



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

# The Wisconsin Light

## Madison's Frontier Men's Group Celebrates Ten Years

By Terry Boughner

[Madison]- Some 60 people attended the Frontiers annual awards banquet on Saturday, April 20, 1991 that also celebrated the group's 10 anniversary. The dinner was held at The Gallery restaurant in Middleton, Wisconsin. The garden-like atmosphere in the historic old building offered a charming setting for the festivities.

Receiving the Frontiers Award for Community Service was out-going Madison Alderman Jim McFarland, introduced by Alderman Ricardo Gonzales. McFarland, who is responsible for Madison's domestic partners statute, praised his life-partner, Rick Villasenor, Miriam Ben Shalom and State Rep. David Clarenbach for their on-going inspiration to him in his work for human rights.

Larry Kneeland received the Volunteer Service Award for years of work in the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN), Frontiers newsletter editor and as a founder of Frontiers. He was introduced by Woody Carry.

State Rep. David Clarenbach received the Public Service Award. He was introduced by Dane County Supervisor, Dick Wagner. Wagner lauded Clarenbach as the Father of the Wisconsin Gay rights law, for authoring all AIDS legislation in the state, for the Wisconsin Hate Crimes law as well as being a leader in support of labor laws and on women's issues. "David is a voice for the Wisconsin Progressive tradition," Wagner said.

Clarenbach who is in his 20th year of elective office and has announced his campaign for Congress, was given a standing ovation as he went to receive his award.

## Local History Topic of May 16 LAMM Meeting

[Milwaukee]- "Bringing Up The Past: Local Lesbian Herstories" is the topic of the next meeting of the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM) on Thursday, May 16. A panel of several local Lesbians will discuss life as a Lesbian in Milwaukee in the '60's and early '70's.

The program begins at 7:00 p.m., preceded by a potluck at 6:00 p.m., at the Milwaukee Enterprise Center, 2821 N. 4th St. All Lesbians are welcome. For info call LAMM at 264-2600.

## Milwaukee Expected to Oppose Possible Bath House Reopening

[Milwaukee]- "We would look on it with disfavor as before," said Dr. Thomas Schlenker. Schlenker went on to say, that whoever invested in it should know "that the day after they opened it, it would be closed."

