



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

# The Wisconsin Light

## Two State Groups To Merge AIDS/HIV Clinical Drug Trials Jan. 1

[Milwaukee]- The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) will assume new responsibility for state-wide AIDS/HIV clinical drug trials through a unique merger of the Wisconsin Community-Based Research Consortium (WCRC) with ARCW, the largest AIDS service organization in Wisconsin and the Midwest.

The Consortium, created two years ago by physicians throughout Wisconsin who provide medical care to people with AIDS, conducts research on therapeutic drugs by enrolling patients in controlled trials. The merger will be effective January 1, 1993.

"This merger is a natural alliance that strengthens our mission of services and support for people with HIV disease," said Doug Nelson, ARCW's executive director. "These trials contribute to the national AIDS research effort and make vital experimental drug therapies available to people with HIV disease."

### ARCW To Provide Financial Security

Nelson said that ARCW would provide financial security for the clinical drug trial program. "We are committed to the continued development and growth of a quality AIDS research program that is able to bring a more complete menu of clinical studies to people with HIV disease in Wisconsin," said Nelson.

According to Lisa Al-Hashimi, MSM, RN, director of the Consortium, "an excellent way for people with HIV disease in Wisconsin to become involved in experimental therapies is to enroll in the international Observational Data Base (ODB) through their physician." Physicians receive monthly lists of their patients that meet eligibility criteria for clinical trials and expanded access programs. This enables physicians to easily identify those patients who may be eligible for experimental therapies.

As of October, 1992, 860 patients have been enrolled into the ODB. WCRC ranks third in the number of patients enrolled into the Community-Based Clinical Trials Network data base. The WCRC strives to expand the ODB study, reaching new urban and rural areas.

## Survey in Four Small Wisconsin Cities Finds Many Gay Men Still Practicing High-Risk Sex Behavior

[Chicago]- Gay men in small cities still are involved in sexual behavior that places them at high risk for contracting the AIDS virus, according to a study published in the November issue of the American Medical Association's *Archives of Internal Medicine*.

The study by Jeffrey A. Kelley, Ph.D., of the Medical College of Wisconsin, and colleagues found that nearly one-third of the Gay men studied in 16 small cities had engaged in unprotected anal intercourse an average of eight times in the past two months, usually outside monogamous relationships.

While city names were not listed in the research, among the 16 cities were four in northern and western Wisconsin.

### New Front Line for AIDS Prevention

The researchers write, "The combination of continued high-risk behavior and growing HIV infection prevalence among these small city homosexually active men, with nine percent of those tested reporting HIV seropositivity, suggests that a major new front line for AIDS primary prevention efforts among Gay men has shifted from large new cities hard-hit by AIDS to smaller and more moderate-sized cities not traditionally considered epicenters and rarely studied in AIDS prevention research."

Promiscuity is High Risk

## MAP Files Lawsuit Against Racine County Sheriff for Inmate Neglect



MOM, THANKS FOR ACCEPTING ME FOR WHO I AM.

NOW, CARDS FOR US—Through Our Eyes is a bright new line of greeting cards for normal people who happen to be Lesbian or Gay. The initial 32 designs address sending situations like same-sex relationships, coming out, birthdays and Christmas.

The cards are now on sale at A Different World in Beloit and Pic-A-Book in Madison.

*Suit says prisoner with AIDS was denied access to medical care while being left naked, covered with vomit and feces.*

[Milwaukee]- Monday morning, November 23, 1992, at a press conference held at 10:00 a.m., Attorney Lawrence G. Albrecht of Hall, First & Patterson, S.C., and Stephen M. Byers, managing attorney for the AIDS Resources Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) announced the filing of a civil rights lawsuit on behalf of the estate of Dennis C. Hill. The press conference was held at the offices of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP), 315 W. Court Street in Milwaukee.

