

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



The Wisconsin Light

Gebbie Meets To Discuss Federal AIDS Policies

[Washington, D.C.]—Members of ACT UP Washington, D.C. met with AIDS policy coordinator Kristine Gebbie on Tuesday, September 7. The hastily arranged meeting was in response to a request by ACT UP Washington, whose members have been highly critical of Gebbie's record on AIDS and health care issues and the lack of power that the office commands.

"We felt it necessary to at least talk with Gebbie," said Steve Michael, an ACT UP D.C. member. "Unfortunately all our fears were justified. It was cordial, but there's just nothing there. The post is nothing more than a satellite location of the White House Press Office, designed to cover up their lack of real action in fighting AIDS."

The Case of the Missing Czar

Long time D.C. AIDS activist and one of the founders of ACT UP Washington, Cheryl Spector, described the search for Gebbie and her office.

"Wayne (Turner) set the meeting up and was informed that it would be held at the Hubert Humphrey Building (Health and Human Services). When we arrived at building security, they didn't know who Gebbie was and when she punched the office of AIDS Policy and Gebbie in her computer, nothing came up.

"We gave them a phone number and were told that number was not in the building. We called the number and were told to go to the New Executive Office Building (EOB) on 17th Street.

Other members of ACT UP were told at another Humphrey desk to go to the Old Executive Office Building.

At the New EOB we were told that there was no Gebbie here and no AIDS office in the White House.

"Finally, we discovered that the Office of AIDS Policy was across the street, above the McDonald's restaurant."

Turner put it this way. "In Washington, if you work for the President, your power is judged by two basic things: access and proximity to the President. Gebbie fails on both counts. She is both outside the protection of the Secret Service and has not had one face-to-face meeting with the President since becoming AIDS Policy Coordinator."

Meeting With Gebbie

During an hour-long meeting, members of ACT UP told Gebbie of their concerns about the range of issues that make up AIDS.

Among these concerns were: the urgency of a Manhattan-style project to find a cure; full implementation of the National Commission on AIDS reports; needle exchange; condom availability; and single payer universal health care.

Gebbie voiced her opposition to federally mandated condom availability in schools and needle exchange. Neither did Gebbie show any interest in a Manhattan-style project to find a cure for AIDS.

Gebbie, however, did say that there would be plans to form a White House Task Force on AIDS. There was no time-line when this would be done.

Target: Clinton

"Those of us familiar with Gebbie from Washington State knew this appointment would be a disaster," Turner said. "Gebbie has been underwhelming AIDS advocates everywhere she goes."

Michael added, "Our message to Clinton is: Fight AIDS or expect our campaign against George Bush and his AIDS policy to look like a love fest compared to the pressure we'll bring to bear against you and your Administration."

ACT UP Washington has decided to call for a formal meeting with Clinton prior to the chapter's National Coming Out Day demonstrations in front of the White House.

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Sept. 26 Wisconsin AIDS Walk Must Raise \$500,000 for Client Care

HIV Caseload Growing at an Annual Rate of 30% in Wisconsin



A YEAR OF MAGIC—Milwaukee Bucks Coach Mike Dunleavy and basketball star Magic Johnson will co-chair the Wisconsin AIDS Walk on September 26 in Milwaukee.

[Milwaukee]—The 1993 Wisconsin AIDS Walk scheduled for September 26, 1993 has been titled "A Year of Magic." And it is magic that the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) and the other AIDS service agencies around Wisconsin are hopping the Walk will help produce; the magic of help and of healing at a most critical time.

Doug Nelson, MAP's Executive Director, called the up-coming Wisconsin AIDS Walk "the most critical event of the year" for Wisconsin AIDS services agencies. He strongly stressed the importance of the September 26 Walk to the fight against AIDS and urged as many people to participate and pledge as possible.

Currently, some 16,000 people in Wisconsin are infected with HIV and the numbers are growing by over 30% a year, according to Nelson, especially among women, children, African-Americans and Hispanic people. This at a time when Wisconsin AIDS service agencies, MAP included, are "struggling to find the revenue to expand the services that are needed to meet the worsening epidemic," Nelson said.

Nelson went on to say that "In Milwaukee every month, 50 newly diagnosed clients come to MAP and the the minority AIDS organizations that are also delivering AIDS services." He added that "We are rapidly approaching the point of overwhelming our current capacity for service delivery."

