



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

The Wisconsin Light

\$3,425,000 Grant Awarded for Inner City AIDS Study to Medical College

[Milwaukee]—The Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) has been awarded a \$3,425,000 grant to expand its research program evaluating AIDS/HIV prevention approaches among vulnerable inner city communities. The grant, from the National Institute of Mental Health, will fund a new research program to evaluate ways to mobilize women living in low-income public housing against AIDS.

Psychologist Jeffrey A. Kelly, Professor of psychiatry and mental health sciences, Director of MCW's Community Health Behavior Programs and one of the nation's leading AIDS prevention researchers, is principal investigator for the study. Kathleen Sikkema, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of psychiatry and mental health sciences at MCW is co-investigator.

Denise Crumble, former Executive Director of Milwaukee's Inner City Arts Council and a project coordinator for the MCW Community Health Behavior Program, will coordinate AIDS educational activities in Milwaukee public housing developments participating in the study as project coordinator.

"AIDS is now the fifth leading cause of death among adult American women under the age of 45," Dr. Kelly said. "The rate of new HIV infections is increasing more quickly among American women than any other community segment, and most new HIV infections in women are now due to sexual contacts. It is essential that we develop and evaluate larger-scale AIDS prevention strategies which reach inner city women because they are most vulnerable to the disease."



JEFFREY A. KELLY, PH.D.

The new research will test an intervention that identifies and organizes small groups of influential and popular women who live in public housing developments to become experts on AIDS; to educate their friends, neighbors and family members about the disease and to encourage others to take steps to prevent AIDS.

"In our past work, we have found that people already known and trusted can have an impact on the AIDS attitudes and behavior of their friends," Dr. Kelly said.

"To the extent that a key group of influential women take on the role of serving as AIDS educators and talking with friends and neighbors to endorse behavior changes, they can help others to protect themselves against this disease. Our research will try to set in motion a process in which neighborhoods are given resources and supports to mobilize a friends-educating-friends approach to AIDS prevention," Dr. Kelly said.

The study, directed by MCW, will be focused on women living in public housing project in Milwaukee as well as in Seattle, Cleveland, Rochester, New York and Roanoke, Virginia.

"The scope of the work will be large
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Mixner: 'Our Civil Rights Movement Has Very Serious Political Power'

Mixner Played a Huge Role in Forging an Alliance Between the White House and the Gay Community



Jerry Johnson

NEAR DISASTER—A fire destroyed the rear, second floor of the 1100 Club, 1100 S. First St., Milwaukee on November 2, 1993. The fire was discovered about 6:30 a.m. as customers were eating breakfast in the bar. Because of water damage, the bars kitchen had to close temporarily although the bar portion reopened later in the day. The worst damage occurred in an area that had been added to the original building decades ago. Built in the 1800's the building originally served as a hotel. The upstairs was being remodeled at the time of the fire.

Resurgence in 'Therapies' Puts Gay and Lesbian Youth at Risk

By Tom Flint

Lesbian teenagers are being institutionalized in psychiatric treatment facilities across the U.S. for "gender identity dysfunction" with such behavioral modification techniques as isolation, drugging and electro-shock — all in an effort to make them straight.

These new findings by the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) may come as a horrible discovery to Gay and Lesbian activists who imagined the era of "curing" Gays had ended in 1973 when the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from the list of mental illnesses.

Since 1980, the number of teenagers institutionalized in psychiatric treatment facilities has doubled, largely due to practices of insurance agencies who prefer inpatient treatment. Homophobic parents seeking to have their son or daughter "cured" of homosexuality through institutionalization are adding to the trend.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights has initiated a two-year project to explore the dimensions of the problem, and to challenge unethical practices through legal action.

Public Speaks to Support and Oppose Keeping 'Light' in Hales Corners

By Sue Burke

[Milwaukee]—The Wisconsin Light poses a danger to children and should not be distributed free in the Hales Corners Public Library, according to 11 people who addressed a library committee Nov. 10.

Two others disagree. "The library is for everybody, not just for religious conservatives," said Beverly Schualler. She asked what might be banned from the library next.

The Library Review Committee, formed after a complaint about the newspaper, took public comments at its Nov. 10 meeting as part of its deliberations. The five-member committee must decide whether the newspaper should stay in the lobby pamphlet rack, be placed somewhere else in the library or be replaced by a different Gay and Lesbian publication.

NOTICE: Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, the deadline for the next issue is Wed., Nov. 17 and ads Fri, Nov. 19.

Reorientation Therapies

The reorientation therapies take a variety of forms aimed at behavior modification, including hypnosis, counseling, visualization, and escalating to drug therapies and the plethysmograph.

The plethysmograph is an instrument that attaches to the genitals of a male, or is inserted into the vagina of a female, and measures sexual response. The therapist will punish inappropriate response with aversion therapies such as nauseating chemicals, or electro-shock.

A report issued by NCLR states, "Gay youth have become a target for a growing industry of facilities and practitioners who are aggressively marketing behavior modification programs to parents, schools and juvenile courts."

Shannon Minter, an attorney who heads up NCLR's investigation said she was originally skeptical about reports from Gay and Lesbian youth telling of experiences being drugged while therapists attempted to "de-Gay" them with aversion therapy.

Minter no longer doubts that the stories are true.

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By Terry Boughner
David Mixner has been involved in public life, policy and business for nearly 30 years. An openly Gay man, last year, he served as a senior advisor to Bill Clinton (a friend of 25 years) and the Clinton-Gore campaign. Mixner played an instrumental role in helping forge an unprecedented alliance between Clinton and the nation's Gay and Lesbian community. Mixner subsequently broke with Clinton over the military ban and has since been one of the President's major critics.

Recently he spoke with *Light* by phone from his home in Long Beach, California.

Wisconsin Light: You are a long-time friend of President Clinton's. What is your assessment of his Administration to date regarding Gay issues?

David Mixner: Well, first let's deal with the military. What he (Clinton) has done is disgraceful and disastrous. After his initial speech in July, the Administration collapsed totally. Their (the Administration) appeal in the (Keith) Meinhold case is appalling. It's been the source of tension between us.

On the appointments side, we have made great progress. We have gone from nearly nothing to 30 major, substantive appointments.

On AIDS, there has been an impressive funding, but no meaningful project. We do have an AIDS czar — not as dynamic as I'd like. On the whole, the leadership (in



DAVID MIXNER

AIDS issues) has been weak and indecisive. We have to kick ass.

WL: Have you spoken with the President?

DM: I have not spoken with the President directly since July 31 (after being arrested in front of the White House). I have had numerous discussions with people in the White House, looking for a way to get back on track, especially on AIDS. There is no common ground on the military.

WL: Let me press you. How do you read the President?

DM: It's been a great disappointment, but what he's doing in the federal judiciary will reap benefits for us for years to come. We can walk now directly into the White House. So it's a mixed bag.

We have a President who we can reach on many of our issues, but it's not going to be easy. We must give him courage and the way to do that is to give him no options. And we will remove all options by being the best organized, best funded civil rights movement since the Blacks in the 1960's.

WL: What is your opinion of the Gay movement? Is there a movement?

DM: Absolutely! We have been viewed
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