



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

The Wisconsin Light

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Civil Rights Bill Reintroduced Into Congress

[Washington, D.C.]—The Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill was introduced into the U.S. Senate on January 25 by Senator Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) and into the U.S. House of Representatives on January 24 by Congressman Ted Weiss (D-NY/17) and Henry Waxman (D-Calif./24).

Sixty-three Representatives signed up as original cosponsors of the bill, officially called the Civil Rights Amendments Act of 1989 (H.R. 655). Eight Senators have signed on to the companion bill. Gay rights lobbyists from the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) are confident more will sign on in the upcoming months of the 101st Congress.



Rep. Jim Moody

Two of the 63 cosponsoring Representatives are from Wisconsin. They are Jim Moody (D-Milwaukee) and Robert Kastenmeier (D-Madison).

Of the eight Senate cosponsors, none come from Wisconsin. Senator Kohl's (D-WI) Press Secretary told *Light* that Kohl had not yet had a chance to study the bill. The freshman Senator is inundated with pieces of legislation.

The bill would amend existing federal civil rights statutes to protect people on the basis of "affectional or sexual orientation" from discrimination in the areas of employment, housing and credit, government-assisted opportunities and public accommodations. The bill would outlaw discrimination in stores, restaurants, hotels and other places selling services or goods.

TURN TO CONGRESS, PAGE 10

MOVE TO REMOVE TV TALK HOST, DOWNEY, BEGINS IN MILWAUKEE



Pictured above are 15 coordinators for Madison's Pride and Civil Rights March which will be held on May 6, 1989.

HIVIG Approved for AIDS Patient Trials in Minnesota

By Tim Campbell

Frank Rhame, MD, learned on Friday, January 27, that the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Human Immune Virus Immune Globulin (HIVIG) for human trials. Rhame is Director of the AIDS Clinical Trials Unit at the University of Minnesota Hospitals. Rhame expects to start administering the treatment to half dozen AIDS patients within two or three weeks. The government originally refused to fund this research and the project was subsequently sponsored by Abbott Laboratories.

HIVIG treatment involves a type of plasma transfer therapy rather than a drug. HIVIG is about seven times as concentrated as plasma and it is prepared from a pool of about 17 donors whereas plasma comes from only one person.

In plasma transfer therapy, plasma is taken from a person who is HIV positive, but who has no symptoms and given to a patient who is so sick they are not making HIV antibodies or making only very few antibodies. Theoretically, at least, the HIV antibodies from the donor fight the HIV virus for the sick person. The treatment is also called "passive immunotherapy."

Some tentatively promising results have already been obtained with this kind of therapy. *AIDS Treatment News*, a publication put out by San Francisco based AIDS activists, calls passive

Rep. Carpenter to Lead State Liberties Panel

[Madison]—State Representative Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) has been appointed to head a new legislative committee with jurisdiction over Wisconsin's Gay rights law.

Carpenter, a strong supporter of civil liberties protections, was named to chair the Assembly Committee on Elections and Constitutional Law by Assembly Speaker Tom Loftus.

"The committee will have responsibility for all legislative issues pertaining to civil liberties and constitutional law, including Gay and Lesbian civil rights and sexual privacy," according to Carpenter.

"Wisconsin continues as the only state to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations based on sexual orientation. Our top priority must be to maintain these human

immunotherapy one of those therapies "most likely to become important in 1989."

Rhame himself thinks that HIVIG has a chance of surpassing AZT as the protocol of choice for AIDS patients.

To put Rhame's claim for HIVIG in context, it was only made when the doctor was challenged to defend the medical profession's acceptance of AZT as a good tool against AIDS in spite of its marginal benefits coupled with its toxic side effects.

Rhame brought up HIVIG meekly as he awaited long overdue approval of the compound from the FDA. It took three months to get that approval when it should have taken only one month.

(Similarly federal officials took over a year to do the tissue screening for Carbovir, an AZT-like, but less toxic antiviral being researched at the University of Minnesota. Carbovir is not yet ready for human trials.)

Shortsightedness on the part of federal planners a few years back is now causing a tremendous backlog at government agencies. Naturally, those agencies are now blaming the backlog on AIDS.

The major advantage of plasma transfer therapy in general and HIVIG in particular is that plasma is basically compatible with human life processes. It's "biodegradable", so to speak. The negative side effects are minimal and

TURN TO HIVIG, PAGE 10

rights guarantees," Carpenter said.

"Any effort to repeal or undermine our historic civil rights law won't get very far in my committee," said Carpenter.

This is good news, indeed, for Wisconsin's Gay rights law, according to its legislative author, Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison).

"Carpenter is now in the pivotal position to guarantee the integrity of our anti-discrimination statutes. There have been serious efforts in the past to weaken these laws that guarantee equal rights for the Gay and Lesbian community," said Clarenbach, who is Speaker Pro Tem of the State Assembly.

"We can now move onto the offensive to broaden legal safeguards and to enact programs that will benefit people with AIDS," Clarenbach said.

[Milwaukee]—Alan D. Eisenberg is mad as hell and he isn't going to take it anymore — not, at least, without a fight.

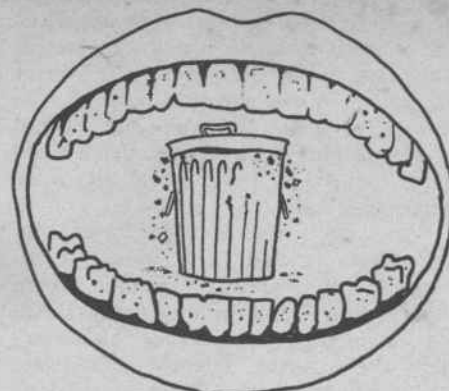
Eisenberg, a well-known former Milwaukee attorney, has taken up the cudgels against Morton Downey Jr. a TV talk show host who Joyce Millman of the San Francisco *Examiner* has called "The latest in a long line of crafty demagogues."

Downey, Millman goes on to say "taps into a wellspring of lower middle-class frustration, reduces complex political and social problems down to cartoon proportions of Us vs. Them." He "indulges racial and ethnic prejudice, encourages viewers to blow off steam, revel in lawlessness and hurdle over society's barriers of restraint and propriety."

Eisenberg calls Downey, "boorish, tasteless, abusive and obnoxious; America's No. 1 redneck." and he has decided to do something about it.

Eisenberg who has given up law "for good", has formed Citizens Against Downey (CAD) which, on December 20, 1988, began a nationwide campaign to garner public support to take Downey — who Eisenberg terms "a cretin" from the air thus eliminating "his maniacal ravings."

Downey is infamous for his blatant and outrageous homophobic remarks on his show. Examples are legion. As recorded from the Downey show on WMAQ-AM in Chicago, Downey has called Gays "butt



jockeys" and cited homosexuality as "an abnormal way of life" thus exactly echoing Heinrich Himmler who was in charge of the Gay Holocaust in Hitler's Germany.

Downey was also accused of slapping Andy Humm, spokesman for the New

Madison Mayor Primary Feb. 21

By David Burrill

[Madison]—The mayoral primary race is heating up in Madison as the Feb. 21 election approaches. But Lesbians and Gays in the City of Madison still do not have a candidate they feel they can strongly support. A number of Gay progressives including openly Gay Dane County Board Chairman Dick Wagner and Supervisor Tammy Baldwin, lined up behind former Mayor Paul Soglin when he jumped in the race, but he has disappointed many on Gay/Lesbian issues.

Meanwhile, Mayor Joe Sensenbrenner, who has hired openly Gay Ron McCrea, former Governor Earl's press secretary, as a media aide, continues to plod along offering little to show himself worthy of Gay support. While Madison has its first openly Gay candidate for Mayor, many have found him unacceptable for a number of reasons.

Madison Gays and Lesbians were shocked at a recent Mayoral forum held in the heart of the Williamson Street area where some estimate that up to 40% of

TURN TO MAYOR, PAGE 5

OUR HISTORY



A TIME TO DIE X At Huge Risk Rudolf Returns to Germany to Search For Ferdi

By Terry Boughner, Ph.d.

Eric phoned Rudolf the following day and they set a time to meet in the same cafe as before. When Rudolf got there, he found Eric and a man named Wilhelm, Eric's friend with contacts in the Gay underground in Germany.

"Eric told me," Rudolf said, "that Ferdi no longer was at the clock shop and that his contacts believed that he had been seized, along with untold numbers of others in the mass arrests that followed Kristalnacht. He told me that there was nothing I or anyone could do and that it was best to put him out of my mind."

Rudolf paused to order another brandy and then said, "I could not do that. I loved him. I could not kill him by forgetting him. I told Wilhelm and Eric that if they could not help me, I would return to Germany to find Ferdi and, if possible, bring him out." He shook his

"When the train crossed into Germany, I felt terrible fear as if a black iron door were closing behind me that I might never go through again. I knew that in Germany a man could be arrested for looking at another man, for smiling a little too much, for any of a number of reasons. Eric had said that there was no thought given to killing us at all. It was simply the extinction of abnormal life, like cutting out a cancer from a body. I knew he was right. I never knew the actual reason why my father had sent me to Paris. Sometimes I think perhaps he suspected I was homosexual. But whatever the reason, I felt safe in France. Yet I knew this was an illusion. Relatively speaking, we, homosexuals, were safe nowhere, wanted nowhere at all. In most places we are still outlaws, legally and socially. Is this not so? Here, now, in London, in this place, if it were known I were homosexual, if I did not trust you as one like me to say nothing that would reveal me, I would not talk to you. I could lose my citizenship, everything.

When the officials came to check papers, I nearly panicked at the sight of their uniforms with their swastikas. I imagined that just by looking at me, they could tell I was a homosexual. Of course nothing happened, but it took a long time after for me to calm down. I was very afraid that some of the other passengers in my compartment would notice something. I was shaking so badly and my hands and sides were soaking wet.

"My ultimate destination was Munich. I did not know what I was going to do when I arrived. I could not go home. I did not dare contact any of my old friends. However, Eric had mentioned a woman. He said she was a friend of Gertrude Stein. Of course I knew Stein only as a very famous writer. I had never met her, but I believed that a friend of hers might be willing to help me.

"It did not take long to find her. I will call her Frau Schmidt." He chuckled, really more of a deep rumble from somewhere in his gut. "That name does not do her justice. She called herself a person of the stage. I think she had some experience in those lines. But even if not, she was herself an on-going production.

