



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

The Wisconsin Light

Belling of WISN Radio Meets ACT UP Demands

[Milwaukee]- Members of the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT UP) have announced a successful end to their campaign against WISN Radio and its afternoon talkshow host, Mark Belling. On December 19, 1990, under pressure from both ACT UP and local sponsors, Belling corrected several of his earlier statements regarding AIDS and the transmission of HIV.

Belling made the following corrections during that broadcast: 1) He admitted he was wrong when he claimed the Centers for Disease Control have estimated the risk of HIV transmission during vaginal sex with an infected partner to be 1/10,000, 2) He made it clear that the terms "AIDS Activists" and "Gay Activists" are not interchangeable, 3) He retracted his use of the word "fault" from his estimate that 95 percent of people with AIDS are at "fault" for their condition.

Dan Fons, a spokesperson for ACT UP, characterized this victory as "very significant."

"Not only was WISN forced to act responsibly for once," Fons said, "but through the use of regular press releases during this campaign, all of the local media have seen that Milwaukee will not tolerate the spreading of misinformation about AIDS."

The ACT UP campaign, dubbed "WISN: Where Ignorance Seems Natural," began in mid-October when the station refused to air a correction of statements made during Belling's September 20, 1990 show. ACT UP told WISN in a letter that "the rights protected under the umbrella of talk radio do not include the right to spread ignorance about a fatal, communicable and epidemic disease."

The group contacted a number of the show's local sponsors and asked them to use their influence to get a correction on the air.

"It was obvious to most of the sponsors immediately that Mr. Belling had made mistakes," said Fons. "WISN management, however, continued to ignore those mistakes."

The campaign hit full stride during the week of December 17 when ACT UP organized a phone zap of Belling's show to coincide with pressure from sponsors.

The phone zap consisted of people calling Belling's show constantly to demand that he correct the statements at issue. The station's response to this was to bring in extra staff on the phones and to call listeners back at home before putting them on the air.

"WISN treated this like a game," said Fons of the station's response. "It was as though they actually wanted to see how long they could hold out before providing their listeners with accurate information about AIDS. It was extremely irresponsible behavior."

The final blow to WISN's resistance came during the third day of the zap, ACT UP sources reported. Dennis Brown, advertising manager at Steinhafel's Furniture, contacted WISN management as a representative of a number of local sponsors. He expressed a strong concern about the station's willingness to allow inaccurate statements about a deadly disease to stand as fact. Belling made the corrections that day.

The people at Steinhafel's were very supportive," said Fons. "Their willingness to get involved made these corrections possible."

Ironically, the corrections came immediately after Belling explained to his audience that he would never give in to the pressure.

"Apparently he hoped his listeners wouldn't notice that he was, in fact, meeting our demands," said Fons.

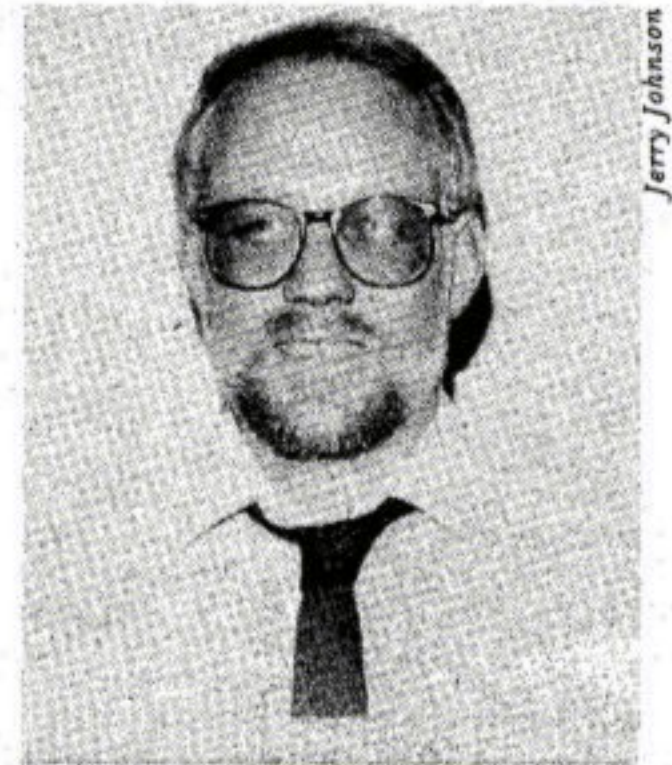
ACT UP plans to continue to monitor WISN.

Lisowski Running For At-Large Milwaukee School Board Seat

[Milwaukee]- Michael S. Lisowski has officially begun his race for at-large member of the Milwaukee School Board.

The top two vote-getters in the Primary elections February 19, 1991, will advance to the general election on April 2, 1991. Lisowski is one of seven at-large candidates.

Lisowski who holds a Masters in Social Work from UWM, did his field work in a Milwaukee elementary as well as in a Milwaukee high school. He is a native of south-side Milwaukee. He is currently a



Jerry Johnson

MICHAEL LISOWSKI

Milwaukee AIDS Project and has been involved with many organizations in the Gay/Lesbian community since 1976.

The race is generally expected to focus on such issues as the effectiveness of the district's current school reform effort, the appointment of a new school superintendent, the 1991-'92 school district budget, student achievement and school safety.

However, Lisowski's work and experience with Lesbian/Gay youth over the last ten years have shown him that the lack of supportive services and administrative policies dealing with Lesbian/Gay youth is a "disgrace."

