

The Post's Coverage of the Gay-Rights March

Your limited coverage of the Oct. 14 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights was a disservice to thousands of gay readers of The Post.

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The treatment you gave to the event continued to closet the truth. The march was orderly and peaceful—a tribute to the organizers and to each and every lesbian and gay man whom society has branded as perverted and deviant.

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people in attendance were celebrating their ability to survive in the face of oppression engineered by the economic and power elites of this country and supported by homophobic religious and psychiatric institutions.

Where was the usually superb journalism of The Washington Post showing the human dimension of the lesbian/gay issue? Why were there no interviews with a cross-section of the people at the march to indicate to the American public the diversity and health of the gay experience? Your treatment does a great disservice to the cause of equality for the gay community and only served to foster the stereotypic, homophobic attitudes that so many people inflict on lesbians and gay men.

I can only say, "Thanks for nothing!" The struggle of this oppressed minority will continue, but with no help from you.

Journal, Wednesday, April 20, 1983

Panel examines UW, homosexuality

By Roger A. Gribble
Education reporter

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puses does not violate state law.

Her comments came at a hearing conducted by a faculty committee to examine UW-Madison policies on non-discrimination against homosexuals. The committee was established in February in response to a fall controversy about letting the military conduct job interviews on campus.

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Ms. Nichols said La Follette's opinion "justified discrimination on

the basis of discrimination. In other states where there is no state law on the subject other campuses refused to let the military use its facilities because of its attitude on discrimination. You can look beyond the La Follette ruling," she added.

Ms. Nichols said she and Richard Wagner, the other co-chairman of the governor's task force, visited UW-Stevens Point recently "and the students there had horror stories.

"On the library steps were spray-painted signs saying 'death to gays and 'kill a queer for Christ,'" she noted. "They were there for several months despite requests to have them sand-blasted," she added.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR W. Post 10-23-79

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WILLIAM BURR HUNT II

Washington

The Post accepted without question the park police estimates of the crowd size at the national March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. It did not occur to The Post that the park police have been among the most vicious persecutors of gays in the Washington area, repeatedly entrapping gays while ignoring physical violence against them. The park police made over 50 arrests for sodomy in Iwo Jima park in the fall of 1976. When a man did yell for help, it took the park police an hour and a half to get there (not enough manpower was the official explanation—they must have had to use every last man for the entrapment brigade).

RANDALL S. ANDREWS

Washington

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It was not a harmless "picnic for sexual minorities on a Sunday afternoon," which was the tone of your article. Yes, the atmosphere was festive because the

people in attendance were celebrating their ability to survive in the face of oppression engineered by the economic and power elites of this country and supported by homophobic religious and psychiatric institutions.

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BROTHER JOSEPH IZZO, C.F.X.,
Xaverian Brothers.

Washington

Speeds High Risks

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"On the library steps were spray-painted signs saying 'death to gays' and 'kill a queer for Christ,'" she noted. "They were there for several months despite requests to have them sand-blasted," she added.

She told the committee: "If you fail the test here (against discrimination on the basis of sexual preference) you don't just fail here . . . Actions of the UW-Madison affect towns throughout the state."

UW-Whitewater Professor David Runyon said the American Psychiatric Society in 1979 took homosexuality off the list of sicknesses "and the military wants to say if gay people are in the ranks of officers it would be disruptive.

"I don't feel they have evidence to

show that's true . . . The military is, trying to intimidate us with a big lie and with a threat of taking away research grants and student loans. If the UW and other great universities presented a united front we'd have the edge because they couldn't recreate those research centers."

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"Ask ROTC to define overt homosexuality and tell why it's a problem," he said. "Ask the FBI how homosexuality compromises an agent's activities when he has acknowledged his homosexuality."

Joanne Elder, a UW-Madison sociology specialist, said studies show that homosexuality doesn't dictate behavior. "Military studies show that homosexuals perform their duties well" but those studies have been suppressed, she contended.

