



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

# The Wisconsin Light

## State Subsidy Sought For Health Insurance

[Madison]- Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) Executive Director Doug Nelson has urged the Wisconsin Legislature to adopt a State subsidy program that will pay premiums for continuation of private health insurance for people with AIDS who must end employment due to illness.

In testimony to the Assembly Health Committee on Tuesday, November 28, 1989, in support of Assembly Bill 594, Nelson said the State subsidy program is profoundly needed to guarantee access to the health care system for people with AIDS.

"Only 18% of people with AIDS in Milwaukee who have ended their employment have been able to afford continuation coverage of their health insurance policy," Nelson said. "Far too many people with this disease are forced to deplete their financial resources to qualify for government health programs."

"State law guarantees that anyone who leaves employment where they have had health insurance coverage can continue that coverage for 18 months if they pay the premium," Nelson explained. "Most people with AIDS can't afford to pay the premium and lose the benefits of private health insurance. A state subsidy for continuation coverage is an immense help and would allow people with AIDS to continue to receive the health insurance benefits to which they are entitled."

Assembly Bill 594 as authored by State Representative Peter Bokk (D-Milwaukee) and would require the State Department of Health and Social Services to subsidize health insurance premiums for people with HIV infection and must either reduce hours of work or end employment because of an illness or medical condition related to HIV infection.

Eligibility for the subsidy would include: income not exceeding 200% of the federal poverty line, ineligibility for Medicare or Medicaid or another private health insurance policy and verification of the HIV related illness.

Nelson was critical of the private health insurance industry for not assuming a greater responsibility for financing the cost of AIDS care.

"Unless changes in financing the costs of AIDS are made, the disparity between public and private sector funding will grow with government health programs assuming the greatest share of the cost," Nelson said.

"This will harm our efforts to secure more AIDS health care providers who far too often cite low government reimbursement as the reason for not accepting more AIDS patients."

"The private health insurance industry must assume a much greater role in funding AIDS care than currently is the case," Nelson said. "Assembly Bill 594 with its premium subsidy for continuation health insurance coverage helps accomplish that and is an important and creative option for funding the high cost of health care for people with AIDS."

## MAP Receives \$155,000 Federal Health Grant

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee was selected as one of 12 cities for a national planning initiative and received a \$155,000 grant from the U.S. Public Health Service for the effort.

The purposes of the comprehensive four county planning effort are: to determine the future service needs and gaps in services for treating persons with HIV/AIDS;

to develop viable financing strategies to ensure adequate health care coverage for persons requiring medical and social

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## Madison Conference Pushes For Domestic Partners Legislation

By Jim McFarland

[Madison]- About 75 openly Lesbian and Gay appointed and elected officials came to Madison from throughout Canada and the United States during the weekend of November 17-19. The event that brought them to Wisconsin's capital was the Fifth Annual International Conference of Lesbian and Gay Officials. It was fitting that the historic conference was held in the first state to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. All of the conferees enjoyed themselves immensely and praised Madison and Wisconsin for its supportive environment.

The conference attendees were treated to a "Pink Plaque Tour" which gave them both a Gay and mainstream historical tour of Madison.

The conference officially opened with welcoming addresses from Madison Mayor Paul Roglin and Dane County Executive Rick Phelps. Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson could not attend the opening session, but he did send along a letter welcoming the attendees and wishing them success.

The keynote speech was given by Svend Robinson, an openly Gay member of the Canadian Parliament from a Vancouver suburb. The only member of a socialist party in attendance (the New Democratic Party), Robinson stressed the importance of the organization of Lesbian and Gay officials and indicated that its existence made it possible for him to come out in Canada.

The conference both celebrated the recent addition of Massachusetts as the second state in the U.S. to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and lamented the defeat of important anti-discrimination and domestic partners referenda in California.

Carole Migden, the openly Lesbian chair of the San Francisco Democratic Party and a member of the Democratic National Committee, explained why the San Francisco domestic partners referendum narrowly lost.

She considered the vote tally a victory of sorts, coming as it did three weeks after a major earthquake. The earthquake made it difficult for her coalition to continue the hard campaigning it needed to overcome a low voter turnout dominated by right-wingers (even San Francisco has them).

She indicated that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Mayor Art Agnos are unanimous in supporting passage of the legislation again and are confident that they will win at the polls next fall when the vote will come during a major election with high voter turnout.

