



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

The Wisconsin Light

Galvanize Making Plans for 1994 Madison March

[Madison]- GALVANize, the Gay and Lesbian Visibility Alliance, will host an organizational meeting on Sunday, August 22, 1993, at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Campus Center in Madison from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting will be to develop a Board of Directors as well as to determine a timeline of events.

The 1994 March in Madison will mark the 5th Anniversary of GALVANize as well as the 25th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. Anyone interested in joining the 1994 March Board of Directors, or in volunteering is encouraged to attend. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Campus Center is located at 336 W. Dayton Street in Madison. For further information, or questions, call: (608) 256-4289, or write P.O. Box 1403, Madison, WI 53701.

June 26, 1994 Stonewall 25 March Expected to Attract Over One Million

[Milwaukee]- The week of June 18 to 25, 1994 promises to be the biggest and best in Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual history. During that week, New York City will play host to both Gay Games IV and the Stonewall 25 Celebration, the latter commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion which began the Gay rights movement in 1969. This will include the International March on the United Nations to Affirm the Human Rights of Lesbian and Gay People. Plans for this mammoth "congregation" are moving ahead apace.

This past weekend in Milwaukee saw the meeting of the Stonewall 25 Steering Committee. Seventy one people from all over the country gathered on the campus of UW-Milwaukee to elect new officers and formulate plans.

Elected as Committee co-chairs were Franklin Fry of New York City, Pat Norman of San Francisco and Nicole Ramirez-Murray, a drag queen as she likes to call herself, from San Diego.

Among the Executive Committee members elected were Eve Oxendine of New York City, Hubert Alexander of Atlanta, Georgia and Flora Piterak of New Hampshire.

The Milwaukee meeting also included a meeting of the Midwest Delegation. Nine people were present at the Friday gathering, among whom were Mike Lisowski, Kitty Barber and Ron Geiman.

The next Steering Committee meeting will take place on October 23, 1993, in Boise, Idaho, site of the terrible anti-Gay witchhunt in the 1950's. People were imprisoned, beaten and driven out of town for the "crime" of being Gay.

A Grand Celebration

As things stand now, New York City Police say they fully expect one million plus people. This, in contrast to the D.C. police before the March On Washington who said the expected only 250,000.

On Saturday, June 25, there will be a candlelight vigil in Greenwich Village ("The Village") on fabled Christopher Street in front of the location of the Stonewall Inn where Lesbians, African American and Hispanic drag queens began it all so long ago. For the first time in history, we raised our heads. We have not lowered them again.

There are plans afoot for purchase of the site and turn it into a national monument commemorating and celebrating all who struggle for freedom and dignity.

On Sunday June 26, there will be a march on the United Nations for Gay Rights. Untold numbers of Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals will be coming from all over the world to march.

The demands of the March include a call upon the U.N. and its member states to take all necessary action to assure that the promised of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, crafted in great part by Eleanor Roosevelt, not be denied Lesbian,

Needle Exchange Program to Begin This Fall in Milwaukee

Confusion Defines The Meaning of 'Compromise' On Military Ban

By Bob Roehr

"Even hand-to-hand combat gets you thrown out" is the way Tonight Show host Jay Leno described the new regulations governing Gays in the military announced by President Clinton on July 19. That may not be much of an exaggeration. Even the experts are divided over what it means.

Three things are certain about the "compromise": That it pleased virtually no one; that, aside from the Joint Chiefs

of Staff, no two other people seem to agree on what the ground rules for implementation really are or mean; and that the issue is going to be with us for some time to come.

Clinton said that the compromise no longer bars Gays and Lesbians from the military based solely on status. The Catch-22 is that talking about being Gay carries with it the presumption that one has acted upon it. The rules for discharging homosexual conduct have been left in place.

Later Monday, on Nightline, host Cokie Roberts asked Secretary of Defense Les Aspin, "Doesn't it (the new policy) mean someone is guilty until proved innocent?" "No, only if you speak," was the Orwellian response.

Aspin to Gays: "Stay Out!"

The details weren't exactly clarified in Congressional testimony over the next few days, but the tone certainly was.

Appearing before Senator Sam Nunn's (D-GA) Senate Armed Services Committee, Aspin defined what the policy boils down to: "People should not talk about this. They should not say they are Gay...I believe that basically if a person is homosexual, they would be much more comfortable pursuing a different profession than the military profession."

Senator John McCain's (R-AZ) reaction to the testimony was to label the compromise "a large, large lawyers' relief fund." He called the policy a "legal minefield."

Protests and Arrests

The outline of Clinton's decision had been predicted for weeks, perhaps months. Reaction from the Gay and Lesbian community was predictable:

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Gay and Bisexual people not to people who have AIDS or are HIV positive.

As of now, the march will go down First Avenue, past the U.N. itself.

There will be a grand rally on the Great Lawn in Central Park from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. to be followed by a concert. Plans are now for the concert to headline Elton John.

