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MILWAUKEE UPDATE

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

APRIL/MAY 1980

"BAXTER'S" PROGRAM TO AIR APRIL 13TH: A segment of the WITI TV 6 program "The Baxter's" dealing with the issue of gay and lesbian teachers, will air at 10:30pm on Sunday April 13. Members of Gay Peoples Union participated in the audience response portion of the program, countering comments made by religious fundamentalists who were also invited to participate in the program. Officials from TV 6 commented that this segment of "The Baxter's" was one of the best they had done, but would be the last show broadcast locally, due to poor ratings.

GPU MEDIA COMMITTEE: In addition to the Media Committee's work on the "Baxter's" (which was taped in December 1979), more recent accomplishments and projects include appearances on WTMJ radio program "Kathy Dunn's Newsmakers" and WYMS radio program "A Woman's Place". GPU will also have guests on the May 2nd (Friday) broadcast of "Tempo 24", a live two hour telephone call-in show on Milwaukee's new TV station (Channel 24). The show can be seen live from 1-3pm and taped (re-broadcast) the same evening from 7-9pm. The producers of the popular Phil Donahue Show have also been contacted by the committee regarding two recent shows that dealt with gay issues (one an appearance by Anita Bryant). The Media Committee also has the rather large task of monitoring all print and broadcast media to insure that gays and lesbians are portrayed fairly and accurately--giving praise and criticism when due. For more information, or to work on the Media Committee contact Chairperson Pat McIlquham at 372-2745, or call the GPU HOTLINE at 271-5273.

GAY AND PROUD, BUT STILL ILLEGAL! The Wisconsin State Assembly, on March 26, voted (54-45) to defeat S-552, which would have decriminalized private sexual activity between consenting adults, as well as cohabitation. Under provisions of the bill sanctions against prostitution and sexual assaults would remain unchanged. Since starting MILWAUKEE UPDATE we have urged you to contact your state legislators asking for their support of this sensible law reform; now we think you should contact you state Assemblyperson and ask how they voted on S-552! For those that voted for the bill, congratulations and thanks--for those that voted against, let it be known that you will do your best to see that he/she is defeated in any bid for re-election to public office. You can contact your state legislators via the toll-free legislative hotline (1-800-362-9696) in operation 8:30am - 5:00pm Monday through Friday. If you don't know the name of your representatives in Madison, the person on the end of the hotline can provide that info too.

GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE WEEK PLANNING COMMITTEE: It's a fact! There will be a Gay and Lesbian Pride Week in Milwaukee June 21-29, 1980. A variety of events are being planned including: June 21 - "Sports Day" and picnic at Mitchell Park; June 22 - "Celebrate Life Day", Ecumenical service (lakefront) and Street Festival at Broadway and Menomonee St.; June 23 - opening of Gay and Lesbian Art Show at UWM Union Art Gallery (exhibit runs through July 11); June 24 - "Harvey Milk Memorial" Film and discussion of our role in the political process followed by candle light march and vigil to War Memorial Center to commemorate gay victims of the nazi (and continuing) holocaust; June 25 & 26 - "Film Festival", showing two gay-related films; June 27 - "Talent Day" Gay and Lesbian performing artists at UWM Union Wisconsin Room; June 28 - (open); June 29 - Charter buses leave Milwaukee for Chicago Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade. The next meeting of the Planning Committee will be on Monday April 21 at 7:30pm at the Farwell Center, 1568 N. Farwell. If you would like to volunteer with fundraising and organizational activities, but cannot attend the meeting, call the GPU HOTLINE 271-5273 and leave your name and phone number. A committee member will contact you.

