



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

The Wisconsin Light

U.N. Defers Memberships Of Gay Organization

[New York, NY]- A United Nations committee has voted to defer for two years a decision on whether to admit the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) into the UN as an official non-governmental organization.

ILGA's membership was vociferously opposed by Libya, whose delegate to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations invoked the Koran and called the group "sexually immoral." Other opposition votes came from Oman and the Philippines.

Based in Stockholm, ILGA represents dozens of Gay rights groups worldwide. It works to eliminate legal, social, cultural and economic discrimination against Gay people. Its network of activists has helped alert the world to abuses suffered by Gays and Lesbians in many countries.

ILGA sought "consultative status" on the UN's Economic and Social Council, which oversees human rights issues. Membership on the Council would have enabled ILGA to officially participate and initiate proposals within the UN body.

The Swedish delegate to the NGO Committee noted that ILGA's purpose was "clearly in the framework" of the Economic and Social Council's mandate which includes "the discussion of legal and social problems of sexual minorities."

The majority of delegates on the NGO Committee, including Ireland, Sweden, Ethiopia, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, France, Burundi and Lesotho supported ILGA's bid. But even one vote in opposition can veto a measure. The Soviet Union, Cuba and Iraq did not take a position. The United States has no delegate on the committee.

Lisa Power, who is British and a leader of ILGA, declared: "Lesbians and Gay men are everywhere around the world and we will continue knocking on the UN's door until they let us in."

Power called for Lesbians and Gay men of Arabic origin or of the Islamic faith to assist ILGA in its continuing lobbying efforts.

For more information on ILGA and their international conference to be held this year in Guadalajara, Mexico, June 30-July 6, contact the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force at 1734 14th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. (202) 332-6483.

Complaint Dropped Against Judge

[Milwaukee]-The *Milwaukee Sentinel* (2/16/91) reports that the State Judicial Commission has decided not to file a formal complaint against Milwaukee County Circuit Judge David V. Jennings Jr.

In a story in *Wisconsin Light* (11/1-14/90), the paper reported that the Milwaukee AIDS Project, (MAP), and the ACLU had asked the Commission to conduct an investigation of remarks attributed by a lawyer in which Jennings was said to have used anti-Gay, anti-Semitic and sexist terms to describe those who participated in the Sept. 30, Wisconsin AIDS Walk. At that time Doug Nelson, MAP's Executive Director, Eunice Edgar, Director of the ACLU and Scott Gunkel, now President of LRN, in a letter to Jennings demanded from the judge, "a formal, public apology for your highly offensive... remarks."

In response, the Commission wrote recently to Nelson, Edgar and Gunkel saying that it had concluded that it would not "take action (against Jennings) by formal complaint or petition." However, the Commission said that it had "communicated concerning it (the complaints) with the judge."

Jennings, 69, announced in January, that he would not seek re-election when his term ends in 1992.

Male Couple Refused Marriage License By County Clerk

[Milwaukee]- Tim Grair, 24, and Christopher Lubus, 31, tried to celebrate Valentine's Day, 1991 by getting a marriage license application from the Milwaukee County clerk, Rod Lanser's office. Had the application been granted, Grair told *Light*, he and Lubus planned to be married on March 3, 1991, by Rev. Margarita Suarez of the United Church of Christ.

However, the application was denied because, Corporation Counsel Robert G. Ott advised Lanser that state law defines marriage as a legal relationship between "a husband and wife" and "a wife", in

turn, is defined, according to Black's Law Dictionary, "as a woman united to a man by marriage." Hence, the conclusion that for a legal marriage to happen, one of the parties has got to be a woman, wrote Ott.

Grair said that he and Lubus have been together "basically as a married couple for about five years." He said that their reasons for marriage included "love and commitment" as well as the advantages enjoyed by married couples related to health insurance, power of attorney and automatic wills.

When Grair and Lubus arrived at the Clerk's office, Lanser took them into his

private office. Grair said that Lanser appeared "very, very nervous." Although, Grair said, Lanser "didn't say very much."

Grair and Lubus, both members of Queer Nation, plan unspecified legal action either in the courts or, barring that, go through legislative channels while continuing street action.

Grair said that he and Lubus had talked with ACLU. A spokesperson there told the couple that people should go into County Clerk's office and just apply for a marriage license. They will be denied, but officials there will note the numbers that are interested and pressure will build to same-sex marriages.

Grair told *Light* that his dedication and commitment to the rights of Gays and Lesbians and his and Lubus's love for each other require them to continue with their efforts to be married.

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In a related story, Craig R. Dean and Patrick G. Gill, a Washington, D.C. couple who were denied a marriage license by the city, have dropped their claim for \$1 million in damages as a "measure of good faith."

Dean, who is an attorney representing himself and his partner, told the *Washington Blade*: "The important thing here is the marriage license, not the money. When we do go to court, I want the only issue to be whether same sex couples should be allowed to marry. I want this to be a very clear and concise case."

Dean and Gill filed their suit in D.C. Superior Court in November. The city has asked the court to dismiss the case.

Meanwhile, dozens of couples — many Gay and Lesbian, some unmarried heterosexuals — flocked to San Francisco's City Hall on Valentine's Day to utilize San Francisco's new domestic partnership law.

The San Francisco ordinance allows for registration, but does not extend benefits like insurance or sick leave to domestic partners. A referendum proposing those benefits was defeated by voters in 1989, but Gay activists in San Francisco plan to build on the current registration law.

A more comprehensive domestic partners law was passed by the Minneapolis City Council and took effect in February. The Minneapolis ordinance establishing a Domestic Partners Registry, allows all persons registered as domestic partners to visit their partners in health care facilities, and offers sick and bereavement leave to city employees — Gay or straight — registered as domestic partners.

The *Milwaukee Journal* reports that about 60 couples have been registered as domestic partners in Madison, which passed a limited partners ordinance last year.

MASN To Offer Grief Recovery Session for Men

[Madison]- The Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN) is pleased to offer a new group, "Grief, Loss and Recovery for Gay and Bisexual Men." Since the Gay community has been so dramatically impacted by the AIDS epidemic, this will be an opportunity for Gay and bisexual men to begin to heal in the grieving process.

The group will be facilitated by Will Handy and Michael Bemis. It is a six week group that begins March 7, 1991. The group will be a closed group of eight men and will run for six consecutive Thursdays. There is a \$10 program fee. To register or for more information, contact Dave Rompa at 238-6276.

Hands-On Memorial Quilt Workshop Planned In Milwaukee On March 30

[Milwaukee]- If you've lost a loved one or friend to AIDS or an AIDS-related illness, and have thought about creating a quilt panel for the NAMES Project Memorial Quilt, then attend this Hands-on Quilt Workshop to be held Saturday, March 30th at the MAP Offices, 315 W. Court St.

The Workshop will follow the traditions of the old-fashioned sewing and quilting bees. It begins at noon and will end at 5:00 p.m. The suggested donation of \$5 will help defray the cost of the Workshop. Remaining monies will be donated to MAP. Participants can begin by planning out their quilt panel on paper, including the name of their friend or loved one, and other information such as birth/death dates, hometown, etc. Once the panel is planned out on paper, participants can begin to look for ways of expressing each

element.

An informational brochure that offers suggestions and supplies other pertinent information to help plan out a panel can be obtained by calling (414) 271-5819.

The Quilt Workshop is offered by Havlicek & Associates in memory of the loved ones lost to AIDS, especially David P. Iraci, who died October 31, 1990. "David was very special to me," said Annabelle Havlicek of Havlicek & Associates. "We'll all have one common goal: to create a living memorial to those we loved. By doing this, we'll also help ourselves and each other. By sitting, talking and working together, we can express our grief, anger and loneliness. Our one common goal will help to heal the wounds and will get us acquainted with others who share the same emotions."

Lisowski Receives 1,111 Votes In Milwaukee School Board Race

By Michael S. Lisowski

[Milwaukee]- Well, it's finally over — my first political race, the race for member-at-large of the Milwaukee Public School Board. Even though I received 1,111 votes or 7% of the total, coming in fifth in a list of eight, I do not regret my decision to run. I still believe it was something that I had to do — not for myself, but for my community and the young people concerned.

I know that many people were impressed with the ideas expressed in this race. I received favorable comments from the *Milwaukee Journal* reporters and writers with whom I came into contact. And I received many favorable comments from others along the way.

Perhaps one of the most significant things to come out of this campaign is that the issue of sexual orientation has been raised in an election and it will continue to be raised until it is dealt with in the schools. The school administration knows that it is only a matter of time until they enact policies dealing with Gay, Lesbian and bisexual students.

My only regret is that the Gay community did not see the broader implications of this race.

Political power is what gets people — and a community — what they want. If more people realized this, I know we could have gotten more people to vote in this election. This was an easy race in which to flex our political arm and test the waters. Well, the waters have been tested and let me say, they are not that cold.

I know that a race such as this is only the beginning for our community; a beginning because we have not matured into a powerful, active community. Until we realize that we have the potential to do so, we will remain fragmented.

Our community unites in emergencies. We have done it with AIDS. We have done

so in the battle over the County Board of Supervisors Lesbian/Gay Pride proclamation two years ago.

But these are only sporadic episodes. The need is there to grow into a consistent, dynamic community. Only then will we, can we, realize our full and true potential. When we truly believe in ourselves, then and only then, can we truly accomplish anything; only then can we successfully challenge obstacles that come our way. We have only just begun.

I would like to thank a few of those who made this campaign possible. My campaign staff, Gale Davy, Luellen Longee, Robert Zimmerman, Joan Lawrence are to be congratulated. To *Wisconsin In Step* and *Wisconsin Light* I give hearty thanks for their support and to ACT UP, especially Chris Fons, who helped me obtain enough signatures to get on the ballot. I would like to thank LAMM for their endorsement, Karen Gotzler, my parents, Betty and James and Tyree and all the bars and businesses who supported me in my drive for signatures. I would like to thank too, the *Milwaukee Journal* and *The Shepherd* for raising the Gay/Lesbian issues and finally, "Chip" who gave me reason to go on when things didn't always go well.

I knew that something was going right when a person I ran into at one of the bars told me that he was going to vote for me because Channel 30 (WVCY) was telling its audience to vote against me. I guess we still scare some people.

I really have to especially thank the Lesbian community. They rallied to this election and supported me. At least this campaign demonstrates that we can work together no matter how diverse.

Thanks, and let's keep building community! Let's keep our issues up front and push our agenda. Milwaukee will become all the better for it.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Watkins Wins Benefits, Back Pay

[Seattle, WA]- Sergeant Perry Watkins ended his successful ten year battle with the Department of Defense by settling for \$135,000 in back pay, full retirement benefits, a retroactive promotion from Staff Sergeant to full Sergeant, and an honorable discharge.

The Supreme Court cleared the way for the settlement last November when the justices let stand an earlier federal court decision ordering the Army to reinstate the openly Gay Watkins.

Watkins had been drafted in 1967. At the time of his induction and during subsequent re-enlistments, Watkins revealed his sexual orientation to superiors. Watkins completed 14 years of distinguished service in the Army before being denied re-enlistment in 1981 because of his homosexuality.

The Supreme Court's action last Fall cleared the way for his re-enlistment, but Watkins decided to retire and settle with the Army.

FBI Kept Files On "Perverts"

[San Francisco, CA]- According to the *San Francisco Examiner*, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for years secretly kept track of "sex deviates" and reported allegations of homosexuality in both the public and private sectors to employers.

The FBI began compiling "sex deviate" files in 1937 and had amassed 300,000 pages on thousands of US citizens when the documents were destroyed in 1977.

A spokesman for the FBI denied that the agency ever operated such a "sex deviate" program but acknowledged that files labeled "Sex Degenerates and Sex Offenders" and "Sex Perverts in Government Service" were, in fact, destroyed in 1977.

"It's absolutely outrageous," said Paul Di Donato of the National Gay Rights Advocates. "I would imagine that in the past this led to tons of firings."

Employees of federal courts, congressional offices, local police departments and universities were included in the documents. Professor Athan Theoharis of Marquette University obtained the evidence, through the Freedom of Information Act, that even Adlai Stevenson, the Illinois Democrat who ran for President in 1952 and 1956, was categorized as a "sex deviate" by the FBI.

More Legislators "Come Out"

[Portland, OR]- At a press conference after her swearing-in ceremony January 16, newly appointed state legislator Gail Shibley, 32, told reporters: "To my sisters and brothers in Oregon's Lesbian and Gay community, I, as a Lesbian, would like to say It's nice to be here."

Shibley, of south Portland, is the first Oregon legislator to acknowledge her homosexuality. She was appointed to fill a seat vacated by the new secretary of state.

Last December, Connecticut State Rep. Joseph S. Grabarz Jr. revealed his homosexuality at a press conference. Grabarz said that he wanted his fellow lawmakers to know "that I'm Gay and that I'm proud of it."