"This is one of the most significant areas of civil liberties in the country," she declared. "It seems sometimes the only way to educate people is to deny them access."

United petition aims at protecting gay rights

By Sarah Dick
of the Cardinal Staff

A petition drive aimed at showing community support for civil rights, particularly those of gay men and lesbians, was announced last night by the Madison Gay Men and Lesbians United (the United).

The United is a broad-based coalition formed after nearly a week of nightly meetings to organize the fight against the New Right in general and westside fundamentalist Rev. Wayne Dillabaugh in particular. Dillabaugh has announced a citywide crusade against "permissive immorality" and hopes to repeal a clause in Madison's Equal Opportunities Ordinance which prohibits discrimination against homosexuals.

THE UNITED stress that their efforts are not merely a response to Dillabaugh. Instead, the petition drive is a reaffirmation of the "ongoing commitment to what the Equal Opportunities Ordinance stands for, and that is that we don't allow discrimination in the city of Madison."

said Grid Hall, a member of the United. More than 240 people attended last night's meeting at the St. Francis House which was scheduled for a downstairs room but, ironically, was moved to the chapel because of the large turnout. A banner proclaiming "Rejoice" faced the crowd and reflected the supportive, enthusiastic atmosphere.

Ricardo Gonzalez, on the finance committee of the United, said that "the man who we choose not to mention here in this house of God" (Dillabaugh) has even called for the execution of homosexuals.

The theme that resounded in the chapel throughout the meeting was that "the issue is not just gay rights. The issue is the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment)...The issue is abortion...The issue is Bakke," a case before the Supreme Court which, if affirmed, could end affirmative action programs, said Hall.

Barbara Lightner, on the United's media committee, said "We want to stress the working unity between gay men and lesbians and the unity between ourselves

and the straight community."

THE SLOGAN that has cropped up most often in the past week and seems to sum up the feeling of those involved is "United we stand. Divided they pick us off one by one."

A group known as the Madison Luminaries has organized in support of the United and the fight for civil rights. The Luminaries, well-known members of the Madison community include Midge Miller, D-Madison, Kay Clarenbach, Rev. Thomas Woodward and various other religious and political leaders.

Simi Litvak spoke for an ad hoc committee from the Left, a group of primarily socialists. She said that the attack on gay rights is only part of an attack on all the progressive people in this community.

"The Right could win by placing a wedge between us all...We're gonna do our darndest not to let that happen," she said. She stressed that her group has "no intention" of setting up a separate, parallel organization of socialists around the issue but instead encouraged the Left

community to work with the committees already set up.

There has been much talk of the possibility of Anita Bryant, the religious crusader, coming to town. Bryant, who led successful anti-gay rights drives in Dade County, Fla. and St. Paul, Minn., has agreed to come to Madison if Dillabaugh decides her help is needed.

Dillabaugh is hesitant, however, to bring in an outsider. He said he would rather see the "straight politicians and businessmen" fight this battle. He wants the "people of the city to rise up."

DILLABAUGH THINKS that such a strategy would be successful because "I am still convinced that our city believes in the things espoused by Anita Bryant."

The United, however, is aiming for 50,000 signatures on the petitions.

The coalition hopes to prevent the issue from ever reaching the referendum stage because, said Hall, "I don't think you can vote on civil liberties."

Power

Governor's council on lesbians and gays holds last meeting

By JOANNE WEINTRAUB
Journal Madison bureau

Madison, Wis. — "I guess this is it," Kathleen Nichols said Saturday with a little shrug. "This is really sayonara, kids."

With that, the final meeting of the Governor's Council on Lesbian and Gay Issues was adjourned.

The 14-member council, first of its kind in Wisconsin, was created by Gov. Earl early in 1983. Nichols, who has been co-chairwoman of the group since its inception, said it was one of a very few such state-level gay advisory bodies in the country.

Gov.-Elect Tommy Thompson has spoken out repeatedly against such advocacy groups

in government, calling them a divisive force. Shortly after his election, he promised to abolish the lesbian and gay council, saying: "I don't think government should be promoting an alternative lifestyle."

