

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

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

CREATION DATE/TIME: 7-NOV-1997 10:22:00.00

SUBJECT: Articles 11.7.97

TO: Paul J. Yandura (Paul J. Yandura@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

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

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=unknown-8bit

Content-transfer-encoding: 8BIT

1. DES MOINES REGISTER Campus rallies behind gay prof - He received two threatening notes last weekend
2. MIAMI HERALD Focus on relationships when child asks for explanation of 'gay'
3. HARVARD CRIMSON Letter: Don't Fault Christians For Preaching Religion
4. REUTERS Clinton, 'Ellen' to Attend Gay Rights Dinner
5. ASSOCIATED PRESS Lesbian band known to have sex on stage can't perform in Montreal

DES MOINES REGISTER, November 7, 1997

Box 957, Des Moines, Ia., 50304

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

CAMPUS RALLIES BEHIND GAY PROF

He received two threatening notes last weekend.

By Mark Siebert, Register Staff Writer

A student-led rally Thursday at Central College in Pella restored any doubts professor Bob Schanke harbored about the campus where he has worked

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years.

Schanke, an openly gay theater professor, received two threatening letters Saturday. One went to his campus mailbox and another was left in his office, where his papers were strewn about.

"Death to queers," said one note -- the one with no crude language.

It was printed from a computer on plain white paper and left in a faculty office that usually is locked.

The incident, by far the most hateful in Schanke's tenure at the college, rattled him. Then an estimated 300 faculty and students turned out Thursday morning to rally behind him.

"I was just thrilled and warmed and buoyed by it," Schanke said after the rally. "It was very reassuring that people will not tolerate harassment of any kind."

Pella police and Central administrators are investigating the incident.

Central spokesman Rob Dillard said the campus community and the administration were saddened by the incident.

"We're investigating it very thoroughly," Dillard said. "It's just

something on an academic campus that simply cannot be tolerated."

Central, a college of 1,270 students, is affiliated with the Reformed Church in America. The college and the town have a conservative reputation, but Schanke said he had encountered little harassment.

Occasionally, Schanke was sent unsigned notes with Bible verses commonly used to argue that homosexuality is a sin. But faculty and administration at Central supported him, he said, including financing his research on gays and lesbians in American theater history.

"The college has always been very supportive of me in my work. I've never felt my job was in jeopardy," he said.

Schanke said he does not expect the author of the notes to be found. Nor does he expect he will change his behavior because of the threats.

But he does hope the incident and the rally serve a purpose -- whether or not people believe homosexuality is right or wrong.

"My hope is that this galvanizes the college community and it makes us all more aware of harassment and that we should do more than talk lip service about multi-cultural and diversity issues," he said.

Miami Herald, November 7, 1997

Focus on relationships when child asks for explanation of 'gay'

Q. How do you answer this question from a 7-year-old boy: What does gay

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-- Virginia Sloan, Bartow, Fla.

A. Answer the question honestly, but don't give more information than he's ready to hear, parents and other experts say.

"I told my first-grader it's when men fall in love with men or women fall in love with women," says Salem Mcknee of Charlotte, N.C. "The details can wait until they're a little older."

Focus on the relationship, rather than sex acts, as you would for a heterosexual relationship, other parents suggest.

"It's really important to ask the child how much they know," says Joanne Marrow, a psychology professor at California State University in Sacramento.

"Maybe another child was trying to insult him by saying, 'You're gay.' "

The question may have been prompted by something a child has seen on TV or

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Being asked the question makes it a good time to teach kids about acceptance of people who are different, says Lawrence Balter, author of Not in Front of the Children: How to Talk to Your Child About Tough Family Matters (Penguin, \$9.95).

Another way to help a 7-year-old understand what gay means is to point out

family friends who are openly homosexual, Balter says.

Parents might also turn to a story book that features gay characters, suggests Megan Brett of Durham, N.C., such as Heather Has Two Mommies by

Leslea Newman (Alyson, \$7.95) and Daddy's Roommate by Michael Willhoite (Alyson, \$15.95).

Some parents may oppose homosexuality on religious grounds. Still, Marrow suggests, "Be careful to make the distinction between the behavior and the person."

If you have tips, or questions of your own, call 1 (800) 827-1092 or write: Child Life, 2322 Hales Rd., Raleigh, N.C. 27608.

HARVARD CRIMSON, November 7, 1997

14 Plympton Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

(E-MAIL: letters@thecrimson.harvard.edu)

URL: <http://www.thecrimson.harvard.edu/>

Letter: Don't Fault Christians For Preaching Religion

National Coming Out of Homosexuality Day is perhaps the most misunderstood phenomenon that has taken place at Harvard this academic year. Homosexuals would like one to believe that this is just another example of radical Christians attempting to persecute them. They are wrong. National Coming Out of Homosexuality Day is an occasion for Christians to emphasize basic doctrine and make clear to Christians everywhere the message of compassion in Christ's teachings.

For Christians, homosexuality is sin. Leviticus tells us: &To lie with a man as to lie with a woman is an abomination. 8 Leviticus , teaching on

homosexuality goes to clarifying the phrase "thou shalt not commit adultery." Yet, all people sin, and a great number of college students commit adultery through pre-marital sexual relations, you say. This is true, but the reason that Christians show particular concern for the sin of homosexuals is that they have attached a political agenda to their sin that contravenes the word of God and attempts to establish sin as a societally acceptable choice. In so doing, (according to the perspective of a Christian) they defy God's commandments and toss aside his loving covenant of salvation.

Don't attack Christians for promoting their religion, a religion which is the basis of many normal American's moral systems. Are we at Harvard really so arrogant to belittle others' beliefs because we feel we have a superior intellect?

-- Christopher G. Roberts '01

REUTERS, November 7, 1997

Clinton, 'Ellen' to Attend Gay Rights Dinner

By Deborah Zabarenko

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Openly lesbian actress Ellen DeGeneres and President Clinton will be Washington's unlikeliest duo Saturday at a fund-raiser for the largest U.S. gay rights group.

Clinton has consistently favored gay rights, but this is the first time

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or any sitting president has made such an overt demonstration of support.

"I think he's not hoping to make history," White House spokesman Mike McCurry said of Clinton's role at the event, sponsored by the group Human Rights Campaign. "He's hoping to bring people from different walks of life together so we can tackle the common problems that we face."

DeGeneres, who revealed her sexual orientation before a relentlessly promoted episode of her television situation comedy "Ellen," plans to attend

with her lover Anne Heche, while Clinton will go stag -- first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton had a previous commitment.

It was not clear whether Clinton and DeGeneres will sit together.

DeGeneres, who will receive a civil rights award at the dinner, said in an interview Wednesday on the "Entertainment Tonight" television program that the event would be stressful for her.

"I'm going to Washington to receive the civil rights award, and the president's gonna be there and I'm sitting here going crazy 'cause ... I do interviews, I've done stand-up, but to stand in Washington and receive a civil rights award ... is ... extremely stressful," DeGeneres said.

Elizabeth Birch, the homosexual group's executive director, sounded ecstatic that Clinton planned to attend the \$250-a-plate affair.

"We're very honored and excited to welcome the President of the United States," Birch said in a telephone interview. "This is the first time a sitting president will be addressing a gay civil rights event."

Birch acknowledged that Clinton's avowed support of gay rights has not always translated into policy and noted the issue of gays in the U.S.

military as a disappointing case in point.

During Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign, he urged that American homosexuals be permitted to openly serve, but settled for a policy known as "don't ask, don't tell."

Despite such "painful moments," Birch said Clinton was a vast improvement over the Reagan and Bush administrations, when homosexuals were "absolutely marginalized."

In that 12-year period, Birch said, "The federal government was this wall of stony silence and neglect and it was no wonder that gay Americans thought they were stepping into the sunlight" when Clinton was elected.

Since Clinton, now in his second term as president, is never likely to run for office again, attendance at the homosexual rights event carries little political risk, according to Stephen Hess of the Brookings Institution.

"Bill Clinton is not a person that makes these sorts of political decisions lightly or spontaneously or off the top of his head," Hess said by telephone. "The very fact that he's going means it hasn't hurt him politically."

The situation may be a bit different for Vice President Al Gore, the likely Democratic nominee for president in the year 2000. When Gore praised "Ellen" last month for forcing Americans "to look at sexual orientation in a

more open light," he drew fire from former Vice President Dan Quayle, who also might be a presidential contender.

Quayle told the Union Leader newspaper in Manchester, New Hampshire -- the state where the first presidential primary is traditionally held -- that Gore was "pandering" to homosexuals with his remarks.

Quayle has used a sitcom plot to his advantage before.

In 1992, he grabbed headlines by criticizing the television program "Murphy Brown" when its heroine decided to become a single mother. He said this plot line was anti-family and discounted the role of fathers.

ASSOCIATED PRESS, November 7, 1997

Police: Lesbian Band Can't Play in Montreal

MONTREAL (AP) - Rockbitch, a British band known for having sex on stage, will not be allowed to play in Montreal this weekend, the head of the police morality squad said Thursday.

Cmdr. Andre Bouchard said the nightclub where the band is to perform will be ordered not to put on the show.

"The Quebec government board that issues permits for such nightclubs and city bylaws will prevent the show," he said.

"The board's article 34 on public order prevents such shows, and the nightclub is not zoned for nude appearances or large audiences."

Montreal police also promised to arrest the raunchy band, made up of six so-called liberated lesbians, if they perform their three-night stand

in

the city.===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
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===== END ATTACHMENT 1 =====

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

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

CREATION DATE/TIME: 7-NOV-1997 13:50:00.00

SUBJECT: Christian Science Monitor on Clinton HRC Speech

TO: Paul J. Yandura (Paul J. Yandura@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

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

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
Christian Science Monitor

6 Nov

In historic first, the president will attend a gala Saturday
hosted by homosexual group.

When Vice President Al Gore thanked Hollywood last month for helping to
educate and create an atmosphere of tolerance for homosexuals through the
situation comedy ``Ellen," conservative critics blew a fuse.

Just as the political smoke from that has begun clearing, the White
House this weekend has plans sure to fire things up all over again.

President Clinton will be the honored guest and keynote speaker at
a gala thrown Saturday by the nation's largest homosexuals lobbying
organization. Actress Ellen DeGeneres will also be on hand to receive
an achievement award.

Mr. Clinton's attendance, a historic first, will showcase what the administration says is an increased level of national tolerance, if not acceptance, of homosexuals in this country due in part to its policies. If that premise isn't enough to light up talk radio phone lines, the subject of his speech will.

Clinton is using the event to kick off a public lobbying effort for the controversial Employment Non-Discrimination Act, known as ENDA.

“ENDAs the watershed event that history will record 50, or 100 years in the future,” says Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, the organization hosting Saturday's event.

The legislation would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation in many workplaces. A similar bill was narrowly defeated last year in the Senate. This year, the House failed to act on a slightly rewritten version of the Senate bill. Earlier this month, a Senate committee held the first set of hearings on the bill. Testimony was largely supportive.

When the measure is brought up again in Congress early next year, proponents will tout poll data gathered last spring. In a joint survey conducted by a Democratic and Republican polling firm, 68 percent of Americans asked said they supported the measure in concept.

But if the experience in some states is any guide, the nation is in for a loud and divisive debate. Opponents have apparently been

successful in portraying these laws as attempting to establish a new, or special set of rights, for homosexuals.

In the first statewide test of an ENDA-type measure, on Tuesday Washington State voters overwhelmingly opposed the ballot initiative.

In 1992 Colorado voters were so united against any ENDA statute, they passed a statewide referendum to preempt any city from enacting one. But the Supreme Court later declared the ballot initiative unconstitutional.

The battles in those two states have energized ENDA opponents, who are already framing their counter campaign in terms of ENDA undermining family values and workplace morality. They question the national polling data, suggesting the phrasing of the questions in surveys accounts for the high level of support.

But it's not just Clinton's support of ENDA that riles critics. It's his use of the office to publicly support gay rights, an issue that has traditionally been out of political bounds.

Undeterred, the president's presence Saturday night, and his lobbying effort, is ``in context, an appropriate show of support for a country that recognizes the right of every human being to live up to their God-given talent," according White House spokeswoman Ann Lewis (sister of openly gay Massachusetts Congressman Barney Frank).

But already the White House has come under fire from very different constituencies.

Political critics say Clinton's appearance at the gala event is prompted by the Human Rights Campaign's hefty campaign donations, which totaled more than \$3 million in the last election.

Peter LaBarbera, an editor at the conservative Family Research Council, says Clinton is offending the broad political center of the American electorate. "He's out there using his presidential power to boost the gay lobby," says Mr. LaBarbera. "I think there is an increasing acceptance [of homosexuality], but the majority of Americans are put off by the kind of homosexual advocacy they are seeing," he says.

LaBarbera plans to join a protest group called Americans for Truth About Homosexuality protesting Saturday night's event and the pending legislation.

And despite his broad support in the gay community, Mr. Clinton is also facing fire from pro-gay rights interests. Act-Up, the international AIDS awareness organization will also reportedly be on hand to protest the event over the lack of a federal needle exchange program.

And then there are those who still chafe at what they believe is the president's biggest single misstep, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals Judge William Norris has called on Clinton to renounce the policy that allows homosexuals to serve in the armed forces as long as they do not disclose their sexual orientation. ``Discrimination against lesbians and gay men as official governmental policy has emerged as the most intractable civil rights issue of the '90's" the judge says.

Moreover some describe the president's actions, such as the appointment of homosexuals within his administration, as lacking substance. ``Most of what the administration has done has been symbolic," says Howard Ehrlich of the Baltimore-based Prejudice Institute, pointing to Mr. Gore's support of the ``Ellen" television program as an example.

The claim of wider tolerance for homosexuals from almost all sides of the debate is largely based on anecdotal evidence. Inclusion of gay themes or characters in television programming, for example. Polling data indicate opinions have remained relatively constant in recent years.

The reason, says Stanford University political scientist Richard Brody, is that ``people are super-focused" elsewhere, mostly on the good economic times. That gives the administration plenty of elbow room in which to operate on this issue, he says, because people are less concentrated on finding an unpopular group to flail when times are good.

``There is a live and let live attitude at play now," Mr. Brody says. He says that it's a sentiment that deepens with the coming of age of a younger generation.

On this point, Ms. Birch of the Human Right's Campaign agrees.

``There is a transformation going on," she says, crediting the White House's ENDA effort. By pushing for equality for all Americans, including homosexuals, ``the president has absolutely altered the air we breathe," she says.

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X-Sender: dcase@mail.sdsu.edu
===== END ATTACHMENT 1 =====

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

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READ:UNKNOWN

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

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

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Pella police and Central administrators are investigating the incident.

Central spokesman Rob Dillard said the campus community and the administration were saddened by the incident.

"We're investigating it very thoroughly," Dillard said. "It's just

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Schanke said he does not expect the author of the notes to be found. Nor does he expect he will change his behavior because of the threats.

But he does hope the incident and the rally serve a purpose -- whether or not people believe homosexuality is right or wrong.

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HARVARD CRIMSON, November 7, 1997

14 Plympton Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

(E-MAIL: letters@thecrimson.harvard.edu)

URL: <http://www.thecrimson.harvard.edu/>

Letter: Don't Fault Christians For Preaching Religion

National Coming Out of Homosexuality Day is perhaps the most misunderstood phenomeon that has taken place at Harvard this academic year. Homosexuals would like one to believe that this is just another example of radical Christians attempting to persecute them. They are wrong. National Coming Out of Homosexuality Day is an occasion for Christians to emphasize basic doctrine and make clear to Christians everywhere the message of compassion in Christ's teachings.

For Christians, homosexuality is sin. Leviticus tells us: &To lie with a man as to lie with a woman is an abomination. 8 Leviticus , teaching on

homosexuality goes to clarifying the phrase "thou shalt not commit adultery." Yet, all people sin, and a great number of college students commit adultery through pre-marital sexual relations, you say. This is true, but the reason that Christians show particular concern for the sin of homosexuals is that they have attached a political agenda to their sin that contravenes the word of God and attempts to establish sin as a societally acceptable choice. In so doing, (according to the perspective of a Christian) they defy God's commandments and toss aside his loving covenant of salvation.

Don't attack Christians for promoting their religion, a religion which is the basis of many normal American's moral systems. Are we at Harvard really so arrogant to belittle others' beliefs because we feel we have a superior intellect?

-- Christopher G. Roberts, 2001

REUTERS, November 7, 1997

Clinton, 'Ellen' to Attend Gay Rights Dinner

By Deborah Zabarenko

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Openly lesbian actress Ellen DeGeneres and President Clinton will be Washington's unlikeliest duo Saturday at a fund-raiser for the largest U.S. gay rights group.

Clinton has consistently favored gay rights, but this is the first time

he

or any sitting president has made such an overt demonstration of support.

"I think he's not hoping to make history," White House spokesman Mike McCurry said of Clinton's role at the event, sponsored by the group Human Rights Campaign. "He's hoping to bring people from different walks of life together so we can tackle the common problems that we face."

DeGeneres, who revealed her sexual orientation before a relentlessly promoted episode of her television situation comedy "Ellen," plans to attend

with her lover Anne Heche, while Clinton will go stag -- first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton had a previous commitment.

It was not clear whether Clinton and DeGeneres will sit together.

DeGeneres, who will receive a civil rights award at the dinner, said in an interview Wednesday on the "Entertainment Tonight" television program that the event would be stressful for her.

"I'm going to Washington to receive the civil rights award, and the president's gonna be there and I'm sitting here going crazy 'cause ... I do interviews, I've done stand-up, but to stand in Washington and receive a civil rights award ... is ... extremely stressful," DeGeneres said.

Elizabeth Birch, the homosexual group's executive director, sounded ecstatic that Clinton planned to attend the \$250-a-plate affair.

"We're very honored and excited to welcome the President of the United States," Birch said in a telephone interview. "This is the first time a sitting president will be addressing a gay civil rights event."

Birch acknowledged that Clinton's avowed support of gay rights has not always translated into policy and noted the issue of gays in the U.S.

military as a disappointing case in point.

During Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign, he urged that American homosexuals be permitted to openly serve, but settled for a policy known as "don't ask, don't tell."

Despite such "painful moments," Birch said Clinton was a vast improvement over the Reagan and Bush administrations, when homosexuals were "absolutely marginalized."

In that 12-year period, Birch said, "The federal government was this wall of stony silence and neglect and it was no wonder that gay Americans thought they were stepping into the sunlight" when Clinton was elected.

Since Clinton, now in his second term as president, is never likely to run for office again, attendance at the homosexual rights event carries little political risk, according to Stephen Hess of the Brookings Institution.

"Bill Clinton is not a person that makes these sorts of political decisions lightly or spontaneously or off the top of his head," Hess said by telephone. "The very fact that he's going means it hasn't hurt him politically."

The situation may be a bit different for Vice President Al Gore, the likely Democratic nominee for president in the year 2000. When Gore praised "Ellen" last month for forcing Americans "to look at sexual orientation in a

more open light," he drew fire from former Vice President Dan Quayle, who also might be a presidential contender.

Quayle told the Union Leader newspaper in Manchester, New Hampshire -- the state where the first presidential primary is traditionally held -- that Gore was "pandering" to homosexuals with his remarks.

Quayle has used a sitcom plot to his advantage before.

In 1992, he grabbed headlines by criticizing the television program "Murphy Brown" when its heroine decided to become a single mother. He said this plot line was anti-family and discounted the role of fathers.

ASSOCIATED PRESS, November 7, 1997

Police: Lesbian Band Can't Play in Montreal

MONTREAL (AP) - Rockbitch, a British band known for having sex on stage, will not be allowed to play in Montreal this weekend, the head of the police morality squad said Thursday.

Cmdr. Andre Bouchard said the nightclub where the band is to perform will be ordered not to put on the show.

"The Quebec government board that issues permits for such nightclubs and city bylaws will prevent the show," he said.

"The board's article 34 on public order prevents such shows, and the nightclub is not zoned for nude appearances or large audiences."

Montreal police also promised to arrest the raunchy band, made up of six so-called liberated lesbians, if they perform their three-night stand

in

the city.===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
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READ:UNKNOWN

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

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

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1. NEW YORK TIMES Army Outpost at Crossroads Has New Foes

2. CHICAGO TRIBUNE Clinton, DeGeneres raise funds together

3. PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER Gays view Clinton's speech as historic

Tomorrow's visit overshadows what activists consider to be an uneven track
record.

4. DETROIT NEWS Deb Price: New gay rights projects need some support from
New Jersey's re-elected Gov. Whitman

NEW YORK TIMES, November 7, 1997

229 W. 43rd Street, New York,NY,10036

(Fax 212-556-3622)(E-MAIL: letters@nytimes.com)

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

Army Outpost at Crossroads Has New Foes

By CLYDE HABERMAN

NEW YORK -- Name the cause, and it's better than even money that it has ignited a demonstration outside the armed-forces recruiting station that sits on a traffic island in Times Square.

Usually, it is a foreign-policy issue that attracts protesters to the booth, as the station at West 43rd Street is commonly called. Wars have naturally got the juices flowing, from Vietnam to the Persian Gulf, but so have lesser blips on the we're-mad-as-hell screen.

While these self-satisfied times aren't producing many protests, the 360-square-foot station is hardly off the hook. The terrain has shifted for New Yorkers wanting to give the booth the boot from the perch it has occupied for half a century.

One critic is Thomas Duane, an openly gay councilman from Manhattan, who is unhappy with the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy requiring soldiers to keep their homosexuality to themselves. Since a city human rights law forbids New York from doing business with anyone who discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation, Duane says that no exception should be made for the military and its occupation of a precious piece of real estate -- rent-free, at that.

The Times Square Business Improvement District can also think of better uses for the space, though it has not offered specifics. Nothing against tradition or the armed forces, said Gretchen Dykstra, the BID's president. "All of that history is wonderful," she said. But bidness is bidness, as

they

would say in the South. "We want it relocated," Ms. Dykstra said.

In truth, the recruiting station is likely to stay put for a while.

Transportation Commissioner Christopher Lynn, who has jurisdiction over the traffic island, sympathizes with Duane on the "don't ask, don't tell"

issue;

he is openly gay himself. But he has also noted that the booth has been on the site for a long time and that the military is a way out of poverty for many young New Yorkers.

The issue probably won't die. Duane plans to rally public support and hold

a council hearing, an aide said, and the councilman could not be more emphatic on the matter. "There's no reason why we should let such a symbol of

bigotry occupy one of the most valuable pieces of real estate in the country," he said in September.

With Veterans Day approaching, perhaps it will not be deemed an offense against human rights to observe that whatever the military's failings may be,

it is for many a good deal more than a symbol of bigotry. Try a symbol of national purpose.

R. Andrew Shore, a Manhattan lawyer, was sufficiently troubled last year by

an editorial calling for the booth's removal that he wrote to this newspaper

to say that "ending the armed forces' presence would banish some history, and

a small bit of romance, from the crossroads of the world."

Contacted this week, Shore did not want to get into the question of gay people in the military. But he was not alone among New Yorkers in describing

the station as nothing less than "a symbol of the sacrifices that America made for the world in the 20th century."

It is also more active than some people might realize. "This is the most heavily trafficked walk-in station in the country," said Lieut. Col. John Bullock Jr., commander of the Army's New York City Recruiting Battalion.

These are good days for recruiters in the city, perhaps in part because unemployment here is 9.3 percent, nearly twice the national average.

Bullock's battalion has far exceeded its quota -- its "mission," in Army jargon -- and the trend is conspicuous in Times Square, where 34 people were

signed up in the past year, compared with a target of 14.

Those numbers, while not vast, are more than solid, said Staff Sgt. Lary Ruiz, the Army recruiter in Times Square. "This station is considered a powerhouse," he said. "We get young people coming in. We also get people who

work in the area and are looking to change their life."

The booth itself could stand a change. It looks a little sad these days, its shabbiness made all the more conspicuous by the Disneyfication taking place around it.

Eliot Goldman, a lawyer in the area, has contacted the Army to suggest renovation ideas. "If you destroy that recruiting station, you destroy the essence of Times Square," he said, adding that the island has also long been

a New York "speaker's corner." Political protest and the booth have gone hand in hand for decades.

