

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

The Wisconsin Light

Light Inside...

- **A TIME TO DIE XIV**
Brutal Death..... Page 2
- **RELIGIOUS OUTREACH**
Celibacy III..... Page 4
- **A BOY OF SUMMER**
Spring Break..... Page 5
- **ALYN HESS**
Remembered..... Page 6
- **LIVELY ARTS**
"A Shayna Maidel"... Page 9
- **POLITICALLY SPEAKING**
..... Page 12

Community Seeks Service Award Nominations

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee (ML/GPC) announced that it will establish a Community Service Award Program beginning with the 1989 Pride Celebration.

According to a Pride Committee spokesperson, the purpose of the award is to "acknowledge the person(s) or organization who has made a significant contribution toward the promotion, advancement and overall betterment of the Milwaukee area Gay/Lesbian community."

A special committee of Community leaders will be selected to review all eligible nominations. This committee will select the award-winning nominee. The Award will be presented at the First Annual Pride Rally on Saturday afternoon, June 17, 1989.

Nominations for the award should be submitted to the Pride Committee in writing no later than May 15, 1989. Nominations should be concise, typewritten (neat, legible handwriting acceptable) and must be accompanied by a separate sheet of paper on which is given the name of the nominee along with her/his address and phone number. The name, address and phone number of the person making the nomination must be included for verification purposes.

Nominations should be sent to: Community Service Award Program, Milwaukee Pride Committee, 225 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53204.

U.W. Given More Power Against Homophobia

Legislation to require the University of Wisconsin to adopt strict rules for disciplining students involved in acts of bigotry passed the State Assembly unanimously in March.

Assembly Bill 169, directs the UW Board of Regents to adopt an emergency administrative rule to discipline students who attack or threaten other students, guests or UW employees because of their sexual orientation, race, sex or other factors. It also allows action to be taken for discriminatory comments or conduct that creates an intimidating or hostile environment for university work.

The bill, to be acted upon by the State Senate during the week of April 24, would require the Board of Regents to adopt the emergency rule within 30 days of passage.

State Representative Spencer Coggs (D-Milwaukee) introduced the bill to force action by the University in the wake of several incidents motivated by bigotry at system campuses.

"This is a way of putting their feet to the fire," Coggs said.

Critics say the UW System has moved
TURN TO UNIVERSITY, PAGE 9

MAYOR NORQUIST PLANS MEETINGS TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY ISSUES



Jerry Johnson

Alyn Hess pictured at one of Milwaukee's first annual Pride Week activities in Sept. 1988.

Milwaukee Activist Alyn Hess Dies of AIDS Complications

By Eldon Murray

Alyn W. Hess, local and national Gay activist, died on Friday, March 31, 1989 at 11:10 p.m. of complications due to AIDS. Death occurred at Green Tree Hospice in Glendale, Wisconsin. Several close friends were at the bedside at the time of death.

Hess, originally from Freeport, Illinois, graduated from Beloit College and later received a degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Illinois. During the Vietnam War, he served in the U.S. Army, in the war room at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Hess came to Milwaukee in the 1960's. He was a pioneer in the struggle for Gay rights being one of the first organizers of the Gay Liberation Front which, later, became the Gay People's Union (GPU).

Hess served GPU in a number of

capacities including that of president and chairperson of the Board of Directors. He helped found the GPU Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Clinic (since evolved into the Brady East STD Clinic), the GPU Hotline, the GPU legal defense fund, the GPU library and the Milwaukee chapter of Black and White Men Together (BWMT). Hess served on BWMT's national board.

In addition, Hess worked closely with other leaders to secure the passage of Wisconsin's Gay rights bill and the Consenting Adults Act. He also found time to write a column for **Wisconsin Light**.

Hess was always willing to share his time and expertise with all and was always available to offer personal council to those in need. He will be sorely missed by the community at large.

June 17 Parade and Rally Highlight Milwaukee Pride Week

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee announced plans to hold its first Annual Parade/Rally on Saturday, June 17, 1989. In scheduling the events for the 12-day Celebration, Pride organizers took into consideration Chicago's Pride Parade and Rally to be held on Sunday, June 25 and the numerous festivals and parades which Milwaukeeans have come to expect as tradition here.

The Parade is scheduled to begin at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 17 moving through the Bar District and past City Hall to Cathedral Square where the Rally is to start at 2:00 p.m. The Pride Committee expects to have local and out-of-town political and organizational leaders on hand for the events. Other forms of entertainment are being planned to make this Celebration truly memorable.

In connection with the Pride Celebrations commemorating "STONEWALL 20: A GENERATION OF PRIDE", Milwaukee's Cream City Chorus and the Original Fest City Singers will hold their annual Spring Concerts.

The Chorus will be presenting "Beyond Stonewall", a choral invitation for all "to join us as we celebrate Gay unity in word and song." The concert will be held at Centennial Hall in Milwaukee's

main library building on the evening of Saturday, May 20 and is being presented as a preview of their performance at GALA in Seattle, July 2-9. Tickets are \$5 and can be obtained from the Chorus members or by calling (414) 277-0434.

The Singers will be presenting "Catch a Rising Star", at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater on the evenings of Friday, June 16 and Saturday, June 17, with a possible hold-over performance scheduled for Sunday, June 18. Tickets for the concert are available from the Singers by calling (414) 263-SING.

At 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 18, the Second Annual Interfaith Religious Service to celebrate Gay and Lesbian religious unity will be held at All Saints Cathedral, downtown Milwaukee.

Milwaukee's Lakefront Festival of the Arts is also scheduled at the near-by lakefront for the weekend of June 16-18.

Plans are also being made for a "Stonewall Run" to take place the evening of Tuesday, June 27 which will cap off the 12-day celebration.

In connection with the Celebration, Milwaukee's organizations and businesses are being contacted to ask for their participation in making "STONEWALL: A GENERATION OF

TURN TO PRIDE WEEK, PAGE 11

(Milwaukee)- Jerry Johnson, Publisher of **Wisconsin Light** as been asked by Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist to join him as co-host of a meeting of some 20 Milwaukee Lesbians and Gays.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 12 at the Cream City Foundation Center, 225 S. 2nd Street in Milwaukee. It will begin at 5:30 p.m. and last until 6:15 p.m.

According to Norquist, the purpose of the meeting is to help the Mayor become aware of "issues of concern" to the Lesbian and Gay community of Milwaukee. Eloisa Gomez, of the Mayor's office told Terry Boughner, **Light's** Editor, that the Mayor would be interested in hearing about "concrete issues"; matters that the Mayor could do something about. At that time, Gomez also indicated that the Mayor was interested in meeting with a wide diversity of Lesbians and Gays.



JOHN NORQUIST

Light's sources among the 20 individuals named to the group indicate that high on the list of agenda items would be a discussion of anti-Lesbian and Gay violence. Other items have yet to be decided.

In his letter to Johnson, Mayor Norquist indicated that he sees this first meeting as "one of a number of regular meetings" where Gays and Lesbians may talk with the Mayor about their concerns.

Those wishing to place items on the agenda for this and future meetings should call Jerry Johnson (414) 372-2773 or Eloisa Gomez at the Mayor's office.

McFarland, Gonzales Win by Landslides

As we go to press, word has been received that Jim McFarland, openly Gay Madison alderman was re-elected in a landslide, winning over his opponent by a margin of two to one. McFarland is a long-time leader in the fight for Lesbian and Gay civil rights, a luminary in the Madison Republican Party and a contributor to **Wisconsin Light**.

Ricardo Gonzales won his race for Madison Alderperson in a landslide victory, taking the seat with 64% of the vote. This was Gonzales' first race for public office in Madison.

Gonzales who is the owner of Madison's Cardinal Bar, 418 Wilson St., told **Light** that he was "very gratified" with the results. Calling the race "hard-fought" and "spirited", Gonzales said that his victory showed that the electorate wanted "someone with roots in the community" and "who has proven his/her involvement."

—NEXT ISSUE—
Details on the
May 6 Madison March

OUR HISTORY



A TIME TO DIE XIV

Rudolf Watches as Nazi Dogs Devour Fellow Prisoners

By Terry Boughner, Ph.d.

Rudolf was transported from the jail, along with 35 others, to Dachau about 12 miles outside Munich. Once there, the prisoners were ordered from the trucks and were, with many blows, assembled on the parade ground. There were guards, SS men, everywhere, with dogs, patrolling the rag-tag, miserable line of beaten Gays.

One poor wretch was dragged from the line and two dogs were loosed on him. The animals went for his crotch, tearing at it with their teeth. He was young and screamed pitifully as the animals tore at his genitals, castrating him with their teeth. Finally, the dogs were pulled from him, still chewing on the flesh that they had ripped from his living body and he was left to bleed to death. Several men fainted and were shot on the spot. Their bodies were given to the dogs."



This was done, as Rudolf said, as an example of what "filthy queers" could expect. After that, prisoners were forced to strip and stand naked in the cold. Many were beaten and forced to submit to rape. Only after several hours in the freezing weather, were they taken to a building, forced to take showers in icy water and finally ordered to shave. "Not a hair was to be left on our bodies." Then they were given clothing, the stripped prison uniform with the Pink Triangle, 5 centimeters across, stitched to the left side and one onto the right trouser leg. These were 2-3 centimeters larger than other such insignia so that Gays could be easily spotted for special treatment. Gays were also given a number in place of their name and were forced to answer, "Queer 1234," for example, whenever addressed.

Rudolf and his fellow "assfuckers" were assigned to a "Queer Block." Each block, he said, consisted of two "wings" in each of which were some 250 Gays. He estimated that there were about 5-10,000 Gays in the camp while he was there.

Each block was commanded by a "Blockalteste", a Block Senior, who was usually a "green" (criminal) or a "red" (political). "That these were prisoners as we were, made no difference in their treatment of us. If anything, they excelled the SS in brutality."

Gays were assigned the heaviest and dirtiest work details, breaking up rocks, felling trees, working on the autobahnen that were, after the war, so much admired by the Americans that we patterned our interstate highway system on them. "You can not know how many homosexuals died building those roads," he said. When one fell from hunger or from a beating or became so weak from illness that he could not go on, his body was left where it lay and was covered over with the pavement. Sometimes when the guards were bored, they would use the Gays for target practice. Those people too became part of the road they had been building only minutes before.

I thought as he spoke of the times I had driven over some of those same roads; ridden my car over the bodies of those who were, had been, me.

Death was everywhere, everyday and was most of the time, completely random. Surrounded by that, when death and brutality become a "normal" part of life, the major decision you have to make is whether or not to survive.

For Rudolf, the choice seemed easy. He had little hope of ever seeing Ferdi again while his wretchedness and sense of

despair at his own situation deepened with each passing hour. It would be easy to die. In the course of his time in the camps, he would see it happen many times. A person simply gave up. "Remember," he said, "It takes will to live. It takes nothing at all to die." Then things changed.

"One of the guards in charge of my work detail was a big man, handsome and only a little older than I, perhaps in his late 20's. I began to notice that he kept me working near him. Often he would call me to him on some excuse or other and talk to me and run his fingers through my hair or touch me in some other way. Since I was not bad looking and the practice was prevalent, no one paid any attention. He would even slip me food, some bread, a little cheese. I was so grateful — not for the food, but because, in the midst of all that savagery, he was kind to me. Once when he smiled I thought I was going to cry."

One morning after roll call, Rudolf was told to report to the front gate. From there he was escorted out to the section where there were cottages for the SS. He thought he knew what was going to happen. He was to become a Little Doll, a kept "boy" of the SS guard. It was a fate not to be envied for it only lasted until the man found someone more desirable. Then the boy was killed, usually savagely. Yet, Rudolf said, he did not think of that. "In the camps you learned not to think of the future, but only of the present."

The SS man whose name was Peter was there when Rudolf arrived. He offered Rudolf beer, some fine fat sausages and bread with lots of butter. "I remember those sausages even today," Rudolf said. "They were thick, dripping with warm grease that I licked from my fingers. I thought there was nothing more delicious." Afterward, they had sex, "but even though I had no choice, he was so kind to me, so gentle. Later, he told me that he was not a homosexual and, in fact, had a wife in Frankfurt. I did not care."

From then on, Rudolf's life eased. He took care of Peter's cottage and effects and, in return, received ample food and some decent clothing. "Of course," he said, "the price I paid for this was my body. I could not delude myself that he could love me or possibly even feel some affection. I was his whore, his little doll. To have access to me when he wanted me was all I meant to him."

There were times, Rudolf said, when he felt an enormous sense of guilt, not for what he was doing, but that he should have things so easy as compared to the thousands of other prisoners. At night, when he lay beside the SS officer, he thought about the hell all around him. "But then, sometimes, Peter would turn in his sleep toward me and I would lose myself in his warmth."

This went on for several months. Then, in the Spring of 1939, Peter announced that he was being transferred. He could not take Rudolf with him.

Next: Gay sex in the camps.

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Why Do Lovers Break-Up?

By Reen

Why did you break up with your lover? What caused the rift between friends? Now is the time to voice your opinions and let your experiences be known.

