

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

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

CREATION DATE/TIME:17-MAR-1997 12:11:00.00

SUBJECT: Articles 3.17.97.4

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

TEXT:

1. (NC) TIMES NEWS Letter: On gay issues, use head, not emotions
2. (CO) DAILY CAMERA Coloradao Univ gay benefits targeted - Senator's
bill
bans coverage for partners
3. AKRON BEACON JOURNAL Editorial: Code of Silence? The failed "Don't
Ask,
Don't Tell" policy for gays in the military
4. FEEDBACK Excellent video - "Growing up gay"

The TIMES NEWS

PO BOX 490, Hendersonville, NC 28792

FAX 704 692 2319, Circulation 33,650

ON GAY ISSUES, USE HEAD, NOT EMOTIONS

To The Editor: I am writing to express my appreciation for the letter
to the editor of March 5 by Kevin Boyle, titled "Heterosexuals more
dangerous
to families." To say that homosexuals are the cause of the breakdown of
"family values" is to ignore reality. Many voices have targeted these
people
for the cause of many things, because they want to find a scapegoat for

what's wrong with our society.

I am a retired American Baptist pastor and have worked with many gays and lesbians over the years. I have found none that are a threat to "family values". There are some who have had families that abandoned them because they could not deal with the fact that a member of their family has a different sexual orientation, but that alienation generally came from the heterosexuals.

Many families blame the homosexual, saying he/she "chose" to be that way. There is a choice involved all right. But the choice comes in deciding to love and accept our gay family members as God has made them. Then the family stays together, and "family values" are upheld. Studies show (and this has been my experience) that gays and lesbians make excellent parents, and many would like to be recognized by society in general as a family unit.

I am the father of a gay son. He and his partner of 12 years are a very real part of my family. They are both loving and caring people. They both contribute much not only to our immediate family, but to our extended family as well. They both are fine Christian young men, who are disillusioned with most of the churches right now. They enjoyed their recent visit with us to the local Metropolitan Community Church who have a unique ministry to Christian/gays and lesbians.

Let's use our heads more when we discuss homosexuality and our

emotions

less.

Jerry W. Miller

Hendersonville

THE DAILY CAMERA March 14, 1997

1048 Pearl Street, Boulder, CO, 80306

(Fax 303-442-1508, print run 43,410)

(E-mail: newsr@bouldernews.info.net)(<http://www.bouldernews.com>)

CU GAY BENEFITS TARGETED

SENATOR'S BILL BANS COVERAGE FOR PARTNERS

By LINDA CORNETT Camera Staff Writer

A state senator stepped Thursday into the CU regents' deliberations with a bill that would order the regents not to extend benefits to the partners of gay and lesbian employees.

A subcommittee of the Board of Regents is considering whether to extend benefits such as insurance coverage to the domestic partners of University of Colorado employees. That issue is expected to come to the full board for a vote in June or July.

However, Sen. Ben Alexander, R-Montrose, introduced a bill Thursday that would prohibit any state college from extending benefits to anyone but an employee's legal spouse and children. It would exclude unmarried

heterosexual

partners from coverage, as well as same-sex partners.

"It's a pre-emptive strike," said Joanna Duenas, director of CU's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Resource Center. If it passes, "the regents won't even get a chance to debate the issue, let alone vote on it."

And they shouldn't, said Regent Norwood Robb, R-Littleton. "The Legislature should be responsible; it's a policy decision and state tax dollars. The university should not try to legislate by taking action that might not be in the university's best long-term interest."

Over the past few years there have been periodic attempts to get the university to extend benefits to domestic partners. Although the issue has simmered closer and closer to the surface in the past two years, the regents have not yet officially considered it.

Alexander and state Rep. Gary McPherson, R-Aurora, were allowed to introduce the bill after the deadline for the 1996-97 legislative session.

"We're concerned about the back-door route this issue is taking through the Legislature," said Duenas, because there is so little time before the end of the legislative session to discuss the issue with lawmakers.

Neither legislator returned calls Thursday. Robb said he believed the legislation was prompted by an incorrect report in a Denver newspaper that the regents had approved domestic partnership benefits. He received phone calls and a letter and had conversations with legislators who insisted such action was their purview.

The bill, introduced in the Senate on Thursday morning, was assigned to the Senate Education Committee. That committee of four Republicans and three Democrats "may be less hostile than a lot of other committees it might have gone to," said Joanne Arnold, a retired faculty member and head of a Chancellor's Standing Committee on Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues.

"I'm hopeful that reasonable minds will prevail," she said. "I really don't believe that people go out of their way to be mean, and I can hardly imagine that the whole Legislature will go for this bill, which is so clearly mean-spirited and discriminatory. I'm also hopeful that the governor will veto the bill if it passes."

Jim Carpenter in Gov. Roy Romer's press office said Thursday that Romer would not comment on the bill until he had seen and analyzed it.

Last year, Romer vetoed a bill prohibiting recognition of same-sex marriages, even from another state. He has been friendlier to a milder 1997 version stating that marriage is limited to a consenting man and woman.

THE AKRON BEACON JOURNAL March 14, 1997

44 E. Exchange Street, Akron, OH, 44328

(Fax 330-996-3520, print run 158,725)

(E-MAIL: ohio@akron.infi.net)(<http://www.ohio.com>)

CODE OF SILENCE?

THE FAILED 'DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL' POLICY FOR GAYS IN THE MILITARY

One of the sorriest episodes of Bill Clinton's presidency has been his

handling of the question of gay men and lesbians serving in the armed forces.

On the campaign trail and in the earliest days of his administration, the president rightly argued that homosexuals should be allowed to serve their country without fear of harassment or discrimination. He called for lifting the ban against homosexuals in the military.

Unfortunately, the president failed, out of inexperience and carelessness, to lay the political groundwork for the change. Officers in the Pentagon and members of Congress expressed vehement opposition. In the end, Clinton fashioned an awkward compromise. The ban would remain in place. At the same time, homosexuals would be allowed to serve as long as they kept their sexual preference a secret. Military commanders would be barred from asking about sexual orientation.

The hope was, the "don't ask, don't tell" policy would be an improvement, allowing gays and lesbians a measure of privacy and confidence that they would have a secure place in the armed forces. After all, homosexuals have served for years, often with distinction, in the armed services.

The reality is, the new policy has been a miserable failure. That was apparent almost as soon as the compromise was instituted three years ago. The point was reiterated this month. The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a group that provides legal aid to troops accused of homosexuality, reported that

discharges of gay and lesbian service members have increased dramatically since the new policy went into effect.

The group concluded that the plight of homosexuals in the military may be even more dire than it was. The "don't ask" provision of the compromise has been violated repeatedly, leading to "witch hunts, seizure of personal diaries and threatening service members with prison unless they accused others as gay."

In part, the group argued, gay and lesbian troops face a backlash triggered by the attention they've received as a result of the controversy.

They've also been harmed by a dismaying lack of discipline in the armed forces. The policy is "don't ask, don't tell," and yet, military officials have, in too many instances, excused violations.

The armed forces have an admirable record of getting difficult tasks accomplished, on the battlefield and on the homefront, including racial integration. They have experience in this area. Again, gays and lesbians have long served in the military. The current difficulties testify to the need for lifting the ban against homosexuals.

Yes, Bill Clinton could make an even deeper mess of things. Still, he should prepare, in his remaining years as president, to complete the job he began, or, at least, take another, more prudent run at the problem. The evidence is plain. The current policy isn't working. Those who wish to serve their

country, and do so, effectively and honorably, shouldn't have to serve in
fear and secrecy.

FEEDBACK From: SARATOGANY@aol.com

Brian McNaught's "Growing Up Gay" (available on videotape) was shown
twice, at least, here (Albany, NY area) on PBS, within 4 days.

It is excellent. Everyone should view it, especially parents.

I plan to squeeze it in at the 4 Monday night series on gay issues in
school at the Saratoga Springs Public Library (starts 3/17). ===== ATTACHMENT 1
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Socarides_R@a1.eop.gov; Mon, 17 Mar 1997 11:28:34 -0500 (EST)

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Received: (from root@localhost) by emout20.mail.aol.com (8.7.6/8.7.3/AOL-2.0.0)

id LAA11297; Mon, 17 Mar 1997 11:11:19 -0500 (EST)

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

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CREATION DATE/TIME:31-MAR-1997 10:06:00.00

SUBJECT: bcc: The Monday Clips

TO: susan e. walitsky (susan e. walitsky@EOP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

[Image]

Political Surveyor

Question for Gingrich Is Not If, But When He Will Be

Forced to Go

By Charlie Cook

Around Capitol Hill these days it's hard to ignore the growing storm clouds around House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga). Though there are no new developments on the ethics front and Democrats are strangely silent, the undercurrents within the House GOP Conference look pretty treacherous for Gingrich, with conservatives appearing to be the biggest source of his woes.

It's true that only a few House Republicans have publicly taken on the Speaker, but when a Member of Congress publicly calls a Speaker of his own party

"political road kill," as Rep. Peter King (R-NY) did last week, while others openly complain of no leadership and having lost confidence in Gingrich, one can only surmise that this is but the tip of the iceberg. For every Member with the poor taste or judgment to openly challenge the Speaker, there are probably dozens who privately harbor the same feelings.

Republicans high and low are quietly saying that it's only a matter of time until Gingrich is gone. What is less certain, though, is whether it is a matter of weeks, sometime next year, or perhaps at the end of this Congress.

While many ask what the precipitating event will be that brings Gingrich down, it seems that there may not be a single event, but rather the cumulative effect of things that have already happened.

Democrats and journalists tend to focus on Gingrich's ethical problems and his horrendous public opinion ratings, but what ultimately may seal the Speaker's fate is that his followers have lost faith in him. Some question his judgment, concluding that when faced with decisions, both important and trivial, the Speaker seems to come down opposite his colleagues.

More times than Republicans can count, the Speaker has come back from the White House having been, in the judgment of GOP Members, either rolled or sweet-talked by the President into going along with something diametrically opposed to the wishes of the majority of the House Republican Conference.

More recently, whether it has been suggesting that the GOP delay tax cuts until after a budget deal is concluded or seating the Rev. Jesse Jackson in the Speaker's gallery during the State of the Union, conservatives have been horrified by Gingrich's actions.

The second criticism is that House Republicans lack direction and focus, that their mission has been obscured, and the only obvious objective is survival. While this may not be entirely Gingrich's fault, there is no question that he has been hobbled as a leader.

While the Speaker's ethics problems did, in fact, create problems for some Republicans in more moderate and Democratic-leaning districts, his inability to provide leadership to the majority party is a bigger problem.

Interestingly enough, Gingrich appears most vulnerable now, at a time when Democrats are strangely silent. Reportedly, it has been suggested to Democrats in a

recent caucus, that they lay off ethics attacks on Gingrich, in deference to the recent bipartisan Congressional retreat in Hershey, Pa. Even Gingrich's harshest critic, House Minority Whip David Bonior (D-Mich), has laid off, allowing Republican Members to express dissent without appearing to be playing into the hands of Bonior and the Democrats.

Some Republicans maintain that Gingrich might already have been gone had Democrats not attacked him so savagely, forcing even most dissident Republicans in the Conference to stand by their man, even if with gritted teeth.

Arguably, another reason that Gingrich has remained in power despite all of his problems is that there is no consensus on a successor. There has been enough doubt, particularly among moderates, about whether Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-Texas), the number-two Republican in the House, is the right person to take over the Speakership.

More recently, Armey seems to have made a good deal of progress in diminishing the fears of skeptics, though it still isn't a done deal that he would take over. It seems likely that Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R-Texas) not jump into the fray, and that Republican Conference

Chairman John Boehner (R-Ohio) and leadership chairman Bill Paxon (R-NY) would be more likely either to take Armey on for Speaker or fight over the Majority Leader post if Armey looked to have the top job in the bag.

Some theorize that Gingrich senses his run is almost up and is seeking an exit strategy that would allow him to leave with some semblance of a legacy intact.

Indeed, that may have been what his delayed tax-cut suggestion was about. Helping to put together a deal that produced the first balanced federal budget since 1969 would certainly establish a positive place in the history books.

Gingrich's best chance is to persuade the critics in his party to lay off, while sending a quiet message that he will step down at the end of this Congress. That would allow the Speaker to accomplish as much as possible before 1988, while allowing the succession battle for his post to take shape.

But the end of the 105th Congress is a ways off, and the question is whether he can hang on that long. Today, the smart money says he can't.

More Information about Charlie Cook

[Image]

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Received: from gatekeeper.eop.gov by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.0-4 #6879)
id <01IH5AQ90040015P9X@PMDF.EOP.GOV> for susan_e._walitsky@oa.eop.gov; Mon,

31 Mar 1997 09:04:10 -0500 (EST)

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===== ATTACHMENT 2 =====

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:

[The Wall Street Journal Interactive Edition][Politics & Policy]

[The Wall Street Journal Interactive Edition]

[Table of Contents] March 31, 1997

Congressional Record Shows
Lack of Action in First 3 Months

By JACKIE CALMES
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON -- Congress is in the midst of a
two-week break, raising the question: How can
you tell the difference?

Since the 105th Congress opened in January, its
pace is far behind the record activity of two
years ago. That's when Republicans took control
for the first time in 40 years and sprinted
through the frantic "First Hundred Days" of

their revolution. But, torn by GOP divisions and Democratic partisanship, the new Republican-led Congress is lagging even the pace of more typical legislative openers.

"One of the most frequently asked questions in Washington these days seems to be, 'Is there anything happening here?' " political analyst Charles Cook wrote to open his recent newsletter. The answer: not much.

The Senate, with a backlog of federal judicial nominations for about 100 vacancies, has confirmed exactly two judges. Senators also authorized the minting of coins to honor singer Frank Sinatra and approved a resolution praising the national champion University of Florida football team. This month the House rushed to go on record in support of a judge's public display of the Ten Commandments. On the same day, it voted to honor democracy gains in Guatemala and Nicaragua, and former Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

'Why Are We All Here?'

The sluggish pace has lawmakers who came to Washington to change the world wondering. Freshman Democratic Rep. Jim McGovern of Massachusetts recently confided from the House floor, "As I awoke this morning, I asked myself a question: 'Why are we all here?' "

Congress isn't the only Washington institution in the doldrums. At the start of his second term, President Clinton has been better mostly at giving the appearance of action, with bite-sized initiatives instead of the ambitious failed ones of his own first two years. Moreover, Democrats are preoccupied with the disclosures about party fund-raising.

But the most obvious shutdown is in Congress. The House and Senate traditionally start slow as they wait for bills to percolate up from committees. "What really bothers me is that stuff isn't even in the pipeline," says Rep. Scott Klug, a Wisconsin Republican who has decided to retire.

In the first three months of this year's new Congress, the House was in session 27 days, less than half the 53 days in the same 1995 period and down also from 35 days in the 1993

period, when the Democrats were still in charge. House votes in the first quarter totaled 60, far below 271 in the 1995 period and 123 in 1993's first quarter, according to the Congressional Record.

