



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

The Wisconsin Light

Wells Elected To Stonewall '94 Committee

[Milwaukee]- Gary Wells, of Milwaukee, who has been working as a member of the Conference Co-ordinating Committee of Stonewall 25, was elected to the Steering Committee for that organization at a conference in Dallas, Texas the weekend of January 15-17, 1993.

Stonewall 25 will be a celebration commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Stonewall riots which took place in New York City in June, 1969.

The mission of Stonewall 25, Inc., is to produce an international march and rally as well as a global calendar of all commemorative events taking place in 1994. The march is called "International March On the United Nations to Affirm the Human Rights of Lesbian and Gay People."

Stonewall 25 has created 12 demands of the United Nations. Among these is the demand to change the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, written by Eleanor Roosevelt, to include Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual people. Also, that the U.N. General Assembly proclaim The International Year Of Lesbian and Gay People (possibly 1999).

At the conference, Wells was also chosen to be one of six members of the executive committee of Stonewall 25.

The conference was held at the Sheraton Mockingbird Hotel and was attended by activists from across the country, notably Pat Norman, Gay/Lesbian Liaison to the Mayor of San Francisco, Nicole Ramirez Murry, Gay/Lesbian Liaison to the Mayor of San Diego and including representatives from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF).

Wells said that he was "shocked" to be chosen for this position. "I am honored to be included among this group and I look forward to working with them and working with them as much as I can."

As part of the committee, Wells will assist in the overseeing of all facets of organization of the celebration in June, 1994.

There were three keynote speakers at the Dallas conference; Ray Hill, a widely respected Texas Gay and civil rights activist; Rebecca Seville, co-General Secretary of the International Lesbian/Gay Association (ILGA) and Lesbian activist from Lima, Peru; and Morris Kight, a long-time national Gay human rights activist and the visionary who, in 1985, proposed an international celebration of Stonewall in 1994.

Hill talked about the history of the Gay movement. Seville, speaking in Spanish, described the international Gay movement and the events planned world-wide to celebrate 1994, from South Africa to Russia to Japan.

Kight spoke about his vision in 1985 as well as his intention to "come out" at the age of 75 to his home town in Comanche County, Texas.

Wells said that he was nearly
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Racine County Jail Settles Dennis Hill Death Lawsuit

[Milwaukee]- "It's a tremendous victory," Doug Nelson said, "a triumph in our long struggle to gain justice."

Nelson, the Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) was referring to the successful settlement in the lawsuit brought by ARCW on behalf of the estate of Dennis Hill against the Racine County Jail. The settlement, reached on January 13, 1993, was announced by ARCW on January 19, 1993.

As the front page lead headline in Wisconsin Light reported in the November 26-December 9, 1992 issue, Hill had been confined in the Racine County Jail in November, 1991, on a minor violation. The suit, brought by Steve Byers, managing attorney for ARCW, asserted that Hill, a person living with AIDS, had been denied necessary treatment for his obvious condition. He had been left to lie naked in his own vomit and feces with a medical tube protruding from his chest.

The only medication Hill received during his custody was two Tylenol tablets — which were strictly forbidden by his doctor. Hill died in the Milwaukee County Medical Complex on November 23, 1991.

Terms of the Settlement

In settling the case, Racine County has agreed to do the following:

- 1) Pay \$20,000 to the Dennis Hill estate;
- 2) Pay \$25,000 to fund an HIV/AIDS education program for implementation in Racine County. The county will award these funds to a community-based organization which has demonstrated a commitment to AIDS education and HIV prevention outreach;
- 3) Retain a qualified HIV/AIDS expert to access the medical treatment and support service policies of the jail and to develop appropriate policies for implementation by Racine County;
- 4) Educate and train all current Racine County jail personnel in the handling of HIV infected detainees and provide such training to all new employees;
- 5) Pay the legal fees incurred in prosecuting the lawsuit.

Nelson Praises ACT UP

Nelson praised ACT UP for all of its work and effort in bringing the Hill case to the attention of the public. "Without the powerful advocacy of ACT UP Milwaukee, and other dedicated AIDS activists from Madison and across the state," Nelson said, "our task would have been much harder and the suit might not have been settled so quickly or with such satisfaction."

Nelson said that while the legal settlement "clearly accomplishes our goal, and the monetary elements are a great accomplishment, equally important is the commitment by Racine County to develop and implement a comprehensive HIV/AIDS policy for the jail and to provide specialized HIV training to jail personnel."

Nelson went on to say that "The success of this settlement sends a powerful message to jails throughout Wisconsin and the country. The failure to provide adequate care and support for jail detainees with HIV disease and discrimination against them based on their HIV/AIDS status are both unacceptable policies for public law enforcement agencies."

Byers Praised

Nelson praised Steve Byers and the ARCW Legal Assistance Program for their "outstanding" work in both this case and on a day-to-day basis.

"Steve has done a great work here," Nelson said. "He is to be heartily congratulated." He also acknowledged with "deep gratitude" the commitment and assistance of Attorney Larry Albrecht from the law firm of Hall, First, and

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The Presidential Inaugural Committee

requests the honor of your presence

to attend and participate

in the

Inauguration of

William Jefferson Clinton

as

President of the United States of America

and

Albert Gore, Jr.

as

Vice President of the United States of America

on Wednesday, the twentieth of January

one thousand nine hundred and ninety-three

in the City of Washington

GALA WEEK— Gays and Lesbians across the nation rejoiced as President Clinton took his oath of office on January 20. Re-printed above is the invitation commemorating this Fifty-Second Presidential Inauguration.

BestD Clinic Begins Cable Show To Answer AIDS Related Questions

[Milwaukee]- BestD Clinic is going on TV on a weekly basis to answer HIV-related questions. The program will air every Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. on Warner Cable, Channel 47. The program is part of the on-going outreach of the BestD Clinic and will be produced by Bob Ambelang and Jeff Buckles. The purpose of the program is to answer questions that people have but are afraid to ask in person or feel uncomfortable asking in person.

"There are still many Gay people out there who have not been tested for the HIV virus," said Ambelang. "It is our intention to reach them and prove to them the value of testing on a regular basis, especially if they have had multiple partners or have been practicing unsafe sexual conduct," he said.

"The first test is a frightening thing for

all of us," Ambelang added. "But it is important to learn your status. If a person is negative, it is important to learn all you can about transmission, safer sex practices and negotiation to enforce safer sex practices."

"If the person is positive, safer sex is equally important as is the knowledge of what to do to keep oneself healthy. These are the issues we plan to address during the run of this important program," Ambelang said.

The program, **BestD Clinic Answers Your Questions**, will be a live call-in show. The call-in lines are (414) 225-3566 and (414) 225-3565 between 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. only. If you have no questions yourself, but have a friend or loved one about whom you are concerned, plan on watching together and phone your questions to the program.

INAUGURATION COVERAGE—

As this issue goes to press, **Wisconsin Light** reporter John Quinlan is in Washington covering the festive events.

READ HIS REPORTS IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF

The Wisconsin Light