"She was very trusting or perhaps merely curious about this strange, skinny blond young man who showed up one morning at her flat." He chuckled again. "I must have been quite a sight. But she let me in, gave me some good German coffee and rolls. Over cigarettes I told her my whole story. Believe me it was very hard to do. After all, I did not know her.

"Nevertheless, she accepted what I told her and assured me that she would tell no one. She said that I must stay with her and that no one would think anything strange because she often had visitors. She said also that I must not go out during the day. There was always the possibility that I would run into someone I knew and that they would inform on me. When I protested that I had to find Ferdi, she said that she had numerous friends in many circles and that she would make inquiries. In the meantime, I was to rest, get some sleep and she would see what could be done.

"I needed no repeat invitation. She showed me to her small bedroom and I was quickly asleep. Only once, I remember, I awoke. I had been dreaming that I was in Ferdi's arms and he was kissing me and smiling that funny way of his. When I awakened and found that it was only a dream, I cried bitterly as if there would be no end to tears."

Next: The search for Ferdi continues.
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head. "That was such a foolish idea. Wilhelm told me so. In fact he, with some vehemence, tried to inform me of how bad, how very bad, things were in Germany for us. He told me of what the underground knew of the concentration camps — what was going on there and that there was nothing, absolutely nothing, I could do except to be caught myself. He said that many homosexuals did not survive to be sent to the camps. They were often castrated or their penises cut off in the jails and they were allowed to bleed to death. But even when I heard of all those horrors and more that I could hardly believe, it made me all the more determined to go.

"You see," Rudolf tried to explain, "the very thought of those things happening to Ferdi was more than I could bear. I felt myself grow actually sick." He leaned slightly toward me, his watery blue eyes gazing intently into mine. "What would you do? Think of someone you love. What would you not sacrifice for him? Would you not enter Hell for him, to get him back?"

I thought then of Sajid, a beautiful young man of India with soft, liquid eyes like molten amber with glints of starlight in them when he smiled. I had met him on the Dover boat train during a previous trip and for six heaven-filled weeks we loved and laughed together. I would have done anything for him, given my life for him if I could and thought myself lucky for the chance. Sajid's death at the end of those weeks had dealt me a near fatal wound. Now, so many years later, with Jerry, I have learned that love can replace love. The gods are kind that way.

I have never told anyone until now of Sajid. Those six weeks have been my own hidden treasure. But in a very important way, it was the memory of Sajid and the intense and beautiful love we shared for so brief a time, that urged me on to discover the story of the slaughter, the Holocaust of the Gays. The other, as I have said, was what I was learning was doing for me as a Gay man.

Rudolf did not question me, did not seek to probe the reason for the hot tears coursing unbidden down my cheeks. Instead, he sat back, lit a cigarette, and went on with his story.

"Despite Wilhelm's warnings," Rudolf continued, "I returned to Germany. I did not tell my uncle that I was leaving. I took the little money I had, some clothes and went to the railway station and left. It was cold that night with a heavy rain falling. It streaked the window of my compartment like tears."



Jerry Johnson

Many Madison politicians attend the Gay and Lesbian Visibility Alliance gala fundraiser at the Cardinal Bar on January 13, including Ricardo Gonzalez, Tammy Baldwin, Dick Wagner, Earl Bricker and Terence Gilles.

Madison's GALVANize Holds Gala Fund Raiser at the Cardinal

[Madison]- The Gay and Lesbian Visibility Alliance (Galvanize) of Madison held a gala fundraiser at Madison's Cardinal bar on January 13.

The purpose of Galvanize is to sponsor the Lesbian and Gay Pride and Civil Rights March in Madison on May 6, 1989.

Nearly 100 people attended the fundraiser including Tammy Baldwin, Earl Bricker, Terence Gilles, a candidate for Madison City Council, #10, Dick Wagner and Ricardo Gonzalez, a long time Madison community activist and candidate for alderperson from Madison's 4th District.

There was an abundance of food provided by Madison's Tea Room, Folkways Natural Food Restaurant and Taste of Country. This, in addition to the music provided a nice opportunity to socialize as the crowd spilled over into all the the Cardinal's beautifully warm paneled rooms. It was nice to see that many people — about one-third to a half, I would judge — were wearing pink triangles perhaps THE symbol of the on-going fight for Lesbian and Gay rights and what Galvanize is all about.

There was no estimate of the amount of money raised, but those attending were asked to donate \$5-\$10 to the cause.

Gonzalez who is the owner of the

Cardinal told Light that the bar was a fitting place for such a gathering. "The Cardinal is affirmative action at work," he said. The Cardinal is "political. It is never afraid to put politics up front." He said that the bar welcomes all minority groups and that all of them make the bar their home on one evening or another.

Perhaps Ivan Clontz, co-owner of Madison's Tearoom summed it up best. "I'm having a wonderful time," he said, his handsome features wreathed in smiles. "Everybody's having a good time."

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GAY AND LESBIAN
PRESS ASSOCIATION

EDITORIAL

VALENTINES TO WISCONSIN'S GAY MEDIA FOR PRESS MONTH

February is Gay/Lesbian Press Month and it is the time for Valentine's as well. So, let's combine the two and send along some hearts and flowers to all those in the Lesbian and Gay print and electronic media who strive to keep us informed and raise the consciousness of both straights and Gay people.

A great big heart with lots of lace to **Instep**. Guided by Ron Geiman, it has served us in Wisconsin so long and so very well indeed. Hearts and lace to **Hag Rag** and yet more to **Feminist Voices**. Their high quality and degree of professionalism do our community and state much honor. A great big heart with a cute cupid to **Among Friends** and to **Leaping La Crosse News**.

Let us not forget the electronic media. Hearts and more hearts to Tri-Cable Tonight and to Nothing to Hide. These two programs are among the best anywhere.

And while we're at it, let's send a mushy Valentine to Dan Schramm and C.S.P. Inc. He may be behind the scenes, but he has set a standard of typesetting and professional excellence that is gaining him a reputation nation-wide.

Hearts, hearts, lots of hearts and big bunches of flowers to all those who advertise. This is the month to remember you, to say a deep and heart-felt "thanks." We know your dollars are hard-earned and believe it, we do appreciate the fact that you spend some of them with us. You keep us going. The whole community owes you, not only patronage (that too), but a debt of gratitude.

But, when all is said and done, the biggest hearts of all must go to the women and men whose dedication and hard, hard work allow these publications and programs to exist. These people, editors, writers, photographers, producers, directors, technicians and all the others, are paid little if at all. Many in the community might not even know their names. Yet, selflessly they expend their time, their considerable talents and often their own money on behalf of us all.

The Lesbian and Gay media is in its infancy compared to the mainstream press. But it is a hearty infant and growing fast. Here in Wisconsin it is good to know that we have some of the best examples in the country. A hearty Valentine's Wish To All.

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR:

I just finished reading your January issue of **The Light** and I must say I'm very impressed. I picked up a copy near Greenwich Village in New York. As a journalism student in N.Y.C., I find your professionalism encouraging to see (as a Gay paper).

I'm originally from Kansas City. The Gay paper there, **The Alternative**, is pitiful.

However, **The Light** is informative (nationally as well as regionally), professional and attractive. You have a right to be proud of your product.

I would also like to say that I was particularly interested in Morgan Summer's column. I find it unusual and encouraging to see both his early commitment to writing and **The Light's** publishing of a young writer. I feel his life may closely resemble my own.

Thank you for all your efforts.
I wish you continued success with **The Light**. Keep up the good work.

—Michael Wilke
New York, New York

Editor's Note: In New York City, **Wisconsin Light** is distributed at A Different Light Bookstore.

TO THE EDITOR:

I have been jolted by Morgan Summer's account of the brutal, mean, low-down encounter in his college dorm! I read his column faithfully. He has impressed me from the first time I saw his material, so I couldn't help feeling a kind of personal hurt at what he must go through because he has had the guts to be his total self publicly.

Certainly, I've been around long enough to know that this irrational degree of hatred is everywhere and everpresent, but it's a phenomenon I've never been able to get used to. This hatred is really fear, isn't it? Not fear of fairies, but fear that some undisclosed, unrecognized self cherishes these same impulses — impulses that the ancient social matrix holds to be **unmanly** — so that this accusing mirror of the unacknowledged inner terror must be shattered and destroyed.

I want Morgan to know that I think that not only does he have guts, he has **BALLS!** I thought the editorial footnote most apposite: the Pink Triangle is with us still.

—Lars Magnus Lofgren
Honaunau, Hawaii

U.N. Says Lesbianism Results from Men's Lack of Tact

By Richard Kollodge

Gays are "the object of real hatred" around the world today and this hatred is "comparable to hatred of other minorities that appear to endanger the very foundation of society," according to a recent report written for the United Nations Commission of Human Rights.

The report, discussed in Geneva, Switzerland in early September by a panel of the U.N. Subcommittee on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities, says that Gays face discrimination in social relations, jobs and housing, and that many are forced "to hide or establish groups in an attempt to lead autarkical lives in and outside of the workplace." It also notes that since 1983, the AIDS epidemic has led to additional hostility toward Gays.

Although it confirms that Gays face discrimination, activists said the report itself is replete with discriminatory terms and analysis of many aspects of Gay life. It describes homosexuality as a failure "to conform to the social model" and says Gays are people who refuse "to play the role assigned to them as men or women." And, it calls the "atypical homosexual tendency" something that "cannot be regarded as a satisfactory alternative to heterosexual tendencies."

The report begins with an exploration of the causes of homosexuality and suggests that it is a matter of choice and tends to be a product of permissive societies. Many men become Gay, the report says, because they can't live up to the unrealistic male images presented in the mass media, and that many women become Lesbians because they've had bad experiences with men.

"The virility model present to men by the mass media . . . has caused them to drift towards alternative forms of sexual activity," the report says. "There would be less impotence and homosexuality if men did not feel called on by the social model to achieve with their female partners an exceptionally high level of sexual performance."

The report also claims that the "purported male supremacy has had a deeply disturbing effect on many women and there would be fewer Lesbians if men were able to be more affectionate, more attentive and more tactful."

The report's sole author is Jean Fernand-Laurent, a 72-year-old retired French diplomat. According to International Who's Who, Fernand-Laurent was France's Ambassador to the European office of the U.N. in Geneva in the '70's. **Light** was told by the French Embassy in Washington that they had never heard of Fernand-Laurent and were consequently not aware of any research he may have done on Gay-related issues. Elizabeth Stamatopoulou, head of the New York office for the U.N. Center for Human Rights said she had "no idea" why Fernand-Laurent was considered an expert.

