



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

The Wisconsin Light

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Madison Alternative Measures Pass

By David Burrill

Madison- Before a record crowd of over 300, the Madison Common Council passed into law two parts of the alternative family rights ordinance August 2nd, making Madison a leader in alternative family issues. Although the City Council also voted down two more controversial elements of the proposed ordinance, supporters were heartened by the fact that the votes on these two proposals were so close.

While many alternative family organizers were disheartened about the prospects for their proposal, much of the pessimism changed to optimism when key members of the Board of Estimates, the city's budget committee and the last committee to review the alternative families ordinance, announced that they were going to try to split the ordinance into its various parts since it was felt that some of those parts could pass the Council.

TURN TO MADISON, PAGE 13

ARMY REENLISTS MIRIAM BEN-SHALOM; MAY APPEAL

By Sue Burke

"It was hard not to cry" as she was sworn in, said Miriam Ben-Shalom after she reenlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves on Sept. 12. For her it was the latest victory in a 14-year-long battle to remain in the Army even though she is a Lesbian.

If the Army hadn't let her in, it would have had to begin paying a \$500-a-day fine for contempt of court. U.S. District Judge Myron L. Gordon in Milwaukee had ordered the Army to let her reenlist or pay the fine until he makes a final ruling on whether she may permanently remain in the Army.

Ben-Shalom's attorney, Patrick Berigan, said the final ruling should be issued by Gordon in September or early October. If

it is in Ben-Shalom's favor, Berigan said, the Army will probably appeal the case to the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago.

The Army has also appealed the contempt order allowing Ben-Shalom to temporarily reenlist, he said.

But in the meantime, Ben-Shalom was able to sign up for another six years. She began her duties on the weekend of Sept. 17. She hopes eventually to complete 20 years in the service.

The evening of reenlistment was a happy one for her. Ben-Shalom, a drill sergeant, came in her dress uniform to the headquarters of the 84th Division, 4828 W. Silver Spring Dr.

She was accompanied by her daughter,

Hannah Richter, who was eight years old when her mother's fight against the Army began. Ben-Shalom was also accompanied by her friend Alyn Hess, who has stood by her since the beginning, and by Berigan.

Also present were a television crew from WTMJ, a photographer from UPI, and a reporter/photographer from *The Wisconsin Light* and *Chicago Outlines*. Only a few other people were in the building that night.

Ben-Shalom took an oath from Col. Thomas Swett, who shook her hand and congratulated her. Ben-Shalom signed her return to SHALOM, PAGE 16



Openly Lesbian Sergeant Miriam Ben-Shalom was sworn in by Col. Thomas Swett as she reenlisted for a six year term with the U.S. Army Reserve on September 12 in Milwaukee, following a Federal Court order finding the Army in contempt of court.

National Coming Out Day To Be Held October 11

"Our silence is k'ling us."

"Our invisibility is the core of our oppression."

Among the many messages coming from Gays and Lesbians at the Democratic National Convention to our community at large, is that our political strength is being greatly undermined by the large numbers of us who are hidden, in the closet, shivering cold, sweat-drenched in fear. It is the silence of our "hidden majority" that is allowing society to make the rules for us, permits ignorance and intolerance to oppress us all.

In an attempt to solve this problem, the National Gay Rights Advocates and The Experience Weekend are sponsoring a National Coming Out Day to be held October 11, 1988.

The event is being co-chaired by Jean O'Leary and Rob Eichberg, both of California.

According to one spokesperson for the two groups, "Coming out is a continuum, a series of steps that often take place over the course of months or even years."

As one delegate at the Convention told *Light*, "the difference that most people miss is that to be a homosexual is one thing, being Gay is another. Being Gay is an advance step toward personal integration, acceptance and the good of the Gay/Lesbian community. You may have accepted that you are a homosexual," she explained. "But only when you realize that you are part of a community, part of a movement and actively involved in some way, can you call yourself 'Gay' or 'Lesbian.'"

As part of National Coming Out Day, each individual is being asked to pledge to "Take Your Next Step." As the sponsors

say, this step must be appropriate and comfortable to you, but, at the same time, you should be willing to push yourself a little.

Suggestions for Coming Out include:

Put your lover's photo on your desk at work.

Tell three people you're Gay or Lesbian
Wear an openly Lesbian or Gay symbol or button for a week.

Acknowledge that "those roses" are not from your mother.

Call a radio talk show and introduce a Gay/Lesbian topic.

Read a Gay/Lesbian paper on a bus or in a restaurant.

Hold hands publicly.

Tell the truth when asked, "So are you engaged yet?"

Move your favorite "fantasy" poster to a prominent place in your house.

Send flowers to that "special someone" and don't use initials on the card.

Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper commenting on Gay/Lesbian coverage or lack of coverage. Use your full name.

Include your Gay/Lesbian family in traditional family or religious functions.

TURN TO COMING OUT, PAGE 7



Introduction A TIME TO DIE

By Terry Boughner Ph.d.

This is not a pretty story. For those who think that the more bloody parts of history should be sanitized, this series is not for you. You, Gay women and men and non-Gays, should read no further.

This is the story of the Pink Triangle, the Holocaust of the Gays in Nazi Germany, told in all its horrors, much of it as remembered by Gay survivors. Beginning with this issue, this tale of blood, torture, destruction and death, will continue until next June, ending in the month that is given over to Gay/Lesbian Pride.

The Holocaust of the Jews at the hands of the Nazis has been described in countless volumes of prose and poetry. Some of the finest writers that the Jewish people have produced in this century have given their talents over to recounting the horrors of the systematic extermination of 6,000,000 of their fellows. This is not to mention the museums and memorials to the victims that exist in the United States, Europe and Israel.

But the Jews were not the only ones marked out for genocide. There were millions of others and among them, Gays.

Until very recently, there were no memorials of any kind commemorating the Holocaust of the Gays. Even now, there are only two books on the subject. In the histories of the Holocaust, if Gays are mentioned at all, it is only in passing or if some incident is so terrible, so brutal, that it can not go unnoticed.

Much of this has been by design. According to Ira Glasser, head of the American Civil Liberties Union, in the September 10, 1975 issue of *The New York Times*, "the pink triangle . . . lies buried as a virtual historical secret." Glasser went on to say that "During World War II, no king, no premier, no president, no prominent citizen came forward wearing a pink triangle, as it is said the yellow Star of David was worn by the King of Denmark." He might have added that afterward, for all our sufferings, we received no recompense of

any kind. No one mourned our losses or raised tear-filled and haunted eyes to commemorate our dead. We were outlaws before and so we remained.

Raul Hilberg, author of *The Destruction of the European Jews* and a former member of the President's Commission on the Holocaust, was quoted in the December 10, 1979 issue of the *New York Village Voice* as being opposed to including Gays in any memorialization of Holocaust victims. "That would be a travesty," Hilberg said, implying that any mention of Gays would somehow detract from the blood sacrifice of the Jews. That Gays were not worthy to be mentioned in the same breath with those who had been driven to the gas chambers for their faith, whether Jewish or Christian.

There are those historians, like Hilberg, who insist that Gays were "highly valued" prisoners in the camps. There is, as we shall see, not one shred of evidence to support this contention and quite a bit to the contrary. Eugen Kogon, a highly respected authority on the Holocaust, himself interned at Buchenwald and author of *The Theory and Practice of Hell* states uncatagorically that "The fate of the homosexuals in the concentration camps can only be described as ghastly." We shall see that this is true.

We shall see as well that the mechanisms of genocide were set up to murder us. We Gays were the first.

The context for the story of the Pink Triangle has been easy enough to dig out, finding Gay survivors who were willing to talk was much more difficult. Remember that Gays, who were criminals before the war remained criminals afterward. The German law (175) under which Gays were persecuted by the Nazis remained on the books throughout the Allied occupation and up until 1969. Even when it was finally removed, the prejudice and hatred remained. These victims had no reason to trust anybody.

There is one other thing to keep in mind as well. These people had been through
TURN TO PINK TRIANGLE, PAGE 4



Now! Read Wisconsin Light Every Other Week! Next Issue Out Thursday, October 6

Homophobia Began at Time Of Nascent European Cultures

By Benjamin A.S.C. Stone

While the following critique of homophobia focuses on Gay men, the author is fully cognizant of anti-Lesbian homophobia and its origins in traditional perceptions of "women's role."

To hear people talk, one would think that homophobia is a natural, correct and permanent aspect of human thought. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The seeds of homophobia began with the sexual hang-ups of nascent European cultures which eventually inherited the ruins of the Roman Empire. Even during the period of the Middle Ages known as the "Dark Ages" homophobia was not terribly rampant.

The problem originated with the crises of the 13th and 14th centuries. Feudalism was beginning to decay, and mercantilism was rapidly on the rise. Whenever a society begins even a gradual change in the means of production, the process has a traumatic effect on the civilization's development. In Western Europe the trauma was accentuated by the ravages of the bubonic plague, which killed a third of the continent's population and displaced masses of people (providing future labor-power for primitive capitalism).

Western Europe became the hell-hole of the planet. There was panic and violent peasant uprising everywhere. When catastrophes of such magnitude strike, people become irrationally narrow-minded as they search for ways to cope with the insecurity of living in an uncertain world. As a result, Jews; homosexuals and all others who were "different" suffered horribly. This tendency became inherent in Western culture — a culture which was later rammed down the collective throat of the rest of the world.

As old mercantilism developed into present-day capitalism, homophobia became an indispensable part of the structure of society, for homophobia is the watchdog of sexism. Industrialization ushered in the modern marital relationship, composed of the husband as boss (bread-winner) and the wife as worker (hausfrau). The man "brings home the bacon," while the subservient woman produces a worker or boss (depending on the family's class) in the literal sense, for the future generations of industrial society.

In order to maintain this patriarchy, the distinctions between masculinity and femininity must be sharpened and perpetuated. If a man deviates from the societal interpretation of masculinity, or if he rejects mastery over women outright, he must be stigmatized; hence, the social "necessity" of homophobia.

Educate Yourself About AIDS

By Jerry Koeller

I've been hearing a lot of people saying, "I'm tired of hearing about AIDS." I know its not one of the top subjects for a relaxing conversation but we have got to continue to talk and after talking, take some action.

"Everyone knows already."

Not the whole facts they don't, some either feel it can't happen to them or just don't give a damn. And, believe this or not, there are people who have no idea what AIDS really is. A lot of the problem is fear of being thought Gay because of showing concern about the illness. Schools, for instance, have a hard enough time with sex education to begin with.

"What good does talking about it do?"

Not much if we don't follow it with action. Get involved; push for education in your school district. Write you congressman, senator, representative, mayor, town officials — let them hear your concern. We won't get education or research unless someone pushes.

"You can't pick up anything that doesn't have a story about AIDS in it."

GOOD, at least people in the media have found that AIDS or ARC are worth space in their publications.

Maybe you do tire of the constant barrage of facts, figures and advice but we have to keep it up until we find a cure. Ignorance of AIDS isn't bliss, it's stupidity.

Get involved in working with groups. Write those letters to officials. Educate yourself about AIDS. These are small things that each of us can do but each small thing added to the next grows til we can each make a difference.

Homophobia is also maintained through the social conditioning of men to act without thinking at all. A typical male discussion of homosexuality is not a discussion; rather, it is a stream of vile, ignorant wisecracks. If any participant dares to present anything more enlightened than the most fascistic point of view, he will face incredibly vicious persecution. (Today, fortunately, there are many exceptions to this rule).

The effects of all this are depressing. One striking result is that otherwise-decent human beings can be transformed into snarling animals at the mere mention of something about which they know very little. Another is that the stigma of homosexuality, and the related pressure on the men of today to be the perfect paragons of masculinity, place a great strain on the male psyche. Capitalist society expects its men to be so competitive that there is no room for real feeling, cooperation or communication. The masculine "ideal" seems to be that of a hollow fortress, unthreatened by emotions from within, invulnerable to attack by emotions from the outside. But this is not humanly possible.

The refusal of so many to deal with Gay issues rationally is related to a general closed-mindedness; in an Orwellian sense, something becomes a fact simply because society says so. If people should challenge traditional assumptions, their arguments will be met with a mindless spewing of reactionary cliches. If they publicly affirm an alternative sexual orientation, they will face personal hostility and even physical violence.

While a cultural revolution was taking place in Mao's China in the 1960s, a very different kind of cultural revolution was in the making in the United States. The New Left Movement here spawned the new feminist movement — and a new Gay rights movement, touched off by the 1969 Stonewall riot in New York where, for the first time, Gays defended themselves against police brutality. In a period of just 20 years, this activism has resulted in a staggering level of social progress. But, while the Gay rights idea was reborn in the United States, it has made the least progress in this country as compared to other Western industrial nations. There is much more to be done.

The first step in furthering this process is education. People must be prodded into thinking about these issues. They must lighten up concerning increasingly arbitrary definitions of "masculine" and "feminine" behavior. They must challenge traditional misconceptions, despite the heavy cost.

Without knowledge, there can be no liberation.

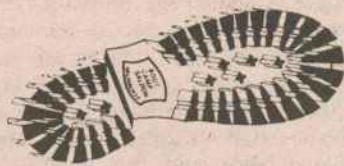
Lesbian Photos Sought for Book

Ginny Vida, Editor of *Our Right to Love: A Lesbian Resource Book*, is inviting Lesbian photographers to submit photos of Lesbians for possible inclusion in the revised edition of *Our Right to Love*, to be published by E.P. Dutton.

Vida said that she is looking for photographs that portray Lesbians as women who are making positive contributions to society, enjoying life and interacting in a positive way with others.

Photographers will receive \$35 for each photo published, payable upon publication. Photos must be black and white, professional quality, and all persons pictured must sign a photo release which the editor will provide.

Photos may be submitted to: Ginny Vida, Editor, *Our Right to Love*, 45 Plaza St., #1-G, Brooklyn, NY 11217.



BOOT CAMP SALOON
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Many Wisconsinites attended the Democratic National Convention, held during July in Atlanta. Among those was Leonard Sobczak (left) of Milwaukee. He is shown at a party with openly Gay U.S. Congressman Barney Frank of Massachusetts (right) and Frank's spouse, Herb Moses who is formerly of Milwaukee.

Gay Chinese Teenager Sends Tragic Suicide Letter to U.S.

Letter to the Editor

I am a senior high school student. I am 17 years old, living in Beijing (Peking), the People's Republic of China. I am writing this letter in tears because this is the last time for me to write letter in the world. After giving this letter to a foreigner who will leave China, I will kill myself and stop my nightmare thoroughly. I really don't have any other choice.

I am Gay. I don't dare tell anyone. I am very lonely and despair. I curse my fate for living in China. Gay should not be born into China. I have to hide my feelings all day long. If I am caught out, I will be sent to jail.

I write all my pain and bitter emotions in my diary. I love one of my classmate deeply. I wrote my love of him in the diary in great depth. I don't dare to show my love. That is very pain in my inner-heart. I wrote all these emotional struggle with my life.

It is my fault and careless that I shall pay with my life. My diary was read by two of my classmate. Not very long that the whole school and the people in my neighborhood have known this shocking news I have been exposed thoroughly in the society. For days my mom has been crying and my father has beaten me four times so far. My younger sister don't dare to go out because her peers will laugh at her and beat her. Most of the neighbors smiling faces have turned to stone faces. Everyone here is chatting on

this big news, pointing to the members of my family.

I have been asked to leave school and to wait punishment from my school. Because I haven't reached the adult's age of 18, the police office on my street hasn't bothered me yet.

I don't dare to look at the faces of other people these days. I feel terribly bad and grief. I owe my family. I owe my relatives. I owe my friends. I have brought trouble to them. As long as I think of these, I can't help my tears. God, why am I so bad luck!

I have decided to cut my wrists and put an end to my pain-filled life. I hope my family and relatives would understand and forgive me. Life for me is too hard to bear. I don't have face to continue my unhuman-liked life in front of all these hostile people. It is time for me to leave this heartbreaking world and forget everything. Good Bye!

—Li Binbin
Beijing

Editor's Note:

The above letter was sent to *Passport*, a magazine, published in San Francisco for Gay/Lesbian Asians. It has appeared in two other Gay/Lesbian publications in the U.S. According to John Hubert of Paz y Liberacion, a Houston-based organization, the authenticity is beyond doubt. Unfortunately, no one knows if Li Binbin carried through his tragic plan.

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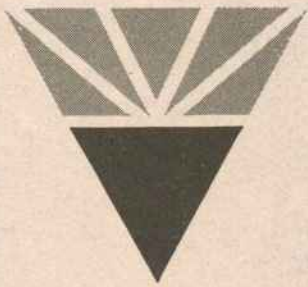
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GAY AND LESBIAN
PRESS ASSOCIATION

EDITORIAL

ACT-UP CONFRONTS HOMOPHOBIA ACROSS COUNTRY

As you may have gathered from the last couple of issues of the paper we heartily applaud the members of ACT-UP. We saw them in action in Atlanta and we continue to receive news of them as they confront homophobia and inaction across the country.

While their style might not fit everyone, they are, in a most forceful way, bringing our cause to the attention of the fearful, the insensitive and those who couldn't care less about us.

This country is, indeed, a wonderful land where opportunity can be had for those who take it. But we must also remember that rights are rarely given, but have to be demanded and sometimes, seized. Assertion and not assimilation is the key to minority rights.

Those of ACT-UP and groups like them, have no fear of the rich and the powerful. With little money, they bring the cause of the poor and the helpless of our community to public notice.

We have been told that the realities of life are that the poor have no power, that they effect no changes, that one should understand that and accept it. That may be so, but it is wrong and, in many ways, is a sad, sad judgment on those who hold to it. Just because something is, doesn't make it right.

