

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

The Wisconsin Light

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D.C. Speak Out Campaign To Visit Pride Rally

[Washington, D.C.]- The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) is planning an unprecedented campaign at Gay Pride events around the country to enroll people in the HRCF Speak Out mail program to Congress. The program — the first of its kind in the Gay movement — has met with tremendous response from around the country.

In the last six weeks, the program has tripled to almost 12,000 individuals who have pre-authorized messages to their congresspersons.

HRCF Speak Out campaign canvassers will be signing up people at the Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Pride March and Rally on June 17. Milwaukee is among the 30-40 cities to be visited by HRCF canvassers. The canvassers will be wearing blue Speak Out T-shirts and have HRCF mailgram forms on hand.

HRCF cautions Gay/Lesbian Pride participants not to confuse the Speak Out campaign with petitions from the New Alliance Party (NAP). NAP, criticized by numerous national and local Gay organizations as "opportunistic" and exploitive of the Gay community, is attempting to sign up Gays in support of its so-called "AIDS Bill of Rights." **There is no such bill pending in Congress at this time.**

By signing up for the HRCF Speak Out program, people allow brief, hardhitting messages to be sent on their behalf to their congresspersons.

"We may see a vote on the Hate Crimes Statistics Act in mid-July," said Steve Endean, HRCF Field Division director. "We believe Jesse Helms will attack the bill with a hate amendment labeling Lesbians and Gay men a threat to the American family."

"We need every possible person enrolled in the mailgram program so we can avalanche Congress with mail supporting the bill and opposing Helms' amendment," said Endean.

The messages cost just \$2.95 each (minimum of three), and are triggered on short notice to respond to fast-moving legislation. Those enrolling in the program will be billed later.

Sunday, June 18 Concert Added By Fest City Singers

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee's Original Fest City Singers (FCS) will present an added performance of their revue and concert "Catch a Rising Star" on Sunday, June 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stiemke Theater of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Some tickets are still available for the Friday and Saturday performances, June 16 and 17 at 8:00 p.m., but advance ticket sales have indicated the need for an added performance.

Tickets for all three performances may be ordered from the Fest City Singers Hotline (414) 263-SING. A networking and ticket table will be set up at Milwaukee's Pride Rally at which the FCS will perform.

Huge Parade and Rally Headline Milwaukee Pride Week

FIRST GAY/LESBIAN PRIDE PARADE & RALLY



Milwaukee Radio Airwaves Again Cultivate Homophobia

By Mary Shafer

[Milwaukee]- Once again, Milwaukee's prime cultivators of homophobia (that's right, I'm talking about radio disk jockeys) have chosen to plow a few more furrows into the already fertile ground of our provincial town.

On Friday, June 9, one week before our scheduled Gay Pride Celebration, Dave Luczak of WKLH/96.5 FM, found one of his "Hollywood Trash" articles (a frequent segment of the morning show) irresistible grist for his homophobia mill.

It seems that those two gals-about-town, Madonna and Sandra Bernhard (a brilliant and somewhat over-the-edge comedienne from out LA way) once again made headlines among the avant garde group as they entertained a \$500 per ticket crowd for a benefit performance by doing a raunchy version of Sonny & Cher's "I Got You, Babe," complete with some very undiluted feely-meely fondling of each other as they sang.

During the performance, Madonna referred to rumors that began circulating after she and Bernhard appeared on Letterman and professed a deep mutual love and admiration for each other, by saying to the audience, "Don't believe any of those rumors," to which Bernhard quipped in no uncertain terms, "Believe all those rumors!" The gals just giggled and went on with the show.

Well, apparently ol' Dave just couldn't handle that one. He proceeded to make comments like, "Boy, she is one homely woman," referring to Bernhard. Obviously, if a woman chooses to be a dyke, it was sparked by her inability to get a guy, right? He also noted that, by looking at a picture that he was obviously holding in his hand at the time, that, "Well, yeah, I guess with her shirt off

she would look like a guy. I mean, look at this..."

He was talking to his temporary co-anchor, Lisa Dominique, who is standing in for Luczak's usual morning partner, Carol Kane who is on maternity leave.

Kane usually has the ability to temper some of Luczak's more sophomoric outbursts. Her unusual level of sophistication for FM radio and dry wit many times serve to make Luczak make himself look as silly as he is.

Let's face it, Dave. It's not necessary that Sandra Bernhard look like a guy for Madonna to be attracted to her. After all, one year with Sean Penn would be enough for any self-respecting woman to realize that men aren't all they're cracked up to be when it comes to relationships and tenderness.

And don't worry, Dave. Madonna continues to make her living by exploiting her "Boy Toy" image onstage and in her music, so you can still fantasize about her liking men...maybe even you! If Madonna can make millions of dollars by making all the little boys cream their jeans, more power to her. It might be kind of rough, but she can always go home and be comforted by Sandra.

Wake up and smell the political ferment, Milwaukee "air personalities!" We are part of your listenership, and WE DO LISTEN! We will no longer sit back and tolerate being the targets of your ignorant, hateful barbs and be silent about it.

Does anyone else recall a similar situation awhile back with the Lipps LaBelle show on WKTI? Was it just a coincidence that Mr. LaBelle's name, along with WKTI's appeared on the back page of the Light's Pride issue as people who supported the staging of our first Gay Pride march with their monetary donations?

Apparently someone is alert enough to recognize the political clout that the Milwaukee Gay community has the ability to wield and takes it seriously. I congratulate them on their perception and urge others to do the same. We are, after all, headed into The Gay Nineties...

**Lift Up Your
Head In PRIDE!**

[Milwaukee]- We're only moments away from the 1st Annual Gay/Lesbian Pride Parade and Rally on Saturday, June 17th. As to be expected, things are hectic, but on schedule for a day of pride and celebration.

Robert Peterson from *The Advocate* arrived on Wednesday night to begin his stay with the Lesbian/Gay community during Pride Week for a special article on Pride Celebrations.

Terry Boughner and Jamakaya will appear on the Channel 10 Public Television program "Smith and Company", Thursday night, the publication date of *Wisconsin Light*, at 10:30 p.m. to discuss the Gay/Lesbian Pride Celebration.

On Friday, at 9:00 a.m. Terry Boughner, Editor of the *Wisconsin Light*, and Annabell Havlicek of Robison, Havlicek & Associates, will be on a live call-in "Larry the Legend Johnson" talk show on WISN Radio, 1130AM.

The Pride Committee held an orientation session Wednesday evening for the Pride Guide volunteers and updated them on all the current events and activities. The participation of those volunteering is much appreciated, the Committee said, and the Committee intends to put their time, talents and Pride to good use this weekend.

All is ready for the Parade and Rally.



DR. KAREN LAMB

The expected turnout of individuals, according to members of the Pride Committee, is predicted in the 5,000+ range, and Wisconsin cities such as Madison, Green Bay, Stevens Point, La Crosse, Eau Claire, and out-of-state cities including Minneapolis and Chicago, have buses transporting people to attend the Rally and to March in the Parade through downtown Milwaukee.

TURN TO PRIDE WEEK, PAGE 11

S.F. Domestic Partner Law Signed Into Law

[San Francisco]- San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos on June 5 signed into law precedent-setting legislation ending official discrimination based on marital status. The Mayor's action followed a unanimous vote of approval by the Board of Supervisors. San Francisco's city-county legislative body.

Supervisor Harry G. Britt, President of the Board of Supervisors and author of the law, said today that "San Francisco has once again set the pace for the nation. This law is about human rights as much as it is about anything else. No one in this country should be treated as a second-class citizen, whether it be because of their race, their religion, their beliefs, or their marital status. We have sent a clear signal that all of us have the

TURN TO PARTNERS, PAGE 8

PARADE

ML/GPC — 1989 Celebration
June 16-27, 1989

PARADE

RALLY

ML/GPC — 1989 Celebration
June 16-27, 1989

RALLY

STONEWALL 20: A GENERATION OF PRIDE

Saturday, June 17, 1989

8:00 am-12:00 noon

- ✓ **Last Minute Entries and Signmaking Workshop**
 - Cream City Foundation Community Center
225 South 2nd Street, 1st Floor Cotillion Room

- ✓ **Pre-Parade Pressroom**
 - Cream City Foundation Community Center
225 South 2nd Street, 1st Floor Rear Conference Room

11:00 am-12:15 pm

- ✓ **Parade Line-up and Formation**
 - East Washington Street between South 1st & South Barclay
Fannie's opens at 10:30 am for Eye-openers & Snacks.
Music and "Let's Get Fired-Up" Rally

12:30 pm

- ✓ **Step-Off**
 - Westbound on Washington Street to South 2nd Street

1:00 pm

- ✓ **Giant Balloon Release**
 - When the ML/GPC Float (Center Unit of Parade) reaches the front
of the Cream City Foundation Community Center, 225 South 2nd Street

1:45 pm

- ✓ **Parade ends at Cathedral Square**

2:00 pm

- ✓ **Rally Begins**
 - Cathedral Square

STONEWALL 20: A GENERATION OF PRIDE

Saturday, June 17, 1989 • 2:00 PM
CATHEDRAL SQUARE PARK
Milwaukee, WI

TENTATIVE RALLY PROGRAM SCHEDULE

2:00 PM

- > OPENING REMARKS & WELCOME, INTRODUCTION OF ML/GPC COMMITTEE MEMBERS
- > INTRODUCTION & RECOGNITION OF DIGNITARIES AND GUESTS
- > INTRODUCTION OF EMCEES (MS. BARB COYLE AND MR. DAVID ROGERS)
- > PERFORMANCE BY MILWAUKEE'S ORIGINAL FEST CITY SINGERS

AWARDS CEREMONY

- > GAY PEOPLE'S UNION - ALLYN HESS FRIENDS AWARD (Presented by Bill Meunier, GPU to former Police Chief Robert Ziarnik)
- > JED CLAY TO PRESENT THE PARADE AWARDS
 - Most Creative/Originality - GROUP
 - Most Creative/Originality - BUSINESS
 - Best Presentation of Theme - GROUP
 - Best Presentation of Theme - BUSINESS
 - Committee's Choice Award for Pride