Legal AID Society Announces Project

[Milwaukee]- The Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee, Inc. (LAS), a nonprofit law firm in operation since 1916, has announced the creation of a special project designed to serve the legal needs of persons diagnosed as having AIDS and those infected with HIV.

The project will concentrate on PWA's and HIV+ 's who are victims of discriminatory practices because of their condition. Recent situations in which allegedly discriminatory practices have occurred include application for insurance, timely procurement of benefits to which the claimant is entitled, job or workplace conditions and housing matters.

The AIDS/HIV Antidiscrimination Project will be a component of the LAS Civil Division. LAS receives no government funding. Special funding for the AIDS/HIV Project includes a \$15,000 grant from the Milwaukee Foundation, along with additional support from the Cream City Foundation, the Stackner Family Foundation and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc.

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Does Sexual Segregation Exist Within The Gay Community?

By Reen

Does sexual segregation exist within the Gay community? Do men and women prefer the exclusive company of their own sex or do they like to socialize with each other?

In an attempt to answer these questions, I asked a number of men and women in our community if they prefer to socialize in men's Gay bars, women's Gay bars or mixed bars. Can we get along together, within our own community?

The men were a little more vocal than the women.

"We're all in the same boat," one man answered. "If you go down, I go down."

"Things are getting better. Years ago I went into a women's bar and they said, 'What are you doing here? You have enough bars of your own.' There's no reason why we can't get along. There are no men's or women's bars, just people bars."

"I prefer mixed bars. The conversations are better. I've been to the leather bars and this is what I saw." He turned sideways and propped his elbow on the bar. His features adopted a bored look. "They stand like this, looking around and checking their watches. Not a very exciting way to spend an evening. If I want to get.... I can just go there at 2:00 a.m. when the bars are closing."

"Women are some of my best friends. We go to lunch, but at night I prefer the company of men," said a bartender at a traditionally male bar. One of the patrons then said, "So you do like girls?"

"Not girls, women," he responded. I applauded the knowledgeable man.

Another man answered, "It's a better behaved crowd when mixed. Besides, we like the real women, not the queens with clipped earrings and Woolworth jewelry. It's dumb when someone says 'Oh no, here comes a guy.'"

"I prefer mixed bars," said another man. "We're all sexist to some degree, but men's bars are too cliquey. Men and women together are more natural, unless you're single and looking."

"Women are my best friends. If it wasn't for a woman I wouldn't be here. You could have a thousand fathers, but only one mother. You girls are beautiful. You have something I've been trying to get for years. Ha, Ha."

"I'm more comfortable with Gays, whether male, female or cocker spaniels," another man answered with a

grin. "I respect women," he added, "and I enjoy their company." Two more men also said they respected women.

Not all the comments were positive. One young man said, "I don't know any Lesbians. I only know bull dykes."

A couple of years ago in a male bar I was pushed, elbowed and sneered at. Although no comments were made, the message was clear.

Both men and women agreed that it's nice to take a friend along on a "date" when a reunion or other straight function called for it.

Two women said they preferred women's bars because they were quieter and the conversation was better.

"The conversation is better with the men. They're friendlier," another woman answered. "Men are some of my best friends and I can talk to them about relationships. There is no competition, no jealousy. He likes men and I like women. We know right at the start that we will be friends only."

"The guys are nice and polite, not like years ago. I admire the men," another woman stated. "Men and women together have more fun."

"Men are much friendlier and are just nicer than the women. Even if I don't know the guys, they strike up a conversation. You don't dare do that with women. As soon as you talk to one of them, the lover gets jealous. Women aren't as catty in a mixed bar."

Another woman stated, "If I'm not cruising, I prefer a mixed bar. It's less noisy and the conversation is on a higher intellectual plane. Men discuss world affairs and other various issues. Women discuss relationships and gossip more than men."

Another woman said she liked mixed bars, but then added, "Some guys are nice. As long as the place is big enough it doesn't matter. It doesn't work in a small bar."

A woman bar owner stated, "We are all Gay. We're all in this together. If we can't get along and accept each other, how can we expect straight society to accept us?"

The last comment seems to say it all. Gay men and women on the whole, do like to socialize with each other. The division occurs when someone is "looking" rather than socializing. Sexual segregation is still present although lessening. We're making progress!

Gays Make Checkbook Activism Comes Alive in the 1980's

[Washington, D.C.]—Now that the dust has settled on the recent election battles, one thing has become crystal clear about the 1988 congressional campaign: more candidates than ever took record-breaking contributions of Gay and Lesbian PAC money — powerful political greenbacks that helped most of them win their races.

The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), the nation's largest Gay and Lesbian political action committee (PAC) and lobbying organization, contributed more than \$400,000 in cash and in-kind gifts to Republican and Democrat candidates and progressive groups during the 1987-88 election cycle. That's 60% more than 1985-86 contributions.

HRCF gave more than \$300,000 to 111 candidates in 29 states running for U.S. Congress in 1987-88.

In Wisconsin this included Rep. Bob Kastenmeier (D-2), \$2,600; Helen Barnhill and Rep. Jim Moody who ran against each other for the Wisconsin 5th District Congressional seat. They received \$1,000 each. Neither Wisconsin U.S. Senatorial candidate received HRCF money.

Of special note is the fact that HRCF contributed to twice as many Republicans this time, thus building a bipartisan power base for Gay/Lesbian issues in the next Congress.

HRCF executive director Vic Basile noted that "the fact that 81% of the candidates we supported won is a sound argument that Gay money is an enhancement, not a hindrance."

Last spring, the Federal Elections Commission ranked HRCF the 9th largest independent PAC in the U.S. and the 24th largest PAC overall (out of more than 4,000).

"A strong Gay PAC is our calling card in Washington," said Basile. "There is power behind Lesbian and Gay money. It provides us with a tangible way of helping people who are our political allies and friends."

Unmarried Couples Have Fewer Rights

[Sacramento, CA]—In a ruling that could have broad implications for Gay couples, the California Supreme Court decided in September that because "the state has a strong interest in the marriage relationship" unmarried couples should not have the same rights as married couples, according to the *San Francisco Sentinel*, the Bay city's leading Gay paper.

The 6 to 1 decision came in a case in which Richard Elden sued for reparations for the emotional stress he suffered when his "de facto spouse" Linda Eberling was killed in an automobile accident. Since they were not married at the time, the court ruled that Elden was only able to sue to recover damages for the injuries he sustained during the accident.

Judge Stanley Mosk, writing for the majority, stated that "the state's interest in promoting marriage is inhibited" if unmarried cohabitants are granted the same rights as married persons.

Judge Allen Broussard, the sole dissenter, wrote that his fellow judges had ignored "the reality of our evolving social fabric and the corresponding accommodations made in both statutory and decisional law."



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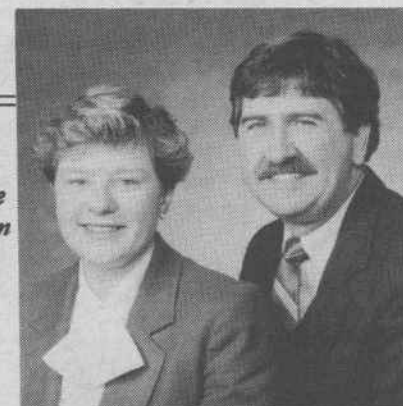
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Back to College

By Morgan Summer

I got back to college early, the first day the residence halls reopened for the second semester. I had had a long Christmas vacation and I was rather anxious to get back to school.

I hung up my clothes and plugged in my typewriter and refrigerator all the while thinking gleefully that my roommate wouldn't be back until the day before classes started as he had remarked before vacation. So, about five minutes later he walked through the door. My glee drained and I knew I was truly back at college.

That was on Wednesday. For the rest of the week he and I were the only ones on our branch of the floor of the dorm we live in. I slept late, took showers without having to wait for someone to finish, nuked several dozen cheeseburgers and corn dogs in my microwave, read Time and Newsweek and a few cheap, slick-covered novels. And I had a short, informative talk with Joriff, a cute Danish exchange student who lives in my residence hall. I wouldn't kick him out of bed.

I spent some time in the office of the Gay Student Union here on campus. The building it is located in was deserted and quiet except for the occasional custodian. No phone calls on the office phone and no one dropped in. Even the door to the building was locked, but that was no problem since I had keys to the front door and the office. In the Union's office I sat at the desk and leafed through back issues of the *Advocate* and looked out the window at the bare, sort of lonely-looking campus. Ice had glassed over the ground during vacation and it was very slippery out there. The parking lots were, for the most part, cleared. Huge lumps and mounds of dirty infected-gray snow and ice were piled by the outskirts of the lots.

It's the weekend now, an early Sunday afternoon, and quite a few students are coming back. Classes start Tuesday and at the campus bookstore, students go through piles of textbooks and supplies trying to find what they need and then pay an outrageous price for it at the check-out. As they move back into their quasi-homes, the residence halls, they look up and scan they windows, looking for someone who they know or someone who they want to know.

I think about the Gay Student Union and what will happen to it during the second



Morgan Summer

semester. Nothing earthshaking. It will be there no matter what happens — but I think some changes are on the horizon.

Some took place before vacation, in mid-December of last year. It was then that I resigned as President of the Union for many reasons. Simultaneously, I requested to be office manager which I am now. Elections were held when I resigned and now the officers of the Union are in place for the second semester. I'll be spending a great deal of time in the office and that's what I want — to answer the phones, help people, talk to them. And, of course, refer them to the meetings of the Union. There will be other, unexpected things that will come up during the second semester I am sure. That's okay. There is a Gay Student Union here now.

The students come back from their long vacations and look up and scan the windows. Classes will be starting in a little while and then college will start for all of us, straight, Gay and...and what if, in one of my classes, a guy from my old residence hall is there, a guy who knows I'm Gay? What if circumstances dictate that I come out again for the second time here and for the third time in my life? And the unions and the Union...there are many here.

* * *

Over vacation I bought a denim jacket. I'll wear it when the temperatures get warmer which shouldn't be too much longer. It is whitewashed and has a dark red hood sewn onto it.

On the right side of it I have already put some pins. There is a Pink Triangle on it, on the place by my heart.

MAYOR

Continued from Page 1

the residents are Lesbian or Gay. There, Paul Soglin, renowned for his left-wing politics when he was Mayor during much of the 1970's, responded to a question of what he would have done if he had been presented with the alternative families proposals that the City Council voted on last summer by saying he would have done the same thing the Council did.

