



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

# The Wisconsin Light

## ACT UP Protests Philip Morris, Inc. Sponsorship at Art Museum

[Milwaukee]- On Thursday, October 25, 1990, members of ACT UP/Milwaukee greeted invitees to the Milwaukee Art Museum's Arts Fest. The event, which was held for the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, was sponsored by Philip Morris Inc., the largest corporate contributor to Sen Jesse Helms (R-NC). (Helms, a long-time enemy of the AIDS-concerned community, is notorious for his recent attempts to censor government subsidized art).

ACT UP distributed flyers explaining the Philip Morris-Helms connection and carried signs calling Helms "America's Most Unwanted." The flyers encouraged those in attendance to voice their disapproval of Philip Morris and Helms to scheduled speaker Karen Brosius.

Brosius is the manager of the Cultural Affairs and Special Programs Department at Philip Morris Inc.

## ACHOICE Accepting Applications From Milwaukee Non-Profit Groups

[Milwaukee]- ACHOICE, a fundraising federation representing fifteen social change and advocacy organizations is currently soliciting applications from new non-profit organizations in the greater Milwaukee area.

ACHOICE raises money through workplace giving campaigns and has experienced dramatic growth since 1981.

The nature of workplace giving is changing, partly because of the success of alternative funds like ACHOICE, but primarily because donors have expressed a desire for more discretion in their charitable giving. ACHOICE expects to raise \$125,000 this year — an increase of

## Judge David V. Jennings, Jr. Accused Of Slurs Against Jews and Gays

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]- Wisconsin Light has come into possession of a letter signed by four attorneys of a local law firm. The letter, dated October 5, 1990, sent to Milwaukee County Circuit Judge David V. Jennings, Jr., quotes "jokes" allegedly made by Jennings on October 1 in chambers in the presence of three lawyers.

Jennings is quoted as saying, "Did you see that bunch of queers marching around the lakefront yesterday?" This in regard to the Wisconsin AIDS Walk of September 31.

The letter goes on to say, "You Jennings followed that comment up with a series of three jokes: first you asked 'What is a queer's queer?' — the answer was 'a boy who likes girls'; second, you asked 'what is a queer Jew?' — the answer was 'a Jew who likes girls more than money'; third you asked 'what is a queer Irishman?'" According to the letter, Peter Guyon Earle, one of the attorneys present, "was so astounded that he couldn't remember the answer."

Beside Earle, attorneys named as present were Gerald Turner and Robert Blazek. The letter to Jennings is signed by Richard Perry, Barbara Zack-Quindel, Robert J. Lerner and Earle all of whom are members of the Milwaukee law firm of Perry, Lerner & Quindel, S.C.

The lawyers' letter to Jennings goes on to state that "who made these statements to be not only distasteful, but also sexist, homophobic and anti-Semitic. Such comments exhibit an explicit and profound prejudice which is incompatible with the judicial function."

The letter further states that "Prejudice such as that inherent in your

jokes undermines all confidence in the fair and unbiased administration of the judicial office."

Copies of the attorneys' letter were sent to Eunice Edgar, American Civil Liberties Union, Mordecai Lee, Milwaukee Jewish Council, Lenor Lee, American Jewish Committee, Doug Nelson, Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP), Scott Gunkel, Lambda Rights Network and Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist.

Doug Nelson, Executive Director of MAP took the lead in framing a response. A letter to Jennings, written by Nelson, MAP's Executive Director and signed by him, Edgar and Gunkel calls the judge's remarks "clearly homophobic, anti-Semitic and sexist" and demands from Jennings "a personal statement" that "rejects the prejudice" expressed by Jennings "for people of all cultures." and "affirms your respect for people of all cultures."

Nelson, Edgar and Gunkel go on to demand that the judge "immediately issue a formal, public apology for your highly offensive and prejudicial remarks."

The three signatories informed Jennings that they have asked the Wisconsin Judicial Commission to investigate his "misconduct" and "to take appropriate action."

Light is in possession of a copy of the letter to the Judicial Commission. Called for a response, Light was told unavailable for comment.

Mayor Norquist's press secretary said he was unfamiliar with the letter; that he would find it and call back. As of press time, no call or comment from the Mayor has been received.

However, Lenor Lee, Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee called the judge's alleged "jokes" "unconscionable."

Mordecai Lee of the Milwaukee Jewish Council said, "if accurate" the "so-called jokes are totally unacceptable for an elected official."

Gunkel, President of the Lambda Rights Network said, "The Gay/Lesbian community can not and will not stand silent on this issue. Judge Jennings has breached the standards of his office."

Nelson said, "The people of Wisconsin are entitled to an unbiased judicial system with impartial judges who embody only the highest standards of conduct. Judge Jennings' prejudicial remarks seriously undermine public confidence in the judicial system."

Judge Jennings comes up for re-election in 1992.

## Blow Off Hate Crimes With A Whistle

[Milwaukee]- Metal whistles similar to those used in San Francisco and other major U.S. cities are being sold by ACT-UP Milwaukee. The whistles are to be used to help deter hate crimes like harassment as a result of AIDS phobia, Gay bashing and other violent crimes like rape.

The idea is that the shrill, recognizable sound of a metal whistle will alert nearby people of a need for help or it may scare off an attacker altogether. People responding to a whistle signal are encouraged to call police, turn on porch lights, intervene in some way, etc. Watch for the whistles in Milwaukee's Gay bars or contact a member of ACT-UP to buy yours. Selling price is \$1.00 each.

