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MILWAUKEE update

A Monthly Publication of Gay People's Union, Inc.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1980

MIDWEST COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK TO HOLD CONFERENCE: In an effort to improve communication between gay and lesbian organizations in eight Midwestern states, the Midwest Gay and Lesbian Communication Network will conduct its first regional conference October 31 through November 2 at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee student union.

Those participating can attend workshops on a variety of topics including gay history, media and the gay movement, aging, legislation, non-traditional families, racism and others.

Participants will also begin formally organizing the communications network at the conference's general assemblies, and will elect 32 people to represent the region at the Lesbian and Gay National Communication Network Conference in Los Angeles. This network is an outgrowth of last year's march on Washington.

The focus of the national conference will be planning an international march on the United Nations for July 1981. This demonstration will petition the U.N. for a declaration of human rights for gay men and lesbians as well as a declaration condemning genocide of gay people.

On November 1st the Midwest conference will hold a press conference during the lunch break. In addition, the Fireside Lounge in the union will be available for displays from gay organizations and businesses.

Conferees will celebrate and relax at a masquerade dance on the evening of November 1st in the Fireside Lounge. The dance will be free for conference participants, \$2.00 for non-participants.

Conference registration fee is \$15.00 (\$10 for students). The conference is handicapped accessible and signing for the hearing-impaired will be available upon request.

For more information about the conference and registration, or if you are willing to provide housing for out of town visitors, contact the Gay Community at UW-M, Union Box 251, Milwaukee, WI 53201 phone (414)963-6555 or call local conference organizers Miki Doxtator (414)372-5467 or Pat MacIlquham (414)372-2745.

"LONELINESS: FACT, FICTION, AND A FAIRY TALE" The topic of our October 20th GPU meeting facilitated by Ralph Navarro. Why do so many gay people feel so alone and how do you overcome those feelings? A social hour with refreshments will follow the discussion.

GOING.....GOING.....GONE! Gay Peoples Union is planning an auction to benefit the Gay Community Center Building Fund. Donations of original arts and crafts items, merchandise, premiums, gift certificates, free passes and other auctionable items are being sought. Donations are tax-deductible at fair market or donors' value. For more information contact Tim McCoy or Michael McKersie at 276-0246.

WHO WILL OWN AND CONTROL CABLE TELEVISION? Cable Communication (TV) is coming to Milwaukee in the near future. Cable Communication is a wave of the future. It is like telephone or electrical service--it is a utility.

One company chosen by the Milwaukee Common Council will have a MONOPOLY in this area and will control the cost and quality of cable programs in Milwaukee.

A number of firms want the franchise because it is very profitable to build and operate a cable system. Most are large conglomerates and are not locally owned.

IF YOU LIVE OR WORK IN MILWAUKEE YOU HAVE A CHOICE. Either your Cable Communications Service can be owned by a company oriented toward making the most profit possible for investors, OR it can be owned and controlled by you and other people who watch television here in Milwaukee.

Recently a number of civic leaders incorporated the Community Controlled Cable Communications Corporation (5-C). This cooperative venture is different from other companies seeking the franchise to build and operate the cable system in three important ways:

- The cooperative will provide for your direct input in programming and services.

- Net savings (profits) belong to the member/subscribers.

- It will be locally owned and controlled.

Interested in learning more about cable communications, the wave of the future? Mr. Tom Philipson and other representatives from "5-C" will present an interesting and educational program on Cable Communications and the concept of cooperative ownership at the October 27th meeting of GPU.

We KNOW cable is inevitable. The question is, who will own it, who will control it, how much will it cost, and what services will we get? If you care, come to the GPU meeting on October 27th at 8:00pm.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AS HOTLINE COUNSELORS: Additional volunteers are needed immediately to serve as telephone counselors on the GPU HOTLINE. Individual training will be provided in addition to invaluable on the job experience. Because of the importance of this project to GPU and the entire Milwaukee gay community, it is stressed that only individuals with sincere commitments to helping other gay people should volunteer. Everyone accepted for this project will be expected to meet their responsibility by showing up faithfully on the day and time they agree to work. Interested? Call the GPU HOTLINE 271-5273 or attend the Hotline Committee meeting on October 28th at 7:00pm at the Farwell Center.