At the group's first meeting in April 1983, Earl said:

"Many here are unaware of the size, richness and sophistication of the lesbian and gay community. They are unaware in part because long habits of dislike, disapproval and discrimination . . . have made it necessary for gays and lesbians to conceal a part of themselves and to lead double lives."

Nichols said Saturday that the council's primary accomplishment had been to go out into the state and address the "unaware" people Earl spoke of, particularly public offi-

cial.

"We'd ask them, 'What are you doing for your gay and lesbian constituents?' A lot of times, it was the first time the question had ever been asked."

Nichols said she was proud of the council's contributions to the state's 1985 law limiting disclosure of AIDS virus test results. Such laws, though controversial, have been championed by many gay groups as safeguards to privacy and freedom from discrimination.

The group also lobbied successfully against a recent legislative attempt to allow certain religious and educational organizations to discriminate legally against gays in their hiring practices. The amendment failed largely because of Earl's opposition to it, and

interest in its passage has been renewed since Thompson's victory.

Before adjourning, the council took an informal vote on continuing some form of meetings, even without official sanction. Nichols was among the majority who said no.

Trying to keep the group going would further strain the already stretched resources of the gay community, she explained later. Even replacing the council's \$1,000 yearly state budget with private money would be difficult in a time when money is needed for existing AIDS groups.

Nichols, 34, a planning analyst for the State Division of Energy and a Dane County supervisor, said she intended to keep active in local gay lobbying and support groups. In the council's absence, she added, letter-writing

campaigns and other attempts to reach legislators will be crucial to the gay community's survival.

Her greatest fear in light of the council's demise is that AIDS education — increasingly seen as vital to the population at large, as more heterosexuals are affected — will be set back drastically.

"The thing that frightens me so tremendously is that [the gay] community was the first and hardest hit by AIDS," Nichols said. "We had to take care of our own. . . . We had to learn so much."

If the knowledge amassed by gay activists is not tapped now, Nichols warned, the results for the rest of society will be "literally suicidal."

presented to Jones today asserts that Sachtjen "breached his clear legal duty to take testimony from competent witnesses" and asks that Jones order him to "desist and refrain from any further proceedings in this action . . ."

Earlier Tuesday, Fischer's former teacher described the boy as a generally "good student" but a mischievous one on the day of the spanking.

Teacher Kathleen Brandt, who said she had no college preparation for her job, testified that after giving Timothy five verbal reprimands that day for talking and standing without permission she took him to Dillabaugh's office and hit him "once or twice" with the paddle.

Asked if he would behave, she said he responded "yes, sir," but in a defiant manner.

She testified that the preacher then struck him "once or twice" and, when that failed to produce a



Timothy, aunt show apprehension.

response, hit him "once or twice again." After the spanking, she said, the boy had a "calm spirit."

"You could tell that it helped him," Brandt added.

In a re-enactment of the spanking that drew chuckles from the packed courtroom, McManus handed Brandt a paddle, peeled off his suit coat, leaned over a chair as Fischer had, and ordered: "Do it!"

A sharp crack pierced the courtroom. "Do it again!" commanded McManus. Again, she did it.

No pictures were taken of



Dillabaugh helper hands out tracts.

McManus' bottom, but those taken of Fischer's showed he had "sustained rather traumatic blows to the soft tissues of the buttocks," according to Dr. Edward McCabe.

McCabe, a pediatrician who serves as a consultant to Dane County Social Services on child abuse cases, testified it took "considerable force to cause the bruising evident here (in the police photos taken several days after the paddling)."

A Wauwautosa pathologist testifying for the defense, however, examined the same photos and said the

bruises were "consistent with a light or moderate spanking . . ."

The pathologist, Dr. Roland Brown, added that such marks could be produced by a "force reasonably used by a parent."

Today, after the issue of the writ of prohibition is decided, Dillabaugh is expected to take the stand in his own defense.