Therefore, **Light** will always applaud those who understand that the fate of the least among us is the destiny of us all. We will always applaud and support those, like ACT-UP, who struggle toward what should be.

Call it idealism if you want, but that is where this paper stands and will always stand.

MILWAUKEE PRIDE WEEK SHOWS GREAT PROMISE

As we go to press, Milwaukee's Lesbian/Gay Pride Celebration has less than a week to run. It has, so far, had elements of both triumph and disappointment.

Certainly among the triumphs is the fact that it is taking place. This is due to the dedication and hard work of the Pride Committee who have been untiring in their efforts to make our celebration a success. These people, women and men, deserve the thanks of the entire community. They have attended innumerable meetings, written pamphlets and articles, seen to publicity, raised money urged and cajoled others to help and participate, made buttons (Sue Cooke made 1200 Pride buttons by hand) and a whole lot more. In short, we think that the committee is a fine example of Lesbians and Gays dedicated to our cause as are all those who participated in whatever way.

Among the disappointments we've heard voiced were those concerning the poor attendance at Pride events. Certainly there is a point to be made. However, we think it worth keeping in mind that this is the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay community's FIRST such celebration. As someone remarked, even ONE person attending is 100 improvement over last year.

Still, all in all, the celebration has been a success. As we go to press, the Pride Committee is already taking a close look at Pride 88. There are, as with any such enterprise, lessons to be learned. Some things will be enhanced, others will be changed and still others will be added. The Committee will add new members, we have been told. But, when all is said and done, a beginning has been made and everyone who made the effort to participate and/or attend should be heartily congratulated for showing her/his Pride.

GUEST EDITORIAL: BECKER'S ELECTION LOSS STRONGLY FELT

One of the saddest tragedies of the election year was the defeat of State Representative Dismas Becker in his bid to fill the State Senate seat vacated by John Norquist when he became Mayor.

Dismas was the original sponsor of Wisconsin's Gay/Lesbian rights law. When no one wanted to sponsor our Gay/Lesbian rights law Dismas stepped forward. He laid the preliminary ground work that made it possible for Wisconsin to be the first state in the country to provide civil rights to the Gay/Lesbian community.

Not once has Dismas ever come to us as so many others have and said "See what I've done for you, you owe me." Dismas Becker supported us because in the rightness of our cause, not because he sought to gain political advantage. He has truly been our friend and deserves a special place in our hearts.

But that's not all that Dismas has done. He was a voice for those who had no voice. His concern, his compassion, his class, his willingness to fight for the underdog and his effectiveness in doing so mark him as a man of great distinction.

Those of us who know him, know that there is not one promise he ever made to the voters that wasn't kept. He never campaigned negatively, he was a tireless champion of those who like us had no champion.

Even in defeat he gave one of the classiest concession speeches telling his supporters that he really won half a victory because his old Assembly seat was won by a black woman even though his district is mostly white.

That's the kind of person Dismas Becker is. We all wish him well and we hope that he will be returned to an office worthy of his considerable talents. The halls of the Capitol won't be the same without him.

The Editor's Desk

The **Wisconsin Light** is a state-wide newspaper. This is a commitment that we have had from the beginning and there has been no change. That means that we are eager for news, articles, opinion pieces, letters, guest editorials, etc. from the northern and central parts of our state. We are very grateful for what we receive, but we need more. So please, anyone who has something they would like to say, write it and send it to us. Use a pen name, if you will, but write. We can cover Wisconsin only if you'll help.

Speaking of writing, if you have a PC or word processor or something like that and want to write, contact C.S.P., Inc. You can make things easy by sending a disk or, if you have a modem, send it over the phone. Please don't call me. Remember, this editor is struggling with his own computer. And I mean struggling as in fighting, as in tempted to smash the screen with my fist. That sort of thing. It's been my general opinion, reinforced over the years, that the quill pen is the height of technological efficiency. I am told I can do almost everything with this machine. I find I can do almost nothing. I wouldn't

be surprised if the last paragraph I've written hasn't vanished into oblivion. I pushed one button and started to get messages from my long dead Auntie Em. Another button gave me a picture of Ronald Reagan asleep, his face in the jello. Oh well.

The biweekly format and scheduling takes some getting used to. Tell me about it! For those who were wondering last time about where some of the columns were, you'll see them all every month, but not every issue. Does that make sense?

I suppose I should say something about the loss of the phone service ads. Let it be enough to say that they're gone. We knew that they'd be going back in May, so we made provisions.

Editorial pages are rarely, if ever, places for personal messages, but in this case, I'll make an exception. I want to wish a very belated but very heartfelt "Happy Birthday" to a great lady, Karen Lamb. This comes from me and all those who form the **Light** family.

Well, I guess that's about it for now except for the fact that I wish the November presidential elections were going to go differently from the way I think they are.

Is Coming Out Day a Costly Gimmick?

The process of coming out — the acknowledgment to one's self, family and friends that you're Gay or Lesbian — probably is one of the most difficult problems facing some people today. Regardless of when someone comes out, most admit it wasn't easy.

Thus, you would think that a group of people who came up with the idea to hold a National Coming Out Day to encourage and help people with the coming out process could have developed the idea into a worthwhile endeavor. We don't think they have, but let's take a look at the facts.

If you want to participate in National Coming Out Day, you'll receive a NCOD kit which includes bumper stickers, a commitment card (ironically with a box to check to keep your name confidential), various pieces of literature and a form to fill out so you can take out an ad in the commemorative journal.

Ignore the fact that NCOD is scheduled for October 11 and the commemorative journal isn't scheduled to be published until December and ignore the fact that the brochure suggests as a sample "personal" ad, "The Dance Club invites you to party with us in celebration of National Coming Out Day!" Try to ignore too that the organization says 20,000 copies are going to be published (that's less than each of Chicago's three Gay and Lesbian publications print each publication day).

But you're going to find it pretty difficult to ignore the fact that you can have your NCOD message printed on a full deluxe gold page for a mere \$5,000. Or if that touches too deeply in your pocket, try a silver page for only \$2,500. An ivory page comes in at only \$1,500 and gauche white is a paltry \$1,200. Personal state sponsor ads run from \$250 to \$1,000 and a 25-word personal ad like the one quoted above is only \$100. The commemorative journal itself is to be sold retail for \$12.

And what about the profits from this venture — who is to benefit from this money? According to the NCOD literature, they'll give 25 percent sales commission to the salespersons who sell the ads or they'll donate 25 percent to an organization of the salesperson's choice. And, if there is anything left over, they hold the funds for next year's National Coming Out Day.

We think something has gone awry. National Coming Out Day looks like a costly gimmick, one that we don't think, and frankly we hope Chicagoans don't fall for. We'll be very surprised to see a \$5,000 ad in the book from Chicago. In fact, we'll be very surprised to see any ads from Chicago. We think there are too many organizations (and not just AIDS-related ones) where we can put our hard-earned dollars to far more constructive use!

We are very disappointed that Jean O'Leary, co-chair of the National Gay Rights Advocates and member of the Democratic National Committee, has lent her and NGRA's name to this cause, giving it a sense of respectability.

Of course, if you disagree, you're more than welcome to send off for your NCOD kit. The address is 8380 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 202, W. Hollywood, CA 90069. Their telephone number is (213) 650-6200.

But don't look for our ad, it won't be there.

-Dan Di Leo & Ralph Paul
Co-Publishers
Gay Chicago

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OBITUARY POLICY

Wisconsin Light publishes obituaries of members of the Lesbian/Gay community as both news and a community service free of charge. In many cases, we depend on relatives and/or friends of the deceased to

GUEST EDITORIAL POLICY

The **Wisconsin Light** welcomes guest editorials. Such are expressions of personal opinion on community, local ornamental issues of interest to Lesbians and/or Gays. They should be typed, double-spaced and be no longer than 400-600 words.

A BOY OF SUMMER

Making New Friends

I HAVE BEEN living in a dorm here at my college for three days now, have had only one day of classes, and I already realize what a... learning experience this is.

You see, I knew that in coming to college, at last, I would make new friends, and see new things, but I really couldn't have imagined what it would be like. And here is what it was like, living in a college campus, and especially in a college residence hall.

I'll start with my roommate: his first name is David, but almost no one calls him that; instead, they use an abbreviation of his last name, Kuj, pronounced K...oo..j. He's very popular around here, with the phone in our room ringing every ten minutes certain times of the day with people — boys and girls both — wanting to talk to Kuj. It helps that he's a sophomore, and knows many students from last year. Also, it surely doesn't hurt that he has blond hair, light china blue eyes, has a good, rather stocky body, and is fairly sexually active with (long sigh) girls. In fact, he told me that he used about a dozen condoms last year, and would try to improve on that record this year. At this point, mentally rolling my eyes, I promised to leave the room whenever he came home with one of his "women." He seemed happy about that.

Kuj is into beer, especially Coors Extra Gold, two icy bottles of which are sitting in our room's refrigerator as I write this. He usually drinks only with friends, and we had a few last night while we chewed the fat. His fondness for this beverage can be noted in our room; there are two posters from Old Style (one with a near-naked woman on it), a cap from Miller, and also a five-foot high, blow-up soft plastic replica of a Miller bottle, which rests between the top of a small sofa and the ceiling of the room.

Okay, well, I'll tell you more about Kuj soon, but now I want you to meet some of the other boys on my floor I know — Jonny, John, Goose, and Matt.

Jonny has short blond hair and dark brown eyes, is thin, small muscled, and wears shorts a lot which show off his fair but powerful-looking leg muscles. He looks like he might have been a skate boarder in high school. He drinks, is friends with Kuj, and is annoyingly heterosexual.

John is Matt's roommate. A freshman, he discovered beer the first night here — from, uh, Kuj. Um, anyway, on that same night, he discovered the girls that live in the dorm, and according to Matt, he brought one into their room about one in the morning, with Matt in bed and pretending



Morgan Summer

to be asleep facing the wall. John allegedly tried to have sex with her but she left. Then John, fairly blasted, fell asleep. He laughed when he confirmed the story. Black hair, blue eyes, and a Freddy Kruger poster hung on the wall near his bed. A nice guy, with a sense of humor.

Goose (nickname, I don't know why) has, well, a crocodile in his room. A baby crocodile in a fish aquarium. Pulls the girls in like flies. But since the hall rules do not allow pets, it will not be long for this place. Goose wears short-sleeve, pastel shirts and shorts, and just seems like someone you could depend on. Lives across the hall.

And Matt. Matt is the most normal guy I've met since I've got here. Black hair, and dark eyes, and an okay body, but I don't care; Matt listens and knows how to tell a good story; and unlike Jonny, John, Goose, and Kuj, he doesn't drink, and I admire him for that. A guy that I think can be truly trusted, but has a bad habit of saying, "That's really queer."

Homophobia runs crazy in my residence hall. I won't go into detail — not yet — but suffice it for now to say that the saying of disapproval I ran into in high school, "That's Gay," is used a lot around here. So I added another course when I came to college: Acting very heterosexual, 101. I don't wanna talk about it.

But there are many good things, and I am writing with a smile on my face; last night I was arranging to come home briefly for Labor Day, but the trip had to be postponed a day. I told Matt about this and a minute later he was on the phone to his mother, asking her if they could give me a ride, and in doing so go very much out of their way. She said no, but it was a great thing for him to do.

For now, I like this living a lot. I look forward to each day, because I have a good reason to: the people who I know.

Pink Triangle Series Begins

PINK TRIANGLE

Continued from Page 1

hideous experiences, the pain of which would remain with them for the rest of their lives. It was a terrible thing for them to bring back all the old memories of incredible suffering. I am convinced that the only reason that they did so was because I am Gay, one of our own, as one put it and they believed I would tell their stories with sympathy.

Finding these people and interviewing them was a process that took over 10 years (1970-1980) and numerous trips to Europe. It was largely in the nature of a chain reaction. I met one who would introduce me to another who would, in turn introduce me to friends and so on. I tell people that I interviewed these survivors but I use the word "interview" loosely. Only in one or two cases was there any such formal structure. In most situations, the person, once satisfied as to my discretion, would simply talk, telling what he had experienced, what he had seen, and I would keep notes as best I could.

In pursuing this story, I freely admit to having committed the ultimate sin of historical research. I lost my objectivity and closely and emotionally identified with my subjects. I can frankly state that never before nor since have I felt so drained, so full of sorrow and anger — and so very much a Gay. These Gay people who had suffered beyond imagining were me and those Gays who had been done to death were also me. So, research in any scholarly sense, was not what I was doing at all. Nor was it curiosity although it started out as that. It was, in the end, more in the nature of a personal quest to

find out as best I could, what had happened to those who were as I am in a society determined to extinguish them.

I am not satisfied even now that I can in any but a small way comprehend why it happened or the enormity of it. That's the reason, I guess, I have waited to write this, hoping that, with time, some insight would come. This has not happened, but I have come, I think, to understand the obsessive need and determination of Jewish writers to get the story out hoping against hope that it might never happen again. I am not optimistic. The Nazis were, after all, not a German phenomenon, but a human phenomenon. Still, I have lived with this story for a long time. I have talked about it, published bits and pieces here and there. But never have I made the attempt to write the interviews and place them within their historical context, until now.

I can not say that you will enjoy this story. I don't think that you will. But, I want you to know it and I hope that I can make you see through my words the terrifying reality behind the Pink Triangle that has haunted me for nearly 20 years.

Author's note to Pink Triangle series

Next issue we will continue our story with Hans, a Gay survivor of Dachau, as he talks about Gay life in Munich before the Nazis and what happened with Hitler's advent to power in 1933. We will also discuss why we Gays were the first to be sent to the camps.

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What Every Boy Knows

By Antler

Every boy knows what it's like
when he's really alone,
When it's safe to jack off with a passion,
When it's safe to take off his clothes
and prance around
And parade his lubricating cock
before every mirror in the house,
Safe to cry out and talk dirty
while jerking it,
Really screams "I'm coming!"
when he comes,
Really stand on his head
and jack off in his face
if he wants,
Yes, every boy knows
when it's safe.

At the country picnic the 12-year-old boy
wanders off by himself in the woods,
he knows the perfect spot.
On his study-hall break to the library
the 13-year-old stops in the empty john,
just enough time for a quickie.
The 14-year-old boyscout waits till he's sure
everyone in the tent is sleeping,
quietly, slowly he plays with his dream.
The 15-year-old runs home from school,
half-way he's already hard,
His heart is pounding,
when he opens the frontdoor,
He knows he's got a full hour
before his sister or parents return,
Enough time to give himself
a real workout in the bathtub.
The 16-year-old wakes up in the snowy night,
he watches himself with a flashlight
magically masturbate under the comforter.
The 17-year-old puts *Leaves of Grass* aside,
leans back on the chair with his feet on the wall
in the basement at home where he studies,
He likes poetry, but right now
he needs a good handjob
before he can continue...
No one can see me now, the boy chuckles to himself,
And I'm not fool enough anymore to think God
is watching me horrified
and will sentence me to hell.
If God doesn't love to watch boys jack off
as much as boys love to watch themselves jack off
he does not exist.
The 18-year-old boy licks his lips
as he jacks off in the hayloft,
If anyone saw me they'd think I was nuts
he thinks as he squirms and groans,
His devilish lasciviousness to make love to himself
makes the monkeys at the zoo seem prudish,
There's no posture, no expression on his face,
no possible method of touch he won't try
to make it feel more Wow.
The voluptuous 19-year-old knows
he's got the whole beach to himself today,
He basks naked in the sun till baked,
then floating on the bosom of the lake
gives himself the best handjob of his life.
The 20-year-old mountainclimber still digs the thrill
of doing it on top of a mountain alone,
He never tells anyone about it, it's a secret
he keeps to himself,
He still smiles remembering the first time
he jacked off from a cliff,
Ecstatic boyhood semen spurting and spurting
tumbling thousands of feet
into the wild valley below....

Wisconsin Bell Discontinues 900 Phone Service Lines

As you've probably noticed, the ads for the 900 lines, the so-called 'phone service ads' are gone. This is because Wisconsin Bell will no longer do billing for these phone lines.

According to Howard Hetzel, the reason for this is the number of complaints the phone company received from concerned citizens about the way the lines were being used.


Hetzel is Staff Manager of Corporate Communications for Wisconsin Bell, an Ameritech company.

Hetzel told *Light* that Wisconsin Bell had received customer complaints on 40 phone lines. On August 16, Wisconsin Bell notified Media-4, the Milwaukee carrier for eight of these lines that if the lines did not change their content, billing would be discontinued. Media-4 was given one week to act.

This, Hetzel said, was in line with an Ameritech policy that reserved the right to discontinue billing on all such lines when the content was deemed detrimental to the reputation of Ameritech.

Hetzel told *Light* that a company committee checked to see if the content had been changed. When it had been determined that no change had been made, Media-4 was notified on September 6 by letter that Wisconsin Bell would no longer be billing

for the lines. Hetzel emphasized that this action by the phone company had nothing to do with sexual orientation. That Gay or straight, Ameritech's policy was the same and has been and will be enforced without discrimination.



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POLITICALLY SPEAKING

More of Us Must Become Politically Active to Retain, Expand Our Hard Earned Freedoms

By Bill Meunier

The defeat of former Governor Tony Earl in the Democratic race for the U.S. Senate was the result of more than Herb Kohl's money, it was also the result of the kind of ineptitude that cost him his bid for re-election in 1986.

As on Gay activist put it, "These folks didn't learn anything from the last time around." Gays and Lesbians around the state put a lot of effort, time and money into Earl's re-election bid. In Milwaukee alone Gays and Lesbians raised over \$20,000 to re-elect the Governor.

