

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: TASwann@aol.com (TASwann@aol.com [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:10-AUG-2000 11:31:33.00

SUBJECT: Morris Kight Lifetime Achievement Award

TO: TASwann@aol.com (TASwann@aol.com [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

Thurgood Marshall Jr (CN=Thurgood Marshall Jr/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Note: Some recipients have been dropped due to syntax errors.Please refer to the "\$AdditionalHeaders" item for the complete headers.

CALIFORNIA GAY VETERANS

MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

A Proud Member of the

California Alliance for Pride and Equality (CAPE);

MEDIA ADVISORY

TOM Swann

(760) 324-5670

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8 2000

MORRIS KIGHT COLLECTION DISPLAY, SILENT AUCTION, COCKTAILS 5:30 P.M.

AWARDS DINNER 7:00 P.M.

MARQUIS HOTEL

GRAND BALLROOM

PALM SPRINGS CA

\$50 per person

Contributions are tax-deductible

DINNER THEME:

A United Community Building California's

First Gay Veterans Memorial

The desert cake recognizes the 10th anniversary of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America. There will be champagne at every table.

Also

an autographed leather bound edition of The Front Runner by honorary board member Patricia Nell Warren will be auctioned to support the local Palm Springs Gay Veterans.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

(Award presenters are Sheila Kuehl and Maxine Waters)

Morris Kight, a veteran of civil rights and peace activism before

Stonewall.

He was instrumental in establishing the Gay and Lesbian community centers in

Los Angeles, Orange County and elsewhere. He co-founded the Stonewall Democratic Club of Los Angeles and was an adviser to President Jimmy Carter.

Morris and late Supervisor Harvey Milk were instrumental in the defeat of the

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Liberator!

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(Presented in person by Hon. Sheila Kuehl)

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(Award Presented in person by Rep. Maxine Waters)

The Hon. Ron Oden, Palm Springs City Councilmember
Keynote Speaker California's first celebration of victory in WW II and crusader for Domestic Partnership in Palm Springs.

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: RSCHEER@aol.com (RSCHEER@aol.com [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:10-AUG-2000 13:35:11.00

SUBJECT: (no subject)

TO: azurcher@creators.com (azurcher@creators.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

CC: AZurcher@aol.com (AZurcher@aol.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

CC: Sidney Blumenthal (CN=Sidney Blumenthal/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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CC: barry_golson@ziffdavis.com (barry_golson@ziffdavis.com [UNKNOWN])
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CC: SJKuehl@aol.com (SJKuehl@aol.com [UNKNOWN])
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CC: cscheer@wafs.com (cscheer@wafs.com [UNKNOWN])
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TEXT:
It's Always Wrong, Except When It's Their Daughter

Politics: Moralizers like the Cheneys have made intolerance the stuff of ambition. They can't turn it off at their convenience.

By ROBERT SCHEER

The news that the Republican vice presidential candidate has a lesbian daughter confirms the obvious: Homosexuals are made that way, a gift of God or nature, and not the result of liberal permissive parenting or the policies of the Democratic Party.

Mary Cheney is the product of a stern conservative upbringing under the

tutelage of a mother whose public work has centered on proclaiming a standard of family values for the nation. In the main, her daughter would seem an exemplar of those values--a hard-working, law-abiding, former corporate spokeswoman for Coors. Mary Cheney is not a rebellious black sheep but rather a loyal supporter of her father's political ambitions who has said she will delay plans for graduate school in order to campaign for the Republican ticket.

Her example makes a hash of the denigration of homosexuality as a capricious choice by willful, immoral hedonists who are being indulged by a society that has abandoned traditional values. Once again, we have the living proof that "they" are us, including a Republican convention delegate, Brian Bennett, who was a key aide to the gay-bashing Robert K. Dornan, the former congressman, and Pete Williams, who was Dick Cheney's press spokesman during Cheney's days in the Pentagon.

When Williams' homosexuality was revealed in the media several years ago, Cheney said: "I have operated on the basis, over the years, with respect to my personal staff, that I don't ask them about their private lives. . .

As long as they perform their professional responsibilities in a responsible manner, their private lives are their business."

Why then did he later blast Bill Clinton for ever-so-tentatively attempting to apply that standard of fairness to gays in the military? How can Cheney run on a party platform that denies his own personal experience with at least two thoroughly honorable homosexuals--his trusted aide and his loving daughter?

The platform approved by the same convention that nominated Mary Cheney's father would bar her from military service, deny her civil rights protection from discrimination and prevent any legal recognition of the five-year relationship she has had with her partner.

Implicit in that platform is a denial of Mary Cheney's fundamental human right to define herself, because it assumes that being gay means lacking the will to behave responsibly. That is why, when Dick Cheney was secretary of Defense, he supported a policy of court-martialing even the most battle-scarred hero of the military if he or she happened to be homosexual. Does he think that his own daughter cannot be trusted to be with heterosexual women in a barracks without molesting them?

Do the Cheneys not believe that their daughter is capable of a sustained

loving relationship with her partner, Heather Poe, who has been welcomed into their home? Alan Simpson, the ultraconservative former Wyoming senator, met the lesbian couple at the Cheneys' home and, according to the Rocky Mountain News, said that "the family not only accepts Poe as their daughter's partner, but also embraces her as a member, and outsiders shouldn't judge by what they don't see." He added, "This is just one of those things the media lands on for a headline."

Nope, not for a headline, but for a consistent statement of policy. If the Cheneys can accept daughter Mary's companion as a member of the family, why would they not accept a similar situation in another family? Further, why would they deny their daughter, or anyone else's daughter or son, the right to legally codify that partnership by accepting the obligations normally associated with marriage?

Why has it remained for the Democratic Party to affirm that gays are entitled to full human rights? The reason is that the Republicans have been drawn like moths to the flame of religious zealotry, thinking they could bask in its glow without ever getting burnt. Which works just fine, until one of your own falls victim to the forces of intolerance.

At the Republican convention, Lynne Cheney bristled with anger when ABC's Cokie Roberts asked her about her daughter being gay. The mother's mood was understandably protective; it should have been none of the reporter's business. But unfortunately, the moralizers, Lynne Cheney prominent among them, have made intolerance the stuff of political ambition, and it can't be easily turned off to suit their convenience.

The proper answer to the snooping Roberts should have been: "Yes, and it's about time we had more wonderful people who happen to be gay, like my daughter, in the Republican Party."

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SUBJECT: Morris Kight Lifetime Achievement Award

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READ:UNKNOWN

Danilo DeGuzman Jr. (CN=Danilo DeGuzman Jr./OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Gilbert S. Gonzalez (CN=Gilbert S. Gonzalez/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:11-AUG-2000 04:22:41.00

SUBJECT:

TO: Erin K. Greer (CN=Erin K. Greer/OU=OVP/O=EOP@EOP [OVP])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Los Angeles Times

(first-edition) Page 1 for Friday, Aug. 11, 2000:

Top of page:

Cols 1-2: News feature on Los Angeles police chief.

Cols 3-5: Wild art on Democratic National Convention preparation.

Col 6: California is set to honor Cesar Chavez, the legendary former leader of the United Farm Workers Union, with an official holiday. (CHAVEZ, moved.)

Above the fold:

Col 3: Rep. Loretta Sanchez, D-Calif., has lost her spot on the speakers' list at next week's Democratic National Convention and may face further reprisals from party officials after she rebuffs their requests that she not hold a fundraiser at the Playboy Mansion. (DEMS-PLAYBOY, moved.)

Cols 4-5: The police and the lawyers showed up before most of the delegates at this week's Reform Party convention; maybe someone should have called in the coroner as well. (with art) (REFORM-ANALYSIS, moved.)

Below the fold:

Cols 1-2: Long before the Democrats settled on the site of next week's national convention, LAPD Chief Bernard C. Parks had decided whom he wanted to oversee security, if Los Angeles won the right to host the event, 50-year-old Cmdr. Tom Lorenzen. (DEMS-CONVENTION-LAPD, moved.)

Col 6: Financial regulators vote to end one of Wall Street's most controversial practices by requiring companies to divulge sensitive information to small investors at the same time it is released to professionals. (SEC-TIMES, moved.)

Bottom of the page:

Cols 1-2: More eager than ever to explore the surface of Mars

for traces of water and life, NASA officials announce they will double the size of their next mission in 2003 and send identical twin rovers to probe the planet. (MARS-TIMES, moved.)

Cols 4-6: A biting biography to be published later this month demolishes the stereotype of Japan's wartime emperor, Hirohito, as a mousy and passive figurehead who was merely the puppet of the militarist clique that drove the nation to war. (with art) (JAPAN-HIROHITO, moving Friday.)

Clinton Unveils Programs to Ease College Loan Costs

By James Gerstenzang

Los Angeles Times

CHICAGO Declaring a college education ``more important than it's ever been," President Clinton unveiled two measures Thursday intended to make higher education more affordable by easing loan repayment costs and by forgiving loans to college graduates who teach in lower-income communities.

Among the United States' unmet needs, Clinton said in a speech at DePaul University, ``helping people go to college is No. 1."

``We have to provide all Americans access to opportunity, and that means access to college," he said. The nation should set a goal, he said, of making sure that no one ``stays out of higher education, or drops out of higher education, because of the cost."

The program to provide teachers for lower-income areas which face severe problems recruiting and retaining teachers, particularly those who have studied in college the subjects they are teaching implements legislation passed two years ago.

It would forgive up to \$5,000 in student loans for those who teach in needy schools for five consecutive years. At least one of the years in the classroom must have begun after September 1998. The U.S. Department of Education estimates that, through the year 2003, 25,000 teachers would be forgiven loans totaling \$122 million. The program would take effect next July 1.

``They'll be paying it back by teaching our kids," Clinton said.

Under the second program, students and parents who hold direct student loans are being granted an immediate rebate on their interest equal to 1.5 percent of the loan, a payment that would affect more than 1.7 million students beginning in the coming academic year, the administration estimated.

To retain the benefit, the students and parents must make the first 12 payments on time. The estimated savings on a \$10,000 loan would be \$150.

The program would also lower by 0.8 percent the interest rate for students who consolidate their loans in the direct student loan program, saving them an estimated \$500 on \$10,000 in loans.

Some 400,000 students are expected to take advantage of this, beginning with the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1.

Clinton said the direct student loan program, a centerpiece in the administration's effort to help students consolidate loans, had seen

default rates on student loans drop from 22 percent when he took office to 9 percent now.

Clinton Tries to Distance Gore From Scandal

By James Gerstenzang

Los Angeles Times

SOUTH BARRINGTON, Ill. President Clinton sought Thursday to distance Al Gore from the most personally difficult and politically dangerous moment of his presidency his affair with Monica S. Lewinsky while helping the vice president share in his administration's successes.

"Surely no fair-minded person would blame him for any mistake that I made," the president said, after recalling that at the height of attacks on his conduct he had said of Gore: "He doesn't get enough credit for what we did together that is good."

Clinton volunteered the comment, slipping it in at the end of an 83-minute interview before 4,500 ministers and other religious leaders and relayed by satellite video to perhaps 6,000 others around the United States. The interviewer was the Rev. Bill Hybels, who has met with Clinton throughout his presidency. He is one of a quartet of ministers who counseled the president after his affair with the White House intern.

By introducing the idea that his vice president who will get the Democratic Party's presidential nomination next week in Los Angeles should be considered blameless when questions are raised about White House ethics, the president made his most public effort yet to counter the Republicans' campaign to tar Gore with his mistakes.

Clinton made no reference to Gore when the subject of his relationship with Lewinsky was raised. Instead, he talked about his vice president's role in the administration and attempted to build a political firewall for him only in the final moments of the interview.

Clinton has made only rare references to the Lewinsky matter in the 18 months since the Senate voted not to convict him after his impeachment by the House. But the White House has felt a need to inoculate Gore from the sort of attacks that were a recurring theme of the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia last week, where repeated references were made to integrity and honor code words meant to remind voters of Clinton's relationship with Lewinsky.

White House press secretary Joe Lockhart said arrangements for the interview at an annual conference on religious leadership were worked out by Clinton and Hybels, senior pastor of the nondenominational Willow Creek Community Church here.

The minister asked the president about the state of his spirituality and sought to lift the curtain on his private meetings with the president. Clinton's aides, however, anticipated that the president would be asked about his behavior with Lewinsky.

The result was an occasionally humorous, sometimes revealing dialogue that went well beyond Clinton's extramarital affair and delved into spiritual matters rarely addressed in public.

"I feel much more at peace than I used to," Clinton said. "And I think that, as awful as what I went through was, humiliating as it was, more to others than to me, even, sometimes when you think you've got something behind you and then it's not behind you, this sort of purging process, if it doesn't destroy you, can bring you to a different place."

He continued: "I'm now in the second year of a process of

trying to totally rebuild my life from a terrible mistake I made.... It's been an amazing encounter, you know, trying to rebuild my family life, which is the most important thing of all. And it took a lot of effort that I've never talked about, and probably never will, because I don't really think it's anybody else's concern."

The president acknowledged that immediately after the disclosure of the affair ``there were a few days when I basically was thinking more about what my adversaries were trying to do than what I should be trying to do."

Clinton drew laughter and applause when he described how, as an 11-year-old, he spoke to his grandmother about civil rights and she replied: ``You know, Billy, I think you could be a preacher if you were just a little better boy."

He spoke of deep sadness that overtook him early in his presidency over the suicide of his deputy counsel and boyhood friend, Vincent Foster, and the loss of 18 American soldiers in Somalia. ``I felt the sickest I have felt since I've been here," he said.

After the interview, he flew to New York to speak at a dinner expected to raise \$500,000 for first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's Senate campaign.

Gore Asks Voters to Help 'Write History'

By Edwin Chen and Matea Gold

Los Angeles Times

ATLANTA Vice President Al Gore and Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman brought their fledgling presidential campaign to Atlanta Thursday, urging voters in this city made up predominantly of blacks to help make history by electing an Orthodox Jew as vice president.

The Democratic team's appearance in this booming southern metropolis had been scheduled days ago, but it took on special significance when a prominent black leader in Dallas this week made anti-Semitic remarks about Lieberman's candidacy after Gore chose him as his Democratic running mate.

The flap did not deter either Gore or Lieberman from highlighting Lieberman's faith, however. In fact, they exalted over it.

At a midday rally in the Olympic Centennial Park attended by several thousand people, including many blacks, Gore urged the partisan crowd to ``break down barriers and write history."

Lieberman hailed Gore's ``courage and character" for having shattered another glass ceiling in American public life.

Appearing at the rally with Gore and Lieberman were four southern Democratic governors, and one of them, host Roy E. Barnes of Georgia, introduced Lieberman as ``just a northern Sam Nunn," referring to the state's now-retired but popular senator.

In an interview after the rally, Georgia's Attorney General Thurbert Baker, who is black, dismissed the remarks of the Dallas NAACP official, calling it ``a singular incident" that belies the degree to which blacks and Jews are ``pulling together, working hard to get this ticket elected."

From the podium, Gore and Lieberman told the audience about how Lieberman as a young man had journeyed to Mississippi to help register blacks to vote his first time in the Deep South.

By working with other civil rights activists, Lieberman said,

he saw ``a glimpse of how good our nation can be."

On Thursday, Gore and Lieberman also cited a litany of pet Democratic causes, such as raising the minimum wage, enacting a targeted middle-class tax cut, improving schools, reforming Medicare and Social Security, providing prescription drug coverage to seniors and passing a patients bill of rights.

They also criticized the proposals of Texas Gov. George W. Bush, particularly one to partially privatize Social Security.

At one point, Gore noted that Bush and his running mate, Dick Cheney, have criticized the Clinton-Gore administration as having ``coasted" on the nation's current prosperity. Then Gore cited a string of positive economic indices and shouted:

``If that's coasting, let's coast for another four years!"

When his turn came, Lieberman added:

``Our opponents like to say if you can believe this that the past eight years have been `squandered.' The American people are not going to be fooled by that. ... If you're one of the people working in one of the 22 million jobs that have been created in this country since 1993, these haven't been squandered years."

Meanwhile, Hadassah Lieberman made a trip to her hometown of Gardner, Mass., Thursday morning, paying an emotional tribute to the friends she said embraced her family when they moved to the small town 50 miles northwest of Boston when she was 3.

Hundreds of jubilant Gardner residents turned out to cheer Lieberman and Tipper Gore, gathering in the hot sun outside Lieberman's old high school with signs and American flags.

Her parents, both Holocaust survivors, were embraced by the small community when they arrived, Lieberman said.

The Gore-Lieberman campaign also said on Thursday that the candidates and their families will take a four-day, 400-mile, Mississippi River boat trip dubbed the ``Setting the Course for the Future" tour.

Key U.S. Lawmakers Plan to Meet With New Taiwanese President
By Jack Nelson and Norman Kempster
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON Key House Republicans and Democrats, defying Clinton administration policy, plan to meet with newly elected President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan when he visits Los Angeles on Sunday on the eve of the Democratic National Convention.

Rep. Sam Gejdenson of Connecticut, ranking Democrat on the House International Relations Committee, is arranging a Sunday evening reception for Chen and is inviting members of both parties who have accused the administration of letting mainland China dictate the terms of its ``one China" policy.

Chen, en route to Central America, will stop overnight in Los Angeles on a transit visa issued by the State Department. The terms of the visa are designed to prevent any official contacts or public appearances by Chen, consistent with long-standing U.S. policy toward Taiwan.

Although it had not been officially notified of the reception, the Chinese Embassy in Washington declared Thursday that the administration is obligated to prevent such an event from taking place because it would be ``one of the activities that (the Taiwanese) use to advance their separatist agenda."

Among those expected to attend are two California members of the International Relations Committee, Democratic Rep. Howard L. Berman, and Republican Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, both of whom have who has written a letters protesting administration efforts to prevent Chen from meeting with members of Congress.

Berman said he thinks that it is a mistake for members of Congress not to hear from different sources, and he intends to "go out of my way" to discuss issues with Chen.

Berman declined to release the letter he wrote to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, however, saying it was private and he wanted to do nothing that might spark a controversy on China policy on the eve of the Democratic convention.

Rohrabacher's letter, written to Stanley Roth, assistant secretary of State for Asian affairs, accused the administration of "bending over backwards to appease the Chinese Communist regime at the expense of our relationship with our democratic ally Taiwan."

He said that a number of Republican and Democratic members of Congress have requested to meet privately with Chen, but that their requests have been denied. "I request that the Department of State end the inappropriate de facto ban and permit elected American officials to conduct informal meetings with President Chen."

The State Department's official position is that it cannot prevent House members from meeting with Chen. But congressional sources said that behind the scenes, the department has pressed House members not to hold the session.

Taiwanese sources said the State Department also is pressuring Chen to stay away from the planned reception.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said members of Congress would not need the department's permission to meet with Chen. But he emphasized that, under terms of the transit visa, the activities of the Taiwanese president in Los Angeles must be private.

Taiwanese leaders have received transit visas in the past without causing a public furor. But in 1995, when Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui made a supposedly "private" visit to attend a reunion at Cornell University, it strained the Washington-Beijing relationship.

Zhang Yuanyuan, a spokesman for the Chinese Embassy, said the Clinton administration is diplomatically obligated to prevent Chen from attending any formal sessions, including a reception with members of Congress.

"We have made the administration responsible for keeping its word, to keep this transit stop what they promised it to be, nonpolitical," he said. "The U.S. government is responsible to keep it that way."

The reception for Chen is slated to be held at the Santa Monica, Calif., home of Bruce Wessel, an attorney and former member of Gejdenson's staff. Wessel, who left the staff position in the early 1980s, had directed Gejdenson's first campaign for Congress.

Chen is scheduled to leave Los Angeles on Monday for an extended trip to Central America and then to Africa to visit several countries that have diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES Long before the Democrats settled on the site of next week's national convention, LAPD Chief Bernard C. Parks had decided whom he wanted to oversee security, if Los Angeles won the right to host the event.

The chief's man had spent seven years running the Los Angeles Police Department's Special Weapons and Tactics unit, an elite group known more for confronting and sometimes shooting armed suspects than for community relations. This is a man who has coordinated about 500 local crises. This is a man known to his peers as a quick and pragmatic decision-maker in other words, the quintessential SWAT officer.

So Los Angeles got the convention, and Cmdr. Tom Lorenzen, 50, got the security job.

Lorenzen seized the challenge, viewing it as do many officers he selected for his team as an opportunity to salvage the LAPD's tarnished reputation. These officers know the world will be watching as they respond to the upcoming, potentially violent, street demonstrations.

While protesters facing police in coming days may be fighting what has been called the Battle of Los Angeles 2000, many officers including Lorenzen and his team will be trying to redeem the recent, calamitous history of the LAPD.

The 1992 riots were their Vietnam. They won't let it happen again.

"I said then that if I'm ever in a position to change what went on there, I would," Lorenzen said. "Well, here I am."

Several of his handpicked sergeants and other officers strongly echo those sentiments.

"I made up my mind in '92 that I would never be part of anything like that again. I'll quit," said Sgt. Greg Baltad, a former Metro Division officer who worked for Lorenzen and now serves as his assistant officer in charge. "We had become so concerned about public opinion that we failed to do what we were required to do. ... ^This is our opportunity."

What these officers, and others in the LAPD's convention planning unit, can't forget are the hours and hours of waiting and watching as rioters destroyed sections of the city, while no orders came from police headquarters for the officers to respond.

It was one of the darkest moments in the department's history, stemming from a jury's acquittal of four LAPD officers on state charges in the Rodney G. King beating. The flash point of the riots was the beating of truck driver Reginald O. Denny, pulled from the cab of his big rig by a mob at Florence and Normandie avenues in South-Central Los Angeles.

Scores of police, armed and many in riot gear, remained stationed nearby but were not immediately called in. Ultimately, the civil unrest cost then-Police Chief Daryl F. Gates his job, left a sorely disillusioned department and tore the community apart.

Since then, however, other problems have plagued the department, which earlier in this century was regarded as the nation's most dishonest urban law enforcement agency but then was dramatically transformed into a model for police around the world.

Most recently, it has been rocked by a new corruption scandal, which was first uncovered in the Rampart Division's anti-gang unit and later spread to other stations. Officers have been found to have covered up unjustified shootings, intimidated witnesses and planted evidence,

among other offenses. The U.S. Department of Justice is threatening to sue the city, alleging that the department has engaged in a "pattern or practice" of civil rights violations.

"We are beat to pieces," Baltad said, describing morale.

"This is as low as we've been since maybe the corruption problems in the '30s. We have young officers who have never been able to feel good about the department."

Add to that another unknown, even to the top LAPD commanders: How will the mostly demoralized rank-and-file officers respond to potential trouble? Of the officers expected to be on the streets during the convention, in fact, most were hired after police beat King. On average, they have less than six years of experience with the LAPD.

Some police commissioners, department officials and other local politicians question whether this young police force will over- or under-react if it is faced with a belligerent crowd and orders are given from the top.

"Do we have a young work force that's relatively inexperienced with crowd control?" Lorenzen said. "Is that somewhat of a concern for us? Yes."

Even Parks acknowledges that he commands "a young department" but says he believes these officers have received solid training to prepare for next week's possible problems.

Parks also thinks the convention, which opens Monday, could be a chance for his department to shine.

"We would not be part of the planning process if we thought it would be a negative," he said. The convention and related events "will highlight the city primarily, but certainly the planning and security will not go unnoticed."

Protest organizers say they too worry about an overreaction by police. They believe that the LAPD will engage in "pre-emptive arrests" before the convention or their protests begin. They fear that police may encourage trouble by showing up in force and in riot gear, almost goading demonstrators over whom protest organizers exercise only tenuous control.

"We've been given every indication from the get-go that our rights are going to be violated and that they are going to engage in fairly repressive tactics," said Lisa Fithian, an organizer with D2KLA and the Direct Action Network.

Although Lorenzen is tight-lipped about most specifics in the plan, he says police will respond in force when necessary. He fully expects mass civil disobedience followed by mass arrests. (The Sheriff's Department, working with the LAPD, will handle the booking of those arrested and will transport them to county jails, if necessary.)

For their part, Lorenzen and his team believe that the department should move in quickly to quell disturbances, unlike the approach during the 1992 riots.

"Are we prepared to increase our response level on a daily basis?" Lorenzen asked in his typical question-and-then-answer-himself fashion. "Yes, up to and including asking for mutual aid (help from outside law enforcement agencies). Are we overprepared? How do you overprepare for a riot? You can't do that."

Nader Lashes Out Against Government Protection of corporations
By Massie Ritsch

Los Angeles Times

Ralph Nader, whose campaign for consumer protections began long before his Green Party presidential bid, accused his Democratic and Republican competition on Thursday of unfairly shielding corporations from consumer lawsuits and damage awards.

Nader promised to vigorously promote consumer rights in his third-party campaign, including a patient's right to sue his health maintenance organization.

In a position paper to be issued Friday morning, Nader faulted nearly every elected official and legislature in the United States for limiting the liability of negligent corporations, and he faulted several major industries for taking advantage of such protections.

Nader dismissed the tort reform efforts that Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush has promoted as Texas' governor, calling it tort "deform."

"Bush is the worst of the worst on this," Nader said. "You couldn't have anybody worse. He brags about it, he boasts about it, it's one of his Top 10 issues."

Bush spokesman Ray Sullivan defended Bush's record, which has included legislation to cap punitive damages awarded in lawsuits. Bush has said that lawyers, not victims, profit unduly from such suits.

"The governor realizes that ultimately consumers are the ones that pay for frivolous and junk lawsuits in the form of higher prices for goods and services and higher insurance premiums," Sullivan said. "His view is that the system must have more balance and fairness built into it, and that balance and fairness is for plaintiffs, for consumers and for employers alike."

According to Nader, who dismissed the costs to consumers of liability suits as minimal, the Democrats have been no more supportive of consumers. He singled out President Clinton for signing legislation limiting lawsuits and Vice President Al Gore's running mate, Connecticut Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman, for his "passion to limit the liability of predatory corporations toward their injured or defrauded victims."

"He's got an obsession to immunize corporations," Nader said.

Lieberman spokesman Dan Gerstein countered that the senator has "a consumer protection and environmental protection record that is second to none." He credited Lieberman for a range of accomplishments, from controlling cable-television rates to holding oil companies liable for spills.

"Ralph Nader's picking on one of his friends rather than doing what he does so well: challenging the polluters and corporations who take advantage of consumers," Gerstein said.

McCain Teams Up With Bush for California Campaign Swing
By Bonnie Harris
Los Angeles Times

SALINAS, Calif. Brushing off their bitter Republican primary contest as "family squabbles," GOP presidential nominee George W. Bush and Sen. John McCain of Arizona hit the campaign trail together Thursday, gunning for the support of swing voters in central California.

McCain, who delivered a ringing endorsement of Bush at last week's Republican National Convention, followed up during a joint appearance at the John Steinbeck Museum in Salinas by praising the way the

Texas governor has been running his presidential campaign.

McCain said Bush's messages of inclusion and diversity have "resonated well with the American people," and pledged to do "whatever I can" to help the GOP ticket win the White House.

Calling Bush "by far the best candidate" for president, McCain said, "This good and decent man ... is going to lead this nation, and I'm proud to be part of this crusade."

Although political analysts give presumed Democratic presidential nominee Al Gore a significant edge in California, Bush has insisted he will continue to campaign aggressively in the state. McCain said Thursday that "California is clearly in play," and the pair spent the day campaigning by train, with other stops in Lodi, Stockton and Sacramento.

A strong showing in central California is crucial to any hopes Bush has of carrying the state.

In most elections, Los Angeles County and the San Francisco Bay area vote heavily Democratic, while Republicans count on large margins in Orange and San Diego counties and the rural stretches of Northern California.

That leaves California's broad midsection, the area stretching from Bakersfield to Sacramento, as the state's most hard-fought political territory.

McCain, who ran strongly among swing voters in several GOP primaries, said his aim in campaigning with Bush is to "ask independents to look at him. I hope I have the credibility with them so they will examine his campaign."

Bush said Thursday, "It's awfully helpful to have John McCain by my side."

As he has in the past, Bush said he is "a better candidate as a result of John entering the race."

The two men played down the heated disagreements they had during the primary season, including their disputes over McCain's call for sweeping campaign finance reform and Bush's push for large tax cuts.

"Primaries are family squabbles," Bush said. "John and I were friends before, and we're friends now."

The pair are to continue campaigning together Friday and Saturday in Oregon and Washington, states known for the independence of their voters.

McCain said he "felt better" about Bush's position on both issues, and dismissed any past arguments as a byproduct of the primary process.

McCain, before boarding the train to Lodi, acknowledged he and Bush still have disagreements on the size of Bush's proposed tax cuts and the specifics of campaign finance reform. But he said: "To me, that's healthy."

Dick Cheney, Bush's newly anointed running mate, campaigned Thursday at an elementary school outside of Columbus, Ohio, continuing a three-day swing through battleground states in the Midwest. On Friday Cheney and his wife, Lynne, plan to campaign in Michigan and Illinois.

At the school, Cheney promoted Bush's proposal for government-funded vouchers, which would enable parents to help pay private-school tuition for their children. "I happen to be a big believer

in competition," he said.

Cheney's visit prompted an attack by the Gore campaign, which criticized him for voting against the Head Start preschool program when he was a Wyoming congressman in the 1980s.

Cheney brushed off the attack by citing favorable comments that Gore, then a U.S. senator from Tennessee, and other Democrats had made about him when he was later named defense secretary.

"I think they have suddenly found reasons to criticize me obviously because Governor Bush selected me to be his running mate," Cheney said.

Study Points to Declining Numbers of Children in Poverty

By Melissa Healy

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON The number of children living in poverty in the United States has declined significantly since 1993, partly reversing a longer-term increase that began two decades ago, according to a Columbia University study to be released Friday.

The percentage of children living in poverty in the United States fell 17 percent from 1993 through 1998, the study says, and the improvement was particularly pronounced in traditionally poor southern states such as Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas and South Carolina. Even with that decline, however, 18.7 percent of American children under the age of 18 almost one in five lived in families in 1998 with incomes below the federal poverty line \$16,660 for a family of four.

Those almost 13.3 million children represented a decline from the 1993 level of 15.6 million children, or 22.5 percent, who were living in poverty. But the 1998 figure remains above the 1979 rate of 16.2 percent, when 10.3 million children were poor.

Researchers say that the declining poverty rate appears to reflect two fundamental trends of recent years: the booming economy and welfare reform initiatives.

On a related issue, a study released Thursday by the Children's Defense Fund found that nearly 12 million children lack health insurance coverage, despite the fact that 7 million of them are eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program in the states. California and Texas each had more than 1 million uninsured children and one in three Latino children is without health coverage, the group found.

Such reports come in a year when politicians of both major parties have decried the level of child poverty and proposed widely divergent ways to remedy the problem. On Thursday, Vice President Al Gore said that Democrats deserve credit for welfare reform policies that "moved millions from welfare to work" and for an economic climate that provided jobs for those moving off the rolls. Gore has said that he would support a proposed \$1 hike in the minimum hourly wage and an expansion of the earned income tax credit, which raises many working-poor families above the poverty line.

Gore also has called on state governments to offer preschool programs to all children, an initiative that likely would have a strong impact on children of the working poor.

Vowing to "leave no child behind," Republican presidential nominee George W. Bush has proposed an \$8 billion package of tax incentives and government grants to expand the work of faith-based

charities in providing job-training, mentoring and other services to the poor. And he has unveiled a broad tax cut that he says would reach out to ``working families on the outskirts of poverty."

On Thursday, Gore promised a focus on ``the next generation of welfare reform, to encourage responsible fatherhood." Such initiatives, supported by both Republican and Democratic candidates, could affect poor children by driving down the number of single parents and increasing the role of wage-earning fathers in their childrens' lives.

The Columbia study suggests that, by targeting working families for government initiatives, either candidate likely would reach many children living in poverty. In recent years, as welfare reform and a thriving economy have drawn more parents into the workforce, kids with working parents have become a larger share of the nation's poor children. Roughly two-thirds of the nation's poor children now have at least one employed parent, according to Palmer, a rate which has been climbing since 1993.

Those who track welfare reform acknowledge that the effects of the nation's sweeping social experiment on child poverty have been mixed. Three states Illinois, New Jersey and Tennessee have cut deeply into their welfare rolls and seen significant declines in child poverty at the same time.

But far more states, according to the Columbia study North Dakota, Idaho, Georgia, Montana, Oregon, Alabama, Colorado, North Carolina and Arizona have cut their welfare rolls by more than half but had no improvement in their child poverty rates. This suggests that, while moving off of public assistance, many parents do not find jobs that can lift their families out of poverty.

Fund-Raiser Challenges Court's Definition of 'False'

By Robert L. Jackson

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON Attorneys for a former Democratic fund-raiser who was convicted last March in a campaign-finance scheme challenged the government's case against her Thursday and asked a judge to reverse her conviction.

Lawyers told U.S. District Judge Paul L. Friedman that the defendant, Los Angeles immigration consultant Maria Hsia, who raised funds for Vice President Al Gore, was unfairly convicted of causing false reports to be filed with the Federal Election Commission.

Citing a legal technicality, they argued that reports containing accurate names and addresses of donors cannot be considered false, even if the names do not represent the true sources of campaign funds.

Friedman took their arguments and the government's rebuttal under advisement, saying that he would hand down a written ruling soon.

Nancy Luque, Hsia's defense attorney, told Friedman that FEC donor reports filed by political committees ``are not a statement of anything" under federal criminal law. The reports that figured in Hsia's conviction never stated ``that these people were the true sources of various contributions," Luque declared.

To prove in a criminal trial that a statement is false, ``you have to have an actual statement that says something on its face," she argued. But a list of campaign donors ``is not an actual statement,"

Luque said.

Hsia's conviction on five felony counts stemmed from her role in a 1996 fund-raising event at a Buddhist temple in Los Angeles that Gore attended. The luncheon at the Hsi Lai Temple raised more than \$100,000 for the re-election campaign of President Clinton and Gore.

The money was later returned by the Democratic National Committee, which suspected the funds had come from foreign sources. Such donations are illegal in U.S. political campaigns. In sworn statements, both Clinton and Gore have said they were unaware at the time that vast sums had originated from abroad.

At Hsia's trial, former chief Democratic fund-raiser John Huang testified that Hsia had given him donor checks totaling \$55,000 in a sealed envelope a day after the temple luncheon. Defense lawyers told jurors there was no evidence that Hsia knew the checks were from "straw parties" and Huang could not dispute that.

At Thursday's court hearing, Luque said reports filed by the Democrats, based on the checks, were not false reports because "they do not indicate the true identity of donors. They only say from whom they got the checks."

"Did the (Democratic) treasurer have an obligation to provide the actual sources?" a skeptical Judge Friedman asked the defense lawyer.

Luque replied that jurors "could not have assumed such a duty" in the absence of any evidence at trial. "If the duty existed, and (the treasurers) did not perceive their duty or act on it, then they are at fault and Maria Hsia is not," she said.

Justice Department prosecutor John McEnany strongly disagreed, saying that the FEC requires lists of "true contributors" because its enforcement staff often attempts to verify the legality of political contributions.

Urging Friedman to reject defense "theories," McEnany said that jurors at Hsia's trial arrived at a "reasonable" verdict.

Hsia, 48, a naturalized U.S. citizen born in Taiwan, appeared at Thursday's hearing but was not called to testify. If her conviction stands, she could face a maximum term of 25 years in prison and more than \$1 million in fines. However, prison sentences for convictions in FEC-related cases have been rare.

Networks Irked Over GOP Demand to Avoid Giving Dems More Air Time
By Jeff Leeds and Elizabeth Jensen
Los Angeles Times

Network television executives chafed Thursday over a letter from a top Republican that demanded they air "not a minute more" of next week's Democratic Party convention than they did of the GOP's gathering in Philadelphia.

Republican Party chairman Jim Nicholson sent a letter to the network news chiefs Wednesday asking to be informed ahead of time if they planned to provide "unequal coverage" by airing President Clinton's speech Monday after skipping all or part of Laura Bush's opening night address in Philadelphia.

The networks already have come under fire from some of their own reporters for devoting less air time than ever before to the two major parties' nominating events. But they dismissed any suggestion they are

bound to devote exact amounts of live air time to each, although they strive to stay balanced.

"It's their business to put pressure on and ours to resist," said Paul Friedman, executive vice president of ABC News.

Echoing the sentiments of the others, CBS News chief Andrew Heyward said the amount of air time allotted to the Democratic event would be decided based on news value.

"Maybe we'll devote more time to the Democrats, maybe less, depending on our news judgment," Heyward said in a letter to Nicholson Thursday. "We use a stopwatch as the logo of '60 Minutes,' but not to make journalistic decisions."

The networks' coverage in Philadelphia varied widely. ABC carried the majority of an opening night speech by Laura Bush wife of GOP nominee George W. Bush for example, but cut off retired Army Gen. Colin Powell when he ran past 11 p.m. EDT. CBS skipped Laura Bush and part of Powell. NBC's broadcast network skipped the entire opening night lineup.

Clinton's Monday speech has already caused some angst among network executives. NBC first announced it would have no broadcast coverage of the GOP's Monday and Tuesday events (but would cover them on its cable channel). In the end, it devoted a half-hour to Ariz. Sen. John McCain's Tuesday speech so it could cover Clinton in Los Angeles.

ABC, which was only going to air brief Monday night reports, got the National Football League to move the start time of two pre-season games so it could carry Clinton, as well as the GOP's Monday speeches, which might not have made it on air without the imperative to carry the president's address. And CBS, which drew harsh reviews for jerking back and forth between convention and nonconvention coverage, said they will stick to convention-related stories in their hourlong broadcasts each night in Los Angeles but will carry Clinton's speech.

