

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

The Wisconsin Light

State Subsidy Sought For Health Insurance

[Madison]- Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) Executive Director Doug Nelson has urged the Wisconsin Legislature to adopt a State subsidy program that will pay premiums for continuation of private health insurance for people with AIDS who must end employment due to illness.

In testimony to the Assembly Health Committee on Tuesday, November 28, 1989, in support of Assembly Bill 594, Nelson said the State subsidy program is profoundly needed to guarantee access to the health care system for people with AIDS.

"Only 18% of people with AIDS in Milwaukee who have ended their employment have been able to afford continuation coverage of their health insurance policy," Nelson said. "Far too many people with this disease are forced to deplete their financial resources to qualify for government health programs."

"State law guarantees that anyone who leaves employment where they have had health insurance coverage can continue that coverage for 18 months if they pay the premium," Nelson explained. "Most people with AIDS can't afford to pay the premium and lose the benefits of private health insurance. A state subsidy for continuation coverage is an immense help and would allow people with AIDS to continue to receive the health insurance benefits to which they are entitled."

Assembly Bill 594 as authored by State Representative Peter Bock (D-Milwaukee) and would require the State Department of Health and Social Services to subsidize health insurance premiums for people with HIV infection and must either reduce hours of work or end employment because of an illness or medical condition related to HIV infection.

Eligibility for the subsidy would include: income not exceeding 200% of the federal poverty line, ineligibility for Medicare or Medicaid or another private health insurance policy and verification of the HIV related illness.

Nelson was critical of the private health insurance industry for not assuming a greater responsibility for financing the cost of AIDS care.

"Unless changes in financing the costs of AIDS are made, the disparity between public and private sector funding will grow with government health programs assuming the greatest share of the cost," Nelson said.

"This will harm our efforts to secure more AIDS health care providers who far too often cite low government reimbursement as the reason for not accepting more AIDS patients."

"The private health insurance industry must assume a much greater role in funding AIDS care than currently is the case," Nelson said. "Assembly Bill 594 with its premium subsidy for continuation health insurance coverage helps accomplish that and is an important and creative option for funding the high cost of health care for people with AIDS."

MAP Receives \$155,000 Federal Health Grant

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee was selected as one of 12 cities for a national planning initiative and received a \$155,000 grant from the U.S. Public Health Service for the effort.

The purposes of the comprehensive four county planning effort are: to determine the future service needs and gaps in services for treating persons with HIV/AIDS;

to develop viable financing strategies to ensure adequate health care coverage for persons requiring medical and social

TURN TO HEALTH, PAGE 10

Madison Conference Pushes For Domestic Partners Legislation

By Jim McFarland

[Madison]- About 75 openly Lesbian and Gay appointed and elected officials came to Madison from throughout Canada and the United States during the weekend of November 17-19. The event that brought them to Wisconsin's capital was the Fifth Annual International Conference of Lesbian and Gay Officials. It was fitting that the historic conference was held in the first state to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. All of the conferees enjoyed themselves immensely and praised Madison and Wisconsin for its supportive environment.

The conference attendees were treated to a "Pink Plaque Tour" which gave them both a Gay and mainstream historical tour of Madison.

The conference officially opened with welcoming addresses from Madison Mayor Paul Soglin and Dane County Executive Rick Phelps. Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson could not attend the opening session, but he did send along a letter welcoming the attendees and wishing them success.

The keynote speech was given by Svend Robinson, an openly Gay member of the Canadian Parliament from a Vancouver suburb. The only member of a socialist party in attendance (the New Democratic Party), Robinson stressed the importance of the organization of Lesbian and Gay officials and indicated that its existence made it possible for him to come out in Canada.

The conference both celebrated the recent addition of Massachusetts as the second state in the U.S. to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and lamented the defeat of important anti-discrimination and domestic partners referenda in California.

Carole Migden, the openly Lesbian chair of the San Francisco Democratic Party and a member of the Democratic National Committee, explained why the San Francisco domestic partners referendum narrowly lost.

She considered the vote tally a victory of sorts, coming as it did three weeks after a major earthquake. The earthquake made it difficult for her coalition to continue the hard campaigning it needed to overcome a low voter turnout dominated by right-wingers (even San Francisco has them).

She indicated that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Mayor Art Agnos are unanimous in supporting passage of the legislation again and are confident that they will win at the polls next fall when the vote will come during a major election with high voter turnout.

The conference broke into caucuses during a part of the weekend and each caucus made good progress.

The candidates' caucus, consisting of individuals who have been candidates, will be candidates, or both, proposed an "adopt a candidate" program in which each elected official would adopt a candidate to assist in all areas of a campaign.

The appointed officials' caucus proposed a serious effort to increase the numbers of identified openly Gay or Lesbian appointed officials, and called for the creation of a directory of these individuals.

The elected officials' caucus accepted the volunteer services of a Madison elected official, Dane County Supervisor Kathleen Nichols, as a staff person for the organization. Kathleen will help coordinate communication between the organization members between conferences. In addition, Tom Chorlton, a former D.C. City Council candidate, volunteered to coordinate a newsletter for the organization.

Nearly all of the elected officials
TURN TO CONFERENCE, PAGE 10



Tim Slogoski (center) represented Beer Capitol Distributors as he purchased the first ticket in the companies Holiday Designated Driver Program, from Triangle Bar owner Al Thomas as bartender Chad Bowman held a promotional sign. See related article and ad in this issue.

Students Protest Marquette's Attempt to Ban Words

[Milwaukee]- "Penis", "condom", "Gay" and "Lesbian" are among the "forbidden words" that cannot be used at Marquette University in its publications according to Mark Quigley, an Associated Students of Marquette University senator.

Quigley was among the speakers at a free speech rally held on the University campus at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 20.

Approximately 125 students and faculty braved blustering cold weather to hear Quigley and other student leaders condemn the University administration for "paying lip service" to the ideals of a liberal education whose hallmark is the "friction of diversity of ideas."

The students accused the University administration, including Frank Lazarus, Dean of Academic Affairs, of attempting to censor the *Tribune*, the campus student newspaper, and suppressing groups like the Gay and Lesbian students who are trying to organize. This because Pro-choice and Gays and Lesbians do not conform to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

However, Eunice Edgar, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Wisconsin speaking at the rally, cast doubt on whether Marquette was truly a sectarian school.

Quoting federal figures, she said that "between 1975 and 1985, Marquette received in excess of \$63 million in taxpayer funds."

According to a U.S. Supreme Court brief, "Prior to 1970 Marquette University was a religious institution because it was owned and operated by the Jesuit Order and asserted the power of compulsory indoctrination of its students in Roman Catholic religious doctrine." However, when federal financial assistance for non-public institutions of higher education became available, Marquette, according to the brief, changed so that it could receive federal funds.

"It is no happenstance that Marquette's changes concerning ownership, Church-control, Jesuit-control, academic discipline and management of the institution's policies and operations by a lay group" occurred when it did.

The brief concluded that "characterizing Marquette University as a religious university... is untrue to reality."

This being the case Edgar said, "they

should send the checks back to Washington."

• • •

In related developments, the *Hoya*, the campus newspaper of Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., announced in an editorial on November 13, 1989 that it was suspending publication because "the University has acted to restrict freedom of expression."

The reason given was that Dean of Student Affairs Jack DeGioia, refused permission for the *Hoya* to publish an ad from the National Organization for Women (NOW) which "advocated a pro-choice position on abortion and solicited money for NOW."

"Freedom of expression is the cornerstone of every newspaper," said the editorial. "That freedom has been eliminated."

"All universities must foster a free exchange of ideas if learning rather than catechism memorizing is to take place," said the editorial writer. Learning is greatest where no idea is excluded. Georgetown simply cannot consider itself a university if this free exchange of ideas is not guaranteed."

Ironically, *The Tower*, the student newspaper of Catholic University of America (CUA), Washington, D.C., published the same NOW ad without incident.

CUA is the only apostolic university in the United States. This means that it is chartered by the Pope and with direct ties with the Vatican. However, CUA guarantees freedom of expression to its newspaper.

"The *Hoya* can not publish again until the university takes concrete steps in good faith to assure that freedom of expression is a principle that Georgetown values and reveres," said the editorial.

GALVANize To Hold Meeting December 3

[Madison]- The Gay And Lesbian Visibility Alliance (GALVANize), sponsor of the Lesbian/Gay Pride Rally and March in Madison last May, will hold a general meeting on Sunday, December 3, 1989, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The meeting will take place in the Memorial Union. See Today in the Union for room location.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Midshipman Lawsuit Dismissed

[Washington, D.C.]— In November, US District Court Judge Oliver Gasch dismissed the lawsuit of former midshipman Joseph Steffan who is seeking reenlistment into the US Naval Academy as an openly Gay man.

The Naval Academy at Annapolis forced Steffan to resign only two months before his graduation in 1987 because he acknowledged he was Gay. Steffan seeks reenlistment and charges the Naval Academy and Department of Defense with violating his constitutional rights to freedom of speech and association and to due process and equal protection under the law.

