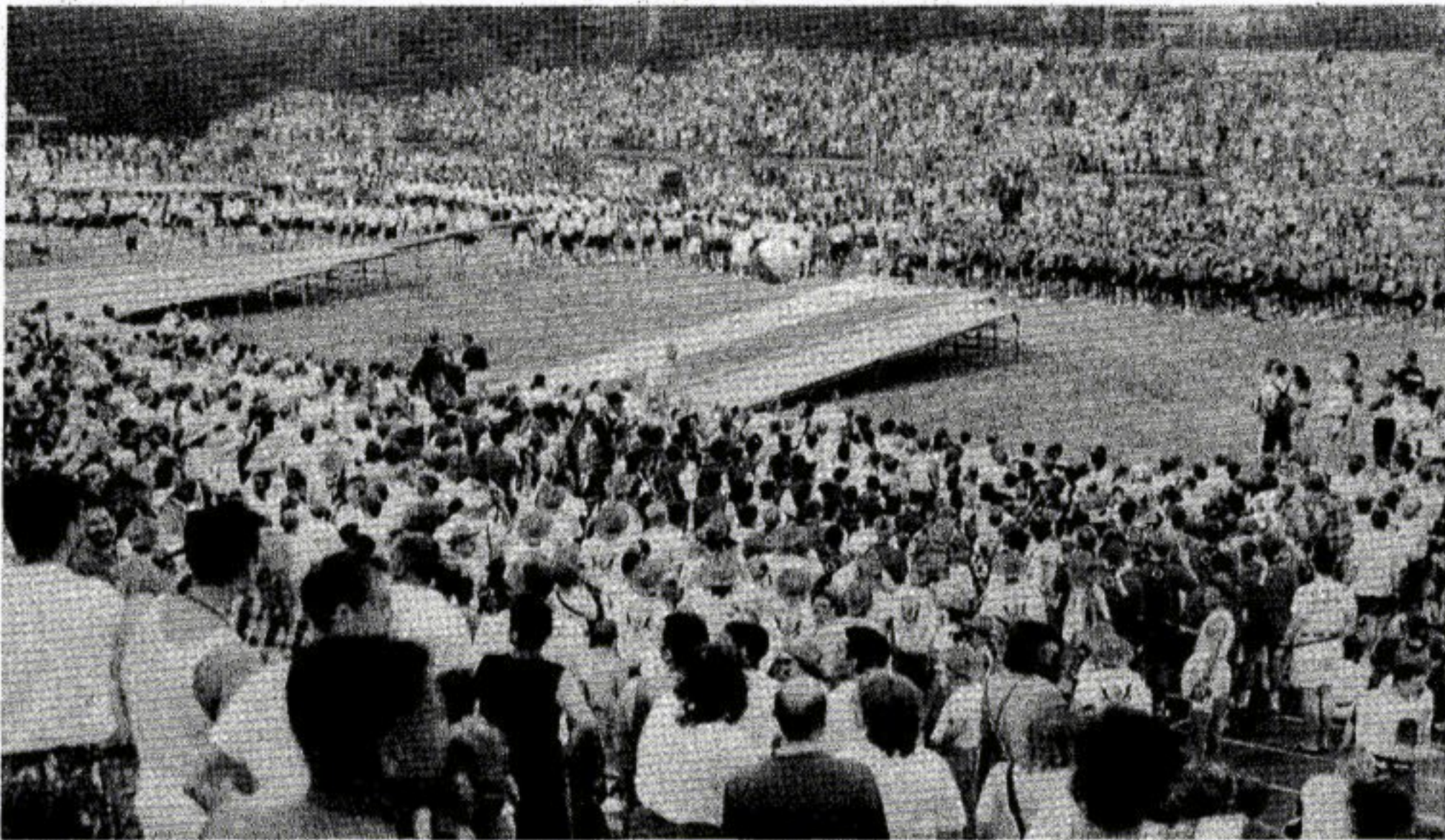




Give the People Light and they will find their own way.

The Wisconsin Light

Gay Games IV, a Time for Excellence, a Time for Understanding and Tolerance



AP Photo/Luc Novovitch

Gay Games Opens—Over 11,000 Gay and Lesbian athletes from 43 nations gather in Columbia University's Wien Stadium in New York on Saturday, June 18, 1994, during opening ceremonies to kick off the Gay Games IV. The Games, taking place in New York City for the first time, are being held in conjunction with the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, which is considered to be the start of the modern Gay liberation movement. The Games form one of the world's largest athletic events with 31 events at 42 locations around the New York metropolitan area.

