



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

# The Wisconsin Light

## Madison's United Becomes Member of United Way

(Madison)- The United Way of Dane County has invited the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN) to become a participating member of its annual fund raising appeal, reports MASN Executive Director Earl Bricker.

"This is a mutually beneficial decision," said Bricker. "For the United Way, it means having an ongoing association with one of the fastest growing non-profit agencies in the county, growing both in the sense of size and respect. For MASN, it will allow greater access, increased opportunities for education and being identified with what is usually regarded as a mainstream organization."

Bricker continued, "Leslie Howard, Executive Director of the United Way of Dane County, made the statement that AIDS is one of her top priorities. It makes perfect sense, given that statement, that the United Way pursue a formal relationship with the primary AIDS Service Organization in the county."

"Although there might be some differences to iron out over the coming months, not unusual when a new relationship is created," Bricker went on, "The end result should be a stronger MASN and a United Way more representative of the community. The end result should prove positive for the larger community."

MASN has received funding indirectly from the United Way for the past two years via HospiceCare, Inc. The United Way funding offered to MASN is \$35,000 over a two year period. In addition to monetary awards, the United Way of Dane County offers aid to its participating agencies in the form of group insurance plans and management assistance programs, to give but two examples.

## MAP's Drop-in Center Opens January 19

(Milwaukee)- Friday, January 19, will mark the opening of the Drop-In Center at 225 S. 2nd St. It will be open from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. and is sponsored by the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP).

Following the opening, the Drop-In Center will be open every Friday and Saturday evening from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

As part of the HIV education/prevention program for Milwaukee's Lesbian/Gay community, the Drop-In Center will serve several functions:

As an outreach of MAP, the Center will provide information, referrals, resources, brochures and safer behavior kits;

As a safe, alcohol-free environment by providing coffee and soft drinks;

As a focal point for HIV prevention in the community;

As a station for Stop AIDS Milwaukee in its outreach to bar patrons;

MAP will be working in conjunction with Brady East STD Clinic to provide STD/HIV testing. Workshops will also be presented dealing with HIV-related issues such as medical, psycho-social, legal, safer sex and risk reduction. Workshops will be offered from 8:00-10:00 p.m. and details will be announced when specific dates are set.

Please feel welcome to "drop in" anytime on your way to an evening out, to take a breather, or if you just want to relax and talk. For the first four weeks, when you drop in and fill out a short survey, you will have a chance of winning a gift certificate from M&M/Glass Menagerie.

For more information on the Drop-In Center and HIV education/prevention programs for the Lesbian and Gay community, please call Michael Lisowski at MAP, (414) 273-2437/ 273-1991.

## Reps. Petri and Roth Hold Worst Records of Wisconsin Congressmen



Dr. Karen Lamb presented Jet of Jet's Place bar a gallon jar stuffed with hundreds of dollars for MAP, as Mr. Gay Wisconsin, J.J. Newmann assisted at the Dec. 22 benefit show.

## Milwaukee AIDS Project In Urgent Need of 200 New Volunteers

(Milwaukee)- The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) has issued a special appeal for 200 new volunteers to help deliver life care services to its rapidly growing clientele of people with AIDS and HIV infection. MAP Executive Director Doug Nelson called the appeal "absolutely essential" and asked for support from Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian community.

"We are experiencing a surge in new client intake that goes beyond the projected rate of increase that we expected", Nelson explained. "We have recently been averaging 10 to 15 new clients per week which requires that we speed up and increase volunteer recruitment. Although we are not alarmed by these changes, it is absolutely essential that we secure the volunteer help that is so important for our clients."

Nelson said there is an immediate need for 50 new emotional support volunteers or buddies, and 70 new practical support volunteers to help clients with transportation, housekeeping, meal preparation, grocery shopping, and laundry. By the end of 1990 he said MAP would need another 50 buddies and at least 30 more practical support volunteers.

## LIGHT and IN STEP To Hold Media Workshop on February 24

(Milwaukee)- Wisconsin In Step Magazine and Wisconsin Light, in conjunction with Gay/Lesbian Press Awareness Month, will host a media workshop entitled "Getting The Word Out," February 24 in Milwaukee. Organizations, groups, businesses, advertisers and all interested parties are invited to learn the basics of working with the media.

Getting The Word Out will include presentations on how to write a press release, how to design an ad, an overview of what goes into putting out a publication and a general, open forum on working with the alternative and mainstream press.

The publications, members of the Gay/Lesbian Press Association (GLPA), opted to present the program to focus on our community's media. Presenters will include Annabelle Havleck of Havleck and Associates, In Step's publisher, Ron Geiman and editorial assistant, Tim Hensiak along with Light's publisher

"Our greatest need is for people who can dedicate daytime hours to help our clients, even if it's just an hour or two on a regular basis", Nelson said. "Any time commitment, however, will be a tremendous help to our clients."

Nelson said that volunteer training requirements have been reduced for practical support volunteers so that new volunteers can quickly be trained and can deliver needed services as rapidly as possible. He urged all who are willing to help to call the MAP office (273-2437) and ask to be scheduled for a general orientation training session which are held bi-weekly.

"Volunteers are the foundation of MAP's life care services program," Nelson said. "Last year we trained 218 volunteers and in 1990 for client services alone we need 200 new volunteers if we are to keep pace with the doubling of our clientele."

"Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian community has historically been MAP's strongest source of support," Nelson stated. "Once again we must ask the community for help. Working together we can successfully confront the challenge of AIDS."

Jerry Johnson, editor, Terry Boughner and columnist, Jamakaya.

"We've been remiss in the past by not participating in Gay/Lesbian Press Awareness Month. This afternoon will give us a chance to improve working relationships with our audience and, hopefully, we'll all learn something," said Geiman.

Boughner echoed Geiman and added, "This is an exciting opportunity for the entire community to gain some understanding of how to make use of its press." Getting The Word Out will be held February 25, 1:00-5:00 p.m. in the M & M Club upstairs banquet room at 124 N. Water (use the Water Street entrance). The presentations will be free. Complementary refreshments will be available. The publications request that those interested in attending RSVP to either paper at (414) 278-7840 (In Step) or (414) 372-2773 (Light) by Tuesday, February 20. Walk-ins will be encouraged.

(Washington, D.C.)- On December 28, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) issued its year-end "Federal Legislative Report" covering the first session of the 101st Congress. The Report provides information on the voting and co-sponsorship records of all 535 members of Congress from January to December, 1989, and gives an insight into the legislative progress of the federal Gay/Lesbian civil rights and AIDS agenda.

Among other findings, the Report shows which members of Congress have "perfect" voting records and which need work. For example, 85 members of the House voted for the NGLTF pro-Gay position all of the time, while 41 Members voted against NGLTF every time.

In the House, Members were tracked on eight key votes, including the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) anti-Gay amendment, four votes on the "Armstrong amendment" that exempts religious educational institutions in D.C. from anti-discrimination laws, and two votes on restricting educational materials relating to homosexuality.

In the Wisconsin House delegation, Reps. Jim Moody (D-Milwaukee) and Robert Kastenmeier (D-Madison) were 100 percent in favor of Gay/Lesbian issues while Reps Thomas Petri and Toby Roth, both Republicans, were anti-Gay/Lesbian on every vote.

Of the other Republicans, F. James Sensenbrenner voted for Gay/Lesbian issues 13% of the time while Steven Gunderson voted for Gay/Lesbian issues 88% of the time.

Among Wisconsin House Democrats, the percentages read: Les Aspin- 88%, Gerald Kleczka-88% and David Obey-86%.

In the Senate, lawmakers were tracked on four key Gay/Lesbian and AIDS votes: The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), a measure that extends anti-discrimination protections to people with AIDS and HIV; two votes on the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) anti-Gay Helms' amendment; and an amendment offered by Gordon Humphrey (R-NH) that would have banned federal funds from school programs that presented homosexuality as "normal, natural or healthy."

Of the two Wisconsin Senators, Republican Robert Kasten had a 25% pro on these four Gay/Lesbian issues. Democrat Herb Kohl voted favorably 75% of the time.

Kasten is not listed as being a co-sponsor of any legislation favorable to Gays and Lesbians. Kohl co-sponsored three such bills; the Hate Crimes Statistics Act (S 419); the Americans with Disabilities Act (S 933) and the Low-Income Treatment Assistance Program Act (S 1782) which would provide for AIDS treatment assistance for low-income individuals.

Among the 50 states, Wisconsin is ranked 14 among the top House delegations, voting with NGLTF on Gay/Lesbian issues 61% of the time. The state's Senate delegation voted with NGLTF 50% of the time.

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## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### Alvin Ailey's Death Due to AIDS

(Los Angeles, CA)- The **Advocate** reports that colleagues of Alvin Ailey have told the Associated Press that the great dancer was being treated for AIDS related illnesses prior to his death last December. At the time, doctors said Ailey's death was due to a rare blood disorder which they did not specify.

Earlier last year, it was revealed that actress Amanda Blake, Miss Kitty of the old "Gunsmoke" series, succumbed to AIDS related complications as well. Blake's doctors originally cited a recurrence of the cancer she had been treated for years ago as the cause of her death.

### Farwell's "Journal" Folds

(Lynchburg, VA)- Due to financial shortfalls, the monthly **Fundamentalist Journal**, mouthpiece for the Rev. Jerry Falwell's right-wing rhetoric, ceased publication with its December, 1989 issue. The **Journal** appeared for seven years and in its heyday had as many as 70,000 subscribers.

Since January of last year, Falwell has cut more than 500 jobs from his religious empire which includes Liberty University, "The Old-Time Gospel Hour" TV show and Thomas Road Baptist Church. The Moral Majority, the fundamentalist political pressure group Falwell led for many years, was also disbanded in 1989.

### AIDS Discrimination Protested

(Washington, D.C.)- The National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) is urging scientists, activists and AIDS organizations to boycott the Sixth International Conference on AIDS which is scheduled for June in San Francisco. NAPWA is pushing the boycott to protest American immigration policy which forbids HIV-positive people from entering the country and requires that a special stamp indicating HIV status be placed on passports.

Last year, a number of prominent visitors from overseas were detained or sent back to their countries by the Immigration and Naturalization Service solely because of their HIV-positive status. Even the National Commission on AIDS has spoken against the restrictive policy.

The **Washington Blade** reports that some Gay groups and AIDS organizations are cool to the boycott proposal. They question the wisdom of boycotting what is expected to be the largest and most important conference on AIDS in 1990.

### Gay Bashers Get Stiff Sentences

(Hartford, CT)- A Superior Court Judge has sentenced two teen-agers, Sean Burke and Marcos Perez, to sentences of 40 years and 35 years respectively for the murder of a Gay man in 1988.

Burke and Perez, who admitted that they "hated fags," were part of a group called the "Reformers" who robbed and humiliated Gay men. They had met Richard Riehl outside a Gay bar, went home with him, beat him to death with a fireplace log and stole his stereo equipment. Both of them pleaded guilty and the state's attorney had asked for the maximum sentence of 45 years to deter future attacks on Gays.

### Women Excluded from Studies

(Washington, D.C.)- Congresswomen Patricia Schroeder (D-CO) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) along with Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) have called for an investigation of government sponsored clinical research because important studies on AIDS, heart disease and other serious problems frequently exclude women.

"Most medical research in this country studies white males, and we are concerned that the treatments developed might not work or might actually be harmful to females," said Snowe.

Schroeder cited the recent study which concluded that aspirin may reduce the risk of heart attack, but pointed out that the 22,000 participants were all men. She urged that more research be conducted into women's health concerns and criticized the National Institutes of Health for having no department of gynecology.

### Boy Scouts Bar Gay Father

(Raleigh, NC)- Richard Jernigan, a Gay father who applied to become a staff volunteer with his son's Boy Scout troop, was rejected for the position by the Occoneechee Council of Boy Scouts in Raleigh, according to the **Washington Blade**. The Boy Scouts of America, claiming to be a private membership organization, has a written policy which prohibits participation by homosexuals.

A case pending in California argues that the Boy Scouts, although a private group, has a significant public character and, as such, should abide by the state's anti-discrimination statutes. Even if the California case is won by Gays however, it will not help Jernigan in North Carolina where there are no state protections for Gays or Lesbians.

Jernigan, who was an Eagle Scout himself and represented the Occoneechee Council at a national meeting in 1965, is determined to file suit nonetheless.

### Mainstream Press Slights Gays

(Philadelphia, PA)- Reporter Keith Clark conducted a computer analysis of the Associated Press and twelve major daily newspapers across the US which revealed that Gays and Lesbians, ten percent of the total population, receive less than one percent of news coverage.

Clark's findings, published in **Philadelphia Gay News**, surveyed the wire service and newspapers for the first nine months of 1989. The Associated Press had the worst record with only 0.29 percent (111 of 38,645) of stories focusing on Gays or Lesbians. The "best" record belonged to the **San Francisco Chronicle** with 396 stories, or 0.85 percent of its coverage about Gay people.