The number of bills passed is down sharply. The House approved 68 measures in the first quarter, compared with 111 in the like 1995 period and 89 in 1993's first three months. The Senate has passed 50 bills, down from 77 in the comparable 1995 time and 87 in the 1993 period. The legislative lassitude stirred Democratic Rep. Nick Lampson of Texas to inquire from the House floor: "Is this what the majority means when they talk about wanting less government?"

GOP Setbacks

For some Republicans, the only thing worse than what hasn't happened is what has. Dominating House and Senate action to date has been the reprimand of House Speaker Newt Gingrich, and defeats of proposed constitutional amendments for a balanced budget and term limits. Republicans also have engaged in embarrassing intraparty disputes over campaign-finance probes.

In contrast to 1995, GOP goals are more uncertain now. Republican leaders have announced and reannounced their agenda for a balanced budget, tax cuts, Medicare reforms and, at bottom, less government. But they can't convince their own ranks, divided and demoralized after the past two years' battles, that they mean it. "There's a lot of confusion and a real lack of definition," says Indiana Sen. Dan Coats, another Republican opting to retire. "It's deeply disappointing."

With a lot of idle time on their hands, some conservative House GOP members are even talking rebellion against Speaker Gingrich. They were angered by his suggestion that GOP tax cuts could wait until a balanced-budget deal was struck. There are reports some will press for his ouster when Congress returns next week, but others note a shortage of candidates to take his place.

Right now Congress is on its fourth break this year from the, uh, action. And the pace isn't likely to pick up when lawmakers return. The

House leadership isn't sure what the first week's schedule is.

Meanwhile, April 11 marks the end of a bipartisan moratorium on complaints to the House Ethics Committee. In contrast to an early spirit of cooperation, Democrats will likely rush to file or refile complaints against various GOP lawmakers. Republicans, in turn, have Democratic Rep. Jim McDermott of Washington in their sights.

April 15 Deadline

Then April 15 looms as Congress's own deadline for producing a budget resolution, though the deadline is often missed, Republicans this year haven't even proposed a budget or had the first committee vote. Meanwhile, in keeping with Mr. Clinton's proposal for bipartisan budget talks, congressional staffers Monday will begin a second week of meetings on spending issues -- Medicare is Monday's topic. But many consider the exercise a waste of time, saying only the principals, Mr. Clinton and GOP leaders, can decide anything.

More than six weeks after a Capitol meeting at which GOP leaders and Mr. Clinton agreed to five policy priorities -- education, welfare-to-work aid, taxes, juvenile crime and assistance for the District of Columbia -- Congress hasn't even named the five task forces that are supposed to begin the search for common ground.

Congressional leaders insist things will get moving. "Judge us as to what we produce next year, not how we started," House Majority Whip Tom DeLay of Texas has said. And indeed it is feasible that by the fall of 1998 Congress could act on a balanced-budget accord, utility deregulation, a rewrite of the Superfund law and a five-year highway-funding program.

Rep. Klug agrees it is way too early to predict this will be a "Do Nothing Congress." But, back in his Madison, Wis.-area district for the break, he notes that constituents used to pepper him with questions about pending issues. "Now people kind of look at you and say, 'Exactly what is it you guys in Washington are working on?'"

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Return to top of page

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TEXT:

[The Washington Times] [Politics]

[Image]

Published in Washington, D.C. 5am --

March 31, 1997 www.washtimes.com

[(see the text links at the bottom of the page)]

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Inside the Beltway

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Political tidbits and other shenanigans

[Image]

from around the nation's capital

[Image]

[Image]

By John McCaslin

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Roger the dodger

. . . . Roger Stone turns up in the darndest places.

. . . . The well-known GOP strategist, who has worked for Ronald Reagan, George Bush, Bob Dole, Arlen Specter, Jack Kemp, even Donald Trump, was forced to quit his volunteer advisory role with Bob Dole's presidential campaign last fall amid what at first appeared to be another Washington sex scandal.

. . . . Two supermarket tabloids reported that Mr. Stone and his wife, Nydia, posted nasty messages on an X-rated Internet site and placed ads in sleazy magazines seeking male and female sexual partners. Racy photographs of the consultant and his wife -- he bare-chested, she in a revealing negligee from her modeling days -- appeared in swingers publications.

. . . . To make a steamy story short, Mr. Stone denied everything, saying "a sick, disgruntled individual" was out to ruin his career.

. . . . He did get into some legitimate hot water with Republicans, however, after helping

elect former Rep. Robert G. Torricelli, New Jersey Democrat, to the Senate. He later explained that Mr. Torricelli was a "very good friend" who needed some fund-raising help and strategic advice.

. . . . At the same time, Mr. Stone stressed he remained a Republican and his work on behalf of the Democrat was a one-time occurrence.

. . . . We weren't so sure after spotting Mr. Stone seated recently in the office lobby of Rep. Robert E. Andrews, the New Jersey Democrat who hopes to unseat Gov. Christine Todd Whitman in November. Before long, Mr. Andrews greeted Mr. Stone and ushered him into his office.

. . . . Another scandal?

. . . . "I was there on National Gaming Commission business," says Mr. Stone, who adds he was representing Mr. Trump and his casino interests. "It was nothing more nefarious than that."

. . . . Mr. Stone in recent months launched his own public affairs and business development firm --the Fort Hill Group -- having left the public relations and lobbying firm Davis, Manafort and Stone in January.

. . . . "It's going great," he says. "It's nice to be out of politics."

Who dunnit?

. . . . In a period of less than a week, 10 percent of the sexy bus shelter billboards for "Chicago," the Broadway musical coming to the National Theater on April 9, have been stolen. The last time this otherwise boring political city experienced such thievery was when Dockers jeans ads graced the shelters.

Always a Teamster

. . . . Gen. Colin Powell, retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and now chairman of the president's Summit for America's Future, says he supports unions and wants to "help NEA."

. . . . But what do you expect from a former Teamster?

. . . . In an interview to appear in the April issue of the National Education Association's monthly newspaper, NEA Today, Mr. Powell praises the teachers organization.

. . . . "The NEA is doing so much now," he says. "Teachers are already mentors. Teachers are providing a safe place for children every day. Teachers are educating. Teachers are associated with a healthy start for kids, and

many schools are requiring their students to do community service. So NEA is firing on all eight cylinders right now."

.... Asked if he supports unions, Mr. Powell says that his mother was a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union "and, in my youth, I was a member of Local 812, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters."

.... "Why would I not stand for them?" he asks.

.... The 2.2-million-member teachers union is opposed to school vouchers for private school tuition. On this, however, Mr. Powell parts company with them.

.... "I support using vouchers and seeing where it takes us," he says. "I'm not saying let's do the whole country. I'm saying now's the time to take risks to see if we can improve America's schools. Let parents make a choice about whether they want their children going to a public school or some competing educational opportunity."

Goodwill tour

.... A U.S. official claims Chinese officials are somewhat baffled by a diplomatic and military snub coinciding with the Chinese navy's first port visit to the United States last week.

.... First of all, the official explains, the three Chinese ships -- two gray destroyers and a supply ship -- were told to dock next to the huge aircraft carrier USS Constellation, perhaps to remind them how much more powerful the U.S. Navy is compared with the Chinese fleet.

.... Secondly, the Chinese were said to be perturbed because the highest-ranking U.S. officer to welcome them was Vice Adm. Brent Bennett, commander of Pacific naval aviation -- yes, aviation!

.... Thirdly, neither California Gov. Pete Wilson nor San Diego Mayor Susan Golding accepted invitations to attend a reception aboard one of the Chinese ships, and in a further insult none of their staff attended, says the official.

.... The Chinese are "angry at the snubs," says the official.

.... Not so angry were the 810 visiting Chinese sailors, who were delighted to visit Disneyland.

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Congress Inside Out

Independent Counsel Madness Must Stop: Let's Change the
Law

By Norman J. Ornstein

Sometime in the past couple of weeks we reached the notable point at which the number of prominent figures calling for an independent counsel exceeded the number of prominent people who slept in the Lincoln Bedroom.

The process has taken on a numbingly familiar pattern: There are press reports of alleged scandal, followed almost immediately by some partisans on the other side reflexively calling for appointment of an independent counsel to underscore the gravity of the alleged offenses. Then there are more news accounts, followed by the reflexive call for an independent counsel by the usual editorial pages, starting (always) with the New York Times.

Soon, the Sunday talk shows are featuring the allegations of scandal and asking every guest whether he or she supports an independent counsel. Then, a prominent member of the President's party says that he supports appointment of an independent counsel -- which is front page news, and an occasion for more lead editorials in the Times calling for an independent counsel, and for every interview with a politician on "Inside Politics," "Today," "Crossfire," and "Nightline" to feature the obligatory question about the independent counsel, and for every interview or press conference with the Attorney General, no matter what the subject, to ask why there has been no independent counsel.

The issue of whether and when to create the independent counsel becomes at least as prominent as the issue of wrongdoing, until the process can't stand the pressure and we get the independent counsel -- and all the

problems and warts that come with it.

Enough is enough. The independent counsel statute is a turkey -- and virtually everyone in the political arena knows it and will privately admit it. What was supposed to be a process reserved for the most explosive, broad-ranging allegations against the very top officials in government -- used only when it appears that the normal investigative and prosecutorial agents of government, the Justice Department and the FBI, can't be trusted to do a thorough and fair investigation -- has become nearly commonplace.

Independent counsels and their staffs have proliferated as if cloning were already available for lawyers, and they keep bumping into each other as they root around everywhere looking for wrongdoing.

The independent counsels more often than not are prominent litigators or prosecutors who are ambitious individuals in their own right. There is stiff competition out in the legal profession to be made an independent counsel; it can be the ticket to greater acclaim and career advancement.

And what greater acclaim can come than if you nail the big kahuna, showing malfeasance at the highest levels of government?

Earlier, judges with the authority to pick independent counsels tended to opt for older individuals to minimize the likelihood of personal ambitions coloring official actions. To be sure, 75-year-old Lawrence Walsh showed that age and ambition are not mutually exclusive.

But the current main selector Judge David Sentelle, has decided basically to opt for young, ambitious, and aggressive individuals, the worst kind of profile for the job. Moreover, the Legal Times did an analysis showing that most independent counsels have been active partisans -- usually, especially recently, for the other side.

Of course, the ambitions of the individual counsels do not in every case shape their behavior in the job. There are other motives that are just as troubling. Even though the reformers who crafted the statute were careful to call them independent counsels, the counsels often view themselves as independent prosecutors, whose goal is not simply to find the truth but to prosecute somebody. And, once again, the bigger the better.

Armed with nearly unlimited mandates and unlimited budgets, independent counsels represent the limiting

case in American government for the axiom that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Even in the rare case in which a counsel finds no wrongdoing -- or, as in the astonishing and salutary example of Joseph diGenova in the Bush State Department/Clinton passport case, apologizes to the accused for the injustice done -- the very appointment of an independent counsel means automatically six- or seven-figure legal fees for a number of people tied to the case. This includes both the high-profile accused and a succession of lower-level people who may just have been in the wrong place at the wrong time.

And even for the exonerated, the accusations, lifted to a much higher level of importance by the very appointment of an independent counsel, linger long after the finding of innocence.

It gets worse. To achieve the end of nailing the whales, independent counsels regularly use the practice of bludgeoning the minnows to get them to turn on the bigger fish. Using the threat of fuller prosecution or greater punishment, or the inducement of a recommendation of leniency, to get witnesses to be cooperative is a time-honored prosecutorial technique.

Using extraordinarily punitive measures, including harsh conditions in prison, an attempt to find new charges to put more pressure on mid-level individuals, and the threat to prosecute for more and more offenses, even those that are rarely, if ever, prosecuted otherwise -- in other words, blatant blackmail of people to get them to say what prosecutors want them to say -- should be over the line. But it doesn't seem to be with many of the independent counsels.

None of these arguments suggests that the allegations in the campaign finance case are false, minimal, or unserious. But with 25 FBI agents all over the case, and some of the most impressive career figures in the public integrity section of the Justice Department working on it, there is zero reason to believe that justice will be skewed in this case.

With the lower-profile work done by these career people, staffers don't need to start by paying big retainers to high-powered defense lawyers just to protect themselves against nuclear war, and the temptation to make careers or reputations instead of just finding facts is lessened.

These allegations aside, Bill Clinton bears some of the blame for this headache; when newly elected President

Clinton had the chance in 1993 to scuttle or seriously amend the independent counsel statute, he and his fellow Democrats on Capitol Hill declined. They, after all, had used the statute to great effect against a number of Republicans during the Reagan/Bush years, many of whom still bear the bruises and the bills.

Many Republicans who rightly decried the impact of the statute then are eagerly embracing it now. How about taking a small amount of the energy being used to call for a new independent counsel or to resist it and turn it into an effort to change this statute and provide more balance?

There are better ways to provide prudent and independent investigations of top executive branch officials in the rare cases when the Justice Department and FBI cannot be fully independent. Conservative commentator Terry Eastland has suggested one alternative worth considering: Create an Office of Independent Counsel inside the Justice Department, headed by an individual nominated by the president. Give the position a ten-year term like the director of the FBI, subject to Senate confirmation, and fill the office with a staff of top-notch career people well-versed in various areas that might come under investigation.

Even this process would give no guarantees; any person in such a position could become an ego-driven renegade. But this process would lessen the star-quality aspect of the current independent counsel law, remove the wrongheaded role of the judiciary, and reduce the chances of abuse.

If one-tenth of the political and journalistic figures now running around demanding an independent counsel spent their time revising the law, we might actually make it happen.

[Image]

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Road Testing Campaign Finance Bill

Backers Try to Spark Public Call for Change

By Helen Dewar
Washington Post Staff Writer
Monday, March 31 1997; Page A01
The Washington Post

PHILADELPHIA -- Handsomely arrayed against the backdrop of Boston's historic Faneuil Hall and this city's Liberty Bell, the settings could not have been more auspicious for the launching of a drive to "renew American democracy" by overhauling its widely abused campaign financing system.

But the rhetoric, sparse crowds and déjà vu from two decades of false starts sent another message: the enormity of the task facing these latter-day revolutionaries as they try to mobilize the country behind legislation sponsored by Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Russell Feingold (D-Wis.) to set new limits on campaign contributions and spending.

So dispiriting are the reports out of Washington about prospects for the bill that speakers felt compelled to deny it is dead before it has had its first hearing. "You folks don't look like you're here for a wake," Feingold said last Tuesday in welcoming about 100 supporters in Boston, who applauded eagerly, as if to celebrate the reported sign of a pulse.

As the Boston-to-Philadelphia foray indicated, leaders of the campaign finance effort face a kind of political Catch 22: Without a public outcry, members of Congress are reluctant to revamp a system under which incumbents can and usually do raise more than their challengers, ensuring their reelection in most cases. But, with what many lawmakers describe as a widespread public cynicism about prospects for reform, it is difficult to arouse voters to bring the kind of pressure on Congress that it will take to force action.