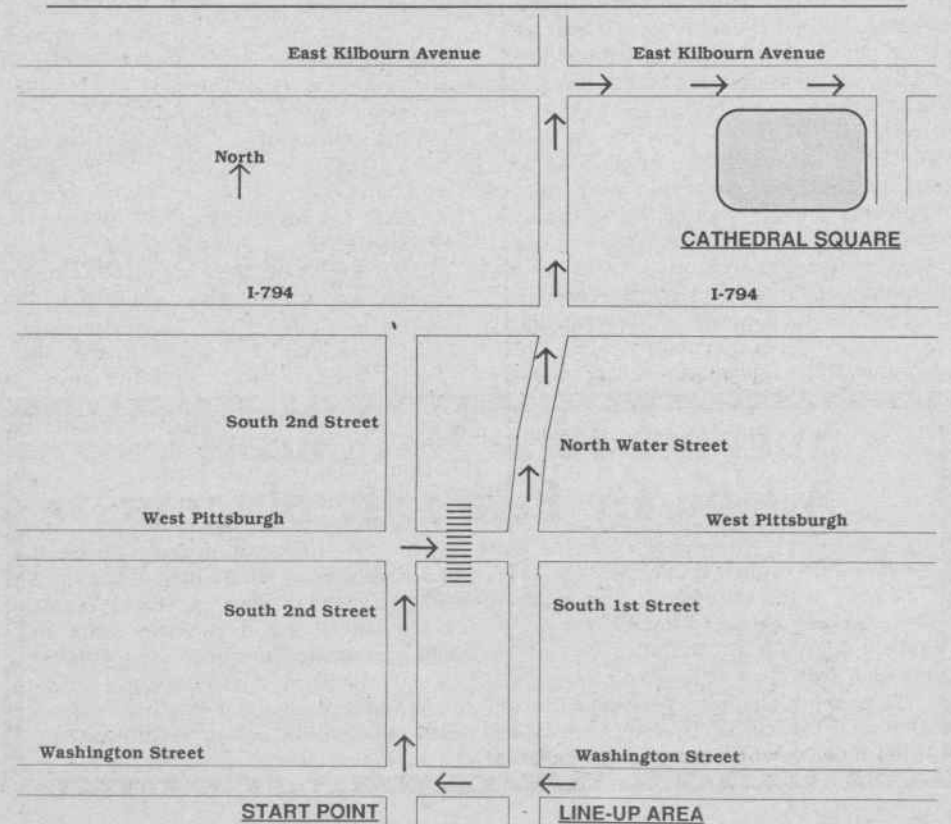
- > PRESENTATION OF FIRST ANNUAL ML/GPC COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

SPEAKERS

- > MARCUS SMITH - Staff Assistant to Mayor John Norquist
- > DR. TERRY BOUGHNER - Editor, *The Wisconsin Light*; Nationally acclaimed historian. "STONEWALL: THEN AND NOW"
- > MICHAEL LISOWSKI - Presentation on behalf of GAY YOUTH MILWAUKEE
- > DR. KAREN LAMB
- > DAN TRZEBIATOWSKI - Columnist, *Rights for Persons With AIDS Activist* INCLUDES MEMORIAL BALLOON RELEASE - A tribute to the brave Wisconsinites we've lost to AIDS.
- > JAMAKAYA - Columnist, Historian & Community Activist
- > BILL RUBENSTEIN - Staff Attorney, National Headquarters, American Civil Liberties Union, New York
- > INTRODUCTION OF THE DJ'S OF WISCONSIN'S HOTTEST DANCE FLOORS (LA CAGE/ DANCE DANCE DANCE)
- > Plus: Organizational Networking Tables, Plenty of Food & Beverages, ML/GPC Promotional Items, Lots of People, & A LOT OF PRIDE!

LINE-UP & PARADE ROUTE

The Parade will start lining up between 11:00 am and 12:15 pm, starting at the intersection of East Washington Street and South Second Street. Be sure each entries' person-in-charge reports immediately to the Check-in Marshall to account for your entry in the parade. Step-off time is at 12:30 pm and will proceed along the route shown below.



Executive Proclamation

Whereas, Those people who are gay have historically experienced ostracism, discrimination and hostility because of their sexual preferences, and have been frequently denied fundamental and lawful civil rights in matters totally unrelated to their sexual characteristics; and

Whereas, The State of Wisconsin, alone among the sovereign states of the United States of America, has enacted statutes expressly protecting the civil rights of gay people, and legally prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment and public benefits on the basis of sexual preference; and

Whereas, The gay citizens of Milwaukee County have joined together to insist that their rights be upheld and honored by the community, to promote awareness of gay lifestyles and concerns, and to encourage equal and fair treatment of gay people; and

Whereas, In pursuit of justice, civil liberty, and community understanding, the Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian Pride Committee has officially declared the week of Friday, June 16 through Tuesday, June 27, 1989, to be "Gay and Lesbian Pride Week," under the slogan "Stonewall 20: A Generation of Pride," commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the birth of modern gay activism in the tragic Stonewall Riots of 1969.

Now, therefore, I, David F. Schulz, County Executive of Milwaukee County, do hereby proclaim the week of Friday, June 16 through Tuesday, June 27, to be

GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE WEEK

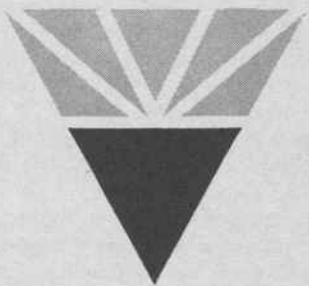
throughout Milwaukee County, urging all citizens to treat gay people with human dignity and respect, and to refrain from any form of discrimination or unjust treatment of people because of their sexual preference, and I encourage those citizens of Milwaukee County who are gay to join with the gay community in pursuit of social justice, recognition, and cultural acceptance.

David F. Schulz

DAVID F. SCHULZ, Milwaukee County Executive

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

The Wisconsin Light



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GAY AND LESBIAN
PRESS ASSOCIATION

EDITORIAL

Dishonesty Allows Rumor Mills Fertile Ground For Homophobia

"No matter what it is today, homosexuality is a part of it." This, according to the owner and publisher of Houston's *Montrose Voice*.

We tend to agree.

It could only be a matter of time when, in what newscasters are calling "the poisonous atmosphere" in Congress, the issue of homosexuality was brought up. In this case, used by the Republican National Committee (RNC) as a smear tactic hurled at House Speaker Thomas Foley. (See article, this issue)

Meanwhile, *The Washington Times* on May 29, reported that at least five members of the House of Representatives are being investigated by the FBI, the Justice Department and a House ethics panel, among others, on allegations of sex with male prostitutes and minors.

At the heart of this, we believe, is not homosexuality per se, but dishonesty. It is dishonesty which allows the rumor mills to grind, spewing out innuendo, giving fertile ground for homophobia; dishonesty about yourself and who you are.

As Congressman Barney Frank (D-Mass), among others, has rightly said, one's sexual orientation should not be a consideration in the ability to lead.

However, one has to ask the question, if a person is dishonest about something so essential in life as sexuality, have they the strength of character to be honest in anything else?

If Lesbian/Gay Pride Week is about anything, it is about personal integrity and honesty. Pride marches and rallies, here in Madison, Milwaukee and elsewhere are saying that women and men should possess the pride of being, the sense of self-worth, which are the building blocks of character.

It is character that we could prize in everyone and demand in political leaders. It is its lack that is the real scandal.

Shakespeare said it, "This above all, to thine own self be true and it doth follow as the night the day thou then canst not be false to any other man."

This, we believe, is what Lesbian/Gay Pride Week is all about. There are those in Washington and elsewhere who need a good dose of Gay/Lesbian Pride.

Argumentative and Intimidating Approaches Poison Airwaves

On Tuesday afternoon, June 13, Mark Billing, a talkshow jockey for WISN saw fit to question whether the Mayor and the County Board of Supervisors in their proclamations expressing support for Lesbian/Gay Pride Week were right in using "we" and, in so doing, speaking for all the people of the city and county.

That is possibly arguable. All the people do not support us. There is, in fact, nothing that all the people do support.

Billing protests that he, himself has nothing against Gays as individuals who he distinguishes from the Gay movement, but that is not the point.

The point, among several, that he misses is that by his harshly argumentative and intimidating tone and insensitive use of words in reference to the Lesbian and Gay movement, the poison of homophobia against individuals is enhanced if by nothing else, by implication. It is obvious that he does not realize the effect his words can have.

Billing is an instigator. That is probably his job. That, however, provides no excuse whatever for insensitivity that may contribute to hurt, violence and pain. He should learn that there are ways to arouse thought and dialogue without inciting base emotions.

By no means is Billing representative of the many talk show hosts. These are knowledgeable, sensitive and responsible people and, thank goodness, they are in the majority. Billing would be well advised to take a leaf from their book.

He apparently knows little about us. He asked one caller in an incredulous tone in what ways do we experience discrimination? To another, he denied we were a minority. Yet again he dismissed anti-Gay and Lesbian violence as relatively rare. Does he not know that this form of violence is the most rapidly growing hate crime in the country?

Would it not be better to learn than to operate on what he calls "uncommon common sense" which may or may not be informed.

Billing, in so many words, asked why we were marching? The answer comes easily. If it were not for persecution, discrimination and steady denial of equal rights, we wouldn't need to march.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I think sometimes that people, writers and readers alike, think that *Wisconsin Light* doesn't get too far beyond the boundaries of the State.

The truth of the matter is that the paper reaches far beyond Wisconsin. In fact, we are exceedingly proud of the foreign contacts that we have made since we began publication. Currently, we receive news and features from England, Vienna (covering the Eastern European countries including the Soviet Union), Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and India. And we are always looking for contacts in other countries to write first-hand accounts of their lives where they live.

In return, we send *Wisconsin Light* abroad keeping our correspondents up on what's going on in The Gay Rights State. In some cases, the articles in *The Light* find their way into print and some are passed from hand to hand — depending on the situation. I have even learned that a copy (or copies) of the paper has reached the Soviet Union.

In addition, we also give free personals (adverts) to anyone from outside this country.

The idea behind this is simple. We think it highly important to the Lesbian/Gay community here to know that we are a part of a wider, world-wide Gay/Lesbian community and to know what is going on there. Furthering understanding can only help us all.

There is also the idea that Wisconsin has an awful lot to offer to other Gay communities in the world. They need and want to know about us, about our state and the reasons we are Proud.

We are certainly not the only American Lesbian/Gay publication to reach out into

the world, but we do try to bring the word about Wisconsin. As I've said before in other columns like this, there are people in Asia who think we live in heaven.

Those who contribute to *Wisconsin Light* (articles, letters, what have you) should know that every word they write has an international audience that is growing larger.

So, why not think about writing something that specifically addresses a foreign audience. Write about your life here, your experiences as a Lesbian, Gay man, bisexual or non-Gay or Lesbian person. You may think that what you have to say is obvious, but it will be obvious only to you.

LETTERS

TO THE GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY:

Thank you for the invitation to participate in *The Wisconsin Light's* special section marking the 2nd Annual Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Pride Celebration.

Never before has the Gay/Lesbian community been challenged as in recent times. The activism shown reflects a humanitarian concern and call for civil rights that promotes equal and quality treatment under the law. I commend your efforts to demonstrate the pride that is yours in your respective communities as well as the community at large.

My office stands ready to work cooperatively with you as you work toward your goals.

—John O. Norquist
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

Editor's Note: The following letter was forwarded to this newspaper by the Pride Committee, requesting that it be published.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

June 6, 1989

Don Clabots
Milwaukee Lesbian/Pride Committee
225 South Second Street
Milwaukee, WI 53204

Dear Mr. Clabots:

Thank you for your letter in which you requested Governor Thompson issue a proclamation declaring June 16 through June 27, 1989 "Gay and Lesbian Pride Week."

As you may know, the Governor is obligated by state law to issue only three proclamations a year (American History Month, Armistice Day, Wonderful Wisconsin Week); any other proclamations issued are entirely at the discretion of the Governor, who reserves the right to decline requests.

In accordance with the established guidelines and gubernatorial prerogative, the Governor's Office declines your request.

