



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

# The Wisconsin Light

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## Manufacture/Sale Of Poppers Banned in U.S.

John Lauritsen

Poppers (nitrite inhalants) are now a "banned hazardous product" in the United States. As of February 15, 1989, it is illegal to manufacture, distribute, import or sell any isobutyl nitrite substance or any consumer product "used for inhaling or otherwise introduced into the body for euphoric or physical effects."

The ban is part of the Drug Omnibus Act of 1988, which was signed into law last November by President Reagan. The main sponsors of the nitrite inhalants provision were Representatives Mel Levine and Henry Waxman (D's-Calif.). Both are strong supporters of Gay rights.

The ban was hailed by Hank Wilson of San Francisco, a Gay activist who, in 1981, founded the Committee to Monitor Poppers.

"It is long overdue", said Wilson. "Up to the point of the ban we still had businesses in the Gay community that were promoting and selling poppers. There were Gay publications, like *Update* in San Diego, carrying large popper ads, as though there were no hazards to using the drug."

Wilson continued: "New people are continually coming into the Gay community. Young people are coming out. The last thing we ought to do is to introduce these newcomers to products that will be harmful to their immune systems, while we're in the midst of this epidemic."

With regard to the hazards of poppers and their effects on the immune system, a great many studies have been done by top-notch independent researchers. Wilson emphasized that these studies all point out that poppers are bad for the health and bad for the immune system.

The initiative for regulating poppers has come from the Gay community itself. West Hollywood, the Gayest city in the world, took the lead in banning poppers.

The medical case against poppers is impressive. Poppers are immuno-suppressive. They can cause anemia, lung damage, serious skin burns and death or brain damage from cardiovascular collapse or stroke. Poppers cause genes to mutate and have the potential to cause cancer by producing dealkyl N-nitroso compounds. Poppers have been used successfully to commit suicide (by drinking) and murder (victim gagged with sock soaked with poppers). There are strong epidemiological links between the use of poppers and the development of AIDS, and especially Kaposi's sarcoma (KS). A six-fold decrease in the incidence of KS over the past five years parallels a sharp decline in the use of poppers.

For nearly two decades the poppers industry eluded regulation by labeling their commodity a "room odorizer." The FDA and various other health agencies all looked the other way. The Centers for

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## HELMS KILLS FEDERAL AZT BILL AS STATES RUN OUT OF FUNDS



Ted Altschuler directs Amy Zeh as Agnes and Kay Knudsen as the Mother Superior during a rehearsal of Milwaukee's Clavis Theatre's production of "Agnes of God" which runs March 24-April 30.

## Milwaukee Nursing Homes Begin Accepting AIDS Patients

[Milwaukee]- It was clearly a victory for the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP). It was a victory that is a beginning, but a victory nonetheless.

At a press conference held March 13, 1989 at MAP offices, representatives from the health care industry and from two Milwaukee area nursing homes announced the opening of two nursing homes to AIDS patients.

The two nursing homes are the Mt. Carmel Health Care facility and the Greentree nursing home.

Tom Moore, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Nursing Homes Association said that he was "proud of the role" he and the Association played in getting AIDS patient placement. "A comprehensive educational effort is currently underway," he said for staff, patients and families. Moore added that he hoped that other nursing homes would soon follow suit. He noted that within "2-3 weeks" two more nursing homes should be "ready to open their doors" to AIDS patients. He did not specify which two these would be.

The Nursing Homes Association represents 258 nursing homes throughout Wisconsin.

Joe Higdon of the Greentree facility confirmed Moore's commitment to caring for AIDS sufferers and said that the first AIDS patient would be admitted by March 31.

Doug Lesjak of the Mt. Carmel facility announced that in-service education was already underway although he would give no definite date as to when the first AIDS patient would be admitted to Mt. Carmel.

The opening of the two nursing homes is the culmination of a long process of delicate negotiations by MAP and the organizations Executive Director, Doug Nelson. Nelson thanked Moore "profoundly" for his efforts and extended gratitude to both Greentree and Mt. Carmel. Nelson said that MAP social workers and case managers would be prepared to render all possible help in giving care to AIDS patients in the homes. The Buddy System will be at the nursing homes, he said, and MAP will do in-service education as well.

However, Nelson said that the opening of these two homes was only "the first step toward high quality care." The numbers of AIDS cases in Milwaukee is, Nelson said, expected to increase.

Currently, Nelson said, there are 131 persons living with AIDS. By what he called "a very conservative projection" that number is expected to increase to 200

by 1990 and 300 plus by 1991. These numbers are for Milwaukee alone. Nelson was optimistic that as nursing home experience caring for AIDS patients grows, the numbers of facilities needed will be available. However Nelson again stressed the need for a long-term AIDS care facility.

Asked about staff response to the admissions of AIDS patients, Higdon said that at Greentree there had been "no overwhelming reaction; no negative comments. We expect it to be a positive experience," he said. Lesjak agreed that the same was true for Mt. Carmel.

Nelson said that the greatest obstacle to overcome was fear on the part of those unfamiliar with AIDS patient care. It was fear that caused the delay in the opening of the nursing homes to AIDS patients. But, he emphasized, this reaction was greatest from people who are not close to persons with AIDS. However, he stressed, there was no need for fear and that with on-going education, this would be over come as discrimination was increasingly dismantled.

"Milwaukee," Nelson said, "is a progressive, caring community." He voiced strong optimism that with education and continuing effort and good will on the part of all concerned, AIDS sufferers would receive the care that they deserve.

## Federal Law Prohibits AIDS Discrimination

[New York, NY]- The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has urged AIDS advocacy groups to take advantage of a new federal law which, effective Sunday, March 12, prohibits discrimination in housing based on that disease.

The Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 bars discrimination against persons with disabilities including persons with AIDS and HIV infection. It applies to virtually all housing in the United States.

Under the law, it will now be illegal for landlords to discriminate against persons with AIDS-related conditions in the sale or rental of housing. It will also be illegal for landlords to ask questions of prospective tenants about whether they have AIDS or a related condition. If a person were evicted or turned down for an apartment because he/she had an AIDS-related condition, that person could file suit in federal court.

[Washington, D.C.]- Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) on March 17 killed legislation that would have extended by six months the federal government's funding program of AZT (Retrovir) for low-income individuals. The move comes as two states — Georgia and Kansas — have exhausted their AZT grants, with funding in several more states expected to expire in the upcoming weeks.

Wisconsin with 26 persons under the federal program, is one of 13 states who will run out of money in June, 1989.

Approximately 7000 people in the U.S. are receiving government assistance under the AZT subsidy program. AZT — which costs about \$8,000 a year at full dose — is the only government-approved drug for directly fighting AIDS.

Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) lobbyists said the bill would not have allocated additional funds for AZT, but would have given the government time to reprogram already existing funds into federal AZT subsidies. For example, funds from states with surplus money could be moved into states whose funds have expired, or additional moneys could be located within the Public Health Service to subsidize AZT.

Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-Maine), who schedules legislation in the Senate, had stipulated that the bill would be brought onto the floor only if Senators could agree not to add amendments or to set a time limit for debate on amendments.

Legislative insiders on Capitol Hill said Helms, along with Senators William Armstrong (R-Colo.) and Don Nickles (R-Okla.), refused to agree to the stipulations, thus preventing the bill from being considered by the Senate.

"When we say Jesse Helms is 'King of Killer Amendments,' we really mean killer," said Robert Bray, HRCF communications director. "More people are going to get sick and die faster because they cannot afford life-prolonging drug treatments. It was not a good day in

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## Central WI. Forms HIV + Support Groups

[Stevens Point, WI]- A new support group for HIV-positive persons has been formed for individuals in the central Wisconsin counties of Portage, Wood and Marathon by the Central Wisconsin AIDS Support Group, Inc. (CWASG) and the Central Wisconsin AIDS Network (CWAN).

Membership in this group will be limited to HIV-positive individuals only. To insure confidentiality, interested parties will be screened and will have to submit medical proof of HIV positivity (copy of test results or physician's letter).

The first meeting will take place in late March and subsequent meetings will be held bi-monthly thereafter. Agenda and issues to be discussed will be determined by the group members.

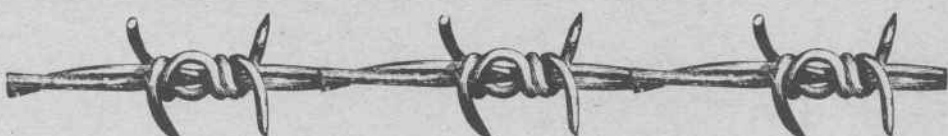
Although both CWASG and CWAN currently limit their activities to the above mentioned counties, interested individuals in surrounding counties (Shawano, Lincoln, Price and Waupaca) are invited to take part in this program.

For more information, contact CWAN Program Assistant in the following cities: Wausau (847-5888), Stevens Point (345-5350), Wisconsin Rapids (421-8525) or Marshfield (387-8646). Screening will take place over the phone and specific meeting times and places will be released following that screening.

Interested persons may also write CWASG, P.O. Box 2071, Wausau, WI 54402-2071 for more information.



# OUR HISTORY



## A TIME TO DIE XIII

### Nazi's Set Up 30 Work and Death Camps in Europe by 1942

By Terry Boughner, Ph.D.

We come now to the main part of our story.

In the Winter of 1938-39, the time of Rudolf's imprisonment, there were 9 concentration camps in the Reich. By 1942 there were 30 scattered throughout Germany and across Nazi-occupied Europe. The camps were divided into two types. One was the work camps, the Arbeitlager, where prisoners were routinely tortured, starved and worked to death. It was mainly in the work camps that the medical experiments took place. All the survivors I spoke with over ten years agreed that Gays were primarily the subjects of such experiments and they will be discussed later. Such camps included Dachau, Flossenbergl and Buchenwald.

The others, set up after the war began, were death camps, "Totenlager." Their



express and only purpose was the extermination of great masses of people by as efficient means as were possible. These included Auschwitz, Chelmno, Treblinka and others. Rudolf Hoess, Commandant of Auschwitz, writes that "at least two and a half million victims were exterminated at Auschwitz by gassing" in gas chambers "built to accommodate 2000 people at one time." In addition, he says, "another half million died of starvation and disease."

All of the camps were under the jurisdiction of Reichsfuehrer SS Heinrich Himmler and that part of the SS known as the "Totenkopfverbände" or Death's Head Units named such for the white death's head insignia that they wore on their black uniforms.

In a speech delivered at Metz in 1941 to officers of the SS, Himmler precisely described their duties. They were to "fight the Untermenschentum" the subhumanity. While this speech was given in 1941, there was nothing in it that had not been said again and again since 1933 and before.

It should be remembered because it has been ignored or forgotten, that Gays were considered among the "subhumans" and, as such, we were unfit to live. It should be kept in mind as well that in this effort at total extermination of those of us who are Gay and Lesbian, Hitler, Himmler et al, were doing nothing new. The only thing different was the use of the technology available to the modern totalitarian state to accomplish what had been started over 1500 years before.

In the 7th Century A.D. the Eastern Roman Emperor Justinian incorporated in the Roman Law, edicts ordering death for all Gays as the carriers of disease and sin. Attempts at our extermination have been on-going and unceasing ever since.

I have visited both Dachau and Auschwitz kept now as memorials to the millions who died there.

There is no way I can adequately convey what I felt by going there, anymore than I can describe the hurt and depression that comes over me as I resurrect for this series old memories from my notes. In most cases, I believe, these Gay men, Gay survivors who I talked with, are now dead. All that is left of them, of their experiences in Hell, are what I have on shards of paper and in my memory. But even that is something. For countless ten's of thousands of Gays, nothing remains of their lives. It is as if they never existed at all.

The vast majority of those who have written about the Holocaust from one

angle or another, have ignored us, sloughed over our sufferings as if it all never happened. By them denying us our history, they are saying we are subhuman and not fit to be remembered. Damn them! The Nazis annihilated us, the chroniclers erase our memories and so kill us again.

