

National/International News

AIDS Discrimination Trial

Toledo, OH - The American Civil Liberties Union is arguing that a hospital and doctor in Fremont, Ohio violated the Americans with Disabilities Act and other laws when treatment was refused to a man with AIDS. The claim is believed to be the first such complaint since enactment of the federal statute in 1990. Fred Charon suffered a severe allergic reaction to medicine while driving through Ohio on a trip back to Maine in 1992. He was rushed to the emergency room at Memorial Hospital in Fremont. The emergency room staff tried to admit him to the hospital, but the senior doctor on duty, Dr. Charles Hull, learned of Charon's AIDS diagnosis and refused to admit him to the hospital, stating that "once you get an AIDS patient in the hospital, you will never get him out." Instead, Mr. Charon was sent a long distance by ambulance to another hospital. The Americans with Disabilities Act was designed in part to address problems of health care providers refusing to treat those infected or believed infected with HIV. The court issued a 22 page ruling in which it found that the ADA applies to both Dr. Hull and the hospital and ordering the case to go to trial before a jury. (AOL)

Cammermeyer Ordered Reinstated

Washington, DC - On June 1, U.S. District Judge Thomas Zilly ordered the reinstatement of Margarethe Cammermeyer, a highly decorated colonel in the Washington State National Guard who was dismissed for acknowledging that she is a lesbian. In the ruling Judge Zilly said that military experts "conceded that their justifications for the policy are based on heterosexual members' fear and dislike of homosexuals. Mere negative attitudes, or fear, are constitutionally impermissible bases for discriminatory governmental policies." The Pentagon and the Justice Department had no immediate comment on whether they would appeal Judge Tilly's ruling, though it seems likely given past actions. (AOL, *The New York Times*)

Lesbian and Gay Scouts

Washington, DC - When Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders called for the Girl

Scouts and Boy Scouts of America to open their ranks to gays and lesbians, the Girl Scouts promptly responded with their long time policy against discrimination based on sexual orientation. Sandra Gillis, Executive Director of PFLAG, the country's largest family organization providing support, education and advocacy, applauded the Girl Scouts policy while continuing her organizations' appeal to the BSA to open their ranks to gays. Citing a 1992 policy statement by PFLAG's Board of Directors, Gillis called the BSA's policy "injurious and in violation of the traditional Boy Scout values of honesty, friendliness, kindness, and fair play. PFLAG encourages all of its members who are or have been members of BSA to write to the local, regional, and national offices of the Boy Scouts of America, requesting that BSA eliminate its discriminatory policy. We further encourage PFLAG members to withhold contributions to BSA until such time as it changes its position." (AOL)

New York Bars Recruiters

Albany, NY - New York's highest court ruled last month that the military has no special rights to recruit in a public school system which bars employers who discriminate based on sexual orientation. This is the first time a state's highest court has ruled on the issue. The decision was the result of a suit brought by a parent of a Rochester public school student against the Rochester school board. The court noted that any employer who violates the school's non-discrimination policy is also barred from recruiting. (*The Washington Blade*)


Gay Consumer Survey

Westport, CT - The annual Yankelovich Monitor survey, which has tracked consumer values and attitudes since 1971 included a question about sexual identity for the first time, providing the first nationally representative and projectable portrait of lesbians and gay men as consumers. Virtually all previous surveys have been conducted by or for interested parties like lesbian and gay publications which used self-selected samples. This is the first time a marketing survey has used

a sample already set up to reflect the general population.

Almost 6 percent of the respondents to the 1993 Yankelovich Monitor survey described themselves as gay/homosexual/lesbian. Some of the demographic data differs from widely held assumptions about the affluence of gay households. Among gay men, the mean household income was \$37,400 compared to \$39,300 among straight men. For lesbians it was \$34,800 compared with \$34,400 for straight women. Differences between respondents who said they were gay and those who did not included the following. Gays and lesbians were twice as likely to have attended graduate school, are self-employed at rate almost two-thirds higher than straight people, are highly concentrated in the top 25 metropolitan areas, and are more accommodating to technology. Gays and lesbians also report more stress in their lives, 98%, compared to 89% of straight people. Watts Wacker, managing partner of Yankelovich said the company wanted to explore the consumer behavior of gays and lesbians because "this is a very viable market that many clients have expressed an interest in knowing more about." (*The New York Times*) ▼

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