



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

The Wisconsin Light

Light Inside...

- A TIME TO DIE
Hall of Corpses..... Page 2
- EDITORIALS..... Page 3
- SISTER NEWS AND
VIEWS A Litany..... Page 4
- A BOY OF SUMMER
Lessons Learned..... Page 5
- PRIDE PARADE AND
RALLY PHOTOS... Page 6-7
- LIVELY ARTS..... Page 8
- POLITICALLY SPEAKING
..... Page 10

Hate Crimes Bill Passes Judiciary House Committee

[Washington, D.C.]—The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's (NGLTF) historic effort to enact federal legislation addressing anti-Lesbian/Gay violence moved a step closer to passage when, on June 20, the House Judiciary Committee voted 33-1 in favor of HR 1048, the Hate Crime Statistics Act.

HR 1048, sponsored by Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), and 127 co-sponsors, is legislation designed to collect statistics on crimes motivated by prejudice based on race, religion, homosexuality, heterosexuality or ethnicity.

An amendment to remove "homosexuality or heterosexuality" from the bill was offered by right-wing legislator, Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-CA). The amendment was defeated by a margin of 33-1 with bipartisan opposition.

Among those on the Committee voting for the bill and against the amendment were Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) and Rep. William Kastenmeier (D-WI).

"The vote to retain 'homosexuality' is a big victory for all those concerned with ending hate crime motivated by bigotry," said NGLTF Lobbyist Peri Jude Radevic.

State Lawmakers Approve \$1.4 Mil. AIDS Funding

[Madison]—Wisconsin State lawmakers have given final approval to a \$1.4 million dollar program to provide for the first time ever, care and treatment assistance for people infected with the HIV virus.

Under the plan introduced into the 1989-91 state budget by Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison), \$1,261,000 will be used to fund AIDS/HIV life care services programs in Wisconsin's six AIDS Service Organizations. The state-wide network of AIDS Service Organizations, include The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) and the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN).

The remaining \$101,300 has been earmarked to help defray the high cost of the anti-AIDS drugs AZT and pentamidine.

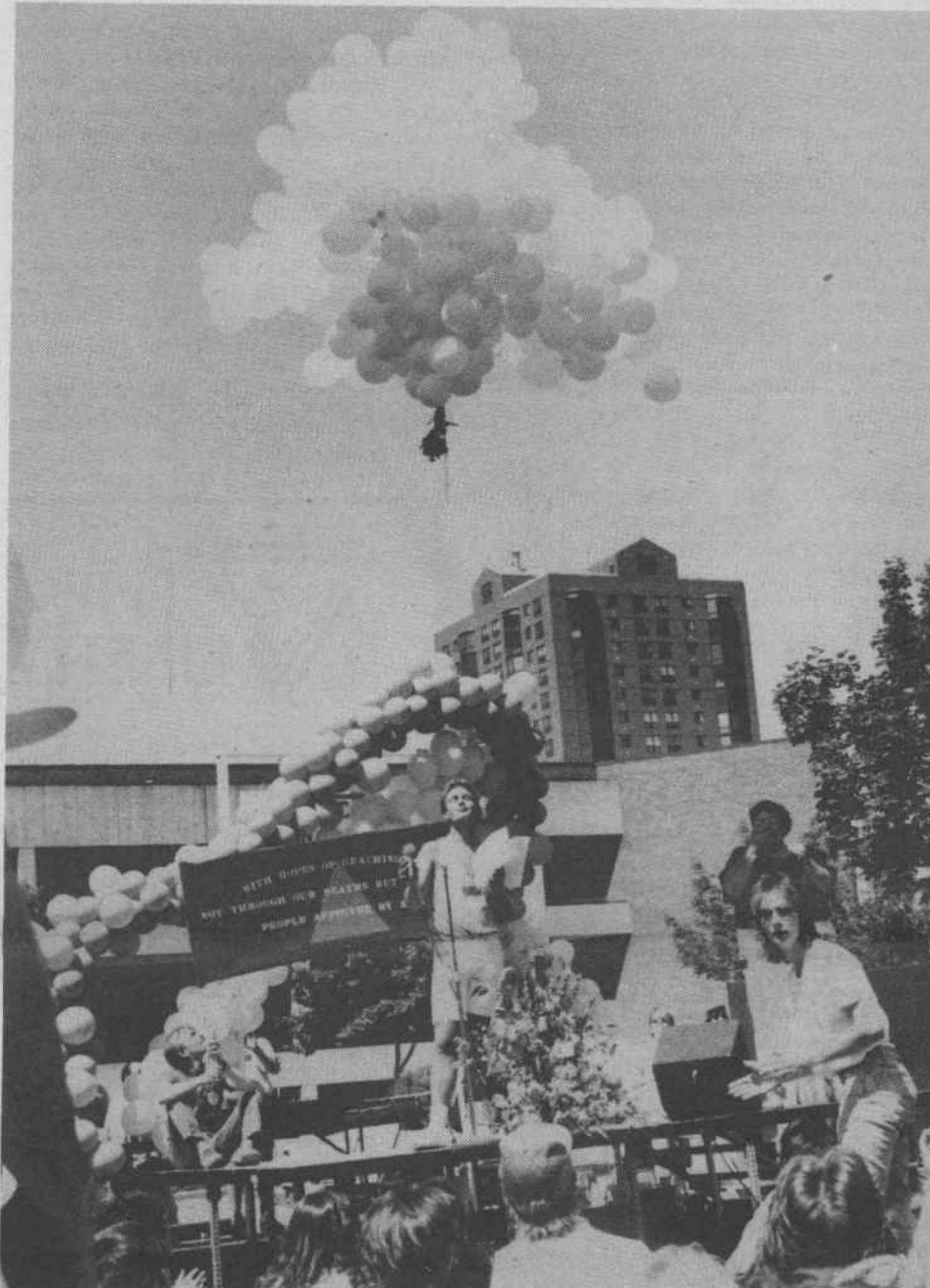
"State government must become an active partner in the fight against the AIDS epidemic," Clarenbach said.

"With 300 lives lost to AIDS in Wisconsin already, and another 10,000 state residents infected with the AIDS virus, it is critical that we commit ourselves to fighting AIDS now. AIDS is a time bomb waiting to explode," he said.

"By anticipating this explosion, we are in a better position to assist those infected with the HIV virus and save

TURN TO AIDS FUNDING, PAGE 11

DENMARK JOINS SWEDEN IN ALLOWING SAME SEX MARRIAGES



Balloons were released at the Milwaukee Pride Rally on June 17th in honor of those who have died of AIDS, as Dan Trzebiatowski spoke.

Montreal Conference Says AIDS Will Be Chronic Disease by Mid 1990's

Over 11,000 delegates representing 87 countries and nearly 1000 members of the media attended the Fifth International AIDS Conference held in Montreal, Canada, between June 4-10, 1989. More than 5500 research papers and videos were presented including explicit videos featuring safer sex while panels from the Names Project Quilt hung in a shopping plaza near the convention center for all to see and to ponder.

Among those attending was Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) who spoke to *Light* of a cautious optimism that he brought away from the Conference.

The is no cure on the horizon, he cautioned, "no magic bullet, no breakthrough on the horizon. Any vaccine is so far away and so complicated." Yet, having said this, he affirmed that "There is an exponential degree in progress."

There are new drug therapies, "AZT and a host of others" that can and will extend the lifespan of people living with AIDS, Nelson said. Just what the quality of that life would be, no one was prepared to say, but the strong ray of hope is that there will be life.

This means, Nelson said, that by the mid 1990's, AIDS will be a chronic and not a fatal disease as it is today. It will be much like Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and eventually, he said, AIDS will be like diabetes. Thus, the greater focus now is on how to manage the disease.

Still, lest there be any over optimism, Nelson emphasized, "We can never let up

our guard." And lest it be thought that all this effects only people living with AIDS now and in the future, he pointed out that "Everyone will be living with this disease, all of us live with AIDS, not just persons with AIDS, but all who are at risk. For these reasons, prevention education and behavior change remain crucial, he said."

He also pointed out that as AIDS becomes a chronic disease and not a fatal one, the responsibilities falling on MAP and on lovers, families and friends of people living with AIDS for care-giving will become, if anything, even greater than they are now. Life will be prolonged and its quality must be maintained to as high degree as is possible. This will take ever more dedication and commitment from all concerned.

Nelson said that one of the strongest impressions that he received in Montreal was that the Gay/Lesbian community has "found its best self in the AIDS epidemic." He said that the scientists spoke profoundly of how they saw the Gay community coming together to fight the disease. For example, in Milwaukee, the Gay/Lesbian community has formed MAP which, he said, was the "main difference between hopelessness and the compassionate dealing with AIDS."

Nelson cited the great numbers of volunteers at MAP, Lesbians, Gays and straights, who give of themselves "and keep on giving." He said that these "great hearted people are a real

TURN TO MONTREAL, PAGE 11

[Copenhagen]—The Danish Parliament has passed a law allowing homosexual couples to marry, granting them all the rights of heterosexual couples except for adoption and recognition by the state Lutheran Church.

The bill was passed 71-47, with five abstentions and 56 legislators absent in the 179-seat house.

The legislation, which takes effect August 1, 1989, gives homosexual marriage the status of a "registered partnership" with full inheritance rights and requiring official divorce proceedings for dissolution.

The only other country to permit marriage between people of the same sex is Sweden, which gives married homosexual couples the rights of unmarried heterosexual couples.

The Danish law provides that registered partners will automatically inherit from each other, be taxed as married couples and have the same access to social services as if they were married.

To qualify for registration, the law only stipulates that applicants should have the same address and be of the same sex. As with heterosexual marriages, bigamy will not be permitted.

Registered partnerships with foreigners will also be permitted without hindrance.

Opposition to the law came mainly from the small Christian People's Party whose 5 members of Parliament decried the proposal as unnatural and unethical.