We are conducting a survey to determine the major causes of rifts between people. Was it someone else? Personality changes? Needs not met? Other? Writers are asked to sign their names, but names will not be published. All will be strictly confidential. Please reply within two weeks to Reen, c/o Wisconsin Light. Results will be published in one month.

They Call Me B.S. For Short Because I'm an Honorable Person

By Reen

No need to introduce myself. You know me very well. I am not unique. There are many, many like me. I like to talk. I am an honorable person. I like to discuss other people, especially those I don't know very well. I like to hear of their problems so that I can criticize them and judge them. It's lots of fun.

I want to have some fun now. Don't worry, it's all fun. I am an honorable person.

I saw Mary out in the bar the other night. She wasn't even with her lover. She was drinking and talking with another woman. I hear Mary and her lover, Jane, had a fight. Well, Mary is really a creep. I know because Jane's friend told me so. Jane said how Mary mistreats her. No, I haven't talked to Mary. I tried to, but she said it was none of my business. But I don't have to hear her side. Jane would never do anything wrong to Mary. I know because Jane's friend told me so.

When two people argue, it's always one person's fault. The other never does anything to provoke an argument. And it is up to friends to butt in, take sides and just generally poke out noses in other people's business. It's such fun. And it adds a lot of spice to the situation. Give's them something more to argue about.

There's certainly nothing wrong with it. I wouldn't do anything wrong. I am an honorable person. Just having some fun. Nothing wrong with a little conversation. After all, when I sit in a bar for hours on end, there is nothing else to do except talk about other people. Makes life interesting. I always wanted to be a judge. Too bad I don't get paid for it. My reward is seeing the couple argue some more about the things other people say about their fights. It's a lot of laughs.

People listen to me when I spread a little gossip. I get a lot of attention that way. It's also entertaining. People spend

time with me if I tell them some juicy tidbits. After all, who wants to spend all those hours in a bar alone? I have to talk to someone. And what better way to gain friends than by having a common enemy? We giggle a lot when I think of a really witty, snide remark. It's a lot of fun. I know how to win friends and influence people. I'm an ethical person.

I hear lots of things. There's not much else to do in this world except talk about people. No harm done. Just having a little fun. Life gets pretty boring otherwise.

Now I hear Mary and Jane are splitting up. Good for them. Mary never did treat Jane right. They should split. Another good thing about it is that Jane will get real lonely living alone. Then she'll have a lot of free time to sit in the bar and talk with me. We'll really have fun cutting down Mary. That'll keep Jane interested and she'll keep me company in the bar. Who wants to drink alone? You know it's no fun drinking alone. My mouth gets a little loose and I have to have someone to listen to me. But I'm an honorable person. I'll listen to other people too if they have some juicy gossip to tell. That way, I'll have something to talk about to the next person who comes along. Everybody talks, don't they? It's what makes the world go 'round.

The latest gossip is that Bob had a trick last night. I can't wait to tell his lover. Then we'll really have some fireworks and lots of fun. After all, it is my duty and pleasure to help. I'm an honorable person. My name is Brutus, but they call me B.S. for short. Care to join me for a drink? I'll meet you at the bar.

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




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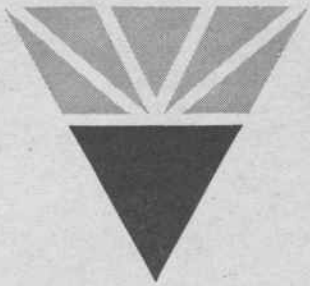
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GAY AND LESBIAN
PRESS ASSOCIATION

EDITORIAL

THE LEGACY OF ALYN HESS WILL BE WITH US FOREVER

A great man has left our community. Alyn Hess, a founder of the Gay and Lesbian movement in our state has died. It is a loss that will not be easy to replace if it ever can be.

There are so many good things that have come from Alyn's work within our community that it would literally take more space than this paper has available to list them all. There were so many projects that he worked on and so many current community leaders that he helped that in a very real sense, the effect of Alyn Hess is felt in every organization in the Milwaukee area and quite a few outside the city as well.

The Gay People's Union Hotline, the Brady Street Clinic, the Milwaukee Chapter of Black and White Men Together all came about as a result of his work. He nurtured the activists who got AB-70 (Gay rights bill) passed. He took in homeless Gays. He insisted on living in a poor Black neighborhood because he wanted to help. His simple home remodeling job which he started about ten years ago was a standing joke. He always said he would finish it, but he never did because he gave so much of his time to others that he never had time for himself.

Even on his deathbed, he urged **Wisconsin Light** Political Editor, Bill Meunier, to write a column on the danger of concentrating too much on AIDS, the disease he died from. (That column is in this issue).

But more than anything else, Alyn set an example. He lived his life with an "I am who I am" philosophy, refusing to apologize for his Gayness, holding his head up high and showing us the true meaning of dignity.

He was our friend, our role model and our leader and the staff of this paper, along with the rest of the community, will miss him more than any words can express.

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing in regard to "Robert Mapplethorpe Exhibited in Chicago Galleries" (Jeffrey Zurlinden, March 9-March 22, 1989 edition of **The Wisconsin Light**). It is with distress that I do so.

Although we are all saddened by the loss of Mr. Mapplethorpe to AIDS recently, I found Mr. Zurlinden's closing paragraph in which he acknowledges Mr. Mapplethorpe's health status (now death) in POOR taste. Had Mr. Mapplethorpe's illness influenced his work (other than his self-portraits) and had Mr. Zurlinden reflected an impact by AIDS on the body (any other portion) of Mapplethorpe's work, perhaps it would have been appropriate to include such acknowledgment.

Yes, Mapplethorpe's death — regardless of cause is news, but by Mapplethorpe's own admission during an interview I conducted with him in June of 1988 — AIDS had little to do with the intent of his work.

Further, Mr. Zurlinden failed in the context of the "piece" to acknowledge the broad and diverse work Mr. Mapplethorpe created which is also represented in the MCA retrospective. (The striking color florals for example. And, the sculptural treatments).

I believe Mr. Zurlinden to be mistaken in alluding to free-wheeling sex in the 1970's being the sole nurturing element for his art (by implication).

Why not instead consider writing about Mapplethorpe's work as a product of living — as Mr. Mapplethorpe created in life?

I am not so naive to not understand the impact of AIDS on all of us — and art. But unless there are discernible (apparent, obvious) qualities present in work, implying that a single facet is the creative force behind it is irresponsible and inhumane. Mr. Mapplethorpe has, hence, been done a great disservice by Mr. Zurlinden's "reporting".

I trust that, although the tone of this letter is critical, that my intent in writing is to encourage objective (and perhaps even hopeful) reporting when commentary is an element.

—Gabor/Painter
Contributing Editor/Art
Windy City Times, Chicago

I am writing this letter in regard to the letter of Timothy J. Larson, which appeared in the Volume 2, no. 6 issue of **The Wisconsin Light**. First, thanks for printing it. Only by hearing both sides of an issue can the truth be determined.

Mr. Larson wrote an intelligent and literate letter. However, there are certain parts which I must correct.

Mr. Larson wrote, "...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."

Although I will not comment on any "investigation" the Gay/Lesbian Student Union at my college may have made, I will comment on that preceding

allegation. The background is this. I went into the group's office one day to check for messages on the answering machine. There was one. I tried to contact him several times, but was unable to reach the caller — who, by the way, **had left his phone number on the answering machine so a Union member could contact him.** This, then, is how I acquired his number.

I did finally reach him and we met in the group's office. I had some books with me that I thought he might be interested in and I said he could borrow them, if he wished. He did borrow them and it was agreed that I would contact him, by phone, the next day. I did (... "contacting a perspective member to make a date by taking his number from confidential office records.").

Huh? Doublespeak in action.

A member of this group once refused to wear a pink triangle pin to a primarily Gay gathering because he didn't like the design. And that, guys, violates a policy of mine.

—Morgan Summer
Wisconsin

TO THE EDITOR

I am responding to the latest in a series of blows to individuals with AIDS related conditions. This one being the refusal by three Senators to pass a bill proposed by Senator Edward Kennedy to extend the government program funding the costs of AZT to those individuals that don't have insurance coverage for this costly drug, until the end of September. Thus ending this program at the end of March.

I can't say I am surprised, but I am disappointed and angry by this lack of concern for human life. I am one of the individuals currently taking the drug because I am at a crucial stage in the progression of HIV, considering that my T-cell count is below 50. Well below the 200 that is to receive AZT and because I am on the funded program.

This failure to pass the bill puts an end to the accessibility of the only FDA approved, promising drug that is widely used in treating AIDS related conditions for thousands of individuals for several months — thus putting many person's lives in jeopardy and possible life threatening results, including death. Haven't we lost enough people to this disease already?

—Daniel G. Trzebiatowski
Waukesha

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing this peering out from a door slightly ajar. If this is the first copy of the **Light** you managed to pick up and you have read this far, you should be congratulated. We should all rejoice if you, the first time reader, are just merely curious and want to learn more about the Gay community. As we all know, ignorance is the main cause of prejudice. Secondly, and more importantly, you should be congratulated and heartily welcomed if you are one of the unfortunately countless number of "closeted" Gays. At first glance, **The Light** blatantly appears to be geared towards readers who are openly Gay — leaving the rest of us in the dark (Pun intended).

As I search my inner soul trying to decide if I have enough strength to

"come out," my gut is tied in knots realizing that my lover and I cannot stay in the "closet" forever no matter how much we enjoy the cozy, safe bed. But my own personal dilemma is merely the catalyst for why I am writing, not the topic. I am searching for answers amongst other kindred closeted souls. I am wondering if it is possible that one reason I cannot "come out" is due to an intense fear of rejection? "Of course — Yes — Obviously!" you say? Surprise! My own answer is NO!

Usually one is dealing with people, family, friends and colleagues who are ignorant of your feelings as a Gay person when "coming out." With caution, control, patience and love on your part, "coming out" to select individuals is not only easy, but refreshing and spirit lifting. Furthermore, I noticed that it quickly becomes possible to "come out" (I prefer "be open and honest") with a number of people to such a point that I am almost "out of the closet." What keeps me in? What keeps us in?

Among those I have told about my lover and the joy of finding her, those who were my Gay friends drifted away. Until now, almost all of the rejection I have received is from other Gay folks. Logic indicates that when you are struggling to identify who you are and to be open and honest within yourself in order to be so with others, the last thing you need to encounter is little or no understanding from other Gay folks; the same people you believe you can turn to for help.

I believe that there are two main causes for this rejection. First, there may be a great desire by most to forget the pain and problems encountered when beginning to be open and honest within themselves and with others. Second, there may be all types of us: those of us for whom it is easy to be open and honest, those who will never see the light and a continuum of everyone in between.

A mixture of both causes is likely, but it is clear that fear and excuses are no longer acceptable. If we are serious about Gay rights and dignity, then it is time to give each other the right to be who we are in dignity. Conformity reigns as supreme among the Gay community as in the mainstream. At times I feel that society stereotypes us so much because we do such a good job ourselves. It is time to understand more fully why it is so much easier for some Gay folks to be open and honest within themselves and with others than it is for other Gay folks.

We are all human. We need an image, either self-declared or group-identified, to which we cling in order to function. Most of us choose the group-identified image. There is safety in numbers and it is easier to define oneself within a group than as a loner. But as Gay folks, we all know what it feels like, at one time or another, to be rejected because we do not fit the group-identified image.

The time has come to accept all individuals in the Gay community; even someone best described as a Christian Lesbian in drag. We all find our unique way of adapting. I firmly believe that our greatest contribution to mainstream society and even "liberal communities" is in proudly proclaiming individualism. Yes, there is strength in numbers, but in numbers of individuals. Did you ever wonder how much strength, love and support for each other and individuals there could be in those "closets"?

Slogans such as "Silence=Death" are intellectually and emotionally stimulating, but a warm hug and acceptance would be even more welcome when peering out from behind the closet door. Who knows, it may help our struggle for rights in ways never imagined.

—Name Withheld on Request.
Madison

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Literature

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Celibate Roman Catholic Clergy Became Rule in 16th Century

By Fr. James Arimond

In my previous articles I discussed the fact that celibacy for the Roman Catholic clergy was not something that came "full blown" from the mind of the early church. That, as a matter of fact, it was something that evolved slowly throughout the church's history. For the majority of the church's existence, both a celibate and non-celibate clergy existed side by side. Attempts to force celibacy on the clergy on the part of the hierarchical church were only partially successful and only half-heartedly accepted by clergy and laity alike until we get to the 16th Century and the Council of Trent. From then on, a celibate Roman Catholic clergy became the rule and not the exception.

Are Catholic clergymen celibate? In a survey that I did two years ago, it turned out that priests felt that their fellow priests were far more celibate than did the lay people who also took the survey. Most lay people: 80% felt that their clergy did have some type of sexual relationship after ordination. (They did not feel, however, that these relationships were long-term).

The clergy who took the survey, on the other hand, felt that only 30% of their fellow clergymen had any type of sexual experience after their ordination.

