



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

# The Wisconsin Light



Dan F. Schramm



Jerry Johnson



Jerry Johnson

Left- Staff Sergeant Miriam Ben-Shalom speaking at the March 6 rally in Milwaukee and wearing her army uniform; Center- Ben-Shalom (at left) with a portion of the rally crowd; Right- Ben-Shalom removing her uniform for the last time as a U.S. soldier.

## Ben-Shalom Discharged From Army As Supreme Court Refuses To Hear Appeal

### Madison Attorneys Volunteer Services to Persons with HIV

By Heidi Nass and Liz Barbour

[Madison]- In 1989, a new case of AIDS was reported in Wisconsin every two days; one person died of the disease every three days. Today, an estimated 8,000 to 12,000 people in the state are infected with the HIV virus, many of whom do not yet know it.

While it is a misnomer to call AIDS a "Gay disease" (the fastest growing AIDS population is women and children), society's attitude toward homosexuality and the early incidence of AIDS among Gay men has made it difficult for many people to seek and find life care services. In addition to the stigma of a much-misunderstood contagious disease, people with AIDS often face discrimination-- by employers, insurance companies, health care facilities and sometimes even relatives.

In situations where there is legal recourse or where an advocate is needed,

### Milwaukee Police Chief to Speak March 13

[Milwaukee]- On Tuesday, March 13, 1990 at 7:00 p.m., Milwaukee Police Chief, Phillip Arreola, will address an open forum. The forum is sponsored by the Lambda Rights Network (LRN) and will be held at the Cream City Foundation Community Center located at 225 S. 2nd St. in Milwaukee.

Reservations for the forum can be made by calling LRN at (414) 445-5552. There is a suggested minimum donation of \$2.00 per person. People with reservations will have the right seating first.

Recently, Arreola met with Kitty Barber and Cheryl Johnson of the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMB) at the invitation of LRN's President, Ralph Navarro and Scott Gunkel.

Arreola will have the first 30 minutes of the forum to address subjects of his choice. Questions will then be asked by a panel whose inquiries have been prepared based on the first meeting with Arreola. Following that, the floor will be open to questions from the audience.

If you have specific questions for the chief and cannot attend the event, you may call them into the reservation line so that the prepared panel will ask for you.

services are often too expensive for those who have been suddenly disabled by the disease and are unemployed as a result. Those who, suddenly facing the unexpected possibility of death, need to organize their legal affairs, sometimes do not know where or how to begin to do so.

In response to the AIDS crisis, the Center for Public Representation (CPR) and the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN) have established an AIDS Legal Services Project to provide supportive legal assistance to persons with HIV infection, their families and significant others.

The Project, headed by Attorney Nina Camic, has established a network of area volunteer attorneys who provide services in a variety of areas such as: estate planning, insurance, discrimination, government benefits, bankruptcy and guardianship. The three law students who staff the Project determine what services are needed by clients who contact CPR and refer them to an appropriate attorney. Cases that can be handled by CPR staff remain in-house.

In an effort to sensitize attorneys to the unique circumstances of people with AIDS, CPR and MASN conduct training seminars on AIDS as a disease and relevant legal issues.

"Because these attorneys already have expertise in given areas, it is not so important to give them additional legal training," remarked Attorney Camic, "but to prepare them for the situations that are particular to persons with AIDS and to inform them about Wisconsin laws which apply specifically to our clients."

In addition to providing direct legal services, the Project is putting together a booklet to help people identify whether they might need legal assistance and in what areas. **AIDS: The Law**, the first AIDS legal guide addressed to clients rather than lawyers, provides information in an easily accessible question-and-answer format.

While the booklet is not designed to provide comprehensive legal information, it does answer a broad range of questions relating to such areas as health care, confidentiality, employment and housing discrimination and estate planning. According to Attorney Camic, "Our main objective with **AIDS: The Law** is not to identify every existing legal issue, but to

TURN TO ATTORNEY, PAGE 11

[Milwaukee]- After 16 years of battle, Miriam Ben-Shalom lost her bid to remain in the US Army Reserves when, on February 26, 1990, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear her petition for a review of a lower court decision that upheld the Defense Department's policy of discrimination against Lesbians and Gay men.

The High Court's decision left intact the Defense Department's Directive 1332.14 which states, in part, "Homosexuality is incompatible with military service."

On March 6, Ben-Shalom learned that her discharge papers were "in order" and she would be dismissed from the military she had served with distinction.

On Tuesday, March 6, over 50 of Ben-Shalom's friends and supporters gathered in freezing cold on the steps of the old Federal Building in Milwaukee to express their thanks to Ben-Shalom for her struggle and their on-going support.

The rally was sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Support Coalition (GALS), a broad-based community organization and covered by most of the major media.

Organizations, groups and individuals from both Madison and Milwaukee were represented at the rally. These included

Gay Youth-Milwaukee, The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMB), the United of Madison, Gay/Lesbian Youth-Madison, Milwaukee's Gay Peoples' Union (GPU), the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP), **Wisconsin In Step** and **Wisconsin Light**, the Lambda Rights Network (LRN), Milwaukee's Gay/Lesbian Pride Committee (GLPC) and Dignity-Milwaukee.

Those sending letters of support and affirmation included State Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison), Madison Council member Jim McFarland, Dr. Karen Lamb, Perry Watkins, the first openly Gay man to run for the Vice Presidential nomination of either party and the Gay/Lesbian Law Students of UW-M.

Individuals also spoke including J.J. Newmann, Mr. Gay Wisconsin, Sue Burke and Attorney Pat Barrigan and Milwaukee County Supervisor, Elizabeth Cogg-Jones, the only elected official present.

The rally lasted for well over an hour as person after person paid tribute to the gallant woman soldier.

Sue Burke lauded Ben-Shalom for loving America so much "that she was

TURN TO BEN-SHALOM, PAGE 11

### Military Fight Will Continue In The Courts and In Congress

[New York, NY]- "We will go forward with additional challenges in court and in Congress," said Nan D. Hunter, Director of the American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) Lesbian and Gay Rights Project.

Hunter was reacting to the refusal by the U.S. Supreme Court on February 26 to review lower court decisions in two cases which upheld the military's policy of excluding all persons who are Lesbian or Gay, whether conduct is proved or not.

One of these cases involved Milwaukee's Miriam Ben-Shalom (see story this issue). The other was that of former Navy Ensign James Woodward, who was discharged in 1974. Upon enlistment, Woodward had indicated that he had homosexual attractions, but had never acted on them. He was accepted into pilot training, but discharged after having been seen socializing with an enlisted man who was undergoing administrative discharge for homosexuality.

"The refusal to allow Lesbian and Gay Americans to enlist in the military constitutes what is probably the most blatant example of open discrimination by

the federal government today," Hunter said.

A new facet of the ACLU's strategy is to challenge the military's anti-Gay policy by pressuring Congress to repeal it.

"We can win this issue in any one of three arenas: the courts, the Congress or the Defense Department itself," said Hunter. "In the past, efforts have been concentrated only in the courts, but we believe that the future resolution of this issue may lie in Washington."

Beginning about a year ago, the ACLU started work on a congressional strategy for repeal of the policy as part of the Military Freedom Project, a coalition of organizations including the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Organization for Women and the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

Our coalition work will also focus on encouraging more grass-roots activity, especially on campuses," said Hunter. "We expect more and more universities to be forced to expel openly discriminatory ROTC programs, and that pressure will be keenly felt in Congress."

## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### Unmarried Partners in Census

[Washington, D.C.]—For the first time, the 1990 US Census includes "unmarried partner" as a category respondents can choose to characterize their relationship with another member of their household. The primary goal is to quantify the number of straight, unmarried couples living together in the US, but an unintended result could also reveal the number of same-sex partners living together, according to the *Washington Blade*.

When queried by Gay reporters, representatives of the US Census Bureau seemed oblivious to this potential consequence. The bulk of the Bureau's \$73 million promotion budget is aimed at reaching homeless people and members of minority groups, not unmarried couples.

The Census Bureau has an excellent record on confidentiality, refusing for example, to turn over the names and addresses of Japanese-Americans to the military during World War II. The Census Bureau is prohibited by statute from providing information on individuals to any other government agency.

Said Roberta Achtenberg of the National Center for Lesbian Rights: "The challenge for us is to assure that confidentiality is ensured and that we educate our own community about how important it is to answer that question honestly."

### Child Killed for "Gay" Behavior

[Chicago, IL]—The *Chicago Tribune* reports that four-year-old Lattie McGee was bound, tortured and killed by his mother's boyfriend after the boyfriend accused the child of being Gay. John Campbell was convicted of murder and Cook County prosecutors have asked for the death penalty. Lattie's mother, Alicia Abraham, who did not prevent the abuse, is being tried for murder as well.

Assistant State's Attorney Judith Mondello told the *Washington Blade*: "This was a child who danced and snapped his fingers a lot. Campbell told police that no son of a man should behave like that." Campbell complained that the child "walked and talked like a girl."

Lattie was tortured for two months before his death. Campbell stuck the child with pins, burned him with cigarettes and an iron, beat him, attempted to drown him, and repeatedly bound him and tied him upside down in a dark closet.

### Christian Flyers Attack Gays

[San Diego, CA]—Leaflets emblazoned with a cross and bearing messages like "Kill a faggot for Jesus" and "Save your semen for dykes" appeared in Gay publications at the Blue Door Bookstore in San Diego recently, according to the *San Francisco Sentinel*.

The fliers were discovered shortly after the San Diego City Council Rules Committee approved a new Human Rights Ordinance giving civil rights protections to Gay men and Lesbians.

