



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

# The Wisconsin Light

## Second National Coming Out Day Oct. 11

[Santa Fe, New Mexico]- The second annual National Coming Out Day (NCOD), October 11, is being co-sponsored by a broad base of highly respected community leaders and organizations. The goal of NCOD is to increase the visibility of the more than 20 million Gay people in the U.S.

October 11 has been chosen because it commemorates the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. NCOD organizers invite individuals and organizations to become co-sponsors by making financial contributions to support the central office and by planning local activities in their communities.

As coming out is a process and not a singular event, people are being asked to "take the next step" in their coming out process. "Our power is awesome and it's time we use it," said Jean O'Leary, Executive Director of National Gay Rights Advocates.

Among NCOD co-sponsors are Rev. Troy Perry, founder of the Metropolitan Community Churches; Jeff Levy and Urvashi Vaid of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; Vic Basile and Tim McFeeley of the Human Rights Campaign Fund; Tom Stoddard of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund; writer Harvey Fierstein and comedian Robin Tyler and veteran activists Morris Kight, Virginia Apuzzo, Vivian Shapiro, Susan McGreivy and Cleve Jones.

For more information or to contribute to NCOD, write NCOD, P.O. Box 15524, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87506 or call (505) 982-2558.

## Abortion Hearing September 27 In Milwaukee

[Madison]- A packed public hearing in the Assembly Chambers in Madison has set the tone for the abortion debate in Wisconsin, as pro-choice advocates urge supporters to attend the hearing in Milwaukee on September 27.

About 1,500 people registered at the Capitol on both sides of the issue.

Assembly Bill 500 would repeal a state law prohibiting abortions except in medical emergencies. The law that imposes criminal penalties for women and doctors involved in abortion procedures hasn't been enforced since the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

"What we are in the process of resolving today is: Who will be empowered to answer these questions, the government or the individual?," said State Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison), the author of AB 500.

"We are using the power of the state, Big Brother government, to make a reproductive choice for an individual," Clarenbach said in his testimony in Madison.

(For the full text of Clarenbach's remarks, see elsewhere in this issue.)

"As a part of that government, I do not feel qualified to make that decision for the individual. I do not presume my personal views, or my own ethical or religious standards, on another," said Clarenbach.

Anti-choice advocates want to keep the law on the books, hoping the Supreme Court will change its mind on *Roe v. Wade*. Pro-choice supporters want it eliminated in case the court reverses itself.

The hearing in Milwaukee will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the downtown Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) building, 700 W. State St. in Room T-207 on Wednesday, September 27. Any person may speak or may merely register their position on AB 500 at the hearing before the Assembly Committee on Children and Human Services.

## Milwaukee AIDS Project Recipient of \$155,000 Planning Grant



Dozens of people from Wisconsin attended the March and Rally in Dubuque Iowa on September 16, including several carloads from Madison and Milwaukee.

## Milwaukee Public Relations Firm Resigns as Mole Global Walk's Rep

[Milwaukee]-As a result of developing controversy regarding reports of "less than totally appropriate" handling of funds raised by Bill Mole's Global One-Race Against Time USA, the Milwaukee-based public relations and marketing firm of Robison, Havlicek & Associates has resigned their role as worldwide representatives of the organization.

Bill Mole is the Canadian walking around the world to raise money for AIDS research. He visited Milwaukee this Summer as part of his tour.

The controversy came to light following a letter from ACT-UP Kansas City appearing in *Gay Chicago* magazine and after an intensive investigation by feature reporter Robert Peterson of the Los Angeles based *Advocate*. The story resulting from Peterson's investigation will appear in an upcoming issue.

Investigations revealed discrepancies and inconsistencies regarding the accounting of funds and what portion was remaining in each city to benefit local AIDS organizations.

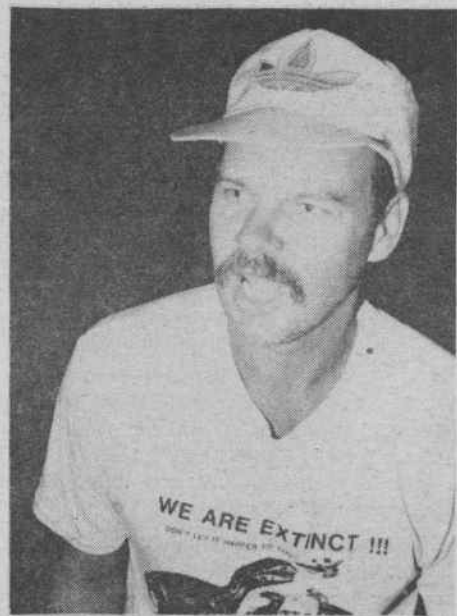
In a prepared statement, Bob Robison of Robison, Havlicek & Associates said, "Since our involvement with Mole's organization, the only money that has passed through our hands is half of the money Mole raised while in Milwaukee which we promptly turned over to the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP)." Robison went on to say that "We have received sufficient doubts expressed by people in other cities Mole has visited. This has brought about our decision to disassociate this company from his operations."

Robison continued, saying, "What our decision means for Milwaukee is that the 10K walk we were producing here on behalf of Bill Mole will continue as scheduled, but exclusively as a MAP benefit."

Robison emphasized that "One hundred percent of the proceeds from the Milwaukee 10K walk will go to MAP and remain in Milwaukee to help fund their many worthwhile programs. Our loyalty is with the people of Milwaukee and the many local AIDS organizations around the country, including MAP which is putting hard-earned funds to good use. We are presently advising other cities holding walks on October 1st to continue as planned and give the money raised to benefit local organizations.

When asked about specifics regarding

Mole's activities, Robison said, "We don't have any. We knew of his intentions to support AIDS research and what he wanted from us as public relations and marketing consultants. It was the lack of information and numerous phone calls from around the country, including several conversations with Bob Peterson that prompted our decision to resign our representation before things got out of hand. We look forward to a large turnout for the MAP walk and feel good in knowing for certain that all the money raised here will be put to good use in our community."



BILL MOLE

The MAP 10K Walk is Sunday, October 1st starting from McKinley Park on Milwaukee's lakefront. Registration is at 9:00 a.m. with the walk beginning promptly at 10:00 a.m. The route will follow the bike path along the lake and wind through beautiful Lake Park back to the McKinley Park starting point where a rally will be held.

To receive a "Walk For Time" brochure and sponsor pledge forms, you may call the MAP offices at (414) 273-2437 or look for information at several area locations. The entry fee is only \$1 and each participant will receive a commemorative MAP cap.

You may also call the MAP office to sponsor one of the walkers in the event. You will be asked to pledge a certain amount for each kilometer walked. 10K is the equivalent of 6.6 miles.

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) is the recipient of a Federal grant/award of \$155,706.

The one-year grant is part of nearly \$3.5 million that has been awarded by the Health Resources and Services Administration to 22 organizations to assist in planning systems of HIV care for states and communities that have yet to experience large numbers of AIDS cases.

Milwaukee is one of only three cities in the Midwest to receive such a grant. The others being Cincinnati and Columbus, Ohio.

Doug Nelson, Executive Director of MAP, spoke with pride and enthusiasm of the grant. "It's the biggest Federal grant we've ever received," he said, adding that "This is the first Federal money ever distributed for services to people with AIDS."

He also noted proudly that receiving the grant "elevates MAP to a position of stature" that will allow the Milwaukee AIDS service organization to "go beyond what traditional AIDS organizations are involved in."

As intended, the money will be used to develop a plan that will cover the next five years. It will be developed by a broad coalition of leaders drawn from the ranks of business, labor, politics, religion and other areas.

A plan of action, Nelson said, is "absolutely essential." He noted sadly that the numbers of AIDS cases in Milwaukee is doubling every year. There is no end in sight. Therefore, everything must be "in place" to meet the needs of these increasing numbers of people. Such a plan as the Federal grant will allow MAP to do this.

Nelson also said that the timing of the award was "perfect."

Since Milwaukee does not have the number of AIDS cases that exist in other places such as New York or San Francisco, having the money now, he said, will "enable Milwaukee to do planning that other cities were unable to do before the epidemic hit them."

Milwaukee, Nelson said, is extremely fortunate to have this opportunity and he indicated thanks to MAP's sponsors, health departments on city, county and state levels as well as the Milwaukee Foundation.

## Volunteers Sought For Loftus 1990 Election Bid

[Madison]- Wisconsin State Assembly Speaker Tom Loftus is busily laying the groundwork for his 1990 bid to unseat Governor Tommy Thompson.

In a September letter sent to potential supporters across the state, Loftus announced that Michele Carrier and Bill Christofferson have been taken on as campaign consultants.

Carrier/Christofferson's firm have had as clients Herb Kohl, Mayors John Norquist of Milwaukee and Paul Soglin of Madison.

Also brought on board is The Campaign Group of Philadelphia described as "a top flight media firm" and pollsters, Mellman and Lazarus of Washington, D.C.

Mellman and Lazarus have worked for Norquist, Rep. Jim Moody and Milwaukee County Executive Dave Schulz.

The Loftus Campaign which has targeted Milwaukee and Dane Counties as among the "20 most crucial counties" in the state, are asking for volunteers who can give either/or time or money.

For those interested in offering help to the Loftus Campaign, contact them at P.O. Box 1582, Madison, WI 53701- 1582

Jim English

Jerry Johnson

## OUR HISTORY



### A TIME TO DIE XXIII Nazi Holocaust Series Ends With Story of Kurt and Carl

By Terry Boughner, Ph.d.

**Author's Note:** The following begins the four part story of Kurt and Karl which will end this series begun over a year ago. In dealing with it in some detail, I hope to offer insights that I have not had space to deal with before as well as answer a few questions that I have been asked by some of those who read this column. Please be aware that even with a series of this length (23 installments including this one), there is still a great deal that I have omitted due to space constraints.