"It's got to come from outside Washington . . . and it won't be easy," said McCain.

Even the almost daily disclosures of abuses from last year's elections have failed so far to create a groundswell of demands for action, although McCain insists there are signs of mounting anger over the scandals and a resulting increase in pressure for a legislative fix.

"People do care," said Ann McBride, president of Common Cause, which helped organize the drive's kickoff. "They just don't know how their voice is going to be heard over the din of money in Washington."

There is another problem, according to former senator Bill

Bradley (D-N.J.), who is also taking a key role in the drive. "People don't see the connection between campaign finance reform and their own lives," he said. Bradley intends to try to draw that connection by reminding people that tax breaks and subsidies for special interests that contribute to lawmakers' campaigns mean higher taxes for everyone else.

A young passerby at the Boston rally personified the challenge. "Politicians: all sound, no action," he huffed, moving on after pausing only a few seconds to hear the drift of the rhetoric. So did Jackie Johnson, a visitor from New York, who shook her head and said, "Money is always going to talk in Washington."

To break out of the box, Common Cause and other citizen activist groups, including Campaign for America, founded by investment banker Jerome Kohlberg, have organized Project Independence, which the Boston-Philadelphia roadshow was designed to launch with a big splash of historical symbolism.

Its aim is to collect 1,776,000 signatures on behalf of McCain-Feingold by July 4, which President Clinton has set as the target date for passage of a campaign finance bill -- a deadline that, like most others in Washington, will most likely be missed.

There are 7,500 volunteers at work on the drive, soon to be joined by 10 professional organizers, according to McBride. More road trips are planned, including one soon in California. Through a coalition of clergy who have joined the drive, about 100,000 congregations also will participate, the Rev. John A. Buehrens, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, told the Boston rally. Kohlberg is working on the business community, finding more support among retired executives than those who are still working. Of the latter group, he said, "They don't want to lose their clout."

So far, the reaction has been encouraging, McBride said. When McCain mentioned the project's toll-free telephone number on the Don Imus radio show, there were so many calls the phone line was overwhelmed.

In addition, Clinton has tapped elder statesmen from both parties, former vice president Walter F. Mondale (D) and retired senator Nancy Kassebaum Baker (R-Kan.), to lead a parallel effort to rally public and congressional support for legislative action.

Mondale and Kassebaum Baker have appeared on television, written an editorial page piece and now plan to set up a small staff to lay plans for more activities, working in conjunction with the McCain-Feingold coalition, Mondale said. Kassebaum Baker said possibilities include recruiting former colleagues, academic figures and well-known personalities, even basketball coaches, and tapping into networks of local service groups.

What all the groups must deal with is the public's sense of defeatism about the problem, Mondale said in an interview late last week. "I believe people are very upset but they don't believe anything can be done," he said. "When you describe how bad things are, what the public hears is that it's hopeless."

Clinton, who has endorsed McCain-Feingold and made campaign finance reform a centerpiece of his second term agenda, plans to continue to speak out on the issue, according to White House officials.

Like Bradley, Clinton has been trying to frame the issue in a way that connects with people's lives. By reducing special-interest influence on Congress, "campaign finance reform . . . will help us balance the budget, fight crime, extend health care to our children, protect our young people from the dangers of tobacco," Clinton said in a statement read at the Boston rally.

Within Congress, the signs are ambiguous, at best.

Reformers were heartened when Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) was forced by restive Republicans to broaden the scope of an investigation of campaign funding abuses to include some legal activities -- such as unrestricted "soft money" donations to political parties -- that the McCain-Feingold bill targets for elimination.

They were further encouraged when Lott, who is no fan of McCain-Feingold, later said he anticipated hearings on campaign finance legislation shortly after the Senate returns from recess April 7, hoped for committee action by early May and wanted the legislation to address a long list of problems, including soft money.

But the bill remains hampered in the Senate by its meager support among Republicans. Aside from McCain, its only GOP cosponsor is Sen. Fred D. Thompson (R-Tenn.), whose significance is enhanced by the fact that he is chairman of the committee that is running the campaign finance probe.

While some believe prospects for early action are better in the House, many Republicans there are rallying behind a diametrically opposing approach embodied in a bill sponsored by Rep. John T. Doolittle (R-Calif.).

Doolittle's bill would strengthen public disclosure requirements while repealing existing contribution limits, freeing individuals and political action committees (PACs) to give as much as they want to candidates, parties and political committees.

By contrast, McCain-Feingold, in addition to banning the

unlimited soft money, would eliminate or limit PAC contributions and offer free and discounted television time as well as cut-rate mailings to candidates who agree to abide by voluntary spending ceilings, restrict use of their own wealth and raise a designated sum in their own states.

While the McCain-Feingold team scoffs at the Doolittle bill as moving in the wrong direction, the bill illustrates the absence of consensus on Capitol Hill. And it is not the only sign of conflicting pressures. Both the Boston and Philadelphia rallies were picketed by advocates of public financing for congressional campaigns, including one who was dressed as a cat and carried a sign saying, "McCain-Feingold is fine for fat cats." McCain and Feingold say public funding is so controversial that its inclusion in their bill would doom the legislation.

It is the very volatility of Congress that keeps hope alive for the McCain-Feingold forces. Issues, such as lobbying reforms and a ban on gifts to members of Congress that passed in the last Congress, suddenly develop a momentum of their own and become unstoppable. Even Watergate, they note, was slow to ignite the country and prompt legislative reforms.

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Back to the top

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===== ATTACHMENT 6 =====

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:

[Houston Chronicle Interactive logo] 9:11 PM 3/30/1997

Houston Chronicle Interactive

Fund raising not an issue at home

Section: Local & State

Constituents ask lawmakers about

----- everything but controversy

[Virtual Voyager]

By BENNETT ROTH

----- Copyright 1997 Houston Chronicle

Related forum

Washington Bureau

Recent related stories: When U.S. Rep. Nick Lampson spoke
to the Clear Lake Chamber of

* March 21: Revolt in GOP helps Commerce last week, he waded into
delay House fund-raising probe the controversy over campaign fund

* March 19: Senate rejects raising, a topic that has obsessed
campaign reform move the nation's capital over the past

few months.

The freshman Democrat from Beaumont pledged his support for campaign-finance reform, saying it was "ridiculous that I personally raised and spent over \$1.6 million" to win election last year.

When Lampson finished his remarks and opened the floor for questions, it became apparent his lunchtime listeners had other things on their minds.

What was the congressman going to do to secure federal funding to repair navigational buoys that direct boat traffic into Galveston Bay?

How would the United States respond if the Russians did not live up to their commitments to help build the space station?

And how were House Speaker Newt Gingrich's ethical woes affecting the ability of Congress to move ahead?

No one followed up with questions about the numerous investigations over Democratic fund-raising practices or about the large number of big contributors who slept over at the White House.

For four freshmen lawmakers home for the Easter break, the issue that has dominated headlines and debate for weeks in Washington was barely mentioned at a series of meetings with constituents.

And while voters had dozens of questions about issues ranging from taxes to welfare reform and immigration to health care, their overarching concern was how soon Congress will stop studying and start acting to resolve the problems.

"The sense I get is people are tired of the investigations and want us to move onto more substantive issues," said Rep. Kevin Brady, R-The Woodlands, the only first-term congressman from the Houston area who drew a question about campaign finance.

Rep. Jim Turner, D-Crockett, said the issue rarely comes up. "You get a Lincoln bedroom joke now and then," he said, referring to the White House bedroom where high-dollar donors slept. "But I don't get any other observation than it is politics as usual."

Turner said negative publicity about fund raising has made him a little more cautious about how he solicits money to run his next campaign, which is only a year away. He also acknowledged that reports of campaign-finance abuses had fueled a general cynicism and even antagonism toward government.

"I talk to people all the time that have decided that government is out to get them and that there are black helicopters landing and plots out there from the United Nations to take over worldwide," he said.

At a town hall meeting hosted by Turner in Conroe, questions ranged from his position on a constitutional amendment to balance the budget -- which he supports -- to whether he favored letting gays teach in the public schools.

Turner said that while he does not favor gays in the military, he did not believe there should be job discrimination in other areas. "There are circumstances where they should keep their sexual preference to themselves," he said.

In interviews, some attending Turner's meeting -- and others sponsored by Houston-area congressmen -- expressed disgust over alleged fund-raising abuses and said they merely reinforce the impression that politicians of both parties bend the rules.

After a town hall meeting in San Marcos hosted by Republican freshman Ron Paul of Surfside, several citizens said they were unhappy with reports of alleged influence peddling in the White House.

"It leaves a bad taste in your mouth," said Phil Savoy, a 50-year-old hydrologist from Austin. "The White House is there for state functions. It is not there to be sold to the highest bidder."

However, when it comes to fund-raising abuses, "everybody does it," said Savoy, who favors giving candidates free television time to cut down on campaign costs.

Bob Boothe, a 62-year-old rancher from Hays County, said allegations that the Chinese were trying to influence Congress and the White House through contributions amount to treason by those who took the money.

But he added that both parties are probably guilty of breaking campaign-finance laws. "Both parties are making so much money out of it they don't want to quit," he said. "I might not want to either if I were in there."

Mitch McDonald, a 52-year-old owner of Home Health company from Crockett who attended the Turner event, also dismissed planned congressional probes into campaign

abuses as political posturing and an excuse to pad congressional payrolls with more lawyers.

"They investigate things to death," McDonald said. "They have been working on Whitewater, what four or five years, and they haven't done anything yet."

Bob Guagenti, a 41-year-old regional sales manager from Spring, acknowledged politicians were in quandary over fund raising. "You have to have money to run. But you are beholden to the people who give you money," he said.

Guagenti said he wished Congress would "stop all this bickering and yelling back and forth and just work on it."

However, when Guagenti asked Brady at a Rotary Club luncheon in The Woodlands if congressional leaders would push campaign-finance reform this session, the Republican lawmaker responded with unusual bluntness.

"No," said Brady, whose expensive campaign against millionaire hospital magnate Gene Fontenot last fall helped convince him of the need for campaign spending limits.

Paul said the campaign-finance issue was not raised during his visits across his district, which stretches from Victoria to the suburbs west of Houston and to the Hill Country southwest of Austin.

At a town hall meeting in San Marcos, residents appeared concerned about almost everything else, asking Paul about taxes and welfare reform. The congressman also was asked if he were aware that the United Nations was taking over the national parks system.

And some wanted to know if he supports a local referendum making marijuana legal for medicinal purposes.

Paul dodged the question about the U.N. and national parks, but he took the marijuana issue head-on. A physician who has long been critical of the federal government's role in the war against drugs, Paul said he supports the marijuana referendum. "It makes sense to me that we should not be dictating to people what to do," he said.

Paul also addressed a concern expressed at all of the forums that the current Congress appeared to lack leadership and was not making progress on significant issues such as the budget.

"I wish I could say that all of a sudden we have had a revelation. We have new people in there and new determination," Paul said. "The unfortunate word I have for you is it is unlikely that in the near future you are going to see any sensible legislation coming out of Washington."

===== END ATTACHMENT 6 =====

===== ATTACHMENT 7 =====

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:

[The Washington Times] [Politics]

[Image]

Published in Washington, D.C. 5am --

March 31, 1997www.washtimes.com

[(see thetext links at the bottom of the page)]

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Inside Politics

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News and political dispatches from

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around the nation

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[Image]

Compiled by Greg Pierce

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Sneak preview

. . . . In Robert B. Reich's Washington, "everyone, including the author, wears a mask of self-assurance and competence in public.

. . . . "Privately, they are as befuddled and mistake-prone as everyone else, stumbling into success and failure alike. None of them is quite certain what the president believes. They all are deathly afraid of the Republican majority in Congress, but no one is sure what to do."

. . . . So writes New York Times reporter Michael Wines, giving readers a sneak preview of the former labor secretary's memoir, due out in late April.

. . . . Mr. Reich describes President Clinton "mostly in admiring terms, as a man whose heart is securely in the right place but whose principles can wander to wherever the last persuasive speaker leads them," the reporter said.

. . . . Dick Morris plays the villain, who, to Mr. Reich's horror, is often that last persuasive speaker in the Oval Office.

. . . . "Clinton tacks to the right when the wind is blowing right," Mr. Morris supposedly told Mr. Reich last year. "Then he tacks to the left when it's blowing left. Now it's blowing right, so that's where he's heading. But he always knows his ultimate destination."

. . . . When Mr. Reich asked what that destination was, Mr. Morris replied: "Back to the White House for four more years."

Reed on China

. . . . Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition, said yesterday that the United States should punish China for its human rights violations by refusing favorable trading terms.

. . . . Mr. Reed, interviewed on "Fox News Sunday," cited the persecution of Christians, which he called the most brutal of "any nation in the world outside of Sudan and a few other countries." He also pointed to forced abortions and China's reported role in supplying illegal campaign contributions to American politicians.

. . . . "And so I think the Christian Coalition is going to indicate as we head towards a [congressional] vote in June that we think the best vote is against extension [of most-favored-nation trading status] at this time," he said.

. . . . In addition, he accused Vice President

Al Gore of failing to bring up human rights issues during his visit to China last week. House Speaker Newt Gingrich, on the other hand, forcefully raised such issues in his visit there, Mr. Reed added.
... "So I think the contrast between the two trips is quite dramatic."

Uncle Walter

... Former CBS anchorman Walter Cronkite always professed to be an objective newsman, even though conservative critics scoffed. Now, in retirement, Mr. Cronkite has signed on to a fund-raising letter for a group that opposes the Christian Coalition, all of which inspired this question from Tony Snow, host of "Fox News Sunday":

... "You've done something that nobody else has done, Ralph Reed, and we want to get the secret of this. Mikhail Gorbachev could not do it. Castro could not do it. You have managed to make Walter Cronkite expose his political feelings. How did you do it?"

... Mr. Reed replied: "Well, I don't know. I've always had a very good relationship with Walter Cronkite, and I assume you're referring to his support for some of the groups that are critical of the Christian Coalition. You know, look, my view is, it's a free country; he has a right to his opinion. I don't think it's going to affect us. We continue to grow by leaps and bounds. And I think we're going to continue to be effective. And I'm sorry he feels the way he does, but I think it's probably based mostly on incomplete or inaccurate information."

Wrong date

... President Clinton says it was the Republican takeover of Congress that persuaded him to pull out the stops in raising campaign money for his re-election, but the evidence shows otherwise, writes Baltimore Sun White House correspondent Carl M. Cannon.

... One example: A memo from Terry McAuliffe, then chief fund-raiser for the Democratic National Committee, urging the administration to pamper big donors and give them access to the White House. The memo is dated Jan. 7, 1993, but everyone agrees it must be an error because Mr. Clinton wasn't even in the White House then.

... "The White House claims the correct date is January 7, 1995," Mr. Cannon writes in the Weekly Standard. "But it seems more likely

that the real date of the memo is January 7, 1994."

