



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

# The Wisconsin Light

## May 24 Reception to be Held for Mayor Norquist and Ombudsman Marg Beil

(Milwaukee)- There is to be a reception held for Milwaukee Mayor John O. Norquist on Tuesday, May 24 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at the Milwaukee Enterprise Center, 2821 N. 4th Street. The reception is open to all and will be an opportunity to meet the Mayor and share with him your concerns. Refreshments will be served.

Also attending will be Marg Beil who has recently been assigned by the Mayor to handle problems that the community may have.

The reception is being hosted by the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (L.A.M.M.), the L.A.M.M. Education Fund, the Human Rights League for Lesbians and Gays, PrideFest, LOC Women of Color, Ujima, Men of All Colors Together and the Sherman Park Rainbow Association.

## Studds and Frank to Introduce Employment Non-Discrimination Bill

(Washington, D.C.)- In a major effort to ward off the pressure building from the anti-Gay initiatives building in 9 of the states, U.S. Representatives Gerry Studds (D-MA) and Barney Frank (D-MA) announced on April 21 that they will jointly introduce federal legislation to ban job discrimination based on sexual orientation. This will be the first legislation to focus specifically on workplace protections for Lesbians and Gay men. The plan is to introduce the bill in May, 1994.

"The right to be secure in one's livelihood is a bedrock principle with which every American can identify," said Studds.

"Discriminating against honest, hard-working people because they are Gay or Lesbian makes no sense—morally, socially or economically," said Frank.

The bill is being pushed by Gay lobbyists from the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), and others.

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## 70 Acts will Entertain PrideFest Goers Over Two Days and Evenings on Two Stages at June 11-12 Festival

(Milwaukee)- With more than 70 acts composed over 200 singers, dancers, comics and actors and other entertainers from three states, Wisconsin's PrideFest 94 has become the largest Gay and Lesbian entertainment festival in the Upper Midwest.

In order to accommodate the greatly increased number of performers, PrideFest has added a second stage, the Harvey Milk Stage, which will join the outdoor Cream City Foundation/Alyn Hess Stage.

PrideFest 94 will be held June 11 and 12 at its new site just north of Milwaukee's War Memorial Art Center located right on Lake Michigan.

PrideFest has succeeded in producing the biggest, most diverse and highest quality entertainment lineup ever seen at a LesBiGay event in Wisconsin or, for that matter, most other states as well.

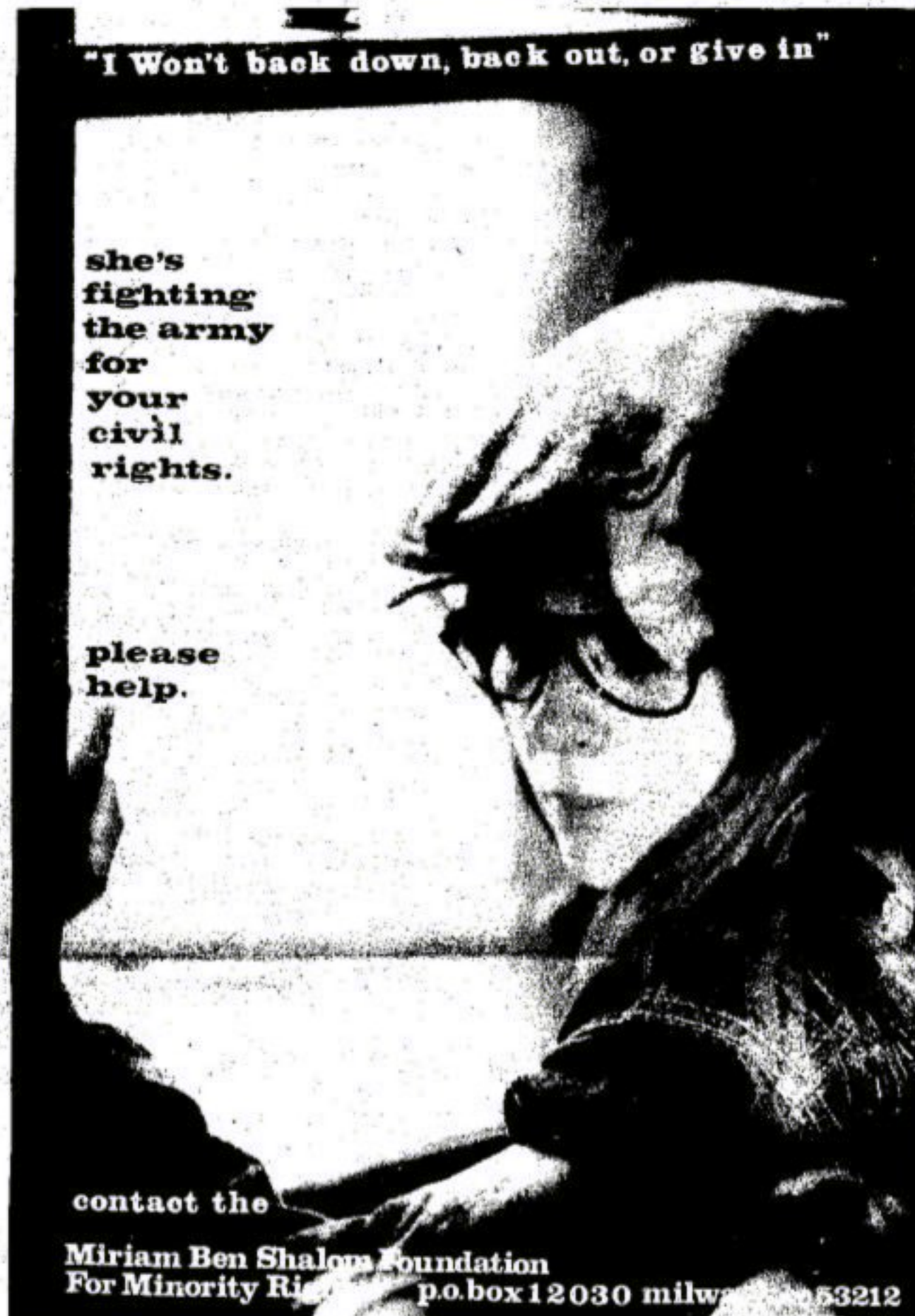
Organizers say that last year's large crowd convinced many performers that it was worth their while to perform at PrideFest. Unlike past celebrations, there was no special effort made to cover bare spots in the lineup.