Yet none of the key people in that 1986 effort were contacted in 1988. Certainly the Earl campaign must have had lists of volunteers who had worked for him so diligently in 1986.

When warned by our friends in organized labor that Tony was in trouble, some of us offered to do a major fund raiser, but only if Earl himself would attend. The organizers were promised that Earl would be there for about an hour. Discussions were held on whether or not to do a \$50.00 or \$25.00 fund raiser and plans were being laid to put together an invitation list.



Tony Earl

Yet the Earl folks called and informed the organizers that Tony wouldn't be there after all. His wife Shelia would come if we wanted. The planners concluded that to ask the community for that kind of money we needed the candidate himself.

Those who say that Earl is finished politically shouldn't write him off so quickly. He bounced back from losing the primary for Attorney General in the statewide elections preceding his election as Governor. They might also do well to remember that Bill Proxmire the man Earl sought to replace had run unsuccessfully for Governor three times before he was elected to the U.S. Senate.

Earl has good ideas, is effective and has many supporters within the Democratic Party. If only he would learn how to put together a campaign team that didn't take his opponents for granted.

• • •

Many Gay/Lesbian activists are mourning State Representative Dismas Becker's loss in the State Senate Race. It's not that the winner Alderman Brian is poor on our issues, it's just that with Dismas we were a priority.

Becker's chances were excellent until Milwaukee Attorney Dave De Bruin entered the race. De Bruin had no chance to win and according to many no real reason to run since his stands and Becker's were nearly identical on the issues. De Bruin split the progressive vote with Becker and cost Becker the election.

Many West Side political activist have been saying that De Bruin is finished after what he did. Costing Becker the State Senate race will undoubtedly mean that De Bruin will never get the full support of the progressive community should he choose to run again.

• • •

Congratulations to Kevin O'Connor who won the Democratic nod for Milwaukee County Treasurer even though he withdrew from the race. Must be nice to be that popular. O'Connor who was a supporter of Gay/Lesbian rights as an Alderman decided not to run after realizing that he would have to resign his much more lucrative job at First Wisconsin. He was trounced in an earlier

bid for Congress. Oh well Kevin you can't lose them all.

Turning to presidential politics, if Wisconsin's Gay and lesbian community is going to have an impact on the November elections, time is running out.

We have a choice between Mike Dukakis who, while he may not be willing to do everything we want him to, is clearly the most pro-Gay/Lesbian candidate ever to run on a national major party ticket, and George Bush who claims to have been an important part of an administration that has neglected us, allowed us to die and wants us all to go away.

The fact of the matter is that with only a few exceptions, there are not many Gays and Lesbians involved in this or any other major race. A recent panel discussion on the Presidential race on a Gay cable show in Milwaukee, while including some genuine political activists, not only failed to include anyone working in the current presidential campaigns, but also neglected to include anyone who had worked for the candidates in the Wisconsin Presidential primary.

When asked why he had not included anyone who, in fact, was a Gay/Lesbian participant in the current Presidential race, the show's producer Bob Fish said that by participating in the panel discussion, the panelists were in fact participating in the race. To me, that's like Nightline calling someone and inviting them to participate in a show on the Middle East peace process. If they go on the air they can claim that they're a Middle East expert who has participated in the peace process.

Mr. Fish's attitude is unfortunately shared by far too many of us. Some of our leadership wants the glory and recognition that goes with any progress we make but they are unwilling to do the grunt work that goes along with it. The people who are really out there in the front lines doing the strategizing, pulling people together, designing and distributing flyers, running up the long distance phone bills are seldom recognized.

The people who do the hard work associated with political leadership don't do it for recognition. (They know they'll never get any). Mr. Fish's attitude is typical of many of us. It shows the lack of respect that our Gay/Lesbian community has for those who really deserve the title of "political leader" and it shows a lack of understanding of the political process and what it will take for us to utilize that process for our own benefit. It's an attitude that needs to be changed.

It's time that we reached a state of political maturity and recognized that the people who are out there in the strategy meetings, pushing the Gay/Lesbian agenda in a room full of straights, sending letters, and organizing the community behind sympathetic candidates are just as important as those who put on drag shows, athletic events, concerts, and other social occasions.

Not only are they just as important, without them the chances are that we wouldn't have any of the above.

Maybe we need to think more about the reasons why we should be active.

Those reasons include our own lives. By that I don't just mean the AIDS crisis (although that in and of itself should be sufficient motivation) but the quality of our lives. Our ability to work at jobs we are qualified for, keep our children, live without harassment, get probate laws that treat our relationships the same way they treat straight relationships and the rest of the agenda.

Don't worry about whether or not you have the skills. Every campaign needs help. Anyone can make phone calls, distribute literature and stuff envelopes. I know it sounds like tedious work but you'd be surprised what a good time it can be.

It's necessary work. Necessary if we want to hang on to the gains we've made, necessary if we are ever going to achieve an equal status with the rest of society.

That status won't come easy and I know that there are some who don't think it will ever come. But then just ten years ago the police were raiding our bars, our sex lives were illegal and we didn't have

our civil rights law.

Many of us paid a high price to achieve the changes that the last ten years have seen. We will need many more to make more gains over the next ten. It won't always be easy and the price we will have to pay in time, efforts and dollars won't be cheap. But then real freedom never comes cheaply.

Blacks Open D.C. Conference Sept. 30

Detroit, MI- The National Coalition of Blacks Lesbians and Gays, the country's only national organization designed to address the needs and concerns of Black Lesbians and Gays, announces its Tenth Anniversary Homecoming Conference, to be held at the Howard Inn, in Washington, D.C., September 30 thru October 2, 1988, celebrating the close of the organization's first decade and the beginning of its second.

The theme of this year's conference is "Home Work (for homeboys and home-girls)". Its intent is to prepare Black Lesbians and Gays for local organizing and to empower them to develop strategies for meeting their own needs and enhancing the quality of their lives and of the at-large Lesbian and Gay movement.

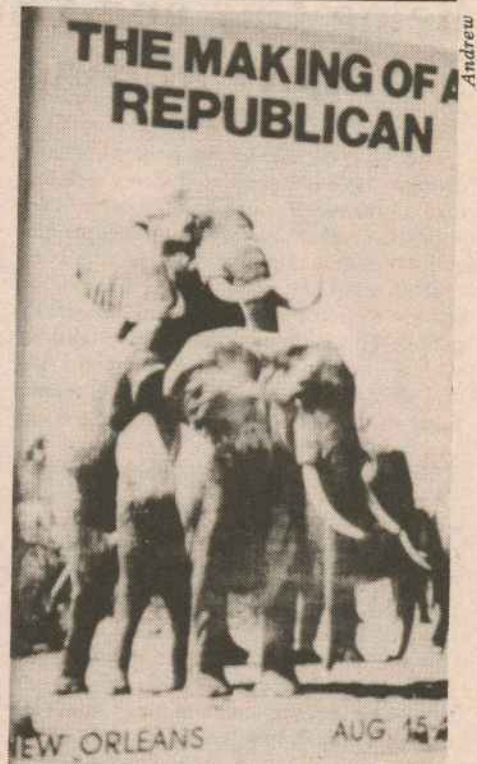
For more information or to make a contribution, contact: Renee McCoy, NCBLG, 19641 W. Seven Mile, Detroit, MI. 48291. (313) 537-0484.

Madison To Hold Pride March in 1989

[The United-Madison]- Planning is underway for a Lesbian & Gay Pride March to be held in Madison in the spring of 1989. "A massive visible coming out is needed in the midwest and beyond to affirm Gay and Lesbian culture, to celebrate the commonalities and differences of all peoples, and to show unity for all civil rights," according to the Madison March Committee.

"This gathering of Gays, Lesbians and supporters will reflect the strength of our community, act as a tool for ongoing personal and political empowerment, and highlight the interconnectedness of all civil rights issues."

The next organizational meeting will be held on Friday, September 9, at 6:30 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House, 1704 Roberts Court. For more information, call Pam at 231-1598 or Richard at 255-9131.



The Republicans had numerous posters for sale at their recent National Convention in Atlanta. Among them was this winner with an animal motif.

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Being Gay and Christian Equals A Mighty Moving Force!

By Jay Clark

The Gay population in general, are a loving concerned people. It is my opinion that because of our quiet shame and oppression that we were under in our childhood and adolescent years trying to change what the creator has created, to change to become straight and "normal" people. This is then perhaps why we can be such an emotional people. My friends, we are all normal people. All God's people from all lands and tongues are created in God's image.

The word "Christian", means to be "Christ-like." It doesn't mean that we will save the world from sin like Christ did on Calvary's cross, but rather to reflect the deeds of Christ in humility, peace, joy, long suffering, giving, caring, sharing and in love. These values are Christ-like. We can minister to others as Christ did by feeding the hungry, helping those who are sick, to be there to lend a helping hand and to pray with and for others.

Too many times, people who may mean to do well, tear each other down. There are too many Christians saying one thing and doing another. They may say they are following Christ, when in fact they may attack the Gay community. I know Christ would not attack the Gay community as various spiritual leaders often do. Yet Christ is capable of showing anger at times, but it was how he vented his anger that was different. His anger was displayed via a discerning glance. An example of how Christ handled his anger can be seen in Mark 3:1-6. He made his point with a glance and with a grieved heart. His anger is what made a difference.

Man has chosen to picket, cuss, slander and kill to get their point across to the other side. Let us be more Christ-like, and see how God moves with Jesus leading the way to victory. In John 15:12, healing is explained as Jesus's act of love. He could of been stoned to death. Christ said "this is my commandment that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this that he lay down his life for a friend."

Yes, for too long demons and society have had their way with us. Society has had its way with us. Society has been filled with anger and hatred toward Gays for many years. They have let satan himself whisper

The Living Church Welcomes Everyone; Especially Sinners

By Fr. James Arimond

In a world that seems to be filled with a lot of bad news it's always a joy to hear from those who are happy and pleased with what is being done. I heard from some of those happy people just recently.

A couple of weeks ago I received a telephone call from a young man in Los Angeles who was very pleased with the article that I wrote for the Aug./Sept. edition of *Wisconsin Light* entitled "Should I Join a Church or Synagogue." He said it really got him to thinking about his own situation. He had been a practicing Christian and, in fact, had studied briefly for the ministry. Then he moved to Hollywood and church just didn't seem to be part of the picture. He told me that after reading the article and thinking about it he began to realize that he had as much right to be a member of the church as anyone else. At the time of



Pastor Jay Clark

in their ear. We hear things such as God can't help Gays. He does not love us or use us in His work. These are all lies from the pits of hell! I truly do not want to be in their shoes on the day of judgement, as they will regret that they did not really know the Father and will regret that the Father was not in their personal lives.

We can also vent our anger through prayer. Yes, there is power in prayer, and you have it! You don't need permission, money or a special place or time. God uses our prayers, but He will not intervene until we ask him to help us with our problems. God wants us to call on Him, to speak to Him in bad and good times.

Whether it be "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed it by thy name" or even "lord help me!" We must realize that the simple action of saying "God I need help," places God and his angels into action. When one man prays, we are told, it sends 10,000 demons fleeing. When two or more are gathered in His name in prayer, there he is also in the holy spirit. God has given us a valuable tool to conquer our enemies (satan). It is the power of prayer. Use it wisely, and at all times to speak to God. He wants to hear our prayers and longs to answer them, to be with us now and forever, to raise a mighty moving force.

May the God of Israel watch over and protect us and lead us unto victory till Christ's return. Amen.

If you would like further information or literature, feel free to write Saving Grace Tabernacle, Box 837, Antioch, IL 60002.

his phone call he hadn't yet joined a parish but now at least he felt that he could; that he had a right to belong.

Around the same time I had the joy and privilege of meeting with a Lesbian support group that meets here in the city of Milwaukee. They asked me to give a presentation on church writings, spirituality and Gay/Lesbian sexuality. It was a great evening with lots of give and take on the part of all. One of the women wrote me a letter a few days later and said something like this: "I know that there are repressive and frightened people in the church and especially in the Hierarchy. Your presentation didn't do away with all the injustice but it did make me see that the Church and church membership is important. You helped me realize that church is much more than just a Bishop, Cardinal or Pope. The church is a living group of believing people who through the centuries have passed on the scriptures and sacraments to us who struggle with our faith today. I'm one of those who are struggling therefore I belong in the church! Living as one of the suffering now makes me even more aware of how we Christians have been asked to join in the sufferings of Christ. I'm not leaving the church; now I realize that as never before I'm a real member of the living church!"

It really makes me feel good to get these types of responses to my feeble efforts. I thank you for them.

Too often we get enslaved by our own poor self-images. We forget that Jesus said, "I came not for the saved but for the sinner." The Church, any church worth the name, is primarily for sinners.

If you have any questions or if there are any topics you'd like me to address in this column please feel free to address them to me care of this paper.

Keep the faith that's yours.

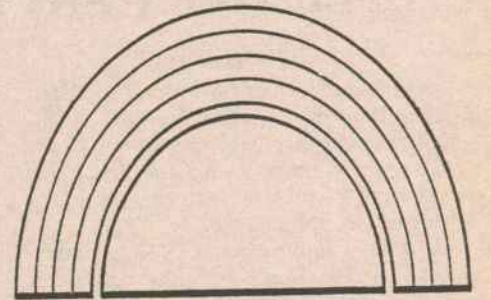
We May Fail Ourselves But We Do Not Fail God By Being Gay

By C. Alan

Most of us have heard of latent homosexual people — people who honestly believe that they are heterosexual until some sexually arousing experience or other dramatic event forces them to recognize that they have some homosexual feelings lurking deep within their subconscious mind. These latent feelings that may have surfaced only once in a person's life, may drive a person in our heterosexually-dominated society to reactions of fear and disgust. It is not untrue that many of our persecutors are people who have discovered a Gay feeling or two hidden in the depth of their souls. Hating and fearing what they find they may bash Gays physically and, more frequently, verbally.

At one time in my life I realized that my feelings were not even latent — they were strong, undeniable feelings of same-sex attraction. Yet, in absolute fear I lashed out against Gays. I believed that this macho stance protected me from the suspicion of others. Only after I came out to some of my straight friends did I realize that my strong anti-Gay tirades had made them suspicious. To a person, they assumed that I had either been molested as a young boy and carried some understandable resentments toward one man that I later directed to an entire group of people, or I was struggling with Gay feelings myself. The real clincher was the fact that on all other issues of social concern I generally took a moderate or liberal position. I always sought to understand or, at least, try to understand people who were troubled or different. My protests about Gays pointed to my very real self-hatred and fears.

Many in the Gay Community reveal another form of latent emotions. There is a great deal of latent spirituality in the Gay community. Many Gays claim that they don't want anything to do with God or religion. This is understandable when one considers that heterosexual views of God and the faith have done to Gays. But many who say they have no religious feelings



NEW HOPE

Metropolitan Community Church

betray their true feelings in various ways.

Over the years I've had many conversations with people who have had several drinks. Often they will bring the conversation around to God, the Church or classes and singing in the church choir. Or they share their importance of the High Holy Days, Hebrew school, and the times of spiritual refreshment at Sabbath Services. Some, admittedly, do not believe because their minds have grown scientific and religion is a matter of faith in things that are only based on evidence, not proof. But others do not believe because it is too painful; they believe God has cursed them or that they have failed God by being Gay. For many, this denied faith, this latent spirituality, leaves them empty, without purpose or direction in their lives. Life revolves around infrequent tricks, bars, and often only casual acquaintances they meet at the local pub. Subconsciously, this is the type of life some people believe they must live as an earthly punishment for being Gay.

Other conversations have not been so pleasant. Some have condemned any Gay person who is religious or in the religious life as "damned hypocrites." They have said that religious Gays are no different than they. We are all looking for the same thing. I assume that means sex. For most of my Christian and Jewish friends for

TURN TO CHURCH, PAGE 14

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MEXICO CITY

By Francis Reich

'Going out' in Mexico City really isn't that much different than going to the bars in the U.S. I mean, a bar is a bar is a bar. But while Gay or bisexual behavior may be more common here (it's a standard cliché — if a straight guy can't find a woman for the night, he'll settle for another man), the lifestyle can be more restrictive in other ways, such as there being only 30 bars in a city of 20 million. But then, this is a social culture, and meeting someone on the street has always been easy.

With rare exception, bars cater to the 50% of society that is middle- or upper-class. It is a fact of life in Mexico that there are really two societies here — one, the dirt poor, underemployed people that struggle to survive and who, incidentally, have mostly Indian blood; and the other, the modern Mexico that shops at huge malls and vacations in the U.S. and Europe, the fairer-skinned people with European blood. It is an inequity that has been around since Cortez subjugated the Aztecs and remains Mexico's most pressing problem, I believe. Perhaps the most common surgery performed here is the nose job. For \$500, that shapely, tell-tale Indian nose can be wiped out and replaced with a straight, Spanish model. Sad, but so popular!

Anyway, back to the bars. Most bars charge a cover, anywhere from \$4-8, which usually includes one free drink. Dress varies from place to place, but Mexico City on the whole is dressier and more conservative than the U.S. Dinner is eaten late here, between 8 and 11 or so, and bars tend to stay open all night, so things don't often get going until midnight. Woefully little English is spoken, so brush up on your Spanish if you come down. Few bars seem to have capacity limits, so at peak times life Friday nights expect to be pressed in like a sardine (it's a good way to meet people, though)! Music played here is a mix of English-language (Pet Shop Boys, Whitney Houston, etc.) and Spanish-language (Mexican, Spanish and Argentine groups like Soda Stereo and Alaks), with an occasional French or Brazilian song thrown in — it all sounds mostly the same and it's all very danceable. No ranchera music here! All-in-all, if I had to differentiate between Mexican and American bars, I would say the Mexicans seem to have a better time — the mood is always up-beat and boisterous. A word of warning to visitors: Be cautious. Not only in regards to safe sex, but some Americans, in their confusion over language and their sometimes fresh-from-the-cornfield look are easy targets for getting ripped off by the opportunistic. This is a bigger city than New York, so you're bound to run into all types.

