

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

The Wisconsin Light

GAY MALE BRUTALLY RAPED AT FORT ATKINSON BAR

"The really freaky thing is that he wasn't supposed to be here," said Wade Williams.

Williams, along with his mother, Marie Williams, owns and operates the Old Fort Lounge in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. The Lounge is a Gay bar, the only one in the small town of 10,000 and the only one for miles around. For that reason as well as for its cozy, intimate atmosphere, Lesbians, Gays and even some straights come from all over; from Madison, Janesville, Appleton and Milwaukee and points in between to relax, meet people and enjoy themselves.

In a small place like "The Fort" as the local people refer to the town, there's no hiding the fact that the Lounge is a Gay bar and has been a Gay watering hole since 1943, Williams said. So he doesn't even try. Like he, himself, it is openly and publicly Gay.

What about the townsfolk?, he is asked. He replied with a shrug, a drag on his ever-present cigarette, and a small smile.

"There are some banks where the tellers won't deal with you and certain stores where you can't get waited on but there's no religious pressure. No picketing." Then he adds as he stubs out his cigarette, "I thought it would be a lot rougher than it is — or has been, up to now."

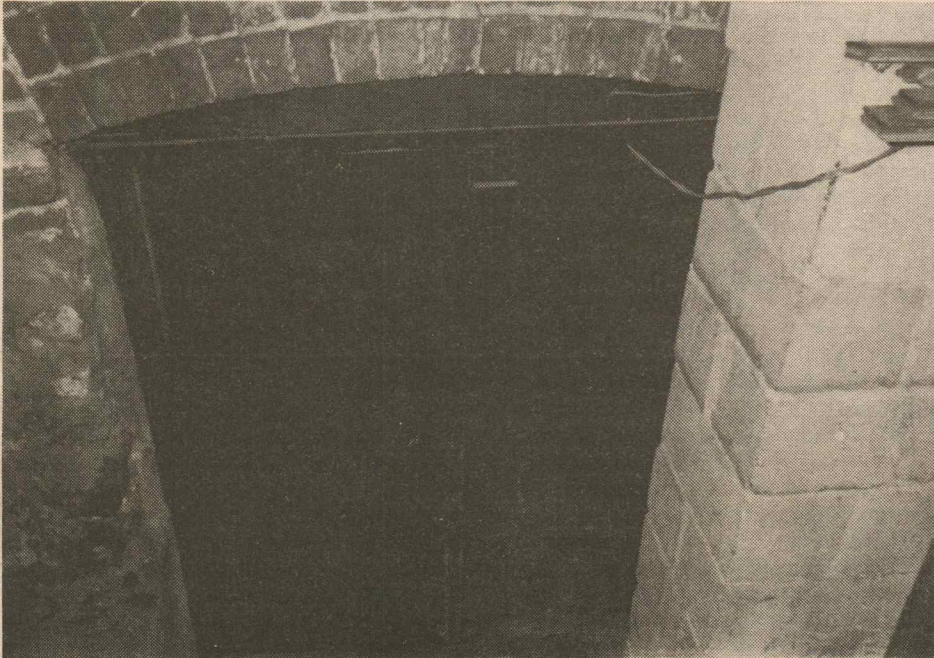
His mother, a nice looking woman with a look of calm determination about her, nods with an expression of sympathetic agreement.

"We've owned the Lounge for four years and two months," Wade Williams said as he continued his story. "On December 16 I invited my ex-lover over to the Lounge for a drink. He looks a lot like me."

Wade is, as he said, 5'8", slender and 26-years-old.

"At closing time," he continued, "there wasn't anyone here except the two of us so he helped me close up and left. His car was parked right outside."

After that, Wade went upstairs where he shares an apartment with his mother. Although it was a little after 2:00 am and



A Fort Atkinson Gay man was allegedly dragged from his car through this door into a bar adjacent to the Old Fort Lounge where he was badly beaten by three men and brutally raped. The victim escaped five hours later.

the town, as small towns are at that time of morning, was quiet, the apartment is well insulated and Williams fell immediately asleep. His mother was awake and heard the dog barking but thought nothing unusual in the fact. The Lounge is in a building connected with another by a covered passageway over what used to be an alley between the two buildings. In the other building, there is also a bar, a decidedly straight bar, that a visit showed catered to a rough looking bunch, mostly young, complete with levis, tattoos, what Williams called, "real rednecks." Both Williams and his mother said that there is often "commotion" there after hours so that she thought the dog, as it usually does, was barking because of that. It was not until the next day that they found out what was happening.

TURN TO FORT ATKINSON, PAGE 15

Oppression topic of world Gay conclave

By Mark Schoofs

Our "layer of civilization" is still very thin, cautioned the deputy mayor of Amsterdam at the opening ceremonies of the international conference titled "Homosexuality Beyond Disease."

But the deputy mayor's warning sounded almost out of place and unnecessary; after all, the conference had attracted more than 200 academics and professionals from at least four continents as well as a whole battery of high-ranking Dutch officials. And with the conference taking place in Amsterdam's poshest hotel, directly across from the Royal Palace, it was easy to believe that Holland's tolerance was the rule, not the exception. However, events transpired in other countries which showed that most of the world has not passed beyond the conception of homosexuality as a disease, and these events charged the conference with a sense of urgency.

Sponsored by the International Lesbian and Gay Association and organized by the Gay and Lesbian studies department of the University of Utrecht, the conference focused on one particularly threadbare layer of civilization, the World Health Organization's (WHO) classification of homosexuality as a diseased mental condition.

TURN TO CONFERENCE, PAGE 10

Lamb to be honored at King celebration

Six individuals and a non-profit organization will be honored for their contributions in the field of human rights in a ceremony at Milwaukee's official celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday on Sunday, January 17, 1988 at the Performing Arts Center.



Dr. Karen Lamb

Those recognized through citizen nominations selected by Commissioners from the Milwaukee Commission on Community Relations, the King holiday co-sponsor include Dr. Karen Lamb. Dr. Lamb is the director of the GeorgAnna and Joseph Uihlein, Jr. Family Health Program. She is co-chair of the Board of Community Advisors to the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin and has devoted considerable time and effort to behind-the-scenes education on behalf of persons with AIDS.

Dr. Lamb has published widely on subjects relating to women, abused children and health care. She is a regular columnist for *Wisconsin Light* writing a column titled, "A Note from Karen Lamb." Dr. Lamb is married to Mayor Henry Maier of Milwaukee.

Dr. Lamb and the other honorees will receive their recognition during Milwaukee's fifth annual celebration of the life and goals of Dr. Martin Luther King titled, "MLK: Sieze the Vision" on Sunday January 17 at Uihlein Hall of the Performing Arts Center. The free program begins at 1:30pm with all seating on a first-come, first-served basis. ♡

Dave Runyon has Nothing To Hide

By SPEAK ITS NAME

Madison - It's called "Nothing To Hide" and it's Madison's Gay cable TV program, aired weekly on Wednesdays at 9:30 p.m. on cable channel 4.

It's truly a one-man show and the man in question is Dave Runyon.

An Assistant Professor of Art and director of the Crossman Art Gallery at UW-Whitewater, Runyon began his "extra-curricular" career in TV production in 1979, when he "inherited" the forerunner of his current show from its founder, Michael Henry. That was in 1979 and the program was "Glad To Be Gay," a weekly

TURN TO MADISON, PAGE 13

LIGHTS' 10 VILLIANS OF 1987

With this issue, *Light* begins a tradition of awarding the Villian of the Year Awards better known as "Those Who Were Shown A Light And Blew It Out." In perhaps better words, these — 10 of them — are people who resemble the peace of God. They pass all understanding.

So here they are folks; read 'em and jeer.



Senator Jesse Helms

1.) **Sen. Jesse Helms [R-NC]** This was a hard one considering that for number one villian we have the likes of Jerry Falwell and Oral Roberts but Jesse, considering his backing of Judge Bork and his incredibly homophobic Helms Amendment, puts this senior Senator way ahead for the number one position (Missionary).

2.) **Rep. William Dannemeyer [R-CA]**

The only reason this guy didn't make the number one place is that he's only a representative. But after that, Good Lord, where do you start? He endorses Lyndon LaRouch's calls for mass quarantine of "all AIDS carriers;" he has stated publicly that he thinks (?) Gay rights spreads AIDS and that AIDS is spread by "spores." (Is there no end to this paragon of ignorance?)

3.) **Ronald Reagan, President** - Now c'mon, did you expect this bozo to be left out of an awards list like this? Not when this past year he finally said the "A" word right on TV and then didn't have the good grace to apologize that because of his inaction, hundreds upon hundreds of AIDS sufferers died and tens of hundreds more will die. And he complains about the Soviet violation of human rights!

4.) **George Bush, Vice President** - (Yes, he actually exists and is alive and living (?). Although not a candidate for "Rabid Candidate of the Year (That goes to Pat Robertson), Ol' George gets the Buffoon of the Year Award and our number four spot for his over-heard remark reacting to boos received upon asking for mass mandatory HIV testing of Americans. "What's that? A Gay group out there?"

And Oral fell on his knees and gave thanks 'cause Ol' George had, looking through a glass eye darkly, seen????

5.) **Gary Bauer, White House Chief Domestic Policy Advisor** - Never heard of him? Well, he wins chief jerk of the Administrative (and I speak loosely) branch. This creature was totally against

naming anyone who was Gay to the Presidential commission on AIDS, telling reporters that Commission members shouldn't be picked on the basis of their having had a prefrontal lobotomy?

6.) **Rev. Jerry Falwell, Ringmaster of TV Bible-thumpers** - There were a lot to pick from, Oral and Jim and Tammy and Pat Robertson, all part of the Bible Booboisie, all of who should make you doubt the validity of the theory of evolution. However, what would a list like this be without Jerry with his talk of "militant homosexuals" running out and, with malice aforethought, infecting the blood supply not to mention trying to take over the world. So here's to you, Jer. I just know that you'll be trying harder and next year you'll be right up there on the top of the list.

7.) **Evan Mecham, Arizona Governor** - The man was born with a case of terminal

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Lamb and Turner address Restaurant & Bartenders' Union on AIDS

By Michael S. Lisowski

As a result of the groundbreaking meeting between Milwaukee's Marc Plaza Hotel management and the Hotel, Motel, Restaurant Employees and Bartenders' Union, Local 122, regarding the Cream City's Holiday Invitational Tournament (HIT) and the so-called "rubber gloves" incident, Dr. Karen Lamb who is, among other things, a regular columnist for **Wisconsin Light**, and Dr. Paul Turner were invited to speak to the Union members on January 8, 1988.

The rubber gloves incident as reported in December's issue of **Wisconsin Light**, refers to the reported wearing of rubber gloves by some members of the Marc Plaza's staff. The gloves apparently were worn to avoid "catching" AIDS.

Dr's Lamb and Turner spoke to approximately 50 members at each of two meetings held on January 8. The Union's local 122 represents approximately 3000 members in the Milwaukee area.

Speaking on the topic, "AIDS In The Workplace", Lamb gratefully acknowledged the Union's cooperation in solving the concerns that had brought workers, management and HIT members together at the Marc Plaza on November 8, 1987. (See **Light**, vol. 1, no. 2)

Turner briefly presented an AIDS 101 format highlighting some oft repeated statistics but ones not necessarily familiar to everyone present.

Milwaukee has approximately 50% of the AIDS cases in Wisconsin.

There have been 253 cases in Wisconsin since January 1, 1984.

In 1991 there are expected to be some 1700 cases in Wisconsin, 50% of which will be living.

That homosexual and bisexual men still make up about 80-90% of the AIDS cases along with IV drug users.

4% of the cases are heterosexual transmission.

AIDS affects people mostly between the ages of 30-39 with 90% of the cases being between 20-49 years of age.

In Milwaukee the oldest person with AIDS was 75 years of age with the youngest, 14 months.

Turner stressed that people should focus not so much on who the high risk groups are, but rather on what high risk activities are: namely, **not wearing a condom**.

AIDS has not yet been shown to have been spread by casual contact from family members who live with persons with AIDS, as evidenced by a study of 200-300 PWA's and their families.

Regarding situations in the workplace whereby employees may come into contact with AIDS, the only concern should be with cleaning hotel rooms that have bloody sheets, towels and soiled bathrooms. However, even in these situations, if the AIDS virus has not already been killed by exposure to the air, common cleaning disinfectants would neutralize the virus. Turner mentioned that a 30% solution of rubbing alcohol will kill the virus, while the solution sold in the drugstore is 70%. A 3% Lysol disinfectant will also kill the virus, while over-the-counter solutions are generally 5%. Heat, hot water, plain soap and detergents will also destroy the virus.

Therefore, according to Dr. Turner, "the risk for workers is practically zero!" Even in the most unlikely case whereby some blood from the infected person would be accidentally swallowed by an employee, the gastric acidity would kill the virus.

In response to questions, Dr. Turner responded that there is no documented case of AIDS being transmitted via a toilet seat. In a housekeeping situation, again, regular soap can kill the virus.

According to medical knowledge, there is no reason for workers in a restaurant to have to wear rubber gloves because the virus cannot be transmitted by casual contact. Dr. Turner did advise that housekeepers should be concerned when cleaning rooms in certain situations, not because of the AIDS virus, primarily, but due to other transmitted diseases such as hepatitis. Wearing rubber gloves in these situations should therefore, be left to the comfort of the individual worker.

In response to a question about rubber gloves, Local 122 Business Manager Vincent P. Gallo stated that gloves would be available to any worker who would want to wear them. However, this is part of regular cleaning policy in hotels already and should not be considered anything unusual. There is no near-future implementation of any such rubber glove policy.

The concern was expressed that it is good that the union will stand up for the workers who wish to protect themselves and wear rubber gloves, based on scientific medical knowledge. However, it was noted that this issue can become a two-edged sword. The union also has the responsibility and obligation to defend the employee's right to work should s/he test HIV positive and/or develop ARC or AIDS, as long as that employee is able to maintain and perform their job functions, and does not pose a health threat to guests or fellow employees. Dr. Lamb stressed the need for Local 122 to focus on educating its members regarding AIDS and not let fear override any decisions or policies. One union official commented that the present fear of AIDS reminded him of the tuberculosis panic years ago when people and workers were shunned when it was discovered that they were infected with the disease.

The added feature of stereotyping AIDS victims demands immediate concern that workers act rationally when confronted with these issues that concern guests in their businesses. It also demands that employees demonstrate the same rational action and compassion towards fellow workers who may unfortunately develop symptoms or AIDS. The presentation by Drs Lamb and Turner has helped promote the need for continued education and discussion. Familiarity will eventually ease the fear. Education will prevent bad policy. To this end, Local 122 is encouraging further education and soliciting more brochures to be made available to its employees, such as the ones distributed at these meetings.

Fest Singers spread cheer to sick

"The pleasure of sharing our music with senior citizens, hospice and hospital patients is not just a holiday activity for Milwaukee's Fest City Singers," (FCS) explained Robert "Bim" Florek, music director of the choral group. As a hospice and grief counselor who volunteers at least two days a week to St. Mary's Hospice, Bim is aware of the year-round need for music and a comforting hug at the various care facilities.

"Of course, we had a fantastic time during our Annual Christmas Caroling Tour of fifteen bars, and it was fun singing over Milwaukee radio station WOKY and at the malls — we had them dancing in the aisles at the Grand Avenue — but it was rewarding, too, for us to experience the realities of old age and terminal illness." Accordingly, the Fest City Singers will go a-choraling to several care facilities with Valentine's Day as a target date.

Anyone who knows of a friend or family member who would welcome a Singers visit during the FCS Outreach Program should call (414) 476-SING. And singers, instrumentalists or other volunteers who wish to join in this worthwhile endeavor may phone the Fest City Singers at the same number for rehearsal times and further information.

Milwaukee Pride Week planning begins

By Bill Meunier

Milwaukee's Pride Planning Committee met on January 10, 1988 at the Cream City Foundation (CCF) Community Center at 225 S. 2nd Street from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Twenty-five people representing 15 Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian organizations were present.

The Committee, co-chaired by Bill Meunier and Scott Gunkel, has been formed to begin planning for Milwaukee's Lesbian and Gay pride celebration now scheduled to take place September 10-24, 1988.

The Committee discussed and approved a set of aims and goals among which are:

- 1) To display the variety and depth of Lesbian/Gay culture.
- 2) Promote involvement of Gay/Lesbian organizations with one another.
- 3) Rejuvenate the spirit of and sense of identity within the Lesbian/Gay community of Milwaukee.
- 4) Foster cooperation between Gay/Lesbian groups.

The Planning Committee voted not to use the words "Gay" or "Lesbian" in the

event's name and appointed a sub-committee to pick another name.

Other sub-committees were also formed. These were, a Public Relations Committee chaired by Miriam Ben Shalom, a Finance/Fundraising Committee chaired by Scott Gunkel and a Committee on Events chaired by Bill Meunier.

Some events which were discussed for the pride celebration include: a talent show, a picnic, a memorial service for Lesbian and Gay veterans and a ball.

Organizations wishing to sponsor an event for the celebration are heartily encouraged to do so. For priority in scheduling, please contact Events chair, Bill Meunier by March 15, 1988.

The Planning Committee still welcomes any who would like to join. The next meeting will be held on January 31, 1988 at the CCF Community Center at 2:00pm. Please feel free to attend.

For further information contact Bill Meunier at 765-0614 or Scott Gunkel at 964-9971.

Chicago Chorus show well received

Despite wintry storms, many Wisconsinites traveled to Chicago during the holidays for the 5th annual Christmas show of the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, "Gonna Find Out Who's Naughty and Nice." The opening saw the chorus, ninety strong, in smart white and gold uniforms executing snappy marching routines as a salute to the armed forces culminating in a statuesque Dewey Herrington as Kate Smith singing "God Bless America."

Specialty numbers billed as "flash, dash and an occasional bit of trash" included a Carmen Miranda as "The Lady in the Tutti Frutti Hat" accompanied by sixteen Bananettes in flamenco shirts wielding six-foot long bananas in a routine that Busby Berkeley would have been proud of. And a zany finale had the entire chorus wittily representing "The Twelve Days of Christmas" — the four calling birds were four trollops doing business on the telephone, and a Pee Wee Herman juggled the five golden rings. (Try imagining the six geese a-laying).

The second half of the program was devoted to Christmas music beginning with three songs for Wayne Bernhagen followed by a full program of religious and secular music under the direction of music director, Kip Snyder. The CHMS graciously introduced the city's newest choral group, the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Chorus, and generously shared the stage with them in the final carols. A moving and entertaining evening.