And then, there will be fireworks with the words "STONEWALL 25" spelling out in fiery lights high above the crowd and city. Seldom before, if ever, will Gays be in such evidence, so prominently displayed. If this is anything, anything at all, like the March On Washington, the feeling will be indescribably euphoric.

There will be a vast array of other activities besides the International March and Rally. Events going on in New York at the same time include Gay Games IV, the annual International Lesbian and Gay Association conference, the Stonewall History Project, the Gay and Lesbian Bands of America Concert on June 23 and a mass Worship Service organized by the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. And these are only a few of the things that will be happening for Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals in that star-studded week.

Wisconsin State-Wide Meeting

According to Gary Wells, there will be a state-wide meeting of people from all over Wisconsin to further plans for the Midwest part in the International March. The meeting will be held on Saturday, August 21, 1993. As we go to press, no location has been determined, but Wells said to call him for further information. The number is: (414) 264-2740.

Make Your Plans Now

According to the folks at Bottom Line Travel, demand for accommodations in New York for Gay Games IV and the Stonewall 25 Celebration are "steady, but not crazy yet." Packages are available. Room rates at good hotels are remarkably reasonable, so plan now.

Believe it. If you missed the March On Washington last April, don't miss this one. If you were in D.C. then, you will absolutely want to be in New York.

By Sue Burke

After two years of study, the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) is ready to begin a needle exchange program sometime this fall.

The program would allow people who use illegal injected drugs to trade used hypodermic needles for new, sterile ones. Because hypodermic needles can be hard to come by, drug users often share and reuse their needles, a practice that can spread HIV.

MAP hopes the needle exchange program would reduce the transmission of HIV and would give drug users greater access to drug treatment programs. MAP also wants to work with other community health groups.

At a meeting with representatives of some of those groups at Milwaukee's City Hall July 28, Doug Nelson, MAP Executive Director, won general support for the program and made plans to bring a more detailed outline of the needle exchange part of the program to another meeting in September.

However, community groups found one major hurdle to MAP's plan: Milwaukee's drug treatment programs can't handle any more clients. Most have waiting lists months long.

In addition, the groups at the meeting identified specific failures in those programs and general failures in the public health care system.

"The providers aren't there and the public dollars aren't there to provide adequate drug abuse treatment," said Tammy Stark of the HIV Services Consortium. Addicts who have finally decided to kick their drug habit have trouble waiting six more months until they can get into treatment, she said.

Pat McManus, Executive Director of the Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin, agreed that a needle exchange would decrease the transmission of HIV but said it attacks only a symptom of drug abuse.

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Act Up Madison Protest Demands Manhattan Project for AIDS Cure

[Madison]- On Saturday, July 31, 1993, 25 members of the Madison, Milwaukee, Minneapolis and New York chapters of ACT UP demonstrated outside UW-Madison's Van Hise Hall where a high-level meeting of 35 of the nation's leading AIDS leaders and activists was taking place.

Participants in the meeting included the Federal Government's two most prominent AIDS researchers, Robert Gallo and Dr. Anthony Fauci, Christine Gebby, President Clinton's new AIDS czar, AIDS activist Larry Kramer, among others.

According to ACT UP Milwaukee, meeting organizers had shrouded the event in secrecy. ACT UP chapters only learned about it from an "inside source."

Participants emerged from the two-day meeting to declare that the public and private sectors must come together to advance AIDS research.

ACT UP was demonstrating to underscore the need for a new national effort to find a cure — not merely treatments — for AIDS on the scale of the Manhattan Project, the all-out government effort that produced the first A-bomb.

According to John Riley of ACT UP New York, "Unless we find a cure, AIDS will be the Plague of the 21st Century. By the year 2000, forty million people world-wide will be infected with the virus. By 2010, that figure will jump to 140 million.

To meet this crisis, ACT UP has

proposed The McClintok Project named after Barbara McClintok the 1983 Nobel laureate who was often shunned by her colleagues for her non-traditional research.

According to ACT UP, the McClintok Project would have as its goal "finding a cure for AIDS and discovering how the disease develops in humans as opposed to test tubes. The Project would include founding a McClintok Institute to bring together AIDS researchers from around the world. The focus would be to identify all promising cures and oversee their quick and adequate testing. The proposed institute would have full control over AIDS research, public and private, be responsible to President Clinton, and be administered by a "Special Assistant on AIDS."

The McClintok Project was discussed at the Madison meeting, but no decision was reached about its implementation.

However, the participants did agree that private fundraising efforts must play a larger role in AIDS research. The reason is because the AIDS crisis is too "grave and imminent" to rely solely on the government.

"It's very interesting how little of this meeting was spent (talking about) the (Clinton) Administration," said Kramer. "We've given up hope on the Administration being a partner." Kramer added that the meeting had restored his hope that the scientific and activist communities were finally exchanging ideas.

Another such meeting has been scheduled for September in Boston.