



# The Task Force in the News

Media Highlights

May 1 – 15, 2006

Roberta Sklar, Director of Communications

## Quote of the Week:

“We need for Governor Dean to demonstrate real leadership on our issues, not to equivocate depending on the audience.”

– Matt Foreman, commenting on DNC Chair Howard Dean’s appearance on *The 700 Club*

Associated Press  
May 11, 2006

## D.C. Leadership Awards

1. **Best bets: Task Force Leadership Awards**  
Washington Blade May 5, 2006
2. **NGLTF to honor Conyers May 6**  
PrideSource.com/Between the Lines News May 4, 2006
3. **Task Force Titans**  
Metro Weekly May 10, 2006

## Task Force slams Dean on gay marriage

4. **Dean Misstates Party Platform on Gays**  
Associated Press May 11, 2006
5. **Dean Taken To Task For Rewriting Gay History**  
365gay.com May 11, 2006
6. **Dean slams gay marriage on ‘700 Club’**  
New York Blade May 10, 2006
7. **National Gay and Lesbian Task Force slams Howard Dean, Returns \$5,000 gift from DNC**  
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## **Illinois offers domestic partner benefits to state workers**

8. **National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Hails Illinois Governor for Extending Domestic Partner Benefits to State Employees**  
GayWired/247gay.com May 10, 2006
9. **Illinois offers D.P. benefits to state workers**  
Washington Blade May 8, 2006

## **Conversation on Same-Sex Coupling: Black & Latino Layers of Discrimination**

10. **Challenges of same-sex families cited in landmark event; LGBT blacks and Latinos speak out**  
Identity (Chicago) May 2006
11. **Black, Latino couples face heightened discrimination**  
Chicago Free Press Apr. 26, 2006
12. **Voice of Atlanta's black gays is emerging**  
Los Angeles Times May 8, 2006

## **Love Welcomes All conference (Florida)**

13. **Question of God and gays at center of two conferences in Fort Lauderdale**  
South Florida Sun Sentinel May 5, 2006
14. **Conferences present differing views on homosexuality**  
South Florida Sun Sentinel May 7, 2006

## **False Promises - Policy Institute Report**

15. **GOP doesn't need marriage to win**  
Washington Blade Apr. 28, 2006
16. **to come**  
South Florida Sun Sentinel May 7, 2006

## **Miscellaneous highlights**

17. **Op-Ed: Forget "Civil Rights." How about "Civil Equality"...**  
CivilRights.org May 2, 2006
18. **Gay-marriage proposal**  
Washington Post April 30, 2006
19. **Conversations From A Hyphenated Florida**  
CityDebate.com (Miami) May 2006
20. **'Time' Lapse: Overlooking the pro-gay faithful**  
New York Blade May 1, 2006
21. **Urban gay youths finding their place**  
Cleveland Plain Dealer Apr. 23, 2006
22. **BMW under fire for not offering DP benefits**  
Bay Area Reporter May 4, 2006
23. **Foreman, NGLTF executive director, to speak at Sunrise Brunch**  
Dallas Voice May 5, 2006

24. **GLBT leaders attend Log Cabin gathering**  
Dallas Voice May 5, 2006
25. **The fallacy of the queer agenda**  
UThe Daily Barometer (student newspaper, Oregon State Univ.) May 4, 2006
26. **Don't forget the umbrella**  
PrideSource.com/Between the Lines News May 4, 2006
27. **'Don't look behind the curtain, Dorothy....'**  
PrideSource.com/Between the Lines News May 4, 2006
28. **Marriage fight may turn in state**  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel May 8, 2006
29. **NGLTF takes aim at GOP's courting of black churches**  
Qnotes
30. **Amber Hollibaugh to Speak at R.U.1.2? Dinner**  
Out in the Mountains May 2006



## CALENDARS | Best Bets This Week

*May. 05, 2006*

### COMMUNITY

**TASK FORCE LEADERSHIP AWARDS:** This year, honor Food & Friends and Pulitzer Prize winning author of "Brokeback Mountain" Annie Proulx for their outstanding achievements within the community. Senator Russell Feingold is the keynote speaker this year. Zion Hill Gospel Choir will present a special performance. Saturday, May 6, 7:30 p.m. The Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St., NW. \$250 general admission, \$350 VIP. RSVP to Janice Thom, 202-393-5177, ext. 1467, or [jthom@theTaskForce.org](mailto:jthom@theTaskForce.org). [www.thetaskforce.org](http://www.thetaskforce.org).