These people are kindred spirits with the so-called "revisionist" historians who write that the Holocaust never happened at all! If it never happened, it can all happen again just the way Gays are being slaughtered in Iran. In the name of what? I don't know. Some new Hitler who calls himself an ayatollah instead of a fuehrer. Different language, same meaning.

As I write, there returns the horror, the hurt, pain and finally, anger and rage that came as I heard the stories. These emotions even now, are all mixed up in me and they surface in full force when I think about the SS officer who sent Rudolf to hell. He was a closet case, willing to sell anyone to save himself. I know people like that.

Still, as I sit here, I think too of the unknown Gay who, coming to Rudolf's cell, offered him the means of survival, a cup of water, a little food — and at what possible price?

Dachau takes its name from the little town that is just on the outskirts of the camp. It is a charming place, really, founded in the 13th Century. There are quaint shops, well-kept lawns, and a church whose bells rang out as I was standing in front to the camp's gas chamber. Those same bells only added to the horror of the place because they must have been heard by every Gay and other prisoner as they trudged hopelessly to their deaths.

The camps were vast and could easily cover all downtown Milwaukee. Today, at Dachau you can yet see the great parade ground which, in any camp, was the scene of beatings and tortures of all kinds. Beyond it are the reconstructed barracks, stark, gray wooden, row upon row of them, sitting low like slugs, separated by wide, unpaved roads. And beyond that sits the great white gas chamber, the ovens, the blood trenches. These all at Dachau, Auschwitz and elsewhere were the killing fields of Germany. These were the logical end of Justinian's law, of St. Peter Damian's curses, of St. Thomas Aquinas' maledictions, the terrors of the Inquisition and on and on and on.

In the next and future articles in this series, I will continue with Rudolf's story. It is the most complete that I have. But please understand my venom and my rage.

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## First National Lesbian Conference To Be Held March 3-6 in Durham NC

By Raif W. Stryker

After an exhausting four days of discussion, some 160 Lesbians from across the country agreed upon a location and date for the First National Lesbian Conference. Convening at Duke University in Durham, NC March 3-6, 1989, the women chose Atlanta, GA as the host city for the event slated to occur between mid-March and mid-April, 1991. The exact date will be determined at a later meeting.

Deemed a historical decision, it marks the first time that a national Gay or Lesbian conference will be held in the South. As Lesbian visibility remains a key issue on the agenda, it was felt that as part of the overall process of social change, the Lesbian presence in a southern city such as Atlanta would carry greater impact than holding the event in someplace like Washington, D.C. Support for Atlanta was further expressed due to the large number of Lesbian organizations



Among those at the Milwaukee AIDS Project news conference to announce that Milwaukee area nursing homes will begin accepting AIDS patients were: Richard Lesjack, the administrator of the Mt. Carmel Nursing Home; John Nedaue, who is living with AIDS; and Joe Higdon, the Wisconsin director of American Medical Services/Green Tree Nursing Home.

## OBITUARIES

### David L. Neitzel

By Michael S. Lisowski

David L. Neitzel, 1970-Feb. 22, 1989

Only a few issues ago, I was overjoyed at one of our Gay Youth members receiving a Black Excellence award. Now, on a profoundly sadder note, I must write about another Gay Youth member.

He died, February 22. A friend called to tell me. They had seen the article in **The Milwaukee Journal**. I don't think I ever knew his last name. At our Gay Youth meetings those are not revealed; a form of secrecy, protection or privacy.

I met David 3, maybe 4 years ago when he was just starting to deal with his sexual orientation. We talked over the phone a couple of times and then he attended his first meeting.

Eventually his parents found out and there were the all too often usual reactions; anger, hurt, guilt and the customary "get-thee-to-a-shrink." He did not attend any meetings for some time, but he did call me and we talked. His parents came gradually to tolerate his orientation, but I think his father continued to have trouble with it and there developed a distance between them.

For the past year and a half, I would see David more frequently. He had been through a lot, but he seemed to be at peace with himself. He was not just coping with life, he was planning it.

I won't repeat what **The Journal** has reported, but suffice it to say that David was a top student, a worker in his church and the YMCA.

He wanted to be a beautician and he was good. His teachers said he had the potential to succeed on the international level.

Last Christmas he came to his last Gay Youth meeting. He told me he had two offers from top beauty salons in the country; one in Boston, one in New York and he had decided to accept the one in Boston to study under Giacomo. I wished him all the luck in the world, sure he would have it.

His death seemed so senseless. I know all his past trials were preparing him to endure what was ahead. And now, he is gone in an instant. But he has left a legacy

to other Gay and Lesbian youth. Success can be achieved, by only with ambition, hard work and dogged determination. That is the example he leaves for us.

Thanks, David.

### In Memoriam Gregory Sheldon

Gregory John Sheldon, 1956-1988. You were so young, but I will always love you. It has been one year, March 20, and I just can't get you off my mind. I miss you so much. Love, Bob.

#### 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.

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**Is It A BIRD???**  
(Keep Watching...  
Future Issues)



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## EDITORIAL

# JESSE HELMS DERAILS U.S. AZT FUNDING FOR HIV+ PATIENTS

[Washington, D.C.]—According to a press release from the Human Rights Campaign Fund Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's efforts to extend a program that provides the drug AZT to victims of AIDS who cannot afford the expensive treatment has failed, thus assuring that the program will expire March 31, 1989. The failure will effect some 6-7,000 AIDS victims.

According to the report, three Senators (unnamed) were responsible for preventing action.

Who are they, these bloody, gore drenched three? Jesse Helms was one. None ever accused you of having a compassionate heart. No matter. It's done now. 6-7,000 people — **6-7,000 HUMAN BEINGS** are going to be cut off from the **only** drug that helps keep them alive.

Senators, why didn't you just take a gun and shoot them, these 6-7,000? The effect would have been the same and it would have been quicker. But, oh no, Senators, you didn't do that. Instead, while you wallow in well-fed, comfortable luxury, these helpless fellow human beings wracked with AIDS, are going to suffer terribly and DIE! THEY ARE GOING TO DIE Senators. Does that have **any** meaning to you, any meaning at ALL???

But you don't care, do you? You don't think of these wretched souls as Human Beings, do you Senators? You think of them — when you can rouse yourselves to think at all — as drug dealers, as Homo-SEX-uals, as human flotsam, wretched refuse, not as PEOPLE with hopes and dreams and love — but those are foreign words to you, aren't they Senators?

Oh Senators there is a God — maybe not the God of whatever church you wiggle into, but the God of true religion — and you will pay Senators, oh yes, you will pay. Before the Throne of the living God, Senators, you will stand one day, naked and alone and there you will finally see, SEE Senators with piercing clarity, that life is love and compassion and mercy and understanding — not money, not bigotry and hatred, not ignorance, not your soft offices and cushy chairs. You will see, Senators, that you have betrayed life. You, by your wills, have negated it. If there is an unforgivable sin, that is it, to deny life.

Senators, as Spring comes now to the land, your hands drip with gore and the stench of your actions rises as fumes from a dung heap. When the bells toll for those who suffered and died because you denied them a little medicine, don't ask for who the dirge is rung. It is rung, Senators, for you.

## GADS WOULD CALL ATTENTION TO DRUG MISUSE, UNSAFE SEX

In his column this issue, Dr. Roger Gremminger calls for a kinder, gentler society and that to begin with the founding of a group called "Gays Against Drugged Sex" to be better known as "GADS."

We think that GADS is an idea whose time has come. With the terrors of AIDS upon us, many Gay men, especially, have retreated from the profound pleasure to be had in friendship and physical contact. It is almost as if the fear of the disease has made us lose touch with our bodies, our desires and ourselves.

The bars are and can be wonderful places for going out of an evening to "be with one's own", for good conversation and, yes, for meeting people, making new friends and possibly forming loving relationships. The fear of AIDS should not deny any of this to us.

The trouble comes as Dr. Gremminger rightly points out, when too much alcohol lowers our inhibitions to the point where we ignore safe sex.

To counteract this, GADS is an idea that should be taken very seriously. In fact, we would urge the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) and/or other organizations to make buttons that one could wear that promote the idea.

We would urge that the bars adopt GADS, distribute buttons and, perhaps, have GADS benefits, the proceeds from which would go to MAP.

We would urge that all those at risk from AIDS to take GADS to heart and give it their wholehearted support. With the philosophy of GADS, we can fully participate in the fullness of friendly and loving, touching relationships without injuring ourselves or others.

## LETTERS

### TO THE EDITOR:

(Editor's Note: The following letter has been printed leaving out only the name of the college involved. When Morgan agreed to write for the paper, it was agreed that the name of the schools he attended would not be revealed.)

We, the Executive Board of (Morgan's College) Gay/Lesbian Student Union (G/LSU), are very distressed at the content of the "Boy of Summer" column entitled "Silent Treatment" (Vol 2: no.5). The allegations raised against us are very serious, and we would like to take this opportunity to respond to them and present our side of the story.

When Mr. Summer left our group, we were sorry to see him leave; however, he resigned without notifying us and while we were investigating allegations that he had violated office policy. As our investigation continued, we found that Mr. Summer had indeed violated policy by taking confidential information for personal use. His actions included contacting a prospective member to make a date by taking his number from confidential office records.

Mr. Summer has told us that he has heard from a few members that they felt like the meetings were conducted in a very cold manner. Somehow they also got the impression that they were on display for us to "check out." We attempt to help everyone who comes to our group, and perhaps some of our intentions have been misinterpreted. Members will occasionally offer a new member their phone number with an offer to call if he would ever like to talk. This is done in the spirit of trying to help that new member feel that he is included as a member, not an outsider. We realize that we can not be all things to all people, but we attempt to make all who attend our meetings feel at ease.

We are attempting to hold the meetings in a very professional manner and allow people to discuss different issues at each meeting. We are also striving to keep the discussion pertinent, because when we allowed people to discuss anything they felt like talking about, the meetings would run two-and-a-half to three hours. This, of course, is nice, but when in college, one is a student first and the Executive Board is concerned about spending time that should be used for studying and not for sitting around and chatting.

Also, we plan many activities on our own that we allow members of the group to participate in, if they so wish. We work at the coat check bar in Madison on the underage night that the bar sponsors; therefore, there are no concerns about minors coming along, because they will not be served alcohol. We also have get-togethers which are not G/LSU functions, at private apartments at which we watch movies or socialize.

We realize that the power we have been granted by the "college" (editor's quotation marks) is a privilege and it is not one that we take lightly. The Executive Board is continually striving to help those who attend our meetings.

We have been very proud to see our efforts succeed. We have helped some members come out of their shells, and supported one member who "came out" to his parents a few weeks ago with very good results. We have also helped another member deal with his parents cutting him out of their lives because he is Gay.

These tasks are not easy when one realizes that no member of the group has professional counseling training; however, we do not represent ourselves as a professional counseling organization, but merely a group where Lesbians and Gay men can get together and offer each

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other support and encouragement by sharing personal experiences.

The Board hopes that this letter has explained our side of the story, and reinstated our image as a worthwhile organization that is working to help others. We welcome your responses or questions about this issue.

—Timothy J. Larson  
President

**Editor's Note: Letters can be sent to the group c/o Wisconsin Light, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212 and they will be forwarded.**

### TO THE EDITOR:

There are numerous things in your paper, as always, that one could comment on. I refer to the March 22 issue, vol.2 no. 4 which I did not receive until yesterday (March 17).

The inclusion of the Human Rights Campaign Fund material was welcomed. However, not to have labeled Tom Sauerma's front page writings an "Editorial" seems odd. It is not news. I myself have sometimes given them money to do the same as he now urges your readers. Surely there were news-worthy things that have happened near the end of February which really belong on the front page, like the Kowalski-Thompson news back on page 8. If you really want women to write for you, then put a women's news item on page one.

Thanks for running my "Measures of Change" column again. There is one odd error in the fourth line below my photo on page two. It says "the sun moves." It should read "The earth moves." Galileo Galilei was excommunicated by the Roman Church about 1600 because he defied the Church and publicly stated his ideas that it was the earth that moved around the sun. Only in the last few months has the Roman Church finally said that they were wrong and he was right. Almost 4 Centuries late! How long will it take them to recognize that many of their popes were Gay or that we can use Church property? What is so terrible for a Gay person to act with Dignity?

