



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

The Wisconsin Light

Four Arrested At Queer Nation Demonstration

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]- Four people were arrested in Milwaukee on October 7, 1991 when over two dozen people held a demonstration to protest the Mayor's, the media's and the police department's handling of the Jeffrey Dahmer serial murder case. People from as far away as Tokyo, Japan, Seattle, Minneapolis and Chicago joined Milwaukeeans for the protest.

According to Dan Fons, one of the organizers, the purpose of the demonstration was to "demand that the Milwaukee Police Department, the Mayor's office and...the media put an end to their unwritten policies of prejudice and discrimination against queers and people of color."

The demonstration was sponsored by the Black Ribbon Committee, Queer Nation/Milwaukee, ACT UP/Milwaukee and the Community Action Coalition.

The demonstration began shortly after 11:00 a.m. in front of City Hall with participants marching in a circle, chanting.

Speaking to the press, Fons condemned Mayor John O. Norquist for "repeatedly" refusing to meet with representatives of Gay and lesbian organizations and for "not once" addressing the Gay and Lesbian community since the start of the Dahmer case. "Mayor Norquist has forgotten that we helped elect him and that we can help remove him from office, too," said Fons.

(According to a spokesperson for the Lambda Rights Network, the Mayor has met and spoken more than once with representatives of that organization on Lesbian/Gay concerns.)

From City Hall, the demonstrators marched to the Journal/Sentinel Building where they gathered in the lobby. They were addressed by Jamakaya, News Editor of Wisconsin Light, who condemned the major media for "sensationalist reporting" of the Dahmer case and for the use of the term "homosexual overkill" in their reporting. She held up Wisconsin Light and In Step as "the only accurate sources of reporting" on the Lesbian/Gay community.

She further condemned the Journal and the Sentinel as "one big monopoly" and strongly denounced the papers for failing to report: Lesbian/Gay testimony before the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Commission hearing, the Lesbian/Gay Pride March which drew over 6,000 people to Madison October 5 or the largest midwest display of the NAMES Project AIDS Quilt in Madison that same weekend.

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Lavender Network's Proposals Adopted By Commission Report

By Jamakaya

[Milwaukee]- The recommendations issued by Mayor John Norquist's Blue Ribbon Commission on Police-Community Relations October 15 incorporate many concerns of the Gay and Lesbian community, according to local activists.

"The report and recommendations are quite well done," said Scott Gunkel of the Lambda Rights Network (LRN). "It's more direct than I thought it would be and they seem to have included many of our proposals."

Kitty Barber of the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMB) agreed: "I'm very pleased with the Blue Ribbon Commission report. With the exception of hate crimes reporting, which may have been beyond their mandate, they included every significant suggestion from the Lavender Network's proposal."

The Lavender Network is a coalition of Gay and Lesbian groups, including LAMB and LRN, that sought to ensure that Gay and Lesbian issues were addressed in the findings of the Mayor's Commission. Mayor Norquist established the Commission in August after allegations of police racism, homophobia and misconduct arose in the context of the Jeffrey Dahmer serial murder case.

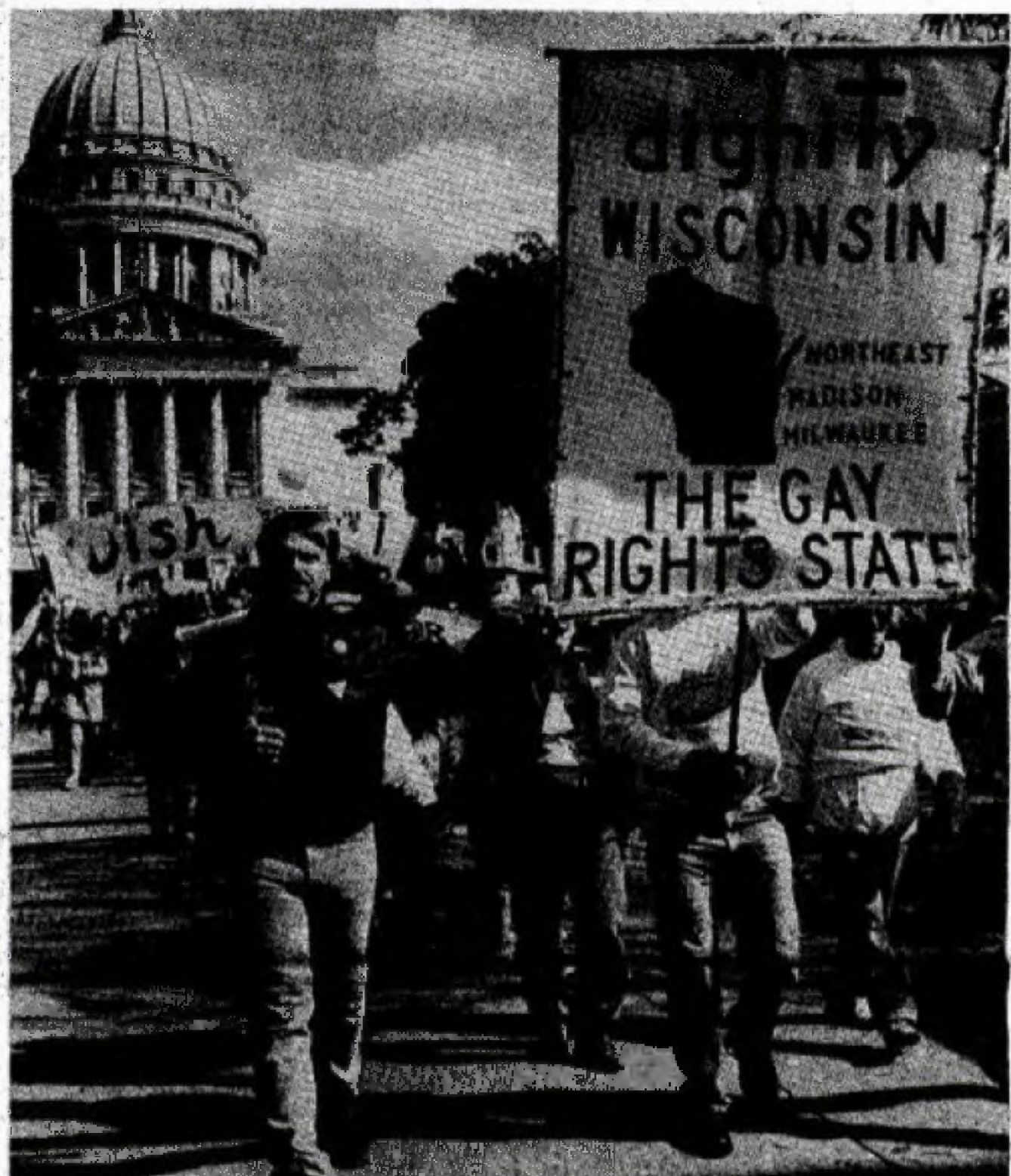
The Lavender Network conducted extensive research, including a survey of Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian community and its experiences with the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD). It helped organize a special hearing before the Commission at which long-standing grievances of the Gay and Lesbian community were aired. Based on these efforts, the Lavender Network produced and submitted its own proposals to the Commission October 1.