Wouldn't it be lovely if they would come to Milwaukee sometime?

♥ FORGET ♥
 YOUR
 SWEETHEART
 ♥ ON ♥
 VALENTINE'S DAY?
 NEVER!
 SEE PAGE 16 FOR DETAILS

Cowles, Gunkle elected to Foundation Board

Milwaukee's Cream City Foundation (CCF), announced the election of two new members to its Board of Directors. They are John Cowles and Scott Gunkle.

Cowles is a Board member of Gamma and was described in the CCF newsletter, **Update**, as a "leader of the Volleyball League."

Gunkle currently serves on the Board of the Lambda Rights Network as well as being Co-chair of the Pride Celebration being planned for next fall.

CCF President, Don Schwamb, in announcing the election of the new Board members said, "Both are widely known in Gay/Lesbian circles and the Foundation is proud of their participation at this critical time."

The two new Board members brings the CCF Board strength up to nine members.

In other Foundation news, two community meetings to receive opinions from the leaders and spokespeople of Milwaukee's Gay/Lesbian organizations resulted in several actions by the CCF Board of Directors.

To supervise the new Foundation Community Center (225 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 53201), as well as to set rules and regulations, determine fees and budget, the Foundation will appoint a three member Board of Managers. The new chair of that Board will become a member of the Main Board of Directors and the Board of Managers will become a full committee of the Foundation. The managers will deal with the landlord and with all groups using the Center to assure evenhanded and fair utilization.

In addition, an Advisory Board of Volunteers will serve as a major resource for the Board of Managers. As of press time, seven community leaders have volunteered for this role.


Twelve new volunteers have been formed into an expanded CCF Fund Raising Committee under the joint chairs of Chuck Brotz and Julie Kleppin. Organized as three sub-committees, each group has specific responsibilities in a specific area thus bringing together close development and attention to the CCF's Phone-A-Thon, Casino Nite 88 and General Activities.

In a press release to **Light**, Brotz said that "The Foundation must double its income this year in order to meet the needs that have developed. Only with more good people involved can this be accomplished," he continued.

The Foundation also announced that its new office at the Community Center is now open five days a week with hours from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. Volunteers are being recruited for extended hours for the evenings.

Kevin Siebers is the Office Manager. Copies of CCF literature, etc., are available through him by calling or visiting the Center.

To properly introduce the new Community Center, CCF's Public Relations Committee is organizing a dedication and Open House for all community leadership. Present plans call for this event to be held in late January or early February depending on the state of office readiness.



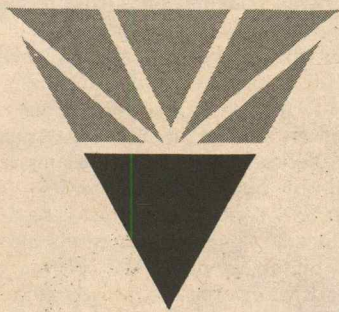
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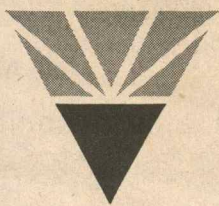
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The Wisconsin Light



Serving
America's
Gay Rights State

EMPTY SEAT CHANGED HISTORY

They were a particular people, denominated as such by hundreds of years of oppression embodied in attitudes and laws which were designed to "keep them in their place." Their great contributions to history were ignored, they were called by vile names while violence against them was an acceptable thing. Even the Bible was used to debase and degrade them, violate them brutally in a way that made their very existence a moral affront to many in the majority.

Then, one day, there came a woman and history changed for these people as she forced a society to live up to its ideals.

Her name was Rosa Parks. She'd been shopping and was weary so that when the bus came along, she got on and, with her packages, slumped heavily into the first seat that she saw. It was such an ordinary and unexceptionable thing to do except for the fact, that for her, to do this thing was against the law. The seat was in the front of the bus, not in the back, where Rosa Parks as a Black, as with all those who were Black, was required to sit. But there were no seats there and to obey the law, she would have to stand.

History turns on such little things. The examples are legion. In this case, this time, things changed because Rosa Parks' feet hurt. Her back was sore. Say what they would, no matter what the law was, she would not move.

Of course there was a furor. The walls of bigotry were being challenged but challenged by one human being who was simply too footsore to go further down the road that so many of her people had been forced to travel before her.

But it only takes one person. That's all it ever takes. One person and Rosa Parks was that one person who would not move.

She could not know it then, but her refusal reflected her people's rage which, up to then, with a few exceptions, had been either silent or disorganized. Her action spoke to that rage and in the same city, a young man learned of what she had done and used great words to take that rage and make it heard throughout the land. His name was Martin Luther King, Jr.

We believe that we, as Lesbian and Gay people, have much to learn from Rosa Parks, Dr. King and the entire Black experience in America. We too are confronted by a vast bevy of laws, customs and attitudes formulated and designed by the ignorant or stupid in the name of a morality that is really only an excuse for prejudice. Like Black people, we too have been stripped of our history and relegated to society's back seats to sit in degraded shame by those who occupy the seats of power and the "Uncle Toms" among us.

However, as with the Blacks before Rosa Parks and Dr. King, there is a tremendous ferment going on among us. We have seen much evidence of this in 1987 and, we believe, this will only continue in 1988 — even as rumors reach us of certain presidential candidates who believe we should all be identified and relegated to camps.

This is the month of Dr. King's birthday. February is Black history month. We believe that it is especially appropriate that we as Gays and Lesbians join in the celebrations and remember Rosa Parks and Dr. King. May we profit from their examples. ▼

FIDELITY REIGNS SUPREME

We read with sorrow the article in the *Milwaukee Journal* (January 8, 1988) about the brutal murder of Michael C. Koudelka, the deed allegedly done by his 17 year-old lover. Our feelings about this tragedy go all the deeper when, according to the article, the motive behind the killing was the older man's infidelity, among other things.

Perhaps there's something in this horror for us to consider as there may be in the story that a young man recently told us.

It seems that he has just begun a relationship, something beautiful, grand and wonderful as those things can and should be. Over the Christmas holidays, he and his lover visited a bar. He said that no one there could mistake them for being other than they were, a couple. Still, he said sadly, there always seemed to be guys who felt that there was nothing to stop them, nothing wrong about "coming on to one or the other of us."

The two examples seem to point up an attitude held by far, far too many, old and young, in our community. That is that Gay Liberation means the freedom to have sex — or try to — with whoever you can. The feeling seems to be that a "quick trick", a one-night-stand, following safe sex practices, doesn't hurt and can certainly be a lot of fun.

The truth is that no matter how safe, sex can hurt and hurt plenty for while some may protest it, sex and love are connected. One, it would seem, is an expression, a symbol of the other, at least in its deepest meaning and who really wants anything else?

We believe that Lesbian/Gay Liberation has to do with sex only in a secondary way. That the true meaning of what we are fighting for is the freedom to love and love involves openness, honesty, commitment and fidelity. It involves an incredible amount of work for falling in love is just the beginning of a life-long building process that anyone who thinks is easy is very badly mistaken.

All of the above demands respect, respect for your spouse and her/his uniqueness in your life and should demand respect from others. Somewhere along the line, it would seem that some people will have to learn that, though there are no legal ties binding our relationships together, they are sacred nonetheless.

All of the majoritarian society is trying to rip us, as couples, apart. Must we, ourselves, help?

So, all this sounds like something called "morality?" Perhaps it's time that some of us realize that it applies to us just like everybody else. ▼

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

We wish to express our extreme disappointment in the Milwaukee Gay business community over an incident involving the M&M's Glass Menagerie restaurant prior to New Years.

The Trollop Club, a women's social organization, made reservations for a New Years Day brunch for 33 people. These reservations were made early in December with the requirement that we get the final count to them by December 13. We complied. Never in the three conversations

we had with two different people at the restaurant did we get any indication that there would be a problem accommodating 33 women for New Years Day brunch. On Tuesday, December 29, at 7:30 P.M. a member of our organization received a phone call from Bob at the restaurant. He said that he was 'sorry' but they have a policy to not accept reservations for New Years Day and, anyway, they could never accommodate 33 people in a group. He said that the two other people we talked to were 'misinformed'. You can understand our

panic in trying to find a place for 33 people to brunch on New Years Day which was two days away. (We eventually found accommodations at the Nantucket Shores restaurant and they did a splendid job). It is important to note that the M&M did not offer to make reparations for their obvious lack of internal communication which nearly resulted in a ruined event for our organization.

We are constantly urged to give our business to Gay owned and operated establishments and we attempt to do so whenever possible. However, if this is the treatment we can expect, we would rather deal with straight businesses that do not cancel reservations made more than a month in advance. I suspect that the reasons for cancelling us had more to do with not wanting a bunch of women taking over the restaurant on New Years Day than a 'policy' that two other employees failed to be informed about over a one month period. It is difficult enough to organize events involving over 30 people without having to start wondering if the people we talk to on the phone have a complete understanding of a business's policy. It will certainly be a long time before another Trollop member walks through the door of the M&M and a long time before we consider other Gay owned restaurants, who obviously feel they do not have to give us the simple courtesy that straight businesses have to give us, for our monthly dining out program.

—Jan Fournier
Trollop Club- Milwaukee

ACTION NEEDED!

Hard fought rights are about to slip away and most of Wisconsin's Gay and Lesbian population are sitting idly by.

Legislators are being overwhelmed with letters urging and demanding hearings on the Rawhide Amendment SB301 which will wipe out important employment rights for Gays and Lesbians, as well as many other minorities.

The Legislature goes back into session this month and URGENT action is required. Senators and Representatives must be contacted and urged to vote against any change in state laws protecting Gays, Lesbians and other minorities.

If you don't know the names of your representatives, call the **Legislative Hotline** at 1-800-362-9696. Then write them at P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882.

Rawhide Boys Ranch has been actively campaigning to obtain an exemption from Wisconsin's Fair Employment Law for not only itself, but all non-profit organizations! Churches are already exempt. Consider if all non-profit organizations are exempt, the thousands of places that could legally refuse you a job or fire you because you are Gay. In addition to charitable organizations, many hospitals and other major employers are non-profit corporations. Not only will they be legally able to discriminate against us, but discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion or marital status would be legal under state law. For example, a Catholic hospital could refuse to hire a Jew, or anyone who was not Catholic. Rawhide wants to open a can of worms that will seriously hurt us and all minority peoples.

Senator Lynn Adelman, who has opposed the bill, has received literally thousands of letters in favor of stripping away our rights, and has received only a handful of letters from Gays and Lesbians. This is a deplorable situation which must be acted upon at once!

If we can be stripped of our rights by the Rawhide amendment, those in the legislature who oppose us will certainly see the way clear to remove protection for Gays and Lesbians from the Fair Employment Act altogether. With a likely shift to a Republican majority in the state legislature, this danger becomes all the more real. Lord only knows what they will be emboldened to do to us after that.

—Rev. Dan Frederick Schramm

POLICY ON LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wisconsin Light welcomes your letters, however, all letters to the editor must bear the writer's signature and a telephone number where they may be reached for possible verification. Names will be withheld from publication upon request. ▼

A Note from Karen Lamb

Hello, Dear Friends:

Christmas and special religious holidays are over once more and I hope every one of you had just the happiest season ever. Now we face the new year with all sorts of resolutions for good behaviour, huh? I hereby resolve to lose 10 pounds before trying to cram myself into a party dress for my beloved husband's retirement dinner. I resolve to smile politely every time someone assumes that I, too, will be retiring. (Shades of the women's movement! It's only been 25 years since Betty Friedan published "The Feminine Mystique." A quarter of a century!)

But no one said social change was easy, did they?

"Dearie, won't it be nice to have him at home? I suppose you will be moving south" No, yes. Kidding, of course. Blank stares greet my response "No, I'm not retiring, it's Henry that is retiring." Blank. Try again: "I'm working... I don't know, I'm rarely home."

I think they have beaten me into submissions and I'm confined to purdah. Resolve to smile.

Resolve to curb impatience at shenanigans at Summerfest. Best Newspapers, Inc. cartoon of the year: Frowning logo depicting hear, see, and speak no evil. What ever happened to the idea of a good, clean, affordable family festival?

Just finished our fall round of visits to shelters for the homeless. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (makers of Band Aids, Tylenol, etc.) in conjunction with the Pew Memorial Trust and the Conference of Mayors joined together four years ago to sponsor programs making medical, nursing care available to shelters, under the bridges and in the soup kitchens. As a result, I've traveled to some 19 or more cities that now have programs.

Incredible in America to see children living in caves in Hawaii, the sick — and often dying — on the streets. Parents begging that a child be taken. The new poor, and of course the poor souls who have just not been able to cope with living. Who cares?



DR. KAREN LAMB

Call me a slow learner. Teenagers on the streets. Teenagers doing tricks to keep a roof over the head for one night. Teenagers worried about AIDS. The next year, on return, I recall hearing their most glorious voices as they practiced for a Christmas caroling. Talented. Creative. Scared. Gay.

My heart was broken. But before I get too maudlin, let me tell you about two aspects of Seattle's Orion program that I absolutely adored. One, seeing the kids asking for their "six packs" — yes, you guessed what is in there. And all colors! Can you imagine?

Next, the research. Kids coming in by groups. Each group named for a movie star. The Clark Gables, the July Garlands, the Marilyn Monroes. Other research always seems so boring in comparison!

But the question I want to ask you is: How many children and young people do we have like this in Milwaukee?

What are we doing?

Before Jerry and Terry take my pen away, and while on the same subject, I want to share another thought. Some three or four years past, it struck me that among the homeless, there must be an extraordinary number of persons at risk for AIDS. Among our friends with AIDS, we

have certainly had the problem of housing and homelessness. Certainly we have seen premature placement in hospice care, in lieu of home care. Dovetailing.

And certainly, these horrors have come to fruition. Suspicion of the AIDS/TB connection is supported in this weeks MMWR. Still most probably contained in the segments of the community we have not even yet begun to tackle: the problems in the poor, low income, and minority communities. And the IV drug-abusing segment.

Congratulations to Tom Hickey and the Milwaukee Health Care for the Homeless Program. It is rare for those of us involved in social causes to see a dream culminate in significant federal legislation. Hickey and Company have received \$770,000 in new money to greatly extend the current program.

And when you see that big bruiser, Doug Kaye, dressed like an Angel from heaven in black leather, and his side-kick, the delightful Tennessean Joe Hunt, riding the Street Outreach van, stop and say hello. These guys have one of the toughest jobs going. Wouldn't it be grand to combine aspects of HCHP with efforts at MAP?

And for those who asked: Who was that friendly, handsome man helping with the education of hotel and restaurant employees? That is Ray Taylor. Often seen dining at M and M's, Ray is the official representative of the Teamster's Union Local 200 to the AIDS Resource Center. Thank him and the Teamsters, when you get a chance, for the lovely VCR and TV donated to MAP, and much used over these last years for health education.

Finally, thanks to Ron Stanley and Mike Fairchild for organizing our own fund raising efforts with corporations. Response has been slow, but sometimes generous. More next time.

And thanks to Paul Turner, M.D. for pointing to unmet political needs surrounding antigen testing. Resolved: we will call our legislators. Now. Politicians often seem more receptive to ideas during elections.

Resolved that we will see, in 1988, our home for persons with AIDS. A place of beauty. And dignity. And peace.

Bye for now. Love and Kisses, Karen.

Landmark study on anti-Gay violence

A recent U.S. Department of Justice study of violence based on sexual orientation, race, religion, and ethnicity has concluded that such crimes are "widespread" and appear to be increasing. According to the report, "the most frequent victims of hate violence today are blacks, Hispanics, Southeast Asians, Jews and Gays and Lesbians. Homosexuals are probably the most frequent victims."

The study, which was undertaken after sustained lobbying by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and other professional and civil rights groups, was sponsored by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) — the research arm of the Justice Department. It was conducted by Abt Associates, an independent research group in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The report's conclusions are based on interviews with forty respondents, including representatives of the criminal justice system, constituency organizations (including NGLTF) and organizations devoted to preventing hate violence.

Commented Kevin Perrill, Director of NGLTF's Anti-Violence Project, "This study confirms what Gay and other minority communities have long understood: that crimes based on prejudice are widespread and increasing, that such crimes are devastating to the victims and their communities, and that the criminal justice system has not been responsive enough to this problem."

According to the NIJ-sponsored report, crimes of bias "are far more serious than comparable crimes that do not involve prejudice because they are intended to intimidate an entire group... our country is founded upon principles of equality, freedom of association and individual liberty; as such, bias crimes tear at the very fabric of our society." Despite the far reaching consequences of hate crimes, the report acknowledges that "the criminal justice system — like the rest of society — has not recognized the seriousness of the hate violence problem."

The NIJ report acknowledges some of the particular problems facing anti-Gay violence victims, such as the fact that Gay victims often fear public exposure and, along with Southeast Asians, are especially reluctant to report crime. While noting that "homosexuals are probably the most

frequent victims," the NIJ report states that "almost none" of the statutes (that address crimes of bias) included Gay and Lesbian victims of bias." Accordingly, it calls for strategies to "encourage legislatures to include Gays and Lesbians in their statutes." The report goes further to recommend training for police and prosecutors in identifying, investigating, and prosecuting crimes based on prejudice, and in working with victims and their communities.

According to NGLTF's Berrill, the NIJ study — along with the recent passage of the hate crime statistics bill in the House Judiciary Committee — suggest that anti-Gay violence is beginning to be recognized as a significant problem — one no less deserving of study and remedy than other types of crime motivated by bigotry. "In the face of this report and our own community's research in anti-Gay violence, officials can no longer credibly deny or minimize this problem," Berrill said.

Added Berrill, "We applaud NIJ for undertaking this groundbreaking study. Our only hope is that this process will not stop here. Having confirmed the seriousness of hate violence, much more needs to be done to encourage law enforcement to tackle the problem. We plan to join other concerned communities in urging NIJ to move forward on this important issue."

"Fire Gay teachers"

Washington- Proving once again that equality for Gay people isn't likely to make it into the mainstream Republican agenda any day soon, Presidential hopeful Jack Kemp publicly stated that he supported the "right" of school boards to fire Gay teachers. Clarifying a statement he made two years ago to *The Los Angeles Times* in which he said, "I believe in civil liberties for homosexuals... I'd draw the line at letting them teach in the schools," the former football player told David Frost on national television that he did not have "a perfect answer" on how to balance the right to privacy and the need for "public standards." Up until a year ago, when the denials again came fast and furious from the New York congressman and former associates, there had been rumors that Kemp was Gay. Since then, he has called for mandatory HIV testing and has made comments like those made on the Frost program.

