



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

The Wisconsin Light

N.Y. Court Rules Gay Couple Is A Family

[New York, NY]- In a landmark ruling, *Braschi v. Stahl Associates*, the New York Court of Appeals ruled on July 7, 1989, that a Gay man could be considered a family member of his deceased lover.

"This decision marks the most important single step forward in American law toward legal recognition of Lesbian and Gay relationships," commented William B. Rubenstein, Staff Counsel to the American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) Lesbian and Gay Rights project, who argued the case for the Gay man. "This is the first time that a state's highest court has recognized a Gay couple to be the legal equivalent of a 'family.'"

The case concerned the interpretation of New York City's rent control law. The plaintiff, Miguel Braschi, had lived with his lover in a rent controlled apartment for 10 years. On the lover's death, the landlord attempt to evict Braschi on the grounds that only a family member can inherit a rent controlled lease. Braschi argued that he was a member of his lover's family and entitled to the lease.

In its decision, the court wrote that "family" must be interpreted realistically: "The intended protection against sudden eviction should not rest on fictitious legal distinctions or genetic history, but instead should find its foundation in the reality of family life." The court found the "reality of family life" in this case to be that the Gay couple was an "equally valid" family and one that comports with "society's traditional concept of family."

The New York decision outlines a number of factors for lower courts to consider in determining whether a family exists:

the exclusivity and longevity of the relationship,

the level of emotional and financial commitment,

the manner in which the parties have conducted their everyday lives and held themselves out to society,

the reliance placed upon one another for daily family services.

"Because these factors are generic in nature," Rubenstein emphasized, "the court's ruling will benefit not only Gay couples, but all people who live in committed family relationships throughout society."

LIGHT To Host Booth At Third Ward Block Party

[Milwaukee]- At the request of Kitty Barber and *Wisconsin Light*, Joan Zepecki, Executive Director of the Historic Third Ward Association is sponsoring a Gay/Lesbian community information and education booth at the Association's Best Block Party.

This very well attended annual event will be held August 4, 1989, on N. Broadway St. between Chicago and Menomonee Sts. from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

The Lesbian/Gay information booth will be number 64 and will be located on Chicago St. just off Broadway.

All Lesbian and Gay groups, organizations, clubs and individuals are encouraged to participate by having representatives and any materials you might wish to distribute or sell present at the booth for all or part of the day.

While several organizations have already indicated their desire to participate, the hope is that many more will do so. Let us take this opportunity to let people know who and what we are.

If interested, please contact *Wisconsin Light* at (414) 372-2773.

Milwaukee Sentinel Apologizes To Community For Misleading Article



After the Pride Week Proclamation Victory, many of the celebrants went to the M and M Club. Shown watching the noon television news announcing the Gay/Lesbian victory are some of the 125 supporters who attended the Milwaukee County Board meeting at the County Courthouse.

County Supervisors Vote To Stand By Pride Week Proclamation

[Milwaukee]- To cheers and thunderous applause of over 125 Gays, Lesbians and their supporters, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors on July 20, defeated by a vote of 14-11, an effort by right-wingers to have the Board recant their earlier Proclamation honoring Gay/Lesbian Pride Week.

The Proclamation had been sponsored by Elizabeth Cogg-Jones (10-dist.) and co-sponsored by Dorothy Dean (13 dist.).

Approximately 40 of the opposition were present, including members of the Christian Civil Liberties Union, the American Family Association and representatives of the Christian media. Many were wearing badges bearing religious or pro-family slogans.

Much of the obvious pleasure at the vote came from the fact that it was generally believed in the community that the Board would follow the earlier recommendation, made by a vote of 5-1, of the Judiciary Committee that the full Board recant.

At 10:57 a.m., the resolution was moved to the floor. Supervisor Thomas A. Bailey (25 dist.), rose to make a motion to place it on file which would effectively kill it.

In his remarks, Bailey, after noting that he had a "magnificent" wife and 8 children, said that he believed homosexuality to be "unnatural, but I love the homosexual." He concluded by saying that adopting the recant resolution could play up to "a small segment of the community whose hatred is thinly disguised as righteous goodness."

Supervisor Gerald D. Engel (8 dist.), a co-sponsor of the recantation resolution, after noting that he had 7 children, shrugged off possible election repercussions as a result of this stand with a "so be it." He said his resolution was to "correct any impression that we endorse any lifestyle." Engel also criticized both the *Milwaukee Journal* and the *Sentinel* saying their "tolerance was intolerance."

The motion to file was then put to a vote and passed. (See map of Supervisory districts in this issue.)

The days following the Judiciary Committee's vote on July 11 and the meeting of the full Board were filled with great activity by various groups and individual members of the community. Petitions were reportedly passed throughout the bars, speakers addressed bar crowds urging as many as could to attend the Board meeting.

At the same time, Gays, Lesbians and their supporters made uncounted phone calls to the Supervisors while organizations and individuals sent letters (See Letters to the Editor section this issue for a sample).

Letters were also sent to the Milwaukee County Board from the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Madison Common Council urging their colleagues not to recant. The Human Rights Campaign Fund and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force also offered advice and assistance.

A sampling of opinion indicates a feeling that the reportage of the event by both TV and the *Journal* and the *Sentinel* to have been fair to the community.

In calls and comments to *Wisconsin Light*, many also expressed their pleasure at the spirit of unity that grew and prevailed in the struggle throughout the community.

After the vote, right wing supporters of the resolution looked stunned. One complained to a reporter that the Supervisors were "chicken, no guts." Robert Braun of the Christian Civil Liberties Union was passing out letters calling for a demonstration against Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison) to protest his use of the word "lunatic" to describe them.

Editors Note: Milwaukee County residents may see how their supervisors voted by referring to the district map located on page 11.

San Francisco Fundamentalists Put Domestic Partnership Law in Peril

[San Francisco]- While Gays and Lesbians in New York rejoice over Mayor Koch's announcement that he intends to issue an executive order recognizing the rights of domestic partners, the San Francisco Gay community is facing a battle with local fundamentalists.

The San Francisco Domestic Partners Law enacted just last month, has excited the heated opposition of Rev. Charles McIlhenny and Rabbi Lionel Feldman. Together, McIlhenny and Feldman have collected 27,122 signatures for the repeal of the law the day it was to go into effect. The number of signatures is sufficient to force a referendum on the issue onto November's ballot.

The Domestic Partners Law was passed by the San Francisco Board of

[Milwaukee]- At a meeting with the editorial board of the *Milwaukee Sentinel*, held July 27, 1989, Keith Spore, the paper's Managing Editor, told representatives of the Gay/Lesbian community and their supporters who were present that, "We fell down on the job. We apologize to you." The story, Spore admitted, had "slipped by" the paper's usual editorial procedures.

Spore was referring to an article which appeared in the July 24 edition of the *Sentinel* entitled "Homosexual Prostitutes, Customers Cruise Third Ward Area." The article was by-lined to Tom Held, a *Sentinel* staff writer.

The meeting was held at the request of *Wisconsin Light* and was readily agreed to by Robert H. Wills, the *Sentinel's* Editor.

Present at the July 27 meeting in addition to Spore, were seven members of the Editorial Board of the paper including Wills.

Also present were eight members of the Gay/Lesbian community from Sheboygan and Milwaukee and supporters.

One purpose of the meeting was to acquaint members of the Board with positive approaches to reporting about the Lesbian/Gay community.

To this end, David Treece of Sheboygan, presented to everyone present copies of a style guideline prepared by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). The six page document which Treece discussed, points up words and points of linguistic style that should be used in sensitive reportage of Lesbians and Gays.

For example, Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) pointed out that to write about "victims of AIDS" is not acceptable. For those living with AIDS, the phrase "connotes a lessening of power in their lives," he said.

Dan F. Schramm pointed out that the words "Gay" and "Lesbian" are to be preferred over "homosexual" which is a medical term.

In addition to terminology, the document also suggests positive stories about the Gay/Lesbian community for media reporting.

The second purpose was to voice objections to the July 24 article. Central to these objections were the lack of balance in the article. For example, no Lesbians or Gays were reported to have been contacted. "We can see we should have called the other side," Spore admitted. Nelson responded by saying that he had been contacted by the reporter, but that nothing he said had been used. "The article was not well done and is harmful," Nelson said. To this, everyone

TURN TO SENTINEL, PAGE 8

OUR HISTORY



A TIME TO DIE XX

Without Feeling Nazi's Took Clubs and Beat Teen-age Gays to Death

By Terry Boughner, Ph.d.

For several unending days and nights, in that Autumn of 1944, the 30 trucks rolled on through the war-torn east European country-side. Beyond, it was a beautiful, metallic blue October day, but those inside could see little of it. The canvas flaps on the backs of the trucks had been lowered and locked leaving only the grinding roar of the motors and the thud of the tires on the rutted road to let them know the extent of their journey.

The caravan slowed, gears shifted, and the convoy had reached its destination, Auschwitz death camp. It was a vast place, unimaginably so, built and maintained for the single purpose of exterminating as many human beings as efficiently as possible.

The war was closing in on Germany. From the east, the Russian armies advanced like some great, all-consuming

prisoners, the boys understood that they were to die that day. Some began to cry, others to scream in terror and still others, to run about frantically in a futile effort to escape.

They called for help from anyone, from any quarter. "their young, clear, boyish voices growing louder and louder, shattering the horror of the camp as if it were glass.

Many of the youths ran to the Sonderkommandos and threw their arms about them, begging for mercy. There was none. The Sonderkommandos, hardened and knowing that their time too would come, pushed the Gay youths away, back against the SS who were laying into them with heavy, wooden clubs.

One young man, "a darkly handsome youth who may have been 17 or 18, very beautiful," flung himself at the feet of the Kommando fuhrer and pleaded pitiously for his life. The Nazi, "with great calm" clubbed the teenager to death on the spot.

More guards came, more clubs thudded down on bleeding, broken shoulders, heads and backs. There was, among the SS, no emotion as they beat these young Gays into submission. As Eugen Kogon writes in *The Theory and Practice of Hell*, "one has to remember that they (the boys) were nothing but homosexuals."

Finally the youths realized the utter hopelessness of their situation and they huddled together, sobbing bitterly. "This dreadful lamentation was heard from very far."

They were forced to strip. Many, with broken bones, had to have help from those around them as they screamed in agony as their rags were taken from them. Naked in the sun, they were told what they already knew. They would die that day because they were "unnecessary to life."

Herded together, they were pushed toward a gas chamber as music played. The SS forced them to run. They must hurry now to meet their deaths. Those who could not do so, were carried by those who could.

When the last Gay youth was inside, the door was slammed shut. "We could hear their cries, calling terribly in their terror, for a long time. Many of us whispered how evil could so easily take such beauty from the earth and care nothing.

When all was finally silent, the chamber was opened and their broken, twisted bodies still warm from life, were dug out. The Sonderkommandos would cut the hair from their heads to be used for insulation. What remained would be burned and the ashes shoveled to the four winds.

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Partners Drive Launched For PWA/ARC's

There is a new service for Gay PWA/ARCs which will provide opportunities for those seeking partners. For many of us, relationships have been a focal point in our lives. Upon being diagnosed, the longing for the comfort and healing of a partner has taken on even greater prominence, but at the same time become less available. Therefore we have designed this service in order to make it easier to connect with a great number and variety of men. This service is especially designed for PWA/ARCs who want to take advantage of newly acquired time and energies to pursue a significant relationship. The service involves 25 cities nationwide. For more information about using this service, write: Husbands! Box 2691, Loop Station, Minneapolis, MN 55402. Please include SASE. Quick response guaranteed.