Tom Stoddard, Executive Director of New York's Lambda Legal Defense Fund, noted that the question of whether Denmark's law would be recognized in other countries was unclear.

"The general rule in the U.S.," he said, "is that states will give full recognition to marriages in other jurisdictions unless they violate the public policy of the particular place in question. At the moment, it's case law in every state (that Gay marriages violate public policy), but public policy is an elastic concept that will change and grow over time. And it can be challenged in court."

First Annual Milwaukee Pride Week Big Success

[Milwaukee]—Gay/Lesbian Pride week, while centered on the Parade and March, did not begin nor end with these events.

On Friday, June 18, Milwaukee's Original Fest City Singers presented "Catch a Rising Star" (see article this issue) at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Steimke Theater.

On the same day and time, popular comedienne Kate Clinton presented a program at Centennial Hall. The program was sponsored by Midwest Music and Full Moon Productions. Clinton is the country's foremost Lesbian comic with a easy, delightful wit that is, at the same time wonderfully barbed. According to those attending, Clinton was more than up to her usual high standard.

On Sunday, June 18, there was a Brunch Reception, sponsored by the Pride Committee, for Robert Peterson, a reporter for the *Advocate* who had been in Milwaukee for a week covering both the process and events surrounding the first annual Pride March and Rally. About 30 Lesbian and Gay leaders attended the brunch held at the Cafe Macaw whose friendly and expert staff and well prepared food contributed greatly to the success of the event.

On Monday, June 19, a "Community Speakout" was held at the Cream City Foundation Community Center. It was

TURN TO PRIDE WEEK, PAGE 11

OUR HISTORY



A TIME TO DIE XVIII

“Hall of Corpses” Covered With Blood of 500,000 Gays at Auschwitz

By Terry Boughner, Ph.d.

Of all of the camps, perhaps none was so infamous as Auschwitz, so much so, in fact, that its name has become a byword for the Nazi horrors associated with such places. It was located in southwestern Poland, a vast place as they all were, whose sole and only purpose was the extermination of millions of Gays, Jews, Russians and others.

Rudolf Hoess, Commandant of Auschwitz from 1940 to 1943 estimated that “at least two and a half million victims were executed by gassing and burning and at least another half million succumbed to starvation and disease.” To give you some perspective, this is five times the population of the entire City of Milwaukee.

How many Pink Triangles were included in this number, it is impossible to say, but one of the survivors I spoke



with, a man named Walter, believed it to be in the hundreds of thousands, “perhaps a half million.” This was in only one camp.

I do not believe that Walter was exaggerating and, in fact, think that he underestimated the figure. There is reason to believe that the total number of Gays and Lesbians murdered at Auschwitz may have come closer to three quarters of a million people.

At Auschwitz, I was told, there was a vast underground bunker built of concrete and accessible only by a ramp at the end of which was a heavy steel door. Beyond was what the SS referred to as “The Hall of Corpses” and, for a time, it was under the command of Walter Quakernack, SS Oberscharfuhrer.

Its purpose was as a “shambles” which in the Nazi definition meant a place for killing prisoners; a place of special purpose set apart from the ordinary murder chambers of the camp. According to what I was told, it was in constant use.

Salmen Lewental talks about it in his work, *Amidst a Nightmare of Crime*, and says of it that those who were killed there were “prisoners designated for special treatment.” This is a euphemism for Gays and Lesbians, those of the Pink Triangle.

To the Hall of Corpses were brought these Gays and Lesbians, old and young, men and women who had been rounded up from throughout the Greater German Reich by the Gestapo’s special section made responsible for our Holocaust.

They were taken directly from trucks and trains, their names never being entered in the record books for they were not worthy of having even this memory left of them.

Who they all were, we have no way of knowing, but according to what I was able to discover, some were cast-off young men who had hoped to save themselves by submitting to Nazi officials. Others were Gays who had been informed on by “friends”, family or other Gays intent on being thought “straight.” They would also have been the flotsam of the Nazi pornographic film industry, those who did not die under torture in the “snuf” films. These were done in full color complete with sound. They still circulate in Europe and elsewhere.

In whichever category the victims fell, they had one thing in common besides their homosexuality. They needed to be exterminated without a trace to protect those who had used and abused them.

For this reason, they would be brought to Auschwitz and taken directly to the Hall

of Corpses, from 80 to 250 at a time. There they would be forced to strip after which, Quakernack and his minions would shoot them systematically and without mercy. The walls of that huge room would be covered with blood. The SS would drip with gore, with the red blood of Gays, despised and helpless, their lives taken from their bodies simply because of who they were.

When the killing ended, other prisoners, pathetically dulled inmates whose minds had been deadened by alcohol — of which there was a plentiful supply in Auschwitz — and who could no longer think nor feel anything, would take the still warm bodies to the crematoria. All this while Lagerfuhrer Heinrich Schwartz and Commandant Hoess watched and watched day after day, year after year their boots soaked in ooze and viscera of slaughtered Gays and Lesbians.

Why? I wish to God I knew. I wish if there is a heaven or philosophy to speak to me that I could make some sense of it, but now, in the afternoon of my own life, I still have no answer, none that I want to live with.

Felix Kersten, Himmler’s doctor who saved the lives of many Jews, tried to do the same thing for Gays. According to what he wrote after the war in his autobiography, all such attempts were useless. Himmler might agree to or be tricked into the rescue of some Jews, but Gays were a different matter. Kersten once asked why?

“I can tell you why, Herr Kersten,” the doctor reports Himmler responding. “It’s because we mean to get rid of homosexuals root and branch. They’re a danger to the national health, to the family, to the social structure, to the entire national fabric. A people can be broken in spirit by such a plague” as the homosexuals are. “We can’t permit such a danger to the country; the homosexuals must be entirely eliminated. The homosexual is a traitor to his own people and must be rooted out.”

I can remember when I first read those words. I can remember listening when Hans, Walter, Rudolf and all the others told me the same thing when I kept asking why, why had this happened?

My horror is lessened now and replaced by fear. I’ve heard those words since — and have heard them again and again and again. It only reinforces in my mind that fact that the Nazis were not only a German phenomenon, they were a human phenomenon.

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STATION CONNECTION 2

<p>July 1 Golf Outing 2 p.m. Brookfield Hills Call Bar for details</p>
<p>July 4th Weekend Specials Everyday</p>
<p>July 7 - 6 p.m. 3rd Anniversary Party Drink Specials - Food</p>
<p>July 29 - 6 p.m. Chicago Bar Crawl Sign Up Now - \$25 Bus, food, drinks at Bar prior to departure</p>

Karen Thompson To Speak In Milwaukee on July 15

By Jamakaya

[Milwaukee]- Karen Thompson will visit Milwaukee on Saturday, July 15th to talk about the case of Sharon Kowalski and the importance of legal recognition for Lesbian and Gay relationships. She will speak at the Counseling Center, 2038 N. Bartlett at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$5. Thompson’s appearance is sponsored by Hurricane Productions.

Thompson is the partner of Sharon Kowalski, a Lesbian severely injured in a car accident in 1983. Since that time, Kowalski has been the subject of legal wrangling over her guardianship and her need for rehabilitation. Kowalski’s father refused to allow Thompson to visit Sharon and placed his daughter in a nursing home where, since 1985, she received virtually no rehabilitative therapy.

Thompson has pursued legal action since 1984 seeking to obtain proper medical care for Sharon, as well as for visitation rights. She chronicled her struggle for Sharon’s welfare in the book, *Why Can’t Sharon Kowalski Come Home?*, co-authored with Julie Andrzejewski. Thompson’s crusade spurred the formation of a National Committee to Free Sharon Kowalski, which has garnered national publicity for the cause.

In January of this year, Judge Robert Campbell ordered a period of evaluation and rehabilitation for Sharon, a move



KAREN THOMPSON

Donald Kowalski opposed. As a result of the medical evaluation, in June, Sharon was moved to an extended care facility near Minneapolis that provides more extensive rehabilitation and training in transitional living. Thompson has been allowed to visit Sharon since February and, in a recent development, Donald Kowalski has asked to be removed as Sharon’s guardian.

Details of this tragic and, we all hope, ultimately triumphant story, as well as the importance of legal protections for Gay couples, will be addressed by Karen Thompson at her talk. All concerned people are welcome to attend.

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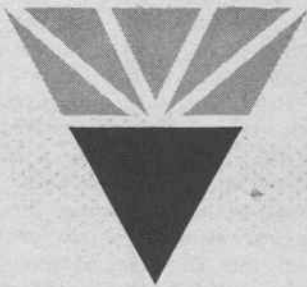
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Institutional Member



EDITORIAL

Community Properly Ignores Insolent "Christians" at Rally

The Gay bashing rally of 1500 people sponsored by extremist Christian groups in Milwaukee on Sunday, June 25 was ignored by most of us and properly so.

For one thing, they had as much right to hold their affair as anyone else. For another, to have mounted any kind of a protest would have gained us nothing while giving them a media presence they do not deserve.

Beyond all that, we should keep in mind that these people represent only a fraction of their religion. Light has learned through its sources in the electronic media, including WVCY itself, that the rally as well as the phone calls to the offices of City, County and State political figures and radio talkshows, were all part of a carefully orchestrated event, set in motion by the owner of WVCY.

It is interesting that these people, quoting from the Bible, show such a startling ignorance of the book. What was made embarrassingly obvious from the quotes they used to condemn us, is that few of them have any knowledge of Hebrew or Greek, but only English.

If their religion were truly that important to them, they would do the work necessary to understand its sources and would hence discover that what is rendered into English is not necessarily what it says in the original languages. But this work has obviously, not been done. One can therefore only conclude that they do not truly value their religion enough to understand it and that consequently, their morality serves only as a tattered loin cloth to cover their prejudices.

(While we're at it, a little dose of Latin might not be a bad idea either. Check out the meaning of "fundamentum" from which we get the word "fundamentalist." If they knew what it meant, they might not be so quick to use it to describe themselves.)

