



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

# The Wisconsin Light

## M.D. Spreads False Information About AIDS

[Milwaukee]- "I support the establishment of regional AIDS centers for people who are HIV positive and for people with AIDS and the use of a military-style draft to get surgeons, doctors and health care people to work there," said Dr. Lorraine Day, M.D.

Day, who is currently chief of orthopedic surgery at San Francisco General Hospital, was in Milwaukee on October 22 to address a rally held at Bruce Hall auditorium at MECCA.

The rally, attended by approximately 2,000 people, most of whom were white, was sponsored by the Family Concerns Coalition, a local right-wing, fundamentalist Christian group.

Day, who has been charged by medical professionals throughout the U.S. with holding opinions on the transmission of HIV inconsistent with acceptable scientific knowledge, told the gathering that "There has been an AIDS cover-up" perpetrated by politicians who "pay off political debts to the homosexual community by hiring homosexuals who have a strong hand on medical research funds." For this reason, the facts concerning the disease have been hidden from the public or denied.

"AIDS is not fragile," she said. "The AIDS virus will stay alive on a dry surface for five days," she said and claimed that "It (HIV) cannot be killed by a 20% Ethyl alcohol solution after 20 minutes" of contact.

Day based this and other statements on newspaper clippings, articles from *Lancet*, a British medical publication and the Atlanta Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

HIV, she said, can enter the body through "intact skin." "You don't need a cut or abrasion," she said, "only body fluids" such as urine, saliva or blood "in contact with the skin."

"No one knows," she added, "if it (HIV) can be transmitted by sweat" because no studies have been done.

She also maintained that the disease can be contracted by "household contact," "passionate kissing" and from "toothbrushes on which saliva (of an infected person) is present."

Latex gloves and condoms are, she said, "useless" in preventing the spread of the infection. Both, she said, "have tiny holes", even those which are new, and all that is needed is contact "for only a few minutes" with bodily fluids on the intact skin to transmit the disease.

Day sees a bleak future as the AIDS epidemic continues to grow in the U.S. "There will be," she said, "100,000 new AIDS cases in the next 15 months and another 100,000 in the following 12 months." Already, she said, citing CDC figures, "25,000 college students are

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## State Assembly Seeks School AIDS Courses

[Madison]- The Wisconsin State Assembly has advanced a proposal to combat AIDS.

The Assembly passed and sent to the Senate a bill to require AIDS education courses to be taught in the public school system. Assembly Bill 461, sponsored by State Representative Barbara Notestein (D-Milwaukee), was passed on a vote of 79-17.

The bill directs the Department of Public Instruction to prepare the AIDS curriculum as part of the Critical Health Problems Education Program offered in all public schools.

A.B. 461, which will be considered in the Senate next year, provides that courses will "discuss all methods and behaviors that prevent the transmission of AIDS."

## Move Over Wisconsin, Here Comes Massachusetts — At Last!



Shown are a portion of the people who picketed the October 22 Milwaukee auditorium lecture of San Francisco's Dr. Day., M.D.

## Milwaukee Health Commissioner Strongly Disputes AIDS Claim

[Milwaukee]- Recently Dr. Lorraine Day, outgoing chief of orthopedic surgery at San Francisco General Hospital, spoke in Milwaukee about the risk of exposure to AIDS. The Milwaukee Health Department has issued a statement saying that her views regarding risk are not representative of widely accepted medical opinion.

"The methods of transmission of AIDS from an infected individual are primarily by sexual contact, shared contaminated needles, from blood products (although screening has reduced this risk to a minimum), and by mother to infant," according to Commissioner of Health, Paul W. Nannis.

Outside these instances, the risk of contracting the AIDS virus is extremely low. The Centers for Disease Control places the risk from a needle stick for a health care worker at one in 200 chances of contracting the AIDS virus, assuming the patient has AIDS. Dr. Day exaggerates the number of times such needle sticks occur, although health care workers must continue to reduce the number of such incidents still further.

Additionally, Dr. Day's contention that the virus can penetrate intact skin is clearly not supported by incidence data.

## Wisconsin AIDS Initiative Unanimously Passes Assembly

[Madison]- With an astonishing lack of debate, the State Assembly has passed the Wisconsin AIDS Initiative.

On a unanimous voice vote, the lower house passed and sent to the Senate the plan which will create a bill of rights for people with AIDS and HIV infection.