Kurt was the last of the men and women of the Pink Triangle who I interviewed. I met him in the Spring of 1981 in Paris. At the time, he was 54 although, like most of the other survivors, who I had talked to over the previous 9 Summers, he looked older.

Although I did not know it then, it



would be my last time in Europe. I have not been back since. That year, that last time in Europe, I was not there alone, but traveling as sort of an informal guide with a group of about 15 of my college students. I didn't mind being with them. It made the journey less expensive and they were always quite happy when I left them to their own devices and went off on my own.

Thus, when I phoned Kurt to introduce myself, I was able to tell him that I could give him as much time as was needed to tell his story. We agreed to meet at 3:00 that afternoon at a left bank cafe on the Rue St. Germaine that bore the improbable name of "The Three Flies." As I knew, it was Gay, catering to Algerians and those from the former French protectorate of Lebanon.

Kurt arrived on time, recognizing me by the school seal on my notebook and after a quick handshake we sat together at one of the little white tables that dotted the sidewalk in front of the cafe.

I remember well that afternoon, sitting in the sun of a Paris Spring, studying him, trying to imagine as I had done with all the rest, what he had looked like 35 or more years before? Slender, yes, he would have been that with a full rich head of dark blond hair. Now, only some errant strands remained to dance in the wind, the sunlight making of them a kind of halo about his head. His gray-green eyes, would have perhaps carried about them a charming, even sweet look of pensive vulnerability, but now were only weary as if they would willingly and quietly close and see no more.

We ordered glasses of wine and circled each other with words, probing, talking chit-chat, the ground-work, the preamble, that had to be done before he could begin to live one more time the horror and agony that my presence and interest were asking him to do.

I didn't ask the question then. I was too preoccupied, too caught up, in my own "research" as I called it, a term to dignify my curiosity. But the question has been asked since, why would they talk about it? Why would they agree to go through the pain again?

Certainly it was because Kurt, like the others I talked to, wanted to pass on what had happened to them, yes, but I think they also hoped that if I ever did write about them as I said I would — my excuse for meeting and talking with them — that someone would care.

There is also, I think, the less obvious fact that these people suffered from tremendous guilt. Each believed that he

was responsible, at least in part, for what had happened to him. I did not understand that then. I think I do a little better now.

"I did not ask to be homosexual," Kurt said with a sigh, speaking in careful, almost unaccented English. He stared down at his glass where the sunlight was making rubies in his wine. "I did not choose it."

As we spoke together that beautiful, warm May afternoon, each would look away now and again to gaze after some darkly handsome male walking past. I looked more openly, more boldly, but Kurt was furtive, his eyes darting to whoever had attracted him and then returned quickly to look at me a little helplessly. "Nice," I said one time, commenting on one particularly cute young man who had sauntered by in skin-tight slacks showing a small, tight rounded ass and full, shapely thighs.

It was only my way of trying to make contact with this man I didn't know; to reach out to him, to share with him Gayness which had been born in us both.

But all I got in return was a slight heave of his thin shoulders and an embarrassed look — whether for me or at himself, I do not know.

I remember thinking then of the marvelously sensual young Algerian desk clerk who worked at the hotel where my students and I were staying; thinking of the look he gave me as we checked in, a look that I had returned. No one else had seen what had passed between us, but late that evening, he had come to my room where I was waiting for him, there to spend the night on sweaty sheets locked between his muscled thighs.

There had been such joy in that, such pleasure, but for that or something similar, Kurt and all the others had gone to hell and, at least Kurt, I thought, was still there.

In that Parisian Spring, I looked across the table at him as if from the other side of a great gulf. His experiences were still then, for me, part of "The" Holocaust of the Gays and though hideous almost beyond belief and telling, there would be no repeats — so I thought. My night of sublime passion with my cute Algerian would be and could be repeated without my generation or myself having to face a Dachau, a Buchenwald or the ovens of death at Auschwitz.

I did not know then as I sat, listening to Kurt begin his story, that I was living in a twilight Spring. Less than a year later, in a club in Pittsburgh called the Noreh, I would ask about a guy I had come to know and had not seen for awhile. I was told that he had died, of "the Gay cancer" someone said. I remember shaking my head in sorrow, yet disbelief. How in the world, I asked myself, could there be such a thing as a "Gay" cancer? What was next, a "Gay" flu, a "Gay" cold?

The gulf between Kurt and my own Gay life was about to close.

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### National Women's Networking Group Forms in Madison

A new, non-profit national networking organization for women only has been formed. Called, "Women's Companion Connection Limited," its purpose is to reach women who are seeking relationships with other women whether that be romance, recreation, resource, referral or for educational or professional reasons.

Women's Companion Connection does not charge for memberships at this time. To contact them, write Women's Companion Connection, P.O. Box 8072, Madison, WI 53708 or phone (608) 244-3903.

## Milwaukee Pride Committee Begins Plans for 1990 Events

By Paul F. English

[Milwaukee]- Hot and muggy outside, it was not much different inside. For some people, it was something to be done with; a time to end the pain, drudgery and headache of trying to hold the organization together.

But for most, it also meant the beginning of something new; the beginning of a time when responsibilities would be shared among many, not a few, to realize the goals of the organization.

Thirty people had gathered at the Foundation Community Center on Sept. 7, 1989, to present a report of the progress that the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee (MLGPC) had achieved in the past year and where it was going in the next.

Among the 30, representing the former Ad Hoc Committee were acting Chair, John Hogen, acting Secretary, Jim English, Alan Eslinger, Scott Gunkel, Jerry Johnson, Scooter Kennedy, Mike Lisowski, La Mer Riehle, Bob Robison, Dennis Thomas, Bob Weger and Cheryl Williams.

Hogen opened the meeting and then turned it over to English who read from a prepared statement. He reminded those present of the Pride Parade and Rally and the subsequent formation of the Ad Hoc Committee that continued the established momentum.

English reported that the Ad Hoc Committee had set down goals for the upcoming year and begun the process of incorporation under 501-C3 or tax exempt status so that MLGPC can work on national and international levels and "gain grants and information that will assist us in furthering the other goals we have," chief among which will be to voice the wants and needs of the Gay/Lesbian community.

According to English, the Ad Hoc Committee had, through a subcommittee, drafted by-laws which would be presented to the new MLGPC Steering Committee, thus accomplishing a considerable savings in time. English also noted that while the by-laws were meant as guidelines, they were needed to gain 501-C3 status.

Kennedy reported on the Rick Astley Concert Raffle, the only fundraiser to be held since the Parade and Rally. Costs, Kennedy said, came to \$550 which included raffle ticket printing, the concert tickets themselves and advertising. Kennedy reported that MLGPC had grossed \$850.

Questions concerns over the possibility of spreading out advertising and/or actual fundraising to include a larger portion of Wisconsin.

Kennedy responded, saying, "There simply wasn't enough time in this fundraiser. I came up with the idea only a day before the (Ad Hoc) Committee voted to do it. And that was just 6 weeks ago."

English reviewed MLGPC's financial status, saying that the organization was in the black. But, he cautioned, to achieve that state, he had included the net worth of merchandise on hand. Although this is no more than as asset value, it still plays a role in the final tally, English said.

Robison, of Robison, Havlicek and Associates who had represented MLGPC

as marketing representatives, reported that from a marketing standpoint, Pride '89 was a "success." Extensive media coverage, he said, was the equivalent of approximately \$500,000 in advertising.

Following an extensive review of the by-laws and election procedures by English, the floor was opened for nominations to positions on the new MLGPC Steering Committee.

According to the by-laws, at least 7 of the new posts had to be occupied by women to "achieve a new sense of parity." Miriam Ben-Shalom who was absent had indicated a willingness to accept nomination. Two other women were nominated, Lee Fetter and La Mer Riehle. Since only 3 of the 7 positions had the prospect of being filled, it was agreed that those nominated be elected by acclamation.

Eleven men were nominated to fill the next 7 positions. Of that number, English, Eslinger, Gunkel, Hogen, Lisowski, Dennis Thomas and Gary Wells were elected.

Following the election, debate occurred concerning whether the four unfilled women's slots should be filled by the men who were nominated, but not elected.

Committee members stated that they had wrestled with this possibility and had concluded that the Lesbian community had not had the same involvement in MLGPC in the past because they had not felt wanted. The women would need to be "courted" in order to have that backing. Therefore, it was the feeling of the committee that if the four positions remained open and were not filled by the remaining men, it would demonstrate sincerity.

John Clayton, owner of C'est la Vie, brought forth a motion calling for the four vacant positions to remain open for 60 days at the end of which time, they would be filled, if possible, by either women or men. The motion carried.

The one remaining position on the Steering Committee called for in the by-laws was the At Large post. Cheryl Williams was elected to fill the position.



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## EDITORIAL

# Gays Ignored In Auschwitz Convent Controversy

In the recent furor over a convent of nuns praying at the site of the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz, what has been overlooked (as always) is that Auschwitz, along with Dachau, Buchenwald and others, were the scenes of the Gay Holocaust.

We understand the desire of Jews to keep the searing memory of Auschwitz burning, claiming their Holocaust as the terribly page in their history that it was.

Similarly, we understand the desire of Poles and others to keep the memory of their sacrifices alive.

But, in all of this, we see not one word in any of the major media — or from anyone else — about the slaughter of millions of Gays and Lesbians in these and other camps.

Over a year ago, the International Gay and Lesbian Association proudly announced the placement of the first Lesbian/Gay Holocaust Memorial — a triangle in pink stone — in front of the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. Recently, a Gay man from Milwaukee while on a tour of Europe, went there to see it. It was so small and obscure that he couldn't find it, try as he would!

The point is that in the midst of all the blathering by a silly Cardinal, an embarrassed Vatican, irate Jews and incensed Poles, we Lesbians and Gays whose tortured bodies fed the behemoth of death; who were the FIRST to hurled into the Nazi circle of Hell, have been ignored and forgotten even by ourselves.

How many know where the Pink Triangle comes from and what it means?

