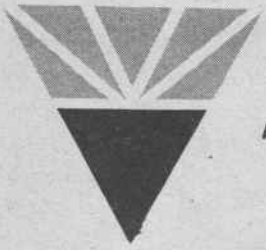


Give the People Light and they will find their own way.



The Wisconsin Light

STATE SENATOR SEEKS LIFE IN PRISON FOR TRANSMISSION OF AIDS VIRUS

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Become Pro-Active and Make A Difference

By Tom Sauerman,
National V.P. P-FLAG

A letter from the Field Division of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) came across my desk some time ago. It appealed to my interest and made good sense. But it called for me to do something I've never done before: pre-authorizing mail to Capitol Hill — so that they could send messages in my name to members of Congress when critical issues come up.

Before I tell you what I did, let me explain its appeal. Washington, D.C. is light years from my experience. Lesbian and Gay concerns frequently are over and done with before I'm aware that they happened. They often come up on short notice with little time for Gay/Lesbian and AIDS lobbyists to reach all of us who care before these votes.

For years I've been frustrated. What I find is I've been reactive rather than pro-active on these issues where I do have strong opinions.

Then came the HRCF Field Division (formerly the Fairness Fund) letter!

HRCF is the national political action committee for the Gay and Lesbian community. It lobbies Congress on AIDS and fairness issues for Lesbians and Gay men. It is the 9th largest independent PAC in America. Because they lobby and monitor Congress daily, they're able to move on an issue within hours.

They currently have my permission to send ten 50-word messages in my name where timing and pressure is important. The messages will speak directly to an issue's critical points. They cost just \$2.95 each. The Fund sends out quarterly reports on messages sent, their impact and legislative results. Or you can request an immediate copy of the message for just 50 cents each. Since they have my address, they know which voting district I'm in and send it to whomever they think it will have the most impact upon. I can cancel at anytime if I'm not satisfied.

Every letter, mailgram or phone call sent to Congress represents 1,000 voters. And it shows members of Congress that our side is organized in their districts.

Don't you think it's time that you stand up with us — and have your voice heard on Capitol Hill? Not once, but again and again.

Editor's Note: Wisconsin Light heartily endorses Mr. Sauerman's position. We urge readers to take advantage of the insert in this issue of the paper and join Gays and Lesbians nation-wide who are helping HRCF make our presence felt in Congress.



Photo by Robert Mapplethorpe titled "Self-Portrait", 1980. (Silver Print, 20 x 16). From the Artist's Collection and currently on exhibit in Chicago.

Robert Mapplethorpe Exhibited in Chicago Galleries

By Jeffrey Zurlinden

With photographs of nude black men and S&M sex, Robert Mapplethorpe pushed art photography to the limit. An exhibition of his work, **Robert Mapplethorpe: The Perfect Moment**, opened in February at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art. Starting March 18, the Betsy Rosenfield Gallery, a private gallery in Chicago, will also exhibit photographs by Mapplethorpe.

The Perfect Moment presents all phases of Mapplethorpe's photography — portraits, nudes, flowers and S&M sex. Over 150 photographs make this exhibition the largest collection of Mapplethorpe's photographs ever displayed and the first Mapplethorpe exhibition to tour nationally.

The subject matter, not the technique, earned Mapplethorpe his reputation as a bad boy — the late 70's explicitly Gay photographs. "Larry and Bobby Kissing", 1979 seems tame. And "Untitled", 1979, with Mr. and Mr. Leather in the living room chained to the furniture may be almost homey. But the whiphandle-in-the-butt-hole "Self-Portrait", 1978, and the fisting photographs (one is included in this exhibit) can shock.

"Mark Stevens (Mr. 10 1/2)", 1976, is typical. Mark leans forward and displays the object of his nickname on a platform; his gloriously erect penis trussed by a studded cockring, and his butt framed by leather chaps. Sexual yet classically elegant — like an unearthed ancient Greek statue, his head and forearms are missing.

Besides the S&M pictures, Mapplethorpe is best known for his powerfully elegant nude pictures of black men. "Thomas in Circle", 1987, like most of the black men, poses as a single beautiful object with bulging, well-defined muscles. He is so perfect, yet so distant, that viewers long to touch his skin and make him real. Most critics agree that Mapplethorpe broke new

ground with the black male nudes and made black men legitimate subjects for fine-art photographs.

To many, Mapplethorpe's flowers breathe the greatest sensuality and beauty. They usually pose like the black men, alone or in pairs. In "Poppy, 1988", a lush and brilliantly orange blossom intertwines like a lover around an unopened bud. "The flowers are erotically charged and yet kept at a cool distance by the camera," says Bruce Guenther, Chief Curator of Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art.

Many Gay men fantasize that Mapplethorpe spent most of his time waiting for the next severe leather number or well-endowed, muscle-bound black man. (He reportedly recruited models from backrooms and through personals.) Instead, he worked commercially and took portraits. Approximately one third of the photographs are portraits, including a 14-year chronicle of rock star Patti Smith.

Robert Mapplethorpe is the most widely talked-about and written-about photographer in America today, but tragically at 42, he is running out of time. Free-wheeling sex in New York in the 1970's nurtured his art, and now AIDS is surrounding and killing the artist.

EXHIBITIONS

Robert Mapplethorpe: The Perfect Moment-

Museum of Contemporary Art: 237 E. Ontario, Chicago, Feb. 25-April 9. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sundays, 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. Suggested price \$4, \$2 for students, senior citizens and children ages 10-18. Children under 10 are free. There is no charge on Tuesdays.

Robert Mapplethorpe

Betsy Rosenfield Gallery, 212 W. Superior, Chicago, 1st floor. March 18-April 22, Tuesdays-Fridays 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturdays 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

[Madison]- Strict criminal penalties of up to life imprisonment for transmission of the AIDS virus would be imposed if the state legislature passes a bill introduced by State Senator Marvin Roshell (D-Chippewa Falls).

Senate Bill 26 calls for penalties of up to ten years imprisonment for exposing someone to the virus. If a person "knowingly" transmits the virus, the prison term would increase to 20 years, and if the transmission contributes to the death of another, the penalty could increase to life imprisonment.

According to Roshell, SB 26 is, "an attempt to stop the lunatics on the fringe of society who have this dreadful disease."

Proponents of the Gay and Lesbian community were quick to condemn the Roshell bill as "reactionary and counter productive."

State Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison) said SB 26, "contributes to the public hysteria over AIDS and punishes people with AIDS a second time. This is a negative and punitive response that will not stop one case of AIDS; nor will it stop any anti-social behavior of an irresponsible person who has AIDS."

"This law, if passed, would make any person infected with the HIV virus vulnerable to a criminal charge. This bill could encourage a witch hunt against the Gay community," Clarenbach declared.

Roshell claims that he is "not on a witch hunt against any particular group and I am especially not trying to complicate the lives of those average citizens who are living the nightmare of this disease."

State Representative Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) urged citizens to write or phone their legislators immediately to oppose SB 26. "Members of the Senate and Assembly must hear from their constituents that this is a bill that must be defeated."

"AIDS is a serious public health issue that will require funding for education to prevent further spread of the disease, and for the care and treatment of those already infected," Carpenter said.

"We must stop this reactionary and counter productive approach. Wisconsin must insist on an aggressive and positive fight against AIDS," said Carpenter, who is a member of the Assembly Health Committee.

Senate Bill 26 has been referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee, which is chaired by Senator Lynn Adelman (D-New Berlin). Adelman could kill the bill in committee by refusing to schedule it for a public hearing. The bill is sponsored by 13 lawmakers from both houses and both parties.

Citizens who wish to write their legislators may address their letters to them at the State Capitol, Madison, WI 53702. For those who don't know the name of their state senator or representative, or who wish to leave a telephone message, may call the legislative hotline at 1-800-362-9696.

United Way Ignores Gays

In a major collaborative effort, United Way of Greater Milwaukee and the Social Development Commission issued a report entitled, "Top Concerns: Milwaukee Minorities Identify the Problems they Face."

This report was the result of an intensive review of the problems faced by Milwaukee's minority groups. The stated objective of the review was to assist both United Way and the Social Development Commission in the development of

TURN TO UNITED WAY. PAGE 12

OUR HISTORY



**A TIME TO DIE XII
Rudolf Caught by SS in Beer Hall
And Sent to Dachau**

By Terry Boughner, Ph.d.

German beer is stronger than the American variety. One has to be cautious with it and Rudolf was not cautious that night. As he said, all he could think of were those two lifeless black forms hanging from the end of ropes as the acrid, billowing smoke of a railroad engine engulfed them and all upon the bridge.

"It was that taste," he said screwing up his face, "that terrible taste and smell that I could not clean from my tongue or nose. At odd moments, sometimes at night, I awake and it is still with me.

He went to the Hofbrauhaus, a vast Munich beer hall where, as he said, he could be surrounded by voices, people, music.

He felt, he said, like some little bird driven to earth by a red, Wagnerian storm beyond his comprehending.



He drained his stein and ordered another. It was near to Christmas, yet he had no home. He was alone amid the sturm und drang, longing for his lover. "I think I began to cry. There was no place for me, not for anyone like me except, I thought, on the end of a rope."

He heard voices, familiar German voices, talking, laughing, singing "and then someone began the Horst Wessel Lied, Raise the Banner," (The anthem of the Nazi Party.) "It is a beautiful song. It is moving. It stirs the blood and all around me, people were singing."

"I loved my country," he said. "I was German. But I was also a homosexual. Could one be both? I wondered if men like me could have a country, even a corner, just a little place where we could love and be free?"

He was lost in thought when suddenly someone called out in a loud and drunken voice, "Look! Look! He is not singing! He is not standing!"

"I was confronted by a big, angry, red-faced man. He was wearing a gold badge which meant he was a Party member and was carrying one of the great glass beer steins. I remember how the beer slopped all over the table in front of me."

"What are you?" he demanded, "A Communist? A Yid (Jew)? A filthy queer?"

I did not know what to answer. I shrank into my seat thinking, my God, they'll hang me too and I could feel the rope about my neck. He shouted at me again. I mumbled something. I don't remember, and then there were others there. They dragged me from my seat. I was crying, I think, and then someone said, 'He's no Yid. He's an assfucker!' and they began to beat me and spit on me and knock me down and kick me. I think someone urinated on me. I thought I was dead.

I must have blacked out because the next thing I knew I was in a wagon being taken to Gestapo Headquarters. When I arrived I was brought to a room labeled Department IIs (The branch of the Gestapo set up by Himmler to 'control homosexuals and abortions'). There was an SS officer there seated behind a huge desk. I stood before him, my clothes in tatters, stinking of beer and urine.

"For a long time he did not look at me, but when he did, I saw to my utter amazement that I knew him. He was a friend of Ferdi's and a homosexual. I think he recognized me, but gave no sign. Instead, he got up, came around his desk, and before I could say anything, he hit me across the face, very hard, knocking me

down. Then he called for guards. 'This man is a stinking queer,' he said. 'He has confessed. Take him away.' "

"They would not touch me. Instead, I was ordered to my feet and with many blows, was driven down to a cell. It was empty and I thought I would have relief. But the two SS men followed me in. One of them put his gun to my head to shoot me. I thought, Right then I did not care."