GAMMA EVENTS: GAMMA is a sports-oriented group with additional interests in social and cultural activities. Major athletic activities include: volleyball, swimming, touch football and bowling. For membership information write: GAMMA, 2511 N. Farwell, Unit L, Milwaukee, WI 53211.

Every Wednesday night in October, GAMMA plays volleyball from 7:00pm until 8:30pm at UWM Engelmann Gym (across from Columbia Hospital Emergency Entrance on Hartford Ave). Join us for an evening of action-packed volleyball.

Friday October 17 GAMMA is sponsoring its first fall ROLLERSKATING PARTY to be held at St. Pius X Roller Rink, 7500 W. Wright St. The time is 7:30pm to 10:00pm and price is \$3.50 including skate rental. Please join GAMMA for a free-wheeling evening.

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER: Continuing the communication with members, prospective members, and friends, the purpose of Milwaukee Update is to keep you informed about all the activities of Gay Peoples Union, and to solicit your support and efforts so that this organization can continue to grow and serve the needs of the community. With our next issue of Milwaukee Update we will introduce a new format and look. If you would like to contribute some time or talent to produce our newsletter call Frank Caleb at 291-0639 or write to GPU-Milwaukee Update, PO Box 208, Milwaukee 53201. Extra copies of this newsletter are available by calling 271-5273.

GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE WEEK 1981: In June of 1980 Milwaukee saw its first successful Gay and Lesbian Pride Week celebration. The activities included an arts show, talent show, picnic, films, and a parade.. The events held during Pride week were designed to promote different facets of gay and lesbian culture in Milwaukee.

The commitment to gay and lesbian pride must be a continuing one. It is our hope that 1981 will see an expanded version of Gay and Lesbian Pride Week, with a film festival, nationally known performers and a state-wide march.

We need you to help. Your ideas and talents are needed. The first meeting to plan Pride Week 1981 will take place at the Farwell Center on November 10 at 8pm. While June may seem far off, it is not really such a long time when planning a week of activities to benefit our community. Won't you join us? Make some new friends, put your ideas and talents to work. We can make it happen in Milwaukee, again.

COMMON COUNCIL REJECTS REPEAL REFERENDUM: The Milwaukee Common Council, by a vote of 9-7, tabled a resolution introduced by Alderman Richard Spaulding to have the question of the city's recently enacted "gay rights" ordinance put to a city-wide referendum vote on the November 4th ballot. Spaulding's resolution was the subject of a lengthy and highly emotional public hearing. Gay leaders opposed placing the question on a referendum, arguing that human rights are not debatable and that the concept of representative government would be damaged were the citizens given the opportunity to vote on denying individual rights.. Support for the referendum came from the so-called Christian right. The Common Council's latest action thus leaves the ordinance in effect and continues the protections for sexual orientation minorities in city employment and with private firms contracted with the city. What we need now is more gay members on the Milwaukee Police Department!!

GPU SEXUALLY TRANSMITTABLE DISEASE CLINIC: Operating Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings 7-10pm and Saturday 11am-2pm, the GPU Sexually Transmittable Disease Clinic is provided by gay people for gay people. Your health is the most important thing you own. Occasional testing for sexually transmitted diseases is your responsibility. This medical service is provided through your donations (which are tax-deductible), which are encouraged in order for us to continue this vital testing and control program. The GPU STD Clinic is located in the Farwell Center. For more info about STD's call 347-1222 during the above clinic hours.

CITIZENS' COALITION: Along with numerous other community and social service groups, GPU now is a member of the Citizens' Coalition of Milwaukee. The Coalition was formed in the spring of 1978 in order for groups to work together on common issues.