—Kathleen M. Rathburn
Director, Constituent Relations
State Capital, Madison, WI

Republicans Condemned For Homophobia

[Washington, D.C.]—In response to a partisan controversy in Washington marked by homophobia, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) condemned the actions of the Republican National Committee (RNC) and called for an apology to the Gay community.

The controversy began with a rumor campaign aimed at the media suggesting that House Speaker Thomas Foley is Gay. The issue came to a head with the RNC's release, on June 1, of a memorandum authored by Mark Goodin, Communications Director of the RNC, to 200 Republican leaders nationwide. The memorandum, entitled "Tom Foley Out Of The Liberal Closet", compared Foley to openly-Gay Congressman Barney Frank. The use of the word "closet" and the overt comparison to Frank led Democrats to charge that the RNC was attempting to suggest the Foley is Gay, an imputation Foley denies.

On June 6, Barney Frank threatened that if Republicans continued the innuendo campaign, he would reveal his own list of closeted Republicans in Congress. On June 7, President Bush reprimanded RNC Chairman Lee Atwater, Goodin's boss, calling the memo "disgusting." Goodin resigned and Atwater personally and publicly apologized to Foley.

In a statement issued by NGLTF, the actions of the RNC were condemned. "The RNC memo and rumor campaign are vivid examples of anti-Gay bigotry and are attempts to use homophobia for political ends. The memo and rumor campaign illustrate that hateful attitudes towards Gay people are apparently sanctioned by the leadership of the RNC. The RNC owes the Gay and Lesbian community an apology for engaging in such virulently anti-Gay tactics."

The statement went on to say that "such political Gay-baiting ignores two facts. First, that openly Gay elected officials have won election across this country. Second, that a politician's sexual orientation is irrelevant to his or her ability to lead and serve constituents."

The NGLTF calls it "highly ironic" that the tactics of the RNC should coincide with the release of the NGLTF's report on anti-Gay violence and finds the RNC's "Gay-baiting" contributory to the on-going victimization and defamation of Gays and Lesbians.

"In the end, not only is Speaker Foley victimized by the RNC's tactics, but the American people themselves are ill-served by this demeaning exploitation of anti-Gay bigotry," the statement said.

Do Your Part For Pride Week

A LETTER FROM KAREN LAMB

Dearest Friends,

Spring has been glorious in this household. Tab Hunter, the family Cocker Spaniel, complains daily that his winter fur is ready for a clip. "But I don't like Sally, Mom," he protests about the tiny little groomer, the only one in the city who disregards Tab's Bully Boy tactics.

He cuddles up on the couch and suggests we catch up on the news. First we read the Food Section. His favorite. "Why don't we try this recipe for Pecan Whiskey Pie?" he hints.

"Tab, if you get any fatter, you will absolutely not fit in that beautiful Thunderbird your mother will ride in next Saturday in Milwaukee's Gay Pride Parade."

"Oh, Goody," he declares. "Parade Marshall! That's a wonderful honor for you, mom. Are you going to buy a new hat?"

"I wouldn't miss the chance for all the world, Tab."

Spring has been busy with travel, both fun and work. First, in the company of two handsome young men, this lady tried once again to find her way by automobile instead of plane.

The cities rolled by, the country was greening up. Macon for the cherry trees, Savannah, Charleston, splendid old homes, and retracing our steps, down the Georgia coast to the Golden Isles. Jekyll, St. Simons and Sea Island. Long walks on the secluded coast in the early hours of the day.

On to St. Augustine. I laugh. "I told you, you might be disappointed!" So much for America's oldest city. Now we three kids pointed ourselves toward Disneyland and Epcot. Some days later we emerged near Ft. Lauderdale.

"How was tea time at the Marlin, mom?" Tab asks. "Fine, Tab, but I think Milwaukee's young men are equally handsome."

"I mean what was on the menu, mom?"

"Naughty dog. Don't you ever think of anything but food?"

After coughing our way through the burning Florida Everglades (and almost catching up on my fishing) we returned home to Milwaukee where I traded two traveling companions for two others: Jerry Johnson and Terry Boughner, publisher and editor of **Wisconsin Light**.

Tab interjects: "Hey, mom, did you see this article about Terry and Jerry in **The Advocate**? They are famous!"

In these troubled times, is anything more precious than spending time with good friends? Recalling recent memories of our trip to the National Democratic Convention, once more 3 a.m. found me outside their door. Whispered laughter as we try not to awaken the neighbors. Poke everything in the trunk.

Bang goes the lid and we break into our favorite song. "On the road again, Tra la la, on the road again..."

This cruise director planned to surprise her friends with lunch in St. Louis. Only 50 or so miles out of the way. Delight at discovering the refurbished train station and learning that my friends were train buffs. Too much time... but such fun... we head through Missouri, a touch of



Jerry Johnson

Dr. Karen Lamb

Arkansas, then the radiant Magnolia State. Hang a right at Jackson and find Vicksburg.

Morning dawns. After grits and eggs, Terry, the PhD historian and author of **Out of All Time**, takes Jerry and me on a fabulous tour of the Confederate battle field. The turning point with the Yankees. I find a Lamb listed on Wisconsin's monument to "our glorious dead," as little Southern ladies like to note. We stand on the "redans" and mull the lines of troops. Sad.

The map points down a dark green, shady, two-lane, over-hung road. Road to Natchez. Here, Jerry, the aficionado of restored old plantations takes over. Rosalie mansion. Still with its original furnishings. A small girl in our company is invited to play the piano. So shy. The music is so thrilling as she performs a Chopin etude, rises, and tucks her head under her mother's arm.

Sacks of boiled peanuts and crawdads. Terry, in mock horror, almost refuses to share. It's getting late and we are still on the Natchez road. Finally, Baton Rouge. Hang another right. Terry is really getting hungry now. He still refuses to munch on crawdads.

"The absolutely next restaurant we find, Terry" as we tackle a fifty mile bridge over the swamps. Breaux Bridge, Louisiana coming up.

"Can you believe this? Right out in the middle of these bayous?"

Mulate's. The world's most famous Cajun restaurant! The music! The Cajun dancing! The food!

"The frog legs," Terry moans.

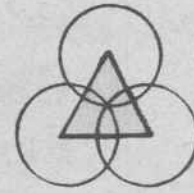
In the wee small hours my friends drop me off in Houston for the Second International Convention on Endometriosis. Three or four hours till this lady has to put on her scientific hat.

My research went well. I wish it were about AIDS instead of Endometriosis. Rather, I wish it were about both. We all want answers. Oh, science, please hurry.

Well, darling friends, Tab and I must say Good bye for now. Will we see you Saturday? Gay Pride Day. The Gays and Lesbians in our city have earned that pride. What group has risen so magnificently? In the face of such a challenge? I, too, am very proud of you. Congratulations!

Love and kisses, Karen Lamb

Introspective



Another View

By John Michael Roberts

Every day I get badly done mailers at my home, sent to me by several Gay organizations. Today there was a lime green fund appeal letter and a bright yellow newsletter.

The newsletter arrived 10 days after the major event it was promoting, yet it was sent by first class mail. It also referred to the organization's last newsletter, expanding on an important news item from that letter. Of course, I didn't get the previous newsletter.

The lime green letter asking for funds was from an organization that sends one at least every other month. It promised that, if only I would send money, they would do startlingly important things for me politically. I have never received an annual report from them nor a newsletter on who, what, when and where they are getting all those wonderful things accomplished for me. I have never been told why I need their program — only that this is their program. Nor am I told how much it will take to accomplish all 8 programs they are working on.

They ask for \$25. My quick calculations tell me that at least 200 responses must be obtained to get "lime-green" a mere \$5,000 to work with. \$5,000 won't pay even the most part-time, barely able staff member, yet their program calls for intense follow-through with a variety of governmental agencies.

My experience is that volunteers are available evenings and weekends. Bureaucrats work 9-5. I don't believe that without staff, they can ever begin to get done what they are setting out to do.

You get the point, readers. What starts as an important communication often is junk mail in the end. For my \$25 will I get voting rights? Who appoints the leadership? How do I provide input into what I want my \$25 spent on? They have never bothered to explain that to me. I haven't sent them any money either.

These are two instances. Everyday I find other examples in my mail. Here are some pointers toward getting my

considered attention:

My Ten Commandments for Good Gay Communications.

1) Thou shalt not at the 11th hour send me notice of a crisis that only my money or hectic action can alter. Build my interest and understanding of issues. If a true emergency then arrives, I will pay attention. I cannot be over-reacting every single day.

2) Thou shalt not expect me to have the same dedication to your cause as you, since you live it 24 hours a day. I respect your concerns, but they may not really be my concerns.

3) Thou shalt not expect me to understand why it is all so important unless you take steps all year long to inform me and keep me informed.

4) Thou shalt not think an occasional bar poster will move me to action.

5) Thou shalt not tell me I MUST or I OWE the community. If you are badly organized or inadequate to the task, I owe you nothing. By supporting you I support mediocrity.

6) Thou shalt not produce blatantly amateur pieces that lose all impact. Junk mail is Junk mail. Your message competes with others on slick paper done in four colors far too often.

7) Thou shalt not think that spending adequate time and attention to get your message across is a waste. Nor should organizations fail to budget adequately for their communication pieces — contrary to the thinking of small minds, Junk is not read, good pieces are and expensive pieces raise hackles. There is a middle ground.

8) Thou shalt not succeed unless you have a purpose and communicate that purpose to this community.

9) Thou shalt not use hyperbole in lieu of sensible discussion.

10) Thou shalt not ignore building an adequate communications program with strong people who know how to communicate your important goals, aims and programs — all year round.

Enough said?



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Your Place Bar Closes After 24 Years on June 30

[Milwaukee]- On midnight, Friday, June 30, 1989, another chapter in the YP's long history will come quietly to a close as the bar passes from one owner to another.

The popular Milwaukee bar, located at 813 S. 1st St. has, through its 24 year history, been known formally as "Your Place", but always more familiarly as "The YP." It has seen a number of owners, the latest being Uncle Al.

Uncle Al has many fond memories of his years at the YP, but the fondest, he says, are "the great numbers of friendly people I've met."

He pauses, his familiar, wide, friendly features grow pensive, possibly seeing in his mind's eye, the parade of faces. Then he smiles and says, "I've never met so many good and friendly people."

Has he a valedictory? He nods. "Well, I would personally like to thank my friends and customers who made my years here (at the YP) the most important part of my life and I tried to give you what you wanted. In the last 10 years, I've probably given more of myself to the Gay community and probably more than a

number of others," he says. They are words said with satisfaction, nostalgia and a hint of resignation. "Somewhere along the line, the Gay community may have forgotten me," he adds.

There will be a farewell party on June 28 at the YP from 6:00 p.m. to close and all are invited.

As for the future, Uncle Al plans to "take off for awhile, kick back." And then? Well, he won't be leaving Milwaukee, that's for sure. "It's my home town," he says lovingly. "There's no place else that can compare to it."

We wish Uncle Al all the best.

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A BOY OF SUMMER

ONE

By Morgan Summer

The subtitle for this column comes from a song by a group called "Metallica." I am not sure what the song itself is about, but I think it is relevant because the same saying applies to what I have been thinking about for the past few days.