The Grand History Of Our Past: Life Reeked With Joy

By Anders Henriksson

Editor's Note: Recently a discussion has arisen in the public press concerning the lack of knowledge of geography, history and other of the Liberal Arts. Possibly as an act of vengeance, Professor Henriksson has assembled fragments from students' exam booklets into a chronological narrative which we present here. No spelling or other corrections have been made or attempted.

History, as we know, is always bias, because human beings have to be studied by other human beings, not by independent observers of another species.

During the Middle Ages, everybody was middle aged. Church and state was made up of monks, lords and surfs. It is unfortunate that we do not have a medieval European laid out on a table before us, ready for dissection. After a revival of infantile commerce slowly crept into Europe, merchants appeared. They roamed from town to town exposing themselves and organized big fairies in the countryside.

In 1400 hundreds of Englishmen were perpendicular. A class of yeowls arose. Finally, Europe caught the Black Death which is a social disease that can be transmitted by intercourse and other etceteras. It was spread by inflected rats. Victims grew boobs on their necks.

The Middle Ages slimpared to a halt. The renaissance bolted in from the blue. Life reeked with joy. Italy became robust and more individuals felt the value of their human beings. Italy, of course, was much close to the rest of the world then thanks to northern Europe. Man was determined to civilise himself and his brothers even if heads had to roll! It became sheik to be educated. Art was on a more associated level. Europe was full of incredible churches with great art bulging out their doors. Renaissance merchants were beautiful and almost lifelike.

The Reformation happened. An angry Martin Luther nailed 95 theocrats to a church door. Theologically, Luther was into reorientation mutation. Meanwhile, the Baptists were migratory and the Popes, of course, were usually Catholic. The last Jesuit died in the 19th Century.

After the reformation were wars both foreign and infernal. If the Spanish could gain the Netherlands they would have a

stronghold throughout northern Europe which would include their posetions in Italy, Burgangy, central Europe and India thus serrounding France. There German Emperor's lower passage was blocked by the French for years and years.

The enlightenment was a reasonable time. Voltare wrote a book but philosophers were unknown yet and the fundimental stake was one of religious toleration slightly confused with defeatism. France was in a very serious state. Taxation was a great drain on the state budget. The French Revolution was accomplished before it happened and then catapulted into Napoleon who was ill with bladder problems and was very tense and unrestrained.

History, a record of things left in people's behind by others, started in 1815. Great Brittain, the USA and other European countries had democratic leanings. The middle class was tired and needed a rest. Among the goals of the workers was universal suffering and an anal parliment. They wanted voting done by ballad.

A new time zone of national unification roared in. Founder of the new Italy was Cavour, an intelligent Sardine from the north. Here too was the new Germany: loud, bold, vulgar and full of reality.

World War I broke out around 1912-1914. At war people get killed and then they aren't people any more but friends. Germany was displaced after WWI. This gave rise to Hitler. Germany was morbidly overexcited and unbalanced. Berlin became the decadent capital where all forms of sexual deprivations were practised. Moosealini sat on eight million bayonets and invaded Ethopia which is right near Japan. Then Germany invaded Poland, France invaded Belgium and Russia invaded everybody. After the war the world came to an end and nothing has happend much since.



juggernaut. In the west, the Americans, British and French had battered through the walls of Hitler's Fortress Europe. Earlier in the year, in July, men of the German aristocracy and military who realized the war was lost had attempted to kill the Fuhrer. That had failed and the conspirators had died hideously, but all but the most fanatical Nazis realized that the end was only a matter of time.

Nevertheless, the factories of death like Auschwitz continued to operate at full blast. This was the true war, Himmler said, the one the Nazis had been destined by God to fight. Enemies on two fronts be damned. All resources must be used to the end that not one homosexual or Jew should remain alive in Europe.

The trucks ground to a halt at the unloading area in Auschwitz and were immediately surrounded by the SS. This was standard procedure if those wretched souls within were destined for immediate execution.

The order was given, the flaps unlocked and a thousand boys and young men scrambled as best they could out into the bright sunshine of that Autumn day.

They ranged in age from 12 to 18 and each wore on the tattered filthy remnants of his shirt, a Pink Triangle stitched over his heart.

Who they were or from whence they had come, we do not know. Some were fair skinned with flaxen hair, some olive complected. Of them, one observer would later say that "They looked so handsome and well-built that even their rags could not hide their beauty." Another, seeing more, would add sadly, "How frightened they look. They huddled together, their faces stitched with fear."

Twenty-five black-garbed SS men marched them to the central parade ground where the Kommandofuhrer awaited them surrounded by his underlings and by the Sonderkommando team. These latter were camp inmates whose duty it would be to herd the doomed youths to the gas chambers.

It was not an easy way to die. They would be crammed in, naked young body to naked body. They would struggle desperately trying not to breathe Zeiklon-B gas, a convulsive poison, that took 20 minutes to a half hour to kill the last of them. Afterwards, the Sonderkommandos would have to use pitch forks to dig their bodies out, covered with feces and urine. Then the corpses would be hauled away to the ovens where chimneys, towering to the sky belched smoke 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Suddenly, as it happened with many

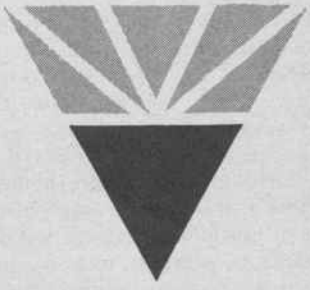
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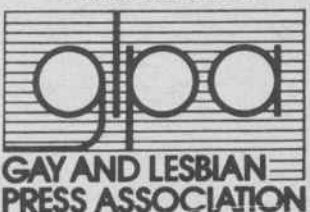
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GAY AND LESBIAN
PRESS ASSOCIATION

EDITORIAL

State-Wide Organization Needed To Build Unity and Support

The recent vote by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors not to recant their Lesbian/Gay Pride Proclamation is a victory that is particularly sweet to our community, one hard fought for and hard won.

There are things, we believe, that should be kept in mind.

One is that the vote was not only our victory. It was a triumph for the civil rights of all people against the forces that would deny any and all rights to those not conforming to their particular ideology.

It confirms that the essence of Wisconsin always was: be what you are. Be as free as you can be. It confirms that Wisconsin insists only that everybody allow everyone else to be free. To be what they are; to love the way you choose to love. That is our strength, the richness of the mosaic, the harmony of differences coming together in our city, county and state.

Secondly, the victory was not brought about by any one group, organization, club or set of individuals. It was the result of many, many people, high and low, Lesbian, Gay and straight, from Milwaukee, Madison, Sheboygon, Washington, D.C. (The Human Rights Campaign Fund and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force) and throughout the country working, overtly or covertly with every means at their disposal to see that right was done.

This precious spirit of unity must not be lost. It must be maintained and strengthened. The fanatical enemies of freedom and diversity have not gone away.

We, therefore, would urge that work begin toward the founding of a state-wide organization of Lesbians/Gays, our allies and supporters. A meeting should be held of those interested to form a steering committee that would prepare for a general gathering of all throughout Wisconsin who would like to attend. Call it a convention, if you will. This should be done and the sooner the better. The need, we have reason to believe, is that urgent.

We need marches and rallies. We need our local organizations. But above and beyond, we need, absolutely need, a state-wide structure.

This cannot be the work of any one individual or group. We must take advantage of the renewed spirit of unity and, putting aside personal differences and regional jealousies, gather to work and to fight.

We have won a victory. The battle still goes on. We need the the spirit of unity and the structure so that never again will we be caught as unprepared as we were.

Guest Editorial: Prostitution Can Not Be Tolerated

A recent Milwaukee Sentinel article on Gay Prostitution in the Historic Third area shed much needed light on a festering problem.

We disagree with the Reporter's methods. His flagging down of cars is something not done by the male hustlers in the area. Furthermore he did not note that most of the Gay men cruising through the area are not interested in the hustlers. His one short visit and his total failure to contact any responsible members of the Gay community evidences a failure of ethical standards of objective journalism.

Nevertheless we hope the story encourages the Milwaukee Police Department to do something about the problem.

It is high time that something is done about the situation. Gay prostitutes spread AIDS. Many of the hustlers in the area are not even Gay and subject their "clients" to violence and blackmail knowing that no Police report will be filed.

If the Police are serious in dealing with the problem they will not use undercover officers to pose as hustlers, which will only temporarily scare off potential johns, they will instead go after the prostitutes themselves.

The Historic Third Ward Association is trying to revitalize the area and is concerned about the problem. The Association values the Gay businesses and residents in the area. It has expressed concern about offending the Gays and Lesbians in the area if it aggressively attacks the problem of male prostitution.

The fact is that no responsible Gay or Lesbian will or should defend the hustlers. In fact, cleaning up the streets should lead to greater patronage of area Gay bars, will help fight the AIDS crisis and lead to less violence against Gay men.

We urge the Historic Third Ward Association, the Police and representatives of the Gay and Lesbian community to work in concert and rid our community of these hustlers. Our health and safety demand nothing less.

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR:

Editor's Note: The following letter was also sent to F. Thomas Ament, Chairman, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.

The pathetic thing about the pseudo-controversy around the proclamation about Gay Pride Week is that there are so many issues in and about the central fact itself that one can hardly see the forest for the trees.

We have a county board which displays some foresight and courage by initially proclaiming their support for an idea, nothing more, and unanimously, at that. Then there is some pressure placed on that same board by various groups in the community centered on a religious organization or organizations. Subsequently, some few members of the board waffle on their original decision and not only change their stand, but then want to apply pressure on the others of their board to change their stand also.

Then, a committee of that board waffles on the central issue and, in turn, plans on recommending to the whole board the decision be made by the whole board to waffle, collectively, on the central issue.

This whole board will have then knuckled under to the pressure of religious groups on a strictly civil issue... these same religious groups being the ones that would scream the loudest if some civil law were seen to infringe, however slightly, on what they perceive to be a religious issue.

So, in the grand tradition of "church/state separation" the state may

make no law inhibiting the free practice of religion, but religion may, of course, pressure the lawmakers to inhibit the free expression of a viable lifestyle, in the name of God, naturally.

So, we have some people demonstrating in front of the court house and the city hall. What's new? Believe there will be more!

I certainly do not say that individuals and groups do not have the right to state their views. I spent eight years of my life in the service of this country defending that idea with my life. I certainly do not advocate proselytizing for the Gay lifestyle. One can not choose it like a vocation. One is born Gay or one is born straight. It cannot be switched on and off because it is the path of least resistance.

However, that is not the way the world is. The world is 10-15% homosexual, an additional 10-15% bisexual to varying degrees and the remainder heterosexual. That is the real world. That significant minority who are Gay or bisexual living in the Gay lifestyle are there. They are real. They are human and the cultural lifestyle exists.

Whether or not you make some proclamation supporting the rights of others to a certain lifestyle or not is, in the end, irrelevant. The lifestyle exists and will continue to exist. Good Lord, if it survived the forties and fifties, it can survive anything. But the rights of people, that is something else again.

For millennia, rights have been denied. The common man, the non-believer, the women, the children, the Blacks, the Yellow, the Red, the handicapped, the special and the Gay. Eventually, the

people matured and developed a sensitivity to the realities and the rights of others. Remember, civic leaders, rights have existed as ideas since the Big Bang. The rights of people are not bestowed or taken away although, often, they must be won. You can deny them, but you can not destroy them. You can recognize them, but you can not render them as gifts.