Who's right? I have no idea. Surveys have not been forthcoming and those that have, including mine, are not very reliable. Obviously we all know members of the Catholic clergy who have not espoused the discipline of celibacy for themselves, and we also know priests who have taken the vow of celibacy very seriously. Any of us can guess at the "numbers" if we wish, but they are, when all is said and done, merely guesses.

Will the celibacy requirement change? Obviously, there is a lot of pressure to change this requirement. And, as I mentioned before, it could easily be changed with just a stroke of the Pope's pen. But will it?

Most people in the field feel that the requirement demanding celibacy on the part of the Roman Catholic priests will not change during the pontificate of John Paul II. While John Paul is willing to grant exceptions to the celibacy discipline in the cases of Protestant and Episcopalian (Anglican) clergymen who convert to Roman Catholicism and proceed to ordination as Roman Catholic priests, he is not, at present, making any accommodations to others so inclined.

Eastern rite Catholics, who are in union with the Roman Church, do have a married clergy, but this does not seem to sway John Paul. He supports the married clergy in the Eastern churches and exhorts them to even greater married fidelity, but he is absolutely vehement when it comes to the Roman Church. He not only recommends clerical celibacy, he "insists upon it." In his own words, "Celibacy is not simply a juridical addition to the sacrament of orders, (Ordination), but it is a commitment of the person, taken in full maturity, to Christ and the Church." (Most of us are not too sure about that "full maturity" part, but John Paul feels that all of us must have been fully mature when we said "yes" to celibacy. When I quote that line to my fellow priests, it always brings a laugh.)

John Paul, while he seems to be very "intense" on this issue, is really only following the thought of most of the popes who have preceded him in the pontificate for the past 1000 years.

No one I know, including myself, really disputes the fact that celibacy does have a place in today's church. The question that arises is, how necessary is clerical celibacy to the secular priesthood or, for that matter, how desirable?

It might be well for us to point out the difference between "religious priests" and "secular priests."

"Religious priests" are members of a religious order. They live together and share all things in common. They take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. They give up their free will to the will of their superior. They go where they are sent. They are cared for by the Order to which they belong. They often specialize in a particular type or form of ministry. The religious priests that we are most familiar with are the Jesuits who

specialize in teaching, the Franciscans who specialize in caring for the poor, the Benedictines who are supposed to be the Preachers and Teachers, Xaverian Fathers who specialize in missionary activity, the Alexian Fathers who specialize in working with the sick and so forth. There are many others.

"Secular priests", on the other hand, do not live in community nor do they take the vows of poverty and obedience. They are basically "ordained Laymen": Men who come from the people they serve, who work in the local neighborhood church and who live and dress like the people among whom they minister. They must take care of all their own needs, provide for their own retirement and health care, purchase their own car and clothing, pay taxes on their earnings, etc.

Unfortunately, since the inception of the "Seminary System" for training of secular clergy; a system that was run on the "religious" model rather than the secular model, many secular priests forget their "lay" origin and start to think of themselves as "religious." Before the "Seminary System" was instituted, the secular clergy were trained by living with a secular priest in the parish house and learned from him just as any other apprentice would have done. This certainly had the advantage of keeping the young man in touch with his roots.

(By the way, priests who no longer wear the distinctive "Roman Collar" are merely going back to the older tradition of wearing the same clothing as the people whom they serve. At one time in the Church's history, the wearing of any "distinctive clothing" on the part of the secular clergy was strictly forbidden. How times change.)

So, the question arises, should the secular clergy be forced to live a celibate life when, according to their tradition, they should be living like the people they serve? A good question, but certainly not one that is being asked by the present Pope.

However, realities have a way of forcing change and compromise upon us. Changing apostolates and life styles, secular priests no longer living in rectory communities, the present clergy drain and modern psychological and physiological theories are all putting constant pressure on the present hierarchical stance of the Roman Catholic Church. It is doubtful, no matter how the present Pope feels about it, that the last chapter on this issue has been written.

Certainly, the Roman Catholic Church has much to learn from other Christian denominations and, that learning is taking place. Celibacy certainly has a place in any life-style for those who wish to espouse it. And, in an era when people are almost obsessed with sexuality, it is important to have symbols of another value remind us of the Kingdom that will never end: that kingdom of which Jesus spoke, "The children of this world take wives and husbands, but those who are judged worthy of a place in the other world and in the resurrection from the dead do not marry because they can no longer die, for they are like the angels, and being children of the resurrection, they are sons and daughters of God." (Lk. 20:34-36)

But all that being said, most people in the Church today, clergy and lay alike, feel that clergypersons should have a choice. That, certainly, is my opinion, but then I'm not the Pope and not likely to be one. Thanks for the questions. I appreciate your interest and hope that I've helped. God bless.

Fr. James, 4611 S. Kirkwood, Milwaukee, 53110-1492.

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MEASURES OF CHANGE

Walt Whitman Foresaw Gay Liberation in "Leaves of Grass"

By Alyn W. Hess

The following column is the last that we received from Alyn Hess.

I would like to comment on the Walt Whitman poem, "A Leaf For Hand in Hand", from the Calamus Section of "Leaves Of Grass."

In my opinion, the poem foresaw the Gay Liberation Movement a hundred years later. It simply urges us all to be natural and affectionate in public as is our right. As a symbol of that, we should walk hand in hand with persons we like, love or have sex with. By denying that we exist, we play right into the false concepts others still try to force on us. We implicitly say that they are right and we agree that we are unnatural, sinners, sick or criminal.

When we live our lives openly and honestly by at least walking hand in hand, we reject those ideas which attempt to set us off from the rest of the human race. When we walk hand in hand, we come out and accept ourselves. We all know what a burst of energy that releases in us.

Oddly, some still have not gotten the message. When we accept ourselves we must also allow others to find themselves. And even if what they find about themselves is not to some people's liking, we must respect them or we will never get that respect back. If we want to be thought of as properly part of the human race, then we must respect that very same humanity in all others. You may not like what someone does, but they are still to be respected because they are human and alive.

OBITUARIES

La Verne L. Manke

In Loving Memory of Vern Manke.
La Verne L. Manke, 48, after a long and gallant fight, surrendered to ARC on March 23, 1989.

Our seven years together forever keeps you alive in my devoted memory. Until we touch again in eternity.

Bob G.

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ALYN HESS

To love a person, but dislike what they do, is not easy. So when we all see people walking hand in hand, will it not be a measure of change? It starts when we, ourselves, change how and what we think and do. So simple. Just be honest and loving.

Love, Alyn.

Editor's Note: In this column, the last that he wrote for the paper, Alyn sums himself up: kind, loving, good, a true leader of our people in every way. Therefore, I suggest to the Milwaukee Pride Committee that at the Parade or Rally, a fitting memorial to the memory of this beautiful man would be for all present, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Straight alike, to do as he suggests: join together to walk hand in hand.

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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A BOY OF SUMMER

Spring Break '89 Send in the Clowns

Spring Break is almost here and that means it's time to send in the clowns.

Time to send the clowns to Florida and Texas and other southern states. They are college students with a week and a half break from the rigors of college life, such as girlfriends and not always being able to get beer. They will drink their liquid diets until they puke and then some, getting severely shit-faced and no doubt, doing some quite humorous things whilst intoxicated — such as puking in the hotel's pool. Wheee!

These students will live six or seven to a room with only two beds. Now, Gay students in the group will probably like this. After a hot day of pretending to drool over suntanned southern girls in string bikinis, this will probably be the only near-Gay experience they have, save for the Gay bars. Barring those, though, the nights should be the best for those Gay guys. I mean, hey...with six drunk teen-agers in the same room, **some**thin's gonna happen. I would hope so, anyway.

Also, it's time to send the clowns to my hometown where I will be spending my Spring vacation. I had planned to go on a trip, but no such luck. I have to go back to my hometown and to the clowns there.

But these clowns are not the same as the breakers down in the South...uh,uh. No, the clowns of my town are bigots, dangerous ones, ones who remember that last year I dared to be Gay in the town's high school. They remember. And they'll be there (he sighed) and it seems like they always will be. So, I won't go out after dark, not by myself. It's better safe, as they say.

Because the clowns there are evil clowns.

But, before I go, I had a brush with a distant clown who has a presence here. She is the fiancée of Travis (not his real name), who lives on campus.

A few nights ago, I ran into Travis who said, "I did it." What he had done was break off his engagement to his girlfriend,

New Harvest Foundation Celebrates Fifth Anniversary April 22

[Madison]- The fifth anniversary of the founding of the New Harvest Foundation will be marked with a gala banquet and dance on April 22 at the Madison Civic Center.

The Foundation raises and distributes funds to benefit the Lesbian and Gay community in Dane County.

The anniversary celebration will open with a cocktail hour at 6:30 p.m., followed by a seven course dinner. Entertainment, in addition to dancing, will be provided by the Madison Gay Men's Chorale and Womansong. Tickets for the event are \$25 a person and may be purchased in advance by contacting the Foundation at (608) 251-8058.

Since its inception in 1984, the New Harvest Foundation has awarded \$60,000 in grants to various community agencies and activities. Awards are made for the promotion of health, social services, public education, the arts and cultural endeavors. A special project of the Foundation was the placement of the George Segal sculpture, "Gay Liberation", in Madison's Orton Park.

Groups or activities benefiting from Foundation grants over the past five years include, among others, the United's advocacy and counseling programs, the alcohol and drug abuse prevention agency, PICADA, the Madison AIDS Support Network, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and GALVANize, sponsor of the upcoming Gay Pride



Morgan Summer

let's call her Jennifer. I sort of thought he would because of some troubles they had been having. Trav and I talked for awhile.

He was feeling discouraged because he felt he had hurt Jenny and he doesn't like to hurt anyone in any way. I told him that I thought he had done the right thing — I had met Jenny once when she came to my college to visit Trav — and that Jenny wasn't worth his pain. She wasn't either, but Travis is a caring guy and it will take him awhile to get over it.

But all that time while we talked, I wanted to touch him. Not sexually...but just to comfort him. I didn't and I'm glad because he knows I'm Gay and I know he's straight and...well. Maybe we all have our personal clowns to deal with.

In going back to my hometown, I won't be in contact with Travis or anyone from college. I think I'll miss that because college is becoming like a comfortable home to me.

In going back to my hometown, I'll have a lot of things that I have to control. Keeping my mouth shut, being discreet about seeing my Gay friends there. Keeping my voice down while talking on the phone to another guy.

And in going back to my hometown, maybe I'll be taking a needed break from college. For the most part, like I've said, college is fine, but sometimes I think about the clowns here. I try not to, but they're here.

Notes From The Northwoods: Friends

By Keith Coley

Although it's been some time since I accepted my Gayness, it's only been the last few months that I've been able to really celebrate and revel in who I am. It's quite a wonderful feeling for me, and so I try to share that feeling with friends and acquaintances who are in the same position as I was. It's almost an obsession for me to try to help others come to accept and celebrate themselves, almost as if watching a relative enter adulthood, sort of everyman's bar mitzvah.

So often — too often — I see so many young people who are struggling with themselves. I sort of have a knack for spotting other Gay people. It's strange, but I can just **feel** it in other people.

That's why it always grieves me so much when I learn of a young person who has taken his or her young life. I've lost too many friends and acquaintances to this travesty. One was too many. And when I look in the obituaries and see a young suicide, the so-called "inexplicable" ones, I can feel it in my gut what the reason was.

I remember one instance in particular. A popular kid from one of the local high schools had ended his own life, supposedly without warning. I didn't know him, but some straight kids who did had heard rumors that he was Gay, but couldn't deal with it. His parents said that he hadn't left a suicide note, but a friend of his said that he had and that the parents were just covering the incident up to prevent any more shame from falling on their family. Their boy was dead, cut down, as it were, in his prime and all they could think of was their damned image.

That night, I found myself crying for someone I didn't even know. I think that was the beginning of my resolve to enjoy who I was and not feel the immense guilt I let my family put on myself.

It was a strange thing for me when I found people could accept me as I am and not begrudgingly either. They actually enjoyed this aspect of me and had so much curiosity which I was only too happy to oblige. Educating straights — what a concept! It even spread to work. It even happened with my boss who was one of the most "macho" straight men I've ever known. So much ignorance was lifted and they began to see us in a different light. It was a grand celebration and it has formed some of the most satisfying, warm relationships I've ever had even though I no longer work with these people.

Just the other night I spent the evening in rekindling a fractured friendship. This

girl had hurt me very badly when she had broken up with one of my best friends which devastated him. I, in turn, hurt her and we didn't talk until recently, patching up all the now-silly differences. A girl friend of hers was there and she knew I was Gay, but was totally ignorant of the subject.

Naturally, I was only too happy to share any and all information with her and it was so cool when she said, "Hey, you know it's great that you're honest with yourself like this. You're a great guy."

What is really cool to me is that she's still in high school and so we were out picking prom gowns for her and wedding dresses for my friend and she asked if I'd be her escort to the prom!

Under normal circumstances, I might have asked if she had a brother I could take, but the irony of it was funny to us both. At least her boyfriend (who doesn't want to go) and her father can rest assured that I'll be a perfect gentleman and not try anything on her. Funny how things work out sometimes.