### Lesbian Couple Granted Adoption

(San Francisco, CA)- With legal assistance from the National Center for Lesbian Rights, a Lesbian couple in Alameda County has been granted joint adoption of a two and a half year-old boy named Erik, according to the **San Francisco Sentinel**.

In 1987, Millie Jessen and Sue Pavlik applied for a joint license to provide foster care for HIV-infected infants. As non-institutional care for babies with HIV is nearly impossible to find, the County's Department of Social Services (DSS) placed five week old Erik with the couple almost immediately. Shortly after placement, Jessen and Pavlik began adoption proceedings, but the DSS delayed action citing its blanket policy of denying joint adoptions to unmarried couples.

Attorney Roberta Achtenberg convinced a Superior Court judge to overrule the DSS arguing that the state's primary concern in adoption decisions was "the best interests of the child," based on a broad interpretation of the circumstances in each case. The judge apparently agreed that Erik's best interests were served by granting both Jessen and Pavlik full parental rights. Erik, who is being treated with AZT and pentamidine, is currently in good health and spirits.

"A child like Erik... who enjoys the love, support and affection of two fine parents... is entitled to have his relationship with both parents legally protected," said Achtenberg. She added: "...What we are really struggling for is the validity of our relationships, not just for parents, but for everyone."

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

### MAP Thanks Many Donors

(Milwaukee)- This Christmas season, the spirit of giving to those less fortunate than ourselves pervaded the Gay/Lesbian community.

The BoDeans raised \$250, both for the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) as well as other organizations to help the homeless.

Jet's Place held two separate fundraisers in November and December raising over \$3,000 for MAP. At the December event, a sparkling show MC'd by Mr. Gay Wisconsin, J.J. Newmann (thanks for the song, J.J.), played to a happily enthusiastic audience which included Doug Nelson, Executive Director of MAP. Dr. Karen Lamb passed the hat — again and again — and over and over it was filled. Finally, she auctioned it off.

In other and no less appreciated fundraisers, the Milwaukee Repertory Theater held a benefit starring Barbara Roberts that raised \$1,400 for MAP. The Cream City Chorus donated \$100 to MAP while Station 2 bar from their memorial fundraiser for Steve Smith donated \$200 to MAP. Partners bar held a fundraiser as well, raising \$100 for MAP while Mark Behar and the NCGSTDS donated \$250 to the AIDS care organization.

Certainly, to be noted, is Randy Frank and the M&M Club for the Tree of Hope fundraiser. The Tree benefit has already raised over \$2,000. The Tree will be up



Ginger Spice helped 219 Club owner, Tony host a great party on Dec. 14 as the bar changed ownership.

during January. Please donate to the M&M for MAP and help turn the tree pink.

Finally, MAP's direct mail campaign raised over \$13,000.

The community's help in much appreciated and MAP wishes to extend its thanks. Please remember, that all money is put in designated funds if requested and used for direct service programs in MAP's Life Care Services, Education and Volunteer Departments.

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# SISTERNEWS AND VIEWS

## Come Out of the Closet: Financially Support Our Community Institutions

By Jamakaya

### Goals for the Gay 90's

Well, I've retired my favorite political button of recent months, "Gay 90's Are Coming," and need to find one that declares "Gay 90's Are Here!"

My editor asked me to speculate on the challenges the new decade holds for Lesbians and Gay men. It didn't take long to focus in on two areas I think are vital: visibility and money.

### Number One: We must all come out.

One of the most disturbing trends I noticed in the late 1980's was the movement back into the closet by many Lesbians and Gay men. The repressive environment of the Reagan years along with the homophobia unleashed by the AIDS epidemic have had a chilling effect on many of us.

I say "disturbing" because if there was ever one issue on which our contentious community seemed to share common ground, it was the significance of coming out — for our individual self-respect and for the advancement of our collective rights.

Not so today. Growing paranoia about disclosing sexual preference and increasing rationalizations of the closeted life have reached frightening proportions. The level of defensiveness displayed by many when the subject of coming out even arises during conversation indicates how profoundly we've regressed. That those of us who encourage our sisters and brothers to come out are viewed as ideologues imposing our choices on others is very unfair.

Coming out to others has always been a voluntary process whose methods and timing are influenced by the unique circumstances of each individual's life. It should remain so. No one should be forced to come out or be exposed against their will. (Although ACT-UP's threat to expose Gay politicians who vote against Gay interests seems a reasonable response.)

Coming out does not require one to take an ad out in the newspaper to announce it indiscriminately. It does not require one to be in the front ranks of every Pride Parade or to be a spokesperson for the movement. The real significance of coming out occurs on a more personal level.

It's only by coming out to those near and dear to us — our families, friends and colleagues — that more people will become familiar with the reality and variety of Lesbian and Gay life. It's only through more of us coming out that attitudes about Gay people will ultimately change. Those of us who come out in a more public way, provide important role models to a younger generation of Lesbians and Gays struggling with their identities.

But most of all, coming out to loved ones is a profound act of self-affirmation. It is about accepting the goodness and the integrity of our lives despite the hostility leveled against us. It is a commitment to living our lives openly and honestly and expressing the full range of our humanity to those we care about most.

The days of paranoia and duplicity are (or should be) long gone. We're lucky enough to live in state which protects our basic rights to employment, housing and public accommodations. The increasing trend toward closetedness only benefits our fundamentalist opponents whose fondest wish is that we would all just disappear.

If there is truth in the old dictum that safety and strength lie in numbers, the isolation of the closet is immobilizing and self-defeating. In the 1990's Lesbians



Doreen Riley

JAMAKAYA

and Gay men need to rebuild consensus around this critical issue so that we can move ahead in unity to advance our interests.

### Number Two: We must give greater financial support to our Lesbian and Gay institutions.

Recently I saw a documentary on the local "Christian" TV station which depicted the "homosexual movement" as one of the wealthiest and best organized pressure groups in the country. It was pretty funny.

The reality is that we have only a handful of national organizations: the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, National Gay Rights Advocates and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. None of these groups have budgets of more than \$2 or \$3 million a year. That's peanuts compared to the massively financed conservative and religious lobbies.

Locally, many Lesbian and Gay organizations have struggled and folded over the years because of low finances and lack of support from our own community. Anyone who has conducted fundraising in the Gay community knows how incredibly frustrating it can be. (It is especially galling when you consider that Gay men are reported to have the largest disposable income in this country.)

At Madison's Lesbian Variety Show last November, a special collection was taken to finance small grants to Lesbian artists, writers and entertainers. In Milwaukee, the Lesbian Alliance passed the hat a number of times during its early meetings to get off the ground. What a wonderful idea I thought! Obviously, no one should give more than they can, but we should all give what we can gladly and freely.

Unfortunately, as each of these collections took place, there was considerable grumbling among the women gathered. *Feminist Voices* reports that of the 800 women at the Variety Show, a total of \$279 was raised. That's really pathetic. What a slap in the face to our sisters that we value their art and their work so little! Who the hell do we think is going to subsidize Lesbian culture if not ourselves?

I think these collections should probably be a regular feature at all Lesbian and Gay events. We can't possibly hope to equal the hundreds of millions our religious opponents are able to raise through church tithing, but we must become more savvy and supportive of our community's financial needs. At the very least, we should not be resentful when asked to contribute.

For Lesbians and Gay men to defend and expand our rights and interests in the 1990's, we need to be more visible and give more financial support to the institutions that represent our interests.

## Milwaukee Dignity to Celebrate Fifteenth Anniversary Feb. 17

By Kevin-Richard Quader

(Milwaukee)- On February 17, 1990, Dignity will celebrate fifteen years of existence in Milwaukee, making it one of the longest continuous-running Gay/Lesbian organizations in the community. This is a milestone not to be taken lightly, as those involved in organizations may testify. We seem to survive and even flourish in a sometimes unfavorable environment. Perhaps this is a testament to the strength of our faith or maybe our unwillingness to accept our role as stepchildren of the Church, if not society. Our grip is strong.

Dignity-Milwaukee started its somewhat nomadic existence in the apartment of the late Brother Grant-Michael. We gained strength with such strong community leaders as the late Dale Sprang.

Outgrowing our facilities, we progressed to the Newman Center at UWM. That is where I first became aware of Dignity's existence. Having been brought up in a traditional Catholic family and not having entered a church for a number (quite a few) years, the concept of participating in a Gay Catholic service surprised me. This was a contradiction in terms. Gay and Catholic—that was me; that was Dignity.

I stayed and prayed until chemical abuse forces overtook both me and my faith. Dignity withstood with me, being evicted from the Newman Center and on to St. John's Cathedral. That liaison also ended in expulsion. On we went to St. Pius X our present location.

This is where I came back in. Now a resident of the northwest side, I had heard of Dignity's existence in the Wauwatosa parish. The spiritual need I experienced in the past was surfacing again "clean and sober." A straight friend encouraged me to return. It's sometimes hard to come home. But I did, definitely older, maybe wiser, certainly with unmet spiritual needs.

There they were, the same Dignity sharing and worshipping together. Some of the faces were familiar—they too had come and gone and returned, like me. We traveled different journeys, withstood time, coming to bond with each other again.

How can we BE? We may always have problems with the Church's stand on homosexuality and, as with society, we may always tread a fine line between tolerance and damnation. There may always be a "wall" to scale. Maybe that is why I am writing about 15 years. What I know is each week we gather together on Sunday at 6:00 p.m. We worship, we hug, we share our heavens and our hells — we love each other.

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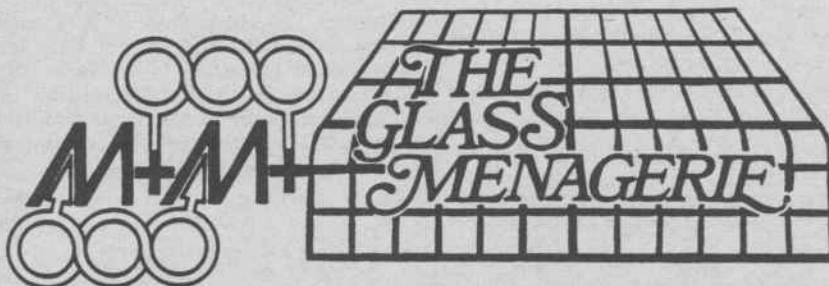
PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS  
OF WISCONSIN

The PLWA Coalition is an organization of people living with AIDS which has taken up the mission of advocacy on AIDS related issues. We are attempting to contact people living with AIDS or who are HIV positive to develop an agenda of their needs. Some of the issues include: *Political Action, Medical Concerns, Social Issues, and Legal Concerns.*  
Please contact us at (414) 273-2437 and ask to speak to a coalition member.

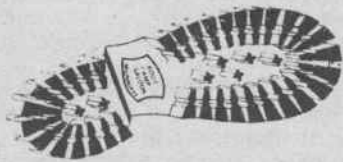
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# The Wisconsin Light



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## LETTERS

### ROTC Grassroots

TO THE EDITOR:

Re: Editorial: "Money and ROTC."

What you may not appreciate is that the military will NOT take research money away from, say, the Math Department, or any other serious research area at the U.W.-Madison, because research dollars take such a long, long time to earn a return on the investment that the military cannot afford to pull out of Madison and start up somewhere new without taking a terrible loss. Thus, it is the Board of Regents who have the military over a barrel and not the other way around. ROLL OUT THE BARRELS!!!

U.W.-Madison is a landgrant school and is legally obligated to allow the teaching of military science, but the other campuses in the system are NOT landgrant schools, that is, there is no obligation to teach military science on other campuses.

Keep in mind that the purpose and intent of the military for teaching military science (ROTC) is to commission officers, but if the commissioning is blatantly discriminatory, how does this effect the legitimacy of the status of teaching military science? Would the chancellor support discrimination in the departments of biology, political science, theatre, music, art and English?

Lastly, one should not be put off by the retort that these issues are only decided at a national level; therefore, local people have no business putting pressure on local institutions or national agencies. Well, that's not how the game of politics is played. It's not trickle down as a major thrust. Quite the reverse; it's grass roots percolate; it's exactly what we are doing: "street heat" from us locals on the feet of the national politicians. That's how national policy is supposed to be generated; i.e. this will of the People.

—Dave Runyon, Art Dept.  
UW-Whitewater

### Self-Defense

TO THE EDITOR:

For quite some time, I have been of the opinion that Gay and Lesbian people have the right to arm themselves against homophobic attacks. Many people have a problem with that, based on the principle that it's never right to take a human life, under any circumstances.

That is very understandable. However, there is a non-lethal defense alternative to expensive and deadly fire-arms. It is a kind of stun-gun called the Mighty Mite. It works by contact zapping your attacker(s) with 65,000 volts of electricity. Though that sounds like enough to kill somebody, it isn't; it only totally paralyzes the attacker so that you can make an effective get-away.