Meanwhile in New York, that state's first openly Gay legislator, Deborah Glick, broke tradition at her swearing-in. Rather than place her hand on the bible while taking the oath of office, Glick placed her hand on a copy of *Sisterhood is Powerful*, the classic feminist anthology. Glick will represent lower Manhattan in the State Assembly.

Woman Held As Serial Killer

[Daytona Beach, FL]- Aileen Carol Wuornos, 34, has been charged in the slaying of Richard Mallory, a Clearwater, Florida resident who was killed along Interstate 95 in late 1990. Police also suspect Wuornos in the murders of up to six other middle-aged male motorists along highways in north and central Florida in the past year. Property belonging to several of the victims was found in a storage unit owned by Wuornos.

Wuornos, who has a long criminal record including armed robbery, vehicular theft and grand larceny, allegedly posed as a motorist with car trouble to lure her victims. All the men were shot to death at close range. A former lover of Wuornos, Tyria J. Moore, 28, is assisting the police with their investigation.

Major Dan Henry of the Marion County Sheriff's Department said of Wuornos: "It's safe to say that her relationships with men in her younger years were not the best."

AIDS Activists Sentenced to Service

[New York, NY]- Six AIDS activists who were found guilty of disorderly conduct and interrupting a religious service for a protest inside St. Patrick's Cathedral in 1989 have each been sentenced to more than 50 hours of community service by Manhattan Judge JoAnn Ferdinand. They could have received up to six months in jail.

Protesting the Catholic Church's stands against condom use and abortion, the defendants had disrupted services by tossing condoms and laying down in the aisles of the cathedral. Referring to the light sentences, their attorney, Lori Cohen, commented that Judge Ferdinand "was clearly impressed by the fact that the defendants were following their hearts."

Senator Nunn Opposes Gay Rights

[Atlanta, GA]- Sen. Sam Nunn (D-GA), a possible Presidential candidate in the future, has gone on record in opposition to protective legislation for Gays and Lesbians.

In response to a letter from Samantha Claar of the Atlanta chapter of the National Organization for Women, Nunn wrote: "In the past I have supported civil rights measures which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, age, handicapped status and sex. However, I do not support the adoption of federal civil rights statutes to afford protection to individuals on the basis of their sexual preference."

ACLU Sues N.C. Highway Program

[Raleigh, NC]- The American Civil Liberties Union has filed suit against the North Carolina Department of Transportation for refusing to allow the Southern Appalachian Lesbian and Gay Alliance to participate in the state's highway beautification program. The suit seeks to compel the state to accept the Gay group into the program and to pay it punitive and compensatory damages.

The conflict is similar to one last year in Missouri where St. Louis County denied a Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays chapter permission to participate in its "Adopt a Roadway" program. In exchange for cleaning a stretch of roadway, the group would be recognized with a sign acknowledging its service. The county eventually reversed its decision and allowed the group to participate.

GM Adopts Pro-Gay Policy

[Detroit, MI]- The General Motors Corporation has adopted a personnel policy which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation. It also promises a work environment free of harassment: "Abuse of the dignity of anyone through slurs or other derogatory or objectionable conduct, including that based on sexual orientation, is offensive employee behavior and has no place at General Motors."

The new policy followed close on the heels of an apology issued to Gays and Lesbians for a recent GMC ad campaign in which a Japanese-made truck was referred to as "a little faggot truck." In one of many letters of protest, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors had demanded an apology and threatened to cancel the city's contract for GMC vehicles.

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

"Women Against Racism" Programs Planned in Milwaukee

[Milwaukee]- A series of discussions called "Women Against Racism" is being sponsored by the Women's Support Group Program of the Counseling Center of Milwaukee. The monthly discussion group includes women of all racial and ethnic backgrounds working together against racism and its effects on people and society.

The "Women Against Racism" program is offered the second Sunday in every month from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Counseling Center, 2038 N. Bartlett Ave.

A \$2 donation is requested.

The next program on Sunday, March 10 will include a showing of the video *Ethnic Notions* and a discussion of the film.

On April 14, the program is called "Celebrating Diversity — Experience Music, Dance and Movement." On May 12, the discussion will focus on "What Our Families Taught Us/What We Teach Our Families." On June 9, "Books Celebrating Diversity" will be discussed.

For more information on "Women Against Racism," please call Cheryl Orgas at 271-2565.

Lenten Series Offered By Metropolitan Community Church

[Milwaukee]- New Hope Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) continues its Lenten series. The series is offered within a small group setting as a preparation for the upcoming Easter season. The series has been especially prepared by the office of World Church Extension within the Universal Fellowship of MCC.

The focus of the series is directed toward the primary mission of MCC to provide a positive and affirming ministry to the Gay and Lesbian community. This opportunity is free and open to all. The upcoming series topics are:

Feb. 26 "Our Church as a Community of Believers," Mar. 5 "The World As Our Community", Mar. 12 "Our Witness Through Christian Social Action", Mar. 19 "Preparing To Do Our Mission".

All sessions will begin promptly at 7:15 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. Please call (414) 442-7300 for location and any other questions you may have. You may also acquire further information by visiting us at our regular Sunday worship at 6:30 p.m. located at 2319 E. Kenwood in the Kenwood United Methodist Church, upper chapel.

Milwaukee Pride Committee Raises \$1160 In Phone Pledges

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee (MLGPC) wishes to thank the entire Community for its participation and support in the Holiday "Proud Crowd" greeting and the highly successful mail and phone-a-thon request for contributions to help us kick off a great new year.

A special thanks to Don Buzanowski and the entire Staff and Management of the Milwaukee Council on Alcoholism and to the following persons who helped make these two activities possible:

Scott Gunkel, Brian Kipp, Dennis Bunch, Claire Moore, Tim Hansen and

friend Curtis, Barb Coyle, Elaine Pridgen, Peter Thomas, Gary Wells, Don Clabots and Terri Coughlin.

With a total of nearly 1,100 phone calls made in four nights, total pledges amounted to \$1,160. Our budget for the coming year is in excess of \$30,000 and with your continued support, we promise you a bigger and even greater parade and rally on Saturday, June 15. As details are worked out, we'll be providing you with updates and more info. To get involved, write us at P.O. Box 93852, Milwaukee, WI 53203-0852 or call 32-PRIDE.



1240 East Brady Street • Milwaukee, Wisconsin

OUTREACH TESTING SITES

FEB. 26 at Club 219

219 S. 2nd Street from 9PM-12AM

MARCH 5 at La Cage

801 S. 2nd St. from 10PM-1AM

MARCH 10 at the Triangle

135 E. National from 8PM-11PM

MARCH 15 at the Wreck Room

266 E. Erie from 8PM-11PM

MARCH 21 at M&M

124 N. Water from 8PM-12AM

MARCH 26 at Club 219

219 S. 2nd St. from 9PM-12AM

Kicked Out By Mother, Gay Youth Is Given Temporary New Home

By D.A. Leonard

[Milwaukee]- Miriam Ben-Shalom has taken in the Gay Black youth whose story was reported by William Janz in the Milwaukee Sentinel on Wednesday, February 6, 1991.

While the Sentinel spoke of many of the problems facing the young man, "Chip" — not his real name — the article did not detail Chip's rejection by his mother after he "came out" to her. As a result, Chip was put out of his home because his mother could not deal with his sexual orientation. For months the youth spent evenings at the homes of different friends, but never could call one his own.

There were times when older Gay males offered to give him shelter and gifts with the expectation that sexual favors would follow. Chip rejected this.

Finally, in January, Michael Lisowski, mentor of Gay Youth Milwaukee, agreed to take Chip in. At the same time, Lisowski contacted Chip's mother to let her know her son was safe. Chip's mother agreed to let Chip stay with Lisowski.

It was shortly after Lisowski took Chip in that he and Chip contacted me. I am a Child Protective Service Worker with the Milwaukee County Department of Social Services. I am Gay and out and knew both men. They asked me what was the legal authority of the arrangement they had with the concurrence of Chip's mother.

Do Your Part — Volunteer For A Milwaukee Pride Week Committee

[Milwaukee]- The MLGPC Rally Committee, chaired by Larry Taylor, would like to thank all the people who came to the first Rally Committee meeting held January 31, 1991. Rally Committee meetings will be held on the third Thursday of every month. Anyone interested in joining the Rally Committee, or getting more information should call Larry at 271-9946.

There will be a General Volunteer Orientation held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Main Library (8th and

I told them that the arrangement was in violation of Chapter 48 of the state law. However, I told them too that the arrangement could be legalized via a petition in Children's Court. Such a petition could be initiated by Chip, his mother, the Social Services Department or other adult rendering shelter and care to Chip.

Subsequent to our discussion, Miriam Ben Shalom, Milwaukee Lesbian activists, offered to provide a home and shelter for Chip if it could be done legally. In mid-February, 1991, Chip moved into Ben Shalom's home and on Monday, February 18, 1991, Ben Shalom went to Children's Court and petitioned for Chip to be legally placed in her home. The Court agreed that Chip was in need of shelter and granted a 30 day order authorizing Chip to remain in Ben Shalom's home.

During this 30 day period, the Court and the Department of Social Services will investigate whether the order should be made permanent and Ben Shalom be granted a Foster Care License to be Chip's foster mother.

To my knowledge, Ben Shalom is the first open Lesbian or Gay person who has petitioned the courts in Wisconsin to grant her physical custody of a youth in need of care.

Wisconsin). The initial meeting will be held February 26th in Room #2 at 7:00 p.m. There will be refreshments and gifts for those who attend. Come and discover what it really takes to make the annual Pride Celebration happen. Find out how you can contribute and see how becoming a volunteer can be rewarding.

The 1991 MLGPC is in need of volunteers for the following Committees: Parade, Rally, Press & Public Relations, Fundraising, Merchandising, Administrative Support.

"Wisconsin Light" Sponsors Spring Plant Sale For Pride Committee

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee Lesbian Gay Pride Committee (MLGPC) is proud to announce a plant sale as part of MLGPC's on-going fundraising campaign to raise money for 1991 Pride Week activities. Plant your own beautiful flower garden, or raise your own vegetables from stocky, sturdy, exceptionally fine quality plants from a

Fundraising and Media Workshops Planned March 2

[Milwaukee] The MLGPC is inviting members of the Milwaukee Community to attend two major workshops at the upcoming Midwest Regional Pride Conference to be held on Mar. 1-3, 1991 at the Holiday Inn Center (Formerly Howard Johnson's) at 6th and Wisconsin in downtown Milwaukee. The workshops will be held on Saturday, March 2, 1991.

"Fundraising and the Culture of Giving" will be presented by Leland Wykoff of the Appalachian Community Fund and will give present "hands-on" ideas and techniques of successful fundraising along with tips tailored to your specific needs. The workshop will take place from 8:00-9:45 a.m. on Mar. 2.

"Getting the Word Out", an award winning workshop presented last year by Wisconsin Light and Wisconsin In Step and Havlicek & Associates, will again be presented by Havlicek & Associates and the two publications. "Getting the Word Out" will delve into the mysteries of the Lesbian and Gay press in all its aspects and help you to "Get The Word Out" more effectively. The workshop will take place from 1:00-4:45 p.m. on Saturday, Mar. 2.

The cost for attending both workshops is \$30 per person and includes lunch and all workshop materials. If you would like to attend the entire conference, the cost is \$100 and includes all scheduled workshops, materials and some meals. The deadline for registration is February 26, 1991. Call 32-PRIDE for reservations.

local grower.

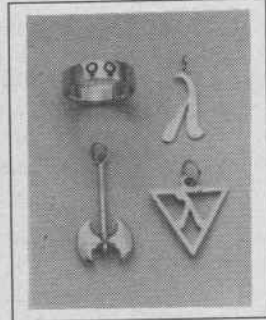
Choose from alyssum, agertum, asters, begonias and many more flowering plants. Eggplant, cabbage, brussel sprouts, cauliflower, tomatoes, peppers, etc. are also available. Plants are available by the plant, or in flats.

You can order your flowers and/or vegetables by using the order form that appears in this issue of Wisconsin Light. Orders must be received by Tuesday, April 9. You must include a non-refundable 50% deposit. You can pick up your plants from the Wisconsin Light Office (1843 N. Palmer) on May 17 or 18 or by appointment. Or, you can have your plants delivered right to your door for a small additional charge. Make your check or money order payable to MLGPC, P.O. Box 93852, Milwaukee, WI 53203.

Help make Pride Week better than ever and grow your own garden of PRIDE. Order today.

FREE CATALOG

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(Please mention this ad with your request.)



Plant a Pride Garden This Spring!

And harvest with pride your flowers and vegetables all summer and fall!



The Wisconsin Light is sponsoring a benefit for the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee. All proceeds will go to the Pride Committee.