As of now, there are a few out there who I know of that I want to help. These two guys remind me so much of myself when I was first coming out. I hope to God they don't have to go through the kinds of pain and self-hatred I felt. It will take some doing, but I hope that in the near future, I can see them celebrating the way I am now.



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In making grant awards, the Foundation gives preference to new and innovative projects or services that respond to unmet needs within the Gay and Lesbian Community. Groups interested in seeking financial assistance may contact the New Harvest Foundation, P.O. Box 1786, Madison, WI 53701-1786.

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In Remembrance

By Michael S. Lisowski

How do I say good-by to Alyn? I don't think I should actually call it a good-by, for my best friend, Alyn, will always be with me. Yet, I admit, he will be with me in a different way, perhaps a better way. It will be much better for Alyn who, finally, no longer suffers and much better for me, for already I feel a stronger sense of determination and spirit to continue in my own way the energy and spirit that Alyn left me.

Many, many people knew of Alyn and many people knew Alyn. But, regardless, anyone who met Alyn immediately recognized that Alyn was unique, strange, if you will.

I remember when I first met Alyn. It was my first Gay People's Union (GPU) meeting in October, 1976. My first impression was, "Who is that odd guy?" For some reason I sensed that Alyn had something different about him. He was running about talking with various people and people were asking him various things as well. I sensed that this guy had some sense of leadership and direction and that people looked to him for advice. Over the weeks I would talk with Alyn when I had a chance, usually when people left him to himself. He was accepting, non-judgmental, always ready with some funny comment, camping it up to the delight of those around him.

I frequently visited him after GPU meetings, upstairs in his apartment rented from GPU. I would chuckle to myself about his surroundings, the paintings and the rest, but the one thing that will always remind me of him was his bicycle. It was a "woman's bike" which he liked for the comfort and ease it provided. He always said that a bike was a bike, not a woman's or a man's. Watching him peddling down the street, I could not help thinking of the wicked witch in the "Wizard of Oz."

Alyn carried a purse, not a handbag, but a "purse." He would purposely call it a purse so that, as with the bike, he could break down stereotypes. So there he was, riding his bike and carrying his purse, confronting people's stereotypes. It worked beautifully.


Shortly after I met Alyn, we talked about our mutual interest in Black men. In 1977, two to three years before Black and White Men Together (BWMT) began in Milwaukee, he got a small group of us together — about 10 or 15 — in the GPU meeting room. We met a few times and then the group gradually fell apart. I guess the time wasn't right, but when BWMT came along, we jumped in.

I also remember my first Gay Pride Parade in Chicago in 1977. Alyn must have convinced me somehow, but I marched at the head of GPU's contingent as King Arthur, the Gay crusader. Every year since then, Alyn and I have gone to Chicago for the Parade.

Alyn loved porn — the blacker, the better. I remember him telling me about a contest he was entering in one of the Black porn magazines. There were only Black dicks — 12 of them. The contestant had to match the dicks with the person, but only a steady subscriber would know whose was what. Alyn could identify 10

TURN TO REMEMBRANCE, PAGE 7

Office of the Mayor
CITY OF MILWAUKEE



Proclamation

Whereas: Alyn Hess lived a life filled with commitment and compassion. He was a relentless advocate on behalf of the rights of Gay people; and,


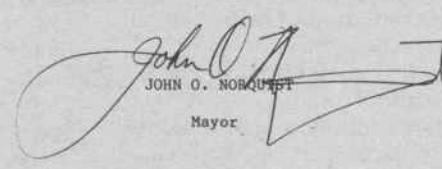
WHEREAS, Alyn Hess came to Milwaukee in the 60's. He founded the Gay Peoples Union, the oldest Gay organization in the Midwest. He started the Gay Peoples Union Hotline. This hotline has helped literally thousands of people with counseling and information. He was also the co-founder of the GPU-STD Clinic which is now known as the Brady Street-East STD Clinic. He founded the Milwaukee and Washington, D.C. chapters of Black and White Men Together, an organization dedicated to fostering interracial harmony and social activism. He was also a volunteer for the Milwaukee AIDS Project; and,

WHEREAS, More important than the countless achievements and personal victories of Alyn Hess is the lasting impact his life will have on this community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN O. NORQUIST, Mayor of the City of Milwaukee, do hereby this 4th day of April, 1989, extend the condolences of the City of Milwaukee to the family and friends of

ALYN HESS

fond memories will remain in the hearts and minds of all who have known him.

JOHN O. NORQUIST
Mayor

Alyn W

Dec. 6, 1939 —
"He was the apple in God's eye"

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON

JIM MOODY
5TH DISTRICT
WISCONSIN

April

Dear Family & Friends:

Alyn Hess was a beautiful man. Always considerate and gentle to those around him.

He bore his pain and more with courage. Never bitter, he remained kind to those around him.

Throughout his active life, he affected the entire community in politics, and worked hard for the betterment of all.

We will all miss his gentle presence, but we will remember his warmth and kindness.



Why Not Now?

By Alyn Hess

Why?
Why not?
Why not now?
If you are not ready to fight now for your own betterment? When? When will your own heart finally move you to action?
Will nothing ever be worth fighting for?
How much will it take before you will stand up and say, I will not take it anymore.
Or will you be like that lobster which will let itself be cooked to death because the temperature was so slowly raised it lulled it into non-action?



[Milwaukee]- Alyn Hess died the way he lived, surrounded by friends and admirers from both the Lesbian/Gay and majority communities.

The lying in state in the library of Milwaukee's Episcopal All Saints Cathedral from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 4, 1989, was attended by several hundred mourners which included Milwaukee County Executive Dave Schulz and his wife. Schulz and his wife, Joanne personally extended condolences from all Milwaukee County to grieving family and friends. On Wednesday, April 5, Schulz issued a Proclamation expressing the condolences and sympathy of the people of Milwaukee County to the family, friends and Lesbian/Gay community on the death of Alyn Hess.

Other dignitaries included Heidi Klause representing Milwaukee Mayor John O. Norquist, Milwaukee Alderman Paul Hennigson, Judges Frederick Kessler and Stanley Miller, Milwaukee Police Chief Robert Zarniak, Val Phillips, former Wisconsin Secretary of State Milwaukee alderman candidate David



Hess

March 31, 1989

Rev'd Canon Michael J. Stolpman

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1989

human being.

le, Alyn cared about all

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he was committed to causes
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spirit. And we will always
towards others.

Jim Moody
Jim Moody
Member of Congress



Joeh and A.C.E. Backus, prominent
ong-time neighborhood activist.

The Requiem Mass was celebrated at
he Cathedral at 8:00 p.m. The chief
elebrant was The Reverend Canon
Michael J. Stolpman who, in a moving
omily, compared Hess to an Old
estament prophet for his early and
ong-time work in the field of civil rights
or Lesbians and Gays. Bill Meunier,
resident of Milwaukee's Gay People's
Union and Political Editor of **Wisconsin
Light** read a letter of condolence from
ongressman Jim Moody (D-WI/5) and a
roclamation from Milwaukee Mayor
ohn O. Norquist expressing the sorrow
f the people of Milwaukee at the passing
f Alyn Hess.

A reception for friends and family in the
urch Guild Hall followed the Mass. The
eception was prepared by Tim Hancock,
en Baumeister and Matthew Stelloh.

Hess is interred at Freeport, Illinois,
he graveside ceremony being attended
y his family and Eldon Murray and
Miriam Ben-Shalom.



Executive Proclamation

Whereas, Mr. Alyn W. Hess devoted a lifetime to securing fundamental but widely-denied civil rights for men and women whose sexual preferences have brought them ostracism, discrimination and hostility; and

Whereas, Even in the face of overwhelming public opposition to the cause of equal rights for gay people, Mr. Alyn Hess' political activism never exceeded his commitment to his values, his basic belief in human dignity and his intrinsic nature as a compassionate, gentle, caring individual; and

Whereas, Mr. Alyn Hess founded the Gay People's Union, which under his leadership and in the shadow of his legacy has survived to be the oldest gay activist organization in the Midwest, and his concern for gay men and women led him to found Black and White Men Together, to start the East Side's foremost clinic treating sexually transmitted diseases, and to become involved with the Milwaukee AIDS Project; and

Whereas, The pioneering and dedicated political and social activism of Mr. Alyn Hess and his worthy achievements in that realm nevertheless pale in comparison to the personal respect, affection and admiration he generated among his friends and colleagues; and

Whereas, The last breath of this life recently passed from the body of Mr. Alyn Hess, leaving those who knew and loved him in great sorrow and distress, but secure in the knowledge that his life is immortalized in his achievements, in the hearts and memories of his cherished friends, and in his legacy of service to the gay individuals and communities of Milwaukee and the world.

Now, therefore, I, David F. Schulz, County Executive, do hereby proclaim on behalf of the people of Milwaukee County my sorrow upon the passing of

MR. ALYN W. HESS

and my sincere sympathy and condolences to those who are most deeply touched by this inevitable event, with best wishes that his name and his works will be recalled with the same affection and honor that followed him in life, signed this fifth day of April, 1989.

DFSchulz

DAVID F. SCHULZ, Milwaukee County Executive

REMEMBRANCE Continued from Page 6

and was feverishly looking for past issues to match the other two.

I remember when Alyn was working as an employee at the Milwaukee Public Library as an archivist. He knew more about Milwaukee's history than I did. But it was more than just knowledge. He appreciated, cherished and loved that history even though he'd been born in Freeport, Illinois and it was his love of Milwaukee that increased my desire to learn more about my home town.

Alyn and I trekked to Washington, D.C. in October, 1987 to participate in the March. Alyn already knew he was HIV positive. In fact, his T-cell count was gradually decreasing, but you would never have known it.

The afternoon we arrived in D.C., Alyn gave me his customary guided tour, his arms flailing this way and that, making sure that I didn't miss a thing. (Alyn had spent two years in the city while in the Army working at the Pentagon in '64 and '65). It was a time of memories, his coming out, his first loves, his time in the military. Looking back, it was one of the best times I've shared with Alyn; a sort of climax to his long career.

These are some of the memories I have of Alyn; spontaneous, effervescent, laughing with his cackle, enjoying life to the fullest, always giving of himself, rarely holding back.

Two months later, he developed diarrhea and the following April, he came down with PCP while attending his last BWMT conference in Chicago. Then, in June, the biopsy left him partially paralyzed and bedridden for months. I was scared, knowing that my friend would be leaving me, but Alyn helped me to walk that path with him.

I talked with him about two hours the Monday before he died. I had heard from Eldon Murray that Alyn was getting worse and I asked him if he was ready to let the disease take its course? He had fought long enough, most of his business was completed and the rest was in the good hands of friends.

Tears came to my eyes as he told me he was trying to get ready. I held his hand. His head was turned from me and he said, "Michael, I appreciate what you are doing by holding my hand. It feels so good, but I'm trying to go the other way and you are trying to keep me back." I smiled as I slowly let go of his hand.

When the hospice nurse called me at work to let me know of his breathing difficulties, I went to him at once. That afternoon, Miriam Ben-Shalom and I spent three hours at Alyn's bedside, waiting, reminiscing. Miriam and I found ourselves laughing as we recalled memories of Alyn. Then, as other obligations called me away, I kissed Alyn good-by. It did not matter that he may not have known I was there or could not feel my embrace. We had been through this together, our paths diverging only now.

Alyn is home now, but his work and spirit continue through myself and those who knew him best. One of Alyn's last wishes, spoken to another dear friend, Louie, was that Louie look after me when Alyn was gone.

Alyn died the day after my 39th birthday. Alyn is finally home. I owe you so much, Alyn. Thank you for the twelve and a half years of being your friend.