Jamakaya's column, as your editorial points out, hits a critical issue. Having worked in Gay People's Union (GPU) with its library and newspaper, I know there are a lot of problems carrying out those good intentions. It takes money to do it well enough to be used and a track record of stability, plus a trained staff. Your editorial says that "Cream City Foundation is uniquely qualified." What are those unique qualifications? Have they ever run a library or archive? No, but GPU has and does. Have they been around long enough to show that they will endure at least as long as the papers you propose to save? No, GPU is the oldest Gay organization in this city in continuous existence.

Obviously both groups have had their financial problems over the years. Jim Kepner out in Los Angeles has great trouble keeping together his wonderful treasure trove of Gay/Lesbian items.

The best choice, in my opinion, would be the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) in Madison. Four years ago The National Association of Black and White Men Together asked me to find a place for their archive. We were accepted for inclusion by the WHS. That way our records are kept in a humidity controlled area, in fire-proof shelving, and organized by professional staff.

The second choice would be Northwestern University. The third might be the Milwaukee Public Library. But they are not really an archive. I worked there for five and a half years, setting up the Wisconsin Architectural Archive which was totally funded from outside sources. They have space limits.

—Alyn W. Hess  
Milwaukee

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# RELIGIOUS OUTREACH

## Taking Off The Blinders! Part 2- Is the Resurrection a Myth?

By Rev. Dan Frederick Schramm

The doctrine of the resurrection of Jesus is not just **one** of the doctrines of Christianity. It is **the** doctrine of the gospels and the Christian religion.

We have (what is alleged to be) the epistles of Peter, James, John and Jude — all of whom are said by the evangelists to have seen Jesus after he rose from the dead — but in none of these epistles is the incident of the resurrection even stated, much less that Jesus was seen by the writers after his resurrection.

The facts just recited should bring great discouragement to the hearts of those Christians who build high hopes of Immortality almost entirely upon the alleged resurrection of Jesus. For Paul says: "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive (1 Cor. 15:19-22).

As a leading Christian theologian pointed 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; ye are yet in your sins" (1 Cor. 15:14, 17).

Peter and John were the close friends of Jesus' James and Jude being his brothers. If the epistles that appear in the New Testament under their names are really their writings, as claimed by Christianity, it should strike any reader as strange indeed, that the resurrection of Jesus was an occurrence of such slight importance, that those who are alleged to have seen him after he rose from the dead, say nothing about it. Their silence comes with the force of absolute denial of the physical resurrection story.

The modern Christian doctrine of a general resurrection did not take its form from the biblical story of the resurrection of Jesus. The doctrine was a prevailing idea of the Jews long ages before the days of Jesus, making it very logical to assume that the story of the resurrection of Jesus was founded upon or grew out of this popular belief of the times.

One Hebrew writer maintains that the resurrection is reserved for the faithful alone — "So when he was ready to die he said thus: It is a good thing to be put to death by men to look for hope from God, to be raised up again by him; as for thee, thou shalt have no resurrection to life" (2 Maccabees 7:14).

Before the time of Jesus, the Pharisees — the dominant Jewish sect — were strong believers in a resurrection: "For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angels, nor spirits; but the Pharisees confess both (Acts 23:8).

Paul appears to speak of the resurrection strictly as a belief: "But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen" (1 Cor. 15:13). "Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?" (1 Cor. 15:12). "For if we **believe** that Jesus died and rose again" (1 Thes. 4:14).

We do not know that Jesus died and rose again; we did not see him after the resurrection, but "we believe that Jesus died and rose again." Why did they not settle the question once and for all by calling in as witness some of the "five hundred," who Paul says saw Jesus after the resurrection?

These statements by Paul evince the influence of the belief in the resurrection upon his mind. The questioning language is not such as would be used by one who had seen Jesus in the flesh after his resurrection. In fact, several Christian sects that flourished near those times, as the Corinthians, Carpocratians, etc., rejected in total the story of the physical resurrection (1 Cor. 15:12; 2 Tim. 2:18), furnishing further evidence for discrediting the physical resurrection of Jesus.

Paul makes a laborious effort in the 15th chapter of 1st Corinthians to establish the resurrection belief into a doctrine, but his efforts hang upon such frail arguments, in place of facts, as is

exhibited in the phrases: "If there be no resurrection of the dead"; "if the dead rise not"; "if we believe that Jesus died and rose again."

These statements clearly show that, in Paul's mind the resurrection is at most only a belief which has not yet fully crystallized into a doctrine. As it evolved from a belief into a more definite and fixed form under such preaching, it became a doctrine that gradually adjusted to itself the two previous forms of belief — (1) the one of a last day resurrection, and (2) the other of a resurrection immediately at



death, in the dogma of the resurrection of Jesus on the third day after his death, and his coming again at the last day to raise and judge the dead.

The idea of a general resurrection at the last day seems to be the most common, and the one which the church adopted, although there seems to have also a belief in an immediate resurrection after death, especially for beggars and malefactors — "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; and in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom" (Luke 16:22, 23).

And to the malefactor, Jesus said: "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).

How soon the doctrine of the resurrection of the physical body, under such high-pressure preaching, became popular, we have no means of knowing. But it was not until some time after the writing of Paul were given to the church; for he, as we have seen, speaks of it as a **spiritual** resurrection. So also does Peter (1 Peter 3:18) speak of Jesus "being put to death in the flesh, but quickened (reanimated) by (in) the Spirit."

The legend became more and more popular as it spread abroad. Enthusiasm inflamed the credulous minds of the ignorant and superstitious, until the **subjective** visions of Paul, in order to satisfy the masses, at last became crystallized into **objective** reality.

In order to gain power over the people, Paul's visions and revelations and messages of the angels and others, were reduced from popular belief by the priesthood to historical facts.

Paul makes clear that the foundation of the religion of Christianity rests upon the belief in the resurrection, but why actually should it be of such significance? Is their Jesus Christ the first one to rise from the dead? Is he the last one? No!

Elijah raised a child from the dead (1 Kings 17:17, 21-22); Samuel said to Saul, "Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up" (1 Samuel 28: 7, 11, 15); Elisha raised the dead son of a Shunammite (2 Kings 4:32, 34-35); a dead man being lowered into a grave revived when he touched the bones of Elisha (2 Kings 13:1); Moses and Elijah revived at the time of the Transfiguration (Luke 9:28, 30); the saints arose en masse at the time of Jesus' death (Matt. 27:52- 53); Jairus' daughter rose from the dead (Matt. 9:18,

TURN TO RESURRECTION, PAGE 5

## Celibacy in Catholic Church Is Merely a Discipline

By Fr. James Arimond

This is the second in a series of three articles which are addressing the question of clerical celibacy in the Roman Catholic tradition. "Where did it come from and why is it still around?"

In the last column, we looked at how the idea of a celibate clergy slowly and rather erratically developed in the first 11 centuries of the Church's existence. The Gnostics, who felt that all sexuality was below spiritual dignity of the "reborn Christian" and, who also believed that any type of sexual activity or sexual pleasure defiled a person, had a strong influence upon the developing Church. They were not in the majority, but they made their "minority opinion" felt through their prolific writings and strong political position.

For the most part, the married clergy were in the small towns and villages doing what pastors were supposed to do; taking care of the spiritual needs of the people. They didn't have a lot of time to do much writing and politicking. At any rate, it was the so-called "intelligentsia" in the big cities, schools and monasteries who had the day and celibacy for the clergy became the rule, at least on paper.

Despite the fact that Church authority began to demand celibacy on the part of its clergy, the authoritarian pressure didn't automatically make it a fact in reality. St. Aelred's father was a priest and his grandfather, a bishop. (Both lived during a period when the Roman Church was pushing very hard for celibacy.) The fact that the Council of Trent (1545-1563) was forced to call for the suppression of concubinage among the clergy, clearly demonstrates to us that it was never a settled question.

Gradually, however, from the time of the Council of Trent to our present age, celibacy became the rule and not the exception and it became the fundamental operating principle of the Roman Catholic priesthood. By the time the Second Vatican Council came around (1962-1965), no one even raised the question — at least, not among the Council Fathers.

Celibacy was never proposed nor offered as a strictly dogmatic principle or matter of faith. It is merely a discipline and could easily be changed by a stroke of the Pope's pen. However, we cannot easily dismiss the Gnostic influence that is still around in our community.

Most of us grew up in a church where human sexuality was "merely tolerated" as the lesser of two evils! "It is better to marry than to burn in hell" was the "credo" of our Catholic grade school education. The early Church writers to whom we looked for spiritual formation were saturated by Gnostic thought and certainly weren't of much assistance in helping us to get our heads screwed on straight.

Those writers are still being read today. St. Augustine, for instance, viewed sexual desire or lust as an evil resulting from original sin and passed on from one generation to the other by means of sexual intercourse. With authors of this caliber promoting celibacy and the virtues of virginity, and other dissenting voices being ignored or suppressed, it is no wonder that celibacy is something that we have learned to live with.

Celibacy and sound spirituality are one and the same thing in the minds of most people. (My own parents refused to go to communion on Sunday if they had had sexual relations the night before. As my father was a salesman and only got home on the weekends, it doesn't surprise me that every Sunday afternoon, we got 30 cents to keep us at the movies as long as

## New Hope Invites All To Their Easter Services

[Milwaukee]- On Sunday evening, March 26, we will be celebrating Easter as all other Christians will do and invite you to share a special service with us. Rev. Carl and our Pastoral Leader, Virginia, will be officiating at our celebration welcoming a number of new members to our "family." We would like to welcome your family and friends as well

Congregational singing begins at 6:00 pm with the service to begin at 6:30 pm at Kenwood United Methodist Church, 2319 Kenwood Blvd (across from the

possible.)

Over the past 400 years, writers in the Catholic Church have tried to "sell" the idea of celibacy by using every conceivable argument they could find. Obviously, Sacred Scripture says very little about the matter. (St. Paul gives us his own personal opinion about celibacy in 1 Corinthians and there is a passage in Matthew 19:12 which speaks of the "eunuchs who make themselves so for the sake of the Kingdom" — translated by some to mean "people who renounce sexual activity for the sake of proclaiming the Gospel." But that is pretty much the extent of the "witness from Sacred Scripture!")

Scriptural evidence lacking, the writers went to other sources to find the evidence they needed to prove that the Catholic Church was right in insisting on this celibate discipline for their ordained ministers.

Now, Martin Luther is not what you'd call a "good source" from which the Roman Catholic Church would like to draw her wisdom, but when it came to celibacy, and when you're grabbing for straws, you'll go even to a "hateful source" in search of validation.

Martin Luther was one such source. It was pointed out that even though Luther broke away from the Church in 1517, he did not denounce clerical celibacy and, as a matter of fact, he supported that celibacy until 1522, a full 7 years after his break with Rome. He, himself, did not get married until 1525.

Along with other rather weak "pro-celibacy witnesses" such as Luther who only supported it for 8 years, the Church writers tried to appeal to logic and reason for their arguments. These "arguments for celibacy" were often ridiculous, crude and sexist.

An example of two of them: "The secrecy of the confessional is not compatible with the mutual confidences of conjugal love. The vicar's wife will gossip about what you confess to her husband!" Or, "You can't be a good preacher if you have to come home to a noisy and demanding household. A priest needs quiet contemplation and a peaceful setting in order to preach well." (This guy obviously didn't hear many priests' homilies nor has he visited a modern parish house where "busyness" is the rule.)

Another argument equally unfounded: "Only a celibate can have the undivided and liberated heart that is needed for a dedicated ministry." (That writer obviously didn't meet any of the many very dedicated and hard working non-Catholic Pastors who, quite literally, give the whole of their lives to their work and still live very fruitful married lives. I find the proportion of dedicated to non-dedicated ministers to be exactly the same whether those ministers are Catholics or not, married or celibate.)

