



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

# The Wisconsin Light

## Police Disrupt Madison ROTC Demonstration

By Jean Christenson

[Madison]- A 10-hour sit-in protesting the ROTC's presence on the campus of UW-Madison ended late April 23 when University Police and Security (P&S) and Wisconsin Capitol Police forcibly removed and injured several students occupying the UW Board of Regents room on the 18th floor of Van Hise Hall.

Some 52 students took part in an attempt to pressure UW System President Kenneth Shaw to sign a disclaimer noting the contradiction between ROTC policy barring Gays and Lesbians from the program and UW System policy against such discrimination.

Both Shaw and Chancellor Donna E. Shalala have indicated that they do not plan to sign such a disclaimer which would be placed on University materials mentioning ROTC.

As P&S arrested and then released roughly 40 student protesters, a crowd outside cheered and chanted "In the dairy state, you cannot discriminate."

Police officers wore rubber or leather gloves when handling the protesters.

## Chicago Police Arrest, Assault ACT-UP Protesters

By Tim Grair

[Milwaukee]- Several Milwaukee and Madison activists (including this reporter) joined 1,000 members of the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT-UP) from around the country to demonstrate in downtown Chicago on Monday, April 23, 1990, to protest AIDS-phobic health insurance policies and the lack of public health care.

As a result of the protest, 134 people were arrested two of which were hospitalized due to injuries sustained during the operation. Among these were Jay Hanson, a member of ACT-UP-Milwaukee, Hanson was charged with mob action (a class C misdemeanor) and hospitalized for cuts, bruises and numerous wounds to his knees.

Karyn Teufel, also of Milwaukee ACT-UP was similarly charged with mob action, but was not hospitalized.

ACT-UP protesters first targeted Prudential Insurance Company. Prudential was charged with "red-lining" Gays in West Hollywood, CA, a heavily Gay area. Prudential has denied the charge.

## Former Governor Tony Earl To Speak At Milwaukee Pride Rally June 16

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee (MLGPC) announced on April 30, 1990, that former Wisconsin Governor, Tony Earl, will be one of three main speakers at the Pride Rally at Cathedral Square on Saturday, June 16 that will follow the Pride Parade.

Earl was Democratic governor from 1982-'86, succeeding Republican Lee Dreyfus who, in February, 1982 signed into law the first Gay Rights Bill in the nation.

One of Earl's first acts as governor was to establish a Task Force on Gay and Lesbian issues. The Task Force functioned until 1986 when it disbanded itself knowing that newly elected Governor Tommy Thompson would not continue it.

Earl also appointed Earl Bricker as liaison to the Wisconsin Lesbian/Gay community. (Bricker is currently the Executive Director of the Madison AIDS Support Network).

In addition, Earl appointed as his Press Secretary, Ron McCrea, an openly Gay man, a fact headlined by the Milwaukee

## Fundamentalist Bigot Forces UPI To Fire Woman Reporter

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]- Julie Brienza, a reporter for United Press International (UPI) was fired on April 28 by UPI from her job as a reporter of the Supreme Court after pressure was brought to bear on the news organization by Vic Eliason.

Eliason is the founder and owner of Voice of Christian Youth, a right-wing fundamentalist Christian organization that has as its center, WVCY-Channel 30, an FM radio station, both in Milwaukee and three other radio stations and two other TV stations in other parts of the country.

According to Eliason, speaking on April 10 and 11, on his program "In Focus", aired 7:00-8:00 p.m. weeknights, Brienza called him on April 9, saying she was working on a story for *The Washington Blade* which Eliason repeatedly identified on his show as "a homosexual newspaper." Eliason told his listeners that Brienza said she was working on a story dealing with how the electronic

media can influence public opinion, specifically in relation to AB 590.

However, John Robinson reporting for *The Boston Globe*, reported that the story was to be about "hate radio." Eliason didn't say that.

At the time of her call, Eliason told his listeners, he was not in.

The following day, April 10, Eliason returned her call. He said she answered the phone saying, "Julie, UPI." Eliason said when he challenged her on whether she was working for *The Blade* or UPI, she said, "Forget the whole thing" and hung up.

Eliason, claiming that Brienza, had a conflict of interest, then whipped up a radio campaign against UPI that led to a flood of calls.

