

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



# The Wisconsin Light

## U.S. Lifts Ban On Gay Immigrants

[Washington, D.C.] Congress, in late October, passed a sweeping revision of US immigration laws which ends the decades-old ban on homosexual visitors and immigrants and lifts the more recent ban on HIV-infected people. The landmark legislation, which contains many other reform provisions, was ushered through the House and then the House-Senate conference committee by Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA). President Bush is expected to sign the bill.

Clauses excluding those deemed to be of "psychopathic personality" or "sexual deviancy" which have been used against Gays and Lesbians seeking entry into the US, were wiped from the books. The new law lifts the ban on people with mental illnesses such as depression and mental retardation. It also ends restrictions against communists and others deemed politically or ideologically opposed to US interests, policies established during the McCarthy era of the 1950's. (The Secretary of State will retain some discretionary powers regarding people considered national security risks.)

In addition, the immigration reform act reverses the prohibition on HIV-infected people, a clause adopted in 1987 at the instigation of Sen. Jesse Helms. The new law gives the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) sole authority to determine whether HIV-infected people should be allowed entry. The current Secretary of HHS, Dr. Louis Sullivan, has joined with health professionals from the World Health Organization and the US Commission on AIDS in opposing the exclusion of those with HIV.

Commenting on the significance of the reforms, especially as they affect Gays, Rep. Frank said: "I think we now have the American statute books clean. There are still obnoxious policies, like in the military, but there is nothing statutory that I am aware of now on the federal level that is anti-Gay."

## M.A.P. Open House Addresses Women's Health

[Milwaukee]- On Friday, Nov. 30, 1990, the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP), 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee, will host an open house for the general community from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. The event will feature representatives and information from 13 local social service agencies that provide services which address the health and social concerns of women. Refreshments will be served.

Some 14 organizations including the Milwaukee Women's Center, the Task Force on Battered Women, the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM) and ACT UP Milwaukee will provide women with an excellent opportunity to understand the connection between their social concerns and their personal health and well-being.

The open house is being held in conjunction with World AIDS Day, December 1, 1990.



## Impact Of HIV Disease On Women Is Focus Of Dec. 1 World AIDS Day



A large crowd was present at David Clarenbach's pre-election party which was held Nov. 2 at Madison's Cardinal Bar. Among those attending were (front) Dane County Supervisor Tammy Baldwin, David Clarenbach, Jo Schlies, Jerri Linn Phillips, (back) Pat Shannon, Ned Winsborough and Lorri Tommerup.

## Supreme Court Allows Perry Watkins To Re-enlist In Army

By Jamakaya

[Washington, D.C.]— On November 5, 1990, the US Supreme Court let stand, without comment, a federal appeals court decision which orders the US Army to reinstate Sergeant Perry J. Watkins, 35, an openly Gay man. The Bush administration had suggested that the justices overturn the appeals court decision.

From his home in Tacoma, Washington, Watkins said that "without



Perry Watkins

a doubt" he would re-enlist in the Army as soon as possible. He is currently employed by the Social Security Administration.

The high court's action is the culmination of a nine year struggle by

## Madison Opens Holiday Safer Sex Boutique

[Madison]- The Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN) has opened a Safer Sex Boutique for the holidays. The Boutique opened its doors on November 5, 1990 at 219 King St. in Madison. The Boutique will be open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

There are three departments at the Boutique. One department features safer sex items, T-shirts, books, condom carrying cases and much more. Another department provides products and merchandise for individuals with HIV. Finally, there is an erotic section for adults. This section will be specifically targeted at Gay men.

There are informational programs and risk assessment programs available on computer. Another computer features treatment alternatives around the country for people with HIV.

Merchants from around the country and locally have contributed items for the Boutique.

Come do your Christmas shopping and support MASN. See you at the Boutique.

Watkins against the US Army which, citing his homosexuality, had refused to re-enlist the soldier.

The Army's refusal to re-enlist Watkins in 1981 came after Watkins had already completed 14 years of distinguished service. He had been drafted in 1967 at the height of the Vietnam War. At the time of his induction and during several subsequent interviews and re-enlistments through the 1970's, Watkins revealed his sexual orientation to Army superiors. Yet, the Army took no action against him until 1981.

