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Which of the following presidents would make the best boyfriend?

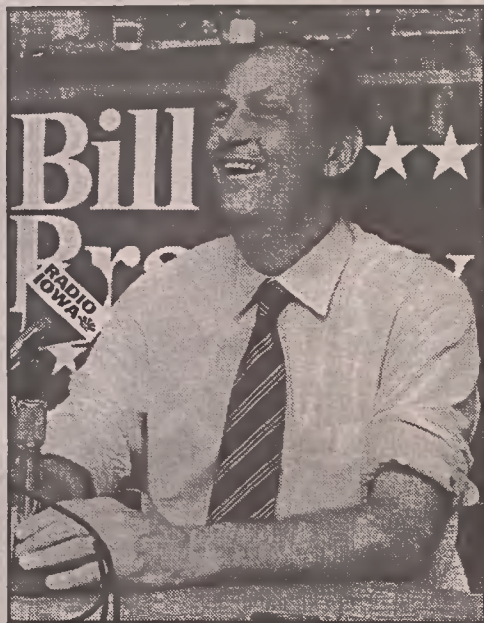
Bill Clinton	Abraham Lincoln	Richard Nixon
74%	23%	03%

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Vice President Al Gore



Senator Bill Bradley (D-NJ)

New gay "family" event planned

by Robert Marcus James
Special to Q-Notes

CHARLOTTE—Family Fest '99 is a new "family" event for the entire gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. Typical "family" fare will be featured. Bring a picnic, play some games, and win a prize.

On Sunday, August 1, OutCharlotte will sponsor this community event at Midwood Park (off Mecklenburg Avenue in the Plaza-Midwood neighborhood). The event will take place from 12:30-4:00pm, rain or shine. The picnic starts at 12:30pm (bring your own or purchase hot dogs and sodas in the park).

Team games start at 1:30pm. Approximately 30 GLBT organizations have been invited to enter teams in Charlotte's version of the "gay games." Teams will compete in egg toss, sponge bucket relay, water balloon toss, clothes relay and three-legged race. The winning team's organization will receive a cash prize, trophy, and bragging rights for the next year. Each organi-

zation is also encouraged to send a cheerleading squad and the best squad will also receive a cash prize for their organization.

The community games start at 3:00pm. Many of the same team games will be played. There will be free games for children under 10, then pairs (a child with a parent). The day will end with open competition in various games. Each game in open competition will carry an entry fee of \$1 with various prizes available to winners.

OutCharlotte produces cultural programs celebrating the GLBT community. "We have an ongoing commitment to provide free or low-cost events for the community," stated Dan Kirsch, OutCharlotte executive director. "Family Fest '99 is our way of including more folks in community events, and is a way to express our thanks for the support we receive for the annual cultural festival in October."

For more information on Family Fest '99, call OutCharlotte at (704) 563-2699. ▼

Analyzing candidates for president

The Democrats

by Gip Plaster
Special to Q-Notes

[Ed. Note: The next American president will take office during a pivotal time for the GLBT community in the US. As he plots the nation's course into the new millennium — either maintaining the political center like Bill Clinton or taking us further left or right — public reaction to gays and lesbians will largely reflect the tone of the White House. Clearly, this is an important election. In this first installment of a two-part series, we'll examine the Democratic presidential candidates and their positions on issues of importance to the GLBT community. Next issue, our focus will switch to the Republicans.]

Vice President Al Gore, considered the frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination, visited a gay and lesbian center in Los Angeles on June 24. Senator Bill Bradley (D-NJ), Gore's only announced competition, visited the center a week earlier. Spokespeople for both candidates claim they had the idea first.

"The vice president's visit had been long scheduled and had been planned for some time," said Marla Romash, deputy chairman of Gore 2000, the campaign to elect Gore as president.

"That's completely untrue," Eric Hauser, Bradley's press secretary, said.

Whoever had the idea first, both candidates are courting gay and lesbian voters. With very

few differences on most issues — and no real differences on gay and lesbian issues — it is not surprising to see them popping up at the same places. Both are looking for gay and lesbian votes, but both fall short on at least one issue of importance to most gay and lesbian voters — marriage. Their positions on allowing gays in the military are not strong, either.

While Gore now appears likely to win the nomination, Bradley's views are important, too, because he could become Gore's running mate. Or he could still win the nomination.

Who they are

Both Gore and Bradley are sons of the South and both were senators who had other careers before stepping into the chamber.

Gore, born March 31, 1948, is the son of a senator. He was raised in Carthage, Tennessee and in Washington, DC. He graduated with honors from Harvard in 1969 with a degree in government. Gore later became an investigative reporter for *The Tennessean* in Nashville and also attended divinity school and law school. His home church is New Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Carthage.