In the end however, what is most interesting is that these people who consider us sinners, forget something. That is that 'Whoever is without sin,' alone has the right "to cast the first stone."

By casting stones at us, they are, in effect, denominating themselves as sinless and hence perfect. This means that they ascribe to themselves the quality possessed by God alone and hence usurp the divinity they profess to worship.

Like the Nazis and the Communists and the Ayatollah Khomeini, these "Christians" have decided that God is Them.

The Greeks had a word for this. It is "hubris" meaning the wanton insolence and arrogance of those who would seek to be God. Hubris was always followed by destruction for it was considered a form of madness. "They who the gods would destroy, they first made mad."

Humans seeking to take the place of the divine are in a dangerous position. These so-called Christians would be wise to take note.

Milwaukee Pride Committee Deserves Praise from One and All

Now that Milwaukee's Gay/Lesbian Pride Week is behind us, Wisconsin Light would like to extend its highest praise and gratitude to the members of the Pride Committee.

Few of the thousands who took part in the March, Rally and other events, perhaps know, if the tremendous amount of work and self-sacrifice that the members of the Committee put into the work that made our Pride Celebration the occasion the joyous experience that it was.

Against all odds, these handful of dedicated people brought off a triumph, so wonderful, so good, so fine and with such dignity as could hardly have been expected — and managed to keep their sense of humor and perspective in place.

If justice were to be truly served, the Pride Committee deserves a grand and glorious party given to them, but these poor words will have to serve.

Wisconsin Light would also like to offer its thanks and deep appreciation to Milwaukee Mayor John O. Norquist, to County Executive David Schulz and to Milwaukee County Supervisors Elizabeth Coggins-Jones and Dorothy Dean and the County Board for their support and for the proclamations on Lesbian/Gay Pride week. This community should know that these are tremendously courageous and highly principled individuals whose dedication to the cause of civil rights for all deserves the medal of honor.

Now, after catching its breath, the Committee will begin to look forward to and plan for Pride '90. Now is the time for you to join; for you to offer your talents, your time, your efforts to make next year's celebration at the opening of the "Gay Nineties" an even more spectacular success.

Now too is the time for you, individuals or businesses who, for whatever reason, did not take part or stood only on the periphery, to resolve to be a part of it all. It is your community too and it is in your interest to become a part of this, our struggle for equality and civil rights.

As one member of the Committee said, "The stereotypes and bigotry will begin to crack when non-Gays learn how many of us there really are; when they see us proud, in our numbers. Then and then only will they begin to see and understand that our lives need no shroud. It is this shroud that many of us keep over our lives that stands in the way of our progress more than hate groups, religious animosities or unfair laws."

We think this is valid and, for this reason, we thank the Pride Committee for giving to Milwaukee the dignified, professional event that allows us to hold our heads high.

Former Police Chief Ziarnik Richly Deserves Alyn Hess Award

One of the proudest moments in the Pride Celebration came when Gay People's Union presented former Milwaukee Police Chief Robert Ziarnik with the First Annual Alyn Hess Award.

The award is given to a non-Gay/Lesbian person who has demonstrated compassion and understanding towards the Lesbian/Gay community and whose actions have had a positive impact on us all.

It was heart rending to see hundreds of Gays and Lesbians standing for three solid minutes and wildly cheering the man that Mike Lisowski in his presentation said, "will always be the Chief to us." When a visibly moved Ziarnik (wearing a GALVANize hat) who had left the Police Fire baseball game to attend the rally, told them that the Police Department was theirs too, the crowd renewed its eruption.

It wasn't too long ago that no one would have believed that any Milwaukee Police officer would get such a positive reaction from a Gay/Lesbian crowd. It wasn't too long ago when there were valid reasons for members of our community to mistrust the police. It is to Ziarnik's credit that those days are behind us. The Chief richly deserved this honor and the throaty cheers that accompanied it.

We agree with Lisowski, "what Chief Ziarnik did (in turning around the Police Department) took real courage." When he took office, Ziarnik said he wanted to have a positive impact. Any doubts he or others may have had about his impact, should have been erased on that sunny Saturday afternoon in Cathedral Square.

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR:

This letter is in response to the two who wrote the rather strange commentaries about Morgan Summer and his column.

To make such a response, it is useful to get to the point. This point is that the

responses received by Morgan were a manifestation of internalized homophobia. For many centuries, Gays and Lesbians were told that they were sick and diseased for what they were. The "tolerant" American middle class has

been magnanimous enough to accord some kind of right to exist to Gay and Lesbian people; we just can't flaunt it.

For anyone who cares to look even a little beyond such empty bourgeois pieties, what "not flaunting it" entails is not life, but mere existence; life completely or halfway in the closet is not terribly pleasant. Morgan said that very well in his column, "One."

I would simply like to add that it is a shame that the bourgeois stranglehold on our culture is so strong that some of the most effective enforcers of homophobia are Gays and (to a lesser extent) Lesbians themselves, resulting in our people (term used loosely here) spewing up the antiquated drivel of the mass media and the middle class concerning our very selves.

I would suggest that these two either undertake some activity to raise their level of consciousness or stop calling themselves "Gay" and affix the label to themselves befitting all renegade homosexuals: Faggots.

—Thomas J. Rondy
Madison, WI

TO THE EDITOR:

While I disagree with the conclusions drawn in your editorial focusing on comments I made on my talk show regarding proclamations issued in support of Gay/Lesbian Pride Week, I congratulate you and thank you for accurately reporting what I said.

As you indicated, at no time in my criticism of the proclamations signed by the County Board and Mayor Norquist, did I criticize the Gay lifestyle or the choices made by Gay individuals. I criticized the content of the proclamations and made it clear I disagree with many of the political goals of the Gay movement (goals at least some Gays also disagree with).

The Wisconsin Light concludes that such comments contribute to the "poison of homophobia." In other words, if a person is critical of the Gay political agenda, that person is therefore critical of the Gay lifestyle. But if that logic is followed in the converse, then isn't someone (like a mayor) who supports the Gay political agenda therefore endorsing the Gay lifestyle? I think not. It is as unfair to accuse persons who disagree with political goals of the Gay movement as Gay-bashers as it is to say that individuals who oppose discrimination and violence against Gays are somehow urging the Gay lifestyle upon others.

The fact is that the wording of the County Board proclamation indicates support for the Gay/Lesbian "movement" and that the Norquist proclamation indicates "pride" in the Gay lifestyle. Criticism of the presumptuousness of Norquist's resolution and the seeming endorsement of political goals in the Board's resolution is NOT a threat to Gays as individuals anymore than the Gay pride observances are threats to heterosexuals.

—Mark Belling
WISN Afternoon Talk Show Host
Milwaukee, WI

Editor's Note: In the last issue of Light Mr. Belling's name was misspelled. We apologize for this error.

TO THE EDITOR:

Editor's Note: The following letter was sent to Dave Cullen, President of the Milwaukee Public School Board and to Wisconsin Light.

Hooray for Dave Begel! It's about time that someone had the integrity and guts in the Milwaukee Public School Administration to endorse our Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Week proclamations from the Mayor, County Exec. and County Board. I must admit that I was surprised to hear Dave Begel's comments that evening while sitting in the audience. I even wrote him stating that all of Milwaukee needed to hear his remarks, not just those of us seated in that room. Apparently, now most of Milwaukee has read about his comments.

Editor's Note: As printed in the Milwaukee Sentinel June 24, 1989, Begel is quoted as saying, "I guess if Milwaukee Public Schools are interested or able to make proclamations, we probably would have made a proclamation too, much as the city, county and state did in saying, 'Yes, we are proud of you (Lesbians and Gays)'".

It's amazing that some school board members have counterattacked Mr. Begel's comments, especially focusing on

Litany of Lesbian And Gay Pride

By Jamakaya

The following text is the Litany of Lesbian and Gay Pride I presented at Milwaukee's Pride Celebration on June 17, 1989. Some participants who didn't catch all the words were interested in seeing it written and having a copy of their own. There is an explanation at the end which may enhance your understanding of some of the names of the litany. After each line in the litany, the audience responded with the chant, "We've come this far and we won't go back!"

I dedicated this Litany to Sharon Kowalski, "so that no other person's health or welfare will be sacrificed at anti-Gay ignorance," and to Alyn Hess (the Milwaukee activist who died of complications of AIDS earlier this year), "whose commitment to social justice and community activism is an example for us all."

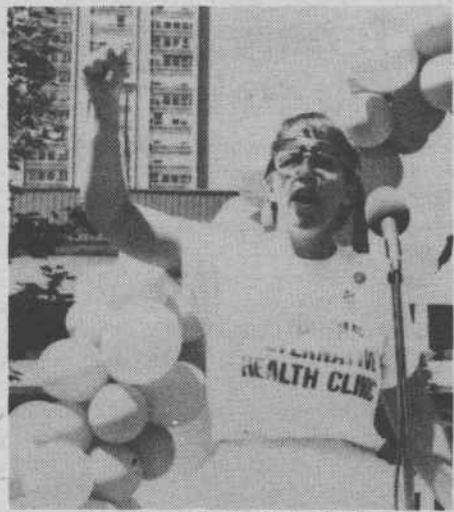
LITANY OF LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE

For the generations before Stonewall...
For the Lesbians burned as witches...
For the men of the Pink Triangle...
For those who have suffered alone...
For those we have lost to suicide...
For those disowned by their families...
For those who have lost their children...
For those who cannot be here today...
For those who came before us...
For Walt Whitman and Oscar Wilde...
For Willa Cather and Gertrude Stein...
For James Baldwin and Langston Hughes...
For Radclyffe Hall and Sappho too...
For Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon...
For Harvey, Harvey, Harvey Milk...
I don't think Harvey heard you that time!
For the bashing victims of Gay foes...
For Dennis Owens and Joe Rose...
For Claudia Brenner and Rebecca Wight...
For those who didn't have the chance to fight...
For brothers and sisters lost to AIDS...
For brothers and sisters surviving with AIDS...
For the militants who know how to ACT-UP...
They really know how to kick butt...
Say it nice and loud for Alyn Hess...
I don't think Alyn heard you that time!
For Lesbian moms and Gay dads...
For custody rights and foster care...
For Gay and Lesbian teenagers...
For parents, siblings and friends of Gays...
For drag queens and fairy queens...
For diesel dykes and dykes on bikes...
For Trollops, Hags and Oberons...
For black and white and red and brown...
For Levis and for leather new...
For lace and for feathers too...
For queens with very, very good taste...
For dykes who taste very, very good...
For Gay bars owned and run by Gays...
For Gays and dykes in recovery...
For Wisconsin's first Gay rights law...
For Gay politicians and businesses...
For the Gay and Lesbian media...
For the Lesbian music festivals...
For our bowling and our softball leagues...
For the therapists who meet our needs...
For a culture full of variety...
For what we contribute to society...
Keep those closet doors open wide...
Stand up for Lesbian and Gay Pride!
Speak up for Lesbian and Gay Pride!
ACT-UP for Lesbian and Gay Pride!

