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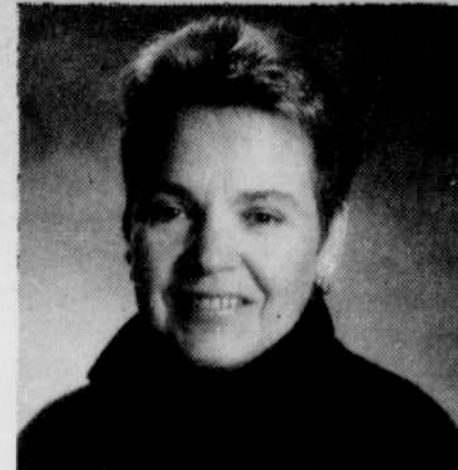
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**NATIONAL news**

about the openly gay Massachusetts Democrat, reports an Aug. 5 *Washington Post* story.

After the Republican National Convention session Aug. 2, humor columnist Dave Barry approached Arney and asked, "Are you really Dick Arney?" He replied: "Yes, I am Dick Arney. And if there is a dick army, Barney Frank would want to join up."

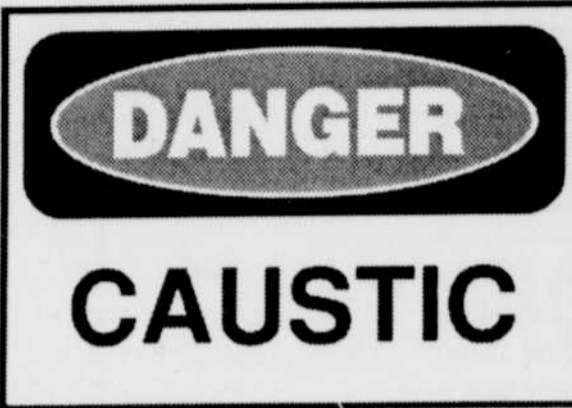
Spokeswoman Michelle Davis justified the remark by saying Arney was trying to cut off journalists who were making fun of his name. "He reacted the way most people react when they are tired of hearing the same old jokes."

Arney should apologize to Frank and the entire

gay and lesbian community, said David Smith, Human Rights Campaign spokesman. "He is trying to weasel his way out of it with a lame excuse."

Frank said the remark contradicted GOP efforts to preach tolerance. "I think the Bush people must be annoyed because here they put on this elaborate show of inclusiveness, and then Dick Arney reminds people what the Republican Party leadership is really like, with a gratuitously nasty, bigoted comment."

Arney has a history of sticking his foot in his mouth when talking about Frank. In 1995, he referred to him as "Barney Fag" but chalked it up to a slip of the tongue.



★ ★ CAMPAIGN 2000 ★ ★

Vice President Al Gore's selection of U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman as his running mate is being met with mixed reactions.

"Sen. Lieberman's record is one that bears studying and watching," said Elizabeth Toledo, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force executive director. "He has a generally good record on issues important to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. At the same time, Lieberman, like Clinton and like Gore, has not always proven to be a friend of the progressive community when we needed him."

In the last session of this Congress, the Connecticut Democrat rated a perfect 100 on the Human Rights Campaign's scorecard of gay-related issues. In the Congress before that, he scored an impressive 83 percent.

However, going back a few years, Lieberman—a pro-choice moderate but a cultural conservative—had some significant anti-gay votes. He favored the Defense of Marriage Act, which allowed states to refuse recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other states, and opposed allowing people with AIDS to immigrate into the United States.

Lieberman also voted in 1993 to kill the District of Columbia's Domestic Partners Act and in 1989 to prevent schools from using educational materials that "promote homosexuality" or portray homosexuality as "normal, natural or healthy." He also is a staunch supporter of taxpayer-funded vouchers for private and religious schools, which some say threatens both teachers and students who rely on public schools for nondiscrimination and anti-harassment policies.

Elizabeth Birch, Human Rights Campaign executive director, made history Aug. 15 as the first leader of a gay organization to speak at a national political convention.

Her prime-time appearance during the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles highlighted presidential nominee Al Gore's commitment to diversity. Birch challenged the country to embrace equality for all people.

"Not a single gay American seeks special rights or favored treatment," she said. "We seek simple equality—the equal right to work, raise a family, serve our country in every way and be free from the shackles of brutality and hate."

"As long as a young man can be left on a fence to die, our American family is fractured. As long as gay parents live in fear that their children might be taken from them, our family is

torn. As long as hard-working Americans can be fired in 30 states simply for being gay, our family is not whole. As long as gay people are barred from serving openly and with dignity in the armed forces of the United States, our family is not just. As long as gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth are at risk for suicide, until there is a cure for AIDS...the American family we celebrate tonight is not yet healed."



Joe Lieberman

Dick and Lynne Cheney might be supportive parents, but they still seem to be in denial about their daughter's sexual orientation and the impact it will have during the coming months. In fact, Mommie Dearest went so far as to shove her daughter back into the closet during an interview with Cokie Roberts on *This Week*.

"Mary has never declared such a thing," Lynne Cheney insisted. "I would like to say that I'm appalled at the media interest in one of my daughters. I have two wonderful daughters. I love them very much. They are bright; they are hard-working; they are decent. And I simply am not going to talk about their personal lives. And I'm surprised, Cokie, that even you would want to bring it up on this program."

Meanwhile, former Defense Secretary Cheney, the GOP vice presidential nominee, was mum about his daughters in an interview with Tony Snow. "I'm running for public office; they're entitled to their privacy."

Desperate times call for desperate measures.

Pat Buchanan is resorting to gay bashing as a "wedge issue" to distinguish himself from the Bush-Cheney ticket, political insider Hastings Wyman reports in his latest "Capital Letters" column. At a recent news conference, the Reform Party candidate denounced "rampant homosexuality" in the United States, which he said was "a sign of cultural decadence and moral decline."

Buchanan might target the absence of anti-gay rhetoric during the Republican National Convention, gay Arizona Rep. Jim Kolbe's speech and lesbian Mary Cheney's presence in the party's Second Family to lure homophobes from Bush. He recently selected Ezola Foster, a California schoolteacher with a history of anti-gay activism, as his running mate.

Compiled by Copy Editor JIM RADOSTA, who can be reached at jim@justout.com.