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 meeting Friday, August 25, at a downtown hotel.

"Coming to Cincinnati is absolutely the right thing to do," Attorney 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 Taft, the group's executive director, told a community forum that the organization's mission is "education, not confrontation."

Same Gender advocates argued 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 reversed 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 after the charter amendment. A federal court battle over this 1992 ballot initiative could end up in the U.S. Supreme Court.

"It's very easy to boycott a city," said Taft, 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 Hannum, chairman of Christian Right, Inc., Special Rights, the coalition that backed the 1993 charter amendments, said Wednesday, August 25, that he had not spoken with the Log Cabin Republicans.

Burres said Gay in Cincinnati are subject to the same treatment as other groups, the 1993 vote was about repealing special rights for the Gay community.

The Log Cabin 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, Taft said.

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

Sen. Dole Returns Money to Log Cabin

It was while they were in convention that Log Cabin Republicans heard that Sen. Robert Dole was returning his Senate salary to the Log Cabin.

Dole, who is seeking his third term in the Senate, announced that he was sending the Senate's salary to the Log Cabin. The action was taken in a letter to the federation's executive director.

The Log Cabin's right to receive the salary was based on the fact that the senator is a member of the federation's board of directors.

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-rearing rights to their child has a bid to have a federal judge intervene in the matter.

U.S. District Judge John Shabaz released Wednesday, August 23, to block the visitation, saying he has no authority to unwarranted 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 two weeks.

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

As reported in Light, the case involves Elsbeth Kent, whom she had a thorough inspection as a "stand-in" in 1981.

After the judge and her partner, Sandy Holtzman, ended their 10-year relationship in 1993, Kent told Holtzman she could no longer see the child, and Kent has failed to get granted visitation rights, contending she helped raise the boy as a same-sex couple.

Kent's lawyer, Charles Schuette, told Shabaz at the hearing that Kent is a legislator interfering with Kent's constitutional right to raise her child as she sees fit.

"This case is a prime example of why creating legal law should be left to the Legislature and not to the Wisconsin Supreme Court," Schuette wrote in his court brief.

Scheute urged Shabaz to bar Dane County Circuit Judge George Nordstrom from granting visitation rights to Holtzman.

But Holtzman's lawyer, Judith Sporcham Newton, and assistant attorney general James Mc Dermott argued that Judge had to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court if she wanted to content the Wisconsin Supreme Court decision.

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

Scheute 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 Biological Medical Research to extract its bone marrow. The marrow, material in bones that produces the immune system, is intended for a Jeffery 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 patient 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, why would you not do it again?"

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

Such a fear prompted federal officials to reassess the transplant for a time. At least 100 baboons already have been infected with the AIDS virus.

Allen said the 10-day period after the virus showed up in the baboons left no room for cross-species experiments. "It's just too dangerous."

But Holtzman's lawyer, Judith Sporcham Newton, and assistant attorney general James Mc Dermott argued that Judge had to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court if she wanted to content the Wisconsin Supreme Court decision.

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

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

"My concern is, once you've allowed one, why would you not do it again?"

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

Such a fear prompted federal officials to reassess the transplant for a time. At least 100 baboons already have been infected with the AIDS virus.

Allen said the 10-day period after the virus showed up in the baboons left no room for cross-species experiments. "It's just too dangerous."

But Holtzman's lawyer, Judith Sporcham Newton, and assistant attorney general James Mc Dermott argued that Judge had to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court if she wanted to content the Wisconsin Supreme Court decision.

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

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

"My concern is, once you've allowed one, why would you not do it again?"

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

Such a fear prompted federal officials to reassess the transplant for a time. At least 100 baboons already have been infected with the AIDS virus.

Allen said the 10-day period after the virus showed up in the baboons left no room for cross-species experiments. "It's just too dangerous."

But Holtzman's lawyer, Judith Sporcham Newton, and assistant attorney general James Mc Dermott argued that Judge had to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court if she wanted to content the Wisconsin Supreme Court decision.

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

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

"My concern is, once you've allowed one, why would you not do it again?"

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

Such a fear prompted federal officials to reassess the transplant for a time. At least 100 baboons already have been infected with the AIDS virus.

Allen said the 10-day period after the virus showed up in the baboons left no room for cross-species experiments. "It's just too dangerous."

But Holtzman's lawyer, Judith Sporcham Newton, and assistant attorney general James Mc Dermott argued that Judge had to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court if she wanted to content the Wisconsin Supreme Court decision.

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

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

"My concern is, once you've allowed one, why would you not do it again?"

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

Such a fear prompted federal officials to reassess the transplant for a time. At least 100 baboons already have been infected with the AIDS virus.

Allen said the 10-day period after the virus showed up in the baboons left no room for cross-species experiments. "It's just too dangerous."

But Holtzman's lawyer, Judith Sporcham Newton, and assistant attorney general James Mc Dermott argued that Judge had to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court if she wanted to content the Wisconsin Supreme Court decision.

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

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

"My concern is, once you've allowed one, why would you not do it again?"

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

Such a fear prompted federal officials to reassess the transplant for a time. At least 100 baboons already have been infected with the AIDS virus.

Allen said the 10-day period after the virus showed up in the baboons left no room for cross-species experiments. "It's just too dangerous."

But Holtzman's lawyer, Judith Sporcham Newton, and assistant attorney general James Mc Dermott argued that Judge had to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court if she wanted to content the Wisconsin Supreme Court decision.

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

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

"My concern is, once you've allowed one, why would you not do it again?"

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

Such a fear prompted federal officials to reassess the transplant for a time. At least 100 baboons already have been infected with the AIDS virus.

Allen said the 10-day period after the virus showed up in the baboons left no room for cross-species experiments. "It's just too dangerous."

But Holtzman's lawyer, Judith Sporcham Newton, and assistant attorney general James Mc Dermott argued that Judge had to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court if she wanted to content the Wisconsin Supreme Court decision.