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# The Wisconsin Light

## U.S. Army Memo Suggests Reversal Of Ban On Gays

[New York, NY]- According to the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, in a document released by the Justice Department on June 19, in the course of a lawsuit against the U.S. Naval Academy, the Department of the Army appears to be considering a proposal to reverse its current ban and permit Gay and Lesbian persons to serve.

The document was released by the Justice Department in conjunction with the discovery process in Joseph Steffan's landmark Gay and Lesbian civil rights lawsuit against the U.S. Naval Academy which discharged him for being Gay in 1987. The fact that the document, which proposes changes in the Army's treatment of Gay servicemembers, was produced by the government's attorneys defending the Naval Academy suggests that the memo reached the highest levels of military policy administration.

The four-page document—which has been described by Gay activists as “stunning” and “staggering”—begins with a critical review of the background of the current policy, citing military research that indicates “homosexual personnel are no greater security risk than are their heterosexual counterparts,” making sharp distinctions between sexual orientation and sexual behavior, acknowledging the great social changes that have occurred in the fifty years since the ban was first instituted, and recognizing that “homosexuality” has gained more acceptance in “society at-large as a visible alternative lifestyle.”

The memo goes on to state that a change in policy is needed “in order to establish a supportable Army policy that can withstand the inevitable challenge by either the courts or Congress.”

The document ends with a dramatic proposal to change the current policy and states, in part, that “The Army shall not discriminate in recruitment, promotion or retention practices based on sexual orientation.”

The memo was originally withheld on the basis of a claim by the government that the document was “privileged.” The author of the document, the circumstances under which it was prepared and the date it was written and the status of the proposal are not clear.

## Chicago Police Brutally Arrest ACT UP Members at AMA Confab

By April Elledge

[Chicago, IL]- Allegations of police abuse and felony charges were exchanged by ACT-UP Chicago and Chicago Police respectively following ACT-UP's demonstration against the American Medical Association at its annual conference on June 24. Twenty-seven activists were arrested.

Activists Jay Hanson of Milwaukee, Kriss DeJong of Kansas City, and Gary Lawman of New York exhibited signs of

## Ben-Shalom Appointed to MPS Committee

[Milwaukee]- Dr. Howard Fuller, recently named Superintendent of the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) has announced that he is forming a committee of teachers and involved citizens to explore the needs and situation of Gay and Lesbian students in MPS.

Don Ernest, head of the Milwaukee Teachers Education Association called Miriam Ben Shalom on June 26, 1991 and asked her to represent the union on the commission.

Ben Shalom, a long-time activist and advocate for Lesbian/Gay rights and the civil rights of all citizens, told *Light* that she had responded in the affirmative.

As of press time, the committee is still in the process of formation and has yet to hold its first meeting.

## Guilty Convictions Delivered In Two Gay-Related Murders



The Cream City Chorus paraded with a dragon in Milwaukee's Third Annual Pride Parade on June 15.

## Democratic Presidential Hopefuls Discuss Issues With The LIGHT

By Bill Meunier

[Milwaukee]- Three out of four of the potential and announced Presidential candidates present at Wisconsin's State Democratic Party convention, held June 15-16 at the Marquette Plaza Hotel in Milwaukee, told *Wisconsin Light* that they favor Lesbian and Gay rights. All four of the candidates denounced the Reagan-Bush era AIDS policy.

The convention was billed by many observers as the first chance to take stock of the potential standard bearers for the national party in 1992. The only announced candidate, former Massachusetts Senator Paul Tsongas, and three potential candidates, Iowa Senator Tom Harkin, West Virginia Senator Jay Rockefeller and Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton were in attendance.

When asked about his support for Lesbian and Gay rights, Tsongas pointed out that he was the “original” sponsor of Federal Gay and Lesbian Rights Act.

abuse ranging from dark, foot-shaped bruises on wrists and upper arms to major concussions, sprained and fractured fingers, and bruised and broken cheekbones and noses.

None of the twenty-seven arrestees were observed by anyone but the police while allegedly breaking the law, and videotapes of the demonstration and arrests do not show protesters engaged in illegal civil disobedience.

Also not shown on video was the alleged biting of Chicago Police Officer Ronald Parram by Gary Lawman, who was also charged with disarming a police officer after allegedly pulling an officer's gun from its holster.

Videotapes of the arrests do show protesters thrown head-first to the pavement. In addition, some Chicago police officers were wearing disposable rubber gloves, apparently in a misguided attempt to avoid infection.

Said activist Jay Hanson, “I wanna know why this happened to me. I joined a legal demonstration to protest the AMA's treatment of people with AIDS and to call for National Healthcare for all Americans. I thought that was my democratic right.”

“No one, particularly a sick person, deserves to be brutalized the way I was by the Chicago Police Department,” said Hanson. “I call on concerned queers everywhere to prevent this sort of brutality from being inflicted on any other person in Chicago, regardless of their perceived sexual orientation or HIV status.”

He also denounced the Pentagon policy of discrimination against Lesbians and Gays in the military.