With that, here is my selective guide to Gay Mexico City:

El Nueve (The Nine), at Londres 9 in the Zona Rosa, an entertainment district in the heart of town. Perhaps the best-known bar here, conspicuously located. Trendy and dressy, half-bar and half-dance floor, crowd often spills out into the street. Early Wed. and Sun. are the best times, some straights come up on weekends. Probably the only bar where you'll see other foreigners.

El Taller (The Workshop), Florencia 37, Zona Rosa. Looks like a machine shop, with one long bar area and dance floor in back. Informal, the most "American" — feeling bar. Sweaty.

Caztyz, Carlos Arellano 4, Cd. Satellite. In the 'burbs. Elaborate 4-level disco with several distinct areas and a 2-level dance floor. Wholesome suburban kids. Week-ends only.

L'Baron, Insurgentes Sur 1231. A few miles south of the Zona Rosa, in a ritzy strip of restaurants and stores. The popular disco in the city. Male strippers. On the same premises is El Vacquero (The Cowboy), a gay shop with videos, knick-knacks, etc.; and La Cantina del Vacquero, a restaurant.

El Olivo (The Olive Tree), Varsovia 13, Zona Rosa. Trendy bar and restaurant, international cuisine. Popular stop-over before hitting other bars. Some straights.

Infinity, Niza 40, Zona Rosa. Mostly Lesbian, heavy on mirrors and little white lights. Nice central dance floor and big video screen. Informal dress but formal atmosphere.

Spartacus, Cauhtemoc 8, Nezahualcoyotl. This disco abuts a giant slum, but is

popular and attracts big-name performers. Drag shows.

Villamar, also known as L'Hardy's, Independencia 34, downtown. Something out of a Fellini movie! A long ramp leads you down into a massive, working-class cantina, complete with strolling mariachis. Clientele aged from 8 to 80, some in drag. Definitely unique, but risky without a Mexican escort. No cover.

La Cucaracha (The Cockroach), Hamburgo 177, Zona Rosa. Lower-level cocktail bar and multi-level restaurant, Mexican cuisine. Dressy, some straights upstairs. People at the door decide who to let in!

Fonda San Francisco (S.F. Inn), Velazquez de Leon 126, a mile north of the Zona Rosa. A mostly Gay restaurant, popular with Mexican tv, movie, and literary types. International cuisine, recommended. Reservations imperative.

The Zona Rosa is the center of Gay life in Mexico City, with about half the bars located there. Moreover, the streets are always cruisy, especially at night, and chain stores and restaurants like VIPs and Sanborn's are popular Gay hang-out places. Another spot that's 'populated' — and to get another slice of life here — is Perisur Mall, way on the city's south edge at the corner of Insurgentes Sur and the Periferico Freeway. This is the largest mall in Latin America, with stores like Bally and Sharper Image. You'd swear you were in the U.S.! Try McDonald's for lunch.

Tokyo Hosts Asian Conference

The 10th Annual International Lesbian/Gay Association (ILGA) Conference in Oslo, Norway, took place from June 26-July 3. Representing Japan was Teishiro Minami, Japanese correspondent for *Light*.

At the conference it was decided that the 2nd Asian Regional Conference would be held in Tokyo from November 19-20, 1988. The conference will be sponsored by the Japanese chapter of ILGA (JILGA).

Gay activist groups from Korea, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Pakistan are expected to attend. It is hoped that there will be representation from Australia, New Zealand and the United States as well.

Mr. Minami told *Light* that "despite enormous difficulties" Asian Lesbians and Gays are "developing a strong activism and sense of identity." From Tokyo to Jakarta Gay/Lesbian groups have been formed and are active in liberation. Gay/Lesbian publications are growing in number. "Asia reaches out to take the hands of its American Gay brothers and sisters."

Gays Evicted From German Festival

Wisconsin Light News Exclusive

By Vilis Dundzila

Tuesday evening, August 2, a group of 30 Gays and Lesbians were thrown out of a German-American Volkfest held on the U.S. military base in West Berlin.

The group consisted of attendees from the International Gay and Lesbian Youth Congress being held in Berlin from August 1 to 7. They went to the "Dallas in Dahlem" German-American friendship festival the U.S. military was holding for the public.

Shortly after the group entered the fair grounds, U.S. Military Police surrounded the group, verbally abused the members of the group and forcibly removed the group from the base. The MPs then unsuccessfully tried to turn the group over to the Berlin police. Berlin police could not and did not do anything, since the group had not broken any laws.

Saturday morning, August 6, a group of some 500 people attended a two-hour long anti-US-military demonstration organized in response to the Tuesday incident. The demonstration was held on the Kurfurstendamm, the main shopping street in the heart of downtown West Berlin. The demonstration consisted of speeches, songs and chants. Elected officials from the Social Democrat and Green parties deplored the actions of the U.S. military and demanded retribution. The West Berlin police was also present in large numbers, but nothing happened and no arrests were made.

JAPAN

Special to Wisconsin Light

By Hiroaki [Tokyo]

As Japan is now in the center stage of world business and economics, I am sure that many readers will want to live and work here, if not for life at least for a while.

Up until a few years back most Japanese companies as a rule simply did not hire foreigners (or minorities or Japanese who had studied abroad). That was that. No organization you could complain to, no threats you could make (and be taken seriously), just grin and bear it... or leave the country. Of course the option of working for a foreign company was available, but foreign companies back then rarely promoted their Japanese or local (as foreigners hired in Japan were included) to managerial posts. And working for a foreign firm was a big jump down in status.

Well, the situation has changed. Most major Japanese firms now hire foreigners and Japanese who have received their education abroad, as well as a few token members of minority groups. And not just simply to correct English. Yes, there is literally a "gaijin (foreigner) revolution" taking place among many Japanese businesses. It is not all roses, but it is happening and that is the important thing.

But how would YOU, a Gay/Lesbian, go about working for one of them? It depends. The first thing to remember is that in Japan **networking and contacts are of crucial importance**, for everyone, Japanese and non-Japanese alike. A letter of introduction from someone who already works in a company you have targeted to enter very often makes a probable rejection into an acceptance. If you live in Japan try speaking to people in the company, in other words, ask for an informational interview. You may very well wind up

making a contact that way. If you live abroad, then try contacting someone in an office of that firm in a city nearest you. Also, try going to trade shows and becoming a member of various clubs having to deal with Japan, for example the Japan Society in New York City.

Also, if you do not know anyone in Japan, try making friends here by placing your message through one or more of the many Japanese Gay magazines such as Adon, Barazouku, Sabu, etc. Or try Passport, an American Gay magazine targeted at Asia. Your Japanese (or resident foreigner) Gay friend can be of invaluable assistance as well as companionship to you. Since they live here, they know the ins and outs which you probably do not know.

When presenting yourself to a firm (or to anyone who you know is not Gay), always remember to keep your "Gay" self hidden. If you are able to get an interview, and the interviewer asks if you have a girlfriend (in the case of a man), say yes or say that you don't at the moment but would like to meet someone very much. If asked if you like Japanese girls, smile and say yes. Remember, you are not legally bound to your answers and there are not a few single people over the age of 30 working in Japanese firms these days. Don't forget that most Japanese do not harbor any great hatred of homosexuality, as many from western cultures do, equating it with sin. However, people in Japan just do not feel comfortable with those they know are homosexual. Even if they think you are Gay, as long as they do not know for a fact that you are, then they can handle it. It is that simple.

(To be continued.)

PERU

Special to Wisconsin Light

By Roberto Barcena

"It will not be in my time," commented Mama when she had returned from visiting my grandmother. "How the passengers push you, they trample, the conductor shouts... it is terrible!"

What she was talking about, what was terrible was traveling by bus in Lima.

In Mama's time, maybe 50 years or so, Lima, the capital of Peru, had less than a million people. Today there are more than six million, the majority of them born in the provinces and coming to the capital in search of jobs and the good life.

From Monday to Friday, great multitudes travel from the suburbs in the south and north of Lima to the center to work in the city. And each night they return to their homes.

Traveling by bus, as most do, is a constant fight of all against all just to get on and then to get situated in some safe place. Then, during the trip one is constantly enmeshed in a mass of arms, backs and legs that catch you when you try to leave. In this mass, your neighbor is your fate.

It is terrible, but it is almost a picture that reveals an allegory of what happens in Peru; the daily injustice that arises from the desperation and violence. Everyone is preoccupied with it and there seems to be no solution, no escape.

One could write a book of the adventures of a Gay in the buses of Lima. Because it is neither difficult nor inconvenient to meet someone in those crowded conditions. There is always an opportunity to look — a bit cautiously — at a guy. It is not necessary to say the word — any word. Each one knows and appreciates what he sees in the eyes and body of the other and moves to be next to him.

In one situation, I had begun to move toward the exit door when I saw him. He was very cute, a beautiful guy about my height. His arms were covered with black hair, his complexion was smooth and clear with just a light peach fuzz on his face. We were so near that I could have kissed him and he wanted to kiss me. He put his hand on my bare arm. I could taste his sweet breath.

All at once, the bus stopped, the doors opened and I was swept away by the crowd. I only had time to see the beautiful guy looking back at me sadly as the torrent of the avenue washed around me.

Later a friend of mine told me something very funny. Traveling on the bus was a habit of the handsome man, he said. He

was part of a group and suddenly I understood. When I checked my pocket I found that my beautiful dream man had stolen my money.

Editor's Note: *Wisconsin Light* welcomes Roberto Barcena to its pages as one of the growing number of foreign correspondents. Roberto is 23 years old and lives in Lima with his spouse, Mario. Roberto has recently completed his studies at the Catholic University of Lima. He serves as Secretary of MOHOL-Peru, one of the country's two Gay organizations.

COMING OUT Continued from Page 1

Come out to your family — parents, brothers and/or sisters.

The above are only a few of the steps suggested. The National Coming Out Day organizers than ask that you write your "next step" on a card, keep one copy and give one copy to a friend who can offer support and encouragement.

Gay and Lesbian groups and organizations across the country are being asked to participate by organizing events and activities to mark National Coming Out Day.

For further information, contact National Gay Rights Advocates, 8380 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 202, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

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The Light LIVELY ARTS

Skylight Pops Cork With Spectacular "Die Fleudermaus"

By Geno

The Skylight Comic Opera has popped the cork on its thirtieth season with a bubbly new production of Johann Strauss' operetta, *Die Fledermaus*, at the Pabst Theatre. Leaving the intimacy of their Jefferson Street theatre to celebrate this anniversary has the Skylighters pulling out all the stops to present a gala evening's entertainment featuring the composer's most familiar waltz melodies.

No need to outline the plot of the operetta here since it is in English, and the twists and turns of witty intrigue are clearly delineated by the young, bouncy cast of singers, many of whom are veterans of Skylight training who have returned for this festive occasion. Kathryn Magestro, a Milwaukee native now singing as a principal, coloratura soprano with the State Opera of Hannover, West Germany, and two Racine natives, Kurt Ollman and Wendy Hill, performing extensively in Europe and throughout the country, have made their homecoming a tribute to their earlier experiences at the Skylight.

Ollman and James Busterud, the two leading men, are both over six feet tall, and their lean good looks give the roles they play a vital, athletic quality that is refreshing. Petite Magestro as Adele, the naughty lady's maid, has a comic air that has the audience laughing from her first appearance on the stage, while Wendy Hill as the truant wife is sexy and exciting both vocally and physically. The voices in this production are professionally top-notch, bright and full of vitality. The large chorus sings and dances with all the proper Viennese *Schwung* and abandon — in fact, all of the singers in this large cast have the verve and vocal talent that the music demands.

Stage director Francesca Zambello has introduced some of the quirky surprises

that the Skylight is famous for in this lively production. During the masked ball at the mansion of Prince Orlovsky (Karen Nickell in a mezzo-soprano "pants" role), a bare-chested young man pops out of a cake which is in the shape of a Faberge egg to distribute magnums of champagne during the "Salute to Champagne" aria. Miss Zambello also has the actors tossing bottles, tambourines and whips to one another with nary a miss — incidentally, Ollman as Dr. Falke uses a carriage whip in all three acts for a variety of dramatic purposes. And the director seems to have a thing about actors and actresses taking off and putting on other actors' shoes, socks, trousers, and/or boots — but then they tell me that Vienna in the 1890's was a pretty kinky place. Bruno Schwengl, set/costume designer, must have raided dozens of shops for all the feathers, furs, silks and satins that make the cast look great. The decadent masked ball is spectacular.

Tickets for *Die Fledermaus* may be purchased at the Skylight box office, 813 N. Jefferson (271-8815) or at the Pabst Theatre box office (271-3773). Group, senior, and student discounts are available, and ticket prices for all performances begin at \$5.

The *Wisconsin Light* attended the Gala Birthday Benefit Celebration on Sunday, and after the performance, the entire audience traipsed over to the Milwaukee Center Rotunda for cake, special prizes, and a champagne buffet. This amenity is not part of the regular performance schedule, but any evening spent with this splendid cast, with the lilting music of Strauss played by an augmented orchestra, and with singing and dancing by a company that is clearly enjoying itself is a gala evening. You'll go home singing. Maybe even whistling.

Great Food, Old World Charm at Balistreri's Milwaukee Ristorante

Balistreri's Italian-American Ristorante at 812 N. 68th Street (475-1414) is mercifully without the cliches of red and white tablecloths, candles in Chianti bottles, and kitschy plaster statues — instead, the tablecloths are maroon (almost magenta) and together with the warm carpeting and rich wainscoting provide a warm, Old World atmosphere. One could characterize it as a family place, an extended family that is, appealing to all ages and classes, including members of our fraternity and sorority who have found its informality congenial. During a recent visit, two older women at a neighboring table offered your Gay Gourmet and his faithful companion (I don't mean Tonto) slices of their pizza while we were between the antipasto and entree courses. It's that kind of friendly place.

Many have long been familiar with Balistreri's thin crust pizzas (they also serve thick crust), and the take out business is brisk, but our two recent visits were intended to check out the other dishes on the Southern Italian menu (your G.G. had been busy sampling around town and this was a return engagement, as it were).

The entrees met with unanimous approval. Our sampling at Balistreri's focused on such specialties as the Sicilian Steak, the Chicken Cacciatore the Lasagna, and the Veal Scaloppini. Each was exactly what it should be when prepared in the true Italian style. The steak was tender, lightly breaded, not soggy, and Jim's sauce, a house speciality, was served on the side. The chicken was especially succulent — the

sauce seemed somewhat bland (after all, it is based on a Hunter's Stew), but spices and cheeses are available at each table. The Lasagna was beautifully layered, the pasta *el dente*, and the cheeses and sauce generously oozing throughout. The veal, always a true test of a restaurant's cuisine, was delicately flavored with just a touch of bay leaf and other spices.

Accompanying each meal are breads from Canfora's bakery, another old reliable, and Rose our waitress for both visits brought menus and bread to our table almost as soon as we were seated. Some nice small touches — iced water is served without having to ask for it and salad dressings are served on the side so that you can see the crisp lettuce, the purple onion, tomatoes, and peppers without a cover of gobs of dressing. And lemon wedgies accompany the meat dishes and are available for salads, too.

Spaghetti and pastas in all their many forms are on the menu as well as other appeals to the appetite. Carafes of wine, the house wines, are all great accompaniments to the food — the Chianti has just the right amount of dryness, while the Rose will appeal to sweeter palates. *Antipasti* to sharpen the taste buds include a varied plate as well as such exotics as Octopus and Conch. And the desserts, some from Canfora's, include Cannoli, Italian cookies and sweets, and ices. Your G.G. tired a Mickey Bar, vanilla ice cream covered with chocolate in the shape of you-know-who's ears. What the hell, we're all kids at heart. Enjoy!



Romanovsky and Phillips performed to an enthusiastic crowd at Milwaukee's Crystal Palace during the city's first annual Lesbian/Gay Pride Week on September 16.

Fast Paced Comedy, Music a Hit At Romanovsky & Phillips Concert

By Barb Coyle

What do you get when you mix a Harry Chapin zest for stories with 60's bubble gum shoo bop harmony, and put it against a primal scream sing-along that channels Maria Callas? Are you still with me?

Then the obvious answer is the cabaret comedy team of Romanovsky and Phillips who displayed their considerable talents for a Lesbian/Gay Pride week concert at Milwaukee's Crystal Palace on Thursday, September 15.

Ron and Paul, who described Fort Lauderdale as the "San Francisco of the straight world", took us through choosing not to "straighten" the house before relatives arrive (sublime sanity), and into a waltz for the new age, where they admitted to reading *Out on a Limb* for the seventh time.

Ron Romanovsky doubled as guitar and piano player and seemed to write more of the duo's songs. Paul Phillips, in a French maid's tutu, picked up on his last trip to Milwaukee, kept up much of the comedic patter.

"This mind really works — it's just sometimes a little confusing to try to follow it."

Fest City Singers Present "ABRACADAZZLE" Oct. 1, 8, & 9

Just what is going on in the back room behind closed doors at Milwaukee's Ballgame? At times it sounds like a rehearsal of tap dancers from a Broadway musical, sometimes it's a chorus singing Irving Berlin tunes, and at other times it seems to be something called "The Masochism Tango."

