



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

The Wisconsin Light

Clarenbach: Fight AIDS Epidemic If Elected to Congress

[Madison]-David Clarenbach, Democratic candidate for Congress in Wisconsin's Second District, has released "The Clarenbach Agenda," a point by point plan of the issues that will drive his bid for Congress.

Among the important issues he addresses is the need to confront honestly and fight vigorously the AIDS epidemic at the federal level.

"Far too many of our friends and loved ones have died waiting for George Bush and his cohorts to devise and implement a national plan to adequately deal with the AIDS crisis," Clarenbach said.

"Unfortunately, my opponent, the incumbent Republican Congressman, does not understand the severity of this issue either. His consistent support of the failed policies of George Bush shows a complete lack of sensitivity to those suffering in our community," Clarenbach said.

"At a time when this nation needs to take bold action on one of the most important issues in our history, the federal government has been completely silent. I do not accept this, and that's why I dedicate myself to changing America's priorities and addressing the needs of people living with AIDS and HIV," Clarenbach said.

The Clarenbach Agenda

"The Clarenbach Agenda" calls for a national bill of rights for people with AIDS and HIV. It would be similar to the current Wisconsin law Clarenbach crafted which prohibits health care providers, hospitals, and nursing homes from discriminating, refusing to treat, or providing lower standards of care to an individual based on HIV status.

"It is time that Washington's silence ends. The federal government must begin building on the partnership which has already been developed between the state and local communities in the fight against AIDS," Clarenbach said.

My agenda is to put the government back on the side of the people. I have a solid record of achievement and years of experience in forcing government to confront tough issues such as AIDS," Clarenbach said.

Baldwin in Extremely Close Madison Race for State Representative

[Madison]- Supporters of Tammy Baldwin are pulling out all of the stops in the crucial final days before the Democratic party primary. If she wins on September 8th, Baldwin would make history by becoming Wisconsin's first openly Lesbian or Gay state representative.

At press time, survey data showed Baldwin in an extremely close race with opponent Billy Feitlinger. The other two Democratic candidates, David Cieslewicz and Ken Strasma, are lagging far behind. However, more than half of all likely primary voters are still undecided.

Pundits agree that victory will come to the front runner most able to get out the vote on an election day where relatively few voters are likely to turn out, and every vote will count. While Baldwin seems to have the momentum, Feitlinger is a seasoned and determined candidate with strong ties to the traditional political establishment who will win if Baldwin's supporters cannot be galvanized in the coming days in an extraordinary way.

Lesbians and Gays Need Seat At Table

"Right now, my candidacy as an extremely viable openly Lesbian politician is unique in the history of the state of Wisconsin," Baldwin told Light. "This is our chance to open the door, but victory will only come if we galvanize those in our community who see the importance of this extremely important first step.

"Candidates who are not openly Gay or Lesbian will help us to pass domestic partnership legislation and other measures crucial to our lives," she

Oregon Measure Calls on State To Banish Gays and Lesbians



WAY-WAY OUT! — A number of guests who attended the annual Lavender Hill fundraiser in Milwaukee dressed in the "Outer Space" theme. The August 16 event was held at the Renaissance Centre.

AIDS Protesters in Houston Attacked by Riot Police

[Houston, TX]- While former Presidential candidate Pat Buchanan was addressing delegates to the Republican Convention inside Houston's Astrodome, outside Texas riot police were beating Lesbian and Gay activists and people living with AIDS. At the same time, fireworks were exploding over the Astrodome creating a surrealistic backdrop to the mayhem.

The police attack occurred on the evening of August 17, 1992, at the end of a two-hour march organized by ACT UP/RNC and Queer Nation/Houston to protest the Bush Administration's lack of leadership in fighting AIDS.

As of press time, details of injuries are still coming in, but at least 12 activists were injured, three hospitalized and six arrested. Some 2,000 people from over 30 states participated in the march.

Gay activists at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), working in coalition with other groups as part of the Gay and Lesbian VOICE '92, condemned the violence and linked it to the anti-Gay rhetoric of the Bush/Quayle '92 campaign.

"The violence on the street reflected the rhetorical violence occurring inside the convention hall," said Urvasi Vaid, NGLTF Executive Director. "The Republican Party has engaged in an unprecedented level of Gay bashing and AIDSphobia. The Bush/Quayle campaign has exploited and targeted Gay people with AIDS and Gays and Lesbians."

Attack Begins

The police attack occurred at about 9:00 p.m. near an entrance at the fence at the perimeter of the Astrodome. Scores of riot police blocked the entrance.