What you have done and may do will not significantly hurt the Gay community, but it may injure the moral fiber of the whole Milwaukee community.

This display of moral weakness on your part will split the community because of lack of faith in the leadership, not lack of sensitivity to the issue of human rights.

I will try to remain respectfully,

—Richard L. Mance
Milwaukee

TO THE EDITOR:

Editor's Note: The following letter was sent to F. Thomas Ament, Chairman of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.

On behalf of the Milwaukee AIDS Project and more than 1,000 of its volunteer supporters from all walks of life in Milwaukee, I express our profound opposition to the retraction of the County Board Citation on Lesbian/Gay Pride Week.

It is with an urgent sense of justice and a compelling sense of pride in Milwaukee that we ask that you vote against the retraction resolution on Thursday, July 20.

For almost five years, the Milwaukee AIDS Project has been fighting AIDS — a devastating disease made worse by social stigma, prejudice and fear. Although there is no cure in sight, our strength in fighting AIDS has always come from the compassionate people of Milwaukee, thousands of whom have come forward to help and support the men, women, and children living with AIDS in our community.

It is this community support that gives us the greatest hope for managing the AIDS crisis in the future. Retraction of the Lesbian/Gay Pride Week Citation by the County Board would be a terrible blow to these hopes.

We must have a united community that is respectful of its diversity and willing to support all of its citizens if Milwaukee is to avoid the AIDS crises of other large cities. The retraction resolution divides our community, is intolerant of diversity and will surely threaten our ability to successfully manage the AIDS crisis in Milwaukee.

Seventy percent of the people living with AIDS in Milwaukee are Gay. They look to their families, friends, health care providers and our community for help and support. We must not let the prejudice of a few destroy the ability that we have in Milwaukee to work together to help all who are affected by AIDS.

Within four years, as many as 1,000 men, women and children will be living with AIDS in Milwaukee. These people with AIDS will place heavy demands for service on our health care and social service systems. It is only with a united, supportive and determined Milwaukee community that we will avoid a crisis and successfully manage the increased AIDS caseload of the future.

On July 20, the County Board has an opportunity to lead the way by renouncing the politics of prejudice and supporting a united Milwaukee community. We urge you to vote against the retraction resolution so that Milwaukee remains a progressive community that is prideful and supportive of all of its citizens.

—Doug Nelson,
Executive Director,
Milwaukee AIDS Project [MAP]

TO THE EDITOR:

Rev. Don Wildmon came to Milwaukee from Tupelo, Mississippi to call on Milwaukeeans who support family values to take a stand. Very well, Rev. Wildmon.

I am Gay and I am pro-family. For five years I was the sole caregiver of my father who suffered from multiple health problems and died a hard death of cancer. My cousin in another state is pro-family and a Lesbian. She is the sole caregiver of her father who has Alzheimer's Disease. I am also an uncle, a brother, a cousin and a nephew. She is a Godmother, an aunt, a sister, a cousin and a niece.

We love family reunions, weddings, christenings and the strength derived from funerals. We love our family unconditionally and our family, God bless them, loves us unconditionally.

—Josh Stein
Milwaukee

More Happy Endings, Please!

By Jamakaya

I was not gonna go down to that Courthouse — my court house — to hear religious zealots call me and my friends "perverts" and vote to rescind the Lesbian/Gay Pride proclamation. I'd been present at too many occasions of this kind, locally and in the state legislature, and didn't think I could handle another emotional letdown.

Oh, me of little faith!

Imagine my surprise when the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors voted 14-11 against the recantation resolution! Oh joy! Rapture! Was it really a happy ending?

Indeed it was, and, in an even more exciting development, the zealots' attempt to disavow the pride citation has mobilized the Lesbian and Gay community as never before. On July 17th, a meeting and potluck to form a new political organization for Lesbians took place on Milwaukee's west side. The evening of politics and food drew 100 women!

It's really only when I sat down to write this column that the significance of the gathering dawned on me. In attendance at this meeting were teachers, artists, health workers, businesswomen, athletes, real estate agents, reporters, mechanics, mothers, army sergeants, attorneys, clerks, librarians, civil servants and cleaning women.

The crowd was old and young, black and white, poor and middle class, and from all areas of Milwaukee. My sense of a highly educated group with more than half veterans of feminist organizing campaigns of the 1960's and '70's. The experience of the veterans and the enthusiasm and idealism of the newcomers give this organizing drive great potential — if only we, as Lesbians, recognize this fact and carry through on our commitments.

I mention the make-up of the crowd because the diversity of skills and interests represented there are our strength, a significant power base if we are willing to utilize it. I thought of us that night in Alix Dobkin's phrase, as the "Lesbian Power Authority."

Discussion centered on the many issues facing our community: protecting the municipal and state Gay rights laws, ending the violence and harassment against us, educating the community-at-large about our lives, addressing the lack of cohesiveness in our own ranks, lending support to pro-choice abortion work, and many others.

A committee to prioritize these concerns was formed and the rudiments of a telephone network and a committee structure in which individual women can contribute their skills to their particular area of interest are being established.

The biggest challenge to this political effort will come not from the right wing, but in terms of our own follow-up and commitment. Some of the most active and creative organizations in our recent herstory — the Feminist Center at UWM, the Women's Coalition, Sistermoon Bookstore, Amazon newspaper — all folded in the 1980's, not because of attacks from conservatives and not primarily because of money problems, but, unforgivably, because of lack of support from our own community.

Ultimately, each of us needs to make a sustained political commitment. Rather than looking or waiting for "leaders," we each need to assert our own considerable leadership skills. Vigilance, individual initiative and dependability in the tasks we choose to take on are central to any effective organization.

And yes, political organizing can be fun. Regular potlucks (a Lesbian ritual if there ever was one) will be held and a small group dubbing itself "PartySpace" has promised to sponsor some witty diversissements to make sure we don't lose our senses of humor.

Perhaps the most valuable side effect of political organizing is the network of new friends each woman develops. The generosity and insight and dedication of the women I've worked with have sustained and nourished me over the years and are a constant reminder of why I absolutely love being a Lesbian. Take it from me, political organizing can be intensely personally rewarding.



JAMAKAYA

Doreen Riley

On another note, Karen Thompson spoke to about 50 women at the Counseling Center on July 15th. Thompson talked about the case of Sharon Kowalski, her disabled partner, and the need for legal recognition of Lesbian and Gay relationships. She repeatedly emphasized that "coming out is our first line of defense."

Because Thompson and Kowalski's relationship had been kept from their families, Thompson had no ground to stand upon in the fight for her and Sharon's rights. She urged all committed but unmarried couples (Gay or straight) to invest in durable powers of attorney, a legal document which clarifies the primacy of the relationship and extends legal rights and protections to the partners.

The story of Thompson's lengthy battle to regain visitation rights and to ensure rehabilitation and competency testing for Sharon is a harrowing tale of legal manipulation, medical incompetence and gross prejudice against Gay people and the disabled. Lost in all the ignorance and wrangling for more than five years was the health and welfare of Sharon Kowalski.

Thompson's long and exhausting struggle on behalf of Sharon Kowalski is inspiring. She described her own transformation from conservative Reagan supporter to Lesbian human rights advocate with a sense of bemusement and painfully acquired wisdom. It is a powerful love and sense of justice that motivates this woman. Everyone in attendance seemed deeply moved by her words.

As a result of a legal motion by Thompson, Sharon Kowalski was re-evaluated early this year and, in June, was transferred from a nursing home in northern Minnesota to an extended care facility near Minneapolis which provides rehabilitation and training for transitional living. Thompson has been allowed to visit Sharon since February and is assisting in her therapy.

Sharon Kowalski can receive cards and flowers at Trevilla of Robbinsdale, 3130 Grimes Ave. N., Robbinsdale, MN 55422.

Please, please let there be a happy ending for these women.

Social Shame Provokes Suicides In India

[Chandigarh, India]— "Let no women die" was the slogan of women observing the International Women's Day on Wednesday, March 8, 1989. The following day three young sisters committed suicide by hanging themselves to death.

While no exact reason was given for the multiple deaths, it was believed that the three girls, Anita (19), Sunita (17) and Anamika (14) experienced feelings of worthlessness when their mother gave birth to a boy the day before.

Witnesses are said to have reported that the girls' father, Mr. S. K. Latawa rejoiced that with the birth of a son, his shame had been lifted because he had only daughters.

The bodies of two sisters were found hanging from the ceiling fan of the drawing room of their home while the body of the third sister was found in the bedroom.

Editor's Note: Light's Indian correspondent sends this report and says that such horrors are all too frequent in his country. We print this to show the terrors directed towards women in this and many other societies in the world.

Homo-hatred and Oppression of Women Related in Fight for Justice

By Jim Roche

The era of AIDS has united Gay men and Lesbian womyn into what appears to be a happy little homosexual family. If you are new to the Gay or Lesbian lifestyle, you might think that this is the norm. But underneath the veneer of "family" there are strong currents of discontent and mistrust between the Gay and Lesbian communities.

Womyn finding themselves working so hard on AIDS are beginning to question what they are doing. AIDS appears to many to be draining energy, finances and spirit away from the womyn's movement. For an example of how womyn's issues have often been left behind, we need only look at events that took place within the Gay and Lesbian community during the recent AIDS conference in Canada.

One evening during the conference, members of ACT-UP and local Canadian activist groups went out to a Gay bar and found that it was indeed just that — a Gay bar. Womyn, Lesbian sisters or not, were not wanted there. This was, as is often the case, with Gay bars in Canada, a men only space. It was only after a threat from ACT-UP that the management made an exception to its policy. If you can't count on another homosexual to treat you like an equal human being, who can you count on?

In a recent article in *Outlook* magazine, a Gay and Lesbian quarterly, Jackie Winnow, keynote speaker at the Lesbian Caregivers and the AIDS Epidemic Conference in San Francisco points out that more and more womyn's energy is being spent on AIDS work while less and less is spent on basic issues of human rights.

What you learn about us as a community by reading between the lines in these articles about our "political actions" is that we Gay men and Lesbian womyn do not always share the same concerns. There are basic differences in perspective between us, basic differences in goals. In many ways, womyn see Gay men not as their brothers in the cause, but as oppressors in their fight for womyn's justice.

Gay male sexuality seems focused on appearances, impersonal, short term and anonymous sex. Many Lesbian womyn find this threatening; proof of what men are like. Watch who writes the strongest "letters to the editor" in reaction to Gay sex ads. When a photo with male frontal nudity was published in a Virginia Gay/Lesbian paper, a Lesbian group took the picture (sans penis) and stuck it on the door of the publication with a letter

condemning the filth that had angered them.

Gay sex is equated with pornography, not just by heterosexual society, but by Lesbians as well. The ads seem proof that Gay men and their sexuality are part of the system that has kept womyn "down" for so long.

Can we find some common ground? Homohatred and oppression of womyn are related. The root of both is in misogyny and heterosexism. Straight society says that we Gay men get AIDS because we have sex like womyn and so break those male dominance heterosexual rules which literally put men on top. We Gay men are hated because we threaten the status of straight men by breaking down that clearly defined man over womyn structure that has held on in this society for so long. We aren't a threat to the American family, we are just a threat to the American straight male. There is only one group who threaten the system of male dominance better than Gay men do and that's Lesbians — womyn who don't even need men.

Here then, I think, is our common ground. Fighting for justice against heterosexism and male dominance. Our community's reaction to AIDS, a reaction of love, compassion and courage, is built on sand if it is not built on justice and just relations.