These devices are inexpensive. They cost \$39.95 (i.e., \$40.00) plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling. They are available from: Intercoastal Marketing Inc., 958 NE 79th St., Suite 201, Dept. A1, Miami, Florida 33138. The company's toll-free number is 1-800-828-5361. One can use one's credit card, also.

—Thomas J. Rondy  
Madison

**Editor's Note:** Carrying the 'Mighty Mite' otherwise known as a 'Taser gun' concealed upon one's person in the state of Wisconsin, and most other states, would be a criminal offense, known as carrying a concealed weapon. The non-lethal nature of the device, like tear gas and mace, has no effect upon its legal status as a weapon.

### Bible Misquoted

TO THE EDITOR:

The (Milwaukee) Journal is to be congratulated for running a letter to the editor recently that ended with the alleged biblical quotation "...surely homosexuals will die." By the simple tactic of printing a letter like that, you illuminated the writer's bad faith in "quoting" the Bible.

This kind of selective quoting is a game that any number can play. For example, it says in Psalms 123 "Blessed are they who shall dash their enemies' children against the rocks." Are we to take this literally and go out and crack the skulls of the children of communists? After all, communists are our avowed enemy, and aren't we supposed to do what the bible tells us?

Certainly Holy Writ has been used in the past to enslave people of color, persecute the Jews, and abuse women. Why not make a brief for infanticide in the Name of God? It would proceed from the same logic that the religious right uses to bash and libel Gay people, and gloat over the deaths that have so devastated our community.

—Vittorio Maggi  
Milwaukee

### Leif Erickson

TO THE EDITOR:

There seems to be a lot of controversy about allowing drag queens in the Gay Pride parade. Perhaps the public image of drag queens would be improved if the parade

organizers adopted the Juneau Park statue of Leif Erickson as the official parade mascot, and carried a copy of it in the parade.

The statue portrays Leif in a campy pose, his body bent slightly at the hips, his right hand on one hip holding a horn, and his left arm swishing up in front of his face as gracefully as any French courtier would have greeted Marie Antoinette. One has to wonder whether the sculptor modelled Leif after a Degas ballerina.

Leif's drag outfit consists of a bronze brassiere worn outside (!!) a bronze net body shirt, which stops just over the top of his miniskirt. The stockings are nothing to brag about, and apparently spiked heels were not yet invented. (I did peek up under the miniskirt and it appears that macho Leif was actually a eunuch.)

Milwaukeeans should certainly identify with Leif Erickson, and when it is pointed out that he isn't dressed much differently from the average drag queen, we might see a bit more acceptance of different lifestyles.

—The Mavin  
Milwaukee

### Volunteers Needed

TO THE EDITOR:

Over the last few months we, as clients of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) have become increasingly aware of a severe shortage of "emotional SUPPORT volunteers (a friend who will meet that individual on his/her terms), available to people with ARC and AIDS through Life Care Services—a direct client service of MAP.

As the cases of HIV infection have been on a steady increase over the past few years throughout the state, the need for trained "emotional support volunteers" for these people should have also been realized and met.

Early in the AIDS/HIV crisis a need for direct recruitment of "emotional support volunteers" didn't exist, for concerned friends and loved ones came forward on their own behalf to volunteer their services to MAP and people with HIV infection. But this now seems to be more the exception than the rule.

As it became clear that HIV infection was on the increase and thus, increasing the cases of AIDS throughout the state, MAP, as a service organization to people with HIV infection should have met this need by direct recruitment of people to be trained as "emotional support volunteers." Thus, the current shortage of trained "emotional support volunteers" would not exist to the extent that it does.

It seems to us that MAP's number one concern and mission should be to their clients... people with HIV, ACR and AIDS.

We recognize that education and fundraising are vital objectives of MAP, but when these goals begin to overshadow direct client care and services, it becomes a serious concern, not only to us as clients, but to the community as a whole.

We feel that it is time to look at these concerns and re-evaluate what the true objectives and goals should be for MAP and Life Care Services. If there is a shortage of volunteer or paid individuals to recruit "emotional support volunteers" then there stands a need to hire one or more individuals to fulfill this objective.

But this responsibility not only falls in the hands of MAP and Life Care Services, but also the community. Though AIDS is no longer a new and intriguing disease, it still exists, is dramatically increasing and the needs of the individuals who have AIDS and HIV infection continually need to be met by all of us.

—Daniel G. Trzebiatowski  
—Jerry Smith  
Milwaukee

### Dying Need Help

TO THE EDITOR:

This letter is in regard to the relationship of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) and Person Living With AIDS. I have recently become acquainted with a number of Persons with AIDS. I have learned through them some of the frustrations and anger they feel in regard to either emotional or financial help which they have asked MAP to assist with.

One of these persons was recently hospitalized after being diagnosed with AIDS. While he was hospitalized, he called MAP personally and asked them for very desperately needed emotional support. He was told that there were no emotional support volunteers available to help him due to a shortage of volunteers. This man was very frightened with his new diagnosis and needed someone to talk with regarding his illness and who understood what he was feeling.

My question is: If there are no volunteers available, WHY DID MAP NOT SEND A STAFF PERSON TO HELP THIS MAN WITH HIS EMOTIONAL NEEDS? I am sure there must be qualified staff members at MAP who can help when no volunteers are available. Other organizations have staff perform work when no volunteers are available.

I have also been told by Persons with AIDS/HIV that they have asked MAP for

assistance with housing and other expenses and they were told that there is no money available for them. Where do all the monies that MAP receives through Grants and their weekly fund-raisers go?

If the Milwaukee AIDS Project's main goal is not to help and assist persons who are HIV+ /AIDS, what is their main goal? I have attended fundraisers and have donated money that I thought was going to assist the people who needed it, but evidently this is not the case.

Note: The man I wrote of above has passed away without getting the emotional support he so desperately needed from MAP!

—Dennis R. Thomas  
Milwaukee

### MAP Responds

TO THE EDITOR:

The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) is grateful to Wisconsin Light for the immediate opportunity to respond to two Letters to the Editor that raise concerns about services by MAP to people with AIDS and HIV infection. Because these concerns are important to all of us, I commend Wisconsin Light for its decision to encourage full discussion on the issues raised by these letters.

I also want to thank Dan Trzebiatowski, Jerry Smith and Dennis Thomas for their genuine expression of concern. MAP expects to be held to a high standard of performance by our supporters and especially by those whom we serve.

Both letters express the concern that a shortage of emotional support volunteers has resulted in a reduction of services to MAP clients. Both letters question whether high quality client services are a priority goal for MAP. And, one letter expresses concern about the lack of financial assistance for clients and questions how donations to MAP are ultimately used.

I hope the following response will answer these questions and satisfactorily address these concerns:

1. MAP's top priority - without question - is to deliver the highest quality of service, support, and advocacy for our clients. The increasing AIDS/HIV caseload in Milwaukee is the driving force behind our planning, budgeting, staffing, and volunteer recruitment. It is the major reason for MAP's growth. Make no mistake about it, MAP's most important mission - now and in the future - is high quality client service and support.

MAP has an urgent need for more volunteers. Our volunteer resources must increase as rapidly as our clientele. We work full time at volunteer recruitment. Last year, we recruited and trained 218 people. We currently need at least 120 additional volunteers to provide emotional and practical support for our clients. This immediate need is the result of an unusual increase in new clients over the past few months that has peaked at an average intake of 15 clients per week in December. We have changed our recruitment strategies and developed a strong campaign and I am confident the community will respond.

3. MAP is well prepared to meet the service and support needs of clients in 1990 and beyond. We have worked hard to prepare ourselves for a major increase in clients:

- February 1st our new centralized case management system will be in place with 12 case managers to work with clients and volunteers to assure delivery of needed services to clients.

- We have established a full time volunteer recruitment, training and management system that in 1990 will be streamlined and focus entirely on generating needed volunteers for Life Care Services for our clients.

- We have just completed construction of MAP's new Client Center. This \$52,000 investment was made to provide clients with a comfortable environment for social activity, support groups, private counseling sessions and therapies.

- We have professionalized our fund raising efforts so we are sure to meet the financial needs of Life Care Services. This will permit us to nearly double the amount of emergency financial assistance for clients, continue operation of our client residence, expand our food pantry, and significantly increase funding for client weekend retreats.

- All donations from individuals and events that are designated for MAP client services are used for client services. That's a promise we have made and it's a promise we have kept. As the number of MAP clients increase so too must financial support for client services. In 1990 we must raise at least \$30,000 for emergency financial assistance for clients, \$25,000 for legal assistance to clients, \$14,000 to operate our client residence, \$5,000 to expand the client food pantry, and \$4,000 to expand client weekend retreats. The 1990 MAP fundraisers that are designated for client

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Wisconsin Light welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. However, please keep them to 200 words or less. Due to space considerations, longer letters may be edited.

# Madison's Variety Show Controversy Continues as Angry Women Speak Their Minds

## TO THE EDITOR:

In the November 30 issue of *Wisconsin Light*, Barb Coyle's review of our act was off. The song was "Push It" not "Pussy," and there weren't chains in Penny's and my act. I think it was unprofessional to write and publish the article without getting the facts right. We took time to think about whether the number was offensive or violent, but it wasn't... it was erotic. It was a fun thing for everybody to enjoy. Our show was geared towards seeing women laugh, maybe let loose and dance, arouse themselves. We don't need to get uptight about our bodies. We wanted to show that eroticism can be fun and not a degrading experience for women.

Past variety shows have been pretty slow and mellow. I was bored and wanted to see something more lively. That's what sparked me in the first place. It's a variety show... for all different kinds of Lesbians. I thought the variety show would be an environment where there was a variety of women, acts, and attitudes. Never did I feel I was there to make such a statement or represent any one group, religion or attitude.

Our number had a lot of group participation with the audience. We tailored the show to the audience's response, ready to tone it down or live it up. If people are going to get down on us, you might as well get down on the 500+ women who participated in our act with cheers and catcalls and whistles. I wasn't offended by that response!

In the same issue of *Wisconsin Light*, Kissing Girls Productions says they are "in the process of developing general guidelines for performers and artists." If they are going to do that, they should get representatives from all areas of the Lesbian community together to decide, not just a small group.

I'd like to agree with KGP when they "fear that the hard work and creativity expressed in the show will be lost in this controversy." It has the potential to do just that, to us all. Considering what happened, I think the women of KGP handled it in a professional manner. I want to thank the women who weren't afraid to show support for our act, and I want to congratulate KGP for putting on another good show. I look forward to seeing you all next year.

—Pam Meyer of  
Two Chicks, No Dudes.  
Madison

## TO THE EDITOR:

Fear, hatred and oppression are nothing new to me as a Lesbian. While participating in various Gay/Lesbian events during the last fifteen years, I've been egged, fruited, prayed over, insulted as well as threatened... and these abuses have always come from individuals who identified themselves with "straight" society.

When my partner and I journeyed to the Lesbian Variety Show in Madison, I never foresaw (even in my worst nightmares) that we would be in a violent or unsafe environment. We enjoyed the first half of the show and the second half promised the same until "Two Chicks, No Dudes" when the atmosphere suddenly changed.

By the conclusion of "a Couple's Bodybuilding Performance", the women of the audience had become a violent mob, booing and hissing, shaking their clenched fists at the Lesbians on stage. The Lesbians in both acts were wearing some leather. In the bodybuilding performance, one artist offered herself to her stage partner as if bound. The wearing of leather, be it a vest, chaps, hat or even a harness, can hardly be taken as a definitive sign of sadomasochistic desires/behaviors. Nor can consensual bondage be described as a portrayal of violence against womyn.

The producers of the Variety Show have apologized to their audience for not providing a safe emotional space for womyn; that is, for the politically correct vanilla Lesbians, certainly not the leather dykes. Their greatest fear is that their Show might be endangered through controversy.

They are now developing guidelines (sounds like censorship) so that the acts will "never offend anyone again." The greatest offense of the Variety Show was not the content or quality of the acts, it was the horrifying assault upon the performers by the bigots in the audience. Their shouts and jeers were the true portrayal of violence against womyn, not the imaginary bondage of the bodybuilders.

I enjoyed the variety of acts presented in Madison. The two very provocative performances were a personally significant portrayal of another subculture: leather dykes. I was surprised and proud that the performers had the courage to go on stage considering the S/M oppression rampant in the womyn's community today.

I felt violated and unsafe surrounded by the angry women of the audience. I was ashamed of the bigotry evidenced all around me. Yet it never occurred to me that in a short time, this same mindless hatred would be directed at my partner and me.

After the Show, as we stood brushing the snow off the car, groups of womyn passed

us and when they noticed our attire, the subjected us to the same types of abuse hurled at the performers inside the Barrymore. Plus some snowballs... I have never been afraid of Lesbians before, I have been a leather dyke for a long time.