Steffan had an impeccable record at the Academy and was expected to graduate near the top of his class. He was not accused of inappropriate conduct of any kind, but was forced to resign solely on his verbal admission that he was Gay. Because of this, Steffan refused to answer government investigators' questions about his sexual conduct. But Judge Gasch cited this refusal to cooperate as grounds for dismissal of the case.

Steffan will take his case to the US Supreme Court of Appeals where his attorneys hope for a closer consideration of the constitutional questions in his case.

Building Owner Apologizes for Sign

[Washington, D.C.]— Gays and Lesbians were outraged last month when a Times-Square-like electronic message board on the corner of Connecticut Ave. and L St. flashed out the phrase: "HELP STAMP OUT AIDS NOW: KILL ALL QUEERS AND JUNKIES."

The message was traced to Brian Keller, a 29 year-old computer operator working in the building. He was fired two days after the incident.

Judith Miller, the building's owner, told the *Washington Blade*, "I was shocked and appalled when I learned of this. I absolutely apologize to the Gay community." Miller donated \$5,000 each to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Whitman-Walker Clinic (which conducts AIDS research and treatment). She also agreed to provide free space on the electronic board for anti-violence messages from Gay organizations.

TWA Bends For Frequent Flyers

[New York, NY]— Trans World Airlines has agreed to reverse a three year old company policy and allow its frequent flier credits to be used by partners who are not blood relatives or spouses of frequent fliers. This will enable Gays and Lesbians to designate that their lovers or friends can accompany them on free trips, according to *The Advocate*.

The change came in response to complaints from Gay travelers and a lawsuit filed by the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. TWA was sued by William Johnson, a Gay attorney, under federal aviation law which forbids unjust discrimination against any person in access to air transportation. Evan Wolfson, staff attorney for LLDEF, said that the change was a recognition by TWA of "the power of Gay and Lesbian dollars."

Texas Judge Exonerated

[Dallas, TX]— A "special master" appointed to investigate the judicial conduct of District Court Judge Jack Hampton has exonerated Hampton of misconduct in a case involving the murder of two Gay men.

After passing the sentence of 30 years for the execution-style slayings, Hampton told the press, "Some murder victims are less innocent in their deaths than others. In those cases, a defendant is unlikely to deserve a maximum sentence...I put prostitutes and Gays at about the same level."

The Texas Human Rights Fund filed a complaint with the state's Commission on Judicial Conduct which appointed the special investigator. He concluded, despite the evidence, that Hampton "would be impartial in any case involving a homosexual or prostitute as a victim." The full Commission is scheduled to meet in mid-December to make a final decision on any action against Hampton.

In the meantime, Gay leaders in Dallas report an increase in violent attacks on Gays in the area where the two men were murdered.

Iowa Law School Bans Military

[Iowa City, IA]— The University of Iowa's College of Law has banned on-campus interviews by US Army and Marine Corps recruiters because their discriminatory policies conflict with the College's equal opportunity policy.

The Faculty Senate of the University of Wisconsin is scheduled to debate in December whether the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program on the Madison campus violates state and university protections of the rights of homosexuals.

Public Attitudes Show Gains

[New York, NY]— In a telephone poll of 1,000 Americans conducted by *Time* magazine and the Cable News Network in October, respondents expressed ambivalent feelings about the rights of homosexuals.

65 percent agreed that Gay couples should be allowed to legally inherit each others' property, and 54 percent approved of Gay couples receiving medical and life insurance benefits from their partners' policies. However, 69 percent opposed legally sanctioned homosexual marriage and 75 percent opposed the right of Gays and Lesbians to adopt children.

A recent Gallup poll indicates some progress in the public's attitudes toward Gays and Lesbians. 47 percent believe that homosexual relations between consenting adults should be legal, up from 33 percent in 1987.

Disneyland Allows Gay Dancing

[Anaheim, CA]— Disneyland, which has been the subject of several lawsuits over the years for its prohibition of same-sex dancing, has finally relented and affirmed a policy on non-discrimination based on sexual orientation. To test the new policy, eight Gay couples took to the dance floor at the Magic Kingdom this Fall and were allowed to dance and party to their hearts' content.

Same-sex couples had always been ordered to leave the dance floors at Disneyland. In a suit against the entertainment giant, Andrew Exler won the right to dance with his male partner in 1984. Disneyland continued to harass its Gay visitors however, and another suit was filed in 1988. This suit was dismissed by the plaintiffs in August after Disneyland finally relented and adopted the non-discrimination policy.

Said Exler in a recent article in *Gay Community News*, "Being out and visible is probably one of the most significant and healthy statements we can make as Gay men and Lesbians. We have to stop this nonsense of just being out at Gay bars or pride festivals. Being out is a 365 day-a-year commitment and we need to show the world we are healthy, happy and productive individuals."

News Briefs are compiled by Jamakaya from mainstream newspapers and wire services, organizational press releases and Gay and Lesbian papers from across the US.

Milwaukee AIDS Project Thanks Donors for Year End Contributions

[Milwaukee]— There are many people who support the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) through funds donated to the Project for programming, and through volunteer time donated to the support of activities of the Project.

Thanks To Direct Mail Volunteers

The direct mail solicitation has been mailed to over 9,000 individuals in the Southeast Wisconsin area. Congratulations to everyone who made this mailing possible. This mailing solicits funds for 1990 for all programs of MAP and provides the basis for all future mailings that we conduct.

Many Thanks to: Aidsline volunteers who have been obtaining addresses and phone numbers for names from other organizations' annual reports; to Michelle Koch, Margie Tobakos and Rick Fores for entering all the names on the computer;

Michelle, Margie, Fred Stewart, Lynn Syverson, Gary Dawson, Gary Miller and Michael for stuffing all the envelopes. Also thanks to the Life Care Services staff and Education staff for their support.

MAP Thanks: AT & T for their donation of \$1,250 for MAP programs; Walkers and sponsors of the October 1 "Walk For Time" benefit for MAP. Over \$2,500 has been collected from sponsors; the Beertown Badgers and the Boot Camp for their raffle benefit for MAP. They raised \$602 in one night! Beer Capitol Distributing, sponsors of Koala Mineral Water tasting booth at MAPfest, for a donation of \$200. Thanks also for their December Designated Driver Program which will also benefit MAP's programs.



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Recent Pentagon Reports May Help Ben-Shalom's Army Fight As Case Advances to U.S. Supreme Court

By Sue Burke

Two recent Pentagon reports may help Miriam Ben-Shalom in her case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Ben-Shalom, of Milwaukee, wants to remain in the U.S. Army Reserves, but she lost her case against the Army this fall in the U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago. She is appealing that decision to the Supreme Court.

The Army has claimed in court that Gay and Lesbian soldiers are more prone to criminal conduct than heterosexual soldiers, but the Pentagon reports refute that.

Ben-Shalom said she has already received a copy of one of the reports through U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl's (D-WI) office and plans to include both in her brief to the High Court.

The brief is due Dec. 1 and her attorney has speculated that the case may be heard in the Spring.

This would be the final legal step for Ben-Shalom, who has fought to stay in the Army Reserves since 1976. She was discharged for saying she is a Lesbian.

"This is a good solid case because it's a pure case," Ben-Shalom said. She is a good soldier and has never been accused of any misconduct. "Basically we're going to court because I told the truth," she said. "They're punishing me for exercising my freedom of speech."

In fact, she was promoted to staff sergeant on Oct. 18, 1989 and was one of the members of her battalion nominated for Soldier of the Year. The Army has conceded in court that she is an excellent soldier.

She remains on active duty while her case remains in court. Some 2,000 men and women are discharged annually for homosexuality or suspected homosexuality.

For her case to be heard, four of the nine Supreme Court Justices must agree that it contains an important constitutional question that would affect a large number of people.

The case started for Ben-Shalom, 41, in the mid 1970's. When she graduated from drill sergeant school-- one of the first women to do so, she was also president of the Gay People's Union of Wisconsin.

For a year, the Army did nothing except to put a marker on her personnel file. Finally, in 1976, it discharged her. After administrative appeals, she went to federal court.

The court ruled that her right of free speech had been violated under the Army regulation banning homosexuals. After prolonged court battles, the Army was forced to let her back in.

But when she tried to re-enlist in August, 1988, she was refused. The Army changed slightly the regulation banning homosexuals and said the new regulation was constitutional.

In January, 1989, the U.S. District Judge Myron L. Gordon, ruled that the regulation violated First and Fifth Amendment rights and criticized some of the Army's contentions as "not rational."

The Army appealed to the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. A three-person judicial panel of the court reversed Gordon's decision in August, 1989 and a request by Ben-Shalom to have all the judges of the 7th Circuit re-examine the decision was denied this past October.

The 7th Circuit refused to disagree with the Army's contention that Gay men and Lesbians are more prone to misconduct and are bad for morale, but two reports by the Defense Department's Personnel Security Research and Education Center refute Army policy.

One report says that the military should treat homosexuals as a minority group instead of treating homosexuality as "sin, crime (and) sickness."

The other report reviewed the records of 166 men and women discharged for

homosexuality. They had "stronger qualifications and fewer problems" and were "more stable" than the average soldier, the report found.