It was our Holocaust too! As with the Jews, it was the result, the logical, hideous outcome, of 1500 years of bigotry, ignorance, prejudice and hate. Those things have not vanished from the earth.

We must rally to the Holocaust. We must claim it, learn about it and then we must teach others. If that does not happen, rest assured, it will all happen again. As Harry Truman said, the only thing new in the world is the history you don't know.

## LETTERS

### TO THE EDITOR

**Editor's Note:** The following is a reply to Thomas Piontek and Cheryl Kader.

I thought there might possibly be some response to my well-intentioned article in *The Wisconsin Light* (Aug. 10-16, no. 16) elicited by the good news of your projected course in Gay/Lesbian Literature. I was not prepared for the alternately defensive and acrimonious tone of your letter to *The Wisconsin Light*.

The possibility of such a course being offered almost immediately suggested ideal reading lists that such an opportunity would afford, and as I reported, several of us had a lively discussion making up such lists of our own.

The purpose of my article was to explore and suggest the richness of Gay/Lesbian literary heritage, acknowledging at the same time that your published list was probably a partial one and that no two individuals would be in complete agreement. (I still maintain, though, that "The Well of Loneliness" is a mawkish and badly written book.)

I should have welcomed dialogue, but was unprepared for diatribe. My acknowledgment of not being as familiar with Lesbian writing as I'd like does not mean total ignorance of the literature. And just why did you assume that I have not read Joanna Russ's "The Female Man"? And since when has academic become a pejorative term?

Please understand — I congratulate you on proposing such an important course and having it offered at UWM. I wish you the joy that such a teaching experience will bring together with its challenges.

Just one kindly bit of advice. Lighten up.

—Geno

Arts and Entertainment Editor

### TO THE EDITOR:

I have a few interesting questions.

1.) Is there a direct connection between Gay-bashing and the kind of bigotry disguised as religious preaching that is well-described by a paraphrase of an old popular song, "Your lips tell me 'love, love', but there's 'hate, hate' in your eyes."?

2.) Is it legal to picket the residences of controversial public figures who are television personalities? Who are religious bigots who, whether intentionally or not, encourage Gay-bashing? Who preach their hate in the public eye and then hide behind office addresses, such as 3434 W. Kilbourn?

3.) Is it morally allowed or is it morally required to demonstrate disapproval of such bigots, especially when they have themselves picketed or have aided or abetted others in picketing the homes of those engaged in lawful activity, for example in the picketing of homes of physicians providing safe, legal abortion services?

4.) Does Vic Eliason still live in the \$35,190 house on the \$14,000 lot at 1631 N. 51st St. (1988 tax roll), where he was listed as householder in city directories

Committee. I was also a member of the by-laws committee of MLGPC and have recently been elected to the Steering Committee of MLGPC. The growth I have achieved is the most rewarding experience of my life.

These things have given me more dignity and pride in myself than I ever thought possible. I shall walk tall and with the greatest amount of pride in both the straight and Gay Communities. I wish to thank all of the members of the Ad Hoc Committee of MLGPC and the by-laws committee for the encouragement, love, faith and understanding they have shown me.

I have learned through these beautiful people that no one can take away the pride that I and all of us should have in who we are. This pride can only come from within each of us and sometimes we need to be shown or asked to display this pride.

Let us all be as active in any way and/or with any financial support we can to show everyone that we are PROUD and that we have pride, not only during Pride Week, but throughout the year. We are all a part of the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee.

—Dennis R. Thomas  
 MLGPC Steering Committee Member

### TO THE EDITOR:

It is nice to finally see that someone has decided the fate (or future) of the Foundation Community Center with the "Retiring" of Cream City Foundation President, Don Schwamb. It is always sad to see someone with good intentions step down from a position which could benefit the Gay community however, the martyrdom aspect of this situation would have proved more effective if used in a more timely fashion.

I have always assumed that someone who could take credit for the good things and accomplishments, could also take the responsibility for the bad times and failures, and not try to place the blame elsewhere. Is this not the sign of a good professional? If one cannot act professionally while in office shouldn't they at least try to be professional in leaving?

Maybe I am wrong, but I feel a Community Center should be promoted for use by the community and legitimate and responsible groups should be welcomed to use the facilities available.

In closing I wish the best of luck to the Center at its present location in the future and hope that all past, present and future volunteers and financial contributors will be met with less resistance and selfishness from those running it.

—R. Stockel  
 Milwaukee

published in the early 1980's, before he went into hiding?

—The Mavin  
 Milwaukee

### TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing in regard to feelings and concerns which I have in regards to being Gay and what it has become to live this lifestyle in Milwaukee.

I have lived in Milwaukee for the past 25 years since I left the service. I grew up in a small town in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and knew I was Gay since childhood. I, of course, did not understand these feelings I had toward others of my own sex. I come from a rather large family of 2 sisters and three brothers of whom, none are Gay or Lesbian. I was never able to discuss my feelings with them or my parents as it was not done at the time.

I suffered greatly as a result of feeling alone in what I felt toward others of my own sex. In fact, I was called "faggot," "sissy," "queer" and other derogatory names, not because I was effeminate or acted Gay, but because I was not perceived as "Macho" by my peers.

I was confused and scared and even went so far as to get married. I have two loving and caring children, but the marriage did not work because I lived one life and felt another.

When I finally accepted who I was, there came a lot more peace. I got a divorce and, as a result, was ostracized by friends and family for expressing who I was. This was difficult, but not as difficult as living my entire life up to that point as a lie.

I have empathy and sadness for any of you who must, for whatever reason, live your life in the kind of pain and sadness I had for so many years. Since I came to know myself, I have a great deal of pride and dignity in who and what I am. I have met many people in the Gay and Lesbian community who have given me courage and taught me to be Proud of who I am.

I have recently become active in the Gay and Lesbian Community thanks to the help of Al Thomas of the Triangle who encouraged me to participate in events at his establishment. This was the catalyst that set me on the present course my life has taken.

I also met a group of very supportive and loving people this Summer. As a result, I joined the Ad Hoc Committee of the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride

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**MEDICALLY SPEAKING**

**Heterosexuals Still Not Practicing Safe Sex In Wake of AIDS**

By Roger Gremminger, MD

In August, I attended an AIDS conference sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control for Region V states — Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The focus of the conference was AIDS Education of Heterosexuals, primarily of children and adolescents.

Repeatedly during the conference, the speakers acknowledged that Gay men had changed their sexual behaviors as evidenced by the dramatic decline in all sexually transmitted diseases, namely syphilis, gonorrhea, hepatitis B and HIV infection.

However, they also stated that they do not know why or how Gay men changed and continually stated that heterosexuals also had to change, but that they did not know how to effect this change in the heterosexual population.

They stated that knowledge of AIDS did not necessarily lead to change in sexual behavior and that there had to be an added ingredient to accomplish this. But they just did not seem to understand what this added ingredient was.

Why did Gay men change? I was really mystified by their lack of comprehension, but then again, I guess they might not have asked or we may not have told them. Why did Gay men change? Yes, I guess we have to tell them.

The world looks pretty different when so many of one's friends and acquaintances have died of the same disease which is transmitted by behaviors which we can change.

The world looks pretty different when one realizes that one is alive because a lover came into one's life at the right time or because one is just lucky.

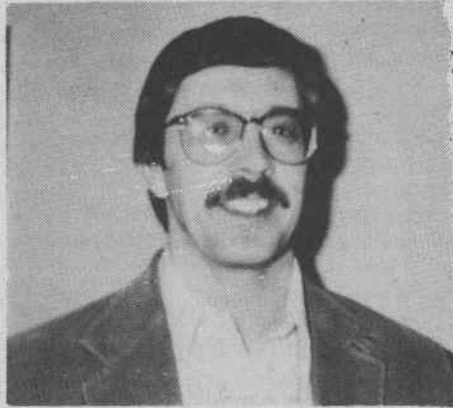
The realization that it would have so easily been different, that "So there be I", is something that one cannot forget and has to live with on a daily basis. "So there be I." To be alive, to see the sky, to feel the warmth of the sun, to see the colors of flowers and trees, to see the faces of friends becomes a precious thing.

The concerns of the world with getting ahead and earning lots of money and the endless pursuit of pleasure doesn't mean much when one sees a friend struggling to live.

Somehow, the only thing that makes sense is relationship. It's good to see one's friends alive and healthy looking.

**Lambda Searches For New Staff Attorney**

[New York, NY]- Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund is conducting a national search for a staff attorney. Interested Attorneys should send a letter of application, resume and writing sample by October 10, 1989 to Paula L. Ettelbrick, Legal Director, Lambda Legal Defense Fund, Inc., 666 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.



ROGER GREMMINGER, M.D.

But it is even more rewarding to help ease another's pain and share some quiet compassionate moments. The beauty of the soul can be far more impressive than the beauty of the body.

And many of our friends have had to bravely face and accept death which is inevitable for us all. Their courage sure has to affect us and encourage us to live a different type of life which values only one thing and that is relationships in which there is love and concern. How can we tell people about this?

Why are not heterosexuals changing? They don't see AIDS as their problem. They have bought into denial. They do not see that they too are susceptible. They have not confronted death. They try to distance themselves from it and hang on to their little world of self-importance, acquisition of things and pursuit of pleasure. They refuse to see the pain of others, the struggle to live or the courage to die.

They are too moral or angry to establish relationships which go beyond conditioning society has deadened their souls with. But in their busy pursuits of daily living, they miss what is truly important in life and that is that people can really make each day a special day of living and loving.

I don't know how to tell heterosexuals this because they usually are not ready to listen. Why did Gay men change? Perhaps you can do better than I because sometimes words just don't seem adequate enough to really capture the answer in a way that will make deaf ears hear.