The Blue Door is a general stock bookstore, but carries a large selection of Gay and Lesbian titles. An employee of the Blue Door said the neighborhood has a long-standing history of Gay bashing and harassment, including what he called "evangelical fascists preaching in the street."

### "Pink Tagging" Ends in Florida

[Bartow, FL]—The Associated Press reports that Sheriff Lawrence Crow Jr. of Polk County, Florida has discontinued the ten year practice of placing pink wrist bands on prison inmates who are presumed to be homosexual. Prison officials, who called the practice "pink tagging," claimed that it was for the "protection" of Gay inmates.

"Pink tagging came to the attention of the Florida chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union recently. An ACLU spokeswoman threatened legal action unless what she called "this revolting practice" was ended. The jail is now instituting standard and identical-looking bar coded bracelets for all prisoners.

### Appeals Court Decision Anti-Gay

[San Francisco, CA]—The US Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit ruled in February that the Defense Department has the right to subject Gays and Lesbians to more extensive background investigations than heterosexual applicants for industrial security clearances. The decision is a setback to Gay people seeking employment in defense industries and could be a damaging precedent for future Gay rights cases, according to the *Washington Blade*.

The case involved a group of Gay scientists and engineers from Silicon Valley who sued the Defense Department for its detailed investigations, which included questions about specific sex acts and the names of sex partners. The lengthy investigations of Gay personnel often caused them to be laid off or refused employment entirely because of delays in obtaining clearances.

The Appeals Court voted 3-0 against an earlier finding by the US District Court that Department of Defense policy did, in fact, violate the Constitution's equal protection clause by subjecting Gays and Lesbians to special scrutiny.

### Meredith Makes Anti-Gay Jabs

[South Hadley, MA]—Famed civil rights activist James Meredith, the first Black to enter the University of Mississippi in 1962, shocked the audience at Mount Holyoke College in late January with anti-Gay comments, according to *Gay Community News*. Meredith spoke to 200 people about "The Future of the Black Race in America."

Meredith advocated that "any person with AIDS, advanced syphilis, hard core drug addicts and lunatics" must be quarantined. He also asserted that he would never allow his daughter to apply to a college "which sanctions unnatural sex practices," a reference to Mount Holyoke's non-discrimination policy regarding sexual orientation. Meredith claimed that homosexuality, no-fault divorce and legal abortion are undermining the institution of the family. Some audience members walked out of the lecture.

Meredith is currently employed by the arch-conservative Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina.

### Palm Beach Ordinance Approved

[Palm Beach, FL]—In January, the Palm Beach County Commission amended its fair housing laws to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in housing, the financing of housing and public accommodations.

"For the first time since the anti-Gay Anita Bryant crusade in 1977, some Gay and Lesbian Floridians are able to enjoy equal protection under the law," said Rand Hoch, a spokesman for the Palm Beach County Human Rights Council. Bryant led a well-publicized and successful campaign to repeal a similar ordinance in Dade County, Florida in 1977.

### Dinkins Appoints Gay Psychiatrist

[New York, NY]—New York City Mayor David Dinkins has appointed an openly Gay psychiatrist, Dr. Billy E. Jones, as his Commissioner of Mental Health. Jones, a Black man and Howard University graduate, has special expertise in mental health services for the African-American community.

Dr. Jones said, "I want to help people understand that being Gay is not a mental health problem. I want to help people understand that if they are against Gays and Lesbians, then they have a problem."

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

### ACT-UP Distributes Condoms and AIDS Pamphlets at Marquette

[Milwaukee]—There were more than 300 condoms and over 800 pamphlets filled with up-to-date AIDS information from noon to 1:00 p.m., February 28, 1990. The action took place in front of Gesu Church on Marquette's campus in Milwaukee.

Representatives of ACT-UP Milwaukee had earlier contacted Marquette University officials about the university's response to the AIDS crisis. ACT-UP was directed to the Rev. David Haschka, Vice President of Religious Affairs. Haschka stated that the university would not compromise the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. This was understood to mean that there was no possibility of the administration sanctioning safe-sex education on campus, the most effective way after celibacy of avoiding HIV infection.

In response, ACT-UP took action, distributing condoms and information pamphlets. The pamphlets were from the American Red Cross and the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services. They were chosen for their non-combative

nature and their broad appeal.

The October, 1989 issue of *Spin Magazine*, quoted the American College Health Association and the Atlanta Centers for Disease Control, one in every 500 American college and university students has been infected with HIV. The study on which this conclusion was based was conducted during the 1988-89 school year and included 16,861 anonymous blood samples from 19 colleges and universities.

In the future, ACT-UP Milwaukee plans to distribute condoms and AIDS information at other area college and high school campuses in order to teach students how to sensibly avoid HIV infection.

For information on joining ACT UP Milwaukee, call (414) 769-8708 or write P.O. Box 15620, Milwaukee, WI 53215-0620.

ACT UP Milwaukee is a diverse, non-partisan group of individuals united in anger and committed to direct action to bring about an end to the AIDS crisis. ACT UP meets with government and public health officials. It researches and distributes the latest medical information. ACT UP protests and demonstrates. WE ARE NOT SILENT!

### Report Ties White Supremacists To Increase In Gay/Lesbian Violence

[Atlanta, Ga.]—A new report from the Center for Democratic Renewal (CDR) ties the rising tide of violence against Gays and Lesbians to far right and white supremacist organizations that are using anti-Gay bigotry to attract new recruits.

The report is entitled "Quarantines and Death: The Far Right's Homophobic Agenda." "Gay people have increasingly become the target of bigoted violence," explained Daniel Levitas, executive director of the Atlanta-based CDR. "This report describes the theoretical framework of the far right's homophobic agenda and outlines the basic steps needed to confront anti-Gay bigotry"

The 40 page monograph was written by CDR research director Leonard Zeskind and Mab Segrest, a long-time human rights activist, who is currently director of research and publications for North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence, based in Durham.

"According to Zeskind, white supremacists believe that AIDS is a "racial disease" carried by Jews and Blacks.

"The Christian new right maintains it

is punishment sent by God for the sin of homosexuality," adds Zeskind. "Whatever the perception, a steady stream of murders and assaults has been the result."

"Quarantines and Death" is available for \$5 (including postage and handling) from the Center for Democratic Renewal, P.O. Box 50469, Atlanta, Georgia 30302. A discount of 15 percent is available on orders of 10 or more.

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## A LETTER FROM KAREN LAMB

Note: This letter was read at the rally held for Miriam Ben Shalom on March 6, 1989. It is reprinted here at Karen's request.

• • •

My Dear Miriam, My Dear Friends:  
I regret that I am not with you all this evening as we share with Sergeant Miriam Ben-Shalom the spirit of admiration Miriam has engendered in our Community and our City. Because of Sergeant Ben-Shalom's extraordinary courage we are all stronger.

Here is one more woman who, in the intensity of her honesty, has refused to be intimidated about who she is.

In fact, she has worn that badge proudly and served as an inspiration to those who remain faint-hearted. Her gift to us, and for us, has been her 16 year battle with the United States Army. Sergeant Ben-Shalom has strengthened each who believes in justice, the uniqueness and the sanctity of the human spirit.

Yes, we are bitterly disappointed. We are disappointed in a country based on freedom and justice for all that the women of America remain outside of the U.S. Constitution. We are bitterly disappointed in our military establishment, the supposed Preservers of Peace, a military swollen with corruption and greed that has already threatened the economic security of every single family in America. We are disappointed that the military spends its time, and millions of dollars in resources, in persecuting Lesbian and Gay soldiers rather than for simply searching for a cheaper toilet seat.

And we are disappointed in the U.S.



Jerry Johnson

Dr. Karen Lamb

Supreme Court. Each of us as Americans has been taught that every man and every woman has certain inalienable rights. One is that you can take your case to court.

And we learned that Justice will prevail.

We are disappointed.

But, Miriam Ben-Shalom, we are proud of you. We are proud of your perseverance. We gloried in your magnificent military achievements, your military record.

You are not just Soldier of the Year. You are our Soldier, a Soldier for generations of Lesbians and Gays to come. We are proud that you refused to disavow who you are.

We are stronger because you came our way.

Sincerely,  
Karen Lamb

## Homophobia Is Alive and Well In Milwaukee Public Schools

By Michael S. Lisowski

[Milwaukee]-Note: Due to the sensitive nature of this story, both the name of the student [Robert in this story] and the high school he attends have been changed to protect the student.

Homophobia is alive and well in Milwaukee public schools.

Recently, a teacher gave a class an assignment requiring students to write to a public official in Milwaukee about an issue. When one student did not know what to write about, the teacher allegedly suggested that the student write to Dave Schulz about that "homo Gay parade" that went on last Summer in Milwaukee.

The next day, the teacher, with permission, read aloud one of the student's letters that was about the Gay/Lesbian parade. It read in part: "We don't want to see that faggot parade. If they want to have a parade, they can have it in San Francisco. Homosexuality is not something you're born with. It's something you get from a sick person."

After some laughter, another student commented, "What are they going to do next, build blue oyster bars all over Milwaukee?"

The teacher then asked (referring to the Gay Pride Proclamation) how could Mayor Norquist speak for Milwaukee? "He doesn't speak for me, because I don't want to see a homo parade."

Robert said that at no point was any comment made by the teacher cautioning students against using derogatory words about Gays. Robert said sadly, "Why should the teacher even allow this garbage in? This is how kids grow up hating Gays and homosexuality, when they don't really know much about it. Especially, when the teacher doesn't do anything about it."

