



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

The Wisconsin Light

Governments New T.V. Condom Ads Upsetting Both Sides of Issue

[Washington, D.C.]—The Clinton Administration has begun using the hype of Madison Avenue, soap stars, rap artists and TV actors to create a series of TV ads promoting both abstinence and the use of condoms. The ads are aimed at young people between the ages of 18 and 25.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, 86% percent of men and 76% of women have had intercourse by the time they are 20.

The ads are quite restrained. None of the condoms is shown out of its package. None of the condoms is shown being used. And none of the ads is aimed specifically at Lesbians or Gay men, although Kristine M. Gebbie, the Clinton AIDS czar, told *Light* that "Gay leaders had approved them."

One ad shows a man and a woman embracing, kicking off their shoes, pulling off an earring and unbuttoning a shirt.

"Did you bring it?" the woman asks barely able to restrain herself.

"I forgot it," the man replies.

"Then forget it," the woman says.

The campaign was unveiled on January 5 by Donna E. Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services. Shalala told the press that she saluted the ads "for their vision."

Not everyone agreed. Msgr. Robert N. Lynch, the General Secretary of the National Conference of Bishops called the campaign "irresponsible" because it did not promote abstinence.

Steve Michael of ACT UP D.C. in response to Lynch's statement said, "Before any leader of the Catholic Church tells any of us about the virtues of abstinence, they should practice it themselves. One has to wonder how many of our youth have been infected by Catholic priests."

Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX) condemned the ads saying that taxpayers were being forced to pay for something they found "personally and morally offensive."

Lynch and Lamar were joined in their condemnations by Lou Sheldon, Televangelist Pat Robertson and others. Wayne Turner of ACT UP-D.C. also condemned the ads, saying "Clinton's dancing condoms won't save lives."

ACT UP said that the ads do not explain that condoms should be used only with water-based lubricants and called for more sexually explicit ads such as those being run in Britain.

"We don't tell kids to just drive a car 'correctly' and then throw them the keys," Michael said. "Yet this President and his Cabinet are doing just that with condoms."

"These ads fall far short of the aggressive leadership promised by the Clinton Administration for this public health emergency," Michael continued, adding, that the ads "can't even say the word 'Gay' and won't play during prime time."

"A half-hearted prevention program comes as no surprise," ACT UP spokespersons concluded.

Milwaukee Performing Art Groups To Raise Funds for AIDS Project

[Milwaukee]—Twenty-six Milwaukee area performing arts organizations will raise their curtains in February and March in support of AIDS care, education and research as they take part in Audiences For AIDS. This is a first-time event, sponsored by the Milwaukee AIDS Project's (MAP) Arts Action Committee, gives patrons of the arts an opportunity to support programs for hundreds of men, women and children with HIV disease at MAP.

Among those groups participating are: The Boulevard Ensemble, DanceCircus, Different Drummer Theatre Alliance, Fest City Singers, Dale Gutzman Productions,

'Light' to Stay On Shelves At Hales Corner's Library

Library Board's Decision Is Unanimous

By Sue Burke

[Milwaukee]—In a compromise move that seems to satisfy both sides, the Hales Corners Public Library will continue to distribute copies of the *Wisconsin Light* — but from the top of a much taller newspaper rack in a location where the library staff can keep an eye on it.

A Hales Corners resident, Jeff Baas,

had filed a complaint about the newspaper in July. He said some of the newspaper's advertisements were "almost pornographic" and the newspaper was too available to children by being distributed from a low brochure rack in the library lobby.

Now, the *Light* will be distributed from a rack for free newspapers mounted on a column inside the library near the

circulation desk. An additional copy of the newspaper will continue to be kept with other newspapers in the newspaper collection for reading at the library, but the *Light* will be on the top shelf.

Baas's wife, Marilee, said keeping the newspaper was "no problem" and moving it out of reach of children was "an acceptable step in the right direction. It certainly shows that they (Library Board members) do recognize that they that they do have some responsibility for controlling what kids read."

Another woman who had said the newspaper "promotes depravity," Nada Marcetich, commented: "At least they acknowledged that there was something that needed to be changed. I'm glad to see it out of the brochure rack."

Terry Boughner, Ph.D., editor of the *Light*, said he was satisfied with the Library Board's decision. "As long as they put all their other free publications to give away are there, then I see no discrimination and I have no problem with it. I think if they had taken *Wisconsin Light* in particular and hid it behind a desk or put it in some special place, I would have had trouble," he said.

