

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: GSS1@aol.com (GSS1@aol.com [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:29-SEP-1999 03:37:29.00

SUBJECT: Governor Takes a Familiar Course

TO: eop.gov (eop.gov [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Remember, the next legislature redraws the legislative lines for reapportionment! Hang tight.

Garry

=====

Governor Takes a Familiar Course
Finding the political center has worked for President Clinton

Marc Sandalow Sunday, September 26, 1999

--

LIBERALS UPSET at Gov. Gray Davis' plodding moderation might remember what happened to President Clinton and the once-Democratic Congress. If recent history is any guide, the governor may be saving the left from itself.

Though every Californian knows that trends usually begin in the West, Washington experienced a political turnabout several years ago similar to what is now going on in Sacramento. It was 1993 -- when the 49ers were still dominant and Monica Lewinsky was just a high school student -- that Democrats took full control of Washington. After 12 years of Reagan and Bush, Democrats suddenly were in charge of the White House and both houses of Congress.

Clinton was the first to flex his liberal muscles. Within days of his inauguration, Clinton sought to overturn the ban on gays in the military. He thrilled environmentalists with an energy tax proposal. And before his first year in office was through, he tried to restructure one-seventh of the nation's economy with a health-care plan so dense that opponents compared its organizational charts to the New York City subway system. The rejection was

unambiguous. Under heavy public fire, Clinton retreated from his position on gays in the military. The energy tax was easily defused. And after nearly a year of lobbying, the health care plan was killed. Had Clinton faced voters in 1994, he would have been clobbered, and phrases such as "triangularization," and "sexual relations" would never have become a part of our political lexicon. But the only place for voters to express their scorn was in the congressional elections. Democrats suffered their worst drubbing in nearly a century, and for the first time in more than 40 years, Republicans controlled both the House and the Senate.

The scenario got worse for liberals. The Republican victory unleashed the conservative in President Clinton. Whether he was following the polls or merely freed from the chains of a liberal legislative body, Clinton suddenly began to accept, embrace, and even advocate a long list of traditional GOP measures. Tax cuts, balanced budgets, cuts in social spending, welfare reform, increases in military spending -- even curfews and school uniforms for teenagers -- became the core of the Clinton agenda. And there was nothing the left could do. Longtime liberal stalwarts -- including Ron Dellums, George Miller, Nancy Pelosi -- uttered hardly a peep in protest. Had President Reagan proposed the welfare law Clinton signed into law, or advocated the size of cuts in spending programs, there might have been riots in the streets of San Francisco.

Observed San Francisco Assemblywoman Carole Migden just before the 1996 Democratic convention, which she attended as a Clinton delegate: "The left has been silenced. (The election) turned everybody into a pragmatist."

Flash to Sacramento. Davis has had far more success in getting laws passed by a Democratic Legislature than Clinton did during the first years of his term.

The success is due in part to the state's term limits. When Clinton took office in 1993, he faced a Democratic Congress filled with longtime veterans.

Davis faced a novice Legislature led by relative newcomers, many of whom where not in politics when he began his own career.

And unlike Clinton, Davis has refused to stray from his centrist roots. Nearly every Democratic cause -- from HMO reform to domestic partners and needle exchange legislation -- has been tempered by the cautious governor. The result is modest steps, however steps that would have been unimaginable during the previous 16 years of Republican rule. These are compromises which may help the centrist governor -- who is not on the ballot for another three years -- as well as the more liberal Legislature which must face voters next November. To turn Barry Goldwater's phrase on its head: Moderation in

pursuit
of legislation is no vice.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: PlanetOut NewsPlanet <feedback@planetout.com> (PlanetOut NewsPlanet <feedback@planetout.com> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 2-OCT-1999 00:57:49.00

SUBJECT: [GLBT-NEWS:PNO] Crime Notes

TO: GLBT-NEWS List <glbt-news-owner@duh.org> (GLBT-NEWS List <glbt-news-owner@duh.org> [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

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NEWS SOURCE: PlanetOut NewsPlanet - <http://www.planetout.com/>

BACKGROUND OF NEWS SOURCE:

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<http://www.planetout.com/news/article.html?1999/10/01/4>

Crime Notes

NewsPlanet Staff

Friday, October 1, 1999 / 09:48 PM

SUMMARY: Action alerts for federal hate crimes bill ... Glover arraigned in PFC Winchell killing ... homophobic carving attack suspect in class pending trial ... gang of 20 bash 5 outside Rhode Island gay bar....

NGL-Lobby for Hate Crimes Law

The new Internet activist group NationalGaylobby.Org issued an action alert on September 30 urging calls to the House-Senate Conference Committee now considering the Commerce - State - Justice Appropriations Bill (S.1217) to retain the language of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA), which among other provisions would make sexual orientation and gender protected categories under federal hate crimes law. The National Organization for Women also distributed an action alert on September 22, specifically targeting Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), who they said was trying to remove both gender and sexual orientation from the bill. An opposing action alert had been issued by the anti-gay Family Research Council August 30.

In July, the HCPA language was added in the Senate by acclamation, along with a number of other riders as part of a package agreed on beforehand by Republican and Democratic leaders; it does not appear in the House version. Complete contact information for Conference Committee members can be found on NGL's new Web site. [See also HRC's action alert.]

Ft. Campbell Suspect Arraigned

Private Calvin Glover was arraigned on September 29 at Fort Campbell, where on December 6 he will face a general court-martial for a charge of premeditated murder in the fatal July 5 bashing of Private First Class Barry Winchell, who was harassed by his co-workers because they believed him to be gay. Glover did not enter a plea at the arraignment, but will probably do so when pretrial motions are heard on November 9. Glover will remain at Fort Knox, where he has been held since his arrest July 5. If convicted, Glover could face life in prison.

Fort Campbell commander Major General Robert Clark has yet to announce the disposition of several accomplice charges against Winchell's roommate, Specialist Justin Fisher. Winchell's death may well be the first anti-gay hate murder since the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy was adopted. National gay and lesbian organizations ensured a high profile for the case, which spurred the Department of Defense to issue clarified guidelines on the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy which had been in process for two years.

"Homo" Carver Stays in School

One of two suspects in a notorious homophobic attack at a posh Connecticut prep school will be able to continue to attend classes pending trial. On May 27, two students at Northfield Mount Hermon School in Greenfield carved the word "homo" on the back of another student, not because they thought he was gay, but because they thought his taste in music was: the unnamed victim listened to the band Queen, once led by the late Freddie Mercury, who was openly bisexual.

Suspect Matthew Rogers was arraigned in Franklin Superior Court on September 24 and pleaded not guilty to a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon. His bail was continued on the condition that he live either with his parents or on the campus of the University of Mississippi, where the judge agreed he could attend classes. The other suspect in the case is Jonathan Shapiro.

Gang Bashing in Providence, RI

What police say is the first anti-gay hate crime reported this year in Providence, Rhode Island was a September 19 attack by a gang of perhaps 20 against five men outside a gay bar. No weapons were involved and injuries were limited to bruising and black eyes, but the victims say the gang made anti-gay remarks in the course of punching and kicking them. Police are still investigating the attack.

The Rhode Island Alliance for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights counted 16 reports statewide of violence against lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and

transgendered people in 1998.

===== From the GLBT-NEWS mailing list =====

Moderators: glbt-news-owner@duh.org

Archive: <http://www.duh.org/glbt-news/>

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: PlanetOut NewsPlanet <feedback@planetout.com> (PlanetOut NewsPlanet <feedback@planetout.com> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 5-OCT-1999 13:33:12.00

SUBJECT: [GLBT-NEWS:PNO] Clinton at L.A. Fund-raiser

TO: GLBT-NEWS List <glbt-news-owner@duh.org> (GLBT-NEWS List <glbt-news-owner@duh.org> [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

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BACKGROUND OF NEWS SOURCE:

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<http://www.planetout.com/news/article.html?1999/10/04/1>

Clinton at L.A. Fund-raiser

NewsPlanet Staff

Monday, October 4, 1999 / 06:54 PM

SUMMARY: The US President apologizes for not accomplishing more, but continues to speak out for the common humanity of all Americans - and collects nearly \$1-million from gay and lesbian supporters.

On behalf of Democratic Congressional candidates, U.S. President Bill Clinton made a quick fund-raising swing through California and Nevada over the weekend, and the biggest of the several events he attended in both turnout and dollars raised was held October 2 in Los Angeles, hosted by ANGLE (Access Now for Gay and Lesbian Equality). ANGLE takes credit for being the first gay and lesbian organization to endorse Clinton's first Presidential candidacy. Of the \$2.5-million netted on the trip, \$850,000 - \$900,000 came from the first Presidential appearance before a gay and lesbian audience outside Washington, DC. At each of his stops, he made some reference to the theme of combating hatred based on differences, although not always specifying homophobia.

"I wish I could've done better [on gay issues]," said the President, more or less apologizing for having promised an end to the ban on military service by gays and lesbians but ending up with the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, and perhaps for signing the 1996 so-called Defense of Marriage Act prohibiting federal recognition of same-gender couples. "But we've done pretty well and we're a long way from where we were. I still believe in the future of America, and you are a part of it," said Clinton, echoing his message to gays and lesbians when he was campaigning for the Presidency. His speech was repeatedly interrupted by loud cheering and extended applause.

With Governor Gray Davis announcing his signing into law three bills important to gays and lesbians, the event became a love feast in every sense, described by many of the 1,000 present at the Beverly Hilton Hotel as a healing experience after long years of struggle. Congressmember Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), the first open lesbian ever to sit in the House of Representatives and the first Congressmember ever elected to an initial term as an "out" lesbian or gay, also appeared, along with House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-MO) and Representative Patrick Kennedy (D-RI). Clinton's gay college chum David Mixner, who had drummed up so much support for the Presidential candidate in 1992 and won a place in the administration only to fall out with Clinton over the military debacle, once again made an impassioned plea for the community to support the party.

Clinton said, "The biggest problem we've got is the primitive age-old fear and dehumanization of the other people who are not like us ... I'm going to do everything I can, every day that I have to remind people of that -- that we have to be one America. We can have honest differences over issues, but we can't have honest differences over whether we share a common humanity. And we cannot be under the illusion that either material prosperity or technological breakthroughs alone can purge the darkness in our hearts." He pledged to continue advocating for the Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA) and for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), two federal measures to protect gays and lesbians.

On a lighter note, Clinton also told the crowd he was "feverishly trying to write down all those lines" from a humorous number by LA's Gay Men's Chorus, and requested a copy of the lyrics. He may be planning ahead for his next major fund-raising appearance before a gay and lesbian group, New York's Empire State Pride Agenda, on October 7 with Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY). That gathering is expected to raise more than \$1-million.

At an earlier fund-raiser with a Hollywood crowd, Davis joked that the famously stiff Vice President Al Gore was his "charisma consultant." Clinton then blamed jet lag as the reason he himself became the famously low-key Davis' "straight man."

Meanwhile, Democratic Presidential hopeful former Senator Bill Bradley spoke to a Human Rights Campaign dinner in Michigan on October 2, and also devoted much of his statement to hate crimes. He said, "We have to oppose any manifestations of hatred with undiminished fervor

whenever and wherever it occurs." He also commented on same-gender relationships, saying, "I will not call gay unions marriage, but I will respect them and I will work to see that same-sex couples receive the property, insurance, immigration, tax and rights enjoyed by various others."

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

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CREATION DATE/TIME: 15-OCT-1999 03:52:06.00

SUBJECT: [GLBT-NEWS:PNO] 2nd Chances Lower USAF Ousters

TO: GLBT-NEWS List <glbt-news-owner@duh.org> (GLBT-NEWS List <glbt-news-owner@duh.org> [UNKNOWN])

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<http://www.planetout.com/news/article.html?1999/10/14/1>

2nd Chances Lower USAF Ousters

NewsPlanet Staff

Thursday, October 14, 1999 / 11:18 PM

SUMMARY: A new approach to "don't ask, don't tell," which includes counseling for servicemembers who "tell" in error, has dramatically cut discharges at Lackland Air Force Base.

Lackland Air Force Base stood out like a sore thumb in 1998 statistics for U.S. military discharges on grounds of homosexuality, with 65% of all Air Force discharges and nearly one-fourth of the total for all the service branches. However new figures released October 10 show a dramatic drop in Lackland discharges, attributed to a new Air Force policy that actually gives those trainees who make declarations that they're lesbian or gay the chance to recant them. The improvement came even before the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) had offered its recommendations following an investigation of Lackland, but an Air Force spokesperson says those suggestions will be given serious consideration.

From March through September 1998, Lackland booted 195 personnel for

homosexuality; during the same period in 1999, that number was down to 31. Since March, Lackland has been operating under a new Air Force approach to the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Trainees who make declarations are referred to defense counsel who advise them of their rights in a confidential meeting. If they recant their declarations within a few days of making them, they are allowed to continue in the Air Force. The letter referring them to counsel does not remain in their permanent records.

This approach responds in part to one of SLDN's greatest continuing concerns about "Don't Ask, Don't Tell": a widespread misunderstanding among servicemembers as to what the policy actually is or means. Based on their March visit to Lackland, SLDN staff described the training recruits receive on the policy as "a brief script that a lawyer would have difficulty understanding, let alone a 20-year-old trainee." The script was not clear as to what kinds of activities might lead to discharge. Key information not appearing in the script at all included the right to talk with an attorney and a military policy against homophobic harassment.

Trainees were not the only ones confused about the policy. A psychologist and an inspector general were among those who erroneously believed that they were required to report servicemembers who made statements regarding their sexual orientation. One trainee was discharged after asking a superior if he would be jailed for being gay, even though it was never clarified if he was actually gay or not. Some presumed lesbian trainees also believed they would be jailed if they did not come out.

Trainees' problems with "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ranged from the most idealistic to the most basic -- physical fear -- according to SLDN's report. The Air Force cherishes a core value of integrity, yet lesbian recruits must "hide, dissemble and lie"; Jim Wolffe, assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force, told the "San Antonio Express-News" that it should be made clear for them that, "not telling under 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is not a violation of Air Force core values."

At the other end of the spectrum, SLDN identified a "hostile climate" in which slurs were used against suspected gays by their colleagues; one trainee told SLDN he'd overheard three servicemembers discussing how they would attack a gay. While Wolffe held firmly that anti-gay slurs should not be tolerated, just as racist and other remarks would not be, he viewed the situation of a servicemember wanting to report anti-gay harassment as legally challenging. In theory, such a report should lead to investigation of the harassment rather than of the sexual orientation of the victim, but Wolffe admitted there was a risk of discharge involved for a victims who were not extremely careful about their statements.

Overall, SLDN found the situation at Lackland last year to be much more complex than it may have appeared superficially to either the watchdog group or the Air Force itself, and offered 14 recommendations for improvement. Wolffe, who had participated in their investigation,

described SLDN's comments as thorough and thoughtful. SLDN in turn sent a letter of praise for the turnaround at Lackland to Air Force Secretary Whitten Peters on October 11 -- National Coming Out Day.

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: PlanetOut NewsPlanet <feedback@planetout.com> (PlanetOut NewsPlanet <feedback@planetout.com> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:16-OCT-1999 14:24:58.00

SUBJECT: [GLBT-NEWS:PNO] UK Will Lift Military Ban

TO: GLBT-NEWS List <glbt-news-owner@duh.org> (GLBT-NEWS List <glbt-news-owner@duh.org> [UNKNOWN])

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<http://www.planetout.com/news/article.html?1999/10/15/1>

UK Will Lift Military Ban
NewsPlanet Staff
Friday, October 15, 1999 / 05:42 AM

SUMMARY: After only 3 days in office, Britain's new Defence Secretary says he'll end the ban on military service by gays and lesbians - despite the chiefs' opposition and probably before Parliament has anything to say about it.

Britain's new Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon on October 14 made his first public comments since his October 11 appointment, and made it clear that he will end the ban on military service by gays and lesbians, perhaps in a matter of months. Referring to the September 27 judgment of the European Court of Human Rights that the ban violates European privacy guarantees, Hoon announced from the tri-Service Permanent Joint Headquarters in London that, "We will implement it." While previous indications had been that the military was in no hurry to comply, it now appears that Hoon may well take action even before the Armed Forces Bill comes up for review in the Parliament in 2001. Parliamentary action is not actually required to change the policy.

British military chiefs are uniformly opposed to allowing open gays and lesbians to serve. Like U.S. President Bill Clinton, Hoon is an attorney and politician with no military background, and it may not be easy for him to institute this change when he's had little prior working relationship with the heads of the armed forces. But at least "London Times" Defence Editor Michael Evans is confident that there will be no "don't ask, don't tell" compromise, but rather a clear-cut policy. Hoon's ready access to Prime Minister Tony Blair may make it possible for him to regain for the military some of the funding it lost in earlier budget cuts, yet according to the "Independent" he's also under some political pressure to keep the size of the standing forces -- very much a partisan issue -- out of the limelight at least until after next year's elections.

Hoon's unanticipated appointment to the Cabinet was greeted in many quarters with the question "Geoff Who?" but that's a reflection not on his competence but on the speed of his political ascent. In 1984 at the age of 30 he began a ten-year stint as a Member of the European Parliament. In 1992 he was elected to represent Ashfield, Nottinghamshire in the House of Commons, as he has ever since. In 1994 he left his European position to become the Labour whip, and in 1995 became Labour's spokesperson on trade and industry with special responsibility for discussing Internet issues. When Labour took power in 1997, Hoon was made Parliamentary Secretary for the Lord Chancellor, representing Lord Irvine's interests in the House of Commons -- and doing it so effectively that Irvine stopped Blair from advancing Hoon further. In May, Hoon was moved to the Foreign Office, and in July Minister of State for Europe. He was given unusually extensive responsibilities, including the European Union, Eastern and Central Europe, Yugoslavia, and NATO. His work there on defense and security issues is his most significant preparation for his current position.

Although Blair has been quoted as being "acutely impressed" with Hoon, in the image-conscious Government he may have literally won his elevation by a whisker. Hoon reportedly thanked the Chancellor's former press secretary Charlie Whelan for advising him to shave off his moustache. Crowded Whelan, "You could say it was the lack of the 'tache wot won it!"

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Doug.Case@sdsu.edu@INET@LNGTWY (Doug.Case@sdsu.edu@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:16-OCT-1999 22:45:59.00

SUBJECT: Oh, What a Night!

TO: Richard Socarides@EOP (Richard Socarides@EOP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Frontiers Newsmagazine

October 15, 1999

<http://www.frontiersweb.com>

Oh, What a Night!

Activists Toast Triumphs, Ponder Past and Brace for Battle at "Take Back"

Congress Fund-Raising Bash

Not since 1991 has there been such enthusiasm within the gay community over politics.

Of course, it's hard not to become a little excited when you're suddenly transformed from wallflower to belle of the ball. Not only have Democratic presidential contenders Vice President Al Gore and former U.S. Sen. Bill Bradley requested a spot on the gay community's dance card, a few Republican presidential candidates have even nodded in its direction.

But no one can two-step and spin like "the one that brung you," to the party. For the gay community, that "fella" is Bill Clinton. He's the guy activists fell for eight years ago, who they later felt betrayed by and who returned to the Los Angeles gay community on Oct. 2 to ask for one last dance before his party ends.

Clinton was the keynote speaker at the Oct. 2 Access Now for Gay and Lesbian Equality (ANGLE) "Take Back the House" bash, an event that will go down in history. Not only did it raise \$850,000 for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC)-the most ever by any group for any Democratic committee, but it was also where California Gov. Gray Davis announced that he had signed three landmark gay civil rights bills.

For many present, however, the emotional highlight of the evening was watching Clinton return to publicly heal his ruptured relationship with Mixner, the gay political consultant who introduced Clinton to ANGLE at a fund-raiser during his first presidential campaign. The Oct. 2 return engagement was touted as the first time a sitting president has appeared at a gay function outside of Washington.

"I'm profoundly moved," Clinton said after the two-minute standing ovation that followed Mixner's introduction. Clinton recalled how, as a student, he

let Mixner sleep on his floor 30 years ago in England. "I thought I had never met a person whose heart burned with the fire of social justice so *strongly*," he said.

The president also reminisced about a 1991 ANGLE meeting at the house of Dr. Scott Hitt, who later became the founding chairman of Clinton's Presidential Advisory Council on AIDS. "I told you that I had a vision of America and you were part of it; that we were all part of the same community," Clinton said. "Well, tonight, I thank you for helping to make that happen."

There is "evidence" now that "pulling things together and moving forward actually works," Clinton said, citing a stream of statistics indicating the overall health of the country. But "don't you think it interesting that here we are on the verge of this new millennium with all these absolutely breathtaking technological breakthroughs æ and the biggest problem we've got is the primitive, age-old fear and hatred and dehumanization of the Other, people who aren't like us."

Clinton cited a litany of horrific acts of violence, from "those kids [who] got shot at that Jewish school and that Filipino postal worker [who] was murdered here" to "that guy who said he belonged to a church that didn't believe in God, but did believe in white supremacy [and] killed all those people of color and wounded others in Illinois and Indiana"; to "Matthew Shepard [who] was murdered and James Byrd [who] was torn apart" to "the tribal slaughters of Rwanda, and the persecution of the Kosovar Albanians or the Bosnian Muslims, or fights in Northern Ireland, or the continued agonies of the Middle East."

"I'm going to do everything I can every day that I have to remind people of that, that we have to be one America," Clinton said. "We can have honest differences over issues, but we can't have honest differences about whether we share a common humanity. And we cannot be under the illusion that either material prosperity or technological breakthroughs alone can purge the darkness in our hearts."

Clinton also offered what appeared to be an apology for his handling of the military's policy on gay servicemembers. "I wish I could have done better," he said. But overall, he added, "We've done pretty well and we're a long way from where we were." He pleaded for those in the room to "stay the course" and support the Democratic Party in 2000. "We need you," he said. "America needs you. I still believe in the future of America and you are a part of it."

The president offered an even more specific apology for the military debacle a few days later during an Oct. 7 speech to Empire Pride in New York. He called the gays-in-the-military debate "that awful battle that I waged and didn't win." It was that failure that led to the rift with Mixner, who was arrested protesting outside the White House shortly after Clinton agreed to the "don't ask, don't tell" policy in 1993. In an interview before the Oct. 2 event, Mixner told Frontiers that it's time to move beyond that disagreement.

"I think it's important that we understand that there's a time to fight and

be angry, to raise our voices-and there's a time to pause, to celebrate our victories," Mixner said. "Because by understanding our victories we can use it as a yardstick of progress and it serves as a directional signal to where we have to go."

Where ANGLE wants to go was clear in the theme of the Oct. 2 dinner: "Take Back the House."

House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I., and openly lesbian U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., expounded on that theme with inspired gusto.

Listening intently was a crowd of more than 1,000 people, including California Congressmen Henry Waxman, Xavier Becerra, and Brad Sherman, as well as celebrities like Ellen DeGeneres, Anne Heche, Eric McCormack, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, producer Bruce Cohen and Emmy-winning director Paris Barclay.

Kennedy, head of the DCCC, told the crowd that only five seats are needed to win back the House and that, with the self-identified gay vote at 5 percent, "the gay and lesbian community can make a difference in dislodging the Radical Right leadership in this country."

He said the DCCC "will put money in our best prospects," such as California state Assemblyman Adam Schiff, D-Glendale, who is running against U.S. Rep. James Rogan, one of the Republican House managers who lead the impeachment effort against Clinton. Kennedy said the money raised would also go toward helping "defeat the kind of radical right-wing, anti-gay, homophobic leadership in this country that we have seen for the last five and a half years in the Congress of the United States."

Baldwin told the audience that if her election last November "was about anything, it was about standing up to the many messages of cynicism and negativity out there and reclaiming our democracy. Our biggest challenge wasn't my opponent, it wasn't even the other Party. Our biggest challenge was overcoming feelings of hopelessness. Our biggest challenge was defeating those who I call the naysayers, the cynics, the keepers of the status quo. These are the people who said to me from the very first days that I ever thought of running for office, 'You can't win, you're too young. You can't win, you're a woman. You can't win, you're too progressive. And you certainly can't win, you're a lesbian.' They said you can't. They said you shouldn't. They said you won't. Well, guess what? We did!"

After a rousing, at times painfully funny, commentary on losing the House to the Republicans and the anti-gay repercussions, Gephardt articulated his vision of what could be accomplished if the Democrats recapture the House and he regains the speakership. For one, there would be more money for AIDS research, treatment, and innovative programs such as that offered by San Franciscan Nancy Pelosi to expand Medicaid to people with HIV before they get really sick. "I can't imagine what we're going through in this country and in this world with AIDS-how many people have died? æ It's a horror! We know that we can prevent its spread. We know one of the ways to do that is needle exchange. We know that it's a little bit hard to explain sometimes

to people-we can do this."

