



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

The Wisconsin Light

Experimental Drugs Bill Introduced

[Madison]- A bill to make experimental AIDS treatments more available to people with HIV infection was introduced in late December, 1991, by four Wisconsin lawmakers.

State Representatives Steve Loucks (R-Mequn) and David Clarenbach (D-Madison) in partnership with Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) and Peggy Rosenzweig (R-Wauwatosa) are sponsoring the bill to make experimental AIDS drugs more available by removing the liability for punitive damages from physicians who prescribe those treatments to consenting patients.

According to the authors, the use of such treatments has been discouraged by a lack of protection for physicians who might prescribe the experimental therapies.

At a State Capitol press conference held December 19, 1991, the plan was endorsed by the People Living with AIDS Coalition. "We who are living with a terminal illness have, for many years, offered ourselves as the guinea pigs for experimental drugs and devices, in hopes of giving ourselves some additional quality of life. But due to the length of time it takes for approval, many people do not survive," according to Jerry Smith, the Chair of the Coalition.

"Our government wants to decide what is and is not good for us. Let us and our health care providers make that choice, because for many of us, especially those of us with a terminal illness such as cancer, heart disease, and yes, AIDS, have nothing else to lose," Smith said.

"Many new medications and medical devices are being used with success in other parts of the world, and yet, many of these drugs and devices are basically unavailable in the U.S. at this point," noted Rep. Loucks. The lengthy and exacting testing requirements of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) play a part in this situation, said the Representatives.

"Such procedural hurdles may stall the use of such innovative or experimental treatments in America for many years," added Loucks.

"It is important to test these treatments carefully, and we do not seek

Help from Bar Was Not Sought In Shooting

Executive Editor's Note: In the last issue of *Light* a story was run concerning the shooting in the parking lot behind the Wreck Room. I was responsible for that part of the story. I failed to make an effort to contact the Wreck Room. This was my responsibility, and I was wrong and I apologize to the Wreck Room for it. What follows is the missing other half of the story.

• • •

Jim Beck was shot on December 6, 1991. According to Bill Kindt, owner of the Wreck Room, the bartender on duty was Mark-Mark. Mark-Mark said that Beck walked into the Wreck Room and said that he had just been robbed. Beck confirmed that at the time, he did not know he had been shot. Mark-Mark said that Beck asked where the phone was. Kindt said that Mark-Mark reported that no assistance was asked for nor was he later contacted for help.

Kindt, who was not in the bar at the time, said that the next day he heard "rumors" that a man had been shot but said that he knew no details until he read about the shooting in *Light*.

Kindt said that he immediately investigated, asking both Mark-Mark and Steve, the bar manager what they knew. He said they too had heard only rumors. Neither of them had been asked for aid.

"The Wreck Room never has or ever will refuse assistance to anyone who asks for it," said Kindt. "If we don't know they need assistance, we can't render it. We're not mind readers."

Thompson Wins Guardianship; Kowalski to Come Home at Last



© Doriene Photo Graphics 1990

By Jamakaya

[Clearwater, MN]- Eight years after being severely brain-injured in a car accident and becoming the focus of a national campaign by Gay and disability rights activists, it appears that Sharon Kowalski is finally being allowed to "come home." Kowalski spent part of the holiday season with her long-time companion, Karen Thompson, at their home in rural Minnesota.

The lengthy court battles over visitation rights and guardianship between Thompson, Kowalski's parents and a third party ended December 17 when the Minnesota Court of Appeals, calling the lesbian couple "a family of affinity which ought to be accorded respect," granted full guardianship of Kowalski to Thompson.

Unbeknownst to the court, the decision was rendered on the 12th anniversary of a ceremony in which Thompson and Kowalski exchanged rings and pledged their lifelong commitment to each other.

Important Precedent

"This seems to be the first guardianship case in the nation in which an appeals court recognized a homosexual partner's rights as tantamount to those of a spouse," said Thompson's attorney, M. Sue Wilson.

The Court of Appeals reversed an earlier decision that granted guardianship to a former high school coach of Sharon's, a person St. Louis County Judge Robert Campbell believed would be a "neutral third party."

But in a strongly worded statement, the Appeals Court declared: "Thompson's suitability for guardianship was overwhelmingly clear from the testimony of Sharon's doctors and caretakers."

The Appeals Court also disagreed with Judge Campbell's description of the 35 year old Kowalski as a "child" who could not express her own wishes: "All the medical testimony established that Sharon has the capacity reliably to express a preference in this case, and she has clearly chosen to return home with Karen Thompson if possible."

Thompson and Kowalski lived together for four years before Sharon's accident.

SHARON KOWALSKI AND KAREN THOMPSON

to alter the FDA's testing procedure. What we are seeking is a way to help people whose best hope for health may be a new or experimental treatment," explained Loucks.

Observing that many diseases such as AIDS and some forms of cancer are not always curable through the current FDA-approved treatments, Loucks added, "I want physicians to be able to prescribe experimental drugs in such cases, if that is what the patient wants. Removing the physicians' risk of punitive damages is one step in making this happen."

Clarenbach cited the bill as a major breakthrough in gaining quicker access to AIDS drugs. "Last session we passed our Bill of Rights for People with AIDS and HIV infection. This extends the principle that people living with AIDS need every current medical treatment," Clarenbach said.

Carpenter, who chairs the Assembly Health Committee, pledged quick action on the bill.

"We will schedule the bill for a January hearing and report it out to the full Assembly for a vote in February," Carpenter said.

The bill will not change the procedures for obtaining our prescribing experimental drugs, which are being administered in many programs across the country. Patients must sign consent forms when participating in such treatments. In the event of injury from the experimental drug, Loucks' bill would continue to allow patients to collect general damages for their injuries.

"The benefit of this bill is the removal of punitive damage risk from the situation," declared Loucks. Punitive damages are awarded to injured persons over and above their general damages for medical negligence; such awards are made with the intent of punishing the guilty party.

"In a situation where a gravely ill patient has accepted an experimental treatment and made an informed decision to accept the possibility of unplanned effects from that treatment, punitive damages have no place," declared Loucks.

"The focus of this bill is the patient," concluded Loucks. "With experimental drugs offering the best and even the final hope for so many people, we must do all we can to give these treatments a chance to save lives."

The guardian appointed by Judge Campbell has until January 16 to file her own appeal to the Minnesota Supreme Court. As of press time — January 8 — that had not occurred. Some legal observers believe further action is unlikely given the unanimous and strongly worded opinion by the Court of Appeals.

'Life Won't Be Simple'

In an interview with *Wisconsin Light*, Thompson said she was "greatly relieved" by the ruling. "We now have the ability to make our own decisions without consulting the court all the time. It doesn't mean life is going to be simple, but we've overcome a big hurdle."

After learning of the decision, Kowalski's first comment was an unequivocal "I want to come home."

Kowalski is currently in the Trevilla of Robbinsdale rehabilitation facility in suburban Minneapolis. But Thompson said: "I plan to have Sharon home as often as I can. She just loves it here, especially out along the [Mississippi] river."

Since the decision, said Thompson, "Sharon's blossoming. She's getting much more motivated. She's even beginning to laugh out loud alot."

Thompson and Kowalski face some tough decisions however. "Every move for a brain-injured person is very difficult," Thompson told the *Light*. "It took many months for Sharon to adjust to the personnel and surroundings at Trevilla, where she's doing very well right now. So despite her desire to return home, the move could be very disruptive for her. I must be sure to have the proper support system in place so we don't fail."

TURN TO VICTORY, PAGE 11

Milwaukee City Council to Vote on Pride Parade Funds January 21

By Jamakaya

[Milwaukee]- On January 21, the Common Council is scheduled to make a final decision about whether Milwaukee's Gay/Lesbian Pride Committee will receive a \$5,000 grant of city festival funds.

The Council's Economic Development Committee voted 3-2 on January 8 to deny the funds to the Pride Committee. Aldermen Michael Murphy introduced the motion to deny the funding, and was joined by John Kalwitz and Chris Krajniak voted against the funding. Aldermen Marvin Pratt and Steve Cullen supported the funding by voting against the motion.

Cullen said that voting against the funds for the Gay/Lesbian Pride Celebration "feeds on ignorance and hatred and fear, and I don't want to be a part of it. This city needs to look at ways we can be accepting of things we don't understand."

If the full Council votes against the funding, the Pride Committee will be the only group rejected among the 38 diverse community organizations which are slated to receive city festival funds.

The Milwaukee Festival Fund Board initially recommended the \$5,000 allocation last Fall. Other events slated for funding include the Riverwest Art

Walk, the St. Patrick's Day Parade, the Puerto Rican Festival, Farm Fest, Downer Days, a Kwanzaa Celebration and the Veteran's Day Parade.

Dennis Bunch, Vice-President of the 1992 Gay/Lesbian Pride Committee told the *Light* that he was disappointed at the action of the Common Council committee and hoped that the full Council would support the funding.

"The Pride Celebration is not just open to Gays and Lesbians but to all people who want to participate and learn about the Gay community," said Bunch, who extended an invitation to all Council members to attend this year's event on June 14.

Bunch also noted that the anti-Gay backlash brought on by the Jeffrey Dahmer case made it even more imperative for the parade and rally to be successful and for more Milwaukeeans to attend. "It's an opportunity to build some understanding, and the city ought to support it," said Bunch.

He encouraged Gays, Lesbians and their supporters to call Council members to lobby in favor of the funds. Council members can be reached by calling City Hall at (414) 278-2221. Their home numbers are listed in the telephone directory.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Sex Orientation Linked To Genetics

[Chicago, IL]- A study of male twins conducted by researchers at Northwestern University and Boston University has bolstered the theory that homosexuality may have a genetic or biological basis. The study's findings were published in the December issue of the Archives of General Psychiatry.

The researchers examined 56 identical twins (developed from a single egg), 54 fraternal (developed from two eggs), 57 adoptive brothers and two twins whose origins were unclear. The 169 subjects were the twin brothers of Gay or Bisexual men who answered ads placed in Gay publications.

J. Michael Bailey, a psychology professor at Northwestern, said: "We found that 52% of the identical twin brothers of Gay men also were Gay, compared with 22 % of fraternal twins, compared with 11% of genetically unrelated [adoptive] brothers — which is exactly the kind of pattern you would see if something genetic were going on."

Bailey also plans to examine how environmental factors like prenatal care, diet and social conditions may have affected the men in his study.

Madonna: Stop The Witch Hunts!

[Los Angeles, CA]- At a star-studded benefit December 10 that raised \$750,000 for AIDS programs, Madonna was presented with a special Courage Award by the American Foundation for AIDS Research. The pop star used the opportunity to scotch rumors that she herself is HIV-positive and lambasted the widespread prejudice against people with AIDS.

"Instead of pointing the finger at people and having witch hunts and ostracizing each other for lifestyles and sexual preferences," Madonna said, "we should all be uniting to fight this disease. But we're not. We're scared out of our skins to face the truth that AIDS is not a Gay disease, it's a human disease."

"Now, I'm not HIV-positive, but what if I were?" Madonna asked. "I would be more afraid of how society would treat me for having the disease than the actual disease itself." Referring to widespread rumors and speculation in the press about her own health, the singer said: "If this is what I have to deal with from my involvement in fighting this epidemic, then so be it."

"I'm not afraid to be associated with people who are HIV-positive, and I'm not afraid to love people who are HIV-positive because their ordeal is more important than mine, because their courage is larger than mine, because what they're facing is real," declared Madonna. "And if I can learn to deal with reality and our fears, then I'm hopeful that we can conquer this disease."

Madonna was given the award for her outspoken support of people with AIDS and for raising or personally donating millions of dollars for AIDS treatment and research.

Olivier and Danny Kaye Lovers?

[New York, NY]- A new book by Hollywood biographer Donald Spoto confirms the persistent rumor that the distinguished classical actor Laurence Olivier carried on a ten year romance with song and dance man Danny Kaye. The affair allegedly took place in the 1950's at a time when Olivier was still married to actress Vivien Leigh and Kaye was married to Sylvia Fine.

Laurence Olivier: A Biography was published in England last Fall and will be published in the US in February.

Spoto was given unprecedented access to Olivier's personal papers for the book. As evidence of the affair, he cites letters that Olivier sent to his wife in which he discussed the relationship with Kaye and said he hoped it hadn't contributed to their divorce. Spoto also claims that Olivier wrote of the affair in the first draft of his memoirs, **Confessions of an Actor**, but deleted the material at the request of his third wife, Joan Plowright.