Both reports were funded by the Defense Department, but were rejected.

The 7th Circuit Court ruling also said Ben-Shalom advocates homosexuality. She denied that.

"I don't advocate homosexuality

before because it was a woman from the Midwest rather than a man from one of the coasts bringing suit against the military, according to Ben-Shalom.

"We don't get the same credit for our achievements," she said.

She said she "trusts the legal system to give me a fair hearing. I cannot conceive that America will let me down." She thinks she will win, but she is worried



STAFF SERGEANT MIRIAM BEN-SHALOM

except for homosexuals," she said. "I am an advocate, however, for equal rights and civil liberties for Gay and Lesbian people," but the court may not understand the difference, she said.

"I'm in this situation because I refused to lie," she said.

If she wins, Gay men and Lesbians, civilian and military, will benefit because the military is "one of the last bastions" of discrimination, she said. Straight people would see Gay people in a better light if Gay people were visibly serving their country with honor, she said.

Congress also has the power to change the regulation banning homosexuals, she said.

Ben-Shalom is particularly proud that a woman from Wisconsin is bringing the case to the Supreme Court and credits the "strong sense of fair play" instilled in her in Wisconsin with giving her the determination to carry on with the case over the years.

She has been getting more media attention in the past two years, she said. Her case wasn't taken more seriously

about the legal costs.

Briefs to the Supreme Court must be typeset on special paper. If the court hears the case, there will be travel costs. Ben-Shalom is already in debt for legal expenses.

"I need help, all the help I can get," she said. She doesn't want to beg, she said, "but it's so important that we win" for the men and women still in the military and for the future of Gay rights.

Her attorney has set up a trust account for legal fees that she has no access to, she said. The money can be sent to the Angermeyer and Rogers Trust Account, 625 N. Milwaukee St., Suite 404, Milwaukee, WI 53202, with a note that it is for Miriam Ben-Shalom.

If she wins, she said, the court will award her all her court fees and she will donate the money in the trust fund to an existing legal defense fund for Lesbian and Gay people.

"I won't keep a penny, she said. "The money will come back to the community to help people with discrimination."

Skinheads Convicted of Gay Beating

[Washington, D.C.]— Two self-proclaimed Skinhead gang members were convicted on November 17 by a unanimous jury for assault with intent to kill and armed robbery in the September, 1988 beating of Rodney Johnson, a D.C. Gay man. The convictions of the Skinheads, Mark Hyder and David McCall, came after a four-day trial in D.C. Superior Court. One of the Skinheads indicted in the attack, Richard Grimes, has fled the jurisdiction and was not tried.

The Skinheads reportedly chanted "Die, faggot, die" as they beat Johnson with baseball bats, inflicting multiple fractures to his skull, ribs and shoulder.

At least one of the convicted Skinheads admitted his hatred for Gays and his lack of remorse for the crime, while the other explained that the group regularly attacked homosexuals to raise money for their local "crash pad."

Though they were minors at the time of the beating, Hyder and McCall were tried as adults. Both will be sentenced on January 5, 1990 and will be held without bond until that time. Authorities will continue their search for Grimes.

Johnson has filed a \$20 million lawsuit against the Skinhead gang. It is the first time an individual victimized by Gay-bashers has sought civil damages from an organized hate group. In this case, by invoking the 100 year-old Ku Klux Klan Act which prohibits two or more people from conspiring to violate the civil rights of another person.

Correction

The article in the last issue on the defeat of the San Francisco Domestic Partners Bill was researched and written by Jamakaya. The by-line was inadvertently left out. Light apologizes for the error.

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EDITORIAL

Milwaukee Needs Openly Gay and Lesbian Officials in Government

Recently a conference for openly Lesbian and Gay officials was held in Madison. They came from across the country to attend this gathering. Unfortunately, not one of those officials was from Milwaukee, the largest city in the first Gay Rights State.

Why?

We've heard a lot of the reasons, maybe most of them, and none of them really hold up.

No one is qualified. Hogwash! There's as much, if not more, talent in this community as there is in any other.

There's no organization. Hogwash again! With work and interest, one could be formed.

There's no money. Phooey! That money could be gathered. Other political hopefuls do it.

An openly Lesbian or Gay candidate couldn't win. That type of defeatism doesn't even deserve comment.

The point of fact is that we need one of our own, one who is Proud of who they are, in public office here. Think what that would do for the morale of our community.

The sad thing is that NO open Lesbian or Gay man holds a significant office in this city or county; not an elected one, not even one that is appointed.

Mayor John Norquist whose candidacy many, many of us worked for, has been in office now for over a year. During that time, he has proven himself sensitive to our community in many ways and we thank him for that.

He issued a Pride Proclamation at some political cost.

He has met also with certain members of the community. But, in our opinion, those meetings, in the Community Center and City Hall, while fine as far as they go, are not enough; not enough by far.

In the Mayor's term, so far, many significant offices have come vacant and Mayor Norquist has not filled one with an open Lesbian or Gay man.

Why?

Isn't there at least one open member of our community who is qualified to fill a significant post?

That person should be one who is a fit representative of the community; one who can be the roll model she or he will become. But a some phone calls would ascertain that.

We call upon the Mayor to appoint an open Lesbian or Gay man to a post of public trust and significance.

We further call upon members of the community to cut the excuses and begin looking very seriously to discover and then back one of our number for elective office.

The next time a gathering such as was held in Madison, meets, why should Milwaukee be noticeable by its absence?

Finally, with Lesbians and Gays in Madison, Boston and other cities working toward the introduction and passage of Domestic Partners legislation, why aren't we doing the same thing here in Milwaukee?

Would it be a fight? Probably, but who cares. It would be worth it.

Loud and Brash Campbell Makes Headlines in Minneapolis

Tim Campbell, the owner and editor of *GLC Voice*, a Minneapolis-based Gay/Lesbian newspaper is a crusading journalist of the old school, the kind you don't see too much anymore.

He's loud, brash, confrontational and stubborn in the cause of freedom and equality for Gays and Lesbians. That irritates some in the Twin Cities and he's gotten a lot of attention lately because of it, in the pages of *The Advocate* as well as in *Equal Time*, another Minneapolis-based Lesbian/Gay paper.

But Campbell is a delight. Calling himself a "250-pound gadfly," he inveighs against reticent Lesbians and Gays who are scared to death that "the straight establishment" might not be able to accept us in all our variety. And he campaigns against angry straights who would rather we just all go away or go back into our closets and be quiet. You know the kind? We're okay if we're neither seen nor heard.

Tim Campbell is a fighter. He understands that there's nobody out there to save us except ourselves. "Even if God sent us a redeemer," he says, "we wouldn't know it."

Go to it Tim! The Twin Cities are lucky to have you.

Publisher, Activist Dan Di Leo Will Be Sorely Missed

Wisconsin Light would like to express its deepest sympathies to Ralph Paul Gernhardt, Co-publisher of *Gay Chicago Magazine* and to all the staff on the death of Co-publisher Dan Di Leo.

Dan's loss is hard, very hard to bear. He was a strong activist in the cause of Lesbian and Gay rights as well as one of the moving forces behind a publication that has the respect of those of us in the business nation-wide. He will be sorely missed.

We here at *Light* send our love and our caring. We wish we could do more.

LETTERS

Kissing Girls Prod.'s Apologizes

TO THE EDITOR:

Kissing Girls Productions, Inc. is writing this open letter to the Lesbian community to express our deep regret about the events at the Lesbian Variety Show which made some womyn feel violated and unsafe.

It is very painful for us to be writing this letter, as we were shocked and upset by these events ourselves. We had no idea that some act(s) included in the show would contain references to S/M. Although we felt that there were numerous opportunities for performers to communicate with us about the content of their performance, these act(s) chose not to inform us about their intentions. We did not anticipate that Lesbians would choose the Variety Show as a forum for S/M. We admit to being naive. Our past experience has been that Lesbians have chosen to be sensitive to each others' needs. We are disappointed that this is no longer entirely true.

It has been our policy to accept acts into the Variety Show without screening as long as they submitted their completed application prior to the deadline. We felt

that it was in keeping with feminist ideology to encourage participation without judging the quality of an act.

Although we can't guarantee that some acts in the Variety Show will never offend anyone again, in the future, we will try to provide a safe emotional space for womyn. In an effort to facilitate this, we are in the process of developing general guidelines for performers and artists.

It is important for us not to forget that most of the Variety Show was a positive and affirming experience. Our greatest fear is that the hard work and creativity expressed in the show will be lost in this controversy.

We have been privileged and proud to produce Madison's Lesbian Variety Show. We have tried to take our responsibilities seriously and will continue to do so. We hope that we can count on your further support. We welcome your feedback.

You can write us at KGP, P.O. Box 6091, Madison, WI 53716.

—The Womyn of Kissing Girls Productions, Inc.
Madison

Men in Drag Does Not Promote Gay Causes

TO THE EDITOR:

After reading the November 16th issue of your paper, I felt the need to write and share my feelings with your editors and staff. I must tell you that I was appalled at your attempt to promote men in drag. I could never subscribe to a journal which displays numerous photographs of men dressed as ugly, totally unattractive and brainless looking women.