Hate crimes would be another area of change. "Sounds like a no-brainer," said Gephardt, noting how some in the audience stood with him on the steps of the Capitol after Matthew Shepard's death a year ago and asked for the House leadership to vote on the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. "Still it doesn't come up. We can do this. It will be one of the first bills that I would put on the floor," along with the long-stalled Employment Nondiscrimination Act, he said-if, Gephardt qualified, the Democrats win back the House.

How good the chances for that to occur are unclear. Deciding factors include whether the Democratic nominee will be strengthened or weakened by what is shaping up to be a hotly contested primary battle, and whether presumptive GOP nominee George W. Bush will maintain his wide lead in the polls. And, if so, will Bush's popularity have any "coattail" effect for the Republican presidential candidate?

Republican pollster Frank Luntz, in a report in the Oct. 4 issue of U.S. News and World Report, cast doubt on the latter possibility. The survey noted that backing for House Republicans lags 10 percent behind support for Bush, who has himself been critical of House leader's strident conservatism on social issues. Some GOP Party officials anticipate, however, that once Bush is nominated and Republicans unified behind him, support for congressional candidates will pick up.

The contests will be interesting on the LGBT front as well. The non-partisan national Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund recently released a report indicating that the political climate has improved slightly for gay candidates. It has already endorsed 17 openly gay candidates, three of whom are running for Congress. Rep. Baldwin is running for re-election, as is Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., while Vermont Democrat state auditor Ed Flanagan is attempting to become the first openly gay U.S. senator.

On Oct. 23, the Victory Fund is hosting a Los Angeles fund-raiser for Flanagan. For more information, call 323/467-1600.

The Human Rights Campaign, meanwhile, is already steeped in Campaign 2000. At the ANGLE event, HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg gave Kennedy a \$50,000 check for HRC's contribution to the "Take Back the House" fund.

"As I told Patrick that night, it's a down payment on his effort," Stachelberg said on Oct. 12. "It's clear to us that the House Republican leadership needs to be changed to fair-minded Democrats who are far better on gay and lesbian issues."

HRC, however, is non-partisan and will continue to support "good Republicans" as well as good Democrats, she said. After the controversy over last year's endorsement of Republican incumbent Sen. Alfonse D'Amato over U.S. Rep. Charles Schumer in New York, HRC revised its endorsement policy to include more input from local community leaders. So far this year, HRC has endorsed 100 congressional candidates in 38 states.

Three big Senate races in HRC's sights are: Virginia Sen. Chuck Robb vs.

right wing former Gov. George Allen; Michigan challenger Debby Stabenow vs. U.S. Rep. Spencer Abraham; and California's "tremendous voice for fairness," Sen. Dianne Feinstein in her re-election bid against probable GOP challenger Ron Unz, the anti-gay millionaire and architect of several divisive state ballot measures.

The number of congressional incumbents who are either retiring or running for higher office "gives us an incredible opportunity to elect fair-minded candidates and to educate them, and incumbents and the community on our issues," Stachelberg said.

-Karen Ocamb

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CREATOR: wayne besen <wayne.besen@mail.hrc.org> (wayne besen <wayne.besen@mail.hrc.org> [UNKNOWN])

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SUBJECT: HRC MOURNS THE DEATH OF SEN. CHAFEE

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NEWS from the
Human Rights Campaign

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, Oct. 25, 1999

HRC MOURNS THE DEATH OF SEN. CHAFEE, A STATESMAN AND DEFENDER OF
EQUALITY FOR
GAY AND LESBIAN AMERICANS

Ex-Navy Secretary Stood Tall in Gays in the Military Struggle, Says HRC

WASHINGTON -- The Human Rights Campaign today mourned the death of U.S. Senator John H. Chafee, R-R.I., who died of heart failure at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland. Chafee, 77, was an admired statesman who honorably served his country and promoted equality for all Americans, including gay and lesbian Americans, says HRC.

"On issues of gay and lesbian equality, Senator Chafee stood for fairness and was often a voice of reason in a sea of hostility," said HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg. "As a former Secretary of the Navy, his support for ending the prohibition against gays and lesbians in the military had tremendous impact. We will never forget his courage and leadership in promoting dignity and respect for all Americans."

During his four terms in the senate, Chafee was a leader in the fight for gay and lesbian equality. He was an original cosponsor of the Employment

NonDiscrimination Act (ENDA), a measure that would bar employment discrimination based on sexual orientation. He was a cosponsor of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA), a bill that would help law enforcement officials solve and prosecute hate crimes. But Chafee -- secretary of the Navy from 1969-72 -- will most be remembered in the gay and lesbian community for his support in lifting the military ban.

"I am sure there are already many homosexuals who have compiled records of great valor," wrote Chafee in a statement outlining his position on gays in the military. "Now they should be allowed to come out in the open, and, as citizens of this country, be given the opportunity and the privilege to serve their country."

Chafee was a member of the Marine Corps during World War II. He served in the Rhode Island House of Representatives from 1957-63, becoming the state House minority leader. He served as the governor of Rhode Island from 1963-69. Chafee was first elected U.S. Senate in 1976 and this was to be his final term. The Human Rights Campaign, the largest national lesbian and gay political organization, with members throughout the country, 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.

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To: Robert Lawrence/FS/KSG@KSG

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SLATE NEWS: Mon., Oct. 25, 1999

--today's papers: Don't Cry for Menem, Argentina

--pundit central: Unlucky Lady Liddy

today's papers

Don't Cry for Menem, Argentina

By Andrew Nieland

Analyses of budget and spending battles lead at the New York Times, the Washington Post, and USA Today. The NYT highlights a fringe benefit to the current spending impasse: national debt repayment. The WP notes the rise of "earmarking," a popular form of pork barreling, in this round of the spending fracas. USAT focuses on the GOP's proposed across-the-board spending cuts, which the other papers covered on Saturday. The cuts are depicted as a measure designed to leave Social Security untouched and placate seniors. According to another story on the USAT front, this is because seniors are the swing voters of the 2000 elections. The Los Angeles Times leads with massive demonstrations in Colombia, where over 10 million people took to the streets urging a swift peace between the ruling government and leftist insurgents.

The NYT paints the debt reduction measures as a major policy event brought about by default. Since Congress and the White House can't agree on how to spend budget surpluses, most of the money will

likely go to pay off the nation's debt, including \$3.6 trillion in public-owned Treasury bonds. This component of the debt could be paid off in 10-15 years, putting downward pressure on interest rates and freeing up capital.

Earmarking, the process of tacking pork-heavy provisions to spending bills, is on the rise in Washington, according to the Post. Though most politicians say such measures benefit the majority, and help speed bills through the House and Senate, critics feel that earmarking undermines the executive branch: by the time administrators get ahold of discretionary funds, most of the money has already been allocated, rendering the administrators nearly powerless.

Colombia's government and representatives of the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) will try to hammer out agreements on such topics as judicial reform, human rights, drug trafficking, and agricultural policy. The conciliatory overtures began early this year, after nearly four decades of violence, when the government removed security forces from a large FARC-controlled territory, but stalled when officials requested that an international verification committee monitor the zone. Talks began again on Sunday, after the government withdrew this request.

Buenos Aires mayor Fernando de la Rúa's Argentinian presidential win is a setback for the ruling Judicialist/Peronist party, but a victory, according to the Wall Street Journal, for democratic capitalism. The election marks the first time the Peronist party has lost power by popular mandate (as opposed to a coup). A NYT below-the-fold article quotes an observer who claims that the election signals the "end of the era of the caudillo (strongman)." De la Rúa has pledged to maintain the fiscal successes of his predecessor, included a fiscal policy that helped stem the nation's hyperinflation. He also pledges to combat the corruption and tax evasion that have plagued previous administrations, an angle emphasized inside the WP. Carlos Menem, the current president, did not seek re-election, but is expected to remain a formidable force in Argentine politics.

Two related WP fronts discuss Bill Bradley's campaign. One paints him as a reluctant but incredibly effective fundraiser, whose outsider image, basketball superstardom, and Senate Finance committee background have activated a network of super-rich, generally apolitical supporters, including Warren Buffett and Rupert Murdoch. The other discusses how his commitment to old-guard liberal issues like child poverty and health care woes have helped distance him from Al Gore's more centrist policies. The biggest problem with these passions? There's little evidence of them in Bradley's extensive political past.

Not exactly Ossi and Harriet:

The NYT runs a front page story that is nearly a decade old: the continued economic and attitudinal rift between Western and Eastern

Germans (known as Wessies and Ossies). The controversy reemerged this summer with a book written by a Wessi woman, relocated to the east, who is very critical of her Ossi neighbors. Aside from lots of Ossi/Wessi name-calling (a phenomenon much older than the German republic), the NYT offers no evidence for its portentous claim that nostalgia for the old Eastern Germany is spreading. Despite this mildly alarmist tone, the NYT is quick to remind us that "There is nothing inherently sinister about a unified Germany." One can almost hear Poland and France sighing with relief.

Stale gender roles:

In one of its twin Bradley articles, the WP notes an interesting gender split in a poll of New York voters: gentlemen preferred Bill 56% to 33%, while women favored Gore 48% to 29%. Why? Maybe, the Post suggests, because Bradley is a former pro ballplayer. It's an interesting assertion, but one that should be supported by more than the reader's own sexist preconceptions. Without facts to support their analysis, the WP may as well argue that women preferred Gore because of his sculpted jaw and tight buns.

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pundit central

Unlucky Lady Liddy

By Michael Brus

Issue 1 is the presidential race, including Elizabeth Dole's decision to call it quits. Issue 2 is the GOP's looming budget face-off with President Clinton.

Most pundits are skeptical of Dole's claim that she simply couldn't

raise enough money to compete with George W. Bush. She had "no message," repeat a score of opinion makers--Fred Barnes (Fox News Sunday), Bob Novak and Al Hunt (CNN's Capital Gang), Susan Page and

Tucker Carlson (CNN's Late Edition), and George Stephanopoulos (ABC's This Week). (The first woman president will, like Golda Meir and Margaret Thatcher, make no mention of gender, argues Capital Gang's Kate O'Beirne.) On Fox, the panelists agree that most of Dole's supporters went to Bush and note that nationally Bush leads his challengers by 60 points. But Bill Kristol (This Week) and Hunt think John McCain could be competitive: The latest New Hampshire poll puts him only 12 points behind Bush.

Paul Gigot (PBS's NewsHour with Jim Lehrer) and George F. Will (This Week) think Dole could have stayed in the race had she not been limited to the \$1,000-per-head contribution limit imposed by the quarter-century-old campaign-finance laws. Some pundits think Dole may get the vice-presidential nomination; Steve Roberts (Late Edition) notes that whatever money problems she may have had, she was the GOP's best weapon against the 26-point gender gap between Bush and Gore (Bush has a 21-point lead among men, Gore a 5-point lead among women). On the Democratic front, Gloria Borger (PBS's Washington Week in Review) observes a focus group of Maryland Democrats--one third of those selected were Gore supporters, one third Bradley supporters, and one third undecided. By the end of the focus-group discussion, Borger reveals, nearly everyone had come around to Bradley.

Two un-telegenic GOP leaders, House Speaker Dennis Hastert and Whip Tom Delay, make the talk-show rounds to support their party's budget strategy--a 1.4% across-the-board spending cut to avoid using the Social Security surplus to balance the budget. Many pundits--such as Carlson, Novak, and Hunt--think Clinton, as usual, has the upper hand, while some--like Page--think the GOP's across-the-board cut will win over the public. (A bitter-sounding Novak says the "real, dirty little secret is that the non-Social Security surplus has been spent for this year and there is no tax cut and the Republicans should be ashamed of themselves.")

Appearing on NBC's Meet the Press, Donald Trump announces he will join the Reform Party Monday and says there is "a very great possibility that I will run" for the party nomination for president. "It's something I'm very serious about," Trump adds, "and I wouldn't do it unless I thought I could win" both the nomination and the presidency. Tim Russert grills him on the

issues: Trump advocates a pre-emptive strike on North Korean nuclear facilities and declares nuclear proliferation his highest priority. He wants a "substantial tax cut in line with the top Republican numbers" and says he's opposed to NAFTA. Would he support gay marriage and gays in the military? His instinct is yes, he says, but since he's spent most of his life in Manhattan, he'd want to listen to Americans in the heartland and to military advisors to get their view. He claims that his life has been "a very, very open book"--both his personal life (which is always under media scrutiny) and his financial life (the casino and real-estate industries are heavily regulated). The pundits mostly snicker and scoff; Roberts calls Trump a celebrity airhead without ideas.

Also on Meet the Press, Ken Starr concludes that, in retrospect, a different independent counsel should have been appointed to look into Flytrap. The broad scope of his office saved the taxpayers the cost of another investigator, he notes, but it hurt public confidence in his impartiality. He also thinks that it was a mistake for him to continue to practice law while serving as independent counsel; he speculates that, had he not allowed himself to practice privately from the start, he might not have been able to accept his appointment as independent counsel.

Pensive Poppy

Fox conducts a charming interview with a reflective, avuncular former President George Bush. He expresses regret that as president he couldn't communicate his sense of humor, his empathy, and his religious faith as well as his predecessor, President Reagan. He thinks there is no place for a third party in American politics; when asked whether Ross Perot sunk his re-election campaign, he says, "Yeah, yeah. Am I bitter about it? Not anymore. I didn't like it [chuckling]." He claims "no animosity toward Pat [Buchanan]"--"you can't help but like the guy"--and threatens to sue Fortune Son author J.H. Hatfield for his "slandorous" charge that Bush bribed a judge to expunge his son's putative drug record.

He says the press has gone overboard in its investigation of President Clinton's personal life--although Clinton's lies in Flytrap have only justified the media's rapaciousness, he laments. He plans to parachute from a plane again on his 80th birthday; his first jump "said to old people, 'Hey, you can still do stuff--no matter what the stuff is.'" Interviewer (and former Bush Administration employee) Tony Snow praises him for his "superhuman humility."

Last Word

From Fox's interview with former President Bush:

"I had led a very sheltered life and my closest friend [upon

joining the Navy] was my mother. ... I think we lost 9 pilots out of 15 original pilots in our squadron. ... So it was traumatic. And then I saw, right in front of my eyes, on the deck of the carrier, a chief petty officer sliced into three parts by a propeller blade. ... Boy, it woke me up in a hurry."

"In our family we have two sons in public life. Both of them can interact with people better than I did. ... I felt [empathy] in my heart [as president], but I didn't do it as well--outreach, showing compassion and concern--as well as our sons did."

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Tyler explained that she is in open disagreement with the March's board of directors over her contractual rights to make budgeting and booking decisions for the event. The board recently named Malcolm Lazin, who serves as executive director of Philadelphia's annual PrideFest

America, to run the March planning, with Tyler reporting to him.

LGNY has learned that the March's board is planning a special meeting for October 26, at which it appears likely that the transition from Tyler's leadership to Lazin's will be completed.

>From the start, the March has faced criticism from an array of community activists around the country. The initial announcement of the March, spearheaded by HRC and MCC in the spring of 1998 focused on "faith and family," a spin that surprised many others who had given the event a preliminary thumbs up.

Some leading groups, such as the National Lesbian & Gay Black Leadership Forum and the National Stonewall Democratic Federation, withheld their support. Other groups, most notably the National Youth Advocacy Coalition and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) withdrew their support after months of working closely with organizers.

Critics of the March quickly formed a dissident group called the Ad Hoc Committee for an Open Process, which gained particular strength last November at NGLTF's annual Creating Change conference in Pittsburgh. The primary complaints focused on what critics said was a top-down organizing style that was not sufficiently open or responsive to grass roots efforts. The Ad Hoc Committee now counts among its endorsers activist Mandy Carter, playwright Tony Kushner, author James Earl Hardy, and San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano. In New York, the effort is supported by activists Bill Dobbs, Leslie Cagan, Steve Ault and Jim Fouratt, historian Alan Berube, and Joo-Hyun Kang, who heads up the Audre Lorde Project that serves queer people of color communities out of Fort Greene.

When march organizers issued an online issues ballot this summer, many critics faulted its lack of teeth, noting, for example, the absence of a specific demand for the end to anti-sodomy laws.

The Ad Hoc Committee, which is planning a town meeting at Creating Change next month in Oakland, charges that the March has chosen "accommodation" over "liberation."

Even as she is poised to leave the March, Tyler is vocal in discounting the criticisms raised by dissidents. She argues that the march will have

a clearly political, even confrontational tone.

"We're not going to be asking people to like us, we are going to be demanding that they respect us and that they give us our rights," Tyler told LGNY last week. Taking aim at Massachusetts Congressman Barney Frank, who has questioned the investment of energy in an event of this sort, she pointed out that the lesbian and gay community "does not have one civil right on the federal level." She dismissed the idea that progress will result from the work of political insiders such as Frank alone, whom she criticizes for supporting the "don't ask, don't tell" military policy.

As for complaints about lack of an open process, Tyler faults critics who she believes have chosen to stay on the outside.

"People have to take responsibility to come to the table," she said. "We need to act as a movement, instead of just killing each other."

And in an analysis sure to raise hackles among the March's critics, Tyler argued that "a lack of self-esteem leads to this sort of squabbling."

Responding to criticisms that the planning process was not sufficiently open, March organizers promised a series of town meetings nationwide. To date, only two meetings - in Minneapolis and Chicago - have been held.

Other than Tyler, others affiliated with the March are keeping a low profile, at least until the recent upheavals have been fully resolved.

Donna Red Wing, who recently left HRC to work with the Gill Foundation, remains on the March board and enthusiastic about the prospects for the event.

Without pointing to specifics, Red Wing told LGNY that changes underway mark "a new chapter for the Millennium March. People are reinvested in the process."

The March will face a huge test next month at Creating Change, when thousands of activists from across the country gather in Oakland. Certainly in that venue, organizers will face a gauntlet of tough questions about what message they hope to present to the world just six months from now.

- Robin Tyler Diane Olson.jpg===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====

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SUBJECT: Gore taps lesbian rights activist as new campaign manager

TO: queerpolitics@abacus.oxy.edu (queerpolitics@abacus.oxy.edu [UNKNOWN])
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TEXT:
SOUTHERN VOICE
October 28, 1999

Gore taps lesbian rights activist as new campaign manager

Long-time gay rights leader urges gay support for vice president, but deflects questions about her own sexual orientation

by LAURA BROWN and PAIGE PARVIN

The new campaign manager for Vice President Al Gore has a history of gay rights activism, but refuses to discuss whether her own sexual orientation fuels the commitment.

Gore appointed Donna Brazile manager of his campaign on Oct. 6, during the opening of his new national campaign headquarters in Nashville, Tenn., a symbolic and physical move from the previous headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Brazile "is the heart of grassroots activism and political leadership and she'll be a great leader for our national campaign," Gore said. "Her more than 20 years of experience in local and national campaigns across the country is a terrific benefit to our effort."

A campaign press release about Brazile's appointment listed her experience with the campaign as deputy campaign manager and national political director since May, and her previous service as press secretary and chief of staff for Eleanor Holmes Norton, the District of Columbia's delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

The press statement also cited Brazile's college teaching experience, membership on the Democratic National Committee, experience working on past Democratic presidential campaigns and work as founder and executive director of the National Political Congress of Black Women.

But it did not list another of Brazile's recent public accomplishments: service on the board of directors of the Millennium March on Washington, a national gay rights march planned for April 30, 2000.

Brazile's membership on the MMOW board caused mixed responses in the gay press-some publications ignored her appointment, some covered it by obliquely referring to Brazile as a "gay rights advocate," while another labeled Brazile as "openly gay" without citing a specific source for the information.

Brazil herself refused to answer questions about her sexual orientation when asked by Southern Voice while in town for a Gore fund-raiser in Atlanta on Monday night.

"I think it's a fair question, because all questions are fair in the process," Brazile said, noting that she has disclosed to an ethics committee that she served on the Millennium March board.

But she still refused to answer directly, discussing instead how "I am strongly committed to gays and lesbians, and Al Gore is committed to gays and lesbians."

Asked if she supports "openness" about sexual orientation for public figures, "that is up to the public figure to decide," Brazile said.

"I am not a candidate, and I can tell you what Al Gore's stand is on particular issues, and what my personal beliefs are on specific issues," she continued. "[But] I am not trying to make my personal beliefs an object in this campaign because the last time I did that I got fired."

Brazile apparently was referring to an incident in 1988, when she worked on Michael Dukakis' unsuccessful presidential campaign. According to Roll Call, the Capitol Hill newspaper, "Brazile publicly floated rumors that [George Bush, Dukakis' opponent] had an extramarital affair, then called the then-Vice President a racist for his infamous 'Willie Horton' attack ad." Brazile resigned under pressure from the campaign.

Officials with Gore's campaign, however, said the vice president would not be opposed to having openly gay people in positions of prominence, including one as high profile as campaign manager.

"It is not my place to start listing off people, but we have many openly gay people in this campaign who work in very senior positions, and it is not an issue for us," said Roger Salizar, Gore's deputy press secretary. "The issue for us is the talent of the individual who is working for the campaign."

Salizar said the Gore campaign had "absolutely not" tried to downplay Brazile's gay rights involvement, and cited a list of Gore's outreach to gay and lesbian voters, including visits to gay community centers and granting an interview to the gay newsmagazine the Advocate.

Given that background, "I would be surprised if anybody thought we were hiding anything with respect to the gay and lesbian community," Salizar said. "The vice president has talked about the issues important to this community on many occasions."

HRC says Brazile pick

is 'not news'

While gay publications struggled with how to deal with Brazile's appointment and her gay rights background, the nation's largest gay political group apparently decided not to address it at all.

The "oddly silent" reaction of gay rights groups to the appointment even caught the eye of U.S. News & World Report, which noted in this week's issue that "in the past, when an activist-gay or not-won a top political job, groups such as the Human Rights Campaign, a gay lobby, heralded it." The article quoted an HRC source as saying the appointment was "just not news."

David Smith, HRC communications director, elaborated on that opinion in an interview Tuesday, explaining that HRC ignored Brazile's appointment because she isn't openly gay.

"We have no information about Donna Brazile's sexual orientation, and in our view this whole thing isn't news," Smith said.

Asked if HRC would consider it news if a heterosexual gay rights advocate were appointed to a similar position, Smith simply reiterated his point.

"Lesbian and gay people are appointed to high positions all over this government, so that was news six years ago," he said. "But let me be clear-I don't know if Donna Brazile is a lesbian or not. I have no idea about her sexual orientation."

A question about whether Brazile's reticence regarding her sexual orientation tempered HRC's excitement about her appointment drew the same response.

"No, Donna Brazile is a friend and a supporter and we of course value our relationship with her from our work with Eleanor Holmes Norton's office and in previous positions," Smith said. "She is a friend and a supporter, and I have no idea what her sexual orientation is and I don't believe this is news."

But Smith did acknowledge that HRC-which sponsors a national Coming Out Day project-sees a value in having openly gay public officials, and in people coming out in general.

"Gay people are an important part of this country, and the government needs to represent the make-up of the people it serves," Smith said. "Obviously, we want the best and most qualified people to be performing functions in the government, and lesbian and gay people should have the same opportunity in that regard."

HRC advocates openness for everyone, not just public officials, Smith said. "We continue to urge people to come out and be open and honest about their sexual orientation. It helps people understand who we are more clearly," he said. "But at the same time, we believe coming out is

a personal, private decision and should be made at one's own pace and on one's own timeline."

Brazile fighting
for 'disadvantaged'

While Brazile declined to discuss her own sexual orientation, she elaborated on her gay rights activism for Southern Voice, and spoke passionately of her commitment to supporting the struggles of all "disadvantaged" people.

Brazile said that, as Norton's chief of staff and press secretary, she played a key role in organizing the vigil in Washington, D.C., that marked the death of gay Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard and called on Congress to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

"I was very active in helping with that vigil, as I have been for years as an activist in Washington, D.C., organizing demonstrations. ? I have supported the rights of not only gays and lesbians, but the rights of women, African Americans, ? and I will fight the fight until there is no longer breath in my body," Brazile said.

Although she has now left the Millennium March board, Brazile said she served on the board for seven months because she "wanted to help."

"Every march that has been held in Washington, D.C., I have helped in some capacity," she said. "I have been part of more marches in Washington than anyone."

Brazile's biography circulated by the Millenium March lists her work as national mobilization director for the 20th Anniversary commemoration of the 1963 civil rights march on Washington, where Rev. Martin Luther King made his famous "I have a Dream" speech, and she also served as regional director for Hands Across America.

Many Congressional opponents of gay rights have tried to attach anti-gay amendments-including bans on adoptions by gays, domestic partner benefits, and needle exchange programs that help prevent HIV-to the District of Columbia's appropriations bill, Brazile noted.