"He ordered me to suck him. When I shook my head that I would not do it, he hit me with his gun opening a large gash on my already bruised cheek. I still have the scar."

He did. It was a jagged looking thing about 2-3 inch long.

"I did it as my blood spilled down my cheek. Several times he hit me because my 'tainted blood' got on his penis. Then I did the other one. I had no choice. When I had finished, I collapsed onto the floor. I was more dead than alive and all I could think of was Ferdi, Ferdi, Ferdi."

He asked me if that surprised me; the fact that "normal" men would want an "abnormal" act done to them? Then I was young enough to be surprised. Now I am not. As Rudolf said, in a society gone mad in defense, as they said, of tradition (Kinder, Kuche, Kirche — children, kitchen, church), the line between normality and abnormality vanishes.

"I remained in my cell I do not know how long. There was no window. There was no heat. I think I would have frozen or simply died of neglect except that a young man came and brought me some food and a little water. He came to me several times. I do not know who he was or how he was able to come to my cell. He told me he was like me. That was such a relief, you have no idea, to be with my own. Of course, I asked him about Ferdi. I remember he looked at me with a peculiar expression and then replied very quickly that Ferdi wasn't important to me now. He said that the SS officer who first saw me wanted me dead, but that wouldn't happen. Instead, I would be transported to the camps. At least I would have a small chance for life there."

How he knew all that, I do not know. Perhaps he was of the underground. As it turned out, what he said is what happened."

Next: Rudolf goes to Dachau.

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Madison Sets Sweet Sunday Records

[Madison]- Nearly 300 people jammed the Wilson Street Grill for "Sweet Sunday Afternoon" last month, a record-setting benefit for the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN).

"This is our single largest fundraising event of the year, and a special opportunity for the community to embrace the valuable work of MASN," according to Marge Sutinen, Executive Director of MASN.

"Sweet Sunday Afternoon" has already raised over \$8,000, with more donations arriving daily. The annual event, featuring "sweets, chocolates and other just desserts," drew an overflow crowd that included Congressman Robert Kastenmeier, Madison Mayor Joe Sensenbrenner and challenger Paul Soglin, Assembly Speaker Tom Loftus and Madison's entire state legislative delegation.

MASN is the community-based organization that provides public education and care and treatment services for people with AIDS in the Dane County area.

Those who wish to donate funds or volunteer may write to MASN at P.O. Box 731, Madison, WI 53701, or call (608) 251-MASN. All contributions are tax deductible.

MEASURES OF CHANGE

By Alyn W. Hess

Back then there were no Gay people, nor many homophyles, but a fair number of queers.

There were, however, a few homosexually active men and women who were actually able to live out their own dreams of lives with a same-sex mate of their choice. There were some biographic tales and historic accounts of total openness as well as a fair amount of acceptance by those people who they lived among.

These people to whom I refer, came from all over the world and from many different cultures. There were the two Lesbians who lived in 18th Century Wales. There were the berdashes among the North American Indian tribes, one of whom was a tribal ambassador to Washington, D.C.. There was the early women's rights group of Seneca Fall, New York in the late 19th Century and the Bloomsbury group in early 20th Century London, the most famous member of which was undoubtedly Virginia Wolff. There was Stein and Toklas, Natale Barrie, various participants in The Harlem Renaissance.

These were really very brave and intellectually courageous men and women, breaking out of society's mold in the late Victorian and Edwardian eras.

Each of these people had some vision of how their lives could be better, happier, more fulfilling and richer both economically and in interests and pursuits. This required that they examine in some serious and meaningful way, their feelings, longings and desires as well as how they were currently living their lives that might not be in accord with these.

This was a long time before Freud was on the scene. It was well before Einstein set forth his theoretical view of the fundamentals of the working of the universe. Each in his own field, was a seminal thinker who provided for mankind a conceptual turning point that was as



Alyn Hess

Jerry Johnson

pivotal in history as the heliocentric theory of the solar system.

In its day, the Roman Catholic Church rejected the idea that the sun moves. It has also similarly flown in the face of truth and condemned homosexual activity as sin. Why?

Rome will not approve homosexual activity nor sanction effective AIDS prevention in sex education in my opinion, because Rome fears change. This is because it has taken one time period's values and beliefs and set them up as somehow forever the best. That is culturally blind and shows a lack of awareness of the possibility of change. It also demonstrates a fear of change.

It is precisely these changes that I like to try and observe as they happen. But often cultural changes are so slow as to be glacial. Often, I think, we are so caught up in slick fads that we don't see the depth of the tidal change for all the wavelets of weekly fads.

Now it seems that each time a young Black male gets his hair cut, it must be in a way that will not be the same as he had before. Each little wavelet washes up and before long, the lake is at record heights and eroding its shoreline like crazy.




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The *Speak Out* mailgram campaign is sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign Fund. For further info, contact the Field Division, HRCE, P.O. Box 1396, Washington, D.C. 20013 or call (202) 628-4160.

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The Wisconsin Light



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EDITORIAL

UNITED WAY STUDY FAILS TO INCLUDE LESBIANS AND GAYS

United Way of Greater Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Social Development Commission (SDC) have completed work on a study of Milwaukee's Minority communities. The purpose of the study was to examine the problems faced by Milwaukee's minorities and use the results as a planning tool for future programs and projects.

Unfortunately, the study and the resulting report did not include what many believe to be the largest minority group in the Milwaukee area, the Gay and Lesbian community. We are surprised and angered to learn that neither of these agencies felt that our community was important enough to include. While we fully understand that the SDC is insulated from us due to its bureaucratic set-up, United Way, which depends on public contributions, should have been more sensitive.

Every year thousands of Lesbians and Gays contribute some of their hard earned dollars to United Way. Realistically, we do not expect that most of this money will be returned in the form of allocations to Gay/Lesbian organizations. We have learned to live with the fact that United Way will not allocate any money to a Gay/Lesbian group. But to be ignored altogether as though we don't exist at all is the ultimate insult.

We are not suggesting that our readers withhold their pledges to United Way. Lesbians and Gays are served by United Way agencies just as everyone else is.

We do, however, suggest that Gays and Lesbians consider two alternatives the next time they are asked for a United Way contribution.

One alternative would be to ask for a designated donation card. You can use this card to assign your contribution to the Cream City Foundation (CCF). United Way will forward your money to the Foundation.

The other alternative only exists for those whose employers allow the A Choice organization to solicit. A Choice does allocate some funds to CCF and fourteen other organizations.

Perhaps if United Way starts to get the message that the Gay/Lesbian community can ignore it just as it has chosen to ignore us, it will come to the realization that we count too.

HELP RECORD OUR HISTORY BEFORE IT IS LOST FOR ALL TIME

Jamakaya's column this issue is especially worthy of note because it addresses several salient and extremely important points that need to be underlined.

One is that this newspaper, as any publication, is a historical document. It is a chronical of the day-to-day, week-by-week events that cumulatively are the story of our people. So much of it has already been lost either through neglect, deliberate obscuring by straight historians or because participants did not think what they did was important enough to write down. As Jamakaya says, if there is no record, it is as if an event never happened.

There is no better example of this than the story of the Pink Triangle. Straight historians have ignored our Holocaust. Many of the documents dealing with it have been lost. Survivors are dying off. The result is that there are only 3 books on the subject and a few articles here and there. There are those even now who do not know it ever happened.

It is absolutely necessary that our history be preserved. This includes not only what people usually think of as history; politics, the struggle against AIDS and other major events. Those too, but also doings of organizations, opinions, views and observations of the passing scene, things that people never consider of great importance.

Did you know that to an archeologist, a real treasure trove is an old garbage dump? From things that people threw away, she can construct the story of their lives; the little details that define them in a way that buildings, monuments, laws and other things never can.

What can we do? For one thing, Jamakaya is right. The only people who can write and preserve our history is we, ourselves. Write for the paper. Don't let your silence consign us to continued invisibility.

Secondly, this paper strongly advocates the creation of a Lesbian/Gay archive to preserve the documents already in existence. There are such archives in several cities and one is badly needed here in Wisconsin. In Milwaukee, we believe that the Cream City Foundation is uniquely qualified to undertake sponsorship of this project. We call upon them to begin exploring the possibility.

Slowly, the history of our people over the last 5000 years is being pieced together from shreds and shards. A profile is emerging that is of inculcable value to our movement. Let us, with an eye to future generations, continue this work.

CITY USED SOUND JUDGEMENT PERMANENTLY CLOSING BATH

The editorial in Tuesday, March 7's issue of *The Milwaukee Journal* applauding the permanent closing of Club Milwaukee (the bath) is to be heartily seconded.

According to Health Department figures cited in *The Journal*, 10% of those who underwent testing for tuberculosis tested positive for the disease. 25% of those who were screened for AIDS tested positive.

Was this to be allowed to go on? The position of *Wisconsin Light* as one of the State's Gay/Lesbian media, is and has been that city health officials acted reasonably and well. Any other course of action would have been irresponsible in the extreme.

The argument that the bath "might" serve some educational purpose relative to AIDS is specious. There are too many other and non-hazardous ways of encouraging people to seek testing. There are too many other means of disseminating information concerning AIDS to those at risk.

The bath can serve in this regard, no purpose whatever. As we have said before, the closing of the bath was not, repeat not an attack on the Lesbian/Gay community or any part of it. God knows, there's enough homophobia in this world. Let's not invent it where it doesn't exist.

Having said that, let us now put the bath issue — if that's what it may be called — behind us. To keep it in the forefront allows the majority community to make a symbol of it that can only act to our injury. With all that we have to fight, we don't need that. The closing of the bath is a matter of the most profound insignificance. As we have said before on these pages, let us get on to other things.

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR:

If I prefer to socialize with women, dance with women, eat, drink and be merry with women, am I guilty of promoting sexual segregation? Do I have to prove that I can get along with men by being around them ALL THE TIME — at work, on the streets, at school, in the market place, at family gatherings — even at parties?

Is loving women and preferring our company really objectionable? Is wanting to hear women's voices and see women's faces, in a society that imposes male

presence and male rule on us, really so odd? Should oppressed races, cultures, classes and women be forced to be with our oppressor race, class, culture or sex ALL THE TIME to prove we really can get along with them?

If Gay men are sometimes less privileged than straight men, sometimes less oppressive than straight men, must I therefore dance, eat, drink and socialize with them to prove my "open-mindedness" with the not-so-oppressive group of oppressors?

Work in coalition is great and necessary. Tolerance and respect is

essential. To eat, breathe and constantly mingle with our oppressors is insanity. All oppressed peoples need sacred space where we can be together basking in the glow of power that happens when we are free to be ourselves, feel our connections and know our power — and pain. Believe it or not, a little of that can even happen at social gatherings like taverns.

But how would we know? To be good sports, we give men the perks and nurturing they say they need from the presence of women. We put down women, pretend (or learn to believe!) that women are not really special, not really part of an ancient culture of passion, power and politics. Not really hurting from the omni-present white-male-voice-over wherever we go.

And so we forget to fight for justice; we miss out on knowing feeling and increasing our power.