GPU HOTLINE 271-5273 GPU VD (STD) CLINIC 347-1222
Hours: Wed, Thu, Fri 7-10pm; Sat 11am-2pm

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276-0246 (24 hours)

Mail your tax-deductible donations to: GPU, P.O. Box 208, Milwaukee 53201

RUMMAGE AND GARAGE SALE: As a fundraiser for the G.P.U. Building Fund and the Gay and Lesbian Pride Week Planning Committee, the Board of Directors of Gay Peoples Union has announced plans for a rummage and garage sale the weekend of May 17-18. The sale will be held in the rear of the Farwell Center, 1568 N. Farwell from 10am-6pm both days. Donations of those unwanted items cluttering your attic, basement and closets are needed and may be dropped off at the Farwell Center any evening from 7-10pm or at the Club Baths, 704A W. Wisconsin Ave anytime.

GAY LEADER WARNS OF THREAT FROM "NEW RIGHT": In a special appearance before a capacity audience at the Farwell Center, Steve Endean, Executive Director of the Washington based Gay Rights National Lobby, warned the group of a serious threat to gay and lesbians from what he termed the "new right", headed by fundamentalist religious leaders. A heavily financed march on Washington for "righteousness and morality" has been set for Apr 29, 1980. Known as both "Washington for Jesus" and "One Nation Under God", the march may have very serious implications for the lesbian/gay movement, as well as for a number of other human rights concerns. Under the guise of a religious event, rally organizers will attempt to impose their own brand of political "morality" on elected officials and try to influence Congress on a wide variety of issues, including civil rights for gays, prayer in schools, abortion, etc. Endean urged both groups and individuals to use this occasion to raise a number of issues with their Representatives and Senators: HR 6303/S2210 - the immigration legislation that would drop exclusion of gay aliens; HR2074/S2081 - the lesbian and gay civil rights bills; urge their opposition to anti-gay amendments that might come up on otherwise unrelated legislation. If you'd like to help with this professional lobbying effort, write (and make checks payable) to: GRNL, PO Box 1892, Washington DC 20013.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE ORGANIZING: A meeting to discuss structure, immediate activities, and a long range strategy for the Human Rights Political Action Committee of Wisconsin will be held on Friday April 18, 1980 at 7:30pm at the home of Alyn Hess, 3125 N. 25th St. For more info please call Alyn Hess (449-2454) or Paul DeMarco (342-9955 or 276-0246).

SPECIAL ELECTION: At the April 7th business meeting of GPU, Si Smits was elected by unanimous vote to fill the unexpired term as treasurer of the organization. Mr. Smits is no new-comer to GPU, having served as treasurer for several of the more formative years of the organization. The special election was necessitated by the resignation of Janet Revolinski.

WHAT IS SEXUAL FUNCTION AND DYSFUNCTION? The May 12th (8pm) meeting of Gay Peoples Union will explore this and other questions dealing with our sexual expression and identity. The group discussion will be led by Alyn Hess and John Kujawski, is free and open to the public. Refreshments and social will follow the discussion.

FRIENDS OF GPU NEWS: In its 9th year of continuous publication, GPU NEWS has become one of the most respected and highly acclaimed publications of its kind in the nation. With the April 1980 issue, spiraling inflation and increases in costs of up to 100% have made a reduction in the size (and cost) of the GPU NEWS necessary. "Friends of GPU NEWS" is just that. Friends. People who appreciate this quality news journal and wish to see it continue publication well into the eighties. As an organization that has benefitted greatly through the years from the literally thousands of dollars in advertising donated to us by GPU NEWS, we now urge our members and readers to become a "Friend of GPU NEWS". If not a subscriber, why not become one. The \$10 per year is a small price to pay for such a quality publication delivered to your mail box every month. If you do subscribe already, then you may wish to help the volunteer (unpaid) staff of GPU NEWS continue their dedicated effort by mailing a cash donation. Make checks payable to GPU NEWS and mail to PO Box 92203, Milwaukee 53202. GPU NEWS is a monthly publication of LIBERATION PUBLICATIONS, INC., and is not affiliated with Gay Peoples Union, Inc. in any way.

YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME. IF YOU'D LIKE YOUR NAME PLACED ON OUR CONFIDENTIAL MAILING LIST TO RECEIVE "MILWAUKEE UPDATE" REGULARLY, WRITE TO: GPU, MILWAUKEE UPDATE, PO BOX 208, MILWAUKEE, WI 53201.