So all we can do is keep trying.  
—Love, Roger

**D.C. Hotel Offers Discount Rates**

[Washington, D.C.]- Washington's newest hotel, the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza at Metro Center, is offering an introductory rate of \$125 to travelers coming to Washington to visit the AIDS quilt on the National Mall. The hotel, which opens October 5, is located atop the hub of Washington's metrorail system and is only five blocks from the Mall. For reservations, call (202) 737-2200 or 1-800-HOLIDAY.

**BESTD Clinic Seeks Investors In Order to Purchase Building**

[Milwaukee]- On Wednesday, September 20, 1989, Milwaukee's Brady East STD (BESTD) Clinic held a cocktail reception to kick off a capital investment drive.

The reception was attended by approximately 50 people and was held in the new banquet room of the M&M Club amidst an atmosphere of red roses, soft pastels and candle light. A lavish assortment of hot and cold hor d'oeuvres was catered by Bob Schmidt and his capable staff.

The BESTD Clinic is seeking to purchase the building in which it is currently located at 1240 E. Brady on Milwaukee's east side. The reason for this, according to Deborah Reed, President of BESTD's Board of Directors, is that "We've become identified with the building and want to stay in it."

The building is owned by Roger Gremminger, MD who has offered to donate to BESTD Clinic his equity in the building. According to the Rev. Erwin A. Uecker, Secretary of BESTD's Board, this means that BESTD must raise \$50- 60,000 for purchase and upkeep of the facility.

In addition, the money will enable the Clinic to expand its services, reaching out to more members of the community with free testing, treatment and education programs as well as a foundation for future growth.

Almost all BESTD Clinic services are provided free of charge as a community service thus meeting the needs of people in the lower income brackets who have no other source of medical care.

To raise this money, BESTD is asking people to invest in "Best Notes." These come in denominations of \$500, \$1,000, \$1,500 and \$2000. Best Notes can be purchased for terms of 4, 5 or 6 years and have a guaranteed rate of return of 10% payable yearly.

According to Doug Johnson, Vice President of BESTD's Board, the Clinic began on October 11, 1974, growing out of the Gay Peoples Union as a medical outreach to the Milwaukee Gay community.

Interestingly, there are no references to the Gay/Lesbian community in the brochure handed out at the cocktail reception.

The impetus behind BESTD's founding was primarily in response to the syphilis epidemic of the 1970's. It has since expanded its program to include women's reproductive health care and other health concerns, hepatitis and anonymous HIV antibody testing, making the Clinic the third largest testing site in Wisconsin with the highest positivity rate of those tested for HIV infection.

The Clinic also offers free psychological support for persons who test HIV positive and engages in AIDS and other sexually transmitted disease prevention education.

The Clinic currently serves almost 3,000 clients each year with a staff of 30-40 trained volunteers.

For information on this investment opportunity, contact the BESTD Clinic at 1240 E. Brady St., Milwaukee, WI 53202 or phone (414) 272-2144.



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## Wisconsin Is Well Represented In Dubuque, Iowa Rally and March

By Jim English

On Saturday, Sept. 16, 1989, four members of the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee (MLGPC) traveled to Dubuque, Iowa to attend that city's 3rd annual Gay Pride Rally and Parade. Scott Gunkel, Dennis Thomas, John Hogen and Jim English arrived in the Iowa city on Friday night to meet with organizers and share Milwaukee's experiences with those in Dubuque.

Since Dubuque's Rally has met with opposition in the past, MLGPC members were concerned about local sentiment for this newest effort, at bringing a Gay/Lesbian event to the city.

We met first with a very special Dubuque couple, Ralph and Ruth Scharnau, civil rights activists, whose daughter is a Lesbian. They are ardent supporters of those who developed the first parade and rally.

The Scharnau's spoke of the attempt in April, 1989, at passing a Gay/Lesbian non-discrimination ordinance in the city. The ordinance was not passed, but the Scharnau's are optimistic about the future.

The following day (warm and sunny) MLGPC members met with three of this year's organizers; Ginny Lynns, Stacie Neldaughter and Kelly Cauffman who had arrived early at the park where the rally would be held to safe-guard posters and displays that had been set up.

By the time the Rally was scheduled to begin, 75 people had gathered with no antagonists in sight.

Beside MLGPC, other groups represented included Milwaukee's Lambda Rights Network, Madison's 10% Society, The International Socialists Organization, and P-FLAG-Madison.

In addition, there was an appearance by a local Gay fondly known as "Church Lady." By the middle of the rally, 120 people had shown up.

The Rally was opened by Ginny Lynns who, after opening comments, introduced the lead speaker, Dirk Voeburg, Dubuque city council member and strong supporter of human rights. His appearance at the rally was done at great political risk.

Other speakers included Nancy Graham of Madison and Kelly Cauffman, the

newest of this year's organizers.

Following the Rally, the march began with full police escort. Along the route of march that ran for about a mile through the center of town, there could be heard numerous chants while along the sidewalks could be seen many curious bystanders. There was little overt hostility except for one significant occasion.

At one point, members of a wedding party could be seen standing outside a hall. One member, presumably the groom, got hostile when he saw who we were and displayed his sentiment by presenting the marchers with a doublehanded social finger salute. His excitement rose, but was restrained by police who advised him to return to his party.

Upon return to the park, the marchers were addressed by Robert Bray of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Bray spoke of his hopes of seeing other such events happening all across America to help many more "out of the closet." He closed by saying that his hope was to move from "Stonewall to no wall."

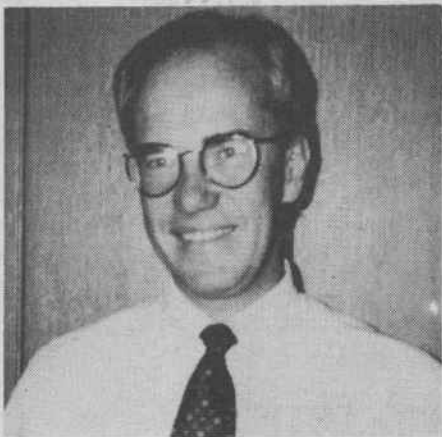
Following the Rally, there was a picnic during which I was able to talk again with some of the organizers. Ginny Lynns said that she hoped that the event would "allow Gay and Lesbian children to be free to admit their preferences" and would help "avoid the abuse of drugs and alcohol which so frequently happens when people are so emotionally closeted."

The members of MLGPC departed feeling as though we had just participated in a very worthwhile event, but also with the realization that although we have a lot more resources to work with in Milwaukee, we too have a long, long way to go. It was our joint feeling that the more we can unite with our sisters and brothers in cities like Dubuque, the better our lives will become. We have made friends in new places and our friends in Dubuque now feel as though they may not be so isolated. More and more, we all take another step forward where "Gay Pride" does not have to be a battle cry, but a simple statement of contentment where we all exist in a society of harmony.

## Nelson Appointed to Governor's HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee

[Milwaukee]- Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP), has been appointed by Governor Tommy Thompson as a member of the HIV/AIDS Technical Advisory Committee. The appointment was made September 5, 1989.

According to Thompson, the purpose of the Committee is to "advise me on the broad range of issues related to AIDS/HIV."



Doug Nelson

These issues include: reducing duplication of services and the increasing resources to provide culturally sensitive AIDS/HIV related education and prevention services

Reviewing regulations and practices relating to HIV testing to assure that voluntary, informed consent is used

### 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.

## State Assembly Bill 500 Will Not End Abortion Debate

By David Clarenbach

Abortion is an intense and deeply felt issue of principle to people on both sides. This debate divides our nation deeply and is likely to continue for a long, long time.

It is, at its core, a question of a medical procedure, most certainly. But it is, at the same time, a question of morality, and religion, and conscience, and ethics, and subordination.

Those are the questions.

What we are in the process of resolving is: who will be empowered to answer these questions, the government or the individual?

We have, in Wisconsin, a series of criminal penalties that could imprison a woman for up to two years for having an abortion — and imprison a doctor for up to 15 years for performing this medical procedure.

We are using the power of the state, big brother government, to make a reproductive choice for an individual.

As a part of that government, I do not feel qualified to make that decision for the individual. I do not presume to impose my personal views, or my own ethical or religious standards on another.

And I do not think that, as a matter of conscience, the government should either.

With feelings running so deep, and opinion so divided, this series of public hearings is necessary and crucial to the public debate. The people of Wisconsin must search their consciences, their religious beliefs, their moral standards.



REP. DAVID CLARBACH

They must form an opinion on who should decide.

Assembly Bill 500 will not end the debate. And, it will not dictate a course for a woman to follow. But it will restore the constitutionality to our criminal code. And, it will help return this "personal, moral decision" to where it belongs — to the privacy of a woman, in consultation with her physician and her own conscience.

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# The Light LIVELY ARTS

## Skylight Presents Fresh Exciting Production of "Cabaret"

By Geno

What good is sitting alone in your room, come to the Cabaret — the "Cabaret" which Milwaukee's Skylight Opera Theatre is presenting in fresh, exciting production through October 1.

Christopher Isherwood's "Berlin Stories" first described Sally Bowles, Chris and people living in Germany when Nazism was on the rise, and their stories have since been retold as "I Am A Camera," a play and movie, as a Broadway musical and as a blockbuster movie. The Skylight's interpretation under Director Michael McConnell, gives it new life and a fresh dramatic treatment.

Claire Morkin gives the memorable Sally Bowles a dignity, even elegance, which few interpreters of the role have shown, most of them relying only upon the flaky side of Sally's character. Miss Morkin's rendition of the title song is full-bodied and brash as are her singing and dancing numbers with the chorus. (Incidentally, she can also be heard singing Gershwin with the John Schneider Orchestra every Wednesday and Saturday evening at the Cafe Melange in the Hotel Wisconsin in downtown Milwaukee.)