STOCKY - STURDY - EXCEPTIONALLY FINE QUALITY PLANTS FROM A LOCAL GROWER

The following are sold in packs of 3 plants each or in full flats (16 packs for a total of 48 plants). You may mix and match packs to form full flats.

Prices: 89¢ per pack (3 plants) and \$13.50 for a full flat (48 plants/16 packs).

Flowers: (Indicate number of packs [3 plants/pack])

- Alyssum: white purple
- Ageratum: white purple lavender
- Asters-mixed colors-(dwarf)
- Asters-mixed colors-(tall)
- Wax Begonias (red)
- Wax Begonias (white)
- Wax Begonias (pink)
- Coleus (12" tall) mixed colors
- Marigolds dwarf 8"-10"- mixed yellow orange
- Marigolds med. 16-18"- mixed yellow orange
- Marigolds tall 28"- 36" - mixed yellow orange
- Petunias red white purple pink yellow lavender double (mixed)
- Pansies - mixed yellow blue
- Snapdragons - mixed yellow white red pink scarlet
- Salvia - dwarf - red purple white
- Salvia - med. - red purple white
- Salvia - tall - red purple white
- Dusty Miller - 10" - 12"
- Impatiens - 8" - 12" - white purple red salmon violet red/white

Vegetables

- Eggplant
- Brussel Sprouts
- Cabbage
- Cauliflower

The following are sold individually at .59 per plant or \$13.50 per flat (24 plants) Mix or Match!

- Tomatoes:**
 - Big Boy
 - Fantastic (early)
 - Early Girl
 - Pink (low acid)
 - Better Boy
 - Red Cherry
 - Yellow Jubilee (low acid)
- Peppers:**
 - Green
 - Sweet Banana
 - Hungarian (hot)
 - Sweet Yellow
 - Jalapeno (hot)

Geraniums - \$2.25 each or \$1.99 for 12 or more

- (Mix or match); 4-1/2" pots: red white purple salmon coral pink white variegated leaf (red flower)
- Cannas \$1.00 each, red
- Vinca Vines \$2.25 each
- Spikes \$2.25 each

Need other plants for your garden? Let us know and we'll try to get them. Questions? Need additional plant varieties? Call Allen at 251-9098 or Jerry at 372-2773. Deadline for ordering is Tuesday, April 9, 1991. Pick up plants at Wisconsin Light, 1843 N. Palmer St., Milwaukee on May 17 and 18 or by special arrangement. If you can't pick up your plants, we will deliver them for a small charge. Call for details. A 50% non-refundable deposit is required for all orders. Check plants ordering and indicate number of each in blank following plant name.

_____ packs of 3 plants at 89¢/pack	\$ _____	Name: _____
_____ flats of 48 plants at \$13.50/flat	\$ _____	Address: _____
_____ plants at 59¢ each	\$ _____	City: _____ Zip: _____
_____ plants at \$2.25 each	\$ _____	Phone: _____
_____ Cannas at \$1.00 each	\$ _____	
_____ Total	\$ _____	
_____ 50% (or full) payment enclosed	\$ _____	

Make checks/money orders payable to MLGPC & mail to: MLGPC, P.O. Box 93852, Milwaukee, WI 53203.

MAP Food Pantry Demand To Skyrocket By Year's End

[Milwaukee]- By Dec. 1991, it is projected that more than 500 individuals will be signed up to use the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) Food Pantry. This represents a 185 percent increase over the current 175 Food Pantry recipients.

"This growth in demand is due to a variety of factors, including the projected increase of our client base to 700 by the end of the year and the fact that many more families are now being affected by HIV disease," said Steve Byers, MAP client attorney. "Public assistance for low-income clients is quickly absorbed by medical expenses. Child care and housing also consume a great deal of their resources."

In January, approximately 2,700 lbs. of food and personal care items were distributed by the Food Pantry. By December, 1991, more than 7,600 lbs. of food and personal care items will be needed each month.

While regular suppliers of food and a small budget to purchase stock will account for 80 percent of the Food Pantry's needs, more than 1,500 lbs. of food will be necessary to balance supply with demand.

Fifty percent of the Pantry's stock comes from the Hunger Task Force and 30 percent is purchased through Second Harvesters. Items obtained through these resources are limited in variety and designed to be a supplement to other

resources.

The remainder is obtained through in-kind donations of nutritious food and personal care items. In-kind donations, such as canned vegetables, juices and meats, as well as baked good, coffee, tea, cleaning supplies, shampoo and baby products provide for goods unobtainable elsewhere. They also allow the Pantry to provide a wide variety of items from which clients may choose.

The average single person receives three to four bags of groceries each month, and families receive six to eight bags per month.

"The Pantry is not designed to be a main source of support. It enhances clients' current resources, allowing them to purchase goods and services otherwise unobtainable," said Christina Kotlowski, MAP case manager and Food Pantry coordinator.

According to Kotlowski, the rule of thumb is that pantries should have a 6-week stock reserve. MAP currently has a 2-week surplus.

"It will take greater community commitment to maintain adequate stock," said Kotlowski. Organizations and businesses are encouraged to set up food barrels.

For information on how to help the MAP Food Pantry, contact Christina Kotlowski at (414) 273-1991.

Aspirin Improves T-4 Cell Counts For HIV Positive Individuals

[West Hollywood, CA]- Aspirin, in very low doses, greatly enhances production of gamma interferon and interleukin-2 in the human body according to a study conducted by immunologists at George Washington University (GWU) in Washington, D.C. and the University of Virginia (UVA). The results, published in the January, 1989 issue of *The Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine* show that gamma interferon production is increased by over 300 percent and interleukin-2 production is increased by over 200 percent in test volunteers taking a dose of one aspirin (325 mg) every other day. Based on this information, some HIV positive individuals with impaired immune systems have obtained dramatic short-term results in improving their T-4 cell counts by use of aspirin therapy.

According to Howard Armistead, Executive Director of the Gay and Lesbian Association Political Action Committee (GALAPAC), his T-4 cell count and T-

4/T-8 cell ratio improved by over sixty percent after two and a half months of aspirin therapy.

A community based drug trial group in Los Angeles, is planning to begin aspirin test trials immediately. Preliminary findings are due out by the middle of 1991.

According to the GWU/UVA study, one aspirin every other day was the optimal dose for increasing interferon and interleukin-2 production. Higher doses decreased the production of these two chemicals in the body. However, Armistead reported that he experienced his sharp increase in T-4 counts using a dosage of one buffered aspirin a day.

Questions that remain to be answered: will aspirin be as effective for people with very low T-4 cell counts as it seems to be with those who are only moderately impaired; will aspirin's effectiveness wear off after a few months or will it last for years?

Bobbi Carmitchell To Perform For Madison's Womonsong, March 9

[Madison]- Bobbi Carmitchell is a performer whose musical talent and stage presence captivates audiences wherever she performs. Her style is playful, lively and witty with her warm vocal charm being complimented by her talent as a guitar and piano player.

Several members of Womonsong have heard Bobbi in performance and were so excited that they have arranged with Bobbi that she travel to Madison for a performance. Womonsong is honored to have her perform with them at their Spring Benefit.

This benefit concert and dance will take place Saturday, March 9, 1991 at 8:00 p.m. at the Madison Senior Center, 330

W. Mifflin St. in Madison. Tickets for the Benefit are available from A Room of One's Own in Madison and from People's Bookstore in Milwaukee. Prices are \$11.50 or more, contributing, \$9.50 average and \$7.50, basic. All seating is general seating. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. A dance will follow the concert. Concert ticket price includes entrance to the dance.

The Senior Center is full accessible. An attendant may accompany you without an additional ticket. Programs will be available in braille and large print. The performance and announcements will be ASL interpreted.

Stage Artists To Entertain At MAP's April 9 "Make A Promise" Dinner

[Milwaukee]- The Fifth Annual *Make A Promise* Dinner, to be held on Sunday, April 7 at the Pfister Hotel, will feature well-known Milwaukee entertainers as well as a dinner and silent auction.

The evening, which is hosted by James Pickering of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, will include performers from the Inner City Arts Council, the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre and the Skylight Opera.

"The entertainment will be generous," said Louise Searing, Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) special events manager. "Performances will include everything from Gershwin tunes to comedy to excerpts from 'Man of La

Moncha."

The evening's performers will include Ruth Schudson and Montgomery Davis of the Milwaukee Chamber Theater; Barbara Roberts and Melvin Rhyne of the Inner City Arts Council; Colin Brown, Helen Jenner and Jim Simpson of the Skylight Opera. Also performing will be Paula Dewey and Colin Cabot.

Make A Promise is an annual fundraising dinner, show and auction produced by MAP to support its programs. Tickets for the dinner and show are \$45 for general seating and \$75 for preferred seating. For ticket information, call MAP at (414) 273-1991.

Hot-N-Healthy Safe Sex Program Begins March 13 in Madison

[Madison]- The Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN) is offering a new session of Hot-N-Healthy beginning March 13, 1991. Hot-N-Healthy is a six week program on eroticizing safer sex for Gay and bisexual men. It's an opportunity to make safer sex and intimacy more exciting.

The group will meet on Wednesdays

from 7:00- 9:00 p.m. from March 13 through April 24, 1991. The group will be facilitated by Patrick Kramme, one of the founders of the program. This session will be held at the United, 310 E. Wilson St. in Madison. There is a \$15 program fee. To register or for more information, contact Dave Rompa at 238-6276. Registration ends March 8, 1991.

Dykes To Watch Out For



Fifth Annual
MAKE A PROMISE

A dinner, show and auction to benefit the programs of the Milwaukee AIDS Project

April 7, 1991
The Pfister Hotel Grand Ballroom
424 E. Wisconsin Avenue
\$45 - General Seating, \$75 - Preferred Seating

Call the Milwaukee AIDS Project,
(414) 273-1991 for more information

More Quotes Of A Queer Nature

Back by popular demand, more quotes of a decidedly queer nature.

Dear old radical Harry Hay, founder of the Gay rights movement, sent a letter to **The Advocate**, lambasting the Gay magazine for presenting its "First Annual Sissy Awards" last Fall. Wrote the irrepressible Harry:

"Have you gone out of your assimilationist cotton-picking minds? Who are you to make a pejorative word out of sissy?"

"When I was eight years old, the boys at school told me that I threw a ball like a girl. So I asked the girls if I threw a ball like a girl. And they said, 'Nah, ya throw it like a sissy!' I was a sissy when I was eight, and now that I'm within spitting distance of being eighty, I'm still a sissy, and I love it! And for all your three piece suits and \$1,000-a-plate fundraising dinners, so are you, and they know it no matter how much you try to dissemble."

"Sissies of the world, arise! You've nothing to lose but your assimilationist, hetero-imitative frigidities!" Go, Harry!

Michael Musto interviewed actress/writer Carrie Fisher in the **Village Voice** last year. He asked her about the old rumor that she, as a child, walked in on her mother, Debbie Reynolds, and Agnes Moorhead, having sex. Carrie laughed and had this witty reply:

"I've never heard that. That's hilarious! And what did I say? 'Loved that Bewitched segment, but really, **The Magnificent Ambersons** was much better?' No, Agnes was one of the most religious women. If my mother was going to be Gay, it wouldn't have been with her. I think that came from an angry male. Good — we'll out my mother now, then me. My mother's always been with men, as far as I know. I've barely walked in on her with guys. My mother's so straight. I always told her that if asked, she should say, 'No, I don't like women, but I do go for small animals.'"

When asked about the possibility of being a Lesbian, Carrie replied: "I always thought straight sex was weird. Any sex is weird. And there aren't rooms dark enough or music loud enough for what my mind would say to me as I descended on a female form."

Aw, c'mon Carrie.

Carrie then wriggled out of the discussion about sex with this final comment: "Sex is out of my element. I'm a better mind-fuck than a fuck. I'm much more successful during the cigarette."

In an interview with **Vanity Fair** in October, Debra Winger told of playfully kissing Shirley MacLaine and running her hand up MacLaine's leg during the filming of **Terms of Endearment**. MacLaine's reaction? "To her credit, Shirley never broke scene. She wasn't mad. When they cut, she just said: 'Stop that or I might start liking it.'"

Here are my favorite tabloid headlines in 1990. From the **Star**: "Princess Stephanie Caught Necking on Public Beach — With a Woman!" (There goes Monaco!)

From the **Globe**: "Gay Terror Groups Charge: They're Gay! Tom Cruise! Merv Griffin! Jamie Lee Curtis and More!" And what would we do without the **National Enquirer**? "New Gay Sex Scandal Rocks Tennis! Lesbian Stars Stalk Young Players in Showers! Teens Lured to All-Girl Hot Tub Parties!"

On her recent HBO special, Roseanne Barr made a number of queer comments. About Gay men, Roseanne told her audience: "I thank God for Gay men. If it wasn't for them, us fat women would have no one to dance with." And what about dykes? "People are all the time saying Lesbians hate men, Lesbians hate men. How could that be? They don't have to fuck 'em."

