

Give the People Light and they will find their own way.

▼ The Wisconsin Light

Gay Republicans Hold National Convention As Dole Returns Money

Cincinnati—A Gay Republican organization decided to embrace rather than boycott this city that has been a battleground over Gay civil rights.

The Log Cabin Federation held its three-day national convention beginning Friday, August 25, at a downtown hotel.

"Coming to Cincinnati is absolutely the right thing to do," Abner Mason, president of the federation, said. "Let's sit down and talk. Let's sit down and figure out what we have in common and what we differ on, and how we can live with that."

Richard Tafel, the group's executive director, told a community forum that the organization's mission is "education, not confrontation."

Some Gay activists urged an economic boycott of Cincinnati after voters in 1993 amended the city charter to forbid enactment or enforcement of any laws based on sexual orientation. The vote rescinded part of a 1992 human-rights ordinance that forbade discrimination against Gay people in housing, employment and public accommodations.

At least three organizations canceled conventions in Cincinnati in response to the charter amendment. A federal court battle over the 1993 ballot initiative could end up in the U.S. Supreme Court.

"It's very easy to boycott a city," said Tafel, a Baptist minister who graduated from Harvard Divinity School. "It's high moral ground ... but it does not move us forward. All we're saying is, we want to be treated fairly."

Phil Burress, chairman of Equal Rights, Not Special Rights, the coalition that backed the 1993 charter amendment, said Wednesday, August 23, he had not spoken with the Log Cabin Republicans.

Burress said Gays in Cincinnati are subject to the same treatment as other groups; the 1993 vote was about repealing special rights for "those people," he said.

Log Cabin delegates planned to talk with Cincinnati politicians, business executives and religious leaders who are both for and against Gay civil rights.

The Washington-based federation was founded in 1978 in the San Francisco area. Its membership grew in 1992 after GOP presidential candidate Pat Buchanan criticized gays as contributing to moral decline in America, Tafel said.

The federation has about 10,000 members and 43 chapters in 35 states.

Sen. Dole Returns Log Cabin Money

It was while they were in convention that Log Cabin Republicans heard that Sen. Robert

TURN TO LOG CABIN, PAGE 2

10,000 Pre-Register for AIDS Walk Wisconsin

VP Al Gore and Tipper Gore Help Generate Record Turnout



Romantic Comedy—Steven Weber (l) who stars as the title character in the film "Jeffrey," finally meets "Mr. Right," Michael T. Weiss (Steve). Based on the hit Broadway play by Paul Rudnick, the film opens September 15 at Milwaukee's Downer Theatre.

Milwaukee—With more than two weeks yet to go before the September 17 AIDS Walk Wisconsin, registrations for the huge AIDS event are running twice as high as last year.

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) reports that with just over 10,000 people having pre-registered, a record crowd that could reach as high as 15,000 will be on hand for the Sixth Annual AIDS Walk.

A major reason for the increasing support for the AIDS Walk this year is the unique leadership given by its honorary chairs Vice President Al Gore and Tipper Gore.

"I'm looking forward to being at AIDS Walk Wisconsin and sharing the spirit of compassion and commitment with the concerned citizens who will be part of this important day," Tipper Gore told *Wisconsin Light*.

"I will be in Milwaukee on September 17, to do my part to call attention to AIDS as an epidemic that touches people everywhere," Gore continued. "The Midwest is no exception. This tragic disease knows no geographic bounds and it affects us all."

"Registrations are double what they were a year ago and the number of teams are at least three times higher," said ARCW Executive Director Doug Nelson.

"The AIDS Walk this year could well become Wisconsin's largest fund-raising event for any cause," Nelson said. "We're thrilled that it's AIDS that is generating such a huge, positive response from the community," Nelson said.

Nelson reported that over 800 teams are now registered with from two to over 200 members per team.

"This year we are seeing intense competition among teams for the top prizes," Nelson said. "There are teams from big corporations, health care systems, Gay and Lesbian bars, and families, all of which are working hard to get pledges and raise money."

Nelson reported that such team building is the strategy that has made AIDS walks in large cities around the country generate millions of dollars.

"Especially in Milwaukee the number of teams have skyrocketed this year, which is a great sign that we are going to raise record amounts of funds," Nelson said.