The scenes in the Kit Kat Klub featuring the attractive singing and dancing chorus are full of energy. Choreographer Pam Kriger has shown true originality in the dance numbers with some complimentary bows to "The Blue

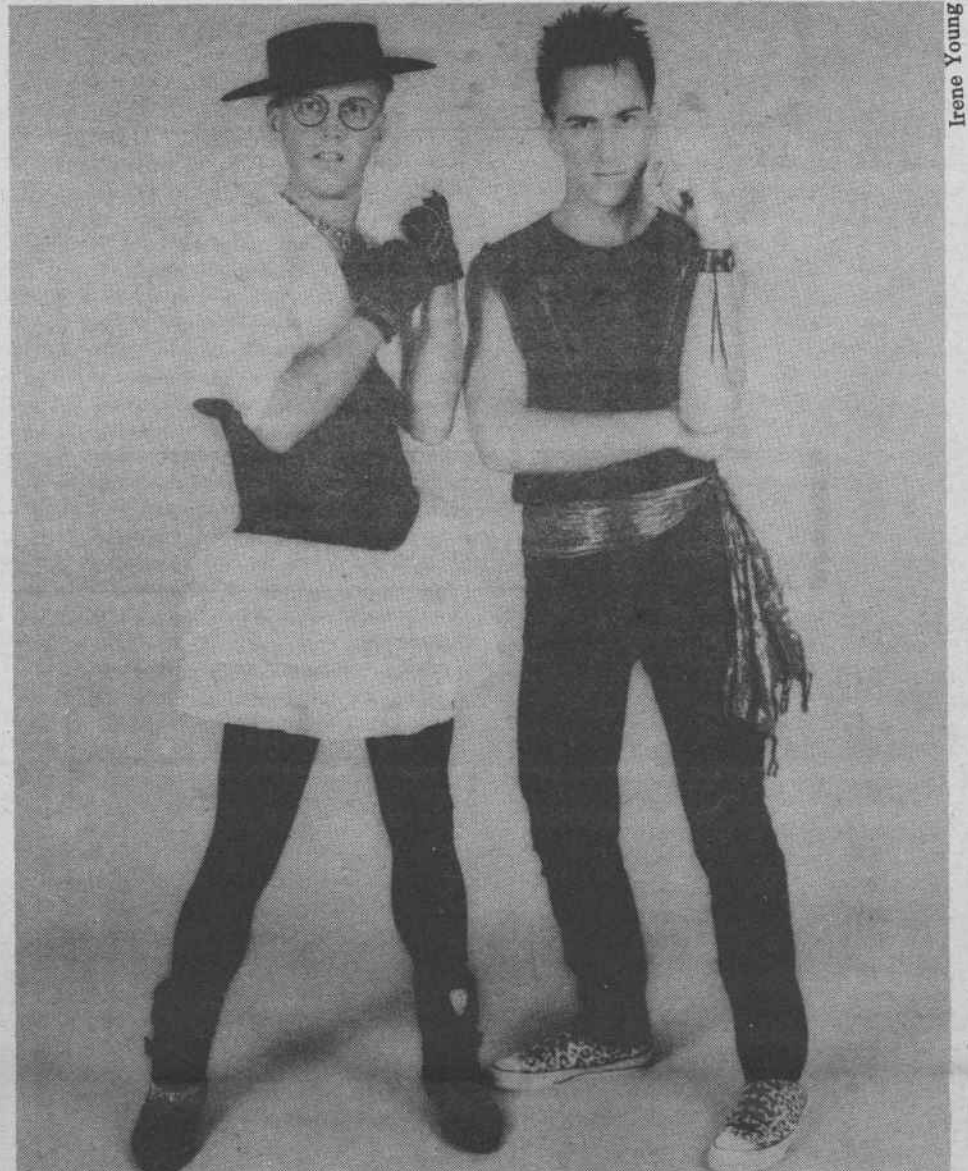
Angel," la Dietrich, and the Jazz Age in 1930's Berlin. The women have some of the most inventive moves and poses, while the men do extra duty convincingly as sailors, waiters, and Nazi troopers.

C. Michael Wright as the Klub's Emcee sets the energy level up on "high" and he also hovers in the background of some of the dramatic scenes personifying the cynical, wryly humorous and eventually chilling Zeitgeist of the period. By the way, he is quite fetching in drag complete with black garters and spike heels.

"Cabaret" has its serious side, and three members of the cast dramatize the developing crises in Germany. Sharon Carlson and Yaakov Sullivan as the aging lovers and their nemesis, the Nazi official as played by Tom Hoffman, make the dramatic situations deeply compelling.

Special mention must be made of the brilliant set and costume designs of Rusty Smith who has designed both a national tour of "Cabaret" and assisted in the musical's Broadway revival. And resident music director Donald St. Pierre deserves kudos for the unflagging energy which his direction and musical taste bring to this "Cabaret."

Tickets may be obtained at the Skylight Theatre Box Office, 813 N. Jefferson St. in Milwaukee or call (414) 271-8815. Group, senior and student discounts are available.



Irene Young

The comedy team of Romanovsky and Phillips will perform in Madison on Sunday, September 24 at the Madison Senior Center. The 8m show is a fundraiser for GALVANize. For ticket information call 255-9131.

## "Noah's Arc" Opens Madison's Broom Street Theatre Season

[Madison]- Broom Street Theater of Madison is proud to announce the teaming of playwright Mel Brenner and Director Ron Daley for its fall opening play NOAH'S ARC, which makes its debut performance 8:00 p.m. Friday, September 22 at Broom Street Theatre. The play, NOAH'S ARC is a stage adaptation of Mr. Brenner's screenplay NEXT IN LINE which was awarded first place in the Wisconsin Screenwriters Forum's 1987 national screenplay competition. Director Daley received the 1985 NACA national award for direction of the "Best Performing Arts: Major Performance Event" for his productions of "Hamlet" and "Twelfth Night."

The play, NOAH'S ARC, explores the struggles and lives of residents of an ARC (AIDS Related Complex) "safe house" as they face the realities of both their impending illness and the prejudices and

fears of the society around them. It is the story of ordinary young men who must find a strength and bravery within themselves to accept their disease and remain positive about life with a limited future. They deal with their disease and the victimizations of fearful and uncomprehending society with humor, ingenuity, rage and determination.

Broom Street Theater is proud to present NOAH'S ARC, an engrossing and entertaining play on a crucial timely topic, its world premiere. The theater has been assisted in this effort by the Madison AIDS Support Network and the Madison medical community.

All showings of NOAH'S ARC are at 8:00 p.m., Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from Sept. 22-Oct. 29, at Broom Street Theater, 1119 Williamson St. Tickets are \$4.50 at the door only. For information, call (608) 244- 8338.

## Jaeger and Chism Art On Display at the Water St. Gallery

[Milwaukee]- Works of printmaker Phillip Jaeger are currently on display at the Water St. Gallery, 144 N. Water St. These abstract visual images represent a unique combination of printmaking techniques in which Jaeger applies color and surface textures to the basic monograph.

Jaeger's colors which tend towards lighter pastel shading, have a soothing effect while patterns beneath the surfaces suggest different configurations when viewed under different conditions of lighting and angles of vision.

The layering of color and textures lends a rich luminosity and depth to the compositions and in his later works, organic and figurative images appear to emerge from the matrix of colors.

Jaeger's works are on view at the Gallery through November 15, according to Gallery manager Michael Wavra. Gallery hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday.

In an adjoining gallery, Milwaukee's Jim Chism has a showing of his Trapunto soft sculptures, fantastic in shape and color. It was Jim who created the aquamarine colored elephant climbing up the side of the Radio Doctor's building for the Great Circus Parade. His palm tree takes Trapunto as far as the medium can go!

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## “Mystery of Irma Vep” Offers Audience Sidesplitting Laughs

By Geno

In “The Mystery of Irma Vep,” Richard Halverson and Jim Cunningham each play several wildly different roles in this spoof of Victorian melodrama produced in Ridiculous Theatre style by the Milwaukee Repertory Theater (MRP). How Halverson can go out one door as Nicodemus the Swineherd and seconds later enter from another direction as elegant Lady Enid is both mystifying and hilarious. And Cunningham quick changes from Lord Edgar an Egyptologist

who is “hung up on his mummy” to Jane Twister the housekeeper with nary a hair out of place. Both men have their pacing and timing down to perfection and the audience loves it.

Which of the two actors is Irma Vep (an anagram of “Vampire”) is the heart of this takeoff of penny dreadfuls. Meantime, a werewolf is slain, Nicodemus has his wooden leg screwed on with suitable sound effects, and a painting of the former mistress of the mansion bleeds when a bullet is accidentally fired into it. It is this stuff of Gothic mysteries that the late Charles Ludlum parodied including nods toward movies like “Rebecca,” “Gaslight,” and “Dracula.” The Victorian sitting room and Egyptian tomb settings are alone worth the price of admission.

The audience is in on the joke from the very opening of the play when a mechanical bat flies through the theatre and as thunder crashes and lightening flashes and people turn into werewolves before our very eyes, these cliches produce an evening of non-stop laughter. Lady Enid’s and Janes “rendering” of “The Last Rose of Summer” accompanying themselves on their autoharps is sidesplitting, yet throughout, both actors maintain the exact necessary balance between high camp and “straight” acting.

“Irma Vep” runs through October 8 in the Stiemke Theater of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater. Tickets are available at the MRT Box Office at 108 E. Wells or phone (414) 224-9490.

## Fest City Singers Bring Loved “Faerie Tales” to Life Oct. 20-22

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee’s Original Fest City Singers (FCS) are putting an extra, slightly off-center, spin on everyone’s favorite fairy tales and nursery rhymes in “Faerie Tales,” their Not For Children Cabaret revue. It will be presented, appropriately enough, in the Stackner Cabaret of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater in the Milwaukee Center. Dates: Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 20, 21 and 22.

Well loved storybook characters such as Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Paul Bunyan, Rapunzel, Rip van Winkle and Thumbelina will present different sides of their characters as Bim Florek and his artistic team retell these stories with a clever, new twist. And “Feed the Birds,” from “Mary Poppins” and “Talk to the Animals” from “Doctor Doolittle” take a surprise turn in the Fest City Singers’ witty recasting of these songs.