As the chief of staff for DC's delegate to the House of Representatives, "I have been a leading staff person on fighting gay and lesbian issues on Capitol Hill ? because that is where the attacks are," she said.

Brazile said that Al Gore has "not only talked the talk, but he has walked the walk" when it comes to gay rights, and stressed that she "would like to discuss his campaign, his history and his record."

Still, Brazile said her own past is what motivated her to join the struggle for gay and lesbian rights.

"I think my history and my involvement in fighting for social justice goes back to when I was a kid," she said. "I have been an advocate, I

have been a fighter, and I have been a champion fighting for full inclusion for all Americans, especially those you would consider to be disadvantaged in this country-disadvantaged politically and historically, those who have been excluded from the American political process."

Gore faces a fierce fight for gay votes in the Democratic primary from former Sen. Bill Bradley, who has outdistanced the vice president on some gay rights issues.

Both Gore and Bradley support hate crimes legislation and appointing qualified openly gay elected officials. Both have said they oppose legal marriage for gay couples, although Gore followed quickly after Bradley announced his opposition to the Knight Initiative, a ballot measure in California that would ban recognition of same-sex marriages.

But while Gore has been an outspoken supporter of ENDA, a federal bill to ban job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, Bradley has gone further, advocating adding sexual orientation to the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

And while Gore said he supports a more "compassionate" implementation of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, Bradley has said he would like to overturn the ban on gays in the military altogether.

Salizar, Gore's spokesperson, said the vice president has not reconsidered his position on the military ban, but Gore's positions on issues like "a safe working environment" and health care that are important to all Americans, including gay men and lesbians, should sway gay voters in his favor.

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: LGBT Activists List <Doug.Case@sdsu.edu> (LGBT Activists List <Doug.Case@sdsu.edu> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 2-NOV-1999 02:20:43.00

SUBJECT: Duet between Bradley and Gore is a tad off-key

TO: queerpolitics@abacus.oxy.edu (queerpolitics@abacus.oxy.edu [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Philadelphia Daily News, October 12, 1999

(<http://www.philly.com>)

Duet between Bradley and Gore is a tad off-key

By Debbie Woodell, Knight Ridder Newspapers

Al Gore reminds me of Lucinda Williams.

Work with me here. I'm a big fan of alternative country music, but I don't love Williams as I get the sense I'm supposed to.

Throughout the seven years of his vice presidency, Gore has said mostly good things about gay issues. He defended Ellen DeGeneres, and the rest of us, when the TV actress came out as a lesbian. He visited the AIDS Quilt display in Washington, met with gay teens in California, stood ready to cast

a tie-breaking Senate vote in support of federal jobs protection for gay Americans.

But listen to him these days, not as vice president, but as Democratic presidential candidate. He still opposes same-sex marriage, thinks he can tweak the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military to make it

work and belatedly opposes a divisive anti-gay marriage bill on the California ballot next spring.

And he has done too little to get AIDS drugs from the mighty pharmaceutical companies and into Africa, where they are desperately needed.

He sounds familiar, don't you think? Kind of like his boss, President Clinton.

Gay men and lesbians fell hard for Clinton in the early 1990s, with his talk of room at America's table for everyone. Sure, we have been dissatisfied with Gore, but he appeared to be a competent successor.

But what's to get enthused about?

Bill Bradley, on the other hand, reminds me of Rosanne Cash. Upfront, no

bull. Bradley said little about gay rights while he was a U.S. senator from

New Jersey, but he's talking now. And the urge among gays is to allow ourselves to be swept off our feet again.

Like his Democratic colleague, the former New Jersey senator opposes same-sex marriage, but offers more details in calling for domestic partnership protection, as strong as any civil marriage laws, regarding matters of inheritance, pensions and even immigration (there's a first).

Bradley knows "Don't ask, don't tell" doesn't work and pledges to

scrap
it as president. The hows and whens remain unspoken: "The timing and method would have to be left to me," he told the Advocate, a gay newsmagazine.

He is more liberal than even the architects of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, saying gays should be added to the protected categories under the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

He visited the gay teens in California first, and spoke out first against the California anti-gay-marriage initiative. Gore played catch-up.

The other presidential candidates are busy now figuring out who goes where □ does one rich Texan, George W. Bush, wind up with the Republicans, and the other, Ross Perot, join Jesse Ventura and maybe Pat Buchanan with the Reform Party?

Meanwhile, Gore and Bradley will keep ringing our doorbell, showing up with bouquets of flowers and whispering sweet nothings in our ears.

But as any country-music fan knows, a broken heart could be right around the corner. And gay men and lesbians already have heartaches by the number.

(Debbie Woodell is a columnist and sports desk editor for the Philadelphia Daily News. Write to her at: the Philadelphia Daily News, 400 North Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19130.)

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: LGBT Activists List <Doug.Case@sdsu.edu> (LGBT Activists List <Doug.Case@sdsu.edu> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 5-NOV-1999 19:59:51.00

SUBJECT: For Gays, Tolerance Translates To Rights

TO: queerlaw@abacus.oxy.edu (queerlaw@abacus.oxy.edu [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: queerpolitics@abacus.oxy.edu (queerpolitics@abacus.oxy.edu [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Washington Post, November 5, 1999

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

For Gays, Tolerance Translates To Rights

Legal Gains Reflect Shift in Attitudes

By Joan Biskupic, Washington Post Staff Writer

Last June, a federal judge in New York upheld a \$380,000 award for a gay

police officer harassed by his fellow cops. In August, the New Jersey Supreme Court handed down a milestone ruling forbidding the Boy Scouts from discriminating based on sexual orientation. In recent years, four states have begun allowing gay couples to adopt children jointly, and half a dozen have overturned sodomy laws that targeted homosexual acts. Meanwhile, scores

of states, cities and private employers have extended health insurance and other spousal benefits to "domestic partners."

From workplace discrimination to child custody, a clear and distinct pattern is emerging as courts, spurred by cultural and political changes across the country, apply the principles of equality to sexual orientation. Just as homosexuality has moved from the fringe to the mainstream of American culture in recent years, gay rights has become a flourishing area of the law.

Proceeding in fits and starts, the changes in how the law treats gay men and lesbians have been less the result of a single court ruling or piece of legislation than scattered responses to the shift in public attitudes about homosexuality. Polls show an increased acceptance of gays nationwide; movies and television are portraying more gay characters; and advertisers have begun

openly appealing to gay customers, as in a Budweiser beer ad that shows two men holding hands. In this political season, Democratic candidates are actively ministering to the gay vote, while some leading Republicans have tried to temper their party's anti-gay image.

"The cultural shift has been amazing," said Robert Knight, senior director of cultural studies at the Family Research Council, which opposes homosexual "activism." "The avalanche of pro-gay publicity on TV sitcoms,

in schools, in the media, has persuaded even the courts that homosexuality will eventually be declared a civil right."

Many legal observers had predicted that the Supreme Court's 1996 ruling in *Romer v. Evans* --finding government bias against homosexuals was unconstitutional -- would set a dramatic precedent in gay rights law, galvanizing a host of changes in how the courts treated gays.

"In *Romer*, the court turned an important corner and recognized that gay men and lesbians in this country have legitimate claims for equality," said Mary Bonauto, civil rights director of the Boston-based Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders. "That's an important tone to set for the Congress, state legislatures and courts around the country."

Still, while the decision had an impact on some discrimination cases -- particularly in the workplace -- its actual legal reasoning was narrow and its influence, ultimately, limited.

As a result, changes in laws affecting gays have largely responded to the shift in public attitudes rather than driving it. For example, despite major shifts in areas such as employment, custody and domestic partnership, there have been fewer gains in other areas where gay rights advocates had hoped to make substantial progress, particularly after the *Romer* ruling. The Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, for example, under which homosexuals can serve only as long as their sexual orientation is not discovered, has been repeatedly upheld by courts. Further, the number of discharged gay soldiers has actually risen since the "don't ask, don't tell" policy was adopted five years ago.

And while courts in Vermont and Hawaii are scheduled to rule any day on the legality of same-sex marriages, 29 states have adopted laws against them, and Congress cleared the Defense of Marriage Act, intended to let states ignore same-sex marriages from other locales.

"Overall, there's been some acceleration of legal rights," says Yale University law professor William Eskridge, who has written extensively on gay law. "But differences exist across the country. In urban America, particularly the Northeast, there have been enormous strides toward equality.

But in a big chunk of the country, particularly the Deep South and West, people can still label us 'degenerates' and 'sex perverts.' "

The prevailing national sentiment, say Eskridge and other legal observers, is one of tolerance toward sexual variation, but opposition to anything that could be viewed as promoting homosexuality.

Democratic pollster Geoff Garin agreed: "The public strongly rejects discrimination and intolerance . . . but where the politics of gay rights becomes more complicated is when the public perceives that the government is putting its seal of approval on a group."

A Washington Post/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard University poll last

year supported that thesis, finding that while 57 percent of the people said

homosexuality was unacceptable, 87 percent of those surveyed said homosexuals

should have equal rights in terms of job opportunities. And, following the Supreme Court's 1996 Romer ruling, that is the area where gay men and lesbians have seen some of the most significant advances.

A leading example is the case of James Quinn, the Nassau County, N.Y., police officer who was for years tormented by colleagues with pornographic pictures and pranks that included putting rocks in his hubcaps so criminals would hear his rickety approach. When Quinn's supervisors did nothing to stop the harassment □ in some cases actually joining in □ Quinn sued for discrimination under federal civil rights law and won a \$380,000 jury verdict. The police department appealed, and in June a federal judge upheld

the award, taking a page from Romer to criticize the police department's conduct as "motivated by irrational fear and prejudice toward homosexuals."

Quinn, who retired from the force after being injured in the line of duty, said things have changed dramatically for people who come out of the closet. "When I was a kid, anyone who was thought to be gay was treated differently," he said. "I have nieces and nephews in junior high and high school, and they say they've had friends who are gay and that they are accepted."

Quinn's attorney, Fredric Ostrove, credits that shift in attitudes with the success of Quinn's suit, saying it represents "the different political and legal environment we're in now."

Only a limited number of job discrimination cases even reach the nation's courts, but in recent years, gay workers have been winning in greater numbers. Last year, for example, a federal judge in Utah ruled in favor of a

high school volleyball coach who had been dismissed after acknowledging to students that she was a lesbian. Referring to Romer and other cases, the judge said government employers □ excepting the military □ can be held responsible for discrimination motivated by irrational fear and prejudice toward homosexuals.

When the New Jersey Supreme Court became the first state high court to forbid the Boy Scouts from discriminating based on sexual orientation last summer, the judges never mentioned Romer by name but they certainly echoed its sentiment. One of the panel's judges wrote in that ruling: "a lesbian or

gay person, merely because he or she is homosexual, is not more or less likely to be moral than a person who is heterosexual."

Legal experts note that change has come more slowly when the subject involves family matters that invoke religious beliefs about marriage, parenting and sexuality. Still, in those areas, too, gays have made inroads in recent years.

Three years ago, for example, when Michael Galluccio and Jon Holden first tried to adopt a child, New Jersey officials said no. It took a battery of lawyers, a court ruling and a landmark change in New Jersey policy to make it happen. When they tried to adopt a second child earlier this year, it took them only a few months of the usual paperwork that any couple might face.

"Things are definitely better," Galluccio said recently, taking a break from his early evening routine of playing games and watching "Rugrats" with son Adam, 4, and daughter Madison, 2. "With Madison, from the time that we filed to adopt her until when the papers were signed, it was like a blink of an eye. It wasn't even two months."

Opportunities for gay men and lesbians to become parents have increased substantially in the past few years, experts say, in part as a result of the burgeoning business of surrogate mothers and sperm banks, as well as more permissive adoption rules.

Yet most gay people become "parents" by adopting the child of a partner who happens to be a biological parent. Judges across the country have been increasingly willing to approve adoptions with two "mothers" or "fathers," giving full parental rights to the non-biological parent, as they have long done for heterosexual stepparents. Such adoptions are no longer rare for gay couples in the District and about 20 states.

But in this area, too, it's not just the rules that are changing, said Galluccio. "In 1997, when we finally got Adam, our family was an oddity to people. There was a look of bewilderment in people's eyes," he said. "But now, we've become more ordinary."

Staff researcher Madonna Lebling contributed to this report.

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

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

CREATION DATE/TIME:15-NOV-1999 05:10:09.00

SUBJECT: Gay/lesbian vote

TO: Tflournoy@gorennet.com (Tflournoy@gorennet.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Tina,

I think this is pretty much in line with what I told you--Bradley is a serious threat. The campaign has done relatively little yet in NY.

BOSTON GLOBE, November 12, 1999

Bradley, Gore step up pursuit of gay voters

Calif. Outcome could prove crucial

By Michael Kranish, Globe Staff

LOS ANGELES - During his 18 years in the Senate, Bill Bradley rarely mentioned gay and lesbian rights, and one of his last acts before retiring was to oppose gay leaders on a bill that would have recognized same-sex marriage.

But this year, the Democratic presidential candidate has emerged as one of the nation's most forthright proponents of equal rights for gays and lesbians, urging a step even many activists are wary of - reopening the 1964

Civil Rights Act to encompass gays.

Bradley's new emphasis led one leading gay-oriented magazine, The Advocate, to marvel that the former New Jersey senator has moved "to the left" of Representative Barney Frank, the openly gay Newton Democrat.

It has moved Vice President Al Gore, concerned about losing a constituency that could swing the election in some key states, to ratchet up

his bid for gay support. Gore has vowed to loosen the administration's "Don't Ask-Don't Tell" policy on gays in the military and said last week that "sexual orientation is a main topic for the expansion of freedom and human dignity."

Nowhere is this unprecedented pursuit of the gay and lesbian vote more vividly on display than in California - and apparently for good political reason. On March 7, when Californians vote in a potentially decisive presidential primary, the ballot will include an initiative to ban marriage between gay partners. That is expected to spur one of the largest gay votes in US history, which in turn could affect who wins the primary and the nomination.

"The gay vote has become a central part of the Democratic coalition.

It is an astonishing yardstick of how far the gay and lesbian issue has come,"

said David Mixner, a leading California gay activist who is supporting Gore.

"If there is a low Democratic turnout in March," Mixner said, "the one group that will turn out en masse will be the gay and lesbian community."

As a result, Gore and Bradley have made frequent trips to California to meet with gay leaders, dueling over the constituency in a way that was unimaginable to gay activists earlier this decade. Some Republican presidential candidates, meanwhile, also are courting gays. On Monday, Senator John McCain, the Arizona Republican, said he was "unashamed" to work with the Log Cabin Republicans, a group of gay and lesbian Republicans. But the Republicans generally aren't going nearly as far as Bradley and Gore.

By some estimates, gay voters account for 5 percent of the electorate. But the number may be in the higher single digits in some of the most important political states, including California and New York - both of which Democrats believe they must win next fall, especially if the Republican presidential candidate captures Texas and Florida.

While there has been no scientific survey of California gay voters, there is considerable evidence that Bradley has fast been making major inroads with gays and lesbians. Last June, Bradley spent several hours meeting with gay and lesbian activists in California. The event served as a wake-up call to Gore.

Then, last September, in a move that surprised even many of Bradley's gay backers, the former senator told The Advocate that Congress "should add sexual orientation to the 1964 Civil Rights Act. " That would clearly indicate, he said, that discrimination against gays is every bit as serious as discrimination against other protected groups.

The magazine contrasted Bradley's stance to that of many gay leaders, including Frank, who prefers a stand-alone antidiscrimination bill instead of reopening the landmark civil rights legislation.

"In one fell swoop, he came close to erasing seven years of hard work by Gore within the gay community," said Chris Bull, the Washington correspondent for The Advocate, who recently was granted interviews with both Bradley and Gore about their stance on gay issues. "Bradley hadn't done particularly much. It was smart on Bradley's part."

Bradley spokesman Eric Hauser said the former senator had "no epiphany" on gay rights but instead views it as a logical extension of his support for civil rights.

Still, the effect on gay voters of Bradley's stance has been powerful.

Bill Melamed, a West Hollywood personal agent who has been active in gay rights for 20 years, said that many gays and lesbians had presumed they would "jump on the Gore bandwagon." Melamed contributed \$1,000 to the Gore campaign. But as Bradley's views on gay issues gained publicity - and after Bradley called Melamed to seek his support - Melamed became convinced the

former New Jersey senator was a more fervent believer in equal rights.

Next week, Melamed will come full circle: the former Gore contributor will be a cohost at a Hollywood fund-raiser for Bradley.

"It is not an issue Bradley chose to champion," Melamed said, referring to Bradley's days in the Senate. "But the climate is very different in this country than six, 12, 18 years ago."

Some observers, however, think that Bradley made a strategic mistake in calling for a reopening of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. A number of civil rights leaders, including the Rev. Jesse Jackson, questioned Bradley's proposal, worrying that a Republican-controlled Congress might weaken the Civil Rights Act if it was reopened. Frank said in an interview that reopening the Civil Rights Act would be impracticable.

While the issue still is controversial, the public view of gay rights has shifted significantly during this decade. In 1992, a Gallup poll found that 57 percent of Americans deemed the gay lifestyle unacceptable, compared with 38 percent who called it acceptable. The same survey this year found a turnaround in views: those surveyed believe, 50-46, that the gay lifestyle is acceptable.

That has translated into unprecedented political power for gays and lesbians. In the 1988 campaign, many presidential candidates, including Gore, put little emphasis on the issue. In 1992, Clinton sought the gay vote but ran into criticism when he backed a "Don't Ask-Don't Tell" policy. Some conservatives felt the policy went too far in allowing gays to serve in the military, while gay activists complained that it didn't allow gays to openly state their sexual orientation.

Gore spent the years since trying to improve his relations with gays and took a major step in that direction earlier this year when he announced that he favored the legal protections for gay partners, such as the kind of health benefits that a married spouse can receive. Bradley also favors such benefits.

Some of the leading Republican candidates also are courting the gay community, but none of them embrace nearly as much of the gay rights agenda as the Democrats.

McCain has made the most determined overture, meeting on Monday with the Log Cabin Republicans, a group with 11,000 members. But a McCain aide said later the senator doesn't endorse key legislation favored by gay activists, such as a bill that would ban discrimination in employment.

Texas Governor George W. Bush, the GOP front-runner, has been criticized by some gay activists for not embracing a hate-crimes bill in his state that would specifically include protections for gays. Steve Forbes said recently that he would hire qualified gays as long as they aren't trying to make "a

political statement." GOP candidate Alan Keyes has had the harshest words for gays, saying that "homosexuality is an abomination ... the comparison between race and homosexuality is absurd."

In California, with its large gay community, the ballot question that would ban same-sex marriage is being closely watched by the campaigners. Bradley and Gore have said that while they do not support same-sex marriage, they would vote against the ballot initiative because it is divisive. That has prompted Rob Glazier, a Sacramento spokesman for the Campaign to Defend Marriage, which is pushing for passage of the ballot measure, to charge that Bradley and Gore are being hypocritical.

"Gore and Bradley are saying to the American people that they support the traditional definition of marriage being between a man and a woman, yet they both raise a lot of money from the gay community," Glazier said. "They are trying to convince Americans they are mainstream. They shouldn't have it both ways."

But to longtime gay activists such as Frank, the larger message of the Democratic primary is that the candidates are arguing about how to expand gay rights, not whether to limit them.

"My best hopes have been vindicated," Frank said, when asked about the effort by the Democratic candidates to win over gay voters. "This is the first time in American history that people have been treating gays and lesbians as if they were any other legitimate group."

LOS ANGELES TIMES, November 12, 1999
Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles, CA, 90053
(Fax 213-237-7679 or 213-237-5319) (E-MAIL: letters@latimes.com)
(<http://www.latimes.com>)

ACLU Threatens Suit if Gay School Club Is Blocked
Civil liberties group says action would violate rights of expression, association. Orange Unified vote is Thursday.

By MARISSA ESPINO, Special to The Times

The American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California waded into the fray Thursday over the proposed Gay-Straight Alliance club at El Modena High, saying it would pursue legal action against the Orange Unified School District if trustees refuse to approve the club's formation.

If the school board vetoes the club, the ACLU said in a statement, trustees would be violating the freedom of expression and association guaranteed by the Constitution. A denial by the board could also have a significant impact on the district's eligibility for federal education funds

under a statute that prohibits public schools from discriminating against student clubs on the basis of a club's philosophical or political viewpoint, according to the statement.

The ACLU's announcement comes on the heels of a similar statement by

the
People for the American Way Foundation, a nonprofit civil liberties, First Amendment rights organization. That group has also charged that the school board was violating federal law by stopping efforts to organize the club.

Earlier this week, about 300 parents and students packed a four-hour, district-sponsored public forum on the issue.

Proponents of the club said it would educate all students about tolerance and offer a haven for gay students who they say face harassment.

Opponents quoted the Bible and said the club would only hurt students struggling with their sexual identity.

The school board is scheduled to vote on the club at a meeting Thursday.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: LGBT Activists List <Doug.Case@sdsu.edu> (LGBT Activists List <Doug.Case@sdsu.edu> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:15-NOV-1999 06:35:57.00

SUBJECT: Clinton names new outreach coordinator for gay and lesbian community

TO: queerpolitics@abacus.oxy.edu (queerpolitics@abacus.oxy.edu [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Bay Windows
Boston, MA
November 11, 1999

President Clinton names new outreach coordinator for gay and lesbian community

by Peter Cassels, Bay Windows staff

President Clinton has named a well-connected lesbian with deep grassroots experience to be his new director of lesbian and gay outreach. Elizabeth Julian Potter assumes her responsibilities Nov. 15. She replaces Richard Socarides, who has taken a job in the private sector. Potter has been a member of the Clinton administration since its earliest days and is a veteran of presidential politics dating back to the Gephardt and Dukakis campaigns of 1988. She's been a key adviser in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for most of her federal government career, working first as special assistant to then-Assistant Secretary Andrew Cuomo and later as the deputy assistant secretary for community empowerment, HUD's development program for poor and under-served communities. As chief of staff for the President's Community Empowerment Board since June 1997, the new liaison has worked closely with its chair, Vice President Al Gore.

Community activists and other gays in government have welcomed Potter's appointment. Clinton picked a real winner," Keith Morrison, executive director of the National Stonewall Democratic Federation (NSDF), said in a Nov. 3 statement. "While the NSDF found all of the candidates highly qualified, Julian truly stood out and will be a tremendous asset." Brian Bond, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, which promotes and contributes to political candidates, has known Potter since 1992 when they worked together in Missouri on the first Clinton-Gore campaign. He told Bay Windows Nov. 9 that her connections to both Clinton and Gore are a big plus. "She's not a stranger to the White House," he said. "It's important that we have someone who can hit the ground running, particularly when politically sensitive issues come up in course of the 2000 campaign that will have an impact on the administration." "I think she's going to do an awesome job," Human Rights Campaign spokesperson Anabel Evora said. "We've worked with her extensively while she's been with the vice president. We really look forward to working with her at this new level and wish her the very best. I know she's the right person for the job."

Philip Dufour, who runs the vice president's residence and is Tipper Gore's openly gay deputy chief of staff, has known Potter for a

decade and has worked with her for several years advising the vice president on gay and lesbian issues. "I think it's a terrific appointment," he told Bay Windows. "Julian is a one of the most capable hardworking individuals I know. She has an amazing grassroots background that will be so instrumental and helpful to her, the administration and the community. She will [be sensitive to] how policy will affect people at the grassroots level and that's a powerful plus with the community."

"I've been doing outreach my whole life, trying to get people to benefit from our democracy," Potter said during an interview Nov. 9. She first got involved with grassroots politics as a community liaison to then New York City Councilwoman Miriam Friedlander in the impoverished the Lower East Side and East Village neighborhoods in the 1980s, "so I'm [used to] reaching out to people who felt they didn't have a place at the table and making sure they were aware and had access to all the things this democracy provides." She'll be responsible for eliciting input from the community on policies, programs and issues and making Clinton and his advisors aware of them. Her immediate priorities are getting Congress to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and expanded hate-crimes legislation to include sexual orientation and women.

She already has a working relationship with the president through the Empowerment Zone Initiative, an \$8 billion project targeting 135 federally designated urban, rural and tribal communities with programs to bring the nation's economic boom to those it has passed by or ignored. "It's one of his favorite programs," she explained. "He brought the concept from Arkansas." In her job, she reported to Gore, but traveled with Clinton on several trips he's made to targeted communities, most recently with business executives.

As part of her Empowerment Zone responsibilities, Potter has worked with some of the 40 gay and lesbian community centers throughout the nation, particularly those in New York and Los Angeles. The centers, she said, represent those who need a place at the federal government table. "A major percentage of the people those centers serve are minorities and people below the poverty level. Many of the centers are unaware they are eligible for federal programs administered by HUD or the Department of Health and Human Services. They can provide services that the local and state governments don't, like economic development grants, site acquisitions and expansion, or AIDS housing. It's a huge resource."

