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The Wisconsin Light

United Way's Boy Scout Funding Subject of Board Meeting Protest

[Milwaukee]- In an update to last issue's lead story on Queer Scouts' protest against United Way Milwaukee's funding of the local Boy Scout chapter, the full United Way Board of Directors will vote on October 13 whether or not to allocate funds to the Boy Scouts for the up-coming year.

On September 9, United Way's Executive Committee recommended that funding of the Boy Scouts be continued. However, the final decision is in the hands of the full board.

Spokespeople for Queer Scouts have announced that will be present to greet board members before the meeting. The meeting will be held at 7:30 a.m. at 225 W. Vine Street in the Brewers Hill section of Milwaukee. Queer Scouts invites anyone interested to join them at United Way's parking lot gate at 7:00 a.m.

Queer Scouts say that the gathering will be a peaceful attempt to persuade United Way board members to vote against funding the Boy Scouts.

Prior to the meeting, Queer Scouts will be contacting all of the board members. Board members will receive an informational packet. This will be followed up with a phone call.

Among other things, the packet will include a full explanation of the issues surrounding the current boycott of United Way and statistics on Gay teen suicide.

"We intend to make sure that before the vote, each board member is well-informed," said Dan Fons, a Queer Scouts spokesperson. "We want them all to understand the very real human consequences of a decision to continue funding the Boy Scouts," Fons said.

The chair of the United Way board is Dean Treptow, (414) 359-3040. Among 35 other board members is Howard Fuller, Superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools, (414) 475-8001; Mary Alice Tierney, of WTMJ (Channel 4), (414) 332-9611.

Helms Brings Boycott to Senate Floor

As a sign of the growing impact of the debate over the Boy Scouts, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC), introduced an amendment that would have prevented any organization that discourages the Boy Scout ban on homosexuals from receiving money from federal employees. The amendment was defeated on a 49-49 vote. Sen. Robert Kasten voted for the amendment. Sen. Herb Kohl voted against the Helms amendment.

Queer Scouts need your support and can be reached at (414) 964-8423 or (414) 643-5833.

'Gays in the Political Process' Is Topic at Oct. 8 Community Forum

[Milwaukee]- On Thursday, October 8, the Lambda Rights Network (LRN), will present a community forum on the subject: Lesbians and Gays in the Political Process: Is There a Home for Us in the Mainstream? The forum will take place in the Colonial Room of the Hotel Wisconsin, 720 N. Third Street. There will be a social period beginning at 6:30 p.m. The program will be from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Panelists will be: Gail Davy, Democratic activist and campaign strategist; Scott Evertz, Chair of the Milwaukee East Side Unit of the Republican Party of Wisconsin; Jim McFarland, former Madison Common Council member, and Wisconsin contact for the Log Cabin Society, a Republican club for Lesbians and Gay men; and Judy Selle, home secretary for Congressman Jim Moody. The panel will be moderated by Dr. Gary Hollander.

Everyone is invited to attend.

California Governor Signs Bill To Prevent Job Discrimination for Gays



4,500 WALKERS WAIT—Linda Molitor and Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist cut the ribbon at the start of the Sept. 20 Wisconsin AIDS Walk as Susan Mudd watched with the Mayor's and Ms. Mudd's son, Benjamin waiting patiently in the carriage. (See page three for a related story).

Primary Opponents Endorse Baldwin in State Assembly Race

[Madison]- Tammy Baldwin who swept to victory in the Democratic Primary on September 8 has been enthusiastically endorsed by her three Democratic opponents in the race. Billy Feitlinger, Dave Cieslewicz and Ken Strasma, on



TAMMY BALDWIN

September 25, signed a letter endorsing her in the race for the 78th Assembly District.

Feitlinger, Cieslewicz and Strasma cited Baldwin for her "personal and leadership qualities" that she brings to the race.

After praising Baldwin for her stands on reproductive freedom, universal health

care and civil rights, they went on to laud her for running as an open Lesbian.

