



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

The Wisconsin Light

Wisconsin Youth Begin Leadership Training in S.F.

By Dan F. Schramm

The New Pacific Academy, founded by Cleve Jones, the founder of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, has announced the acceptance of four young men from Wisconsin into its month-long Gay/Lesbian leadership training program.

Attending the "Basic Training" program in San Francisco are Gregory Jay Hanson of Milwaukee who is active in the Milwaukee and Chicago chapters of ACT-UP, along with Robert James and Christopher Guadian of Madison. Tim O'Brien of Madison was also accepted, but had to cancel due to medical problems.

Cleve Jones, who resigned from the NAMES Project to found the New Pacific Academy, together with Luke Adams, a student organizer, has gathered together a class of 100 young Gay men and Lesbians, with a 50% representation of people of color, to undergo an intensive month long training program taught by such veterans as Virginia Apuzzo, Harry Hay, Andre Loude, Niles Merton, Holly Near and many others -- nearly 200 in all.

Beginning on June 15th, the Academy is an historic national effort to locate, encourage, and train the next generation of Lesbian and Gay Community helping professionals, activists, artisans and businesspeople with the basic community-based history, exposure to diversity, theoretical knowledge and hands-on practical skills necessary to be effective leaders in the 1990s and beyond.

The faculty will engage in a lively exchange with students in daily workshops, and, in small group discussions, the students will work with facilitators with a variety of resources, media, and texts to forge their own vision for the future. Students will also avail themselves of opportunities presented by the International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, International AIDS Conference, San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration, and the National Organization of Women Convention.

Hate Crimes Increase, Remain Serious Problem In Wisconsin

Anti-Semitism, Hate Crimes and Prejudice Repeated in History

By Terry Boughner, Ph.D.

In the 19th Century there occurred in the German states something historians refer to as "The Jewish Enlightenment." That fact and its consequences have something to say to Lesbians and Gays in America today.

Throughout Europe, ever since Christianity had become the state religion in the 4th Century, Jews had been subjected to every sort of persecution and discrimination. They were excluded from many jobs and denied the right to own land. They were forced to live in ghettos and subjected to ridicule, harassment and physical abuse of every kind.

Let it be said that the treatment of "sodomites" was no better. The Inquisition was founded to exterminate Gays, Lesbians as well as anyone else who didn't conform.

These minorities were regularly accused of all sorts of evil; with being spreaders of disease; the bringers of famine; abducting children, with being the destroyers of civilization and a great deal more -- and all of this in the name of God.

But, in the 18th Century and the Age of Reason, religion began to lose the grip it had had on Western Civilization. Thinkers began to put forth the idea that the segregation and persecution of the Jews was irrational and laws requiring their separation from society should be abolished. With the coming of the French Revolution, anti-Jewish laws were repealed.

Napoleon, in his conquest of Europe, carried the ideas of the French Revolution with him. Everywhere the Emperor's writ ran, the hateful laws of centuries past were abolished and Jews, for the first time in Western Christian history,

enjoyed a measure of freedom.

Imperial France went down, ultimately, to defeat and a conservative reaction took place. But, though they tried, the conservatives could not resurrect completely the old structures.

Still, though legal barriers had weakened or fallen away, social attitudes against the Jews remained strong. It was to counter these that the Jewish Enlightenment took place.

The idea was that if Jews could only be like everyone else, they would be accepted. This idea was most, if not wholly prevalent, among Western European Jews.

As a consequence, many Jews converted to one form of Christianity or another. Many Jews changed their names to be "less Jewish sounding" and, for awhile, it seemed to work, but it was nothing but an illusion.

Anti-semitism was still rife as the trial of Captain Dreyfus in France in the 1890's showed. Dreyfus, who was Jewish, was accused of selling French military secrets to the Germans. That wasn't true, but his trial brought forth a firestorm of anti-semitism showing that laws, as in the old, attitudes of prejudice and hatred had not changed.

At the same time, in the Russian Empire, the Czar's government engaged

TURN TO HISTORY, PAGE 2 Gay Activists, Pastors Criticize AIDS Videotape

[Madison]- The Associated Press reports that a videotape on AIDS that is being promoted by some Wisconsin clergymen and churches, fuels hatred toward Gay men who have been victimized by the fatal disease, clergymen and Gay activists say.

"The message that comes across is that anyone who has AIDS deserves it," said Doug Bauder, a pastor with the London Moravian Church and director of the United, a Gay service organization.

But the Rev. Richard Pritchard described it as an accurate documentary that portrays the results of "a dangerous lifestyle that needs to be overcome."

The videotape, called "AIDS: What You Haven't Been Told," was produced by Jeremiah Productions. About 10,000 to 15,000 copies have been distributed throughout the U.S., said the Rev. Charles Fiore.

Fiore said he has sold 30 to 40 copies of the tape in Madison, and at least seven or eight churches have noted its availability in church bulletins.

One of these churches is St. Mary of the Nativity in Marshall. A sentence used in the church's April 22 bulletin to publicize the tape read: "People's sexual habits are their own business, even when they demand that taxpayers spend millions of dollars to find a cure for them as a result of their promiscuity. Right? Wrong?"