I am mailing you a copy of a column which appeared in your own paper (June, 1989). In this column, Shawn Duffy makes a strong case against promoting the drag queen faction of the Gay community. As Duffy states, "...drag plays directly to the prejudices of the homophobes and sexists, who want to believe that Gay men aren't real men."

Duffy also is sensitive to a feminist viewpoint by stating that the so-called "feminine attributes most often adopted by men in drag tend to be bitchy, glitzy, stereotypical ones that have about as much to do with women as drag itself has to do with Gay men." Duffy also gives us much to think about with the question, "I wonder... what young Gays, struggling with coming out to themselves and others, think and feel about drag? How many of them, lacking contact with adult Gays who might act as role models, have told themselves that they couldn't possibly be Gay because they've never wanted to wear a dress?"

I would challenge Jerry Johnson, *Light's* publisher and Terry Boughner, editor, to reread Duffy's column and to begin seriously considering the issues involved. As stated, "...drag is to Gay men what Amos and Andy and Aunt Jemima were to Black" and it's time for us, as a Gay community, to begin understanding this.

Men wearing dresses is not the issue. Displaying this type of recreation in our journals and our marches/parades is the issue that we need to address! You need to understand that his sort of image, projected to the community and state, represents political suicide in a day and age when Gay rights are just beginning to become a serious political issue.

You may have some measure of Gay rights in Wisconsin, but even in your state, you've got a long way to go. You must realize that in other states, such as Illinois, we hope to gain our rights someday soon. This kind of representation in the Gay press does not assist us in any way.

Give us a break, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Boughner! We do not need to create additional homophobia with this kind of display in the Gay press. There are some issues which are so important that we have to take a stand and say, "to hell with how people react." We must realize that the drag issue is not one of this importance, and we further need to understand, that by publicizing and promoting this activity, we may do great damage to the serious cause of Gay rights.

—Sharon Gamble
Freeport, IL

No: Salvation Army

TO THE EDITOR:

Put your boot up Santa's butt? Considering the Salvation Army's past record of discrimination against Gays and Lesbians, that is probably the treatment their bellringers deserve, but it wouldn't be too wise if a cop happened to be in the vicinity.

Just think twice about putting anything in the red kettle. If you must contribute, how about something really useful, like a condom? Given the fundamentalist religious orientation of the Salvation Army, it probably gives lectures on abstinence rather than anything practical to the people it "helps."

—The Mavin
Milwaukee

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.

Beer Capitol Distributing Wishes You Happy Holidays

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The Light LIVELY ARTS

Cream City Chorus Presents "Twas the Night..." December 16

[Milwaukee]- It is Christmas time again, that wonderful season of the year when the Cream City Chorus (CCC) invites one and all to unite with them in friendship and in glad Yuletide song.

"Twas The Night..." is the title of the CCC's annual concert this year, held on Saturday, December 16, 1989 at Centennial Hall, 733 N. 8th St. in Milwaukee. Tickets are available through Chorus members or by calling (414) 347-1962.

Those who have followed the Chorus's progress over the last three years, have seen many changes both in our choices of music as well as in the range of our abilities, all of which is owed to the talent and dedication of Director, Scott Stewart. The Christmas concert will be another example of their growth.

"Twas The Night..." will feature the traditional holiday music whose sounds stir in hearts warm memories. In addition, there will be the "Creamettes", a spin-off group from the Chorus that is noted for its spunk and joyous abandon.

"Our concerts have always been supported by singing members," said Concert Chairperson, Pieters. "Twas The Night..." has been fortunate to have had friends of the Chorus make this concert a success; from staging to sewing, artists, advertising and

interpretive signers. Despite the time and energy, we are all enjoying ourselves knowing we are making our contribution to the community." See you there!

Downer, Fox-Bay Theatres Join Landmark Chain

[Los Angeles, CA]- Los-Angeles-based theatre chain Landmark Theatre Corporation has announced that it will assume operation of two existing movie theatres in Milwaukee.

The Fox Bay Theatre, located at 334 E. Silver Spring Dr. in Whitefish Bay and the Downer, located at 2589 N. Downer Ave. in Upper East-side Milwaukee, will become part of Landmark's national operation that became effective Monday, November 27.

The Downer is scheduled to close during the Spring of 1990 for remodeling and conversion to two screens. Combined with the currently-operated Oriental Theatre, this will bring Landmark's Milwaukee screen count to six.

Landmark now operates 82 screens nation-wide and is considered the largest specialty-theatre exhibitor in the country.



The Barrymore theatre marquee announces the sold-out variety show.

Madison Variety Show Struts Talent to Capacity Crowd

By Barb Coyle

The closest thing to a music festival for three hundred miles... Madison's "I Got This Way From Kissing Girls" Lesbian Variety Show was a smashing success for the fourth year in a row.

This year, the show broke all prior records by selling out in only 5 days. So, if you were not one of the over 800 women at the event, here's what you missed.

There were about 20 acts this year, somewhat shorter than last year's show. The two emcees, Val Hodgson and Dana Alder, started the first set off by proclaiming "Lesbian Day" in Madison and welcoming us to "the hottest show ever." The backdrop for the set was outstanding sketches of women figures in gorgeous poses by Catherine Tuminaro.

Musicians, as usual, seemed to be the largest group of performers. I was very impressed with songstress Melissa Birch, performing an a cappella Joan Armatrading number and a bee-bop number of her own, "Boo, Don't be Scared." Melissa has a throaty rhythm and a raspy, wide ranging style. Oh yes.

Luna Lena, a percussion and dance ensemble, used shakers, bells and congos forming a marimba beat. Dancers moved in spirals and colors across the stage, freezing when the drums stopped and pulsating when they continued. Couplets of dancers blended with the drums to form one mass out of the seven women onstage. Really high energy.

Now, I have never seen the real k.d. perform, but I was told by those in the

know that "k.d. twang and the Sofines" came pretty near close to the real thing. Nikki Spurgat, Joy Wallin, Renee Herber, Caroline Koski and Mary Lelle pranced and performed air guitar to "Big Boned Gal", complete with all the country sequinned trappings.

I thoroughly enjoyed comedienne Lynda Finn, who taught us all the five steps in breaking up (A review for those of you who may need the info...Lie, Reminisce, Conjugate- I've grown, you've grown, we've grown - Substitute and Lie - "Let's be Friends".) Lynda pondered her quandary in Michigan when she couldn't decide she wanted to be the woman in the next tent doing all that groaning, or be the woman who cause it all to happen. Decisions, Decisions.

Poet Jan Stedman, a Barabooonian, wore her heart on her sleeve in a series of light story poems. Rose Mary Fandell rewrote nursery rhymes and invited warmongers to self-destruct in her piercing poetry. Mari Reinke used movement and voice in shades of crimson, magenta and violet erotica. Lisa Amacher and Kathy Younger performed a piece called "Pioneer", by zana, using poetry and Tae Kwon Do.

Skits included Crimestoppers, an exceedingly punny satire, performed by original Madison gals in blue. Lesbian Nuns shared their thoughts in a risqué performance for which they may have to do penance... and claimed that "Girls just want to have fun." Ahem. Debbie Davis performed a channeled goddess rap on stilts, with a leopard-skinned Dawn Kaiser on a unicycle popping out onstage every twenty seconds. That was one of the acts for which there is possibly no description. Technical difficulties with the sound 20 feet up lessened the impact of these two performance artists. But they came back later for some spectacular torch juggling, and really showed their stuff.


The audience had a mixed, primarily negative response to two acts. "Two Chicks, No Dudes" performed a dance act to "Pussy", wearing leather and chains. Following that, a couples body building performance included the application of a leather-studded collar to one of the two performers.


The show ended with a mixed media sing-a-long, using a slide series with words and a back-lit red scrim. The whole audience joined the cast singing "I Only Want To Be With You."

Profits from this year's performance will be donated by Kissing Girls Productions to further support Lesbian cultural activities. A collection was taken up during the intermission to further subsidize this endeavor. The producers

TURN TO VARIETY SHOW, PAGE 9

Cream City Chorus
Presents





T was the
Night...

Saturday, December 16, 1989

Centennial Hall 8:00 p.m.

733 North 8th Street, Milwaukee

\$ 8.50 in advance
\$10.00 at the door

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"A Fest City Family Christmas" Planned For December 15, 16

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee's Original Fest City Singers (FCS) will welcome their families, friends and guests to "A Fest City Family Christmas," their annual informal open house and evening of song at the South Shore Park Pavilion, 2900 South Shore Drive, at 8:00 p.m., on the evenings of Friday and Saturday, December 15 and 16. (See accompanying ad for further details and ticket information.)

"A Bob Cratchit Family Party, 1989" will carry out the evening's theme of "We Are A Family." Today's Bob Cratchit is the head of an extended family consisting of his daughter and her two children who have come to live with him, his son and his friend who are visiting for the holidays from San Francisco. They, like the FCS, are preparing to greet their guests including the fraternity boys next door who sing in the university Glee Club, other neighbors, friends and well-wishers.