Said Tsongas, “I don't believe in discrimination. I take perhaps a humanist viewpoint, but I think we are better off in the long run. A nation that is divided, competing with nations that have a mono cultural component or character is going to have trouble. We have strength in our diversity, our composite nature.”

When asked if as Commander in Chief he would end the Pentagon Policy of throwing out Lesbians and Gays, Tsongas replied, “Yes I would.”

Clinton was also asked about the Pentagon Policy and told *Light* “If I were elected President and someone served my country with honor, I think I would permit them to continue to serve with honor.”

Harkin indicated support for Gays and Lesbians in the military. When asked if he would end the policy of discrimination in the military, he said: “As I have said before I am opposed to discrimination in any form when it is based on sex, religion, race, national origin, or lifestyle.”

Neither Harkin nor Rockefeller who are currently in the Senate have signed onto the Federal Gay Rights bill.

When asked if he was a co-sponsor, Rockefeller curtly replied, “No I am not and I don't particularly care to comment as to why not.”

Harkin said, “Its just not something that I have focused on, but anyone who knows me can tell you that I have always said that discrimination based on race, sex, religion, lifestyle, or sexual preference or orientation is wrong.”

On the subject of AIDS, Tsongas ripped Bush and Reagan for their handling of the AIDS crisis. Alluding to his battle with cancer, a battle he won but which forced him to leave the Senate, Tsongas said, “I am particularly sensitive on this, if my doctors treated my cancer the way they are treating AIDS, I wouldn't be here today. Obviously we would be a lot better off if Reagan had acknowledged it, could have uttered the words, could have gotten past that. I think that recent controversy about letting people into the country shows that attitude is still there.”

When asked what he thought of the Bush handling of the AIDS crisis, Senator Rockefeller said “No, the response is not adequate. Talk to the first person who headed it up.” When asked what he objected to, the Senator went on to say, “If they would listen to the Pepper Commission every single person including people who had AIDS would have health insurance; it would include people on the grates on Lafayette Avenue,

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[Milwaukee]- In mid-June, justice was meted out to two men who were convicted for separate Gay-related homicides which occurred in Milwaukee and Madison last Fall.

Charles E. Jackson, accused of the murder of Cleveland “Ricky” Roundtree in October, 1990, was found guilty of first degree homicide by a Milwaukee jury on June 14, 1991.

Jackson was charged with 1st degree intentional homicide and with carrying a concealed weapon.

Roundtree's murder, covered by *Wisconsin Light* and the other media at the time, was generally considered a hate crime.

Jackson was tried separately from Patrick Harden, the other person implicated in the crime. Harden's trial is scheduled to begin in July.

Jackson, the only witness to the crime, testified that Roundtree entered the Black Velvet Tavern located on W. Fond du Lac Ave. where Jackson and Harden were drinking. The two thought Roundtree was making a pass at them. According to Jackson, Roundtree denied it, but Harden was “mad.”

Jackson testified that Harden said, “Let's pop the fag,” meaning to kill Roundtree.

According to Jackson, a third man identified only as “Will” was also involved, but Will has never been found. There appear to be some doubts if he exists.

Jackson testified that when Roundtree left the bar, the three men followed him. Roundtree allegedly went into a nearby alley, into an abandoned building. Jackson testified that he got the gun from Harden who gave it to Will, saying, “You do it.”

According to Jackson, Will shot Roundtree twice. Jackson was close enough to hear Roundtree sigh as he fell into a stairwell.

According to the forensic pathologist at the trial, the first shot was at point blank range, the second at close range. The first bullet lodged in Roundtree's spine. The second entered his heart, ending up in his kidneys. There was only an 80% chance that he was dead.

The body was subsequently set afire, covering 80% of the body with 3rd and 4th degree burns. The fingers were burned off, the leg tendons exposed.

According to Scott Gunkel, observing the trial for the Lambda Rights Network, Roundtree's family “seemed glad somebody was there, interested in the case.” No one from the NAACP or the Urban League was there.

The all white jury deliberated for 3-4 hours before returning a guilty verdict.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Karine Mareno-Taxman. According to Gunkel, Mareno-Taxman made abundantly clear that Roundtree was killed because he was believed to be Gay. However, she did not invoke the Hate Crimes Law.

Her reasons were: in a murder charge, motive need not be proved; Hate Crimes is a misdemeanor and Jackson was charged with the highest crime.

Gunkel said Mareno-Taxman also admitted that she was not familiar with the Hate Crimes Law, not having read it.

Sentencing will take place on July 18, 1991 at 8:30 a.m.

In Madison, on June 21, Dane County Circuit Court Judge Gerald Nichol sentenced Joseph Darryl Wills, 25, to life in prison for the first degree intentional homicide of Mark F. Starkey.

Starkey, 21, was shot to death in an alley in downtown Madison last September 8.

Wills, who fled the scene but later turned himself in to police, claimed that Starkey had made a sexual proposition to him. In his statement to police, Wills made derogatory comments about Gays

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