Suddenly, and without warning to disperse, the police charged the crowd on horses and on foot. Protesters participating in a die-in were trampled by horses. Activists standing along the sidelines were charged by a running phalanx of police officers, most of them swinging clubs and striking activists. Several officers were observed beating activists lying on the ground. Police chased demonstrators across a dark field near the site, beating activists who had fallen.

BC Craig of ACT UP/NY was struck with a baton in the leg by a policeman as she attempted to move people away from the site. Although Craig indicated to the officer she was acting as a monitor, he struck her anyway, saying she was "not moving fast enough."

Police Justify Beatings

Following the attack, the Houston Police Department (HPD) claimed that they were responding in an acceptable manner. An HPD spokesperson told a reporter for Light that he was "unaware of any beatings. We don't carry batons," he said, despite the observations of hundreds of witnesses.

Activists present expressed their concern about the ominous and broader repercussions of the violence. "These attacks are the final extension of White House Gay and AIDS bashing," said Vaid. "They will continue as long as the President takes the lead in assaults on the Gay community." NGLTF is demanding a full investigation of the facts surrounding the incident.

NGLTF is also calling on the Gay and Lesbian community and AIDS activists to target local Bush/Quayle campaign offices for pickets, vigils, demonstrations and creative, non-violent protests.

[Portland, OR]- An ultra conservative religious group, the Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA) has forced a referendum in November on the strongest anti-Gay measure ever in any state.

The proposed constitutional amendment known as "Measure 9" would classify homosexuality as "abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse," and would require discrimination against Gay and Lesbians in Oregon, removing all legal protections from them.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) is calling the measure part of the burgeoning backlash in the West against Gays. Urvasi Vaid, NGLTF Executive Director has said that it is the beginning of a right-wing attack on Lesbian/Gay rights all across the country. Lou Mabon, OCA Director confirms this saying, that his "ultimate aim is to take my campaign to the rest of the country."

In what many see as a trend, a similar measure is up for a November vote in Colorado. The Colorado measure would amend the state constitution to prohibit "protected status based on homosexual, Lesbian or Bisexual orientation." It would invalidate local ordinances that protect Gays from discrimination in Denver, Boulder and Aspen.

However, the proposed Oregon measure is far more extreme in that it would require the state to actively discourage homosexuality, teaching that it is a moral offense similar to pedophilia and bestiality.

Some legal scholars in the state say the measure, if adopted, could be used to remove Gays and Lesbians from teaching positions and state jobs and as a basis to take books from the libraries and deny parade permits and liquor licenses.

No On 9

Opposing the OCA initiative is the "No On 9 Campaign (formerly known as the Campaign for a Hate Free Oregon). No On 9 has the endorsement of organizations from across Oregon. These include the Oregon Library Association, the Oregon Medical Association and the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

No On 9 has also received the support of Hollywood stars Roscarno and Tom Arnold, Faye Dunaway, and Director Gus Van Sant and even Billy Graham.

Graham is due in Portland for a crusade September 23-27. Just Out, a Portland-based Gay paper, contacted the Graham organization and talked to Tom Phillips, the senior crusade organizer.

"The Billy Graham Crusade does not target groups," Phillips said. He went on to say that doctrines of hatred and bigotry would have no place on the platform during this crusade.

Other Opposition To No. 9

Besides Gays and Lesbians, Opposition to Measure 9 has come from some business and convention groups outside Oregon which have already talked of boycotting the state.

At the same time, national Gay leaders such as Vaid and NGLTF's Kevin Berrill and others are touring the state to facilitate organizing on the grassroots level and offer support.

In addition, most of the state's political establishment, the major news papers and mainstream religious organizations, including the Catholic Church, have come out strongly against Measure 9.

In a statement sent to all parish priests, the Oregon Catholic Conference said, "Given the increase in the number of hate crimes in our society, particularly directed against homosexuals, this proposed constitutional amendment may contribute to attitudes of intolerance and hostility."

Can It Pass?

While Oregon has long been considered a bastion of tolerance and innovative social policy, political experts give Measure 9 a good chance of passing. Just



TAMMY BALDWIN

continued. "However, in order for our voices to be truly heard, we must have a seat at the table." Baldwin, a Dane County Supervisor now in her fourth term, has a strong record in advocating for innovative human services that are a catalyst for people as they seek higher quality housing and employment opportunities. She is the founder and chair of Dane County's task force on AIDS, and has been an outspoken leader in the national association of openly Lesbian and Gay officials.

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