

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



The Wisconsin Light

Madison Approves Domestic Partners Legislation

[Madison]- Madison has become the first city in Wisconsin and one of few in the U.S. to provide for registration of domestic partners at City Hall.

On Tuesday, June 5, 1990, the Madison Common Council voted 16-4 to adopt two ordinances proposed by openly Gay Alderpersons, Jim McFarland and Ricardo Gonzalez, Mayor Paul Soglin and seven other Alderpersons. One ordinance provides for registration at the City Clerk's Office of domestic partners. Domestic Partners who register will receive a certificate attesting to their status from the City Clerk. In adopting this provision, the City of Madison has recognized that these relationships are just as valid and committed as those of married persons.

The other ordinance makes it illegal for public accommodations to discriminate against domestic partnerships when they provide family memberships.

According to Ald. McFarland, West Hollywood, CA is the only other city he is aware of that provides for registration of domestic partnerships.

A measure similar to Madison's was adopted in San Francisco last year, but was narrowly repealed when right-wing Christian groups and others forced a referendum. Elsewhere in California, Santa Cruz and Berkeley provide for registration of domestic partners who are city workers to enable them to obtain health insurance for their partners, but do not provide for registration that is open to the general public as is Madison's.

McFarland stated his hope that members of the Lesbian and Gay community who are in committed relationships will take advantage of the recognition they have received.

"Nothing could be worse than to have pushed for this for so long then have no one register," said McFarland. "Many Council members would question the need for this registration if no one uses it," McFarland said.

Domestic partners can register by
TURN TO MADISON, PAGE 15

Boycott of Marlboro Cigarettes Growing Across The Country

[Washington, D.C.]- Gay bars in Washington, D.C. and Atlanta, Georgia have pulled Marlboros from their cigarette vending machines. This added momentum boosts the boycott of Marlboro cigarettes called by

Significant Progress Being Made Towards AIDS Vaccine



During Milwaukee's June 16 Pride Parade representatives of the Milwaukee AIDS Project marched down Wisconsin Avenue.

Jerry Johnson

U.S. Health Care System Teeters On Edge In Face Of AIDS Epidemic

[Milwaukee]- "In New York City alone, there are some 5,000 people with AIDS who are homeless," said Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP). Nelson was speaking at an interview in Milwaukee's M&M Club shortly after his return from the Sixth International Conference on AIDS held in San Francisco in the third week in June.

Nelson said that New York was a "gross example," but that this situation existed at all and in other cities as well in the U.S., was due to the U.S. health care system's lack of readiness and ability to respond to the AIDS epidemic.

At the Democratic National Convention in 1988, Dr. Mathilde Krim, a leader in

the fight against AIDS, told an audience of Gay/Lesbian delegates that AIDS would bring about a collapse and revolution in the American health care system.

Nelson said that the only reason that this hasn't happened so far is because of "community-based organizations like MAP."

In the first decade of the AIDS epidemic, Nelson said, it has been "the Gay/Lesbian community that has rescued the U.S. health care system by creating such care organizations as MAP."

He pointed out that the Federal Government does not: 1. fund HIV/AIDS prevention work; 2. does not fund family-based care in the home ("family" in the domestic partner sense as well as the usual meaning of the word) and 3. does not fund mental health and emotional support services. These come entirely from private contributions and efforts administered through AIDS care agencies like MAP located nation-wide. Without these efforts and contributions, Nelson emphasized, that Krim's prediction would have come true.

But having said that, Nelson noted the need for a national policy on AIDS patient care which, he said, America does not now have. "We are like an orchestra without a conductor," he said and called the American concern for patient care in the AIDS epidemic, "one of our greatest failures."

Nelson said that funding for AIDS care was similarly "a disaster." To receive even limited benefits and "very limited

TURN TO HEALTH, PAGE 15

Educating Public To Practice Safe Sex Is On-Going Battle

[Milwaukee]- The struggle to prevent HIV infection and to educate the public about HIV/AIDS is on-going and a major concern, said Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP). Nelson was speaking in an interview at Milwaukee's M&M Club shortly after returning from the Sixth International Conference on AIDS held the third week in June in San Francisco.

Part of the problem is the fact that some Gay and bisexual men are returning to unsafe sex practices. Nelson said that recent data reported at the Conference indicated that over a five year period, "20 % of Gay and bisexual men surveyed

[Milwaukee]- "The message from San Francisco is that there is hope, hope in the struggle against AIDS," said Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP). Nelson was speaking in an interview held at Milwaukee's M&M Club shortly after he returned from the Sixth International Conference on AIDS held the third week in June in San Francisco.

"The scientific progress on vaccine development," Nelson said, "is unexpected and significant."

Nelson said that scientists now "clearly understand the life cycle of HIV. It's a frail virus that will respond to biological weaponry. We must choose the weapons."

"Within the next six months," Nelson said, treatment will involve four drugs. These are, he said, "AZT, DDI, DDC and Interferon. These drugs will be used together, but alternating them, one week at a time. Combining them like this, Nelson said, will lower the toxic reaction and make each more effective for a longer period of time.

Nelson pointed out strongly that there is no reason for anyone in Wisconsin not being able to afford AIDS drugs. He said people should call MAP for information.

Nelson cited the work in vaccine development being done by Dr. Jonas Salk who developed the Polio vaccine.

For the last two and a half years, Salk has been working with 85 men in California all of whom were HIV positive. Most were asymptomatic; some were on AZT; some had KS. Salk used injections of de-activated HIV on these people. Though Salk admits that he did not use a control group, the results have been encouraging.

Among the 85 who Salk has followed for the two and a half years, there was an increase in antibodies and in T-Cell count and only three have gone on to come down with full-blown AIDS. For all participants in the experiment, Nelson said, "there was a positive immunological response."

Salk has concluded that there will not be one vaccine, but 2 or 3 or 4 that will be taken throughout life with boosters.

AIDS therefore, will become a chronic disease much as diabetes is now. This will happen Nelson predicted "in several years" as a vaccine is developed for HIV positives, that will stop the replication of the virus.

Nelson spoke of the fact that there are more and more "long-term survivors." "A 12-year survival rate (for those with HIV infection) is possible," he said. He pointed out that currently 25% of 10 year survivors are healthy.

Over and over again, Nelson spoke of hope in the struggle against AIDS and spoke of the coming of a prevention vaccine. He quoted the Chair of the Department of Medicine at the University of California-San Francisco as saying, "We have begun to see the horizon and we know we will get there."

had returned to unsafe sex."

Teens and adolescents (18-24 year-old age group) are at "great risk," he said. In a study done in California and released this year, 46% of those surveyed in this age group had engaged in unprotected anal intercourse.

Among all teens, Gay and straight, 25 % reported using a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse. But, a full 50% reported that they had never used a condom in intercourse.

The conclusions reported at the Conference, Nelson said, were that: 1. many young Gays and bisexual men seem
TURN TO HIV, PAGE 15

JESSE HELMS IS THE REAL



WARNING: Philip Morris, Inc., funds Sen. Jesse Helms. Buying Marlboro promotes ignorance about AIDS. Call 800-943-0975 or 800-445-7930 and give them hell for it.

BOYCOTT MARLBORO!

ACT UP/DC P.O. BOX 9318, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005 (202) 726-7930