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CREATOR: wayne.besen (wayne.besen@mail.hrcusa.org [UNKNOWN])

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SUBJECT: MILITARY WITCH HUNT UPHELD IN SECOND CIRCUIT

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL ANTI-GAY MILITARY WITCH HUNT

POLICY UPHELD IN SECOND CIRCUIT

Military Argues They Are Exempt From Laws And Standards Governing Fairness

And Nondiscrimination In Employment, Asserts HRC

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Administration's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't

Pursue" policy was upheld today by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in

Able v. USA case. In upholding the constitutionality of the patently discriminatory policy, the Court effectively gives the Department of Defense carte blanche authority to strip lesbian and gay service members of basic constitutional rights, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

"This ruling says that the military is exempt from the rules the rest of society has to follow. We should all be troubled when Americans who are honorably serving their country are persecuted by the very government they are trying to protect," said HRC political director Winnie Stachelberg. The Second Circuit Court of Appeals joins three other appellate courts in the Fourth, Eighth and Ninth Circuits that have upheld the current policy on gays in the military. There are no other cases challenging "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue" pending before district or appellate courts.

The decision today overturns a lower court ruling by Judge Eugene Nickerson who ruled on July 2, 1997 that the military's policy creates "special rules" that treat gay service members differently than heterosexual service members for saying and doing the same things in violation of the constitutional guarantee of equal protection under the laws.

The Court refused to apply the *Romer v. Evans* decision to the armed services, arguing that the armed services' "special functions" justify discriminatory treatment against lesbian and gay service members. In *Romer*, the Supreme Court stated unequivocally that gay and lesbian people could not be singled out for unequal treatment. The *Romer* case overturned Colorado's Amendment 2, a Colorado ballot measure that would have denied localities the ability to enact ordinances that barred anti-gay discrimination.

"The Court's decision is in error and fundamentally flawed because there is no military exception to the US Constitution and our Bill of Rights," said HRC chief counsel Tony Varona. The six service members who brought the challenge to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue" may ask the entire Second Circuit to hear an appeal of the case or they may petition the United States Supreme Court to review today's decision. The case was brought on behalf of the service members by Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund and the ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, both in New York.

In a report released earlier this year, Servicemembers Legal Defense Network documented that "commanders continue to ask, pursue and harass" service members in direct violation of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue." In April, the Pentagon released statistics showing that it had discharged 997 gays in 1997, a 67% increase since the implementation of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue" and the highest number of discharges since 1989. SLDN reports that the cost of firing gays in the military last year exceeded \$29 million.

Today's decision comes on the heels of a new survey released on September 4, 1998 indicating a significant drop in "strong opposition" to gay men and lesbians in the military by soldiers. The survey, conducted by Professor Charles Moskos of Northwestern University, the author of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue," and Laura Miller of UCLA, found that the number of Army men strongly opposed to the presence of gay men and lesbians in the military has dropped from 67% in 1992 to 36% in 1998. Army women's opposition has also dropped significantly from 31% in 1992 to 16% in 1998, according to the recent study.

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national lesbian and gay

political organization, with members throughout the country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support, and educates the public to ensure that lesbian and gay Americans can be open, honest, and safe at home, at work, and in the community.

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: HeadlineNewsMail (HeadlineNewsMail@CNN.COM [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:25-SEP-1998 11:30:20.00

SUBJECT: Headline News - Text Version

TO: TEXTQUICKNEWS (TEXTQUICKNEWS@CNNMAIL1.CNN.COM [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

Jody J. Kaplan (CN=Jody J. Kaplan/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

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===== HEADLINE NEWS MAIL =====

===== from CNN.com =====

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+= Live Chat about COLD WAR +=

+= Chat with historian John Lewis Gaddis +=

+= after the Series Premiere, Sunday at 8:00 p.m. ET +=

+= <http://CNN.com/ColdWar> or <http://chat.yahoo.com> +=

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Top stories as of: Friday, 25 Sep 98, 07:30:01 AM EDT

TOP STORY--

.....Hurricane Georges bearing down on Florida

WORLD NEWS--

.....Hurricane Georges races through Cuba

.....Aide to ethnic Albanian leader wounded in Kosovo attack

.....India joins Pakistan in call for nuclear test treaty

.....Nigerian leader: Nation no longer deserves sanctions

U.S. NEWS--

.....Hurricane Georges bearing down on Florida

.....Calls between LBJ and Jackie Kennedy made public

.....Appeals court upholds military's 'don't ask, don't tell'

.....FBI: Malnourished Utah toddler kidnapped by parents

BUSINESS FROM CNNFN--

.....Tokyo, Hong Kong slide

.....Mortgages hit new lows

.....Lehman presses Russia

.....Clinton calls for wage hike

SPORTS FROM CNN/SI--

.....Yanks tie 44-year-old AL record with 111th victory

.....Texas clinches tie for AL West with 9-3 win

.....Giants close in on Mets, Cubs in NL wild-card race

.....Red Sox clinch AL wild-card berth

Also ...

.....POLITICS from AllPolitics

.....SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY

.....SHOWBIZ

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*** Germany Votes: Cast Your Ballot Here**

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*** Crisis in Russia: What went wrong?**

<http://cnn.com/russia/overview>

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TOP STORY

> HURRICANE GEORGES BEARING DOWN ON FLORIDA

Gusty wind and rain lashed the Florida Keys early Friday, as Hurricane Georges headed closer to shore after killing more than 250 in the Caribbean. Five million people in eight Florida counties were under a hurricane warning. A million more living along 300 miles of coastline around the southern end of the peninsula were ordered out of low-lying areas and mobile homes. Schools, courts and federal offices were shut down in many communities.

Evacuations from Fort Lauderdale to Tampa Bay

.... <http://cnn.com/WEATHER/9809/25/georges.02.ap/>

WORLD NEWS

> HURRICANE GEORGES RACES THROUGH CUBA

Hurricane Georges moved off the northern coast of Cuba Thursday, leaving at least two dead and causing extensive flooding, crop destruction and damage to roads and buildings on its fourth day rampaging through the Caribbean. More than 2,000 houses in Holguin and Guantanamo were underwater, and the reservoir for Guantanamo, bone-dry two days ago, is 90 percent full, officials said.

Two people electrocuted by downed power lines

.... <http://cnn.com/WEATHER/9809/24/cuba.hurricane/index.html>

> AIDE TO ETHNIC ALBANIAN LEADER WOUNDED IN KOSOVO ATTACK

Sabri Hamiti, a close aide of Kosovo's ethnic Albanian leader, has been shot and seriously wounded in what could be a warning to pacifist Ibrahim Rugova not to give up the goal of gaining Kosovo's independence from Serbia. Hamiti was attacked late Thursday in front of his house in a Pristina suburb, sources close to Rugova said Friday. Two bullets hit just above his heart and one broke his arm. Hamiti was taken to a Pristina hospital.

NATO prepares for possible air and missile strikes

.... <http://cnn.com/WORLD/europe/9809/25/kosovo.01.ap/>

> INDIA JOINS PAKISTAN IN CALL FOR NUCLEAR TEST TREATY

India's prime minister said Thursday that his country was prepared to sign on

to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, but had to complete negotiations

before it did so. Atal Bihari Vajpayee told the U.N. General Assembly that

India wanted the treaty to go into force no later than September 1999.

India is

one of the 44 countries that must ratify the treaty for it to go into effect.

Test ban: 3 nations could complete treaty

.... <http://cnn.com/WORLD/asiapcf/9809/24/india.pakistan.01>

> NIGERIAN LEADER: NATION NO LONGER DESERVES SANCTIONS

Describing Nigeria as undergoing a "silent but peaceful revolution," its leader

urged the international community Thursday to lift economic sanctions. Gen.

Abdulsalami Abubakar cited progress in human rights and a movement toward democracy in making his plea. "I stand before this august body as the leader of

a country which is now fully engaged in a genuine and irreversible process

of

transition to democracy," he told world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly.

Nigeria needs world support

.... <http://cnn.com/WORLD/africa/9809/24/un.nigeria/>

.....More World stories at <http://cnn.com/WORLD>

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U.S. NEWS

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> HURRICANE GEORGES BEARING DOWN ON FLORIDA

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peninsula were ordered out of low-lying areas and mobile homes. Schools, courts

and federal offices were shut down in many communities.

Evacuations from Fort Lauderdale to Tampa Bay

.... <http://cnn.com/WEATHER/9809/25/georges.02.ap/>

> CALLS BETWEEN LBJ AND JACKIE KENNEDY MADE PUBLIC

In the weeks after her husband's assassination, Jackie Kennedy offered words of comfort to Lyndon Johnson, according to recently released tapes of LBJ's telephone conversations. The tapes reveal a warm relationship between the two, and indicate that Johnson talked to others about finding a position for John Kennedy's widow in his administration. The recordings also show Johnson's colorful and often humorous personality as he took charge of the White House and the nation in late 1963.

More on the story

.... <http://cnn.com/US/9809/24/lbj.tapes/>

> APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS MILITARY'S 'DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL'

A military appeals court has rejected a challenge of the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell policy" by six members of the military who are now in line for dismissal, their lawyer said. The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Wednesday reversed a 1997 opinion by a federal judge who said the policy is

discriminatory. Now the military careers of all six could end "just because they came forward and said, 'I'm gay and I don't think the policy treats us fairly,'" said lawyer Beatrice Dohrn.

Plaintiffs sued in 1994

.... <http://cnn.com/US/9809/24/briefs/military.homosexuals/index.html>

> FBI: MALNOURISHED UTAH TODDLER KIDNAPPED BY PARENTS

The FBI has launched an intensive search for a Utah couple, described as religious cultists, who allegedly kidnapped their severely malnourished, 20-month-old son from a hospital. Concerned about the child's health, the FBI

has issued an urgent appeal for public help and offered a reward for information leading to the arrest of Christopher Earl Fink and Kyndra Lee Fink.

The fugitives have been sighted in Cheyenne, Wyoming, authorities say.

FBI establishes public hotline

.... <http://www.cnn.com/US/9809/24/fbi.kidnapping/>

.....More U.S. stories at <http://cnn.com/US>

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BUSINESS from CNNfn

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## > TOKYO, HONG KONG SLIDE

Tokyo shares tumbled more than 3 percent Friday as comments by a high-ranking

Japanese official fueled concern that passage of key banking legislation would

be delayed further, traders said. The benchmark Nikkei average closed 481.94

points, or 3.39 percent, lower at 13,723.84. Nikkei December futures were down

460 at 13,780.

U.S. bank losses overnight fueled selling

.... [http://cnfn.com/markets/wires/9809/25/asialate\\_wg/](http://cnfn.com/markets/wires/9809/25/asialate_wg/)

## > MORTGAGES HIT NEW LOWS

Mortgage interest rates gave even more incentive for people to buy or refinance

their homes this week, as they fell even further past last week's low levels,

mortgage firm Freddie Mac said Thursday. For the week ending Sept. 25, the rate

on U.S. 30-year fixed mortgages dipped to an average 6.64 percent from last week's 6.66 percent. Fifteen-year loans also were down at an average 6.32

percent from 6.35 percent the week before.

How low can they go?

.... [http://cnfn.com/quickenonfn/home\\_auto/9809/24/q\\_weekly\\_rates/](http://cnfn.com/quickenonfn/home_auto/9809/24/q_weekly_rates/)

#### > LEHMAN PRESSES RUSSIA

Lehman Brothers Holdings won a court order in London on Thursday freezing the

British bank accounts of two big Russian banks, contending the two defaulted on

\$110 million in obligations to Lehman and its clients, the New York Times reported on Friday. The court victory could become the first in a series, if

other Western lenders are as successful in pressing complaints against the Russian government and other key institutions.

American hedge funds fighting for a place

.... <http://cnfn.com/hotstories/companies/9809/25/lehman/>

#### > CLINTON CALLS FOR WAGE HIKE

President Clinton said Thursday the U.S. government should approve a rise in

the national minimum wage to ensure continuing strong growth in personal income. The Census Bureau reported earlier that real median household income

rose 1.9 percent to \$37,005 in 1997 from \$36,306 in 1996 while the number of people living below the poverty level fell to 13.3 percent from 13.7 percent.

Clinton criticizes Republicans for rejecting bill

.... <http://cnnfn.com/hotstories/washun/9809/24/clinton/>

.....More Business stories at <http://cnnfn.com>

.....For market numbers see <http://CNNfn.com/markets>

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## SPORTS from CNN/SI

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### > YANKS TIE 44-YEAR-OLD AL RECORD WITH 111TH VICTORY

The New York Yankees matched the American League mark of 111 wins Thursday night as Shane Spencer hit a go-ahead grand slam in the sixth inning for a

5-2

victory over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. New York (111-48) equaled the 1954 Cleveland Indians (111-43) and trails only the 1906 Chicago Cubs (116-36)

in

the win column.

63 games over .500 for first time since '27

.... [http://cnnsi.com/baseball/mlb/news/1998/09/24/devilrays\\_yankees/](http://cnnsi.com/baseball/mlb/news/1998/09/24/devilrays_yankees/)

## > TEXAS CLINCHES TIE FOR AL WEST WITH 9-3 WIN

The Texas Rangers clinched a tie for the AL West title Thursday night by beating Seattle 9-3 for their fourth straight win. Ivan Rodriguez hit his career-high 21st homer and Aaron Sele allowed 3 runs and eight hits in six innings for his 19th win of the season. The Rangers, coming off a three-game sweep of Anaheim, lead the Angels by three games with three remaining.

