



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

The Wisconsin Light

Victory Fund to Hold First-Ever White House Meeting With Gay Elected Officials

Washington, D.C.—More than half the members of the GOP-controlled 104th Congress have established office anti-discrimination policies covering Lesbians and Gay men according to a poll released by the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) on Thursday, April 13.

HRCF surveyed all 535 members of the House and Senate and found 287 would confirm in writing that sexual orientation is not considered in the hiring, promoting or firing of employees in their congressional offices.

Slightly more members, 296, had such policies in the Democratic-led 103rd Congress, the organization found. But HRCF officials said they were happily surprised to find as much support as they did, given the election of numerous conservative Republicans last November.

Wisconsin In the Senate

According to the HRCF report, both Wisconsin Senators Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold signed the document saying that they do not discriminate in hiring on the basis of sexual orientation.

In the House

Among Wisconsin's House delegation, Congressmen Tom Barrett, Steve Gunderson, Gerald Kleczka, Scott Klug and David Obey signed the document saying that they do not discriminate in hiring on the basis of sexual orientation.

Congressmen Mark Neumann, Tom Petri, Toby Roth and Jim Sensenbrenner did not sign the document.

"It is encouraging that the critical bloc of moderate swing votes in this Congress supports the concept of equal treatment for Gay Americans," said Elizabeth Birch, the group's Executive Director. "We often hear from a virulent minority of anti-Gay extremists, but the majority of this Congress has taken a personal stand against discrimination," she said.

When Congress tackles contentious Gay political issues, she told a news conference, "We hope that the fair-minded majority will vote with their consciences when they come under pressure from extremists."

Federal civil rights laws do not forbid dis-

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Congressional Majority Forbids Discrimination in Office Hiring

Washington, D.C.—For the first time in history, the White House has scheduled a meeting with Gay and Lesbian elected officials. According to San Francisco Supervisor Susan Leal, the liaison between the Administration and Gay and Lesbian elected officials, the meeting will be held at the White House on Tuesday, June 13, 1995.

"This much awaited meeting will give Gay and Lesbian officials the opportunity to provide input to the Administration and to discuss with Administration officials issues of common concern," said Leal.

On the morning before the meeting, the Gay

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Eau Claire Man Convicted in Gay Bashing Case

Eau Claire, WI—One of three tavern patrons accused of making homophobic remarks about Gay men was convicted of battery and disorderly conduct stemming from an attack on two men.

The Circuit Court jury deliberated about two hours Thursday, April 13, before convicting Thomas Alley, 42. Jurors declined to apply a hate-enhancer law that increases penalties for crimes motivated by prejudice.

Two other Eau Claire men were previously convicted. Jurors were told the men made anti-Gay remarks in a tavern Sept. 12, 1994, before two men were assaulted outside.

Alley's sentencing hearing is May 3.

State Representative Tammy Baldwin Chosen as Wisconsin PrideFest '95 Grand Marshal



Colonel Chabert (Gerald Depardieu) and Countess Ferraud's (Fanny Ardant) countryside reunion is rife with sexual tension, bitterness and pernicious gamesmanship in a scene from Yves Angelos' film adaption of Honore de Balzac's "Colonel Chabert." The film opens May 5 at Milwaukee's Downer Theatre.

Candace Gingrich to Visit Milwaukee and Madison as Part of National Tour

Washington, D.C.—The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), the nation's largest Gay lobby has hired Candace Gingrich, Lesbian sister of House Speaker Newt Gingrich, (R-GA), and is sending her on a 34-city tour of the country which will include Madison and Milwaukee.

Gingrich, 28, started work Tuesday, April 18, at the HRCF as spokeswoman for its National Coming Out Project, a campaign to encourage and empower ever Gay person to make a difference in educating America by letting others know who they are.

"We're going to be going all over the country basically to talk about coming out and helping people realize that there are things that they can do to help make the world a better place for us," Gingrich said in an interview.

Gingrich will split the next six months between traveling and working at the Campaign Fund's Washington office as a health policy intern, said David Smith, an HRCF spokesman.

Gingrich is already on her way, stopping first at an April 25 town meeting in Seattle. Similar town meetings will be conducted in other major cities across the United States including Madison and Milwaukee.

A spokeswoman for HRCF told Light that the dates for Gingrich's appearance in Madison and Milwaukee had not yet been decided, but that it would be "in late Summer."

A flyer that advertised her Seattle appearance proclaimed: "Your brother doesn't have to be speaker for your voice to be heard in America. Listen to a Gingrich who speaks YOUR language."

"Many members of Congress remain out of touch with the rest of the country on the issue of Gay and Lesbian equality," said Elizabeth Birch, HRCF's Executive Director. "Candace will deliver her message to voters in Congressional Districts across the country, while urging Gay people to be open about their sexual orientation, educate others about their lives and get involved with the effort to secure equal rights at the national level."

Gingrich, who has been a computer technician and box-sorter for United Parcel Service, described the new job as a fantasy come true.

"My dream when I was in college was to be a woman's studies prof, to teach at the college level," she said. "That's kind of how I feel about this. I mean, it's something very important to me, it means a lot to a lot of people that I care about, and I just feel kind of special."

HRCF approached Gingrich in January about working on National Coming Out Day, which is Oct. 11. Eventually, the offer mushroomed into a much bigger, full-time job.

"We had been discussing for some time how to expand the program to a year-round campaign, to urge people to come out and get involved," Smith said. "Candace seemed to be a perfect fit for our program... especially with what many people consider to be a treacherous political landscape here in Washington."