Several people expressed curiosity about a few of the names included in the Litany. Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon founded the first Lesbian organization in the United States, the Daughters of Bilitis (1955), and wrote the classic *Lesbian Woman*. They have worked for our rights continuously for almost 35 years.

Here is a brief description of those people — the victims of Gay bashers — who might have been unfamiliar to some of you. Remember their names and honor their memories.

Dennis Owens was the 31 year-old Milwaukeean killed last December in the Gay bar district. Dennis was shot numerous times, twice in the back of the head, and his body was dragged some distance by car. One of the alleged assailants indicated to the District Attorney that they were out to "roll a



Jamakaya at the Pride Rally.

Jerry Johnson

queer."

Joe Rose was a 23 year-old Canadian AIDS activist murdered in March. As he emerged from a city bus in Montreal, a gang of 15 young males surrounded him chanting, "Faggot, Faggot!" and stabbed him to death.

As Claudia Brenner, a 32 year-old architect, and her partner, Rebecca Wight, a 29 year-old grad student, were camping along the Appalachian Trail in May, 1988, a man with a rifle stalked them and eventually opened fire. Each woman was hit multiple times. Claudia, with five bullets in her body, crawled several miles through thick underbrush to summon help for herself and her lover. It arrived too late. Rebecca died at the campsite. Claudia is still recovering from the experience. The attacker, whose attorney cited "homosexual panic" as his defense, was convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

On a personal note, I was asked to submit my speech to the Pride Committee in advance, ostensibly to assist the American Sign Language interpreter in preparing for the rally. A day later, a representative of the Committee called to tell me that some members of the Committee found a few lines in the Litany "distasteful" (guess which ones?). I was further advised that the rally was planned as a "family" event and that I should use my judgment in modifying some of the material.

I perceived the first critique ("distasteful") as blatantly Lesbo-phobic, and the second ("family" event) as reeking of moral majority rhetoric. We have enough problems with religious fanatics attacking and trying to silence us. We don't need censorship from within our own community.

My Litany was, in fact, designed for the family — the Gay and Lesbian family I knew would be gathered that day — and no one seemed to find any of the content objectionable. And finally, just for the record, no one has ever accused this Lesbian of bad taste!

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HIV/AIDS Promotes Gay Movement In East Germany, Poland & Hungary

By Kurt Krickler

Editor's Note: The following is the 2nd of a 4-part series. Mr. Krickler is a Gay activist in Homosexuelle Initiative Osterreichische AIDS-Hilfe of Austria. His report is exclusive to *Wisconsin Light*.

If we consider the effects of HIV/AIDS on the Gay and Lesbian community and their reactions, we can again distinguish three groups of countries according to their way in dealing with this new problem.

1) Countries where Gay and Lesbian movement had already existed before AIDS and where this movement was able to use its privileged access to the main group at risk and its specific knowledge about the life-styles of Gays to reinforce its position. The German Democratic Republic (GDR-East Germany) is the lone member of this category.

2) Countries where HIV/AIDS was the decisive impulse for Gays and Lesbians to become convinced of the necessity to organize. Before AIDS, the issue of Gay and Lesbian rights may have seemed utopian to them and, therefore, not realistic enough to start to fight for them. But when this disease began to threaten their lives, they started to organize. The authorities, on the other hand, finally understood that they must allow these groups to exist in order to cooperate with them in combating AIDS. Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia fit into this category.

3) Countries where the appearance of HIV/AIDS has neither reinforced the position of already existing groups nor induced any attempts to create informal or official groups. In this category we find: Albania, Bulgaria, Rumania, the USSR and Yugoslavia.

The way a country and its Gay citizens react to HIV/AIDS depends totally on the general political situation in the respective country. It is no surprise that a Gay group has not emerged in a country like Rumania which the autocratic regime of Nicolae Ceausescu has turned into the Sahel of Europe, or in Albania where no oppositional activities whatsoever are permitted.

It is not surprising either that perestroika has brought the issue of homosexuality out into the open. And it is certainly no big surprise to hear that the highest level of organization has been reached in Hungary, the GDR and Poland — Hungary having always been the most liberal country in the East bloc, the GDR being the country still feeding on the traditions of German pre-War sexology, and Poland traditionally being the country with the most vivid opposition.

In Czechoslovakia, which still has the most stalinist left-overs in the whole Warsaw Pact, individual activists continue their struggle to found an association. They cooperated with AIDS experts and sexologists from the polyclinic in Prague which houses the official HIV/AIDS counseling center. Since early 1989, an informal group, Lambda Praha, has its regular meetings at the Institute of Sexology of the Charles University. Their first newsletter was also published in early 1989.

As in so many other countries, the epidemiologists dominate the AIDS debate. They want to fight AIDS with the same weapons they used against all traditional epidemics, ignoring the peculiarities of HIV/AIDS. Czechoslovak epidemiologists refer to a real example: After World War II, they succeeded in totally extirpating syphilis, and now they believe they can repeat this success with AIDS using the same methods. All infected persons who are detected have to certify that they will only engage in safe sex. They have to give the names of their permanent lover and their sex partners. If they split up with their lover and find a new one, they have to inform the health authorities. To counter these measures and to provide more counseling and care for HIV persons, the Prague AIDS counseling center offers positive groups led by a physician and sexologist.

What is amazing, however, is the fact that the sole Gay group in Yugoslavia has stagnated during the last two years and that no new ones have been founded. Magnus Gay Club in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, has existed since 1984 and has organized an annual Gay/Lesbian culture week every year since then. The issue of AIDS has also initiated much

discussion about homosexuals and homosexuality. This must be considered a positive development because, until that time, this subject was also taboo in Yugoslavia.

On the other hand, AIDS phobia is hindering the further development of the young movement. In 1987, the health authorities announced that they would prohibit the Gay/Lesbian culture week in Ljubljana which was due to start on May 25th, Tito's birthday, and therefore an important day of nation-wide Tito memorial celebrations. Belgrade considered this coincidence as another provocation of Slovenian alternative movements which have always strongly opposed the Tito ceremonies and had partly boycotted them. Since Magnus Gay Club was in arrears in preparing the culture week and also wanted to avoid any trouble, they canceled the week and offered an AIDS information week instead. Remarkably enough, the Ljubljana based *Lezbiska Sekcija* (Lesbian group) has become more active than ever and published, in 1988, the first issue of *Lesbozine*, the first Lesbian magazine in Eastern and Southeastern Europe. Issue #2 was published in 1989.

In the third category mentioned above, countries are listed where HIV/AIDS has not provoked the emergence of a Gay movement. HIV/AIDS, however, did not cause a deterioration in the situation of Gays and Lesbians in these countries either. On the contrary, in some of them we can even see a certain improvement, although this has not led to the founding of an official organization.

In the Soviet Union a group of Lesbian and Gay activists already existed before the HIV/AIDS outbreak. But the appearance of HIV/AIDS had no positive effect on the creation of more groups. Homosexuality, however, has recently been discussed in the media for the first time since the 1930's. And as in Hungary and Poland, this is without AIDS being the reason for reporting on homosexuality.

The first article appeared in March, 1987 in the Moscow youth magazine *Moskovsky Komsomolec*. Actually the article was very anti-homosexual although the author obviously was trying to waken compassion and understanding for homosexuals among his readers. But he did it by pathologizing homosexuals.

In August, 1987, the Soviet legal expert, Sofia Kelina, demanded in the *Moscow News* the abrogation of Article 121 of the Russian Penal Code which prohibits homosexual acts even between consenting adults. On June 22, 1988, Soviet TV broadcast in its program "Good Evening, Moscow" the first documentation on homosexuality. It was a shock for many TV viewers. Prof. Aleksei Ignatov talked about plans to reform Article 121 which provides prison terms of up to five years for homosexual anal intercourse.

There are three examples of very successful Gay and Lesbian movements which have emerged and developed in the light of HIV/AIDS during the past few years: the movement in the GDR, Poland and Hungary.

To be continued



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A BOY OF SUMMER

Lessons Learned

By Morgan Summer

The thirteenth Annual World Affairs Seminar was held in Whitewater, Wisconsin, from June 11 to 16. Approximately 1250 high school students attended. They lived on the Whitewater campus in a massive dormitory, Wells Hall. During the day, they were supposed to attend seminars in Hyer Hall, an academic building which houses a large auditorium.

Those are the facts. I was a counselor there and while I was not required to go to any of the seminars (I did have to live and sleep in Wells for that week, though), I learned a few things, just about life and getting through it.

