



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

The Wisconsin Light

Milwaukee County Board to Vote On Disavowing Pride Proclamation

Wisconsin Light Readies Legal Action

Judiciary Committee Votes 5-1 to Recant

[Milwaukee]- As a result of the action taken on July 11 by the Committee on Judiciary, Safety and General Services of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, (see article, this issue) Wisconsin Light is exploring legal action to be taken against the County Board.

According to Dr. Terry Boughner, Editor of Light, the paper is currently in consultation with legal counsel and others concerning a class action suit to be brought against the Board.

A final decision will be reached on the matter following the Board's action on the recantation resolution. Such action is scheduled to take place on Thursday, July 20.

"The reason for this step by the paper," Boughner said, "is the necessity of showing those who are our friends in public office and elsewhere that we are willing and ready to stand with them and carry on the fight for our rights."



Sup. Dan Casey



Sup. Richard Kuzminski



Sup. Gerald Engel

In related action, according to Boughner, Light is in contact with the Office of Civil Rights, a division of the Federal Department of Health and Human Services concerning the recantation resolution going to the full Board and the possibility of discrimination against Gays

and Lesbians.

In other and late breaking news, Light has learned from its sources within the movement that a group of right-wing Christian Fundamentalists has retained legal counsel with the aim of bringing suit

TURN TO LEGAL ACTION, PAGE 11

[Milwaukee]- As a petition drive to force the recall of Mayor John O. Norquist for his proclamation honoring Gay/Lesbian Pride Week reached a reported 2,000 signatures, the Milwaukee County Board's Committee on Judiciary, Safety and General Services, chaired by James Koconis, on Tuesday, July 11, 1989, approved a resolution to "recant" the Council's proclamation honoring Gay/Lesbian Pride Week. The proclamation which was passed unanimously by Council, was issued May 18, 1989.

The motion to approve the recantation resolution passed on a 5-1 vote. Supervisor Aldrich, 4th district, was the lone dissenter.

The recantation resolution, sponsored by County Supervisors Gerald Engle (8th district), Daniel Casey (23d district), and Richard Kuzminski (24th district), asserted that the Pride proclamation was used "to apparently promote and endorse a lifestyle which embodies certain practices which are clearly unacceptable to the vast majority of citizens."

It concludes saying that the Council will "recant and disavow those portions" of the Gay/Lesbian Pride proclamation "which by implication or otherwise congratulates, endorses or applauds the lifestyle of the Gay/Lesbian movement."

The Committee meeting was attended by more than 100 people 10 of whom are openly Lesbian or Gay.

Among those testifying before the Committee was resolution co-sponsor Engle. He admitted voting for the Pride proclamation, but "I goofed. I couldn't catch its meaning," he said. But now, he said, his conscience would not allow him to go on without attempting to have the proclamation rescinded.

Supervisor Richard Nyklewicz, supporting Engle, stated his opinion that "the Gay/Lesbian movement is not a worthy endeavor."

Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs-Jones, one of the sponsors of the Pride Proclamation said that the title of the proclamation had

TURN TO PROCLAMATION, PAGE 11

Dramatic Increase in Violence Reported In Madison After May 6 March & Rally

By John Quinlan

Madison, WI- Community leaders expressed their anger and their solidarity in the face of reports of anti-Lesbian/Gay violence at a July 7th rally at the State Capitol. There have been at least six incidents of "Gaybashing" in the two months since Madison's March for Lesbian and Gay Rights and Pride, sources say.

"We are a gentle, angry people — and we are speaking for our lives," said Dane County Board Chair Richard Wagner, paraphrasing Holly Near.

"Not everyone in this community is in a position to stand up to this kind of homophobia," the openly-Gay politician told a crowd of about 100. "Those who can must carry the burden."

"We are here to express our outrage," said Cevyn Godre, a member of the Gay and Lesbian Visibility Alliance (GALVANize). "And we are here to express our compassion for the survivors of homophobic violence."

Too often, she said, society displays a "well, what do you expect" attitude and discounts homophobic violence by blaming Lesbians and Gay men for openly expressing who they are. "Let's not fall into the trap of blaming the victim. Just as no woman deserves to be raped, no Lesbian or Gay man deserves to be beaten."