Behind the bar Rick explains that it is Milwaukee's Original Fest City Singers (FCS) rehearsing numbers from ABRACADAZZLE, their cabaret production which will play for three nights at the Ballgame. "Because it's a live show, the kids have been rehearsing four and five nights a week putting a professional polish on their acts... looks great to me," according to Rick.

ABRACADAZZLE at the Ballgame offers the intimacy of cabaret, with candlelight, table service and all live entertainment. The production will be presented at 8

Paul's show and tell props during a "Be All That You Can Be, But Not In The Army" sing-along brought out miniature guns, tanks, boats, books and a globe in rhythm to Ron's acoustic guitar back-up. The audience was encouraged to pretend that we were at a Holly Near concert in order to increase our participation.

The song "Guilt Trip" chided an exlover into going on a solitary journey in just so many words. "You've got me on an Emotional Roller Coaster" brought out the Valley Girl in Paul Phillips. His coquettish tenor shoo bops and lilting head movements worked well against Ron's deeper alto singing. "You lift me up, you bring me down . ground."

Beyond the comedy songs and patter, I found the Romanovsky and Phillips concert empowering. "Living With AIDS" encouraged us to stand by the living and remain unified, Gay men and Lesbians together. "The Woman Next Door", a song on domestic violence, connected violence against Gay men and Lesbians with the need for compassion and healing in all our communities.

The concert took on a political bent as Phillips urged us to get out and vote to

TURN TO CONCERT, PAGE 14

p.m. on Saturday, October 1 and on Saturday and Sunday, October 8 and 9. Tickets (\$6.00) may be reserved at the Ballgame (273-7474), or from members of the Fest City Singers, or by phoning 263-SING.

"The Fest City Singers' nuns are back. God help us!" exclaimed Bim Florek, music and artistic director of the FCS. "Yes, they're doing 'You Gotta Have a Gimmick' from Gypsy in their own inimitable fashion. And while the tunes of some of the songs sound familiar, the lyrics have been reinterpreted in a Gay/Lesbian context — 'That Old Black Magic' will never be the same." According to Bim, the show is not intended as family entertainment.

Seating is limited, and since groups will attend from Chicago, Madison, and the Fox Valley, early reservations are recommended.

Concentration Has Brought Shrewd, Articulate Tom Cruise to Forefront of Young American Actors

By Jack Sturdy

Tom Cruise walks into the room and your heart sinks just a little. He is short and pale and not as well muscled as you remember him from *Top Gun*. But as he sits, his hair moussed to the max, the famous grim radiating pure sexuality, you forgive his flaws.

And then the actor begins to speak, adjusting his shirt collar, leaning back on his chair to reveal tight black jeans and a beige weel-worn boots. You suddenly realized that Cruise is shrewd and articulate, if not particularly personable. "I'm a private person who would like to keep my personal life my own" he states, rather matter-of-factly.

We are in Los Angeles at the exquisite Westwood Marquis Hotel where Cruise has convened with select members of the press to discuss his new film *Cocktail*. In the film Cruise plays Brian Flanagan, an aggressive bartender whose life is strewn with the emotional corpses of lost love. He is obsessed with wealth and its acquisition to the point of self-absorption. The actor felt that this would be a dramatic breakthrough part for him.

Tom explains, "This is not a high concept picture. There's not a lot of action and I had to play a character who is very unlikely at times. That was the challenging point of the piece to me. I wanted to see how far I could go with it."

Cruise admits that the project had made the rounds of the Hollywood studios and had not been okayed because the Heywood Gould script, which was adapted from his own novel, was grim. Tom notes, "A lot of people didn't want to make it so we had to bring in commercial elements to ensure a decent box-office. I don't think that we've compromised the film's integrity at all."

He smiles, rubbing an elbow, and states almost apologetically, "I'm in an interesting position. A lot of times if I say I want to make something it will get made. I liked this film because it was unconventional and I'm happy with the finished look."

And well he should be! The actor spent four weeks of preparation just flipping liquor bottles to get the movement honed to an art. "We interviewed over 35 bartenders as a resource. We were looking for a 'star' bartender who makes incredible drinks and put on a spectacular show in the process."

He chuckles, leaning forward as if to share a secret, "You should have seen me in the beginning with the bottles. I was dropping them all the time and Roger (Donaldson, the director) would laugh and tell me that we'd get it right for the takes and he was right. I'd drop the bottle sometimes ten times in rehearsal, but only once or twice when we were shooting the takes. It's all a matter of concentration."

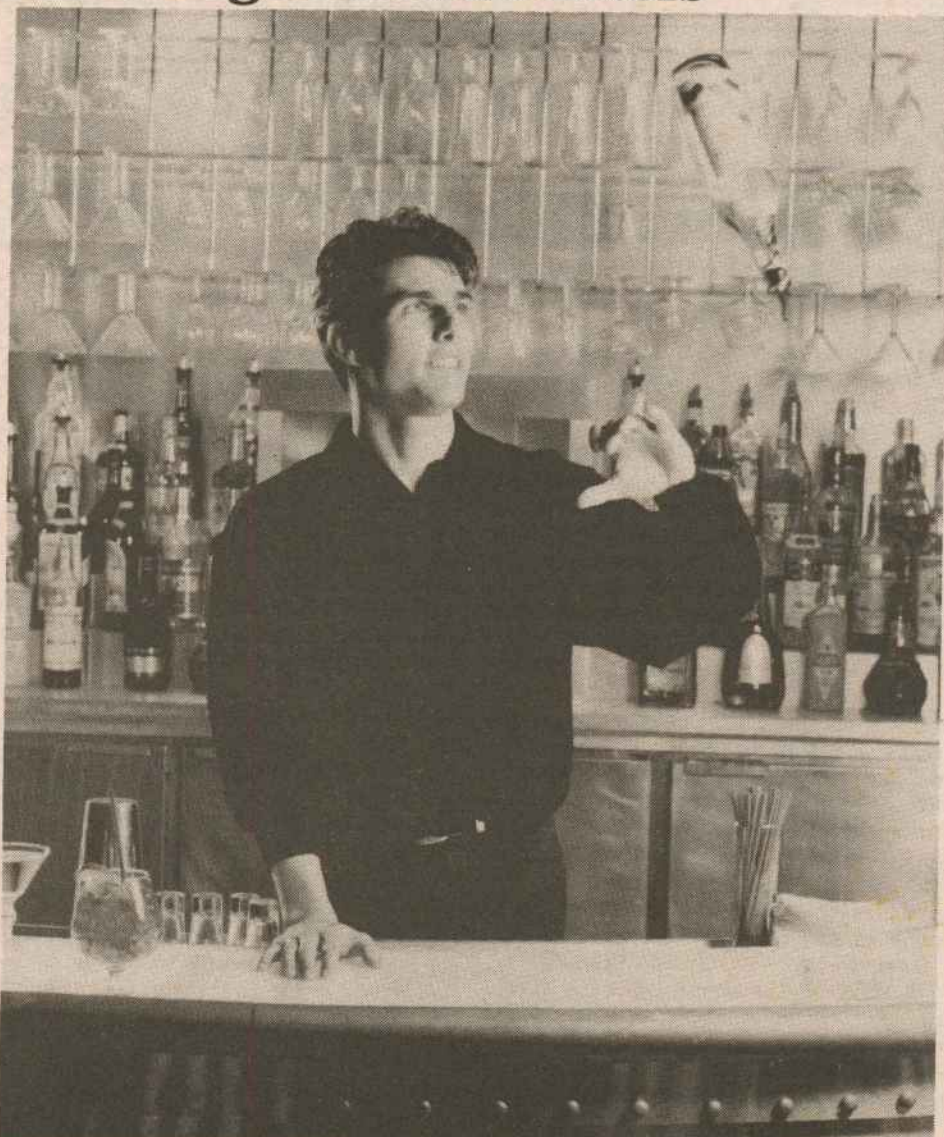
Concentration is what has brought Tom Cruise to the forefront of young American actors. Born in Syracuse, N.Y., Cruise decided to pursue an acting career in 1980. Shawn, but Sean (co-star Sean Penn) had convinced him that I would be great. I kept auditions. He landed a small role in *Taps*, but his enthusiasm prompted director Harold Becker to promote him to a co-starring role of David Shawn, the psychotic Red Beret leader.

Tom laughs, "I didn't want to do David Shawn, but Sean (co-star Sean enn) had convinced him that I would be great. I kept saying no, but finally Harold said that if I didn't do David I would be out of the picture." He laughs, "I was blackmailed into the part."

From *Taps*, Cruise was cast in *The Outsider's* as greaser Steven Randall. It was while filming *The Outsiders* that Tom was cast in the role of Joel Goodson in Paul Brickman's *Risky Business*. At first Brickman had to be talked into meeting Cruise, whom he couldn't visualize as a clean-cut Chicago preppie after seeing his psychotic performance in *Taps*.

"I was persuasive," smiles Tom tapping his chest, "but I was reluctant to do the underwear scene. I just thought that it didn't play well in the script. Paul just said, 'Trust me,' and I did and look at the response that it got. I've been to costume parties where guys have shown up as Joel in his underwear. I guess it was a pretty hot scene."

From the runaway success of *Risky Business* Cruise completed a pair of commercially disappointing projects. The first was *All The Right Moves* in which he



Tom Cruise (pictured) stars as Brian Flanagan, an ambitious would-be entrepreneur who, with the help of a seasoned pro (Bryan Brown) becomes the best bartender on Manhattan's Upper East Side. But when he meets Jordan Mooney (Elisabeth Shue), an independent artist, their spirited romance bring a new perspective to the cocksure bartender's life in *Cocktail*, a new romantic drama from director Roger Donaldson. Photo by Roger Corman. Copyright 1988 by Touchstone Pictures.

appeared frontally nude, "I won't do that again, but it seemed right for that part." He laughs self-consciously, "you know what they say, 'No big deal!'"

The second was an ambitious failure, Ridley Scott's surreal fantasy *Legend*. Cruise defends the film, "It may have been a mistake on a commercial level, but not artistically. You look at *Legend* and it has an incredible visual element. It was just such a huge hunk of time out of my life." The filming of *Legend* ran eighteen months.

The young actor then logged back-to-back hits with *Top Gun* and *The Color of Money*. "I was just really lucky," says the star modestly. "It was a matter of working with really talented people. They make you look good. How can you lose with Paul Newman and Martin Scorsese on your team!"

Just as *The Color of Money* told a message of friendship and loyalty, Cruise finds that the messages in *Cocktail* are as real. He explains, "*Cocktail* gives a different message for different people who see it. Simplistically, you go through life and make a lot of mistakes. You have to be happy with who you are and what you want from life. Brian's denying the things he wanted. He thought he wanted to be a millionaire, but what he really wanted was to be loved. When you make mistakes you have to correct them and Brian has a hard time with that."

Adds Cruise, "When Brian became unethical he had to pay for his redemption. I believe in life that what you send out, you get back. That's why you want Brian to be a good guy, but he's got to earn that back. That's true of everyone. Sometimes in life you see yourself doing things and you wonder what you're doing. We wanted something visual to show that isolation so we focused on Brian. We didn't have to spend a lot of time with people tasting drinks. That's not what the picture is about."

Cruise, who recently wed actress Mimi (Someone To Watch Over Me) Rogers, nixes both babies and a project together. "We're too busy to have babies and we haven't found a script that would suit both of use. I've just completed *Rainman* with Dustin Hoffman and I begin shooting *Born On The Fourth of July* for Oliver Stone in a couple of weeks. That's a true story about the Vietnam experience."

Would Cruise write or direct? "I don't

know about writing, but I'd like to direct as soon as I learn enough about directing not to make a fool of myself."

Tom adds, "I'm very happy with my life. I live by the motto, 'Be True To Yourself'. It's the only way that you can. I think of what I've learned working with Newman and Scott and Scorsese and Hoffman and I consider that the best school in the world. You have to have a sense of who you are before you can create characters for others. I'm working at that." He pauses, breaking into the famous grin, "I'm working at that!"

Vintage Comedys Screening Oct. 16

Milwaukee's Cream City Foundation (CCF) will host a social gathering, and film on Sunday, Oct. 16, 1988. The featured film, *The Women*, a 1939 vintage comedy, stars Norma Shearer, Joan Crawford, Rosalind Russell, and Joan Fontaine. The film will be shown at the Gallery Cinema, which is located at 2901 S. Delaware. The event will begin with a champagne and cheese reception at 3:15 p.m. The featured movie will be at 4:00 p.m. and will preceded by the ever popular Betty Boop cartoons. A donation of \$5.00 is requested.

Advanced tickets may be obtained by calling 278-0880. Limited seating is available.

The Cream City Foundation is a non-profit organization that raises funds from the Gay/Lesbian community in Wisconsin. Those funds are granted to some 30 Gay/Lesbian organizations to "Build Community" through out-reach efforts and new programs for that community.

The Foundation sponsors a Community Forum, a regular cable program on Warner Cable Channel 14 and maintains a Community Center for use by all community organizations. The Foundation founded in 1982, has raised more than \$60,000 for Gay/Lesbian causes.

MAPFEST: A Huge Success

Milwaukee's MAPFest 88 held this past Labor Day was, by all accounts, an outstanding success.

MAPFest is an annual fund raiser sponsored by the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP).

According to MAP Director Lynn Severson, the annual fund raiser brought in about \$8,000. Severson cautioned that this was a ballpark figure. The accurate amount will not be know until all expenses have been met.

Severson called this year's MAPFest "a significant improvement" over last year. That can be supported from first-hand experience.

From one end of the day to the other, the crowd never let up and seemed to grow. One contributing factor was certainly the pleasant Fall-like weather marred only by clouds scudding overhead, but not enough to dampen certainly, the good time everyone seemed to be having.

Light's table in the Shadows II parking lot provided an excellent vantage point from which to see much of what was going on.

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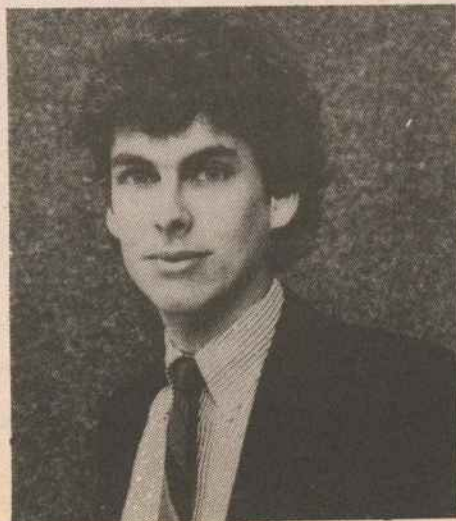
BOOKS

Milwaukee Native Describes Ins and Outs of Publishing

John Champagne, born and raised in Milwaukee, is the author of *The Blue Lady's Hands*, a novel to be published in October. It will be reviewed at that time in *The Wisconsin Light*. An accomplished pianist as well as a professional writer, he currently lives in New York City where he has completed a degree in Cinema Studies at New York University. He has written the following article describing the process of getting a Gay oriented novel published in order to help budding authors and to give readers an idea of the ins and outs of publishing.

By John Champagne

Publishing a Gay or Lesbian novel is perhaps easier today than ever before. St. Martin's Press, Lyle Stuart, and New American Library all currently publish trade paperbacks specifically directed towards a Gay and Lesbian audience. And with the recent success of Michael Chabon's *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh*, "straight" publishing houses seem more willing to consider Gay and Lesbian fiction which might also "cross over" to their



Michael Chabon

general readership. So, how does one go about selling the great American Gay novel? While no one can guarantee that your work will find a publisher, there are ways to ensure that it will receive serious consideration from an editor. The following are observations culled from my own experiences as a writer which may help a novice novelist to find a home for his or her masterpiece.

Once you have completed your manuscript — typed, double-spaced, 250 words per page — your first decision must be whether you will attempt to sell the book yourself, or find an agent or literary manager to sell it for you. I would advise any first novelist to act as his or her own agent. There really is no better way to learn how the publishing industry operates. Besides, the time and energy required to secure an agent might just as well be spent seeking a publisher.

The only things a professional agent has which you probably don't are contacts in the publishing industry, and a familiarity with contracts. The first of these may be developed through a little hard work and ingenuity; the second can be researched at a library. Besides, if you really need help negotiating your contract, there will be plenty of agents eager to handle you after a publisher has already made you an offer. Of course, it will cost you at least 10% of your advance.

Unsolicited manuscripts are rarely read by major publishing houses today. In fact, it is the stated policy of some to return them to their authors unopened. What this obviously means is that it is a waste of your time, money and morale to send work to someone who will probably never see it, let alone read it. While some small houses do still read unsolicited material, should they decide against publishing your book, they will probably respond with a form rejection letter — something which, if repeated often enough, can be demoralizing. The best way to ensure that your work will receive serious consideration is to personally contact an editor, by telephone if necessary, before you send anything.

There are several ways of securing the name of an editor who might be interested in reading your work. The two easiest methods, not readily available to people living outside of New York, are to get a job as an editorial assistant (a great summer job for college students), or to meet people who are willing to give you the names of

their editor friends. A third way is to locate a book that is similar to your own, find out who edited it, and telephone that person. Securing the name of an editor is much easier than one might imagine. Often, it is merely a matter of prying the information out of a switchboard operator. Remember, when you call a publishing house, no one knows that you are an unknown, unpublished, unagented author until you volunteer that information — something you should obviously never do. Rather than risk offending an important writer, the operator is likely to put you through to an editor, if you sound as if you know what you're talking about.