We need to learn how to stick together — Lesbians and Gays and poor and working class and African Americans and Chicanos and Native Americans and Jews and Asian Americans and Disabled people. We need to fight to regain our power and stop the wealthy male minority from destroying the earth and us.

We need to fight in our own separate groups, and we need to rest and party and relax with our own people. And some of the time we need to come together in coalitions to fight and to celebrate coalition victories.

—Pat Gowens
Milwaukee

TO THE EDITOR:

Regarding your article in *Wisconsin Light* (Vol 2, no. 3, Feb. 9-22), about Mr. Eisenberg's crusade to rid the airways of Morton Downey; how is Mr. Eisenberg's goal substantially different than the Ayatola's regarding Mr. Rashdie? I know! Mr. Eisenberg doesn't want to kill Mr. Downey...I assume. Either you've got freedom of speech or you don't. You also have the freedom to switch channels. What's the problem Mr. Eisenberg? Just don't watch the jerk.

—Name withheld on request.

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Perserving Our History

While in the Twin Cities recently, I picked up a great new poster from the Amazon Bookstore. Designed for National Coming Out Day last Fall, it makes a trenchant comment on the position of Gay people in history. Above the photos of such prominent literary figures as James Baldwin, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Walt Whitman and Willa Cather runs the headline: "Unfortunately, History Has Set The Record a Little Too Straight."

As February was Gay and Lesbian Press Month and March is Women's History Month, it seems an appropriate time to offer some observations on the responsibility we as a community share in recording and preserving our own history.

As the author of a history of the Women's Coalition of Milwaukee and a compiler of oral histories (recorded reminiscences) of local women, I have often been dismayed by the lack of historical consciousness displayed by my subjects, many of them long-time activists engaged in social change movements and alternative communities.

I could cry every time interview subjects have told me they threw out old photos, letters or other memorabilia because they didn't have room to keep them or, worse, that they didn't think it was important to save these things.

Frequently, interview subjects prefaced their remarks with "Oh, I really don't have much to say..." or "Oh, I really don't remember very much...". Downplaying their involvement. Once prompted, however, these women shared wonderful stories of their work with battered women, of organizing unions and lobbying for legislative reforms — extraordinary stories of courage and persistence in the face of hostility and ridicule.

This devaluation of feminist and Gay contributions and the lack of documentation of those contributions by our own community, make us complicit in the erasure of our own history. Until we take our own lives and contributions seriously, until we document and assert our past accomplishments as well as our future visions, how can we expect to be taken seriously by others or by history itself?

I don't have a whole lot of respect for women who grouse about how the patriarchy has destroyed our history but who have, themselves, casually disposed of organizational records or failed to document their activities or culture.

Our community is blessed with numerous publications — *The Light*, *Instep*, *Hag Rag*, *Feminist Voices*, etc. Each is a vital communications tool and a vehicle for documenting our history: our social events, artistic achievements, political struggles and future ambitions. We sure aren't going to read about our bowling and softball tournaments, Gay-owned businesses or Lesbian separatism in the *Wisconsin State Journal* or *The Milwaukee Sentinel*!

Because of their import as historical records, it is essential that consistent



Doreen Riley

Jamakaya

coverage of major events and a diversity of opinion (we are a contentious community!) are represented in our papers. Which leads me to a specific concern of mine...

On February 11th in Milwaukee, 500 Lesbians gathered at a prominent publicly-owned facility for a Valentine's dance sponsored by Hurricane Productions. The number of women in attendance was astounding. The spirit of sisterhood was exhilarating. And the atmosphere of freedom, of openness and lack of fear, was truly remarkable.

Unfortunately, this event was not covered or commented on by any of our alternative media. In the eyes of history, therefore, it never happened.

Another case in point was Madison's Third Annual Lesbian Variety Show last Fall. The show was, in fact, covered by *Hag Rag* and *Feminist Voices*, but was not covered at all in *The Light*, whose biweekly format could have provided quick coverage. The fault, dear reader, is not with the editor and publisher, who work their butts off on business and production aspects, but with the lack of input from our community on whom they depend for stories.

I find it hard to believe that the only women in this "Gay rights" state who contribute to this paper consistently are myself, Sue Burke and Karen Lamb! Give us a break — lighten our load sisters! The best way to remedy lapses in coverage (and, therefore, gaps in our history) is for more women to contribute stories.

Review copies of new Lesbian books and record albums are available for women to critique (and keep). Anyone wanting to review a concert or event can often get a complimentary ticket from the producers. If you're uptight about having your name in print, use a pseudonym! Surely, more Lesbians have opinions to express! *The Light* is committed to increasing its coverage of women's increasing its coverage of women's events and issues, but needs your help. Please call (414) 372-2773 to volunteer.

The feminist, Gay and Lesbian presses play a significant role in preserving our culture and history. Please support them through written submissions and financial contributions. The power to create and record our own history lies with us. If we neglect that responsibility, our own silence consigns us to continued invisibility.

Naval Academy Sued

[New York, NY]- Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund has announced that it has filed suit in Federal District Court for the District of Columbia charging the U.S. Naval Academy with forcing Joseph Steffan, a highly commended midshipman, to resign less than two months before he was to graduate and receive his commission in the U.S. Navy solely because he was Gay.

At the time of his forced separation, the complaint alleges, Steffan was a battalion commander and member of the Brigade staff, a position that belongs to a very select group of the highest ranking senior midshipmen at the Academy. Steffan also had an outstanding academic and military record and would have graduated in the top 10% of his class.

"The Lesbian and Gay community must forcefully continue its fight against the most homophobic institution in our society: the armed services," noted Paula L. Ettlbrick, Lambda's Legal Director. "For too long the courts have tolerated and encouraged the military's discriminatory policies, though recent victories in this context give us hope that the tide may be changing."

Jamakaya Speaks March 29

Wisconsin Light columnist Jamakaya will be the featured speaker at an event celebrating Women's History Month at UW-Milwaukee. The program, "It Changed Our Lives: The Impact of Feminist Activism on Milwaukee," will take place on Wednesday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 191 of Mitchell Hall. Admission is free, and a reception will be held at the Women's Studies office afterward.

Jamakaya will talk about her award-winning study of the Women's Coalition, the many achievements of the second wave of feminism locally, and the importance of women recognizing and recording their own history.

Everyone, and especially activists in the local women's movement, is encouraged to attend and participate.

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Silent Treatment

By Morgan Summer



Jerry Johnson

Morgan Summer

I think that part of growing older — maturing — is learning not to care so much about other people. If this is so, then I am maturing rather fast.

A few days ago, I resigned from the campus Gay Student Union and a few nights ago my boyfriend broke up with me.

The latter first and briefly: I had been seeing a boy who I met through the Union for about two weeks. A couple of days ago, I left a message on his new answering machine to give me a call when he got in. In twenty-four hours he did not call me back, so, pushy little college freshman that I am, I called him the next night — and got his answering machine. This time there was a new message at the start of the tape. He had recorded it, so I assumed that he had checked his messages. So, no problem, I left another and he didn't call back. That was a few nights ago and that night I also learned that, um, well, he wasn't seeing me.

I was the victim of the Silent Treatment. I had taken a walk that night past his apartment — he lives off campus — and saw that his light was on. I got back to my dorm, looked at my answering machine, expecting a message...and the steady, unblinking red light told me that the tape was blank, no messages. But I got the message.

I also resigned from the Gay Student Union here. Some of its members were what caused my boyfriend to break up with me, I learned a few nights ago. And, Jesus, I wasn't really surprised. This event was the last in a long series of painful experiences for me, directly caused by the Union, so I resigned my token post as Office Manager, turned in my keys to the office, took my phone I had borrowed to the Union out of the office, took my Gay news magazines, pens and markers, Xeroxes, and left. But I didn't tell anyone this. They will find out soon enough. Silent Treatment, you know.

At this point, you may think I am bitter. Yes, I am, bitter and hurt and almost physically sick. I have never been so disappointed in a group of people or rather, the small group of Gay males here.

Here I am dealing with Gay youth, still. I have almost never had a problem with older Gays I know. Maybe they have learned things that I am just beginning to. God, I hope that there is not much more to learn. Being Gay, at times, hurts so much.

So this is an ending. The guys in the Union...which, I should say, is not a Union, but a fuckin' meat market...will see this column eventually, and when they finish reading it, glad that their names weren't mentioned. They'll say, "Well, fuck him," or words to that

effect. I don't care. Anymore.

There's an observatory on my campus and it is set on a level top of a hill; set there due to the unobstructed view of the sky. I went there last night and thought about a few things, looking at the expanse of the college campus. A few blinking lights from streetlamps in town and the dorm windows lit up, and in the far distance, more hills, dark and peaceful in the night.

The first time I held my former boyfriend, it felt like he needed to be held. I think that can be sensed. We hugged and I smelled his hair, clean and smooth. He held me and he needed to be held. He also has a good body and, putting it bluntly, I imagine it will be used for sex many times in the Union. My stomach hurt at the thought of this, but it was true.

I crossed my arms. There were a few students walking across the campus mall and I wondered where my former boyfriend was at that moment? I almost felt sorry for him...but he is his own person, capable of reason and judgment and the Silent Treatment. Right.

The Union, well, I didn't want to think about it, but it edged into my thoughts. It had turned into a cold-blooded and ruthless sex club and I wished that could be the rantings of a distraught teen-ager, but again, it is true.

Lastly, I thought about who was left, who were my real friends. Tony and Travis, Heidi and some others. They were heterosexual, but that didn't matter. They had a capacity to care and receive caring and that was what was important. And I had my column and my readers. All in all, I felt pretty lucky.

I thought about my former boyfriend and the Union for a little while longer and what could have been under different circumstances and with better people. Then I went back to my dorm. There were no messages on my answering machine and I was not surprised.

I don't have a thoughtful or insightful end for this column. It will take me a while to get over these conclusions, but not long. Sometimes, it is good to walk away and then go on.

Singapore Writes About Heaven in Wisconsin

May I take this opportunity to wish all of you nothing but the very best for this "snake year." For those not familiar, the years are named for the twelve signs in the Chinese Zodiac. They go in cycles. Last year, for example, was the Year of the Dragon. This is the Year of the Snake.

If you were born in 1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, or 1965, this may be your year. It is said, you must not speculate or gamble. You may be accident-prone. But snakes are always wise and you will avoid all this. The signs are good that you will meet that special someone, but you must be tolerant or you will lose him. Does this fit you?

Unlike Wisconsin, Singapore is quite the same in weather all the year round. It's always warm. The only difference is the festive seasons when the majority of the people are busy celebrating.

Singapore is difficult if you're Gay. All the time I get questions like, "Why no girlfriend yet?", "When are you getting married?", "Need any help?", "Anything the matter with you?" Kind of sickening, but a fact of life. Even my bosses ask these questions.

But I'm glad for my support group that I wrote about last time. In Wisconsin where you have rights, you don't need those things, but I am lucky to be able to share my frustrations with the members. We go for dinners, talk and encourage one

another. I tell them about Wisconsin where everyone, including Gays, are free.

