



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

The Wisconsin Light

Nelson: MAP Not At Fault For No Cryptosporidiosis Report To City

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) Executive Director Doug Nelson, expressed strong disagreement with Milwaukee Commissioner of Health Paul Nannis's suggestion that MAP had failed to submit data on Cryptosporidiosis among AIDS patients to the Milwaukee Health Department in a timely manner.

Nelson's strong statement was made during a long and intense week of MAP involvement with Milwaukee's water contamination crisis.

"Nannis is subtly suggesting that earlier information from MAP would have altered the scope of Milwaukee's water crisis and," Nelson declared, "nothing could be further from the truth."

The issue has been widely reported in the local news media and recently resulted in a Milwaukee Sentinel editorial that was sharply critical of the situation.

"The editorial was highly inaccurate and drew false conclusions that are terribly misleading," Nelson said.

MAP Reports the Facts

Nelson explained that the MAP data on Cryptosporidiosis came from its involvement in a national clinical drug trial network and reflected physician-reported cases of enrolled HIV patients who had been diagnosed with the parasite. The data was compiled over a two and one half year period and revealed 15 cases in Milwaukee.

"Because Cryptosporidiosis is a common illness throughout the country among people with AIDS, there is nothing about the 15 cases in Milwaukee over a two and one half year period that would lead any of our participating physicians or staff to conclude that this data represented a public health threat," Nelson said.

"There would be no statistical basis for such a conclusion," Nelson added.

Nelson explained that people with AIDS commonly acquire parasitic, bacterial and viral infections at a much higher rate due to their weakened immune system than individuals with healthy immune systems.

Nelson said that because of these higher rates of infection, it is entirely inappropriate to conclude that a broader environmental threat to the public health exists.

"More importantly, we (MAP) did not retrieve this data from the national data base until the City announced that Milwaukee had a water contamination

TURN TO WATER, PAGE 15

Unrelated People Not Protected Against Housing Discrimination

THE 1993 MARCH ON WASHINGTON



Milwaukee's Water Crisis Having Serious Impact On People With HIV

[Milwaukee]- In response to Milwaukee's water crisis, the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) conducted an emergency survey of all 700 of MAP's clients. MAP has reported that nearly one half, 48%, have had significant and severe symptoms of the intestinal illness that has been rampant throughout Milwaukee.

"Milwaukee's water crisis is having a devastating impact on people with HIV and we are terribly concerned about the continuing harmful effects on our clients as the next few weeks go by and the incubation period for Cryptosporidium runs its course," said Doug Nelson, MAP's Executive Director.

Nelson added, "Almost all of our clients with symptoms report having severe conditions of diarrhea and cramping which are often combined with fever, dehydration, vomiting, muscle aches and weight loss."

Nelson reported that the MAP survey

which was conducted on Monday and Tuesday, April 12 and 13, found that 35% of the clients had seen their physician about their symptoms within the past three weeks. On average, clients reported experiencing symptoms for at least 7 days.



Doug Nelson

As Wisconsin Light went to press, 12 of MAP's clients were hospitalized with severe diarrhea and dehydration.

Nelson also reported that over the past week, three of MAP's clients had passed away, exhibiting severe conditions of diarrhea and dehydration which are similar to the symptomatology of Cryptosporidiosis, although an official diagnosis had not been made.

"From the beginning of this crisis, I have said that the AIDS community is at risk for the greatest amount of harm and our worst fears seem to be coming true," Nelson said.

Operation Helping Hand

In response, MAP has begun a special initiative called Operation Helping Hand which is providing extra ordinary service to MAP clients who are ill with Cryptosporidia infection.

"The MAP Food Pantry has become the hub of clean water distribution. Over the past few days we have distributed more than 4,000 bottles of clean water to people with HIV and AIDS," Nelson said.

"This wouldn't be possible without the quick response of Miller Brewing Company which, once again, is coming through for us when we need them," Nelson said.

Nelson said that MAP social workers

TURN TO ILLNESS, PAGE 15

News Analysis by John Quinlan

[Madison]- In a highly controversial ruling on April 13, the Wisconsin Supreme Court held in a 4-3 decision that unmarried people do not have the same protections as married people from housing discrimination. A "very wide loophole" in the law has been created, civil rights leaders fear, that may be used against Gay men and Lesbians — and a wide range of other people who don't live in a household where everyone is legally related to each other — by Wisconsin landlords who wish to discriminate against them.

