

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



The Wisconsin Light

Four Star Books May Be Forced To Close

[Madison]- Four Star Books may be forced to close its doors if business does not pick up soon at its new location.

Four Star Books opened at 206 State Street in February of this year. David Smith, the owner, notes "We expected business to double or triple when we moved out of the old store on Henry Street. Unfortunately, business has gone down. If business picks up soon, we may be open for another 20 years, otherwise Madison will go back to having no Gay book store."

Four Star Books is one of the premiere Gay and Lesbian book stores in the Midwest, with the largest selection of Gay books in the state. Four Star is also known for its selection of fiction, mysteries and science fiction. Smith is puzzled by the lack of business. "It's only about a block away from the old location," he said.

Smith admits that one problem is the limited hours at the new location. "We used to be open everyday from 10:00 a.m. to midnight, and the video store still is, but the new book store is open everyday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Many customers have suggested that the store stay open later, so we will extend our hours until 8:00."

Smith said that it is hard to expand hours when you are trying to hold down costs and survive, but he considers customer suggestions to be very helpful. Ken Ginner is the manager of Four Star Books and he would appreciate any further suggestions from customers on how to improve the book store. He can be reached at (608) 258-8100.

Video Store Safe

Four Star Books opened in 1985 under the name "Four Star Fiction & Video" at 315 N. Henry Street. Originally a book store with a few videos on the side, the video business grew to become the largest video store in the city. The books were moved out to make room for the video operation, which is now called Four Star Video Heaven. Smith said that the video store is not in danger of closing and carries over 200 Gay and Lesbian videos.

Smith says, "I'll carry anything I can get except outright pornography. I used to carry that too (Gay and Lesbian only) but stopped when the new censorship laws were passed in 1988."

Smith has been a vocal opponent of censorship legislation noting that current law says he is a felon for carrying Gay and Lesbian materials in both his store and video stores, if it is considered obscene.

"People don't realize that the only thing between me and a jail cell or punitive litigation is the interpretation of 'community standards' by local or state law enforcement officials. That's not what I call freedom."

Book Store May Disappear

Despite this adversity, Smith says he wants to keep this Gay institution in business. "I take great pride in what I have created for this community. It saddens me that the book store may disappear. I lost almost \$30,000 on the book store in 1990, and another \$11,000 in 1991. I have allowed the video store to subsidize the book store since it opened. I consider the \$100,000 I have lost on the book store since 1985 to be money well-spent serving the community."

"The goal has been a self-supporting book store that is not subsidized by the profitable video store. Blockbuster Video is building a huge store this Summer several blocks away, so Four Star Video Heaven is going to lose a lot of business. As a consequence, Four Star Books will have to break even or close," says Smith.

Smith and Ginner are both openly Gay. Smith has been active raising funds for the Madison AIDS Support Network (MASN), and he won the first Rodney Scheel Award in 1990, which is given by MASN for contributions by members of the business community. Smith started the annual "You Make a Difference Campaign" which now involves over 100 Madison businesses who donate 10 percent of their proceeds to MASN in recognition of World AIDS Day.

Results of MAP AIDS Survey Indicate Lack of Education



Marry Main

FIGHTERS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE—Feminist author Gloria Steinem, Chief Wilma Mankiller of the Cherokee Nation, and Civil Rights Commissioner Mary Frances Berry spoke about "Achieving Social Justice" to a sold-out crowd at UW-Milwaukee April 23.

Steinem, Mankiller and Berry Set Future Course for Social Justice

By Jamakaya

"Revolutions, like houses, are built from the bottom up, not from the top down," declared Gloria Steinem.

Saying "no" to passivity and looking to ourselves for leadership were the common themes at an extraordinary lecture at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee April 23 in which Steinem, Wilma Mankiller and Dr. Mary Frances Berry addressed the topic of "Achieving Social Justice in the 1990's."

Several thousand people attended the high energy event, which received no coverage by the Milwaukee Journal or Sentinel. The Wisconsin Light was there.

Wilma Mankiller

Mankiller, Chief of the Cherokee Nation, first regaled the audience with a discussion of her name. "Mankiller" was the common name given to military leaders who protected the tribe. But when recently badgered for the umpteenth time about the origin of her name, Mankiller told the hapless questioner: "I earned it!"

Mankiller's sobering conclusion after pondering "Social Justice in the '90s" was: "Is there any, or where is it? Right now I have the feeling that we're losing ground. We're all losing ground — all of us in this country."

For Native Americans, the primary issue in the '90s, as it has been for centuries, is "survival." Citing poor housing, high rates of unemployment and infant mortality, low education levels and the erosion of Native cultures, Mankiller said: "We face a daunting set of problems, but we're not giving up."

"We're beginning to see things turn around in our communities, not because government policy has changed, not because all the well-meaning social workers have done us any good, but because we finally learned to look internally to our own communities — our own history, our own heritage — and began to look to ourselves for solutions to our problems."