"Violence motivated by bigotry is especially abhorrent and will not be tolerated," said state Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison).

Clarenbach is a sponsor of the 1987 Wisconsin Hate Crimes Law that offers stiff additional penalties to people whose crimes are driven by racist, homophobic or other bigoted motivations.

Violence and harassment against Lesbians and Gays are only the most repugnant expression of a more deeply ingrained problem, Clarenbach added. "Those who believe in homophobia and bigotry are as much a part of that violence as those who actually perform the violence."

It is glaringly hypocritical for certain "bible-thumpers and anti-abortionists" to declare the sanctity of life and then stand silent in the face of violence against Lesbians and Gay men, he continued. "They are notable in their defense of the right to life, but not in their ability to live

and let live, to love and let love."

Prior to the rally, few details of the six attacks were known, because the survivors of the attacks feared the consequences of going public with their stories. "A history of the 1980's in Madison cannot be silent about the violence experienced by Lesbians and Gays," said openly-Lesbian County Supervisor Tammy Baldwin. She emphasized the need to report these crimes to the police and in the press.

"This violence is simply wrong, no one has the right to physically harass a member of 'the family,'" said Madison Ald. Bert Zipperer (6th Dist.), noting the need for vocal support of Lesbians and Gays from their non-Lesbian/Gay brothers and sisters.

Lesbian and Gay advocacy groups began mobilizing after the rally to provide support services for survivors of violence or harassment.

The United is planning a mid-July meeting that will include the Rape Crisis Center, the police department, the Madison AIDS Support Network, the local VOCA (Victims of Crime Assistance Office) and other groups. Existing resources will be pooled and needs for new services identified, said Dale Johnson, a board member of the United. This may include preventative measures, such as self-defense classes and a "whistle for help" project.

"Survivors of anti-Lesbian/Gay violence must overcome some pretty



Dane County Sup. Tammy Baldwin

significant fears in order to report the crime," said Johnson. "They fear retaliation by their attackers. They worry about insensitive treatment at the hands of the police."

"And it's also a coming-out issue. Many people aren't 'out' at work or to their families," he said. "They fear that in reporting the crime, they will be forced to be very visibly 'out' before they're ready."

"These fears are real, but talking about what happened can be the first step in overcoming the fear and the pain."

TURN TO VIOLENCE, PAGE 11

Protest Vigil Planned July 20 at Milwaukee Court House

[Milwaukee]- On Thursday, July 20, 1989 the Board of Supervisors of Milwaukee County will consider the recantation resolution passed by the Judiciary Committee on July 11.

The meeting will be held at the County Building. Board meetings are open to the public by Wisconsin law although no one except board members may speak.

All those who support retention of the Gay/Lesbian Pride proclamation are asked to come to the Board meeting wearing black armbands to attend, peacefully showing our shock and sorrow over what is taking place.

The recantation resolution will be brought in along with the regular report of the Judiciary Committee. That report will be discussed in the late morning or early afternoon. It has been reported that should a sufficient number of protesters show up, the consideration of the resolution will be advanced on the agenda.

There will be a roll call vote. Let each member of the Board as she or he casts their vote look and see us in our numbers. Let them know by our quiet presence that we are a proud people. PLEASE BE THERE. JULY 20!

Clarenbach Strongly Reacts to Abortion Ruling

[Madison]- Reacting to the July U.S. Supreme Court ruling on abortion, State Representative David E. Clarenbach (D-Madison) issued a strongly worded statement.

"Here in Wisconsin, as across the nation, the political and legal system has been squeezed by a ruthless single issue lobby, that does not represent the majority view. This is as much a crisis of democracy as it is a challenge to the principles of privacy and rights of women."

The statement went on to say that, "We must use the occasion of this decision to seize back the offensive and redouble our efforts to assert productive rights of women."

Clarenbach who is Speaker Pro Tem of the Assembly and a long-time civil rights advocate moved at once to bring a bill (AB 500) to the floor of the House that would repeal that section of the Wisconsin legal code that made abortion a criminal offense. The statute has been inoperative since the Supreme Court's "Roe v. Wade" ruling in 1973.

The law, 940.04, provides for fines and imprisonment for a woman obtaining an abortion.