She's worked with the community on other projects during her career. She served in the group that produced the first gala for lesbians recognized by the 1997 presidential inaugural committee and worked on the Campaign for Military Service to support Clinton's efforts to lift the ban on gays in the military. She wouldn't comment on the "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" compromise the Pentagon worked out with Congress and wouldn't discuss any policy matters, saying she preferred to wait until she's been on the job a while.

She sees lots of travel as part of her responsibilities. She'll be in Oakland, Calif., Nov. 13 and 14 to join an expected 3,000 gays and lesbians attending the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's third annual Creating Change conference. She'll also attend the annual conference of the International Network of Lesbian and Gay Officials in Providence Nov. 19 through 21. The organization comprises appointed and elected government officials from around the world. Future stops include breakfast clubs for gays and lesbians in Iowa.

Potter believes her predecessors, Socarides and Marsha Scott, the

heterosexual woman who was Clinton's first community liaison, made great strides to link the White House with the nation's major advocacy groups and wants to be even more inclusive. "I'm honored to serve after Richard and Marsha Scott," she acknowledged. "Both did a very good job in reaching out to community and setting a mark for me to meet. I think a lot has happened in terms of the groups out there." She noted that there are many more youth groups, for example and that "the rural areas has largely been silent. They're important and often have different issues. I've been asked to coordinate a monthly conference call with rural leaders to make sure they have a voice." Potter plans on reaching out to state and local groups and national organizations not headquartered in Washington. "I'll bring them to the White House and will press for the President's participation when appropriate."

Potter lives with Mirian Saez, her partner of five years, in a home in the Pinehurst section of Washington, near Chevy Chase, Md. They met while both were working at HUD. Saez was involved with its policy to place the management of public housing in the private sector and for the last three years has owned her own business doing just that. "She manages public housing properties all over the country, including New York, Philadelphia and Chicago," Potter explained. They plan on raising a family eventually, but work is now the focus of their activities. Potter comes from "strong Democratic stock," as she puts it. She grew up in Carson City, Nevada's capital. Former Republican U.S. Sen. Paul Laxalt lived across the street and both parents worked for Democratic senators in Washington, her mother for Sen. Richard Russell of Georgia and her father for Sen. Alan Bible of Nevada. "I grew up on politics," she said. Small-town Nevada was a great place for a lesbian to grow up, she recalled. "Tomboys have no problem there. I had a horse. I was the first paper girl in Carson City. Mom was always very progressive, so I was never encouraged to follow traditional role models." She left Nevada when she was 15 to be educated by Catholic nuns. "My family believed they would round out my training. There were limited opportunities at home." She thought of becoming a nun herself, but her mother persuaded her to attend Northern Arizona University instead. "I think by saying that it wouldn't be fair for the nuns to pay for my college education, she was practicing a bit of psychology," she said. After getting her bachelor's degree in sociology, Potter moved to New York and earned a master's degree in public policy at the New School for Social Research.

Her career includes two interesting experiences in foreign countries. In 1991, she took a sabbatical to visit her father, who now is retired in Chiang Mai, a town in northern Thailand. "I wound up working for a grassroots group called Empower, whose mission was economic empowerment." She worked with women in the country's illegal, but major brothel industry. Having learned some of the Thai language, Potter taught English in a school set up by Empower. "I taught them how to say to their foreign customers, 'put on a condom,'" she remembered. She also did AIDS education in brothels serving the natives, which were staffed by girls from Laos, Burma and Vietnam sold into prostitution.

In 1996, Potter was a United States delegate to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, where she helped oversee the first democratic elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina. "I was sent to a town called Bejelina, in Russian territory up in the mountains next to the border," she related. After military briefings and training, she was paired up with a Parisian man and was joined by a driver and translator and traveled to villages in the mountains, often hiking on foot. "It was like traveling in

a time warp. The natives had no metal. Houses were constructed of stone and wood. Even the wagons were held together with wooden bolts." They would meet with village election committees, always men, she said. "I would explain what the election was all about, because they never had one before." To Potter, the most moving part of the experience was Election Day. "The women and men dressed up in their Sunday finery and walked two to five miles to the polling site. The turnout was 75 to 85 percent." Knowing that most Americans who register do not vote, the experience reinforced Potter's commitment to get disengaged Americans, including gays and lesbians, involved with government.

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PHOENIX (AP) - An openly gay Army reservist is challenging the military's investigation of his sexuality as a violation of his free speech rights and the military's own "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Steve May, a Republican state representative from Tempe, a lieutenant in the Army Reserve, faces possible disciplinary action because he admitted he was gay during a debate in the Legislature.

At the time, he was an honorably discharged civilian. Later he was recalled to active duty in preparation for a possible ground assault in Kosovo, and the Army began its investigation.

May has hired an attorney and is demanding that the Army drop its investigation.

The Army appears to be telling gay soldiers who leave the military they can't be honest about their sexuality and participate in social debates as private citizens because they might be recalled to active duty and punished, said attorney Christopher Wolf.

"The investigation is a violation of Mr. May's free speech rights, but also a violation of his constituents' right to have a representative who is not muzzled or gagged in any way," Wolf said.

Army Reserve spokesman Ted Bartimus said he could not comment on Monday's developments because the investigation is ongoing.

The "don't ask, don't tell" policy bans homosexuals from serving in the armed forces, but the military is not supposed to seek out information about soldiers' sexuality.

Violations typically result in a discharge.

Last week, the Army sent May a letter explaining that evidence, including May's admissions, creates a presumption that he engages in, attempts to engage in or intends to engage in homosexual acts. The letter also asked May to submit any rebuttal evidence.

"The 'don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue' policy cannot be used by the Army to gag me in the performance of my official duties," May said in

a written statement. ``That result would be an insult to bedrock principles of our democracy, principles that I joined the Army to uphold.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: LGBT Activists List <Doug.Case@sdsu.edu> (LGBT Activists List <Doug.Case@sdsu.edu> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-NOV-1999 17:59:54.00

SUBJECT: McCain meets with Log Cabin

TO: queerpolitics@abacus.oxy.edu (queerpolitics@abacus.oxy.edu [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
Bay Windows
Boston, MA
November 18, 1999

McCain meets with Log Cabin
by Peter Cassels
Bay Windows staff

Face-to-face gathering marks a first for a top-tier Republican presidential candidate

Arizona Sen. John McCain, at this point the most serious challenger to Texas Gov. George W. Bush for the 2000 GOP presidential nomination, met with the Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) Nov. 8.

"I am unashamed, unembarrassed and proud to work with you," the former Vietnam prisoner of war, whose main issue is campaign finance reform, told LCR's leadership in a 30-minute meeting in a conference room near his Capitol Hill office, according to participants. News media were not invited to the session.

McCain, who trails Bush in polls conducted in New Hampshire and Iowa but is far ahead of the field of other candidates, said he welcomes gay support and wants to work to eliminate discrimination. "All my life, I've had a visceral dislike for discrimination, for people picking on other people or using their power to harm other people," he told the group, according to LCR spokesperson Kevin Ivers, one of the participants. "We need, as the Republican Party, to enter into a dialogue with people we have alienated, like African-Americans and gay Americans," McCain added.

A total of eight LCR board members, officers and staff attended the meeting, including Rich Tafel, national executive director, and Bob Stears, board chair. John Weaver, McCain's political director, and openly gay Congressman Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., also were present. The session covered a broad range of issues of concern to gay voters, including gay-related legislation, anti-gay violence, gays in the military, AIDS funding, adoption and foster care policy.

"The way the meeting was structured, there wasn't enough time to have a very substantive engagement on every one of the issues," Ivers told Bay

Windows Nov. 15. "We felt it was important to hit every issue that was important and on which our organization has taken a stand."

According to Ivers, McCain briefed the group on his campaign goals and each of the LCR people spoke about a different issue of concern to the organization.

McCain did not make any specific policy promises, but "seemed receptive to everything," Tafel told the Washington Blade. Kolbe, who serves on the McCain campaign's national steering committee, agreed, adding that "it could not have been more positive if I had tried to imagine it."

In the past, the candidate has differed with gays on such issues as same-sex marriage; the need to add sexual orientation to the federal Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and employment discrimination. He voted for the Defense of Marriage Act and is against the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). "He has yet to be convinced that there is a need for a federal law," Ivers said of his position on ENDA, "not because he doesn't believe gays are discriminated against but because he believes existing legislation may be adequate protection."

McCain told the LCR delegation that he supports the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy on gays in the military, but expressed his concerns that it is not being properly implemented. "He told us he met with Defense Secretary William Cohen about his concerns that the witch hunts would come to an end," Ivers said. "He reported that Cohen had assured him they would."

Tafel said he believes McCain is open to change his position on issues in which he currently is in disagreement with gay activists. "The beginning of changing anyone's position is the first step," Tafel said, adding that the meeting was a good beginning for such a discussion. He described McCain as seeking the Republican gay and lesbian vote as no other serious presidential contender has.

Ivers said the LCR had invited McCain to meet with the group in mid-October and that his office had been "very responsive." He added that he views the Nov. 8 meeting as one in a series of continuing dialogues with McCain and his Senate and campaign staffs. "We've met with his Senate staff on legislative business and will continue to work with them closely," Ivers said, adding that he was about to head to Capitol Hill after the interview to meet with the McCain staff about a range of AIDS issues. "We will have ongoing meetings with his campaign people to see where we go from here. Once you have a discussion on policy matters you've opened the door to be a continued resource."

The LCR meeting was not the first indication that McCain would welcome gays to his campaign tent. In an October New Hampshire forum, GOP candidates were asked about their attitudes toward gays. "There is no room for discrimination in the party of Lincoln," McCain responded. Bush did not attend the forum, but the other candidates were less supportive. Steve Forbes said he would be willing to appoint openly gay people to his administration, but added, "If a person wants a job to make a statement, he won't get it."

Gary Bauer replied, "Marriage is between a man and a woman, not between two men, two women, or any other combination."

McCain's position may differ from that of Bush, who is somewhat of a puzzle to gay Republicans. Many were alarmed when the Dallas Morning News in October reported that Bush told religious conservatives that he would not appoint openly gay people to his administration, but would not fire one if he later discovered an appointee was gay. The report conflicts with one in the New York Times last spring in which Bush said he would not discriminate in appointments on the basis of sexual orientation. "As a general statement, if someone can do a job, and a job that he's qualified for, that person ought to be allowed to do his job," he told the Times.

Recently, New Hampshire reporters asked Bush about gay adoption. The candidate responded by saying that he believes only a man and wife should be allowed to adopt children and that "the best place for a child is in a loving home with a mother and father."

And, while Bush has accepted an LCR invitation for a meeting, he has not offered a place, time and date. "His campaign said he would meet with us on his own timetable," Ivers explained. "We're still very hopeful and want to remain optimistic. We want to keep the door open. We want candidates to know we're here to work with them, and that politically it's very wise for them to engage the gay community."

Some exit polling during the 1998 general election showed that five percent of the total voters were gay and that 33 percent of those voted Republican. "If you do the math, that's one million votes," Ivers pointed out, adding that the number is enough to change the outcome in many key states.

More important than the gay vote itself, Ivers continued, is that a candidate's position on gay issues could provide important clues to swing voters who may be turned off by social conservatism.

The LCR endorsed Bob Dole in the 1996 campaign, but has not yet decided who it will support in 2000, or whether it will endorse a candidate in the primaries or wait until the general election, Ivers said.

Fund-raising for candidates is a different matter. Recalling that the LCR made a contribution to the 1996 Dole campaign that was initially rejected, Ivers reported that fundraising has already gone on for Bush and McCain. "We've always encouraged our members to contribute to campaigns," he explained. "Many individual members have. Some have gotten appointments to state campaign steering committees."

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: LGBT Activists List <Doug.Case@sdsu.edu> (LGBT Activists List <Doug.Case@sdsu.edu> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:20-NOV-1999 19:59:23.00

SUBJECT: Army refuses to drop inquiry of gay Arizonan

TO: queerpolitics@abacus.oxy.edu (queerpolitics@abacus.oxy.edu [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
Associated Press
November 20, 1999

Army refuses to drop inquiry of gay Arizonan
Only following orders, May's attorney told

The Army will not drop its investigation of a gay reservist who
acknowledged his sexuality while he was an honorably discharged civilian.

The Army on Thursday notified Washington, D.C., attorney Christopher Wolf
that it will continue to review possible disciplinary action against his
client, Lt. Steve May.

Wolf this week demanded that the Army end the investigation, which he
called a violation of May's free speech rights and an improper restraint on
his ability to serve his constituents as a legislator.

Wolf said he was told investigators have no discretion to terminate the
review, but only follow directions to continue.

"The pursuit of this investigation is completely improper," Wolf said. "It
wasn't very satisfying to hear they are just following orders."

May, a state representative, is openly gay. He acknowledged his sexuality
when he first ran for office in 1996.

The Army began investigating him because of comments he made during a
January debate in the Legislature that included references to his
sexuality.

May was an honorably discharged civilian at the time but later was recalled
to active duty in preparation for a possible ground assault in Kosovo.

Military regulations do not allow homosexuals to serve in the armed forces,
but the military is not supposed to seek out information about soldiers'
sexuality under the "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy.

With news reports of May's comments and his own admissions, the Army has
made a presumption that he is a homosexual. The next step could be a
hearing by an administrative separation board, which could lead to May's

discharge.

Army Reserve officials have refused to comment until the investigation is finished.

"Our next step," May said, "is to find out who does have the authority (to end the investigation) and address that request to them."

He said Reps. Tom Campbell, R-Calif., and Barney Frank, D-Mass., along with 150 other members of Congress, already have written President Clinton asking him to stop the investigation.

"I'd like the president to respond to the congressional letter," May said.
"Obviously, I think the policy is wrong and immoral on its face."

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Spurred by black caucus leaders and others who support Vice President Al Gore, Bradley's only opponent for the party's presidential nomination, the Democratic National Committee weighed in - expressing "strong support" for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a federal bill to ban job

discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, while urging the '64 act "not be re-opened for debate or amendments."

The visceral reaction against adding "sexual orientation" to the landmark civil rights law by gay rights leaders and others generally supportive of gay right has raised eyebrows for several reasons:

? Until ENDA was introduced in 1994, amending the 1964 Civil Rights Act was exactly the strategy supported by gay civil rights leaders [see 'Before there was ENDA', page 28].

? While national gay civil rights groups have kept it mum, a bill was introduced just this year to add sexual orientation to the '64 act, as well as the Fair Housing Act [see 'The gay rights bill you don't know about,' page 29]

? Whatever concerns there may be about opening up the 1964 Civil Rights Act to hostile amendments, a number of other, unrelated bills have been introduced this year that would amend the act, without the outcry from civil rights leaders generated by Bradley's suggestion to add sexual orientation.

Among these are several by progressive Democrats looking to expand the act's protections or applicability, including a bill by Rev. Jackson's son, Rep. Jesse L. Jackson Jr. (D-Illinois), and even a bill by Frank himself.

So why has Bradley's proposal garnered so much opposition?

In published reports, officials with the Gore campaign have said the Vice President's opposition to Bradley's plan has helped him with black voters worried about any threat to affirmative action.

But some observers say the difference is one based on principle and legislative strategy, and one that pits gay rights allies - and gays - against one another.

The debates and what's at stake

Despite the heat from the Democratic National Committee, whose presidential nomination he hopes to win, Bradley has stuck to his proposal to amend the 1964 Civil Rights Act, repeating it again in his Oct. 27 nationally televised debate Gore.

Asked a question about legalizing same-sex marriage, which all of the major presidential candidates oppose, Gore turned the debate back to Bradley's civil rights amendment proposal.

"I have supported the [Employment] Non-Discrimination Act in the Congress," Gore countered. "And frankly, you know, most gay and lesbian leaders, and certainly most civil rights leaders, have argued against opening up the 1964 Civil Rights Act."

Gore may be right - at least about the lack of public support for Bradley's proposal.

Of the five national gay rights organizations that responded to questions from Southern Voice about the issue - the Human Rights Campaign, the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, Log Cabin Republicans, National Stonewall Democratic Federation, and the National Latino/a Lesbian & Gay Organization - none openly advocated dumping ENDA for the amending the Civil Rights Act.

Two more national gay rights groups, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force and the National Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Forum, did not respond to interview requests about the issue.

Yet despite the apparent lack of support for his proposal, Bradley elaborated on both the idea and his commitment to gay civil rights in written responses released Tuesday to questions submitted by Southern

Voice.

"The issue for me has always been about equality and ending discrimination in employment, in housing, in public accommodations. ? These basic protections should be provided through the Civil Rights Act, through the Fair Housing Act, or through stand-alone legislation," Bradley said.

Bradley said his commitment to gay civil rights, including amending the 1964 Civil Rights Act, came from listening to the concerns of "gay and lesbian leaders in many communities around the country," as well as "what I believe is just plain common sense."

"Half measures just don't work," Bradley said, citing the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, which was supposed to let gays serve in the military as long as they didn't disclose their sexual orientation. Bradley has said he would allow gays to serve openly, while Gore has committed only to supporting a more "compassionate" enforcement of DADT.

Under DADT, Bradley told Southern Voice, "discrimination got worse."

"That should be a lesson for us in seeking full participation by gays and lesbians in all areas of employment, housing and public accommodations," he said. "It is unfortunate that some people have tried to divide the black and gay and lesbian communities when they both have suffered from discrimination and both should be united in the effort to end all discrimination."

When Bradley's proposal first made headlines, Gore's press secretary told Associated Press the vice president supports ENDA because "it can actually pass," but the campaign did not respond to a questions from Southern Voice about whether there are other reasons for Gore's stand.

While Bradley has clearly attempted to stake out amending the Civil Rights Act as an example of where he trumps Gore on gay rights, and Gore has just as clearly attempted to counter the move, some of ENDA's strongest supporters say the current debate between the two is, in essence, no debate at all.

"A lot of this has been blown up around a very small point" that should make little difference to gay voters, said Chai Feldblum, a Georgetown University Law School professor who helped craft the legislation that evolved into ENDA.

"Bradley's position is absolutely correct as a matter of general philosophy," Feldblum said. "His position on gay rights and non-discrimination is clear and correct that there should be federal protections.

"After that, it becomes a very 'inside the Beltway' conversation about whether to [ban discrimination] through a free-standing bill or amending the civil rights act, but the result is the very same thing."

But for others, the question of whether sexual orientation should be covered under the same law as other characteristics targeted for discrimination strikes at the core of how to view different aspects of identity.

Martin Ornelas-Quintero, executive director of the National Latino/a Lesbian & Gay Organization (LLEGO), said his organization hasn't taken a position on whether to advocate strictly for ENDA or to support opening the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

But Ornelas-Quintero said the argument that opening the Civil Rights Act to add protection for sexual orientation could weaken protections for other minorities places him in a difficult position.

"For us as queer people of color, it places us in the position of

having to focus either on our ethnicity or our sexual orientation," he said. "For the long-term, it would behoove the LGBT community to be in the Civil Rights Act, but is that going to happen in the short-term? Not with this Congress.

"But I don't want to be in the position of saying my orientation has to get in the back of the bus, while my ethnicity has every right to sit at the front of the bus," Ornelas-Quintero said.

'Separate but equal'?

In the interview with the gay magazine the Advocate that started the recent debate, Bradley said he supports expanding the Civil Rights Act because "that would clearly indicate that discrimination against gays is in the same category as discrimination against other protected groups."

Yet according to Feldblum, the idea that gay people lose something by not being included in the landmark civil rights bill "is as bullshit an argument as to say that we would gain something major if we were put in."

"Does anyone for a second think that discrimination on the basis of disability is different, because it is addressed in the free-standing Americans with Disabilities Act?" she asked. "The key question is, 'Is there a federal policy against discrimination?'"

Frank turned hostile at a question from Southern Voice about whether protecting gays in a separate bill might be interpreted as a "second class" status.

"In what sense? You are thinking in irrelevant categories! How does it make it second class to give it entirely the same protections?" he said.

"Did you ever suggest that ENDA was second class status before Bill Bradley decided to run for president? Why does Bill Bradley change all of that?"

And yet the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, the national organization fighting for gay civil rights in the courts, found legal significance in where within federal legislation gay protections are located.

"I definitely, on Lambda's behalf, have been one voice in this who has balked somewhat at the notion that you really send the correct message if you take the initiative to prohibit sexual orientation discrimination, but then do so in a completely separate manner than other forms of discrimination," said Beatrice Dohrn, Lambda's legal director.

"I have always felt that plays a little to the 'not quite fully equal' notion I think unfortunately a lot of people have," she said.

Dohrn stressed that she is not dismissing the political strategy argument for ENDA because "it's a very important thing to actually get some of this protection passed." Yet "ENDA hasn't passed," she noted.

Still, Frank bristles when asked if the different bills could be seen as setting up a "separate but equal" system of justice for gay people.

"'Separate but equal' is the wrong phrase; it had to do with the segregation of school children. It had to do with in what building you attended school. This has to do with a different federal bill," he said.

"What difference does that make in anybody's life?"

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

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

CREATION DATE/TIME:30-NOV-1999 09:21:31.00

SUBJECT: Articles 11.30.99

TO: eop.gov (eop.gov [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

1. IOWA STATE DAILY Letter about gay sex in the animal kingdom from Articles reader Alan Light
2. DENVER POST Domestic partner registry a victory for gays, elderly
3. ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION Four letters about Baptists and the military
4. DES MOINES REGISTER Letter from Articles reader Daniel Jenkins: Homosexuality is natural
5. DES MOINES REGISTER Column: Governor Vilsack's executive order kicks anti-gay hysteria into overdrive
6. DES MOINES REGISTER Gary Bauer and Reggie White to attend rally tonight attacking Vilsack's order on gays

IOWA STATE DAILY, November 30, 1999

108 Hamilton Hall, Ames, Ia., 50011

(E-MAIL: letters@www.daily.iastate.edu) (<http://www.daily.iastate.edu/>)

Letter: Gay animals

A provocative new book about gay animals is challenging the belief that homosexuality is an aberration of nature.

"Biological Exuberance," a ground-breaking review of homosexuality in the wild kingdom, documents hundreds of cases of mammals and birds enthusiastically engaging in sex and long-term relationships with members of the same sex.

The list of homosexual creatures, according to author and biologist Bruce

Bagemihl, would fill Noah's Ark: apes and monkeys, dolphins and whales, giraffes, zebras, warthogs and woodpeckers.

Lesbian gulls mated for life and raised chicks together. Male manatees splashed around in group orgies.

In all, the 751 page book ? which took 10 years to research and write ? notes 471 species, including fish and insects, that exhibit varying types of homosexual behavior.

It challenges the notion that homosexuality is unnatural.

Like human homosexual behavior, animal homosexual behavior takes many different forms.

In addition to sex, there are unique mating and courtship rituals, gestures of loving affection, long-term pair-bonding and even gay parenting.

Two gay griffin vultures at the Jerusalem Zoo, Doshik and Yehuda, are now raising their second "foster" chick, which they incubated by taking turns on the nest just like a heterosexual couple.

Throughout much of recorded history, the charge of "unnaturalness" ? including the claim that homosexuality does not occur in animals ? has been used to justify prejudice against gay people.

This book is valuable because it proves that homosexuality is indeed a natural and normal part of life.

? Alan L. Light, Resident, Iowa City [LightAlan@aol.com]

Denver Post, November 30, 1999
650 15th Street, Denver, CO, 80202
(Fax 303-820-1369) (E-MAIL: Letters@denverpost.com)
(<http://www.denverpost.com>)

Registry a victory for gays, elderly
By Susan Greene, Denver Post Staff Writer

In a long-awaited victory for the city's gay, lesbian and elderly communities, the Denver City Council approved a registry for committed, unmarried couples Monday.

"This takes us a step closer to not being second-class citizens," said Denverite Suzanne Banning, who celebrated the council vote with her companion of five years, Bridget Brophy.

"It's way past due," added Jim McNulty, who hopes that he and his partner, Tery Lenover, will be "the first in line" to record their 22-year relationship when the registry starts. That is expected in early February.

Monday's unanimous council vote followed no public opposition and elicited a rare standing ovation from dozens of supporters sporting pink "I Do" stickers.

Denver's registry will be the second of its kind in Colorado, modeled after similar programs in Boulder, the state of California and 35 cities in 25 states nationwide.

To qualify, each member of the couple must be unmarried, at least 18 years old and sharing the same household with a partner who is not a blood relative. The city's clerk and recorder's office will charge a \$25 filing fee to cover administrative costs.

Couples will be required to notify the clerk's office if their partnerships dissolve.

Filing with the registry won't qualify as a marriage or commonlaw marriage, nor will it affect inheritance rights. But proponents say it will

serve both practical and symbolic purposes.

