



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

The Wisconsin Light

U.N. Defers Memberships Of Gay Organization

[New York, NY]: A United Nations committee has voted to defer for two years a decision on whether to admit the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) into the UN as an official non-governmental organization.

ILGA's membership was vociferously opposed by Libya, whose delegate to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations invoked the Koran and called the group "sexually immoral." Other opposition votes came from Oman and the Philippines.

Based in Stockholm, ILGA represents dozens of Gay rights groups worldwide. It works to eliminate legal, social, cultural and economic discrimination against Gay people. Its network of activists has helped alert the world to abuses suffered by Gays and Lesbians in many countries.

ILGA sought "consultative status" on the UN's Economic and Social Council, which oversees human rights issues. Membership on the Council would have enabled ILGA to officially participate and initiate proposals within the UN body.

The Swedish delegate on the NGO Committee noted that ILGA's purpose was "clearly in the framework" of the Economic and Social Council's mandate which includes "the discussion of legal and social problems of sexual minorities."

The majority of delegates on the NGO Committee, including Ireland, Sweden, Ethiopia, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, France, Burundi and Lesotho supported ILGA's bid. But even one vote in opposition can veto a measure. The Soviet Union, Cuba and Iraq did not take a position. The United States has no delegate on the committee.

Lisa Power, who is British and a leader of ILGA, declared: "Lesbians and Gay men are everywhere around the world and we will continue knocking on the UN's door until they let us in."

Power called for Lesbians and Gay men of Arabic origin or of the Islamic faith to assist ILGA in its continuing lobbying efforts.

For more information on ILGA and their international conference to be held this year in Guadalajara, Mexico, June 30-July 6, contact the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force at 1734 14th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. (202) 332-6483.

Complaint Dropped Against Judge

[Milwaukee]-The Milwaukee Sentinel (2/16/91) reports that the State Judicial Commission has decided not to file a formal complaint against Milwaukee County Circuit Judge David V. Jennings Jr.

In a story in Wisconsin Light (11/1-14/90), the paper reported that the Milwaukee AIDS Project, (MAP), and the ACLU had asked the Commission to conduct an investigation of remarks attributed by a lawyer in which Jennings was said to have used anti-Gay, anti-Semitic and sexist terms to describe those who participated in the Sept. 30, Wisconsin AIDS Walk. At that time Doug Nelson, MAP's Executive Director, Eunice Edgar, Director of the ACLU and Scott Gunkel, now President of LRN, in a letter to Jennings demanded from the judge, "a formal, public apology for your highly offensive... remarks."

In response, the Commission wrote recently to Nelson, Edgar and Gunkel saying that it had concluded that it would not "take action (against Jennings) by formal complaint or petition." However, the Commission said that it had "communicated concerning it (the complaints) with the judge."

Jennings, 69, announced in January, that he would not seek re-election when his term ends in 1992.

Male Couple Refused Marriage License By County Clerk

[Milwaukee]- Tim Grair, 24, and Christopher Lubus, 31, tried to celebrate Valentine's Day, 1991 by getting a marriage license application from the Milwaukee County clerk, Rod Lanser's office. Had the application been granted, Grair told Light, he and Lubus planned to be married on March 3, 1991, by Rev. Margarita Suarez of the United Church of Christ.

However, the application was denied because, Corporation Counsel Robert G. Ott advised Lanser that state law defines marriage as a legal relationship between "a husband and wife" and "a wife", in

turn, is defined, according to Black's Law Dictionary, "as a woman united to a man by marriage." Hence, the conclusion that for a legal marriage to happen, one of the parties has got to be a woman, wrote Ott.

Grair said that he and Lubus have been together "basically as a married couple for about five years." He said that their reasons for marriage included "love and commitment" as well as the advantages enjoyed by married couples related to health insurance, power of attorney and automatic wills.

When Grair and Lubus arrived at the Clerk's office, Lanser took them into his

private office. Grair said that Lanser appeared "very, very nervous." Although, Grair said, Lanser "didn't say very much."

Grair and Lubus, both members of Queer Nation, plan unspecified legal action either in the courts or, barring that, go through legislative channels while continuing street action.

Grair said that he and Lubus had talked with ACLU. A spokesperson there told the couple that people should go into County Clerk's office and just apply for a marriage license. They will be denied, but officials there will note the numbers that are interested and pressure will build to same-sex marriages.

Grair told Light that his dedication and commitment to the rights of Gays and Lesbians and his and Lubus's love for each other require them to continue with their efforts to be married.

Hands-On Memorial Quilt Workshop Planned In Milwaukee On March 30

[Milwaukee]- If you've lost a loved one or friend to AIDS or an AIDS-related illness, and have thought about creating a quilt panel for the NAMES Project Memorial Quilt, then attend this Hands-on Quilt Workshop to be held Saturday, March 30th at the MAP Offices, 315 W. Court St.

The Workshop will follow the traditions of the old-fashioned sewing and quilting bees. It begins at noon and will end at 5:00 p.m. The suggested donation of \$5 will help defray the cost of the Workshop. Remaining monies will be donated to MAP. Participants can begin by planning out their quilt panel on paper, including the name of their friend or loved one, and other information such as birth/death dates, hometown, etc. Once the panel is planned out on paper, participants can begin to look for ways of expressing each

element.