Anaheim

stayed alive with a 10-6 win over Oakland earlier in the night.

## 15-hit Rangers' attack

.... [http://cnnsi.com/baseball/mlb/news/1998/09/24/rangers\\_mariners/](http://cnnsi.com/baseball/mlb/news/1998/09/24/rangers_mariners/)

## > GIANTS CLOSE IN ON METS, CUBS IN NL WILD-CARD RACE

Barry Bonds and the resurgent San Francisco Giants set up a really wild final

weekend in the wild-card race. The Giants pulled within one game of idle

New

York and Chicago for the NL's last playoff spot, beating the Pittsburgh

Pirates

6-2 Thursday to complete a four-game sweep. San Francisco, the Mets and the

Cubs all finish with three games on the road. The Giants visit Colorado

(76-83)

while the Mets play at East champion Atlanta (103-56) and the Cubs play at

Central champion Houston (100-59).

Only 16,754 in attendance

.... [http://cnnsi.com/baseball/mlb/news/1998/09/24/pirates\\_giants/](http://cnnsi.com/baseball/mlb/news/1998/09/24/pirates_giants/)

> RED SOX CLINCH AL WILD-CARD BERTH

Pedro Martinez struggled in a game that would give Boston its first playoff

berth in three years. Nomar Garciaparra made sure the Red Sox won it.

Martinez

allowed three homers as his September struggles continued, but Garciaparra

homered twice and scored four runs as the Red Sox clinched the AL wild-card

berth with a 9-6 win over the slumping Baltimore Orioles on Thursday night.

90 wins for first time since '86

.... [http://cnnsi.com/baseball/mlb/news/1998/09/24/orioles\\_redsox/](http://cnnsi.com/baseball/mlb/news/1998/09/24/orioles_redsox/)

.....More Sports stories at <http://cnnsi.com>

|

.....For scores see <http://CNNSI.com/scoreboards>

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> SOURCES: SETTLEMENT EXPLORED IN PAULA JONES CASE

Two sources familiar with the White House legal strategy have told CNN the prospect of a settlement was discussed recently by President Clinton's lawyers and attorneys for Paula Jones, who contended she was sexually harassed by the president in 1991 when he was governor of Arkansas. The case was thrown out by Federal Judge Susan Webber Wright in April, who said Jones' assertions, even if true, "fall far short of the rigorous standards for establishing a claim of outrage under Arkansas law."

Source says calls made before Starr release

.... <http://cnn.com/ALLPOLITICS/stories/1998/09/25/clinton.jones/>

> POLL: CLINTON VIDEO RELEASE CREATES BACKLASH AGAINST GOP

The latest CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll shows that the release of Bill Clinton's videotaped testimony on Monday may have created a temporary backlash against Republican candidates. Fifty-one percent of likely voters now say they

would

vote for the Democratic candidate in their congressional district if the

November elections for Congress were held today, giving the Democrats a

six-point lead over Republicans. Last week the two parties were in a dead

heat.

Will it affect November elections?

.... <http://cnn.com/ALLPOLITICS/stories/1998/09/24/clinton.poll/>

> JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SCHEDULES IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY VOTE

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry Hyde said Thursday his committee

will

consider a resolution to initiate an impeachment inquiry against President

Bill

Clinton in an open session on October 5 or October 6. Should the resolution

pass, the full House would vote on it October 8 or October 9. Hyde said the

Judiciary committee's staff has been poring over Independent Counsel Ken

Starr's report and will brief the full committee next week in preparation

for

the vote.

Hyde dismisses talk of deal to avoid impeachment

.... <http://cnn.com/ALLPOLITICS/stories/1998/09/24/starr.report/>

> CLINTON HAILS HOUSEHOLD INCOME GAINS

In a Rose Garden ceremony Thursday morning, President Bill Clinton credited his administration's continuing economic initiatives for income gains documented in the Census Bureau's annual report on poverty. The Census Bureau found widespread drops in poverty levels across the board, with African-American and Hispanic families among those who enjoyed the most dramatic improvements.

In addition, inflation-adjusted real median income levels climbed to their highest levels since 1989.

Clinton: 'economic strategy is working'

.... <http://cnn.com/ALLPOLITICS/stories/1998/09/24/clinton.poverty/>

.....More Politics stories at <http://allpolitics.com>

.....Commentary & cartoons at <http://allpolitics.com/1998/analysis.html>

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## SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY

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> ASTRONOMERS SPY NEW NEIGHBORS OUTSIDE SOLAR SYSTEM

Two new planets have been detected orbiting distant stars, bringing to 12 the number of worlds detected beyond our solar system. Astronomers said Thursday the two planets could provide clues to how planetary systems are formed, and aid the search for extraterrestrial life. Geoffrey Marcy of San Francisco State University headed the research team. The new planets are the first discovered by the enormous Keck telescope in Hawaii, the sharpest optical telescope in the world.

"A real speedy son of a gun"

.... <http://cnn.com/TECH/space/9809/24/space.planets/>

> NEW SIGHTING OF "LIVING FOSSIL" INTRIGUES SCIENTISTS

An ugly fish known as the "living fossil" has made another appearance in the ocean, surprising scientists. A coelacanth has been found in Indonesia -- 7,000 miles (11,200 kilometers) from its only previously known location near Madagascar. Its ancestors date back 400 million years. Until 1938, scientists knew the coelacanth only as a fossilized relic from the dinosaur era. In

both

1938 and 1998, a biologist found the coelacanth at an Indonesian fish market.

Coelacanths once thought to be related to humans

.... <http://cnn.com/TECH/science/9809/23/living.fossil/>

> SENATE DEBATING ONLINE PRIVACY FOR KIDS

The Senate Commerce Committee was considering a bill Thursday that would force

World Wide Web site operators to get parental consent before receiving a child's e-mail or home address. Sen. Richard Bryan (D-Nev.), a co-sponsor of

the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, said, "Children 12 and under are

not fully capable of understanding the consequences of giving out personal information online."

Many companies use off-line consent forms

.... <http://cnn.com/TECH/computing/9809/24/tots.idg/>

> INFANT DEATHS DROP BY A THIRD SINCE 1980

Citing improvements in diagnosis and treatment, the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention said Thursday that infant deaths caused by birth defects

dropped

by more than a third in the United States between 1980 and 1995. Birth

defects

account for one in five infant deaths in the United States, making them the

leading cause of infant deaths. Heart defects caused the most deaths,

followed

by brain and nervous system defects.

.....More Sci-Tech stories at <http://cnn.com/TECH>

.....What's new in high-tech? See <http://CNN.com/TECH/index.html#tomtod>

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## SHOWBIZ

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> MONICA TALKING TO OPRAH?

According to a New York Daily News columnist, "The Oprah Winfrey Show" is

negotiating with Monica Lewinsky to land the first one-on-one interview

with

the former White House intern. Mitchell Fink told CNN's Showbiz Today that

Lewinsky's people have already turned down \$2 million offers from other TV

outlets.

Show declines comment

.... <http://cnn.com/SHOWBIZ/News/9809/24/showbuzz/index.html#story1>

> GIBSON LOOKING TO MAKE "HOGAN'S HEROES" MOVIE

Mel Gibson is talking to Paramount Pictures about making a feature version of the 1960's sitcom "Hogan's Heroes." Gibson wants Paramount to develop and co-finance the project. Gibson wants to be the producer and star in the film.

The television series starred Bob Crane as an American imprisoned in a German POW camp. He and fellow Allied prisoners ran an espionage operation inside the camp. In 1994, Gibson turned another TV series, "Maverick," into a movie.

Project needs a screenwriter to move forward

....
http://customnews.cnn.com/cnews/pna.show_story?p_art_id=2972050&p_section_name>Showbiz

> BROADWAY SWIMMING IN RED INK

Even with attendance up almost 12 percent for Broadway shows, losses from failed shows during last season totaled nearly \$50 million. One analyst says about one in four Broadway shows makes back its initial investment. The

high

labor and living costs in New York, along with more elaborate staging and special effects, make Broadway plays very expensive. They typically require an

initial investment of about \$1 million plus an operating budget of about \$500,000 to \$700,000 a week.

Marketing and promotion a key to profitability

.... <http://cnn.com/SHOWBIZ/Music/9809/23/broadway/index.html>

> HIGH SCHOOL SUED OVER "JERRY SPRINGER"

A former student is suing officials at Stratford High School in Bridgeport, Connecticut, for \$15,000, saying he was injured when a fight broke out during a school showing of "The Jerry Springer Show." The student, 16, said another student punched him after a disagreement over the show. The suit says officials improperly permitted students to watch, during class time and a midterm exam, a television show "known to provoke violent confrontations." The episode included a fight between guests.

Town attorney calls suit "A legal stretch"

.... <http://cnn.com/SHOWBIZ/News/9809/24/showbuzz/index.html#story4>

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CREATOR: PlanetOut NewsPlanet (PlanetOut NewsPlanet [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:26-SEP-1998 09:20:18.00

SUBJECT: [GLBT-NEWS:PNO] Entertaining Things to See

TO: GLBT-NEWS List (GLBT-NEWS List [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

Joseph E. Voeller (CN=Joseph E. Voeller/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

NEWS SOURCE: PlanetOut NewsPlanet - <http://www.planetout.com/>

BACKGROUND OF NEWS SOURCE:

PlanetOut is a web site with oodles of news, information, and just plain

Web-fun for the gay community. Visit their site and support their news

staff that bring you these articles. This particular article may have

even more links--for the Web version of this article, go to:

<http://www.planetout.com/newsplanet/article.html?1998/09/25/5>

Entertaining Things to See

NewsPlanet Staff

Friday, September 25, 1998 / 08:33 PM

SUMMARY: Waters' film opening requires LAPD "Pecker"-checkers ... new

video releases feature Dietrich and gay Republicans (?) ... don't ask,

don't tell, do interact with CNN ... our "what's on TV" notes

Film

Openly gay filmmaker John Waters' ("Hairspray," "Pink Flamingos") latest work, "Pecker," made its U.S. debut in Los Angeles on September 22 (having already shown at the Toronto Film Festival) with a party where the cast was joined by Quentin Tarantino, bisexual TV comic Andy Dick, open gay Michael Stipe of REM (whom you can see with Bette Midler and others on "Before they were Rock Stars" on VH1 at 11pm September 25), among others, and the cops were called to quiet down the noise; other cities get to see it (sans party and cops) beginning September 25.

Waters described the piece as "a very happy film about pubic hair harassment, lesbian strippers and Virgin Mary statues." In a nutshell, it's a tale of culture clash, as the blithe young Baltimore short-order cook and shutterbug nicknamed Pecker (Edward Furlong) because he eats like a bird (right!) becomes the darling of the over-sophisticated New York City art scene without really trying, or even much caring until notoriety brings the loss of artistic freedom. Christina Ricci plays his girlfriend who runs a laundromat, Martha Plimpton plays his sister who works at a gay bar and Lauren Hulsey his younger eating-disordered sister, Mary Kay Place plays his mother who runs a thrift shop, Jean Schertler plays his grandmother who likes to play ventriloquist with those Virgin Mary statues, Brendan Sexton III plays his best friend whose "art" is shoplifting, and Lili Taylor plays his Manhattan art dealer, while a gaggle of others include assorted drag kings and queens. The title is only the beginning of a

stream of double entendre. By all accounts, it's not a film that will change your life, but quite a pleasant comic diversion. Hear Waters tell it himself to Conan O'Brien on "Late Night" September 26 at 12:35am on NBC (Janeane Garofalo will be there too).

Video

Four classic films with the bisexual diva Marlene Dietrich will be released by Universal on September 29: "Song of Songs" (Rouben Mamoulian 1933), "The Devil is a Woman" (Joseph von Sternberg 1935), "Flame of New Orleans" (Rene Clair 1941), and "Foreign Affair" (Billy Wilder 1948).

For something completely different, you can obtain C-SPAN's video of the 1998 Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) National Convention banquet with speeches by LCR executive director Rich Tafel, non-lesbian conservative pundit Arianna Huffington, openly gay journalist Andrew Sullivan, University of California trustee Ward Connerly, and Lory Masters, plus the inspiring video "On the Front Lines" documenting LCR members' struggle with the homophobic Texas Republican Party state convention. Order through the C-SPAN website (<http://www.cspan.org/shop/tapes>), by fax at (765) 423-4495, or by phone 1-800-277-2698

Online

Visit CNN Interactive to put in your own two cents as to whether or not the U.S. military ban on service by open gays and lesbians is discriminatory and what kind of policy might be more fair for all

concerned, at <http://community.cnn.com/cgi-bin/WebX?13@@.ee7239c>. If you are or have been a gay or lesbian servicemember, you might like to check out HuddleStone Online at [HTTP://HuddleStone.Com](http://HuddleStone.Com).

TV

It's a pretty pokey weekend for L/G/B/T viewing -- nothing we haven't told you about in the past -- but things heat up on Monday and Tuesday.

"Breakfast at Tiffany's," the classic based on open gay Truman Capote's novel, airs on TMC on September 26 at 1:20pm.