Assembly Bill 400 would prohibit doctors, hospitals, nursing homes, and insurers in Wisconsin from discriminating against persons with HIV.

State Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison), the primary author of the bill, heralded the Assembly action as "a major breakthrough in the effort to guarantee care and treatment for everyone infected with the HIV virus."

"No one should be denied medical care, or receive a lower standard of care, or be discriminated against in any way because they are HIV positive," Clarenbach said.

Recently, Wisconsin has seen several doctors and nursing homes refuse to treat people with AIDS. That practice would be outlawed if A.B. 400 becomes law.

There is a host of data on household contacts and no transmission by day-to-day social contact has been documented. By the time transmission by normal social contact is not a reality, society should not segregate infected individuals. Medical care should be available in the community at large, not only in regional AIDS centers, as suggested by Dr. Day. Universal precautions need to be taken by all health care workers.

Although Dr. Day promoted mandatory testing for AIDS, Nannis stated that "mandatory testing has never proven to be an effective strategy for dealing with a public health problem. It has the effect of undermining confidence in health care providers and driving people away from the health care system."

"As for the general public, they can be assured that if they avoid the high risk behaviors associated with the likelihood of transmission, they need not be concerned about contracting AIDS," Commissioner Nannis said.

For further information regarding the risk of AIDS, contact Health Educator John Gruhlke at (414)-278-3635.

The measure would require insurance companies to provide health and life policy benefits to AIDS victims if they had policies before the disease was detected.

It also would require insurers to pay for prescription drugs and federally-approved experimental drugs to treat AIDS patients if their health policies have a provision that covers the cost of drug treatment for other illnesses.

The State Senate is expected to consider A.B. 400 early next year.

## Grant Applications Being Accepted

[Milwaukee]- Applications are now available for grants from Milwaukee's Cream City Foundation (CCF) for the last quarter of 1989. Those interested in applying may write to CCF at 225 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53204 or call (414) 278-0880. The deadline for applications is November 15, 1989. Grants will be made at the December Board meeting.

[Boston, Mass.]- "Move over Wisconsin. You won't be the only Gay Rights State in the country."

That was the message from jubilant Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay activists as the Bay State's Senate on Monday, October 30, approved a comprehensive Gay rights bill by a vote of 24-15. The bill had passed the Massachusetts House on October 23.

Even the date of passage was a defeat for the bill's opponents. Arline Isaacson, Co-chair of the 15,000 member Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus and chief lobbyist for the bill for the last 8 years, told *Light* that since the opposition knew they couldn't defeat the bill, they hoped to have it passed on Hallowe'en and use the holiday's negative connotations among certain conservative Christian circles as a future weapon in the effort for its repeal by voters.

The legislative victory which Stephen Crawford, Deputy Press Secretary to Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis told *Light* was "long-awaited," came after a 17 year struggle. It was first introduced in 1973 by then State Representative Barney Frank.

The current bill bans discrimination



GOVERNOR DUKAKIS

against Lesbians and Gays in employment, credit and housing.

The bill was sponsored in the Massachusetts House by Rep. Mark Roosevelt (D-Boston) and in the Senate by Michael Barrett (D-Cambridge).

Opponents of the bill in the Senate led by State Senator Edward Kirby (R-Whitman) forced the inclusion of three amendments. The bill does not apply to religious institutions, the state does not endorse homosexuality and does not endorse homosexual partnerships.

Isaacson told *Light* that while she agreed with Sue Hyde of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) that the amendments were "offensive," accepting them was a case of yielding a little to get a lot. "They (the amendments) are not legally problematical," she said.

Isaacson characterized the fight for the bill's passage as the hardest she had seen in her career as a lobbyist. "I have never seen parliamentary maneuvering of the kind (opponents) used to keep the bill from passing," she said.

"It was so helpful," she added, "to be able to say that Wisconsin had already passed a (Gay rights) bill." She paused, chuckled and said, "You know how elitist Massachusetts is? They couldn't bear to think you (Wisconsin) had one up on liberal Massachusetts."

Deputy Press Secretary Crawford, told *Light* that "the Governor had actively lobbied" for the bill and characterized debate over the measure as "distorted and ugly." The Governor, said Crawford, would sign the legislation into law in a public ceremony "to be attended by as many elected officials as possible."

Only one hurdle remains. On a motion from Sen. Kirby, the bill will face a vote of reconsideration in the Senate. The vote is

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