Roseanne paid tribute to vous and moi thusly: "I've been kept alive due to the good graces of the Gay community." She also spread a little enlightenment by commenting: "Being Gay and Lesbian is not a matter of who you have sex with, it's a matter of who you love... I have Gay and Lesbian people in my family and I love 'em. They are a very meligned group and have gotten the short end of the stick from society."

Madonna, accepting the Commitment to Life Award from the AIDS Project of



Doreen Riley

JAMAKAYA

Los Angeles (it was presented to her by Bette Midler!), said: "I feel very guilty. It's easy to lend your name to a fundraiser when you're famous and easy to donate money when you're rich. What isn't easy is changing the way people think." Madonna's no slouch. She's donated more than \$1 million to AIDS research and treatment and includes safe sex info in her records and videos.

Meanwhile, New York ACT UP member Natasha Gray spoke from the heart to **Rolling Stone**: "I'm glad I got involved but sometimes I wonder if I would have, had I thought it through. Now I have all these dear friends and it's very upsetting to know so many people who might get sick and die. There's such a taboo against emotionalism in ACT UP. **Passion** is approved of — people screaming about how upset they are — but you can't talk about the disease in sentimental ways. When I look at Monday meetings, I see so many people who are so rare. I sit and memorize people's faces, their eyes, because they're such miracles. I want to be able to recognize people like that later in life and I feel so lucky to have seen them."

And who would have expected the following inspiring words from William Buckley's best friend, conservative activist Marvin Leibman? Leibman came out with a bang in 1990. The 66 year-old leader of the modern conservative movement told the **Associated Press**: "The main thing I want to do within the Gay community is to help people come out — to not go through all I did for 60 years. And I just want to let them know that it's not that bad, it's good. It takes such a load off you, you just feel really released."

Leibman told the **San Francisco Sentinel**: "Show it to the world and enjoy it. There's nothing to be ashamed of. Make the Gay and Lesbian movement your family, whether with the Pink Panthers or the Log Cabin (Republican clubs). Come out and be public. It's a great feeling."

Finally, in its special issue on "Women in America," **Time** magazine included a positive feature of Lesbian life and came to this thoughtful conclusion: "For most Lesbians, being Gay is a joyful experience. They seem to find lasting relationships more readily than Gay men do. They face somewhat less harassment from strangers. AIDS does not haunt them as a constant personal threat. And many share a deep sense of community, bolstered by the philosophical and practical successes of feminism."

I couldn't have said it better myself.

"Nothing To Hide" March Schedule

[Madison]- The following is the program listing for "Nothing To Hide" televised on Wednesday, at 9:00 p.m.

Mar. 6 Black and White Men Together National Conference, San Francisco, 1990; Gay Men of Color AIDS Institute: Native American Men (part 2).

Mar. 13 Real Eyes Realize Real Lies with Jay Hatheway: Nazi History and Gays.

Mar. 20 The Woes of Radical Fairies: Chicago's Lionheart Gay Theatre presents "Minutes From Moon Burst," performed at the Rodde Center, recorded Jan. 24, 1991.

Mar. 27 Womonsong Concert at the UW System's 15th annual Women's Studies Conference; October, 1990, UW-Whitewater and at The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom at UW-Madison.

Powers of Attorney Important At Time Of Illness, Injury Or Death

By Deb Procknow

In my previous article, I spoke of the importance of having a Will. This is literally planning for your own death. Death is not the only thing we all need to plan for. Injury or illness can leave us unable to make day-to-day decisions about our finances or even our own health care. Careful advance planning can help insure that if you are incapacitated, your wishes will be followed.

Many Lesbians are familiar with the story of a Lesbian who was severely injured in an automobile accident in Minnesota about 8 years ago. The Lesbian, Sharon Kowalski, was left unable to speak and was thought to have suffered irreversible brain damage. Sharon's partner, Karen Thompson, was pushed out by Sharon's parents. The couple had been in the closet. Sharon's parents refused to believe that the relationship was as Karen Thompson described.

I will not retell the entire story of Sharon Kowalski here, except to relate that Karen Thompson estimates the legal fees for the long court battle to get guardianship of Sharon have exceeded \$200,000. When I heard Karen speak this past October, the battle in the courts was still going on, even though Sharon's parents have since dropped out.

As tragic as the story of Sharon Kowalski is, it is made more tragic by the fact that the legal battle may have been avoidable. In Wisconsin, and in most states, the law has created mechanisms whereby competent adults can designate persons to handle their affairs if they become incapacitated. Powers of Attorney can be the most effective tool Lesbians and Gay men have to make critical choices.

There are several kinds of Powers of Attorney. There is the kind a person gives to another for a limited purpose. With the war in the Gulf, I have been assisting military people with Powers of Attorney to take care of their bill paying while they are deployed overseas. The power given the agent is spelled out very specifically. This kind of power of attorney will expire when it is revoked by the principal, if the principal dies, or if the principal becomes incapacitated.

The most commonly used Power of Attorney is the Durable Power of Attorney. This kind grants very broad powers to the agent, but is only used if the principal becomes disabled. The primary purpose of the Durable Power of Attorney is to take care of financial matters. Some attorneys, as do I, include a provision on the appointment of a guardian should you be judged mentally incompetent by a court. Many elderly people have a Durable Power of Attorney.

In the past, many attorneys included provisions in their Durable Powers of Attorney on medical treatment. We did this in response to the needs and desires of our clients who wanted to decide for themselves who would supervise their medical treatment if they were no longer able.

Last year, the Wisconsin Legislature passed a law which created a Power of Attorney for Health Care. This new law is

the best thing the State of Wisconsin has done for Lesbians and Gay men since it included sexual orientation as a protected class in the laws on discrimination in housing and employment. I venture to say that the Power of Attorney for Health Care may be of even greater practical benefit to most Lesbians and Gay men than the equal rights laws.

The Power of Attorney for Health Care allows a principal to choose the person who will make health care decisions in the event of incapacity. With this document, a Lesbian or Gay man can name their partner as health care agent. The law requires health care providers and hospitals to accept the Power of Attorney for Health Care and make it part of the patient's medical record.

When the Legislature created the Power of Attorney for Health Care statute, it determined what language must be included in a "fill-in-the-blank" form. Lawyers who draft Powers of Attorney for Health Care do not need to follow the exact language of the form. Since the Power of Attorney for Health Care law was enacted, attorneys have been finding ways to improve upon the form language. Through publications and seminars, attorneys have been learning how to make this document better and more responsive to the particular needs of our clients.

For Lesbians and Gay men, the use of "fill-in-the-blank" forms holds the same dangers as "do-it-yourself" Wills. Any document can face a challenge in court, even ones drafted by an attorney. However, documents carefully drafted by an attorney are less likely to be challenged successfully.

In summary, Powers of Attorney are legally available tools that all Lesbians and Gay men should consider. With these documents your choices as to the managing of your finances and your own medical treatment will be given legal authority.

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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.

Queer Nation Members Go Public At Milwaukee Shopping Center

[Milwaukee]- The newly formed Queer Nation Milwaukee came out with a bang on Valentine's Day. Queers went public at the Milwaukee County Courthouse (see story this issue) and at Southridge Mall in a two pronged attack on compulsory heterosexuality.

Queer Nation was responsible for the first local episode of the Queer Shopping Network. A dozen Queer Nationals conferred in the new Greenridge Court of the Mall before embarking on a Queer shopping spree.

As they shopped from store to store spending Queer money, they passed out a Heterosexual Questionnaire, kissed and held hands raising Queer visibility. The Queer Nationals complied when asked by Southridge security officers to discontinue handing out the questionnaires, however, they refused to be intimidated by the officers harassing behavior.

Cities Sought For May 19 AIDS Candlelight Service Memorials

[San Francisco, CA]- Mobilization Against AIDS is actively seeking cities and towns around the world that will participate in the eighth annual International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, which will occur on Sunday, May 19, 1991. Last May saw over 200 cities in 31 countries take part in AIDS Candlelight Memorials, which consist of locally organized public ceremonies honoring people lost to AIDS and demonstrating solidarity with all those infected with the HIV virus.

Mobilization Against AIDS, the California-based AIDS lobby group that serves as the coordinating agency for the International Memorials, is also announcing the launch of its "First Families Campaign." Mobilization is asking leaders around the world to follow the example of President Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush, who during last year's AIDS Memorial, placed lit candles in the windows of the White House.

For further information on organizing a

1991 Memorial in your community, or assisting Mobilization in enlisting your mayor, governor or head of state in the First Families Campaign, contact the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial at 1540 Market St., Suite 160, San Francisco, CA 94102 or phone (415) 863-3676.

Queer Nation finds it significant that none of its members were physically or verbally abused by other patrons in Southridge and some heterosexual patrons and clerks were shocked to discover that same-sex marriage is illegal.

Queen Nation vows to escalate its fight against compulsory heterosexuality.

Queer Nation is a multi-cultural, direct action group dedicated to fighting anti-Queer bigotry and promoting Queer visibility. Queer Nation welcomes womyn and men of all gender identities, sexual orientation, races, abilities, ages, classes and cultures.

Queer Nation's next meeting will be Sunday, March 3, 1991 in the first floor meeting room of the Milwaukee Public Library (6th and Wisconsin) at 3:00 p.m. Queer Nation's address is P.O. Box 93951, Milwaukee, WI 53203 or call Tim at 384-3911 or Stan at 643-5833.

1991 Memorial in your community, or assisting Mobilization in enlisting your mayor, governor or head of state in the First Families Campaign, contact the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial at 1540 Market St., Suite 160, San Francisco, CA 94102 or phone (415) 863-3676.

Dutch Gay Rights Law Proposed

[Amsterdam, Holland]- The Socialist and Christian Democratic parties of the Netherlands have reached a preliminary agreement which may bring about an eventual vote on Gay rights in the Dutch parliament. But Christian Democrats are not comfortable with requiring churches to hire Gay teachers and want a provision inserted to that effect.

In a recent move, the Dutch parliament has voted to lower the age of consent of sexual activity from 16 to 12 for both heterosexual and homosexual activity.

Gay/Lesbian Marriages Will Help Promote True Community

By Richard Walter Bradley

Homophobic Christians, Jews and Muslims say homosexuals are sinners because our behavior is so very **different**. Quite the contrary, we are sinners because we usually act much the **same** as heterosexuals in our modern society of strangers. Apart from the bedroom details, there seems to be little difference between straights and Gays. Most of us play (or have played) the same sexist roles, the same dishonest games with the phrases "I love you" and "falling in love," and the same tired trips of conquest, competition and exploitation.

As homosexuals (Gays and Lesbians, if you insist), we all have tried somehow to reject the European-American traditions of sexuality which produced or influenced us all, Black and Brown as well as White. Namely: monogamy, machismo, sexism and patriarchy (father rules the family).

Traditional African and other non-European cultures often have practiced polygamy, androgyny, equality and matriarchy as well as allowing and even encouraging homosexuality.

But simply rejecting narrow or harmful traditions of sexuality does not make us a community — only a SUBculture. Much as we try to escape them, we still behave in the negative ways we have learned from our parents or elders. We have inherited all the bad traditions, but are not allowed the one thing which forced many of our parents at least to **try** to be good to each other: the vows of marriage under law. Instead we settle for mere ceremonies or for other vague relationships.

In this era of the awareness of death, the phrase "...in sickness and in health, till death do us part" is a major reason we should be able to marry. AIDS often prevents lovers from making wills. Some of us are forced to choose between caring for sick lovers or keeping jobs and seeing to our own survival. Without legal inheritance through marriage, some of us are left destitute because we choose to love our mates when they need us most.

But AIDS is not the reason we need legal marriage. We need marriage to have

true community. We need marriage to grow from lust to love.

As more of us are forced to seek public assistance after quitting jobs in order to care for lovers who die without insurance or wills, Gay marriage will begin to make sense to society as a whole. Marriage will make it possible for us to care for each other just as heterosexual spouses do.

The best thing we Gays and Lesbians can do for ourselves and everyone else, is to ally ourselves with the National Organization for Women in its attempts to bring back the Equal Rights Amendment — in a new wording for homosexuals. Uniting in this cause might make us, for the first time, a true community.

Congress Allows DC 'Big Brothers'

[Washington, D.C.]- An anti-Gay amendment by Sen. William Armstrong (R-CO) that would have allowed organizations in D.C. to bar Gays and Lesbians from being "Big Brothers," coaches or role models was killed recently in a House-Senate conference committee.

The amendment had been originally passed on Sept. 12 as part of the 1991 D.C. Appropriations Bill.

Before the conference committee action, the House rejected an attempt by Congressman William Dannemeyer (R-CA) to "instruct" House conferees to retain the Armstrong Big Brothers language. Both Dannemeyer and Armstrong perennially advocate anti-Gay language in Congressional appropriations bills.