Once informed of this classroom incident, this reporter contacted the acting principal of the school by telephone and reported the above incident to him. He responded in a very positive and affirmative manner, stating that he would talk with the teacher involved. He also thanked this reporter for bringing the incident to his attention and emphasized that only by bringing these incidents up, can the school effectively deal with them as they occur. As of this writing, it is not known whether the acting principal has discussed this matter with the teacher involved.

In another incident, a few days after the above occurrence, three high school students from the same school were

beaten in a Gay-bashing-type incident. Robert happened to be an observer of the beating and was, at least, spared the physical assault. Although he was able to describe in detail what happened, Robert did not want the story elaborated upon in print for fear that he and the other victims would suffer repercussions.

Robert continued his account to this reporter. During the latter months of 1989, he has been "Gay-bashed" in the form of verbal harassment, being called "Gay", "fag", and "a girl" even though he never at any time indicated or told anyone that he was Gay or homosexual. These incidents occurred in the school halls between classes "so many times that I can't even count."

Robert continued, "I was harassed, threatened; they rubbed my ass. They rubbed my chest. After I was being touched, I reported it to one of the administrators who then walked me to my class and sat in the classroom to see if anything would happen which, of course, nothing did. However, the harassment continued. They told me they would put me in a peer mediation group so that we could all talk about the problem. But it never happened. At one point, the administrator told me that I shouldn't let it bother me and that it would stop."

Robert went on, "Then, since the problem was still happening, I reported it to another administrator. One day my mother told me when I got home from school that she received a call from the school that I was coming down to the office too much for the same reason, acting like a punk. From then on I didn't know what to do."

"So," Robert said, "at one point I thought that there was nothing better to do than commit suicide. If a boy was sexually assaulting a girl (in school), he would have been hauled into court. At one point, I went to the guidance counselor's office, told him the problems I was having, and when he asked me if I was Gay, I told him no, even though I was. At the time, he didn't have any suggestions."

"Now, if I wouldn't have called the (telephone) operator for a Gay phone line as a prank and got in touch with the youth group, I wouldn't be telling this story."

"The Milwaukee public schools do not know how to deal with the problems that Gay students go through; and I really think it's sick that school staff don't deal with these problems. Just think of the lives that might be taken because of this."

Think about it

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For more information about free and anonymous testing, counseling, and other support services call the AIDSline:

1-800-334-AIDS

In Milwaukee call 273-AIDS

This message is supported by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Health, AIDS/HIV Program and the Wisconsin AIDS Service Organizations: Milwaukee AIDS Project, Madison AIDS Support Network, Center Project, Inc., La Crosse County Health Department, Central Wisconsin AIDS Network, and Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project.

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

# The Wisconsin Light



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## EDITORIAL

### Miriam Ben-Shalom's Example Is A Glorious Light for Millions

There is little that we can add to what has already been said in praise of Miriam Ben-Shalom. She has fought the good fight and though the Supreme Court has turned her away, we are not willing to say that by that action she lost. She has not.

There are few among us, Lesbians and Gays, who are as brave, steadfast in the face of overwhelming adversity and so dedicated to the common good as is Miriam. For 16 long, hard years, the struggle has gone on and now, this phase of it is over. But for Miriam, the valiant warrior that she is, there will be new horizons, new worlds to conquer, new paths to tread and thereby lead the way for the rest of us.

In an age where systems and institutions seem to tower over us and make us feel helpless, powerless, Miriam has shown what one individual can do.

Abraham Lincoln once remarked that one person and the right make a majority. If that is the case — and we believe it is — then Miriam alone outnumbers all the forces marshaled against her — and us.

Has she lost? No. She has shoot her arrow into the sky and it has come down in flames. But, Oh, what a glorious light.

## LETTERS

### Ten Percent Society Funding Denied

#### TO THE EDITOR:

A few months ago, I wrote a letter to the Light concerning student politics at the University of Wisconsin. In that letter, I urged UW students who are concerned about Gay and Lesbian issues to vote against a reactionary-backlash party calling itself "Common Sense." I did so on the premise that the jocks and rednecks who have enjoyed a long-standing foot-hold in the Student Senate have given Gay and Lesbian students a raw deal time and time again.

Thanks, in part, to the right-wing campus paper, Common Sense, though not winning a majority, obtained a large number of seats in the Student Senate. During their campaign, they assured voting students that they would not continue WSA's tradition of rudely snubbing Gay/Lesbian issues.

Well, guess what? On Thursday, March 1, 1990, three right-wing senators, two of them from Common Sense, blocked funding (\$2,500) to the Ten Percent Society to bring an AIDS expert to the university to speak. Said the independent of those three senators on the committee, Dave Baumann (formerly of Common

Sense), "I think that homosexuality is very wrong, but that's not why I voted against them."

Yeah, right. The reason for blocking the request is that because Ten Percent has given donations to other causes, it's their own fault that they don't have the money to bring this speaker to campus. This is a good example of the mentality of blaming the victim, one of the oldest canards of the right.

Another reason that the request was denied is because the request might not make it through the full Student Senate; for requests of over \$750, three-fourths of the Student Senate must approve the bill. Common Sense, with its large minority, could easily (and gladly) torpedo the bill.

A representative of the Ten Percent Society said that the funding will not be pursued any further because "The rest of us are really fed up with the whole bit of trying to get funding from WSA."

There will be another round of WSA elections in April; let's hope these bozos get ousted once and for all.

—Thomas J. Rondy  
Madison

### Gay Life is Mississippi

#### TO THE EDITOR:

By the time that this correspondence has reached you, I sincerely hope and wish that you are in the best of health and happiness. Recently it was suggested that I write a letter to my fine brothers and sisters in Milwaukee about Gay life in the Mississippi Delta. Ten years ago if you had told me that I would be counseling Gay youth about their identities, educating my peers (heterosexuals) about the norms of homosexuals/Lesbians, fighting for my rights at my work place, inviting my cross state lover to meet my old fashioned, church-going, Bible-preaching grandmother, organizing a Gay and Lesbian support group in my hometown (and get this) for the first time in my 28 years of life, liking me for who I am — a homosexual — I would not have believed it.

You live in a society where you have the opportunities to join unions, materials to inquire, and a place where you can seek your true sexuality with all of its pros and cons...No, not con.

I live in a society where I hunger for information, ideas, and suggestions about my sexuality, rights and the "little" things that goes along with it. A place where you feel like you are writing "how to's" and "bylaws" for the next generation of Lesbians and Gays. A "Kansas" where you feel like your preaching that you constantly give your co-workers is a waste, then I, the sore Flagbearer, get people who really want to know about the essence of homosexuality, how we meet each other, how they can deal with their homophobia, how I deal with being both Black and Gay, or how I feel about my relationship with another man, while they see how our courtship develops right before their eyes (thanks, Pooh, for the Gay Valentine in my hometown paper...the FIRST).

However, when I hear "faggot" or "freak" now I walk on my way, this day, with pride. The Old South has a long way to go to catch up with the real world; however, when I have one of those "life's" instead of days, I think of my peers in Wisconsin to say thanks for your

inspirations. Sometimes it is good to fight, but it is better to give your strength to more important things (i.e. enjoying life just for today).

Please do something for me... enjoy your rights that you have worked so hard to achieve, take advantage of your facilities, love your mate as he/she is and, foremost, come together as one community to continue battle against homophobia, sexism, racism BUT not each other. May God continue to bless you all in your endeavors until our roads meet.

In Gay and Lesbian Unity and Love,

—Charles E. Benford  
Greenwood, Mississippi

## Williams Rebuked

#### TO THE EDITOR:

I was a little perturbed at seeing Polly Williams on the front page. Have we forgotten Jackson-88? I tend to disagree with the statement "Williams", a long-time crusader for civil rights and the rights of poor and minorities... It should read, "Williams, a long time crusader for civil rights and the rights of poor and SOME minorities."

She does NOT support Lesbian/Gay rights except when she needs the hard work of volunteers. But even after the work is done, Polly tends to forget who did the brunt of the grunt work. If national news can recognize the hard work of Gays and Lesbians in the political arena, you would think that a self-proclaimed leader of Wisconsin's political machine could at least give credit to those where credit is due.

I, personally, will do whatever I can to make sure Williams is NOT the state chair of Jackson-92 (cuz you know it will happen.) Williams does not fully believe in the Rainbow Coalition and all of its philosophies. Unfortunately, Williams' personal agenda in 1988 marred the Jackson campaign. Let's remember who's friend and who's foe.

—Susan Cook  
Milwaukee

### Two Letters Read at Ben-Shalom Rally

#### TO MIRIAM BEN-SHALOM:

Your courage and determination in pursuing justice for the Gay and Lesbian community is matched by few people in this country. You are truly a national leader in the struggle for Lesbian and Gay rights and an inspiration for everyone who works for social justice.

I am honored to join with your many friends and admirers to thank you for your enormous efforts and express profound pride in the progress you have achieved in advancing the cause of equal rights for the Lesbian and Gay community.

—Doug Nelson  
Executive Director  
The Milwaukee AIDS Project

#### STATEMENT READ BY JIM ENGLISH FROM PERRY WATKINS, THE FIRST OPEN GAY TO RUN FOR THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION

I think it is very pathetic that the Supreme Court of this country feels it has the right to oppress the citizens of this country who serve honorably in its armed forces with the same distinction and valor of any of its members on the basis of something so insignificant as their sexual orientation. The important issue here is whether we have good soldiers; and soldiers, like good citizens, come in all shapes, sizes, sexes, colors and orientations and they ought to be judged not on any of those factors, but solely on their performance as soldiers in the accomplishment of their mission.

