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Democratic convention host committee may stick around for a while

The Democratic convention is over, but Chicago '96, the host committee, may not be history. First Brother **Bill Daley**, the driving force behind Chicago '96, tells us there's a chance the committee will remain intact to pursue bringing more major events, such as the Republican convention, Pan-Am Games, Super Bowl and basketball's Final Four to town.

Leslie Fox is executive director for Chicago '96, which—under a different name—also handled the city's involvement two years ago in the World Cup. Said Daley: "It could be the perfect vehicle. A lot of details would have to be worked out so it doesn't compete with existing groups. We'll probably make a final decision in a month or so, after we wrap up final convention business."

Dramatic business: In a dispute that's been brewing for some time, four major Chicago-area theaters—Victory Gardens, Steppenwolf, Marriott's Lincolnshire and Goodman—say they are pulling out of the Joseph Jefferson Awards for the '96-'97 season. The dispute is over the competitive nature of the awards, which honor Chicago theater excellence as well as the issue of multiple awards in each category.

Eye opener: We're not sure if **Sargent and Eunice Shriver** are aware of the lawsuits and malpractice problems surrounding **James Desnick** in his career as an ophthalmologist. Just last week a 65-page, class action suit against Desnick was filed by local attorney **Kenneth Moll**. But the Shrivens—plus an all-star list of

supporters—are behind a Best Buddies gala here next month in which Desnick, who lost his medical license for two years, gets the Spirit of Friendship Award.

Among honorary chairs: **Dan Webb** (Desnick's attorney), Mayor **Richard Daley**, **Steve Molo**, U.S. Sen. **Carol Moseley-Braun**, **Eugene Sawyer**, **Jim Thompson**, Gov. **Jim Edgar**, U.S. Rep. **Dick Durbin**, Rev. **Willie Barrow**, State Treasurer **Judy Baar Topinka** and **Tom Waddle**. Incredibly, invites were sent to WBBM-Ch. 2, which, in case event planners didn't realize it, has been tenacious in investigating the honoree.

Making the grade: Longtime Chicago educator **Momma Hawk** and her Recovering The Gifted Child Academy were all set for a visit from President **Clinton** during the convention. Then the **Dick Morris** scandal broke, and the Prez never made it to the school. But Hawk's seven-year experiment in public education—"We take the troubled and confused and get them back into the mainstream"—is finally going to get national attention: "Dateline NBC" spent Tuesday at the school, and *People* magazine just called.

Music men: As expected, the New York trial with **Andrew Lloyd Webber** and folksinger **Ray Repp** fighting over Repp's "Till You" had its share of sour notes. Repp's lawyer **Bill Coulson** of Chicago's Cherry & Flynn tells us issues over waltz time vs. march time produced its own mini-battle... Who wins this one remains to be seen (briefs are due Oct. 11), but at least one Chicagoan earned praise from Judge **Shirley Wohl Kram**, who called **James Mack**, chair of the humanities department at Harold Washington College and Repp's expert, "a man of great dignity."

Passages: Wednesday birthdays: **Michael Douglas**, 52; **Mark Hamill**, 45; **Heather Locklear**, 35; **Scottie Pippen**, 31; **Christopher Reeve**, 44; **Will Smith**, 27; **Barbara Walters**, 65; **Anson Williams**, 47.

Stop the presses: Here's one you don't see every day: The Chicago Marathon just named **Tassos Greek Olive Oil** as the "official olive oil" of next month's run.

EAVESDROPPING

"The idea of getting up at 5 in the morning to feed the child—I think that's fun. I love the idea of the little boy growing up, me playing baseball with him when I'm 90."

Tony Randall, 77, on his impending fatherhood