Denverites will be able to certify their partnerships to qualify for insurance benefits that some entities ? including United Airlines, Coors and

Denver city government ? offer to "domestic partners" of their workers. The

registry will give those employers an objective standard indicating that couples are in such relationships.

Proponents also hope it will help advance rights when it comes to visiting partners in the hospital or making medical decisions on their

behalf.

"They're basic freedoms we've been fighting for for years," McNulty said.

The registry will allow same-sex unions to be acknowledged, if only nominally, by local government. It will similarly recognize senior couples who choose not to marry because they would lose Social Security or other benefits.

"Many couples who live together often have personal relationships and bonds that are as strong as those of married couples and who nurture and care for one another in sickness and in health," the ordinance reads.

The registry has been endorsed by Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, several gay and lesbian groups, the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado, the Colorado National Organization for Women, Seniors Inc. and the Colorado Senior Lobby.

"This is a statement that we accept all committed relationships in the city," said Ed Thomas, one of the council members who have been working toward starting a registry for the past several years.

"It's a matter of human dignity," added Councilwoman Ramona Martinez.

But not all council members are thrilled with the new city service. Councilman Ted Hackworth ? who, along with Councilwoman Joyce Foster, was absent from Monday's vote ? called the proposal a "worthless piece of legislation."

"To me, there's no value to this at all," he said. "It's not a legally binding document and therefore can't be used to prove anything to anybody. And so, I'm suspicious about what the deal is on this thing."

In other action Monday, the council approved an ordinance that will slap \$75 fines on drivers who run red lights and are caught by the city's photo radar system. Drivers caught speeding will continue to face \$40 fines.

Atlanta Journal-Constitution, November 27, 1999
72 Marietta Street NW, Atlanta, GA, 30303
(Fax 404-526-5746) (E-MAIL: journal@ajc.com)
(Sunday Letters Section: sunday@ajc.com) (<http://www.accessatlanta.com>)
Letter: No better, no worse

Diane Dopwell (Faith & Values, Nov. 20) . . . lumps homosexuals with prostitutes, alcoholics, child molesters, adulterers, fornicators, liars, killers and criminals. I am outraged at this totally inaccurate inclusion of homosexuals with people who range from perverted (child molesters) to deadly and dangerous (killers) to just plain pitiful (prostitutes).

Dopwell is either totally misguided or simply stupid if she believes that gays and lesbians should be listed along with folks who often represent the flotsam and jetsam of our society.

Homosexual, according to Webster, is "of or relating to sexual attraction toward others of the same sex." It is NOT of or relating to prostitution, alcoholism, child molestation, adultery, fornicating, lying, killing, or being a criminal.

Dopwell needs to get out in the real world and see what homosexuals are all about! She will find that they are all about the same things that heterosexuals are all about, because both groups are human beings.

For the record, I am heterosexual; that makes me no better and no worse than homosexuals, just different in my sexual preference.

? E. Clay Terry, Atlanta

Letter: World's view not biblical (November 28, 1999)

To be clear, the charges against Oakhurst Baptist Church weren't that they had "homosexuals in their midst." It was that they allowed and encouraged homosexuals to be in leadership positions in their church in clear

defiance of biblical teaching. The argument that God "made" men homosexual is an old one. God also made psychopaths and pedophiles and alcoholics and wife beaters, but that certainly doesn't mean we should allow them to lead our churches. Do Southern Baptist churches have sinners in leadership positions? Of course. Recall that the Rev. Charles Stanley of First Baptist

Church here in Atlanta was asked to step down as pastor if his wife divorced

him. We treat homosexuality the same way, because God says it is sin.

The charge that if you don't allow homosexuals into "full participation"

in your church you are somehow "bigoted" or you don't "love everyone" is based on the secular world's view of acceptance and is not biblical. If the

Rev. Lanny Peters and his congregation really feel that way, I find it interesting that they would fight so hard to remain a part of an organization

that holds those views. They should be glad to no longer be associated with

us bigoted Southern Baptists.

? WAYNE CONARD

Conard, of Canton, works for a major corporation in new business development.

Letter: Pastor courageous

My congratulations to the Rev. Lanny Peters for his courageous, outspoken

stance against the Georgia Baptist Convention ("Chief concern is fidelity to

the word of God," Viewpoints, Nov. 21). I left the Baptist church back in the 1960s because of the convention's narrow vision and its selective interpretation of the Bible. It wasn't an easy decision because the person I

loved best in the world, my grandfather, was a Baptist preacher. But Granddaddy understood. He embraced and respected everyone, regardless of race, religion, economic status or private behavior. That the convention rejected so many people who don't fit into its vision of what "Baptist" meant

was the greatest disappointment of his life.

Peters' willingness to speak gently but honestly was profoundly touching.

And I thank him for keeping alive the flame of kindness and understanding

that my granddaddy carried, back when the convention actively supported segregation. Like Peters, I consider myself a "baptist," but I'm definitely not a "Baptist."

? DAPHNA GREGG

Gregg, a free-lance medical writer, lives in Atlanta.

Letter: Soldiers on battlefield not thinking of sex (November 29, 1999)

Lucien Lane, in his Nov. 22 rebuttal to the New Attitudes column on gays in the military, was typical of so many people who are against something they

only know through stereotyping, self-instilled fear and paranoia. Lane asserts that American Indians "lost virtually all their lands and other possessions" because they lacked discipline. Interesting perspective. I suppose the fact that the "invaders" had superior weaponry and far outnumbered the Indians is irrelevant.

What makes Lane think anyone is "lusting" for someone else during battle?

Survival is a much more powerful instinct in the human species than is the sex drive. If my life is on the line, the last thing I'm thinking about is

satisfying my sexual urges. And if I'm critically injured, I don't care who

? gay or straight ? saves my life.

If people want to serve their country, why would you want to deny them? Get over it.

? KURT JOHNSON

Johnson, a data analyst, lives in Duluth.

DES MOINES REGISTER, November 24, 1999

Box 957, Des Moines, Ia., 50304

(Fax 515-286-2511) (E-MAIL: letters@news.dmreg.com)

Letter: HOMOSEXUALITY IS NATURAL

Michael Hartwig wrote that "nature tells us that [homosexuality] is unnatural" (Nov. 24 letter). Homosexuality is as natural for gay people as heterosexuality is for those who are straight.

Sexuality (gay, bi or straight) has always existed in nature and is a perfectly normal variant of the human condition. It is not nature, but something wholly unnatural that tells Hartwig to believe being gay is wrong.

It is his religion that promotes the myth that gays choose their sexuality or

can be cured from it. It is his religion that narrowly defines gays by the act of sodomy rather than by their inherent nature. It is also his religion

that turns a blind eye to sodomy when practiced by heterosexuals as well as to celibate gays, such as those who have entered the priesthood.

Nature embraces and accepts homosexuality. It is religion, a construct of man meant to explain away nature through belief in mythical beings with majestic powers, that doesn't embrace it.

? Daniel Patrick Jenkins, 5213 W. 11th St., Greeley, Colorado 80634
[danny@queernet.org]

DES MOINES REGISTER, November 24, 1999
Box 957, Des Moines, Ia., 50304
(Fax 515-286-2511) (E-MAIL: letters@news.dmreg.com)
VILSACK'S ORDER KICKS ANTI-GAY HYSTERIA INTO OVERDRIVE
by Rob Borsellino

Stealing, cursing, fighting: none of that was a big deal when I was growing up. Everybody did it. Same thing for drinking and wife beating. Guys would get loaded and smack the old lady around a little and nobody got too crazy about it. No reason to call the cops. That was between you and the wife.

Gambling, running numbers, fencing stolen stuff: that was like our stock market. It was all part of the culture, just like racism, anti-semitism and a whole bunch of other isms that make me cringe just to think about.

The Irish beat on the Italians, the Italians beat on the Puerto Ricans, the Puerto Ricans beat on the blacks and everybody beat on the Jews.

There were only two things beyond forgiveness. First, there were girls who slept around. We had an entire vocabulary for those girls ? Italian words, Yiddish words, English and a combination of all three.

But the worst thing was being gay. You wanted to hurt somebody, you called him a homo. And then the fists would fly.

I didn't really know any openly gay people. But I was ready to gay-bash with a vengeance if the occasion called for it.

Then somewhere along the line I got out of my comfort zone and started hanging around with folks who had more than an eight-grade education. I met musicians and actors and guys and gals who were poets and dancers. Some of them were gay. And among those gays there were folks who were scam artists, junkies, the typical mix.

In that respect, gays were like any other group ? socialists, Republicans, Christians, atheists. Any group you can imagine will have its share of losers. But most of the gay and lesbian people I came across were normal folks trying to get through the day, go home at night and be with their loved ones.

That was the end of my gay-hating phase. For 25 years or so I never gave gays and lesbians much thought. I had my own problems.

Then I moved to Iowa and I was reminded that homosexuality is a problem.

A big problem ? in the schools, in the churches, in the workplace.

We've got gays running for the school board who must be weeded out. We've got gay ministers who must be banished. Gay marriages? Not a problem here, but let's pass laws that make it illegal.

Then there's the problem of gays in the workplace, particularly these so-called transgendered types ? which is a fancy name for folks who think they were born in the wrong body.

Gay-bashing is one of the few growth industries in this state. People are moving here and making a living off this. Gay and lesbian people who were born and raised here are being driven out, moving to the coasts and

taking their talents with them. It's not a healthy situation on either end.

And any effort to deal with this in a sane, rational way is met with more anti-gay hysteria.

A couple of months ago the governor signed an order saying folks wouldn't face job discrimination if they're gay. He included the transgendered. It's limited to the executive branch of state government. It's a small step, mostly symbolic. The reaction?

Tonight there's a rally to whip up opposition to the governor's order. It's being put together by the usual suspects ? Bill Horn and Reggie White, guys with a lot of time on their hands. They're bringing in Gary Bauer, a presidential candidate who had to call a press conference recently to say he's not cheating on his wife.

So they'll gather and they'll make their speeches and they'll talk about Jesus and the Bible and they'll push all the right buttons. But when it's over, I don't think any one of them will have been as eloquent as the woman who spoke at the Des Moines City Council meeting last year when they debated a gay rights ordinance.

Linda Christensen, the mother of a gay man, told the council: "I didn't know how to have a relationship with God, where you hate the sin but love the sinner, because having lived with my son for 18 years and knowing him, there is no part of my child that I could hate."

We could have used a Linda Christensen in the old neighborhood.

Rob Borsellino can be reached at borsellinor@news.dmreg.com or (515) 284-8102.

Des Moines Register, November 30, 1999

**BAUER WILL ATTEND RALLY TONIGHT ATTACKING VILSACK RULE ON GAYS
DEMOCRATS CHARGE THE CANDIDATE IS MEDDLING IN IOWA'S STATE AFFAIRS.**

By David Yepsen, Register Staff Writer

A rally protesting Gov. Tom Vilsack's executive order on gay rights, scheduled for tonight in Des Moines, is drawing fire from Democratic activists.

Conservative leader Gary Bauer, a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, and former professional football player Reggie White

are scheduled to attend the rally at 7 p.m. at the Hotel Fort Des Moines.

The rally is sponsored by anti-gay rights activist Bill Horn of Altoona and his Straight From The Heart Ministries.

At issue is an executive order signed by Vilsack that bans discrimination in executive branch state agencies on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Horn, in a statement issued Monday, said the order "is a big political payoff to the governor's transvestite and cross-dresser supporters and I am shocked that this small group of people should have so much influence over

the governor of the state of Iowa."

Horn said the order makes Iowa the first state in the nation to provide special protection, based on gender identity, for individuals seeking a state

government job, and he said Vilsack "did it with the stroke of his pen."

Vilsack has said other states provide similar protections. The

governor

said state government shouldn't care about the private lives of its employees.

Horn said Monday "this was out of touch with mainstream America and their

values."

Earlier in the campaign, Bauer criticized Vilsack for the order. His decision to attend the rally is seen as part of his effort to try to mobilize

social conservatives for the Jan. 24 Iowa presidential caucuses.

Bauer said earlier in the campaign, "Iowans are experiencing another example of executive orders run amuck. Gov. Vilsack has joined the ranks of

his friend Bill Clinton by working to impose a set of values without allowing

the people or their representatives to decide on their own."

Randall Palmer, chairman of the gay and lesbian caucus of the Iowa Democratic Party, issued a statement Monday saying the rally is "nothing more

than a long-shot presidential candidate and his celebrity supporter meddling

in state government matters."

Palmer said the order "is about state government jobs and allowing experienced people to keep their jobs. It's about building Iowa's workforce

and prohibiting discrimination against qualified workers."

"Gary Bauer should focus his campaign on national issues and quit interfering in state government," Palmer said. "It is none of his business who the State of Iowa employs."

Winchell was the first service member believed killed because of his sexual orientation since Oct. 25, 1992, when Navy Petty Officer Alan Schindler was beaten to death by two shipmates on the USS Belleau Wood. The case has attracted national attention because Winchell also was the first service member killed on a U.S. military base as a result of alleged anti-gay violence since the Pentagon instituted its "don't ask, don't

tell, don't pursue" policy on homosexuals in the military in 1994.

President Clinton formulated the controversial policy, a compromise with conservatives in Congress who oppose letting gays serve openly in the military. The measure lets gay men and lesbians stay in uniform as long as they keep quiet about their sexual orientation. It forbids commanders from asking about service members' sex life or conducting anti-gay "witch hunts."

Though the policy might have been designed to help gays, the number of troops discharged for homosexual conduct is higher than before the rule took effect. So is the number of incidents of anti-gay harassment, which rose nearly 120% from 183 cases in 1997 to 400 last year, according to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a Washington-based gay advocacy group.

The Pentagon has "not held commanders accountable for the climate in their units," says C. Dixon Osburn, co-executive director of the network. Winchell "faced anti-gay harassment every single day for four months preceding (his death), and his supervisors knew the harassment was happening and did nothing to stop it."

A native of Kansas City, Mo., Winchell was reportedly the best marksman in his company, and friends say he wanted to become the best helicopter pilot in the Army. Winchell's dedication to soldiering, however, did little to alleviate the gay-baiting taunts that prosecutors say set the scene for his killing.

"Military members are generally intolerant to homosexual conduct," says former Marine Corps pilot Charles Gittins, a military defense lawyer who is not involved in the Winchell case. "It's a fact of life that the warrior ethos does not include an understanding of same-sex relationships. It just doesn't go with the macho military."

At first, the Army said that Winchell died as the result of nothing more than an altercation between two soldiers. Pressure from gay-rights groups forced investigators to delve further. Prosecutors now acknowledge that Winchell might have been killed at least in part because he was gay.

At pretrial hearings this summer, witnesses said Winchell's fellow soldiers, including supervisors, taunted him constantly after Fisher told their section leader that a soldier had been seen at a gay nightclub in Nashville. He did not identify the soldier.

The section leader, Sgt. Michael Kleifgen, testified under oath that he and another sergeant asked all soldiers in the company where they had been that weekend.

After eliminating everyone else, Kleifgen said, "I asked Winchell if he was gay.

"He said no."

Kleifgen's admission that he violated the "don't ask" part of the policy

by questioning Winchell about his sexuality brought gasps from gay-rights activists in the courtroom.

The sergeant testified he made no attempt to stop the verbal abuse. "Everybody was having fun," he said.

The taunting soon turned violent. Two days before the killing, Glover got into a fistfight with Winchell. Winchell won the brawl easily. Soon after, Glover found himself being taunted for losing a fight to a gay man. He allegedly told another soldier, "I won't let a faggot kick my ass."

Prosecutors say Glover made good on his threat the next night, after a keg party outside the barracks on the Fourth of July weekend. According to the charges, Glover took a baseball bat and pummeled Winchell as he slept on his cot. He was later seen running away. Investigators found bloodstained clothes in Glover's room.

The killing has had a chilling effect at Fort Campbell, says Rhonda White of the Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice in Memphis. Several gay soldiers have quit the Army because "they're afraid," she says. "Harassment is a constant. The words 'queer' and 'faggot' are used very frequently and the taunting, teasing of gay and non-gay soldiers with those words is encouraged by their superiors."

Winchell's killing also has spurred change. Days after Glover's pretrial hearing in August, the Pentagon issued guidelines clarifying its "don't ask, don't tell" policy. They include anti-harassment training for all troops.

In October, President Clinton signed an executive order adding stiffer penalties for hate crimes in the military, including those against lesbians and gays. The order would not apply to Glover because he was charged before the order was signed. If convicted, he faces the possibility of life in prison.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: LGBT Activists List <Doug.Case@sdsu.edu> (LGBT Activists List <Doug.Case@sdsu.edu> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 7-DEC-1999 01:42:06.00

SUBJECT: The real McCain?

TO: queerpolitics@abacus.oxy.edu (queerpolitics@abacus.oxy.edu [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
Washington Blade
December 3, 1999
<http://www.washblade.com>

The real McCain?
Presidential candidate's words are at odds with voting record

by Nick Napolitano

U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona, who in recent months has emerged as a serious contender for the Republican Party's presidential nomination, is often portrayed as a man of principle, a man who would buck the expectations of his party to do what he thinks is right. He isn't afraid to call a spade a spade, which excites many, from those opposing the influence of "soft money" on elections to those seeking greater accountability for the tobacco industry.

But for all his vaunted candor and "tell it like it is" reputation, in many ways McCain remains an enigma, especially to those attempting to understand his stances on Gay issues. While he has an avowed "visceral dislike" of discrimination, which presumably includes discrimination against Gays, he has consistently chosen to vote anti-Gay. His actions over the years have likewise sent mixed messages to Gay voters.

He agreed to be the keynote speaker for an anti-Gay group in 1993, but the speech he delivered was a cry for tolerance. Along with 70 other senators, he signed a 1994 pledge to oppose anti-Gay discrimination in their Congressional offices. Two months later, he voted to pass a bill that bars federal funding for school districts that teach acceptance of homosexuality. Most recently he met with Log Cabin Republican leaders and vowed to help end all forms of discrimination, but, immediately after the meeting, McCain's spokesperson told the Blade that the senator would not change any of his opposition to legislation in such areas as employment discrimination, hate crimes prevention, or domestic partnership.

For some, like openly Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), the answer to this enigma is quite simple.

"McCain is a thousand percent anti-Gay," he recently told Vanity Fair.

McCain's voting record, at least, seems to bear out such strident criticism.

The Arizona senator voted against the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, objected to adding sexual orientation to the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, supported the Defense of Marriage Act, and opposes Gay adoption. While another prominent Arizona Republican, the late Barry Goldwater, told the world in a 1993 letter to the Washington Post, "You don't have to be straight to shoot straight," McCain was at the forefront of a movement to completely ban Gays from the military.

In August 1993, he outraged Gay civil rights groups and his fellow Arizonans when he delivered the keynote address at a fundraiser for the Oregon Citizens Alliance, a group which the previous year had sponsored a ballot initiative condemning homosexuality as "perverse."

And just last year McCain told a vicious joke seen by many as thinly veiled homophobia: "Why is Chelsea Clinton so ugly?" he reportedly asked his Republican colleagues at a Senate fundraiser. "Because her father is Janet Reno."

"John McCain has never in any way, shape, or form been supportive of Gay, Lesbian, and bisexual issues," Frank told the Blade. When asked about McCain's meeting with Log Cabin, and his willingness to maintain a dialogue with Gay groups, Frank's reply was pure derision.

"I would hope that we were long past the stage where someone treating Gay people civilly would be any big deal."

Others offer a slightly more nuanced, if hopeful, portrayal of the would-be Republican president.

"I think he is poorly educated on some issues," openly Gay Arizona state legislator Steve May told his state's Gay publication, Echo Magazine. "But I think he can be educated, and he would change."

Gay activist and Echo columnist Jeff Ostedahl, who once named McCain Echo's "Turkey of the Year," is now more sympathetic to his senator.

"I've changed a lot since I named McCain my 'Turkey of the Year' six years ago," Ofstedahl told the Blade. "Why wouldn't I afford him the same room for personal growth on our issues?"

May, meanwhile, is quick to remind McCain naysayers that "some of our best friends today were not our friends when they began their careers."

It is this faith that deep down McCain abhors discrimination and will slowly be won over to the Gay cause that allows the senator's Gay supporters to overlook his anti-Gay voting record.

"It's very easy for people to say they're going to pass a bill that will solve everything," said Log Cabin spokesman Kevin Ivers, who dismissed Frank's remarks as partisan politics. "It's more important to have a person who really believes in their heart that discrimination has to end."

McCain's supporters are also quick to mention his strong history of support for AIDS issues, especially his efforts to repeal an anti-Gay amendment to the 1997 Defense Authorization bill that sought to ban HIV-positive soldiers with less than 15 years experience from serving in the armed forces. He was also a co-sponsor of the 1990 Ryan White CARE Act and supported legislation that offered assistance to Native Americans and infants with HIV. And according to Ivers, McCain personally saw to it that his state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program received emergency state funding when federal funds dried up.

On the flip side, he voted to ban those with HIV from permanently immigrating to the United States and co-sponsored a bill to ban the use of federal funds for needle exchange programs.

To his credit, many would point out that McCain showed support for May, U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.), and the Republican mayor of Tempe, Neil Guiliano, when they came out as Gay in 1996.

"Speaking for myself," Guiliano told Echo, "I support John McCain as a matter of speaking for personal loyalty and respect for a man who could have distanced himself from me, but he didn't. He is a man of principle. He has stood by me and always has been a supporter." McCain endorsed Guiliano's '98 mayoral campaign and was reportedly among the first to approach Kolbe after his coming out to assure him they were still on good terms. Kolbe currently serves on the McCain campaign's national steering committee.

So who is the real McCain? Someone who offers his voice to the Gay community but not his vote? Or an honest and good-hearted man who, as his Gay consciousness is gradually raised, will increasingly lend his vote (and perhaps his veto) to Gay causes?

The guarded optimism of Gay civil rights groups like the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Human Rights Campaign provides a synthesis of the two.

"I obviously welcome the recognition that discrimination should be eliminated," said NGLTF political director Rebecca Isaacs. "I always believe people can change if they're interested and willing to learn and really care."

But Isaacs ultimately concluded, "I'm always suspicious when people have broad gestures that don't have specific policy measures attached to them."

Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign, said that she is heartened by the presence of Gay staffers on the McCain campaign and by the senator's promise, made in an interview with the San Francisco Examiner, to include Gay people in his administration. But she said she is also concerned that his voting record "does not suggest someone who is supportive of the Gay and Lesbian community."

Still, she mused, "If Barry Goldwater can understand that there was no Gay exemption to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, then Sen. McCain

can see his way to that principle as well."

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: LGBT Activists List <Doug.Case@sdsu.edu> (LGBT Activists List <Doug.Case@sdsu.edu> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 7-DEC-1999 01:24:37.00

SUBJECT: Two gay NYC councilmembers endorse Bradley

TO: queerpolitics@abacus.oxy.edu (queerpolitics@abacus.oxy.edu [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Associated Press, December 2, 1999

POLITICS 2000 NOTEBOOK

NEW YORK (AP) -- In one of the first salvos in what likely will be a hard-fought battle for gay support in the New York Democratic presidential primary next year, two gay City Council members Thursday endorsed Bill Bradley for president.

Margarita Lopez and Phil Reed, both first-term Democrats, said Bradley's positions on social issues, as well as gay and lesbian concerns, made the former senator from New Jersey superior to Vice President Al Gore as a candidate.

The council members said Bradley's call for abolishing the "don't ask, don't tell" rule regarding homosexuals in the U.S. military and his support of federal domestic partner benefits helped tip the scale in his favor.

Bradley voted in 1993 for a Senate amendment to lift the military's ban on gays. But Congress passed □ and President Clinton signed into law □ the "don't ask, don't tell" policy that allows gays to serve as long as their sexuality remained a secret.

In this campaign season, Gore only has said the current policy has led to too many unfair discharges of gays from the military and should be implemented with "more compassion."

Associated Press Writer Marc Humbert contributed to this report.

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

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

CREATION DATE/TIME: 8-DEC-1999 22:03:00.00

SUBJECT: Articles 12.8.99.4

TO: "undisclosed-recipients:,"@eop.gov ("undisclosed-recipients:,"@eop.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

1. SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS Letter: Can't get married? Better get a durable power of attorney for health care.
2. THE AGE (Australia) Victoria police to track crimes on gays
3. SYDNEY MORNING HERALD (Australia) RuPaul becomes spokes-diva for WebEx
(Tag line: "Meetings can be such a drag.")
4. ASSOCIATED PRESS Soldier found guilty of murdering Pfc. Barry Winchell
5. DAILY NEBRASKAN Gay community contributions to be recognized by new award
6. TROY (NY) RECORD Editorial: Shenendehowa officials acted responsibly by adding sexual orientation to the school's non-discrimination policy

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS, December 8, 1999
750 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA, 95190
(Fax 408-471-3792) (E-MAIL: letters@sjmercury.com)
(<http://www.mercurycenter.com/>)
Letter: In case of emergency

I agree with and applaud most of what Joanne Jacobs said in her commentary about the Knight Initiative and gay marriage (Opinion, Dec. 6). But there is one bit of misinformation that should be corrected.