He added that Milwaukee's experience was being duplicated "on a different scale" in Madison, Green Bay, Eau Claire and other areas of the state.

No Light At The End of the Tunnel

Asked about the reports that say that the epidemic has hit a plateau, Nelson said that nothing could be further from the truth.

"The AIDS epidemic is getting worse everywhere," he said, adding that "Anyone who believes that the HIV epidemic has peaked in Wisconsin, or that there is any kind of light at the end of the tunnel for AIDS is seriously misinformed. The worst of this epidemic is yet to come."

Agencies State-wide To Benefit

Twenty agencies that provide AIDS-related services throughout Wisconsin will benefit from the more than \$500,000 expected to be raised at the 4th Annual Wisconsin AIDS Walk.

Six agencies will co-sponsor the 1993 Walk and the proceeds will be disbursed among them and 14 additional agencies.

The sponsoring agencies are: MAP, the Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project-Kenosha, the Madison AIDS Support Network, Northwest Wisconsin AIDS Project-Eau Claire, the Wisconsin Community-based Research Consortium, and Center Project, Inc. in Green Bay.

Among the Walk beneficiaries are: The Brady East STD Clinic, the Midwest Hispanic AIDS Coalition, the Milwaukee Indian Health Board, Inc., Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Association of Black Social Workers, among others.

This year, for the first time, ACT UP Milwaukee will also be a beneficiary. ACT UP's proposal to formalize their youth education initiative received the approval of the Wisconsin AIDS Walk producers. ACT UP teams are currently forming. Please join by calling Patrick Flaherty at [414] 643-6743 or [414] 273-1991 x210 days.

Register Now!

Louise Searing, director of special events at MAP said that the "response has been tremendous" to the Walk. "From corporate support and teams, we

TURN TO AIDS WALK, PAGE 9

Senator Nunn Pushes Tough Anti-Gay Military Policy Through Congress

[Washington, D.C.]—The issue of Gays in the military continued to bubble in Washington, despite what observers say is the Clinton Administration's desire to put it behind them.

On September 9, 1993, the Senate voted 63-33 to endorse the language on the ban proposed by Sen. Sam Nunn (D-GA) in the Defense Authorization bill. Nunn's language would effectively write the Gay ban into law.

The vote came on an amendment to the Defense bill introduced by Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Ben Nighthorse Campbell (D-CO) to remove the Nunn military language from the bill and leave future personnel decisions in the hands of the executive branch.

The Nunn wording codifies a double standard against Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual service personnel, going beyond the "Don't ask, Don't tell, Don't pursue" language announced by President Clinton in July.

Nunn's proposal removed "Don't ask" and gives the Pentagon the right to reintroduce a policy of asking recruits about their sexual orientation.

A well-informed source on Capitol Hill, speaking for background, told Light that Nunn's motivation for the provision lies in looking forward to a time when there is a Republican Administration in office, "either headed by himself (Nunn)" or with Nunn as Secretary of Defense.

In addition, the Nunn proposal does not include the President's assertion that witch hunts will end or that the military's codes of conduct will be enforced strictly and equally for all personnel.

Sen. Russ Feingold voted for the

Boxer/Campbell Amendment. Sen. Herb Kohl, voted with Nunn and the majority. Kohl is expected to seek re-election next year.

On September 13, lawyers for the Clinton Administration began arguments before the Federal appeals court in Washington, D.C. in the case of Joseph Steffan.

Steffan was forced to resign from the Naval Academy after he told another midshipman that he was Gay.

At issue is whether a member of the Armed Services can be dismissed for saying he/she is Gay.

To defend the government's position, the Administration is arguing that both the old and the new regulations on Gays and Lesbians is constitutional, using many of the same arguments that were used by the Bush Administration. Candidate Clinton sharply criticized these.

According to reports in *The New York Times*, the three judge panel seemed unconvinced that there is a rational basis for restrictions on Gays in the military — under the old or the new rule — that could withstand constitutional scrutiny.

Under judicial questioning, the Administration was forced to concede that the military would not punish someone for being Gay and talking about it, but not acting on it.

Whatever the court rules, it is unlikely that it will be the last word on the subject. If the government loses, it will probably take its case to the full appeals court and possibly the Supreme Court, Gay activists said.