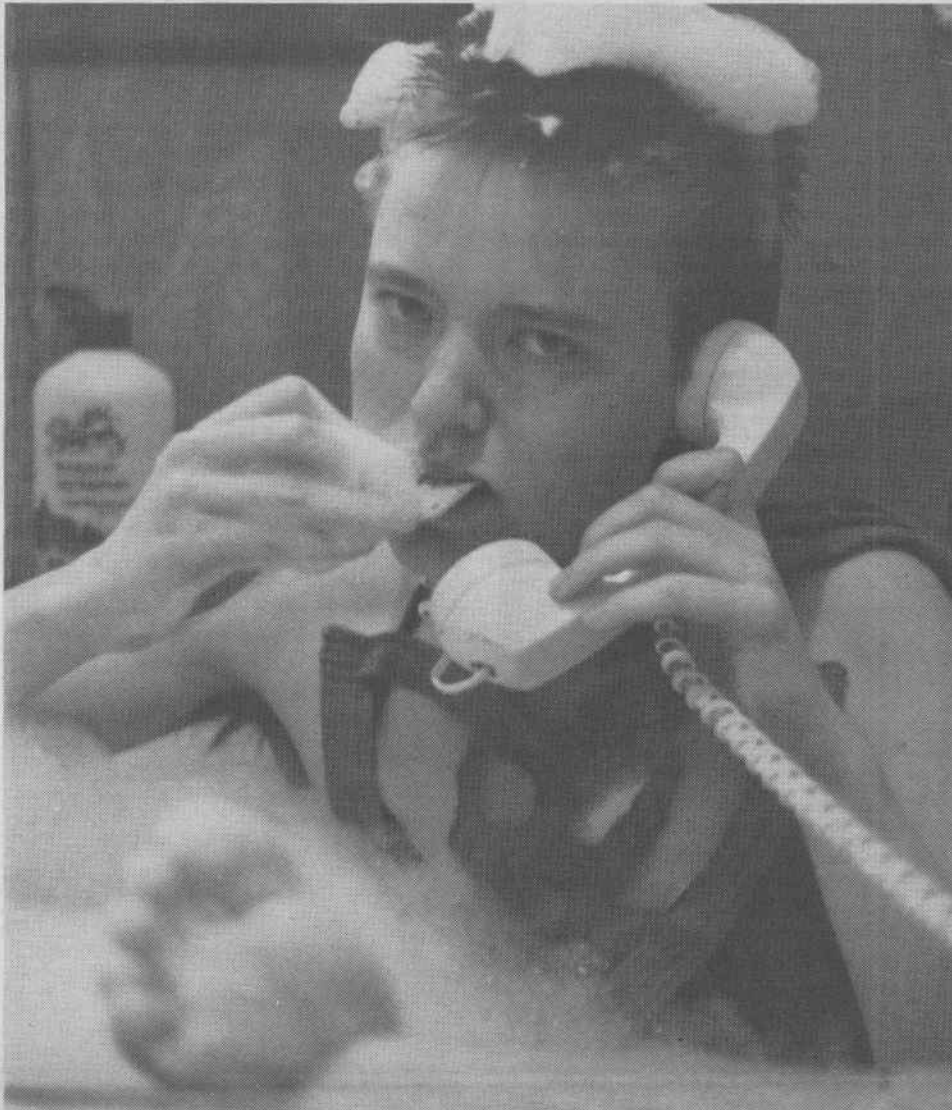
In Memoriam

The Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee is deeply saddened by the loss of Alyn Hess, beloved mentor, friend and tireless fellow-worker for the rights of Lesbians and Gays.

We join with the entire Wisconsin community in expressing our grief. We will sorely miss his leadership as we struggle on for freedom and equality. Let us now continue our work as we would have wanted us to do as we prepare for Pride Week '89, the 20th anniversary of Stonewall.



The Light LIVELY ARTS



Debbie Davis of Milwaukee will be performing in concert in "Obsessions of a Queer Nature" on April 7-8 in Milwaukee at the Art Muscle Studio, 909 W. National Ave. and on April 14-15 in Chicago at the Randolph St. Gallery, 756 N. Milwaukee Ave. Performances are at 8 p.m.

Tremendous Power Penetrates "Agnes of God" at Clavis

By Terry Boughner

If it's not one of the smash hits of the Milwaukee theatrical season, it should be. It is that good.

"Agnes of God" in its run at the Clavis Theatre, has it all; drama, religious mystery, the magic of myth, great forces moving to confront each other. But above all, there is power, tremendous power, that in the hands of three superb actresses is wielded with the incisive subtlety of a scalpel, slicing into the heart and mind to expose questions that lie in those hidden places of late 20th Century consciousness.

These questions have to do with worldviews, the competing descriptions of reality that each of us must deal with. In this scientific age, do the ancient myths represent after all, some transcendent reality capable of effecting miracles? Is there something beyond the few square inches of our brains or is the raked human mind all that there is?

There are no answers, only solutions presented on a stage, bare save for two chairs and a standing cigarette ashtray. Yet, with these spartan, everyday effects, Neal Brenard, the set designer, shows us the close affinity between the cloister and the religion of psychoanalysis.

Agnes, played by Amy Zeh, is a study in innocence with her portrayal of the madonna-like young nun. She is thoroughly human the way Michelangelo's Mary of the Pieta is human, but like the great Medieval Spanish mystics, she may have met God and been ravished by him to her ultimate destruction. Agnes should be incredible, but in Zeh's hands, she is not only believable, but totally convincing. Agnes let me down in the end, but that I should have that feeling is thanks to Zeh's delicate artistry.

Doctor Martha Livingstone, played by Marie Kohler, is strong, very strong. Kohler's expressions, her body language, the way she holds her

inevitable cigarette, all speak to that. Yet, in Kohler's hands, Livingstone is also a vulnerable figure, one searching in spite of herself and, in the end, teetering on the precipice of hope. I have seen her kind before. I know her too well, this doctor-intellectual. Perhaps that's why I liked her, nearly weeping for her at the end.

Mother Miriam Ruth, played by Kay Knudson is earth-mother, protective, dominating and, as Knudson portrays her, battling fiercely, but intimidated nevertheless, by what she cannot understand — the sky deities of mind and god. I was not disappointed by her. I did not shed tears over her nor did I want to. Knudson's masterful creation of her would not let me do those things.

I would like to say that one actress was stronger than the other, but that was not so. Each was equally strong, so much so that throughout the play, I could see members of the audience leaning forward in their seats, following the action intently, caught up in the play as was I. At intermission I was forced to take a short walk alone to prepare myself for the rest of the play. I wasn't the only one. There were others, moving about, lost in thought.

Ted Altschuler, the Director once said that he had come to Milwaukee from New York so that he could be an artist. With his Clavis Theatre's of "Agnes of God" he most certainly has received his wish.

I cannot recommend this production too highly. Its flavor, the questions it raises, remain with me yet, days later as I write. It should be an **absolute must see** on everyone's list. I do not say that at all lightly.

"Agnes of God" will be playing until April 30 at the Clavis Theatre, 2239 N. Prospect Ave. (the Prospect Mall) in Milwaukee. Ticket and other information can be obtained at the box office or by calling (414) 272-3043.

Sun Bathers and Pirates Work Together in Chicago Concert

By Geno

[Chicago]- As members of the audience entered the auditorium to see the production of "The Pirates of Penzance" by the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus (CGMC), they found some members of the group already onstage in bikinis, slathering on suntan lotion, and looking as if they were relax on Chicago's North Avenue Beach. Against a backdrop of the Windy City's skyline, they jog, toss frisbees and gossip.

But, you say, this is supposed to be a production of "The Pirates of Penzance"? Never fear, the CGMC will get to Gilbert and Sullivan in their own inimitable fashion. When a rather dithery fellow turns on his boombox, lo and behold, the overture to "The Pirates" is being played and soon the eighteen-piece orchestra in the pit takes up the music. The sun bathers leave as the stage darkens and Lake Michigan fog rolls in. The flighty fellow has fallen asleep in his deck chair and out of the fog come a jolly crew of pirates, fifty strong.

As their leader sings, "I am a Pirate King," in a "swishbuckling" rendition, a bevy of 20 maidens on a picnic stumble into the pirates' lair. The guys who play the maidens faint in approved Victorian manner when they are taken prisoner, though a few tend to throw their legs up into the air in most unladylike fashion. They are saved momentarily when their guardian appears and sings that archetypal patter song, "I am the Very

Model of a Modern Major General."

How neatly the delightful nonsense of Gilbert and Sullivan lends itself to Gay interpretations! (Amazing too to see how often they use the adjective "gay.") The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus repeatedly brings down the house with their inventiveness and imaginative twists — when the shy maidens whip out pom-poms and do a complicated cheer-leader routine, one feels that Gilbert, if not Sullivan, would have approved.


Alexius P. McCauley and Mimi Manners wisely play their love interest roles straight; both have pleasant trained voices, and when Mimi sings the lilting "appoggiatura" of her arias with ease, there's no doubt she enjoys being a girl, much to the chagrin of the other maidens. The blending of the solo voices is a treat and so is the choral singing of the Pirates, the Maidens (what lovely tenor voices they have!), and the timid Policemen.

All the loose ends of the absurd plot are neatly woven together at the end; the pirates marry the maidens, but it seems that quite a few of the supernumerary Pirates end up cuddling Policemen. "How true!" as Queen Victoria would have agreed.


The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus goes immediately into rehearsal for its joint concert with the Florida Gay Men's Chorus scheduled for July 1st in Chicago. It's a date worth marking on your calendars.

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The music in Milwaukee just keeps getting better...

Poignant "A Shayna Maidel" Holds A Pride Week Benefit Show April 25

[Milwaukee]- Theatre Tesseract presents the Milwaukee premiere of Barbara Lebow's "A Shayna Maidel", running April 13-May 7.

The play is a powerful and haunting portrait of a Polish family. "A Shayna Maidel" (Yiddish for "a pretty girl") conveys the aftermath of the Holocaust through a poignant imaginatively conceived examination of one divided family's experience. The reunion of father and daughters forms the core of this luminous and moving drama that has become a long-running off-Broadway success.

When playwright Barbara Lebow was a young girl living in New York after World War II, some distant relatives who were survivors of Nazi concentration camps came to stay with her family. This experience left an impression on Ms. Lebow, which developed nearly 40 years later into the drama "A Shayna Maidel."

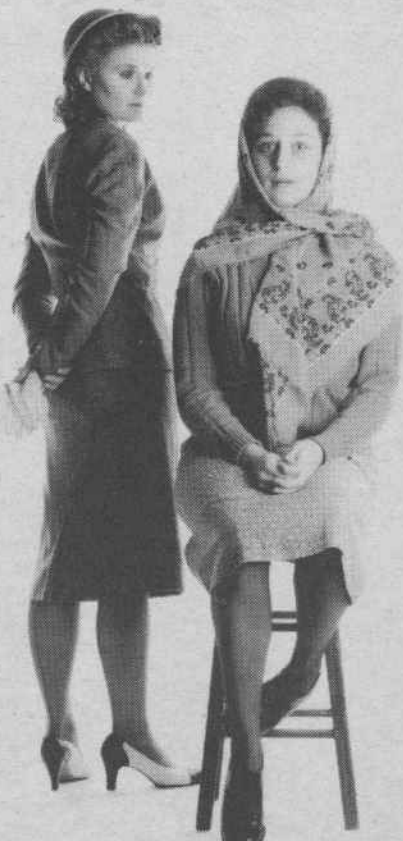
Like the title, which implies love and hope, the play radiates a tender optimism in the face of human suffering of an unparalleled nature.

Continuing the critically acclaimed collaboration established in 1985 with "Coming Attractions," Helena Dynerman returns to stage the piece. An internationally renowned director, Ms. Dynerman has just returned from Warsaw where she recently opened "Heaven for the Disillusioned" by Bertold Brecht. As a Polish Jew, Ms. Dynerman brings to the material a perspective much akin to that of the playwright.

Portraying the daughters will be Chicago actress Laura Gordon, who has quickly established herself as a Milwaukee favorite, and Tesseract founder Sharon McQueen. The father will be portrayed by well-known radio personality Jack Lee. Previously known for his stage work as Jim Sanders-Beasley, Jack has appeared in several Tesseract and Milwaukee Chamber Theatre productions. Making her Tesseract debut will be Raeleen McMillion, and completing the cast of six will be Tesseract veterans Jonathan Smoots and Carol Zippie.

A tribute to the sustaining power of family and the courage of mankind, "A Shayna Maidel" expresses a conviction that a better future may yet arise from the bitter ashes of the troubled past.

"A Shayna Maidel" will run April 13 through May 7 at Lincoln Center for the



John Coster-Mullen Photography

Sharon McQueen (left) and Laura Gordon in "A Shayna Maidel".

Arts, 820 E. Knapp St. Parking is free. Performances are Thursday and Friday at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday at 5:00 and 9:00 p.m.; and Sunday at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$9 and \$11. Talk-backs will be held on three consecutive Thursdays: April 20, April 27 and May 4. For reservations and group rates call (414) 273-PLAY.

• • •

A special benefit performance of "A Shayna Maidel" will be held on Tuesday, April 25 at 8 p.m. for Milwaukee's Pride Week Celebration. Everyone is encouraged to attend this performance. Advance tickets are now on sale at twenty-two locations including fourteen bars, Clear Horizons Natural Foods Co-op, Cream City Foundation Center, People's Books, Outpost Natural Foods, Melange Cafe, Walker's Point Cafe, In-Step Magazine and Wisconsin Light newspaper. Tickets are \$12 each. Mail orders can be sent with stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Milwaukee Pride Committee, 225 S. Second St., Milwaukee, WI 53204.

CCF Awards \$5,000 Grant For Green Bay Video

[Milwaukee]- At the last Board meeting of the Cream City Foundation (CCF) a \$5,000 grant was awarded to Newest/Cesa 7; part of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, for the production of a video entitled, "Eighty Something: AIDS Prevention and Teens Documentary."

The Board had already allocated the money at a previous meeting, but decided to hold back the funds until there was a chance to talk to the Producer of the video. Eileen Littig, the producer, came from Green Bay to talk to the whole CCF Board and to show segments of the unedited video. Afterward, Littig answered questions about the video.

It will be approximately a year before the video is finished and ready for distribution. Targeted markets include public schools, P.B.S. TV and the general public.