"We did have access. We did get involved. We worked very hard to have input, and I think that's reflected in the findings," said Barber.

Among the recommendations are: police liaisons to the Gay and minority communities; increased sensitivity training for Department personnel; recruitment of Gay and Lesbian officers; disciplining of officers who exhibit racist, sexist or homophobic behavior; and a streamlined citizen complaint process — all consistent with the overall goal of "community-oriented policing."

"The next few months will really tell the story," said Barber. "We need to monitor the progress of these recommendations and work with the

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Wisconsin's State Capitol building could be seen in the background as an estimated 6,000 people took part in Madison's second march for Gay rights and pride on October 5.

6,000 March With Pride Through Capital of the Gay Rights State

By Terry Boughner

[Madison]- On October 5, a sparkling crisp Saturday afternoon in the Gay Rights State, Lesbians, Gays and their friends left Capitol Square in a big display of Pride, marching down State Street toward James Madison Park.

According to Nancy Graham, a GALVANize Board member, some 2,000 people started out, but as the march went along, others joined in by the thousands so that by the time the Park was reached, Madison Police estimated that there were 6,000 plus walking along.

I had placed myself at the front and saw the March begin with a roar of motorcycles — Dykes on Bikes! — closely followed by the distinctive banner and many members of GALVANize. Then came the proud contingent representing Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and after them, the National Organization for Women and representatives from Dignity chapters from all over Wisconsin.

Looking back up State, I could see the Rainbow flags, dozens and dozens, snapping in the wind. Why is it that I always get a good, warm shiver up and down my back whenever I see that flag? And balloons! There must have been thousands, all colors, but the ones I remember best are the pink ones. They seemed to be everywhere.

And what would a Gay Pride March be like without condoms, reminding everyone about safe sex? In this case, one giant condom (looking hopelessly human) was a big favorite with the crowd.

Along the line of March, there were a lot of friendly faces, a lot of smiles, of waves. There were a couple of scowls too, mainly from inside store windows, and there was one guy I won't forget.

He was young, a student maybe,

walking with a young woman. Just as the Parade got to them, he grabbed her hand. They hurried past me, but as they did I heard her laugh and say, "What are you trying to do? Use me to prove you're not Gay?" I would have given a bundle to hear his reply, see his face.

The apres-Parade rally was held in James Madison Park along the shore of Lake Mendota — and it was packed. Entertainment was provided by jazz vocalist Jan Wheaton, backed by the Harris Lemberg Trio, and by the windblown but gorgeous Flirtations. The crowd enjoyed itself hugely.

Speakers included State Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison) currently running for Congress, and Tammy Baldwin, an openly Lesbian Dane County Supervisor who is running for a seat in the State Assembly. If elected, she will be the highest openly LesGay official in Wisconsin.

Inside a large tent, Miriam Ben Shalom was selling T-shirts for the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Veterans of America and next to her, Dennis Bunch was selling pins, buttons and shirts for the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee. Outside, I ran into Ron Gelman, publisher of Wisconsin In Step. He had ridden in the Parade in his Lincoln, but was having a heck of a time holding down his balloons.

Throughout the weekend of Pride events, the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt was on view at McClain Athletic Facility. Graham, a member of the Quilt Display Committee, said that approximately 4,000 people visited the display of over 1,600 panels.

It really was a fantastic weekend. GALVANize and all those who worked on it have reason to take great pride in what they did.



The wrong arm of the law reached out and grabbed Tim Grair as he and Stan Straka placed red hand prints on Milwaukee's Police Administration building on October 7 during a demonstration protesting the police treatment of Gays and Lesbians.