As a community, we are not simply fighting to gain "private privileges" for our bedrooms. If it were that simple, nobody would care and we would have every right and privilege we have asked for.

We are fighting for our rightful and just place in society; justice, not revenge.

Jim Roche is a Unitarian Minister, licensed therapist and certified member of the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists. Comments can be sent to GAYBRIEFS, 747 Union St., Brooklyn, New York 11215.

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A BOY OF SUMMER

As Fall Approaches...

It is with deep regret that **Wisconsin Light** announces the end of Morgan Summer's "Boy of Summer" column. Morgan has been writing for **Light** from the beginning as well as for publications such as **Gay Chicago**. Now all this is over. He has been forced to disassociate himself from the Gay/Lesbian community.

Morgan will be sorely missed, but as fine a writer as he is, he will, we know, be back to make a deep and lasting contribution to his community.



Morgan Summer

Jerry Johnson

Notes From The Northwoods: Opportunities

By Keith Coley

Sometimes an inspiration can come from the oddest place or thing. About a half hour before I sat down to write this, I had no idea what I would be writing. I went to scrounge the frig for a snack and saw the canned peaches I had set in there this afternoon to eat later. As I was opening the can, a memory came back to me from last summer. It was an opportunity that I passed up and every one and then, I wonder if it was the right thing to do.

I like many different kinds of music, even some heavy metal. Def Leppard happens to be one of those bands I do like alot, so when I heard they were coming to town, I decided to get a couple of tickets and go.

When I discovered that not to many Gay people had a taste for this type of music, I decided to take my nephew. His birthday was coming up and I really couldn't decide on a good gift for him, so I settled on that. Besides, concerts aren't too fun unless you go with someone else.

After the concert was over, we were both badly in need of some refreshment to cool down. The arena had been packed and it was mid-July to boot. So, I took him to a 24-hour grocery store to get some ice cream. Once inside, I caught the fragrant whiff of my favorite fruit — peaches. I had to have some and so I headed to the produce section to get them.

When I got there, this really cute guy, about 18, was browsing through the fruit himself. Such a doll, black, curly hair, green-blue eyes and a compact little body snuggling a Union Jack T-shirt, a sure sign that he had been to the concert.

I started chatting with him about the concert and even got his name. Noticing the plastic bag with the fruity treasure I held in my hand, he smiled (lewdly, I think), "You got the peaches, I got the cream." I half smiled, hopping he meant just what I thought he did and also trying to control my ever-increasing, um, interest. Just as I was gathering the nerve to reply, my nephew returned with, "I got the ice cream." The guy seemed to back off a little bit then and, finally, we went our ways.

Three other times that evening, I ran into him in the store and, each time, he flashed the same warm, inviting smile. I know I should have taken this sign, but with young baggage next to me, it was hard to initiate a revealing conversation.

Also, I was slightly afraid that maybe I had misinterpreted what he had said. That's what my rationality told me. My gut feeling was saying, "MORON! That was one fine babe you let slip by! WAKE UP!" But, I didn't listen and longingly, I saw him drive away.

I've never seen him since, but I wonder to this day what might have happened? Maybe nothing, maybe something nasty (a la Fatal Attraction), but then again maybe something wonderful would have taken place.

Too often, I get myself wondering "What if?" and what might have been? I get scared of failing and even of succeeding. Too often I've been afraid to believe that I might actually achieve something positive in my life.

Bedeviled by these demons, I never took the crucial first step and missed out on a lot of great possibilities. Now, after several years of missed-out-on's and wanna-be's, I've decided that enough's enough. My current dream, desire, whatever you wish to call it, is to break myself away from everything I know and

am used to, everything and everybody I lean and rely on, and move to Milwaukee.

This is going to be a good way to show up all the nay-sayers who have helped to hold me back these few years — my family, for example. I know they do love me in their own way, but every dream I've ever had, they have refused to nurture, encourage or tolerate. In fact, when I told my mom about my impending move, she replied, "Why bother going there? There's jobs here. You won't get anywhere. You'll be back within a few months."

This time I didn't get depressed. I got pissed and determined that the move was something I was going to do with or without her support.

I have come to believe that if you have a dream you should follow through on it. It's such a waste of time to say, "If only I would have..." Then there is all that you can give to the world if you do what you know you were meant to do.

This, I think applies to people and relationships. Going by the attitude that this person or that won't have anything to do with you because he's too good-looking or somehow "better" is absurd. I have come to the conclusion that you should never be afraid to say what you feel about somebody whether it's "I really like you, you're special to me" or "I love you." It's healthy, it's productive and it can open up all sorts of possibilities.

It's also important to act on an opportunity when it's given. I don't believe opportunity only knocks once. It knocks a few times and goes away (sort of like Jehovah's Witnesses). Who knows? For me, this might be the last time opportunity is going to knock for me. It's for me, mom, and I'll answer it.

Mid-West Field Rep. Sought For Chicago

[Washington, D.C.]—The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) will hire a new Regional Field Representative, to be based in Chicago to help the national Gay and Lesbian political organization increase constituent mobilization in the Midwest.

The field rep will facilitate HRCF's "Speak Out" message campaign, organize HRCF's new "House Meeting" program in Chicago and around the region, work with local Gay and Lesbian groups and activists to generate constituent mail and pressure and build a grassroots infrastructure.

HRCF has extended the application deadline for this position to August 7, 1989. Those interested in applying should send a resume to HRCF, Field Division, P.O. Box 1723, Washington, D.C. 20013 or call (202) 628-4160. Women and minorities are particularly encouraged to apply.

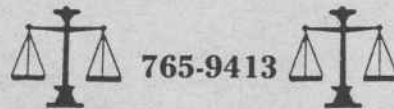
LETTER POLICY

Wisconsin Light actively solicits Letters to the Editor on any subject. However all such letters must be signed and contain the writer's address although the address is never printed and the name will be withheld upon request. All unsigned letters, notes and stuff scribbled on the sides of clipped columns will serve as cat box liner.

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Is A Hideous Piece of Cloth More Important Than Our Civil Rights?

By Thomas J. Ronly

"And these elements of [social] disintegration [the petty bourgeoisie] cannot reveal themselves otherwise than in an increase in crime, hooliganism, corruption, profiteering, and outrages of every kind. To put these down requires time and requires an iron hand." V.I. Lenin.

Everyone, at least in Madison, is, by now, very well aware of the fact that since the Gay/Lesbian rights march in early May, Gay/Lesbian bashing has been on the increase. That should come as no surprise. "The American Century" is, mercifully, coming to an end as Third World liberation fronts boot the exploiters out of their countries, as the economy begins to crumble under the weight of the enormous federal deficit which burdens it, and as the oppressed within the borders of the United States begin to throw off their yokes. In other words, "the good old days" are gone forever and those who call the shots in this country and their lackeys are not the least bit pleased about this fact.

These factors contain the seeds of the disintegration mentioned in the quote above; and while I disagree with quite a few of Lenin's views, there are times when he hits the nail right on the head. The view on how to deal with petty-bourgeois hooliganism is one of those times.

This type of hooliganism is inherently reactionary. Note the root of that word: Reaction. The word "reactionary," at least as far as I know, was originally brought into use to describe the effect that dramatic change had on certain sections of the middle strata of the socio-economic pyramid. These strata would be the ones most hurt by this change and, as a result, those so affected would make a desperate, fanatical attempt to turn back the clock.

Some of these attempts were laughably pathetic, such as those of the Luddites in 19th Century Britain who tried to smash the weaving machines to which they had lost their jobs. Some were frighteningly successful such as the Nazis. Enough said.

In view of these social trends, one can see why the middle classes behave like contemptible animals when confronted with the possibility of any kind of change,

even if that change involves something as reasonable as an oppressed and tired minority group asking for basic human rights.

Putting these facts into context of the recent rise of Gay/Lesbian bashing in Madison, one can see a definite reactionary trend. More often than not, such reaction has one or more strongholds. In Madison, the stronghold is usually the university-sponsored greek system. Campus activists have been demanding the withdrawal of university support for this reprehensible institution for years. The correct course is to continue the demand, but since the University is itself a bourgeois/petty-bourgeois institution, it is unlikely that these demands will yield any results in near future.

Nevertheless, what we must do as individuals is to protect ourselves. If you feel inclined to spend the time, take a martial arts course. That way, one can beat the fascists at their own game. The cowardly vermin should be crushed with an iron fist.

Another solution is to buy a gun and not be afraid to use it. When a member of the Wisconsin Black Student Union suggested that minorities might end up having to protect themselves in that manner, the local conservatives and their liberal lackeys had a fit. Apparently, they expected the Black men and women of the UW to play the role of "the good little darkie" and be content with what whitey was willing to give them. Dream on, boys.

Furthermore, it's all too easy for white, heterosexual males to spew empty pieties about gun control. (No, I'm not saying that I'm against all gun control.) It should be kept in mind that if one decides to implement such a solution, one should learn about the responsible use of firearms. It would rather defeat the purpose (self-defense) if we started getting trigger-happy.

Lastly, if you reject the two above mentioned solutions, think twice before walking alone in the evening. The frat rats and their fellow fascists are cowards and bullies. They pick on those whom they perceive to be more or less defenseless.

In conclusion, I leave you with this thought: Why is a hideous piece of cloth more important than our civil rights?



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The Light LIVELY ARTS

Nancy McKinley Ehlinger Named Fest City Singers Music Director

By Geno

Milwaukee's Original Fest City Singers (FCS) have announced the appointment of Nancy McKinley Ehlinger as music director. She is a graduate of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, with a BA in Music Education, a minor in Speech and Theatre and research in the special field of directing operetta. Nancy has also completed all course work for a Master's degree in Choral Conducting for the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music.

"The Fest City Singers have impressed me with their versatility and professionalism, and seeing their recent production of "Catch a Rising Star" at the Rep just knocked me out," Nancy explains. "It's a joy to work with a group that is so responsive and enthusiastic — rehearsals aren't tiring, they're reenergizing."

And boundless energy she has — Nancy has been active in Milwaukee music circles for over 20 years as choral director, teacher, singer, music arranger and piano accompanist. She has sung with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Chorus since 1976 and with the Conservatory Singers, both directed by Margaret Hawkins. She has also sung with the Bel Canto Chorus, the Bach Chamber Choir of Rochester, Minnesota and several other church and community singing groups.

Although she generally sings alto, in a pinch, Nancy can double as second soprano or first alto — "You see, I'm bisexual," she quips. Her son and daughter, now both in college, think Mom's pretty cool.

It is important to her to keep developing her professional skills. "I especially welcome opportunities to meet people, to exchange ideas." For example, Nancy has just completed a seminar in Choral Music and Choreography at Vandercook College of Music on the Illinois Institute of Technology campus. "Roger Emerson was a guest composer — his "Hey, Look at Us Now," has become the Fest City Singers' signature song and he autographed a copy for the group with "Keep Singin'!"

At other workshops and institutes Nancy has been directed and taught by Sara Caldwell, Aaron Copland and Robert Shaw, and as a singer was directed for four performances by Eugene Ormandy with the Philadelphia Orchestra. A consistent "A" student, she has



NANCY MCKINLEY EHLINGER

completed seminars in Advanced Conducting at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Madison and at Lakeland College, Sheboygan.