Wary of being accused of unfairness, some executives are also quick to point the finger at their rivals. In his letter to the GOP, for example, CBS chief Heyward asked, "I'm curious whether you followed my suggestion to call NBC about its decision to air the president's speech on Monday after devoting zero minutes on its broadcast network to live coverage of your opening night. How does that fit with your 'not a minute more' standard?"

NBC said it is expecting to cover Clinton in the half-hour it has been informed he will speak, but declined to speculate what it will do if he talks shorter or longer.

At ABC, Friedman said the network went to great effort every night in Philadelphia to summarize the day's events, and that cut into its Laura Bush coverage, but "it was our judgment our audience deserved to see what the rest of the day was like and then we did the best as we could with the rest of the speeches. We'll do the same with the Democrats based on what is happening at any time."

Whether or not Clinton's speech gets cut off like Powell's "depends on what he's saying," Friedman said. "We'll make decisions based on what else is happening."

Reform Party: Stick a Fork in It?

By Cathleen Decker

Los Angeles Times

LONG BEACH, Calif. The police and the lawyers showed up before

most of the delegates at this week's Reform Party convention. Maybe someone should have called in the coroner as well.

The once-mighty alternative to the two major parties, which in its first incarnation in 1992 commanded the votes of nearly one in five Americans, appears to be in its death throes.

Not surprisingly, the heirs are angrily wrestling over the lucrative estate.

While still technically alive, the Reform movement is suffering the fate of every third party established in the United States since the Republican Party was founded in 1860. Political analysts say the surprise, to some extent, is that Reform even made it to its third presidential election.

"What I think we see is the traditional fate of American third parties," said Robert Loevy, a Colorado College political scientist. "It's slowly running out of gas."

Whether it manages to revive depends on several unknowns. One is whether the party's performance in November is substantial enough to qualify it for federal funds in the 2004 election. Another is the disposition of \$12.5 million in federal money awarded after the 1996 election that is currently being claimed by the party's two factions.

Even if it comes back to life, it will resemble only in name the organization Ross Perot birthed in 1992 with his flush bank accounts and his fresh and blunt-speaking candidacy.

Former Republican Pat Buchanan, who is poised to collect one Reform Party nomination this weekend, insisted that he and his supporters are building "a new Reform Party." (Perennial Natural Law Party candidate John Hagelin will win a competing nomination from the anti-Buchanan faction).

Founding leader Russ Verney, talking to reporters Thursday, essentially threw in the towel on the original party's national aspirations. Reformers, he said, will have to rebuild at the state level.

"This is simply one more vivid chapter in our brief but turbulent life," he said, a bit ruefully.

Vivid, this week, has meant police patrolling the party's national committee meeting on Tuesday, guarding the party leaders not from protesters but from each other. That day ended with one faction claiming its loyalty to Perot being locked out, screaming, by the pro-Buchanan forces. Lawyers, meanwhile, filed challenges aimed at controlling the \$12.5 million.

While running competing conventions, the sparring camps have staged running shouting matches through the week. Thursday passed relatively calmly, its contentious highlight being the Hagelin forces' march on the Buchananites. That ended in a peaceable stand-off at the convention center, the Buchanan forces sunning themselves outside on the orders of their leaders, and the anti-Buchanan forces inside singing a highly abridged version of "We Shall Overcome."

While perhaps more colorful than the demise of most third parties, the reform party decline was predictable. Third parties are like hurricanes, formed in a quirky collision of disparate events and, usually, dying off quickly.

"The fate of all third parties, except the Republicans in 1860, is one where the most notable figure in the party disappears, and factions emerge over the remains of the coalition, and those fragments do battle," said Steve Rosenstone, a liberal arts dean at the University of

Minnesota who has studied reform movements.

The Reform movement was born in the 1992 presidential campaign, when many voters were troubled by a slumping economy and disillusioned by both Democratic candidate Bill Clinton and Republican incumbent George Bush.

Perot shot to the lead of the race in the spring and then, suddenly, left the race during the Democratic convention in July. He re-entered the contest in the fall and ultimately won almost 20 percent of the national vote.

After 1992, Perot took the structure of his United We Stand organization and turned it into the Reform Party. But he won only 8 percent of the popular vote in 1996, when Clinton trounced Republican Bob Dole.

Perot declined to run this year. And while he might have been able to smooth over some of the recent disputes, political observers believe that even he would have had a tough time in 2000.

Much of the party's early success stemmed from Perot's fresh face, his compelling personal story, and his tough talk about lifting the hook of America and fixing what ailed her engine.

A study of Reform supporters conducted by government professor Ron Rapoport of Virginia's College of William and Mary found that more than 70% of those who backed Perot in 1992 left the movement by 1996.

In California, Reform party votes dwindled to less than 35,000 in the 1998 governor's race, less than 0.5 percent of the state electorate.

"The Reform Party was simply built around the personality of Ross Perot," said GOP consultant Sal Russo, who briefly worked for the Texas billionaire during the 1992 campaign. "There wasn't a unifying issue other than a frustration with Washington and when you take the personality of Ross Perot out of it, there's just nothing left."

The major issues embraced by the original reformers also evaporated or were swallowed by the two major parties. That included the budget deficit, which both Republicans and Clinton began to address shortly after the 1992 election.

The surging economy also eased some of the resentments that Perot had played on when he assailed the major parties. As other issues like campaign reform were taken up by members of the two major parties, it cut further into the Reform Party's natural base of support.

"Good economic times are bad times for third parties," said Rapoport. "The drop in Perot's support had a lot to do with that. And it also had to do with him not being as fresh. In 2000, John McCain was the real Ross Perot."

The Reform Party's fate has been complicated by that which divides many families torn by death money. Because Perot won more than 5 percent of the popular vote in 1992, the party was eligible for \$12.5 million in federal election funds this year. Buchanan, for one, indicated that he was lured at least in part by the huge sum at stake.

Asked the state of his campaign if his opponents manage to block Buchanan's receipt of the federal money, the perennial candidate flashed a wicked smile and cracked, "It'll be on short rations, I'll tell you that!"

For Buchanan, the money is necessary if he hopes to rise in the polls, where he currently languishes at 1 percent. (His counterpart on the left, Green Party candidate Ralph Nader, is pushing double digits in some

areas).

Buchanan must win over a substantial chunk of voters if he hopes to be invited onto the debate stage this fall. And he must somehow appeal to conservatives who have so far been strongly loyal to GOP nominee George W. Bush. Short of those accomplishments, he admitted Thursday, his chances of success are "very problematic."

Two scenarios exist after November. If Buchanan and his Reform party backers win less than 5 percent of the popular vote, they will not receive federal financing for the 2004 election. That would make its future success dependent on a rich benefactor/candidate like Perot or a massive grassroots fund-raising operation.

If he does better than 5 percent, Buchanan would have more federal money to remake the party in his own image, potentially injecting the social issues that the original Reformers shied from. It would be a first: Never before has a third party been taken over by someone whose views were so different from the originators.

"Clearly, my future will be contingent upon what happens in this election," Buchanan said Thursday. At the same time, he issued a strongly-worded defense of his conservative social views, which was sure to rile the secular Perot loyalists.

As for those loyalists, some said they were hoping that a fall defeat particularly if it falls below the money-making 5 percent threshold would purge the newcomers.

"In my opinion, getting 5 percent of the vote is the worst thing that happened to the Reform Party," said Verney, the founding who welcomed Buchanan to the party but apparently never expected him to take it over.

Buchanan Airs Views As Reform Convention Splinters

By Megan Garvey

Los Angeles Times

LONG BEACH, Calif. Patrick J. Buchanan issued a strident statement of personal belief Thursday, railing against "rampant homosexuality" and America's moral decline and saying that "cultural decadence (goes) hand in hand with the death of republics and the end of empires."

The statement was released hours before Buchanan was to address Reform Party delegates at one of two dueling national conventions Thursday in Long Beach. The other gathering supports John Hagelin of the Natural Law Party, his rival for the Reform nomination.

"It is separate from and not to be included in the (Reform Party) platform or in the preamble and it is not binding on anyone but me," he said, later amending his remarks to say that it would also be binding on his vice presidential running mate, whom he plans to announce Friday.

His statement, which was distributed but not read, made clear Buchanan's positions on many of the divisive social issues that the Reform Party has always chosen to ignore.

Among the pledges: an anti-abortion litmus test for Supreme Court appointments, no taxpayer-funded abortions or fetal tissue research, no women in combat, no gays in the military and no recognition of gay marriage.

Buchanan, however, also stated a commitment to condemn and

punish anyone who commits violence against an individual based on sexual orientation.

"Hatred of, or derision for, men and women for an orientation they did not choose is wrong," he wrote.

Buchanan's conservative social beliefs and the hard-ball politics that he and his followers practiced during the Reform Party's primaries are at the root of the bitter split of the party gathered here to select a presidential nominee.

The party founded on principles of fiscal conservatism by Texas billionaire Ross Perot once had seemed poised to become a third party force in national politics. However, its best-known elected official Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura bolted the party in February, calling it "dysfunctional" and Buchanan an extremist.

Now, after days of rancor and shoving and shouted insults, what was to have been the first day of a single four-day event broke into two camps, each with the stated purpose of nominating the "real" Reform Party candidate. With that nomination comes \$12.5 million in federal matching funds money that now seems almost certain to be fought over in the courts.

On Thursday, the faction backing Hagelin and made up largely of loyalists to Perot filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission to bar Buchanan from receiving the campaign money. They charged that Buchanan committed election fraud in the mail-in primary, an allegation Buchanan hotly contests.

"We have meticulously followed the rules here," Buchanan said Thursday. "We have won this fair and square."

By the count of Bay Buchanan the candidate's sister and campaign manager he has 410 of the nearly 600 delegates. And Gerry Moan, the Reform Party chairman coming into the convention, has backed Buchanan. Moan's name is on the contract for the hall and he controls the checkbook for the convention. Buchanan also appears to have the support of far more people in attendance, with his "brigades" showing up in force and making the numbers of Hagelin shirt-wearers seem paltry.

A flow chart is needed to keep track of events leading up to the convention or conventions as it has turned out. So far, two men claim to be the party chairman, two executive committees say they are in charge and two candidates say they will file claims for the millions in federal funds.

Hagelin planned to address the anti-Buchanan faction Thursday night at a hastily pulled together parallel convention a few blocks from the main exhibit hall at the Long Beach Convention Center. Hagelin is a little-known physicist and Natural Law Party leader, whose name many Reformers, both pro and con, don't know how to pronounce. (It's HAY-glin).

Late in the afternoon, it was unclear if Hagelin also would address the other convention.

Earlier in the day, at a news conference and rally of the anyone-but-Buchanan forces, Hagelin condemned the well-known social conservative, pundit and former Nixon speech writer.

"We're going to show the American people what Reform is about and it's about more than keeping chopsticks out of America," he said, referring to a common Buchanan line on the stump. "This is no home for exclusion, for bigotry or intolerance."

The two conventions kicked off after negotiations broke down Wednesday night. Russ Verney, a party founder who has emerged as one of

the most vocal Buchanan critics, said that at one point the factions were close to reaching common ground but talks fell apart when Buchanan negotiators brought in an attorney.

The failure to put back together the fractured party paved the way for a possible confrontation Thursday morning. The anti-Buchanan factions had vowed to take the hall paid for by the \$2.5 million in federal money intended to help fund the Reform Convention. But when they arrived after a short march from a nearby hotel, Buchanan ``brigaders" had been shooed from the lobby.

``Go enjoy the sunshine," Moan shouted, waving people outdoors. ``Buchanan people outside," urged other supporters wearing the candidate's campaign T-shirts.

Hagelin supporters were peacefully turned away by security officials who were fortified by Long Beach police officers.

Fund-Raiser Costs Rep. Sanchez a Convention Spot

By Jean O. Pasco and Janet Hook

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES Rep. Loretta Sanchez, D-Calif., has been dropped from the speakers' list at next week's Democratic National Convention and may face further reprisals from party officials after she rebuffed their requests Thursday that she not hold a fund-raiser at the Playboy Mansion.

Jenny Backus, spokeswoman for the Democratic National Committee, announced that Sanchez one of the group's co-chairs would be removed as a speaker for her refusal to move the Tuesday night fund-raiser from the mansion.

The event, benefiting a political action committee Sanchez heads that seeks to promote voter registration among Latinos, coincides with the second night of the Democratic convention in downtown Los Angeles.

Officials with the DNC and Al Gore's presidential campaign have been trying to pressure Sanchez into changing the fund-raiser's location, expressing concern that holding it at the Playboy Mansion is inappropriate for a party committed to gender equality and women's rights.

The pressure reached a new level Thursday when DNC Chairman Joe Andrew sent Sanchez an unusually blunt letter. Andrew reminded Sanchez that he had told her before that ``Democratic state chairs, Latinos, leaders of women's groups and just plain Democrats have called and told me that this event was neither appropriate nor reflective of our party's values. I am hereby informing you that if you go forward with it, I will take actions in my capacity as party chair and president of the Democratic National Convention Committee."

Sanchez responded by making a brief announcement outside her Garden Grove congressional office. She said the fund-raiser would go on, and predicted that ``it will be a great success."

She declined to answer questions or react to the party's threats.

Backus, speaking on behalf of Andrew, said after Sanchez's statement: ``We have done everything we can, but now we have no alternative but to take action."

Convention details are still being hashed out and precisely when Sanchez would have spoken had not yet been determined.

A spokesman for the Gore campaign said the vice president was

``in complete support of chairman Andrew's decision."

Mark Fabiani said Gore, who will officially become the Democratic presidential nominee Wednesday, ``has been clear from day one" that he opposed holding the fund-raiser at the Playboy Mansion. Fabiani added: ``We're sorry this has not been resolved. We bent over backwards to find other locations and we've just reached the end of line."

Other Democratic officials, requesting anonymity, suggested that Sanchez ultimately could be stripped of her largely honorary post of DNC co-chair and that the party might withhold support for her re-election bid.

Sanchez was a surprise choice for the position last year an honor growing out of her stunning upset of longtime Republican Rep. Robert K. Dornan in 1996. Sanchez has emerged as a prominent figure in the party, becoming a key spokeswoman as Democrats have courted the Latino vote.

Backus declined to comment as to whether Sanchez is at risk of losing her co-chair job. Backus said the DNC will meet Aug. 18, the day after the convention ends, but declined to say whether Sanchez's status would be discussed.

Sanchez acknowledged Thursday that Gore's staff encouraged her to change the location of the fund-raiser.

Two weeks ago, Gore publicly condemned the selection of the mansion for the event, which sold out in two days.

Aides to Sanchez said more than 600 people will attend at a cost of about \$5,000 each to benefit Hispanic Unity USA.

Sanchez said she consulted with the PAC's board of directors regarding the flap. ``They strongly recommended that the event proceed as planned," she said.

Despite the current controversy, Gore's campaign has benefited from Playboy's largess as well. The magazine's founder, Hugh Hefner donated \$1,000 to Gore's campaign in March last year, and Hefner's daughter, Christie, gave \$500 to Gore in April this year, Federal Election Commission records show.

The mansion, located in Los Angeles' Holmby Hills neighborhood, frequently has been the site of fund-raisers, according to Playboy officials. The officials said that groups holding such events there have included the National Women's Political Caucus, the Hollywood Women's Political Committee and Rock the Vote, which seeks to register young voters.

A Playboy spokeswoman said the party's reaction is ``very right-wing" and unexpected.

``Certainly we're very surprised with this coming from a party with which we're very similar on stands and on behalf of issues, including the 1st Amendment" said Cindy Rakowitz, Playboy's vice president of promotions.

Pressure on Sanchez to move the event intensified in recent days as Gore chose Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman of Connecticut as his running mate. Lieberman is an Orthodox Jew who has been a leading critic of excessive portrayals of sex and violence in U.S. culture.

Andrew, in his letter to Sanchez, said that ``as the father of young children" he was dismayed at the message that would be sent by the event's location.

By Walter Hamilton
Los Angeles Times

Financial regulators voted Thursday to end one of Wall Street's most controversial practices by requiring companies to divulge sensitive information to small investors at the same time it is released to professionals.

The Securities and Exchange Commission voted 3-1 to approve the rule change, which proponents say will put individual investors on a more level playing field with institutional investors and with powerful brokerage analysts.

In a sign of the intense emotion that the "selective disclosure" issue has aroused in amateur investors, the SEC received a record 6,000 letters and e-mails on the proposal most from individuals pleading for its passage.

The rule is aimed at preventing companies from favoring analysts and big investors with news that is likely to affect a stock's price, allowing them to react well before that information is shared with the general public.

There have been several highly publicized incidents in recent years in which company executives appeared to leak key information often bad news to select analysts, who immediately passed it to favorite clients. The stocks ended up falling sharply in price before individuals had heard the news.

"If investors see a stock's price change dramatically but are given access to critical, market-moving information only much later we risk nothing less than the public's faith and confidence in America's capital markets," said SEC Chairman Arthur Levitt, who lobbied hard for the rule change.

Levitt and the consumer groups that supported the proposal had to overcome vehement opposition from securities firms and business groups, which contended that it would ultimately hurt investors by making companies less likely to release information at all.

Opponents claimed that company executives, fearing they would violate a law that could be subjectively applied, would simply provide less information to everyone.

Individuals would be harmed, critics said, because mutual funds and other firms managing the public's money would be less knowledgeable about the stocks they're buying with that money.

"We have people's money at stake and we have a duty to take care of that money," said Stuart Kaswell, general counsel of the Securities Industry Association, Wall Street's main trade group. "We're going to be prevented from meeting one-on-one with a CEO and asking detailed, sophisticated, probing questions and getting" critical insight.

The rule, which will take effect in about 60 days, requires companies to inform the public, via news releases or SEC filings, of news at the same time it is disclosed to Wall Street pros. If an executive were to inadvertently reveal key information, such as by answering a question at an analysts' meeting, the company must publicly reveal that news within 24 hours.

The 24-hour provision has raised concern that some companies would use it as a loophole to continue leaking information to favored investors. But the SEC said it would look closely at any company that used the provision.

"If you get away with selective disclosure on this basis, you

get away with it only once. There's only so much homework that can be eaten by the dog," SEC General Counsel David Becker said. "Your credibility quickly wanes."

In addition to boosting public access to company information, the SEC said it also was targeting the common corporate practice of withholding key information from Wall Street analysts who criticize management or downgrade its stock. Some companies have barred certain analysts from industrywide conference calls in a thinly disguised effort to staunch their criticism.

The rule passed only after lengthy negotiations, during which some elements were trimmed back or eliminated.

For example, the proposal was revised so that it can't be used as the basis of a lawsuit even if a company has clearly violated the rule. Companies had worried that the rule would spur litigation by giving investors a powerful new legal weapon.

The SEC, however, reserved the right to pursue either "administrative" penalties or lawsuits against companies accused of violating the rule.

Also, the rule was modified to apply only to a company's senior managers, thus allowing stock analysts to continue the nitty-gritty research of interviewing lower-level employees and outside firms such as suppliers and customers.

Finally, the SEC exempted from the rule all corporate contact with journalists. The news media objected to their inclusion in an earlier SEC plan on the grounds that it infringed on First Amendment rights and limited the flow of information to the public.

Chavez Holiday Is OK'd for California

By Miguel Bustillo

Los Angeles Times

SACRAMENTO, Calif. California is set to become the first state in the nation to honor Cesar Chavez, the legendary former leader of the United Farm Workers union, with an official paid holiday.

California lawmakers Thursday approved a measure to make March 31, Chavez's birthday, a paid holiday for about 210,000 state workers the first such state holiday in America to honor a Latino or an organized labor figure. Gov. Gray Davis said he soon will sign it into law.

Public schools and courts are not included in the holiday. But most schoolchildren are expected to spend the morning learning about Chavez's life as a Mexican American farm worker turned civil rights figure through a special voluntary, state-funded curriculum.

Students at participating schools then will leave their classrooms and spend the afternoon performing some age-appropriate form of community service with the California Conservation Corps or the national AmeriCorps program.

UFW President Arturo Rodriguez said Chavez, who died in 1993 at age 66, would humbly have considered the holiday a tribute not only to himself, but to all "campesinos" in their struggle for humane wages and working conditions.

"We wanted to be able to provide young people knowledge about Cesar, who he was, what his philosophy was, but also a way to practice it," said Rodriguez, who pushed for the educational component as a way to keep the Chavez legacy alive. "They will not only learn how someone else

became involved in the issues he cared about, but will become involved in community service themselves."

California, along with Texas and Arizona, already had designated a day in honor of Chavez. California's new measure makes Chavez's birthday a bona fide holiday with mandatory pay.

Residents Seeking to Drive Out Pedophiles Suspend Protests

By Kirsten Studlien

Los Angeles Times

LONDON Seven days of violent protests aimed at driving suspected pedophiles from the seaside town of Portsmouth settled into a shaky truce Thursday night between angry citizens and the City Council after police said a fifth innocent family was forced to leave the Paulsgrove neighborhood.

"Pedophiles: don't house them, hang them," read placards carried by men, women and small children living in Paulsgrove, during daily protests involving up to 250 people.

Portsmouth, 70 miles southwest of London, became the focal point of a campaign against pedophiles recently launched by the weekly News of the World, which published the names, photographs and addresses of child sex offenders, some of whom live in Paulsgrove. The tabloid began its "name and shame" campaign after the July abduction and slaying of 8-year-old Sarah Payne in a neighboring county.

For the past week, Paulsgrove residents have rioted, overturning cars, hurling bricks and stones, injuring policemen and creating an atmosphere of mob rule.

Because the residents' list of 20 suspects was compiled largely from rumor and word of mouth, some innocent families have been forced to leave as rioters mistakenly targeted their homes with verbal abuse and violence.

The protests were suspended Thursday after a long meeting between the demonstrators and the Portsmouth City Council.

"Whilst we have had repeated requests to move child offenders out of Paulsgrove, we cannot do that. If they don't want to move, we cannot force them to do so," said Roger Ching, acting chief executive of the Portsmouth City Council. "But we've made it clear to the residents of Paulsgrove that we are prepared to give them all the support possible."

Peter Gammon, spokesman for the Association of Police Superintendents, said the residents' reaction since the beginning of the "name and shame" campaign was hysterical and has served only to heighten community fear.

"The police have got to try to reassure the residents of Paulsgrove," Gammon said. "There is an awful lot going on in the background that residents are not aware of. We do monitor pedophiles' activity, and they know we are watching them."

Protest spokesman Barry Pettinger, 51, said, "We still want all pedophiles removed from Paulsgrove and not relocated anywhere else in Portsmouth, or anywhere near children."

Residents made it clear that they would return to the streets if they saw no progress on their demands.

Member of Parliament for Portsmouth Syd Rapson, who lives in Paulsgrove, does not dismiss the demonstrations as hysteria but wants the

protests to stop.

“The marches have been very threatening in nature and have caused mental torture, not only to the people being targeted, but also to those living nearby,” Rapson said. “They have put fear into people and risk driving pedophiles underground,” where they cannot be monitored.

Residents are protesting not only to oust sex offenders from their neighborhood, but also in support of a proposed “Sarah Law,” similar to “Megan’s Law” in the United States, which mandates that names of known sex offenders be released to parents.

Home Office Minister Barbara Roche called for an end to the violence, saying that the Home Office will review the police register of pedophiles and the laws monitoring pedophiles.

“But we need to be able to do that in a period of calm and quiet discussion. I am afraid if we have demonstrations of this kind, all that it does is to drive these people underground so the police and other agencies lose track of them.”

Even the parents of Sarah Payne have appealed to protesters to stop the violence.

“Give us a chance. If in six months’ time we haven’t changed the law we will peacefully protest alongside you,” said Sara Payne, Sarah’s mother. “Stop the violence. We won’t change the law if this goes on. Don’t riot you are giving people a chance to be against you.”

Former Governor Is Sentenced to Suspended Term on Sex Charge

By Valerie Reitman

Los Angeles Times

TOKYO Former Osaka Gov. Isamu “Knock” Yokoyama was sentenced Thursday to a suspended 18-month prison term for groping a 21-year-old campaign worker, a penalty whose leniency drew scorn from many people in a nation where sexual assault and harassment laws are notoriously weak.

The comedian-turned-politician had branded the worker a liar when she charged him with sexual assault, but he later changed his tune and admitted his guilt:

“I stroked her thighs, but because she did not resist, I escalated it,” Yokoyama told the court.

The upshot of the sentence, suspended for three years, is that Yokoyama, 68, will be on probation and won’t have to serve time as long as he remains on good behavior.

Even rapists still can easily get away without prison sentences on a first conviction, far less punishment than robbers routinely receive in Japan. (Taking property with “strong force” usually gets a five-year sentence, which is rarely suspended, whereas a rape conviction draws two years, with a good chance of suspension if the criminal doesn’t have a record.)

“If this is viewed as a test-case (of sexual harassment), I can’t stand it,” said Mariko Mitsui, a lecturer at Hosei University’s faculty of law.

The government and Japanese companies have begun fledgling efforts aimed at defining sexual harassment and promoting awareness. Laws have recently been adopted to prevent stalking. Police have become more aggressive about arresting so-called “chikan” molesters that grope women in subways packed so tight there’s barely room to breathe.

Still, attitudes are hard to change, particularly in a country

where there are only tiny numbers of female executives and professionals, and women who work often are relegated to a clear second-tier, answering phones and serving tea to their bosses.

One reason Yokoyama received such a light sentence: The court thought he already had paid a social penalty by losing face and by resigning his post as governor last December, when he was indicted, Mitsui said.

He was assessed a \$102,000 fine in a civil suit filed by his accuser, a university student. He didn't defend himself in the civil suit, which many Japanese felt was akin to admitting guilt.

The woman, who was not identified by the Japanese media, although she filed the suit in her own name, reportedly admired Yokoyama and went to work part-time for his re-election campaign. She charged that the governor groped the lower half of her body for 30 minutes in April 1999 while in the back seat of a campaign van.

Mitsui assailed the criminal court's logic as ridiculous. ``'Knock' took advantage of his post, which is the top of a local administration, and went over and insulted a woman who was in a weak, part-time position," Mitsui said. ``I think he should get a prison sentence and be sanctioned properly."

Kiyomi Tsujimoto, a Lower House parliament member from Osaka, agreed. ``Not only was his action itself a crime, his response after that was bad: He denied the fact and he insulted the victim."

Several residents interviewed in downtown Tokyo concurred. ``Thinking about the girl's psychological damage, 'Knock' Yokoyama is unforgivable," said Yumiko Nakamura, 24, a female sales representative at a telecommunications company.

On the other hand, Mizuho Fukushima, a lawyer and Parliament member in Japan's Upper House, said she thought the sentence was reasonable. The greater gain was that the court ``made a decision that he was not innocent and that is a very big case in Japan."

Moreover, men may think twice about things they might have once easily gotten away with if they know it could cost them their job and a criminal trial. The case also encourages young women to speak up and charge their aggressors, Fukushima said.

Internet Provides the Ties that Build a Savvy South Korea

By Mark Magnier

Los Angeles Times

SEOUL, South Korea Several months ago, Ko Byoung Sam, 27, quit his job after nine years at Samsung Group to join a ``dot-com" start-up.

The result: His future is less secure, the job less prestigious, his family enjoys fewer benefits and work is more chaotic. But he gets stock options, has far more responsibility and a chance to strike it rich if the company takes off.

``You have to change with the times," he said. ``I wanted to take more of a risk."

With Ko and thousands of young South Koreans like him at the vanguard, Asia's second-largest economy has embraced the Internet with a speed and enthusiasm matched by few countries anywhere in some categories surpassing the United States.

In the process, a rapid shift of people, money and markets into the new economy is transforming South Korea's old conglomerate-led economy

in ways that have long eluded government planners and blue-ribbon reform panels.

And the exuberant creativity and wealth of new jobs is showing up Japan, South Korea's powerful neighbor, economic rival and longtime model, which has been far slower to change.

In Seoul, the signs of change are everywhere. Billboards, subway ads and peel-off stickers on lampposts promote a flood of new start-ups. Old companies struggle to keep employees as entire departments flee to dot-coms.

The online auction, stock trading, banking and game software industries are exploding. Government agencies trip over each other to build infrastructure and pass venture-friendly regulations.

Foreign venture-capital firms descend on Seoul waving fists of cash even as South Korean start-ups spread their tentacles into China, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Behind the buzz are a number of impressive statistics. South Korean investment in information and telecommunications surpassed China last year and is on track to overtake Germany, France and Italy this year.

Internet use has spiked 50 percent in just the past six months to number 15 million people. South Korea now is second only to the United States in the number of domain names registered each year. And in online stock trading, it suddenly leads the world.

The government has pushed hard to spread the wealth. Like many countries, South Korea is worried about the so-called digital divide between those with Internet savvy and those without. Unlike many countries, however, South Korea is doing something about it.

Government classes on using the Web are targeting up to 2 million housewives, and mandatory primary-school instruction starts next year.

Seoul has also set aside \$84 million for several Internet backbone projects, including high-speed access for 196 smaller towns around the country. Tax breaks are steering private investment to nine target regions and five secondary cities. And small islands and remote mountain villages will be served by Internet plazas in local post offices and town halls.

In the process, the Internet is transforming dramatically the way Koreans communicate, socialize, wage political campaigns and do business.

Old-line companies have been forced to respond to the Internet and its pressures to globalize. Korean blue-chips Samsung Electronics, Hyundai Electronics and Daewoo Telecom all lost between 8 percent and 25 percent of their research staff members this year to start-ups, forcing them to introduce greater work flexibility and more incentives.

South Korea's creative fervor stands in sharp contrast to Japan, its larger and wealthier neighbor, where an entrenched bureaucracy, weak antitrust laws, cultural biases and high entry costs work against innovators.

"Korean business is following America rather than Japan," said Kang Dong Jin, director of Paxnet, a leading South Korean financial-information Web site. "Korea has seen America enjoy a decade of prosperity and Japan the opposite, so in some ways the choice is easy."

A case in point: South Korea's rapid privatization of the former monopoly phone company has meant lower rates and stronger antitrust safeguards, spawning a flood of new telecom providers and some of the

lowest Internet costs in the industrialized world. Japan, by contrast, has shown a continuing bias toward subsidies and regulations that protect high-cost, old-line players, making Internet use prohibitively expensive for many.

Leading by example, the South Korean government has put 78 percent of its offices online. In one of the latest examples, all draft procedures for South Korea's mandatory military service can now be done from the convenience of the nearest computer. And President Kim Dae Jung has pushed young South Koreans to learn English as the language of the Internet.

Behind South Korea's rapid embrace of the Internet, experts say, is a combination of structural shock, culture and luck. When the South Korean economy hit the wall in 1998 in the wake of the Asia crisis, it jolted many traditional assumptions and put the [^]chaebol, or conglomerates, in survival mode, opening the field to new competitors.

"The ... crisis was a godsend in disguise," said Ra Young Ho, president of Daishin Economic Research Institute. "We got hit by a stick when we badly needed it. Otherwise, government and business never would have changed."

South Koreans also say two cultural attributes often seen as negative — impatience and a love of gambling — are ideally suited to the rapid-fire Information Age where speed and risk are valued. South Korea is now registering 500 new dot-com start-ups a month, and with more than 6,500 total has now surpassed Israel and Taiwan.

"Koreans are very quick-tempered and want to do everything immediately," Paxnet's Dong said. "That impatience fits perfectly with the computer age."

South Korea's most dramatic Internet progress is in trading stocks. More than 56 percent of all trading in South Korea is now done online — the highest level in the world. By comparison, the U.S. figure is about 40 percent. Online commissions can be as low as \$1 for a \$3,000 trade, versus four times that level for conventional brokers.

"I cyber-trade while I'm at work," said Yun Choon Ho, a consultant taking a break in Seoul's financial district. "But I can't spend that much time since I'm at the office. So a couple of times a week I go to a brokerage trading center at lunch hour." These centers, run by stock houses, attract customers looking for a more serious environment than the PC bangs, widespread public-access computer rooms that appeal mostly to young people.

For all its enthusiasm, South Korea maintains very traditional roots, and some look askance at these developments. For older generations, walking away from a job at one of South Korea's blue-chip [^]chaebol for a flier with a dot-com is still highly suspect.

"My mother is very afraid that I changed jobs," Ko said. "Samsung is a very famous company, and she told me I should stay there. Even my wife is concerned. But I'm sure it's the right thing to do."

Fear of West Nile Virus Changes Some Habits

By John J. Goldman

Los Angeles Times

NEW YORK At the Douglaston Golf Course pro shop high on a hill with a sweeping view of Manhattan's skyline, cans of insect repellent sell briskly.

"Everyone wants one. ... I carry one," said Garo Pamboukian, who works behind the counter at the course in Queens.

"At home we don't leave any dormant water. Any type flowerpot or cans are upside down so no water can get in. I keep the screens on," Pamboukian said.

In the parking lot of the nearby Douglaston Plaza Shopping Center, Carol Hoyda said she no longer allows her sixth-grade daughter, Lily, to go outside barefooted.

Frances Secondo, a compliance officer at a bank, said she frequently asks her neighbor to clean a birdbath to prevent breeding by mosquitoes that might carry the West Nile virus, which can cause encephalitis and meningitis.

Nancy Albanese, a senior at Columbia University, said her mother will not let the younger children in the family play outside at night because of fear that infected mosquitoes will bite them. She noted another fear, while pondering whether or not to buy a pair of shorts in the shopping center: "Spraying (of insecticide) is scary. You don't know what's in it. You don't know down the line what can happen, what we're breathing in."

Fear of mosquitoes carrying the potentially deadly virus has bitten deeply into the psyche of many New Yorkers.

Originally identified in the blood of a woman in the West Nile area of Uganda in 1937, the virus is commonly found in Asia, Eastern Europe and Africa.

Never before recorded in the Western Hemisphere, it stole silently into New York last summer, killing seven people all 75 or older. More than 60 other cases were confirmed by laboratory tests.

So far, only one confirmed case has been reported this year: a 78-year-old man from Staten Island who lives within a mile of an area where two infected birds were found. His identity was not released, and he was reported recovering at home after spending a week in the hospital.

Tests last year showed that many people had antibodies in their blood, indicating that they had been exposed to the virus, although their symptoms probably were mild at worst or they did not come down with the disease.

The virus quickly spread from New York to surrounding states, prompting widespread spraying and a massive search so far unsuccessful to determine how it came to the area.

Theories abound.

Some epidemiologists said the virus, carried mostly by "Culex pipiens" mosquitoes (which are active from dusk to dawn) and incubated in birds mainly crows may have been in the United States for some time.

Others believe that migrating birds or a bird blown off course by a tropical storm could have brought the virus to New York.

According to the National Center for Infectious Diseases, 2,770 birds entered the country legally last year through John F. Kennedy International Airport and were quarantined for at least 30 days. Some could have carried the disease, but no tests for the virus were performed on them. Epidemiologists also said the virus could have arrived in a bird brought illegally into the United States.

All this is scant comfort for nervous New Yorkers who had hoped that last year's spraying had eradicated the threat hopes dashed when the virus reappeared in hearty mosquito larvae that survived the warm winter.

While some New Yorkers remain blasé, others are alarmed,

despite assurances from city officials that the situation is under control and that chances of being bitten by an infected mosquito are minuscule.

Parents said some young children are having nightmares about mosquitoes. Others have reported panicked youngsters running at the sight of one of the insects.

Anxiety has been heightened by almost constantly updated casualty counts of dead birds found infected with the virus and by newspaper and television pictures of trucks spraying insecticides while escorted by police cars.

When two mosquitoes found in Central Park tested positive for the virus, the city decided to close the prime tourist attraction and spray it in July. Police sent home thousands of people who had gathered for a New York Philharmonic concert.

Last week, the city announced that 15 more infected birds were found one more in Central Park and spraying was increased.

Officials of the 92nd Street Young Men's-Young Women's Hebrew Association in Manhattan moved their summer camp overnight sleep out from a campground in Pearl River to an indoor dance studio. Instead of a campfire, there was a circle of flashlights.

In Queens, where pesticide spraying followed the discovery of an infected blue jay, Ann Marie Randazzo said she puts on long clothes at dawn and dusk when she walks her dog to protect against mosquito bites.

Sylvia, who declined to give her last name, said she does not sit outside after 5 p.m. at her home, also in Queens.

"I don't know how many people are actually neurotic about it," she said with a laugh. "I tend to be that type of person, though."

Hoyda said daughter Lily worried about the virus after hearing about it on the news and after a neighbor reported seeing a bird bumping into trees. The next day, the bird was found dead.

"I just don't like mosquitoes," Lily said. "I never liked them. I don't think anyone likes them."

Now, she said, she runs from them.

Just across the Hudson River in New Jersey, where several infected dead crows have been found, fears of the virus spawned a family debate after a husband installed a light that zaps mosquitoes in the backyard.

His wife, who hates to kill any living creature, protested.

"Our grandchildren or the mosquitoes, who are most important?" the husband asked.

That ended the argument. The light stayed on.

Lieberman Has Proved to Be a Maverick in His Own Liberal Party

By Ross K. Baker

Special to the Los Angeles Times

What will be most commented on in Al Gore's selection of Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman as his running mate will be two facets of Connecticut's junior senator: his religion and his blistering indignation at President Clinton's conduct in the Monica Lewinsky episode.

Yet one of Lieberman's qualities will probably receive less attention: the fact that he is among the more conservative members of a party populated largely by liberals. And in his very conservatism, Lieberman's presence on the 2000 ticket may be a sign to an older generation of Democrats that the party has not gone entirely New Age.