The evoked gasps from the audience, as many knew that the Council supported only half of the ordinance proposals that were introduced and handily defeated the most important proposal which would have allowed city employees to include their alternative families on city-sponsored health insurance plans. Soglin indicated that he felt the city could not adopt the insurance proposal because it is not certain how much it would cost. Openly Gay Alderperson, Jim McFarland, later responded by saying: "That's nonsense! We know how much it would cost the city — they just won't believe us!"

Soglin has since met with Gay and Lesbian supporters and softened his position. He now apparently would support, in addition to the proposals passed by the Council (the so-called "Kate and Allie" zoning change and the provision of sick and bereavement leave benefits to city employees who have alternative family members to take care of) the proposal to make it illegal for public accommodations that offer family memberships (like the YMCA) to refuse such memberships to alternative families.

Meanwhile, Mayor Sensenbrenner, who also remains opposed to alternative family health insurance, has not yet decided whether he will support the public accommodations measure, according to Ald. McFarland. Madison Gay activist Rick Villaseñor, who has remained neutral in the election so far, said, "The next Mayor's support for this measure could be critical because the last time the public accommodations proposal was narrowly defeated and we intend to introduce it again. If there is a tie vote, whoever is Mayor will decide whether alternative families can be free from discrimination in public accommodations." Villaseñor emphasized.

Rick Berg, the only Republican in the non-partisan race, said he could not support the alternative families proposal, but did not specify if he meant all of the proposals or just the insurance proposal. He did indicate that he opposed discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, as all candidates do.

Political newcomer, John Roussos, a restaurateur who describes himself as a fiscal conservative and social liberal, indicated that he would support the alternative family proposal, but he tempered his support by saying that alternative families "scare" him even though he feels that the reality of their existence must be accepted.

Former Affirmative Action Officer, Gene Parks, the fiery black activist who some feel sees racism everywhere, also said he would support the alternative family proposal because he is a "human rights candidate." Some Gay activists are skeptical about him, however, because he is so quick to open his mouth up about racism and even sexism, but has never done so with regard to homophobia or the alternative family issue. Some wonder if he can even say the word "Gay" because he is so uncomfortable about the issue.

Many Madison Lesbians and Gays are disappointed with the openly Gay candidacy of Dennis DeNure, who also ran for County Executive last year. DeNure has never been known to be very active in Gay causes in the past, but he is a frequent visitor to Madison's Gay bars. He is considered too eccentric by most to be seriously considered for the Office of

Mayor. His most significant proposals have included inviting Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to the World Dairy Expo in Madison. He has proposed that the city spend \$100,000 on AIDS research and that it create an AIDS clinic, but the clinic would utilize the techniques of a German psychiatrist, Wilhelm Reich, generally considered to be insane, in an attempt to cure AIDS. DeNure has indicated that he would support the alternative family proposal.

Recently, DeNure has been asking the Gay community to support his candidacy. Calling on the Ten Percent Society, UW-Madison's Gay/Lesbian student group, to hold a Mayoral forum before the primary, DeNure sent out a recent press release in which he stressed that he is not "running a campaign whose focus is — VOTE FOR ME BECAUSE I AM GAY" (emphasis in original). DeNure included Ald. McFarland's name and phone number on the press release and called for all readers to contact McFarland and tell him "Let's Us have a Forum." McFarland indicated that he could not understand why his name and number were in the press release when he is not in a leadership position in the Ten Percent Society.

So, as the primary election date nears, Lesbians and Gays are still trying to determine whom they should support. Madison has come to the point now that no candidate will dare to oppose banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, but many activists say that they have a lot of work to do yet when even a "progressive" like Soglin indicates that he cannot support alternative family insurance because he doesn't know how much it will cost the city.

Under the Sensenbrenner administration, the Madison AIDS Support Network has done quite well, receiving significant increases in city funding. But Sensenbrenner, after indicating some support for the alternative family proposal in the last election, reversed himself and strongly opposed it when McFarland introduced it. Later, when it was divided into four proposals, Sensenbrenner supported the two that the Council approved.

Some activists say that if Sensenbrenner strongly comes out in support of the public accommodations proposal, he could repair much of the damage done, especially since Soglin has made no public statement in support of the alternative family proposals that did not pass the Council. Sensenbrenner and Soglin are generally considered the front-runners in the race for the two year term, and Berg is considered to be a distant third. Madison voters can register at the polls on election day, Tuesday, Feb. 21, and can find out where they vote by calling the City Clerk's Office at 266-4601.

Yale Law School Students Wear Pink Triangles to Job Interviews

[New Haven, Conn.]—Yale Law School's annual ritual of on-campus interviews is a little more colorful this year as hundreds of law students wear pink triangles to their job interviews to show their opposition to discrimination against Lesbians and Gay men. The pink triangle campaign was organized by Yale's Lesbian/Gay Law Student's Association (LGLSA) to express students' concern that discrimination against Lesbians and Gay men in hiring and promotion exists despite the law school's policy of prohibiting on-campus recruitment by firms or organizations that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

The campaign has been remarkably successful. Estimates for the number of students wearing pink triangles to job interviews range from 30 to 50 percent. Stephen Liacouras, a second year law student and member of LGLSA said, "Even more students than we expected are wearing triangles. We're particularly pleased to see a good number of interviewers wearing them."

The law school administration has been extremely supportive of the campaign. In

a letter to interviewing students and law firms and organizations, Yale Law School Dean Guido Calabresi pointed out that students wearing pink triangles "are self-consciously doing something they believe to be risky . . . to demonstrate their opposition to discrimination." Dean Calabresi also observed that "Courage at any age and in any circumstances is rare; courage among the young seeking jobs is rarer still."

The pink triangle campaign is meant to heighten the sensitivity of law firms and organizations to the reality of homophobia in the work place and hiring process. In addition, LGLSA sees the pink triangle campaign as a means of educating straight students about the everyday compromises which the threat of discrimination forces Gay and Lesbian people to make. In a letter to law students, LGLSA compared a straight student's decision not to wear a triangle in an interview for fear of being perceived as homosexual to a Gay or Lesbian student's decision to delete Gay/Lesbian political activities from his or her resume.

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The Light LIVELY ARTS



Fest City Singers provided waiters for the MAP benefit of "Bessie Sings the Blues." Pictured above are Tim, Rey, Brian, Erico and choir director Bim Florek.

Capacity Crowd Enjoys Bessie Smith Songs at REP.

By Geno

The Stackner Cabaret of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater (MRT) was completely sold out for the performance on Sunday, February 5 of "Ain't Nobody's Blues But Mine: The Life and Music of Bessie Smith," featuring Barbara Roberts and Jazz pianist Manty Ellis. This benefit for the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) co-sponsored by the Rep and Milwaukee's Original Fest City Singers (FCS) garnered over \$2,000 designated for MAP's life care services.

Appearing onstage in a lavender blue dress decorated in the style of the Twenties and wearing a matching toque with silver beads cascading down one side, Miss Roberts gave a brilliant



Barbara Roberts

impression of "The Empress of the Blue." Her program included familiar numbers like "St. Louis Blues" and such revivals from the Roaring Twenties as "Need a Little Sugar in My Bowl," each song delivered in the style of the period, but with the addition of Miss Roberts' own personal interpretation.

Jet's Bar Hosts Second Annual Heart for AIDS Benefit Feb. 18

It is a beautiful custom at Jet's and it has already begun.

Every year dozens and dozens of bright red paper hearts hang, suspended from the ceiling of the Milwaukee bar. Each one, inscribed with a Valentine's message. Already there are 25-30 hearts and soon there will be many, many more.

But there is more to it than that. The donation — whatever you choose to give — that buys your heart — goes to the Milwaukee AIDS Project. These are the Hearts for AIDS.

Then, on February 18, Jet's will host its Second Annual Hearts For AIDS benefit show. Hosted by the former Miss

In spite of the overflow crowd, Miss Roberts maintained a warm intimacy of her portrayal of Bessie Smith, sauntering through the audience singing "A Good Man is Hard to Find," strutting onstage to "Put It Right Here," and occasionally singing to just one lucky person in the audience. The audience, in turn, loved her, and she gave that love back to them interpreting the Blues and illuminating the life of Bessie Smith so that the life and the music came together meaningfully, with just enough of Bessie Smith's story to show how the songs grew out of the singer's life.

Giving generously of her repertoire, from the soulful to the slightly raunchy, Miss Roberts together with her impeccable accompanist received a well deserved standing ovation.

Members of the Rep and the Fest City Singers donned waiter's aprons for the evening, and their dashing service brought in another \$300 in tips for MAP, according to Cindy Poulson, production and stage manager of the Rep. In addition, the Cabaret management has donated 25 cents to MAP for drinks sold during the evening.

Regular performances of "Ain't Nobody's Blues But Mine" continue through February 19. In Milwaukee, phone (414) 224-9490 for tickets and further information.

Gay Youth to Hold Dance

Gay Youth Milwaukee (GYM) will be sponsoring a Valentine's Dance on Saturday, February 11th at 8 p.m.

"The Nite to Cause It II: The Sequel" will include a lip-sync/talent show, door prizes and refreshments for only a \$3 admission.

For more information, please call Michael, GYM Director, at (414) 265-8500.

Wisconsin, the glamorous Miss M, the show will include such Milwaukee favorites as B.J. Daniel, Jungle Red, Jamie Gay, Goldie and Ronnie Max.

The show starts at 10:00 p.m. There will be a \$2.00 donation and all proceeds will go to MAP.

It is important to note that all such monies raised stay in Milwaukee and are used for care giving. There is no government money expended for this purpose.

So, as you express your love with a heart and enjoy the show, you are giving of yourself to help MAP make someone's Valentine very special indeed.

Zesty "Three Penny Opera" Is Gitty, Almost Brutal at Skylight

By Geno

Mack the Knife is back in town! And Milwaukee's Skylight Comic Opera Company's production of "The Threepenny Opera" is the real thing — a gritty, almost brutal version just as Bertold Brecht and Kurt Weill intended their musical satire of a decadent society to be presented. Whores, beggars and pickpockets carry on their trades onstage in languid pantomime as the audience enters the theatre. The set and costume designer Russel Borski and Choreographer Janet Louer create images that call up the virulent drawings of George Grosz with their biting social commentary upon corrupt society. There is even a hefty woman sitting on the piano — an inspired touch.

