



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

The Wisconsin Light

Light Inside...

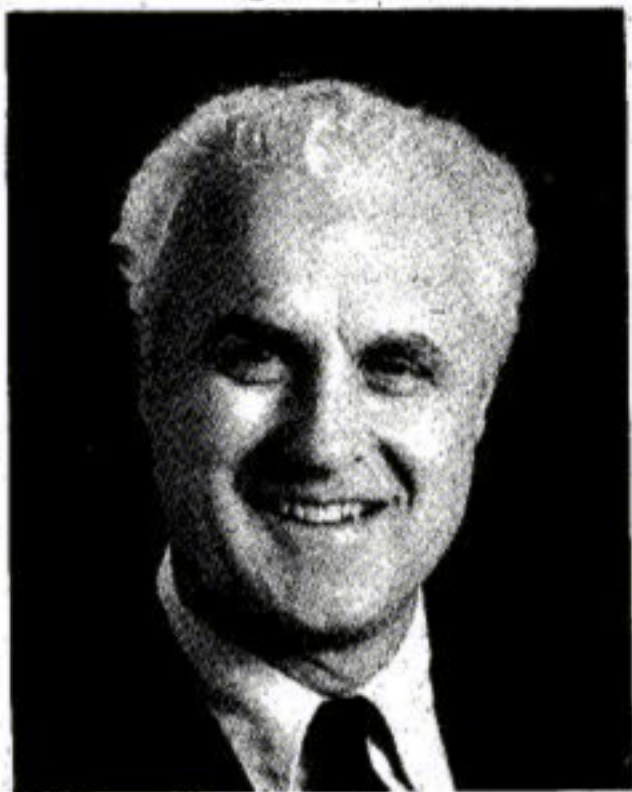


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Civil Rights Bill Reintroduced Into Congress

[Washington, D.C.]—The Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill was introduced into the U.S. Senate on January 25 by Senator Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) and into the U.S. House of Representatives on January 24 by Congressman Ted Weiss (D-NY/17) and Henry Waxman (D-Calif./24).

Sixty-three Representatives signed up as original cosponsors of the bill, officially called the Civil Rights Amendments Act of 1989 (H.R. 655). Eight Senators have signed on to the companion bill. Gay rights lobbyists from the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) are confident more will sign on in the upcoming months of the 101st Congress.



Rep. Jim Moody

Two of the 63 cosponsoring Representatives are from Wisconsin. They are Jim Moody (D-Milwaukee) and Robert Kastenmeier (D-Madison).

Of the eight Senate cosponsors, none come from Wisconsin. Senator Kohl's (D-WI) Press Secretary told *Light* that Kohl had not yet had a chance to study the bill. The freshman Senator is inundated with pieces of legislation.

The bill would amend existing federal civil rights statutes to protect people on the basis of "affectional or sexual orientation" from discrimination in the areas of employment, housing and credit, government-assisted opportunities and public accommodations. The bill would outlaw discrimination in stores, restaurants, hotels and other places selling services or goods.

TURN TO CONGRESS, PAGE 10

MOVE TO REMOVE TV TALK HOST, DOWNEY, BEGINS IN MILWAUKEE



Pictured above are 15 coordinators for Madison's Pride and Civil Rights March which will be held on May 6, 1989.

Jerry Johnson

[Milwaukee]—Alan D. Eisenberg is mad as hell and he isn't going to take it anymore — not, at least, without a fight.

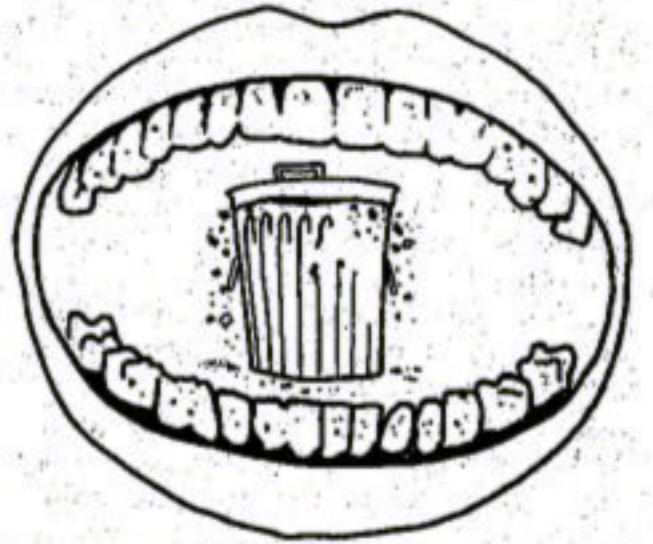
Eisenberg, a well-known former Milwaukee attorney, has taken up the cudgels against Morton Downey Jr. a TV talk show host who Joyce Millman of the San Francisco *Examiner* has called "The latest in a long line of crafty demagogues."

Downey, Millman goes on to say "taps into a wellspring of lower middle-class frustration, reduces complex political and social problems down to cartoon proportions of Us vs. Them." He "indulges racial and ethnic prejudice, encourages viewers to blow off steam, revel in lawlessness and hurdle over society's barriers of restraint and propriety."