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TIM HANCOCK IDIOT #1

# The Dignity of Miriam Ben-Shalom

By Jamakaya

The refusal of the US Supreme Court to even consider the appeal of Sergeant Miriam Ben-Shalom is as disheartening as it is unjust. One does not have to be a gung-ho supporter of the military to be outraged by the implications of the Court's action.

In dismissing Miriam's case, the Supreme Court left intact the military's general... and irrational... ban on homosexuals. The Court has essentially upheld a blatantly discriminatory regulation over the most elementary constitutional rights of citizenship.

If the armed forces can adopt such arbitrary and exclusionary policies and be sustained by the highest court, which one of us is safe? How much easier will it be for our rights to be eroded and denied by other federal agencies or private institutions?

And again, whether you support or despise our military machine, the Court's action and the military's policy are, at the very least, deeply insulting to all Lesbians and Gays. The idea that we are somehow less competent, less trustworthy and more injurious to morale is based on the most ignorant stereotypes and prejudices... prejudices that have no place in a country which purports to provide equal opportunity for all.

In the case of Miriam Ben-Shalom, we have a woman who wants, more than anything else, to remain a soldier. She has never been accused of any misconduct. On the contrary, she has been a model soldier and drill instructor in the Army Reserves. She was even nominated as Soldier of the Year by her battalion. She has been dismissed because of *who* she is. If that is not a textbook definition of discrimination, I don't know what is.

It reminds me of the experiences of Sergeant Johnnie Phelps during World War II (in a story recounted in the book *Before Stonewall*). Sgt. Phelps received an order from her commanding officer, General Eisenhower, to ferret out the Lesbians in her WAC battalion. Phelps thought awhile, then sent this response to the General:

"Sir, I will be happy to do this investigation for you but you'll have to know that the first name of the list will be mine...I think the General should be aware that among these women are the most highly decorated women in the war..."

"There have been no cases of illegal pregnancies, there have been no cases of AWOL, there have been no cases of misconduct, and as a matter of fact, every six months the General has awarded us a commendation for meritorious service."

Eisenhower, displaying the kind of judgment that makes for great generals, told Phelps: "Forget the order." It was World War II and the most qualified personnel were needed to get the job done.

Another situation analogous to the military's ban on homosexuals has occurred in the Catholic Church. Since 1986, when the Vatican issued its "Letter



Doreen Riley

Jamakaya

on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons," Dignity, the nation's organization for Lesbian and Gay Roman Catholics, has been expelled from every single Roman Catholic Church in the United States.

It amazes me that Lesbian and Gay soldiers, just like Lesbian and Gay Roman Catholics, continue to seek acceptance in institutions that are so implacably hostile to them. I alternate between thinking that these people are either hopeless masochists or incredibly courageous pioneers.

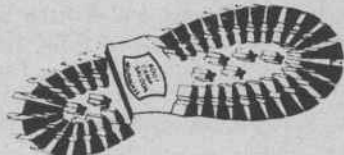
The denial of anyone's right to fully participate in every aspect of society... whether military, religious, artistic, etc.... diminishes us all. It deprives us of the valuable company and contributions of the excluded party and denies them their human dignity. It is also a shameful waste of human talent.

In the course of her 16 year legal battle, Miriam Ben-Shalom has been a courageous and articulate spokeswoman, doing her best to spread understanding and tolerance about Lesbians and Gay men. She has often felt a lack of support from her own community, among some Lesbian-feminists who deride her commitment to the military and among the wider circle of Gay people who are just too apathetic to care about her case.

Through it all, Miriam has displayed a dignity and determination that should be an example and guide to our entire community.

I believe that, ultimately, the military will change its policy. When it does, it will be due in no small part to the courage and persistence of people like Miriam Ben-Shalom, who took a principled stand against irrational discrimination.

Miriam deserved a better outcome and, at the very least, a final hearing. She has spent the best years of her life engaged in this struggle. The Army, in its ignorance, is losing a hell of a soldier.



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# Entertainment to Highlight April 1 "Make A Promise" MAP Dinner

[Milwaukee]- It is time once again for the Milwaukee AIDS Project's (MAP) fundraiser, "Make A Promise." This year's Make A Promise Dinner and show will be held on Sunday, April 1, 1990 at Milwaukee's Wisconsin Club, 900 W. Wisconsin Avenue in the downtown area. The evening will include dinner, fine entertainment and a silent auction.

The social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will feature relaxing cocktail hour piano music. During this time, guests may investigate the numerous items presented for the silent auction. Bids will be accepted throughout the evening, with high bidders announced during the entertainment portion of the evening. Dinner is scheduled for 6:30 in the ballroom.

The show will feature several professional performers collaborating to present an evening of fine entertainment. Two entertainers from Comedy Sportz will be hosting the show—a follow-up on the good time had by all at last year's Dinner. Performances will include individuals from the Milwaukee Ballet, the Bauer Contemporary Ballet, the Milwaukee Repertory Theater and the Florentine Opera.

To order tickets, call Tim Kennedy at MAP, (414) 273-1991 or send in your coupon. Tickets for the Dinner and show are \$40 and tables of ten are available. All proceeds will benefit the Life Care Services department and clients of MAP. Join us in showing our compassion and support for people affected by AIDS.

# Uyvari's "Fallen Angel" To Be Auctioned at "Promise" Dinner

[Milwaukee]- On Sunday, April 1, 1990, the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) will be hosting its Fourth Annual "Make A Promise" Dinner, show and silent auction at the elegant Wisconsin Club, 900 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee.

This year, in addition to many other wonderful auction items, MAP is very pleased to offer one of the best known works by internationally known Gay artist Robert Uyvari. Known as the "Fallen Angel," this piece hung on the ceiling of Milwaukee's Your Place Bar (YP) for many years. It is through the generosity of the former owners of the YP and the owner of Partners Bar that MAP is able to offer this widely known oil painting by Robert Uyvari for auction.

"Fallen Angel" was originally designed to be used as a coffee table. Round, it measures seven feet in diameter. The work features a large, partially clad Medieval seraphim or angel thus accounting for the painting's name. Because of its size, shape and Uyvari's artistic ability, this piece is very impressive and is in excellent condition.

Uyvari was well-known throughout the international Gay community. A native of the Milwaukee area, he lived in both Chicago and San Francisco. While a resident of San Francisco, he won numerous "Cable Car Awards" for his artistry.

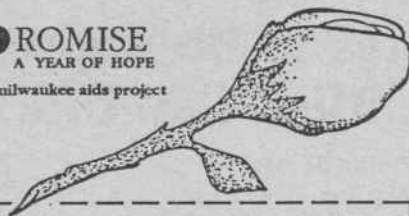
In addition to his award-winning works, he was also well-known for doing many covers and posters for Gay publications, events and businesses. Some of these include "The Places of Interest Guide Books," the "Gay World Series," Milwaukee's own *In Step* and a number of Gay businesses throughout the country. His work has been widely displayed and collected since his death in 1986.

"Fallen Angel" is one of Uyvari's best-known pieces. This year's "Make A Promise" Dinner may be one of the last times a Uyvari of this quality will be up for sale to the general public. Don't miss your chance to own this fine example of the artistry of Robert Uyvari.

For more information on the "Make A Promise" Dinner, please contact Tim Kennedy at MAP, (414) 273-1991.

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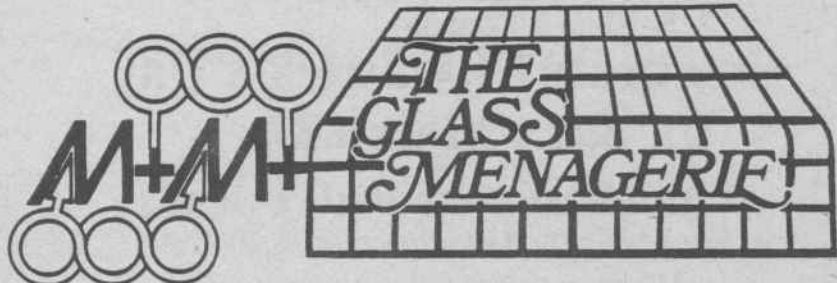
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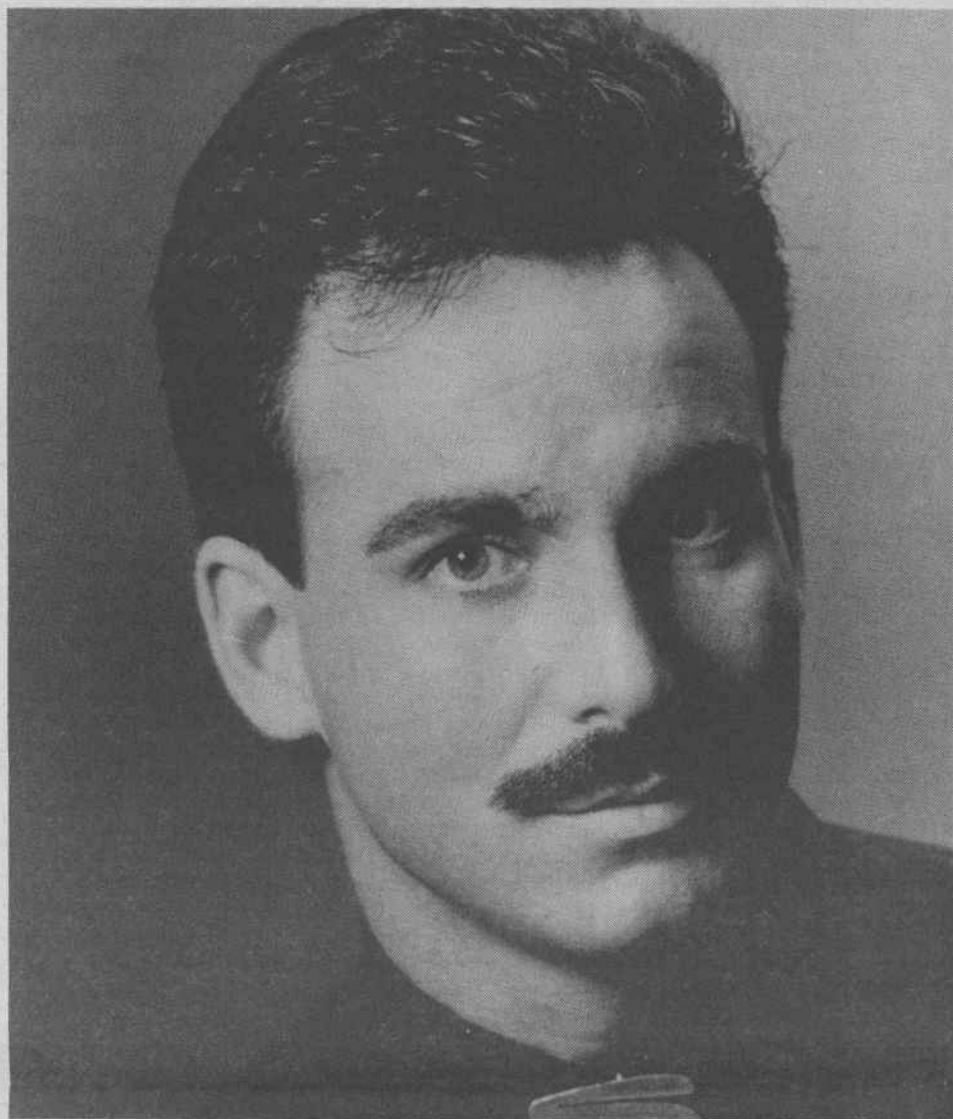
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# The Light LIVELY ARTS