There are other such arguments that are presented that came to my ear: "How can we Catholics afford to support a priest if he has a family?" — This, from a lady who belongs to a parish of 4,000 people and who has a lady friend from a Lutheran parish that has 350 people and who pay their minister \$35,000 a year! Well, it's nice to know that the Church hierarchy is not the only one who clutches for straw arguments when they don't want to do something!

I'll continue this discussion in my next column. Keep the letters and comments coming. It keeps me thinking and God bless.

Fr. James

UW-Milwaukee Student Union.

Share with us and Rejoice! He Is Risen! For further information about New Hope, please contact Don Clabots, at (414) 933-6931-h or (414) 289-8279-w.



**Is It A  
BIRD???**  
(Keep Watching...  
Future Issues)



# A BOY OF SUMMER

## A Rose for Jessica

By Morgan Summer

As I have recently related, my boyfriend broke up with me a few weeks ago. The past few days I have been sifting through the memories of that brief relationship. The one thing I remembered was a note I saw. It was from a girl, addressed to my boyfriend, K.C. I don't remember its exact content, but it went something like this:

"Dear K.C., I don't understand you. You invited me over and then you act like you wish I wasn't there. Sometimes I am so fuckin' confused. I want to know how you really feel about me. Signed, Jessica Lyn."

The note was on a coffee table in K.C.'s apartment and I just happened to glance at it. I had forgotten about it until yesterday. I remembered that my boyfriend had mentioned Jessica a few times. Apparently she and he had dated while they were in high school and were still friends. But Jessica wanted more than that. That's about all I knew, or know, about her. But I knew that K.C. and Jessica would never date again because he was Gay.

But this is not about K.C. It's about Jessica Lyn.

I will never meet Jessica. I have influenced her, though, in a way I am not sure I like.

You see, at the end of the "relationship" (for lack of a better word), that K.C. and I had, I thought that I was the only one hurt. I knew for a near fact that K.C. wasn't.

Thinking about it, though, Jessica was hurt too. Now K.C. is sure of his sexuality and it does not include her. She does not yet know this, because, to my knowledge, my former boyfriend has kept his sexual orientation hidden.

Because K.C. is sure of his sexuality, he is entering — I assume — the Gay "lifestyle" here at my college. And here that means joining the Gay Student Union and that means big, big changes for a lot of people, not the least of which is K.C. So I know that Jessica will be hurt. My former boyfriend will use the Silent Treatment or maybe just tell her — but she is going to be hurt either way.

Until now I had not realized how a relationship between two Gay guys could hurt a girl. Now, I am becoming aware. With K.C., I think Jessica is in for a rough



Morgan Summer

fall. It's pretty frightening.

It's odd...usually women are very supportive of Gay males. But I hadn't thought of this question; what if the girl is in love with the guy who comes out to himself? Will she be supportive? Will she not speak to him? Will she "blame" herself? If she has a lack of knowledge about Gays, as most non-Gays do, it is possible for her to feel guilty. Also, in this case, the arrogance and apathy that K.C. will probably project towards her — now that he has found some fuckbuddies — will hurt her even more.

This is not fair. Automatically I have to say that, of course, life isn't fair. This is one of the negative aspects of being Gay; hurting members of the opposite sex. This could be a unique example, but I don't think so. There could be Jessicas all over, secretly in love with a male who she does not know is Gay. This is especially possible at high school or at college...where youth is and where feelings are good for the day or night, at best.

Last semester I had the infamous English 101 course and in it I was assigned to read a story by William Faulkner titled "A Rose for Miss Emily." A student asked why the story was named such, because no rose is mentioned? My professor explained that when a scholar asked Faulkner himself about the title, the writer said that the story itself was the rose. It was a tribute.

So it is with this column. Jessica will never see it, but it is to her, from me, a tribute of sorts. To women who care and also to those women who care, but are hurt, regardless. To Jessica.

To Jessica Lyn.

## Beer Town Badgers Enjoy Hospitality of Chicago Bar Crawl

By Ronn Snodgrass

A new event in the Milwaukee Gay community was sponsored by the Beer Town Badgers and the Boot Camp Saloon on Saturday night, March 11, 1989.

That night saw a Bar Crawl to Chicago for the Leather/Levi enthusiasts of Milwaukee. Most participants arrived early to indulge in a few cocktails before leaving the Boot Camp Saloon, so when the bus arrived, the group was full of spirits and ready to enter into the adventure of the Chicago Leather scene.

Leaving promptly at 8:00 p.m., and almost leaving one of the Beer Town Badgers standing in the parking lot, the scenic "cruiser" headed out on to the free-way. More libations were provided to keep up the group's stamina and to encourage the Brotherhood of the event. Some of Badgers provided "aisle" entertainment as Ronn Snodgrass worked the aisle passing out drinks. Thank God, the driving was left to someone else!! By the time the tour had reached the state line (Illinois — Watch Out!!!), one member of the group had been dubbed the "Trash Lady" and to the calls of "Trash Lady, Trash Lady", made his way up and down the center aisle gathering cans and other loose trash.

Arriving in Chicago at the "correct" time for early cocktail hour, the bus glided up to the doors of the first bar on the tour. This was, of course, Little Jim's on Halsted Street with its warm atmosphere of early drinkers and interesting movies. The management greeted us at the door and made sure that drinks were served by two courteous and cute bartenders..

Several members of the group slipped out to visit Christopher Street and Buck's, two other neighborhood bars worth looking into. If you'd like to see a hot MAN in a small package, be sure to check out the bartender at Buck's — a real fur-burger in a baseball hat and all under five foot five!!

Ever on duty, Si Smits, the Badgers

Club Treasurer, pushed and prodded the group, reminding them the next bar awaited. So, it was off to Bulldog Road on Broadway. David, the bartender at the front bar, continued the hospitality that Chicago is really noted for. His friendliness is always a treat.

Now it was time to head for the legendary Touche's — THE Leather Bar in Chicago. The group bounced out of the bus and into the bar as though they hadn't had a drink in weeks.

Touche's proved no disappointment. Men, men everywhere...and all that LEATHER! The time was short and there was so much to do with the downstairs bar, the upstairs bar, the patio and the back-room. How any two men could find time to play pool upstairs is anyone's guess, but even with all those MEN, a game still went on.

When it came time to leave, many things had been exchanged with the local men. You know, like glances, addresses and...well, you know Leathermen?! Upon leaving the management passed out souvenir flashlights. THANK YOU TOUCHE'S

The final stop of the morning was Carol's Speakeasy. A huge dance bar with a smaller Leather bar in the rear is the easy description, but that would never cover all the wonderful music and hot, hot men who filled the bar at those wee hours. Doesn't anyone in Chicago work on Sunday?

You would think that by now there was nothing left to do, but the bus trip back provided more entertainment and merriment by a group of Badgers and their guests who didn't NEED SLEEP YET???

Michael Mahoney, President, Beer Town Badgers, and Si Smits, owner, Boot Camp Saloon, would like to thank all those who participated in the Crawl, as well as the kindness of the Chicago bars who allowed us to enjoy their bars, their city and, of course, their MEN.

## RESURRECTION Continued from Page 4

23-25); the widow of Nain's son rose from the dead (Luke 7:11-15); and Lazarus rose from the dead (John 11:43-44). All of these people rose from the dead and all did so before Jesus. So why give such importance to the event? By the time Jesus rose from the dead this was a rather common occurrence. Moreover, people not only rose before Jesus, but after him as well. Peter raised Tahitha and Paul raised Eutychus.

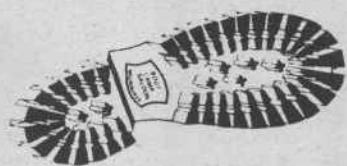
If this is raised to a Christian, the answer might be that all of the above-mentioned people died once again, but Jesus never died again. However, the Bible says no such thing. Paul said its the "resurrection" per se, that matters. The allegation that Jesus did not die again has no significance in the matter. If the Christian was asked to cite a passage that

would justify his contention he would not be able to do so for there is no such passage.

Finally, this would be contradicted by the Old Testament. Enoch and Elijah never died. See Gen. 5:22-24 and 2 Kings 2:11. Elijah went directly to heaven — he did not die first.

Thus, there is virtually nothing that Jesus did that had not been done before. Assertions alone prove nothing. A good look at the Bible will show that Jesus did nothing that substantiates his credentials as the Savior, that others did not do before him.

In some of our future columns we'll discuss the fallacies of other Christian contentions concerning the credentials of Jesus as Messiah and Savior. We'll also demonstrate clearly the danger in relying upon the words of Paul as compared to those of Jesus himself.



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# The Light LIVELY ARTS



Canadian folk artist, Heather Bishop performs on March 24 at Milwaukee's War Memorial Center.

## Folk Singer Heather Bishop Performs March 24th in Milwaukee

By Barb Coyle

Heather Bishop is a Canadian folk artist and she is coming to Milwaukee on March 24 to perform at the War Memorial Center. This concert is the second in a series featuring Canadian musicians sponsored by Full Moon Productions.

Heather's music reflects her high political consciousness. She was a strong protester against the Vietnamese War and that awareness, sensitivity and idealism is reflected in her music. She is, in fact, one of the few musicians whose lyrics deal with incest, abuse and racism. She is an open Lesbian which is, I think, refreshing, especially in a time when the shift of artists in "women's music" seems to be toward genderless songs — an attempt, perhaps, to gain wider market acceptance.

Heather's newest album, "Walk That Edge," should be available at the concert. I have been told by Joan Miller her long-time manager, that is a "folk album with a bluesy, country western

flavor. It is on *Mother of Pearl Records*, Heather's own label.

I've had a chance to see Heather, both in Bloomington and here in Milwaukee in 1987. She is a vibrant performer with a dynamic energy that gathers her audience to her and holds them in her spell. A part of that is, I think, that she plays to the little kid in you which comes out, for example, when she leads the concert hall in a rousing ode to bellybuttons.

She leaves no questions unanswered. There is no room for speculation as she sings, "I wanna be seduced...I want a woman to take me out to dinner for two..."

One of my favorites concerns the risks of a personal relationship. It's called "Yukon Rain" and sings about making a fool of myself and "counting on our friendship to see us through this one."

Heather Bishop is a seasoned performer with a rich voice singing brand new material. What better combination for predicting a great concert? Hope to see you there.

## MMFG Plans Game Night

Metro Milwaukee Friendship Group (MMFG) will be sponsoring a night of board games for its members in April. Traditionally sponsoring dinners, theatre and movies, MMFG's "games" night will be an exciting new activity for the group. "We are constantly getting suggestions for new events," commented Dave Glenn, a member of the activities and planning committee. "A games night is the perfect forum for our members to get acquainted in a non-pressure setting." Games night will be held on April 22.

For the second month in a row, MMFG will be creating a "theme" for its monthly meeting. The party they are inventing involves transforming a member's house into the City of Lights, complete with Eiffel Tower. This "April in Paris" party commences on the 8th at 7:00 p.m. Members are requested to wear appropriate Parisian attire.

Back by popular demand, this month's dinner is a return engagement to one of MMFG's favorite Chinese restaurants. Members have always enjoyed ethnic dinners, but Asian eateries seem to attract the largest crowds. The repast is on April 20 at 7:00 p.m.

If you would like to attend an activity or want more information about the group, please write to MMFG, P.O.Box 93203, Milwaukee, WI 53203.

### AZT

#### Continued from Page 1

Disease Control (CDC) colluded with the poppers industry in 1983 by issuing a report which falsely claimed that a mouse study had exonerated poppers from being "immunotoxic."

All that is over now. No doubt some Gay men will be unable to break the habit and will continue to consume black market poppers. But no longer can poppers be presented as harmless "room odorizers" or as an accepted part of the Gay male lifestyle.

## British Humour Invades Repertory and Skylight Theatre Stages

By Geno

[Milwaukee]- We talk of British humor, but just what is it? Well, currently there are two shows in town which are prime examples of this genre, yet they are totally different. "Good Evening" with Montgomery Davis and William Leach at the Stackner Cabaret of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater (MRT) presents the antic side of British humor, much of it dependent upon putting a reverse spin on reality.