Gingrich, who plans to move from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to the Washington suburbs, said her political involvement up to now had been limited to some abortion rights activ-

ity and attendance at Gay pride events.

All that changed last November, when her brother was poised to become speaker of the House, and it was reported that he had a Gay sister.

"In the back of my mind, I knew that eventually the question would be posed to me and I had always pretty much known that when asked, I would tell the truth and then go from there," she said Tuesday.

"From there" has meant major media interviews and, in March, being invited by HRCF to lobby her congressman—and her brother—on Capitol Hill, tailed by a pack of reporters, camera crews and photographers.

Gingrich said her mother told her brother about her sexual orientation about seven years ago. "He told my mom it was my life, I should live it the way I want to and kind of left it at that," she said.

She agreed that she might have missed an opportunity in those years to influence Newt Gingrich's thinking about homosexuality—he has compared it to alcoholism or nearsightedness.

"My mom talks about him a lot and I just kind of basically blocked out whatever he was doing, whether it was good or bad," she said. "But I think, regardless of whatever my reasons, I can't change what I haven't done. So it's up to me now to hopefully do whatever I can."

Medical College Researchers Find HHV-6 Implicated in AIDS Dementia Complex

Milwaukee—Further study by Medical College of Wisconsin researchers have implicated the human herpes virus or HHV-6 as the cause of a major form of central nervous system disease in patients with AIDS.

"We have caught this virus at the scene of the crime and believe that HHV-6 is responsible for some cases of AIDS Dementia Complex," said Constance Kehl Knox, Ph.D., senior research scientist at the Medical College.

Dr. Knox and Donald R. Carrigan, Ph.D., associate professor of pathology, published their results in the current issue of the *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes and Retrovirology*.

In a previous study published a year ago in *Lancet*, the researchers had found that active HHV-6 infection was present in every type of tissue sample taken from nine AIDS patients who had died.

In the new study, they examined the brains of six of the same patients and found active HHV-6 infection in four of them which strongly correlated with demyelination or white matter damage of the brain. Such white matter damage is frequently seen in AIDS patients and is known as AIDS leukoencephalopathy, according to Dr. Knox.

In a related paper published this March, Dr. Knox and colleagues were the first to describe an HIV-infected infant who died with severe acute encephalitis caused by brain infection with HHV-6. While self-linking involvement

Milwaukee-PrideFest is pleased to announce that State Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) has been selected to be the Grand Marshal of the Sunday June 11, 1995 Pride Parade.

A statement issued by PrideFest praised Baldwin and the work she has accomplished for Wisconsin's Lesbian, Gay Bisexual community.

"More than any other person Tammy Baldwin is the recognized leader of our Wisconsin Gay and Lesbian community. Not only has she shown the courage to run for public office as an open Lesbian, she has continued to show leadership with her work to get Action Wisconsin organized and on numerous issues of importance to the Gay community put before the state legislature."

Baldwin is a trusted adviser to dozens of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual leaders and organizations. She has gone around the state bringing our issues to the forefront.

It is therefore fitting that we bring her to the forefront of our 1995 Pride Parade. "Tammy Baldwin is being recognized for her leadership, her vision and her courage. We are pleased that as she has every year, Tammy Baldwin will again be participating in our parade," said Bill Meunier, the Co-Chair of the PrideFest.

Baldwin's reaction to being selected was typical of the grace she has always shown. "I am deeply moved to be selected for this important honor. It's always a great time to come to PrideFest and to march in the parade. Now I am looking forward to participating again with even greater anticipation."

Previous Grand Marshals for the Wisconsin Pride Parade include: AIDS activist and wife of former Milwaukee Mayor Henry Maier, Dr. Karen Lamb (1989), Queer TV host, and nationally recognized leader on the issue of banning Gays and Lesbians from the military, Miriam Ben Shalom, (1990) Gay activist Michael S. Lisowski, (1992), representatives of the Gay and Lesbian Veterans of America (1993) and last year's Grand Marshals, Wisconsin Light publisher, Jerry Johnson and In Step editor and publisher Ron Geiman.

The parade will assemble on the PrideFest grounds in front of the Cream City Foundation Alyn Hess Stage. It will commence at 12:30 p.m.

To encourage participation, PrideFest is offering free admission to everyone who enters the grounds prior to 12:30.

For more information about the Wisconsin Pride Parade call Rick Finger at (414) 289-8322.

of the central nervous system is a relatively common complication of primary infection with HHV-6 in normal children, this is the first demonstration of invasive tissue disease caused by HHV-6 in an HIV-infected infant.

"We believe that when taken together, these two reports clearly show that HHV-6 is a major pathogen in HIV-infected adults and children. The good news is that HHV-6 infections are treatable with currently licensed antiviral agents and should be targeted for treatment in HIV-infected patients," Dr. Knox said.

The researchers' interest in HHV-6 grew from their study of bone marrow transplant patients at Doyne Hospital, a teaching affiliate of the Medical College. They first noticed that HHV-6 was destroying the white matter in the brains of bone marrow transplant victims.

Further research in HIV-infected patients led the researchers to theorize that HHV-6 could be destroying the white matter in the brain in a similar fashion.

In fact, up to 10% of HIV-infected patients first manifest their disease through clinical symptoms involving the brain. These symptoms can include forgetfulness, disorientation and social withdrawal known as AIDS dementia complex.

"We hope our findings will emphasize the importance of new herpes virus in the progression to AIDS and that other findings may reveal the cause of some cases of AIDS-related dementia," Dr. Carrigan said.