



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

The Wisconsin Light

Rodney Scheel House Construction Ahead of Schedule

Madison-- In an update to a recent story in Light, construction of Madison's Rodney Scheel House, the 22-unit complex of apartment homes for people living with AIDS, is nearing completion and will soon be accepting applications for residents.

The Board of Directors of the Rodney Scheel House Foundation has been overseeing the development of the project. Construction is ahead of schedule and may allow some admissions prior to the scheduled August 1 opening.

This, according to Madison AIDS Support Network's (MASN) Acting Executive Director David Clarenbach, is "good news, indeed."

"These studio, 1 and 2 bedroom units will provide housing for persons with AIDS and their families. With rents based on a sliding scale, this project will allow many who are disabled with HIV to stay independent," Clarenbach said.

The Rodney Scheel House is the area's first HUD-funded AIDS-specific project in south-central Wisconsin.

In addition, MASN in coordination with the City of Madison has been awarded a HOPWA grant of nearly \$1 million from HUD to fund a variety of accessible housing options for people with HIV disease.

"Housing is one of the most serious challenges faced by people with HIV," Clarenbach said. "This three-year grant will provide better coordination of case management and volunteer services at the Scheel House, as well as rental subsidies, eviction prevention and money for adaptations of existing units to allow others to stay in their homes," Clarenbach added.

MASN has staff assigned to assist people with HIV who have housing needs. Those who wish more information may call Cato Wilcox-Nash at (608) 252-6540 or 1-800-486-6276.

Madison AIDS Support Network Marks 10 Years With Open House June 5

Madison-- The Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN) invites everyone to a "unity" open house commemorating ten years of leadership in AIDS outreach, education and direct care services.

The open house will be held on Monday, June 5, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at their new offices in The Gateway Center at 600 Williamson Street in Madison.

The theme, according to Acting Executive Director, David Clarenbach, is Unity.

"As MASN completes its first decade of service, we face the challenge of the AIDS epidemic with renewed vigor, commitment and unity," Clarenbach declared.

"Just as the epidemic has spread, infecting and affecting new communities, MASN has had to grow in its programming and services to meet the increasing needs," said Clarenbach.

An important part of this growth has been making connections that have brought a diverse group of providers into partnership with MASN creating a unified network of comprehensive services and prevention programs, he said.

MASN was founded in 1985 by a group of community members who realized the urgent need for a local support and resource network to help people living with HIV disease.

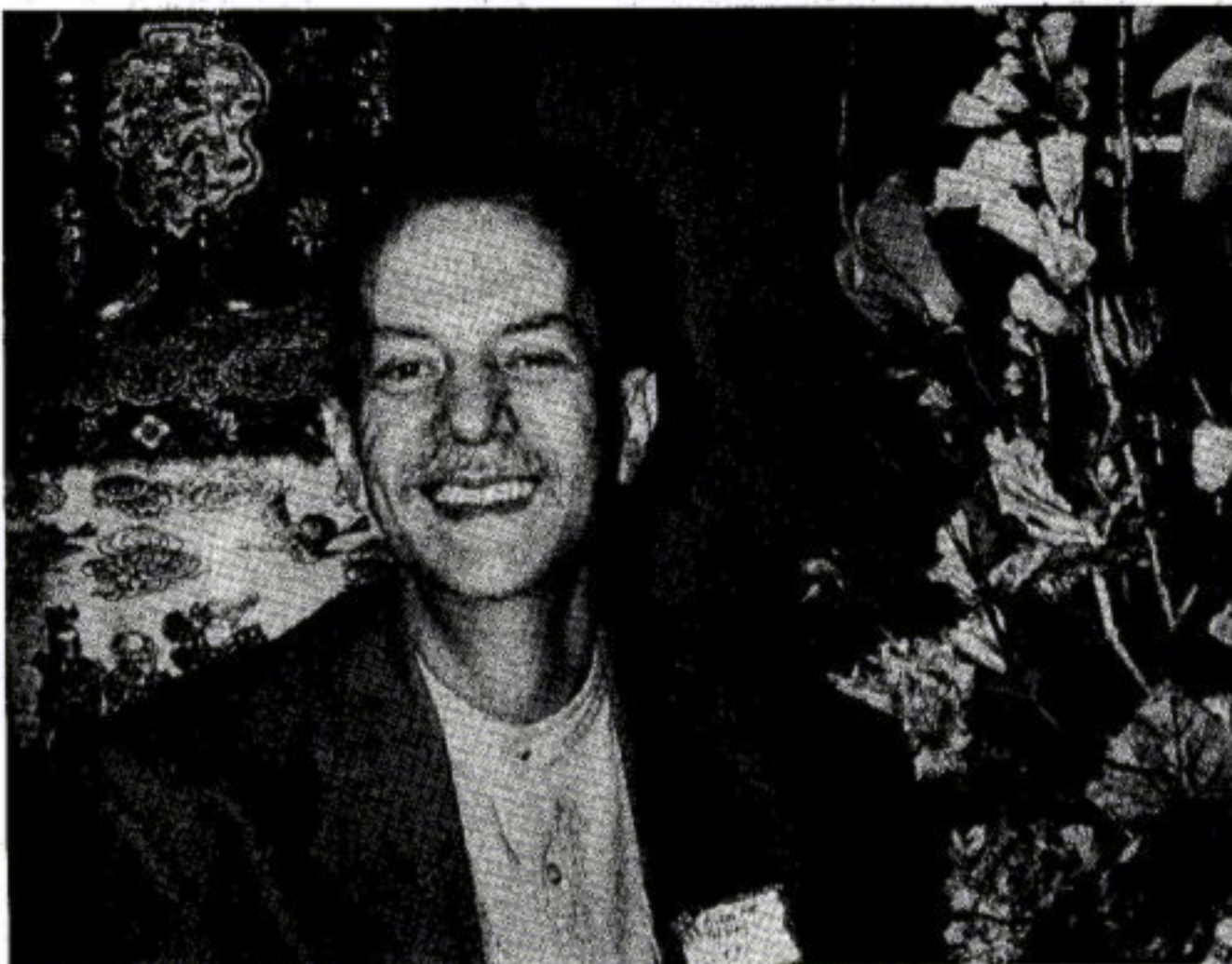
It has grown into an extensive network that includes prevention programs, case management services, volunteer support and advocacy efforts.