On Oct. 11, the House voted 255 to 156 to accept a motion from Rep. Dean Gallo (R-NJ) to instruct conferees to accept language that retained funds earmarked for the University of D.C. By so doing, the House "shut out" Dannemeyer and prevented him from offering his own motion.

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The Light LIVELY ARTS

Juried Fine Arts Festival Added to Pride Week Rally

[Milwaukee]- In conjunction with the 1991 Pride Rally, the MLGPC will be holding a juried fine art festival on June 15, 1991. The art festival is open to Lesbian and Gay artists, as well as artists supportive of the Lesbian/Gay community.

Exhibit categories will consist of Sculpture, Jewelry, Pottery, Painting, Printmaking, Fiber Arts, Photography and Drawing. Best of Category Prizes will include ribbons for Third and Second Place and a ribbon and \$50 cash prize for First Place. First Place winners from each Category will also be judged for Best of Show, with prizes including a Third Place \$100 prize; Second Place \$250 prize; and First Place \$500 prize. Prizes

will be awarded based on number of entries.

Entrants must submit 10 slides showing the pieces they'll be submitting for judging. A \$15 non-refundable processing fee must also accompany the slides and application. Application deadline is April 30, 1991. To receive application through the mail, call 32-PRIDE.

The slides will be reviewed by a screening committee and selected exhibitors will be notified by May 11, 1991. Entrants must attend and exhibit at the Art Festival in order to be eligible for prizes. Each exhibitor will receive a 10'x 6' space at the Rally.

For more information, call 32-PRIDE

British Actor, Ian McKellen Knighthood By Queen Elizabeth II

[London, England]- Ian McKellen, the distinguished British actor known for his Shakespearean and other dramatic roles on the stage as well as appearances on film and television, has been formally knighted by Queen Elizabeth II. Sir Ian McKellen, as he will now be called, is an openly Gay man who came out to the press and public three years ago.

McKellen's knighthood has caused some controversy in Britain. Derek Jarman, an English film director, said that McKellen should have declined the honor because the current Conservative government has passed numerous anti-Gay measures. It is believed that the Queen chose McKellen from a list of names submitted by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher just before she left office.

British activist Lisa Power, a leader of the International Lesbian and Gay Association, said of McKellen's honor: "This is really, really weird given all that they're doing to our community."

However, a group of 18 theatre and film professionals who identified themselves as homosexuals sent a letter to the *Guardian* supporting McKellen's

decision to accept the knighthood.

Among the letter's signatories were actors Alec McCowen and Simon Callow, film director John Schlesinger, author Martin Sherman (*Bent*), theatrical producer Cameron Mackintosh, playwright Nicholas Wright, and Michael Cashman and Pam St. Clair of the popular British TV show *East Enders*.

The writers praised McKellen's knighthood as "a significant landmark in the history of the British Gay Movement...Never again will public figures be able to claim that they have to keep secret their homosexuality in fear of it damaging their careers. Ian McKellen provides an inspiration to us all, not only as an artist of extraordinary gifts, but as a public figure of remarkable honesty and dignity."

Knighthoods are most often bestowed for outstanding service to the country, and/or for an individual's pre-eminence in the arts or sciences.

It is likely that other Gay men and women (who become "Dames") have also been honored in this way. Many have simply kept their sexual identity from public knowledge.

March 30 Deadline Set For Kissing Girls Production Grants

[Madison]- Kissing Girls Productions (KGP) is pleased to announce its second season of Lesbian Culture and Creativity Grants. These grants are intended to stimulate and encourage Lesbian culture and creativity primarily in Madison and the Midwest. These grants will be awarded to Lesbians who work in arts, crafts, music, drama, film, literature, comedy, dance, visual and performing arts, and other activities that enhance Lesbian Culture.

KGP has decided to award 1991 grants to individuals, groups, organizations, private non-profit and on-going community groups.

KGP will award grants primarily for public performances or showings, entry fees, supplies, travel expenses, rehearsal/studio space, or the publication/printing of work. (Alternative proposals will be considered.)

KGP will judge grant requests on the basis of the: quality of the proposal, diversity of applicants, impact within the Lesbian community and the applicant's ability to successfully complete the

project. Acceptance of a grant award by an applicant will carry with it the expectation that the applicant will participate in the 1991 Lesbian Variety Show, Art Show or Poetry Reading...if they are an appropriate forum.

Also, one copy of a final product (i.e. printed booklet, etc.) will be given free of additional charge to KGP for archival purposes. All applicants **MUST** submit itemized receipts and produce by July 1, 1991 unless the completion of the project requires special arrangements. These arrangements must be made in advance with KGP.

Grants will be awarded in the amounts of \$1-\$400. Applications are due March 30, 1991. Applications must be postmarked by March 29, 1991. Award announcements including the name and city of the recipient will be made in April and May, 1991 issues of local Lesbian, Gay and Feminist publications. Please send your grant application with an SASE to: KGP, Inc., Box 6091, Madison, WI 53716.

San Francisco Film Festival Seeks Entries By March 15

[San Francisco, CA]- Frameline is now accepting entries for the 15th Annual San Francisco International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival to be held June 21-30, 1991. Frameline is the nation's only organization solely dedicated to the promotion, exhibition, funding and distribution of Lesbian and Gay film and video. The Festival is the world's oldest and largest of its kind. Last year, audiences ran to over 25,000.

Entries are accepted in the following formats: 35mm, 16mm, Super 8, 3/4 inch and 1/2 inch video (NTSC). The deadline for entries is March 15. There is no entry fee, but return postage must accompany all entries.

Frameline has also announced the publication of its first distribution catalog, which offers over 60 Lesbian and Gay films and videos for rental. The 16-page catalog includes such features as Gus Van Sant's *Mala Noche* and Anne-Claire Poirier's *Salut Victor* as well as award-winning documentaries and shorts like *Framed Youth: Revenge of the Teenage Perverts*, starring a young Jimmy Sommerville.

All films are available for public and private screenings. Frameline also offers free programming advice for people who have never before booked a film, or put together a screening series.

For more information, for entry forms

for the Festival and/or for a free copy of the current catalog, contact: Frameline, P.O. Box 14792, San Francisco, CA or call (415) 861-5245.

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FICTION

DINNER AT PEGGY'S

BY
GENO

The following is an excerpt from a novel in progress. The narrator, David, is visiting his Gay uncle Malcolm, a longtime resident of Venice. David meets many of Malcolm's friends and acquaintances including such well known figures as Truman Capote, Ezra Pound and Anais Nin as well as a host of expatriates and eccentrics. It is in Venice that David comes to a better understanding of his own sexual nature. One individual who is to have a crucial influence upon David later in the novel is introduced in the present chapter.

Across the Grand Canal on a slight diagonal from Malcolm's house is the Palazzo Venier dei Leoni, the home of Peggy Guggenheim and her collection of modern art. Blue and white striped poles mark the palazzo's landing stage, and sometimes, standing on Malcolm's balcony, I can see a gondola with a gondolier in blue and white livery arriving or leaving between these poles conveying the mistress of the palazzo in the only privately maintained gondola in Venice. Some call Peggy Guggenheim the last Dogaresa of Venice; others have less complimentary titles for her, including Death in Venice.

I have gathered from conversations with Malcolm that he and Peggy have had a long-standing friendly enmity going back to the late forties when they both settled in Venice. She refers to his antiques as "that old stuff" and he refers to her collection as garbage. He dislikes her five Lhasa apso terriers and she thinks it's dumb to have a Basenji, a dog that doesn't bark. It's always been this way, but I've also gathered that they have often gotten together to cry on one another's shoulders, especially when a lover had taken off or a provocatively handsome male had proved to be unattainable.

I wanted very much to visit the Palazzo Venier and I learned that it was open to the public three days a week. This was a dodge, Malcolm explained, that allowed Peggy to have her home classified as a museum and thus receive a tax break from the city. The Venetian city fathers as well as the Tate Gallery in London and other museums around the world were vying with one another to obtain her collection after her death. Peggy, meanwhile, continued to play the old legacy game — be nice to me and I'll leave it all to you.

Malcolm wasn't too enthusiastic when I suggested that I'd like to visit the palazzo. "I suppose you should go — it's the biggest sideshow in Venice. But don't ask me to go along. I've looked at those blobs and splotches till I'm blue in the face."

"It's supposed to be an incredible collection of 20th Century art."

"Incredible may just be the right word. I'm sorry, David, I can't get excited about that stuff. As for me, Abstract Expressionism should be called abstract exhibitionism. And I don't think it belongs in Venice. You know, don't you (she mentions it in her memoirs) that she once planned to add another story to the top of her place, all glassed in so that the paintings could be seen from a distance — like billboards. Imagine Jackson Pollock's dribbles on the Grand Canal."

I decided to change the subject. "What's Peggy herself like? I've been reading your copy of her *Confessions of an Art Addict*, and by the way, that's quite a glowing tribute to your taste and judgement that she's written on the flyleaf."

"Probably intended sarcastically — the word 'taste' has little meaning in her vocabulary." Then, sounding hurt: "Besides, she mentions me only once in the book."

"Well, you weren't one of her lovers, were you?"

"I am one of the very few who can make that claim. You've read the section, haven't you, where she and her sister Hazel had a contest going to see who would score a thousand first?"

"Yes, and Peggy won, though she admits that she had an advantage because she was older. And she names names, does it throughout the book."

"Believe me, there are lots of things she doesn't tell. She has dived into some pretty murky waters in her day."

"I am impressed by all the famous people she has met."

"And she had rare opportunities to observe them," Malcolm interjected, "but she can't tell you much about them except trivial details like Picasso had huge brown eyes and small feet and walked around in shorts a lot. Talk about namedroppers. She has a long, drawn out affair with Beckett and dwells on his impotency."

"Well, that rather illuminates Beckett for me."

"Listen to your old godmother, please. You have to understand that events achieve importance only if they've happened to her. If the surgeon botches her nose job, Peggy tells all about it in great detail, but she meets Joyce several times and remembers only that he got drunk at his birthday party and danced a jig. She recalls the wine they drank and the food, but Joyce means almost nothing to her — just another name to drop."

"I noticed that she just loves the word 'bohemian.'"

"Oh, she's a holdover from the Roaring Twenties and still loves to do and say the shocking thing. Let me tell you a little story that sums up Peggy for me. A few years ago I was invited to dinner which ended up as a drinking bout. Her daughter Pegeen had just gone through a divorce and was feeling depressed. Anyway we were just sitting around, all three of us getting pretty smashed when Pegeen spoke up: 'Peggy, is there anything left? What the hell's the use?' Peggy looked at her and said, 'Darling, I know what it's like, I've been through it all myself. And yet when all is said and done, I realize that there is something worth living for, something at least that gives life some meaning.' Pegeen leaned forward, 'What is it, Mother? Tell me.' Peggy was quiet for a while and finally answered, 'Fucking, my dear, fucking,' and she poured herself another drink."

Malcolm told the story with great gusto and dramatic flair. It was evident that he enjoyed telling it and that he had told it many times before.

However, his spiteful views of Peggy Guggenheim and her collection didn't dampen my wanting to see them for myself. Who knows, I might even get to see the fabulous Peggy herself. And so the next afternoon when Malcolm was busy I crossed the Accademia Bridge and plunged into the narrow streets of Dorsoduro. By making inquiries as I went along I finally located the cul de sac at the end of which I recognized the wrought iron gates that are pictured in her book. I was admitted by a short, dark woman, neatly dressed in black — evidently not the Dogaresa. Malcolm had explained that Peggy and her maid handled the traffic on visiting days.

I found myself in a spacious garden shaded by tall pines with various other trees and shrubs and a few flower beds. As I walked up the path to the palazzo a couple of young women nearby were taking turns photographing one another sitting in the marble throne where Peggy had often had herself photographed. I found myself in a reception hall between the two wings of the building and facing me was Picasso's large painting of "Bathers with Toy Boat." I had to duck slightly to avoid hitting my head against a Calder mobile suspended overhead.

A white-haired woman was seated at a table in the foyer with catalogs for sale piled before her. She was wearing a cotton house dress, white anklets and pink fuzzy house slippers. Could it be? The white hair, the large, strangely shaped nose — yes, it had to be.

"Would you like a catalog?" There was nothing unusual about the voice, a little harsh, maybe. A rather ordinary looking older woman. Was this the vessel that had launched a thousand lovers?

I bought a catalog and she suggested that I start at the right wing of the building. There were no guards, I noticed, and visitors were free to wander as they pleased. There was no formal plan of arrangement and the paintings and sculptures were rather idiosyncratically displayed — a pair of early Mondrians were hung above the doorway, for example. This wasn't a museum, I decided; it was a home with something to attract the eye wherever I

looked. It was the casualness of it all that made the place unique.

