



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

The Wisconsin Light

All-Gay Military Regiment May Be Formed And Placed In Service

[Milwaukee]- In a move calling to mind the Theban Sacred Band of ancient Greece, the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America (GLBVA) is seeking to form an "all-Gay" military regiment that would be "placed into service in the Persian Gulf or wherever trained personnel would be needed."

To achieve this "dream", GLBVA, headed by Miriam Ben-Shalom has sent an open letter to President Bush, the Secretary of Defense, all Representatives and Senators "and to the American People", "expressing the desire of many Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual veterans to return to service in this time of crisis."

GLBVA has further issued a "Call To Arms" to all Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual veterans who would be interested in serving in a reactivated regiment: The 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment (MVR). GLBVA is working with Ms. Kate Dyer, Executive Aide to Gerry Studds (D-MA) to research the reactivation process. MVR is the regiment of choice because it "was a segregated regiment of African-American men, freed slaves who were told that they were unfit to serve, a threat to morale, good order and security."

According to GLBVA, the Call To Arms "represents not only an effort to show through action that Gay men and Lesbians want to be part of Mainstream America," but also challenges "all discriminatory legislation and administrative policies towards Lesbians and Gay men" by the U.S. government and particularly the Department of Defense.

According to GLBVA, any veteran, regardless of sexual orientation, who would like to reenlist, and who has an Honorable or upgradeable discharge, and who is interested in serving in a reactivated but segregated, active duty regiment, contact GLBVA at (414) 342-6543, Fax: c/o Havlicek and Associates (414) 271-8884 attn: Annabelle Havlicek. Or write GLBVA, 1350 N. 37th Place, Milwaukee, WI 53208.

Information you should send must include your name, branch, dates of service, SSN, MOSs held, and final rank/discharge status. All information will be confidential and will not be released until it is known if the reactivation of the 54th MVR can be accomplished.

Denver Mayor To Sign New Gay Rights Bill

[Denver, CO] [GLINN]- Denver's sweeping anti-discrimination bill — dubbed "Denver's Gay Rights Bill" — was approved by city council on October 15, 1990.

The bill, which Mayor Federico Pena has pledged to sign into law, will prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, marital status, military status and physical or mental disability as well as sexual orientation in the areas of employment, housing and commercial space, public accommodations, private educational institutions and health and welfare services.

Council members voted 8-4 to approve the measure after a spirited, three hour council debate at a jam-packed public hearing, according to *The Denver Post*. *The Post* described the debate as "largely... a referendum on homosexuality."

The bill received strong support from a number of organizations including the Denver Women's Bar, ACLU and the Council of Churches. However, the Catholic Archbishop voiced strong opposition.

Dr. Krim Says AIDS May Be Fully Treatable Within Five Years

By Terry Boughner

Editor's Note: The following interview with Dr. Krim took place in Milwaukee's Pfister Hotel on October 16, 1990.

Dr. Krim, one of America's leading researchers on AIDS, was in Milwaukee to give AMFAR's check for \$25,000 to the Wisconsin Community-based Research Consortium. The check is the first matching grant to the state challenge grant of \$150,000.

In 1986, Dr. Krim said that she believed that AIDS would cause a revolution in the American health care industry. She has not changed her mind.

"I'm still convinced of that," she said. "The numbers of AIDS will be increasing in the '90s. Because this is a disease of young people, it's also a disease of people who are not insured or underinsured and this puts an enormous pressure on our health care system. We're going to see municipal hospitals make demands on public funds unknown in the past and we're going to see private hospitals either having to refuse patients which is contrary to the principles of their profession or assume the care of many patients who cannot pay for their care. In New York now, there are hospitals who are in a deficit situation by hundreds of millions of dollars."

ACT UP Contacts WISN Radio Advertisers In Protest Over Station

[Milwaukee]- According to a press release, the Milwaukee chapter of the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT-UP) has begun a campaign to inform the public of the "irresponsible decisions being made by Steve Downes. Downes is the Vice President and General Manager of WISN-AM in Milwaukee."

ACT-UP states that the decisions referred to regard the broadcast of "AIDS misinformation" by WISN. During the past two weeks, ACT-UP states, "Mr. Downes has repeatedly allowed Mark Belling, an on-air personality, to spread dangerous misinformation about HIV infection and AIDS to the public."

ACT-UP states that "after numerous attempts to get an official response from Mr. Downes," it has "begun to contact WISN-AM's sponsors about this issue."

As of October 17, 1990, ACT-UP stated that it had sent letters to the following sponsors: Steinhafels Furniture; Colders Furniture; Factory Outlet Carpets and Waukesha Memorial.

ACT-UP stated that it intends to "continue and expand this campaign until Mr. Downes decides to make an

Medical College Recruits Nationally - Recognized AIDS Researcher

[Milwaukee]- A nationally-recognized psychologist specializing in AIDS high-risk behavior intervention has been recruited by the Medical College of Wisconsin. T. Michael Bolger, President and CEO, announced that Jeffrey A. Kelly, Ph.D., joined the faculty Sept. 1, 1990, as Professor of Psychiatry and mental health.

