

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



The Wisconsin Light

ROTC Decisions Attacked By Lawmakers

[Madison]—The University of Wisconsin's refusal to sever ties with ROTC programs that discriminated against Lesbian and Gay students has drawn a stern warning from state lawmakers, led by Representatives Timothy Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) and David Clarenbach (D-Madison).

Sixteen legislators called the ROTC decision "Appalling and unconscionable," according to the letter and one "which officially legitimizes the continuation of a blatantly bigoted policy."

"All individuals are fully deserving of human dignity; no individual is of greater or lesser worth based on his or her sexual orientation. This makes a mockery of the very values the University of Wisconsin prides itself on," the letter states.

The action by the Board of Regents came at the recommendation of University President Kenneth Shaw and Madison Chancellor Donna Shalala.

For many years, the UW has been urged to renegotiate their contract with ROTC to allow full participation by Lesbian and Gay students, or to sever all ties with ROTC if such discrimination does not end.

Early last December, the Madison campus faculty voted to ask the Regents to kick ROTC off campus if they didn't change their policy by 1993.

Co-signers of the letter with Carpenter and Clarenbach include Milwaukee Representatives Barbara Notestein, Peter Bock, Marcia Coggs, Tom Seery, Gwen Moore, Spencer Coggs, Rosemary Potter, and Lou Fortis as well as Representatives Jeannette Bell (D-West Allis), Kim Plache (D-Racine), Stan Gruszynski (D-Stevens Point), Frank Boyle (D-Superior), and Senators Fred Risser (D-Madison) and Russ Feingold (D-Middleton).

BESTD Clinic Expands Services

[Milwaukee]—The Brady Street Clinic has expanded the scope of its services by offering a weekly self-image improvement group on Sundays from 3:30 until 5:30 p.m. at the Clinic's offices, located at 1240 East Brady St. in the heart of Milwaukee's east side. The clinic group will focus on material from the popular spiritual development book, *A Course in Miracles*.

Two identical introductory sessions for those interested who are unfamiliar with the subject matter, will be held on Sunday, February 18 and Sunday, February 25 beginning at 3:30 p.m. at the Clinic. During these sessions, background information will be presented, areas of interest discussed and questions answered. Actual group sessions will begin on Sunday, March 4th at 3:30 p.m.

A Course in Miracles is a collection of systematized materials allowing readers to examine and make decisions about the psycho-socio-spiritual issues facing them. The material is neither religious or denominational. The workbook portion of the material is a practical method of both identifying and bringing into reality views of self and others which foster inner peace.

The Board of Directors of the BESTD Clinic has offered this opportunity in its effort to provide a comprehensive range of opportunities for the wellness of its clients in the physical, mental and spiritual areas. This group will be facilitated by Erv Uecker, a director and volunteer counselor on the Clinic's staff.

There will be no charge for participation in either the introductory or the regular sessions. This program is available to regular clients of the BESTD Clinic and to anyone interested who has never used the Clinic before. Further information may be obtained by contacting the group facilitator, Erv Uecker, at (414) 966-1061.

Rep. Sensenbrenner Attacks "Flaws" in Disabilities Act



Rona (center) went "Around the World" for her Cream City Chorus fund raiser on Feb. 3, at Milwaukee's M&M Club and came back as a nun.

New AIDS Drug, DDI, Passes First Clinical Trials

[Los Angeles, CA]—The results of the first clinical trials of the new AIDS drug, dideoxyinosine, known as DDI, are out and they look promising.

Robert Yarchoan, Samuel Broder, and their colleagues at the National Cancer Institute have reported that the drug appears safe. In contrast to AZT, the only drug currently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for combating AIDS virus infections, DDI has so far shown few toxic side effects in AIDS patients.

In addition, there are indications that the drug suppresses AIDS virus reproduction in the patients, although it is still too early to know whether this will translate into actual clinical benefits, such as a longer or better life for the people who take DDI.

"I would say that (DDI) is much more impressive than AZT at a comparable level of development," said Jerome Groopman of New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston, who also has begun to test DDI in AIDS patients.

Meanwhile, the Bristol-Myers Co., which makes DDI, has taken a step that should help to make the drug available to AIDS patients faster than it normally would be. The company has announced that once the planned phase II and III trials of DDI begin, it will make the drug available at no cost to patients who have a critical need for it—they may have become resistant to AZT, for example—and are unable to take part in the formal clinical testing of DDI.