As I walked through the rooms I recognized many of the works and artists from my undergraduate Modern Art course — Picasso, Chagall, Duchamp, Klee, Miro and lots of Surrealist works including Dali, Magritte and Max Ernst. Ernst had been Peggy's second husband but I wasn't familiar with his very visceral works.

Some rooms were closed to visitors, but one bedroom door was open and there facing me was Peggy's Calder bed, the silver headboard making a tinkling sound as I stepped into the room. The turquoise walls were a dramatic background for the weird reds of a Francis Bacon painting of an ape and on another wall several small paintings by Tanguy, a former lover. There was a bookcase filled with art books and catalogs and nearby on a bedside table was a brass reading lamp, a French telephone and a jar of hand cream. In one corner sat a neat little pile of dog shit. It could have been a Dada artifact but since Malcolm had told me that Peggy's dogs weren't housebroken and had warned me to be on the lookout for "landmines," I didn't think the turds were meant to be part of the decor. Feeling like an intruder, I slowly backed out of the room.



Peggy Guggenheim, one of the sights of Venice in her Surrealist glasses, drifting down the Grand Canal in her very own gondola. — [LIFE Magazine].

The tourist season was nearly over and so I was able to take a leisurely stroll through both wings of the palazzo and an attached salon called a Barchessa. When I returned to the entrance hall I found the maid was minding the catalog table; she informed me that there was more to see in the basement where Peggy had converted laundry and storage spaces into a Jackson Pollock Room and a Sala Pegeen. I merely peeked into the room where her daughter's child-like paintings were on display since Peggy was there with what seemed to be a couple of prospective customers.

But I was staggered by the number of Pollock works in the larger area since I had read recently that some of Pollock's paintings were going for over a million dollars apiece at auction. I found it difficult to appreciate these works, though — probably due to the poor light and the dampness in the basement as well as the shock of seeing millions of dollars worth of canvases stashed in a damp basement alongside Pegeen's amateur doodlings.

Upstairs again, as I was about to leave, I saw that Peggy had evidently sold one of the Pegeen's since the man was writing out a check. His wife asked whether "Mrs. Guggenheim" would sign the back of the painting and Peggy obligingly did so. As I left I heard the woman reading aloud to her husband, "To Mr. and Mrs. Schwartz from the mother of the artist. Signed Peggy Guggenheim. Isn't that sweet!" I wondered whether they were aware that Pegeen had committed suicide just the year before.

When I told Malcolm about my visit he merely grunted, but then he brightened considerably when I told him about the sale of Pegeen's painting: "Leave it to Peggy. Anything to make a sale." I told him that I had not had a chance to introduce myself to her and Malcolm said, "Don't be too upset about it, you'll have an opportunity to get a closer look tomorrow evening. She's invited us to dinner." Malcolm's offhanded way of putting things often masks his real feelings and I sensed that he was as pleased as I was at the invitation. "Peggy wants something from me but I haven't figured out what it may be," he added.

I splurged and bought a fine Venetian brocade tie from Rovoletto's in honor of the occasion, and at six the next evening Malcolm and I watched the gondola coming across the canal and went down to the riva to meet it. Guido the gondolier and Malcolm were old friends and chatted as we were helped into the gondola and then took off. Yes, the children were all fine — the eldest girl was engaged to be married and the baby of the family had decided that he was going to be a calcio star. "Guido's doing this on his own time," Malcolm explained, "Peggy doesn't pay overtime, you know."

When we were halfway across the Canal I could see Marino Marini's "The Angel of the Citadel," a life-size bronze sculpture of a horse and rider, the horseman with his arms opened wide in an ecstatic greeting. The naked rider's phallus is in full erection and Marini supposedly had made copies in several different sizes which Peggy could remove or change according to her mood or desire to shock.

We were soon at the palazzo's landing and Peggy stood at the top of the steps to greet us. "Hello, hello!" "Peggy, darling." "Malcolm, dear." Hugs and kisses.

"Malcolm, I hope you've noticed I've screwed in the biggest one in honor of your coming."

"Ah, Peggy, ever the gracious hostess."

Malcolm introduced me, and since I didn't know what to call her, I settled on "Ma'am" just as one addresses the Queen of England, but she said, "Just call me Peggy."

I mentioned that I had visited the palazzo the day before and she pretended to remember me. She was wearing a flowing caftan which was very becoming, earrings and a touch of blue eye shadow — quite a change from my first glimpse of her.

Malcolm, I hear you have another young man staying at your place." (News certainly travels fast in Venice). "He's not one of your Gay boys, is he?"

"No, dear heart. Buzz is an all American lad who needs a place to crash for a while before he returns to school. David and I met him at San Michele the other day. And, by the way, I haven't even pinched his bottom."

"Not yet, you mean."

I assumed that this was to be the tenor of most of the evening's conversation.

We went up the flight of steps into the entrance hall and Peggy waved us into the salon

The Editor of *The Wisconsin Light* is proud to publish this chapter from a novel in progress by Arts and Entertainment Editor Geno (a.k.a. Eugene Brzenk). Another chapter entitled "When Old Twanks Get Together" will appear in a forthcoming issue. The author and *The Wisconsin Light* invite comments, suggestions and reactions from our readers.



Peggy Guggenheim lying on her Alexander Calder bed with her Lhasa Apsos circa the 1950's when her hair was dyed shoe polish black.

and told us to make ourselves at home. I said that I would enjoy seeing some of the highlights of her collection again if she wouldn't mind showing me around, and so I had a personally guided tour from the Dogressa herself. Malcolm said he'd wait out in the garden and have a smoke.

It was good to see some of the works again though Peggy's remarks weren't particularly informative. She took a proprietary attitude toward most of the paintings and sculptures: "Calder made this bed especially for me during the war when silver was the only metal he could get — these earrings I'm wearing were made for me by Yves Tanguy — I had to bargain for days with Brancusi for his 'Bird in Flight' before he would come down in price because the Nazis were about to enter Paris — this painting is by Max Ernst, my second husband, he painted my face on it out of a dream, see I have my hand on his cock." And so on.

As we were returning to the salon she asked me point blank, "Are you a homosexual?" I didn't know what to reply and I suppose I looked shocked at her bluntness.

Fortunately Malcolm had overheard and shook his finger at Peggy: "Now, don't you go grilling my godson. He's not used to your sophisticated banter."

"Oh, well it doesn't hurt to ask," and she left to see whether dinner was ready.

We sat down at one end of a long refectory table where three placemats had been laid. I was feeling uncomfortable because of her questioning and I was also a bit apprehensive after hearing some of Malcolm's stories of Peggy's frugality in matters of food: "Don't be surprised if she brings out little dishes of leftovers from the fridge. She feeds spaghetti to her dogs, for god's sake!"

But I needn't have worried. We had tortellini in chicken broth followed by a pot roast in gravy rich with bits of vegetables, oven browned potatoes and broccoli. This course was served on plates divided into three compartments, the kind I associated with the Blue Plate Special at a neighborhood restaurant. My portions were generous, Malcolm's less ample, and Peggy's seemed skimpy. She explained that she had to watch her "line."

Conversation during the meal consisted largely of exchanges of gossip between Peggy and Malcolm. At one point Peggy again demonstrated her frontal attack. "Malcolm, I hear you bought a painting from the Divinity Fudge Man. Well, hands off — he's my discovery. I'm working this side of the Canal, old chum."

I wondered whether Malcolm would tell her the upshot of his purchase. The Divinity Fudge Man was an Italian painter who slathered chunks of paint on his canvases to a depth of at least an inch. His compositions consisted of blocks of paint in earth colors, mostly siennas, tans and chocolate browns, hence the name that Malcolm and Peggy had given him.

Malcolm grinned. "He's all yours, Love. I hung the painting up and the next day the whole damned thing had started to slide off the canvas. I've hung it upside down to see if it will slide back."

"You might as well try to get your money back. That handsome hunk can't be touched. I know, I've tried."

Dessert consisted of grapes and some rather dried cheese. After Peggy had cleared the dishes, we stayed seated at the table drinking coffee, and I thought how much pleasanter it would be to adjourn to the garden or the courtyard facing the Canal, but our hostess gave no signal in that direction. As the room grew dark, only the candles in the middle of the table furnished any light. Conversation flagged and then stopped completely.

Finally, almost desperately, Malcolm spoke up. "David has introduced some of us to a word game that we've been having a bit of fun with."

"Oh, what kind of game is it?"

Malcolm nodded to me and I began to explain the game of Lost Positives, how three of us, graduate students, one night when we thought we would go crazy in our study carrels, got to talking about words in English that had a negative form but had lost (or had never had) a positive form. I think "kempt" and "unkempt" started off the discussion, and soon we were coming up with examples like "morphous," "grunted," "wieldy" and "descript."

Peggy went over to a light switch and turned on the chandelier. "I think I'll throw a little light on the subject," she said.

I went on to describe how the three of us decided to found a Society for the Discovery and Preservation of Lost Positives. Any individual wishing to be considered for membership was required to submit five prime examples of lost positives and to agree to promote their use.

Peggy was looking blank. Malcolm leaned toward her — "You see, Peggy, the trick is to find ways of indicating negatives and then checking to see whether there is a lost positive form."

Finally Peggy ventured: "How about 'sexual'?"

"But that's not a lost positive," Malcolm explained. "It's the positive form of 'asexual,' but we already have 'sexual.'"

"Well, maybe you have, but it's missed me lately — if you know what I mean."

Malcolm, I could tell, was sorry to have started the whole thing but seemed determined to carry it off and turning to me said, "I came up with five beauties for my candidacy — let's see, I had 'furious,' 'pareil,' 'calced,' 'licit,' and 'colletage.' You'll have to admit that 'calced' is awfully good — I've never heard of a calced Carmelite, have you?"

I joined the performance. "Malcolm, I'm sorry but I've had to hold up your membership. 'Licit' is not a lost positive. It's in the dictionary and it is used. You'll just have to submit another application."

Peggy was looking at us as if we had lost our minds. She stood up with a sigh. "I think I'm getting a headache. Let's sit out in the garden; maybe the fresh air will help."

It was a relief to be outdoors. Peggy let the dogs out — they had been kept closed off in a back room since she knew Malcolm's distaste for having them begging for food at the table. Peggy headed toward the throne and the dogs followed after her stopping

occasionally to make a deposit along the way. They all jumped up or had to be lifted up beside her. Malcolm and I sat nearby on a curved garden seat.

The air was cool and refreshing and there was an aura of light reflected from clouds in the west. I was glad that we had dropped the Lost Positives game, but at least it had served to bring us outdoors. The garden seemed remote from the world outside, very peaceful and quiet. Just being there gave me a feeling close to euphoria.

Peggy had begun to name various museums and collections that wanted her to lend paintings and sculptures for exhibitions, and this soon began to pall for Malcolm. After a yawn or two he began to work up to our leave-taking. "It's been lovely, Peggy, so good to see you looking so well."

I added my thanks to Malcolm's and I signed her guestbook before we left. We went down the stairs to the landing where Guido was waiting for us. As we pulled away Malcolm called back, "Peggy, we'll keep a membership open for you in the Lost Positives Society."

"You can stuff it, as far as I'm concerned. It's a damn stupid game."

"Good night, Peggy."

"Good night, Malcolm."

Malcolm turned to me. "You know, there are times I'd like to hit her over the head with a wieldy weapon."

• • •

Author's Note: During a recent stay in Venice after an absence of 14 years I revisited the Palazzo Venier dei Leoni. Peggy died in 1979 at the age of eighty-one and the palazzo and the art collection were bequeathed to the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation which administers the Venice installation as well as the Guggenheim Museum on 5th Avenue in New York founded by Peggy's Uncle Solomon.

When I visited I found a ticket booth at the garden entrance, admission 8000 Lire. In Peggy's time there had been no admission fee. In the sixties, when I first visited the palazzo, the garden had a pleasant raffish air — the grass was worn in spots, totally absent in others. The ground was packed in some places with rather weedy shrubs and real weeds. Lush grass has now been planted throughout, and the vines and shrubs are flourishing, trimmed and tended, no longer unrestrained like their former mistress had been. Neat paths have been laid out with small stones crunching underfoot.

The entrance hall where Peggy once sat selling catalogs has been turned into a small shop where postcards and souvenirs as well as catalogs are sold. Many visitors now come to the palazzo — it has become one of the must-see attractions of Venice. Young women docents, students from American universities, maintain the ticket booth and the souvenir stand.

It was saddening to see that the Palazzo Venier has become a cold marble museum. Track lighting and air conditioning have been installed and the paintings and sculptures are exhibited in orderly fashion. There is a lighted EXIT sign above the door where at one time the two Mondrians faced me as I was enjoying Peggy's pot roast. The Calder bed headpiece stands alone up against a wall in a room now bare. The basement, closed to visitors, now houses offices and temperature controlled storage spaces.

