



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

The Wisconsin Light

National Victory Fund Breaks All Records At Its Gala Fundraising Event In Milwaukee



VICTORY GALA— William Waybourn, Executive Director of the Victory Fund, Bob (Mr. America and Mr. Universe) and Rob Jackson-Paris, Milwaukee's Tom Reed, Victory Fund board member and David Mixner, senior advisor to Bill Clinton and the Clinton-Gore Campaign attended the Victory Fund Celebration in Milwaukee at the Skylight Theatre on November 21, 1993.

ALSO ATTENDING— State Rep. Tammy Baldwin of Madison, Thomas C. Hecht, Assistant Secretary of State and Democratic candidate for Congress (WI-2), State Rep. Tim Carpenter of Milwaukee and Dick Wagner, Dane County Supervisor, were among the several hundred who were present at the Victory Fund gala.

Jerry Johnson

[Milwaukee]— It was the most successful fundraiser to date, said Tom Reed of the Victory Fund celebration and fundraiser held at Milwaukee's opulent and elegant Skylight Theatre on Sunday, November 21. Reed said that he had hoped for 100 people, but the attendance and enthusiasm had exceeded all of his expectations.

The Washington, D.C.-based Victory Fund was created in 1991 to channel money to the campaigns of openly Lesbian, openly Gay political candidates across the nation. Reed is the only member of the Fund's Board from Wisconsin.

After a reception of sumptuous hor d'oeuvres, those attending assembled in the theatre to hear presentations by featured guests. These were: Bob and Rod Jackson-Paris whose work on behalf of Lesbian/Gay youth has given them a national reputation; State Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison); William Waybourn, Executive Director of the Victory Fund, and David Mixner, long-time friend of President Clinton and Gay activist extraordinaire.

Baldwin

Baldwin's reception by the crowd was, to put it mildly, enthusiastic. Upon being introduced, she received a thunderous standing ovation from a crowd that loves and respects her highly.

Baldwin, who had just returned from a convention of openly Lesbian, openly Gay elected and appointed officials in Chicago, praised the Victory Fund for its work in contributing to the election of Lesbian/Gay officials.

As Waybourn would later say, as of the last election, there are 133 openly Lesbian/Gay officials across the country. This year alone, five out of six candidates supported by the Victory Fund were elected.

Baldwin cited the "crucial" role played by the Victory Fund in helping to elect people who will help us achieve our rights.

No Knight in Shining Armor

Bob Jackson-Paris agreed with Baldwin, praising the Victory Fund's "essential" contribution in "getting our people into office."

We cannot expect, he said to have some "great, shining knight to grant us our civil rights. We have to take those rights and we have to defend ourselves. "We need our own in office," he said to help achieve "liberty and justice for all."

Bob's spouse, Rod, added that "everyone in this room is a survivor." He went on to say that one of the reasons that openly Lesbian/Gay officials are so important is because "Gay/Lesbian youth need to see" such officials.

The Coming Battle

Perhaps the most moving speech of the evening was given by David Mixner. In the soft, lyrical cadences of a down-home preacher, Mixner spoke of the battle that we face against the Far Right.

Mixner is optimistic that, with effort and tireless work, we will win. "I have a dream," he said that one day an open Lesbian will be head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and that one day, an open Gay man will be senior Senator from Georgia.

But before that comes about, we must fight. "We are on the verge of a great battle that will require from us more than we ever thought."

There are times, he said, when we will become weary, but when that happens, we must reflect on how far we have come. From that, we can gain strength.

At the end of his short speech, Mixner received a standing ovation.

Sponsors Thanked

Reed thanked the many sponsors who had made the celebration a success. Among these were: Miller Brewery, the Cream City Foundation, the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee, the

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Panel Recommends that LIGHT Should Stay in Hales Corners Library

By Sue Burke

[Milwaukee]— The Wisconsin Light should stay in the Hales Corners Public Library in spite of a complaint about the newspaper, a committee will tell the Library Board of Trustees.

However, the committee will recommend that the newspaper be moved to the top shelf of the newspaper section and the top tier of a brochure rack in the library lobby to be out of the reach of small children.

The five-member Review Committee agreed unanimously November 17, to make those recommendations to the Library Board. The Board will receive those recommendations and will set a public hearing on them at its December 1 meeting at the Library, 4885 S. 116th Street.

The Board formed the committee in September after Jeff Baas, 26, complained that the newspaper's advertisements were too sexually graphic and the newspaper was too accessible to children because it was kept in the free brochure rack in the lobby.

