THE SPOKEN WORD

Gays are a part of his 'vision'

The following is an excerpt from a in Washington, D.C. speech presidential candidate Bill Clin-Angeles on May 18, 1992.

... And those of you who are here tonight, you represent a community of our nation's gifted people whom we have been willing to squander. We can't afford to waste the capacities, the contributions, the hearts, the souls, the minds of the Gay and Lesbian Americans either.

Every day that we discriminate, that we hate, that we refuse to avail ourselves of the potential of any group of Americans, we are all less ...

As soon as the Pentagon issued a study — ironically by a spokesperson who himself was said to be Gay — which said that there was no basis in national elemental that if a person, a man or a hear the message. woman, wanted to serve their country, it unless there is some reason not to.

The Pentagon had a study which said there was no reason not to. The Secretary of Defense, himself, obviously personally very uncomfortable at not changing the ing, which is not part of a political rules, said it was a "quaint little rule." program. I just want to thank the Gay and Well, my fellow Americans, we have too Lesbian community for your courage and

Roberta Achtenberg, Dr. Scott, some of was offering a helping hand, and when it you in this audience, to be a part of a was dark and lonely, you did not Clinton Administration, not because of or withdraw, instead you reached out to in spite of your sexual orientation, but be- others. And this whole nation has cause America needs you. And if I become the president of the United States, I owe it to my country to find the best and most gifted and most knowledgeable people in the United States of America to solve the problems and embrace the challenges of this time.

war on AIDS ...

Over a million people, over a million Finally, let me say again, this is not an yet, the Administration is still curiously gender or being Gay or straight or silent until the famous fall. Until, like religion or age or region or income. What Magic Johnson, they come forward, or kills the country is not the problems it like Arthur Ashe, someone takes ad- faces. There will be problems even until vantage of their privacy. Then someone the end of time. What kills the country is says something appropriately touching.

But this Administration ignores its own commission reports, underfunds research and treatment, leaves red tape binding science and drug trials and research, and says behavior modification is the issue. But then, unlike Dr. Koop, are a part of it. I believe tomorrow will be refuses to embrace the cause of sex better than today if we act. And we are all education in our schools ...

When it comes to AIDS, there should better start behaving as if we are. be a Manhattan Project. One person should be in charge. One person who can those of you that are HIV positive and cut across all the departments and agen- make it go away tomorrow, I would do it, cies, who has the president's ear and the so help me God I would. If I gave up my president's arm. One person who can race for the White House and everything make sure that we begin by implementing else, I would do that ... all those recommendations and those two commission reports now gathering dust challenge ...

One person who will launch a real naton delivered to 600 Gay activists in Los tional education campaign with someone just as forthright as Dr. Koop was ... Someone who will see that women and people of color are included in the research and in the drug trials.

And, I might add, for women especially, that is a problem for general application, not just as it relates to AIDS, but as it relates to breast cancer and any other health problem. We have got to improve our approach to women's health. Someone who will fund the Ryan White Act fully, someone who will approach this problem with compassion and teach the American people what he has learned. That is what I will try to do.

There are two things that I would like to mention again to make sure you know security for discriminating based on the I am serious. The first is that I want to sexual orientation of Americans who make a major speech on AIDS to a nonwish to serve in the military, I said I traditional group of Americans, who may would act on the study. It seemed to me not cheer at every word but who need to

The second is, that I have pledged to they ought to be able to do it. The see that someone who is HIV positive, presumption should be in favor of doing but also has a positive attitude, come before the American people at the Democratic National Convention to speak about this issue.

Before I leave, I want to say somethmuch to do to endure "quaint little rules." your commitment and your service in the I want people like David Mixner and face of the terror of AIDS. When no one benefited already in ways most people cannot even imagine from the courage and commitment and the sense of community which you practice.

