

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

# The Wisconsin Light

## Milwaukee County Board to Vote On Disavowing Pride Proclamation

Wisconsin Light Readies Legal Action

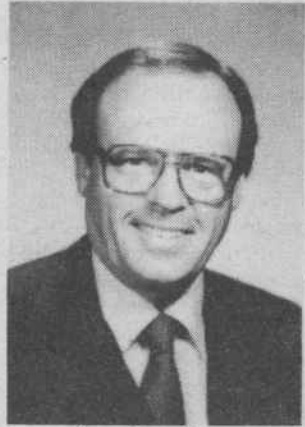
Judiciary Committee Votes 5-1 to Recant

[Milwaukee]- As a result of the action taken on July 11 by the Committee on Judiciary, Safety and General Services of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, (see article, this issue) Wisconsin Light is exploring legal action to be taken against the County Board.

According to Dr. Terry Boughner, Editor of Light, the paper is currently in consultation with legal counsel and others concerning a class action suit to be brought against the Board.

A final decision will be reached on the matter following the Board's action on the recantation resolution. Such action is scheduled to take place on Thursday, July 20.

"The reason for this step by the paper," Boughner said, "is the necessity of showing those who are our friends in public office and elsewhere that we are willing and ready to stand with them and carry on the fight for our rights."



Sup. Dan Casey



Sup. Richard Kuzminski



Sup. Gerald Engel

In related action, according to Boughner, Light is in contact with the Office of Civil Rights, a division of the Federal Department of Health and Human Services concerning the recantation resolution going to the full Board and the possibility of discrimination against Gays

and Lesbians.

In other and late breaking news, Light has learned from its sources within the movement that a group of right-wing Christian Fundamentalists has retained legal counsel with the aim of bringing suit

TURN TO LEGAL ACTION, PAGE 11

[Milwaukee]- As a petition drive to force the recall of Mayor John O. Norquist for his proclamation honoring Gay/Lesbian Pride Week reached a reported 2,000 signatures, the Milwaukee County Board's Committee on Judiciary, Safety and General Services, chaired by James Koconis, on Tuesday, July 11, 1989, approved, a resolution to "recant" the Council's proclamation honoring Gay/Lesbian Pride Week. The proclamation which was passed unanimously by Council, was issued May 18, 1989.

The motion to approve the recantation resolution passed on a 5-1 vote. Supervisor Aldrich, 4th district, was the lone dissenter.

The recantation resolution, sponsored by County Supervisors Gerald Engle (8th district), Daniel Casey (23d district), and Richard Kuzminski (24th district), asserted that the Pride proclamation was used "to apparently promote and endorse a lifestyle which embodies certain practices which are clearly unacceptable to the vast majority of citizens."

It concludes saying that the Council will "recant and disavow those portions" of the Gay/Lesbian Pride proclamation "which by implication or otherwise congratulates, endorses or applauds the lifestyle of the Gay/Lesbian movement."

The Committee meeting was attended by more than 100 people 10 of whom are openly Lesbian or Gay.

Among those testifying before the Committee was resolution co-sponsor Engle. He admitted voting for the Pride proclamation, but "I goofed. I couldn't catch its meaning," he said. But now, he said, his conscience would not allow him to go on without attempting to have the proclamation rescinded.

Supervisor Richard Nyklewicz, supporting Engle, stated his opinion that "the Gay/Lesbian movement is not a worthy endeavor."

Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs-Jones, one of the sponsors of the Pride Proclamation said that the title of the proclamation had

TURN TO PROCLAMATION, PAGE 11

## Dramatic Increase in Violence Reported In Madison After May 6 March & Rally

By John Quinlan

Madison, WI- Community leaders expressed their anger and their solidarity in the face of reports of anti-Lesbian/Gay violence at a July 7th rally at the State Capitol. There have been at least six incidents of "Gaybashing" in the two months since Madison's March for Lesbian and Gay Rights and Pride, sources say.

"We are a gentle, angry people — and we are speaking for our lives," said Dane County Board Chair Richard Wagner, paraphrasing Holly Near.

"Not everyone in this community is in a position to stand up to this kind of homophobia," the openly-Gay politician told a crowd of about 100. "Those who can must carry the burden."

"We are here to express our outrage," said Cevyn Godre, a member of the Gay and Lesbian Visibility Alliance (GALVANize). "And we are here to express our compassion for the survivors of homophobic violence."

Too often, she said, society displays a "well, what do you expect" attitude and discounts homophobic violence by blaming Lesbians and Gay men for openly expressing who they are. "Let's not fall into the trap of blaming the victim. Just as no woman deserves to be raped, no Lesbian or Gay man deserves to be beaten."

"Violence motivated by bigotry is especially abhorrent and will not be tolerated," said state Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison).

Clarenbach is a sponsor of the 1987 Wisconsin Hate Crimes Law that offers stiff additional penalties to people whose crimes are driven by racist, homophobic or other bigoted motivations.

Violence and harassment against Lesbians and Gays are only the most repugnant expression of a more deeply ingrained problem, Clarenbach added. "Those who believe in homophobia and bigotry are as much a part of that violence as those who actually perform the violence."

It is glaringly hypocritical for certain "bible-thumpers and anti-abortionists" to declare the sanctity of life and then stand silent in the face of violence against Lesbians and Gay men, he continued. "They are notable in their defense of the right to life, but not in their ability to live

and let live, to love and let love."

Prior to the rally, few details of the six attacks were known, because the survivors of the attacks feared the consequences of going public with their stories. "A history of the 1980's in Madison cannot be silent about the violence experienced by Lesbians and Gays," said openly-Lesbian County Supervisor Tammy Baldwin. She emphasized the need to report these crimes to the police and in the press.

"This violence is simply wrong, no one has the right to physically harass a member of 'the family,'" said Madison Ald. Bert Zipperer (6th Dist.), noting the need for vocal support of Lesbians and Gays from their non-Lesbian/Gay brothers and sisters.

Lesbian and Gay advocacy groups began mobilizing after the rally to provide support services for survivors of violence or harassment.

The United is planning a mid-July meeting that will include the Rape Crisis Center, the police department, the Madison AIDS Support Network, the local VOCA (Victims of Crime Assistance Office) and other groups. Existing resources will be pooled and needs for new services identified, said Dale Johnson, a board member of the United. This may include preventative measures, such as self-defense classes and a "whistle for help" project.

"Survivors of anti-Lesbian/Gay violence must overcome some pretty



Dane County Sup. Tammy Baldwin

significant fears in order to report the crime," said Johnson. "They fear retaliation by their attackers. They worry about insensitive treatment at the hands of the police."

"And it's also a coming-out issue. Many people aren't 'out' at work or to their families," he said. "They fear that in reporting the crime, they will be forced to be very visibly 'out' before they're ready."

"These fears are real, but talking about what happened can be the first step in overcoming the fear and the pain."

TURN TO VIOLENCE, PAGE 11

### Protest Vigil Planned July 20 at Milwaukee Court House

[Milwaukee]- On Thursday, July 20, 1989 the Board of Supervisors of Milwaukee County will consider the recantation resolution passed by the Judiciary Committee on July 11.

The meeting will be held at the County Building. Board meetings are open to the public by Wisconsin law although no one except board members may speak.

All those who support retention of the Gay/Lesbian Pride proclamation are asked to come to the Board meeting wearing black armbands to attend, peacefully showing our shock and sorrow over what is taking place.

The recantation resolution will be brought in along with the regular report of the Judiciary Committee. That report will be discussed in the late morning or early afternoon. It has been reported that should a sufficient number of protesters show up, the consideration of the resolution will be advanced on the agenda.

There will be a roll call vote. Let each member of the Board as she or he casts their vote look and see us in our numbers. Let them know by our quiet presence that we are a proud people. PLEASE BE THERE. JULY 20!

### Clarenbach Strongly Reacts to Abortion Ruling

[Madison]- Reacting to the July U.S. Supreme Court ruling on abortion, State Representative David E. Clarenbach (D-Madison) issued a strongly worded statement.

"Here in Wisconsin, as across the nation, the political and legal system has been squeezed by a ruthless single issue lobby, that does not represent the majority view. This is as much a crisis of democracy as it is a challenge to the principles of privacy and rights of women."

The statement went on to say that, "We must use the occasion of this decision to seize back the offensive and redouble our efforts to assert productive rights of women."

Clarenbach who is Speaker Pro Tem of the Assembly and a long-time civil rights advocate moved at once to bring a bill (AB 500) to the floor of the House that would repeal that section of the Wisconsin legal code that made abortion a criminal offense. The statute has been inoperative since the Supreme Court's "Roe v. Wade" ruling in 1973.

The law, 940.04, provides for fines and imprisonment for a woman obtaining an abortion.

## OUR HISTORY



# A TIME TO DIE XIX Nazi's Led German Gay Youth to Horrible Deaths

By Terry Boughner, Ph.d.

The other evening I was in a Gay bar and saw there a beautiful young man with dark blond hair and large eyes that gave him a wonderful look of vulnerable innocence. I thought then as I always do when I see such a one as he, of one of the most heart-rending accounts to come out of the Gay Holocaust. It is the story of The Thousand and since it involves discussing the fate of thousands upon thousands of Gay youth, it will take me a couple of installments to tell it.

While Hitler and his immediate subordinates were not Gay, the same could not be said of others, lower down on the ladder, who showed more than a passing interest in boys and handsome, blond youths. Hans, Rudolf, Fredrich, Walter and others told of Nazis going regularly to Gestapo prisons to look over



the Gay prisoners. If they found one who appealed to them, they took him for use as a kept boy. Such things could be overlooked as long as money, favors, discretion and suitable fictions were maintained.

Parenthetically I might mention that the snuff film "industry" that I mentioned last issue, also "mined" the prisons for young Pink Triangles.

Like a pieple in the camps, a "houseboy" as he was sometimes called, never lasted very long. For awhile, he was fed and clothed decently, but then would come the inevitable day when whoever it was, tired of him and he would be sent off to the camps and almost certain death.

As I said in the last issue, many wound up in the Hall of Corpses at Auschwitz.

Make no mistake. These boys and young men were Gay. The Nazis who were utterly lawless had a punctilious aversion to treating a male as Gay if he were not. Proof would include one's own admission, accusation by parents, wives, girlfriends, friends or or even Nazi officials who liked to claim that they had been seduced.

The total numbers of these Gay youth as I have said before, is impossible to ascertain, but this can be said for certain. The numbers were not small. There was one camp in Neuwied set up solely for Gay young men under the age of 20 and, according to one of my informants, the camp could hold over 20,000.

Incidentally, in the usual histories such as Hans Rothfells' *German Resistance to Hitler*, Neuwied is mentioned as a camp for teenage boys, but the explanatory word "Gay" is, as in other sources, left out. The reader is thus lead to wonder when Germany needed every young man it could get for military service, why Neuwied existed at all? Once it is understood that the place was reserved for Gay youth, its reason becomes clear.

One should keep in mind that when these young men arrived in the camps, they would be well-fed and healthy looking. They would also, up to that point, have been spared the more terrible brutalities that the Nazis meted out to their Gay brothers. Thus, what they experienced in Auschwitz and other camps would be devastating to them. Of all the Gays, they probably would be least able to cope.

By 1943-44, with the war going against the Germans, Gays interned at Dachau and elsewhere were enslaved to do war work. They also were forced to serve as cannon fodder at the fronts (More about

these situations in subsequent articles). But, for these Gay youth, these were never options.

Their fate was death. They were to be exterminated as quickly and as anonymously as possible so, as I said in the last article, the reputations of those who had used and abused them would be preserved.

