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The Wisconsin Light

WISCONSIN HATE CRIME BILL IN SERIOUS TROUBLE

By Bill Meunier

Wisconsin Light has learned that the so-called "Hate Crimes Bill," is in serious trouble and is unlikely to pass in this session of the Legislature. A source close to State Senator Lynn Adelman (D-Waukeasha) told Light that Adelman "intends to bottle up the bill in his committee."

The Hate Crimes Bill would add additional penalties when someone is convicted of a crime and it can be shown that the crime was committed due to prejudice based on race, sex, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation. Twenty-nine states and the Federal Government currently have similar laws.

When contacted, Adelman denied that he was going to bottle up the bill. "I don't know what I am going to do about it right now. I'm not planning on calling an Executive Session to vote on the bill in committee and I don't think that even if I did, there would be enough time left in this session to pass it. You can draw your own conclusions from that."

Adelman said he objected to the bill

because he doesn't think its needed. "No one introduced any evidence that indicated a single case when someone would have gotten a heavier sentence had this law been on the books."

He cited vandalism as an example. "If someone did enough damage to a person's property because they were prejudiced against them, they could be charged with a felony. They could get two years in prison, but I've never seen anyone getting a two year sentence for vandalism."

Adelman also objected to Attorney General Hanaway's attempt to amend the bill. The Attorney General wants amendments that would not require the commission of a crime." He said that Hanaway wanted the bill to include provisions that would ban the sale of any product that "made fun of people."

Adelman also claimed that the bill would be unenforceable. He questioned whether or not it would be possible to prove that someone committed a crime because they were bigoted. The Senator stated that he

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Film "Last Emperor" fails to say that title character was Gay

It is an unprepossessing glass door to a restaurant in Milwaukee's east side, the kind of door you'd find in entrance-ways all over the city. But this one is different. On the inside, looking out on the traffic of Brady Street, is a full-length portrait done in stained glass of a lonely looking Oriental boy dressed in the ancient dragon robes worn by the emperors of China.

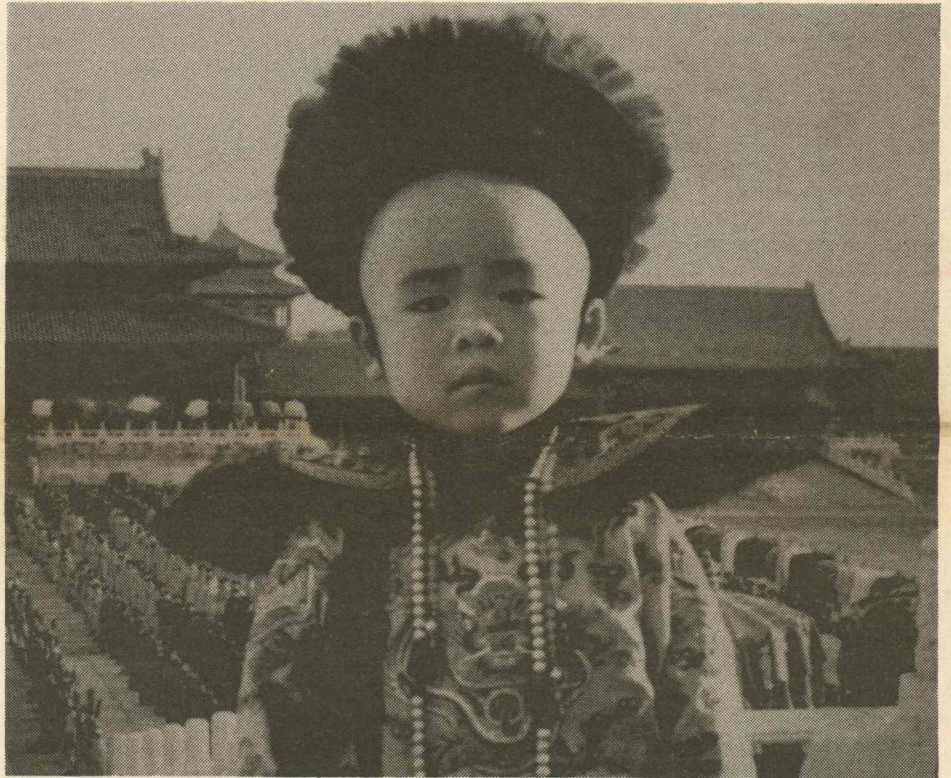
Nobody, it seems, pays much attention to the picture. Who looks at doors? Which is a shame for the little boy pictured there is Pu Yi, the last emperor of China, the Celestial Empire, then, as now, a vast and mysterious land whose civilization is the oldest on earth.

They've made a movie about Pu Yi called "The Last Emperor" which is now being shown in theaters throughout Wisconsin.

Wherever it's played in other parts of the country, it's received rave reviews especially by the Gay/Lesbian press because, though the movie doesn't mention it, Pu Yi, according to his biographers, was Gay.

Pu Yi was born in 1905 into a China that was tottering to collapse. Her ancient culture could not or would not change to meet the challenges of modern technology hence, the Western powers, particularly Britain, were able to dominate her, using her to their own advantage. The imperial court at Peking, secreted behind the walls of the Forbidden City, the great compound where the emperors and their entourage lived, was corrupt beyond imagining. To make matters worse, the Manchu or Qing

TURN TO PU YI, PAGE 15



Actor Richard Vuu appears as Pu Yi upon his coronation in 1908 in the film "The Last Emperor" which is now showing in theaters throughout Wisconsin.

Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Celebration set for Sept.

Amidst vigorous debate, the second meeting of Milwaukee's planning committee for a Lesbian/Gay pride celebration took place on Sunday, January 31 at the Gay/Lesbian Community Center on South 2nd Street. There were 33 people present representing many of the Gay/Lesbian organizations of the Cream City.

The Committee, chaired by Scott Gunkel and Bill Meunier, is sponsored by Milwaukee's Gay Peoples Union (GPU).

Talk centered on three issues; the name to be given to the celebration, the relationship of the committee to GPU and the organization of the committee itself.

The sub-committee on names reported that it was bringing two names for the approval of the full committee. These were "Rightfully Proud '88" and "Milwaukee

Lesbian/Gay Pride Celebration."

Following the sub-committee's presentation of its report, there was a great deal of discussion, quite spirited at times, as to whether the sub-committee had violated the vote taken at the previous meeting of the full committee when it had been decided not to use the terms "Lesbian" or "Gay" in the title of the celebration.

In the final outcome, it was decided that the accepted name would be Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Celebration with Rightfully Proud '88 as a theme. It was also reaffirmed that the dates for the celebration would be September 10-24, 1988.

On the question of the committee's relationship to GPU, many on the committee felt a need for a precise definition of that relationship and the need of the committee for GPU's 501-C3, tax-exempt status.

Opinions varied as to the need for GPU's 501-C3 status but the arguments and debate seemed to focus on what kind of association, if any, the committee should have with GPU.

Karen Gotzler, President of Milwaukee's Cream City Business Association (CCBA), suggested that a sub-committee be formed to study and report back on the situation. She said that, in her view, many on the committee did "not want to get caught in a situation where the GPU Board of Directors put restrictions on us (the committee)." Gotzler called for a definition of the relationship that was "clear and that everyone on the committee could feel

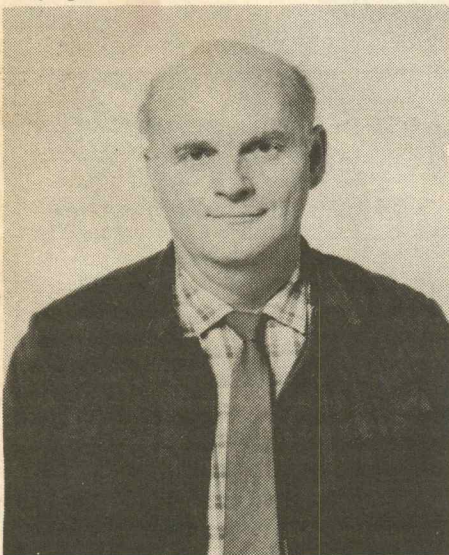
TURN TO PRIDE, PAGE 14

China's 100 million Gays live quiet but open lives

"Gay sex? There's a tremendous amount of it. It goes on all the time, everywhere. I'll tell you, restroom contact is so open. You can't go into a men's room without being cruised or touched. Nobody cares. Nobody looks. Nobody pays the slightest bit of attention."

New York? San Francisco? Neither one or any of the other more familiar places you might have guessed. The place Louie Crew is talking about is The Peoples Republic of China from which he has just returned after a four year stint as a professor, first, at the University of Beijing (Pin Yin spelling or Peking, traditional spelling) and then at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Crew now lives in Chicago with his lover but came to Milwaukee to read selections of his poetry from his book, **Midnight Lessons**. Crew is no stranger to Wisconsin having lived in the state and been a member of Governor Earl's Advisory Council on Lesbian/Gay Affairs. He is a very open Gay man.



Louie Crew

Whatever you say about China staggers the mind. Its recorded history covers some 5000 years going back to about 3000 B.C. when the Pharaohs ruled Egypt. The country's population according to the latest United Nations figures is somewhere over a billion people (no one is quite sure by how much.), living on a land area roughly the size of the continental United States. Just think about it for a moment. If the usually accepted percentage is correct, that means that living in China today are over

100 million Gay and Lesbian people or over five times the number in the United States.

If Gay sex is so open, Crew is asked? Are there any Gay bars in China?

Crew replied in the negative and then added, "But it's easy enough to meet someone. Eye to eye contact on the street is not furtive. In fact, it's much more open than in America and if — or when — you make contact, it's not 'my place or your's.' You go to one of the public parks and hope to find a free bush."

All this, he told Light happens in broad daylight and if there's no "free bush," you find some open grass. This goes for straight couples as well as Gay ones. With the population that China has, living in a density of 278 people per square mile (compared to 64 per square mile in the United States), there is little of what we call "privacy" or even any concept of it. "People go to the parks," he said, "because there is nowhere else to go," and nobody pays any attention. "If you're in the park, you walk along and pretend not to notice what's going on. That's just being polite."

Crew told Light that if anyone is going to try and understand Gay life in China, they

TURN TO CHINA, PAGE 15

1987 AIDS State and national statistics released

Since the recognition of AIDS in 1981, more than 27,764 persons have died from this disease nationally; 159 in Wisconsin have died. In 1987, 89 deaths due to AIDS were reported in Wisconsin. (These 1987 data are provisional; as some deaths which occurred in 1987 may not yet have been reported to the AIDS/HIV Program.)

In areas of the country with high prevalence of HIV infection, AIDS has become a leading cause of death. In San Francisco, the total number of deaths due to AIDS exceeds the number of soldiers from San Francisco who died in WWI, WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, combined. In New York City, AIDS is the leading cause of death for men 25-44 years old and for women 25-34 years old.

In Wisconsin, the mortality due to AIDS has steadily increased since the first cases were reported in 1982. By 1986, AIDS had become the fifth leading cause of death in men 30-39 years old, as shown on

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Metz fights welfare bashing, treaty furor and injustice

Sharon Metz is busy fighting racism, sexism and other forms of injustice as a witness to Christ, and she's very happy. She ran for lieutenant governor on the Democratic ticket with Tony Earl in 1986, served in the State Assembly representing Green Bay for 12 years, and now she's director of the Lutheran Relations Association of America.

The 35-year-old pan-Lutheran organization, with 7,000 members, educates Lutherans and others about justice issues. Metz was chosen from 65 other candidates to become director in August, 1987.

"We work here on all the same issues that I cared about in the Assembly," she said. "It's sort of a win-win situation for me."

She was interviewed at the LHRAA office, a single room tucked under the eaves of Sherman Park Lutheran Church at 2703 N. Sherman Blvd. It holds a fireplace and computer terminals, stacks of publications, and is generously decorated with posters proclaiming the love of God and the love of equality and peace.

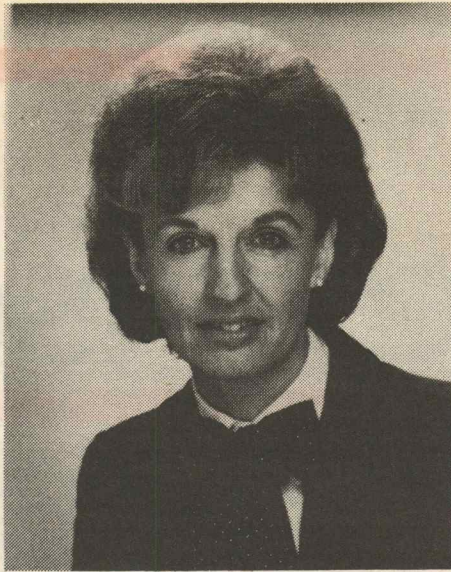
Metz said she took some time off after the gubernatorial election defeat, and at the beginning of 1987 started consulting the political and electoral campaigns, and working with Indian tribes.

She was happy for the chance to head LHRAA after its previous co-directors left the organization to return to the ministry. LHRAA is in every Lutheran synod and every state, along with some foreign countries, she said, and works on human rights independently of any one Lutheran body.

That work, she said, has become more important. "I think that the times we're in speak to a whole new need for understanding each other as human beings and individuals advocating for each other's human rights."

Civil rights has regressed and the treatment of poor people has worsened, she believes. Wisconsin has joined other states in welfare bashing and cutting back on health care for the working poor.

"Wisconsin outlived its reputation as a progressive state," she said. It used to be the leader in environmental protection, she



Sharon Metz

said, but there are "more and more accommodations in air, water and land quality."

Wisconsin's former governor, Earl had refused to send National Guard troops to Central America, she said, and other states are still trying to refuse. "You hear nothing from the current administration on that," she said.

"The whole state has followed the pendulum (swing to the conservative side.) Our Democrats—many—are like Southern Democrats," she said, and Democrats and Republicans are becoming more alike.

Milwaukee is one of the nation's most segregated cities, she continued, and in Northern Wisconsin there is "treaty furor." Brown County, which includes the city of Green Bay, is trying to sue an Indian tribe out of existence, she said.

The University of Wisconsin has "a miserable record of minority recruitment and retention," she said, and the weakest laws on home schooling.

"These are just some examples," Metz said. "This is a trend that is happening in Wisconsin that concerns me a good deal."

A number of factors caused her and Earl to lose the 1986 election, she said. Republican Tommy Thompson used a few emotional issues against Earl, she said, and Earl "presumed people would know about the good things he did." Earl liked to campaign, she said, but he was "lulled into complacency by his staff" and failed to do the public relations work to tell about his accomplishments.

She said she has no commitments on whom to support in the Senate race to replace William Proxmire. Earl is a candidate. She endorses John Norquist for Milwaukee mayor.

"He has a fresh vision and is not easily swayed from that vision about what ought to happen in Milwaukee. He loves the city. I've never know anyone who exudes love for the city like him. He was raised here and lives here. His biggest love affair is with the city of Milwaukee."

"Racial justice and equality will be a real priority with him. He seethes to know that Milwaukee is such a segregated city."

Metz doesn't mean to imply anything negative about the other candidates, she said, but she worked with Norquist for 12 years in the State Senate, serving with him on the Joint Finance Committee, and knows him well.

For U.S. President, she supports Illinois Senator Paul Simon, one of the founders of LHRAA. That didn't influence her choice, she said. "I was favoring him before I knew he was a Lutheran." Jessie Jackson is a close second for her in the race, she added.

In the State Assembly, Metz was a chairperson of the Indian Study Committee for four years, and it was one of her favorite committees in the Assembly. She warns that Indian hate groups in the U.S. are all connected. Racism against Indians is strong, she said. Metz pointed out that though women received the right to vote by the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ratified in 1920, this amendment did not include Indians, either male or female, who did not receive the right to vote until long after. The one thing, she pointed out, that differentiates the Indians from the other American minority groups, is that they have land which many white people want to take away from them.

Water rights, hunting rights, mining rights, and oil rights are held by Indians by treaty, and Indian hate groups want limits or elimination of those treaties to get those land rights.

Lesbian and Gay rights are another LHRAA issue. Speaking as an individual Lutheran, Metz said the church "should welcome human beings of all types inclusively, not exclusively. If you fall into

the category of human being, you ought to find a place in the Lutheran Church."

The LHRAA newsletter has devoted space to the issue, and the organization is preparing a packet on ministry in the context of AIDS.

Wisconsin remains "okay" for Lesbians and Gay men, she said, "largely due to some courageous and persistent raising up of the issue by (Madison State Rep.) David Clarenbach. That may be one of the areas where we have not regressed."

Her advice for Lesbians and Gay men for politics: "Lobbying and advocating for issues is nothing more than good public relations, good interaction with the legislator to know what the legislator likes and doesn't like."

She said the legislator likes good publicity, local recognition, votes, campaign support, votes, winning on legislation, votes, votes, and votes.

"The ballot box speaks the loudest on marginal, critical, close races. That's the hardest thing to get through to people," she said. It takes only a few people to swing a primary election.

"A lot of politicians simply don't believe that the Gay and Lesbian vote amounts to very much, so it's easy to write off."

She thinks campaigns should be organized so that each volunteer pledges to find 10 people to take to vote personally.

Politicians can win elections even if they take controversial stands, she said. She was for equal rights, environmental protection, and a "peacemonger," she said, but people saw that she had an "inner rudder" and was committed and thoughtful. "They respected that."