Madison ROTC still discriminates

By Guy Hartmann
UW-Madison Campus-

"Homosexuals may benefit from the ROTC program" Gordon B. Baldwin stated in his dissent from the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on ROTC. He continued further by stating, "No one is excluded from ROTC because of abstract belief in homosexuality."

The question still continues as to if the ROTC program must adhere to university policies and relevant Wisconsin statutes regarding discrimination. The discrimination is exclusion based on sexual orientation or preference from full participation in the three ROTC programs at the university.

The Ad Hoc Committee to examine the issue consisted of eight members, one of whom was Rick Villasenor. He summarized this majority committee opinion as, "the committee's recommendations basically state that a reasonable attempt should be made to get the campus ROTC programs to comply with university non-discrimination policies, but if the university is forced to, it should refuse to renew its voluntary contract with the armed forces."

The committee found that either a person would lose their privacy or not be able to obtain the opportunities available through the program under current military policies. At the same time, they could find no evidence to support the stance on sexual orientation. These policies hold they did find that the ROTC program does hold intrinsic economic and social value, yet, this is lost when discrimination exists within the program.

In concluding recommendations, the committee urged the faculty senate to reaffirm the non-discrimination policies, to renegotiate the contracts through political means, and that if such measures fail, to terminate the university affiliation with ROTC.

Rick Villasenor drew the conclusion, "it is an insult to the Lesbian and Gay community that supposedly we have a policy of non-discrimination based on sexual orientation, that other campuses have generally ignored the fact that a program on campus is operating in violation of the policy... ROTC should not be exempt from non-discrimination policies." He left off with, "I would like to see people take action on this issue at other UW campuses."

The issue goes before the faculty senate sometime in February.

Houston hosts caucus

Houston- Ray Hill, Gay activist at large, announced to the international media last week that the first National Gay and Lesbian Caucus will be held in Houston next November to set political priorities for the national movement and to decide what resources are available to do so. The Caucus was finally authorized last weekend by the executive committee of the National March on Washington, and is expected to draw up to 14,000 participants. Each of the nation's 435 congressional districts will be represented at the caucus by two participants, one Lesbian and one Gay man, Hill announced. Districts will be allowed to send more representatives, but only two will be allowed to vote. There is, as of press time, no further information on this event.

Campus Connection

Upcoming GLC Events

JAN.

20, Wednesday— "Welcome Back" Party, 5-7 pm in the 8th Note Coffeehouse (UWM Union ground floor). Refreshments will be served.

26, Tuesday- Lunch Box Rap, 1:30-3:30 pm, UWM Union Room E301, Bring a lunch & Join us for open rap.

27, Wednesday- Business Meeting & Planning session for Pride Week, 5-7pm, UWM Union Room E-309.

29, Friday- "University Night" at D.K.'s (135 E. National Ave.) Beginning at 9pm, an optional \$2 at the door gets you 25 cent tap beer, 25 cent soda, and \$1.25 rail drinks. A portion of the door receipts will go toward GLC's Pride Week events in April.

FEB.

3, Wednesday- Meeting, 5-7 pm, 8th Note Coffeehouse (UWM Union ground floor). A guest speaker will be followed by a pizza party.

15, Monday- Meeting, 5-7pm, 8th Note Coffeehouse. Call 229-6555 for details on this meeting.

23, Tuesday- Lunch Box Rap, 1:30-3:30 pm, UWM Union Room E309. Bring a lunch and join us for a showing of the film **Parting Glances** and a discussion of film and how it relates to gay life as we experience it.

13, Saturday- Tobboggoning & X-Country Skiing at Whitnall Park 12-7pm. Rg. by 2/11/88. Valentine's Day party 8:30pm-? Call 229-6555 for location (off campus).

Lunch box rap sessions

Beginning on Jan. 26, the Gay & Lesbian Community at UWM will hold meetings during lunch hours one Tuesday per month. Each "Lunch Box Rap" will be held from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the UWM Union. These rap sessions will be informal meetings and films may be shown. Soda will be provided (bring your own lunch). It is GLC's intention that these Tuesday afternoon meetings will encourage the attendance of those who cannot make the evening meetings.

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OUR HISTORY

BLACKBEARD THE PIRATE WAS GAY

By Terry Boughner

Do you remember as a kid when you read about the pirates of the Spanish Main? In books, better than in any movie, I could see them in my mind's eye standing on the decks of their tall ships whose sails billowed before a fair wind as they bore down upon some great Spanish Treasure ship bound for Europe and packed to the gunwales with the gold and silver of Mexico and Peru.

How I remember Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*. It is one of the few books I wish I could still read for the first time. I didn't know it then, of course, but I found out later, that if, in writing his novel, Steven had been faithful to history, he would have had to have made Jim Hawkins and Long John Silver lovers. If Silver and Hawkins had been drawn to life, they would, as were most, if not all of their kind, have been gay.

If you're surprised by that fact, then let me add that the pirates of the 17th Century Caribbean provide us with the only example known to history of a homosexual community evolving its own way of life and its own institutions with little or no impediment or hindrance from the outside world.

That world was one where England was the mightiest power on earth. Her strength was her navy. To maintain it in time of war, she needed roughly 50,000 men and at times, was hard put to find them. Duty with the Royal Navy involved months at sea under dreadful conditions. Food was poor, sickness abounded, discipline was harsh and the pay was miserable. But there was also the matter of sex.

The Navy was an all-male organization. If there was to be any sexual outlet at all, officers and men had to find it with each other. Thus, as Barry Burg writes in *Sodomy and the Perception of Evil*, for homosexuals, service in the King's fleet was a haven — or heaven. Where heterosexuals often had to be dragooned, Burg offers evidence to show that homosexuals actually sought out careers in the navy.

Still, no matter what sexual orientation, service was hard and many when they were unable to stand it any longer, took the first opportunity to jump ship for a better life — or a try at it. But after awhile on land, many discovered that they knew only the sea and returned to it. Many pirate bands started this way or gained recruits from these men. By the first decade of the 17th Century, small groups had formed on Hispaniola and Tortuga to take advantage of the easy pickings offered by lumbering treasure ships as they made their way from the Caribbean to the Atlantic. They were called "buccanneers" after the little racks or "boucans" on which they cooked their meat while on land.

The business was dangerous but the rewards were great. By the middle of the century, pirate strength had increased and spread well beyond Hispaniola and Tortuga. Pirates controlled the Bahamas and Bermuda and had established their own society. That society was homosexual in orientation.

If there be any doubt, Port Royal, a leading pirate stronghold, was known far and wide as "The Sodom of the Universe." Antiqua was no different. Margaret Heathcote, cousin of John Winthrop Jr. of

Connecticut, wrote, complaining that she could find no man who was interested in her or any other woman because "they were all great sodomites."

Alexander Exquemelin, private surgeon to the pirate chief Henry Morgan, attested to Morgan's love for boys and young men saying that he (Morgan) had little but contempt for those men who took pleasure in women. Exquemelin cannot resist adding, "If one may call this pleasure."

One idea should be dismissed at once. That is that a strictly homosexual society if left to itself, would be one vast promiscuous sex party. No way. Free among their

strayed. When at sea, if one lover was to be punished for some infraction or other, his spouse was expected to join him in the punishment — even if it be death.

Such a society whose *raison d'être* was, after all, plunder, could not last forever. By the late 17th Century, England decided that law and order must be restored. Some of the pirates were caught and hung. Others died off or disappeared into legitimate occupations or quiet retirement.

I suppose that we should condemn them — at least a little bit. They were thieves and murderers. But on the high seas in their beautiful ships they did their deeds



own kind, the pirates proved to be as dedicated to monogamy and fidelity as any heterosexual society. As the historian Clarence Haring found, buccaneers most commonly associated in pairs. These were considered unions and were thought to be sacro-sanct with the lovers being permanently bonded to each other. This bonding was known as "matelotage" and had most of the same features of heterosexual marriage including the inheritance of property of one partner by the other in the event of death.

Captain Louis le Golif in his *Memoirs of a Buccaneer* tells that two men bound to each other in matelotage were expected to be monogamous and disgraced if they

and thumbed their noses at authority. They did it with such spirit that it leads me to wonder if that was not at least in part, because they were as I am?

Anyway, accounts of them, highly romanticized, would pass into myth, thrilling hearts and kindling imaginations for centuries. But the next time that a swashbuckler holds you glued to the late-night tube and you get a tingle as the pirate ship, Jolly Rodger snapping in the wind, stands tall to sea to ravage the Spanish Main, remember, that if it were history and not legend that you were watching, the young man beside the captain on the deck would probably be his lover. ♡

Arizonians closer to Mecham ouster

Phoenix— While Arizona Governor Evan Mecham has been defending himself against charges of misappropriation of campaign funds, state officials have been busy verifying signatures on those recall petitions. Busily counting the hundreds of thousands of signatures on the petitions (more than voted for Mecham in the first place), the officials have now verified enough signatures to force a recall election.

Meanwhile, Mecham has continued to make a fool of himself. Last week, he spent a great deal of time defending comments he made during a synagogue breakfast, at the Sunday men's club meeting at the Ahavat Torah Synagogue. At the Jewish gathering, Mecham called the U.S. "a great Christian nation," and referred to Jesus as "lord of the land." In his defense he stated that he has "many good Jewish friends." ♡

Terrorism Peruvian Style

One by one they were shoved out of the bar into the crowded street and the glare of television lights. Terrified of being recognized, the women shielded their faces with their hands or covered their heads with sweaters or jackets.

The crowd mocked and jeered at all the women being arrested, but they added leering whistles and comments at any women wearing a skirt. Even the television camera harassed the women wearing skirts, zooming in for close-ups of the shapeliest bare legs.

The film was a Peruvian news clip of a police raid on a Lesbian bar in Lima, and it served as a vivid demonstration of the realities of homophobia. Rebecca Sevillo, a Peruvian Lesbian activist who was arrested at the disco, gave a presentation which told what the film did not show.

When the police raided the bar on June 6, 1987, the police kept the 70 women trapped inside for over an hour until the television crew arrived, whereupon the police forced the women out of the disco. In Peru, attitudes toward homosexuality are vehemently hostile, and most of the women were terrified of being recognized by their friends, employers or, especially, by their families. The television station aired the video clip three times, twice that week and once again after the feminist movement in Peru had written a letter protesting the homophobic attitudes of the TV station.

The women had to endure other forms of abuse as well. As they were being led to the police bus, the women were not only verbally mocked and degraded, but shoved, hit — and some were thrown to the ground. When they arrived at the police station, their troubles were far from over. There they were sexually harassed and detained until one o'clock in the morning. At that time, they were given the choice of either leaving or being transferred to the custody of the police division against terrorism.

In this case freedom was a dangerous choice. Lima was then under a standing curfew enforced from one o'clock until five o'clock in the morning. People on the street during these hours were subject to being shot on sight. Despite these dangers, most of the women chose to leave, hiding or sitting near the police station until the curfew broke.

None of the women arrested took legal action after the raid. Peru simply does not recognize the right of people to have homosexual relations. Attempting legal redress probably would have incited legal and social reprisals, and against a government infamous for its human rights violations, most likely would have accomplished nothing.

Some of the women, in concert with the lesbian rights organization in Lima, Grup de Autoconciencia de Lesbianas Feministas (GALF), did write letters of protest to the government. These letters, as well as GALF's other activities, represent important first steps of the inchoate Lesbian and Gay rights movement in Peru. The participants in the conference, deeply moved by the sight of the women cowering from the TV cameras, sent a collective letter of protest to the president of Peru. GALF requests that you do the same, sending a copy to them as well.

Please write the following:

Nos dirigimos a usted con al finalidad de expresarle nuestra preocupacion frente a los hechos ocurridos el día 06 de junio de 1987 en el local ubicado en el Jr. Huaraz 518 — Brena:

La detencion ilegal de 70 ciudadanas quienes fueron puestas en libertad y obligadas a transitar sin proteccion alguna durante las horas del toque de queda poniendo en peligro sus vidas; las actitud difamatoria del Canal 2 de television pues su version periodistica no se ajusta a la realidad. Por tanto le solicitamos:

- Respeto al derecho de reunion de las personas sin discriminacion alguna debido a su orientacion sexual.
- Investigacion y sancion a los efectivos policiales responsables d estos hechos.
- Respeto al derecho de honor e imagen consagrados en vuestra constitucion de parte de los medios de comunicacion.

Addresses

Sr. Presidente del Peru
Dr. Alan Garcia Perez
Palacio de Gobierno
Lima, PERU

GALF
Casilla 100390
Lima 11, PERU ♡



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POLITICALLY SPEAKING

AIDS is hot election year topic across country

By Bill Meunier

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is likely to be a hot issue in this election year. From races for School Board to the Presidency, voters and candidates will argue about the amount of money spent on the disease, mandatory testing, quarantines, confidentiality and how society should react to those who have been exposed. It is ironic that when the Gay community finally has an issue that has everyone's attention it turns out to be one we would sooner be without.

At its best, public discussion of this issue could be an enlightened discourse on how to prevent the spread of the AIDS virus, at its worst, it could degenerate into arguments about whether or not to let a child, exposed to the virus, attend school. Look for more of the latter. The tone so far suggests that the political leadership in both parties has decided that the public's fear of AIDS has to be assuaged.

Two Republicans are clearly out in the lead in trying to convince the public to ignore their record on the AIDS crisis by throwing up smokescreens. A secret memo circulating in California suggests that GOP candidates whip up anti-AIDS hysteria. The memo mentions Bush and Robertson as particularly well suited for this strategy. The memo cautions candidates not to be overt in their appeals lest anyone accuse them of bigotry. In other words don't call

with federal civil rights laws.

The Helm's amendment passed easily in the Senate where only two representatives of the people found the courage to vote against it. Senators Wiecker (R-Conn.) and Moynihan (Dem.-NY) were the only dissenting voices, but their eloquent pleas fell on deaf ears as 94 of their colleagues joined with Jesse. One observer wondered "Where were Alan Cranston, Ted Kennedy, Paul Simon, and others who have always told us they are with us." The truth that its hard to vote in favor of using federal tax dollars to "promote homosexuality" in an election year may be hard for some of us to bear but it is a fact we will have to live with.

Our friends and enemies in the Senate simply decided that when lives are weighted against political consideration, political consideration will win everytime. The vote in the House was much closer with 150 Congressmen (the vast majority of which were Democrats) voted against the Helm's amendment. But again the amendment passed.

The Senate vote may have been understandable from the standpoint of its members having to appeal to large diverse constituencies, but the House is a different matter. The fact is that 98% of those House members seeking re-election will succeed in winning another term. That efforts to derail Helms in the House failed shows

rule.

It is clear the feeling of many is that its up to us to press the AIDS issue. "We won't get anyone to stand up for us if we don't stand up for ourselves," says one political activist. Said another, "The old excuse that it just don't matter who we help is null and void. Our very lives are at stake. We must make it matter."

Most political pros feel that the Gay/Lesbian community has to come out swinging. Said one non-Gay officeholder, "You should be asking Bush and Dole how they stand on the Helm's amendment. You should be demanding support from Senate and Congressional candidates. Unless you make your presence felt you'll never get anywhere. Get organized. Challenge the candidates for their stands on the issues and support those who support you."

The AIDS crisis presents our Gay/Lesbian leadership with much pain but also with some opportunity. Efforts to organize Gays/Lesbians politically may be more successful now considering what's at stake. As one leader put it, "Maybe now we can get people to stand up for themselves. We need to show the politicians that we're tired of having them play politics with our lives." During the March on Washington many wore buttons and T-shirts proclaiming the Gay/Lesbian battlecry of the '80s, "Silence Equals Death." They were right. ▽

Gays chalk up victories in '87

1987, like all years, was one of successes, triumphs, defeats and tragedies for the Gay/Lesbian community on both the national and local levels.

Perhaps the sweetest and longest-lasting success of all and one that Gays had very little to do with was the defeat of Washington D.C. Circuit Court judge Robert Bork in his effort to gain a seat on the Supreme Court. Bork had made clear his distaste for Gay rights in a 1984 decision he wrote called "Dronenburg v. Zech." The decision had the effect of upholding the U.S. Navy's long-standing policy of banning Gays from the military. Beyond that, the tone of the case which was derisive of rights to privacy in the Constitution, came back to haunt Bork at his confirmation hearings.

Civil Rights advocates of all complexions argued before the Senate committee that Bork's use of "judicial restraint" would deny to Americans 40 years of hard-fought rights. Mainstream civil rights organizations adopted a strategy that involved keeping Gay activists behind the scenes as Bork's defeat was orchestrated, tactics that we lament but the result, nevertheless, is to be applauded.

In the closing months of the year, the second Reagan nominee to the High Court, Washington, D.C. Circuit Court Judge Douglas Ginsburg withdrew after he acknowledged his past use of marijuana. The third nominee, 9th Circuit Judge Anthony Kennedy also has a solid record of voting against Gays but the general agreement among activists is that his opinions are based more directly on interpretation of the law than a personal distaste for Gays.

The Supreme Court itself was the scene for more battles for Lesbian/Gay rights. In March, the High Court refused to hear an appeal brought by the New York City Police Department which sought to bar Gay Catholics from protesting in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral. However, in May, the justices voted 5 to 4 that the U.S. Olympic Committee could choose which groups could use the word "Olympics" for their events. In this case, the Olympic commit-



Circuit Court Judge Robert Bork.

tee could deny the organizers of the Gay Games in San Francisco use of the word.

Two Lesbians won significant court battles in 1987. Sgt. Miriam Ben-Shalom of Milwaukee, won a decision from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit to be reinstated to duty with the 5091st Reception Battalion in Wisconsin.

The nation's highest military court gave Lesbian Air Force Lt. Joann Newark a victory in July, ruling that she had not received proper counsel during her 1981 court-martial on sodomy and drug-related charges. However, the U.S. Military Court of Appeals ruled less favorably on a Navy commander accused of engaging in homosexual sodomy with a hospital corpsman onboard ship. In December, the court ruled that Commander Gerald Vanderwier had been properly court-martialed and dismissed from the service.