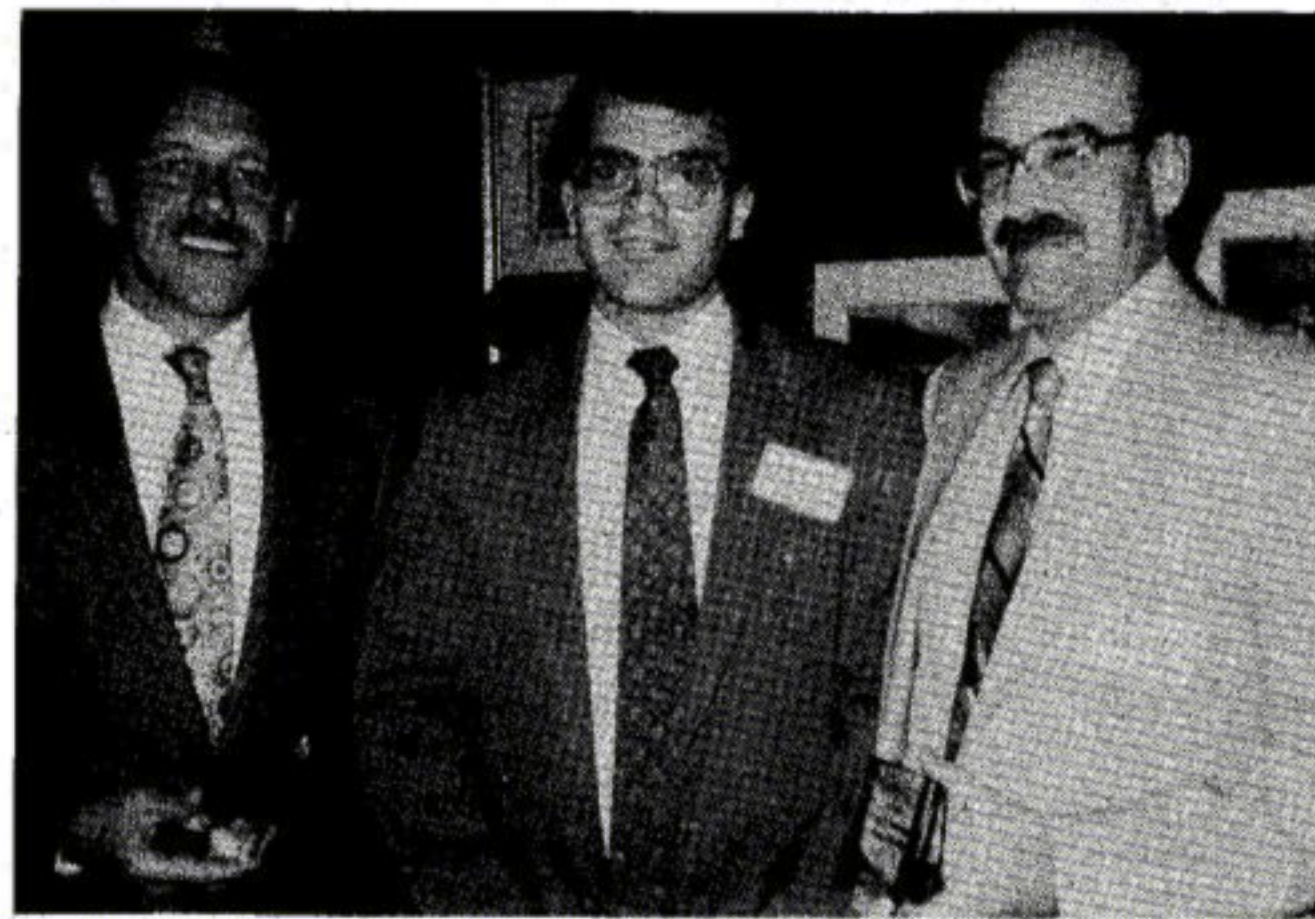
Schlenker, the special deputy commissioner for medical affairs for Milwaukee's Health department was responding to a question about the possible re-opening of the Club Baths. The question was prompted by an article in Michael Horne's column, "Plenty of Horne" in the April 25-May 1 edition of the *Shepherd Express* in which he wrote of a possible reopening of the baths.

Schlenker went on to indicate a concern that name changes or other changes would not make a difference in the baths.

The Club Baths were closed originally because of the fear of the spread of infectious disease.

In his column, Horne notes that William Sherkow, "is said to plan to reopen the Club Baths" in the building at 704 Wisconsin Ave. which he owns. The re-opening, Horne writes, is "part of his strategy" to get a buyer for the building,

## Thompson Denied Kowalski Guardianship; Appeal Planned



State Rep. David Clarenbach, outgoing Madison alderman Jim McFarland and Larry Kneeland received the Frontiers Awards for Community Service on April 20. The awards were presented at a banquet held at the Gallery Restaurant in Middleton.

## Governor Thompson Proposes to Cut State AIDS Budget by \$144,000

[Milwaukee]- State AIDS funding has been cut by \$143,600 in Governor Thompson's proposed 1991-93 budget, a reduction that AIDS Resource Center Executive Director Doug Nelson labeled as "seriously jeopardizing our ability to keep pace with the AIDS epidemic."

Thompson's budget cuts all funding for the new state-wide clinical drug trials program headquartered at the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP), cuts two key AIDS prevention staff positions at the State Division of Health AIDS/HIV Program, and offers no increase for the critically important Life Care Services case management grants that fund MAP's 17 person case management staff.

"Wisconsin must not retreat in the face of a rapidly escalating AIDS epidemic," Nelson said. "MAP's HIV clientele will increase by at least 150 percent during the two-year period of this state budget. If the Governor's budget remains unchanged, MAP's ability to deliver services to clients will definitely be harmed."

Nelson has met with the executive directors of all of Wisconsin's private, non-profit AIDS service organizations to

gain consensus on increases in the state budget that he calls essential. The increases for each fiscal year in the biennium proposed by MAP and the other AIDS service agencies total nearly \$1.3 million.

Nelson is also recommending that the state budget be changed to permit the state's HIV Drug Reimbursement Program to reimburse for any HIV drug that is FDA approved and recommended by the State Division of Health. He said that the Governor's budget appears to adequately fund the drug reimbursement program and to the COBRA insurance continuation subsidy program.