I guess I will ultimately have to grow-out of this closet of mine. Recently I read from our local library a 1976 book, "Men Against Sexism" edited by Jon Snodgrass. I was surprised that the book was in the library, but it has a large number of chapters dedicated to Gay issues which have strengthen my own conviction of growing out. I remember one article that interviewed a Gay couple on their successful relationship and my!... was I surprised at the commitment and possibility of such a relationship! I guessed it is always possible, but perhaps I'm naive, even simple, to think that the Gay community anywhere could be monogamous. That is what I want, but where do I find him?

Like you do, we celebrate Valentine's here. It's kind of a frustrating day for me. Colleagues talk about roses, candlelight dinners, dancing, romancing...all I can do is just laugh it all away, kind of sad, but life is such. I'm really glad all these come and go, finally, bringing life back around to normal again and reducing my stress level.

Wisconsin seems like such a strange and wonderful place. How fortunate you are to live there. Perhaps you have cold weather there, but I think you have warm lives.

First Annual Gay Bob Party Held in Milwaukee

[Milwaukee]- You might say they went "Bob, bob, bobin' along." — and you would be right even though Spring was an unknown word in February's vocabulary.

That was the Gay Bobs Party — the First Annual of such events — held February 21. But let me start at the beginning.

Awhile back, three guys, all of whose names are Bob, got together and decided that they'd had enough of Winter, had it up to here, in fact. What was needed was some merriment, a party, given by Gay Bobs for all the Gay Bobs, real and honorary, in Milwaukee and the countryside around. The word was put out and plans set in motion.

It began at the Triangle bar at 7:00. There were plates of cheeses, meats with compliments of crackers and light golden potato chips and, for a small donation that went to the Cream City Foundation, you could wash away Winter blahs with beer

and other libatios. Most importantly, there were good times. Seems like a lot of people were ready for a party and, if somehow, you'd missed being named "Bob", so what? A name tag, a flick of a pen and you were Bob for the evening.

About 9:00, it was on to C'est la Vie. Suddenly every Carol, Ted and Alice as well as Tom, Dick and Harry, was Bob. To top off the revelry, there was a Mr. Gay Bob contest. The nine contestants were lined up on stage and confronted with most curious questions. The winner was Bob Scholl who received from Bob a crown, a trophy and a bottle of champagne (It was good. I can attest to that).

I know it's trite, but bob-darn it, a good time was had by all and as the party-goers bobbed off into the cold Winter night, many there were who carried with them the wish that the First Annual Gay Bobs Party would be the beginning of a long tradition.

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The Light LIVELY ARTS

Ferron Returns to Milwaukee For Pabst Theatre Concert March 10

By Barb Coyle

Ferron. Her name rings like the iron rails she uses so frequently as imagery in her music. This Canadian artist is coming to Milwaukee for the first time since 1984 and will be performing at the Pabst Theatre, March 10, sponsored by the women of Full Moon Productions. She will be appearing with Kevin Zoenig, a transplanted Midwesterner now living in New Mexico. Kevin plays piano, bassline and synthesizer to Ferron's acoustic six and 12 string guitars.

In a recent interview, I had a chance to find out what Ferron has been doing since she last came to Milwaukee.

Coyle: Ferron, why did you make a move to New Mexico?



Ferron

Ferron: "One, I got a green card and I was able to move to the U.S. New Mexico is a fascinating place—it's desert to my ocean, it's dry to my wet, dusty to my moist, all adobe, big sky. I'm not really sure why except that I really wanted to move to another planet for awhile and coming here was pretty much like that. My friend came down here to study massage and I knew that Santa Fe was somehow a spiritual center.

"There's a certain way down here. There is no building over three stories high. The sky is big, and I think there's a way of getting your humanness in perspective.

C: Ferron, how much of your music is based on your real life? Where are you writing your songs from?

F: "A lot of my songs are journalistic; not written in earth time. The mystery about the song 'Snowing in Brooklyn'...some people say I'm writing it to a dear friend. Well, as a writer, it's my longing to use images that relate to us in our daily life.

"Whenever I say, 'if it's snowing in Brooklyn,' what I mean is, we're in a cold phase here, an empty phase. There's this idea that I had that if you were going to be an artist, you wouldn't want to overshoot the mark on Manhattan and end up in Brooklyn and never be able to afford to get into town. But at the time I wrote that song, what I meant was not only that I overshoot the mark, but it's bloody cold and nothing worked out.

"I don't like to do this too much, to take the song away from the listener. I'll just use that example and I hope I don't break too many people's hearts here with it.

C: How are you enhancing your creativity? There was a time when you didn't hear anything from you and I sense that you are pulling out some new energy.

F: "Well, I had to go through some changes and I was just traveling so much. I was in dead air so much, you know, that I lost sight of the godspirit. I was really barren when that happened. And I lived (at that time) on an island and I had the ocean and I had the birds and I had everything. I had a sense of time that had

to do with sunrises and sunsets and what happened with the wind. It was there and it was inside of me and it was outside of me and was a very blessed thing.

"Then I was in hotels and airports. I'm not complaining about it — it's all part of the job, but at some point you say, 'I'm in dead air and everything that is happening is, in fact, known by me six or eight months in advance.' I was being booked for months and months. I would think about my year and it was done in thought. So, I needed to get back into that really funny time when you'd remember a day by a snowfall or a chance occurrence. And I've had some of that and I'm replenished. And I feel grateful.

"What is important is realizing that life is not about living and dying or about real estate or the perfect lover. It's about finding the proper place to keep your mind and your heart so that you can take what happens and let go of what doesn't happen and somehow keep the godspirit and keep a perspective that is longer than a couple of years or only about your friends and yourself or about anything so short."

C: What do you do to take care of yourself?

F: "I listen to classical music, picked randomly. I live in a house that has wood heat, so I get to play with fire and be connected with that. I have a dog. I go to a meditation center.

"I try not to look too much into the future. You can become pretty anxious doing that. I stay calm. I can count on my hand the few times I have not been calm.

"Part of my work is to stay true to the people who are lifting me to the point, so that I can believe that I can actually do what I am talking about. And I still am."

C: What about plans for an album?

F: "There's always a plan. It's part of the business. Like anything, they are a gift; a gift to me and a gift to others. And so they come when they come. And when they come, they take everything. I don't know when it's going to happen. I just have to prepare. It's like making something out of nothing — it takes everything.

"There is something missing still, obviously. It's not here. I have to live with that all the time. So my albums, if they come or if they don't come, are really a conversation between me and it. So I don't have the answer to that question anymore than that."

C: What about your concert in Milwaukee?

F: "It will be a good show in a beautiful hall. Kevin Zoenig and I are doing a lot of cities together. Milwaukee will be our 12th performance, so by the time we get to you, we will be pretty polished.

"Kevin is a fascinating, wonderful character. I liked his piano playing. And the next thing you know, we were trying to work together. It took quite awhile just because we were both kind of busy in our own roots, but finally we got together and we're going off."

Ferron's melodies often spiral upon themselves, allowing her lyrics to carry the weight of the song. Her music is the kind that makes you take pieces of the verse along with you to reappear days later in the back of your mind.

"Life don't clicketty-clack down the railroad track, it comes together and it comes apart."

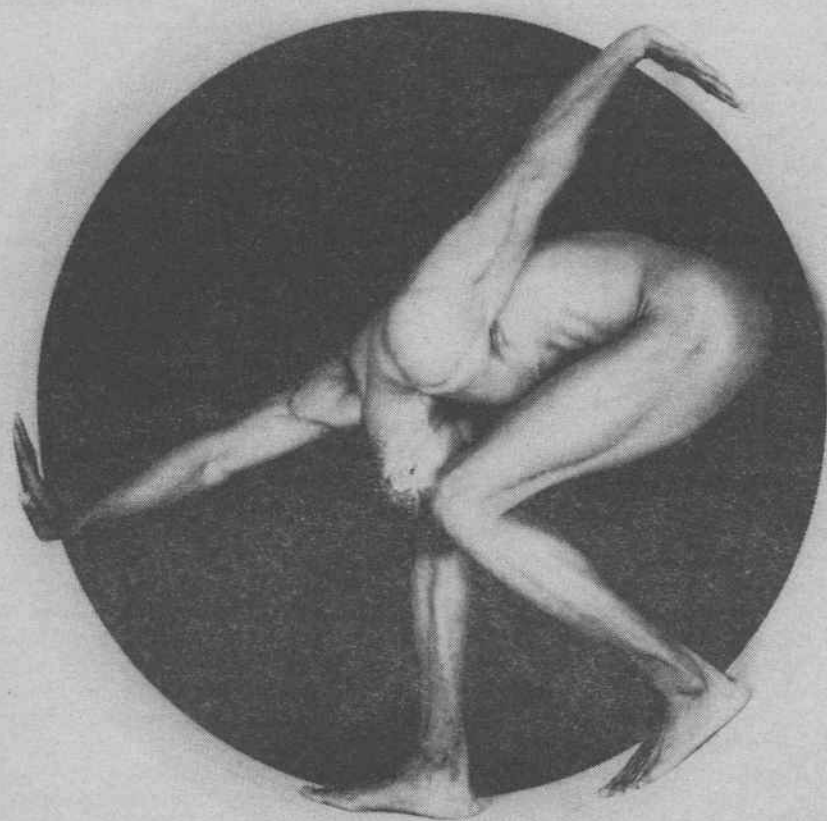


Photo by Robert Mapplethorpe titled "Thomas in Circle", 1987. (Platinum emulsion on linen with fabric. Overall 51 x 56) From the Artist's Collection and currently on exhibit in Chicago. (See story Page One).

A Milwaukee Pride Week (June 16-28)
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Tickets are also available by mail order. Send stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Milwaukee Pride Committee, 225 S. Second St., Milwaukee, WI 53204.

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Noel Coward Will Come Alive in "Oh Coward!"

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]- The Skylight Comic Opera will host a marvelous party when it presents "Oh Coward!" March 15-April 9 at the Skylight Theatre, 813 N. Jefferson St., Milwaukee.

Oh Coward! is a compendium of tunes, poems, and scenes from plays by Sir Noel Coward, the "blithe spirit" who embodied the wit and sophistication of the 1920's and '30's in his works for the stage and screen.

Oh Coward! will feature an intimate cast of four and include such songs as "Mad About the Boy", "I've Been to a Marvelous Party", and "Let's do it", along with scenes from "Design for Living", "Private Lives", and "Blithe Spirit."

Tickets are available for all performances by calling the Skylight box office at (414) 271-8815, or at the box office itself, 813 N. Jefferson St in Milwaukee. Student, senior and group discounts are available.

Editor's Note: Coward made no secret to his friends that he was Gay and much of

the humor found in his works can be ascribed to what might be called "The Gay sensibility." Coward was a close friend of Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, arguably the greatest personalities ever to grace the American stage. Lunt and Fontanne lived in near-by Genesee Depot, at an estate called "Ten Chimneys, where Coward was wont to visit them. Coward wrote several plays specifically for Lunt and Fontanne including "Private Lives" in which the three appeared together.

Light publisher, Jerry Johnson, was a friend and correspondent of Lunt and Fontanne's. In a letter, dated February 17, 1968 from which I cannot resist quoting, Lunt writes, "I think I told you that Miss Fontanne has a pet goose which is a most enchanting pet. He caught cold, but she seems to have successfully cured him except for his voice-if that's what you call it. We think it has laryngitis-could be, as he is awfully smart. But we don't know how to teach him to gargle."