MASN has since established a satellite office located in Janesville serving Rock, Jefferson and Green counties and is part of a larger state-wide network of AIDS Service Organizations.

In addition to the open house, MASN clients have scheduled a Unity Gathering for people living with AIDS and for partners, family members and friends of people who have been lost to AIDS. This event will take place on Friday, June 9, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., also in the new MASN office location.

Those wishing more information on either event may call Denise Starkey at (608) 252-6540 or 1-800-486-6276.

70 Acts Will Fill 3 Entertainment Stages at the June 10-11 Wisconsin PrideFest '95



Community Recognition--Several hundred people gathered at Milwaukee's Renaissance Place to honor "In Step" magazine Publisher/Editor Ron Geiman (above) on April 30, 1995 for the huge contribution he has made to the state's LesBiGay community (See related story on Page 2).

Five Hundred Hear Mel White Call for Dialogue Between Gays and Religious Right

By Mike FitzPatrick

Green Bay, WI-- Categorizing the current political debate on Gay civil rights as "shouting at each other across an ever-widening chasm," Gay author, minister and activist Mel White, called for serious dialogue between the Religious Right and the Gay community in a speech heard by 500 at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (UWGB) on May 4.

In prefatory remarks before his main address, White congratulated the College Republicans at UWGB for standing up for their beliefs and getting their message out, but cautioned the group that the real work of coming to mutual understanding required "sitting down at the same table to talk things out."

The get-to-know-us (Gay people) theme echoed throughout White's 40-minute address, which was filled with humor and a vivid account of his personal spiritual journey and his work as ghostwriter for such Religious Right figures as Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell.

White also chided the mainstream media for ignoring the growing wave of anti-Gay violence. White contrasted the coverage of the shooting of the two abortion clinic doctors with lack of reportage of the hate-motivated murders of 12 Texas Gay men last year. "Homophobia is the last socially acceptable prejudice," White said.

White cited economic worries, particularly among white males, as a contributing influence in the growth of intolerance and the "urge to purge." He also alluded to the growing militia movement which apparently had ties to the Oklahoma City bombing as being "as anti-Gay as they are racist and anti-federal govern-

Gay Survivors Revisit Dachau Camp for the Fiftieth Anniversary of its Liberation

Dachau, Germany-- They gathered outside a little 12th Century town, about 12 miles from Munich. For many, if not most, this would be the last time they would come together to revisit the hellish shadows and remember again what once had been.

They were the survivors of the Nazi concentration camp called Dachau. They had returned in a pour-down of rain to commemorate the 50th anniversary of their liberation from the closest humans have ever come to in constructing a true hell on earth.

