



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

# The Wisconsin Light

## Panel Supports Increased Funds For AIDS

[Madison]- In a follow up to an article in the last issue of *Light* written by Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison), Clarenbach has said that members of the Legislature's budget-writing panel have taken a bold step toward meeting the challenge of AIDS in Wisconsin.

A discussion group of the Joint Finance Committee approved increased appropriations for AIDS programs that faced inadequate funding or elimination under Governor Thompson's proposed 1991-93 budget.

"This action is a significant victory in the fight against AIDS," Clarenbach said. "The AIDS case load is soaring, and the state cannot pretend that it is not. This action recognizes the severity of the AIDS crisis, and provides desperately needed help for the care givers serving the infected population."

The discussion group's action encompasses the key elements of the Wisconsin AIDS Initiative, which Clarenbach proposed. Highlights of the package include:

A 20 percent increase in **Life Care Services Grants** to AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs). These grants fund the work of case managers who provide HIV infected individuals with financial, medical, legal, housing, emotional and other support services. Increased funds would be allocated to private, nonprofit ASOs that supplement state funding with private support.

The Governor's budget would have provided no increase over current levels; the 20% increase would raise funding levels to \$835,200 in 1991-92 and \$1,002,240 in 1992-93.

Continuation of the **AIDS Clinical Drug Trials Program**. This program brings promising experimental drugs to Wisconsin AIDS/HIV patients. For several years, clinical drug trials have been conducted in Chicago and Minneapolis, but have been generally unavailable to Wisconsin patients.

The Governor's budget would totally eliminate funding for 1991-93; restoration of the program will continue funding at the current level of \$150,000 for each of the next two fiscal years.

At the end of May, the discussion group approved full funding (as requested by the Governor) of the **AIDS/HIV Drug Reimbursement Program** which assists individuals with the high cost of drugs such as AZT and Pentamidine. It also directed that the reimbursement rate be based on ability to pay, and permitted reimbursement for other experimental drugs which are cost-effective alternatives to AZT and Pentamidine.

"Given the growing demands on AIDS programs, these are modest requests," Clarenbach said. "But also given the state's budget constraints, the Finance Committee should be commended for assigning these programs the high priority they deserve."

## Mayor Appoints Light Publisher To Housing/Job Commission

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]- Jerry Johnson has been appointed by Milwaukee Mayor John O. Norquist to a post on the Mayor's Commission on Fair Housing and Employment. Johnson is, at least, the second openly Gay person named to public office by the Mayor.

Johnson was confirmed unanimously by the Common Council on June 4, 1991 and took the oath of office before the City Clerk on June 10. The appointment is for a three year period.

The Commission is brand new, set up by Mayor Norquist to promote equality and non-discrimination in housing and employment as they relate to City of Milwaukee residents. Its first meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 18.

Johnson, a resident of Milwaukee since 1974, was born in Jacksonville, Florida and raised in a little town, west of

## Superior Man Brutally Killed By Openly Homophobic Attacker



Milwaukee's Fest City Singers performed to capacity crowds last weekend at the Stackner Cabaret. An encore performance will be given at La Cage on Sunday, June 16. See details on Page 9.

## Outing by 'Christians' Leads To Resignation of Minister

[La Crosse, WI]- The assistant to a La Crosse Lutheran bishop resigned his post on May 22 after revealing he is Gay.

The Rev. Paul Johnson, assistant to Bishop Stefan Guttormsson of the La Crosse Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) informed the Bishop that Johnson was Gay. That information was disclosed by two people who believed it was their "Christian duty" to write, informing Guttormsson of Johnson's sexual orientation, according to Gayda Hollnagel reporting for the *La Crosse Tribune*.

According to a statement sent to *Wisconsin Light*, Johnson had spoken of his sexual orientation to a small group at an ELCA Congregational Social Ministry event in Chicago. All such remarks at the conference were to be in confidence. "The trust level in my group," wrote Johnson, "was good and I believed my confidence would be respected." However, the two people who were not members of Johnson's diocese, broke that trust because of "Christian duty."

Johnson, of Viroqua, said: "I submitted my resignation because I am not in agreement with the guidelines of the ELCA regarding ordination of persons who are homosexual. For those of us who are Gay, the church requires a commitment to life-long celibacy. I am unwilling to make such a commitment and I don't believe the church should require it."

Johnson said he believes he is a "child of God, accepted and affirmed by our Lord

Jesus Christ. Sexuality is a gift from God, homosexuality as well as heterosexuality."