As teacher and music conductor, Nancy has organized and directed student choruses in elementary schools (among others, as Music Supervisor, Green Bay Public Schools; Director of Choral Music, Sturgeon Bay) and secondary schools (Green Bay, West High; Rockville Jr. High, Rockville, Maryland).

Presently traveling music instructor for the Milwaukee Public School system, her expertise as teacher has been recognized as board member of the Milwaukee Music Teachers Association and as judge since 1977 for State Solo and Ensemble competition sponsored by the Wisconsin School Music Association.

Singing and acting roles in musicals such as "My Fair Lady," "Camelot" and "The Sound of Music" have provided another impetus and context for Nancy's conducting and performance interests. She also played the leading role of Sharon in the Whitefish Bay Players' production of "Finian's Rainbow." So how does she relax? Needlework and reading, especially detective novels, are two means of kicking back in her spare time.

Nancy will debut with the Fest City Singers, directing them when they sing and perform for the Historical Third Ward's Best Block Party, August 4 at 7:00 p.m. (See accompanying story for full details.)

Appleton to Host First Miss Gay Wisconsin-U.S.A. Pageant

Jimmy King has purchased the Wisconsin franchise for the official Miss Gay U.S.A. Pageant. Represented in 33 states, Miss Gay U.S.A. is the largest of the nationally franchised Pageants.

For several years King Productions has produced the Miss Southeastern Gay Wisconsin Pageant and its supporting preliminaries in Kenosha, Racine, Appleton and Green Bay. Beginning this Pageant season, Miss Southeastern will become a preliminary for Wisconsin U.S.A. as will the Pageants in Kenosha, Racine, Appleton and Green Bay. Additional preliminaries have been planned for Madison, Wausau, LaCrosse and Milwaukee.

The first ever Miss Gay Wisconsin-U.S.A. Pageant will be held on Sunday, August 20, 1989 at the Pivot Club in Appleton. Contestants will be judged by Personal Interview (before the Pageant begins), Talent and Evening Gown. The winner will receive \$600.00 in cash and a prize package worth over \$1,400 including all expenses paid while competing in the Miss Gay U.S.A. Pageant next April in Louisville, Kentucky.

King said that it was his plan to hold the Pageant outside Milwaukee in odd years and in Milwaukee in even years.

This first year, only 15 contestants will be accepted. Since 9 of those spots will be held for preliminary winners, any Entertainer who wishes to be a contestant at Miss Gay Wisconsin-U.S.A. must write King Productions at P.O. Box 8932, Waukegan, Illinois 60079-8932 immediately to indicate that desire. The first six entertainers who contact the Pageant will receive one of six available contestant positions. All remaining



NETASHA EDWARDS

Entertainers will be placed on a waiting list. If an Entertainer who wrote, wins a preliminary, they will be moved off the waiting list and into one of the 15 slots. Next year the Pageant will be held on either 2 or 3 nights so all of Wisconsin's Entertainers who desire to enter may do so.

Fest City Singers To Perform At Third Ward Block Party on August 4

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee's Original Fest City Singers (FCS) have been invited for a second year to sing and perform for the Historic Third Ward's Best Block Party which will run from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., Friday, August 4.

The FCS will be part of continuous entertainment which includes the Amadeus Dance Troupe, Brady Street Comedy, John Schneider's Melange Group, Milwaukee Mandolin Orchestra, Aloha Nui Review, WBZN Breezin' All Stars and Kojo and Capitol Drive.

The Fest City Singers' gig is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. right after Milwaukee Magazine announces its annual "Best Of" awards at 6:30 p.m. The FCS will reprise some numbers from their recent "Catch a Rising Star" revue as well as presenting new music including a

sampling of songs from "Faerie Tales" the upcoming October production to be presented in the Stackner Cabaret of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater.

Other non-stop entertainment includes the Scotia Scottish Bagpipers, a fashion show by some of Milwaukee's leading designers, a Wild and Wacky Chair Race and, sponsored by Theatre X, periodic performance parades in which the FCS will also participate.

The site of the Best Block Party is N. Broadway St. between Chicago and Menomonee Sts. The Block Party is bigger than ever in this, its fourth annual outing, and more than 80 vendors and exhibitors will satisfy the eye and the stomach.

The event is free to the public, so come on down!

UWM Offers Twentieth Century Gay/Lesbian Literature Course

[Milwaukee]- "Twentieth Century Gay and Lesbian Literature," a new course offering for Fall semester 1989, will be available at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Sponsored by the English Department and cross-listed with Women's Studies, the three credit course (#350-248) will examine how Gay and Lesbian writers have represented homosexual experience in fiction.


Cheryl Kader and Thomas Piontek, both Ph.D. candidates in the English Department, will be co-instructors for the new course.

"This is the first time a course of this nature has been offered at UWM," said Kader. "Some of these writers have been

taught in other courses, but with little attention to the significance of the authors' sexuality or the homosexual subtexts in their work."

Among the books for the course are *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde, *The Well of Loneliness* by Radclyffe Hall, *Torch Song Trilogy* by Harvey Fierstein and *The Female Man* by Joanna Russ. Selections from *The Coming Out Stories*, *In the Life: A Black Gay Anthology* and other collections will be read as well.

Kader and Piontek hope that good enrollment and lively discussion and inquiry will insure that the course is offered again. They see the potential for an expanded program of Gay Studies in the future. Register soon!



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State Fair, Great America, Barbecue on MMFG Schedule

[Milwaukee]- Metro Milwaukee Friendship Group (MMFG) is planning three outdoor activities for August. These are in addition to its regular meeting and dinner. The first event is an outing to the Wisconsin State Fair on Saturday, August 8. Meet at the main gate at 1:00 p.m. for an afternoon of food, food and more food!

Saturday, August 19 is the date to ride, ride when MMFG treks to Great America for the day. Last year's trip was so popular that it was decided to go again this year. Carpools will be arranged for those with strong stomachs.

For the more sedate, there is a barbecue on Sunday, August 27 at one of the member's homes. Come around 3:00 p.m. with your favorite dish to pass and enjoy an afternoon of leisure and good

conversation.

The August meeting will be held in the solarium room at one of Milwaukee's premier high-rise condominiums. The 7:00 p.m. event offers a spectacular view of the city as well as good company. Members are asked to bring a snack or drink to share.

In August, the planning committee has chosen a new Italian restaurant for its monthly dinner. The August 17 chow-festival starts at 7:00 p.m.

MMFG meets the second Saturday of each month at the home of one of its 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.

Hmong Needlework Featured In St. John's Home Gallery

By Geno

[Milwaukee]- St. John's Uihlein-Peters Gallery is featuring a large collection of Hmong Needlework in its current show which continues through August 20.

St. John's Uihlein-Peters Gallery is unique in that it is located in the heart of St. John's Home of Milwaukee, 1840 N. Prospect Ave., which includes a 95-bed nursing facility, 180 independent living apartments, a rehabilitation agency and home health services.

The needlework in embroidery and applique techniques is the work of Hmong people who were forced to leave their homeland in Laos during the war in Southeast Asia and who were given asylum in the United States.

The fine stitchery, much of it sewn in refugee camps in Thailand, tells the story of the Hmong culture before their escape. In addition to its historical and cultural significance, the handwork on display is remarkable for its exquisite artistry, its fine detail. Varied and combined techniques add to its unique character.

The exhibition is open to the public Sunday, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. It offers an

excellent opportunity to explore St. John's Tower and to acquire original works with a traditional background.

Sue Fink To Perform Sept. 9 In Milwaukee

[Milwaukee]- The Women's Crisis Line is proud to announce the upcoming concert by internationally known recording artist Sue Fink. A feminist singer/songwriter with an acute sense of humor and irony, Sue Fink's vocal students have included Brian Wilson, and back up singers for Aretha Franklin, Eddie Rabbitt and Paul Anka.

The concert will take place on September 9th at 8:00 p.m. at Milwaukee's Centennial Hall, 814 Wisconsin Ave. Tickets are \$10.00 in advance and \$12.00 at the door. Tickets may be purchased in advance at Outpost Natural Foods, People's Books or Clear Horizons Co-op. For further information, call the Women's Crisis Line at (414) 937-5452.

MAPfest Moves to Schlitz Park On Sunday, September 3

[Milwaukee]- The Fourth Annual MAPfest '89 will be held this year on Sunday, September 3, 1989 from 2:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Schlitz Park, corner of 3rd and Cherry St. Please note that the day has been changed to Sunday so that everyone can party and still relax the next day, Labor Day.

The number of AIDS clients served by MAP has been increasing every month. Thus, the urgent need for funds raised by special events such as MAPfest, and the many fundraisers produced in Gay and Lesbian bars and businesses, is growing.

MAP will be responsible for the sale of beer, wine and soda, the proceeds going to client care services. Additional food and game booths are being sponsored by various businesses and organizations with a portion of the profits going to MAP services.

This year, we are moving the festival to be close to the MAP offices. Thus, being non-bar oriented, we hope to have more Gay and Lesbian businesses involved. We would like to thank all the bars for their present and past support, especially La Cage, Your Place, The Mint and Shadows.

If you are interested in sponsoring a booth or contributing time and/or money to the creating of MAPfest '89 please call Ronnie Marks (1-627-3864) or Chris

"Coming Out To Your Parents" Booklet Published

[Washington, D.C.]- "Coming Out to Your Parents" is a 16-page booklet published for Lesbians and Gay men who are considering coming out to their parents. In a highly readable and informative fashion, the booklet identifies 6 stages most parents go through once they "know" and how to deal with them.

For a free single copy send a self-addressed, 45 cent stamped business envelope to Parents FLAG, P.O. Box 15711, Philadelphia, PA 19103. (Address the envelope as you wish. No additional marks will be added.)

Doerfler (273-AIDS) for info.

Please, we need your help with MAPfest. Deadline is August 11, if you can help us in any way possible.

But... I Am A Man

by Dilip [India]

If only I could touch him stroke his cheeks, his mouth, his eyebrows tickle his ears, blow into them. If only I could play with him, play with his hair, his fingers feel the textures upon him. I want to touch, touch him feel his lips, his skin, feel his lines and curves trail my fingers over him. If only he would lie beside me to touch his back his side to feel his warmth hear him breathe to smell him. I do not desire him. I do not lust for him. I love him But... I am a man.

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RELIGIOUS OUTREACH

Envy: That Old Green-Eyed Monster Can Rear Its Head

By Fr James Arimond

Envy is a vice that we very seldom hear much about either from the pulpit or from the media.

We are so quiet about it, in fact, that most of us don't really know how to define it. We most often get it mixed up with jealousy. They are not the same! Jealousy is the fear of losing something or someone we already have. Envy, on the other hand, is the passionate desire to have what someone else has whether that be fame, popularity, power, money, happiness or whatever.

One of the reasons we don't hear too much about envy is that it is simply too close to home. (It is much easier and a lot more fun to deal with someone else's vice than it is to deal with our own.) Preachers, statesmen, business people, parents, children, all of us have envy bubbling right under the surface. (In fact, many psychologists tell us that envy is the third most powerful human emotion beneath only the will to survive and the desire to reproduce.)

We are all victims of envy and preachers, such as myself, are no exception. We often bitterly resent those who are more successful or popular than we are.

Here's another rather sobering thought. While we don't think about it very much, the very reason that Jesus was crucified was because of envy. It is no accident that Mark mentions the envy of Jesus' fellow townspeople at the very beginning of His ministry. (Mk. 6:1-6) The envy that the townspeople demonstrated would grow in intensity in the hearts of the political and religious leaders until they were forced by it to kill Him.