"Ellen" fans of the ultra-die-hard variety may be interested to see the debut of "Cupid" on ABC September 26 at 10pm, since it stars Jeremy Piven, Ellen Morgan's cousin on the late lamented sitcom -- and while it's quirky, most critics found "Cupid" rather intriguing. Those same fans may want to see the umpteenth airing of "One Night Stand" on September 26 at 9pm on Comedy Central with DeGeneres doing standup about toupees for lizards and other all-too-human animal tales.

Anne Heche is a presenter on the MTV Movie Awards September 26 at 1 PM, which is not just your average awards show in that it doesn't take itself or its subject seriously at all -- full of film satire and unusual categories such as "Best Prosthetic." (Heche's work is on view this weekend in "Volcano" on Cinemax and "Donnie Brasco" on the tube as well.)

"Oprah" on September 28 (check your local listings) features Chastity Bono AND her mother Cher to talk about coming out to parents. By no coincidence, Chastity has a new book "Family Outing" coming up from Little, Brown, which has not only her own story but those of other P-FLAG families as well. The singer-actress's lesbian daughter, recently exited from GLAAD, turns up again without Cher but with the book and Jane Pauley on "Dateline NBC" at 10pm on September 29.

"Will & Grace" are back for episode #2 at 9:30pm on September 28 on NBC. Open gay Will isn't getting high marks for "plays well with others" as he urges Grace to move -- but not to his place (we know how *that* turns out) -- and his fabulous pal Jack gets on his nerves.

"Encore! Encore!" returns for episode #2 with openly gay star Nathan Lane in his non-gay role at 8:30pm on September 29 on NBC.

Visit the "In the Life" website (www.inthelifetv.org) to find out when and where on PBS you can see their new season premiere in the next two months. Featured are Southern Baptists, single-gender productions of Shakespeare, the first-ever lesbian opera "Patience and Sarah," those wildly controversial little children's books on gay and lesbian topics, and gay and lesbian retirement facilities.

===== From the GLBT-NEWS mailing list =====

Moderators: gibt-news-owner@duh.org

Also available on FidoNet in GAYNEWS

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: datalounge-list-request (datalounge-list-request@datalounge.com [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:29-SEP-1998 15:39:39.00

SUBJECT: Data Lounge Weekly News Recap

TO: datalounge-list (datalounge-list@datalounge.com [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

Richard Socarides (CN=Richard Socarides/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Dear Data Lounger:

Be sure to join us tomorrow in congratulating the Grand Prize winner of the 1998 Virtual Pride Photo Contest -- the winner's name and his or her winning submission will be posted in the VP gallery on Wednesday, September 30.

Last week we announced the launch of Gay Vote '98

(<http://www.gayvote98.com>), the most comprehensive American gay voters guide ever introduced on the Internet. Our goal is to deliver more than a million gay men and lesbians to the polls come November 3, a goal we can only accomplish with your help. History is in your hands!

The week's top stories:

Appeals Court Upholds 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

Second Circuit joins three other appeals courts in refusing to overturn anti-gay military policy.

<http://www.datalounge.com/cgi-bin/dbm/news/record?record=2695>

Hawaii Voters Questioning Wisdom of Amendment

Recent poll shows doubts are rising over impact of constitutional convention and gay marriage amendment.

<http://www.datalounge.com/cgi-bin/dbm/news/record?record=2681>

Gay Leaders Rally Behind President

Vice President Gore speaks to Out Vote '98 gay and lesbian activists, reminding the community of Clinton's longtime support.

<http://www.datalounge.com/cgi-bin/dbm/news/record?record=2679>

Alaska Supreme Court Leaves Proposition 2 on Ballot

Gay marriage ban will still go before voters on November 3, but with wording changed.

<http://www.datalounge.com/cgi-bin/dbm/news/record?record=2691>

Security Upgraded at Theater Showing 'Corpus Christi'

Metal detectors installed at entrance of Terrance McNally's controversial new play about sexually active and gay Christ figure.

<http://www.datalounge.com/cgi-bin/dbm/news/record?record=2686>

California Gay Marriage Opponents Meet Petition Goal

If confirmed, statewide vote banning gay marriage in nation's largest state could appear on June 2000 ballot.

<http://www.datalounge.com/cgi-bin/dbm/news/record?record=2684>

FDA Approves New AIDS Treatment

Sustiva may prove to be major advancement in ease and tolerability of current AIDS treatment regimes.

<http://www.datalounge.com/cgi-bin/dbm/news/record?record=2685>

Missouri Supreme Court Rules Against Lesbian Mother

Claiming sexuality was not a consideration in decision, justices overturn appeals panel ruling.

<http://www.datalounge.com/cgi-bin/dbm/news/record?record=2692>

Lesbian Denied Joint Custody in New Jersey Case

Judge rules in case between two lesbians that partner is not the same as a parent.

<http://www.datalounge.com/cgi-bin/dbm/news/record?record=2693>

At the Data Lounge, we believe that staying informed is the best way for the lesbian and gay community to maintain its sense of commonality, advance its goals, and protect its interests. As an added service to our users, the Data Lounge provides weekly summaries of the most important lesbian and gay news from across the nation and around the world. Full text treatments are available in the news section of the Data Lounge (<http://www.datalounge.com>).

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Note:

To add your address to this list, visit <http://www.datalounge.com> and select "sign-up." To remove your address from this list, simply reply to this message and type "unsubscribe" in the body of your message. You may also unsubscribe through the web site.

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: ellsassar (ellsassar@sovo.com (Rick Ellsassar) [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 6-OCT-1998 16:43:28.00

SUBJECT: Editorial

TO: Richard Socarides (CN=Richard Socarides/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Richard...here's the editorial. This ran in both Atlanta and Houston.

Let me know if you'd also like to reposnd with a letter to the editor.

Or, what about an exclusive interview with the President. Seriously, we

do strive to have a number of different opinions and viewpoints in the

papers so your thoughts and comments will be a welcomed addition.

Let me know if you need more information.

Rick

Clinton made his bed with Don't Ask Don't Tell, and it's time to tuck in the covers. In 1993, he made it official government policy that gays service members lie about their sex lives for the good of the country, and now he's going down for doing exactly that.

EDITORIAL

After Monica, should we stand by our man Bill?

As the days go by since President Clinton's angry admission of an "inappropriate relationship" with intern Monica Lewinsky, many of his core supporters are dropping like flies.

Leading the way have been Democrats on the Hill, including Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), who gave an impassioned speech last Friday from the Senate floor that called Clinton's conduct "immoral and harmful," deserving of public rebuke.

Calls for the President's impeachment or resignation, once limited to the Amen Corner of arch-conservative Rep. Bob Barr (R-Ga.) now extend to the middle of the room, and include a cross-section of pundits and politicians. And all this even before Ken Starr issues his report to Congress.

Standing by her man as always has been First Lady Hillary Clinton, but she's got interesting company. Women's rights groups have taken harsh criticism for continuing to stick by a president whose policies are female-friendly, even when his behavior in the office is a little too female-friendly.

African-American civil rights leaders have also stood by the President — most notably Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), who pledged his unending support just days after Clinton admitted his lie. "I've been with you from the beginning," Lewis told Clinton at an Aug. 29 forum. "And I will stand with you now till the end."

Gay rights leaders have been a lot quieter in their support of Bill Clinton, but none has made any move to jump ship. Some will say privately

that gays should be the last to connect private sexual conduct with on-the-job performance.

Maybe so, but hasn't President Clinton decidedly mixed record on gay civil rights made him particularly deserving of the fate he has selected for himself?

In 1993, he abandoned without so much as a whimper his campaign promise to allow gays to serve openly in the military. The resulting "compromise," the infamous Don't Ask Don't Tell, inscribed as the official policy of the United States government that gay service members should lie about their sex lives for the good of the country ?in this case, the delicate "unit cohesion" that is threatened when homophobic heterosexual shares a bunk with avowed homosexual.

That's exactly what the President did in January, when he lied under oath and to the American people about whether he had a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky. For the good of the country ?in this case, his presidency ?he lied about his private sex life.

Of course there are differences between the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and Clinton's "Chase the Skirt, Don't Tell," but none weighs in the President's favor. DADT requires lesbian and gay soldiers and sailors to lie not only about their sex lives, but about a fundamental aspect of their identity. (Clinton wasn't lying about something so fundamental as his heterosexual orientation ?just the unrestrained exercise of it.)

What's more, DADT is particularly evil because it tells gays to lie to protect "unit cohesion" from the discord that would be caused by the anti-gay prejudice of some heterosexual service members. That's not only wrong, it's unconstitutional. The Supreme Court long ago taught that, while the government cannot legislate prejudice away, neither can it

grant prejudice the force of law.

To be sure, Clinton should not be singled out here for condemnation. The true, unsung hypocrites of Monica-gate are the politicians in Congress who supported the official lies required under DADT and are now condemning the President for following their lead.

And a special place in hypocrisy hell should be reserved for Rep. Dan Burton (R-Ind.), who voted for DADT, called Clinton a "scumbag" for, among other things, the Lewinsky scandal, and yet admitted last week that he fathered a son as the result of an extramarital affair. To make matters worse, both Burton and his concubine worked for Indiana state government at the time.

But, you might ask, is Clinton really such a hypocrite? He followed his own lead and lied about his sex life. That's consistency, not hypocrisy. Whatever narrow moral ground Clinton might have claimed, he lost on Aug.

17.

In an angry speech on national television, Clinton came clean about his sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky and apologized for the lie. Up to that point, he was at least consistent — gay service members should lie about their sex lives, and so should I. Now he's a hypocrite — the architect of a policy that he himself found morally bankrupt when applied to his own life.

But, you might reasonably inquire, wasn't Clinton made to confess his lie by an out-of-control prosecutor clearly on a witchhunt?

Maybe so, but that's where, having made his bed, it may well be time for Bill Clinton to tuck in the covers. It was bad enough for Clinton to betray his gay constituents by accepting DADT, but since its adoption in 1993, his administration has done precious little to prevent year after

year of documented abuse of the policy by wayward commanders engaged in coercive witchhunts of gay service members.

Last year alone, according to a report from the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, almost 1,000 gay service members were discharged — a 67 percent increase since DADT was adopted. There was also a 27 percent increase in documented "command violations" in the way DADT was enforced.

There's little sympathy here for a President who now finds himself subject to an unfair witchhunt for his private sexual conduct. To the contrary, a discharge seems in order.

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: PlanetOut NewsPlanet (PlanetOut NewsPlanet [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:12-OCT-1998 23:20:33.00

SUBJECT: [GLBT-NEWS:PNO] National Coming Out Day, etc.

TO: GLBT-NEWS List (GLBT-NEWS List [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

Joseph E. Voeller (CN=Joseph E. Voeller/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

NEWS SOURCE: PlanetOut NewsPlanet - <http://www.planetout.com/>

BACKGROUND OF NEWS SOURCE:

PlanetOut is a web site with oodles of news, information, and just plain

Web-fun for the gay community. Visit their site and support their news

staff that bring you these articles. This particular article may have

even more links--for the Web version of this article, go to:

<http://www.planetout.com/newsplanet/article.html?1998/10/12/4>

National Coming Out Day, etc.

NewsPlanet Staff

Monday, October 12, 1998 / 04:16 PM

SUMMARY: Coming out rallies, festivals, films, fund- (and fun-)

raisers, and more in Tennessee, Michigan, Ohio, Idaho, Texas and

California, with bravos from the Democrats and raspberries from the

right.

Gays and lesbians in the U.S. and elsewhere on October 11 celebrated the tenth annual National Coming Out Day (NCOD), a day for individuals to "take the next step" in their coming out process. The date observes the anniversary of 1987's second National March on Washington, DC for Lesbian & Gay Rights (the first national march was October 14, 1979), and October is also widely recognized as Gay and Lesbian History Month. Coming out is an intersection of the personal with the political, as non-gays who personally know a gay or lesbian have generally been found to be more supportive of ending sexual orientation-based discrimination. For supportive non-gays, it can be a day of coming out against homophobia. The following are just a few of the NCOD observances which were held across the U.S.

Democratic National Committee co-chairs Steve Grossman and Colorado Governor Roy Romer issued a joint statement of support for NCOD on October 7. Grossman said, "The Democratic Party is firmly committed to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation. We celebrate National Coming Out Day in the hope that we can come together to erase hatred, bigotry, and cynicism to create a more tolerant and unified America, and we extend our best wishes to everyone around the country participating in Sunday's activities."

In Memphis, Tennessee, some 80 people attended a picnic and speakers forum on October 10, doubling the attendance of last year's first-time observance. Civil rights were the leading topic of discussion,

including legal protection from discrimination and the possibility of marriage rights, although the goals of the event included developing unity and increasing self-esteem.

Michigan State University at Lansing's celebration by its Alliance of Lesbian-Bi-Gay and Transgendered Students was marred by graffiti. On October 7, the group had painted a rock traditionally decorated by MSU students with symbols of National Coming Out Day. But sometime that night, others painted over their work with epithets including "Fag" and "Kill flames." MSU's President Peter McPherson told the Alliance, "I condemn this hateful speech. This campus must be a safe place where all can learn and grow with dignity."