Bolger said that Dr. Kelly brings with him \$3.5 million in grants from the National Institute of Mental Health. One significant purpose of the grants is to evaluate the impact of community behavior intervention programs in reducing those activities which pose a risk of acquiring the HIV infection.

"Dr. Kelly and the Medical College plan to invite key community organizations in Milwaukee to help introduce and evaluate new models to assist people at high risk for contracting AIDS," said Richard A. Cooper, M.D.,

She went on to say that, "AIDS is not the only health care problem we have in this country. Better access (to health care), more just access, exists across the board and the public is starting to complain."

She noted that "Health care is not a right in this country. It's something someone has to buy. I think we're going to have to face the need this country has to develop a system of universal health coverage. Basic medical care is a right and we're going have to come up with a system."

Asked about the chances for a vaccine, Krim said, "Research has made tremendous progress. There are several other drugs besides AZT that are going to be approved very soon. (DDC and DDI). There is a whole list of other drugs that are being developed. There will be a progressive improvement in our ability to suppress HIV. We also have accepted the need for treating people earlier."

"I am convinced," she said, "that in the future, we're going to want to treat people as soon as infection becomes demonstrable. We're going to see people survive with the infection, without disease, for a very long time. This is the goal we have now; to turn it into a controllable infection that is chronic that won't make people sick."

on-air apology and correction regarding this misinformation." ACT-UP stated that it will be "encouraging anyone interested in slowing the devastating effects of AIDS in Milwaukee to contact Mr. Downes and urge him to act responsibly regarding this matter." WISN's number is 342-1111.

Downes said that "no apology was necessary" and indicated that if there was misinformation, he would be "happy to correct it." However, he said, "to my knowledge, the information on the air was substantially correct." He said he had not received ACT-UP's press release.

ACT-UP has said in a letter to Steinhafels Furniture that "despite Mr. Belling's claims to the contrary, we are not attempting to 'silence,' 'harrass' or 'intimidate' him. We defend Mr. Belling's basic right to voice his opinions. However, the facts about AIDS are not a matter of opinion. Mr. Belling does not have the right to create his own 'facts,'" said the letter.

ACT-UP said that tapes of the broadcasts in question are available from ACT-UP-Milwaukee. ACT-UP can be reached at (414) 769-8708.

Executive Vice President and Dean.

"I'm sure that Milwaukee has many on-going programs dedicated to AIDS prevention," Dr. Kelly said. "It is my hope that we can develop cooperative programs with their agencies in response to community needs. I would also like to support and assist existing urban AIDS prevention and urban health programs."

"Our whole approach to the problem is to look at the behavior and not so-called 'risk groups.' We want to help people learn the skills that will prevent them from being exposed to the HIV virus," Kelly said.

Through extensive surveys around the country, Dr. Kelly and other researchers have found that; in the last several years, groups at high risk have increased their knowledge immeasurably. The next step, however, is applying the science of behavior change to help people more fully translate knowledge to action.

If we start treating people very early, when they have a functioning immune system, it is conceivable that early effective treatment will allow the immune system to get rid of the infected cells.

So," she said, "talking about a cure is not crazy anymore, but it will require very early treatment." She predicted that in "five years we may have a specific inhibitor of the virus."



Jerry Johnson

and that of community-based centers in doing vital AIDS research. "A few years ago AMFAR picked up on the idea that doctors' experience should be utilized; experimental drugs made available to people who need them. And we (AMFAR) started to fund community-based trial centers (such as the Wisconsin Research Consortium). As soon as tolerable doses are determined; the drugs should go to community-based centers. (There are 45 such centers now.)"

The highest priority is to treat opportunistic diseases rather than HIV. You can live with HIV as long as you don't get sick. The community priorities are reflected in the centers. We at AMFAR consider this very important.

Asked about the work of Dr. Jonas Salk, Krim said that Salk had two experimental drugs he was testing now. But, she noted, we don't have any results yet in terms of effective protection. The trial has not lasted long enough.

She went on to say that there are 7 vaccine preparations in this country now under study and "with all of them we know they stimulate the production of antibody. We don't know if they are protective against infection."

In regards to minorities, Krim noted sadly that disease is a function of poverty, not race. Cultural differences also play a role in hindering education and prevention. She cited the Mormons who have such a stigma attached to homosexuality that men have to lie to women and kids.

Asked her opinion of the current Bush Administration on AIDS, she replied, "An improvement in rhetoric."

Throughout, Krim constantly emphasized the need and efficacy of sex education in the prevention of AIDS. In San Francisco, she said, the incidence of infection among Gay men is now less than 1%. This is because of sex education and "shows that education works."

To show how imperative education is, Krim pointed out that AIDS is the leading killer of Black women today and is increasing in women generally and babies faster than in men.

AIDS education, she insisted, should be part of education like health. Sex education is an integral part of learning to live.