A few days ago, I got two letters forwarded from my publisher in Chicago. They both were honest and the gist of what they said was: I am making too big a deal out of being Gay. They claimed that I am "obsessed" with it and, consequently, not giving enough attention to more important issues. A writer also claimed that I am "blindly optimistic."

They are wrong. First off, let me respond to the charge of being optimistic. Yeah, I try to be. I would rather see the bright side of things than the dark. However, at times in the past, I may have been rather naive about certain issues. I can't take that back and whatever I wrote is the past was how I felt at the time.

The charge of being "blindly optimistic" however, may have held true in one case; that of the Gay Student Union here at my college. I had high hopes for it, since I was the founder and was, yeah, optimistic. Now that it is a bleak reality, I can assure you a lot of my optimism about that is out the window. Reality is not always optimistic, I have learned.

The other charges, though, are a little more difficult to talk about. They remind me of a good friend of mine who once said, "I don't know if I'm proud to be Gay, I just am Gay."

And I won't say here that I am proud of being Gay. I will say that I like being Gay. I like cruising the cute guys. I like the male body...and here I will say I am proud of being Gay. I wear a pink triangle pin on my jacket. I would not want to be heterosexual. I look at guys young, old and in-between and I have absolutely no apologies.

Now. After that, some people may think that I am indeed dwelling on Gayness, that I'm "obsessed." So let me remind you of something.

Everywhere — and I mean everywhere, from my college to the low-income high rises of Chicago; from San Francisco to New York to Madison with its Gay rights laws, to Eugene, Oregon where their Gay rights law has recently been repealed — there is at least one Gay young boy who has doubts about his sexuality. He thinks about it a lot. He can't help it, in school there are so many cute guys, there are studs everywhere. Is he Gay? He thinks so. He tries to think about girls because that's, you know, right and he doesn't want to be a filthy cocksucker. But in the locker room he looks, at night, alone in his bed, he fantasizes. Is he obsessed?

I would say that being Gay is important to me and if you want to call it an



Morgan Summer

Jerry Johnson

obsession, fine. If every — hell, if a quarter — of all Gays were obsessed, we could elect the next president. If they were obsessed, every state in the union would have a Gay rights law, in addition to a federal statute. Those other Gay writers, dozens and dozens of them, must also be obsessed. Why else would they write about it? Because it's important?

Yes. It's important to people such as the members of AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT-UP) and Gays who are not afraid to practice civil disobedience. These people are much more brave than I am. But we share something: we have a sense of pride.

That does not always mean coming out. At this point in time, I am pretty open — six guys who live on my residence floor know and couldn't really care less — but I am not entirely open. If I were, I would be writing this column under my real name. Maybe I am a little afraid to, right now.

But I have a pride in myself, that's the most important thing. To elect a politician or write letters of support to a Gay-oriented group does not have to mean roaring out of the closet. It helps and makes one feel better. Then, on the other hand, there are those members of Congress who purposely vote against laws and proposals that would help Gays because they are afraid their true sexual orientation would be found out. They are not "obsessed?"

All of this about pride and Gay rights in the pages of a Gay newspaper does not help the boy mentioned earlier. He's in the Chicago tenement or in a suburban high-school right now as you read this. I sit here once a week and write a column about Gay college life and that does not really help the Gay young boy. What would?

A larger sense of self-pride, a show of openness in any way, a show of hands. Self-pride, or obsession, if you will. But until then, he may feel that he is alone, not among millions. By himself, a terrible feeling.

One.

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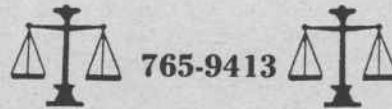
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Before



After

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Old-Timers Hold Reunion To Celebrate "Good-Old-Days"

By Reen

The Old-Timers' Reunion at Milwaukee's Jet's Place bar was a huge success. As the saying goes, a good time was had by all. I was a little reluctant to attend since I don't fit the description of "old timer." Not that I am any younger than the rest. I just wasn't around the Gay community in the Wildwood or Cozy Club days. But I have heard a lot about the "good old days" when friendships were, and still are, treasured.

There are young old-timers like me, who have been around for a few years. And older old-timers who have been around the community for 20 to 30 years. I'm told the old timers didn't drink as much as they used to and they rested more between dances. But no canes or wheelchairs were seen. At least not yet.

The ball teams came in and, of course, there was reminiscing about the good times they had had years ago playing ball, having a few drinks after the games and dodging the cops. The boys in blue were not as tolerant of Gays in those days. Perhaps it added to the sistership of Lesbians. They banded together against the oppressors and it brought them closer together.

I was surprised at how many people genuinely cared about each other and really enjoyed seeing friends they had lost touch with in recent years. There was no bitchiness, no gossip and no trouble. There were a lot of hugs, a lot of dancing and a lot of "let's do this again." Smiles were everywhere.

It was good to see Esther again. What would an old-timers party be without Esther? She danced, of course, though not quite as energetically as she used to. We all hope to be doing as well as she is, if we're lucky enough to make it that far.

I was struck by the nicknames I heard. Years ago people were known by last names only. As time went on, they were given creative nicknames so they didn't have to say, "You know, Mary who went with so and so." Jet, of course, is one of them. She was a low flying plane that day, buzzing around and having fun in between tending to business. Wouldn't it be funny if she went with Airborne?

Peppermint Patti is cute. I wonder if she's ever met Cookie? Oops, wrong combination. I know she has met Woody. A Woody-Peppermint Patti? What a drop

in the Buckets! I think Ma S. would approve. She grinned a lot. Is Sonny her offspring? Or perhaps it's Sunny? Either way, it's a fun name.

Kathy and Kathy need some help. We can't tell one from the other. Any suggestions? There's only one Ellie so there's no problem there. And only one Phyl and one Lee. (Is it time to eat yet?)

Hot Lips and the Suburban Housewife were there. Their names say it all.

It was heart warming to see the out-of-towners like Gerri, Marge, Jeannie, Marcia and, all the way from California, Stan. I haven't seen Dale in ages. I bet he felt like he was out of town.

The song, "Tear in My Beer", made Shirley cringe, just because she's heard it a few hundred times. But Evie and I think it's great. Now if Evie can just get the dance down Pat, we'll really have a great time. Put on your shit-kickin' boots. It's a fun song just because it's hokey.

Many thanks to Susan and Toni for the roses. And a bigger thanks for signing your names. A "?" would have caused... I don't want to think about it. There were enough funny looks and guesses before the card was read.

Thanks also to Gary. My car broke a belt and he came to the rescue. Who said chivalry is dead? I wouldn't have made it to the party without him.

Bob and Toni valiantly tried to keep us from dying of thirst. Bob collapsed on the bar stool later. Toni's new nickname is "Toni-gimme-a-drink."

And so the first Old Timers' reunion is at an end. But the memories and grins will linger — until next year everyone?

Pride Week Inter-Faith Service Set

[Milwaukee]- A Gay and Lesbian Inter-faith service will be held on Sunday, June 18, at Milwaukee's All Saints Cathedral, 818 E. Juneau Ave., at 2:00 p.m.

The theme of the celebration is "United In Spirit" and is an event of Gay/Lesbian Pride Week.

The service is co-sponsored by Dignity-Milwaukee and the Metropolitan Community Church.

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The Light LIVELY ARTS

High Quality Music, Art, Workshops Highlight Women's Festival

By Jamakaya

The 15th Annual National Women's Music Festival took place June 1-4th at the steamy Bloomington campus of the University of Indiana. In addition to an impressive array of musical talent, the Festival hosted a women's art exhibit, Writers and Spirituality Conferences and workshops devoted to older women, women of color and money management. I can't possibly supply a comprehensive report, but here's a run-down of the major musical events.

The evening Mainstage concerts, held in a large auditorium with excellent acoustics, were rich and varied. Each year I've attended, the concerts always began on time, feature multiple performers and provide a full three hours of entertainment. I wasn't disappointed this time.

Friday night opened with Z Budapest officially blessing the Festival. Kay Gardner performed a flute solo and led the audience in the singing of "House of the Rising Sun." Woody Simmons then got the place jumping with her dynamic guitar and banjo playing. When she accompanied herself on piano for "Who'll Save the Animals?" it reminded me what an accomplished musician Woody is — her set was excellent and left me wanting more.

Unfortunately, Woody reported that her records are no longer in distribution. She is seeking financial backing for an album of banjo instrumentals. Will someone please send this woman some money? Write to: Deep River Records, 1502 Albany Terrace, Albany, CA 94706.

Robin Tyler did a short comedy set and Edwina Lee Tyler and a Piece of the World blew everybody away with their drumming and dancing to African based rhythms. They presented a beautiful interpretation of Pat Parker's "Movement in Black," and Edwina won everyone's hearts by a lengthy excursion into the audience with just her drum and riveting personality.

Pat Parker was scheduled to perform at the Festival, but was unable to attend because she is undergoing treatment for cancer. This news really stunned the audience. Somehow the idea of Pat Parker and cancer just does not compute. We were all encouraged to send our love and best energies her way.

Faith Nolan Jams

Saturday's Mainstage featured Faith Nolan jamming with guitar, harmonica and tambourine to blues and reggae. A Black Canadian from Nova Scotia, Faith's music is deeply political. She sings about physical abuse, the oppression of women of color and the power structure arrayed against us. She also renders standards by Ma Rainey and Elizabeth Cotton that would make these foremothers proud. Faith's voice and stage presence are stronger each time I see her. Her talent and enthusiasm make for real "star" quality. It's fun watching her career develop.

The Dance Brigade fulfilled its billing as "socially relevant modern dance theatre." The dance troupe performed dramatic interpretations of the struggle for survival in Central America and South Africa. Even the most jaded observer could not fail to be moved by the emotional impact of their routines. Their performance lent variety and depth to the evening's entertainment.

Robin Flower and Libby McLaren (formerly with the Roches) combined mandolin and keyboards to round out the concert. Their lively jamming on "Pickle Ginger" and Libby's moving song about AIDS, "Ticking...." were memorable moments. Robin's album, **Babies with Glasses**, won the Best Women's Music Album Award from the National Association of Independent Record

Distributors in 1988.

Mary and Nancy and Sue

Sunday's Mainstage opened with Mary Watkins playing jazz and classical piano selections from her album, **Spiritsong**. Mary received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for her latest LP, **Winds of Change**, which features a full orchestra performing her compositions and arrangements. A friend said that Mary's performance put her to sleep, but I was awed by the presence of what is obviously a great composer in our midst.

Nancy Vogl was in strong voice and fine form as she played cuts from her LP, **Fight Like the Dancer**, as well as an old favorite from her Berkeley Women's Music Collective days, "My Darling Companion." Robin Flower joined in for half of Nancy's set and their combined guitars on "Ginseng" and other tunes set the joint a jumpin'. Nancy will be spending the next year in Barcelona as in International Ambassador of Peace.

Sue Fink and her Band, featuring (among others) Lynn Keller on bass and Marilyn McDermet on drums, closed Sunday's concert. Sue, a woman who brought us "Leaping Lesbians" and "Boys Are Thugs" has won her place (and my heart) in women's music herstory. She sang selections from her newly released **True Life Adventures**. The torchy "Make December Burn" and "More Tears for the Lonely," about AIDS, stood out for me.

