



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

# The Wisconsin Light

## State Hospitals Awarded Grants to Aid Health Care Workers

[Milwaukee]- State Rep. Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) announced that the Milwaukee County Medical Complex (MCMC) is the recipient of a \$26,000 Department of Health and Social Services award to implement the use of new medical technology designed to prevent the spread of AIDS and hepatitis to health care workers who care for infected patients.

"The nurses, doctors, and attendants of the Milwaukee County Medical Complex need this grant to protect their lives as well as their families' health," said Rep. Carpenter. "The MCMC treats by far the greatest number of AIDS and HIV positive patients of any health care facility in Wisconsin so accidental needlesticks carry a tremendous risk to the health care workers there."

The Health Care Device Safety Grants, passed as 1991 Act 290, and authored by Rep. Carpenter, will be awarded to four other Wisconsin hospitals.

These are: Beloit Memorial Hospital, Beloit, WI, \$10,500; Prairie du Chien Memorial, Prairie du Chien, WI, \$6,000; Vernon County Memorial, Viroqua, WI, \$1,384; Hudson Memorial, Hudson, WI, \$5,516.

"Health care professionals certainly deserve some added safety measures and peace of mind as they continue their efforts in helping AIDS patients fight this terrible fight," said Carpenter. "These new syringes and hypodermics should be available to all health care workers and this program should act as an impetus to health care facilities everywhere to implement their consistent use."

Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital, the site of Wisconsin's first confirmed case of a health care worker being infected with HIV due to an accidental needlestick while treating an HIV positive patient, is among the hospitals receiving a grant.

The Health Care Device Safety proposal was passed as a two-year \$150,000 program before being vetoed to \$50,000, according to Rep. Carpenter.

## Bound for Justice: Joe Steffan Discusses His On-Going Legal Battle

By Owen Keehnen

In 1987, just six weeks short of graduation, Joseph Steffan was called into his commandant's office after a rumor he was Gay reached administration officials at Annapolis, the Naval Academy. Abiding by the naval honor code, Steffan refused to deny the rumor and was stripped of his rank and denied his diploma.

Since his discharge, Steffan has been involved in a still on-going legal suit for reinstatement.

In his book, *Honor Bound: A Gay American Fights for the Right to Serve His Country*, Joe recounts his discharge and ensuing legal battle.

**Owen Keehnen:** What do you hope to achieve in your lawsuit against the Navy?

**Joe Steffan:** Technically, we're asking for three remedies. First, that I be granted my diploma from the Academy. Secondly, that I be reinstated in the military to continue my career. And finally, that the military policy itself be declared unconstitutional and overturned.