In Akron, Ohio, about 75 people gathered for a rally launching the second annual Out in Akron cultural festival, where speakers included co-chair of the President's National Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS Bob Hattoy (best remembered as the first openly gay HIV+ person to speak at a national political convention -- the Democrats' -- in 1992). He described the Republican Party as scapegoating gays and lesbians as "the new Communists," creating "evil" he blamed for the heinous assault against open gay Matthew Shepard in Wyoming, but adding that, "Being out protects us from that evil having any power." One unscheduled speaker, Rabbi David Horowitz, was moved by Shepard's story to say from the podium, "I'm asking every minister in Akron to get in their pulpit tomorrow and say to their congregations, 'It is OK to be gay. If you're gay, you're welcome here.'"

Film festivals were a popular observance this year. At the University of Idaho in Moscow, the Queer Student Association presented its first Slightly Bent film Festival of ten films shown October 9 and 10, one of them the Sundance Festival award-winning documentary "Out at Work." Another Sundance award-winning documentary, "Out of the Past," was shown in Chicago on October 11 by the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (the film is now generally available for educational use by groups), with both veteran lesbian activist Barbara Gittings and young Kelli Peterson of Salt Lake City, Utah's East High School Gay Straight Alliance on hand to present it.

San Francisco had a major rally featuring Candace Gingrich, openly lesbian half-sister of the Speaker of the House, but Mayor Willie Brown celebrated with his pen. He signed a proclamation declaring October 11 to be a day honoring Senior Chief Petty Officer Tim McVeigh, the now-openly gay man who won the first-ever court decision that the military had violated its own so-called "don't ask, don't tell" policy, when it sought to discharge him after 17 years of exemplary service based solely on the gay content of a profile associated with one of his America Online screen names. He also signed a declaration that the building that will house the city's gay and lesbian community center is an historic site, a resolution by the city board opposing efforts to place an initiative on the 2000 statewide ballot to restrict marriage to one man and one woman, and a resolution congratulating the city's Gay Men's Chorus -- the world's first -- on its 20th anniversary.

On the AIDS front, 710 people rode 575 miles from Austin to Houston to Dallas in seven days ending October 11 in Texas' first AIDS Ride, which grossed about \$2.8-million and will benefit 40 of the state's AIDS charities. In Los Angeles on October 11, the AIDS Healthcare Foundation staged a vigil at the Getty House -- the official mayoral mansion which stands empty as Mayor Richard Riordan prefers his own home -- to protest well over a year's federal housing assistance funds for people with AIDS which the city's Housing Department has failed to spend (and not for lack of need).

More playful Southern California gays and lesbians on October 10 turned out for a Gay Day at Disneyland (not an official Disneyland event), something expected to recur on an annual basis. No actual tally of participants was available, but it was easy to count those protesting against the event: exactly one, Southern Baptist minister Wiley Drake, who stood outside the park with a sign distributing literature.

This year, the religious right for the fourth time has sought to rival NCOD with its own National Coming Out of Homosexuality Day by extolling "ex-gay" programs -- which have generally been discredited by mainstream helping professionals. In South Carolina, the East Cooper Baptist Church of Charleston placed a full page ad to that effect (one of the so-called "Truth in Love" series placed in national papers earlier this year by a coalition of religious right organizations) in October 5 edition of "The Charleston Post & Courier." But the South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement fired

back with an ad of its own on October 7, as did the Alliance for Full Acceptance on October 12. Both ads pointed out the political nature of the church's ad and affirmed the spiritual nature of many gays and lesbians, while calling for an end to bigotry.

===== From the GLBT-NEWS mailing list =====

Moderators: glbt-news-owner@duh.org

Also available on FidoNet in GAYNEWS

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Michelle Steiner (Michelle Steiner [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-OCT-1998 18:52:42.00

SUBJECT: [GLBT-NEWS:AP] US: Gay Aviator Loses Court Appeal

TO: GLBT-NEWS List (GLBT-NEWS List [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

Joseph E. Voeller (CN=Joseph E. Voeller/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

NEWS SOURCE: Associated Press newsfeeds pulled via electronic newswire

Gay Aviator Loses Court Appeal

.c The Associated Press

By RICHARD CARELLI

WASHINGTON (AP) -- A gay aviator kicked out of the Navy after appearing on national television in 1992 to say he's homosexual lost a Supreme Court appeal today.

The justices, for the fourth time in recent years, rejected a challenge to the military's ``don't ask, don't tell" policy on military service by homosexuals.

The nation's highest court never has ruled on the policy's constitutionality, but consistently has refused to hear the appeals of former service members ousted for discussing their homosexuality.

Tracy Thorne, a former bombardier-navigator, contended in a strongly worded appeal turned away without comment today that the policy is based on ``bigotry" and ``invidious and irrational prejudice."

Thorne appeared on the ABC news program ``Nightline" in May of 1992 to urge an end to the ban then in place on military service by homosexuals. During the program, he disclosed his sexual orientation.

Within days of his television appearance, the Navy notified Thorne of discharge proceedings.

He was not discharged, however, until March 6, 1995. In the interim, Thorne was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for ``superb leadership, exceptional professionalism and total devotion to duty."

Thorne was a reservist by the time of his honorable discharge for ``homosexual admission."

He sued, contending that the military's policy violated his free-speech and equal-protection rights. A federal judge and the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against him.

The policy requires a board of inquiry proceeding for any service member who states that he or she is homosexual to determine whether that person is someone who ``engages in, attempts to engage in, has a propensity to engage in, or intends to engage in homosexual acts."

The policy states that the service member can attempt to rebut the presumption that he or she has engaged in, or has a propensity to engage in, such acts.

Thorne's Supreme Court appeal said the number of people ousted from the military under the policy has increased each year since 1994. ``Almost 1,000 servicemembers were discharged ... in 1997 alone, a number that surpasses the number discharged annually under the former ban ... between 1990 and 1992," the appeal said.

``Gay and lesbian servicemembers who want to serve their country while living an open and honest life are the victims," the appeal said. ``This victimization will continue absent guidance from this court."

Clinton administration lawyers urged the court to reject Thorne's appeal, noting that three other federal appeals courts have upheld the ``don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Thorne was 25 and based at the Oceana Naval Air Station in Virginia when his TV appearance occurred. He grew up in West Palm Beach, Fla., and graduated from Vanderbilt University.

The case is Thorne vs. Department of Defense, 98-91.

AP-NY-10-19-98 1012EDT

===== From the GLBT-NEWS mailing list =====

Moderators: glbt-news-owner@duh.org

Archive: <http://www.liszt.com/read/glbt-news>

(Also available on FidoNet in GAYNEWS and ICGAL)

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: The Data Lounge News (The Data Lounge News [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:20-OCT-1998 23:20:12.00

SUBJECT: [GLBT-NEWS:DL] Supreme Court Rejects Challenge to 'Don't Ask'

TO: GLBT-NEWS List (GLBT-NEWS List [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

Joseph E. Voeller (CN=Joseph E. Voeller/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

NEWS SOURCE: The Data Lounge - <http://www.datalounge.com/>

BACKGROUND OF NEWS SOURCE:

The Data Lounge is about anything and everything gay. Daily news headlines,

culture information, and gossip--who's out, who's not, and who should be.

Visit their site, and to see the Web version of this article, go to:

<http://www.datalounge.com/cgi-bin/dbm/news/record?record=2791>

Supreme Court Rejects Challenge to 'Don't Ask'

October 20, 1998

WASHINGTON -- The Associated Press reports the U.S. Supreme Court again rejected a challenge to the military's "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy on Monday, the fourth such ruling in two years.

The justices have never formally reviewed the policy's constitutionality. As with the most recent case, the high court has simply let stand a string of federal appeals court rulings that have upheld the policy's legality.

The case rejected by the court on Monday involved former bombardier navigator Tracy Thorne who appeared on the ABC news program "Nightline" in May 1992 urging an end to the then-existing ban on homosexuals in military service. During the program, he disclosed his sexual orientation and was notified shortly thereafter that discharge proceedings had been filed against him.

The Associated Press reports Thorne presented a sharply worded appeal that the Pentagon's policy prohibiting acknowledged gay men and lesbians from serving in the armed force is based on "bigotry" and "invidious and irrational prejudice."

The aviator was not formally discharged until March 6, 1995, after the Clinton-brokered compromise had taken effect. In the interim, Thorne was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for "superb leadership, exceptional professionalism and total devotion to duty."

Thorne, who now lives and works in Richmond, Va., sued contending that the military's policy violated his free-speech and equal-protection rights. A federal judge and the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against him.

"Everybody knows there are gays in the military," said the Pat Thorne, the aviator's mother. "There have always been gays in the military and there always will be gays in the military simply because gays are a part of our civilization." She said her son "feels it is a grossly unfair situation."

Court records submitted by Thorne's legal team assert the number of people ousted from the military under the policy has increased each year since 1994: "Almost 1,000 service members were discharged ... in 1997 alone, a number that surpasses the number discharged annually under the former ban ... between 1990 and 1992."

--Data Lounge Staff

===== From the GLBT-NEWS mailing list =====

Moderators: glbt-news-owner@duh.org

Archive: <http://www.liszt.com/read/glbt-news>

(Also available on FidoNet in GAYNEWS and ICGAL)

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: PlanetOut NewsPlanet (PlanetOut NewsPlanet [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:20-OCT-1998 01:20:19.00

SUBJECT: [GLBT-NEWS:PNO] Court Briefs: DADT,CO DP,FL AI

TO: GLBT-NEWS List (GLBT-NEWS List [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

Joseph E. Voeller (CN=Joseph E. Voeller/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

NEWS SOURCE: PlanetOut NewsPlanet - <http://www.planetout.com/>

BACKGROUND OF NEWS SOURCE:

PlanetOut is a web site with oodles of news, information, and just plain

Web-fun for the gay community. Visit their site and support their news

staff that bring you these articles. This particular article may have

even more links--for the Web version of this article, go to:

<http://www.planetout.com/newsplanet/article.html?1998/10/19/4>

Court Briefs: DADT,CO DP,FL AI

NewsPlanet Staff

Monday, October 19, 1998 / 05:06 PM

SUMMARY: Navy man's "don't ask, don't tell" case rejected by Supreme

Court ... appeals court okays Denver, Colorado's domestic partner

benefits ... Florida lesbian settles with gay artificial insemination

donor

Supreme Court Rejects Thorne

The Supreme Court of the United States on October 19 declined to take up open gay Navy aviator Tracy Thorne's appeal of his discharge under the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Thorne identified himself as a gay man on ABC's national "Nightline" program in May 1992 while arguing against the then-total ban on military service by gays and lesbians. He was notified of discharge proceedings shortly afterwards, although he was not actually discharged for "homosexual admission" until March 6, 1995, when he had already moved from active duty to the reserves. In the period between those dates, he was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for "superb leadership, exceptional professionalism and total devotion to duty."

Thorne appealed his discharge through the courts, arguing the military's anti-gay policy violated his constitutional rights to free speech and equal protection under the law, but his lawsuit was rejected both by a trial judge and by the U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals. The high court has declined to hear several previous appeals challenging the policy on free speech grounds, and the federal appeals courts have so far been unanimous in rejecting that argument.

Denver, CO DP Benefits Upheld

A Colorado Court of Appeal panel on October 15 ruled unanimously that the city of Denver can extend spousal health insurance benefits to its employees' same-gender domestic partners. In upholding a trial court's

1997 ruling, the decision said that, "The power to grant group health insurance benefits to spousal equivalents is a matter of local concern subject only to the limitations imposed by the city charter."

The legal challenge had originally been filed by Paul Schaefer and Irene Tuder, who argued that the benefits would conflict with the state's definitions of family and marriage; attorney James Rouse is considering a further appeal to the Colorado Supreme Court. The benefits have been in effect since January 1997.

FL Sperm Donor Case Settled

A closely-watched paternity suit in Sarasota, Florida was settled just hours before trial was to begin on October 15. Lesbian couple Lori Lamaritata and Mary Ellen Hindman obtained a sperm donation from Danny Lucas in 1994, along with sperm from two other donors. Lamaritata went on to bear twin sons. The lesbian couple entered into a contract with Lucas and his partner Dana Hansen saying that Lucas would be allowed to visit the children, but he was barred from identifying himself as their father.

The parties disagree on the sequence of events and the legal actions in response, but in early 1997 Lamaritata cut off contact between Lucas and the boys, charging that he had identified himself as the twins' father and thereby forfeited his visitation rights as per the contract. Lucas retaliated by filing a paternity suit seeking visitation and other parental rights. Florida's law that allows anonymous sperm donors to sign away their parental rights is cloudy

when it comes to cases in which the sperm recipient is known, so Lucas' attorneys argued that the legality of the original contract was questionable.

Instead of resolving the legal issue, the parties have now agreed to resolve the matter within the family. Lucas won the right to supervised visitation with the boys, but may not in the future seek custody or the right to visit on holidays other than Father's Day. He may also acknowledge that he is their father.

===== From the GLBT-NEWS mailing list =====

Moderators: glbt-news-owner@duh.org

Archive: <http://www.liszt.com/read/glbt-news>

(Also available on FidoNet in GAYNEWS and ICGAL)

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: The Data Lounge News (The Data Lounge News [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:21-OCT-1998 19:14:25.00

SUBJECT: [GLBT-NEWS:DL] HRC Endorses D'Amato in New York Senate Race

TO: GLBT-NEWS List (GLBT-NEWS List [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

Joseph E. Voeller (CN=Joseph E. Voeller/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

NEWS SOURCE: The Data Lounge - <http://www.datalounge.com/>

BACKGROUND OF NEWS SOURCE:

The Data Lounge is about anything and everything gay. Daily news headlines,

culture information, and gossip--who's out, who's not, and who should be.

