an organizational meeting held on Sunday, February 10, 1991 at 5:00 p.m. in the banquet room at the M&M Club, 124 N. Water St. This meeting will also be devoted to setting up QN's first action to be held on Valentine's Day, February 14, 1991.

For more information call Tim: (414) 384-3911 or Christopher: (414) 483-0376.

## NGLTF Position On War In Gulf Expected To Be Controversial

By Jamakaya

[Washington, D.C.]— In a lengthy position paper expected to cause controversy, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has officially opposed the Persian Gulf war, saying it "directly and detrimentally affects the lives of Gays and Lesbians and the aspirations for equality of the Gay and Lesbian community."

The position paper does not oppose "the brave individuals fighting on the front lines for our country." Instead, says NGLTF, "We are deeply concerned that this war will allow our political leaders to ignore the pressing problems faced by the Gay and Lesbian community."

The impact of the war on domestic programs — especially the diversion of funds and attention from AIDS and health care — is cited as a major source of opposition.

"Reports indicate we could spend \$1 billion a day on the war," said NGLTF. "In a matter of days, the military operations in the Gulf cost the equivalent of the entire 1991 federal appropriations for AIDS."

Besides diverting funds from health needs, said NGLTF, the war will also "drain the attention of lawmakers in Washington and elsewhere" from a broad Gay and Lesbian agenda, including civil rights, recognition of Gay families, hate crimes data collection, and programs to address Gay and Lesbian youth suicide.

"These are the priorities NGLTF is committed to enacting. The wartime climate in Washington and throughout the country threatens to derail these efforts."

Gay and Lesbian soldiers are also directly impacted by the war. Of the military, NGLTF stated: "The war highlights again the military's discriminatory policy against Lesbians and Gay men, and the role the military plays in perpetuating our second class status...The Pentagon has told Gay and Lesbian soldiers they will be discharged if they are lucky enough to survive. It is hypocritical and insulting to expect us to support the military when it so blatantly

exploits us."

The NGLTF's statement also notes that: "Every war the US has fought in the 20th Century has proven hostile to movements for social change and social justice. War unleashes irrational passions and fosters intolerance. It finds and manufactures scapegoats. Japanese-Americans, Blacks, immigrants, political dissenters, and Gay men and Lesbians have been victims. We cannot afford to encourage policies that will lead the nation in this direction again."

The NGLTF's anti-war position has met with criticism from some Gay leaders.

Long-time D.C. activist, Frank Kameny, who has advised Gays and Lesbian military personnel, called NGLTF's action a "horrible mistake" that could divide its membership. Kameny told the *Washington Blade*: "This is a highly contentious issue that should not be in the purview of a national Gay civil rights group."

Republican Gay activist, Frank Ricchiazzi, said the anti-war policy could discredit NGLTF and jeopardize its future fundraising efforts. Another national Gay rights lobbying group, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, has decided to remain neutral on the Persian Gulf war.

Supporting the NGLTF's stand are many chapters of ACT UP, the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power. ACT UP members have been prominent in anti-war protests throughout the country. In January, several ACT UP activists disrupted the *CBS Evening News* and shouted on the air: "Fight AIDS, not Arabs!"

At the same time, numerous Lesbian and feminist groups, including the National Organization for Women, have also opposed the war. Their opposition is generally based on feminist and pacifist principles of anti-militarism.

Recognizing that its position will spark debate, the NGLTF said: "NGLTF is taking a stand on the war for the same reason that we have taken a position on a range of issues that are not specifically 'Gay rights' issues — in order to respond to the needs of the entire Lesbian and Gay community so that we can build a movement that includes us all."