1) Never, never take privacy for granted. During the week of the World Affairs Seminar, I had to share a room with my co-counselor. Don't get me wrong, he was a nice enough guy, but I have been for the majority of my college days so far, living in a single room. That week taught me that privacy is sacred. And I suppose that sounds a bit heavy-handed, but starting this Fall, I will have a double room, no more singles. I am a little wary at the prospect.

2) Allergies are not enjoyable. Throughout that week, I had been assaulted with hay fever — stuffy nose, scratchy throat — which, surprisingly enough, affected my usually bright disposition. Whoever invented nasal spray, should have received the Nobel Prize.

3) As an authority, is it better to be loved or feared? That is a question that has been debated for quite awhile and as a counselor who's main duty was to make sure rules were followed and discipline those who broke them, I was confronted with it. Both my co-counselor and I settled on somewhere in-between. We kept ourselves open to the residents of our floor, but we made it clear that we were in charge. We didn't have any trouble.

Closer to us, during the week, I took notice of what attitudes the participants had toward Gays. Since they came from



Morgan Summer

all over the U.S. and the world, I thought it might be a kind of barometer for current thoughts about Gays in general.

Now, on my floor of Wells Hall, if you follow the 1-in-10 statistic, there were about 4 Gay guys. I'll comment on that later. I think it's relevant.

I have found, based on that week, that high school students, on the average, are not out-right homophobic. Some of them are, of course, but mostly students practice a watered-down, almost subconscious form of prejudice towards Gays: peer pressure.

Okay, during the Seminar, one of the main issues, if not the issue among the male students was how to get laid. (Yes, the future of this nation is secure.) This was magnified by the fact that girls were not allowed on male floors and guys were not permitted for any reason, to go to the girls' side of the hall. But, in spite of this, some very visible relationships grew as evidenced by hand-holding while walking to the daily world issues discussion in Hyer.

There was a lot of pressure to have a relationship like this, primarily because the guy was bound to have sex, seeing that the Seminar only lasted a week. This turned out to be the case, I heard. Imagine the Gay students there or those who think they are Gay and seeing this stuff. The pressure, from my view, was incredible.

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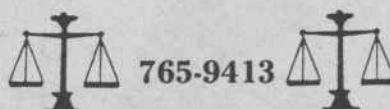
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Commitment '89 Weekend Sept. 8th

Commitment '89 is an intensive weekend for Gay and Lesbian members of 12 step programs such as AA, Al-Anon, NA, ACOA, OA, etc.

There will be workshops, discussion groups, meetings, speakers and, of course, time out for fun, food and relaxation.

Commitment '89 dates are: Sept. 8, 9 & 10. The roundup will be held at Milwaukee's Park East Hotel with the Saturday night dinner dance taking place at the Wisconsin Club.

Registration info may be obtained by writing, Commitment '89, P. O. Box 92794, Milwaukee, WI 53202 or calling Jack B. (414) 783-4289.

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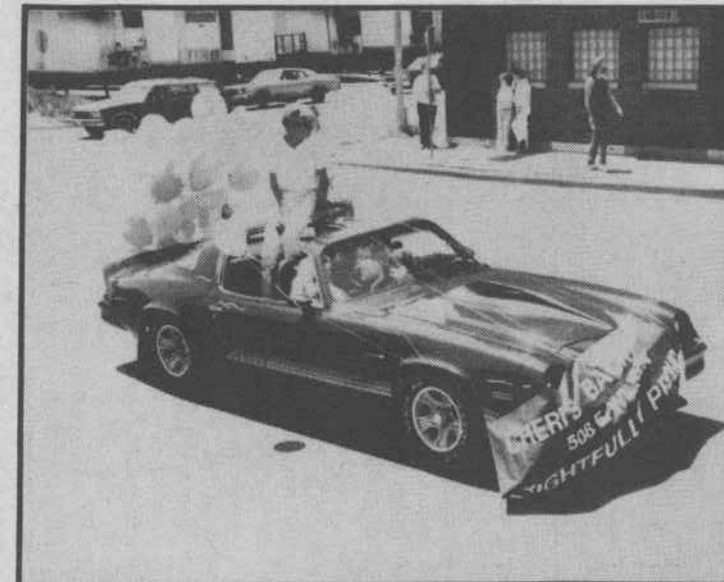
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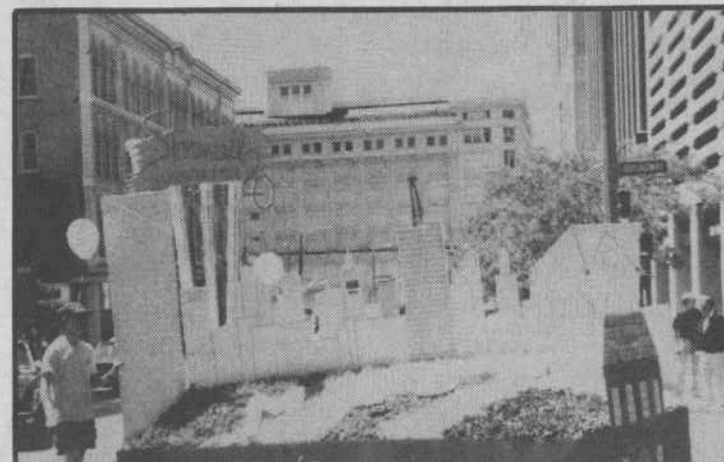
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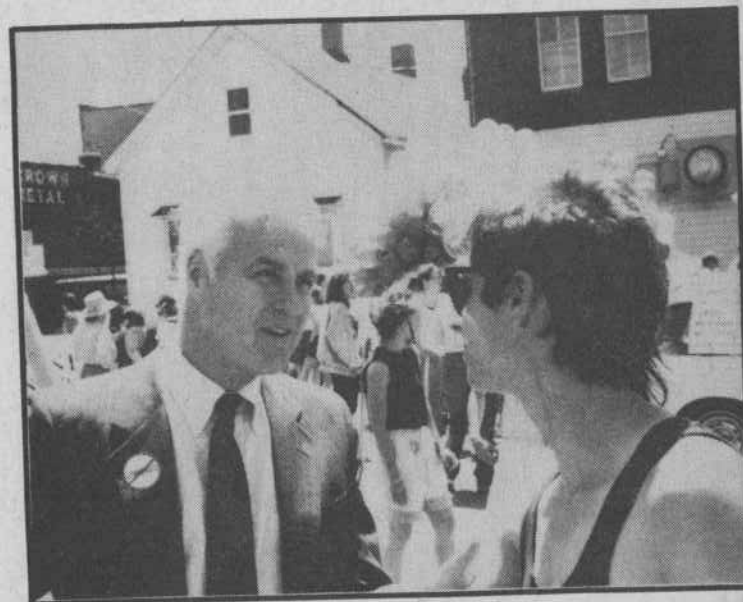
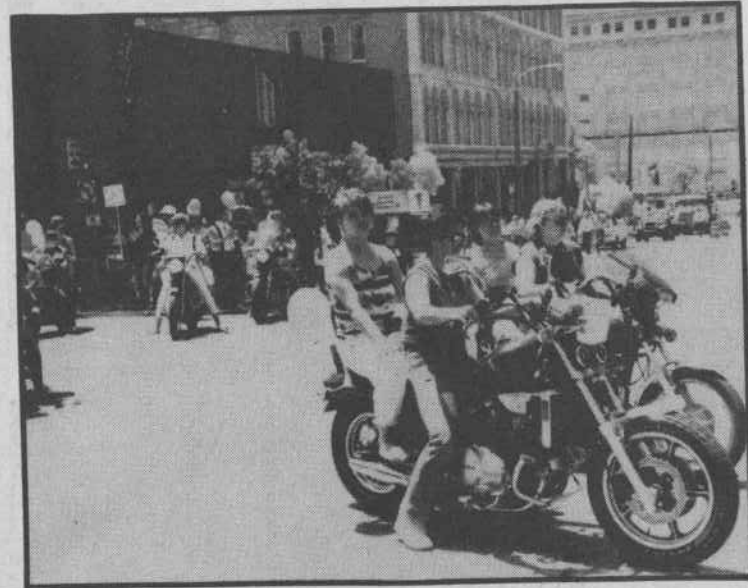
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The Light LIVELY ARTS

Audience Has Rollicking Good Time Catching a Falling Star

By Terry Boughner

Milwaukee's Original Fest City Singers opened their three-day concert run at the Stiemke Theater of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater on June 16 to a near capacity crowd.

Entitled "Catch a Rising Star," the Singers, under the direction of Robert "Bim" Florek, presented their audience with a rollicking good time which is, in large part, due to the obvious fun that the Singers themselves are having with their performance.

The two parts of the performance were distinctly different in setting. In the first half, the scene was a city bus stop followed by a gathering in an urban restaurant. In the second part, the Singers presented a circus theme structured around the life of classic showman, P.T. Barnum.

It was, to my untutored eye, a courageous juxtaposition for it should not have worked. The two scenarios were just too different. But the wonder and pleasure of the concert was that the two parts fit together; fit because the Singers were able to communicate through their music, the painful, aching poignancy of every person's desire and struggle for that "15 minutes of fame."

The feeling was maintained throughout the show, but the high points came. I thought, with Louis's rendering and the close of Act One of "One Moment in Time." He not only has a beautiful trained voice, but was able, with powerful

emotion, to sum up beautifully all that the Singers had been building up to then.

The second high point came in Act Two when Rey and the Company sang "Colors of My Life," a looking backward and forward that clutched the audience, each with memories, perhaps, of having sung something similar in our hearts.

I have to admit, as well, a special fondness for "Lion Sleeps Tonight", the foot-stomping "Mountain Music", "Join the Circus, the just-plain-fun of "Master of The House" and the masterful concluding number, "Come Follow the Band."

The circus costumes in the second act were an especial delight. They were full of lights and wonder and again, fun. In this regard, "Jumbo" was a hoot.

The only glitch, I thought, came in the dance number. The shift from live to recorded music was awkward and the dancers themselves, probably due to first night jitters, were stiff. It just didn't seem to fit.