Madison State Rep. David Clarenbach and Milwaukee State Reps Tim Carpenter and Peter Bock will lead the legislative effort to restore and increase AIDS funding in the budget. If successful, the funding will need Governor Thompson's approval when signing the new 1991-93 state budget.

## AIDS Memorial Service Planned For May 19

[Milwaukee]- On May 19, 1991, Milwaukee will once again be participating in the eighth annual International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and Mobilization. In conjunction with other memorial activities, the PLWA Coalition of Wisconsin will be sponsoring a Candlelight March to remember those who have been taken from us by AIDS; to support those living with HIV and AIDS and stand for those who will be touched by AIDS in the future.

The March will begin at the Reuss Federal Building in downtown Milwaukee at 9:00 p.m. where a brief introduction and statement of purpose will be given. The March will proceed down Wisconsin Avenue and end at the lakefront War Memorial. Speakers confirmed to date include: State Rep. Peter Bock, Doug Nelson, executive director of the Milwaukee AIDS Project, Daniel Trzebiatowski, a PLWA and Bob and Ginny Savnoch, parents of a passed PWA.

Those who plan to participate in the March are asked to bring their own candles if possible. Candles will be provided if need be.

For more information, call Daniel at 383-1512 or the PLWA Coalition at 442-7504.

[Duluth, MN] - In a decision Karen Thompson calls "outrageous and unbelievable," St. Louis County District Judge Robert Campbell on April 24 denied Thompson's petition to become the guardian of her brain-injured lover, Sharon Kowalski.

"To say that I am stunned and outraged would be an understatement," Thompson told the *Wisconsin Light*. "There will definitely be an appeal. It's the most homophobic, heterosexist and ableist order my attorney has ever seen."

Instead of Thompson, Judge Campbell chose as guardian Karen Tomberlin, a teacher at Greenway High School in Minnesota's Iron Range who has known Kowalski since 1973. Campbell described Tomberlin as "a neutral third party" who is best equipped to see that Kowalski maintains her relationship with both her parents and Thompson.

Donald and Della Kowalski and Karen Thompson have fought legal battles over Sharon Kowalski's medical care, guardianship and visitation rights since a car accident disabled her in 1983. The Kowalskis relinquished guardianship last year, and the current hearing was to determine who would take over responsibility for Sharon.

While the legal wrangling has gone on for seven years, it was in only the last two months that Karen Tomberlin emerged as another potential guardian.

Thompson views Tomberlin as "an extension of the Kowalskis." She does not deny that Sharon knows Tomberlin and enjoys her company, but points out that Tomberlin has only visited Sharon three or four times in the past two years.

Minnesota guardianship statutes say that any person appointed must have good communication with the ward and be aware of the ward's "ongoing daily needs." Thompson doubts that Tomberlin has this knowledge. Thompson is further concerned that, at the hearing, Tomberlin testified against Sharon having any input into her own treatment and future.

In addition, in what Thompson described as a "flagrant violation of state statutes," the judge appointed Tomberlin guardian when she had not even filed a petition for guardianship as required by law. Normally, all interested parties are informed of such a petition and given a chance to respond. This may be one of the many grounds for appeal.

Thompson is particularly concerned that Judge Campbell "made a finding of fact totally unsubstantiated by the evidence that Sharon is incapable of living at home."

In fact, every medical professional who testified at the hearing said that Kowalski can and should be allowed to live at home. They all remarked on the added alertness and motivation she exhibited after weekends at home with Thompson.

The effect of the judge's finding, if not appealed, could be to leave Sharon Kowalski forever institutionalized.

"It is very difficult to respect a system that so freely violates human being's rights," said Thompson. "To think that a judge would still prefer her sitting in an institution and deny her the right to live her highest quality of life — that which she still has. He would even take that away from her and make her stare at walls instead of living at home and being able to go out and do things. I can't believe that anybody would be so inhuman."

Judge Campbell acknowledged that Sharon Kowalski has repeatedly stated that she wants to live with Thompson, that doctors and nurses testified Kowalski was happiest with Thompson and that Thompson has the best grasp of Kowalski's needs and is committed to meeting them.

Nevertheless, the judge cited these

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