Committee members decided, however, that parents are responsible for monitoring what their children see. Brian Anderson, a guidance counselor at Pius XI High School, said that as a parent, "We're responsible for imparting our values. We're the only ones that can do it. The library cannot do it. The Milwaukee Journal cannot do it and Channels 4, 6, 12 and 10 cannot do it."

To remind parents, the Review Committee will recommend that the Library post the American Library Association Library Bill of Rights in a prominent place. The bill says in part that "a person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background or views."

The Review Committee will also recommend that the Library Board ask the Milwaukee County Federated Library System to change the application form for children's library cards to indicate that parents are responsible for what their children read.

The Sussex Public Library, which recently decided to keep a children's book about a Gay parent, *Daddy's Roommate*, provides parents with a similar notice.

Hales Corners Library Director Patricia Laughlin said some libraries have policies about unsupervised children in libraries, but those are mostly directed at latch-key children to remind parents that libraries cannot control which people come to a library, so the library might not be safe.

Most children who come to the library alone are in middle school or older, librarians said.

Librarian staff members on the

committee said children rarely if ever take anything from the pamphlet rack and the library has received no complaints from parents about their children bringing home the Wisconsin Light.

If necessary to prevent theft, the library might keep a copy of the Wisconsin Light behind the counter, as it does for the magazines *Vogue* and *Modern Bride*.

Almost 100 people attended the November 10 Review Committee meeting. Eleven speakers objected to having the Wisconsin Light in the library and two spoke in favor of it. Before the meeting, some members of the audience met for prayer and members of the Christian Civil Liberties Union picketed.

The library received about 40 letters or telephone calls on the issue, most in favor of keeping the newspaper. Committee members reviewed the letters and discussed the state's obscenity laws and the purpose of the newspaper before reaching its decision.

They also considered the advertisements in other publications. Some were similar to the ads in the Wisconsin Light.

At the urging of Baas's wife, Marilee, the Hales Corners Village Board is considering an ordinance prohibiting the distribution of adult-oriented materials to children. The Library Board and Hales Corners Village Board met on November 20 to discuss having the Wisconsin Light in the library.

Mrs. Baas and others have complained that the members of the Review Committee were hand-picked to decide in favor of keeping the Wisconsin Light. Two library staff members serve on the committee, along with three Hales Corners residents.

Bill Introduced in Congress Calls For Intensive Research to End AIDS

[Washington, D.C.]— ACT UP Washington, D.C. reports that Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) has introduced legislation calling upon the Federal government to launch an intensive research effort to find an AIDS cure.

The bill, HR 3310, is based upon ACT UP's McClintock Project. It provides a detailed working plan to focus the medical and scientific community in the effort to develop a cure of AIDS, which has claimed more than a quarter of a million American lives in 12 years of the epidemic.

Modeled after other research initiatives launched by the U.S., like the Manhattan Project which developed the Atomic Bomb, and the Apollo Project which landed Americans on the moon, HR 3310

After the meeting, Beverly Larson, who told the committee on November 10 that "you're responsible for what my children see at the library," said the committee "was stacked against us."

Court Orders Navy To Commission Outsted Gay Man

[Washington, D.C.]— "A cardinal principle of equal protection law holds that the Government cannot discriminate against a certain class in order to give effect to the prejudice of others. Such discrimination plays directly into the hands of bigots; it ratifies and encourages their prejudice."

These words were part of a 29 page opinion handed down on November 16, 1993, by the Federal Court of Appeals, the nation's second highest court. The opinion was written by Chief Judge Abner J. Mikva for the majority.

The ruling came in the case of former U.S. Naval Academy Shipman Joseph Steffan. The case has been in the courts since 1988 when the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund began litigation on Steffan's behalf.

Steffan had been compelled to resign from the Academy six weeks before graduation because he had acknowledged that he was Gay. A disciplinary board thereupon changed his military performance rating from "A" to "F" and recommended that he be discharged. Steffan resigned and the Defense Department refused to reinstate him.

The Appeals Court has ordered the Navy to commission Steffan and to grant him his diploma.

Steffan issued a statement saying that

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would create the Barbara McClintock Project to Cure AIDS.

"Committing this nation's resources in an all-out effort to find a cure for AIDS is something long over-due," said ACT UP Washington member Steve Michael. "ACT UP Washington urges everyone to call and write their Representatives and Senators to co-sponsor HR 3310," he said.

Michael went on to say that "For the first time in the AIDS epidemic we actually have legislation in Congress to find a cure. The lives of two million HIV positive Americans are hanging in the balance. We need to move this bill forward."

ACT UP also asks individuals and organizations to keep us informed of their own lobbying efforts, so they may provide regular updates nation-wide.