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## 39 States to Be Represented In 1990's Miss Gay U.S.A. Pageant

By Kittl Daniels

[Pearland, TX]- Beauty and talent are in the eye of the beholder. Thin or stout, short or tall, whichever it is. This Spring will see it all, as female impersonators from 39 states come together for the Miss Gay USA 1990 pageant.

This year's festivities will take place from Tuesday, April 3 to April 8 and will be held at The Connection Complex in Louisville, Kentucky. The Miss Gay USA pageant 1990 marks the grand opening of the new, multi-million dollar Connection Theatre located at 120 S. Floyd St. in Louisville.

During the past eleven months, over 1,000 of the nation's top impersonators have competed in preliminary pageants throughout the country trying to assure themselves of a place in Louisville competition. Of that number, 80 contestants will compete in the preliminary judging in interview, evening gown and talent. This will take place Tuesday through Friday.

On Saturday night, The Connection and USA Pageantry will present the "Stars Of USA Show." On Sunday evening, the top 12 finalists will again compete in all categories for the title of Miss Gay USA 1990, the most highly recognized, prestigious and traveled title available in the Gay community.

Miss Gay USA 1990, will travel to the 55 preliminary pageants scheduled this year. Her itinerary will include approximately 250 performances as Miss Gay USA, in addition to many benefit and other personal appearances.

Special entertainment for the Miss Gay USA Pageant in Louisville will be provided by Netasha Edwards, the current Miss Gay USA; Kimbol Purkerson, Mr. Gay USA 1989; Tommie Ross, Miss Gay USA 1988; Diana Hutton, Miss Gay USA 1987; Kevin Scott, Mr. Gay USA 1987; Lisa King, Miss Gay USA 1985; Carmella Marcella Garcia, Miss Gay USA At-Large 1989; Bubba McNeely and Eddie Dee.

This year's pageant is produced by Jerry Bird, President of USA Pageantry, Inc. The host hotel in Louisville is the Holiday Inn-Downtown. For more information, reservations and advance tickets, call The Connection at (502) 585-5752 or USA Pageantry Inc. at (713) 523-5293.

## Parkerson Film To Be Shown Sat., March 10

[Milwaukee]- Michelle Parkerson, award-winning, Black Lesbian poet, author and filmmaker will be in Milwaukee on Saturday, March 10, 1990, appearing in conjunction with the "UW-M Black Women Filmmakers Festival." Parkerson will be present for the showing of her film, "Storme: The Lady of the Jewel Box" to be screened at 8:00 p.m. in the UW-M Cinema in the Union building, 2200 E. Kenwood. The film is free and open to the public.

## Poker Run To Benefit Bowling Tournament

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee's Holiday Invitational Tournament '90 (HIT), announces a Poker Run to be held on Friday, March 23, 1990 from 6:00 to 11:00 p.m. to kick off its fundraising efforts for the popular Thanksgiving Weekend Bowling Tournament.

Several Milwaukee area bars are slated to participate, including the Triangle, Partners, Jets, the Ballgame, This Is It, M&M and the Wreck Room.

Join the HIT '90 Committee for an evening of cards and fun while contributing to the success of HIT XII. For more information, stop in at any of the participating bars or contact Dean at (414) 482-1700.

## Bel Canto Chorus Hosts Artists Competition

[Milwaukee]- Richard Hynson, Music Director of Milwaukee's Bel Canto Chorus has announced the Third Annual Regional Artist Competition to take place on June 9 and 10 at the Pabst Theatre. The Competition is designed to encourage and support singers who currently reside in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan.

Winners will receive a cash prize of up to \$1,000 and a solo engagement with the Chorus during its 1990-91 concert season. The deadline for entering the Competition is April 16. Finalists will be invited to audition on either June 9 or 10. Winners will be announced in mid-July.

Interested singers may apply by sending a resume and two letters of recommendation to: Joan Lounsbury, General Manager, Bel Canto Chorus, 144 E. Wells St., Milwaukee, WI 53202. Questions may be answered by calling (414) 226-8800.

## Milwaukee Rep Presents New Comedy

[Milwaukee]- "4 Am America" opened on March 4 on the Stiemke stage of the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre for a run through March 25

From the innovative creator of last seasons' "Kind Ness", comes this funny new work-in-progress. This piece takes a comic look at America and its trends; including the ever-present television set, commercial jingles, soap operas, etc. while focusing on a somewhat "normal" nuclear family.

"4 Am America" is a unique collaboration between the Rep and members of Chong's New York-based Fiji Company. The play is conceived and directed by Ping Chong and written and developed by Ping Chong, Jawn Fleming, Brian Hallas, Jeannie Hutchins, Larry Malvern, Robert Meiksins, Johanna Melamed, Ric Oquita, Cynthia E. Poulson and Lousie Smith.

Cast members include: Ric Oquita, Jawn Fleming, Scott Howland, Jeannie Hutchins, Larry Malvern, Johanna Melamed and Louise Smith.

For tickets, call the Rep Box Office at (414) 224-9490.

## Schwartz Books Sponsors T.V. "Bookmark"

[Milwaukee]- The Harry W. Schwartz Bookshops will underwrite the second season of "Bookmark," a half hour television program using ideas in current books to generate "a spectacle of opinion, criticism, hasty judgment and passionate belief."

Hosted by Harper's Magazine editor Lewis Lapham and airing Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. on Milwaukee's WMVT Channel 36, "Bookmark" will have a 26-show season that began on February 26.

A complete listing of the entire season of "Bookmark" is available from WMVT Channel 36.

With a revised format and approach over last year, "Bookmark" will shift emphasis from the book to the idea, thus broadening the scope of the discussions.

Having underwritten the first season of "Bookmark," Schwartz Bookshops is delighted to renew their support for what promises to be a lively, provocative and important series. The Bookshops will be featuring books by the authors and guests at all locations except the Children's Bookshop in Brookfield.

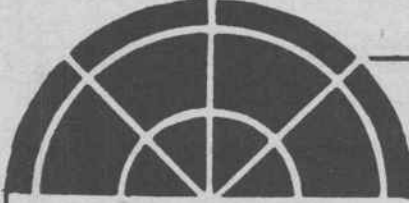
## Art Work Sought For State Office Buildings

[Madison]- The Wisconsin Arts Board seeks to commission or purchase visual art works for five state building projects. Submission deadline for all projects is April 1, 1990.

Application forms and detailed prospectus are available from the Wisconsin Arts Board, 131 W. Wilson, Suite 301, Madison, WI, 53703 or by calling (608) 266-0190.

## Milwaukee to Host Wisconsin-U.S.A. Pageant Aug. 19

King Productions in its newsletter dated March 3, 1990, has announced that they plan to hold the Miss Gay Wisconsin-USA Pageant in Milwaukee this year. The date is Sunday, August 19. The place has yet to be announced, but should be set within the month.




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## Otto Elected President of AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin

[Milwaukee]- The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW) has elected Sharon Otto of Greenfield, Wisconsin as President of its Board of Directors. Otto, 50, is the second President of the Board in the five year history of the organization. ARCW is the parent corporation of both the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) and the Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project headquartered in Kenosha. The ARCW Board establishes policy for both AIDS Projects.



Sharon Otto

"All of Wisconsin will be profoundly challenged by AIDS in the 1990's", Otto said following her election. "In southeast Wisconsin, we will have two-thirds of the State's AIDS cases in the next decade. My primary objective as President is to assure that both the Milwaukee AIDS Project and the Southeastern Wisconsin AIDS Project are well prepared to deliver the highest quality of service and support to people affected by AIDS."