"Some politicians have no philosophy," she said. They are like weather vanes. "Whatever way the wind is blowing in their district is their philosophy. They make life hard on themselves. They cheat their constituents of respect for them and education on the issues."

"I'm really quite happy in what I'm doing. I don't have to compromise what I believe in. I'm my own boss — or my board of directors is my boss. Here I have the opportunity to educate people, help them on justice issues, working with individuals or congregations."

She now has a "commuter marriage," she said. She lives during the week in Milwaukee and returns to Green Bay on weekends to visit her husband and four sons. Her husband, a teacher, hopes to be able to move to Milwaukee eventually.

Metz pointed out a quotation in a recent LHRAA newsletter by Rev. Allan Boesak of South Africa as words to live by: "We will go before God to be judged, and God will ask us, 'Where are your wounds?' And we will say, 'We have no wounds.' And God will ask, 'Was nothing worth fighting for?'"

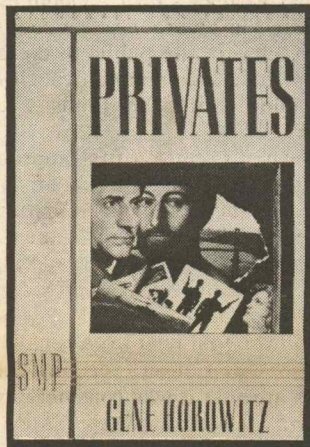
"Everybody has hurts," Metz explained. "You can use those hurts and grow to love being hurt, or turn it into positive energy. You have to feel sorry for people who never have hurts. To be hurt you have to care about something."

After being hurt, and after "a decent period of revitalizing yourself," it's time to simply not accept the hurt and do something about it, she said.

Will she run for office again? "I close no doors. I'm not one of those people that has my life planned till I'm 80. I do what I want to do and take the paths that I want to take. I never know where that's going to lead."

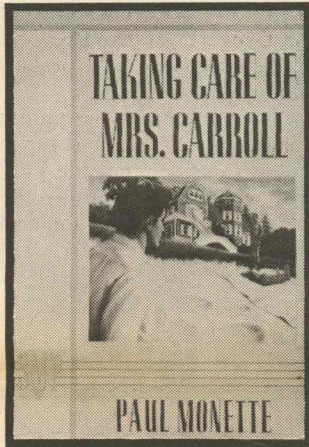


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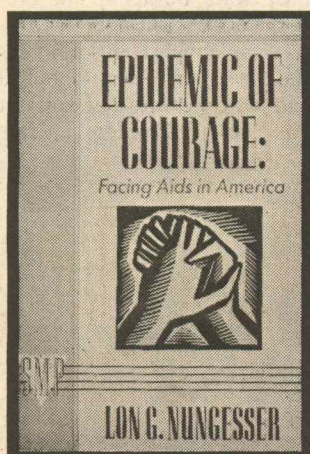
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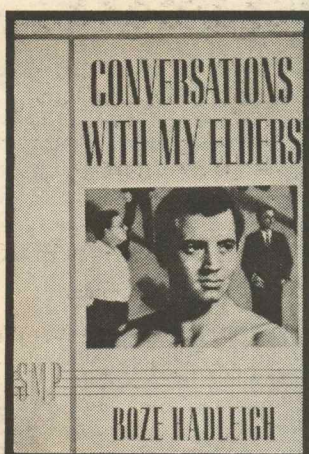
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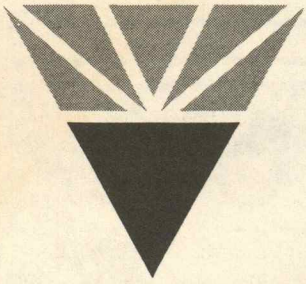
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The Wisconsin Light



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THE WISCONSIN LIGHT is published monthly by NOVO
GRAPHICS, LTD., with offices at 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee,
WI 53212. Advertising and copy deadline is the first Friday of
the month. Opinions expressed by writers in WISCONSIN
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First-class subscription rate is \$20.00
for Twelve Issues.

Third-class subscription rate is \$15.00
for Twelve Issues.

Foreign subscription rates available
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Office Hours:

Monday-Friday—9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

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The Wisconsin Light



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HELP CELEBRATE OUR PRIDE

We heartily applaud, give a standing ovation as a matter of fact, to the efforts being made for a Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Celebration. It is something whose time has long since come and Milwaukee's Gay People's Union (GPU) deserves praise and thanks from us all for taking the lead in the planning for this much-needed event.

To celebrate our pride will, as it must be, a wonderful thing, for we are a great people with a long and ancient history behind us. We are also a people whose time has come to stand up and walk forth and show the world, ourselves included, that amidst the tragedies and sorrows visited upon us, we will indeed celebrate ourselves because it should be done, it must be done and the time to do it is now.

There is probably no more gratifying sight in the world than to see the Lesbian and Gay groups and organizations coming together, each to contribute their talents and time to this project whose importance and significance transcends as it must, all separateness, all divisions, all of the diversities that are a part of our community as they are of any other.

We have only one suggestion to offer to the planners of the Lesbian/Gay Pride Celebration. That is to invite our sisters and brothers from every city, town, village and hamlet in our Gay Rights State of Wisconsin to join the celebration of our pride in who and what we are. Suggest to our people elsewhere throughout Wisconsin that they too hold festive celebrations and on the final day of what must be a glorious week, send representatives to participate in a grand march so that all can see the pride, beauty and strength of our community. How beautiful it would be!

There is no denying that the Lesbian/Gay Pride Celebration is going to take a mammoth amount of planning and work, calling forth the greatest energies that we can muster. Those who chair the committees and groups will come in for a lot of headaches, heartaches, blame, criticism and, yes, praise. But we think that it will all be worth it in the end.

Wisconsin is a great and magnificent state and now, we are finally at the stage where, instead of waiting in a bus station to go to Chicago, we can powerfully and beautifully express our Lesbian/Gay pride here at home. Let nothing deter us from this aim. ♡

WHEN DOES THE RAGE BEGIN?

To say that the news is alarming is a mild bit of understatement. Across the country in 1987, the numbers of AIDS cases doubled and estimates are that it will double again in 1988 and in 1989 and 1990 and on with no end in sight. According to the Atlanta Centers for Disease Control, those who come down with full-blown AIDS will die. At the same time, the recent London International Conference on AIDS concluded that there is no cure in sight. Now, Washington D.C.'s *Blade* reports that the hundreds of thousands of Gay men infected with HIV will almost all develop AIDS or ARC, not the 10 or 40 percent as was heretofore thought.

The message is terrifyingly and frighteningly clear. As Denver's *Outfront* reports, "By the iron-clad logic of a simple syllogism, if you are infected, you will most probably get AIDS and if you get AIDS, you will die." There is no escape.

Now add to the numbers of those who are or will suffer, their lovers, families and friends and the total of the afflicted comes into the millions. Consider too that support groups and organizations are woefully understaffed and poorly funded. Consider that the politicians from top to bottom are treating the epidemic as if it were an outbreak of the flu — this, in a major election year! Consider that there is not one of us who does not know someone who has died, is dying or is dying themselves. Not one.

As we write this, the phone rings. It's a telemarketer asking for the "lady of the house." We tell him that this is proudly a Gay household and he responds, "filthy faggot-queer" and hangs up.

How much is enough? When does the rage begin? ♡

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Why AIDS is an
election issue

By Bill Meunier

In the last edition of *Light* I wrote about how AIDS will be treated as a political issue in this election year. This month I want to tell you why it should be an issue.

It's important for all of us to understand just what is happening to our community. The simple fact of the matter is that the Ronald Reagan administration is committing genocide against its own people. Just as certainly as Pol Pot murdered millions of his Cambodian countrymen by ordering his henchmen to pull the trigger, Ronald Reagan has murdered millions of Americans by ordering his henchmen to do nothing as the AIDS virus has made its lethal way through the Gay community.

It may be difficult for many of us to believe that our own government is, as a matter of official policy, trying to kill us, but the evidence is overwhelming. Even those of us who are not revolutionary must finally admit the truth.

Secret memos obtained by Congressman Henry Waxman offer a damning indictment of the Reagan administration. These memos from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Department of Health and Social Services show a clear pattern of deliberate foot dragging, cover ups and attempts to mislead both the public and Congress as to the seriousness of the situation and the administration's efforts to do something about it. Some of the memo's show that Reagan's own appointees were calling for the emergency expenditure of funds to educate the public to the danger shortly after he came into office. Of course we all know that such funds were not forthcoming.

Even when Congress first appropriated money Reagan refused to spend. Now he will spend it, but he spends less than what has been allocated. It took the Cancer Institute 18 months just to get out forms to researchers so they could apply for grants.

Just think about that for a moment. When did you first hear even rumors about this new "Gay Cancer" or Gay disease? Chances are that it was considerably later than the Reagan administration did. Chances are that while you, and untold millions of other Americans, were conducting your normal sex lives you were totally unaware that an act of love could become a signature on your own death warrant.

Conservatives such as columnist James Kilpatrick even have the gall to defend Reagan's neglect of some of the very people he swore to protect and defend when he took the oath of office. According to Kilpatrick, the public shouldn't be alarmed because after all AIDS only really affects homosexuals and drug abusers. In other words they can't shut us up and they can't shut us down, they can't outlaw us and we won't go away so why not let an insidious killer take care of the Gay problem? Just as Hitler had his concentration camps to take care of the "Jewish Problem", Reagan has AIDS to take care of us.

The cover up continues even to this day. The CDC has set the definition of AIDS so narrowly (you must have one of the major opportunistic infections to be classified as a Person With AIDS under CDC guidelines) that according to U.S. Army researchers and many other experts, there are ten people suffering from the AIDS virus for every one that is officially classified as an AIDS patient. That means that instead of having 25,000 current cases (out of 50,000 diagnosed cases 25,000 have died) we have 275,000. Furthermore there are clear indications that nearly all and perhaps all of the estimated 1.5 million Americans who have been infected with the virus will eventually fall ill.

By covering up the truth, the CDC is saving Reagan and the Republican party a big headache. The media concentrates its attention almost solely on the number of official cases and deaths. Many suffering from AIDS Related Complex die before

TURN TO AIDS, PAGE 6

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 again.

Well, here we go into one of the most exciting weekends of our lives in this household and each of us is busy preparing in some special way. Me? I'm still trying to achieve that New Year's resolution regarding the ten pounds...unsuccessfully!

The old stand-by black dress must remain in the closet and a larger version hangs on the door. This note will be short. Styles have changed drastically and that old adage my mama taught about the importance of the "correct foundation" just is not going to work in this case. Vanna White I am not.

Since I sat down I have received a call from a lady who is so dear to me. Knowing I was writing to you, she asked "Are you going to tell them my good news?"

Yes.

Her test is negative!

Everyone has their own private hells and this is ours. Two years of hell. Two years following another tragic death, two years of waiting, two years of trying to get a personal philosophy together, two years of arguing that neither positive or negative test results would change how one lives one's life every single day, always suspecting the worse, preparing mentally for a positive test, asking: "if it is positive can I really handle it?" Reading, searching, watching the AZT results, who's getting it and who is not? Waiting. Praying. Arguing that having a positive test wouldn't change anything that we are not doing now, two years of preparing for one's own death.

And for this precious lady, it's over... at least for now. Friends, please celebrate with us!

How grand to simply know you have just a plain, ordinary, old common cold...

Can Life ever return to "normal"? I know that AIDS has changed ours forever.

And Lady, thank you for sharing with me.

This last two weeks also realized the visit of the Robert Wood Johnson site-visit team



Dr. Karen Lamb

to Milwaukee's Health Care for the Homeless Program. And as usual, Tom Hickey and Co. received appropriate, and deserved, commendations.

In response to questions, I did learn however that groups of both IV drug abusers as well as suspected teen prostitutes have been spotted via the sharp eyes and kind souls riding the Street Outreach van. Only two of the populations we simply **must** reach, and two populations that I suspect lack any formal outreach from us at all.

Also looming on the horizon is the TB/AIDS connection. What scares the dickens out of me anyway, is that while we fight diligently to impart the facts that AIDS is transmitted by very specific routes, TB is contagious.

The good news, according to Dr. Phil Brickner, Chairman of Community Medicine at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York's Greenwich Village, is that if we can reach those active TB cases, and initiate an intensive two week regime of INH, we can halt the communicability.

Several cities have already experienced

"outbreaks". What is Milwaukee doing?

My thought is that perhaps the two weeks or so of intensive therapy could be done in a private room in a private setting. It has been so many years since I worked TB in Public Health that I can hardly recall. And Georgia's policies for people who did not comply were sometimes rather brutal — including a state stockade and having the sheriff run 'em over the county line — I wonder if isolation in a private hospital room was ever necessary. I seem to recall that the secret lay in an uncrowded, private, warm and sunny space.

Yes, you do suspect that I'm talking about our home again! I have hammered away at the AIDS-Homeless Connection 'til you must be tired of hearing about it. But I do believe we must do more, and especially for our brothers and sisters in the shelters and under the bridges. These people are so terribly vulnerable.

For years now we have monitored TB. Dr. Brickner remarks "Now we realize we were really monitoring AIDS."

And the day is coming when we can say that AIDS causes homelessness.

Well, on that up-beat note, let me close by sending two messages. One to Waupun. Letter coming.

Lastly, attending the recent MAP Board meeting we learned of some disenchantment and criticism of the program in the Gay community. First, I want you to write to me in care of this newspaper and let me know personally of your experiences. What did you seek that you were not able to receive?

Problems. Yes, there are many. As Ma used to say, it's hard to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. The job is horrendous and the resources slim.

But we will make every attempt to remedy problems and to build the services in which we are all so proud.

I have asked that as a part of each monthly treasurer's report, funds for precise expenditures for direct care be made available. Will that help? What else would you like to see done that we are not yet doing, or doing well?

We look forward to your thoughts.

'Bye for now. Karen



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MILWAUKEE

States releases AIDS summary

Continued from Page 1
accompanying table.

Mortality statistics such as those shown are helpful in quantitating the extent of public health problems and in determining the impact of disease on various population segments. Another commonly used mechanism for monitoring disease and estab-

lishing public health priorities is the examination of premature mortality in terms of total years of potential life lost (YPLL). YPLL, as used here, is defined as the number of years of potential life lost for each death which occurred before a pre-determined endpoint set at 65 years.

Nationally, YPLL due to AIDS increased from 82,855 years in 1984 to 152,595 years in 1985, an increase of over 82%. In 1984, AIDS was the 13th leading cause of YPLL;

11th in 1985. CDC has predicted that nationally, AIDS will cause 1.5 million YPLL annually by 1991, moving into third or fourth place, equal to or ahead of heart disease.

For never married males ages 25-49 in Wisconsin, AIDS was the 5th leading cause of YPLL in 1984, 1985 and 1986. For never married males ages 40-49, AIDS has become the 4th leading cause of YPLL behind heart disease, cancer and unintentional injuries, and accounts for almost 10% of the YPLL.

AIDS SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY: WISCONSIN AND U.S. JANUARY 1, 1988

TOTAL CASES	Wisconsin ¹		U.S.	
	(as of December 30, 1987)		(as of December 21, 1987)	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
As of this report	253	159	49,342	27,764
One Month Ago	243	152	44,395	25,368
One Year Ago	135	75	29,003	16,301

Case-fatality Rate (%) by Year of Diagnosis	Wisconsin ¹			U.S.		
	Cases	Deaths*	Rate (%)	Cases	Deaths*	Rate (%)
Through 1984	40	38	(95)	9,876	8,266	(84)
1985	39	32	(82)	10,087	7,486	(74)
1986	82	51	(63)	14,974	7,992	(53)
1987	92	38	(38)	14,405	4,020	(28)
TOTAL	253	159	(63)	49,342	27,764	(56)

* Deaths apply to cases which were diagnosed that year.

Residence at Onset of HIV-Related Symptoms			
	Cases	(%)	
Milwaukee County	102	(40)	
Remainder of State	83	(33)	
Out of State	68	(27)	

Transmission Categories ²				
(Patients >13 yrs.)	Cases	(%)	Cases	(%)
Homosexual/Bisexual Male	196	(77)	31,811	(65)
Intravenous Drug Abuser	12	(5)	8,288	(17)
Homosexual Male & IV Drug User	11	(5)	3,863	(8)
Hemophilia/Coagulation Disorder	8	(3)	484	(1)
Transfusion Associated	8	(3)	1,121	(2)
Heterosexual Cases	3	(1)	1,948	(4)
Undetermined ³	14	(6)	1,491	(3)

Gender				
	Cases	(%)	Cases	(%)
Male	241	(95)	45,452	(92)
Female	12	(5)	3,890	(8)

Race/Ethnicity				
	Cases	(%)	Cases	(%)
White	209	(83)	29,730	(60)
Black	37	(15)	12,371	(25)
Hispanic	5	(2)	6,784	(14)
Other	2	(1)	457	(1)

Age at Diagnosis				
	Cases	(%)	Cases	(%)
Under 5	1	(<1)	632	(1)
5-12	0	(0)	104	(<1)
13-19	1	(<1)	201	(<1)
20-29	46	(18)	10,281	(21)
30-39	118	(47)	22,853	(46)
40-49	54	(21)	10,281	(21)
50 years and over	33	(13)	4,901	(10)
Unknown			89	(<1)

1. Includes resident and nonresident cases (determined by the state of residence at the time of onset of HIV-related symptoms).
2. Cases with more than one risk factor other than the combinations listed in the tables are tabulated only in the category listed first.
3. Includes patients for whom risk information is incomplete (due to death, refusal to be interviewed or loss to follow-up), patients still under investigation, men whose only reported risk was heterosexual contact with a prostitute, and patients for whom no risk was identified.