## **National News Briefs**

Compiled by Dawn Wolfe Gutterman

Originally printed 5/4/2006 (Issue 1418 - Between The Lines News)

### **NGLTF to honor John Conyers May 6**

**WASHINGTON** - The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force will honor Michigan U.S. Rep. John Conyers, Jr., U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold (D-Wis.), "Brokeback Mountain" author Annie Proulx and Food and Friends, an organization that provides support to people facing life-challenging illnesses, at the 17th annual D.C. Leadership Awards on May 6.

For more information visit [www.thetaskforce.org/dcla2006](http://www.thetaskforce.org/dcla2006).



## Task Force Titans Politics, literature and community service share annual honors

by Will O'Bryan  
Published on 05/11/2006

From enthusiastic political polemics to impassioned calls for GLBT activism to make its home both in the city and on the range, **the stage at last weekend's National Gay and Lesbian Task Force awards dinner buzzed with energy as the group raised a couple hundred thousand dollars, just in time for this year's mid-term elections.**

The Task Force played host to more than 450 people Saturday night, May 6, at the district's Omni Shoreham Hotel overlooking Rock Creek Park. The event, a dinner marking the Task Force's 17th Annual Leadership Awards, paid tribute to three people and an institution: Rep. John Conyers Jr. (D-Mich.), a longtime ally of the gay community; Annie Proulx, author of the gay-themed short story *Brokeback Mountain*, which garnered much attention as a film a few months ago; Sen. Russ Feingold (D-Wisc.), a possible contender in the 2008 presidential race, and a supporter of same-sex marriage; and Food & Friends, the metro area's non-profit provider of groceries and prepared meals to thousands of ill clients and their families.

As one of four such Task Force award events around the country, Saturday's was notable as the format has moved to a dinner, rather than a reception. Presumably, introducing armies of "table captains" -- and their requisite talent for drafting attendees willing to pony up the \$250 admission -- will measurably aid the Task Force's bottom line as it prepares for a slew of upcoming elections. Claire Lucas, a D.C. board member of the National Stonewall Democrats and bronze-level sponsor of the Task Force event, set a stellar fund-raising example Saturday night, offering a check for \$5,000 to ensure the D.C. bash was more fiscally successful than April's award dinner in New York. Organizers said the D.C. event raised about \$200,000 for the Task Force.

While the dollars will fuel the Task Force's work in coming months, leadership plays its invaluable part in the political fight for GLBT equality. The evening's honorees offered their contributions in rhetoric, both fiery and subdued. Emcee Karen Allen, a lesbian comic, offered humor: "I don't want special rights. But I would like discounts."

Conyers, a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, has long been associated with social justice issues. In keeping with that reputation, his remarks tended toward the big picture, rather than the gay civil-rights struggle in particular.

"There ought to be some way we can have an excess-profit tax, [and] transparency to see where all of these millions and millions in bonuses are going to these executives," he said, pointing to the recent spike in gas prices. He also touched upon slavery reparations, universal health care, the war in Iraq, and impeaching President Bush.

He concluded by turning back to the Task Force. "I'm with you," he said, Leadership Award in hand. "I'm with Sen. Feingold. I'm with [past Task Force honorees, the openly gay Democratic congressional representatives] Tammy Baldwin and Barney Frank. All these great Americans make me proud to be here tonight to accept this award."

Feingold, who delivered the evening's keynote address, took a more focused approach, relating how gay civil-rights issues have been a fixture of his career since he was first elected to office as a state senator when he was 29. At the time, 1983, he voted with the legislative majority in repealing Wisconsin's law against sodomy. "I felt like history was moving in the right direction," he said, adding that his 1993 entry into the U.S. Senate was marked with the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy for gays in the military. He said he nevertheless remained optimistic that gays were moving toward equality.

"I was still optimistic -- until the [Defense of Marriage Act] came along," he says, pointing to the measure that allows states to deny marriage to same-sex couples, and asserts the federal definition of marriage to be a union between a man and a woman. "I was appalled, frankly, by how many Democrats voted for that," he continued, calling DOMA "awful" and "mean-spirited."