"Rev. Dillabaugh will rise with the sun," said McManus in the corridor after the day's proceedings. "And he will testify with the rising sun for truth and justice."

Rev. Pritchard won't back Dillabaugh

By Bill Christofferson
Press Connection Writer

Madison voters may be asked to limit the employment rights of homosexuals rather than take away all their rights under the city's equal opportunities ordinance, the spokesman for an anti-pornography group says.

Rev. Richard Pritchard, a leader of Citizens Concerned for Our Community (CCOC), said he can't support a planned effort by the Rev. Wayne Dillabaugh to repeal opportunity provisions for homosexuals.

But he would like to see them excluded from some "sensitive" jobs, including teaching, and may support

putting that question before the voters, Pritchard said.

"Homosexuals do have certain rights," Pritchard said. "I think the churches have been wrong in coming out so strongly against the person himself when what they're really against is this kind of behavior."

Homosexuality is "basically a sickness," Pritchard believes. The churches should try to help homosexuals in the same way they help alcoholics and others, he said.

Pritchard, pastor of Heritage Congregational Church, said he and other evangelical ministers are weighing what role, if any, to play in the gay rights battle in Madison.

Dillabaugh, pastor of Northport

Baptist Church, has said he will press for a citywide referendum on whether homosexuals should be excluded from the city's equal opportunities ordinance, which now forbids discrimination against gays in housing, employment and other areas.

Pritchard would prefer to amend the law so homosexuals would be barred from "sensitive" jobs, mostly those which would put them in contact with children.

"The ordinance now says there is no difference between heterosexuals, homosexuals and bisexuals," Pritchard said. "If a homosexual was the best qualified applicant for youth program director at our

church, I'd have to hire him."

Madison voters could end up with two gay rights questions on the ballot, Pritchard said — the Dillabaugh proposal and the one Pritchard favors.

Dillabaugh may decide to drop his campaign in favor of the more moderate approach, Pritchard said.

"If Wayne sees we're doing something, he might pull out," Pritchard said.

Citizens Concerned for Our Community has fought in the past against adult books stores, massage parlors, nude bars and other commercial sex. The group as a whole will stay out of the gay rights issue, but some individual CCOC members may be active, Pritchard said.

Reader connection

Pritchard on gays

Dear Press Connection:

For 3 decades I have fought vigorously in Madison for the rights of minorities — in the fields of mental health, prisoner rehabilitation, racial discrimination, and alcoholism. More recently, I have been working for the rights of men, women, and children, to be free from the crime and personal degradation brought on by pornographers in the area of commercialized sex-for-sale. This has been because I believe Jesus Christ died and rose again so that we all could have restored the wholeness of God's likeness within us.

Currently, there is an effort to restrict those with a homosexual or bi-sexual orientation from certain areas of employment. From my own studies in this field, and from personal counseling with many who

have this preference — as well as from my study of the Bible, I have reached 3 conclusions:

- From the days of Adam and Eve, we have gotten into the biggest messes when, to quote the Bible, "each man did that which was right in his own eyes." The Bible, both in the Old and the New Testaments, is clear in saying that homosexuality — in company with a great many other forms of behaviour — is contrary to God's will for our lives.

- It is a sickness that is acquired. Boys and girls are normally curious about their bodies and the bodies of others. A healthy, normal environment in the home or around it will be the most likely to lead the child in a normal and healthy direction. I have known many young people not trapped until their teens — and that by recruitment, despite the claims that there is little or no recruitment. The literature that I have seen which has

been published by the "gay" community, the International Gay Directory which even lists what can be secured in what "stalls" across the country, the active efforts by the "gay" community in St. Paul to infiltrate the Big Brother movement — these are instances of the sickness. As in alcoholism, efforts should be made, not to perpetuate it, but to help the person recover.