But the revue is not all elves and ogres and fairies. According to Nancy McKinley Ehlinger, music director of the FCS, the child-like and the romantic are also represented by such numbers as “Nothing’s Gonna Harm You (yes, Peter Pan and Tinker Bell),” “The Rainbow Connection,” “Dancing in the Dark,” and “Mirror, Mirror” with only an occasional raffish note.

As a convenience to Fest City Singer audiences, tickets are now available from the Milwaukee Repertory Theater Box Office, 108 E. Wells St. in Milwaukee. According to Dan Gniozynski, FCS general manager, credit cards are

accepted; telephone (414) 224-9490. Of course, tickets may also be obtained from members of the Fest City Singers or by phoning their number at (414) 263-SING.

## Gay Themed Art Sought for UWM Exhibition

[Milwaukee]- The Union Art Gallery at the UW-Milwaukee Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., is currently accepting entries for the juried exhibition: “Our Voices, Our Lives,” an exhibition of art work by Midwestern artists who address Lesbian and Gay issues. Slide or video entries must be received by October 13, 1989 (photographic entries may be submitted directly). All art media will be considered.

The exhibition will run from November 17- December 15, 1989.

For a prospectus and/or more information, call the Union Art Gallery at (414) 229-6310.

## Fest City Singers Gain Tax Exempt Status

[Milwaukee]- Tom Boll, treasurer of the Fest City Singers (FCS) has announced that the Singers have been granted tax exempt status as a publicly supported organization.

This status means that donations and other sources of support received by the FCS can now be deducted from the donors’ Federal income taxes retroactive to January 1, 1989. This determination is further recognition of the Singers as a professional organization according to Boll.

## State Pageant At Pivot Club October 8

[Appleton, WI]- King Productions will present the first Annual Ms. Gay Wisconsin State Pageant at the Pivot Club on Sunday, October 8, 1989. The Pageant will begin at 9:30 p.m.

Contestants must be females, 21 years of age, and Wisconsin residents or live within 25 miles of the border.

Applications are available from King Productions, P.O. Box 8932, Waukegan, IL 60079-8932, Tania Michaels, Miss Gay Wisconsin-USA (Club 219, Milwaukee) or by calling the Pivot Club at (414) 730-0440.

## Male? Small In Any Way? Join Small, Etc.

[Bayside, NY]- Small Etc., a club for men who are small in any way, has been formed. The club publishes a newsletter, *The Small Gazette*, that provides members with a vehicle to make contact with each other. Membership is \$25 per year.

For further info, write Small, Etc., P.O. Box 294, Bayside N.Y. 11361.

## GALVANize To Hold Public Meeting October 1

[Madison]- Over the past few months, Madison’s Gay And Lesbian Visibility Alliance (GALVANize) has taken a look back on itself in an attempt to pinpoint the strengths and weaknesses of the organization.

Now GALVANize is ready to move forward again; to set new goals and determine how the organization should be set up to attain these goals.

To accomplish this, a meeting has been set for October 1, 1989, at 6:30, at Memorial Union. GALVANize is hoping that this meeting will be attended by both individuals already involved in the organization, as well as those who wish to become involved.

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## BWMT Milwaukee to Celebrate Ninth Anniversary

[Milwaukee]- Black and White Men Together (BWMT) Milwaukee, will celebrate its 9th anniversary the weekend of October 20-22, 1989.

The Fall Midwest/Heartland Regional Chapters networking will be held in conjunction with the Milwaukee celebration. These chapters include Chicago, Detroit, Louisville, Indianapolis, Memphis, Youngstown, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Kansas City.

BWMT is an organization established for promoting and supporting interaction and understanding between Gay people of all races. We offer opportunities for socializing in a multi-racial setting where friendships can be formed and on-going relationships can be supported and encouraged. We actively struggle to reduce the racial prejudice and misunderstanding of Gays which exists in people. The National Association of Black and White Men Together (NABWMT) has approximately 25 chapters in cities nation-wide.

The registration fee is \$35 if received by October 10th. Afterwards the fee is \$40. The registration fee includes a Friday evening reception, Saturday lunch, Saturday evening Banquet dinner, Sunday brunch, speakers, workshops and regional meetings.

The workshops will be held at the Community Center, 225 S. 2nd St. on Saturday. All meals will be at the new Banquet Room at the M&M Club, 124 N. Water St.

BWMT has reserved a block of rooms at the recently refurbished Hotel Wisconsin for only \$34 a night, single thru quad occupancy.

The Saturday luncheon speaker will be the Honorable Stanley A. Miller, Milwaukee's first black municipal judge.

The Saturday evening banquet speaker will be Milwaukee County Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs-Jones (10 District). Ms



ELIZABETH COGGS-JONES

Jones recently sponsored the Milwaukee County Board Gay/Lesbian Pride Proclamation and helped in the efforts to prevent its recantation by the same Board.

BWMT-Milwaukee will also present its 5th Annual Del Pascavis Spirit Award to a National BWMT member whose spirit and congeniality has enabled newcomers, members and friends to feel and become part of the BWMT family. Milwaukee chooses the recipient from nominees across the country. Del was a member of BWMT-Milwaukee who was murdered in July, 1985. He was loved by members nationwide for his spirit and kind nature.

For registration information please contact: BWMT-Milwaukee, P.O. Box 12292, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

It's faster if you call Michael at (414) 265-8500. We can then forward you the information and registration form.



LA MER RIEHLE

commitment among her fellow committee members and the public at large. "I feel that the feelings are strong enough and clean enough to communicate with a large number of people who will be attracted to our cause," she said.

Although there seem to be still some problems to be worked out, the new organization of MLGPC seems to have a better sense of conviction and direction. The chief concern seems to be over the possibility that conflicts of interest may play a negative role in how the committee is run.

## Riehle Elected President of Pride Committee

By Paul F. English

[Milwaukee]- On September 12, 1989 the new Steering Committee of the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee (MLGPC) met at the home of La Mer Riehle and Cheryl Williams. It was the first meeting for the newly elected committee.

Of the 11 members now on the committee, three were absent. These were Miriam Ben-Shalom, Jim English and Gary Wells.

Committee acting chair, John Hogan, reported that after all bills left over from the previous Pride events were paid, the new committee would have \$150 in its account.

One of the four positions on the committee left open after the recent elections was filled by the committee. Cirina King was elected.

King, a bisexual, represents a point of view that, it seems, has been overlooked. It was noted that with the review and possible passage of the by-laws, many changes would have to be made to include not only Gays and Lesbians, but also the "bisexual and transgender" interests.

With some grammatical corrections and the deletion of passages considered by some to be "offensive", the bi-laws were accepted by the committee.

Following the adoption of the by-laws, the executive committee was elected. Riehle was chosen President, Hogen became Vice President, English was elected Secretary and Cheryl Williams was elected Treasurer. With the election, the hoped for parity between women and men was achieved.

Following the meeting, Light asked the new President about her feelings regarding MLGPC.

Riehle said that she thought it very important to become visible to the public eye. "The commitment of MLGPC to the rights of the Gay community is a commitment to engendering a consciousness that will break down racist attitudes and other stereotypes that have kept us apart," she said.

Riehle continued, "As we work together, this will continue to be a goal in all our activities leading to Pride Week '90."

Riehle was very positive about the

## SPORTS NEWS



Milwaukee's Triangle bar softball team placed fifth in Atlanta in the world series play off.

## Triangle's Softball Team Does Milwaukee Proud in Atlanta

[Milwaukee]- In the world series of Gay and Lesbian softball, SERIES '89, held in Atlanta in August, the team sponsored by Milwaukee's Triangle bar, owned by Al Thomas, took 5th place.

The Triangle team lost their first game to Houston, but then went on to rousing victories over Atlanta's home team, Norfolk and the Twin Cities from Minnesota before being eliminated by

Chicago's Touches.

In the final results, first place went to San Francisco; the 2nd spot to Baltimore; 3rd place to Chicago; 4th position to Los Angeles and the 5th place to Milwaukee's TRIANGLE.

The team is to be congratulated on a well-played and hard-fought season and is looking forward to even bigger and better things next year.

## 1991 Soft Ball World Series Will Be Held in Boston

[Pittsburgh, Pa]- The North American Gay Amateur Athletics Association (NAGAAA) held its annual Gay Softball World SERIES in Atlanta August 19-26. Members and fans of the 26 NAGAAA affiliate cities attended the event called SERIES '89.

SERIES '89 opened with the NAGAAA Summer meetings. Delegates and the Board of Directors discussed current issues, including roster eligibility and rule upgrades. It was also agreed to approach players in Cincinnati, Nashville and St. Louis and help establish affiliate member leagues in those cities.

Future NAGAAA meetings were set for February 17-19, 1990 in Pittsburgh.

The location of the 1991 World Series was decided. Impressive bids were received from Boston and Minneapolis/St. Paul, with Boston's bid being the one accepted.

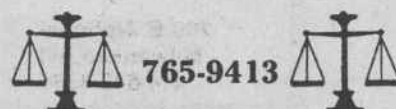
Following the close of formal meetings, on Sunday, August 20, an east vs. west Delegates' softball game was played at Atlanta's Piedmont Park. The western delegates defeated the eastern team.

Amid scorching heat and high humidity, the games began on August 22. In the finals of the open division, the undefeated Los Angeles Griffs overcame the Norfolk Outlaws to take the SERIES '89 title. The champions of SERIES '88, the Twin Cities Americans, rounded out the top by placing third.

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## POLITICALLY SPEAKING

By Bill Meunier

Just when you thought it was safe to start watching what was going on the Capitol again, up pops Jesse Helms, with yet another amendment to deal with a pressing National crisis. Which national crisis you ask?

The National Debt, which is pushing us into the ranks of second rate powers? The drug problem, the abundance of guns on our streets, the need to revamp our educational system?