Lieberman, a man with considerable experience as majority leader of the Connecticut Senate and as that state's attorney general, defeated liberal and quixotic incumbent U.S. Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr. from an unusual direction. Weicker was one of the heroes of Watergate and the man who anchored the left wing of the Republican Party in the 1980s. In 1988, Lieberman ran as the more conservative candidate and has, ever since, maintained the reputation of being very much the Democratic Party maverick.

The ratings given to members of Congress by various interest groups often can be deceptive because they give grades based only on those issues deemed important by the lobbies. Yet even with that caveat, Lieberman's voting record is unusual for a New England Democrat. It more nearly resembles that of old-line Southern Democrats, such as South Carolina's Ernest F. Hollings, and younger members of the party's tiny Sunbelt wing, such as John B. Breaux of Louisiana, than it does that of Christopher J. Dodd, his Senate colleague from Connecticut. Based on 1999 votes, the National Journal found Lieberman to be the eighth most-conservative Democrat in the 45-member Senate Democratic caucus.

Lieberman is a reliable pro-choice vote and does not make any concessions to bans on the so-called partial birth abortions. He also is very much in the forefront of campaign finance reform, a cause to which liberals give full-throated rhetorical support. Lieberman's interest in military issues, however, sets him apart from Democratic colleagues who harken more to such things as social welfare and Medicare and tax reforms.

Lieberman's principal committee assignment is Armed Services. This might be explained purely in terms of the fact that nuclear subs are built in Groton, Conn., and being on Armed Services has enabled him to stand watch over the fabulously expensive Sea Wolf program. Yet there is more to Lieberman's involvement with defense issues than pork-barrel politics. He is a link to an earlier generation of defense-minded Democrats, such as Henry L. Jackson of Washington, who resolutely refused to cede national defense issues to the Republicans. Hawkish Democrats went out of fashion after the Vietnam War, but Lieberman has been consistent in his preoccupation with military issues. He has fretted over whether the military leadership is prepared intellectually to meet the challenges of high-tech warfare, and he is unapologetic in his support of initiatives such as the national missile defense.

What Lieberman offers politically is that he is a different kind of Democrat. Unlike President Clinton, who is a liberal by instinct and a centrist only opportunistically, Lieberman's conservatism is deeper in the fabric of his personal morality. And while his votes accord with the positions taken by the liberal Americans for Democratic Action 75 percent of the time, he clearly is troubled by the vulgarity of so much popular culture and sounds like a Republican when he deplores the decline in both public and private morality. Cynics may see moral ostentation, but the outrage is genuine.

To older Democrats, especially those who have on occasion cast votes for such Republicans as Ronald Reagan because the party of their youth had veered too far left, Lieberman will be a reassuring figure. And for those who deplore the caustic partisanship of politics, the ease with which Lieberman works with Republican colleagues, with whom he enjoys relationships of great fondness, will be a hopeful sign.

In the Democratic Spirit, Let Workers Decide How to Unionize
By Henry A. Waxman, Sheila Kuehl and Ken Genser
Special to the Los Angeles Times

"I hurt my back and could not do the room quota. When I told the manager that I could not do the 15 rooms, she told me that it was 15 rooms or I should go home (without pay). Then they put me to work on 'light duty,' but they had me scrubbing stairs and baseboards, which hurt my back even more. She told me that if I felt any pain, that she would bring me Ben-Gay."

^Edith Garcia, housekeeper, Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel

LOS ANGELES Next week, the Democratic National Convention and its 5,000 delegates come to town. Each day, convention delegates will leave their hotel rooms to go about the business of nominating Al Gore as the Democratic nominee for president of the United States. And each day, as they do every working day, women like Edith Garcia will make beds, scrub bathrooms and perform countless other tasks, large and small, to make the hotel's guests feel welcome and comfortable when they return to their rooms at night.

Tourism, Los Angeles' third-largest industry, has become enormously successful. Yet while hotel room rates are up 45 percent since 1992, tourism industry workers in the Los Angeles area the majority of whom are Latino immigrants are still among the lowest paid. Indeed, the Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel can rent a room for one night for more than 50 times what it pays a housekeeper such as Edith Garcia to clean it. (Edith is paid roughly \$5 to clean each room; a room at Loews can rent for \$250 a night or more.)

Garcia has worked at the Loews for 11 years, and for most of that time, her income has stayed close to the federal poverty level. Loews Corp., by contrast, is a large conglomerate with revenue exceeding \$4 billion in 1999. It also owns an oil company, Diamond Offshore Drilling, and a tobacco company, Lorillard.

How can Garcia make her voice heard by a company as big as Loews? As Democrats gather in Los Angeles, we will be reminding the nation that unions can and do give workers a voice on the job and the power to lift their families out of poverty. It's no surprise that in Los Angeles, low-wage workers like Garcia are looking to unions to improve their lives and provide a better future for their children.

Yet when Garcia and her co-workers told their managers they wanted a union, the Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel responded by hiring anti-union consultants and a new security firm, which employees viewed as an attempt to discourage them from voting for a union. Employees have said that Loews interrogated some workers and placed them under surveillance.

Unfortunately, the way Loews has chosen to fight their employees' desire for a union is all too common. There is another way, however. For example, at the Staples Center host to the Democratic National Convention employers agreed to allow employees to vote for a union using the confidential "card check" process that is, Staples remained neutral and did not interfere with food-service workers exercising their right to organize a union. When a majority of workers signed union authorization cards, the employers recognized their choice of a union. Now several hundred working families have a contract that guarantees them good wages, free family health insurance and a voice on the job.

This confidential card-check process has become the standard for tourism industry employers in Los Angeles. Employers at Los Angeles International Airport and TrizecHahn's Hollywood Holiday Inn, for example, have agreed to that process.

Loews and other nonunion hotels should follow their lead and agree to the same confidential card-check process. There cannot be a free and fair election in an environment polluted by aggressive anti-union tactics.

That's why we're joining community and religious leaders and elected officials at all levels of government in calling on the Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel to agree in writing to the following principles:

To remain neutral and not interfere with workers exercising their right to organize a union.

To recognize the workers' choice of a union if a majority sign union authorization cards.

Intimidation and harassment do not belong in the workplace or anywhere else in a democratic society. Garcia and her fellow workers deserve some respect.

Now Back to the Issues

The following editorial appeared in Thursday's Los Angeles Times:

Americans in general have responded warmly to the naming of Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, an Orthodox Jew, to the Democratic Party ticket. In turn, Lieberman was outspoken about his faith as he accepted the vice presidential offer from Democrat Al Gore in Nashville, Tenn., on Tuesday. Lieberman, 58, opened his own speech with a prayer, mentioned God at least a dozen times and praised Gore "as a servant of God Almighty."

The Connecticut senator's outpouring is not surprising considering the historic significance of the moment and the thrill of being chosen. When Lieberman is formally nominated by Democrats in Los Angeles next week, he will become the first Jew to serve on a major-party presidential ticket. This barrier should have fallen long ago. We respectfully suggest, however, that the uniqueness of Lieberman's position in the highest ranks of American politics be celebrated, then allowed to fade quickly. American voters and the media need to focus on the candidates' records in office, their leadership abilities and their positions on issues not their religious beliefs.

In this 2000 campaign the Republican Party has already seen some of its religious activists trot out an agenda of "values," by which Pat Robertson and his allies clearly meant Christian values. GOP nominee George W. Bush has been almost boastful of his rectitude, no doubt to draw the contrast with the moral failings of President Clinton in the Monica Lewinsky affair. The Republican nominee identified Jesus Christ as his favorite philosopher and proclaimed June 10 as "Jesus Day" in Texas.

Gore too has worn his religious faith on his sleeve, describing himself as a born-again Christian and saying that when he faces tough decisions, he asks himself, "What would Jesus do?" What we want to know is what would Al Gore do.

Americans admire politicians with strong beliefs, religious and otherwise. That was one of Ronald Reagan's great strengths. But voters should not be subjected to what amounts to a contest over which candidates are the most pious. Debates over moral issues, good and bad, right and

wrong, should not be excluded from a political campaign. But morality has a much broader definition than what goes on inside a house of worship.

Let's stipulate that Gore, Lieberman, Bush and Dick Cheney, Bush's vice presidential running mate, are all men of deep faith and that each worships in his own way with conviction. That's all we need to know on that subject.

END

Don't blame Gore for my mistakes, Clinton tells Chicago audience

By William Neikirk

Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO Only days before the opening of the Democratic National Convention, President Clinton urged Americans Thursday to throw no political stones at Vice President Al Gore for the Oval Office affair that Republicans have been using to link the vice president with Clinton's behavior.

"Surely no fair-minded person would blame him for the mistakes I've made," the president volunteered at the end of a 75-minute question-and-answer session before an audience of 4,500 in Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington.

Though Clinton did not mention Monica Lewinsky by name, he spoke of contrition he felt after the scandal that led to impeachment and nearly brought down his presidency. The president said that while the administration is being criticized in this campaign, Gore "doesn't get enough credit for what we did together that was good."

The president's statement appeared calculated to deflect Republican efforts to closely identify Gore with Clinton's behavior. It came at the end of a televised interview without prompting from his questioner, Rev. Bill Hybels, who has consulted Clinton on spiritual matters.

Just as Gore has sought to distance himself from Clinton in his campaign, the president sought Thursday to put space between himself and Gore. The vice president's choice this week of Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), an Orthodox Jew who was one of the first Democrats to publicly chastise the president, as his running mate was also an attempt to draw a distinct line between Clinton's reputation and Gore's candidacy.

There has been tension between the Gore campaign and the White House over Clinton's high visibility, especially Clinton fund-raising efforts in California this weekend, events that likely will deflect attention from Gore and Lieberman. Further, the president and his wife,

Senate candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton, will appear at the convention in Los Angeles on Monday.

Clinton's remarks Thursday, together with his musings about his spiritual life and his presidency, put him back into the political spotlight, even as he tried to make a comment that would help Gore. Clinton's remarks were beamed via satellite to about 11,000 other people in 15 other cities taking part in a religious leadership summit. Clinton's appeal to not hold his mistakes against Gore drew a mixed response from the audience.

"Al Gore has to rise and fall on his own merits," said Sam Wilson, 56, a Republican from Libertyville who works as a consultant. "But I do know that Gore said after the scandal that (Clinton) is going to go down as one of the great presidents. I think that's going to haunt him. People remember that."

Clinton, with his comments Thursday, may have risked reopening discussion about the Lewinsky matter just as the Democratic convention gets under way.

In California, the campaign of Republican candidate George W. Bush was unmoved by the president's latest act of contrition.

Bush has been working to tie Gore to Clinton's troubles, talking constantly about the need to bring higher moral standards to Washington and hoping that tying Gore to Clinton will undermine the vice president's standing among a public suffering Clinton fatigue.

During their appearance, Clinton and Hybels sat on the stage of the huge auditorium. When Hybels said that many people believed the president had never apologized for the affair, the president insisted that he did not know why they would think such a thing.

Citing an apology at a national prayer breakfast, Clinton said: "I think I gave a clear, unambiguous, brutally frank, and personally painful statement to me because I had to do it. I finally realized that I was it would never be all right unless I stood up there and said what I did and said it was wrong and apologized for it."

He called the apology "full and adequate" and added that "I'm now in the second year of a process of trying to totally rebuild my life from a terrible mistake I made." Yet, he said, his spiritual life is not constant and improving is a "dynamic, ongoing effort."

Through it all, Clinton said, he had developed an "overwhelming sense of gratitude" about how it came out and that "two-thirds of the American people stuck with me. That's an incredible thing. ... In a funny way, when you realize there is nothing left to hide, then it sort of frees you up to do what you ought to be doing anyway."

Clinton said he no longer thought much about the controversy over the affair, saying it was a "crutch" for not dealing with his job. "So I finally just let it go. And I hope people can see that it's different." He said he continues to work on his marriage and his role as a parent.

The pastor promised a no-holds-barred question-and-answer period and added that Clinton was brave to subject himself to it. But except for a few probing questions about the apology and his spiritual life, Hybels mainly asked soft questions.

When Hybels said that some people believed that he and his wife only go to church for show, the president drew laughter when he said, "Well, at least it's a consistent act." He said when he attends church, he's able to "shut the whole world out and think about what's important

in life."

Clinton said the Lewinsky crisis was one of the low points of his presidency. He also cited the U.S. conflict in Somalia in which 18 American soldiers were killed and from which forces had to be withdrawn, as well as the Oklahoma City bombing. He said he felt "sick" when the Republicans took over Congress in the 1994 election after he said he had raised taxes and reduced spending, hurting their election chances.

"I felt like those people bled for a decision that I got them to make," he said of defeated Democratic candidates.

Asked to identify a few convictions he would take with him to the grave, Clinton drew applause when he said that he wanted to improve racial relations in America. "I grew up in the segregated South. The most important thing to me is that we learn to live together."

The human genome project, which helped identify the basic genetic structure of people, showed that the genetic differences between different races are less than the genetic differences among the individuals in each racial group, Clinton said.

At the end, Clinton and Hybels stood before the crowd. Hybels put his arm on the president's shoulder and prayed. "Thank you, God, that you wired him up the way you did," Hybels said.

Even some in the audience who disagree with Clinton politically gave the president points for touching on his personal failings, including the sex scandal.

"As a hard-core Republican and somewhat skeptical (of Clinton), I was impressed," said Dean Graber, an accounting professor and church elder from Tulsa, Okla. "I felt he was really being honest and forthright."

On the subject of the scandal, Graber, 63, sensed "a different tone." At the time of Clinton's earlier statements of regret, "I felt he was still bitter about being caught."

Kathy Nyquist, 38, of Chicago, agreed. "He seemed very contrite," said Nyquist, who works in marketing at Kraft. "I think it takes a lot for a man who is the most powerful man in the whole world to admit he was wrong."

Earlier in a stop at DePaul University, Clinton unveiled proposals he said would save borrowers money on direct student loans and lessen college debt for teachers who work in needy schools.

In a speech and roundtable discussion, the president said his student loan plans would save students and parents more than \$600 million in the next five years. The debt relief proposal would offer an incentive for teachers to work in low-income schools where they are most needed, he said.

Gore trip to Atlanta signals his eagerness to compete in South
By Naftali Bendavid
Chicago Tribune

ATLANTA Vice President Al Gore served notice that he would compete for the traditionally Republican South as he staged a campaign rally Thursday with Southern governors on a steamy Georgia day.

Democrat Gore and Texas Gov. George W. Bush, his GOP foe in the race for president, are jockeying for position, each making tentative forays into the other's natural turf. Bush has spent much of this week in California, where Gore is strong, and Gore sought to plant a flag in the

South, which by rights would seem to be Bush territory.

The Gore campaign believes that if the vice president can force Bush to spend time fighting for the South, it will hamper his ability to campaign in important battlegrounds like the Midwest.

Asked after the rally if he could win in the South, Gore was unequivocal. "Absolutely," he said. "I'm from the South. Tennessee borders more states than any other. I won seven primaries back in 1988. I know that people here in the South understand why it's important to keep the prosperity and progress going."

Yet the South has been far more hospitable to Republicans for the past 30 years, and polls show Bush leading throughout the region.

Gore strategists, however, point out that Democrats have recently won statewide office in many Southern states, and Thursday's event at Centennial Olympic Park was choreographed to put that very accomplishment on display. Gore and running mate Joseph Lieberman spoke with four Democratic governors lined up behind them: Roy Barnes of Georgia, Paul Patton of Kentucky, Jim Hunt of North Carolina and Don Siegelman of Alabama.

Introducing Connecticut Sen. Lieberman, Barnes compared him to Georgia's popular former Sen. Sam Nunn. "The way I like to describe Joe Lieberman is, he's just a Northern Sam Nunn," Barnes said.

Although the gathering was billed as a rally on welfare reform, the subject hardly came up. Instead, it was clearer than ever that the two candidates plan to use Gore's selection of Lieberman, the first Jew on a major ticket, as evidence of Gore's character and a reason to vote for him.

"If Al Gore is willing to be this courageous in his first major decision as a presidential candidate, just imagine how courageous he will be as president, working for the working families of America," Lieberman said.

Barnes made a similar point after the rally. "It says more about Al Gore than it does about Joe Lieberman," Barnes said. "It shows Al Gore is not afraid to pick someone who is obviously qualified even Gov. Bush admits that even if he doesn't agree with him on every single issue. That's the kind of leadership we need."

Gore and Lieberman also stressed their theme of tolerance.

"I ask you for one more thing that people hardly ever give anymore: I ask you to open your hearts and believe once again that we can do the right thing," Gore said. "I ask you ... to reach out and embrace the highest common denominator of the human spirit."

Gore also continued his acid responses to the Republican assertion that the nation has "coasted" for the last eight years, which he noted has produced the strongest economy in the nation's history. "If that's coasting, let's coast for another four years," Gore roared.

The rally at times took on the feel of a revival meeting, with the audience shouting amens. When Gore said, "Let's talk about Social Security," someone yelled, "Talk about it!" Another audience member called out, "Preach, brother!"

Bush spokesman Dan Bartlett dismissed the possibility that Gore could make the South a battleground.

"We are confident in Gov. Bush's message in the South," Bartlett said. "In several recent polls, Gov. Bush is within the margin (of error) even in Al Gore's home state of Tennessee. In contrast to that, in Texas Gov. Bush is ahead by something like 60 points. That is an

indication of how things are going in the South."

Gore's campaign staffers insist a centrist Democratic ticket can make inroads. President Clinton won Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana and Florida in 1996, they note. As if to prove their seriousness, the Gore campaign is airing ads in Arkansas, Georgia and Kentucky.

"Al Gore's roots are deeply planted in Southern soil," said Gore campaign manager Donna Brazile. "We've made great progress in the South. This is a new South."

Barnes, the Georgia governor, said Southerners care about the same issues as the rest of the country: education, the economy and the environment.

"The South is in play for the same reason the rest of the nation is in play," Barnes said. "As this message becomes more and more publicized, those three issues will win the election and they will win here."

McCain joins Bush, appealing for swing voters in California

By Bob Kemper

Chicago Tribune

SALINAS, Calif. Sen. John McCain, who once criticized George W. Bush for running an exclusionary, money-drenched campaign for president, stood beside Bush on Thursday, praising him and pledging to help spread Bush's view of an inclusive, diverse Republican Party.

McCain said he also would help the Texas governor raise money over this week.

But as Bush and McCain stepped onto Bush's campaign train insisting that their animosities had been put behind them, important questions remain open.

Has McCain, once the sweetheart of independents and conservative Democrats, damaged his credibility with those voters by embracing Bush?

And can McCain convince those voters to follow him into Bush's camp even though Bush strongly rejects many of the proposals that attracted those people to McCain in the first place, such as his push to reform the campaign finance system? "Primaries are family squabbles," Bush said in his first campaign appearance with McCain since beating him this spring. "We were friends before, we're friends now."

McCain never used the word "friend" in describing Bush, but he spoke fondly of his former foe.

"This is a good and decent man," said McCain Thursday. "He's going to lead this nation and I am proud to be a part of this crusade."

Talking with reporters on Bush's campaign train, McCain dismissed the efforts of Democrat Al Gore to use McCain's words from the primary campaign against Bush. "That's foolishness," McCain said, "and we all know it and people will take it for that."

Bush wrapped up a second day of his campaign trip through California and the Northwest, where he is courting independent voters on largely Democratic turf, just days before the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles.

Bush focused on welfare reform here just as Gore was doing the same in Georgia.

Bush, who trimmed welfare rolls as governor of Texas a year before the federal government acted on the matter, said that as president

he would move to reauthorize the current reform law, which expires in 2001. He challenged Gore to back reauthorization.

A Gore spokesman said the vice president has already declared his support for keeping the welfare law.

But Bush's topic of the day was overshadowed by his first general-election campaign appearance with McCain. The two met briefly in Pittsburgh in May after the primary and pledged to work together, and last week McCain spoke more fondly of Bush during the GOP convention in Philadelphia.

As the two took to the campaign trail Thursday, McCain urged his one-time supporters, many of whom are not Republicans, to back the GOP nominee. Bush and McCain will travel together through California, Oregon and Washington state and spend Saturday at McCain's cabin in Sedona, Ariz.

McCain maintains that he has not compromised his reformer image or agenda by embracing Bush, who was the candidate of the Republican establishment during the primaries.

"We are in agreement on significant parts of campaign finance reform," McCain said.

He acknowledged that his position on campaign finance reform may be closer to the views of Democratic vice presidential candidate Joseph Lieberman than to Bush's. Lieberman has pushed the issue in the Senate along with McCain.

Bush supports only abolishing the "soft money" those six- and seven-figure contributions made to political parties that comes from corporations and labor unions. That would leave a significant loophole for individual contributors that McCain once said would render the reforms ineffective. McCain wants to abolish all soft money, regardless of its source.

McCain also strenuously disagrees with the size of Bush's plan to cut taxes by \$1.3 trillion over 10 years. During the primaries, McCain labeled the plan unrealistic and irresponsible. On Thursday, the Arizona senator acknowledged that he still does not support the tax cut Bush has made a central element of his campaign.

Even McCain was cautious in assessing how much influence he can exert over independent voters and how much effect he will have in luring them to Bush. Those voters would be critical to Bush in states like California if he is to have any hope of defeating Gore.

"I have some credibility," with independents, McCain said. But, he added, "Independents are independents because they're independent."

"All I can do is ask independents to take a look at Gov. Bush," he said.

McCain attended a fund-raiser with Bush on Thursday and will attend a second Friday. He said neither violates his position on campaign finances because they will raise only federally regulated "hard money" for state Republican parties in California and Washington state. McCain has vowed not to help raise the unregulated soft money.

The fund-raiser Thursday night was held behind closed doors at the Stockton, Calif., home of Alex Spanos, owner of the San Diego Chargers professional football team and one of Bush's biggest contributors. Spanos also is one of the elite Republican Regents, the 137 individuals and corporations who have each given or raised at least \$250,000 the Republican National Committee.

Bush is campaigning in California this week to try to steal a

bit of the spotlight from Democrats, who will gather for their four-day national convention starting Monday. He said he wants to make it clear that he will compete for the state's 54 electoral votes the largest prize of the campaign unlike two past Republican presidential candidates: his father, former President George Bush, in 1992, and U.S. Sen. Bob Dole in 1996.

Bush insists he stands a good chance of winning the state despite recent polls that show the state still favoring Gore.

And, he added, "It's awfully helpful to have John McCain at my side."

This week it's Dems' turn to visit Philly

By William Bunch

Knight Ridder Newspapers

PHILADELPHIA Presidential politics has come back to Philadelphia this time without the cowboy hats.

Vice President Al Gore less than a week away from accepting the Democratic presidential nod in Los Angeles came Thursday night to the city where the GOP's George W. Bush had just been crowned, for a rousing airport pep rally, bringing his newly picked No. 2, Joe Lieberman, along.

With placards waving and John Cougar Mellencamp blasting from the speakers, the Philadelphia swing which continues Friday morning with a visit to working women in Montgomery County, Pa. gave Gore and Lieberman a chance to issue their rebuttal to the four-day GOP infomercial of last week.

Gore, who spoke only briefly before repairing to a Center City hotel to work on his acceptance speech, scoffed at Bush's suggestion that he and Clinton had "coasted" though eight years in office. He noted how the stock market rose while crime, the federal debt and welfare rolls fell.

"If that's what he calls 'coasting,' then let's coast for another four years," Gore said. The remark drew cheers from a crowd, many in bright union T-shirts, that looked nothing like the cowboy-hatted Texans who rode herd on Philadelphia for a week.

Despite the clothing gap, the Democratic event also showed how the traditional party lines are blurring as Gore and Bush go for the political center and for Pennsylvania, perhaps the largest state that's up for grabs in November.

Last week, the Republicans at the First Union Center surprised many observers with their drumbeat for racial inclusion and repeated speeches by blacks and Latinos, two groups that have voted heavily for Democrats, especially for Clinton.

This week with Gore getting a boost from his unexpected pick of Lieberman, the first Jewish nominee for a national office it is the Democrats, the frequent critics of the Christian right, suddenly talking up God on the campaign trail.

"This is a man of faith and family," Lieberman said in praising Gore and his willingness to tap the Connecticut senator, whom many pundits had written off as a veep pick because he is an Orthodox Jew.

Thursday, Lieberman was introduced by Mayor John Street, who conceded that he knew little about Gore's new running mate last week, but said he trusted anyone that Gore believed in. He then pointed out that

parts of the Orthodox faith including keeping the Sabbath and dietary restrictions are the same as his own Seventh-day Adventist religion.

``We can eat anything you put on the table in front of us," Street said, laughing.

Lieberman, who high-fived union supporters as he entered the former international terminal building, continued to bask in what he called ``a miraculous week."

``A barrier has been broken," Lieberman declared, ``and a door has been opened for all of America."

Neither Lieberman nor Gore was particularly harsh in their criticisms of Bush or the recent GOP confab, but other leading Democrats were not as kind.

``This is the big tent," U.S. Rep. Bob Brady, the city Democratic leader, said after the rally, adding that the Republican message of racial and ethnic inclusion was largely a sham.

``It was all white men in the audience," Brady said, ``while they were putting all minorities on the stage."

Noisy clashes at Reform convention as Buchanan tries to fill void
By Maria Recio
Knight Ridder Newspapers

LONG BEACH, Calif. Eight years after Dallas billionaire Ross Perot launched a national populist movement with his call for a new political order, his Reform Party is a lost legacy, a group so fractured by struggles for power, money and ideas that it has split in two.

On Thursday the party begun in 1992 as ``United We Stand" divided into two groups holding two national conventions here, as many of the original Perot loyalists declared their independence from social-conservative followers of Pat Buchanan, who dominated the party's primaries all winter.

Each group claims to be the ``real" Reform Party. Each will nominate its own presidential candidate this weekend Buchanan, the former Republican firebrand, at the Long Beach Convention Center; and John Hagelin, an Iowa physicist who champions transcendental meditation, next door at the Long Beach Performing Arts Center.

Power and money are at the heart of this dispute.

In 1992, Perot's demands for fiscal responsibility, brakes on free trade and campaign-finance reform sparked a grassroots uprising that gave him 19 percent of the popular vote against then-President George Bush and Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton.

By 1996, changing times and Perot's eccentricities shrank his vote share to 8 percent, but that was still enough to entitle his new party to \$12.6 million in federal campaign subsidies this year.

This year Perot sat it out. So did Minnesota's popular Reform Party Gov. Jesse Ventura. That left a vacuum with money at its center and fringe Republican candidate Buchanan rushed to fill it.

Buchanan steamrolled through Reform Party state primaries, inflaming the Perot camp by his strong-arm tactics as he took over many of state party organizations.

Six months ago, the party threw out its chairman, who had been hand-picked by Ventura, the highest-ranking elected official in the Reform Party. Ventura then abandoned the party and Minnesota's state organization disaffiliated from it.

That left activists loyal to the party's founder, Perot, to battle Buchanan for control. The two sides have waged increasingly bitter conflict ever since.

Both parties claim the Reform label, but the Buchanan forces have more strength, with about 500 delegates vs. 200 in the Perot-loyalist camp. The delegates on both sides are overwhelmingly white and middle-aged to elderly. They are also equally sure they're right.

At pre-convention skirmishes this week, they fought over the seating of delegates, the party's mail-in national primary and ultimately over who will get the millions in federal election funds that go to whoever is proclaimed the party's nominee.

The Long Beach gathering has often been tense, with each group laying claim to convention rooms, to bragging rights and to Perot's populist legacy. Passions have run high, as they did at an infamous Reform Party national committee meeting in Nashville, Tenn., in February, where rival factions fought over a microphone.

This time the disputes have involved pushing, shoving and name-calling.

Buchanan dismissed the pro-Perot faction's walk-out, which he termed "that little rump gathering."

"I don't think there are two conventions," Buchanan said during a news conference Thursday. "I think there's one convention, and a lot of guys who run up to the doors and then come out in front of the cameras and say, 'We're being robbed.'"

Buchanan emphasized that his campaign champions conservative social issues by releasing a "statement of personal belief" Thursday. It lays out his strong opposition to abortion, to "rampant homosexuality, a sign of cultural decadence and moral decline," and to a popular culture as "polluted as Love Canal."

Hagelin, an often bland and soft-spoken speaker, was fired up as well.

"It may seem like the party is split in half," he told a morning rally. "But look around; this is the stronger half."

Hagelin, who is also a presidential candidate for the Natural Law Party, announced Thursday that he would file a complaint with the Federal Election Commission accusing the Buchanan camp of fraud in the conduct of the campaign.

Buchanan's reaction: "The truth about the other side is it does not want to let go."

"It didn't have to happen this way," said Paul Truax, a Perot loyalist from Dallas who was thrown off the executive committee by Buchanan supporters. "They want to create a money machine for the ultra-right wing. That's what it's all about."

Both sides agree that the issues of who will be recognized as the "real" Reform Party candidate and who will get the federal campaign subsidies will be decided by the courts.

To Jim Mangia, acting chairman of the Perot loyalists' faction, the party's formal split Thursday "is both a joyous day and a sad day." Asked if the division spelled the end of the party, Mangia said, "It remains to be seen. If Pat Buchanan gets the \$12.6 million, it's the end of the Reform Party."

If that proves to be true, the party will leave a legacy for American politics.

"Obituary writers for the Reform Party are already noting its

influence over the national political debate in the 1990s, especially its championship of deficit reduction, entitlement reform and campaign-finance reform," said a commentary Thursday from the Democratic Leadership Council, the centrist wing of the Democratic Party.

"But its true legacy was to draw attention to a phenomenon that had been developing for decades: the gradual de-alignment of a big percentage of the voting-age population from both major parties, now the dominant political reality in America."

As for Perot, who made all this possible, the closest thing to a tribute to him here came from "Ski" Demski, a white-haired, bearded, bare-chested fan whose entire torso, beer gut and all, was covered with tattoos. He brought a large banner that said, "Elect Ross Perot Pres. of USA."

Gore hopes strong economy opens doors down South

By G. Robert Hillman

The Dallas Morning News

ATLANTA Vice President Al Gore and Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman conferred with a handful of Southern Democratic governors Thursday to sketch a strategy for using the region's booming economy as a key issue to make the Democratic ticket more competitive in the South.

"No place has benefited from the economy more than we have in the South, where we had so far to go and have come so far," said North Carolina Gov. James Hunt. "It's amazing what has happened in the last eight years."

At a rousing noontime rally in Atlanta's downtown Centennial Olympic Park, Gore echoed the economic theme, chastising the Republican ticket of George W. Bush and Dick Cheney for charging at their national convention last week that the Clinton-Gore administration had squandered opportunities and coasted through the last eight years.

Ticking off a long list of upbeat economic indicators strong job growth, low interest rates and rising homeownership, among them the vice president said the administration had engineered "a dramatic transformation of our economy."

"Instead of the biggest deficits in history, we've now got the biggest surpluses," Gore said. "Instead of a triple-dip recession, we've seen a tripling of the stock market."

"If that's coasting, let's coast another four years," he thundered.

During the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia, Bush's chief strategist, Karl Rove, included the South solidly in the GOP column. But the Gore camp is determined to make at least seven Southern states competitive North Carolina, Kentucky, Georgia, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee and Florida, where Bush's brother Jeb is the Republican governor.

"We're going to play very hard in the South," said Gore's press secretary, Chris Lehane.

Declaring Gore a "son of the new South," Lehane said the vice president intends to campaign heavily in the region.

"Look at what's happened," he said. "We've had a whole generation of new guard Democratic governors run and be successful."

In a brief encounter with reporters, Gore said he "absolutely" could win in the region.

"I'm from the South," he said. "I know the people here in the South understand why it's so important to keep the prosperity and progress going. It would be hard on families and communities to go back to the old ways of the old guard."

Meeting privately with Gore, then appearing with him publicly at the rally, were Hunt and fellow Democratic governors Roy Barnes of Georgia, Paul Patton of Kentucky and Don Siegelman of Alabama.

Hunt, who along with Patton met with reporters afterward, predicted that Lieberman, the first Jewish candidate on a major party's national ticket, would be an added asset in the South because his deep religious commitment is "what we in the South stand for."

Jimmy Carter was the last Democratic presidential candidate to win in North Carolina, Hunt said, and this fall's race would be tough, but doable, for Gore.

"We've got a good chance," Hunt said. "But there's a lot left to be done. There's no question."

Patton offered a somewhat more optimistic assessment in Kentucky, noting that President Clinton carried the state in 1992 and 1996.

"Historically, people in this country don't vote against their own pocketbooks," he said, extolling the good economy in his state, too. "Historically, when the economy is going well, incumbents do well."

Still, he conceded that there will be plenty of bumps ahead for Gore.

For instance, his call for more stringent gun control, Patton said, "cuts two ways," particularly when the National Rifle Association flexes its muscle in opposition.

"Certainly the vice president is not for taking anybody's guns away from them," the governor said. "That is a scare-type tactic that the NRA will most likely use."

Bush and McCain team up in search of independent voters
By Christopher Lee
The Dallas Morning News

SALINAS, Calif. Gov. George W. Bush and vanquished Republican rival John McCain campaigned together for the first time Thursday, pledging to set aside their differences for the good of Republicans this fall.

At a joint appearance at the National Steinbeck Center, the two men pronounced their fierce GOP primary battles a mere "family squabble." They said they were united in their desire for Bush and running mate Dick Cheney to defeat Democrats Al Gore and Joe Lieberman in November.

The two Republicans began a three-day campaign swing together through California, Oregon and Washington in hopes of wooing the sort of moderate and independent voters who backed McCain in the GOP primaries.

"John is going to help a lot in those states," Bush told reporters after addressing 75 invited guests at the museum honoring "The Grapes of Wrath" author John Steinbeck, who was born in Salinas. "Those are states where in the past election cycle people said, 'Republicans don't even have a chance.' Now we not only have a chance, we're going to do well."

McCain, who introduced Bush in Salinas, praised the Texas

governor as the best-qualified candidate for president and urged independents to consider voting for him. Still, there were signs that the senator was a loyal GOP soldier rather than a true convert to the Bush cause.

An empty seat separated Bush and his wife, Laura, from McCain, who took a subtle jab at the nominee in his introductory remarks.

“This good and decent man with his wonderful wife the brains of the outfit is going to lead this nation,” McCain said. “I’m proud to be part of this crusade.”

A few months ago, McCain was on his own crusade against Bush. The two Republicans waged a bruising primary fight in which McCain once said of Bush, “If he’s a reformer, I’m an astronaut.”

In his campaign, McCain vowed to vastly reduce the influence of money in politics and criticized Bush for not going far enough toward that goal. He also said Bush’s proposed 1.3 trillion tax cut over the next 10 years was too large, arguing that some of the money should be used to shore up Social Security and pay down the national debt.

In remarks to reporters Thursday, McCain acknowledged that he and Bush still have their differences. McCain said he shares some views held by Lieberman, a Democratic senator from Connecticut, on campaign finance issues, whereas he and Bush are still having “discussions” on the subject. And the two still disagree on the size of Bush’s proposed tax cut, McCain said.

McCain, however, stressed that he and Bush share the core Republican philosophy of fiscal conservatism, individual liberty and placing power in the hands of people rather than bureaucracies. And he said he felt far more confident about Bush now than at the end of the primary season, praising the message of inclusion and diversity that the governor has injected into his campaign and, more generally, into the Republican Party.

“Yes, we had our differences, but differences are healthy within a party,” McCain said. “That’s what primaries are all about. But he and I are united to move forward. I will help however I can with the campaign.”

Bush said he was proud to have McCain traveling with him and that there were no lingering hard feelings from the primary contests.

“Primaries are family squabbles,” Bush said. “It was a tough campaign and I’m a better candidate as a result of John entering the race. We were friends before and we’re friends now.”

In remarks at the Steinbeck Center and later at a rally in Salinas, Bush touted his record on moving people off welfare and into jobs. He said he would support reauthorizing the 1996 federal law that overhauled welfare before the law expires in 2002.

The number of Texans on welfare has dropped by 53 percent, to 380,000 people, since the state passed its own welfare changes in 1995, Bush aides said. The state, whose monthly welfare payment of \$200 for a family of three is among the lowest in the nation, imposed time limits of one to three years in an attempt to move people from welfare to work.

“I think we made great progress in America in recognizing that each individual matters and working hard to help them help themselves,” Bush said.

After the Salinas event, Bush and McCain boarded a train bound for the northern California town of Lodi. Later Thursday, both were scheduled to attend a \$1,000-a-plate fund-raiser in Stockton for the

California Republican Party at the home of San Diego Chargers owner Alex Spanos.

Although all of Bush's California stops Thursday were in counties carried by Democrat Bill Clinton in the last election, Bush aides said their analysis shows that about 25 percent of voters in the region can be considered up for grabs. California, which offers 54 of the 270 Electoral votes needed to win, has been a Democratic stronghold in recent elections.

McCain said he would do what he could. ``All I can do, really, is ask independents to take a look at Gov. Bush," he said. ``Obviously, independents are independent because they're independent."