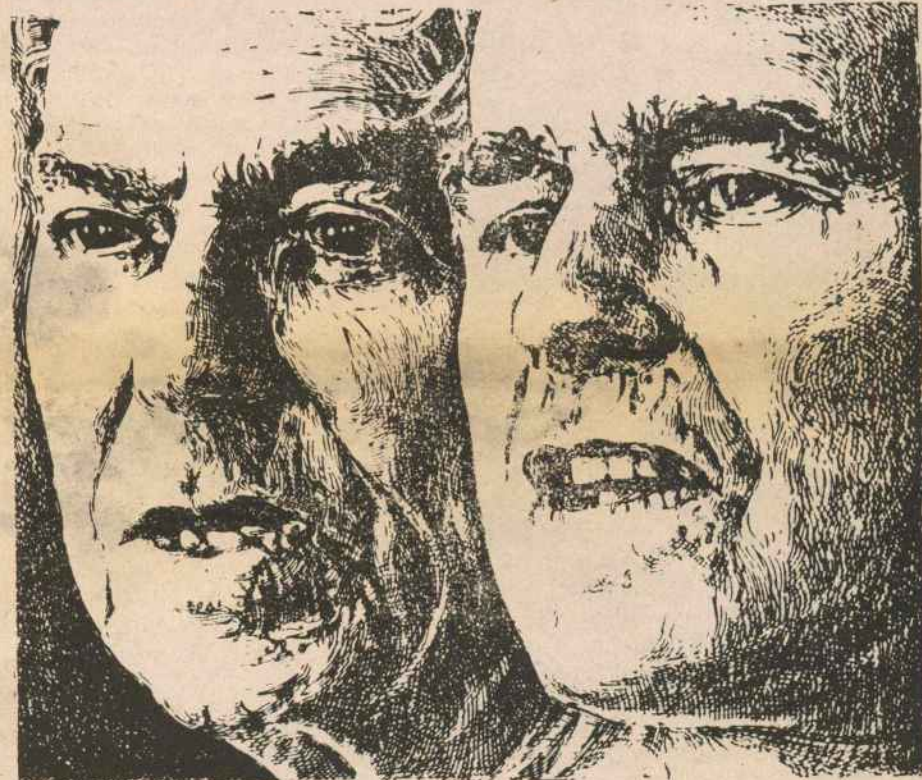
While the Senate's defeat of Bork provided some optimism, the anti-Gay amendment sponsored by Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) designed to curtail AIDS education literature proved to be a bitter disappointment to Gays. The Senate approved the Helms amendment by a vote of 94-2 with liberals and long-time Gay rights supporters such as Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) siding with the North Carolina Senator. Wisconsin's Senator William Proxmire and Senator Robert Kasten voted for the amendment.

Only Senator Lowell Weicker (R-Conn) and Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) voted against the Helms amendment. It was hoped that the amendment would die in the conference committee as some liberals in an effort at rationalizing their votes had predicted. It was only watered down. What impact it will have will be felt in 1988.

1987 saw the beginning of the 1988 presidential campaign year which, on the Gay/Lesbian rights front began to capture some news. Senator Paul Simon (D-IL), one of the six Democratic candidates, announced in November that he would become a co-sponsor of the Senate Gay rights bill. Democratic hopeful, Jesse Jackson hired an openly Gay man for his campaign staff while Senator Robert Dole (R-Kans.), one

TURN TO 1987, PAGE 13

♥ FORGET ♥
 YOUR
 SWEETHEART
 ♥ ON ♥
 VALENTINE'S DAY?
 NEVER!
 SEE PAGE 16 FOR DETAILS
 ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥



President Ronald Reagan and Vice-President George Bush.

for the elimination of high risk groups just imply that it may not be such a bad idea.

The Democrats are no saints either. Said a Gay staffer with a major campaign, "The Dems are afraid that the Republicans will portray them as too liberal. Some may try to toughen up their image by going a little more to the right on the AIDS issue." Some Democratic candidates have called for forms of mandatory testing such as hospital admission, as part of routine physicals and when applying for marriage licenses.

The Democrats are mild in comparison with some of the GOP candidates. Pat Robertson has labeled AIDS a punishment from God. (Before you write off Rev. Robertson, remember that he has won nearly every major/initial contest for delegates and straw polls thus far.) Bush thinks that abstinence is the answer. And you didn't see Senator Bob Dole standing up against passage of the Helms amendment did you?

The easy passage of the Helm's amendment underscores the concern of many Gay/Lesbian activists. Helm's forbid the use of federal AIDS money by any group that "promotes homosexuality." In other words any health or Gay related organization that does safe sex education will not be allowed any federal funds. Nearly all of the money allocated by states and local governments comes from the Federal government so those funds will not be allowed either. The Courts upheld the right of Congress to cut off funding for any group it wishes, back in the sixties and seventies when funding cutoffs for financial aid programs were used as a means to get colleges and universities to comply

that Congress is not yet willing to come to grips with the AIDS crisis. The view from here is that the Democrats are missing a golden opportunity. By exposing the well-documented failure of the Reagan administration to listen to its own appointees who sounded the alarm before most Gays (let alone anyone else) even heard rumor's of a new Gay disease, the Democrats could gain substantial political advantage. After all, the Reagan administration decision to do nothing clearly put every sexually active person in this country at some risk. Except for Jesse Jackson the Democratic Presidential candidates don't seem willing to really go after the Republican policy on AIDS.

It seems though that playing safe politics will prevail over the need for safe sex education, especially in the larger races like President, Senator and Governor. "On the local level in areas where Gays have influence they should be pressuring candidates for more sympathetic positions," says an activist in Milwaukee, "that's how we got a Gay rights law in Wisconsin. We supported a number of candidates until we had enough to make the difference in the State legislature."

On the local level there is a better chance to help candidates who are sympathetic. Some of those candidates are not happy with federal policy. One Congressional contender in Milwaukee, is angry not only with the Reagan administration but with his own party for waffling on the AIDS issue. Judge Fred Kessler has told Gay activists that he intends to call for a fair, better, saner federal policy during his campaign. Other candidates may follow suit, but they will be the exceptions to the

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RELIGIOUS OUTREACH

THE RELEVANCE OF LEVITICUS

By David Callentine

Among many of the texts that are used to condemn homosexuals are two passages from the Old Testament, Leviticus 18:22—

"Thou shall not lie with mankind as with womankind, it is an abomination."

Leviticus 20:13—

"If a man also lies with mankind as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death."

When dealing with these two verses we need to ask ourselves some questions:

(1) Are we taking these out of context?

(2) What is the original cultural perspective?

(3) Are these texts relevant to today's Christians?

There are about six-hundred and fifty laws in Leviticus. Why pick only a few to enforce today? We could always take some New Testament passages out of context that would lead us to believe that Jesus preaches hate, Luke 14:26 for example:

"If anyone comes to me and hates not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brothers and sisters yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple."

Obviously Jesus, from this passage, preaches hate, is totally against the nuclear family, places little or no value on human life and requires us to be full of self-contempt if we are to follow Him. Taken out of context it makes for a rather different Gospel message. If we don't take this, or some other passage out of context, why should we take these passages from Leviticus out of context. My feelings are that when the Jerry Falwells and Anita Bryants of this world start keeping all the laws in the book of Leviticus, I'll stop being gay.

Let us try to understand some of the cultural reasons these laws were written in the first place.

Are these texts about homosexuals in a loving, caring relationships, or about heterosexuals performing same-sex acts between heterosexuals, and certainly outside of the context of a caring, committed relationship?

What was the attitude of Israel about sex, and homosexual sex especially? We're looking at a cultural setting where the purpose of sex was procreation, mainly to build up their armies. Not to make babies was paramount to being a traitor. People at that time thought wasting semen was an abomination. Neighboring cultures used masturbation, and homosexual acts among heterosexuals in their idol-worship which was totally contrary to Jewish customs. It is historically known that conquering nations often forced the conquered males into same-sex anal intercourse with the conquering hero performing the "male" role, degrading the conquered men into the status of women. (that is one reason the conquered would commit suicide rather than be taken alive.)

Lastly in our discussion, how relevant is the bulk of the laws in Leviticus to a Christian?

What did Jesus say about "the law"?

Jesus states quite clearly, "The first is to love the Lord your God with all of your heart and soul. The second is like, love your neighbor as yourself. All the rest of the laws come from these two."

Jesus is summing up the ten commandments. He goes so far as to break the law by healing someone on the Sabbath. God goes a little further in the Book of Acts, giving Peter a vision that, what had been considered unclean was now clean, legitimizing Gentile behaviors and customs.

In her book, "Good News for Modern Gays", the straight fundamentalist, Rev. Sylvia Pennington, extracts passages from Paul's letters to the Hebrews and the Romans that deal with Levitical Law. When Paul says, "You and I are Jews by birth" she substitutes "You and I are gay" and when Paul is speaking inclusively she includes "gay or straight". Sylvia calls this a letter from Paul to Gay Christians about Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13:

"You and I are Gay (Jew) by birth and not mere sinners, and yet we Gay (Jewish) Christians know very well that we cannot become right with God by obeying Jewish laws, but only by faith in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. So we too have trusted Jesus Christ that we might be accepted by

God because of faith, and not because we have obeyed the law, for no one will ever be saved by obeying them. For if we could be saved by obeying Jewish laws, then there was no need for Christ to die.

"Let me put it another way. The laws were our teacher and guide until Christ came to give us right standing with God through our faith. But now that Christ has come, we don't need those laws any longer to guide us and lead us. For now we are children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. We are no longer Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, 'gay or straight,' men or women, but we are all the same — we are Christians. We are one in Christ Jesus.

"If you are counting on circumcision and keeping the law, I'll say again — If you try to find favor by being circumcised 'or by not being gay' — then you must obey every other law — or perish. You were getting along so well, Who has interfered with you? It takes only one person to infect the others. God will deal with that person whoever he/she (Briggs/Bryant/Falwell) is who has been troubling and confusing you.

"Therefore, dear sisters and brothers, whom God has set apart for Himself, I want you to think now about this Jesus, the High Priest of our faith. There is an important lesson for us today, for under the old system, gifts and sacrifices were offered (first 7 chapters of Leviticus), but these failed to cleanse the hearts of the people;

for the old system dealt only with rituals — what foods to eat and drink (Lev. 11), rules for washing themselves and rules about this and that. The people had to keep the rules till Christ came with God's new and better way. Christ came with this new agreement so that all who are invited may come. He cancelled the first system in favor of a far better one. Under this new plan, we have been forgiven and made clean by Christ dying for us once and for all.

Let us stop going over the same old ground again and again... Let us go on instead to other things and become mature in our understanding, as strong Christians ought to be.

"Dear Sisters and Brothers, you have been given freedom to love and serve each other. The Whole Law can be summed up in this one command: 'Love others as you love yourself.'

May God's mercy and peace be upon all of you who live by this principle.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Paul

The Leviticus issue rests."

If you'd like to acquire a copy of Rev. Sylvia Pennington's book, please call New Hope Metropolitan Community Church, (414) 442-7300 or write New Hope M.C.C., P.O. Box 93913, Milwaukee, WI 53202. We have some copies on hand and can order more. ♡

Priest outlines various Catholic views on Gays

By Father James Arimond

What is the Roman Catholic Church's position on Homosexuality? We all hear different opinions from everyone including numerous Priests and Bishops, sisters and brothers, and certainly half a dozen folks in the local "watering-hole"! Can these differences ever be reconciled or even understood?

Well, I'm not sure I can answer all the questions but perhaps I can add a little light.

First of all, all Vatican statements that appear to be directed against Gays/Lesbians must **always** be understood in the



larger context. In other words, we must always ask ourselves, "What really is being discouraged?"

Traditional and Conservative Roman Catholics hold that "Any and all sexual acts that are performed outside of a publically sanctioned marriage are morally wrong." So, for these conservative Catholics **any** sexual activity outside of marriage is wrong. (Note... these church people are not saying that all such acts are a mortal sin! Only God can determine sin. To say something is morally wrong means that it is not morally correct or, in other words, it is not the ideal to which the Gospel calls us.) The Conservative position, therefore, is only **indirectly** aimed at Gay/Lesbian people because Gay/Lesbian people, according to them, are not married! (If the Church recognized Gay/Lesbian marriages, as some say it once did in past ages, then there would be no objection on the part of conservative Catholics to Gay/Lesbian sexual activity performed by those who were in permanent marriage relationships.)

Progressive and more **Liberal** Roman Catholics do not believe that every sexual act performed outside of marriage is automatically morally wrong. They hold that each act must be judged on its own merit. So, if an act of sex is "loving and life giving" it is good! If, on the other hand, it is abusive, degrading to the person, shallow and without meaning, it is wrong! For these Roman Catholics some Gay/Lesbian relationships, just as some heterosexual extra marital relationships, can be morally good.

(Most main-line Protestant and Jewish communities seem to favor this more progressive approach to the subject. There are also many Roman Catholic Theologians, Bishops, religious and lay people who think the same way!)

On both sides of the Conservative and Progressive position you find the "Lunatic fringe": the far right who think that even using the word "sex" is sinful and those on the far left who feel that any and all sexual activity has absolutely no moral consequences and that anything goes! (these fringe groups are in the vast minority.)

It is important to remember that conservative church members are not directly attacking Gay/Lesbian people. They are merely applying their sexual morality to **all** sexual activity and this would include Gay/Lesbian activity. (This may be of small comfort to the Gay/Lesbian who feels under fire from this group of church members, but it may be of some comfort to know that Gay/Lesbians are not being "singled out" for special persecution!) In fact, we find that many of these very conservative church members are most supportive of AIDS programs, civil rights legislation and other support programs that directly and indirectly support Gay and Lesbian people. (For instance, Conservative Catholic Bishops were the first hierarchy of any church to come out with Pastoral letters supporting

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AIDS health programs, AIDS education programs, Gay/Lesbian civil rights, etc.)

It's important for us to remember that when something makes the papers it does so particularly because it is so unusual. Most Roman Catholics in this country, as well as most Protestants and Jews, are progressive and liberal. If they are attacking Gay and Lesbian life styles it is not because of their religious conviction but simply because of their own ignorance and fear. People, including hierarchy, have a tendency to play "pick and choose Christianity": we're conservative on those principles we personally up-hold and critical on those we don't. While this is deplorable, it is also a human weakness that we all have.

What we need to guard against is "over reaction". Until the final trumpet blows the last chapter has not been written. Only God will judge our lives and the questions and answers to that final exam can be found in Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 25, verses 31 thru 46. (NOTE: no questions here about sexual activity! Could it be that God doesn't consider it quite as crucial as does our generation?)

Thanks for listening. I hope it helps. Remember, you are loved.

Fr. James

Editor's Note: Father James has indicated that he is willing to answer questions. Simply address your letters to Father James in care of **Wisconsin Light**. Confidentiality is assured. ♡

New Hope hosts West Area Conference

On February 6, 1988, the West Area Conference of Metropolitan Community Churches of the Great Lakes District of the Universal Fellowship of M.C.C. is holding their semi-annual conference at New Hope United Church of Christ, 1424 W. Greenfield Ave., Milwaukee, WI. The theme of the conference will be "Worship the Lord!". The conference will include two worship services; one which will be Pentecostal in style and one highly liturgical; two workshops; one on the history of the denominational forms of worship; and one on the implements of worship, how they're used and their symbolisms; and the business meeting of the West Area of the Great Lakes District.

The cost of the conference is fifteen dollars and includes conference materials and two hot meals. The conference will begin at 9:00 AM, with registration beginning at 8:00 AM. The conference is open to anyone. For more information please call New Hope Metropolitan Community Church at (414) 442-7300. ♡

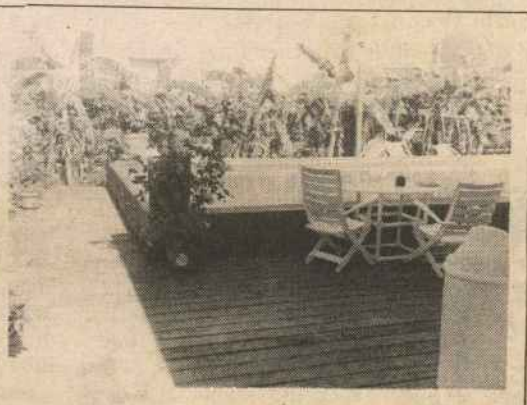
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FICTION

A farm boy from Minnesota

by William Regis McDevitt

Stories, stories and more stories. They come along with the drinks from cocktail parties, local bars, the streets. Imaginations can get carried away, especially if one is prone to sipping heavily; listeners have to rely on their instinct to separate the wheat from the chaff. And then there are stories which have the pure, undeniable character of truth. This is one of them.

One quiet afternoon in a local bar I ordered a drink and introduced myself to the astute-looking guy sitting next to me. Late fall's light shone through the front windows. After a few formalities—"What's your name?", "Are you from the city?"—it became clear to me that this man was a mover and shaker.

Social niceties out of the way, we spoke of emotional leanings. The stranger shared a sadness: "My lover recently died of AIDS." They were together 18 years, living in San Francisco. He paused. "He suffered few human indignities while he was ill. I saw to that."

After the burial he decided to return to his native city, Philadelphia, but still retained the home owned in San Francisco because "we spent years restoring that house."

But then he specifically felt a need to share the story of another person with AIDS—the farmer's son from Minnesota.

Years earlier, he and his lover were leaving a bar on Folsom Street at closing time. Outside the customers milled, talked and went their separate ways. As they were walking toward their car, "a forlorn young man stood at the curb. He had a sense of pathos about him."

Their instincts proved correct. The young man was hungry, jobless, disowned and alone. His thumb had taken him from the farmlands of Minnesota to San Francisco's Folsom Street, leaving behind the unacceptance of his gayness by a father and mother to come in search of himself. After speaking a while longer, they invited the young man to share some food and coffee at their home.

The bottom line? This kid needed help. He was then 19 and could have taken any road. His survival hung in the balance. Luckily, he had met two men of mutual experiences and understanding. These new friends shared his story with sympathy—his father and mother could not. "After talking well into the night, we made the decision to let the kid occupy the vacant apartment on the lower level of our home. In lieu of rent, he did menial jobs around the place."

For the next few weeks, the youth worked with gusto and smiles. Being accepted for himself rebuilt his confidence. Shortly thereafter he found a steady job and created a pleasant homelife in the apartment. Ten years went by. The young man bought a color TV, a good sound system, and some fine furniture and pictures.

The 70s ended. Fearful whispers became realities. AIDS cases grew to epidemic levels; San Francisco took one of the disease's greatest bites. For a period the Gay community froze in horror, then united. Courage born from love rose. But deaths came quickly. Sometimes it was only days before a lifetime friend, in his prime, was no more. Among the young and and zestful death ravished even quicker. With the onslaught of this deadly threat, he and his "committed to the fight against AIDS."

