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# The Wisconsin Light

## MAP Retains Byers As Client Lawyer

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) has contracted with the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee, Inc. to retain the services of Steve Byers, a full-time attorney, to provide free legal assistance services for people with AIDS and HIV infection that began on April 1, 1990.

"The evolution of client services at MAP and the dramatic increase in our clientele make it absolutely necessary that we have a full-time lawyer available to our clients," said Doug Nelson, MAP Executive Director. "70 percent of our clients need legal assistance at one time or another. We must ensure that the highest quality of legal service is available to our nearly 300 clients."

Thomas Zander, Legal Aid Society Executive Director said, "The historic cooperation between MAP and the Legal Aid Society has enabled the new contractual relationship to become a reality." The agreement is a continuation of the Legal Aid Society's AIDS/HIV Antidiscrimination Project.

Nelson praised the assignment of Byers to MAP, calling him "the finest AIDS/HIV attorney in Wisconsin." "Steve brings an unparalleled amount of experience knowledge and sensitivity to individuals with AIDS and HIV infection," said Nelson.

Under the terms of the agreement, Byers will conduct a weekly legal clinic at the MAP offices and will regularly be available at MAP to meet with clients for legal consultation and representation regarding civil, non-fee generating matters. These include assistance with discrimination cases, access to benefits, estate planning, wills, probate, insurance and family law.

Byers will also develop a legal service system that will utilize volunteer attorneys from the Milwaukee area to provide specific legal services for clients.

Byers has served on a volunteer basis as the legal advisor to clients of the Milwaukee AIDS Project for several years and has developed an unequalled

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## MAP To Attend VI International Conference on AIDS in S.F.

[Milwaukee]- "A boycott that causes cancellation of this conference plays right into the hand of Jesse Helms," said Doug Nelson and added strongly, "I am not prepared to give one thing to (Sen.) Jesse Helms (R-NC) on AIDS!"

Nelson, Executive Director of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) was referring to the boycott by some 35 national and international organizations of the VI International Conference on AIDS and the demand by some that the Conference be canceled. The boycott has been mounted to protest the U.S. Government's discriminatory AIDS and Gay and Lesbian immigration and visitation policies. The Conference, which Nelson characterized as "the finest health care conference in the world," is to be held in San Francisco on June 20-24, 1990.

After what Nelson said was "a great deal of thought", the decision was made that MAP will attend the Conference.

Part of that decision was based on the generally acknowledged fact that the most up-to-date information on the disease will be presented. Not to have this knowledge, Nelson said, "would be a disservice to our clients at MAP." He added, "We live or die on information about AIDS at MAP."

Still another consideration, Nelson said is the fact that most of the boycotting organizations come from First World countries with large libraries and expensive researchers and facilities. Third World countries, unable to afford

## MAP To Take Tough Stand On Enforcing New AIDS Bias Law



The staff of Madison's A Room of One's Own feminist bookstore.

## Madison's Room of One's Own Bookstore Celebrates 15 Years

By Sue Burke

There are more books and better books in print now compared to 15 years ago when A Room of One's Own feminist bookstore opened in Madison.

Now there are more small presses publishing feminist, Gay and Lesbian and alternative books, said Sandy Torkildson, manager and one of the founders of the bookstore.

The writing is better, the printing and binding is as good as "the big guys" and the distribution systems are available to get the books out easier and faster to stores like A Room of One's Own.

such facilities, are "being overwhelmed," he said, by the disease. They desperately need information to help their people that only the Conference can provide. To cancel the Conference would be doing them a great disservice.

Asked about President Bush's recent announcement of a 10 day visa to be granted to anyone who wishes to attend the Conference, Nelson said that that had influenced MAP's decision to attend.

However, he cautioned, the President's action must be seen in its proper perspective. "It is a stop-gap measure to save the Conference," he said, and it is an "arbitrary" exercise of the presidential prerogative, "unacceptable" and only temporary; "anathema" by its nature, to the guarantees of personal freedoms in the Bill of Rights.

"We must," he emphasized strongly, "change the policy so that AIDS is not listed as a communicable disease that is reason for someone being excluded from the U.S."

If the policy is not changed, "everything possible" must be done to see that any future AIDS conference is not held in the United States.

Returning to his earlier statement about Jesse Helms and the cancellation of the Conference, Nelson said, "A lot of these boycotting organizations don't have to live with Jesse Helms and we do." MAP will fight for human rights by attending the Conference.