Spoto told the **Advocate**: "Although he was the consummate romantic and tragic actor, Olivier much preferred to be known as a comedian onstage and off. And he loved Kaye's quickness, his intelligence, his sophistication."

The affair reportedly ended in 1959 after Olivier's and Kaye's constant companionship created growing public gossip. Spoto also says that Joan Plowright, engaged to marry Olivier, insisted that the relationship with Kaye be ended. Both men died in the 1980's.

Washington's Mayor Supports Gays

[Washington, D.C.]- In an interview with the **Washington Blade**, Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly promised disciplinary action against police officers who beat and arrested Gay revelers celebrating near Dupont Circle Halloween night. The peaceful crowd, about to embark on the annual high heel race, was violently dispersed by dozens of cops in full riot gear, many shouting anti-Gay slurs.

Kelly praised the "restraint" of the Gay community which prevented the situation from deteriorating into a riot. "I can't believe this happened on my watch," said the Mayor, whose own campaign assistant was arrested without cause. "I can't believe this happened to my friends on my watch. It does not reflect the thinking of this administration, and we're going to move to see that things like this never happen again."

Mayor Kelly also expressed strong support for domestic partners legislation recently introduced into the City Council: "We are going to push it with all the vigor that can be mustered in this administration. I think we will prevail. I think we'll have success."

Kelly just appointed attorney Karen Tramontano, a Lesbian, as her interim chief of staff and has other openly Gay people in her administration. (The Mayor, formerly Sharon Pratt Dixon, was married to James Kelly in December and changed her name.)

David Duke: Racist and Homophobic

[Washington, D.C.]- In an appearance at the National Press Club to kick off his campaign for the Presidency, former Ku Klux Klan Grand Wizard David Duke added homophobia to his already racist credentials.

Gay activists present asked Duke his position on Gays in the military. The former Wizard said: "If they are openly homosexual, I don't see how they could serve in an intimate situation among the same sex. No, I don't believe they should be allowed in the US military."

"Frankly," said Duke, "I don't endorse the Gay lifestyle. I don't think that's good for the country, for my children, and I resent [homosexuality] being presented as a normal lifestyle for my people, and to my children, in the national media."

ACT UP member Margaret Cantrell was physically ejected from the Press Club for yelling: "Nazi, Nazi, you're a goddamn Nazi." A rabbi who interrupted Duke was also ousted. Dozens of Gay activists outside the building chanted: "We're here, we're queer. David Duke get out of here."

Retail Giant to Appeal Case

[Minneapolis, MN]- The Dayton-Hudson Corporation, parent company of Target Stores, is appealing the recent decision by a California court that its pre-employment screening tests violate the right to privacy and discriminate against Gays and Lesbians.

Among the true-or-false statements included on the test are: "I am very strongly attracted by members of my own sex" and (for male applicants) "I have often wished I were a girl."

The October 28 ruling asserted that private employers in California are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation. Target is appealing the case to the California Supreme Court.

Quickies...

[New York, NY]- Two young skinheads have been found guilty of beating and stabbing to death 29 year old Julio Rivera in a vicious anti-Gay attack last Summer. They could each be sentenced to 25 years in prison. The case became a cause celebre after police initially refused to classify the murder as a hate crime.

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.



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Positive Health is a project funded by the National Institute of Health to evaluate the best ways to help people who are HIV positive to adapt and cope. The project has careful safeguards to protect participant confidentiality, and is offered by faculty in the Medical College of Wisconsin's Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health Sciences.

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Major Events of 1991 Reviewed

By Jamakaya

JANUARY

- The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) goes on record against the Persian Gulf War, saying it "directly and detrimentally affects the lives of Gays and Lesbians and the aspirations for equality of the Gay and Lesbian community."
- Gay activist Michael Lisowski declares his candidacy for the at-large seat on the Milwaukee School Board.
- On January 22, members of ACT UP/New York disrupt the CBS Evening News and PBS's McNeil-Lehrer News Hour to call attention to AIDS. The following day, 500 AIDS activists occupy Grand Central Station disrupting commuter traffic on the nationally declared "Day of Desperation."

FEBRUARY

- Tim Grair and Christopher Lubus of Queer Nation/Milwaukee are denied a marriage license by Milwaukee County Clerk Rod Lanser on Valentine's Day.
- James Gallagher, a Gay man who is also blind, is chosen as Philadelphia's Teacher of the Year while Ann Bancroft, the Lesbian explorer who was the first woman to reach the North Pole, announces plans to lead an all-woman trek across the Antarctic.
- Michael Lisowski gains more than 1,100 votes, coming in fifth in a field of eight candidates for a seat on the Milwaukee School Board.
- Staff Sgt. Perry Watkins ends his ten year battle with the Pentagon, settling for \$135,000 in back pay, full retirement benefits, a retroactive promotion to full Sergeant and an honorable discharge.

MARCH

- Wisconsin Congressman Thomas Petri (R) asserts that homosexuality is wrong. "I think it should be illegal," he declares at a conference in Washington, D.C.
- New York Mayor David Dinkins marches in solidarity with Irish Gays and Lesbians in the St. Patrick's Day Parade after the Ancient Order of Hibernians tries to exclude them. Some spectators heckle Dinkins and throw beer cans.
- On March 21, Hawaii becomes the third state, after Wisconsin and Massachusetts, to adopt a statewide Gay rights law.
- Thirty Milwaukee cops in at least 13 squad cars and paddy wagons raid Club 219 during a "Hot Buns Contest." After watching the show for an hour and a half, they shut down the bar and issue 13 citations for lewd and disorderly conduct. At approximately the same time, several Gay men are disappearing from the city's Gay bars. The cops, busy inspecting "hot buns," don't detect a pattern.

LETTERS

Gay Madison Radio

TO THE EDITOR:

As I'm sure you will have noticed, while Madison is home to one of the nation's most societally active Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual communities, it has not enjoyed the benefit of its won regularly-scheduled, locally-based radio news magazine program. This letter will, I hope, change this.

My name is Daavid Bornhuetter-Machen. I have been a radio and television broadcaster for the past twenty-plus years and have held major positions, including department directorships, with stations in Chicago, Minneapolis, Winnipeg and the Fox Cities. I have also lived and worked in Madison, having been the late afternoon air personality for WIBU-AM in 1986-87.

It is incredible to me that, while there are other media covering the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual community in Madison (The Wisconsin Light, In Step, Nothing To Hide), there remains no local radio program equivalent to these enterprises. To WORT's great credit, it does run the nationally syndicated *This Way Out* twice every Thursday and at times readily accessible to the average listener.

But leaving the matter at this level is like junking the *Light* and *In Step* to depend totally on *The Advocate*.

As a result, upon my planned return to Madison in the next few weeks, I will propose to the programming and public affairs directors at WORT the development and airing of a weekly Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual news magazine program specifically designed to cover events in Madison, Milwaukee, the Fox Cities and, to a lesser extent, the Upper Midwest. As I envision it, this program, once established, may also be regionally distributed to assist similar programs in other locales.

I would greatly appreciate written comments on this idea. Please send them to me at: 709 W. 9th Ave., Oshkosh, WI 54901. I would also appreciate your sending copies of your letters to: General Manager Sybil Augustine and Public Affairs Director Mike Wassenaar at WORT, 118 S. Bedford Street, Madison, WI 53703-2692.

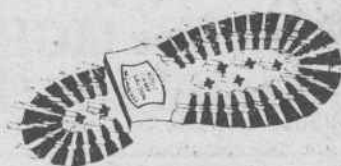
—Daavid Bornhuetter-Machen
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Marquette Alumni

TO THE EDITOR:

As a transplanted Milwaukeean, now living in Washington, D.C., my contact with Wisconsin's Lesbian and Gay community is, to say the least, weak.

In 1992, my graduating class from Marquette University High School will be having its fifteen-year reunion, so I will return home for the first time in five years. Since I have been quite active in the college Gay and Lesbian alumni/ae movement (serving on the



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board of NetGALA, the Network of Gay and Lesbian Alumni/ae), I am curious whether there is any formal or informal association of Gay MUHS alumni. Among other things, I would like to re-establish contact with Gay



1991 In Review—About 800 "Christian" fundamentalists gathered on Nov. 20 to protest recommendations of a Task Force Report Regarding Gay and Lesbian Teens at a Milwaukee school board meeting.

classmates and Gay Hittoppers from other years.

The shared experience of growing up Gay in a Catholic environment with a Jesuit education provides grist for a lot of conversations and more. In many ways, Marquette High prepared me for the move from the closet to a highly visible, openly Gay public life. How has it been for other MUHS alumni?

If there are any Wisconsin Light readers who can help me in this quest, I would appreciate hearing from them. You can reach me by telephone at (703) 920-4023 or by mail at 1300 S. Arlington Ridge Road, #307, Arlington, VA 22202.

—Richard E. Sincere, Jr., '77
Arlington, VA

Affirmation Group Meets in Madison

[Madison]—The Madison Affirmation group will hold its first monthly meeting on Sunday, January 26, 1992 at 7:00 p.m. at the University United Methodist Church, 1127 University Avenue in Madison. There is free parking behind the church, entrance off Charter Street.

Affirmation is a national organization of Lesbian and Gay United Methodists and their friends. This will be an informal social meeting with general discussion and light refreshments. Anyone is welcome to come.

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The Milwaukee Lesbian Gay Pride Committee will publish its first cookbook in June. We want to include 400 recipes submitted by cooks like yourself. Regardless of where you live in Wisconsin, we want you to send us your recipes for your regional specialties, traditional favorites, special occasion dishes, main dishes, breads, desserts, salads, holiday meals, and everything in between! Send us one or several of your prized recipes, because variety is the spice of cooking (or is that life!)

ORDER YOUR COOKBOOK NOW AND SAVE \$2.00!

They'll make great gifts, and you'll certainly want a copy for yourself. Order your MLGPC Cookbooks now and receive \$2 off each cookbook ordered. Cookbooks will be sold for \$7.95 per copy. But you can order as many copies as you like for only \$5.95 but only until February 27, 1992. You can use the convenient order form below.

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The Wisconsin Light



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In the event of duplications and for the sake of variety, multiple recipes may be used from some cooks.

Recipes for inclusion will be chosen on the basis of availability of ingredients, uniqueness, and complete and clear preparation directions.

Please include your name and city. If you prefer that your name not be published, please indicate so.

Deadline for submitting recipes is February 27, 1992.

Mail your recipes to the Wisconsin Light office at the address listed.

Checks/Money Orders for Cookbooks should be made payable to the MLGPC

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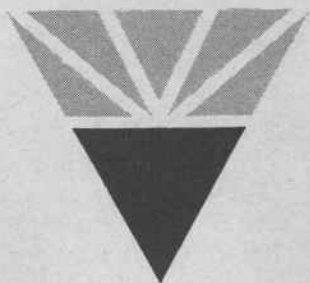
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will find their own way.

The Wisconsin Light



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EDITORIAL

The Thompson/Kowalski Love Story Inspires and Humbles Us All

One can search from the annals of classical antiquity through the modern romances of Hollywood and find no love story more beautiful than that of Karen Thompson and Sharon Kowalski. It is a love story as poignant as it is instructive.

When the Minnesota Court of Appeals on December 17 declared that Thompson and Kowalski were "a family of affinity which ought to be accorded respect" and granted guardianship of the brain-injured Kowalski to her lover, Gay and Lesbian couples, unmarried straight couples and disabled people everywhere won a significant victory.

"Save Monday night for me," Sharon had whispered as she kissed Karen goodbye and got in her car that wintry Minnesota afternoon eight years ago. Hours later, the phone call came, informing Karen that her partner of four years had been in a head-on collision.

The treatment Karen received on arriving at the hospital was an ominous portent of what lay ahead. Because she was not an immediate member of Sharon's biological family, she was denied information about her partner's critical condition.

The years since that fateful November day have been a nightmare for both women: an appalling blend of parental vindictiveness, medical malfeasance, bureaucratic indifference and endless legal maneuvering.

Throughout the ordeal and against great odds, Karen Thompson has remained vigilant, demanding proper care for Sharon, actively participating in her therapy and insisting that Sharon's own wishes to become more independent and to someday "come home" be respected.

The relationship weathered a cruel three and a half year separation during which Kowalski's father (who referred to his daughter as a "vegetable in diapers") chucked Sharon into a nursing home and forbade Karen from seeing her. Only through concerted legal action was Karen able to obtain a court-ordered medical re-evaluation of her partner, which led to Sharon's transfer to a reputable rehabilitation facility. Two and a half more years of litigation were required for Karen to finally win guardianship.