Visit their site, and to see the Web version of this article, go to:

<http://www.datalounge.com/cgi-bin/dbm/news/record?record=2794>

HRC Endorses D'Amato in New York Senate Race

October 21, 1998

WASHINGTON -- Spurning the requests of New York gay rights advocates and Democratic leaders from the White House on down, The New York Times reports the nation's largest gay and lesbian lobbying organization, the Human Rights Campaign, has given its endorsement to

Senator Alfonse D'Amato in his reelection campaign against Democratic opponent Rep. Charles Schumer.

The 15-7 vote by the HRC board ended months of bitter debate over what course the organization should take in New York's tight Senate race.

Elizabeth Birch, the organization's executive director, told The Times the decision reflected HRC's policy of favoring the incumbent in races where voting records on gay rights issues are roughly the same.

HRC maintains that for the last five years, Sen. D'Amato has been the most reliably "pro-gay" Republican in the U.S. Senate. He is the Republican co sponsor of the Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), a critic of the military's handling of its "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy and a strong advocate for increased federal AIDS spending. In a summer rife with anti-gay GOP rhetoric, D'Amato rebuked Trent Lott and other and high-ranking Republicans for the prejudice of their public statements.

But the vast majority of gay rights advocates in New York are unmoved. Jeffrey Tooke, chairman of the New York State Federation of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs said in a recent interview that D'Amato's change of heart in the last five years on gay issues was specious. He said Rep. Schumer had a much longer history of support for New York's gay and lesbian community.

"Chuck Schumer's record speaks volumes more in favor of our interests." Tooke told New York Magazine. He said that by HRC's own

scorecard, Schumer has a better record than D'Amato and predicted "many New Yorkers" would leave HRC over a D'Amato endorsement.

Tooke and other New York gay civil rights advocates cite D'Amato's 92 percent approval rating from the Christian Coalition and insist his strong anti-abortion stance is also deeply troubling to most gay and lesbian New Yorkers. And despite wielding enormous power in the state party and legislature and over New York Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, New York has yet to pass significant gay rights legislation.

In an open letter issued Wednesday, HRC maintains that because so much opposition to gay and lesbian rights comes from the national Republican leadership, "it is imperative for us to provide support and political protection for any Republican candidate who faces with courage the leadership's ignorance and prejudice."

Despite D'Amato's inability or unwillingness to pass gay rights legislation in New York state, "it is important to note that HRC has never evaluated candidates for federal office on their work at the state level. It would be unfair to begin doing so now."

The Times reports one member of HRC's board, Marylouise Oates, a gay rights activist for more than 20 years quit the HRC board Tuesday night in protest of the D'Amato decision. "I do not wish to be a part of any organization that applauds and endorses a senator merely for his signing on as a co-sponsor on one bill after many years of anti-gay votes."

Analysts in the state said the HRC endorsement was unlikely to significantly effect the election chances of either candidate. "Gay voters in New York are overwhelmingly Democratic and pro-choice," said one campaign observer, "they have their own reasons for wanting D'Amato out of office."

"This endorsement doesn't change the fact that Al D'Amato is an extremist who opposes abortion rights and gun control and has a higher rating from the Christian Coalition than from the Human Rights Campaign," Schumer's spokesman, Howard Wolfson, told The Times. "And it will not change a single vote."

--Data Lounge Staff

===== From the GLBT-NEWS mailing list =====

Moderators: glbt-news-owner@duh.org

Archive: <http://www.liszt.com/read/glbt-news>

(Also available on FidoNet in GAYNEWS and ICGAL)

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Philip G Dufour (CN=Philip G Dufour/O=OVP [OVP])

CREATION DATE/TIME:13-SEP-1999 09:10:21.00

SUBJECT:

TO: Elizabeth J. Potter (CN=Elizabeth J. Potter/O=OVP@OVP [OVP])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Moe Vela (CN=Moe Vela/O=OVP@OVP [OVP])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Richard Socarides (CN=Richard Socarides/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Though you all would want to see this.

Lexis Coverage

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The Guardian (London)

September 13, 1999

HEADLINE: Gore leads rush for gay vote

BYLINE: Duncan Campbell in Los Angeles

BODY:

Duncan Campbell in Los Angeles

With varying degrees of circumspection, the candidates in the United States

presidential election are courting the 4% of the electorate that is

believed to

be gay, and its rich funds.

Leading the pack, the vice president, Al Gore, has invoked religion as

justification for support for the gay and lesbian community.

In an interview with a gay magazine, the Advocate, Mr Gore said the position for gay and lesbian people in the US should be covered by the second commandment: 'Love thy neighbour as thyself.'

He added: 'I believe that God makes us in different ways. I don't believe that, having made us, God intends us to suffer discrimination and prejudice.'

The linking of Christian values to gay rights is certain to alienate the conservative lobby, which has campaigned vociferously against gays in the military and gay marriages.

But Mr Gore, who visited the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Centre during recent campaigning in California, is anxious to head off heckling by Aids activists, unhappy with what they see as the Clinton administration's complacency on research into the illness.

Mr Gore told the Advocate: 'The whole history of the US is an expanding circle of human dignity - a growing understanding of who we are as human beings, an appreciation of the human family.

'The tolerance of intolerance has been the enemy in each of the historic struggles - against slavery, in favour of women's suffrage, civil rights and the rights of the disabled The president can make a big difference in accelerating change."

He added that his support for 'faith and family" meant 'all kinds of families".

Mr Gore's only rival for the Democratic nomination, Bill Bradley, is already regarded as a liberal on gay rights, and has made a public visit to the LA centre.

According to the Advocate, George W Bush, the leading Republican candidate and proponent of 'compassionate conservatism", has been making 'behind-the-scenes overtures".

In one of the key senate races, in New York, the gay vote is also likely to be important. While Bill Clinton is seen as strong on gay-friendly rhetoric but light on action, that is unlikely to deter the expected strong gay support for Hillary Clinton, the likely Democratic candidate.

'She projects an independent intelligence to lesbian voters who tend to value these qualities, and an 'I will survive' fortitude that gay men have clicked with back to Judy Garland," says Sarah Pettit, the arts and entertainment editor of Newsweek magazine.

The candidates' moves are more good news for the gay community, which at the weekend was celebrating the the Californian state assembly's passing, by a single vote, of a bill to ban discrimination against gays and lesbians in state schools and universities.

If the state governor, Gray Davis, signs the bill, students who have suffered harassment because of their sexual orientation will have legal backing for a grievance procedure.

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Los Angeles Times

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Margaret_M._Suntum (Margaret_M._Suntum@who.eop.gov [who])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 8-OCT-1999 15:53:20.00

SUBJECT: remarks by the President to Empire State Pride Organization

TO: "/R=3\$/C=US/ADMD=WESTERN_UNION/O=ATT.COM/DD.ELN=62955104/"@mrx.eop.gov ("/R=3\$/C=US/ADMD=WESTERN_UNION/O=ATT.COM/DD.ELN=62955104/"@mrx.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])
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TO: 62955104@eln.attmail.com (62955104@eln.attmail.com [UNKNOWN])
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TO: Brian_A._Reich (Brian_A._Reich@ovp.eop.gov [ovp])
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TO: Christopher_S._Lehane (Christopher_S._Lehane@lgate4.eop.gov [@LNGATE])
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TO: Abigail L. McDermott (CN=Abigail L. McDermott/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Toby C. Graff (CN=Toby C. Graff/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

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TO: Todd A. Bledsoe (CN=Todd A. Bledsoe/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

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TEXT:
THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(New York, New York)

For Immediate Release

October 7, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE EMPIRE STATE PRIDE GALA

Sheraton New York Hotel and Tower
New York, New York

9:56 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much for your energy and your enthusiasm, your passion and your wonderful welcome. I want to begin by thanking Jeff, who has been a wonderful friend and advisor, a prodder and supporter to me. And I thank him so much. (Applause.)

Thank you, Kate Callivan, for your work tonight. Thank you, Matt Forman, for your leadership of Empire State Pride. (Applause.) And thank you, Chuck Schumer, for running and winning and for all you have done to make this a better state and a better country. (Applause.)

I'd also like to thank two other members of the Congress who are here, Congressman Jerry Nadler and Congressman Anthony Weiner, for the work they do for you. Thank you. (Applause.) I'd like to thank my longtime friend,

the New York public advocate, Mark Green, who is here, for his steadfast support of your agenda. Thank you, Mark. (Applause.)

I understand the borough President of Manhattan is here, Virginia Fields. Thank you, Virginia. We're glad to have you. (Applause.) There are members of the State Assembly and members of the City Council here. Emily Gish (phonetic), the Vice President of the State Democratic Party, is here. I thank her. (Applause.) And we've got all these great people from the administration -- a lot of them stood up, but I want to mention their names -- the two highest ranking openly gay and lesbian appointees in the House, Sean Maloney and Karen Tramontano -- (applause) -- my good friend, Richard Soccarides, who is leaving -- (applause) -- Fred Hochberg, the Deputy Administrator of SBA -- (applause) -- and two former appointees, Roberta Eichenberg and Ginny Apuzzo are here. I thank them for what they did. (Applause.)

I'd also like to thank Marsha Scott, who was my first liaison to the gay and lesbian community this year. (Applause.) And the head of our anti-HIV and AIDS efforts, Sandy Thurman, who's done a wonderful job this year. I thank her for being here. (Applause.)

Let me begin by saying something I need to say a lot in the time I have left as President: thank you. (Applause.) Thank you for the support, the guidance, and the urging you have given to the Vice President and me, and to our administration and our families. Thank you for the example you have set. Thank you for helping Chuck Schumer to get elected. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to learn and grow, and do our jobs

better, and serve all Americans better.

Jeff said that, you know, last year the Vice President came, and this year Chuck and I are here. And you're looking for a speaker. I think, you know, you ought to invite a woman to speak next year. (Applause.) And if you want, I have a suggestion. (Laughter.)

Actually I talked, as chance would have it, to both the Vice President and to Hillary this afternoon -- (laughter) -- not so I could tell you that I did, either. (Laughter.) But they asked me what I was doing -- there's a lot more attention on what they're doing than what I'm doing now, but they did ask me what I was doing, which was nice, that someone, somewhere in America still cared what I was doing. (Laughter and applause.) So when I told them what I was doing, they said to give you their best wishes, and they wish they were here. (Laughter.)

Jeff mentioned that seven years ago, when I first ran for President, I said I had a vision for America and you were a part of it. I met with a group of activists from your community here in early 1992, and in California in late 1991. And I began to try to listen and to learn and to understand why so many of these issues have presented such big problems for America.

One couple came through to see me earlier tonight, two men; one was from Australia, the other from New Zealand and they said that as a couple, they hadn't the same immigration rights coming into America as they did in either Canada or New Zealand. I don't think that's right; I think that

ought to be changed. (Applause.)

But I think the first thing I want to say to you -- I want to talk more about this, but I'm obviously giving a lot of thought these days to what happens to America over the long run. We enter a new century, we enter a new millennium, the way we work and live and relate to each other and relate to people around the world is changing in profound and speedy ways. It's almost difficult to grasp. More of it is good than bad.

But we all have to be much more open to each other if we want this to work. We've got to learn to listen as well as to talk. We've got to learn to feel as well as to think. We have to learn as we're all told we should do from childhood, to stand in the other person's shoes. We have done what we could to make the future one of equal opportunity and equal responsibility and equal membership in our American community, whether it is in fighting to pass the hate crimes law or the employment nondiscrimination act or to invest more in research, prevention and treatment for HIV patients.

I would like to take just a few moments tonight to try to put all the things you care about into a larger context of where America is and where I hope America will go. When I started running for President, I did so because I thought the country was in trouble and without direction and growing more divided. First, economically. Unemployment was too high, job growth was too low, incomes were stagnant, inequality was increasing. And there was a sense of literal despair about it in many places.

I worried about social division. You remember, we had a riot in Los Angeles. But everywhere, there was this quiet sense of unease. And every campaign, it seemed to me, was yet another example of how we could sort of carve up the electorate and make one group resent another, and hope that your group was a larger group of resenters than the other group. And it seemed to me that that was a bad way to run a country.

And it wasn't just anti-lesbian and gay, it was tensions between the races, tensions between immigrants and citizens. And it built on this whole pattern of thought that had accumulated in Washington over decades that everything had to be divided into hostile camps. You couldn't be pro-labor if you were pro-business, and vice versa. You couldn't be pro-economic growth and be in favor of improving the environment. You couldn't be pro-work and pro-family. We had to have these divided views. You couldn't have an urban policy if you really cared about what was going on on the farm.

You know, we don't think like that. None of us do, instinctively. We always try to think of how we can live an integrated life, and how our minds will think in an integrated way that pulls things together and moves things forward. But everything about our politics was about how to pit us against one another.

And since we all wake up every morning -- I know maybe none of you do, but some days I wake up on the wrong side of the bed, in a foul humor.

(Laughter.) I'm sure you don't ever do that, but I do sometimes.