"She would make history," the letter said, "as the first openly Gay or Lesbian member of the Legislature in Wisconsin. The courage she has shown in running honestly on this issue is notable in a time when Gays and Lesbians are being physically, verbally and politically assaulted around this issue."

The three former candidates went on to say that now Baldwin has a tough race before her. They asked that supporters show the "same generosity" toward her now as had been done before.

Milwaukee's Contribution

Milwaukee's Lesbian and Gay community came strongly to Baldwin's aid in the primary. In a fundraiser held in Milwaukee this Summer hosted by the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee and many other supporters, donors gave nearly \$4,500 according to Baldwin campaign headquarters.

Baldwin supporters in Madison say that, with the race heating up, your support for Tammy Baldwin must not slacken and is needed now. Feitlinger, Cieslewicz and Strasma noted that the November 3 general election is less than 40 days away. "Please join us in supporting Tammy now!" they wrote.

Checks should be made out to: Baldwin Committee and mailed to P.O. Box 696, Madison, WI 53701-0696.

Editor's Note: The chance has finally come to elect "one of our own" to office. We should not, we must not let this opportunity slip by. Please be as generous as possible.

[San Francisco]- In what many viewed as a surprise move, California Governor Pete Wilson signed a bill into law on September 25 that protects Lesbians and Gays against job discrimination. The measure, AB 2601, bans job-related discrimination based on sexual orientation for virtually all state and private workers.

Wilson's action makes California the seventh state to protect Gays and Lesbians against job discrimination. The others are Wisconsin, Massachusetts, Hawai'i, Connecticut, Vermont and New Jersey.

Like the original bill, AB 2601 exempts businesses with fewer than five employees, churches and other not-for-profit religious organizations. There is some confusion whether teachers and other educational employees are covered or whether the state educational code already protects them.

Wilson, under pressure from Right-wing Christian and political groups, had vetoed a similar bill last year. In addition, Gay-bashing at the recent GOP national convention along with right-wing drives against Lesbian/Gay rights in Oregon, Colorado and Portland, Maine, seemed to have created a poisoned atmosphere. Also, on September 24, the House of Representatives in Washington had gutted a law that would have allowed city workers to obtain health benefits for their partners of whatever sex.

Bill Geiger, Managing Editor of Frontiers magazine in Los Angeles, told Wisconsin Light that people were "completely surprised" by the Governor's action. "We're shocked," he said.

There had been no indication, Geiger said, that Wilson would sign the bill and, in fact, sources had informed Lesbian/Gay leaders that it would be vetoed.

As a result, Geiger said, there had been state-wide planning for demonstrations as had happened last year over the Governor's veto.

Asked why Wilson had signed the bill, Geiger said he thought it was an attempt on Wilson's part to "become more moderate." Other observers agreed that the signing was part of a balancing act between the moderate and Right-wing elements in the GOP.

Adverse Reaction

As might be expected, Lou Sheldon of the Traditional Values Coalition blasted the Governor's action. Sheldon was quoted in the New York Times as saying that the bill would "protect sex with animals and the rape of children as forms of political expression."

J. Craig Fong, Director of the West Coast Regional Office of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, said that Lambda was pleased with Wilson's action, but expressed displeasure at the Governor's veto on September 26 of the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1992 (AB 3825) which Fong called "a more comprehensive" act.

AB 3825 would have banned job and housing discrimination against not only Gays and Lesbians, but to most, if not all, other victims of discrimination as well.

Fong called AB 3825 "a far more sensible approach to rectifying the civil rights laws of this state."

The signing of one law for Gays and the veto of the broader measure, would, Fong said, "force us to establish an inefficient two-tiered system; one for the majority of California workers and a second for Gays and Lesbians." He went on to call the veto of the Restoration Act "just an example of Republican politics of division, hoping to set group against group by granting protections to some but not to others."

Fong said the passage of the Gay anti-discrimination law on September 25 and the veto of the wider AB 3825 the following day "would have California believe that our communities are claiming so-called special rights."