Yours in Freedom

—Sharon D.  
Milwaukee



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

## TO THE EDITOR:

We are concerned about part of Barb Coyle's review of the Lesbian Variety Show and with Kissing Girls Productions' letter of apology.

Ms. Coyle has nothing good to say about the act, "Two Chicks, No Dudes", which both articles lump together with the following act as "controversial."

First, Ms. Coyle's paragraph is inaccurate and both articles are misleading:

- \* The song to which "Two Chicks, No Dudes" performed is not "Pussy", but "Push It", a popular dance tune in Lesbian and Gay bars.

- \* The dancers wore some leather and denim, as did a large fraction of the audience (how many readers own a leather jacket?), but to label this a "leather and chains" act misrepresents it: the act was primarily erotica, not primarily S/M. Kissing Girls' apology shows the same confusion.

- \* The audience response to the act was from from "primarily negative" as Ms. Coyle reports. The audience's cheers, applause, and howls of appreciation grew throughout this exciting act. Is this the same audience to which Kissing Girls feels compelled to apologize? Or are they talking about the same act?

Second, Ms. Coyle's judgemental attitude is surfacing in a vocal minority of Madison's Lesbian community, likely the same minority which elicited Kissing Girls' apology. Such prudish views are not only tiresome, but also dangerous. Try to understand why:

Many of us have survived sexual assault by men, and all of us are assaulted daily by heterosexist media and society. One understandable response is an aversion to things sexual. Instead of reacting by shutting off sexuality, some artists like the performers of this act create or discover new forms of consensual erotica for themselves. Creative efforts such as theirs are welcomed by many Lesbians, judging from the lively audience response. Quality Lesbian erotica is rare; many of us are starving for a respectful and exciting show like the one crafted for us by the courageous women in "Two Chicks, No Dudes." Many of us are supportive of each others' creative efforts, because they can help us heal and grow as loving, sexual strong women. We must not censor each others' playful erotic experiments, else we become allies of a repressive society which would keep women passive and impotent.

—Liz Nilles, Rose Arcand

Kirsten Wollner, Deb Meyer

Lisa Peck, Lois Stauber

Sarah J. Gordon, Jamie L. Draeger

E. Fadell, Vicki A. Richard

Cheri Becker (Back East), Pat Calchina

All of the above signatories are from Madison.

Editor's Note: Barb Coyle regrets misnaming the title of the song.

## TO THE EDITOR:

After reading letters and commentaries about the S/M acts in the Lesbian Variety Show, I, as one of the performers, would like to respond.

Kissing Girls Productions stated that we used the variety show as a forum for S/M. If they believe this is so, does that mean the other acts were a forum for "vanilla" sex or Crimestoppers? Our act was as much an artistic expression of ourselves and our beliefs as any other act was.

We tried to make several things clear during our performance: I carried the collar onstage. I freely gave the collar to Kelly to put on me. After it was on, we posed in a "muscle shot" to show the power we both had. At the end, I carried Kelly offstage, not as a joke as it was claimed, but to show that I had not lost my power... that I was just as strong physically, emotionally and sexually as I was before.

I have been told that our performance was racist, anti-Semitic, nazism, police oppression, that I was slapped, that I was "placating" Kelly by "consenting to a dog

collar", and was subsequently strangled onstage. (This last comment by someone who claimed to have not even seen the end of our performance.) These people were obviously not at the same show I was at.

Racist? Why? Because Kelly was wearing black pants? Anti-Semitic? Well, it's true, neither of us is Jewish. Nazism? Where were the swastikas? Police oppression? We

do use restraints at home sometimes... Slapped? Didn't happen to me. "Placated by consenting to a dog collar? It was freely offered. Strangled onstage? When?

Women have said that we should not have been allowed to perform... why? This is supposedly a variety show for all Lesbians. Or is it instead, as the separatists in Michigan said, "our (separatists) music festival"? If so, let it be labelled as such: a white, upper middle-class, sexophobic, politically correct, radicalesbian, non-variety show.

The producers have said they will be "developing general guidelines." Why not be blunt and admit the show will now be censored? Jesse Helms, here we come. You know as well as I do that the general guidelines won't be "nothing over 30 decibels." It will be "no S/M, no leather." That is censorship.

One person said that it would be OK to show S/M if there is "no portrayal of giving up of personal power, no portrayal of violence." If we were to leave out what is perceived as that, then it would have no connection to S/M. What would be left would be the rest of the variety show. This is akin to saying, it's OK to be a Lesbian as long as you never touch another woman.

Our performance was definitely controversial. However, controversial does not mean negative. Obviously, there is at least on facet of Lesbianism which has not been delt with.

Instead of trying to hide Lesbian S/M from ourselves and others, refusing to see it, or claiming that feminism and S/M are incompatible, why not accept it as a possibility and a part of life for some of us?

Instead of condemning women who choose to practice S/M, why not talk to us with an open mind to see where we are coming from?

Instead of making/believing deliberately inflammatory false comments, why not talk to the S/M community and find out what is true from one of us, rather than from someone who violently opposes S/M?

S/M is sexuality. S/M is erotic. S/M is what pleases me. Perhaps it isn't those things for you. On the other hand, what pleasures you does not necessarily pleasure me.

I refuse to be told how to make love to my lover or how she should make love to me. Heterosexuals have done this to Lesbians. I will not allow Lesbians to do this to me.

—Maggie Freespirit  
Madison

## TO THE EDITOR:

Open Letter to the producers of Kissing Girls Productions:

Up until recently, I had been very proud of you for your courage and willingness to take risks in order to entertain all of the Lesbian community in its diversity. Seeing the words "Lesbian Variety Show, Sold Out" on a public marquee gave me some kind of feeling of pride in ourselves, of being able to laugh in the face of oppression. But now, I am not feeling proud of us anymore. Instead, I am feeling disgusted and disappointed, not to mention angry and misled.

I thought after all the political upheaval of the '70's and the return to balance of the '80's, during which it seemed to me that people were really examining their own personal politics as they related to the larger world, that we had come into somewhat of an acceptance, if not an embrace, of all the diverse aspects of our culture. But, sadly, I was wrong.

I was not at your production this year, and now I'm glad. I heard about the performance in question from people who were there, and it seemed rather harmless to me. But it seems that even the vaguest mention of anything that might have the slightest connection with S/M or leather-sex raises the hackles of the radical Lesbian left to such a degree that they simply cannot control their urge to control what the rest of us feel and wish to experience.

I was sickened at the thought that anyone,

much less a huge segment of the audience, would be so rude and juvenile as to hiss and disrupt a performance by any other Lesbians. I find it unthinkable that any of us, knowing intimately the way oppression feels, would subject a sister to this kind of censorship of expression. Obviously, even in this day when the Berlin Wall is tumbling and the KGB is threatened with being dismantled, the LSP (Lesbian Sex Police) are still firmly entrenched in a position of power in our culture. How absolutely frightening.

To those women who have been the victims of battering or abuse, I say that I am terribly sorry that you have been victimized. If even a mere mention of a power-over maneuver gives you chills, I can't imagine how you can get through a day of TV and radio news, days at the office with your boss, rude customers demanding their way, and so on. I truly think that it must be Hellish for you. I also suppose that since most of you are functional, fairly well-adjusted human beings, you have learned to cope with these things.

I suggest then, to the producers of these shows, that these women who have been victimized go through their lives every day knowing that they will be confronted with actions that may bring unpleasant feelings. I suggest that they willingly participate in a life that is not always pleasant, because that is life. I suggest that they come to shows such as yours knowing that they will be subjected to differing viewpoints on the viability of different sexual outlooks, and that they don't need to be protected by you from these differences. After all, we are all, are we not, thinking, rational adults who can reason and make decisions for ourselves?

I then suggest that your letter of apology was not only uncalled for, but that it was a direct slap in the face (and not the fun kind) to those of us who consider ourselves differently pleased. If it is damage to women's psyches that you are concerned about, have you ever considered the fact that we, as a group, have been oppressed from the inception of the Lesbian rights movement? You, as vanilla-sexed Lesbians, only have to come out of the closet once. WE must face that specter every time the subject of alternative sexual lifestyles arises...among Lesbians and among straights.

WE have constantly been swept under the rug even at such collective celebrations of diversity as the music festivals. You see Francophone tents, you see women of color tents, sober support tents and Crone Hill for older Lesbians. But do you see a Leather support tent? A twelve-step program to overcome one's fear of anything other than vanilla sex? A "safe" haven such as "Leatherspace"? Absolutely not. It is assumed that we are the dregs of Lesbian society. WE are that group that is always "worse off than they are." WE are the pervers of the perverts. Good God!

I am sick unto death of the proselytizing that goes on among those Lesbians who fear leathersex. Especially because the ones with the loudest mouths in this argument are almost without fail the ones who know the least about it. It reminds me of the poison that spewed from my mother's mouth about all Jehovah's Witnesses when I was a child. She told me all about how they drank pig's blood, wouldn't let their children take medicine, and thought their sons were the second coming of Christ. Horrible people, they were. Little did she know that our very quiet, very "normal" neighbors (and my best friends) were Witnesses and that I routinely sat in on their bible studies, which were always going on when I went down there to play.

They weren't drinking pig's blood. They had Koolaid (and it wasn't even red, it was green). Their sons were the first taking out of the garbage, not the second coming of Christ. And Bonny was taking Sudafed to get over her cold, not to mention her heathen indulgence of Vick's VapoRub! I decided then and there that I would never make a judgment based on what I had heard second-hand about someone or something until I had seen it or tried it for myself. I strongly advocate that this would be a wise move for everyone to make concerning their attitudes toward the differently pleased.

I am not going to get into the politics of leather here...that is not my point. My point is that if you are going to bill yourselves as celebrating our diversity, then for crying out loud, DO IT! And do it all the way. I hate wimpy, whiny politics. If you are going to be

TURN TO VARIETY SHOW, PAGE 11

## COME UP AND SKI US!

Northland House, your bed-and-breakfast second home in the great north woods announces the opening of Northstar House for group outings, meetings and retreats.

NORTHLAND HOUSE  
609 Hwy. 77, Pence, WI 54550  
(715) 561-3120

# Tremendous Political Gains Were Made Across The Country During the 1980's

By Bill Meunier

Ten years can make a big difference. In the 1980's the progress Gays and Lesbians made on the political front certainly showed that.

While we suffered some set backs, (the elections of Reagan, Bush and Thompson) we also made measurable progress in getting new laws, electing Gay/Lesbian candidates and making our case to the public at large.

For example as we entered the 80's Gays and Lesbians had suffered a string of humiliating defeats in local referendums called to repeal Lesbian/Gay Rights ordinances. As the eighties left us we were still losing most of the referendums but by much closer margins. Of the five referendums held in the late seventies we lost them all by between 13 and 33%. Of those lost in the eighties the biggest margin was 6% and the smallest was less than 1% and we won some too.

But greater success at the ballot box was not the only accomplishment we saw during the 1980's. There were others too.

## 1980

Ted Kennedy and Republican John Anderson become the first major Presidential candidates to openly call for Gay and Lesbian Rights. Karen Clark gets elected in Minnesota.

Milwaukee Gays get openly involved in local politics supporting the Mayoral campaign of Dennis Conta. So many of us volunteered to help that on Tuesday and Sunday nights we virtually took over the campaign headquarters. On primary night Conta finished 10 votes ahead of incumbent Mayor Henry Maier we were credited with the victory and nearly every Lesbian and Gay bar in Milwaukee had record receipts for a Tuesday night as impromptu celebrations took place. Milwaukee politics would never be the same again.

The big event of the year came when Miriam Ben Shalom won the first Federal Court decision to grant equality to Gays and Lesbians, when Federal Judge Terrance Evans ordered her reinstatement into the military.

## 1981

The first openly Lesbian judge in the country is appointed in California. The American Psychological Association declared that we are "normal" and removed homosexuality for its list of mental disorders.

## 1982

Federal Judge Gerald Buckmeyer threw out the Texas Sodomy law while Mike Hardwick was getting arrested in Georgia under its sodomy laws. Hardwick challenged the arrest all the way to the US Supreme Court where he lost.

The House of Representatives approved \$2.6 million to research the new "Gay disease" which we now know as AIDS. The allocation never got through the Senate.

## AMERICA RESPONDS TO AIDS

The really big news of the year was the passage of Wisconsin's Gay/Lesbian Rights law, the first of its kind in the country. This was followed by passage of Wisconsin's consenting adults law.

Tony Earl is elected Governor of Wisconsin and fulfills his campaign promise by establishing the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Issues. He also appoints Wisconsin's first Gay cabinet member, Ron Mc Crea to be his press secretary. Republican bigots of course object loudly as do several Wisconsin newspapers.

## 1983

This was the year of the Gay Mayor. Key West, and Santa Cruz both elected Gay mayors.

Gerry Studds a Gay Congressman from Massachusetts was censored by the House for his sexual activities with a Congressional Page. (Studds survived politically and still represents his district winning re-election time after time by very impressive margins.)