As reported in *Light*, Hill had been confined in the Racine County Jail between November 16-18, 1991 where, the suit asserts, he was deprived of obviously necessary emergency medical care and treatment for multiple serious conditions related to AIDS under circumstances which "shock the conscience" and violated his constitutionally-protected liberty interests.

Arrested on a traffic violation, Hill was detained in the Racine County Jail to await an initial court appearance.

### Shocking Treatment

Named as defendants are Robert Rohner, Sheriff of Racine County and seven Sheriff's Department officers and employees, who were among the 26 Sheriff's Department personnel who allegedly had direct involvement with Hill and deliberately failed to provide any medical attention to him despite full knowledge of his condition.

Racine County is also named as a defendant because of its policies, practices and customs allegedly authorized and tolerated Hill's shocking treatment.

The complaint details that while confined in the Racine County Jail, Hill was denied access to any medical care, including the 16 medications he regularly took to control pain and alleviate his suffering.

### Hill Left in Own Feces

Medical care was denied even though Hill was visibly suffering, appeared naked in his cell with a medical tube protruding from his chest, was covered with vomit and feces, was disoriented and unable to communicate from lack of food, fluids and medications, and was discovered by his counsel and social worker in life-threatening conditions in his cell, shaking uncontrollably, breathing with great difficulty, demonstrating great pain and was clammy and cold to the touch.

Racine County Jail personnel also never contacted his medical doctors, never sought his medications list and also denied permission to his support group to administer his medications when brought to the jail.

The only medication he received during his custody was two Tylenol tablets — which were strictly forbidden by his doctor.

Hill was released from the Racine County Jail in a wheelchair and rushed to the Milwaukee County Medical Complex (MCMC) where he was immediately admitted to the emergency room and treated for respiratory failure and was then transferred to the intensive care unit.

Hill died on November 23, 1991, at the  
TURN TO RACINE, PAGE 11

## UW-River Falls to Exhibit AIDS Memorial Quilt

[River Falls, WI]- Blocks of a quilt, stitched by friends, family members or loved ones of people who have died of AIDS, will be on display at UW-River Falls' Knowles Physical Education and Recreation Center in December.

The project has developed through a volunteer committee comprised of University staff and community members whose goals are to illustrate the impact AIDS has had and to create a forum for AIDS education, particularly among young people, according to committee leader Laura Bayless.

"The NAMES Quilt is one of the most powerful events I have ever experienced," Bayless said. "When I worked on it at Miami University, I saw many people respond more passionately than they expected. It is an excellent demonstration of the fact that AIDS kills not only one group of people, but spans across all ages, ethnic groups, sexual orientations and genders."

The display will be free and open to the public December 10-12 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and December 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. In opening and closing ceremonies, many community volunteers will read aloud the names represented on Quilt panels on display.

Donations collected at the Quilt display will be distributed to the Aliveness Project of Minneapolis-St. Paul and the Northwest Wisconsin AIDS Project.

For more information or to volunteer, call Laura Bayless at (715) 425-3549 or Gretchen Link at (715) 425-3884.

During three nights in early 1991, all men entering each city's Gay clubs were asked to anonymously complete a set of measures pertaining to AIDS risk. The questionnaire was filled out and returned by 1,991 men.

Of all respondents who provided complete information concerning their sexual behavior (1,858), 574 (or 31% of the total) reported engaging in unprotected anal intercourse in the preceding two months.

Only 25.4% of unprotected anal intercourse occurrences were with partners described as monogamous and only 6% were in the context of both a monogamous relationship and the respondent's having been tested for HIV anti-bodies.

77% of the men who had engaged in unprotected anal intercourse incorrectly described their own risk as none or slight. Thus, more than three-fourths of high-risk men inaccurately underestimated their personal level of risk.

The researchers concluded, "Our findings show clearly that enhanced community-based resources and prevention efforts are now urgently needed for reaching Gay men in smaller cities who have been neglected in AIDS prevention relative to their urban counterparts."