To cheers, he added that the proposed Federal Marriage Amendment, which would essentially write DOMA's restrictions into U.S. Constitution, "belongs absolutely nowhere near the Constitution of the United States of America.... I support marriage equality in all cases. If two people love each other and they want to get married, they ought to be able to."

Proulx did not offer a politician's enthusiasm. Instead, she appeared somewhat bashful as she took the lectern, her soft monotone a sharp contrast to the other speakers' styles. "They never told me I'd have to say something, but I will," she deadpanned.

Proulx, in from Wyoming for the awards dinner, spoke about her stretch of the country as a "mean, spare, hard" place. "It's a tough place. I like it because it's a tough place. Its beauty is hard and subtle."

That hardness comes with a particular challenge.

"People don't really disturb the ancient traditions of rural places, and that's too bad," she said. "You really have to take a look at what's not right, and not support the status quo."

She closed with an invitation, observing that there are many GLBT people from her part of the country, but that they often leave her rough terrain in favor of gay-friendly cities. With an apparent desire to turn that tide, she imparted, "If any of you are contemplating a move to the country, do it."

Though Matt Foreman, executive director of the Task Force, may not have as much celebrity as the other speakers on the stage, he remains the personification of his organization.

"Time is on our side. Because of you, winning is not only possible, it's inevitable," he said. "And it's going to happen in our lifetime."

*For photo coverage of this event, please see our online [Scene coverage](#).*



## **Dean Misstates Party Platform on Gays**

### **Democratic chairman Howard Dean mischaracterizes his party's platform on gay rights**

By CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press Writer

May. 11, 2006

WASHINGTON (AP) - Democratic chairman Howard Dean mischaracterized his party's platform on gay rights in an interview courting evangelicals, then set the record straight Thursday when an advocacy group called him on it.

Dean told Christian Broadcasting Network News that the 2004 Democratic platform declares "marriage is between a man and a woman" \_ just one of the points he made in reaching out to religious conservatives who are largely hostile to the party.

**But the platform does not define marriage that way, and his remarks prompted the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force to return a \$5,000 donation from the Democratic National Committee.**

**Dean later acknowledged his misstatement, but the group sent back the money anyway. "We need for Governor Dean to demonstrate real leadership on our issues," executive director Matt Foreman said in an interview, "not to equivocate depending on the audience."**

Dean sought to establish common ground with religious conservatives in the interview on Pat Robertson's network, a tall order considering their opposition to the Democratic Party's positions on abortion rights, gay rights and some other social issues.

Dean said that "one of the misconceptions about the Democratic Party is that we're godless and that we don't have any values."

He went on: "The truth is, we have an enormous amount in common with the Christian community, and particularly with the evangelical Christian community. And one of the biggest things that Democrats worry about is the materialism of our country, what's on television that our kids are seeing, and the lack of spirituality."

With Republicans embracing the traditional definition of marriage in 2004, Democrats sought to appeal to such traditionalists without giving up their support for gay rights.

The result: a platform plank that left the central question about what defines marriage to the states, and specifically rejected President Bush's support for a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage.

It asserted: "We support full inclusion of gay and lesbian families in the life of our nation and seek equal responsibilities, benefits, and protections for these families."

Dean stated in the interview: "The Democratic Party platform from 2004 says that marriage is between a man and a woman. That's what it says."

He added that the party differs with some religious leaders in believing "everybody deserves to live with dignity and respect, and that equal rights under the law are important."

After the gay rights group went public with its complaints about his remarks, Dean acknowledged: "I misstated the Democratic Party's platform, which does not say marriage should be limited to a man and a woman," and reasserted the party's commitment to equal protection for all.

Foreman said Dean should be persuading Democrats to fight against ballot initiatives seeking to ban gay marriage, but instead has misrepresented the party's "important and affirming plank" several times.

"There has been a disturbing lack of clarity from Governor Dean about where we fit into the party and the country," he said after Dean corrected himself.

Foreman said the \$5,000 was for sponsorship of the group's leadership awards dinner in Washington last week, and will be missed.

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On the Net:

Account of Dean interview: <http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/politics/060510a.asp>

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force: <http://www.thetaskforce.org/>

This story was also picked up in the following outlets:

**StarTribune.com**  
Minneapolis - St Paul, Minnesota



**THE NEWS & OBSERVER**  
newsobserver.com