## 1984

For the first time a major Party's national platform endorsed equal rights



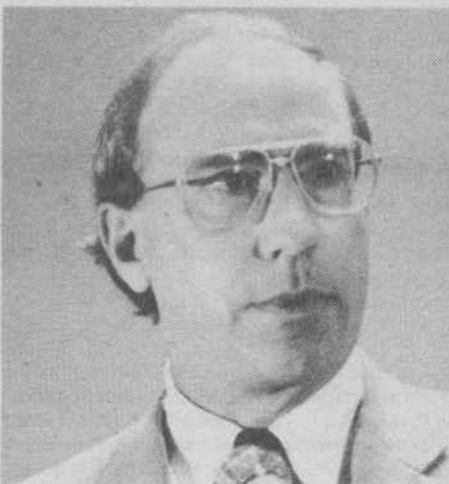
Many Madison politicians attend the Gay and Lesbian Visibility Alliance gala fundraiser at the Cardinal Bar on January 13, including Ricardo Gonzalez, Tammy Baldwin, Dick Wagner, Earl Bricker and Terence Gilles.

for Gays and Lesbians as the Democrats came out of the political closet. Jesse Jackson ran for President and did so with substantial Lesbian and Gay support.

California Governor George Dukmejian stood in the way of that state becoming the second Gay rights state in the country when he vetoed Gay Rights legislation that had reached his desk.

The US Conference of Mayors called for equal protection for Lesbians and Gays and a Gay man made national news when he was elected Mayor of Bunceton Missouri. Not to be outdone the Lesbian community could boast of a Mayor too, elected in West Hollywood.

Earl Bricker is appointed to Governor Earl's staff as a liaison for the Lesbian/Gay community.



Congressman Gerry Studds

## 1985

In Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmore survived a bitter re-election fight and won another term despite her opponents making Whitmore's support of Gay/Lesbian rights the big issue of the campaign.

Assassin Dan White who murdered Gay Supervisor Harvey Milk and along with San Francisco Mayor Dan Moscone committed suicide.

## 1986

The Supreme Court rules against Hardwick.

Ultra Conservative fund raiser Terry Dolan, who is credited by many for raising the funds needed to launch the Moral Majority and Ronald Reagan's 1980 campaign dies of AIDS. A victim of the policies promoted by the man he so ably served.

An anti-Gay/Lesbian/Persons With AIDS referendum is defeated in California.

Despite massive support from the Gay/Lesbian community Governor Earl loses his re-election bid after running what can only be considered one of the most inept campaigns in Wisconsin Political history. As former GOP Chairman Odie Fish put on election night "There is simply no excuse for an incumbent Governor with a good record to lose after spending nearly \$1,000,000."

## 1987

500,000 of us turn out to March in Washington. After an electrifying speech by Jesse Jackson, he becomes "our" candidate for President.

600 Demonstrators are arrested outside the US Supreme Court protesting its Hardwick decision.

Miriam Ben Shalom wins another round in her continuing fight against the Army when Judge Evans again orders her reinstatement into the Army and

threatens to hold the Pentagon in contempt for refusing to honor his 1980 order.

In one of his first acts in office, newly elected Governor Tommy Thompson dissolves the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian issues.

## 1988

Every Democratic candidate for President comes out in favor of Lesbian/Gay Rights. Thousands of Lesbians and Gays flock to Jesse Jackson's banner. Wisconsin Gays and Lesbians are particularly supportive and attract national media attention (news segments on two networks, and articles in the New York Times, Washington Post and other papers) over their role in Jackson campaign.

The GOP invites the Lincoln Club, an organization of Gay/Lesbian Republicans to testify at its platform hearings. Lesbian/Gay rights are not included in the platform or even discussed at the subsequent convention, but the precedent has been set.

Two Gay men and two Lesbians are elected to the Dane County Board. Gay alderman Jim Mc Farland is re-elected to the Madison City Council.

Chicago finally passes a Lesbian/Gay rights ordinance.

John Norquist is elected Mayor of Milwaukee receiving substantial financial and volunteer support from the our community.

George Bush got elected but called for civil rights protection to be extended to persons with AIDS.

Miriam is back in court again this time to win the right to re-enlist. She does.

## 1989

Massachusetts joins Wisconsin in passing a Gay/Lesbian rights law.

A federal court rules that Sgt. Perry Watkins was unfairly discharged by the Army due to his homosexuality.

The US House of Representatives passes the Hate Crimes law. Congressman Barney Frank is accused of running a Male and Female prostitution ring out his apartment. His accuser is a two bit slime of a Male hustler who served as the Congressman's driver. Jesse Helms seeks to outlaw Gay/Lesbian art.



STAFF SGT. MIRIAM BEN-SHALOM

For the first time, Miriam loses a round in the Federal Courts when the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in a decision that will go down as one of the most illogical and inane ever to disgrace the law journals of this country allows the Army to refuse her re-enlistment. Despite the set back, Miriam is named Solider of the Year and files an appeal to the US Supreme Court.

One of Wisconsin's premier political activists Alyn Hess dies from complications of AIDS.

# POLITICS I

## Wis. Becoming State in '82 Hi

By David C

Legislative accomplishments of the last ten rights decade for Gays and Lesbians in Wisconsin Today, discrimination based on sexual relationships are legitimized and legal, and states throughout the nation.

The decade of unprecedented milestones in State" include:

**April 28, 1981.** The State Assembly kills the legalize homosexuality. After extensive debate

**October 23, 1981** The Assembly passes the based on sexual orientation in employment, vote on AB 70 is 49-45.

**February 26, 1982** The State Senate passes is bipartisan.

**March 2, 1982** The Gay Rights Bill takes effect signs AB 70 into law, despite heavy religious leaders support the bill.

**February 23, 1983** The first Governor's Commission Democratic Governor Tony Earl, convenes. Thompson and Kathleen Nichols and conducts hearings the

**April 21, 1983** The Assembly passes the introduction in 1975. The Assembly vote on the

**May 3, 1983** The Senate passes AB 250, 20-

**May 5, 1983** Governor Earl signs AB 250 sexual activity between consenting adults.

**July 22, 1983** A Lake Geneva man, filed complaint with the state Equal Rights Division rights discrimination complaint under the state

**December 6, 1983** The Wisconsin Department foster home license to a Gay applicant. Winne The court establishes that Gays and Lesbians circumstances.

**April 6, 1984** An effort to repeal the Gay adjourns, refusing to act on AB 570.

**June 14, 1985** The Assembly passes legislation testing, protects confidentiality of AIDS test insurance purposes. The Senate later concurs in

**July 17, 1985** Governor Earl signs the state for a Gay and Lesbian liaison in the Governor Bricker to the position.

**February 24, 1988** The Assembly passes the criminal penalties for "Gay bashing" and Senate later concurs and Republican Governor

**April 19, 1988** County Supervisor Richard Dane County Board of Supervisors, making elected officials in the nation.

**June 14, 1989** The Joint Committee on funding for AIDS service organizations to provide The Assembly and Senate later approve the act and Governor Thompson signs it into law.

**October 31, 1989** The Assembly passes, or bill of rights for people with AIDS and HIV medical care and mandates increased insurance is scheduled to act on the bill, AB 400, early in

In the final analysis, these laws are in the real lives of real people.

For the 1990's, the Lesbian and Gay community easier and safer to live, and to work, and to court

**Editor's Note:** State Representative David column, has been a member of the Wisconsin involved in many of the accomplishments listed

Madison holds a Pride celebration that climaxes with a rally attended by thousands. Governor Thompson refuses to honor the request of the Madison Pride Committee and declines to issue a proclamation memorializing the victims of AIDS.

Milwaukee also holds a Pride Celebration 1,000 people turn out for the City's first Pride Parade and Rally in 8 years. Right wing fundamentalists attack Mayor Norquist, County Executive Schulz and the County Board for issuing Gay/Lesbian Pride proclamations. In an unexpected turn of events, the County Board refuses to rescind its proclamation handing the fundamentalists a humiliating defeat.

We began the decade in a cascade of disco music in organizational disarray. Our political impact was limited to say the least. As we ended the decade we found ourselves far better organized than we ever had been and looking back we could see that we were having success.

By the end of the 80's we had won several major court cases (we lost some too), elected several dozen openly Gay and Lesbian officeholders, and forced the powers that be (or want to be ) to recognize us as a political force.

Part of this growth came out of the women's movement. The women in our community have always been more political than the men. Perhaps this is

## Governor Earl Created Controversial Council On Lesbian and Gay Issues in 1983

By Sue Burke

For almost four years in the 1980's, Lesbians and Gay men were an official part of the Wisconsin government.

Governor Tony Earl created a 14-member Governor's Council on Lesbian and Gay issues to advise the executive office on the implementation of the state's new Gay rights law and on issues of personal safety and health, and to consult with Lesbian and Gay organizations and individuals.

The council was controversial in the Gay community and the straight community, for different reasons.

"I think a lot of people would say we didn't do enough, which is true, but we did a lot," said Mark Behar, a member of the council.

When Earl ran for governor in 1982, he promised to create a liaison to the Lesbian and Gay community on his staff. When he got into office, he said, he discovered he did not have the funds to create that position, although he had liaisons for Black, Hispanic and Native American communities.

Instead, he created a volunteer advisory group. Kathleen Nichols and Dick Wagner, both Madison activists, recruited the members and were the co-chairs, although Wagner eventually resigned because he was "spread too thin."

The council's initial budget of \$1,000 — the legal limit — was quickly spent on travel expenses and members reached into their own pockets.

### Travel was Successful

But travel was one of the council's most successful programs. Every other monthly meeting was a "community meeting" somewhere in the state to meet with local officials and members of the



GOVERNOR TONY EARL

Lesbian and Gay community, eventually visiting 20 cities and towns.

The meetings provided "a catalyzing occasion for local officials to address the question of what they were doing or could do for the Gay/Lesbian community," said Nichols. As an example, she said, at Stevens Point the high school principal had a problem with suspected Gay students being taunted. The council provided school counselors with resources to stop the harassment, which eventually declined substantially.

Although many more invitations were issued than accepted, "lots of people did decide to meet with us," Behar said, with the council "challenging them in friendly and supportive ways" to improve social services, law enforcement practices, health policies, school programs and even prison policies for Gay and Lesbian people.

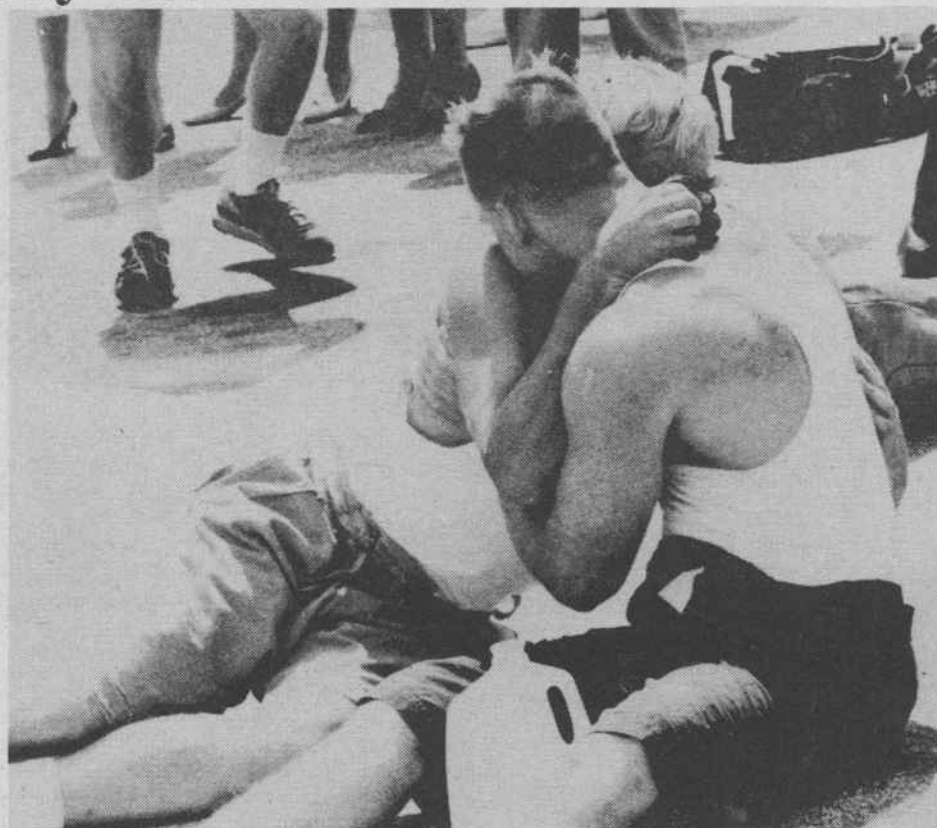
Council members were educated too, said Earl Bricker, who was eventually hired as the liaison to the council. In Rice Lake, he remembers, there is "quite a population" of Lesbian and Gay people, but no bars, and after the meeting, the local community showed that Gay social life could still thrive.