Guests of the Singers will be seated at tables around the family living room setting with the lake and the city skyline in the background.

Entertainment will include the singing of Christmas favorites, novelty songs like "Jose the Temporary Reindeer", instrumental and vocal solos and full choral offerings led by FCS's music director, Nancy McKinley Ehlinger.

Coffees, hot cider and punch will be served together with all those good things that say, "forget the calories." A Santa Claus who needs no padding will have special treats for the children and the young at heart. Children are especially welcome.

The Fest City Singers will begin their busy holiday schedule with the singing of "A Garland of Carols" for Milwaukee's Galano Club. This annual observance of "Christmas Trim-a-Tree" festivities will be held at the Galano Clubhouse, 2408 N. Farwell Ave. from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 10.

Members of the FCS will also staff the Friends of the Ballet Boutique in the Magin Lounge of Milwaukee's Performing Arts Center for several

performances of "The Nutcracker" by the Milwaukee Ballet.

On Wednesday, January 17, the Fest City Singers will co-sponsor "A Little Tomfoolery" by Tom Lehrer, the third benefit performance by the Milwaukee Repertory Theater for the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP).

MAP Fundraiser At Jet's Place December 22

[Milwaukee]- There is a happy tradition at Jet's bar of celebrating each of the holidays with a large benefit for the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP). On Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day and Memorial Day, appropriate symbols in red and white paper hang from the ceiling. People write messages and pin money on them, \$1, \$5, sometimes more. All the money goes to MAP.

Now, as Christmas and Hanukkah approach, there are stars and for every \$5 a light goes on to show our hope for the future.

As of press time, according to Bobby, night manager at Jet's, the bar has raised in 1989, \$2,165 for MAP. The effort will be crowned by a benefit show on December 22 at which, Bobby said, Jet's hopes to raise an additional \$1,000.

The show, called "Stars For AIDS" will feature a host of talent which will include Ronnie Marx, one of the best comic talents in the city, Scott Sowels, Mr. Gay Wisconsin, '87, J.J. Newmann and Mimi Marx, the currently reigning Mr. and Miss Gay Wisconsin. J.J. will be one of the co-emcees for the show.

In addition, Karen Lamb has promised to drop by.

There is a food bin. Please bring non-perishable items of food for donation to the MAP House.

The show begins at 10:30 and there is a \$2.00 cover. All of what's needed for the benefit is donated by the bartenders and folks at Jet's so all the money goes to MAP.

"Intimacies" On Stage In Chicago

[Chicago, IL]- Long known as a writer and, perhaps, the world's first openly Gay actor, Michael Kearns brings his one-man tour-de-force, "Intimacies" to the Halsted Theatre Centre in Chicago beginning December 1, 1989.

Described by the Los Angeles **Herald Examiner** as "Astonishing", a play that "leaves one solid and fortified," "Intimacies, as Kearns says, is about "those persons who not only have AIDS, but who aren't exactly lovable enough to be subjects for 'Movie of the Week'."

For example, there's Patrick, a morbidly self-absorbed loner who insists he's too gorgeous to be dying; Rusty, a teen-age hustler and amphetamine addict who looked for love in all the wrong places.

These, as well as the four other characters who populate the stage are played by their creator, Kearns himself.

It will open in Chicago on December 1 at the Halsted Theatre, 2700 N. Halsted and run for 18 performances. Curtain is at 10:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, Sundays at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. and Mondays and Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Scrooge & Tiny Tim Back on Pabst Theatre Stage

[Milwaukee]- 'Tis the season to join Scrooge, Tiny Tim and all the ghosts for this yultide holiday classic at the Pabst Theater. "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, adapted by Amlin Gray, opened on November 30 and will run through December 23.

Everyone's favorite Scrooge, veteran Rep actor Daniel Mooney, will revive his role for the seventh year in a row. Directing this long-time favorite for the second year is Associate Artistic Director, Kenneth Albers.

Tickets range from \$6 to \$16. Group discounts are available. There is an interpreted performance for the hearing-impaired on Monday, December 18 at 7:30 p.m. For ticket information, contact the MRT Box Office at (414) 224-9490.

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Art Exhibit Fails to Vanish in N.Y.

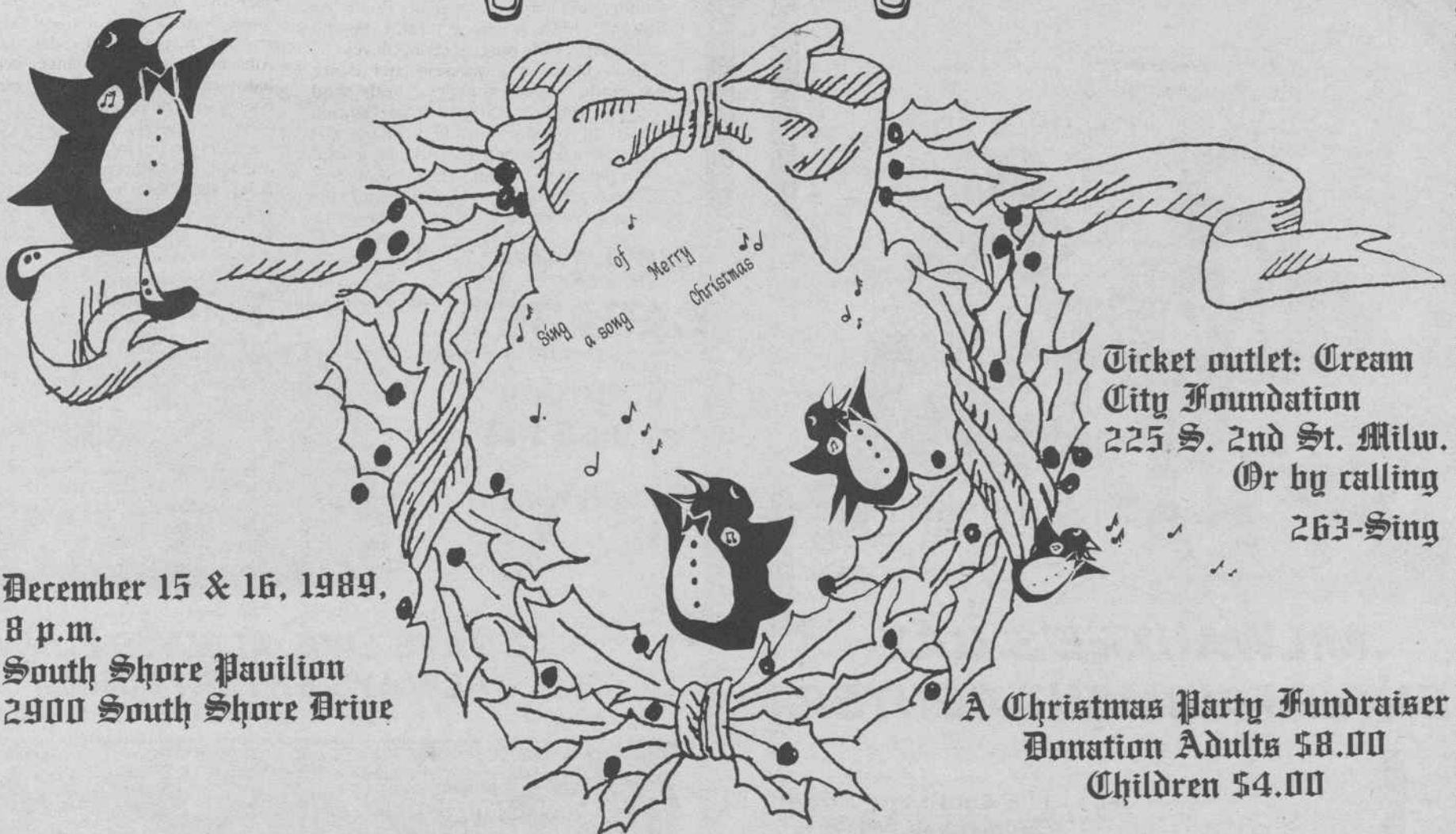
[New York, NY]- In a stunning reversal of its earlier decision, the National Endowment for the Arts has reinstated a \$10,000 grant to a New York City gallery which is presenting an exhibit on AIDS, "Witnesses Against Our Vanishing." The Endowment first withdrew its support, claiming that the exhibit's depiction of homosexuality and its criticism of politicians violated new Congressional guidelines on federal funding of the arts.

The decision brought a firestorm of protest from arts groups and Gay and Lesbian organizations throughout the country. Leonard Bernstein garnered greater publicity for the cause by refusing to accept a prestigious National Medal for the Arts, which would have been presented to him at the White House, because it was sponsored by the Endowment. Another Medal of Arts recipient, artist Robert Motherwell, offered to donate \$10,000 to replace the cancelled grant.

Susan Wyatt, director of the New York gallery presenting the show, was gratified by the outpouring of support. The Endowment's attempt to control and suppress artistic expression has clearly rebounded against it and raised public awareness about the dangers of government censorship.