Not surprisingly, the terrible medical and legal ordeal has politicized Karen Thompson. She has become a strong advocate for the rights of the disabled, whose civil rights and human dignity should never be denied simply because of their physical limitations. She encourages unmarried Gay and straight couples to protect their relationships with durable powers and medical powers of attorney, and also urges Gay and Lesbian couples to come out to their family members, so their relationships can be recognized and respected. These are important lessons we must all learn from and rights we must all work to protect.

We salute Karen Thompson for her outstanding devotion to her partner and for her courage and persistence against such tremendous odds. And for Sharon Kowalski, we wish the happiest of homecomings and a continuing recovery safe in the arms of the person who loves her most.

Readers Should Urge Milwaukee Council To Retain Gay Pride Funds

The Wisconsin Light urges readers to contact their Milwaukee Common Council members to encourage them to retain the \$5,000 which the City Festival Board initially recommended for Milwaukee's Gay/Lesbian Pride Celebration. The full Council is set to vote on the matter January 21.

A vote against the Pride Committee's grant would come in the context of widespread violence and backlash against local Gay people and, we believe, contribute to the continuation of such ignorance and hatred. Now, more than ever, the city is in need of principled leaders who will stand up to such hatred.

The Pride Celebration each June is meant to build self-esteem among and understanding toward Gays and Lesbians. The parade and cultural festival in Juneau Park draws thousands of people who, in turn, pour thousands of dollars into Milwaukee's downtown economy. To the argument that tax moneys should not be used for such an event, Council members should consider that Gay and Lesbian citizens pay our taxes too!

Denying funds to the Pride Committee alone among the 38 diverse community groups that are slated for funding would be a terrible insult and repudiation to a community that is still reeling from the Jeffrey Dahmer case and the fundamentalist backlash at the School Board last Fall. If there was ever a time the City of Milwaukee should open its heart and its mind to a beleaguered minority that is, after all, only appealing for greater understanding, this is it.

All members of the Common Council can be reached by calling (414) 278-2221 at City Hall. If you don't know who your representative is, don't be shy, call and ask! The home numbers of each Council member are in the White Pages Directory. Be firm when you express your opinion, but also respectful. Because our fundamentalist adversaries are likely to try to pack the place, those who can are also encouraged to be in Council chambers on January 21.

LETTERS

Homophobia

TO THE EDITOR:

1991 was the year of Institutionalized Homophobia. Starting with the sensationalized coverage of the Dahmer killings, continuing with TV 12's "Flirting with Danger" series which police credit with the recent hate crime shooting of Bill Meunier's lover, the Gay and Lesbian community has been under attack by the local media. Using the Dahmer killings, the media has focused latent fear of homosexuals into acts of hatred and violence. Condoning bigotry toward the Gay and Lesbian community in preference to covering the facts, homophobia is effectively encouraged in our politicians.

But the straight community was not the only place where the pervasive effects of Institutionalized Homophobia was found. Division within our own community, once due to politics, was and is threatening to turn into a destructive cycle of self-hate. If this division is not nipped in the bud, I fear that we may lose what has been worked for up to now.

In response to the tragedy of the Dahmer killings, our community leaders came together and the Lavender Network was formed. Together, they set the politics aside and dealt with the grief and later the anger of what had occurred. It was comforting to look to those who took on the responsibility of some of the burden of that difficult time. Later, we dealt with the school board issue and the TV 12 series. For the first time that I have seen, the Gays and Lesbians of Milwaukee truly acted as a community.

Now, however, that is all in danger of falling apart. Not because of external attack, but because of egos and lack of listening in the name of "Political Correctness." It will be a sad reflection on our community if the Lavender Network falls apart because of this. Worse, it will only serve to legitimize the claims of our frightened critics that we are not a whole people, capable or deserving of love.

Homophobia is just as dangerous and much more insidious when it comes from within. Let us not, in our frustration, start pointing fingers

at one another and attacking those among ourselves who are different. That is how we were driven apart and later hunted down by those who hated us in the madness of Nazi Germany. 50 years later, we are still feeling and responding to its effects.

We are male and female, Black and white, young and old, conservative and radical, Leather and lace...and therein lies our strength. As long as we stick together, when someone goes after one of us, the rest will rally round. We can identify the bigots for what they really are: Cowards.

Political Correctness is becoming just another name for bigotry. What makes it worse is that we may not even be aware of it when we do it to ourselves.

To the 17 year-old girl who lives in the sheltered world of Brookfield High School, I wish you well. But I also hope you will learn why some of us "Sick... Stereotypical Fags" protest, yelling to get on the Donahue show. We do so because we want you to have the safety to walk down the streets with your lover, proud of what you are without having to die for it and not just in Brookfield.

—Dennis L. Bunch
Milwaukee

Great Story!

TO THE EDITOR:

Usually when I see the word "God" in a piece about Gay people, I turn the page as fast as I can. It is my protection against the fantasized ravings of the troll under the bridge that haters conveniently choose to call "God." So I am grateful to Terry Boughner for his wonderful Christmas short story "The Message of the Bells." It was painful to read, certainly, because it was so real. It was deeply moving for the same reason.

"There is a God," says Mr. Boughner's character David. "Not the cruel little patriarchal thing the religionists have dreamed up, but a wonderful, kind spirit, intelligence structured on light, a being more vast than it's possible to imagine, who is love itself."

"The Message of the Bells" was the best Christmas short story I've ever read.

—Michael Neville
Milwaukee

Brookfield High

TO THE EDITOR:

I am responding to the letter from the 17-year-old Brookfield High School student whose name was "Withheld on Request." I was initially disturbed by the judgment and prejudice in her letter, though I can remember holding similar homophobic (unbeknownst to me) views when I was in high school.

Classifying certain Gay people as "normal" and others as not, is falling into the same trap as the "moral majority" of our country, who view all homosexuals, regardless of the fact they may be "upstanding, Christian, monogamous... (and) churchgoing" as evil. The fact that you are not a militant, radical Lesbian who "wears leather pants, smokes cigars, belches... and screams 'I am Gay' in people's faces," does not make people who are this way "sick" (your word). I agree with you that there is not a balanced view of Lesbians and Gays in the media, but we are only hurting ourselves if we deem people who do not fit our personal moral code as "without moral judgment."

Keep in mind, also, the "in-your-face" tactics of AIDS and Gay activists in the past decade have contributed enormously to our visibility. If we didn't take to the streets, we would be ignored entirely by the media.

As a Gay man, I used to be very offended by effeminate or "swishy" Gay men until I realized that I was letting my personal prejudices separate me from very worthy and wonderful people who only reflected my own fears and low self-esteem, though I couldn't see it at the time. As a fellow Christian, may I remind you that Jesus' message was one of forgiveness, unconditional love and acceptance.

One of the hardest lessons in life I've found, is to abstain from judgment; judgment that separates people instead of unifies. I do not condemn or judge your views. As a person who felt similarly at one time, I can say from my experience that when I embraced Gay people in all our diversity, I was much, much happier and at peace.

I wish you a wonderful, joy-filled life.

—Michael Profit
Chicago

I Love You

TO THE EDITOR:

I love you. Jan Parshall loves you, too, and she just said it on her radio show today.

Just like you folks, I don't radiate love 24 hours a day. We just work at it, and the more we do, the more likely it is for our feelings to get hurt which doesn't make sense, but hey, that's what happens.

Nevertheless, love will get you through times of no answers better than answers will get you through times of no love. In the first Epistle of John, the third section has two verses, 17 and 18, that will support this idea.

It's too late when we die to admit we don't see eye to eye. That song verse applies to Christians and Gays, too. I love you.

—Frank Anderson
South Milwaukee

Inter-Faith

TO THE EDITOR:

The Inter-Faith Celebration Committee for Pride Week has begun its planning. Part of the planning for 1992 is to express our concern for more involvement on the part of as many different faiths and expressions as possible. This was the initial thrust of the first two meetings of the Steering Committee.

Therefore, we are inviting everyone who would like to be involved to contact us as soon as possible to express your interest and commitment to be involved in the planning. Our intent is to be as inclusive of as many people and expressions of faith as would like to join us.

We are planning a session on February 1, 1992 at The Milwaukee Council on Alcoholism, 2266 N. Prospect Ave., Suite 324 in Milwaukee from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. At this meeting, we will be sharing our faiths and beliefs so that we can develop who we are and where we arrive from. In the afternoon, we will give direction to the actual Inter-Faith Celebration itself.

We truly would like all to join in and we will definitely work with all who do join us.

Please contact us at Dignity, P.O. Box 597, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

—Dignity
Milwaukee

Thanks Al Thomas

TO THE EDITOR:

The Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee (MLGPC) extends sincerest apologies to Al Thomas, owner of the Triangle. Al, a constant and good friend to MLGPC as well as to the community, was left off the Proud Crowd list of names. This omission was entirely inadvertent. MLGPC is very sorry.

—MLGPC
Milwaukee

Write For LIGHT [414] 372-2773

LETTER POLICY

Wisconsin Light actively solicits Letters to the Editor on any subject. However all such letters must be signed and contain the writer's address although the address is never printed and the name will be withheld upon request. All unsigned letters, notes and stuff scribbled on the sides of clipped columns will serve as cat box liner.

Major Events of 1991 Reviewed

APRIL

- Members of the Brown Deer United Church of Christ vote to retain Rev. Jan Doleschal, their pastor of eight years' standing, after she reveals that she is a Lesbian. Doleschal is also Commissioner of Athletics for the Milwaukee Public Schools.
- ACT UP/Madison delivers towels and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to Gov. Tommy Thompson in the first of many protests against the mistreatment of Wisconsin prison inmates with HIV/AIDS.
- The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee hosts "Flaunting It," the first ever National Graduate Student Conference on Gay and Lesbian Studies, April 18-20. Gay scholar Thomas Yingling and Lesbian Herstory Archives founder Joan Nestle are featured speakers.
- On April 24, a Minnesota county judge denies Karen Thompson guardianship over her brain-injured lover, Sharon Kowalski. An appeal is filed.
- Thousands of Lesbians converge on Atlanta April 24-28 for the long-awaited and much debated National Lesbian Conference.

MAY

- Connecticut becomes the fourth state in the US to support Gay rights when Gov. Lowell Weicker signs the bill May 1.
- On May 2, UW-Madison officials announce that family housing units on campus, occupied by heterosexual couples and their kids, will be made available to Gay and Lesbian couples as well.
- ACT UP/Milwaukee protests the visit of Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan at the Auditorium May 18. Sullivan reneges on an earlier commitment to lift the US ban on visitors and immigrants who are HIV-positive.
- A California Judge rules May 21 that the Boy Scouts of America may bar a Gay man, Timothy Curran, from serving as a Scout leader. Curran himself was an Eagle Scout.
- Madonna's rock documentary *Truth or Dare* opens nationwide and has both Gay men and Lesbians swooning in their seats and dancing in the aisles.

JUNE

- On June 15, more than 3,000 people participate in Milwaukee's annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebration. Sgt. Perry Watkins, Peri Jude Radecic of NGLTF and State Rep. David Clarenbach address the crowd. Rev. Renee McCoy conducts a mass wedding ceremony for about 35 couples.
- In Superior, Wisconsin, Kevin Dutcher is brutally stabbed to death. The suspect tells police: "I wanted to kill the fag. My whole life is devoted to killing faggots and child molesters."
- In Madison, Joseph Darryl Wills is sentenced to life in prison for the Gay-related homicide of Mark Starkey. In Milwaukee, Charles Jackson is found guilty of killing Ricky Roundtree and sentenced to 25 years. His accomplice, Patrick Harden, is convicted later in the year.
- On June 26, the Wisconsin Supreme Court rules that Wendy L. Sporleder lacks "the proper legal standing" to gain visitation rights to the son of her former Lesbian partner.

MAP Provides \$475,000 in Direct Assistance to People with HIV

[Milwaukee]- More than \$475,000 in food, legal services, rent and other financial assistance was provided to people with HIV disease throughout southeast Wisconsin by the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) in 1991.

"Our goal is to ensure the quality of life for all people with HIV disease," said Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW). "A large percentage of the people we serve lack the resources necessary to provide for their own basic human needs like food and housing."

The MAP Food Pantry has grown rapidly over the past two years. In 1991, an estimated 9,600 bags of groceries, valued at more than \$250,000, was distributed. This service enabled approximately 200 people to obtain nutritional food and personal care items each month. Eighty percent of the Pantry's stock is obtained through donations, food drives and from the Hunger Task Force.