That same meeting in April, 1986, was interrupted by four women carrying bibles lamenting that "tax dollars are spent to promote something like this" and insisting that the open meetings law should include the party after the meeting.

### Violence Visited Council

The council also conducted a survey of violence against Lesbians and Gay men, finding that 21 percent of the respondents said they had been punched, hit, kicked or beaten by heterosexuals because of their sexual orientation.

One member of the council, Cindi



Jerry Johnson

Hundreds of persons who died of AIDS were remembered outside the Democratic National Convention during July in Atlanta. Pictured, are two men who could not contain their grief as they remembered loved ones who had died.

Lampman, was raped in September, 1984, by a man who called her "the governor's dyke." Other council members experienced harassment, vandalism and violence.

These results were used in Milwaukee when a new police chief was chosen and in Congressional hearings on violence.

AIDS became a major issue and the council indirectly did a lot to guide state policy, said Bricker. "The fact that they existed made some people nervous," he said.

The council insisted that a Gay person be included on the state's new AIDS task force. Will Handy, then the council's co-chair and one of the founders of the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN), was put on the task force which created the state's policies in schools, hospitals, prisons and employment.

The council also spoke out often on a variety of issues and proposed legislation that would affect Gays and Lesbians, Handy said. "We did have something to say," he said.

When Earl was re-elected in 1984, he tried to create a Gay and Lesbian liaison on his staff. A Green Bay newspaper lispily called the job a "liaithon" in a cartoon. Earl's staff budget was initially rejected by a committee of the Legislature.

But eventually, Bricker was hired in August, 1985. He helped prepare for meetings, handled citizen inquiries, kept the governor's staff and council members appraised of news, and regularly compiled and sent out packets of information to members and other interested people.

### Gay Issue Hurt Earl

Earl's press secretary, Ron McCrea,

was already known as an openly Gay man, and Tony Earl's support of Gay rights won him enemies as well as friends.

"Tony got beat up badly for having created the council, for having hired Ron, for having hired me," Bricker said. He and Behar said that although other issues were more important to Earl's defeat in 1986 by Tommy Thompson, Gay rights was an issue.

Thompson planned to disband the council, but instead the members all resigned in January, 1987, "to be loyal to the administration that created us and, by resigning, to make a statement," said Nichols.

At the press conference announcing the resignations, she encouraged other organizations to continue the council's efforts.

"It's important that we not slide backwards in time," she said. "Don't mourn, organize."

Sue Burke was a member of the Governor's Council on Lesbian and Gay issues from 1983 to 1985.

## Britt Elected President of S.F. Board

[San Francisco]- On January 9, 1989, Harry G. Britt became the first openly Gay man to be elected as President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Britt is one of the most prominent elected Gay officials in the country. Britt was a close political associate and personal friend of murdered Gay leader Harvey Milk.

## Milwaukee AIDS Project

Fighting AIDS through effective service:

### Education and Prevention

- AIDSline—the latest information on AIDS
- Library/Resource Center — Wisconsin's comprehensive source for articles, pamphlets, books and videos on AIDS
- AIDS prevention education for people engaging in risk behavior

### Life Care Services

- Home care support
- Support groups
- Counseling
- Case management
- Medical, psychological and spiritual referrals
- financial assistance
- housing assistance

If you have questions, concerns, or need assistance, call  
Statewide: 1-800-334-AIDS  
Milwaukee: 273-AIDS

The Milwaukee AIDS Project  
We support learning.  
We promote living.



# D'S N REVIEW

## First Gay Rights Highlights 1980's

nbach

ears established the 1980's as the civil

tation is prohibited, Lesbian and Gay movements in Wisconsin are a model for

have made Wisconsin "The Gay Rights

Consenting Adults Bill, which sought to

Assembly votes down AB 235, 50-49.

y Rights Bill, prohibiting discrimination

using and public accommodations. The

70, 19-13. As in the Assembly, the vote

when Republican Governor Lee Dreyfus

from the Moral Majority. Mainstream

on Lesbian and Gay Issues, created by

ouncil is co-chaired by Richard Wagner

ghout the state.

nsenting Adults Bill eight years after

ar's bill, AB 250, is 53- 43.

o law, legalizing homosexuality and all

m his job because he is Gay, files a

e becomes the first person to win a Gay

ear-old law.

of Health and Social Services grants a

o County takes the issue to circuit court.

protected under state law in foster care

ts law is thwarted when the Assembly

tion that prohibits involuntary AIDS

ts, and limits the use of AIDS tests for

Governor Earl signs the bill into law.

get bill, AB 85, which includes funding

office. Governor Earl later appoints Earl

ate Crimes Bill, 97-0, creating special

r violence motivated by bigotry. The

my Thompson signs the bill into law.

gner of Madison is elected to chair the

one of the highest ranking openly Gay

ice recommends \$1.4 million in state

e direct care and treatment programs.

ropriations as part of the state bill SB 31,

nanimous voice vote, a comprehensive

fection that outlaws discrimination in

id drug treatment benefits. The Senate

ss of working. Increasingly, they affect

ty must continue to strive to make it

t in Wisconsin.

nbach (D- Madison), the author of this

ature since 1975 and has been directly

ve.

due to a Gay man's ability to hide in his

closet, while women facing a

discrimination based on their sex do not

have this luxury. For whatever reason,

our Lesbian sisters when they have made

common cause with Gay men have been

invaluable resource people.

Another reason for our increased

political involvement has been AIDS.

AIDS tore many of us from our

comfortable existence and forced us to get

involved in order to protect our own lives.

In fact the AIDS crisis may have served

to prove to our community once and for all

that it needs to be organized and

politically active. AIDS took many of our

best activists from us but it also created

many more. It hung (and still hangs) over

all of our political activity. The shameless

way that the administration in

Washington ignored the problem and

virtually committed genocide against us

will long be remembered.

So too will some of the success and

failures of our efforts over the last ten

years. In our grief we came together, we

worked hard and we made progress that

at the end of the last decade would have

seemed unbelievable. We still have much

more work to do in order to become a more

effective political force, but considering

where we were coming from and where we

are now, those of us who have been

involved can look back on the eighties

with a justifiable measure of pride.

# The Light LIVELY ARTS

## “Tomfoolery” Is Delicious Satire at Milwaukee Repertory

BY GENO

Opening night performance of “A Little Tomfoolery” at the Stackner Cabaret of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater (MRP) played to a full and enthusiastic house on Friday, January 5. This lively revue composed of the deliciously satiric songs of Tom Lehrer will play at the Stackner through February 11. It will be presented in a benefit performance for the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) Wednesday evening, January 17 at 8:00 p.m.

This bouncy, breezy cabaret show is performed by an attractive trio — William Dick, making his Rep debut; Jessica Frankel, an acting intern with the MRT, and that dazzling accompanist, Jack Wilson who doubles as singer and pianist. All three lovingly concentrate upon the lyrics of the songs so that the Lehrer wit and clever plays on words come through loud and clear.

They present a generous sampling of Lehrer’s off center world of songs with youthful energy. These ditties range in subject matter from pollution, Catholicism (The Vatican Rag), and torchy love songs to “The Deer Hunter’s Song” celebrating a bag of “two game wardens, seven hunters and a cow.”

Puckish Mr. Dick shines as a singer of patter songs culminating in his recitation of the Atomic Table to the tune of Gilbert and Sullivan’s “I am the Very Model of a

Modern Major General.” Ms. Frankel has a clear, trained voice which she adapts admirably to Lehrer’s wicked version of an ancient Irish Folk Song as well as sultry torch songs. Jack Wilson, that jewel of an accompanist, is a charming soloist and a staunch member of the threesome.

Wednesday’s benefit performance of “A Little Tomfoolery” for MAP is co-sponsored by the MRT together with the Fest City Singers, The Skylight Opera Theatre, The Milwaukee Ballet and the Bauer Dance Company.

Incidentally, those who are familiar with the Fest City Singers’ inventive renditions of such Tom Lehrer favorites as “Be Prepared” (yes, Boy Scouts do carry condoms), “Smut”, “The Masochism Tango” and “Poisoning Pigeons in the Park” will also enjoy the more restrained versions of Dick, Frankel and Wilson.

Members of the sponsoring groups will serve as waiters and waitresses for the MAP benefit performance with all tips donated to MAP plus a percentage of the price of drinks also donated by the Stackner Cabaret management.

Tickets for the benefit performance may be obtained from members of the sponsoring groups or by phoning the MRT Box Office at (414) 224-9490.

## k.d. lang Performs At Riverside January 27

(Milwaukee)- Stardate Productions and the Old Style Concert Series proudly welcome country-pop artist k.d. lang to the Riverside Theatre Saturday, January 27 at 8:00 p.m.

lang, who says her greatest musical influence is the late country superstar Patsy Cline (her band is called the Reclines), describes herself as primarily a country singer who combines elements of pop and blues into her songs and performance.

Picked by Rolling Stone Magazine’s critics’ poll as Best Female Singer (she tied with Tracy Chapman), lang is currently touring on her third major label release since her debut in 1987.

Reserved tickets for k.d. lang are \$18.50, \$16.50 and \$14.50. They are on sale now at the Riverside box office, all Ticketron outlets or can be charged at (414) 271-2000.

## “Strange Snow” Revival By Theatre Tesseract

(Milwaukee)- Theatre Tesseract, Milwaukee’s critically acclaimed off-Broadway theatre company, will revive its 1987 sell-out hit of “Strange Snow” in the 1990 Milwaukee Theatre Festival.

A warm, witty and powerfully honest story about the aftershock of the Vietnam War experience, “Strange Snow” offers a strong vision of hope for all who battle demons from the past.

## Theatre X Holds Benefit for Itself to Help Reduce Deficit

(Milwaukee)- Theatre X has added a special event to its 20th anniversary season. The world famous company, which has been creating unique, original entertainments in the great, American tradition of social satire since 1969 — is taking the opportunity that comes with a 20th anniversary to re-present some of the high points of its history. “The Unnamed” (1975), a classic horror story, was given a script-in-hand presentation at the West Fest Festival of the Performing Arts last September, and parts of the company’s earliest show “X Communication” (1969), were performed in October, 1989, with members of the original cast returning to Milwaukee to take part.

The production opened on New Year’s Eve and will continue on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays until January 28. Theatre X will present a full revival of “An Interest In Strangers” (1980), the first of a series of plays created as a response to the changing America of the late 1970’s and 1980’s. This play was commissioned by the Mickery Theatre of Amsterdam where it had its first performance.

Written by popular, local actor and singer John Schneider and developed by Theatre X, this cabaret-style show of about 70 minutes length is a satire on a



k. d. lang

Leavened with warmth and humor, “Strange Snow” examines the lives of two men and one woman as they learn to leave the past behind them and go forward with their lives.

Presented in the Todd Wehr Theatre of the Performing Arts Center, “Strange Snow” will run January 19, 20 and 21. For reservations and group rates, call (414) 273-7206.

society over-saturated with information. The play uses music, song, video technology and a broad palette of language styles to tell the comic story of the disintegration of its characters’ ability to respond to information of all sorts from interpersonal to global. “An Interest In Strangers” toured widely in both the United States and the Netherlands. It was last presented in Milwaukee at the Jazz Gallery in 1982.

Theatre X believes that those not well-acquainted with the group’s work over the years will enjoy this chance to discover a piece of it and to trace the development of Theatre X’s challenging, satiric, multi-media plays, and that those who saw the play when it was created will be interested to see how it looks today, one decade later.

Theatre X is also working hard to eliminate an accumulated deficit. These special added performances are intended to help pay the bills through increasing box office revenue. Every ticket counts and those who would like to help the group are strongly encouraged to attend. The ticket price for all performances in Theatre X’s new 77 seat theatre, MKE, at 158 N. Broadway St. in Milwaukee, is \$10.00.

Call Theatre X at (414) 278-0555 for information or reservations.

## WIN TWO VIP \$35 TICKETS TO Michael Feinstein’s Feb. 13 Concert

at Milwaukee’s Performing Arts Center  
In 250 words or less write on the topic:  
“How Has AIDS Affected the  
Gay and Lesbian Community?”

All entries must be typed and double spaced with name, address, and phone number attached on a separate paper. All entries must be received at the Wisconsin Light offices no later than Tuesday, February 6, 1990 at 5:00 p.m. All entries become the property of Wisconsin Light. The winning entry will be announced in the February 8, 1990 issue of The Wisconsin Light and the winning entry will also be published at that time. Sponsored by The Wisconsin Light and Stardate Productions.

# MICHAEL FEINSTEIN IN CONCERT



**TUES., FEB. 13**  
**PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

TICKETS: \$15, \$25, \$35, \$50 OR \*\$100

AVAILABLE AT ALL TICKETRON OUTLETS, PAC BOX  
OFFICE OR CHARGE AT 1-800-843-1558

\*Includes a Champagne reception with Michael Feinstein at the PAC’s Bradley Pavilion after concert. For information call 273-7206.