Otto said her volunteer experience working with AIDS clients at MAP motivated her to take a leadership role as

### Hot-n-Healthy Series Begins March 26

[Madison]- Hot-n-Healthy, a six week program for Gay men, will be offered this Spring beginning March 26 by the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN). The sessions include massage/bodywork techniques, discussion of creative, erotic safer sex and dating/intimacy skills. The cost of the entire program is \$15. There will be a free H-n-H poster for all participants.

To register, call MASN at (608)-255-1711.

### Restoration Workshops Announced

[Milwaukee]- On Tuesday, April 3, 1990, Milwaukee's Historic 3rd Ward Association in conjunction with Builders World, Inc. will host a day-long conference on restoring historic properties. The conference will take place at Firehouse No. 10, 171 Broadway, in the 3rd Ward District.

The morning session will discuss the availability and use of state and federal historic tax credits. Jim Sewell, Senior Preservation Architect, will review programs, application procedures and requirements. The remainder of the morning will highlight restoring historic properties from an architectural and development viewpoint.

The afternoon session will cover restoring windows in historic properties. Industry experts will discuss options and lead a workshop to show successful restoration in historic buildings.

For information and reservations, contact Joan Zepecki, Historic 3rd Ward Association at (414) 273-1173, or Bob Smith, Builders World at (414) 542-8883.

President of the Board. "I found that the individuals with AIDS who I supported and came to know inspired me to do more," she explained. "My decision to lead these organizations is truly a response to them and I am honored to have this opportunity."

Doug Nelson, MAP's Executive Director, praised Otto's selection as President. "She is knowledgeable, dedicated, compassionate and tough," Nelson said. "We have many difficult challenges ahead and Sharon Otto's leadership will surely be effective in gaining the community commitment that we urgently need to manage the AIDS epidemic in Milwaukee."

Otto stated that her greatest challenge will be to secure sufficient private sector funding for both AIDS Projects so that vital client services can be maintained as the AIDS caseload continues to grow in southeast Wisconsin. "We will need the financial support of corporations, foundations and people from all walks of life if we are to successfully meet the challenge of AIDS," Otto said. "The Milwaukee AIDS Project is providing tremendously important services of counseling, case management, legal assistance, housing and financial support to people with AIDS, but it won't be able to maintain these vital services for its growing clientele unless we succeed in gaining greater financial support from the community."

Otto began her involvement in AIDS as a volunteer at MAP in 1985. She was elected to the Board of Directors in 1987 and served as Treasurer of the Board until her election as President.

Ms. Otto has a long history of political and church involvement and manages the office for the public accounting firm of Bonfield & Company, S.C.

### Bill Would Allow Greater HIV Medical Coverage

[Washington, D.C.]- Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) has introduced a bill, H.R. 4080, to expand Medicaid coverage of HIV-related conditions. The central provision would define anyone who is HIV-positive and needs medical treatment (currently anyone with T-cells below 500) as 'disabled' for purposes of a defined package of Medicaid benefits.

This package includes any diagnostic and early intervention treatment which would delay AIDS — AZT, and aerosol pentamidine. Those who qualify as disabled would still have to meet State income guidelines for Medicaid, but the federal government would match State payments for anyone up to the federal poverty level. This is an important step towards full health-care coverage of people with HIV infection.

The bill also adjusts various formulas to provide more equitable Medicaid reimbursement of services for people with HIV-related conditions.

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## MASN Seeks Original Material for "Erotic Handbook"

[Madison]- A special project is being undertaken this year at the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN). It is the creation of an "erotic handbook" for Gay men comprised of erotic art, fantasy tales, actual experiences, comics, poems and safe-sexual "turn-ons." The goal of the project is to create a collection of works that affirm Gay sexuality and encourage safe expression of sex.

Sound interesting? We would love to hear your ideas and welcome any art/writing you might want to submit.

Men who have never shared their drawings or writing or guys who would like to start doing it, are especially encouraged to do so. We are looking for material that reflects the diversity of our community. The categories are as follows:

Erotic Art (dark pen/pencil on white background); Experiences/Fantasies; Poems; Comics; Sexual Turn-ons (be

creative!!)

Remember to submit only safe experiences. If you have any questions, call Sue Krause at (608) 555-1711. Send all material to: MASN, P.O. Box 731, Madison, WI 53701, Attn: S. Krause.

## Civil Rights Bill Gains 77th Sponsor

[Washington, D.C.]- Rep. Bill Gray (D-PA), the House Majority Whip, has become a co-sponsor of the Gay & Lesbian Civil Rights bill (H.R. 655). Gray has co-sponsored the bill in prior Congresses, but is signing on for the first time as Whip. The Whip is responsible for Democratic floor strategy. Gray becomes the 77th House sponsor.

## MAPS Drop-In Center Announces Workshops

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee AIDS Project's (MAP) Drop-In Center has announced its workshops for the remainder of March.

Sat., Mar. 10: "Legal and Ethical Issues of HIV" by Steve Byers, Attorney.

Sat., Mar. 24: "Volunteering and Life Care Services" by Lynn Syverson, Director of Volunteer Resources and Cheryl Vaughn, Director of Life Care Services at MAP.

The workshops are held at the Community Center, 225 S. 2nd St. in Milwaukee and begin at 9:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Workshops are sponsored by the Drop-in Center, an outreach program of MAP targeting HIV/AIDS education/prevention in the Lesbian/Gay community. For more information, call Michael Lisowski at MAP at (414) 273-1991.

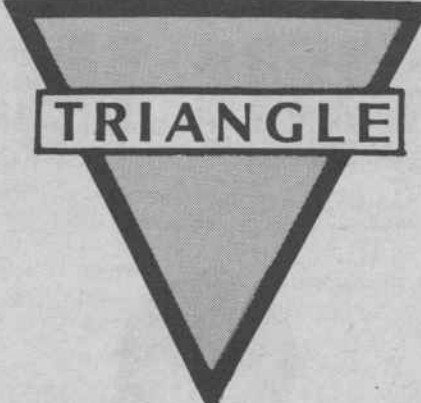
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PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS OF WISCONSIN

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.

## Miriam Ben-Shalom Is Victorious In 16 Year Struggle With The Army

By Bill Meunier

Miriam Ben Shalom has victoriously completed her 16 year struggle to remain in the United States Army. Although, the US Army may be relishing its ability to keep Miriam out; there can be no question, Miriam's struggle has been successful.



Jerry Johnson

serve notice to the entire country that Gays and Lesbians are second class citizens. In so doing Miriam has made our case for action much stronger. Stronger even that it would have been if the Court had found in her favor, stronger than any action we could have taken on our own ever could have. The deluge of calls Miriam has received from outraged straight reporters from throughout the country certainly stands as testimony to that.

Miriam also won by waking up our own community. It is no longer possible for any Lesbian or Gay to say that we are free in this country. It is not possible for any of us to pretend that there is no need to take action to win equal rights under the law. Through her case Miriam has exposed the ugly truth, and in so doing she has aroused the righteous anger of millions. That is victory.

The truth is that Miriam began this struggle because she wanted the opportunity to fight for freedom if the need arose. For sixteen long hard years Miriam did just that. Nothing the Army did could prevent her from continuing that fight. Every day that went by without the Army winning was another victory for justice and freedom.

Miriam gave us sixteen years of victory. She withstood the US Army longer than the Germans and Japanese. She made scores of appearances and gave hundreds of interviews. Many Gays and Lesbians first realized they weren't alone when they read about Miriam in their local papers. Her example inspired untold thousands of young closeted Gays and Lesbians to find the courage to come out, the ability to accept themselves and the understanding that they were not alone. That too is victory.

Yes the Army won the battle before the Supreme Court, but if the editorials from the straight media and the Gay and Lesbian testimonials pouring in from around the country are any indication, thanks to Miriam we are winning the war.

### STAFF SGT. MIRIAM BEN-SHALOM

History is filled with examples of others, who like Miriam, fought against overwhelming odds, losing in the short run but winning in the long run. Like the Texans at the Alamo, and the Americans at Bataan, Miriam sapped the strength of the enemy forcing them to expose their cruelty and vicious intent.

The fact is that Miriam did not win her case at the Supreme Court, but the Court's refusal to even hear her appeal, won us a victory that will do far more good, than a successful appeal would have.

Just a few months ago, this same Court ruled that burning the flag was protected free speech. Now it has ruled that saying you are Gay or Lesbian is not. The outrage this has provoked even among Conservatives has and will continue to serve our ultimate goal of achieving equal treatment under the law.

Miriam forced the Supreme Court to

## The 1990 Census- Eight Questions and Answers

Q: What is the question on the 1990 Census that affects Lesbian and Gay couples and why is it there?

A: The "relationship" section of the survey asks for information on each person in the household and how those people are related. Added to the list of possible answers for 1990 is **unmarried partner**. The **unmarried partner** designation is included along with such choices as "roomer/boarder," "housemate/roommate," or "other nonrelative" in the Census Bureau's attempt to classify non-related household members.

Q: What does the Census Bureau mean by **unmarried partner**?

A: The **unmarried partner** category, according to the Census Bureau, will distinguish between persons who share a household for economic reasons and those who share households "for more personal reasons."

Will the 1990 Census count every US Lesbian and Gay man?

A: No. There is no question on the 1990 Census that specifically asks about sexual orientation.

Q: How should I answer the question?

A: The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force urges you to check off the **unmarried partner** designation on the 1990 Census if you are living in a committed relationship.

Q: What about my confidentiality?