Recent productions of "Threepenny" have tended to become, like "Cabaret", sugar-coated, softening the original intent of Brecht and Weill to shock, to startle, even to offend their audience. The Skylight production uses the music and the jarring reality of the dialogue to recreate a world that has disturbing echoes of our own time.

C. Michael Wright as the Street Singer has the enviable task of opening the show with "The Ballad of Mack the Knife" as he wanders through the audience. Forget about Bobby Darren. Wright, who played the affecting role of the Mute in Skylight's recent production of "The Fantasticks", has the clear voice which ironically underscores the wickedness of

the lyrics. He also undertakes three other roles during the course of the opera with consummate ease.

Paula Dewey as Polly Peachum and Leslie Fitzwater as Jenny Diver, represent the latest and the castoff lovers of Mack the Knife, roles which allow them to display all the versatility of their acting and singing abilities. Miss Fitzwater is still remembered for her one woman tour-de-force presentation of "Edith Piaf Onstage" during Milwaukee's Bastille Days.

The dramatic tenor voice of White Eagle as Mack the Knife (aka Macheath) conveys the swaggering quality of this hero-villain, but his acting lacks the light-hearted bravado that should reinforce his singing. But the voices are essential to opera, and music Director Donald St. Pierre has a cast made up largely of Skylight veterans whose vocal abilities have proven themselves in this as well as in past productions. With St. Pierre directing and at the piano, the orchestra delivers the discordant sound appropriate to the difficult Kurt Weill score with zesty assurance.

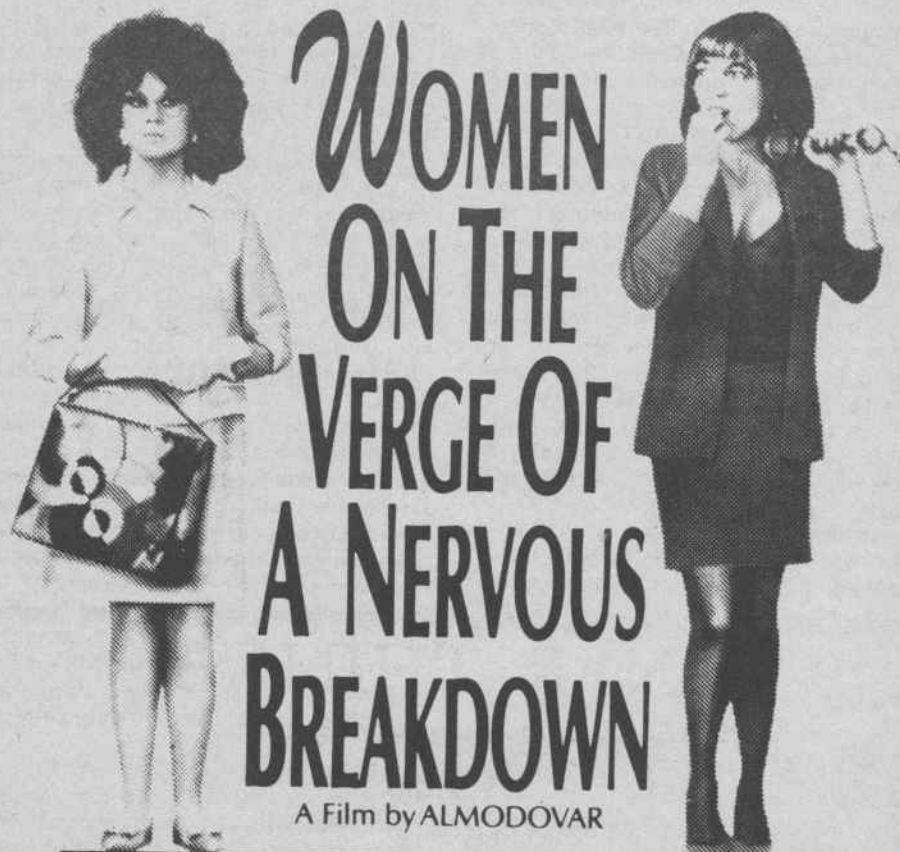
"The Threepenny Opera" has played to sold out houses, and the run of this masterpiece of musical theatre has been extended through February 22. Tickets for "The Threepenny Opera" are available at the Skylight box office, 813 N. Jefferson St., Milwaukee or by calling (414) 271-8815.

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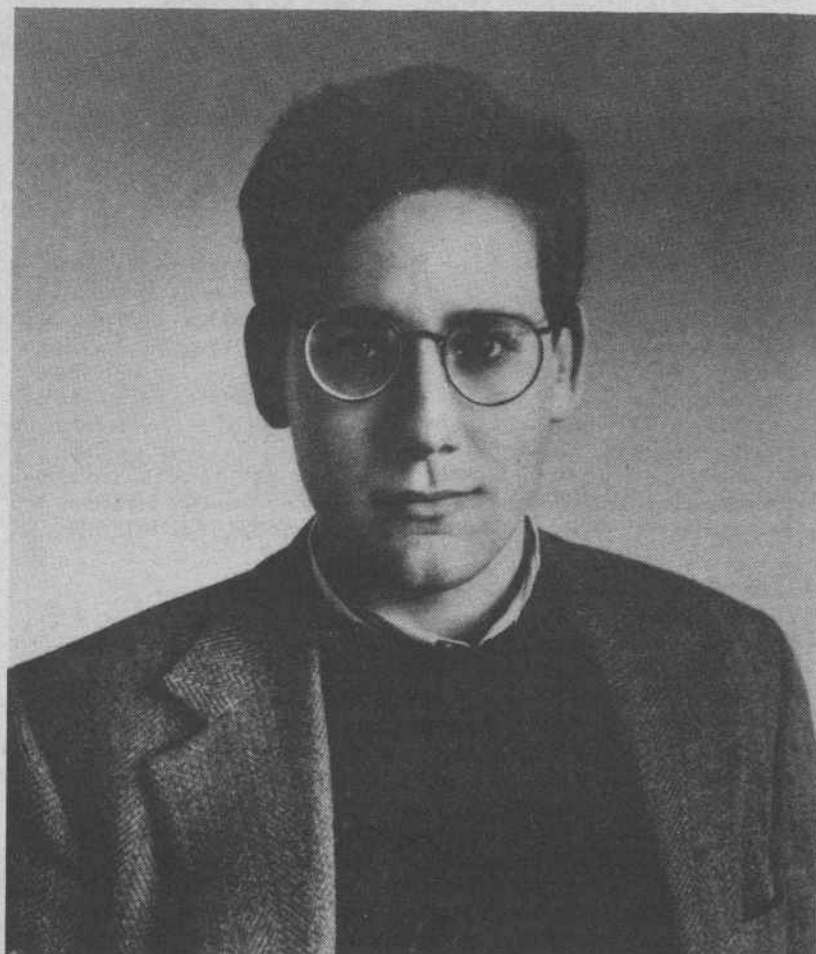
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Publisher's Weekly

Refreshments will be served.



Pepa [Carmen Maura, right] is confronted by Lucia [Julieta Serrano, left] in the comedy "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown" which is now playing at Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre.

"Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown" is Charming Comedy

By Vincent Canby

Excerpted from the **New York Times**

It hasn't been Pepa's day, or even week. Ivan, her longtime lover and a male-chauvinist rat, walks out on her, leaving only a bland message on her answering machine. Planning suicide, Pepa spikes a blenderful of garden-fresh gazpacho with sleeping pills, but forgets to drink it.

Pepa's suicide quickly takes on aspects of a dental check-up. It keeps getting side-tracked.

Saying she really shouldn't smoke, Pepa lights a cigarette and sets her bed ablaze. Her best friend, Candela, who has been having a blissful affair with a man she didn't realize was a Shiite terrorist, comes by looking for refuge from the police.

These are only some of the delirious ingredients in this most entertaining, deliberately benign new Spanish farce, "Women On The Verge Of A Nervous Breakdown." The director is Pedro Almodovar better known for his dark comedies in which anything goes,

provided that it may offend somebody's sensibility.

In "Women On The Verge", Almodovar sets out to charm rather than shock. That he succeeds should not come as a surprise. The common denominator of all Almodovar films, even the one that winds up in a murder-suicide pact, is their great good humor.

"Women On The Verge" has much of the cheerily mad intensity of animated shorts produced in Hollywood before the era of TV.

"Women On The Verge" began its exclusive Milwaukee engagement on Sunday, February 5 at the Oriental Theatre at the corner of N. Farwell and North Avenue and will open a three week engagement on March 3 at the Majestic Theatre in Madison.

Scenes From Operas Staged

[Milwaukee]- "I Love Lucy...and Polly...and Anne," a capriciously titled program of scenes from five famous operas, will be staged by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee opera program on February 3, 4, 10, 11, 12. The title of this UW-M production derives from the fact that, in four of the five operas, a principal character is named Lucy or Lucia.

Scenes from "The Threepenny Opera" and "The Beggar's Opera" will enable audiences to see the relationships between these two works, since the Kurt Weill-Bertold Brecht opera (see review of the Skylight production in this issue) is based on John Gay's ballad opera from 1728, hence a period of 200 years separates these two works since "The Threepenny Opera" was first produced in 1928. Yet both works attack a corrupt, decadent society as does "The Rake's Progress", an opera based upon Hogarth's 18th Century series of drawings.

The other two operas represented in the UW-M program are "Lucia di Lammermoor" and "Cinderella." These two Romantic operas provide a striking contrast to the biting social commentary of the other three operas.

Performances will be at 8:00 p.m. on February 10, 11 and at 2:30 p.m. on February 12. For further information, call the UW-M Box Office at (414) 229-4308.

"Inspector" Opens Feb. 24

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee's Boulevard Ensemble will present the Midwest premiere of Nikolai Gogol's "The Government Inspector," the second production of its 1988-'89 season.

"The Government Inspector" will be presented at the Boulevard Theatre, 2250 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., in Milwaukee's Bayview section on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings from February 24-March 12.

Tickets are \$8 for Friday and Saturday performances and \$7 for Sunday performances. The performances begin promptly at 8:00 p.m. For more information call (414) 672-6019.

Gogol, author of "The Government Inspector," also wrote the novel **Dead Souls** and has been hailed as the father of both the Russian novel and of Russian realism.

Tri-Cable Sets Feb. Schedule

[Milwaukee]- February's Tri-Cable Tonight celebrates Black History Month in our Lesbian and Gay community. Highlights for this month's program include:

Nancy Neutz's "My Little World," about bull dagger Gladys Bentley and other Lesbian Jazz greats.