On April 11, *Light* contacted UPI in Washington and was told by reliable sources that UPI intended to take no action against Brienza; that there was no story.

Over two weeks after the incident had

begun, Brienza was fired. According to UPI senior vice president, Milt Capps, Brienza was dismissed for "showing disregard for UPI's reputation as an impartial news service." According to *USA Today*, Capps denied that outside pressure or homophobia had played a role.

Eliason's stations together pay \$200 a week to UPI, according to *USA Today*. The Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of UPI is Dr. Earl Brian who is connected with a variety of conservative causes. *Light's* sources say that UPI rents dish facilities from Eliason in Milwaukee.

While Brienza herself could not be reached for comment, *Light's* sources at UPI have said that there is considerable fear for their own jobs as a result of Eliason's actions.

However, off the record, they indicated considerable anger with upper level management's decision to fire Brienza and that middle management and staff are behind her. *Light* has further learned that two petitions are currently in circulation at UPI protesting Brienza's firing. As of press time, one petition had 44 signatures on it and the other had 30 names.

Sources at UPI said that the rule under which Brienza was fired was seldom, if ever, enforced. In the beginning *Light* was told, when Eliason began to complain, Brienza was to receive what was characterized as "a mild slap on the wrist." But as things heated up, "pressure built", that action changed and, ultimately, she was fired.

Don Michaels, publisher of *The Blade* told *Light* "If these folks think it's Christian-like behavior to do this — it's a travesty."

Eliason begins his fund drive next week and, according to one Milwaukee major media personality, "Eliason will use this (Brienza's firing) as a trophy. He'll put her head on a pike," the source said.

## Milwaukee

wearing badges and only one would give his badge number when asked. Finally, the police resorted to "pain compliance" holds to arrest protesters.

Two groups, PISD (People with Immune System Disorders) and the James Baldwin and Harriet Tubman Brigade opened the street so that the Women's Caucus could create an "AIDS Ward" with mattresses and banners. Cook County Hospital's AIDS ward has only 30 beds, only 15 of which are in use due to a shortage of staff.

"I'm wondering what will happen next year when this epidemic doubles; what's going to happen to the women and

TURN TO ACT-UP, PAGE 11

## President Bush Signs Hate Crimes Act As Activists Watch

[Washington, D.C.]— On April 23, 1990, President George Bush, in the presence of several invited openly Gay and Lesbian activists, signed the Federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act at a public White House ceremony. The historic event marked the first time legislation that includes sexual orientation has ever been signed into law by a president and the first time openly Gay and Lesbian leaders and activists have been invited to such a White House event.

"The fact that President Bush invited Gay and Lesbian organizations and activists into his home to witness the signing of this important bill is a major advance for Gay and Lesbian political visibility and effectiveness," said Urvashi Vaid, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

Vaid was originally on the list of invited guests, but was rejected by the White House for her demonstration at a recent Bush AIDS speech.

NGLTF was asked by the White House to bring seven people to the ceremony. These included Art Schenck, grassroots hate crimes activist with the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force and Susan Kaplin, staff person to Sen. Paul Simon (D-IL), sponsor of the bill.

Also attending were eight representatives of the Human Rights Campaign Fund as well as members from Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG). Before signing the bill, Bush made a ten minute speech calling for a "society blind to prejudice, a society

open to all." The President explained hate crimes covered by the bill, mentioning crimes committed because of "sexual orientation" and added, "the faster we can find out about these hideous crimes, the faster we can track down the bigots who commit them."

The Senate passed the bill on February 8, 1990, by 92 to 4 after defeating an attempt by Jesse Helms (R-NC) to attach an anti-Gay amendment to the law. The House passed the bill last June 27 by 368-47. The bill takes effect this year.

## Hauptert to Become Chicago House Director

[Milwaukee]- Marc Hauptert, a long-time Gay leader in Milwaukee and a founder of *The Wisconsin Light*, has announced that he has accepted the position of Executive Director of the Chicago House and Social Service Agency (CHASSA). He will assume his new duties on June 3, 1990.

CHASSA is the second largest AIDS-care agency in Chicago and operates three residential facilities for those with AIDS and ARC. One facility allows for independent living, one for supervised living and one for 24-hour care.

Marc will be moving to Chicago to take up his new job.

*Light* wishes him all the good fortune in the world. He will be badly missed.