The Fest City Singer's Present

A Fest City Family Christmas



December 15 & 16, 1989,
8 p.m.

South Shore Pavilion
2900 South Shore Drive

Ticket outlet: Cream
City Foundation
225 S. 2nd St. Milw.
Or by calling
263-Sing

A Christmas Party Fundraiser
Donation Adults \$8.00
Children \$4.00

Illinois Domestic Partners Bill Advancing to General Assembly

[Chicago, IL]- According to the "Bulletin" of the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force (IGLTF), the organization plans to introduce "Domestic Partner" legislation in the Illinois General Assembly. The bill will establish a state registry where two individuals may declare themselves domestic partners, and will apply to unmarried heterosexual couples as well as Gays and Lesbians.

Domestic Partnership differs from marriage primarily in that it offers fewer benefits than marriage. Legalization of same-sex marriage is not currently a possibility. Domestic Partnerships, however, because they apply to heterosexual couples as well, are viewed

Lutheran Church To Ordain A Gay and Two Lesbians

[Milwaukee]- A Lesbian couple and a Gay man will be ordained by two San Francisco Lutheran Churches in January, 1990. This ceremony, in defiance of the Lutheran Bishops' guidelines, will be celebrated simultaneously throughout North America by concerned Lutherans.

Milwaukee's plans for this event will be discussed at the next meeting of Lutherans Concerned on December 3, 1989 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Church, 130 E. Juneau in Milwaukee.

Other features of the December meeting will include a discussion with Rev. Carl Olson, pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Pastor Olson recently told his congregation the he is Gay.

Bill Host, regional director of Lutherans Concerned, North America, will discuss the activities of other chapters of Lutherans Concerned and the plans for Assembly 1990 to be held this Summer in Chicago.

Lutherans Concerned is a pan-Lutheran organization supporting the rights and involvement of Gay and Lesbian Lutherans. For more information, contact Bill Wood, (414) 344-0690, Milwaukee Chapter Co-ordinator.

as obtainable.

The initial benefits of the law will be limited to visitation rights in hospitals and jails. IGLTF State Legislation Director, Tim Drake, said that visitation rights were selected as "the least controversial benefit." But the fact that a state registry would be created would make it possible to add more benefits later.

The bill will be introduced shortly after the beginning of 1990 and will not be voted on until 1991. "We're introducing it now to start the education process," Drake said.

Draft copies of the bill are available by writing IGLTF, 615 W. Wellington, Chicago, IL 60657-5305.

MAP Seeks Christmas Donations

If you are having a hard time finding that perfect Christmas gift this year, we may have a solution for you. Last year, we received many donations at the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) that were designated as gifts from family members and friends. The kindness and generosity of these individuals has prompted MAP to offer this as a unique gift idea.

A Christmas donation to MAP can solve the problem of finding something for the person who has everything and it can help MAP as well.

At your request, we will send a Christmas card with the following message enclosed:

As a Christmas gift for you (Your Name) has sent a donation of (\$——) to the Milwaukee AIDS Project in your name.

Last year, these donations were a great benefit to MAP in helping to sustain our programming efforts. Please consider adding MAP to your Christmas shopping list.

From all of us at MAP, have a Happy, Healthy Holiday!

OBITUARIES

Dan Di Leo

Dan Di Leo, 51, co-publisher of **Gay Chicago Magazine** passed away Thursday, November 23 (Thanksgiving morning) after fighting a valiant battle against AIDS.

His knowledge as a journalist and his expertise as a business man were largely responsible for **Gay Chicago Magazine's** continued growth. In areas of community involvement, Mr. Di Leo forged a path of active participation stressing unity. He was an active supporter of the Howard Brown Memorial Clinic (HBMC) from the time of their foundation, and received their "Friend for Life" Award.

Mr. Di Leo was a founding member of the Strike Against AIDS Committee, an annual fund raiser that has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in the last five years for AIDS service providers.

Mr. Di Leo built his life around the field of journalism. As an active member of the Gay and Lesbian Press Association, he became the vice president in 1986-87.

He is survived by his co-publisher Ralph Paul Gernhardt, the staff of **Gay Chicago Magazine**, whom he considered his family, and numerous friends.

Visitation and services were held on Tuesday, November 28th at Krauspe Funeral Home. A Celebration of life reception was held afterwards at the Annex 3, 3160 N. Clark Street.

Contributions can be made in his name

to either St. Joseph Hospital, 11 West (The Steve Brahill Fund), Howard Brown Memorial Clinic, or The Gay and Lesbian Press Association.

Mabel Hampton

Mabel Hampton, the longtime Black Lesbian activist, who played a founding role in the Lesbian Herstory Archives and who inspired thousands in the civil rights and Gay rights movements, died of pneumonia in New York City on October 26, 1989. She was 87 years old.

In the 1980's, Hampton was featured in several film and television programs which documented her involvement in the Harlem Renaissance and in Gay life before Stonewall.

Hampton donated her substantial collection of early Lesbian books and artifacts to the Lesbian Herstory Archives. She won numerous prestigious awards for her lifetime of social activism. In 1985, she was Grand Marshall of New York City's Pride Parade.

Asked when she came out, Hampton always replied, "What do you mean, come out? I was never in!"

Donations in her memory can be sent to the Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 1258, New York, NY 10116, or to Senior Action in a Gay Environment, 208 W. 13th St., New York, NY 10011.

Beer Capitol Distributing Begins Major MAP Fundraiser

Beer Capitol Distributing has announced their holiday Designated Driver Program.


During the month of December, Germany's No. 1 non-alcoholic beer, Clausthaler, and Chippewa Sparkling Spring Water, will be given free after applying for a membership card in designated bars.

To join the program, just ask a bartender of a participating bar for a membership card. The card costs \$5.00.

Then, from December 1-31, drink all you want of the two featured products, free. The entire \$5.00 will be donated to the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) in support of their programs. Beer Capitol hopes to raise \$5,000 for MAP with this Program.


The Program is sponsored and paid for by Beer Capitol Distributors and Triangle Wholesale Company, Inc.

For the names of participating bars, please see the ad in this issue.



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First Time in 50 Years Gay and Jewish Communities Share Nazi Pain

By Richard Plant

Editor's Note: Richard Plant is the author of "The Pink Triangle: The Nazi War on Homosexuals." It is one of only four published works on the Gay Holocaust one of which was serialized in *Wisconsin Light* during the past year. The following article appeared in *The New York Times*, November 7, 1989. The article carried the headline, **Wiesel Helps End Jews' Silence on Shared Agony.**

When the Allies liberated the concentration camps in 1945, the weary soldiers were shocked at the carnage and the mountains of corpses. Some understood the meaning of the yellow stars they spotted on the rags of the walking skeletons, but not the meaning of the Pink or other triangles.

However, legal experts in the British and American armies knew better. The walking ghosts wearing Pink Triangles had been thrown into the camps for homosexual activities. Whether a prisoner had really committed such acts didn't matter. Nazi trials were, at best, a cruel travesty of justice. If someone was even suspected of "sinful deviance" as the Nazis described homosexuality, by law he was a criminal.

Although they understood the injustice of the Nazis, the American and British liberators were hardly models of enlightenment toward Gays. An inmate who had been sentenced to eight years by the Nazi for sexual deviance and had spent three years in the camps, was still required by the Allies to finish five years in jail after liberation.

Furthermore, after liberation, the surviving Gays were not provided the monetary restitution that the German Government granted Jews, political and other selected ex-prisoners. In fact, homosexuals remained criminals under West German law until 1969.

Only gradually would the civilized world come to grips with the Nazi crusade to exterminate those who were politically, racially or sexually "subversive." What happened to Gays in Hitler's extermination camps is often still denied. And the victims and their kin rarely speak

about those years.

That's why Sunday, November 5, marked a special day--when the leadership of the Gay community heard the keynote remarks by Elie Wiesel, the Nobel laureate and Holocaust scholar, at a benefit for the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the national political action committee for the Gay and Lesbian community. For the first time in 50 years, the Gay community and the Jewish community shared the pain of their memories.

At a time when racism, anti-Semitism and homophobia have increased throughout the land, the brothers and sisters of Nazi victims assembled to assert their determination not to let bigotry and hatred destroy this country. And perhaps Sunday, November 5, 1989, will be remembered as a day of reconciliation and affirmation.

Bigots Who Hate Gays Hate Everyone

[New York, NY]- "Those who hate you, hate me," Nobel Peace Prize Winner Elie Wiesel told an audience of Lesbians and Gays and their supporters at the Eighth Annual Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) Dinner held on November 16, 1989 at New York's Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

"Bigots do not stop at classes, at races, or at Lesbians and Gays," Wiesel said. "Those who hate, hate everybody," he said.

The noted scholar of the Holocaust was awarded HRCF's Humanitarian of the Year award at the dinner. In his remarks, Wiesel recounted the shared experiences of the Jewish and Gay communities in Nazi death camps, stating that he had seen Gays "in those places of darkness, silence and fire."

The black tie event, with a theme of "All Part of the Family," was attended by nearly 800 Lesbians and Gays, along with families and supporters.

