

## Christian wants Gay aide fired

by Lou Chibbaro Jr.

The leader of a conservative Christian group is demanding that D.C. Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly fire one of her openly Gay assistants.

Gary Bauer, president of the Family Research Council, has accused mayoral assistant Ernest Evans of "threatening" local radio station WMZQ-FM with legal action if it did not accept an ad from the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance.

Evans, Kelly's special assistant for planning, denies he made such a threat and says the issue was "blown out of proportion" by a story in the *Washington Times*.

The radio ad created a furor among fundamentalist religious groups after the *Washington Times* published a story on the ad's pro-Gay message. The *Times* quoted WMZQ general manager Charles Ochs as saying he initially rejected the ad but decided to run it after having a conversation with Evans.

Evans said he spoke to Ochs by phone and told him that Gays were protected under the city's human rights law.

"I said that under the law's public ac-

commodation clause, GLAA could file a complaint if [the station] refused to run the ad," Evans said. "It was a very friendly conversation. There was never any threat involved."

Evans said Ochs indicated that then-GLAA President Mindy Daniels had already told him the group might file such a complaint.

In an interview with the *Washington Blade* during the week the GLAA ads were broadcast by the station, Ochs said he had decided on his own to run the ads, despite an expected flurry of complaints.

Ochs said he personally agreed with the ads' message calling for an end to discrimination against Gays. He said his only concern was that if he ran GLAA's ads, he might be forced to run ads submitted by hate groups such as the Ku Klux Klan or Nazis.

Bauer served as a White House staffer in the Reagan Administration and is considered a leading opponent of Gay rights.

Evans said Kelly has not contacted him and he is not aware of any effort by the mayor's office to criticize him for his comments to Ochs.▼