An informational brochure that offers suggestions and supplies other pertinent information to help plan out a panel can be obtained by calling (414) 271-5819.

The Quilt Workshop is offered by Havlicek & Associates in memory of the loved ones lost to AIDS, especially David P. Iraci, who died October 31, 1990. "David was very special to me," said Annabelle Havlicek of Havlicek & Associates. "We'll all have one common goal: to create a living memorial to those we loved. By doing this, we'll also help ourselves and each other. By sitting, talking and working together, we can express our grief, anger and loneliness. Our one common goal will help to heal the wounds and will get us acquainted with others who share the same emotions."

Lisowski Receives 1,111 Votes In Milwaukee School Board Race

By Michael S. Lisowski

[Milwaukee]- Well, it's finally over — my first political race, the race for member-at-large of the Milwaukee Public School Board. Even though I received 1,111 votes or 7% of the total, coming in fifth in a list of eight, I do not regret my decision to run. I still believe it was something that I had to do — not for myself, but for my community and the young people concerned.

I know that many people were impressed with the ideas expressed in this race. I received favorable comments from the Milwaukee Journal reporters and writers with whom I came into contact. And I received many favorable comments from others along the way.

Perhaps one of the most significant things to come out of this campaign is that the issue of sexual orientation has been raised in an election and it will continue to be raised until it is dealt with in the schools. The school administration knows that it is only a matter of time until they enact policies dealing with Gay, Lesbian and bisexual students.

My only regret is that the Gay community did not see the broader implications of this race.

Political power is what gets people — and a community — what they want. If more people realized this, I know we could have gotten more people to vote in this election. This was an easy race in which to flex our political arm and test the waters. Well, the waters have been tested and let me say, they are not that cold.

I know that a race such as this is only the beginning for our community; a beginning because we have not matured into a powerful, active community. Until we realize that we have the potential to do so, we will remain fragmented.

Our community unites in emergencies. We have done it with AIDS. We have done

so in the battle over the County Board of Supervisors Lesbian/Gay Pride proclamation two years ago.

But these are only sporadic episodes. The need is there to grow into a consistent, dynamic community. Only then will we, can we, realize our full and true potential. When we truly believe in ourselves, then and only then, can we truly accomplish anything; only then can we successfully challenge obstacles that come our way. We have only just begun.

I would like to thank a few of those who made this campaign possible. My campaign staff, Gale Davy, Luellen Longee, Robert Zimmerman, Joan Lawrence are to be congratulated. To Wisconsin In Step and Wisconsin Light I give hearty thanks for their support and to ACT UP, especially Chris Fons, who helped me obtain enough signatures to get on the ballot. I would like to thank LAMM for their endorsement, Karen Gotzler, my parents, Betty and James and Tyreece and all the bars and businesses who supported me in my drive for signatures. I would like to thank too, the Milwaukee Journal and The Shepherd for raising the Gay/Lesbian issues and finally, "Chip" who gave me reason to go on when things didn't always go well.

I knew that something was going right when a person I ran into at one of the bars told me that he was going to vote for me because Channel 30 (WVCY) was telling its audience to vote against me. I guess we still scare some people.

I really have to especially thank the Lesbian community. They rallied to this election and supported me. At least this campaign demonstrates that we can work together no matter how diverse.

Thanks, and let's keep building community! Let's keep our issues up front and push our agenda. Milwaukee will become all the better for it.

In a related story, Craig R. Dean and Patrick G. Gill, a Washington, D.C. couple who were denied a marriage license by the city, have dropped their claim for \$1 million in damages as a "measure of good faith."

Dean, who is an attorney representing himself and his partner, told the Washington Blade: "The important thing here is the marriage license, not the money. When we do go to court, I want the only issue to be whether same sex couples should be allowed to marry. I want this to be a very clear and concise case."

Dean and Gill filed their suit in D.C. Superior Court in November. The city has asked the court to dismiss the case.

Meanwhile, dozens of couples — many Gay and Lesbian, some unmarried heterosexuals — flocked to San Francisco's City Hall on Valentine's Day to utilize San Francisco's new domestic partnership law.

The San Francisco ordinance allows for registration, but does not extend benefits like insurance or sick leave to domestic partners. A referendum proposing those benefits was defeated by voters in 1989, but Gay activists in San Francisco plan to build on the current registration law.

A more comprehensive domestic partners law was passed by the Minneapolis City Council and took effect in February. The Minneapolis ordinance establishing a Domestic Partners Registry, allows all persons registered as domestic partners to visit their partners in health care facilities, and offers sick and bereavement leave to city employees — Gay or straight — registered as domestic partners.

The Milwaukee Journal reports that about 60 couples have been registered as domestic partners in Madison, which passed a limited partners ordinance last year.

MASN To Offer Grief Recovery Session for Men

[Madison]- The Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN) is pleased to offer a new group, "Grief, Loss and Recovery for Gay and Bisexual Men." Since the Gay community has been so dramatically impacted by the AIDS epidemic, this will be an opportunity for Gay and bisexual men to begin to heal in the grieving process.

The group will be facilitated by Will Handy and Michael Bemis. It is a six week group that begins March 7, 1991. The group will be a closed group of eight men and will run for six consecutive Thursdays. There is a \$10 program fee. To register or for more information, contact Dave Rompa at 238-6276.