Protecting unmarried people from discrimination "is inconsistent with the public policy of this state which seeks to promote the stability of marriage and family," wrote Justice Donald Steinmetz in the majority opinion. Expanding upon that reasoning, a conservative majority on the court declared that unmarried cohabitants who sought protection from housing discrimination under a Dane County law could, in fact, be discriminated against.

Following the majority's logic, one of the implications of the decision could be that while individuals might be protected under the law, Gay and Lesbian couples might not be protected from discrimination. The decision, which is based on a challenge to sections of Dane County's Fair Housing Ordinance, also calls into question a local government's right to pass discrimination laws that are stronger than those of the state.

In a strongly worded dissent, Chief Justice Nathan Heffernan had harsh words for his colleagues who were in the majority. "I conclude that today's holding misconstrues existing law and, without legislative sanction, unwisely engages in... moralizing from the bench," he wrote. Heffernan was joined in his dissent by Justices Shirley Abrahamson and William Bablitch.

State Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) told the Light that she finds the majority's reasoning about a perceived threat to the stability of so-called traditional families to be absurd. "Nothing about renting to cohabitants undermines families or marriage," she said. "Recognizing that families exist in a wide variety of forms — including Lesbian and Gay families — does nothing to infringe upon or weaken the institution of marriage."

Baldwin noted that, in addition to Gay men and Lesbians, the ruling could also affect students, people who need to live with unrelated roommates in order to save money, people who need to live with attendants, and a wide variety of others. Ironically, she noted, many of her fellow legislators who share housing with each other while in Madison — conservative and liberal alike — could also be denied housing if the ruling stands. With all of this in mind, Baldwin believes that state legislation remedying the situation would receive broad bi-partisan support.

The case before the court involved a Sun Prairie landlord accused of violating Dane County's Fair Housing Ordinance, which contains language offering protections from discrimination based on a person's "marital status."

The case began when two groups of people had attempted to rent two three-bedroom apartments from landlord Dwight Norman. Three single women wished to rent one unit, and two unrelated women and the two children of one of the women wished to rent another unit. Norman told the women that he would rent to them individually, but that he had a policy that he "would not rent to groups of unrelated individuals."

When the women took Norman to court, a Dane County judge initially ruled that there was not probable cause to believe that discrimination had occurred. That decision, however, was overturned by the

TURN TO HOUSING, PAGE 11

Madison's Baldwin and Wagner To Receive National Honors in D.C.

[Washington, D.C.]- Wisconsin's State Rep. Tammy Baldwin and Dane County Supervisor R. Richard Wagner are among the history-making openly Lesbian or Gay officials who will be honored at a special luncheon during the weekend of the March on Washington. Top Clinton campaign advisor James Carville will be the featured speaker at the April 25 event at Washington's Capital Hilton, which is sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

"The events of these past few months have only magnified the importance of having our own represent us," said Victory Fund Executive Director William Waybourn.

Baldwin and Wagner will be in extremely distinguished company. The event, which Waybourn describes as "a recognition of firsts for our community," will also honor Congressmen Barney Frank and Gerry Studds, HUD Assistant Secretary Roberta Achtenberg, Top Clinton Advisor Bob Hattoy, and state legislators, school board members, city and county officials, and appointed officials from throughout the country.

Baldwin, who has been a leader in the National Network of Openly Gay and

Lesbian Elected Officials since her election as a Dane County supervisor in 1986, was elected as Wisconsin's first openly Lesbian or Gay legislator last November. Wagner, a past chair of the Dane County Board who has served as a supervisor for more than a decade, "came out" as one of the nation's first openly Gay elected officials in the early 1980's and has also been an important leader in the network. Both Baldwin and Wagner have achieved national recognition for their pioneering work for Gay and Lesbian rights.

Madison Aldermen and community activist Ricardo Gonzalez, the nation's first openly Lesbian or Gay official of Hispanic descent, had also been scheduled to be honored, but is unable to attend.

While in Washington, Baldwin will also be a reader at the display of the Names Project Quilt. "As one of a small, noble band of openly Lesbian and Gay officials in America, your presence during this ceremony will be historic indeed," wrote David Perry from the Names Project's headquarters in San Francisco, in inviting Baldwin.