



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

The Wisconsin Light

STATE SENATOR SEEKS LIFE IN PRISON FOR TRANSMISSION OF AIDS VIRUS

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Become Pro-Active and Make A Difference

By Tom Sauerman,
National V.P. P-FLAG

A letter from the Field Division of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) came across my desk some time ago. It appealed to my interest and made good sense. But it called for me to do something I've never done before: pre-authorizing mail to Capitol Hill — so that they could send messages in my name to members of Congress when critical issues come up.

Before I tell you what I did, let me explain its appeal. Washington, D.C. is light years from my experience. Lesbian and Gay concerns frequently are over and done with before I'm aware that they happened. They often come up on short notice with little time for Gay/Lesbian and AIDS lobbyists to reach all of us who care before these votes.

For years I've been frustrated. What I find is I've been reactive rather than pro-active on these issues where I do have strong opinions.

Then came the HRCF Field Division (formerly the Fairness Fund) letter!

HRCF is the national political action committee for the Gay and Lesbian community. It lobbies Congress on AIDS and fairness issues for Lesbians and Gay men. It is the 9th largest independent PAC in America. Because they lobby and monitor Congress daily, they're able to move on an issue within hours.

They currently have my permission to send ten 50-word messages in my name where timing and pressure is important. The messages will speak directly to an issue's critical points. They cost just \$2.95 each. The Fund sends out quarterly reports on messages sent, their impact and legislative results. Or you can request an immediate copy of the message for just 50 cents each. Since they have my address, they know which voting district I'm in and send it to whomever they think it will have the most impact upon. I can cancel at anytime if I'm not satisfied.

Every letter, mailgram or phone call sent to Congress represents 1,000 voters. And it shows members of Congress that our side is organized in their districts.

Don't you think it's time that you stand up with us — and have your voice heard on Capitol Hill? Not once, but again and again.

Editor's Note: Wisconsin Light heartily endorses Mr. Sauerman's position. We urge readers to take advantage of the insert in this issue of the paper and join Gays and Lesbians nation-wide who are helping HRCF make our presence felt in Congress.



Photo by Robert Mapplethorpe titled "Self-Portrait", 1980. (Silver Print, 20 x 16). From the Artist's Collection and currently on exhibit in Chicago.

Robert Mapplethorpe Exhibited in Chicago Galleries

By Jeffrey Zurlinden

With photographs of nude black men and S&M sex, Robert Mapplethorpe pushed art photography to the limit. An exhibition of his work, **Robert Mapplethorpe: The Perfect Moment**, opened in February at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art. Starting March 18, the Betsy Rosenfield Gallery, a private gallery in Chicago, will also exhibit photographs by Mapplethorpe.

The Perfect Moment presents all phases of Mapplethorpe's photography — portraits, nudes, flowers and S&M sex. Over 150 photographs make this exhibition the largest collection of Mapplethorpe's photographs ever displayed and the first Mapplethorpe exhibition to tour nationally.

The subject matter, not the technique, earned Mapplethorpe his reputation as a bad boy — the late 70's explicitly Gay photographs. "Larry and Bobby Kissing", 1979 seems tame. And "Untitled", 1979, with Mr. and Mr. Leather in the living room chained to the furniture may be almost homey. But the whiphandle-in-the-butt-hole "Self-Portrait", 1978, and the fisting photographs (one is included in this exhibit) can shock.

"Mark Stevens (Mr. 10 1/2)", 1976, is typical. Mark leans forward and displays the object of his nickname on a platform; his gloriously erect penis trussed by a studded cockring, and his butt framed by leather chaps. Sexual yet classically elegant — like an unearthed ancient Greek statue, his head and forearms are missing.

Besides the S&M pictures, Mapplethorpe is best known for his powerfully elegant nude pictures of black men. "Thomas in Circle", 1987, like most of the black men, poses as a single beautiful object with bulging, well-defined muscles. He is so perfect, yet so distant, that viewers long to touch his skin, and make him real. Most critics agree that Mapplethorpe broke new

ground with the black male nudes and made black men legitimate subjects for fine-art photographs.