One day the farmer's son, who was still living in their building, came to talk with his old friends. It was hell to hear the kid's sobs. He had been diagnosed; the disease was advanced in his body.

A call was made to his parents in Minnesota. Although cordial, there was minimal response. And no offer to help. When asked to come visit their son, their answer was to moan about their financial problems: "We have a new federal farm loan." The lovers dropped their plea.

Not much later, the farmer's son went into the hospital. The final deterioration had begun. Believing that father, mother and son should share his last moments of life together, another call was made. This time the couple made an offer to pay airfare and housing costs if they came. The parents agreed.

In San Francisco, the parents visited their son twice, "about 10 minutes each time. However, they did attend at least



three ballgames — and returned to Minnesota before the boy died."

A new problem confronted the lovers. Who was going to take care of the kid's burial? What to do with his possessions? Again they rang the phone at the farm. This time the deal was to crate his belongings and ship them along with the body of Minnesota. The parents agreed to absorb the costs on their end. It was disturbing putting the young man's life in order; almost 12 years had passed since that first meeting at the curb on Folsom Street. With help from the Gay community, the job was done.

Time went by. Christmas was near. "We had a house full of company when the doorbell rang. It was the sheriff with a warrant for my arrest!" The charges were brought by the freight company which shipped the body. The personal possessions had been paid for and claimed. But the body still lay in a morgue — unclaimed.

He invited the sheriff in and explained the story. He said he would not take action until the mess was straightened out. The overdue and return costs for the body were paid. The Gay community buried the "kid" in San Francisco.

Within a few months of this sad period, my drinking partner's lover died of AIDS. Back in the City of Brotherly Love, he shared his story on a fall afternoon with another Gay man. There was a solemn pause with the end of our conversation. Empathy joined us in a place few people who are not Gay know.

We parted with the wish, "I hope I see you again." He walked out into the streets of Philadelphia. Although I was inside I felt a chill. One thought traveled toward the farmhouse in Minnesota. "For shame." ▼

White House report snubs Gay parenting

Washington, D.C.—As part of an "otherwise progressive" White House report on adoption, the President's Inter-agency Task Force on Adoption, rebuffed adoption of children by Lesbians and Gay men, reports *The Washington Blade*. The report, released December 11, found that many children are being kept in foster homes too long while suitable parents are being overlooked. The Task Force declared in its report that "marital status, age, or handicapped conditions should not preclude individuals for consideration as adoptive parents; however, homosexual adoption should not be supported."

The Task Force was created on August 24 by Ronald Reagan to remove obstacles that prevent qualified parents from adopting children. Upon announcement of the Task Force, Reagan tapped three White House staffers to comprise the panel, including rabidly homophobic White House Domestic Policy Council leader Gary Bauer. Bauer, who is in charge of domestic policy at the White House was the leading opponent to having a Gay member on the AIDS Commission, and last week stated that AIDS education program censorship is "good policy" because federal funds should not be "used to promote homosexual activities that most Americans find deeply offensive." Maybe Ronnie should limit his panel choices to the imitation wood variety.

Bildungsroman

By Gino

...all those elaborate images... began (if dreams can be said to have beginnings), like that scene in *Dr. Faustus*... a production he'd once seen in which the stage floor opened up and Hell gaped before the doomed scholar.

Very stagey because you knew that scarlet and amber gels were revolving about a couple of baby spots.

Presto! Hellfire!

In his dreaming, he noted the same artificial effect... a silhouetted figure, himself, in the foreground, the flames spiraling higher and higher, engulfing him.

Then, quickly, another scene is superimposed upon the first... (the flames bleed away). Here, in a white light, he finds himself, eyes shielded against the glare, struggling, lost, in some sort of desert wasteland. In the background loom two gigantic figures, totemic, menacing.

Even in his dream, the part of his mind that rarely sleeps and is always ready to comment, recognizes them for what they are... authority figures — parents, grade school monitors, whispering aunts, religious teachers.

They tower above him disapprovingly. Any minute he fears that they may zap him with some powerful rays shooting from their craggy eye sockets.

Suddenly, all happily, he's on an escalator, the kind they have in department stores. As he heads downward, the two figures still loom above, but he has the exhilarating sense, as the escalator picks up speed, that some profound revelation awaits him.

His toes feel the toothed ridges at the bottom as the risers disappear into the floor. He falls to his knees, throws up his arms, and announces the great discovery: "It's a basement!"

That's when he awoke smiling. All of these elaborate images to prove that Hell is a basement, a bargain basement at that, with escalators like Gimbels or Macys.

He began turning over to go back to sleep: "Try to remember the images," he told himself. He knew though that they'd probably be gone by morning.

"Remember the key words, 'It's a basement!'"

Suddenly it hit him. "It's abasement! Not two words, one word — abasement."

It was then he knew, finally realized, "I mustn't give in to the bastards."

Mental loss may be first symptom

A recent study from California, based on 55 Gay men, suggests that people infected with the AIDS virus may suffer a loss of certain mental functions long before they show any other symptoms of the disease.

In the current issue of *Annals of Internal Medicine* Dr. Igor Grant of the University of California at San Diego reports that of 16 seropositive men with no symptoms of the disease, 44% showed impaired coordination, cognitive difficulties or abnormal results of tests taken with magnetic resonance devices.

According to Grant, this percentage is significant even in so small a sample. He said that of the 55 Gay men, 15 had AIDS, 13 had ARC, 16 were seropositive but asymptomatic and 11 were not infected. The rate of impairment for the 15 with AIDS was 87%; for the 13 with ARC, 54%; and for the uninfected, 9%. The average rate of impairment among a random sample of the population, Grant said, is 10%.

Dr. Edmund Tramont, director of AIDS at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, said that HIV infection "could look like Alzheimer's disease in a young person." The Defense Department has already removed seropositive personnel from stressful, high performance jobs such as flying aircraft, handling nuclear weapons or working on sophisticated machinery.

But Dr. Bradford Navia, a neurologist at Massachusetts General Hospital, urged caution until long-term studies with greater numbers have been completed. "This would be a very upsetting way to make national policy," he commented. "We need to go slowly on this subject with careful studies, not just rush off with sentiment."

Massachusetts Gay rights bill in doubt

Boston—What may have been the final blow to the state's Lesbian and Gay rights bill may have been dealt last week. On Monday, December 7, Sen. Royal Bolling (D-Boston) moved to force the bill out of the Committee on Bills in Third Reading where it is currently stymied. The bill may be allowed to sit in this committee for up to 45 days, which would effectively kill it for the legislative session. The Senate soundly defeated Bolling's motion by a 23-11 margin. The purpose of the committee is to examine a bill for constitutional and technical flaws, yet opponents of the bill seek to use this stalling procedure to kill the bill.

As seen by the previous week's majority vote, the state legislature is in favor of the bill, as is Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis. Bolling stated that Committee Chair Aruthr Lewis Jr., who has vowed to stall the bill to death, "has put himself in the position of flouting the will of the majority of Senators in this chamber." After the defeat of Bolling's motion, gay rights activists, crowding the gallery, marched out shouting, "Shame! Shame! Shame!" During the debate on the motion, activists in the gallery interrupted Lewis's homophobic remarks with loud coughing. Senate President William Bulger responded sardonically: "The chair would ask those who have colds to effect a miraculous cure," he said with a smile.

Lawyers penalize "sodomy states"

The National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA) adopted a pro-gay resolution at its annual meeting earlier this month in Miami.

The resolution requires NLADA to give preference to those states which have repealed their sodomy laws when selecting sites for its meeting.

NLADA is comprised of over 1,100 organizations representing more than 15,000 attorneys. Last year it adopted three resolutions calling for the group's support for the repeal of all sodomy laws, the enactment of legislation prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, and civil rights protection for persons with AIDS, ARC and HIV seropositives.

The new pro-gay resolution was introduced by Gerry McIntyre, of the Southern Tier Legal Services in Bath, NY along with NGRA. McIntyre earlier this year organized a Gay and Lesbian issues section for NLADA.

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BOOKS

Power themes dominate LEADING EDGE

The Leading Edge: An Anthology of Lesbian Sexual Fiction
Lady Winston, editor.
Lace Publications, 1987, 211 pp., \$9.95

By Barbara J. Palecek

There seems to be a lot of sexually oriented writing for Lesbians available these days. Tee Corinne has released a book of erotic short stories. In the non-fiction department are JoAnn Loulan's *Lesbian Sex* and now, *Lesbian Passion*. Katherine Forrest's recently published short story collection, *Dreams and Swords* heavily emphasizes the erotic. Literary trend-wise, it's almost as if the politics of sex has been replaced by the practice of sex.

Well, maybe not for long. *The Leading Edge: An Anthology of Lesbian Sexual Fiction* by Lace Publications might just cause a backlash into the political realm again. This collection of stories and poems with a solid leaning toward S&M and other power themes is being introduced into relatively mainstream Gay and Lesbian forums. *Light*, for instance, received a review copy. Everything about it begs exposure.

By no means is *The Leading Edge* a gentle introduction to rough sex. Curiously, feminist well-knowns like Cheryl Clarke and Noretta Koertge are represented, albeit their selections cannot be classified as S&M-oriented. The whole concept of the book is a little off. It ought to be named *The Misleading Edge*.

The volume's slick cover promises explicit depictions of sex. At this point, one would be a fool not to dive right in. The first story, a fantasy about sex with a stewardess aboard a crowded airplane, was kind of uninhibited-kinky. Okay. Not bad. Kind of different. The very second selection was a snuff story. Very, very unsettling stuff. This reviewer would have thrown up if she weren't so puzzled.

What is a piece about two butchers doing in a publication that so obviously wants to break into the mainstream of Lesbian fiction? This story, "The Predators," by Dorothy Allison, is not about sex, but killing. It is on the order of the kind of material found by police in suspected torturer-murderer Kim Brown's possession this past summer in rural Wisconsin.

"Predators" was a very unfortunate inclusion in the book, because it closes off discussion of the rest of the selections, even the more violent ones. We'll try anyway.

In "Fantasy #418", a female cop fucks a young woman with a night stick. "La Femme Cheniere" has a bunch of women pirates sticking swords and other things into each other. Most of these types of stories in the anthology are shameless rip-offs of male domination porn. Change the name and pronouns to the masculine versions and you have the garden variety of dirty bookstore substance.

To be fair, some of the selections were imaginative and artfully written. Some were even sweet. Noretta Koertge's play-

ful seductions at summer camp made for an amusing tongue-in-cheek story. Also entertaining is a poem by Jeane Parris which opens with: "I have trouble having lunch with you."

A story by C. Bailey and one by Artemis Oakgrove include characters who gradually give up control of another person in the course of the narrative. A sense of anticipation, one-on-one connection, and extreme concentration come through pretty well via the written word, if you like that type of thing.

Artemis Oakgrove is an interesting but slippery writer in that there's always a daffy rationale for the situations she places her characters in. This is true of her representative story and also true of her very colorful *Throne Trilogy*, a 1986 Lace publication. Her characters always seem to have a sort of humorous foundation of power about themselves which they never lose no matter how much they give up. You wonder who's the controller and who's the contollee. Oakgrove does capture some psychology very well, but alas, she is just another writer of considerable talent who doesn't seem to be able to get beyond a male concept of sex.

In her introduction to *The Leading Edge*, Pat Califia has a point when she says lesbians deserve to read and write about sex. But too much of the "erotica" here seems to mimic the same old patterns of the rest of society. A contributor in the most recent issue of *Lesbian Ethics* (Volume 2, No. 3, Summer, 1987) alludes to Pat Califia leaving San Francisco after "carving an unwanted swastika into a working-class dyke's body." If true, was this part of a sex act? ♡

Chinese epic adapts Hero's sexuality (or Hollywood lies again)

Hollywood, Ca. - *The Last Emperor*, the lushly produced Bernardo Bertolucci epic about Pu Li, the last emperor of China, seems to have left out one important aspect of the oriental leader's life: his being Gay. The film, which opened nationwide last week, is based on the Chairman Mao-approved *From Emperor to Citizen* which likewise removes all references to Pu Li's homosexuality. Actor John Lone, who plays the Chinese leader in the film, was reportedly surprised to hear that various biographical sources show that Pu Li was Gay. A 1975 biography of the leader, formally titled *Prisoner of Peking* and now released as *The Last Emperor* in conjunction with the film, makes references to the leader's sexuality. The film, it is noted, was filmed in Red China, where homosexuality is officially strictly taboo, with the complete cooperation of the Chinese government. This film brings the total of 1987 Hollywood moves to sanitize a character's sexuality to two. The other being *Less Than Zero*, where Andrew McCarthy's character's bisexuality was conveniently extracted. ♡

Cruelly truthful NEBRASKA has original twist

Nebraska
By George Whitmore
Grove Press, Hardcover,
153 pp., \$15.95

By Jeff Kirsch

No, *Nebraska* is not a Gay guide to the Cornhusker State. It's a novel, like James Mitchener's *Texas* and other state-titled pieces of recent fiction. Like Mitchener's, it's historical, though in a different sense. Incidental to the main plot, we get the story of two Gay men in the '50s, their dishonorable discharge from the Navy and, for one of them, treatments to "cure" his homosexuality, the result of which leaves him "retarded" in the eyes of others.

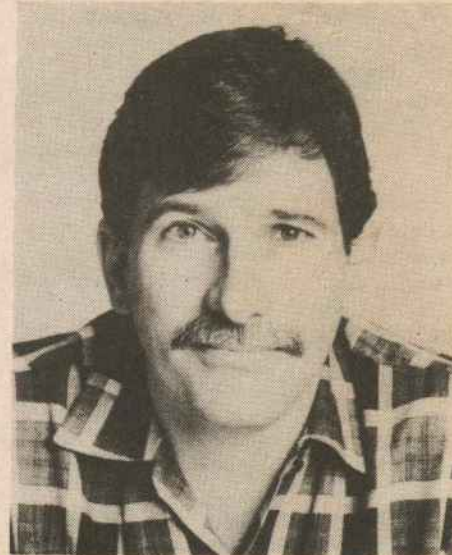
If *Nebraska* sounds bleak, it is. In its first paragraph, twelve-year-old protagonist Craig McMullen loses his leg when hit by a car and learns what it's like to be an outsider long before his true sexuality dawns on him.

From there, things only get worse. Enter an abusive drunken father; Gay Uncle Wayne, arrested for lewd and lascivious behavior in the Lincoln bus depot, accused under pressure by Craig of sexual molestation and sent off to be "cured"; and an ambulance-chasing lawyer, who marries Craig's now-divorced mother and keeps the settlement to buy Craig's new leg. Re-enter Craig's abusive but newly religious father, who kidnaps his son, ties him to a bed and prays for guidance whether or not he should douse the two of them with gasoline and put an end to their hell on earth. When Craig is rescued, Daddy promptly blows his own born-again brains out.

And all this is only the background to Craig's tracking down his uncle some twelve years later in the novel's "climactic" scene.

So you thought *Nebraska* — the state — was wholesome? Author George Whitmore is out with a vengeance to prove otherwise. While praising it to the hilt, some reviewers have leapt with an I-told-you-so glee over *Nebraska*, "proof" to them that the Midwest is barbaric. Such chauvinism shouldn't come as a surprise, but nor should *Nebraska* and its contents. Isn't it well-known that the coasts are populated by crazies who have liberated themselves from the Midwest? Don't we all know that most mass murders and other atrocities occur in the Heartland? Simply put, the novel is mis-titled. When pared down to its essence, it's no more about *Nebraska* than it is almost anywhere else in the 1950s.

But the novel's already strained likabil-



George Whitmore

That tales similar to Whitmore's have happened is doubtless. His courage to write this one is more than commendable. Although fictionalized, his story is an important part of Gay history, one that merits reading by all interested in the subject as well as in serious Gay fiction.

Though making up your mind to read *Nebraska* is like deciding to read about the Holocaust. You may cry, agonize and writhe with imaginary pain. When finished, you've appreciated it, if not necessarily liked it or gotten any pleasure from it. *Nebraska* is, however, an engrossing slim tome, easily readable in part of a day.

ity quotient may be rendered even lower to some by the author's style. That the constant ungrammatical language is "typically" Midwestern is laughable. It's simply uneducated, though has a ring of truth, coming from its first-person narrator. While this arguably "regional" speech and writing add flavor, there's a problem here: the imagery and the artful structure are not consistent with the narrator's limited linguistic ability. An authorial convention some may be able to overlook, the illusion of first-person narrator was writer of this story doesn't quite hold up under careful scrutiny.

This common recourse — which Whitmore almost gets away with — also permits botched English and a host of misspellings (as well as absent punctuation, irregular capitalization and choppy paragraphs). In spite of the flavor and near-veracity, all this proves to be an irritant to those who don't care for mangled language and have the quirk of expecting to see it correctly

TURN TO NEBRASKA, PAGE 14

Best Sellers of the Month

Gay Male

1. *Lost Language of Cranes* — David Leavitt — Bantam..... \$8.95
2. *And The Band Played On* — Randy Shilts — St. Martin's.... \$24.95
3. *Maurice* — E.M. Forster — Norton..... \$4.95
4. *Significant Others* — Armistead Maupin — Harper & Row.... \$6.95
5. *Gay Book of List* — Leigh Rutledge — Alyson..... \$9.95
6. *Family Dancing* — David Leavitt — Warner..... \$3.95
7. *Little Dog Laughed* — Joseph Hansen — Henry Holt..... \$3.95
8. *Buddies* — Ethan Mordden — St. Martin's..... \$7.95
9. *The New Loving Someone* — Don Clark — Ten Speed Press.... \$7.95
10. *Men On Men* — Stambolian — New American Library..... \$9.95

Lesbian

1. *Dreams and Swords* — Katherine Forrest — Naiad..... \$8.95
2. *Making A Way* — Joan Biren — JEB..... \$11.95
3. *Wickerdary* — Mary Daly — Harper & Row..... \$14.95
4. *Memory Board* — Jane Rule — Naiad..... \$8.95
5. *Search For Signs of Intelligent Life In The Universe* — Jane Wagner — Harper & Row..... \$7.95
6. *Leading Edge* — Lady Winston, editor — Lace..... \$9.95
7. *New Our Bodies Ourselves* — Borter Women's Health Collective — Simon & Schuster..... \$15.95
8. *Always Anonymous Beast* — Lauren Douglas — Naiad..... \$8.95
9. *Different Daughters* — Louise Raffin, editor — Cleis Press.... \$8.95
10. *Going Out Of Our Minds* — Sonia Johnson — Crossing Press..... \$10.95

Sources of Information: Schwartz Book Stores, Milwaukee; Webster's Books and Cafe, Milwaukee; Four Star Fiction and Video, Madison.