According to Cheryl Vaughn, Director of ARCW's Life Care Services program, many clients require legal assistance in matters of civil law, estate planning, insurance, public assistance and discrimination. "We provided legal services, valued at approximately \$150,000 to nearly 250 clients in 1991."

"One of MAP's newest services, rent assistance, is part of what has become the midwest's most comprehensive housing program for people with HIV disease," said Nelson. "We provided in excess of \$50,000 for rent and security deposits in 1991, supporting an average of 50 people each month. MAP's housing program, which also includes roommate and

landlord referral systems and a transitional living facility, is designed to ensure that no one with HIV disease will be without safe, adequate housing."

In 1991, MAP also provided more than \$25,000 in financial assistance that helped clients who experience financial emergencies. Payments were made for things such as utility bills, prescriptions and transportation.

"Our commitment to people with HIV disease extends well beyond these boundaries," said Nelson. "MAP's case management and support systems are a lifeline to those with HIV disease as well as to their friends, family members, partners and spouses."

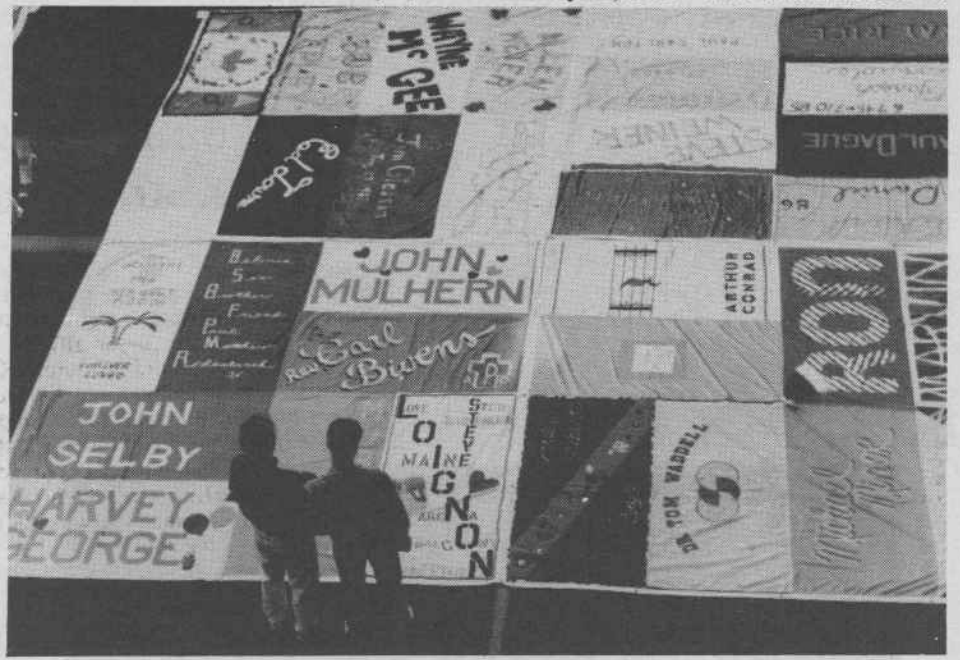
Wreck Room Bar Begins 1992 MAP Food Drive

[Milwaukee]- Roger Deeley will be celebrating his "39th" birthday bash on Saturday, January 25, 1992 at the Wreck Room. In conjunction with this, the Wreck Room will be kicking off its 1992 food drive for the Milwaukee AIDS Project's (MAP) Food Pantry.

As part of the festivities, there will be free hor d'oeuvres and an open bar from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. A \$5 donation in non-perishable food or personal care items or cash is requested.

Last year the Wreck Room raised over \$3,000 for the MAP Food Pantry. The Wreck Room invites everyone to come, join in, help Roger celebrate his birthday and contribute to a good cause.

Dykes To Watch Out For



1991 In Review—Thousands of persons viewed panels from the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt which were displayed in Madison and Milwaukee.

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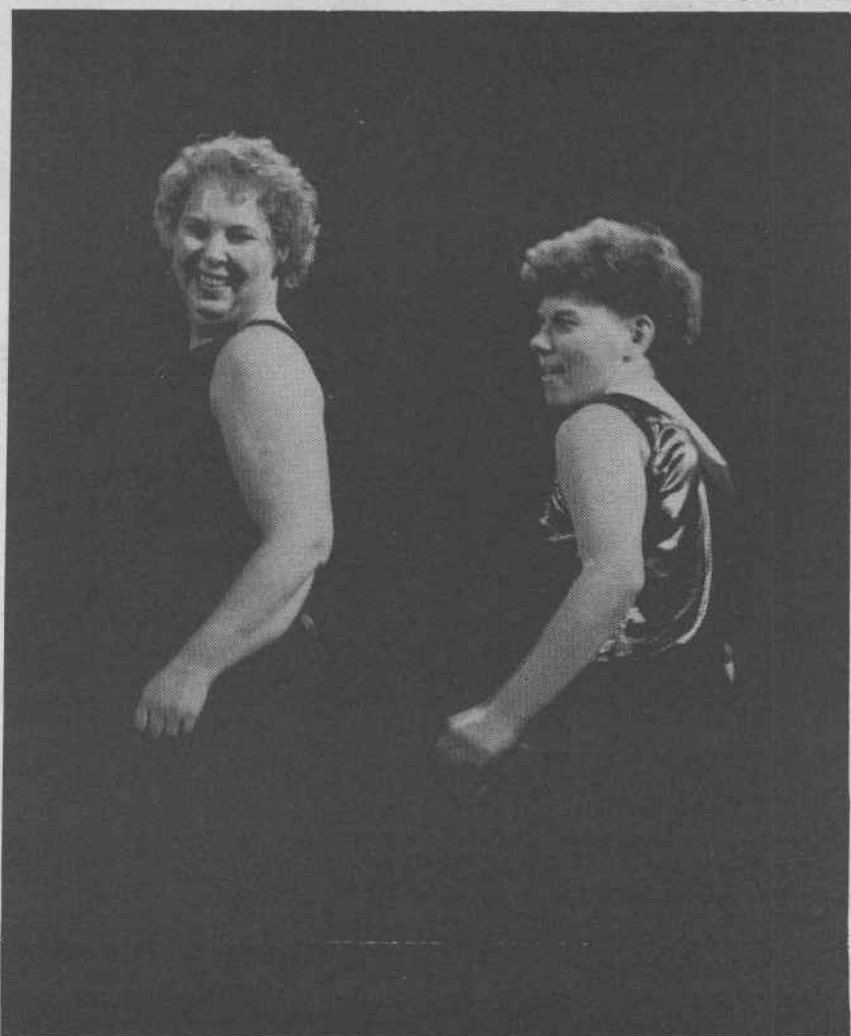
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The Light LIVELY ARTS



1991 In Review— "Dirty Dancing" performed in Madison on Nov. 23-24 at the "I Got This Way From Kissing Girls" sixth annual variety show.

New Wave of Homophobia Set To Hit American Movie Screens

By Jamakaya

[Los Angeles, CA]—The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) of Los Angeles is warning filmgoers about a new wave of homophobia hitting American movie screens.

GLAAD believes that *JFK* is about as homophobic as films get. Not only is every Gay male portrayed as the requisite sadist, child molester and/or transvestite, but in this film Gays also get blamed for killing President Kennedy.

The tone of the piece portrays the Gay community with no humanity, like a *Cruising* for the '90's, according to GLAAD. Both of the most visible villains of the piece, Clay Shaw and David Ferrie, are twisted Gay men whose motives are never clearly delineated. In addition, there are epithets about "faggots" sprinkled through the script and references to a mysterious "homosexual underground" are never fully explained.

JFK is directed and co-written by Oliver Stone, the man who is currently preparing the Harvey Milk biography, *The Mayor of Castro Street*, for the screen. Write to Stone at Ixtlan, 3110 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405.

Gay communities across the country are bracing for the release of *Basic Instinct* in 1992. Directed by Paul Verhoeven (*Total Recall*) and starring Michael Douglas, *Basic Instinct* features a trio of man-hating killer Lesbians.

Roxy, the psycho Lesbian, slashed her little brother to death when she was 14. She tries to kill the hero (Douglas) because he's involved with her bisexual roommate. The roommate herself is an ice-pick-wielding man killer. A third woman, also Lesbian or bisexual, is also apparently a murderer.

The film contains no sympathetic Lesbian, Gay or bisexual characters, and the hero, a straight, white man, makes homophobic remarks throughout.

An information/organizing packet on *Basic Instinct* is available for \$10 from GLAAD/SFBA, 514 Castro Street, Suite B, San Francisco, CA 94114. It contains the movie's script, background on its development, the history of Hollywood homophobia and organizing strategies for local activists.

Meanwhile, GLAAD recently received a copy of the screenplay *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistlestop Cafe*, based on Fannie Flagg's popular novel. Norman Lear's ACT III Productions has changed the sexual orientations of the two female characters to make them heterosexual!

The company has since sent GLAAD an updated script in which the characters are not "heterosexualized" but where there is an indication they are more intimately involved. Flagg, who co-wrote the screenplay, contacted GLAAD to say she was certain the latest version of the script is more in keeping with her novel.

Those who have read the book know it is a wonderful Lesbian-positive story and can understand the outrage at any attempt to de-Lesbianize the characters. The film has just opened around the country, so Gay and Lesbian moviegoers can see it and decide for themselves. The film stars Oscar winners Jessica Tandy and Kathy Bates.

On the positive side, in the Al Pacino/Michelle Pfeiffer film *Frankie and Johnny*, a Gay man and his lover appear as Pfeiffer's neighbors and friends. The movie, written by Terrence McNally who wrote *Andre's Mother*, depicts them positively and accurately. They even have some of the best lines and, at one point, they are seen holding each other in their arms in bed as part of a montage of images of couples embracing.

Frankie and Johnny is one of those rare films in which the Gay characters are treated as part of the ongoing routine of life. Write to producer/director Garry Marshall at Paramount Pictures, 5555 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90038.

Also, Frances McDermont plays an open Lesbian in *The Butcher's Wife*. Her character is best friends with the male lead. Clairvoyant Demi Moore sees a woman in McDermont's future and this interesting subplot is followed throughout the film.

GLAAD thinks *The Butcher's Wife* is a very Gay- and Lesbian-positive movie. See it and write to Wallace Nicta and Lauren Lloyd at Paramount, 5555 Melrose Avenue, Dressing Room 201, Los Angeles, CA 90038.

Lily Tomlin Discusses 'The Search For Signs of Intelligent Life...'

By Steve Warren

"I've been a public person for over 20 years and never dated boys," Lily Tomlin says during a phone conversation I've agreed to, even though I hate doing interviews that way. I feel protected, as she can't slap my face if my questions piss her off; yet I fully expect her to hang up the phone, or suddenly remember another appointment.

I shouldn't have underestimated her. While she still has a line she won't cross, she's remarkably open about why she won't cross it; at no time does she ask that anything she says be "off the record."

When at the end of our talk, I praise her bravery for performing at benefits for Lesbian/Gay and AIDS organizations after all the attempts to out her, she replies, "I don't think it's brave, and I don't think the other is cowardly."

"The other" refers to remaining closeted, but before we get into that, I should mention her film, *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*. After all, Lily didn't call me just to debate sexual politics.

Written by Jane Wagner, the stage version of *The Search for Signs* was a memorable theatrical experience. Unlike the typical one-person show, it featured a dozen characters, sometimes two or three at a time, all played by Tomlin.

After all their years of collaborating, Lily still has to fight to get Jane the credit due her brilliant writing. Wagner developed an unusual format for the book version of *The Search for Signs*, a combination of playscript, performance photos and collages featuring the characters in full costumes they didn't wear on stage. That, Tomlin says, was the genesis of the film's style. "We thought it was going to be terribly interesting to mix it up like that."

Lily attended the New York opening — playing the Head Usherette! She says the real ushers told her it was the first time they'd ever heard movie audiences applaud the end of each showing. "The first time I saw it with an audience was at the Seattle Film Festival," she says, "and the laughter was the same as it had been in the theatre..."

"I was in love with the play. I played it hundreds of times because the audience got an emotional rush and I could feel it. I got goosebumps too." The "goosebump experience" is part of what Trudy the bag lady teaches her alien space chums about life on earth.



LILY TOMLIN AND JANE WAGNER (1986)

About 30 minutes of text was cut from the play for the film, according to Tomlin, and she hated to lose some of it. "I wept the day we cut that out," she says of Trudy's speech taking credit for Howard Johnson's color scheme ("At the time, nobody was using orange and aqua in the same room together with fried clams"); "but I knew Jane was right. It had to go."