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OUR HISTORY

PHAROAH AKHENATON FIRST RECORDED GAY

By Terry Boughner

The first gay man of record was Akhenaton, a pharaoh and god-king of ancient Egypt. Having said that, indulge me as I provide a bit of background — or what can be known from carvings, papyrus fragments and the like which are the sources of our story.

It was the 14th Century B.C. Moses had yet to be born. Athens didn't exist and where Rome would be, there was only a swamp. Yet, Egypt was ancient and the pyramids with their companion Sphinx were old, old even then; a thousand years or more. In all those centuries, society had changed but little with the styles of clothing art, literature and government remaining the same as they had been under the first pharaoh 1500 years before.

The focus of life was on religion with its dozens of animal-headed divinities, the chief of which was Amon-Ra whose priesthood dominated the land and whose son a pharaoh was believed to be.

Fourteenth Century B.C. Egypt was an imperial power holding sway over the eastern Mediterranean with her conquests extending well into modern Syria and the wealth of many peoples filling her coffers. This was largely due to the mighty warrior kings of the 18th Dynasty which had come to power in the 16th Century B.C. None of these monarchs was greater than Amenhotep III, Akhenaton's father. The pharaoh was a powerfully built man as the carvings show, handsome and well-proportioned, a skilled general as had been his predecessors and a competent ruler who seems to have understood the conservatism of his people and respected the power of the priests.

His son and heir could not have been more different. Akhenaton suffered from what was probably a genetic malformation that resulted in his being grotesquely ugly. Then, in an era that required dynamic and forceful monarchs, Akhenaton enjoyed the world of thought, of dreams and vision and searching for the one God who, he believed with an intense passion, was the true reality.

What his father, Amenhotep III, thought of all this, we don't know but with what at this remove seems a cruel irony, he married his son to Nafertiti whose portrait bust, now in Berlin, had led many to call the most beautiful woman who ever lived.

Amenhotep died c 1349 B.C. when Akhenaton was about 15 years-old. As Donald Redford tells us in **Akhenaton, The Heretic King**, for the next seven years, Nafertiti ruled Egypt. There were three daughters but there was doubt then, as now, if any of them were by Akhenaton.

Suddenly, as it seems now, for we don't know what happened, in 1342, Akhenaton took power in his own right and began a revolution. All of the old gods, belief in whom had been part of Egyptian life for 1500 years, were abolished. In their place there was to be only one God, Aton, whose symbol was the sun and whose sign was the "ankh," a word meaning, "life." The temples were closed and the priests divested of power. To symbolize the change, Akhenaton ordered a new capital to be built. It was called Akhetaton and was located 200 miles north of the old seat of government, Thebes. There, to his new city, long before it was finished, Pharaoh moved his court and family.

Amenhotep III had maintained and expanded the empire. Akhenaton wanted nothing to do with military adventures believing as the recovered clay tablets of his Foreign Office show, that his god required peace and harmony, not war. Thus, to the priests of the old gods who were in league against him, Pharaoh added the army.

Akhenaton paid little heed. He gloried in the worship of his god, wrote hymns to Him, one of which may have inspired the 104th Psalm, and fell in love with someone who, for the first time perhaps, in this Pharaoh's life, returned it.

He was a youth of maybe 16 or 17 years-old whose name was Smenkhkare. Most authorities agree that he was probably Amenhotep III's son and brother to Tutankhamn (King Tut) who he strongly resembled. No matter who he was, he was absolutely beautiful, one of the most lovely young men in history — at least, I think so — and as Redford says agreeing with other authorities, the evidence shows that between he and Akhenaton, "there was a

homosexual relationship."

Even today we can see the two lovers. A relief in Berlin shows the two naked with Akhenaton, his arm lovingly about Smenkhkare's shoulder, chucking him under the chin. The pleasure on the youth's handsome features is obvious. Another carving shows the two of them kissing on the lips and, in yet another, Smenkhkare pours Akhenaton's wine.

In as many ways as he could, Akhenaton showed his love. He appointed Smenkhkare his co-regent, a position once held by Nafertiti and gave him the formal title of "Beloved of Akhenaton." To further honor his love, Akhenaton bestowed on Smen-

Kings, found in 1922 by Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon would make this Pharaoh the wonder of the 20th Century.

In the meantime, the old religion was restored and every effort was made to blot out the memories of Akhenaton and his lover, Smenkhkare. These efforts were not successful.

Of all the evidence that remains to us, I think that the most touching piece was that discovered in 1906 when Smenkhkare's coffin was found. On its lid were these words addressed to his beloved Akhenaton.

"May I breath the sweet breath that Comes from thy mouth."



King Tutankhamn

khkare Nafertiti's reign name, "The Beautiful One is Come." Nafertiti herself was banished to a palace in the northern part of the city while Akhenaton married Smenkhkare in a ceremony before his god and his people.

Strange as it may seem today, the Egyptians seem not to have taken exception to Pharaoh's love for another man. However, the new religion and the failure to maintain the empire were another matter altogether. Perhaps, as some suggest, had Akhenaton and Smenkhkare returned to Thebes, observed the old religion and tended to the needs of the empire, what they were to each other would have been ignored. But they stayed in Akhenaton, loved each other and upheld their faith that the world was not ready for, and maybe, never would be.

In 1334 B.C., the storm that had been brewing for years, broke. From bits and pieces we can speculate as to what happened. The army led by a general named Haremheb and backed by the priests, gathered their forces, planning to kill the Pharaoh and his lover and place Tutankhamon on the throne. Smenkhkare seems to have realized what was happening and raced to Thebes to try, somehow, to stop it. He was too late. The plot was too far advanced. Akhenaton and Smenkhkare were murdered. Modern analysis indicated that while they were 200 miles apart, they died almost simultaneously.

In the aftermath, Tutankhamon became Pharaoh. His tomb in the Valley of the

May I see thy beauty daily.

Mayest thou call my name for eternity."

The Egyptians believed in life eternal and truly, such a love that could see beauty beneath Akhenaton's form must have been strong indeed, enough to bridge the gap however large or small between existence here and life hereafter. ▼

Chicago chorus performs March 26

"Milwaukee's Fest City Singers are proud to host the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus in a joint concert," according to Tim Kraetsch, General Manager of FCS. The shared program will be presented at the Lincoln School of the Arts, 820 East Knapp Street, Saturday, March 26.

Both groups will perform choral music individually and together and the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, noted for their sophisticated and witty speciality numbers, will also present high-lights of sketches and novelties from past concerts since this is their fifth anniversary year.

Chicago's 97-member Chorus, under the musical direction of Kip Snyder, has appeared in joint concert with the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles and the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Chorus, and Kip explained, "Our reason for our venture to Milwaukee is best expressed in 'We Are A Family,' one of the songs which we and the Fest City Singers will perform together. It expresses our wish to share a feeling of unity and pride with our sister city and chorus, with the gay community and the community at large."

Both choruses are members of GALA Choruses, (Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses), an alliance of 55 men's, women's, and mixed choruses in the United States and Canada. The Fest City Singers, now in their third year, were one of the earliest mixed choruses to join GALA.

"Staging this expanded concert will be our most ambitious project to date," according to Bim Florek, music director of the FCS, "and we welcome singers and those willing to work behind the scenes as stage hands, sound and light technicians, hairdressers, costumers, and makeup artists." Singers and nonsingers are invited to attend weekly rehearsals Wednesday evenings at 7 pm, at the War Memorial Center, 750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive.

The new phone number for the Fest City Singers is 263-SING. ▼

Madison's "Feminist Voice" goes monthly

Feminist Voices, a new womens publication centered in Madison, which made its debut in October, 1987, has announced that, beginning in January, 1988, it will be published on a monthly basis.

Christina L. Keely, the magazine's Calendar of Events Coordinator, told **Light** that **Feminist Voices** has as its aim the providing of news for and about women as well as being a forum for feminist viewpoints.

Feminist Voices is setting out to compile and disseminate information by and for women to unite our resources, create an outlet for the individual and a network for the women's community as a whole," Keely said. "We would like to develop an exchange and communicate with other women and women's organizations in the Community," Keely added.

Feminist Voices is interested in hearing from free-lance women writers. For those interested, the address is P.O. Box 853, Madison, WI 53701.

Wisconsin Light welcomes **Feminist Voices** to Wisconsin's growing company of alternative publications and urges everyone to subscribe to the new publication. ▼

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POLITICALLY SPEAKING

As elections near, state political campaigns heat up

By Bill Meunier

DANE COUNTY EXECUTIVE- It appears that most Gay activists who are involved are supporting Richard Phelps, formerly the head of the Wisconsin Public Defender's Office. The favorite to win is Rep. Joe Weinecke (D-Verona). Ed Durkin former Madison Fire Chief is the third major contender. All three are sympathetic to Gay/Lesbian concerns. Support for Phelps stems from his stand on other issues. Several Madison activists expressed disappointment that County Supervisor Dick Wagner didn't make the race.

MILWAUKEE MAYOR- Recent polls contain both good and bad news for followers of John Norquist. The bad news is that Schrieber has maintained a double digit lead over the State Senator from Milwaukee's South Side. The good news is once the primary is over Norquist and Schrieber will be only candidates left. This will allow Norquist to pick up support from the defeated candidates. The polls show that Norquist narrows the gap to just 11% in head to head competition. Nearly 30% of the voters are still undecided in a race between Schrieber and Norquist. Norquist would have to pick up over two-thirds of the undecideds to win. With Schrieber being so well known that may be possible. The theory is that those who have not yet decided have rejected Schrieber. Political history may be on Norquist's side. In the last two hotly contested Mayoral races the candidate who finished first in the primary came in second in the general election. In 1960 Henry Ruess was well ahead of Henry Maier in the Primary election. In 1980 Dennis Conta squeaked out a narrow win over Maier in the Primary. Both were of course beaten soundly in the April election.

Schrieber's comments at the Gay/Lesbian Mayoral forum so offended so many that he is unlikely to pick up any organized support from our community.



Donna Horowitz

Many plan to vote for Donna Horowitz in the primary and Norquist in the general election. According to one Lesbian "She (Horowitz) has the most sympathetic stands on our issues and the most innovative programs for the City of Milwaukee, but I know she won't come out of the primary alive so then I've got to support Norquist, but she holds my vote in the primary just on general principle."

The good news for Schrieber is that the polls show nearly 2/3rds think he is the candidate most likely to govern like Henry Maier, who gets a very high approval rating from the voters. Schrieber needs only to avoid major strategic and tactical mistakes to win.

DANE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS- It appears that there will be two Gay men and two Lesbians on the Dane County Board. Dick Wagner, Barbara Nichols and Tami Baldwin are all unopposed in their re-election bids. Earl Brickner, Tony Earl's Gay/Lesbian Liaison, is also on the ballot unopposed. There are forty-one supervisors.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE- Dave Schultz is in the lead but the race isn't over. It has been learned that incumbent Bill O'Donnell is planning to spend over \$250,000 on a television ad campaign. The interesting thing about this race is that most voters believe that O'Donnell has been doing a good job and would perform better than Schultz, yet Schultz leads by a wide margin because most voters also believe that he would be more innovative. If O'Donnell's ad campaign doesn't emphasize his creativity he's dead in the water. There hasn't been much

Gay/Lesbian involvement in the race as there has been in Milwaukee's Mayoral contest, but those who express a preference are for the most part rooting for Schultz. O'Donnell hurt himself with his firing of Schultz, and his bitter attacks on the former Park's Director when he announced his candidacy. Many wonder how O'Donnell could fire Schultz for endorsing John Norquist's mayoral bid and then County employees campaign for his re-election. As one Gay activist put it, "I guess its okay for County Employees to be involved politically so long as they are involved in Bill O'Donnell's re-election campaigns." Many others think that O'Donnell has done a good job of running County government and say that his door has always been open to our community. They say there's no reason to change to an unknown who even if he is sympathetic may not be competent to do the job. While O'Donnell has considerable support in the Gay/Lesbian community most are in the Schultz camp.

U.S. SENATE- There is a clear movement to Tony Earl in this race. A couple of months ago Jim Moody could have picked up substantial support in Milwaukee just by asking. A few Madison activists are backing Garvey and Gay Republicans are going for Susan Englelitter despite her vote for the Rawhide bill in the State Senate. Some Milwaukee activists are still not convinced that Earl should be the nominee, they don't think he can win in November, but Moody will have to do something to take advantage of the opening. **Wisconsin Light** has learned from a source close to Earl that before he announced his candidacy he received a phone call from Governor Thompson who urged him to run and promised not to get into the race himself.

U.S. CONGRESS- The seat being vacated by Jim Moody will be hotly contested. Most activists who've committed themselves are in the camp of Judge Fred Kessler. They feel that his close ties to many in the Gay/Lesbian community prove his sincerity. Matt Flynn and Charlie Dee have picked up a handful of supporters too. Mordicai Lee seems to be out in the cold at this point despite his past support of Gay/Lesbian issues. Said one activist "Mordicai is just not imaginative enough, Matt Flynn really wants to be a Senator but in his campaign for the Senate in 1986, I can't remember him mentioning Gay issues once. Charlie Dee has no chance to win, but Kessler has always made it clear where he stands on Gay issues."

QUOTE OF THE MONTH- "It's ironic that Thompson is so upset that Chrysler lied to him. What Chrysler did is rotten, but after all they only lied to a few dozen politicians, Tommy Thompson lied to the whole state to get himself elected." ▼

Reagan ignores AIDS

Continued from Page 2

they are classified as AIDS patients. This allows the CDC and Reagan to cover up the real death toll, and that in turn keeps the political heat off.

No matter what you may think of the American public and its attitudes towards Gays and Lesbians, surely you can't believe that the vast majority would not be outraged if they knew the truth. If they knew how they've been misled, how they've been lied to and how serious the problem is, the American people would be asking a lot of questions starting with how did the problem get out of hand so quickly and why hasn't the Federal Government followed the advice of its own experts and allocated more funds to deal with the problem? If the American people know the truth they might even demand that their Congressmen and Senators put more funds in the fight against AIDS. That of course might take money away from Reagan's precious defense budget.

There are economic reasons for the coverup as well. If the CDC expanded its definition of AIDS, tens of thousands of its victims could apply for financial help from an overburdened Social Security system. There goes another chunk of that Defense Department budget.

Furthermore, an expanded definition could spell real trouble for the insurance industry. In many states insurance regulations require that a policy continue to pay

expenses related to an illness contracted while the person was insured. In other words if you become ill with AIDS Related Complex and were forced to leave the protection of your group health plan at work you would still be covered for ARC, but you may not be covered with AIDS. By the way, did anyone notice any Insurance Industry group contributing to the Reagan campaign?

Inadequate or non-existent insurance coverage of course spells problems for local governments who wind up picking up the tab for the care of Persons With AIDS at their hospitals. This of course leads to higher local taxes, which in turn lead to tax revolts. Conservatives like Reagan love tax revolts the way a Communist loves oppression because they lead to more converts for their cause.

And where has the vaunted American media been? With rare exceptions it has been silent. Even when confronted with the massive amount of evidence contained in Randy Shilt's book, **And the Band Played On**, the press has chosen to focus attention on the so-called Patient Zero and the stupidity of Gay/Lesbian leaders who opposed Bathroom closings. Did it ever occur to the press that if our leaders had known the truth they might have reacted differently?

As one Gay former Republican put it "After reading Shilt's book, I must say I have never been so ashamed of my party. I felt totally betrayed. We have to start talking to people to anyone who will listen and make sure that the truth gets out."

As one Person With AIDS put it, "It's clear that many of us have this disease because Reagan wouldn't spend a few million to warn us. If we are going to die at least let's die on our feet cursing Reagan, Bush and the rest of them with our last breaths."

And as I say Amen to that. ▼

Madison TV schedule

Madison's Gay cable TV program, which airs weekly on Wednesdays at 9:30 p.m. on cable channel 4 announces the following schedule for March:

March 2: Black and White Men Together National conference ('87), Milwaukee; Part 3, Professor Tom Kochman, University of Illinois, Circle Campus.

9: Politics: The Atomic Comics, Part 2, "A Men's Show".

16: Training the artist for the 21st Century: UW-Oshkosh, Part 2 "Finding a context for the New Technology".

23: Chicago's Lionheart Gay Theatre production of "A Night of Dykes who Date" and the "Crusaders".

30: Women's Show: "Wendy Ho, Elaine Kim and Maxine Hong Kingston, Asian Pacific American Women's Film Conference ('87), UW-Madison, Part 3. ▼



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Remind him of your opposition to the "Rawhide Amendment." Thank him for his previous leadership on civil rights issues. Ask for his stance on the "Rawhide Amendment" and urge his opposition.