- The Church has not always been the loving community Christ called it to be. A local pastor defended homosexuality and said he wanted to remain anonymous "to protect counselees." Yet nothing in his letter was revealing a personal confidence. Many sincerely believe that the homosexual life-style is a viable alternative which should be equally acceptable, but they hesitate to come out of their "closet." This is not a criticism of them so much as of the Church. In my counseling with homosexuals who wanted to recover, I have invited them to come to Church and be a part of a loving

community — and while most Christians have been really Christ-like, I have taken my share of lumps for doing this.

There have been many great, sensitive people who have had this sickness — just as there have been many fine, sensitive people who suffer from alcoholism and other illnesses. Only in comparatively recent times have alcoholics been accepted and helped. There is a need today to help the homosexual, though only those willing to take the "12 steps" can be. In the meantime, they should be precluded from certain sensitive occupations, just as should alcoholics or those with a contagious disease, so long as they persist in not wanting to recover. Many have given up the struggle to recover, or don't want to. I would like to help those who want a chance, for I believe they can be whole again.

—Richard E. Pritchard

P.S. Jesus did not condemn the woman caught in adultery, but He said, "go and sin no more."

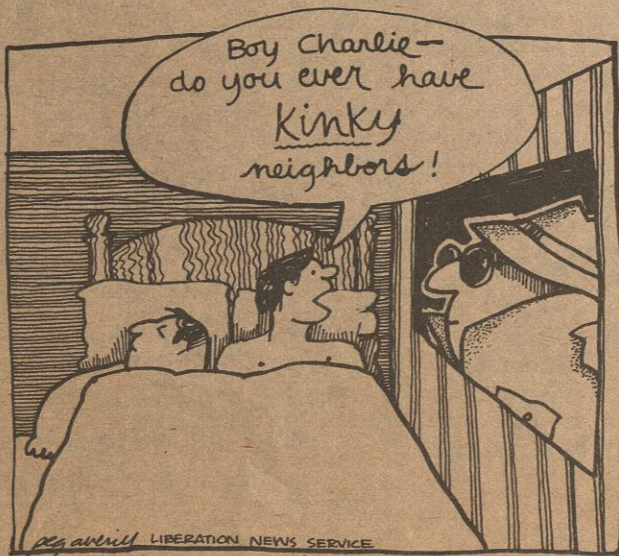
Gays Expelled

(LNS) The expulsion of two gay men from the Garrett Evangelical Seminary in Evanston, Illinois has sparked considerable protest by students and faculty throughout the area. The students, James Mason and Terry Colbert, were suspended in mid-May after they wrote a letter avowing their homosexuality to a school administrator.

Shortly after the two students were suspended, 48 of 80 Northwestern University professors who were part of a joint doctoral program at Garrett withdrew from the program in support of the suspended students. Protests in support of Colbert and Mason were staged at Garrett, Northwestern and Mundelein College, a nearby Catholic school.

"For the Church to oppress

someone simply because of who they are, and to twist the Bible to do so ... I think that's true abomination," Joanne Brown, a student at Garrett and an organizer of the stand-in told a reporter for the *New York Times*. Garrett, a school of less than 400 students, is one of thirteen United Methodist Seminaries in the United States. The United Methodist Church is considered by many to be the most "liberal wing" of American churches, but the group has refused to allow known gays to be ordained into its ministry. The church's main book of teachings, the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, while granting respect for the human and civil rights of all individuals, states that it does not "condone" homosexuality.



Anita Loses in Atlanta

(LNS)-- A demonstration by more than 2,000 supporters of gay rights greeted supporters of gay rights greeted orange juice peddler and anti-gay campaigner Anita Bryant when she arrived in Atlanta for the Southern Baptist Convention June 11. Two days later, a solid 2-to-1 majority of the convention delegates made it a bad week for Bryant all around by rejecting her bid to ride the denomination's first vice presidency on her anti-gay reputation.

Inside the hall Bryant boasted that "more than 1,000 former homosexuals" had written to thank her for helping them see the light. As she spoke, however, more than twice as many lesbians, gay men and their supporters jammed into a small area outside the hall to hear a series of speakers denounce Bryant's role in fomenting anti-gay hysteria.

