



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

The Wisconsin Light

Summerfest Grounds

Here We Come!!

NINE HIV/AIDS Service Organizations Explore Forming New Coalition

Milwaukee—Representatives of nine organizations having an HIV/AIDS component, met at the Greenfield Avenue Presbyterian Church on November 7th to explore working together in a more focused way. The two-hour meeting, chaired by Mary Nabor of Caring Bridges, also identified other agencies sharing the spirit and service philosophy who might be invited to join a future coalition.

In addition to sharing a brief synopsis of its service scope, each participant was given an opportunity to review and provide input to the proposed characteristics of the future coalition.

Agencies represented at the initial meeting were: BestD Clinic, Caring Bridges, the Milwaukee Archdiocese Catholic AIDS Ministry, the Order of St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry, the Presbytery of Milwaukee, St. Benedict the Moore Catholic Church, St. Francis Cabrini Church (West Bend), the School Sisters of St. Francis, the S.E.T. Ministry and STD Specialties.



Happy Thanksgiving—Adele (Anne Bancroft) (l), her husband Henry (Charles Dunning) r and their Gay son Tommy (Robert Downey, Jr.) "enjoy" the holiday together in the comedy "Home for the Holidays" which is playing at theatres everywhere.

Milwaukee— PrideFest, Wisconsin's Gay and Lesbian Pride celebration has received approval from the Board of Directors of the Milwaukee World Festival, Inc., to rent a portion of Henry W. Maier Festival Park, (Summerfest grounds) for its June, 7, 8 and 9th festival.

The Board voted unanimously to authorize the rental during its November 9, 1995, meeting.

The Maier Festival Park is a beautiful facility on Milwaukee's lake front. In addition to hosting Summerfest, the Park provides a venue for many other top quality festivals throughout the summer that celebrate the history and culture of various groups.

Examples include Polishfest, Germanfest, and festivals celebrating Native American culture.

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Action Wisconsin Springs Into Action in Washington and in Madison

Madison—Action Wisconsin Board President Julie Brodie and Board member and Development Committee Chairperson, Scott Evertz, traveled to Washington, D.C. the week of October 30th to meet with members of Wisconsin's Congressional delegation and national leaders of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered communities.

Before leaving for D.C., Brodie indicated that she and Evertz intended to "introduce or re-introduce members of the Congressional delegation to Action Wisconsin, our legislative agenda and to position the organization as the leading Gay rights advocacy organization from the original Gay rights state."

Asked if she felt this was accomplished during their visit, Brodie responded "Absolutely! With few exceptions, not only were members and their staffs open to listening to what we had to say, but some actually indicated their interest in assisting as our eyes and ears on the Hill and to working closely with Action Wisconsin and its representatives on our issues of concern."

An example of one such positive relationship is the one forged with Senator Russ Feingold's office.

Brodie indicated that, "We know that Russ is a friend and ally of our community with a 100% voting record, but the openness and willingness on the part of his staff to be a resource for us on Capitol Hill went beyond our expectations. We look forward to a very positive working relationship with the Senator and his office."

Congressmen Tom Barrett (D) and Steve Gunderson and their staffs also indicated keen interest in the work of Action Wisconsin and pledged their willingness to being resources in D.C. and to consider the organization's positions on votes on relevant issues as they arise.

Michael Gross, Barrett's Press Secretary, stressed to Brodie and Evertz, "You know you have a friend in this office."

The week before, Evertz and State Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison), a founding organizer and key advisor to Action Wisconsin, met with State Rep. Scott Jensen (R-Brookfield), Majority Leader of the State Assembly, to present Action Wisconsin's agenda

and to gauge interest on the Republican side of the aisle for that agenda.

Evertz, who is First Vice President of the Log Cabin Republicans in Wisconsin, commented after the meeting, "Activists in the Gay community were foretelling doom after last year's Republican takeover of the State Assembly. I'm pleased to report to these activists that it appears that they were wrong."

"While there are some issues on which we

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Annual 'Creating Change' Conference Focuses on Need to Broaden Our Fight

By Carl M. Szatmary

Promoting "Creating Change 1995" as The National Conference for Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Movement, The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) sought to establish lines of communication among the many and varied elements of our community.

This year's annual conference was held in Detroit.

From the variety of workshops in addition to the overwhelmingly positive response to speakers such as Elias Farrarjaje-Jones and Urvasi Vaid, who delivered the conference's keynote address, "Creating Change 1995" appeared to have achieved this goal.

Over 2000 participants, a particularly diverse group activists from across America, participated in seminars focusing on issues of racism, sexism and class with our community, teen issues as well as fundamental discussions of gender and gender roles.

Consistently throughout the weekend-long conference, participants were asked to consider issues of importance to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community and to seek ways to place them within the perspective of a national movement.

Speakers Vaid and Farrarjaje-Jones emphasized that to effectively challenge the Fundamental Right, Gay men and Lesbians could no longer view Gay rights as a single issue movement.

Workshop leaders echoed this sentiment. For example, in one of the conference "hot

FDA Panel Recommends Approval of First in a New Class of AIDS Drugs

Silver Spring, MD—Two new drugs should be approved to help increase the effectiveness of existing AIDS medications, government scientists say.

Scientific advisers to the Food and Drug Administration said Tuesday, November 8th, that saquinavir, the first of a long-anticipated new class of AIDS drugs called protease inhibitors, should be approved even though it doesn't work very well.

In a meeting on Monday, government scientists recommended that the FDA approve the drug 3TC, manufactured by Glaxo Wellcome Co., to be used with AZT, the standard therapy. If the FDA agrees, 3TC, whose trade name is Epiriv, would become the fifth member of a family of AIDS drugs that fight the disease by incapacitating a protein important in the virus' reproduction.

The vote Tuesday put Hoffmann La Roche of Nutley, N.J., maker of saquinavir, ahead of a group of drug giants racing to be the first to sell the protease inhibitors, which stall the HIV virus by crippling an enzyme vital to the late stages of its reproduction. As a class, said FDA Commissioner David Kessler, protease inhibitors "are the most active agents we have seen so far."

However, the FDA advisers were disappointed in saquinavir. While it modestly improved the effect of existing AIDS drugs when taken together with them, the scientists said Roche was using too low a dose in a form that isn't well absorbed by the body.

Patients absorb just 4 percent of the 1,800 milligram dose—and that's if they remember to take the drug with meals, because it won't work on an empty stomach. Roche is furiously developing a better formula.

"Obviously, there are limits to the formulation of saquinavir we are talking about today," Kessler, who attend the nine-hour meeting, acknowledged Tuesday. "It's inferior to what we see down the road, yes. Is it inferior to what we have today? No. ... It's a first step."

Studies show patients who take saquinavir alone get about the same boost in their immune system as those who take AZT, but not the same reduction in the amount of virus in their blood that other AIDS drugs offer.

But patients who took saquinavir and AZT together showed more improvement, seeing a modest boost in their levels of vital immune cells called CD4s and about an 85 percent drop in the amount of HIV in their blood. While Roche said 25 percent of patients in one study had a 100 CD4 cell boost after four months of treatment, the FDA cautioned that most pa-

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