



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

The Wisconsin Light

Mayor Norquist Receives Unique Valentines From Queer Nation

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]- Six members of Queer Nation Milwaukee held a special "Valentine's Day Party" for Mayor John Norquist in their continuing effort to "stay in the Mayor's face" since his veto of city funds for Milwaukee's Gay Pride Parade.

The "party" took place in the reception area of the Mayor's office at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, February 14.

Earlier, Queer Nation members had sold Valentine's Day cards to be delivered to the Mayor. The cards contained verses such as "Roses are red, violets are blue. We need a Mayor other than you" and "I've got a vote, and I'm gonna use it. Because of your veto, you're gonna lose it!" The cards were described enthusiastically by Tim Grair, a Queer Nation member, as "pink, festive, with lots of naked cupids."

Over 100 of these cards had been purchased and signed by members of the Lesbian/Gay community. The cards were then delivered to the Mayor. Many were on poster board. Some were loose.

In addition, Queer Nation brought black painted carnations which Grair described as "smelling heavily of paint."

After they had delivered the cards and flowers, Queer Nation members chanted: "As long as it's a straight fest, John thinks it's a great fest." This chant was also used by the Queer Nationals when they demonstrated at the Mayor's speech at the close of Winterfest in Cathedral Square February 9.

Most of the major media were in attendance for the Valentine's Day event. Television coverage was positive, with reporters clearly amused by the Gay group's antics. Grair said that the reception by the Mayor's staff was friendly.

Grair said that Queer Nation is now receiving the Mayor's schedule on a regular basis. It is quite likely that the Queer Nationals will continue their campaign to "stay in the Mayor's face." Grair said that anyone can pick up a copy of the Mayor's schedule by simply requesting one from his receptionist at City Hall.

Dinkins Pressures Hibernians; Wants Gays In St. Pat's Parade

By Jamakaya

[New York, NY]- Milwaukee Mayor John O. Norquist, who recently vetoed city funding for the annual Gay Pride Parade, is not the only big city mayor grappling with controversy over Gays and parades. Mayor David Dinkins in New York is too. But unlike Norquist, Dinkins is distinguishing himself in a completely different way.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians stands accused of discrimination by New York City's Human Rights Commission for excluding the Irish Gay and Lesbian Organization from participation in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Representatives of the Ancient Order will be called before an administrative judge to answer charges that their action is in violation of the city's civil rights laws.

The Commission's charges were initiated at the behest of Mayor Dinkins, who marched in solidarity with the Gays and Lesbians in 1991 after a last minute compromise allowed for their inclusion in the parade. Dinkins and the Gays were heckled by hooligans along the parade route.

"The City of New York has an obligation to uphold the law," said Mayor Dinkins at a press conference January 24. "Discrimination is ugly and destructive and we will work to put an end to it."

The complaint states that the annual parade is a place of "public accommodation" and therefore subject to the provisions of municipal laws which

Dahmer Imprisoned For Life; Community Expresses Relief

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]- After eight months, the case of serial killer Jeffrey L. Dahmer has been brought to a conclusion. Milwaukee's Lesbian/Gay community, like the rest of the city, state and nation, has listened and watched with a mixture of horror, fascination, profound pain and deep perplexity as to how what Dahmer himself called a "holocaust" could have happened.

On the evening of February 14 my spouse and I went out to the bars. At that point, the case was in the hands of the jury which was soon to decide whether Dahmer was sane or insane. It was Valentine's Day, but no matter where we went, people were talking about "the Dahmer nightmare."

I would go up to someone I knew. At first, they would shake their head or smile and say they were bored by it all. They didn't want to talk about Jeffrey Dahmer anymore. Then, usually without a pause, they would start to talk about the case.

Sorrow, Anger, Relief

There was a lot of pent up emotion, a lot of sorrow over what had happened. Miss Goldie Adams pointed to the spots in Club 219 where Dahmer had stood. She said she'd known some of the victims and mourned "deeply" the loss of good friends.

Larry, a young Black man, warned that if Dahmer was declared insane, the African-American community would be enraged.

There was a lot of anger no matter where we went. Though this is a very subjective impression, the feeling I got from people was that Dahmer, Gay himself, had betrayed and smeared the whole Gay/Lesbian community by what he had done. Perhaps that's the reason I found nearly universal agreement that Dahmer had to be found to be sane — personally responsible for what he had done — and sent away forever.

The next day, Saturday, February 15, the verdict was brought in. Dahmer was declared sane on all 15 homicide counts. On Monday, he was sentenced to life in prison. Opinions on the verdict and



JEFFREY L. DAHMER

sentence varied.