Overall, I was impressed by the confidence and joy in performing exhibited by each of the Mainstage acts. These women are totally committed to their music and art and that love and enthusiasm enveloped the audience. Mainstage was ably MC'd by comedian Karen Williams. Her repeated cursing and apologies for mispronunciations wore thin by Sunday, however, and detracted from an otherwise witty and spontaneous style.

This year's Jane Schliessman Award for Outstanding Contributions to Women's Music was presented to Kay Gardner, who seemed deeply moved at receiving the honor. The Jeanine Rae Award for the Advancement of Women's

TURN TO FESTIVAL, PAGE 11

Balistreri Buys Landmark Your Place Bar

[Milwaukee]- It is a puzzle within a mystery. It is, in short, a secret. But something's about to happen and when it does, it will happen in a big way.

To begin, Jim Balistreri, will be the new owner of the YP with Paul Andreske as the manager with, as Jim said, "other surprises."

What? And the cryptic reply comes along with jovial laughter, "Something's happening."

Something's happening in the way of a name change for the bar. Something's happening to the interior, something new, something different and, you sense, something exciting.

And when the bar reopens after its close on June 30, there will be something happening all the time, something happening at different times with hours announced, but no details. You'll have to go and see for yourself, but it'll be "something outrageous," Jim says. "It will be a fun place," he adds, "an everybody place with fun times."

What kind? Again the response, "Something's happening."

So we'll wait and understand when we see the new logo with the words, "Somethings Happening" inscribed upon it. Something's happening. Something's happening indeed.



DEL MARTIN AND PHYLLIS LYON

"Jerker" Sensationalism Reduced As Player Depth Brought Out

By Geno

Milwaukee's Theatre X presented two special opening performances of "Jerker," Friday and Saturday, June 2 and 3 as benefits for the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP). On both evenings, near capacity audiences paid \$50 per ticket to witness this explicitly Gay play about two strangers who develop a friendship through phone call sex.

"Jerker" is a shocker. Robert Chesley has subtitled his play "The Helping Hand, a Pornographic Elegy with Redeeming Social Value in 20 Telephone Calls, Many of them Dirty." The dialogue, the real "action" of the play, is erotic, explicit ("I'm not cut, are you cut?"); at one point, for example, one of the characters gives a long and detailed description of anal sex.

John Kishline plays Bert, a person living with AIDS and John Schneider as J.R. at the other end of the line is a paraplegic Vietnam veteran. Both men develop their characters almost entirely through the spoken word alone; their natural style conveys casualness, humor, erotic excitement, caring and concern.

Director Flora Coker working closely with Schneider and Kishline has tried in several ways to deepen the play and to minimize its sensational aspect. The two men masturbate while relating sexual fantasies during these exchanges of dialogue. But both actors remain fully clothed throughout the play and they don't simulate sexual activity as they did in the earlier Theatre X production of "The History of Sex."

But Coker has also added a narrator

(Neal Brenard) who reads the stage directions. This retreat from realistic staging does work to diminish the sensationalism, but at times it breaks the dramatic flow rather ludicrously as when obvious stage directions ("He picks up the phone," "He coughs into his pillow") are read aloud.

In contrast, a recent Chicago production of "Jerker" in the words of one reviewer, "Let it all hang out." The two men were nude young hunks who added considerable physical action, each on his own side of the stage, by movements under the bedclothes, over the side of the bed, or with back to the audience. This Chicago performance was more visually exciting; the Theatre X production, relying on the imagination and the language, has greater depth. At one point John Schneider as J.R. tells Bert a "Bedtime Story," a poignant dream of a time and a place when everyone will live in peace and joy. It's the real climax of the play, compellingly told.

Theatre X and the three principals have depicted one aspect of the 80's culture, taking risks to give depth to a play which only half-realizes its potential for "redeeming social value."

All proceeds from the two special opening performances of "Jerker" were donated to MAP and a portion of all subsequent ticket sales will also be donated to MAP. "Jerker" will be presented through Sunday, June 25 at MKE, 158 N. Broadway in Milwaukee. For further information and ticket sales phone Theatre X at (414) 278-0555.

Theatre X Presents for the Benefit of the Milwaukee AIDS Project

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Women Shown As "Who We Are" In New Book

Lesbian Crossroads
By Ruth Baetz.

Tallahassee, FL: The Naiad Press, Inc.,
1988 (first published by William Morrow
in 1980)

By Marcia Summerskill

Ruth Baetz, author of **Lesbian Crossroads**, is a Lesbian feminist counselor in the Pacific Northwest. She specializes in women's and Lesbian issues. She focuses on life as a Lesbian in her book, which is a compilation of interviews with 15 Lesbians. (She chose these 15 after interviewing over 80 women.)

The women she chose were fascinating. Here are some of them:

Laverne Jefferson, a 33 year-old accountant.

Carol Queen, a 19 year-old Gay Youth Worker.

Maria Gonzales, a 21 year-old Puerto Rican police officer.

Vera Freeman, a 45 year-old tax auditor with 8 children (who is from Milwaukee).

These are just a few of the diverse group with whom Baetz spoke. They're interesting, and they have allowed the reader to enter their lives for a while. I appreciate their vulnerability. I also appreciated meeting some people who tend to be nearly invisible in the Lesbian community that I know — one that is, for the most part, composed of white, middle class women who are somewhere between 20 and 40 years old.

Baetz asks some of the "usual" questions: How did you realize that you were a Lesbian? Does your family know? If so, how is your relationship with them? How do you deal with school or work? What are your feelings about religion? What is your experience in the Lesbian community?

These are thoughtful questions and they receive, for the most part, thoughtful answers.

The only change that I might suggest is that the book might be organized by interview rather than by question or topic.

Photo by Tony Patrioli; Copyright 1988 Tony Patrioli.



A new collection of male photographs by Italian portraitist Tony Patrioli was published on June 1, 1989 by Alyson Publications of Boston. "Sunbeams" contains many models not seen in Patrioli's popular first collection, "Mediterraneo," which was also published by Alyson. Both collections focus on young Mediterranean men. Patrioli captures his subjects in outdoor settings that reflect the young men's natural sensuality. "Patrioli is endowed with the eye of the hunter," says Gene Rizzo in the introduction to "Sunbeams," "and what he is hunting is an ideal of beauty first forged in the ancient lands of the South Mediterranean." "Sunbeams" is a large format paperback book with black-and-white photos. It is available for \$15.00.

Holbrook Brings Mark Twain

To Pabst Theatre

[Milwaukee]- On Wednesday, September 20 at 8:00 p.m., the Pabst Theater presents Hal Holbrook in "Mark Twain Tonight." Unquestionably the most successful one-man production of the American theatre, Holbrook's portrait of Twain, refined over 35 consecutive years, brings to life this fabled, well-loved, and quintessentially American humorist and author.

Travel back through time and watch Twain himself — the tousled white hair, the bristling mustache, the white linen suit — deliver hilariously funny vignettes of the brash, brave and rugged individuals he knew and wrote about.

Enjoy an evening of total illusion as Holbrook transforms himself into the sentimental, pessimistic, cynical, and perhaps slightly tortured character that

was Mark Twain.

Tickets at \$25, \$15 and \$10 are now on sale at the Pabst Theater Box Office, 144 E. Wells St., or phone (414) 278-3663.

Christopher Street Now Stonewall Place in N.Y.

[New York, NY]- New York Mayor Ed Koch has signed a bill which will rename a portion of Christopher St. in New York City, according to **Metroline**.

The bill, proposed by the organizers of New York's Lesbian and Gay Pride Events, designates Christopher St. between Seventh Avenue and Waverly Place as "Stonewall Place."

The new name comes from the Stonewall Inn, the Christopher Street bar raided by police in June, 1969. The raid sparked the Stonewall Riots which are considered to be the birth of the modern Gay and Lesbian rights movement.



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*—Alex Thien,
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Fine Women And Song

By Jamakaya

Being the hopelessly urban creature that I am, the National Women's Music Festival at the University of Indiana is right up my alley. Dorm rooms, indoor showers and a nearby 7-11 store where Diet Coke, pretzels and **The New York Times** are available — ah, civilization! — this is a music festival I can handle. Knowing these basic survival needs are being met, I can concentrate on the fine women and song.

The Festival is like a mass slumber party — long nights with lots of laughter and sharing, renewing old acquaintances and making new friends. I've always thought slumber parties ought to be a major part of the feminist agenda, right up there with consciousness-raising. As we get older, slumber parties should become more frequent, not less so. We women have so much more to share as we age.

The Round Robin concerts in the lobby of Read Center provided great late night entertainment and, this year, the festival offered midnight screenings of Lesbian-made films. Considering the outpouring of new Lesbian video projects, this area could be expanded (and better publicized) next year.

We saw a wonderful documentary of the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, part of "Lesbianage," a detective thriller, and several films of Lesbian erotica. These last were so tame however, they led one observer to speculate that the Lesbian Police must have been technical advisors. Another woman wondered aloud, "Doesn't anybody have rough, messy sex anymore?" (Yes sister, but politically correct Lesbian feminists aren't supposed to talk about it, let alone film it!)

Speaking of sex, what is it about the food lines at these festivals that cause our sexuality to boil over? Has it got something to do with salivary and other glandular responses to food? Anticipation of oral and culinary gratification? The pawing, clawing and kissy-poo behavior exhibited by many couples waiting in line is most distracting (pleasantly so) and worthy of thorough sociological study.

I'm always impressed by the accessibility of the performers and presenters at this festival. Whether eating cafeteria food alongside Kay Gardner or Tee Corinne or chatting with Woody Simmons or Sue Fink in the Read Center lobby, our women's community is blessed with "stars" who remain wonderfully earthbound and in touch with their audience. The informality and lack of pretension among such leaders is admirable.

I was also pleasantly surprised by the strong political messages emanating from those most associated with women's spirituality. In a panel on the "Progress and Future of the Women's Movement," Merlin Stone proposed the formation of c-r groups again. Kay Gardner encouraged the audience to "take back the streets," and Z Budapest urged greater activism with the astute observation that "the ultimate pastime is making history."

Z's assertion that "no political movement can survive without a spiritual component," also made me a true believer. I hereby retract all the references to "metaphysical



Doreen Riley

JAMAKAYA

milorganite" and "new age psychobabble" that have appeared in previous columns.

Meantime, Sonia Johnson, the political activist, who is now as zealous a separatist as she once was an ERA supporter, told audience members to withdraw their energy from the patriarchy. Her contention that the Supreme Court's abortion decision was irrelevant to women (because what the "boys" give they can also take away) drew some hisses. I respect separatist ethics and inquiry, but felt Sonia's repudiation of mainstream reform was an affront to other panel members including Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, pioneers whose 35 years of continuous activism are proof that working within the system can bring about change.

A survey of bumper stickers in the parking lot revealed the varied political concerns of the women attending: "Heal AIDS With Love," "Save the Humans" (with a picture of a whale), "I'm Pro-Choice and I Vote," "My Other Car is a Broom," "Have You Hugged Your Dog Today?" "Think Globally, Act Locally," "Wild Women Don't Get the Blues," "Visualize World Peace," and my favorites, "ANKH If You Love ISIS" and "Live's a Joy, Then You Ascend."