Some reviewers have voiced an "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" response to the screen adaptation, but Tomlin doesn't agree: "Instead of seeing it as something innovative, I don't know why they're taking this reactionary view."

She is also baffled by viewers picking up more on the drama of Kate, "a jaded socialite with a bad haircut," toward the end. "I don't play it any differently in this film than I did on stage," she notes. "People say 'I never was so emotional about Kate,' and I say, how could the play have been so successful without the impact of Kate?"

"People will pull out the feminist section as if it's the *raison d'être* for the piece, but it's... just another group of people."

Having exhausted the "safe" chit-chat and let Lily plug her movies, I move on to the heavy stuff, couching the initial question in general terms to forestall the expected click at the other end: "Could you comment on homophobia in Hollywood and why major stars won't come out?"

No click yet. "Partly I think people worry they wouldn't get certain kinds of parts," she begins. "If it's too widely known, people will project that the audience is making those projections..."

"It's not like someone's sexuality is not known in most instances," she goes on. "In what seem to be the most obvious examples, I don't think anyone in the industry is in the dark." So no one's really closeted, just hiding their sexuality from the general public.

Tomlin raises other objections, saying a celebrity can come out, "If you want to be fair game for everybody you talk to, no matter what their sensibility is... the press and people who come up to you on the street... then again it has to do with your sense of privacy... There are things my family wouldn't appreciate if I talked about my childhood." "Like LaToya Jackson?" "No," Lily laughs, "nothing like that."

But she ignores the fact that some of us have made sacrifices to be open about our sexuality when she says, "There are a lot of people who do it come out and don't have to take on the world."

In going through the usual reasons Lesbian and Gay celebrities should come out, I bring up teenagers who live in pain and sometimes commit suicide because no one tells them their orientation is all right ("Sounds like a guilt trip to me," she says rightly), and how my coming out was delayed because there were no Gay role models in the '50s when, to quote Tomlin's famous line, "Nobody was Gay — they were only shy."

"How did you come out?" she asks. "Did you hold a press conference?"

Someone must be pressuring her to hold one, as she mentions them several times. I tell her no one would have showed up for my press conference; I simply revealed myself to one person at a time and began living honestly. For one thing, I stopped dating girls.

That's when Tomlin says, "It's one thing to project yourself in a phony way and another thing — boys."

Citing the need for safety in numbers she says, "Whenever I see an outing list it's so damn short. If there were a significant number of people... but there

TURN TO TOMLIN, Page 11

Major Events of 1991 Reviewed

JULY

• Queer National Michael Petrelis "outs" Wisconsin Congressman Steve Gunderson (R) in a Virginia Gay bar and throws a drink at him. At a parade the Congressman is presiding over in La Crosse on July 4, Tim Campbell is arrested for distributing leaflets that expose Gunderson as a Gay man.

• Patrick Fiedler, head of the state Department of Corrections, abruptly cancels a meeting with members of ACT UP/Madison who want to discuss the mistreatment of people with HIV/AIDS in Wisconsin's prisons.

• Milwaukee police discover the body parts of at least 11 men in the N. 25th Street apartment of Jeffrey L. Dahmer on July 22. Police and the media describe the crimes as "homosexual overkill." Leaders of the Gay/Lesbian and Black communities join forces to protest the homophobia and racism surrounding the handling of the murders.

AUGUST

• Due to police negligence in the Dahmer case, Mayor Norquist appoints a Blue Ribbon Commission to investigate police-community relations. One thousand people attend an emotional memorial vigil for the murder victims, and the Rev. Jesse Jackson visits the city, lending his support to the Black, Asian and Gay communities.

• The Advocate "outs" Assistant Secretary of Defense Pete Williams, the chief Pentagon spokesman during the Persian Gulf War. Sec. of Defense Dick Cheney admits that viewing Gays as security risks is "a bit of an old chestnut."

• On August 19, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reinstates Captain Dusty Pruitt's lawsuit over her discharge from the Army Reserves, saying that social prejudice is no justification for the Pentagon's ban on Gays.

• Dr. Simon LeVay of the Salk Institute reveals that the hypothalamus in the brains of Gay men is structurally different than that of straight men. The study suggests that sexual orientation may be biologically based rather than environmentally induced.

SEPTEMBER

• On September 6, members of the UW-Madison Ten Percent Society disrupt a Board of Regents meeting to protest the continuing presence of ROTC on campus despite university policies that forbid discrimination based on sexual orientation.

• On September 7, Amnesty International finally recognizes Gays and Lesbians imprisoned for their sexuality as "prisoners of conscience" which the organization will work to free.

• Eleven ACT UP members are arrested in Madison September 9 protesting the treatment of prisoners with AIDS and calling for a new investigation into the death of inmate Donald Woods.

• Dozens of Gays and Lesbians tell harrowing tales of abuse by Milwaukee cops at a hearing before the Mayor's Commission on police-community relations September 17. None of the major media cover the story.

• On September 22, more than 3,000 people participate in the second annual Wisconsin AIDS Walk, raising more than \$286,000 for AIDS treatment.

Roe vs. Wade Anniversary Luncheon at UWM Jan. 22

[Milwaukee]- The Women's Issues Committee of the UWM Student Association and Planned Parenthood of Milwaukee will be sponsoring the Roe vs. Wade Anniversary Luncheon, January 22, 1992. This event will be held in the Fireside Lounge of the UWM Student Union, from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. A planning meeting will follow to establish a network of pro-choice activists in Milwaukee and to set a date for a pro-choice rally this Spring.

The event will commemorate the 19th Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that legalized a woman's right to choose an abortion.

Speakers scheduled for the Luncheon include: Chris Korsmo, Executive Director for the National Abortion Rights Action League, Cindy Tatreau, Clinic Director of Affiliated Medical Services and Ruth Bukowiecki, Public Relations Director of Planned Parenthood.



Marny Main

1991 In Review—Teresa K. Smith held a sign picturing 15 victims murdered by alleged serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer at a vigil held in downtown Milwaukee on August 5.

Madison's Frontiers-Gay Men's Group Seeks Award Nominations

[Madison]- Frontiers-Gay Men's Outreach is seeking award nominations for their 11th Annual Awards Banquet to be held March 21, 1992. The awards are presented to those individuals or organizations that have made contributions of time and effort to the Gay community.

Categories are: volunteer service, leadership, and lifetime contribution. Former recipients include David Clarenbach, Jim McFarland, Larry Kneeland, Dick Wagner, Theodore Pierce and William Heidt.

Nominations may be made for any person (Gay, Lesbian or straight), or organization that has made a difference.

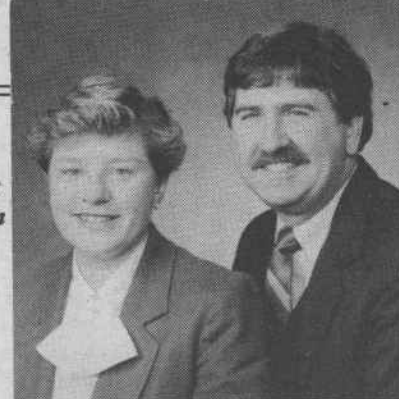
Nominations are made by filling out a nomination form, available at any Frontiers meeting, sending a brief statement to: Frontiers, 310 E. Wilson St., Madison, WI 53703, or by calling Dean Hutchens at (608) 241-8184.

Please give a brief description of what he/she/they have done to further the Gay community and the nominee's address and phone number. Please include your name and phone number in case additional information is needed.

A committee of Frontiers members will make the final selection from among those nominated. Nominations for awards will be accepted through Saturday, January 25, 1992.

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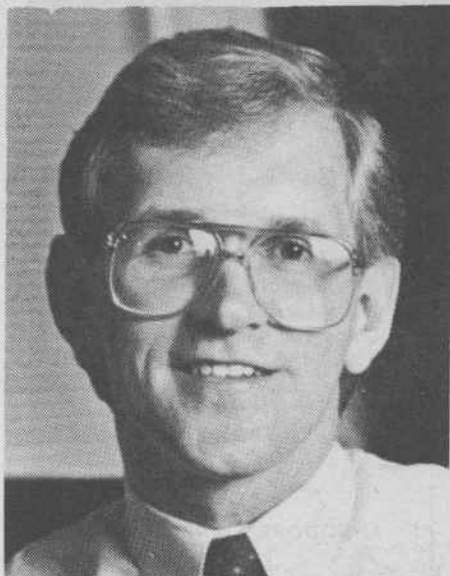
Hold Your Breath No Longer! The 1991 Political Awards Announced

By Bill Meunier

Now that 1991 is over its time to give out the awards.

THE BACKBONE AWARD. Chicken backbones are smaller than human ones but I figure that we should give one to Congressman Steve Gunderson and Senator Bob Kasten. A small backbone is better than none at all.

Gunderson in the face of mounting evidence continues to deny that he is Gay, even though most of his district knows that he is.



REP. STEVE GUNDERSON

Kasten voted to uphold the Bush vetoes of unemployment extension benefits and then complained that the bill which was finally approved would give Wisconsin workers fewer weeks than the vetoed bills would have. That's not only spineless, that's dumb.

THE WIENER AWARD goes Jesse Helms for innumerable reasons. This award was presented earlier in the year when members of ACT UP erected a huge blow up condom over his home. In so doing ACT UP showed its serious with its campaign to cover every prick with a condom.

THE CONFUSED AWARD goes to Congressman Tom Petri of Wisconsin's Sixth District for telling a national student organization that "homosexuality should be outlawed." Apparently Petri confused representing the Sixth District with the Sixth Century or was it the Sixth Reich?

THE CALLOUS AWARD goes to Milwaukee School Board members David Lucey and Lawrence O'Neil. During debate on helping Gay and Lesbian students by changing Milwaukee School curriculum to include positive information on homosexuality, O'Neil and Lucey called us "unhealthy and abnormal" and "diseased." Instead of being concerned about the problem of low self esteem on the part of Gay and Lesbian students these two actually gave those students more reason to feel unwanted.

Guys the next time you want to show compassion, why wait for a School Board meeting just go out and beat up a cripple.

THE "DID I SAY THAT" AWARD goes to California's Republican Governor Pete Wilson who reneged on his

campaign promise to sign an Anti-Discrimination bill. No word on what "Honest" Pete is promising us for his next campaign.

THE ALL HEART AWARD goes to George Bush. During a Labor Day Weekend PWA demonstration in Maine, Bush called a press conference to denounce the demonstrators for "ruining the labor day business for local merchants." Bush has his heart in a most unusual place, his wallet.

THE RUNNING DOG OF YELLOW JOURNALISM AWARD goes to Mark Belling who during the Dahmer investigation called Dahmer's actions the "logical extension of homosexuality." Belling was last seen running from UWM after the students there booed him off a stage in the Student Union concourse.

THE ACTING AWARD goes to any Senator who got up and with a straight face said they were voting for Clarence Thomas because he was the "most qualified" or even just "qualified" candidate for Supreme Court justice.

THE CULTURAL AWARD I am not against Veteran parades, but are they really cultural in nature? They are according to Milwaukee Alderman Mike Murphy. Murphy opposes funding for Milwaukee's Pride Parade because "its not a cultural event," but wants to give more money to those bastions of culture two Vets parades that didn't even apply for funds.

Murphy also said his Gay friends told him they could care less about the Pride Parade. Rumor has it these conversations were held inside of a closet, a very large closet, large enough to contain several people even elected people at the same time if you catch my drift.

THE LIBERAL ARTS AWARD goes to that fine institution of higher learning UW-Whitewater where Gays and Lesbians are welcomed with open arms, or perhaps swinging arms and loaded arms would be a better way of putting it.

THE SENSATIONALISM AWARD goes to WISN TV, Channel 12. TV 12 ran a series on Gay life in Milwaukee called "Flirting with Danger." Among other things the series showed sex in parks, a map of the Gay cruising area (lest any Gay bashers don't know where to find us) and implied that we are all out after children. Funny how they haven't reported on the increased violence against Gays and Lesbians that has resulted from their coverage. We thought they ran this series so they could fill slow news days with stories about Gay bashing.

THE JURISPRUDENCE AWARD goes to Federal Judge Oliver Gasch. Judge (and I use that term loosely) Gasch ruled against an ROTC cadet trying to stay in the military. Gasch repeatedly referred to the cadet as "a homo." According to the judge, the military has a right to ban Gays and Lesbians due to the risk of AIDS. Even the military didn't try to use that argument. Can you say "mental competency test"? Judge?

Well there you have it folks, this years big winners and fine lot of well you know what they are.