The total cost of the video is estimated to be \$16,000 of which Littig will cover half with funds from royalties from past productions. \$3,000 will come from the Community Fund in Madison and the remainder from the CCF grant.

Poetry Craft To be Discussed

[Madison]- On Saturday, April 15, 1989, distinguished poet, translator and teacher, Lisel Mueller, will present a craft discussion on the birth and development of a poem. Mueller is the author of 6 books of poetry and has received numerous awards including the National Book Award.

This event, sponsored by The Writers' Place, will mark the first time a nationally recognized poet will present a public forum for the discussion of craft in poetry in Madison.

The discussion will last from 1-3:00 p.m. at 731 State St. Mall (2 doors west of University Book Store). Audience participation is welcome. At 7:30 p.m. Mueller will read from her poetry.

"We think The World of You" Opens April 12

The British comedy, "We Think the World of You" opens a four day run April 12 at Madison's Majestic Theatre.

Gary Oldman plays a scruffy, cheerfully bisexual sailor with Alan Bates playing his upper-middle class, vaguely literary lover. And we have Evie, a German Shepherd whose well being is at the center of everyone's attention.

Set in London in the 1950's the film is based on the semi-autobiographical novel of Joseph Ackerley, who wrote with warmth and candor about his homosexuality at a time when it was not only prosecutable but barely a subject for polite society.

This slyly comic tale of misplaced affection can be seen nightly at 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 and Saturday afternoon at 1:30 and 3:30.

In Milwaukee, the film is tentatively scheduled to open in May at the Oriental Theatre.

UNIVERSITY Continued from Page 1

too slowly to respond to several highly publicized acts of violence on several campuses. However, Regent Ness Flores of Waukesha expressed reservations about restricting free speech — even racial epithets — because of the traditional university role as a place to float ideas.

Flores said he, "leans toward less regulation or no regulation. When you start restricting rights, we have to be very, very careful."

Coggs predicts passage in the Senate, saying, "it sends the right message to minority and other students that the System is user-friendly."

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Theatre Parties and Boat Cruise Are Pride Week Benefits

[Milwaukee]- Organizers of Milwaukee's 1989 Pride Celebrations will be holding four exciting fundraisers. The purpose of these fundraisers is to provide the money necessary to make the Celebration a truly splendid occasion.

The first event features the play, "A Shayna Maidel" to be performed at Milwaukee's Theatre Tesseract on Tuesday, April 25 at 8:00 p.m.

This off-Broadway hit portrays a Polish family struggling with life in the aftermath of the Nazi Holocaust. For a preview see the "Light and Lively Arts" section, this issue.

The second fundraiser will be a River/Harbor Moonlight Cruise aboard the "Edelweiss" on Friday evening, May 26 at 10 p.m. tickets are now on sale for \$20 each or \$35 per couple. The capacity of the boat is 90, so purchase your tickets early. This event promises to be a fun-filled and romantic evening.

On June 8, the Pride Committee will

host a premier showing of "The Fifth of July." This is a comedic play with a Gay theme and will be presented at the Clavis Theatre.

The fourth event will be the screening of a new feature film at the Oriental Theatre. The film title and date will be announced soon. Watch this newspaper for further information.

Tickets for all events are available at Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian bars as well as other businesses throughout the Gay/Lesbian community where Pride posters are displayed. Tickets may also be obtained at the offices of In-Step and Wisconsin Light or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the ML/GPC Committee at 225 S. 2nd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204. Checks should be made payable to ML/GPC.

Please call (414) 32-PRIDE day or night for updates and interesting community messages.

Appleton Hosts Miss Gay Midwest Continental U.S.A. Pageant April 16

King productions, organizers of the Southeastern Wisconsin pageant series held yearly in Appleton, Kenosha, Racine and Green Bay recently announced the additions of pageants in Madison, Wausau and Milwaukee.

Jimmy King, founder of King Productions, announced he has added a Continental U.S.A. franchise to his family of pageants. The Miss Gay Midwest Continental U.S.A. Pageant will be held Sunday, April 16 at the Pivot Club in Appleton. That pageant will be separate from the Miss Gay Continental Wisconsin, U.S.A. pageant held by

Ginger Spice. Winners from both of those pageants will compete in the Miss Gay Continental U.S.A. Pageant in Chicago over Labor Day weekend.

King said contestants from throughout the Midwest will compete in Interview, Swim Suit, Talent and Evening Gown. Applications are available from Club 125 in Green Bay, The Pivot Club in Appleton and Club II-XIX and the Triangle in Milwaukee. Contestants will compete for over \$600 in cash prizes. Featured entertainment will star Miss Kelly Lauren, Miss Continental U.S.A. '88-'89.

Mapplethorpe's "The Perfect Moment" Photo Exhibit Extended

By Geno

Robert Mapplethorpe's death of AIDS last month has extended the run of "The Perfect Moment," the spectacular retrospective showing of all phases of his photographic world. The exhibition is currently on display at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art.

The show includes over 150 photographs and artifacts centered around his portraits including many self-portraits, still life studies (the flower images most prominently), and the nudes and studies of various forms of sexuality.

Another exhibit of his work at the Betsy Rosenfield Gallery, 212 W. Superior St. in Chicago will run through April 22.

Mapplethorpe had been diagnosed with AIDS two years ago so that consequently the prices of his photographs were steadily appreciating in value. With his death, these prices have already doubled and, according to the Rosenfield Gallery, his estate has put a stop on the sales of his works for the time being. Prints that were priced at \$5,000 were fetching \$10,000 before the exclusion and the escalation of prices is likely to continue.

Seeing "The Perfect Moment" on March 9th was a moving experience — provocative and exciting, mixed with concern for the artist who was reported to be seriously ill. Then to hear of Mapplethorpe's death on the car radio returning from Chicago that evening, brought home the full impact of the artist's life and work.

A second visit to both galleries on Easter Sunday revealed large crowds and it was encouraging to see many young people in attendance seriously taking in

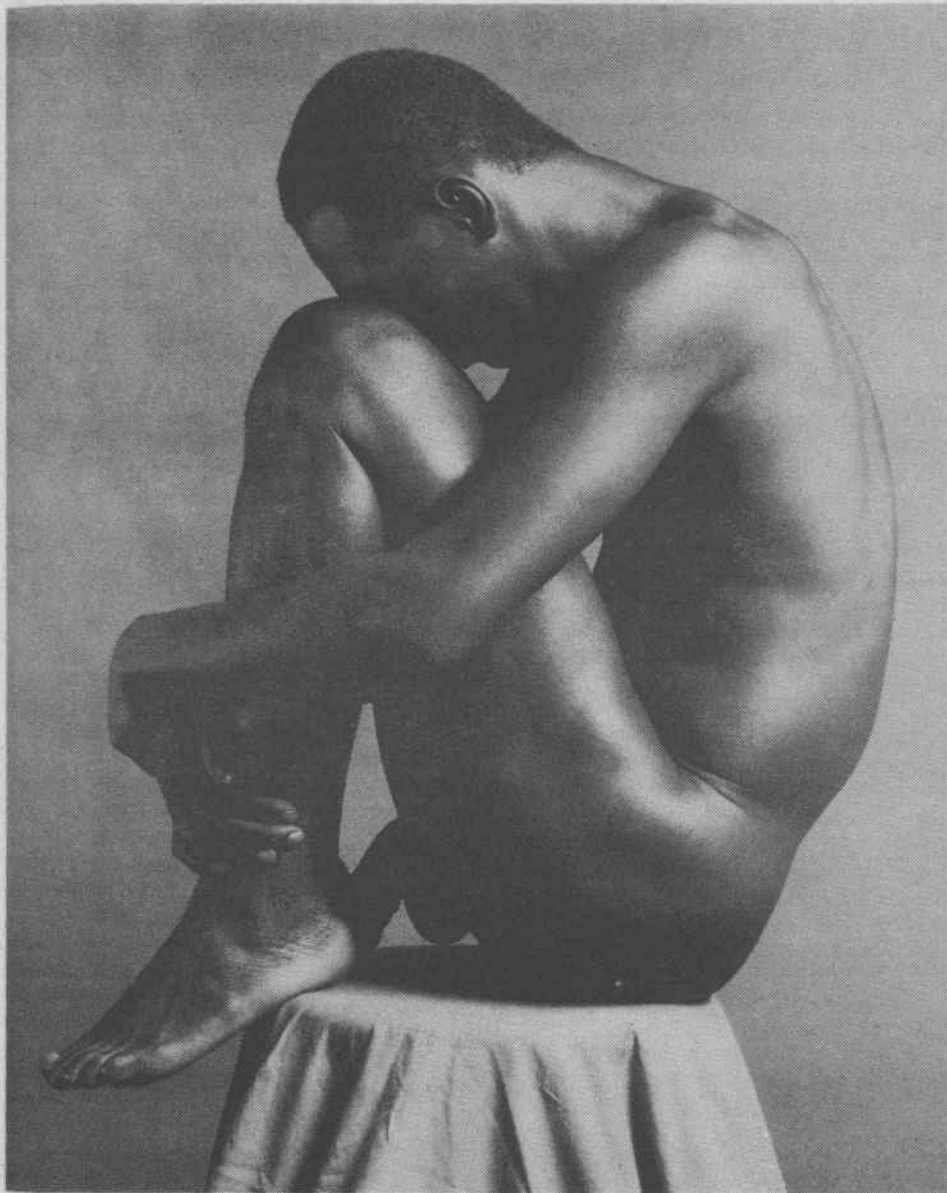
Mapplethorpe's accomplishment.

Most of the exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art is composed of portraits (Andy Warhol, Louise Nevelson, William Burroughs) and still-life studies magnificently displayed. His nude studies of Black men, of Lisa Lyon, the female body builder, are tastefully displayed, appropriately framed and their similarities to classic sculpture remove any associations with sensationalism from them. For example, the four life-size studies of Ajitto, front, back and side views, occupy a whole wall near the entrance to the gallery and they are breathtaking — powerful, yet serene, like statues carved from basalt.

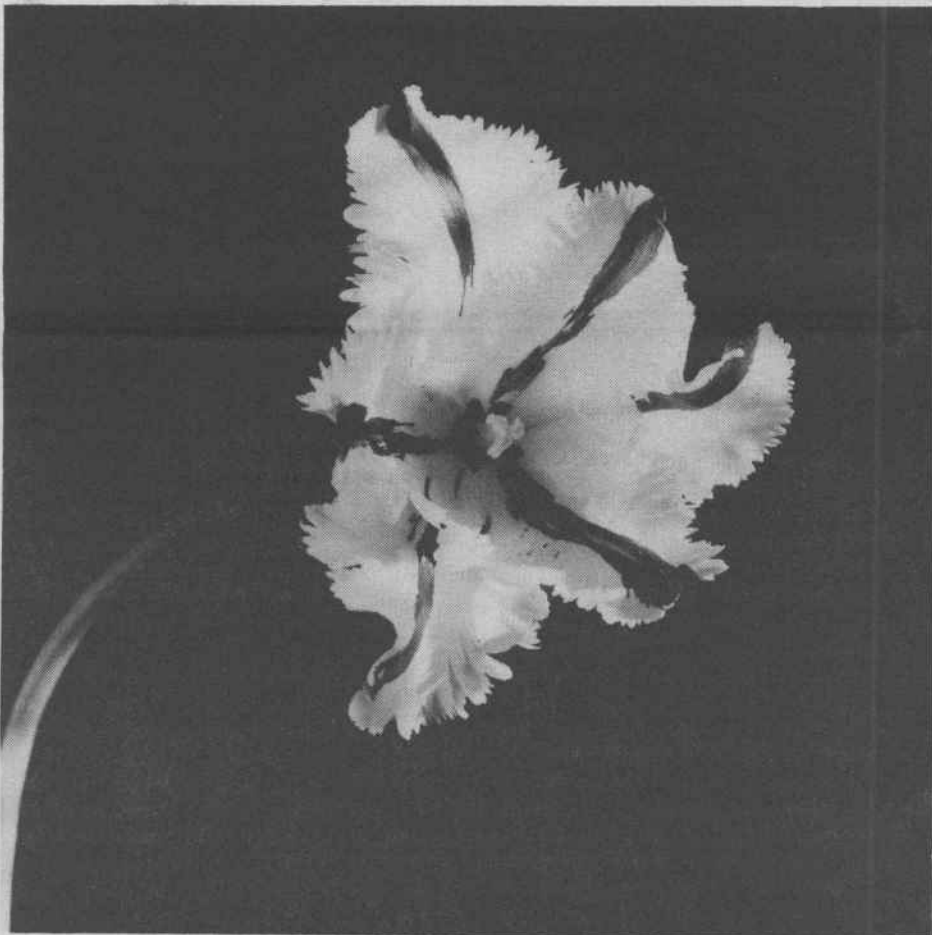
But the studies in the collection which attract most attention are those focused on the explicitly Gay sexual photographs featuring S/M, fisting, leather and other fetishisms and photographs glorifying the phallus.