In some cases, such as at Auschwitz in the Hall of Corpses, they were murdered quickly. At Neuwied, the guards seemed to have been chosen for their brutality. Young men had their arms tied behind them and were hung several feet off the ground, from posts by a rope attached to their bound wrists. Then they were beaten unmercifully and left there, swinging slowly in the air until they died. It often took a few days.

Rudolf told me of yet another case he knew about. Two young men had become lovers. This was discovered and, as the other Pink Triangles watched, the one was raped orally and anally. At the same time, the other was forced to watch and to whittle one end of a pole to a point. This done, his lover was impaled on it, his weight forcing him down and driving the post through his body. The lover was bound to a pole a short distance away and forced to watch as his lover died in terrible, unimaginable agony. Then a spike was driven through his stomach into the wood behind him and he too died, screaming his life out for all the camp to hear.

This type of thing happened again and again and again. Another means of death was by crucifixion. I was told that at Neuwied at one time there were several dozen crosses being used.

By 1944, it was obvious that Germany would lose the war. Yet the mass murders of Gays, Jews and others only accelerated. Trains, trucks, fuel and other badly needed resources were gobbled up by the maw of genocide which had long since taken on a momentum and reason of its own. From all over the Reich and from the occupied countries of Europe, by every means of conveyance, came the victims to be slaughtered — and no one did or said a thing to stop it; not the allied governments, not the church, Catholic or Protestant, no one.

It is sometimes said that no one knew the immensity, the true horror of the Holocaust or, if they knew about it, refused to believe it. Not a single word of that is true. No one did anything because no one wanted to do anything. The evidence amply demonstrates that and believe me, I've looked at my share of it. To the churches we were sinners. To the Allied governments we were a moral affront to the righteousness of their cause. Thus, in October, 1944 30 trucks rolled along toward Auschwitz. Inside were 1000 teenage Gays heading for a fate that not one of them could possibly imagine.

TO BE CONTINUED.

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(L to R) Commissioner of Milw.'s Dept. of City Development Ricardo Diaz; Howard Fuller, Ph.D., Milw. Co. Health and Human Services Director; Joan Zeiger, Past President WI. N.O.W.; and Dave Begel, P.R. Director Milwaukee Public Schools, gather at the "Community Speakout" Forum during Gay/Lesbian Pride Week.

## Gay Movement in East Germany Making Steady Advances

By Kurt Krickler  
Special to Wisconsin Light

**Editor's Note:** The following is the 3rd of a 4-part series. Mr. Krickler is a Gay activist in Homosexuelle Initiative Österreichische AIDS-Hilfe of Austria.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (GDR) (EAST GERMANY)

Attempts to organize a Lesbian and Gay group date back to the early 1970's, although these attempts were not ever successful. They were either abandoned by the activists or brought to an end by the authorities. Nevertheless, it is of great importance to today's movement that Lesbians and Gays have been trying to organize for fifteen years now.

While these attempts failed in the '70's, Gay activists succeeded in forming Gay working groups (Arbeitskreise Homosexualität) within Protestant Church congregations in several cities. The first of these groups was founded in Leipzig in 1982 by Eduard Stapel. Many "undesirable," yet not oppositional activities were being carried out under the roof of the Protestant Church at that time (for instance, the peace movement). By 1985, nine Gay working groups were already active which caused intense and often controversial debates within the Church.

In 1985, these discussions about the attitude of the Church towards homosexuality and homosexual men and women received major coverage in the Church press. It was only a question of time until the State became alarmed and worried about these developments. The State is always afraid of losing control over non-governmental activities and, moreover, there is a certain kind of competition between the State and the Church. But this is not the only reason why the government suddenly took an interest in the "Gay Question."

Another reason is probably the three or four very competent liberal and progressive sexologists and experts in the GDR who have been advocating more tolerance towards Gays and Lesbians for quite some time.

The most famous experts are Siegfried Schnabl, Kurt Bach and Erwin Gunther. In newspaper articles and interviews, they called for more tolerance and acceptance of Gays and Lesbians, and expressed the opinion that discrimination of homosexuals goes against the Marxist-Leninist concept of human personality.

In June, 1985, a conference of experts in the social and medical sciences — a real milestone — was held in Leipzig. Besides the creme de la creme of the GDR in these fields, an open Lesbian, Ursula Sillge, an activist in a non-religious informal group in Berlin and an openly Gay man, Eduard Stapel, were able to hold lectures on the psychosocial situation of Lesbians and Gay men in the GDR.

They also took part in the round table discussions. The texts of the lectures and the minutes of the discussions were published in Jena in 1986 (*Psychosoziale Aspekte der Homosexualität*). Stapel's contribution, however, was censored. On April 23, 1988, this conference had a follow-up meeting in Karl Marx Stadt. At that meeting, experts in various fields and 200 Gay and Lesbian activists discussed the "psychosocial aspects of homosexuality."

Although the Church opened up for the Gay groups and for discussing the issue of homosexuality, the Church showed clearly where it has its strict limits. In November, 1984, the Church refused to

ordain Eduard Stapel. Later, he was employed by the Church part-time as a parish helper in Magdeburg and part-time as a person responsible for the work with homosexuals in the Church province of Saxony. Today there are 16 Gay working groups within the Church. Their leaders and activists meet on a regular basis on a national level.

There are also six non-religious groups in the GDR today. They were initiated by activists who did not want to be in the religious groups and partly were already active in the 1970's. When they realized that the State would not mind a group forming, they tried again. In addition to the reasons of prestige and competition with the Church, AIDS became another motive for the State to tolerate these new initiatives.

The groups were allowed to meet in public meeting halls and to produce program hand-bills. Their leaders are allowed to receive magazines of the Gay and Lesbian movement in the West. They are also allowed to travel to conferences abroad. The groups received written declarations by the authorities that they are permitted to carry out their activities, but the State still refuses to officially recognize these groups as legal associations.

The groups, especially the oldest and biggest, Sonntagsclub in Berlin, maintain good contacts with the authorities. They pursue a careful, but successful policy: the abolition of the discriminatory legal age of consent for homosexual acts was voted upon by the GDR Parliament, the Volkskammer, in December, 1988.

Sonntagsclub is divided up into several working and interest groups. One of them is an AIDS conversation circle which stays in contact with the official AIDS advisory group of the Ministry of Public Health, headed by Niels Sonnichsen. The GDR has opened AIDS counseling centers in every district of the country and three in Berlin.

The 16 Church groups have established an AIDS Coordinating Group which also maintains contacts with the AIDS group of Sonntagsclub. The Gay groups do not see any problem in the fact that HIV testing cannot be done anonymously and that all infected persons are registered.

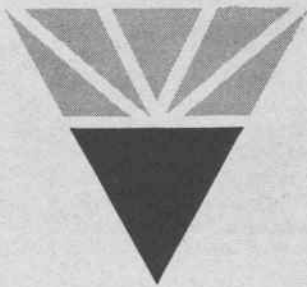
There are official declarations that infected persons or people with AIDS must not be discriminated against in any way. Since this non-discrimination policy can be guaranteed by the State in a country like the GDR (especially at the working place and in the field of housing), and since this policy apparently is guaranteed, Gays in the GDR have great confidence in the authorities which, moreover, have never given occasion for distrust in this respect.

At the Humboldt University of Berlin, an interdisciplinary group of scientists has been founded to promote Gay and Lesbian studies. The group meets every month and has set up special working groups. Their duty is to initiate, coordinate and pool research and studies on Gay and Lesbian issues, both in culture and natural sciences. Just now, several doctoral theses and diploma dissertations are being prepared at this university.

The movement in the GDR has attained the most achievements of all movements in Eastern Europe, although it has not yet been officially recognized as an association such as the Hungarian group. Homosexuals in many Western countries would be happy if their papers published such liberal and pro-Gay/Lesbian articles as the GDR media do.

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# The Wisconsin Light



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## EDITORIAL

### Government Does Not Have Right To Intrude Into Private Lives

The recent U.S. Supreme Court decision, "Webster v. Reproductive Health Services," permitting states to place restrictions on abortions is, as Justice Blackmun stated, "ominous" and not only for what it portends.

First, let us be clear on the issue involved. It is not the "right to life." Were that the real issue, proponents of the view would not display the remarkable inconsistency that they do. While professing an abiding concern for the fetus, they demonstrate little, if any, of that same concern for life or its quality after birth and, in fact, from all evidence, care very little about it all.

The true issue as we see it in the evisceration of "Roe v. Wade," is whether or not the government has the right to intrude on the private lives of individuals and dictate what, in our opinion, should be a strictly personal decision.

On this issue, right to lifers contend and the Rehnquist Court has determined that government indeed has such a right. The Court has, by implication, invited the several states to use that right.

For Lesbians and Gay men this decision should excite fear as a firebell in the night. It should be seen in the perspective of "Georgia v. Hardwick" by which the High Court upheld the power of the states to declare Lesbian and Gay sex illegal as is the case in 25 states and the District of Columbia.

The two decisions are both of a piece and are founded on the classic Conservative position enunciated in the 17th and 18th Centuries. That is that individual human beings are by their nature, flawed and that they therefore cannot be trusted to make their own decisions. The task of making these decisions, the Conservative position teaches, is the responsibility of the leviathan state which has also the right to enforce its standards on society.

This point of view was well known to the writers of the Constitution in 1789. They rejected it as inadmissible in a free society.

If the United States has anything at all to offer to the world, it is this. It is the right of every person to have the widest possible latitude for individual freedom. This is the definition of Liberty and it is the meaning behind the Constitution.

A Lesbian or Gay man's right to express love physically and a woman's right to control her own reproductive processes and to make her own informed decisions in this regard should be sacred. The Supreme Court in both "Hardwick" and "Webster" in denying these rights has violated the whole spirit and tenor of the Constitution.

So, a battle once thought won in "Roe" now, because of "Webster" and the Conservative distaste for human liberty and freedom, must be refought in the arenas of the states. It is the position of this paper that every Lesbian and Gay man for whom privacy and freedom are dear, should be prepared to join the struggle for free choice.

### Governor Thompson Finds Berries More Important Than People

When asked by the Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Pride Committee to issue a proclamation declaring June 16-27 as Gay/Lesbian Pride Week, Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson refused.

However, Thompson did see fit to declare that week as Wisconsin Strawberry Week.

Perhaps then it was only logical that on Sunday, June 25, Thompson sent a message of support for the family to the fundamentalist Christian Gay-bashing rally held in Milwaukee. In so doing, he succeeded in placing himself with the likes of a rabbi who apparently knows so little history that he announced that we got homosexuality from the Greeks and Jan Parshall whose ideal in the world is Beaver Cleaver.

What are we to conclude from this?

In the cases of the rabbi, Parshall and their kind, they seem to have gotten hit by a train of thought and never recovered from the accident.

In the case of Thompson we have some options. 1) That the Governor never was hit by that or any other train of thought, has not, in fact seen it, and is still huntig for the tracks. 2) That the Governor's level of sensitivity is roughly on a par with the aforementioned rabbi's knowledge of history. 3) That the Governor actually does think strawberries are more important than people.

Whatever the answer, since the Governor seems to like strawberries so much, come 1990, we think he should be retired to some quiet little place. It would be a place where there are no Lesbians or Gays or Indians or AIDS victims or feminists or pro-choicers or anybody else to upset him; a place where life was simple, just like Beaver Cleaver, and there he can grow all the strawberries he wants.

Ah, Governor, until that time and when you see the next strawberry, keep in mind that we, who you did not value, will indeed Remember in November When We Vote.

## LETTERS

**TO THE EDITOR:**

Governor Tommy Thompson refused to declare June 16-27 Gay and Lesbian Pride Week. He did proclaim it Wisconsin Strawberry Week. I hope all the strawberries remember his support when voting time comes.