Businesses Raise \$12,000 For Madison AIDS Support Network

[Madison]- On November 30, over 130 businesses participated in a "You Make A Difference Day," a fundraiser for the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN).

As reported in a previous issue of *Light*, concerned Madison area retail and other small businesses pledged 10 percent of their day's gross sales to assist MASN service their clients.

Despite the slow retail season, MASN expects to come close to its goal of \$12,000. This can be attributed to the large number of businesses participating and the generosity of some managers and owners who gave more than 10 percent.

Women Against Racism To Meet

[Milwaukee]- The Women Against Racism series, a monthly discussion group sponsored by the Counseling Center of Milwaukee, has scheduled its topics for January and February.

"Martin Luther King: Eyes on the Prize" is the title of the January 12 discussion, and "Black History: From These Roots" is scheduled for February 9. (Martin Luther King Day is celebrated

this year on January 20 and February is National Black History Month.)

The discussions are scheduled from 2-4pm at the Counseling Center, 2038 N. Bartlett Avenue. A donation of \$2 is requested. Women of all racial and ethnic backgrounds are invited to the discussions. For more information, please call Cheryl Orgas at (414) 271-2565.

LAMM Plans Political Strategy '92

[Milwaukee]- "Out of the Polls: LAMM's Political Strategy for 1992" is the topic of the January 16, 1992 meeting of the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM).

LAMM has just begun to be active politically, yet its endorsement is considered important by many politicians. And many will be running in '92. Reapportionment means that almost every politician could be vulnerable to a well-run campaign.

How can Lesbians make a difference? How does this thing called politics work? Both political aficionados and neophytes who have never even voted can learn something new and help determine LAMM's political direction in '92.

The evening's events begin with a potluck at 6:00 p.m., followed by the program at 7:00 p.m. The location is the Milwaukee Enterprise Center, 2821 N. 4th St.

LAMM meetings are held regularly on the third Wednesday of each month. For more information, call 264-2600.

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Romano Lozano Running For McNulty's Common Council Seat

By Sue Burke

[Milwaukee]—After eight years on the Milwaukee Common Council, Mary Anne McNulty, who has supported Gay and Lesbian issues, will step down to become Director of the South Side Neighborhood Center. Her 12th District includes the Walker's Point neighborhood and South Second Street south of the Milwaukee River, where many Gay and Lesbian bars are located.

At least four candidates have said they will run for her seat in the primary election scheduled for February 18, 1992. One of them, Romana Lozano, asked for an interview with *Wisconsin Light*. Lozano talked with this reporter in November at her home near Kosciuszko Park, where she lives with her husband, five children and a grandson.

The Lozano flat is plainly furnished, decorated with a little religious art and scattered with children's toys. Lozano said fancy things and lots of money aren't important to her.



RAMONA LOZANO

She said she called the *Light* because the family of Richard Guerro, one of Jeffrey Dahmer's victims, had contacted her after the fate of their son was discovered.

"They said, 'Jeanetta Robinson is so beautiful, and yet the Black people are the only ones supporting us,'" Lozano said. Hispanic people are backing away.

"The Hispanic community is very uncomfortable with homosexuality," she said. Sometimes Gay and Lesbian family members are treated like they are dead.

Lozano recalled a friend who was stabbed by Gay bashers on South Second Street. She told how she and her husband went to visit the man in the hospital but his own family wouldn't come.

She also told about her best friend who is a Lesbian. "She felt so ashamed she moved to Texas," Lozano said, but she eventually came back. "I was so happy to see her when she came back with her wife."

Lozano said she would be willing to meet with Gay bar owners about their concerns. She said she supported the recommendations of Mayor Norquist's Blue Ribbon Commission on the police, which included sensitivity training for officers and recruitment of Lesbian and Gay officers, because "none of those things are happening now."

She thinks Police Chief Philip Arreola is doing a good job and said police are doing as well as they can "under the pressure they've been under," but she wants more community policing.

Lozano was born and raised on Milwaukee's South Side, but recent events trouble her. "Things never should have gotten as bad as they are — with the violence and the prejudice. It's growing

again, as you know," she said. "This is not what we do on the South Side. This is not our heritage."

When Lozano was only 19, she worked on McNulty's first campaign. She said McNulty appointed her to the Neighborhood Advisory Council because "I really listen to people."

Lozano served on the council, which works with police and organizations in an aldermanic district to prevent crime, for more than five years, during the tenure of Chiefs Robert Ziarnik and Arreola.

She worked on McNulty's last re-election campaign too, "so I know about the system and I know about City Hall."

But Lozano decided to run against McNulty even before McNulty decided not to run again.

The Summer before, Lozano's daughter's fiancé was killed in front of McNulty's home on South 3rd Street. While the family was inside playing a trivia game and the children were outside playing, gang members came, surrounded and smashed a car in front of the home and began shooting.

The fiancé dove in front of a bullet headed towards Lozano's daughter, giving his own life to save hers, Lozano said. Later she learned her daughter was pregnant.

The baby can almost walk now and he played and laughed on his grandmother's lap during the interview at their home.

Lozano's eyes, though, became teary as she told how his father died. "He quit the gangs but they killed him anyway," she said. "He didn't even get to hold his son."

After a year of thought, she decided to run for the City Council. "I thought to myself, my God, what has happened to our community that they would want to take a life? It should never have gotten this bad. Never."

"I decided I was going to run in the beginning of the year because I've seen in the community — all over — the hopelessness, the sense of 'I don't care,' and I've seen the youth getting bitter because they feel they have no future. That's scary. And they don't have respect for anybody because they don't feel they have respect for them."

Lozano said she is asking people as she campaigns what they want, and they tell her they want more police foot patrols, more outdoor recreation for the elderly and more recreation centers for youth.

She gestured toward the Kosciuszko Community Center across the street. "We have a beautiful recreation center here but you have to have a membership," she said, and some young people are too poor to be able to pay anything.

Lozano wants to see a "Scared Straight" program to try to keep kids out of the gangs. She told how two months ago she discovered that a group of 30 kids, ages 10 to 13, was forming a Peewee Kings gang. She talked to their parents and she talked to the kids.

"I was being real graphic with them," she said. "If we had a Scared Straight program, I would put them all in it right away so they would stay away from the gangs."

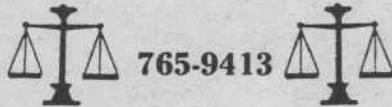
Lozano said she wants all the communities on the South Side to be represented in City Hall. She expects to run a grassroots campaign and said she has 100 youth helping out already.

"They're from the community. They're from all around," she said. They are working for her "because they know that I'm going to listen. They know how I am."

Lozano's campaign can be reached by mail at 2197 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue, Suite 803, Milwaukee, WI 53207, or by telephone at (414) 645-6562.

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OBITUARIES

Tom of Finland

By Jamakaya

Touko Laaksonen, better known to generations as Tom of Finland, an artist specializing in male erotica, died in Helsinki on November 7 after suffering a stroke. He was 71.

Tom studied art as a youth and worked as a commercial artist after serving with the Finnish Army in World War II. In 1957, he published his first explicit homoerotic work in a bodybuilding magazine. His career skyrocketed with the growing Gay liberation movement in the 1960's and '70's. His art appeared in dozens of books and periodicals and can be found on posters, calendars and greeting cards.

Tom drew male figures of heroic stature — cops, loggers and leathermen with huge muscles, rugged features and fierce men. He was criticized for emulating the "superman" image of Nazi art, but he was also lauded for "documenting the 20th century male subculture's glorification of its own masculinity."

Because of the sexually explicit nature of his work, Tom often encountered censorship. But by the later years of his life he had won recognition in the established art world. His art was displayed at the Whitney Museum and his works were auctioned for large sums of money at Christie's.

Said Tom: "I am not ashamed that I draw men having sex. I want to ensure that they are proud men having happy sex."

Berenice Abbott

Pioneering Lesbian photographer Berenice Abbott, revered as a role model by many younger women like Tee Corinne, died of heart failure at her home in Maine December 9. She was 93.

Born in Ohio, Abbott spent the 1920's in France where she worked as an assistant to Man Ray and photographed such luminaries as Andre Gide, Jean Cocteau, James Joyce, Djuna Barnes and Janet Flanner.

Abbott spent the 1930's photographing New York City and, in 1939, published *Changing New York*, renowned for its breathtaking views of the city's new skyscrapers. In the 1950's, she created a photo documentary of US Route One, which stretches from Maine to Florida. In recent years, she continued to photograph people and places near her home in Maine.

Abbott was preceded in death by her long-time companion, the writer Elizabeth McCausland.



TOM OF FINLAND

George Stambolian

George Stambolian, a professor of French Literature at Wellesley College who edited several volumes of the Gay fiction anthology *Men on Men*, died in New York City on December 22. He died of AIDS complications at age 54.

Stambolian earned his PhD. from the University of Wisconsin and taught at Wellesley from 1966, until his retirement last year. In the 1970's, he became a champion of gay fiction as a distinct literary genre. He published many articles about Gay books and writers and edited the groundbreaking *Men on Men* anthologies which helped bring Edmund White, Felice Picana, Ethan Mordden and many other Gay writers to prominence. The books are published by Plume/New American Library and are currently available in bookstores.

Stambolian is survived by his partner, Michael Hampton, and by his mother and a sister who live in Connecticut.

Marty James

Marty James, an AIDS activist who assisted a number of his friends with AIDS to commit suicide, took his own life on Christmas Day after a long personal battle with the disease. He was 38.

James died after taking sleeping pills at his home in Hollywood, California. In 1988, he had appeared on *Nightline* and later, *60 Minutes*, to reveal that he had helped several friends with AIDS commit suicide. He defended his actions and intimated that when the disease became too debilitating for himself, he would end his own life.

James is survived by family members and by his companion, Steven Kanengiser.

Fourth Edition of the Madison Resource Guide to be Published

[Madison]—The Madison Gay/Lesbian Resource Center (MG/LRC) will be contacting all organizations listed in the 1991 edition of its publication, *The Directory: A Guide to the Organizations Serving Madison's Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Community*, seeking updates and corrections.

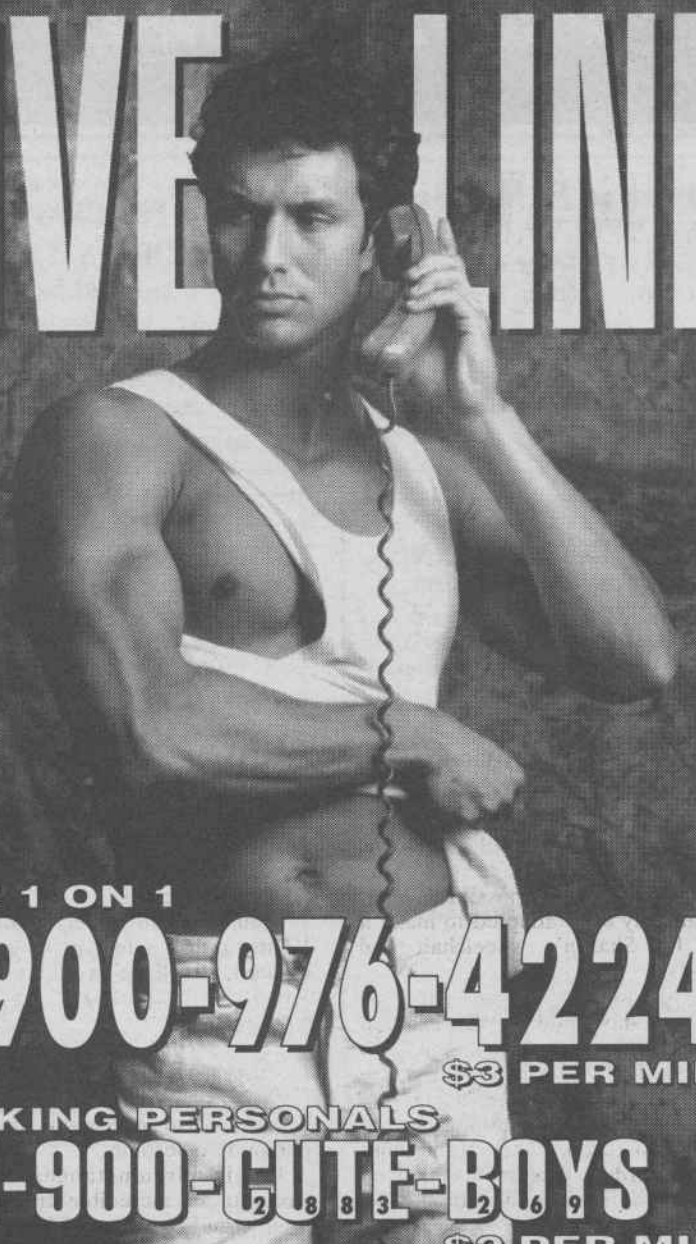
New organizations, or any group inadvertently omitted from previous editions, should send MG/LRC a description of the group (of up to 200 words), along with a contact name, address and/or phone number. Businesses interested in supporting this effort and in reaching a highly-targeted, loyal audience, should send for information on ad sizes and rates.

