



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

# The Wisconsin Light

## Helms Complaint Pursued Against AIDS Groups

[Washington, D.C.]—ACT UP Washington, D.C. reports that the Federal Election Commission (FEC) has renewed pursuit of a complaint against a small number of Gay, Lesbian and AIDS groups who organized a boycott of Miller beer and Marlboro cigarettes, two products of Philip Morris Companies, Inc. At issue were the corporation's donations to the re-election campaign of Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) and a \$200,000 gift toward the building of a Helms Museum scheduled to open near Monroe, NC in 1992.

The original complaint, filed on August 6, 1990, by "Re-Elect Jesse Helms," an arm of the Conservative Campaign Fund, alleges that, by organizing the boycott, ACT UP/DC, ACT UP/San Francisco, the Dallas Gay Alliance, the Tarrant County Gay Alliance, Nancy Solomon and Michael Petrelis violated provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.

On February 8, 1991, the FEC issued factual and legal analyses taking the position that there is "reason to believe" that the oral and written communications of the activists constituted "express advocacy" for the defeat of Helms by attempting to remove a major source of his funding. At this stage, the complaints against Solomon and Petrelis are not being pursued.

ACT UP/DC reports that ACT UP will continue its "demand for corporate accountability from Philip Morris." This includes protests against the "Bill of Rights" tour sponsored by the company in its various stops around the country.

Several members of ACT UP, it is reported, have become Philip Morris shareholders and plan to "make their displeasure known" at the corporation's annual meeting on April 25 in Richmond, VA.

## Bush Challenged On AIDS Budget By Human Rights Campaign Fund

[Washington, DC]—The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), the nation's largest Lesbian and Gay and AIDS political organization, has charged the Bush Administration with abandoning AIDS volunteers and people with HIV-infection.

The organization's executive director, Tim McFeeley, was sharply critical of President Bush's budget proposal which includes less than \$2 billion for AIDS programs in the Public Health Service. "Unfortunately, the Administration is running away from the reality on AIDS. We believe every dollar spent today on fighting AIDS will save millions of dollars later in lost productivity, spiraling medical and insurance costs and, most importantly, tens of thousands of human lives," McFeeley said.

"Each hour of every day, four American families lose a loved one to AIDS. A state of emergency exists and ignoring it will not make it go away," he stated. "The president's failure to recommend full-funding of the Ryan White CARE Act ties the hands of tens of thousands of American volunteers struggling with the AIDS epidemic," McFeeley said.

McFeeley challenged the assumption that the government is spending too much on AIDS, stating that "if we can afford a station in far off space, we can afford medication for people who live around the corner in every city of our country." McFeeley noted that AIDS is now the leading cause of non-accidental death among American men between the ages of 25 and 44, surpassing heart disease, cancer, suicide and homicide. Among women in that age group, AIDS is expected to rank among the five leading causes of death this year.

"We support greater spending on research into AIDS, cancer, heart disease

## State Hate Crimes Law Tested In Appleton Trial



Vincent Van Gogh is played by Tim Roth in the film "Vincent and Theo" which opens March 8 at Milwaukee's Downer Theater. (See a review of the film on page 6).

## President Bush Names M.A.P. 383rd 'Daily Point of Light'

[Milwaukee]—On Tuesday, February 19, 1991, President George Bush named the volunteers of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) as the 383rd "Daily Point of Light."

"This is a well-deserved honor to our very special volunteer staff, and everyone else associated with MAP," said Lynn Syverson, director of Volunteer Resources.

and all of America's health care priorities. Spending on health care produces results that expand the whole world's knowledge base and our ability to effectively combat disease," McFeeley stated.

"AIDS is a communicable disease, and the potential expansion of the AIDS virus cannot be ignored. We have already seen the toll that ignorance takes. The government's failure to spend adequate funds on education, research and treatment today will bring an even more substantial expense down the line," McFeeley said.

"This is not the time to put the brakes on AIDS spending, just as our investment in research is beginning to pay off. We must continue to increase research, so that scientists can explore every avenue opened up by the research done so far," McFeeley stated.

## Women's Support Phone Line To Start

[Madison]—According to The United's newsletter, the organization's board has committed the agency to establishing a new information and support line specifically to serve the Lesbian community.

During the past year, board members found that the existing Gay and Lesbian phone line was not what women preferred. Lesbians expressed more comfort with talking to other women for support, information and referral.

