



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

The Wisconsin Light

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Hate Crimes Bill Passes Judiciary House Committee

[Washington, D.C.]—The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's (NGLTF) historic effort to enact federal legislation addressing anti-Lesbian/Gay violence moved a step closer to passage when, on June 20, the House Judiciary Committee voted 33-1 in favor of HR 1048, the Hate Crime Statistics Act.

HR 1048, sponsored by Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), and 127 co-sponsors, is legislation designed to collect statistics on crimes motivated by prejudice based on race, religion, homosexuality, heterosexuality or ethnicity.

An amendment to remove "homosexuality or heterosexuality" from the bill was offered by right-wing legislator, Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-CA). The amendment was defeated by a margin of 33-1 with bipartisan opposition.

Among those on the Committee voting for the bill and against the amendment were Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) and Rep. William Kastenmeier (D-WI).

"The vote to retain 'homosexuality' is a big victory for all those concerned with ending hate crime motivated by bigotry," said NGLTF Lobbyist Peri Jude Radecic.

State Lawmakers Approve \$1.4 Mil. AIDS Funding

[Madison]—Wisconsin State lawmakers have given final approval to a \$1.4 million dollar program to provide for the first time ever, care and treatment assistance for people infected with the HIV virus.

Under the plan introduced into the 1989-91 state budget by Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison), \$1,261,000 will be used to fund AIDS/HIV life care services programs in Wisconsin's six AIDS Service Organizations. The state-wide network of AIDS Service Organizations, include The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) and the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN).

The remaining \$101,300 has been earmarked to help defray the high cost of the anti-AIDS drugs AZT and pentamidine.

"State government must become an active partner in the fight against the AIDS epidemic," Clarenbach said.

"With 300 lives lost to AIDS in Wisconsin already, and another 10,000 state residents infected with the AIDS virus, it is critical that we commit ourselves to fighting AIDS now. AIDS is a time bomb waiting to explode," he said.

"By anticipating this explosion, we are in a better position to assist those infected with the HIV virus and save

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DENMARK JOINS SWEDEN IN ALLOWING SAME SEX MARRIAGES



Balloons were released at the Milwaukee Pride Rally on June 17th in honor of those who have died of AIDS, as Dan Trzebiatowski spoke.

Montreal Conference Says AIDS Will Be Chronic Disease by Mid 1990's

Over 11,000 delegates representing 87 countries and nearly 1000 members of the media attended the Fifth International AIDS Conference held in Montreal, Canada, between June 4-10, 1989. More than 5500 research papers and videos were presented including explicit videos featuring safer sex while panels from the Names Project Quilt hung in a shopping plaza near the convention center for all to see and to ponder.

Among those attending was Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) who spoke to **Light** of a cautious optimism that he brought away from the Conference.

The is no cure on the horizon, he cautioned, "no magic bullet, no breakthrough on the horizon. Any vaccine is so far away and so complicated." Yet, having said this, he affirmed that "There is an exponential degree in progress."

There are new drug therapies, "AZT and a host of others" that can and will extend the lifespan of people living with AIDS, Nelson said. Just what the quality of that life would be, no one was prepared to say, but the strong ray of hope is that there will be life.

This means, Nelson said, that by the mid 1990's, AIDS will be a chronic and not a fatal disease as it is today. It will be much like Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and eventually, he said, AIDS will be like diabetes. Thus, the greater focus now is on how to manage the disease.

Still, lest there by any over optimism, Nelson emphasized, "We can never let up

our guard." And lest it be thought that all this effects only people living with AIDS now and in the future, he pointed out that "Everyone will be living with this disease, all of us live with AIDS, not just persons with AIDS, but all who are at risk. For these reasons, prevention education and behavior change remain crucial, he said."

He also pointed out that as AIDS becomes a chronic disease and not a fatal one, the responsibilities falling on MAP and on lovers, families and friends of people living with AIDS for care-giving will become, if anything, even greater than they are now. Life will be prolonged and its quality must be maintained to as high degree as is possible. This will take ever more dedication and commitment from all concerned.

Nelson said that one of the strongest impressions that he received in Montreal was that the Gay/Lesbian community has "found its best self in the AIDS epidemic." He said that the scientists spoke profoundly of how they saw the Gay community coming together to fight the disease. For example, in Milwaukee, the Gay/Lesbian community has formed MAP which, he said, was the "main difference between hopelessness and the compassionate dealing with AIDS."

Nelson cited the great numbers of volunteers at MAP, Lesbians, Gays and straights, who give of themselves "and keep on giving." He said that these "great hearted people are a real

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[Copenhagen]—The Danish Parliament has passed a law allowing homosexual couples to marry, granting them all the rights of heterosexual couples except for adoption and recognition by the state Lutheran Church.

The bill was passed 71-47, with five abstentions and 56 legislators absent in the 179-seat house.

The legislation, which takes effect August 1, 1989, gives homosexual marriage the status of a "registered partnership" with full inheritance rights and requiring official divorce proceedings for dissolution.

The only other country to permit marriage between people of the same sex is Sweden, which gives married homosexual couples the rights of unmarried heterosexual couples.

The Danish law provides that registered partners will automatically inherit from each other, be taxed as married couples and have the same access to social services as if they were married.

To qualify for registration, the law only stipulates that applicants should have the same address and be of the same sex. As with heterosexual marriages, bigamy will not be permitted.

Registered partnerships with foreigners will also be permitted without hindrance.

Opposition to the law came mainly from the small Christian People's Party whose 5 members of Parliament decried the proposal as unnatural and unethical.

Tom Stoddard, Executive Director of New York's Lambda Legal Defense Fund, noted that the question of whether Denmark's law would be recognized in other countries was unclear.

"The general rule in the U.S.," he said, "is that states will give full recognition to marriages in other jurisdictions unless they violate the public policy of the particular place in question. At the moment, it's case law in every state (that Gay marriages violate public policy), but public policy is an elastic concept that will change and grow over time. And it can be challenged in court."

First Annual Milwaukee Pride Week Big Success

[Milwaukee]—Gay/Lesbian Pride week, while centered on the Parade and March, did not begin nor end with these events.

On Friday, June 18, Milwaukee's Original Fest City Singers presented "Catch a Rising Star" (see article this issue) at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Steimke Theater.

On the same day and time, popular comedienne Kate Clinton presented a program at Centennial Hall. The program was sponsored by Midwest Music and Full Moon Productions. Clinton is the country's foremost Lesbian comic with a easy, delightful wit that is, at the same time wonderfully barbed. According to those attending, Clinton was more than up to her usual high standard.

On Sunday, June 18, there was a Brunch Reception, sponsored by the Pride Committee, for Robert Peterson, a reporter for the **Advocate** who had been in Milwaukee for a week covering both the process and events surrounding the first annual Pride March and Rally. About 30 Lesbian and Gay leaders attended the brunch held at the Cafe Macaw whose friendly and expert staff and well prepared food contributed greatly to the success of the event.

On Monday, June 19, a "Community Speakout" was held at the Cream City Foundation Community Center. It was

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