



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

The Wisconsin Light



Stephanie Hume

THE BIG APPLE OR BUST—Athletes on "Team Wisconsin" posed at the opening of the Gay Games IV in New York City. Others from the state were not available at the time this photo was taken or arrived later in the week to participate in the various sports.

Thousands March to Remember Stonewall; Each One Has Their Own Story to Tell

(New York)—They marched behind a mile-long rainbow flag, cheering and chanting and proclaiming their Gay Pride. They mourned in silence and they screamed in rage. But no matter what they did, each had their story to tell.

There were people from places like Colorado and Indiana, still dismally oppressive places for Lesbians and Gay men.

"We want people to know, what happened here (at Stonewall) is happening in Indiana today," said Stephanie Minaert of *Out and About* in Indiana.

Dr. William Camerino of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, wore a picture of a young man. It said "Timothy Gallups 1961-1992."

"I'm keeping his memory alive," Camerino said. "He would have loved this." Then he began to cry.

Bobby Southwell of Portland, Oregon, carried a sign that asked, "How many of us will be alive for Stonewall 35?"

"It's amazing that in 25 years we've come so far, from when you couldn't get out of a Gay bar to where you fill the streets proudly," said Jerry Clifford, a parade participant from

Michigan.

At the post-parade rally in Central Park, Liza Minnelli was introduced by playwright Harvey Fierstein. Minnelli told the crowd that the commemoration had special meaning for her because the riots began the day of her mother's funeral. Then she sang "Someday We'll Be Free."

"Ain't no stopping us now," sang RuPaul **Two Marches.**

While most of the marchers headed up First Avenue, past the United Nations, to Central Park, a smaller contingent marched up Fifth Avenue.

As reported in the *New York Times*, three days prior to the march, local groups led by the New York Chapter of Gay and Lesbian Americans brought suit against the city for a permit for a second march.

Gay and Lesbian Americans (GLA) is a diverse, non-partisan coalition of grassroots advocates committed to civil rights for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered people, and to a cure for AIDS.

While the main march was shaped by people and groups who wanted to focus out-

rage on the social and legal abuse that Lesbians and Gays suffer here and in other countries.

GLA and its allies fought to shift the focus to AIDS and sexual liberation. They also maintained that the march should begin at Sheridan Square, the site of the Stonewall Inn.

"A Stonewall 25 celebration with no connection to Sheridan Square is really ignoring the place where it all began, and the very people whose bravery we're celebrating," said GLA/New York member Mike Taglieri, a plaintiff in the lawsuit.

In the end, the second march was held without a city permit, but police closed off Fifth Avenue to traffic and didn't interfere.

The Associated Press reported that much of the police department's pro-Gay attitude was due to the Gay Officers Action League. Founded in 1982, the League is made up of about 1,000 Lesbian and Gay members of the NYPD.

The 31,000-officer department, the nation's largest, has quietly recruited and promoted Lesbians and Gay men for nearly 10 years.

The Fifth Avenue March was led by Sylvia Rivera, a drag queen and former street hustler, who, to many Gays is one of the bona fide heroes of Stonewall.

On the night of June 27, 1969, Rivera was dancing at the Stonewall Inn when the police launched one of their periodic raids. "I was just not in the mood," Rivera later told historian Martin Duberman. "I had got to the point where I didn't want to be bothered anymore."

According to Duberman who has written a book on Stonewall, every reliable account credits Rivera with a major role in the riot. Some witnesses even say she threw the first bottle, an honor she declines.

At the time of Stonewall, Rivera was a troubled, chaotic character who'd begun hustling in Times Square at the age of 11. Still, she seemed to realize that Stonewall could be more than a one-night phenomenon.

"Sylvia was the one who got everybody going the next day," said Ivan Valentin, herself a participant in the uprising.

For awhile, Rivera seemed to have disappeared. No one knew what had happened to her or if she was still alive. But on Sunday, June 26, there she was, at the head of the march up Fifth Avenue. She wore black pumps and a gold dress decorated with little rainbow flags.