"It serves as a rallying point," he said. "It even gives Duane a soapbox and a place to have rallies."

CHICAGO TRIBUNE, November 7, 1997

435 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60611

(Fax 312-222-2598)(E-MAIL: tribletter@aol.com)

(<http://www.chicago.tribune.com>)

CLINTON, DEGENERES RAISE FUNDS TOGETHER

President Clinton and openly lesbian actress Ellen DeGeneres are expected to sit together at a fundraising dinner Saturday for the largest U.S. gay rights group. Clinton has consistently favored gay rights, but this is the first time any sitting president has made such an overt demonstration of support.

"I think he's not hoping to make history," White House spokesman Mike McCurry said of Clinton's role at the event, sponsored by the group Human Rights Campaign.

"He's hoping to bring people from different walks of life together so we can tackle the common problems that we face."

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, November 7, 1997

PO Box 8263, Philadelphia, PA, 19101

(Fax 215-854-4483)(E-MAIL: inquirer.editorial@phillynews.com)

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

Gays view Clinton's speech as historic

Tomorrow's visit overshadows what activists consider to be an uneven track record.

By Jodi Enda

INQUIRER WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON -- President Clinton tomorrow night will become the first sitting president to address a gay-rights event.

Even though he has had several run-ins with gay-rights advocates, Clinton decided to take this one conspicuous action to give voice to the community's calls for equality.

No matter what he says at the annual gala of the country's largest gay and lesbian political organization, the Human Rights Campaign, Clinton's mere presence in the hotel ballroom will make a statement, according to White House officials, gay-rights advocates, and their conservative opponents.

"He knows exactly what it means for him to be appearing at the Human Rights Campaign dinner, and I think he is doing so specifically for the purpose of sending a message that lesbian and gay Americans are as much a part of the American family as every other American citizen," said Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights in San Francisco.

Gay and lesbian leaders, who say Clinton has both delighted and

disappointed them more than any other president, view his speech as a historic sign of their coming of age as a civil-rights movement.

"We have a long way to go, but the country has been transformed," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign. "Part of it is President Clinton has put this issue on the radar screen."

White House officials say Clinton is not trying to make history, but build on his theme of celebrating diversity and smoothing relations among disparate groups of people. But neither they nor gay-rights leaders play down the significance of Clinton's appearance before 1,500 gay and lesbian activists who are paying \$250 apiece to see him.

"The struggle for gays and lesbians to gain equal status and recognition in this country has never been recognized in such a public, formal and serious way by any president of the United States. And this president has, more than any of his predecessors, seemed to understand these issues and has done more to advance them," said Jeffrey Montgomery, associate director of the Triangle Foundation, a Detroit-based organization that battles violence against lesbians and gays.

"That's not to say that many of us have not been disappointed by any specific actions or inactions by this administration," Montgomery added, in a refrain common among gay and lesbian leaders.

On the other side of the political spectrum, Gary Bauer, president of

the conservative Family Research Council, sees Clinton's attendance at the gala in similar terms. The difference is that, to Bauer, Clinton's attempt to "turn the tide" represents something untoward.

"There's a consistent pattern here that the administration wants the rest of America to put aside their moral-based objections to the gay-rights agenda," Bauer said.

"I do think that there is a growing resistance to a lot of the items on that agenda," he said, singling out same-sex marriages. "I think the Democratic Party proceeds at their own risk if they continue to be identified with that movement."

The public's response to calls for gay rights is mixed, depending on the issue. In a recent Newsweek poll, 84 percent of those surveyed said gays and lesbians should have equal access to job opportunities, and 80 percent said they should have equal access to housing.

Yet 56 percent of respondents opposed the concept of legally sanctioned gay marriages.

Meanwhile, millions of Americans tuned in this year as comedian Ellen DeGeneres, in real life and in her role on television's *Ellen*, announced she was a lesbian.

Along with veteran civil-rights leader Dorothy Height, chairwoman of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, DeGeneres -- who announced earlier this year that she and her television character were lesbians -- will be

honored with a civil-rights award at the dinner.

Her mother, Betty DeGeneres, was recently named spokeswoman of the Human Rights Campaign's National Coming Out Project.

As far as the White House is concerned, Clinton is solidly in line with the public opinion. His attendance "signifies an increased acceptance of the notion that gays and lesbians are entitled to rights like all Americans," said Richard Socarides, a special assistant to the president and liaison to the gay community.

Gay-rights leaders credit Clinton as the first president to open the White House to gays and lesbians. He was the first president to appoint a large number of gays and lesbians to high-ranking positions, the first to grant gay leaders frequent access to the Oval Office, and the first to ban sexual orientation as a grounds for withholding security clearances, gay-rights advocates said.

Clinton supports legislation to prohibit job discrimination against gays and lesbians, he made persecution based on sexual orientation grounds for political asylum, and he has included gay organizations in discussions of hate crimes.

Just as important, he created a climate of acceptance, gay and lesbian leaders said.

"This was a president unafraid to say the words gay and lesbian," said Kerry Lobel, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

But for all their gains, gay leaders also say they feel terribly betrayed.

Shortly after becoming president, Clinton caved in on his promise to allow gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military. Instead, he agreed to a compromise position dubbed, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Last year, he signed a bill forbidding federal recognition of same-sex marriages. And he failed to oppose an antigay ballot measure in Colorado.

Clinton's uneven record has led to a feeling of ambivalence in the gay community, which supported him with exuberance in his first run for president in 1992 and with tepid acceptance last year.

Rick Rosendall, a gay activist and U.S. Labor Department computer specialist, explained the paradox. "Bill Clinton is the most pro-gay president that we've ever had," he said. "But he's also the most antigay president that we've ever had."

DETROIT NEWS, November 7, 1997

615 W. Lafayette, Detroit, MI, 48226

(Fax 313-222-6417)(E-MAIL: Letters@detnews.com)

New gay rights projects need some support from New Jersey's re-elected Gov.

Whitman

By Deb Price / The Detroit News

; ; When Republican Christine Todd Whitman courted the votes of National Organization for Women (NOW) feminists in her 1993 bid to become governor of

New Jersey, Wendy Berger liked what she heard in an hourlong question-and-answer session. Whitman had presented herself as a gay-friendly

abortion-rights advocate. Just one thing troubled Berger: Whitman's party.

; ; Berger recalls, "I followed her outside and said, 'I'm confused. If you really believe in all the things you say, how can you be in a party that is as homophobic and anti-woman as the Republican Party?'"

; ; "She looked me in the eye and said, 'Look, I'm a Republican. My parents were Republicans. And I don't believe when something is wrong you leave.

I'm

staying inside, and I am fighting. If I walk out, they win. There's nobody left to fight. And I need support.' "

; ; Whitman won Berger's support -- and the governorship in 1993. "Never in my life did I think I would vote for a Republican," says Berger, political director of the New Jersey Lesbian and Gay Coalition. This year, having watched Gov. Whitman use the power of her office to fight for a more inclusive Republican Party, Berger was among many gay Democrats who crossed party lines to help produce Whitman's razor-thin re-election victory.

; ; Whitman's triumph is welcome news for all of us who, regardless of party,

see the extinction of moderate Republican officeholders as hazardous to our nation. Election Day '97 also produced a heartening number of successes for openly gay candidates around the nation. The news out of Washington state wasn't good, though.

; ; Voters refused to make Washington the 12th state to outlaw anti-gay job discrimination. The pro-gay referendum -- the first of its kind -- had tons of endorsements, including from Democratic Gov. Gary Locke. The Washington Association of Churches had even declared such discrimination "morally wrong." But, sadly, 59 percent of voters sent a message to bigoted employers

that it's just fine to fire someone simply for being gay.

; ; New Jersey's gay workers had gained statewide protection just before

Whitman took office. So she turned her attention elsewhere, calling for

federal protection for gay civilian workers nationwide and trying to prod

her

party into welcoming its gay Log Cabin members. At ease with gay people,

Whitman has appointed gay officials, declared June gay pride month and

stressed that "gays and lesbians" are part of her

strength-through-diversity

vision for New Jersey. When beach shops started hawking anti-gay T-shirts,

Whitman forcefully denounced "messages of intolerance" and worked to get

production stopped.

; ; Whitman's second-term challenge is to move further beyond symbolism.

Will

she support the next big push by gay activists and others for domestic

partner benefits and a statewide registry similar to the new one in

Hawaii?

Will she remove the special obstacle to gay two-parent adoptions? To keep

being a much-needed voice of Republican tolerance, Whitman's gay-rights

message must continue evolving.

; ; Valuable as friends like Whitman are, they can't eliminate the need to

elect people who know what it feels like to be gay. Openly gay candidates

did

extraordinarily well Tuesday. Of the 15 backed by the Gay and Lesbian

Victory

Fund, 10 won. Three more will be in runoffs.

; ; "This year is a real turning point. We've broken through so many

barriers

that it's not the big story anymore that a candidate is gay," says the

Victory Fund's Kathleen DeBold. The big story now is how many gay

candidates

are getting crucial endorsements -- and winning:

; ;* Health clinic director Jay Fiset swept every precinct in his race

for

Arlington County Board, making him the first openly gay official in

Virginia.

; ;* Margarita Lopez became the first openly lesbian Puerto Rican elected

to

public office by winning a New York City Council seat.

; ;* San Francisco Supervisor Susan Leal, who played a key role in

mandating

that city contractors provide domestic partner benefits, showed how gay

candidates are rising through the ranks. She was elected city treasurer

with

58 percent of the vote.

; ;* Santa Barbara, Calif., council member Tom Roberts, who pushed through

partner benefits for city workers, won re-election with the help of the

police and firefighters' unions.

; ; Sometimes the best candidate for the job comes with an unexpected label

-- gay or even Republican.

; ; Deb Price's column appears Fridays in The News. Write her in care of

Accent, 615 W. Lafayette, Detroit===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
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TO: Douglas S. Sheorn (Douglas S. Sheorn@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

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This was interesting!

Leo===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====

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07 Nov 1997 10:09:07 -0500 (EST)

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*To: League/CEO////////RFC-822/League#a#W01B@sv2@INET@EOPMRX@LNGTWY

Subject: Forwarded: Heart of a Judge

From: ANNE WALSTEN:R09F22A

Date: ## 11/04/97 09:28 ##

Previous comments:

From: Joanne L. Britton:R06F16D01A

Date: ## 10/28/97 09:24 ##

Previous comments:

From: Craig Mahaffey:R05A

Date: ## 10/23/97 18:58 ##

For Gay and Lesbian History Month (October) and National Coming Out Day (October 11).

CEO document contents:

From: Craig Mahaffey

Postmark: Oct 23,97

Forwarding Comments

Judge Norris eloquently delivers a message of support for gay and lesbian federal workers. Even though he speaks to the military policy, his remarks are just as appropriate to the federal civilian workforce which labors under an implicit version of the same policy. Clearly, federal civilian employees are encouraged to "live a lie" just as much as their military counterparts. The penalties for failing to comply may be unwritten and more subtle, but at a personal level they are no less damaging to a career and sense of well-being in the workplace. Ironically at a civilian organizational level, the retaliation also contributes to a breakdown of unit cohesion and morale - the very characteristics the military policy was ostensibly designed to protect. As long as an Executive Order prohibiting discrimination in the civilian federal workforce based on sexual orientation is missing, the intent and spirit of Secretary Glickman's EEO and civil rights policy with respect to gay and lesbian employees will be largely ignored. The absence of any public, department or agency-wide non-discrimination statement for vacancy announcements and program delivery continues to make such well-intentioned policy statements appear merely as empty, meaningless fluff. The hope remains that our leadership and our fellow employees will take these heartfelt words of Judge Norris to heart.

Subject: Heart of a judge

Los Angeles Times, Friday, October 17, 1997

Judge Urges Repeal of Military's Gay Policy Rights:
Jurist challenges Clinton to renounce 'don't ask, don't tell' edict because it forces homosexuals to 'live a lie.'
By HENRY WEINSTEIN, Times Legal Affairs Writer

A veteran federal judge issued a stern challenge to President Clinton on Thursday, urging the president to "admit his mistake of judgment" and renounce the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy. "Renounce it because it is wrong, it is evil--as you surely know in your heart," declared U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge William A. Norris in Los Angeles. The liberal jurist issued the unusual challenge in remarks at an evening ceremony at the Pacific Design Center, where he received a "Liberty Award" from the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, a national nonprofit legal group working for full civil rights for gay men and lesbians.

"Discrimination against lesbians and gay men as official governmental policy has emerged as the most intractable civil rights issue of the '90s," said Norris, 70, who is perhaps best known for his strong

opinion in a 1988 case in which he said the military's ban on gays violated the U.S. Constitution's equal protection clause. "To be sure, other forms of discrimination, such as discrimination based on race or gender, persist as grave social problems in America," Norris said Thursday. "But at least they are no longer acceptable as official governmental policy. Regrettably, however, it continues to be acceptable for the government and government officials to promote hatred, fear and intolerance against gay men and lesbians."

Norris, condemned "don't ask, don't tell" as a policy that "demands that gays and lesbians live a lie if they wish to serve in the military, and fight and die for their country... I can think of no other instance in which the government passed a law whose very purpose is to force people to live a lie, to pretend that their true selves don't really exist." The judge, who once ran unsuccessfully as the Democratic nominee for state attorney general, said that in this respect the policy is truly unique.

In response to Norris' prepared remarks, a White House spokesman, speaking on condition that he not be identified, said "the so-called 'don't ask, don't tell' policy is the law of the land and the president and the Department of Defense maintain a keen interest in ensuring that the policy is fairly enforced." The policy evolved from a lengthy debate about the rights of gays to serve in the military. Until 1993, there was a ban on gays and lesbians serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. As a presidential candidate, Bill Clinton said he supported the repeal of the ban. But shortly after his election, the Pentagon and some members of Congress vociferously objected to an outright repeal and Clinton came out with "don't ask, don't tell," which permits homosexuals to serve in the military so long as they do not publicly state their sexual orientation. Clinton called the policy an "honorable compromise." But gay rights organizations immediately denounced it, and there has been considerable litigation over the policy. Thus far, four federal appeals courts--including the 9th Circuit--have upheld the policy. Norris was not one of the judges who considered that case, but in his remarks Thursday, said that the policy's constitutionality is "highly suspect."

Norris was introduced by his old friend, Mayor Richard Riordan, a longtime supporter of gay rights. Riordan quipped that when the two met at Princeton University in the late 1940s, "diversity was having a roommate from Texas." At the outset of his speech, Norris, who is set to retire this month after 17 years on the federal bench, indicated that his return to private life would enable him to speak more freely in public, saying, "I want to take advantage of my fully restored 1st Amendment rights."

In his address, the judge pointedly reminded Clinton of his recent commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the desegregation of the Little Rock, Ark., public schools, where speakers denounced the bigotry that had kept blacks in separate, unequal schools until then. Norris said the "don't ask, don't tell" policy was equally worthy of condemnation. "It is also evil. . . Just as the racial policies of Gov. [Orval] Faubus were evil." The federal judge urged Clinton to

renounce the policy "before it becomes a permanent stain on his legacy."

In the same vein, Norris denounced the 1986 U.S. Supreme Court's *Bowers vs. Hardwick* decision, which upheld a Georgia law making sodomy a crime--a ruling that reversed a federal appellate court decision which held that the statute violated fundamental rights and that engaging in such conduct in private was beyond state regulation. Norris delivered a particularly blistering critique of then-Chief Justice Warren Burger's concurring opinion in the *Bowers* case. Burger said that according gay people "the same rights of privacy enjoyed by straight people" would be "to cast aside millennia of moral teaching." Norris said Thursday that it was "surely one of the most gratuitous and vicious opinions ever written by a federal judge."

Norris predicted that the *Bowers* case and the "don't ask, don't tell" policy would eventually be buried in the "national cemetery of shame," along with earlier Supreme Court decisions that permitted slavery, segregated public facilities and the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. "As dark as each of these chapters in our history has been, each ultimately has been renounced," Norris said. "Each is now dead and buried, but we must never forget them, for they serve both as a reminder of our past mistakes and as a reference point for measuring our collective progress toward a truly just society."

Norris said he took comfort from the 1996 U.S. Supreme Court decision that struck down an anti-gay initiative in Colorado, giving gays and lesbians their first major high court victory. On a broader note, Norris said the nation is undergoing "a fundamental shift in the way Americans think about gay men and lesbians and the roles they play in our everyday lives. We see this change manifested in the popularity of Ellen DeGeneres' out-of-the closet TV show, and the current box office sensation 'In & Out,' with its memorable moment of passion between the characters portrayed by actors Kevin Kline and Tom Selleck."

After Norris concluded, comedian Bruce Vilanch, the master of ceremonies, joked: "We'll send a video of Judge Norris' speech to the White House, but of course it will take them six months to find it." Asked why he was making such a strong statement about gay and lesbian rights, Norris, who is normally cautious in his off-the-bench remarks, said simply, "I'm honored to get this award and it occurred to me this was an appropriate occasion to say what is in my heart."

===== END ATTACHMENT 2 =====

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: rwockner (rwockner@netcom.com@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 7-NOV-1997 05:24:00.00

SUBJECT: NC5323: Clinton to Openly Advocate Gay Rights

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

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Christian Science Monitor

6 Nov

In historic first, the president will attend a gala Saturday
hosted by homosexual group.

When Vice President Al Gore thanked Hollywood last month for helping to
educate and create an atmosphere of tolerance for homosexuals through the
situation comedy ``Ellen," conservative critics blew a fuse.

Just as the political smoke from that has begun clearing, the White
House this weekend has plans sure to fire things up all over again.

President Clinton will be the honored guest and keynote speaker at
a gala thrown Saturday by the nation's largest homosexuals lobbying
organization. Actress Ellen DeGeneres will also be on hand to receive
an achievement award.

Mr. Clinton's attendance, a historic first, will showcase what the

administration says is an increased level of national tolerance, if not acceptance, of homosexuals in this country due in part to its policies. If that premise isn't enough to light up talk radio phone lines, the subject of his speech will.

Clinton is using the event to kick off a public lobbying effort for the controversial Employment Non-Discrimination Act, known as ENDA.

“ENDAs the watershed event that history will record 50, or 100 years in the future,” says Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, the organization hosting Saturday's event.

The legislation would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation in many workplaces. A similar bill was narrowly defeated last year in the Senate. This year, the House failed to act on a slightly rewritten version of the Senate bill. Earlier this month, a Senate committee held the first set of hearings on the bill. Testimony was largely supportive.

When the measure is brought up again in Congress early next year, proponents will tout poll data gathered last spring. In a joint survey conducted by a Democratic and Republican polling firm, 68 percent of Americans asked said they supported the measure in concept.

But if the experience in some states is any guide, the nation is in for a loud and divisive debate. Opponents have apparently been successful in portraying these laws as attempting to establish a new,

or special set of rights, for homosexuals.

In the first statewide test of an ENDA-type measure, on Tuesday Washington State voters overwhelmingly opposed the ballot initiative.

In 1992 Colorado voters were so united against any ENDA statute, they passed a statewide referendum to preempt any city from enacting one. But the Supreme Court later declared the ballot initiative unconstitutional.

The battles in those two states have energized ENDA opponents, who are already framing their counter campaign in terms of ENDA undermining family values and workplace morality. They question the national polling data, suggesting the phrasing of the questions in surveys accounts for the high level of support.

But it's not just Clinton's support of ENDA that riles critics. It's his use of the office to publicly support gay rights, an issue that has traditionally been out of political bounds.

Undeterred, the president's presence Saturday night, and his lobbying effort, is ``in context, an appropriate show of support for a country that recognizes the right of every human being to live up to their God-given talent," according White House spokeswoman Ann Lewis (sister of openly gay Massachusetts Congressman Barney Frank).

But already the White House has come under fire from very different

constituencies.

Political critics say Clinton's appearance at the gala event is prompted by the Human Rights Campaign's hefty campaign donations, which totaled more than \$3 million in the last election.

Peter LaBarbera, an editor at the conservative Family Research Council, says Clinton is offending the broad political center of the American electorate. "He's out there using his presidential power to boost the gay lobby," says Mr. LaBarbera. "I think there is an increasing acceptance [of homosexuality], but the majority of Americans are put off by the kind of homosexual advocacy they are seeing," he says.

LaBarbera plans to join a protest group called Americans for Truth About Homosexuality protesting Saturday night's event and the pending legislation.

And despite his broad support in the gay community, Mr. Clinton is also facing fire from pro-gay rights interests. Act-Up, the international AIDS awareness organization will also reportedly be on hand to protest the event over the lack of a federal needle exchange program.

And then there are those who still chafe at what they believe is the president's biggest single misstep, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals Judge William Norris has called on Clinton to renounce the policy that allows homosexuals to serve in the armed forces as long as they do not disclose their sexual orientation. ``Discrimination against lesbians and gay men as official governmental policy has emerged as the most intractable civil rights issue of the '90's" the judge says.

Moreover some describe the president's actions, such as the appointment of homosexuals within his administration, as lacking substance. ``Most of what the administration has done has been symbolic," says Howard Ehrlich of the Baltimore-based Prejudice Institute, pointing to Mr. Gore's support of the ``Ellen" television program as an example.

The claim of wider tolerance for homosexuals from almost all sides of the debate is largely based on anecdotal evidence. Inclusion of gay themes or characters in television programming, for example. Polling data indicate opinions have remained relatively constant in recent years.

The reason, says Stanford University political scientist Richard Brody, is that ``people are super-focused" elsewhere, mostly on the good economic times. That gives the administration plenty of elbow room in which to operate on this issue, he says, because people are less concentrated on finding an unpopular group to flail when times are good.

``There is a live and let live attitude at play now," Mr. Brody says. He says that it's a sentiment that deepens with the coming of age of a younger generation.

On this point, Ms. Birch of the Human Right's Campaign agrees.

``There is a transformation going on," she says, crediting the White House's ENDA effort. By pushing for equality for all Americans, including homosexuals, ``the president has absolutely altered the air

we breathe," she says. ===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
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CREATOR: rwockner (rwockner@netcom.com@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 7-NOV-1997 05:21:00.00

SUBJECT: NC5322: Clinton, 'Ellen' to Attend Gay Rights Dinner

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

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

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WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Openly lesbian actress Ellen

DeGeneres and President Clinton will be Washington's unlikeliest

duo Saturday at a fund-raiser for the largest U.S. gay rights

group.

Clinton has consistently favored gay rights, but this is the

first time he or any sitting president has made such an overt

demonstration of support.

``I think he's not hoping to make history," White House

spokesman Mike McCurry said of Clinton's role at the event,

sponsored by the group Human Rights Campaign. ``He's hoping to

bring people from different walks of life together so we can

tackle the common problems that we face."

DeGeneres, who revealed her sexual orientation before a relentlessly promoted episode of her television situation comedy ``Ellen," plans to attend with her lover Anne Heche, while Clinton will go stag -- first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton had a previous commitment.

It was not clear whether Clinton and DeGeneres will sit together.

DeGeneres, who will receive a civil rights award at the dinner, said in an interview Wednesday on the ``Entertainment Tonight" television program that the event would be stressful for her.

``I'm going to Washington to receive the civil rights award, and the president's gonna be there and I'm sitting here going crazy 'cause ... I do interviews, I've done stand-up, but to stand in Washington and receive a civil rights award ... is ... extremely stressful," DeGeneres said.

Elizabeth Birch, the homosexual group's executive director, sounded ecstatic that Clinton planned to attend the \$250-a-plate affair.

``We're very honored and excited to welcome the President of the United States," Birch said in a telephone interview. ``This

is the first time a sitting president will be addressing a gay civil rights event."

Birch acknowledged that Clinton's avowed support of gay rights has not always translated into policy and noted the issue of gays in the U.S. military as a disappointing case in point.

During Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign, he urged that American homosexuals be permitted to openly serve, but settled for a policy known as "don't ask, don't tell."

Despite such "painful moments," Birch said Clinton was a vast improvement over the Reagan and Bush administrations, when homosexuals were "absolutely marginalized."

In that 12-year period, Birch said, "The federal government was this wall of stony silence and neglect and it was no wonder that gay Americans thought they were stepping into the sunlight" when Clinton was elected.