.... Mr. Cannon explains: "First of all, the letterhead on McAuliffe's stationery states that David Wilhelm is chairman of the DNC. That was true in January 1994, but not in January 1995. Second, we have all inadvertently misdated correspondence in January -- writing down 1/2/96 when we mean 1/2/97. We do so, of course, because we are not yet used to the new year. Isn't it more plausible that McAuliffe (or his secretary) simply forgot that the calendar year had changed from 1993? If I am right, McAuliffe came up with the more aggressive strategy six months before anybody even began to imagine that the Republicans would triumph in the midterm elections."

Targeting Reno

.... Larry Klayman, chairman of Judicial Watch, has done much to uncover fund-raising abuses by the Clinton administration. Now he and his organization are turning their spotlight on Janet Reno and the Justice Department.

.... Mr. Klayman says it is clear that Miss Reno and her department are not conducting a thorough and independent investigation of the fund-raising scandal, "but rather are simply trying to create the appearance of one to avoid having to appoint an independent counsel."

.... The group already has filed a complaint against Miss Reno with the department's office of professional responsibility. Today, it plans to file a Freedom of Information Act request "to obtain documentation of the apparent cover-up."

.... "If Justice does not comply, Judicial Watch will not hesitate to file suit," Mr. Klayman said.

.... Judicial Watch said its depositions show the Justice Department has not contacted "key witnesses involved with [Democratic fund-raiser] John Huang and the breach of national security."

.... "Conversely, Reno and Justice have moved quickly with regard to allegations about Republican Chairman Dan Burton, who heads the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee's investigation," Mr. Klayman said.

Tea party

.... The British Labor Party has auctioned off a tea at the White House for 5,000 pounds

-- \$7,500 -- Gordon Jones said on NET television.

.... "The winner of the auction receives a trip to Washington along with the tea party," he said. "If the Clinton White House has actually agreed to that payoff, then we have some evidence that the Democratic Party in the United States is playing footsie with the Socialist Labor Party in Great Britain, auctioning off access to the White House not only to American contributors, but to contributors to foreign political parties as well."

.... Overall, the auction raised 200,000 pounds -- \$300,000 -- for the Labor Party, said Mr. Jones, who was acting as guest host of NET's nightly political news talk show "Direct Line."

Rubins everywhere

.... Two Robert Rubins appeared on TV talk shows yesterday.

.... Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin -- a familiar face on the Sunday morning talk-show circuit -- was on NBC's "Meet the Press," discussing the state of the economy and federal budget issues.

.... He was the smiling Robert Rubin with hair.

.... The other Robert Rubin, who was bald and dour, was a guest on ABC's "This Week," where he discussed his former membership in the Heaven's Gate cult, whose members killed themselves last week.

.... That Robert Rubin said he once was "committed" to the cult but eventually became "disillusioned."

.... Asked if he would have committed suicide with the other cult members, had he still been with the group, he said no. "I don't see suicide as an attractive option."

.... Mr. Rubin also acknowledged he had "doubts that spaceship part would ever happen."

John Dean's advice

.... No "smoking gun" has emerged from the Clinton fund-raising episode, and John Dean, for one, has doubts that the scandal will ever reach Watergate proportions.

.... "It's very hard to show that a campaign contribution translated to a change in policy. So many people are involved in a policy decision. How would you corrupt all of them?" Mr. Dean, the man who spilled the beans on

President Nixon, said in an interview with USA Today's Richard Benedetto.

. . . . If a potential John Dean lurks within the administration, he had better have the goods, Mr. Dean warned.

. . . . "They'd better have tapes of their conversation and good documentation of everything. Without the documents, it's just one person's word against the other's," he said.

Ford chides Clinton

. . . . Former President Gerald Ford says the current occupant of the White House clearly has gone far beyond whatever his predecessors may have done to raise campaign cash.

. . . . "There is no question, across the board, it is unhealthy the way money is raised and the amount of money that is raised," Mr. Ford told the Detroit News in a story published yesterday. He added: "There is no doubt this White House has abused that more than any White House in my memory."

. . . . As for GOP prospects in 2000, Mr. Ford said: "Republicans cannot regain the White House unless they operate to have all elements participate and go down the middle of the Republican philosophy."

Leave the driving to us

. . . . Sen. John H. Chafee, Rhode Island Republican and chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, got a ride in a "smart car" last week in San Diego.

. . . . A press release from Mr. Chafee's office said he had "a hands-off, feet-off driving experience in a Buick LeSabre" specially equipped by the University of California.

. . . . Steering was handled via sensors that track magnetic pegs imbedded in the HOV lanes of Interstate 15. Speed was controlled by a radar system that watches for other vehicles and obstacles in the road.

Global freedom

. . . . Wall Street Journal columnist Paul A. Gigot laments the fact that, during a trip to Asia, Vice President Al Gore bypassed Hong Kong, which will soon revert to Chinese rule.

. . . . "It's a shame no one told Al Gore before his China sojourn that an American vice president is supposed to care at least as much about global freedom as he does about global

warming," Mr. Gigot writes. "If the Clinton administration won't speak up for Hong Kong, then Congress and the media should."

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CREATION DATE/TIME: 4-APR-1997 10:58:00.00

SUBJECT: bcc: The Friday Clips

TO: susan e. walitsky (susan e. walitsky@EOP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

[Houston Chronicle Interactive logo] 8:59 PM 4/3/1997

Houston Chronicle Interactive

Party puts Bush in presidential

Section: Local & State light

----- Conservatives with clout toast

[Directory Center] governor

----- By CRAGG HINES

HCI's Local & State News forum Copyright 1997 Houston Chronicle

Recent related stories: LOS ANGELES -- If Gov. George W.

Bush is not running for president,

* March 27: Bush troubled by there are a half-dozen other

allegations about Clinton prospective candidates who would

like to take his place for an hour

or two tonight.

Bush is being feted by the

California Republican Assembly,

one of the nation's premier

conservative GOP groups, and is receiving its Ronald Reagan Freedom Fighter Award.

The governor is expected by many political activists to run for the White House in 2000 or later, which GOP strategists said explains why he has accepted a rare engagement outside Texas during the legislative session.

Bush flies to California today to shmooze with CRA members who can provide key grass-roots support in the nation's most populous state and bolster his credentials among party conservatives.

"They're the nuts and bolts of the nomination process in California," Scott Reed, who managed Bob Dole's presidential campaign last year, said of the 500 or so activists expected to attend the California Republican Assembly meeting in suburban

Ontario.

Bush played down any national political implications of his visit to the California Republican Assembly, a volunteer group that has significant influence in the state party hierarchy.

"I readily concede it's a Republican group," Bush said in Austin earlier this week. "I'd be very surprised if the California Democrats were to give me an award."

But in inviting Bush to receive the award and speak to its convention, CRA was certainly looking ahead, saying in a December letter to the governor: "This important convention will help set the tone for the conservative movement in California as we ... look ahead to the GOP prospects for 1998 and beyond."

The award carries enough conservative cachet that some are questioning why Bush is getting it --given his conciliatory position on immigration and his support for legislation that would increase the tax burden of many Texas businesses.

John Grizzi, of the conservative journal Human Events, pointed out that the California Republican Assembly "is a group that provided front-line support on Proposition 187," the California initiative to deny illegal immigrants most state services, including education and most medical treatment. Grizzi finds it ironic that the group is now honoring Proposition 187's "most vitriolic critic in the state of Texas."

In a Human Events article in February, Grizzi said that Bush's tax plan "appeases the left."

Conversely, moderate Republicans in California are unhappy that Bush's first major political foray into the state after the 1996 election is for a CRA event.

"It's not a plus with me," said Colleen McAndrews, a Santa Monica attorney emblematic of moderate Republican woman who question the party's rightward bent.

Jon Fleischman, CRA president, said Bush was chosen for the award because "we feel that he's been out there" on conservative issues. Previous recipients include talk show host Oliver North, U.S. Sen. John Ashcroft, R-Mo., former South Carolina Gov. Carroll Campbell, television commentator Pat Buchanan and religious broadcaster Pat Robertson.

Other Republican sources in California suggested the award

stemmed, in part, from the close connection between CRA officials and Karl Rove, the Austin-based Republican consultant who is not only a Bush strategist but also has strong conservative campaign ties in California.

Explanations of how Bush's trip to California developed, depends on whom one asks in Austin.

Rove said the California Republican Assembly lined up the governor's appearance months ago. Bush said his trip was centered on a speech this afternoon to the Orange County Business Council, which was arranged by Brad Freeman, a wealthy supporter of the governor's father, former President Bush.

But a stop in Orange County also has political import. It is the bedrock of conservative Republicanism in California, often

providing almost single-handedly
the statewide victory margin for
GOP candidates. In 1988, when the
governor's father carried
California in the presidential
race by 352,000 votes, his Orange
County plurality was 317,000.

Bush will be the CRA headliner
tonight, but other GOP
presidential prospects are
sprinkled throughout its weekend
schedule. Also on the program are
magazine multimillionaire Steve
Forbes; Sen. Fred Thompson,
R-Tenn., who chairs the Senate
investigation into campaign
contributions; Robertson; and
Ashcroft.

Chronicle Austin Bureau reporters
Clay Robison and R.G. Ratcliffe

contributed to this story.===== ATTACHMENT 1

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[banner] [WSJ] [IntellectualCapital]
[toolbar]

April 4, 1997

Gingrich Seeks to Mollify His Critics

Related Articles

- * China, Assailing Gingrich, Urges U.S. Unanimity on Policy
 - * China Agrees With Some of What Gingrich Said (April 2)
 - * Gingrich Warns That U.S. Would Act if China Attacked Taiwan (March 31)
 - * Chinese Leaders Hear From Gingrich on Repression (March 29)
-

By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE

[W]ASHINGTON -- Buoyed by some favorable reviews of his China trip, House Speaker Newt Gingrich appears to be on a new campaign to mollify his conservative critics and stifle any challenge to his leadership.

Immediately upon returning to Washington on Wednesday, the embattled speaker took on one of his chief critics. And on Thursday he announced his opposition to an obscure Internal Revenue Service regulation regarding Medicare taxes -- a move that aides said was designed to try to regain his credibility as an advocate for lower taxes.

On both days, his vehicle was the Rush Limbaugh radio program, which is heard by many in the conservative camp, which has been most critical of him.

A Gingrich aide said that the speaker's calls were designed to address complaints by his House colleagues that he has been ineffective and had abandoned conservative causes. He encountered a buzz saw of criticism two weeks ago when he appeared to suggest that cutting taxes was not a priority. There has been talk for weeks that other congressional leaders have been maneuvering to take over as speaker should Gingrich be deposed.

Now, the aide said, the speaker hopes to build on the relatively favorable reaction he received from his visit to China, where he talked tough to Chinese leaders about human rights abuses and threats against Taiwan.

Gingrich, faulted by some lawmakers and editorial writers for unnecessarily inserting himself into foreign policy, was praised by others for being direct and assertive in contrast to Vice President Al Gore. Gore spoke to Chinese leaders a few days earlier and was criticized for appearing uncertain and unprepared.

While Gingrich's plane was refueling in Alaska on his

flight from China, he telephoned Limbaugh's program to counter criticism from William Kristol, editor of The Weekly Standard and a commentator on the ABC News television program "This Week." Kristol has said repeatedly that Gingrich had become a weakened leader who was not serving conservative principles.

Saying that Kristol was "destructive" and had a "passion for destroying Republicans," Gingrich asserted on the show: "I've concluded that he thinks he has to make news by pandering to the liberals every week and has become sort of the most destructive element on the right."

Thursday on his program, Limbaugh read a memorandum to Republican leaders from Steve Forbes, who ran for the Republican presidential nomination last year, describing the Medicare tax as a secret effort by the Clinton administration to "pick the pockets of the American people."

Gingrich, who was listening to the Limbaugh program as he and his wife drove to North Carolina on Thursday to see one of his daughters, immediately called his office, then called the Ways and Means Committee, then called Limbaugh.

Gingrich said that the staff director of the committee, Pete Singleton, "has assured me that we are going to intervene directly and communicate to the IRS that it is not acceptable to have them have secret back-door tax increases." He added: "That's the reason you have a Congress -- to have the right to vote on taxes. It's what the American revolution was all about."

In fact, the Medicare tax is a regulation that the Internal Revenue Service has proposed as a way of clarifying numerous questions raised by Congress when it passed a tax increase in 1993.

Tax experts said that Forbes and Gingrich were incorrectly characterizing the tax as a new one secretly being sought by the Clinton administration through the IRS in an end run around Congress.

Mary Hevener, a lawyer who deals with Medicare taxes and executive compensation, said the Internal Revenue Service proposed the regulation in an attempt to clarify the law for limited liability corporations, designed to protect partners and investors from liability. "The issue of what to do with these LLC's has been kicking around for two or three years," she said, adding that corporations have been scrambling to find ways to avoid paying the 2.9 percent Medicare tax on all of their income.

The public comment period began in January and is to end April 14, and a hearing is to be held in May. Among those submitting comment was the New York State Bar Association, which called the proposal "a major step toward rationalizing and simplifying the rules in this area."

A Treasury Department official said: "We're very surprised to hear this is an issue. We hadn't heard any of these complaints prior to today."

Nonetheless, Gingrich was exorcised about the matter when he called the Limbaugh program. The Gingrich aide said that while protesting the tax issue had not been planned, "it is a propitious way to keep the momentum going."

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[WSJ] [IntellectualCapital]

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Neal Travis' New York

Arianna in a Huff over rumors

AS A media star in her own right, Arianna Stassinopoulos Huffington knows how rumors take on a life of their own -- particularly in a gossip company town like Washington.

But she'd like to kill the rumor about her and her oil-millionaire husband, Michael, being in splitsville. "That has been floating around, I know," she says. "But there's no truth to it at all."

The rumors have it that Arianna, whose syndicated column appears in The Post and who is a regular on TV and the lecture circuit, has pretty much made a life of her own in D.C., while Michael has been "adrift" and trying to find a cause on which to focus.

I've even heard that Michael, who so publicly lost the 1994 California Senate race (on which he spent almost \$30 million of his own money) to Dianne Feinstein, has talked of giving up the secular life and entering a monastery. He was reportedly traveling and couldn't be reached for comment.

The couple has sold their principal family residence, a splendid \$5 million villa in Santa Barbara, and Michael appears to be spending most of his time in Los Angeles, where he has dabbled in advertising and documentary-film production.

"We are both back and forwards all the time," says Arianna. But come June, she insists, they will be settling down in Los Angeles, where their children will go to school. Maybe that move will stop all the rumors and let Arianna concentrate on knocking her beloved Republican Party into shape.

Lynn's giving 'em FITs

THE faculty and students at the Fashion Institute of Technology are up in arms over the latest fiat of Transportation Commissioner Christopher Lynn, the man who brought the Upper East Side to a standstill last year when he rerouted 59th Street Bridge traffic.

As of April 30, Lynn is going to open West 27th Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues to traffic. That means the FIT people will have to dodge cars, trucks and buses roaring through what is the heart of their campus.