A BENEFIT FOR THE WISCONSIN AIDS FUND



**Good friends, good food**  
Benefit night at the  
Cardinal Bar — 5-8 pm.  
Thursday, Jan. 18  
\$10 suggested donation.

**COMING SOON:** February Sweetheart Dinner  
& Dance at the Madison Tea Room.  
Call (608) 255-4297 for dates and ticket information.

310 E. Wilson St., Madison, WI 53704



# It 'Twas The Night of Rich Renditions of Holiday Songs

By Mary Shafer

I have just returned from one of the more pleasant and inspiring events that I have attended this Holiday season — the Christmas concert of our own Cream City Chorus. I wanted to get it all down while it was still fresh in my mind.

There was the usual milling around, seeing of old friends, smoking of a last cigarette and darting about, elfin-like creatures decked in Christmas garb of green and red. The mood was set.

The house lights dimmed to darkness and Greg and Steve appeared, their dress carrying forward the theme of red, white and black, as they joined to play a Mannheim Steamroller-esque version of "We Three Kings." It was a haunting and rich rendition of a traditional favorite, especially for those like me who prefer their music in the minor keys.

When the Chorus filed in to sing Palestrina's "Hodie Christus Natus Est" and then "'Twas the Night Before Christmas." I became aware of the tremendous growth of the richness of sound since their Spring "Stonewall" concert. The addition of several new members, especially in the alto and soprano sections, has served to round out the sound of the group, giving much needed balance to the already strong bass and tenor sections.

My feeling is that the experience of having traveled to Seattle this Summer was a shot in the arm for the group's confidence, and hence their ability. This happy quality became more apparent as the evening progressed.

I was impressed as well with the capable and rather amazing signing for the hearing impaired, performed in triplicate by students in the program at UW-M. Considering the speed at which they were required to sign, their ability seemed doubly amazing. My congratulations to the Cream City Chorus for their recognition of this long-neglected need to reach our entire community as an audience.

The concert concluded with the Chorus continuing its four-year tradition of the Ceremony of the Candles that in the AIDS crisis, remembers those "who have gone before us" and affirms our hope for the future. It was a solemn and sobering part of the evening, during which the Chorus, holding lighted candles, sang "Silent Night." I dare say mine were not the only eyes that refused to remain dry during this part of the show.

Several solo performances by individual members, effective stage arrangements and the increasing talents of the performers made this Holiday Concert well worth the ticket price of \$10. The Chorus chose to share their good fortune by donating \$100 each of money collected while caroling to the AIDS House and the Lesbian Alliance of Metropolitan Milwaukee.

In all, it was an enjoyable, interesting performance; an announcement to stand up and take notice of one of the most talented groups that the Milwaukee Lesbian and Gay community has to offer. 'Twas The Night, indeed!

## Audience Has Rocklicking Good Time at a Family Christmas

By Terry Boughner

Milwaukee's Original Fest City Singers (FCS) presented their annual Christmas Concert on December 15-16 and, as usual, a rollicking good time was had by all.

Oh, I know, I know, that's trite as blazes, but it is, I think, the simple fact of the matter. And at its heart, is the fact too, that the Singers are so obviously enjoying themselves that the mood is irresistibly infectious. Who cared if the night was bitter cold (as it was), you soon forgot the sharp tooth of Winter to feel like sparkling burgundy inside.

This is certainly not to denigrate nor dismiss all the long and difficult hours that went into making this "home-like" Christmas festival of song so much fun. I

do not. But all the effort comes together with a special talent that the Singers have of joining the audience to them to make one complete show.

People like Brian Dettmering, Erico, Michael Wavra, "Aunt Agnes" (she knows who I mean), Gene (in my mind, a natural comic of great talent), made the toes tap and the most off-key voices (such as my own) rise in holiday song.

The Concert was called "A Family Christmas" and indeed it was that, with all of the atmosphere and warmth that the name implies. There were the elements of the sacred, the spirit of the secular and together, mixed, the flavor and magic that is Christmas whether now or long ago.

## National Review Seeks Short Stories for Collection

(Minneapolis, MN)—The James White Review, a national Gay men's literary quarterly, has signed with Crossing Press to do a selection of their short stories to be published in the Spring of 1991. Writers interested in being a part of this collection can submit their short

story, a limit of 25, double spaced pages, with a SASE until May 1, 1990. Upon publication, Crossing will pay an honorarium to all authors.

Inquires can be addressed to The James White Review, P.O. Box 3356, Traffic Station, Minneapolis, MN 55403.

### BEST SELLERS OF THE MONTH

#### GAY MALE

Swimming Pool Library — A. Hollinghurst, Random House.....	\$ 8.95
Equal Affections — David Leavitt, Harper & Row.....	8.95
Sure of You — Armistead Maupin, Harper & Row.....	18.95
Tales of the City — Armistead Maupin, Harper & Row.....	10.95
Obedience — Joseph Hansen, Mysterious Press.....	4.95
Gay Fireside Companion — Leigh Routledge, Alyson.....	7.95
On Being Gay — Brian McNaught, St. Martin's.....	7.95
And the Band Played On — Randy Shilts, Penguin.....	12.95
New Loving Someone Gay — Don Clark, Celestial Arts.....	7.95
Out of All Time: A Gay and Lesbian History — Terry Boughner, Alyson.....	6.95

#### LESBIAN

Lesbian Love Advisor — Celeste West, Cleis Press.....	\$ 9.95
Bar Stories — Nisa Donnelly, St. Martin's.....	9.95
Bingo — Rita Mae Brown, Bantam.....	4.95
Intricate Passions — Tee Corinne, Ed., Banned Books.....	8.95
Hallowed Murder — Ellen Hart, Seal Press.....	8.95
Cut-Outs and Cut-Ups: A Lesbian Activity Book — Elizabeth Dean, New Victoria.....	8.95
Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe — Fannie Flagg, McGraw-Hill.....	8.95
Cut-Outs and Cut-Ups: A Lesbian Activity Book — Elizabeth Dean, New Victoria.....	8.95
Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe — Fannie Flagg, McGraw-Hill.....	5.95
Beverly Malibu — Katherine Forrest, Naiad.....	16.95
Lesbian Bedtime Stories — Terry Woodrow, Ed., Tough Dove.....	9.95
Heather Has Two Mommies (children's book) — Leslea Newman, In Other Words.....	6.95

Sources: People's Books and Schwartz Bookstores in Milwaukee; A Room of One's Own and Four Star Fiction and Video in Madison.

### 58 Actresses Who Have Played Lesbian or Bisexual Women in Movies

1. JANE ALEXANDER, *A Question of Love*
2. JUNE ALLYSON, *They Only Kill Their Masters*
3. ELIZABETH ASHLEY, *Windows*
4. STÉPHANE AUDRAN, *Les Biches*
5. LAUREN BACALL, *Young Man With a Horn*
6. TONI BASIL, *Five Easy Pieces*
7. PAMELA BELLWOOD, *The War Widow*
8. CANDICE BERGEN, *The Group; The Adventurers*
9. CLAIRE BLOOM, *The Haunting*
10. TOMI-LEE BRADLEY, *A Perfect Couple*
11. DYAN CANNON, *Doctors' Wives*
12. CAPUCINE, *Fräulein Doktor*
13. GERALDINE CHAPLIN, *A Wedding*
14. PATRICIA CHARBONNEAU, *Desert Hearts*
15. CHER, *Silkwood*
16. CATHERINE DENEUVE, *The Hunger*
17. SANDY DENNIS, *The Fox*
18. PATRICE DONNELLY, *Personal Best*
19. PATTY DUKE, *By Design*
20. TOVAH FELDISHUH, *The Women's Room*
21. MEG FOSTER, *A Different Story*
22. GRETA GARBO, *Queen Christina*
23. WHOOP! GOLDBERG, *The Color Purple*
24. LEE GRANT, *The Balcony*
25. MARIETTE HARTLEY, *My Two Loves*
26. MARIEL HEMINGWAY, *Personal Best*
27. AUDREY HEPBURN, *The Children's Hour*
28. ANNE HEYWOOD, *The Fox*
29. LINDA HUNT, *Waiting for the Moon*
30. LOTTE LENYA, *From Russia With Love*
31. VIVECA LINDFORS, *Sylvia; Puzzle of a Downfall Child*
32. SHIRLEY MacLAINE, *The Children's Hour*
33. MARIANGELA MELATO, *To Forget Venice*
34. MELINA MERCOURI, *Once Is Not Enough*
35. BETTE MIDLER, *The Rose*
36. SYLVIA MILES, *The Sentinel*
37. GENEVIEVE PAGE, *Belle du Jour*
38. ESTELLE PARSONS, *Rachel, Rachel*
39. VALERIE PERRINE, *Lenny*
40. DONNA PESCOV, *All My Children*
41. LYNN REDGRAVE, *My Two Loves*
42. BERYL REID, *The Killing of Sister George*
43. RACHEL ROBERTS, *Doctors' Wives*
44. GENA ROWLANDS, *A Question of Love*
45. DOMINIQUE SANDA, *The Conformist*
46. SUSAN SARANDON, *The Hunger*
47. HELEN SHAVER, *Desert Hearts*
48. ALEXIS SMITH, *Once Is Not Enough*
49. BARBARA STANWYCK, *A Walk on the Wild Side*
50. STELLA STEVENS, *Cleopatra Jones and the Casino of Gold*
51. MERYL STREEP, *Manhattan*
52. ELIZABETH TAYLOR, *X, Y and Zee*
53. INGRID THULIN, *The Silence*
54. CATHY TYSON, *Mona Lisa*
55. LIV ULLMAN, *Persona*
56. WENDY O. WILLIAMS, *Reform School Girls*
57. SHELLEY WINTERS, *The Balcony; Cleopatra Jones; S.O.B.*
58. SUSANNAH YORK, *The Killing of Sister George; X, Y and Zee*

An Excerpt from "Lesbian Lists" by Dell Richards (Alyson Publishing)

## "Lesbian Lists" Presented With Wonderful Past & Present Diversity

The following is an excerpt from *Lesbian Lists* by Dell Richards (Alyson Publications: Boston)

Two questions haunted me in compiling the lists for *Lesbian Lists*.

First, how should I define a Lesbian? Should I use a contemporary, twentieth-century definition? And, if so, which one? Women who are sexually attracted to other women or women who became Lesbians through feminism? Or should I use a much broader definition, other than includes the romantic friends movement — women who were women-identified, who had affectionate and loving relationships with other women, but may not actually have had sex due to the repressive nature of the era? Should I include sworn sisters and berdaches? Should I include transvestites? Should I include spinsters?

My own bias is toward women-identified women, whether they call themselves Lesbians or not, whether they had sex or not. To impose today's standards on earlier eras limits our vision and our history. To dismiss romantic friends, spinsters and sworn virgins, the women who have done everything in their power to escape heterosexual dominance, does them — and us — a grave disservice.

But that left yet another question, which unfortunately wasn't answered as easily as the first. If a woman didn't say she was a Lesbian, how could I be sure?

As a journalist trained to go directly to the source and ask, the answer was one I'm not used to: I had to take other authorities and other sources on faith.

To compile the lists, I found that I had to go on clues — tantalizing clues gleaned from shreds of evidence, but clues nonetheless. Few women left autobiographies, letters, or diaries that gave explicit answers. Even if they did, the work was often destroyed upon their death, at their own request or otherwise.

Even women writers who left literary records of their lives usually disguised



DELL RICHARDS

their sexuality. Gertrude Stein wrote in code.

If the women didn't change the words, their editors did so, to make the work "universal" — more palatable to a heterosexual audience. Until the 1960's, even Sappho's poems were edited into heterosexual metaphor.

When it comes to sweeping Lesbians under the carpet, critics and scholars — the ones who like to present themselves as unbiased as scientists — have been the worst offenders. Instead of shedding light, they have been the first to cover it up.

I have tried to present Lesbianism in all its wonderful diversity, in varieties that span the globe and the centuries. However the women defined themselves, however we might define them, has not been as important to me as the fact that they were a part of the struggle for women's freedom and a Lesbian-feminist continuum that has existed for thousands of years.

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## Madison Soccer Team Going To Vancouver

(Madison)- Two Madison-based women's soccer teams, The Blazing Rhinos and Team Toast have joined forces to send a traveling team, dubbed "The Dairy Queens" to Vancouver, British Columbia to represent Wisconsin at the up-coming Gay Games to be held August 4-11, 1990.

The "Queens" are currently involved in planning, training and fundraising for the Games, activities which include: a raffle, a pancake breakfast, a benefit concert by a local jazz musician, a spaghetti dinner and some special event at local bars. This Summer, the Queens will host a benefit soccer tournament.