"Catch A Rising Star" is the first of the Fest City Singers concert series that will culminate with their Christmas show. These performances are not to be missed. The Singers, like Erico, Brian, John L., Sandie, and the others have achieved that wonderful ability of reaching across the footlights to reach the audience and unite with them to make everyone a part of the show. It is a wonderful experience not to be missed.

Madison and Milwaukee Choruses Convene in Seattle July 2-8

[Seattle, WA]- More than 2200 singers from 45 Gay and Lesbian choruses including Milwaukee's Cream City Chorus and Madison's Gay Men's Chorus, will convene in Seattle the week of July 2-8, 1989, for the Festival of GALA Choruses III. Joined together by mutual political and musical interests, these singers are a part of the fastest growing phenomenon in the choral world today.

Founded in 1983 with only 14 member choruses, GALA (Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses) today is comprised of more than 70 choruses from across the U.S. and Canada.

Festival III will be a week-long series of

MAPFEST To Be Held On Sunday, Sept. 3 at Schlitz Park

[Milwaukee]- This year, the Milwaukee AIDS Project's (MAP) MAP Fest will be held on September 3, from 2:00-11:00 p.m. The location has been changed to be near the MAP offices: the fest will be held at the Schlitz Park Cherry St. Parking lot on the corner of 3rd St. (Martin Luther King Drive) and Cherry St.

Due to the increasing client load and cost of services, more funds need to be raised by special events such as MAP Fest. For this reason, all net profit from food, beer and game booths will go to direct client care.

The Other Side of Batman Revealed at Swedish Opera House

The comic-book character, Batman, recently appeared on stage at the Royal Swedish Opera House in a series of background sketches to a musical presentation of the search for love and human contact. While Superman makes passionate romance with a nude Lois Lane, Batman carries his youthful Robin in his arms into their bedroom for a series of explosive copulations.

Stockholm newspaper reviewers praised the musical performance and the

performances and workshops, and will include the premieres of newly composed works commissioned by GALA for the festival by Conrad Susa, Janice Giteck, Paul Patterson and Bernice Johnson Reagan.

The culmination of the festival will be the performance of a new work by Holly Near by all 2200 convention delegates entitled "Come Out Singing." It will be directed by Dennis Coleman — music director of the Seattle Men's Chorus. This performance will take place outdoors in Red Square on the University of Washington campus on July 8, 1989 at approximately 9:45 p.m.

We would ask you now for your support in our efforts to make this day a success, not only financially, but a show of support for people with HIV/AIDS. We are asking your interest in underwriting costs for the event, such as renting equipment, getting food, sound, a stage, port-o-potties and tents or participating in the event by having your own fun-type booth.

If interested, please call Ronnie Marks at 1-637-3864 or Chris Doerfler at 273-2437. With your support, MAP Fest '89 will be a great success.

larger-than-life sketches that flashed on and off the stage. Several of the critics said they were pleased to learn the secret of Batman's true relationship with Robin.

Decorating the cover of the program to the performance of "Frankenstein," with the scenography provided by Swedish artist Lars-Ake Thessman, Batman appears both in his bat-embazoned costume and also wearing only his cape to reveal a muscular and generously equipped body.



The Fest City Singers performed selections from "Barnum" at the June 17 Pride Rally.

New Novel Uses World War II Setting

OF LOVE AND GLORY

By Evelyn Kennedy.

The Naiad Press, Inc., Tallahassee, FL, 1989.

Reviewed by Marcia Summerskill

Evelyn Kennedy's latest, *Of Love and Glory*, uses a setting which I have, never seen in a Lesbian novel — World War II Europe. Kennedy uses her experience as a military paramedic to paint a vivid portrait of women in love amidst the terrors of war.

Kennedy's characters are warm and likable. Lieutenant Jennifer Kincade is a U.S. Army nurse who is newly married to a man whom she hardly knows, much less loves. Maggie Conover is a British free-lance correspondent who is still grieving the recent loss of her lover. The two meet, and erotic adventure ensues. The plot is, for the most part, fascinating; the last portion of the book is especially exciting.

A few things bothered me. Two characters were not particularly well-developed. David, Jenny's egotistical, immature husband seems flat. Only his base qualities show themselves; sure he has some redeeming qualities as well. I also thought that more could have been done with Chris, Maggie's dead lover's sister. She lends support to Maggie, but could have lent more to the story.

Also, Kennedy obviously has strong feelings for military nurses and their poor treatment by the American government and people. But sometimes her writing on

Cream City Chorus Plans Send-Off Party July 1st

Dateline: July 29.

Destination: Seattle.

After many months of preparation, hours of rehearsals, concerts, fundraisers and parties, Milwaukee's Cream City Chorus invites everyone to our Seattle Send-Off party on Saturday, July 1, from 5-10 p.m. at the Triangle Bar.

The Chorus will perform a short program at 8:00 p.m. Also included in the festivities will be a buffet, a raffle (among the prizes will be breakfast in bed for two) and a host of special guests.

Please come and join us for a good time and a happy send-off.

this feels heavy-handed and preachy.

One more constructively critical thought. I dislike "loose ends" in novels. We see Rebecca being injured in battle, but we never hear the outcome.

Despite these small flaws, *Of Love and Glory* is a good Lesbian love story. Reading it is a terrific way to relax on a week-end afternoon.

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In the Goode Olde Summertime Catching a Few Rays...

By Glinda the Good Bitch

Okay, you pretty things, in case you haven't noticed, it's Summer and you all know what that means? It's time to take a trip to ye olde local pharmacy to pick up a few items — and I don't mean that cute cashier you've been eyeing.

What DOES a fashion conscious girl put in her cart this season? Well, dearies, if you're like dear Glinda — a blanket baby from Eastside Milwaukee out to play a little bingo with those rays — they, honey, you have GOT to preserve that muscular little bod of yours with a tube of your favorite cream (Don't get smart! Glinda KNOWS what she said!). But face it, in this day of ozone or nozone or whatever, one can either chance having that beautiful mahogany hue or skin cancer and wrinkles. Remember, beauty is **only** skin deep (at least in some of us. Glinda is beautiful all through!), and we'd be fools to ruin what we have.

Next, my diminutive groupies, one should have some form of eye wear. Don't be fooled by the commercials, kiddies. If you're not going to go the prescription route, cheapo sun glasses cut down the glare and help prevent those uu-gly squint lines just as well as those bourgeois G.Q. versions. And, if one is Oedipal enough to stare at the sun for any length of time, those speciality glasses won't do much good.

Oedipal? Miss THING! Look it up! Glinda wouldn't be living on the eastside if she didn't have "Greek" tastes.

Now, sweet treasures, for the item that any true beach and heat seeker should never, never be without this Summer — in addition to a hot, young lifeguard. While

you're at the drug store picking up your Retin-A and Helsinki formula, there's something else for that body of yours.

Pick up a bottle of A-200 or some other form of cootie killer. Yes, sweet lips, you can get the little bastards and, my dear, they spread simply like wildfire in the Summer's heat. You get them by body contact, rubbing one's hot, sweaty thighs against other bear legs in Ye Olde Disco Shimmy Palace, for example.

And now, for those of you who are truly Summer Gods, while at Le Drugstore, pick up some condoms — if you are so foolish as to not have them already. The boys on the beach are all within reach...and so are unwanted viruses. Slip a few of those rubber People Pleasers into your beach bag. One never, never knows who one may find on the beach...don't get burned.

Now, for the question simply EVERYONE asks Glinda. What shade of skin is truly IN this year?

Well, if it is absolutely a must that you have a tan, get one that's light gold. But, let me tell you, to be perfectly chic, the rage of Rome and the Cote D'azure (where Glinda goes often) is pale, pale, pale — at least, my dimwitted darlings, until this skin cancer and ozone thing is cleared up.

Well, mes enfants, Glinda must fly — an affaire d'amoure, you know and Glinda does tire of being THE sex object of the eastside, but just what is one to do? So, dearies, until I feel like mouthing off again, keep it hot and sticky (or, if you have an air conditioner... invite me over.

Ciao, Bambinos.

"Living With Leather IV" Includes Workshops, Exhibits, Ball Oct. 6-8

[Portland, OR]- The National Leather Association will present "Living with Leather IV" October 6-8, 1989, in Portland, Oregon. The event will bring together men and women of all sexual orientations from the Leather/SM/Fetish community at the Inn at the Coliseum; workshops and exhibits will take place at the Portland Memorial Coliseum. The

exhibits area will feature vendors of Leather/SM/Fetish clothing and playthings from throughout North America. All registrations will include an invitation to the annual Blackout Ball.

For further information and registration, contact the National Leather Association, P.O. Box 17463, Seattle, WA 98107.

Madison's Rod's Celebrates Tenth Anniversary July 7

[Madison]- Rod's Bar, a Madison institution among the Gay community for the past decade will be celebrating their 10th Anniversary this Summer. The actual birthday is July 7.

Rod's located in the Hotel Washington complex, was begun as a "bar to end all bars" that was carved out of a "Black Hole of Calcutta" type basement and renovated to be one of the outstanding examples of what a Gay bar should be known far and wide.

Everyone has their memories of Rod's, but perhaps the one that comes quickest to mind is the long tradition of what might be called "involuntary relinquishment of under apparel", such garments winding up on the pipes above the rooms. This has certainly been more than one "virginal" out-of-stater's introduction and one that, despite his protests, he came to experience and to see.

With a Summer-full of activities planned, Rod's looks forward to its second decade of setting the standard as it has for the past 10 years.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! HAPPY GOING, ROD'S!

Men's Workshop Held In Kenosha

[Chicago]- Midwest Men's Center has recently sponsored its annual Spring gathering at Haimowoods Center near Kenosha. Nearly forty men were in attendance. Several workshops were held offering the men a chance to learn more about themselves. Many men spent several hours around the swimming pool and in the jacuzzi. The Body Tenderworks Massage session still proved to be the most popular workshop followed by Coming Out — a chance to learn how to come out to ourselves and others through discussion, experiences and exercises.