—Dennis Bergren  
Madison

**TO THE EDITOR:**

The National Committee to Free Sharon Kowalski is proud to announce that it has achieved its primary objectives and is closing its doors. At this time, we would like to extend our thanks to the many organizations and individuals who have participated in our efforts through their generous support of our activities. Sharon Kowalski is receiving rehabilitative care in the Minneapolis area. She has access to Karen Thompson and other friends and we have broken Donald Kowalski's stranglehold on his daughter's life. Without the support of the community, we could not have achieved these things.

The case of Sharon Kowalski has been instrumental in focusing the attention of the Lesbian and Gay community on the need for domestic partnership protections, which is sure to be one of the biggest community issues of the next decade, as well as teaching us about the need to have durable power of attorney documents and wills right now. Karen Thompson's determination and her

refusal to give Sharon Kowalski up for dead have made possible the education of hundreds and thousands of Lesbians and Gay men and people with disabilities about the rights we have and must protect and the rights we do not have and must fight for. We must remember that cases like this one are happening every day. The war for all of our rights to equal protection under the law has only begun.

—Tacie Dejanikus  
—Pamela Slycord  
Co-chairs, National Committee to Free Sharon Kowalski  
Washington, D.C.

**TO THE EDITOR:**

**Editor's Note:** The following letter was sent to Bo Black, Director of Summerfest.

At Summerfest on Thursday, July 6, I watched an act which offended me deeply.

The act was the Charlie Daniels Band and the song was "Uneasy Rider '88."

This was a vicious, anti-Gay song which, to my mind, promotes violence against Gay people.

The lyrics were quite graphic, talking about pulling the wig off of a female impersonator, splitting his lip and making his make-up run and then fighting their way to the door.

Charlie Daniels followed this song with a lame remark about how audiences loved the song everywhere but San Francisco.

Would this sort of song be tolerated if it had been written about Black people or Asians or Indians?

I think we need to send a clear message that this sort of hate mongering will no longer be tolerated.

I would suggest contacting the management of the Charlie Daniels Band and telling them that until there is a public apology and a promise to delete this song from their show, that they will no longer be welcome to perform at Summerfest.

I will be waiting for a reply.

—Gary St. Pierre  
Milwaukee

### NAACP Weak On Other's Civil Rights

[Los Angeles, CA]- According to the Los Angeles Times, some minority Gays have complained of receiving limited support from traditional civil rights groups such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Althea Simmons, chief lobbyist for the NAACP, told the paper, "We have no position on homosexuality, period."

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) commenting, responded, "Can you imagine if a Gay rights organization said that it takes no public stand on whether Blacks should have civil rights?"

GLAAD asks Lesbians and Gays to remind the NAACP that courageous leaders such as Jesse Jackson and Coretta Scott King are unequivocal in their support of Gay rights and that they should be as well.

Write to Benjamin Hooks, Executive Director, NAACP, 4805 Mount Hope Dr., Baltimore, MD 21215.

### School Curricula Sought and Distributed

[New York, NY]- The Fund for Human Dignity, the information source for the Gay/Lesbian community, has announced plans to collect and distribute model Gay-sensitive secondary school and college curricula. This is being done in response to increasing requests from educators for examples of curricula in all fields which are inclusive of Gay men and Lesbians.

Please direct inquires and/or sample copies of curricula (along with a note indicating the grade level and discipline) to: The National Lesbian and Gay Resource Center, The Fund for Human Dignity, 666 Broadway, Suite 410, New York, NY, 10012.

### Wildmon Keeps Up Attacking TV Programming

[Tupelo, Miss.]- The American Family Association (AFA) has launched an all-out drive to stop sponsors from advertising on TV shows with Gay or Lesbian characters.

Led by the Rev. Donald Wildmon, the Tupelo, Mississippi-based AFA claims 380,000 followers and an annual budget of \$5 million.

The group made headlines in all the national media by successfully persuading Pepsi to drop its support for Madonna's upcoming tour (it found her "Like a Prayer" video blasphemous), Domino's Pizza to pull commercials from "Saturday Night Live," and Mennen to cancel its sponsorship of ABC's "Heartbeat."

Wildmon recently turned up in Milwaukee for the anti-Gay/Lesbian rally on June 25 where he was billed as a "local minister." The rally, sponsored by right-wing Christian fundamentalist groups heard Wildmon denounce Gays and Lesbians and call for the ouster of Mayor John O. Norquist.

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## Milwaukee Gay Cable Wins Major First Place National Award

[Milwaukee]- Tri-Cable Tonight has become the first Milwaukee program ever to win the Hometown USA Video Festival. The first place award in the News/Volunteer/Series category was presented on July 13, 1989 at the National Federation of Local Cable Programmers (NFLCP) Annual Convention in Dallas, Texas. Tri-Cable is produced by Bryce Clark and Mark Behar of the Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Cable Network using the facilities of the Milwaukee Access Telecommunications Authority (MATA). The show is sponsored in part by the Cream City Foundation, Inc., a Gay and Lesbian charitable foundation in Milwaukee.

Hometown USA recognizes outstanding local cable programs produced by community volunteers and media professionals. The 1989 Hometown Festival received over 1750 entries from 285 cities in 38 states, making Hometown the largest and most diverse cable programming competition in the world.

The monthly show began in November, 1987 with volunteers doing all the production work. Clark and Behar are proud of the monthly show and the community effort put into it. "Tri-Cable succeeds because of the people who commit themselves to making a better community," said Clark. "Our crew, the guests on the program, people behind the scenes — they are all important contributors to Milwaukee's dynamic landscape," stated Behar.

Judges chose Tri-Cable as the winner after viewing excerpts of six programs from the past year. The segments included featured stories on Black and White Men Together, The Pride Institute for chemically dependent Gays and Lesbians, Milwaukee Legal Aid Society's AIDS involvement, and the Saturday Softball Beer League. Also included were a safer sex public service announcement, a musical memorial to Gay disco star Sylvester who died of AIDS, "Gays, Witches and Hallowe'en" by author Dr. Terry Boughner and local actress Barbara Roberts playing Lesbian jazz singer

Bessie Smith.

MATA Executive Director Cliff Hall is pleased to see the recognition of Milwaukee's contribution to local cable programming. "This is a prestigious award and well deserved. Every month a great deal of work goes into Tri-Cable Tonight. I congratulate the producers, crew and talent for their services."

The NFLCP, sponsor of Hometown USA, promotes the development of local cable programming on cable television and provides information about national cable policy issues.

MATA is a non-profit public service membership organization created to provide Milwaukeeans with the opportunity to express themselves through the use of Warner cable television system channels 14 and 46. MATA provides video training, access to equipment. Tri-Cable can be viewed on Warner cable Channel 14 on the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 7:00 p.m. and on the last Sunday of every month at 6:00 p.m.

## Dubuque To Hold Third Pride March/Rally Sept. 16

[Dubuque, Iowa]- Dubuque's third annual Lesbian/Gay Pride rally and march is set for September 16, 1989 at Washington Park. The rally will begin at noon with the march through the city starting at 1:00.

Dubuque's first Gay/Lesbian Pride celebration in 1987 was the occasion for numerous hecklers to hurl verbal abuse along with eggs, rocks and other things at the 30 marchers. The second march in April, 1988 became a national event attended by approximately 600 people from all over the country.

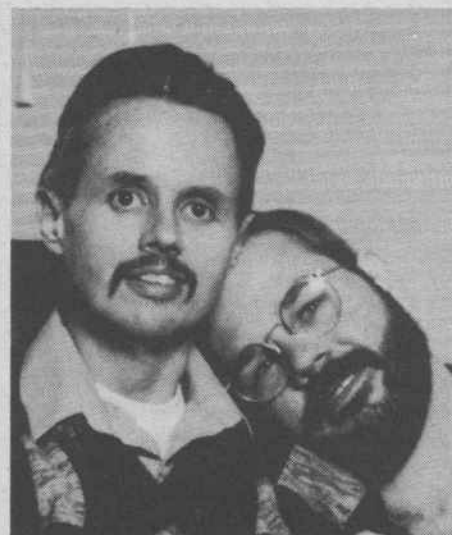
Since last year, the Dubuque city council has declined to place Gays and Lesbians in a protected category while Stacie Neldaughter, an open Lesbian, was thrown off a softball team she had been playing with for three years. The termination was due to the team's being

## OBITUARIES

### Gerald L. Loy

In memory of my life partner Gerry, With Love, Randy.  
Gerald (Gerry) L. Loy of Milwaukee, Age 35:

was born to Eternal Life June 17, 1989 after an extended illness. Beloved partner of Randy Elliott, son of Olga Fleet, brother of Doug, Judy and Deloris. Loved by a large host of friends. Gerry's life was honored at a Celebration of Life Service on June 22, 1989 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Gerry shared his gift of music with the St. Paul's Lutheran Church choir and the Milwaukee Opera Company. He was a devoted volunteer of the Milwaukee AIDS Project. Gerry enriched the lives of many people by sharing his 5 years of sobriety. He will be missed and fondly remembered by many friends and loved ones. Memorials may be offered to the Milwaukee AIDS Project in Gerry's memory.



Gerald Loy [left] and Randy Elliott

### Bob Damron

Bob Damron, creator of the original Gay travel guide bearing his name, passed away June 20, 1989. Although famous for the creation of the Bob Damron's Address Book, his primary occupation was owning some of the most popular bars in San Francisco. Among these was The San Francisco Eagle which remains an institution in the city. After selling his Gay guide business in 1987, Damron retired to Los Angeles and settled back in the family home with his brother Norrie Damron, where he died of complications from AIDS.

harassed in league play in Dickeyville, Wisconsin, ten miles from Dubuque.

The organizers of the third Gay/Lesbian Pride celebration hope to see everyone there. For further information, contact Ms. Ginny Lynns/Stacie Neldaughter, 3313 Leopold Way #204, Madison, WI 53713 or call (608) 273-9896. Or write Mr. Kelly Cauffman, 542 W. 11th St., Dubuque, IA 52001 or call (319) 588-1700.

#### OBITUARY POLICY

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

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# A BOY OF SUMMER

## Something to Say

By Morgan Summer

This summer, a Whitewater summer for me, I have a late-night shift on my campus radio station. Yeah, it is late — in June I was working 4 hour shifts, from 8:00 p.m. to midnight or a little beyond. Ordinarily, I wouldn't mind, but during one week I also had the last few meetings of my three week intersession class which met at 8:30 in the morning, five days a week. Luckily, though, I don't need any sleep during the week. I sleep on weekends. Supergay, that's me.

I signed up for the radio shift because other than attending class, there is not much to do in Whitewater, especially during the summer when the population is reduced by 70% because the majority of college students are on summer break until August. Since I would be one of the 30% staying here this summer and needed something (or someone, but I won't get into that) to help these long nights go by, I trekked up to the broadcast studio of WSUW-Whitewater, U-91, 91.7 FM, in the late spring and they gave me an audition. They liked it and now I am playing music on Whitewater weeknights.

I have learned some things about music, especially popular music. In the case of U-91 (the U stands for — sigh — University), is a blend of rock, rock-folk and other kinds of music like The Dead Milkmen. What I have found out is that music is much more powerful than I thought. It is truly a unifying bond.

When I broadcast that I am taking requests, the phone lines light up (both of them) and the callers almost always say, "Could you please play..." Coming from teenagers and younger, that's a bit of a shock to hear. Why please? Because it's so important for their song to be played. I know, I too call the station sometimes during the day to request a song and shit, am I polite.

Music is powerful...and beautiful. I found this out from a group called the Connells. They are a group that is played on many college radio stations and holy *Christ are they good!* U-91 has two of their songs, "Something to Say" and "Over There." I play 'em both on my shift, sometimes twice. It amazes me that they are apparently not played on large market, "mainstream" stations.