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A BOY OF SUMMER THE BIG SWITCH

By Morgan Summer

ABOUT THE TITLE: I have several reasons for believing that I am a boy of summer. First of all, it's my pen name that I will use for this column; as soon as my eighteenth birthday arrives in late July of this year, though, it will be my real and legal name.

More important, though, is what summer symbolizes. Summer — the season of warmth and sunshine; a time when cute guys run around in shorts and nothing else (if that, even); a time to open a cold beer or other refreshment after a barbecue on a summer night and watch the sun go down in brilliant reds, oranges, pinks, blues, and purples.

A time to laugh, certainly, and a time when memories — good memories — are made. A time to remember when the weatherman informs you that tomorrow's high temperature will be 3. A time to live.

And, I believe that summer also symbolizes youth. Since I am 17, I am still considered a youth, and I am trying to enjoy this summer of my life. However... sometimes I think at times it is an early spring. A silent spring.

Summers are a special time, to me. I have good memories from past summers, like my first Gay experience. Memories of friends — special friends, and ... well.

About me: I am a senior in a Milwaukee high school, and I am also a 220 student, which means that I get picked up at 6:45 in the morning during the week to catch a little yellow school bus which takes me and two other people from the nice, clean suburbs to the big, bad city. I ride it back after school, and so it goes for my school days. It wasn't always that way, and I'll explain how it got to be that way in a minute, but first I want to give you some background information about me:

I'm a senior, finally; I've got about a C average and I can't wait to get that damned diploma;

I really hate Geometry; I was the editor of my rinky-dinky high school paper in my junior year, and I have a lot of experience writing for publication, so relax; this won't be some "cute" column written by a kid with overactive hormones;



I'm not eighteen yet, still in the iron grip of my guardians — yes, they know I'm gay. Boy, do they!

And, I say with pride, I'm one of those rare teens like Aaron Fricke, who came out in high school. But not with the same results; that's what I'm going to tell you about in this, my first column for Wisconsin Light.

Since this is not summer — not yet — my experience in coming out in a suburban Milwaukee high school was not positive. Almost no warmth, and no good times, really... but a glimpse of sunshine.

For twelve years I've attended school in a nice, clean, white, suburb. And I would've continued this year, except for the fact that several people attending my high school found out about me. I told my best friend, and as soon as he could get to a phone, he spread the word. Boy, did he. I told him in August; by the time school started, most everyone — including teachers — knew. And I didn't deny it. So, for ten weeks and a day, I went through hell, and I am not exaggerating too much. Some highlights from those days:

—having my locker defaced with "Fag";
—getting kicked in the ass walking down the halls;



Morgan Summer

—having "FAGGOT!!" screamed, literally, in my face;

—having the gentlemen from the outside smoking area whistle at me as I passed by and call me slurs;

—walking down the hall one day between classes and being asked, "Are you a fag?" by a kid with his shirt half-unbuttoned. I said, yes, I was gay; he just grunted and walked away;

—getting an unbelievable amount of crank phone calls;

—having the Psych class I was in curtsy skip over a section about homosexuality;

—having the school paper ripped up in front of me, since I wrote for it, and no one wanted to read a fucking gay paper;

—receiving loads of support from Gay Youth Milwaukee, may they always live and prosper;

—having to tell the wrestling coach I was gay, and telling him it would be in my best interest not to join the team this year;

—experiencing that horrible feeling of a car pulling up beside me and then having the teenage occupants of the car chasing me hell-bent for ten incredibly long blocks;

—being asked "Do you have AIDS?" by a lot of assholes;

—having members of the football team shrink back from me in mock fear;

—getting called into my guidance counselor's office one day and being asked if I would like to change schools; I said yes and went to my house and cried with relief.

After ten and half weeks of going through bigotry in my nice clean, white, safe suburban high school. I got transferred, all right, to a school where no one knows I'm Gay, and it's going to stay that way, if I can help it.

I'm getting back the feeling of how many, many Gay teens must feel, going to their straight high school — thinking guys in my classes are cute, while talking to them, looking into their still-boyish eyes, and they don't know a damn thing about me. It's weird, after what I went through, but I can't complain too much.

I've been finding that I am purposely ignoring much of my past. Some of it hurts, and some of it I don't want to forget, but, dammit, I have to. I do; and as I do, I go on to new experiences and make new friends (for, I am afraid, that's all they can be in high school) and look forward to each day. Yeah, I'm looking forward, and sometimes looking back. But as I do, I'll take my time. And this time, in my new high school, I think I'll be able to smile.

And I hope you will too, as I tell you part of my life every month or so. If I am successful, maybe you will think back to your own high school days. For better or for worse.

I guess that at the age of 17 you start realizing that, to quote a friend of mine, "there are two worlds: the real world and high school."

And around that time in your life, the two start merging, whether you want them to or not. In that new world, the light is taken with the dark, and the laughter with the tears. And you survive, and finally try to be the person you want to be, smiling and sometimes crying, inside or outside, and sometimes both at the same time.

Until the next time I get to pass a note to you, in class or in a crowded hallway, with a wink and a smile, peace. ♡

Kennedy in Drag?

Although Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's Christmas office party was officially off the record, word leaked out that the Massachusetts Democrat donned a blonde wig, falsies and a miniskirt to play the role of Fawn Hall to his nephew's (Joseph P. Kennedy) Lt. Col. Oliver North.

Gay oppression Amsterdam topic

Continued from Page 1

tion. This classification has been used to rationalize a multitude of injustices, from electroshock therapy in the past to modern immigration laws.

Two segments of the conference "Homosexuality and Mental Health" and "Theories of Homosexuality," criticized the illness model of homosexuality and proposed more humane and scientific understandings. The third segment of the conference, "Homosexuality: Politics and Law," explored strategies for aligning government policy with these new understandings.

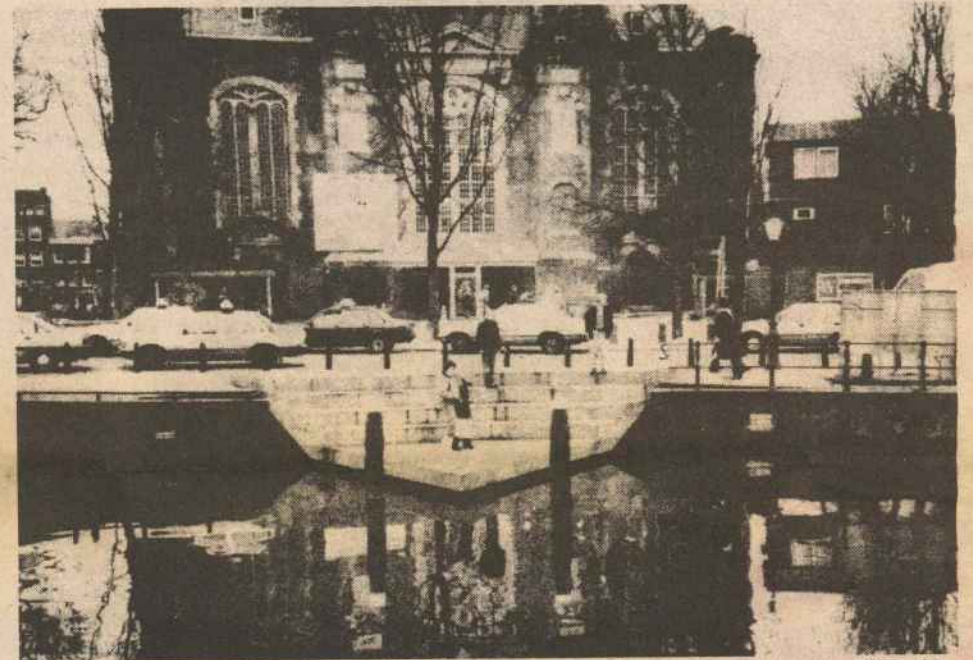
Professor Joop van Londen, president of the WHO's parliamentary body, gave a lecture which stressed the positive prospects for the future. Although the WHO's next disease classification manual will not be formally adopted until 1993, it is already being field tested — and the proposed manual does not list homosexuality as an illness. "There are no scientific reasons whatsoever to call homosexuality a disease," van Londen stated.

"But health is more than the absence of disease," he continued. "Health includes leading a full cultural life, and if societies allow homophobia to persist, then these societies risk injuring the mental health of their Lesbian and Gay citizens." Van Londen concluded by proposing that governments go beyond mere tolerance and

Hakansson of Sweden reported that many Native American tribes revered "berdaches," men who crossdressed and had sexual relations with other men. However, both Hakansson and Professor Terry Tafoya, a Taos Pueblo Indian from the United States, pointed out that this statement misrepresents the berdache.

Even though berdaches were what we would consider biological males, they and their cultures considered them members of a third gender. Hence a berdache never engaged in sex with another berdache, only with male-identified men or, in some cultures, with female-identified women. The point is that what modern Westerners may view as "homosexuality" might be given a completely different interpretation by those involved.

Professor Tafoya compared the Western model of the homosexual-heterosexual continuum to a stick. According to our way of understanding, no matter what your sexuality — homosexual, heterosexual or bisexual — you are still somewhere on the stick. We need to conceptualize human identity in terms of a circle. Tafoya asserted, for in contrast to a stick a circle has no end points. A circle is a metaphor for the whole. Therefore, people are not stuck between only two possibilities, but free to be any of an infinite number of identities.



A View of Amsterdam's new Homomonument, unveiled on September 5, 1987. The relationship with its surroundings is emphasized by the "podium triangle" which points to the nearby center for the struggle for Gay and Lesbian liberation, the COC. The "memorial triangle" with its line of poetry points to the nearby Anne Frank House, the center for the struggle against facism, anti-Semitism and racism.

set an example for their populations by becoming "homo-friendly."

Every lecturer agreed that culture influences the expressions of one's sexuality, whether homosexual or heterosexual, but disagreement raged over the power and profundity of that influence. Most of the debate centered around the terms "essentialism" and "constructionalism," five-dollar words that mean, basically, nature and nurture. Is homosexuality an inborn, essential feature of a person's nature? Or is it instead a construct built through the interaction of an individual with her or her environment?

The question is an old one, and emotionally charged. Many people oppose even asking it on the fear that if a cause for homosexuality is found, those in power will use the knowledge to eliminate Gay people forever. *Journal of Homosexuality* editor John De Cecco did not actually condemn the inquiry, but he did voice the caveat on the minds of many at the conference: "The laboratory is never as far from the ovens of World War II as one might like to think."


The lecturers well understood this connection, and did not focus so much on looking for a cause as on how particular people in particular cultures come to identify themselves. Professor Vern Bulough of the United States outlined a history of theories about homosexuality, and noted that the word — and therefore the very concept — "homosexuality" is barely 100 years old.

This is not to say that before the late 19th century that women did not have sex with women or men with men. Rather, the lecturers stressed the extravagant differences between how people who have same-gender sexual relations thought of themselves.

In a talk during the preconference, Tore

Although these theories seem to veer off into the abstract, their consequences are real. Western AIDS researchers often ask health officials of Third World nations about the incidence of homosexuality, only to be met with indignant denials. According to Tafoya, Dutch educator Jan Husken and others, these officials may well be telling the truth — as they see it. Husken related his own lively example. After having sex with a Moroccan man, Husken asked his partner about homosexuality in Morocco. "There is none," this partner replied. "Well," Husken said, "what about us?" "That's not the same thing," countered the Moroccan. "We're friends." Erotic friendship or homosexuality? Or berdache of a third sex? The answer depends on your cultural point of reference.

TURN TO CONFERENCE, PAGE 15



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MEDICALLY SPEAKING

Gremminger begins new medical column

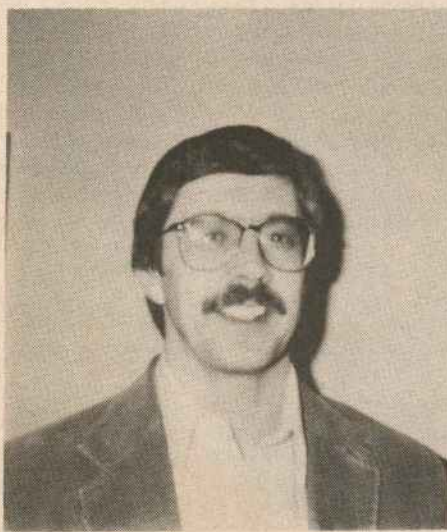
By Roger Gremminger, MD

I am delighted to have the opportunity again to write about Gay health issues and wish to sincerely thank the editor of **Wisconsin Light**. For those of you who may remember, I wrote health columns in **Gay Milwaukee** and **Our Horizon** from 1979 through 1982. The first and unfortunately the last article I wrote about AIDS was in the February 1982 issue of **Our Horizon**. When **Our Horizon** folded, I was never asked by **Out!** or **In Step** to write about Gay health and thus have been silent in the Gay press since then. Thus I am especially delighted to have this opportunity now.

For those of you who do not know me, I am a full-time emergency medicine physician (no private practice) who in addition has provided health care services to the Gay community for ten years on a volunteer basis. It was on January 11, 1978 when I was oriented and began to provide medical services at what was then the GPU VD Clinic. That was the occasion of my very first professional actions as a newly licensed physician. Since then I have remained a member of the medical staff of the clinic — which has been known as the GPU VD Clinic, the GPU STD Clinic, then the Farwell STD Clinic, and finally as the present Brady East STD Clinic (BEST Clinic). I did not found the clinic as some believe. It was founded in September 1977 as a service providing clinic by Robert Bolan, MD who served as the first Medical Director until 1979 July when he moved to San Francisco. I was appointed as the second Medical Director and served from July 1979 to April 1985. And I have continued on the medical staff since then, staffing the clinic one or two times per month. I was succeeded as Medical Director by Maureen Small, MD and presently by Marc Huffman, MD.

In addition to BEST Clinic, I am presently Medical Director of the Herpes Health Center at St. Anthony's Family Medical Center, since September 1983.

Over the past ten years, I have gained experiences that no other doctor will have the opportunity to gain again. And I have enjoyed the respect and trust of my patients and the community at large and I am very grateful. In the Pre-AIDS era, I had worked diligently to control gonorrhoea, syphilis, giardiasis, amebiasis, warts, and Hepatitis B. I had seen AIDS enter the community although at first I did not know what I was seeing. After completing a hepatitis B study and starting a hepatitis B vaccination program, I began to work feverishly from December 1982 to July 1984 to alert the community of the danger of AIDS. Some thought of my efforts to start an AIDS initiative as ill-conceived,



Roger Gremminger, MD

alarmist, and hysterical. et some listened to me and hopefully were spared. Unfortunately, most of what I saw and predicted has come true. And I continue to spend many a night feeling depressed thinking of my patients and friends who are or perhaps will succumb to AIDS.

For professional and personal reasons, I resigned as the medical director of BEST Clinic in July 1984 (I was replaced in April 1985) and drew back from many of my activities to contain AIDS. I had been over-extended for too long and needed more time for myself, my relationships, and my career. But I never stopped my work for the Gay community.

Over the years, those who had sustained and encouraged me had been the wonderful troop of dedicated volunteers. At first the group was small but in recent years the number of volunteers has grown immensely. The kindness, concern and love shown by these volunteers to myself and the people we served is truly the greatest mainstay and strength of our community. It is with singular pride that I have seen the growth of generosity in the Gay community. The fabric of our community has become more complex and rich over the years and speaks well of the sincerity, honesty, and responsibility of this Gay community.

Thus it is indeed with pride and excitement that I begin to write to you again in a column in **Wisconsin Light**. Numerous topics come to mind — AIDS, and other STD's, the psychology of dealing with AIDS and death, hope, and despair. I am very open to suggestions and if you have a topic or issue you wish for me to address, please contact the editor of **Wisconsin Light**. Till next time, take good care of yourself and best wishes. ♡

Love, Roger

Human AIDS vaccine tested

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) of Bethesda, Maryland has begun tests in human volunteers of an experimental vaccine against AIDS. This is the first clinical study of an AIDS vaccine approved by the Food and Drug Administration to be conducted in the U.S.

The vaccine is manufactured by MicroGeneSys, Inc., a biopharmaceutical firm in West Haven, Connecticut. It consists of the envelope protein derived from the genetic material of the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, the cause of AIDS.

HIV attacks and destroys key cells of the immune system, thus allowing usually controllable infections to invade the body and cause debilitating and life-threatening illnesses. More than 44,000 persons in the U.S. have been diagnosed with AIDS since 1981, and nearly 60 percent of them have died. Scientists estimate that between 1.5 and 2 million Americans are infected with the virus. There is no cure at present.

Preventing the spread of HIV infection in the U.S. and world-wide is an international priority. Although education is a powerful public health tool for limiting transmission of HIV, public health officials agree that an effective vaccine will be the only way to halt the global AIDS epidemic.

Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, NIAID director, said that the study is being carried out at the Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, by Dr. H. Clifford Lane, deputy clinical director of NIAID and a senior investigator of NIAID's Laboratory of Immunoregulation.

The NIAID researchers will study the

vaccine in 60 healthy, HIV-antibody-negative homosexual males whose current and recent sexual behavior can be described as "low risk." Dr. Fauci explained that volunteers must have no possible exposure to HIV during the previous 3 months and they must agree to observe safe sexual practices while participating in the study.

This is the first AIDS vaccine to obtain FDA approval for studies in humans. This is the first step — many more steps are still necessary to determine whether this or another AIDS vaccine will be safe and effective enough for general use.

Dr. Fauci emphasized that the study is designed to assess the vaccine's safety and ability to produce an immune response and to determine proper dosage.

"The vaccine consists of purified protein from HIV and not the virus itself," Dr. Fauci stressed. "Therefore, no one can get AIDS from the vaccine, and we expect no adverse effects beyond those that sometimes occur from other immunizations, such as some redness and soreness at the site of the injection."

"At this stage, we are not attempting to determine whether the vaccine can actually protect people from HIV infection," Dr. Fauci said. "If we obtain good results from this study, we will expand our research. It is too early to predict whether this vaccine will undergo widespread efficacy trials, but we are quite hopeful."

Anyone interested in volunteering for the AIDS vaccine study should call Margaret Megill at (301) 496-7196 or call 1-800-634-3027 for more information. Travel expenses will be paid. ♡

International AIDS Conference held

The Third International Conference on Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) met in Washington, D.C. on June 1-5, 1987 sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the World Health Organization. The report issued as a result of the Conference was published in December, 1987.