These two pros, Davis and Leach, exploit British eccentricity, the off-center situations, characters and language that the late Kenneth Williams did so outrageously in "Pieces of Eight" (e.g. "Eunuchs are the ones with no humps, aren't they?"). It's the dithery, dotty side of the British character that comes out on "Red Nose Day" when millions of Britons, including the royal family, put on shiny plastic noses.

"Oh Coward" at the Skylight Comic Opera, on the other hand, typifies the other side of British humor. Designed to showcase stylish dramas, sophisticated songs and witty repartee of Noel Coward, it offers a worldly-wise, smart comedic style with a subtext of sexuality, much of it with a clever Gay appeal.

Peter Cook and Dudley Moore wrote "Good Evening," and several sketches in the MRT program have been added from "Beyond the Fringe," the '60's revue in which Cook and Moore also had a hand. Monty Davis who directed the Cabaret production plays the chubby, brash member of the duo; he is very good at British lower class dialects, sings a bawdy Elizabethan madrigal with much winking and smirking and plays an unimpressed shepherd who was present at the Nativity. "The stable was all mucky."

Leach, in contrast, plays the proper upper class toff, stiff upper lip and all, with consummate poise. Both actors, without missing a beat, slyly ring the

changes on humor which is characterized by irrelevance, inane repetitions and non sequiturs. Fast paced throughout, it's a fun show.

The drawing room comedy of "Oh Coward" is presented with sheer energy by a youthful foursome. They sing, dance, recite poetry and enact scenes from Coward plays and musicals, even play the maracas for "Nina from Argentina." Steven Hauck is urbane and debonair and at times has the whimsical air of a P.G. Wodehouse anti-hero; his rendition of "Don't Put Your Daughter on Stage, Mrs. Worthington" is echt Coward.

Hauck and Traci Lyn Thomas capture the requisite air of leisure class ennui and deliver the brittle dialogue oh so convincingly. Court Whisman's suave manner and tenor voice are engaging, and his rendition of "Alice is at it Again!" is hilarious though he has a tendency to lost the British accent. Melinda MacDonald tends to belt songs a la Broadway and this simply is not the Noel Coward touch. Her true metier comes out in Coward's satiric portrait of a mid-western matron in Paris talking on the phone with a minimum knowledge of French.

Some highlights include the singing of "I've Been to a Marvelous Party", "Mad About the Boy", and an updated version of "Let's Do It." The scenes from "Private Lives," "Blithe Spirit" and "Design for Living" are welcome reminders of Coward's brilliance as a playwright. "Design for Living" wherein Leo and Otto love Gilda and Gilda loves both Otto and Leo and Leo and Otto love one another was very daring for the '30's, but it still rings true today.

"Good Evening" and "Oh Coward" both run through April 9, so there's time to join in either or both "Marvelous Parties." For more information or to order tickets, phone (414) 224-9490 for the Rep and phone (414) 271-8815 for the Skylight.

## Galano Club Plans Move To New Location April 1st

The Galano Club of Milwaukee, a Gay, drug and alcohol free recovery club, is moving to a new location as of April 1, 1989. The new facility is located at 2408 N. Farwell. Larger space needs along with security concerns and long-term stability were cited as factors influencing the decision to move.

The Galano Club currently houses close to twenty Gay A.A., N.A. Al-Anon and

other 12-step recovery meetings, along with numerous social and fundraising events. The move will not disrupt the regular schedule of meetings, which will move with the club to the new location.

The Galano Club has been at its present location, 1428 N. Farwell, for nearly three years and will maintain regular operating hours there until March 31. For further information, call (414) 276- 6936.




### Academy Awards Party

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## Faith and Reason Confronted With "Agnes of God" at Clavis Theatre

By Terry Boughner

It is a struggle between faith and reason brought to confrontation on the stage in John Pielmeier's play, "Agnes of God" to be performed by Milwaukee's Clavis Theatre Ensemble under the direction of Ted Altschuler.

It's a battle that is as old as history and as new as tomorrow. It goes on in each of us as we try and interpret our world in terms of the never dying hope of a nexus with things unseen.



Agnes in "Agnes of God"

"That's the way it should be," Altschuler says leaning forward in his chair. He is an intense young man, a New Yorker come to Milwaukee four years past where, he says, "I can be an artist."

"What happens on stage," he continues, "is what happens in the newspaper. You don't enter the theatre and leave the world behind. 'Agnes of God' deals with the questions of reason and faith and that's as contemporary as anything."

He sits back, turning his head to look out the windows set high in the wall of the rehearsal room. Beyond, a late Winter storm howls in cold, white fury as if it would deny with all of the force at its command, the coming wonder of Spring and resurrection. It is a fitting setting to be discussing "Agnes of God." Isn't that what the play is all about; the chill of the intellect confronting the regenerative

### Pinter Play At Boulevard

(Milwaukee)- The Boulevard Ensemble will close out its 1988-89 season when it presents Harold Pinter's "Old Times" at the Boulevard Theatre, 2250 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., in the Bayview section of Milwaukee.

"Old Times" will be presented April 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30 and May 5-7. All shows begin at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$8 for Friday and Saturday performances and \$7 for Sunday performances.

"Old Times" will close out the Ensemble's third season of presenting exciting, thought-provoking theatre to Milwaukee audiences. This season, the Ensemble also presented "A Mamet Manual," a collection of plays by David Mamet and Nikolai Gogol's "The Government Inspector."

For more information about the Ensemble and its current production, call Mark Bucher, the General Director, at (414) 672-6019.

### Debbie Davis Tours State

Debbie Davis will be performing in concert, "Obsessions of a Queer Nature."

Davis, a Milwaukee native, is wide-famed for her ability to mix genres from testimonial to vaudeville to create a feminist, circus-based performance art. In "Obsessions of a Queer Nature" Davis, Dawn Kaiser who hails from Madison Jennifer Miller and Dominique Dibbell will be offering a womenly

possibility of miracles?

Key to the drama, of course, is the young nun, Agnes, played by Amy Zeh. It is Sr. Agnes who gives birth to the doomed child. As Zeh sees Agnes, "it is a miracle, an angel come down" from God. Zeh explains this with a gentle calm and soft expression that bespeak a fine actress involved deeply in her role. He demeanor is in sharp contrast to the storm beating against the windows.

That meeting of the human and the divine, as has happened with others in myth and history, is the nun's downfall, Zeh explains. Her experience with God, with the searing Love that is God, is both her apotheosis and her destruction.

Outside the storm continues to rage and seems to pick up strength.

The Mother Superior of Agnes's convent must marshal her faith to assimilate this. Kay Knudsen who plays Mother Superior, sees her as far removed from the simplistic, almost virginal innocence of Agnes. She has come to terms with her faith, but it is not an unquestioning, unthinking acceptance. Unlike the great mystics of the Church, she possesses a broad worldliness.

Knudsen's large eyes are warm with intensity as she discusses her role. Mother Superior has about her, says Knudsen, "the elements of the mother earth." Her "instincts are very natural, very female." It is with these that she confronts the birth and death of the child and from these reserves she draws, as from a well, her hard-gathered faith and determination to protect Agnes.

It is the psychiatrist to whose lot it falls to investigate the child's death, who provides what Altschuler sees as the central conflict in the play. She is not simply an ex-Catholic. She is, as Altschuler sees her, a person who has remained a Catholic while dropping that faith in favor of the religion of reason. It is she, Altschuler says, who, in the conflict presented by the playwright, changes.

"Agnes of God" is not simply a play about science vs. religion. Altschuler, Zeh, Knudsen and the other artists who are creating it, see it as a disturbing drama that offers a mix of humanism and religion that raises questions about the acceptability of faith in this day and age. It is a work that leads us to see that the storm in every soul rages there because of the weaknesses in both faith and reason.

"Agnes of God" will be presented at the Clavis Theatre, 2239 N. Prospect Ave. It will run from March 24-April 30. Believe me, having met with some of the people involved, having discussed their work with them, this is a **must see** play.

performance art, circus, verbiage and dance from the Lesbian ghettos of Milwaukee, Madison and Brooklyn. "Obsessions of a Queer Nature" has been described as "an evening of healing raucousness" and is not to be missed.

"Obsessions of a Queer Nature" will be in Madison at the Oakwood Village Theater, 6209 Mineral Point Road, April 1; in Milwaukee at the Art Muscle Studio, 909 W. National Ave, April 7-8 and in Chicago at the Randolph St. Gallery, 756 N. Milwaukee Ave., April 14-15. The time for all performances is 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.

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## Attractive Sunday Brunches Found at Reasonable Prices

By Bob Melig

Downtown Milwaukee offers some attractive and interesting late Sunday morning brunches. With the coming of Spring, you might want to take advantage of some. Here are a few that a friend and I have checked out recently.

We avoided the Hyatt, Wyndham and the Pfister since those are the first places folks think about. Instead, we concentrated on some you might overlook.

### Lake Park Pavilion

Great setting overlooking Lake Michigan. There's a porch and a cascade of stone steps leading down from the tall bluff on which the Pavilion stands. Or you might try the main room and overlook the golf course.

Couples come with Sunday morning papers to have breakfast, sit on the porch, drink coffee, and watch the sailboats and freighters move across the glass-like lake. No one hurries you. Breakfasts are inexpensive and it's most relaxing.

If you're not partial to paper plates and plastic forks, you'll not like it here, but that aside, the simple atmosphere and relaxation are worth the short trip. It is located at 3133 E. Newberry Blvd.

### Cudworth Post 23 of the American Legion

On 1756 N. Prospect Avenue overlooking the Lake again. You get a real brunch here at reasonable rates. It is busy, more formal than the Pavilion, but the food is good and there's a nice variety.

### Pieces of Eight

I've had a distinct bias against eating here, but friends urged us to try the brunch. Wow! What a difference.

Three different alcoves are filled with tables piled high with different kinds of food. In addition to the standard breakfast items prepared to your order by attentive chefs, there is every conceivable item from custom omelet to strawberry and cream waffles along with the trimmings, hashbrowns, sausages, bacon strips, etc.

The second alcove has all you can eat crablegs, smoked salmon, as well as every kind of salad. The seafood is heaped high on long counters and they never run out.

The third alcove is a room with hot pastas and wonderful sauces, tiny meatballs and roast beef sliced to your desire.

Breads, coissants, rolls and Danish, hot, fresh and aromatic, are arranged on side tables that form the center area between the three main food locations. Champagne is served at your table as well as a variety of Sunday morning drinks.

Pieces of Eight is very busy. The brunch runs about \$14.95 per person, but what a surprising delight from this restaurant that usually gets grudging reviews. They are located at 550 N. Harbor Dr.

### Benjamin's II

I've never thought of this restaurant for breakfast, but we tried it one morning and found a delightful reception and menu.

I had the Super Hopple-Popple and my friend tried the potato pie. Great! We had a choice of exotic omelets and belgian waffles with strawberries and cream along with a wide variety of other entrees. All these sounded wonderful, but where else can you get Hopple-Popple? The regular luncheon menu is available, of course, if that suits your fancy better. Try it. The costs are moderate as always. It is located at 801 N. Cass.