END

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Anabel Evora <Anabel.Evora@hrc.org> (Anabel Evora <Anabel.Evora@hrc.org> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 14-AUG-2000 18:20:57.00

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN'S BIRCH TO MAKE HISTORY AS FIRST LEADER OF NATIONAL GAY ORGANIZATION TO GIVE SPEECH AT POLITICAL CONVENTION

TO: HRC-NEWS@LISTS.HRC.ORG (HRC-NEWS@LISTS.HRC.ORG [UNKNOWN])

READ: UNKNOWN

Joseph E. Voeller (CN=Joseph E. Voeller/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ: UNKNOWN

TEXT:

NEWS from the
Human Rights Campaign

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: David M. Smith Monday, August 14, 2000 Phone:
(202) 216-1547

Pager: (800) 386-5996

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN'S BIRCH TO MAKE HISTORY AS FIRST LEADER OF NATIONAL GAY ORGANIZATION TO GIVE SPEECH AT POLITICAL CONVENTION

Speech to Focus on Gore's Superior Record on Gay Issues and Healing the American Family, Asserts HRC

LOS ANGELES-- Human Rights Campaign Executive Director Elizabeth Birch will make history Tuesday evening as the first leader of a gay organization to speak at a national political convention. The appearance of Birch in prime time at the Democratic National Convention highlights residential nominee Al

Gore's commitment to diversity and his superior record on gay and lesbian issues, according to HRC.

"This is an unprecedented opportunity to bring our issues into focus for

the entire nation and show we are a vital part of the American family," said

Birch. "This history making moment is a testament to Al Gore's commitment to our issues and shows the stark differences between the two candidates."

Birch's speech will focus on "healing the American family" and the Gore

campaign's vision of inclusion for all people in this family. Birch will challenge America to embrace equality for all people, including gay and lesbian Americans. She will also discuss how Gore's record demonstrates forward thinking leadership on gay and lesbian issues, while George W. Bush remains silent and mired in the past.

"Al Gore and Joe Lieberman have taken strong, courageous positions on behalf of equality," said Birch. "The Democratic platform they support is a work of art in democracy, unambiguously supporting inclusion for every American. Unlike Bush and Cheney, they have never run for cover of silence."

On nearly every issue, Gore is in agreement with the Human Rights Campaign. Gore supports the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would ban workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation. He is an outspoken supporter of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. He supports ending the ban against gay and lesbian service members that has led to increased discharges

and violence. While in the administration, Gore has worked to end the AIDS epidemic both at home and abroad.

Meanwhile, on gay and lesbian issues Bush has either been silent or hostile, almost always siding with Bob Jones III, Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson, says HRC. Bush opposes protections from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

He supports a law that would ban gay people from adopting children. He helped defeat a hate crime bill in Texas - even after the family of James

Byrd Jr. - a Jasper, Texas man who was chained to the back of a truck and dragged to death - urged him to support the bill. Bush supports the continuation of the failed Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy. On HIV/AIDS issues he has been virtually silent, hardly mentioning the topic, despite the fact that AIDS is a major problem affecting the lives of thousands of Texas residents.

Other openly gay and lesbian speakers include: Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisc.; Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass.; Juanita Owens, San Francisco school board member and candidate for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors; Gloria Nieto, Democratic Committeewoman at-large from New Mexico, Executive Director of People of Color AIDS Foundation, in addition, she serves on the steering committee of the Coalition of Equality in New Mexico and on the board of the National Stonewall Democratic Federation; and

Andy Tobias, National Treasurer for the Democratic National Committee. Other speakers may be added.

The Human Rights Campaign is the nation's largest national lesbian and gay political organization with members throughout the country. HRC effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that lesbian and gay Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

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CREATION DATE/TIME:14-AUG-2000 06:36:34.00

SUBJECT: FOX News Sunday, August 13, 2000

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TEXT:
FOX NEWS SUNDAY
AUGUST 13, 2000

SPEAKERS: TONY SNOW, HOST, FOX NEWS SUNDAY
JUAN WILLIAMS, FOX NEWS
MARA LIASSON, FOX NEWS
BRIT HUME, FOX NEWS
FRED BARNES, THE WEEKLY STANDARD
MORTON KONDRACK, ROLL CALL
U.S. SENATOR JOSEPH LIEBERMAN
DEMOCRATIC PARTY VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE
U.S. SENATOR PAUL WELLSTONE (D-MN)
WILLIAM DALEY, GORE 2000 CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN
SNOW: Al Gore taps Senator Lieberman, and Lieberman says,

``Praise God." Is this a new kind of Democratic ticket? We'll ask Senator Lieberman.

Democrats are gathering in Los Angeles for their national convention. Will Bill Clinton yield the stage gracefully to Al Gore? Will protesters ruin the Democrats' party? And will this confab be as glitzy as the Republican love-fest? We'll get answers from Gore-Lieberman 2000 Chairman Bill Daley.

Plus a superpanel: Brit Hume, Mara Liasson, Juan Williams, Fred Barnes, and Mort Kondracke on the Democratic National Convention edition of FOX NEWS SUNDAY.

Good morning. Welcome to FOX NEWS SUNDAY. We'll talk with Democratic vice-presidential candidate Senator Joseph Lieberman in a minute. But let's begin by getting the latest from the campaign trail. First, the dueling Reform Party conventions from Fox News correspondent Juliette Huddy.

HUDDY: Thanks, Tony.

You know, some members of the Reform Party were not happy with Pat Buchanan, so they decided to break away. Essentially, what you had were two parties, two conventions, and two presidential candidates, both sides insisting they are the real Reform Party. In one camp, you had Buchanan supporters. These are the people who say the party wouldn't be a party without Pat Buchanan. In the other camp, you had the anti-Buchanan brigade. These are people who are rallying behind natural law leader, John Hagelin. Clearly, though, Pat Buchanan was the candidate in control.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

PATRICK BUCHANAN: Only the Reform Party can reform politics in America, because nobody's got a hook in us. I give you my word. We will outlaw the glorified bribery called soft-money and put term limits on every member of Congress and every federal judge.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

HUDDY: Ultimately, it's the Federal Elections Commission that will decide who the real Reform Party candidate is and who will collect the \$12.5 million in federal funds. Finally, observers say turmoil within

the Reform Party could turn off conservative voters to Pat Buchanan and turn them on to George W. Bush.

Back to you, Tony.

SNOW: Thanks, Juliette.

We're now joined by Fox News correspondents Karl Cameron in Los Angeles and Jim Angle with the Gore campaign in Cleveland.

Jim?

ANGLE: Al Gore is in Cleveland today, Tony, at a children's hospital as he works his way around the Midwest on his way to the convention. But one of the most important days in Gore's entire campaign comes Tuesday when President Clinton leaves the convention and meets Gore in Michigan for a symbolic passing of the torch: A moment Gore hopes he'll finally emerge from Clinton's shadow.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

ANGLE (voice-over): But that was complicated this week when Mr. Clinton offered his soulful confession on the pain he'd caused with the Lewinsky affair, something Gore wants everyone to forget. Republicans, of course, hope to make morality an issue in the campaign. Gore sought to blunt those efforts by picking Joe Lieberman, a deeply religious man and an early Clinton critic, as his running mate.

The Democrats also came down hard on California Representative Loretta Sanchez to force her to cancel a fund-raiser at the Playboy mansion.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

ANGLE: Playboy and Bill Clinton are not what Gore wants voters thinking about just as he tries to grab the spotlight as the number one Democrat. But Mr. Clinton isn't going quietly, so Al Gore must feel like Al Pacino in "The Godfather." Every time he tries to get out of Clinton's shadow, something keeps dragging him back in. The convention, he hopes, will be the end of that.

Now my colleague, Karl Cameron, on the convention floor.

CAMERON: Hi, Jim.

Well, this week was supposed to be about Al Gore and Joseph Lieberman, but it takes place in a city that has a love affair with the Clintons. So, for now, they are the talk of the glitzy and glamorous in tinseltown.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

CAMERON (voice-over): It is a five-day shmooze fest of media moguls and Hollywood's biggest donors. Saturday night, the president headlined a star-studded fund-raiser for Mrs. Clinton's New York Senate bid. Sunday's brunch at Barbra Steisand's will net \$10 million for Clinton's presidential library. The president also managed to squeeze in a trip to a local golf course between get-togethers with Jewish, Black, and Hispanic groups.

He speaks Monday night and even reviewed Ronald Reagan's speech at the end of his second term in preparation. The first lady rehearsed on Saturday for her speech Monday night as well. Some Democrats for Gore worry that there might be a bit too much of the Clintons.

HUDDY: And Hollywood is also nervous about Gore's new running mate. Joseph Lieberman has criticized the entertainment industry for too much sex and violence and has said he will not back off.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

But if there is to be any real disharmony here, it is more

likely to come from protesters. Tens of thousands have been organizing for weeks; security is clamping down for what some think has the potential for more unrest than what took place at the Republican convention in Philadelphia just a couple of weeks ago.

Tony, back to you in Washington.

SNOW: Thanks, Karl. This week, Al Gore picked Senator Joe Lieberman as his running mate, and the early returns looked good. Sixty-one percent of the respondents to our latest Fox News-Opinion Dynamics poll call Lieberman a good choice, and press reports describe him as a man of moderation and faith. We'll let you decide, because here to talk about his role in the upcoming presidential campaign is Senator Joe Lieberman.

First question: When you and Al Gore disagree on a policy, doesn't he win?

LIEBERMAN: Yeah, those are--I know how it works, when he and I disagree, he wins. But--and we have disagreed on some issues over the years. I think it's a mark of the strength of Al Gore's leadership that he didn't ask for total unanimity from his vice-presidential selection.

And, you know, we've talked about this this week as we've gone along, and he said to me he wants--my value to him, in part, is my willingness, not dissimilar from Al Gore himself, to look at new ideas, to explore different ways to solve problems, and to argue that out with him. That's been the nature of our relationship for more than a dozen years. He doesn't want me to stop it when he gets to be president and I get to be vice president, but when he makes a decision, I know what the administration policy will be.

SNOW: Is there any policy on which--you can conceive of where you would say, "Look, I can't just support you on this?"

LIEBERMAN: Not at this time. I'll tell you, the good thing to say here is that though Al Gore and I have had differences of opinion, on most of the important issues facing the country today and in the future, the way we continue our economic prosperity, how do we keep America strong in the world, how we protect the environment, prescription drug coverage, Medicare, patient bill of rights, we agree.

And I guess even more important is that we agree on the foundations of those policies. We have similar values; we have similar political approaches to problems over the years. So I think, by and large, I can't imagine a case of really profound fundamental differences, but even if there is, I know--really not just for politics, but for the Constitution, the vice president has to support the president.

SNOW: So, you know, people who say that there's a big difference between your views and Al Gore's, that's just wrong?

LIEBERMAN: Well, there are some areas in which we differ. We've differed, as you know, on the whole question of school scholarship vouchers for poor children. We've differed on tort reform, for instance. But the differences are not enormous. That is the fact. And, again, we agree on basic principles and on priorities.

SNOW: So you're getting accused of swapping positions. What you're saying is, you didn't change positions, but you're being a loyal running mate?

LIEBERMAN: I'd say this, Tony, that on some of the questions that the Republicans have said I'm dramatically different from Al Gore, I haven't been. Incidentally, I think it's important to say that if you look

at Al Gore's record as a member of the House, as a senator, he was quite independent and centrist, as I have been, and very open to new ideas. Let's remember that for the last seven-and-a-half years, he's been vice president, and we've already discussed the role of the vice president.

SNOW: Let's talk about some policies. In the past, you say you have looked at the idea of Social Security privatization, taking a little chunk of that and letting individuals invest. You no longer support that idea. Is that correct?

LIEBERMAN: That is correct. One of the hallmarks of my career in public service has been that I've been open to new ideas. And I'm not going to push an idea away because its source is either conservative or Republican because I'm a moderate Democrat.

But in this case, I was very intrigued by the idea of privatizing part of Social Security. And I spent a lot of time studying it, 1997, 1998 and 1999. And I had colleagues come to me with three different bills asking me if I'd sign them. But every time I got to the end of my road of my inquiry, there was no "there" there. There was no real benefit for the retirees.

And, more important, it required as much as one trillion dollars to get this system started, which would come out of the Social Security fund and jeopardize basic Social Security. So I turned away from it. In 1999, actually, I voted on the floor of the Senate against a sense of the Senate urging personal privatization accounts.

SNOW: So what's a better investment: Treasury bills which is what Social Security uses or a general market fund?

LIEBERMAN: Each is--you know, a lot of people who have investments, mix their investments, and they have some that are real solid like Treasury bills and some that are in the market. And my vision of it is this way: There are different sources of retirement benefits for the American people, but the base, the floor, is Social Security.

That guarantees and has guaranteed tens of millions of Americans that they won't fall into poverty in their old age. You can't play with that. You can't fool with it. And I think, though Governor Bush has not given us the details of his privatization account, I'm convinced if you need to take a trillion dollars out of the trust fund, then you're going to jeopardize that floor.

In addition to that, you know, people have the right to invest in the market. Al Gore has a great proposal for retirement security accounts plus, which I think we'll add on.

SNOW: OK. Let me ask--so your proposal for reforming Social Security is don't reform it at all?

LIEBERMAN: Let's protect the base, and then let's find other ways through tax incentives, as Al does, to give the average person, the middle class person, the opportunity to build a stock market kind of nest egg to supplement Social Security. I think that's the surest way to do it. And the surplus we've got now allows us to do that.

SNOW: So what you're saying is you understand that for your kids, for my kids, probably for me even, Social Security alone won't cut it?

LIEBERMAN: It may not cut it to make us as comfortable as we want to be. But the important thing is it creates a floor below which you and I--I think we're privileged--but most Americans will not fall. And you know, millions of elderly Americans today obviously, and for a generation

or two, have not fallen into poverty because of Social Security.

SNOW: Are racial preferences a bad idea?

LIEBERMAN: Racial preferences, quotas, I think, are not a good idea. But the quest for equal opportunity, including affirmative action programs, I think, are a good idea. And, of course, the most important thing to say is that when the economy is humming, as it's been for seven-and-a-half years, then people are working and opportunity is rising.

The quest for equal opportunity is, to me, one of the two great driving impulses and values of American life. The other, obviously, is freedom. And you know, we have a lot of different ways to achieve equal opportunity. Some of the affirmative action programs, I think, have done that pretty well. But quotas don't make it and shouldn't make it.

SNOW: What do you think of Governor Bush? Do you think he's doing the right kind of outreach?

LIEBERMAN: Outreach to ...?

SNOW: Minorities, on behalf of the Republican Party.

LIEBERMAN: Well, look, you know, I'm not going to criticize anybody who seems to be trying to reach out to a broader group in the society. Obviously, minorities and people who are out in the society and wanting to rise up have tended to side, I think correctly so, with the Democratic Party.

But, you know, if you looked at the Republican convention, with all respect, the inclusiveness was mostly on the stage, not among the delegates.

This week in Los Angeles, you're going to really see the broad face of America, and this party, the Democratic Party, has clearly been the party not just in cosmetics, but in the reality of programs, including today with the good economy, with a whole series of ways to raise people up--has been the party of those who are out and trying to get in and up.

SNOW: But isn't it also true that for your convention you have quotas?

LIEBERMAN: Well, I like to think of that as an acceptable affirmative action program which actually works to make our convention delegates much more reflective of the American people than the Republican convention was.

SNOW: Should Al Gore and Democrats return money from Playboy? After all, there's been all this talk about the fund-raiser at the Playboy mansion. If you can't do it at the mansion, should the money itself be returned?

LIEBERMAN: You know, this is--you could ask this about contributions from any group of people. I think the test of this, in a system in which there is disclosure of contributions, is what do you do about it? I mean, how does it affect your leadership or record?

And the contributions, as I've heard them described from the folks at Playboy, are very small in the context, \$5,000 or \$6,000, in the context, unfortunately, of hundreds of millions of dollars being spent by both parties this year.

So it's pretty clear that Al Gore wasn't affected by those contributions, or he wouldn't have been as strong...

SNOW: So they shouldn't give them back?

LIEBERMAN: I don't think so. He wouldn't have been as strong as he has been in wanting to separate himself from this fund-raiser that was going to occur at the Playboy mansion.

SNOW: He's criticized big industry including big pharmaceuticals and big insurance. And of course, you're the top recipient of insurance money in the Senate, the number two in pharmaceuticals. Will you continue to get contributions from them in your Senate bid this year?

LIEBERMAN: Well, we'll see.

SNOW: Will you accept it?

LIEBERMAN: Sure, I will. There's probably no accident there. I mean, it happens--of course, I've been the senator from Connecticut, and there's a large insurance industry presence and a pharmaceutical industry presence, and these are reputable industries.

But you've got to look at my voting record. And you know, while I appreciate the support, it hasn't bound me. For instance, I voted for the patient bill of rights to give doctors and patients the opportunity to sue insurance companies, managed care companies, because I don't think the insurance company position is right.

On pharmaceuticals, I've been for and voted for the Medicare coverage of prescription drugs that the pharmaceutical companies don't want. So I'm not exactly--what is the old expression?--their running dog? Is that what they used to say?

(LAUGHTER)

SNOW: Did George Bush and the Republicans play into your hands by talking so much about Bill Clinton implicitly and explicitly?

LIEBERMAN: Well, I think the Republican campaign so far has been quite remarkable in that regard, Tony, which is that the Bush-Cheney ticket seems to want to run against a guy who's not on the ballot this year, which is Bill Clinton. And we're about the future.

They seem to be about the past. We're saying that we're the ticket, Al Gore and I, that can carry on the great economic times which Vice President Gore was at the heart of. But the personal mistakes that President Clinton made are history.

And it's obviously--and, really, it's unfair to try to link those to Al Gore and certainly me. Al Gore had nothing to do with those. I mean, it's about the same as criticizing the Bush-Cheney ticket for Iran-Contra. It's over. And let's talk about what each ticket is going to do for the future.

SNOW: So no more talk about Dick Cheney's voting record?

LIEBERMAN: Well, you might talk about it, just to ask him, but he's running this year. That's the difference. Ask him where he is on some of those votes that he cast in the '80s that seem to be so far from mainstream America.

I mean, Al Gore and I have sat this week, and we're going to really stick to it. This is not going to be a campaign of personal attacks. George Bush and Dick Cheney seem to me to be able and decent men, but they've got a record, and they've got plans for the future.

Ours are very different, and I'm convinced ours are just so much better for the American people that I think we've got to make that case.

SNOW: All right. Senator Lieberman, thanks for joining us this morning.

LIEBERMAN: Tony, thank you. It's been a pleasure.

SNOW: When we return, Democrats descend on LA.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

MORE

SNOW: Our current Fox News-Opinion Dynamics poll shows a statistical dead heat between Vice President Al Gore and Texas Governor George W. Bush.

MORE

^BC-C2000-LIEBERMAN-FOX-NEWS, 6th Add, f8146,0752

U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-Ct) Is Interviewed On Fox News Sunday

xfdsu C2000-LIEBERMAN-FOX-NEWS 6thadd xfdsu

XXX George W. Bush.

SNOW: In a head-to-head match up, Bush leads by three points within the margin of error. His lead grows to five points in a four-man field.

Will a good Democratic convention propel Al Gore into the lead, or could internal squabbling spoil the fun? For answers, we turn to Bill Daley, chairman of Gore-Lieberman 2000. He joins us from the Fox skybox at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. That's the site of the convention.

Also joining the questioning, Brit Hume, Washington managing editor of Fox News.

Mr. Daley, when Joe Lieberman accepted the nomination, he mentioned God 13 times in 90 seconds. Isn't it true that if a Republican did that people would be howling about the mixture of religion and politics?

DALEY: No, I don't believe that at all, Tony. If you know Joe Lieberman, you know his faith is important to him. It drives him. It is an important part of his entire life, not just the last week by any stretch. But people know that Joe Lieberman has been out there as a senator from Connecticut and will show in this campaign someone who understands the issues of working families and someone who has spent his life fighting as attorney general and as a senator and as a state senator in Connecticut for people on the issues that matter to the average working family.

SNOW: Mr. Daley, there's a lot of talk about inclusiveness this week. Mr. Lieberman is an Orthodox Jew. Orthodox Judaism mandates the separation of the sexes in the synagogues, it doesn't support the mixture of sexes in the military, it opposes homosexuality, it does not recognize so-called mixed marriages, that is marrying outside the religion. My question to you is what's inclusive about that?

DALEY: Look at Joe Lieberman's life, Tony. If you think he's not an inclusive person, you don't know him. His religion is personal to him. And I think on those issues, you should ask him. But if you look at his life and you look at the way he has lived it, he has been a man of total inclusion.

And I think all of America, as the Republicans have stated too, have enormous respect for him as a person. And we look forward to him not only being a strong partner with Al Gore during the next 2 1/2 months in the campaign, but more importantly, a very good vice president and someone who can be truly honored to be--to have that office, but also someone that we, as Americans, can be honored to have in that office.

HUME: Mr. Secretary, let me ask you a couple questions about the event in Tennessee when Senator Lieberman was there with Vice President Gore. And Senator Lieberman actually had a prayer in his remarks and spoke at some length, quoting the Bible and so forth. Did the campaign know ahead of time that that was what he was going to do? In other words, were you all privy to the fact that that was how he was going to accept

the nomination?

DALEY: No, not at all. I didn't--we didn't know what he was exactly going to say. It was an emotional moment for he and his wife, as he stated so clearly here as a fellow who is living the American dream, having a chance of once in a lifetime, not only as a historic opportunity for someone of the Jewish faith to be a vice-presidential nominee, but just as someone who's been in the political game and someone who's been involved in politics and government. This is a tremendous honor, and I think he's very respectful of that.

HUME: Do you notice a difference in the reaction, for example, to Governor Bush's saying that Jesus Christ was a powerful influence in his life, the most powerful philosopher, as he put it, the most influential philosopher, and some of the criticism that received as suggesting he was wearing his religion on his sleeve and what Senator Lieberman said in the apparent delight in it that Vice President Gore and the campaign took?

DALEY: Well, first of all, Vice President Gore and the campaign did not at all criticize George Bush for those comments. Those were personal comments of him, as to his faith. I think all Americans respect people of faith, and those who are not of faith, we have to respect them for their opinions.

DALEY: But those who would criticize someone who not only speaks those words but lives that life, I think are very ill-founded criticisms.

Joe Lieberman's life, his faith, his fighting for working families is an important part of his life. The issues that he's fought for as senator and attorney general are important to him, and he should talk about them and he will talk about them. And I think we will be proud of him as this campaign goes through.

HUME: Tony.

SNOW: Mr. Daley, do you worry that Bill Clinton's going to hog the spotlight this week?

DALEY: No, not at all. President Clinton is here to thank Democrats who have supported him over the last eight years. He's here to say thank you, basically, and to lay out kind of a review of the last eight years of his administration, the things they've fought for, and I think it's totally appropriate for him to be here to thank the Democrats, because the Democratic Party stood with him during good times and difficult times over the last eight years.

But after tomorrow night's speech which is an important speech for the president, for the campaign for Democrats, this is Al Gore's convention, it's Al Gore's campaign and it's Al Gore's election, because it's about the future, not the past.

SNOW: Should the president repeat his apology for past transgressions?

DALEY: That's his decision. I think the American people have dealt with that. He seems to have dealt with it. And this campaign, again, Al Gore and Joe Lieberman want to talk about the issues that people care about, that matter to their lives. Those families that are out there struggling, those families that are trying to see a greater opportunity for their kids, they want to hear about--from the candidates, specifics.

You'll hear from Al Gore on Thursday night talk about specific plans that he wants to implement as president, not vague generalities, not

just nice talk, but you're going to hear specifics from him, and that's important to him. He's a serious person. He is one who has spent a lifetime of public dedication and somebody who believes strongly that we can do better, and he wants to be the person who leads America.

SNOW: So you talk about struggling families; obviously this economic expansion isn't as good as it's been advertised?

DALEY: Oh, it's been great, Tony, but as you know, because you travel around America, not everyone has benefited from this economy, as many Americans have. But we're proud of the fact that we have the lowest unemployment among African-Americans and Hispanic-Americans in history, wages are up across the board.

But we should also still be concerned about those who have not done as well. And for those who have done well, we want to keep this prosperity going, and we want to see it improve. But it's only going to occur if we stay fiscally disciplined, as Al Gore and Joe Lieberman will, and if we don't take actions that put that economic progress at risk.

HUME: Mr. Secretary, let me take you back to what passes for controversy at these conventions. In this one, of course, it's the case of the Playboy fund-raiser--Playboy mansion fund-raiser, I guess now moved or changed; the refusal of Vice President Gore to endorse that; the insistence of the party that the venue be changed. At the same time that the campaign continues to receive contributions from Playboy figures, doesn't that put you in a position of loving the money and hating the bunny, and looking hypocritical?

DALEY: No, I don't think so. First of all, Congressman Sanchez is the highest-ranking female in the Democratic Party. It is a location used for many different organizations. The news media were all there last night, enjoying the location. But I think as a representative of the Democratic Party, I think Joe Andrew was right in saying to her, if she was not the highest-ranking woman in the party, I think no one would bother to care whether or not that event was held there.

It's the location that has had different parties. The sums, as Joe Lieberman said, of money that's been received is very, very small. But the fact is that location has been used for all sorts of different events and many of which are not respectful of women. And that's why it should have been moved. And we're glad Congresswoman Sanchez moved it.

HUME: If that's the case, then the entire enterprise, the magazine, the movie, the whole works are guilty of not being respectful of women at all times. Why would it be acceptable then to receive money gained from such an enterprise and simply object to the building?

DALEY: Some of the money received for the campaigns are from some of the individuals, Christine Hefner, who is the CEO, who is someone who has been active in all sorts of progressive causes and has given to all sorts of--but they're small amounts of money.

HUME: Right. So if it's just a small amount of money, Mr. Secretary ...

DALEY: But the location sends a symbol and a message, again, that the party believes is inappropriate at this time with the convention here and for the highest-ranking woman. But the amounts of money and the message that we want to send are that the Democratic Party is unified. Congresswoman Sanchez did that, and it's over. It's over.

HUME: If it's just a pittance, why not give it back and it would be over?

DALEY: It is over.

HUME: Tony?

SNOW: Mr. Daley, let me ask a final question.

Your platform talks about responsible broadcasting in a responsible culture. And Vice President Gore and his running mate Joe Lieberman have talked about having no personal attacks. Last week, CBS, in what it called a comedy skit, had a picture of George W. Bush accepting his party's nomination. Underneath were the words ``Snipers Wanted." Why haven't you guys condemned that?

DALEY: To be honest with you, Tony, this is the first time I ever heard of it. If they had that, it is obviously rather disgusting, and that sort of thing shouldn't be obviously encouraged or talked about by any respectful network or any respectable show.

SNOW: All right. Bill Daley, chairman of Gore-Lieberman 2000, thanks for joining us.

DALEY: Thank you, Tony.

SNOW: When we return, our panel on the week's hot topics: Al picks Joe, and off they go. President Clinton bares his soul. And Democrats get jiggy in the City of Angels. All that and more when FOX NEWS SUNDAY continues.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

SNOW: Here's our latest FOX NEWS electoral vote count.

SNOW: Although George W. Bush got a bounce on a lot of public opinion polls, he did not gain any ground in our electoral map. Our latest numbers show Governor Bush holding secure leads in states with a total of 167 electoral votes. Voters lean his way in states with another 104 votes, the safe-plus-lean total of 271 electoral votes is one electoral vote more than the number required to win the presidency.

Meanwhile, Al Gore has safe leads in states with 93 electoral votes. Joe Lieberman helped push Connecticut into the safe category. Gore also gets the lean in states with another 101. His safe-plus-lean total of 194 electoral votes is six fewer than two weeks ago, because Arkansas moved into toss-up territory. Speaking of which, toss-up states now account for 73 electoral votes.

And now it's time for our super panel in Los Angeles, Brit Hume, Juan Williams, ``the Beltway Boys, `` Fred Barnes and Mort Kondracke, and here keeping company with me in the nation's capital, Mara Liasson.

Let's begin first with the selection of Joe Lieberman. Brit Hume, good, bad, indifferent?

HUME: Good for sure, Tony. Passes the could-he-govern test, a lot of experience, man of moderate reputation and, indeed, some moderate positions which he seems quickly now to be adjusting to make them commensurate with those of Al Gore. But widely hailed choice, obviously, an effective choice.

BARNES: Yes, I think...

SNOW: Fred, is religious discussion now back in vogue?

BARNES: It certainly is on the Democratic side. I think we're going to hear a lot of it here at this convention. And of course, when Republicans raise religion in public, they tend to get pilloried by the press, in particular, and by Democrats and liberals.

When Joe Lieberman did it, he was praised as someone who was, as Richard Cohen said in ``The Washington Post," affirming his values. So Lieberman seems to get away with what Republicans can't, George W. Bush

can't.

KONDRAKE: You know, I think...

LIASSON: You know, I think ...

KONDRAKE: It's not just a question of the press's bias here. I think the attitude is out there that Republicans would impose religion, somehow, on people who don't share their beliefs, as in, you know, insisting that kids say prayers in schools and so on, and nobody believes that Joe Lieberman is going to do that. I think that's the problem. I think that's the issue.

LIASSON: Yes, he has a quite liberal voting record on those kinds of issues. However, I think that in this race religion becomes a kind of code word for morality, and just like the Republicans talking code when they talk about restoring honor and dignity to the White House, to the Oval Office, everyone knows what they're talking about. I think that Joe Lieberman's religion, the fact that he is an observant Jew, reminds people--and has a connection to the fact that he was the first Democrat to stand up on the floor of the Senate and call President Clinton's behavior immoral.

LIASSON: And his pick was a pretty direct response to the charge that the Republicans have been making over and over, and inoculated Al Gore, to a certain extent, at least Democrats hope he did, against that charge from the Republicans. Now, you did see George Bush and Dick Cheney back off of that charge at the end of this week, saying, oh, we think Al Gore could restore honor and dignity to the White House. George W. Bush, at one point, even insisting that he wasn't talking about President Clinton when he was talking about honor and dignity. So I think Lieberman helped on that front, too.

SNOW: Juan?

WILLIAMS: Well, I think it was a cleansing bath in a sense, Tony. It felt as if, you know, you could feel good about being a Democrat again. The problem with Cheney, when Republicans nominated Cheney, was people asked is this someone that's going to energize the base. They answered yes. Clearly, Cheney pleased the conservatives on the Republican side.

When you put that test to Lieberman, it's not as clear a case that that's knocking the ball out of the park, because, in fact, what we saw this week was you saw many black leaders sort of huddling and worrying that this is a guy that hasn't been supportive of affirmative action. You saw the teachers worried that this is a guy who is supportive of vouchers. Many people involved with the fight for prescription drugs, for health care benefits universally, said, hey, a lot of Lieberman's money has come out of New York and Connecticut out of the prescription drug industry, out of the insurance industry.

Where is he on these cutting edge liberal issues? So liberals felt, hey, we got nothing out of this deal. Lieberman is a moderate to centrist Democrat. He is the Republicans' favorite Democrat in the Senate. So I think lots of people in the Democratic base felt he wasn't exactly their choice.

KONDRACKER (?): Well, I mean, but Gore's other job besides consolidating the base is to reach out to swing voters. And Lieberman, as a centrist, may put a good face on the Gore ticket.

BARNES (?): Now, wait a minute. How do you reach out to centrist voters? You get Joe Lieberman as your running mate and force him

to drop all his centrist positions and move to the left. And of course we know Al Gore has already moved to the left of Bill Clinton on trade, on gays in the military, and Gore is much more adamant about refusing to consider any reforms to Social Security or Medicare than even Bill Clinton is.

KONDRACKE (?): This is--there's a lot of symbolism going on and Joe Lieberman was used as a symbol of centrism but now has been forced, as Fred says, to move over. You wonder whether Joe can be Joe in a Gore administration.

WILLIAMS: Well, I don't think people want Joe to be Joe if it means you're going to have a Republican running around in Democrat's clothing. The idea is that what you want to do is have Joe Lieberman come on board and be supportive of Al Gore. This is Al Gore's campaign, and Al Gore is going to lose a lot of people he needs in terms of energizing that base if he was to shift to positions that Lieberman has on Social Security.

KONDRACKE: If he's not going to be influential, what's he there for?

WILLIAMS: He's there, in essence, as we said at the start of this segment, to remind people that Al Gore is not Bill Clinton in terms of that mortality issue and to suggest, in fact, that here is someone who has led a life of faith and is a genuine person, and it is a breakthrough to have a Jewish person in that role.

``Time'' magazine, this morning, said, however, that people in the South and western states, about 17% said they would consider their friends and neighbors less likely to vote for the Democratic ticket because there's a Jew on it. That is a real risk. Gore took a real risk, and he is to be saluted for it.

SNOW: Brit, let me ask you a question about Al Gore's speech this week. We heard Bill Daley say this is going to be a speech full of specifics. Is that the kind of thing that's going to energize the base or the rest of the public?

HUME: I think you've got to ask this question. If you're a Republican strategist, and you're sitting there, and you're being told that Al Gore, who is not known all over the world for giving speeches that energize the base or anybody else, is going to give a speech that's laden with policy specifics.

HUME: And you know, that means you're going to get the details of the HUD bill and all the other things that he's going to be involved in proposing, whether you would regard that as bad news.

I mean, my sense about that is that an Al Gore policy-laden speech might be hard going for the audience, for the TV audience and maybe even for Mr. Gore himself. So I'm not sure that's bad news for the Republicans and good news for the Democrats. It remains to be seen.

LIASSON: Yeah, but you can understand why the Gore campaign felt it had to go in this direction. It is kind of the obvious answer to that kind of vague, upbeat, feel-good Republican convention in Philadelphia.

But I think they are taking a certain amount of a gamble. There is a theory abroad this year that says people are pretty fat and happy and content. They're not looking to Washington to solve their problems. They're not interested in specifics; they're more interested in

personality.

George W. Bush satisfied that urge. The Democrats are saying, OK, we're going to offer you an alternative to cotton candy. We're going to give you a lot of spinach this week, some really crunchy specific policies. Now this worked in 1992 for them.

President--or remember Bill Clinton used to say or his spokesman, specificity is a character issue. That was their mantra. We're going to issue a lot of white papers, all about the health care plans. That worked back then. People were hungering for the government to do something ...

HUME: Mara, Mara ...

LIASSON: to help them, but it might not work this year.

HUME: Do you really think that laundry list of specifics and all those white papers had anything, anything to do with that election?

LIASSON: Well, I'll tell you what I think it did do back then.

HUME: That was an election about the U.S. economy, Mara, and very little else.

LIASSON: Right. And President Clinton said he had a plan to fix it and he put out books and papers on it. I just think this year is a different year. I'm not saying what Al Gore is going to do isn't going to work, but I think he's definitely going against the zeitgeist of this year.

SNOW: Folks, I'm going to break in here. Got to hold off for a second there, Mort. We've got to take a break. When we return, more on the convention, the other convention.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

SNOW: And we're back with the FOX fab five, Brit Hume, Juan Williams, ``the Beltway Boys," Fred Barnes and Mort Kondracke and here with me in Washington, D.C., Mara Liasson.

Well, the Democrats are preparing to have their convention in Los Angeles, but meanwhile, the Reform Party has been meeting in Long Beach, California. And now's the time for the latest installment of ``as the Reform Party churns."

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

SNOW (voice-over): We begin with a happy event, a convention. A place to meet people of like minds.

(UNKNOWN): Go, Pat, go!

(UNKNOWN): Jerry! Jerry!

SNOW: An occasion for greeting old friends.

BUCHANAN: We are on our way, friends. We're on our way.

SNOW: But wait, there's trouble. Uh-oh. Pat picks Ezola (ph) and asks for the money while John and Russ storm out and hold their own confab down the hall. But where's Ross? Where's the Donald? Where's Jesse? Then again, who needs a wrestler when you have all this?

(END VIDEOTAPE)

So Juan, you're out there. What are you making of this Reform Party convention?

WILLIAMS: Well, in a sense, it's the real news. It's a real convention, Tony, as a contrast to what the Republicans put on, even what the Democrats are going to put on here this week with all the chrome and you see here in the background, their silver representation of the future, their up and down podiums so the TV cameras can get different angles.

What you see going on in the Reform Party is the real fight, I

think the bottom line is both want that \$12.5 million that's at stake. And Pat Buchanan, I think Pat thought leaving the Republicans he was going to get that money, he was going to become a major player in American political life. Turns out he has squandered Ross Perot's legacy. I think the Reform party is now an afterthought, and Ralph Nader's likely to do better than Pat Buchanan.

HUME: Tony, it does raise an interesting question, though. You know, the major party--the major parties are criticized for putting on dull conventions with no conflict or fights about anything. And that's why it is claimed that, you know, ABC, CBS, NBC, don't cover them in prime time at all. Well, Saturday night, the Reform party, at least the Buchanan wing of it, which I think is fair to say is the real deal, has its big event acceptance speech by Pat Buchanan. Almost nobody covered that. FOX NEWS channel did, and I guess CNN did. But if conflict is the thing that's missing, they had it and nobody cared.

LIASSON: You've got to have conflict and you've got to have relevance, that's the thing, and I think the Reform Party, other than the \$12 million, is getting less and less relevant. And it's not just--it's not Pat Buchanan's fault. The fact is that the issues that Ross Perot put on the table in 92 and 96 have been co-opted by the major parties. He talked about the deficit. The deficit is gone. He talked about trade. Of course, both parties agree on that. He talked about campaign reform, John McCain and the Republican Party became the carrier of that message. So I think the Reform Party just has less and less reason to be, and I think that's one of the reasons why you're seeing it disintegrate.

BARNES: Yeah, not only does it lack issues, it lacks party unity, and I don't think Pat's going to get that \$12 million that he wants because he thinks he can use that for ads that will raise his standing in the polls and that, in turn, will get him in the debates with George W. Bush and Al Gore. That's never going to happen. I mean it's (OFF-MIKE) party that broke off from the Reform party is going to challenge at the federal election commission, and then in court, that money, the \$12 million going to Pat, so it would be the ultimate revenge if he gets this nomination, it's worthless. He doesn't get the money, he's not in the debates. He'll have to come back to being a panelist on television.

