



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

# The Wisconsin Light

## Ada Deer Would Push for Freedom, Justice, Equality in Congress

[Madison]- Editor's Note: Ada Deer is running for Congress in Wisconsin's 2nd Congressional District. Light conducted a tape interview with her in her office. It was a metallic Autumn day, full of color and sunshine. Busy as she was, she gave the impression of having all the time in the world.

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Wisconsin Light All things being equal, would you hire someone for your staff who was an open Lesbian or Gay man?

Ada Deer Of course. I'm a social worker. My profession is working for social justice. I want a world free of discrimination and prejudice. One has to have a vision and that's my vision. Freedom, justice, equality for everybody. I am an activist, active in working on the problems of racism, poverty and people of color issues.

I certainly want to have a representative staff by gender, race. I certainly would make no distinction in terms of sexual orientation.

WL If elected, would you consider co-sponsoring the federal Gay Rights bill?

A.D. Yes.



ADA DEER

WL What would be your stand on the military ban against Lesbians and Gays serving in the armed forces?

A.D. There are many Gays, Lesbians and Bisexual military personnel. They're forced to hide their sexual orientation or be discharged from duty. People in the military should be there according to their talent, according to their ability, and I want (that ban) rescinded.

WL Would you support increased funding for AIDS research and prevention?

A.D. Of course. I will work for a single national health care program that will

## United Way Board Rejects Neutral Stance on Boy Scout Funding



Jerry Johnson

FUNDING OBJECTIONS— Several protesters demonstrated outside the Milwaukee United Way offices on Oct. 13 prior to a board meeting to discuss Boy Scout funding. (See lead story on this page.)

cover everyone and reduces costs. I will push for increased federal involvement in the war against AIDS.

WL What do you see as your top priority as a member of Congress?

A.D. Jobs, health care, the economy and the environment. Then, of course, the whole area of women. We need the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment). Without the ERA, millions of women are subjected to legal and economic discrimination and inequality.

WL What is your stand on universal health care?

A.D. I want a universal health care system. That's what we need. It'll be hard because we have millions of dollars from the health care PACs that want to maintain the status quo. That's one of the reasons we don't have health care for everyone. You've got the insurance PACs, the hospital PACs, all in there preserving their share of profit pie. Health care is a right, not a privilege.

WL What do you see as the main difference between yourself and Rep. Klug?

A.D. Oh! (laughter) I'm a Democrat, he's a Republican, right? And it goes from there. He has voted with Bush 68% of the time. My philosophy is one of inclusion and empowerment and promotion of respect and understanding among all people.

I would point out that he was a featured speaker at the Republican National Convention where there was a real religious war declared by Pat Buchanan, Pat Robertson and other people from the religious right.

I would be a strong protector of the environment. I will be a strong sponsor of the Freedom of Choice Act. He says he's for freedom of choice, but he's not a

sponsor of the act. He waffles on all kinds of issues. People in this district really need to understand that.

Many people say, "Oh, he's such a nice guy." Well, he may be a nice guy personally, but his policies do not bring about healing and hope. They continue the policies of the Republicans which are basically alienation and short-term profits at the expense of the environment.

We cannot ignore the needs of the people. We have 20 million who are unemployed, 25 million without health care, 10 million who are working poor, 10 million who are officially poor. It's unconscionable to have so many millions of people hurting among us. All

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## Runyon Resigns from Whitewater AIDS Task Force

[Madison]- In a sharply worded letter, David Runyon resigned his position as a representative to the Chancellor's Task Force on AIDS from the Center of the Arts at UW-Whitewater.

"AIDS has been with us for a decade," Runyon wrote, "and what have we done on this campus?"

The letter, dated September 25, was sent to Gordon Hedahl, Acting Dean of the College of Arts. Runyon is a teacher at UW-Whitewater and producer of "Nothing To Hide," a cable TV program originating in Madison.

Among his reasons for resignation, Runyon noted that the Task Force, as of October 2, would not have met for six months. "I was under the impression," Runyon wrote, "that its concerns were both timely and serious."