Read Center, festival headquarters, is a concrete monstrosity whose dull, dizzying, labyrinthine corridors have swallowed up many a festival goer. At this moment, some frustrated dyke is searching for a recovery workshop in the Clark Wing Lounge. I can hear it on Mainstage next year: "Oh she never returned, no she never returned, and her fate is still unlearned/ She may search forever in the halls of Read Center, she's the dyke who never returned..."

The elevators frequently broke down and I was traveling in one when a fire alarm sounded. The only consolation was having Z Budapest on board. I mean, if you're gonna get stuck in a fire on an elevator, it doesn't hurt to have a witch along! Z, with her wonderfully wry sense of humor, declared that it was not her time to go yet. Sure enough, we landed safely on the next floor and took the steps the rest of the way down. Blessed Be!

Bloomington this year was hot and steamy and stormy. The locals were most hospitable to the thousands of women (95.3% Lesbians according to my Lesbo-meter) who gathered for the festival. The entertainment was great, the workshops and networking valuable, and the women — ah, the women! — the women were wonderful.

What can I say? It's a tough job reporting on a festival like this, but, hey, somebody's got to do it.

plan under which city health insurance coverage may be extended to the domestic partners of city employees. The same task force which is to develop the health benefits plan will also systematically examine all municipal policies and practices which discriminate against unmarried couples and propose changes to end such discrimination.

"Justice and dignity cannot be hollow philosophical notions," emphasized Britt. "They are notions which must be applied in practice as well. We cannot legislate away discrimination overnight, but this new law is a tremendous step forward in the struggle for equal rights for all."

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We Should Not Forget That We Are One Of Many

By Thomas J. Rondy

Most college students who are in love often find themselves writing a column about it if they write for any particular publication. I guess I am no exception.

I met Paul (that's the pseudonym I've given the object of my affection here) last semester. It wasn't really "love at first sight." That rarely happens with me at this stage of my life. But after the October Ten Percent Dance, I knew something was up with me. You see, Paul seemed to hardly notice me (we had met relatively recently), and I then had a big inferiority complex about that. Now, I'm a "politically correct" college Radical, not an acne-ridden 14 year-old, but the intellectual "incorrectness" of my feelings did nothing to hinder them.

When I decided to just go along with my feelings, I decided that I was going to be "scientific" and "rational" in dealing with them. Siva have mercy! Leave it to a college Leftist to try to be scientific about love!

Towards the end of that semester, I was making a concerted effort to get to know him. My feelings had become defined by then, so I would feel that well-known feeling of intoxication during and after talking to Paul. He also has this elf-like smile which could almost get me to the point of blithering.

At the beginning of last semester, I found out that he was involved with someone else. The intoxication turned into a bad trip. That was the actual beginning of my Winter depression. It wasn't really Paul's fault at all. He was only a catalyst for bringing to the surface feelings of inferiority which I had repressed. It was better that these feelings surface sooner rather than later. And if Paul had anything to do with it directly, he actually made the whole thing a little easier to bear.

For the first two months of the depression, it really was quite a bad trip, something like having bad LSD in your system that wouldn't go away. Every internal defense mechanism I had kicked in. I couldn't sleep. That effectively sabotaged my mental ability to deal with this anxiety attack.

When I realized that he didn't like me in the same way that I liked him, I eventually became content to simply be his friend. But, I became annoying to him by being around too often. He spoke to me about it, diplomatically as only he could, and I loved him even more afterwards because of the way he handled it.

Just being his friend isn't so bad. Many romantic relationships end rather unpleasantly, the friendship going up in flames too. And the thought of not being his friend is kind of hurtful. You see, I consider myself lucky to have a friend like him. As Morgan Summer once said about somebody he loved, Paul brings out my gentlest side. It was a side of me I almost forgot because I was trying so damn hard to be this macho Madison Leftist.

Part of this experience has been like a bad trip, but it was also very much of a learning experience. I learned, among other things, that repressing any bad feelings from the past is only somewhat

effective. One realizes that when one falls in love, one is forced to take a good look in the mirror. What you see ain't always pretty.

If it wasn't for Paul, it probably would have taken me longer to deal with my hidden self-doubt and it would have been all the more painful when I finally did end up dealing with it.

Just the same, I should probably keep in mind that I am, very likely, one of many who have such feelings for Paul. I'm not used to thinking of myself as one of many; I suppose I probably should be.

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PARTNERS

Continued from Page 1

right to love whom we will."

The San Francisco law is the first in the nation to permit official registration of "domestic partnerships" at the County Clerk's office in a process similar to that used in applications for marriage licenses. According to the law, domestic partners are "two people who have chosen to share one another's lives in an intimate and committed relationship of mutual caring." In practice, the law will accord legal recognition to unmarried heterosexual and homosexual couples.

The new law will have immediate and tangible benefits for Lesbian, Gay and other unmarried couples. For example, both public and private hospitals in San Francisco will be required to accord domestic partners the same visitation rights now enjoyed by married spouses.

The legislation also calls for the development, within three months, of a

POLITICALLY SPEAKING

We Have Much To Be Proud Of As We Celebrate Pride Week

By Bill Meunier

There are many things that we can indeed be proud of as we celebrate Gay and Lesbian Pride week around the country. Indeed, Pride Week should be looked at, not as a collection of special events, parties and marches, but as a true celebration of all that we have to be proud of.

First on my list are the energetic volunteers working in hundreds of communities around the country to try to bring a little pride into the lives of those who consider themselves to be part of our community.

After I formed the Milwaukee Pride Committee and saw new leadership in the form of Sue Cooke, Don Clabots and Gary Wells come forward, I had high hopes that they would do a good job. They have succeeded beyond my hopes and I am damn proud of them and everyone who has helped them and you should be too.

We can also be proud of our efforts to come to grips with the AIDS crisis. In city after city, Gays and Lesbians are finding innovative ways to comfort those affected and educate the rest.

We can be proud of those Gays and Lesbians in the military, especially Wisconsin's Miriam Ben Shalom, for their efforts to fight discrimination.

We can be proud of those who work in political campaigns to further our cause.

We can be proud of the fact that a growing number of us are becoming more and more conscious of our responsibilities to our community.

We can be proud of Terry Boughner and Jerry Johnson of *Wisconsin Light* and Ron Geiman of *Wisconsin In Step* who, despite all of the problems associated with putting out a paper on a shoestring and living in poverty as a result, continue to keep us informed on what is

happening.

We can be proud that no matter what states pass Gay Rights legislation, Wisconsin is and always will be "The Gay Rights State."

We should be proud of our Lesbian community and Gays of color who, despite having to put up with sexism and racial discrimination, outshine many of us with far less to deal with.

Let us also recognize that everyday there are countless acts of courage that advance the cause of Gay and Lesbian rights, private acts of coming out, of being supportive of each other, of understanding, of giving ones time and money to help.

Those acts never make it into a newspaper, not even this one, but we know they are happening and we should be proud of them too.

But there are some things we should be ashamed of.

The manner in which some of us have abandoned our friends when they are affected by AIDS is not a source of pride.

There still are those who refuse to vote the interest of our community.

Our organizations need more help and more money and there are still too many of us who could help, but refuse to do so.

This Pride Week, let's make a collective resolution. Between now and next year's celebrations, let's do something whether it's joining a group, helping with a fundraiser, contributing money, volunteering to help a Person with AIDS or whatever, let's all try to do something that we can be proud of.

If we can do that, there is no doubt that our next Pride celebration will be the best yet.

HAPPY PRIDE WEEK

Yours in Pride, Bill.

Warm, Vulnerable Human Beings Found Under Outrageous Costumes

By Shawn Duffy

I saw "Torch Song Trilogy" a couple of months ago with a friend and my twelve-year-old daughter, sitting in front of a group of women (straight?), one of whom said when it was over, "If you'd told me I'd cry at a movie about a drag queen, I'd never have believed it!"

That's one of the points of the movie, of course: that underneath even the most outrageous costume there is (or at least may be) a warm and vulnerable human being, more like ourselves than we had imagined. But the film and that overheard comment brought to mind all of my old questions about drag, and I've been mulling them over ever since.

Why does drag continue to play as large a role as it does in contemporary Gay life? Why are lip-synching men dressed as women seemingly the most popular entertainment in Milwaukee Gay bars? And why does every major Gay celebration, right down to the MAGIC picnic with its "drag race" seem to include some drag-related event?

I've been told that drag is a way for some Gay men to thumb their noses at straight society's rigid division of sex roles and attributes, but I can't buy it. In fact, drag plays directly to the prejudices of the homophobes and sexists, who want very much to believe that Gay men aren't "real" men. That's why movies and plays like "Torch Song" and "La Cage" are able to make it big, while "Parting Glances" and "My Beautiful Laundrette" stay in the art houses and "Front Runner" can't even be produced: if Gay is synonymous with drag, then Gay is strange and exotic and can be enjoyed by straights as a spectacle that bears no relation to any "real" person's life. The idea of two men in a loving, sexual relationship is a whole lot more palatable to the general public if one of those men is, if only part-time, pretending to be a woman.

It bothers me, too, that the "feminine" attributes most often adopted by men in drag tend to be bitchy, glitzy, stereotypical ones that have about as much to do with most women as drag itself has to do with most Gay men. How do women, especially Lesbians, feel about drag?

I wonder too, what young Gays,

struggling with coming out to themselves and others, think and feel about drag? How many of them, lacking any contact with adult Gays who might act as role models, have told themselves that they couldn't possibly be Gay because they've never wanted to wear a dress?

Yes, I admit it; drag makes me uneasy and, I have many more questions about it than answers. But my feeling is that Harvey was right; that drag is to Gay men what Amos and Andy and Aunt Jemima were to Black, and that it would be a good thing if, with them, drag would shuffle off into the bad old days.

By the way, I haven't forgotten that it was the few drag queens at Stonewall who first stood up and fought back almost 20 years ago. I'm grateful to them; they had balls. But, they were hiding theirs under skirts and — thanks in part to them — we don't have to do that anymore.

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1 bird house	22.79

Please call or write Karen Lamb in care of the *Wisconsin Light* offices: 1843 N. Palmer St., Milwaukee, WI 53212 (414) 372-2773.

We Must Extend Our Love To Persons Living With AIDS

By Daniel G. Trzebiatowski

After disclosing his AIDS diagnosis to his loved ones, a Gay, 25 year-old male in New York City expresses anger and loneliness. "My family has totally rejected me. My friends left me and threw me away." He now sits in a New York Care Unit, lonely and scared.