Jacobs said that gay couples "can't make medical decisions for each other in an emergency." This is not true if they do what everybody who is 18 years of age and older and is competent should do: Make out an advance directive. Specifically in California, this is a "durable power of attorney for health care."

In this document, each person would name the other as "agent" to make health care decisions in the event she was not capable of giving informed consent to health care decisions. The document also allows people to say what treatments or procedures they would or would not like to have ? and under what circumstances.

Patient rights and values must be protected to the full extent of the law.

? Betsy Carpenter, Counselor, Older Adult Resource Center, El Camino Hospital, Los Altos

The Age, 8 December 1999
250 Spencer Street, Melbourne, 3000. Australia.
(Fax: + 61-3-9601-2414) (E-mail: letters@theage.fairfax.com.au)

(<http://www.theage.com.au>)

Police to track crimes on gays.

By DARRIN FARRANT

Victoria Police will collect specific data on attacks on homosexuals for the first time in a bid to reduce violence against gay men and lesbians.

A police liaison officer for gays and lesbians will also be introduced next year as the force tries to improve its treatment of women and minority groups.

Gay rights groups yesterday welcomed the initiatives, saying they should help to repair trust between police and the state's gay community.

Starting early next year, the police's central database for reported crimes will include information on whether the crime was connected to homophobia.

The president of the gay rights group, Also Foundation, Mr Adam Pickvance, said the decision to collect data should mean an end to claims that there is virtually no violence against homosexuals.

"The impact of this will be enormous ... just two or three months ago, there were three bashings in the Prahran area in six to eight weeks," he said.

The initiatives follow the release of the Latta report in February, which found the police's equal opportunity and diversity policies needed to be overhauled.

The Chief Commissioner, Mr Neil Comrie, said that while it may take time, police were already starting to make some improvements.

The percentage of women recruits has jumped this year to about 30 per cent ? only about 14 per cent of sworn members are female ? and many internal barriers to the promotion of women had been removed.

Police were also improving their liaison with minority groups, such as Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. A working group with the gay and lesbian community has begun operations.

Yesterday senior officers, including Mr Comrie, completed a training and education program about equal opportunity and diversity.

Sydney Morning Herald newspaper.

Sydney, Australia.

9th December, 1999.

For sashay cachet, RuPaul's no drag
GLAMOUR

RuPaul, New York's inimitable drag queen diva, has agreed to become the spokesperson for an Internet software company.

RuPaul was last spotted serving as a spokesperson for a brand of lipstick

? specifically, a yummy little colour called Viva Glam.

Dressed in skintight PVC and platforms, she appeared on catwalks and in ads in honour of the make-up line, and the proceeds went to AIDS awareness.

That was a few years ago, and times have changed. Starting this week,

RuPaul will also be the new spokesperson for a company called WebEx, the "leading service provider of multimedia infrastructure for real-time collaboration".

(If you want that in English: WebEx provides the computer systems for online meetings.)

It may seem a stretch to imagine a 201cm drag queen as the celebrity spokesperson for an Internet software company, but this is 1999, and WebEx just received \$US25 million (A\$39 million) in funding. According to WebEx press releases, almost all of that money will go straight into an ad campaign. Therefore some chunk of it, we can only assume, goes to RuPaul. The tag line: "Meetings are such a drag." Get it?

The idea of being a dot-com spokesdiva hardly evokes sequin-and-stiletto glamour, but who can blame RuPaul for cashing in on the Internet hype? After all, she's not the only celeb benefiting from Internet ads and dot-com endorsements paid for by companies with fat marketing budgets.

Alanis Morissette set the standard earlier this year with her endorsement of online music distributor MP3.com, receiving 650,000 shares of MP3.com stock at US\$33c per share in exchange for letting the company sponsor her tour (the total value of those shares yesterday: \$US23.4 million).
? Salon

Associated Press, December 8, 1999

Soldier Found Guilty of Murder

By JAMES PRICHARD

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP) ? An Army private was found guilty of premeditated murder Wednesday for bludgeoning to death a fellow soldier in a beating prosecutors said was motivated by his hatred of homosexuals.

Pvt. Calvin N. Glover, 18, was convicted of using a baseball bat to crush Pfc. Barry Winchell's skull as he slept on a cot at their Fort Campbell barracks on July 5. The military jury deliberated for little more than an hour.

A sentencing hearing for Glover, who is from Sulphur, Okla., was set for Thursday. The conviction carries a mandatory penalty of life in prison, and jurors will decide whether he will ever be eligible for parole.

Glover showed no reaction as the verdict was read. His mother, Kathy Roundtree, started weeping moments later.

Defense attorneys argued that another soldier, Spec. Justin R. Fisher, 25, who is charged as an accessory, goaded Glover into the attack.

Before the start of the court-martial, Glover admitted to a lesser charge of unpremeditated murder in hopes of receiving a lighter sentence. But prosecutor Capt. Gregg Engler went ahead with the court-martial on the more serious charge of premeditated murder.

When he offered his plea, Glover sobbed and said he did not know why he hit the Winchell "at least two or three times" with a bat.

"I wasn't really mad at him, sir. It was just a mistake, sir. I was really drunk," Glover told the judge.

During the trial, Staff Sgt. Michael Kleifgen testified that Fisher started spreading rumors in March among members of their unit that Winchell, of Kansas City, Mo., was gay. Fisher often harassed Winchell and once, during a scuffle, struck him with a dustpan, Kleifgen said. Winchell needed stitches in his head.

Kleifgen, their section leader at the time, said he regularly spoke with Fisher and Winchell about their differences. The problems continued, however, so the matter was presented to a first sergeant, he said.

"He said, basically, there was nothing we could do because of the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy," Kleifgen said, referring to the military's policy on homosexuals.

He said he also got nowhere pursuing the issue with the company commander and filed a complaint with the post's inspector general. It was not immediately clear what happened to that complaint.

Under the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, gay members of the military can continue to serve ? and their superiors cannot investigate and expel them ? as long as they keep their sexual orientation to themselves.

On Tuesday, Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said the Defense Department is designing training programs to ensure understanding of the policy.

Fisher, who is from Lincoln, Neb., is to be court-martialed on Monday.

Fort Campbell is on the Kentucky-Tennessee state line about 50 miles northwest of Nashville, Tenn.

Daily Nebraskan, December 8, 1999

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(<http://www.dailyneb.com>)

Gay community contributions to be recognized by new award

By Margaret Behm, Staff writer

People or organizations that have helped the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community can be nominated for the first annual GLBT award to be given by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"This award is to recognize people who try to create a more respectable,

safe and inclusive environment for GLBT people," said Pat Tetreault, sexuality education coordinator for the University Health Center and a member of the UNL Committee for GLBT Concerns.

Barbara DiBernard, co-chairwoman for the UNL Committee for GLBT Concerns, said this award is important because it shows appreciation for people who

make campus more accepting for GLBT students and faculty.

"This award shows that UNL values the GLBT community as a whole and appreciates the contributions of people to make this campus more equitable,"

DiBernard said.

The deadline for nominations is Jan. 31. Chancellor James Moeser will present the award March 27 in the Nebraska Union.

Kristin Grosskopf, a member of UNL's Committee for GLBT Concerns, said this award is important because it shows that UNL recognizes GLBT people and

the people who help them.

"There's a GLBT population on this campus," said Grosskopf, who is a graduate assistant in education physiology. "They are excluded by organizations, professors and course material."

Tetreault said people in the GLBT community face problems in society and on campus because of their sexual orientation.

"There are prejudices, discrimination and equality issues that exist for

GLBT people," Tetreault said, "not only in society but here at UNL."

Heterosexual people get privileges that GLBT people do not have, Tetreault said.

"There's a presumption that only heterosexuality is normal and acceptable," Tetreault said. "And there's privileges that go along with that."

Examples of this include the ability for gays and lesbians to talk freely

about their partner and be accepted, receive insurance benefits from their partner and marry legally, Tetreault said.

Members of the GLBT community also face dangers when they go out if their

sexual orientation is recognized, Tetreault said.

"Many GLBT people do not feel safe going out because of verbal threats and violence," Tetreault said.

"There's even violence towards people who are perceived as being GLBT."

Because of the issues GLBT people face, Grosskopf said, it's important to

recognize people who have made an effort to help and accept GLBT people.

"There are people who have gone to great strides to recognize GLBT people

on campus," Grosskopf said. "And we want to recognize people who have empowered and included GLBT people."

Troy Record, December 6, 1999

501 Broadway, Troy, NY, 12181

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(<http://www.troyrecord.com>)

Editorial: Shenendehowa officials acted responsibly

Officials at Shenendehowa High School have acted responsibly and quickly,

last week adopting a new harassment policy that adds sexual orientation to the list of offenses that won't be countenanced. That list already included,

race, ethnicity, religious beliefs and physical challenges as matters to be treated with sensitivity. Those policies came into effect in a natural evolution with the maturation of society, but it took a school groundsfight to get sexual orientation included in the non-harassment rules.

Chances are the officials at Shenendehowa wish the incident of a few months ago would just go away, but it didn't. What reportedly happened was that a group of male students had established a lengthy track record of insulting, verbally abusing and in general harassing a classmate who is homosexual.

Finally, the gay student says, the words escalated into physical intimidation, and when he was allegedly pushed into a car, a fight ensued.

Most accounts agree that the gay student was the most aggressive once the fight broke out and used a weapon in his defense.

School officials responded by for a brief period suspending the students who started the whole affair. But the student who was the original target has, in effect, lost half a school year, as he was suspended through January.

While suspensions were clearly in order, the decision to penalize the harassed more severely than those doing the harassing is, at best, questionable.

But at least the melee was not a meaningless fight, kids scuffling it out with the only result being a bloody nose or a couple of bruises.

Although school officials say the change in the harassment policy is simply a natural progression, there is little doubt in any minds that the new language was inserted as a direct result of the incident.

And it is a just change of language, even though, unfortunately, there will be those who say the language has no place in a school policy manual. The arguments against the changes bear no merit.

Implementing the policy does not indicate "approval" of gay students ? as if approval of a person's personal life is necessary.

Neither does it mean the school is "endorsing" or "promoting" what some refer to as a "lifestyle," as if all gay men and women could be lumped into a single group of people who always act a certain way under certain circumstances.

All the policy says is that some people are different from other people, but these differences are not a free ticket to verbally or physically abuse those who are not considered to be in the mainstream.

A board policy already in place states that students are expected to: "respect the rights of others and contribute toward establishing and maintaining an atmosphere that generates mutual respect and dignity for all."

And what that means is blacks, Hispanics, Catholics, Protestant, Jews and, yes, gays ? the diverse tapestry that is America ? are all covered by some very precious words we all know and should heed: "With liberty and justice for all."

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

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

CREATION DATE/TIME: 9-DEC-1999 21:18:46.00

SUBJECT: Articles 12.9.99.6

TO: "undisclosed-recipients:;"@eop.gov ("undisclosed-recipients:;"@eop.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

1. ASSOCIATED PRESS Glover gets life with possibility of parole in Winchell murder
2. PORTLAND OREGONIAN Letter from Articles reader Lee Coleman about support of gays in school
3. ASSOCIATED PRESS Hillary's against "don't ask, don't tell" but she would march in New York City's St. Patrick's Day parade
4. BRISBANE COURIER-MAIL (Australia) Queensland Liberal concerned over "extremist" anti-homosexual views, help ensure passage of same-sex de facto property laws
5. DESERET NEWS (Utah) Whiny letter: Gay group shouldn't whine

Associated Press, December 9, 1999

Soldier Gets Life With Parole

By JAMES PRICHARD

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP) ? An Army private was sentenced Thursday to life

in prison with the possibility of parole for bludgeoning to death a fellow soldier who had been rumored to be gay ? a case that gay rights activists said was a tragic failure of "don't ask, don't tell."

Pvt. Calvin N. Glover, 18, was convicted in a court-martial a day earlier

of premeditated murder. The offense carries a mandatory sentence of life in

prison; the only question before the military jury on Thursday was whether he should be eligible for parole.

Glover showed no reaction to the sentence. He will also be demoted and dishonorably discharged.

Glover used a baseball bat to crush the skull of a barracks mate, Pfc. Barry L. Winchell, 21, as he slept in his cot at Fort Campbell. There had been a swirl of rumors on the base that Winchell was gay, and prosecutors said Glover was driven by hatred of homosexuals.

Glover, who is from Sulphur, Okla., apologized in court earlier Thursday,

saying he was drunk at the time of the crime and has since found God.

"If I had acted as half the man, even half the soldier as Barry was, he'd

be with us right now," he said, his voice cracking.

Gay rights activist C. Dixon Osburn, co-executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network in Washington, said the case proves that the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy doesn't work.

"I think this case shatters any illusions that 'don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue' is somehow a benign policy," he said. "This is a policy of violence."

Under "don't ask, don't tell," gay members of the military can continue to serve ? and their superiors cannot investigate and expel them ? as long as they keep their sexual orientation to themselves.

During the court-martial, a sergeant testified that complaints about harassment of Winchell by other soldiers who suspected he was gay were not investigated because superiors felt constrained by the policy.

According to testimony, Winchell was once hit in the head with a dustpan during a scuffle and needed stitches.

Winchell's parents, Pat and Wally Kutteles, also had harsh words for "don't ask, don't tell."

"We knew Barry could be deployed and come into harm's way for our country. We never dreamed that he would be killed by labeling, prejudice and hatred at home," Mrs. Kutteles said in a statement. "'Don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue' did not protect our son. It won't protect anyone else's child. This policy must end."

Glover never addressed the allegation that he despised homosexuals. His

attorneys argued that another soldier, Spc. Justin R. Fisher, goaded Glover into the attack. Fisher will be tried in January as an accessory.

While some members of Winchell's unit said they suspected he was homosexual, two soldiers testified at a hearing in August that Winchell had told them he wasn't gay.

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said the Defense Department is working on new training programs for commanders to ensure a fair enforcement of the policy on gays.

"There were certainly very disturbing charges made in the course of this trial about the atmosphere at Fort Campbell, and the commanders at Fort Campbell have said that after the trial is over they will review the compliance with the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy and all the relevant procedures and regulations that flow from that policy," Bacon said.

Bacon said the Clinton administration's policy has succeeded in ending the previous practice of excluding gays from the military.

"I don't think that you can declare the policy a failure based on one gruesome murder at one Army post," he said.

Letter:

In a letter claiming that opposition to homosexuality is not hate (Nov. 30, 1999), Brad Wolverton stated that if the schools allow "pro-homosexual material ... it is only appropriate that alternative material be placed there as well."

Unfortunately, gay or lesbian school children are always faced with the terror that results from overt antagonism and persecution from their classmates. Homosexuality is not a matter of choice; it is innate. In other words, it's not their fault and they should be protected from terror over something that is innate.

School districts that have failed to stop attacks on gay kids in the past have lost huge judgments. Advocating "alternative material" in the schools really is only a cover for allowing continuing terror. What all of the kids in our schools need to hear, of course, is education on how to stay healthy and how to be tolerant of diversity.
? Lee Coleman, President, Log Cabin Republicans of Oregon
[LincolnRep@aol.com]

Associated Press, December 9, 1999

Mrs. Clinton Talks on Gay Issue

By BETH J. HARPAZ

NEW YORK (AP) ? On a day when Hillary Rodham Clinton scored a hit with the gay community by criticizing the military's "Don't ask, don't tell" policy, she then stepped into the middle of a local controversy by saying she'd march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The parade excludes the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization and many Democratic politicians steer clear of it.

Some of the first lady's gay supporters said her criticism of the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy was far more significant than her plans to march in the parade. Others said she should have known better.

"These are the minefields that come with New York," said Matt Foreman, director of the Empire State Pride Agenda, which had been thrilled to hear Mrs. Clinton state her views on "Don't ask, don't tell" at a private fund-raiser earlier this week.

Foreman added that even though it is important that public events like the parade be open to homosexuals, "we also have really big legislative issues facing our community in Washington that she can take a leadership role on."

Mrs. Clinton plans to run for U.S. Senate in New York. Her likely Republican opponent, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, always marches in the parade and expressed no clear opinion on the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy, saying Thursday: "I'm going to take a look at it."

ILGO members were unhappy with Mrs. Clinton. "The idea that Hillary would march or even that she doesn't know the issue is outrageous," said Anne Maguire.

"If she marches, Hillary will be a lone Democrat walking side by side

with Giuliani," said Emmaia Gelman.

Mrs. Clinton spoke about the parade and the "Don't ask" policy at a news conference with Irish-American supporters, including several members of Congress and the state Legislature.

"I don't believe 'don't ask, don't tell' has worked and I don't believe it is ultimately the policy we should have in our military," she said. "I believe Americans willing to serve their country should be allowed to do so. There are already gay and lesbian Americans who serve with distinction in the military. They should be able to do so without discrimination and harassment.

The first lady said she had no problem staking out a position that put her at odds with President Clinton, who is responsible for the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy.

"I'm going to be a candidate for the Senate of New York," she said. "I'm going to be stating my positions that will be from time to time different from the White House."

She has before. In September, Mrs. Clinton opposed the president's pardon of members of a Puerto Rican terrorist group.

After being praised by her Irish supporters for her visits to Ireland and her work on behalf of the Clinton administration's efforts to broker peace there, Mrs. Clinton was asked if she plans to attend the parade.

"I would hope so," she said, adding as she looked around: "As long as I've got lots of good company, I'll certainly march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade."

Her spokesman, Howard Wolfson, later said: "She plans to march, and believes all such parades and celebrations should be inclusive.

Brisbane Courier-Mail, December 10, 1999

41 Campbell Street, Bowen Hills, Brisbane Q 4001 Australia
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'Extremist' views affect Lib voting
by Jacob Greber and Michael Madigan

Concerns among state Liberals over the "extremist" anti-homosexual views of some National Party MPs prompted the party to last night allow a conscience-vote on same sex de facto property laws.

Half of the Liberal MPs crossed the floor last night and ensured the safe passage of the Bill.

Member for Indooroopilly Denver Beanland, member for Caloundra Joan Sheldon, member for Nerang Ray Connor and Member for Noosa Bruce Davidson all voted for the legislation.

Ms Sheldon told Parliament she believed the Bill was in essence in line with Liberal Party philosophy of tolerance and acceptance of people's lifestyles.

"...though they may be different to our own, particularly that they do not impinge in any negative way on the lifestyle of others, then we should not make moral pronouncements on them and nor should we say they are right

and we are wrong, so I support the context of this Bill," Ms Sheldon said.

Liberal leader David Watson, Member for Clayfield Santo Santoro, Member for Mooloolah Bruce Laming and Member for Merrimac Bob Quinn opposed the Bill. Member for Aspley John Goss was absent from the House.

Mr Watson said same sex relationships should not be recognised in the context of the legislation because the purpose of the initial legislation was

to protect the partner, generally the female, who gave up financial independence to nurture children.

"It is this asymmetric situation between wage earners and other family members that these laws were meant to address," Mr Watson said.

Attorney General Matt Foley accused opponents of the legislation of restricting people's access to justice because of their own moral beliefs.

"These are real people, they are not imaginary people. They live, work, they pay taxes, they vote, they are in those relationships and those relationships break up," Mr Foley said.

"This (legislation) does not involve judgment, this involves simple questions of ensuring that people with property disputes get access to the law to get a fair go," he said.

Sensitivity on the issue was provoked last month during debate on the State Government's new domestic violence laws for same sex couples.

National Party MP Vaughn Johnson triggered the controversy, accusing the Government of placing itself in the gutter on the issue. "Jesus Christ is the one who will strike you dead in the end," Mr Johnston said.

Deputy National Party leader Lawrence Springborg said there was a need to keep debate on the issue "on the straight and narrow".

"Over-the-top comments forthrightly delivered probably don't help us have a constructive debate on the issue," Mr Springborg said.

"We do have a belief system in the party that the position of a woman and man with children is one to be nurtured and cherished and treated a little bit different."

Deseret News, December 9, 1999

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(Fax 801-237-2121) (E-MAIL: letters@desnews.com)

(<http://www.desnews.com>)

Letter: Gay group shouldn't whine

Why does the gay community constantly whine? They have chosen a lifestyle that prohibits their reproduction. Yet they insist they should be parents.

The facts are in. Two males cannot create a child, and neither can two females. Yet they find themselves lacking in the family area. It would be terrifying to think that your name will not be passed on and you will have no grandchildren to spoil. No one will be around to take care of you in your old age because of a lifestyle choice.

Suing the Division of Family Services Board to let you adopt children is ridiculous. The ACLU taking such action is ridiculous. This is a political agenda. This isn't religion stepping on toes or about a moral concept. This is plain and simple wanting what you cannot have.

Why do they think the state should provide them with children? Terms such as normal and traditional used to describe the family unit should also include natural. Nature's laws decided the reproductive process. If you go against these laws, the government cannot and should not help you.
? Nikki Richards, Riverton

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

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

CREATION DATE/TIME: 9-DEC-1999 12:21:09.00

SUBJECT: Articles 12.9.99.3

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TEXT:

1. LOUISVILLE COURIER JOURNAL Gay soldier's murder ruled premeditated; Convicted GI could get life without parole
2. RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER Letter: Sometimes balance hurts (It's Elementary and UNC)
3. LOS ANGELES TIMES Gay Clubs Bring School Use Debate Back Into Spotlight; Activists cite law first invoked by religious conservatives.
4. AKRON BEACON JOURNAL Democrats seek gays; Party sets quota of five gay people for Ohio delegation at 2000 convention
5. THE PRESS (New Zealand) Gay marriages considered

LOUISVILLE COURIER JOURNAL, December 9, 1999

525 W. Broadway, Louisville, KY, 40202

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(<http://www.courier-journal.com/>)

Gay soldier's murder ruled premeditated

Convicted GI could get life without parole

By CHRIS POYNTER, The Courier-Journal

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. -- Pvt. Calvin Glover intended to murder Pfc. Barry Winchell when he beat the gay soldier to death with a baseball bat in a barracks hallway, a military jury ruled last night.

The five-member jury took just an hour and 15 minutes to convict Glover of premeditated murder. It will reconvene at sunrise today to decide whether

to send Glover to a military prison for the rest of his life.

Glover, 18, had admitted he killed Winchell on July 6 but claimed he didn't mean to. Military prosecutors, however, moved ahead with the court-martial, saying it was clear Glover planned to kill Winchell, a 21-year-old infantryman from Kansas City, Mo.

Had Glover's plea of unpremeditated murder been successful, he could have

been released from custody immediately. But with premeditated murder, the jury's options are limited to sentencing Glover to life in prison with the possibility of parole or without that possibility. The death penalty is not an option.

After the verdict, Glover was escorted out of the courtroom into the lobby of the building. He sat down and his mother, Kathy Roundtree, cradled his head. Glover later left the building under the glare of television spotlights without comment.

Winchell's parents, Patricia and Wally Kutteles, declined to comment

because they will testify in today's sentencing hearing.

Cal "Calpernia" Addams, a man who dresses as a woman and who had a relationship with Winchell, said he hoped the verdict sent a message to soldiers across the country who harass homosexuals.

"I feel the verdict was justified," said Addams, who attended the two-day military trial. Addams said testimony at the trial had helped him understand the harassment that Winchell endured, but had never spoken about, in the months before his death.

THE CASE HAS captured the nation's attention, focusing on how the military handles its "don't ask, don't tell" policy on homosexuality among enlisted personnel and officers.

Michelle Benecke, a co-founder of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a group that helps gays in the military, said she was heartened that both the prosecution and defense attorneys had delved deeply into the harassment leading up to Winchell's slaying.

The organization, based in Washington, had initially criticized the Army for not discussing the role Winchell's sexual orientation had in the case.

"But there are still pervasive problems of harassment in the military, and steps need to be taken to stop it," Benecke said.

Earlier in the day, some of that harassment came to light in testimony.

Sgt. Michael Kleifgen testified that, after he heard another sergeant call Winchell "faggot," he reported the incident to his company commander and

later to the inspector general, who investigates allegations of wrongdoing.

But, Kleifgen said, his complaint "was basically blown off. Nothing was done."

WINCHELL BEGAN revealing his sexual orientation to friends in the months before his death. Rumors of his homosexuality were rampant in his unit, and he faced daily harassment from soldiers and officers about it, according to testimony at the trial and at previous hearings.

Staff Sgt. Eric Dubielak and others testified that Spc. Justin Fisher started the rumors and that Fisher often called Winchell "faggot."

