



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

# The Wisconsin Light

## Assembly Kills Discrimination Bill 53-44

[Madison]- The Wisconsin State Assembly has killed a bill creating a "private cause of action" for civil rights violations.

It would have allowed victims of discrimination to go directly to court and sue if their civil rights are violated.

The Assembly voted 53-44 to send SB 405 to committee. The Senate had passed the bill last Fall.

During the debate in the Assembly on March 13, State Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison) pleaded for passage: "This is the most important civil rights bill of this session."

"Under present law, any employment discrimination action can be heard only by a state administrative agency. This is a slow and burdensome process," Clarenbach said.

"This bill, however, gives a private cause of action as an additional remedy. And, this goes beyond all existing court remedies to give this enforcement option to all protected classes, including sexual orientation," said Clarenbach.

State Representative Marcia Coggs (D-Milwaukee), the primary author in the Assembly, vowed to continue the fight.

"We're going to move it out of committee and push it again this session. It isn't dead yet," Coggs said.

The bill is being opposed by business organizations and Governor Tommy Thompson. Support comes from civil rights groups and labor unions.

The legislature adjourns at the end of March.

## State Assembly Defeats "Rawhide Exemption" Bill

[Madison]- The Wisconsin State Assembly turned back, by a vote of 49-48, a plan to allow religious groups to discriminate in programs that receive public funds.

State Representative Wayne Wood (D-Janesville) proposed a "Rawhide exemption" amendment to Assembly Bill 590. The bill prohibits discrimination in programs and services offered by state agencies or organizations that receive state funds.

Wood argued that churches and other programs based on religious beliefs should be allowed to operate without "government interference."

State Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison) moved to reject Wood's amendment charging that "this would condone bigotry and discrimination of all sorts."

"If any group receives state funds, they should be required to abide by our civil rights law," Clarenbach said during debate.

Clarenbach's motion initially failed 40-56. But after a two-hour recess, during which numerous pro-Gay legislators lobbied to change necessary votes, Clarenbach entered a motion to table Wood's amendment.

Following further debate, the tabling motion prevailed.

"The one-vote margin is a signal that fundamentalist churches and anti-Gay groups have great influence in the political process. We cannot be complacent about our civil rights," Clarenbach said.

On March 20th, 1990 opponents of AB590 moved for reconsideration. Strong debate ensued. Approximately 8 p.m. the reconsideration was brought to a vote and defeated on a 48-48 tie vote. The bill as of press time has been messaged to the Senate. At this time the bill has not been assigned to committee.

## Madison Planning To March In Milwaukee's June 16 Pride Parade



Artist Rick Cornejo has created some delightful murals at Milwaukee's new Mom's Kitchen restaurant at 2000 S. 8th St. This painting shows what can happen when a pie is thrown.

## Homophobic Statements Mar Madison School Board Election

[Madison]- Gays and Lesbians living in Madison will be offered a clear choice in the upcoming School Board election, Tuesday, April 3rd. Incumbent Earl Kielley (seat 7) has made some very homophobic statements in the press recently which have resulted in Madison making the Pat Robertson 700 Club on Wednesday, March 7, 1990. Kielley's opponent, Carol Carstensen has the support of members of Madison's Gay and Lesbian Educators (GLEE) as well as many other liberal groups supporting human rights.

In the race for Seat 6 on the School Board, Peter W. Williams (a liberal who was defeated by Kielley in the last election) is opposed by Dennis Niebuhr, who has identified himself with religious fundamentalists — he led the fight to allow a Christmas tree at Sandburg Elementary School.

Niebuhr is quoted as saying, "I think the idea of a multicultural program, if handled properly, is great — but don't mandate that the majority philosophy be put on a second tier, which is what is being done now."

Niebuhr is opposed to social programs in the schools that would help minorities as well as students with special needs.

Williams, on the other hand, has spoken in favor of multicultural programs in the schools and has been critical of Kielley's attempts to exclude a discussion of homosexuality as an alternative lifestyle.

Of those in the race, Kielley has received the most press stemming from an article that appeared in the February 17, 1990 issue of the *Capital Times*. Here he accused the Madison school district of using the curriculum "to advance the political agenda of Gays and Lesbians without parental approval."

"Yes, people have to be treated with respect," Kielley is reported to have said, "But what about pedophilia and prostitution? What if we start promoting the acceptance of those behaviors?"

Kielley says he represents a growing number of Madisonians who take literally the biblical injunctions against homosexuality and reject the American Psychological Association's 1972 ruling that homosexuality is "normal."