During my shift in June, I would get called regularly from Tom, a guy who lived in my dorm until a short while ago. I knew Tom before my shift started and, although I had only known him for two weeks, I felt we had a good thing going. Friendship — I did not tell him that I am Gay.

On the first Wednesday in June, Tom called and I invited him up to the U-91



Morgan Summer

studios. He was leaving the next day because his intersession class was over and he was not attending regular summer school and he said that he would like to see the studio.

So, he came and we talked for about an hour until I signed off. As we talked, I kept an eye on the music and the broadcast controls to be sure that everything went as it should. It did, except that Tom was sitting about ten feet away from me wearing shorts and a T-shirt. At one point, I plugged the Connells' "Over There" into the tape player and, as it played, I raved on about how talented the group was. He agreed and the music played. A little later, I played "Something to Say" and I did have something to say to him. I knew Tom was non-Gay, but still, you know... the song ended and I played another.

Around midnight, I locked up the station and Tom and I went back to our residence hall and said goodnight. I got five hours sleep. A life of luxury.

After class the next morning, Thursday, we said good-bye and I wished him a great summer. He will have one, I'm sure.

An epilogue to this? Well, at 12:30 Friday morning, after my shift was over, I came back to my residence hall in the quiet night and when I got to Tom's old room, I paused, my headphones on. The door to the room was closed and locked of course... no one lived there anymore. I thought that it had been a very good summer so far and it was going to get better — the World Affairs Seminar was coming up and I would serve as a counselor there. I would be starting summer school too. Also, there would be the radio station with music and callers in the hot night. Tom fit into this and now I had to go on to new things. That was okay.

I walked down the hall to my room, Connells in my headphones and a faint smile on my face.

Jerry Johnson

## DIRECTORY OF PROFESSIONALS

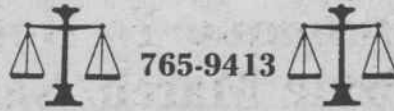
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## Cream City Foundation Awards Grants to Legal Aid & Lambda Rights

Milwaukee's Cream City Foundation (CCF) in its endeavors to promote the Lesbian/Gay community, recently awarded two more grants. The money was given to the Legal Aid Society and to the Lambda Rights Network.

The grant to the Legal Aid Society totaled \$1,000 and will help to pay for part of the cost of their on-going HIV positive program which is designed to provide legal support to those who are HIV positive or are presumed to be such and have suffered discrimination because of it. This grant is a repeat grant for the

Foundation.

The award to Lambda Rights Network totaled \$750 and will help in the implementation of the organization's "Hate Crimes Statistics Project." The statistics gathered by the Project are to be used by the community to demonstrate the need to address the ever increasing problem of anti-Gay and Lesbian violence. Reports generated by the Project will be used to assist the Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission in formulating programs to stop this violence.

## New Religious Publications Available

[New York, NY]- The Fund For Human Dignity, the information source for the Gay and Lesbian community, is pleased to announce the availability of two new publications on homosexuality written from a religious perspective.

**And God Loves Each One: A Resource for Dialogue About the Church and Homosexuality** (\$4.95) is written by Ann Thompson. It answers questions about sexual orientation, the bible and what it's like to be Lesbian or Gay in the Church today.

**Bridges of Respect: Creating Support for Lesbian and Gay Youth** (\$7.50) is written by Katherine Whitlock and offers suggestions for ways in which parents, educators, religious leaders and others who work with youth can increase their understanding of homosexuality.

For further information and orders write, The National Lesbian and Gay Resource Center, The Fund for Human Dignity, 666 Broadway, Suite 410, New York, NY 10012.

## Post Office Issues Gay Cancellation For Stamps

[New York, NY]- At the request of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the U.S. Post Office issued a special stamp cancellation (featuring artwork designed by prominent artist Keith Haring for Heritage of Pride) that was available at the June 25 Lesbian and Gay Pride March in New York City.

When apprised of the cancellation, Senator Jesse Helms castigated the Post Office on the Senate Floor for celebrating "preversion." He attacked the Lesbian and Gay movement for trying to subvert "American values."

Craig Davidson, Executive Director of GLAAD, responded, "The nastiness of Sen. Helms' remarks reveals the desperation of one who knows he is losing his battle to deny Americans the truth that Lesbian and Gay people are decent, loving and proud."

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The *Speak Out* mailgram campaign is sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign Fund. For further info, contact the Field Division, HRCF P.O. Box 1396, Washington, D.C. 20013 or call (202) 628-1160.

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# The Light LIVELY ARTS

## Chicago and Florida Choral Groups Join in Concert

By Geno

[Chicago]- The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus once again demonstrated their virtuosity and their generosity in a joint concert with the Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida, Saturday, July 1. Each chorus performed a variety of musical numbers spotlighting its versatility and its own unique style.

The Floridians, numbering about 65 singers, let a tropical flavor to the concert with a "Florida Fantasy" extolling the pleasures of the South Florida lifestyle complete with beach balls, pink flamingos and touristy hats for satiric asides. An ensemble group called "Tropical Mix" further developed the theme singing close harmony numbers like "Georgia On My Mind," and "Makin' Whoopee" in a glee club or barbershop style eminently suited to their choice of light music.

The full Florida chorus focused on more serious fare like "Rhythm of Life" and "Song of Peace," both of which displayed a richly textured choral line. These two pieces were also to be performed at the Third Festival of GALA Choruses. Just four years old, the South Florida chorus has developed an impressive full choral sound.

Encore, an octet of specialty singers from the Chicago Chorus, opened the second half of the program with a nice mix of songs to showcase their versatility in a professional sounding, fast moving set. They especially delighted their audience with a medley of theme songs from kids' TV shows of the past (Mickey Mouse Club

and Spider Man among others), using souvenirs of the shows to recall sitting in front of the tube as youngsters.

Then, music director, Kip Snyder, led over a hundred men of his Chicago chorus in five numbers scheduled to be performed at the GALA Festival. They ranged from "These Boots Are Made For Walkin'", to "The World Feels Dusty." "Camptown Races" was campy (what did you expect?) and without leaving the risers, the chorus presented a picture in sound and movement of various types of spectators at the racetrack.

But the culminating selection, the stunning Execution Scene from "Dialogues of the Carmelites," the opera by Francois Poulenc, was chilling and unforgettable. As the chorus sang "Salve Regina," individual members of the chorus proceeded slowly off-stage as the sound of the falling blade of the guillotine regularly shook the auditorium. A shattering climax sure to leave its mark at the Festival.

In a finale featuring the full sound of 170 male voices, the two choruses joined forces in singing songs of brotherhood — "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother," the wonderful "Old Friend," and "Together" and "Family." Gary E.F. Keating, conductor of the Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida, in acknowledging the role that the Chicago Chorus played in helping the Florida group to get started, sounded the appropriate note of brotherhood in action, brotherhood in song.

## Hurricane Rocks The Water Boat Cruise July 29

[Milwaukee]- Hurricane Productions has scheduled its annual "Hurricane Rocks the Water" boat cruise for Saturday, July 29th, from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Embarkation on the "Emerald Isle" for the cruise on Lake Michigan will be from the dock at 541 E. Erie St. in Milwaukee. Participants are asked to arrive at about 8:00 to ensure timely departure at 8:30.

The cruise will feature dance, music and drinks and munchies will be available. The evening also provides for lots of star-gazing and woman watching. Space is limited to 200 so get your tickets soon.

Tickets for "Hurricane Rocks the Water" are \$10 and can be obtained from People's Bookstore, 1808 N. Farwell; Outpost Co-op, 3500 N. Holton St.; and Clear Horizons Food Co-op, 4708 W. Center St.

## Friendship Group Plans Brunch/Movie July 23

Metro Milwaukee Friendship Group (MMFG) is surveying its membership this month to determine the types of activities that are of most interest. The activities committee is mailing questionnaires to all members and plans

to tabulate responses on computer. Results will be distributed at the August meeting.

Among other activities in July is a Sunday brunch/movie day on July 23. The 12:00 p.m. meal is at one of Milwaukee's historic hotels. The movie afterward is at one of Milwaukee's not-so-historic movie theatres. Those interested are asked to suggest possible flicks when they sign up.

MMFG meets the second Saturday of each month at the home of one of their members. If you would like to attend the next meeting, a specific activity or want more information about the group, please write to MMFG, P.O. Box 93203, Milwaukee, WI 53203.

## Northwoods Fairies Gather August 4-13

The Northwoods Radical Faeries invite you to the headwaters of the St. Croix River for a celebration of our love, life and the beauty of Mother Earth. The celebration will take place August 4-13.

As Gay men, we will come together for affirmation, centering and focusing our lives, freeing our minds, hearts, souls and bodies and for just plain fun.

For further information, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: John Sutton, 2440 Garfield Ave., South Minneapolis, MN 55405 or call (612)-872-9505.

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## TRAVEL

## Milwaukeean Visits Thailand And Finds Ancient Land

By Curt Peck

**Editor's Note:** The author is a full-time bartender at Milwaukee's Triangle Bar.

It is on the other side of the world; the land of "The King and I" which was then called "Siam." Now the name is "Thailand" meaning "Freeland." The Thai people are justly proud of the fact that theirs is the only southeast Asian nation to have escaped European domination in the last century.

It is a beautiful land of warm air, flowers in overwhelming profusion and golden temples to strange and exotic gods. It is, in short, a place for a total "get away vacation" despite the 25 hour plane ride that it takes to get there.

We were quickly through customs and, at once, deluged with a slew of cab drivers, each eager to take you to your hotel in Bangkok, the capital. Be careful. Taxis are cheap (you can go anywhere in the city for about 100 baht or \$4.00), but there are no meters. Make sure you find out how much they'll charge before you get in.

Once set in our hotel, my traveling companion and I set off to see some of the Gay nightlife. Don't be afraid to ask the cab or Tule Tuk driver (these latter are more fun for tourists and a lot cheaper than a regular cab) to take you to a "Boy Bar" as they are called.

I'm not sure what I expected, but I can say that the Gay life is one that you would find nowhere else in the world. In most bars, boys walk around and mingle with the crowd. They are, of course, prostitutes and cost approximately 400 baht. In some bars, the boys dance on the bar itself wearing little more than a G-string, a smile and a number.

If you see a boy you like, go to the manager and arrange for him to come to you. Few of the bars have rooms, so your hotel is the answer. There are rules

against this so that you'll have to pay about \$20.00 just to take him to your room.

Most of the Boy Bars are in Sealem Center. When you get a cab or a Tule Tuk, make sure he stays on the main street. Some cabbies have the habit of taking you to a bar that either they or their family owns. Bars that I would recommend are Harries, Big Boy and Twilight although there are many more.

Aside from its Gay life, Bangkok has a wealth of sights and experiences to offer the tourist. There is gold and fine jewelry that can be purchased at greatly reduced rates. You can find real bargains in "China Town" in 24k gold.

Above all, do not miss a tour of the grounds of the Royal Palace. This is a truly magnificent sight. There are some 50 buildings, all decorated with gold leaf and millions of mirrors (some no bigger than a nickel) flashing like diamonds in the bright Asian sun. This certainly should be one of the wonders of the world.

After Bangkok, we left for the beach resort of Pattaya. It's about 3 hours from the city via a small, cramped bus, but after the hustle and bustle of the capital, it was a welcome change.

As in Bangkok, so in Pattaya, prices are on the low side. You can rent a lawn chair on the wide, beautiful beach, kick back as a waiter brings food and drink. Thai whiskey is the smoothest and best tasting I've had. It is something you must try.