### Park East

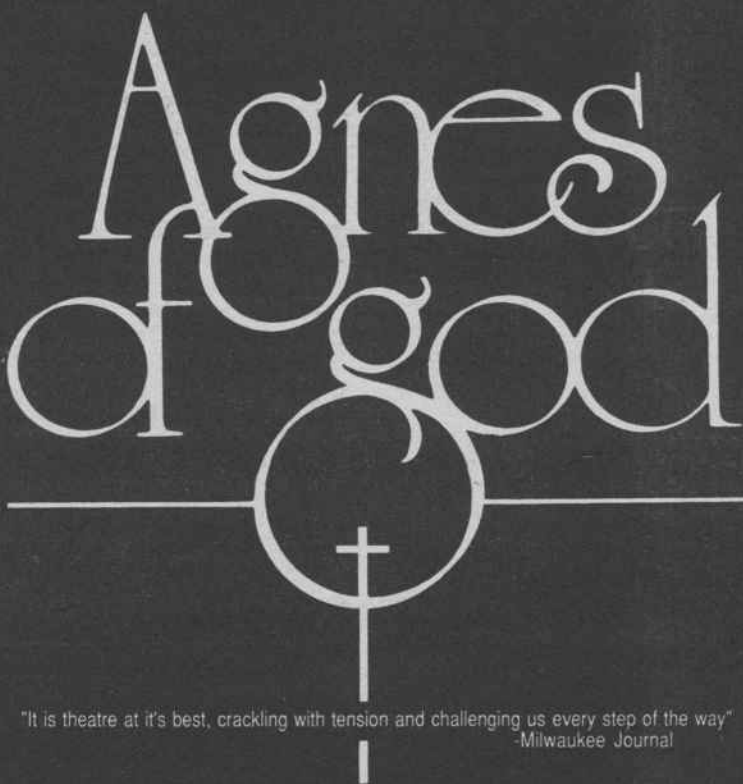
Think about the Park East Hotel and Eggs Benedict springs to mind even though they have a full breakfast menu. Let me say, however, that they serve the best Benedicts in town.

An atrium makes for pleasant dining in nice weather. Unfortunately, with an apartment building across the street, the view is limited.

Our only drawback was a disinterested waiter. He did his job well, but had no personality and was indifferent. Hopefully, the management will read this and coach the staff a bit. Otherwise it was an outstanding Sunday morning dining experience. The hotel is located at 915 E. State.

Don't overlook Ma Fishers, Big Boys, M&M's Glass Menagerie and the Oriental Drug Store.

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# MEDICALLY SPEAKING

## “Gays Against Drugged Sex” — Group Proposed

By Roger Gremminger, MD

In this column I would like to expand on the concept of a kinder, gentler society. I do not believe that government or politics can do anything much to bring this about. It is something that each and everyone of us must work on. Just what is this kinder, gentler society?

It is a society of individuals who have a deep and committed sense of compassion and caring for themselves and for others. It is a society which is moved, not by fear, judgment, prejudice, division, control or violence. It is a society which is moved by seeing what is, doing what is right, understanding others and being involved and moving beyond the small self-centered world we all tend to create around ourselves.

How does this translate into practical terms? There are some very interesting reports that are being published now which point to the fact that those individuals who test positive for HIV or who have been diagnosed with AIDS, are surviving longer when they can arrive at self-love and fill their lives with loving, supportive relationships. *USA Today* had a small article in it on February 23 which I would like to quote.

“For Christmas 1986, Bob Mehl got a leather jacket. A friend said it would be a shame he wouldn't get much wear out of it. Mehl—diagnosed with AIDS almost three years ago—happily told an audience this week, ‘I'm still wearing the jacket and it's been several Christmases since.’ Mehl attributes his long survival to self-love, volunteer work, a sense of humor and several drugs, including AZT which he has taken two years without side effects that plague many users.”

There was a recent report in *JAMA* [Journal of the American Medical Association] which reported a very similar phenomenon which love and supportive relationships and an other-directed concern can contribute to a longer, fuller life. But isn't this something that everyone would want — those infected with HIV as well as those who are not.

Thus, each and everyone of us can contribute to bringing about this radical change in society. But the hard thing is to actually do it because there are so many forces within society and within ourselves that block us from doing this and we all have to watch and observe what it is that stops this from happening.

An inner sense of conflict is one of the biggest stumbling blocks. We all, at times, have a sense of being not loved, abandoned, judged as bad individuals, wanting to be accepted, wanting to be judged as good. But we can never change this by making that all-out effort because society will never allow this to be. We get stuck in ourselves. A conflict which I suspect is very common is the attraction to other individuals, but the fear that if one had sexual contact with this person, one could contract HIV. Thus, there is the strong dichotomy between the pursuit of pleasure and the avoidance of pain.

But is there a way of living that goes beyond this pleasure/pain conflict? Pleasure and pain are both involved with the memory and thought. I had this experience in the past which was very hurtful, sad and uncomfortable and I don't want it to happen again. Can we live life without these overpowering memories? Can we participate in life fully with just what is going on right now between me and others, between me and my environment — the sun, the wind, the birds and trees, the lake, etc. It is a challenge; it is definitely a challenge.

So let's apply this to the bar situation. Many people go out to bars to be with people, to find someone to talk and visit with, to forget our sorrows, to deaden the pain. There is a sense of being unloved possibly or wanting some physical contact with another human being. But the reality is that alcohol and cocaine suppress the immune system and make a person more susceptible to becoming infected.

Secondly, under the influence of either, a person loses control of their inhibitions and gets careless in the indulgence of sex — another way a person can get infected.

Thirdly, especially with cocaine, if the person has a heavy habit, there is the constant threat that if it is available only through needle sharing, at some point in time, the strong craving will lead the



Roger Gremminger, MD

person to share even dirty needles. This, of course, is another way to get infected. This whole situation spells trouble and, in fact, in Chicago as many as one third of the substance abusing population is already infected with HIV. We don't know for sure what is happening in Milwaukee yet, but we have to be very careful.

I propose for a kinder, gentler society that we start a group called “Gays Against Drugged Sex” — GADS. The group would not be opposed to going to bars and meeting people. The group would not be opposed to physical contact. The group would not be opposed to friendship and loving relationships. But the group would only be opposed to having sex with a person who is high on cocaine or drunk or compromised by any drug. The person who is under the influence of some drug is still worthy of love and affection, but cannot be a partner in a sexual encounter. The risks are simply too great.

If this type of approach becomes the custom and expected norm of those who go out to the bars, perhaps many infections with HIV can be avoided. I especially would hope that the youth who are just coming to grips with their sexuality could hold strongly to such a conviction.

What will this take? We all have friends who have trouble with drug problems. We all have friends who are not yet in a settled sexual relationship. We all share in the very real and gripping conflicts of good and bad dichotomies. So, can we all get involved and educate the youth, lend a helping hand to those with drug problems, show others that someone in this world truly cares? Can we give a loving hug to the person infected with HIV or diagnosed with AIDS? Can we reach out to the person who has withdrawn and isolated him/herself because of pain, depression and fear? The answer rests with each and every one of us. Can society become a kinder, gentler place to live?

I wish everyone well. So, eh, GADS, let's get on with life.  
Love, Roger.

## Motorcyclists for Parade Needed

[Madison]- GALVANize, the Gay and Lesbian Visibility Alliance, is looking for motorcyclists to ride in the Lesbian and Gay Pride and Civil Rights March in Madison, Wisconsin on Saturday, May 6th. Both individuals and groups are encouraged to ride. Bikers should wear a lavender armband and assemble at the State Capitol at 2:30 p.m. You may be able to park your bike on the Capitol Square if you wish to attend the rally before the March. To find out, or for more information, call Nancy (608) 244-6595 and leave your name and address or phone and we'll get back to you.

A party with entertainment (including the Lesbian Band, “Life Lines” from Washington, D.C.) will follow the March. The party will be held at James Madison Park on the lake.

Straight friends, people of color, parents, bisexuals and all supporters are encouraged to join the March.

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## Violence Against Gays Continues On Milwaukee Streets

[Milwaukee]- It happened again, but this was neither the first time nor terribly enough, will it be the last.

Randy had left C'est La Vie, a Milwaukee bar on South Second Street. It was about 1:30 a.m. Suddenly, he saw a van pull up and men leap out. Before he could do anything, or even think what to do, the men had grabbed someone and begun to beat him.

The victim finally escaped his assailants and stumbled into the nearby Phoenix bar. Randy followed him and found the young man in the bathroom.

It happened only recently. The memory is still engraved on Randy's mind. He can still see him, a young man, only 24, his head gashed, a gaping hole in one cheek, his lower lip severed and hanging down, blood all over his face.

Randy took the guy to St. Luke's hospital. The doctor, Randy said, was very sympathetic. “He asked me if I would hold his (the victim's) hand to calm him.” Randy did as the medico stitched his face back together again.

Afterward, since the young man did not want to return home, Randy took him to his home where he and his roommate took turns taking care of him.

Paul is standing nearby as Randy tells his story. He's a big man, someone who few would want to fool with but, as he said, he's seen plenty.

In February he was driving past La Cage, late, when he saw a “kid” who had come from the bar, getting beat up. Paul didn't stop.

“It's a regular thing,” he said. “There are guys cruising up and down Second Street to National, always the same old cars, always around closing time.” If they see someone walking alone, “they stop and try to entice the person into their car.”

Other reports reaching us substantiate what Paul said. According to these reports, several similar looking cars and vans have been seen prowling the area from Water Street to National always around bar closing time. Sometimes the assaults are verbal, shouting epithets, etc. But there are also the cases such as Randy experienced.

According to several reports, some of the attackers may be involved with gangs who require that a prospective member “beat up a queer” before they can join.

As we have said before, take all possible precautions. Do not walk alone and watch out for your friends. Don't be the next victim.

If you know of an incident of either verbal or physical abuse, report it to the police and to *Wisconsin Light*. The one thing these thugs who prey on us *don't* want is publicity. By using the media, you can help put a stop to these crimes.

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# U.S. Government's Disregard for AIDS Parallels Nazi Holocaust

By Bill Meunier

With the fiftieth anniversary of the outbreak of World War II approaching in September of this year, there has been renewed interest in the events and causes of that great conflagration. In the fall of last year, for example, there were solemn observances of the official beginning of the Jewish Holocaust.

As a Gay and Lesbian community, we have much to learn from the Jewish experience as we attempt to come to grips with our own Gay Holocaust, not only in the 1930's and 40's at the hands of the Nazis, but in the 1980's at the hands of our own American government.

I know that that last sentence probably has turned off a good number of people who read this paper. That is most unfortunate, especially since one of the most important lessons we can learn from the Jewish experience in Germany is not to ignore the reality of what is happening to us.

There were many Jews in Germany who chose not to believe what was happening to them until it was too late. They thought that only the so-called "troublemakers" — those who chose not to grovel, but to organize against the Nazis and/or openly continue the practice of their faith — would be harmed. They couldn't or wouldn't believe that the country they loved would be so cruel to them.

In much the same way, we have many American Gays and Lesbians who as good, productive citizens, can't bring themselves to accept the truth of what is happening to their community.

Our government has not opened up camps nor built gas chambers for us, but just as the Nazis set out to deliberately destroy the Jews of Europe, our government has set out to deliberately destroy us by letting AIDS do the work.

Anyone who believes otherwise should get a copy of Randy Shilts' book, *And the Band Played On*, and read, among other things, the memos sent between Reagan Administration officials ordering the denial of the existence of AIDS.

Just as many German Jews were convinced by the Nazi's soothing statements that they were in no danger until it was too late to escape, many Gays believed our government's statements that they were in no danger.

The Jews in Germany were a despised part of the population, being called, "subhumans" who were pushing their values off on "decent people."

Today, we see the unadulterated hatred many hold towards us. At a Right Wing conference in Chicago, it was said from the podium that thanks to AIDS, most, if not all, of us would be dead in five years. Hundreds of "decent" people stood and cheered. Even the organizers were shocked. Many Americans see us as child molesters, people interested only in sex, people that no "self-respecting" person would have anything to do with.

There were Jews in Germany who, with pride and self-respect, fought back. But far too many bought the Nazi line. Why? Out of hopelessness, fear or the belief that there really was nothing to be afraid of. Then too, any Jew who stood up was likely to be criticized from within his/her own community. "Don't make trouble and they'll leave us alone."

Today, there are similar attitudes in the Lesbian/Gay community. Recently, Miriam Ben-Shalom appeared on the Sally Jesse Raphael Show. Speaking about this, a man I know told me that a friend of his was disgusted by Miriam's appearance. Miriam, said the friend, had no business telling the Army she was a Lesbian and that in so doing, she had brought her problems on herself.

