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The FRONT PAGE

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Inside and Outside Convention, Gays Protest Republicans

- Log Cabin Republicans Fed Up
- Bush Blasts Gay Marriage
- Mary Cheney Disappears

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Contributing Writer

NEW YORK -- The big gay story of the Republican National Convention, held here Aug. 30 to Sept. 2, was the gay Log Cabin Republicans' new get-tough approach to the Republican Party.

Log Cabin declared that the GOP has been "hijacked" by "the radical right" and repeatedly threatened to withhold its endorsement of George W. Bush's re-election effort.

The group is upset primarily about Bush's outspoken support for amending the U.S. Constitution to ban same-sex marriage and about the GOP platform's denunciations of civil unions and domestic-partner benefits.

"For too long we have watched while the radical right hijacked our party," said Log Cabin Executive Director Patrick Guerriero. "And for too long we have been asked to be loyal foot soldiers on election day and asked to remain silent. ... This party platform is so outrageous and insulting to some of us, that some of us have to call our own party on it.

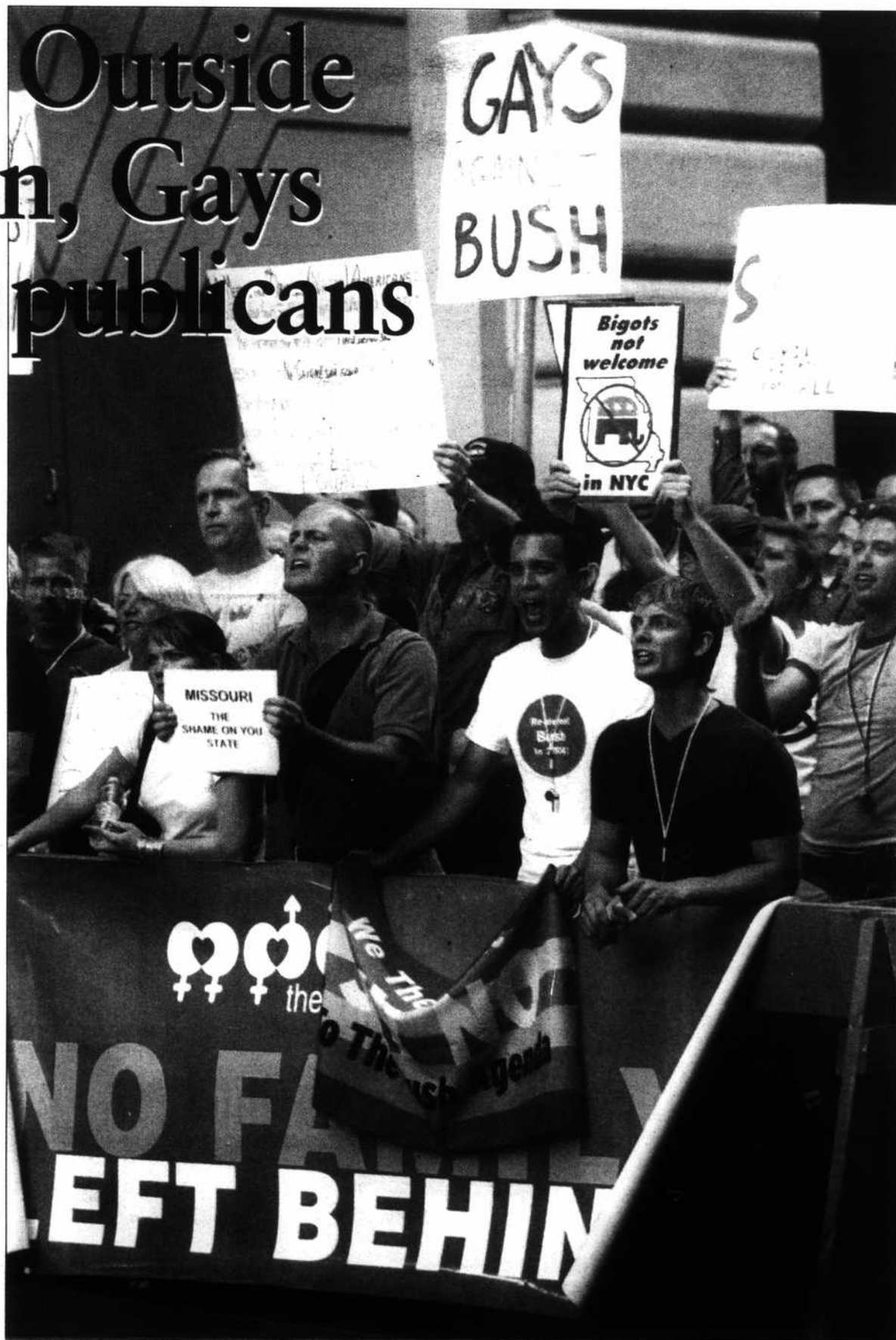
"If we don't do it, nobody will. And if we don't do it now, we'll be back in four years at a convention with language that's even worse," he said.

Log Cabin's strong language -- and its new TV ad featuring Ronald Reagan -- drew heavy media coverage. In the ad, Reagan says, "Whatever else history may say about me when I'm gone, I hope it will record that I appealed to your best hopes, not your worst fears."

CNN refused to air the ad, calling it "too controversial." The ad shows photos of preacher Jerry Falwell, writer-activist Pat Buchanan and U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum, and implies they "divide the American family with the politics of intolerance and fear that only lead to hate." It also shows the Rev. Fred Phelps holding a "God Hates Fags" sign.

"The Republican Party has to make a choice," Guerriero said. "We can be the party of Giuliani, McCain and Schwarzenegger or we can be the party of Falwell, Santorum and Buchanan. We can unite on those things that bring us together or we can continue the politics of intolerance and fear."

Guerriero called it a "fight for the heart and soul of
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A group calling themselves Gays Against Bush protest Missouri delegates leaving a restaurant and jazz bar in New York City, Tuesday, August 31, 2004. The group was targeting the Missouri delegation as Missouri recently became the first state to amend their constitution to prohibit same-sex marriage.
(AP Photo/Stuart Ramson)