

Dole nixes gay cash

Gay group's contribution 'at odds' with Dole's views

By Richard L. Berke

WASHINGTON — Scrambling to enhance relations with conservatives, Sen. Bob Dole's presidential campaign said Saturday it was returning \$1,000 from a gay Republican group.

The campaign said it had accepted the June donation by mistake, and would never have taken money from an organization that supports positions

Dole opposes, like allowing homosexuals in the military.

But correspondence produced Saturday by the president of the group, the Log Cabin Republicans, showed that Dole's national finance chairman had sought the group's help in raising money as recently as May.

The returned donation is the latest sign that Dole is intensifying his yearlong drive to court conservative Republican groups in the aftermath of his hum-

bling tie with Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas in an Iowa straw poll last weekend.

Nelson Warfield, Dole's spokesman, said the campaign had accepted the donation from the Log Cabin Republicans, a nationwide organization with more than 40 chapters, only because of "a financial screw up."

"It's our policy that we won't accept contributions from groups that have a specific poli-

tical agenda that's fundamentally at odds with Senator Dole's record and his views," he said.

But Richard L. Tafel, the president of Log Cabin, said he had dealings with several senior Dole campaign officials who had solicited his organization. He also said he prominently wore a Log Cabin lapel button as he discussed AIDS budget allocations with Dole at one of the senator's fund-raising events.

Tafel made available a letter he received from John A. Moran, the Dole finance director. "Per our discussion," Moran wrote, "I am attaching a list of upcoming Dole for president fund-raising events. Senator Dole and I would appreciate any assistance you could give us in turning out your members at each event. I am looking forward to working with you." The letter, dated May 24, closed, "With all good wishes. Cordially, John."

Asked about the letter, and other conversations between Log Cabin and the campaign, Warfield said, "That communication was not authorized." He said Moran had since been told by Scott Reed, the campaign manager, to "exercise more caution" in his fund-raising appeals.

And Warfield suggested that Log Cabin made the contribution for publicity, saying, "They're struggling for credibility."

Warfield said the campaign had returned donations that violated campaign finance laws, but that the Log Cabin contribution was the first one returned for ideological reasons.

For months, Dole has sought to demonstrate he is as conservative as Gramm and his other competitors for the nomination. But as Senate majority leader, Dole often has to cajole and compromise to get legislation passed, which makes it tough for him to take ideologically pure stands.

As Dole put it earlier this month in an interview, "I'm not one of those 'in your face, it's got to be my way or no way' kind of conservatives."

Last week, Gramm continued to make the most of his tie in the straw poll, which Dole, from neighboring Kansas, had been widely expected to win. He called Dole a "proud, effective moderate."

Patrick Buchanan, a commentator popular with conservatives, placed a respectable third in the poll.

Dole has also seen his front-runner's standing erode in some recent polls, including one released Saturday by Time Magazine and CNN showing that among the Republican field of candidates, Dole has declined to 35 percent, a slip from 42 percent in July. But most of the lost support is not going to his opponents but to the undecided column.

we're going to give the check back."

He added, "The issue really is integrity. What will a person do to become president?"

As part of his drive to court the right wing, Dole is planning to deliver a speech to the American Legion in Indianapolis on Sept. 4, in which aides said he will join the conservative attack on national history standards, which call for a broadening of school curricula to include both achievements and mistakes made by this country.

The next day, in a Chicago speech, he plans to endorse elements of a flat tax and to endorse a Constitutional amendment requiring a vote of two-thirds of Congress to raise taxes.

On the legislative front, Dole's aides hope to develop welfare legislation in September that will satisfy conservatives. The week before the straw poll, Dole met with Ralph Reed, director of the Christian Coalition, Gary Bauer, head of the Family Research Council, and other leaders of religious conservative groups to discuss a possible compromise on how the bill would affect illegitimate babies born to mothers on welfare.

Dole's positioning toward the right began long before the Iowa straw poll.

In May, Dole and his wife, Elizabeth, stopped attending a United Methodist Church in Washington because, according to friends, it no longer reflected their Christian beliefs. Late that month, Dole scored his biggest success so far with conservative voters with his well-received attack on Hollywood.