Envy is especially insidious because it is practically immune to attack from the outside.

For one thing, those who succumb to envy and direct it toward others, always surround themselves with pseudo-virtue. For example, I will get you so focused on some minor point that you'll take your mind off the main body of evidence.

Here's an example from history. The Bishop of Assisi said, "Francis could not possibly be a holy man because, look, he disobeyed his father." Or, as in the case of Jesus, "Jesus did not go to rabbinical school. He has no preaching credentials. Therefore, how can he be a preacher?" Or yet another example: "Tom can't be a very good doctor/lawyer/writer etc. because, look, he's Gay!"

You see, the "facts" that the envious hold up for your attention are all virtuous. It all sounds quite logical and before you know it, you're not even aware of the fact that you're buying grapes when you really wanted to buy apples.

Another reason envy is so immune to attack is that it is always silent. The envious never really come right out and attack the one they envy. They sneak around in darkness and innuendoes. They come in the back door.

Here's an example of the back-door approach. "Yes, Mary is a fine teacher and I hear she likes good food and drink." It's not too long before the listeners get the impression that Mary has a drinking problem. Or, "Bob is a talented man, but I hear he has a roving eye."

Now, of course, in these examples the envious person hasn't really said anything at all. You couldn't take them to court for libel because what was said was merely "an aside." It wasn't a fact. Unfortunately, often the listeners are not too discerning and once the seed of doubt is planted, it grows into maturity until it becomes a full-blown fact.

What can I do about envy? Well, for one thing, I'll never be able to destroy it, but I can attempt to drive it off, at least temporarily. I must recognize envy in myself and not allow it to masquerade as some form of virtue. Once I recognize and label it, I can laugh at myself, get angry or whatever.

I can vigorously and ruthlessly confront it in others. When I hear those subtle innuendoes, I can immediately ask the speaker, "Why did you say that?" or, more powerfully, "What are you trying to say?"

Envy is destructive. Just listen to the remarks we and others make about how that man or woman got a promotion or were invited to a party that we weren't invited to.

But perhaps the most disastrous effect of envy is the millions upon millions of people who are forced to hide their talents and gifts out of fear of the hatred that will be directed against them by the envious. Little children and teens learn very quickly not to be different; not to stand out. The envy of others has cruel and painful consequences.

Jealousy and envy are both destructive, but by far the worst of these has got to be envy.

Thanks for reading this.
Fr. James.

Community Religious Groups Offer More Than Just Worship

By Bob Melig

As a non-sectarian Christian denomination, the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) offers spiritual guidance and fellowship in both Milwaukee and Green Bay. While it is not a "Gay" church per se, it has a special mission to Lesbians and Gay men.

Within the mainstream churches, there is Dignity, a Catholic group with chapters in Milwaukee, Green Bay and Madison. There is the Anglican group, Integrity, and Lutherans Concerned, the latter meeting in Milwaukee's Village Church. While not Gay-oriented, the Village Church (Reconciled in Christ non-denominational) does have a Gay segment.

Most of us think of "church" as solely a place of worship, but in the Gay/Lesbian community the meaning and function of the church often goes beyond that.

The individual church group is one of the major common meeting grounds for Lesbians and Gays who go to different bars and function in different social settings. Within the church setting, interaction, communication and understanding take place to a greater degree than anywhere else due to the shared concern for a Higher Power and the individual's relationship to that transcendent reality.

Considering this, each religious group goes to great lengths to plan activities that go beyond the worship services. For example, Angel of Hope MCC in Green Bay publishes a newsletter covering both

church and community events. It is distributed locally and serves as a supplement to **Instep** and **Light**.

All these religious groups are connected to each other and joined nation-wide by regional and national bodies which sponsor meetings, conventions and various seminars held in various places throughout the country. Active members are willing to take time and undergo expense to participate.

For example, MCC's Great Lakes Conference met May 5-7 in Columbus, Ohio. In July, 16-23, the MCC's National Convention was held in Minneapolis. Some 5,000 or more people attended. On August 26th, eleven MCC congregations will be meeting in Green Bay for the West Area Conference. I might add that Green Bay MCC hosts an annual retreat at a central Wisconsin farm for both the Milwaukee and Green Bay churches. This, in addition to the annual weekend vigil for victims of AIDS as well as many other activities.

It is well worth one's time and effort to become involved with one of these groups. For further information, contact Dignity, (414)-444-7177; Lutherans Concerned (414)-963-9833; New Hope MCC (414)-442-7300; Village Church (414) 273-7617; Angel of Hope MCC (Green Bay) (414)-437-3816; Integrity/Dignity (Madison) (608) 836-8886 or write, Dignity (Green Bay) P.O. Box 2283, Green Bay, WI 54306; Integrity (Milwaukee) P.O. Box 10109, Milwaukee, WI 53210. You'll be glad you did.

misquoted in the article or her words taken out of context. Further, neither she nor anyone in the Association initiated such an inquiry or requested a "sting operation" as had been reported.

Zepecki said that one evening she had been working late and saw a man walking up and down in front of her building, stopping cars and speaking with whoever was inside. She had never feared leaving before, but now she was afraid because of him. The following day she found out that the man was Tom Held, the reporter who wrote the article.

The hour-long meeting proceeded and concluded in a spirit of professionalism and furtherance of understanding.

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SENTINEL Continued from Page 1

seemed to agree.

Bob Schmit, owner of the M&M Club, pointed out that anti-Gay/Lesbian violence and acts of vandalism against his building could be increased as a result of the article. Jerry Johnson, Publisher of **Light**, informed the Board that such violence was the most rapidly rising crime in the country and that the way the article was written could only exacerbate the situation.

The M&M Club, the only Gay bar mentioned in the article, was referred to as "a nearby tavern frequented by homosexuals." This phraseology was strongly objected to by a number of those present.

Joan Zepecki, Executive Director of the Historic Third Ward Association, maintained strongly that she had been

Episcopal Diocese of Newark Welcomes Gay/Lesbian Community

[Newark, NJ]- The Episcopal Diocese of Newark has established an innovative new ministry, called "The Oasis", designed to make Lesbians and Gay men feel more welcome in the church.

"Just about every Episcopal church in the country has a sign out front that says, 'The Episcopal Church Welcomes You', points out the Rev. Robert Williams, director of the Oasis, "but in many places it would be more honest if they'd add a disclaimer: 'Gays and Lesbians need not apply.' The Oasis is an attempt to make the welcome of the Episcopal church a reality for Gay men and

Lesbians." "This is certainly not a ministry to convert homosexuals to heterosexuality; it is rather a group of both Gay and non-Gay Christians committed to doing ministry together," said Williams.

Williams is an openly Gay man who was ordained an Episcopal deacon on June 3, 1989 by Bishop John S. Spong of the Newark diocese.

The Oasis office is in All Saints Episcopal Church in Hoboken, just across the river from Greenwich Village with its large Gay population which is why the location was chosen.



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POLITICALLY SPEAKING

“Pro-Family” Movement Hands Justice A Great Victory

By Bill Meunier

Another open letter to the so called “Pro family” movement:

When I last wrote I expressed my sincere appreciation for all you've done for our Gay/Lesbian rights movement. Now I find that I must do so again. This time in giving us a major victory you've really outdone yourself.

First let me thank you for explaining to us what a family is. You see we all thought that we're in families with our parents, brothers and sisters. You've made us see the light. The only real families that adults can participate in are those with a Mommy, Daddy and little ones. Apparently two people of the same sex that love each deeply don't qualify.

You see we have always wanted to be in a family. Now that you've given us the proper definition it is obvious that we are going to have to try to adopt children or at least get in the Foster Child Care Program. Some of our Lesbians may opt for artificial insemination. The only problem our couples will have is deciding who should be the Mommy and who should be the Daddy. Don't worry though I am sure that most of us can work that out. Maybe we can switch roles every now and then. Think of how you helped women's clothing stores. Thousands of Gay men will have to get whole new wardrobes.

You didn't have to make the Milwaukee County Board vote on recanting its Gay/Lesbian Pride Week proclamation into a referendum on Gay and Lesbian rights, you didn't have to give Milwaukee's Lesbians and Gays their biggest victory since the Gay/Lesbian civil rights law passed the State Legislature in 1982, after all even if the County Board voted to recant its proclamation it would have been a symbolic victory for you at best and you risked a crushing humiliating defeat. You didn't have to do these things, but your obvious concern over the advancement of the Lesbian and Gay cause won out and you handed us a wonderful present.

Your strategy is brilliant. While you're telling everyone that you really don't want Gays and Lesbians to have rights, you're really trying to promote our cause. There is no other possible explanation for some of your tactics. Take the phone calls you and your supporters made to the County Supervisors. Certainly you knew that by blaming us for everything from the Civil War to AIDS you'd arouse sympathy for our community and prove the need for our government to support us. I am also sure that you must have known that since local government issues thousands of commendations and proclamations every year it would very difficult to get the County Board to recant one.

Nevertheless you worked hard at getting the County Supervisors to do just

that. You had the usual suspects make the usual hateful phone calls. You put all kinds of unwelcome attention on the County Board, you did everything you could to prove that your concerns weren't the proclamation, but spreading your hatred of Gays and Lesbians. Just to make sure that the County Board knew where you were coming from you refused to applaud former Police Chief Robert Ziarnik when the Supervisors voted to give him a citation for the fine job he did as Milwaukee Chief of Police.

Obviously you were angry with Ziarnik because he told us that the Police Department was our Department too and accepted an award from the Lesbian and Gay community. Yes you worked hard to give us this victory, and your efforts were very much appreciated.

Not being satisfied with losing, you went even further. I especially liked the guy who told the television reporters that the County Board voted for the Gay and Lesbian community because they were afraid. A thousand thank yous for telling every elected official in the State that the Gay and Lesbian community has political power, more political power than you do.

To be sure there were those who you did manage to intimidate, the usual roundup for weak kneed jelly fish such as Koconis, Engel and Zielinski.

Speaking of Zielinski How did you get T. Anthony Zielinski to take your side?

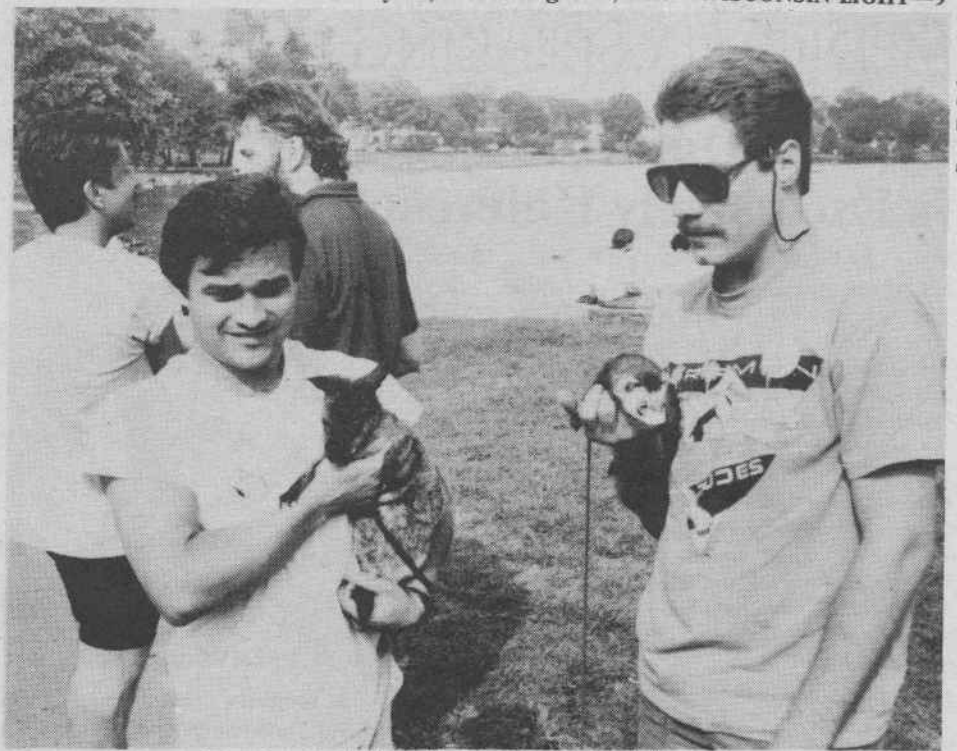
After all his campaign manager was a well known Gay activist.