Don't Wait for Prophets

"Everybody keeps waiting for some great prophet to come along and save us, or some President to come along who will be able to articulate the things that we feel," said Mankiller. "I can tell you that's not going to happen. The people who are going to have to lead this country are you and me and other people like us, community by community. We're going to have to take charge."

Mankiller also warned about the divisiveness that inhibits greater social progress for oppressed groups. "There are way too many negative stereotypes about Native American people, about

black people, about Asian people, about Gay and Lesbian people," she said. "We can't possibly begin to work on our problems" until we rid ourselves of these stereotypes and begin to deal with each other as human beings.

"I hope my being here tonight will eliminate any stereotypes you might have about what a Chief looks like," she added wryly.

Our collective motto for the 1990s, declared the defiant Mankiller, is that "We're not going to give up one more inch." TURN TO SPEECH, PAGE 10

Mayor Norquist Denounces Hate Crimes, Bashings

By Bill Meunier

Fulfilling a promise he made to a group of Lesbian and Gay activists who met with him in the wake of his Pride Week funds veto, Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist soundly denounced Gay and Lesbian bashings and hate crimes in general in a speech given at the Milwaukee Police Academy.

The Mayor was on hand to announce the awarding of a contract for "Diversification Training" of Milwaukee Police officers. The training is intended to help the Police treat minorities with more sensitivity. The Mayor made it clear that one of his goals for this training is the help end hate crimes.

After defining hate crimes as "... attacks on people because of their racial or ethnic background, because they are Gay or Lesbian or because of their religion," the Mayor said, "I want to say publicly that his city does not tolerate hate crimes. Hate crimes are wrong. They are inexcusable. And they must be treated as what they are Crimes, very serious crimes. This City, including its Police force, is committed to doing everything it can to prevent and investigate hate crimes."

Norquist went on to say that he was concerned "because in Milwaukee we value our differences. People from every background and every walk of life have built this City into the great city it is today. All of us must learn to better appreciate the diversity that makes up Milwaukee."

The idea for the diversification training came from a Blue Ribbon Panel appointed by the Mayor in the wake of revelations that the Police had turned a 14 year old boy over to convicted murderer Jeffery Dahmer.

The training will be given to all officers and new recruits. It is being funded by four private donors.

[Milwaukee]- "The Federal Government's AIDS prevention campaign is a miserable failure because it does not deliver the fundamental information that is needed by people at risk for HIV infection. It fails to directly address those who engage in high risk behaviors and fails to promote the real life-saving protection, the use of condoms," said Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP).

Nelson called the government's "America Responds to AIDS" campaign a "terrible waste of millions of AIDS prevention dollars" and said that the campaign was "fundamentally negligent" in addressing the urgent need for AIDS prevention programs in the 1990's.

MAP Survey

Nelson's condemnation of the Federal Government's AIDS prevention campaign came as a result of the release of a Milwaukee AIDS Project survey of Gay men and their AIDS-related knowledge, attitudes, and risk-behaviors.

The MAP survey received state-wide media attention with results that indicate that 50% of Gay men who are sexually active with multiple sex partners do not use condoms. The survey also indicated that Gay men who have a high frequency of sexual activity with 10 or more partners in the past year also do not consistently use condoms. Nelson said, "The good news is that half of Gay men who are sexually active with multiple partners are self-educated and have chosen to change behaviors to protect themselves and their partners."

Nelson went on to say that "I have no doubt that if we had an aggressive national media campaign that promoted condom use and focused on people who are choosing to be sexually active, that condom use would dramatically increase and ultimately hundreds of thousands of lives would be protected."

Nelson was clearly irritated by press accounts that interpreted the MAP survey as a failure among Gay men to take the HIV epidemic seriously.

"When we compare the behavior changes adopted by Gay men in Milwaukee to the risk-behaviors engaged in by heterosexuals and teen-agers in the community, Gay men have been the most successful in adopting safer-sex practices," Nelson explained. "Two thirds of teen-agers in Milwaukee who are sexually active with multiple partners do not use condoms and 60% of heterosexuals with multiple sex partners do not use condoms," Nelson reported.

"No one should doubt how seriously the Gay community takes the AIDS epidemic," Nelson said.

Survey Results

The MAP survey reported that Gay men were definitely choosing safer-sex practices over sexual activity that posed the highest risk for HIV transmission. 86% of the survey respondents chose oral sex as a primary sexual activity. 56% chose anal intercourse. The condom use rate among those engaging in anal intercourse was extremely high.

"It's clear that the Gay men responding to this survey are making intelligent choices about their sexual practices and the necessity for using condom protection based on the risk-level of the activity," Nelson said.

"These choices are a positive sign that Gay men take AIDS prevention seriously and that the hard work that has been done within the Gay community over the first decade of the AIDS epidemic to explicitly and aggressively promote safer-sex practices has been successful," Nelson said.

TURN TO AIDS, PAGE 11