



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

The Wisconsin Light

Numbers of AIDS Cases Continues to Rise; Containment May Be in Sight

Washington, D.C.--On her 19th birthday, Jecenia de Jesus lost her mother to AIDS. Months later, she felt she had lost her own future as well.

"I was 19 years-old, HIV-positive and all alone," said de Jesus, remembering the day she was told that she, too, carried the virus, although she wasn't a drug-taker like her mother.

"I hadn't even begun living and I was waiting to die."

The 22-year-old de Jesus, who helps run a Harlem HIV-AIDS project that emphasizes "living with AIDS," told her story Monday, August 14, at the opening of a three-day international conference on the disease.

She is among more than 1 million Americans and among more than 19 million men, women and children worldwide who carry the AIDS-causing HIV--a legacy of rampant infection rates in the 1980s.

A recent report says that there are now 5,000 people living with AIDS in Wisconsin.

The 1990s will see increasing AIDS deaths, but perhaps also containment of the disease through global prevention programs, said J. Brian Atwood, administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Some 300,000 to 600,000 people are expected to die from AIDS this year. AIDS deaths are projected to hit 1.5 million to 3 million by 2000, when 10 million children could be orphaned by the disease.

AIDS is the No. 1 cause of death for Americans aged 25 through 44.

"These statistics are not someone else's problems," Atwood told the more than 700 AIDS experts at a meeting sponsored by his agency. "If communities wither and nations die, all of us will pay."

Atwood said the United States and other countries must make a stronger commitment to pay for AIDS prevention and education programs. The U.S. aid agency provides more than half of the money spent on such programs worldwide, with a budget of \$121 million this year.

"Our rhetoric at international meetings still surpasses the tangible actions of our governments," Atwood said. "Fear and ignorance still play too large a role in our national debates."

Patricia Fleming, director of AIDS policy for the White House, said U.S. AIDS funding has increased 40 percent since President Clinton took office. And the House recently agreed to boost funding for the National Institutes of Health office that deals with the disease.

Additionally, scientists are making progress in preventing AIDS infection of unborn babies

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Federal Judge Says Gay Category is Not Rational and Blocks Discharge of Gay Sailor

Seattle, WA--A Navy lieutenant who acknowledged that he is Gay was not discharged on Friday, August 11 as scheduled but will get his day in court.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Zilly issued an injunction Tuesday, August 8, blocking the Friday discharge of Lt. Richard Watson, stationed at the Bangor submarine base on Puget Sound.

Zilly said the law requiring him to leave the military may well be unconstitutional and issued a preliminary order barring the discharge until the merits of the case can be argued in court--probably within 90 days.

The law, enacted by Congress in 1993, requires members of the military who acknowledge their sexual orientation to either rebut the presumption that they engage in Gay sexual behavior or face discharge.

"The classification of homosexual is not based on any rational basis, but rather solely on prejudice," Zilly said.

Watson has consistently received glowing evaluations characterizing him as "one of the most capable officers in the submarine force."

In October, he advised his commanding officer: "I have a homosexual orientation. I do not intend to rebut the presumption" that he engages in homosexual acts.

'Long Road To Freedom', 25 Years of Gay History, Comes To Wisconsin Gala Opening Set for Sept. 5 in Milwaukee's City Hall



Our History--Photographs from 1967-1993 will be included in the "Long Road To Freedom" history display during September in Milwaukee and Madison, including a graffitied wall (above).

Clinton Ends 40 Years of Government Policy that Said Gays were Security Risks

Washington, D.C.--President Clinton has ended more than 40 years of government policy that assumed Gay people to be security risks who could not be trusted with official secrets.

The language and tone of the 13-page Order, developed at the President's direction by the National Security Council at the White House, together with input from the Department of Justice and the Office of Management and Budget, is definite, precise and binding government-wide.

The Order says in part, "The United States government does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation in granting access to classified information."

"...No inference concerning the standards in this section may be raised solely on the basis of the sexual orientation of the employee."

Gay activist groups praised Clinton's order ending discrimination based on sexual orientation in granting security clearances.

Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, called it "an important step toward ending governmentally

sanctioned job discrimination against Gay and Lesbian people."

But Republican Congressman Bob Dornan, a long-shot candidate for the GOP presidential nomination, called Clinton's action "something else he didn't have to do that's gotten in our face."