I can heartily recommend Pattaya, but if you plan a trip, do it quickly. Like all of Thailand, it is changing quickly as Western ways and Western technologies sand off the gracious and lovely surface of this ancient land.

Nevertheless, it is truly beautiful, a wonderful place to visit — although, as the saying goes — I wouldn't want to live there.

## Unlike U.S.A., Homosexuality Accepted in Thailand Culture

By Nukul Benchamat

**Editor's Note:** The author is Chief Editor of *Neon* the leading Gay/Lesbian publication of Thailand and the leading such publication in the Far East.

I have come to learn that Thai Gays and Japanese Gays are similar in many respects. Firstly, there are no laws against homosexuality in Japan or Thailand. Secondly, there is a long tradition of homosexuality in both cultures. Thirdly, Japanese and Thai's do not harbor hatred of Gays as is true in the United States, for example.

However, due to AIDS, the situation in Thailand may change. The media have labeled it as a "Gay disease." As a result, the government has taken steps to discourage Gay life; to make it less prominent. Gay bars have been raided and Gay scenes in TV and plays have been forbidden. To all of this, Gays have reacted little or not at all nor has the government taken real steps in AIDS prevention.

The reasons for this are the following: In general, Thais are an easy-going people. Whatever happens, we will say, "mai pen rai" which means "it doesn't matter." We use the phrase many times a day. It is a part of our way of life.

Gays have taken a mai pen rai attitude toward AIDS and the government has taken the same outlook in regards to Gays. In fact, the government is more concerned about drug addicts than Gays. There are no serious campaigns for safe sex nor any educational campaigns in the Gay bars, clubs and saunas.

The government claims that few Gays have contracted AIDS. In truth, I believe that the number of Gay men who have contracted the disease is ten times the official figure which places the number at 80 for the whole country of 55 million people. Still, the public believes the government statistics and there is no pressure for anything to be done for the Gay population.

The only solution is that Gays must help Gays, but because of our history, the lack of oppression, there are no clubs, no organizations of Gays in Thailand. The only thing we have is the Gay media.

In 1987, I and the editors of the three other Gay publications tried to form a club, but after a couple of meetings, it foundered. The problems were lack of interest and lack of money. (You can't expect financial help from the rich Gays as they have their own jet-set community.)

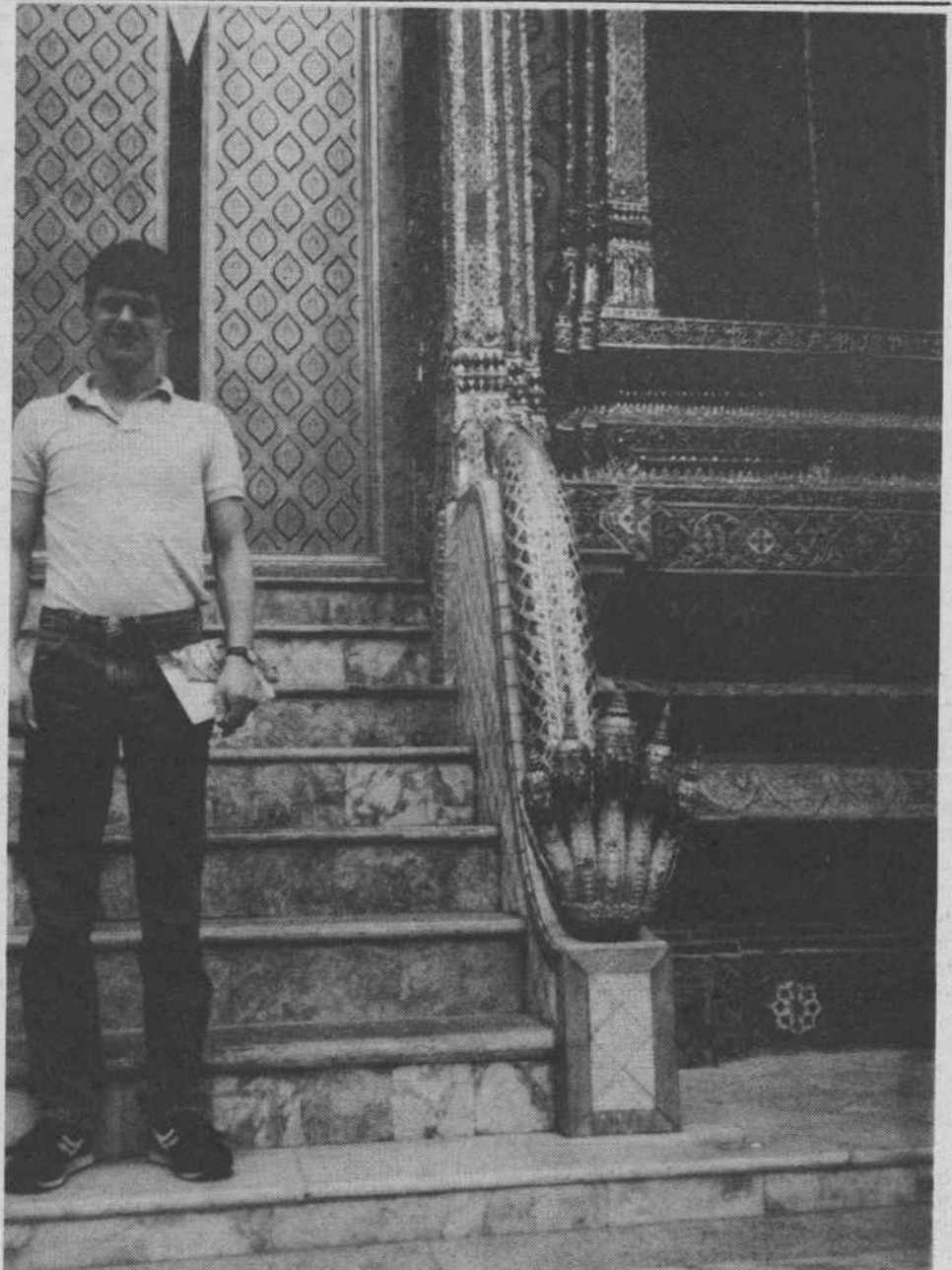
We, here in Thailand must reach out to each other and to the international community. We must form organizations of Gays as has been done in countries where oppression is great. We cannot go on as we have been or we will be destroyed.

## Safe Sex Seldom Practiced in Thailand

[Bangkok, Thailand]- Though 80% of Thai Gays questioned in a recent survey said they knew something about AIDS, most are not modifying their sexual behaviour. 70% still engage in oral and anal sex. Less than one-fifth use condoms.

Dr. Dephanom Muangman, Dean of Mahidol University's Public Health Faculty, told the *Bangkok Post* that 700 people in "high-risk" categories were interviewed. Besides Gays, the sample included drug users and prostitutes. They were asked about their knowledge of the illness and how it had affected their behaviour. Of those who were aware of AIDS, only 14% had learned about it from the Thai government's information programme. The rest said they had heard from the media. Gay interviewees had sex on an average of five times a week. 54% of them had been with foreigners. Only 6% of the prostitutes said their customers used condoms.

Dr. Dephanom quoted another survey which revealed that only one in ten of the Kingdom's provincial health officers considered AIDS a "major health problem." Only one in five provincial hospitals are equipped to test for HIV infection.



Curt Peck stands in front of typical historic architecture of Thailand in this beautiful, decorated building.

## ACT-UP Sponsors N.Y. AIDS March

[New York, NY]- On Saturday, June 24, an estimated 1500 AIDS activists marched up New York's Avenue of the Americas (Sixth Ave.) to protest problems facing Lesbians and Gay men in the age of AIDS: government neglect of the epidemic, AIDS-related discrimination and the increasing trend of anti-Gay violence.

The March was sponsored by ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power). The event was endorsed by more than 30 political and human rights groups.

"Arrest Us, Just Try It; Remember Stonewall Was A Riot!" was one of many slogans chanted along the line of march that led to Central Park. Along the way, at Herald Square, demonstrators paused to hold a massive "Kiss-In" to the consternation of Saturday afternoon shoppers.

At the rally following the march, Tim Powers a member of ACT-UP and a Person Living with AIDS, told the crowd, "We are a new generation of Gay men and Lesbians who have learned the hard way that we can't count on Tomorrow."

## Act-Up Milwaukee Being Formed

ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power) is a diverse, non-partisan group united in anger and committed to direct action to end the AIDS crisis. We meet with government and public health officials; we research and distribute the latest medical information.

We protest and demonstrate. We are

not silent.

All actions undertaken by ACT-UP are funded by contributions. We receive no governmental, corporate or foundational financial support.

If interested in becoming involved, contact Daniel at 1611 S. 5th St., #6, Milwaukee, WI 53204.

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# Amnesty International To Vote To Aid Homosexual Prisoners

By Sue Burke and Jerry Finn

The United States conference of Amnesty International voted last month to ask the organization to adopt people who are imprisoned because they are homosexuals or committed homosexual acts in private with consenting adults.

The request will be considered formally at the organization's international council meeting in 1991, although it will be discussed in 1990 when an interim report on homosexuality is presented.

The resolution to adopt homosexual prisoners passed overwhelmingly on a show of hands at the United States meeting, but its prospects at the international level are unclear.

The resolution was passed June 25 in Chicago, where Amnesty International members from the United States attended a three-day annual meeting to set national policies.

Amnesty International, founded in 1961, organizes worldwide letter-writing campaigns and other pressure to free people it believes are prisoners of conscience. It also monitors human rights abuses.

Since 1979, Amnesty International has had a policy to adopt as a prisoner of conscience anyone who is detained for advocating homosexual rights. People who are imprisoned for their sexual orientation are not adopted.

Since 1972, Amnesty International has also recommended stopping the medical treatment meant to modify the homosexual orientation of a person in detention because the organization opposes "cruel and degrading treatment."

Although Amnesty International has continued to debate and study the issue, concerns remain that adopting homosexual prisoners would hurt the organization in the Third World.

"The real issue is that we are an international movement," said Cary Allen Johnson, a staff member of Amnesty International at the Washington, D.C. office. He pointed out that national sections in North America and Western Europe, where the resolution is supported, could outvote the rest of the world, but "we don't want just to outvote them," he said.

"We are sensitive to countries with different mores," he said. He hopes some compromise can be reached to add sexual orientation to the organization's mandate of prisoners to adopt.

Johnson came out as a Gay man to the organization at large this year when he became facilitator for a workshop at the conference last month on Gays in Amnesty International.

Johnson said some countries "felt they would have difficulty going back with sexual orientation in the mandate," but another staff member said the section of the organization in Denmark has been pushing to include Gay and Lesbian prisoners since the 1970's.

Cosette Thompson, director of Amnesty International's San Francisco

office, said the Danish are "one of the leading sections in the discussion because they are under more pressure from the Gay community. It puts them in an awkward position."

She said if the resolution were passed, "It would reflect negatively in some sections. There would be some negative campaigning in the media in certain countries, and others would not even discuss it. And some groups would just refrain from working on any such cases."

Paul Tighe, a member from New Jersey, said there was a gap between straight and Gay members within the organization. He said he felt Amnesty International was not seeking support from the Gay community and Gays and Lesbians are unaware of United States efforts to change the organization's mandate to include homosexual prisoners.

"The failure to adopt people for sexual orientation," he said, "has made some people feel frustrated and not able to be open in the movement." He only fully came out as a Gay man to other Amnesty members at the June meeting also.

Gays and Lesbians at the United States Conference in June held their first formal workshops on Gays in Amnesty International. In a statement read at the end of the conference's final session, members who had been working on Gay and Lesbian issues announced:

"We hope that Amnesty International will increase its attention to issues of torture, killings and imprisonment that fall within current interpretations of our mandate and that Amnesty International will be aware of increasing numbers of detention cases pertaining to AIDS."