SNOW: OK, well Fred, one of the things that's likely to happen also is that the lawyers are going to be getting the money. Let me switch to Bill Clinton, because he's obviously going to play a key role in this convention and this upcoming campaign, but as a way of teasing it, I want to read of some questions from our latest Fox News/opinion dynamics poll.

We begin by asking what kind of changes should the next president make. Fifty one percent say a change in values and ethics; only 21 percent say a change in policy.

Then, which ticket is more likely to change the way Washington works? Bush-Cheney by more than a 2-to-1 margin, 54 percent over the 26 percent for Gore-Lieberman.

Next up: Who will improve the moral climate of the country. This one's a little closer, Bush-Cheney gets the nod over Gore-Lieberman by a 44 to 35 percent margin.

Finally, if you were Al Gore, would you ask Bill Clinton to campaign or stay home?

SNOW: Stay home, 68 percent, campaign, 26 percent. Now, Mort, this week, we had the president doing a confessional. He is going to have

the stage Monday night. What kind of asset is he going to be, and is he going to steal the thunder from Al Gore?

KONDRACK: Well, as Bill Daley said with hope in his heart, Bill Clinton makes this speech and recites the record. I think that's what Bill Clinton is mainly going to do, is to show how much progress has occurred in the last eight years. You know, are you better off now than you were eight years ago? Most people will say yes. And he'll say that Al Gore was by my side every bit of the way. And if he mentions the scandals of the past, he will say Al Gore had nothing to do with it. And what--then he's gone, you know.

And what then Al Gore's got to do is to focus people's attention on the agenda ahead, show how it's different from what George Bush is offering, raise health care as a big issue, which George Bush sort of left by the wayside, and then sort of take over from there and hope that Bill Clinton doesn't horn in on his act as he goes along.

HUME: Tony, I think that it is--that Bill Clinton will be, quote, gone in some physical sense. But in a very real sense, he will never be gone from this campaign or really from this convention. And if you look at conventions past, where presidents in office who were lame ducks have played a role, it's been important.

Ronald Reagan made a speech at New Orleans in 1988, in which he said the memorable words, I think it was, "Ladies and gentlemen, we are the change" to counter the message that was being promoted then by Michael Dukakis and the Democrats. And I remember the respected David Broder remarked later that that was at the moment--it was at that moment when he said that that he really began to think that the Republicans had a chance to win.

And George Bush, at that point, was trying just as Al Gore is today to come out from the shadow of a sitting president. It isn't easy to do. Ronald Reagan did get off the stage. He didn't return around in New Orleans that year raising money for his library. And he didn't have Nancy there running for another office. I mean, it is just--it is a circumstance in which, even then, he still was a factor in that convention. Bill Clinton will be even more so. There's--it's guys like (OFF-MIKE) ghost, there's no getting rid of him.

WILLIAMS: You know, I think, in fact, Tony, what you're going to see is that Bill Clinton is going to be celebrated here tomorrow night. Monday night, Bill Clinton is going to get a proper going away party. The Democrats who are coming here, the delegates love Bill Clinton. There are lots of people who don't love Bill Clinton.

And as Brit properly said, Bill Clinton is going to be a factor in this campaign because of his behavior with Monica Lewinsky. But across the hall here, or across the street I should say, you have images of Cesar Chavez, Martin Luther King Jr., Franklin Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt, Bobby Kennedy. Suddenly, in that pantheon, now fits Bill Clinton as the man who won the office twice after 12 years of Republican rule, and I think lots of people here want to give him a proper send-off.

SNOW: OK. Juan, I want to cut in and let Mara get in here.

LIASSON: Well, yeah, the only--I'll just say very quickly that it's ironic that no president has ever worked harder to get his vice president elected to succeed him in terms of raising money, putting Al Gore out in front, doing everything he can. Yet no president has ever been as problematic for his vice president as Bill Clinton has. And that's a tough balancing act for both the White House, for President Clinton, and

for Al Gore.

SNOW: All right. I want to thank all our panel members. That's all the time we have for this panel. Brit Hume, Juan Williams, Fred Barnes, Mort Kondracke, Mara Liasson, John Voy (ph), thank you all.

SNOW: And now it's time to check the mail. First, (OFF-MIKE) notes. (OFF-MIKE) writes: ``Brit Hume, Some of us would like for us to share your method of choosing shirt collars that fit and how you tie your ties." Rita from Long Island writes: ``Tony, I watch your show every Sunday morning--not as much for the political content, but more so for the tie and shirt you are wearing. If your tie and shirt are any indication of your personality, you are one wild guy." And this from Glenn Goznale (ph): ``Your reporting from the Republican convention floor was wonderful. But I had a hard time focusing on what you were saying because I couldn't take my eyes off Mara's beautiful ankles." Glenn, seek help.

Finally, this from Lee Black: ``What happens is none of the four candidates for president gets a majority of votes? Will there be a run-off?"

Dear Lee: Great question. If no winner emerges in the electoral college, the House of Representatives elected this November will decide. When we return, my parting thoughts on the G word.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

SNOW: It's a funny thing. When George W. Bush cited Jesus as his favorite philosopher, pundits snickered, and civil libertarians sneered. But when Joe Lieberman praised God this week, the same voices cooed in admiration.

I think we're indebted to both men. In recent years, religion has become taboo, which is one reason why we're so screwed up.

Religion performs vital chores. It establishes the precept that right and wrong have fixed and true meanings. It promotes the healing virtues of compassion and love. And it teaches humility.

Unfortunately, a lot of politicians have tried to knock down religion so they could pose as figures of God-like goodness and power. Such pride is an awful thing, punishable by eventual public humiliation. It's also the source of much ugliness in Washington as egomaniacs jostle for recognition as saints. That's why it's nice to hear Bush and Lieberman trying in their own modest ways to say, we can't do much but we'll try to be honorable in doing what we can.

That's it for today. Have a great week and remember to start your Sundays right here on FOX NEWS SUNDAY.

END

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Chad Cronon <chad.cronon@hrc.org> (Chad Cronon <chad.cronon@hrc.org> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:15-AUG-2000 10:08:29.00

SUBJECT: FW: HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN'S BIRCH TO MAKE HISTORY AS FIRST LEADER OF
NATIONAL GAY ORGANIZATION TO GIVE SPEECH AT POLITICAL CONVENTION

TO: "UF LGBSU (E-mail)" <lgbu@grove.ufl.edu> ("UF LGBSU (E-mail)" <lgbu@grove.ufl.edu> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Suzy Rosen (E-mail)" <sazant@hotmail.com> ("Suzy Rosen (E-mail)" <sazant@hotmail.com> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Raul Stone-Crousley (E-mail)" <RaStone-Cousley@household.com> ("Raul Stone-Crousley (E-mail)" <RaStone-Cousley@household.com> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Paul Byk (E-mail)" <psbyk@ufl.edu> ("Paul Byk (E-mail)" <psbyk@ufl.edu> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Matt Patton (E-mail)" <pattonm@bellsouth.net> ("Matt Patton (E-mail)" <pattonm@bellsouth.net> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Lori Cronon (E-mail)" <LoriLou4@aol.com> ("Lori Cronon (E-mail)" <LoriLou4@aol.com> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Kathy Urbach (E-mail)" <urbach@law.ufl.edu> ("Kathy Urbach (E-mail)" <urbach@law.ufl.edu> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Joseph E. Voeller (CN=Joseph E. Voeller/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Jim Button (E-mail)" <jbutton@polisci.ufl.edu> ("Jim Button (E-mail)" <jbutton@polisci.ufl.edu> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Holly Nobil (E-mail)" <Misouk@aol.com> ("Holly Nobil (E-mail)" <Misouk@aol.com> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Chris Derksen (E-mail)" <derksenc@vmcmail.com> ("Chris Derksen (E-mail)" <derksenc@vmcmail.com> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Alex Alonso (E-mail)" <ufcuban@ufl.edu> ("Alex Alonso (E-mail)" <ufcuban@ufl.edu> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Tom Lac (E-mail)" <tlac@ufl.edu> ("Tom Lac (E-mail)" <tlac@ufl.edu> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Sean Kasper (E-mail)" <kaspers@law1.law.stetson.edu> ("Sean Kasper (E-mail)"
<kaspers@law1.law.stetson.edu> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Paul Lawson (E-mail)" <PaulKLawson@hotmail.com> ("Paul Lawson (E-mail)" <PaulKLawson@hotmail.com>
[UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Patrick Jong (E-mail)" <jpjong@hotmail.com> ("Patrick Jong (E-mail)" <jpjong@hotmail.com> [UNKNOWN]
)
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Matt Madison-Clark (E-mail)" <madclark@gte.net> ("Matt Madison-Clark (E-mail)" <madclark@gte.net> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Kristen McComber (E-mail)" <KristinM@gladney.org> ("Kristen McComber (E-mail)"
<KristinM@gladney.org> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Juana Cubana Sanchez (E-mail)" <juanito143@yahoo.com> ("Juana Cubana Sanchez (E-mail)"
<juanito143@yahoo.com> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Joe Sandillo (E-mail)" <Sethe2@aol.com> ("Joe Sandillo (E-mail)" <Sethe2@aol.com> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Jeremy McDonald (E-mail)" <drama0010@aol.com> ("Jeremy McDonald (E-mail)" <drama0010@aol.com> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Dewayne Morgan (E-mail)" <dmorgan@usmd.edu> ("Dewayne Morgan (E-mail)" <dmorgan@usmd.edu> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Butch Cronon (E-mail)" <Butch@handnhand.org> ("Butch Cronon (E-mail)" <Butch@handnhand.org> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: "Adam Romero (E-mail)" <apr9@cornell.edu> ("Adam Romero (E-mail)" <apr9@cornell.edu> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

> _____
>
> NEWS from the
> Human Rights Campaign
>
> 919 18th Street, NW, Suite 800
> Washington, DC 20006
> email: hrc@hrc.org
> http://www.hrc.org
> _____
>

> FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

> Contact: David M. Smith Monday, August 14, 2000 Phone:

> (202) 216-1547

> Pager: (800) 386-5996

>

> HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN'S BIRCH TO MAKE HISTORY AS FIRST LEADER OF NATIONAL
> GAY ORGANIZATION TO GIVE SPEECH AT POLITICAL CONVENTION

>

> Speech to Focus on Gore's Superior Record on Gay Issues and Healing the
> American Family, Asserts HRC

>

>

> LOS ANGELES-- Human Rights Campaign Executive Director Elizabeth Birch

> will make history Tuesday evening as the first leader of a gay

> organization to speak at a national political convention. The appearance

> of Birch in prime time at the Democratic National Convention highlights

> residential nominee Al Gore's commitment to diversity and his superior

> record on gay and lesbian

> issues, according to HRC.

> "This is an unprecedented opportunity to bring our issues into focus

> for the entire nation and show we are a vital part of the American

> family," said Birch. "This history making moment is a testament to Al

> Gore's commitment to our issues and shows the stark differences between

> the two candidates."

> Birch's speech will focus on "healing the American family" and the

> Gore campaign's vision of inclusion for all people in this family. Birch

> will challenge America to embrace equality for all people, including gay

> and lesbian Americans. She will also discuss how Gore's record

> demonstrates

> forward thinking leadership on gay and lesbian issues, while George W.

> Bush remains silent and mired in the past.

> "Al Gore and Joe Lieberman have taken strong, courageous positions on

> behalf of equality," said Birch. "The Democratic platform they support

> is

> a work of art in democracy, unambiguously supporting inclusion for every

> American. Unlike Bush and Cheney, they have never run for cover of

> silence."

> On nearly every issue, Gore is in agreement with the Human Rights

> Campaign. Gore supports the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which

> would ban workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation. He is an

> outspoken supporter of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. He supports

> ending

> the ban against gay and lesbian service members that has led to increased

> discharges

> and violence. While in the administration, Gore has worked to end the

> AIDS epidemic both at home and abroad.

> Meanwhile, on gay and lesbian issues Bush has either been silent or

> hostile, almost always siding with Bob Jones III, Jerry Falwell and Pat

> Robertson, says HRC. Bush opposes protections from discrimination based

> on sexual orientation.

> He supports a law that would ban gay people from adopting
children.

> He helped defeat a hate crime bill in Texas - even after the family of

> James Byrd Jr. - a Jasper, Texas man who was chained to the back of a

- > truck and dragged to death - urged him to support the bill. Bush supports
- > the continuation of the failed Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy. On HIV/AIDS
- > issues he has been virtually silent, hardly mentioning the topic, despite
- > the fact that AIDS is a major problem affecting the lives of thousands of
- > Texas residents.
- > Other openly gay and lesbian speakers include: Congresswoman Tammy
- > Baldwin, D-Wisc.; Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass.; Juanita Owens, San
- Francisco
- > school board member and candidate for the San Francisco Board of
- > Supervisors; Gloria Nieto, Democratic Committeewoman at-large from New
- > Mexico, Executive Director of People of Color AIDS Foundation, in
- > addition, she serves on the steering committee of the Coalition of
- > Equality in New Mexico and on the board of the National Stonewall
- > Democratic Federation; and Andy Tobias, National Treasurer for the
- > Democratic National Committee. Other speakers may be added.
- > The Human Rights Campaign is the nation's largest national lesbian
- and
- > gay political organization with members throughout the country. HRC
- > effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the
- > public to ensure that lesbian and gay Americans can be open, honest and
- > safe at home, at work and in the community.
- >
- >
- > - 30 -
- >

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: lgbt-politics@egroups.com (lgbt-politics@egroups.com [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 18-AUG-2000 09:31:41.00

SUBJECT: [lgbt-politics] Digest Number 123

TO: lgbt-politics@egroups.com (lgbt-politics@egroups.com [UNKNOWN])

READ: UNKNOWN

Elizabeth J. Potter (CN=Elizabeth J. Potter/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ: UNKNOWN

TEXT:

-----<e|
Failed tests, classes skipped, forgotten locker combinations.
Remember the good 'ol days
http://click.egroups.com/1/8012/11/_/332436/_/966605266/
-----|e>-----

To Submit a Newsclipping or Press Release, send it to the moderator at:
lgbt-politics@eGroups.com

To Unsubscribe, send a blank message to:
lgbt-politics-unsubscribe@eGroups.com

There are 6 messages in this issue.

Topics in this digest:

1. Wind Gap gay man says he helps the convention look like America
From: Brian Polejes <bpolejes@jps.net>
2. Signorile on the Democratic Convention
From: Brian Polejes <bpolejes@jps.net>
3. Photo: House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt Addressing GLVF
Benefit in L.A. on 8/13
From: "SLOAN WIESEN" <swiesen@victoryfund.org>
4. Federal agency backs Louisville gay rights law
From: Brian Polejes <bpolejes@jps.net>
5. Boy Scouts On Stage at Demo Convention
From: Brian Polejes <bpolejes@jps.net>
6. Gays have coming out party at Dem convention
From: Brian Polejes <bpolejes@jps.net>

Message: 1

Date: Thu, 17 Aug 2000 06:37:48 -0700

From: Brian Polejes <bpolejes@jps.net>

Subject: Wind Gap gay man says he helps the convention look like America

Allentown Morning Call, August 16, 2000

101 N. 6th Street, Allentown, PA, 18105

(Fax 610-820-6693) (E-MAIL: letters@mcall.com)

(<http://www.mcall.com>)

http://www.mcall.com/html/news/regional/a_pg001demo2.htm

Wind Gap gay man says he helps the convention look like America

By JEFF MILLER, Call Washington Bureau

LOS ANGELES ??? Steve Black is one of the faces of diversity Democrats

are promoting at their national convention this week. But you wouldn't know it to look at him.

Black, a mild-mannered white luncheonette worker from Wind Gap, is one of five openly gay delegates from Pennsylvania.

As such, he represents an increasingly important constituency, one Democrats are counting on to help lift Vice President Al Gore over Texas

Gov.

George W. Bush in November.

Homosexuals make up about 5 percent of the vote, according to an analysis by the nonpartisan National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. That's about the same percentage as Latinos, who also are being courted heavily this year.

Three-quarters of gay voters traditionally side with Democrats, although about one-third of them supported Republicans in the 1998 congressional elections.

Despite those GOP gains, Democrats say their party's embrace of gays

and causes important to them constitute a significant difference with Republicans.

Bush's vision "excludes as many as it includes," said Elizabeth Birch, president of the Human Rights Campaign. Her address Tuesday was the first by

a gay civil-rights leader in prime time at a major party convention.

Bush and running mate Dick Cheney "forego invective but embrace indifference and call it compassion," Birch said.

Bush has gone farther than most Republican nominees in courting the gay vote, saying that all people "should be treated with dignity." He's met

with gay leaders, supports the controversial "don't ask-don't tell" policy on

gays
in the military and pledged not to have a litmus test against gays in
assembling his administration.

Republicans allowed an openly gay congressman, Jim Kolbe of Arizona,
to
address their convention in Philadelphia. But Kolbe talked about trade,

not
sexual preference, and a quarter of the Texas delegation bowed its head
in
silent protest.

Bush's entrance to homosexuals runs counter to the Republican
platform,
which contains several explicitly anti-gay passages opposing gays in the
military, gay marriage and legal protections based on sexual preference.

Gore has been an outspoken advocate for including gays in hate
crimes
legislation -- even flying to Washington during the campaign in case his

vote
was needed to break a Senate tie on that bill in June. He approves of
gays
serving in the armed forces and rights for gay families. The Democratic

Party's platform closely mirrors his views.

Democratic National Chairman Joe Andrew's standard stump speech sums
up
the party's position this way: "We don't care what gender you are or
what
gender you want to hold hands with. As long as you want to hold hands,
you're welcome in the Democratic Party."

This year, 212 of the 4,368 Democratic delegates -- including 19
from
Texas -- are openly gay, twice as many as in 1996, Andrew said.

Pennsylvania sent three openly gay delegates to the Chicago
convention,
all from Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. Northampton County's Black said
being
gay helped him become a delegate after two earlier tries because, "Al
Gore
wanted a convention that looked like America."

Black came out while serving on the Pen Argyl School Board but said
his
sexual preference was never an issue in a district worried more about
money
troubles. His political activities date to 1984, when he handed out
fliers
at county fairs and recruited voters for Jane Wells-Schooley's 1984
congressional race.

As political director of the Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance,
Black
lobbies to end legal discrimination against gays at both the state and

federal level. He wants the General Assembly to add gays to the state's

hate

crimes statute and Congress to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

Massachusetts Sen. Ted Kennedy, who addressed the convention Tuesday

night, and Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman, Gore's running mate, cosponsor the act.

Black is open-minded when it comes to gay Republicans, saying they help push the agenda with GOP lawmakers.

"The ultimate goal," Black said, "is to be treated the same under the law."

At the party's gay and lesbian caucus meeting Tuesday, Black helped cheer

Vermont Gov. Howard Dean. Dean signed the nation's first civil union bill

giving gay couples the same legal protections as married heterosexuals.

"We can't have a country where people are marginalized based on some category they fit in to," Dean said. "If the country is going to work, everybody has to matter." Dean, in a tough re-election battle for his support of civil unions, sought the delegates' financial and organizational help. But he also asked them to be patient with heterosexuals who oppose the law, saying most are "decent, thoughtful people" who were brought up with stereotypes.

"This is a big change for them," Dean said.

First lady and New York Senate candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton addressed the caucus on Monday, as has a parade of Cabinet secretaries and candidates.

Ronald Strouse, who's challenging U.S. Rep. Jim Greenwood, R-8th District, said the prominence of the caucus and gay leaders within the party

shows that gays have entered the mainstream.

Strouse, who is not a delegate, this week flew out to the convention, where he was introduced at the caucus meeting Tuesday.

He said that in his own race most of the news coverage has focused on his

policy differences with Greenwood, not his sexual orientation.

"It's part of my character that I'm an openly gay man," Strouse said,

"but it's not an issue in this campaign."

Message: 2

Date: Thu, 17 Aug 2000 06:44:25 -0700

From: Brian Polejes <bpolejes@jps.net>

Subject: Signorile on the Democratic Convention

GAY.COM, August 15, 2000

http://content.gay.com/channels/news/signorile/dnc_1.html?from=my_front

Closet Convention II: The Movie

by Michelangelo Signorile, Gay.com Editor at Large

LOS ANGELES -- On Monday morning Hillary Clinton seemed to float down

from on high, suddenly appearing at the podium of a conference room at the

Wilshire Grand Hotel, speaking before the Democratic National Committee's

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Caucus.

The gay and lesbian delegates went into rapture, jumping to their feet

several times, applauding uproariously. It was one of many events at which

the gay Democratic legions would erupt effusively, so happy for whatever bits

of validation they get for their unwavering support.

"I have to tell you one of the greatest thrills of my life was marching

in the gay pride parade in New York," Clinton said in a passionate speech

meant as much to promote Al Gore as to underscore her support of gay rights

and help get her elected to the U.S. Senate in New York. "I've never seen

anything like it. It was such a great afternoon."

But when Clinton gave a speech before the floor of the convention, she

didn't mention gay rights in the laundry list of causes she addressed, particularly the importance of families, parents and children (and no, not

gay and lesbian parents).

If the Republicans had morphed into Democrats in their Philadelphia infomercial, selling their new-found "inclusiveness," the Democrats are now

morphing into Republicans in their celebrity-studded Hollywood production,

casting themselves before the cameras as people who are "moral" despite the

president's lapses or even the fact that such heathens as Cher and Sex and

the City's Sarah Jessica Parker have been in the audience, with cameras panning to them often.

This past weekend's clamor over whether Rep. Loretta Sanchez, the host of a Latino Democrats' fund-raiser at the Playboy Mansion, was "moral" enough to speak at a convention plenary if she didn't move the event was only the beginning of the Democrats' new, Leibermanesque values. Sanchez, a gay rights champion who brought down Republican Congressman Robert Dornan, one of the most anti-gay members of Congress, when she narrowly defeated him in 1996, attended an afternoon open house on Sunday at the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center. She told the crowd that even though she agreed to move the event, which cleared the way for her to speak, she decided not to address the convention. (She didn't need to: Sanchez got more media attention by doing interviews about the brouhaha in the media skyboxes all night on Monday.)

Instead, Lydia Camarillo, the convention's CEO, was the most prominent Latina on stage helping to set the tone. She focused on vice presidential nominee Sen. Joe Lieberman's Orthodox Jewish "values" being the same as her family's. The fact that Lieberman has teamed up with conservative cultural critic William Bennett in attacking Hollywood doesn't seem to phase many here, at least not on the surface, despite the fact that Bennett would unilaterally ban abortion and strip gays of any rights at all if he could have his way. Just as religious conservatives stayed on message in Philadelphia, talking about "inclusiveness" and suppressing their condemnation for the sake of party unity, liberals here, gay and straight, are biting their tongues, trying not to dwell on Lieberman's moralism and focusing instead on what they see as his strengths.

"What we've been saying about Lieberman is that he's not our dream candidate, but he's not our worst nightmare," Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization for Women told me at the DNC open house at the Gay & Lesbian Center. "He took a very courageous stand on this abortion procedures ban," she continued, referring to Lieberman's vote against the ban on so-called partial-birth abortions. "That took some political courage. I have some confidence. If we do our jobs right, they're going to be a great team."

Hollywood producer Howard Rosenman, who's just finished a new

Nicholas

Cage film as well as the HBO-funded Paragraph 175, about gays in Nazi concentration camps during World War II, said he supports the Gore-Lieberman ticket despite Lieberman's Hollywood crusade.

"He voiced his opinion about violence and sex in Hollywood, and a lot of people feel the same way, and why not?" Rosenman said about Lieberman, who has voted pro-gay. "I think he's going to change his mind as the election proceeds. But he's entitled to his opinion. What's he gonna do? Stop violent movies from being made? Good luck."

The Democrats' current twist on what it means to be moral might include supporting gay rights legislation, but so far it doesn't seem to include publicly talking about that support, a la Hillary Clinton. President Clinton, who has discussed gays and lesbians in his previous speeches before the Democratic National Convention, resorted to using code words on Monday night, mentioning his support of a hate crimes bill and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (as if most Americans, gay or straight, actually know that ENDA is a gay and lesbian rights bill).

For the Republicans in Philly, the closet strategy was about propping up supposedly open gays while not allowing them to talk about gay issues, such as Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., who spoke to the convention only about international trade and spent a week refusing media interviews that focused on his being gay. The Bush campaign's goal was not to snag the gay vote, which would be next to impossible at this point, but rather to allow moderate Republicans and conservative Democrats to feel that the party is no longer intolerant.

For the Democrats, however, the goal is very much about energizing the gay vote, which several caucus speakers estimate is roughly 6 percent of registered voters, while still staying within the theme of embracing morals and not veering in any way to the sexual left. Thus, for the Democrats the closet strategy means hosting lots of gay-oriented events behind the scenes, and sending various speakers to them so as to fire up the gay media and the 200-plus lesbian and gay delegates while at the same time minimizing gay issues out on the floor. Whether it was House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt at the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund's luncheon, or Vermont's Gov. Howard

Dean
at a Human Rights Campaign brunch, the lesbian and gay delegates were
treated
to rousing speeches that affirmed their existence and their struggle.

But such basic affirmations from politicians so far haven't made it
onto
the TV screens and into people's homes in the way that support for civil
rights for African Americans and a woman's right to choose have.

Not wanting to rock the boat, gay Democrats are content having a few
slots on the podium (in which to stump for Gore). And as far the
issues
that are not being addressed, they're playing it cool. Some often
explain
how same-sex marriage, for example, wasn't even a big issue in the platform
committee because no one was really pushing for it, because they believe
its
time hadn't yet come. Even the first transgender delegate, June Fee,
from
Minnesota, is relatively satisfied. "It takes crawling before you can
walk,"
she said, "and walking before you can run. Gradually, we're improving
things. That's progress."

But things don't move at all if people remain silent and complacent.
In
the recent past, when candidates heard grumbling from gays throughout a
campaign the gay vote wasn't taken for granted as it is now, and Clinton
and
company knew they had to court us by addressing our issues at the
podium.
But this year, the Human Rights Campaign endorsed Gore even before the
primaries were over, and gay people in the Gore campaign seem to have
told
the candidate the gay vote is all sewn up. And when they know they've
got us
in their pocket, there's no reason to mention the "G" word and make
people
uncomfortable. If the Log Cabin Republicans enabled the Bush campaign
to
pursue the closet strategy, the same can be said of gay Democrats and
the
Gore campaign.

[Michelangelo Signorile is online at Signorile@aol.com]

Message: 3

Date: Wed, 16 Aug 2000 12:00:56 -0400

From: "SLOAN WIESEN" <swiesen@victoryfund.org>

Subject: Photo: House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt Addressing GLVF
Benefit in L.A. on 8/13

Attached is a 300 dpi jpg photo (zipped, so hopefully in this compressed

form it will be ok for your e-mail system.)

Caption: House Democratic Leader Richard A. Gephardt, D-Mo., delivering the keynote address at the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund benefit in Los Angeles on Sunday, Aug. 13, 2000 - the day before the Democratic Convention. Nearly 400 supporters attended the sold-out event, entitled "Recognizing Our Own," which honored gay and lesbian elected officials from throughout the country and celebrated the birthday of Victory Fund founding board Co-Chair David Mixner. Proceeds from the event went to support the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund's work to elect qualified openly gay and lesbian candidates to public office.

The Victory Fund is the only national organization whose central mission is to increase the number of qualified openly gay and lesbian public servants; it has helped to nearly quadruple the number of openly gay and lesbian elected officials in America since the organization's founding in 1991.

(Photo Credit: Bill Doggett/Los Angeles)

Sloan C. Wiesen
Communications Director
Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund
1012 14 Street, NW Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 842-8679, ext. 310
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E-mail: swiesen@victoryfund.org
Web: www.victoryfund.org
electing out and outstanding public servants

[This message contained attachments]

Message: 4

Date: Thu, 17 Aug 2000 18:13:56 -0700
From: Brian Polejes <bpolejes@jps.net>
Subject: Federal agency backs Louisville gay rights law

LOUISVILLE COURIER JOURNAL, August 17, 2000
525 W. Broadway, Louisville, KY, 40202
(Fax 502-582-4075) (E-MAIL: cjletter@louisv02.gannett.com)
(<http://www.courier-journal.com/>)
Federal agency backs gay rights
Brief in civil suit favors Louisville, Jefferson laws
By RICK McDONOUGH and SHELDON S. SHAFER, The Courier-Journal
The U.S. Department of Justice has taken Louisville and Jefferson

County's side in a lawsuit over their gay-rights ordinances. It is the first time the agency has actively supported a local law barring discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The Justice Department filed a brief on Tuesday in a lawsuit in U.S.

District Court brought by a Louisville doctor who says the laws violate his religious freedom.

The lawsuit has drawn national attention because it apparently is the first time a gay-rights ordinance has been challenged on religious grounds, said Eric Ferrero, spokesman for the American Civil Liberties Union's lesbian- and gay-rights project in New York.

"A lot of cities around the country are watching this to see how their laws are going to stand up in the face of this," Ferrero said.

The Justice Department's involvement is a signal to the court that there is broad interest and that the outcome could have significant ramifications, he added.

Although no federal law bans discrimination based on sexual orientation, the Justice Department's brief said that overturning the Louisville and Jefferson County ordinances would mean that employers anywhere could challenge other civil-rights laws on religious grounds.

"Other employers could claim that being required to employ individuals of a particular race, sex, national origin or religion violates their First

Amendment rights to free exercise of religion," the brief said."

Spokeswoman Kara Peterman said the department filed the brief because claims like the one in the local lawsuit "would directly interfere with the Department of Justice's and the United States' interest in assuring equal employment opportunity for all Americans."

LOUISVILLE passed its gay-rights ordinance in January 1999, joining more than 100 other cities with laws banning job discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The Board of Aldermen's approval came after aldermen had failed three times to pass such an ordinance in the seven previous years. The city law is narrow, barring discrimination based on sexual orientation only in employment.

Dr. J. Barrett Hyman, a gynecologist who employs six people, filed his lawsuit in September, saying he believes that homosexuality is sinful and that he should not be forced to hire a gay or lesbian.

Hyman's legal expenses are being covered by the American Center for Law and Justice, a law firm backed by conservative televangelist Pat Robertson.

The lawsuit later was expanded to also challenge a broader ordinance that Jefferson Fiscal Court approved by a 3-1 vote last October. The county measure bars discrimination based on sexual orientation in public accommodations and in housing as well as in employment.

The case will be decided by U.S. District Judge Charles R. Simpson III.

Both sides have asked for summary judgment in their favor.

Hyman's attorney, Frank Manion, said yesterday that the Justice Department's involvement makes him feel like David fighting Goliath. He said he still expects Hyman to win.

"Our claim in this case is that this law infringes on Dr. Hyman's religious liberty," Manion said. "And here we have our government taking a position in support of those who we say are infringing on the first liberty protected by the Bill of Rights."

MANION AGREED that interest in the case is widespread because it breaks new ground. He said he expects it to be fought all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Louisville law director Bill Stone said he is "delighted" to have the Justice Department on the local governments' side. Its involvement underscores "the importance of this case nationwide in civil-rights matters," he said.

County Attorney Irv Maze said he viewed the filing as significant, but he declined to comment on whether it might affect the judge's thinking.

Both the city and county proposals prompted a long and loud community debate.

The Rev. Jerry Stephenson, the pastor of Midwest Church of Christ and a leader in the fight against the local legislation, expressed disgust yesterday that the Justice Department had filed the brief supporting the ordinances.

Stephenson, a founder of a leading gay-rights opposition group called African Americans for Morality and Justice, said: "It is absolutely

wrong
for
the Justice Department to deal in the area of morality and bringing that
in
under civil rights. It is totally out of order. It shouldn't be able to
do
this. . . . This has absolutely nothing to do with civil rights."

HE SAID the federal position was indicative of "the political clout
that
gays and lesbians have."

Dan Farrell, a spokesman for the Fairness Campaign, which led the
drive
to adopt the gay-rights legislation, said yesterday that the federal
government apparently "recognizes that this (the lawsuit) is a case of
one
man trying to impose religious beliefs on the entire community."

Farrell viewed the federal support as significant. "Any time the
U.S.
Justice Department weighs in like this, it is going to help," he said.

Adoption of the broader county law sent "a clear message to
employers,
landlords and businesses that they are not supposed to discriminate,"
Farrell
said. ". . . These laws are all about being able to have a job, being
able
to
find a place to live, being able to be served by a business. This is a
civil-rights matter."

Now in state courts is the issue of whether the broader county law
should
apply in Louisville and the county's small cities. A circuit judge ruled

recently that the county's ordinance should be in force only in the
unincorporated portions of the county.

Maze said the county has appealed that ruling to the Kentucky Court
of
Appeals. He said he thinks the wider county provisions should apply
throughout the county, including all cities.

Message: 5

Date: Thu, 17 Aug 2000 18:37:57 -0700

From: Brian Polejes <bpolejes@jps.net>

Subject: Boy Scouts On Stage at Demo Convention

San Francisco Chronicle, August 17, 2000

901 Mission St., San Francisco, CA, 94103

(Fax 415-896-1107) (E-MAIL: chronletters@sfgate.com)

(<http://www.sfgate.com>)

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2000/08/17/M>

N94830.DTL

S.F.'s Proud Mayor Wants Prime Time

Brown spurns Democrats' attempt to set his speech in midafternoon

(excerpt)

Phillip Matier, Andrew Ross, Chronicle Staff Writers

Los Angeles -- [cut]

SCOUT'S HONOR: Mayor Brown isn't the only one getting into it with the

Democratic National Committee.

Members of the California Gay and Lesbian caucus are fuming over the

appearance on stage Tuesday night of a group of Boy Scouts.

The Scouts were among a handful of kids invited up to the convention

podium to deliver the Pledge of Allegiance.

And that, it seems, was a slap in the face for some members of the gay

community who have been in a losing war with the Boy Scouts over the group's

ban on gays.

State Assemblywoman Carole Migden was livid (nothing new there), pacing

the center aisle on the convention floor. "It's such a stinging insult,"

she complained.

It wasn't the little guys in uniform that put her in a tizzy. It

was

the

organization.

Migden said she wanted to know just why and how a group that discriminates against gays and lesbians could be given a platform and a national moment on television.

San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno and former Supervisor Leslie Katz

were

equally incensed.

Pens came out, and the signs went up: "We support gay scouts."

There was no immediate word from party honchos, but Boy Scouts of America

national spokesman Gregg Shields told us from Dallas that the scouts have

been participating at both the Republican and Democratic conventions for

years without any fuss.

"The Boy Scouts is a voluntary organization, and we force our beliefs

and

values on no one," said Shields. "And we'll continue to come to the convention as long as we're invited."

Whether they get another invite, however, remains to be seen.
"I'm going to make sure this never happens again," Migden said as
the
kids left the stage. . . .
? ?½ Chronicle columnists Phillip Matier and Andrew Ross can be heard
on
KGO
Radio on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Phil Matier can also be seen
regularly on KRON-TV. Got a tip? Call them at (415) 777-8815. Their
e-mail
address is matierandross@sfgate.com.

Message: 6

Date: Thu, 17 Aug 2000 18:42:41 -0700

From: Brian Polejes <bpolejes@jps.net>

Subject: Gays have coming out party at Dem convention

Scripps Howard News Service, August 16, 2000

<http://shns.scripps.com/shns/story.cfm?pk=DEM-GAY-08-16-00&cat=HR>

Gays have coming out party at Dem convention

By BILL STRAUB

LOS ANGELES -- Awash in buttons and stickers demonstrating his
allegiance

to Vice President Al Gore and all things Democratic, Dan Carter was a
committed Republican as recently as 12 years ago.

It was then, disgusted with what he considered the Reagan
administration's antipathy toward the AIDS plague, that the bearded
Carter,

a
gay delegate to the Democratic National Convention from Anchorage,
Alaska,
made the switch and found what he had been searching for -- acceptance.

"The Democratic Party is definitely the party of diversity," said
Carter, standing in a crowded aisle overlooking the Staples Center
floor.

"It respects different cultures. I didn't feel that way in the
Republican
Party."

Gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders are experiencing what can

only
be described as a coming-out party at this year's convention. Ignored
and
even deplored in the past, the homosexual community is being actively
recruited to the Democratic Party ranks and could play a vital role in
the
November elections.

At a meeting of the Stonewall Democratic Conference held in anticipation of the convention earlier this month, Democratic officials "told us they would like to include us and that they wanted us," said Annette Hatton, a gay delegate from Athens, Ga. "They said they had a target of assuring that 5 percent will be included at the convention."

The party missed the mark, but just barely. Of the 4,398 convention delegates, the Democratic National Committee identifies 158 as being homosexual, amounting to about 4 percent of the total.

But the inclusionary atmosphere doesn't end there. Recording star Melissa Etheridge opened Monday's evening session with a rendition of "America the Beautiful." At least eight openly gay or lesbian speakers,

including Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., and Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., were included on the program, and Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest activist group, was the first openly gay individual to address the issue at a national political convention.

"...Not a single gay American seeks special rights or favored treatment," she said. "We seek simple equality -- the equal right to work, raise a family, serve our country in every way and be free from the shackles of brutality and hate. Equality is a special right -- a right so special that for two-and-a-quarter centuries, it has motivated men and women to dream and to die and to animate the heart of America itself."

The treatment, Democratic gays said, stands in stark contrast to the cool reception gays received at the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia. The event featured few openly gay delegates, and the only known gay speaker, Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., steered clear of the homosexual issue, concentrating instead on global trade.