VOTE NOV. 6

During Brosius' speech, several uninvited members of ACT UP stood and turned their backs to the podium. In addition, her speech was interrupted numerous times as Christopher Fons of ACT UP corrected Brosius inaccurate figures regarding Philip Morris' contributions to Helms.

Outside, the demonstrators were generally well-received by the crowd. Many people knew of the Philip Morris-Helms connection and openly supported ACT UP's actions.

Inside, however, those in attendance were silent on the issue and some were annoyed by ACT UP's tactics.

ACT UP/Milwaukee has joined groups across the country in an attempt to make supporting Jesse Helms a bad business decision.

For more information, call ACT UP/Milwaukee at (414) 769-8708.

over 10% from 1989.

ACHOICE member groups receive distributions monthly based on what was raised in the Fall campaign.

ACHOICE member groups must be incorporated for at least one year and have a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt status.

ACHOICE funds grass-roots social change organizations which seek to address the root causes of problems, by involving those affected in the creation of solutions.

For more information, please contact Bill Hart, Executive Director of ACHOICE, at 672-1920.

## "Not Guilty" Pleas Entered for Two Gay Related First Degree Murders In Madison and Milwaukee

By Jamakaya

[Milwaukee]- Two Gay related murders have occurred in Wisconsin in the last two months, one in Milwaukee and one in Madison. The following report is an update on both cases.

Two men have entered pleas of "not guilty" to the charge of first degree intentional homicide and being party to a crime while armed in the murder of Cleveland "Ricky" L. Roundtree, 28, on Milwaukee's north side in mid-October. In his statement to police, one defendant called the victim a "fag."

Ricky Roundtree's body was found Monday, October 15 at the bottom of the basement steps of an abandoned building at 2535 W. Fond du Lac Avenue. He had been shot twice, in the chest and abdomen, and then set on fire, possibly to hide the crime and/or to hide his identity. At the preliminary hearing October 31, the medical examiner testified that Roundtree was burned over 80-85% of his body and that he had been dead more than 24 hours before his body was discovered.

The criminal complaints against Charles E. Jackson, 22, and Patrick R. Harden, 18, indicate that the alleged assailants met the victim at the Black Velvet bar, 2505 W. Fond du Lac Ave. on Saturday evening, October 13. The men told police that Roundtree asked Harden for a light for his cigarette and then "came on" to Harden in some way. The men began to argue, but a tavern employee broke up the fight. Another bar patron, who had seen the altercation, suggested "Let's pop the dude," referring to Roundtree.

After Roundtree left the tavern, Jackson and Harden walked along W. Fond du Lac Avenue where they say they encountered an unknown man in some bushes who offered them a gun and encouraged them to shoot Roundtree, who

was standing in the nearby building. Harden says he was reluctant and gave the gun back to the unknown man who then entered the building and fired two shots into Roundtree (Jackson claims that five shots were fired, one of several inconsistencies in the defendant's statements.)

Both men deny killing Roundtree, but Jackson admits to setting fire to the building after the shooting. Jackson was arrested several hours later that evening for carrying a concealed weapon, but was not linked to the murder until several days after Roundtree's body was found. No third person, who the defendants claim committed the murder, has been apprehended.

Jackson and Harden are currently behind bars awaiting trial. The next hearing in the case is scheduled for November 12 at 8:30 a.m. in the court of Judge Janine Geske.

Patrick Harden, in his statement to Detective Brian O'Keefe, repeatedly referred to Roundtree as a "fag." Wisconsin's new anti-bias statute can add up to five years to a prison sentence if there is proof that the crime was motivated by hatred based on the victim's minority group status, including sexual preference. When asked why one or both defendants have not been charged under the new hate crimes statute, Assistant District Attorney Karine Mareno-Taxman said only "No comment."

In the meantime, in Madison, 25 year-old Joseph D. Wills has pleaded "not guilty" to first degree intentional homicide and armed robbery in the slaying of Mark F. Starkey, 21. Because Wills used derogatory words for Gays when speaking about the victim to police, he is being charged under the state's new hate crimes law.

Starkey was found shot to death September 9 in a downtown parking lot. The criminal complaint indicates that Wills showed no remorse for the shooting because the victim allegedly made a homosexual proposition to him. Wills is quoted as saying: "I know this sounds odd, but if I had to do it over again, I would do the same thing."

Wills had just arrived in Madison, by bus, from Minneapolis and was walking in an alley when he was approached by Starkey. According to the complaint, Wills says he rejected Starkey's offer, but when Starkey continued to talk with him, Wills demanded his car keys. In the ensuing argument, Wills shot Starkey in the chest and fled in his car.

Wills drove the car to Onalaska where he surrendered to police. The arresting officers report that Wills said of the victim: "The boy would be alive if he wasn't a derogatory term for Gays. I hate...I just hate 'em.'" Gretchen Hayward is the Assistant District Attorney in charge of the prosecution.

Within days of the murder, prominent community leaders in Madison held a press conference to decry the anti-Gay attack as well as recent incidents of anti-Semitic vandalism in the area. Mayor Paul Soglin, Dane County Sheriff Richard Raemisich, District Attorney William Foust, UW Dean of Students Mary Rouse, School Superintendent James Travis and others called for greater tolerance and an end to crimes motivated by hate.

In Milwaukee, there has been little response to the murder of Ricky Roundtree, either by public officials or by Gay and Lesbian organizations. The exception was a short news feature run by WTMJ, Channel 4. Roundtree, a Black man, was the 130th victim of murder in the city of Milwaukee this year. The murder toll is now over 140.