"The march was very quiet, very

very calm, very colorful," one marcher said. "And it was more political than other demonstrations we have had, not as cutsey. There was a different feel to it."

Organizers estimated the crowd at 4,000 and the police estimated at 1,800.

"We were expecting a lot of harassment and we didn't get any at all," one said. And when we were marching back to the park I saw a lot of people joining in who had not been marching with us, including a lot of black people."

Bryant's defeat on the convention floor startled church officials who had more or less conceded beforehand that she would be elected. The convention chose instead a pastor from Knoxville, Tennessee who is known as a liberal and had even come under fire from some church figures a year ago for ordaining a woman to the ministry.

FFA photo by Ken Rude

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WSA funds gay center

By Ed Bark

Press Connection Writer

Ignoring a scathing editorial by the Badger Herald, the University of Wisconsin Student Association unanimously has appropriated \$2,800 to fund a "gay affairs center" on campus.

The vote Thursday night was praised by Dean of Students Paul Ginsberg, who said the "concept" of a gay center is an "excellent one."

Ginsberg helped form a University-affiliated "gay assistance committee" about two years ago. Its purpose is to "help those students who have sensed or been victims of discrimination and to create a better and higher level of understanding," Ginsberg said.

Before the WSA vote, the conservative Herald, one of two student newspapers distributed on campus,

said proposed funding of a gay center was "the most hideous" budget item scheduled for debate.

In an editorial entitled "Queer Budget," the Herald called for elimination of the WSA as an elective body representing some 39,000 UW students.

"Taking student monies to promote a lifestyle contrary to all moral canons is the last straw," the editorial said.

State Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison), a sponsor of several gay rights bills, said the Herald broadside represents "a surprisingly insensitive attitude that I'm surprised still exists in this city.

"I thought the Reverend Wayne Dillabaugh had been put in his place," Clarenbach added.

Speaking on behalf of United, a recently formed gay activist coalition,

David Carter termed the Herald's use of the word "queer" a "disgraceful" insult to what he estimated as Madison's 10 per cent gay population.

"I don't think any newspaper today would dare print the word 'nigger' or 'kike,'" he said. "It's an outrage and they shouldn't be able to do this with impunity."

Carter said a "gay affairs center" on campus is intended to be mainly a counseling, social and informational center.

"I don't think anything like this in the nation has happened before," he said of the WSA decision to fund the center. "I hope that this can be seen in perspective. Given the number of gay students that exist, it's not an unreasonable amount of money."

The center's purpose is "not to advocate a gay lifestyle," but rather to

"help people who are gay," Carter stressed.

"It's saying that if you're already gay, that's okay," he said.

The location of the center and its opening date have not yet been determined. It is expected that those decisions will await input from existing gay organizations in the city.

Gay counseling services have been available in Madison on a regular basis since 1973 when the Gay Center was organized. The center receives calls at 257-7575 and drop-ins at its offices at 1001 University Ave.

The Gay Center is a program of Renaissance of Madison, Inc., a non-profit organization that also operates a VD screening and treatment clinic for men Tuesday nights at the Blue Bus, 913 Spring St.

Gay rights

(continued from page 1)
Constans doesn't see the resolution only as a symbolic response. "The resolution establishes avenues in which gays can address any of their grievances," she said. Constans, who is gay herself, views the sexual orientation discrimination policy as an extension of the University's

affirmative action policies. "The Madison Equal Opportunity law, which protects gays' rights, does not apply to the University. The University is governed by the State of Wisconsin laws." Presently, the state does not have the same affirmative action policies.

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VOL. LXXXVIII. No. 70

University of Wisconsin—Madison

Tuesday, December 5, 1978

Gay rights

Anti-discrimination resolution referred

By Diane Alaimo
of the Cardinal Staff

A resolution that would prohibit the University from discriminating against faculty, staff and students because of sexual orientation was referred to the University Committee by the Faculty Senate Monday afternoon.