"I wouldn't trust them with a \$5 loan, let alone the nation's secrets," Dornan said of Gay people, whom he also labeled "promiscuous by definition."

The order establishes the first uniform standards for U.S. agencies in granting security clearances and it requires federal agencies to recognize each other's security clearances.

An executive order has the force of law, but it can be overturned by Congress.

A requirement for federal employees who handle classified information to be trustworthy grew out of a loyalty program established by President Truman in 1947, a time of growing concern over communism. Executive Order 10450 modified the loyalty program in 1953 and, for the first time, included "sexual perversion" as a basis for removal from the federal service.

Federal agencies used the sexual perversion standard to label Gay people as security risks. It was not until 1975 that the Civil Service Commission issued guidelines prohibiting the government from denying jobs to people on the basis of sexual orientation. But policies regarding security clearances for homosexuals remained vague or restrictive until the early 1990s.

David Clarenbach, Victory Fund Director, Launches Nation-Wide Tour

Washington, D.C.-- David Clarenbach, recently chosen head of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, is beginning his tenure with a bang.

The Victory Fund has announced that Clarenbach will embark on a nationwide tour this Fall to honor openly Gay and Lesbian public officials and to speak on the importance of electing qualified openly Gay and Lesbian candidates to public office.

The "Recognizing Our Own" tour will begin on Thursday, September 21, in Madison. The tour will continue through October and November and include such cities as San

By Bill Meunier

Milwaukee--The nationally renowned exhibit, "The Long Road to Freedom: The Advocate History of the Gay and Lesbian Movement" is coming to Wisconsin.

The exhibit, which has received the highest acclaim, chronicles LesBiGay history in the United States since Stonewall, is being sponsored by the Seagram Company and The Advocate.

It is on a national tour and is being displayed in major cities around the country, including Milwaukee and Madison respectively during the month of September.

Other cities where the exhibit will be shown are: New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Miami, Atlanta, San Francisco and Dallas.

Publisher's Weekly has called the "The Long Road to Freedom" "a stirring scrapbook of a movement whose victories are yet to come."

That story is told through a collage of photographs, covers, articles, cartoons and advertisements from The Advocate.

Founded in 1967, The Advocate is praised by many as the nation's Lesbian and Gay magazine of record and has witnessed the dramatic development of the Gay and Lesbian community since before Stonewall, "the shot heard 'round the world" and the symbolic beginning of the modern Lesbian and Gay drive for civil rights.

The sponsors for the display's Wisconsin tour, a "PrideFest" press release calls the exhibit "a very important, professionally presented chronicle of our history from the time before Stonewall to the present. Through text and pictures, it offers a wealth of information about who we are, and where we've been."

"PrideFest is pleased to join with Attorney Brondino in presenting this critically acclaimed display."

The Wisconsin portion of the tour will begin on Tuesday, September 5th with a gala opening night reception at Milwaukee's City Hall. The gala will include an open bar, music, silent auction and food.

Tickets are \$25.00 each and can be purchased at Brady's Bunch Antiques and Collectibles, 1221 E. Brady Street, Designing Men, 1200 S. First Street, This Is It, 418 E. Wells in Milwaukee, AfterWords Bookstore, In Step Magazine, Wisconsin Light or by calling the Prideline at (414) 272-FEST. Proceeds benefit PrideFest.

Tickets may be purchased using Mastercard or Visa by calling AfterWords at (414) 963-9089.

Tickets will go on sale on Saturday, August 19.

PrideFest Co-Director, Bill Meunier believes the location of the reception is itself historic. "This marks the first time there has ever been an official public GayLesBi event at City Hall. We will be making history even as

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Francisco, Los Angeles, Dallas, Chicago, New York and Atlanta. The tour concludes on November 21, in New Orleans.

In each of the stops along the way, Clarenbach will not only be honoring those openly Lesbian or Gay public officials, he will be urging on the community the vital importance of Lesbians and Gay men seeking public office, he said.

The tour has another purpose as well, Clarenbach said. He wants Washington to realize that the "rest of the country is way ahead" in acknowledging the contributions of Lesbians and Gay men.

"One of my top goals in this new position," Clarenbach said, "is to bring an outside-the-beltway wake-up call to the nation's capitol."

Clarenbach was making reference to the often heard complaint that D.C.-based Gay activist organizations may seem out of touch with what is going on in the rest of the country.