According to that report, it is difficult to keep in mind that the AIDS epidemic was recognized only six years ago, with the diagnosis of a few cases in Los Angeles and New York. The novelty of this devastating disease was puzzling at first, but with data now available it was almost surely the result of the fact that HIV is a new epidemic pathogen of man. There is no record of antibodies in stored human sera collected prior to 1959.

Furthermore, the disease is dramatic enough that it would have been hard to miss even in areas with relatively poor surveillance; and yet human populations all over the world are afflicted. Thus, in a few short years the world community has gone from a sense of relative control over microbial pathogens to intense concern about the potential destructive power of a new, ferocious virus transmitted sexually and by blood and needles in adult populations, and perinatally from mother to infant, which has now spread to virtually the entire globe.

Worse yet, awareness is growing that initial estimates of the incubation period have been seriously short of the actual mean interval between infection and onset of AIDS and that the likelihood of asymptomatic infected individuals becoming ill is therefore potentially much greater than has been thought at first.

There is, the report states, "a pall over the epidemic's developing scope and fury that is pervasive in the scientific community."

While homosexual and bisexual men continue to bear the brunt of the U.S. epidemic, the crucial role played by intravenous drug use as a risk factor is being stressed repeatedly: among the 36,000 American cases of AIDS, 9,000 have occurred in heterosexual persons, of whom over 60% have been i.v. drug abuse as a direct or indirect factor in their initial infection. Over 80% of diagnosed cases of pediatric AIDS have been related to drug abuse by one or both parents of infants infected.

Dr. James Curran of the Centers for Disease Control spoke at the Conference and emphasized the disproportionate representation of Black and Hispanic minorities among American AIDS cases, now approached a three-fold greater occurrence in those groups than would be proportional to their numbers in the general population. Thus, while AIDS has diffused into virtually every segment of the American community, its impact on the minority and disadvantaged parts of the population is especially brutal and will become more so.

The total number of persons infected with HIV in the U.S. is estimated, according to the report, to be between 1 and 1.5 million, but the imprecision of this estimate is a cause for concern among policy makers in planning educational, preventive and health care strategies.

Screening of military personnel and volunteers has provided data on a sampling of young adults which yields a figure of 1-2/1,000 infected nationwide. However, almost 2/100 volunteers for military service in New York City have tested positive, enhancing the suspicion that once HIV is

represented abundantly in human populations, heterosexual spread becomes a more frequent occurrence and restriction to specific risk groups becomes blurred.

The global scope of the epidemic was stated by Dr. Jonathan Mann, Director of the World Health Organization. Mann noted that more than 110 countries have now reported AIDS cases and, said Mann, "it is unlikely that any part of the world will remain unaffected much longer."

Dr. Samuel Broder of the National Cancer Institute told the Conference that the drug Azidothymidine (AZT) has been found to extend the lifespan and improve the well-being of AIDS patients. However, despite its beneficial short-term impact, the drug's toxic effects on bone marrow, along with other dose-related side effects, have been identified as significant factors limiting its promise.

During the past year considerable attention has been focused on ribavirin. Preliminary studies reported that the drug was able to prolong life compared to untreated groups. However, investigators at Johns Hopkins University have reported that ribavirin shows no significant benefit in their study.

Dr. Williams Jarrett of the University of Glasgow Veterinary School told the Conference that Chimpanzees, who are available only through breeding programs, are the only available animal model for direct study of HIV and one of the recent vaccine candidates developed has protected them against subsequent challenge inoculations with HIV. Thus, the prediction that vaccine initiatives against HIV lie several years in the future. ♡

Possible AIDS virus trigger found

AIDS researchers have reported the discovery of a possible reason why HIV changes from a dormant state in persons infected to an active, virulent state leading to full-blown AIDS.

Laboratory experiments with immune system cells infected with HIV indicate other infections may trigger the production of cytokines — normally manufactured by the immune system — which stimulates the virus into becoming active, reported United Press International.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the federal government's point person on AIDS, said Nov. 5 that the preliminary findings suggest that persons who are HIV seropositive take precautions so as to avoid other infections. ♡

Au Courant, Philadelphia

Grant probable for Fox River Project

Mike Bielinski, president of the Fox River Center Project, Inc., which deals in AIDS counseling and education, announced that the Project has received preliminary approval for a grant of \$800,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Bielinski told **Light** that the Project received word on January 5, 1988. "The fact that there were some 20,000 applicants and that we are in the final dozen or so to be considered, means there's a good change that we'll get the grant," he said. Bielinski noted that receipt of this grant will make Center Project, Inc. "the largest AIDS resource center in Wisconsin." Final approval is not expected before August, 1988. ♡



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PERSPECTIVE

By Marc Haupt

In this, my first column, I would like to congratulate **Wisconsin Light** on its auspicious premiere. The quality of the writing and the production speaks well for the dedicated few who are responsible for its creation. I'm particularly pleased to join such qualified columnists as Dr. Karen Lamb and others.

As President of the Board of Directors of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc., I hope to give readers my perspective on issues facing our communities under siege by this syndrome, in the hope that it will help you better develop your own. I also hope to draw upon the available resource of the Milwaukee Commission on Community Relations, on which I also serve.

We all know that the Gay community has paid a terrible cost as a result of this syndrome. It was of course the Gay community which initiated a response to the epidemic in our midst, by creating the Milwaukee AIDS Project as a program of the Brady East STD Clinic. For this reason, ARCW has always maintained a special relationship with the Gay/Lesbian community, mobilizing the concern and generosity inherent in our ranks and translating it into major care and educational efforts for all groups.

Operationally, there are as many reasons for satisfaction as for concern. We have been able to respond to the myriad needs of our clients in a very compassionate way. We have educated tens of thousands of people who will in turn pass information along to hundreds of thousands of others. In the upcoming year, we will be announcing the relocation of our offices to a new and extremely efficient functional space, the opening of our own residence to provide needed housing, the groundwork on statewide networks, expansion of our board, results of long-rang planning and major new programs.

This is indeed a time of questioning authority. Whether on Pennsylvania Avenue or Wisconsin Avenue, motives are almost automatically questioned by the affected persons as well as by detached parties. We are conditioned to think that our doctor could have tried that one extra technique, our lawyer could have used that one extra argument, our accountant could have utilized that one extra loophole and our organization could undertake yet another project. As an organization, we too position ourselves to question the powers that be. We do not automatically accept the gospel of the CDC, the mandates of the various levels of government or the dictates of the professional societies. In



Marc Haupt

turn, we expect to be analyzed, scrutinized and criticized from all quarters.

I am happy to report that the Milwaukee AIDS Project and the ARCW board have been fortunate to attract individuals of the highest calibre and concern. In my experience, each of them maintains a truly laudable level of care, and if we differ, it is on form or style or policy approaches and not on our level of dedication. Because of this concern, board members listen and respond to all expressions, positive and negative, from the communities we serve.

We have spent the past year intensely analyzing our organization, creating internal systems for complaints, grievances, information processing, staff and board conduct, and many other structural matters. The bottom line remains, however, that the point of contact from the "external" community is the board of directors. Each of us is charged, legally and ethically, with representing the public trust in governing this group. We are very open, all board meetings are public, and we invite commentary and presentations.

Another way to access the board is through this column. Please write to me, Marc Haupt, in care of the Milwaukee AIDS Project, P.O. Box 92505, Milwaukee, WI 53202, and I will attempt to respond to common questions on a regular basis. I anticipate dealing in future columns with questions on our overall structure, our relationships with other AIDS-related and unrelated groups, the kinds of services we provide, our progress on statewide initiatives, the myriad external factors which impact our programming, and other issues.

Please comment. We need each of you to do your part if we expect to overcome the effects of this virus, and one way is with your ideas and questions. Make this the year that you make a major difference for your community. On behalf of the board members, we thank you.

Leather association growing

The National Leather Association (NLA) is strengthening its already existing resources for networking and communication. Its listings now include over 300 social, commercial, and publishing ventures from around the world.

Not bad, considering that its first informal meetings started in August 1986! Since that time members have hosted two national leather conferences, various fundraisers and charitable auctions, a MR. & MS. Leather competition, and the regular publication of **First Link**, a members' monthly newsletter, and **Chain Link**, the association's newspaper.

So, when are they going to start getting busy, already! Well, their upcoming work is on their winter's national Leather Caucus, held in conjunction with a motion at the Washington Leather Contingent Conference for an ongoing group to increase the visibility of the folks who are into leather and S/M as a positive

sexuality.

Membership in NLA is open to all men and women who support promotion of this sexuality as fun and healthy, especially providing a place for those members who are either just recognizing their sexuality is leather or S/M, or those who have received negative attitudes from their immediate surroundings.

The group focuses on good communication between men and women; the opportunity to provide recreational and informative activities; and activism to destroy stereotypes.

Annual dues, which run from Nov. 1 to Oct. 31, are \$25 for a nonprofit organization, or \$50 for a commercial venture. Just the monthly listing of leather & S/M club activities around the world is a fantastic resource available from this group. NLA can be contacted at P.O. Box 17463, Seattle, WA 98107.

Deaf Gays unite

By R.W. Stanley

Deafness has been termed the invisible handicap, but deaf Gays don't think of themselves as handicapped. They have united nationwide under the title "Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf" and will soon be a viable force to deal with.

Many organizations are located in most major cities and in Canada. Unfortunately no such organization exists in Milwaukee. Yearly conventions are held in a new host city every other year. Originally started as a ways and means to meet other deaf gays, this organization is at the point of turning from a social gathering, to one with political clout. And indeed it will be once a platform is formed and followed through.

Their needs are as important as other groups, especially in the form of communicational devices. They must demand that more visual information be closed captioned. What good is communication if it does not communicate with person having communication problems.

An AIDS film was obtained from MAP and shown with most local deaf gays present. Fortunately an interpreter donated his services, however interpreters can be costly on an individual basis. There is a great need for gay interpreters nationwide. Gay men simply feel more comfortable with gay interpreters, when dealing with MDs (medical problems), personal and legal situations. Both U.W.M. and MATC offer excellent Sign Language Programs.

If you or a friend or relative wish to be put in touch with one of these organizations, please contact this paper.

First New Hope rap group set

New Hope M.C.C. will hold its first co-ed rap group Sunday, February 14, 1988 at 2:00PM, and is open to all people. For more information call New Hope M.C.C. at (414) 442-7300 or Ric at 483-1210.

National conference on Black Gays set

Responding to the challenges of AIDS, racism, homophobia and sexism across the country, a national conference of 1,000 black Gays and Lesbians is being co-sponsored by the Los Angeles chapter of Black and White Men Together (BWMT/LA) and the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays (NCBLG).

"Leadership! What have we learned? What can we share?" is the theme of the conference, scheduled for February 12-24 at the University Hilton in Los Angeles. The conference chair and convenor is Phil Wilson of BWMT/LA.

Speakers and workshops participants will include national political and civil rights leaders as well as leaders from black Gay and Lesbian groups. Workshop topics included, among others, creating and strengthening black Gay and Lesbian institutions, building a stronger political voice, AIDS and improving quality of life and relationships for black Lesbians and Gays.

For more information, write BWMT/LA, P.O. Box 29812, Los Angeles, Calif. 30027 or call (213) 664-4716 or 667-2549.



FORGET YOUR SWEETHEART ON VALENTINE'S DAY? NEVER!
SEE PAGE 16 FOR DETAILS

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Madison Gay cable spans the world

Continued from Page 1

half-hour show which was a project of The United, a Madison Gay/Lesbian social service/advocacy agency. Wanting a show that was independent of The United, Runyon quit and predicted the show would die with his departure. A few months later, he was proven right.

In 1981 he founded "Nothing To Hide," a weekly hour-long show. It began as a "studio" show, and featured a magazine format of news, book reviews, panel discussions and entertainment. But by early 1983, Runyon switched the show's format to filming on the road with his "port-a-pak."

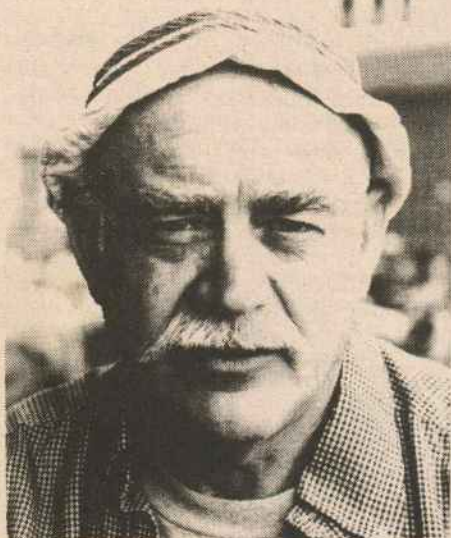
Since then, he's been everywhere in the midwest filming everything Gay and Lesbian as well as other topics of interest. National celebrities such as Geraldine Ferraro, Angela Davis, Leonard Matlovitch, Virginia Apuzzo (currently New York Governor Mario Cuomo's Gay/Lesbian liaison), and San Francisco City Supervisor Harry Britt stand out in the political realm of those filmed. Locally, such activists and politicians as Dick Wagner, Ron McCrea, Kathleen Nichols, Earl Bricker and Barbara Lightner have appeared. Also in the political realm, ex-Governor Lee Dreyfus is on tape signing Wisconsin's gay rights bill into law.

Runyon has also done shows with a host of Lesbian writers and publishers, including Barbara Grier, Judy Grahn, and Karla Jay. In the gay male realm, he's filmed poet Alan Ginsburg and Gay historians Jonathan Katz and John Boswell.

As for performances, he's taped the Madison Gay Men's Chorus, the Windy City Singers, the National Women's Chorus, The Lion Heart Gay Theatre in Chicago and Womonsong, Madison's feminist chorus.

But over the years the show has hit snags, locally as well as when on the road. In 1983, Runyon's equipment was stolen when his car windows were smashed in Chicago. Soon after, the Madison Citizens Access Committee, the station which aired "Nothing To Hide," went bankrupt and the remaining producers had to band together to form a new agency, WYOU, the current station.

The station apart, keeping his own show financially afloat hasn't been easy for Runyon either. At first, he used UW-Whitewater's equipment and got free tapes for the UW-Madison Department of Social Work in return for letting the department keep the completed tapes in its library. He's also received funding from Madison Arts Grants, and from the New Harvest Foundation to archive "significant" tapes at the Wisconsin State



Dave Runyon

Historical Society and with the Gay/Lesbian Resource Center Library. In addition, he co-founded "coat check" at local Gay bars, the funds from which have gone to "Nothing To Hide" as well as many other local Gay/Lesbian organizations.

Another difficulty has been reaching his audience. Runyon notes with resignation that the show "never really caught on in the Gay community." To this, he attributes two reasons: many Gays don't have cable TV; and the refusal of local bar owners to air, and thus popularize, the show in their bars. (One person who was a regular watcher is the Reverend Richard Pritchard, arguably Madison's most notorious anti-Gay voice. "He'd watch my shows, then call me up and bitch," says Runyon.)

After Wisconsin's passage of the Gay rights and consenting adults laws and the '84 presidential elections, Runyon sensed that "everything began to quiet down. People thought there was nothing to do. Or they were too tired and wanted to recharge their batteries before taking on another piece of legislation."

It was in 1985 that Runyon began to think of a new format. "I realized that if I was going to appeal to more people, I had a build coalitions." He began the "coalition" format of the show a year later.

"Nothing To Hide" remains Gay, but not exclusively. The first show of every month is Gay or Lesbian, and the last is a women's show, for which he's received a grant from the Independent Producers Fund. ("Am I not the perfect person to do a women's show?" Runyon jokes, adding frankly that he hopes this spurs women to create their own show.) The middle shows of each month now focus on Latin America

and Africa.

Runyon says that basic tenets of his program have been never to interpose his own bias on his guests and rather "to just let them talk," and to do "upbeat stories" ("as opposed to the Gay print media," he adds). When the AIDS epidemic manifested itself, he began to do quarterly health updates and programs focusing on AIDS, though called it "a difficult decision" to stray from the original tone of his show.

Among upcoming Gay shows, Ron McCrea, former Governor Tony Earl's press secretary, will talk on Madison Gay history. Next summer, Runyon plans to film the National Black and White Men Together conference in Boston.

"I did the show as an educational process for myself," says Runyon, who came out in 1978 at age 47. "It gave me the opportunity to meet very interesting people and learn what the issues were."

Runyon, who holds four Masters Degrees (in Theology, Art History, Education and Landscape Architecture), keeps on learning and plans to continue the show "indefinitely." In his "spare" time, he is a counselor at The United and has begun three different support/social groups for Gay men.

On top of all this, he's currently vice-president of WYOU and, as of February, expects to be president. "It's just a case of no one else willing to take on the job," he says. "I just go in filling vacuums."

•Funding for this article has come in part from a grant provided by the New Harvest Foundation. ♡

1987 REVIEWED

Continued from Page 6

of the six Republican candidates, urged his fellow challengers in the presidential race to keep AIDS out of partisan politics.

Perhaps the biggest news of 1987 for Lesbians and Gays was the October March on Washington, the largest demonstration for Gay/Lesbian rights in history. While the U.S. Park Police estimated the marchers to number 200,000, other observers judged the number to be closer to 500,000. Regardless of the number, the March reved up the Gay/Lesbian community as nothing had done in a long time, perhaps ever. Delegations representing 23 states, 34 cities, 48 universities and 400 separate organizations took part, marching past the White House and down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol.

On the AIDS front, 1987 was a year of nearly unmitigated tragedy. Nationally, the number of people with AIDS reached 49,342, as of December, with the death toll standing at 27,764. Last year, 28,098 were reported with AIDS according to the Atlanta Centers for Disease Control. There is no mass vaccine in sight.

With the number of AIDS cases double in 1987 over 1986 and conservative politicians doing whatever they could to stall sex education efforts, AZT became the first drug licenses for AIDS treatment. One of the major problems with AZT was price. One person could be expected to pay \$10,000 for a year's supply. Late in 1987, Burroughs-Wellcome, the only company producing the drug lowered the cost by 20%. But this did not solve the second major problem with the drug which was its side effects which made it too toxic for about half those who tried it.

Despite price and side effects, an estimated 10,000 persons were using AZT. According to one national study, 90% of those taking the drug remained alive after one year as compared to a 40% survival rate for those without the drug.