(Laughter.) And it has occurred to me really that every one of us has this

little scale inside, you know. On one side there's the light forces and the other side there's the dark forces in our psyche and our makeup and the way we look at the world. And every day we wake up and the scale is a little bit tilted one way or the other. And life is a big struggle to try to keep things in proper balance.

You don't want to have so much light that you're just a fool for whatever comes along. But if the scale tips dark even a little bit, things turn badly for people and those with whom they come in contact. And it can happen for communities and for a whole country.

So, anyway, when I ran I thought maybe I could change the way we think about politics. And if we do, maybe we can change what we do and how we do it. And

And, you know, there's an old adage that the Lord never gives you more than you can handle, but I have been severely tested in this resolve. (Laughter and applause.) But most days, you know, it's been kind of fun, but bewildering. (Laughter.)

So anyway, we came up -- Al Gore and I -- (applause.) Well, for whatever reason -- and the American people took a chance on me and Al Gore in 1992. And we got the Democrats together, and we tried to reach out to the Republicans. And usually they said no; sometimes they said -- a few of them would say yes.

But we said, look, let's take a different direction -- on the economy,

on crime, on welfare, on the environment. Let's try to think of a way to integrate the things that we want to achieve, and build a creative tension so we could move the country forward. And let's try to build a country where everybody has a place. And we just made an argument in 1992. It was just an argument. You -- no one could know for sure whether it would work.

You know, I'm rethinking my position about wanting everybody to have a cell phone in this country. (Laughter and applause.) He's a good guy, don't worry about it. (Applause.)

But anyway, so we made this argument, you know, and you guys took a chance. And New York really stood behind us, gave us a chance to serve.

But it's not an argument anymore. Those of you who've been with us six and a half years, when you go out to discuss citizenship and issues, and the future, say, look, whatever you want to say about that crowd, there are certain things that you can't dispute. We now have the lowest unemployment rate in 29 years; the lowest welfare rolls in 32 years; the lowest crime rates in 26 years; the lowest poverty rates in 20 years; the first back-to-back surpluses in 42 years; the longest peacetime expansion in history; and 19.5 million new jobs. You can't argue; that happened. (Applause.)

And every time -- (applause) -- every time -- (applause) -- every time we did something that tried to reconcile our economic objectives with our other objectives -- whether it was family and medical leave or vetoing the first two welfare bills because they didn't have guaranteed food and

medicine coverage for poor children and enough money for child care, or trying to clean up the air and the water, or saying that the system we had for taking care of little kids and immunizing them -- we were nuts and we were determined to reach 90 percent immunization, which we did, by the way. All of these things -- people would say -- or, raising the minimum wage, or you name it. That was always going to be something that would hurt the economy. It turned out that that was wrong, that putting things together made all of our efforts reinforce one another.

I feel even more strongly about that when it comes to putting people together. One of the things I've spent an enormous amount of time doing in the last two years is trying to make sure America is Y2K ready. I've even got these little things that look like beanie babies that are Y2K bugs I have around just to remind me that we don't want there to be one.

You know, to most people, that's about adjusting a computer. But if you think about it, there is a lot more than mechanics involved in being ready for the new millennium, and a lot more than economics involved in being a successful country.

When I signed the executive order to prohibit discrimination in the federal work force based on sexual orientation, I thought I was helping us to come together. (Applause.) I think ENDA will help us to come together.

I think the fact that we have gay and lesbian Americans, like Jim Hormel and over 200 other openly gay and lesbian people serving in appointed positions in our government throughout the administration, doing

normal jobs -- (applause) -- I got so tickled when you were reading -- you know, if you look at our people and what they do, they do real jobs. They're out there showing up. And every time they come in contact with somebody, they destroy another stereotype. They rob people of another attack. (Applause.)

You know, when we were in that awful battle that I waged and didn't win over the military service issue, there was a national survey run which showed that the most significant factor tilting people in favor of the so-called gays in the military policy was whether they consciously were aware that they had known a gay person. And those who said they were consciously aware that they had a personal relationship, contact with a gay person were two to one in favor of the policy. (Applause.)

Now, I say that because I believe that our whole society is like all of us are individually. We've got these scales always tilting back and forth between the forces of hope and the forces of fear. And what people do not know, they more easily fear. What they fear, they can easily hate. And what they hate, they quickly dehumanize. And it is a slippery slope.

So I say to you, this hate crimes legislation is important. People say, well, you know, the killers of James Byrd got the death penalty in Texas, and maybe you don't need it. But we do need it, because there are 8,000 reported hate crimes in 1997 alone -- about one an hour. And people need to focus on it.

When those kids got shot at the Jewish Community Center school, and

then that Filipino postal worker got murdered, and then the former basketball coach at Northwestern, and the young Korean Christian walking out of his church got shot in the heartland of Illinois and Indiana. And all of those things happened. And all of you know that we are now observing the one-year anniversary of the death of young Matthew Shepard, and I want to say I am honored beyond words that his mother, Judy, is with us tonight. And I'd like to ask her to stand. (Applause.)

I thanked her tonight before I came out for her continuing work. And she looked at me and she said, I'm just a mom. (Applause.) But when I was in Los Angeles last week, speaking to the ANGLE group, a young person came up to me and said that I had given her more legitimacy and sense of security and self-worth than she had gotten in her own family.

And I said to this child -- I want you to know, because this is the point I'm trying to make; I'm not bragging on me, here, I'm here to make this point about our country -- I said, you've got to be patient with them; they're afraid. You've got to stay with them; they're scared.

And it is amazing to me -- I have spent so much time as President, on the one hand trying to maximize your access to the wonders of the modern world -- you know, we're hooking up all the classrooms to the Internet; we got this E-rate, so that the poor schools can reach across the digital divide, and all the kids can work computers in every classroom in America; we have passed the Telecommunications Act, and we've got over 300,000 new high-tech jobs just in a couple of years; and we're trying to invest in a new generation Internet; and we're about to break the human genome code, and when we do that, when mothers bring their children home from the

hospital after giving birth, they'll have little genetic maps that may -- some people believe literally may help to raise life expectancy for children born early in the next century to as much as 100 years.

And, you know, it's all so exciting. But it is profoundly sobering to consider that at the time of greatest technological change in all of human history, we are most bedeviled at home and around the world by the most primitive of human failings -- the fear of the other. (Applause.)

Think about what I have done as your President, how much time I've spent trying to help the nation heal up from all these school shootings, or what happened in Oklahoma City, and the hate crimes I mentioned. And then think about the parallels we have -- they're all individual instances; I recognize that. But think about the parallels in terms of the failings of the human heart and mind with the ongoing problems in the Middle East, in the Balkans, in Bosnia and Kosovo, in Northern Ireland, in the tribal slaughters of Rwanda and other places in Africa -- where people really can't believe they matter unless they have somebody to look down on that they can dehumanize and justify killing. So that's how their life counts -- when we ought to be trying to tell people that they should be excited by the differences between people, secure in the knowledge that our common humanity is more important than all the differences that we have. (Applause.)

And somehow we have to do this. And words alone won't do it. And laws are important, but laws alone won't do it, either. And we've got to go out and confront our neighbors, including our own families. We've got

to ask people to listen as well as to talk. And we have to help people to get beyond their fears.

You know, when I go and give speeches to political groups, I tell them that I want America to continue to change, that I myself would not vote for anyone who ran for President saying, vote for me, I'll do just what Bill Clinton did, he did a good job -- because things are changing. And I talk about meeting the challenge of the aging of America and reforming Social Security and Medicare, and meeting the challenge of the children of America, the largest and most diverse group ever, and giving them all a world-class education, and meeting the challenge of a 21st century economy by putting a human face on globalization and trade by investing in the markets of America that had been left behind in the poor areas. By giving everybody access to the Internet so we can fully bridge the divide, and by paying the country's debt off.

I talk about these things. I talk about meeting the challenge of global warming. And it's mostly modern stuff looking to the future, and it's all profoundly important. But if you look at the journey of a country to find its true spirit, the most important thing is that we try to be one America that is a force for the common humanity of the world.

It was, I think, a very human feeling that led the Congress finally to work with us to dramatically increase funding for all elements of the AIDS fight, so that now we have continued reductions in AIDS-related deaths and a commitment to genuinely find a cure and a vaccine. I think it was a human thing. We've still got a long way to go. You know we do.

And we pick our targets when we, as a country, when we're defensive.

I was outraged this week when the first African American ever to serve on the State Supreme Court of Missouri was voted down after having been handily voted out of the judicial committee of the Senate with the Republicans voting for him; they voted him down on the floor of the Senate by misrepresenting his record on capital punishment so that the Republican senator from the home state would have an issue to run against the Governor on relating to commuting the sentences to life without parole for those who murdered other people.

So who cares about the symbolism of the first African American judge ever on the Missouri Supreme Court. You know, not many people, African Americans, are going to vote for this guy anyway. Throw him to the wolves. Destroy his career. Distort his record. Who cares? I need a political issue. And we all have to be afraid of that, of objectifying others for short-term gain.

On the other hand, look at the number of people who are in the government, in all forms of our economic and social life. There's a reason the President is here, besides my heart. It is the right thing to do, and you have been heard. You have been heard. You have been heard.
(Applause.)

There is a reason -- there is a reason the Senator is here. There is a reason Al Gore came here last year, apart from his passionate conviction about the moral propriety of being here, and the right thing to do. We now

know that because you are willing to work and speak and stand, we can move the body politic in the right direction.

People are fundamentally good, but they're paralyzed when they're scared. And in spite of all these issues that I go around advocating, that I passionately believe in, if I were told that I was going to have to leave this old world in 72 hours and I could just do one thing for America -- and that was it, and I just had to pick one thing, I would try to leave one America. Because if we were together; if we were willing to have all of our differences be differences of opinion, and not to be afraid of one another, and never to dehumanize one another, we would be not only a better country here, our influence for good abroad would be exponentially greater even than it is today. And we would have a chance -- (applause) -- we would have a chance to give our children the millennium that they deserve.

So I say again, the most important thing I want to say to you is thank you. I'm proud of what we've done together. I wish we could have done better. I hope we can do more.

But never forget, you deserve most of the credit. And you will get more as you fight harder, but also as you are human to people who do not see you. (Applause.) You must -- you've got to believe in this great country, that this is fundamentally a good country; that Alexis de Tocqueville was right when he said America is great because America is good.

But you know, we've done a lot of things that were pretty lousy,

starting with slavery, as Thomas Jefferson said. So we all are always in the process of learning to be better; of learning how our attitudes and our actions are in conflict with what we believe. Life is a constant struggle, therefore, for true integrity, for integrating your mind and your body and your spirit. And so is the life of a nation.

I am indebted to you because I happened to be President, and to seek this job, at a time when you were raising these issues, and you gave me a chance to make a contribution. You made me a better President; you made me a better person.

Don't give up, and don't you ever turn dark. Don't do it. We can still make the America of our dreams.

Thank you, and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

10:53 P.M. EDT

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: DMixner (DMixner@aol.com [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 8-NOV-1999 16:06:59.00

SUBJECT: Fwd: Articles 11.8.99.2

TO: mjemike (mjemike@ix.netcom.com [UNKNOWN])

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CC: elizabeth_birch (elizabeth_birch@hrcusa.org [UNKNOWN])

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TEXT:

In a message dated 11/8/99 7:12:56 AM Pacific Standard Time, Fenceberry

writes:

<< Eugene Register-Guard, November 7, 1999

P. O. Box 10188, Eugene, OR, 97401

(Fax 541-683-7631) (E-MAIL: rgletters@guardnet.com)

(<http://www.registerguard.com>)

Statistics on gay and lesbian youths

[Note: This item accompanied the two articles from the Register-Guard
included in Articles 11.8.99]

In 1984, 45 percent of young gay men and 20 percent of young lesbians
surveyed said they had experienced verbal harassment and/or physical

violence

while in high school because of their sexual orientation.

??? National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 1984

This year, 69 percent of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youths

surveyed said they had experienced verbal, physical or sexual harassment and/or assault while at school.

??? Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, 1999

Twenty-eight percent of gay and lesbian youths drop out of high school each year, about three times the national average.

??? U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1989

Ninety-seven percent of students surveyed in Massachusetts public schools

reported hearing homophobic remarks from their peers on a regular basis, and

53 percent reported hearing such comments from school staff.

??? Massachusetts Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth, 1993

Fifty-one percent of middle and high school students surveyed in the Bethel School District said they regularly witness harassment based on sexual orientation.

??? Bethel School District, 1999

Just more than 40 percent of boys surveyed at Willamette High School
said
it's important that the school work on preventing harassment against gays
and
lesbians.

??? Bethel School District, 1999

Gay and lesbian youths surveyed in Massachusetts were four times more
likely than heterosexual students to have missed school for a day or more
because they felt unsafe either at or on the way to school.

??? Massachusetts Department of Education, 1995

In one-third of a reported 92 incidents of anti-gay harassment of
students in Washington state schools, adults witnessed the harassment but
did
nothing to help. Of the students victimized in those incidents, 10
attempted
suicide, two successfully.

??? Safe Schools Coalition of Washington State, 1999

One in four gay and lesbian youths said they were forced to leave home
due to conflicts with their families about their sexual orientation.

??? Hetrick-Martin Institute, 1992

Gay and lesbian youths account for 30 percent of teen suicides each
year.