B. Your State Senator and Assemblyperson.
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Madison, WI 53707-7882

Assemblyperson
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RELIGIOUS OUTREACH

Biblical readings often taken out of context, misunderstood

By David Callentine
ROMANS 1:26-27

"For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. Their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural, and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in their own person the due penalty for their error."

This verse is a favorite of those who like to condemn homosexuals. Anita Bryant was continually quoting this one in her crusade several years ago. What is really being said in these two verses? I want to ask three questions?

1. Why did God give these people up to such behavior?
2. What does NATURAL mean?
3. Are these statements Paul's or God's words to Paul?

Probably the greatest error made by the condemners of homosexuals with these two verses is that they are taking them out of context! Let's drop back and look at the verses that proceed these two. Read Romans 1:18-25. What do these verses say about the people that God is abandoning?

Verse 21: 1). They knew God, but did not glorify God. 2). They were not thankful. 3). Vain imaginations for thought processes. 4). Foolish, darkened hearts.

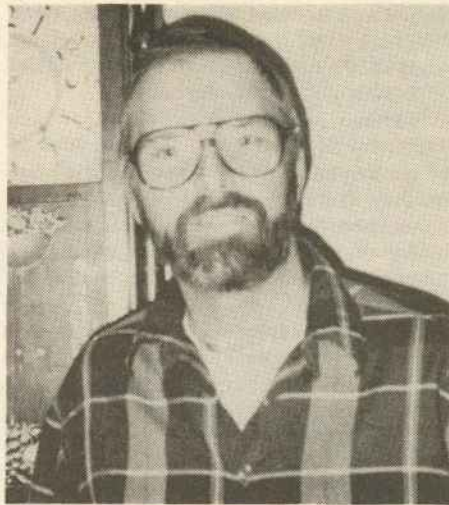
Verse 22: 5). Professed themselves to be wise. 6). Became fools. 7). Worshipped idols of man-made birds, beasts, and creepies.

Verse 25: 8). Change the truth of God into a lie. 9). Worshipped creatures instead of God.

Verse 26: 10). Did not like a knowledge of God in their minds.

Are these the reasons some people are homosexuals? Does such behavior describe you as a Christian? I certainly hope not! It certainly does not describe me!

In the two critical verses Paul makes the statement that they gave up natural behavior for unnatural. What is natural for whom? It is unnatural for a heterosexual to have sex with someone of their same gender. It is not unnatural for a homosexual. I could justifiably say that for ten years I gave up what is natural for me, homosexuality, while I was in a straight



David Callentine

marriage. It is my view, and the view of many that naturalness is relative to the individual.

In some of the other letters of Paul, he uses the term natural for practices that have nothing to do with nature, but tradition. His comments of hair length and dress for men and women is such a case, I Corinthians 11:2-16. Does Paul really mean natural here or traditional?

The third question is a matter of your own personal faith. Is every word in the Bible as written and translated the inerrant inspired Word of God? There are many instances where Paul states that some of the things he is writing are his own personal opinions, while others where give to him by God. I Corinthians 7:12. Are Paul's opinions God given or God inspired? Are the traditions of the early Church valid for us today?

I want to close this discussion with a look at what follows these two, supposedly condemning verses. Read Romans 2:1-29. I'll not list it here, but in summary it is saying that those who judge and condemn others are no better than those they are judging and condemning. They will receive an even greater punishment than those they have condemned. I guess you might say, "God will get them for that." When someone starts condemning you with Romans 1:26-27 take out your Bible and read the entire text of Romans 1:16-3:29 with them. You really need to read the whole letter of Paul to the Romans. ▽

The many faces of AIDS: A Gospel response

By Fr. James Arimond

After preaching a Homily in church 20 people can come up to me and offer their thanks and compliments but if just one person offers a criticism, guess which one I'll remember? You got it! A positive self-image is a fragile thing at best.

There were many very positive statements that came out of the Catholic Bishop's Pastoral letter: "The many faces of AIDS: A Gospel Response." Unfortunately we only seem to remember the negative comments of one man, Cardinal John O'Connor. That's a shame! "IDENTITY", the news letter for Integrity/Dignity of Madison recently reminded me of this reality and I think it is worth sharing with those of you who haven't read it.

The author points out some significant positive points in the Bishop's reflections: They are...

- "AIDS is a human illness to which we must respond in a manner consistent with the best medical and scientific information available as we have done with all other human illnesses."

- "As members of the church and society, we have a responsibility to stand in solidarity with and reach out with compassion and understanding to those exposed to or experiencing the disease. We must provide spiritual and pastoral care as well as medical and social services for them and support for their families and friends."

- "As members of the church, we must offer a clear presentation of our moral teaching with respect to human intimacy and sexuality."

- "Discrimination or violence directed against persons with AIDS is unjust and immoral!"

- "As a society, we must develop education and other programs to prevent the spread of the disease. Such programs

should include an authentic understanding of human intimacy and sexuality as well as an understanding of the pluralism of values and attitudes in our society."

- "Those who have been exposed to the virus are expected to live in a way that does not bring injury or harm to others."

- "Those who are Gay or Lesbian or suffering from AIDS should not be the objects of discrimination, injustice or violence. All of God's sons and daughters, all members of our society, are entitled to the recognition of their full human dignity."

The Bishops also oppose quarantining of infected persons, the exclusion of persons from health insurance coverage, and the use of the anti-body test for discriminatory purposes. They call upon all health care workers to minister to those with AIDS and propose private and public programs to meet the crisis.

The bishop's presentation of traditional teaching on sex is sensitive and positive. Most welcome is their respect for those who may not agree with them, as evidenced by their acknowledgement that "safe sex" methods need to be included in educational programs.

The bishops end with a call for Christians to love "without distinction, without limit."

It's easy to give in to the "negatives" in life! (God knows Gay and Lesbian people have been persecuted from Kindergarten on... so they may well have a right to be "gun shy"!) But when there is some Good News out there it should be shouted from the house tops. Thank you Integrity/Dignity of Madison for reminding us.

Remember, if there are any questions you'd like me to deal with, please feel free to ask. There's no such thing as a stupid question! ▽

—Fr. James

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Texas' South Padre Island is winter paradise

I hate winter! I mean I abhor it. I detest it. I am sick utterly and totally to death of getting wrapped up like a mummy every-time I go out and slogging through the snow, slush and gunk and to anyone who tells me it's pretty, I wish, not so silently at times, that they end their Mary Poppins-like existence buried under tons of the white stuff. Do I have cabin fever? You bet! Do I need a week or two of sun (remember what that is?), surf, warm beaches and soft air wafting over my body (poor thing that it is)? Do I NEED to see real, live, handsome young bodies with little more on them than God made, their flesh the color of fine copper with muscles that would be the pride of any Greek divinity? Yo bet right again!

The problem is, where to go? Florida and California could sail off together for all I care. They deserve each other. But there is one place I discovered a couple of years ago (A love had recently died spiritually and I was seeking better climes), that I heartily recommend as the best thing this side of the South of France. That is the Gulf Coast of Texas and in particular, South Padre Island.

So, I know, honey, you've never heard of the place, but heavens to schmirkase, get up your whatever and try something new! First of all, there are miles and simply miles of WARM white sandy beaches looking out on water more blue than anything this side of a stained glass window. February and March are Spring Break time at the various colleges and universities and all those delightful young supple, lithe bodies are around to be seen and seen and seen and seen. There's even a Gay beach that I can highly recommend and for those far more courageous than I, a nude beach where one can let the atmosphere carry one away and think long, hard thoughts.



I remember how friendly everyone seemed to be and I remember a night after a moon light cruise on a quaint little boat on the Laguna Madre that separates South Padre from the mainland. Oh, God! I wanted to die and be reincarnated as his bicycle seat. You know the kind?

I admit to a fondness for dark, Latino men, a feeling which, like the peace of God, passes all understanding. Their deep eyes are like a tropical forest full of stars. Anyway, there I was on South Padre, only minutes away from the Mexican border and the town of Matamoros. I could tell you about the wonderful mercado or market and the whole south-of-the-Rio Grande atmosphere that always excites me — and it's all there — but there were ALL those Mexican men wearing their teeny-tiny little bits of clothes and... Should I say anything about the bars? I guess not. Why reveal my secrets?

If you're into seafood (and I don't mean U.S. Navy issue), South Padre's restaurants have the best anywhere. The stuff is so fresh as to be almost virginal and shrimp? \$!?! Nearby Port Isabel is the shrimp capital of the world.

I guess I should mention the splendid deep-sea fishing which they say can be

had. I couldn't say. If I'm going to bounce around on the deck of a boat, it won't be because of a fish of some sort on my line. Also, they tell me that there's a marvelous zoo in nearby Brownsville. I guess, I don't know. There was too much else to do to see it, like sleeping late, getting a tan, watching men, swimming, watching men. You get the idea.

Where to stay? Okay, you can do one of the big hotels or motels if you want but I like to stay Gay. For that, go to a place called Lyle's Deck. The place is simply very nice with a comfortable, friendly, beach-like atmosphere and where you can get all the information you need to know on how to have a good time whatever your definition of that may be. There's a cocktail hour every afternoon where you can meet? ? ? Don't be a skeptic. I did.

So go if you can. Let those who like Winter and snow wallow in it. They'll freeze their gutchies off while you'll spend the time deciding if you want a suntan line or not and who you'll date for din-din.

Enjoy!

Hate Crime Bill threatened

Continued from Page 1

didn't think it was good to create ethnic divisions within the law.

In response Nancy Weisenberg an attorney who is currently the Assistant Director of the Milwaukee Jewish Council told **Wisconsin Light** that Adelman's attitude was not surprising. Ms. Weisenberg is one of the major proponents of the bill.

Weisenberg said that there already are ethnic divisions in the law. "There are many examples of laws which protect minorities from discrimination. The protected groups listed in the Hate Crimes Bill are taken from existing Wisconsin law."

She also said that the main purpose of the law was to set public policy and act as a source of education. "We need to tell our judges that the people of Wisconsin want stiffer penalties leveled against those who commit a crime because of their bigotry." As an example of such public policy, Weisenberg cited current law which levies tougher punishments for sexual assaulting a child under 12 or for assaulting an elderly person.

On the issue of proving intent, Weisenberg who has legal experience in criminal law as a defense attorney said, "The issue of whether or not you can prove intent is up to prosecutorial discretion. It's hard to prove intent in dozens of situations. That's why we have staffs of attorneys, investigators and police on the public payroll. If it's impossible to prove bigotry as a motive than it shouldn't be charged as such. This is not a dragnet law. It is only to be used (and I underline the word only) in highly specific situations."

Although **Wisconsin Light** was told that some of the bill's opponents are concerned that it might conflict with the right of free speech, Weisenberg said this should not be a concern. "We are not talking about speech here, we are talking about behavior that is already criminal under current law."

Weisenberg added "The Hanaway amendment about offensive products has been dropped. The Attorney General's remaining amendments would allow his office to prosecute crimes when bigotry is a motive and the local District Attorney refuses to prosecute and would give his office the authority to seek an injunction when someone in a protected class is being harassed out of bigotry."

It is not known if an effort to dislodge the bill from Adelman's committee will be made. It is also not known whether or not the bill will be reintroduced if it is not passed in this session.

Weisenberg is urging the bill's supporters to call the legislative hotline and request that its staff pass a message onto Senator Adelman "Tell him to let his Committee vote on this bill." The hotline's number is 1-800-362-9696. ♡

"I've Heard the Mermaids Singing" songs only artists hear

By Glenn Nixon

"I've Heard the Mermaids Singing", a Canadian film which is due to open in Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre on February 14, is probably one of the prettiest little Valentines to come along in a long time. No. I take that back. "Pretty" is not the word. "Whimsical," "sad," "funny," all of these will far better describe it.

Staring Toronto-born actress, Sheila McCarthy as Polly, the movie deals with all of us, any one of us, who have ever had dreams, fantasies, if you will, of a life lived somewhere in a perpetual childhood glow above the muck and slush of what most people slog through most, if not all of the time.

Those dreams, we secretly know, are the art in our lives, our self-expression at its purest, never to see the light of day

She meets Gabriele (Paule Baillargeon), a worldly sophisticate, art critic, "a person who talks to people who write books." Polly is instantly overwhelmed, overawed and in love.

Gabrielle is fascinated by this totally disorganized, utterly chaotic creature as such types often are and gives her a job in the slick art museum of which Gabrielle is the curator. But Gabrielle is not what she seems. She is a somewhat pathetic person who, surrounded by what has been called art, longs to stop collecting it and create it.

One night alcohol washes away Gabrielle's urbane mask, really a body cast, and she confesses to Polly that though she has tried to paint, even taken classes, she cannot get beyond the recognition of genius. Polly, with the response of the true artist, says, "but if you get a kick out of it,



Polly (Sheila McCarthy) imagines she can fly in *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*.

because we cannot suffer the cold rejection of others as they deride what is so intimately ourselves.

Polly is a weird, quirky, free spirited little person who takes photographs for the simple and only reason that she likes to and because, as she sees them finally developed, they are bits of life from which she can, with the imagination of a child, take off in the reaches of her mind and soar above tall buildings and hear the liting songs of mermaids that only poets know.

She does not fit in the world. Who of her kind ever does? Jobs come and go. She cannot cope and doesn't want to. She has no common sense. She is, as one business type calls her, "organizationally impaired." Yet, while others collapse before life and work in banks or such places, Polly is happy, taking her pictures and living a half-life fully.

what does it matter?"

Polly steals one of Gabriele's paintings and takes it to the gallery where a critic sees it and writes a rave review. Gabrielle is instantly famous and happy that the critic has made her an artist. Polly then tries the same thing with her own photos, sending them under a pseudonym to the gallery only to have Gabrielle dismiss them as "trite made flesh." Devastated, Polly burns the remaining photos and destroys her camera.

Later, Polly discovers that Gabriele's feted painting are really the work of her lover, Mary Joseph. Feeling terribly betrayed but liberated, Polly resumes her life and her art which is the same thing. She has learned what every artist must, to hear the mermaids singing and to express that song, you must be the heroine of your own life. ♡



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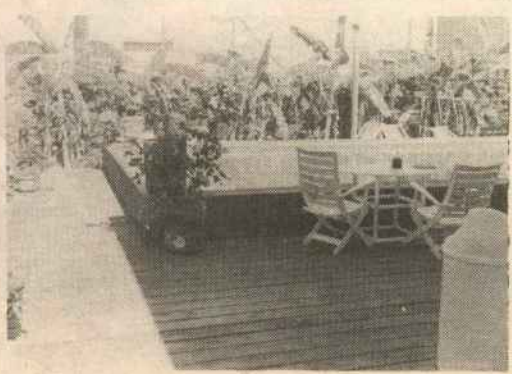
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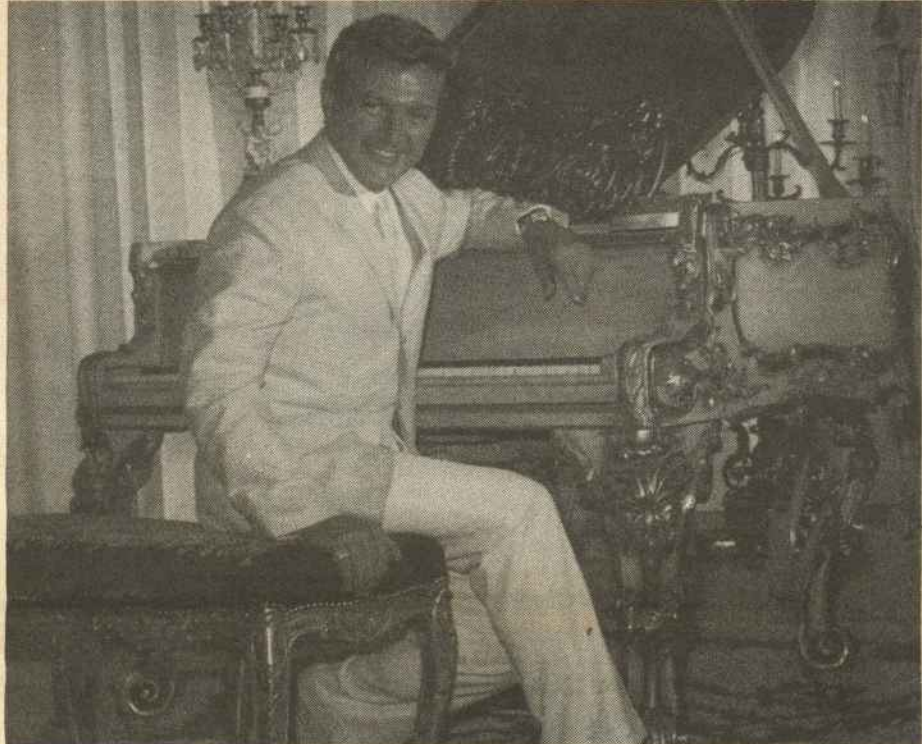
Wisconsin Liberace led colorful life

Liberace.
By Bob Thomas.
St. Martin's Press, Hardcover
284 pp., \$18.95

By Jeff Kirsch

In *Liberace*, the glitter king only comes slightly more out of the closet than he did in life.