Somehow, I think, that little story is the essence of Lunt, Fontanne and Coward.



Noel Coward with Alfred Lunt, Lynn Fontanne and Cecil Beaton (1952).



A Milwaukee Pride Week (June 16-28, 1989) Fundraising Event

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By Barbara Lebow

Tues., April 25- 8 P.M.

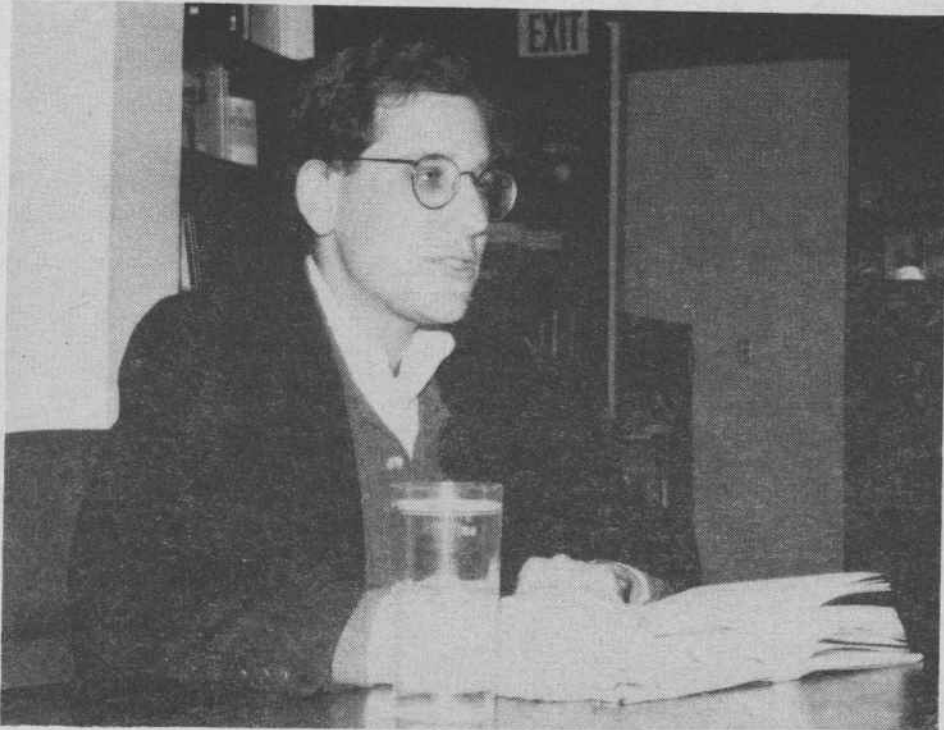
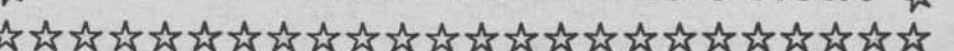
The Milwaukee premiere of this luminous and moving new play now running on off-Broadway. A Shayna Maidel means "a pretty girl" in Yiddish. The phrase is an expression of love and hope, two qualities that radiate throughout this affecting play.

Presented at the Lincoln Center for the Arts, 820 E. Knapp St. All seats \$12 each.

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Support Pride Week- Get Your Tickets Now!



Jerry Johnson

David Leavitt read from his book *Equal Affections* to a capacity crowd at Schwartz's Iron Block Bookstore.

Leavitt Writing Movie Script; Finishes Writing Fourth Book

By Geno

It is pleasant sitting here opposite David Leavitt discussing literary topics and his latest novel, *Equal Affections*. An admirer has sent up a basket of fruit, cheeses and Milwaukee sausages to his Pfister Hotel suite and we have been munching fresh pineapple, strawberries and grapes.

Having complimented him on the success of this, his second novel, I begin our discussion by observing that in much of his writing he tells Jocasta's side of the Oedipus story.

"I do?" He seems surprised.

I explain that the strong, unappreciated mothers in *Family Dancing* and *Equal Affections* are sympathetically portrayed and actually dominate the action even though their Gay offspring are telling the story.

He warms to the idea. He then reveals that the short last section of *Equal Affections* is "an apotheosis," — that is, he sees Louise, the mother of a Gay son and Lesbian daughter, as actually speaking from the grave recounting an incident that only she knows about.

This revelation brings up the subject of the endings of novels, and I express some disappointment in the rather abrupt ending of his first novel, *The Lost Language of Cranes* — a father who has been closeted all his life comes out to his Gay son, a most promising situation which I'd like to have seen developed further.

"I wrote another ending for the novel, but my editors preferred that one. However, I've written a story which deals with a similar situation." Leavitt also

"Agnes" returns to Clavis

[Milwaukee]- Clavis Theatre Ensemble will perform "Agnes of God," John Pielmeier's Tony Award-winning drama about a young nun who is accused of murdering her baby, then denies any knowledge of the child's birth. Previewing March 21-23 and running March 24-April 30, "Agnes of God" is a revival of the Ensemble's 1985 hit production, with an all new cast and director.

The compelling drama which was made into a movie in 1985, involves the confrontation between the psychiatrist investigating the murder and the convent's Mother Superior. The doctor, self-possessed ex-Catholic, begins to re-examine her faith as the bizarre details of the case make her wonder whether miracles are possible, or whether the young nun simply has psychological problems. The Mother Superior fights to protect Agnes.

"The play is an intense dialogue between three women, one seeking the truth, one shielding the root of her faith, and one seeking to return to innocence," says director Ted Altschuler.

Preview tickets are \$6. Other performances are \$14, Fridays at 8:00p.m. and Saturdays at 9:00p.m.; \$10, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays; and \$9 Saturdays at 5:00p.m. Reserve tickets by phone: (414) 272-3043. Clavis Theatre is located in the Prospect Mall, 2239 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee.

discloses that this story and a collection of others entitled "A Place I've Never Been," will be published next year. Some of the stories have already appeared in such publications as *The Boston Globe Magazine* and various other literary magazines.

Other writing in the works: Leavitt is preparing an essay for the *New York Times* on the subject of AIDS, largely a reply to Susan Sonntag's views on the same subject. He is also working on a movie script dealing with AIDS. Leavitt has sometimes been criticized for not treating the subject in his fiction, but he explains that the time frames for his stories and novels precede the AIDS crisis. Besides, his Gay protagonists have not been depicted as promiscuous.

In the light of his gift for writing natural sounding dialogue, I ask whether he has considered writing a play?

"Not for a while yet — the movie script is as close as I've come. The movie rights to my first two books have been bought, but I doubt whether they'll ever be made into films. The movie rights to *Equal Affections* are about to be picked up."

What about writing poetry?" I ask.

"I used to write poetry when I was younger, (he is now 27 years-old) but I haven't written any lately."

I mention John Champagne, a Milwaukee writer who has included some of his poetry in his novel, *The Blue Lady's Hand*. Does that glint behind those owlish glasses mean that some of Leavitt's poems may be incorporated into future writings? We shall see.

TURN TO LEAVITT, PAGE 11

Leavitt Reads to Large Crowds

[Milwaukee]- An overflow audience heard David Leavitt read from his novel, *Equal Affections*, at the Schwartz Book Shop in the Iron Block building on the evening of February 22.

Leavitt seems very much at home behind the lectern. He has the look of the sedentary scholar, and evidently he has gained weight since his book jacket pictures were taken showing a lanky young man in graceful repose. But the look of youthful intelligence is still unmistakable.

He reads two sections from his novel, both dealing with the relationship between Louise, the unappreciated mother in *Equal Affections* and her difficult sister Eleanore. Leavitt reads with a certain dramatic flair, and his audience responds immediately. The selections are well chosen to illustrate his descriptive style, the realistic dialogue, and the touches of humor.

After the reading, Schwartz's then laid out liquid refreshment and tempting buffet. Leavitt graciously signs copies of his books, takes time to talk with individuals and to answer questions.

In introducing Leavitt to the audience earlier, John Eklund, Manager of the Iron Block Shop, announced that this was to be the first of a proposed series of readings and signings by novelists, poets, and other writers.

After leaving Milwaukee, Leavitt went to Madison where he read to an appreciative crowd at the Four Star Fiction and Video store on Feb. 23.

Violence Continues In Milwaukee Against Gays

David Johnson was dragged from his car in a supermarket parking lot by a group of teen-agers. Calling him a "diseased faggot," they beat him with their skateboards, broke his jaw and three ribs, gashed his head and bruised his kidneys.

All this only because he is Gay. According to the Human Rights Campaign Fund, David is just one of the thousands of victims of anti-Gay and Lesbian violence that the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force calls the most rapidly growing crime of violence in the United States.

As reported in *Light* in a previous issue, such crimes can and do happen in Milwaukee and most go unreported to the police or anyone else.

Chuck is 21, fairly well-built so that he is able to take care of himself. Yet, in November, 1988, two weeks before the vicious murder of Dennis Owens, Chuck found himself a hate-crimes statistic, a victim on the streets of Milwaukee of Gay bashers.

Chuck had left La Cage and gone to the Walker's Point Cafe for a bite to eat. It was about 1:00 a.m. He finished his meal about 2:00. A couple of friends seated nearby offered him a ride. He refused. He wishes now that he'd accepted.

With headphones on, he started walking toward 2nd St. Near a vacant lot, by an old building, he was jumped by three young toughs. Ordinarily, he would have heard them, been ready to defend himself, but the earphones had masked their approach.

They started to beat him, to kick him. He crouched down, trying to protect himself. He heard one of them shout,

"Get the faggot's money." There were other sexual slurs.

He remembers that "a couple of cars" drove past. He cried for help, but no one stopped to help the Gay man.

In the end, the attackers robbed him of his money and his watch and slunk off into the night, leaving Chuck unconscious in the street. It was around 3:30 a.m. when he came to.

He managed to make it home. Later, his doctor told him that he had a mild concussion.

He did not report it to the police of the Second District where the incident took place. He did not feel that it would do any good.

Today, he has the same advice as others who have been the victims of anti-Lesbian or Gay attacks. Don't go walking from one bar to another alone. Ask a stranger for a ride, he says, or better yet, call a cab. If you're driving, park on the main streets near lights. He believes that for the physically impaired, the situation is "especially dangerous" and advises special caution.

From verbal abuse to physical assault, violence against Lesbians and Gays is on the rise. According to Vic Basile, recently retired Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, such attacks are "born of fear and hatred... spurred by AIDS hysteria and the Wrath of God beliefs of conservative religious groups." Eighty person of "Gay Bashing" cases may go unreported, Basile added.

Editor's Note: If you should be a victim, report the incident to the police at once. Then, report it as well to the media. Publicizing these crimes is one of the strongest weapons we have.

Kowalski and Thompson Allowed To Meet After Three Year Wait

[Washington, D.C.]- Sharon Kowalski and Karen Thompson have finally met again.

On February 2, Thompson made her first visit to Kowalski in more than three years, a visit that extended over a three day period. In just that short span, Kowalski showed cognitive improvement from contact with her life partner, Thompson, who has been denied visitation by Kowalski's father since 1985.