**OK:** If you were reinstated, wouldn't you be a bit fearful about going back within the walls of Annapolis?

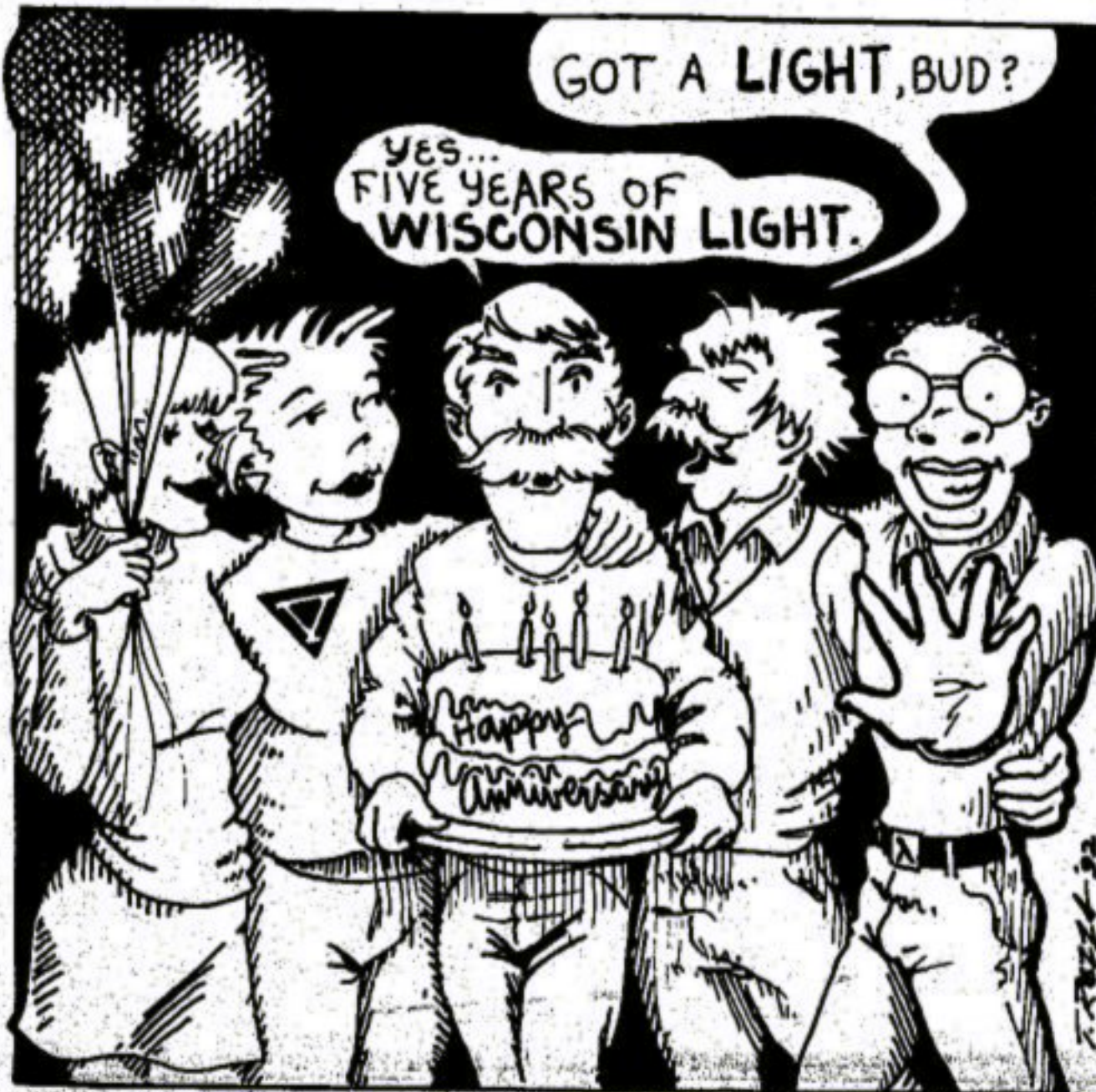
**JS:** I think I'd be somewhat concerned, but there would be Gay people right and left. And if there's one thing the military knows how to do, it's take orders.

I would expect to take some heat, but I certainly wouldn't think my life was in

I would expect to take some heat, but I certainly wouldn't think my life was in danger.

**OK:** During your trial, federal judge Oliver J. Gasch called you a "homo" and

## Hate Law Passes In Colorado But Fails To Pass In Oregon



### There Is Much To Celebrate With Nov. 3 Election Results

Analysis By John Quinlan

[Milwaukee]- Lesbians and Gay men throughout the country had much to celebrate after the November 3rd elections, despite some notable challenges that lie ahead.

"We made some major advances across the country," openly Lesbian State-Rep.-elect Tammy Baldwin told the

Light. "We elected a pro-Gay president — a major victory."

"We elected more pro-Gay senators, such as Russ Feingold here in Wisconsin, who will represent the Gay and Lesbian community very well," Baldwin added. "In Congress overall, we can expect to see the number of co-sponsors of the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights bill increase by about 15 sponsors."