And he won further approval in June with his legislative

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Letters TO THE EDITOR

Senator Dole Is Old Dinosaur

Senator Robert Dole of Kansas is an old dinosaur in the sense that he is an old-time Republican that has been a Washington insider for way too long.

Dole isn't too old to be president because I don't think age is that much of a factor if a person is healthy.

I feel very, very strongly that Dole is the wrong man to be president. Here's why:

Dole has been in Washington for more than 30 years and he's a big part of the problem and no-way does he have the solutions to America's problems. If he had the solutions, why hasn't he already done what the voters wanted and fixed America?

Dole has become one of the slickest politicians in this country. If Bill Clinton is called "Slick Willie," then Dole should be called "Old King Dole," because he's the king of the money raisers. Dole even has his own PAC called Campaign America and he raises millions of dollars. That money doesn't come from working Americans. It comes from special interests with lots of strings attached to Bob Dole. Dole has no interest in helping the middle class working Americans either, but he will try very hard to trick us into voting for him.

When Dole and Clinton were trying to get the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) passed and 70 to 80 percent of the people were saying listened to the big multi-national corporations and Wall Street investors that had given him hundreds of thousands of dollars to sure NAFTA passed.

NAFTA has been a disaster for the working middle class as well as

the Mexican people. Dole got his millions in campaign contributions, so he got what was most important to him.

Dole sold out the American people on GATT, The World Trade Organization, and the Mexican Peso Bailout.

Each time Dole went against the wishes of the American people and went for the big money contributions from his multi-national buddies and the Wall Street investor friends.

The boys that have been giving Dole millions all these years will call in their notes and all we will have is more NAFTA, GATT, WTO, Mexican Peso Bailouts and a big push towards this New World Order and The One World Government.

America the Beautiful and all her people deserve better than this old dinosaur. — Darrel King, Second District Coordinator, United We Stand America of Kansas, 809 SE 33rd St., Topeka, Kan. 66605, phone 913-267-4417.

U.S. NEWS

Of fame and the heartland



ONLY IN AMERICA Republican presidential hopefuls Bob Dole and Arlen Specter call the same town home. But this summer, the real local excitement isn't about politics — it's about jobs and a new industry

RUSSELL, KAN. — This little Kansas town is like a lot of other small towns in the American heartland, says local businessman Dean Banker: "We're somewhere in the middle of doing great and sinking slowly in the West, just trying to maintain the status quo."

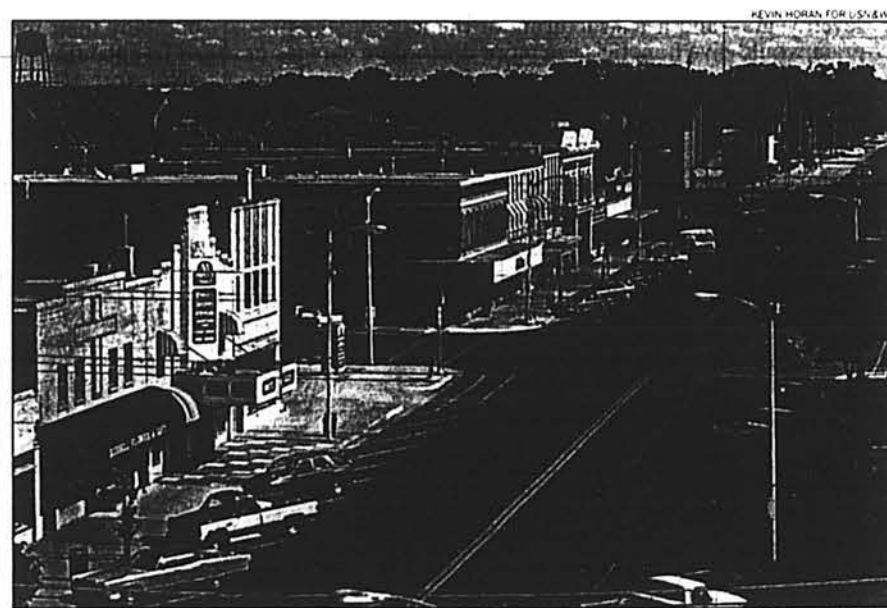
The town had 15 minutes of fame and headlines this spring when two Republican presidential contenders, Sens. Bob Dole of Kansas and Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, both came home to Russell, population 4,783, to launch their campaigns and lay claim to their shared roots. The *Russell Daily News* published a

special commemorative edition for each of the town's favorite sons, but publisher Allan Evans has already remembered them, dropping the price from \$5 to \$3.