Since Clinton, now in his second term as president, is never likely to run for office again, attendance at the homosexual rights event carries little political risk, according to Stephen Hess of the Brookings Institution.

"Bill Clinton is not a person that makes these sorts of political decisions lightly or spontaneously or off the top of

his head," Hess said by telephone. ``The very fact that he's going means it hasn't hurt him politically."

The situation may be a bit different for Vice President Al Gore, the likely Democratic nominee for president in the year 2000. When Gore praised ``Ellen" last month for forcing Americans ``to look at sexual orientation in a more open light," he drew fire from former Vice President Dan Quayle, who also might be a presidential contender.

Quayle told the Union Leader newspaper in Manchester, New Hampshire -- the state where the first presidential primary is traditionally held -- that Gore was ``pandering" to homosexuals with his remarks.

Quayle has used a sitcom plot to his advantage before.

In 1992, he grabbed headlines by criticizing the television program ``Murphy Brown" when its heroine decided to become a single mother. He said this plot line was anti-family and

discounted the role of fathers. ===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

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

CREATION DATE/TIME: 7-NOV-1997 12:29:00.00

SUBJECT: Philadelphia Inquirer on HRC & Clinton Speech

TO: Paul J. Yandura (Paul J. Yandura@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

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

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

November 7, 1997

<http://www.phillynews.com>

Gays view Clinton's speech as historic

Tomorrow's visit overshadows what activists consider to be an uneven track
record.

By Jodi Enda

INQUIRER WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON -- President Clinton tomorrow night will become the first
sitting president to address a gay-rights event.

Even though he has had several run-ins with gay-rights advocates,
Clinton
decided to take this one conspicuous action to give voice to the
community's
calls for equality.

No matter what he says at the annual gala of the country's largest gay and lesbian political organization, the Human Rights Campaign, Clinton's mere presence in the hotel ballroom will make a statement, according to White House officials, gay-rights advocates, and their conservative opponents.

"He knows exactly what it means for him to be appearing at the Human Rights Campaign dinner, and I think he is doing so specifically for the purpose of sending a message that lesbian and gay Americans are as much a part of the American family as every other American citizen," said Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights in San Francisco.

Gay and lesbian leaders, who say Clinton has both delighted and disappointed them more than any other president, view his speech as a historic sign of their coming of age as a civil-rights movement.

"We have a long way to go, but the country has been transformed," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign. "Part of it is President Clinton has put this issue on the radar screen."

White House officials say Clinton is not trying to make history, but build on his theme of celebrating diversity and smoothing relations among disparate groups of people. But neither they nor gay-rights leaders play down the significance of Clinton's appearance before 1,500 gay and lesbian activists who are paying \$250 apiece to see him.

"The struggle for gays and lesbians to gain equal status and

recognition

in this country has never been recognized in such a public, formal and serious way by any president of the United States. And this president has, more than any of his predecessors, seemed to understand these issues and has done more to advance them," said Jeffrey Montgomery, associate director of the Triangle Foundation, a Detroit-based organization that battles violence against lesbians and gays.

"That's not to say that many of us have not been disappointed by any specific actions or inactions by this administration," Montgomery added, in a refrain common among gay and lesbian leaders.

On the other side of the political spectrum, Gary Bauer, president of the conservative Family Research Council, sees Clinton's attendance at the gala in similar terms. The difference is that, to Bauer, Clinton's attempt to "turn the tide" represents something untoward.

"There's a consistent pattern here that the administration wants the rest of America to put aside their moral-based objections to the gay-rights agenda," Bauer said.

"I do think that there is a growing resistance to a lot of the items on that agenda," he said, singling out same-sex marriages. "I think the Democratic Party proceeds at their own risk if they continue to be identified with that movement."

The public's response to calls for gay rights is mixed, depending on

the
issue. In a recent Newsweek poll, 84 percent of those surveyed said gays
and
lesbians should have equal access to job opportunities, and 80 percent said
they should have equal access to housing.

Yet 56 percent of respondents opposed the concept of legally sanctioned
gay marriages.

Meanwhile, millions of Americans tuned in this year as comedian Ellen
DeGeneres, in real life and in her role on television's Ellen, announced
she
was a lesbian.

Along with veteran civil-rights leader Dorothy Height, chairwoman of the
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, DeGeneres -- who announced earlier
this year that she and her television character were lesbians -- will be
honored with a civil-rights award at the dinner.

Her mother, Betty DeGeneres, was recently named spokeswoman of the Human
Rights Campaign's National Coming Out Project.

As far as the White House is concerned, Clinton is solidly in line with
the public opinion. His attendance "signifies an increased acceptance of
the
notion that gays and lesbians are entitled to rights like all Americans,"
said Richard Socarides, a special assistant to the president and liaison to
the gay community.

Gay-rights leaders credit Clinton as the first president to open the
White
House to gays and lesbians. He was the first president to appoint a large
number of gays and lesbians to high-ranking positions, the first to grant

gay

leaders frequent access to the Oval Office, and the first to ban sexual orientation as a grounds for withholding security clearances, gay-rights advocates said.

Clinton supports legislation to prohibit job discrimination against gays and lesbians, he made persecution based on sexual orientation grounds for political asylum, and he has included gay organizations in discussions of hate crimes.

Just as important, he created a climate of acceptance, gay and lesbian leaders said.

"This was a president unafraid to say the words gay and lesbian," said Kerry Lobel, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

But for all their gains, gay leaders also say they feel terribly betrayed.

Shortly after becoming president, Clinton caved in on his promise to allow gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military. Instead, he agreed to a compromise position dubbed, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Last year, he signed a bill forbidding federal recognition of same-sex marriages. And he failed to oppose an antigay ballot measure in Colorado.

Clinton's uneven record has led to a feeling of ambivalence in the gay community, which supported him with exuberance in his first run for president

in 1992 and with tepid acceptance last year.

Rick Rosendall, a gay activist and U.S. Labor Department computer specialist, explained the paradox. "Bill Clinton is the most pro-gay president that we've ever had," he said. "But he's also the most antigay president that we've ever had."

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CREATOR: rwockner (rwockner@netcom.com@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 8-NOV-1997 20:22:00.00

SUBJECT: NC5335: Wash. Post on Clinton speech tonight

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

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])
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TEXT:

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WASHINGTON POST, November 8, 1997

Clinton to Speak at Gay Rights Gala

By Peter Baker

Washington Post Staff Writer

After President George Bush invited gay rights leaders to the White House to watch him sign a hate crimes bill, he was roundly criticized by conservatives and never did it again. When President Clinton brought gay rights leaders into the Oval Office for the first time, aides minimized the event and kept media cameras out.

There will be no hiding tonight, however, when Clinton takes the stage at a gala black-tie fund-raiser in Washington and becomes the first sitting president to address a gay rights organization.

No matter what he says in his speech, Clinton's mere presence at the Human Rights Campaign's first annual national dinner will make history and to many activists signals the maturation of a movement once relegated to the fringes of American society. Even for a president who has supported its causes, the decision to appear at a gay rights event suggests how dramatically the political climate has changed in the last five years.

"This is a different universe we're living in," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, which claims 200,000 members. "Although there have been disappointments with President Clinton, he's really changed the [landscape]. He's put gay issues on the radar screen of America."

"It's a big deal," said Kenneth Sherrill, political science department chairman at Hunter College who has studied gay issues. "In a way, what Clinton is doing is saying to the larger political community, 'There's nothing to be embarrassed about here.'"

That is not altogether a good thing, in the opinion of many Americans who view Clinton's acceptance of homosexuality with alarm. And even as he breaks with tradition, the White House evinces palpable discomfort with appearing too radical.

As the dinner approached this week, the president's aides did nothing to call attention to it and suggested he had no interest in making history.

Instead, they said, he simply is reaching out much as he does to other groups with his message of reconciliation and "One America." White House spokesman Michael McCurry yesterday compared it to Clinton's recent attendance at an Italian American dinner.

What's more, aides said Clinton has no intention of falling into the same thicket as Vice President Gore, who created a furor recently when he praised comedian Ellen DeGeneres for her coming-out episode on ABC's "Ellen." Clinton will mention his support for legislation protecting gay and lesbian Americans from job discrimination, but he will not offer commentary on the Ellen controversy *even though she will be seated on stage with him and receive an award for her groundbreaking television show.

Clinton, of course, has no more elections in his future, while Gore does. One more sign of the gay rights lobby's growing clout has been the courting by both the vice president and his chief potential rival for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2000, House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt (Mo.), who invited a group of gay rights leaders to his office just last week.

The prize is a sizable army of volunteer workers and an increasing pot of campaign money. The Human Rights Campaign estimates that openly gay donors last year gave \$3.2 million to Democrats. Two-thirds of self-identified gay voters backed Clinton in 1996, providing 7 percent of his total votes, according to an independent exit poll.

While the group this week installed former Republican congressman Steve Gunderson (Wis.) on its board of directors, the polling and contribution numbers demonstrate how beholden Democrats are becoming to the gay agenda, according to conservative opponents.

"This is an issue that has come to define American liberalism as we move into the 21st century. This is their cutting-edge issue," said Arnie Owens, spokesman for the Christian Coalition. "The message may resonate with cosmopolitan elites in New York and Los Angeles, but you get outside the beltways where the rest of America lives, you'll find the views are somewhat different."

To make that point, a coalition of conservative activists plans to demonstrate outside of tonight's \$250-per-person dinner at the Grand Hyatt Hotel as Clinton speaks inside, arguing that his presence belies his rhetoric in favor of traditional family values.

Yet even as he draws protesters from the right, the president also will encounter critics from the left. The local chapter of ACT-UP, an AIDS activism group, will march from Lafayette Square to the hotel to complain that Clinton has not lived up to his promises.

"He's talked our talk, but he's walked their walk," said Steve Michael, a founder of the organization, referring to religious conservatives. The guests paying \$250 a plate, he added, have sold out. "They want access to the cocktail parties. They want pictures on their wall so they can say,

'Here I am with the president.'"

The competing demonstrations underscore the conflicting nature of Clinton's record on gay rights.

In 1992, while running for president, he made history by appearing as a candidate before an openly gay audience, but then after taking office abandoned his support for allowing homosexuals in the military in favor of the "don't ask, don't tell" compromise. He has endorsed the proposed Employment Non-Discrimination Act outlawing workplace bias based on sexual orientation, but last year signed legislation in the middle of the night barring federal recognition of same-sex marriage. He has increased funding for AIDS research, but rebuffed recommendations that he promote needle exchanges to cut down on transmission among intravenous drug users.

Birch, the Human Rights Campaign director, acknowledged that there have been "rocky episodes" with Clinton and that his signature on the marriage bill was "very painful." But she insisted these have to be seen within a larger context. "It's important to give the president his due," she said. "He has a record that is heads and shoulders above any of his predecessors *in fact, all of them combined."

That does not mean that gay rights activists do not want more. Although Clinton has named more than 100 openly gay appointees to his administration, the Human Rights Campaign has been pressing the White House to include more in positions that must be confirmed by the Senate, on the theory that those "tend to be the most coveted jobs."

Clinton complied earlier this year by nominating James Hormel to be ambassador to Luxembourg, but his confirmation was held up at the last minute Thursday by Sens. James M. Inhofe (R-Okla.) and Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Tex.).

In another move of interest to the gay community, Clinton also will sponsor a conference on hate crimes Monday, focusing on ways of preventing and punishing such offenses, 12 percent of which are related to the victim's sexual orientation.

===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
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SUBJECT: Articles 11.8.97.5

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READ:UNKNOWN

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

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=unknown-8bit

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1. LOS ANGELES TIMES Clinton's Speech to Gays, Lesbians Will Be a First
2. SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER Harvey Milk's pivotal election to be honored
Rainbow flag to mark milestone of 20 years past
3. LEXINGTON (KY) HERALD LEADER Priest resigns over speech controversy
4. THE STATE (SC) Man dismissed for slurring homosexuals in a computer
message elected to lead the Lexington County Republicans

LOS ANGELES TIMES, November 8, 1997

Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles, CA, 90053

(Fax 213-237-7679 or 213-237-5319)

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

Clinton's Speech to Gays, Lesbians Will Be a First

By ELIZABETH SHOGREN, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON--President Clinton will rekindle a divisive debate tonight

when he becomes the first sitting president to make a public address to a gay and lesbian organization.

;;;;To many in the gay and lesbian community, Clinton's keynote speech at a fund-raising event sponsored by the nation's largest gay and lesbian political organization is a symbolic milestone reflecting their continued assimilation into American society.

;;;;;"The president of the United States--the leader of the most powerful and prestigious nation in the world--has taken that prestige and power and said to the gay and lesbian community that you're part of the country as a whole," said David Mixner, a gay political activist. "It is a powerfully strong message of acceptance."

;;;;;Conservative critics argued that Clinton's speech is an unprecedented endorsement of a fringe community that threatens to corrupt American children. One group plans a rally outside the dinner to protest what they call the "pro-gay agenda" of the Clinton administration.

;;;;;"It is a tragedy that he is using his bully pulpit to endorse homosexuality, which is destructive and unhealthy to families and communities," said Kristin Hansen, spokeswoman of the Family Research Counsel, a conservative political group. "We feel his speech will lead more young people into homosexuality."

;;;;;Although many Americans likely will view Clinton's speech as something less earth-shattering, the president is hoping that his appeal for inclusiveness will resonate broadly with the public.

;;;"This may be a moment when, through leadership, he can remind Americans that gays and lesbians are part of our American family," White House spokesman Mike McCurry said. "Sometimes you can help break down barriers by effectively using the bully pulpit."

;;;"The black-tie fund-raising gala also will honor comedian Ellen DeGeneres, who earlier this year "came out" as a lesbian on her television show, "Ellen."

;;;"Vice President Al Gore was criticized by political and religious conservatives recently for praising Hollywood because of the show, which he said prompted Americans to "look at sexual orientation in a more open light."

;;;"Clinton "concurs" with Gore's view, McCurry said. He is not planning to directly comment on the television show during the address, although he plans to acknowledge DeGeneres, McCurry said.

;;;"The public seems to have mixed feelings about whether pop culture should include openly gay characters. Princeton Survey Research Associates, in a poll this summer for Newsweek, asked whether respondents thought that the coming-out episode on "Ellen" was a "good thing because it promoted a positive image for gay people" or a "bad thing because it seemed to promote gay lifestyles." The response: 35% answered "good thing" and 40% "bad thing."

;;;;;In his speech, Clinton will "try to take this whole conversation up a notch," focusing on the theme of uprooting discrimination--particularly in the workplace--and more effectively enforcing civil rights laws, McCurry said.

;;;;;The president also will speak in support of Bill Lann Lee, his nominee for assistant attorney general in charge of the civil rights division of the Justice Department. The Los Angeles lawyer's confirmation process has been delayed as Senate Democrats try to find a way around an attempt by Republicans to kill his appointment.

;;;;;Tonight's dinner is seen by many as the high point of a roller-coaster relationship Clinton has had with the gay community.

;;;;;Before his 1992 election, he won praise from gay and lesbian groups for staging a large fund-raising event with a gay audience and promising to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military as one of his first acts as president.

He then came under intense criticism from many of these same groups by backtracking on that pledge and adopting the "don't ask, don't tell" policy on homosexuals in the military.

;;;;;His standing further dropped among many gays and lesbians when he signed a measure that defined marriage as a heterosexual union only.

;;;;;Perhaps more than anything, the homosexual community has applauded

Clinton for appointing more than 100 open gays and lesbians to positions in his administration. Before Clinton, there had been no openly gay senior administration officials, according to Richard Sacarides, who works in the White House public liaison office.

;;;;;Most recently, Clinton has been praised for appointing Virginia Apuzzo as assistant to the president for management and administration, Fred Hochberg as deputy administrator of the Small Business Administration and James Hormel as ambassador to Luxembourg. All three are openly homosexual.

;;;;;"Some great progress has been made--more than any other administration in history," said Mixner, an old friend of Clinton's who harshly criticized him on the gays-in-the-military issue.

;;;;;Mixner called Clinton's decision to speak at tonight's

\$250-per-person

event, "an historic, courageous act on his part." The dinner is sponsored by

the Human Rights Campaign, a Washington-based lobbying group for gay rights.

;;;;;But some conservatives complained that with his appearance, Clinton is endorsing the group's political agenda, including rights for same-sex marriages and barring employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

;;;;;"It's using the presidency to promote their agenda," said Andrea Sheldon, executive director of the Traditional Values Coalition, a Washington

lobbying group that represents conservative churches. "What is so sad is that

Clinton has reduced the prestige and importance of the presidency."

;;;;;The White House has been working the last few years with the Human Rights Campaign on legislation to bar employment discrimination on the basis

of sexual orientation. Some foes have argued that the bill is not needed.

Others contend that it would set up a quota system for homosexuals in the workplace.

;;;;;A similar measure was voted down by the narrowest margin, 50 to 49, in the Senate last year, but proponents hope to push for another vote next year.

;;;;;The legislation was being considered at the same time as a bill restricting rights for same-sex marriages, which the Senate approved by a lopsided 85-14 vote.

;;;;;In a reflection of the complex nature of public attitudes toward gay men

and lesbians, polls have found that while nearly three-fourths of Americans oppose the extension of marriage rights to same-sex marriages, 85% approve of

laws that would shield homosexuals from employment discrimination.

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER, November 7, 1997

P. O. Box 7260, San Francisco, CA, 94120

(Fax 415-512-1264)(E-MAIL: sfexaminer@aol.com)

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

Harvey Milk's pivotal election to be honored

Rainbow flag to mark milestone of 20 years past

By: Carol Ness

OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

The image of a triumphant Harvey Milk roaring up to his Castro Street camera store on the back of a dyke-driven motorcycle is indelible. Cheers drowned out his speech, but it really didn't matter what he said.

Everyone there knew Milk just had clinched a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and a place in history as the first openly gay candidate

elected to public office in The City - and one of the first in the country.

It was Nov. 8, 1977, 20 years ago Saturday.

San Francisco usually marks Milk's Nov. 27, 1978, assassination each year

with candles and prayers, tears and rage. This year, it is taking time to celebrate the anniversary of his election with the raising of a rainbow flag

in Harvey Milk Plaza at 2 p.m. Saturday.

"It was the pivotal moment for queers in America," said Jeff Sheehy, president of the Harvey Milk Lesbian Gay Bisexual Democratic Club, which is sponsoring the commemoration, along with the mayor's office and the Department of Public Works.

"In a way, we dwell on the tragic aspects of (Milk's death). ... I think it's important to look back and remember the sense of pride and achievement,"

Sheehy said.

A 70-foot flagpole was erected Thursday in Harvey Milk Plaza at Castro and

Market streets, the hub of the neighborhood where the hippie Milk built the political power that led to his election after two unsuccessful tries for supervisor and one for the Assembly. Saturday, the flag will be raised.

Later will come a plaque inscribed with the names of the openly gay and lesbian San Franciscans who have followed Milk into elective office - all 17.

Nationally, 146 openly gay men and women hold elective office, from Congress on down to dog catcher, according to the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund in Washington, D.C.

Supervisor Tom Ammiano is one of them - something he says would make Milk laugh. Back then, Ammiano was making waves as one of The City's first openly gay schoolteachers.

"I used to tell him I hated electoral politics. So there you go," said Ammiano, who had planned his own event celebrating one of the laws Milk worked hardest for during his 11 months in office: San Francisco's pooper-scooper law. But Ammiano had to cancel at the last minute.

"Twenty years? It seems like 20 minutes ago when we got the final results that Harvey was elected. We were elated. We felt that he had ushered in a new era for San Francisco," said Ammiano. "I think that's been borne out. We had no clue he'd be murdered, that AIDS was percolating. It really was unadulterated joy, and I still savor that."

Milk was shot to death a year later along with Mayor George Moscone by former Supervisor Dan White.

Dick Pabich, who built a political-consulting career out of his work with Milk, remembers Milk's election day as long and tense. And then the joy.

"Harvey wasn't at all sure he was going to win," Pabich said. "Having lost three elections in a row, clearly this would have been the end if he hadn't won this one."

But he did. "He broke down the door," said Pabich. "And it has allowed the lesbian and gay community to become a full partner in the political, economic and social life of The City."

Someone else would have broken down that door eventually, Pabich said, but it would have taken a long time - long enough that it's fair to say Carole Migden might never have landed in the Assembly, or Supervisor Susan Leal as city treasurer-elect.

Cleve Jones, another of Milk's closest aides who went on to found the AIDS Names quilt, says Milk's election also helped change the face of San Francisco politics.

"It was during that election, and the campaign for district elections the year before, that the progressive coalition was first forged, and it was George Moscone and Harvey Milk who put it together," said Jones. "They put

together labor unions, and feminists, and racial and ethnic minorities and gays. ... It was a very important time and it really defined the politics for decades to come."

"When I came out my father told me, "Just forget about politics,"" he said. But now, Migden is running the state budget, Leal is taking over The City treasury, and San Francisco businessman Jim Hormel is on his way to confirmation as U.S. ambassador to Luxembourg.

LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER, November 7, 1997

100 Midland Avenue, Lexington, KY, 40508

(Fax 606-255-7236)(E-MAIL: HLedit@lex.infi.net)

CATHOLIC PRIEST RESIGNS AMID CONTROVERSY OVER SPEECH

By Todd Van Campen and Sheryl Edelen

Herald-leader staff writers

RICHMOND - A Catholic priest has resigned in the wake of a news story about his speech at a gay and lesbian ministries conference in California.

The Rev. Kenneth Waibel, pastor of St. Mark Catholic Church and the Newman

Center at Eastern Kentucky University, will step down Nov. 14. The combined parishes serve more than 500 families.

Waibel will celebrate his last Mass at 5 p.m. Saturday at St. Mark, 608 W.

Main Street, Richmond.

Waibel tendered his resignation to Diocese of Lexington Bishop J. Kendrick

Williams on Oct. 31, said Kathy Schmitt, Newman Center pastoral associate.

"For his own good, he decided it was best to step aside," Schmitt said.

"He felt that he did not have the strength to fight anymore."

The controversy arose after Waibel attended a National Association of Catholic Diocesan Lesbian and Gay Ministries conference Sept. 5-7 in Long Beach, Calif.

Some parishioners read a story in the Sept. 18 issue of The Wanderer, a Catholic weekly newspaper based in St. Paul, Minn. The story said Waibel, during a session at the conference, "told his audience he does not believe it is possible for a 'straight man' to fall in love with Jesus because of his inherent homophobia.

"'How can they fall in love with Jesus, who is a man?'" the newspaper quoted Waibel as saying.

The story goes on to say Waibel "also told of a priest friend of his who, when he was dying of AIDS, claimed he was visited by the Blessed Virgin Mary.

She affirmed his homosexual lifestyle."

The Catholic Church condemns homosexual acts as morally wrong, but does not condemn homosexual orientation.

Waibel, who took over the parishes in 1994 after serving as an associate pastor at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Lexington, could not be reached for comment last night.

But he said in an Oct. 26 letter to parishioners that "The only truth in the article was that I attended the conference." He called the story a

"bastardization of my message."

"We stand by what we reported," A. J. Matt, editor of The Wanderer, said last night.

In his letter, Waibel wrote that he was invited to the conference "because

I have a master's degree in Spirituality and they felt that I could offer some insight for those ministering to gays and lesbians as to how to help them see Christ in their life and know that they are still welcome in the Catholic Church."

Waibel went on vacation following the conference.

When he returned he found that The Wanderer's story had been circulating in his parish and other churches, said Schmitt.

"Because of this article my sexual orientation has been questioned, I have been accused of being a sexual pervert and some members of our assembly have even removed their sons from the servers list in fear that I may be a 'child molester,'" Waibel wrote in the letter.

Other parishioners hold an opposite view.

"We believe Father Ken," said Richard Jackson, a deacon at St. Mark.

The Wanderer's story is the latest in a series of divisive issues that have cropped up at St. Mark since Waibel was appointed pastor in 1994, Schmitt said.

Since Waibel's arrival, St. Mark has begun work on a \$2.2 million expansion of its church and school.

The project is on schedule and within budget, Schmitt said, but some

churchgoers are concerned that the project may be preempting day-to-day parish needs.