Review of "Torch Song Trilogy" with a video clip.

Interview with Thom Ertl of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) about his work as the agency's resource person.

Men's Dances at Alverno College.
Lesbian, Gay and bisexual people in medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Barbara Roberts playing Lesbian Jazz great Bessie Smith at the Milwaukee Rep.

And our uniquely Gay and Lesbian approach to news and events of interest to us all.

Tri-Cable Tonight may be viewed on Warner Cable Channel 14 (City of Milwaukee only) on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. and the last Sunday of the month at 6:00 p.m. The program is rerecast the day after the above days (Wednesday after the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, late mornings or early afternoon at variable times and Monday after last Sunday, 10:00 p.m.)

The program is simulcast with Warner Channel 14 at the Triangle Bar, 135 E. National Ave, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. and last Sunday of the month, 6:00 p.m.

It may also be seen at the Phoenix (back bar), 235 S. 2nd St., 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 10:00 p.m., La Cage, 801 S. 2nd St, every Sunday, 5:00 p.m.; Ballgame, 196 S. 2nd St., 2nd and 3rd Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

In addition, it is shown at the Galano Club, the Brady East S.T.D. Clinic and the Cream City Foundation Community Center by request.

Each month's program is available at the Community Center, 225 S. 2nd St. on 1/2" VHS tape for loan to individuals and organizations by reservation.

Theatre Group Plans Retreat

[Madison]- Acting Under the Influence, Madison's Gay Theatre Project, Inc. (AUI/MGTP) will celebrate their 6th anniversary in April with a full day retreat. The retreat will include many local arts and Gay/Lesbian community people to discuss the direction the organization will take.

If you feel you have any comment (from closing down and starting over to closing down period to a different color stationery), please feel free to share it with the group. Your comments and/or observations and suggestions can be made by attending the upcoming shows and filling out one of the audience questionnaires. You can also write to Darrell Wagner, P.O. Box 726, Madison, WI 53701.

Remember, no answer is really an answer.

AUI Plans Performance

[Madison]- Acting Under the Influence, Madison's Gay Theatre Project, Inc. (AUI/MGTP) will get together at Madison's Barrymore Theatre on Sunday, March 5, 1989 at 8:00 p.m. to see who and what shows up and what (and who) they do. Scheduled to perform are Mabel Kane (Den Mother to the Stars), Rosa Rivera (the oldest living drag

queen in captivity) (Sorry Rosa, Morgan made me say it), Ravi (still earning a name for herself), J.J. Rivers from Chicago, Mandy McCall from Milwaukee and a host of others.

If you want to be included in the extravaganza as a performer, as an usher, as a set painter, as a hairdresser... whatever... call Mabel at (608) 271-1352.

Tickets will be available beginning February 13 at the Barrymore Theatre, Whole Earth Foods, or by calling AUI/MGTP at (608) 255-1218. Tickets are \$5.00 in advance, \$6.00 at the door.

Womonsong Choir To Perform March 10

[Madison]- In celebration of International Women's Day and Womonsong's 10th anniversary, the Womonsong choir will be giving a special performance on March 11, 1989 at Madison's Barrymore Theatre. It will begin at 7:00 p.m.

The performance will include skits and music with sections focusing on women's herstory, working women, international women, oppression and women's strength.

For further information call or write: Lauri Burch, 417 Rogers St., #D, Madison, WI 53703, (608) 251-6318/241-4471 ext. 475 or Cynthia Baurie, 738 E. Dayton St., #2, Madison, WI 53703, (608) 255-5084/262-3667.

Rona Celebrates Birthday Tenth Time Around

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]- I gave up on them a long time ago — around Lincoln's first inaugural, I think. Birthdays, I mean.

But a birthday party, especially someone else's, well that's another question entirely. I cannot resist them and Rona's, celebrated at Bob Schmidt's M&M Club on Saturday, February 4, was one of the best I've been to in a long, long time.

I think only the immediate world was there. When we got to the M&M, the Club was packed and getting packed-er. As I found out, there were people from all over; Milwaukee, yes, but also from Madison and Chicago and St. Louis and all points in between and beyond.

The center of it all, of course, was Rona, lovely as ever and gowned beautifully in a dress that shimmered like

the glints of light in her eyes.

The entertainment was first rate, playing to a delighted crowd. I especially liked the opening from "Phantom of the Opera." Rona and Guy Little, you were both top-notch with that. Randy Frank who was responsible for the decorations deserves a grand round of applause. They were perfect and effective.

Let me not forget Uncle Al who did a lip-sync number that was, as far as I am concerned, fantastic. He told me later that that was the first time he'd ever done anything like that. In all seriousness Uncle Al, you should do it more often.

Finally, a special note to thanks to Holly Brown. She is talented and always delightful, but she also has a big heart.

Finally, a word of advice. This was Rona's 10th annual surprise party. Don't — I repeat — don't miss the 11th.

TID-BITS

Editor's Note: We are proud to introduce a new feature. It is not a gossip column nor is it intended to be a calendar of events. But a column in which we'll be writing about the little things, the serious and semi-serious things, the pleasant and up-beat happenings that effect and color our Lesbian/Gay community. The column will be made up of contributions from everyone here at the paper and any and everyone from around the state and beyond is invited to add their "Tidbit."

Hold on to your wimples! The Nuns are coming to Milwaukee's Pabst Theatre. "Nonsense" the rollicking musical comedy about the Little Sisters of Hoboken Feb. 13-15 at 8 p.m. Ditsy Dody Goodman (does anyone remember her from the Jack Paar show?) is starred as Sister Mary Amnesia in this award winning production. Tickets are available at the Pabst Theatre Box Office, at Ticketron outlets, including Sears, and through Teletron 1-800-843-1558.

We hear that after several years of planning, a new 750 seat theatre will be built in Milwaukee. Originally proposed as an inner-city performing arts center to be located at Fourth and North avenues, it is now to be sited at the north-west corner of Walnut and King Dr. across from the Schlitz Brewery. Reliable sources say Anhauser-Bush of St. Louis is helping to underwrite the construction costs. Architectural plans call for the building to fit in with the historic building in the surrounding area. Ground breaking is

planned for 1989.

We hear that Milwaukee's Cream City Chorus is nearly \$800 nearer to Seattle and all the money is not in yet. All of this collected at Rona's 10th annual surprise birthday party at the M&M Club. Congratulations Three C's!

The Fest City Singers who co-sponsored February 5's benefit performance of "Nobody's Blues But Mine" have announced, so we're told, that their next two concerts will take place in the Stiemke Theater and the Stackner Cabaret of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater. Watch for announcements of FCS's season ticket sales.

Popcorn, Loki and Parsifal want to wish a certain publisher of a Gay/Lesbian newspaper a VERY HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY. They want him to know how much he is loved and if he weren't so squeamish, they would give him a big, BIG BIG kiss.

Tidbits hears that Ginger Spice, Miss Gay Wisconsin, did a wonderful job brightening someone's birthday party. Congratulations Ginger!

LETTER POLICY

Wisconsin Light actively solicits Letters to the Editor on any subject. However all such letters must be signed and contain the writer's address although the address is never printed and the name will be withheld upon request. All unsigned letters, notes and stuff scribbled on the sides of clipped columns will serve as cat box liner.

Theatre Tesseract Opens "Billy Goes to War" Feb. 2

[Milwaukee]- Theatre Tesseract opens the third show of its season on February 23, 1989 with "Billy Bishop Goes To War." This original creation by John Gray and Eric Peterson dramatizes the exploits of one William Avery Bishop, a young Canadian fighter-pilot who made a name for himself downing 72 enemy planes during World War I. Using one actor, one piano player and songs of the sort that kept men rushing in and out of battle, "Billy Bishop" brings us a world of violence and death, fear and futility, heroes and patriotism. Yet there is humor, sensibility, satire and syncopation

as well. "Billy Bishop has been described as a "high-flying ace of a show, capturing the humor, the hellfire and the derring-do of an extraordinary career." It is an unforgettable evening of entertainment.

"Billy Bishop Goes To War" will run February 23 through March 19 at Milwaukee's Lincoln Center for the Arts, 820 E. Knapp St. Parking is free. Performances are Thursday and Friday at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday at 5:00 and 9:00 p.m. and Sunday at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$9.00 and \$11.00. For reservations and group rates call (414) 273-PLAY.

RONA'S BIRTHDAY IS CREAM CITY CHORUS BENEFIT



U.S. and Britain Have Opposite AZT Claims

By Tim Campbell

Researchers for Burroughs-Wellcome claim in the November 25 issue of *The Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) that 73% of the patients on Ribovirin (azidothymidine), best known as AZT were still alive at the end of a 44 week study. These researchers use that information and other information from the same study to support claims that AZT is helping to reduce opportunistic infections and to prolong life for AIDS patients.

Meanwhile, *Lancet*, the leading British medical journal, carried an article in its December 3 issue which made practically the opposite claims. The researchers in *Lancet* conclude: "There was a transient increase in body weight, karnofsky index, and CD4 cell count during the first months of therapy...However, by six months, these values had returned to their pretreatment levels and several opportunistic infections, malignancies and deaths occurred. These disappointing results were partly related to the hematological toxicity of the drug, which led to interruption of treatment in many patients."

New York Native science writer John Lauritsen charges that it is "disgraceful" that JAMA published the Burroughs-Wellcome study and unfortunate that the popular media has taken their claims seriously.

Lauritsen charges that the major flaws in the Burroughs-Wellcome report are:

the research was faulty because 1120 of 4805 subjects were lost and the researchers did not know whether they were living or dead at the conclusion of the study;

because the doctors who reported on the patients did so very poorly, omitting the specific cause of death in at least 16% of the cases;

because Burroughs-Wellcome discredited itself by reporting that 73% of the patients on AZT were still alive after 44 weeks on AZT when they could only have guessed that;

and because Burroughs-Wellcome misled some physicians and many popular reporters by suggesting that these most recent results should be compared to survival rates of other well-known groups of AIDS patients when such comparison is patently inappropriate.

The gist of the argument of the AZT opponents is that the medicine itself is so toxic that it clearly worsens the quality of life of the patient without any scientifically demonstrated benefits. These opponents point out that there is a growing abundance of data to indicate that HIV+ persons, PWAs and PWARCs who avoid all toxins, including illicit drugs, cigarettes, alcohol and toxic prescription medicine, survive longest.