Asked what it all meant to her, she replied, "It means I'm still alive to see our Gay brothers and sisters here fighting for our rights. It means I'm here to see that we still have the guts to take Fifth Avenue."

Religious Right Leaders Hold High Level Conference in Colorado

(Great Barrington, MA)—According to a report issued by the Institute for First Amendment Studies (IFAS), Religious Right leaders from across the country held a two-day conference in Colorado Springs in mid-May. The purpose of the meeting, according to IFAS and *The Washington Times* was to "coordinate policy and strategy in dealing with the Gay rights movement in the United States."

The Times is a conservative paper owned by the followers of Sun Myung Moon.

The *Times* article, procured by *Light*, says that the leaders of 35 state and national religious right organizations attended the meeting, which was held at the Glen Eyrie Conference Center. The conference focused solely on ways to deprive Gay people of equal rights.

The conference was hosted by Colorado for Family Values (CFV), the group which sponsored anti-Gay Amendment 2. It is headed

by Will Perkins.

In one of several tapes made at the conference and secured by IFAS, Perkins is heard telling the group that "there is not a more important meeting being held in these United States as is being held here these next two days."

John Eldridge, of the Texas-based Focus on the Family, outlined part of the Right's agenda to fight "Gay rights." Among other points made were the following:

- Use ideas and language that appeal to the public;
 - Create the impression that the "anti-Gay" movement is a local, grass roots movement.
- Eldridge cautioned leaders against allowing local people to know the extent of participation by national groups.

"If a community perceives that an outside, national group is behind local activism, the

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Increased Client Needs Forces MAP to Move to Larger Building Sept. 1

(Milwaukee)—The rapidly accelerating rate of the AIDS pandemic in Milwaukee as elsewhere in the state and nation, means more clients for the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP). This, in turn, requires that the AIDS service agency move to a bigger space. This will happen on September 1, 1994 when the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, MAP's parent agency, MAP and the Wisconsin Community-Based Research Consortium moves from the current location on Court Street to 820 N. Plankinton Street in downtown Milwaukee.

"It's sad that we have to have the extra area," said Doug Nelson, MAP's Executive Director. "It is terrible that the disease is growing so fast, but it is. MAP now serves over a 1,000 clients and that number is growing."

Nelson reported that MAP's new location would continue its history of cost-effective space. "The occupancy cost of our new facility will still be no more than 5% of our total budget," he said.

"We are proud of the fact that we will continue to keep our occupancy costs extremely low and that we will continue to invest our resources heavily in the provision of direct services," Nelson said.

"While our new location enables us to provide state of the art facilities for case management, primary care, and other support services for clients, the new building will also house our growing clinical drug trial program and our prevention services staff which conducts such, critically programs like our Life-point Needle Exchange Program," Nelson said.

In addition to MAP's growing clientele, MAP's volunteer support now exceeds 1,000 trained and active volunteers who frequently access the MAP facility and significantly add to the need for expanded space.

MAP currently handles one half of the state's caseload, an effort which the current location cannot carry.

"This move is a positive move for our clients," Nelson emphasized. "MAP's consumers deserve and require of us the best in services that the agency is able to provide."

The increased room at the new location will allow MAP volunteers and professional staff to continue and expand quality care. "This is our bottom line," Nelson said. "We will go where we have to and do what we must to provide that."

MAP will occupy all floors of the four-story building, a 26,000 square foot space that will increase the AIDS agency's capacity by 75% over the current Court Street facility.

The building is completely accessible to all who are physically challenged and offers convenient free parking across the street as well as designated street parking in front for the physically challenged. The centralized location is convenient to many bus lines.

To meet the increasing need for all these things, improvements are even now taking place. Among other things, the Food Pantry will be twice its current size.

There will be a children's play area; 3 dedicated, private support group rooms; 8 confidential, sound-proofed client counseling rooms and private rooms for cooperative therapy sessions, along with a large, comfortable and well-appointed client lounge.

There will be new clinic space for the Early Intervention Program and expanded primary care services, and increased space for legal, housing and support services for clients.

The Plankinton Street facility is currently undergoing massive renovation.

Wisconsin Light will be carrying an update including both story and pictures as the new facility comes closer to completion.

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