

an unborn child has a "fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed." The platform obligates the Republican Party to work for passage of a constitutional amendment outlawing abortion and granting fetuses all the protections granted to U.S. citizens.

Bob Dole, the presumptive Republican presidential candidate, finds himself caught between two seemingly unreconcilable factions of his own party. Several Republican governors, among them California's Pete Wilson, New York's George Pataki and New Jersey's Christine Todd Whitman, are leading the battle to eliminate the anti-abortion plank, or, at the very least, moderate the language.

The opposing side is led by Pat Buchanan, who has pulled together a coalition of right-wing Christian groups who insist that not a single word of the platform plank be changed.

If a compromise cannot be reached, Dole faces the prospect of a potentially vicious and damaging fight on the convention floor.



In a rare show of anger, Rep. Steve Gunderson (R-Wis.), the only openly gay Republican in Congress, accused Rep. Bob Dornan (R-Calif.) of attempting to smear the lesbian and gay community by spreading false information.



Dornan, a longtime anti-gay proponent, placed a news article in the May 9 *Congressional Record*, the daily transcript of House and Senate proceedings, that claimed to describe a dance

party held at the federally owned Mellon Auditorium during a series of AIDS fund-raisers in April. The article alleges that public nudity, illicit sexual activity and illegal drug use occurred at the dance.

Dornan also sent copies of the article, written by freelance reporter Marc Morano, to other members of the House of Representatives.

According to Gunderson no complaints of any such illegal activity were received by event security.

#### GEORGIA

Worried that the Olympic Torch Run would bypass rural Wayne County, commissioners in this southeast Georgia county voted May 6 to rescind their 2-year-old anti-gay resolution, according to the Associated Press. The resolution, which condemned gay lifestyles as illegal and "incompatible" with community standards, was repealed by a 3-2 vote.

#### ILLINOIS

Yet another city in the Land of Lincoln has rejected a proposed ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation, reports *The Chicago Tribune*. Echoing a move made just a few months ago by nearby Bloomington, the city council of Normal, Ill., voted against the proposal.

Council members voting against the measure claimed that gay men and lesbians are protected under existing laws. They also claimed that there had not been many complaints of abuse from gay men and lesbians in Normal.

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE

The balance of power has shifted on the Merrimack school board with the May election of moderate Rosemarie Rung. The election puts moderates in control of the school board and raises hopes that the controversial anti-gay policy

enacted by the previous board will be rescinded.

The policy, which forbids positive discussion of homosexuality in the classroom and bans from the schools anything seen as "encouraging or supporting homosexuality as a positive lifestyle alternative," has sharply divided the town. A group of parents and teachers have filed a lawsuit against the school district to overturn the anti-gay measure.

#### NEW YORK

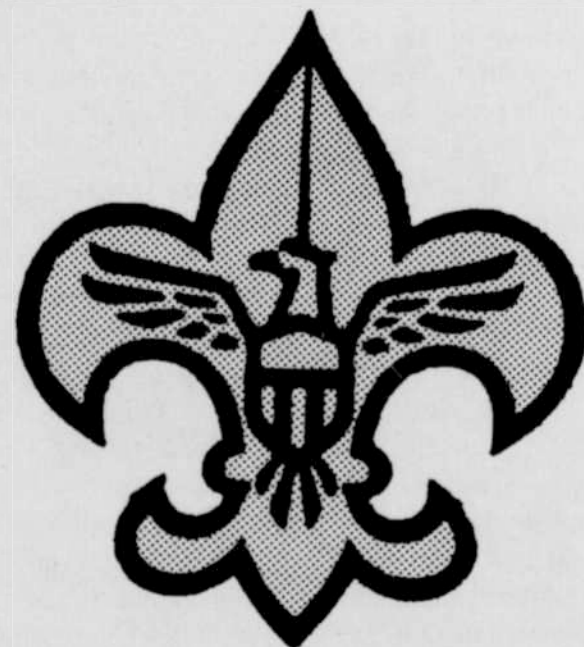
Gay and lesbian activists looking for practical, no-nonsense information on how to win civil rights and domestic partnerships in their own towns need look no further. The answers appear in a new book, *Try This at Home! A Do-It-Yourself Guide to Winning Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights*, written by Matt Coles, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project.

The book contains tactics for working at all levels of government, as well as in colleges, corporations and social service organizations. An upcoming chapter on organizing in cyberspace will be published on the ACLU's Web site (<http://www.aclu.org>) and its America Online forum (keyword: ACLU). Internet users will be able to read excerpts of the book and purchase copies.

#### UTAH

Provo radiologist Gary M. Watts has offered to donate \$10,000 to charity if Utah state Rep. David Bresnahan can prove his claim that Bresnahan's younger brother was coerced into a "gay lifestyle" by a scoutmaster.

Bresnahan's brother Donald was gay and died of AIDS complications. During a legislative floor debate on a bill outlawing school clubs that deal with sexuality, Bresnahan claimed that his brother told him that he and other troop members had been molested by Scout leaders, which had caused their homosexuality. Bresnahan went on to accuse adult homosexuals of recruiting children to a gay lifestyle.



Watts, whose son came out to him eight years ago, said that he has spent that time reviewing all the literature on the subject. He believes that stories like Bresnahan's must be publicly challenged. If Bresnahan can prove that all the men allegedly molested by the Scout leaders became homosexual, Watts will donate \$10,000 to the charity of Bresnahan's choice. If Bresnahan cannot prove his allegation, Watts wants him to make a public retraction and apology.

Bresnahan has declined Watts' challenge.

#### WASHINGTON

Following an emotionally charged public meeting held May 12, The Freedom Day Committee, sponsors of Seattle's gay and lesbian pride march, voted to exclude the North American Man/Boy Love Association from this year's parade.

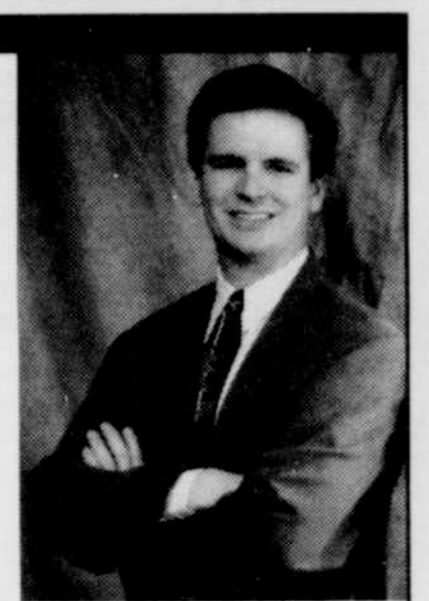
The vote reverses an earlier decision to include NAMBLA.

Compiled by Kristine Chatwood

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