I realized that these changes had been necessary, but it saddened me to see the impersonality of the place. I returned to the garden feeling lost, mourning inwardly for what once had been. I found Peggy's resting place at the back of the garden where her ashes are buried. A marble plaque attached to the brick wall reads:

Here Rests
Peggy Guggenheim
(1898-1979)

Another marble plaque alongside Peggy's commemorates some of her Lhasa Apsos:

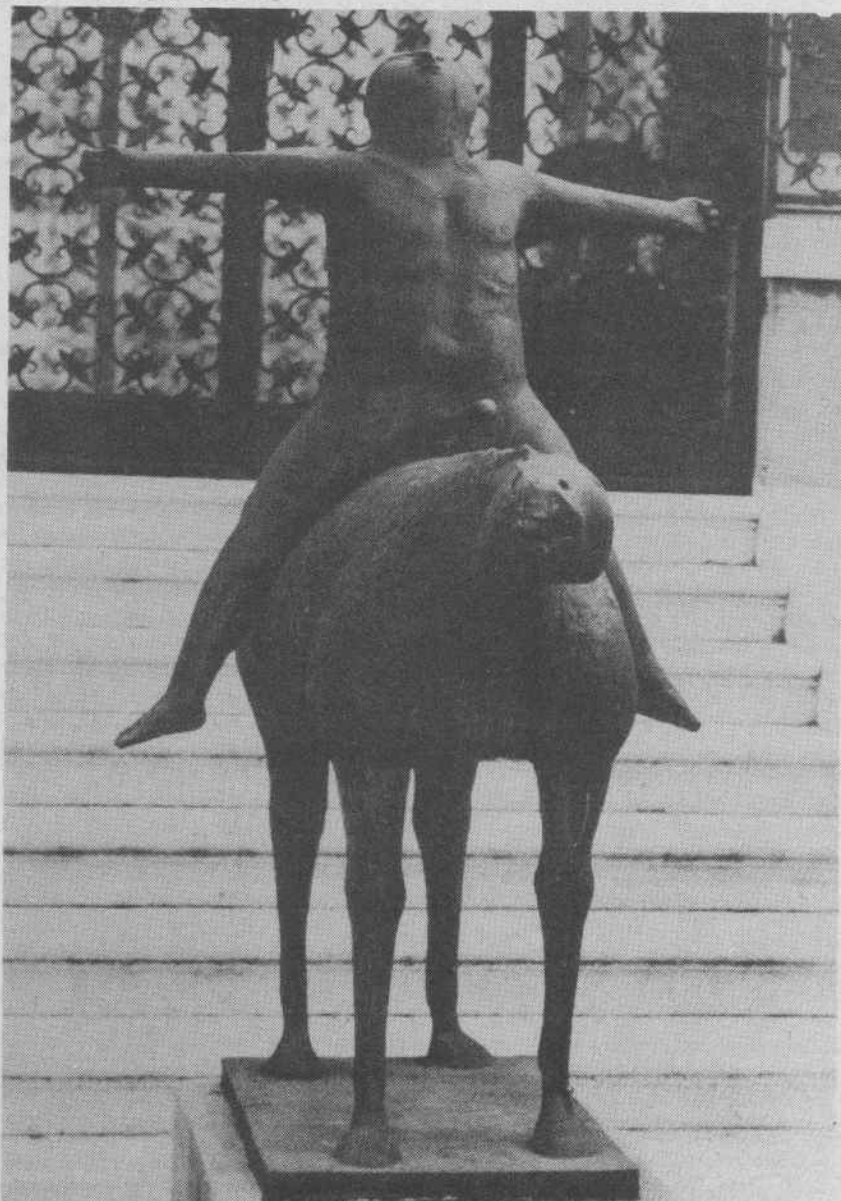
Here Lie My Beloved Babies

Cappucino	Emily
Pegeen	White Angel
Peacock	Sir Herbert
Toro	Sable
Foglia	Gypsy
Madam Butterfly	Hong Kong
Baby	Cellida

Pegeen was named after Peggy's daughter who lies in unconsecrated ground in Paris. Sir Herbert is named after Sir Herbert Read who was Peggy Guggenheim's art advisor in the early years. I remembered the dog as the one who kept sniffing my leg and was about to lift his leg before I moved away. How very Guggenheim!

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—Geno



Marino Marini's "The Angle of the Citadel" extends an ecstatic greeting to the visitors to the Palazzo Venier del Leoni home of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection.

Comparing Gays To Insects May Not Be Unflattering, After All!

By Thomas J. Rondy

Ever since Stonewall, many homophobes in the course of frenzied, genocidal tirades, have compared Gays to insects to be exterminated immediately. I wonder if it has ever occurred to these knucklehead-geniuses that perhaps the comparison to insects isn't all that unflattering; when you consider such formidable species as red ants, wasps and termites, the analogy is even flattering in some ways. If this contention sounds odd, it is nevertheless historically sound.

That is because Stonewall was merely the beginning for the present generation. The Gay rights movement didn't first arise a mere twenty years ago; it first arose 150 years ago in, of all places, Nineteenth-Century Prussia. It didn't really pick up steam, however, until well after Germany's first unification, most likely because of the great industrial boom of that era.

Before that time, France was the most desirable place for Gay men to be, since the Napoleonic Code abolished sodomy laws for the ridiculous farce that they were.

But as the Gay rights movement in Germany picked up steam, the French began referring to homosexuality as "the German vice." Though homoerotic affections were still considered an affront to the true Teutonic disposition, the limited tolerance of a growing and formidable Gay rights movement evidenced the fact that Germany was indeed becoming a civilized nation.

Unfortunately, this movement got caught under the wheels of history. Britain and France knew that they would be eating Germany's exhaust smoke within a few short decades if Germany were allowed to continue the remarkable industrial and technological progress it had been making. That and the irrationality of Kaiser Wilhelm II (whose racial views were little better than Hitler's) started World War I.

When the Allies won, Britain and France made sure their former rival paid dearly. That's where the Nazis came in. Thanks to the German Communist Party's servile toadying to Stalin, the Nazis were able to carry the day; an alliance between the Communists and the simpering Social Democrats could have effectively castrated the specter of fascism. But that never happened because "Uncle Joe" Stalin just wouldn't have it. So the Nazis were able to exploit the population's misery by turning moral and intellectual mediocrity into a codified ideology. Even then, they needed the monarchist Nationalist Party as a coalition partner to get a slim

majority.

The rest of this story is written in blood. This fact is well-known. What isn't well-known is the identity of those who were the first to go. It was us. Despite the homosexuality of many Nazi Brown Shirts, wiping us out was on the Nazi agenda long before any sort of organized racial genocide was. So, after the Night of the Long Knives in which the Brown Shirts (SA) were wiped out and replaced by Hitler's Black Shirts (SS), the Nazi Night truly began. Gays and their movement were both goners. But the miracle is, that wasn't the end of the story, only of that particular chapter.

Remember that the Nazi plague didn't succeed in enveloping the planet. Part of it had to do with the fact that Hitler and his cronies were a bunch of screwballs and nimrods. But mostly it was because of the massive and historically unprecedented sacrifice of energy, resources and lives on the part of the peoples of the world to stop fascism.

The effort was so great it even involved the "Evil Empire" itself, the United States. This war effort brought together one of the most oppressed peoples of this particular empire: Gays and Lesbians, then referred to as "homosexuals" (among other things). The bonds which were forged in the military were often clandestine, but we were nevertheless able to draw strength from each other in a way which would have been impossible in our original settings.

Those ties often stayed intact after the war, even in the face of a society which was willing to become nearly as fascist as the one it had just defeated, in order to enforce a stultifying, artificial conformity. But thanks to the Baby-Boomers (as much as I hate to admit it), it didn't exactly happen that way.

In the wake of the massive shift of consciousness which occurred during the Sixties, some place, albeit a small one, was made for us in this new grand scheme of things; Stonewall was the crucible in which these new realities were forged. The rest is history, our history, which must never be erased again.

But the miracle was in that twist of fate in our history; it was as if the blood of that earlier generation which was shed in the camps of Europe and in the war gave life to Stonewall. After all, it was the bonds we formed in the war against Hitler that brought about Stonewall and its implied possibilities. Only this time, we know that it "can happen here," or anywhere else, for that matter; the possession of this knowledge must be motivation enough for us to prevent it from ever happening again.

Right Wing Religions and Political Leaders Lead Teens To Suicide

[Washington, D.C.]—Right-wing religious and political leaders who wave the banner of "traditional family values" are a major impediment to overcoming the teen suicide problem, according to a parent-church-educator coalition that in October announced a prevention program focused on Gay and Lesbian youth.

The project, "Respect All Youth" is being undertaken by the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG), with financial assistance from the United Thank Offering Fund of the Episcopal Church.

Government studies show that Lesbian and Gay teen-agers are up to three times as likely to attempt suicide as other young people, because of the stigma society places on them.

Among others endorsing the Project is Mary Griffith, a mother whose son died because of her earlier misguided religious beliefs and lack of information.

"Golden Thread" Celebration Planned in June

[Burlington, VT]—The Fifth Annual Golden Threads Celebration for Lesbians over 50 and for women interested in older women and their lives will take place in Provincetown, Massachusetts from June 28-30. For more information, please contact Christine Burton at Golden Threads, P.O. Box 3177, Burlington, VT 05401-0031.

Griffith, a Northern California mother of four, said that her Gay son, at her urging, resorted to prayer and "reparative" therapy with religious counselors. At age 20, convinced that he was evil in the eyes of God, he threw himself off an overpass and into the path of an 18-wheel semi-trailer.

It would not have happened, she is now convinced, if there had been programs at school that "could have offset what he was told by me at home and others in our church."

Griffith is now President of the Mount Diablo, CA chapter of P-FLAG. Her object, she said, is to help other parents avoid the tragedy that befell her family.

P-FLAG Selects New Director

[Washington, D.C.]—Paulette Goodman, President of the International Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Inc. (P-FLAG) has announced the selection of Philadelphia Lutheran pastor Thomas H. Sauerman as the Federation's first Executive Director.

Sauerman who has two sons, one Gay, one non-Gay, said his Gay son's coming out "nearly ripped our family apart." However, he noted that with P-FLAG's information and support, "his homosexuality drew our family closer together."

"This is the goal for which I would strive for all families with Lesbian and Gay members," Sauerman said.

Women's History Month To Be Celebrated With Lecture Series

[Milwaukee]— March is Women's History Month, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Women's Studies in the Graduate School is celebrating with a variety of events on the UWM campus. All programs are free and open to the public. Scheduled events include:

March 1-Friday

"Politics and Poverty in the 1990's," lecture by Frances Fox Piven, professor of political science at the City University of New York. 2:00 p.m., Greene Hall, 3347 Downer Ave. Co-sponsored by the UWM Urban Studies Program.

Poetry Readings presented by Jeanne Murray Walker, professor of English at the University of Delaware. 8:00 p.m., Room 175, Curtin Hall, 3243 N. Downer Ave. Co-sponsored by the UWM English and Comparative Literature Department.

March 8-Friday

"A Comparison of Female and Male Treatments of English Fairy Tale Daughters and Fathers," presented by Linda Misteale, doctoral candidate in English and Comparative Literature. 3:30 p.m., Room 245, Mitchell Hall, 3202 N. Downer Ave.

March 12-Tuesday

"Wolfgang and Nannerl: A Study of Two Mozarts," presented by Eva Rieger, internationally known scholar of women's studies in music and lecturer at

Hildesheim University in Germany. 8:00 p.m., Fine Arts Recital Hall, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd. Co-sponsored by Early Music Now.

March 14-Thursday

"Ladies of the Club: Unlikely Revolutionaries," lecture by Ann Fior Scott, a Duke University, Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar. 8:00 p.m., Greene Hall, 3347 N. Downer Ave. Co-sponsored by the UWM College of Letters and Science, the History Department, the Eta Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa and Union Programming.

"Getting Emotional About Women's History," lecture by Jamakaya, a feminist activist, writer, and historian. 12 noon, Greene Hall, 3347 N. Downer Ave. Co-sponsored by the Association of Women in Education at UWM.

"The purpose of National Women's History Month is to raise the awareness of all students, female and male, regarding the wealth of multicultural women's history that has been left out of the standard history texts used in most schools," said Jan Yoder, director of the Center for Women's Studies at UWM. The Center serves as a resource and research center for women's issues, and offers both an undergraduate major and certificate in Women's Studies. For more information, call (414) 229-5918.

Advertising and Budgeting Seminar Planned for March 11

[Milwaukee]—Haylicek & Associates will be presenting "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Getting the Most for Your Advertising Dollar — But Were Afraid to Ask" on Monday, March 11, 1991 at 7:00 p.m. at M&M's Banquet Room, 124 N. Water St. in Milwaukee.

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This session will not be repeated. It will be short, concise and valuable, whether you own a business or head an organization. Invitations are going out in the mail this week. If you don't receive one, but would like to attend, call Haylicek & Associates at (414) 271-5819.