There were about a 1,000 of them, standing in the drear and damp, coming from at least 16 countries, carrying little flags to show their new countries. They mingled on the parade

ground in front of the commandant's headquarters where once they had stood roll call under the glaring, hate-filled eyes of the Nazi SS guards.

Some had wives and children, most did not. Some were priests, some Jews, some Gypsies. But many, if not the majority wore the Pink Triangle showing that they were Gay. For being who they were, they had been imprisoned. For that, they had experienced the tortures of the damned and witnessed unspeakable things.

The camp at Dachau had been built in 1933 shortly after Hitler came to power. It was a work camp (as opposed to the death camps, like Auschwitz), designed to hold Gay people,

At a reception following his talk, White dialogued at length with members of a Green Bay Lutheran evangelical youth group, which also held a prayer service outside the Student Union prior to the event--the only demonstration conducted despite expectations of more widespread protests based on the heightened level of controversy in the three weeks which preceded the speech.

Anderson went on to provide a detailed breakdown of funding for the event, which was co-sponsored by the campus groups, 10% Society, Office of Student Life, Good Times Programming, Board, Residence Hall and Apartment Association, Student Senate, University Union Board, Black Student Union and Intertribal Student Council and which received additional funding from Positive Voice, Northern Womyn, Bay City Chorus, Dr. Jerry Wellens and members of the Brown County Democratic Party.

Anderson also noted that a legal review of the event and its sponsorship by attorneys representing the University, found it to be in compliance with all state laws and institutional fiscal policies.

Milwaukee-- The Wisconsin Pride Fest '95 organizers have announced that the June 10th and 11th LesBiGay Pride festival will include the strongest and most diverse entertainment line up in their history.

The Womyn's Music Revue opens the entertainment on the Alyn Hess Stage at Noon on Saturday June 10th. It includes six individual singers: Madison's Womynsong, and Mook.

The BJ Daniels revue, always a spectacular event, will close down the Fest on the same stage the evening of Sunday June 11th.

In between these two revues, three entertainment stages will be going full tilt. In addition to the Alyn Hess stage sponsored by the Cream City Foundation, the Harvey Milk Stage sponsored by This Is It and the M and M Club and the new Fine Arts stage will keep the crowd entertained with over 70 acts.

Unlike past years, all of the stages will operate into the evening.

In addition to the revues, there will be a spectacular 12-act Saturday Night Gayla, a Fine Arts Festival, and a variety of bands, individual singers, choral groups, theater companies and dance troupes.

Performers will be coming to PrideFest from three states, Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota. Twenty of the acts have albums to their credit.

Regular festival goers will recognize some of their favorites like David Robinson and Road Damage, the John Schneider Orchestra, the Shoreline Dance Troupe, Josie Santiago, Singsational, Spanky and Foreplay, the Iberian Dancers and Julie Darrough in the line-up.

These crowd pleasers have been joined by a number of new acts and revues, that PrideFest is certain will please the thousands expected to attend the annual event.

Among the newcomers are: Lojo Russo, a Lesbian singer from Minneapolis with two CD's under her belt; The Nitro Blues Band, the Sweet Cheeks Motown Revue; the alternative rock group FWEED; the Gillies; and African story teller, Reginald Findlayson.

Entertainers from outside Wisconsin include the Purple Creek Cloggers and Borderline Dancers from Minnesota. Pulsations, an all woman Chicago group that electrified the crowd last year with its high energy dance music, is making the trip north.



Judii Lowe, a Chicago area singer, and the Lion Heart Theater Company, a Gay and Lesbian troupe will also be making the trip up I-94.

The Saturday Night Gayla will precede the "Lite Up the Sky With Pride" fireworks display.

PrideFest Co-Director Bill Meunier promises that "the vocal fireworks on the stage will match the real ones in the sky." Once again PrideFest is urging those attending the concert to bring candles to light up the park with Pride.

The Fine Arts Festival will run the gamut. It includes two Gay Broadway revues, performances by four choral groups, a baroque music concert, LesBiGay theater, and African story telling and music.

Meunier guarantees that there will never be a dull moment at PrideFest '95.

In addition to the hundreds of singers, dancers, comics and actors on the PrideFest stages, the festival boasts a very strong line up of special events which includes the Wisconsin Pride Parade, the PrideFest wedding, an Inter Faith Service and the new Sunday evening Lighted Boat parade.

There will also be dozens of exhibits, the In Step/New Bar Dance Tent, the Classic Car show, the History Tent and more.

Admission to PrideFest 95 is \$2.00 or \$3.00 for weekend passes which will be sold in advance of the festival. Free admission is offered to those who enter the grounds prior to 12:30 both days.

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