Kielley was attacking specifically a memorandum sent out by the school district's Human Relations Department to all teachers with advice about dealing with homophobia and name calling in the

classroom. Included was a "Fact Sheet" which disproved common homophobic myths.

In addition, Kielley opposed the District's "Values and Choices" sex education program for the middle schools. The program teaches that homosexuality is normal behavior.

Kielley also attacked the distribution of "The Directory" published by the Madison Gay and Lesbian Resource Center and given out to school counselors and psychologists. Out of 40 programs listed, Kielley focused on the Madison Gay Video Club which shows sexually explicit material to Gay men who are over 18.

"What is it (the video) doing in Madison public elementary and middle schools?", he asked. "It's pornography."

Kielley was also upset with a workshop on "Women's Place in the Curriculum" presented two years ago about integrating Lesbian history into the curriculum.

Kielley sent a tape of that program to Pat Robertson's 700 Club. Robertson accused Madison of promoting homosexuality and urged viewers to

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## ACT UP Chicago Plans April 20-23 Madison Meeting

[Madison]- Members of Chicago's ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power) will be in Madison on Sunday, April 1, 1990, at 6:00 p.m. at Memorial Union (State Hist. Society) to make plans for Madison's role in the demonstrations in Chicago on April 20-23.

These actions will be part of a nation-wide protest against insurance companies, the American Medical Association and the Board of Cook County Hospital to protest the care of People With AIDS and will include a Tent City.

ACT-UP has organized civil disobedience actions in the past. They are credited with being highly instrumental in bringing about fundamental changes in the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) drug testing programs and protocols.

Plans are underway for an ACT-UP-Madison Chapter. Please attend the April 1st meeting or call Robert at (608) 255-3763 for further information.

[Madison]- In May, 1989, over 7,000 people celebrated their lives at Madison's first large March for Lesbian and Gay Rights and Pride.

Since then, the Gay and Lesbian Visibility Alliance (GALVANize), has spent time considering what it can do to further draw our community together. Through our many meetings and surveys, common threads have emerged:

including bisexuals as part of our community; making our community more multi-cultural as we support people of color in their own projects; helping women and men work together instead of separately while preserving our separate cultures; highlighting the need for child-care for Lesbian and Gay families and much more.

There are no plans for a March/Celebration in Madison for 1990, but a group is now forming to find a suitable date in 1991. Anyone with suggestions or with date conflicts please call Elizabeth at (608) 256-3096. This work group will try and find a date that is WARM AND HOPEFULLY WITHOUT SNOW. Any suggestions, please get involved and help.

GALVANize has been working hard on structure issues in our large general meetings. A meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 25, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the UW Memorial Union. We are looking for ideas for by-laws. Childcare will be provided. For more info, call Cindy or Richard at (608) 255-8061.

GALVANize will have a meeting on Sunday, April 8th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the UW Memorial Union to finalize the by-laws ideas and to celebrate with a social gathering to reward us for all the hard work. There will be fun things to do for those of us who hate meetings. Childcare will be provided. For more info on this meeting, call Jenny, Don or Cevyn at (608) 255-8061.

GALVANize has many work groups already underway and needs suggestions for more. The MEMBERSHIP work group is spreading out information and getting new people involved in a non-sexist, non-racist, non-homophobic way. They also are getting info to members about other events and organizing GALVANize members to work with other groups that we support to carry the GALVANize banner at their marches and events.

For example, several GALVANize members have done the witness training with the Madison Treaty Rights Support Group to witness at the lakes in northern Wisconsin during the Chippewa's Spring spear fishing.

The GALVANize banner was also present at last May's Treaty Rights Rally in Madison and at the Milwaukee and Chicago Gay Pride Marches. For more info and to get involved, call Pat at (608) 256-2521.

**Childcare:** A new member, Tuan, a person with lots of childcare and preschool education experience, has big plans to make childcare fun and a learning experience for the children. The hope is to make childcare as successful in GALVANize as it is in the Lesbian Mom's group in Madison. For info and to volunteer, call Tuan at (608) 255-8061.

**Finance/Legal Attorneys,** Cevyn Godre and Tammi Baldwin, attended a workshop on "Advising Non-profit Organizations" sponsored by the Wisconsin State Bar as legal representatives from GALVANize. Tammi and Cevyn are working hard on some of the legal issues of GALVANize. For more info, call Richard at (608) 255-9391.

**Fundraising:** This work group is meeting regularly and is starting to make plans for fun events. Two events being

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