It was your community who created the first AIDS service organization, who did the first important work in pioneering We cannot afford to do otherwise. I AIDS drugs, who sounded the alarm and want to crack down on those who do created the first education program, who want to do otherwise, who now practice stood strong in the face of all the hate crimes that the Justice Department governmental opposition and discriminashould move against. And, perhaps more tion and killing silence. This nation owes importantly than anything right now, I'd you thanks for that, and I want to give like, for a change, for there to be a real you my thanks and my respect for that struggle today.

Americans are now HIV positive. And election, or it should not be, about race or to proceed day in and day out with no vision, with no sense that tomorrow can be better than today, with no sense of shared community.

What I came here today to tell you in simple terms is I have a vision and you a part of the same community, and we'd

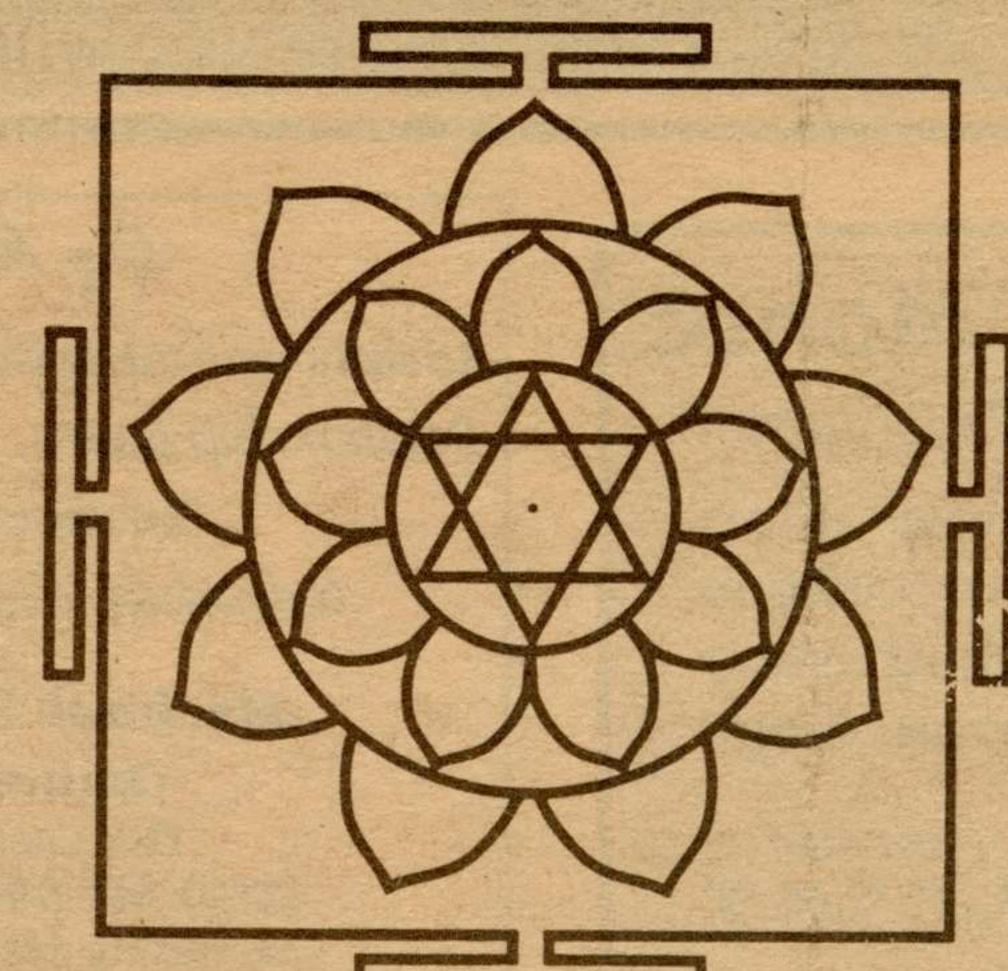
If I could, if I could wave my arm for

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