How Zielinski could live with Rouse for months and not understand our cause is beyond me. Rouse is generally credited with putting the spineless ingrate from Bay View in office, and channeled Gay and Lesbian money and volunteers into Zielinski's campaign. You must have really scared old T. Anthony. Did you threaten to tell the voters in his district who was really responsible for his election? Now that Zielinski proved what a hypocrite he is won't have to do that WE will make sure that the good people of Bay View know all about it.

You've really done enough. There was no need to tell the media you would work on defeating those Supervisors who voted against you. I am overwhelmed by your generosity in giving us an opportunity for another big win. I am sure you'll get as far with this effort as you did with the attempt to recall Mayor Norquist and County Executive Schulz.

I could go on and on praising you for your help. Unfortunately time and space doesn't permit me to do so. All that's really left to say is that if you keep up this good work I'll organize a fundraiser for you in the Lesbian/Gay community. You've been so helpful to us, its only fair that we show our support for you. Keep Up The Fight.

—Bill



Dan F. Schramm

Some one thousand people attended Madison's MAGIC Picnic including some who brought their pets, including an 18-week-old kangaroo.

One Thousand Attend Madison's 16th Annual MAGIC Picnic

By Dan F. Schramm

Madison, WI- Saturday, July 22nd brought hundreds of visitors to Madison for the 16th Annual Magic Picnic at Brittingham Park on Lake Monona, a short distance from the State Capitol Building. The massive picnic, attended by over 2,000 Gays, Lesbians and their friends the past two years, suffered from a mid-afternoon rain storm and a lack of promotion which cut attendance this year to about 1,000. Around noon, a hour long rain storm passed through, cutting the crowd to several hundred, but the sun quickly dried things off and the crowd swelled to about a thousand people who certainly enjoyed this year's picnic.

The picnic which cost \$7.00 per person, up from \$5.00 in previous years, was a major fund raiser for a number of Madison Gay/Lesbian supportive and AIDS organizations.

The morning of the picnic a bicycle race was held, and the late afternoon brought the famous Drag Race and the Egg Toss contests. A live DJ provided music throughout the day, and the pavilion was jumping all day long. The catered cook-out style buffet was a hit, as well as the free soda and beer. Rodney, owner of Rod's/New Bar got dried off from the rain just in time to take his place in the dunk

tank where he got dunked quite a number of times, helping raise much-needed funds for Madison's organizations.

A number of organizations had tables set up to hand out literature and several conducted surveys, covering discrimination and violence and safe sex practices. A new organization, called QUAC, or Queers Action Committee, a Madison hate crimes project distributed literature, buttons and T-shirts with their colorful “Duck” logo.

Other events also provided visitors with more than enough to do over the weekend, including the MAGIC Volleyball Tournament, concerts, and special events at all the bars which saw packed crowds from Thursday to Saturday night. Rod's/New Bar held their popular Sunday morning brunch, then a \$3.00 beer bash before feeding the hungry crowds again with a patio cookout.

PLWA Coalition Of Wisconsin Established

[Milwaukee]- A group of people living with AIDS met on July 17 at the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) offices and established the People Living With AIDS (PLWA) Coalition of Wisconsin. The Coalition will be open at all HIV infected people in Wisconsin and its primary mission is advocacy to guarantee the rights of HIV infected people with regard to employment, health care and social services and to promote other issues of importance to people affected by AIDS and HIV infection.

The Coalition elected Bob Freund of Milwaukee as its chairman.

The next meeting of PLWA Coalition will be held Monday, August 14, 1989, 6:00 p.m. at the MAP office, 315 West Court St., Milwaukee. For further information, contact Bob Freund at the MAP office, (414) 273-2437 or at (414) 671-5577. Transportation to Coalition meetings is available.

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Syphilis Outbreak In State Is Exclusively Heterosexual

By Roger Gremminger, MD

For this column, I would like to tie together two topics which seem to be quite pertinent in the past month. They are syphilis and homophobia. I suppose some will ask how I can tie them together? Well, just follow along.

Syphilis, as perhaps many of you have read in the newspapers (*Journal* and *Sentinel*) has become a major problem in Milwaukee over the past few months. We are seeing more cases in just a few months than what we used to see in a whole year. I have followed syphilis in the state for almost 12 years. For all that time we had about 70 to 100 cases of the disease per year. In the late '70's about 70% of them were among homosexually active men. In fact, the Brady East STD Clinic was started as a testing program in 1974 to address this problem.

However, the problem today is very different. Today, the present outbreak is exclusively heterosexual to date. The problem is sad and tragic for heterosexuals and yet it could be a blessing in disguise. For now, heterosexuals can not point fingers at homosexuals and deny their problem. They must address their sexual indiscretions in the same way that Gay men addressed theirs and change their behaviors. If they can do this, in time, perhaps, they will have the fortune of not becoming infected with the AIDS virus.

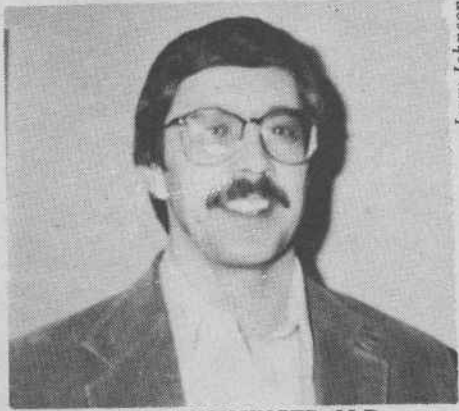
However, homosexually active men must remain very vigilant of their sexual behaviors because they cannot afford to become infected with syphilis. When a person is infected with the AIDS virus and then becomes infected with syphilis, syphilis can progress at a faster rate. With HIV infection, syphilis can infect the brain and nervous system at an earlier stage and cause more rapid deterioration for that person.

Many present cases of syphilis in heterosexuals were contracted through oral sex. The women had syphilis sores in their mouths which are highly infectious and infected a great many men before we even started to become aware that it was happening. Oral sex is probably not a very effective way of transmitting the AIDS virus, but it is highly effective in transmitting syphilis.

Returning to the connection between HIV and syphilis, syphilis does not become resistant to penicillin treatment when HIV infection is present. But because syphilis infects the brain more easily and our standard penicillin treatment for syphilis does not penetrate the nervous system well enough when the two infections occur together, much more aggressive treatment is needed.

Presently, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that everyone with syphilis be tested for HIV. We cannot do this yet at the Health Department because we do not yet have the staff, but we are working on it and everyone with HIV infection be tested for syphilis.

If a patient is HIV positive and has a new infection with syphilis, it is further recommended that the person have spinal fluid withdrawn from their backs by insertion of a lumbar puncture needle. If



ROGER GREMMINGER, M.D.

this fluid indicates that syphilis has invaded the nervous system, then ten days of penicillin has to be given, either through their veins or into the muscle. This is quite aggressive, but needs to be done.

I would advise all homosexually active men to be very cautious so as not to become infected with syphilis. Further, I would advise all individuals who are HIV positive to make sure that they have had a test for syphilis and that their doctor follow up with an appropriate line of action.

Now, this brings us into homophobia. Homophobia and heterosexual denial have gone hand in hand in complicating society's handling of AIDS as we are all painfully aware. But this must end. Homosexually active men must break the evil spell that homophobia has caused in their own self-image.

Gay men are good and now have good sexual lives. Homosexuality is not in conflict with family values. We all have families and many have grown closer because of us. Many Gay and Lesbian individuals are excellent parents. The conflict that is seen between homosexuality and family values is experienced by many in society, but it is because those causing the conflict either do not know reality or because they cannot deal with their own conflicting sexual attractions.

Homophobia is, in many cases, rooted in the process of projection. What an individual does not accept or like about themselves is projected onto someone else who then becomes an object of internal conflict. The person who is truly comfortable with their own sexuality, is not threatened by someone else's sexuality even if it is different from theirs.

Because the hate generated by homophobia is so volatile and dangerous, extreme caution must be exercised in dealing with vicious homophobes. Indeed, many murders have resulted here in Milwaukee because of homophobia, not to mention lesser degrees of violence.

But now with homophobia comes heterosexual denial and the possibility of death for them. Somehow, now the stakes are too high and we can afford neither. I don't have answers for the resolution of these conflicts, but I know that it spells tragedy for society. Syphilis now seems to be the herald of this tragedy, but perhaps we can wake up before it is too late.

With painful awareness, but love,

—Roger

AIDS Is Increasing Rapidly In Hispanic Population

[Washington, D.C.]— Since 1981 when AIDS was identified, Hispanics have represented a disproportionate number of AIDS cases in the U.S. Today the cumulative incidence of AIDS is 2.7 times higher among Hispanics than among non-Hispanic whites. More than 12,000 Hispanics have been diagnosed with AIDS and the numbers are climbing rapidly.

In a major new effort to combat AIDS in Hispanic communities, The National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organizations (COSSMHO) announced the AIDS Project for Hispanic Leadership, which is designed to provide Hispanic leaders with tools to expand advocacy on behalf of communities to prevent and treat HIV infection and AIDS. By supporting advocacy on the part of Hispanic leaders, COSSMHO hopes to ensure that community-based efforts to fight the AIDS crisis will receive

appropriate funding and support.

The Project has as its centerpiece the AIDS Hotline for Hispanic Leadership. The Hotline provides resources and information to Hispanic leaders developing responses to HIV infection and AIDS. The Hotline staff is capable of identifying programs, speakers, funding sources, data and other information.

The Hotline is open between the hours of 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. EST. Call 1-800-AIDS- 123.

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.

More Than 100 New Drugs Being Developed For AIDS

By Daniel G. Trzebiatowski

The following is current information on some AIDS drugs. The drugs listed are only a small fraction of the more than 100 that may be undergoing clinical trials in the U.S. All information is published by ACT-UP in "A Glossary of AIDS Drug Trials, Testing and Treatment Issues."

Alpha interferon is an endogenous human protein which can act as both an antiretroviral and an immunomodulator. Its antiviral activity may involve the assembly and release of the HIV virus from infected cells. Clinical trials in the U.S. report the KS is stabilized.

Ampligen is a short-chained molecular described as mismatched RNA. Because ampligen is so expensive, it's estimated that the drug will be 3 times more expensive than AZT. Natural RNA is the genetic material of the HIV. Ampligen, taken intravenously, is believed to act as an antiretroviral substance and immunomodulator. Animal studies show that it readily crosses the blood/brain barrier, which may make the drug effective against HIV infections of the brain. Ampligen may relieve fatigue and halt or slow deterioration of the immune system without side effects. Test tube results show that it can reduce growth of tumor specimens including KS.