The new line will be staffed entirely by Lesbians, while the existing service will continue to be operated by Gay men and any women who choose to participate.

Please call the United's office at 255-8582 if you want to be a phone line volunteer.

The President recognizes a "Daily Point of Light" six days a week. According to a description provided by the White House, "Daily Points of Light" are those who successfully address our most pressing social problems through direct and consequential acts of community service.

The White House states that the "Daily Points of Light" recognition is intended not only to honor those who are making a difference in the lives of those in need, but more importantly, to urge every individual, family, business and other institutions to make serving others central to their life work.

All volunteers and employees of MAP and the Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project have truly learned that they do make a difference.

"Volunteers are the backbone to all that we do at MAP," said Doug Nelson, MAP executive director. "Currently, more than 400 volunteers provide support, time and their expertise to MAP's programs and clients."

Individuals interested in becoming a volunteer with MAP should call the Volunteer Resources Department at (414) 273-1991.

## Veterans Group Forming Milwaukee Family Support Network

[Milwaukee]—The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America (GLBVA) is happy to announce the formation of a support group called "The Milwaukee Family Support Network" for persons who have family members, significant others or friends serving in the Persian Gulf. Outreach is directed to Wisconsin and Chicago.

The Network was established because of profound concerns expressed by members of Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian community about those "who remain behind." The Network is open to anyone who has family or friends serving in the war theatre; however, the outreach is directed especially to Lesbians and Gay men who have significant others serving there.

The Network is there to provide friendship and support. Issues the Network would like to deal with are: The needs of those who remain behind (food, money, the loss of a loved one, legal issues, etc.); the establishment of discreet space where people can voice worries and fears without the problem of

Members of Lambda Rights Network and Queer Nation Milwaukee attended the Appleton trial which was the first time that Wisconsin's Hate Crime Law has been used to prosecute someone on the grounds of sexual orientation. The testimony in the case, Outagamie County v. Brian Brown, Jr., began Tuesday, March 5th at 8 AM and continued through approximately 11:30 AM Wednesday, March 6th.

The case involves incidents which occurred late July 26, 1990 and early July 27, 1990 at the Omni Lounge in the Fox River Mall and the parking lot outside the mall. The Fox River Mall is located in Grand Chute, WI, a small town outside of Appleton.

Brian Brown allegedly assaulted and verbally abused Brian Rochon on the night in question. Rochon, who was then employed by a hairstyling salon in the mall, was attending a birthday party in the Omni Lounge, accompanied by other mall employees, while Brown was in the Omni celebrating the end of a police training course with fellow cadets.

A scuffle occurred on the dance floor after one of the other cadets knocked off Rochon's hat. Roxanne Rutten, who had been dancing with Rochon, retrieved the hat. Words were exchanged between Rochon and the cadet who allegedly began to shove Rochon and call Rochon a faggot. Rochon and Rutten then proceeded to the other side of the bar, nearer to the entrance, to retrieve their drinks and money. A group of approximately 10 cadets surrounded Rochon and several of his friends and again verbally harassed him.

Rochon decided to leave and walked out of the Omni and down the stairs towards the main exit of the mall. As he turned on the landing he noticed the pink shirt which he had earlier noticed on Brian Brown and increased his pace.

According to Rochon, Brown then said, "I want to see your ID! I'm going to bust you, you fucking faggot!" Rochon ran to the exit and around an area where construction was going on until he found bushes approximately 10 feet high. Rochon hid behind the bushes to avoid further contact with Brown. Brown continued to follow, yelling out, "I want to see your ID, you fucking fag!" Brown stopped in front of the bushes where Rochon was hiding and continued yelling. At this time Rochon decided to try and

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military detection; "social nights out" where those who remain behind can get out to let off steam with friends who care.

Future goals include potluck dinners, a "Veterans' Wall of Support" for Gay and Lesbian Vets to place a photograph and personal statement of support for the troops in the Persian Gulf, and rap groups which would address concerns not already identified.

The Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) has lent its support to the Network. Pastor Chris of MCC-Milwaukee attended the first meeting and confirmed her support as a Pastor and veteran for the Network and GLBVA/Milwaukee Chapter. She will be available at future meetings to counsel individuals and lend her ear.

The next meeting of the Network/GLBVA is scheduled for March 10, 1991, at 3:00 p.m. at the Kenwood United Methodist Church, 2319 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. For more information, please call (414) 342-6543 or (414) 933-6233.