The recent merger of St. Stephen the Martyr parish - which operated from the Newman Center - with St. Mark also was an unpopular decision with some parishioners, Schmitt said.

Bishop Williams had the final word on combining St. Stephen, a parish that met at ECU, with St. Mark. The move was made to deal with a shortage of priests in the Lexington diocese.

But when new scheduling cut out a weekend Mass, Waibel caught the brunt of some parishioners' frustration.

"There were a lot of long-standing unresolved issues," Schmitt said. "What broke (Waibel's) heart was that a pastor is supposed to lead us to God. And he felt they were saying, 'You can't do that for us.'"

Schmitt said Bishop Williams will send Waibel on sabbatical for five or six months after Waibel leaves Richmond. Masses will be covered by guest priests.

Diocese spokeswoman Sister Mary Kevan Seibert said Bishop Williams was unavailable for comment last night.

"There is divisiveness that has taken place in the parish," Seibert said.

"The divisiveness is fracturing the body of Christ. He has asked people to stop it."

THE STATE, November 7, 1997

Box 1333,Columbia,SC,29202

(Fax 803-771-8639)(E-MAIL: edcyber@cyberstate.infi.net)

FIREWORKS FLY AS GOP MEETS

WINDSOR CHAIRMAN OF LEXINGTON PARTY; METTS OFF TOP PANEL?

By LEE BANDY, Staff Writer

Tommy Windsor, recently dismissed by the state attorney general's office for slurring homosexuals and blacks in a computer message, was elected Thursday night to lead the Lexington County Republicans for the next two years.

Also, Sheriff James Metts was single-handedly removed from the Lexington Republican executive committee by outgoing county GOP Chairman Eldon Armstrong.

.... (EXCERPT)

Windsor hailed his election as county chairman, saying it sends a message that the Republican Party will not allow itself to be bullied by the media. "We're going to fight," he declared.

He acknowledged his mistake in sending the computer message and said he had already apologized for it: "The delegates knew I didn't mean it. They knew my heart and voted their hearts tonight." He said it was time to forget the computer message and move on to something else.

Windsor defeated attorney Chuck Thompson, third v===== ATTACHMENT 1

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

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

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GLAADALERT

November 7, 1997

The GLAADAlert is the weekly activation tool of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance

Against Defamation

Chicago Hope's Doctor Is Out

The November 5 Chicago Hope episode ended with a bang as one of the regular doctors came out to one of the principal characters. During the episode, Dr. Aaron Shutt (Adam Arkin) comes to terms with being a top surgeon who can no longer perform surgery due to a medical condition. In addition, Dr. Dennis Hancock (Vondie Curtis-Hall) grapples with a white mentor who reacts with hostility and to the realization that one of the

mentor's ancestors might be black, and wants to keep it a secret. At the end of the program, Shutt and Hancock watch a surgery together from the observation deck. "You know who you are, outside of being a doctor?" Shutt asks Hancock. "I'm a guy who does charity work, restores antique cars, jog ten miles a day, collect first editions, I'm gay," Hancock replies. "Do other people know this?" Shutt asks. "Some do, some speculate, others let it be my business," Hancock says. The career-driven Dr. Shutt, forced to slow down due to his condition, says, "Should I have known this?" Hancock replies, "You weren't paying attention to anything or anybody. I got something else to tell you. I'm black." Shutt laughs, saying, "Yeah, I got that. Wow. I really have not been at the party, have I?" Hancock smiles, and says, "No, but you're here now. Welcome to it."

The moment is tender, real and speaks volumes to the themes which run throughout the episode about secrets, shame and self-identity. Folded into the storyline, Dr. Hancock's coming out as gay shows his own courage and honesty and a newfound reason to be out after the disillusioning reaction of his mentor to the concept that an ancestor might have been black. The mentor chooses to hide from an aspect of himself he feels society will ostracize, while Dr. Hancock finds strength in his difference. He uses this strength to help comfort Dr. Shutt as he deals with rebuilding his identity as something more integrated than just "surgeon."

Please commend CBS for a sensitive coming out story, and for celebrating diversity through bringing a person of color out of the closet. In light of Fox's recent cancellation of 413 Hope Street, CBS has created one of only two non-white gay characters currently on television. Contact: Leslie

Moonves, President, CBS Entertainment, CBS, 7800 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90036, e-mail marketing@cbs.com.

Navy Times Sinks Anti-Gay Military Policy

An op-ed from the November 10 Navy Times by a 10-year Marine officer using the pseudonym "Buster Pittman" rails against the costly and aggressive attack on lesbians and gay men in the military. "The ban that prevents gays and lesbians from serving openly in the U.S. military is an unjustifiable violation of the principles of freedom upon which this country was established," he says. "Once upon a time, the Defense Department banned gays and lesbians because they department believed [they] posed a security risk. After the Pentagon's own studies concluded that gays and lesbians were less likely to violate security regulations than heterosexuals, DoD dropped that line of reasoning and resorted to the nebulous assertion that 'homosexual is incompatible with military service.' Under close scrutiny, that is as ludicrous as the old policy," he notes, pointing to the exemplary records of many gay servicemembers who have come out, from Leonard Matlovich to Margarethe Cammermeyer. "Change the rule. The rule is wrong. We have had rules in the past that were wrong and our leaders had the moral courage to change them, he says. "Like it or not, you already shower and live with homosexual men and women. Gays and lesbians have been in the military since Alexander the Great, and will continue to be in the military as long as recruiters keep their doors open." Lastly, he says, "According to the General Accounting Office, the cost of discharging gay servicemembers from 1980-1995 was \$606,346,192, not adjusted for inflation. If we had changed the rules in 1980, we could

have built new barracks, bought more jets, upgraded our communications equipment and outfitted our Marines with top-quality packs, helmets, sleeping bags and boots."

The Navy Times should be commended for allowing this important and articulate indictment of "Don't ask, don't tell" and the other anti-gay military policies which preceded it. The fact that "Buster Pittman" has to use a pseudonym speaks volumes to how difficult it is for military officials to speak out against the policy and the real fear of retribution they face.

Let the Navy Times know that they should continue this dialogue now that it has begun, with a full investigation into the supposed merits of discrimination against lesbians and gay men in the military. Contact: Mail Call, Navy Times, Springfield, VA 22159-0170, e-mail: navylet@atpco.com.

Smart Magazine, Foolish Advice

In the November 1997 issue of Ebony Magazine, the "Ebony Advisor" answers a question from a woman concerned about HIV by trotting out inaccurate information about bisexuals. The woman, who identifies herself as 23 years old, states that a "little voice inside me is telling me I have AIDS.[...] My life would be over and everything I've worked for would be a waste." The Advisor tells the woman to seek counseling, and says there's no reason for her to think she may be HIV-positive if she has not engaged in risk behavior, "including unprotected sex with partners who are high risk, such as...bisexuals." The Advisor then goes on to suggest the woman be tested,

and do some research on transmission.

The mention of bisexuals as a "high-risk group" was frequently heard in the early years of the AIDS crisis, when risk groups were often vilified and demonized by the press and the public, who knew little about how HIV was transmitted and assumed that bisexual men, more "promiscuous" than the "general population," would infect heterosexual women with the virus. As HIV education has taken the place of ignorance, it is now understood that it is not the sexual orientation of a sexual partner but the unprotected activities you engage in that matter. The continuing stereotypes and lack of information around bisexuality obviously got the best of Ebony Advisor. Instead of taking the opportunity to educate this woman about condom use and safer sex, the Advisor shirks its responsibility and promulgates the misguided and hurtful belief that bisexual men are somehow more "risky" than others. This is even more alarming when viewed in light of Ebony's past record on lesbian and gay issues, which has been quite good.

Tell Ebony that subscribing to myths about bisexuals helps no one, and hurts many. Contact: Lerone Bennett, Jr., Executive Editor, Ebony 820 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago IL 30305-2103, fax (312) 322 9375

Spin City Flies Under the Gaydar

On the November 7 episode of Spin City, uses humor to challenge stereotypes when openly gay Director of Minority Affairs Carter Heywood (Michael Boatman) is asked to help identify the sexual orientation of the Mayor's (Barry Bostwick) nephew. The Mayor explains that it doesn't matter

whether he is gay or straight, they just want him to settle down and can't tell if they need to be looking for a boyfriend or a girlfriend for him.

When Carter meets the nephew, he observes a fabulously funny and flamboyant man with a slight lisp cat calling to a woman on the street.

Although the nephew has only paid attention to the women in the room, the rest of the Mayor's staff identify him by the stereotypes and think that he is gay as well. So, the Mayor asks Carter to talk to his nephew privately. Carter goes up to the nephew and says matter-of-factly, "You're straight, aren't you?" The nephew, impressed that Carter was able to figure it out, drops his facade and asks, "How did you know?" Carter replies, "You were just a little too Liberace." The nephew explains how his parents have been driving him crazy trying to set him up with both men or women. He thought by being ambiguous, he would get them off his back.

Please write ABC and Spin City and let them know you appreciate the humorous approach to challenging stereotypes. Contact: Jamie Tarses, Entertainment President, ABC, 2040 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90037, phone: 310.557.7777 (ask to be connected to the Audience Information Line), fax: 310.557.7679, e-mail: abcaudr@abc.com

Sweeps Month Ellen Promises Provocative Programming

Lesbian parenting, internalized homophobia, Emma Thompson and an evolving romantic life are in store for Ellen Morgan during the November sweeps month on ABC. During the November 12 episode, Ellen deals with her own internalized homophobia when she meets her new girlfriend Laurie's daughter. While Ellen feels like she needs to dance around her sexual

orientation and her relationship to the girl's mother, the girl sees things very differently. On the November 19 episode, shade of the original star-studded coming out episode return as Oscar-award winner Emma Thompson and Sean Penn guest star to lend their support to the show and its innovative storylines. In the program, Emma Thompson plays herself, but as a lesbian. Sean Penn also does a comedic turn. Meanwhile, the November 26 episode is the one with the controversial scene with Ellen and Laurie shown walking into Ellen's bedroom.

Continue to let ABC know that the program's consistent quality, humor and exploration of the main character's sexual orientation is valuable and noteworthy, but let them know that you, GLAAD and America are still watching to see if they continue to keep the on-again, off-again double-standard parental advisory on Ellen--encourage ABC to put the advisory to bed once and for all. Contact: Jamie Tarses, Entertainment President, ABC, 2040 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90037, phone: 310.557.7777 (ask to be connected to the Audience Information Line), fax: 310.557.7679, e-mail: abcaudr@abc.com

Paper Highlights Lone Star Lesbian Sheriff

The October 29 Dallas Morning News had an excellent news feature on openly lesbian Travis County (Texas) Sheriff Margo Frasier. "Without ever meaning to, Margo Frasier has assembled a string of firsts for herself--the first female lieutenant in the Travis County Sheriff's Department; the first captain; the first female Travis County sheriff; and oh, yes, coincidentally, the first openly gay Travis County sheriff," the story

begins. The profile integrates her sexual orientation into the rest of what makes Frasier the person and cop she is, including mention of "her analytical side, her tough side...[and] a droll wit that comes from being so closely aligned to law enforcement." It discusses how she broke down gender barriers not specifically as a civil rights cause, but mainly because she just wanted the jobs. "'I mean, if the job is there and you're a good match for it, why shouldn't you have it if you're qualified?' Sheriff Frasier says with a shrug. 'I don't think gender, race or anything other than qualifications should be criteria for being whatever it is you want to be.'" In addition to her professional life, it discusses her family, including her partner and their four-year-old daughter.

The Dallas Morning News profile of Sheriff Frasier interviews peers, co-workers, family and officials to give a full picture of the work she does, and the courageous person she is. It avoids the tired trap of feeling compelled to interview anti-gay bigots for "balance," and because of it, provides a well-rounded and intelligent feature.

Please thank the Dallas Morning News for a great profile of an outstanding individual. Contact: Ralph Langer, Editor, Dallas Morning News, PO Box 655237, Dallas TX 75265-5237, fax 214 977 8319, e-mail national@dallasnews.com

Salon Selectives

In the November 3 issue of the online magazine Salon writer David Horowitz manipulates the gay community's debate around public sex to bash gay men

and sexual freedom. According to Horowitz, "The real source of the problem [of the recent rise in gonorrhea rates among gay men] is the re-emergence of a bathhouse-sex club subculture that fosters large cohorts of promiscuous strangers spreading the infection in urban gay centers. Cowed by the politically correct activists who have crippled the battle against AIDS, the media have turned a blind eye to the rash of new sex clubs and refuse to make the connection that AIDS is as much a behavioral as a clinical disease." He also feels those men who defend the desire for anonymous sex or multiple partners are "perverse at best, and accessor[ies] to murder at worst." He also maintains that the academic backgrounds of some of the spokesmen for Sex Panic!, a group advocating for open discussion about and the maintenance of public sex spaces belies the fact that "universities routinely provide a political platform for...sexual extremists."

Horowitz refuses to examine and discuss the complex issues around sexual behavior and HIV, instead piggybacking on the recent debate within the gay male community to promote his own anti-gay agenda. He fails to note how no evidence exists that nonmonogamy leads to HIV infection in any greater proportion than serial monogamy; how there are important differences between sex clubs and bathhouses in terms of the capacity to enforce safe sex behavior; and how finally, and most importantly, how what causes HIV transmission is unprotected sexual contact with an HIV-positive individual, regardless of the number of partners or the type of place you choose to have sex in. Instead, Horowitz calls one side of the debate "perverse" and "accessories to murder." Horowitz has attacked gay people before, writing a previous column on same-sex marriage that, among other

things, said that gay children would never be equal to straight children within a family, and that being "abnormal" is the American way, and that's a perfectly good reasons to deny lesbian and gay men marriage rights.

Please write Salon, and ask them to consider having a gay male columnist respond to David Horowitz's misinformation. His leaps in logic to fulfill his own preconceived anti-gay notions perpetrates defamation, and enlightens no one.

Contact: David Talbot, Editor/Chief Executive Officer, Salon, 706 Mission Street, Second Floor, San Francisco CA 94103, fax 415 882 8731, e-mail salon@salonmagazine.com, WWW: <http://www.salon1999.com/contact>

Tribune Tribute Honors Gay Journalist

On November 1, longtime Chicago gay columnist Jon-Henri Damski died, and while several local papers honored his passing with obituaries, the Chicago Tribune featured a personal and touching November 5 column from a fellow journalist. "For several years, I've kept Jon-Henri Damski's letters in the middle drawer of my office desk. I was never quite sure why," Tribune columnist Mary Schmich writes. "In his letters, as in his life, words tumbled from him like confetti." She goes on to describe Damski as she knew him, as a friend to a diverse group of people, from hustlers to activists to politicians. She applauded a recent Chicago City Council resolution honoring him as "Chicago's quintessential queer thinker and gay writer." "Damski was more than a writer for gays," she writes. "Dyslexic and schizophrenic, he had a gift for soundbites, and his

thoughts, which he composed by the hundreds, were not so much queer as human: Eros is what you do under the blanket. Love is the blanket; What I say is not always true. What is true I don't always think of; My only objection to monarchy is that I might not be king." Finally, she says, "I know now why I saved those letters. As the legions who knew him and read him will testify, Chicago has never seen anyone quite like him."

Please thank Mary Schmich and the Chicago Tribune for a touching memorial to a longtime gay columnist. Contact: Mary Schmich, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611, fax: 312.222.2598, e-mail: tribletter@aol.com.

DP Policies Are "Management Smarts" For Entrepreneur

The November 1997 issue of Entrepreneur magazine featured a good brass-tacks discussion of domestic partnership policies as good business. "When the Walt Disney Co. began offering benefits to the domestic partners of its homosexual employees, it came under fire from many conservative groups. But few companies get that kind of attention for making an internal policy decision--in fact, most businesses implement domestic partner benefit programs without so much as a public ripple," it begins. It gives a number of tips, such as "Determine who will be eligible," "Decide on the proof required to show that a committed relationship exists," and "Research and explain the costs." It adds that, "Companies have viewed domestic partner benefits as an important tool in employee retention and maintaining a positive corporate image....Utilization of domestic partner insurance coverage has been much lower than

anticipations, probably because working domestic partners tend to get health insurance through their own employers."

Please commend Entrepreneur for matter-of-factly explaining the ins and outs of domestic partnership and sticking to facts instead of anti-gay fictions. Contact: Rieva Lesonsky, Editor in Chief, Entrepreneur, PO Box 57050, Irvine CA 92619-7050, fax (714) 261 4211, e-mail: entmag@entrepreneurmag.com

The GLAADAlert is the weekly activation tool of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

GLAAD promotes fair, accurate and inclusive representation in the media as a means of challenging homophobia and all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity.

Contact GLAAD by e-mail at glaad@glaad.org or by phone at 213.658.6775 (Los Angeles), 212.807.1700 (New York), 415.861.2244 (San Francisco), 202.986.1360 (Washington, DC), and 404.607.1204 (Atlanta)

Report defamation in the media by calling GLAAD's Toll-Free AlertLine! 1-800-GAY-MEDIA (1-800-429-6334)

Visit GLAAD's Web Site at <http://www.glaad.org>

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2. PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER Two good letters on: The teachings of the church
and homosexuality
3. CAPE COD TIMES Fisherman nets prison sentence for assault on two men
4. NEW HAVEN REGISTER Hate crimes conference creates stir
5. ST PAUL PIONEER PRESS One of 10 bishops who filed charges against the
Rt. Rev. Walter Righter is retiring early

WASHINGTON POST, November 8, 1997

1150 15th Street NW, Washington, DC, 20071

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

Clinton to Speak at Gay Rights Gala

By Peter Baker

Washington Post Staff Writer

After President George Bush invited gay rights leaders to the White House to watch him sign a hate crimes bill, he was roundly criticized by conservatives and never did it again. When President Clinton brought gay rights leaders into the Oval Office for the first time, aides minimized the event and kept media cameras out.

There will be no hiding tonight, however, when Clinton takes the stage at a gala black-tie fund-raiser in Washington and becomes the first sitting president to address a gay rights organization.

No matter what he says in his speech, Clinton's mere presence at the Human Rights Campaign's first annual national dinner will make history and to many activists signals the maturation of a movement once relegated to the fringes of American society. Even for a president who has supported its causes, the decision to appear at a gay rights event suggests how dramatically the political climate has changed in the last five years.

"This is a different universe we're living in," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, which claims 200,000 members. "Although there have been disappointments with President Clinton, he's really changed the [landscape]. He's put gay issues on the radar screen of America."

"It's a big deal," said Kenneth Sherrill, political science department

chairman at Hunter College who has studied gay issues. "In a way, what Clinton is doing is saying to the larger political community, 'There's nothing to be embarrassed about here.'"

That is not altogether a good thing, in the opinion of many Americans who view Clinton's acceptance of homosexuality with alarm. And even as he breaks with tradition, the White House evinces palpable discomfort with appearing too radical.

As the dinner approached this week, the president's aides did nothing to call attention to it and suggested he had no interest in making history. Instead, they said, he simply is reaching out much as he does to other groups with his message of reconciliation and "One America." White House spokesman Michael McCurry yesterday compared it to Clinton's recent attendance at an Italian American dinner.

What's more, aides said Clinton has no intention of falling into the same thicket as Vice President Gore, who created a furor recently when he praised comedian Ellen DeGeneres for her coming-out episode on ABC's "Ellen." Clinton will mention his support for legislation protecting gay and lesbian Americans from job discrimination, but he will not offer commentary on the Ellen controversy*even though she will be seated on stage with him and receive an award for her groundbreaking television show.

Clinton, of course, has no more elections in his future, while Gore does.

One more sign of the gay rights lobby's growing clout has been the courting by both the vice president and his chief potential rival for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2000, House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt (Mo.), who invited a group of gay rights leaders to his office just last week.

The prize is a sizable army of volunteer workers and an increasing pot of campaign money. The Human Rights Campaign estimates that openly gay donors last year gave \$3.2 million to Democrats. Two-thirds of self-identified gay voters backed Clinton in 1996, providing 7 percent of his total votes, according to an independent exit poll.

While the group this week installed former Republican congressman Steve Gunderson (Wis.) on its board of directors, the polling and contribution numbers demonstrate how beholden Democrats are becoming to the gay agenda, according to conservative opponents.

"This is an issue that has come to define American liberalism as we move into the 21st century. This is their cutting-edge issue," said Arnie Owens, spokesman for the Christian Coalition. "The message may resonate with cosmopolitan elites in New York and Los Angeles, but you get outside the beltways where the rest of America lives, you'll find the views are somewhat different."

To make that point, a coalition of conservative activists plans to demonstrate outside of tonight's \$250-per-person dinner at the Grand Hyatt Hotel as Clinton speaks inside, arguing that his presence belies his

rhetoric

in favor of traditional family values.

Yet even as he draws protesters from the right, the president also will encounter critics from the left. The local chapter of ACT-UP, an AIDS activism group, will march from Lafayette Square to the hotel to complain that Clinton has not lived up to his promises.

"He's talked our talk, but he's walked their walk," said Steve Michael, a

founder of the organization, referring to religious conservatives. The guests

paying \$250 a plate, he added, have sold out. "They want access to the cocktail parties. They want pictures on their wall so they can say, 'Here I am with the president.'"

The competing demonstrations underscore the conflicting nature of Clinton's record on gay rights.

In 1992, while running for president, he made history by appearing as a candidate before an openly gay audience, but then after taking office abandoned his support for allowing homosexuals in the military in favor of the "don't ask, don't tell" compromise. He has endorsed the proposed Employment Non-Discrimination Act outlawing workplace bias based on sexual orientation, but last year signed legislation in the middle of the night barring federal recognition of same-sex marriage. He has increased funding for AIDS research, but rebuffed recommendations that he promote needle exchanges to cut down on transmission among intravenous drug users.

Birch, the Human Rights Campaign director, acknowledged that there have been "rocky episodes" with Clinton and that his signature on the marriage bill was "very painful." But she insisted these have to be seen within a

larger context. "It's important to give the president his due," she said.

"He

has a record that is heads and shoulders above any of his predecessors*in fact, all of them combined."

That does not mean that gay rights activists do not want more. Although Clinton has named more than 100 openly gay appointees to his administration, the Human Rights Campaign has been pressing the White House to include more in positions that must be confirmed by the Senate, on the theory that those "tend to be the most coveted jobs."

Clinton complied earlier this year by nominating James Hormel to be ambassador to Luxembourg, but his confirmation was held up at the last minute Thursday by Sens. James M. Inhofe (R-Okla.) and Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Tex.).

In another move of interest to the gay community, Clinton also will sponsor a conference on hate crimes Monday, focusing on ways of preventing and punishing such offenses, 12 percent of which are related to the victim's sexual orientation.

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, November 8, 1997

PO Box 8263, Philadelphia, PA, 19101

(Fax 215-854-4483)(E-MAIL: inquirer.editorial@phillynews.com)

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

Letter: The teachings of the church and homosexuality

In reading the article "Church holds firm on homosexuality" by Bishop James T. McHugh, one gets the impression that the only way to express love for your lesbian or gay child is to clarify the church's teaching on sex outside of marriage (Inquirer, Nov. 1). Love indeed requires adhering to what one believes to be the truth, but it doesn't end there. While clarifying the church's teaching on sexuality, it is a shame that Bishop McHugh did not clarify what else was in the pastoral message "Always Our Children."

I agree with Bishop McHugh that the church should not avoid speaking the truth, "particularly when certain behaviors are destructive to the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of a person." I disagree with him on what is destructive. The bishop failed to explain how the lifelong relationships of countless same-gender couples are physically, emotionally and spiritually destructive to our well-being.

While "Always Our Children" does not represent any change in the Roman Catholic Church's teaching on sexuality, it does reflect a change of emphasis. I hope that Bishop McHugh will see to it that those who live in the Diocese of Camden hear from the altar what is contained in this document.

-- Patrick Rumaker, Pitman

prumaker@jersey.net

Letter: Bishop James T. McHugh states that neither political correctness nor genetics will prompt the Catholic Church to alter its views on the immorality of homosexual relations based on "centuries of moral teaching" (Inquirer, Nov. 1). He explains that it would not be charitable to condone "behaviors [that] are destructive to the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of a person."

What, then, are Catholic homosexuals required to do to remain in the fold?