#### More Homophobia by the Right

In a victory for Gay and Lesbian rights, Oregon voters turned down an anti-Gay rights initiative by a 55 to 45 margin. "This is very encouraging in that there was an incredible amount of organizing coalitions between the Gay and straight communities," Baldwin said.

However, she lamented the fact that this battle had zapped much of the energy and strength of the entire region's activists. "This is the strategy of the Right and we'll see more of this. We don't want to continue to fight homophobic ballot measures. We'd rather be making progress on a new set of challenges."

#### Do They Really Hate Us That Much?

Elsewhere in the country, there was a mixed record of success. Voters in Portland, Maine voted to keep their Gay rights law, while Tampa, Florida voters chose to repeal theirs.

The most disappointing defeat came in Colorado, where Gay rights opponents succeeded in passing a referendum that had the effect of overturning Gay rights ordinances in several major Colorado cities. The loss took many activists by surprise, because polls had shown the measure unlikely to pass.

"I feel like I've been kicked in the stomach," Lawrence Pacheco, a 23-year-old Gay man told the *New York Times*. "Do they really hate us that much?"

Gay rights activists in Colorado are expected to challenge the results in court, and there is talk of a Gay and Lesbian business boycott of the state as long as the law stands.

[Denver, CO]- On November 3, 1992, Colorado became the only state in the Union where voters have added to their constitution a provision banning laws protecting Gays.

The measure, known as "Amendment 2" passed by 54 to 46 percent. The measure also repeals anti-discrimination ordinances in Denver, Boulder and Aspen.

Reactions of Gay, Lesbians and their supporters was swift.

On Tuesday night, angry Gays invaded the Democratic Party's gathering celebrating the election of Bill Clinton to the presidency. Protesters asserted that the Party had not done enough for them.

There were other rallies and protest marches as well. On Wednesday night, hundreds of protesters gathered at the state capitol in Denver for a candlelight vigil. A witness told *Light* that loud chants of "No More Hate" echoed through the grounds.

#### Legal War

On Wednesday, Colorado political leaders launched a plan for a legal war on Amendment 2, while Gay rights activists promised to push for a national boycott of the state until the measure is overturned.

On Wednesday too, Denver Mayor Wellington Webb said that the city would file a lawsuit within 10 days to overturn the measure. Webb said that the amendment violates the state constitution's home rule provision which gives some cities authority to make their own laws.

Aspen and Boulder will likely join Denver as plaintiffs in the lawsuit said Denver City Attorney Dan Muse. A coalition of private groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, will bankroll the lawsuit.

#### Boycott of Colorado

As of press time no Lesbian/Gay organization has called for a national boycott of Colorado. Indeed, some national Lesbian/Gay leaders say that a boycott would be wrong. Speaking for background, one person in Washington told *Light* that now was the time for there to be more Gays and Lesbians in Colorado than ever. Lesbians and Gays need to be visible in the state.

However, The Denver Post reported that by mid-afternoon on Wednesday, the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights, a Gay and Lesbian doctor's group, had canceled plans to hold its August, 1993 convention, with several hundred delegates, in Denver.

At the same time, Fred Kohn, president of the International Gay Travel Association, said he has already begun discouraging clients from visiting the state.

Aspen's annual Gay Ski Week which fills hotels and restaurants with more than 3,000 skiers, may also be in jeopardy. "I do not want to be punitive to the Aspen community, but I think the State of Colorado has to understand that they cannot get away with this kind of discrimination," said Los Angeles travel agent Robin Tyler, who helps publicize the ski weekend.

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund has also announced the removal of Denver from consideration as a site for its 1993 conferences. "Our perception of the constitutional amendment is that Gays and Lesbians are no longer welcome in Colorado," wrote William Waybourn, the Victory Fund's Executive Director.

#### The Opposition

Representatives of Colorado for Family Values (CFV), the group that backed Amendment 2, said a Gay boycott won't hurt Colorado.

"What about all of those who will want to come here because this state is not a bastion of Gay rights?" said CFV founder Tony Marco.

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