The Queens need to raise over \$7,000 for air fare and player registration fees. The team has acquired non-profit organizational status. Tax deductible contributions can be written out to "Dairy Queens" Soccer Team, c/o Teresa Santulli, 953 Lake Court, Madison, WI 53715.

The Queens would like to thank all those who participated in their first fundraising event, the Kissing Booth at the Lesbian Variety Show and invite supporters to look out for future events.

### MAP Continued from Page 4

services will support these important activities. Other fundraisers for MAP will support our client advocacy activity and volunteer recruitment and training which will focus entirely on client support volunteers.

5. Because of MAP's limited financial resources, the financial assistance we provide for clients can only be disbursed for true emergencies for housing, utility, food, medical, and other urgent expenses. Some clients are denied financial assistance because their requests are not for true emergencies. We would like to meet these requests, but we must place limitations on disbursements to assure that MAP can always meet the urgent financial needs of clients facing emergency situations.

6. Dennis Thomas' report of an individual

with AIDS who was hospitalized and received no emotional support is contrary to everything that MAP stands for and has worked hard to achieve. MAP policies require regular visitation by MAP case managers and volunteers to clients who are hospitalized. We will always respond to the critical emotional needs of our clients. I will be meeting with Dennis to investigate the situation thoroughly.

The number of MAP clients has now reached 242. It will double by year's end. The Milwaukee AIDS Project is determined to meet the needs of our clients in the years ahead. We expect to be held accountable and will work hard to meet the concerns and criticisms of our clients and supporters.

Most importantly, we must all work together and support one another. The Gay/Lesbian Community created the Milwaukeeids Project and we need its continuing support if we are to successfully meet the challenge of AIDS in the years ahead.

—Doug Nelson  
Executive Director  
Milwaukee AIDS Project



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# Were Made Across 's



At the Gay and Lesbian Visibility Alliance gala fundraiser at the... including Ricardo Gonzalez, Tammy Baldwin, Dick Wagner, Earl

Democrats closet. Jesse did so with support. Dukmejian becoming the country's legislation

Every Democratic candidate for President comes out in favor of Lesbian/Gay Rights. Thousands of Lesbians and Gays flock to Jesse Jackson's banner. Wisconsin Gays and Lesbians are particularly supportive and attract national media attention (news segments on two networks, and articles in the New York Times, Washington Post and other papers) over their role in Jackson campaign.

The GOP invites the Lincoln Club, an organization of Gay/Lesbian Republicans to testify at its platform hearings. Lesbian/Gay rights are not included in the platform or even discussed at the subsequent convention, but the precedent has been set.

Two Gay men and two Lesbians are elected to the Dane County Board. Gay alderman Jim Mc Farland is re-elected to the Madison City Council.

Chicago finally passes a Lesbian/Gay rights ordinance. John Norquist is elected Mayor of Milwaukee receiving substantial financial and volunteer support from the our community.

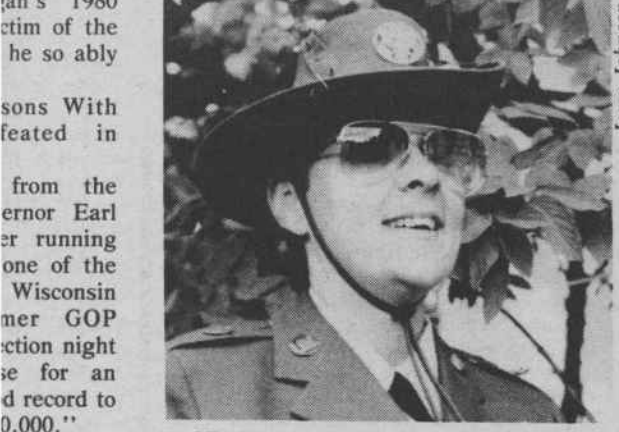
George Bush got elected but called for civil rights protection to be extended to persons with AIDS.

Miriam is back in court again this time to win the right to re-enlist. She does.

Massachusetts joins Wisconsin in passing a Gay/Lesbian rights law.

A federal court rules that Sgt. Perry Watkins was unfairly discharged by the Army due to his homosexuality.

The US House of Representatives passes the Hate Crimes law. Congressman Barney Frank is accused of running a Male and Female prostitution ring out his apartment. His accuser is a two bit slime of a Male hustler who served as the Congressman's driver. Jesse Helms seeks to outlaw Gay/Lesbian art.



STAFF SGT. MIRIAM BEN-SHALOM

For the first time, Miriam loses a round in the Federal Courts when the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in a decision that will go down as one of the most illogical and inane ever to disgrace the law journals of this country allows the Army to refuse her re-enlistment. Despite the set back, Miriam is named Solider of the Year and files an appeal to the US Supreme Court.

One of Wisconsin's premier political activists Alyn Hess dies from complications of AIDS.

# 1980'S

## POLITICS IN REVIEW

### Wis. Becoming First Gay Rights State in '82 Highlights 1980's

By David Clarenbach

Legislative accomplishments of the last ten years established the 1980's as the civil rights decade for Gays and Lesbians in Wisconsin.

Today, discrimination based on sexual orientation is prohibited, Lesbian and Gay relationships are legitimized and legal, and achievements in Wisconsin are a model for states throughout the nation.

The decade of unprecedented milestones that have made Wisconsin "The Gay Rights State" include:

**April 28, 1981.** The State Assembly kills the Consenting Adults Bill, which sought to legalize homosexuality. After extensive debate, the Assembly votes down AB 235, 50-49.

**October 23, 1981** The Assembly passes the Gay Rights Bill, prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing and public accommodations. The vote on AB 70 is 49-45.

**February 26, 1982** The State Senate passes AB 70, 19-13. As in the Assembly, the vote is bipartisan.

**March 2, 1982** The Gay Rights Bill takes effect when Republican Governor Lee Dreyfus signs AB 70 into law, despite heavy lobbying from the Moral Majority. Mainstream religious leaders support the bill.

**February 23, 1983** The first Governor's Council on Lesbian and Gay Issues, created by Democratic Governor Tony Earl, convenes. The Council is co-chaired by Richard Wagner and Kathleen Nichols and conducts hearings throughout the state.

**April 21, 1983** The Assembly passes the Consenting Adults Bill eight years after introduction in 1975. The Assembly vote on this year's bill, AB 250, is 53-43.

**May 3, 1983** The Senate passes AB 250, 20-13.

**May 5, 1983** Governor Earl signs AB 250 into law, legalizing homosexuality and all sexual activity between consenting adults.

**July 22, 1983** A Lake Geneva man, fired from his job because he is Gay, files a complaint with the state Equal Rights Division. He becomes the first person to win a Gay rights discrimination complaint under the state's year-old law.

**December 6, 1983** The Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services grants a foster home license to a Gay applicant. Winnebago County takes the issue to circuit court. The court establishes that Gays and Lesbians are protected under state law in foster care circumstances.

**April 6, 1984** An effort to repeal the Gay Rights law is thwarted when the Assembly adjourns, refusing to act on AB 570.

**June 14, 1985** The Assembly passes legislation that prohibits involuntary AIDS testing, protects confidentiality of AIDS test results, and limits the use of AIDS tests for insurance purposes. The Senate later concurs and Governor Earl signs the bill into law.

**July 17, 1985** Governor Earl signs the state budget bill, AB 85, which includes funding for a Gay and Lesbian liaison in the Governor's office. Governor Earl later appoints Earl Bricker to the position.

**February 24, 1988** The Assembly passes the Hate Crimes Bill, 97-0, creating special criminal penalties for "Gay bashing" and other violence motivated by bigotry. The Senate later concurs and Republican Governor Tommy Thompson signs the bill into law.

**April 19, 1988** County Supervisor Richard Wagner of Madison is elected to chair the Dane County Board of Supervisors, making him one of the highest ranking openly Gay elected officials in the nation.

**June 14, 1989** The Joint Committee on Finance recommends \$1.4 million in state funding for AIDS service organizations to provide direct care and treatment programs. The Assembly and Senate later approve the appropriations as part of the state bill SB 31, and Governor Thompson signs it into law.

**October 31, 1989** The Assembly passes, on a unanimous voice vote, a comprehensive bill of rights for people with AIDS and HIV infection that outlaws discrimination in medical care and mandates increased insurance and drug treatment benefits. The Senate is scheduled to act on the bill, AB 400, early in 1990.

In the final analysis, these laws are in the process of working. Increasingly, they affect the real lives of real people.

For the 1990's, the Lesbian and Gay community must continue to strive to make it easier and safer to live, and to work, and to come out in Wisconsin.

**Editor's Note:** State Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison), the author of this column, has been a member of the Wisconsin legislature since 1975 and has been directly involved in many of the accomplishments listed above.

Madison holds a Pride celebration that climaxes with a rally attended by thousands. Governor Thompson refuses to honor the request of the Madison Pride Committee and declines to issue a proclamation memorializing the victims of AIDS.

Milwaukee also holds a Pride Celebration 1,000 people turn out for the City's first Pride Parade and Rally in 8 years. Right wing fundamentalists attack Mayor Norquist, County Executive Schulz and the County Board for issuing Gay/Lesbian Pride proclamations. In an unexpected turn of events, the County Board refuses to rescind its proclamation handing the fundamentalists a humiliating defeat.

We began the decade in a cascade of disco music in organizational disarray. Our political impact was limited to say the least. As we ended the decade we found ourselves far better organized than we ever had been and looking back we could see that we were having success.

By the end of the 80's we had won several major court cases (we lost some too), elected several dozen openly Gay and Lesbian officeholders, and forced the powers that be (or want to be) to recognize us as a political force.

Part of this growth came out of the women's movement. The women in our community have always been more political than the men. Perhaps this is

due to a Gay man's ability to hide in his closet, while women facing a discrimination based on their sex do not have this luxury. For whatever reason, our Lesbian sisters when they have made common cause with Gay men have been invaluable resource people.

Another reason for our increased political involvement has been AIDS. AIDS tore many of us from our comfortable existence and forced us to get involved in order to protect our own lives.

In fact the AIDS crisis may have served to prove to our community once and for all that it needs to be organized and politically active. AIDS took many of our best activists from us but it also created many more. It hung (and still hangs) over all of our political activity. The shameless way that the administration in Washington ignored the problem and virtually committed genocide against us will long be remembered.

So too will some of the success and failures of our efforts over the last ten years. In our grief we came together, we worked hard and we made progress that at the end of the last decade would have seemed unbelievable. We still have much more work to do in order to become a more effective political force, but considering where we were coming from and where we are now, those of us who have been involved can look back on the eighties with a justifiable measure of pride.

# Governor Earl On Lesbian and

By Sue Burke

For almost four years in the Lesbian and Gay men were an part of the Wisconsin government.

Governor Tony Earl created a 14-member Governor's Council on Lesbian and Gay issues to advise the executive office on the implementation of the state's new Gay rights law and issues of personal safety and health to consult with Lesbian and Gay organizations and individuals.

The council was controversial in the Gay community and the Lesbian community, for different reasons.

"I think a lot of people would say we didn't do enough, which is true, but we did a lot," said Mark Behar, a member of the council.

When Earl ran for governor in 1983 he promised to create a liaison to the Lesbian and Gay community on his staff. When he got into office, he said, he discovered he did not have the funds to create the position, although he had liaisons for Black, Hispanic and Native American communities.

Instead, he created a volunteer advisory group. Kathleen Nichols and Dick Wagner, both Madison area residents, recruited the members and were co-chairs, although Wagner eventually resigned because he was "spread thin."

The council's initial budget of \$100,000, the legal limit — was quickly spent on travel expenses and members' expenses into their own pockets.

**Travel was Successful**

But travel was one of the council's most successful programs. Every monthly meeting was a "community meeting" somewhere in the state with local officials and members.



GOVERNOR TONY EARL

Lesbian and Gay community, even visiting 20 cities and towns.

The meetings provided "a catalyst" for local officials to address the question of what they were doing for the Gay/Lesbian community. As an example, she said Stevens Point the high school principal had a problem with suspected students being taunted. The principal provided school counselors and resources to stop the harassment, eventually declined substantially.

Although many more invitations were issued than accepted, "lots of people decided to meet with us," Behar said. The council "challenging them in a positive and supportive ways" to improve services, law enforcement practices, health policies, school programs and prison policies for Gay and Lesbian people.

Council members were educated. Earl Bricker, who was eventually hired as the liaison to the council. Lake, he remembers, there is "a population" of Lesbian and Gay, but no bars, and after the meeting the local community showed that Gay life could still thrive.

That same meeting in April, 1989, was interrupted by four women carrying signs lamenting that "tax dollars are spent promoting something like this" insisting that the open meeting should include the party afterwards.

**Violence Visited Council**

The council also conducted a survey of violence against Lesbians and Gays finding that 21 percent of the respondents said they had been punched, hit, kicked, or beaten by heterosexuals because of their sexual orientation.

One member of the council