1987 proved to be the year when President Reagan finally took public note of the six-year-old epidemic and appointed the Presidential Commission of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus. From the beginning, the 13 member panel was plagued with problems, one of which was that its membership was largely lacking in persons with medical or AIDS-related experience such as anti-Gay Cardinal John O'Connor of New York.

Among those who succumbed to AIDS in 1987 were Gay Games founder Tom Waddell, Congressman Stewart McKinney (R-Conn.), Gay filmmaker Art Breslin, entertainer and Wisconsin native Liberace, Roy Cohn, former aide to Senator Joseph McCarthy (R-WI) and Gay father Frank Batey whose son's custody was granted by a California court to his lover of 13 years.

There is more, so much more that could be included in a wrap-up of 1987. Yet, there was and will remain only one story and that is AIDS. Every year the numbers of AIDS cases has increased. Every year the numbers of deaths as a result of the virus have grown. This is the story now. It will be the same at the end of 1988. ♡

10 villains of 1987

Continued from Page 1

hoof in mouth disease. Winning the gubernatorial seat, he promptly scrapped the Martin Luther King Birthday as a state holiday and called for a list of all Gays working for the state on the grounds that "criminals" shouldn't be employed in Arizona and then blamed "militant homosexual agitators" for the campaign to recall him. Like Jerry (number 6) Mecham too believes that Gays are trying to take over the world. IF that is the case, one would only wish that we'd hurry up and do it.

8.] **Ray Berens, reporter for the PHILADELPHIA PRESS AND BULLETIN**- Never heard of him either? Well, he dredged up "gerbilmania." "After months" of reportorial investigation, Berens discovered that Gays were using gerbils, "small rat-like furry rodents that move around a lot" for sexual stimulation. According to Berens, the animal is put into a bag of cocaine and the whole thing inserted in the anus. This, he told his readers, is how "the homosexuals receive their sexual gratification."

9.] **Paul Cameron**- This man, who is probably America's leading homophobe (he dedicates his life to fighting the "homosexual infrastructure") has appeared on radio talk shows and before public forums nationwide. According to him, Lesbians and Gays spread AIDS by eating feces and "gerbiling." His most notable quote: "Homosexuals are ALIENS. Allowed to flourish they band together to become HOSTILE ALIENS whose mission is to destroy the culture that tolerates them." Think this is garbage? By his own testimony, Rep. William Dannemeyer has faith in him. Wonder about Senator Jesse Helms?

10.] **Lyndon LaRouche**- So you thought that when his quarantine proposal was defeated in California, Lyndon was done for? Not a bit of it. Now he has yet another called, "Son of 64" (the original proposal was known as "Proposition 64). It is to appear on the California ballot in June, 1988. Congressman Dannemeyer's faith in him makes him all the stronger. Wonder about Senator Jesse Helms on this one too? ♡

Farwell feeling financial pinch

Lynchburg, Va.- Well, well, well. It seems that Jerry Falwell's financial status has taken a deeper plunge than did the Dow Jones average. Last week, a spokesperson for the **Old Time Gospel Hour** announced that 100 workers have been laid off due to waning donations. Seeming to be completely oblivious to the fact that the Christmas season was just around the corner, the evangelist group, led by the homophobic Jerry Falwell, is taking this seasonal opportunity to unemploy the hundred workers. Did someone say Grinch? How about homophobic Grinch? Maybe rapid, homophobic Grinch? How about... ♡

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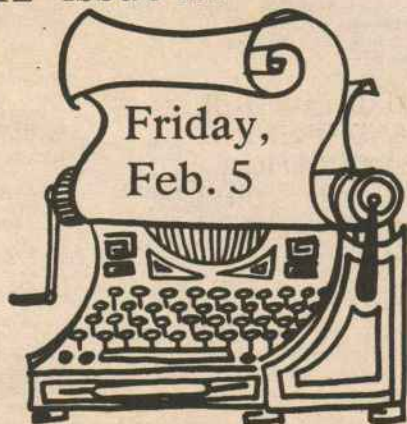
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Conference sees cause for optimism Government oppression remains concern

Continued from Page 10

Unless you're a member of the essentialist camp. They will tell you that, indeed, the ways one expresses his or her sexual orientation can differ widely. Nevertheless, that orientation constitutes an essential and unalterable feature of a person's makeup. After all, homosexuality in some form has existed in every culture in all places and in all times. If homosexuality were culturally bound, then we would expect it not to appear in certain societies, especially those like our own which strongly condemn it.

Although not himself a strict essentialist, Dr. Kenneth Plummer of the United Kingdom pointed out that the constructionist theories simply do not resonate with the experiences of Lesbians and Gay men. Studying the biographies of Lesbians and Gay men reveals over and over that Gay people knew they were homosexual from early on.

Usually children's vocabularies lack the word "Gay" or "homosexual"; hence, "different" is used most often to describe the feeling of growing up Gay. "I knew that somehow I was different from other boys and girls" is a theme whose variations recur in thousands of life stories, and essentialist proponents cite this common theme to cast doubt upon theories claiming that homosexuality is socio-psychologically constructed.

Whether one believes that being Gay is a matter of nature or nurture, the real task is, according to Dr. Michael Ross of Australia, to understand our own paradigms and their consequences. The way science thinks about Gay people profoundly influences the way Gay people think about themselves.

In the past, Gay and Lesbian scientists have tended merely to react to old negative models: homosexuality is not a sin or a sickness, they would argue, neglecting the development of independent, positive models. In the future, suggested Dr. Ross, Gay scientists will need to develop their own models. However, Gay people must be aware that any new model will have limitations. In the words of Professor Tafoya, "Any system of knowledge is always also a system of ignorance."

Currently in the West, ignorance seems to have the upper hand. During the conference two distressing events transpired which animated the discussions with the urgency of reality. Amnesty International announced that once again it has decided not to protect or assist people persecuted because of their sexual orientation. Incredibly, Amnesty International cited lack of evidence of persecution against homosexuals as the reason for their decision.

In an unrelated event in Great Britain, an amendment to a bill was introduced by the Conservative Party, and supported by the front benches of the Labor Party, to ban the teaching of any positive image of homosexuality in schools and to forbid national and local governments to subsidize any Gay or Lesbian organization. The bill with its amendment is expected to pass by a wide majority. The conference sent collective letters to both Amnesty International and the British Parliament expressing outrage and urging the reversal of these decisions.

The possible effects of these kinds of homophobic developments were depicted by a video tape shown twice at the conference of a police raid on a Lesbian bar in Lima, Peru. The graphic video bestowed an immediacy on events which otherwise could have seemed remote. The conference sent a third collective letter to the president of Peru, denouncing the raid and the treatment of the women.

During her lecture to the conference, Dutch member of the European Parliament Hedy d'Ancona expressed outrage at these developments. Asserting the close ties between oppression of women and oppression of homosexuals, D'Ancona said she was "shocked" at the decision by Amnesty International, an organization long known for the protection of women. She also roundly condemned the British Parliament for its homophobic legislation. "They are using AIDS as a weapon against homosexuals, but AIDS is only an excuse. They have always been against homosexuals."

Ironically, the conference itself did not escape charges of oppression. During the final session, Diane Richardson of Great Britain read a statement signed by almost all of the women attending the conference. Noting that the organizing committee con-

sisted solely of men, the women decried the male bias evident in the dearth of female speakers and in the exclusion of Lesbian feminist theory. Dr. Lex van Naerssen, a member of the all-male organizing committee, responded that the committee had attempted to include women, but that many had refused the invitation. Nevertheless, van Naerssen admitted that the organizers had made a mistake.

Women were not alone in their criticism of the conference. One of the very few black participants expressed disappointment at the lack of Third World participation, and yet another participant, this time a white male, deplored the "conventionality" of the conference. "I am very angry at the assumption that you are the teachers and we are the students. This conference is not equalitarian enough." Then, referring to the panel sitting up on stage behind a long skirted table, he added, "Look, we can only see your heads, cut off from the rest of your body, which is symbolic of the way this conference has been too brainy!"

There is no doubt that the conference sought to attain respectability. Professor Rob Tielman, a member of the organizing committee, explained that the conference was intended to be a "professional" conference. He added that the conference was by no means intended to be the only one ever on homosexuality.

Instead, it was intended to be "the first of many international conferences," some of which might be more appropriate for the people who felt disgruntled at the way this one was structured. Tielman also remarked that it was an "important" achievement to have the visible support of politicians.

And indeed, in addition to the president of WHO's parliamentary assembly, an impressive array of high-ranking officials delivered lectures or speeches: the mayor and deputy mayor of Amsterdam, the Netherlands' top minister of health, a member of the Irish Senate, a member of the European Parliament and the president of the University of Utrecht. Each of these dignitaries spoke with knowledge and intelligence on the matters at hand — the mayor of Amsterdam, for example, spoke of the need to protect the rights of people who cruise in public parks and restrooms, debunking the argument that these people incite their own harassment by comparing it to the argument that a woman incites her own rape. The presence and intelligence of these dignitaries gave the conference a legitimacy that would be almost unthinkable in most other Western nations.

But it was this very legitimacy which incited fertile discussions about the future of the gay movement. Validation from the heterosexual majority may come only at the price of the very freedom which Lesbians and Gay men seek to gain, argued the more radical participants in the conference. The danger of integration is conformity, wherein Lesbian and Gay men would themselves become oppressors. Those who choose not to live monogamously, for example, or others who cross dress or engage in sadomasochism could become the scapegoats of the newly legitimized bourgeois homosexuals.

One political activist from Sweden feared that the AIDS crisis may be taming the Gay movement. The epidemic has created "professional homosexuals" whose livelihood depends on their collaboration with government. If these people step too far out of line, they risk losing their jobs. Hence the government has succeeded in "buying off" leaders of the Gay movement, even if it never explicitly intended to do so and even if Gay leaders themselves never intended to sell out.

These concerns about the future of the Gay movement strongly parallel the writings of a French thinker whose name arose in almost every lecture, Michel Foucault. Foucault's mention was poignantly appropriate. Generally thought to be gay himself, he died of AIDS just after finishing *The History of Sexuality*, his last and most monumental work. A quotation from that work adorns his memorial panel in the NAMES Project Quilt.

Foucault theorized that power permeates every human relationship — economic, sexual, political, linguistic, etc. — and he focused on the power relations immanent in systems of knowledge.

To Professor Tafoya's principle that every system of knowledge is always also a system of ignorance, Foucault would add

Fort Atkinson Bar Owners Outraged



Marie Williams and son Wade Williams, owners of the Old Fort Lounge.

Continued from Page 1

According to Williams, his ex-lover told him that just as he was getting into his car that morning, three men grabbed him and dragged him into the passageway between the two buildings. Williams said that the door leading to the outside is "always locked" and that he does not know who opened it, although his suspicions are strong that it was someone from the bar next door.

At the end of the passageway, there is a black metal door leading to the basement of the building where the straight bar is located. The young man was taken there where his attackers "beat the shit out of him." After that, according to what his ex-lover told Williams, he was raped and they used a broken wine bottle to cut him. Finished with him the attackers left the young Gay man raped and bleeding on the basement floor of the straight bar. Eventually, he was able to stagger out and make his way to where he lives in Fort Atkinson.

Williams is asked if a report was made to the police?

"No," he replied. "He's never reported it. He's completely withdrawn into himself," Williams said. "He doesn't want to talk to or see anybody." Williams admitted that few of the regular customers at the Lounge know about the incident. "We've tried to keep it quiet for business reasons," he said.

Why then, Williams was asked, did he

decide to talk to the press about it?

He took a deep drag from his cigarette and then answered: "I've lost an awful lot of sleep over it," he said. "Someone has to talk about this. Someone has to know that it happened." He also thinks, as he said, that if the story becomes public, his ex-lover may realize that what happened to him is not something that should remain hidden and forgotten. Williams believes that the young man needs counseling to help him with his trauma and that if his story becomes public, it will help him to realize his need. His mother, standing nearby, listening to the account, nods her head in silent agreement.

Light contacted Fort Atkinson Acting Chief of Police, Roger Keene. Keene said that Marie Williams had reported the incident and that the police "made attempts to contact the victim" both at "his residence" and at the Lounge. However the police were unsuccessful in making contact. "If he comes in, we'll make a proper investigation," Keene told Light. Keene also said that while "we have several names" of people who might have been involved, in the crime, unless the victim does come forward, "the hands of investigative machinery are tied."

Light contacted Thomas Beeke the editor of the *Jefferson County Union*, Fort Atkinson's daily paper. Beeke told Light that he was unaware of the existence of the Lounge and had not heard of the incident. ▽

the following corollary: Every system of knowledge (or ignorance) is always also a system of domination. If this is true, then absolute freedom is never attainable in this world, for new systems of knowledge do not liberate but merely shift the strictures of control. Which means that even if Lesbians and Gay men succeed in moving homosexuality beyond disease, they will not have completely escaped domination.

Nevertheless, some forms of domination are less heinous than others, and it was this cautious yet definite optimism that characterized the conference and lingered as the dominant impression after the participants had dispersed.

As Vern Bullough concluded at the end of his talk on the history of studying homosexuality, "The most hostile research has come when the Gay movement was at its weakest — for example, Germany in the 1920s and '30s. What we can learn from this is that Gay people have set the terms of research into homosexuality. Politics and science go hand in hand. In the end, it is Gay activism which determines what researchers say about Gay people." ▽

MASN to hold Valentine's benefit

The Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN), announced a benefit to be held on Sunday, February 14, 1988.

The benefit will be held at the Wilson Street Grill, 217 South Hamilton from 1:30pm to 4:30pm. It will benefit MASN which is a non-profit organization working in Madison and Dane County to assist those affected by AIDS and providing education at all levels.

A \$1.00 donation will allow guests to partake of a smorgasbord of donated sweets, chocolates and other desserts which accounts for the name of the benefit, "Sweet Sunday Afternoon: A Valentine's Day Afternoon of Sweets and Entertainment."

The event is being co-sponsored by 66 co-hosts which include Earl Bricker, David Clarenbach, Tony Earl, Robert Kastenmeier, Tom Loftus, James McFarland and Kathleen Nichols.

Entertainment will be provided by ARK, Jane Reynolds and Lynette, Chris Wagner and Company.

Advance reservations are available from: MASN, P.O. Box 731, Madison, WI 53701. ▽

Archaeologists unearth Dark Age rubbers

London, U.K. — This year, archaeologists exploring a British castle dating back to the 1640s turned up what appeared to be a sign of safer sex awareness in the Dark Ages: condoms made of fish and animal intestines believed to have been brought back from France by soldiers seeking to avoid the transmission of venereal diseases. Guess they used them to lessen the risk of those "one-knight" stands. ▽



Wisconsin Light welcomes four new columnists

Wisconsin Light welcomes four new columnists to its pages this month.

Father James Arimond is a psychologist and priest from a Milwaukee parish who is familiar to many in Milwaukee's chapter of Dignity. Father Arimond actively encourages questions from his readers on any subject, controversial, noncontroversial or simply of reader interest that anyone might care to ask.

Marc Hauptert, familiar to most in the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay community will be addressing topics concerning the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) and related issues. Marc too will gladly answer questions from Light's readers.

Dr. Roger Grimminger, MD, will be writing a regular column on AIDS and related medical problems with which he has had a great deal of experience. Dr. Grimminger told Light that he looks forward to questions from readers.

Morgan Summer is a young man, a member of the Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Youth group and a student in a local high school. Morgan will be giving Light readers the inside view of what it's like to be Gay and young in the late 80's. Morgan told Light that, "I really hope they'll ask me questions, anything they want."

This brings to seven the number of regular columnists who will be writing for Light. In February we will be introducing yet another writer, Joe Hobert, a Master Chef, who will be writing on matters of interest to cooks at all levels of expertise. More about that in our February issue.

We think that our columnists present to readers of Light a unique opportunity to write and ask questions of interest to them and have them answered. All you have to do is send your inquiry to whichever columnist you wish to address in care of the paper. It would really be great if we could have a dialogue going and make of Light a forum for ideas and a vehicle for communication.

As always, Light continues to search for and welcome those who would like to write for the paper. Do you have some special area of interest and/or competence that

you think the paper should be addressing? Have you some piece of fiction or non-fiction that you've written and would like to have considered for publication? Why not send it in? You can write using a pen name or no name at all. Confidentiality will absolutely be respected. ▼

Ignorance is supreme bliss

By Rick Thomas

The other morning someone phoned. A colleague answered it and from the tenor of the conversation, I gathered that whoever it was on the other end of the line, had some legal question or other. My co-worker referred them to the American Civil Liberties Union, more popularly known as the ACLU. Heard of it? The person on the phone never had and I heard my friend patiently trying to explain what the organization was. In the meantime, I was falling off my chair in laughter.

Afterward, I was told rather sharply, "You have no right to act like that. You shouldn't be so down on ignorance."

I got to thinking (a habit of mine every once in awhile) and decided my colleague was right. It was decidedly unfair of me to laugh. I must, I decided be more tolerant of ignorance. After all, ignorance is popular. (Think of all the ignorant people you know) and just consider, if you will, how much there is that goes on in the world that wouldn't happen at all if it weren't for ignorance.

Imagine this scene for a moment. You're a college freshman and have decided to major in Happiness, a major right up there with Baja Whales or the History of Revolutions in Uppauass. Anyway, your first class is Ignorance 101. Surprised? Well, isn't ignorance supposed to be bliss? If you didn't know that maybe you're already so ignorant you don't need to take the course. Why it's even possible that you — not to mention your pussycat — could get credit for life experience. Just tell them

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that you think that the ACLU is stronger than Bufferin because it doesn't contain asperin; that Czechoslovakia is a degenerative disease rampant among the inhabitants of Swaziland and that Ronald Reagan is the Red Queen of Romania.

Tell them, if they haven't figured it out already, that you're so up on ignorance that you get up early to practice being ignorant of at least six things before breakfast.

So that's my major New Years resolution. I'm going to be tolerant of ignorance. Oh, not top-flight, high-powered ignorance like what's E=MC2 or what's the capital of Minnesota, but everyday, garden slug variety, common as dirt ignorance like — well, I can't think of anything, but that's good. If I'm going to be up on ignorance, I guess I should be ignorant of what I'm

ignorant of, shouldn't I?

Just think — but careful, not too much. You might get down on ignorance. But think how wonderful things will be when everyone practices action ignorance. There'll be plenty of wars which are ignorance in action and lots of bigotry, prejudice, and other such things commonly associated with the ignorant. Why, pretty soon, if we all keep it up and just be as ignorant as it is possible to become, we'll all be in caves again, sitting over a can of beans in the dark.

I can hardly wait! ▼

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