A: Title 13 of the US Code prevents any agency — INS, IRS, the FBI, the courts, the military, welfare agencies, etc., — from accessing information about you. The law authorizing the census also provides that your answers are confidential. Neither a census taker nor any other employee of the Bureau may reveal information about you or your household.

Q: Why should I answer the question?

A: Lesbians and Gay men have taken the lead in this country on the issue of family diversity. The **unmarried partner** question on the 1990 Census marks the first time the federal government has ever acknowledged one element of that diversity: domestic partnership. Census data guides decision-making in both

public and private sector programs. Social and economic policy is determined, legislative agendas and initiatives are set and priorities determined using census data as a tool.

Q: When does the Census begin and how does it work?

A: Census forms are mailed to all households in the US during the last week in March. You are asked to fill out the questionnaire and return it to the Census Bureau by mail.

Q: What has the Census Bureau done in its outreach efforts to the Lesbian and Gay community?

The Bureau has made no attempt to educate the constituency affected by the **unmarried partner** question. The Bureau claims that "budgetary constraints and other considerations" made such efforts impossible.

**Editor's Note:** The above article was provided by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Lesbian and Gay Families Project.

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## Homophobia Responsible For Increased Spread of AIDS

By Thomas J. Roney

About two months ago, I was reminded of the French proverb "the more things change, the more things stay the same." What reminded me of that was the charming bit of graffiti on the Langdon Street wall of the Historical Society building: "Stop AIDS: Kill Queers."

Never mind the fact that the reaction to that was not as strong as when someone spray-paints "U.S. out of El Salvador." (Which it should have been long ago.) What got to me is the fact that there are plenty of people who actually buy the logic behind such a method of dealing with AIDS.

This logic is reminiscent of the days when leeches were used to treat common ailments. Those who subscribe to the reasoning of the graffiti do not want to know that AIDS is an extremely devious virus; because it has an incubation period ranging from three to six years, it can infect a large segment of any population before anyone realizes just how serious the problem is.

But when the virus comes out of incubation, that's when the real horror of AIDS begins. It invades the nucleus of cells and writes itself into the programming of the DNA, the command-center of the cell which is located in the nucleus. It does most of its damage by invading and reprogramming T-Cells, which warn the immune system about attacking viruses. The immune system is then incapacitated. That is how the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) works; it is simply a cunning microbe, not a demon or retribution from some hateful, patriarchal deity.

Why has AIDS become such a serious problem? That is because society decided to let the AIDS virus "kill queers." When it seemed that the virus was only affecting Gay men, AIDS was perceived as "the Gay Plague." It was even referred to as such by much of the bourgeois media.

When a new disease becomes a problem, it is standard procedure for the government to allocate substantial sums for research and treatment. But because AIDS was supposedly "the Gay

Plague," it was viewed as a blessing; America's own Final Solution.

In fact, in October, 1987, as the Gay communities of America's cities began to try to stop the spread of the virus by educational means, U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC), introduced a bill in the Senate to cut federal funding for any AIDS-oriented educational material which seemed to advocate homosexuality. He apparently had little difficulty in whipping both liberals and conservatives alike into a furor of reactionary zeal; only two senators voted against the bill.

Similarly, Helms is known for obstructing bills which allocate federal funding for the drug AZT for those who cannot afford it. While AZT is not a cure for AIDS, it buys time for a person with AIDS, as well as making the time they have left more livable. No wonder a recent editorial in a North Carolina newspaper, *The Charlotte Observer*, called Helms "mean-spirited" and "evil."

Now the homophobes who know nothing about the reality of AIDS want to "kill queers" for spreading the disease to the heterosexual population. But it is unquestionably a problem that a Gay-hating society has brought upon itself. It is that society which is reaping what it has sown.

This society has been warned time and again that AIDS does not discriminate, but ignorant homophobes still refuse to take protective measures. Instead, they prefer to intensify their blame of Gays, as if their banal, infantile prejudices can ward off a viral infection.

So such a mindset amounts to this: Gays should be killed for the spread of a disease because a homophobic society allowed it to turn into an epidemic in order to "kill queers." Considering that this logic comes from a society which deems burning certain pieces of cloth a high crime, I suppose it's just business-as-usual in the USA.

**Editor's Note:** The above article was originally published in Madison's *The Daily Cardinal* and is reprinted here with the permission of the author who is a member of the paper's staff.

## N.J. State Police Cease Practicing "Lewd" Reststop Behavior

[New York, NY]- Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in January, 1990, filed a "friend of the court" brief in two criminal cases in New Jersey, protesting an operation by New Jersey State Police that has victimized hundreds of men over several years.

Between February 1988 and October 1989, at least 540 men were arrested at the Vince Lombardi Rest Stop and charged with "lewdness." The overwhelming majority of these arrests followed a disturbing pattern, described in the brief as follows:

Plainclothed state troopers, usually working in pairs, spent hours standing at urinals, approaching men and engaging in flirtatious behavior. The troopers routinely pretended to masturbate, soliciting physical and sexual contact with men at urinals and in stalls through winks, leers, stares and smiles. At the least indication of reciprocal interest, the troopers made an arrest, flouting standard NJ requirements of procedural fairness. One trooper alone scored nearly 100 arrests.

Of the 540 arrests made, only eight have been dismissed. The victims, mostly "first offenders" and more than half from out of state, were given a steep fine of \$805. As of October, 1989, the township had raked in over \$200,000 in this one operation.

New Jersey has no laws protecting Gay people from discrimination. In at least one case, troopers contacted a man's employer, and he lost his job-- even before any trial.

Lambda also observed that the money spent on this operation has outraged many people who find it difficult to comprehend why, in the midst of a war on drugs, the state police feel they need to post 56 police officers in one restroom where there has been no violence.

Speaking to *The Bergen Record*, a local New Jersey newspaper, Col. Clinton L. Pagano, superintendent of the NJ state police denied that only young, good

looking officers were assigned to the detail and said, "It is not a popular assignment. But we have prevailed upon our people to do it."

However, in a public forum held January 11 to protest police abuses, Sergeant Brennan told civil rights leaders that the anti-Gay operation is used as an overtime assignment by officers seeking to earn extra money for holidays.

...

Following massive publicity in both the Gay and non-Gay news media, the newly appointed Police Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police announced in late February, the termination of the undercover operation in the Vince Lombardi Service Area. This action was the result of a Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund led coalition of Gay and civil rights activists protesting the operation.

## Gay Wedding Book Planned

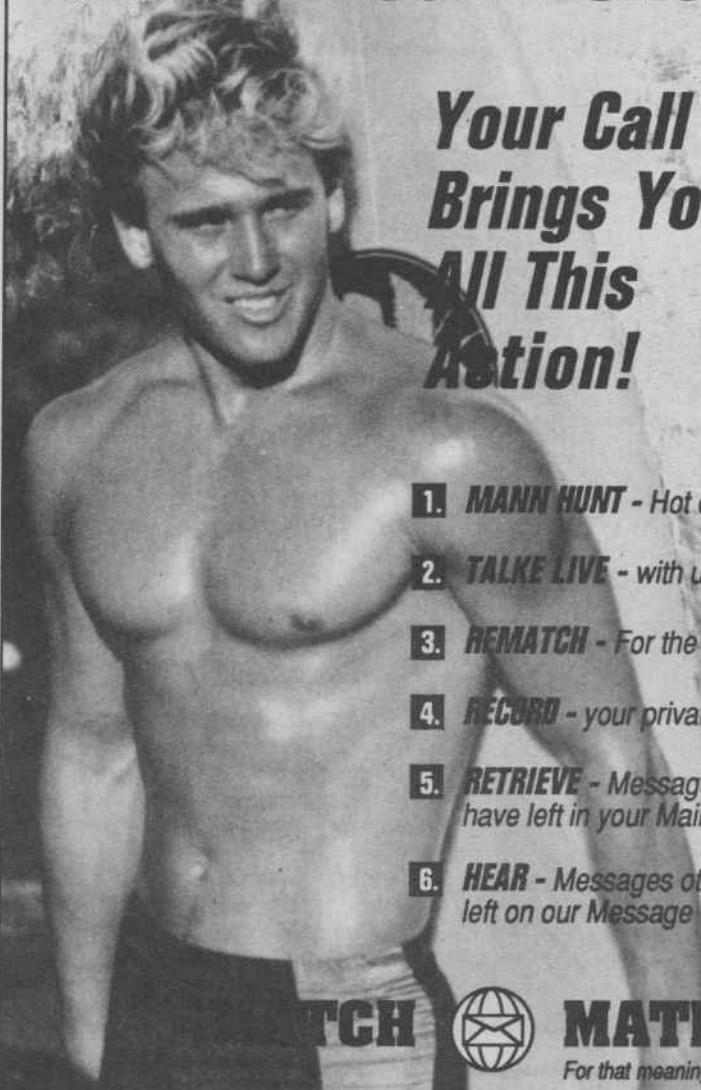
[Turlock, CA]- WIM publications is seeking contributions for the Lesbian and Gay Wedding Book, a nonfiction pictorial that will document same-sex unions.

"We invite couples to share their joy and deal homophobia a blow," said a spokesperson for WIM. The deadline has been extended indefinitely until WIM can publish a good cross-section of the community's multi-racial, multi-cultural ceremonies.

Interested persons should submit by certified mail 3 to 5 well-chosen photographs from the ceremony, a 500-1,000 word description of their love story/decision to commit their lives in public ritual, and a copy of their vows. \$50 is paid upon acceptance. Contributors will also receive two free copies of the book.