Inclusion is not popular with some. American Renewal, a socially conservative advocacy group in Washington, D.C., said the focus establishes that Al Gore and the Democrats are out of touch with most Americans.

"For all the rhetoric in Los Angeles about families and marriage, it appears that Mr. Gore and his party's platform embrace notions of marriage and family values that are wildly at odds with those supported by most Americans," the group said.

Paul Rosenthal, a gay delegate from Denver, acknowledged that some

of
the
issues generally embraced by the homosexual community -- like same sex
marriage -- aren't embraced in every quarter. But he rejected the
notion

that including homosexuals will be a liability to the Democratic Party.

"This is not a 'gay party,' " Rosenthal said. "This is the party

of
everyone. It's a party of inclusion and always will be."

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Jeff Trammell <JTrammel@HillandKnowlton.com> (Jeff Trammell <JTrammel@HillandKnowlton.com> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:18-AUG-2000 09:49:19.00

SUBJECT: FW: In case there was any doubt in your mind...

TO: Elizabeth J. Potter (CN=Elizabeth J. Potter/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: 'Mark Spengler' <Spengler@dnc.democrats.org> ('Mark Spengler' <Spengler@dnc.democrats.org> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: 'Bob Witeck' <macwahoo@aol.com> ('Bob Witeck' <macwahoo@aol.com> [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

-----Original Message-----

From: JOHN SCHRATWIESER [mailto:JSCHRATW@cnmc.org]
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2000 9:02 AM
To: jtrammel@hillandknowlton.com
Subject: Fwd: In case there was any doubt in your mind...

<<In case there was any doubt in your mind...>>

Date: Tue, 1 Aug 2000 17:05:16 -0400

From: Thomas Cott <cott@lct.org>

Subject: In case there was any doubt in your mind...

To: agans@playbill.com, Andrew_Flatt@studio.disney.com, bfink@rn timer.com,
bill.rosenfield@bmge.com, BobEGasper@aol.com, bswnyc@aol.com,
david@www.roundabouttheatre.org, dgoldman@mayerbrown.com, DRose99@aol.com,
frerx@yahoo.com, garthwing@aol.com, JackT@shubertorg.com,
JSCHRATW@cnmc.org, JSCNYC@AOL.COM, Jtriner1@aol.com, MABuch@aol.com,
mar@bulldog.georgetown.edu, MAWoodward@Kennedy-Center.org,
MDKOESSEL@aol.com, michael@cleonet.com, pgruber@metguild.org,
richama@nytimes.com, Sallymax@aol.com, stage@worldnet.att.net,
stevenkowal@earthlink.net, asiegel@lct.org, mustelier@lct.org,
swee@lct.org, brown@lct.org, dean_payne@lct.org

Message-id: <0008019651.AA965164221@smtp.lct.org>

MIME-version: 1.0

X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)

Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1

Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT

GOP gays again frustrated by party platform

By Beth Nissen

CNN.com Senior Correspondent

August 1, 2000

Web posted at: 3:21 p.m. EDT (1921 GMT)

PHILADELPHIA (CNN) -- There are 30,000 Republicans at the convention here,

and
Carl Schmid, an alternate delegate from Washington, is one of them: One
Republican, with one voice, and one issue that matters especially to him.

"I am gay, I am a gay Republican," said Schmid. "But I believe in the
principal
tenets of this party -- less government, less taxes, a strong military."

Those tenets are written out in the party platform, which was approved by
delegates on the first day of the convention Monday. It was a platform
Schmid
tried hard -- and failed -- to influence and change this year.

"I want to be treated with respect and dignity by my fellow Republicans,"
said
Schmid, "and I'd like that respect and dignity reflected in my party's
platform."

Schmid and other gay Republicans did not feel well-treated by the 1996
Republican platform. The civil rights plank of that document supported the
legal
elimination of preferences based on race, gender or ethnicity, but then it
stated: "We reject the distortion of those laws that cover sexual
preference."

"Basically, it said, 'we support non-discrimination, and equality for all'
--
except for gay people," said Schmid.

So several months ago, Schmid and other gay Republicans began an organized
effort to make the new platform more inclusive.

They met with members of the Republican National Committee and with
Wisconsin
Gov. Tommy Thompson, chair of the Republican 2000 platform committee, and
suggested that the sentence they saw as anti-gay be changed, or dropped.

That sentence was deleted in the first draft of the new platform. Thompson
was
widely quoted as referring to such platform language as "vitriolic rhetoric
that
has plagued us in the past."

"Governor Thompson, he made it a point to strike this anti-gay language
from
the
draft platform, and he obviously did that with the full knowledge of the
Bush
campaign," said Schmid.

Thompson presented the draft to the full platform committee last week --
and
Schmid's hopes quickly died. On the issue of gay rights, the full platform
committee put back what the draft document had taken out, changing the

phrasing
to read: "We do not believe sexual preference should be given special legal protection or standing in law."

What happened?

"The extreme right wing won, once again," said Schmid. "That is only one part of the party, but they control the party."

Two party members from each state are sent to the full platform committee. Schmid said it was clear that this year, party members concerned about the platform's abortion plank organized to send as many of their number as possible to the committee.

"Looking around the room, I saw the leaders of the pro-life movement on the platform committee," said Schmid. "The leaders of the pro-life groups are very conservative -- and they are very conservative on gay issues, too."

The pro-life bloc voted against recognition of legal protection for gays, against legal recognition of same-sex marriages, and against gays serving in the military -- always citing the incompatibility of these platform points with "family values."

That stung Schmid, a seasoned political activist who works as a Washington lobbyist for the oil and gas industry. "I come from a family," he said. "I have parents. I have sisters and nieces and nephews. I have 'family values.'"

More significant to Schmid is that the final 2000 platform doesn't reflect all of George W. Bush's values. "The platform language contradicts Governor Bush's own policy," he said.

On the subject of gays in the military, for example, the 2000 platform repeats the 1996 statement that "homosexuality is incompatible with military service."

"Gov. Bush believes and supports the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy, which means gay people can be in the military, they just can't be open about their sexuality," said Schmid. "It's clear that Governor Bush is disappointed with the way some of the platform votes went."

So is Schmid. And he is concerned by any platform language that could be read as

intolerant or unsympathetic in a year when the party is trying to project an image of itself as welcoming and compassionate.

"This is something the Democrats will point to," said Schmid. "They will try to hold it against Governor Bush, to say 'no, he is not a new Republican.'"

Schmid is certain his candidate is "a Republican with a new vision." He wears a lapel button printed with a statement George W. Bush made in April of this year:
"We are all God's children."

"Bush gets it," said Schmid. "He's open to gays and lesbians, and his vision is the most important thing. We are not electing the platform to be our next president. George W. Bush is going to be the one making the decisions, and implementing what he believes."

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: INSIDESCOOP INSIDESCOOP <INSIDESCOOP@CBSNEWS.COM> (INSIDESCOOP
INSIDESCOOP <INSIDESCOOP@CBSNEWS.COM> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:18-AUG-2000 14:42:19.00

SUBJECT: INSIDESCOOP

TO: INSIDESCOOPATCBSNEWS@HOTSHEET.CBSNEWS.COM (INSIDESCOOPATCBSNEWS@HOTSHEET.CBSNEWS.COM [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

James E. Kennedy (CN=James E. Kennedy/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
INSIDESCOOP
AUGUST 18, 2000

"Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present."
Unknown

A NOTE FROM DAN RATHER: "Good Afternoon, I'm Russ Mitchell, sitting in for
Dan Rather today. Here's an early look at what's coming up tonight on the
CBS Evening News."

After accepting his party's nomination for president, Al Gore is
campaigning in Wisconsin today, where he and running-mate Joe Lieberman
are set to launch on a 400-mile boat cruise down the Mississippi River.
Chief White House Correspondent John Roberts is with the two candidates
and will explain why they are making the trip ... Roberts will also report
on how people are responding to Gore's convention speech....as well as
the leak about a grand jury investigation which could produce criminal
perjury charges against President Clinton for testimony he gave about his
relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

In Arizona today, former Republican presidential candidate, John McCain
will find out the results of skin cancer tests being run by doctors at
Scottsdale's Mayo Clinic. This afternoon, Senator McCain is expected to
talk with the media about the results and the recurrence of his melanoma
..... Byron Pitts is in Phoenix and will have the latest on McCain's
condition for us.

Correspondent Sharyl Attkisson continues her investigation into the
Firestone tire mishaps. Tonight she's uncovered reports that Firestone is
trying to quash depositions scheduled for next week with six Decatur,
Illinois, plant employees. Investigators think most of the millions of
dangerous, tread-shedding, tires were made at the Decatur plant.

From the port city of Murmansk along the icy waters of the Barents Sea
where 118 Russian sailors remain trapped in their crippled submarine,
correspondent Richard Roth reports rescuers have reached the escape hatch

of the submarine Kursk. So far, all rescue attempts have failed. Roth will keep you up to date on what's now become an international rescue operation.

In tonight's "Eye On America" report... Thalia Assuras has an exclusive interview with Cassie Scott Johnson. In February, 1980, Johnson was sentenced to life in prison for the fatal shooting of a Raleigh, North Carolina police officer during a drunken-driving arrest. After twenty years in prison, Johnson is now up for parole--if she is released, it would be the first time a cop killer has ever been freed from a North Carolina prison and that has the victim's family and law enforcement officials up in arms.

And finally, our TGIF look at the past week's political comedy highlights..

Hope to see you tonight on the CBS Evening News." Dan Rather

LATE NIGHT WITH DAVID LETTERMAN: Tonight Dave welcomes Keenan Ivory Wayans.

The Saturday Early Show on August 19, 2000. Thalia Assuras and Russ Mitchell co-anchor in New York. Ira Joe Fisher does weather.

More than 30 million Americans are exposed to hazardous sound levels on a regular basis which can cause noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL). We'll discuss the type of noises that can cause damage and what you can do to prevent NIHL.

Family expert Mike Riera has advice for parents and grandparents who have conflicting viewpoints on how to raise children.

In 1819, the crew of the Essex set sail from Nantucket in search of whales. Fifteen months later, an angry whale sank their ship in the South Pacific. Nathaniel Philbrick, author of **In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whale Ship Essex,** will discuss his book which documents the story that was the basis for Herman Melville's **Moby Dick.**

Survivor castaway Sean Kenniff will join us to talk about what life was like on Survivor's Island and what his plans are now that he's no longer a contender for the million dollar prize.

Gardening expert Georgia Raimondi will demonstrate how to make a water garden.

What It's Worth expert Tony Hyman will have tips on Elvis memorabilia.

This Saturday, Duran Duran visits our 2nd Cup Cafe.

Our Chef on a Shoestring is John Howie from Palisade restaurant in Seattle. On the menu: baby greens with orange and candied almonds salad, chicken with rosemary and garlic butter and chocolate mousse.

SATURDAY EVENING NEWS: AUGUST 19, 2000: Thalia Assuras Anchors... Jackie Adams will look at new report on a new vaccine to be used against childhood allergies and asthma... Stephanie Lambidakis will report on a new sensor to sniff out alcohol use that is being used by some law

enforcement officers that is disguised as a flashlight... John Roberts will cover the campaigns of Gore and Bush... Thalia Assuras' Weekend Perspective looks at how the drug companies give away free prescriptions... And Steve Hartman has another episode of Everybody has a Story.

COVER: GERM WARFARE: Correspondent Martha Teichner reports on how medical science is battling this troubling new generation of illnesses that are right in your backyard.

JOHN LEONARD REVIEW: This week John Leonard reviews Place Vendome starring Catherine Deneuve and Steal this Movie starring Vincent D*Onofrio and Janeane Garofalo.

SUNDAY PROFILE: EDWARD TELLER: August 6 marked the 55th anniversary of the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima. Edward Teller helped develop the *A* bomb and then the even more powerful hydrogen bomb. Correspondent Sharyl Attkisson finds out if Teller has any regrets.

ARNOLD NEWMAN: At 82, photographer Arnold Newman is still working as hard as ever. In the course of his 61-year career he has photographed every president since Harry Truman, has invented environmental portraiture and given us the images of great artists like Picasso and Stravinsky by which we remember them today.

JUST FOR LAUGHS: Most people are probably familiar with the Dave Barry*s work*a popular humor columnist whose syndicated column is carried in more than 400 papers. But not many people know that Dave Barry is also running for president. Join Anchor Charles Osgood as he finds out what tricks Dave Barry has up his sleeve to help him out this election year. for more information: www.miamihearld.com

DIVERSION: This Sunday, we travel to horse country...Lexington, Kentucky. At the Kentucky Horse Park, equine enthusiasts can watch a parade of horses from far-flung kingdoms. Plus, this summer, The Art of Imperial China is on display, and some of the terra cotta horses are being seen for the first time outside of China.

A special thanks to our WKYT, our CBS affiliate, for shooting this story. Also, a special thanks to viewer Donna Dixon Woodall, an equine photographer from Georgetown, Kentucky.

GEIST: SURVIVOR: This Sunday Bill Geist does everything possible to be a survivor, will he be voted off of the island? Paradise Island? Join our resident humorist Bill Geist in the Bahamas.

NATURE END PIECE: Enjoy the peaceful hideaway of Burney Falls, in the rugged north country of California. A perfect spot for a crested bird know as the Stellar*s Jay.

FACE THE NATION: SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2000: Please join us along with a superb line-up of guests: Chief Campaign Strategist for Geroqe W. Bush, Karl Rove; Senator John Edwards of North Carolina; Congreeman Charles

Rangel; and Republican Governor Frank Keating of Oklahoma.

SUNDAY EVENING NEWS: Due to the PGA this will broadcast at 6:30pm. We'll continue to follow the campaign trail... Richard Roth will monitor the situation with the Russian submarine trapped on the bottom of the Barents Sea... AND, John Roberts Cover looks at the efforts of companies, like Denny's, to correct discriminatory practices.

"60 MINUTES,* SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2000: WHOSE COUNTRY IS IT?:

While the battle between Jews and Arabs cools down, the war between religious Jews and secular Jews in Israel is just heating up. Bob Simon reports. GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS: The simple pursuit of happiness through the Buddhist religion is the way of life in the tiny kingdom of Bhutan. But that otherworldly way of living could be in jeopardy as the very worldly invention of television comes its way. Morley Safer reports. THE BICYCLE THIEF: California's three strikes law puts third-time offenders, even non-violent ones, in jail for 25-years-to-life. Critics say it's no wonder the law is responsible for one third of the state's prison population when people like Steven Bell, who stole a bicycle, face life in jail. Steve Kroft reports.

Please don't hesitate to give Debby Hill a call at 212-975-5538 if you have any questions about this broadcast.

MONDAY ON THE EARLY SHOW: We'll have an extensive poll round up to see which presidential candidate, Republican George W. Bush, or Democrat Al Gore, has made the most impact with voters... PLUS, we'll have a live interview with Vice President and Democratic presidential hopeful Al Gore. We'll find out what his campaign plans are for the upcoming months before election in November... ALSO, we'll be joined by Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater who will share the latest on the discussions with airline officials about the overwhelming delays and cancellations recently... AND, Marketwatch correspondent Susan McGinnis will report on the latest financial news... AND, does an employer have the right to insist on a don't ask don't tell pay policy? In this segment we'll explore your right to know what your fellow employees salaries are. We'll speak with Mary Craig from Columbus Ohio, who lost her job for protecting her co-workers and Al Beyer, the Regional Director of the National Labor Relations Board. .. PLUS, we'll speak with a 65-year-old woman who is trying to fly around the world in a helicopter... PLUS, we'll speak with "Karen", the latest contestant to be kicked out of the Big Brother house... AND, if you're looking to take a "Survivor-esque" vacation, we'll tell you about the hottest places to go. Even our favorite Survivor island has even been turned into a resort! ALSO, Debbie Allen will be here to tell us about her new book, "Dancing in the Winds." AND, going off to college can be pretty stressful. Lifestyle expert Christy Ferer will take us to NYU and transform a regular dorm room into a colorful frenzy of cute accessories, making it look like anything but a dorm room. Everything is reasonable for a student budget, and available online.

If you do not want to receive this Newsletter, just send an e-mail to listserv@hotsheet.cbsnews.com and type into the body of the message UNSUBSCRIBE INSIDESCOOPATCBSNEWS. Or, you can send a blank message to the following special address:

INSIDESCOOPATCBSNEWS-SIGNOFF-REQUEST@HOTSHEET.CBSNEWS.COM or if you prefer you can e-mail us at insidescoop@cbsnews.com. And yes, we are also interested in hearing from you. college can be pretty stressful. Lifestyle expert Christy Ferer will be here with helpful and easy hints on how to decorate your dorm room using the Internet.

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: lgbt-politics@egroups.com (lgbt-politics@egroups.com [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:21-AUG-2000 09:56:11.00

SUBJECT: [lgbt-politics] Digest Number 127

TO: lgbt-politics@egroups.com (lgbt-politics@egroups.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

Elizabeth J. Potter (CN=Elizabeth J. Potter/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

To Submit a Newsclipping or Press Release, send it to the moderator at:
lgbt-politics@eGroups.com

To Unsubscribe, send a blank message to:
lgbt-politics-unsubscribe@eGroups.com

There are 6 messages in this issue.

Topics in this digest:

1. Speech underscores difference between parties on gay rights
From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>
2. Gore-Lieberman and the Clinton pro-gay tradition
From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>
3. Repost: 1999 Advocate Interview with Al Gore
From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>
4. Advocate interview with Gephardt
From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>
5. Texas delegates get airtime for Birch
From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>
6. Re: Gore-Lieberman and the Clinton pro-gay tradition
From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>

Message: 1

Date: Sun, 20 Aug 2000 18:51:04 -0700
From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>
Subject: Speech underscores difference between parties on gay rights

The Dallas Morning News
<http://www.Dallasnews.com>
August 20, 2000

Viewpoints

Speech underscores difference between parties on gay rights

By Chuck Colbert

What a difference two weeks and the Democratic Party make.

"I am honored to speak here as a gay American," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay-rights advocacy organization.

Ms. Birch made history last week as the first leader of a gay group to address a national political convention. Standing at the podium before a prime-time TV audience and thousands of delegates -- including more than 200 gay and lesbian ones -- Ms. Birch appealed to the heart of the nation.

Poised and articulate, she spoke of real family values, of "healing the fractures and soothing the wounds to make our American family truly whole."

The mother of twins, Ms. Birch spoke directly and poignantly to other parents, those with gay and lesbian children: "To parents, some of whom have left their gay children at the margins of family life and out of a vision of America, I say this: I want you to know that your gay children are gifted and strong. All are heroic in that they have conquered barriers to their own self-respect."

Ms. Birch's speech was all about breaking down the barriers of discrimination, dismantling the walls of intolerance and opening closet doors.

Her prime-time address underscores the vast difference between our two major political parties on civil rights for gays.

"On nearly every issue, Al Gore is in agreement with the Human Rights Campaign," Ms. Birch said. "He supports the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would ban workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation. He is an outspoken supporter of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act."

While she emphasized Mr. Gore's and Joe Lieberman's endorsements of such legislation, the Democratic Party platform couldn't be any stronger in articulating an entirely different approach to gay civil rights from that of the GOP:

"We continue to lead the fight to end discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion, age, ethnicity, disability and sexual orientation. We support the full inclusion of gay and lesbian families in the life of the nation."

>From that statement of principle flows ending workplace discrimination, enacting hate-crimes legislation, lifting the ban on gays in the military and even allowing a variety of domestic partnership benefits.

The language of the GOP platform, on the other hand, reinforces the walls of intolerance, bolsters the politics of separate and unequal and keeps closed the closet doors:

"We do not believe sexual preference should be given legal protection or standing in law."

>From that unambiguous statement flows support for the Boy Scouts' discriminatory policy toward gays, the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy and the Defense of Marriage Act.

Two weeks ago in Philadelphia, the closest George W. Bush came to dismantling barriers was this part of his acceptance speech: "When these problems aren't confronted, it builds a wall within our nation. On the other side of the wall are poverty and prison, addiction and despair. And my fellow Americans, we must tear down that wall," he said

Yet Mr. Bush failed to acknowledge the walls his party and its policies uphold, barriers to true compassion for gays ? let alone their full participation and inclusion in the American dream.

Ms. Birch had one word for the GOP party platform: "shameful." She was as pointed in describing Mr. Bush and his running mate, Dick Cheney: "They practice silent apathy in the face of hatred and call it leadership. They forgo invective but embrace indifference and call it compassionate conservatism."

Yet "deep within their hearts," Ms. Birch added, "they know this to be true: That not a single gay American seeks special rights or favored treatment. We seek simple equality -- the equal right to work, raise a family, serve our country in every way and be free from the shackles of brutality and hate."

Several months ago, I asked Ms. Birch about her organization's support and enthusiasm for Mr. Gore. "With 5 percent of the electorate nationwide, the gay vote is a significant slice of the electorate," she said, especially in swing states like Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio and Pennsylvania. "We cannot be complacent, and we must elect Al Gore."

Chuck Colbert is a divinity student at the Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Mass.

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Message: 2

Date: Sun, 20 Aug 2000 18:57:57 -0700

From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>

Subject: Gore-Lieberman and the Clinton pro-gay tradition

Advocate.com

August 18, 2000

Gore-Lieberman and the Clinton pro-gay tradition

Bill Clinton may have backslid on some gay issues, but his two terms have been historic for bringing lesbian and gay rights to the forefront. As the 2000 Democratic ticket seeks to distance itself from the Clinton administration, might it also distance itself from Clinton's support for gay rights?

By Lewis Whittington

An advocate.com exclusive

Green Party presidential nominee Ralph Nader dubbed Sen. Joseph Lieberman a "Republicrat" on CNN's Crossfire the night he was named as Al Gore's running mate. Much has been made of Al Gore's choice of a vice presidential candidate and how Lieberman is the best man to boost the integrity of the Democratic ticket. In fact, Lieberman's singular integrity was the first news on the airwaves when he was named as the nominee. Nader, siphoning Gore votes, was called upon to discredit him on the political talk show.

Yet even he conceded that "the most important move in his political career" was Lieberman's speech in the Senate trashing Bill Clinton over the Monica Lewinsky affair. Gore is trying to overcome image woes created by his association with a tarnished administration, and since Gore was double digits behind George W. Bush in many national polls after last week's Republican national convention, his handlers see this as the first order of business. Gore stated in his official announcement in Nashville on Tuesday that Lieberman will "tear down the wall of division."

I do wonder if Gore's pronouncement of "division" has a meaning for gay Democrats. At the Lieberman announcement, neither candidate mentioned Bill Clinton even as they took credit for the successes of his administration. One of those successes was the Administration's support of the gay community, even if Clinton went south on issues such as normalizing the status of gays in the military and supporting same-sex marriage.

The Clinton administration has been inclusive of lesbian and gay Americans. Many gay people held key jobs in the Administration-including, if you believe the rumors, one or more of his cabinet members; no one seemed to care, at least in the Beltway. Without a doubt, Gore and Clinton have strong political ties among gays and lesbians.

Now it will be interesting to see what Lieberman will do for the gay vote.

Lieberman is an Orthodox Jew-the first Jew on any major party's ticket, ever-and he is deeply religious. At least in his opening discourse with voters, he does not hesitate to bring religion into his political message, and Orthodox Judaism is not traditionally supportive of homosexuals. While Lieberman has lately voiced support for the gay-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act, he did vote for the antigay Defense of Marriage Act. He's a tough read on gay rights.

Perhaps Lieberman's leadership in the fight against "obscenity" in the arts is telling. Amid this "culture war," where Lieberman's allies are often conservative Republicans, gay and lesbian leaders have repeatedly pointed out that gay art is targeted and labeled obscene in ways that similar straight art is not. Both gay and straight artists saw the political restructuring of the National Endowment for the Arts and controversy over artists such as Robert Mapplethorpe under the banner of "obscenity" as being aggressively homophobic. How far Lieberman would go in the name of "protecting" children from any images of gay and lesbian affection, much less sexuality, we don't yet know. It's all speculation at this point, as broader gay rights issues have yet to come to the fore in the Gore-Lieberman presidential bid.

The gay vote has been traditionally Democratic, yet it is no longer a lock. The Clinton-administration paid a political price among gays when the president quickly signed the Defense of Marriage Act; as a result many gays are looking for an alternative. The gay Log Cabin Republicans are enjoying a big bump in visibility (and perhaps membership) since they shamed George W. Bush into meeting with gay Republicans last spring. Meanwhile, on the left, many gays and lesbians have felt no less than betrayed by Clinton, feeling that he dealt with us in the end as a political liability-and Ralph Nader stands ready to embrace anyone who feels the Democrats don't go far enough.

Of course, every voter knows politics makes strange bedfellows, so nothing is guaranteed. If it's true, as polls suggest, that more than 80% of voters consider Lieberman's religion a nonissue, is the Jewish vote even his? Gore has met with gay groups and may in fact be the most unambiguously pro-gay candidate ever to have a real chance at the presidency. Yet he took some heat from gay AIDS activists earlier this year when they believed he was supporting U.S. drug companies in their battle to restrict distribution of cheaper AIDS drugs in South Africa-an accusation Gore fended off.

In political terms, the gay and Jewish voting blocs can be termed "special interest groups," and Democrats and Republicans alike must butter both sides of the pandering bread to get all the votes they can from those constituencies while not alienating their conservative supporters. Lieberman got the nod from Gore in part because he took the moral high ground against Clinton-a gesture, perhaps, in the direction of more conservative voters. In that quest for the center, might Lieberman be similarly judgmental of gay America? Or will Al Gore's record of support for gay and lesbian rights rule the day? It will be interesting to see what message on gay rights the campaign orders up for national consumption at the Democratic national convention next week-if any.

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Message: 3

Date: Sun, 20 Aug 2000 19:18:44 -0700

From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>

Subject: Repost: 1999 Advocate Interview with Al Gore

The Advocate

September 14, 1999

<http://www.advocate.com>

Al Gore's Gay Vision

In an exclusive interview the vice president clarifies his stand on gay marriage and gays in the military and describes how his faith shapes his views

By Chris Bull

With the modern presidential campaign's mad dash for dollars, candidates maintain a furious fund-raising pace, taking a break only for rare appearances with the voters and causes especially dear to their hearts. For Vice President Al Gore, one of those causes is gay rights. In an intimate visit with youths at the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, Gore was everything he does not always appear to be on television: warm, charming, and completely comfortable with a particularly vulnerable constituency that has never been embraced by a candidate for national office.

When Gore agreed to an exclusive interview with The Advocate, I followed him around on the campaign trail for two days, flying with him on Air Force Two and watching him work crowds, cautiously respond to reporters' pointed questions about same-sex marriage, and make fund-raising pitches to audiences across California. For me, the campaign trail ended at the gay and lesbian center, where Gore answered my questions for close to half an hour, interrupted occasionally by aides.

After Gore's stopover, such visits with gay teens may become the modern equivalent of politicians' kissing babies. On June 25, as photographers snapped away, Gore had brief but strikingly earnest chats with several young people. It came one week after his Democratic rival Bill Bradley, the former senator from New Jersey, also staged a friendly visit.

Gore, the Democratic front-runner, listened as the teenagers talked about family rejection, school harassment, and their hopes for a better life. A tattooed Javier Garcia, 20, in tank top and jeans, handed the buttoned-down Gore a collection of poetry and photos dealing with life on the streets for

gay and transgendered youths. Then Garcia issued an impromptu challenge.

"Why are you here?" he asked Gore. "What can you say to make us believe that you will help the gay community?"

"I'm here to learn," Gore responded, unruffled. "And also to pay honor to this important organization."

As the 2000 presidential campaign heats up, Garcia's concern echoes that of gay voters in general, who harbor both increasing cynicism about politicians' appeals and higher expectations for what they will deliver. The election, with the ideological composition of the White House, Congress, and the Supreme Court hanging in the balance, is widely seen as crucial to the fate of the gay political agenda.

"It was not that long ago that it would have been unimaginable for two candidates from a major party to visit gay teens," says David Mixner, a gay political consultant who has pledged to raise \$1 million for the Democratic Party this year. "It's to our advantage that there is competition for the gay vote. What was once considered a political kiss of death is now a mandatory stop on the campaign trail."

The stakes are equally high for the candidates. With gays representing millions in donation-dollars and at least 4% of voters, their electoral clout is a force with which Republicans and especially Democrats must reckon. Gore and Bradley are lobbying for gay support as never before, and even Texas governor George W. Bush, the early Republican front-runner, has begun to make overtures to gay Republicans, although largely behind the scenes.

What the candidates can deliver remains unclear. Though the Democrats support federal gay rights measures, including the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the problems to which Garcia referred, including harassment in the public schools, seem as intractable as ever. During the nearly seven years of the generally sympathetic Clinton administration, there have been few concrete legislative victories. Gore clearly has learned from Clinton's missteps, in the process becoming intimately familiar with gay politics and AIDS. The vice president and his wife, Tipper, together have more than a dozen openly gay and lesbian aides on their staffs and count gay men and lesbians among their closest friends and confidants.

Gore may well be better positioned than Clinton to champion gay causes. As a Vietnam veteran who served on the Senate Armed Services Committee, he is likely to command more respect from the Pentagon as commander in chief than Clinton. And the devoted father of four's personal life, apparently squeaky-clean, cannot be used against him and the gay rights measures he supports.

Gore spoke at length about what he learned from the gay teens he had met as well as about same-sex marriage, AIDS, "don't ask, don't tell," and the slaying of Matthew Shepard.

Q: This was the second time you had met Jessie Funes, an 18-year-old

lesbian who was among the youths here at the center today. At Fairfax High last week, you embraced Jessie after she described her belief that "retaliation against gay youth is sanctioned" in California schools. Tell me about that event.

A: Jessie spoke from the heart. She described the painful feelings she had when she suffered discrimination and mistreatment because of who she is. She talked about how she realized who she is when she was 12 years old and was determined not to live in pretense. She faced a lot of anger and discrimination because of it. And she eventually changed schools because of it. As she was describing her experiences, she was momentarily overwhelmed by the depth of her emotion. She began to cry. I did what comes naturally. I'm standing in the midst of a big gymnasium, wired to the microphone. I just unhooked it, stepped over the barricades that the Secret Service had put up, and just tried to comfort her.

Q: When you were in school, were there gay kids? How were they treated?

A: Well, it was such a different era because there were not any kids I went to school with who were openly gay or lesbian. Nor do I remember any taunting or cruelty that was caused by the suspicion or allegation that a classmate was gay. We are now in an era when there are more young people open at an earlier age. They recognize they are different and want to be up-front about it.

Q: As president, how would you combat antigay harassment and discrimination in the public schools?

A: Setting the tone means a lot. The whole history of the United States is an expanding circle of human dignity—a growing understanding of who we are as human beings, an appreciation of the diversity of the human family. There is a growing recognition of how important it is to respect difference and, on the basis of mutual respect, to transcend difference and embrace the highest common denominator of the human spirit. The tolerance of intolerance has been the enemy in each of the historic struggles—against slavery, in favor of women's suffrage, civil rights, and the rights of the disabled. The list goes on and on. In each case the most meaningful change is in the way we think about one another. The president can make a big difference in accelerating change.

Q: In recent campaign stops across the country, you have spoken of the "values of faith and family." How do gay men and lesbians fit into that vision?

A: I refer to all kinds of families. When I make speeches about families, I explicitly make it clear I'm referring to all kinds of families. The pressures of balancing work and family are the same. Lots of people fear choosing between losing a promotion and taking time away. That balance has become more difficult in the last 20 years. People are working 500 more hours a year than just 20 years ago. Families with children are spending less time together.

Q: What's your response to those on the right who say gay men and lesbians are somehow contrary to family values? You've heard the argument throughout

the Clinton administration, and you are bound to hear it repeated on the campaign trail.

A: I disagree with it. I believe that God makes us in different ways. I don't believe that having made us, God intends us to suffer discrimination and prejudice in all our days on this earth. That's just my view.

Q: As a Southern Baptist, how does your faith inform your understanding of the place of gay men and lesbians in America?

A: If you will permit me to place my answer in the context of my own faith tradition without seeming intolerant of other traditions, Jesus said, "Love thy God, with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy might. This is the first great commandment." And the second is, "Love thy neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang everything. Pretty simple, really.

Q: You spoke at a fund-raising dinner last night of casting tie-breaking votes in the Senate as vice president. In 1996 you were prepared to fly to Washington to break a deadlock on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. In the end it didn't come to that, and the bill was defeated. But it came very close.

A: I was ready. [Laughing] I was ready. It was thrilling because many were expecting the margin of defeat to be much larger. I spent a lot of time, day and night, in conversation with senators about the need for that bill. Many members of the Senate were wrestling with their conscience. There were some genuine profiles in courage on that vote. It came so close that even the loss was a moral victory. It reminds me of the story of women's suffrage in my home state of Tennessee. You were there when I told that story in San Francisco?

[Yes.]

I told the story of Harry Burns and how the personal connection he had to someone he loved trumped political narrowness. [Burns, a Tennessee legislator, voted to ratify the 19th Amendment, granting women suffrage, after an appeal from his mother.] You saw that happening, one by one, with several senators. Just one more, and I would have been able to add it to my list of tiebreakers, which includes the economic plan and closing gun-show loopholes.

Q: On ABC's 20/20, you told Diane Sawyer you would like to liberalize "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue." With opposition strong within Congress and the Pentagon, how do you propose to make that happen?

A: What I said was, I would implement the policy with more compassion. I don't think the changes in the military policy are working the way they were intended to work.

Q: Because gay discharges are actually way up since the adoption of the new policy in 1993?

A: Yes. The statistics may be reflecting some phenomenon I don't

understand, but the easiest explanation is that it's not being implemented in a way that fully reflects the spirit of the policy. I would try to change that by working with military leaders to bring about an implementation strategy that's fairer.

Q: The Pentagon has resisted disciplining commanders in the field who implement the policy. Given that resistance, can the policy really be reformed, or should we start over with a new policy?

A: I don't know the answer to that, but I plan to find out.

Q: As you know, there is an anti-same-sex-marriage act on the California ballot next year. You oppose same-sex marriage. Can you explain your position?

A: I'm in favor of legal protections for domestic partnership, but I'm not in favor of changing the institution of marriage as it is presently understood-between a man and a woman.

Q: I hear there is some disagreement within the Gore family about this issue. Have you debated Mrs. Gore and your children around the dinner table?

A: [Smiles] I'm not going to violate the privacy of my family by disclosing their positions.

Q: What about the California ballot measure? You could oppose it and still oppose same-sex marriage. Isn't it really nothing more than an attack on gay people?

A: I'm going to have to educate myself on that measure.

Q: Is there a moral or qualitative difference between same- and opposite-sex relationships that leads you to oppose same-sex marriage?

A: I certainly respect the strength and depth of feeling on this issue. And I can only answer your question by saying that with the history and tradition and the way our society understands marriage, there is a difference [between same- and opposite-sex relationships]. I think that difference should be respected. Again, I support protection for domestic partnership. But I do think there should be a respect for the difference in these partnerships and how the institution of marriage has always been understood.

Q: There was a bill in the Texas legislature this year that would have prohibited gay men and lesbians from adopting or serving as foster parents. It never made it out of committee, but is parenting something government should regulate?

A: Those decisions should be made by adoption agencies or the people who are closest to the circumstances of the children who desperately want and need loving and caring parents. We have a huge number of children who cannot find adoptive parents. Local adoption officials can evaluate the circumstances of the child and the parenting ability of prospective parents

and decide if there's a good match. I don't think national or state governments should come in and "bigfoot" the compassionate and careful decisions of people on the local level.

Q: You caused a stir in October 1997 when you said in a speech that because of the sitcom *Ellen*, "Americans were forced to look at sexual orientation in a more open light." Were you surprised by the outcry?

A: Yes, I was surprised by the reaction. Maybe I should not have been. It did seem out of proportion to the issue and to what I said.

Q: Would you be willing to go through that again in an election year?

A: [Laughs] Sure.

Q: Many Americans were deeply affected by the slaying of Matthew Shepard last year. How did you react to it? There have been so many instances of antigay violence; what made this one stand out?

A: Evil has a face that's recognizable when close at hand. Evil sometimes gives a sign of its presence. The horrific image of Matthew Shepard suffering on barbed wire was an image that clearly manifested the presence of evil among us. It represented a malignant hatred that consumes the hater as well as the hated. It has a life of its own, and it cannot be tolerated. If it is tolerated, it grows and spreads.

That's one reason I support hate-crimes legislation. Those who say there is nothing special or different about hate crimes compared to crimes motivated by larcenous intent or carelessness or whatever are not really opening their hearts to the truth. Hate crimes killed 10,000 people in Kosovo, thousands in Rwanda, many tens of thousands in Bosnia, 7 million in the Holocaust. Hatred always has the potential to threaten peace and security in any society. Whenever it is manifested, it deserves a forceful response.

Q: In the aftermath of the slaying, many argued that antigay preachers on the religious right—for instance, Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson, who reach millions in their television ministries—contribute to an environment in which violence is allowed to thrive. What's your view of the relationship between virulent antigay rhetoric and violence?

A: [Long pause] Tolerance of intolerance is a violation of the commandment to love thy neighbor. I was particularly horrified by the twisted soul who carried the hateful signs in view of Matthew Shepard's family across the street from the memorial service. It was breathtakingly cruel—and a clear demonstration of how malignant evil can be.

Q: At several stops on your tour to announce your candidacy, you've been heckled by AIDS activists. They are concerned about the availability of AIDS drugs in Africa. Many people are also concerned that nearly two decades into the epidemic, Americans are becoming complacent about it.