This biography of Wladziu Valentino Liberace of West Allis, Wisconsin, invites comparison with those of Roy Harold Scherer, aka Rock Hudson, of Winnetka, Illinois. Not only were both midwestern boys of the same generation (Liberace was born in 1919, Hudson in 1925), but both hit the heights of their stardom in the 1950s, remained highly closeted and guarded by a circle of friends and died of AIDS within 16 months of each other. Biographies of both begin within melodramatic scenes foreshadowing the performers' death, before flashing back decades to tell their rags-to-riches tales.



Wisconsin native and grand master of showmanship, Liberace sits at one of the Grand Pianos that he used in his performances, along with his trademark candelabra.

The similarities pretty much end here. Although inside circles knew both to be Gay, Hudson could pull the wool over America's eyes rather better than the pianist once known as "Walter Busterskeys." Although both tried to keep their AIDS diagnoses a secret, Liberace excelled here, though posthumous headlines revealed what he'd hidden in life. Hudson had an authorized biography, which meant that a coterie of Gay friends revealed selected tidbits of Rock's Gay life to the biographer; Liberace did not.

The question of how much to reveal of a closeted Gay star's life remains a problematical one, which has largely to do with privacy vs. the public's "right to know." But readers of Gay biographies unquestionably have a right to expect the topic to be treated intelligently and with sensitivity, whether or not the biography is a whitewash or drags out the sleaze. Straight biographers of Gay subjects have made a little progress in the sensitivity sphere, less perhaps in the intelligence realm.

That Liberace's biography is better than the tasteless, ghoulish ones of Rock Hudson says little. The tackiness of the Hudson biographies, especially the authorized one, emanated from what they revealed and how they revealed it. Liberace's is less offensive, in part because it reveals so much less. No seamy stories here of outings, like Hudson's, to San Francisco glory hole clubs, or tales, like Errol Flynn's, of attempting to play "You Are My Sunshine" on the piano with his penis.

Liberace may well be on more interest to Wisconsinites than to others. Liberace's father, a musician born near Naples, sought a better life in America and traveled to wherever he could find work. His performing led him to a stint with a band in Menasha, Wisconsin, where he met Frances Zuchowski, whose parents had come from a Polish town near the Russian border and settled on a farm between Menasha and Neenah.

They married and moved to Philadelphia, but Frances grumbled about the big

city and missed Wisconsin. She convinced her husband Salvatore that he could find work in Milwaukee and they settled in West Allis, where Liberace was born at 1649 60th Street, the survivor of twins. After Liberace's parents divorced, Salvatore moved with his new wife to Middleton and played in the Madison Symphony Orchestra.

We might not expect the biographer of Fred Astaire and Abbott and Costello to be the ideal one for a gay subject, and indeed Bob Thomas isn't. Liberace's loss of virginity (in a car, with a "trollop," at age 15, on the way back from a roadhouse performance) was recounted numerous times by Liberace, and, it seems, just as many by his biographer. Are we really to believe, as Thomas tells us, that in his mid-30s, "Liberace was confused about his sexuality"? The "explanation": "His introduction to sex with a wanton blues singer had obliterated any boyish notions he had had about romance. Alone in big cities, he had found himself drawn to

overnight relations with other men." At least, Thomas doesn't pull out the dominant mother-submissive father theory. Then again, that might be only because he doesn't know about it.

In 1959, Liberace won a successful suit against a London tabloid which had dared to make an innuendo, titling a review of his performance, "Why Liberace's Theme Song Should be 'Mad About the Boy.'" It was not the first nor the last time he publicly denied his homosexuality. (Lying under oath, he won the suit by the way.) By the early '70s and the advent of Gay liberation, he embarrassed his Gay friends by adamantly repeating his heterosexual pronouncements. By the '80s, he was mellow enough to state he was for any kind of "liberation," even Gay. But not a word about himself. Soon after he suffered through a much publicized palimony suit and won in court, though in the aftermath of suits and countersuits, finally offered a small sum to the young man who had clearly become a nuisance.

For a book put together so quickly, this one is well written and edited, though it skims the surface of the man rather than illuminating what lay behind his many masks. Its only glaring fault is its chronology, mildly jumbled throughout and, by the end, simply forgotten. After a smattering of information about AIDS, which illuminates only the most ignorant, Thomas lurches into the "deathwatch scenes." Although we're told that Liberace died at 11:02 a.m., the date of his early 1987 death is to be found nowhere in the book.

Chances are, there won't be a public outcry for another Liberace biography soon. Most of his fans probably want to hear little about homosexuality and AIDS (though here they do hear little enough). If it hadn't been for a report of his true affliction by the *Las Vegas Sun* and a diligent Riverside County, California coroner who doubted the reported cause of death, we might not even be reading about homosexuality or AIDS in the current biography. ▼

Sex trade workers want equal feminist treatment

Good Girls/Bad Girls: Feminists and Sex Trade Workers Face to Face
Laurie Bell, ed.
Toronto: Ontario Public Interest Research Group; and Seattle: The Seal Press.
187. 250 pgs., \$9.95

By Kate Hibbard

"The line (in the Minneapolis pornography ordinance) that worried me tremendously was, 'Pornography presents women as whores by nature.' Well, what's wrong with that? I'm a bad girl. I like being a bad girl. I like my whore status. I have control and power over men... And I think men are afraid of the sexual superiority of women." — p. 128, Margo St. James, prostitute and sex trade workers' rights activist.

Few issues have polarized the feminist community as severely as the debate between anti-pornography and anti-censorship forces. Yet one voice has not been consistently heard in this dialogue: that of the sex trade worker. *Good Girls/Bad Girls*, a sampling of papers and panels from a 1985 Toronto conference on images of pornography and prostitution, is an important step in rectifying that imbalance.

The conference organizers sought to examine the issues from a Canadian perspective, a focus evident in numerous references to Canadian federal legislation on pornography and prostitution. But this work has a large resonance for non-Canadian readers as well: it sheds some welcome light on the "good girl/bad girl" dichotomy at the heart of much feminist scholarship on sexuality. In the process, this book forces us to question the definition of feminism itself.

While women of color, Lesbians and Jewish women have succeeded to some extent in challenging the monolith of white middle-class feminism as an identity that fits all women, the sex trade workers in *Good Girls/Bad Girls* argue that the definition of feminism must stretch still further to include both good girls and bad girls; they refuse to conform to a good girl image to be considered feminist. Sex trade workers want "their experience of work and sexuality to be integrated into the feminist vision," (p. 18).

In the first part of the book, feminists explore the roots of the censorship/pornography debate among feminists; the abuse and exploitation of women in the pornography and prostitution industries; feminist impact on Canadian pornography and prostitution law; and racism and pornography.

Particularly good in this section is

Marianna Valverde's essay, where she skewers Andrea Dworkin and Catharine MacKinnon (drafters of the Minneapolis ordinance defining pornography as sex discrimination) for their conservative views on sexuality. According to Valverde, it is an over-simplification to claim sexuality as the site of women's oppression: "(MacKinnon) speaks about sexuality as though it were something that only men do to women, as though it were a uniformly negative and wholly dangerous area for women (pp. 30-31)."

Valverde instead sees sexuality not only as a site of oppression, but also an area for developing "positive and liberating desires, feelings and ideas." She suggests examining the sexual agendas underlying the feminist pornography and prostitution debate, keeping sight of positive sexual freedoms while maintaining the struggle for "negative" freedoms, i.e., freedom from male abuse.

In part 2, the self-proclaimed bad girls — prostitutes and strippers — speak. Most of the women in this section are sex trade workers' rights activists, while some are also trying to promote dialogue between feminist organizations and prostitutes. The women address feminist criticism of their work, decry the impact of state intervention on their lives, and "defend, even celebrate, their bad girl identity (p. 79)." Although Bell cites this last as the most controversial claim arising at the conference, not enough of this viewpoint emerges in these selections. A preponderance of essays on legal issues seem to skirt the bad girl image. Nevertheless, these women make important points on how women are oppressed by the criminalization of prostitution, the economics of licensing, and the insensitivity of feminists to prostitutes' organizing.

Notable in this section is Joan Nestle's essay on the historical sisterhood of lesbians and prostitutes. Nestle, a co-founder of the Lesbian Herstory Archives in New York City, draws connections between these two "outsider" groups who strive for power and autonomy in seemingly powerless social interactions. She draws on her own experience as a bar dyke in the late fifties and early sixties, where prostitutes, or "working women," as Nestle prefers, were part of Lesbian life. "We sat on bar stools next to each other, we partied together, and we made love together. The vice squad policed our world, and we knew that whore or queer made little difference when a raid was on," (p. 132).

Nestle poses provocative questions to feminist historians who have ignored the

TURN TO GIRLS, PAGE 12

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

A BOY OF SUMMER One night with you

By Morgan Summer

I HAVE BEEN reading many books about the history and culture of Gay people — especially Gay youth, where I can find it — lately. It makes me feel good, knowing that most Gays like myself had a good, long life in the past and have made incredible contributions to the world's history and advancement. It doesn't make me feel good knowing too many people are ignorant of their contributions for the sole reason that they were attracted to members of their own sex.

And every so often, I hear attacks against Gay people by church groups and rednecks and politicians. In the news every day there are more Gays dying of AIDS and violence against us, while the government sits by and ponders if they should tell Ronnie "Sweetcakes" Reagan that he forgot to put his pants on this morning... and when thoughts like these start to get to me, I think of Todd.

Not exactly taking to the streets with a burning flag in one hand and a sword in the other, I know. But I try to be non-violent and Todd brings out my gentlest side.

When I first transferred schools in early November of last year, I found myself looking quite often at a boy in my pre-first hour homeroom. So I used that slick yet clever line, "Hey, what's your name?", as I slid into a seat across from him. He said it was Todd, and he was a freshman. He was new to the high school, too, having transferred from another city school in order to participate in a special program the school offered. We got to talking and from then on we'd sit near to each other in the 15 minute homeroom, talking about different subjects, mostly involving school.

Funny thing — the rest of the students in the homeroom never really paid any attention to Todd. So, humanitarian that I am, I took over the task of socializing with him. Believe me, I didn't complain — he was good-looking, with brown feathered hair and caramel brown eyes and a very succulent body, just cute, cute, cute.

Then one day about a week later the homeroom supervisor called me up to his desk and told me I'd be sharing my locker (I had had it all to myself before then) with another student.

Who, I asked.
"That other new kid, Todd."
"Really..."

So that was good news. He moved in that day, taking the lower shelf in the locker since he was shorter than I and putting his jacket and such on the right side of the locker.

Things really got going after that. We'd talk in homeroom and before and after school, and joke around a lot. I'd try to look into his beautiful eyes as often as I could.

One day I asked him if he had a girlfriend.

"No, but there's some people here that I like. I had one once, and it was..."

"Yeah, how would you describe it?" I asked.

He looked down at the floor, sort of smiling, trying to find a word. He did: "interesting."
"Really..."

Another time, I asked him if there was anyone in this school that he liked.

"Yeah, but they all have boyfriends."
Interesting. Then he asked me if there was anyone in this school that I liked.

I looked right into his eyes and said, "Yeah, there sure is." He nodded.

Then a couple of days later he asked where I was going to college. I said that I had sent applications to several state colleges, but I hadn't been accepted anywhere yet. He said, looking at me, "Well, as long as they have what you like."

Chicago picks up "A Boy of Summer"

WISCONSIN LIGHT is proud to announce that Morgan Summer's column, "A Boy of Summer" which began appearing in the last issue of *Light* will be running regularly in *Gay Chicago Magazine*.

Mr. Summer thus becomes the second syndicated columnist writing for *Light*.

We here at *Light* congratulate him and wish him well.



Morgan Summer

I said, "Well, there are a few things here that I like." (I know, I know, but remember I'm a deeply closeted Gay teenager.) I looked at him.

Then he said the damnest thing: "I can understand that." I let it go at that.

On the last day of school before Christmas vacation, I ran down to a store near the school and got Todd a large pack of Big Red gum, the kind I knew he liked.

After my last hour class, I went to our locker and Todd was there, decorating the inside with red and silver rope tinsel. Both his side and my side.

I gave him the gum, and he was sort of speechless. He said, earnestly, "If I can get you anything—" he stressed that word—"—after Christmas—"

I felt like dropping down to my knees right there in the hallway, but instead (sigh) I said, "You've done more for me than you know... just have a merry Christmas."

He wished me the same, thanked me again. And I didn't see him again for two weeks, when school started again. Two long weeks.

Since then we've grown pretty strong as friends, I think. I would love to tell him that I really want to be his boyfriend, but I don't dare... at least, not yet, anyway.

But, still... a few weeks ago in homeroom I asked him what he thought of homosexuals. He said, after looking shyly down at the floor, "I don't see anything wrong with it — they're just normal people to me. Freedom of choice," he finished, shrugging his shoulders, smiling.
God.

Now, don't get me wrong, there are other guys in my other classes that I like to look at. But Todd is special to me. And, man, it's tough having him share my locker, being so close to him for five days of the week.

Todd had other friends in school, most freshmen, I think. At lunch (we have the same lunch hour, by the way) he sits at a table teeming with other guys he knows. And before school, he walks around the halls with one or two other guys.

But of course, the eternal question: Yeah, but is he Gay?

I don't know, can't tell. And I'm not in a situation where I can hope he'll show up at a bar one night so I'll know right away. No way I can know for sure, not now.

You should understand that Todd is kinder and friendlier than I could ever describe in words. To get a true feeling of him, you would have to sit across from him, as I do, and talk and laugh with him, and look into his gorgeous eyes, like I do. And I guarantee you, you would be smiling in no time at all.

When I think of Todd, I don't automatically and duly think of plastic and rubber and latex and spermicides and diseases and bodily fluids. No, with Todd, it's... Christ, is it love?... if so, it's a real natural love. Nothing artificial about it.

I guess when I say love, and I'm talking about Todd... I mean something like a cube of fine sugar, which has been crushed into honey and diluted with reality. It's there, yes. But is it the same? Or rather, can it be the same?

Well, this much I know: I would like to share a cold pizza and cold drinks with Todd on a hot midsummer's night; with you, Todd, looking into your beautiful eyes. And I would like for us to walk slowly down the night sidewalks, the smell of bar-b-ques and freshly cut grass hanging in the air, watching kids go by on dirtbikes, and looking up at the stars, and hearing that special brand of summer laughter. With you, Todd; I wish I could have just one night with you.

Happy Valentine's Day, Todd.
I love you, man.

Jackson lambasts Dems for not being at march

Des Moines, Iowa- Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson once again took the stand to criticize the other Democratic presidential candidates for not being at the October 11 National March on Washington last week while campaigning in Iowa. "They had a chance to project a quality of leadership — that they cared — and they missed the opportunity," he said of his venture out into the crowd of 2,000 PWAs and his pledges to them. "They made a political judgement — that to be there with Lesbians and AIDS victims might do damage to their image. I'm saying we must choose moral substance over the mass media image to be effective leaders." Jackson who addressed the throng of 600,000+ at the march charged that when he spoke with the PWAs "there was no competition for the microphone." He stated that the other candidates "didn't want to get close to 'AIDS people' because it might not look presidential. They were running scared from right-wing preachers." Like Pat Robertson maybe?

Jet's Place sponsors MAP benefit

It all began as a bet, you see. You know how it is?

Bobby was night bartending at Milwaukee's Jet's Place bar — as usual. The place wasn't that busy — some evenings there are lulls when everyone's talking to whoever or sunk deep in their own thoughts — it's that kind of place. Anyway, so Bobby had some time on his hands and started talking with a friend. Now, Bobby knew this guy pretty well but when the guy mentioned he did drag shows, Bobby couldn't believe it. Well, one thing led to another — you know how it is? — and Bobby bet his friend that he wouldn't do a show at Jet's Place and Evlynn, the friends's stage name, took him up on it. They'd do it as a benefit for MAP.

You know how it is? The most fun times are those without too much planning in advance. Well, anyhow, Jet, the owner, gave her "100% consent" and Evlynn got hold of her partner, Mark Leister, aka

Gay ads appear in Washington Post

Alexandria, Va.- Seeking to teach the truth and counter the myths about Gay people in the community at large, the Alexandria Gay Community Association (AGCA) announced last week that they have placed bold quarter page ads in *The Washington Post*, urging acceptance and understanding of gay people. "People Helping Instead of Hating" is the theme of the adventurous campaign. "We believe our ads encourage people to examine their prejudices, discard attitudes based on ignorance, and began treating Gay men and Lesbians with the same respect they extend to other minority group members," stated Jay Clark, AGCA president. The first ad addresses the issue of gay youth and asks the question, "Are you abusing your child without knowing it?" Future ads will address the issues of laws criminalizing love between same sex persons and anti-Gay discrimination. They are seeking contributions to help further this campaign and to help other groups launch similar campaigns. Their address is AGCA, P.O. Box 19401, Alexandria, VA 22320.

Jungle Red and then they corralled Chris Klein to M.C. it all and Jeff LaBony to handle the lights and they were all set.

The night of the affair (January 19) was snowy and the roads weren't all that good and there hadn't been too much publicity — you know how it is? — but the crowd, though small, was enthusiastic and Chris belted back a few — you know how it is? — and did a smashing job as toastmaster while Evlynn and Junge Red went through their lip-sync numbers like true professionals — which they are. Meanwhile, Jet herself, just stood, taking it all in and smiling, having a good time and glad, as she said, to make her bar available for such a good purpose.