"If they had decided to exclude the paper they would have had a suit on their hands," Boughner said. "I hope this is the end of it."

The change came after months of meetings and two heated public hearings. Most Hales Corners residents who spoke against the newspaper at the hearings expressed concern about telephone sex ads and nudity in ads that might be seen by children. Others spoke angrily against Gays and Lesbians in general.

Opponents of the paper outnumbered supporters two to one. Supporters said the library should not limit what people may read and said the newspaper serves some Hales Corners residents.

The Library Board delayed a decision about the newspaper in December to rewrite its policies for the brochure rack and the selection of library materials. The new policies, 11 pages long plus supporting documents, replace four pages of policies that had been drafted in the 1970s.

Library Director Patricia A. Laughlin said she modeled the new policies in part after the policies at the public library in Fairfax, Virginia, which recently dealt with a complaint about another Gay and Lesbian newspaper, the *Washington Blade*.

The new policy on materials selection lists several objectives, including: "To provide a place where inquiring minds may encounter the original, sometimes unorthodox and critical ideas so necessary as correctives and stimulants in a society that depends for its survival on free competition in ideas."

Some materials may offend some clients, the policy says, and clients may ask for reconsideration of particular materials, but they "cannot exercise censorship to restrict access to materials by others."

The policy also says "selection decisions are not influenced by the possibility that material may be accessible to use by children."

The Library Board unanimously approved both the new policies and keeping the *Wisconsin Light* — in the new location. As recommended by a library committee that had studied the newspaper complaint, the Board also voted to post a copy of the Library Bill of Rights in a prominent place.

The Board approved another committee recommendation to ask the Milwaukee County Federated Library System to change the forms for children's library cards to remind parents they are responsible for what their children read.



A CLASSIC RETURNS—Blanche DuBois (Vivian Leigh) and Stanley Kowalski (Marlon Brando) star in the restored directors cut of "A Streetcar Named Desire." The film opens Jan. 28 at Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre for a limited run.

Krestine Gebbie, Federal AIDS 'Czar' Visits Milwaukee

[Milwaukee]— "If you're thinking sexual thoughts, you ought to also think condoms," said Kristine Gebbie, citing a condom ad being used in Portland, Oregon and aimed at young people. They are also looking to things like putting condom vending machines in the Berger King bathrooms, Gebbie said, because that's one of the places where the kids hang out.

Gebbie, President Clinton's AIDS czar, was in Milwaukee on January 12 at the invitation of the Wisconsin AIDS Resource Center, a part of the Milwaukee Foundation. Her office had contacted the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) to ask if she could speak to people there.

Gebbie came to MAP for a 7:00 a.m. meeting and was joined by some 50 people: MAP Directors, members of the Board, staff, representatives of the Madison AIDS Support Network, other representatives of Wisconsin AIDS service agencies and the press.

Gebbie said that she did not think that cost was a reason that young people do not use condoms. "My perception," she said, "from talking to a lot of people, is

that a lot of the barrier (to getting condoms) is they're too embarrassed to do it; I don't want to go into that section of the store, I don't want to have to face a clerk, I really don't know what kind to buy, how do I talk to my partner about it.

AIDS PSAs

Gebbie was asked by *Light* if she foresaw the time when any of the PSAs on condom use coming out of Washington would be directed toward the Gay community?

Gebbie replied that she didn't know "if we'll see it in the PSAs." She added however, that "we're very aware of the need to talk to Gay men."

The current PSAs (all seemingly heterosexually oriented), she said, "were targeted at an age group and they were tested with both Gay and straight populations. They were tested with Hispanic, African American and white populations and they tested well with all of them. Gay men viewed them and got the message from them." The radio PSAs, she said, are much less specific as to sexual orientation.

Gebbie said she had "no opposition" to targeting a PSA directly at Gay men. The question, she said, should it be done on the national level or should it be done on a local level.

Gebbie was asked how she reacted to the position of conservative religious groups that there should be mandatory testing for HIV? Gebbie responded, "Hold my temper."

She went on to say that anyone who has been at risk for contracting HIV should seriously consider testing. She said she "strongly supported" early treatment and planning out approaches.

However, to do testing as a "preventive device and to talk about it as a mandatory thing, really does drive me crazy."

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