

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

# ▼ The Wisconsin Light

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**from PrideFest '95**

## Wisconsin's Clarenbach Named to Lead National Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund

*Pioneer of Country's First Gay Rights Law Moves on to the National Stage*



Fireworks lit up Milwaukee's skies on June 11 during PrideFest '95

**Milwaukee--Former Wisconsin State Legislator, Speaker Pro Temp of the Assembly and an openly Gay man, David Clarenbach, has been named to head the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund replacing retiring William Waybourn. The announcement was made in on June 14, but word had reached Milwaukee on June 10.**

The Victory Fund is the nation's largest Gay political action committee and 15th largest of its kind. The Victory Fund has contributed more than \$1 million directly to the campaigns of qualified openly Gay and Lesbian candidates. Since the Fund's inception in 1991, the number of openly Gay and Lesbian elected officials has doubled.

Clarenbach, currently acting executive director of the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN), was a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly from 1975 to 1993. He served as the Assembly's Speaker Pro Temp for five terms.

As a member of the Assembly, Clarenbach authored the Consenting Adults Bill which ended Wisconsin's sodomy statutes.

He was the author of the Gay/Lesbian Civil Rights Act of 1982 which prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing and public accommodations.

Clarenbach authored Wisconsin's Hate Crimes Act, which was upheld unanimously by the U.S. Supreme Court, and a Bill of Rights for people with HIV and AIDS.



David Clarenbach

"We here in Wisconsin have demonstrated how to become part of the political process. The national movement is at a pivotal juncture. We need for openly Gay and Lesbian

TURN TO CLARENBACH, PAGE 27

## Gay/Lesbian Officials Tell Clinton of Need for Principled Leadership

Madison-- State Representative Tammy Baldwin along with openly Gay Dane County Supervisors Scott McCormick and Mark Pocan were among the 44 Gay and Lesbian elected officials invited to meet with President Clinton in the White House on Tuesday, June 13. The meeting was organized by the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

In a press conference held on the grounds of the State Capitol in Madison on June 15, Baldwin expressed her pleasure at having direct access to high level administration officials and characterized the discussion as "a lively exchange on a number of issues."

There were two main issues discussed: Gays in the military; and the Colorado Amendment 2 case now before the U.S. Supreme Court.

### Gays in the Military

The White House and the Gay officials,

Baldwin said, talked about "a classical political dilemma that we as politicians understand: Do you go in the direction of pragmatism, or do you make a principled statement on something knowing you're going to lose?"

Baldwin said that the White House argued for the pragmatic approach that they took. They said that they realized that if they continued to stand on their original idea of lifting the ban, the Gay and Lesbian community would lose far more than if they (the Administration) compromised.

### Amendment 2

In a similar vein, Baldwin said, the Administration argued pragmatism in their decision to file a friend of the court brief in the Colorado Amendment 2 case now pending before the Supreme Court.

TURN TO WHITE HOUSE, PAGE 27

## U.S. Supreme Court Rules Vets May Ban Gays From Boston St. Pat's Parade

Washington, D.C.-- In a unanimous ruling handed down on Monday, June 19, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that the private veteran's group which sponsors and organizes Boston's St. Patrick's Day parade may ban from marching the Irish American Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Group of Boston (GLIB).

The justices said the veterans have a free speech right to put on a parade that represents their viewpoints, in the same way that a protest march is an exercise of First Amendment freedoms.

The decision in large part, hinged on arguments about whether the parade, which the veterans have sponsored since 1947, is a public function subject to anti-bias laws. Associate Justice David Souter writing for the High Court, said that the parade is a private function, "a form of expression, not just motion...Our tradition of free speech commands that a speaker who takes to the street corner to express his views should be free from interference by the state based on the content of what he says."

Kerry Lobel, Deputy Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) condemned the ruling saying that it sanctions the parade sponsor's anti-Gay policy which "is a clear attempt to send us all back into the closet."

TURN TO PARADE, PAGE 22

## Non-Biological Mom Wins Big Wisconsin Supreme Court Victory

By John Quinlan

Madison-- In a landmark victory for the rights of Lesbian and Gay families which will have precedent-setting implications nationwide, the Wisconsin Supreme Court affirmed the importance of the bonds formed by Lesbian and Gay parents with their non-biological or non-adoptive children.

By a 4-3 margin, the state's highest court ruled on June 13 that Sandra Holtzman, of Madison, may be legally entitled to visitation rights with the six-year-old son she helped raise with her former partner, Elsbeth Knott, who is the child's biological mother. In a long and complicated legal battle that began with the dissolution of the couple's decade-long relationship in 1993, Knott had sought to deny

Holtzman visitation rights with the boy.

"This is the first of its kind decision in this country, and it's one that I hope other state courts will look to when faced with situations similar to this," said Holtzman's attorney, Judith Sperling Newton, who has argued numerous cases involving Lesbian and Gay family rights. "This is a victory for children in this state. It's the first time in many years that this state has recognized the rights of a child to maintain important relationships in that child's life."

In the original decision, Dane County Circuit Judge George Northrup had reluctantly granted a summary judgment that came down on Knott's side in the Fall of 1993, ruling that

TURN TO FAMILIES, PAGE 27



Minister Jan Doleschal presides at PrideFest's mass wedding as 100 couples exchanged vows on June 12.