No none of these are worthy of the attention of our esteemed Senator from South Carolina, otherwise known as the biggest embarrassment to the South since Huey Long. The crisis that exists is the moral subversion of America through government subsidized art exhibits.

Some people might be fooled by the those smoke screens like the deterioration of our cities but not Jesse. He knows that the real enemy is the man with a paintbrush or fancy camera in his hand.

Jesse uncovered two art exhibits paid for in part by government grants. In one there was a photograph of a crucifix sitting in a glass of urine. In the other there were pictures of men hugging and a few pictures depicting sex acts.

Jesse was quick to sound the alarm and soon the Senate has passed yet another Helms amendment. This one calls for a Board to pass judgment on whether or not subsidized artwork met community standards and threatened cutting off any arts agency or gallery that would display works that were deemed to be offensive.

Jesse was particularly offended by the crucifix photograph, as was I, but unlike Jesse I recognize that throughout the centuries good art has often been controversial. The art that lasts is not necessarily that which met community standards during its day.

Of course Jesse would rather have seen his favorite crucifix pictures, he likes them two ways, either burning or

standing behind a slain Central American archbishop murdered for defending the freedom of his people.

Jesse is preparing other amendments on this issue. He is going to cut of funding to our embassy in the Vatican, after all why should the ambassador see all of those nude paintings in the Sistine Chapel at taxpayer expense? Lest anyone think that Senator Helms is a Philistine incapable of appreciating fine art he is also trying to mandate a new art appreciation course for all schools using federal funds (which is all but the private schools), it will be titled "Appreciation of Black Velvet Art." The major text book will be written by Jesse himself. It will have one of those pictures of dogs playing pool on the front and will be loaded with great works of art like "Elvis in Rhinestones."

Thank God for men like Jesse Helms. Some might say that we have so many pressing national problems that deserve the attention and time devoted to a handful of pictures but not Jesse. Some might get upset over the use of words like "censorship," or "thought control." Some might say that the real government subsidized obscenities are the AIDS crisis, the right wing regimes shipping drugs into this country, the high cost of AZT and the "I cost a billion" B-1 Bomber. Not Jesse Helms, he follows a tradition begun in the Spanish Inquisition, and carried out in this century by others who have sought to suppress wrong headed thinking, like the Nazi's, the Red Guards, the Ayatollah and Fidel Castro.

Like them Jesse realizes that if you can get people thinking along one train of thought, you can control them much easier. Like them Jesse understands that by threatening intellectuals you can force them to do what you want. Like them, Jesse doesn't have the first idea about what freedom really means and what democracy is all about.

## Heterosexuals Too Often Say the Darnest Things

By Nancy Lyn Define

I ran into an old friend in New York City not too long ago. We talked awhile. He told me about his third divorce. Since I'd gone to the junior prom with him, I had no problem understanding that. He asked me if I were married. I told him I was Gay. He asked if I lived in New York. I said no, I was just on my way to JFK to catch a flight to Milwaukee. I glanced at my watch. He asked me if I knew Cyro, an interior decorator (naturally) who lived in Oshkosh. (Have you ever noticed how some people automatically assume that all Gays know each other?) I told him I didn't know anyone from Oshkosh and I didn't think I knew anyone named Cyro. I could tell he wasn't too sure I was being honest about my sexual orientation anymore.

He decided to give me a little exam in order to determine if I had been pulling his leg about being Gay (after all, I HAD gone to the prom with him). He asked me questions guaranteed to establish whether I was truly homosexual. It is a known fact that all Gay persons are expert on certain subjects. So he tested me on my knowledge of disco (does anybody even remember disco?), dancing in general (which is definitely not one of my fortes), fashion (I wear the same sweatshirt and sweatpants day in and day out), and finally, hair care (the last time the guy who does my hair saw me he screamed (yes, he's Gay) and begged me not to tell a soul that I even knew who he was).

Obviously, I failed the test miserably. But my old friend wasn't stupid. In no time at all, he realized he was asking me all the wrong questions. Everyone knows that the above inquiries should always be made only to Gay men. And while society may lump all Gay persons together, my friend was bright enough to realize his mistake. He immediately switched tactics.

He proceeded to give me a flash quiz on topics familiar to all Gay women. Like which gasoline is best for long mileage and my fastest time for changing a tire. It wasn't that I was trying to disappoint him. I simply know nothing about gasoline and the thought of breaking a nail (not to mention my revulsion at physical labor of any kind) has kept me a good distance from tires. Besides, I've always managed to con someone else into doing stuff like that for me. I may be a feminist, but I'm not a fool.

Still, I guess my friend figured that no one would say they were Gay if they weren't and I suppose a not-quite-up-to-snuff homosexual was better than none at all. He insisted on going somewhere for a drink (no one was going to have an opportunity to say that some of his "best friends weren't Gay"). He asked if I'd prefer going down to Greenwich Village (a trick question, no doubt). Since we were on the upper East Side, I thought we might find someplace just a little bit closer. His eyes lighted up. He suggested a bar where he and a number of his business associates hung out (he assured me they were all very liberal) and trotted me off, rather like a prize poodle, to be inspected by four upwardly mobile yuppies. Let's face it. Wall Street probably isn't the most exciting place in the world to spend your time, so when he introduced me as a Gay activist and glanced at me nervously, I thought, what the hell, maybe the guy is desperate to prove himself, maybe people know of his enormous collection of Roy Rogers paraphenalia. Briefly, I wondered if he still slept with a stuffed horse called Trigger. But being Gay does rather obligate one to an enormous amount of sensitivity and tactfulness, right?

I looked around at his four buddies. I prayed that this time my quiz would be about the 20th anniversary of Stonewall or the current status of Gay rights legislation.

Instead, his friends opted to go the "Rubyfruit Jungle" route. That would have flattered Rita Mae, but it didn't really do a whole lot for me. Neither did the beer he handed me, unopened and without a glass. I suppose it would have been sportslike to open the bottle with my teeth or something, but I'm lousy at sports and I haven't the slightest desire to ruin perfectly good teeth for a beverage I wouldn't drink if it were served to me in a champagne glass.

I should have seen this as an indication

of things to come. After telling these "liberals" that I knew absolutely nothing about flannel work shirts, black leather jackets, motorcycles or pool tables, the conversation lagged. I tried to revive it. I talked about the recent sale at Saks, the new Elizabeth Arden shop, the problems faced by professional women. I even made a somewhat feeble attempt at sports. That helped until they realized that I thought Dr. K was a drink.



One of them squeezed my leg under the table. I guess I had it coming. After all, I did have a skirt on and a woman wearing a skirt is secretly begging to have some strange guy squeeze her kneecap with his lecherous little hands. EVERYBODY knows that. All I knew was that it was time to leave. I noticed my friend looking at me sadly as the others reluctantly stood when I did. Definite proof that the old Roy Rogers stigma would not be put to rest by ME. "It's too bad Radclyffe Hall is dead," I whispered to him disconsolately.

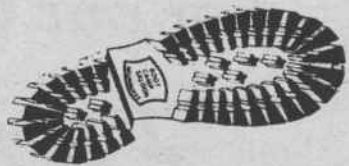
We said good-by and it was obvious that my handshake did not come up to snuff. I played around with my ACT-UP button, but my friend was too dejected to notice. I sincerely hoped that he still had his old stuffed horse back at his apartment. After all, everybody needs something.

As I hopped into a cab for the ride to JFK International, I felt a certain remorse. Here had been people eager to show me how modern they were, how willing to accept a Gay woman as one of the guys. And all I had done was make it very obvious that I not only was not one of the guys, but that I didn't have the slightest desire to be one.

Thank God I sat next to a well dressed man with a great haircut on the plane. He was reading GQ and listening to an old Judy Garland tape through his walkman. We talked about the various options provided by brunch and exchanged recipes for crepes all the way to Milwaukee where his wife and kids were waiting for him at the gate.

• • •

**Editor's Note:** Wisconsin Light is happy to welcome Nancy Lyn Define to its pages as a regular columnist. Nancy lives in Danbury, Connecticut and is "Old Line" New England (as is this editor) her family having lived there for over 150 years. She describes herself as "a cross between Emily Post and a female Eddie Haskell; a dyed-in-the-wool Democrat in Republican clothing; a philosophical feminist; a Gay woman who does not find that term a non sequitur." Nancy is syndicated in more than 40 Lesbian and Gay publications. She will be writing for *In Step* as well, but on totally different topics.



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# Weekend Wisconsin

A Travelogue by Mary Shafer

## Reedsburg Pioneer Log Village Is Full of Delightful Surprises of the Past

By Mary Shafer

PART TWO

From the single story house, we went on to a two-story home just up a footpath. This dwelling had much the same outside appearance, except that I noted the difference that Carl pointed out: this home's joints were dovetailed like the other's, but these logs didn't have the square shape that the others did. These were more of a rhomboid shape, which seemed to make the joint stronger, because it prevented slippage of the individual logs toward the outside of the wall.

Small awnings made of tin flashing material and a coat of barn red paint complemented the otherwise rough exterior which was topped by a wooden-shingled roof with exposed beams jutting out from beneath the eaves.

The interior of this house held what looked like a wide, low butter churn just inside the front door, which was the kitchen area. Carl confirmed that although it did look like a butter churn, it was actually a cabbage masher which was used to make sauerkraut. Whole heads of washed cabbages would be placed inside the wide, somewhat deep bucket and mashed into pulp with the wooden spindle that rose through the flat, round wooden cover, much in the fashion that a pharmacist uses a mortar and pestle to grind chemicals for medicine. The high acid content of the cabbage juice acted as a preservative so that the pulp could sit for long periods of time on end without going bad, but allowed the mash to take on the strong, sour odor and taste that the fermentation process gives to sauerkraut.