Thompson said that a week before the conference, the United States board of Amnesty International decided to create a task force to look into the detention of people with AIDS as a human rights violation.

Tighe said members at the workshop decided "it was up to us to make visible the Gay presence."

He said, "Gays should place themselves within the movement as visible and constructive members, not abstractions. We are co-workers and volunteers."

Johnson said, "There was a sense of relief that the first stone was cast," but added that it was hard to make an assessment from the workshop of how Gays and Lesbians see themselves in the movement.

Thompson felt there was no consensus at the workshop, but two important things came out of the workshop: It let people get together for formal discussions and it let people learn how the issue has been handled on an international level.

"People wanted more history on Amnesty's position on sexual orientation in the workshop," she said.

"There's no clear sense of an outcome in 1991, but there should be a tough battle," she said.



John Kelly Gentry, Jr. is shown in 1981 photos above and 1982 pictures below.

## Wanted By The FBI: John Kelly Gentry, Jr.

John Kelly Gentry, Jr. is wanted by the FBI for unlawful flight to avoid prosecution for murder.

Gentry is a bisexual and is known to reside within the Gay/Lesbian community. There is reason to believe that he is in Chicago and may be heading toward Milwaukee.

Gentry first came to the attention of the Toledo, Ohio Police Department on April 25, 1982 where he was residing at 919 Sherman St. with one Robert Ellsworth, a known Gay man. On April 25, Gentry and Ellsworth got into a fight and Gentry crushed Ellsworth's Adam's apple. Ellsworth survived. Gentry was sentenced to six months in the Lucas County jail.

While serving his term, Gentry befriended Barbara Gerber, a civilian cook at the jail.

Upon release, Gentry moved in with William Veith of 147 Worthington St., in Toledo, an openly Gay man. At the same time, Gentry lived with Gerber in Monroe County, Michigan.

On April 12, 1983, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office located Gerber's nude body in Deerfield, Michigan. Gerber's throat had been slashed. The following day, Veith's body was discovered in the basement of his business, a rare coins store at 615 Adams St. in Toledo. He had

been bludgeoned to death.

On April 29, 1983, a warrant was issued for Gentry's arrest in connection with Veith's murder.

Gentry has used several aliases: William Veith, Jim and Kung Fu. He was born in Toledo, Ohio on March 1, 1953 but has also used July 29, 1930 and March 1, 1950. He is described as being 5' 7 1/2", 160 lbs with a thin to medium build. He has black hair and eyes. The initials "LCJ" are tattooed on the upper left arm. He also carries a circular burn scar on the left elbow and scars on the left wrist and left arm. He wears thick lensed glasses and has been known to wear a full beard, mustache and long sideburns. He uses Social Security numbers, 299-54-4225, 288-24-6345 or 299-54-2225.

**GENTRY IS BELIEVED TO BE ARMED AND IS CONSIDERED TO BE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. ANYONE SEEING HIM OR KNOWING OF HIS WHEREABOUTS SHOULD CONTACT THE FBI AT ONCE.**

In Milwaukee, the number to call is (414) 276-4684. Ask for Special Agent Derrel S. Craig. Confidentiality is guaranteed.

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## Leather Contest To Be Held In Phoenix August 11-13

[Phoenix, AZ]- Very few places are hotter than Phoenix during the summer, but this year the city is really going to sizzle, as Didmar Productions joins with the Bum Steer, Phoenix's only leather bar, in producing and hosting the Southwest Mr. Drummer and the Mr. Drummer Boy contest during the weekend of August 11-13.

Leathermen from around the country will be joining such guests as noted leather columnist and contest MC, Mr. Marcus; Mr. Southwest Drummer 1988, Wes Decker; Ms. International Leather 1989 Susie Shepherd; Mr. International Leather 1988 Michael Peyerea; publisher of Drummer Magazine, Mr. Tony Deblause and others all helping to provide for an exciting weekend.

The Southwest Mr. Drummer regional contest is open to anyone over 21 years of age. Contestants do not have to be sponsored by a Gay bar or business, but it is encouraged and each non-sponsored contestant should have some verifiable connection to the leather community and own his own leathers. A nominal entry fee of \$25 is required, in turn to be donated in the contestant's name to the AIDS charity of his choosing.

All contestants must be registered with

Didmar Productions by August 1, 1989. For further information and entry forms contact The Bum Steer, 4620 N. 7th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85013 or call (602)-279-3033 between 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

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## POLITICALLY SPEAKING

## Religious Bigots Are Helping To Bring Gay Community Together

By Bill Meunier

An open letter to the "Reverend" Vic Eliason, Bob Brown, Mark Belling, Tom Phillips and their followers:

• • •

I really don't know how to thank you guys enough. In just a few short weeks you've done more for our community than any of us could have even if we had two or three years to do it in.

First you raised a big commotion about Milwaukee's Mayor Norquist and our County Board issuing proclamations praising Gay/Lesbian Pride Week. You called the proclamations offensive, you threatened and you blustered. It was great theatre and believe me we were all real entertained. Some County Supervisors and one alderwoman took your side. Thanks for helping us figure out who we should target for defeat in the next election.

Mark Belling of course did his part whipping his listeners into a frenzy. Caller after caller spouted out hatred and bigotry. To keep things lively of course Mr. Belling did let some Gays and Lesbians on the air. Naturally he cut them off whenever they started to make some telling points. Great job Mark, any impartial person listening to your broadcast certainly knew the score. In one afternoon you probably convinced more people why we needed to have Gay/Lesbian Pride Week than we could have. By the way Mark, I hear that you may need new job soon. I hope you have as much success in your new job. Maybe the "Reverend" Eliason will hire you. I hear WVCY doesn't pay as good as WISN did but at least you'll get to talk to your kind of people.

Speaking of you Reverend I think you're the person we owe the most to. Your rally was a real scream. Just think all of those churches telling their congregations to show up at the auditorium and a whole 1,500 people did. What did you have those ministers do, tell their parishioners to go the rally and God would forgive their sins? It was a treat to see all of those out of town speakers calling for the recall of Milwaukee's Mayor while being cheered on by all of those suburbanites. I hate to tell you this Rev, but you couldn't recall anything about the love that Christ preached let alone the Mayor of Milwaukee.

You really had the Mayor on the run though, you could tell that when he told Channel 12 to cover some serious issues instead of asking him about your rally.

I do hope that you didn't spend too much money on renting the auditorium. Your friend Mark Belling may need a new job and he's used to making good money.

I haven't forgotten you Mr. Brown. Your appearance on the Mark Belling Show accusing Gays and Lesbians of burning down your garage certainly was a real good laugh. Honestly Mr. Brown do you really believe that anyone in our community even knew who you were before your garage fire. Do you think any of us cared? I am sorry about your garage and I condemn any violence against you and our other enemies. If you really feel threatened I'd be happy to help organize a Gay and Lesbian contingent to guard your property. Sergeant Miriam Ben Shalom could train us. By the way Mr. Brown I also condemn false accusations made without any shred of proof. Also word has it that your car wasn't in the garage at the time of the fire which occurred at 5 am. If that's true how lucky for you and how conveeeeeenent.

Our good friend Mr. Phillips deserves the thanks of the whole Gay and Lesbian community too. Thanks to his efforts the right wing showed its true colors by closing down a Milwaukee School Board meeting demanding that Dave Begel be fired.

I am sure Mr. Phillips that you were overjoyed at the opportunity foolishly presented to you by the Lambda Rights Network when they allowed you to video tape their Pride Week Forum. I am sure that you were equally pleased when Channel 18 ran your tape on the air showing Mr. Begel urging Gays and Lesbians to get involved in the Milwaukee Public School Tutoring Program.

I must admit that I wasn't too pleased at the time. But thanks to you thousands of Gays and Lesbians who weren't at the

Lambda Rights Forum but who want to help our school children now know how they can do so. And I know that a number of them will be volunteering. I am real pleased that you called attention to this opportunity and I want to thank you for your help in making us all aware of the chance to help Milwaukee's kids.

I also want to thank all the individuals who were quoted in the newspaper, or who called Mr. Belling's show. Like the woman who complained that Gays and Lesbians were using the Constitution. I want to thank her for recognizing that the Constitution provides protection for Gays and Lesbians even if the courts haven't fully recognized that yet.

Then there was the man who tried to get us arrested outside of the Auditorium rally because we were handing out leaflets. This provided a great contrast. After all, no one hassled the two lonely protesters who showed up at our rally and parade.

And lets not forget the people who called the Mark Belling show and said things like "In other societies they get rid of homosexuals," or the two protesters who showed up at the Lesbian/Gay Pride Parade and Rally. Those two guys reminded us all of how politically impotent you really are because after all if you were one tenth as powerful as you claim to be there would have been more than two.

Together all of you have done the Lesbian and Gay community a service.

Straights on the streets are talking about bigotry against Gays and Lesbians. The other day while I was waiting in line at a grocery store a woman reading the Milwaukee Weekly article about religious fanaticism remarked "It's a real shame, first those poor people have to put up with AIDS and now they get attacked like this." My straight friends who have always told me that they didn't need to contribute to Gay/Lesbian causes because we weren't really being threatened now are asking me how I can put up with this intolerance and assuring me of their help.

In response to you one of Milwaukee's Black newspapers, The Milwaukee Times ran an editorial promoting our cause. As far as we know that was the first time that paper had ever done that. And we have you to thank for it.

The Milwaukee Journal has run two editorials denouncing Anti-Lesbian/Gay prejudice, we have you to thank for that too.

Thousands of Gays and Lesbians have woken up and realized that they need to become more active not just by tutoring school children. The Pride Committee phone is ringing off the hook as people call to volunteer for next year's celebration.

You have shown all of Milwaukee just what we are up against, hatred, bigotry, and intolerance. With every name you and your supporters have called us more people have realized what we face and are expressing their support. More and more have developed sympathy for us.

Every time you falsely accuse us of trying to recruit children, more people come closer to our camp deciding that they want no part of your type of fanaticism. When you bring in people from the suburbs to disrupt our School Board, spout hatred and threaten our Mayor you prove to the whole community why we need to have a Lesbian/Gay Pride Week. And you do it more convincingly than we ever could have on our own.

My hat is off to all of you. Many thanks and please keep up the good work.

Yours in TRUE Christian Love, Bill

P.S. Rev. Eliason if you're going to read anything from this issue of Wisconsin Light on your station read this one.

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## House Passes Hate Crimes Act; Congressional Senate Battle Looms

[Washington, D.C.]—On the day of the 20th Anniversary of Stonewall, the House of Representatives passed HR 1048, the Hate Crime Statistics Act marking another milestone in a seven-year campaign by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) to obtain a federal response to anti-Gay/Lesbian violence. The bill's passage marks only the second time in Congressional history that the House has overwhelmingly approved legislation which favorably addresses a Gay and Lesbian issue.

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act, was passed overwhelmingly by a vote of 368-47 on a suspension of the rules. Voting with the majority were Wisconsin Congressmen Aspin, Kastenmeier, Kleczka, Moody and Sensenbrenner.

The bill requires the federal collection of statistics on crimes motivated by prejudice based on "race, religion, homosexuality, heterosexuality, or ethnicity." A companion bill, S 419, is pending floor action in the Senate. Senator Jesse Helms plans to attach an anti-Gay amendment to the bill during floor debate.

Helms' "Sense of the Senate" proposed amendment states: homosexuals threaten the American

family; sodomy laws should be enforced; the federal government should not enact discrimination protections based on sexual orientation; school curricula should not condone homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle in American society.

The Senate bill as it presently stands without the Helms amendment, has 49 co-sponsors including Wisconsin Senator Herb Kohl.