??? U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1989 >>

Return-path: Fenceberry@aol.com

Date: Mon, 8 Nov 1999 10:12:56 EST

From: Fenceberry@aol.com

Subject: Articles 11.8.99.2

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1. EUGENE REGISTER-GUARD Statistics on gay and lesbian youths
2. USA TODAY Vicious hate crime ends with surprise reprieve
3. DETROIT NEWS Deb Price: Court must tread carefully in custody case
4. LOS ANGELES TIMES The Case Against the Notion of 'Homosexual Panic'
5. NEW YORK TIMES Tinkering at the Margins of Anti-Gay Bigotry
(Military)

Eugene Register-Guard, November 7, 1999

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? Bethel School District, 1999

Gay and lesbian youths surveyed in Massachusetts were four times more likely than heterosexual students to have missed school for a day or more because they felt unsafe either at or on the way to school.

? Massachusetts Department of Education, 1995

In one-third of a reported 92 incidents of anti-gay harassment of students in Washington state schools, adults witnessed the harassment but did nothing to help. Of the students victimized in those incidents, 10 attempted suicide, two successfully.

? Safe Schools Coalition of Washington State, 1999

One in four gay and lesbian youths said they were forced to leave home due to conflicts with their families about their sexual orientation.

? Hetrick-Martin Institute, 1992

Gay and lesbian youths account for 30 percent of teen suicides each year.

? U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1989

USA Today, November 8, 1999

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Vicious hate crime ends with surprise reprieve

By DeWayne Wickham

Just when it was thought that lawyers for Aaron McKinney would make a desperate appeal to bigotry, the parents of Matthew Shepard offered up a selfless act of forgiveness ? one that may help deter future crimes.

McKinney is one of two men convicted of tying Shepard to a post in a rural section of Wyoming and then fatally beating the gay college student.

During his trial, McKinney's lawyers sought to convince the jury that their client flew into an uncontrollable ? and understandable ? rage after Shepard made a homosexual advance on him. They claimed the momentary rage was triggered by McKinney's memories of traumatic homosexual encounters as a youth.

Their attempt to mount this "gay panic" defense fizzled when the judge ruled that it couldn't be used to influence the jury's finding of guilt or innocence, but might be relevant in the sentencing phase, if McKinney were convicted.

When a jury in Laramie found McKinney guilty of kidnapping, robbing and killing Shepard, the stage was set for his lawyers to revive the defense in an attempt to avoid the death penalty. But before they could do so,

Shepard's parents did the unexpected: They agreed to a deal that spared the life of the man who killed their son.

Parents spurn revenge

Instead of pressing for the death penalty, Shepard's parents accepted a plea-bargain agreement that sends McKinney to prison for life without the chance for parole or appeal. Rather than seek revenge, they showed an extraordinary degree of compassion for a brutal killer.

"They could have taken an eye for an eye, but instead they turned the other cheek," said Wayne Besen, a spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, an advocacy group for gay men and lesbians. "I think what they did was unbelievable."

Unbelievable, indeed. Dennis and Judy Shepard had every right to demand that prosecutors ask jurors to condemn McKinney to die. That they didn't is a testament to their willingness to get beyond hate and to embrace tolerance ? even in the face of such an awful act of gay-bashing intolerance.

"My son, Matthew, paid a terrible price to open the eyes of all of us to the unjust and unnecessary fears, discrimination and intolerance that members of the gay community face every day," Dennis Shepard said in a courtroom statement after the deal was announced.

Voicing their support

Today, he and his wife come to Washington to add their voice to those who seek to win passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, a bill that would make attacks on people based on their "sexual orientation, gender and disability" crimes subject to federal prosecution.

Last month, President Clinton vetoed the fiscal year 2000 budget for the Commerce, Justice and State departments after Congress failed to make the hate-crime bill part of that legislation.

Opponents of the measure argue that homosexuals should not be given special legal status. But as overall crime continues to fall in this country, attacks on gay men and lesbians are on the rise. Since they are singled out for persecution, it makes sense to design a special penalty for those who attack them violently.

With the White House in a tug of war with congressional conservatives over this issue, the Shepards' willingness to spare McKinney's life may help to soften resistance to the bill's passage. Their act of mercy came just days after the Rev. Jerry Falwell, once a rabid critic of homosexuality, convened a meeting between a group of evangelical Christians and gay activists to build a bridge of understanding between the two old enemies.

While Falwell's meeting was an important breakthrough, the Shepard family's act of forgiveness may be the catalyst needed to produce a corresponding act of compassion among members of Congress who thus far have shown little for the victims of homophobic assaults.

DeWayne Wickham writes weekly for USA TODAY.

DETROIT NEWS, November 8, 1999

<http://detnews.com/>

By Deb Price / The Detroit News

Court must tread carefully in custody case

The U.S. Supreme Court rarely ventures into the messy, complicated realm of family law. Disputes over domestic matters such as child custody and visitation rights are normally left to the states. But gay-rights attorneys weren't just shocked when the Supreme Court recently agreed to decide the constitutionality of Washington state's visitation law. They were alarmed.

Superficially, the case involves a question of grandparents' rights rather than anything gay. After their unmarried son, Brad, committed suicide in 1993, Jenifer and Gary Troxel petitioned for the right to continue seeing their son's two daughters more regularly than the mother wanted to allow. Under Washington law, anyone could petition for visitation rights at any time and be granted them if that was in the child's best interests.

However, the Washington state Supreme Court struck down that law last December, ruling it violated parents' constitutional right to privacy. (All states have grandparent-visitation laws, some of which cover other so-called third parties. Washington's law was far broader than most.) The Troxels

appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Oral arguments in *Troxel v. Granville* are expected early next year and a final decision by June.

In accepting the case, the U.S. Supreme Court has charged ? perhaps blundered ? into a field filled with land mines: What?s a family? Who?s a parent? Does biology give grandparents special rights? How should the overlapping rights of children, parents and grandparents be sorted out? When may a state overrule a fit parent?s decisions?

?The Supreme Court doesn?t understand family law. They might have thought this was a relatively simple case about grandparents? rights. This is not a simple case they?ve gotten themselves into,? warns Nancy Polikoff, a national expert on gay family law.

The danger is that the court ? whose nine justices include six grandparents ? is so unfamiliar with the territory that it will inadvertently cause a great deal of harm to a great many children. One misstep by the court in almost any direction could be particularly damaging to children whose parents are gay.

Upholding Washington?s unusually broad visitation law could undercut lesbian mothers trying to fend off attacks by homophobic relatives. On the other hand, language striking down the law might put new obstacles in the path of gay people seeking to maintain a parental bond with an ex-partner?s biological or adopted child.

Although gay-rights attorneys are divided on the wisdom and constitutionality of the disputed law, they're united in seeing huge potential hazards in a Supreme Court ruling.

"We're, as a movement, in the process of convincing states that they should rethink their idea of what family is," notes Matt Coles, the American Civil Liberties Union's chief gay-rights litigator. "It would certainly be very damaging to us if the U.S. Supreme Court said, 'Well, for constitutional purposes, you're only family if you're related by blood, marriage or court decree.'"

The best outcome might be for the court to take the rare step of saying the justices won't decide the case because accepting it was a mistake. Otherwise, the shorter the decision, the better. A single ill-chosen word or phrase could have devastating consequences.

Arthur Leonard, author of *Sexuality and the Law*, suspects the Supreme Court accepted *Troxel v. Granville* because it thinks the Washington court seriously misinterpreted the U.S. Constitution and granted parents too much power.

"I'm assuming that they reached out to take this case because at least four members of the court think it should be reversed. I hope I'm right," he says.

If the Supreme Court doesn't tread carefully, it will trample the rights of our littlest citizens as well as those of countless adults.

Deb Price's column is published on Monday. Write letters to The News at
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The Case Against the Notion of 'Homosexual Panic'

By KATHLEEN KELLEHER, Special to The Times

Everyone knows what it feels like to be approached by Mr. or Miss
Wrong,
the one person in the room to whom you are most definitely not attracted.
Such a come-on could make someone cringe or even slightly sick, sure, but
could it actually drive a person to murder?

The notion that an unwanted sexual advance, particularly by a gay
person
toward a straight one, might spark "sex panic" and result in an
uncontrollable, murderous rage has been raised in courtrooms as a defense
tactic in the last few years.

Most recently, the issue swirled at the edges of the trial of the
second
man convicted of murdering Wyoming college freshman Matthew Shepard.
Defendant Aaron McKinney's attorneys wanted to argue their client lost
control after Shepard, who was gay, propositioned McKinney in October 1998.

But state District Judge Barton Voigt prohibited the use of the controversial strategy, reasoning that it was not allowed under state law.

Still, the question lingers: Is there such a thing as "homosexual panic"?

In a word, no, according to those who study human behavior. The notion of "homosexual panic" seems to be based on the Freudian theory that buried motivations and fears can be triggered by events or thoughts, and lead to aberrant behavior. The phrase is believed to have been coined in 1920.

(Indeed, McKinney's lawyers argued that an advance by Shepard triggered memories of a childhood homosexual assault, setting off "five minutes of emotional rage and chaos," during which McKinney pistol-whipped Shepard into a coma from which he never recovered.)

As a legal defense, the theory was explored in a 1989 Harvard Law Review article. "Homosexual panic" defense, said the piece, is based "on the theory

that a person with latent homosexual tendencies will have an extreme and uncontrollably violent reaction when confronted with a homosexual proposition."

But a year earlier, in 1988, two Canadian psychiatrists reviewed literature on the subject dating back to 1920 and concluded in the Canadian Journal of Psychiatry that the term "should be permanently assigned to the junkyard of obsolete psychiatric terminology."

"Homosexual panic" is not a mental disorder, they said; rather it is a

culmination of our culture's homophobic attitudes.

Although psychologists and psychiatrists discount the theory, some researchers are probing the links between homophobic attitudes and antigay violence.

A psychology professor in Georgia says his research demonstrates that denied homosexual urges may indeed drive some people to violence. Henry E. Adams of the University of Georgia in Athens tested the theory by administering an "Index of Homophobia" test to 64 men between the ages of 18 and 31. The men were then shown explicit erotic videos of heterosexual, homosexual and lesbian sex while hooked up to a device that measures arousal by tracking changes in penile circumference.

Those identified as homophobic were more aroused by the homosexual videos than by the heterosexual videos. Those identified as nonhomophobic were more aroused by the heterosexual videos. (It will come as no surprise to anyone who watched last week's "Ally McBeal" that lesbian sex was a hit with both groups.)

"The body doesn't lie," said Adams. "The homophobes despise the fact that they get aroused by men and they deny it." In a yet-to-be-published study, Adams will report that homophobes grew anxious, hostile and aggressive after watching gay erotica. (The nonhomophobes did not.)

After the initial tests, he introduced another designed to determine whether those identified as homophobic would actually inflict pain on gays if

given the chance.

His subjects competed with opponents identified as gay or straight.

The

winner got to deliver a minor shock to the loser.

"Sure enough," said Adams, "homophobics shocked the hell out of the person they were told was gay and they didn't to the guy they were told was heterosexual. I am not sure what it means, but when homophobics get aroused, they do get angry, hostile and violent."

Adams thinks that this link between sexual arousal and aggression is what distinguishes those he calls "homo-negative" (people who for religious, social or moral reasons disapprove of gays) from "homophobic" (someone who may want to do harm).

And, he said, panic is probably not an operative part of that aggressiveness. "Panic is something that happens immediately, almost like fight or flight," said Adams. "Antigay crimes are more planned than a heat-of-passion crime. There is a plan and instigation to get these victims out somewhere to beat them up and kill them."

Gay activists and others say the term "homosexual panic" has survived so long because it reflects an antigay culture. "It is culturally acceptable to respond violently to a homosexual proposition. . . . The idea is you have the right to defend your masculinity," says Karen Franklin, an El Cerrito forensic psychologist who studies antigay behaviors and attitudes. "Of

course

what is a proposition and what is a flirtation is in the eye of the beholder.

If a man allows another man to flirt with him, he is viewed as no longer masculine in our culture, where there is a tremendous fear of losing masculinity."

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Tinkering at the Margins of Anti-Gay Bigotry

By BRENT STAPLES

The integration of the American military stands as this country's most striking transformation of the century. Harry Truman issued the executive order ending segregation in 1948, and by 1956, white recruits from the most bigoted reaches of the South were being ordered around by black drill sergeants at boot camp. Under the edict, known racists were no longer allowed

to hold positions of authority and were eventually weeded out. Within a few decades, the military had more black managers by far than the civilian sector, which still has not caught up. As the military sociologist Charles Moskos wrote: "Today, one is more likely to hear racial jokes at the university faculty club than in the officers' club. And in the officers' club, one will surely see more blacks."

The integration of the military was vital to national security and

yielded an enormous benefit for the country as a whole. But it would have taken substantially longer had Truman yielded to the military's desire to tinker at the margins of bigotry instead of rooting it out. Not long before Truman's order, a military panel suggested that white soldiers would never accept blacks as commanders or comrades in arms. The panel proposed keeping black numbers down through a quota system and limiting black troops to support units, where they would build roads or off-load ships. By rejecting this approach, Truman delegitimized segregation in one, swift movement.