Three things: They must abstain from "genital contact," agree to live a celibate life, and view themselves as aberrations of God's plan for sexuality. It is appalling that gays are required to internalize an image of their "proclivities" as immoral and unnatural. This is a form of psychological torture.

The bishop admonishes the faithful to stand firm against attempts to undermine Scripture and tradition. As for Scripture, I can recall the parable of the adulteress who was about to be stoned by an angry mob. Their zeal dwindled when their hypocrisy was pointed out to them. Christ then forgave the woman and sent her on her way.

-- Gloria Hayes, Philadelphia

hayes@oasis.rad.upenn.edu

CAPE COD TIMES, November 7, 1997

319 Main St., Hyannis, MA, 02601

(Fax 508-775-7337)(E-MAIL: letters@capecodonline.com)

(www.capecodonline.com)

Fisherman nets prison sentence for assault

New Bedford man jailed for 2-3 years for attack on two Provincetown men.

By KAREN JEFFREY

STAFF WRITER

BARNSTABLE - A New Bedford fisherman who used sexual epithets during an attack on two Provincetown men last spring was sentenced to state prison yesterday.

Christopher B. Hayes, 21, pleaded guilty in Barnstable Superior Court to two counts of violation of civil rights through bodily harm and two counts of assault and battery on April 28.

Hayes received a two- to three-year state prison sentence on the civil rights violation and two-years probation on the assault and battery charges.

The probation will begin when Hayes is released from prison.

The sentence recommendation - approved by Superior Court Judge Gerald F. O'Neill Jr., - was jointly recommended by Assistant District Attorney Michael

Trudeau, head of the district attorney's civil rights division and defense attorney William Robinson of the Committee of Public Counsel.

According to Trudeau, the two victims of Hayes attack agreed with the sentencing recommendation. Neither man was present in the court yesterday, but each submitted a victim impact statement to the judge.

Trudeau said Hayes attacked the two men after a night of drinking in Provincetown. The men had passed one another while walking down Commercial

Street, he said.

"One of the men said 'Hello,' and Hayes began yelling back," said
Trudeau.

"One of the friends tried to calm him down, but Hayes grabbed him by the
neck
and struck him."

The man's friend tried to intervene and Hayes turned the attack on him,
Trudeau said.

Police were called and Hayes ran down MacMillan Wharf, jumping off the
side of the pier into Provincetown Harbor. Police persuaded him to come out
of the water and he was arrested on the pier.

NEW HAVEN REGISTER, November 8, 1997

Long Wharf-40 Sargent Dr., New Haven, CT, 06511

(Fax 203-865-7894)(E-MAIL: letters@nhregister.com)

Hate crimes conference creates stir

By Staff report

WASHINGTON - President Clinton holds a one-day White House Conference on
Hate Crimes on Monday but is being urged not to include opposition to
homosexuality in that category.

The Traditional Values Coalition, which says it represents 32,000
churches

in opposing abortion, homosexuality and pornography, said Friday it fears
that the conference and Clinton's overtures to the gay community would come
close to "lumping the objections of religious citizens to homosexuality in
as

some sort of hate crime."

Andrea Sheldon, executive director of the coalition, said her group opposes violence but is worried that the administration is leaning toward labeling activists who oppose gay rights as engaging in hate crimes. She said there already is a "subtle" campaign under way in schools to teach children that "opposing homosexuality is bad."

She also condemned Clinton's decision to speak tonight at the Human Rights Campaign dinner to raise money for anti-discrimination legislation for gays. "If the American people are shocked by all of the same-sex smooching that is on television, wait until they see an American president kissing up to the wealthiest extremists of the amoral left," she said.

The White House said Clinton wanted to speak at the Human Rights Campaign dinner to condemn job discrimination against homosexuals and to promote the force of law behind that effort. The White House said he would not talk about gay marriage or the TV show "Ellen," about a lesbian who comes out of the closet. "That's not an area he wants to highlight," said White House spokesman Mike McCurry.

White House aides Maria Echaveste, director of public liaison, and Elena Kagan, deputy assistant to the president for domestic policy, said Friday that at the hate crimes summit, expected to draw about 350 people, Clinton will call for more law enforcement against hate crimes and more meaningful

statistics.

St. Paul Pioneer Press, November 8, 1997

345 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN, 55101

(Fax 612-228-5500)(E-MAIL: letters@pioneerpress.com)

Episcopal Bishop Wantland announces resignation plans

-- MAJA BECKSTROM, STAFF WRITER

Bishop William Wantland of the Episcopal Diocese of Eau Claire, Wis., has announced his resignation, citing a new church policy on women's ordination as one of the reasons behind his decision.

Wantland, 63, is considered a leader in the conservative wing of the 2.4 million-member Episcopal Church in the United States.

He was one of 10 bishops who filed charges in 1995 against the Rt. Rev. Walter Righter, former bishop of Iowa, for ordaining a noncelibate gay man as a deacon. He also is one of four bishops nationwide who refuses to ordain women as priests.

Wantland's decision to step down, well before mandatory retirement at age 72, stems in part from a recent church decision to make women's ordination mandatory in every diocese.

"I would rather resign as bishop than put the Diocese of Eau Claire in an awkward position of having to resist the canons of the church," Wantland said.

Wantland was elected bishop of Eau Claire 17 years ago after serving as
a
parish priest in Oklahoma City. He oversees 27 churches in northwest
Wisconsin. A former attorney general for the Seminole Nation, Wantland also
has been a vocal proponent of Indian treaty rights.

During a diocesan convention last month, he called for the election of a
new bishop at the next convention in October 1998. He will stay in office

until the new bishop is consecrated in ===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
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READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
<http://www.abcnews.com/>

November 8, 1997

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

The White House attempted to play down the dinner and claimed that the fund raiser represents the president's ongoing effort to reach out to all Americans

By David Phinney ABCNEWS.com

WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov. 8 - Tonight, President Clinton addresses a leading gay rights organization at a black-tie fund-raising gala in honor of ABC actress Ellen DeGeneres, who recently made public her sexual orientation as a lesbian. Ever since Clinton took office, he has spoken in favor of protecting the civil rights of gays and lesbians, but this event marks the first time he or any sitting president has stepped forward to take part in an event hosted by and for gays.

The White House attempted to play down the \$250-a-plate dinner hosted by the Human Rights Campaign and claimed that the fund raiser represents the president's ongoing effort to reach out to all Americans.

After all, the event is no different than Clinton's recent appearance at an Italian-American dinner, according to White House spokesman Mike McCurry.

"The president is hoping to bring people from different walks of life together so we can tackle the common problems that we face" McCurry said this week. "I think he is not hoping to make history."

But making history may be unavoidable.

Gay groups herald the appearance as a sign of their growing acceptance and support, while social conservatives blast Clinton for pandering to a special-interest group that threatens the well-being of impressionable young Americans.

The "endorsement of Hollywood-style homosexual activism is likely to send a deadly signal to many young people, who are sexually vulnerable," said Robert Knight of the conservative Family Research Council in Washington, D.C. "To use the bully pulpit to glamorize behavior that offends the values of millions of Americans is a disservice."

Ellen to Attend With Companion

DeGeneres, who revealed her sexual orientation before a highly promoted and controversial episode of her ABC television sitcom Ellen, plans to attend with her companion, Anne Heche, while Clinton will go stag-first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton had a previous commitment.

Elizabeth Birch, the homosexual group's executive director, sounded ecstatic that Clinton planned to attend the affair.

"We're very honored and excited," Birch said in a telephone interview.

"This is the first time a sitting president will be addressing a gay civil rights event."

Clinton Not All That Was Hoped

Birch acknowledged that Clinton's avowed support of gay rights has not always translated into policy.

During the 1992 presidential campaign, Clinton urged that American homosexuals be permitted to openly serve in the U.S. military, but after a contentious battle with conservatives in Congress and at the Pentagon, the president settled for a policy known as "don't ask, don't tell."

During the 1996 election year fervor, the president also signed into law legislation that bars federal recognition of same-sex marriages.

Despite such "painful moments," Birch said Clinton is a vast improvement over the Reagan and Bush administrations, when homosexuals were "absolutely marginalized."

In 1990, gay rights leaders visited President George Bush at the White House to attend several bill signings. After the visit ignited a furious protest from social conservatives, Bush refrained from reaching out to gays ever again while in office.

When President Clinton invited gay leaders to the White House four years later, the administration attempted to keep the affair low-key and barred cameras from the media.

In 1996, the Human Rights Campaign endorsed Clinton for re-election, and contributed \$18,000 to the Democratic National Committee. The group also gave another \$1.2 million to 180 congressional candidates around the country, most of whom were Democrats.

According to some polls, gays and lesbians represented 5 percent of the voting public during the last election and a majority of voters support extending greater rights to gays, including same-sex marriage recognition and protections against workplace discrimination.

Clinton Opens New Chapter for Gays

Since the election, Clinton has made stepped up efforts to increase the numbers of openly gay appointees in his administration. Most recently, gay San Francisco businessman and philanthropist was appointed to be as ambassador to Luxembourg.

Such appointments mark a new chapter for acceptance of gays in public life, said Rebecca Isaacs, Political director for the 25-year-old National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, who credits Clinton for moving closer to that goal.

"Previously we never even heard public officials using the words gays and lesbians," she said. "But what's different is that the gay and lesbian community now is very much part of the public discourse.

Political Fallout Possible for Gore

Since Clinton may never run for office again, his attendance at the homosexual rights event carries little political risk, according to Stephen Hess of the Brookings Institution.

"Bill Clinton is not a person that makes these sorts of political decisions lightly or spontaneously or off the top of his head," Hess said by telephone. "The very fact that he's going means it hasn't hurt him politically."

The situation may be a bit different for Vice President Al Gore, the

likely Democratic nominee for president in the year 2000. When Gore praised Ellen last month for forcing Americans "to look at sexual orientation in a more open light," he drew fire from former Vice President Dan Quayle, who also might be a presidential contender.

Quayle told the Union Leader newspaper in Manchester, New Hampshire-the state where the first presidential primary is traditionally held-that Gore was "pandering" to homosexuals with his remarks.

Quayle has used a sitcom plot to his advantage before. In 1992, he grabbed headlines by criticizing the television program Murphy Brown, when its heroine decided to become a single mother. He said this plot line was anti-family and discounted the role of fathers.

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

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

CREATION DATE/TIME: 8-NOV-1997 16:16:00.00

SUBJECT: Washington Post on Clinton's Speech to HRC

TO: Paul J. Yandura (Paul J. Yandura@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

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

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
WASHINGTON POST, November 8, 1997

Clinton to Speak at Gay Rights Gala

By Peter Baker

Washington Post Staff Writer

After President George Bush invited gay rights leaders to the White House

to watch him sign a hate crimes bill, he was roundly criticized by conservatives and never did it again. When President Clinton brought gay rights leaders into the Oval Office for the first time, aides minimized the event and kept media cameras out.

There will be no hiding tonight, however, when Clinton takes the stage at

a gala black-tie fund-raiser in Washington and becomes the first sitting president to address a gay rights organization.

No matter what he says in his speech, Clinton's mere presence at the Human

Rights Campaign's first annual national dinner will make history and to

many

activists signals the maturation of a movement once relegated to the fringes

of American society. Even for a president who has supported its causes, the decision to appear at a gay rights event suggests how dramatically the political climate has changed in the last five years.

"This is a different universe we're living in," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, which claims 200,000 members. "Although there have been disappointments with President Clinton, he's really changed the [landscape]. He's put gay issues on the radar screen of America."

"It's a big deal," said Kenneth Sherrill, political science department chairman at Hunter College who has studied gay issues. "In a way, what Clinton is doing is saying to the larger political community, 'There's nothing to be embarrassed about here.'"

That is not altogether a good thing, in the opinion of many Americans who view Clinton's acceptance of homosexuality with alarm. And even as he breaks with tradition, the White House evinces palpable discomfort with appearing too radical.

As the dinner approached this week, the president's aides did nothing to call attention to it and suggested he had no interest in making history. Instead, they said, he simply is reaching out much as he does to other groups with his message of reconciliation and "One America." White House spokesman

Michael McCurry yesterday compared it to Clinton's recent attendance at an Italian American dinner.

What's more, aides said Clinton has no intention of falling into the same thicket as Vice President Gore, who created a furor recently when he praised comedian Ellen DeGeneres for her coming-out episode on ABC's "Ellen." Clinton will mention his support for legislation protecting gay and lesbian Americans from job discrimination, but he will not offer commentary on the Ellen controversy, even though she will be seated on stage with him and receive an award for her groundbreaking television show.

Clinton, of course, has no more elections in his future, while Gore does.

One more sign of the gay rights lobby's growing clout has been the courting by both the vice president and his chief potential rival for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2000, House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt (Mo.), who invited a group of gay rights leaders to his office just last week.

The prize is a sizable army of volunteer workers and an increasing pot of campaign money. The Human Rights Campaign estimates that openly gay donors last year gave \$3.2 million to Democrats. Two-thirds of self-identified gay voters backed Clinton in 1996, providing 7 percent of his total votes, according to an independent exit poll.

While the group this week installed former Republican congressman Steve

Gunderson (Wis.) on its board of directors, the polling and contribution numbers demonstrate how beholden Democrats are becoming to the gay agenda, according to conservative opponents.

"This is an issue that has come to define American liberalism as we move into the 21st century. This is their cutting-edge issue," said Arnie Owens, spokesman for the Christian Coalition. "The message may resonate with cosmopolitan elites in New York and Los Angeles, but you get outside the beltways where the rest of America lives, you'll find the views are somewhat different."

To make that point, a coalition of conservative activists plans to demonstrate outside of tonight's \$250-per-person dinner at the Grand Hyatt Hotel as Clinton speaks inside, arguing that his presence belies his rhetoric in favor of traditional family values.

Yet even as he draws protesters from the right, the president also will encounter critics from the left. The local chapter of ACT-UP, an AIDS activism group, will march from Lafayette Square to the hotel to complain that Clinton has not lived up to his promises.

"He's talked our talk, but he's walked their walk," said Steve Michael, a founder of the organization, referring to religious conservatives. The guests paying \$250 a plate, he added, have sold out. "They want access to the cocktail parties. They want pictures on their wall so they can say, 'Here I am with the president.'"

The competing demonstrations underscore the conflicting nature of

Clinton's record on gay rights.

In 1992, while running for president, he made history by appearing as a candidate before an openly gay audience, but then after taking office abandoned his support for allowing homosexuals in the military in favor of the "don't ask, don't tell" compromise. He has endorsed the proposed Employment Non-Discrimination Act outlawing workplace bias based on sexual orientation, but last year signed legislation in the middle of the night barring federal recognition of same-sex marriage. He has increased funding for AIDS research, but rebuffed recommendations that he promote needle exchanges to cut down on transmission among intravenous drug users.

Birch, the Human Rights Campaign director, acknowledged that there have been "rocky episodes" with Clinton and that his signature on the marriage bill was "very painful." But she insisted these have to be seen within a larger context. "It's important to give the president his due," she said.

"He has a record that is heads and shoulders above any of his predecessors in fact, all of them combined."

That does not mean that gay rights activists do not want more. Although Clinton has named more than 100 openly gay appointees to his administration, the Human Rights Campaign has been pressing the White House to include more in positions that must be confirmed by the Senate, on the theory that those "tend to be the most coveted jobs."

Clinton complied earlier this year by nominating James Hormel to be ambassador to Luxembourg, but his confirmation was held up at the last minute

Thursday by Sens. James M. Inhofe (R-Okla.) and Kay Bailey Hutchison

(R-TeX.).

In another move of interest to the gay community, Clinton also will sponsor a conference on hate crimes Monday, focusing on ways of preventing and punishing such offenses, 12 percent of which are related to the victim's sexual orientation.

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

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

CREATION DATE/TIME: 8-NOV-1997 16:59:00.00

SUBJECT: ABC News on Clinton Speech to HRC

TO: Paul J. Yandura (Paul J. Yandura@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

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

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
ABC NEWS

November 8, 1997

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

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

The White House attempted to play down the dinner and claimed that the fund raiser represents the president's ongoing effort to reach out to all Americans

By David Phinney ABCNEWS.com

WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov. 8 - Tonight, President Clinton addresses a leading gay rights organization at a black-tie fund-raising gala in honor of ABC actress Ellen DeGeneres, who recently made public her sexual orientation as a lesbian. Ever since Clinton took office, he has spoken in favor of protecting the civil rights of gays and lesbians, but this event marks the first time he or any sitting president has stepped forward

to take part in an event hosted by and for gays.

The White House attempted to play down the \$250-a-plate dinner hosted by the Human Rights Campaign and claimed that the fund raiser represents the president's ongoing effort to reach out to all Americans.

After all, the event is no different than Clinton's recent appearance at an Italian-American dinner, according to White House spokesman Mike McCurry.

"The president is hoping to bring people from different walks of life together so we can tackle the common problems that we face" McCurry said this week. "I think he is not hoping to make history."

But making history may be unavoidable.

Gay groups herald the appearance as a sign of their growing acceptance and support, while social conservatives blast Clinton for pandering to a special-interest group that threatens the well-being of impressionable young Americans.

The "endorsement of Hollywood-style homosexual activism is likely to send a deadly signal to many young people, who are sexually vulnerable," said Robert Knight of the conservative Family Research Council in Washington, D.C. "To use the bully pulpit to glamorize behavior that offends the values of millions of Americans is a disservice."

Ellen to Attend With Companion

DeGeneres, who revealed her sexual orientation before a highly promoted and controversial episode of her ABC television sitcom Ellen, plans to attend with her companion, Anne Heche, while Clinton will go stag-first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton had a previous commitment.

Elizabeth Birch, the homosexual group's executive director, sounded

ecstatic that Clinton planned to attend the affair.

"We're very honored and excited," Birch said in a telephone interview.

"This is the first time a sitting president will be addressing a gay civil rights event."

Clinton Not All That Was Hoped

Birch acknowledged that Clinton's avowed support of gay rights has not always translated into policy.

During the 1992 presidential campaign, Clinton urged that American homosexuals be permitted to openly serve in the U.S. military, but after a contentious battle with conservatives in Congress and at the Pentagon, the president settled for a policy known as "don't ask, don't tell."

During the 1996 election year fervor, the president also signed into law legislation that bars federal recognition of same-sex marriages.

Despite such "painful moments," Birch said Clinton is a vast improvement over the Reagan and Bush administrations, when homosexuals were "absolutely marginalized."

In 1990, gay rights leaders visited President George Bush at the White House to attend several bill signings. After the visit ignited a furious protest from social conservatives, Bush refrained from reaching out to gays ever again while in office.

When President Clinton invited gay leaders to the White House four years later, the administration attempted to keep the affair low-key and barred cameras from the media.

In 1996, the Human Rights Campaign endorsed Clinton for re-election, and contributed \$18,000 to the Democratic National Committee. The group also gave another \$1.2 million to 180 congressional candidates around the

country, most of whom were Democrats.

According to some polls, gays and lesbians represented 5 percent of the voting public during the last election and a majority of voters support extending greater rights to gays, including same-sex marriage recognition and protections against workplace discrimination.

Clinton Opens New Chapter for Gays

Since the election, Clinton has made stepped up efforts to increase the numbers of openly gay appointees in his administration. Most recently, gay San Francisco businessman and philanthropist was appointed to be as ambassador to Luxembourg.

Such appointments mark a new chapter for acceptance of gays in public life, said Rebecca Isaacs, Political director for the 25-year-old National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, who credits Clinton for moving closer to that goal.

"Previously we never even heard public officials using the words gays and lesbians," she said. "But what's different is that the gay and lesbian community now is very much part of the public discourse.

Political Fallout Possible for Gore

Since Clinton may never run for office again, his attendance at the homosexual rights event carries little political risk, according to Stephen Hess of the Brookings Institution.

"Bill Clinton is not a person that makes these sorts of political decisions lightly or spontaneously or off the top of his head," Hess said by telephone. "The very fact that he's going means it hasn't hurt him politically."

The situation may be a bit different for Vice President Al Gore, the likely Democratic nominee for president in the year 2000. When Gore praised Ellen last month for forcing Americans "to look at sexual orientation in a more open light," he drew fire from former Vice President Dan Quayle, who also might be a presidential contender.

Quayle told the Union Leader newspaper in Manchester, New Hampshire-the state where the first presidential primary is traditionally held-that Gore was "pandering" to homosexuals with his remarks.

Quayle has used a sitcom plot to his advantage before. In 1992, he grabbed headlines by criticizing the television program Murphy Brown, when its heroine decided to become a single mother. He said this plot line was anti-family and discounted the role of fathers.

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X-Sender: dcase@mail.sdsu.edu

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

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

CREATION DATE/TIME: 8-NOV-1997 16:20:00.00

SUBJECT: LA Times on Clinton's Speech to HRC

TO: Paul J. Yandura (Paul J. Yandura@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

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

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
LOS ANGELES TIMES

November 8, 1997 (<http://www.latimes.com>)

Clinton's Speech to Gays, Lesbians Will Be a First

By ELIZABETH SHOGREN, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON-President Clinton will rekindle a divisive debate tonight when he becomes the first sitting president to make a public address to a gay and lesbian organization.

To many in the gay and lesbian community, Clinton's keynote speech at a fund-raising event sponsored by the nation's largest gay and lesbian political organization is a symbolic milestone reflecting their continued assimilation into American society.

"The president of the United States-the leader of the most powerful and prestigious nation in the world-has taken that prestige and power and said to the gay and lesbian community that you're part of the country as a whole," said David Mixner, a gay political activist. "It is a powerfully

strong message of acceptance."

Conservative critics argued that Clinton's speech is an unprecedented endorsement of a fringe community that threatens to corrupt American children. One group plans a rally outside the dinner to protest what they call the "pro-gay agenda" of the Clinton administration.

"It is a tragedy that he is using his bully pulpit to endorse homosexuality, which is destructive and unhealthy to families and communities," said Kristin Hansen, spokeswoman of the Family Research Counsel, a conservative political group. "We feel his speech will lead more young people into homosexuality."

Although many Americans likely will view Clinton's speech as something less earth-shattering, the president is hoping that his appeal for inclusiveness will resonate broadly with the public.

"This may be a moment when, through leadership, he can remind Americans that gays and lesbians are part of our American family," White House spokesman Mike McCurry said. "Sometimes you can help break down barriers by effectively using the bully pulpit."

The black-tie fund-raising gala also will honor comedian Ellen DeGeneres, who earlier this year "came out" as a lesbian on her television show, "Ellen."

Vice President Al Gore was criticized by political and religious conservatives recently for praising Hollywood because of the show, which he said prompted Americans to "look at sexual orientation in a more open light."

Clinton "concurs" with Gore's view, McCurry said. He is not planning to directly comment on the television show during the address, although he

plans to acknowledge DeGeneres, McCurry said.

The public seems to have mixed feelings about whether pop culture should include openly gay characters. Princeton Survey Research Associates, in a poll this summer for Newsweek, asked whether respondents thought that the coming-out episode on "Ellen" was a "good thing because it promoted a positive image for gay people" or a "bad thing because it seemed to promote gay lifestyles." The response: 35% answered "good thing" and 40% "bad thing."

In his speech, Clinton will "try to take this whole conversation up a notch," focusing on the theme of uprooting discrimination-particularly in the workplace-and more effectively enforcing civil rights laws, McCurry said.

The president also will speak in support of Bill Lann Lee, his nominee for assistant attorney general in charge of the civil rights division of the Justice Department. The Los Angeles lawyer's confirmation process has been delayed as Senate Democrats try to find a way around an attempt by Republicans to kill his appointment.

Tonight's dinner is seen by many as the high point of a roller-coaster relationship Clinton has had with the gay community.

Before his 1992 election, he won praise from gay and lesbian groups for staging a large fund-raising event with a gay audience and promising to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military as one of his first acts as president. He then came under intense criticism from many of these same groups by backtracking on that pledge and adopting the "don't ask, don't tell" policy on homosexuals in the military.

His standing further dropped among many gays and lesbians when he

signed a measure that defined marriage as a heterosexual union only.