Every act was either viewed in person or required to submit a tape before being added to the lineup. In fact, so many good performers were turned away because there was no room in the lineup that organizers considered adding a third entertainment stage. That idea was rejected because of cost considerations.

There will be three different revues. Hur-

## Milwaukee's Miriam Ben-Shalom Receives Prestigious National Stonewall Award

Honored For Her Fight for Equal Rights



Won't Back Down—Miriam Ben-Shalom is pictured in this 1976 poster which was circulated by friends shortly after her dismissal from the U.S. Army in November of that year.

(Milwaukee)- Miriam Ben-Shalom is one of four awarded the prestigious Stonewall Awards in recognition of her long-time activism for equal rights for Lesbians and Gays. The award brings with it \$25,000.

The Stonewall Awards are administered by the Anderson Prize Foundation. It was founded in 1990 in Chicago as a not-for-profit charitable and educational organization, to promote education about and awareness of the concerns of the Gay and Lesbian community.

The Foundation is named for the late Paul A. Anderson, a futures trader in Chicago, who provided the initial funding as well as a bequest of \$1,250,000 to endow the prizes after his death. There are no conditions of any kind attached to the award.

Besides Ben-Shalom, Franklin "Frank" Kameny of Washington, D.C., Barbara Smith of Albany, New York, and Rick Osborne of San Diego, California also won Stonewall Awards.

Ben-Shalom, a native of East Troy, Wisconsin and a long-time resident of Milwaukee, gained national prominence when she opposed her discharge from the U.S. Army in 1976 when she told the truth about her sexual orientation.

Up to that time, she had received many commendations and was one of the first women to become a drill sergeant.

Ben-Shalom took her case to court and 11 years later won reinstatement, but was not allowed to re-enlist, whereupon she launched a second court challenge which she won and then lost on appeal. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the case.

Ben-Shalom was one of the first public speakers on behalf of the right of Gays to serve in the armed forces. She has lobbied for the civil rights of Lesbians, Gay men and all people: She is a frequent speaker nation-wide and has been Grand Marshall in many Gay Pride parades, including in Milwaukee.

She is currently a member of the PrideFest Board in Milwaukee, serving as Vice President and Volunteer coordinator. She has given a portion of her award to the PrideFest celebration. She is a member of the Stonewall 25 Armed Forces Veterans Coalition, among other duties.

In addition to being a high school English teacher in the Milwaukee public schools, she is an instructor in the continuing education program at the Milwaukee Area Technical College.

She is also currently giving "serious consideration" to running for Mayor of Milwaukee.

Ben-Shalom first heard that she had won the Stonewall Award when she got a Federal Express package. When she opened it up, she found a packet of information. She said that at first she thought it was from someone asking her for a donation of some kind, perhaps "a con thing of some kind."

It was only when she called Allen Schuh, head of the Anderson Foundation, that she found out what had happened.

When Schuh clarified the situation, her

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style to its PrideFest debut during the Pride Showcase Saturday evening.

Last year, PrideFest experimented with a special Saturday evening concert: The Pride Showcase Candle Light Concert. This year's three-hour show will include a dramatic recreation of Stonewall. Concert goers are being urged to bring a candle to help light up the park with Pride.

PrideFest 94 Co-Chair, Bill Meunier, says the entire community has reason to be very proud of this lineup. "We have worked throughout the year to round up the best singers, dancers, and bands that we could find. It's a shame we had to turn down so many fine performers."

## Marge Beil New Contact Person in Mayor's Office for Gay Community

(Milwaukee)- Marge Beil, Staff Assistant to Milwaukee Mayor John O. Norquist has recently accepted the assignment of being the contact person in the Mayor's office for the Gay/Lesbian community.

The person who formerly held that assignment was David Riemer who yielded it when he became Norquist's Chief of Staff.

Beil, who has worked for the Mayor since March of 1993, emphasizes that this is an assignment, not an appointed position. She is not a liaison between the Mayor's office and the community, she said. Nor is she a spokesperson for the community to the Mayor.

Instead, she is a sort of ombudsperson, a trouble-shooter, a person who tries to help solve problems, a position she occupies for other communities such as older adults, labor

and others.

As such, she said, anyone in the LesBiGay community can call her, for example if they have a problem cutting through red tape. She will assist them or refer them to the proper office.

Beil is no stranger to politics. She worked for Tony Earl, running the former governor's campaign in Milwaukee. It was while working with Earl, she said, that she had contact with the Gay community.

However, she said, that was 10 years ago. "Things have changed."

Beil said that she would be willing to accept invitations from community organizations and groups to meet with them.

Beil's phone number in City Hall is (414) 286-2200.