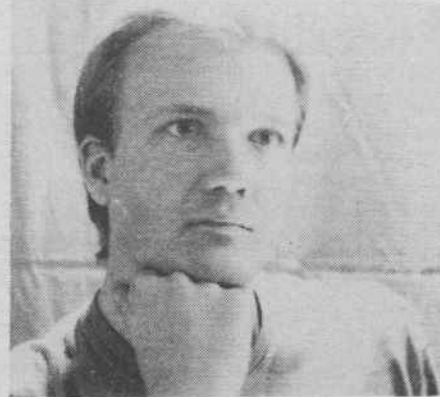
A bisexual male in an Alabama Correction facility writes me describing the discrimination he and 130 other inmates face on a daily basis. "Here, all HIV's are housed away from the general population. We do not sleep or eat together. We don't share anything with other inmates. Our clothes are washed differently. We get no treatment for the virus. There have been five to pass on since I have been here. There are four in the final stages now and they are the only ones getting AZT."

And he continues, "One day the officer had some form for us to fill out as to who would get our bodies when we pass on, so this is how my Mother found out that I was HIV+. She sometimes writes, but the rest of my family and friends feel that me being bisexual and HIV+ is a disgrace and shame, so I've been suffering and doing without ever since."

An individual in a small town writes me after he recently found out he was HIV+. "The reason I am writing you is because you are the first real connection that I've come across who is in the same shoes as myself and I guess the point of time has come to me to realize that I am not as alone with this as I do feel some days. At times I get real frantic about what I know about myself. Here, there is nothing as far as support or support groups and I am scared shitless!"

A PWA writes to me and others from his hospital bed. "My support system, what little I have, is becoming more and more on a letter writing basis. I just wrote to a PWA that is incarcerated to hopefully cheer him up by letting him know someone cares as I do, you do and anyone that cares enough to write me."

A brother writes, "I read your column at my brother's home. You see he is in his last stages of this horrible disease. Everyone else in my family (I am homosexual) is anti-AIDS, anti-Gay, anti-everything. I just spent one week of 24 hour care for my brother. I am home for two days and then will return. I love him so much it kills me to see him like this and



Daniel G. Trzebiatowski

being rejected. Before his illness, he was such an energetic and caring kid at 28. It is horrible, but I touch him with loving care, clean him and do everything I can to make what time he has left the happiest. I am so confused. When he dies I will lose the best friend I ever had."

A heterosexual female describes a walk through New York's Central Park with her 6 year-old daughter. "After my boyfriend found out that I was HIV+ he left me and abandoned our daughter. As we walked under the lights in the park embracing each other, I prayed that she would not experience further rejection from others after I pass. She is all I have and she will have no one after I leave."

Rejection of PWAV's, PWARC's and PWA's--both by the straight and Gay communities is nothing short of selfish. We (Gay men and women, whether HIV+ or not) are not accepting, not facing, not dealing and not supporting as we are capable of doing. We are following the lead of the majority in our own denial. Rejecting because we feel we are immune, untouchable and better than the rest; the ones who get "IT."

One reader sums up, "It's people like you who give us a little hope. I don't know what advice I can give to you on opening people up, having them accept and having them support us, but someone needs to do it. There are too many of us out there who are lonely, rejected and have no one to turn to. All we need is a little love and someone we can love back. Just let someone love you who has no one to love!"

Together, let's rise to the occasion. Together, we can make a difference! Write to me, Daniel Trzebiatowski, 1611 S. 5th St., Milwaukee, WI 53204.

Best Wishes

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MEDICALLY SPEAKING

Tricky AIDS Virus Will Require Several Drugs To Be Stopped

By Roger Gremminger

In this column, I wish to get back to strictly medical coverage and write an article on drug development for AIDS treatment. Rather than just give details about specific drugs, I would like to present some background in trying to make sense out of all the reports that appear in the lay press.

First of all, we have to abandon the hope that there will be one and only one "magic bullet" that will knock out the AIDS virus. This is a very tricky virus and has the ability to change very quickly. Consequently, it can and already has shown that it can develop resistance to drugs.

Right now, the AIDS virus has become resistant in individuals who are being treated with AZT (Zidovudine) anywhere from 6 to 18 months after treatment begins. Thus, what we need is not just one good drug, but several so that we can keep up and one step ahead of this moving target.

Further, we need to treat at any given time not just with one drug, but with a combination of drugs. Unfortunately, at the present time we only have one drug that has been approved by the FDA for treatment. However, the future looks very promising and presently the AIDS Clinical Trial Group of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease has 57 trials on 27 drugs and drug combinations in progress.

Further, the National Institutes of Health now has a National AIDS Drug Trial hotline which individuals can call to get information on drug trials and how and if they would qualify. That National Hotline number is 1-800-TRIALS-A.

Beyond these trials, there is also a movement across the nation to develop coalitions of community practitioners who jointly will do research with patients in their individual practices. The advances made in the treatment of Pneumocystis Pneumonia with aerosolized pentamidine was the direct result of collaborative research by such groups of private physicians both in New York and San Francisco.

Certainly it would be wonderful if Milwaukee were to develop such a collaborative research group. I know that there is interest and I feel that the patients in Milwaukee have to really get behind their treating physicians and give them all the support they need to pull this off. Trust and cooperation have to be the key words. Challenging is a good word. But misdirected anger and hostility will only be counter-productive.

Let me come back to a conceptual framework for looking at new combination therapy for HIV treatment. We have to understand the various stages that the virus goes through in infecting cells and then reproducing and killing host cells and other cells of the body.

Once the virus gains entrance into the body, the first thing that it must do is attach to cells. It does this at the CD4 receptors found on T4 helper lymphocytes, macrophages (scavenger cells that eat up foreign matter), stem cells in the bone marrow which produce the different mature blood cells and support cells in the brain.

Once attached, the virus has to enter the cell which seems to be a separate activity which may be blocked, but the research is very preliminary. Once in the cell, this RNA virus has an enzyme, reverse transcriptase, which translates RNA into DNA which is the natural genetic material of our bodies. This DNA translation can then be incorporated into our DNA.

The virus material can then remain quiet for quite some time. This seems to be accomplished by some gene of the virus itself which keeps it repressed. The challenge will be to try to keep the virus repressed by this gene.

At some point, the activator genes overcome the repressor gene and then sets in action the work of producing enzymes which produce materials for new virus particles and assembles them into complete viruses. These new viruses then are set to exit the cell and, in so doing, cause other cells to stick to the infected cell.

Finally, the whole process will destroy not only the infected cell, but also the



Roger Gremminger, MD

cells sticking to it. The virus is then ready to float through the blood stream and repeat the whole cycle again. The eventual result is destruction of enough of the immune cells so that the body is defenseless.

A rational way to construct drug combinations is to use drugs that work at different points in the virus's infection and reproduction cycle. AZT blocks reverse transcriptase. Another drug, ddC, is presently in phase 11 trials. There are at least three other drugs that also block viral DNA synthesis — d4T, ddI, ddA — which are in phase 1 trials.

The CD4 sponge is a man-made cluster of CD4 receptors to which the virus will attach and thus not attach to our body cells with CD4 receptors. Thus, it can act as a decoy. Another clever use of the CD4 sponge is to attach a biological poison to it. Thus, when the virus buds out of the cell, the CD4 sponge with the poison can attach to the cell where the virus begins to protrude and the poison can selectively kill that cell.

With this approach, the cells with silent virus which is still being repressed by its own gene would not be affected and the infection would persist.

Dextran sulfate which was popular a year or two ago, blocks the virus infected cell with virus budding out from having other cells stick to it. However, dextran sulfate does this in the test tube only and apparently does not get into the blood when taken by mouth and thus is worthless by this route. I am not sure what other work is being done to look at other means of getting dextran sulfate into the blood stream and/or if it is safe.

Again, this is all just an overview, but I hope that it is helpful in making sense out of the alphabet soup that is being talked about for HIV treatment. The main message is that there is hope and those who are infected must not give up hope and must try to do their best to stay healthy until more work can be done.

Secondly, be kind to your treating physician and intelligently discuss treatment options. But one person cannot read everything to keep up. Trust and co-operation will do much to secure good treatment, but hostility will only make the job of the AIDS doctors more stressful and lead to burnout and even more scarce treatment options.

Love, Roger

Minorities Must Better Organize To Stop Spread of AIDS

By Michael S. Lisowski

Approximately 125 health care and social service workers attended the 2nd "AIDS Of A Different Color" Conference at Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), May 24-26. The theme was "Today's Decisions Determine Tomorrow's Realities." It was sponsored by the Minority AIDS Coalition of the Milwaukee AIDS Project in conjunction with the MATC Division of Health Occupations and other community based organizations.

Conference programming presented insights into "what's happening" in the Black, Latino, Native American and Asian communities. The workshops enabled the participants to continue their positive impact in their community's efforts to halt the spread of AIDS infection.

Nationally, Blacks and Hispanics account for some 42% of all AIDS cases more than doubling their percentages as compared to the rest of the population.

Wisconsin's Black and Hispanic cases so far account for about 20% of all cases, more than triple those among the rest of the population.

Rev. Renee McCoy, Executive Director of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays (NCBLG) presented the opening address titled "The Cost of AIDS." McCoy declared, "the business of the Black community is liberation — without liberation we have no life." She explained how AIDS challenges Black people to address the obstacles to their liberation as well as to the disease itself.

AIDS has interrupted Black stability and shattered what existed. AIDS forced the question: did Blacks deserve to be healthy? No messages were filtering down from the white community that Blacks deserved to be healthy.

Because of racism, Blacks do not have the luxury of throwing out anyone because of the AIDS crisis, homosexuals and drug abusers included, since every Black family has, as a member, a drug abuser or homosexual.

By 1991, she said, 67,000 Blacks will have full-blown AIDS. "We cannot afford to get rid of 67,000 Blacks!"

According to McCoy, if AIDS education programs are to be effective, these programs must be expanded to include other vital Black issues, specifically

sexuality, drug use, alcohol abuse, fair housing, education and health care.

"AIDS disrupts our Black future. AIDS disrupts Black liberation. The business of Blacks is liberation. The challenge for us is to take care of business!" said McCoy.

Latino Gay youth were highlighted by Jim Balcazar, formerly of Hispanic AIDS Network in Chicago. Balcazar pointed out the differences and problems of reaching Gay Latino youth due to cultural barriers.

Closing remarks were presented by Dr. Juan Ramos, Deputy Director for Prevention and Special Projects for the National Institute of Mental Health.

Ramos emphasized that those who engage in working with minority groups in AIDS services take on an adversary role, an advocacy role, and many times, a confrontational role in their work.

Minority AIDS workers are considered outside the mainstream since they deal with so many "undeserving peoples." Workers must remember that main belief in our country is that our social institutions operate well — it's the people who are wrong and have the problems.

Workers must remember that it is their responsibility to correctly define the situation on AIDS and minorities. Otherwise, the media will incorrectly define the situation for themselves with the result that the rest of us will operate on false assumptions. For example, that AIDS is a Gay white man's disease.

Ramos spoke of his fears that as more "undeserving people" — criminals and IV drug users — become infected, society will begin to disengage support and services and punitive actions will most likely follow.

Ramos reminded the participants that the infra-structure in many minority communities and organizations is lacking or poorly organized. Problems in these communities are therefore left to law enforcement agencies when they could be tackled by the communities themselves.

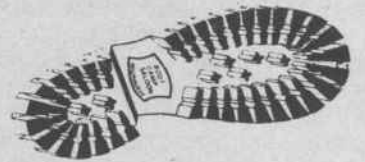
People have to empower themselves, to take ownership of AIDS in their communities if they are to confront the challenges that AIDS presents them.

