



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

The Wisconsin Light

New York's Mayor Dinkins Marches With Irish Gays

[New York, NY]- Braving jeers and objects thrown by spectators, Mayor David Dinkins marched arm in arm with a group of Irish Gays and Lesbians in New York City's annual St. Patrick's Day parade on Saturday, March 16.

"It was like marching in Birmingham, Alabama," Mayor Dinkins told the *New York Times*, referring to the abuse heaped on civil rights marchers in the 1960's. "I knew there would be deep emotions but I did not anticipate the cowards in the crowd," said Dinkins.

Racist and anti-Gay chants were raised and cans of beer were thrown as the Mayor and the Gays made their way along the parade route. Mayor Dinkins was showered with beer from one of the flying cans and some spectators were seen to spit at the Gay marchers.

A special cordon of police attempted as best they could to shield the Mayor and the Gay marchers from the hostility of the spectators.

When the Mayor and Gays passed the reviewing stand, some of the parade officials turned their backs to them.

Mayor Dinkins chose to show solidarity with the Gay group after the Ancient Order of Hibernians, organizers of the 230th annual St. Patrick's Day parade, initially refused to allow the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization to participate. Mayor Dinkins suspected the Gays' exclusion was due to discrimination.

The St. Patrick's Day parade is one of the largest public events held in New York City, and mayors of the city have traditionally held an honored position at the beginning of the parade. Mayor Dinkins is the first Mayor to decline that honor.

For days prior to the event, city officials attempted to negotiate a compromise between the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Irish Gays who wanted to join the parade. The *New York Times* noted that the "donnybrook" presented a real challenge to politicians because it pitted the interests of two of the city's most powerful constituencies — the Irish and the Gay and Lesbian community — against each other.

A compromise was finally reached in which the Gays and Lesbians were allowed to march with the Midtown Manhattan contingent of the Ancient Order of Hibernians but were asked not to carry any banners or signs. Neither the Gay group nor the Ancient Order were

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State Awards Milwaukee AIDS Project \$220,000 Housing Grant

[Milwaukee]- Governor Tommy Thompson announced Wednesday, March 20, 1991, a major housing grant of \$220,000 to the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP). The grant will, for the first time, provide rental assistance funds to people living with AIDS in the metro-Milwaukee area.

The MAP grant was the largest grant announced by the Governor among 10 housing grants awarded. The MAP administered grant will provide direct rental assistance to more than 100 lower income people with AIDS and HIV infection.

"This is one of the largest grants ever received by MAP and it will help us guarantee that no one with AIDS will be homeless in Milwaukee," said Doug Nelson, MAP Executive Director. "These rental assistance funds will significantly expand MAP's housing program. It is a wonderful compliment to the Milwaukee House which is the home we own for people with AIDS," Nelson said.

The Milwaukee House was purchased by MAP in 1988 through the help of Dr. Karen Lamb and other generous

Rep. Petri Says Homosexuality Is Wrong; Should Be Illegal



Jerry Johnson

Judy Tenuta performed on March 14 at Milwaukee's La Cage to capacity crowds.

States Congressmen Fail To Give Support To Gays In Desert Storm

[Washington, D.C.]- Lesbian and Gay activists at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) commended 40 members of Congress for their March 15, 1991, letter to President Bush supporting Gay men and Lesbians who served in Operation Desert Storm and calling for an end to the Defense Department's anti-Gay policy.

No member of Wisconsin's Congressional delegation was included among the signers asking that discrimination be ended.

The letter voiced support for all military personnel in the Gulf- "including some fifty thousand Gay and Lesbian soldiers who have served and are continuing to serve so valiantly."

Calling the Pentagon's discriminatory policy "archaic and destructive," the signers pointed out that Lesbians and Gay men endure the "same hardships of war" and "make the same sacrifices" as their non-Gay colleagues, but "must hide an integral part of themselves."

The letter went on to say that Lesbians and Gays "have risked their lives for our country while being told in no uncertain

terms that 'if the Iraqis don't get you, the U.S. military will'."

NGLTF is currently circulating petitions calling on Bush to issue an Executive Order rescinding the Defense Department's discriminatory policy. People wishing to help circulate petitions may contact Tim Drake at NGLTF, 1734 14th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009, (202) 332-6483.