"For the past 17 years, the street has been closed to traffic Mondays through Fridays," says one angry school administrator. "It was a reasonable accommodation for an institution that serves the fashion industry -- an industry that's vital to New York City."

Maybe FIT will be able to use its clout with Mayor Rudy to get the decision reversed, just as the affluent residents of the Upper East Side did when they went over Lynn's head.

But if all else fails, the budding garmentos may have to picket City Hall. It could be a most glamorous protest, with FIT graduates like Calvin Klein and Norma Kamali marching in step with a bevy of supermodels.

The unsinkable Phil Simms

THERE were days when Phil Simms was quarterbacking the Giants that he felt like he was captain of the Titanic. So Simms will have a fine sense of déjà vu April 17, when he hosts a theater benefit for the Hospital for Special Surgery's pediatric outreach program.

Phil and wife Diana will welcome patrons to a performance of the musical "Titanic" at Broadway's Lunt-Fontanne Theatre. As The Post has reported, the \$10 million production is experiencing technical hitches -- such as the onstage liner refusing to sink -- but, as of last night, it was full steam ahead.

Among those expected at the pre-theater supper and the show are hospital board Chairman William Salomon, the Bob Tischs, Joe Brooks, Nelson Demille, the Emil Mosbachers, Kenneth Mountcastle, Ted Field and Olaf Nelson. Robert Ballard, who led the first

expedition to reach the sunken Titanic, is coming along to see how they've treated his obsession.

Hollywood hacks

I DON'T know if wardrobe fitted them with turbans, but two of Hollywood's hottest commodities will soon be seen playing New York cabdrivers in upcoming thrillers.

Bruce Willis stars in Luc Besson's futuristic "The Fifth Element," and Mel Gibson pilots a hack in "The Conspiracy Theory." There's also talk that Robert De Niro, as cabbie from hell Travis Bickle, will be back on the big screen in a fall reissue of "Taxi Driver."

Spicing up their lives

LEADING foodies who've been invited to the James Beard House Sunday evening are in for a hot treat -- a supper of nonya dishes prepared by Australian chef Carol Selva Rajah.

Rajah lived and cooked in Malaysia for many years and has mastered Malay cuisine and its many foreign influences. Nonya, for example, is an intriguing blend of Chinese and Indian cooking.

Rajah will also appear Wednesday on the Food Channel's "In Food Today," to promote her big HarperCollins cookbook, "Makan-lah! The Fine Art of Malay Cuisine."

Escargot-ing, going, gone

MEMBERS of the exclusive Lyford Cay Club are going to get even richer and thinner if their chairman, Peter Goulandris, has his way. I hear Goulandris is taking an ax to the club's food budget and has fired two French chefs.

Some of the New York members are only now drifting back to the city after a balmy Bahamas Easter spent lounging on the club's beaches. The holiday crowd included Bill Paley Jr., Sean Connery, Gene and Polly Scott, Wendy Vanderbilt Lehman with Horst Koch, Nan Kempner (who kept her big hat on at all times), Henryk de Kwiatowski and Barbara Allen (whizzing around in an electric car) and Westchester's Bill and Nancy O'Shaughnessy.

The only politics discussed at the club concerned the landslide victory of Prime Minister Sir Hubert Ingram in the Bahamian elections. Former strongman Sir Lyndon Pindling was so severely trounced that he may lose his party's leadership and find himself just another civilian subject to all kinds of scrutiny.

Gays getting the business

IT'S a measure of how mainstream the gay culture has become that this weekend sees the Fourth National Gay and Lesbian Business and Consumer Expo at the Coliseum. Among the sponsors are American

Express, American Airlines, the U.S. Postal Service -- and Coors
beer, a company that's usually identified with hard-right causes.

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[Los Angeles Times] [NATION & WORLD]

[GTE NCAA Banner]

Friday, April 4, 1997

Envoy Says U.S., Mexico Must Repair Relations
By STANLEY MEISLER, Times Staff Writer

PREV [W] ASHINGTON--Mexican Ambassador Jesus Silva Herzog said
STORY Thursday that U.S.-Mexican relations had reached a
historic high point of good feelings two months ago but have
NEXT since deteriorated so much that they must be repaired before
STORY President Clinton visits Mexico in early May.

The ambassador insisted that the president is still considered a friend of Mexico and will be welcomed there. But he will face a wave of nationalistic feelings, Herzog said, because "nationalism has come out in Mexico with a presence that we haven't had in a number of years."

Blaming the tension on the new U.S. immigration law that took effect this week and the American anti-drug certification process, the ambassador said both governments "have a very deep responsibility to cool down this atmosphere before Clinton arrives."

Once he is there, Mexican officials will ask Clinton for a "rational, adequate approach to immigration and drugs," Herzog said. Speaking to Latin American specialists here at a luncheon sponsored by two Washington think tanks, the Brookings Institution and the Inter-American Dialogue, the ambassador did not divulge any details of these impending requests.

Herzog said the immigration law, which took effect Tuesday, "has sent a message that has caused the Mexican society deep concern." There is worry that there will be mass deportations of illegal immigrants from the United States, suppression of human rights and harm to the stability of families that may have to separate under the new law, the ambassador said.

Although the White House decided to certify Mexico at the end of February as fully cooperative in the war against drugs, the incessant criticism of that decision by members of Congress hurt the relationship between the two countries, he said. "The overall impression was that we were exposed to a very unjust process."

Sounding a familiar Mexican complaint, the ambassador noted sarcastically that Americans like to blame Mexicans alone for the drug problem. "Have you ever heard of a drug lord with an Anglo name?" he asked. "All the drug lords are called Gutierrez and Oriana and so on. . . . Where is the name Smith? We need a message that this is a serious problem with shared responsibilities."

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STORY -----

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ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

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[Houston Chronicle Interactive logo] 8:39 PM 4/3/1997
Houston Chronicle Interactive
Gramm will battle Army plan

Section: Local & State

Proposal would end Corps' status

[Virtual Voyager]

By RICHARD STEWART
Copyright 1997 Houston Chronicle
----- East Texas Bureau

HCI's Local & State News forum

BEAUMONT -- U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, pledged Thursday to "stomp on" an Army proposal to take away the special status afforded graduates of Texas A&M University's Corps of Cadets.

Graduates of A&M's and similar military training programs at five other colleges are currently given preference for active duty assignments as Army officers. But the Army recently proposed giving graduates from ROTC programs at other schools the same chance at active duty slots.

"I'm going to kill it," Gramm said of the proposed change. "I'm going to stomp on it."

Gramm said members of A&M's cadets live their military training 24 hours a day every day for four years. Members of most ROTC programs typically take one class a week, he said.

"Next to my wife and my family I love A&M more than anything else in the world," Gramm said. "I'm not going to let this happen."

The Republican senator, who taught economics at A&M before being elected to Congress, will meet with members of the school's Corps of Cadets today to reassure them that he and senators from several other states will fight the proposed change.

A&M has provided more military officers than any other school in the country outside the service academies.

Gramm and several other senators met with Army officials and were assured that the Army won't make the change until it is considered by Congress. He said he and the other senators are considering making a provision in this session's military authorization bill that would maintain preference for graduates of A&M and the other senior military schools.

Gramm answered questions about the Army proposal while at an A&M research center near Beaumont to promote his plan to establish a national fire ant control board that would oversee a \$16 million research effort.

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[The Wall Street Journal Interactive Edition][Front Page]

[The Wall Street Journal Interactive Edition]

[Table of Contents] April 4, 1997

Washington Wire

GINGRICH'S CRITICS will keep his feet to the fire as Congress returns.

The House speaker's tough talk in China placates some on the right, but social conservative Gary Bauer says Gingrich fell short on attacking the U.S. trade preference with the Chinese. Republican Steve Forbes charges in next week's Human Events magazine that Gingrich and House leaders "got the political version of mad-cow disease" in backtracking on tax cuts.

Conservative House Republicans will press GOP leaders to keep vows to kill funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. They grouse about Gingrich's cordial meeting with activist-actor Alec Baldwin. But conservatives play down reports of a move to dump Gingrich. A GOP staffer says: "There's been no regicide meeting."

Gingrich will have a forum to strike back at critics when he speaks Monday to Gopac, the political group he founded.

PRIVATIZING WELFARE will probably get a go-ahead despite opposition.

The White House is expected to allow private companies to run states' food-stamp and Medicaid programs. Though the ruling involves only Texas, where Lockheed Martin Corp. and Electronic Data Systems Corp. are vying for contracts, it would set a nationwide precedent. But advisers to GOP Texas Gov. Bush expect the Clinton administration to string out the decision, perhaps by requiring interim steps on bids.

The White House faces strong protests from labor and advocates for the poor. An internal administration report warns that privatizing could come "at the expense of client services." But such concerns appear to have been overruled by domestic-policy chief Bruce Reed. Critics say Clintonites also fear attacks from the right for blocking welfare reform.

CHEMICAL EVENT: The White House pushes the chemical-weapons treaty.

Clinton will host backers of the international pact on the South Lawn Friday. They include Colin Powell, former GOP Sens. Nancy Kassebaum and Warren Rudman, and former Democratic Sen. David Boren. The U.S. chemical industry says it will lose millions of dollars in business if Congress doesn't ratify the treaty.

Clintonites rely on Senate Leader Lott to get the pact to a vote, but fear he will then lead the fight against it. They narrow differences with GOP senators, including Foreign Relations Chairman Helms. But deal-breakers remain, such as Helms's demand that Russia and rogue states such as Iraq become treaty members first. To woo Helms, aides to Secretary of State Albright lean toward a plan to dismantle at least two foreign-policy agencies.

The U.S. has until midnight April 28 to sign on if it wants American inspectors and a major say in how the treaty's rules are written.

FRENCH CONNECTION: Clinton's choice for the

highly coveted post of ambassador to France is investment banker Felix Rohatyn. The administration is conducting final background checks before making the official announcement to fill the post previously held by the late Pamela Harriman.

DEMOCRATS FUME over their inability to get their subpoenas approved by Sen. Thompson's committee investigating campaign-finance abuses. They want to call witnesses on the activities of the Republican National Committee and tax-exempt groups that run ads aiding GOP candidates.

WEBB SPITE: Angry shareholders could cause problems for the public companies that hired Clinton friend Webster Hubbell before he went to jail for fraud and tax evasion. Some write to one company's auditor to demand that an explanation and details of any service given by Hubbell be provided in a formal disclosure to the SEC.

BRAIN DRAIN: Embattled Speaker Gingrich, who already has seen Chief of Staff Daniel Meyer and spokesman Tony Blankley depart in recent months, is about to lose another top aide. Policy adviser Ed Kutler is leaving to join the Washington lobbying firm of Clark & Weinstock.

BUSINESS SEEKS to enlist backyard chefs to fight clean-air rules.

The National Association of Manufacturers leads a drive to protect the "little guy and his freedom" against EPA proposals. The NAM's strategy team, including oil-company lobbyists, sends small-business owners to Capitol Hill to complain. Its ally, Citizens for a Sound Economy, mounts a media campaign saying the rules might ban outdoor barbecues and July 4th fireworks.

EPA chief Carol Browner calls the claims false "scare tactics." The talk of a fireworks ban seems to be based on an off-hand joke by a researcher. The NAM's internal files show that in meetings with 137 House members, many Democrats were uncertain about joining the fight, but many Republicans earned the group's top rating: "Fine-coached on media."

Michigan GOP Rep. Ehlers is rated a "hard

sell." He has a doctorate in nuclear physics.

MINOR MEMOS: Where the boys are: Before Andrea Mitchell's wedding Sunday to Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, 24 men hold a bridal shower for her... . Citizens Against Government Waste gives "The Don't Ask, Don't Tell Award" for \$17.9 million spent for military-construction planning "at unspecified world-wide locations." ... Deputy Solicitor General Seth Waxman temporarily takes over as the Justice Department's acting No. 2 official, outranking acting Solicitor General Walter Dellinger.

--RONALD G. SHAFER

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Return to top of page

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[Image] Lifting the Leaf

[Image] By Al Kamen
Washington Post Staff Writer
Friday, April 4 1997; Page A19

Federal The Washington Post
Community

Section: Congressional types were decidedly un-press-friendly when
news and the news media showed up at the splendid Phoenician resort
columns for in Scottsdale, Ariz., to check who was attending a golfing
federal junket sponsored by the tobacco lobby.
workers and
tips on Events were closed and reporters were kept at bay, even
finding during the pre-golf morning panel sessions. The sponsoring
government Tobacco Institute refused to say who went.
jobs.

But the anti-smoking Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids has
Today in checked House records and come up with a list based on

Congress: members and staff who filed gift disclosure forms for the
House and Feb. 13-16 trip. Most attendees reported receiving from
Senate just under \$2,000 to slightly more than \$3,100 in free
hearings and rooms, meals and air fare.
witness
lists. Those House folks attending included:

All federal Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-N.C.), who estimated he received
government \$2,784 in travel and other expenses for going with his wife
stories to what he listed as a "speaking engagement at fact-finding
fromthis trip in connection to official duties as member of
morning's Congress."
Washington
Post. Rep. Wayne Edward Whitfield (R-Ky.) billed a similar amount

for what he called a trip "to focus on federal regulatory
activities," as did Rep. Harold Rogers (R-Ky.) and Rep.
Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.), who was there as a "panelist."
Thompson aide Richard Mattox also went.

Rep. Ken Calvert (R-Calif.) and administrative assistant Ed
Slevin listed around \$3,000 for their "briefing of tobacco
issues and the 105th Congress." Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-Ga.)
got \$3,200 for his "speaking engagement." Rep. Scotty
Baesler (D-Ky.) attended with his aide, John Townsend, and
Rep. Richard Burr (R-N.C.) took along his press secretary,
Alicia Peterson. Rep. John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) dropped by,
and his top aide, Barry Jackson, attended. Arizona Reps.
John David Hayworth (R) and Ed Pastor (D) were reported to
have attended.

House staff members there included Roger Morse, who works
for Rep. Van Hilleary (R-Tenn.); Ed Cassidy, who works for
Rep. Richard N. Hastings (R-Wash.); Keith L. Rogers, who
works for Rep. Ron Lewis (R-Ky.); and John Feehery, who
works for Rep. Tom DeLay (R-Tex.).

Rep. Howard Coble (R-N.C.) was working so hard at those
discussions that he brought along his legislative
assistant, Rochelle Holly Goldman, and his administrative
assistant, Ed McDonald, for what he called a "tobacco
briefing concerning new Food and Drug Administration
regulations, as well as discussions with industry leaders."

Wonder if any of those "leaders" were from the traitor
Liggett Group Inc. Might have been; after all, the
conference was before Liggett broke ranks and confessed the
shocking news that the "industry" always knew smoking was
highly addictive, that its ads targeted kids to get them to
smoke and that smoking causes cancer.

The lawmakers may demand another conference next winter to
ponder these new and troublesome issues.

