



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

The Wisconsin Light

Baldwin Endorses Molnar for School Superintendent

[Madison, WI]- State Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) has announced that she is endorsing University of Milwaukee professor Alex Molnar in his bid to become the next state superintendent of schools. Molnar, who became known nationwide for his role in leading opposition to the Persian Gulf War, faces a crowded field of nine opponents in the February 16th primary.

Baldwin cited her agreement with Molnar's positions on a wide range of issues including equal access to education, school financing reform, school choice, and so-called "controversial curricula" as the reasons for her support. Baldwin also noted Molnar's extreme sensitivity to the special challenges facing children from Lesbian and Gay families and children who are themselves Lesbian or Gay.

Molnar is a professor in the department of Curriculum and Public Instruction at the UW-Milwaukee, where he began his studies as a doctoral student 22 years ago, after several years as a high school teacher. In an interview with the Wisconsin Light, he said he decries the fact that the state superintendent's job usually goes to someone considered to be a bureaucratic "education insider," who in fact "has no idea about the day-to-day challenges facing teachers."

Molnar said that his current post, which primarily involves teaching Wisconsin teachers who have returned for their masters degrees, is "no ivory tower." He says that it's his interaction with teachers from around the state that allows him to see firsthand the challenges facing our schools.

Molnar contacted Rep. Baldwin after an article about her appeared in the Chicago-based progressive news-magazine, "In These Times," where he serves as education editor. Like Baldwin, Molnar believes that equal access to a quality education for all students, regardless of where they live, is essential. "One element of the problem is that much too much of the tax burden is on the residential property taxpayer," he says. "It's unfair and people are really feeling the pinch. The other element is that whatever money is raised should be fairly distributed so that a child's opportunity for a good public education doesn't depend on geography," he adds.

TURN TO SUPERINTENDENT, PAGE 9

Milwaukee Receives \$500,000 Housing Grant

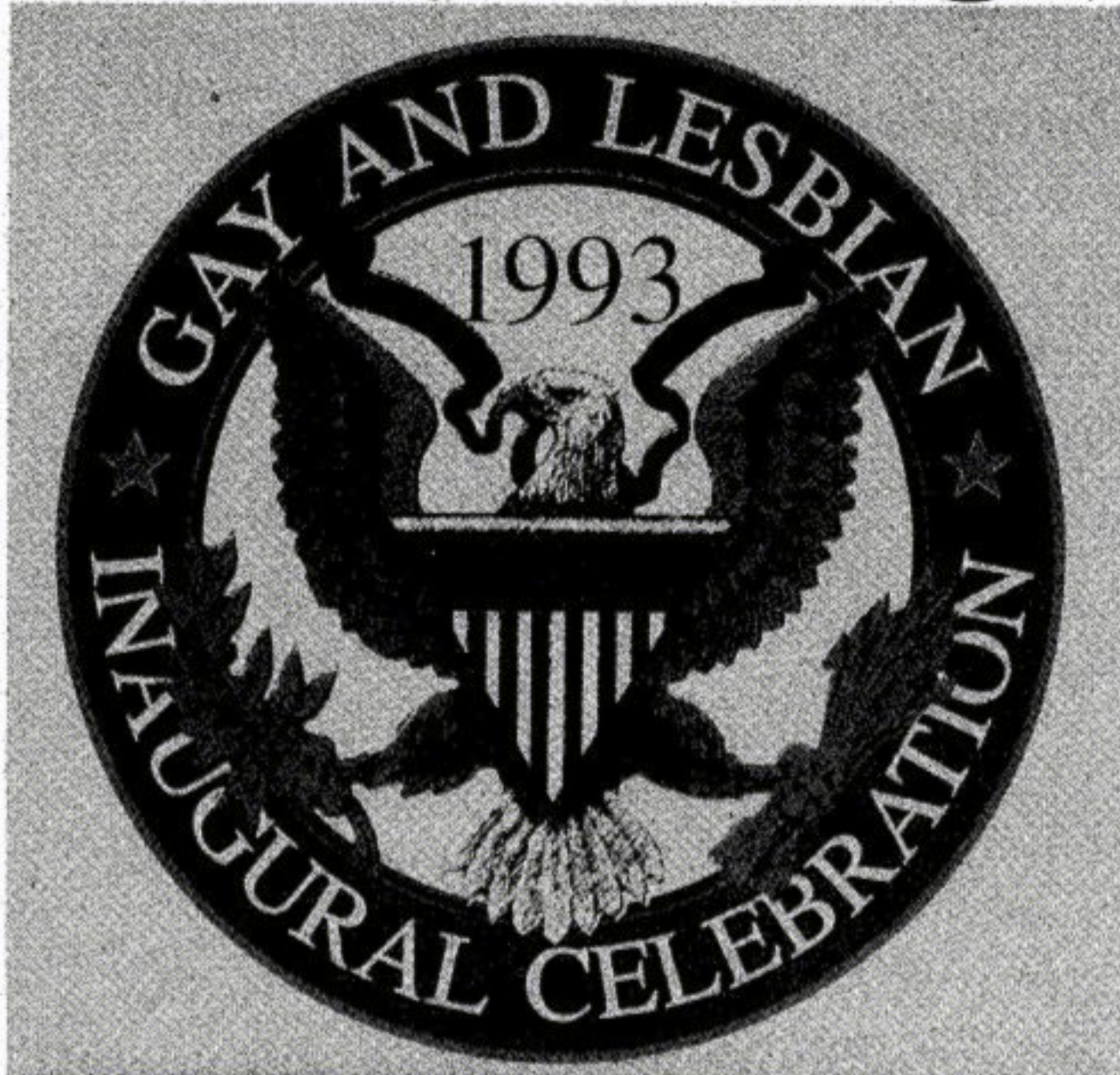
[Milwaukee]- The City of Milwaukee has been awarded \$500,000 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to improve housing opportunities for people living with AIDS. Kirsten A. Nyrop, Commissioner of the Department of City Development, and Paul Nannis, Commissioner of the Milwaukee Health Department, announced the grant on February 3, 1993.