Johnson, married and the father of three, said he was "not aware of my sexuality either when I got married or when I was ordained." My struggle with my sexual identity caused me to be suicidal for many years." He called his final acceptance of himself as a Gay man a "born-again" experience. He told his wife about it shortly thereafter.

He said his Gayness has been a source of pain and struggle for his wife, but she has come to accept it. "At this point," he said, "she feels very strongly that the church is wrong."

Johnson said that while many people would like to think that the issue of Gay/Lesbian clergy concerns only a few people, in reality it affects many more.

"There are people in every congregation and pastors in every synod who struggle and suffer because even though they are faithful Christians they are also Gay or Lesbian. All of us need love and acceptance, not judgment and condemnation."

Wisconsin law forbids job discrimination because of sexual orientation, Johnson said, but churches are exempted from the legislation. "In any other profession, I'd have a strong case."

cream city brick mansion on Brewers Hill that he shares with me (his spouse), one pussy cat, a family of robins, a couple of bats and, reputedly, a ghost or two. He also works part-time at Video Adventures.

I fully intended this to be a sober news story. You know, unbiased, just the facts etc., but I'm not unbiased, not in the slightest. There was little indeed in my long life that made shivers run up and down my spine so much as when I stood there, watching and listening as Jer took the oath of office. I was so proud.

Jer will never tell you how deeply committed he is to his beloved Milwaukee; how much he loves it. Nor will he tell you how committed he is to this, our Lesbian/Gay community — and how much behind the scenes stuff he does for groups like MLGPC and how hard he works at no matter what he does — especially this paper.

If all this sounds like a paean, so be it. No one has more right to sing that than I do.

As is my right as Executive Editor of *Wisconsin Light* I extend to Jerry the heartiest congratulations of the paper and wish him all possible success in his new post. Milwaukee, this paper and I will have much reason to be proud.

[Superior, WI]- Stuart Ellanson was charged on June 4, 1991 with first-degree intentional homicide under Wisconsin's hate crimes law in the butcher-knife killing of a Superior man, according to Assistant District Attorney James Boughner.

Dead is Kevin E. Dutcher, 27, who was stabbed several times in the kitchen of his Superior home.

According to reports carried in the *Duluth News-Tribune* and the *Superior Evening Telegram*, the criminal complaint filed in Douglas County Circuit Court quoted Ellanson as saying "This was premeditated... I wanted to kill this faggot. My whole life is devoted to killing faggots and child molesters."

Ellanson allegedly told police that he stabbed Dutcher in the chest. The presumed murder weapon is a 12 inch butcher knife. The victim pleaded for his life. Ellanson stabbed him again and then, after calling 911, to say "I just stabbed a guy" according to police, stabbed Dutcher a third time. After that, Ellanson waited for police to arrive and surrendered without incident at the scene at 11:48 p.m.

Superior Police Department Detective Bill Braman said Ellanson confessed to fatally stabbing Dutcher who was reportedly HIV positive. Ellanson frequently used terms derogatory to Gays during his interviews with police.

According to Boughner, Ellanson said "he would like to kill Gay people; that he would kill more in prison." Ministers and priests contacted by the *News-Tribune* only four chose to is not listed as a resident there. Braman said that despite Ellanson's young age, he had been a frequent resident of alcohol rehab centers.

Ellanson is being held without bond in the Douglas County jail. Boughner told *Light* that arraignment would take place on July 1.

Ministers and politicians have stayed quiet about the murder. Out of 28 ministers and priest contacted by the *News-Tribune* only four chose to comment. That silence has left the Gay community feeling isolated and abandoned.

"I thought God was merciful and loving to all people," said Bob Jansen, owner of The Main Club bar in Superior. "When churches can decide who is good and who is bad, I wonder about the philosophies of organized religion."

The *Duluth News-Tribune* which has denounced racism, has no plans to publish an editorial on homophobia, said editorial page editor Virgil Swing.

Leo Treadway, vice chairman for the Minnesota Governor's Task Force on Gays and Lesbians was reported as saying that some people might be afraid that if they expressed outrage at a murder of a Gay person, it might lead people to believe they themselves were Gay.

Iver Bogen, professor of psychology at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, said that part of the problem lies with society.

"There's this tacit support for this violent thinking, for this violence that occurs," he said. "I think Ellanson really believes he's doing God's work, or the culture's work, or whatever. That's probably related to the fact that there isn't this hue and cry about this."

Boughner told *Light* to call him "in about a month" for further developments in the case.

**Editor's Note:** We would like to thank Bob Jansen, owner of The Main Club in Superior for materially assisting with this story.

**WISCONSIN LIGHT**  
Welcomes all out-of-towners to Milwaukee's  
June 15 Pride Parade  
and Rally