The conference broke into caucuses during a part of the weekend and each caucus made good progress.

The candidates' caucus, consisting of individuals who have been candidates, will be candidates, or both, proposed an "adopt a candidate" program in which each elected official would adopt a candidate to assist in all areas of a campaign.

The appointed officials' caucus proposed a serious effort to increase the numbers of identified openly Gay or Lesbian appointed officials, and called for the creation of a directory of these individuals.

The elected officials' caucus accepted the volunteer services of a Madison elected official, Dane County Supervisor Kathleen Nichols, as a staff person for the organization. Kathleen will help coordinate communication between the organization members between conferences. In addition, Tom Chorlton, a former D.C. City Council candidate, volunteered to coordinate a newsletter for the organization.

Nearly all of the elected officials  
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Tim Slogoski (center) represented Beer Capitol Distributors as he purchased the first ticket in the companies Holiday Designated Driver Program, from Triangle Bar owner Al Thomas as bartender Chad Bowman held a promotional sign. See related article and ad in this issue.

## Students Protest Marquette's Attempt to Ban Words

[Milwaukee]- "Penis", "condom", "Gay" and "Lesbian" are among the "forbidden words" that cannot be used at Marquette University in its publications according to Mark Quigley, an Associated Students of Marquette University senator.

Quigley was among the speakers at a free speech rally held on the University campus at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 20.

Approximately 125 students and faculty braved blustering cold weather to hear Quigley and other student leaders condemn the University administration for "paying lip service" to the ideals of a liberal education whose hallmark is the "friction of diversity of ideas."

The students accused the University administration, including Frank Lazarus, Dean of Academic Affairs, of attempting to censor the *Tribune*, the campus student newspaper, and suppressing groups like the Gay and Lesbian students who are trying to organize. This because Pro-choice and Gays and Lesbians do not conform to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

However, Eunice Edgar, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Wisconsin speaking at the rally, cast doubt on whether Marquette was truly a sectarian school.

Quoting federal figures, she said that "between 1975 and 1985, Marquette received in excess of \$63 million in taxpayer funds."

According to a U.S. Supreme Court brief, "Prior to 1970 Marquette University was a religious institution because it was owned and operated by the Jesuit Order and asserted the power of compulsory indoctrination of its students in Roman Catholic religious doctrine." However, when federal financial assistance for non-public institutions of higher education became available, Marquette, according to the brief, changed so that it could receive federal funds:

"It is no happenstance that Marquette's changes concerning ownership, Church control, Jesuit-control, academic discipline and management of the institution's policies and operations by a lay group" occurred when it did.

The brief concluded that "characterizing Marquette University as a religious university... is untrue to reality."

This being the case Edgar said, "they

should send the checks back to Washington."

In related developments, the *Hoya*, the campus newspaper of Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., announced in an editorial on November 13, 1989 that it was suspending publication because "the University has acted to restrict freedom of expression."

The reason given was that Dean of Student Affairs Jack DeGioia, refused permission for the *Hoya* to publish an ad from the National Organization for Women (NOW) which "advocated a pro-choice position on abortion and solicited money for NOW."

"Freedom of expression is the cornerstone of every newspaper," said the editorial. "That freedom has been eliminated."

"All universities must foster a free exchange of ideas if learning rather than catechism memorizing is to take place," said the editorial writer. Learning is greatest where no idea is excluded. Georgetown simply cannot consider itself a university if this free exchange of ideas is not guaranteed."

Ironically, *The Tower*, the student newspaper of Catholic University of America (CUA), Washington, D.C., published the same NOW ad without incident.

CUA is the only apostolic university in the United States. This means that it is chartered by the Pope and with direct ties with the Vatican. However, CUA guarantees freedom of expression to its newspaper.

"The *Hoya* can not publish again until the university takes concrete steps in good faith to assure that freedom of expression is a principle that Georgetown values and reveres," said the editorial.

## GALVANize To Hold Meeting December 3

[Madison]- The Gay And Lesbian Visibility Alliance (GALVANize), sponsor of the Lesbian/Gay Pride Rally and March in Madison last May, will hold a general meeting on Sunday, December 3, 1989, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The meeting will take place in the Memorial Union. See Today in the Union for room location.