Last year's decision by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which the Supreme Court upheld, did not address the Army's overall ban on homosexuals. It emphasized that in this individual case the Army had repeatedly re-enlisted Watkins despite knowing of his homosexuality and, therefore, "affirmatively misrepresented to Sgt. Watkins that his eligibility to re-enlist would be secure throughout his Army career."

The Court of Appeals also noted Watkins' "exceptionally outstanding military record" and stated: "Sgt. Watkins has greatly benefited the Army, and therefore the country, by his military service. In addition, Watkins' homosexuality clearly has not hurt the Army in any way... Equity cries out and demands that the Army be estopped from refusing to re-enlist Watkins on the basis of his homosexuality."

In February of this year, the Supreme Court left intact the Pentagon's ban on homosexuals when it refused to hear the appeal of Milwaukee's Miriam Ben-Shalom, who had been denied re-enlistment into the Army Reserves because she is a Lesbian.

But the Supreme Court's most recent action is not viewed as precedent-setting because of the lack of comment from the high court justices and the narrow grounds on which the Ninth Circuit based its decision. However ironic it may appear, despite the order to re-enlist Watkins, the Army's ban on homosexuals remains intact.

Gay rights advocates hope that the public's perception of growing inconsistencies between constitutional guarantees of freedom and equality and the Army's discriminatory regulations will ultimately discredit the Pentagon's anti-Gay policy. Increasing court challenges and recent revelations that the Pentagon itself has found its Gay and Lesbian soldiers to be committed, well qualified, even superior in some respects, continue to undermine the Pentagon's exclusionary policy.

[Milwaukee]- December 1, 1990 is World AIDS Day. This year, there will be an international focus on the impact of HIV disease on women.

This is not only because AIDS is still considered by many to be primarily a disease affecting Gay men, but also because the influence of women on families and women's economic and social productivity have long been overlooked.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that heterosexual intercourse is the main mode of transmission of HIV. Women constitute up to 45 percent of HIV-infected individuals. Overall, at least one-third of all HIV-infected people are women.

The relationships between the life circumstances of many women and the risk those circumstances present for HIV infection are complex. For example, a woman who is physically abused by her partner is generally at higher risk for HIV infection. The reasons are that physically-abused women often, because of the conditions of the relationship, are unable to exercise control over their sexual activity. Therefore, they do not (and cannot) insist on the use of protection, other safer sex practices, or abstinence.

Also, in these situations, there may be the use of drugs which decrease one's ability to enforce decisions and in the case of injection drug usage, may transmit the virus itself.

As of October 31, 1990, the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) served more than 350 individuals with HIV disease. More than 13 percent or 50 of these people are women. This represents a 133 percent increase since February, 1990. National statistics indicate that women make up 10 percent of all those with HIV disease.

Worldwide, WHO estimates that over eight million people are now infected with HIV and that a little over a third, three million, are women.

It is expected that 500,000 people will develop AIDS during the years 1990-1991, including 200,000 women. By the end of 1992, a cumulative total of over 600,000 cases of AIDS will have occurred among women. By the year 2000, the annual number of AIDS cases in women will begin to equal that in men.

World AIDS Day is an international day of coordinated action against AIDS. Since 1988, December 1 activities have brought messages of compassion, hope, solidarity and understanding about AIDS. This year the mission is to bring these messages to more people than ever before.

## ACT UP Milw. Plans Nov. 30 Vigil-Procession

[Milwaukee]- ACT UP/Milwaukee is planning a vigil-procession to commemorate World AIDS Day.

The Vigil/Procession will be held on Friday, November 30, 1990 and will begin at 4:00 p.m. at the Reuss Federal Building, downtown Milwaukee, at the corner of Third St. and Wisconsin Ave.

ACT UP is planning two speakers who will speak about the issues of Women and AIDS. One speaker will be Dawn Wolff, a woman infected with the AIDS virus. The second speaker has not been confirmed as of press time.

Following the Vigil, the Procession will progress to the Milwaukee AIDS Project.

ACT UP hopes to generate as much interest as possible so that more women will realize that they, too, are at risk in contracting HIV and AIDS.