When first published in the Fall of 1988, *The Directory* included descriptions of 28 organizations, with 4 pages of advertising. By 1991, *The Directory* had grown to include 67 organizations, and was supported by 12 pages of advertisements from 35 area businesses.

MG/LRC expects to print about 3,000 copies of the 1992 edition of *The Directory*, to be distributed at local businesses and social events. Publication is expected in late March, 1992.

All inquiries should be addressed to: MG/LRC, ATTN.: Directory, P.O. Box 1722, Madison, WI 53701.

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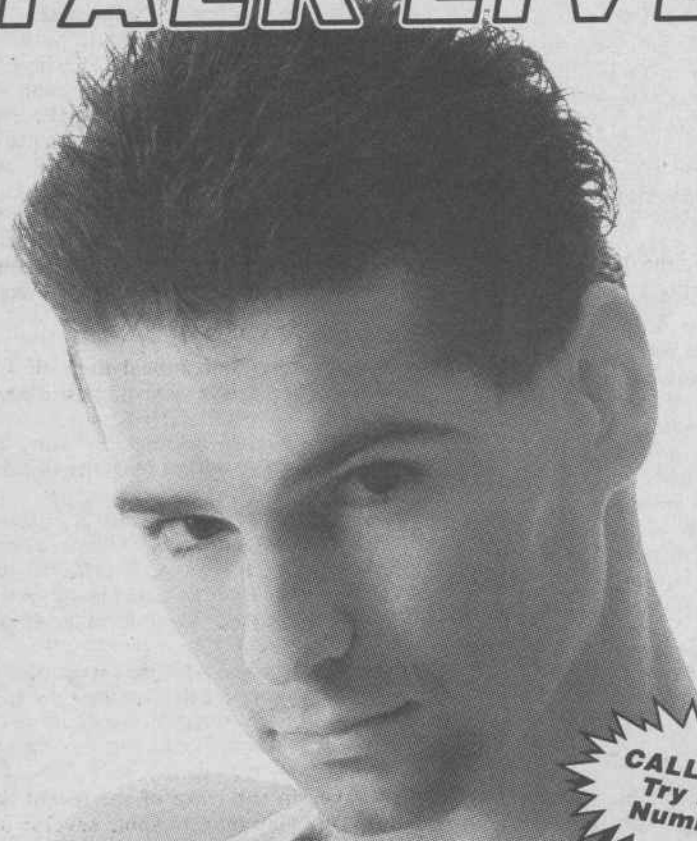


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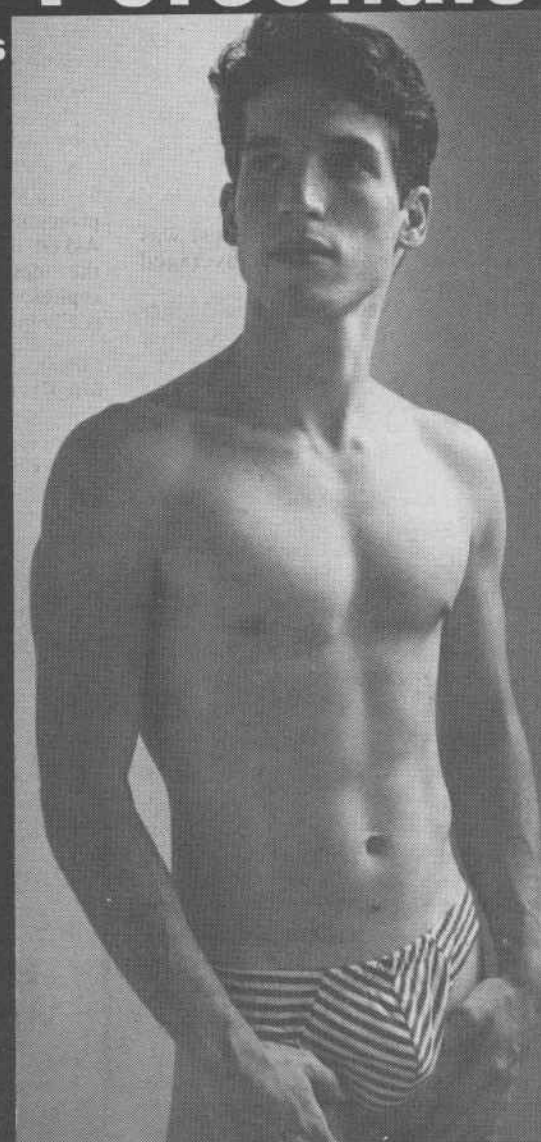
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Major Events of 1991 Reviewed

OCTOBER

- Members of Madison and Milwaukee ACT UP are among more than 100 protesters arrested for storming the Capitol Building and interrupting a Senate session in Washington, D.C. October 1.
- Madison gives the jump-start to National Coming Out Day (Oct. 11) when up to 6,000 people "come out" for a weekend of events celebrating Gay and Lesbian Pride, October 4-6. Urvashi Vaid, President of NGLTF, speaks at the rally, the NAMES Quilt is on display at the McClain Athletic Facility and Kate Clinton and the Flirtations pack 'em in at the Barrymore Theatre.
- Four Queer Nationals are arrested in Milwaukee October 7 for smearing blood on the police administration building. The protest targets police and media misconduct in the Dahmer case.
- On Halloween, the US Senate defeats the latest attempt by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) to place restrictions on grants distributed by the National Endowment for the Arts.

NOVEMBER

- On November 5, residents of St. Paul defeat an attempt to repeal their city's Gay rights ordinance. San Franciscans vote by a wide margin to retain their domestic partners law, while Sherry Harris becomes the first openly Lesbian African American elected official in the US when she wins a seat on the Seattle City Council.
- Hundreds of hymn-singing and Bible-thumping fundamentalists pack a Milwaukee School Board hearing November 13 to oppose a set of proposals to support Gay and Lesbian teens. Visibly intimidated by the zealots, on November 20, the School Board approves watered-down recommendations.
- Milwaukee's WISN TV12 News runs a highly inflammatory series called "Flirting With Danger," which explores Gay cruising areas and sexual contacts in the aftermath of the Dahmer murders. Local Gays protest and warn that it may lead to further Gay bashing.
- During an ongoing campus debate over Gay rights at UW-Whitewater, the photo editor of the student newspaper is assaulted twice by thugs who call her "a fucking dyke." She is, in fact, straight.

DECEMBER

- A wave of homophobic violence sweeps Milwaukee in the wake of the recent School Board and "Flirting With Danger" controversies. One Gay man is shot, several others are mugged and an anonymous letter writer threatens veteran activist Miriam Ben-Shalom with "a shotgun blast to your back."
- On December 9, Federal Judge Oliver Gasch denies reinstatement to former Midshipman Joe Steffan and upholds the Pentagon's ban on Gays. Gasch, who repeatedly referred to Steffan as a "homo" during proceedings, argues that concern about the spread of AIDS is a legitimate rationale for the exclusionary policy.
- On December 17, the Minnesota Court of Appeals grants Karen Thompson full guardianship of her disabled lover, Sharon Kowalski. The decision is rendered on the 12th anniversary of the couple's commitment ceremony.

AIDS Awareness Program Success

[Milwaukee]- For four consecutive Fridays in December, 1991, the People Living With AIDS Coalition and its immediate members provided AIDS Awareness at Milwaukee's South Division High School for five of their health classes. The program, based on one that is currently being used in San Francisco, is a comprehensive, intense and sensitive approach to AIDS education and its prevention strategies.

The first session dealt with basic AIDS knowledge. A pre-test was given to evaluate students' knowledge of the disease.

The second session dealt with feelings and attitudes about death, sexual preferences and AIDS.

In the third session, students were introduced to several people living with HIV disease. After a short talk about themselves, the classes were allowed to ask any question they wished.

The fourth session dealt with review, prevention strategies and condom demonstrations. A post test was given to emphasize what the students learned and to see how much knowledge was retained. The results were as follows.

The average grade for the pre-test was 57 percent. The post-test grade averaged out at 87.5 percent.

The goal of the Coalition is to hold other such classes in other schools. Another goal is to train teachers to be more comfortable talking about AIDS as well as teaching them to use the materials that were used in the four sessions. Coalition members would then be available for session three and on a consulting basis.

Video Screenings Set for Jan. 31

[Milwaukee]- Local film and video artists are invited to participate in an open screening and discussion January 31 sponsored by Great Lakes Film & Video and the Milwaukee Access Telecommunications Authority.

Works can be up to ten minutes in length and should be on 3/4" or VHS videotape or 16mm film. Tapes must be cued to the beginning of the ten minute segment. Finished pieces, excerpts or works in progress are all acceptable.

Work will be accepted at 6:30 p.m. and will be screened on a first come, first serve basis beginning at 7:00 p.m. The open screening and discussion will take place at Club Garibaldi, 2501 S. Superior Street.

For further information, call Great Lakes Film & Video at (414) 229-6971.

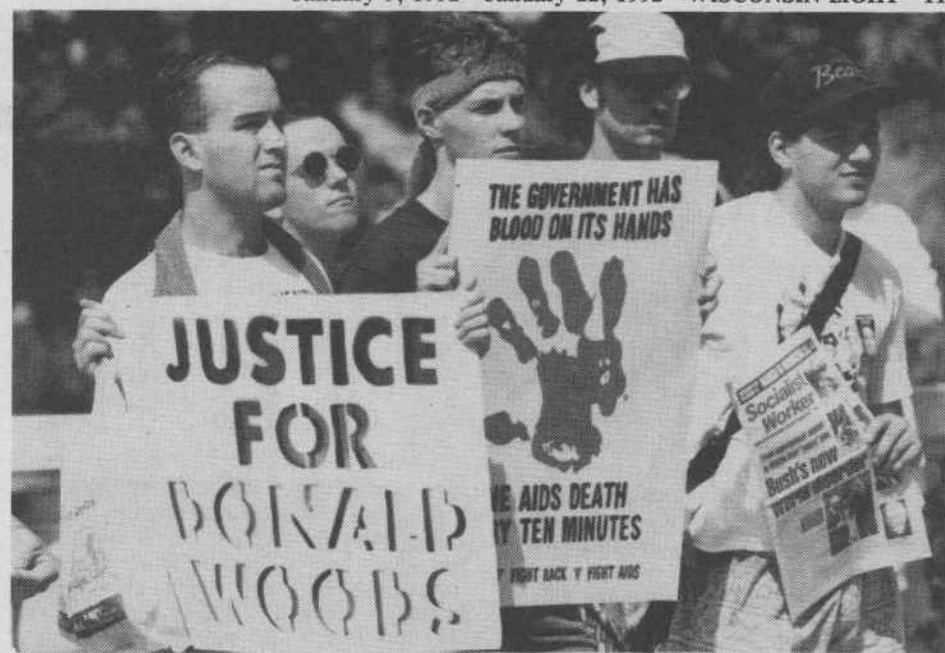
TOMLIN

Continued from Page 6

aren't enough to make a difference."

Sometimes I feel sorry for Lily and Jane and others on that short list. I wish we could just admire their incredible gifts and allow them their privacy instead of projecting our expectations onto them. Asked if other people's expectations are the downside of her career, Tomlin replies, "Sometimes, but only if you really buy into it."

Editor's Note: The Search For Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe was scheduled to open at Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre in January and Madison's Majestic Theatre in February.



1991 In Review—On September 9 Madison ACT-UP sponsored a demonstration to protest the prison death of Donald Woods.

The manager at the Oriental told the *Light* that the film company or distributor has abruptly pulled it from circulation. Tomlin's Wisconsin fans may have to wait until her one woman extravaganza is televised or released on video.

VICTORY

Continued from Page 1

Weighing the Options

Kowalski is likely to remain at Trevilla for two or three months until Thompson can work out the logistics to make the transition as smooth as possible. Their home has already been adapted to make it accessible for Sharon's wheelchair and special needs.

But the greatest challenge may be financing the 24-hour home care attendant and continuing therapy Sharon will require. Recent government cutbacks in home care and therapy programs for the disabled will place a greater financial burden on Thompson, who, throughout the eight year ordeal, has been employed as a professor of physical education at St. Cloud State University.