Lesbians/Gay Youth More Prone To Suicide

Washington, D.C.- A report just released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Task Force on Youth Suicide acknowledges that Lesbian and Gay youth are at increased risk for suicide and calls for "an end to discrimination against youths on the basis of such characteristics as disability, sexual orientation and financial status."

"According to research discussed in the DHHS report, suicide is the leading cause of death among Lesbian, Gay and other sexual minority youth," said Kevin Berrill, Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Anti-Violence Project. "The increased risk of suicide facing these youth is linked to growing up in a society that teaches them to hide and to hate themselves. We welcome this report and hope it will lead to action that will save lives."

The final report features 50 papers commissioned by the DHHS. In one paper Paul Gibson described suicide as "the leading cause of death among Gay male, Lesbian, bisexual and transsexual youth," and concluded that Lesbian and Gay youth "may comprise up to 30 percent of completed suicides annually."

Dr. Joseph Harry, Ph.D. wrote in another paper that "homosexuals of both sexes are two to six times more likely to attempt suicide than are heterosexuals."

VARIETY SHOW Continued from Page 6

are very committed to further supporting the Lesbian artistic community.

I enjoyed the production for what it was... a Lesbian produced, performed, and supported variety show, bringing together women from throughout the Midwest in an experience that only happens once a year. Next year, to handle the demand, and still keep the show as a women only event, the producers are considering putting on two performances. The marquee at the Barrymore will proudly announce, "The Fifth Annual Lesbian Variety Show." Hope to see you there.

"Next Decade" Dance at UWM December 1

BY MICHAEL S. LISOWSKI

The 10% Society at UWM will be sponsoring a dance on Friday, December 1, from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. in the Wisconsin Room at the UWM Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood. The theme of the dance will be "The Gay '90's-The Next Decade." The entire Lesbian and Gay community is welcome and invited to this kick-off event.

The purpose of the dance is two-fold: to announce the beginning of the Milwaukee Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee's (MLGPC) theme for the 1990 Pride Week in conjunction with the International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Committees and to demonstrate the commitment of the 10% Society at UWM to working together with MLGPC to ensure a successful 1990 Pride Week.

General admission to the dance is \$5 and \$3 with a student ID.

The 10% Society is the only UWM student organization for Lesbian and Gay students and has been on campus under various names for 15 years.

For more information, please call either the 10% Society at (414) 229-6555 or MLGPC at (414) 32-PRIDE.

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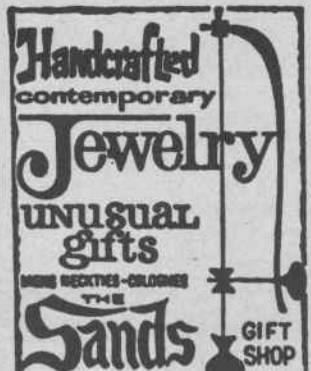
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POLITICALLY SPEAKING

We, Too, Can Knock Down Walls and Overcome Long Odds To Win

By Bill Meunier

No one would have believed it too be possible. But it is true. Poland has a non-communist government, Hungary is about to get one, the Berlin Wall is coming down, the Supreme Soviet has eliminated the Russian Communist Party's guaranteed seats, and even in seldom heard from Bulgaria, the tide of reform swept away the leadership.

All over Eastern Europe, the tide of reform has swept away the old guard or is in the process of doing so. There is no longer any question about it. The West has won the cold war. That victory was not achieved with military might or force of arms, but simply, quietly and more quickly than anyone believed possible, by the people of Eastern Europe themselves.

At the same time here in this country, we have seen pro abortion advocates win a series of stunning victories. In Florida the State legislature refused to pass a series of laws restricting abortion, despite being called into special session to do just that. New Jersey voted in a Democratic governor largely due to his Republican opponents calls to restrict abortion. Virginia, the old dominion, the heart of the Confederacy has the honor of being the first state in the Union to elevate a Black man to Governor's mansion. Here too, his GOP opponent's anti-abortion stance clearly hurt.

What is happening? Aren't blacks supposed to lose when they run for statewide office especially in the South? Aren't Communist governments supposed to send out the tanks and the Police to beat down any protests? Wasn't the anti-abortion lobby supposed to be better organized, better led and better financed than the opposition? Yes, yes and yes.

What has happened is that the pundits, the experts and politicians forgot to put the people in their equations and the people of Eastern Europe, New Jersey and Virginia have spoken up in numbers

that were heretofore undreamed of.

So what does that have to do with us. Plenty. All of the above offers abundant proof for those who need it, that we too can knock down walls and barriers, we too can overcome long odds and win. What will it take?

A number of things but chiefly it will take a will to win. That means that we can not and never should accept a subordinate position. That means that we need to be better organized, to be firmly committed to bringing out our voters, to be more active.

And we gave to be willing to engage in some risks too. If you think that its risky to march for Gay/Lesbian rights imagine how risky it is to stand outside of secret police headquarters and demand that they be held accountable for their crimes. If you think its risky to attend a Gay or Lesbian organizational meeting imagine how risky it is to march against apartheid in South Africa, to demand independence for the Baltic states, to demand free elections and to speak out in places where freedom of speech is a euphemism not a practice.

Need some reasons to take some small (and for the most part getting involved only requires very small risks) risks? How about the fact that our lives are on the line? How about the lack of freedom for millions of us? What about custody rights, the right to serve in the military, inheritance taxes, and our treatment as second class human beings.

While we applaud and encourage the peaceful revolution going on in Eastern Europe, while we approve of what happened in Virginia and while we hope for more breakthroughs for human freedom, we would do well to remember that these things didn't just happen, they were planned and carried out by millions. And if the Berlin Wall and all of those other barriers can be crossed by the demands of the people, certainly we can cross a few barriers ourselves.

Is the Final Choice Socialism Or Fundamentalist Christians?

By Thomas J. Rondy

There is no question that we are living in very interesting times. With East Berliners taking sledgehammers to the Wall and Hungary more or less telling the USSR to get lost, comes a whole slew of possibilities. But remember that there is an old Chinese curse which says, "May you live in interesting times."

Establishment publications such as *Time* and *U.S. News and World Report*, being the "objective" and "unbiased" periodicals they are, are gloating sickeningly about the triumph of the free-enterprise system over "socialism." But as the number of homeless surpasses three million this Thanksgiving Day (the day on which I'm writing this column), it is becoming increasingly apparent that our corporate robber-baron leaders have been taking their people for a ride, as well. That's where the "interesting times" factors into all of this.

The decay of American society is now quite advanced; and that complements the decay of the planet's environment. And when that deficit kicks in, things will get even more interesting. Let's face it. There has to be a better way.

This way is what socialism really is. Trying to define that word is no easy task. But it is still useful to keep in mind what socialism is not. It is not stagnant, atrophied state-corporation that cannot meet the needs of its people. It is not standing over one's people with a bludgeon to get them to conform. And it is not telling someone that they may not love a member of their own gender.

As for what socialism is, I prefer a broad definition, since there's quite enough bickering among ideologues of the Left about what the correct definition is. Suffice it to say that it can be anything from the extended welfare states of Scandinavia to the massed-based, popularly-controlled economy envisioned by Marx and Lenin.

Ideas like this, however, are often met with the knee-jerk "it-would-never-work" response. But the fact that this reflex has been programmed into us by the Establishment shows that they are actually scared senseless of the dreaded "S" word. (No, not the three-letter one!)

When this response is challenged, even that is unconvincing to many because of the assumption that certain things have always been done a certain way. I don't really buy that, though.

Granted, world civilizations have

always been very hierarchical, but that doesn't mean we should continue to do things that way. The reasons traditional socio-economic patterns have been so top-heavy is because they had none of the things that we have today. Before the industrial revolution, scarcity was the rule, so it was inevitable that there would be a ruling class which got the best of everything, such as it was. Add to that, the fact that transportation was your horse and communication was your mouth, and it's easy to see why having a top-heavy society was the only feasible way of doing things back then.

In this day and age, we can provide for human need on a scale previously thought impossible. To not do this so that a few fat-cats can feather their nests with hundred dollar bills is ludicrous and indefensible.

Many cling to antiquated notions of free-enterprise fearing that a socialist state would be too powerful and therefore become dictatorial. But because socialism was intended as a way to strengthen and expand democracy, it follows that there simply cannot be a peaceful co-operation or even co-existence between authoritarianism and social welfare. There's also the fact that if a government really wants to be a dictatorship and no one will say no to them, it will become a dictatorship with or without socialism.

There are others who fear that under a socialist system, America would become a nation of free-loaders. But look at the situation from this perspective: If America doesn't want to fall behind technologically, it will need to train its children to do great things with science. It beats what we're doing now which is neglecting education and welfare, while the ones who would receive that education and technical training are out being mules for crack pushers so that they can feed their mothers, sisters and brothers.

A socialist system would also be a system that does not single someone out for persecution because of their lifestyle, whether this lifestyle includes loving members of your own gender or simply coloring your hair fluorescent green.