Voting on the resolution was delayed not because of its prohibition of discrimination because of sexual orientation in employment and educational opportunity, opponents of the motion maintained, but because the resolution was a too-broadly focused statement of nondiscrimination policy of the University.

THE RESOLUTION REDEFINED the discrimination policy as set forth by the Board of Regents on August 15, 1975. It reiterated the ban on discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, age, religion or physical handicap, and added the sexual orientation clause.

Opponents of the resolution objected to inclusion of age in the discrimination policy. They said that the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of age would result in problems about retirement benefits, tenure, pay rates and admission of older people to schools such as the Medical School.

Theatre and Drama Prof. Robert Skloot, the sponsor of the resolution, attempted to explain to members of the senate that the inclusion of age in

the discrimination policy was nothing new. He reminded the senate that the Regents present policy of discrimination included the clause on age.

However, as with many other issues, the senate argued about already established policy rather than the issue at hand. They refused to recognize that the age question has been governed by policy for years.

Skloot sponsored the resolution at the request of Barbara Constans, Wisconsin Student Association Coordinator of Gay Affairs. Constans emphasized that the resolution was referred by a 62 to 49 vote because of the reference to age and not because of the clause on sexual orientation.

See related story p. 8

"WELL OVER 75 percent of the people in there (at the senate meeting) agree with the non-discrimination policy on the basis of sexual preference," maintained Constans. She added that the members of the senate are conscious of any legislation that had to do with retirement benefits. She said that "once the argument over age and benefits clears up, the motion will pass."

At one point in the debate, English Prof. Barbara Foley called the resolution "a symbolic response to the right wing action against gays that has recently been going on around the country."

(continued on page 2)

Meditation on civil liberties

Rev. Wright: 'Not if, but which rights will fall next'

(Editor's note: Following is the complete text of a speech delivered Saturday at Brittingham Park by Madison Equal Opportunities Commission chairperson, the Rev. James Wright. The occasion was a picnic sponsored by the Madison Area Gay Interim Coalition (MAGIC). Other speakers on the program were State Rep. David Clarenbach, Ald. James Yeadon and Mayoral assistant James Rowen.)

By Rev. James Wright

It is indeed appalling when we come to this juncture in our history and begin to find that those things we have fought for and those amendments enacted are being placed in jeopardy by individuals who have even less than tunnel vision, and do not believe in the basic, inherent rights of each and every individual.

There are certain basic fundamentals that we here in the city of Madison believe in. In 1975, the Equal Opportunities Commission recommended to the City Council that sexual orientation or preference would be placed into the ordinance. That amendment was placed there not because of some theological dogma, not because of any kind of religious drive in the community, but it was recommended and voted on by the Council in order to protect the civil rights of another segment within our community. And because of that, we intend to keep that protection, thereby doing those things that are essential to make our community recognize that when one destroys the rights of one individual, or one group, one is in the process then of establishing a pecking order. And it is not a matter then of what is next — marital status, or whether or not it is ex-offenders — it is a matter of fact just *which* one will be next, not if one will be next.

The legislative bodies within our city, state and nation have done more to enact laws to develop political sanctions and implementations and have done more to advance the cause of social and racial justice and the protection of individuals' and group rights for more effective human rights than all of the other institutions within our society, including the church. There is ab-

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olutely no purpose in talking about injustice, the denial of rights, or even privileges in a democratic society unless we are ready to exercise our freedom to oppose injustice, the denial of rights and to enlarge upon our privileges.

We must do more than merely talk. We must work to achieve a just society. To this end, the EOC, in its May 11th meeting, reaffirmed its position that it will stand solidly

Guest editorial

behind the sexual preference amendment and will keep it in the ordinance.

Madison cannot afford the luxury of retrogressing in the area of human and civil rights.

Madison will develop a strategy to defeat those who would infringe upon, retrench, repeal or rescind the rights of the united.