This home was apparently that of a rather well-to-do family, as things went in those days. In addition to the second story on the house and more windows than the small one (glass was extremely expensive and hard to come by then), it sported a double-oven, double decker woodstove which my grandmother would have swooned over, due to its ability to evenly distribute the slow, intense heat of a woodfire (highly desirable for bread baking).

There were also several well-made tin utensils, a large vegetable bin, curtains (truly a luxury), and, upstairs, a rope-strung bed. This is a bed in which a tightly strung rope was used for the "springs". Almost as a testament to the good fortune of the family, a daguerreotype photograph hangs framed in the hallway at the foot of the steep, narrow staircase, depicting a proud mother and father, attired in their austere Sunday best and cradling their only child. The typed inscription alongside reads:

"Fred Oetzman (Johann Henrick Fredrick) was born in Westerneyke, Hanover, Germany, 3-3-1856. Migrated to Reedsburg, WI in 1868. He married Margareta Schmidt in 1876. He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. August Goethke, Baraboo, WI 1-7-1926.

Margareta died of typhoid on Aug. 21, 1909. They are buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Westfield Township, Sauk Co., WI.

Children — Baptized  
Henry-Henrick Freidrick Wilhelm 1877-1960

Ann — Anna Margreta 1880-1946  
Fred — Fredrick Wilhelm 1883-1909  
Emma — Emma Wilhelmina Louise 1888-1944

John — Henrick Carl John 1894-1958  
Eddie — Eddy Herman-twin 1897-1955  
Benny — Benjamin Walter-twin 1897-1937

It also includes a more modern snapshot of the house as it stood on its original site. It should be noted that the list of children is titled "Children — Baptized." This indicates that, in all likelihood, the Oetzmans had children who did not live long enough to be baptized due to the ravages of diseases like typhus, cholera or scarlet fever which were far more common than doctors on

the midwestern frontier. It was not at all uncommon for a family to wait up to two years even to officially name a child. Up until that time, they simply referred to it as "Baby."

We continued on to see the library, with its waterstained books, yellowed pages and archives of the town documents. One of particular interest noted as an Annual Report, that as of August 31, 1810, there were 8 male children, 9 female children, totaling 17, residing in the district, 14 of whom attended school that year. It went



Carriages and buggies are exhibited at Reedsburg's Pioneer Log Village.

on to record the name of the school teacher, the salaries of all the elected officials and the cost of running and maintaining the library, among other vital statistics.

A few more rather nondescript shacks led us to the entrance to the church. Carl, along with several of the older ladies who also volunteer as guides and had joined our group, explained how the altar and several of the ornaments in the sanctuary had been either brought over from the old country or imported from buildings that had been torn down or destroyed by fire in neighboring villages.

Next to the church was the Blacksmith's shop, which had an overwhelming array of tools sitting around and hanging on the wall, including a genuine leather-and-wood bellows, the real fire pit set-up and a huge anvil. One could almost smell the ever-glowing cinders and hear the clang of the heavy maul on iron as strong, straight pieces of metal were forged by strength, heat and a little bit of sheer will into shoes for the livestock that broke the good earth ahead of the plow.

Original signs and additional equipment outside lent to the weathered flavor of the place which concluded the tour of the immediately clustered buildings. The only one left was one that sat removed a ways from the rest — the schoolhouse.

Small, white and markedly different in construction (planks on a frame, instead of logs), the schoolhouse was everything your grandparent's pictures promised. The potbellied stove held its customary position of importance, smack dab in the center of all those uncomfortable looking little wooden desks.

The inkwells where little girls' unfortunate braids often took a swim at the hands of some mischievous little boy were there on the top panel of the desks, which were all connected in rows, front-to-back. The wrought iron handiwork of their legs and frame supports spoke eloquently of an era when pride of workmanship was as important as the product itself.

The discolored flag hung tiredly over the real slate blackboard on which was chalked an arithmetic lesson... the kind that used plus and minus signs, before the "new math." One could gaze out the imperfect glass panes over the fields and remember the days of wandering

imagination that hits every school child when the Spring first brings its warm breath to the country.

Right about here was where we lost the Flatlanders. I couldn't say I was sorry. As a matter of fact, I was somewhat relieved to be free of the inane remarks that would so rudely jerk me out of my reveries of a gentler time, back into the harsh realities of hopeless people who didn't realize that it is better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to open one's mouth and remove all doubt.

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# Milwaukee ACT-UP Demonstrates In Front of Federal Building

By Anthony Rofrisch

Still new to Milwaukee, I carried with me a city map (in case I got lost) and a realistic attitude. I told myself, "It's a big place, Milwaukee. You're not alone!"

It was 11:00 a.m. I was running late. I came to the end of Old World Third St and I found myself in front of the Grand Avenue Mall. I'd been there before — twice. I was reassured, but also confused. Where was the Federal Building?

I saw buyers coming and going, business persons strolling and hurrying, visitors, necks strained skyward, diners eating brunch at Wendy's "Hot 'n Juicy." Finally! I saw blood... a large sign bearing a bright red hand print with the words "Blood on its hands." I knew I'd arrived.

I was greeted enthusiastically by three men perched beneath the sign. We made small talk. Others showed and soon we could put "it" off no longer (A reporter and cameraperson were waiting — restless, too).

I helped myself to a fist-full of flyers, strode to the nearest corner and said to the first available person, "My uncle died of AIDS," and asked that stranger, "Are you concerned that AIDS effects the throw-aways of our society and therefore we're not doing enough to fight AIDS?"

What a mouthful!

And the next 90 minutes continued similarly with me sharing myself, coming out to strangers as a survivor of one who died of AIDS; coming out as a young, radical Gay.

This was August 25, Friday, near noon, the busiest time of the week and day and I was part of the demonstration by the new Milwaukee chapter of ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power) to protest the U.S. government's sloth-like and inept handling of our current health crisis and future national catastrophe — AIDS.

For the most part, I kept to myself while eight or nine other demonstrators marched, chanted and talked with the press and passers-by. I kept on talking to whoever would listen, trying to capture attention of the people waiting for the light to change with questions: "Did you know it took our government eight years

to respond to AIDS?" "Are you aware that someone dies of AIDS every half hour?"

I was able to tell hundreds of people, some like me, many not, that "I hurt and I'm angry." I was there to prove that AIDS was real. I was there to prove that ACT-UP makes AIDS discussion possible. By being vocal, ignorance does not go unnoticed.

I said, "It can happen to anyone's family." I showed how our government responded more quickly to Legionnaire's Disease, Toxic Shock Syndrome and the Tylenol poisonings than it has to AIDS.

I shared sufferings with a young woman who, as I had, lost a loved one to AIDS.

However, I did not have the opportunity to talk about my uncle, Gary, and how he fought against AIDS, threw it back several times until, finally, he chose to stop his struggle and "relax" as his physical deterioration took hold. I did not get to tell how my uncle Gary is missed yesterday, today and tomorrow — how I still hear him, see him, know him in mannerisms; dream him alive, and how I burn inside as his memory is spoiled by hateful remarks born from years of ignorance. I burn when his Gayness is dropped as anathema "now that he is dead."

I did not have the chance to talk about how my uncle Gary was my only real model as I grew up Gay. Following in some of his same footsteps, I, fifteen years his junior, fled the haughtily conservative home town we both loved but could not live in.

It took his eminent death to unite us, we who were similar souls, in spirit. I helped with his hospital care as he melted away before my eyes.

There was no time to tell someone flying by that Friday afternoon of the complexities of the AIDS reality.

After the demonstration, my new-found friends and I agreed to meet together that evening to relive the action and plan for more. For hours we talked about AIDS, about the violent outbursts perpetrated upon our sisters and brothers in dark places outside bars and in parks.

## TID-BITS

### A First

What was the first Lesbian Liberation organization in the United States?

The Daughters of Bilitis was founded on September 21, 1955, by Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon in San Francisco. Two years later, a New York chapter was organized by Barbara Gittings.

...

### Fest City Singers

"Spin a Fairy Tale," the Fest City Singers' game and information booth was the top money maker at MAPfest. Gene, Jorge, Charles, Sandie and Michael, among others, helped to pull in the customers by dressing as the Wolf, Red Riding Hood and Granny — a neat tie-in with their upcoming "Not For Children" Cabaret revue.

### It's A Fact

What Gay man founded the world's first monotheistic religion and, in the process, divorced his wife, reputedly the most beautiful woman who ever lived, and married his half brother?

Akhenaton, Pharaoh of Egypt (c1379-1349 BC) replaced Egypt's gods with one god, Aton, divorced Nefretiti and married, in a public ceremony, his half-brother Smenkhara.

...

### Castaways

Milwaukee's Castaways M.C. will be holding their 10th Anniversary run on November 10 thru 12, 1989. There will be cocktail parties, after hours parties, brunches, more parties, contests and parties. Needless to say, a good time will be had by all.

## Congress Receives First Briefing On Problems of Gay Youth

[Washington, D.C.]—On September 11, 1989, a coalition of leading Gay and Lesbian civil rights groups and education organizations presented a special Senate and House staff briefing on the importance of providing students with positive information and counseling concerning their sexual identity.

The briefing, one of the first of its kind in Congressional history, came as a response to attacks in Congress against programs that educate and counsel youth on sexual identity and to a recent Health and Human Services Report that revealed that Gay and Lesbian teen-agers are "two to three times" more likely to attempt suicide than other youth.

The report also indicated that "One in four Gay male teen-agers is forced prematurely out of their home due to issues surrounding their sexual orientation."

Tim McFeeley, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), one of the sponsors of the briefing, said

"Perceptions that young Gays are 'just going through a phase' about their sexuality, are maladjusted and mentally ill or are 'recruited' into homosexuality are extremely dangerous to the health of American youth."

Robert Bray, HRCF communications director, said, "Bigotry and Congressional Gay bashing have no place in our country, especially in the American school room." Bray continued, "It's difficult enough being a teen, but Gay teens face even more life-threatening anxieties and obstacles."

### OBITUARY POLICY

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

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