"One of the main reasons that I decided to run for the at-large seat on the School Board," Lisowski said, "is so that Gay and Lesbian youth can expect to receive fair and equal treatment for their concerns and needs." Lisowski added that "These concerns and needs are not now being addressed by either the School Board or Superintendent" Lisowski said.

Lisowski has already been interviewed by the Political Action Committee of Milwaukee Teachers Education Association (MTEA) in their efforts to endorse a candidate. He is scheduled to appear at an at-large candidates forum at Steuben Middle School on Wednesday, January 23, 1991.

Light has been informed that "Smith and Company, on Channel 10 is contemplating an at-large candidates forum. Other media may follow suit.

Lisowski received what he has called "much support and enthusiasm" when obtaining signatures for his nomination papers to get on the ballot. He received over 1600 signatures from supporters. 1500 were needed to qualify as a candidate.

Lisowski is in the process of forming a Campaign/Election Committee. While many have already volunteered, more are asking to join or contribute in some way on a daily basis. Should you wish to volunteer in any way, you can call Wisconsin Light at 372-2773.

Lisowski emphasized "With this race, Milwaukee's Gay/Lesbian community will come into its own politically and be a potent force in Milwaukee politics in years to come."

An Open Letter To The Wisconsin Community

This month — for the first time in 32 years — Bob Kastenmeier, who set the standard for integrity in the Congress, will not be sworn in to represent the people of the Second Congressional District.

We cannot wait two years to begin to undo this tragedy. We must start to prepare now for the 1992 Congressional elections.

Readers of *The Wisconsin Light* know my record of leadership and accomplishment over the past twenty years. I am proud to have served five terms as Speaker Pro Tem of the State Assembly. I am even more proud of the legislation I have introduced and successfully fought for — laws advancing fairness, justice and equal opportunity for all people.

By way of contrast, Mr. Klug must now make public decisions for the first time in his life and cast votes on such vital issues as war in the Persian Gulf, civil and personal rights, the environment, health care and the economy.

All of us — including Mr. Klug himself — will be interested in discovering just what kind of Republican he really is.

I pledge to you now my total commitment to challenge the freshman representative whenever his positions do not represent the best interests of the district. In return, I need your help.

The Republicans see the Second Congressional District as a seat they stole from the Democrats, and they want to keep it. Already they are pouring money into this district, a targeted seat for the 1992 elections.

We need to raise money now and to organize throughout the state to return a progressive representative, in the tradition of Bob Kastenmeier, to Congress.

I will be asking those who support my work to make a personal and a financial commitment to this effort. Together we can start this campaign from strength and end with success.

David Clarenbach
State Representative

Editor's Note: For further information, to volunteer or to make a contribution to Representative Clarenbach, contact The Clarenbach Committee, 454 Sidley St., Madison, WI 53703, phone (608) 251-2528. The Second Congressional District covers 11 counties in south central Wisconsin and includes the City of Madison. Clarenbach authored the Gay rights law.

Milwaukee Pride Committee To Host Regional Conference March 1-3

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee (MLGPC) is pleased to announce that it will be co-hosting the upcoming International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators' (IALGPC) Midwest America Regional Conference, March 1-3, 1991, in Milwaukee.

The co-sponsor of this event is the Twin Cities Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee from Minneapolis and St. Paul.

An ad hoc committee that has been established to put this conference together will be contacting all Pride Committees throughout the Midwest that are already registered with IALGPC. They are also preparing a list of over 100 cities in this region to which to extend an invitation in hopes of expanding the PRIDE family.

States included in this region according to IALGPC divisions are: Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and North and South Dakota. Based on current

Congratulations To Award Winners

Wisconsin Light would like to offer heartfelt congratulations to the following people on the occasion of their receiving the annual Lambda Rights Network's awards on January 8, 1991.

Torchbearer Award — Milwaukee County Supervisors, Elizabeth Coggs-Jones and Dorothy Dean.

Group Spirit Award — Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMB).

Focus Award — "Smith and Company" from TV Channel 10.

Pacesetter Award — Michael S. Lisowski.

President's Award — Karen Gotzler.

Again, Light would like to offer congratulations and best wishes to all of these people who have served both our community and all Milwaukee so well.

trends in the Gay and Lesbian movement, it is thought that this region has the potential to become one of the strongest grassroots areas to create change in America.

This conference is designed to assist cities of many sizes to develop and continue successful Pride Celebrations.

Several seminars have been planned. Of particular note is one to be given by Leland Wykoff, Director of the Appalachian Community Fund. His subject will be "Fundraising — The Culture of Giving."

Other seminars include "Getting the Word Out", a seminar on news reporting, the writing of press releases and advertising; "How to Produce Large and Small Events," "Coming Out in a Hostile Environment" and "Building Coalitions." Other seminars are in the development stage and suggestions are always welcome.

Scholarships are available on a first come, first served basis. There is one scholarship especially for an individual or a group starting a new Gay/Lesbian newspaper in an area not already serviced.

Groups or individuals interested in more information should contact either MLGPC by calling (414) 32-PRIDE or the Twin Cities Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee at (612) 336-4026. You can also contact IALGPC at (612) 336-4111.

Fight AIDS... NOT War

ACT UP Milwaukee will be hosting a rally and procession on the occasion of the President's State of the Union Address. Join in the call for national leadership in the fight against AIDS.

Join ACT UP at the Reuss Federal Plaza at 11:30 a.m., January 23, 1991, or call (414) 769-8708.