The three-year grant is one of 10 awarded nationwide by HUD's Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) program.

Grant funds will be used to develop a transitional living facility with space for 10 to 15 people infected with the AIDS virus. People who live at the facility will receive on-site case management and medical care. The housing will be available to currently homeless people assisted by Health Care for the Homeless who suffer AIDS. Other community agencies also will be able to refer prospective residents. Patients at risk of becoming homeless will receive financial assistance to stay in their homes.

Health Care for the Homeless will work with the City of Milwaukee to identify and lease or buy a suitable building for the facility and undertake necessary rehabilitation of the property.

First Steps Taken To Lift Military Ban Against Gays



A HISTORIC CELEBRATION—Gays and Lesbians come to Washington, D.C. from throughout the country for the inaugural celebration of President Clinton. Pictured above is the cachet of the program cover for the Gay and Lesbian inaugural celebration.

Wisconsinites Jubilant, Hopeful As Bill Clinton Becomes U.S. President

By John Quinlan

[Madison, WI]- Back in Wisconsin, Lesbians and Gay men watching on television were often no less moved by the significance of the week's events than those who were in Washington, D.C.

"Several times I found myself crying," said Sunshine Jones, a co-founder of Madison's Lesbian Parents Network. "I wept because it feels like there was so much pain from the past twelve years. There had been so much tension in my body and so many fears. And it was like starting to release some of that and letting hope in, but also being afraid, not wanting to also experience the pain if those hopes are dashed."

"I think that one of the most moving things was Maya Angelou's poem," she added. "That spoke to deep, deep levels of me, really called us to a different way of living as a people."

As a lifelong advocate for children, Jones is especially heartened by the prospect of Hillary Clinton working for our nation's children. "One of the saddest things about the last twelve years is how we've put our children last... I really believe that Hillary Clinton will be an advocate for all children, for their health and well-being, that she will be an advocate for my child's well-being."

Jones says she senses an innate empathy in Mrs. Clinton, who had visited the family resources agency where she works in Madison during the campaign. "I could not imagine being able to have a voice with Barbara Bush or Nancy Reagan. But I find myself in an inner dialogue with Hillary Clinton. I find myself speaking to her and telling her about the challenges facing Lesbian families, the challenges of Gay and Lesbian children in this culture."