Of related interest, ABC's "20/20" program seen in Milwaukee of Fridays on Channel 12 will air a segment on military anti-Gay discrimination on March 22, 1991.

First Hate Crimes Prosecution Ends With Mixed Results

[Madison]- The first prosecution based on sexual orientation under Wisconsin's new hate crimes law ended with mixed results on Feb. 28, 1991. Gilbert Rosas was found guilty of misdemeanor battery in an attack on Martin Christopher, but the jury failed to find that the battery was motivated by bias.

Rosas faces a fine of up to \$10,000 when he receives sentencing later this month. If the jury had found that the battery had been motivated by prejudice, Rosas would have been convicted of a felony and would have faced sentencing of up to two years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

On Aug. 19, 1990, at around 3:00 a.m., Christopher was standing in front of his house finishing his last cigarette before going inside. He was wearing a T-shirt which read: "We Proudly Served; Gay Veteran's Association" (Christopher served in the U.S. Army).

Christopher was approached by Rosas and another man who asked him what he was doing. When Christopher responded that he lived there, Rosas reportedly said he didn't believe him. Rosas is reported to have said: "You must be a faggot," and the man with him said, "I hate faggots," according to reports. Christopher reported that Rosas assaulted him, hitting him in the face, giving him a black eye and swollen cheek.

The assault continued until Christopher ran for his building. He reached it just ahead of his pursuing assailants, and he managed to open the security locked door and shut it behind him before they reached the door.

Christopher, who was covered in blood, called 911 and the police arrived within five minutes. The police caught Rosas

[Milwaukee]- The United States Student Association (USSA) has responded to comments made by Congressman Thomas E. Petri (R-WI, 6th Dist.) made on March 15, 1991 at the 22nd Annual Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

When asked by a member of the audience for his views on hate crimes legislation, Petri responded: "I voted against the law legalizing homosexuality. I think it should be illegal. It's wrong! I'll be honest with you — you know (that). You do have to set standards. If you want to call it discrimination, it's legal."

In condemning Petri's statements, Julius A. Davis, President of USSA said, "Combating homophobia and heterosexism is a critical component in ensuring the access of Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals to higher education and all of society."

"Education and homosexuality are very much related in today's society," Davis said.

In a press release, USSA said that in its struggle to represent all students, it deplores actions such as Petri's which violate the constitutional and human rights of all students.

USSA said it condemns both institutional and individual expressions of homophobia and heterosexism and condemns all hate crimes perpetrated against Lesbians, Gays, and Bisexuals and has urged its members to publicly equate hate crimes against these groups with all forms of oppression.

USSA is the country's oldest and largest national student organization, representing more than 3.5 million students. Founded in 1947, USSA is the only national student organization representing students on Capitol Hill.

urinating on the front lawn with blood on his pants, but the other man could not be found. The arresting officer said that Rosas called him a faggot at least five times in the police car, although Rosas later claimed he had only said, "I'm not a faggot."

During the trial, Rosas's Public Defender Daryl Jensen sought to prove that Christopher provoked the attack by trying to pick up Rosas and grabbing Rosas's butt. In response, Asst. Dist. Attorney Gretchen Hayward asked Christopher if he found Rosas attractive. Christopher replied: "Absolutely not."

Jensen asked Christopher many questions apparently intended to show that Christopher was trying to pick up men that night in front of Red Letter News, a Madison adult bookstore. Christopher responded that "too many of my friends have died of AIDS for me to do something that stupid." One of Christopher's friends had died of AIDS a week before the trial.

Despite the Public Defender's attempts seemingly to appeal to their prejudices, the jury convicted Rosas of battery and rejected his defense of provocation through sexual advances. However, the jury refused to find that Rosas had committed a hate crime.

The Wisconsin Hate Crimes statute provides that a hate crime occurs when the perpetrator "intentionally selects" the victim because of the victim's sexual orientation. According to a poll of the jurors taken several days after the trial by Asst. D.A. Hayward, the jurors felt that the statute meant the defendant must have been looking for someone who is Gay to attack. In this case, there was no

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Preliminary criteria for rental assistance through MAP include: 1) an

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