"That shows to me that there is a demand," she said.

Fifteen years ago, a university class in women's studies inspired Torkildson and a few other women to borrow \$5,000 from women and women's groups to start the store at 317 W. Johnson St. Sales reached \$400,000 last year.

To celebrate 15 years in business, A Room of One's Own is holding special events in April.

On Thursday, April 26, two authors who are appearing at Out and About Week for Lesbian and Gay rights at the University of Wisconsin-Madison will appear at the store to sign books.

Historian Joan Scott, author of *Gender and the Politics of History*, will be there from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Her book is "one of the hotter selling history books," according to Karen Axness, assistant manager of the store.

Katherine Forrest, Naiad Publishing's leading Lesbian novelist, will sign books from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Her latest book is *Beverly Malibu*.

Axness said a "wonderful thing about being a feminist bookstore in Madison is that the university brings so many people to town." The store is a resource to the community by being a place for speakers to meet with people, she said.

On Saturday, April 28, from 2 to 3 p.m., Le Ly Hayslip will sign books. She wrote *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places*, an autobiographical account of growing up in Vietnam during the war. She is being brought to Madison by the Madison Friends Society, the Quakers.

The anniversary celebration concludes Saturday with an 8 p.m. performance and reading at the Barrymore Theater, 2090 Atwood Ave. June Jordan, a poet and author whose latest book is *Naming Out Destiny*, will read from her works. She has read in Madison before and met with "incredible enthusiasm," Axness said, and was the "first person who came to mind" as an author for the celebration.

Drummer Edwina Lee Tyler and two members of A Piece of the World dance troupe will perform at the celebration. Tyler drums in African-American styles, said Tina Gomoll, a staff member at the store.

She described seeing Tyler and the dancers perform at the Michigan Women's Music Festival, drawing tears

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[Milwaukee]- "We are determined to use the new law and to see it enforced," said Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP). Nelson spoke with *Light* on Monday, April 16, concerning the AB 400, the new law that makes AIDS discrimination illegal.

Asked what action MAP intended to take, Nelson said that MAP will "refer our clients appropriately to dentists, physicians and nursing homes. For those health care providers who refuse treatment (to those infected with HIV and people living with AIDS), we will document those refusals, refer them by name to the state licensing board and will recommend suspension or revocation of their license to practice."

Suspension or revocation of license is only one of two penalties that can be incurred under the law by those who discriminate in the care of people with AIDS or infected with HIV.

Nelson noted the second penalty: a person with HIV or AIDS can bring a civil suit and said that Attorney Steve Byers, newly retained by MAP, would be available to render all legal assistance in such cases.

Nelson praised State Representative David Clarenbach, the author of the bill, saying that it would have a "huge impact on Milwaukee" in bringing the weight of Wisconsin law behind MAP "as we fight the discrimination that has been so prevalent."

"It's a disgrace," Nelson said, "that only one nursing home out of 60 in the metro-Milwaukee area will accept people with AIDS." It is just as disgraceful, he said "that only 3 dentists out of roughly 1,000 and 12 physicians out of nearly 2,000 in the metro-Milwaukee area have made themselves known to MAP as willing to provide service to people with HIV or AIDS."

"David Clarenbach did not work hard to get this law passed for us to ignore it," Nelson said. "AIDS has been present in Milwaukee for seven years and with this new law, we are sure to gain the health care services for people with HIV infection and those living with AIDS."

## Thompson Signs AIDS Bill of Rights Into Law

[Madison]- The historic bill of rights for people with AIDS and HIV infection has been signed into law by Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson.

Assembly Bill 400 guarantees medical care and treatment by health care providers and institutions, according to the bill's author State Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison)

"The new law prohibits doctors and other health care professionals, hospitals and nursing homes from refusing to treat or discriminating against anyone based on their HIV status," Clarenbach said at the signing ceremony.

AIDS activists applauded the new law, claiming it will improve the care of people with HIV infection.

"This is just one more example of how Wisconsin has proven to be a model," said Earl Bricker, Executive Director of the Madison AIDS Support Network.

"We can now properly prepare for the second wave of the AIDS epidemic," Bricker said.

(For the Milwaukee AIDS Project's reaction, see article this issue).

The new law will also: prohibit health and life insurance policies from excluding or limiting HIV coverage;

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