"Having this bill pass the House on a suspension of normal rules signals how far NGLTF has brought the issue of anti-Gay/Lesbian violence. Rules are normally suspended for only the most noncontroversial issues," said NGLTF Legislative Director Peri Jude Radecic.

"Now that this bill has cleared the House, our focus will shift to the Senate where our bill faces a homophobic amendment from Senator Jesse Helms," said Radecic.

NGLTF urges people to write their Senators asking that they oppose attempts by Helms to cripple S 419 and vote in favor of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act.

Letters from Wisconsin may be addressed to Robert Kasten and/or Herb Kohl, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510

## Human Equality At Stake With Supreme Court Abortion Decisions

[Washington, D.C.]—Calling the Supreme Court's decision in "Webster v. Reproductive Health Services" a "blow to individual liberty and women's freedom," the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) has vowed to continue its fight for the right to privacy of all Americans and lend its support to a nation-wide coalition organized by key pro-choice groups.

"As Gays and Lesbians concerned about equality and keeping the government out of our bedrooms, we are extremely troubled by the Court's decision," said Tim McFeeley, HRCF executive director.

In a move that may lead to overturning "Roe v. Wade," the 1973 landmark abortion and privacy rights case, the Supreme Court in its "Webster" ruling on July 3 gave states broad powers for governing abortions.

For example, state governments may enact laws that:

prohibit state employees from counseling on the option of abortion;

prohibit state-funded facilities from offering abortion;

require doctors to perform tests to determine "fetal viability;"

determine that life begins at conception as long as such determinations are "advisory" and not binding.

## Pro-Gay Representatives In House Leadership Positions in D.C.

[Washington, D.C.]—Recent elections of strongly pro-Gay Representatives to leadership positions in the U.S. Congress are being hailed by the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) as important gains for the Lesbian and Gay community and the fight against AIDS.

HRCF political strategists praised the election on June 22 of Congressman Vic Fazio (D-CA/4) to vice-chair of the Democratic Party Caucus and the election the day before of Steny Hoyer as Caucus chair. Both are long-time supporters of Gay-related legislation.

"The appointments of Fazio and Hoyer, along with earlier elections of Congressman Richard Gephardt (D-MO/3), Tom Foley (D-WA/5) and Bill Gray (D-PA/2), will give the Gay and Lesbian movement a considerably favorable position in the 101st and future

The Court also announced it will hear three additional abortion cases next term, a decision pro-choice organizations believe may signal the Court's intention to completely overturn "Roe."

Following the ruling, HRCF activists and pro-choice and women's rights groups reiterated that the key issue at stake in "Roe," "Webster" and "Hardwick" (which allowed the states to make homosexual acts criminal) is individual freedom.

"Who decides about abortion or sexual practices, the government or the individual?" said Robert Bray, HRCF communications director. "In recent rulings the Supreme Court — now heavily stacked with Reagan-appointed justices — seems to be shifting away from individuals and toward government."

Pro-choice coalitions are now gearing up for intense legislative and electoral battles over abortion. It is planned that choice will be a major issue in key campaigns around the country.

"Gays and Lesbians must do the same with issues of privacy and civil rights," said Eric Rosenthal, HRCF political director. "We cannot depend on the Court to uphold the Constitution and defend individual liberties. We must protect ourselves by using the ballot box."

Congresses," said Tim McFeeley, HRCF executive director.

"HRCF already has working relationships with the new House leadership," said HRCF political director Eric Rosenthal. "We will begin immediately to make up ground lost with the resignation of former Whip Tony Coelho of California — the first House leader to recognize the Gay and Lesbian community as part of the mainstream national political process."



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## Small Band of Religious Ultra-Conservatives Smears Pride Week

[Milwaukee]- The success with which the Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Pride Committee pulled off the celebration of Pride Week (June 16-27, 1989), has been marred from the beginning by attacks by a relatively small band of religious ultra-conservatives who seem to conceive themselves to be the guardians of their definition of righteousness.

The week before the Pride Parade and Rally, Mark Belling, WISN afternoon talk show host, launched into the propriety of Milwaukee Mayor John O. Norquist issuing a proclamation honoring Gay/Lesbian Pride Week that said in part, "We are proud of who you are."

Belling's contention was that Norquist had no business speaking in this manner for all Milwaukee. Many in Milwaukee, asserted Belling, found Gays and Lesbians offensive.

Belling also maintained that he had nothing whatever against individual Gays and Lesbians and what they did not do. It was the Gay political movement that he opposed. Among other things, he said he feared it would lead to same-sex marriages.

Belling contended that he was not engaged in Gay bashing, but the tone of his voice and the inflammatory sense of his words seemed to encourage others to do what he denied doing.

When the Milwaukee County Council and the County Executive, David Schulz, issued similar proclamations honoring Gays and Lesbians for 20 years of struggle for equal rights, debate grew warmer.

Belling encouraged listeners to phone the offices of the Mayor, County Council and County Executive to voice their complaints. 32 persons reportedly called city hall.

In the meantime, Milwaukee radio station WVCY, a fundamentalist Christian organization began a campaign against Gays and Lesbians. WVCY is owned by Vic Eliason who also owns eight other such stations across the country.

Among other charges, commentators on the station asserted that Milwaukee was "in danger" of becoming the "Gay mecca of the Midwest."

Despite all the smoke, only two protesters appeared at the Gay Pride march and rally. One of these, Robert Brown, purported to represent the Christian Civil Liberties Union.

On Monday, June 19, 1989, as part of Gay Pride Week, several Milwaukee organizations sponsored a "Community Speakout." This meeting was video taped by TV Channel 30, another fundamentalist Christian station. This tape was aired several times on TV 30 and was used as a reason for demonstrations at a Milwaukee Public School Board meeting. The demonstrators demanded the resignation of Dave Begel who they

mis-represented as being an advocate for Gays and Lesbians working in the schools.

On June 25, 1989, a rally of Christian fundamentalists and their supporters was held at the MECCA auditorium in downtown Milwaukee. It was attended by some 1500 people who were described as "frenzied" in their hostility towards Gays and Lesbians.

Much of the rhetoric was directed against Milwaukee officials. The Rev. Donald Wildmon of Tupelo, Mississippi, told the crowd, "You may not change the mayor's mind, but you can change your mayor."

However, it was ascertained that most of the audience was not from Milwaukee or Milwaukee county, but were visitors like Wildmon himself who was described as "a local minister."

Though purportedly the rally was meant to demonstrate support for "the traditional family," in reality it was far better described as a "Gay bashing."

TV 30 played and replayed the tape of the rally which seemed to have the effect of stirring up anti-Gay and Lesbian feeling even more.

Throughout all of this, the major media, electronic and print, have treated the Gay/Lesbian community fairly. Their reportage has been balanced, taking, in many cases, the stance that the Gay/Lesbian community is simply fighting for its rights as equal citizens.

On the other hand, those of the Christian right-wing insist that they are not Gay bashing; that, indeed, they love Gay and Lesbian people, but hate "their sin." As one Gay leader pointed out, "There's a very fine line between hating the sin and hating whoever you think is sinning. Most people don't bother to make the distinction."

The campaign against Gays and Lesbians has continued and, according to our sources close to the fundamentalist Christian movement, will only heat up. One person inside the movement who must remain nameless, said that "This whole thing is well financed and well orchestrated. They want to make Milwaukee an example. They think they can do it."

The next step in the campaign was the recall petition directed against Milwaukee Mayor Norquist and the push to force the County Council to recant their proclamation. (see article this issue).

This is a summary of what has happened. We are assured that what has been called "the hate campaign" is far from over. It should be emphasized, however, that these people are a small minority, but as one person pointed out, "well organized, well led and funded minorities have carried the day in many places and times."

## Lesbian and Gay Studies Program Added to San Francisco College

[San Francisco]- Lesbians and Gays in the San Francisco Community College district received an official nod for their dreamed-of Lesbian and Gay studies program when the Community College Board unanimously approved a 1988-1989 budget that includes monies to hire a director for the new program.

Kimi Floethe, co-chair of the student Gay and Lesbian Association said, "On campus now there's lots of Gays and Lesbians but just a small fraction that are out." Lesbian and Gay students at present "don't meet" and "don't cross paths." A Lesbian and Gay studies program will "give us a central place to work from," she believes.

The main concern now is that the college administration begin to develop the new program promptly. Jack Collins who teaches an evening course in

Gay/Lesbian literature says that "The academic establishment across the country has traditionally been very unwilling to canonize Gay and Lesbian culture." He notes that Yale University and City College of New York do have fledgling Lesbian and Gay studies programs.

The new program will be aimed at working class Gays and Lesbians. Collins says that "Very often working and middle class Lesbians and Gays are the most oppressed; they're afraid of losing their jobs. In our society, working class people need to have their sense of identity bolstered because this culture hates the poor, especially under President Reagan. Gay and Lesbian kids need respect and the empowerment that a program like this will provide."

## National Task Force To Hold Grassroots Activists Conference

[Washington, D.C.]- The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has announced its Creating Change Conference for grassroots activists and Gay and Lesbian organizations will be held November 9-12, 1989 at the Holiday Inn in Bethesda, Maryland, just 5 Metro stops from Dupont Circle.

The conference will include a day-long Fundraising Institute as well as a

demonstration calling for the end of Gay/Lesbian discrimination in the military.

Speakers at the Conference will include Sgt. Perry Watkins, longtime Gay activist Vito Russo and Lesbian Feminist activist Suzanne Pharr.

For registration information, write NGLTF Creating Change, 1517 U St. NW, DC 20009.

## TID-BITS

Ah, Summerfest! The great weather has arrived and off go the shirts, on go the nylon shorts for the men; on go the halters and shorts for the women. What beautiful sights!

Every bar owner has a problem these days: what to do with the straights who wander into their bars? One has taken down the male magazine pictures in the bathroom. Another stations himself by the door and discreetly informs uncomfortable looking drop-ins about the bar. But what to do with the ones who leave their group and come back in after the Fest? Fair Game!

Among Friends has temporarily ceased publication while the staff of this Madison based magazine is taking a break. Take our word for it, it's tough putting out something like that with all the other demands on one's time. Jay, despite his schedule, has done a magnificent job.

Who's, a popular bar in Green Bay has closed, but it's opening again under a different name with a brand new owner.

And speaking of closings, so many showed up for the YP's closing that they ran out of beer! The underfed overwhelmed the food table to the point that they ate while filling their plates. This was the worst free-loaders convention we've seen. Where were you when Uncle Al needed you?

Uncle Al has moved over to La Cage where he is now the manager. Meanwhile, three of Your Place's bartenders are now working at Shadows II.

What a new mix! Jim Ballistari is going to make things really happen at the old YP when it opens up soon. Paul, the manager, one of the most friendly and best looking bar managers, is set to welcome everyone for the opening. Watch for something really special! Wisconsin Light will announce the opening soon.

Bastille Days — Joe at This Is It already has his blue, white and red decorations up for this mid-July event. Can't tell you how many new faces we see at This Is It each year during this celebration of things French, but it's the place to be and draft beer is cheaper in the bar than out on the street.

C'est La Vie — I've finally learned how to spell it — People can't believe their eyes at the new layout. More room to move and intimate tables for that one-on-one meeting. Sunday afternoons are a blast! 25 cent tap beer and lunch.

The Triangle — Happy birthday to Al Thomas, the owner and genial proprietor. Celebration on the 16th and, no doubt, all those hot young studs will be around to wish Al "Happy 21" — again! And shows at the Triangle are not to be missed. If you like men, be there!

Alternative's softball team, a last minute entry for SSBL, is doing very well in the league. Want to know what men's teams they beat — look for some real red faces.