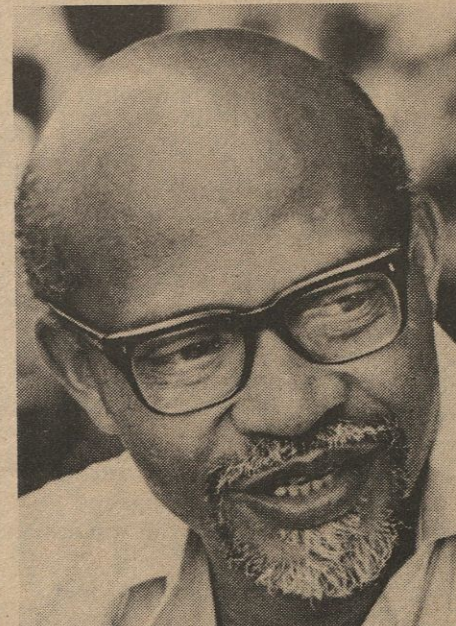
This is a day of concern. This is a day in which many of us, many of you who have worked for civil and human rights are certainly concerned, but it is, I remind you, a day for concern and not a day for despair. And although there is on foot a diabolical movement to systematically destroy the rights so gained in this community, that we are assured that with the cooperative effort we will be able to not only to come through this particular battle victorious, but we will come through with a greater solidarity and a greater purpose than ever before to champion the civil and human rights not only of those groups so defined and so protected, but all other groups that will be protected in the future under the EOC ordinance.

The ballot is not the place (to determine) civil and human rights. We know what happened in Dade County, in Wichita, in St. Paul, in Eugene, Oregon, and we are not go-

ing to let that happen here in Madison.

We are fortunate in Madison and in Wisconsin that the state statutes say there cannot be a direct repeal of an ordinance or law by ballot, but there can be an advisory ballot. We are glad that that is there, but we have such an abiding faith in the residents of this community that even if that particular protection was not there, we feel that because of what Madison has stood for and has gone out to exemplify, that the people of Madison would stand up and say, "We defend the rights of individuals to be different. We defend the rights of individuals to make their own choices and to make their own decisions. And we are going to continue to exert every effort, every force and the utilization of every resource until we can find that within our community no one will attempt to do such an asinine thing again."

Today, I am making a very special appeal to each of you, an appeal for action; not an appeal for emotional reaction — we don't have time for



—Press Connection photo by Glenn Trudel

Rev. James Wright

that — but rather an appeal for a deliberate, rational, planned, unified effort by the total community to protect the rights of individuals and groups that are the object of social, political and economic genocide.

Remember, when you work to help protect the rights of others, you are protecting yourself. The Madison Equal Opportunities Commission will work and will continue to work with individuals and organizations and groups in achieving equal opportunity, equal voice, equal protection, equal participation in the total life of our community.

Today each of us must make a commitment to face decisions in a more humanistic way. The quest cannot be a part-time relationship in the struggle for civil rights, rather it must be a total commitment; it must include jobs, housing, city facilities, equal educational and political opportunities. For there is no room in the city of Madison to have the kind of hypocrisy that we are witnessing at this moment.

There is room in Madison, however — a city pledged to the rights and protection of all — for everyone to be as particularistic as he or she wishes about dress, about food, about music, about speech, about games, even about how one spends a beautiful Saturday afternoon. The EOC believes in an equal and just and open city, a city where each person will attain his or her fullest potential, a city where freedom of movement is guaranteed, a city where justice prevails, a city where civil rights are protected. And therefore the Equal Opportunities Commission will work vigorously to maintain the civil rights protection of all.

But the EOC cannot do this alone. It's a tremendous task and the Commission is asking today, is soliciting your help, soliciting your cooperation, soliciting your support, soliciting your resources, time and talent. And once we get this together, we will be able to defeat any movement and we will end up victorious tomorrow as we have been in the yesterdays.

Thank you.

—Transcribed by Diane Wilkinson