FAA Chair Is Garvey's Destination

At the Federal Aviation Administration, Jane Garvey is in line to replace longtime agency chief David R. Hinson. Garvey, former head of the Massachusetts Department of Public Works, once ran Logan International Airport. George L. Donahue is slated to be her deputy. Donahue, an associate administrator for research and acquisitions, is a friend of new Transportation Secretary Rodney E. Slater and scored points with Vice President Gore by helping develop the FAA's new procurement system.

State Dept. May Have Lined Up Policy Planner

Greg Craig, who came to fame first as the No. 2 defense lawyer for attempted Reagan assassin John W. Hinckley Jr., then was foreign affairs adviser to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), then went back to private law practice, where he was both active in human rights organizations and worked for the superwealthy and politically controversial Mevs family in Haiti, is said to be the pick to run the policy planning operation at the State Department.

Also on the foreign front, smart money is tending to drift to George Munoz, assistant secretary for management and chief financial officer at the Treasury Department, to be the next head of the Overseas Private Investment Corp. Administration officials, concerned about OPIC's future in the tight-fisted Congress, wants a legislative pro for the No. 2 slot. They asked White House legislative affairs deputy Susan Brophy. Not interested.

Back at home, Health and Human Services officials won't confirm that Janet Takamura of Hawaii is the pick for assistant secretary for aging.

Not in the Nick of Time

What about Nick? Baseball fanatic and State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns was crushed Wednesday when he raced downstairs to discover that Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright's motorcade left him behind as it took off to the O's opening day game.

"It was the first motorcade I ever missed," a crestfallen Burns said yesterday. He blamed a disabled elevator and a reporter for the debacle.

Downtown Drivers Will Long Remember . . .

Secret Service Director Eljay B. Bowron is leaving after three years in the job to be president of Ameritech Corp.'s security monitoring business. Bowron, a 23-year career agent, will best be remembered for the decision to close Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House in May 1995

following the Oklahoma City bombing.

"It was really just a question of whether it was going to close before we had an explosion or after we had an explosion," he said at the time. "I'm thankful that it's been done this way."

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Back to the top

[Image]

[Home Page, Site Index, Search, Help]

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April 4, 1997

Drug Smuggler Made Clinton Donation in Cuba,
Investigators Say

Related Articles [Image]

* Index of Articles on Political Fund-Raising

By DON VAN NATTA Jr.

[M] IAMI -- Jorge Cabrera, a drug smuggler who has emerged as one of the most notorious supporters of President Clinton's re-election campaign, was asked for a campaign contribution in the unlikely locale of a hotel in Havana by a prominent Democratic fund-raiser, congressional investigators have learned.

The investigators said the fund-raiser, whom they identified as Vivian Mannerud, a Cuban-American businesswoman from Miami, told Cabrera at a meeting at the Copacabana Hotel in Havana that in exchange for a contribution he would be invited to a fund-raising dinner in honor of Vice President Al Gore in an exclusive enclave near Miami.

Ms. Mannerud owns Airline Brokers Co., an airline charter service that operates among Havana, the Bahamas and Mexico.

On his return to the United States several days after that meeting, in November 1995, Cabrera wrote a check for \$20,000 to the Democratic National Committee from an account that included the proceeds from smuggling cocaine from Colombia to the United States, said the investigators, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Within two weeks of the contribution, Cabrera met Gore at the dinner in Miami. Ten days later, Cabrera attended a Christmas reception at the White House hosted by Hillary Rodham Clinton. At the events, Gore and Mrs. Clinton posed for photographs with Cabrera, who has two felony convictions dating from the 1980s and is now in a prison here on a drug-smuggling conviction.

In an interview, Ms. Mannerud, who has spoken with the investigators, said she could not recall soliciting a contribution from Cabrera in Cuba, although she vaguely recalled meeting him there. It is unclear why Cabrera was approached in Cuba and how much Ms. Mannerud or other Democratic fund-raisers might have known about his criminal background.

The White House and the Democratic National Committee said the party returned the \$20,000 from Cabrera in October, after deciding it was an improper donation. A spokeswoman for the committee, Amy Weiss Tobe, made that point again in a recent interview, adding, "Once we found out about Cabrera's past, we immediately returned the money, and we feel we have put this behind us."

Cabrera's contribution and smuggling conviction, which became public knowledge three weeks before Election Day in November, were one of the first examples of the questionable fund-raising practices that have brought criticism to the Democratic Party. By now, the case has come to symbolize the Democratic National Committee's frenetic drive for campaign cash.

In early January 1996, three weeks after having attended the Christmas reception at the White House, Cabrera was arrested and charged with importing 6,000 pounds of cocaine into the United States on boats through the Florida Keys. Late last year, he pleaded guilty to those charges and was sentenced to 19 years in federal prison and fined \$1.5 million.

The new details about the location for the solicitation of Cabrera's contribution and the source of the money have come to light in congressional investigators' interviews here with Cabrera. The investigators, who are looking into possible abuses of campaign fund-raising, are trying to determine whether Cabrera "laundered" drug money when making his \$20,000 "soft money" contribution

to the campaign.

Investigators had originally acted on a tip that an associate of Cabrera had delivered \$20,000, in \$100 bills, to Ms. Mannerud's office. But in recent weeks investigators learned that that did not occur. Instead, bank records show that \$11,900 in cash, from drug proceeds, was deposited into Cabrera's checking account on Nov. 21, 1995, several officials familiar with the investigation said.

The cash was specifically deposited to help cover the \$20,000 campaign check, which Cabrera wrote that same day, the officials said.

At that time, Cabrera, whose family fishing business is one of the largest suppliers of lobsters and stone crabs to restaurants in southern Florida, was a frequent visitor to Cuba.

Several congressional investigators said Cabrera described the solicitation and contribution in interviews with investigators at the North Dade Detention Center in March.

Much of his account was backed up by his lawyer here, Stephen J. Bronis, and several former associates of Cabrera. But Bronis declined to say whether his client had used drug money as a campaign contribution.

In an interview, Ms. Mannerud said she could not recall whether she had asked Cabrera to contribute while in Cuba, although she said his \$20,000 check was "dropped off" at her office in Miami several days before the dinner for Gore. She said a friend had asked Cabrera for the money, but she refused to identify him. But, she added, the friend spoke with investigators several weeks ago.

Ms. Mannerud said her associates had reminded her that she briefly met Cabrera at the Copacabana in Miramar, an exclusive area of mansions and embassies in Havana, in late November 1995.

"I went to breakfast one morning at the Copa, but I don't remember him very well," she said. "After the papers were full of this guy's name and picture, I asked people, 'Did I eat with this guy?' And people said that I saw him for about five minutes and that was it. I can't imagine sitting at a table in Havana soliciting money for the Democratic Party. Who has time for that?"

Ms. Mannerud, who herself contributed \$80,850 to the Democrats, was described by officials as a "fairly

prominent and successful fund-raiser."

According to Bronis, Ms. Mannerud sought out Cabrera at the Copa to make a strong fund-raising pitch for the dinner, to be held in a few weeks in Miami, in honor of Gore. Ms. Mannerud and Cabrera found that they had something in common -- they had both met Fidel Castro.

Ms. Mannerud told Cabrera that she needed to raise a certain amount of money to "elevate her level of influence in the Democratic Party," because she was hoping the United States would normalize relations with Cuba, Bronis said.

"She believed it was in the best interests of Cuban-Americans of her generation if the United States normalized relations with Cuba," Bronis said.

Ms. Mannerud adamantly denied making such statements, saying of Cabrera, "He is nuts."

Indeed, she said, her only strong memory of Cabrera is at the fund-raising dinner on Dec. 3, in Coral Gables, Fla., at the home of Jerome Berlin, a lawyer who was indicted in 1990, and later acquitted, of federal conspiracy charges of bribing public officials.

Ms. Mannerud said she spoke with Cabrera for about 10 minutes and recalled two distinct facts about their conversation. "One is that he was concerned about the environment because he was a fisherman and he said the quality of the fish was very bad," she said. "The other thing I remember is I had to fix his tie. He said it was the first time he had worn a suit and tie."

At that dinner, investigators believe, Cabrera also spoke briefly with Marvin S. Rosen, finance chairman of the Democratic National Committee. In an interview, Rosen said he was introduced to Cabrera by a fund-raiser, who investigators say was Ms. Mannerud.

Rosen said the fund-raiser asked him to pass along Cabrera's name to a staff member of the Democratic committee in the hope of having Cabrera invited to a White House reception.

Ms. Mannerud said she had no idea that Cabrera had two felony convictions. It was only later that she wondered what he was doing in Havana, she said.

Ms. Mannerud said that she had a special license from the Treasury Department to be in Cuba and that she was perplexed that Cabrera would say that she had solicited a contribution from him in Cuba.

"Let's suppose I did meet him in Cuba and asked him for money, so what?" she asked. "What is that going to get him?"

Investigators say they were particularly surprised to learn that any solicitation of campaign contributions would occur in Cuba because of longstanding United States policy toward that country.

The United States first imposed a ban on trade and commerce with Cuba in 1963, allowing extremely few exceptions. The embargo was strengthened in 1992 to prohibit subsidiaries of U.S. companies from doing business in Cuba, and it was tightened again last year to, among other points, punish foreign companies that use property that the government confiscated after the revolution.

The embargo does not prohibit travel to Cuba, but rather the spending of dollars there without a special license from the Treasury Department. People with relatives in Cuba, journalists and a few others are allowed to go to the island, but only with the license.

Until last year, those people could fly on direct charter flights from Miami. But after Cuban fighter pilots shot down two unarmed civilian planes that belonged to a Cuban-American organization, Brothers to the Rescue, in February 1996, Clinton suspended the charter flights. The president recently renewed that suspension for an additional year.

People who obtain special licenses may travel to Cuba, but they have to travel through a third country. Ms. Mannerud's charter service flies through the Bahamas and Mexico.

A Cuban-born American, Cabrera was arrested two times on serious drug charges in the 1980s. Both times he pleaded guilty to nondrug felony charges. In 1983, he pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice for conspiring to bribe a grand jury witness and served 42 months in prison. In 1988, he pleaded guilty to filing a false income-tax return and served one year in prison.

After his brief brush with presidential politics, Cabrera was arrested in January 1996 inside a cigar warehouse near here in Dade County, where more than 500 pounds of cocaine had been hidden. He and several accomplices were charged with having smuggled 3,000 pounds of cocaine into the United States through the Keys.

When he was arrested, agents found a picture of Cabrera with Castro. Cabrera tried to obtain a lighter sentence by contending that the Cuban Government was involved in his drug trafficking.

Bronis said prosecutors began an inquiry into those assertions, but dropped the investigation. "It was pure politics, and it stinks," Bronis said.

He asked Attorney General Janet Reno for a special prosecutor to investigate the case. She rejected that request.

Congressional investigators are planning to highlight the Havana solicitation and the source of Cabrera's contribution at hearings into campaign financing.

In January, Cabrera received an invitation to Clinton's inauguration.

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[WSJInteractiveEdition] [Chase][Image]

===== END ATTACHMENT 8 =====

===== ATTACHMENT 9 =====

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:

[The Washington Times] [Politics]

[Image]

Published in Washington, D.C. 5am --

April 4, 1997 www.washtimes.com

[(see the text links at the bottom of the page)]

[Image]

[Image]

Inside Politics

[Image]

News and political dispatches from

[Image]

around the nation

[Image]

[Image]

Compiled by Greg Pierce

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Moseley-Braun debt
.... Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun's election
committee has been ordered to pay \$56,000 in
rent and interest to a landlord who leased
offices for the Illinois Democrat's 1992
political headquarters.

. . . . Cook County Circuit Judge Albert Green issued the order last week, the same week the senator held a big fund-raiser in Chicago, one of several events in which she is attempting to close out the \$413,000 debt from her 1992 campaign.

N.Y. Times: Go Starr

. . . . A New York Times editorial on April 3: "The White House would like everyone to believe that its interest in Webster Hubbell's welfare was purely altruistic, but as disclosures accumulate, baser motives seem increasingly plausible.

. . . . "The evidence points to a possible effort to obstruct justice by securing Mr. Hubbell's silence on crucial elements of the Whitewater case. That effort may have overlapped with the White House fund-raising abuses. ...

. . . . "[Whitewater independent counsel Kenneth W.] Starr has every reason to use his Little Rock grand jury to investigate whether Mr. Hubbell was paid hush money and the degree to which the president and his wife directed [Thomas F.] McLarty and his crew to the Riadys and other sources of Asian money."

Off the mound

. . . . USA Today reported that Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright's pitch Wednesday to open the Orioles' season and her major-league career was a 30-foot one-hopper. An aide called the toss "a curveball that broke too soon." Said madam secretary: "I think I'll keep my day job."

Quayle's low gate

. . . . It had seemed like a swell idea. Huntington, Ind., would devote a museum to its favorite son, former Vice President Dan Quayle.

. . . . But the box office is slumping. United Press International says the museum drew nearly 7,500 visitors in its first six months after opening in 1993. In all of 1996, however, only 5,000 visitors forked over the \$1.50 fee.

. . . . In an effort to broaden its appeal, the museum decided to focus on the vice presidency. Vice President Al Gore was asked for help. No luck.

. . . . So the museum tried again. The main room now houses a World War II exhibit. The war ended two years before Mr. Quayle was born.

A worried look

... Meg Greenfield in Newsweek on Al Gore and the burdens of the vice presidency: "When it goes wrong, as some part of it surely did on the China trip, he will get that uncertain, worried look, the look of a man on the spot trying to accommodate the presidential interest, the policy interest and his own interest. ...

... "He will opt for some mincey compromise (like holding the toasting glass low, as if to hide it or to register a lack of enthusiasm) that gets him nothing and makes the guy with the other champagne glass seem in control. He will know that and look even more discomfited. It is the vice presidential look, and it comes with the office."

Golding eyes Boxer

... San Diego's Republican mayor, Susan Golding, this week announced the formation of a committee to explore a bid against potentially vulnerable Sen. Barbara Boxer, California Democrat, next year. The mayor follows state Treasurer Matt Fong and car-alarm magnate Darrell Issa into the fray, Roll Call's Benjamin Sheffner reports. She announced a team of consultants long associated with Gov. Pete Wilson, a Republican.

The blabocrats

... "While America's pundits surely still matter, their importance has diminished drastically," Joseph Nocera says in this month's GQ in a piece titled "The Dead Pundits Society."

... "The crisp, clear voice of a Walter Lippmann has been replaced by the cacophonous drone of a thousand would-be savants, just another part of the white noise of policy and politics in America," he adds.

... The 1992 presidential race "marked the rise of the antipundit, Larry King," he says of "the election that signaled that the punditocracy had lost its way." He adds that the last pundit to get a serious national hearing was Joe Klein -- as Anonymous.

Byrd dogging the Bard

... Harper's Index: "Number of Shakespeare's 37 plays that West Virginia Sen. Robert Byrd has quoted on the Senate floor: 37"

Mining minorities

. . . . National Review's Rich Lowry sees a thread running "through Democratic politics in general and the Clinton fund-raising scandals in particular -- the cultivation of the support of minority groups through official favors, with the implicit understanding that the Democratic Party and certain well-connected hucksters will, in effect, get kick-backs for their trouble. Indian tribes are a stark, but relatively small, example."