Cindy Van Vreede expressed satisfaction with the verdict and sentence. "I'm happy," she said. "I'm glad he's going to prison." Then she added, "I'm glad it's over. There's a sadness to it all." Her voice reflected the sorrow she felt over the terrible things that had happened.

Michael Lisowski, director of Gay and Youth Milwaukee who knew "Demetra" Straughter, one of the victims, said that he was "satisfied" with the verdict and expressed the hope that Dahmer would be studied and evaluated by those qualified to do so.

Sue Burke said that she too was pleased with the verdict and sentence. "A thousand years is a long way away," she added, referring to the earliest time Dahmer might expect parole.

Time for Healing

Another woman agreed, saying "the verdict was exactly appropriate." She spoke of the need for healing in the community and the sense of relief she felt now that the trial was over.

Joan Lawrence said she thought the "whole thing was a side-show and a circus." Lawrence added that she wasn't convinced by the jury's decision. "If he wasn't insane," she said, "I don't know who is." Lawrence suggested that lawmakers ought to review the current definitions of mental disease and insanity.

Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) said,

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A Hate Crime That Wasn't: Racism, Homophobia In The Dahmer Case

Commentary by Jamakaya

One of the major unresolved issues of the Jeffrey L. Dahmer case, in my opinion, was the failure — no — refusal by all parties involved to recognize the killings as hate crimes. I know I hold a minority opinion on this, but hear me out.

I believe that downplaying the possibility that the murders were hate crimes is part of the larger collective denial by the powers that be in the City of Milwaukee that racism and homophobia had anything to do with the case.

Denial, Denial, Denial

In his opening statement at the trial, Defense Attorney Gerald P. Boyle asserted: "This is not a case about homosexuality... This was not racial." On several occasions District Attorney E. Michael McCann also said that the crimes were not motivated by hate.

Dahmer himself indicated in his confession to police and in his statement before Judge Laurence C. Gram Jr.: "I did what I did, but not for reasons of hate."

By Jamakaya

[Milwaukee]- Serial killer Jeffrey L. Dahmer, who preyed on members of the Gay and minority communities, was sentenced to 15 consecutive life terms in prison on February 17 after a jury determined he was sane when he committed 15 grisly homicides.

Dahmer will not be eligible for parole for 936 years.

In remarks to Judge Laurence C. Gram Jr. before sentencing — the first public comments he has made — the killer expressed regret for the "holocaust" he created. Dahmer said he now understood he was "sick," asked forgiveness from the victims' families, and said: "Only the Lord Jesus Christ can save me from my sins."

High Drama in Courtroom

Two days earlier, the atmosphere in the courtroom was emotionally charged as Judge Gram read each of the verdicts. The jury was asked whether Dahmer was suffering from a mental disease at the time of each crime. One by one, as each of the counts was read and the name of each victim was recited, the answer was "No...No...No...No..."

Cries of relief came from the victims' families who, since the murders were discovered last July, have demanded



DISTRICT ATTORNEY E. MICHAEL McCANN

justice for their loved ones. A relative of victim Anthony Sears chanted "Thank you Jesus, thank you Jesus" as the verdicts were read.

Family members crowded around District Attorney E. Michael McCann as he attempted to leave the courtroom. Many embraced him and thanked him for successfully prosecuting Dahmer. McCann himself wiped tears from his eyes.

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MAYOR DAVID DINKINS

bar discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Although the origins of the parade stem from Roman Catholicism, over the past 230 years the St. Patrick's Day Parade has become a major public event celebrated by the entire city.

The Dinkins administration wants the Ancient Order of Hibernians to develop a new set of guidelines that will allow admission of the group in this year's parade. But the Hibernians are expected to argue that First Amendment protections of freedom of speech and association permit them to choose who will participate in the event.

Norman Siegel of the New York Civil Liberties Union has offered to represent

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I hated no one... These were not hate crimes." Dahmer seemed particularly concerned that this message be received by the public at large.

Some of my more cynical colleagues in the press suggested that Dahmer's insistence that the crimes weren't racist was meant for "some of the brothers at Waupun or Portage" eagerly awaiting the arrival of the "white devil."

Whatever Dahmer's motives, I hardly think we should take his word for anything. The "smart con artist," as one juror called him, has been lying and covering his ass for years. On the topic of hate crimes, methinks he doth protest too much.

In opening remarks, Boyle said that Dahmer "accepted his homosexuality at age 14 when he had his first consensual homosexual contact" with another teen. A good deal of evidence — not introduced into the court record — contradicts that contention.

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