Perhaps more than anything, the homosexual community has applauded Clinton for appointing more than 100 open gays and lesbians to positions in his administration. Before Clinton, there had been no openly gay senior administration officials, according to Richard Sacarides, who works in the White House public liaison office.

Most recently, Clinton has been praised for appointing Virginia Apuzzo as assistant to the president for management and administration, Fred Hochberg as deputy administrator of the Small Business Administration and James Hormel as ambassador to Luxembourg. All three are openly homosexual.

"Some great progress has been made-more than any other administration in history," said Mixner, an old friend of Clinton's who harshly criticized him on the gays-in-the-military issue.

Mixner called Clinton's decision to speak at tonight's \$250-per-person event, "an historic, courageous act on his part." The dinner is sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign, a Washington-based lobbying group for gay rights.

But some conservatives complained that with his appearance, Clinton is endorsing the group's political agenda, including rights for same-sex marriages and barring employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

"It's using the presidency to promote their agenda," said Andrea Sheldon, executive director of the Traditional Values Coalition, a Washington lobbying group that represents conservative churches. "What is so sad is that Clinton has reduced the prestige and importance of the

presidency."

The White House has been working the last few years with the Human Rights Campaign on legislation to bar employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Some foes have argued that the bill is not needed. Others contend that it would set up a quota system for homosexuals in the workplace.

A similar measure was voted down by the narrowest margin, 50 to 49, in the Senate last year, but proponents hope to push for another vote next year.

The legislation was being considered at the same time as a bill restricting rights for same-sex marriages, which the Senate approved by a lopsided 85-14 vote.

In a reflection of the complex nature of public attitudes toward gay men and lesbians, polls have found that while nearly three-fourths of Americans oppose the extension of marriage rights to same-sex marriages, 85% approve of laws that would shield homosexuals from employment discrimination.

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

CREATION DATE/TIME: 9-NOV-1997 16:43:00.00

SUBJECT: Articles 11.9.97.5

TO: Paul J. Yandura (Paul J. Yandura@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

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

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

1. NEW YORK TIMES Clinton Is Greeted Warmly as He Speaks to Gay Group

2. BOSTON GLOBE President takes stand on gay rights

In speech, promotes equality as part of 'one America' push

3. TRANSCRIPT of the President's speech at the Human Rights Campaign
dinner

NEW YORK TIMES, November 9, 1997

229 W. 43rd Street, New York,NY,10036

(Fax 212-556-3622)(E-MAIL: letters@nytimes.com)

(http://www.nytimes.com)

Clinton Is Greeted Warmly as He Speaks to Gay Group

By JAMES BENNET

WASHINGTON -- It is rare that a politician can draw an ovation with such
a

stock line as "I'm delighted to be here."

But, in becoming the first President to address a gay and lesbian
organization with a speech here tonight, Bill Clinton was rewarded with
thunderous applause for that simple statement.

And as he deftly turned aside occasional hecklers with enthusiastic
assists from the crowd of 1,500, Mr. Clinton was also thunderously
applauded
upon restating his support for a law to protect homosexuals from
discrimination in the workplace, and upon issuing a peppery defense of Bill
Lann Lee, his contested nominee to be Assistant Attorney General for Civil
Rights.

Speaking at a sold-out dinner held by the Human Rights Campaign, Mr.
Clinton said that Mr. Lee "is being discriminated against," not because of
his qualifications but "because some members of the Senate disagree with
his
views on affirmative action."

"Now," Mr. Clinton continued, "if I have to appoint a head of the office
of civil rights who is against affirmative action, it's going to be vacant
a
long time."

The White House had played down Mr. Clinton's speech in advance,
comparing
his appearance at this dinner to his routine stops on the rubber-chicken
interest-group circuit. But Mr. Clinton did not make a routine speech
tonight, instead calling for a redefinition "of the immutable ideals that
have guided us from the beginning" to include acceptance of gays and
lesbians.

Mr. Clinton has had deep differences with gays and lesbians,
disappointing
many at the beginning of his first term by backing down in efforts to fully
integrate homosexuals into the military, and disappointing them again at

the

end of that term by signing legislation intended to prevent single-sex marriage.

But gays and lesbians overwhelmingly supported Mr. Clinton for re-election

last year, and audience members tonight repeatedly called out "We love you, Bill."

Elizabeth Birch, the executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, said

in introducing the President tonight: "Because our needs were almost as great

as our expectations, it was inevitable that we -- you and this community -- would experience both shared disappointment and some disagreement. But Mr. President, you have played a brave and powerful and indispensable role in the

march toward justice for us."

She called Mr. Clinton "the first President in history to stand up for our civil rights."

Other speakers hailed Mr. Clinton's presence here as a milestone in acceptance of gays and lesbians. "Tonight, because of the President's address, we will be visible across America," declared Bob Baublitz, one of the organizers of the dinner.

But, in his speech, the President was cautious.

Mr. Clinton did not express an opinion about the fact that the television comedy series "Ellen" recently portrayed its lead character as coming out

the closet, even though Ellen DeGeneres, the actress who portrayed Ellen, was in the audience to receive an award tonight.

Vice President Al Gore recently came under fire from conservatives for praising "Ellen" in a Hollywood speech.

Mr. Clinton did not appear publicly at the dinner with Ms. DeGeneres, who, like her character, has come out of the closet. The President left before Ms. DeGeneres accepted her award. He did pose backstage for a photograph with her and her girlfriend, Anne Heche, but White House officials were quick to point out that the photograph also included numerous officials from the Human Rights Campaign. The photograph will not be released publicly, the White House said.

In his speech, Mr. Clinton did not address the group's continuing complaints that gays are harassed in the military, or its objection to the legislation opposing gay marriage. Instead, he focused on his support for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which is the top legislative goal of the Human Rights Campaign. Polling has shown broad support for the notion of equal protection for homosexuals under the law.

Mr. Clinton said that "Being gay, the last time I thought had about it, seemed to have nothing to do with" the ability to "fix a broken bone or change a spark plug."

In his 23-minute speech, Mr. Clinton faced at least three hecklers. The first, a man, cried out "People with AIDS are dying!" The crowd shushed him, but Mr. Clinton said, "People with AIDS are dying, but since I became President, we're spending ten times as much" combatting the disease.

BOSTON GLOBE, November 9, 1997

Box 2378, Boston, MA, 02107

(Fax 617-929-2098)(E-MAIL: letter@globe.com)

(<http://www.boston.com/globe>)

President takes stand on gay rights

In speech, promotes equality as part of 'one America' push

By Ann Scales, Globe Staff, 11/09/97

WASHINGTON - President Clinton, in a historic and symbolic gesture to gays and lesbians, said last night that America must abandon its old prejudices and become tolerant of sexual differences if it is truly to become one nation.

"We all know that there is continuing discrimination against gays and lesbians. But we also know that if we're ever going to build one America, then all Americans, including you and those whom you represent, have to go to be a part of it," Clinton said during a speech to the Human Rights Campaign's national dinner.

His speech to the nation's largest gay and lesbian political organization,

with an estimated 200,000 members, marked the first time a sitting US president has addressed a gay and lesbian event.

It was considered a turning point not only in his temperamental relationship with America's gay and lesbian community, but also in his own efforts to make the cause of gay equality part of his presidential legacy.

Interrupted by cheers and jeers, Clinton compared himself to President Harry S. Truman taking a stand against segregation 50 years ago.

"Harry Truman stood before the Lincoln Memorial and said, 'It is more important today than ever to ensure that all Americans enjoy the rights of freedom and equality.' When I say all Americans, I mean all Americans," he said.

Clinton's speech drew much less protest than had been expected. Only a handful of Christian conservatives braved the rain to protest the speech outside a downtown hotel here. Three AIDS activists inside the ballroom interrupted him by shouting for more money to help fund research for AIDS and for HIV, the virus that causes the illness, and for more funding for needle exchange programs. All were escorted out of the dinner.

More frequent interruptions came from guests who shouted, "We love you, Bill" and "Thank you, Bill." Many at the event, for which more than 1,500 people paid \$250 each to attend, took pictures.

After his speech, Clinton shook hands with several guests across a rope line. One man handed him a white rose, and the two embraced.

In a line that sent the audience to its feet for one of several ovations,

Clinton said: "Being gay, the last time I thought about it, seemed to have nothing to do with the ability to read a balance book, fix a broken bone, or change a spark plug."

In his speech, Clinton linked the fight by gays and lesbians against discrimination with the more overarching struggle for equality, in advance of tomorrow's White House conference on hate crimes.

Clinton also reiterated his support for the group's highest legislative priority - ending workplace discrimination - and promoted his nominee for assistant attorney general for civil rights. Los Angeles attorney Bill Lann Lee is one vote short of having his nomination forwarded to the full Senate for the post to succeed Boston lawyer Deval L. Patrick.

While the White House had played down the significance of Clinton's appearance all week by framing it in the context of the president's yearlong outreach effort to diverse communities, gays and lesbians heralded it as a watershed moment. Several administration aides and politicians, including Representative William Delahunt of Boston, were in attendance.

And even gays and lesbians who have clashed publicly with Clinton seemed ready to forgive him.

"Another glass ceiling has been broken," David B. Mixner, a former adviser to Clinton on gay issues, said before the dinner. "This is something I've dreamed of my whole life."

Mixner, who parted company with the Clinton administration over the

issue

of gays in the military, and who was arrested in a 1993 protest outside the White House, has come to symbolize the administration's stormy relationship with gays.

Representative Barney Frank, an openly gay Democrat from Newton, called the speech "another big step on Bill Clinton's part in helping fight homophobia," and added, "It's an enormously important statement."

Clinton's appearance came just weeks after Vice President Al Gore praised

the ABC television series "Ellen" during a speech to Hollywood broadcasters. Gore said Ellen DeGeneres's lesbian character had forced Americans "to look at sexual orientation in a more open light."

DeGeneres was the star attraction at last night's black-tie dinner, along with her partner, actress Anne Heche. DeGeneres received the organization's Civil Rights Award. After his speech, Clinton greeted both women backstage.

Before his speech, Elizabeth Birch, the Human Rights Campaign's executive director, said in an interview, "The fact is that if you compare President Clinton to any other leader in the history of this country, his record is extraordinary."

She ticked off a list, including his nomination of San Francisco philanthropist James Hormel to be ambassador to Luxembourg. If confirmed, Hormel would be the first openly gay US ambassador.

Birch also credited Clinton with appointing more than 100 openly gay people to administration jobs; ordering federal agencies to implement

nondiscrimination policies; issuing an executive order mandating that gays and lesbians no longer be considered a security risk; changing US policy to grant political asylum to people who fear prosecution in their home countries because of their sexual orientation; and increasing funding for the treatment and research of AIDS and HIV.

Even so, Birch conceded that Clinton's stance on gay marriages and his embrace of the "don't ask, don't tell" military policy "were painful moments, that have clouded his achievements."

Rick Rosendall, president of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance in Washington, said, "We deserve more than lip service, photo ops, and patronage jobs for his gay supporters."

Mixner compared the relationship between Clinton and gays to his relationship with labor unions by saying that at times it has been strained but it remains mostly intact. "As politically mature people, we ought to be able to disagree vigorously on some very key issues, and where there is strength and commonality, to work closely together."

For antigay groups, however, Clinton's appearance is tantamount to an endorsement of a lifestyle with which they disagree.

"It's a disgrace to use the bully pulpit to promote this behavior," said

Kristin Hansen, a spokeswoman for the conservative Family Research Council.

"It's a payoff for the homosexual lobby for the millions they have given him."

Arne Owens, communications director for the Christian Coalition, said

Clinton's relationship with the gay community dates back to the 1992 presidential race, when he campaigned to lift the ban on gays in the military.

"But, this is very clearly an effort to raise money for the Democratic Party and to help Vice President Gore as he positions himself for a run in 2000," Owens said.

Birch has estimated that gay donors independently gave \$3.2 million to Democrats last year. The campaign itself wields the power of one of the larger political action committees, which spread \$1.1 million among almost 200 candidates.

Barney Frank said it hardly matters what conservative Christians think about Clinton's speaking to the Human Rights Campaign.

"People who are significantly motivated by their opposition to gays and lesbians being treated fairly never voted for Bill Clinton and are not going to vote for Al Gore," Frank said.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 8, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN DINNER

Grand Hyatt Hotel

Washington, D.C.

8:52 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Well, you have just made me feel the way I did --

AUDIENCE MEMBER: We love you, Bill. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. I sort of feel the way I did when I made my very first speech as a public official more than 20 years ago now. You know, Elizabeth just stood up here and gave that magnificent speech. Wasn't she great? (Applause.) And she actually said about everything that could be said. (Laughter.) And then you gave me this wonderful welcome, which makes me reluctant to say anything. (Laughter.)

And I was sitting up here -- I was thinking, somehow flashing back to my mind, this reminded me of a Rotary Club banquet I spoke at. (Laughter and applause.) And I'll tell you why. Here's what happened. Only the punch line is the same, but you'll have to listen to this.

I had just taken office as Attorney General almost 21 years ago, and they asked me to speak to this Rotary Club banquet. And there were 500 people there. The dinner started at 6:30. I didn't get up to speak till a quarter to 10:00. (Laughter.) Everybody that was at this banquet got introduced but three people and they went home mad. (Laughter.) The guy who got up to introduce me was so nervous he didn't know what to do. And we had been there forever, and he finally said -- and he didn't mean it this way, but here's what he said, he said, in my introduction, he said, you know, we could have stopped here and have had a very nice evening. (Laughter and applause.) And we could have

stopped with the applause and Elizabeth's speech and had a great evening.

I'm delighted to be here. (Applause.) I thank the members of Congress who are here. I congratulate your honorees. I know that a number of my recent appointees are here, including Virginia Apuzzo, our new Assistant for Management and Administration. (Applause.) Fred Hochberg, John Berry, Jim Hormel. Where's Jim Hormel? He's here. (Applause.) Jesse White. (Applause.) Hal Creal.

Now, Hal Creal is now the most popular person I have appointed in the Congress because the Maritime Commission broke the impasse on the Japanese ports, which destroys another stereotype here. I am so grateful for what they did, and a lot of Americans are going to have a decent income because of it, and I want to thank him for that. (Applause.)

We have a lot of people here from the White House as well. I want to thank Richard Socarides, Marsha Scott, Karen Tramantano, Sean Maloney, Tom Shea, and our AIDS czar, Sandy Thurman -- (applause) -- for all their work.

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And because it's dark here, I would like to ask everyone who works for this administration in any department of the federal government or who has an appointment in any way to please stand, including the White House.

(Applause.) Thank you.

A little more than six years ago, I had this crazy idea that I ought to run for President. (Laughter.) Only my mother thought I could win.

(Laughter.) And at the time, I was so obsessed with what I thought had to be done I thought winning would take care of itself. What bothered me was that our country seemed to be drifting and divided as we moved into a new and exciting and challenging area where we were living differently, working differently, relating to each other and the rest of the world in very different ways on the edge of a new century.

And I sat down alone before I decided to do this and asked myself, what is it that you want America to look like when you're done if you win? My vision for the 21st century, now, I have said hundreds and hundreds of times, but I still think about it every day -- I want this to be a country where every child and every person who is responsible enough to work for it can live the American dream. (Applause.) I want this country to embrace the wider world and continue to be the strongest force for peace and freedom and prosperity, and I want us to come together across all our lines of difference into one America.

That is my vision. It drives me every day. I think if we

really could create a society where there is opportunity for all and responsibility from all and we believed in a community of all Americans, we could truly meet every problem we have and seize every opportunity we have.

For more than two centuries now, our country has had to meet challenge after challenge after challenge. We have had to continue to lift ourselves beyond what we thought America meant. Our ideals were never meant to be frozen in stone or time. Keep in mind, when we started out with Thomas Jefferson's credo that all of us are created equal by God, what that really meant in civic political terms was that you had to be white, you had to be male, and that wasn't enough -- you had to own property, which would have left my crowd out when I was a boy. (Laughter and applause.)

Over time, we have had to redefine the words that we started with, not because there was anything wrong with them and their universal power and strength of liberty and justice, but because we were limited in our imaginations about how we could live and what we were capable of and how we should live. Indeed, the story of how we kept going higher and higher and higher to new and higher definitions -- and more meaningful definitions -- of equality and dignity and freedom is in its essence the fundamental story of our country.

Fifty years ago, President Truman stood at a new frontier in our

defining struggle on civil rights. Slavery had ended a long time before,
but
segregation remained. Harry Truman stood before the Lincoln Memorial and
said, "It is more important today than ever to ensure that all Americans
enjoy the rights [of freedom
and equality]. When I say all Americans, I mean all Americans."
(Applause.)

Well, my friends, all Americans still means all Americans.
(Applause.) We all know that it is an ideal and not perfectly real now.
We
all know that some of the old kinds of discrimination we have sought to rid
ourselves of by law and purge our spirits of still exist in America today.
We all know that there is continuing discrimination against gays and
lesbians. But we also know that if we're ever going to build one America,
then all Americans -- including you and those whom you represent -- have
got
to be a part of it. (Applause.)

To be sure, no President can grant rights. Our ideals and our
history hold that they are inalienable, embedded in our Constitution,
amplified over time by our courts and legislature. I cannot grant them --
but I am bound by my oath of office and the burden of history to reaffirm
them.

All America loses if we let prejudice and discrimination
stifle
the hopes or deny the potential of a single American. All America loses
when
any person is denied or forced out of a job because of sexual orientation.

Being gay, the last time I thought about it, seemed to have nothing to do with the ability to read a balance book, fix a broken bone, or change a spark plug. (Applause.)

For generations, the American Dream has represented a fundamental compact among our people. If you take responsibility and work hard, you have the right to achieve a better life for yourself and a better future for your family. Equal opportunity for all, special privileges for none -- a fate shared by Americans regardless of political views. We believe -- or we all say we believe -- that all citizens should have the chance to rise as far as their God-given talents will take them. What counts is energy and honesty and talent. No arbitrary distinctions should bar the way.

So when we deny opportunity because of ancestry or religion, race or gender, disability or sexual orientation, we break the compact. It is wrong. And it should be illegal. (Applause.) Once again I call upon Congress to honor our most cherished principles and make the Employment Non-Discrimination Act the law of the land. (Applause.)

I also come here tonight to ask you for another favor.

Protecting the civil rights of all Americans --

AUDIENCE MEMBER: People with AIDS are dying.

AUDIENCE: Sit down.

THE PRESIDENT: Wait, wait, wait. I would have been disappointed if you hadn't been here tonight. I'm kind of used to this.

(Applause.) People with AIDS are dying. But since I've become President we're spending 10 times as much per fatality on people with AIDS as people with breast cancer or prostate cancer. (Applause.) And the drugs are being approved more quickly. And a lot of people are living normal lives. We just have to keep working on it. (Applause.)

I thank you, but this, too, is part of what makes America great.

(Applause.) We all have our say, and nobody has to be afraid when he or she screams at the President. (Laughter.) That's a good thing. That's a good thing. (Applause.) And at a time when so many people feel their voices will never be heard, that's a good thing.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible.)

AUDIENCE: Boooo!

THE PRESIDENT: What is not a good thing, however, is when people believe their free speech rights trump yours. That's not good. That's not. (Applause.)

Now, I want to ask you for a favor. You want us to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. You know when we do -- and I believe it will pass -- you know when we do it will have to be enforced. The law on the books only works if it is also a law in the life of America.

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Let me say, I thank you very much for your support of my

nominee

for the Office of Civil Rights, Bill Lee. I thank you for that.

(Applause.)

But he, too, comes from a family that has known discrimination and now he is being discriminated against, not because there is anything wrong with his qualifications, not because anybody believes he is not even-tempered, but because some members of the Senate disagree with his views on affirmative action.

Now, if I have to appoint a head of the office of civil rights who is against affirmative action -- (laughter) -- it's going to be vacant a long time. (Laughter and applause.) That office is not there to advocate or promote -- primarily to advocate or promote the policies of the government when it comes to affirmative action; it's there to enforce the existing laws against discrimination. You hope someday you will have one of those existing laws. We need somebody to enforce the laws, and Bill Lee should be confirmed, and I ask you to help me to get him confirmed. (Applause.)

I'd like to say just one more word. There are some people who aren't in this room tonight who aren't comfortable yet with you and won't be comfortable with me for being here.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: We love you, Bill. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Wait a minute. This is serious. On issue after issue involving gays and lesbians, survey after survey shows that the most important determinant of people's attitudes is whether they are aware -- whether they knowingly have had a family or a friendship or a work relation with a gay person. (Applause.)

Now, I hope that we will embrace good people who are trying to overcome their fears. After all, all of us can look back in history and see what the right thing to do was. It is quite another thing to look ahead and light the way. Most people are preoccupied with the burdens of daily living. Most of us, as we grow older, become -- whether we like it or not -- somewhat more limited in our imaginations. So I think one of the greatest things we have to do still is just to increase the ability of Americans who do not yet know that gays and lesbians are their fellow Americans in every sense of the word to feel that way. (Applause.) I think it's very important.

When I say, "I believe all Americans means all Americans," I see the faces of the friends of 35 years. When I say, "all Americans means all Americans," I see the faces of the people who stood up when I asked the people who are part of our administration to stand tonight. When I say, "all Americans means all Americans," I see kind, unbelievably generous, giving people back in my

home

state who helped my family and my friends when they were in need. It is a different story when you know what you are seeing.

So I say to you tonight, should we change the law? You bet.

Should we keep fighting discrimination? Absolutely. Is this Hate Crimes Conference important? It is terribly important. But we have to broaden the

imagination of America. We are redefining, in practical terms, the immutable

ideals that have guided us from the beginning. Again I say, we have to make sure that for every single person in

our country, all Americans means all Americans.

After experiencing the horrors of the Civil War and witnessing the transformation of the previous century, Walt Whitman said that our greatest strength was that we are an embracing nation. In his words, a "Union, holding all, fusing, absorbing, tolerating all." Let us move forward

in the spirit of that one America. Let us realize that this is a good obligation that has been imposed upon our

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generation, and a grand opportunity once again to lift America to a higher

level of unity, o===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
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by STORM.EOP.GOV (PMDf V5.1-7 #6879)

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09 Nov 1997 17:16:20 -0500 (EST)

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SUBJECT: Articles 11.9.97.2

TO: Paul J. Yandura (Paul J. Yandura@eop [UNKNOWN])

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

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TEXT:

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1. WASHINGTON POST Clinton Equates Gay Rights, Civil Rights

Making Historical Link, President Echoes Truman's Speech That Broke Color

Barrier

2. PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER Clinton speaks at gay-rights dinner

He became the first president to address such an organization.

3. DETROIT NEWS Gays applaud Clinton speech: Conservatives say president

is

'kissing up to amoral left'

4. LOS ANGELES TIMES Clinton, in Historic Speech, Urges Acceptance of

Gays

WASHINGTON POST, November 9, 1997

1150 15th Street NW, Washington, DC, 20071

(No Fax - letters by mail only)

Clinton Equates Gay Rights, Civil Rights

Making Historical Link, President Echoes Truman's Speech That Broke Color Barrier

By Peter Baker

Washington Post Staff Writer

A half-century after President Harry S. Truman declared his commitment to civil rights before a largely black crowd gathered at the Lincoln Memorial, President Clinton last night pledged similar solidarity in the battle for equal rights for gay and lesbian Americans.

In the first speech by a sitting president to a gay rights organization, Clinton consciously echoed Truman's historic remarks to the NAACP in June 1947, which was the first time a president had addressed a black civil rights organization. Truman that day vowed his support for equality for all Americans. "And when I say all Americans," Truman said, "I mean all Americans."

"Well, my friends," Clinton said last night, "all Americans still means all Americans."

By equating the gay rights movement with the struggle for racial equality, Clinton risked igniting a backlash among conservatives and among some African

American leaders who resent such comparisons. The matter was so sensitive that it was the subject of internal discussion at the White House. Some of the president's senior aides said privately just before Clinton's arrival that Clinton had opted to take out the Truman reference to avoid sending

the

wrong signal, a decision he apparently reversed at the last minute.

Clinton has long embraced much of the gay rights agenda, however, his speech to a \$300,000 fund-raiser sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign was seen as historic not so much for the sentiments it expressed but for the simple fact of its delivery.

