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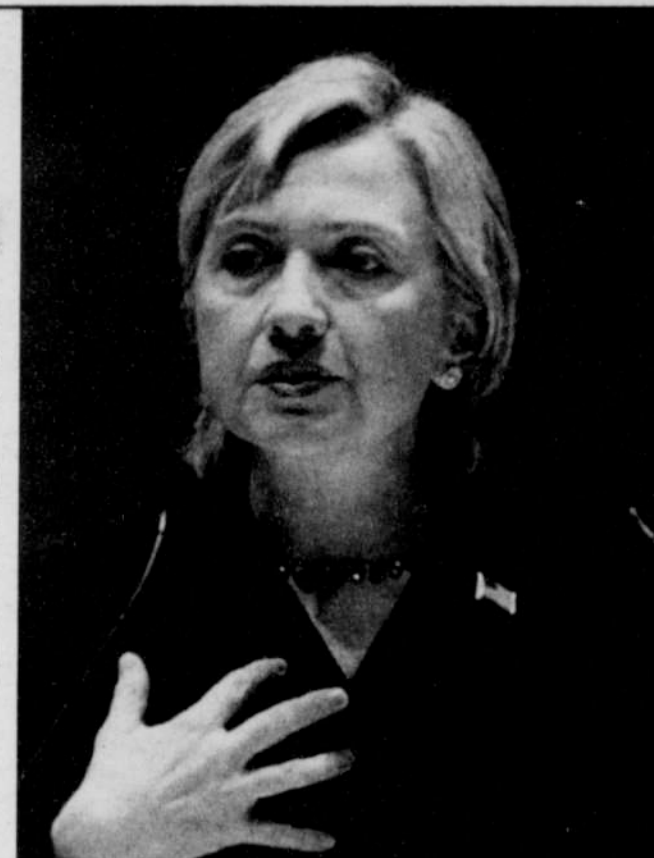
national

NATIONAL

Clinton Addresses HRC

U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., delivered the keynote address March 2 at a luncheon of more than 400 board members, staff and supporters of the Human Rights Campaign.

Clinton stopped short of embracing full marriage equality but spoke about her support for civil unions, gay adoption, a federal hate crime law inclusive of sexual orientation, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the repeal of husband President Bill Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which she described as a failure.



Hillary Clinton promised an inclusive White House to a crowd of HRC supporters.

ID Deadline Postponed

A Just Out article published Sept. 16, 2006, titled "May I See Some ID?" explored the dangers of the Real ID Act, which was scheduled to go into effect in 2008.

The law, which was adopted in 2005 as part of the Homeland Security Policy, requires that all states must comply with regulations for the design and issuing of identification and that all Real ID cards must be uniform across the country. The American Civil Liberties Union, National Center for Transgender Equality, Transgender Law Project and others have been particularly focused on the implementation of this law. They are primarily concerned about the effects this legislation will have on transgender people in terms of their ability to legally change their name and gender marker. Once implemented, people will be required to provide a "Real ID" to board planes, enter federal buildings, purchase alcohol, etc.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security released March 1 the final draft of regulations for implementation of the Real ID Act. As part of these new developments, states have been given additional time with which to comply with the regulations, and the act will not go into effect until Dec. 31, 2009. The department remains committed to implementing Real IDs as a necessity for protecting the country against terrorism, citing the 9/11 Commission's analysis that "for terrorists, travel documents are as important as weapons."

The National Center for Transgender Equality reassures trans people that it, along with other organizations such as Lambda Legal and the ACLU, has "worked diligently to overturn the act" and that "there are currently several bills before Congress that would repeal the Real ID Act." Moving back the deadline for compliance gives

these organizations additional time to fight this legislation in an effort to protect the rights and dignity of the transgender community.

GLAAD Calls for Coulter Ban

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation urged community members and allies March 9 to call on NBC News, CNBC, MSNBC, CNN and Fox News Channel to publicly state that they will refuse to continue providing a platform for Ann Coulter.

During a March 2 appearance at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington, D.C., which aired on C-SPAN, Coulter said: "I was going to have a few comments on the other Democratic presidential candidate, John Edwards, but it turns out that you have to go into rehab if you use the word 'faggot,' so I'm—so, kind of at an impasse, can't really talk about Edwards, so I think I'll just conclude here and take your questions."

This was the second time in the past year that Coulter, who is represented by the William Morris Agency, had used this slur against a public figure. After claiming during a July 2006 appearance on MSNBC's *Hardball with Chris Matthews* that former President Bill Clinton is gay, Coulter said, "He may not be gay, but Al Gore, total fag."

"Coulter has long been rewarded for her outrageous comments with increased levels of media visibility. That must stop," said GLAAD president Neil G. Giuliano. "The dangerous message that news networks send by their continuing embrace of Coulter's rhetoric is that there is no downside and considerable benefit for those who use vulgar slurs on national television."

For more information on the ban, visit www.glaad.org/actions.

ARKANSAS

Arkansas Bill Would Bar Adoption

A bill introduced March 12 to the Arkansas Legislature would ban gay people and most unmarried heterosexual couples who live together from adopting or serving as foster parents. The bill was introduced just months after the state Supreme Court unanimously struck down a ban on fostering by gay people.

The legislation, Senate Bill 959, would categorically ban gay and lesbian Arkansans from adopting or serving as foster parents, even if they're relatives of the children in question. It would also ban unmarried



Ann Coulter is the target of a ban organized by GLAAD.