Okay, so that's my rap for this week. Since it's a little difficult to conclude something like this, I wish to wrap it up with an opinion of mine which I'm unafraid to present as fact: When the shit hits the fan, everyone will have a choice; that choice will be either socialism or the fundamentalist Christians. Which would you rather have?

Society Should Acknowledge That Sexuality Is Normal

[Washington, D.C.] Society should acknowledge sexuality as normal rather than deny it as we have been doing for centuries, said Dr. Sylvia S. Hacker, Associate Professor at the University School of Public Health, when addressing the Eighth International Convention of the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) recently.

In particular, Dr. Hacker derided sex education course that do little more than describe the "plumbing" of human anatomy and ignore the fact that sexuality pervades nearly every aspect of life. America lags in meaningful sex education, she said.

While some other countries are trying to wipe out teen-age pregnancy, she said, "in this country we are trying to wipe out teen-age sexuality." Indeed, she noted, telling a turned-on teen-ager to "just say

no" is "like telling a psychotic depressive to have a nice day."

If we are to end misconceptions about sexuality, including homosexuality, Dr. Hacker said, we should acknowledge that sexuality is "normal and good," and that it is far more than intercourse. "Sexuality is welded to one's personality" and includes "holding hands, kissing," and other forms of physical contact between same-gender and opposite-gender humans, she said.

Dr. Hacker also criticized the old myth that only adults between 20 and 35 are sexual. Since ultrasound pictures have shown that a fetus can "suck its thumb in the womb," we know that people are sexual "from the cradle to the grave... from the womb to the tomb," she said.

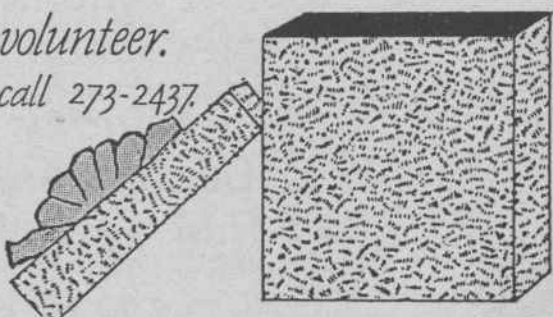
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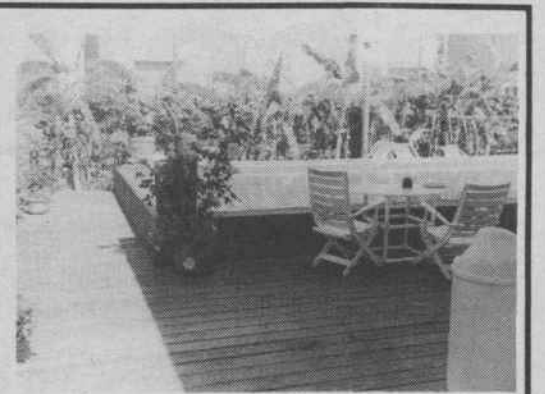
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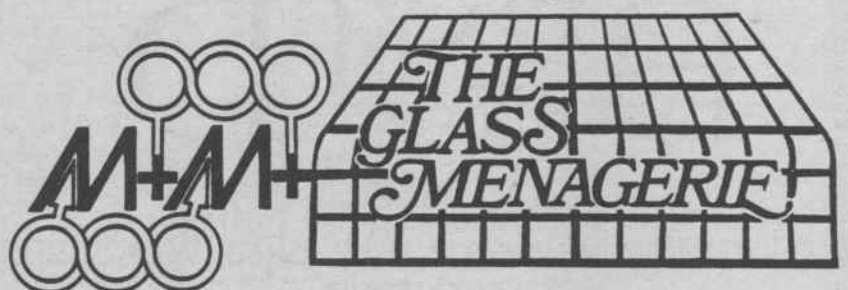
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Will Resources Dimish As More Drug Users Develop AIDS?

By Rev. Carl A. Olson

Editor's Note: Rev. Olson is the pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and an openly Gay man.

I recently attended a church-sponsored AIDS conference in earthquake-stricken San Francisco. Some of the volunteer of the San Francisco AIDS resources shared with a small group of us a concern that, I fear, we could soon share in Milwaukee.

There was the good news. The number of new AIDS cases among Gay and bisexual men in San Francisco is dropping steadily. Safer sex and committed, monogamous relationships work!

But, there was bad news, too. The number of AIDS cases among IV drug users is rising dramatically. At the same time, the number of volunteers are dropping as Gays and Lesbians, as well as many straight people who responded with great compassion, are resigning as volunteers as more Persons With AIDS are perceived to be IV drug users.

While the Gay and Lesbian community certainly has its enemies, we also have had our loyal friends who have rallied to our side in this crisis.

But, I fear that IV drug users with AIDS may be nearly friendless since they are often considered to be on the lowest rung of our society — with the additional complication that many of them are African-American and Hispanic.

It is doubtful that many Hollywood celebrities will rise to the occasion and give of their time and substance to these people with AIDS. There will be far fewer friendly voices to speak for the needs of IV drug users with AIDS in the halls of Congress.

Churches may be even more deaf to the dying moans of IV drug users dying with AIDS because they will, again, erroneously perceive "those people" not to be among the ranks of the faithful.

What, then, about the Gay/Lesbian population? Will many of us cry "burn out" and leave the next wave of Persons

With AIDS unattended? Will we allow some of our understandable bitterness to surface, once fewer and fewer of "our own" are dying, and excuse ourselves from serving our brothers and sisters because they are more often African-American and Hispanic — cultures that have generally been even more intolerant of Gays? Will we join the bandwagon and pass by the IV drug users with AIDS as persons who "got what they were looking for"? It is happening in San Francisco. Will it happen here?

Or will we rally behind people with AIDS — regardless of the reason they have contracted it? Will we respond to people different from ourselves with compassion and energy on their behalf, or will we replay the same bigotry and hatred that was shown to us, by ignoring the next wave of PWA's?

If the AIDS epidemic has taught us anything, it should have taught us the added price society's cast-aways pay when they become ill. It should have taught us the penalty society exacts from minorities before it will offer its compassion, understanding and resources.

It is my hope that the entire City of Milwaukee will rise to meet the need of this increasingly larger group of PWA's. But if we do not rise as a city, I hope that we will rise as a community of Gay and Lesbian people — rise above our own prejudices and even understandable fears — to continue to meet the needs of persons with AIDS — regardless of their race, creed or sexual orientation. We can sink to the same level as some in society who used AIDS as a reason to judge us harshly and unfairly. We can point an accusing finger at IV drug users who "should have known better", or we can rise to our best — to live fully as the gentle, caring people God made us to be — people who see in any person with AIDS the face of God crying out for compassion and healing. Which shall it be?

Up and Out: Kelly's Cafe Brightens Winter Blahs!

By Barb Coyle

Saturday morning again. The time that I sit down and write to other Gay men and Lesbians. I'm doing many of the same things I bet you do on Saturday mornings... a load of wash, a sink full of dishes-soaking-, and a pot of coffee brewing. Kay Gardner's album, "Rainbow Path," is nice on quiet Saturdays.

I went out into my garden today. There is a scatter of snow on the strawberry plants, and prickly bushes now show their insides without the cover of green leaves. It was really quiet and cool out there today. Like Winter is really coming, and my garden, particularly, was waiting for it.

Me, on the other hand, am not ready for another Milwaukee blizzard. My blood has not yet thickened in preparation for too much cold, for too long.

So what's there to do on Saturday mornings, come Winter? I have a friend who coordinated last Summer's Queen Croquet Matches, and she is planning some crazy Winter sport called broom ball. Sounds like my Old Cedar straw sweeper will find more heavy action than it is used to.

I always like to go down and feed the ducks at the South Shore Marina. Groppi's, an old Italian corner store on Russell, sells bread and corn for finicky fowl. Now if our whole community could just figure out when the rest of us have free calendars, we could all meet to "do ducks, and lunch" (See, Groppi's also

sells really good people food too).

Speaking of lunch, on the absolute opposite side of town (Are there ducks on the Northwest Side?), there is a new Lesbian-owned cafe called "Kelly's." It's on 60th, one half block south of Brady Road and about 5 blocks north of Good Hope.

Kelly's Cafe has more home-made soups in one store than I have ever heard of. They have a soup cook in three nights a week, whipping up Cream of Broccoli, Cream of Potato, Split Pea with Ham, Beef Barley Mushroom and home-made noodle soups. Sounds nice for Winter, huh?

They also have sugar-free apricot pie and pumpkin pie with honey. That sounds nice too. (Maybe when the wash is done...).

The menu sounds like my grandma's diner in Elkton, MD. There is a meatloaf special on Monday's, Tuesday tacos, Wednesday stirfry. Stir Fry? Grandma never had that in Elkton. And your, as always, Friday Fish Fry with perch or cod.

It's the kind of place where you can go by yourself and read all of the last week's papers or bring three friends to fit into a booth.

I personally think it is good to patronize our community businesses. How about coffee at Kelly's some Saturday?

Take good care of yourself this week and I will do the same. If you find an extra broom or directions for broom ball (Is this for real or am I being had?), let me know.



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