Sharon Kowalski was severely injured in an automobile accident in November, 1983 and has been hospitalized ever since. Her father, Donald Kowalski, who was appointed her legal guardian, moved his daughter to Leisure Hills Health Center in Hibbing, MN, which has minimal rehabilitative facilities and barred Thompson and Sharon's other friends from visiting her.

After a four-year legal battle to get rehabilitative care for Kowalski, Thompson was able to convince the court to test her for competency last September. As a result, St. Louis County (MN) District Court Judge Robert V. Campbell issued an order on December 28, 1988, that Kowalski be transferred to Miller-Dwan Center in Duluth for a period of rehabilitative care. The court order also stated that Sharon was to be allowed to visit whomever she specifically and reliably requested to visit.

In her meeting with Kowalski, Thompson attended all of her therapy sessions in communication, memory and comprehension, and physical workout/stretching. She said Kowalski was extremely responsive to all her exercises, laughed a lot, and was consistently alert. Thompson was encouraged by the therapists to participate in the sessions.

Thompson said she expects to be able to visit Kowalski whenever she can make the almost four-hour drive from St. Cloud to Duluth, provided she notifies Dr. Dorothy Rappel, a psychologist working with Kowalski, in advance to avoid confrontations with Kowalski's parents.

The doctors will provide the judge with a progress report after 60 days. Ultimately, the judge will have to issue additional directives about Kowalski's future.

"Sharon Kowalski's rights were being violated," said Molly Yard, President of the National Organization for Women (NOW). "She was being denied rehabilitative care that could help her live

a fuller life, and she was being denied the right to live her life with whomever and how she saw fit. NOW is proud to stand with Thompson and Kowalski in this fight," said Yard.

For additional information on this case, contact Caroline Foty, Media Coordinator for The National Committee to Free Sharon Kowalski, (301) 251-0139 or Tacie Dejanikus, National Committee Co-chair, (202) 667-3415.

Same Sex Unions Become Common

Gay and Lesbian union and marriage ceremonies may be more widespread than commonly assumed. Despite the failure of states to legally recognize homosexual marriage, many couples are honoring their relationship with wedding rituals. The popularity of these ceremonies is suggested by early returns from a national survey of same-sex couples undertaken by **Partners: The Newsletter for Gay and Lesbian Couples**.

Of the first 136 surveys analyzed, 12% of respondents indicated that they had formalized their relationships with a ceremony, and 4% said that they planned to do so. Another 12% relied on other traditional observances such as celebrating anniversaries. Additionally, 43% of the respondents said they wear rings or other symbols of their relationship.

More than 700 completed surveys have been returned to **Partners** thus far, and the survey remains open to participants through January. The short, anonymous questionnaire requests general information on subjects such as sexual agreements and satisfaction, sources of relationship support, and discrimination against same-sex couples.

According to co-publisher Demian, "The data we collect and interpret will help social service providers and civil rights advocates strengthen and support the families of Lesbians and Gay men."

Partners is an eight page monthly offering interviews, news and information to help Gay and Lesbian couples develop satisfying and successful relationships.

To participate in the survey, write to **Partners**, Box 9685, Seattle, WA 98109. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped business size envelope. **Partners** will send two forms per request (enough for one couple); affix extra postage for additional forms.

The Spotlight — A Loving World! The Ultimate Goal Attained!

By Reen

After thousands of years of struggling, humankind has reached the ultimate goal — A Loving World. In this year 2732, hostility and hate have been abolished. Only various types of love exist. Indeed, many of the younger people today are not even aware of the word "hostile" or its meaning. It is a peaceful and loving world.

Ancient chronicles tell us that since the beginning of time, people have been struggling to exist in a hostile world. There was too much hate, hostility, misunderstanding and distrust — and too little love.

People hated each other because their skin color was different. The younger people under 100 probably don't remember when skin color was anything other than the golden tan of today.

They hated others because they worshipped God in a different way. As recently as the 20th Century, many different religions were prevalent. People had not yet realized that their differences were minor and that they all worshipped the same Deity.

They even hated people for loving each other, such as men loving men and women loving women. People refused to recognize that all embryos begin as females, some keeping the vagina inward and others growing outward to become penises. Inward or outward growth somehow made people opposites and they were allowed to love only opposites.

They found all kinds of reasons to hate and very few to love.

War was continuous throughout the world. From the beginning of time through the year 2015, humankind was at peace for only 18 days. In the 1900's, living centers were not encased in aseptic curraglass domes. Acid rain and numerous other pollutants abounded and still they sought more ways to kill each other by developing germ warfare in the laboratories. The age of technology was rapidly advancing toward annihilating

Mashek Exhibits in St. Paul

[St. Paul, MN]- The Quatrefoil Library is pleased to announce its fourth artist exhibition, Maxine (Max) Mashek, a Twin Cities painter, will be exhibiting her work at the Library from Sunday, March 12-April 15.

The Quatrefoil Library, located at 1619 Dayton Ave. (one block west of Snelling),

itself.

Chroniclers disagree as to what caused the change. Some say that loving people of the time also worked in the laboratories and developed Proamore, positive bacteria designed to produce love and the light of wisdom. Although we take this positive bacteria for granted today, no one knows for sure who developed it. Loving people had to hide or risk being destroyed by the haters.

Other chroniclers believe that the change was started by people of faith who spoke of God and the direction to love one another. At the time, people's hearts and souls were empty, searching for some direction and meaning to life. They knew nothing of the peace and love that we take for granted today.

Most people today believe that the change was a result of a combination of the two forces — the power of the mind to develop Proamore and the power of human emotions to emit love. The positive bacteria was carried to different nations by people of faith with hearts full of love. (People were not unified in the olden days, but lived in separate countries). They did not preach of faith and love, but demonstrated caring and sharing, love and kindness. They taught by example, they taught love by loving and were aided by the positive bacteria. They helped on another live while the haters were busy killing each other. The lovers grew in number by reproducing themselves. In the 21st Century, cloning was perfected and anyone, male or female, wanting to love and nurture a child, could do so. The haters, by their nature, eliminated each other.

We thank the ancient lovers who, through their quiet determination, compassion and strength, gave us our Loving World. Today, in their memory, we celebrate a Loving World Holiday while the robots do the work. Give you loved ones a kiss, hug your friends and neighbors, give a stranger a smile. Let's all enjoy the peace and love.

in St. Paul, was established in 1986 as a place where publications of interest to the Gay and Lesbian community are available to the public. To increase the Library's visibility and to provide support to Gay and Lesbian artists, the Board of Quatrefoil has set aside space in the library for the exhibition of current works of art.

For further information on exhibition opportunities, call Bonnie Fournier at (612) 291-1164 during business hours.

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RELIGIOUS OUTREACH

Taking Off the Blinders: Is the Resurrection A Myth?

By Rev. Dan Frederick Schramm

Much can be written about the problems created by the story of the Resurrection of Jesus presented by the New Testament in addition to discussing the universal idea which was common to many religions. In this article and one to follow we will look at the evidence given in the Bible for the Resurrection.

A careful reader of the New Testament will discover that Paul made a serious error when he asserted that Jesus after his resurrection, was seen "of the twelve" (1 Cor. 15:5). In fact, there were only eleven apostles until after the ascension, when Matthais was elected to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Judas. "And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthais; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles" (Acts 1:26).

Then Jesus "was seen of above five hundred brethren at once" (1 Cor. 15:6). Paul does not claim to have been one of that number. This episode is not mentioned by either of the four gospels. It is remarkable that so great an event should be passed over by other writers also, for not a trace of it can be found elsewhere.

Intelligent people cannot comprehend how this marvelous scene could so completely vanish out of the sight of all writers and historians, except for one person who was not present, but is alleged to have heard about it afterwards.

Paul asserts that "the greater part" of this five hundred "remain unto this present" (day). But he fails to name any of them, and he fails to call any of them as witnesses, to testify and thus aid him in making people believe in the resurrection of Jesus.

It seems that none of the survivors of the "five hundred" were within reach of the Corinthians, and yet the presence of one of these survivors as a witness, would have been of tremendous value to Paul, in his efforts to convince these people of the resurrection of Jesus, which report they refused to accept as fact. (1 Cor. 15:35). But if we of today refuse to accept it as a fact, we are scorned and classed by Christians as lacking in "spiritual development" or "under the influence of the devil."

It is incredible that Paul knew of any of the survivors of this "five hundred," and yet should address his audience in such language as this:

"If there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen" (1 Cor. 15:13).

That is not the language of a lawyer or a preacher who is describing an event, and has within his reach living witnesses to testify in support of his declarations. It is the language of one who himself doubts the truth of that very doctrine that he is attempting to make others believe.

Paul states that he has "received" his information from others, and "believes" it to be true. There is no virtue in such a belief. More than one's belief is required to make a proposition true. Any reasonable person would want witnesses to testify and provide some evidence. Paul produces no witnesses and has no evidence, other than bald and unsupported statements of what he has heard and believes.

Paul states, "Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord?" But at the same time he makes other statements that fail to agree with this: "When it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathens, immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: ...but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus" (Gal. 1:15-17).

Again, Paul says: "The gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it from man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ" (Gal. 1:11-12).

Of course, Paul could never claim to have received his instructions from Jesus in the flesh for he had never met Jesus or heard Jesus preach.

Paul saw Jesus **Subjectively**. It is quite natural so to understand his words, "reveal his son in me." Especially does this seem obvious when we observe that Paul firmly believed in visions and revelations, as disclosed by his writings. In Acts there are three contradictory

accounts of his seeing Jesus in a vision. (Acts 9:3-7; 22:6-10; and 24:9-19).

In connection with these visions and revelations, Paul never claims to have seen Jesus in the flesh; and he never speaks of the resurrection as physical, but as spiritual. "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body" (1 Cor. 15:44).

Paul preached the doctrine of the resurrection, but there is no claim to seeing Jesus in the body made by him in any of his writings. The doctrine he, as a Pharisee, believed **before** he became a Christian.

Paul asserts that is a vision he saw Jesus. Luke says that this was also the manner in which Mary Magdalene and the other women saw Jesus. "And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive."

This gives forth to the claim of Paul, that his seeing or vision of Jesus was of the same class as the vision of others who had seen him.

Thus, after an examination of the writing attributed to the immediate followers of Jesus, we find that not one of them says, "I saw Jesus rise from the grave"; or, "I saw Jesus in the flesh after his resurrection." In legendary style, it is repeated that he "appeared" first to this one and then to that one, but there is no evidence that any one actually saw him if one takes the New Testament literally as fundamentalists insist one must. Nor did he "appear" to any persons other than his friends, and witnesses who disappeared. Looking at the Bible, one can easily come to the conclusion that the entire story is mythical.

"Him God raised up on the third day, and showed him openly: not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead" (Acts 10:40, 41).

To appear to a few private friends for one day does not seem much like bringing life and immortality to light the world. The method is much too narrow and exclusive. And not one of these few friends has left for us a record of what they really witnessed. The scribes who have recorded the current traditions of their time, agree in asserting that Mary Magdalene found the grave empty. Further than his, the gospels are in direct contradiction on the details. They disagree on who went to the tomb, at what time of day it was, and what was seen. Further, not one person actually witnessed "Jesus" rise from dead.