Once you have an editor on the phone, try to say something that will pique his or her interest. Again, don't volunteer unnecessary information. If the editor in question is having a good day, and you happen to describe a book that sounds like something that particular house may be interested in, chances are, he or she will agree to read your manuscript. Don't be discouraged by rejection; sometimes it is merely a matter of matching up the right book with the right editor. If the editor does refuse, try to get the name of someone else at another publishing house who might be interested in your book. Be polite but assertive; if you sound like a professional, the editor is not likely to risk offending you, as today's reject might turn out to be tomorrow's best-selling author.

Once someone has agreed to read your work, send the manuscript. Call a few days later to make sure it has arrived safely, but then don't call again for at least two months. You are free to submit your work to more than one publisher at a time, provided you notify all concerned parties. If you don't hear anything within a few months, call to "touch base." If the editor really seems to be dragging his or her feet, you might want to be prepared to say something like, "I must have an answer within a few weeks because I have several other editors who are anxious to read my work." Of course, the editor may call your bluff, and return the work unread, or tell you to go ahead and send it to someone else.

If the publishing house decides to offer you a contract, you will receive a telephone call. If not, you will hopefully be sent a rejection letter which will give you some specific information as to why your manuscript was not right for that particular house. Don't be discouraged; just make sure that every editor who rejects your work supplies you with the name of another editor who might be interested in the manuscript. If you write well, there is no reason why an editor should hesitate to recommend another publisher for your book. Contacts in the publishing business can build quite quickly. I began two years ago with the name of one editor; I now know of five who have requested to read whatever I write in the future.

Study your contract carefully. Never agree to anything over the telephone. You may want to hire a lawyer at this point, or find an author friend with whom you can compare contracts.

You must be patient if you are to act as your own agent. It took me a year to sell my first book, and another to see it through production. One last bit of advice: if you're looking to get rich, find another profession. Advances for first novels are notoriously low. I know of one writer who sold the magazine rights to her book for more money than her whole advance. But of course her publisher took 50% of that money — a standard clause in many book contracts.

GAY LESBIAN

VOTE 88



Short Stories Present Wonderful Reading, Remarkable Collection

**Love, Struggle & Change:
Stories by Women**
Edited by Irene Zahava
The Crossing Press, 1988
183 pp., \$8.95

Miss Venezuela
By Barbara Wilson
The Seal Press, 1988
311 pp., \$9.95

By Barbara J. Palecek

Long live the short story. The genre seems to be in vogue again in the women's presses. Quality collections like *Love, Struggle & Change* and *Miss Venezuela* are such a wonderful break from the endless stream of light Lesbian novels. Some of the stories contained herein, not all, feature Lesbian characters. It is refreshing to read about Lesbian women in the context of the larger world, as if they were nothing out of the ordinary. This is how we live our lives.

Love, Struggle & Change is an anthology of intense stories with just the themes named in the title. Both the authors and the characters come from diverse backgrounds. The women in the stories all come to some kind of understanding about themselves.

In "Penetrations," by Jane Lazarre, a woman married to a rather complacent man see the personalities emerge in her two teenage sons. She feels unsettled about both their dependence and their independence, as well as an attitude that is developing in the air. She is tied, she realizes, and cannot remain aloof to her family, but she recognizes that "she has lost the desire to be open." And isn't that the first step?

Harriet Malinowitz' "Water Skiing" chronicles the breakup of a woman with her lover. This is a story written with feeling about the sheer misery of it all. It is a naked lament of pain.

Many of the stories are about women in their 30s and 40s who are learning to live with their own pace and limitations. A woman in "One Summer" attempts to build a cabin while she discovers what she can and cannot do. Her summer diary records her growing understanding of herself. In another story, a permanent hippie who lives on a beach in California meets a young runaway girl who makes her look at her own life and what needs and wants she has not satisfied.

There are beautiful stories of women who are just at that mental apex where transitions begin. A remarkable collection!

Miss Venezuela is a compilation of stories by Barbara Wilson. Most have been published previously. The selections are

wildly uneven in quality and tone. Some are absolutely engaging. Others are criminally boring.

Most of the stories are written in the first person. The narrator-characters represent every age group. We don't often hear the voice of adolescent girls in adult fiction, but we get our chance several times in *Miss Venezuela*.

In her vignettes, Wilson often switches between scenes and sets of characters. Sometimes it works. Sometimes it doesn't. Also, she drops in the names of a lot of peripheral characters. This combination of tricks makes some of the stories a shade confusing.

In the title story, "Miss Venezuela," we spend a lot of time learning all about Delores' life and feelings growing up in Caracas. Suddenly we focus in. She needs to get in touch with a professor of hers and in looking for him, she accidentally wanders into a beauty pageant going on. She wins.(!) Immediately and without transition, she's in Long Beach, California, competing for Miss Universe. There she meets the little girl who dominates every other paragraph in this story. She gives the girl some pivotal advice about her life. Did we miss something here?

A few messy stories aside, Wilson does have a way of distilling simple and startling truths from complicated human affairs. Problems are not necessarily resolved, but they are noticed. The writing is masterful at conveying all sorts of emotions. For instance, Wilson notices the kind of weird feeling you get when a friend you have confided in is listening to you talk to a third person and you change the facts as she knows them.

The long, brooding "Walking on the Moon" is a confession disguised as a short story. The young American narrator tells how she slowly betrayed her strange friend at a boarding school in Germany. So much of the tragic situation is beyond the American's control, but the guilt builds and builds. This is serious atmosphere.

The atmosphere in these short stories can also be fun. Two lonely desperadoes meet at a mutual friend's house. One woman has a terrific sense of humor but is very cool. The other woman resembles an Egyptian and has a most peculiar talent for "reading" the cosmic significance of television programs like "The Hulk." But this story is not at all frivolous. It's all about what one person sees in another person.

Despite the unusual settings of Wilson's stories, we will recognize ourselves, our mothers, our lovers, and our friends in them. We will see just how innocent we are.

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Hepatitis B Nearly Forgotten
As AIDS Takes Attention

By Roger Gremminger, MD

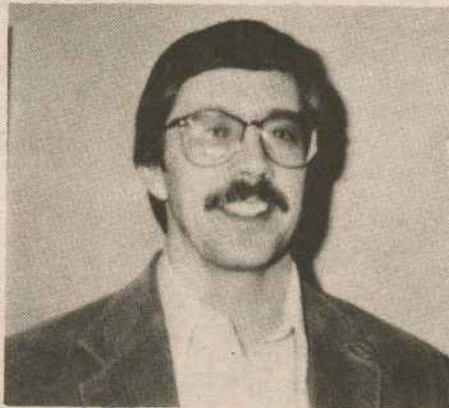
In this column, I would like to take up a health issue that has been neglected in recent years. The topic is hepatitis B and the vaccination for hepatitis B. It is somewhat ironic that this disease has been forgotten, so it seems, because it was the number one health concern of the Gay community just a few short years ago. And in fact, it was the disease which was used as a model for researching AIDS initially because of the similarities of transmission of the two diseases. Also the Gay community ten years ago was very cooperative with researchers in helping to develop a vaccine and in participating in the vaccine trials that showed that it was a very effective vaccine. The vaccine became available for general use for the public in July of 1982. And in fact, a vaccination program was established at the Brady East STD Clinic in the fall of 1982. Since that time unfortunately few people have availed themselves of the opportunity to be tested and if still susceptible to Hepatitis B, to be vaccinated. With all the clamor now for a vaccine for AIDS which will be very difficult to develop because of the variable properties of the HIV virus, I find it hard to understand why Gay men would not want to get the Hepatitis B vaccine which would protect them now from this deadly disease.

But let me go over some of the facts about Hepatitis B. Hepatitis B is a DNA virus which can be contracted by sexual behaviors and sharing dirty needles. There are about 25,000 new reported cases per year in the United States and about three times as many cases that don't get diagnosed because the initial infection can be so mild. Thus there are about 100,000 new cases per year. The incubation time is about 90 days. The initial infection can be very severe and results in death in about 250 cases per year. Other cases can be very symptomatic with jaundice (yellow in discoloration of the skin and whites of the eye), with nausea, poor appetite, fatigue, muscle aches, joint aches. Most cases however are quite mild and the person may only think that they have some viral illness like the stomach flu. Regardless of how severe the initial infection is, about 0.5% of those infected will not develop immunity and continue to have the virus present in their blood and sexual secretions for years or for life. This group of individuals are at high risk for developing complications, namely active infections which continue to destroy the liver, smoldering infections which eventually scar the liver, and cause cirrhosis, or liver cancer. There are about 5,000 people who die of Hepatitis B per year, mostly from the complications. With the vaccine all this can be prevented.

There is some good news with regard to Hepatitis B. Previously about 20% of all new Hepatitis B infections per year were contracted by homosexual activity. In the past two years this has dropped to 9%. The total number of cases per year has not dropped though and the number of cases contracted by IV drug use and heterosexual activity has risen to make up for the fall in cases contracted by Gay men.

Translated into raw numbers, there are about 9,000 Gay men still contracting Hepatitis B per year in the United States. Because death is a long term outcome of Hepatitis B, there are still about 1,000 Gay men dying of the complications of Hepatitis B per year. I know that this no longer compares to what is presently happening with AIDS and Hepatitis B is not spreading in epidemic proportion as AIDS continues to spread. Nevertheless, Hepatitis B does kill and does continue to be spread and can be prevented.

I would strongly encourage those of you who have not been tested to get tested and for those of you who have never had Hepatitis B to get the vaccine. For those of you who had previously contracted Hepatitis B and were fortunate enough to develop immunity, you have nothing to worry about because this is still one of the diseases for which antibodies protect against another infection and the virus is completely eliminated from the body. For those of you who are carriers and still have the virus in your blood and sexual secretions, you need to be under a doctor's care to monitor for the complications and receive what treatments are available. Also you need to practice safer sex with the sole exception being a monogamous relationship in which your partner is immune



Roger Gremminger, MD

either after natural infection or after vaccination. As with AIDS, the presence of other diseases such as Herpes and CMV must also be considered and tested for and found to be absent before safer sex can be disregarded in a monogamous relationship.

The Hepatitis program at the Brady East STD Clinic is by appointment only. So if you are interested, please call the clinic at 272-2144 during clinic hours. The other alternative is for you to bring up this matter with your private physician so that he can provide you with this form of protection which is available now.

Take good care, love, Roger.

Addendum- It was pointed out to me that some people have interpreted out of context a comment I made about safer sex for HIV infected individuals. Safer sex is necessary at all times with the possible sole exception being in a strictly monogamous relationship of two infected individuals who have no other immunosuppressive diseases present. Mainly CMV and Herpes have to be ruled out by testing because both suppress the immune system. If in doubt, play it safe.

Safe Sex Requires
Condom Use

By Sparky

Madison- Once upon a time, most of us were virgins when it came to safer sex and condom use. At the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, only about 1 percent of Gay men used condoms. Today we live in the era of "new sex"; talking, groping, learning, sucking, visuals, J/O, condoms, deep kissing, fantasy, etc. etc. In fact, some Gay men used safe sex before it was given a name and a place on thousands of brochures. (As a condom advocate, I had to practice. I bought a plastic banana at Mall Books.) Now it is a lifesaver, the ultimate in rubberwear, what the best-dressed man wears for the occasion. And it's getting easier. According to an MASN survey taken in August, 70 percent of you feel that it is easier to find partners now who play safe compared with a year ago.

Take latex, for example. Whether you choose Chris Condom or Phil the Prophylactic, rubbers are good protection for both partners. And the variety available is really amazing. If you need proof, stop into WSA Pharmacy off of State Street in Madison. The choices in color, sizes, textures and tastes are a shopper's paradise. Trojan Plus, Prime Lubricated and KIMONO (the "Get Lucky Bucky" condom) all get high marks from the men who have been there. Many companies are including the spermicide nonoxynol-9 in their condoms which kills the virus on contact. A water-based lubricant containing nonoxynol-9 (ForPlay) is available at Mall Books, WSA Pharmacy and Madison AIDS Support Network. Please call MASN (Madison 255-1711) with any questions about AIDS/HIV, testing or safe sex. But remember, BE A SMART-ASS! Use a condom.

International Conference
Highlights Health Concerns

By Mark Behar, PA-C

Several Wisconsin Gay men and Lesbians attended the 2nd International (10th National) Lesbian & Gay Health Conference and AIDS Forum in Boston, July 20-26. Over 1,500 people from around the world attended the hundreds of workshops and presentations on all aspects of health concerns. In the last issues of *Wisconsin Light* and *Hag Rag*, "Sisternews and Views" writer Jamakaya wrote about her impressions of the conference. The following is this writer's impressions of what he thought were the more significant highlights of the conference.

One of the most significant sexuality studies since the Kinsey Institutes report on hetero- and homo-sexuality over 30 years ago, was the National Lesbian Health Care Survey. It represents the first Lesbian research funded by the U.S. Public Health Service and the first U.S. government sponsored publication on Lesbian issues. It reflects the stories and experiences of almost 2,000 Lesbians from all 50 states, their strength and struggles, their diversity and ability to survive in a hostile environment. Wisconsin Lesbians should be proud of their contributions to this landmark work — hundreds of surveys were distributed throughout the state in 1984 and 85 by the Governor's Council on Lesbian & Gay Issues. In a future program, we will interview one of the women attending the conference, who will highlight some of the major findings in the study.

San Francisco physician Don Abrams, one of the most distinguished clinicians in the world treating PWAs, described the effects of the epidemic in his city. One of the tools epidemiologists use is a concept of "years of potential life lost (YPLL)." YPLL is an attempt to measure premature mortality by weighting deaths occurring at younger ages more heavily than those occurring in older populations. YPLL is defined as the number of years of potential life lost by each death occurring before a predetermined end point, set at age 65 years (MMWR, 35:25, 12/19/86). The years of potential life lost from never married men ages 25-44 in San Francisco, surpasses the cumulative impact of accidents, homicide, suicide, and all malignant diseases combined for that city. More San Francisco men have been lost to AIDS, then the cumulative numbers of men in this city who have died due to World Wars I and II, and the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Boston psychiatrist Marshall Forstein stressed that all neuropsychiatric (neurologic and psychological syndromes) symptoms are organic until proven otherwise. In other words, although a person may be understandably angry and depressed about their medical condition, the actual cause of the anger and depression should not be necessarily dismissed as reactive to their condition, but as possibly having an organic cause, as with certain diseases of the central nervous system (E.G., primary HIV infection of central or peripheral nerve cells or secondary frequently treatable opportunistic infection such as Toxoplasmosis, or tertiary drug reactions or interactions that may be toxic).

Initial symptoms may be very subtle — such as slowness of thought, vague story of forgetting, difficulty with finding words, or a subtle change in writing one's signature. One very helpful clinical tool, would be for a person to sign their name each time they are seen by a doctor. Forty to 80% of all persons with AIDS or ARC have some involvement, and evidence suggest that the onset of such signs may be as early as the actual seroconversion after infection with HIV — i.e., 5-12 weeks after infection. Most syndromes however, seem to involve the subcortical (limbic) system, which affect motor & balance, slowness of thought, etc. Dramatic personality changes may occur, which can present control problems: people may not have conscious control over what they do, and may be behaviorally driven for some of the activities they're involved with — like taking medications incorrectly, like sexual irresponsibility, like inability to even plan a day's activities.

Basic intelligence is not affected early in the course of the disease. It's unconscionable that people with AIDS are discounted because they are told by others, "Well, of course he feels that way, he's got dementia, it's probably making him angry, and he can't help himself."

Clinicians as caregivers, are also prone to our own emotional reactions — after working all day long with PWAs, it is hard to be patient, it is hard to be compassionate all the time.

The very relationship that PWAs have with their primary caregivers cannot cease when there are no more medications to give. Just being there at the bedside for 15 minutes a day, may make all the difference in the world. As providers, we are the most powerful instruments of healing; not curing, healing. Emotional and physical pain are expected consequences of losing neuronal control of your bladder, bowel, leg muscles, and internal organs. We undermedicate people with a hope that we will prevent them from getting addicted. This is wrong. There is a legitimate debate to rational suicide, however many of the suicides involved those with treatable organic central nervous system infection or in a progressively dementing illness. In times of mental distress, suicide is an option that people take when in crisis. Talking about suicide does not make people take it. It does clarify your role to people about neurocognitive involvement and is an essential task early on. Rather than using strong anti-depressants, the psycho-stimulants like dextro-amphetamine and ritalin has been used with great effectiveness and a minimum of adverse side effects. Psychotherapy can't be initiated until after the organic illnesses are effectively treated.

A latex dental dam was displayed along with many other sexuality aides (lubricants, assorted condoms) and paraphernalia (device for demonstrating how to correctly apply a condom, for example). The latex dam is merely a rectangle of thin latex rubber, about the size of a baggy. The dam had been recommended for oral sex with women, to avoid contact between the mouth and vaginal or cervical secretions. One of the companies are actually making these things in lavender!

All of the physicians and specialists I spoke with said, however, that it was essentially impossible to acquire the AIDS virus during oral sex in either women or men. So although AIDS service agencies and public health departments may still urge the use of these dams for oral sex with women, and condoms for oral sex with men, there is little scientific evidence to support their use in AIDS risk reduction guidelines. It is important to note however, that herpes, Hepatitis B, and other sexually transmitted diseases can still be spread by oral-genital contact. But essentially not the AIDS virus. (If you want guarantees, buy a refrigerator!)

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New Orleans Was Buried Under A Flood of Partisan Strangeness

By Cliff O'Neill

With New Orleans full of more Republicans than should be allowed by law (I mean that in all facetiousness), we figured it would be rather hard to find accommodations in The Big Easy. Despite being treated like something akin to rotting Spam by the dear folks at the Ursuline Guest House after being assured a space (don't ever stay there), we were able to find much nicer accommodations elsewhere in the Vieux Carre.