"Because of her perspective, I believe that she would be able to take that into her. I am also heartened that Clinton has put good people into his Cabinet like Donna Shalala, who I believe we will have access to. I believe that we can bring these concerns of the heart, and they're not foreign to their world perspective."

Watching from her home, Dana Alder

was especially touched by the inaugural week interfaith service at a Washington African Methodist Episcopal Church. Alder, a community activist who worked hard on Tammy Baldwin's state assembly campaign, felt a connectedness to all civil rights struggles as she watched the service in a church built by former slaves.

As the camera panned past Bill Clinton, Alder noted, a tear ran down his face. "People will always say that moments like that are contrived, but there's something real there, too," she said. "I had such a strong sense that day that with this new leadership, that something had turned, something had changed in this country. We've gone through years of feeling oppression, and there's the realization that we can do more than just fight back. We can be creative now."

For openly Gay Dane County supervisor Mark Pocan, Inauguration Day was a day to celebrate the many layers of our victories in Wisconsin. "From Bill Clinton to Russ Feingold to Tammy Baldwin, Lesbians and Gay men here made a major visible difference," he said.

[Milwaukee]- On Friday, January 29, 1993, President Bill Clinton took the first steps in lifting the ban against Lesbians and Gays in the military. In this, Clinton began the process by which the United States will finally join most of the rest of the industrialized world.

The President's move, as welcome as it was to many, excited a terrible fury on the Fundamentalist Christian Right. Miriam Ben-Shalom, in Washington lobbying in support of lifting the ban, said that "On Capitol Hill, I have to say that for the first time in my life, I understand how my kin in Nazi Germany must have felt."

Ben-Shalom, the national Chair of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Veterans of American (GLBVA), said she had heard much of the Right's rhetoric on the Hill. "The language of many of these individuals from the far Right," she said, "resembled nothing so much as the early propaganda that the Nazis put out concerning the Jews. These people are serious in their hatred of us and in their desire to see us eliminated, not only from the military, but from America at large," she said.

According to the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) calls against lifting the ban were flooding into Congressional offices at the rate of 30 to 1 disapproval rate.

Clinton Solid Behind Lifting the Ban Yet for many, the President's announcement came as a welcome relief.

Ben-Shalom said that she was "gratified" and added, "He is the first President who has broken the silence and spoken our name."

Steven Schwadron, press aide to Rep. Gerry Studds (D-MA), told Light that Studds's support for what the President had done was "unequivocal." Schwadron said Studds saw the President's move as "a giant step. Substantive progress has been made. The era of the witch hunts is over," he said.

Schwadron went on to say that that "The President is the trump card here and he stands solid." Schwadron said that 40 minutes after the inaugural, Clinton had raised the subject of lifting the ban with Studds. "We're going to make good on this," Schwadron quoted the new President as saying to the Congressman.

Asked if Studds was pleased with Clinton's compromise, Schwadron answered that Studds "shared with Clinton a certain disappointment on the necessity of compromise," but that Studds, "like the President" understood the "tactical reasons" that made the compromise necessary.

It's Not Over Yet

Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) told Light that he too was "very pleased" with the

TURN TO MILITARY, PAGE 11

Madison Feb. 12 Rally To Support Repeal of Anti-Gay Military Ban

[Madison]- On Friday, February 12, 1993, at noon, there will be a rally in Madison at the State Capitol sponsored by Madison Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual groups and their supporters and allies. The purpose of the rally is to show support for Gay, Bisexual and Lesbian civil rights and for a final repeal of the military ban against them.

As of press time, speakers at the rally will be State Rep Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison), Joe Elder from Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) and Maria Hanson of The

United. In addition to speakers, those attending will be given the opportunity to sign up for a phone tree action coalition that, it is projected, will eventually be state-wide in scope.

There will also be a petition available to sign in support of lifting the ban. The signed petition will be sent to Sen. Herb Kohl (D-WI) and to Congressman Scott Klug (R-WI).

For more information, contact Maria Hanson at The United at (608) 255-4297.