A: I feel very strongly that we have to move aggressively to have adequate budgets, and that means increased funding for the Ryan White CARE [Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency] Act. We have increased it 240%

over the last six years and are proposing another increase this year. We increased the prevention budget by 34%, research by 65%. I want to build on those increases. I've been involved in stepping up clinical trials for new anti-HIV drugs and working out partnerships to make the whole process far more effective. Twelve years ago I called for a Manhattan Project on AIDS. I feel strongly we have to counter the sense of complacency as well. It's in the community as well.

Q: The gay community?

A: Yes. This comes at a time when scientists are concerned that the efficacy of cocktail drugs may be eroding and in some danger. We need a sense of national and international urgency. That's what I want to provide.

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Message: 4

Date: Sun, 20 Aug 2000 19:26:38 -0700

From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>

Subject: Advocate interview with Gephardt

The Advocate

August 29, 2000 issue

<http://www.advocate.com>

The man who would be speaker

Richard Gephardt wants to reclaim the House for the Democrats-and gay voters are part of his strategy

By Chris Bull

It's nearing the end of Congress's legislative session, and the office of Missouri Democrat Richard Gephardt, the House minority leader, is a bustle of activity. Aides burst in and out of his cavernous private suite, seeking his ear on the latest negotiations with the Republican leadership, which in late July was preparing a bevy of tax-cut bills.

Gephardt has had a lot on his mind this election year. He is working feverishly to return the House to a Democratic majority, which would make

him the first Democratic speaker of the House since the Republicans took over the chamber in 1994. In addition, Vice President Al Gore, the presumptive Democratic presidential candidate, was flirting openly with making Gephardt his running mate.

Gephardt, known as a fiery orator and skillful legislator, found time in his busy schedule to sit down with The Advocate to talk about the crucial election, in which the ideological composition of Congress, the White House, and the Supreme Court hang in the balance. The minority leader, who considers gay and lesbian voters critical to his goal of recapturing the House, argued strenuously that Congress is far more likely to advance gay rights legislation under a Democratic majority than a Republican one. But the ever-cautious politician gave few details about what strategy he would employ to achieve that goal.

Q: You are committed to returning the House of Representatives to a Democratic majority. Why should gay and lesbian voters contribute to that goal?

A: The Democratic members have advocated positions favored by the gay community for a long time now, especially ENDA [the Employment Non-discrimination Act]. I'm not saying there aren't Republicans who are for it, but the leadership runs the schedule here, and we have not been able to get it on the floor. We've had only one vote in last three or four years. Hate crimes are another issue: We have tried for the last three or four years to get it up for a vote, even after something like the Matthew Shepard murder happened. On AIDS funding, we have been frustrated as well. We want more money for AIDS research and treatment. We want Medicaid to immediately cover HIV positive patients so they can get the kind of care to prevent the onset of AIDS.

Q: But when it comes to Congress and the White House, the hopes of the gay and lesbian community-especially when it comes to the military policy of "don't ask, don't tell," which was written into law by Congress in 1993-have been dashed many times, by both parties. Why should they believe it will be different this time? Have you learned from the mistakes of the past?

A: While the policy has not been very well implemented-I would be the first to tell you that-we wouldn't have even had this change at all if it weren't for Bill Clinton and the Democratic Congress. Our votes were much more than the Republican votes with the White House in trying to change this policy. We also have been the biggest critics in the way the policy has been administered and the biggest proponents of a different policy that might be more effective.

Q: Even if the White House supports a better policy, you still have to convince the Pentagon, which has been a huge roadblock. If you do get a chance to change the policy, how will you deal with the Joint Chiefs of Staff this time around?

A: First of all, if we had control of Congress, we could have had more hearings about what's actually happening in the military with the policy. We could have gotten more information about the Pentagon's bureaucracy. And

we could have fashioned some improvements with the Pentagon to bring about a better situation.

The Civil Rights Act of 1965 has never been fully implemented, but we are making progress. The racial situation in America today is much better than it was 35 years ago. We have made the beginnings of a new policy on gays in the military. While it has not gone the way we would like it to go, we have made progress. We need to make more progress. In the years following the Civil Rights Act, Congress worked actively with citizens to make sure the law was enforced. But I would argue to you that if you have a Democratic majority, you would have much more effort being made in Congress to try to get the military to do a better job implementing this policy.

AQ: are you saying that you support "don't ask, don't tell," only with better enforcement? Vice President Al Gore has hinted that he might support removing all obstacles to service for gay men and lesbians if he were elected president. Wouldn't it be better to scrap the whole thing and simply allow gays and lesbians to serve openly?

A: I don't know exactly what to do yet. We haven't even had an effective evaluation of what's going on. We've heard many valid complaints about what's going on, but I think until you get a Democratic Congress that really tries to work with the bureaucracy in the Pentagon, to see what can be done with the present law, we shouldn't just say, 'Well, we need a new policy. We have to throw the old one out.' We may determine that the policy was flawed from the beginning and it really can't be properly implemented. If that's the case, I'm willing to go with a better policy. The policy we got was like a lot of policies we get there were a lot of problems with it-I recognize that. I guess what I'm interested in is making effective change.

Q: A military investigation just exonerated the officials at base in Kentucky, where there was a brutal gay-bashing murder of a soldier named Barry Winchell. It concluded that there was not a climate of homophobia at the base. But gay enlistees will tell you differently. Is the military doing enough to protect its gay and lesbian personnel from violence, discrimination, and harassment, to make it a safe place to live and work?

A: There are a lot of things in the military that need to change. Sexual discrimination has been heavily reported on in the last few years. The military has got to enforce its own laws in a variety of areas. Clearly you can't have soldiers killing other soldiers for any reason. That's unacceptable in any organization, but certainly in the military, where discipline and order are so important. Clearly this needs to be looked into. The Joint Chiefs need to be pushed very hard to see that things like this don't happen.

Q: But isn't antigay violence part and parcel of the prejudice that the "don't ask, don't tell" policy seems to promote?

A: I think clearly gay people in the military face a whole series of problems that other people don't. It seems to me the leadership of the military has to be highly sensitive to these problems.

Q: You gave a very impassioned speech at a vigil on the capitol steps not long after the slaying of Matthew Shepard. That murder moved a lot of people. What moved you about it?

A: I'm a parent. I have three kids who I really care about, so I can empathize with any parent who loses a child. It's probably the worst thing that can happen to you. I don't know if I talked about it that night, but my son when he was 2 had terminal cancer. We were very fortunate, and our prayers were answered. He's 30 years old now, but we've been through 30 years of medical travail. So I'm keenly aware of how fragile life is and what kind of a loss it would be to lose a child. I lived in terror for three years he would die. So when I see parents like Matthew's, my heart really goes out to them. I can't really understand what they go through, but I can understand how completely tragic it must have been.

Q: Your own home state of Missouri, a fairly conservative state, passed a hate-crimes bill last year. If it can be done there, can it be done in Congress?

A: Absolutely. I think if we could get it on the floor, it would get a bipartisan majority. The right-wing forces that run the Republican Party don't want it to come up for whatever reason. They don't think the law needs to address this problem. So they frustrate us in blocking a bill. I think there is majority for. It passed the Senate, big time. If we get the majority, believe me, it will come up.

Q: The kind of prejudice that led to the Shepard murder and so many others like it are deeply ingrained in American society. Why is hate-crimes legislation the best way to combat it? Isn't the problem larger than any legislative remedy?

A: The Civil Rights Act is a piece of paper with words on it. You have to make it come to life. That takes time and effort. It needs to be written down on the piece of paper as a goal, which in this case is the end of prejudice. It is the beginning of a process to get people to follow to the goal. You can't ever expect everybody to come to the goal, but we have made a lot of progress on civil rights with race, and I believe we can make a lot of progress with sexual orientation. But you have to start with the statement by society. This is what we need to do, and then we can make it happen. We're on the road to real progress here. We are a lot better nation on these questions today than we were just eight years ago.

Q: About five years ago Rep. Bob Dornan of California gay-baited his fellow Republican congressman, Steve Gunderson, on the house floor, before Gunderson was even out of the closet. Gunderson later came out and left Congress. Could that happen on the House floor today? What changes have you seen among House members on both sides of the aisle? Are they less prejudice, and more understanding?

A: Oh, I supposed it could still happen. Bob is gone, but he can still speak. [Laughs] Seriously, it could happen, but I think we have made progress within Congress just as we have made progress in the country. When I came to Congress, there were no openly gay members. Today we have [Reps.]

Tammy Baldwin and Barney Frank [as well as Republican Jim Kolbe]. Barney came out while in the House; Tammy came to the House as an out lesbian, and her constituency with that knowledge elected her. I think that's really something great. People like them on both sides of the aisle. They are very smart and well-equipped to do this job. They are well-accepted in the House. Barney is deeply respected by the Republicans. They don't know Tammy as well, but she is equally good. They think Barney is one of the best representatives out there. You can't deny him. He's just fabulous. People are feeling differently and better about these issues. More openly gay people will be elected to the House in both parties. Even conservative Republican members are really going to have to examine their views on this issue.

Q: The Defense of Marriage Act, which forbids federal recognition of same-sex marriages, was passed overwhelmingly in the House. Has your own position changed on same-sex marriage, especially in light of the Vermont legislature's legalizing same-sex unions?

A: I think we can make progress on all the legal questions facing same-sex couples. You have private companies moving aggressively in this direction. You have state laws like Vermont coming to this conclusion. Down the road, who knows? Maybe we will make progress [on marriage too]. But right now, same-sex couples should have legal rights that everyone else has.

Q: Why shouldn't Tammy Baldwin, who has a longtime partner, be able to marry her if she chooses? Why shouldn't she have not just the legal rights but the trappings of marriage as well? How can you justify having two separate systems for Americans?

A: Maybe that day will come. But now the goal is making legal rights available.

Q: You have been closely associated with the American labor movement for a long time now. Organized labor and the gay community have joined forces, forging a solid part of the Democratic coalition in recent years.

A: It is a very hopeful sign. Labor has always been for people's rights and for helping people gain their rights. It's a natural alliance that can be very successful in driving ENDA and all the other issues we've been talking about. With their resources combined, there is a lot of potential for real change.

Q: You were in Africa in December. What did you learn about the AIDS epidemic there?

A: I saw an awful lot of people with HIV. I'd heard a lot about the issue, but it was theoretical compared to seeing the devastation of the disease in Africa. We need to step up as the international leader in combating this problem—in prevention, in education, in medicine, in treatment. Twenty-two million in Africa are infected. If there were an army driving through the continent, killing this many people, we would have the army, the air force, and the marines there.

Q: Why has Congress and the federal government been so slow to understand

the epidemic both in this country and overseas?

A: It's not in front of us. Most people don't go there and see the woman in a hospital in Johannesburg dying- the mother of young children who are probably going to die. She's out trying to educate women in how to avoid disease. You see enough people like that, and you realize it's the worst thing that's going on in the world today. It's the moral issue of our time.

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Message: 5

Date: Sun, 20 Aug 2000 20:03:46 -0700

From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>

Subject: Texas delegates get airtime for Birch

Dallas Voice

August 17, 2000

<http://www.dallasvoice.com>

Texas delegates get airtime for Birch

CNN broadcasts gay leader's convention speech only after learning of planned demonstration among Texans

By Dennis Vercher

A demonstration by the 212-member Texas delegation at the Democratic National Convention apparently resulted in CNN's decision to broadcast a speech by a national gay leader, organizers of the demonstration said.

CNN agreed to broadcast a speech by Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, after learning that the Texas delegation planned a demonstration. The idea appealed to CNN, sources said, because of the sharp contrast in the reactions to a gay speaker between the Texas delegations at the Democratic National Convention and recent Republican National Convention.

Texas Democratic delegates held up signs supporting the Human Rights Campaign and calling for hate crimes legislation while cheering Birch's speech.

In contrast, Texas GOP delegates bowed their heads in prayer and held up signs protesting a 3-minute speech by a gay Republican congressman during the Republican convention.

Apparently, Tuesday's demonstration in the Texas delegation was orchestrated by Human Rights Campaign staffers to secure airtime for their leader.

David Smith, communications director, denied that his organization played a role in the Texas demonstration. But Louise Young, a long-time lesbian activist and Democratic party delegate, said she organized the demonstration at the request of Human Rights Campaign staffer Winnie Stachelberg.

Young said Texas delegation members "smuggled" signs onto the convention floor, since unauthorized signs were not permitted. The signs bore the Human Rights Campaign logo or a message supporting hate crimes legislation.

"During Elizabeth Birch's speech, the entire Texas delegation was on their feet, screaming against hate crimes and waving the HRC signs," Young said.

Young said the Human Rights Campaign's Smith "credits the Texas delegation for getting Elizabeth Birch live on CNN."

Young said the incident was "a huge deal, and it was a huge difference between the two delegations in the two state parties."

Activists said the Democratic convention, which concluded last night with an acceptance speech by presidential candidate Al Gore, was the most gay-positive yet in a party already noted for its acceptance of gays and gay causes.

More than 212 openly-gay delegates attended the convention, according to Michael Milliken of Dallas, a board member of the National Stonewall Democratic Federation. Sixteen were from Texas, he said.

"This is probably the most gay-friendly Democratic convention ever," Milliken said. "We've been greatly received."

The gay and lesbian caucus met daily during the convention, he said. "We've just had a parade of all kinds of candidates and officeholders."

Notables visiting the caucus included first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, vice presidential nominee Joseph Lieberman, HUD secretary Andrew Cuomo and Jesse Jackson. Party officials included Andrew Tobias, the openly-gay treasurer of the Democratic National Committee, and Joe Andrew, the party's general

chair.

Young, who recently traveled to Vermont to obtain a civil union with her partner, Vivienne Armstrong, said she was especially moved to meet Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, who signed the civil unions legislation into law.

"He talked about how important it was for him to sign the legislation, and how it was a human rights issue, an equal rights issue. And he said hearing the stories of our lives was what made the difference in that vote," Young said.

Lieberman told the gay caucus that he would fight for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would extend federal employment protections to gays and lesbians.

"Just as women and people of color in our time have seen the barriers fall, the new frontier is to secure the fullest protection of law and liberty for gay and lesbian Americans," Lieberman said during his visit to the caucus on Wednesday.

Nine openly-gay men and women spoke at main convention sessions, Young said.

In addition to Birch, they included U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., and Dr.

Juanita Owens, a member of the San Francisco school board and a candidate for city supervisor.

Families of hate crimes victims Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. also spoke during main convention sessions.

Milliken said the Democratic party's openness to gays was due to the hard work by gay and lesbian volunteers in the party.

"It's because we have so many openly gay and lesbian people actually working in the party and in the Gore campaign," he said. "The party recognizes the contribution the gay and lesbian community can give to the Democratic Party and to its candidates."

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Message: 6

Date: Sun, 20 Aug 2000 22:02:11 -0700

From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>

Subject: Re: Gore-Lieberman and the Clinton pro-gay tradition

While this list is not intended as a discussion list, I thought Bryan's analysis was worth distributing . . .

>Advocate.com

>August 18, 2000

>

>Gore-Lieberman and the Clinton pro-gay tradition

>

>Bill Clinton may have backslid on some gay issues, but his two terms have

>been historic for bringing lesbian and gay rights to the forefront. As the

>2000 Democratic ticket seeks to distance itself from the Clinton

>administration, might it also distance itself from Clinton's support for

>gay rights?

>

>By Lewis Whittington

>

>An advocate.com exclusive

>

>Green Party presidential nominee Ralph Nader dubbed Sen. Joseph Lieberman

a

>"Republican" on CNN's Crossfire the night he was named as Al Gore's

>running mate.....Gore stated in his official announcement in Nashville

>on Tuesday

>that Lieberman will "tear down the wall of division."

>I do wonder if Gore's pronouncement of "division" has a meaning for gay

>Democrats.....

>

>Now it will be interesting to see what Lieberman will do for the gay vote.

>Lieberman is an Orthodox Jew-the first Jew on any major party's ticket,

>ever-and he is deeply religious. At least in his opening discourse with

>voters, he does not hesitate to bring religion into his political message,

>and Orthodox Judaism is not traditionally supportive of homosexuals. While

>Lieberman has lately voiced support for the gay-inclusive Employment

>Non-Discrimination Act, he did vote for the antigay Defense of Marriage

>Act. He's a tough read on gay rights.

>

>.....It's all speculation at this point, as

>broader gay rights issues have yet to come to the fore in the

>Gore-Lieberman presidential bid.

Bryan Wildenthal's response:

I am getting irritated past the point of tolerance by the shoddy, misleading reporting illustrated by the above commentary, which is sadly typical of some of the nattering nabobs of negativism in the gay community (especially "Log Cabin Republican" apologists for Bush-Cheney) who seem determined to find a tunnel somewhere in the light represented by the Gore-Lieberman ticket's positions on gay rights.

It is hardly fair (indeed, it's outright false) to say that Joe Lieberman has only "lately voiced" support for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). True, he voted for the unfortunate "Defense of Marriage of Act" in 1996, as did all but 14 very liberal Democrats in the Senate (it passed 85-14, with support even from otherwise staunchly pro-gay progressives like Paul Wellstone of Minnesota, and, well, Joe Lieberman). But on that very same day, FOUR YEARS AGO, Lieberman VOTED for ENDA, which failed on a 49-50 vote.

SEVEN YEARS AGO, Joe Lieberman, like Bill Bradley, was one of only 33 Senators (29 Democrats and 4 Republicans) to vote for Senator Barbara Boxer's amendment to remove the language codifying the military's anti-gay policy (the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" compromise that Clinton was pressured into accepting by the military brass and Republicans and conservative Democrats in Congress). Lieberman was one of the few moderate-to-conservative Democrats to vote against the ban. Quite a few Democrats generally considered more leftwing, including the Democratic Leader Tom Daschle, voted in FAVOR of the ban. Al Gore, as is now known, privately urged Clinton at the time to hang tough and lift the anti-gay ban altogether, but his advice was not followed and like any loyal Vice-President, he kept quiet. Gore has now emphatically promised, as a presidential candidate, to work to repeal the ban if he is elected, and Lieberman's original opposition to the ban (and even to Clinton's watered-down compromise) is heartening evidence that they are both serious about removing this stain of bigotry on America's national honor.

It is bizarrely inaccurate to say that "gay issues have yet to come to the fore in the Gore-Lieberman presidential bid." What planet is Mr. Whittington living on? Lieberman emphatically included "sexual orientation," during his convention acceptance speech, in his short list of the kinds of bigotry that America must overcome. Gore emphatically reiterated his support of ENDA in HIS convention speech, and, singling out Matthew Shepard by name (the gay college student murdered by bigots in Wyoming), he emphatically called for a hate-crimes law including sexual orientation. The Democratic platform written by Gore's handpicked supporters proclaims support for the "full inclusion of gay and lesbian families in the life of the nation." While that is somewhat vague, Gore on the campaign trail stated his support for granting committed gay couples most of the legal rights of married couples (though not under the label "marriage," which Gore and Lieberman would, regrettably, like the overwhelming majority of Americas today, reserve to heterosexual couples).

Joe Lieberman has thus NOT been a "Johnny-come-lately" on gay rights, as Mr. Whittington suggests, nor is he "tough to read" on such issues. And while it is true that Orthodox Jewish religious principles do generally frown upon homosexuality, I think that makes all the more admirable Lieberman's staunch support for equality and human rights as a matter of public policy. It proves he has, can, and will separate his personal religious beliefs (whatever they may be on the subject of homosexuality) from his political policy views.

By contrast, Bush and Cheney have emphatically OPPOSED all of these gay rights initiatives, and the Republican platform insults gay Americans by

declaring us "incompatible" with military service and opposing ANY civil rights protections for us. Bush, when asked, refused to reject the possibility of removing children from the homes of their gay parents, even where custody has already been established, and he supported a Texas bill to ban all adoptions by gay people. Bush supports the Texas law criminalizing private gay sex between consenting adults, which recently resulted in two Houston men spending a night in jail (they are now appealing their convictions). His own running mate Dick Cheney's openly lesbian daughter, Mary Cheney, would be a criminal under Texas law if she and her female partner were to make love while visiting Texas (where her parents live). Bush says it's important to keep the law on the books to send a "symbolic message" that homosexual activity (even between consenting adults in private) is immoral and criminal. His backers successfully sabotaged a hate-crimes bill in the Texas Legislature. Bush not only opposes protecting against anti-gay hate crimes (hate crimes which he encourages by his rhetoric on why it's important to label gay people as immoral criminals), he even opposes hate-crimes protection for racist violence, even though African-American James Byrd was dragged to death in Bush's own state during his tenure as Governor! In an unbelievable insult to the families of Mr. Byrd, Mr. Shepard, and others, Bush said he sees no difference between hate crimes and all other crimes!

Wake up and smell the coffee, Mr. Whittington. The choice in this election is clear.

Bryan Wildenthal

Associate Professor of Law, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, San Diego, California

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: TASwann@aol.com (TASwann@aol.com [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:21-AUG-2000 15:48:48.00

SUBJECT: Encore Video To Film WW II LGBT Veterans

TO: TASwann@aol.com (TASwann@aol.com [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

Maria Echaveste (CN=Maria Echaveste/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Note: Some recipients have been dropped due to syntax errors.Please refer to the "\$AdditionalHeaders" item for the complete headers.

CALIFORNIA GAY VETERANS
MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION
Building California's First LGBT
Veterans Memorial

MEDIA ADVISORY

TOM Swann
(760) 324-5670

ENCORE VIDEO PRODUCTIONS TO FILM WORLD WAR II AND KOREAN WAR VETERAN LIFE
STORIES FOR DOCUMENTARY FILM

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8 2000
MORRIS KIGHT ARCHIVES DISPLAY, AUCTION, COCKTAILS 5:30 P.M.
AWARDS DINNER 7:00 P.M.
MARQUIS HOTEL
GRAND BALLROOM
PALM SPRINGS CA
\$50 per person
Contributions are tax-deductible

DINNER THEME:

A United Community Building California's
First Gay Veterans Memorial

Featuring Guest Speakers
U.S. Representative Maxine Waters
State Assemblymember Sheila James Kuehl
Feminist Award-Winning Singer Sandy Rapp

Pam Brown of Encore Video productions announced today from her Los Angeles studios that she would attend the September 8 dinner to film the life story interviews of World War II and Korean War LGBT veterans. It is estimated that 1,000 World War II veterans die each day. Charles Edwards, the

Community Liaison officer of the ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter is a decorated Korean War veteran. He announced Sunday he is bringing both the Silver Star and Purple Heart he won during the war. Mr. Edwards is leading the Pledge of Allegiance at the dinner.

The desert cake recognizes the 10th anniversary of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America. There will be champagne at every table.

Also

an autographed leather bound edition of The Front Runner by honorary board member Patricia Nell Warren will be auctioned to support the local Palm Springs Gay Veterans.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

(Award presenters are Sheila Kuehl and Maxine Waters)

Morris Kight, a veteran of civil rights and peace activism before Stonewall.

He was instrumental in establishing the Gay and Lesbian community centers in

Los Angeles, Orange County and elsewhere. He co-founded the Stonewall Democratic Club of Los Angeles and was an adviser to President Jimmy Carter.

Morris and late Supervisor Harvey Milk were instrumental in the defeat of the

1978 Briggs Initiative. The Los Angeles Times describes Morris as: Liberator!

SHEILA KUEHL LEADERSHIP AWARD

(Presented in person by Hon. Sheila Kuehl)

Herb King, a distinguished World War II veteran who invented canned rations for the military. He is a two-time delegate to the Democratic National Convention. In 1993 he was part of a nationwide bus tour to try and lift the military ban.

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: TASwann@aol.com (TASwann@aol.com [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:21-AUG-2000 15:47:21.00

SUBJECT: Encore Video To Film WW II LGBT Veterans

TO: TASwann@aol.com (TASwann@aol.com [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

Danilo DeGuzman Jr. (CN=Danilo DeGuzman Jr./OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Note: Some recipients have been dropped due to syntax errors.Please refer to the "\$AdditionalHeaders" item for the complete headers.

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: TASwann@aol.com (TASwann@aol.com [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:21-AUG-2000 15:49:39.00

SUBJECT: Encore Video To Film WW II LGBT Veterans

TO: TASwann@aol.com (TASwann@aol.com [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

Thurgood Marshall Jr (CN=Thurgood Marshall Jr/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: lgbt-politics@egroups.com (lgbt-politics@egroups.com [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 26-AUG-2000 09:16:31.00

SUBJECT: [lgbt-politics] Digest Number 132

TO: lgbt-politics@egroups.com (lgbt-politics@egroups.com [UNKNOWN])
READ: UNKNOWN

Elizabeth J. Potter (CN=Elizabeth J. Potter/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ: UNKNOWN

TEXT:

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lgbt-politics@eGroups.com

To Unsubscribe, send a blank message to:
lgbt-politics-unsubscribe@eGroups.com

There are 9 messages in this issue.

Topics in this digest:

1. CAPE Alert! Urge CA Gov. Davis to Support AB 2142, the Gender Nondiscrimination Bill
From: "Eric-Joseph C. Astacaan" <doug.case@sdsu.edu> (by way of Doug Case)
2. Scouting for All Act
From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>
3. Nebraska voters to decide on same-sex marriages
From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>
4. Intolerance Is The Real Threat
From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>
5. ; Dems claim convention fuels Gay support
From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>
6. Wayne Friday Column, 8/24/00
From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>
7. Greens battle for gay voters
From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>
8. Convention Wrap
From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>
9. Dems made LGBT delegates feel appreciated
From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>

Message: 1

Date: Fri, 25 Aug 2000 16:55:24 -0700

From: "Eric-Joseph C. Astacaan" <doug.case@sdsu.edu> (by way of Doug Case)

Subject: CAPE Alert! Urge CA Gov. Davis to Support AB 2142, the Gender Nondiscrimination Bill

CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE FOR PRIDE AND EQUALITY (CAPE)
The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Lobby

URGENT ACTION ALERT!

URGE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR GRAY DAVIS TO SUPPORT
THE GENDER NONDISCRIMINATION BILL (AB 2142)!

Please contact Governor Gray Davis and urge him to support AB 2142, by
Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Fred Keeley (D - Santa Cruz). This bill would
prohibit gender-based discrimination in employment and housing.
THE GOVERNOR'S SUPPORT IS CRITICAL TO GET THE BILL
MOVING FORWARD IN THE STATE SENATE!

PLEASE IMMEDIATELY CALL, FAX OR E-MAIL
LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO:

The Honorable Gray Davis
Governor of California
State Capitol, 1st Floor
Sacramento, California 95814
E-Mail: graydavis@governor.ca.gov

Capitol Phone: 916-445-2841, Fax: 916-445-4633
Fresno Phone: 559-445-5295, Fax: 559-445-5328
Los Angeles Phone: 213-897-0322, Fax: 213-897-0319
Riverside Phone: 909-680-6860, Fax: 909-680-6863
San Diego Phone: 619-525-4641, Fax: 619-525-4640
San Francisco Phone: 415-703-2218, Fax: 415-703-2803
DC Phone: 202-624-5270, Fax: 202-624-5280

Please forward this alert to your family, friends and colleagues!
For your reference, please use the sample letter below!

To see the text of the bill, please visit our website at
<http://www.calcape.org>
or click on the URL below:
http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill_number=ab_2142&sess=CUR&hou
u
se=B

For more info, please contact:

Eric Astacaan, CAPE Legislative Advocate
Phone: 916-929-6331, E-Mail: laxsmfca@tomatoweb.com

SAMPLE LETTER
(Please personalize your letter!)

The Honorable Gray Davis
Governor of California
State Capitol, 1st Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SUPPORT AB 2142 (KEELEY)!

Dear Governor Davis:

I am writing to express my strong support for AB 2142 (Keeley), a bill that would prohibit gender-based discrimination in employment and housing.

No one should be subjected to discriminatory treatment because of gender-related characteristics that have no relevance to his or her qualifications as an employee or tenant. This type of discrimination stifles individual initiative, destroys careers, and prevents men and women from living up to their full potential.

Although courts have begun to address gender discrimination on a case-by-case basis in the past ten years, legislators have an equal responsibility to keep pace with changing social realities and to ensure that our statutes provide a sufficiently clear and adequate prohibition against gender-based discrimination. AB 2142 meets that responsibility in a principled way by amending the Fair Employment and Housing Act to codify existing case law and to be consistent with related provisions in the California Code.

By prohibiting gender-based discrimination, AB 2142 protects an important civil right. This bill recognizes a class of people who suffer discrimination and seeks to right that wrong.

Please support AB 2142 and urge California lawmakers to pass this bill!
Thank you.

Very truly yours,

PRINT AND SIGN NAME
ADDRESS
TELEPHONE

+++++

FACT SHEET

SUPPORT AB 2142 (KEELEY)!

Prohibit Gender-Based Discrimination in Employment and Housing

AB 2142, by Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Fred Keeley, would clarify for purposes of the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) that discrimination on the basis of "sex" includes prohibited acts of discrimination based on actual or perceived gender. The bill would import the definition of "gender" from Penal Code Section 422.76. Under AB 2142, "gender" is defined as the person's actual sex or the perception of a person's identity, appearance, or behavior, regardless of whether different from that traditionally associated with the person's sex at birth.

SUPPORT AB 2142 (KEELEY)!

No one should be subjected to discriminatory treatment because of gender-related characteristics that have no relevance to his or her qualifications as an employee or tenant. This type of discrimination stifles individual initiative, destroys careers, and prevents all Californians from living up to their full potential.

- "Gender" means the traits and characteristics associated with masculinity and femininity. Although anyone may be discriminated against based on gender (just as anyone may be discriminated against based on race, religion, marital status, etc.), some people are more vulnerable to gender-based discrimination than others. Those who are most vulnerable to this type of discrimination include: (i) women who are or are perceived to be masculine; (ii) men who are or are perceived to be feminine; and (iii) transsexual women and men.

- Although courts have begun to address gender discrimination on a case-by-case basis in the past ten years, legislators have an equal responsibility to keep pace with changing social realities and to ensure that our statutes provide a sufficiently clear and adequate prohibition against gender-based discrimination. AB 2142 meets that responsibility in a principled way by amending the Fair Employment and Housing Act to codify existing case law and to be consistent with related provisions in the California Code.

- The concept of gender discrimination is already well established in the law. Courts have used the term gender and recognized the concept of gender stereotyping for more than a decade. As Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia has written, "the word 'gender' has acquired the new and useful connotation of cultural or attitudinal characteristics (as opposed to physical characteristics) distinctive to the sexes." (J.E.B. v. Alabama, 1994). In California, the Legislature has already codified that broad definition of gender in the Hate Crimes Statute and in the Education Code. In addition, harassment on the basis of gender is already specifically prohibited under FEHA.

- This legislation is needed to clarify that discrimination on the basis of

gender is prohibited under FEHA as well. In the absence of this amendment, both employers and employees will be left without any clear guidance, thereby leaving these important issues to be decided on an ad hoc basis by individual state courts.

For further info, please contact:

Eric Astacaan, CAPE Legislative Advocate, 916-929-6331

E-Mail: laxsmfca@tomatoweb.com

Eric-Joseph C. Astacaan

CAPE Legislative Advocate

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The California Alliance for Pride & Equality (CAPE) is a nonprofit, statewide advocacy organization whose mission is to ensure the dignity, safety, equality and civil rights of all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Californians.

Please support CAPE by becoming a member:

California Alliance for Pride and Equality (CAPE)

P.O. Box 1172, Sacramento, CA 95812-1172

Phone: 916-492-6160/562-439-7304, Fax: 562-439-0734

E-Mail: Email@calcape.org, Web: <http://www.calcape.org>

Message: 2

Date: Fri, 25 Aug 2000 17:04:42 -0700

From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>

Subject: Scouting for All Act

THOMAS - Legislative information on the internet

A service of the Library of Congress

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c106:H.R.4892>:

A BILL

To repeal the Federal charter of the Boy Scouts of America.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States

of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Scouting for All Act'.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Federal charters are prestigious distinctions awarded to organizations with a patriotic, charitable, or educational purpose.

(2) Although intended as an honorific title, a Federal charter implies

Government support for such organizations.

(3) In 1916, the Federal Government granted a Federal charter to the Boy Scouts of America.

(4) Although the Boy Scouts of America promotes the social and civic development of young boys through mentoring, it also sets an example of intolerance through its discriminatory policy regarding sexual orientation.

(5) Federal support for the Boy Scouts of America indirectly supports the organization's policy to exclude homosexuals.

(6) A policy of excluding homosexuals is contradictory to the Federal Government's support for diversity and tolerance and should not be condoned as patriotic, charitable, or educational.

SEC. 3. REPEAL OF FEDERAL CHARTER OF BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA.

(a) REPEAL- Chapter 309 of title 36, United States Code, which grants a Federal charter to the Boy Scouts of America, is repealed.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT- The analysis at the beginning of subtitle II of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to chapter 309.

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Message: 3

Date: Fri, 25 Aug 2000 17:09:36 -0700

From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>

Subject: Nebraska voters to decide on same-sex marriages

Lincoln Journal Star, August 23, 2000

(<http://www.journalstar.com>)

Excerpt

Same-sex, term limits go to vote

BY MARTHA STODDARD

Nebraska voters apparently will decide this November whether to ban same-sex marriages and whether to limit state senators to two terms in office.

Two initiative petition drives have passed the signature threshold to make it on the fall ballot, with more signatures yet to count, Secretary of State Scott Moore announced Tuesday.

County election officials so far have counted 124,495 valid signatures on the proposed constitutional amendment to ban marriage and similar

arrangements between same-sex partners. A second proposal, to impose term limits on the Legislature, has 118,254 valid signatures.

Backers of each petition had to collect about 105,000 valid signatures

--

equal to 10 percent of the state's registered voters as of July 7 -- to make

it on the ballot. State law allows challenges to signatures after the verification process is complete.

Tuesday's news pleased Guyla Mills, head of the Defense of Marriage Committee, which organized the signature-gathering effort and exceeded the threshold in six weeks. Only 10 percent of the signatures, gathered by volunteers, have been declared invalid.

"We're thrilled," Mills said. "We think that the 3,200 petition circulators worked very hard and are to be congratulated."

The Defense of Marriage Committee now will get to work raising funds, producing advertisements and urging Nebraskans to vote for the proposed amendment, she said.

"We believe Nebraskans are with us on this issue," Mills said.

Mary Carol Bond, Lincoln field manager of the Vote No on DOMA Committee, said she couldn't comment on the petition until it officially is added to the

ballot. But, she said, efforts are under way to oppose it.

"We are organizing to fight it and as soon as it becomes a reality, our educational campaign and our political campaign will go into full swing," Bond said. "We plan to get out the word to Nebraska voters that we feel this

is a radical, discriminatory amendment."

Thirty-three other states already ban same-sex marriage, but Nebraska's proposed measure would be the only one to also ban other arrangements between same-sex partners.

The proposed constitutional amendment reads: "Only marriage between a man and a woman shall be valid or recognized in Nebraska. The uniting of two persons of the same sex in a civil union, domestic partnership or other similar same-sex relationship shall not be valid or recognized in Nebraska."

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Date: Fri, 25 Aug 2000 17:10:51 -0700
From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>
Subject: Intolerance Is The Real Threat

Eugene Register-Guard, August 21, 2000
(<http://www.registerguard.com>)

Column: Intolerance Is The Real Threat

By KAREN McCOWAN, Columnist, The Register-Guard

It was the last place I expected to find yet another reason to drive a stake through the heart of the OCA's resurrected Measure 9. We were sitting

in an urgent care waiting room. It was late on a Sunday night. Most doctor's offices had been closed for two days. The room was packed and the wait was long. The not-so-patient patients ranged from feverish tots in jammies -- parents holding cool washcloths to their flushed faces -- to weekend warriors in softball uniforms holding ice bags on injured limbs.

We were there because my teen-ager had come home from church camp with an

infected toe. Her doctor wanted her started on antibiotics before long-scheduled dental surgery the next morning.

My teen-age niece, visiting from Portland, had come along to keep her cousin company.

People shifted restlessly on the waiting room couches and chairs.

Adults

thumbed through outdated magazines. Kids played with toys on a table in the corner.

A television set, suspended from the ceiling just above the play area, was tuned to The Discovery Channel.

Like my daughter, my niece, and many others in the room, I was soon caught up in the program under way, "Is it a Boy or a Girl?" The show explored the subject of hermaphrodites, people born with both male and female sex organs.

It looked at the challenges, emotions and decisions parents face when such a child is born to them.

It explored the debate over surgically "fixing" such children in infancy

-- arbitrarily making them either a boy or a girl.

Finally, it examined the lives of adults who'd had such decisions made for them. Many had never been told about their surgical alterations. Many had struggled with sexual identity issues.

One such person -- a muscular young man -- was being interviewed on camera when two new people entered the waiting room and sat down to my right.

They appeared to be a father and son. The younger looked to be in his late

20s, the older between 50 and 60. It wasn't clear which was the patient -- neither had any obvious injuries or symptoms.

Junior looked up at the TV screen, watched for perhaps a minute, then turned to Dad.

"That guy's a fag!" he proclaimed, spraying spit as he forcefully pronounced the disdainful label.

Other adults in the waiting room squirmed, but nobody spoke up.
Mindful

that my daughter and niece had heard him, I decided to.

"You might want to watch for a while," I chided. "This is a program about people who are born with both male and female sex organs."

Junior was briefly taken aback, clearly surprised to be confronted.

"OK," he said defensively. "I'm open to new information."

What happened next on screen could not have been more perfect.

"All I want," said the surgically altered young man, "is to be how God created me."

Touche! Who could say it better?