Glover's three attorneys contended that their client killed Winchell partly because he was being urged by Fisher, whom they portrayed as hating gays. Fisher was Winchell's roommate and is charged as an accessory to the slaying. His trial is set for Monday.

Glover's attorneys contended that Fisher hated Winchell and that he could coerce others into following him.

So much testimony focused on Fisher that at one point the military judge, Col. Gary Holland, told the jury: "We are not here to try Specialist Fisher.

We are here to try Private Glover. We need to keep that in mind."

Glover's parents testified that their son had a troubled childhood in Oklahoma after they divorced. They said he was often left at home alone or with his brother, who is three years older.

Roundtree said she often worked 12- to 14-hour days at two jobs and didn't have time to watch her son.

"IT'S REALLY hard to discipline someone when you are just walking in the house to cook dinner and that may be the only time you have with them," she said.

She said her son lived with her until age 13, when he went to his father's house. There, she said, he began drinking and skipping school, eventually dropping out in the eighth grade.

"He was out of control," she said.

Glover's father, Rue Glover, said he once enrolled his son in a Baptist home to help straighten him out. He was eventually expelled.

Roundtree said she and other family members were happy when Glover earned his high school equivalency diploma and decided to join the Army.

"We felt that it would be the place where he needed to be to get the positive role models, positive influence in his life to help him grow up again," she said, her chin quivering as she cried.

THE DEFENSE reminded the jury yesterday that Glover was drunk when he killed Winchell. The night Winchell was killed, Glover, Fisher and others consumed a 15 1/2-gallon keg of beer during a party on post.

There was no testimony, however, about how much Glover had consumed that night.

Glover killed Winchell about 26 hours after Winchell had beaten him in a fight. Glover had pledged revenge and had been taunted about being beaten by a homosexual, witnesses said.

Winchell's death outraged gay-rights advocates, who from the beginning pressured the Army to explore the role of Winchell's sexual orientation in the killing.

Benecke, of the legal defense network, said gay soldiers across the country are worried about being harassed.

"They are saying that if a soldier like Winchell -- who was 6-2 and 200 pounds and an infantryman trained to defend himself -- could be killed, it could happen to them," she said.

The case helped prompt the Pentagon to revise its guidelines on handling the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

On Aug. 13, Secretary of Defense William Cohen announced new guidelines that, among other things, required the four military services to develop plans within 30 days on how to train soldiers and officers about the policy.

But Benecke said that so far only the Navy has issued interim guidance. She also said that no branch appears to be conducting the sensitivity training required by the policy.

YESTERDAY Cohen said that the military continues to stress training on and enforcement of its policy.

"We are determined to enforce the policy of non-discrimination and non-harassment and a zero tolerance policy toward any gay members," he said.

"We still insist upon the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy, but we want to have that effectively implemented.

"There have been some cases where it hasn't, obviously. We want to make

sure that everybody is fully aware of the policy and, from the commanders down, they enforce it."

Since Winchell's murder in July, the number of homosexuals in the service who have sought help from Benecke's group each month has doubled from 30 to 60 or more, she said. Many of the soldiers cited the Winchell case and said they fear for their safety.

"It's a continuing frustration because harassment occurs in every branch of the service," said Kathi Westcott, an attorney for the group. "We get calls on a daily basis."

Benecke said that the network has received reports from soldiers at Fort Campbell that infantrymen and officers have mocked Winchell's death and referred jokingly to a baseball bat, the weapon used to beat Winchell.

A SPOKESMAN for the base declined to discuss the accusations, saying commanders would reserve comments on the Winchell case until Glover's and Fisher's courts-martial conclude.

Since "don't ask, don't tell" was implemented by President Clinton, the number of homosexuals discharged has jumped from 617 in 1994 to 1,163 in 1998, according to the legal defense network.

RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER, December 9, 1999

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(<http://www.nando.net/nao/>)

Letter: Sometimes balance hurts

Should UNC-TV have decided not to air "It's Elementary: Talking about Gay Issues in Schools?" I don't know. But the justifications presented in Dec. 8 People's Forum letter from Linda S. Haynes, chair of the UNC-TV Board

of Trustees, are downright disturbing. UNC-TV's decision looks like a case of

political prudence -- fear of offending people who are intolerant of homosexual beliefs and practices. Haynes dresses it up instead as a question

of "balance" and "fairness" -- apparently the program doesn't "present the other side." But what is the other side here? Intolerance.

What about a program that vigorously criticized racism or ethnic cleansing? Would UNC-TV not air it unless its viewpoint was "balanced" by including sympathetic interviews with the Klan or Slobodan Milosevic?

The mindless application of this principle of "balance" can -- as in the

present situation -- undermine sympathy for victims by giving legitimacy to their oppressors. John Locke, the political philosopher who gave us our modern concept of toleration, didn't think we should even tolerate the intolerant. Maybe, maybe not. But is Haynes really arguing that we should go

beyond toleration to give the intolerant, whenever they are criticized, "equal air time" in the same programs in which they are being criticized?

-- DONALD SEARING, Chapel Hill

The writer is Burton Craige professor and chair, department of political

science, at UNC-Chapel Hill.

LOS ANGELES TIMES, December 9, 1999

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(<http://www.latimes.com>)

Gay Clubs Bring School Use Debate Back Into Spotlight

Rights: As Orange board bars group from campus, activists cite law first invoked by religious conservatives.

By KATE FOLMAR, SCOTT MARTELLE, Times Staff Writers

The barring of a gay-themed student club from El Modena High School this

week places an Orange County school board at the center of a resurgent national debate over who can use public school grounds.

At a time of explosive growth in support groups for gay teenagers across

the country, the debate in Orange and elsewhere echoes battles by religious organizations 15 years ago to win the right for student prayer and Bible clubs to meet at school.

That campaign resulted in the landmark 1984 federal Equal Access Act, upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1990, which prohibits school districts from choosing which non-curricular student groups are allowed to meet on campus.

Now, riding a wave of gay activism by high school students nationwide, the same law is being invoked to force school districts to make room for gay-themed student clubs that often are opposed by conservative religious groups.

This growing demand for access by gay-themed clubs has thrown some school boards into turmoil as they try to balance anti-gay viewpoints against

what many legal scholars say is a clear-cut law.

In some places, such as Salt Lake City, school boards excluded all non-curricular clubs rather than open their doors to gay groups.

In Orange, school trustees said they barred the Gay-Straight Alliance because it would deal with sex education--a topic they said should be addressed by teachers in the classroom. But the issue also touches on deeper,

more emotional concerns among some parents over what they say is a gay agenda seeping into public education.

"It concerns me very much that the issue of sexual orientation is coming into the club arena," parent Donna Sigalas told Orange Unified School District board members before Tuesday's vote to reject the club's application. "AIDS. That's our concern. Health. We don't want our children exposed to this."

Similar battles have cropped up from coast to coast. Earlier this year, the Manchester, N.H., school board overruled a principal's ban on a gay-themed club after students sued the district.

In Salt Lake City last week, a judge dismissed students' request for an injunction after school officials reaffirmed student rights to discuss gay

topics. That school policy statement cleared the way for students to resurrect an application to form a gay studies club as a curriculum-related organization. El Modena students in Orange, with the backing of two national civil rights groups, are also turning to the courts seeking access under the federal law.

"We are not giving up," said club organizer Anthony Colin, 15. "The vote went the wrong way, so we'll do the right thing" by continuing the legal challenge.

Gay-Affiliated Clubs Increasing

The number of such groups seeking affiliation with the New York-based Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network has mushroomed over the last two years from about 100 to nearly 600, a spokesman said.

"More often than not what these clubs do is create a place where these kids can come together and talk about issues that they are faced with, and work on ways of countering homophobia in the school," said Jim Anderson, a spokesman for the network.

The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund says there are half a dozen such clubs in Southern California.

"Kids weren't gay 10 years ago; we didn't let them be," said Anthony Scariano, an Illinois attorney and board member of the National School Boards

Assn.'s Council of School Attorneys. "Not to be flippant, but schools only address questions that come to their front door. These kids didn't come to the front door 10 years ago."

Scariano, who represents 200 school districts, mostly in Illinois, said school legal questions over sexual orientation "are growing geometrically every day" and touch on subjects ranging from partnership benefits for employees to same-sex prom couples. "The [Orange Unified] district has an uphill battle here," Scariano said. "The bigger question is what public policy interest is there . . . to bar students from coming together for support services? If a judge asks me that [as a lawyer], what am I going to say? That it looks like we're championing the gay lifestyle? Not any more than allowing the Future Homemakers of America is encouraging the spinning of wool."

Randy Thomasson, executive director of the Campaign for California Families in Sacramento, applauded Tuesday's 7-0 vote by the Orange school board rejecting the Gay-Straight Alliance's request to meet at El Modena.

"I'm happy that the parents know that their children are going to be protected from gay indoctrination," Thomasson said. "That's not why parents send their kids to school. They want kids to learn reading, writing and arithmetic, not to be subjected to controversial social engineering."

In rejecting the El Modena application, Orange trustees said the Equal Access Act did not apply because the club would deal with curricular issues of sexuality, which falls under state education code rules on who can teach the subject and what they can include.

"The school board is in the position of having to represent the interests of everyone in the community," said Los Angeles attorney James Bowles, who advised the Orange board. "The people in the community have different viewpoints. The school board is trying to do what's best for

everyone involved and to follow the law."

Bowles said the board decision did not preclude the students from reapplying to form a group focusing on general issues of tolerance.

A lawyer for the students dismissed the board's reasoning.

"You can't exclude on the basis of what they want to talk about," said Jon Davidson, supervising attorney for the Lambda Legal Defense Fund's Western region. "To the extent that California law applies at all, it's superseded by federal law. They're grasping at straws to keep the students from meeting."

Trustees also sought to portray the student group as being controlled by outsiders, which they said would remove it from the law's protections.

However, the students say that the group is designed to address homophobia, tolerance and the emotional difficulties of coming to terms with their sexual orientation. Outside groups became involved only after the trustees balked at approving the club, they said.

While barred from the campus, up to a dozen El Modena students have been meeting as the Gay-Straight Alliance across from the school. More than 50 students signed a petition saying that they were interested in joining the group.

The irony that using the Equal Access Act, which was backed by religious groups, to force schools to make room for gay clubs was not lost on some activists.

"I say, hurray for the 1st Amendment," said David Elliot, spokesman for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington.

He said the surge in gay-themed student clubs stems from an increase in the number of teenagers who are publicly recognizing their sexual orientation at younger ages.

"People are coming out of the closet at an earlier age," Elliot said, adding that increasing numbers of teenagers are participating in summer organizing and leadership camps sponsored by various groups. "Not only are the kids getting younger and younger, but they're getting smarter and smarter, and becoming better organized. And they're demanding their rights. If there are Christian clubs, chess clubs, German clubs, then they have the right to a gay-straight alliance."

In some schools, gay clubs have generated no controversy. A gay-themed club with gay and straight members has existed on the campus of Los Alamitos High School for six years, said club advisor Michael Poff, an English and journalism teacher.

He described the group, which meets weekly, as a social and service-oriented group.

"They talk about movies and what they did over the weekend," Poff said.

"Sometimes they get on the subject of parents or how they're treated. These are things all adolescents talk about when they get together.

"Of course they don't talk about sex at all, in any form, any more than

the French Club does."

Times correspondent Marissa Espino contributed to this story.

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL, December 9, 1999

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Democrats seek gays

Party sets quota of five gay people for Ohio delegation at 2000 convention

BY KATHERINE RIZZO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON: Ohio's Democratic Party is pressing the Al Gore and Bill

Bradley campaigns to recruit gay delegates to the party's national

convention

in Los Angeles.

For the first time, the state party has added lesbians and gay men to its

affirmative action mix. Of the 170 seats allotted to Ohio at the nominating convention, the party wants five to be filled by gay delegates.

That would be a drastic change from 1996, when Ohio's contingent named one gay delegate who dropped out before getting to Chicago, and from 1992, when there was one lesbian delegate and one lesbian alternate.

That lone delegate of 1992 was behind the Ohio party's affirmative action plan of 2000.

Energized by her experience in New York in 1992, Columbus activist Lynn Greer stuck with party politics, becoming active in the behind-the-scenes tasks that make campaigns work.

Earlier this year, she made the case for a numerical goal for Ohio's conventioners.

"New York and California went before us, so that made it easier to say it's the right thing to do," Greer said.

The change was adopted quietly and without opposition, added Greer, whose

1992 political debut involved a largely unsuccessful plea to fellow convention delegates to wear red ribbons in memory of AIDS victims.

Greer recalled standing before an Ohio caucus room full of narrowed eyes

and folded arms. "It was cold," she said. "They just wanted me to go away quickly.

"But most of those people in that room, I'm proud to say, I have as friends now."

Nearly eight years later, Greer has become so entrenched in Columbus Democratic politics that she will be in charge of the slate-picking meetings for her part of the state Jan. 3.

Her success is part of a larger integration of politically active gays into the mainstream Ohio Democratic Party, said Jeff Redfield, executive director of Stonewall Columbus, a nonpartisan advocacy group.

Toledo and Dayton now have openly gay members of their city councils, and gay supporters were very active in the unsuccessful gubernatorial campaign of

Democrat Lee Fisher and the successful mayoral campaign of Michael Coleman in Columbus, Redfield said.

“This quota is very important,” he said. “It’s a reflection that there is a large, vocal, involved and deserving-of-representation gay-lesbian-bisexual community in the state of Ohio.”

“It’s part of my whole goal of making sure our party is as inclusive as it can be,” said David Leland, Ohio’s state party chair.

“We’re interested in making sure that our delegation looks like the state of Ohio, as opposed to the Republican delegation, which looks like the boardrooms of Ohio.”

In addition to trying to reserve five seats for gay delegates, Ohio Democrats want to reserve six slots for young Democrats, two for Asian-Americans, three for Hispanics, and 36 for African-Americans.

That’s on top of the overall requirement that seats be evenly divided between men and women.

Ohio Republicans also maintain an even split between men and women, but don’t target minimum representation among races or other groups.

State party spokesman Gary Abernathy said the GOP wants to increase the proportion of black delegates it sends to the Republican National Convention

(there were six blacks among 67 Ohio delegates in 1996) but won’t set numeric recruitment targets.

“A fundamental difference between us and the Democrats always is a question of quotas,” he said. “We believe in equal opportunity. We do not believe in a quota system.”

Republicans have an extensive minority outreach effort, but “we don’t as a party consider gays minorities in the sense of blacks, Hispanics and so on,” Abernathy said.

In addition to Ohio, New York and California, the Democratic Party also is making a concerted effort to include gay delegates in Iowa, Rhode Island and Georgia.

THE PRESS, December 9, 1999

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Gay marriages considered

WELLINGTON -- Same-sex marriages should be recognised in law by a system of registration that would put them on the same legal footing as heterosexual marriage, the Law Commission says.

The recommendation is made in a study paper that the commission intends presenting to the Ministry of Justice.

The ministry is seeking public submissions on legal recognition of same-sex relationships, including whether gay and lesbian couples should be able to marry and adopt children.

In its submission, the Law Commission recommends a law change to allow registration of same-sex partnerships "to have the same effect as a marriage between opposite-sex parties".

The legal standing of such registration should be identical to those of marriage and should in no way be regarded as inferior to traditional marriage, the commission said.

Laws that applied to heterosexual de facto couples should also apply to gay couples who choose not to register. For New Zealand to alter its definition of marriage to include same-sex marriage would cause unnecessary and understandable offence, but a registration system would avoid giving offence while conferring rights and obligations "virtually identical" to those in marriage, the submission said.

On the issue of adoption by same-sex couples, the commission said it would put off commenting until the end of consultation on its discussion paper on the issue.

Prime Minister-elect Helen Clark has said she would personally support giving legal recognition to gay and lesbian couples.

Openly gay Te Atatu MP Chris Carter said he did not advocate marriage for gay and lesbian couples, saying the issue was too emotional.

Outgoing Prime Minister Jenny Shipley also supported legal recognition of gay and lesbian couples, but did not go as far as supporting marriage.

--NZPA

In pleading guilty to the lesser charge and hoping for leniency, Glover accused a second defendant, 25-year-old Specialist Justin Fisher of Lincoln, Neb., of supplying the baseball bat and goading him into the assault. "I was just so drunk," Glover tearfully told the court Monday. "I

had no intent for him to die."

The court-martial, replete with testimony about widespread drunkenness and barracks harassment and routine denunciations of Winchell by fellow soldiers as "a faggot," "a queer" and a "homo," was treated by the prosecution as purely a murder trial. The Army has made no comment on the case's possible implications for its controversial policy toward gays.

But gay-rights organizations contend that the slaying is a classic example of a hate crime rooted in homophobia, and that the Clinton administration's "don't ask" policy, far from making life easier for gays and lesbians in the armed services, has left many to suffer in silence or leave the service.

Since its inception, the policy has seen a doubling of discharges of gay service members, to 312 last year, and a comparable increase in complaints of homosexual harassment, according to pro-gay organizations.

"This murder has shut down any illusions soldiers had," said Michelle Benecke, co-executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a gay-rights organization that monitors military justice, in underscoring the Pentagon's failure to circulate guidelines on its gay policy until after the slaying of Winchell. "Every day, service members in every service must endure anti-gay epithets and threats."

In testimony at the trial and in a preliminary inquiry here last summer, witnesses said that Glover, after being struck in the face and thrown to the ground in his challenge to Winchell, seethed with embarrassment, shouted homophobic curses and threatened to kill him, declaring, "It ain't over."

Witnesses said that Winchell, a machine gunner in the 101st Airborne Division, had been called a homosexual by his roommate, Fisher, who is facing a separate court-martial Monday on charges that he was an accomplice in the slaying and lied to investigators. Glover's defense team sought to bring out from witnesses that Fisher was a dominant, manipulative individual while the accused private was subservient and a braggart.

The presiding judge, Col. Gary Holland, told the court that the critical question was whether Glover, amid a long weekend of barracks drinking, partying, and bickering, had opportunity to "cool off" from a point of initial rage and premeditate the assault. Of Fisher, the judge stressed it had been stipulated as fact that "he's the one who handed the accused the bat" and "told him to go out and mess up" Private Winchell.

On the morning of the slaying, a military policeman testified, Fisher, his clothes covered in blood, stood by the ambulance shouting, "Let him die! Let him die!" as Winchell was taken to the hospital. In the earlier hearing, Fisher swore that Glover spewed homophobic epithets before the assault and confessed to the slaying as he hurriedly washed blood from the bat. When the two checked on the stricken Winchell, Fisher said, Glover lifted his bloodied head and said, "Yes, he is dead."

Witnesses testified that the assault was so severe that Winchell's face was unrecognizable, with his eyes swollen shut and his head cracked open. Glover fled the scene, according to testimony, and threw bloody evidence in a dumpster. He was later arrested in his room by investigators who said they found blood stains on the door and on his clothing.

Last March, Fisher accompanied Winchell to the Connection in Nashville, Tenn., a nightclub favored by gays, according to witnesses, and gossip soon went around the post that the Winchell was homosexual. Testimony established that Winchell had dated a female impersonator at the

club, Cal Addams, a former Navy medic known as Calpernia, who eulogized Winchell last July as "a kind, calm gentleman."

"Pretty much everybody in the company called him derogatory names," Winchell's platoon sergeant, Michael Kleifgen, testified at the pre-trial hearing. "They called him a 'faggot' and stuff like that, I would say on a daily basis. A lot of times, he was walking around down in the dumps."

Despite the military's "Don't ask" stricture, Kleifgen testified last summer that he decided to informally investigate after Fisher described the nightclub visit without identifying Winchell. The sergeant said he suspected that Winchell was gay but Winchell denied this. The sergeant dropped the matter, he testified, finally acknowledging to the amazement of some in his audience, that "the military has a policy of 'Don't ask, don't tell.'"

At the same time, the sergeant said he did nothing to enforce Army regulations against the sort of harassment that Winchell was suffering. "Everybody was having fun," the sergeant said in explaining his reasoning.

In the welter of harassment and epithets, several witnesses testified, a few soldiers complained of homophobic denunciations of Winchell by ranking superiors. But nothing came of their complaints, the witnesses said. "We did a formal IG complaint and nothing was done, sir," Kleifgen testified Wednesday, referring to the inspector general's office here. The Fort Campbell public affairs office said it would inquire into the reported complaint to see what might have happened.

Under the policy introduced by the Clinton administration, the military cannot inquire into a soldier's sex life unless there is clear evidence of homosexual conduct. But gays who volunteer this information can be discharged for being homosexual. After the Winchell slaying and reports of white supremacists in the Army, Clinton signed an executive order in October that amends the court martial manual to allow judges to weigh hate-crime factors in meting out sentences.

The last time a service member was killed because of his sexual orientation was the beating death of Alan Schindler, a Navy petty officer who was assaulted by two shipmates in October 1992, aboard the USS Belleau Wood.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

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TO: Jason Riggs <jriggs@ngltf.org> (Jason Riggs <jriggs@ngltf.org> [UNKNOWN])
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SUPPORT FOR GAY AND LESBIAN EQUALITY ON THE RISE, NGLTF POLICY INSTITUTE STUDY SHOWS

70 percent support right to serve in the military:
Half of Republicans, 74 percent of Democrats back anti-discrimination laws

Dec. 9, 1999 - The U.S. public overwhelmingly supports equal rights and anti-discrimination protections for lesbians and gay men, and this support has increased markedly during the 1990s, according to a new report on trends in public opinion released by the Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. The Policy Institute of the NGLTF is a think-tank dedicated to research, policy analysis, strategy development and coalition building to advance the equality and understanding of GLBT people.

According to polling data from 1999, 70 percent of Americans support the right of gays and lesbians to serve in the military, up from 55 percent in 1992. Surprisingly, while all the Republican presidential candidates oppose anti-discrimination laws, half of Republican voters support such laws, as do 65 percent of Independents and 74 percent of Democrats.

"From Wrongs to Rights: Public Opinion on Gay and Lesbian Americans Moves Toward Equality 1973-1999," authored by Columbia University political scientist Alan Yang, reveals that American public opinion is more supportive of gays and lesbians than are most lawmakers and politicians. The report further reveals that this support for equal rights has grown despite a

context of heightened anti-gay activism as well as increased organizing by gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) activists to pass pro-GLBT civil rights and hate crime laws. The report tracks trends in public opinion as measured by questions and polls that ask the same question over time to national, random samples of the U.S. public.

"Presidential candidates opposing anti-discrimination protections are out of touch not only with the American electorate, but with the rank and file of their own party," said Urvashi Vaid, Director of the Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "The overwhelming trend in American public opinion reveals that we have more allies than foes in our struggle for basic equal rights."

Over the past two decades the GLBT community has evolved into a valued and measurable political constituency, with 5 percent of the national electorate identifying as gay, lesbian, or bisexual (GLB) in national exit polls taken during the 1996 presidential election, and 4.2 percent identifying as GLB in the national exit polls taken during the mid-term election of 1998. Public opinion polls do not yet provide data on public attitudes towards bisexuals and transgender people, and national exit polls have asked voters to self-identify as "gay, lesbian or bisexual."

To date, 235 cities and counties and 28 states have enacted have enacted either civil rights laws or hate crimes laws that include GLBT people. Yet there are no federal laws outlawing discrimination based upon sexual orientation in employment or other categories.

"From Wrongs to Rights 1973-1999" documents increased support for gay and lesbian equality in several areas:

****Today, 83 percent support equal rights in employment and 75 percent support equal rights in housing.

****In 1996, 68 percent of women and 72 percent of African-Americans supported anti-discrimination laws for gay men and lesbians. Data reveal that women are consistently more supportive of anti-discrimination laws than men (an average of 65 percent of women supported anti-discrimination laws in four surveys from 1988 to 1996, versus 55 percent of men), and African-Americans are consistently more supportive of equal employment rights than white Americans (an average of 68 percent of blacks vs. 60 percent of whites in four surveys from 1988 to 1996).

****In 1998, 55 percent of those surveyed reported having a gay friend or acquaintance, up from 43 percent in 1994 and 24 percent in 1983. Such data correlates with increasing support for GLBT rights, supporting the conclusion that greater knowledge of openly gay or lesbian people fosters greater tolerance and support for equal rights laws.

****As familiarity with openly gay and lesbian people has increased, disapproval of same-sex relations has consistently declined since the early 1990s. Gallup reports a drop in disapproval from 57 percent in 1992 to 46 percent in 1999. The National Opinion Research Center tracks a decline in disapproval from 73 percent in 1990 to 58 percent in 1998.

****61 percent of Americans supported the hiring of gay and lesbian high school teachers in 1999, up from 27 percent in 1977. In 1997, 63 percent said school boards shouldn't be able to fire a teacher because he or she is gay.