Syphilis and Its Effect On Immune Suppression

By Kenneth Spates

Over the last several years, there has been a growing movement among researchers, doctors and some public health officials in the U.S., Canada and other countries alerting us to the dangers of syphilis when combined with immune suppression. Adding to the concern is growing evidence that the ordinary tests for syphilis may not work as well as we've thought, particularly where the immune suppressed are concerned.

And, if that weren't enough to complicate matters, the standard treatment for syphilis, a shot or two of Benthazine Penicillin may not be adequate to cure the disease, again, especially in the immune suppressed.

Dr. Daniel M. Musher of the Veterans Administration Medical Center and Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas wrote and editorial (*Annals of Internal Medicine*, Dec. 1, 1988, pp 849-851) "How Much Penicillin Cures Early Syphilis?" In it he questions our means of testing and treating syphilis in patients who are HIV-infected. He also refers to a companion article by Dr. Sheila Lukehart of the University of Washington at Seattle Medical Center in which she presents evidence that the standard

They think doctors are killing patients with AZT.

Lauritsen puts it this way: "The toxicities of AZT are firmly established. The drug is cytotoxic (i.e. it kills healthy cells); it destroys bone marrow; it causes severe anemia, headaches, nausea and muscular atrophy; it damages the kidneys, liver and nerves; it inhibits DNA synthesis. When DNA synthesis is blocked, new cells are not formed, cells do not develop — the life process, in effect, comes to a halt."

Burroughs-Wellcome and the doctors who prescribe AZT admit that AZT is toxic, but claim that HIV infection is so much more toxic that patients' lives are, at least, prolonged and opportunistic infections decreased.

Frank Rhame, MD, the Director of the AIDS Clinical Trials Unit at the University of Minnesota Hospitals continues to prescribe AZT on a regular basis for patients in both early and advanced stages of AIDS progression. The data that he considers most convincing is the part of the earlier American reports that show that in a study with 160 patients on AZT and 160 patients on a placebo, 19 of the AZT takers were still alive after two years while only one of the placebo takers was still alive at that point. Rhame believes those facts outweigh other more "minor" shortcomings in the study.

Rhame thinks that the gain of life span, even if it is short term, is a significant gain that outweighs the long term effects of toxicity.

AIDS activists who oppose AZT insist that there is no way to a be long term AIDS survivor on AZT. AZT prescribers assume that that is true.

To quantify the data available, doctors usually presume that their patient will be dead in a year to 18 months without AZT. They prescribe AZT inspite of its toxicity because one out of eight patients is 19 times as likely to be alive with AZT after two years.

There is a very real danger that many doctors are treating members of certain "risk groups" as lost causes too soon. The nation seems to be infected with a hopelessness about AIDS that is not justified.

In the final analysis, there seems to be little reason to think that AZT will ever prove to be the solution to AIDS that penicillin was to other sexually transmitted diseases. We have been told so often not to expect any "magic bullet" for AIDS that we seem resigned to accept snake oil. AZT may not be exactly snake oil, but some of the stuff PWAs are taking is. Can we blame them for using it? I think not.

Editor's note: The author is the Editor of *GLC Voice* in Minneapolis. The above article is based on an article that appeared in *The New York Native*.

treatment fails to rid the bacteria that causes syphilis, *Treponema Pallidum*, for the central nervous system of HIV-infected patients from either early or late syphilis. In other words, they weren't cured.

A number of other researchers and doctors are finding that the problem may not be restricted to HIV-infection alone. Specifically, Joan McKenna, Director of the BASIS Project based in Berkeley, CA, has been raising the issue and questions since 1984.

The BASIS Project is a study and service that screens for syphilis in the immune suppressed. McKenna is finding that by no means is the problem as described by Musher, Lukehart and others restricted to HIV-infection.

"Our concern was that all the tests for syphilis depended on an individual having a competent immune system," she said recently. "How did one test for syphilis when the host was immune compromised? And who was included in the term 'immune compromised'?" Certainly people with AIDS or ARC, but what about people with other forms of temporary or chronic immune suppression from drugs (recreational or prescribed) or concurrent disease

(hepatitis, mono, lupus, cancer, etc.)?"

Adding to the problem, she points out, is that fewer people are going to doctors and those that do, go less often. Fewer public health services are available and fewer people trust the confidentiality of clinics and the adequacy of care. With a disease as complex and deceptive as syphilis, relying on an outward symptom to occur such as a penal chancre, may be wholly inadequate. With this "new or hidden" syphilis, a chancre may never appear.

Adding to the concern, Ames Laboratories, makers of the MHA-TP test for syphilis, have been labeling their test since March, 1988 alerting pathologists to the possibility of biological false negative results in individuals who are immune suppressed under a variety of circumstances, not restricted to HIV-infection only. In other words, a negative result on their test can't be used for a negative diagnosis of syphilis. In fact, they warn, a raging infection of syphilis could be present.

After years of neglect, the Atlanta Centers for Disease Control (CDC), GA sponsored an "Expert Committee" in March, 1988 to discuss the problem for the first time at that level. This led to the CDC to change its recommendations for both testing and treatment for syphilis for HIV-infected persons.

The CDC now recommends that when syphilis is suspected but the standard blood tests (RPR, VDRL) are negative, that the other tests such as direct staining for *T. Pallidum* from biopsy material and/or lumbar punctures (tapping spinal fluid) be done. If syphilis is found, they recommend that Benthazine Penicillin not be used. Instead, their first recommendation is for at least ten days of intravenous aqueous penicillin G in large amounts. They also recommend a much more stringent monitoring of the patient thereafter.

They published these and other related recommendations in their official publication, *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* October 7, 1988.

Currently the new CDC guidelines are being followed by the Dept. of Health STD clinics in Milwaukee.

Additional information can be obtained by writing the BASIS Project, 2811 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94703 or calling (415) 548-4000. Also people can write to Project Choice, (an informational and advocacy group) P.O. Box 802915, Chicago, IL 60680.

Help Earl Retire Debt

[Milwaukee]- A group known as The Friends of Tony Earl will be hosting a benefit on Monday, February 27, 1989 from 5-7 p.m. The affair will be at El Camino Real Restaurant, 2537 W. National Ave. The former Wisconsin governor will be present.

The purpose of the event is to help Tony retire his campaign debt.

Don't pass up this chance to visit with good friends and help retire a reasonable debt.



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Madam Domina Aschwester Welcomes Your Questions

By Domina Aschwester

Dear Madam:

My lover and I have been together for 6 years. We're monogamous or so I thought. Lately, I think he has been cheating on me. How do I tell? What do I do if it's true? Cheat too?

Heartbreak Hotel

Dear Heartbreak,

Madam wonders why you think your lover is cheating on you since you ask "How do I tell?" You need to check out the reasons which lead you to believe that he is cheating. If you come up with strong evidence, then the next step is hard: you are going to have to sit down with your lover and have a serious discussion.

Are there problems with your relationship? What are they? How serious are they? What things can you compromise on? These are all questions you both must deal with immediately. In addition, we hope that your lover has not been placing himself (and you) at risk if he has been cheating.

You must not cheat on him, however. Two wrongs never make a right. The imagined jealousy never really materializes, except for a short period of time. What DOES remain, however, is a great deal of hurt, resentment, mistrust, and an exacerbation of already existing problems. (and you get called a slut)

If you want a monogamous relationship, you have a right to that. If you and your lover cannot agree, then one of the other will have to change as the relationship will have to be reconsidered. Six years is a long time. Madam thinks you both will have a lot to lose if you don't sit down and talk together and try to work it out now.

By the way, Madam advises you not to be adversarial when you talk with each other. Making accusations and pointing fingers never works. Talk about your feelings, make "I" statements (I feel like . . . I am worried that . . .). Accept responsibility for your thoughts and worries. And make sure you let him know you love him and want the relationship, if that's how you feel.

Write and let Madam know how things worked out.

Dear Madam,

This is a serious question. You see, my lover is HIV+ and I'm negative (I've been tested). I love him, but what do I do? How do I treat him? Should I see other men for sex? He says I should, but I don't think he means it. What do I do? I love him a lot.

Concerned

Madam notices the most important thing of all in your letter: that you love your lover. Knowing that is half the battle! Madam has seen far too many lovers dropped because of circumstances just like this. Madam knows love cannot conquer all, but without it, you cannot conquer anything. From our experience, we agree that your lover deep down really does not want you to go and have sex with other men. That would be like jumping from the frying pan and into the fire, wouldn't it? And it certainly is no way to keep your relationship strong.

First of all, Madam suggests that you contact the Milwaukee AIDS Project

(MAP). Just because your lover is HIV+ does not mean you cannot have stimulating and erotic things you can do together and still be having SAFE SEX. Madam certainly would not presume to be an instructor. There may also be some things we may not know about in terms of taking precautions. However, the people at MAP will be able to give you instructions so that neither you or your lover will be at risk.

Call them TODAY. And Madam asks you not to give up your relationship. Keep you love alive and growing. There is enough hurt and rejection already in the world — neither you nor your lover needs any more of it.

Please write to Madam and let her know how things are coming along. Madam has lost her friends to AIDS and is not insensitive or uncaring in these matters. We will be as supportive as we possibly can be. You are not to even think that you should be alone in this matter.

Dear Madam, I am very shy and new in town. I like to go to the bars and I see all these hunks, guys I mean. I'm really turned on and I'm not too bad looking. But I don't know how to meet them. What do I do? You said you've been around. Can you help?

Horny in Milwaukee

Dear Horny,

What are you looking for exactly? If merely a sexual encounter, try any or all of the following:

1) Wear tight black jeans (if you have cute buns) and a slightly risqué belt (shirt is not optional in Milwaukee in the Winter — it's a necessity). Do not wear an Oscar De Laurenta shirt. Tacky, tacky.

2) Wear tight black leather jeans with a cammo handkerchief in your left rear pocket. Note: Do not be surprised if people salute you).

3) Ask the bartender what the gentleman who catches your eye drinks. Buy him a drink. He should at least stop by to say "Thank you." If he doesn't, he's a nasty boor and you didn't need him anyway.

4) You are practicing safe sex, aren't you? AREN'T YOU?

5) Wear pink Air Force Sweets.

6) Carry a steak into the bar with you and ask if someone is available to help you cook your meat.

If you are looking for friends rather than mere sex, Madam suggests that you look in the back of *In Step* magazine and join an organization. Milwaukee has a plethora of organizations to serve a great many needs. Madam has found that by joining a group or organization, not only can she serve her community, but that is also the easiest way to meet people for fun and pleasure.