(New York)—A Gay and Lesbian marching band kicked off Gay Games IV on Saturday, June 18, 1994 during opening ceremonies that also included a welcome to the city address from Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

The opening ceremonies and the accompanying Cultural Festival were held in Columbia University's Wien Stadium at Baker Field in northern Manhattan.

The games form one of the world's largest athletic events with more than 11,000 athletes from 43 nations entered. Thirty-one events will be contested at 42 locations around the metropolitan area.

The competitions, which run through June 25, are expected to attract over half a million people and add \$110 million to New York's economy.

Giuliani was greeted with widespread applause, but boing as well when he took the stand.

"The Gay Games are about more than athletic competition," Giuliani said. "They offer a deeper understanding of America where tolerance and skills overcome stereotypes and prejudice. The Gay Games are a fine example of the ability of sports to unite people."

Giuliani was instrumental in securing Yankee Stadium for the Games' closing ceremonies.

After the Mayor's speech, the athletes marched around the stadium's track which encircles a football field. Some countries, such as Canada, came with hundreds of athletes, while others, such as Colombia, managed only enough to carry their country's flag and a sign proudly proclaiming its name.

Gay Games: 11,000 Stories

Gay Games IV is more than competitions. It is the story of people, individuals, 11,000 of them.

For example, State Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) will be competing in the Volleyball competition as part of the Team Wisconsin team. According to Gay Games IV organizers, she is the highest ranking elected official to compete in the Games.

Or take Jean-Pierre Martin, once a member of the Ice Capades who used to twirl his partner in the air and act out the boy-girl stories that pairs figure skating is based on.

At Gay Games IV, Jean-Pierre will be competing in same-sex pairs with his new partner Mark Hird. It has not been an easy road for them.

One day last December, they tested their

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ARCW Battles On for Equitable Federal AIDS Funding for Wisconsin

(Milwaukee)— In its continuing fight for fairness in federal AIDS funding, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) has won an important battle that may be influential in Congressional reauthorization of the vital Ryan White CARE Act.

ARCW took its case for equitable national AIDS funding to the Board of Directors of the powerful AIDS Action Council headquartered in Washington, D.C. and obtained a surprise endorsement of the principle and support for a re-evaluation of the CARE Act's funding formulas.

ARCW Executive Director Doug Nelson praised the Board's decision, calling it a "landmark decision that moves the AIDS Action Council far closer than anyone had expected toward the position of re-negotiating the CARE Act's funding formulas to achieve more equitable distribution of resources throughout the country."

Nelson, who is the only member of the AIDS Action Council's Board from the Midwest and who chairs the Council's Public Policy Committee, has been leading a growing national movement among AIDS service agencies to correct the inequities in the CARE Act.

Nelson was able to secure the endorsement of the Public Policy Committee for the principle of equitable funding per AIDS case and carried this position to the recent meeting of the Council's Board on June 11.

"This was a difficult meeting because the Board is dominated by AIDS advocates from high incidence cities which have benefited from the CARE Act's current formulas which delivers three to four times more funding per AIDS case to these cities than to Milwaukee and to states like Wisconsin," Nelson explained.

"My argument was that a re-authorized CARE Act that continued this disparity in funding was untenable in the face of an AIDS epidemic that is worsening in all parts of the country," Nelson said.

"The failure of AIDS service infrastructure and limited access to medical and support services are not problems solely experienced by high incidence cities," Nelson continued. "These are problems we know all too well in Wisconsin and Minnesota and in over 30 other states where the pace of the HIV epidemic is dramatically increasing."

"While the AIDS Action Council did not precisely support the principle of equitable

services regardless of where they live in the country. This position will be enormously helpful to us as we carry on our battle for

equitable AIDS funding in the Congress," Nelson cited several examples of funding inequities from the CARE Act that he said had to be corrected.

Comparing San Francisco to Milwaukee, Nelson reported that San Francisco receives just over \$35 million in CARE Act funds or \$5,441 per recent AIDS case, while Milwaukee receives just over \$10 million or \$1,667 per recent AIDS case.

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Christian Talk-Show Host Files Ethics Complaint Against Rep. Tammy Baldwin

(Madison)— The Associated Press reports that an Eau Claire Right Wing Christian TV talk-show host filed a complaint on June 17 with the state Ethics Board against State Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison), alleging that Baldwin allowed her state office telephone to

be used by Action Wisconsin, the LesBiGay political activist group.

The complaint was verbal and lodged by Chuck Lee who, in a press release, accused Baldwin of "dealing with the operation of a

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Jerry Johnson

A Great Day—Over a dozen tents lined the grounds of PrideFest in Milwaukee on June 11-12, 1994. The south end of the grounds main stage area is shown while the Shoreline Dancers performed on stage. The photo was taken from the roof/terrace of the Milwaukee Art Museum.