If Jesus the Christ of the four gospels rose from the dead, in order to convince the world of his divine power, intelligent people want to know why the event did not occur in public? Why was this astounding miracle so closely confined to the knowledge of only a few credulous and interested disciples? Above all others, they would be most interested in proclaiming the resurrection, whether it were true or not.

Indeed, the resurrection was more of a closely held secret than a declaration to the world of the power of God. Christians claim you must have faith, but in reality you must give up all the mental facilities that God has given you in order to believe in their doctrines.

As leading Christians have point out, the resurrection must have been a physical event: "If the resurrection be merely a spiritual idea, or a mythicized hallucination, then our religion has been founded upon error." And Paul declares that, "If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain... and if Christ be not raised, your faith is in vain; ye are yet in your sins" (1 Cor. 15:14, 17).

Next Month: We'll continue our look at the resurrection and how it affects the credentials of Jesus as the Savior.

OBITUARY POLICY

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

Jehovah's Witnesses Support Group Formed in Pittsburgh

[Pittsburgh]- A national support network based in Pittsburgh has been established to benefit former Jehovah's Witnesses who are Gay or Lesbian.

Known as "A Common Bond" the group seeks to unite in a spirit of healing Gay ex-Jehovah's Witnesses suffering the stigma of being excommunicated from the faith because of their sexual natures.

Unlike some religions which condemn homosexuality, but reluctantly welcome the homosexual, Jehovah's Witnesses tolerate neither. Their governing body, The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., excommunicates, or disfellowships, thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses each year for offenses ranging in severity from using tobacco to disagreeing with the sect's doctrines. An estimated seventy percent of the total are ousted for reasons of sexual immorality. But, according to Dan Restid, a former third-generation Jehovah's Witness and founder of "A Common Bond", it doesn't stop there.

"The Watchtower Society requires its members to shun disfellowshipped witnesses and treat them as dead," he explained. "They are so adamant about this that Jehovah's Witnesses who communicate with former members do so at the risk of being ousted themselves."

Restid further explained that many people who have grown up as Jehovah's Witnesses find themselves with few friends when they leave the Watchtower Society.

"All our lives we were taught that only

Jehovah's Witnesses will survive the coming end of the world and that if we socialized with people who weren't Jehovah's Witnesses we may be exterminated along with them."

"The network is not the first of this type," he noted. "A similar group in the Pacific Northwest has experienced tremendous success. Together, we want to provide similar opportunities for Gay ex-witnesses everywhere to come together in a spirit of love and support."

"A Common Bond" does not subscribe to any particular belief system. Some former Witnesses remain sympathetic to the Watchtower's teachings while others have joined different churches or remained neutral.

Restid was on the verge of suicide when he voluntarily left the Witnesses in the Spring of 1985.

"Although it has meant alienation from family and many life-long friends, it has been worth it," he recalls. "I'm at peace with myself. I now have a sense of self-worth and a treasury of friends. I've experienced a remarkable renewal."

He recently had the opportunity to tell his story in **Revelations: A Collection of Gay Male Coming Out Stories** released last Fall by Alyson Publications of Boston.

A free newsletter is issued periodically with a contact list for those wishing to correspond. To receive the newsletter or request further information write: "A Common Bond", P.O. Box 405, Ellwood City, PA 16117.

OBITUARIES

Marjorie W. Burke

A Tribute by Jamakaya

Marjorie W. Burke, a journalism instructor at the Milwaukee Area Technical College for many years, died on March 2. In the early 1970's, Mrs. Burke, as I called her, encouraged my writing, taught me editing skills, gave me my first leadership position and, generally, expressed such confidence in me as a person that I decided to go on with my life. No small favor, that. She was the kindest, most perceptive teacher I ever had and touched me at a critical juncture in my life. She affected many other young people in equally profound ways. Thank you for my life, Mrs. Burke. And rest in peace.

Catherine Conroy

Milwaukeean Catherine Conroy, a great pioneer in the labor and feminist movements on both state and national levels, died on February 19 at age 69. Catherine was a founding member of the National Organization for Women, the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the Wisconsin Women's Network. She served on numerous government and social service advisory panels and was a

mentor to multitudes of labor and feminist organizers. Her pragmatic approach to problem-solving, her commitment to social justice and her unflinching sense of humor (essential to any organizer) made her an extraordinarily dynamic and effective leader. She will be missed by many.



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POLITICALLY SPEAKING

Political Ignorance Can Only Hurt Everyone

By Bill Meunier

I recently received a letter sent in response to my column "The Bush Era." This letter not only begs for a public response, it screams for it.

Unfortunately, the person who wrote it didn't sign his name or give a return address, so the only way I can respond is through this column.

Let me quote from some of the highlights. Its entertainment value warrants that. I have not corrected any of the numerous misspellings or grammatical errors.

You, the author of this letter, should be ashamed of yourself. You start out by stating, "...the Bush era is in its infancy (sic)...The majority of the American people made a special trip to the booths and requested his leadership (sic)...Would you allow the man the courtesy of a few months at the helm before kavetching and bad mouthing him."

Sir, your math is as poor as your spelling. It is estimated that only about 75% of those eligible to vote are registered to do so. In the November election slightly less than half of registered voters went to the polls. Of that number, approximately 53% voted for Bush. That means only about 19.6% of all Americans eligible to vote "requested" Bush's leadership. That hardly constitutes a "majority."

As far as giving the man a few months before "bad mouthing him", you are way off base. George Bush has had eight years in office. During that time he has faithfully supported the Anti-Gay/Lesbian, Anti-Woman, Anti-Black, Anti-City policies of the Reagan Administration. He has also made it clear that he will continue these policies. Furthermore, his initial appointments, including such great luminaries as John Tower as Sec. of Defense and Dan Quayle as his running mate, are additional indications of poor judgment. I don't need a few months or even a few days to make a judgment on this guy.

You call my complaints about Bush's campaign tactics "a big yawn." That attitude is the most dangerous of all. When voters of a democracy are deliberately lied to and misled, (which is something even Bush supporters admit doing) then they can not make an informed choice and elections are decided, not on the basis of issues and policy, but on the basis of who can lie the best. As a student of Presidential politics, I have never seen or read about such concerted efforts to mislead the people as the ones I witnessed from the Bush campaign. Nearly every independent source of information, from network correspondents to political analysts, agree on that point.

You crow about the financial problems of Massachusetts, calling it a Dukakis "morass." I wouldn't chortle too hard if I were you. George Bush has never balanced a budget, Dukakis has. Furthermore, the Massachusetts' problems are infinitesimally insignificant when compared to the tripling of the National debt under Reagan and Bush.

swallow. "His (Dukakis) druggish/alcoholic wife is another column." What does Kitty Dukakis have to do with anything? At least she has the courage to face up to her problems and overcome them. Furthermore, I'd rather have a First Lady working to overcome a problem with alcohol than a Secretary of Defense who refuses to admit, despite overwhelming evidence, that he has a drinking problem — or an idiot in the Vice-Presidency.

Incredibly, you state in the next paragraph, "I like my president (sic) to talk about kindness and gentleness." For the record, I prefer a President who will do something more than talk.

You, yourself, admit that talk is all Bush is likely to do, writing, "he clearly stated that there would be no great changes from the Regan (sic) thinking and that he would continue much of Regans (sic) policies (thank the gods)." Do you honestly think that the Reagan AIDS policies which resulted in millions of Americans being infected because he ignored his own people are examples of kindness?

During the last election, a life-long friend of George Bush who was on the Reagan/Bush staff endorsed Dukakis, calling the Reagan/Bush AIDS policies "the moral and ethical equivalent of genocide against Gay men." Bush has consistently defended these policies. So much for kindness and gentleness.

Then you say, "Your claims that many Americans went hungry at the very moment that Bush was nominated is such drivel it begs a response, name two." Are you serious? Do you really think that we don't have hungry people in this country? Just look around and you'll see plenty of them.

I'm not saying that if Dukakis had won, everyone would have been magically fed. But I will say that changing those same Reagan policies you and Bush love so much would help. After all, Reagan's own statistics showed an enormous increase in the number of homeless, underfed and poverty stricken Americans between 1980 and 1988.

You have the stupidity to question my statement that Gays and Lesbians were fired from their jobs on inauguration day for being Gay and Lesbian, calling that statement "hogwash." What rock have you been living under fella? Don't you know that everyday in this country, there are Gays and Lesbians who lose their jobs just for being Gay or Lesbian?

You claim that the Bush budget includes "a billion and a half bucks for AIDS education and research." Get your facts straight. Bush hasn't submitted a budget to Congress yet. The budget sent in January was Reagan's and it didn't even include a billion for AIDS, let alone a billion and a half.

Finally, you conclude by pronouncing your affection for our enemy stating, "In my heart of hearts I love Georgie." For my part, I can not love or even like someone who opposes our civil rights legislation, won't let us serve in the military, and who refused to speak up against the genocide being practiced against us by an administration he claimed to be such an important part of.

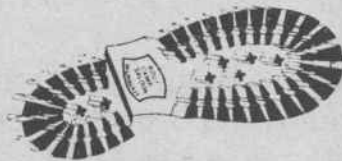
And that, sir, is the difference between us. You stand with the faggots. That is, those who have chosen to either ignore the truth or who, even when discovering it, hope that it won't affect them. Believing not in the good of the Gay and Lesbian community as a whole, but only in yourself.

Quite candidly sir, you and your kind hurt us all. We can't make you go away, but we won't count you as part of our Gay/Lesbian community. That is an honor you don't deserve.

Health Confab Set for S.F. in April

[Washington, D.C.]—Over 2000 attendees are expected to participate in the nation's largest annual meeting concerning Lesbian and Gay health issues when the Eleventh National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference and the Seventh National AIDS Forum convene in San Francisco, April 5-9, 1989. Workshops and presentations will be led by health care professionals and Gay and Lesbian community leaders from across the country. The conference is sponsored by the National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation and George Washington University Medical Center.

Conference registration materials may be obtained by calling The George Washington University Medical Center at (202) 994-4285.



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Dane County Supervisors Concerned Over UW-Madison Homophobia

[Madison]—Several members of the Dane County Board of Supervisors, concerned that the issue of homophobia in the greek system at UW-Madison be addressed by the Commission on the Future of Fraternities and Sororities, signed a letter to the Commission.

The Commission, chaired by Professor James Hoyt of the School of Journalism, was brought into being by Chancellor Donna E. Shalala. Its purpose is to assess problems that fraternities and sororities have in living harmoniously with the rest of the University and Madison community. So far, some of the problems discussed by the commission have been alcohol abuse, sexism and racism.

Nine members of the Board appended their signatures including Tammy Baldwin, Earl Bricker, Kathleen Nichols and Richard Wagner.

In addition, two-thirds of the Madison Common Council (16 members including Jim McFarland, alderperson from the 8th district, the Madison district where the vast majority of fraternities and sororities are located) signed a similar letter.