WELCOME TO MILWAUKEE! She is a lovely, enchanting city with warm, caring people. Do more than just "look at book covers" here. She is a place one can love very easily.

...

Editor's Note: Madam has graciously consented to answer questions from all. Please address your very polite inquiries to this newspaper.

Madison GALVANize Plans Casino Night, Midwest Conference

[Madison]- The Gay and Lesbian Visibility Alliance (GALVANize) announces the following up-coming events.

A Casino night to benefit the Madison Lesbian and Gay Pride March is scheduled for Sunday, February 19. The New Bar (636 W. Washington Ave) is sponsoring and hosting the event. The Casino will feature twelve gaming tables including blackjack, roulette and craps. "Las Vegas type entertainment" (e.g. a drag show) is also planned. \$5.00 at the door gets you a pack of Gay-Play money and entertainment. Cash bar.

GALVANize is planning the Pride March which will happen on May 6, 1989. The event will begin with a rally at the State Capitol at 2:30 p.m.

On Friday, February 24, all interested persons are invited to a GALVANize General meeting. The meeting is an opportunity to find out what is happening in the Pride March planning and how you can get involved. The meeting is at 7:00 p.m. at the Memorial Union (800 Langdon St. Check Today in the Union for room).

On February 24-26, GALVANize is sponsoring the Midwest Regional Conference of the International Association of Lesbian and Gay Pride Coordinators. This meeting of pride march organizers from around the midwest will include workshops on improving pride events and will provide networking opportunities to organizers. The \$20.00 conference fee does not include housing or meals except Saturday snacks and lunch.

On Wednesday, March 1, GALVANize will sponsor a Bisexuality Workshop. The event will be from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Memorial Union at UW-Madison (check "Today in the Union"). The program which will be presented by Paul Kemp, Randy Haselton, Sarah Vila, Diane Perris, and Christina Clough, will feature education and awareness issues and the formation of a support group. Everyone is Welcome! The contact person is Christin Clough (608) 256-5371.

For more information, contact GALVANize at P.O. Box 1403, Madison, WI 53701-1403. Phone, (608) 255-8061.

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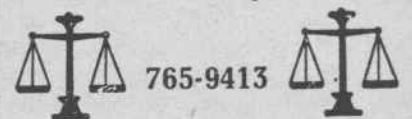
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CONGRESS Continued from Page 1

"Gay men and Lesbians are in every occupation and institution in our Nation, be they doctors or nurses, lawyers or clerks, writers, union members and managers," said Weiss in his remarks introducing the bill. "They are rich and poor, black and white, rural and urban, and number perhaps 20 million of the hard-working, law-abiding citizens among us. But this minority is different from others in that they do not have legal recourse when they encounter discrimination."

The bill has been introduced into Congress since the mid-Seventies and has gained support over time. Hearings were held on the bill in 1980 and 1981. At the end of the last Congress, 73 Representatives and 10 Senators were cosponsors.

The bill also has significant backing from members of the Congressional Black Caucus. Thirteen of the 24 members of the Caucus are co-sponsors of the bill. Several other Caucus members are expected to sign on soon.

HRCF urges people concerned about Gay and Lesbian civil rights to contact their legislators and ask them to cosponsor the bill or thank them for their support.

Senators can be reached at the U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. Representatives can be reached at the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. Call both at (202) 224-3121.

People interested in helping the Lesbian/Gay rights bill pass can call the Human Rights Campaign Fund's toll-free "Action Line" to send a mailgram to their Senators and Representatives.

Call 1-800-325-6000 and ask for operator 9188. Tell the operator you want to send a public opinion mailgram on the bill. If you don't know your legislator's name, the operator will. The cost of this pre-prepared message is \$4.50 per mailgram, which will be charged to your telephone bill.

HIVIG Continued from Page 1

familiar. Rhame first began working on HIVIG in 1984 just prior to the isolation of HIV and it's acceptance by most American researchers as the cause of AIDS. A handful of researchers challenge that causality.

In 1984, Rhame developed a compound which he called "hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG). He injected himself with



Frank Rhame, M.D.

five cc's of the compound and subsequently tested positive to hepatitis B for about a month. By happenstance, there were some HIV antibodies in HBIG, later tests showed.

Rhame originally thought that HBIG might be given like a "morning after" preventive to persons who were not infected with AIDS, but who had had an encounter with an infected person. It was thought the temporary period of antibody positivity might kill any newly invading virus.

HIVIG is a compound which embodies the same concepts, only all of the plasma donors are HIV positive. The preparation is intravenous rather than intramuscular and the initial dosage will be two injections of 35cc's rather than the mere 5cc's Rhame took. This protocol will be seeking to stop an AIDS condition already in full swing as opposed to a "morning after" situation.

Rhame applied for a government grant to research HBIG and HIVIG in 1985 and was turned down cold by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Abbott Laboratories subsequently funded HIVIG research and gathered the requisite plasma. Glaxo Pharmaceuticals funded the Carbovir research.

Other researchers involved with Rhame on HIVIG are Henry Balfour, MD, Margaret Simpson, MD, and Courtney Fletcher, Pharm.D.

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Milwaukee Has 1st Gay Radio Program, Newspaper in Early 1970's

By Sue Burke

This is the third of a three-part series of articles based on an interview with Alyn Hess by Sue Burke on December 18, 1988, at St. Joseph's Hospital, where he was being treated for AIDS.

I had great difficulty coming out and I didn't come out until 1965 when I was 25 and in the Army, strangely, in the Army War Room of the Pentagon. To learn about homosexuality, I had to go and find some books in the used book stores in Georgetown and downtown.

I got the chance to see some women Marines strut down the hallway in their uniforms and, my god, you have never seen anybody swagger like that. And I got to see one of the colonels in the Personnel Department swish down the hall with his uniform coat honestly draped over his shoulders. You just couldn't believe it.

I grew up in Freeport, Illinois. When I came out I wrote to friends and said, "Guess what I have discovered about myself? I am Gay."

The people wrote back and said, "Oh god, we always thought you were anyhow." My response was, "Well, why didn't you tell me?" and they said, "That was none of our business."

I came to Milwaukee in 1970. There are about the same number of bars now as in '70, but only one of them was owned by a Gay person at that time.

One of the most successful Gay bars was the Castaways South. It was in the building that is now the Ballgame and that little bar was absolutely the best bar around in the Midwest because on Sunday nights you could dance there and you couldn't dance in a lot of places because of the blue laws.

Well, suddenly that bar went down the tubes because the former manager there left and got some financial backing and opened a bar called the River Queen on the northeast corner of Water Street and St. Paul Avenue. After two weeks, there was hardly anyone going to the Castaways South.

The Factory which followed, had one of the best dance bars in the city up to that point.

We used to have Gay bars out in the residential areas, but we had to move them to areas where there would be nobody to offend at night if we got drunk and rowdy. That's why most of the bars are now down along the South Side.

GPU News, published by the Gay People's Union, was the first Gay publication. We knew we needed something in the community that we could leave in the Gay bars, but we hadn't started out with that.

We had a radio program first in 1971 called Gay Perspectives. I was taking people home from a meeting at the Newman Center one night in my station wagon...actually my company's station wagon. I had a nine-seater car and an instant meeting. If you needed a demonstration I could produce it myself and sometimes we almost literally had to do that...and somebody said that Bob Reitman offered to put a Gay radio program on WZMF in Menomonee Falls but it would have to be professional quality.

It took a long time to get it started because everyone wanted to get involved. At one meeting the women were battling. We finally said, "Well, sit down and write what you want. We'll put it on the air, there's no question, but you write what you want."

Well, there was so much haggling in the radical Left that they couldn't even come up with more than one or two sentences at a time and we said, "Well, try and bring it back to us in a week from now and we'll have another meeting here."

And a week from then they didn't come back and so we had to try to deal with that, but be respectful as much as we could for those folks, but we had to go forward. If they couldn't write it then we had to write it for them as best we could.

It took months, but we finally delivered a trial tape to Reitman. He was surprised.

One of the first shows we did was "Why Is Gay Liberation Needed?" All those tapes, unfortunately, have vanished.

Eventually, Bob booted us off the air because we didn't have enough rock music, but we got the program started.



Alyn Hess

We moved over to WUWM. We found our Gay friends there and they told us how to approach that situation. We even got prime time instead of midnight on a Sunday night, as it was at WZMF.

We realized that once we put the shows together and out over the air, they were gone and eventually those tapes would get lost or erased or something and so that's why we created the GPU News.

There were several issues of the GPU News with articles that grew out of the radio program.

GPU News got to be looking like a respectable newspaper. Some of those first ads, I hand-drew myself. We did it for free because we needed the ads.

After 10 years, GPU News folded because of problems, but by then other papers were starting.

When did I have my burnout? I think in '77. Then I just had to pull back. I think I had done too much. I just literally lived, ate and breathed Gay liberation and ran across really literally hundreds or thousands of people.

So much has changed between then and now. You can go to the library and pick books off the shelf.

Before, Gay people could only meet in the bars. Now there are churches, bowling leagues and the Foundation and a hotline.

We've got to work with the people that are available because nobody's paying the activists, and we've got to work with what we've got to work with.

The role of the leader is to quietly work behind the scenes, but not to get out there and take all the credit for himself.

The role of the leader is to facilitate things, recognize what people can do and get them coordinated in such a way that they can do it. Then, when it's all done, the people will say, "Look what we have done," and indeed they did do it.

Testimonies Sought from Vets

[Washington, D.C.]— Prompted by the incarceration of three female Marines on charges of homosexuality, a joint project to effect longlasting changes in military policy towards Lesbians and Gay men has been launched by several civil rights groups including the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), and the National Organization for Women (NOW).

As part of the education and outreach programs, the project seeks testimonies and first-person accounts by Lesbians and Gay men who are Armed Forces vets or who are currently serving in the military. All requests for confidentiality will be respected. The stories will be included in collected testimony presented to Congressional committees.

Please send your 500-1000 word account of your experiences in the military to: Gay and Lesbian Military Freedom Project, NGLTF, 1517 U St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009

University of Ill. Seeks Alumni

[Washington, D.C.]— The University of Illinois Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association (GALA) is seeking to increase national membership. Alumni/ae from both the Champaign-Urbana and Chicago campuses are welcome. There is no membership fee.

Alumni/ae wishing to join the mailing list, write: University of Illinois GALA, P.O. Box 53336 Washington, D.C. 20009 or phone Larry Cohen at (202) 328-6227.

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