The perils of tinkering at the margins have become especially clear with "don't ask, don't tell," the policy that governs the military's dealings with gay soldiers. The policy was billed as a way to permit gay Americans to serve without fear of harassment or expulsion -- as long as they kept sexual preferences to themselves. But since the policy was put in place in 1994, the number of soldiers being dismissed for reasons related to homosexuality has risen dramatically. These losses present a reduction in military readiness, given the difficulties in meeting recruitment targets. In addition, the policy seems to have made circumstances worse for gay soldiers under the guise of bringing them into the fold.

Data from the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network shows that dismissals under "don't ask, don't tell" have risen from 617 in 1994 to 1,163 in 1998. The Air Force had the most discharges of any branch last year with 415 -- an

astonishing 65 percent of which came at a single Air Force base in Lackland, Tex. The Air Force says recruits were claiming to be gay to escape service when the going got tough.

But given that Air Force training is relatively mild and that the recruits are volunteers, deception to escape the service seems less than the full story.

Lawyers from the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network visited Lackland this fall and filed a report with the Air Force describing several problems with how "don't ask, don't tell" was being administered. The core issue was that briefings describing the policy to new recruits were indirect and ambiguous. Network investigators say they could not find a single recruit who understood the policy or what it entitled service members to do or not do.

In addition, the material bearing on "don't ask, don't tell" was tacked on to a discussion of the military code of justice, leading some recruits to think that they would be expelled for being gay with or without incriminating revelations. Other new soldiers got the impression that the Air Force honor code obligated them to confess sexual preferences -- and that they could face imprisonment if they withheld the truth and were later found out.

The network report says that even the base inspector general misunderstood the policy, and felt it his duty to report anything he heard. In a striking disregard for doctor-patient confidentiality, a post

psychologist told Network investigators that it was his "duty" to inform on gay patients -- even though none of the services require doctors to break confidence in this fashion. In other words, recruits who had questions about a poorly presented policy were risking self-incrimination and dismissal if they spoke to anyone at all.

The Air Force says it has reduced the number of dismissals at Lackland by allowing recruits to recant self-incriminating statements and reworked the instructional package to make the policy clearer. Air Force officials have also instructed recruits with questions to seek out service defense lawyers, who are obligated by law to preserve lawyer-client privilege. Unfortunately, including lawyers in this equation deepens the impression that gay soldiers are criminals by virtue of sexual preference. As a rule, jiggering with a bad policy is likely to make it worse.

Bill Clinton could have avoided this nightmare by issuing a Trumanesque directive banning anti-gay discrimination in the armed services back in 1994.

The Pentagon would have grumbled at first, but would also have done what it was told. By tinkering at the margins, Congress and the President have ensured that the military will be divided over this issue long after the civilian world has put it to rest. The fatal mistake was compromising with bigotry in the first place.

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Today's Political Briefing - November 8, 1999

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The Puerto Rican nationalists granted clemency by President Clinton in September were members of two groups with ties to Cuban intelligence agents, the Hartford Courant reports in a package aiming for the Pulitzer Prize: "A two-year FBI investigation of the 1983 Wells Fargo robbery in West Hartford documented in striking detail how Cuban support for the Puerto Rican independence movement played out on a day-to-day basis during the most violent period of the movement's modern history. But the results of that investigation, as it touched on the Cubans, were not disclosed - until now."

President Clinton said he will direct the Pentagon to seek congressional authorization to pay any fines or penalties because of environmental violations at military bases, the Cape Cod Times reports.

President Clinton is fond of describing himself as "technologically challenged," but the Internet has advanced to the point he need only speak into a computer microphone in the first online presidential town hall meeting today, the Cincinnati Enquirer reports.

The House approved a compromise \$15.3 billion foreign-aid spending package that provides new funds for the Mideast peace process and restores \$800 million previously cut from Clinton's requests, the Wall Street Journal reports. The NY Times profiles Clinton budget director Jack Lew.

ELECTION 2000

George W. Bush said Sunday he is "plenty smart" despite flunking a pop quiz on the leaders of four world hot spots, the Washington Post reports. Michigan Gov. John Engler defended Bush saying most people couldn't name the leaders of Chechnya, Taiwan, India and Pakistan, according to the Detroit News. The AP reports that "Senator Trent Lott dismissed the episode as a ploy by [Massachusetts'] liberal media to discredit the Republican front-runner." But an ABC News analysis of Bush's misstatements on foreign policy noted that "this most recent flub is worse because it's all one interview on video that can be broadcast again and again throughout the year."

Steve Forbes' presidential campaign in Arizona may be laboring in obscurity, but that's all about to change, campaign workers tell the Arizona Republic. Last week, volunteers and staff members were busy putting the finishing touches on more than 500 street signs, hammering out plans for an early-balloting campaign and whipping up a new batch of TV ads, which could begin airing by the end of the month. And in a five day trek across Iowa, Forbes stuck to his core message "which has changed little since earlier this year when Steve Forbes formally began pursuing the Republican nomination for president for the second time," the Cedar Rapids Gazette reports. Meanwhile, Forbes is the subject of an Atlanta Journal Constitution profile.

Meanwhile, Bush boasts that since becoming Texas governor he has held down the growth in state spending to about 2.7 percent, the Wall Street Journal reports. Republican rival Forbes charges false advertising. So who's right? Both, it turns out.

John McCain has got "The Big Mo," as George W. Bush's father

once said. And suddenly, it's a tight Republican race in New Hampshire, the NY Daily News reports. Helped along by his maverick message and Bush's tactical stumble in skipping last month's Hanover debate, McCain is plainly surging. A Franklin Pierce College/WNDS-TV poll last week showed the Arizona senator at 30% ? only 8 points behind Bush. A Fort Worth Star Telegram analysis says that McCain is Bush's most formidable opponent. Meanwhile, McCain's presidential campaign said it sees nothing wrong with airing an advertisement filmed in part at Arlington National Cemetery, the Nando Times reports.

"Al Gore feels very strongly - about a lot of things," the Boston Globe reports. "In recent weeks, as he worked to overhaul his campaign and remake himself as a candidate, Gore has been trying to ensure that voters realize that he's more than a cardboard-cutout-shadow-of-a-president. 'I feel very strongly about this,' he says many times each day. 'I feel passionately about these issues,' is another refrain." Meanwhile, Gore finished his fifth trip to New Hampshire in four weeks Sunday with a 90-minute question-and-answer session. The Democratic presidential candidate spoke with 200 voters at the Weston Elementary School gymnasium and fulfilled his promise to answer every question they had, the Nando Times reports. And writer Naomi Wolf said she took a pay cut to sign on at \$15,000 a month with Gore, according to the LA Times. Wolf also said that "I am not a fashion consultant" for his campaign.

"Bill Bradley, perhaps the nation's most famous scholar-athlete, refused to take a quiz on world leaders like the one that flummoxed another presidential candidate, Texas Gov. George W. Bush. During a long-scheduled interview, Andy Hiller, political reporter for WHDH-TV, the NBC station in Boston, asked, 'Can you identify the leader of North Korea?' 'I'm not going to get into this--I'm not going to play this game,' Bradley answered. 'I think these are pop questions, and I don't think they illustrate, really, the qualities that are important to be president,'" the Washington Post reports. Meanwhile, Bradley kept the pressure on rival Al Gore in New Hampshire Saturday, vying with Gore to capture voters' attention in the first-in-the-nation primary state, according to Reuters. The Boston Globe examines Gore and Bradley's different approaches to the same problem: Health care reform.

"Here is life at the present for Donald Trump, billionaire developer: opulent buildings, fabulous supermodels, his name splashed across the Manhattan skyline. Not bad, eh?," Newsday asks. "Now consider life in the near future for Donald Trump, presidential candidate: Financial disclosure forms. Loose-lipped ex-wives. Intense media scrutiny. The nightlife in - whoa! - Nashua, N.H. Will he make that trade?"

One year before Election Day 2000, Americans want the next president to be someone with high morals who won't lead the

country through a morass like a Monica Lewinsky scandal, a USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll finds. "Most voters don't make whether the president has served in the military or regularly goes to church a top priority. Current conduct counts but past behavior matters less, whether it's using illegal drugs or cheating on a spouse."

New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani has launched his first round of TV ads, diluting any lingering doubts about whether he will jump into the race for his state's open U.S. Senate seat, ABC News reports. While the ads never say anything about the Senate race, they do end with this: "Rudy, ready to do even more, for all of us."

POLITICS

Republicans are no longer a majority in Orange County, California, the nation's most reliable large center of the party's support through most of the 20th century, the Washington Times reports. Republican voter registration last month dropped below 50 percent in the once reliably conservative county of 2.7 million. Congress overwhelmingly approved a landmark financial-services overhaul of restrictions in the Glass-Steagall law, the Wall Street Journal reports.

AP reports that "Questions linger about the Clintons' \$1.7 million house in Chappaqua, N.Y. The first couple must cope with \$8,500 monthly payments even as they wrap up their eight years in the White House."

"The Senate is expected to approve former Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun (D-Ill.) to become the next U.S. ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa this week, three weeks after her nomination appeared to be in jeopardy," Roll Call reports.

"Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) and some of his colleagues were buzzing last week about the possibility of another retirement by a Republican Senator. The speculation among the Democratic Senators centered on Finance Chairman William Roth (R-Del.), along with GOP Sens. James Jeffords (Vt.) and Conrad Burns (Mont.)," Roll Call reports.

Sacramento mayor Joe Serna Jr., who kicked off his career in politics 18 years ago as a farm labor activist, has died, Reuters reports. He was 60.

OPINION

Wes Pruden of the Washington Times writes that "While Al Gore was trying to get a feminist author to show him how to be a real man, George W. was talking about the right stuff in New

Hampshire. The governor of Texas could hardly have asked for a sharper drawing of a line between himself and the veep. George W.'s talk in New Hampshire of values, discipline, of right -- right, as in right, not rights plural -- and responsibility no doubt frightens some of the tender plants in the hothouse, but it sounds like common sense to the common-sensical Americans both Al and Dubya are after."

David Broder of the Washington Post writes: "And for the first time in a decade, aspirants for federal office next year are unlikely to face the pervasive anger that made most of the elections of the 1990s nerve-racking experiences for so many incumbents. A near-record run of upbeat economic news has deadened--if not wholly removed--the frustration that impelled many voters earlier in this decade to search out scapegoats in one party or the other. But candidates will have to overcome deep public skepticism about a political system voters see dominated by naked partisanship and campaign cash. Persuading people to vote looms as a major challenge in itself."

Tony Kornheiser of the Washington Post writes about Naomi Wolf and Al Gore.

William Safire of the NY Times writes that "The most important aspect of Gov. George W. Bush's recent controversial interview is the presidential front-runner's instinctive judgment that the coup by Gen. Pervez Musharraf is good news for Pakistan. Is it really good news?"

Ron Brownstein of the Washington Post writes that the "past is retaining a grip on Gore, Bradley in critical areas requiring reform: In the last few weeks each Democratic candidate has demonstrated a blind spot in his vision of America's future."

Mona Charen of the Boston Globe writes that "Vice President Al Gore is a good liberal. As such, he is concerned always for feelings, preferably the kind that can be showcased, and not for facts. In a recent speech, he took Governor George W. Bush to task for opposing hate crimes legislation."

Bob Herbert of the NY Times writes that "Al Gore's new campaign strategy plays to his strengths -- his intelligence, his fundamental decency, his enormous capacity for hard work and the experience he has gained from nearly seven years as vice president."

Robert Novak of the Chicago Sun-Times writes that "Gov. George W. Bush's campaign aides have a response commercial ready to counter anticipated advertisements against him from Republican presidential rival Steve Forbes."

William Schneider wrote in the LA Times: "It's Nov. 7, 1999, exactly a year before the next presidential election. Do you know where your country is? The United States has changed a lot during the Clinton years. For one thing, the ideological war seems to be over."

Brent Staples writes in the NY Times: "The military's 'don't ask, don't tell' policy has resulted in a reduction in military readiness. In addition, the policy seems to have made circumstances worse for gay soldiers under the guise of bringing them into the fold."

Morton Kondracke of Roll Call writes that "With exceptions, the broadcast TV industry seems to regard politics simply as an opportunity to get rich from campaign ads, not to inform the public. But there's an easy way it can do both."

IN THE MAGAZINES

Newsweek runs a cover story on the straight shooters: "Bill Bradley and John McCain are selling this year's hottest commodity: the aura of authenticity that comes from a life that starts outside of politics."

U.S. News and World Report analyzes Election 2000 thus far: "In one corner there are the pundits, living inside the echo chamber that is the Washington Beltway, who pretty much agree that the Al Gore campaign is a shambles and that George Bush couldn't find Chechnya on a map, let alone tell you who its leader might be. In the other corner, there are the voters of America who don't seem to be listening to the pundits: Ask likely Democratic voters whom they would prefer as the Democratic nominee, as U.S. News did in a poll conducted between October 25 and 28, and they choose Gore over Bill Bradley by 55 percent to 34 percent with a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percent." And David Gergen writes that "as presidential candidates squared off in a New Hampshire debate the other night, passengers sitting in front of TV monitors in New York's LaGuardia Airport flipped through magazines, swapped scores, and dozed off?anything to avoid watching another political shootout. But this one is different: America is now embarked upon the most important political campaign in a generation and, arguably, much longer. So much is at stake that we would be wise to pay attention."

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