But Junior wasn't so open-minded, after all. As soon as the show revealed that the man on the screen was in a committed, homosexual relationship, Junior leaned back over to Dad and sneered, "I told you he was a fag!"

The Oregon Citizens Alliance would have you believe that it's heterosexuals who are under relentless attack by homosexuals. They would have you believe their Measure 9 -- which would prohibit any classroom discussions "encouraging, promoting or sanctioning" homosexuality in Oregon public schools -- is necessary "to protect children."

I don't buy it.

Not as a parent of a teen-age daughter. Not as a volunteer advising a peer-led sexuality education program at her school. Not as the wife of a teacher who regularly confronts anti-gay slurs.

The children I see needing protection are those for whom gay or lesbian is "how God created me."

In a 1999 study of middle and high school students, the Bethel School District found that more than half the boys (and nearly half the girls) "often" witnessed harassment based on sexual orientation.

It was the most common form of harassment -- almost twice as prevalent as race-based harassment. And it was shockingly accepted, particularly among young males. Only about 60 percent of the boys agreed that they "believe in treating everyone with respect, regardless of sexual orientation."

The Eugene School District has not conducted a similar survey, but deputy superintendent David Piercy said such harassment is a serious problem there, as well.

Nonheterosexual students need protection from the Juniors of this world.

And all our kids need protection against becoming the Juniors of this world.

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as "opposition research."

Message: 5

Date: Fri, 25 Aug 2000 17:22:12 -0700

From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>

Subject: ; Dems claim convention fuels Gay support

Washington Blade

<http://www.washblade.com>

August 25, 2000

A boost of energy

Gore promises to see ENDA become law; Dems claim convention fuels Gay support

by Lou Chibbaro Jr.

LOS ANGELES- Gay Democrats, buoyed by their visibility at the Democratic National Convention last week, say they are confident that Democratic presidential nominee Al Gore has received a post-convention boost in support from Gay voters, just as he apparently has from the overall electorate.

Gore told the convention and its national television audience last Thursday, Aug. 17, that he is committed to helping pass the Gay civil rights bill known as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, as well as a bill to combat hate crimes.

Gore's mention of ENDA and hate crimes legislation during his speech accepting his party's nomination for president came at the end of a convention which saw an unprecedented level of participation by Gay Democrats, including seven openly Gay speakers.

The Gay participation reached its peak about four hours before Gore's speech, when openly Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) addressed the convention with his male companion, Sergio Pombo, at his side.

Earlier in the week, Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest Gay political group, delivered a speech on hate crimes, becoming the first Gay civil rights leader to address a major party political convention during "primetime" evening hours.

A Washington Post-ABC News poll released this week shows Gore leading Bush by a 50 percent to 45 percent margin, marking a significant post-convention shift in support from Bush to Gore. The poll, among other things, shows that Gore has strengthened his support from the Democrats' traditional base, which includes Gays and other minorities. Meanwhile, every other poll

taken since the Aug. 17 speech has shown Gore with a lead over Bush. Prior to Gore's appearance before the convention and the national television audience, nearly all showed him behind.

During the Democratic Convention, some Gay Democratic activists expressed concern that Bush's outreach to minorities - and, to some extent, to Gays - at the Republican Party convention might siphon off a greater-than-usual percentage of the Gay vote to Bush. The Gay Democrats joined Democratic Party officials, including Democratic Party National Chair Ed Rendell, in criticizing both the general circulation and Gay press for what they considered a failure to portray Bush's outreach as being bogus.

Rendell called Bush's overture to minorities an "illusion of inclusion," saying Bush's policies on Gay issues remain hostile and "threatening."

Gore's remarks at the convention also came after Democratic vice presidential nominee Joseph Lieberman, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, and a parade of high-level party leaders and Clinton administration cabinet members visited the convention's Gay caucus meetings. Lieberman, Clinton, and the others implored the Gay delegates to help secure a massive Gay voter turnout for Gore in the November election, saying a Gay voting bloc - believed to be as much as 5 percent of the overall electorate - can determine a close election's outcome.

Gore told the convention that his presidency will "widen the circle of opportunity for all Americans, and we will vigorously enforce all our civil rights laws with the budgets and personnel that are necessary."

"And hear me well," Gore said. "We will pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. And we will honor the memory of Matthew Shepard, Joseph Ito, and James Byrd, whose families all joined us this week, by passing a law against hate crimes. It's time."

Members of the convention's contingent of 212 openly Gay delegates, alternate delegates, and convention standing committee members leaped to their feet when Gore mentioned ENDA and the hate crimes legislation. Many of them could be seen scattered throughout the convention hall waving the brightly colored "Gore for President" placards with a pink triangle superimposed over it that the Gay delegates have displayed throughout the week on the convention floor.

To some of the Gay caucus members, Rep. Frank's convention speech illustrated a stark difference between the Democratic and Republican conventions concerning Gay participation. At the Republican convention, openly Gay U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.) broke new ground when GOP presidential contender George W. Bush selected him as the first-ever openly Gay speaker at a GOP convention. But, presumably at Bush's request, Kolbe made no mention of Gay issues, and Kolbe told the press he would comment only on the subject of his speech: international trade.

In his own convention speech, Frank talked about Gay issues and appeared at the podium with Pumbo, his companion. When he finished his speech, he and Pumbo embraced and walked off stage with their arms around each other's waist.

Frank, aiming his speech at the liberal wing of his party, which is being courted by Green Party candidate Ralph Nader, said he believes voters have a moral obligation to use pragmatism to advance their idealism.

"Now let me say something that may deviate a little from the norm in a political convention," Frank said. "Al Gore is not perfect. Neither is Joe Lieberman. Neither is Tom Daschle or Dick Gephardt or me. All we are is the best you're going to get on liberal issues between now and this election."

"The choices are Al Gore and Joe Lieberman, with strong records of support on the important issues of Gay and Lesbian rights and a woman's right to choose and gun control," Frank said, "or George Bush, who has, throughout his career, done everything possible to undo any possible progress on all three, or a Ralph Nader, who throughout his career, has steadfastly ignored Gay rights and ignored the right of a woman to choose, and ignored gun regulation - and today, [he] diminishes and trivializes those central issues to many of us by denying there are important differences between Al Gore and George Bush."

"To those who say let's wait for perfection, my answer is this. There are Gay kids getting beat up in high school," Frank said. "There are young women in anguish trying to make the decision about whether to carry a pregnancy to term - a difficult decision - and they need not be threatened by the law. There is unchecked gun violence. I can't wait for perfection. I feel it is my obligation to do what I can right away to make improvements in those situations. And that means Al Gore and Joe Lieberman, a Democratic House, and a Democratic Senate."

Gloria Nieto, executive director of the People of Color AIDS Foundation in New Mexico and co-chair of the Gay and Lesbian Caucus of the Democratic National Committee, and Sheila Kuehl, openly Lesbian member of the California State Assembly, also addressed the convention on its final day of Aug. 17.

Nieto told of her heritage as an immigrant from Mexico and said the Democratic Party has opened its door to her as both an immigrant and a Lesbian.

"We need leaders who hear our voices," she said. "Today, my home is here with the Democratic Party. It has also been the home, is the home, and will be the home, for that rich mosaic of American ethnicity."

"We are your family- brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, mothers, fathers, your children. ? Al Gore has kept the door open for us and continued to

welcome us," she said.

Democratic National Committee Chairperson Rendell and Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack (D) made an impassioned plea at the Gay caucus meeting Aug. 17 for Gay Democrats to put together a massive get-out-the-vote campaign aimed at the Gay community. The two said election polling data showing that Gays make up about 5 percent of the electorate in presidential elections shows that the Gay vote could be the deciding factor this year over whether Gore or Bush become the next president.

"Al Gore wants to build, not coast, on this administration's achievements," said Rendell. "We will pass ENDA, pass stronger hate crimes legislation, and lift the ban on Gays in the military."

Donna Shalala, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, and Norm Mineta, U.S. Secretary of Commerce, also spoke before the Gay caucus meeting on Aug. 17. Shalala said the Clinton-Gore administration has an "impressive record of achievement on HIV and AIDS and Gay and Lesbian health issues" but said more needs to be done on those issues.

"We need to move Gay and Lesbian health into the mainstream," Shalala said.

Mineta compared anti-Gay discrimination to the discrimination he and his family experienced in Japanese-American internment camps during World War II.

"We have got to be at the table," said Mineta, "because if we are not, the issues closest to our hearts won't be talked about."

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Message: 6

Date: Fri, 25 Aug 2000 17:28:42 -0700

From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>

Subject: Wayne Friday Column, 8/24/00

Bay Area Reporter

August 24, 2000

<http://www.ebar.com>

Gore and Bush draw campaign battle lines

by Wayne Friday

With post-convention polls showing the Democratic presidential ticket of Al Gore and Joseph Lieberman picking up an unexpected heavy political bounce against the Republican ticket of George W. Bush and Richard Cheney, the race for president now appears to be in a political dead heat with a little over two months before the November 7 general election.

Nearly every major public opinion poll showed Gore, previously trailing Bush by sometimes double-digits, now either even with the Republican, or slightly ahead of the Texas governor. Both political camps are now pondering what they must do to achieve a November win. For Gore and Lieberman to be victorious, they must energize their base of minorities, liberals and union members, hold on to their leads in the Northeast and California, and erase Bush's current lead among independent voters and carry some of the big battleground states that stretch from New Jersey to Missouri.

Democrats were clearly buoyed by Gore's acceptance speech at last week's national convention and fortified by the presence of Lieberman on the ticket. Many of Gore's advisers, having been concerned about his campaign prior to the Los Angeles convention, now feel that they have an uphill, but winnable battle on their hands. Indeed, polls by NBC, CNN, Newsweek, and the New York Times had Gore actually overtaking his GOP opponent this week, and most political observers in both parties now feel that the upcoming presidential debates will very likely determine the eventual winner.

For Bush to win in November he must hold on to the independent voters who are leaning toward him and build support in states that Bill Clinton took away from Republicans in the last two elections. Tennessee, Gore's home state, is among those states Bush needs to win. An example of what Gore must do to defeat Bush is to win in Tennessee, where polls show the two are currently neck and neck. In contrast, polls show Bush with a commanding lead in his home state of Texas. While neither national convention produced much more than a collective yawn for American voters, and while the national press and pundits dismissed the two events as little more than calculated, made-for-TV informercials, the conventions did give voters an opportunity to compare the national party platforms that both Gore and Bush will be running on.

Democrats reached out to minorities like gays, and featured several lesbians who addressed the convention - the Human Rights Campaign's Elizabeth Birch, Wisconsin Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, San Francisco school board member Juanita Owens, California Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl, and Democratic National Committee member Gloria Nieto. The Democrats came out strongly for gay rights, abortion, and gun control. Republicans, in contrast, oppose any form of gay rights, vehemently oppose abortion and any form of gun control, and didn't stray from the conservative party platform of the Republicans past.

The race is truly on, and while it is far too early to even muse about a winner in this one, the Gore-Bush contest will likely go down to the wire. Gore is viewed as the better debater, but not to worry - Republicans will

prepare Bush like never before. Yep, this presidential race should be interesting - and plenty nasty before American voters get to the ballot box on November 7.

Politics and people

Assemblyman Carole Migden is taking a little political heat for her comments to the Chronicle's Matier & Ross about Green Party nominee Ralph Nader. Heck, Migden might actually be on to something. Last week the assemblywoman also called for Nader to come out (no pun intended) in favor of full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans. In a letter to Nader, Migden cited several of Nader's equivocal statements from his 1996 and 2000 campaigns and called on him to embrace the LGBT communities' quest for equality. Migden chided the Green guy for his refusal to oppose the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act while he has claimed the progressive mantle. Challenging Nader's reference to LGBT aspirations as "gonadal politics," Migden reminded him, "for LGBT Americans who are denied the economical benefits of marriage, DOMA represents the most severe form of economic injustice in our everyday lives." Migden also stated: "Your treatment of the concerns of the LGBT community by evading the issue as a minor one looks suspiciously like the tactics of George W. Bush and the Republican Party." While you might not always agree with the woman, Migden tells it like it is and has more common sense than most politicians I've met over the past 30 years.

Also, at the convention, Migden came unglued when the Boy Scouts of America said the pledge of allegiance and presented the colors at the convention. Given the Scouts' anti-gay policies, that didn't sit well with Migden.

I don't agree with too many of Ken Garcia's columns in the San Francisco Chronicle, but he sure hit it on the head recently when he castigated the local Roman Catholic Archdiocese for its original plan to fire young rectory workers so that the clergy wouldn't be tempted sexually by them. Archbishop William Levada quickly reversed himself, of course, after the public outcry, but didn't the local Catholic hierarchy have it all backwards? Perhaps they should fire some of the clergy to save them millions in lawsuits and the bad publicity instead of worrying themselves crazy about what temptations the youngsters would present to the clergy.

Meanwhile, in Honolulu, a lawsuit (yes, another one) was filed against a Catholic priest convicted of molesting a young boy and the religious order to which he belonged; the suit filed against Mark Matson and the Theatine fathers alleges the order showed negligence in hiring, training, supervising, and disciplining the priest. Matson, 52, received a 20-year sentence for sexually assaulting a 13-year old boy in 1998.

Supervisor Mark Leno won the overwhelming endorsement of the District 8 Democratic Club over five other candidates in the race.

L.A. District Attorney Gil Garcetti appears headed for a defeat at the hands of his GOP opponent as even former Democratic Attorney General John Van de Camp (also a former Los Angeles D.A.) recently endorsed the Republican challenger, Steve Cooley.

Meanwhile, the chaos continues in the San Francisco District Attorney's office with the recent departure of one of the top female attorneys, Kamala Harris, who quit the "dysfunctional" office with a blast at both D.A. Terence Hallinan and his chief deputy, Darrell Solomon (who, incidentally, announced this week that he, too, was jumping the sinking ship). Harris, recognized as one of the star attorneys in Hallinan's morale-stricken office, left for a top spot in the City Attorney's office. At press time we learned that yet another top female attorney has decided to leave Hallinan for greener pastures.

Finally, for all those who write and call telling me I'm all wet in saying that a vote for Green Party candidate Ralph Nader is merely a vote for George W. Bush and a vote against Al Gore, let me reprint a statement from Robert F. Kennedy Jr., one of the country's leading environmentalists, that appeared recently in the New York Times: "The threat of Ralph Nader's Green Party is that it could very well torpedo efforts to address the nation's most important environmental challenges. The threat, of course, is that Nader's candidacy could siphon votes from Al Gore, the environment's most visible champion since Theodore Roosevelt, and lead to the election of George W. Bush. While I admire Nader's high-minded ideals, his suggestion that there is no difference between Gore and Bush is irresponsible. On the environment, the difference is fundamental; it reaches deep into their philosophies and records, showing most recently in their choice of running mates: Dick Cheney's anti-environmental votes in Congress extended even to opposing the Clean Water Act, while Joe Lieberman has staunchly supported strong environmental legislation and even written some of it. In fact, a vote for Nader is a vote for Bush, and environmentalists who join his personal crusade risk marginalizing the conservation movement."

And how was your week?

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Message: 7

Date: Fri, 25 Aug 2000 17:30:37 -0700

From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>

Subject: Greens battle for gay voters

New York Blade

August 25, 2000

<http://www.nyblade.com>

Greens battle for gay voters

By Tom McGeveran

He's been blasted by a leading gay Democrat for "steadfastly" ignoring gay issues. He's been the target of a political resolution that has deemed him a Johnny-come-lately on gay issues. And though consumer advocate Ralph Nader has been a candidate for president before - in 1996 - as the Green Party's nominee this year, his presence in the current presidential campaign appears to be pumping the ire of some gay Democrats who fear he could pull votes from Democrat Al Gore - and possibly cost Gore the election.

That fear prompted the National Stonewall Democrats, a national association of gay Democratic clubs, to approve a resolution earlier this month admonishing gay voters to support Gore. The measure, adopted Aug. 12 at the club's convention meeting, says "it is widely acknowledged that Ralph Nader cannot be elected president of the United States in 2000, though he could prevent Al Gore from winning the presidency by drawing votes away." The resolution also takes Nader to task for a comment he made in a March 1996 interview with New York Times columnist William Safire; in the interview, Nader dismissed gay civil rights and pro-choice concerns as "gonadal politics."

Meanwhile, during a speech at the recent Democratic National Convention, openly gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, a Massachusetts Democrat, amplified those concerns, saying Nader "throughout his career, has steadfastly ignored gay rights and ignored the right of a woman to choose, and ignored gun regulation - and today, [he] diminishes and trivializes those central issues to many of us by denying there are important differences between Al Gore and George Bush."

Most Green Party supporters who spoke with the Blade allowed that Nader has not always been an outspoken supporter of gay civil rights. In addition to his 1996 remark, Nader has said in the past that issues such as abortion and gay civil rights distract from more weighty concerns, such as class and economic issues, and divide voters unnecessarily.

"No one has claimed for Mr. Nader a history of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender or pro-choice activism. Some of the strongest criticism of Mr. Nader's 1996 dismissal of 'gonadal politics' came from Greens (including me)," writes Scott McLarty, spokesperson for the Washington D.C.-based Association of State Green Parties, in an open letter responding to Frank. "The 1996 campaign was an admittedly limited effort, a forum for Mr. Nader to raise a few vital topics, especially civic participation and corporate domination of the major parties."

But McLarty points to the Green Party platform, ratified in June at the first Green Party National Nominating Convention in Denver, that supports "the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people in housing, jobs, civil marriage and benefits, child custody - and in all areas of life, the right to be treated equally with all other people."

The platform further advocates comprehensive sex education that includes information about diverse sexualities, rights for transgender people and

sex workers, the legalization of marijuana for medical purposes, needle exchange, and an end to the "don't ask, don't tell" policy in the military.

McLarty says Nader cleaves to this platform in the current election and points to a Nader interview that appeared in May in Poz magazine, an informational and political magazine for people with HIV and AIDS, in which the candidate called Vermont's legalization of civil unions for same-sex couples "a humane and touching decision with a very searching rationale - it's not only a matter of affinity, but of economics on health care and other issues, which makes it all the more needed."

In the same interview, Nader also backed the right of a woman to have an abortion, needle exchange, and medical use of marijuana, and discussed access to AIDS medicines and universal health care.

In an Aug. 6 interview on Meet the Press, Nader repeated his support for the right of gays to adopt children, the right for gays to serve openly in the military, and for protection from hate crimes for gay people.

But Daniel McGlinchey, political director of the National Stonewall Democrats, says he is unimpressed with Nader's gay civil rights avowals. In particular, he says, he is stymied by Green Party efforts to distinguish Nader from Gore on some key gay issues, such as gay marriage. McLarty and others frequently characterize Nader as a proponent not only of civil unions but also of gay participation in marriage.

"Gore has not come out in favor of gay marriage, but he has come out in favor of civil unions," says McGlinchey. "It is not clear to me that Nader is entirely wedded to gay marriage."

McGlinchey points out that in interviews Nader has used the terms "civil unions" and "gay marriage" interchangeably. For instance, in the Meet the Press interview, moderator Tim Russert asked whether Nader supported same-sex marriage. Nader responded, "Yes. Civil union and equal rights, equal responsibility."

When Russert later asked, "So the government should recognize gay unions or gay marriages?"

Nader's response: "Yes."

"The Democratic Party platform supports 'an equitable alignment of benefits for gay and lesbian families,'" says McGlinchey. "So they are essentially the same - except that Nader will never be in a position to do anything about any of it."

Still, members of the Association of State Green Parties have begun to call on gay Democrats to rethink their commitments to the Democratic Party. Greens rebuked Human Rights Campaign Executive Director Elizabeth Birch for admonishing gay voters at the Millennium March on Washington to cast their votes for Gore.

"We must vote for Al Gore in November," Birch told the crowd at the April 30 event, which attracted hundreds of thousands.

"Birch's speech reveals that the purpose of the Millennium March had little to do with rights and liberation for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans," McLarty says. "The march's real goal was to serve as a pep rally for HRC's pet candidates, including Democrats with weak records on queer issues, and to give HRC the privilege of speaking on behalf of queers - in disregard of the diversity of queer political opinion."

Greens say that, despite the public perception of strong support from Clinton, Gore, and many Democrats, the Clinton administration and Democrats have retreated on many gay and AIDS issues.

They note that Clinton signed the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, and was joined in doing so by even the most progressive Democrats like Minnesota's U.S. Sen. Paul Wellstone. They say Clinton instituted the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, resulting in increased harassment and dismissals of gays from the military, and opposes needle exchange and the legalization of marijuana for medicinal use.

But gay issues are not the only issues attracting gays to the Green Party. Some cite Clinton's Welfare Reform Act of 1996, which critics say withheld needed entitlements from adult men with HIV, women, and children.

"In many of these cases, Clinton and Gore caved in either to corporate lobbies or to right-wing ideologues," McLarty said in a statement responding to the National Stonewall Democrats' resolution. "The Clinton/Gore compromises and retreats on queer and AIDS issues are analogous to their weak records on the environment, labor, health care, and many other issues."

New Yorker Dan Wentzel believes gays have good reason to be frustrated with the Democrats. A lifelong Democrat until 1993, he says he found himself leaving the party after Clinton's efforts to reverse the ban on gays in the military faltered.

"That's when I had had enough," he says.

In fact, in a few short years Wentzel went from being a disenchanted Democrat to a go-getting Green, and he is currently mounting a challenge against U.S. Rep. Jerrold Nadler, a New York City Democrat who is considered very good a gay issues, to represent parts of Manhattan and Brooklyn.

Meanwhile, Ulster County Green activist Nina Scalora says, "People are very disenchanted with the Democratic Party, and particularly the gay community," she says, "because we were sold a bill of goods by Clinton, and he compromised with [the Employment Non-Discrimination Act] and with gays in the military."

"It may sound good," she adds, speaking of Vice President Al Gore, the Democratic nominee for president, "but who knows what's actually going to happen when Gore gets into office and has to compromise with the Republican Congress? Or with other constituents, or corporate sponsors, or special interests?"

If that stand seems politically naive, it should not suggest that Scalora is oblivious to the pervasive fear among Democrats that a good turnout for Greens could translate into a victory for Republican presidential hopeful George W. Bush; it's something she's thought about in practical terms.

"I want Greens to win," she says. "But from a much more practical perspective, I don't think Nader is going to garner enough votes to swing a state either way. The states that are going to go to Bush are going to go to Bush by a much wider margin than the number of votes Nader will pull in."

Most Greens who talked to the Blade echoed Scalora's sentiments, both idealistic and practical. But all are quick to point out that, even if Nader loses, the 5 percent of the vote the party needs to qualify for Federal Election Commission matching funds and become a more part of the national political landscape seems, in recent polls, to be within reach.

Says Scalora: "I'm going to vote because I support that person, and I believe in what they stand for. I'm voting my dreams, not my fears."

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Message: 8

Date: Fri, 25 Aug 2000 17:40:48 -0700

From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>

Subject: Convention Wrap

PlanetOut

<http://www.planetout.com>

August 24, 2000

NEWS ANALYSIS | Campaign Diary

Convention Wrap

by Matt Alsdorf

National political conventions may not be the sexiest of events, but for the tens of thousands of reporters who must cover them, they often prove seductive. For the better part of a week, these journalists are surrounded by each party's true believers -- the most enthusiastic of its enthusiasts. In this environment it can often be difficult to maintain a healthy dose of skepticism. As a result, some convention stories end up reading like party press releases.

Take gay issues, for example. The message coming out of the

conventions was that queer people are now an accepted part of both parties. During the Republican Convention, the Associated Press carried a story proclaiming, "Gays Welcome at GOP Convention." Two weeks later, at the Democrats' gathering, the Dallas Morning News declared, "Gays Celebrate Inclusion by Democrats."

Now that the dust has settled from both conventions, it's time to take a step back and evaluate how GLBT voters really fared in Philadelphia and Los Angeles and what we can expect from the two major parties between now and November 7.

The Democrats

By now the numbers from the Democratic Convention should be familiar: 212 openly GLBT delegates -- a 50 percent increase from 1996; at least ten openly gay speakers; nine queer members of the platform committee; and dozens of Democratic politicians -- including the First Lady, the vice presidential nominee, and four Clinton cabinet officers -- endorsing gay rights in speeches to the gay delegates. (For detailed accounts of these convention happenings, read PlanetOut's daily dispatches.) After the convention, there can be no denying that the Democrats have come to appreciate the power of the gay vote.

This can be attributed partly to the fact that queers have come to wield significant influence within the party and within the Gore campaign. The Democratic National Committee's treasurer, Andy Tobias, is openly gay. And both the DNC and the Gore-Lieberman organization employ advisors on GLBT issues and have staff devoted to gay outreach.

Even more encouragingly, mainstream Democrats are beginning to see the gay rights struggle in the context of a wider battle for fairness. Politicians, labor leaders, and spokespeople for other minority groups talked about gay rights in the same breath as they did civil rights and economic opportunities.

But it remains unclear how far these politicians -- particularly Al Gore -- are willing to go with their support in the face of controversy. In the caucus meetings, they were unequivocal in their calls for the passage of hate-crimes legislation and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and often even advocated civil unions and a repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." But when they were addressing a wider audience from the Staples Center podium, they weren't quite so courageous. Sure, vice presidential nominee Joe Lieberman said he wanted to eradicate discrimination based on sexual orientation -- but he made no mention of what legislation this would entail. And when Al Gore said he would pass ENDA and hate crimes legislation, did anyone but politically active GLBT people know that he was talking about gay rights measures?

The message was, "We support you, but we don't want to make a big deal out of it." Unfortunately for Gore, he needs to make a big deal out of it if he wants a high turnout among gay voters on election day. He is far, far superior to George W. Bush on gay rights issues, but he can't leave it to the Human Rights Campaign to make the case for him. If gay voters are going to trek to the polls in droves to vote for Gore, they need to hear him make a forceful -- maybe even a confrontational -- statement on gay rights: "Damn it, George, gay people are equal in every way to straight people, and it doesn't make any sense for you to say you accept them while you oppose granting them any rights." So far, though, it appears that he -- and the Democratic Party -- have made the political calculation that he has more to lose than he has to gain by doing so.

The Republicans

As tepid as the Democrats' support of gay rights may be, at least it's support -- which is more than can be said of the Republicans. While gays and lesbians are making inroads into the party (there were 19 openly gay delegates this year, up from six in 1996), the progress is painfully slow. And where gay Democrats had to make some compromises on visibility at their convention, gay Republicans had to make large ones on substance.

Gay issues were never mentioned -- even obliquely -- onstage at the Republican Convention. The platform remains virulently anti-gay, and despite the efforts of the Log Cabin Republicans, Bush has yet to adopt a single pro-gay stance. What did change, however, was the party's tone. Gay people are now "welcome" in the party, and homophobic rhetoric is not.

But it's certainly fair to ask whether this really matters. After all, it's not exactly a big sacrifice for a political party to say that it will accept gay votes. (As opposed to what -- asking that they be given to the Democrats?) And the Republican Party is not making much of an effort to appeal to gay people themselves. Rather, they are attempting to make enough small overtures to the GLBT community to satisfy "centrist" voters who don't like overt anti-gay sentiments. So Bush will probably not do much more between now and November 7 to temper his stated opposition to gay rights, unless significant numbers of swing voters seem to be raising a stink about queer issues -- an unlikely prospect.

In the longer term, though, prospects for gay Republicans are better. Now that queers have received an official welcome (symbolic and lukewarm as it was), it will be difficult for the party to revert to its less tolerant ways. And the increasing visibility of gay Republicans will push other party members who have little personal experience with homosexuality to confront their own prejudices about gays -- not to mention the contradiction between personal tolerance and homophobic policies.

The risk for gay Republicans is that their party's leaders will simply rest on their laurels this election cycle. Unfortunately, the Log Cabin Republicans' endorsement of Bush makes that prospect more likely.

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Message: 9

Date: Fri, 25 Aug 2000 17:48:30 -0700

From: LGBT Activists List <doug.case@sdsu.edu>

Subject: Dems made LGBT delegates feel appreciated

Bay Windows
Boston, MA

August 24, 2000
<http://www.baywindows.com>

Leaving L.A., gay DNC delegates revel in the star treatment showered upon them
The Democrats pulled out all the stops in an attempt to make GLBT delegates feel appreciated

by Peter Cassels
Bay Windows staff

The Democrats pulled out all the stops in an attempt to make GLBT delegates feel appreciated

LOS ANGELES - In stark contrast to the Republican National Convention, where the only gay speaker was not allowed to talk about sexual orientation, the Democrats welcomed the community with open arms to its confab and recognized that it had arrived as a major player in the political arena.

There were so many homosexuals as podium speakers that conservative pundits remarked that it was a "gay and lesbian convention," an assertion that was disputed, even by members of the community.

National Democratic leaders and members of the Clinton cabinet appeared at the LGBT Caucus on a seemingly endless schedule to acknowledge the importance of the gay vote. The delegates welcomed each with a cheering standing ovation. Yet, there was criticism that most of the major prime-time speakers, including Al Gore and Joe Lieberman, did not use the words "gay" or "lesbian" from the podium.

One delegate urged gay conventioners to visibly show their enthusiasm lest TV viewers and others get the idea that the community really isn't that happy with Gore.

"We must have more than 30 delegates show up in a group when we have [gay] speakers," New Hampshire state Sen. Rick Trombly, a caucus whip, told the group Aug. 15 in expressing his dissatisfaction with the floor turnout on the convention's first day. "Everyone who is a delegate has two responsibilities - show up and bring allies from your delegations. We don't want people to think by our absence that we don't support Gore and Lieberman." The result: a sea of distinctive Gore-Lieberman placards with the pink triangle every time a gay or lesbian addressed the convention.

In a sign that gays and lesbians now have clout, the Democratic National Committee made sure a representative of the community addressed each state delegate caucus. Stephen Driscoll, a member of the Electoral College from Massachusetts and co-chair of the state Democratic Committee's Gay and Lesbian Caucus, spoke to the Bay State delegates Aug. 16. Earlier, at the National Stonewall Democratic Federation's annual convention in Palm Springs, Calif., he had recalled what his part-Native-American paternal grandmother had told him when he was 12 years old: "The Narragansetts say you people are enchanted."

Driscoll told the delegates that 7 percent of votes cast in 1996 and 11 percent in this year's California primary were by gays and lesbians. "There were gasps from the audience," he reported. "They had no idea that so many had voted and had such a major impact in the political process. I said that with perhaps the exception of women's right to choose that gay and lesbian civil rights are most in danger with the election of George Bush and his subsequent selection of Supreme Court justices. The court could be slanted very easily against our favor. I don't think a lot of people had given that consideration."

Driscoll also told his colleagues what he thought of the Republican convention: "I thought that Jesse Jackson had it right when he described their convention as the 'inclusion illusion.' It seems that every minority was either represented on their stage or mentioned with the exception of gays and lesbians. The only people who were even deeper in closet were the religious Right. I thought it was especially egregious that they made no mention of gays and lesbians when one of the candidate's children is a lesbian despite what her mother said. I thought that on an occasion where one always sees the family joining the candidates after their acceptance speeches it was very odd that Cheney's children did not join their parents on stage."

Several gays who are in the Gore-Lieberman campaign's inner circle spent every day attending the LGBT Caucus. In interviews, they stressed the importance of the gay and lesbian vote.

Jeff Trammell is the campaign's senior gay official and will spend most of his time helping the GoGore2000 people get out the community's vote. "The biggest challenge we have is to make people understand the stakes," he stressed. Asked how the campaign will do that, he replied, "We'll pound out the message. The campaign is going to take an aggressive effort. We will have surrogates, speakers and advertisements targeted at the community. Our polls show the community has our support. The percentage of gays who voted was higher than the number of voters in general in 1992 and 1996."

Asked about the threat of complacency, Trammell attributed the problem to a lack of awareness: "I think it's because many of them - especially the younger folks - weren't around eight years ago. They take government support a little bit for granted. They are not as aware of the issues as much.

"We clearly need to continue the education campaign that Bush is someone with a proven record of voting against the gay community. It's not easy. It's going to take the involvement of everyone."

The campaign's strategy for reaching gays is to identify those who are registered and have voted in the past. One source is exit polling, which showed that 5 percent of voters in the primaries identified as being gay. Considering those who chose not to, analysts say the actual number of gay voters may be as high as 10 percent nationally.

Reaching gay voters and getting them to the polls won't be easy, Trammell acknowledged. "We don't traditionally have good lists. We're adolescents at this. We have a long way to go." He mentioned that Miami-Dade County, Fla.,

is one of the few who have such a list, which contains 40,000 names.

Andy Tobias, author of a how-to book on making a killing in the stock market and, under the pseudonym John Reid, of "The Best Little Boy in the World," about a gay adolescent coping with coming out, is, as DNC treasurer, the guy holding the campaign's purse strings.

He agreed with Trammell that "getting the truth out" is the biggest challenge. "It's harder because people tend to be a little narrow in their focus and there are the other people who have their own version of the truth."

He predicted that even gay Republicans would vote for Gore. "I'm sure the Log Cabin Republicans' [LCR] endorsement will carry some weight. I think the LCR serves a very important function. I contributed to help get it started. Maybe they felt they had to endorse Bush in case he wins because it would give them entry, but if, at the ballot box, they vote for him they are out of their minds! I don't care that they are not comfortable with us. I would make the case for gay Republicans if we were a party of socialists, but the New Democrats have a fine understanding of finances and balancing the budget. A bleeding heart is bad, but a jerking knee is a body part that's in urgent need of repair."

Tobias expects gays and lesbians will contribute as much as \$1.5 million a month to the campaign, a significant increase over previous elections. Coordinating the effort is the Gay and Lesbian Leadership Council. He mentioned that he is receiving a lot of money from Republicans, including a 45-year-old wealthy Southerner who is voting Democratic for the first time.

For all the feel-good atmosphere permeating Los Angeles all week, there were some naysayers that doubted whether the Democrats would be the saviors of the gay community. Journalist Michelangelo Signorile wrote in an Aug. 18 Gay.com column that the fact that no major politicians used the words "gay" or "lesbian" in their podium speeches was no accident. Rather, he contended, the party decided to go with "code words" like "sexual orientation" and "employment non-discrimination" in an effort not to offend centrists. He quoted West Hollywood City Councilor Steve Martin: "'Frankly, I feel to some degree we're only slightly better off than Mary Cheney. We're embraced privately and we're publicly ignored. If 'gay and lesbian' passes Gore's lips once at this convention it'll be nice, but I'm not even expecting that.'" Martin also had some harsh criticism for some activists: "What we have are people involved in gay and lesbian politics who are simply Democratic activists using the gay community to move up the political hack ladder."

Signorile also complained that the parade of Democratic leaders who addressed the LGBT Caucus were simply there to urge adherence to the party line and were ushered out as quickly as they appeared, preventing questions from delegates or news media.

Law professor Dale Carpenter wrote in an Aug. 28 Outright column that Gore may be better than Bush only because the latter is so bad: "To anyone who thinks gay life in America is a series of problems for which there is a corresponding list of legislative solutions, Al Gore and the Democratic

Party are often touted as a godsend. Yet in their national platform and in Gore's acceptance speech, Democrats advanced little in the way of actual policy and retreated in symbolism and rhetoric. It should make us seriously question the depth of their commitment to equality."

Stephen Driscoll pooh-poohed such criticism, particularly Signorile's comments about the pre-packed caucus speeches: "Frankly, a lot of us, while flattered that people like Lieberman and the first lady showed up, wished they had spoken for shorter periods and that they invited fewer people because we had business to discuss. It was certainly historic because it did not happen four years ago, so we have made this incremental progress where we are obviously a voting bloc to be courted and dealt with. It didn't bother me that they didn't mention us on the floor because inclusion has been extended so much more that it did before."

There was some confusion over the exact number of gay convention delegates. Until Aug. 16, the official count was 212. Then another was discovered, upping the tally to 213. On Aug. 17, state Rep. David Cicilline of Rhode Island showed up at the caucus for the first time, making the total 214. Cicilline told this reporter that he didn't know there was an LGBT Caucus. "When I filled out the forms the state party provided to delegates, I believe I indicated I am gay," he said. "Apparently there was some problem getting that information to the DNC."

The only gay caucus speaker who knows George W. Bush personally is Glen Maxey, a member of the Texas Legislature. "Bush is a man who's been in office for seven years and has never said the words 'AIDS' or 'HIV,' turned back a legislative effort to have gays become adoptive parents, creating the possibility that children could even be taken away from gay parents, and killed the hate-crimes bill even though we had enough votes for passage," he told the delegates. "He also had the audacity to pull my face within two inches of his and told me, 'I like you as a person, respect you as a gay person and what I say publicly about gay people doesn't apply to you.' I said to him, 'What you say publicly about me not being a fit parent does apply to me and I take it very personally.' For God sake, send him back to Texas. I need two more years with him."

During her appearance before the caucus, Wisconsin Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin told a story about being on an elevator in the Capitol with a group of congressmen, including a conservative who voted for the Defense of Marriage Act. He made a remark about a congresswoman who had just married a wealthy man and bought 1,000 acres of land in Virginia: "If she doesn't want him, I'll marry him." She turned to the congressman and said, "Didn't you recently pass a law making that illegal? If you're looking for a co-sponsor on a repeal bill, count me in."

This reporter was sitting next to Signorile during Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala's caucus appearance. When she was whisked out of the room at the conclusion of her remarks, I said to him, "Gosh, I didn't even get a chance to ask her if she is a lesbian." Signorile responded, "I think I'll ask her now," and rushed from the room to catch up with her. When he returned he reported that he had asked her about her sexual orientation and she replied, "I've answered that question a million times," and rushed off.