Waiting for Dianne

. . . . "In her mind, Sen. Dianne Feinstein has the sketch of a campaign plan and she has an issue, education," writes the Los Angeles Times' George Skelton.

. . . . "She has the desire to be governor and the confidence she can 'make a difference.' But she still does not have the commitment to run [next year]. ...

. . . . "Waiting patiently for her decision is Leon Panetta. ... There's an unspoken understanding that he won't run if Feinstein does. If she does not, he very well may. ...

. . . . "Both believe great deeds are possible in Sacramento even today, a view not shared by all pols and pundits."

'Today' colloquy

. . . . Katie Couric on NBC's "Today" show Wednesday: "An upcoming report in the conservative magazine Human Events says that as many as 40 House Republicans are plotting to get rid of Newt. Any truth to that?"

. . . . Rep. Peter T. King, New York Republican: "I'm not part of the 40. I'm not plotting. I'm telling you on national television what my views are.

. . . . "There's probably -- I'd say there could be over 100 altogether who have real problems with Newt, maybe even a majority of the conference. Whether there's an actual conspiracy of 30 or 40, I don't know; I think that could be exaggerated a bit."

Travels with Paul

. . . . Sen. Paul Wellstone's schedule calls for two appearances in California in two weeks. It is enough to prompt the Hill newspaper's Open Secrets column to note an open secret: The liberal Minnesota Democrat is "trying to improve his national image -- an effort which could be a prelude to a bid for the Democratic nomination for president in 2000."

Hillary's doorstep

. . . . "So it was on Travelgate, Filegate and now what might be dubbed Hubbellgate -- soliciting lucrative jobs for a jail-bound Webster Hubbell, who promptly clammed up about Whitewater," writes Deborah Orin in the New York Post.

. . . . "In each case, the White House starts out by insisting Mrs. Clinton played no role at all in the ethical mess -- then slowly documents or facts leak out that lead trouble to her doorstep."

. . . . Meanwhile on Thursday, Miss Orin's newspaper editorialized: "By expanding the scope of wrongdoing that Americans are willing to accept in an administration, Bill Clinton may become known as the man who defined deviancy down for the presidency -- and thus lowered the standards expected for all future holders of the office."

Dirty in Cicero

. . . . April Fools' Day and Election Day coincided: Voters in Cicero got letters purportedly from the Cicero Town Republican Organization and Cook County Clerk David Orr announcing that town President Betty Loren-Maltese had resigned on the advice of a psychiatrist.

. . . . But this is Illinois, and the messages were fakes. Miss Loren-Maltese won re-election. She is considered a tough pol, even by Cicero standards, and is known for "a relentless appetite for revenge," the Chicago Tribune reports.

. . . . She blamed her Democratic challenger, Cicero police Lt. Charles Hernandez. "We're going to investigate the Police Department, and, after this election, things will be shaken up," she told the Tribune's John Kass. "The good cops will stay, and the bad ones, well, they'll go."

Mosbacher declares

. . . . Republican Rob Mosbacher, 45, son of former Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher, has announced he is running for mayor of Houston, although the oil man says he'll step aside if term limitations are lifted and Mayor Bob Lanier seeks re-election.

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[Image]

===== END ATTACHMENT 9 =====

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

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

CREATION DATE/TIME:25-MAY-1997 13:29:00.00

SUBJECT: Articles 5.25.97.4

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

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

1. WASHINGTON POST Book Spaces: an article about Lambda Rising bookstore
2. ASSOCIATED PRESS Christie's To Sell Wilde Manuscript
3. REUTERS New England a safe haven for gays and lesbians
4. CHICAGO READER Short item about the assimilation of gay culture
5. HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN Letter that I forgot to paste in to yesterdays mail

WASHINGTON POST, May 25, 1997

1150 15th Street NW, Washington, DC, 20071

(No Fax - letters by mail only, print run 838,902)

BOOK SPACES

By Carolyn Ruff

LAMBDA RISING is not your everyday bookstore. More than one first-time customer has been surprised to find that Lambda Rising at 1625 Connecticut Avenue, NW, is a gay and lesbian bookstore. It is considered to be one of the best stocked specialty bookstores of its kind in the world.

Since its opening in 1974, Lambda Rising has moved twice to accommodate growth and has opened more stores in Baltimore, Rehoboth Beach and Norfolk. Owner Deacon Maccubbin says that the key to Lambda Rising's success is that it is a place where customers feel at home, regardless of gender, sexuality

or race. This is the complete bookstore for literature by and about homosexual authors. According to the senior book buyer, Kevin Drewery, there are many small presses and major publishers that print gay and lesbian literature. In addition to the 15,000 titles available, the bookstore offers author lectures and discussions. Lambda Rising, says Maccubbin, is more than a bookstore. "It is a place to meet people and it's a place for people who are puzzled, scared or hurting to come here as a haven."

ASSOCIATED PRESS, May 25, 1997

Christie's To Sell Wilde Manuscript

LONDON (AP) - Even as a student in Oxford, Oscar Wilde was clear about his destiny: "Success, fame or even notoriety."

In a questionnaire he filled out in 1877, Wilde said his most distinctive characteristic was "inordinate self-esteem," and listed himself as one of his four favorite poets. Yet the traits he most disliked in others were "vanity, self-esteem, conceit."

The handwritten answers are in a two-page entry in an "Album for Confessions or Tastes, Habits and Convictions," which is to be sold on June 6 at Christie's.

The auction house estimated that the document, which includes a photograph of the 23-year-old Wilde, would sell for \$4,800. It is being sold by a descendant of Adderley Millar Howard, a theater impresario and actor who collected the questionnaires.

Wilde became famous as the author of "The Importance of Being Earnest" and "Dorian Gray," and notorious after his homosexual affair with Lord Alfred Douglas was exposed in a ruinous libel suit against the Marquess of Queensberry.

Wilde was jailed for two years, and died in 1900.

In the questionnaire, Wilde said his idea of misery would be "living a poor and respectable life in an obscure village."

"That's is exactly how he had to live in exile in Dieppe after he came out of prison. He hated it," said Nicholas Worksett, who is handling the sale.

Among the 40 questions and answers:

What are the sweetest words in the world? "Well done!"

What are the saddest words? "Failure."

What is your dream? "Getting my hair cut."

What is your bete noir? "A thorough Irish Protestant."

What is your idea of happiness? "Absolute power over men's minds, even

if accompanied by toothache."

If not yourself, who would you rather be? ``A cardinal of the Catholic church."

REUTER, May 25, 1997

New England a safe haven for gays and lesbians

BY LESLIE GEVIRTZ

BOSTON (Reuter) - New Hampshire Gov. Jeanne Shaheen is expected to sign into a law a gay rights bill later this week making the one-time bulwark of conservatism the 11th state to offer protection against discrimination to lesbians and gay men.

Shaheen's signature will mean gay men and lesbians can find a measure of protection in the areas of employment, housing and accommodation from Lake Champlain east to the Atlantic and from Long Island Sound north to the Canadian border.

Historians were not surprised that New England, a region settled by puritans who burned witches at the stake, has become a sanctuary of sorts for gay men and lesbians.

``The puritan heritage is one of dissent," Middlebury College history professor Holly Allen said, adding ``it is intertwined with alternative sexual practices.

``The puritans came to America in order to establish alternative communities...and a frontier society is one where people have come to look for freedom of expression and freedom of lifestyle."

She pointed to New Englander John Humphrey Noyes, founder of the Oneida community in New York during the 19th century who advocated free love and non-monogamous relationships.

“Then there were the Shaker communities throughout the region. They advocated total sexual abstinence...So alternative sexual practices, along with alternative religious practices have long been a part of New England,” Allen added.

Tufts University history professor John Brooke said, “New England is the heart of all sorts of reform movements. In the 1830s, it was seen as the bastion of reform movements particularly abolitionism.”

Shaheen's signature means that “New Hampshire has finally joined the rest of New England,” he said. He credits her election -- she is the first woman to hold the office and the first Democrat in 12 years -- with the changing political climate in the state.

“The usual conservative climate in New Hampshire has been corrupted by the flow of people from Massachusetts into the southern part of the state,” he said.

But Amelia Craig, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, a legal group in New England, noted, “New Hampshire is a conservative state, but also has a libertarian tradition and believes in personal freedom.”

Maine Gov. Angus King signed a similar bill May 16 saying, “We have

enemies in Maine. They are poverty, disease, ignorance. They are not gay people."

Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the nation's largest gay legal group, said the signing of civil rights legislation by both New Hampshire and Maine signal a trend.

"There is the political saying that as Maine goes so the Union and I think in this case that continues to be true. New Hampshire and Maine passing legislation like this so close together I think provides a trend and a boost for the rest of the country.

"For a state like New Hampshire, which does not have a reputation for having a liberal legislature, is an incredibly strong statement for other legislatures," Cathcart added, noting both Iowa and Maryland were considering similar measures.

Barbara Smith, a professor at Radcliff College's Bunting Institute echoed Cathcart's remarks saying, "More and more people today are getting more and more information that lesbians and gays are part of their communities.

"And while it is important to have bills that protect civil rights a lot more needs to be done to be able to live in a society that is a just one."

CHICAGO READER, May 23, 1997

(letters@chireader.com)

City File [Item]

IF ONLY THEY HATED US MORE.

Hyperion Press says its new book _The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture_ "argues that the assimilation of gay culture into mainstream society is rapidly undermining gay men's sense of themselves as a distinct minority."

Send tips to

cityfile@chireader.com

HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN, May 24, 1997

P.O. Box 3080

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96802, letters@starbulletin.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Sex between heterosexuals is a private affair, too

I understand that for homosexuals, sex between men or sex between women, the military protects that with a policy of "don't ask, don't tell" because it's a private, personal matter.

But when it comes to sex between men and women, or the "straights," the military's policy is the opposite. It seeks to expose them and all the details, and all kinds of stuff hits the fan, er, the media. It stops just short of tar and feathering the principals and riding them out on a rail. And now a woman bomber pilot is being hounded and exposed.

Why doesn't "don't ask, don't tell" work for the straights, too? It's

just as personal and private for them!

Ted Chernin [Honolulu]===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
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25 May 1997 14:42:37 -0500 (EST)

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Socarides_R@a1.eop.gov; Sun, 25 May 1997 14:42:36 -0500 (EST)

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by STORM.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.1-7 #6879)

with ESMTP id <01IJAGK6SLNI00155F@STORM.EOP.GOV> for Socarides_R@a1.eop.gov;
Sun, 25 May 1997 14:42:03 -0400 (EDT)

Received: (from root@localhost) by emout03.mail.aol.com (8.7.6/8.7.3/AOL-2.0.0)

id OAA09851; Sun, 25 May 1997 14:29:28 -0400 (EDT)

===== END ATTACHMENT 1 =====

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

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

CREATION DATE/TIME:28-MAY-1997 13:34:00.00

SUBJECT: Gay Former CA National Guard Officer Files Suit (2 articles)

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

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

ASSOCIATED PRESS, May 28, 1997

Gay National Guard officers files class-action lawsuit

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) -- A National Guard officer discharged after he revealed he is gay filed a class-action lawsuit Tuesday on behalf of all state guard members dismissed because of their sexual orientation.

The suit also seeks to represent all guard members who are still serving but must hide their sexuality for fear of discharge.

"In bringing this suit, I hope to end discrimination against gay men and lesbians who are serving their state and country as members of the California National Guard," former 1st Lt. Andrew Holmes said in a statement.

Lt. Col. Doug Hart said he could not comment because he had not seen the complaint, which was filed in San Francisco Superior Court against the state of California and the California Army National Guard.

Holmes disclosed his sexual orientation in a letter to his commanding officer in June 1993. In it, the letter said: "As a matter of conscience, honesty and pride, I am compelled to inform you that I am gay."

He sued the state and federal National Guards after he was discharged in

1995.

A U.S. District judge ruled in March 1996 that his discharge as part of the military's ``don't ask, don't tell" policy violated federal constitutional guarantees of free speech and equal protection.

It was the first time a judge had overturned a discharge under the Clinton administration policy. The decision is being appealed.

Tuesday's lawsuit was filed because the federal court declined to rule on Holmes' claims based on California law. As a state agency, the California National Guard is bound by state law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, attorney Elizabeth Scott said.

The suit asks that all National Guard officers discharged because they are gay be reinstated with back pay.

Holmes, now a technical writer in Sacramento, served in the state National Guard from 1986-94 and was deployed to Germany in Operation Desert Storm and Los Angeles for the civil disturbances following the Rodney King beating verdict.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, May 28, 1997

Gay Dismissed By Guard Files Class Action

David Tuller, Chronicle Staff Writer

A gay man dismissed from the California National Guard because of

his sexual orientation filed a class-action lawsuit yesterday with the intention of protecting other guard members in similar circumstances. The lawsuit is the second filed by former Lieutenant Andrew Holmes, who last year won a significant legal victory when a federal judge ruled that the government's ``don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military was unconstitutional. U.S. District Judge Sandra Brown Armstrong ordered the federal government to reinstate Holmes, but the government has appealed that decision. Holmes, 38, decided to pursue a second lawsuit in state court because Armstrong declined to rule on his contention that his dismissal violated California as well as federal law. The suit filed in San Francisco Superior Court yesterday also seeks to represent current gay guard members who are hiding their sexual orientation for fear of dismissal. ``We want to assault the policy aggressively, because if we don't win on one front we may win on the other," said Holmes. ``And I want to make sure that other people who are in circumstances like me who couldn't come forward are protected as well." Holmes' first lawsuit attracted widespread attention when the California attorney general's office filed a brief attacking the guard member's ``nasty habits" and comparing homosexuality to criminal behavior, including child molestation and cannibalism.

===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
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28 May 1997 14:45:07 -0500 (EST)

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by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDf V5.0-4 #6879) id <01IJENIZF2S0005RC2@PMDf.EOP.GOV> for
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by STORM.EOP.GOV (PMDf V5.1-7 #6879)

with ESMTP id <01IJENI81PR4001IK2@STORM.EOP.GOV> for socarides_r@al.eop.gov;
Wed, 28 May 1997 14:44:30 -0400 (EDT)

Received: from [130.191.242.121] ([130.191.242.121])

by mail.sdsu.edu (8.8.4/8.8.4) with ESMTP id LAA00067; Wed,
28 May 1997 11:34:48 -0700 (PDT)

X-Sender: dcase@mail.sdsu.edu

===== END ATTACHMENT 1 =====

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

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

CREATION DATE/TIME:28-MAY-1997 21:40:00.00

SUBJECT: Articles 5.28.97.6

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

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

1. SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS Two letters - Homosexuality a part of diverse

human family

2. SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER Gay officer sues National Guard - Lieutenant

had

already challenged federal policy; now, he's pursuing case against state

San Antonio Express-News, May 28, 1997

Box 2171, San Antonio, TX, 78297-2171

(Fax 210-351-7372, print run 180,000)

(E-MAIL: editors@express-news.com)

LETTER: Homosexuality a part of diverse human family.