In the end, they collected \$50.00 for MAP. Hey! Not the greatest sum every collected but these people went above and beyond, as they say, to do it.

You know how it is?



Mark Leister, Evlynn and M.C. Chris Klein at Jet's Place.

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MEDICALLY SPEAKING

AIDS presents ultimate challenge for all of us

By Roger Gremminger, MD

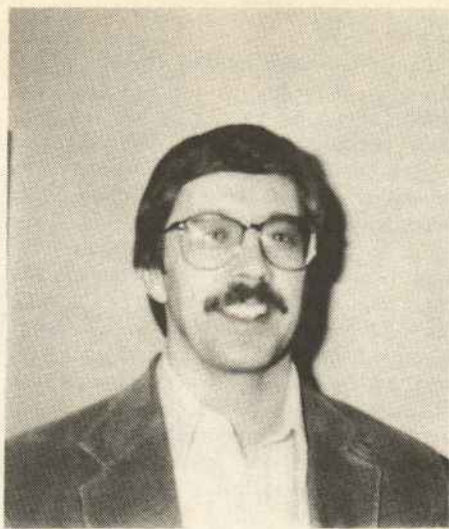
One thing that I wish to do for you in this column is to share my readings and reflections. But by no means do I wish to be considered an expert. As perhaps with no other disease, there are no experts on AIDS in the entire world. An expert is a person who knows everything about a subject. And truly there is no one who knows everything about every facet of this disease. We all know something. Some more, some less; most with contamination of bias, incorrect thinking and prejudice. Some know much in restricted areas of this disease and the problems associated with it. Thus the only important thing is knowledge — correct, uncontaminated knowledge and the dissemination of that knowledge.

Just in an upfront way, I wish to share with you my sources of knowledge and my limitations of knowledge. Besides the newspapers and magazines accessible to all — I confess I no longer read any of the National Gay Press — my readings are mainly from professional sources. My mainstays have been the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM), the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report published by the Centers for Disease Control, Science Magazine published by the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, and the Annals of Internal Medicine. My interest now and over the years has been the epidemiology or study of the spread of this disease and its prevention. I have not participated in the direct medical care of AIDS patients. I have observed my own psychological reactions to AIDS and participated in the lives of many others who have shared with me their psychological reactions. The first AIDS patient I got to know well was the second AIDS patient diagnosed in Milwaukee in January 1983. He was not from our community but I learned from him and I shall never forget him.

As a professional, at many times, I have felt that I am very inadequate for the challenge of AIDS — not enough formal training in areas I see now as valuable, not enough time, and sometimes not enough energy.

But this has been curiously a strength. For I realize that we are all in this together and must struggle to learn and to live and to love together. I, as an individual, am not important, but our human condition — anxiety, fear, death, love, compassion, strength, and freedom — is important and our willingness to change and to grow.

There are two significant readings that I wish to share briefly with you — one is from the Nov. 19, 1987 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) about five years of experience of AIDS in New York City and the second is about the



Roger Gremminger, MD

book by Elizabeth Kubler-Rose, *AIDS The Ultimate Challenge*. Both concern death.

We have been taught that the diagnosis of AIDS is a death sentence. (A positive HIV antibody test is not a diagnosis of AIDS and carries a better chance of survival.) But this association of death and AIDS needs to be reassessed. There has been significant improvement made and the future will see further advances. According to the NEJM article, for patients with AIDS and Pneumocystis Carinii pneumonia only, the one year survival rate has increased from 18.2% for all patients diagnosed in 1981 to 48.5% in 1985. Further, the present projected five year survival rate is now at 15% for all patients diagnosed with AIDS. This actually now compares with several forms of cancer. So the fighting spirit must be maintained by all in general.

However in individual cases, there will be many deaths and this is where Dr. Ross' book comes in. Dr. Ross has worked with dying patients for twenty plus years. She very eloquently discussed the stages of dying in earlier works — namely denial, anger, depression, bargaining, and acceptance. Her present book, *AIDS The Ultimate Challenge*, is very realistic, but human and compassionate with a very beautiful perspective in the discussion of death. I recommend it to everyone. It unfortunately was hastily put together and that shows. In many ways, it does not say as much as could have been said and does not go deep enough into all the implications of AIDS and death. But it is inspiring in parts, compassionate for the most part, and definitely the best book I have read to date on the human aspects of this disease. Perhaps next column I can go into what I wished would have been said. Till then, take good care of yourself. Love, Roger. ♡

New antibiotic delivery method to treat AIDS patients' lungs discussed

By Ronald Stanley

Antibiotics sprayed directly into lungs of patients with AIDS. Dr. Thomas Taft MD is here with us to explain this relatively new procedure. Dr. Taft is no stranger to AIDS. AIDS appeared while he was in Medical School and has been a disease he has worked with his entire medical career.

Question: "Dr. Taft, when and where did you first learn of this procedure?"

Dr. Taft: "What brought it to my attention were two articles, one in an English Medical Journal *The Lancet* and one in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* describing the use of inhaled Pentamidine in the treatment of patients with AIDS and Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP) and it also discussed the use of inhaled Pentamidine as a method of prophylaxis to prevent the development of PCP in AIDS patients. This was approximately the end of October 1987."

Question: "Will you tell our readers what Pentamidine is?"

Dr. Taft: "Pentamidine is an anti-Protozoan drug, so it is a form of an antibiotic, which is effective in killing Pneumocystis, which is a common cause of pneumonia in patients with AIDS."

Question: "What other antibiotics are used in the treatment of PCP?"

Dr. Taft: "There are a few. The most common is Bactrim, which is a combination sulfa drug and trimethoprim and that's

been effective, and Pentamidine is the other most commonly used one. Then there are some experimental treatments probably the most popular one is an agent called DFMO, which is shown to be effective and Dr. Paul Turner and I have used it, during my fellowship years, in some patients with PCP with refractory pneumonias."

Question: "Why don't you spray or atomize all these antibiotics?"

Dr. Taft: "In order to have an effective drug by inhalation therapy, its got to be one that is well tolerated by the lungs. And Pentamidine just happens to be one of those that are well tolerated by the lungs, where the other ones are not."

Question: "Without getting too technical, will you tell us how this atomizing affects the lungs?"

Dr. Taft: "O.K. I think your asking why it is effective in treating PCP: its an infection which occurs in the lungs and if you can deliver a medication to the area of the body, which is affected, without getting it in other areas, I think you are better off and Pentamidine seems to be one drug we can deliver in that way, which might be effective in killing the organism and yet leave the other parts of the body untouched."

Question: "At what stage of AIDS is the treatment started or proven to be the most helpful?"

Dr. Taft: "There are two ways of looking at that. One — there are some studies now that are using inhaled Pentamidine as an initial treatment for patients with AIDS. Whether this proves to be effective or not remains to be seen. The initial studies are promising. The second way is to use inhaled Pentamidine to prevent people from getting AIDS. What we had been using to start with was Bactrim therapy, where the patient would be on one Bactrim or two Bactrim pills a day, to prevent the reoccurrence of PCP, which can be devastating. But we found out that patients with AIDS are more prone to getting toxicities or bad reaction from the sulfa. Then we tried to use injected Pentamidine, but that was associated with complications as well, such as getting sterile abscesses or painful collections at the site of injection. Plus some systemic toxicities, some hypoglycemia could be seen, or hyperglycemia, which is a manifestation of diabetes, because Pentamidine can destroy some of the cells in the pancreas, which produce insulin. So we felt the inhaled Pentamidine would be associated with less of those toxicities and would be more effective, so that's why we are using it."

Question: "What type of equipment is used for this breathing therapy?"

Dr. Taft: "At a pressurized air source, a plastic tube in connected and at the other end of the tube is a mouthpiece, similar to that of an aqua lung. As the patients breaths normally, the air flows through the plastic tube into the patients lungs. A valve in the mouth piece allows the patient to exhale as he normally would. Inserted between the plastic tube and the mouthpiece is the nebulizer site. It is here the liquid Pentamidine is put. As the patients breaths, the air flows through the nebulizer and it turns the Pentamidine into a fine mist small enough to get down into the air sacs of the lungs, in the air that the patient is breathing. Through the mouthpiece the patients exhales the same gases he would normally as when not on the therapy. What is important is that you have a route of delivery so that the medication can be delivered in droplets, which are tiny enough to reach the tiny air sacs, so you need a miny nebulizer. There are some studies in progress to determine if one size is more advantageous than other."

Question: "Is there any special training needed to administer this treatment?"

Dr. Taft: "No I don't think so and what we are eventually going to do is have patients buy compressors and equipment and be able to administer this treatment to themselves at home. The cost of this equipment may be in the area of \$30.00 just to buy the equipment and then they would not have to come to the hospital to get it. We are still looking into that, so it doesn't really require too much training to deliver the medication. A person can learn it very easily and deliver it to themselves at home."

Question: "How long does this treatment take at one time?"

Dr. Taft: "Approximately ten to fifteen minutes."

Question: "How often is this treatment given?"

Dr. Taft: "Once every two weeks."

Question: "Well then no specialists are involved in this treatment?"

Dr. Taft: "I think the first time its given it should be given by a specialist to make certain that the medication is being well tolerated."

Question: "Who is currently receiving this treatment?"

Dr. Taft: "Only patients with AIDS who have had PCP."

Question: "Does Pentamidine help to keep away any other opportunistic infections or just PCP?"

Dr. Taft: "Mainly just PCP from re-occurring."

Question: "Who is specifically receiving this treatment?"

Dr. Taft: "All my patients with AIDS are now receiving this treatment."

Question: "Are any other hospitals, besides St. Josephs using this treatment?"

Dr. Taft: "The Milwaukee County Medical Complex and West Allis Memorial hospitals are using it."

Question: "You started this treatment last October (1987). What are the results to date?"

Dr. Taft: "So far no one has had a relapse of their PCP, while on this therapy."

Question: "Have any side effects been shown?"

Dr. Taft: "No. Everyone I've treated has tolerated it very well."

Question: "Is any other source or persons monitoring these patients during this treatment?"

Dr. Taft: "Just the monitoring I do."

Question: "No other hospital or concern is involved in monitoring them?"

Dr. Taft: "Patients are monitored by the Respiration Therapy Department in terms of side effects, but the actual monitoring of laboratory tests and any side effects are done by me."

Question: "Are you prescribing this treatment on ARC (AIDS Related Condition) patients?"

Dr. Taft: "No."

Question: "If any patient with PCP ends up in Intensive Care are you administering this inhalation treatment to them, while in



Thomas Taft, MD

the Intensive Care Unit, during the initial onset of the disease?"

Dr. Taft: "There are some studies that are looking at that right now and some of the studies seem to be very promising. One of the studies was in a recent issue of *Annals of Internal Medicine*, so things are looking promising for that and we may try to do that."

Question: When you started this treatment did you confer with any other hospitals using this procedure and are you currently in communication with other hospitals regarding the effects of this treatment?"

Dr. Taft: "We tend to be guided by what's happening at San Francisco General Hospital and I spoke with some of the people there before starting this, as well as discussing it with Dr. Paul Turner at the Milwaukee County Medical Complex. So its the kind of decision you take along with other people."

Question: "What do you feel the future of inhalation of Pentamidine to be?"

Dr. Taft: "I'm very encouraged by it. It has very few side effects, patients tolerate it very well and it seems to be very effective."

Reporter: "Thank you Dr. Taft."

Dr. Taft: "You're very welcome."

FOOTNOTE: Dr. Taft is originally from Wausau, WI and did his undergraduate work at Marquette University. He attended the Medical College of Wisconsin where he did his residency work in Internal Medicine. His Infectious Disease Fellowship was at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Presently he is of Harwood Medical Associates and on the staff of Good Samaritan, St. Josephs and West Allis Memorial Hospitals. ♡



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PERSPECTIVE

By Marc Hauptert, President
ARCW, Inc./Milwaukee AIDS Project

As the state's largest AIDS Service Organization, the Milwaukee AIDS Project continues its rapid pace of serving the dual roles of care and education. As is the natural course for rapid expansion of an organization, ours now encounters successes, failures and massive demands on our resources as a result.

In future columns, I will highlight some of the specifics and examples of our ever-increasing programming accomplishments. I also invite my colleagues in other state AIDS Service Organizations to contribute to this space or to write their own columns on developments from their vantage points.

This time, I would like to address a concern which has been raised in many quarters: our philosophy of serving our clients and their needs.

It appears that because of the complexity of the network of resources with which we regularly deal, its application to the needs of our clients is sometimes not readily apparent to the outside observer. One of the fortunate results of our hard work in identifying resources has been that we have been able to respond to all requests for help from all clients to date.

We have heard reports that clients have been denied assistance from MAP. Since this is the most critical area of our concern as board members representing the community, we have tracked down each report and have found them unfounded. We don't claim perfection, but our study has found that in every case, the needs of our clients have been met. Sometimes the response comes in non-financial forms, such as housing instead of rent payment, medical or legal or nursing services instead of private funding for basic needs. We continue to solicit input from our clients and others on the quality and form of the services delivered, but our fundamental philosophy is to empower each client with the tools necessary to deal with the demands of his/her own life.

As with every other aspect of MAP, the buck stops with the Board of Directors. We have aggressively pursued any complaints or concerns in the community, and stand ready to respond at any time. In fact, quality control measures have become standard operating procedure in the design of each part of our services.

Our planning for the future entails even more difficult choices in the area of client services. The most crucial choices are how best to allocate finite resources. We hope to be able to continue our policy of serving all identified needs of clients, but to do this, we will require increasing levels of support from the public. The Gay community has been extraordinarily generous in its support of AIDS services and care. We will



Marc Hauptert

undoubtedly continue to rely on that generosity in the months and years ahead. In return, our charge is to do a better job in reporting to all gives the exact application of their gifts (more on this in a future column).

The issues will without doubt become more serious. As hypothetical examples of the kinds of questions, consider these: How can we ensure that our funds are not being used by a drug-addicted client to buy illegal drugs? To what degree should we be involved in the behavior of our clients? What if one should become physically or emotionally abusive to staff, volunteers or other clients? What if one's religion or beliefs prohibits use of drugs or procedures which could be life enhancing? What if a client is being manipulated in any way because of his/her condition? What if because of their perception to our organization (too Gay-identified, not Gay-supportive enough, too bureaucratic, etc.), a person chooses not to be considered our "client" (or even openly criticizes the agency) but still requires services best delivered by us? What if undesignated funds are depleted for general client needs and a major demand arises faster than we can respond? What if expensive new drugs are not covered by any source but are very necessary to a particular client?

These and many other difficult questions face our staff and directors on a daily basis. They also face other projects in Wisconsin and elsewhere, with whom we continue to interact to try to find solutions.

The philosophy that we have been fortunate to be able to retain since our start — that we never say no and serve all who ask — is in continual jeopardy. Only with the continuing diligent work of our paid and unpaid staff, and the continuous support of the Gay community, will we be able to retain this focus. It's a mutual support that is fragile, and requires work and openness on all sides.

Stay tuned. ♡

& soda, \$1.25 rail drinks.

21- Mon. Guest speaker Miriam Ben-Shalom will discuss bringing Gay/Lesbian life to new horizons, 5-7 p.m. in the 8th Note Coffeehouse. A pizza party will follow the discussion.

26- Sat. "Thank God It's Spring" Party, 9 p.m. B.Y.O.B. or \$2 beer & soda bust. Call 229-6555 for location (off campus).

First rap session set for March 4th

The Gay and Lesbian Community at UW-Milwaukee will hold an off-campus open rap session on Friday, March 4th from 7-10 p.m. at the Cream City Foundation Community Center at 225 S. Second St. We've added this meeting to our schedule for those who can't make our regular meetings on campus due to time difficulties or the inconvenience of parking near campus. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. Please join us!

For more information about this or any other GLC events please call or write: The Gay and Lesbian Community, UWM Student Union - Box 251, 2200 East Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53201 (414) 229-6555. ♡

Girls face to face

Continued from Page 9

connections between Lesbians and prostitutes.

She concludes, "If we can make any part of the world safer for these two groups of women, we will make the world safer for all women because "whore" and "queer" are the two accusations that symbolize lost womanhood, and a lost woman is open to direct control by the state," (p. 144).

Recurring throughout the book are dialogues among participants and speakers. Frequently, sex trade workers challenge feminists to drop the protection of their theoretical frameworks and recognize prostitutes' life experiences. As one prostitute demanded, "What is so terrible about fucking for a living?... Who am I to you if I enjoy my job? Are we without dignity?" (pp. 48-49).

Feminists must continue to insist that not all women are in the sex trade by choice, that some are hurt or coerced, that many are children. There is no recognition by the sex trade workers represented in this collection that the multi-million dollar pornography and prostitution industries ultimately benefit men, not women. Yet what is most important in this book is the sex trade workers' challenge to the feminist sexual agenda. Who ultimately benefits from the distinction between good and bad girls? And who creates the distinction? One prostitute sums it up succinctly: "What we have to get feminists to look at... is their own investment in keeping us ostracized. Where is their crown of honor without us to point at? Where's their little reward for being such good girls if it's no longer dishonourable not to keep their legs closed?" (p. 205). ♡

MCC events schedule

New Hope Metropolitan Community Church is pleased to share with the community, a schedule of its continuing activities available to all people. In addition to Sunday Worship at 6:30 PM at the Kenwood United Methodist Church, New Hope hosts a mid-week prayer service every Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM at the CCF offices, 225 South 2nd Street. On the first Tuesday evening of each month, a men's rap group is held, while a women's rap group is held on the second Saturday in the afternoon. On February 14, New Hope will host its first ALL PERSONS rap group at 2:00PM and hopes to make this a monthly affair. February 17, 1988 marks the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. In the planning for the Lenten season is a weekly "Living Room" series to be held in various locations around Milwaukee.