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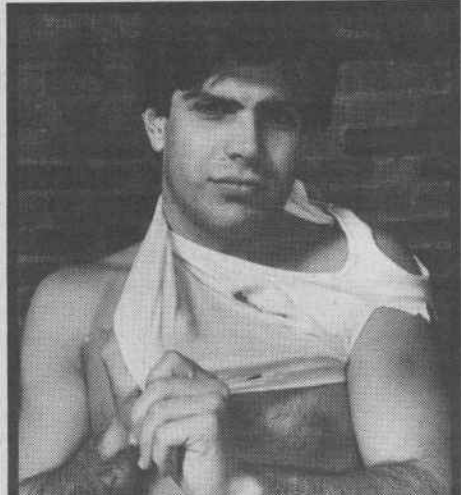


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Is Queer Nation Lighting Sparks Where None Have Existed?

By M. Vince Turner

It is late Friday night. December, just before Christmas. Returning home from a holiday party and Toys for Tots drive, I flip on the television. Zipping through channels, I happen upon Arsenio Hall. I know little about this entertainer. I am not, by custom, a late night TV person.

I detect anger — even, perhaps, rage. I hear the word "Gay." My ears perk up. Studio cameras flash on the back of a shirt that says "queer" something. At first, I cannot make it out. Then, as I watch, I realize it is "Queer Nation." My first reaction: "Oh, for god's sake!" Again, I react: "Oh, for GOD'S sake!!"

I know little about Queer Nation. Their name is repulsive, demeaning by any measure. It by itself undermines an entire generation's struggle to re-direct the way people relate to and perceive the Gay community. Less exemplary than their name, is Queer Nation's militant behavior, which belongs to another era.

The Stonewall generation, born into a cruel fear of being "different", has struggled long and relentlessly to eliminate ugly epithets such as "queer", "fag" and similar slurs. Watching impudent, brash young activists priding themselves in obnoxious titles and actions embarrasses an entire history of activism.

Their name and behavior speak to a new form of vandalism against the Gay community. Only this time, it is from within; not from without. What right does this bawdy, brattish brigade of belligerent badboys have in presuming it represents the important current issues of the Gay community? Little, if any. We have evolved beyond sixties-styled militance. Its resurrection threatens the harmony developing incrementally between Gays and straights.

While cautiously accepting Gays as we are, the world-at-large still regards us with careful reservation. Untempered mavericks asserting themselves as the new generation of sexual freedom riders represent a regressive mentality which simply is unfitting for the nineties.

The successes of the Gay community have been dearly won and carefully. Society has yet to reach the comfort zone allowing it to embrace Gays unquestioningly. Confronted with a war on one continent and acute economic anxiety on this one, now is the time, not for polarity, but for solidarity.

Queer Nation, by action and by name, gives rise to the hatemongers whose mission is to foster all level of antagonism, hate, and harm to the Gay community. The freedoms of speech and action, integral cornerstones of a free society, require with their exercise a clear understanding of the possible consequences of their being exercised.

Whatever its objective, Queer Nation serves to ignite a fire where not even a spark might have existed before. This is its own form of tyranny. Radical splinter groups often enact terror against their own, whether intentional or not.

Even the most passive among us can ill afford to sit quietly while freedoms are threatened by those from within. This simply lays way for a nastiness from which we long have struggled to escape.

Editor's Note: The author is a member of the Ocean City, Maryland Gay/Lesbian community and resides there.

Ontario Approves Partners' Benefits

[Toronto, Ontario]- As of January 1, 1991, the government of the province of Ontario extended life, medical and dental insurance to the lovers of Gay and Lesbian provincial employees. It is the first such government policy in all of Canada, according to **Outlines**.

Plans are reportedly underway to expand provincial laws and the Ontario Human Rights Act to include Gay and Lesbian partners in the definition of family.

About 2% of the province's 68,000 employees are expected to utilize the government's new benefit program.

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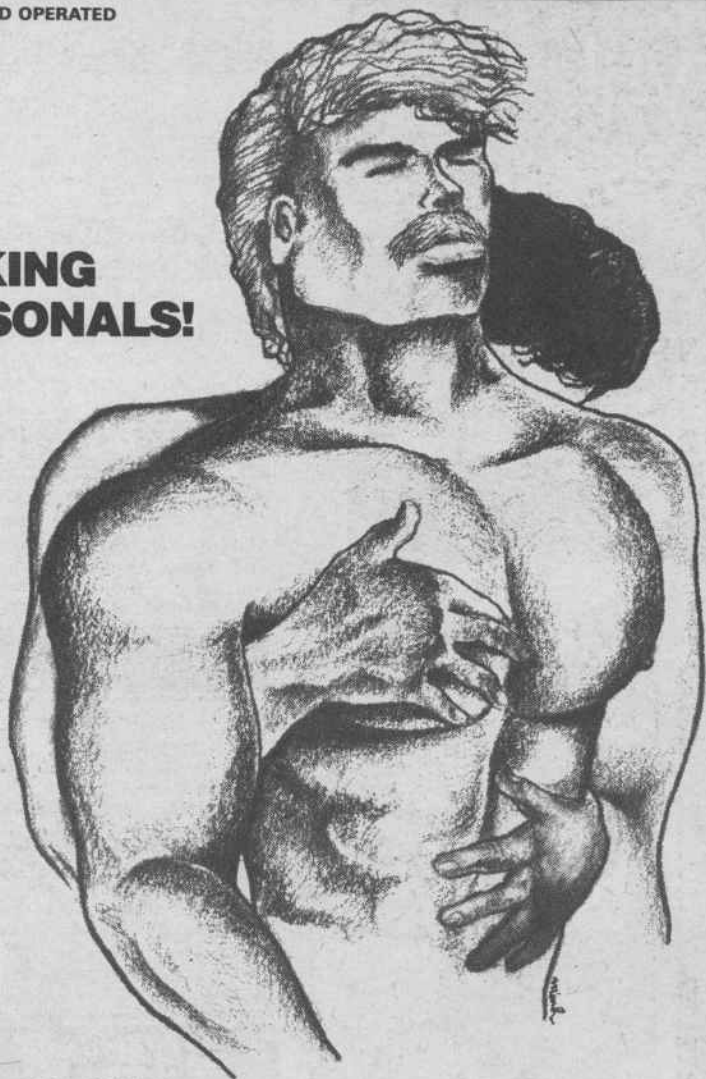
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Gays Have More Sex But Lesbians Enjoy It More

[Seattle, WA]- Male couples may have more sex than Lesbian couples, but Lesbian couples appear to enjoy it more. These are among the results of a national survey of 1,266 Gay and Lesbian couples conducted by **Partners Newsletter for Gay and Lesbian Couples**.

Male couples had sex 10 times per month on average, while Lesbians averaged seven times. Most were active couples together one year or less, who had sex about twice as often.

"A wide majority of men and women rated their sexual interaction good or excellent," said Demian, Ed.D., who edits the bimonthly newsletter with his partner Stevie Bryant. "Lesbian couples were even more enthusiastic, with the majority rating it excellent."

Sex was rated most highly by couples who were more committed and those who rated overall relationship quality more highly. In contrast, older respondents and those caring for children rated sexual interaction lower.

The Lesbian couples had been together an average of 4.9 years; the male couples averaged 6.9 years together.

A free summary of results from the national survey may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to **Partners**, Box 9685, Seattle, WA 98109.

Cartoonist Ericksen To Appear At Racine Show

[Racine, WI]- Congenial 3, the third annual science fiction convention, will be held in the Racine Sheraton Hotel in Racine, Wisconsin from March 15-17, 1991. It is billed as a "relaxacon," and promises "more parties than programming."

Kurt Ericksen, the artist guest of honor, has drawn the syndicated comic strip **Murphy's Manor** since 1982. His work has also appeared in **Gay Comix** and the **Meatmen** cartoon anthology books. In 1989, Leyland published his book **Under the Covers**.

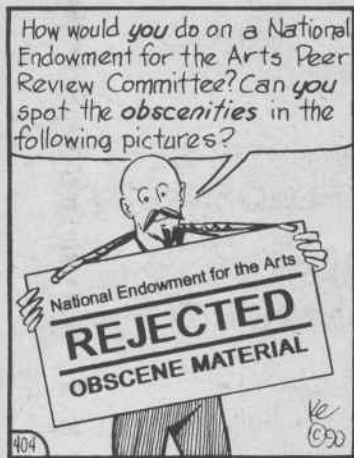
Ericksen has also been a fixture at science fiction art shows around the Midwest, with published work in the **Science Fiction Review**, **Starlog** and **Mimosa**.

Other guests include Mary Ellen Wessels, Giovanna Fregni, Steve Brust and Reed Waller and Kate Worley with their new band.

Congenial 3 is not strictly a Gay science fiction convention, but it does offer an atmosphere open to alternative lifestyles. All science fiction fans are welcome.

For more information, call Adam D'Auria at (708) 215-0272.

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1991 Softball World Series To Be Held In Boston

[Pittsburgh, PA]- As the 1991 season opens, players and officials of the North American Gay Amateur Athletics Association (NAGAAA) are busy preparing for another year.

The season will kick off in mid-February, as the City of Long Beach, and its NAGAAA Affiliated Softball League, welcome delegates to the annual NAGAAA Spring Meetings. As is the norm for these annual meetings, NAGAAA delegates will discuss a myriad of subjects, ranging from rule and/or regulation changes for the 1991 Softball Gay World Series to a routine review of the current bylaws.

Other meetings are planned to review the financial report from the 1990 series and to obtain an update on activities surrounding the upcoming 1991 Softball

Gay World Series in Boston. As part of a traditional gesture, delegates from Pittsburgh, the host city for the 1990 Gay Softball World Series, are expected to formally present "the NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series" to members of the Boston delegation in separate ceremonies.

Season play is expected to begin in most NAGAAA affiliated leagues in the last few weeks of April and to culminate in the early parts of August. The sport will further be enhanced by several tournaments sponsored by various member leagues and held throughout North America during the 1991 season play. Finally, teams taking league titles will be invited to Boston in late August to participate in the 1991 Softball Gay World Series.

"Cityscapes" Art Show Offers Paintings, Photographs

[Milwaukee]- "Cityscapes," an exhibit of paintings by Marc Jacobson and "Personal Views," a series of color photographs by Sandy Lewis is an art show well worth seeing. It is on view at the Jewish Community Center of Milwaukee, 6255 N. Santa Monica Blvd., until March 17.

Jacobson who teaches at the University of Indiana — Indianapolis works in this series with acrylic paints on paper and canvas; the cityscapes he depicts are treated in what might be called an expressionistic/realistic style. The subjects are bridges, construction cranes and city expressways which are presented with great drive and energy. The basic colors Jacobson uses are from a muted palette with bright spots furnished by the orange of a construction beam, the colors of a highway sign. Like the Impressionists the artist uses light color and texture to convey a realistic image but with a strong emotional impact.

The photographs by Sandy Lewis are on display in the same intimate gallery and some of her work causes the viewer to look twice to be sure that these are

photographs and not paintings. This sampling of her work includes portraits, still life, architectural studies and cityscapes, too. Her signature style, reflections in windows and water, often on three levels, tease the viewer to look more closely to uncover the different levels of reality. One work wittily has the artist's reflection caught in such a work so that it serves as a self portrait.

Gallery hours on Monday through Thursdays are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment: phone (414) 964-4444.

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Albee and Millett to Speak At National Writers Conference

[San Francisco, CA]- Playwright Edward Albee and groundbreaking feminist author Kate Millett will join Native American writer Paula Gunn Allen and novelist John Rechy as keynote speakers for OUT/Write '91, the second national Lesbian and Gay Writers Conference scheduled for March 1, 2 and 3 at the Cathedral Hill Hotel in San Francisco.

Among the 200 panelists invited to participate are many distinguished Gay and Lesbian writers: Judy Grahn, Edmund White, Dorothy Allison, Paul Monette, Katherine V. Forrest, Kevin Killian, Susie Bright, Betty Berzon, Robert Patrick, Michael Nava, Joseph Hansen, Pat Califia, Luis Zapata, JoAnn Loulan and Assotto Saint

The conference brings together writers, editors, publishers, booksellers, agents,

critics, journalists, students and readers from across the nation to discuss political issues and artistic questions facing Lesbian and Gay writers.

This year's conference will focus on two special themes: censorship and the cultural diversity of Lesbian and Gay literature.

OUT/Write '91 is sponsored by OUT/LOOK, the national Lesbian and Gay magazine.

Registration for OUT/Write '91 is \$45. Checks payable to OUT/LOOK should be sent to the OUT/LOOK Foundation, 2940 16th St., #319, San Francisco, CA 94103. For information on on-site registration, travel and accommodations, please contact the conference coordinator Jennifer Kennedy at (415) 626-3334.

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