

Activists predict end to gay military ban

WASHINGTON (AP) — Opponents of the military's ban on homosexuals and lesbians in uniform are more confident than ever that the prohibition will fall.

It's just a matter of time, they say, pointing to a confluence of signs, including:

—The introduction of legislation to kill the policy;

—Release of a congressional study showing the high cost of drumming gays out of the military;

—A promise by Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton to repeal the ban if he is elected;

—The scandal surrounding the Tailhook Association's 1991 convention.

"We've never been at this juncture before," said Tanya Domi, legislative director for the National Organization of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans. "We have a presidential nominee who has said he would repeal the policy, a bill in the House, a bill in the Senate. ... It is really, really remarkable in terms of the history of the issue just how far we have come."

The change could happen in several ways: An act of Congress, the opinion of a high court or an executive order signed by the president. And while opponents don't agree on how or when, they do concur that the change is coming — even if Clinton loses.

"The momentum is increasing as every gay service member and every lesbian soldier comes forward, and we believe more members of Congress are personally moved by their stories," said Robert Bray, spokesman for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "It is imminent that this policy will fall."

The defense department policy, which began during World War II, states simply that "homosexuality is incompatible with military service" because it undermines the armed forces' ability to maintain good order and morale. The Pentagon offers no studies or research to support the policy.

Soldiers and sailors can be dismissed not only for homosexual conduct but also if they "demonstrate a propensity to engage in homosexual conduct," according to Pentagon policy.

Some have fought their discharges in court, arguing that the policy is unconstitutional, but only one soldier, Army Sgt. Perry Watkins, has ever won.

The appeals court in Watkins' case reasoned that he had been candid about his homosexuality from the start of his career and the Army had continued to re-enlist him. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the

'We have a presidential nominee who has said he would repeal the policy, a bill in the House, a bill in the Senate.'

— Tanya Domi,
legislative director for the National
Organization of Gay, Lesbian and
Bisexual Veterans.

Army's appeal and Watkins subsequently agreed to retire.

The Supreme Court has never accepted a homosexual discharge case for review.

A recent study by the General Accounting Office found that the federal government spent almost half a billion dollars between 1980 and 1990 to kick homosexuals out of the service. The costs included recruiting, training and replacing personnel.

Approximately 1,500 soldiers and sailors are discharged annually for homosexuality, the GAO found.

Some 10 percent of the population is believed to be homosexual and the military, despite its anti-gay policy, is probably no different, the report said.

Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., introduced a bill in May that would overturn the ban. Last month, Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, introduced it in the Senate.

With only a few weeks remaining in the 102nd Congress, Schroeder, a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, said she doubts there will be hearings on the bill in 1992. The measure has 72 House co-sponsors and seven in the Senate, but has virtually no chance of passing in an election year.

"We obviously haven't had any votes on any issues like this, in either the House or the Senate, so it's hard to know where the middle is," Schroeder said.

"The main attacks on it have come from the Dornans and the Cunninghams and people like that," she said, referring to Reps. Robert Dornan and Randall Cunningham, both conservative California Republicans and members of the Armed Services panel.

But the measure's strongest advocates say the bill's mere existence constitutes one more weapon in a growing arsenal that will be used to topple the ban.

"What it does is it serves as a very real club," said Rep. Ted Weiss, D-N.Y., a long-

time gay-rights supporter. "It tells the defense department that if you don't do it (overturn the ban), there is the strong possibility that Congress will mandate it. I don't think any agency likes to be in that kind of position. I think that they will be reviewing the policy."

But Schroeder disagreed. "I think the Pentagon's pretty locked in," she said. "I don't think they're going to do anything unless the legislation passes."

She pointed to the case of Vice Adm. Jack Fetterman, who was removed last month as the Navy's chief of naval education and training for allegedly protecting an enlisted staffer accused of homosexual activity.

"Obviously, he thought this was pretty stupid policy," Schroeder said. "But they so overreacted. They've done more to him than they've done to people in Tailhook. So it kind of gives you a little window into how passionately they feel about this."

Fetterman had developed the Navy ethics training program prompted by the scandal surrounding the September 1991 convention of the Tailhook Association. At that meeting, naval aviators fondled and stripped clothing from at least 26 women, many of them fellow flyers.