Re: Linden Lee Winterboer's May 7 letter, "Gays losing debate with

American

majority":

I disagree that no one but gays and lesbians are demanding equality for themselves. There are many of us who are straight who believe that homosexuality is only one of many characteristics found within our diverse human family.

As a biologist, it is clear to me that most of our characteristics are genetically determined. Skin color, eye color, blood type, body build, etc.,

are inherited traits.

Why then is it so hard to believe that sexual orientation is genetically determined?

Most people know their "feelings." Before I was in high school, I knew that

I was heterosexual. I believe people when they say they knew very early that

they were not.

As a Quaker, I believe that "there is that of God" in each person.

American society continues to struggle with broadening the phrase "all men are created equal" to include women, blacks, Asians, Hispanics and disabled people.

I hope that the time will come when "all men" includes all humanity, with all our differences.

Ruth Lofgren

Re: Don Feder's May 7 column:

Did Feder watch the coming out episode of "Ellen"? If he did, surely he noticed that there was no sex involved with this episode.

I have personally heard more explicit discussions about sex on "Seinfeld" or the numerous attempts of the leads on "Mad About You" to get pregnant - another family created - heterosexual style.

I'm gay. I really don't know why. I suspect that I was born that way, but it really doesn't matter. As actress Ellen DeGeneres pointed out in a very tasteful manner, it is who I am.

I didn't choose it, cannot change it and would not change it. I am simply

who I am.

I - and thousands of my gay brothers and sisters - could make it easier
on

Feder by staying quiet and keeping my desire to love and beloved in a
closet.

But I'm simply not going to do it that way anymore.

George Hughes

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER, May 28, 1997

Gay officer sues National Guard

Lieutenant had already challenged federal policy; now, he's pursuing case
against state

Ray Delgado

OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

He has already challenged the military's "don't ask, don't tell"
policy at the federal level, but now National Guard 1st Lt. Andrew Holmes
is
going after California's enforcement of the policy.

A class-action lawsuit was filed in San Francisco Superior Court
Tuesday on behalf of Holmes and other state guard members who were
discharged
or are still closeted in the service because of their sexual orientation.

Holmes was discharged in 1994 after telling his commanding officer
he
was gay. He filed suit and won reinstatement when a U.S. District Court
judge

ruled in March 1996 that his discharge violated federal constitutional guarantees of free speech and equal protection.

That decision is under appeal in the 9th Circuit. But Holmes' attorneys decided to attack the policy at the state level.

"Even if we lose in federal court, we can still stop the California National Guard from discriminating against gays and lesbians," said Elizabeth Scott, one of Holmes' attorneys with the Howard-Rice law firm. "There are protections in state law."

California labor laws and government codes prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. Because the state calls upon its National Guard service members when needed, gay and lesbian officers should be protected by those codes, Scott said.

Holmes' case against the state seeks to revoke the "don't ask, don't tell" policy and recover lost wages for officers who were discharged.

Representatives from the state attorney general's office and National Guard would not comment because they had not seen the lawsuit.

Holmes served in the California Army National Guard from 1986-94 and was deployed to Germany in Operation Desert Storm and Los Angeles for the civil disturbances following the Rodney King beating verdict.

In June 1993, Holmes sent a memorandum to his commanding officer that

said: "As a matter of conscience, honesty and pride, I am compelled to inform you that I am gay."

Less than a year later, Holmes was discharged from the 870th military police company in Pittsburg.

He filed suit the following year and won a reinstatement from U.S. District Judge Sandra Brown Armstrong in March of 1996. The decision marked the first time a federal judge ordered the military to reinstate a gay officer discharged under the "don't ask, don't tell" directive.

Holmes said he was confident he'd prevail in his federal lawsuit but wanted to go forward in his suit against the state to keep fighting for what he believes in.

"I've started it, and I'm going to stick with it," Holmes said.

"It's

been a long journey, but it's going to be worth it. We're gonna win." ===== ATTACHMENT 1
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1. LOS ANGELES TIMES How free is free speech? (Excerpt)
2. FEEDBACK Save 2 DYKES - help Scout fight the DMV
3. SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE XENA - TV's warrior princess rules over a diverse fan base while expanding her multimedia empire

LOS ANGELES TIMES, May 29, 1997

-(Fax 213-237-7679 or 213-237-5319, print run 1,103,200)

(E-MAIL: letters@latimes.com) (<http://www.latimes.com>)

Four Cases (EXCERPT)

How free is free speech? It depends on what--and where--the message is.

Some

real-life scenarios:

By ROY RIVENBURG

1. PRIVATE BUSINESS

; ; ; ; A man in a T-shirt that read, "I'm Not Gay, but My Boyfriend Is" was booted from Ohio's Cedar Point amusement park. He filed a \$25,000

discrimination lawsuit last fall but will probably lose. The 1st Amendment doesn't apply to private businesses and Ohio's civil rights law ignores homosexuals, according to the ACLU. In California and other states that grant civil-rights protections to gays, he'd have better odds.

FEEDBACK: Message from SCOUT to REX WOCKNER regarding the license plate that says 2 DYKES

From:ScoutDC@aol.com

To: rwockner@netcom.com

Rex,

Thursday the 29th is the Virginia DMV [Department of Motor Vehicles] hearing on [our revoked] license plate 2 DYKES.

We are both going to be there and they'll allow us to bring information to support our argument.

We say 2 DYKES is not offensive. Language is changing and people can clearly see it is being used in a positive, affirmative sense here. For them to insist that it will always be derogatory is demeaning. We as lesbians and gays should be able to have a say in this as well, straight people should not

be the only arbitors on this issue.

Since we can bring info to support our case, would you be able to circulate this message? Then, if people (gays and lesbians especially) agree with us on this issue, they can Email me directly with a message of supporting 2 DYKES as positive, not negative. I'll print them all and show them to the DMV.

Save 2 DYKES! Email Scout at scoutdc@aol.com with a message of support.

Thanks so much. I'll tell you how it comes out.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, May 29, 1997

(E-MAIL: chronletters@sfgate.com) (<http://www.sfgate.com>)

XENA

TV's warrior princess rules over a diverse fan base while expanding her multimedia empire

LAURA EVENSON, Chronicle Staff Writer

Hail Xena, warrior princess and gender-bending yet mainstream superheroine! Vanquisher of ``Star Trek," ``Hercules" and nearly every other syndicated TV rival!

Now that the mighty fighter has firmed up her lead on the syndicated action circuit, ``Xena" producers plan to keep her out front by introducing several surprises next season. And her legions of fans are helping to expand

her empire with activities and goods ranging from Xena conventions to comic books.

Xena wears a bronze-plated bustier Madonna would envy and a nail-studded leather miniskirt, but she hasn't let all that heavy metal slow her down. In February, just midway through her second TV season, she passed her most fearsome syndicated TV rival -- ``Star Trek: Deep Space Nine" -- in the ratings game. In San Francisco, ``Xena" fans tune into the show on Channel 20 at 9 p.m. Tuesdays; it repeats at 10 p.m. Saturdays.

But despite her skimpy outfits, this is no ``Baywatch" babe. Xena is a statuesque superheroine who, with the help of her loyal sidekick Gabrielle (Renee O'Connor), traverses ancient worlds and eras, battling merciless gods and ruthless warlords, and defeating syndicated TV contenders such as ``Baywatch."

Her arsenal includes Hong Kong-style butt-kicking blows, campy characters and the ongoing theme of a mythic heroine's attempt to make peace with her dark past as an evil warlord. It doesn't hurt that the series is filmed in the lush woodlands of New Zealand, the homeland of its star, Lucy Lawless.

Then there's Xena's fan-pleasing banshee battle cry: ``Yi-yi-yi-yi-yi!"

And while Xena is short on clothing, she's long on attitude. As she's

defending women from a roving band of rapists, she says to one, ``You like shoving women around so much? Try me!"

Picture Jackie Chan meets ``Wonder Woman," add a dash of ``Thelma and Louise" and you've got ``Xena."

Next season, the series will feature a musical episode in which Lawless and the cast sing. Viewers can also expect a new villain, said Robert Tapert, who with Sam Raimi produces the ``Xena" and ``Hercules" shows. ``We

also want to challenge the bond between Gabrielle and Xena," he added.

Until then, ``Xena" fans can get their fix at Xena-fests, including one in Sacramento this Saturday featuring Hudson Leick, who plays the villain Callisto, and Robert Trevor, who plays Salmoneus. O'Connor and Michael Hurst, who plays Hercules' buddy Iolaus, are slated to appear at a San Francisco convention October 18.

‘XENA’ PARAPHERNALIA

Fans who attend such shows may even take a little piece of ``Xena" home. At the Burbank convention last January, one bidder paid \$8,500 for an official copy of Xena's discus-shaped weapon, called a chakram.

There are less expensive Xena action figures, Halloween costumes, more than 60 Web sites, a CD-ROM and a direct-to-video animated musical due out this fall. Topps Comics will give Xena her own comic book in August.

Xenaphiles have already found succor in three Xena-based novels by Ru

Emerson: ``The Empty Throne," ``The Huntress and the Sphinx" and ``The Thief of Hermes." The Oregon-based writer hadn't heard of Xena until her agent suggested she tune in. ``The first show I saw opened with a hilarious scene in which Xena takes on 15 goons and flattens 'em all," said Emerson, 52. ``I hadn't seen anything that good since Emma Peel in `The Avengers'!"

In TV land, homages to Xena have appeared on ABC sitcoms ``Ellen" and ``Roseanne" and NBC's ``Something So Right."

But Xena reaches her largest audiences on her own show, where she appeals to viewers on multiple levels. ``It's the `Rocky and Bullwinkle' of the '90s, because it offers a lot of sly adult humor but also appeals to kids," said Charles Novinskie, 36, a sales manager for Topps Comics. He cites the oft-repeated curse, ``Oh, for Gaia's sake!"

TALES OF MORALITY

The married-with-children set may like ``Xena" because the show, while violent, minimizes gore and serves up a morality tale each episode. ``It's a representation of how women's roles have changed in society," said

Paul Brooks, a soil scientist at the University of California at Berkeley, and father of two young children. ``In other shows, women may be physically strong, but they're always helped out by a man when things get rough. Xena never is. Thirty years ago, a show like this wouldn't have been as accepted as it is today."

Women often view Xena as an icon of female empowerment. ``I love seeing two strong women who have a sense of humor, and who don't take crap from anyone," said Miryam Ramos, 39, owner of The Comic Shop in San Leandro.

Male fans like the fantasy of a woman in a dominant role, says Sam Liebowitz, 35, of Software Sculptors in New York, which sells an encyclopedic CD-ROM about the ``Xena" and ``Hercules" shows. Adds Liebowitz: ``And we like her outfit."

MORE THAN FRIENDS?

Then there's the don't-ask, don't-tell angle. While Xena may have men in her life, fans such as Julie Hill view Xena and Gabrielle as more than friends. ``If you're gay, you pick up on the fact that they're lovers," she said, noting that the pair have kissed onscreen.

Hill, 31, helped launch a ``Xena" viewing night Tuesdays at the Chat House in San Francisco. ``Now we're talking about a Xena float in the (June 29) Gay Freedom Day Parade," she said.

Executive producer Tapert strives to keep the Xena-Gabrielle relationship ambiguous. ``I have a huge following of kids who look at them as absolute role models, so we try to present the broadest picture," he said.

But the show playfully pushed the envelope again in a recent episode in which Xena wound up kissing the default winner of the Miss Known World beauty contest. It turned out the winner -- Miss Artiphys -- was really a mister.

LAWLESS LIVES BY HER OWN RULES

Lucy Lawless was born to play a battling babe.

The actress who as Xena kung-fu fights her way through ancient lands, said her origins as the eldest girl in an Irish Catholic family that included four older brothers gave her plenty of on-the-job training for the role.

“At age 10 in a play about the prodigal son,” said Lawless in a phone interview from her home in Auckland, New Zealand, “I was the woman who rips him off. I played the tough broad even then.”

Tougher still was accepting her status as an icon of female empowerment. “I was afraid they’d try to copy me,” she said.

Instead, she found Xena inspired many women to try things they had feared. “One woman wrote to me about how she went out and damn well bought that Harley-Davidson she’d always wanted, and that blew me away,” she said.

Lawless is about to take on another tough-gal role when she appears as Rizzo in the musical “Grease” on Broadway this September. She hesitated to talk about how she’ll portray the headstrong Rizzo, then added, “You can’t help but make choices with lines which are born out of your own personality and history.”

WORLD TRAVELER

Given Lawless’ past, she can draw from quite a range of experiences.

The daughter of the former mayor of Mount Albert, she enrolled in 1986 at Auckland University to study languages and opera, but soon grew restless.

“I went traveling to Switzerland, Italy and Greece and my boyfriend, Garth Lawless, joined me,” she said. The couple also traveled to the outback of Australia, where the then-Lucy Ryan worked for gold-mining companies, mapping and taking soil samples. She soon discovered she was pregnant and the couple married. They returned to Auckland where Daisy, now 8, was born.

COMEDY TROUPE WORK

Determined to act, Lawless landed a job with a comedy troupe on a New Zealand television show called “Funny Business.” She was working as a co-host for a travel show when she got a call for a role on a “Hercules” show that eventually led to her own series.

Lawless is divorced and now seeing Robert Tapert, executive producer of “Hercules” and “Xena.” Eventually, she hopes to have a larger family.

“I want to be a very happy 80-year-old woman. And for me, that means having more of a family. And kids require time.”

Lawless claims she's not particularly interested in developing a film career -- at least not while she's playing Xena. “Being a warrior princess is a full-time job,” she said.

CONVENING FOR XENA

The Official Hercules/ Xena Convention is 1 to 7 p.m. Saturday at

the
Sacramento Community Center, 1401 J St., Sacramento. Call (916) 923-BASS
for
ticket information. The convention will take place in San Francisco on
October 18 from 1 to 7 p.m. at the Masonic Auditorium, 1111 California St.
After September 18, call (510) 762-BASS for tickets.

THE PRINCESS AND THE ACTRESS

Xena fans often mix up the onscreen warrior princess with Lucy Lawless,
the actress who plays her. Here's how they differ.

XENA

Lovers: A variety of men and, perhaps, women

Heritage: Greek

Hair: Jet black

Age: Timeless

Children: A son

Physique: Big-boned

Siblings: One brother

Accent: American

Nudity: Comfortable displaying her body

Range: A variety of ancient worlds.

Music: Riot grrrls?

LAWLESS

Lovers: Her executive producer, Robert Tapert

Heritage: Irish

Hair: Ash blond

Age: 29

Children: A daughter

Physique: Slender

Siblings: Four brothers and two sisters

Accent: New Zealand lilt

Nudity: Somewhat uptight about taking it off

Range: Pretty much stays put in New Zealand

Music: Nina Simone ===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
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