Nelson praised Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian bars for their support of the Walk.

"The owners and the employees of the bars have been terrific in helping us rally support for the Walk," Nelson said. "We have never had this much support before we are very grateful."

Al and Tipper Gore Support Helps

Headlining this year's Walk as Honorary Chairs are Vice President Al Gore and Tipper Gore.

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Federal Judge Won't Overrule Wisconsin High Court in Lesbian Visitation Suit

Madison—A Madison Lesbian trying to prevent her former partner from getting child-visitation rights appears to have lost a bid to have a federal judge intervene in the matter.

U.S. District Judge John Shabaz refused Wednesday, August 23, to block the visitation, saying he most likely has no authority to rule unconstitutional a landmark Wisconsin Supreme Court decision in the case last June.

Shabaz, declining to take any immediate action, said he expected to issue his final decision within a week.

The Supreme Court's 4-3 decision said Gays and Lesbians have the right to seek the visitation rights.

As reported in *Light*, the case involves Elsbeth Knott, who had a child through artificial insemination in December 1988.

After she and her partner, Sandy Holtzman, ended their 10-year relationship in 1993, Knott told Holtzman she could no longer see the child, but Holtzman has fought to be granted visitation rights, contending she helped raise the boy as a son.

Knott's lawyer, Charles Schutze, told Shabaz that the state high court had acted as a legislature in interfering with Knott's constitutional right to raise her child as she sees fit.

"This case is a prime example of why cre-

ating law should be left to the Legislature and not to the Wisconsin Supreme Court," Schutze wrote in his court brief.

Schutze urged Shabaz to bar Dane County Circuit Judge George Northrup from granting visitation rights to Holtzman.

But Holtzman's lawyer, Judith Sperling Newton, and assistant attorney general James McDermott argued that Knott had to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court if she wanted to contest the Wisconsin Supreme Court decision.

Shabaz said he was almost certain that Newton and McDermott were right.

Schutze wouldn't say whether he plans to appeal the state high court decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Debate Over Cross-Species Transplants Enters The AIDS Arena

San Antonio, TX—Residents of the world's largest baboon colony here have donated a heart and two livers to humans in the past. Now, researchers and doctors will try bone marrow.

A 7-year-old baboon was picked up by University of Pittsburgh officials in the third week in August from the Southwest Center for Biomedical Research to extract its bone marrow. The marrow, material in bones that produces blood, is intended for a Jeff Getty, 38, an AIDS patient from Oakland, California.

The experimental procedure, formulated by Pittsburgh researchers, was tried in 1992 on a 56-year-old AIDS patient, but the graft didn't take and the man died a few weeks later.

The upcoming attempt was approved in late June of this year by a federal advisory panel that said it wanted to see whether the baboon's marrow cells, which naturally resist the AIDS virus, will merge with the human cells to form a hybrid immune system that could fight off the disease.

The operation could take place as soon as late September in San Francisco.

"I think even though most of the panelists had strong reservations and felt it shouldn't go forward in general, they felt that since it was only one patient and his family was there, then

what the heck," said panelist Jonathan Allen. "My concern is, once you've allowed one, you've essentially opened the door."

Allen is one of the nation's most vocal critics of cross-species transplants. He believes AIDS itself was at some point passed from monkeys to humans, he said, and fears further maladies via such tissue transplants.

Such a fear prompted foundation officials to search for a "cleaner" baboon than the two already in Pittsburgh and approved for use. The Olive baboon awaiting the trip north has fewer simian viruses than most of the group's 3,065 baboons, said foundation spokesman Stacy Maloney.

He said the animal, which likely will die from the procedure, will have to be approved by the federal government for the operation in San Francisco.

"Hopefully (the marrow) will boost his immune system," Maloney said. "In theory it's interesting, but there's no data to support it. You can liken this to frontier medicine."

The foundation, which began in 1958, has experience in using baboons for human tissue donations. A month-old California infant dubbed Baby Fae held the world's attention 11

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VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE & TIPPER GORE
HONORARY CHAIRS

AIDS WALK WISCONSIN
September 17, 1995

To register, call **1-800-348-WALK**
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