The president used the opportunity to make a pitch for his embattled nominee for chief civil rights enforcer, Bill Lann Lee, and brushed off brief disruptions by AIDS activists complaining he had not done enough to fight the disease.

But the longest and most sustained of numerous standing ovations came as he vowed to continue lobbying for passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would bar workplace bias based on sexual orientation.

"Being gay, the last time I thought about it, seemed to have nothing to do with the ability to read a balance book, fix a broken bone or change a sparkplug," Clinton said to wild applause. Firing or refusing to hire people because they are gay is akin to discriminating based on race, religion or gender, he added. "It is wrong and it should be illegal."

Yet despite the enthusiastic response he received last night, the president's speech avoided stronger language that some aides and activists hoped he would use. Mindful of the firestorm that erupted recently when Vice

President Gore praised actress Ellen DeGeneres for coming out on national television, White House officials decided against having Clinton express similar thoughts.

DeGeneres was on hand at the dinner -- along with her lover, Anne Heche, and mother, Betty DeGeneres -- to receive an award for her self-outing on ABC's "Ellen" last spring. Although he posed for a White House photographer's backstage shot with the actress, the White House did not release it; the president did not mention her in his speech and left before she was honored.

Officials denied that Clinton was trying to avoid controversy or that the speech was deliberately toned down. "It was never fired up," said one aide.

Outside the Grand Hyatt Hotel, scattered protesters made their contrary views known. AIDS activists held signs saying "Expose Clinton." On another corner was a small cluster of people holding signs saying "God Hates Fags." And on a third corner was another group of conservatives who oppose homosexuality but rejected what they considered a hateful approach and instead held up signs such as "Ellen Can Change."

"If the American people are shocked by all of the same-sex smooching that is on television, wait until they see an American president kissing up to the wealthiest extremists of the amoral left," said Andrea Sheldon, executive director of the Traditional Values Coalition.

Inside the ballroom, three AIDS activists interrupted Clinton's speech with shouting. "People with AIDS are dying," one screamed.

The audience immediately cheered Clinton, who responded, "Wait, wait, wait. I'd have been disappointed if you hadn't been here tonight. People with AIDS are dying. But since I became president, we're spending 10 times as much" on research.

While Clinton raised the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which failed in the Senate last year 50 to 49, he did not mention another bill he signed, the Defense of Marriage Act aimed at preventing the legalization of same-sex unions.

Organizers of tonight's \$250-a-plate, black-tie dinner chose to overlook that as well, praising Clinton as the first president to embrace gay rights and politely calling on him to do more.

"Mr. President, we vitally need your help in getting the American people to realize that we as gay Americans do not seek special status or special benefits," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the 200,000-member Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay rights organization. "We seek only equality."

The attempt to link the gay rights cause with traditional civil rights extended beyond Clinton's speech. The other award winner tonight was the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, represented by Dorothy Height and Wade Henderson, who embraced protection for gays.

Yet none of the speakers publicly saw any irony in the Truman comparison. Truman ultimately ended segregation in the U.S. military.

Clinton, who promised in 1992 to end the ban on homosexuals serving openly in the armed forces, ultimately backed off that pledge and agreed to the "don't ask, don't tell" compromise that remains widely derided in the gay community.

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, November 9, 1997

PO Box 8263, Philadelphia, PA, 19101

(Fax 215-854-4483)(E-MAIL: inquirer.editorial@phillynews.com)

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

Clinton speaks at gay-rights dinner

He became the first president to address such an organization. Ellen DeGeneres was honored.

By Carol Rosenberg

INQUIRER WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON -- President Clinton burst a political taboo last night, addressing a \$500-a-couple homosexual-rights benefit and telling a black-tie crowd of gays and lesbians, "I am delighted to be here."

No sitting president has ever before spoken to a gay civil rights group. The affair benefited the Human Rights Campaign, which lobbies against discrimination against homosexuals in the workplace and in favor of more funding for AIDS research.

"I want us to come together across all our lines of differences into one America. That is my vision," said the President, who received a

three-minute

standing ovation and cheers.

The crowd consisted mostly of same-sex couples, including a few men in dress military uniforms. Some guests sported red sequined gowns, and at least

one diner was wearing black leather trousers, but attire tended toward trademark Washington gala black gowns and tuxedos.

"We all know there is continuing discrimination against gays and lesbians," the President told the crowd. "But we also know that if we are ever going to build one America, then all Americans -- including you and those you represent -- have got to be a part of it.

"Being gay last time I thought about it had nothing to do with being able

to balance a book, fix a broken bone or change a spark plug," he said, throwing support behind workplace anti-discrimination legislation.

'Absolutely'

"What counts is energy and honesty and talent. No arbitrary distinction should bar the way," Clinton said.

"When we deny opportunity because of ancestry or religion, race or gender, disability or sexual orientation, we break the compact. It is wrong and it should be illegal.

"Should we change the law? You bet. Should we keep fighting discrimination? Absolutely," Clinton said. "But we have to broaden the imagination of America. We are redefining in practical terms the immutable ideals that have guided us from the beginning."

The 200,000-member, 17-year-old organization bestowed its National Civil

Rights Award on Ellen DeGeneres, who last spring revealed that she and her sitcom character, Ellen, were lesbians. DeGeneres, her partner, actress

Anne

Heche, and her mother met with the President backstage prior to his speaking.

A nervous DeGeneres told reporters before the dinner that the event was "historic."

Her show created controversy again last month when Vice President Gore praised her character for causing Americans to face sexual orientation "in a more open light," drawing the ire of anti-gay activists.

Few demonstrators

Although widely publicized in advance, the affair at a downtown hotel drew

fewer than 100 demonstrators. While Clinton slipped in a side entrance, protesters stood on street corners opposite the hotel waving placards that read, "Fags Doom Nations," "Homosexuality is not a family value," and "Martin

Luther King Jr. Never Said Homosexuality Was a Civil Right."

Clinton has not been unambiguously supportive of homosexual equality. After pledging to rid the U.S. military of its sexual-preference prejudice during his first campaign, he met resistance from the Pentagon and settled for a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. He also opposes same-sex marriages.

Several members of ACT-UP also disrupted the speech inside the ballroom.

One shouted, "People are dying of AIDS," to the boos and hisses of the black-tie crowd.

Clinton laughed off the disruption. "This, too, is part of what makes America great," he said. "Nobody has to be afraid when he or she screams at the President."

Administration officials sought to downplay the significance of the event, saying Clinton reaches out to all groups to break down barriers in America. Spokesmen called his speech a fitting prelude to a White House conference on hate crimes, which opens tomorrow.

Human Rights Campaign spokeswoman Kim Mills said the event drew heterosexual as well as homosexual supporters from across the nation. With word that the President had been invited, it sold out in three days.

This article contains information from the Associated Press.

DETROIT NEWS, November 9, 1997

615 W. Lafayette, Detroit, MI, 48226

(Fax 313-222-6417)(E-MAIL: Letters@detnews.com)

Gays applaud Clinton speech

From Detroit News wire reports

; ; WASHINGTON -- Calling for reconciliation of differences that divide

Americans, Clinton on Saturday became the first sitting president to

address

a gay rights organization.

; ; But outside the downtown hotel where the Human Rights Campaign held its

\$250-a-person black-tie dinner fund-raiser, protesters highlighted

Clinton's

checkered record on homosexual issues and registered the dismay of family values groups.

; ; Inside, Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign

-- the largest U.S. gay rights organization, with 200,000 members -- and 1,500 guests welcomed Clinton with a standing ovation and punctuated his speech with applause.

; ; "President Clinton's appearance here tonight is a powerful affirmation of the shared dream of equality for all Americans," Birch said.

; ; Clinton told the audience his vision was of one America in which "we come together across all our lines of difference."

; ; "We also know if we're ever going to build one America, you and those you represent have got to be a part of it," he said. "Being gay, the last time I looked, had nothing to do with reading a balance book, fixing a broken bone or changing a spark plug."

; ; Clinton's presence at the event was seen as validating the political power of the gay rights movement, once marginalized in U.S. society.

; ; He avoided the controversy that greeted Vice-President Al Gore's praise last month of comedian Ellen DeGeneres for revealing her sexual orientation in a coming-out episode of her ABC television show.

; ; Gore had lauded the lesbian actress, who received an award at Saturday's dinner, for forcing Americans "to look at sexual orientation in a more open

light." But Clinton made no mention of DeGeneres or her show, Ellen.

; ; Christian conservatives voiced disgust at what Andrea Sheldon,
executive

director of the Traditional Values Coalition, called "an American
president

kissing up to the wealthiest extremists of the amoral left."

; ; The Family Research Council's Robert Knight called Clinton's action "an
unfortunate misuse" of the presidency.

; ; The local chapter of ACT UP, an AIDS activism group, demonstrated
outside

the hotel against Clinton's appearance, angry that he had not done more to
fight the disease or promote gay rights.

Steering clear

; ; News photographers were advised in advance that there would be no
opportunity to snap President Clinton and TV actress Ellen DeGeneres,
right,
together.

LOS ANGELES TIMES, November 9, 1997

Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles, CA, 90053

(Fax 213-237-7679 or 213-237-5319)

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

Clinton, in Historic Speech, Urges Acceptance of Gays

By ELIZABETH SHOGREN, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON--President Clinton, making a precedent-setting appearance
before a gay advocacy organization, on Saturday urged the nation to accept

gays and lesbians as full-fledged members of the American community.

;;;;;"If we're ever going to build one America, then all Americans,

including

you and those you represent, have got to be a part of it," Clinton said in

his keynote address at a fund-raising gala for the nation's largest

homosexual political group, the Human Rights Campaign.

;;;;;Clinton, the first incumbent president to participate in an event of

this kind, repeated the words of President Truman, who stood in front of

the

Lincoln Memorial 50 years ago to endorse equal rights for African

Americans.

;;;;;The president quoted Truman, who declared at the time: "When I say

all

Americans, I mean all Americans." Clinton added his own postscript: "Well

my

friends, all Americans still means all Americans."

;;;;;Clinton said he had a message for the "people who aren't in this room

tonight who aren't comfortable with you and won't be comfortable with me

for

being here. . . . Gays and lesbians are their fellow Americans in every

sense

of the word."

; ; ; ; ;About 1,500 people at the black-tie affair greeted Clinton with an

ovation as he approached the podium. When he began to speak, his words

elicited whoops and cheers and whistles from the guests, some of whom stood

on chairs to snap photos. One man yelled out: "We love you, Bill."

; ; ; ; ;But Clinton's remarks were certain to offend those conservatives who

have criticized the president in recent days for his decision to address the group, and who have steadfastly opposed his efforts to advocate equal rights for gays and lesbians.

; ; ; ; As he spoke, Clinton was interrupted twice by AIDS activists who screamed out about people needlessly dying because of the lack of needle exchange programs for drug users, who are at high risk of becoming infected with the AIDS virus.

; ; ; ; When the crowd tried to quiet the hecklers, Clinton said: "I'd have been disappointed if you hadn't been here tonight. People with AIDS are dying.

But since I became president, we're spending 10 times as much" on AIDS research and treatment programs.

; ; ; ; With that, the president's words were drowned out by cheers. "I have friends alive today that wouldn't be alive if George Bush were still president," volunteered one guest, Terry Bean, an apartment developer and broker from Portland, Ore.

; ; ; ; Another prominent guest at Saturday's dinner was comedian Ellen DeGeneres, who was honored for her decision to become the first openly gay star of a televised sitcom, "Ellen." Last month, Vice President Al Gore was roundly criticized by conservatives for praising the episode of "Ellen" in which DeGeneres' character reveals she is a lesbian.

; ; ; ; DeGeneres told the group she thought she was "risking everything" when she went public with her sexuality, because for years she had told herself

that her career was more important than being open.

； ； ； ； "Ironically, as soon as I was honest, I became more famous," she said.

"So much for those people who said that it would ruin my career."

； ； ； ； Clinton's address reflected the growing acceptance of a group of Americans who had been kept on the fringes of the political establishment until recent years.

； ； ； ； Although Clinton had not spoken publicly to a gay group before Saturday,

he had met with gay and lesbian leaders in the White House and sent a videotaped message to the first gay and lesbian political convention in Chicago in the summer of 1996.

； ； ； ； But to many gays and lesbians, Clinton's participation in Saturday night's dinner was viewed as a significant, if incremental, sign of their increasing acceptance by American society.

； ； ； ； "It's very exciting," said Larry Buntin, 52, owner of a Minneapolis marketing firm. "It shows that as a society, we've moved 10 million miles."

； ； ； ； Still, some guests at the \$250-per-plate event expressed disappointment with Clinton's overall record on gay issues and his failure to speak to a group like theirs earlier.

； ； ； ； "I wish he had done it when he still had to run," said Pauline Smale, 46, who works at the Library of Congress. "But I guess we should be happy with baby steps. This is certainly a big baby step."

； ； ； ； Before the speech, the White House had tried to downplay Clinton's participation in the event.

； ； ； ； Instead of calling attention to the historic nature of the address,

White House spokesman Mike McCurry cited the dozens of other community outreach events attended by the president this year, including a recent appearance at the Italian American Foundation dinner.

 ; ; ; ; ;The president's record with gay rights groups has been mixed. He was embraced by the gay community during his 1992 campaign, particularly when he attended a large gay and lesbian fund-raising event held on his behalf.

 ; ; ; ; ;After becoming president, Clinton was praised for pledging to enact a measure to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military. But the initiative drew so much criticism that Clinton settled for a "don't ask, don't tell" policy, leaving many gays and lesbians feeling betrayed.

 ; ; ; ; ;Before Clinton assumed office, there were no openly homosexual presidential appointees serving in key government jobs. Clinton has subsequently named more than 100 gays and lesbians to senior posts.

 ; ; ; ; ;Last year, Clinton disappointed gays and lesbians by signing a measure to deny marriage rights for same-sex unions. But he supported a measure designed to protect gays and lesbians from workplace discrimination. The bill was defeated in the Senate by one vote, and is expected to come up in Congress again next year.

 ; ; ; ; ;Referring to the nondiscrimination measure during his speech, Clinton said that when gays and lesbians are denied equal employment opportunities, the country's fundamental "compact" is broken.

 ; ; ; ; ;"It is wrong and it should be illegal," he said. "Being gay, the last time I thought about it, seemed to have nothing to do with the ability to read a balance book, fix a broken bone or change a spark plug."

 ; ; ; ; ;As Clinton addressed the group, several dozen protesters gathered

outside, making speeches in the rain and holding up signs with such slogans as "Gore and Clinton are out of step with normal America" and "Ellen can change."

; ; ; ; ;"Tonight is a big deal, but he's been pushing their agenda for a long time," said Conrae Fortlage, of College Park, Md., a volunteer for Concerned

Women for America, a conservative family issues group. "The president is out of step because the majority of Americans believe in a traditional family and a healthy lifestyle."

; ; ; ; ;Ellen DeGeneres' mother, Betty DeGeneres, a spokeswoman for the Human Rights Campaign's effort to encourage gays and lesbians to come out, said she thought the president's decision to speak to the group was "marvelous."

; ; ; ; ;"But I think it's a shame that it has to be so newsworthy," said the 67-year-old retired speech pathologist who lives in Los Angeles, the group's

first non-gay spokesperson. "Hopefully the day will come when the president

will just come and give a sp===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
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SUBJECT: Various stories on Clinton's speech to HRC

TO: Paul J. Yandura (Paul J. Yandura@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

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

TO: Stuart D. Rosenstein (Stuart D. Rosenstein@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
WASHINGTON POST, November 9, 1997

Clinton Equates Gay Rights, Civil Rights

Making Historical Link, President Echoes Truman's Speech That Broke Color
Barrier

By Peter Baker

Washington Post Staff Writer

A half-century after President Harry S. Truman declared his commitment to civil rights before a largely black crowd gathered at the Lincoln Memorial, President Clinton last night pledged similar solidarity in the battle for equal rights for gay and lesbian Americans.

In the first speech by a sitting president to a gay rights organization, Clinton consciously echoed Truman's historic remarks to the NAACP in June 1947, which was the first time a president had addressed a black civil rights

organization. Truman that day vowed his support for equality for all Americans. "And when I say all Americans," Truman said, "I mean all Americans."

"Well, my friends," Clinton said last night, "all Americans still means all Americans."

By equating the gay rights movement with the struggle for racial equality,

Clinton risked igniting a backlash among conservatives and among some African

American leaders who resent such comparisons. The matter was so sensitive that it was the subject of internal discussion at the White House. Some of the president's senior aides said privately just before Clinton's arrival that Clinton had opted to take out the Truman reference to avoid sending the

wrong signal, a decision he apparently reversed at the last minute.

Clinton has long embraced much of the gay rights agenda, however, his speech to a \$300,000 fund-raiser sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign was seen as historic not so much for the sentiments it expressed but for the simple fact of its delivery.

The president used the opportunity to make a pitch for his embattled nominee for chief civil rights enforcer, Bill Lann Lee, and brushed off brief disruptions by AIDS activists complaining he had not done enough to fight the disease.

But the longest and most sustained of numerous standing ovations came as he vowed to continue lobbying for passage of the Employment

Non-Discrimination Act, which would bar workplace bias based on sexual orientation.

"Being gay, the last time I thought about it, seemed to have nothing to do with the ability to read a balance book, fix a broken bone or change a sparkplug," Clinton said to wild applause. Firing or refusing to hire people because they are gay is akin to discriminating based on race, religion or gender, he added. "It is wrong and it should be illegal."

Yet despite the enthusiastic response he received last night, the president's speech avoided stronger language that some aides and activists hoped he would use. Mindful of the firestorm that erupted recently when Vice President Gore praised actress Ellen DeGeneres for coming out on national television, White House officials decided against having Clinton express similar thoughts.

DeGeneres was on hand at the dinner -- along with her lover, Anne Heche, and mother, Betty DeGeneres -- to receive an award for her self-outing on ABC's "Ellen" last spring. Although he posed for a White House photographer's backstage shot with the actress, the White House did not release it; the president did not mention her in his speech and left before she was honored.

Officials denied that Clinton was trying to avoid controversy or that the speech was deliberately toned down. "It was never fired up," said one aide.

Outside the Grand Hyatt Hotel, scattered protesters made their contrary

views known. AIDS activists held signs saying "Expose Clinton." On another corner was a small cluster of people holding signs saying "God Hates Fags." And on a third corner was another group of conservatives who oppose homosexuality but rejected what they considered a hateful approach and instead held up signs such as "Ellen Can Change."

"If the American people are shocked by all of the same-sex smooching that is on television, wait until they see an American president kissing up to the wealthiest extremists of the amoral left," said Andrea Sheldon, executive director of the Traditional Values Coalition.

Inside the ballroom, three AIDS activists interrupted Clinton's speech with shouting. "People with AIDS are dying," one screamed.

The audience immediately cheered Clinton, who responded, "Wait, wait, wait. I'd have been disappointed if you hadn't been here tonight. People with AIDS are dying. But since I became president, we're spending 10 times as much" on research.

While Clinton raised the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which failed in the Senate last year 50 to 49, he did not mention another bill he signed, the Defense of Marriage Act aimed at preventing the legalization of same-sex unions.

Organizers of tonight's \$250-a-plate, black-tie dinner chose to overlook that as well, praising Clinton as the first president to embrace gay rights and politely calling on him to do more.

"Mr. President, we vitally need your help in getting the American people to realize that we as gay Americans do not seek special status or special benefits," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the 200,000-member Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay rights organization. "We seek only equality."

The attempt to link the gay rights cause with traditional civil rights extended beyond Clinton's speech. The other award winner tonight was the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, represented by Dorothy Height and Wade Henderson, who embraced protection for gays.

Yet none of the speakers publicly saw on any irony in the Truman comparison. Truman ultimately ended segregation in the U.S. military. Clinton, who promised in 1992 to end the ban on homosexuals serving openly in the armed forces, ultimately backed off that pledge and agreed to the "don't ask, don't tell" compromise that remains widely derided in the gay community.

NEW YORK TIMES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

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

Clinton Is Greeted Warmly as He Speaks to Gay Group

By JAMES BENNET

WASHINGTON - It is rare that a politician can draw an ovation with such a stock line as "I'm delighted to be here."

But, in becoming the first President to address a gay and lesbian organization with a speech here tonight, Bill Clinton was rewarded with thunderous applause for that simple statement.

And as he deftly turned aside occasional hecklers with enthusiastic assists from the crowd of 1,500, Mr. Clinton was also thunderously applauded upon restating his support for a law to protect homosexuals from discrimination in the workplace, and upon issuing a peppery defense of Bill Lann Lee, his contested nominee to be Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Speaking at a sold-out dinner held by the Human Rights Campaign, Mr. Clinton said that Mr. Lee "is being discriminated against," not because of his qualifications but "because some members of the Senate disagree with his views on affirmative action."

"Now," Mr. Clinton continued, "if I have to appoint a head of the office of civil rights who is against affirmative action, it's going to be vacant a long time."

The White House had played down Mr. Clinton's speech in advance, comparing his appearance at this dinner to his routine stops on the rubber-chicken

interest-group circuit. But Mr. Clinton did not make a routine speech tonight, instead calling for a redefinition "of the immutable ideals that have guided us from the beginning" to include acceptance of gays and lesbians.

Mr. Clinton has had deep differences with gays and lesbians, disappointing many at the beginning of his first term by backing down in efforts to fully integrate homosexuals into the military, and disappointing them again at the end of that term by signing legislation intended to prevent single-sex marriage.

But gays and lesbians overwhelmingly supported Mr. Clinton for re-election last year, and audience members tonight repeatedly called out "We love you, Bill."

Elizabeth Birch, the executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, said in introducing the President tonight: "Because our needs were almost as great as our expectations, it was inevitable that we - you and this community - would experience both shared disappointment and some disagreement. But Mr. President, you have played a brave and powerful and indispensable role in the march toward justice for us."

She called Mr. Clinton "the first President in history to stand up for our civil rights."

Other speakers hailed Mr. Clinton's presence here as a milestone in acceptance of gays and lesbians. "Tonight, because of the President's

address, we will be visible across America," declared Bob Baublitz, one of the organizers of the dinner.

But, in his speech, the President was cautious.

Mr. Clinton did not express an opinion about the fact that the television comedy series "Ellen" recently portrayed its lead character as coming out the closet, even though Ellen DeGeneres, the actress who portrayed Ellen, was in the audience to receive an award tonight.

Vice President Al Gore recently came under fire from conservatives for praising "Ellen" in a Hollywood speech.

Mr. Clinton did not appear publicly at the dinner with Ms. DeGeneres, who, like her character, has come out of the closet. The President left before Ms. DeGeneres accepted her award. He did pose backstage for a photograph with her and her girlfriend, Anne Heche, but White House officials were quick to point out that the photograph also included numerous officials from the Human Rights Campaign. The photograph will not be released publicly, the White House said.

In his speech, Mr. Clinton did not address the group's continuing complaints that gays are harassed in the military, or its objection to the legislation opposing gay marriage. Instead, he focused on his support for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which is the top legislative goal of the Human Rights Campaign. Polling has shown broad support for the notion of equal protection for homosexuals under the law.

Mr. Clinton said that "Being gay, the last time I thought had about it, seemed to have nothing to do with" the ability to "fix a broken bone or change a spark plug."

In his 23-minute speech, Mr. Clinton faced at least three hecklers. The first, a man, cried out "People with AIDS are dying!" The crowd shushed him, but Mr. Clinton said, "People with AIDS are dying, but since I became President, we're spending ten times as much" combatting the disease.

BOSTON GLOBE, November 9, 1997

<http://www.boston.com/globe>

President takes stand on gay rights

In speech, promotes equality as part of 'one America' push

By Ann Scales, Globe Staff

WASHINGTON - President Clinton, in a historic and symbolic gesture to gays and lesbians, said last night that America must abandon its old prejudices and become tolerant of sexual differences if it is truly to become one nation.

"We all know that there is continuing discrimination against gays and lesbians. But we also know that if we're ever going to build one America,

then all Americans, including you and those whom you represent, have go to be a part of it," Clinton said during a speech to the Human Rights Campaign's national dinner.

His speech to the nation's largest gay and lesbian political organization, with an estimated 200,000 members, marked the first time a sitting US president has addressed a gay and lesbian event.