Ansamycin is an antiretroviral and antibacterial drug that crosses the blood/brain barrier. It is a therapy for MAI infections and has been used in more than 2500 PWA's and is reported to produce clinical improvement of symptoms in some patients. As a single agent, the drug appears not to have enough antiretroviral activity, but may be useful for combination therapy.

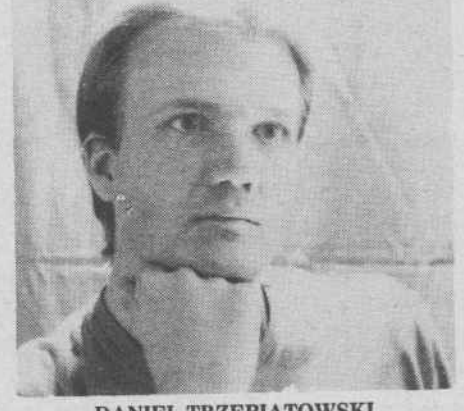
AS-101 is a synthetic organotellurium compound. The drug is an immunomodulator. A phase I toxicity trial is in progress. The basic rationale for the study is that AS-101 will increase T4 cell counts. TNF (tumor necrosis factor), IL-2 production and responsiveness, and natural killer cell (NK cell) activity.

AZT is the only FDA approved antiviral for people with HIV. AZT is not a cure for AIDS and it does not prevent PWA's or PWARC's from developing new infections. However, for some individuals who can tolerate its toxicity, AZT reduces symptoms of HIV infection. AZT crosses the blood/brain barrier and reaches the brain where HIV can cause dementia. AZT is very toxic. Reactions may include nausea, muscle fatigue, difficulty in sleeping and confusion. Recently, AZT has been linked to muscle atrophy and severe muscle pain. The main danger is that the drug causes anemia and neutropenia by suppressing bone marrow.

Bactrim is a synthetic antibacterial combination product. By intravenous infusion, it is a standard treatment for PCP (pneumocystis pneumonia). Bactrim is a sulfa-based drug and causes a high percentage of allergic reactions (50-60%). Oral Bactrim is used as a prophylaxis against PCP.

Ganciclovir is used to prevent the opportunistic viral infection due to Cytomegalovirus (CMV). This drug, given intravenously, has been shown to be helpful in certain life or sight-threatening conditions. It arrests blindness due to CMV retinitis and arrests colitis. Recurrence of the CMV infection occurs if the drug is not taken for life.

Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIG) is a chemically modified immune serum globulin which is a material extracted from plasma or placental blood. It can be prescribed as a replacement of acute and chronic idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura. IVIG is not approved for HIV



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infected populations.

Dextran Sulfate is a polysaccharide with molecular weight of 7,000-8,000 and a sulfate count of 17- 20%. The drug has been used for years in Japan as an anticoagulant and anticholesterol agent. Americans have been going to Japan to bring dextran sulfate back to the U.S. In the test tube, it blocks HIV binding to T-cells and prevents giant syncytial cells from forming.

Erythropoietin (EPO) is a natural substance produced in the kidneys which can be described molecularly as a hormonal glycoprotein. The substance stimulates the bone marrow to make red and white blood cells. EPO is being tested to cure or prevent AZT-caused anemia.

Foscarnet is a simple molecule given intravenously and is not toxic to the bone marrow like DHPG.

Pentamidine is a very simple organic salt, easy to manufacture. It is classified as an orphan drug for the treatment and prevention of PCP.

Trimetrexate with Leucovorin Rescue/TX/LEU is a combination agent used to treat patients with PCP. Leucovorin is used to counteract the toxicity of TX and is taken as another medication. The drug inhibits the growth of the pneumocystic organism. In lab tests, TX is over 1,500 times more potent than Bactrim. TX/LEU (IV or orally) appears better tolerated by patients with PCP than the approved therapies.

Peptide-T is a highly water-soluble eight peptide amino acid which has antiretroviral activity. This product may work by preventing entry of HIV into T-cells by blocking its CD-4 receptor site.

Recombinant soluble T4 (rsT4), a protein molecule, is a soluble form of the insoluble CD4 protein found on the surface of all T4 cells. CD4 protein has been found to be the receptor site for HIV. In lab research, CD4 was found to intercept the virus before it connects to the cellular receptor, thus preventing it from infecting cells.

Lab results suggest that rsT4 may be used as an antiviral agent by the following mechanisms: 1) Preventing the spread of HIV to healthy cells; 2) Preventing infected cells from clumping together with healthy cells; 3) soaking up viral proteins that are constantly being produced.

Ribavirin is an antiviral drug approved in the U.S. for use in children with severe lower respiratory infections due to RSV. Lab tests confirm that Ribavirin is an antiretroviral agent, but from the clinical trial data, it has only weak activity in vivo. Ribavirin should not be used with AZT.

Currently, according to ACT-UP, the FDA has commercially approved the drug Ganciclovir for treatment of an eye infection that can lead to blindness in AIDS patients. The FDA is also allowing expanded distribution of an experimental protein, r-erythropoietin, to treat severe anemia due to AZT.

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With AIDS On Increase Warsaw City Authorities Expected to Recognize First Gay Group in Poland

By Kurt Krickler

Editor's Note: The following is the third of a four-part series on Gay life in Eastern Europe. It is written especially for Wisconsin Light.

Poland is, besides Hungary, the typical example for an Eastern European country where the Gay movement has emerged, this above all, due to the AIDS crisis.

The main impulse for these encouraging developments came from a provocative article in the powerful and widely-read weekly magazine, *Polityka* of November 23, 1985. This page-long article, entitled "Jestesmy inni" (We are Different), was written by the activist, Krzysztof Darski. His critical views culminated in the demand for a Gay organization. He explained that a high percentage of Polish homosexuals were married and had established a family only as a cover-up. This situation greatly increases the danger that AIDS will spread quickly among heterosexuals. Here is an excerpt from the article:

"Ridiculed and pushed to the edge of society, discriminated against without exception by all institutions in our society, hunted down by homophobic people, beaten and insulted, alone and forgotten by State, Church and the sciences, and suddenly homosexuals are supposed to behave like good, responsible Polish citizens (with regard to AIDS).

"For the average homosexual, the general population is a bunch of cretins who do not understand his feelings and love, who find no satisfaction in their own sex lives and therefore, forbid others this satisfaction. These people, this collection of malicious, narrow-minded citizens, suddenly want to be able to influence the behavior of homosexuals. Do these people have the right to appeal to homosexuals for help in fighting AIDS?"

Darski's article initiated a chain reaction in the mass media and evoked an avalanche of reactions. The discussion in the Polish media lasted almost a year. No less than government spokesman, Jerzy Urban answered Darski in one of the following issues of *Polityka*. Under his

pseudonym, "Jan Rem", Urban denied every accusation of discrimination against homosexuals in Poland. Social rejection certainly exists, wrote Urban, but is caused by religious mania. The State cannot and does not want to provide homosexuals with better living conditions than the rest of the population. That would only lead to increased homophobia. A "Ministry for Homosexuals" in Poland would be superfluous.

Further articles followed both for and against. Floods of letters-to-the-editor were published. Most importantly, many homosexuals themselves expressed their opinions. In the beginning of 1987, another newspaper caused a great sensation. The magazine of the Scout movement, *Na Prezelaj*, published a very important series of articles on youth sexuality in which the author, Mikolaj Szczygiel, also dealt extensively with the issue of homosexuality. The magazine received hundreds of letters from young Gays and Lesbians who deplored the situation they had to live in, but who expressed their reluctance to repress and deny their sexuality.

Homosexuality has found much less resonance in Polish radio and TV. This changed, however, in 1987 and 1988 when activists and representatives of the emerging Gay groups were interviewed both on radio and TV.

In addition, AIDS has become a frequent topic for the media. Articles about it have become more and more numerous. As already mentioned, Poland has undertaken exemplary efforts in producing AIDS information material. Such efforts, however, lack in the field of creating opportunities for anonymous counseling centers and alternative testing sites. It is, therefore, one of the priorities of Gay groups to work for the setting up of such centers where homosexuals can undergo counseling and HIV antibody testing in an atmosphere of trust and dignity. This is impossible today.

Poland's police, the Milicja, have also not been able to gain the trust of Gay men. In November, 1985, the police of several cities carried out operation

"Hiacint" (Hyacinth). Homosexuals whose names the police obviously took from existing "pink files" were summoned and interrogated. In some cases, militia men knocked on doors at 5:00 a.m., took people away and kept them the whole day. They were asked for the names of their sex partners. Before being released, they were advised to undergo an HIV antibody test. Fear was again spread among Gays when, in 1987, on the occasion of a conference of representatives of national AIDS committees of the COMECON countries in Moscow, the Soviet delegation requested that all infected persons should be registered and all AIDS patients should be isolated from the general public.

In the State AIDS Committee of Poland, there are two wings. While the progressive wing pleads for methods which also are accepted by the Gay movement (above all, total anonymity), the conservative wing speaks up for forced measures (compulsory testing for risk groups, up-dating of pink files by police raids).

When, in March, 1988, the Warsaw Gay group applied for recognition as an official association to the competent authorities of the City of Warsaw, they were supported by 14 very important persons who delivered a petition to the Ministry of Public Health and to the Ministry of the Interior demanding Gay groups be officially recognized. This request was initiated by Prof. Mikolaj Kozakiewicz, a member of the Sejm, the Parliament, and head of the Association for Family Promotion which has until now, been the legal framework for the meetings of the Warsaw Gay group.

The decision of the Warsaw city authorities was expected to be made known by the end of May, 1988, but has still not been delivered, although on June 22, 1988, Kozakiewicz declared in an interview that he had been informed by Deputy Minister of Health, Jerzy Bonczak, that the founding of Gay and Lesbian groups would be allowed.

TO BE CONTINUED

Softball World Series In Atlanta August 21-25

[Pittsburgh, PA]- With the hot days of Summer again drawing to a close, the North American Gay Amateur Athletics Association (NAGAAA) is once again preparing for a Softball World SERIES.

Atlanta, dubbed HOTlanta and this year's host city, has prepared a festive week for representatives, members and fans of the 26 NAGAAA affiliate cities and expect SERIES '89 to be "one of the best!"

SERIES '89, opens Saturday, August 19, with the NAGAAA Summer Meetings. Delegates from the 26 affiliate cities and the board of directors will discuss current issues facing NAGAAA, including rules for SERIES '89 and the workings of the first official World SERIES Recreational Division. After the close of the meetings at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 20, an east vs. west Delegates' softball game has been planned at Piedmont Park.

On Monday, August 21, a formal reception party will be held at the Carter Presidential Center and Library between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. for the delegates. Tuesday, August 22, brings the opening of ball play at the Southside Recreational Center. Opening ceremonies will begin at 5:00 p.m., followed by the first Women's Division game, Atlanta vs. Houston, at 6:00 p.m.

The first Open Division game, Atlanta vs. Boston, and the first Recreational Division game will begin play at 7:30 p.m. On August 23-25, the Southside Recreational Center again comes alive as ball play continues from 9:00 am to 8:30 p.m. The finals will be held on Saturday, August 26, at the Southside Recreational Center.

The host hotels and sponsors of SERIES '89 are the Lanier Plaza and Colony Square Hotel. Other sponsors include Miller Lite, Budweiser, Delta Airlines, Quaker Oats for Gatorade, Coca Cola and a host of many other organizations.

For further information, write: NAGAAA, 606 N. Negley Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 or phone (412) 362-1247.



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