Mapplethorpe devised a table-top case slightly tilted toward the viewer for his photography so that some of the shock value of the exhibit is lessened and those not wishing to indulge are free to move on through the gallery. The Contemporary Museum also has a small projection room where a film dealing with Mapplethorpe's photography is viewed and explained by a variety of critics is shown every hour.

Mapplethorpe's photographs have been shown at the National Portrait Gallery in London, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam and the Whitney Museum in New York, but this is the largest exhibition yet assembled and a splendid tribute to an artist who dared to create images not seen before.



Pictured (left) is Robert Mapplethorpe's "Parrot Tulip", 1987 and (above) is Mapplethorpe's "Ajitto", 1981. Both photos are currently on exhibit at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art.



Domestic Violence, Health, Cream City Chorus Featured on Tri-Cable

[Milwaukee]- April's Tri-Cable Tonight seen on Warner Cable Channel 14 (City of Milwaukee Only) will be guest-hosted by fellow producer Michael Lisowski. Highlights include:

Susan Cook and Gary Wells talking about Milwaukee's Pride Celebration.

Musical Director of the Cream City Chorus, Scott Stewart, will talk about the Chorus's up-coming trip to Seattle this Summer.

There will be a community forum on the National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference.

Part one of Domestic Abuse in Nancy

Neutz's "My Little World."

BEST Clinic's free AIDS/HIV antibody testing outreach program at the bars.

And Tri-Cable's uniquely Gay and Lesbian approach to news and events.

Tri-Cable Tonight may be seen on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. and the last Sunday of the month at 6:00 p.m. The Program is recast the day after the above days (Wednesday after the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, late mornings or early afternoon at variable times and Monday after the last Sunday at 10:00 p.m.

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POLITICALLY SPEAKING

Mobilization Needed To Ward Off Hatred and Bigotry Enemies

By Bill Meunier

This column is dedicated to Alyn Hess who asked me to write on this subject.

In the last issue of *The Wisconsin Light* you read about how Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) had managed to derail the Federal Government's AZT subsidy program. The program provided badly needed funds to all 5 states which used the money to purchase AZT for Persons With AIDS or ARC who could not afford to buy it for themselves and do not have health insurance coverage for it.

When a bill to renew funding for the program came up, Helms managed to prevent its passage. He had some help in this nefarious deed, Senators Armstrong (R-CO) and Nickles (R-OK), but there is little doubt that Helms was the chief architect of the latest demonstration of Republican cruelty directed at those who can not help themselves.

This is not the first time that Helms has effectively used his power against us. Who could forget the infamous Helms Amendment which cut off federal funding for safe sex education? One has to wonder how many lives that cost?

Helms is the symptom of the problem, but not the disease itself. The disease lies within the Gay/Lesbian community and it's even more deadly than the AIDS virus. It's called "Apathy."

Over the past few years, many of us have been willing to generously contribute time and money to local and national AIDS organizations. Many of those who are contributing their time, talents and/or treasures, have never before been involved in any Gay or Lesbian related cause. And many never will be.

It seems that the AIDS epidemic is consuming all of the resources that we have to give.

While I agree that the problems that AIDS poses are enormous and the needs of Persons with AIDS or ARC are great, I have difficulty understanding why we as a people seem to be so willing to help the sick and dying while we are not doing anything for the living. Yes, AIDS is a tragedy, but it is only one of several tragedies that are weighing down our community.

Across the country, we are seeing an enormous increase in anti-Gay/Lesbian violence. There is also the problem of discrimination. While not all of us will face the AIDS virus, all of us do have to put up with the violence and discrimination that has become more and more a part of our everyday lives.

The problems of violence and discrimination have been increased by the AIDS epidemic. When the government

says that it's alright to let us die, they send a clear, unmistakable signal to those who would oppress us. In the minds of the queer bashers, since no one cares about us anyway, it's okay to commit violent and/or discriminatory acts against us.

Yes, we need to care for the sick and dying. Yes, these need our time and our money, but if we don't also work for the living, some of whom are permanently scarred by acts of violence and oppression, we are ignoring the very real needs of millions who will not be infected by the HIV virus.

Those needs are now being largely ignored as we put so much into the fight against AIDS. Local, statewide and national AIDS groups dwarf those organizations struggling to fight violence and oppression. It seems that only our fight to live can wake us up.

But we are only half awake if we don't fight for life with dignity and respect; a life without fear of violence, a life without fear of discrimination.

The AIDS epidemic is only the latest manifestation of the hatred and bigotry that oppress us. It is the hatred and bigotry that are the real enemies. It is only our apathy, our unwillingness to recognize where our true interests lie and inability to come together without fighting with each other, that serve as allies to those enemies.

We need to organize. We need to support our organizations and when we find a need not being met, we need to form new groups to meet it. We need to recognize that organizations working to make things better for the living, need help and support too.

We also need to understand that if we had mobilized enough resources, we could have defeated Jesse Helms and the AZT program would still be intact. A solid effort on our part could have prevented Ronald Reagan from winning the presidency in the first place, saving untold thousands of lives.

Some will say, "Oh sure, but how did we know that AIDS was going to come around?"

You didn't, but that's not the point. The point is that AIDS and the other forms of oppression that affect us all have the same roots. If we don't do what we can and must do to prevent those roots from blossoming, we are asking for trouble. The fact that Reagan was no friend of ours was well known prior to his election. That alone should have been enough for us to work for his defeat.

Above all else we need to recognize the truth of the words of Hillel, "If I am not for myself, who then will be for me and if not now, when?"

World Shut Out as AIDS Leads to Ultimate Closeness Between Lovers

By Daniel G. Trzebiatowski

The following story is a difficult one for me to write which is why I am choosing to write it. I find that the more difficult an issue is, the easier it is for me to work it through thus benefiting from it. I also hope that others can benefit from it in any way they may choose.

During the early 80's I was going through a period in my life where I was questioning my sexuality and my future that would be directly guided by my homosexuality. Not quite sure what I was in search of, I left Milwaukee and landed in Denver. It was in Denver that I met Michael.

Being young, lonely and vulnerable, I was drawn to Michael in a way that I had never experienced with anyone else before and never have since. He was warm, compassionate and caring — things that I was unfamiliar with, but something that I really needed at that time. As a result, I accepted it with open arms and fell in love with this man.

In the first several months, we openly and honestly grew with one another. We shared ourselves unconditionally, whether it was good or bad, proud or shameful. We became a whole and, as a result, it hurt us in the long run, for I think we both lost a part of our identities.

Several months into our relationship, we were faced with an ultimate test of our love for one another. After several weeks of being ill, Michael decided to go in for a check-up. Five days later, as I sat by his bedside, we were told that Michael had AIDS.

Since neither of us had any exposure to this disease other than what we had read in a few Gay publications, we were devastated by this diagnosis.

After we overcame the initial shock, the question we asked ourselves was how he had contacted it. After some serious thought, I went to get tested for HIV antibody and my results came back negative. This simply confirmed what both of us had already assumed.

At one point in our relationship, for several reasons, we had decided to have an open relationship. This being the case, we choose to work through the result we were not faced with; work it through positively, not negatively. We had both agreed to this aspect of our relationship and we both had made our choices. Now we had to decide whether we would fight the result together or drift apart from one another.

Unfortunately, Michael had an extremely difficult time dealing with some of the guilt. My attempts to have him look at the part I played in it and my responsibility in the situation were rejected. He wouldn't accept the fact that I consciously made my choice just as he



Daniel G. Trzebiatowski

had and I had to take responsibility for it. As a result, he essentially stopped fighting, both physically and emotionally. The next few months were filled with a lot of pain and suffering on both our parts, but along with these, came a lot of caring, honesty, joy and love.

We became so dependent on one another. We shut out everyone around us and now we were faced with only the support we could offer one another. Other than a live-in nurse, we were alone. Though it had its down side, it also gave us the rare opportunity to share whatever time we had left together. We took this time and shared our feelings of fear. We were also faced with a strong sense of loneliness, separation and our eventual parting.

This is where we made the decision to share everything with one another, including continuing to have sex together. I can honestly say that I was the selfish one here. But I needed all of Michael, not only part of him. Eventually, it was also a choice that Michael made. This, I believe, made our final weeks together complete.

Michael died in my arms with what I hope was with the love that I felt for him and that I continue to have.

I will never know whether Michael was the person who originally transmitted the virus to me, nor do I have a need to know. I made my choice at the time and I have never had any regrets. Just as it would be the case if I was infected by someone else which is possible. I once again had made my own choice.

I still think of Michael and miss him a great deal, but they are warm and happy memories, for this is how I choose to remember him.

A note of thanks: It was brought to my attention by a reader that there is going to be a Gay Pride March in Madison on Saturday, May 6 where the Names Quilt will be on display at the UW fieldhouse May 5-7. Why don't we make it a group show of support? It could be a very special and moving experience. If interested, write to me at the paper and let me know.

BRADY EAST STD CLINIC
1240 East Brady Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 272-2144

**Will Be Conducting
ANONYMOUS HIV TESTING**

At The Triangle
135 E. National

On Sunday, April 30, 1989 - 6 to 9 PM

At La Cage Aux Folles
801 S. 2nd St.

On Monday, April 10, 1989 - 8 to 11 PM

At Club 219
219 S. 2nd St.

On Thursday, April 20, 1989 - 8 to 11 PM
On Thursday, May 18, 1989 - 8 to 11 PM

The Brady East STD Clinic will make arrangements for special HIV testing clinic's for any interested organization. For information, call the clinic on Monday or Wednesday between 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm.

MFG
an alternative

We're a social group sponsoring a variety of monthly activities including:

- Dinners
- Theater
- Movies
- Biking
- And more

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Drop us a note and we'll send you a calendar of upcoming events.

Metro Milwaukee Friendship Group
P.O. Box 93203
Milwaukee, WI 53203

Jet's Place

1753 S. Kinnickinnic
Milwaukee 53207- 672-5580

**M—F—Open 3 P.M.
Sat.—Sun.
—Holidays 12:00 Noon**

**Cocktail Hour M—F
3—7 P.M.**

**Hall & Catering
Dancing**

**Sheepshead Every
Thurs. 7—9 P.M.**

THE UNITED

P.O. Box 310
Madison, WI 53701

1127 University Ave.
Room B103
(608) 255-8582

• Support Groups • Advocacy
• Gay/Lesbian Phone Line

[608] 255-4297

In Remembrance

By Michael S. Lisowski

How do I say good-bye to Alyn? I don't think I should actually call it a good-bye, for my best friend, Alyn, will always be with me. Yet, I admit, he will be with me in a different way, perhaps a better way. It will be much better for Alyn who, finally, no longer suffers and much better for me, for already I feel a stronger sense of determination and spirit to continue in my own way the energy and spirit that Alyn left me.

Many, many people knew of Alyn and many people knew Alyn. But, regardless, anyone who met Alyn immediately recognized that Alyn was unique, strange, if you will.

I remember when I first met Alyn. It was my first Gay People's Union (GPU) meeting in October, 1976. My first impression was, "Who is that odd guy?" For some reason I sensed that Alyn had something different about him. He was running about talking with various people and people were asking him various things as well. I sensed that this guy had some sense of leadership and direction and that people looked to him for advice. Over the weeks I would talk with Alyn when I had a chance, usually when people left him to himself. He was accepting, non-judgmental, always ready with some funny comment, camping it up to the delight of those around him.

I frequently visited him after GPU meetings, upstairs in his apartment rented from GPU. I would chuckle to myself about his surroundings, the paintings and the rest, but the one thing that will always remind me of him was his bicycle. It was a "woman's bike" which he liked for the comfort and ease it provided. He always said that a bike was a bike, not a woman's or a man's. Watching him peddling down the street, I could not help thinking of the wicked witch in the "Wizard of Oz."

Alyn carried a purse, not a handbag, but a "purse." He would purposely call it a purse so that, as with the bike, he could break down stereotypes. So there he was, riding his bike and carrying his purse, confronting people's stereotypes. It worked beautifully.

Shortly after I met Alyn, we talked about our mutual interest in Black men. In 1977, two to three years before Black and White Men Together (BWMT) began in Milwaukee, he got a small group of us together — about 10 or 15 — in the GPU meeting room. We met a few times and then the group gradually fell apart. I guess the time wasn't right, but when BWMT came along, we jumped in.

I also remember my first Gay Pride Parade in Chicago in 1977. Alyn must have convinced me somehow, but I marched at the head of GPU's contingent as King Arthur, the Gay crusader. Every year since then, Alyn and I have gone to Chicago for the Parade.