Eisenberg calls Downey, "boorish, tasteless, abusive and obnoxious; America's No. 1 redneck" and he has decided to do something about it.

Eisenberg who has given up law "for good", has formed Citizens Against Downey (CAD) which, on December 20, 1988, began a nationwide campaign to garner public support to take Downey — who Eisenberg terms "a cretin" from the air thus eliminating "his maniacal ravings."

Downey is infamous for his blatant and outrageous homophobic remarks on his show. Examples are legion. As recorded from the Downey show on WMAQ-AM in Chicago, Downey has called "Gays" "butt



jockeys" and cited homosexuality as "an abnormal way of life" thus exactly echoing Heinrich Himmler who was in charge of the Gay Holocaust in Hitler's Germany.

Downey was also accused of slapping Andy Humm, spokesman for the New TURN TO DOWNEY, PAGE 11

Madison Mayor Primary Feb. 21

By David Burrill

[Madison]—The mayoral primary race is heating up in Madison as the Feb. 21 election approaches. But Lesbians and Gays in the City of Madison still do not have a candidate they feel they can strongly support. A number of Gay progressives including openly Gay Dane County Board Chairman Dick Wagner and Supervisor Tammy Baldwin, lined up behind former Mayor Paul Soglin when he jumped in the race, but he has disappointed many on Gay/Lesbian issues.

Meanwhile, Mayor Joe Sensenbrenner, who has hired openly Gay Ron McCrea, former Governor Earl's press secretary, as a media aide, continues to plod along offering little to show himself worthy of Gay support. While Madison has its first openly Gay candidate for Mayor, many have found him unacceptable for a number of reasons.

Madison Gays and Lesbians were shocked at a recent Mayoral forum held in the heart of the Williamson Street area where some estimate that up to 40% of TURN TO MAYOR, PAGE 5

HIVIG Approved for AIDS Patient Trials in Minnesota

By Tim Campbell

Frank Rhame, MD, learned on Friday, January 27, that the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Human Immune Virus Immune Globulin (HIVIG) for human trials. Rhame is Director of the AIDS Clinical Trials Unit at the University of Minnesota Hospitals. Rhame expects to start administering the treatment to half dozen AIDS patients within two or three weeks. The government originally refused to fund this research and the project was subsequently sponsored by Abbott Laboratories.

HIVIG treatment involves a type of plasma transfer therapy rather than a drug. HIVIG is about seven times as concentrated as plasma and it is prepared from a pool of about 17 donors whereas plasma comes from only one person.

In plasma transfer therapy, plasma is taken from a person who is HIV positive, but who has no symptoms and given to a patient who is so sick they are not making HIV antibodies or making only very few antibodies. Theoretically, at least, the HIV antibodies from the donor fight the HIV virus for the sick person. The treatment is also called "passive immunotherapy."

Some tentatively promising results have already been obtained with this kind of therapy. *AIDS Treatment News*, a publication put out by San Francisco based AIDS activists, calls passive

immunotherapy one of those therapies "most likely to become important in 1989."

Rhame himself thinks that HIVIG has a chance of surpassing AZT as the protocol of choice for AIDS patients.

To put Rhame's claim for HIVIG in context, it was only made when the doctor was challenged to defend the medical profession's acceptance of AZT as a good tool against AIDS in spite of its marginal benefits coupled with its toxic side effects.

Rhame brought up HIVIG meekly as he awaited long overdue approval of the compound from the FDA. It took three months to get that approval when it should have taken only one month.

(Similarly federal officials took over a year to do the tissue screening for Carbovir, an AZT-like, but less toxic antiviral being researched at the University of Minnesota. Carbovir is not yet ready for human trials.)

Shortsightedness on the part of federal planners a few years back is now causing a tremendous backlog at government agencies. Naturally, those agencies are now blaming the backlog on AIDS.

The major advantage of plasma transfer therapy in general and HIVIG in particular is that plasma is basically compatible with human life processes. It's "biodegradable", so to speak. The negative side effects are minimal and TURN TO HIVIG, PAGE 10

Rep. Carpenter to Lead State Liberties Panel

[Madison]—State Representative Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) has been appointed to head a new legislative committee with jurisdiction over Wisconsin's Gay rights law.

Carpenter, a strong supporter of civil liberties protections, was named to chair the Assembly Committee on Elections and Constitutional Law by Assembly Speaker Tom Loftus.

"The committee will have responsibility for all legislative issues pertaining to civil liberties and constitutional law, including Gay and Lesbian civil rights and sexual privacy," according to Carpenter.

"Wisconsin continues as the only state to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations based on sexual orientation. Our top priority must be to maintain these human

rights guarantees," Carpenter said.

"Any effort to repeal or undermine our historic civil rights law won't get very far in my committee," said Carpenter.

This is good news, indeed, for Wisconsin's Gay rights law, according to its legislative author, Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison).

"Carpenter is now in the pivotal position to guarantee the integrity of our anti-discrimination statutes. There have been serious efforts in the past to weaken these laws that guarantee equal rights for the Gay and Lesbian community," said Clarenbach, who is Speaker Pro Tem of the State Assembly.

"We can now move onto the offensive to broaden legal safeguards and to enact programs that will benefit people with AIDS," Clarenbach said.