Runyon noted that in the notification for the next Task Force meeting "the most endangered communities within our population" were not invited to attend. The motion to invite them had been passed six months ago, he said.

Among those communities Runyon listed were Gays, Lesbians, African Americans, Women and the Hispanic communities.

Runyon faulted the Task Force for not including among its members people who have had first hand experience with people who have AIDS. This too had been passed earlier.

"It seems reasonable that a committee composed of University people would want to be informed by first-hand information," he wrote. He pointed out that "This is not an unreasonable goal."

Runyon urged Hedahl to make the Task Force a "credible instrument in our common fight against AIDS." He suggested that to partly accomplish this, a Chair might be appointed who is in the medical profession.

[Milwaukee]- The full Board of United Way of Greater Milwaukee decided on October 13 to reject the neutral stance proposed by the Board's Executive Committee on funding for the Boy Scouts.

While United Way will continue to provide a total of \$800,000 to Milwaukee area Boy Scout councils, it will also investigate restrictions against Gays and has laid the groundwork for potentially withdrawing funds from the Scouts if the Scouts do not meet United Way's non-discrimination policy.

Dan Fons, a member of Queer Scouts, the group formed to protest the Boy Scout discriminatory policy against Gays, said, "While we acknowledge that the Board's rejection of a proposed neutral stance on this issue is a positive step, we have every intention of continuing and expanding our boycott of United Way until the charity agrees to de-fund the Scouts. United Way's continued funding of the Boy Scouts is still a full endorsement of their queer-bashing policies."

### Demonstration

On Tuesday morning at 7:00 a.m., Queer Scout members gathered at United Way headquarters on Vine Street in the Brewers' Hill section of Milwaukee. They were there to encourage a "No" vote on the position statement which had been issued and recommended by the Executive Committee of the United Way at its September 9th meeting.

That proposal stated that United Way had no role in resolving the conflict between Gays and the Scouts. It attempted to give all responsibility to the Scouts to resolve the issue.

Such was the disagreement on the full Board over the position statement that at Tuesday's meeting the statement was set aside. No vote was taken.

Instead, the Board decided that it will conduct an investigation into the Boy Scouts' restrictions against Gays. A meeting will be held in November between United Way and representatives of the three Boy Scout councils that receive money from United Way of Greater Milwaukee.

At that time, a determination will be made as to whether the Boy Scouts policy against Gays violates United Way's non-discrimination policy.

It was decided at the Board meeting that funds would be withdrawn if the Boy Scouts are found to be in violation of that policy.

Fons said that although Queer Scouts saw no reason for an investigation, "We hope that openly Lesbians and/or Gays are included in every step of that process."

Fons continued, "To do otherwise would be like asking an all-white jury to render a verdict in the case of the lynching of an African American."

Martin Stein, a Board member, was quoted in the Milwaukee Journal as saying "I don't understand the statement (of the Executive Committee) and discrimination bothers me generally."

Stein went on to urge the Board to examine their anti-discrimination policy so that a similar situation can be avoided in the future. The Board agreed to do this.

One Board member, an Executive Committee member who cannot be named, said that while he had voted for the neutral stance approach in September, he would not be able to do so again.

Queer Scouts lobbied every Board member during the two weeks prior to the October meeting. Each member received an informational packet which was followed up by a phone call.

"We really stressed the alarming rate of Gay teen suicide in this country," Fons said. "Government figures indicate that suicide is the leading cause of death among Lesbian and Gay youth." Fons called this "an alarming statistic" and one that "United Way obviously needs to be addressing."



TIED IN A RED RIBBON— Over 5,000 people participated in "Hands Around the White House" in Washington, D.C. over the weekend to memorialize those who have died of AIDS. Holding a red ribbon that encircles the White House, the group which was often two deep filled the air with such chants as "Shame, Shame, Shame — Four More Weeks, Four More Weeks," and "We're Here. We're Queer and we Can Spell Potato." President Bush was shown being led by chains in this photo.