Communities must be prepared to challenge the existing structures in those communities if they are to successfully work together and bring about change. Ramos concluded.

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WORLD VIEWS AND OPINIONS

Eastern Europe

By Kurt Krickler

Special from Vienna to **Wisconsin Light**
Editor's Note: The following is Part I of a three part series of articles from Mr. Krickler.

[Vienna, Austria]- At the Third Annual Conference of the "International Lesbian and Gay Association" (ILGA) in 1981, in Turin, Italy, the Austrian Gay and Lesbian group, "Homosexuelle Initiative" (HOSI-Wien), was delegated the task of setting up the "Eastern Europe Information Pool"(EEIP). It is the job of the EEIP to make contacts with, collect and record information about and lend support to the Gay and Lesbian communities in Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic (GDR), Hungary, Poland, Rumania, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. The EEIP sees its main role as a mediator, a connecting link between the movement in the so-called "West" and in the so-called "East." Information exchange has thus become the major activity of this info pool.

Since these countries have different histories, different cultural and religious backgrounds, different socioeconomic developments, different traditions and different legislation concerning homosexuality, they do not present a uniform or homogenous picture. Therefore, one cannot generalize, but must look at each of these nine countries individually, or at least at groups with similar conditions.

But first a look at the legal situation, both concerning Lesbians and Gays and AIDS.

The Legal Situation of Gays and Lesbians in Eastern Europe

Legislation concerning homosexuality can be divided into three groups:

Those countries which do not discriminate against homosexuals in their penal codes. This group is the smallest: only Albania, the GDR and Poland belong to it. They have uniform legal age of consent fixed at 14, 14 and 15 years respectively for both heterosexual and homosexual acts.

The largest group comprises those countries whose law books provide for a higher age of consent for homosexual acts: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, the Yugoslav Republics and Provinces of Croatia, Montenegro, Slovenia and Voivodina. In the latter four cases, the higher age of consent applies only to male homosexuality.

The third group includes those countries where homosexuality is totally illegal: Rumania (also female homosexuality), the Soviet Union and the Yugoslav Republics and Provinces of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo.

In respect to AIDS, the legal measures taken by all nine Eastern European countries are much more uniform. AIDS is de facto a notifiable disease in all of these countries, although not all of them have introduced relevant legislation. Moreover, even HIV seropositive cases are registered in practice. The statistics of infected persons and people with AIDS in these nine countries are still very low. The main problem actually, is with students from African countries. These students must now undergo compulsory HIV antibody testing, and if they test positive, they are sent back home. Bulgaria has additionally introduced compulsory testing for couples who marry.

On August 25, 1987, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR enacted a decree which provides for forced testing of persons suspected of being HIV infected: "A person who deliberately endangers another person of being infected with AIDS will be punished with imprisonment for up to five years."

All the Eastern countries have made some kind of effort to inform their population about AIDS and how to prevent infection. In most countries, television and radio programs have dealt with the problem; information leaflets have been distributed both to the general public and to professionals which are directly concerned, e.g. physicians, nursing staff, dentists, etc.

Poland has set an outstanding example in this area. It has published a wide range

of information material, leaflets, brochures, stickers, posters, etc. No other country in Eastern Europe, and few in Western Europe, have produced as much diverse informational material as Poland has.

While Czechoslovakia produced an information leaflet relatively early, the populations of Hungary and the GDR and the Soviet Union had to wait until 1988 to receive their first information brochure. Books on AIDS are available in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia.

In several of these countries, reports about the new disease were the first occasions to bring up the issue of homosexuality in the media. For the first time in some countries, the public heard or read in the official media that homosexuals really do exist! And for the very first time, Czechoslovak, Hungarian and Polish magazines published illustrated stories about Gay life and the Gay movement in the West. The first media coverage of AIDS dates back to the year 1983. Media coverage has never been homophobic. One point that deserves criticism, however, is the tendency of the media of certain countries to deny the existence of the so-called "risk groups" in their own country.

Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia are examples of broad and extensive media coverage of AIDS — and, of course, Yugoslavia where the media is not that much under party control in non-political issues.

Compared to the huge number of newspaper articles published in Poland, the GDR newspapers have written very little about the disease. This has changed only recently — a circumstance that shows how inflexible the GDR media are. This is totally different in Poland where something similar to independent journalism still exists.

In the Soviet Union, a change of attitude could recently be observed. In 1986, deputy minister of Public Health, Piotr Burgasov, stated in interviews in "Liternaturnaya Gazeta" and "Trud:" "SPID (Sindrom priobretionnovo immunodefitsita=AIDS) is a social problem which can be closely linked to the sexual freedom tolerated in the West which is, however, unnatural for Soviet society. A massive spreading of SPID in the Soviet Union is not possible because homosexuality is severely punished under the Soviet Penal Code."

Perestroika has also influenced this kind of media reporting. In 1988, Soviet television broadcast a documentary entitled "Risk Groups" which, for the first time, dealt with prostitution, homosexuality and drug abuse in the Soviet Union. For the first time, it was officially admitted that these things also exist in the USSR.

A True Story From Hong Kong

Editor's Note: The following story is true and comes to us via London. Only the names have been changed.

The first thing that Peter did when he came out of prison was to look for Ricky — but then, you see, nobody told him...

Peter, a European in his mid-thirties, and Ricky, a Hong Kong Chinese in his mid-twenties, were very much in love. They'd been together for a few years and were, perhaps, fairly unusual in that they were never known by their friends to "play around." They lived together happily on Cheung Chau, one of the Territory's 235 islands, which hosts quite a few East/West Gay couples. You see, it's sufficiently out of reach to avoid embarrassing Chinese family or neighbors. Now all of this was very cosy, but because they loved each other physically as well as emotionally, they were illegal under Hong Kong's archaic laws. Usually the police ignore such things, but...

Ricky's mother knew quite well what was going on — and she did not like it at all. She begged and pleaded with her son to come home. She sent relatives and friends to cajole him. She phoned up in the early hours and sent obscene letters and AIDS pamphlets to Peter. She tried to get Peter fired from his job. Eventually, she crossed the line. She called the police.

MALAYSIA

"Selamat Datang."

That is the greeting you will receive when you arrive into Malaysia. Though our national language is Bahasa Malaysia and the national religion is Islam, the constitution guarantees freedom of worship and English is widely used.

Contrary to what a lot of overseas believe, Malaysia is a multi-racial country. The make-up is approximately: 50% Malays, 35% Chinese, 10% Indians (originated from India) and 5% other ethnic races. These are important statistics to bear in mind. Malaysia's social, economic and political structures are drawn upon racial lines.

Being Gay is universal, so as in Malaysia, you can expect to find Malay, Chinese and Indian Gay men in a rather complicated and interesting set of relationships. One does have a choice in choosing one's race as a partner. It is difficult to say for sure (there are no available statistics) which race has the highest Gay ratio. However, one trait is rather evident: there are more Malay transvestites than any of the other races.

Generally, the Malay culture and ethnic background are more tolerant to, and in accepting transvestites and effeminate traits as being homosexual. So, when a "straight" person discovers a really "butch" man to be Gay, they get a surprise of their life.

Like in most Asian countries, homosexuality is tolerated, but not accepted. But, sad to say, with strong western influence, the tolerant level has dropped. It has not reached the critical level yet where homosexuality is oppressed and denigrated to the extent to require an external force such as Gay liberation front to fight for rights. There are a few who will not agree with this statement. Recently, a society called "Pink Triangle" was formed to look after the welfare of Gays in Kuala Lumpur. This society takes along the line of "befrienders." Hence, it is largely a counseling group.

In Malaysia, under the constitution and, of course, the Muslim law, sodomy or homosexual practices are illegal. However, the police rarely act on the law and will not so long as there is no public outcry. Furthermore, about a year ago, the Registrar of Societies accepted the registration of a "Mak Ngah Society."

The Mak Ngah Society is a society for transvestites. The acceptance of this society officially is a political move rather than a social or legal one. One should not here that the majority of the members are of Malay race. It is difficult to say, therefore, the government recognizes and condones homosexuality (transvestites equal Gay). All we can do at the moment is to watch and see.

If someone reports a crime, the police have to act. Peter and Ricky each got a 3-year sentence in separate jails. And, for some reason, Ricky got out of prison six months before Peter.

The family didn't want to know Ricky — it's bad enough to have the disgrace of a son in prison. Maybe for murder it's okay, but for loving another man! Ricky couldn't find a job — employers have access to the records. The only love he'd ever had or wanted was not around. So Ricky climbed to the top of the tallest building he could find. Then he jumped.

When Peter got out and found out what had happened, he fell apart. He is currently a broken man and undergoing psychiatric care.

Who's to blame. A mother's homophobia? We've no idea the remorse she is suffering at having caused the death of her son. The police, in this case, are blameless.

Those who must shoulder the blame are the overpaid civil servants who pass themselves off as "the government" who allow homophobic laws to remain on the books. Unless these laws are changed, there will be other tragedies like Peter's and Ricky's.

**Support
Pride Week**

People's Republic Of China

Editor's Note: This report on China by Tony Lo, a Gay Hong Kong Chinese, first appeared in **East-West** of London.

RULE NUMBER ONE: Never have your friend back to your up-scale hotel room overnight if you're a tourist (in China) and only have daytime nookie if you can do it without making a sound. However, there seems to be no problem in the cheaper hotels.

RULE NUMBER TWO: Most of the boys in Guangzhou (Canton) are very mercenary and many are downright dishonest. Seven years or so ago, the young men tended to avoid foreigners (gweilos) mainly because of the language problem. Now that English is more prevalent, they will approach foreigners relying on the fact that they don't seem to mind losing money and are too frightened to report to the police.

The "money boys" are getting very camp and "queenly," wearing earrings, dyeing their hair, etc. It's fascinating to watch them on holidays when they will need to work 3-4 clients from noon to 2:00 a.m. to make their money. Mondays to Fridays they tend to cruise more casually and only go for one trick a day.

Most tourists visiting Guangzhou stay in the White Swan Hotel. About a 100 yards from the street level entrance is a public toilet that's jumping late at night. It's not a pick-up place, just a quick grope or maybe more.

There are, of course, plenty of other loos in Guangzhou, but any action is Chinese only. All of the interest to visitors is between the White Swan and the Guangzhou Hotel as you walk along the Zhujiang (Pearl) River.

Near the Guangzhou Hotel is the Guotai Disco. Ask a taxi driver to take you to the "Bangkok Disco." The cover charge for foreigners is 10 yuan (about \$3) which includes two drinks. Subsequent drinks are from 4-8 yuan. Discreet behavior is the rule; no touching or kissing — just flash your best smile. If you hit it off, leave with your new friend.

So you meet someone? What now? Don't take him to your hotel. Go to a nearby loo or, perhaps, he'll invite you to his place, but be careful. Never bring along much money. Leave all expensive jewelry, watches, etc., in your hotel. Don't offer him money, but buy him presents — T-shirts, cigarettes.

Condoms? Only married couples can buy them in China so take your own discreetly hidden in your luggage.

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