The Autumn gathering, "Enjoy Being Yourself," will be held November 9-12, 1989 and the Spring, 1990 gathering, May 31-June 4. For further info, send a SASE to MMC, P.O. Box 2547, Chicago, IL 60690-2547.

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POLITICALLY SPEAKING

What are Republicans Up To With Gay-Baiting Tactics?

By Bill Meunier

In their latest desperate attempt to seize control of Congress, the Republican Party has developed a potentially powerful weapon, Gay baiting. If this continues, it may seriously jeopardize Democratic support of Gay/Lesbian rights.

The idea is not new. Individuals running for office have accused their opponents of being Gay/Lesbian in the past. What is new is a political party's attempt to employ this device to smear another party's officeholders.

House Speaker Jim Wright's body was not yet out the door when a loyal staff member of the Republican National Committee sent out a memo implying that Speaker designate Tom Foley was a closet Gay.

Even before that, a member of Newt Gingrich's staff began circulating a story that flat out stated that Foley was Gay.

Speaker Foley's calls for bi-partisanship were met now with applause, not with co-operation, but with a vicious smear. While the deficit grows, the toll from AIDS mounts, the number of homeless increases and the drugs continue to pour into the country, the GOP is more worried about who our elected officials go to bed with than it is about solving the nation's problems.

The National Republican Committee staff person who wrote and sent out the memo on Foley was forced to resign after Bob Dole, a political hack otherwise known as the Senator from Kansas and others called for his head.

Lee Atwater, the mastermind of sleaze otherwise known as the Republican National Chairman, denied any responsibility for the memo even though it was sent out by a member of his own staff. Atwater has been caught slandering candidates in the past. Anyone who believes he didn't know and approve of the memo should be a permanent resident at the Home For the Gullible.

Old Newt Gingrich, who has distinguished himself as a rabid foaming at the mouth opponent of Gay/Lesbian rights, apologized for the slander spread by his staff. Like Atwater, he denied any knowledge of it, unlike Atwater, he did not force out the rumor monger.

Gingrich, by the way, is the subject of an ethics probe over a book deal. He has accused those levying charges of conflict of interest of making up stories for partisan purposes. Next week old Newt is going to get a face lift on both of his faces.

What has happened should be looked at from two aspects; political consequences and political strategy.

The potential political consequences for the Lesbian/Gay community are enormous. If the Republicans can scare Democrats away from supporting us on our issues, they will be able to beat us down without a fight. The mistake they made was in attacking Foley, a well respected family man who is well liked by his colleagues. Had they gone after others, there might not have been nearly as big an uproar.

But some Democrats may be vulnerable to this type of sleaze. Watch for divorced or single Congressmen and Senators to put a little distance between us and them. In fact, womanizing (one of John Tower's downfalls) may become a political asset.

From the Republican side, Gay baiting makes sense from two perspectives. They can scare off non-Gay supporters and, in the process, further alienate the Gay/Lesbian community from the political process when no progress is made on our issues and they might be able to paint the Democrats as the "party of the queers." This could help them in marginal districts and in close races, not to mention what such charges could do for them in races where they are up against someone they are accusing of homosexuality.

If this sounds convoluted to some, they would do well to remember the chief Republican strategist won the last Presidential election by running racist commercials, accusing the Democratic nominee of not cleaning up a harbor and with Dan Quayle.

Even some of our friends are nervous. One politician who has always supported us in the past said, "The Democrats just have to distance themselves from you guys. We'll never win the White House

until we do."

The argument that voters who would vote against Democrats because they are pro-Gay would have done so anyway because the Democrats are, by and large, pro-abortion and pro-civil rights, does not hold water with many experts.

One respected political observer recently told me, "Nothing will paint a candidate or a party as being liberal faster or more thoroughly than the charge that they are pro-Gay."

There may be some truth to that. After all, Mike Dukakis was a liberal on most issues. Millions of Americans were convinced that he was a leftist because the Republicans were able to pick out a few isolated statements and make him look like one. Remember George Bush's statements about the Duke being a card carrying member of the ACLU?

Gays and Lesbians face two questions. How do we protect our friends and keep them from being scared off and should we write off the Republican Party altogether?

The answer to the first question is obvious. We raise funds and volunteers. We adopt a more public political stance. We organize and we show our political power at the polls.

The second question is harder to face up to. There are Gay Republicans. Our lobbyists in Washington tell us that some Republicans are supportive. The Human Rights Campaign Fund even contributes to some Republican candidates. The theory is that by supporting so-called "good Republicans" we will eventually be able to swing the whole party to our side or, at least, negate its impact on our issues.

But some are questioning that theory. Congressman Steve Gunderson (R-WI), a so-called "good Republican" was instrumental in helping Newt Gingrich get a leadership position in the House. In fact, without Gunderson, it is doubtful that Gingrich would have won his post in the Republican Caucus. With "good Republicans" like Gunderson, who needs bad ones?

Our so-called "leaders" in Washington should be demanding a meeting with Atwater and the Republican National Committee. They should be willing to demand a public promise that the Republicans will stick to issues and not sexual orientation. They should be prepared to pull support from any Republican unless such assurances are given. If they are unable or unwilling to do this, then we need to look for new leaders because this set is not doing us any good.

Lawmaker Rips Clarenbach on Gay Pride Declaration

[Madison]- In a strongly worded letter obtained by *Wisconsin Light*, State Representative David Lepack (R-Waterford) has accused Assembly Speaker Pro Tem David Clarenbach (D-Madison) of over stepping his bounds by issuing a proclamation saluting Gay Pride Week in Milwaukee.

"The (sic) proclamation certainly did sound official," Lepack's letter stated. "Representative Clarenbach is not the official voice of the state and his proclamation isn't indicative of how the majority of state residents feel. I certainly believe Representative Clarenbach over stepped his bounds as Speaker Pro Tem of the Assembly," Lepack added.

When asked to comment on the letter, Clarenbach said he was surprised at how much attention the proclamation had received. "If Dave Lepack wants to take pot-shots at me that's his business," Clarenbach said. "He is fully aware that I have the authority as Speaker Pro Tem to have issued this proclamation."

"What concerns me more is the atmosphere of intolerance which surrounds this discussion. The real issue here is the vicious campaign of bigotry and hatred which has been launched against the Gay community by a very small and vocal minority," Clarenbach concluded.

We Must Bond Together to Live and Overcome Ignorance and Hatred

by Daniel G. Trzebiatowski

The following is a speech I gave at the first Annual Gay/Lesbian Pride Parade on June 17, 1989. For those I may have missed due to whatever reason you were unable to attend, I feel it important to reach you now.

We are here today, men-women, Gay, Lesbian and straight, to voice our rights for the individuals we are. We are here in unity. We are here, not only to acknowledge our individualities and the positives in our lives, but also the realities that face us. We are here to stand-up and voice our rights as Gays, Lesbian and straights who have a right to live a positive life.

Nine years into the AIDS epidemic, we still find ourselves fighting for our civil rights and our lives. This, due to the federal government's lack of awareness, acceptance, response and support to combat the AIDS crisis. Necessary funding, both nationally and locally, is lacking. Federal grants for research and drug development is slow in coming, if it comes at all. Federal grants supporting educational programs and services are at the bottom of the priority list. Moneys desperately needed for direct patient care for Persons with AIDS and ARC only slowly trickles in.

Since the first reported AIDS case in June, 1981, approximately 100,300 Americans have been diagnosed with the disease and approximately 60,000 deaths have occurred. Of that number, 300 have died here in Wisconsin.

These statistics don't even begin to represent the millions of people who are believed to be carrying HIV.

We have sat on the sidelines, in the shadow of the White House, for nearly a decade, waiting, hoping and fighting for a breakthrough of compassion and it has yet to come!

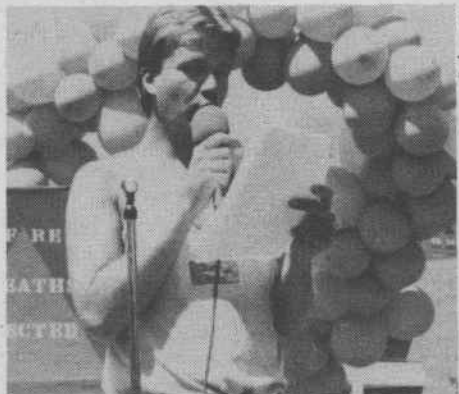
We have waited for the majority, not only to accept us for the individuals we are, but also to accept the AIDS crisis as everyone's crisis. **Not only that of the Gay Community! And where has it gotten us? Closer to death and extinction!**

We have been bound by governmental and scientific red tape and has yet to release us.

Haven't we waited long enough? Haven't we lost enough loved ones and friends to AIDS and AIDS complications? Haven't we seen and put up with enough suffering and death?

We can't afford to idly sit back and watch any longer. We, both men and women, Gay and straight, have to start fighting back! We need to start voicing our rights as citizens of the U.S. We have this right! And this right is the only tool we can use to combat the homo/AIDS-phobics in the straight community, federal government, medical profession, scientific community and in the Gay community **with the hope we will one day reach them!**

If we want to live, strive and thrive, we need to stop hiding behind other people's shadows and start counting on no one else



Daniel Trzebiatowski at the Pride Rally.

but ourselves to take the stance in the fight against AIDS.

We need to band together, rise and overcome the ignorance and denial and hatred of others around us if we are going to attain any ground in relation to persons with AIDS, ARC and HIV.

Sending a contribution is not enough! Attending a fundraiser is not enough! Attending a friend's funeral is not enough! **GET INVOLVED** in the fight against AIDS! Don't let your involvement start when someone close to you is affected or you personally affected and don't let your involvement stop when your loved one's casket is lowered into the ground and covered up!