Bristol-Myers could not have taken its unusual action if the phase I DDI trials had not been producing encouraging results.

A particularly hopeful sign was the

apparent absence of the bone marrow toxicity that so often limits the doses of AZT that patients can take. This may mean that DDI will be tolerated by people who cannot handle AZT, or that the two drugs can be given together to give better suppression of the AIDS virus. Many clinicians think that combination therapies will be needed to control AIDS.

DDI results are contributing to a new optimism about treating AIDS that was notably absent just 4 or 5 years ago. Now, AZT is in clinical use, and DDI is moving expeditiously along the regulatory track. "You have to crawl before you can walk, but this (DDI) study shows that we can crawl pretty fast," Broder said.

Editor's note: The above article by Jean L. Marx was excerpted from *Science*, Vol. 245, the publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

State AIDS Bill of Rights Passes Senate; Goes to Governor

[Madison]—The Wisconsin State Senate has passed and sent to the Governor legislation that creates a bill of rights for people with AIDS and HIV infection. The vote was 29-4.

The Wisconsin AIDS Initiative (AB 400) prohibits discrimination in the provision of health care services by doctors, hospitals and nursing homes, and guarantees health insurance coverage in policies written in this state.

State Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison), the bill's primary author, applauded the Senate action as a "pioneering breakthrough."

"Wisconsin has already suffered over 300 deaths from AIDS. But AIDS is a time-bomb that has not yet exploded here. Over 10,000 people in our state are HIV-positive, and we must anticipate the demands this will place on our health care system," Clarenbach said.

The new law will prohibit health care providers from refusing to treat or furnishing a lower standard of care to any person based on their HIV status. Last year, several nursing homes refused to admit people with AIDS, and a Milwaukee heart surgeon announced he would not

[Washington, D.C.]—Congressman F. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), in his January, 1990, letter to his constituents, has announced that he will seek to change all parts of the Americans with Disabilities Act (HR 2273) "which unfortunately may be interpreted to include illegal drug users and persons with AIDS or the HIV virus."

In the newsletter, Sensenbrenner calls references to persons with AIDS and HIV "flaws" which he hopes "will be corrected."

Sensenbrenner is Congressman for the 9th District which covers Ozaukee, Washington and Jefferson Counties and parts of Waukesha, Dodge and Sheboygan counties.

The bill, which would extend civil rights protections to handicapped persons, including those with AIDS and HIV, has been called the most sweeping piece of civil rights legislation since the Civil Rights act of 1964.

The bill was introduced into the Congress in 1989. A version of the bill was approved by the Senate in September, 1989, by a vote of 76-8-16. It is currently under consideration by the House where it has been sent to several committees. One of these is the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights of which Sensenbrenner is the ranking Republican member. If passed by Congress, President Bush has said that he will sign it.

According to National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) figures, in the 101st Congress, first session, Sensenbrenner voted in favor of issues important to Gays and Lesbians only 13% of the time.

His voting record, as supplied by NGLTF, indicates close and consistent support for Congressman William Dannemeyer (R-CA), one of the most homophobic members of the House. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Dannemeyer is a friend and supporter of Louis Sheldon and the rabidly anti-Gay Fundamentalist Christian Coalition for Traditional Values (CTV). CTV's public position is that persons living with AIDS and HIV should be interned in camps. This, in turn, is the same position advocated by Dr. Lorraine Day in her speech on AIDS in Milwaukee given before a rally sponsored by WVCY-TV (Voice of Christian Youth).

operate on anyone infected with the HIV virus.

AB 400 will also prevent insurance companies from excluding or limiting AIDS coverage and requires payment of prescription drugs and federally-approved experimental drugs if drugs are normally included in policies.

"No one should be denied medical care, or be discriminated against in any way, because they have been exposed to the AIDS-causing virus. This is a pioneering breakthrough that establishes Wisconsin as a partner in the fight against AIDS," Clarenbach declared.

All Senators voted in favor of AB 400 except for Senators Michael Ellis (R-Neenah), Joseph Leca (R-Waupaca), Donald Stitt (R-Port Washington), and Timothy Weeden (R-Beloit).

Governor Tommy Thompson will decide whether to sign AB 400 into law in the near future. The bill has the support of the Governor's HIV Advisory Council, the State Medical Society, insurance industry representatives and leaders of AIDS service organizations throughout the state.