Alyn loved porn — the blacker, the better. I remember him telling me about a contest he was entering in one of the Black porn magazines. There were only Black dicks — 12 of them. The contestant had to match the dicks with the person, but only a steady subscriber would know whose was what. Alyn could identify 10

TURN TO REMEMBRANCE, PAGE 7

Office of the Mayor
CITY OF MILWAUKEE



Proclamation

Whereas: Alyn Hess lived a life filled with commitment and compassion. He was a relentless advocate on behalf of the rights of Gay people; and,


WHEREAS, Alyn Hess came to Milwaukee in the 60's. He founded the Gay Peoples Union, the oldest Gay organization in the Midwest. He started the Gay Peoples Union Hotline. This hotline has helped literally thousands of people with counseling and information. He was also the co-founder of the GPU-STD Clinic which is now known as the Brady Street-East STD Clinic. He founded the Milwaukee and Washington, D.C. chapters of Black and White Men Together, an organization dedicated to fostering interracial harmony and social activism. He was also a volunteer for the Milwaukee AIDS Project; and,

WHEREAS, More important than the countless achievements and personal victories of Alyn Hess is the lasting impact his life will have on this community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN O. NORQUIST, Mayor of the City of Milwaukee, do hereby this 4th day of April, 1989, extend the condolences of the City of Milwaukee to the family and friends of

ALYN HESS

fond memories will remain in the hearts and minds of all who have known him.




JOHN O. NORQUIST
Mayor

Alyn Hess

Dec. 6, 1939 —
"He was the apple in God's eye"

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

JIM MOODY
5TH DISTRICT
WISCONSIN

APRIL 1989

Dear Family & Friends:

Alyn Hess was a beautiful man. Always considerate of those around him. He bore his pain and courage. Never bitter, but always around him. Throughout his active life that affected the entire community in politics, and worked hard. We will all miss his warmth and kindness.



Why Not Now? By Alyn Hess

Why?
Why not?
Why not now?
If you are not ready to fight now for your own betterment? When will your heart finally move you to action?
Will nothing ever be worth fighting for?
How much will it take before you will stand up and say, I will not take it anymore.
Or will you be like that lobster which will let itself be cooked to death because the temperature was so slowly raised it lulled it into non-action?



[Milwaukee]- Alyn Hess died the way he lived, surrounded by friends and admirers from both the Lesbian/Gay and majority communities.

The lying in state in the library of Milwaukee's Episcopal All Saints Cathedral from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 4, 1989, was attended by several hundred mourners which included Milwaukee County Executive Dave Schultz and his wife, Joan. Milwaukee County Executive Dave Schultz personally extended condolences from Milwaukee County to grieving family and friends. On Wednesday, April 5, Schultz issued a Proclamation expressing condolences and sympathy of the people of Milwaukee County to the family and friends and Lesbian/Gay community of the death of Alyn Hess.

Other dignitaries included Heide Klause representing Milwaukee Mayor John O. Norquist, Milwaukee Alderman Paul Hennigson, Judges Frederick Kessler and Stanley Miller, Milwaukee Police Chief Robert Zarniak, Val Phillips former Wisconsin Secretary of State and Milwaukee alderman candidate David



Alyn W. Hess

Dec. 6, 1939 — March 31, 1989

"He was the apple in God's eye" Rev'd Canon Michael J. Stolpman

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

JIM MOODY
5TH DISTRICT
WISCONSIN

April 4, 1989

Dear Family & Friends:

Alyn Hess was a beautiful human being.

Always considerate and gentle, Alyn cared about all those around him.

He bore his pain and mortal sentence with dignity and courage. Never bitter, he remained kind and caring to those around him.

Throughout his active life he was committed to causes that affected the entire community. He was active in politics, and worked hard for causes and candidates.

We will all miss his gentle spirit. And we will always remember his warmth and kindness towards others.

Jim Moody
Jim Moody
Member of Congress



[Milwaukee]- Alyn Hess died the way he lived, surrounded by friends and admirers from both the Lesbian/Gay and majority communities.

The lying in state in the library of Milwaukee's Episcopal All Saints' Cathedral from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 4, 1989, was attended by several hundred mourners which included Milwaukee County Executive Dave Schulz and his wife. Schulz and his wife, Joanne, personally extended condolences from all Milwaukee County to grieving family and friends. On Wednesday, April 5, Schulz issued a Proclamation expressing the condolences and sympathy of the people of Milwaukee County to the family, friends and Lesbian/Gay community on the death of Alyn Hess.

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Hoeh and A.C.E. Backus, prominent long-time neighborhood activist.

The Requiem Mass was celebrated at the Cathedral at 8:00 p.m. The chief celebrant was The Reverend Canon Michael J. Stolpman who, in a moving homily, compared Hess to an Old Testament prophet for his early and long-time work in the field of civil rights for Lesbians and Gays. Bill Meunier, President of Milwaukee's Gay People's Union and Political Editor of **Wisconsin Light** read a letter of condolence from Congressman Jim Moody (D-WI/5) and a Proclamation from Milwaukee Mayor John O. Norquist expressing the sorrow of the people of Milwaukee at the passing of Alyn Hess.

A reception for friends and family in the Church Guild Hall followed the Mass. The reception was prepared by Tim Hancock, Ken Baumeister and Matthew Stelloh.

Hess is interred at Freeport, Illinois, the graveside ceremony being attended by his family and Eldon Murray and Miriam Ben-Shalom.



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Executi

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Whereas, The last breath of this li those who knew and loved him in g his life is immortalized in his ach friends, and in his legacy of service the world.

Now, therefore, I, David F. s behalf of the people of Milwaukee Cou

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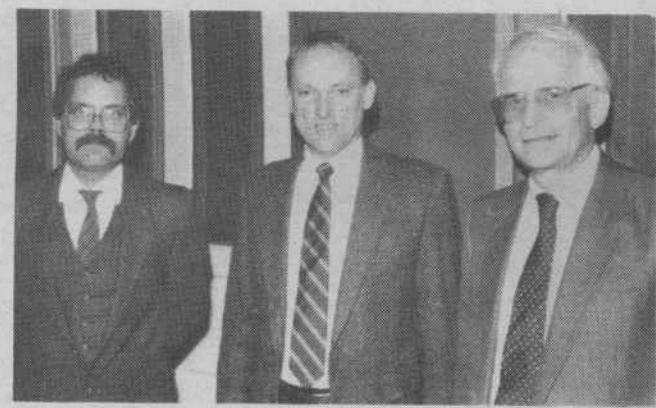
DAVID

In Memoriam

The Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee is deeply saddened by the loss of Alyn Hess, beloved mentor, friend and tireless fellow-worker for the rights of Lesbians and Gays.

We join with the entire Wisconsin community in expressing our grief. We will sorely miss his leadership as we struggle on for freedom and equality.

Let us now continue our work as he would have wanted us to do as we prepare for Pride Week '89, the 20th anniversary of Stonewall.



Hess

March 31, 1989

Reverend Canon Michael J. Stolpman

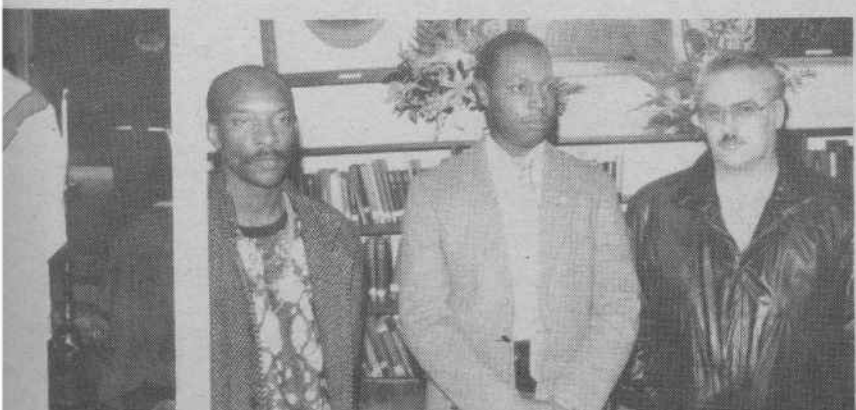
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Tim Moody
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Member of Congress



and A.C.E. Backus, prominent neighborhood activist. Requiem Mass was celebrated at 8:00 p.m. The chief officiant was The Reverend Canon Michael J. Stolpman who, in a moving homily, compared Hess to an Old Testament prophet for his early and tireless work in the field of civil rights for Lesbians and Gays. Bill Meunier, President of Milwaukee's Gay People's Union and Political Editor of Wisconsin Light, read a letter of condolence from Congressman Jim Moody (D-WI/5) and a statement from Milwaukee Mayor Tom Norquist expressing the sorrow of the people of Milwaukee at the passing of Alyn Hess. A reception for friends and family in the Guild Hall followed the Mass. The reception was prepared by Tim Hancock, Bill Meunier and Matthew Stelloh. Alyn Hess is interred at Freeport, Illinois, with a graveside ceremony being attended by family and Eldon Murray and Ben-Shalom.



Executive Proclamation

Whereas, Mr. Alyn W. Hess devoted a lifetime to securing fundamental but widely-denied civil rights for men and women whose sexual preferences have brought them ostracism, discrimination and hostility; and

Whereas, Even in the face of overwhelming public opposition to the cause of equal rights for gay people, Mr. Alyn Hess' political activism never exceeded his commitment to his values, his basic belief in human dignity and his intrinsic nature as a compassionate, gentle, caring individual; and

Whereas, Mr. Alyn Hess founded the Gay People's Union, which under his leadership and in the shadow of his legacy has survived to be the oldest gay activist organization in the Midwest, and his concern for gay men and women led him to found Black and White Men Together, to start the East Side's foremost clinic treating sexually transmitted diseases, and to become involved with the Milwaukee AIDS Project; and

Whereas, The pioneering and dedicated political and social activism of Mr. Alyn Hess and his worthy achievements in that realm nevertheless pale in comparison to the personal respect, affection and admiration he generated among his friends and colleagues; and

Whereas, The last breath of this life recently passed from the body of Mr. Alyn Hess, leaving those who knew and loved him in great sorrow and distress, but secure in the knowledge that his life is immortalized in his achievements, in the hearts and memories of his cherished friends, and in his legacy of service to the gay individuals and communities of Milwaukee and the world.

Now, therefore, I, David F. Schulz, County Executive, do hereby proclaim on behalf of the people of Milwaukee County my sorrow upon the passing of

MR. ALYN W. HESS

and my sincere sympathy and condolences to those who are most deeply touched by this inevitable event, with best wishes that his name and his works will be recalled with the same affection and honor that followed him in life, signed this fifth day of April, 1989.

DFSchulz

DAVID F. SCHULZ, Milwaukee County Executive

REMEMBRANCE Continued from Page 6

and was feverishly looking for past issues to match the other two.

I remember when Alyn was working as an employee at the Milwaukee Public Library as an archivist. He knew more about Milwaukee's history than I did. But it was more than just knowledge. He appreciated, cherished and loved that history even though he'd been born in Freeport, Illinois and it was his love of Milwaukee that increased my desire to learn more about my home town.

Alyn and I trekked to Washington, D.C. in October, 1987 to participate in the March. Alyn already knew he was HIV positive. In fact, his T-cell count was gradually decreasing, but you would never have known it.

The afternoon we arrived in D.C., Alyn gave me his customary guided tour, his arms flailing this way and that, making sure that I didn't miss a thing. (Alyn had spent two years in the city while in the Army working at the Pentagon in '64 and '65). It was a time of memories, his coming out, his first loves, his time in the military. Looking back, it was one of the best times I've shared with Alyn; a sort of climax to his long career.

These are some of the memories I have of Alyn; spontaneous, effervescent, laughing with his cackle, enjoying life to the fullest, always giving of himself, rarely holding back.

Two months later, he developed diarrhea and the following April, he came down with PCP while attending his last BWMT conference in Chicago. Then, in June, the biopsy left him partially paralyzed and bedridden for months. I was scared, knowing that my friend would be leaving me, but Alyn helped me to walk that path with him.

I talked with him about two hours the Monday before he died. I had heard from Eldon Murray that Alyn was getting worse and I asked him if he was ready to let the disease take its course? He had fought long enough, most of his business was completed and the rest was in the good hands of friends.

Tears came to my eyes as he told me he was trying to get ready. I held his hand. His head was turned from me and he said, "Michael, I appreciate what you are doing by holding my hand. It feels so good, but I'm trying to go the other way and you are trying to keep me back." I smiled as I slowly let go of his hand.

When the hospice nurse called me at work to let me know of his breathing difficulties, I went to him at once. That afternoon, Miriam Ben-Shalom and I spent three hours at Alyn's bedside, waiting, reminiscing. Miriam and I found ourselves laughing as we recalled memories of Alyn. Then, as other obligations called me away, I kissed Alyn good-bye. It did not matter that he may not have known I was there or could not feel my embrace. We had been through this together, our paths diverging only now.

Alyn is home now, but his work and spirit continue through myself and those who knew him best. One of Alyn's last wishes, spoken to another dear friend, Louie, was that Louie look after me when Alyn was gone.

Alyn died the day after my 39th birthday. Alyn is finally home. I owe you so much, Alyn. Thank you for the twelve and a half years of being your friend.



In Memoriam

The Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee is deeply saddened by the loss of Alyn Hess, beloved mentor, friend and tireless fellow-worker for the rights of Lesbians and Gays. We join with the entire Wisconsin community in expressing our grief. We will sorely miss his leadership as we struggle on for freedom and equality. Let us now continue our work as he would have wanted us to do as we prepare for Pride Week '89, the 20th anniversary of Stonewall.