"The government seems willing to spend a massive amount of money to warehouse the mentally and physically disabled in institutions instead of helping these people become independent," said an angry Thompson. "Without strong advocates they get nothing."

Another option would be to place Sharon in a rehab facility in St. Cloud, just 15 miles from their home. Sharon would be assured of constant care and therapy but also would be free to spend stretches of time at home. As any good guardian should, Thompson appears to be weighing all of the options very carefully.

Her anger over the treatment of the disabled has led Thompson to become a spokeswoman for their rights. "I'm just getting my feet wet in the area of ableism," she said. "There's so much to be done."

Gay Rights Activist

She has also become an outspoken advocate for Lesbian and Gay rights, and urges Gay couples to "come out" to their families and friends and to protect their relationships with durable powers of attorney and medical powers of attorney. Their closeted status and lack of legal documentation hampered Thompson's efforts to intervene in Kowalski's care and to gain guardianship over her.

The darkest period, according to Thompson, was after Sharon's father, Donald Kowalski, became guardian. In 1985, he placed Sharon in a nursing home in northern Minnesota where, for a period of three and a half years, she received no

therapy at all and Thompson was prohibited from seeing her.

Thompson, separated from her partner, pressed on with various legal challenges and finally won a ruling that Sharon's medical condition be re-evaluated. That ruling led to her transfer to Trevilla and the renewed guardianship battle.

Thompson is scheduled to speak on these topics at conferences in Virginia, Utah and Washington, D.C. in the next few months. She vows to continue her activism and hopes to bring Sharon along on some of the trips.

"She loves to travel," said Thompson. "They didn't allow us to go out nearly enough. It will be excellent for her to see how much support she's had all over the country."

Referring to her own new role as a Lesbian and disability rights activist, the former conservative Republican added: "Sharon also needs to understand the person I've become."

Tragic circumstances have indeed wrought an incredible transformation in the life and character of Karen Thompson. Sharon Kowalski along with Gays and Lesbians and disabled people everywhere are all the beneficiaries of her enormous generosity and courage.

Thompson has spent more than \$200,000 on legal fees and currently owes about \$16,000. Donations can be sent to the Karen Thompson Legal Fund at 3070 Fulton Circle, Clearwater, MN 55320. Since she'll be spending more time at home, greeting cards and gifts for Sharon can be sent to the same address. Thompson said Sharon derives a lot of pleasure from cards and notions that carry the image of the curmudgeonly cat Garfield.

Thompson has documented her ongoing legal struggle in the compelling book, *Why Can't Sharon Kowalski Come Home?* (Spinsters/Aunt Lute, \$10.95).

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The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee, Strong in Numbers, Sets Agenda for the 1990's

By Susan Schramm

Milwaukee—In the Summer of 1989, Karen Gotzler and Kitty Barber passed out leaflets in front of MECCA, the site of a large "pro-family" rally held to protest the Gay/Lesbian Pride proclamations that year. Gotzler and Barber were the only two Lesbians present. They had leaflets thrown back at them, and they were spat upon and called names. When media people arrived, they interviewed a lot of Fundamentalists and one Gay man.

It was a very disturbing experience for them, Gotzler recalls, and it was from that experience that they recognized the need to create a network of Lesbians — to respond to such events, to be *pro-active*, and to provide Lesbian visibility in the media.

So they contacted four other women, and each one of them agreed to call ten more. The result was a backyard meeting that attracted over 100 Lesbians. Discussion was lively, committees were formed and a brave new Lesbian organization was born.

Since that time, the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM) has emerged as the largest and most energetic Lesbian or Gay organization in the state. With a membership of nearly 400 women and a mailing list over twice that size, LAMM's numbers alone command attention; the range and vitality of its activism is also commanding respect.

LAMM's Leadership

It was the Lesbian Alliance that led Gay community response to the Dahmer murders. It organized the community press conference and engaged in numerous media interviews. It also played a major role in preparing the police relations proposal for the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Commission.

LAMM's other involvements include the "No Retreat On Civil Rights Network," in which it has worked side by side with a coalition of groups such as the ACLU, 9 to 5 and the NAACP, and representation on the Community Action Coalition. The Alliance has made its presence known to local politicians and expects to be actively involved in a number of '92 election campaigns.

In addition, LAMM's monthly membership meetings feature topics ranging from racism to the Gay Games, and draw from 30 to 50 women each month, attracting new and different members with each program.

According to Karen Gotzler, a business development consultant who chairs the Board of Managers, the Lesbian Alliance "is the first organization that has simultaneously been involved in so many different kinds of community activities, and has involved so many Lesbians in so many different ways." She stresses that Alliance activity benefits not only its own members but the Gay and Lesbian community as a whole.



KAREN GOTZLER

"The work that we do breaks down stereotypes for all of us," Gotzler observed. "I think it gives the community at large a broader perspective of who we are as individuals, as human beings, and as members of the same community that they belong to."

LAMM's early vision and diligence indirectly prepared it for what would become the most harrowing experience faced by the local Gay and Lesbian community. Prior to July 1991, according to Kitty Barber, "We could never have imagined that Jeffrey Dahmer lived in Milwaukee, or what kinds of attack we would feel from Gay bashers and from certain media people as a result of it."

'Lit the Firecracker'

That tragedy and its backlash "lit the firecracker," Barber said, that burst into accelerated community action, much of it powered by the Lesbian Alliance.

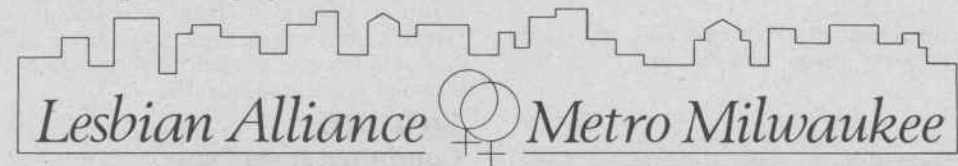
It proved to be a real test of Kitty Barber's mettle, since Barber, the managing partner of a business and a full time student as well, is the public spokesperson for LAMM.

Media coverage of Lesbians and Gays has long been a concern of Barber's, and the Lesbian Alliance had already initiated some media-related activity in sponsoring the media tent at the June Pride rally. The press coverage of Pride events was usually "dismal," Barber noted. "The one guy in the tutu was always the main image that was seen." Meanwhile, she added, there were hundreds of Lesbians of all varieties being completely ignored. Barber began developing media contacts.

A revised edition of the task force proposal was officially presented to the Fire and Police Commission in December, 1991. LAMM will also serve as a resource for the Fire and Police Commission, Snow said, when it seeks representatives of the community to fill positions on committees proposed by the Blue Ribbon Commission.

"I think everybody involved was surprised," Snow commented, "at how deep the mistrust and fear of the police department went throughout the community, even though relatively few people had had direct involvement with police officers on an adversarial basis." Many knew of others who had negative experiences with police and sensed a problematic attitude on the part of the department.

Because "police officers and the public in general don't think about Lesbians,"



MARGARET SNOW, KITTY BARBER AND GALE DAVY

"When the Dahmer stories broke, I just decided there was nothing to do, but become a part of it," she said. "The images in the media were terrible."

Barber got on the phone and "called everybody that I could think of who represented an organization that would be interested in responding in a collective fashion to this tragedy." Out of that came a joint press conference, attended by every major media outlet locally, and many on a national level as well. Barber was interviewed by the *New York Times*, the *Chicago Sun-Times*, National Public Radio, and *Newsweek*, among others.

"We accomplished one of our goals in that we had some images of Lesbians in the media," Barber said, "and we let people know that we're affected by this too."

"We need a lot of community education," she added. "We need to educate the media on how to cover us fairly." That is one of her long-range goals, as well as that of LAMM's media committee. That committee is working with people from the Lavender Network, a loose coalition of Gay and Lesbian organizations, on projects including meetings with local editors and news directors to discuss Gay and Lesbian coverage and concerns.

Police Proposal

In addition to its impact on media relations, the Dahmer tragedy sparked considerable activity on another front: that of police/community relations. LAMM was also there, in a very significant way.

The Lavender Network formed a task force which prepared a proposal to present to the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Commission; that four-person task force included three LAMM members. It prepared a 30-page proposal that referred to over 500 pages of supporting documents. (The Lesbian Alliance footed the approximately \$1,000 bill for this work.)

In the thick of it was Margaret Snow, a physician, who occupies the recently created LAMM board seat on police relations.

According to Snow, the proposal presented to the Blue Ribbon Commission covered police regulations, training, recruitment, hate crimes, and cooperation between the department and the Gay and Lesbian communities. Almost all of the recommendations were adopted in the commission report.

Snow believes it is critical to become involved in any sort of community education.

Political Clout

One of the most impressive developments in the Lesbian Alliance is the growing impact of its political/legislative committee.

"The next year is going to be a hell of an exciting year for anybody who loves elections," asserts Board member Gale Davy, who is active on that committee. Davy is the director of a non-profit organization that conducts bio-medical research.

Davy cites a clear sign of LAMM's progress as a potential political player: when LAMM sent out an announcement asking the County Executive candidates to meet with its committee for questioning, all four candidates showed up and all four asked for Lesbian Alliance endorsement.

"That's a lot different than just two years ago," Davy observed, "when nobody wanted to meet with us and nobody wanted to talk to us...Now we're taken very seriously."

In the past year the political/legislative committee focused attention on the Milwaukee Common Council and the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. Members organized letter writing, phone calling, and constituent visits to promote the Pride proclamations and develop communication.

"We were extremely successful with the alderpeople," Davy said. "We had alderpeople say to us that they had never sat down with a bona fide Lesbian across the desk from them in their offices, never mind one who was a homeowner in their district."

One of the things LAMM learned, Davy said, is that its members vote. A survey indicated that 92 percent of Lesbian Alliance membership voted in the School Board election. "We know we can build on that," Davy said, and she sees the possibility of eventually building a Lesbian political machine in Milwaukee.

LAMM wants to endorse candidates, Davy said, "who want us and what comes from us, which means that commitment to diversity, that commitment to listening, to involving the Lesbian community...the big issue for LAMM is building our power as a community."

Power in Numbers

The maximum amount of power that LAMM will have, Davy states, is directly proportional to the number of Lesbians involved in it. "The reason why now we've gained this modicum of power and we have candidates coming to us," she said, "is because we've grown as an organization in membership."

That the Lesbian Alliance is truly a membership organization is one of the things that distinguishes it from other organizations in the Gay and Lesbian community, says Board chair Karen Gotzler. "We're really set up to have a strong degree of accountability to our members, and it is literally our members who have the power."

The range of activities and benefits for members goes beyond the more "newsworthy" kinds of activism previously described. It includes the programs featured in monthly membership meetings (Lesbian literature, financial and legal concerns, local Lesbian herstory, etc.); an informative monthly newsletter that includes the area's most complete calendar of Lesbian events; a comprehensive Lesbian resource directory; and membership cards that feature the LAMM logo and the spine-tingling catch phrase "card-carrying Lesbian."

LAMM's national connections will also continue to strengthen, adds Barber. "We really have quite a national reputation," she noted, in part through visibility related to Dahmer coverage, but also from involvement with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). LAMM members have been active NGLTF conference participants in the past two years, and maintain regular communication with the group.

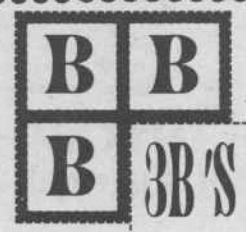
"Some of the work we're already doing is more than what's being done in most parts of the country," Barber said, "and we've just started. So we really are gaining a name for ourselves." That national attention is what prompted Kate Clinton's recent offer to host a fundraiser for LAMM following her performance in Milwaukee on December 14.

The Lesbian Alliance is not coasting on its successes or taking future success for granted. It is new members and member involvement that are crucial to LAMM's progress, says Gotzler. "I think our strength is in our numbers and in our diversity," she stated. "As a group we bring an incredibly wide range of talents and skills to each other within the organization, and also to the larger community." And that, she said, is very inspiring.

The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee holds membership meetings the third Thursday of each month. For information, call (414) 264-2600, or write to LAMM at PO Box 93323, Milwaukee, WI 53203.

GALVANize Plans Jan. 17 Dance

[Madison]—The Gay And Lesbian Visibility Alliance (GALVANize), will be holding a fundraising dance on January 17, 1992 from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. The dance will take place in the Great Hall of Memorial Union at UW-Madison.



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