Jet's Place — Rob, where's your fatigue cap? The late-nite weekend bartender has had his hands full. Despite the far south location, a nice crowd meets there. Try it, you'll like it!

SSBL — Playoff in 2 weeks. The preliminaries are grinding down. The Playoffs mean a chance to represent the league at the World Series. The play is hard and wild. Don't miss them!

Then there's Circus Parade Day. Besides the great bods, it's time for "That Game" again. Draw a chalk circle on the street. First horse to hit your circle gets you free beer or \$ from your group. Till next time, I'm out and about.

Block Party — La Cage. The South End bars are joining together for a July 30 block party under the leadership of La Cage's George. Watch the next issue of Light for the La Cage ad, and more information.

Wisconsin Light has learned that the application for a liquor license for the new bar that will be located at the site of the old YP, passed through the Licensing Committee of the Milwaukee Common Council with "absolutely no problem at all." The application now goes before the Common Council for final approval which is judged to be "pro-forma."

Also Light has learned that though the name "The Closet" is generally rumored in the community to be the new name, this is not true.



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## First Milwaukee Pride Parade And Rally A Great Success

[Milwaukee]- After nearly a week of glowering clouds and chill rains, June 17 came bright and full of sun, the air warm and the sky like a sapphire. In all, perfect weather for Milwaukee's 1st Annual Gay/Lesbian Pride March and Rally.

By 8:00 am, the Pride Committee, joined by volunteers from other organizations, had gathered at the Cream City Foundation Community Center to blow up hundreds of pink, white and blue balloons, make signs and, in general, attend to untold numbers details.

At the parade formation site itself, at E. Washington St. and S. 1st, Fanny's and the Alternative bars had opened early, becoming twin foci for marchers gathering well ahead of the 12:30 start-up time.

By 11:30, Jim Moody, (D-Mil/5), popular eastside Congressman, had arrived, offering support for what he called "the responsible demonstration for equal rights."

Meanwhile, two demonstrators, one of whom was Robert Brown of the Christian Civil Liberties Union, held up signs announcing that better housing should supersede Gay rights. These two who later would appear at the Rally in Cathedral Square and were "encouraged" to leave, were the only two visible protesters the entire day.

Dr. Karen Lamb, Grand Marshal of the Parade, was stunning in a white, cartwheel hat, white dress with red highlights and white shoes with red roses. She rode in a classic T-bird decorated with arches of white balloons driven by its owner, Allen and his other half.

The Parade began almost precisely on time. It was led off by the Beer Town Badgers color guard who were followed by contingents from Green Bay, the National Organization of Women and by the Great Lakes Freedom Band in blue, whose stirring rendition of "On Wisconsin" made hearts beat faster and swell with pride at this, our Gay rights State.

According to police estimates, those in the march numbered between 2,000 and 2,500.

Parade units included representation from Rod's, sporting the colors of the Rainbow Flag, the New Bar and Sheri's Back East bars in Madison

There was GALVANize from Madison, the Chicago Pride Committee, Milwaukee 9-5, the Milwaukee chapter of Black and White Men Together, the Brady Street Clinic, Theatre X, Hurricane Productions, the Triangle Bar, In Step, Gay Youth Milwaukee, Milwaukee Lesbian Owned Businesses, Miss Gay Wisconsin, Miss Gay Midwest, Gloria Holloway, Grapevine, Mr. Gay Wisconsin, Carl Cliver, the Metropolitan Community Church, 1st Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, Dignity Milwaukee, the Galano Club, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays, the Cream City Foundation, La Cage aux Folles bar, the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) did have institutional representation and others.

On-lookers along the Parade route proved to be sparse, but, as far as could be seen, few, if any were hostile. Most were merely curious or friendly. Even some of those gathered gathered in Steny's were seen to wave and smile as the parade passed.

Past Mint II, the marchers went, the with small crowd outside waving happily. The same was true at C'est La Vie and then at the Foundation Community Center where a cloud of pink, white and lavender balloons were released. There was yet another host of well-wishers in front of M&M.

The parade swung onto Wisconsin Avenue where, on the corner, an older woman was standing holding her nose and was heard to mutter, "Jesus will get you for this." Someone from Green Bay marching nearby laughed and said, "She does that pretty well with her nose shut up."

By 1:15 the head of march had reached City Hall. Looking back, one could see still more swinging on to Wisconsin Avenue, the Rainbow Flag flying proudly in the mild breeze.

The weary, but excited marchers reached Cathedral Square on schedule with Jed Clay of the Pride Committee proudly announcing the units as they entered the park.

There were refreshment tents operated by the Triangle and La Cage and people

took advantage of the opportunity presented before gathering around to listen to the program MC'd by Barb Coyle and David Rogers who kept things moving with professionalism and lively repartee.

Perhaps one of the proudest moments came as the Members of the Pride Committee were introduced. They were cheered to the echo.

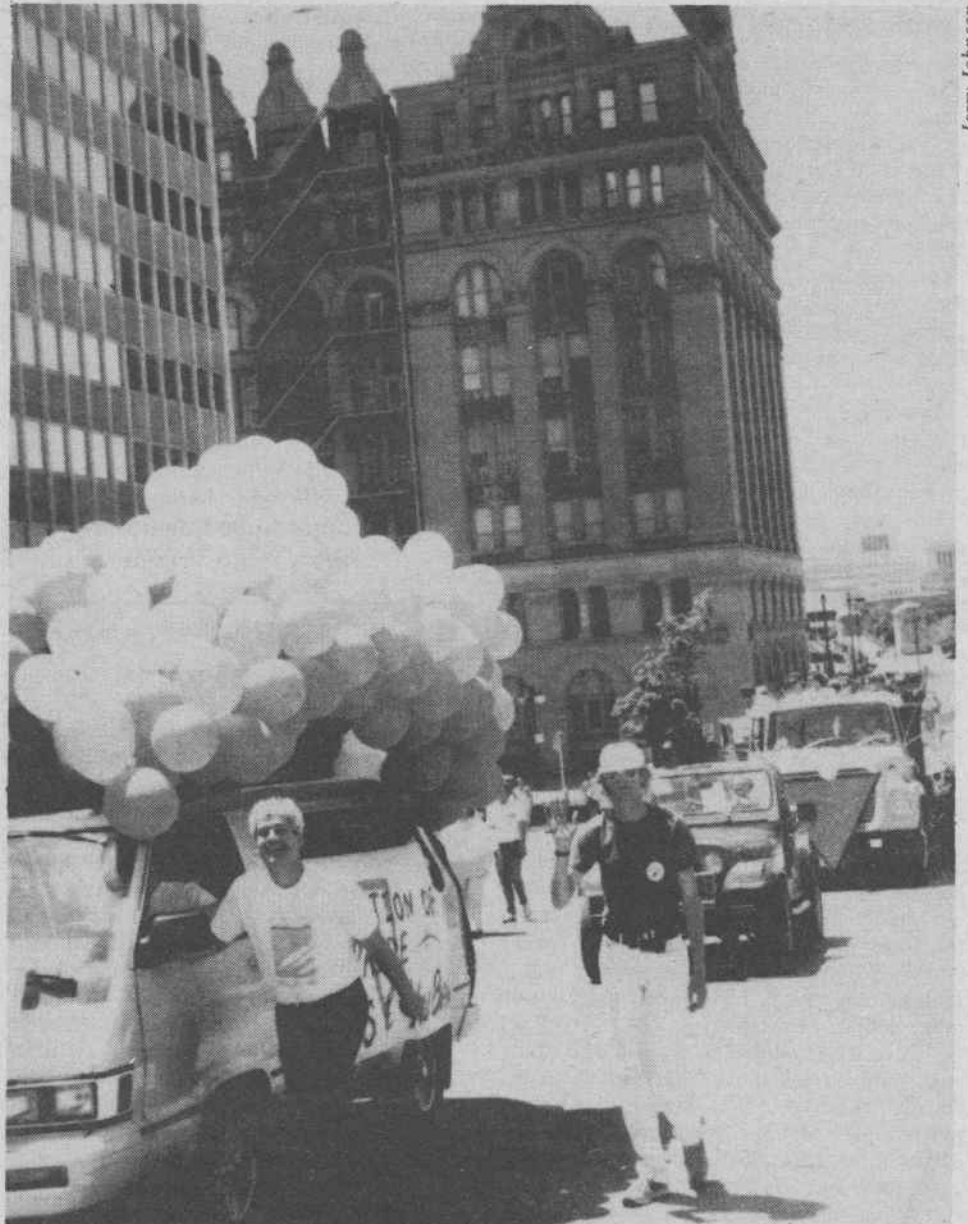
Introductions were followed by the Original Fest City Singers who, dressed in full costume, offered selections from their concert, "Catch a Rising Star."

Then came the speakers. Mike Lisowski presented the Alyn Hess Award to former Milwaukee Police Chief Robert Ziarnik, Lisowski speaking movingly of the contributions that Ziarnik had made during his tenure to furthering harmony between the police department and the Lesbian/Gay Community. Afterward, Lisowski presented Ziarnik with a plaque as a symbol of the Community's gratitude.

Jamakaya roused the crowd with a stirring litany (see her column last issue) while Grand Marshal Dr. Karen Lamb spoke of the victories that had been won and the battles yet to be fought.

Bill Rubenstein, Staff Attorney of the American Civil Liberties Union, New York, praised the community for its efforts and Wisconsin as the Gay rights state. Finally, Dan Trzebiatowski spoke of the on-going struggle against AIDS (see his column this issue) and, as he spoke, 300 white balloons were released as a memorial to the numbers of people who have died of AIDS in Wisconsin.

Finally, though unscheduled, Jed Clay rose to speak. Those on the committee and those close to it knew that he is an active member of the Army. But in what was surely one of the most moving events in a day of such times, Clay came out as a proud Gay man in front of the media and the several thousand assembled in the park. One woman, after hearing Clay, was heard to say, "God, that took guts, but I guess that's what this is all about."



Rodney of Madison's Rod's Bar and the New Bar walked in Milwaukee's Pride Parade next to his decorated van with the City Hall in the background.

## Planned Parenthood Cautious On Abortion Decision

[Milwaukee]- In the wake of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision allowing the states to restrict abortions, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, Inc. (PPW) remains confident and determined.

In an "Alert" issued by Cate Miller, Director of Public Relations and Marketing for the organization to the staff of PPW, Miller stated, "We're pleased that the Supreme Court did not reverse 'Roe v. Wade.'"

The Alert went on to say that "Wisconsin law has not changed. Women still have the right to choose a safe and legal abortion in the State of Wisconsin without governmental interference."

"We are confident that the Wisconsin legislature will not cave in to the demands that it retreat on the issues of women's rights and choices. Health care decisions should be the concern of individuals, families and their physicians, not the concern of politicians and street demonstrators."

"We know that it will be a difficult and divisive struggle to keep abortion safe and legal. People must voice their opinions to their elected officials."

"PPW will continue to take the lead in the state legislature to keep women's choices alive and to keep all reproductive health options available."

"PPW will extend its petition drive to keep abortion safe and legal until October. People may call the Legislative Hotline to voice their opinions: 1-800-362-9696."

## Gay/Lesbian Jews Hold Aug. 24-27 Chicago Conclave

[Chicago]- The 11th International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews will be held August 24-27 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago. The theme for the conference is "Choosing to Make a Difference."

The keynote speaker will be Minnesota State Senator Allan Spear, an openly Gay and Jewish Democrat.

For further information, please write: 11th International Conference, c/o Congregation Or Chadash, 656 W. Barry, Chicago, IL 60657 or call (312) 248-9456.

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If you have questions, concerns, or need assistance, call  
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