To many, Mapplethorpe's flowers breathe the greatest sensuality and beauty. They usually pose like the black men, alone or in pairs. In "Poppy, 1988", a lush and brilliantly orange blossom intertwines like a lover around an unopened bud. "The flowers are erotically charged and yet kept at a cool distance by the camera," says Bruce Gunther, Chief Curator of Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art.

Many Gay men fantasize that Mapplethorpe spent most of his time waiting for the next severe leather number or well-endowed, muscle-bound black man. (He reportedly recruited models from backrooms and through personals.) Instead, he worked commercially and took portraits. Approximately one third of the photographs are portraits, including a 14-year chronicle of rock star Patti Smith.

Robert Mapplethorpe is the most widely talked-about and written-about photographer in America today, but tragically at 42, he is running out of time. Free-wheeling sex in New York in the 1970's nurtured his art, and now AIDS is surrounding and killing the artist.

EXHIBITIONS

Robert Mapplethorpe: The Perfect Moment-

Museum of Contemporary Art: 237 E. Ontario, Chicago, Feb. 25-April 9. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sundays, 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. Suggested price \$4, \$2 for students, senior citizens and children ages 10-18. Children under 10 are free. There is no charge on Tuesdays.

Robert Mapplethorpe
Betsy Rosenfield Gallery, 212 W. Superior, Chicago, 1st floor. March 18-April 22, Tuesdays-Fridays 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturdays 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

[Madison]- Strict criminal penalties of up to life imprisonment for transmission of the AIDS virus would be imposed if the state legislature passes a bill introduced by State Senator Marvin Roshell (D-Chippewa Falls).

Senate Bill 26 calls for penalties of up to ten years imprisonment for exposing someone to the virus. If a person "knowingly" transmits the virus, the prison term would increase to 20 years, and if the transmission contributes to the death of another, the penalty could increase to life imprisonment.

According to Roshell, SB 26 is, "an attempt to stop the lunatics on the fringe of society who have this dreadful disease."

Proponents of the Gay and Lesbian community were quick to condemn the Roshell bill as "reactionary and counter productive."

State Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison) said SB 26, "contributes to the public hysteria over AIDS and punishes people with AIDS a second time. This is a negative and punitive response that will not stop one case of AIDS; nor will it stop any anti-social behavior of an irresponsible person who has AIDS."

"This law, if passed, would make any person infected with the HIV virus vulnerable to a criminal charge. This bill could encourage a witch hunt against the Gay community," Clarenbach declared. Roshell claims that he is not on a witch hunt against any particular group and I am especially not trying to complicate the lives of those average citizens who are living the nightmare of this disease."

State Representative Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) urged citizens to write or phone their legislators immediately to oppose SB 26. "Members of the Senate and Assembly must hear from their constituents that this is a bill that must be defeated."

"AIDS is a serious public health issue that will require funding for education to prevent further spread of the disease, and for the care and treatment of those already infected," Carpenter said.

"We must stop this reactionary and counter productive approach. Wisconsin must insist on an aggressive and positive fight against AIDS," said Carpenter, who is a member of the Assembly Health Committee.

Senate Bill 26 has been referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee, which is chaired by Senator Lynn Adelman (D-New Berlin). Adelman could kill the bill in committee by refusing to schedule it for a public hearing. The bill is sponsored by 13 lawmakers from both houses and both parties.

Citizens who wish to write their legislators may address their letters to them at the State Capitol, Madison, WI 53702. For those who don't know the name of their state senator or representative, or who wish to leave a telephone message, may call the legislative hotline at 1-800-362-9696.

United Way Ignores Gays

In a major collaborative effort, United Way of Greater Milwaukee and the Social Development Commission issued a report entitled, "Top Concerns: Milwaukee Minorities Identify the Problems they Face."

This report was the result of an intensive review of the problems faced by Milwaukee's minority groups. The stated objective of the review was to assist both United Way and the Social Development Commission in the development of

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