

# Gore asserts support for Gay civil rights

Vice President Al Gore and Colorado Governor Roy Romer, the newly appointed general chairperson of the Democratic Party, each expressed support for Gay civil rights in speeches before the Democratic National Committee on January 21.

Gay Democratic activists said the Gay-related remarks by Gore and Romer before a highly visible DNC meeting that took place the day after the presidential inauguration solidified the Gay community's status as a recognized constituency of the Democratic Party.

"We know, all of us, that America is a strong nation because we are a diverse nation, that our differences of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and native land or language make our great nation an inspiration to the world," Gore said in his speech before the DNC.

"That's what we believe, that's what we fight for, that's what we work for," Gore said, drawing loud applause from the packed meeting, which took place at the Washington Hilton.

Romer, who replaces Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) as the party's general chairperson, reiterated what he said was the Democratic Party's strong commitment to civil rights.



Vice President Al Gore

"I want a community in which it doesn't matter what color you are, what your ethnicity is, or what your sexual orientation is," Romer said. "You will have an opportunity to enter that door to the good life of this country."

Romer's name has become part of the

landmark Gay civil rights case, *Romer v. Evans*, in which the U.S. Supreme Court overturned an anti-Gay ballot initiative in Colorado. Although Romer's role as governor was to oversee the state's defense of the initiative, he publicly stated his opposition to the measure when it came before Colorado's voters in 1992.

Brian Bond, the outgoing director of Lesbian and Gay Outreach for the DNC, said the DNC's newly appointed national chairperson, Massachusetts business executive Steven Grossman, is also known for his support for Gay civil rights. Bond said Grossman led efforts to include Gays as a recognized constituency in the charter of the Massachusetts Democratic Party at the time he served as chairperson of that state's Democratic committee.

In remarks before the DNC's Jan. 21 meeting, Grossman told how he plans to carry out the party's positions on civil rights.

"It will be outreach, inclusion, diversity, pluralism, [and] opposing with every fiber of our being, racism, bigotry, ethnic stereotyping, anti-semitism, homophobia. These are the things we abhor. We know they are unworthy of us as Americans or as Democrats."

— Lou Chibbaro Jr.

by Doug Hinckle

138-5