Contact Dr. Diane Bogus, 3601 Crowell Rd., Apt. 100, Turlock, CA 95380, or phone (209) 667-0966.

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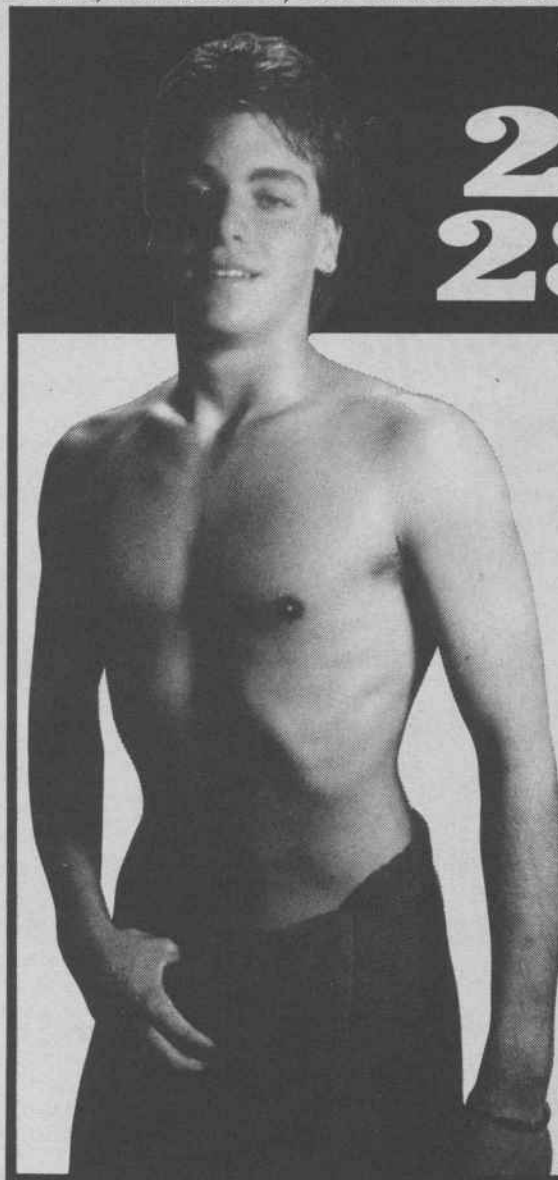
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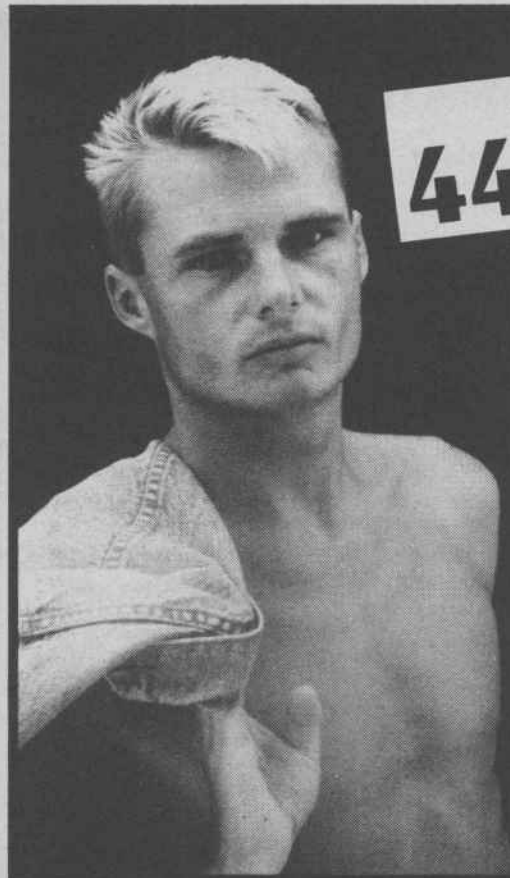
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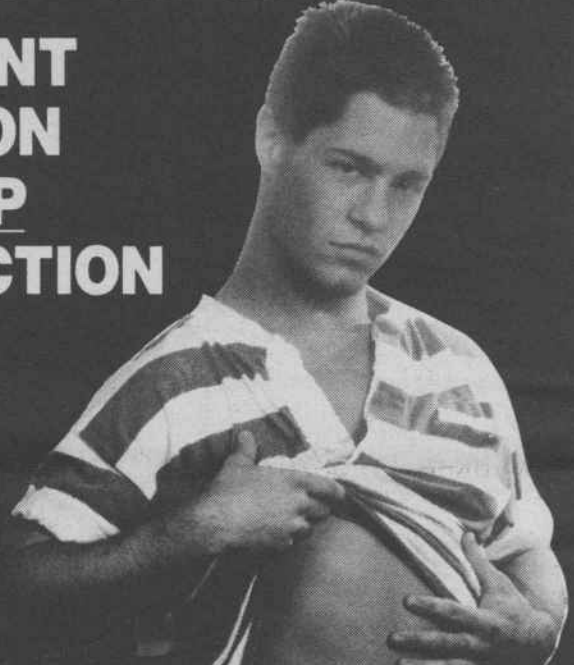


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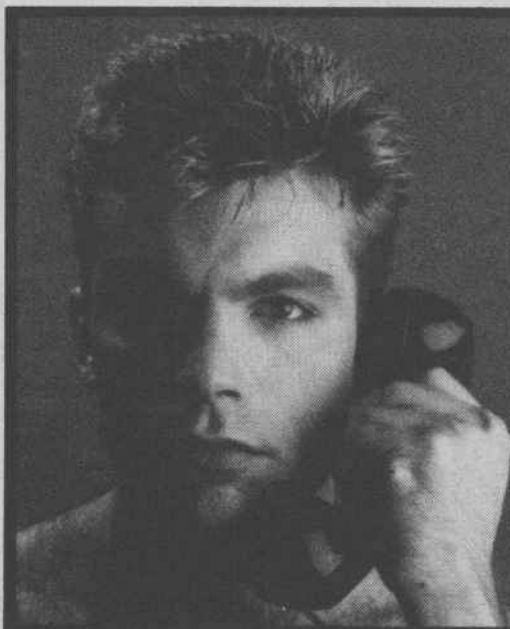
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## Major Fundraiser Planned For Ben-Shalom Legal Fees

[Milwaukee]- With the agreement of Miriam Ben-Shalom, **Wisconsin Light** and **Wisconsin In Step** will sponsor a major fundraiser to help raise money to pay Ben-Shalom's outstanding legal fees which, according to Ben-Shalom's attorney, Patrick Barriagan of the Milwaukee law firm of Angermeier and Rogers, amount to between \$25,000 and \$30,000.

While no date for the fundraiser has been set, it will be a major effort and will

## BWMT Plans Spring Regional In Chicago

[Chicago]- Chicago will be the site for the 1990 Black and White Men Together (BWMT) Midland Spring Regional Convention to be held April 20-22, 1990. The theme will be "Into the 1990's: BWMT in a New Decade."

An ad hoc planning committee has begun work, but most aspects are still to be confirmed. Generally, the program will consist of a Friday night reception; Saturday workshops, a banquet and keynote speaker and entertainment; a Sunday brunch, possibly with closing speaker.

For further information contact Lee Gardener at (708) 541-3078 or David Barlett at (708) 338-6649.

## Plan Now to Attend Gay Games III

[Vancouver, BC]- Gay Games III and Cultural Festival will take place from August 4-11, 1990 in Vancouver, British Columbia. **Wisconsin Light** is pleased to announce that Peggy M. will be covering the event for the paper.

Inquires for participants, spectators or donors should be addressed to: Celebration '90, 1170 Bute St., Vancouver, B.C. V6E 1Z6, Canada. The telephone number is (604) 684-3303 or 684-0444.

be held in a prime downtown Milwaukee location. Currently, Uihlein Hall and the Riverside Theatre are being considered. All segments of the community will be asked to help and all proceeds will go to help Ben-Shalom.

Those wishing to make a contribution in advance to help defray the legal fees may send a check to Angermeier and Rogers, 625 N. Milwaukee St., Milwaukee, WI. Please note on the check that the money is for Miriam Ben-Shalom.

## BWMT Receives \$400,000 From Founder

[Milwaukee]- The National Association of Black and White Men Together (NABWMT) has received a bequest of a minimum of \$400,000 from the estate of Michael J. Smith. The will has completed probate and is not being contested.

The total value of the trust established for NABWMT may exceed the \$400,000 when a final accounting of the estate's value is completed.

According to Smith's will, a trust is to be established with at least an initial capitalization of \$400,000. The fund will be for the benefit of NABWMT. The trust is an endowment with a maximum annual withdrawal established at \$50,000.

Smith also provided specific bequests from the Atlanta and San Francisco chapters of BWMT as well as Clark University in Atlanta with the proviso that the university keep his name permanently associated with the fund and that the school note that Smith was Gay and died of AIDS.

Smith further provided a special bequest of all rights to his play "The Book Malcolm" to his friend, Roger A. Lewis, of South San Francisco.

Smith died of AIDS in Atlanta. He founded Black and White Men Together in San Francisco in 1980.

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## Witches To Meet Sept. 21-24

[Kansas City, MO]- A four-day weekend intensive camp for Gay men who identify themselves as Witches will be held September 21-24, 1990, in a central Midwest location. The weekend will include ritual, discussions about Gay spirituality, fun and games, workshops and networking. Enrollment for the weekend is limited to forty men. No drugs or alcohol will be allowed at the event.

The deadline for registration is June 21, 1990. To begin the registration process or for more information, write to: F.W.C., Box 45107, Kansas City, Missouri 64111.

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