Before the release of the 300 white balloons representing the AIDS deaths that have occurred in Wisconsin, let me read the following poem by Michael Davis:

If you are able,
save for them a place
inside you.
And save one backward glance
when you are leaving
for the places they can no longer go.
Be not ashamed to say
you loved them,
though you may
or may have not always.
Take what they have taught you
with their dying,
and keep it with your own.
And in times
when you men and women decide and
feel safe
to call this war insane,
take one moment to embrace
those gentle heroes
you left behind.
"So let us now set them free, united
together, but never forgotten."

I believe that it is time for Milwaukee to start acting up in the fight against AIDS. If interested in seeing ACT-UP Milwaukee getting established, let me know through *The Wisconsin Light*.



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LETTERS

Continued from Page 3

the word, "lifestyle." Interestingly, most of us Lesbians and Gays do not adhere to any particular "lifestyle" even as heterosexuals do not do so. We Gays and Lesbians are factory workers, lawyers, accountants, clerks, married, single, rich, poor and yes, teachers! We are from families; we have families of our own — WE ARE FAMILY!

A careful reading of the proclamations would indicate that they are promoting more the Lesbian/Gay participation in the Milwaukee community over the years in its vast cultural, social, artistic and political achievements and accomplishments. Indeed, something to be proud of!

How strange that some homophobic school board members seem so shocked when there are many gifted and exemplary Lesbian and Gay teachers, administrators and personnel in the Milwaukee public schools. Take them away and the system would literally fall apart. It's a damned shame that most, if not all of them, must hide their sexual orientation!

What is a disgrace is that although there is a Wisconsin statute prohibiting discrimination towards students based on sexual orientation, the school districts throughout the state, including Milwaukee, have done little, if anything, to effectively implement this law and deal with these issues.

Having worked with Lesbian and Gay students for almost ten years, I can attest that they receive no help in adjusting, coping and struggling with their sexual orientation. They are frequently subjected to ridicule, harassment and abuse in the schools from their peers, and yes, from their teachers!

The schools are the last frontier in the struggle for Lesbian and Gay rights. What a pity that our children have to be the victims. Eventually, the Milwaukee Public School System will be enlightened. I trust that Dr. Peterkin and the school board will take the lead in promoting equal services for all of Milwaukee's students. Let us hope, for our children's sakes, that this direction will come in their lifetimes!

—Michael S. Lisowski
Director, Gay Youth Milwaukee

TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Family,

I write this letter to each and every one of you who, in whatever way it was possible for you, participated in making Milwaukee's first official Gay Pride March and Rally the resounding success that it was. I write to congratulate you, to thank you and to tell you how very, very proud I am of all of us.

For the first time since I came out in 1982, I really felt a sense of unity among our brothers and sisters. I strongly believe that if anyone had dared to attack any of us during that day's activities, they would have lived to regret it. The sense of purpose and togetherness was just too strong. I am proud of all of us, collectively.

I am proud also of all of us individually. I am proud of all the members of the Pride Committee (emphasis on the COMMIT part) for the dogged determination they showed in the face of many odds against them — the bad publicity generated from last year's bad blood on the committee, the lack of funds, the lack of enough members to cover all bases, a general feeling of apathy among many community members for this cause — which they overcame and emerged victorious, clutching the trophy of overflowing Pride that resulted from their efforts.

I am proud of those businesses that supported the committee's efforts by hosting fundraising events and donating labor and resources with which to make it all happen. They are too numerous to mention individually, but they know who they are.

I am proud of those businesses who provided refreshments at the rally for all the hungry and thirsty revelers. They were proud enough to post signs in Cathedral Square letting everyone know who they were.

I am proud of those individuals who marched in the parade, either as part of a contingent group or just by themselves. I am proud of the Dykes on Bikes. I am proud of the Beer Town Badgers who formed the advance guard of the colors and represented us with such dignity and bearing as we have all come to expect

from them.

I am proud of those people who just couldn't bring themselves to march, but nevertheless lent their support by being there on the sidewalks to watch and cheer us on. I am especially thankful to the crowd that gathered outside the M&M Club. I drove a float car in the parade and when we rounded the corner on Water and Erie Streets, and that tremendous cheer arose time and again from that little knot of people standing there, I got goosebumps and felt teary-eyed.

I am proud of and thankful for those people who, for whatever their reasons, were unable to attend the March and Rally, but who supported our efforts by attending the fundraisers, bought the pins, buttons, hats, T-shirts and jackets (and wore them!), and who offered goodwill donations to help offset the cost of putting on such a large spectacle.

I am thankful to the two gentlemen who lent the use of their tractor and the convertible for use in the parade. I am grateful to the Milwaukee Police Department for the efficient, professional service they rendered. Yet we are entitled to it, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't be thankful for it. I am particularly thankful and proud of them for choosing not to exercise their contract option to wear rubber gloves. I think this showed great understanding of this sensitive issue and a true willingness not to make us feel like outcasts, as so many other metro police departments are wont to do.

I am particularly proud of Jed Clay for his willingness to stand and be counted as a member of the active military who would not be silent or invisible. Not everyone is aware of how much he has to lose by doing that, and I think it was an amazingly brave and heroic thing to do.

Outside of our community, I congratulate the open-mindedness of individuals like WISN radio's Larry the Legend Johnson, who, unlike his afternoon counterpart, Mark Belling, is secure enough in his own identity to realize the righteousness of our cause in seeking our civil rights; Mike Zahn of the Milwaukee Journal who presented a grievance that I had with another local air personality with fairness and without bias; Dr. Karen Lamb who has championed our cause time and again and lent her name and her presence to our Pride Celebration with obvious enthusiasm.

Our own community leaders such as the editors of this paper, Ron Geiman of *In Step*, Karen Gotzler of Meridian Distributors, are all to be commended for the calm, mature way they handled the ugliness of death threats that were made against them for their involvement in our celebration.

I am proud of all of us for caring enough about our own destinies to become involved in our own lives. Too many people refuse to, choosing instead to just let their lives happen to them, or, worse yet, just pass them by.

Let me share with you a passage from the letter that I wrote to someone to whom I was trying to explain why we needed to march for the liberties that are guaranteed to us as citizens of the United States.

"I am proud of the person who I am. I am glad that I care. I am old enough to perceive the wrongfulness of the way that many, many people are treated in this world and young enough to still believe that I can do something about it. I am glad that it bothers me. And I am angry. Very, very angry.

I am angry because, as both a woman and a Lesbian, I know intimately the way that oppression feels. I live with it every day of my life. It is the result of homophobic behavior.

It hampers the quality of my life in ways that you, as a white male in a patriarchal society, could never understand, because they will never touch you.

I would never wish them to touch you, either, because they are hurtful and unkind and I wish for everyone a life of better quality than that. I don't begrudge you the ability to lead a good life. I just want a little piece of that action for myself and others like me who deserve it just as much as you do.

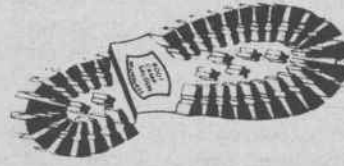
I just want the right to live peacefully in a place that I choose with a woman who I love in a job that I like. I just want the right to be legally recognized should I choose to marry that woman and have insurance benefits extended to her and whatever family we might have, just like you do. I want to be able to hold her hand in public without fear of reprisal by ignorant, bigoted, hateful people.

Radical ideas, huh? Peace, love...kinda sounds like the 60's...

Truly, I am a child of the eighties. I embrace new technologies. I like turbo-charged cars, CD players, the convenience of microwave ovens. But I'm not averse to some good, old-fashioned demonstration when it comes to guaranteeing my own place in the American Dream. I really believe in "Liberty and Justice For All."

Thank you, Gay Milwaukee, for helping to create an atmosphere in which I could celebrate the hope that one day it will be a reality. I can't wait 'till next year!
In Love and Unity

—Mary A. Shafer
Milwaukee



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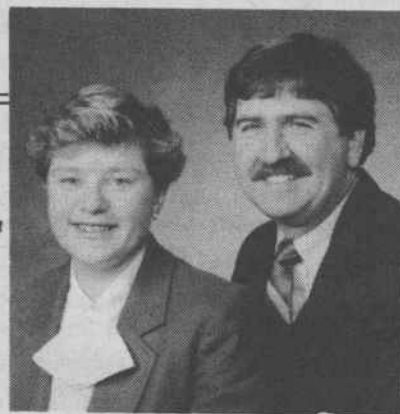
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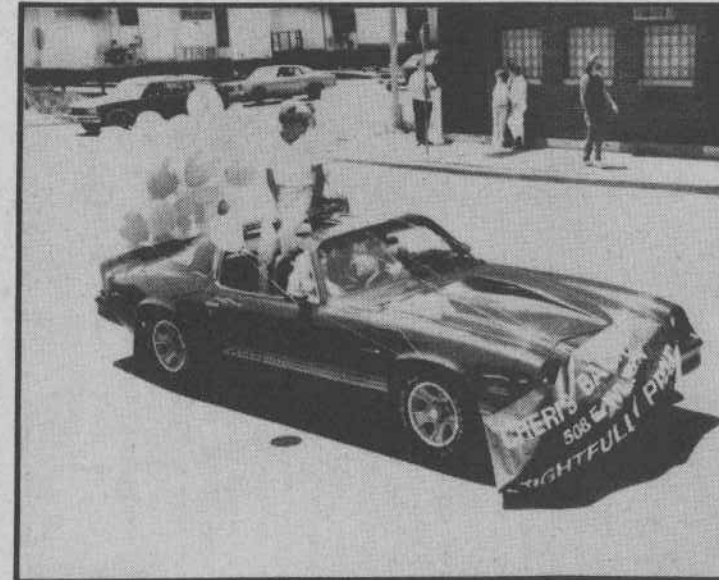
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