It was considered a turning point not only in his temperamental relationship with America's gay and lesbian community, but also in his own efforts to make the cause of gay equality part of his presidential legacy.

Interrupted by cheers and jeers, Clinton compared himself to President Harry S. Truman taking a stand against segregation 50 years ago.

"Harry Truman stood before the Lincoln Memorial and said, 'It is more important today than ever to ensure that all Americans enjoy the rights of freedom and equality.' When I say all Americans, I mean all Americans," he said.

Clinton's speech drew much less protest than had been expected. Only a handful of Christian conservatives braved the rain to protest the speech outside a downtown hotel here. Three AIDS activists inside the ballroom interrupted him by shouting for more money to help fund research for AIDS and for HIV, the virus that causes the illness, and for more funding for needle exchange programs. All were escorted out of the dinner.

More frequent interruptions came from guests who shouted, "We love you, Bill" and "Thank you, Bill." Many at the event, for which more than 1,500

people paid \$250 each to attend, took pictures.

After his speech, Clinton shook hands with several guests across a rope line. One man handed him a white rose, and the two embraced.

In a line that sent the audience to its feet for one of several ovations,

Clinton said: "Being gay, the last time I thought about it, seemed to have nothing to do with the ability to read a balance book, fix a broken bone, or change a spark plug."

In his speech, Clinton linked the fight by gays and lesbians against discrimination with the more overarching struggle for equality, in advance of tomorrow's White House conference on hate crimes.

Clinton also reiterated his support for the group's highest legislative priority - ending workplace discrimination - and promoted his nominee for assistant attorney general for civil rights. Los Angeles attorney Bill Lann Lee is one vote short of having his nomination forwarded to the full Senate for the post to succeed Boston lawyer Deval L. Patrick.

While the White House had played down the significance of Clinton's appearance all week by framing it in the context of the president's yearlong outreach effort to diverse communities, gays and lesbians heralded it as a watershed moment. Several administration aides and politicians, including Representative William Delahunt of Boston, were in attendance.

And even gays and lesbians who have clashed publicly with Clinton seemed ready to forgive him.

"Another glass ceiling has been broken," David B. Mixner, a former

adviser to Clinton on gay issues, said before the dinner. "This is something I've dreamed of my whole life."

Mixner, who parted company with the Clinton administration over the issue of gays in the military, and who was arrested in a 1993 protest outside the White House, has come to symbolize the administration's stormy relationship with gays.

Representative Barney Frank, an openly gay Democrat from Newton, called the speech "another big step on Bill Clinton's part in helping fight homophobia," and added, "It's an enormously important statement."

Clinton's appearance came just weeks after Vice President Al Gore praised the ABC television series "Ellen" during a speech to Hollywood broadcasters. Gore said Ellen DeGeneres's lesbian character had forced Americans "to look at sexual orientation in a more open light."

DeGeneres was the star attraction at last night's black-tie dinner, along with her partner, actress Anne Heche. DeGeneres received the organization's Civil Rights Award. After his speech, Clinton greeted both women backstage.

Before his speech, Elizabeth Birch, the Human Rights Campaign's executive director, said in an interview, "The fact is that if you compare President Clinton to any other leader in the history of this country, his record is extraordinary."

She ticked off a list, including his nomination of San Francisco philanthropist James Hormel to be ambassador to Luxembourg. If confirmed,

Hormel would be the first openly gay US ambassador.

Birch also credited Clinton with appointing more than 100 openly gay people to administration jobs; ordering federal agencies to implement nondiscrimination policies; issuing an executive order mandating that gays and lesbians no longer be considered a security risk; changing US policy to grant political asylum to people who fear prosecution in their home countries because of their sexual orientation; and increasing funding for the treatment and research of AIDS and HIV.

Even so, Birch conceded that Clinton's stance on gay marriages and his embrace of the "don't ask, don't tell" military policy "were painful moments, that have clouded his achievements."

Rick Rosendall, president of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance in Washington, said, "We deserve more than lip service, photo ops, and patronage jobs for his gay supporters."

Mixner compared the relationship between Clinton and gays to his relationship with labor unions by saying that at times it has been strained but it remains mostly intact. "As politically mature people, we ought to be able to disagree vigorously on some very key issues, and where there is strength and commonality, to work closely together."

For antigay groups, however, Clinton's appearance is tantamount to an endorsement of a lifestyle with which they disagree.

"It's a disgrace to use the bully pulpit to promote this behavior," said

Kristin Hansen, a spokeswoman for the conservative Family Research Council.

"It's a payoff for the homosexual lobby for the millions they have given him."

Arne Owens, communications director for the Christian Coalition, said Clinton's relationship with the gay community dates back to the 1992 presidential race, when he campaigned to lift the ban on gays in the military.

"But, this is very clearly an effort to raise money for the Democratic Party and to help Vice President Gore as he positions himself for a run in 2000," Owens said.

Birch has estimated that gay donors independently gave \$3.2 million to Democrats last year. The campaign itself wields the power of one of the larger political action committees, which spread \$1.1 million among almost 200 candidates.

Barney Frank said it hardly matters what conservative Christians think about Clinton's speaking to the Human Rights Campaign.

"People who are significantly motivated by their opposition to gays and lesbians being treated fairly never voted for Bill Clinton and are not going to vote for Al Gore," Frank said.

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, November 9, 1997

<http://www.phillynews.com>

Clinton speaks at gay-rights dinner

He became the first president to address such an organization. Ellen DeGeneres was honored.

By Carol Rosenberg

INQUIRER WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON -- President Clinton burst a political taboo last night, addressing a \$500-a-couple homosexual-rights benefit and telling a black-tie crowd of gays and lesbians, "I am delighted to be here."

No sitting president has ever before spoken to a gay civil rights group. The affair benefited the Human Rights Campaign, which lobbies against discrimination against homosexuals in the workplace and in favor of more funding for AIDS research.

"I want us to come together across all our lines of differences into one America. That is my vision," said the President, who received a three-minute standing ovation and cheers.

The crowd consisted mostly of same-sex couples, including a few men in dress military uniforms. Some guests sported red sequined gowns, and at least one diner was wearing black leather trousers, but attire tended toward trademark Washington gala black gowns and tuxedos.

"We all know there is continuing discrimination against gays and lesbians," the President told the crowd. "But we also know that if we are ever going to build one America, then all Americans -- including you and

those you represent -- have got to be a part of it.

"Being gay last time I thought about it had nothing to do with being able

to balance a book, fix a broken bone or change a spark plug," he said, throwing support behind workplace anti-discrimination legislation.

'Absolutely'

"What counts is energy and honesty and talent. No arbitrary distinction should bar the way," Clinton said.

"When we deny opportunity because of ancestry or religion, race or gender, disability or sexual orientation, we break the compact. It is wrong and it should be illegal.

"Should we change the law? You bet. Should we keep fighting discrimination? Absolutely," Clinton said. "But we have to broaden the imagination of America. We are redefining in practical terms the immutable ideals that have guided us from the beginning."

The 200,000-member, 17-year-old organization bestowed its National Civil Rights Award on Ellen DeGeneres, who last spring revealed that she and her sitcom character, Ellen, were lesbians. DeGeneres, her partner, actress Anne Heche, and her mother met with the President backstage prior to his speaking.

A nervous DeGeneres told reporters before the dinner that the event was "historic."

Her show created controversy again last month when Vice President Gore praised her character for causing Americans to face sexual orientation "in

a

more open light," drawing the ire of anti-gay activists.

Few demonstrators

Although widely publicized in advance, the affair at a downtown hotel drew

fewer than 100 demonstrators. While Clinton slipped in a side entrance, protesters stood on street corners opposite the hotel waving placards that read, "Fags Doom Nations," "Homosexuality is not a family value," and "Martin

Luther King Jr. Never Said Homosexuality Was a Civil Right."

Clinton has not been unambiguously supportive of homosexual equality. After pledging to rid the U.S. military of its sexual-preference prejudice during his first campaign, he met resistance from the Pentagon and settled for a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. He also opposes same-sex marriages.

Several members of ACT-UP also disrupted the speech inside the ballroom. One shouted, "People are dying of AIDS," to the boos and hisses of the black-tie crowd.

Clinton laughed off the disruption. "This, too, is part of what makes America great," he said. "Nobody has to be afraid when he or she screams at the President."

Administration officials sought to downplay the significance of the event, saying Clinton reaches out to all groups to break down barriers in America. Spokesmen called his speech a fitting prelude to a White House conference on hate crimes, which opens tomorrow.

Human Rights Campaign spokeswoman Kim Mills said the event drew heterosexual as well as homosexual supporters from across the nation. With

word that the President had been invited, it sold out in three days.

This article contains information from the Associated Press.

DETROIT NEWS

November 9, 1997

Gays applaud Clinton speech

From Detroit News wire reports

WASHINGTON -- Calling for reconciliation of differences that divide Americans, Clinton on Saturday become the first sitting president to address a gay rights organization.

But outside the downtown hotel where the Human Rights Campaign held its \$250-a-person black-tie dinner fund-raiser, protesters highlighted Clinton's checkered record on homosexual issues and registered the dismay of family values groups.

Inside, Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign -- the largest U.S. gay rights organization, with 200,000 members -- and 1,500 guests welcomed Clinton with a standing ovation and punctuated his

speech with applause.

"President Clinton's appearance here tonight is a powerful affirmation of the shared dream of equality for all Americans," Birch said.

Clinton told the audience his vision was of one America in which "we come together across all our lines of difference."

"We also know if we're ever going to build one America, you and those you represent have got to be a part of it," he said. "Being gay, the last time I looked, had nothing to do with reading a balance book, fixing a broken bone or changing a spark plug."

Clinton's presence at the event was seen as validating the political power of the gay rights movement, once marginalized in U.S. society.

He avoided the controversy that greeted Vice-President Al Gore's praise last month of comedian Ellen DeGeneres for revealing her sexual orientation in a coming-out episode of her ABC television show.

Gore had lauded the lesbian actress, who received an award at Saturday's dinner, for forcing Americans "to look at sexual orientation in a more open light." But Clinton made no mention of DeGeneres or her show, Ellen.

Christian conservatives voiced disgust at what Andrea Sheldon, executive director of the Traditional Values Coalition, called "an American president kissing up to the wealthiest extremists of the amoral left."

The Family Research Council's Robert Knight called Clinton's action
"an
unfortunate misuse" of the presidency.

The local chapter of ACT UP, an AIDS activism group, demonstrated
outside
the hotel against Clinton's appearance, angry that he had not done more to
fight the disease or promote gay rights.

Steering clear

News photographers were advised in advance that there would be no
opportunity to snap President Clinton and TV actress Ellen DeGeneres,
right,
together.

LOS ANGELES TIMES, November 9, 1997

<http://www.latimes.com>

Clinton, in Historic Speech, Urges Acceptance of Gays

By ELIZABETH SHOGREN, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON--President Clinton, making a precedent-setting appearance
before a gay advocacy organization, on Saturday urged the nation to accept
gays and lesbians as full-fledged members of the American community.

"If we're ever going to build one America, then all Americans,
including

you and those you represent, have got to be a part of it," Clinton said in his keynote address at a fund-raising gala for the nation's largest homosexual political group, the Human Rights Campaign.

Clinton, the first incumbent president to participate in an event of this kind, repeated the words of President Truman, who stood in front of the Lincoln Memorial 50 years ago to endorse equal rights for African Americans.

The president quoted Truman, who declared at the time: "When I say all Americans, I mean all Americans." Clinton added his own postscript: "Well my friends, all Americans still means all Americans."

Clinton said he had a message for the "people who aren't in this room tonight who aren't comfortable with you and won't be comfortable with me for being here. . . . Gays and lesbians are their fellow Americans in every sense of the word."

About 1,500 people at the black-tie affair greeted Clinton with an ovation as he approached the podium. When he began to speak, his words elicited whoops and cheers and whistles from the guests, some of whom stood on chairs to snap photos. One man yelled out: "We love you, Bill."

But Clinton's remarks were certain to offend those conservatives who have criticized the president in recent days for his decision to address the group, and who have steadfastly opposed his efforts to advocate equal rights

for gays and lesbians.

As he spoke, Clinton was interrupted twice by AIDS activists who screamed out about people needlessly dying because of the lack of needle exchange programs for drug users, who are at high risk of becoming infected with the AIDS virus.

When the crowd tried to quiet the hecklers, Clinton said: "I'd have been disappointed if you hadn't been here tonight. People with AIDS are dying. But since I became president, we're spending 10 times as much" on AIDS research and treatment programs.

With that, the president's words were drowned out by cheers. "I have friends alive today that wouldn't be alive if George Bush were still president," volunteered one guest, Terry Bean, an apartment developer and broker from Portland, Ore.

Another prominent guest at Saturday's dinner was comedian Ellen DeGeneres, who was honored for her decision to become the first openly gay star of a televised sitcom, "Ellen." Last month, Vice President Al Gore was roundly criticized by conservatives for praising the episode of "Ellen" in which DeGeneres' character reveals she is a lesbian.

DeGeneres told the group she thought she was "risking everything" when she went public with her sexuality, because for years she had told herself that her career was more important than being open.

"Ironically, as soon as I was honest, I became more famous," she said. "So much for those people who said that it would ruin my career."

Clinton's address reflected the growing acceptance of a group of

Americans who had been kept on the fringes of the political establishment until recent years.

Although Clinton had not spoken publicly to a gay group before Saturday, he had met with gay and lesbian leaders in the White House and sent a videotaped message to the first gay and lesbian political convention in Chicago in the summer of 1996.

But to many gays and lesbians, Clinton's participation in Saturday night's dinner was viewed as a significant, if incremental, sign of their increasing acceptance by American society.

"It's very exciting," said Larry Buntin, 52, owner of a Minneapolis marketing firm. "It shows that as a society, we've moved 10 million miles."

Still, some guests at the \$250-per-plate event expressed disappointment with Clinton's overall record on gay issues and his failure to speak to a group like theirs earlier.

"I wish he had done it when he still had to run," said Pauline Smale, 46, who works at the Library of Congress. "But I guess we should be happy with baby steps. This is certainly a big baby step."

Before the speech, the White House had tried to downplay Clinton's participation in the event.

Instead of calling attention to the historic nature of the address, White House spokesman Mike McCurry cited the dozens of other community outreach events attended by the president this year, including a recent appearance at the Italian American Foundation dinner.

The president's record with gay rights groups has been mixed. He was embraced by the gay community during his 1992 campaign, particularly when

he
attended a large gay and lesbian fund-raising event held on his behalf.

After becoming president, Clinton was praised for pledging to enact a measure to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military. But the initiative drew so much criticism that Clinton settled for a "don't ask, don't tell" policy, leaving many gays and lesbians feeling betrayed.

Before Clinton assumed office, there were no openly homosexual presidential appointees serving in key government jobs. Clinton has subsequently named more than 100 gays and lesbians to senior posts.

Last year, Clinton disappointed gays and lesbians by signing a measure to deny marriage rights for same-sex unions. But he supported a measure designed to protect gays and lesbians from workplace discrimination. The bill
was defeated in the Senate by one vote, and is expected to come up in Congress again next year.

Referring to the nondiscrimination measure during his speech, Clinton said that when gays and lesbians are denied equal employment opportunities, the country's fundamental "compact" is broken.

"It is wrong and it should be illegal," he said. "Being gay, the last time I thought about it, seemed to have nothing to do with the ability to read a balance book, fix a broken bone or change a spark plug."

As Clinton addressed the group, several dozen protesters gathered outside, making speeches in the rain and holding up signs with such slogans as "Gore and Clinton are out of step with normal America" and "Ellen can change."

"Tonight is a big deal, but he's been pushing their agenda for a long time," said Conrae Fortlage, of College Park, Md., a volunteer for

Concerned

Women for America, a conservative family issues group. "The president is out of step because the majority of Americans believe in a traditional family and a healthy lifestyle."

Ellen DeGeneres' mother, Betty DeGeneres, a spokeswoman for the Human Rights Campaign's effort to encourage gays and lesbians to come out, said she thought the president's decision to speak to the group was "marvelous."

"But I think it's a shame that it has to be so newsworthy," said the 67-year-old retired speech pathologist who lives in Los Angeles, the group's first non-gay spokesperson. "Hopefully the day will come when the president will just come and give a speech to this group of Americans--who are wonderful, some of our best and brightest--without any particular notice."

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

Sunday, November 9, 1997

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

Clinton speaks at gay fund-raiser in presidential first

By Sandra Sobieraj ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - In a nod to the budding political clout of the gay-rights movement, President Clinton last night addressed a fund-raiser for the nation's largest gay and lesbian group.

"We have to broaden the imagination of America," he said.

Clinton's sold-out dinner speech to the Human Rights Campaign, which was greeted by a sustained standing ovation inside and pickets outside, made him the first sitting president to publicly address a gay and lesbian civil rights organization.

Keeping to relatively noncontroversial territory, he steered clear of TV's "Ellen," being honored by the group. Instead, he urged Congress to pass legislation protecting homosexuals from job discrimination and confirm Bill Lann Lee, his nominee as assistant attorney general for civil rights.

"What counts is energy and honesty and talent. No arbitrary distinction should bar the way," Clinton said.

"When we deny opportunity because of ancestry or religion, race or gender, disability or sexual orientation, we break the compact. It is wrong and it should be illegal."

He told the audience of about 1,500 that people who "aren't comfortable yet with you" need to learn to see lesbians and gays as fellow Americans committed to freedom and equality.

"Should we change the law? You bet. Should we keep fighting discrimination? Absolutely," Clinton said. "But we have to broaden the imagination of America. We are redefining in practical terms the immutable ideals that have guided us from the beginning."

White House officials billed the event as a "community outreach" gesture not unlike his recent participation in the National Italian American Foundation dinner.

"I would just want to put this in the context of all the work the president has done this year to reach out to a variety of communities and bring people together so they can think about what they share in common, as one America," said White House press secretary Mike McCurry.

Elizabeth Birch, executive director of Human Rights Campaign, called Clinton's record "completely in sync" with her group's nondiscrimination agenda.

Thanking him for the first-ever White House conference on hate crimes to be held tomorrow, Birch added, "You can be absolutely sure, Mr. President, we will ask you to do more."

Christian conservatives voiced disgust at what Andrea Sheldon, executive director of the Traditional Values Coalition, called "an American president kissing up to the wealthiest extremists of the amoral left."

The other featured guest at the black-tie dinner, expected to raise

\$300,000 for the campaign's political activities, was TV actress Ellen DeGeneres, who was accompanied by her partner, Anne Heche.

With great fanfare, DeGeneres revealed last spring that both she and her title character on the ABC sitcom "Ellen" are gay.

Clinton left the dinner before its program turned to DeGeneres, who, along with her mother and Heche, met the president backstage and out of view. News photographers were advised that there would be no opportunity to snap Clinton and DeGeneres together.

Human Rights Campaign's Birch claimed an independent exit poll showed that votes from self-identified homosexual voters amounted to 7 percent of Clinton's total support in 1996.

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ABC NEWS

Sunday, November 9, 1997

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

Clinton Calls for Gay Rights

Group's Leader Says President Is in Line With Most Americans

"Our ideals were never meant to be frozen in stone or time." -President

Clinton

By David Phinney ABCNEWS.com

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9 - President Clinton's support for equal rights for gay and lesbians shows that he is in synch with most Americans, said Elizabeth Birch, executive director for the Human Rights Campaign Fund. And his appearance at the group's fund-raising gala proves it, she said.

"The president in speaking at this dinner is very much in synch with

the American people," said Birch on ABCNEWS' This Week. "Over 80 percent of Americans do not want to see gay Americans discriminated against particularly in the workplace and 68 percent support the bill the president talked about at length last night, the Employment Nondiscrimination Act."

Empower America co-chair Bill Bennett said the president avoided the most important issue. "The enormous issue, of course, confronting gay America is not discrimination, but devastation," Bennett said. "It would have been good for the president to come before that audience last night and say, 'look, the promiscuous lifestyle of homosexual men is devastating the homosexual community.'"

Becoming the first U.S. president to address a gay rights organization, Clinton called upon Americans to support equal rights for gays and lesbians.

"We all know that sexual orientation has nothing to do with balancing a book, fixing a broken bone or changing a spark plug. What counts is energy, honesty and talent. No arbitrary distinction should bar the way." Clinton told an enthusiastic crowd of 1,500 at the black-tie fund-raising gala held Saturday in his honor and that of ABC actress Ellen DeGeneres, who recently made headlines by revealing that she is a lesbian on the sitcom, Ellen.

Clinton's comments met with thunderous applause when he urged passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a bill that seeks to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The measure nearly passed the Senate last year with a vote of 49 to 51.

Such legislation follows a tradition of civil rights struggle that

has coursed through all of the country's history, Clinton said. The Civil War, the women's suffrage movement and the civil rights movement of the 1960s were all important chapters in extending basic rights and liberties to all Americans.

Gay Rights Are Next Now, he said, it is time to end discrimination against gays and lesbians.

"Our ideals were never meant to be frozen in stone or time," he said.

"We have always worked toward higher and higher definitions of equality."

Clinton has spoken in favor of civil rights of gays and lesbians since he first took office in 1993, but this sold-out dinner marked the first time that any sitting president stepped forward to take part in an event hosted by and for gays.

That gesture alone is worthy of appreciation, said Birch. But she also praised the president for his efforts in helping advance the concerns of gays and lesbians.

"You have played a brave and powerful and indispensable role in the march toward justice," she said. "We thank you not only for being here tonight, but for being the first president in history to stand up for our civil rights."

Birch singled out the president's consistent push to increase federal funding in the war against AIDS as well as his support for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. She also applauded Clinton for appointing a record number of openly-gay people to high levels in his administration.

White House Plays it Low The White House attempted to play down the \$250-a-plate gala and claimed that the fund-raiser represents an ongoing

effort to reach out to all Americans.

After all, said White House spokesman Mike McCurry, the event differs little from Clinton's recent appearance at an Italian-American dinner.

"The president is hoping to bring people from different walks of life together so we can tackle the common problems that we face," McCurry said Thursday. "I think he is not hoping to make history."

But making history may be unavoidable.

While gay groups herald the appearance as a sign of their growing political clout and support, social conservatives outside the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C., picketed the event.

Others condemned the president and accused him of pandering to a special-interest group that threatens the well-being of impressionable young Americans.

The "endorsement of Hollywood-style homosexual activism is likely to send a deadly signal to many young people, who are sexually vulnerable," said Robert Knight of the conservative Family Research Council in Washington, D.C. "To use the bully pulpit to glamorize behavior that offends the values of millions of Americans ... is a disservice."

Clinton Retorts Clinton anticipated his critics.

"Some people will not be comfortable with you and with me being here tonight ... but I hope we work to embrace people to overcome their fears," he said.

Invoking the words of American poet Walt Whitman, Clinton said that "Our greatest strength is in embracing all."

That, said Clinton, "is a good obligation."

Numerous members of Congress also attended the elegant dinner, as did

several White House officials, including chief-of-staff Erskin Bowles, AIDS czar Sandra Thurman and communications director Ann Lewis.

Several people stood up during Clinton's speech to protest the spread of AIDS and encourage the president's support of needle-exchange programs.

Ellen Attends With Companion DeGeneres, who revealed her sexual orientation during a highly-promoted and controversial episode of her ABC television sitcom Ellen, was honored at the event for what was called her "historic coming out." DeGeneres attended with her companion, Anne Heche.

In her speech, DeGeneres said it felt strange to be standing on the podium after having dodged the question of her sexuality for years in interviews before she came out.

"My sexuality is as much a part of me as my skin color," she said.

Ellen's mother, Betty DeGeneres, was named as the 1997-1998 "coming out" spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign.

Clinton Not All That Was Hoped Despite Clinton's avowed support of gay rights, many gay activists acknowledge that his words have not always translated into substantive action.

During the 1992 presidential campaign, Clinton urged that American homosexuals be permitted to openly serve in the U.S. military, but after a contentious battle with conservatives in Congress and at the Pentagon, the president settled for a policy known as "don't ask, don't tell."

During the 1996 election year fervor, the president also signed into law legislation that bars federal recognition of same-sex marriages.

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