The Rev. Alan Newton, associate pastor of the First Baptist Church in Madison, said on May 21, the tape promotes "more of the hate against the Gay community."

For example, Newton said, it represents pedophile groups "as being representative of the entire Gay community."

Newton said the tape also trivializes church debate by Christian scholars on the issue "and implies that churches have been brainwashed by the Gay community."

[Washington, D.C.]- Incidents of harassment and violence against Lesbian and Gay people remained a serious problem in 1989 in Madison, Milwaukee and across the U.S.

A report released on June 7, 1990, by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) documented 7,031 incidents -- ranging from harassment to homicide -- in 40 states and the District of Columbia.

In Madison incidents for 1989 were reported by the Madison Community United and Stonewall network.

In Milwaukee only two organizations were listed as reporting acts of anti-Lesbian/Gay violence: MCC/Milwaukee and Wisconsin Light.

Directed against persons because they are Lesbian or Gay or perceived to be so, reported acts in Wisconsin total 89. These include 1 bomb threat, 2 anti-Gay homicides, 1 Gay-related homicide, 1 case of police abuse, 6 cases of anti-Gay vandalism, 20 threats/menacing, 22 physical assaults and 36 cases of verbal harassment. These figures represent a small increase over what was reported from the state in 1988.

According to the NGLTF report, Wisconsin is among those states having the lowest number of cases. At the top of the list is North Carolina with 1,205 cases followed by California with 563 and

While campus incidents of anti-Lesbian/Gay violence were reported to NGLTF from Wisconsin, the nationwide total was 1329 cases.

NGLTF reports that the evidence suggests that AIDS continues to be a focus and justification for anti-Gay prejudice and violence. According to the Presidential Commission on the HIV Epidemic (1988), "increasing violence against those perceived to carry HIV is a serious problem. The Commission has heard reports in which Gay men in particular have been victims of acts that are indicative of a society that is not reacting rationally to the epidemic."

NGLTF has classified 15 percent of reported cases as AIDS-related. However, NGLTF notes that the actual extent of AIDS-related incidents is probably underestimated because most organizations reporting to NGLTF do not routinely note whether AIDS was a factor in the episodes they document.

The nationwide total of 7,031 cases is somewhat lower from the 7,248 cases reported to NGLTF in 1988, but still is an increase over incidents reported since NGLTF began gathering such statistics in 1985.

NGLTF cautions that incidents documented in 1989 reflect only the tip of the iceberg. Fear of reporting by victims and lack of systematic data collection prevent an accurate measurement of the problem's full scope. Accordingly, it is difficult to gauge whether the problem has grown, diminished or remains constant.

In recent years, a growing number of states and the Federal Government (Hate Crimes Statistics Act) have passed laws to monitor and counteract crimes motivated by bigotry. Although a 1987 report sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice noted that "homosexuals" are probably the most frequent victims of hate violence in America today, only 9 states including Wisconsin have laws that include crimes based on sexual orientation.

The NGLTF report concludes by saying that statistics alone fail to adequately assess the impact of anti-Gay/Lesbian violence. They do not measure the profound impact of such crimes, not only on the victims, but upon all Lesbian and

TURN TO HATE, PAGE 2

Human Rights Efforts Need Vigorous, New Commitment Across Country

[Madison]- Gay and Lesbian organizations should make a new, vigorous commitment to state and local human rights efforts, State Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison) told the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club in Washington, D.C. last month.

"We need to put the radical right and fundamentalist extremists on the defensive not only in the halls of the Congress, but in every statehouse and in every nook and cranny of every state in the nation," Clarenbach told the 300 people gathered for the 10th annual banquet of Washington's Gay and Lesbian political organization.

In his keynote address, Clarenbach declared that, "the heart of the question is whether all Americans are to be afforded equal rights."

Also speaking was Reverend Jesse Jackson, who called for more funding for AIDS research and sharply criticized President Bush, who he said has misplaced priorities.

Stein Club President Mauro Montoya introduced Clarenbach as "a legislator in the most progressive Wisconsin tradition. We look to Mr. Clarenbach's record of achievement for guidance and inspiration."

Clarenbach pointed to "Wisconsin's historic standing in the forefront of the Gay and Lesbian civil rights movement."

He cited state laws he authored ending criminal sanctions for private consensual sexual activity, the nation's first prohibition of discrimination based on

sexual orientation, and the recently enacted bill of rights for people with AIDS and HIV infection.

"More than 10 years ago, we set out to create a political and religious and community base of support to make Gay and Lesbian rights a mainstream issue," Clarenbach said.

"We found elected officials willing to take political risks to advance the cause of human rights. We successfully isolated the moral majority as the lunatic fringe that they are."

"And in Wisconsin, we had the most important part of the equation. We had a Gay and Lesbian community leading the way, demanding basic human rights," Clarenbach said.

He concluded that Wisconsin's civil rights protections, "increasingly affect the real lives of real people, making it easier and safer to live, to work and to come out."

Also appearing was Washington Mayor Marion Barry, Council Chair David Clarke, and other elected officials and candidates for D.C. mayor, council and congressional delegates.

**PRIDE WEEK
CALENDAR
PAGE 5**