The Navy came under attack for its handling of the investigation, which only identified two suspects because officers would not cooperate. The Defense Department's independent inspector is conducting a more extensive investigation.

Gay rights advocates say the Tailhook scandal has actually worked to their advantage, by pointing up the fact that sexual misconduct, not sexual orientation, should be the issue.

"Tailhook is about conduct and the cover up of bad heterosexual conduct," said Tim McFeeley, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, a gay lobby. "We're trying to change a policy that rejects people on the basis of who they are, not on what they do. And Tailhook underscores that essential difference, which is if people misbehave in the military, whether they are homosexual or whether they are heterosexual, they should face the consequences."

Lawrence Korb, former assistant defense secretary for manpower in the Reagan administration who is now a scholar at the Brookings Institution, said while the public favors repealing the ban, he thinks Congress will resist doing the job.

"Congress doesn't want to mandate it because that's really kind of an executive function," he said.

'Cuckoo's Nest' author strikes again with 'Song'

PLEASANT HILL (AP) — Ken Kesey saw his last novel published 28 years ago, then hopped a psychedelic bus for a cross-country trip that made him a counterculture icon.

Since then, he's written magazine pieces, short fiction, a script that re-examines the long, strange trip on the bus further, and two children's stories. He's taught a writing class at the University that produced a collaborative novel. He's been busted for pot, lost a son and tweaked the nose of the Smithsonian Institution.

But there was no new novel, until this month's release of *Sailor Song*, a book 10 years in the making.

"During the writing of it I felt

like dating Emily Bronte," said Kesey. "This is a real old-fashioned form. But it is sort of the Vatican of the art. Every once in a while you've got to go get a blessing from the pope."

Set in the future in a southeastern Alaska fishing village, *Sailor Song* is a story of love at the end of the world.

The hero is Ike Sallas, an Elvis look-alike and former secret-mission pilot who became a radical environmentalist after deciding his daughter's death was caused by the chemicals he'd been spraying as a crop duster.

It's a time when AIDS has been conquered at the price of

Turn to KESEY, Page 10A

TERIYAKI ALLEY
Japanese, Korean dishes
Teriyaki, curry, udon,
pan fried noodles
and more.
Take out available
1306 Hilyard • next to Subway



is open seven days a week serving delicious **NEW YORK PIZZA** by the **SLICE** or by the **WHOLE PIZZA PIE**. Choice of regular crust or deep-dish Sicilian.

Eat here or take out.

Open 11:30 am-Midnight Mon.-Sat.
3:30 pm-Midnight Sun.

SY's
NEW YORK PIZZA
1211 Alder on Campus * 686-9598

BIJOU ART CINEMAS
492 E. 13th • 686-2458
Starts Friday, August 28

"ONE OF THE YEAR'S BEST FILMS. TWO THUMBS UP, WAY UP."
-Siskel & Ebert

Nothing is as dangerous as the past.

ONE FALSE MOVE

BIJOU ART CINEMAS
492 E. 13th • 686-2458
Starts Friday, September 11

A POWERFUL FILM ON THE OBSESSIVE QUEST FOR THE PERFECT BODY
"Thoroughly Fascinating."
THE FAMINE WITHIN

BIJOU ART CINEMAS
492 E. 13th • 686-2458
Starts Friday, September 18

"Absolutely Riveting!"
-Matthew Frazee, NEW YORK POST

ROBERT REDFORD PRESENTS
A FILM BY MICHAEL APTED
INCIDENT AT OGLALA
It's time the truth was finally set free.

BIJOU ART CINEMAS
492 E. 13th • 686-2458
Starts Friday, September 25

"SPLENDID, EXHILARATING... A TREAT."
-Vincent Canby, THE NEW YORK TIMES

MONSTER IN A BOX

BIJOU ART CINEMAS
492 E. 13th • 686-2458
Starts Friday, October 2

IT'S PRE-HYSTERICAL!

ALL NEW!
17 PREMIERE!

GENERATION THE MOVIE

Also Starts Friday, October 2
THE DIRECTOR'S CUT
BLADE RUNNER

RIDLEY SCOTT'S
SCIENCE FICTION
MASTERPIECE
STARRING
HARRISON FORD
RUTGER HAUER
SEAN YOUNG
DARRYL HANNAH
JOANNA CASSIDY