While on I-10, approaching the most elaborate rest stop in the U.S., deep in the heart of Mississippi, we had listened to Lynn Lavner singing about life in a Gay ghetto where "a lambda hangs in every doorway." Since life in Florida is largely devoid of such "festive little neighborhoods," we found the subject to be somewhat foreign.

That is, until we found the French Quarter.

Gay and Lesbian Pride flags were hanging from every other wrought-iron balcony. Tasteful plant arrangements festooned with red and white and blue streamers served as a backdrop to enormous wooden "Mike Dukakis for President" signs on more than a few French colonial buildings. We knew there was something different about this neighborhood.

And everywhere, as in Atlanta, was the "Kilroy was here" of AIDS activism: the "Silence=Death" sticker. Buildings, windows, pillars and posts boasted the little round applique. A new wrinkle in the sticker war here was a large day-glo green sticker which found its way onto street signs and mailboxes across town. It read: "MEN — Use Condoms Or Beat It."

We're sure Pat Robertson was pleased.

Making our way through the sweltering Sunday afternoon heat, we passed chalk outlines of bodies on the pavement and leafpasted signs of people "killed by Bush/Reagan AIDS policies" everywhere.

As we approached our destination, I suddenly got the vision of new signs bearing the names of Republican delegates and media types who were "killed by New Orleans Heat Wave."

I kept my idea to myself.

If at the Democratic convention the ACT UP-types looked just a bit different from the Democratic delegates, here they looked like Martians next to the Republicans.

I think the Republicans noticed, too.

While the protesters marched and chanted outside of Reagan's speech Sunday, the Ronnieboosters got an eyeful. They didn't need to read the flyers, see the signs or hear the chants to know that these demonstrators were not like them. "Com-mies!" they shouted as they saw men in biker shorts and knickers and women with nose rings and punk haircuts chanting loudly. When they heard the chants of "40,000 dead from AIDS — Where was George?" the men in their power ties and the women in their smart Adolfo dresses showed how much more civilized they were than the avant garde activists, countering with such refined barbs as "Faggots!" and "Die Cocksuckers!"

The elderly women just made ugly faces and gesticulated wildly.

Back in the queer press room, after a brush with Borkness wherein an ACT UPper insulted his honor quite loudly, we heard the news about the ACT UP arrests.

Dashing back to the convention hall, we panicked when we noticed that all the ACT UP members and the Gay media types were starkly absent from the street in front of the hall.

A moment later, the 12 emerged, bruised but intact. After marching right into the convention hall with their signs held aloft, right past onlooking Secret Service and New Orleans Police officers,

they had been beaten and kicked by the Reagan fans. They had beer spit on them and were attacked violently while national news cameras captured the melee.

But the news media told quite a different story.

"Five AIDS activists were arrested at the hall after they stormed into the convention center and a pushing and shoving match ensued. ...Five AIDS activists were arrested for public intoxication ...Five AIDS activists snuck into the hall and were subdued until the police arrested them."

Sitting in front of the television set that evening, I fumed. Andrew, much less emotive than I, and new to all this (an activist virgin, if you will), just watched.

As people dropped to the ground and were outlined in chalk at the "die-in," more than one ACT UPper walked up to me and asked if I would like to be chalked. Although sporting my own "Silence=Death" button ("fag badges," the Republicans called them), I declined in the interests of journalism.

I soon found that having been a part of too many name-reading commemorations to the fallen, it is often hard to call up that emotion time after time.

But then, to my surprise, they called out a few names I did recognize. In Washington I looked over the sea of names on the AIDS memorial quilt and only recognized the celebrities. Here I was stunned when, in the midst of hundreds of other names, I heard the name on the one panel I made last year.

I handed the reader more names and the emotion took hold again.

Andrew was off shooting pictures of the huddled, crying activists.

I wondered if he was feeling the same way.

As one of the two mothers of AIDS patients took the stand, the crowd began the anthem. This time, however, the crowd injected just a little more anger into it.

"We are gentle, angry people! And we are fighting, fighting for our lives."

Tuesday we made our way to Riverwalk, the riverside shopping mall where George Bush would be arriving via steamboat. Somewhere, cramped between hundreds of the Republican faithful, several giant "Jesus Saves" signs and a few thousand balloons, were hidden a contingent of ACT UP-types.

The question was, where to find them. Something about Hansel and Gretel flashed through my mind as Andrew and I walked up the ramps to the shopping mart. On every fourth pillar was another "Silence=Death" sticker.

Aha, we thought. A signal! We followed the stickers up the elevator, down the mall, through the restaurant, out the side door, down the walkway, back inside, through the mall and finally, to that mob of people carrying "I Love (a heart) Jack" (Kemp) signs.

When we saw one ACT UP member named Rollerina, we knew we had found them and they were ready to make their scene.

The clouds were beginning to mask the sun by Wednesday. We opted to forego the heat and drive to the hub of the Republican back-slapping.

After parking our GOP-mobile, our adventures began anew. We heard a honk. We looked at the car driving past us and we noticed one Miami AIDS activist trying desperately to get our attention.

Immediately, we were pushed/shuffled down the sidewalk and across the street by a mob of Bush delegates who appeared out of nowhere before we could greet him. We feared we would not have another chance.

After a Kellogg's-free breakfast in the Republican Galeria, we then headed off for



Gays and Lesbians demonstrated against President Reagan's lack of leadership on the AIDS issue at the recent National Republican Convention in New Orleans. Among those demonstrating were members of ACT-UP.

the sodomy protest. Rounding the corner, we again saw the International Leader on the Global Epidemic.

Again, the marauding Bush delegates descended like a swarm of locusts and shoved us across the street and between two buses, keeping us from him.

These same demonic delegates whisked us around the block later that evening when the AIDS care pacesetter approached us as he cruised Bourbon street.

I still marvel at their timing.

In the Lafayette Park "free speech zone," Gay and AIDS activists "trashed homophobia."

Speaker after speaker got up and berated the crowd of bible thumpers and "Young Americans for Fascism" who were chanting such kind-hearted slogans as "AIDS is a cure itself!" and "It's your own fault," to an AIDS patient who told the audience of his plight.

One man carried a sign that said "AIDS is a cure, not a disease," to the angst of the

ACT UP types. Curiously enough one rather unkept young man in a beret and sunglasses, opted to make the sign holder seem as foolish as he really was.

"God said that no man should lie with a man as he does with a women....," the sign man shouted.

"Yeah, but what about Shakespeare, man. Shakespeare didn't say anything about Gay people," retorted the chapeaued hippie. "You're so stupid, man. Like, why don't you just round people up and put 'em in a microwave, man. Why doncha just nuke 'em, man. That's what you really want."

The homophobe sputtered and went off for reinforcements.

Unfortunately, there were plenty to be found.

It all seemed like a dream the next morning. Bleary-eyed, I looked at my watch and noticed it was 5:30 in the a.m. Anticipating the agonizing trip home. I
TURN TO NEW ORLEANS, PAGE 15

P R I D E

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Alternative Family Rights Ordinance Passes in Madison

MADISON

Continued from Page 1

The original ordinance was split up into four separate ordinances. One part dealt with zoning changes, and was called the "Kate and Allie" zoning amendment, after the popular television show of the same name. This change was to allow two unrelated adults who each have children to live together in single-family zoned areas. Previously they could live together only if one of the adults had children because otherwise there would be too many unrelated people living together.

The second ordinance change granted alternative family sick and bereavement leave benefits to city employees. They would be allowed to designate in writing an adult as their family partner after which they could take sick time to take care of that adult or his/her children if one or more of them were sick. If the partner or one of his/her children died, the city employee would also be able to take time off for the funeral.

A third ordinance change would have made it illegal to deny family memberships in public accommodations to "households" which were defined as two unrelated adults and their minor dependents living together in the same dwelling. This proposal was aimed mainly at health clubs like the YMCA which are considered to be public accommodations. The YMCA currently refuses to allow alternative families to obtain family memberships and forces them to pay the higher price for two single memberships.

The final ordinance change would have provided family health insurance to the alternative family members of city employees who registered at the City Clerk's office, signing an affidavit indicating they are in an alternative family relationship. This last proposal was given little hope of passage because too many Alderpersons had questions about its fiscal effect.

The Board of Estimates endorsed all of the separate changes except the insurance proposal and sent them on to the Common Council. At the public hearing, over 200 people turned out in support of the ordinance, while less than 60 people opposed it. The Council sat through over two hours of speakers, as over forty of those in attendance chose to speak. Most of the objections of the opponents were religious or moral in nature.

After relatively brief debate, the Council overwhelmingly adopted the "Kate and Allie" zoning change 15-5. As predicted by many supporters, the vote on the public accommodations proposal proved to be the closest. Mainly due to a letter from the YMCA Board of Directors in

opposition to the ordinance change, the Council voted it down 11-9. The health insurance proposal died on a vote of 12-8.

Supporters were generally pleased with the results. Many pointed to the 11-9 vote, indicating that only two votes had to be turned around to gain its passage. Alderperson Jim McFarland, Dist. 8, indicated he will probably bring the public accommodations proposal back before the Council after the next elections, scheduled for April of 1989. McFarland, who is Gay, indicated that he was nearly certain that it would pass at that time. However, he said he doubts that the insurance proposal will pass in the next five years, and Madison will have to follow other cities' lead on that issue.

While supporters were generally encouraged by the vote, some were upset that two of the Council's leading liberals voted against the public accommodations proposal. While both Ald. Eve Galanter, 10th Dist., and Ald. Judy Olson, 11th Dist., have been noted for their commitment to civil rights, they refused to support an important measure to end discrimination against alternative families. One supporter felt that Galanter and Olson had buckled under to the vocal minority in their districts who strongly opposed the alternative families ordinance.

On the other hand, many supporters were happy to see another Council leading liberal, Henry Lufler, 16th Dist., support all four proposals. Lufler was in fact one of the Alderpersons at the Board of Estimates who took up the task of dividing the ordinance into pieces. His support on the health insurance proposal, along with that of Ald. Sally Miley, meant two more votes than had been expected, and bodes well for the future. As McFarland said, "We thought we would be lucky to get seven votes for the health insurance proposal, the same seven who had originally sponsored the ordinance. Getting two more (one of the original supporters had to be out of town for the meeting) makes it that much easier next time."

But the best part of the evening may have been the incredible outpouring of support for the ordinance. McFarland publicly thanked all of the supporters for showing up at the meeting, calling their their Alderpersons to vote for some or all of the proposals. And all of the speakers were polite and restrained their emotions, which could not be said for all of the opponents. McFarland says he has no regrets about the work he did for the ordinance, as did each of the members of the Coalition for Alternative Family Rights. But all agreed that the work has only just begun.

D.C. Names Project Seeks Volunteers

The NAMES Project which sponsors the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displaying the Quilt in Washington, D.C. October 8-9, 1988. The display will be part of the October 7-11 weekend commemorating last year's March.

The Quilt will be unfolded on the Mall between the Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial (a distance of one mile).

Four thousand volunteers to assist with the unfolding and display are urgently needed. Volunteers will be asked to work in five-hour shifts. Responsibilities will include set-up, Quilt monitor (including emergency fold-up), sales/donations (responsible for sale of NAMES Project merchandise and collecting donations), volunteer support and clean up.

The NAMES Project encourages volunteers to sign up for as many shifts as they realistically believe they can work.

The NAMES Project has made arrangements with United Airlines and two hotel reservation services to assist in making travel arrangements.

United Airlines is offering special discounts for the NAMES Project display. The discounts ranged from 5% off any applicable domestic fare from First Class to Ultrasaver or 35% off full coach fare. Call 1-800-521-4041 (Account #8664N).

The number to call for hotel accommodations is 1-800-554-2220 for hotels in DC & VA and 1-800-654-9303 in MD

For volunteer registration write The NAMES Project, P.O. Box 14573, San Francisco, CA 94114 or call (415) 863-5511.

Friendship Group Starts Film Series

The Metro Milwaukee Friendship Group (MMFG) is an organization dedicated to promoting Gay/Lesbian friendship and good times.

Wisconsin Light will be running articles on their gatherings as well as a feature article on the group in a future issue.

For now, the club's events for September include a Tuesday Film Society which began September 6 and will run each second and fourth Tuesday after. According to MMFG's monthly newsletter, the Film Society includes "either a dinner and a film or a home video nite, depending on our whim that week." week.

On Saturday, September 24, the group will tour House on the Rock with lunch at Spring Green.

For those interested please write to MMFG in care of this paper.



Joann Loulan, "The Dr. Ruth of Dykedom," will bring her evening of comedy to Milwaukee's Kenwood United Methodist Church on Saturday October 1, 1988 at 8:00 p.m. in a show called "What's So Funny About Lesbian Sex?" The church is located at 2319 E. Kenwood Blvd.

Wausau Challenges State To Touch Football Game

By Jerry Koeller

In Central and Northern Wisconsin the magic has begun as the green of summer transforms itself into the orange, red and gold of fall. Changes...

The swimwear that once revealed now gives way to sweaters and warm clothes that fight off the evenings chill. Changes...

Perhaps you'll catch us at a late season picnic or even out playing touch football. We've had homecoming football games with the whole set of trappings — the big game, a dance, king and queen coronation, a kind of escape back to our youth.

Our games usually are mixed sexes teams battling; some not really taking the whole thing too seriously, others out to win.

No one really wins or loses these gridiron contents. We all win as we get

Methodists Jump To The Right

When the United Methodist church's quadrennial General Conference met in St. Louis this spring, the 9.6 million member church — American Protestantism's second-largest — took several ponderous steps to the right. In separate actions, the Methodist conference:

- Placed homosexuality in a class by itself, distinct from adultery or fornication, as a uniquely outlawed sexual activity.

- Affirmed a ban on practicing homosexual clergy.

- Adopted a new United Methodist Hymnal that restored deleted masculine references to God in 35 psalms, and which still contains militaristic hymns like "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "Onward Christian Soldiers," earlier slated for deletion.

- Overwhelmingly approved a new statement on doctrine strongly emphasizing the primacy of Scripture over reason, experience and tradition — sharply retreating from a 1972 statement that stressed the value of theological pluralism.

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out some pent-up aggressions and have some friendly competition. After the game at R-Bar we'll drink to the winners, we'll console the losers.

Maybe this year we'll try and survive some out of town challenger. Any bar out there in Wisconsin's Gay community we (R-Bar) Challenge you to come up, down or even across the state to meet us on the field of battle for a touch football game. This game to be held on a Saturday to be named later. Nine person team, bringing a cheering section and replacement players. We'll work out details for the game and accommodations. Contact: R-Bar, 102 Scott St., Wausau, Wisconsin 54401 Attn: Football.

Someone out there should be able to put a team together, we know you'll have a good time.

Till Next Time; As Ever, Jerry.

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Where Was George Bush When Our Community Needed Him?

By Hillary Rosen

Senator Ted Kennedy ignited the spirits of the recent Democratic Convention during his speech in Atlanta when he posed the question "Where was George?" after reviewing the Reagan Administration's most memorable policy gaffes.

Although Kennedy did not mention Gay and Lesbian issues in his speech, no single question is more relevant for Gay and Lesbian voters this year. As we decide who to vote for in the upcoming Presidential election, we must ask ourselves just where was George Bush on our issues during the past eight years?

When there was no leadership from the White House as thousands of people died of AIDS and thousands more were infected... where was George?

When the CDC and NIH were embroiled in AIDS turf wars while the federal AIDS bureaucracy held back drugs and therapies... where was George?

When the nation was looking for the truth about AIDS, not vicious slander and homophobic rumor and the White House was silent... where was George?

When the White House Office of Management and Budget opposed additional funding for AIDS research... where was George?

When the Justice Department issued an opinion in 1986 that excluded people with AIDS from the same anti-discrimination protections afforded other disabled or sick people... where was George?

When the White House ignored the Surgeon General's report on AIDS and then waited more than a year before mailing AIDS information to American homes... where was George?

When the United States Senate, over

which the Vice-President presides, went against the advice of every health professional in the country by voting to deny AIDS funds for responsible Gay oriented education... where was George?

When the Republican Administration turned its back on the rights of Gays and Lesbians to privacy, a right afforded to heterosexuals, in the *Bowers v. Hardwick* case... Where was George?

When the President appointed Robert Bork, a known conservative ideologue, to a vacant Supreme Court seat... where was George?

While George Bush was absent, there was a leader who offered the Gay and Lesbian community lots of reasons to be proud. As Governor of Massachusetts, Mike Dukakis presided over one of the most comprehensive and compassionate AIDS programs in the country. He consistently advocated increased funding for research, education and counseling. Equally important, Governor Mike Dukakis faithfully championed a Gay and Lesbian civil rights bill in the Massachusetts State legislature.

An election-year conversion of George Bush into a man who suddenly endorses discrimination protection measures for people with AIDS or calls for increased funding for AIDS research is simply not good enough.

Where was George Bush when our community needed him? Where would he be if he is elected President?

Mike Dukakis or George Bush? For me, the choice is clear.

(The writer is Co-chair of the Board of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, lives in Washington, D.C. and is a professional lobbyist.)

MCC Churches Plan Celebration

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, a denomination with a special ministry to Gays and Lesbians, celebrates its 20th anniversary in 1988, and plans are under way for anniversary observances at the international headquarters in Los Angeles and at local MCC churches.

A resolution by the Los Angeles City Council, introduced by Councilman Michael Woo to recognize and honor the ministry of UFMCC, was presented to the Reverend Elders Troy D. Perry and Nancy Wilson at a groundbreaking ceremony for the new mother church in June.

The official anniversary observation will be on October 6, with a gala dinner for some 2,000 at the Registry Hotel in Los Angeles. San Francisco mayor Art Agnos will be the keynote speaker.