If the friend reads this, I want him to know the contempt in which I hold him. I know the agony and suffering Miriam has experienced. Her fight is an act of greatest courage and only through such acts will we ever achieve equality.

Unfortunately, far too many of us agree with "the friend." If you march, demonstrate, propose legislation or even walk down the street holding your lover's hand, you're a "troublemaker" bringing the wrath of society down upon us.

It is ironic that many of those who call themselves Gay or Lesbian condemn the actions of those of us who attempt to fight when courage and the willingness to fight

back are our only hope.

The parallels between ourselves and the Jews in Germany are close, far too close. Daily we experience random acts of violence as did they prior to Kristalnacht, the beginning of the Holocaust. Where is the popular outcry? Where are our public officials and community leaders when we need them to denounce these attacks?

Even when non-Gays have been victimized because of AIDS, our leaders have been silent. When the home in Florida was burned because of two hemophiliac children who had contracted AIDS, did Ronald Reagan condemn that act of violence? He did not. Christians in Germany and throughout Europe could have helped the Jews, could have prevented the Holocaust had they chosen to do so. Some did, in fact, help, but there were far too few of them. For the many there was only fear and even a sharing of Nazi hatred of Jews that led them to turn their backs.

Today we see much the same thing. There are the "fag jokes" at work, politicians who "sympathize" with us but fear the political consequences of open support. Like many of the Jews of Germany, we sit today with our heads in the sand.

What the Nazis did was fueled by pure hatred bred into its perpetrators by years of well-taught myths and stereotypes. These same types of things are being taught about us today.

In Nazi Germany, untold thousands of us joined the Party, the SA and the SS for the prestige or because they thought they would be safe from the doom Hitler had pronounced on them. In the same fashion today, there are Gays and Lesbians concerned about the latest styles, the hottest bar, the newest hit single than they are about the fate of their own people.

Even worse are Lesbians and Gays who support our enemies in the hope that they will be protected. This, among other reasons, is how they justify their support of Reagan, Bush and others even though there can never be any justification for supporting those who want us to die.

Many of the Jews of Germany believed that an accommodation could be reached with their oppressors who, in turn, denied what they were doing. Reagan-Bush have told us they are doing everything possible to help us. But even the Federal Government's own figures tell us that for every PWA there are 10 who are suffering with ARC. In the meantime, the Centers for Disease Control has restricted the definition of AIDS to keep the public from knowing how widespread the disease really is.

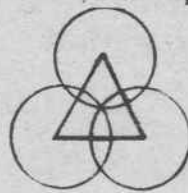
The AIDS epidemic is a holocaust for us just as certainly as what was done in the Nazi Death Camps. Both are the result of government policy. But there are differences. We have access to the media. We can organize freely. We can use the political process to vote our enemies out of office.

We all must realize that spreading myths about us directly feeds anti-Gay/Lesbian violence and makes it more difficult for us to get the resources needed to fight AIDS. Let the media know that we are tired of letting those who hate us spread their vile doctrines. The mainstream press wouldn't print letters containing slurs about other minority groups. Yet they run syndicated columns by people like George Will who once wrote that government funds should not be used for AIDS research because it only benefits Gays and Drug Abusers who brought their plight on themselves.

You can have an impact. In Milwaukee, when Perry Stone, a "shock jock" on WQFM viciously attacked us, we fought back and he was fired. (He has just been booted off a station in San Francisco for verbally assaulting two little girls.)

Organize behind candidates who will support us. RISE UP! Contribute to their campaigns, volunteer and vote for them. When someone who thinks they are Gay or Lesbian talks about how AIDS sufferers brought it on themselves, RISE UP. Let them know they are not part of our community. When you hear someone talking about how the government is doing all that it can to fight AIDS, RISE UP. Tell them the facts. When you see an

TURN TO HOLOCAUST, PAGE 11



## Another View

By John Michael Roberts

A young man approached a group of people the other day. He explained his dilemma. He had been fired by a major company for being openly Gay. Where could he go for advice?

Out of six persons, no one could offer what he needed. I referred him to the ACLU as a starting point and then to a well known lawyer for more intense advice.

This anecdote illustrates the frustrations in our "all-volunteer" organizations. They exist as post office boxes and answering machines, but not as "real" entities with staff who know "what, where, when and how." That is to our community's detriment.

Madison has the United with counseling, funds and in-depth information. Why not the Milwaukee Community?

Who is going to put the funding together to finally move things along? I fear that no one will. It's a chicken and egg situation. Does an organization that is obviously in need of a trained staff person join with like organizations and develop

## Chicago Sets Pride Week Events

[Chicago]- The international theme for this year's Gay/Lesbian Pride celebrations is "Stonewall 20: A GENERATION OF PRIDE." In keeping with this theme, Chicago's Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee has planned a week-long series of activities to begin on Friday, June 16 and conclude with the 20th annual parade on Sunday, June 25, 1989.

Other events already planned include the 8th Annual MSA Proud to Run 10K and one mile race; the Annual Interfaith Service, the MSA Chicago Pride Week Invitational bowling tournament.

The Pride Week Committee is now taking orders for 3'x 5' multi-color flags which, it is hoped, that each parade entrant will display prominently.

For more information, contact Richard Pfeiffer, Pride Committee Coordinator at P.O. Box 14131, Chicago, IL 60614 or call (312) 348-8243.

fund sources? Or does it wait to raise the funds in order to have a person? Does the Board of Directors make the conscious decision that the need exists and then go out, hire a staffer and with the member raise the funds necessary in a well planned coordinated and sophisticated manner?

Each option is a fiscally responsible position. One guarantees that it'll be years before even part-time staff is employed. The other takes a bold Board of Directors and presidential leadership to develop a sound case and reach out to the community.

The needs are clearly there. Where are the BOLD DIRECTORS we've endowed with our hopes? Maybe we need a few more younger leaders and a few less accountants on our Boards of Directors?

Some day the Pride Celebration, the Lambda Rights group, the Cream City Foundation, the Community Center, the Cream City Business Association and others will need to face up to their mandate. Let's hope it's before the turn of the Century.



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## SPORTS NEWS

### Orphans Win Volleyball League Championships

By Jerry Warzyn Sports Editor

Saturday, March 18, 1989 marked the conclusion of the Saturday Volleyball League (SVBL) Season with play-offs for division champions. Taking the A Division Title was the Orphans, who went undefeated in the double elimination tournament. They had a scare from the Your Place team, who finished second, when YP won the first game of the play-off match. However, Orphans regrouped after the loss to take the next two games and the title.

Winning the B Division Title was a scrappy team from This Is It. They handed two identical 15 to 10 defeats to the Beer Garden Team to win the division title. Beer Garden had advanced to the title match by defeating the Triangle team utilizing only 5 players. The Beer Garden, which recently closed its doors, opened

them for a short time to welcome its team.

The 1988-1989 Season of the SVBL was the most successful in league history. A record number of teams participated and many new players were introduced to the vagaries of volleyball. The GAMMA organization again sponsored the league and organized it in an excellent fashion.

While regular season play has concluded, volleyball addicts can get their fix on Thursday nights at GAMMA's Social Volleyball Night. Play begins at UW-Milwaukee's Englemann Gym at 8:00 p.m. at a cost of \$2.00 for non-GAMMA members. The gym is located at Hartford and Maryland on the UW-Milwaukee campus. Thursday volleyball offers the opportunity to all levels of players to hone their skills.

### MIL-MA-IDS Bowling Tournament Benefits Milwaukee AIDS Project

The annual MIL-MA-IDS (Milwaukee and Madison Against AIDS) bowling tournament is scheduled for Saturday, April 15, 1989 in Milwaukee. This tournament is a fundraiser this year for the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) with proceeds designated for direct patient support for financial assistance, recreational enjoyment, needs and wishes for people living with AIDS. The event alternates each year between Milwaukee and Madison.

The tournament utilizes a 9 pin tap format. For those not in the know, this means that hitting 9 pins with the first ball is considered a strike for scoring purposes. Each bowler is assigned a handicap based on prior year's average or blind, enabling almost any bowler to achieve a high score in the tournament.

The event will be held at the Red Carpet Lanes- South Park, located at 305 N. Chicago Ave. in South Milwaukee, beginning at 1:00 p.m. sharp. The alleys can be found by taking Drexel Ave exit east to Chicago Ave., then heading north to the lanes.

The entry fee is \$20 which covers cost of bowling, a buffet, prizes and donation for MAP. For more information, contact Jeff Clark c/o Alpha Composition, 144 N. Water St., Milwaukee, WI 53202, or telephone Bob Gliniecki at (414) 278-8686 or Steve Steinhauer at (414) 265-6188. Entries are limited to 240 bowlers so enter now.

This annual tournament is a fun time for all participants and serves a good cause. Please plan to attend.

### Milwaukee Saturday Softball League Season Opens April 29

With Spring just around the corner, the Saturday Softball Beer League (SSBL) of Milwaukee is planning its 1989 season. Opening date set for Saturday, April 29 at the fields located to the east of the Milwaukee Domes in Mitchell Park. 12 teams have signed to play this year in three divisions. There will be a women's division, an open division and a competitive division. Winning teams from each division will compete in the Gay Softball World Series to be held in Atlanta in August.

Commissioner of the SSBL this year is Lou La Sorta of Milwaukee. He states that there are several new teams in the league this year and expects the competition to be good. Women's Commissioner is Pat La Sorta also of Milwaukee. Thus far there are four teams entered in the Women's Division. Players are needed for all teams. Interested people should contact a team sponsor or manager. In the alternative, you can call Lou La Sorta at (414) 672-6866 (Men and Open Division Teams) or Pat La Sorta at (414) 744-1288 (Women's Division).

SSBL is sponsoring a league fundraiser scheduled for April 29th at the Wreck Room. The fundraiser includes the SSBL Lotto. Tickets for the Lotto can be purchased from any team member for \$1. The winning number(s) split the pot with SSBL.

SSBL recently voted to support the Gay Pride Celebration scheduled in June. The officers will recommend various ways to participate in the celebration.

The following teams have entered the league as of March 19, 1989.

#### Competitive Division

Ballgame  
This Is It  
Your Place

#### Open Division

CCF Foundation  
La Cage  
M&M Club  
Triangle  
Wreck Room

#### Women's Division

Fannies  
Jets  
M&M Club  
Station II

### In An Attempt to Become "Straight" Lands Him in Jail

By Keith Coley

Writing my feelings down on paper has never been easy for me. I was never one to be able to keep a diary. I was always terrified that someone would run across those private feelings which I had transposed onto paper. Although I'm nowhere near being a private person, I don't like just anyone being able to see into my head and heart.

But now is the time, I believe, to share some of these experiences. You see, I like to talk to people I meet in the bars. I even eavesdrop at times and what I hear gets me to thinking.

Too often, a topic I hear discussed is chasing "chicken." Many Gays are obsessed with youth as if getting it on with a much younger man could somehow make them feel younger, more virile. Unfortunately, this attitude is reflected and reinforced in Gay videos and literature.

Two years ago, I had moved back to my hometown in an attempt to make myself straight. I got a job in a small restaurant and a girlfriend as well.

There was this guy — a boy — who worked there. He was 16. I was 20. His name makes no difference, but from the day I started working, I caught him looking at me. I dismissed it as a subconscious fantasy. I had a girlfriend and that was that. Uh-huh. Yeah. Right.

After a couple of months, the kid began to suggest that we go party together. Finally, we made plans. He was going to get some buddies — make it more of a party that way — and there'd be no girls. This way, you see, we could really cut loose. Yeah, sure.

The big night came. I bought the booze and then picked him up from work. On the way to his place, he informed me that he hadn't invited anyone else. I knew what was going to happen and I know now that he did as well.

We went to a secluded spot he knew about and set out a blanket and the beer. We drank a lot in a short time and started talking. "Of course" our bantering led

us to wrestling. That's when I discovered he was aroused.

I stopped suddenly and looked into his eyes. His lust mirrored my own. I let my hand roam and it went from there. I was feeling somewhat guilty, so I asked him if he was sure if he wanted this to really happen. He did, so we did.