The real excitement in Russell this summer is about jobs, not politics. Early this fall, if all goes according to plan, someone will throw a switch in the new Heartland plant on the edge of town, and wheat, golden Kansas wheat, will ride the conveyors into a computerized, state-of-the-art milling facility that will begin converting it into starch and gluten for the baking and food industries and bran for animal feed. Rich Nutter, the plant manager, says he has already hired 15 people, and by start-up time he will have hired 25 more. That's real news in a boom-and-bust oil and farming town that has known mostly bust for 15 years.

Dividing the pie. Five western Kansas farmers' cooperatives threw in with majority stockholder Farmland Industries, a Kansas City-based farm co-op, to build the \$30 million plant. "This thing was born four years ago when a local dentist came to one of our board meetings and brought along a pie," says Loren Dinkel, manager of Russell's AGCO co-op. "He cut that pie up to demonstrate just how little the farmer gets of what is made from what he grows. We knew we had to do something about that."

Russell's government, using state and federal matching grants, provided the site, roads, a rail spur, water, sewer and



power. The federal government provided loan guarantees. "This is an example of everyone working together, and working hard, for three long years to get this off the ground," says City Manager Judy Sargent.

Banker, the third generation of his family to run Banker's Mercantile, which has occupied the same street corner since 1881, says everyone hopes the Heartland plant will help stabilize the farm economy. "It will consume a lot of wheat, and that will encourage our people to remain in a business that has not always been so goddamned kind — farming," he says. The plant, says Dinkel, will use 4.25 million bushels of wheat a year — and on average, Russell County raises 3.6 million bushels.

Local pride in the new plant is tempered by the fact that it is coming on line while area farmers are still tallying their



Now and then. Downtown Russell (above); Dole, now the state's senior senator, in a photo taken when he was a student at Russell High School

losses from a bad year. The 1995 wheat harvest, explains Dinkel, is about half of last year's, and the quality is poor, thanks to a late freeze and an abysmally wet spring. Area farmers have had only two "normal" harvests in the past seven years.

"Life is like that in Russell," says Marvin Thompson, a local attorney. "When someone tells you the good news that there's a light at the end of the tunnel, you want to be listening for the train whistle. If you are looking for some shared quality that lets this town produce two men like Bob Dole and Arlen Specter, then I would guess that it is adversity." Others agree with Thompson's assessment but also point to a tradition of



Work and play. Pennsylvania Senator Specter (front row, third from right) on a hometown team; scene at the local grain elevator

English and math for half a century at Russell High. She still lives in the same tiny white bungalow on First Street; still does for herself. The stack of books on a table in her living room includes *Freedom at Midnight* and *Far Pavilions* from the public library. "I decided I wanted to know more about India this week," she says with a smile.

Good students. Mrs. Alice has dealt with a lot of curious reporters since two of her former pupils declared their candidacies for the presidency, and she's bored with the subject. "Both were good students," she says. But she makes no secret of her affection for Specter, a star on the debating team composed of four of Russell's best and brightest, including her nephew, Steve Mills, a Hollywood producer whose credits include the miniseries "Lone-

some Dove," and two other boys who went on to become successful lawyers. If the posters in store windows and the big sign on the grain elevator are any indication, most of Russell appears to be rooting for Dole, whose ties to Russell are lifelong. Specter came in the eighth grade and left after graduating from Russell High. But none of that carries much

maneuvering to scuttle the nomination of Dr. Henry W. Foster as surgeon general.

"We need to be seen as a consistent conservative — and we will be that," Scott Reed, the campaign manager, said in an interview before the Log Cabin contribution was brought to light last week, in a column by Deb Price of The Detroit News.