Information regarding times and locations around Milwaukee.

Information regarding times and locations for the various activities can be obtained by calling the Church office at 442-7300.

McNaught speaks at Lawrence U.

By Shawn

Appleton: Brian McNaught was the featured speaker at a two-day "Forum on Homophobia" held at Lawrence University January 20-21.

McNaught is perhaps best known as the author of *A Disturbed Peace: Selected Writings of an Irish-Catholic Homosexual* (Dignity, 1981). A 1970 graduate of Marquette University, McNaught was fired from his position as staff writer with the *Michigan Catholic* in 1974 when he came out. Since then he has written for many journals, including *The Advocate* and *U.S. Catholic*. He served as the mayor's liaison to the Gay and Lesbian community in Boston from 1982-84 and now spends much of his time lecturing on Gay issues at colleges and universities.



Brian McNaught

Speaking to a responsive crowd of more than 200 (out of a student body of 1100). McNaught described his own difficulties in coming to terms with his sexuality and invited heterosexuals to imagine in detail what it would be like to grow up in a different world — one in which only homosexuality was acceptable. He also

Stevens Point AIDS Benefit SRO

[Stevens Point, WI]- Astronomical efforts and contributions were made toward pulling off Stevens Point's Monday Night Dance Club's January 16 benefit show for Center Project, Inc. Center Project is the Fox Valley's AIDS diagnostic and counseling center located in Green Bay.

According to a spokesperson for the Dance Club, it would be impossible to thank all the people individually who helped make this evening a success. But the Dance Club wishes to acknowledge the performers who entertained an SRO audience for two hours with a 23-number show. The following are those persons.

Angela W., M.N.D.C.; Andrea, Miss 1101 West; Betsy, M.N.D.C.; Cassie Carter, Emcee "Star Images" — Pivot Club, Appleton; D.J. from The Pivot Club; Katrina, Miss Who's; Kevin, Mr. Who's; Lecia, Ms Who's; Lisa D., M.N.D.C.; Little Bob from The Pivot Club; Miles Long (Lisa), Ms Camp; and Scott Daniels from Who's.

By showing Central Wisconsin a good time, the performers helped raised \$200.00 for Center Project. The club members wish to thank both the aforementioned entertainers as well as the staff of Center Project for setting up their mobile testing site at Stevens Point.



Stevens Point Dance Club performers.

debunked some common misconceptions about Gay people and addressed the problems caused by apparently anti-Gay passages in the Bible and the anti-Gay policies of some religious groups. "I believe that ignorance is the parent of fear," McNaught said, "and that fear is the parent of hatred." Speaking to Gays, he said that "the basic message behind all of this is that you like yourself... despite your hair color, your skin color, your weight, despite your national origin, despite your gender, despite your sexual orientation — or because of all those things — that you love yourself."

McNaught left the campus the following day after meeting with university administration and student services staff members to discuss ways in which the situation of Gays at Lawrence could be improved.

The forum continued that evening however, when another overflow crowd heard a panel of representatives of student organizations, faculty, Gay students, and Gay alumni discuss homophobia on campus now and in the past and what could be done to encourage greater understanding and tolerance. The discussion was moderated by James Gandre, president of Lawrence University Gay and Lesbian Alumni.

The "Forum on Homophobia" was a follow-up to a more general program presented last fall at Lawrence on intolerance of all kinds. That program included a viewing and discussion of the video *A Conversation with Brian McNaught: On Being Gay*, but it was not very well attended.

Representatives of both the Gay student organization (newly reorganized as Gay & Lesbian Awareness) and Lawrence University Gay & Lesbian Alumni were pleased with the Lawrence community's response to the January forum, and both plan to continue to encourage the administration and student organizations to make greater efforts on behalf of Gays at Lawrence. ♡

Campus Connection

By Daniel Thompson

GLC at UWM would like to take this time to extend sincere appreciation to the management and staff of D.K.'s. Owner Al Thomas and the staff showed their support for GLC on Friday January 29 when the bar sponsored a University Night fundraiser for the organization. A \$2 cover was charged at the door and prices were reduced to .25 tap beer & soda and \$1.25 rail drinks. ♡

Upcoming GLC Events

February 12- Fri.- University Night at the Beer Graden (3743 W. Vliet, Milw.) \$2 cover, 25 cent tap beer & soda, \$1.25 rail.

15- Mon. Meeting, 5-7 p.m. in the 8th Note Coffeehouse (UWM Student Union). Rick Villasenor will discuss the Madison Alternative Families Bill and Gay/ROTC issue.

17- Wed. University Night at M&M Club (124 N. Water, Milw.) \$2 cover, 25 cent tap beer & soda, \$1.25 rail drinks.

13- Sat. Whitnall Park Outing- A day of cross-country skiing and tobogganing beginning at 11 a.m. Call 229-6555 for info.

23- Tues. Lunch Box Rap, 1:30-3:30 p.m. in UWM Union room E-309. Soda will be provided, bring your own lunch.

March 2- Wed. Meeting, 5-7 p.m. in the 8th Note Coffeehouse. Call 229-6555 for details on this meeting.

8- Tues. Lunch Box Rap, 1:30-3:30 p.m. in UWM Union room E-303. Soda provided, bring your own lunch.

9- University Night at M&M Club (124 N. Water, Milw.) \$2 cover, 25 cent tap beer

Madison Gay Men's Chorus gaining national attention

By Jeff Kirsch
for SPEAK ITS NAME

Madison—They've performed at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis and at Lincoln Center in New York City, where they formed part of the first Gay group ever to be reviewed in *The New York Times*. Their number hovers around a mere twelve members.

They're the Madison Gay Men's Chorus.

With usually around ten singers, plus accompanist and conductor, they're one of the smallest Gay/Lesbian choruses in the nation, says current conductor Max Ward. He estimates that there are some fifty such groups in this country and Canada, a sufficient number to have spawned a national organization, the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses, to which the Madison group belongs.

"San Francisco started the first Gay chorus in the nation in late 1978. The news then spread around the country that such a group existed," says Bill Bremmer, the GMC member who has sung with the group the longest.

By April, 1981, Madison's own Gay chorus first met, founded by David Runyon, with two phone calls and a poster. With Kent Peterson as its first conductor, the group met at Madison's First Congregational Church, on Breese Terrace. It gave its first concert ("more of an 'appearance,'" says Bremmer) with approximately fifteen performers at the Brooks Street YMCA.

After a short tenure, Peterson left and the group became "poplarized," according to Bremmer. Conductor two for GMC was Charlie Seltzer, and the group took a turn toward the "politically correct."

"Warm-ups with Charlie were more like encounter sessions, with back rubs" recalls Bremmer, who has his own piano service business. "We spent lots of time on things other than music. Rehearsals were barely two hours. Most people associated with the group were not very skilled then and we worked through things slowly. Charlie also had us sing more politically oriented songs."

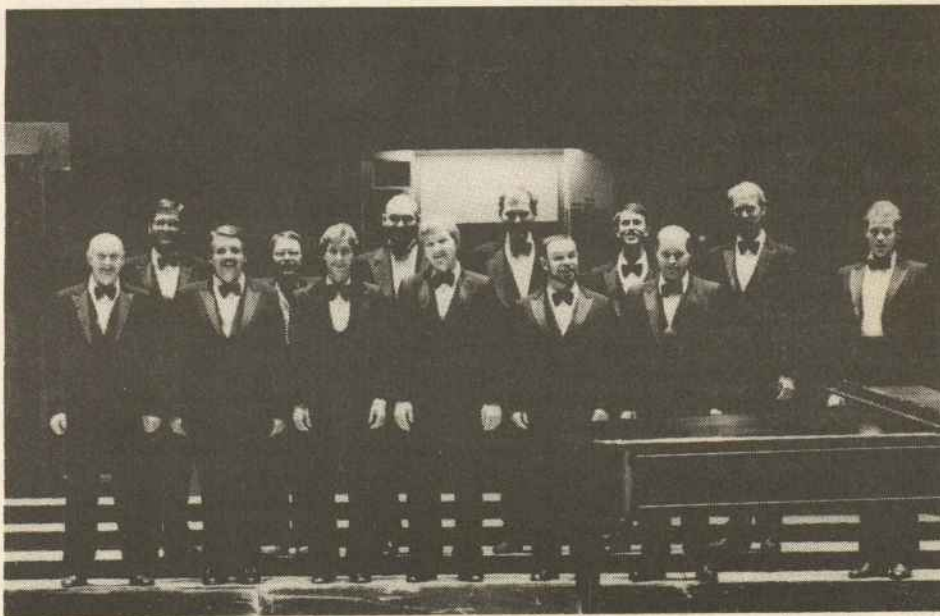
Under Seltzer's conductorship, GMC's membership plummeted from fifteen to five. Ward became conductor in February, 1982.

GMC is technically a UW-Madison student organization and must always have at least one UW student among its ranks. Its stated policy, the idea of its founder, is that the group is "primarily social." Says Runyon, "I'd always wanted to be in a singing group. I was there not based on a good voice, but to have a good time." Since the group has grown more "professional" over the years, Runyon has left the group

and today plans to form a Gay/Lesbian chorus, which has its first meeting scheduled in February.

Bremmer likens GMC not so much to a professional group, but "a serious student organization." "After the work, you play," says Bremmer. "We socialize together, we usually go out for a late dinner after rehearsals and get together for other things too. But Max is always striving for musical excellence." Bremmer applauds that goal.

In its earlier days, GMC made appearances at the Cardinal Bar, the Back East, the Mr. Rod Show, UW's Gay/Lesbian



The Madison Gay Men's Chorus is pictured above at a recent performance.

cultural series "Out & About" and the annual MAGIC picnic. Recent appearances, however, have been more "upscale," says Bremmer. The group performed at Madison's first Festival of the Lakes. Other recent appearances have been singing Christmas carols at Madison Meriter Hospital and performing at a memorial service for a PWA, once a member of the group.

"We've been well received by the public, but not always by reviewers," says Bremmer. At its last concert, a reviewer from *The Wisconsin State Journal* gave it a vehemently negative review. "He was angry. They sent him to a concert he didn't want to go to and was determined not to like it," Bremmer affirms. "The review hurt people's feelings, made them upset. But such reviews are something we have to deal with as performers and can weigh heavily on a group while trying to perform. As a group, we concluded it was a vindictive review and not to take it seriously. The reviewer showed his anti-Gay sentiment by making comments such

as, 'You'd think ten healthy men would be able to take a deep breath.'"

GMC has had it humorous, if not embarrassing moments. One was when the group went to perform a concert in Milwaukee and had an audience of one. ("Only because they'd advertised the wrong date in the newspaper," notes Ward.) Nonetheless, the group performed its full concert for its single listener.

Another memorable moment occurred at their next to the last concert, entitled "Manhattan Transfer," where they performed the pop group's music. "We'd rented a smoke machine for one of the numbers," says Bremmer. "It had oil and a heating element which made the oil hot enough to smoke, but not ignite. We'd OK'd it with the Madison Fire Department to turn off the fire alarm for that one

number. But the first night of the concert it didn't get disconnected and went off. According to university policy, the premises had to be evacuated." After the awkward interruption, the group concluded its concert.

Bremmer calls Ward a "very capable voice teacher and a very skilled vocalist." "We love to have new voices in the group," says Ward. Bremmer adds that GMC "takes anyone who comes, but people who aren't up to it eliminate themselves. You have to be willing to make a very strong effort. We have one strong voice in each section and the rest are supporters. In each concert, though, each performer gets a chance to shine."

"I get a lot of personal gratification in both the artistic and social sense," says Bremmer. Other members concur, calling the group "a nice alternative to bars, a non-threatening, non-sexual atmosphere."

"We have a central focus, turning into ourselves as well as out of ourselves," elaborates Ward. "We take a finished product on stage with pride. Some pride spills over into the pride of being gay. We're not a strongly political group, but as we entertain, we certainly raise consciousness and make a statement."

Ward is a native Madisonian who has studied at UW-Madison and privately in New York City. He has wide performance experience and today does private teaching at the Voice Box.

GMC's accompanist is Ed Walters, a professor of piano at Edgewood College in Madison.

Upcoming performances include a May, 1988 date in New Orleans with selected Gay choruses from around the country, a 1988 Festival of the Lakes invitation, a possible joint concert with the Champaign/Urbana Gay Men's Chorus this summer, and a trip to Seattle in 1989 for the third triennial GALA Choruses Festival.

Major funding for the group has come from a Dane County Gay/Lesbian philanthropic organization, the New Harvest Foundation. The group has also received arts grants through the city of Madison. "We've never been turned down for funding," Ward boasts.

The group rehearses weekly at Memorial Union on Tuesdays from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Interested persons may simply show up or may call Ward for more information at 256-1161.

*Funding for this article has been provided by the New Harvest Foundation.

Oberons club to meet

The Oberons, one of Milwaukee's Leather/Levi clubs would like to announce that their next club night is on Saturday, February 27, 1988.

Light would be glad to receive further news and views from the Leather/Levi community throughout Wisconsin.

War conference set for Feb. 26-27

By Lou Chibbaro Jr.

An ad hoc group of Gay activists from throughout the country is sponsoring an invitation-only "war conference" of Gay leaders this month to discuss ways of improving the Gay rights movement.

The conference, which has been endorsed by leaders of most of the country's Gay political groups, is scheduled for Feb. 26-28 at the Airlie House, an isolated conference center near Warrenton, Va., about 45 miles southwest of Washington, D.C.

Organizers say the event will be limited to the first 200 people who respond to invitations which call on recipients to return a registration form plus about \$200 in fees for food, lodging and administrative costs.

"We are fighting for our lives because there are powerful forces making war against us," says a statement sent to those invited to the conference. "This is a call to... a war conference," the statement says, "because, indeed, we are at war."

Michael Shower, a former foreign policy advisor to ex-Congressman Michael Barnes (D-Md) and one of the main conference organizers, said the idea for the conference came from New York Gay playwright Larry Kramer last fall. Kramer, in a speech before a fundraising banquet for the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the Gay political action committee, said he believed the Gay movement has failed to address effectively the problems brought about by the AIDS epidemic and anti-Gay supporters of the New Right.

Friends and associates of Kramer in New York City began meeting to explore ways to strengthen existing Gay political organizations, Shower said. But Kramer withdrew from an ad hoc group that formed to advance this objective after members of the group objected to Kramer's proposal to merge all of the nation's national Gay political groups into a single "super" organization, according to Shower.

The Gay Rights National Lobby, which ceased operating in December 1985, organized several "Gay leadership" forums which discussed, among other things, whether national Gay organizations should consolidate or conduct certain functions jointly.

Nancy Roth, the GRNL executive director who helped organize those forums, has said the issue of consolidation was highly controversial because few, if any, of the existing organizations favored giving up autonomy.

Shower said the New York group decided on the idea of a conference and began to assemble a mailing list of Gay leaders and "leading members of the community who happen to be Gay."

Among those who endorsed the conference and signed on as members of an "organizing committee" are Jeff Levi, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund; Joyce Hunter, executive committee member of the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights; Tom Stoddard, executive director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund; and Tim Wolfred, executive director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Renee McCoy, executive director of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, said she and a number of other black Gay leaders also plan to participate.

TURN TO CONFERENCE, PAGE 14

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"Last Emperor" was Gay

Continued from Page 1

dynasty of which little Pu Yi would be the 10th and last ruler, was not even Chinese. The Manchus were of Mongolian stock and had conquered China in 1644. The Chinese hated them. The Manchus forced the Chinese to learn the Manchu language which is related to Hungarian, conduct all business bilingually and required all Chinese males to wear a pigtail as a sign of submission.

Seated on the Dragon Throne was the Dragon lady herself, the Dowager Empress, Tzu Hsui. She had come to the Forbidden City in the late 1850's as a concubine to the Emperor Hsui Feng. She bore him a son after which she saw to the emperor's quick demise and took power herself as regent for her son. (It was against all the rules.) Her son, Tung Chih, was found to have a will of his own so she got rid of him in 1874 and placed her young nephew on the throne. Eventually, she would do him in too, but in the meantime, she enjoyed herself in other ways such as feasting on the brains of live monkeys or having her servant girls whipped while she watched. When the British loaned her money to build a modern navy, she used the funds to build exactly one boat, all made of marble, for the garden of her summer palace. China thus had the smallest and heaviest fleet in the world.

Eventually "Old Buddah", as the Chinese called her, figured she was on the way to the ancestors and in 1908, after 47 years of power, fun and games at China's expense, named Pu Yi to succeed her. Two days later she was dead of dysentery brought on, it was said, with a little help from Pu Yi's father, Prince Chun who had once been the old dragon's lover.



Pu Yi is pictured in stained glass on the front door of the Emperor of China restaurant, 1010 E. Brady, Milwaukee.