The anniversary will also be marked that week with celebrations at local MCC churches.

The year 1968 was one of cultural revolution and great social change. One of the events that year, marking a turning point in Gay/Lesbian history, was the first MCC service conducted by Rev. Perry, author of *The Lord is My Shepherd and Knows I'm Gay*.

Rev. Perry, having been discharged from his previous ministry because of his acknowledged homosexuality, felt the call to establish a church that welcomed everyone — no matter what their sexual orientation. The first service was held in a private home in Los Angeles and attended by 12 people.

From that point on, the church grew rapidly, and the new denomination held its first General Conference in Los Angeles in 1970. Today there are more than 200 MCC churches in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Europe, Australia, Asia, Mexico and South America.

The international headquarters of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Church is in Los Angeles, as is its educational institution, Samaritan College.



Jerry Johnson

Under a red and white striped tent, Si Smits (center left), owner of the Boot Camp Saloon provided food and music as the popular leather bar celebrated another anniversary.

CHURCH Continued from Page 6

whom faith is important, I'd say that attitude is untrue. Most of my spiritually aware friends are looking for a lover, a companion. Yes, sex plays a part. We are turned on by some of the people we meet, but for many of us, our desire is to meet someone with whom we can relate on far deeper levels than just sexual. We desire a life-companion.

This angry "God is a bunch of crap and the church and synagogue is too, and any Gay who claims to be religious and sexual at the same time is a hypocrite" attitude belies a deep, painful, latent spirituality. So deeply wounded are some people that they have attempted to cut God out of their life. Their angry tirades are really expressions of anger turned in upon themselves. Many are really saying, "I'd like to believe in God, love God and maybe even be a member of the church or synagogue." I certainly would like to let God have a place in my life like I think God may have in yours. But I feel like a hypocrite, a sinner. I like men (or women) — people of the same sex. That's wrong in God's eyes. God can't accept me. I know you think otherwise, but I can't believe it even though I'd like to. So, I just try not to think of God, and then you come along and I know you're religious, and I get so pissed at you, myself and God."

If you have read this far, and see in yourself latent spirituality, either the fond memory kind or the angry, critical kind, may I urge you to try once more? God's spirit has moved the church and synagogue to re-examine scripture and other long-held beliefs about Gays. There are supportive groups like New Hope Metropolitan Community Church, Dignity, Integrity, and Lutherans' Concerned. Please investigate these groups! It may take time. Your own self-persecution may make it difficult to hear God's good news of love and acceptance, but if you will struggle to believe again, you will come to see that anything that tells you that you are not a

child of God because of your sexual orientation is a lie, and not part of God's message of hope and reconciliation!

And would I be too presumptuous to present a challenge to my brothers and sisters in the Jewish Community? There are Gay Synagogues. There is one in Chicago. Perhaps there are enough Gay Jews to form a Synagogue here in Milwaukee, or perhaps there is a Synagogue in Milwaukee that will openly welcome you. I am not aware of any local spiritual support groups for my Jewish friends and hope I might be a catalyst to either get someone to start one or inform the rest of the community of a group already in existence. We need to be honest about our spiritual needs and concerns. Deal with your latent spiritual feelings and find God's redemptive life open to you as you are!

New Hope, M.C.C. continues to meet every Sunday night at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel of Kenwood United Methodist Church at 2319 E. Kenwood Blvd., across from the UW-Milwaukee Student Union. You will be welcomed and fed supernatural food!

CONCERT Continued from Page 8

defeat the Bush and Reagan system. The duo reminded us that October 11 is National Coming Out Day, a time to take the next step in our individual coming out process.

Overall, the concert was a fast paced blend of comedy and well arranged musical numbers. This was the first joint concert done by Full Moon Productions, Schafer Design and those old pros, Meridian Distributors. The full evening was rounded out by a dance featuring Amethyst, a talented group with a phenomenal range of styles. It was a great evening out — nice going Full Moon — good luck on your future concerts.



Alyn Hess, to whom Milwaukee's Pride Celebration is dedicated, attended the Boot Camp's Leather Nite for Women and Men on Saturday, September 17.

CCF Received \$9,000 from A-Choice Last Year

Through a seat on the Board of Directors of A-Choice, Milwaukee's Cream City Foundation (CCF) works with people representing 12 other agencies to work for change and the acceptance of Gays in the wider community.

A-Choice is a federation of 13 agencies or groups working for change in our society. These range from the American Civil Liberties Union to a new Latino organization.

CCF's representative on the board is Julia Kleppin.

Because of CCF's membership, every United Way Drive as well as all Federal, County and City offices receive a booklet that openly lists CCF as a Gay organization.

CCF received nearly \$9,000 through A-Choice last year and is the second largest agency in the federation.

"Through our participation, we receive not only dollars, but make invaluable contacts with government officials, business executives and trained lobbyists on behalf of the Gay/Lesbian community," Kleppin said. "This is speeding our acceptance all over the Metro area."

CCF has been a member of A-Choice for 3 years.



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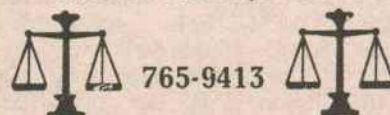
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TRAVEL

Wisconsin's Rural Villages and Back Roads Offer Leisurely Adventure, Unspoiled Scenery

By Mary Shafer

Just west of Brookfield Square on Interstate 94, State highway 18 intersects at an angle, carrying westward travelers through the speed trap town of Waukesha. (Hint: Stay at 25 mph, and you'll be fine). If you stay on 18 all the way through Waukesha, you're well on your way to a rural treat of small, working farms and rolling fields, cozy little towns and well-kept roads. Susan and I made this trip over the July 4th weekend.

The first thing you'll notice after leaving the metro area is the small unincorporated hamlet of Helenville, which is your typical Wisconsin farm community, replete with a small, friendly-looking diner offering home-cooked food in the guise of "daily specials," such as spaghetti on Wednesdays, and, of course, fish fry on Fridays. We didn't stop to eat, but have vowed to return very soon to sample the fare.

Continuing on 18, you traverse vast areas of cultivated and fallow fields, semi-forested areas, more villages and towns, and, in the right season, rummage sales! There are a few rest areas along the route, clean and taken care of, that allow those with pets, children or small bladders to relieve themselves when necessary. This makes the going quite a bit easier, since whining children and animals are a drag.

If you keep going on 18 long enough, you'll be on the beltway around Madison, which isn't as bad as it sounds. Although there was some construction on it when we went through, it wasn't of the extremely annoying kind (although I imagine it could get that way around rush hour!). Once you're around Madison, you head through a small town named Verona, which has a very nicely remodeled A&W restaurant (my weakness in fast food, I'm afraid), where we had lunch.

Going on from there, you go through a few more places of no great consequence, and enter the driftless region of the state. This is the geological area that was left unscathed by the glaciers in the last Ice Age. Extremely interesting striations are visible in the rock on either side of the highway as you drive this road, representative of millions of years of floods, drought, ice, and ancient growth. All along the drive thus far have been old farmhouses made of fieldstone and a few Cream City brick structures that are actually still cream-colored, having been spared the fate of city dwellings ravaged by auto exhaust and chemical pollution.

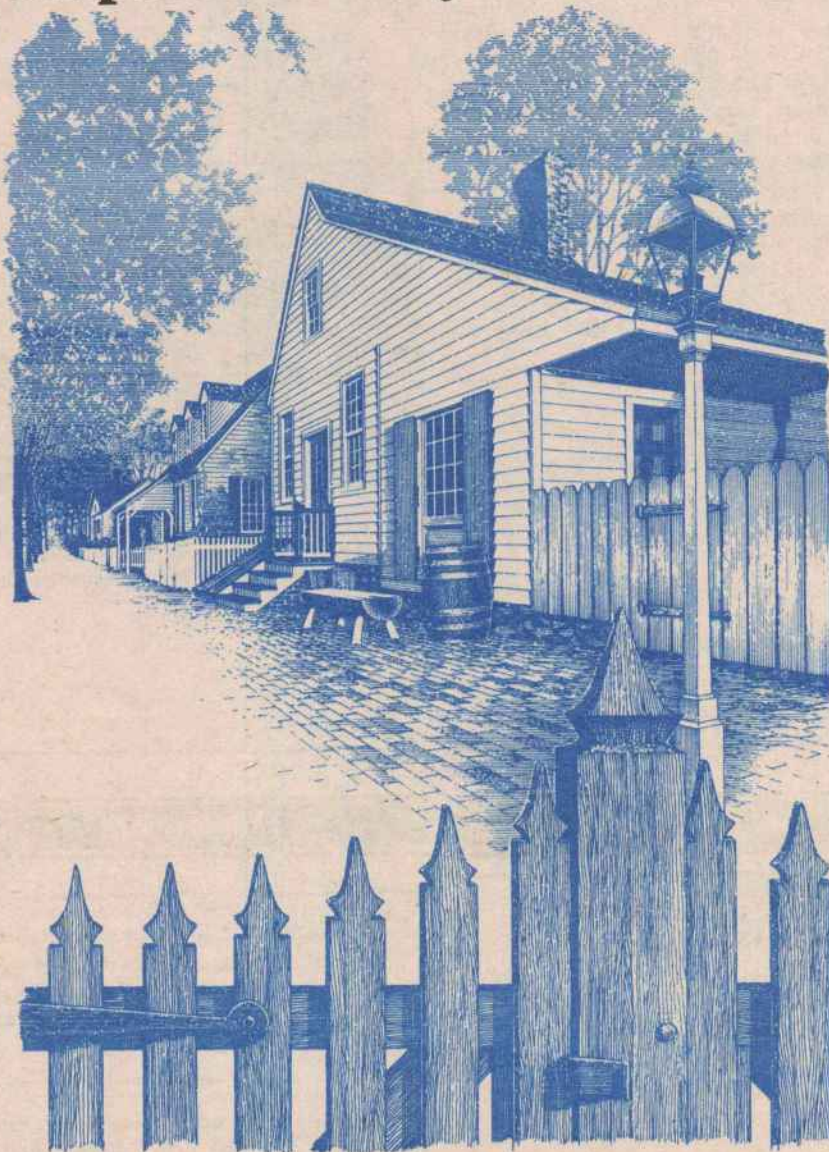
Right about now, you begin to see signs along the road announcing the upcoming area attractions, such as Cave of the Mounds (which we didn't visit this time, but is a wonderful way to spend an afternoon, especially when temperatures soar into the 90's — the caves get as chilly as the low 50's at times) and House on the Rock. I don't recommend the latter as a good tourist buy — last I heard, admission price was up to \$12 per adult just to walk through the place. Unless you are an avid fan of bizarre architecture, this is probably not one of the better ways to spend your time and money.

Now, the good part. For those of you who are dyed-in-the-wool rummagers, antiquers and collectors, the town of Mount Horeb is for you. Located just off of highway 18 on highway 78 north, this little gem just begs to be taken in.

That I could see right away, there were three major antique dealers along the main drag of town, 78, just before the first stoplight. One of them was called the Opera House Antiques. It was exactly that — an old, turn-of-the-century opera house changed into an antique shop. The many nooks and crannies could have kept us busy for hours in just this one store, not to mention the other two (one right next door, one across the street).

Also present among the tourist attractions of Mt. Horeb is a cheese shop where one can view the actual cheesemaking process (which we did not go through, since the dog was waiting for us in a rapidly-heating car) and a county park. We did go to the park, and it turned out to be one of the more interesting aspects of the trip.

It was called Stewart County Park (part of the Dane County Park System), and boasted facilities as nice as any I've seen in our own acclaimed Milwaukee County Park System. There was a large parking area, a working bubbler outside, separate clean, flush toilets (with mirrors and sinks), and



a generous picnic area. There is also a well-implemented child play area, with the usual trappings of swingset, play bars and a sandbox, the neat feature here being these little things that looked sort of like teeter-totters, but that had a play "steam shovel" on the front that was operated with hand levers. Of course, I had to try it out to see if it really worked. It did, and if there hadn't been a lot of other adults around staring at me, I would have played on it longer!

There are also three kinds of trails there, all well-groomed and kept. Bikers, hikers and cross-country skiers can all enjoy the scenic beauty of this little park, unencumbered by the worry of automobile traffic. There is, at the entrance to the trails, a clear map (along with a deposit box for voluntary \$1.00 donations, which seems well worth it for an afternoon's healthy activity). We walked past the picnic tables and grills (which, by the way, are conveniently located under generous shade trees, something we've all learned to appreciate this summer!) onto the hiking path, which we soon discovered wound its way around a little lake.

Along the trail, I discovered some wonderful wild black raspberries, on whose vines there were just a few nice, ripe little morsels, of which I joyously partook. I'm very tempted to head up there again this weekend with a few pieces of Tupperware in which to carry home the spoils. We were drawn off the path by the dog, who discovered much to his frustration, a beaver dam, minus the beaver, although I could tell the scent was still tantalizingly fresh.

He soon was in the water behind the dam, cooling off from the heat of the car, until he realized that the water was quite deep, and that mud is hard to swim in. We could see the actual beaver lodge further off in the distance, closer to the lake itself. Farther up the trail, we came upon another beaver dam on the same little marshy stream, and further still, more evidence of beaver activity; a newly-fallen birch tree that had splashed into the water quite recently, with little tooth-sized chips all around its gnawed-off base!

Beware along this trail of some plants that aren't as friendly as the raspberries, such as poison sumac, poison ivy, and Deadly Nightshade (which will kill a domestic pet if eaten).

After watching a mother mallard sentry four of her ducklings into the relative safety of the high marsh grass, away from these curious hikers, we turned back toward the parking lot. I would like to go back and walk the rest of the trails someday when I'm ready for a long walk.

The woods around the trails are a pleasant mixture of evergreens (especially cedar and spruce) and hardwoods, making for just the right scent to fill your nose as you walk.

We continued then North on 78 through some really neat farm towns with interesting names like Black Earth and then turned onto highway 19 east, through Marxville. All along the way, people were enjoying their Independence Day with their own forms of freedom — baseball games, drag races (the kind that use cars, not high heels), barbecues and volleyball. It was a pleasant trip, and not overrun with a lot of other traffic.... to early yet for that.

On highway 19, we went through another town by the name of Token Creek, which led me to begin ruminating on the origins of all these names. There is actually a book available listing the names of Wisconsin towns and their origins, which I will share the title of with anyone who is interested enough to contact me through **Wisconsin Light**. I'd tell it to you now, but I'm not at home where the book is!

We intended to take 19 all the way to Watertown, and then 16 back to Pewaukee. Unfortunately, 19 is being worked on, and the detour runs onto 94 again, where we ended up staying for the duration of the drive home. However, those that wish to may exit onto 19 again at Deerfield.

All in all, it was a very pleasant trip out of the city. I would recommend two things to bring along: lots of money for the antique stores and rummage sales, and a camera for all the picturesque scenery along the way.



Hot Music **Hot Men**

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SHALOM Continued from Page 1

enlistment contract. Sgt. First Class Michelle Sander, who assisted with the paperwork, also shook Ben-Shalom's hand and congratulated her.

Ben-Shalom gave a few brief interviews, with the press, and then left with her friends and family.

Ironically, exactly a year ago, Ben-Shalom had won a court ruling from the 7th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in Chicago ordering the Army to reinstate her to complete her term of enlistment. She had been discharged from the Army in 1976 for saying she is a Lesbian.

She went through administrative appeals and then went to federal court. In 1980, Federal Judge Terence T. Evans in Milwaukee ruled that "her sexual preference had as much relevance to her military skills as did her gender," and ordered her reinstated with back pay.

The Army did not let her back in, and after a long series of appeals by both Ben-Shalom and the Army, the federal appeals court in Chicago wrote Sept. 12, 1987, that it was "baffled" by the Army's "asserted confusion over the word 'reinstatement.'" She was allowed to complete her term of enlistment in the Army which ended Aug. 11, 1988.

But because the Army had changed regulations regarding homosexuality since 1976, it denied her reenlistment. Although Judge Gordon ordered temporary reenlistment while he considers all the issues in the case, and although Ben-Shalom is optimistic, it is not clear yet whether she, as a Lesbian, will have the right to continue in the Army.

Ask Madam for Help

Wisconsin Light proudly introduces a NEW COLUMNIST — Madam Domina Aschwester.

Madam has only recently arrived in Wisconsin from The Continent where she was a habitue of cafe society, a familiar of the Belle Monde and an intime of such of the nobility as the Duchesse de Esclavage who regularly sought her advice on many matters.

Madam believes that **Light's** readers can profit from her vast knowledge and experience. She, therefore, has agreed to answer questions from those who care to seek her advice. Questions may be submitted on any subject and be either of a serious or more flippant nature. Please write in care of the paper. Remember to use proper respect and address her as "Madam."

Gays Make Gains In Illinois

By John Ward

A battle within the Republican Party in Illinois over Gov. Jim Thompson's plan to raise taxes has led to two unexpected victories for Gays at the recent state GOP convention.

As a result of strong-arm tactics by Thompson, one of the most despised of Reagan's appointments to his AIDS commission, Penny Pullen, was dumped as a GOP national committeewoman. As minority leader in the state's House, Pullen has pushed for rightwing AIDS legislations, including mandatory HIV testing.

Pullen did not run for the post again because she knew she did not have enough votes, said Tim Drake, a Gay GOP strategist from Chicago. Pullen was replaced by a woman from the Chicago suburbs who supports ERA.

The state party also adopted what Drake called a "quite moderate" AIDS plank. "That is surprising given how hysterical the legislature has been on AIDS," Drake said. The legislature has passed mandatory HIV testing of marriage license applicants.

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY



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