It was a week later that the sheriff showed up at the door. I wasn't home so my parents had the honor of being informed that I was going to be charged with sexual assault, rape, in other words.

My best friend talked his parents into letting me stay with them after I was kicked out of the house. They stood by me throughout the trial. Eventually, the felony sexual assault charge was dismissed because I proved I hadn't assaulted the kid. But I was found guilty of a misdemeanor of sexual misconduct with a minor. I spent 30 days in jail.

Gary, I don't know if you'll see this, but thank you. You were a great help and, yeah, a great friend too.

It's all finally behind me. The shame and guilt I felt took longer to deal with, but now I have. I hope my sharing this will help someone think *thrice* before giving into temptation. Even if the act is consensual, the kid may decide he's "not really that way" and was, therefore, seduced and can *anytime* afterwards prosecute.

I might add that the younger he is, the nastier it's going to be for you. Wisconsin does not recognize anyone under the age of 15 as being able to decide that they are ready for sex. Believe me, you do the crime, you *will* do the time! Eighteen is the law and even that is pushing it. Most kids that age can't handle sex, let alone anyone under that age.

If there is anyone who would like to write, whether because of having gone through a similar experience or young people who want someone they can write to, feel free to do so through *The Light*. Don't give in, be healthy and most of all, be happy.

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## Two Bus Loads of Milwaukeeans Visit Chicago Bars for Night of Fun

For those who read this and live outside the Upper Midwest, Halsted Street and

So, the next time that a bar crawl is announced, hey, take advantage, do yourself some good and go. Guaranteed you'll be exhausted when it's over, but you'll have yourself a BALL.



## CLASSIFIEDS

**Wisconsin's Largest Selection of Gay literature.** Four Star Fiction and Video located at 315 North Henry St., in downtown Madison. (608) 255-1994 Open 7 days; 10am-12pm.

The Jews of Germany probably couldn't have prevented their Holocaust no matter what they did. We are not in the powerless position they were. Let us learn from their experience. Those who ignore the past are condemned to repeat it. This time, let's not walk into their "gas chambers" of anti-Gay/Lesbian violence and AIDS willingly. If we must fall victim, let it be with our eyes wide open and fighting all the way.

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# TID-BITS

According to Michael Horne writing in the *Milwaukee Weekly*, there is only one illustration on the walls of the Milwaukee license bureau. It is that of a bar: the Wreck Room which survived the great fire of 1892. Horne advises his readers to "Drop in sometime and bring a friend who can handle big surprises." Well, the first part of that sentence we'd agree with anyway.

\*\*\*\*

Uncle Al, I promised that I would never, ney, no never mention fanny in this column. Oh heck, I almost didn't break my word.

\*\*\*\*

In the March, 1989 issue of *Cosmopolitan* magazine features a piece titled "What It's Like to be a Gay Women Now," a very well-written, myth-smashing piece on the Lesbian lifestyle today. If you like it, why not write *Cosmo* at 224 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019. Please mention *Wisconsin Light*.

\*\*\*\*

Milwaukee's Black and White Men Together will be hosting a workshop, "Hot, Horny & Healthy" on April 1, 1989 at the Foundation Community Center. It's open to all. AIDS and safe sex practices will be discussed. The workshop lasts from 10:00 am to 5:00 p.m. and includes lunch. For further info call Kim Sharp at

## Third-First Year Together Doing The Laundry, Cleaning and Shopping

By Reen

Living with my partner has been a wonderful, enlightening experience. They say the first year is the hardest and that is really true. We know because this has been our third-first year together. We break up and go back, break up and go back. But since we've just ended out third-first year together, I think we've got most of the problems worked out. It hasn't been easy, getting used to each other's idiosyncrasies.

For instance, she is very neat. I call her Mrs. Clean. When she does the laundry she washes everything. She even insists I take off all my clothes. She does the laundry more often than anyone I know. We do our laundry at home now. They won't let us into the laundromat anymore.

We share all the household chores, but she does most of the grocery shopping. I've learned to listen to all the bargains she got during the day, how much she saved using coupons. Of course I praise her thrifty shopping because I hate to shop. The only time I go shopping is late at night after we have spent a few hours in a bar. After a drink or two (I sell swamp land too) nothing bothers me. The problem is, there are only two of us and our cupboards could feed Mrs. Hubbard's crew for a year. She says, "You never know when we'll get snowed in." It's been twenty years since I can remember being snowed in, but at least we never run out of anything. It's nice having our own general store. We really do have everything. The problem is finding what we want. "Not to worry," she says. "If we can't find it, I'll go buy some more."

Ask our friends about toilet paper. We will never run out. When we helped her move, we had a separate truck load of toilet paper. She buys when there is a sale, whenever they have one, at every store in town. Her latest purchase was a glass pitcher, our fourth. The others somehow were not quite right for every occasion. "You never know when we might need it," she says.

I hate clutter so I say as long as we have the room I don't mind. You should see our basement. We have toilet paper and orange soda stacked to the ceiling. She recently acquired a taste for orange soda and was devastated to learn the company lost their franchise and it would soon be unavailable in the Milwaukee area. She cleaned out all the stores in town. But just to be sure we don't run out, she has her sister in Illinois bring a dozen twelve packs whenever she comes to town. Considering she drinks about four cans a week, we should be supplied until the year 2072.

I cook and she does the dishes. With her help, I have become a very fast reader. I have to in order to read the

(414) 421-4941 or Michael Lisowski at (414) 265-8500.

\*\*\*\*

A belated "Happy Nameday" to Joe at This Is It. That was March 18, St. Joseph's Day. All the best, Joe.

\*\*\*\*

The problem with most of our leaders, Gay or straight, is that when they speak, they subtract from the sum total of human intelligence.

\*\*\*\*

A dear old lady who is in her eighties, wrote this letter to a friend of mine, part of which is excerpted here. The names have been changed.

After going on at some length with all the family gossip, she writes, "Henry, my youngest son, went back to his father's birth certificate, took the French name, Moisoine, and as Henri Moisoine, he has a Mary Kay cosmetic shop — he is an R.N. — but gave up as an R.N. — too much tension. Henri and Tom rent a second floor apt. from Tom's mother. The Mary Kay office is in the basement. They have a nice bedroom with a next door bathroom (adjoining)."

The dear old soul writes in perfect innocence. She hasn't a clue, not a single one.

package directions before Mrs. Clean tosses it away. Now I must admit I am a clutz. I spill things and drop things. I've learned to quickly mop up my spills before I hear the "tsk, tsk" behind my back. I've also learned to guard my dinner plate. When she is finished eating she immediately starts clearing the table, whether I'm done or not. So I've learned to eat with one hand and hang on to my plate with the other.

When we first got together, she never hollered at me. One Summer day, I was outside in the garden while she was washing and waxing the floor. She told me not to step in the tar she had applied to some cracks. Of course, being a clutz, I stepped in it and tracked on the spotless, shiny floor. I tried washing it, but the only way I could get it off was to use kitchen cleanser. That took the tar off and also the wax. I figured I was really in trouble so I covered the spots with throw-rugs. Enter Mrs. Clean who wanted to know why the rugs were out of place. Then I confessed and was extremely relieved when she just shook her head and laughed. Of course, the newness has worn off and now I hear the "tsk, tsk" and "REEEEEEEN!" Or else, she just says, "Grace is at it again."

She likes to drive and I don't, so you know who ends up driving? She doesn't go the way I would though, so I usually tell her which route to take. For some reason, she doesn't care to hear this and then she tells me where to go (She never used to holler at me). The other day she took a wrong turn and said, "Why didn't you tell me?" Did I tell you how much gray hair I've gotten in this the third-first year?

Since she never used to holler at me, I've learned to keep quite about my mistakes. She never did notice the spot on the carpet where I dropped the hot iron. I told her the throw-rug was to protect the carpet.

It's been fun. Mrs. Clean and Grace are now going on their second-second year. We're use to each other. I've got to go now. She's calling me. It's time to do the laundry.

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## When Should Partners Be Told Of AIDS Virus Infection?

By Daniel G. Trzebiatowski

Should HIV sero-positive individuals assume the full responsibility for informing their sexual partners that they are infected with the AIDS virus?

My views regarding disclosure have changed considerably since the early stages of my diagnosis. In those days, since I was ashamed of being HIV positive, my primary concern was preventing others of being aware of that fact. I was afraid of the consequences; discrimination by insurance companies, housing authorities, landlords, some hospitals and doctors, neighbors and, most cruel of all, rejection by friends and family. I determined to try and protect my confidentiality at all costs.

Eventually, I decided to abstain from sexual encounters. But, after several months passed, I found it more and more difficult to refrain entirely from sex. I also felt that I shouldn't be expected to abstain as long as I took every precaution I could so as not to transmit my virus to my partners.

Returning to the social environment was a slow and difficult process. I still wasn't sure I was doing the responsible and ethical thing in not telling my partners I was a PWAV even though taking all precautions and practicing safe sex.

Then I started compromising, figuring that if I only participated in mutual masturbation, kissing, cuddling, etc., I shouldn't need to be concerned with disclosure, for I wasn't putting my partners in any dangerous situations and they weren't putting me in any. But, as time passed, not even this decision eased my guilt.

I then decided to drop all of my excuses, inhibitions and fears, concluding that the only way I was going to feel comfortable and responsible about my sex life was to let my sex partners know right up front that I was HIV positive.

I backed out of my decision several times, but finally carried through. The results were disappointing, but I felt good about me and I continued to do it. The results were the same. Guys would be diplomatic and considerate, but not willing to take the risk.

Then someone told me that I was approaching the situation negatively. I



Daniel G. Trzebiatowski

was disclosing the information with such a tone of shame and disgust that a potential partner could only take the news in a negative manner and be turned away.

In time, with much support from groups, family and friends, I came slowly to accept my body and me. I discovered I was still somebody! This didn't make disclosure all that much easier, but at least I was able to do so in a more positive way and not feel the deep-seated shame, fear and humiliation I had felt. If a guy decided not to get involved, I just accepted that as his right and respected it.

Sure, rejection does get to me at times. But then I say to myself, "It may be hard, but look at the quality people I am getting to know and I am feeling a lot better about me! I'm no longer ashamed of my body and that's the important thing."

I am no longer concerned with the disclosure dilemma. But what about you? In the initial stages of a relationship, not knowing whether it will develop into a sexual one, is it better to wait? We all know that, unexpectedly, intimate moments can do pop up.

I would like to hear from you, for, as I have said in this column, I would like to put together a book containing the experiences, thoughts and feelings of HIV positives and those of your friends and loved ones. All proceeds from this book will go to non-profit Wisconsin agencies offering support to the AIDS programs. Please sign all letters and manuscripts. Confidentiality is assured. Send all submission to me in care of this paper, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

## It's really very simple:

If you get syphilis by anal sex ... If you get syphilis by oral sex ...

Or if you're a woman and get syphilis vaginally ...

... the first symptom may be inside your body.

Once it's inside, the usual screening tests (VDRL or RPR) may never show it.

If you've had syphilis before, and been treated one or more times ...

... the usual tests (VDRL or RPR) may never again react to a syphilis infection, even a Big one.

If you've mixed sex and drugs and you remember, or don't remember having symptoms or being diagnosed, and/or it was a long time ago ...

## You may have syphilis.

You could have secondary, latent, or late staging syphilis — with all tests showing negative (VDRL, RPR, MHATP, FTA-Abs).

Chronic syphilis is a major, debilitating, complex disease which is a source of severe immune suppression.

You may not know it — until it looks like AIDS.

## Syphilis is the Great Imitator.

Syphilis can create symptoms like:

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## Find Out. Get Help. Do It Now.

The BASIS Project is a national program screening individuals who may have hidden syphilis. Participants enter a two to three month process of evaluation and testing — resulting in recommendations to them and to their physician.

The CDC (Center for Disease Control, Atlanta) and the BASIS Project assist the individual and their physician in evaluating hidden syphilis when ordinary blood tests are negative.

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