Future Milwaukee Accepting Applicants for Leader Training Class

[Milwaukee]—Applications are now being accepted for the Future Milwaukee 1989-90 participant class. The deadline for applications is April 3, 1989. A committee made up of past participants and community leaders will select 55 people for the next class.

The Future Milwaukee program focuses on the training of emerging leaders, bringing them together over an eight-month period to learn from and interact with each other and with established community leaders. Participants receive a solid background in Milwaukee's history, political process, economy, educational system and voluntarism. They also learn skills in leadership, public action, fund raising and public relations.

Following the eight months of training, Future Milwaukee helps graduates identify public and private agencies, organizations, planning bodies and commissions requesting volunteer help.

Future Milwaukee is the only community leadership training program of its type in the area and is a non-profit organization which receives no government funding.

In the 12 years since its founding, Future Milwaukee has produced 400 leaders. More than 400 of the alumni now

The letters call for an examination of the existence of homophobia in the fraternities and sororities. They also call for educational programs on Lesbian and Gay issues for members of the greek system and for uniform treatment of all offenses based on bigotry whether it be racism, sexism or homophobia.

In her reply to McFarland, Shalala, referring specifically to "attacks on homosexuals in the ZBT skits," said that the tape of the incident "was viewed by the CSO." She went on to say that "I agree with you that verbal attacks on Gays and Lesbians are absolutely unacceptable and are reprehensible" and joined the Supervisors and Alderpersons in calling for the issue of homophobia to be discussed by the Commission.

Hoyt scheduled the first part of the February 28th meeting of the Commission to hear speakers on the issue of homophobia in the greek system. Scheduled speakers were Rick Villasenor, an alumnus of UW-Madison and resident of Langdon Street, Brian Finley, a WSA co-president and fraternity member, and Alderman McFarland.

serve over 375 organizations throughout our community.

Anyone who lives in the Greater Milwaukee area is eligible for the program. Those interested in applying or obtaining more information should call the Future Milwaukee office at (414) 276-1540.



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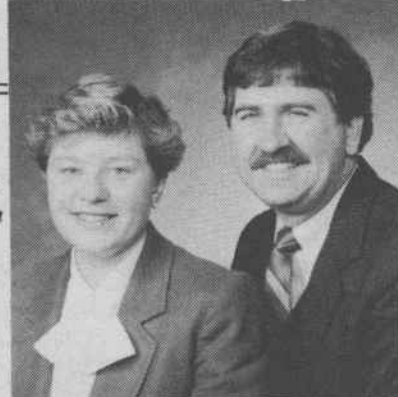
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TID-BITS

"Love and scandal are the best sweetness of tea." This according to English writer Henry Fielding.

We heard it's Jet's birthday. I guess we're a little late, but we'd like to re-enforce the wishes from all your friends, Happy Birthday and many, many more.

Noel Coward whose works Milwaukee's Skylight Theatre will be featuring, had a dry, caustic wit that was infamous. At the coronation of England's King George VI, so the story goes, Coward, surrounded by a bevy of cute young men, had choice seats on a balcony over-looking the royal procession. Along came an open carriage bearing the rotund Queen of Tahiti along side of whom was seated the diminutive Emperor of Ethiopia.

"Who's that?" asked one of the young men pointing to the corpulent Queen.

Coward sighed at the youth's ignorance and answered his question.

"And that?" asked the same voice, pointing to the little emperor.

"That," Coward replied, "is her lunch!"

Doug Radke, a student at Marquette U., was chosen to present his paper, "Dignity and the Roman Catholic Church: A Social Movement Organization in the Making?", at De Paul U. in Indiana. Doug was one of 30 people from

around the country selected to present papers at the Honors Conference for Undergraduate Communications Majors held March 2-4.

Question of the month; is there homophobia in the Mandela affair?

"Like our new size?" We read that's the question the **Trollop Club News** is asking and we must say the answer is, "Yes." It is well-done as always — and in a more handy size.

A recent report from Thailand tells us that American companies are working on a scratch and sniff condom while the Japanese are working on one that unfurls when a string is pulled rather like a venetian blind. But many young Chinese have revealed an interest in masturbation. ("Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might." Ecclesiastes 9:10)

According to **China Daily** prolonged ingestion of cotton seed oil — or foods cooked with it — can cause azoospermia, a form of male sterility.

Lois Gaulke, co-owner of Sands Gift Shop in Milwaukee has just returned from her first trip abroad. Lois spent eight days in London, England and Scotland on a buying trip for the store. She brought good weather with her to London. During the five days she was there, "foggy London Town" enjoyed four days of sun.

Fear and Uncertainty Must Be Dealt With in Our Lives

By Daniel G. Trzebiatowski

Fear and uncertainty — two emotions everyone faces from time to time in one form or another during their lifetime. But, the question is, to what extent do we allow these two to affect our lives?

When I was first diagnosed as being HIV sero-positive, the two emotions were at their strongest. I started asking myself, "How long will it be before I develop KS cancer or pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP)? How was I going to break the news to my family and friends? Would they stick by me until the end or would they abandon me? How long would it be before I am incapacitated with the illness? Would I suffer a great deal? How long would it be before I died? How would I deal with those final days and hours, having the fear of death that I do?"

The fear and uncertainty still exist, but no longer on a daily basis nor with such intensity as they did. I can honestly say I have days when I don't even think of my health status or label myself a PWAV (Person with AIDS Virus). But then, out of the blue, the fear and uncertainty return.

One day last week I went to see my doctor for my monthly check-up. I had a cold, but didn't think much of it. Colds are common to me. Then the nurse said something during the preliminary exam that made me think there was something else wrong. The possibility of PCP that she mentioned made me suddenly realize how fast the fear of disease progression and future uncertainty can resurface.

What was supposed to be a routine check-up turned into a dismal all day affair doing bloodwork, x-rays and all the rest. Fortunately, I had a friend with me that day or I'm not sure I would have waited for my x-ray results. We didn't do a lot of talking, but the very fact that he was there and cared was a big supportive boost. He helped keep the fear and uncertainty in perspective.

It wasn't PCP after all and the x-rays proved it! My friend and I walked out with silly grins on our faces, but this wasn't the first time I was terrified and it probably wouldn't be the last.

I know it is next to impossible for those of us who are HIV positive not to jump to a fatalistic self-diagnosis every time we hear of a PWAV coming down with some minute symptom. At least, it's that way for me. Anything, a new zit, a morning or smoking cough was PCP. The loss of a few pounds due to calorie reduction or increased exercise was the "major weight loss" usually occurring with AIDS. A small outbreak of sweat was "drenching night sweats."

Over time, I have found four things helpful in avoiding hasty conclusions: time, support, positiveness, and facing reality.



Daniel G. Trzebiatowski

Over Time "symptoms", whether natural or self-induced (easily done), lose their frequency and intensity as life's other experiences happen and the "diagnosis" continues to be the same — healthy and normal.

Positive Support and feed-back from others who I talk with about my fears and uncertainties is a tremendous help. I do this both on a regular basis and as fears crop up. So, when the "symptoms" happen, they are less likely to be as profound as would otherwise be the case.

A **Positive Attitude** about your current health status and what the future holds, is the most important. Our chances of never progressing to AIDS is greater as each day goes by if we keep a healthy, positive attitude.

In recent months, I have begun to experience some minor problems such as lowering T-cell count, trush, night sweats and swollen lymph nodes, but I feel as healthy and energetic as always and remain positive. None of these problems assures the direction I'm headed, so I don't try and read into them any more than I absolutely have to.

It is, of course, important to keep tabs on the **Reality** of the virus — but not to morbid excess! We are individuals and it is impossible and unrealistic to categorize anyone into a generic, all-related group. **No one** can predict who of us will remain PWAV's and who of us will become PWARC's or PWA's. We must remain positive and healthy and be happy that we are who and where we are just for today.

I would still like any feed-back you have regarding this issue and column. Please contribute. I am also seeking your personal experiences, thoughts or feelings regarding HIV positive status or that of your friends and loved ones for a book expressing these things for Wisconsin residents. All proceeds from the book will go to non-profit Wisconsin agencies offering support to the AIDS programs. All manuscripts and letters must be signed authorizing their publication, but names will be withheld upon request. Write to Daniel G. Trzebiatowski, c/o **The Wisconsin Light**, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212.



Jerry Johnson

Uncle Al, owner of Your Place bar, entertained well-wishers as he celebrated yet another birthday on March 7.

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UNITED WAY Continued from Page 1

programs and priorities for the future.

The report did not mention Gays and Lesbians which, by commonly accepted government statistics comprise the largest minority in the Greater Milwaukee area.

According to Joseph Schlangen, Director of Planning Allocations for United Way, Lesbians and Gays were not mentioned because the report "focused on racial and ethnic minorities." Schlangen told **Light** "We did not design into this (report) other minorities such as women or the handicapped." He added that "We can be faulted for that."

Schlangen went on to explain that the project had a "limited budget to do the telephone survey" on which the report was based. To do the over-sample of the Gay/Lesbian community that would have been necessary for statistically, validly drawn conclusions would have "stretched the budget," he said.

Schlangen was asked about United Way's apparent unwillingness to allocate funds to Gay/Lesbian organizations and groups except through designated cards signed by the donors. He responded that "We (United Way) are a consensual organization." He said that the United Way walks a fine line and implied that funding Lesbian and Gay groups would result in the loss of some donors to the organization.



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It's true, well-organized zealots flood Congress with so much mail they distort legislators' perception of public opinion. As a result, we lose key votes on AIDS and discrimination against lesbians and gay men.

Now, through the Human Rights Campaign Fund's *Speak Out* program, members of Congress are finally hearing from our side *before* key votes.

Speak Out is now tipping the balance in our favor. But we need your help. By signing our authorization card, you allow brief messages to be sent on your behalf to key Senators and Representatives at critical times. And these messages cost just \$2.95 (a savings of almost \$2 per message).

The stakes are high. But we can't win without your help.

Critical votes often come up in Congress with little notice. But *Speak Out* triggers a response within hours—letting Congress know you care and are watching.

Our rights, health, privacy—even our lives—are at stake daily on Capitol Hill. *Funding for AIDS research, education, and patient care. Anti-gay violence. Confidentiality and AIDS discrimination. Lesbian/Gay Rights. AZT and other drug subsidies. Defeat of anti-gay amendments.*

Speak Out turns good intentions into immediate action.

Most of us don't take time to write Congress but *Speak Out* makes sure your voice is heard.

If you've meant to write and just didn't get around to it... if you've complained about government inaction on AIDS, but haven't contacted your own legislators... *Speak Out* is for you.

I'll join HRCF's *Speak Out* program and authorize messages on AIDS and gay/lesbian rights to Congress to make my voice heard on Capitol Hill.

- 10 messages at just \$2.95 each—\$29.50.
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- Other. I'll authorize _____ messages at \$2.95 each. (A three message minimum enrollment required for processing.)

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- I'd prefer to sign up for \$4.50 mailgrams, charged to my phone bill as they are utilized. I'll authorize ____ (4-12) mailgrams. (Your telephone number is required for this option.)
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The Washington Lobby, Congressional Quarterly

“... In the Congress of the United States, few seats are so safe that a Senator or Congressman can ignore what his constituents are telling him.”

How You Can Influence Congress

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