GPU was host of the September 9th general meeting of the Coalition at which priorities were set for: displacement/rent control/condo conversions; home ownership programs (low income mortgages); citizen participation process; CDA programs; crime and safety; building inspection; civil rights; and corporate responsibility to neighborhoods. Each member group was subsequently asked to rank each priority in order of importance to their respective group and to become actively involved in the various committees of the Coalition which will deal with those particular priorities. Civil rights and crime and safety were ranked as most important to GPU and our representative(s) to the Coalition will be active in those issues.

As a Coalition member, GPU will include reports of the Citizens' Coalition activities in future issues of Milwaukee Update.

If you have questions or suggestions concerning the Coalition and its activities, contact Paul DeMarco, GPU's Coalition representative, at 276-0246 or 342-9955, or Carol Hillman, Citizens' Coalition contact person at 342-6656.

REGISTER AND VOTE ON NOVEMBER 4, 1980!!

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR BOARD OF DIRECTOR VACANCIES: The terms of office of three members of the GPU Board of Directors will expire in December. Board members whose terms are expiring are Karla Lawatsch, Michael Mitchell and Pat MacIlquham. An election to fill these vacancies will be held at the December 1st GPU meeting. Names of qualified GPU members may be placed in nomination for these important positions at the November 3rd GPU meeting. Nominees must have been members of GPU for at least 120 days prior to their name being placed in nomination. GPU members should also keep in mind that election of officers (president, vice president, treasurer and secretary) will be held at the January 5th GPU meeting with nominations accepted at the December 1st meeting.

PLEDGE CLUB: Now you can do more to support GAY PEOPLES UNION. You may NOT HAVE THE TIME, ENERGY, OR DESIRE TO BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED AS A VOLUNTEER OR A MEMBER, BUT YOU MAY WISH TO CONTRIBUTE IN AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT WAY. BY JOINING OUR NEW PLEDGE CLUB. You DECIDE UPON AN AMOUNT THAT YOU WISH TO CONTRIBUTE ON A REGULAR MONTHLY BASIS. ONCE WE RECEIVE THAT INFORMATION FROM YOU, WE THEN SEND A CONVENIENT REMINDER TO YOU EVERY MONTH ALONG WITH A POSTAGE PAID RETURN ENVELOPE FOR YOUR CHECK. WE HOPE TO ESTABLISH A STRONG AND CONSISTENT MONTHLY PLEDGE CLUB SO THAT WE CAN DEVELOPE A PROGRAM AND PLAN FOR THE FUTURE EXPANSION OF THE GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER. Your PLEDGE, along with those of other individuals and businesses in the community, will AIDE GPU IN ESTABLISHING A STRONG FINANCIAL BASE FROM WHICH TO WORK, AND ALL OF YOUR DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE UNDER SECTION 501(c)(3) OF THE IRS CODE. IN ADDITION, PLEDGE CLUB MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE SPECIAL REPORTS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF GPU AS WELL AS OUR REGULAR MONTHLY MAILINGS.

-----CLIP AND MAIL TO: GPU, PO Box 208, Milwaukee, WI 53201-----

ADD MY NAME TO YOUR MAILING LIST, I'D LIKE TO RECEIVE "MILWAUKEE UPDATE" AT HOME EVERY MONTH:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

I'D LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF GPU. Enclosed is my contribution for:

_____ \$12 BASIC MEMBERSHIP	_____ \$100 SUSTAINING MEMBER
_____ \$20 HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP (FOR TWO)	_____ \$500 SUPPORTING MEMBER
_____ \$50 CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP	_____ \$6 LOW INCOME MEMBER

I'D LIKE TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING PLEDGE TO GPU: I understand that I will receive a statement every month with a convenient postage paid reply envelope.

_____ \$5.00 _____ \$10.00 _____ \$20.00 _____ \$50.00 _____ (Specify amount)

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