He served in the US House of Representatives from 1977 to 1985, then served in the Senate from 1985 until 1993 when he was inaugurated as vice president.

Bradley, born July 28, 1943 in Crystal City, Missouri, is the son of a banker and school-

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GLBT activists protest in support of death row inmate Abu-Jamal

by John Riley
Special to Q-Notes

PHILADELPHIA—Dozens of GLBT activists from around the country joined coordinated nonviolent civil disobedience actions on both coasts July 3, demanding a new trial and urgent medical attention for award-winning African-American journalist and Pennsylvania death-row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal.

At Philadelphia's Liberty Bell, amidst 100-degree heat, 95 protesters from all over the country disrupted business as usual and closed the building for the afternoon — during the heaviest tourist weekend of the year. In San Francisco, after a mass march from the Federal building to Union Square, 27 activists blocked the street and were arrested. Taken together, the demonstrations amount to the largest civil disobedience action against the death penalty in US history.

The unprecedented actions, accompanied by support vigils of hundreds nearby, were sponsored by broad coalitions of progressive groups (including ACT UP/New York) and marked 17 years to the day after Abu-Jamal's death sentence was imposed in a trial deemed grossly unfair by Amnesty International and many other observers worldwide.

One of the most visible parts of the Philadelphia protest occurred when the "Simon Nkoli Queer Crusaders for Mumia" took the lead position in blockading one entrance to the Liberty Bell Pavilion. Brandishing a banner reading "Queers Say: Stop the Execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal," the group of 10 joined other activists in front of the door to which two people had chained themselves, while US Park Police looked on helplessly. (Simon Nkoli was an openly-gay, black, South African anti-apartheid activist who narrowly escaped execution in the 1980s, then went on to form gay and AIDS advocacy groups. He was a leader in the successful effort to make South Africa the first country to include sexual orientation in its constitutional protections. Nkoli died of AIDS earlier this year.)

ACT UP/NY member Bob Lederer, orga-

nizer of the Simon Nkoli group and one of those arrested, said, "Anyone concerned about the future of queer and AIDS activism should be outraged by Mumia's impending execution. Many of us have experienced or witnessed vicious homophobic [and] AIDSphobic police brutality against our movements. The injustice against Mumia springs from his history as a journalist and activist against police brutality, and his prior membership in the Black Panther Party was used to inflame the jury to sentence him to death. That makes this a bellweather case. If Mumia can be executed without ever having had a fair trial, it sets a dangerous precedent that would make it easier to heighten repression against all types of activists. That's one reason groups which rarely work together united in action today. In addition, many of us oppose the use of the death penalty against anyone."

The Philadelphia protest was made up of 16 affinity groups from GLBT, AIDS, peace,

Films ready to roll at NC festival

by Amy Barefoot
Special to Q-Notes

DURHAM, NC—The 1999 North Carolina Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, now in its fourth year, will be held August 5-8 at the historic Carolina Theatre in downtown Durham.

After hosting a record 3200 attendees last year, the programming committee, comprised of volunteers from the local community, have expanded the festival by adding an extra day and increasing the number of films being screened. Festival passes will also be available for the first time this year.

Last year's positive additions, a live performance and the Community Outreach Room, continue in 1999. On Friday, August 6, comedian Marga Gomez presents *jaywalker*, a one-woman show about her harrowing experiences as a native New Yorker in pedestrian-hostile Los Angeles. Prior to Gomez's performance and the Friday evening films there will be a celebratory reception held in the Connie Moses Ballroom from 6:30-8:00pm.

"Due to the growth in festival attendance

each year and the ongoing relationships that have been cultivated with film distributors, the North Carolina Gay and Lesbian Film Festival is creating a name for itself," said Jim Carl, director of programming at the Carolina Theatre. "Film distributors are recognizing the festival's reputation and realizing that there is a viable market for higher caliber films."

This year the programming committee received the most film submissions ever (over 70) and had a major independent film distributor contact them wanting to open the festival with its film.

"The volunteer steering committee is very excited with the diversity of this year's films. They represent not only the entire GLBT population but also have a major international flair to them. It is also an extremely strong year for female directors," said festival volunteer Cheryl Ann Welsh.

Film selections for this year's festival, once again sponsored by Replacements, Ltd., come from the US, Germany, Australia, New

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Protesters form a human chain at Liberty Bell action

Photo by Diane Greene Lent

anti-intervention, African-American, Latino, student and leftist groups. Before the door-blocking action, four people went inside the Liberty Bell Pavilion and unfurled a banner reading "Let Freedom Ring for Mumia" next to the historic icon. Two student activists clambered onto the building's awning and held a banner reading "Liberty for Mumia" for three hours, until they were removed via forklift. It took police several hours to clear all 95 protesters. And those arrested were released within 10 hours after being charged with failure to obey a lawful order. They now face fines of \$250 each

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