For four years Pu Yi was nominal ruler of one half of the world's population, a little boy who, as we see his picture on the restaurant door, looking out, wide-eyed, on a world he could not understand and that was collapsing around him. It was as if the adults knew they could not cope and had handed things over to a child to do with as best he could.

A Republic was established in 1912, a weak thing whose forms and institutions had no roots in China's history and the country dissolved into a maelstrom of rival warlords. As he had not chosen to be emperor, so other announced that he no longer held the Dragon Throne. Still, he was allowed to live in the Forbidden City surrounded by 1500 eunuchs who carried their severed testicles in a little bag hung around their neck confident that in the afterlife, they would be made whole again.

In 1922 when he was 17-years-old, Pu Yi was married to a woman, a Manchu aristocrat, named Wan Jung. The wedding night was not a success and he fled the red wedding chamber for his own quarters. He tried to explain what the problem was; that he, a man, could love only another man. But though there had been many Gay emperors and the Chinese had traditionally tolerated male and female homosexuality, Pu Yi's Gayness was considered a shameful thing. The reason was British and American influence which was especially strong at this time.

For over a century, Westerners had sought to force their culture on the Chinese whose civilization the West thought to be inferior to their own. Many Chinese accepted that view, mistaking technology for culture. After all, the thinking went, if the Western powers had conquered China

did that not mean they were superior? And if the Westerners and their missionaries despised homosexuality, was it not to be condemned?

It would be long years and many wars before the Chinese learned that nothing that their ancient land had produced or thought was in any way inferior to the West but in 1922 that time was not yet.

In 1924 Pu Yi, emperor no longer, was expelled from the Forbidden City by the warlord, Feng Yu Hsiang who gave him an hour to gather his things and get out. Fearing for his life, Pu Yi sought sanctuary in the Japanese legation in Peking.

The Japanese who allied themselves with the British, French and Americans in World War I felt that they had been left out of the spoils of war and were determined to right things by building an Asian empire which was to include China, Japan's ancient rival. When the Japanese conquered Manchuria as part of their imperial expansion, they made Pu Yi its puppet ruler.

For Pu Yi, the word "puppet" did not mean a life as bad as it sounds. He believed himself to be the emperor by right and the Japanese accorded him all the honors due that imperial station even to having Japanese Emperor Hirohito meet with him as an equal. He was also led to believe that when Japan won the war and conquered China, he would be restored to his throne.


Such, of course, did not happen. Japan lost World War II primarily due to the United States which was not about to let Japan dominate Asia and become an economic giant at the expense of American interests there. As the historian, John Toland, points out, the United States government didn't know about Pearl Harbor before it happened but they certainly did everything they could to bring it about.

By agreement with the United States at the Yalta Conference, the Soviets entered the war against Japan following the end of the European conflict. Pu Yi was captured by the Russians as he was trying to escape to Japan. Stalin held him for five years in a prison camp until finally, in 1950, turning him over to China's new ruler, Mao Tse Tung with whom Stalin was trying to curry favor. (Mao had a traditional Chinese hatred of all things Russian, an attitude which never changed.)

Despite his fears of how he would be treated at Chinese hands, Pu Yi fared well. The reason for that was that he had two powerful protectors, Chou En-lai, China's worldly and aristocratic Foreign Minister and Mao himself. Both men had a high knowledge of and respect for the history of their country and of that history, Pu Yi was a living symbol. As Mao said, "Give him (Pu Yi) more money; the man was an emperor." As far as his being Gay was concerned, neither Chou nor Mao seemed to have cared a fig.

Pu Yi lived out his life as an ordinary citizen of China. He was even able to return to the Forbidden City — this time as a tourist. It was — and is — a museum, but with that supreme irony that the Chinese appreciate, it was also home to Mao Tse Tung who exercised in the new China the power that Pu Yi would have held in the old.

Pu Yi died of cancer in 1967 and today is little known and less remembered in the West. The movie may do somewhat to rectify that but the next time you pass the restaurant on Brady Street take a look at the door, at the figure of the little boy who was an emperor and was one of us. ♡



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Being Gay accepted in historic China

Continued from Page 1

have to keep in mind that throughout the country's history, "homo-eroticism as been affirmed." The common name for Chinese Gays is "cut-sleeve" which is derived from a T'ang Dynasty (618 A.D.-906 A.D.) emperor who awoke one morning to find the youth who was his lover asleep, with his head on the emperor's sleeve. Rather than awaken the young man, the Son of Heaven, for such was the ruler called, took a knife and sliced off the arm of his robe, hence the name, "cut-sleeve."

There are numerous other stories of this kind which are still told with approval, at least, Crew said, in north China. There, it is still a common sight to see two men walking along hand in hand or with their arms about each other's waists.

"I remember," Crew said, "that shortly after I arrived in China, I went on a tour with a Chinese friend I'd recently met. We stopped to sit on a bench and he put his head on my shoulder with his hand inside my shirt, playing with my nipple. We both had physical reactions. It was easy enough to see."

The same attitude is not present in south China, Crew said. There, the foreign homophobic influence is still strong while the impact of the Western missionaries also remains.

Crew said that the missionaries were "utterly horrified" by all of the homosexual activity going on around them but what upset them even more was the fact that among the Chinese, no one seemed to think much about it. Crew told *Light* that though it's a little know fact, the missionary's demands for money from their home churches were usually worded in terms of eradicating homosexuality. "They thought that if they could convert the people to Christianity, that would stop all the Gay sex," Crew said.

In Hong Kong, still a British Crown Colony, Gay life is "a little like we understand it." There are two Gay bars there. (The population of the city according to 1981 figures is 5 million). One of these bars, located in Kowloon (the section of the city on the mainland), is called Waltzing Matilda. Crew described it as "filthy with high prices." It's small, about one half the size of Milwaukee's Boot Camp and a favorite hangout for "money boys" who fleece the tourists.

The other bar, located on the island of Hong Kong, is the Dateline. Crew called it "quite trendy" and "at least clean, it's a good place to go and dance or just look."

Crew cautioned that both bars and Kowloon Park which he described as "the cruisiest park in the world," all are heavily patrolled by the Hong Kong Vice Squad. He told *Light* that there is not a week that there are not arrests with the names and pictures luridly reported in the local mainline papers. "It's all terribly ironic,"

he said. "Considering the fact that both the head of the Vice squad and his chief aide are Gay."

Regarding AIDS, Crew said that there were no published statistics whatever on the disease in the Chinese press. neither is there any effort being made at education. As far as the government is concerned, it is a sickness brought in by foreigners. He regards this attitude as "terribly myopic" having a potential for a tragedy "beyond what any of us here in the United States could imagine." It is possible that in China alone, 50 million people could die of the disease.

But there is still another tragedy that exists for Chinese Gays. "They really have no access to each other as a community and no access to their history," Crew said. There are no Gay publications in China, no Gay organizations of any kind, no Gay leadership whatever. This is partly because so few people in China are what we would call "out."

Outright persecution is rare, but it does happen. At times the police will crack down on what they deem "conspicuous Gay gatherings." Although how they know what is a "Gay gathering" Crew does not understand. In any event, arrests are made the the penalty is death by firing squad. He emphasized that such a thing is rare but it does happen. In China you can be shot for being Gay.

Asked how he survived in China as an openly Gay man, Crew responded, saying, "I was discreet. I didn't make a thing out of being Gay." However, he admitted that being a foreigner with outside contacts also helped. "They knew that if they (the government) interfered with me too much, I would publicize my predicament." Even so, he said that he always walked on the knife edge of deportation.

"I was lucky. Chinese Gays walk on the knife edge of death." ♡

Fuller to speak at Forum Feb. 20

The Milwaukee chapter of Black and White Men Together (BWMT), a Gay multi-racial organization for all people, would like to announce a colloquy to be held on Saturday, February 20, 1988 at the Cream City Foundation Community Center, 225 S. 2nd Street in Milwaukee at 8:00 p.m.

The topic of the discussion will be, "The Proposed Inner City School District."

Speaking on the topic will be Dr. Howard Fuller, Dean of the Milwaukee Area Technical College, School of General Education. Dr. Fuller will be joined in the discussion by Ms. Annette S. Williams, Wisconsin State Representative from the 17th District.

In addition, Ms. Williams will also discuss Jesse Jackson and his campaign for the U.S. presidency.

The colloquy is free and open to the public. For more information call Michael S. Lisowski at 265-8500 or Alyn Hess at 449-2454. ♡

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SPORTS NEWS

Milwaukee Saturday Softball Beer League plans 1988 season

By Jerry Warzyn Sports Editor

Milwaukee's Saturday Softball Beer League (SSBL) held its first meeting of the 1988 season on January 26, 1988 at the Community Foundation Center. The purpose of the meeting was to begin plans for season play and discuss matters on the agenda of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance Spring Meeting in Dallas. Eight teams were represented at the meeting.

Among issues discussed were obtaining umpires from the County for regular season play, the Milwaukee Classic, and fundraising. The league voted to retain the same fees for sponsors and players that were in effect for 1987. Sponsor fees will be \$300 and players fees will be \$20. The sponsor fees will be payable in two installments; the first half is due by February 25, and the balance is due March 31. It was noted that fees in Milwaukee are among the lowest in the country.

Commissioner Tom Salzsieder and

H.I.T. elects committee for 1988 tournament

Election of committee members for Milwaukee's 10th Annual Holiday Invitational Tournament (H.I.T.) was held on January 26, 1988. This bowling tournament in the country and is considered the premier tournament on the IGBO Bowling circuit, H.I.T. 1988 Committee members are as follows:

Director: Bob Gliniecki
 Asst. Director: Jeff Clark
 Secretary: Pat Prudlow
 Asst. Secretary: Timm Elmer
 Treasurer: Tim McCall
 Asst. Treasurer: Dick Krekowski
 Fundraising
 Chair: Greg Mano
 Scheduling: Bruce Lemke
 Scorekeeping: Camille Barski
 Statistics: Timm Short
 John Hiddleston
 Awards: Steve Roslansky
 David Johnson
 Banquet: David Theiss
 Hospitality: Rick Steiner
 Housing/
 Transportation: Steve Huwiler
 Fred Green

The tournament is scheduled for Thanksgiving Weekend, November 24-27, 1988. Negotiations are underway with Red Carpet Regency Lanes for host lanes. The Marc Plaza Hotel will again be the host hotel.

H.I.T. also announced resumption of its fundraising activities at Jet's Place, 1753 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue, Milwaukee. Cribbage games are scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. commencing on February 18th. Sheepshead will be held at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays.

Milwaukee also has retained editorship of the International Gay Bowling Organization (IGBO) Newsletter. IGBO bills itself as the largest Gay sports organization in the country. Bob Gliniecki has been named as Editor-in-Chief of the Newsletter and Jeff Clark has been named as Assistant Editor.

Women's Softball Beer League Being Formed

The SSBL (Saturday Softball Beer League) Women's Division will hold an organizational meeting on Sunday, February 21 at 4:00 p.m. at the Foundation Community Center, 225 S. 2nd Street, Milwaukee. The meeting will be an informal planning session to develop a women's softball division for 1988 league play. The division winning team will be SSBL's representative to the 1988 Gay Women's World Series in Dallas in August.

Suzi Arnold, Commissioner of the Women's Division, announced that the meeting is open to all women including potential teams, sponsors and individual players. Women interested in playing in the league are invited to attend. Arnold also stated that Milwaukee hosted the 1st Gay Women's World Series in 1985. Based on that experience, she expressed hope that Milwaukee could send a strong contender to Dallas.

All interested women are urged to attend this important meeting.

Women's Division Commissioner Suzi Arnold will travel to Dallas for the NAGAAA Spring Meeting, February 12-15. Plans for a recreational tournament to be held in conjunction with the Gay Men's and Women's World Series will be discussed. If a plan is adopted, Milwaukee will most likely send a recreational division team as its representative in the tournament.

Teams and players are need for the 1988 season. Any organizations or businesses interested in sponsoring a team should contact SSBL at P.O. Box 92605, Milwaukee, WI 53202 (414) 283-3594. The SSBL officers will assist any sponsor in organizing a team. Players interested in playing in the league should contact a sponsor or a league officer. They will assist you in locating a team. Play takes place on Saturdays from May through August at Mitchell Park.

MIL-MA-IDS III needs registration by Feb. 29

February 29, 1988 is the cutoff date for bowlers to register for the MIL-MA-IDS III Bowling Tournament. This annual event is a fundraiser for Madison and Milwaukee AIDS projects and support centers. The tournament will be held on Saturday, April 23, 1988, at the Prairie Lanes in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin (just northeast of Madison).

Bob Doornek, Tournament Director, announced that the field is limited to the first 192 bowlers. The field is rapidly filling up, so bowlers are encouraged to register early. Cash and merchandise prizes will be awarded to the top 20 bowlers.

Plans are for bowlers to be in place at the lanes no later than 12:15 p.m. After initial instructions and practice balls, competition will commence promptly at 1:00 p.m. Doornek stated that a buffet will be held at the New Bar in Madison for all bowlers at approximately 5:00 p.m. Awards and door prizes will be made immediately following the buffet. The schedule is designed to allow ample time for bowlers to enjoy themselves in Madison Saturday night.

Bowlers from Illinois & Minnesota have already indicated their participation. We encourage Wisconsin to ensure that the field is filled. Entry fee is only \$20 and since the tournament has a 9 pin tap format, any bowler has a good chance of taking home an award.

For more information and to register, contact Bob Doornek at 5546 Century Boulevard, Apt. 2, Middleton, WI 53562.

Volleyball season ending

February 6 marked the final regular season play of the Saturday Volleyball League (SVBL) at UWM's Engelman Gym. A double-elimination playoff tournament will be held on Saturday February 20 & February 27. Playoffs will be held in two divisions and the champions should be named after the final playoff games. Standings as of February 5, 1987:

Division A	Division B
Fannies	Beer Garden
Your Place	M&M Club
Gamma	W&B/Acapulco House
La Cage	Station 2

The SVBL Awards Banquet is scheduled for Sunday, March 6 at the M&M Club Glass Menagerie. Presentation of the coveted "Bruce Awards" will be made at the banquet.

Dallas to host Series

The 1988 Gay Men's and Women's World Series will be held in Dallas August 23-28, 1988. The Series 88 Host Committee has announced it expects more than 1,500 players and fans from 24 North American cities to participate in this annual event. A World Series Booster Club has been established to promote and support the 88 Series.

Members of the Booster Club will receive newsletters, special offers and a T-shirt promoting the event. Memberships are \$35 for an individual membership, \$60 per household. Memberships may be obtained by mail at the following address: Series 88, P.O. Box 2387, Dallas, TX 75221. Please send your check and T-shirt size along with your membership application.

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VALENTINE'S DAY MESSAGES



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
 Chad, Jim, John, Paul, Robert, Abe, Mark, Carlos, Jason, Chris, Andrew, Dan, Curtis, Carmen, David, Melinda, Eric, Dennis, Darrell, Katrina, Patrick, Adrian, and Lamont.
Love, "Mother"
 (Gay Youth Milw.)

Clo,
 "If you love someone enough anything is possible — even miracles." I love you that much. Let it grow.
 —Janet

To Ter
 You are Mine Forever
 With All My Love
Jer

Karen
 Here's to the Best Five Years
Sue

My Teddybear
 Love, Glenn

To Don and Jim
 Two Real "Characters"
 Lots of Love
 Steven, Peter and
 The Two Ghosts

To Tom
 I love you, Hon
 Illegetimis Non Carborundum Est
Rick

To Toni
 You're the Greatest
Mari

Classic solicits Volunteers

The 1988 Milwaukee Classic Committee is seeking volunteers for planning and working on the annual softball tournament held over Memorial Day weekend in Milwaukee. This softball event is one of the oldest tournaments in the country for Gay athletes. Approximately 24 teams from across the U.S. and Canada will participate this year.

Dates from the tournament are May 27-29. Reservations have been made at the Milwaukee Hyatt Hotel as the host hotel for housing. A very favorable rate has been obtained from the Hyatt.

SSBL, sponsor of the tournament, has announced that a \$500 donation will be awarded in both a competitive division and recreational division. The donation will be made to the league of which the first place team in each division is a member. The donation is earmarked to defray that league's cost in sending a representative to Dallas for the 1988 Gay World Series.

Volunteers are needed for food, transportation, housing, banquet, hospitality and registration. Volunteers may contact the SSBL at P.O. Box 92605, Milwaukee, WI 53202. The Tournament needs your help to succeed, so please volunteer.

You asked for it, You got it!

Traverse City, Mich.— During a debate over the deregulation of condom sales last September, Traverse City Commissioner John Markle stated that Gay people caused AIDS and that the best way of controlling the spread of the disease would be by "a quick cut of the scalpel." He also said that Gay people were mentally unbalanced, drawing parallels to child molesters and rapists. When his remarks met with broad public outrage, Markle told the media that — if 1,000 of his constituents signed petitions expressing disagreement with his comments — he would resign. Although the Gay and Lesbian community was the group that was directly offended by the comments, it was the non-Gay community that rallied to oust the homophobic commissioner. When the recallers announced that they had collected 1,200 signature, Markle took back his promise. Since then, he has stated that he has received threats to his and his family's safety. Because of these threats, he said he will be resigning his office. Tough break.