****75 percent support the hiring of gay and lesbian doctors in 1999, up from 53 percent in 1992 and 44 percent in 1977.

****57 percent of self-described conservatives supported the right of gays and lesbians to serve in the military, as did 70 percent of moderates and 91 percent of liberals, according to a 1996 National Election Study. In 1999 70 percent of all respondents told Gallup that they supported gays and lesbians serving in the armed forces, up from 55 percent in a National Election Study poll in 1992. This sharp increase in support occurred against the backdrop of increased purges of homosexual servicemembers since the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy was adopted in 1993. Discharges for homosexuality increased 86 percent from 1993 to 1998, according to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

****Solid majorities support Social Security benefits for the same-sex partners of gay and lesbian people, as well as inheritance rights for same-sex spouses.

The Yang study also documents lower levels of support for the rights of gay and lesbian couples to marry and adopt children. Less than one-third of respondents support the right to civil marriage for same-sex couples, according to two 1998 polls (29 percent and 33 percent). And only 36 percent support the right of same-sex couples to adopt children. Put into context, Vaid noted, these results are not that surprising. "Same-sex marriage and same-sex couples adopting children are issues new to the public's consciousness, just as openly gay people teaching or being doctors were new concepts 20 years ago. Over time, there is every reason to believe that this trend will change and that support for gay adoptive parents and for the rights of same-sex couples will continue to increase."

Vaid cited the fact that same-sex unions are allowed by several European countries as a sign that governments internationally are changing their policies. "The marriage issue is one that will be with us into the next century and one that is of critical importance to many GLBT people," Vaid said. "We believe that public opinion will change as the debate continues."

Copies of the report are available on the NGLTF web site at <http://www.ngltf.org> or may be purchased for \$10 by calling 202-332-6483.

Founded in 1973, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force works to eliminate prejudice, violence and injustice against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people at the local, state and national level. As part of a broader social justice movement for freedom, justice and equality, NGLTF is creating a world that respects and celebrates the diversity of human expression and identity where all people may fully participate in society.

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CQ MIDDAY UPDATE

from Congressional Quarterly - <http://www.CQ.com>

Thursday - Dec. 9, 1999 - 2:00 p.m.

TODAY IN WASHINGTON:

- LEAD STORY: The new Senate Environment and Public Works Committee chairman will pursue a rewrite of the superfund law in 2000.

- The HOUSE and SENATE have adjourned until noon on Monday, Jan. 24.

- President CLINTON will be returning to Washington this afternoon after addressing a Worcester, Mass., memorial service for six firefighters killed last week battling a warehouse blaze.

- In WASHINGTON, House Speaker Dennis Hastert, Ill., lights the Capitol Christmas tree at 5 p.m. The 60-foot white spruce from Wisconsin's Nicolet National Forest, decorated with 4,000 ornaments hand-made by Wisconsin residents, is on the West Front lawn.

- The QUOTE OF THE DAY: "If you think it's a good idea to spend \$2 million for manure handling and disposal in Starkville, Mississippi, fine, call him up and thank him. If you don't, why don't you call him and tell him you don't think he ought to do that with your tax dollars." Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., on his plans as president to publicize pork barrel projects of individual members.

- Today's TRIVIA: Arizona's 2nd Congressional District is home to Picacho Peak, where the westernmost Civil War battle was fought. (Source: Congressional Quarterly's "Politics in America.")

Edited by Martha Angle and Jack Deutsch

SMITH OUTLINES AGENDA FOR SENATE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:

Robert C. Smith, R-N.H., the newly elected chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, today made clear that he will lead the panel in a different direction from his predecessor, the late John H. Chafee, R-R.I., a strong environmentalist. Speaking at a breakfast

sponsored by the National Manufacturers Association, Smith said, "I am more conservative than Chafee, so the committee will go in a different direction. But the results will be the same." The panel's first order of business, he said, will be a set of field hearings at the beginning of January on restoration of the Florida Everglades. Also on tap for the first months of the session will be a rewrite of the controversial superfund hazardous waste cleanup law and legislation to allow states to waive a requirement for use of gasoline additives, such as MTBE, to reduce air pollution. Smith said he also plans a series of hearings on the Environmental Protection Agency's budget priorities.

BUSH AGREES TO ANOTHER N.H. DEBATE AS POLLS SHOWS HIM TRAILING THERE:

As a new poll showed him slipping behind in New Hampshire for the first time, Texas Gov. George W. Bush today agreed to take part in a Jan. 6 debate there with his five rivals for the GOP presidential nomination. Bush was the final candidate to agree to the one-hour debate at the University of New Hampshire. His decision to participate came as a survey released yesterday by the American Research Group showed Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., has moved into a narrow but statistically significant 37 percent to 30 percent lead over Bush in New Hampshire. Previous polls found Bush - still the front-runner nationally - facing an ever tighter race in New Hampshire. The new poll of 600 likely Republican voters, which had a margin of error of 4 percentage points, represented a 12-point drop for Bush since October.

CLINTON URGES EFFORTS TO CLOSE 'DIGITAL DIVIDE':

President Clinton today called for greater efforts to close the "digital divide" separating those with Internet access from those without it. "We must connect all of our citizens to the Internet, not just in schools and libraries, but in homes, small businesses and community centers, and we must help all Americans gain the skills they need to make the most of the connection," Clinton said. Commerce Secretary William Daley convened a summit of high-tech corporate chiefs and leaders in civil rights, education and nonprofit groups to discuss ways to close the gap between those with easy access to the Internet and those without. A July survey by the Commerce Department found 60 percent of households earning \$75,000 or more had Internet access compared with less than 10 percent of households earning less than \$20,000. Whites were more likely to have Internet access than blacks and Hispanics across all income levels. Clinton said federal agencies will expand a growing network of community technology centers primarily for use by low-income Americans.

U.S. WOULD SELL OIL FROM RESERVE IF Y2K PROBLEMS DISRUPT SUPPLIES:

The Clinton administration today announced contingency plans to sell crude oil from the nation's emergency stockpile if supplies are disrupted by Y2K computer problems at year end. Any sale of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve would be designed to protect consumers and businesses from a sharp rise in crude oil prices, which have already soared to nine-year highs in recent weeks. "The plans rely on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve - and the president, if he deems it necessary, can sign these findings at the appropriate time and put our plans into action," Energy Secretary Bill Richardson said in a speech prepared for delivery at an energy conference. The reserve, created after the Arab oil embargo of the 1970s, holds about 572 million barrels of oil. "This is not to suggest

that there is a problem, only that we are prepared," Richardson added. He gave no details about what level of disruption would trigger a sale from the reserve, but he told reporters oil prices already are "drifting into dangerously high levels."

FIRST LADY SAYS GAYS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO SERVE OPENLY IN MILITARY:

Hillary Rodham Clinton said today that homosexuals should be allowed to serve in the military without being forced to hide their sexual orientation. The first lady said she doesn't support the "don't ask, don't tell" policy adopted by her husband in his first term. "I don't believe it's the policy we should have in our military," she said at a news conference in Manhattan, adding: "I believe Americans willing to serve their country should be allowed to do so. They should be able to do so without discrimination and harassment. I believe fitness to serve in the military should be based on conduct, not sexual orientation." Mrs. Clinton said that if elected to the U.S. Senate from New York, she would work to overturn the controversial "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND SIERRA CLUB SAY ENVIRONMENTALISTS FACE DANGER ABROAD:

Environmentalists face some of the same dangers worldwide as human rights workers, often abused and even killed by governments protecting big business, two leading activist organizations said today. Citing cases in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Russia, the Sierra Club and Amnesty International launched a campaign to protect environmental workers from harassment, imprisonment, torture and death. In a joint report, "Environmentalists Under Fire," the groups called for protection of people who are "brave enough to speak out" against destruction of forests, nuclear contamination dangers, destructive damming of rivers, pollution of waterways and other environmental hazards. More broadly, the groups warned, "Governments are lowering environmental standards to increase global trade and are allowing their foreign policies to be driven and directed by corporate, instead of democratic, values."

POLITICAL CLIPPINGS:

The TORRANCE (Calif.) DAILY BREEZE reported a "year and a half after she gave up her congressional seat to run an unsuccessful campaign for governor," former Democratic Rep. Jane Harman is running for the same seat she held from 1992 to 1998, facing off against Republican Rep. Steve Kuykendall.

The MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE reported, "The office of U.S. Sen. Rod Grams, R-Minn., said Wednesday he was 'relieved' an investigation found no evidence he sought special favors when he asked the Anoka County sheriff for help finding his son. But "an irritated Dakota County Sheriff Don Gudmundson, whose office is conducting the investigation, said he told Grams the statement was premature," adding that "Grams told him the statement had been issued without his knowledge."

The SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS reported, "President Clinton will join Texas Democrats to honor former U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen and his wife" for 50 years of public service at a Houston dinner Monday. The function "could raise \$1 million for party coffers, sources said."

AND FINALLY...

The Selective Service threatened fines of up to \$250,000 and prison

time against him. But Frank Blood has not budged on registering for the draft. He can't. The upstate New York man died 16 years ago at the age of 102. The woman who lives in Blood's former home got a letter over the weekend warning of legal action if he did not sign up within 10 days. The letter emphasized: "It is not too late!" Blood turned 18 some 40 years before the Selective Service was even established. The Associated Press reported that the Selective Service was informed of the error and is pretty sure Blood is not appropriate for the military.

--30--

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ASSOCIATED PRESS, December 9, 1999

Murderer Apologizes to Victim's Kim

By JAMES PRICHARD

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP) - An Army private convicted of beating a fellow soldier to death - a crime prosecutors blamed on his hatred of homosexuals

-

apologized today to his victim's family at his sentencing hearing.

His voice cracking, Pvt. Calvin N. Glover, 18, read his statement a day after he was convicted of premeditated murder for using a baseball bat to crush the skull of Pfc. Barry Winchell.

"If I had acted as half the man, even half the soldier as Barry was, he'd be with us right now," Glover said.

"I have to apologize to Barry's parents," he said. "I'm deeply sorry for the pain I've brought your family. This is something that I'll have to remember for the rest of my life."

Glover, who had been drinking before the attack, said he's a recovering alcoholic. He said he had found God during his five months in jail.

The guilty verdict carries a mandatory penalty of life in prison, but military jurors must decide whether Glover will ever be eligible for parole.

Glover, from Sulphur, Okla., was convicted of beating Winchell as he slept on a cot at their Fort Campbell barracks on July 5.

Before the court-martial, Glover admitted to a lesser charge of unpremeditated murder in hopes of receiving a lighter sentence. But prosecutor Capt. Gregg Engler went ahead with the court-martial on the more serious charge of premeditated murder.

When he offered his plea on Tuesday, Glover sobbed and said he did not know why he hit Winchell "at least two or three times" with a bat.

"I wasn't really mad at him, sir. It was just a mistake, sir. I was really drunk," Glover told the judge, Col. Gary J. Holland.

Glover never addressed the allegation that he hated homosexuals.

The court also heard from Winchell's mother and stepfather, Pat and Wally Kuttles. They described their son as a loving, compassionate man who enjoyed the Army and looked forward to becoming a helicopter pilot.

A high school dropout, Glover earned his graduate equivalency diploma, then asked his mother to declare him an adult at age 17 so he could enlist on Oct. 25, 1998.

Defense attorneys argued that another soldier, Spc. Justin R. Fisher, 25, of Lincoln, Neb., who is charged as an accessory, goaded Glover into the attack.

Staff Sgt. Michael Kleifgen testified that Fisher started spreading rumors in March among members of their unit that Winchell, 21, of Kansas City, Mo., was gay. Fisher often harassed Winchell and once, during a scuffle, struck him in the head with a dustpan, Kleifgen said. Winchell needed stitches.

Kleifgen, their section leader at the time, said he regularly spoke with Fisher and Winchell about their differences. The problems continued, however, so the matter was presented to a first sergeant, he said.

"He said, basically, there was nothing we could do because of the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy," Kleifgen said, referring to the military's policy on homosexuals.

Kleifgen said he also got nowhere pursuing the issue with the company commander and filed a complaint with the post's inspector general. It was not immediately known what happened to that complaint.

Under the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, gay members of the military can continue to serve - and their superiors cannot investigate and expel them - as long as they keep their sexual orientation to themselves.

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said Tuesday the Defense Department is designing training programs to ensure understanding of the policy.

Fisher is to be court-martialed on Monday.

Fort Campbell is on the Kentucky-Tennessee state line about 50 miles northwest of Nashville.

MIAMI HERALD, December 9, 1999

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Gay Men's Chorus hopes to bring down a full house

The Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida has a huge goal for its 14th annual holiday concert next week: filling the 2,700-seat Au Rene Theater at the Broward Center for Performing Arts.

"Our holiday concerts [always sell] out. This year, the concert is in the big house. We're tripling our space," said a slightly nervous Paul

Falanga, the chorus' general manager. "We have a break-even point at the Broward Center. We have to sell 50 percent of the house to break even."

Previously, the chorus has performed in smaller venues, including the Broward Center's Amaturio Theater, which seats 587, and the Parker Playhouse in Fort Lauderdale, with 1,200 seats.

If all goes well, the Dec. 17 holiday concert will be a fund-raiser for Center One, Broward's largest AIDS service agency, with 30,000 active clients and 10,000 new ones each year.

The stake is personal: By 1996, the chorus had lost 40 of its original 150 members to AIDS.

The Gay Men's Chorus concept was born out of the AIDS crisis 20 years ago in San Francisco, said Gary Keating, who founded the South Florida group in 1986.

"The AIDS agencies were young and growing," said Keating, who co-owns Mangrove Villas, a gay men's guest house in Fort Lauderdale. "There really were not things for gay people to get involved in, except going to the bars."

Immediately, the chorus took off.

"Members drove from Kendall and Palm Beach. At one point, we had a member who drove from Naples," Keating said. "It filled a large need for many of the men: the need to make music, the need for camaraderie, the need to come out."

For an early concert, one of the singers invited his parents. At the time, they didn't know he was gay, Keating recalled.

"The first thing they knew was when they saw the sign, 'Gay Men's Chorus.' After the concert, his mother asked, 'Is everybody in this chorus gay?' He said, 'Yes.' She said, 'Then I guess you are, too.'"

The parents lovingly hugged their son, said Keating, who watched nearby.

"It was a really positive thing, enough to bring tears to your eyes," he said.

Public education is a large part of the chorus concept.

Falanga, a physical therapist, says the chorus helps put names and faces on gay people.

"The general public looks and sees and says, 'Hey, they look like our sons and daughters,'" Falanga said. "By showing up in tuxedos and singing nice, people say, 'Hey, they're OK,'".

The chorus belongs to GALA, the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses, an international group comprising 186 choirs.

There are several gay-oriented musical groups in South Florida. Others include the 30-strong Lambda Chorale, featuring "gay men, lesbians and straights," according to its director Keating; the Flamingo Freedom Band; and the newly formed 35-member South Beach Gay Men's Chorus.

"It's become an enormous thing," said William Adams, who runs the music-theater program at Barry University and is also artistic director of the 50-member Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida.

"I run the group as a professional group, but I keep in mind that, by and large, they are amateurs. . . . It's not fluff anymore," Adams said.

Outlooks, a column about gay and lesbian life in South Florida, runs

the
second and fourth Thursday of the month. To contact Steve Rothaus, call
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PITTSBURGH POST GAZETTE, December 9, 1999
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Panel rejects Pitt motion to dismiss same-sex benefits case
By Bill Schackner, Post-Gazette Staff Writer

The Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations says a state law passed
last
month won't bar it from deciding if the University of Pittsburgh
discriminated by denying health benefits to domestic partners of its gay
and
lesbian employees.

The commission asserted its jurisdiction yesterday in rejecting a
motion
to dismiss the case that Pitt filed on Nov. 18, two days after the
legislation was rushed through the state House and Senate without debate.

The legislation, later signed by Gov. Ridge, exempts state and
state-related universities from any local ordinance that might require them
to provide same-sex benefits. But the statute "does not affect the
Commission's jurisdiction to determine whether or not discrimination, as
charged, in fact occurred," commission member Pamela Golden wrote in a
three-paragraph order on behalf of the panel.

The new state law speaks to potential remedies the commission might
impose, Golden said. As such, any impact the law might have on the case
can't
properly be addressed until the commission decides whether discrimination
occurred.

The ruling sets the stage for a jurisdictional showdown between the
city
panel charged with enforcing Pittsburgh's anti-discrimination laws and the
state Legislature. Pitt contends the new law effectively should have ended
the litigation by removing the commission's authority to intervene.

But the American Civil Liberties Union, which is representing seven
current and former Pitt employees in their lawsuit, said the law doesn't
apply. The ACLU argues the city's 1990 gay rights ordinance, under which
the
case is being tried, doesn't mention benefits but simply forbids
discrimination in housing and employment.

Witold Walczak, director of the ACLU in Pittsburgh, hailed yesterday's
ruling.

"We're pleased that our clients are going to have their day in court
and
Pitt's policies of treating lesbian and gay employees as second-class
citizens can be thoroughly dissected," he said.

Late yesterday, Pitt hinted strongly that the case may be headed for
Commonwealth Court.

"The University of Pittsburgh is disappointed that, even in the face of

recent legislative action, the Pittsburgh Human Relations Commission has denied our motion to dismiss this case," Executive Vice Chancellor Jerome Cochran said in a prepared statement.

"It seems highly unlikely that these issues will be properly considered and resolved until they are presented to a court of the Commonwealth," Cochran said. "Once that happens, we fully expect the basic legal issues that the university has consistently put forward will be upheld."

Former legal writing instructor Deborah Henson and six other current and former university employees say Pitt discriminated by denying them insurance for their gay and lesbian partners.

The nearly 4-year-old case, which has gained state and national attention, is scheduled to be heard by the commission on Feb. 8.

In a related ruling, the commission denied a motion by James Flaherty, a Commonwealth Court judge and former Pitt trustee, to quash a subpoena seeking his deposition in the case.

But it imposed a stipulation that Flaherty can only be asked about his views while a member of Pitt's board, said the panel's director, Charles Morrison.

Referring to a 1993 article in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, ACLU lawyers said Flaherty, a trustee until 1995, called same-sex partner benefits "a special award for being a homosexual" that he opposed.

The ACLU said it wants to depose him to bolster its contention that a hostile attitude toward gays existed at Pitt at the time Henson applied for benefits.

Daniel Shapira, Flaherty's lawyer, did not return calls seeking comment yesterday.

He earlier told the commission that Flaherty had no relevant testimony to give and that a deposition would interfere with his responsibilities as a sitting judge.

Morrison yesterday declined to speculate what impact the new state law might ultimately have on any remedies the panel might impose should it find that Pitt discriminated.

"The commission has a very broad range of powers in terms of constructing remedies. It's not just limited to an order putting these benefits in place," he said.

Pitt said it did not discriminate against Henson and the other plaintiffs.

It said its use of marriage as a determiner for eligibility for spousal benefits is legal, even though gays can not legally marry in Pennsylvania.

Cochran, in his statement, said the commission continues to avoid what he said was the basic fact of the case -- that the city's 1990 gay rights ordinance was never intended to compel domestic partner benefits.

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Guilt-laden gay senators dodge daily prayers: One Nation MP.

By BRENDAN NICHOLSON

CANBERRA.

One Nation's only federal representative has suggested that some gay senators avoid going to the chamber for the daily prayer because they know God considers homosexuality an abomination.

Senator Len Harris told the Senate that "God's word clearly says to us that the acts of lesbianism and homosexuality are an abomination".

He made his comments during a debate on whether the Senate should vote on

changes, proposed by the Democrats, to give same-sex couples legal rights, similar to those of heterosexual de facto couples, in areas such as superannuation.

Senator Harris said his party was "absolutely opposed to any moves to have homosexuality or lesbianism placed on the same level as the institution of marriage".

But Democrats Senator Brian Greig ? who, along with Greens senator Bob Brown is openly gay ? said gays and lesbians deserved to be treated as equal citizens.

They were often obliged to contribute to compulsory superannuation, which he supported. "But in doing so we are being asked to subscribe to a system that then deliberately and specifically discriminates against us," he said.

He said for many gays, their sexuality was not a choice.

Senator Ron Boswell said the National Party would always oppose a legislative agenda for same-sex couples. "It seems that the Democrats are hell bent on trying to promote this type of lifestyle through the Senate.

If

we pass this motion today it will send a message out to all Australians ... that society not only condones it but is indifferent to the bonds which make

the typical family the fundamental unit of society."

Mrs. Clinton's comments were the first time she had publicly discussed her views about one of the more difficult episodes of Clinton's first term

in office, said Jeff Soref, the co-chairman of the Empire State Pride Agenda, which supports full rights for gays, and an organizer of the fund-raiser.

The fight over Clinton's effort to end the military's longstanding ban against openly gay personnel dominated his first months in office. When he issued an executive order ending the ban, questions about the new president's competence and ideology were raised among both supporters and opponents of the ban.

Clinton eventually abandoned the executive order, instead agreeing to legislation that permitted gay men and lesbians to serve in the military providing they did not disclose or act upon their sexuality, and prohibiting the military from initiating unfounded inquiries about homosexuality. That approach angered many of the people Clinton had set out to please in the first place.

Mrs. Clinton, responding to a question posed at the fund-raiser, held at the studio of the artist Ross Bleckner, voiced her displeasure with the policy in unequivocal terms, according to participants. There were murmurs of approval and soft applause as she described "don't ask, don't tell" as a failure, taking note of the fact that there has been an increase in the number of gays expelled from the military since the policy was put in force. Gay groups say that since the policy was put into effect, the number of such discharges had doubled, to 312 last year.

"I think, quite frankly, she expressed a view that is an emerging consensus among people who are following this closely," said Richard Socarides, the former White House liaison on gay issues, who attended the fund-raiser. Socarides said she stated her views "directly and forcefully," adding: "I suspect that if you asked the president directly, he would say that this is an area that requires a lot of work also."

The fact that both Mayor Giuliani and Mrs. Clinton have embraced the same position on an issue that so deeply split Congress in 1993 -- and caused major political problems for the Democratic White House -- reflects the extent to which both Giuliani and Mrs. Clinton view gay men and lesbians in New York as a source of votes and contributions. Indeed, Alfonse M. D'Amato, the Republican who was unseated by Charles E. Schumer in last year's election for Senate, also called for lifting the military ban on gays.

Both Mrs. Clinton and Giuliani have already gone to some lengths to court support from gay voters, and Mrs. Clinton's advisers said they were concerned that Giuliani might do well among a group of voters that has historically been viewed as a reliable part of the Democratic base.

Soref pointed to Election Day polls in 1997 that showed that Giuliani had won about 40 percent of the gay vote against his Democratic opponent, Ruth W. Messinger. "There is a perception that he has been an effective mayor," Soref said of gay voters.

"I think in this election, people are eager to hear from Hillary," Soref said. "I think she is a popular figure in the lesbian and gay community, and people have not heard from her before and where she stands on these issues."

At the fund-raiser, Mrs. Clinton also voiced support for domestic-partnership measures that would allow gay partners to receive the same health and other financial benefits as married couples. At that, her position is similar to the one taken by Giuliani, who supported a domestic partnership law in 1997 that Soref described as sweeping.

The mayor frequently remarks that he, rather than any of his

Democratic predecessors, signed the city's first domestic partnership law.

Mrs. Clinton's spokesman, Howard Wolfson, said that the first lady, like her husband, supported legislation passed by Congress in 1996 that effectively banned gay marriages. Soref said that in Mrs. Clinton's speech, "She never used the phrase marriage, but she said same-sex unions should be recognized and that same-sex unions should be entitled to all the rights and privileges that every other American gets."

In a more typical election in New York, a Democratic candidate coming out for an end to the "don't ask, don't tell" policy would be something short of remarkable. In this instance, though, it again demonstrates the ways Mrs. Clinton has had to distance herself from certain aspects of her husband's record to extend her political appeal in New York.

She parted from Clinton when he sought to grant pardons to members of a Puerto Rican separatist terrorist group, and when she voiced support for establishing Jerusalem as the permanent capital of Israel.

This instance is not quite so clear-cut. Clinton, while campaigning before groups of gay men and lesbians in 1992, pledged to sign an executive order lifting the ban, the same position now supported by his wife.

Faced with fierce opposition in Congress, Clinton backed off his executive order, and instead agreed to the "don't ask, don't tell" compromise.

But under the compromise policy, the number of people who were expelled from the military for being homosexual increased, and last summer the Pentagon announced revisions in the policy intended to make it harder for commanders to conduct what critics have described as unjustified investigations of military personnel they suspected of being gay.

Among the provisions was one requiring commanders to seek approval from senior civilian officials before starting certain investigations. Mrs. Clinton praised those efforts on Tuesday night, and said she would support further regulations intended to make sure that "gays and lesbians can serve without harassment."