

Judge restricts visits by military recruiters



BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — A judge has ordered the University of Buffalo to bar visits by military recruiters because of Pentagon discrimination against homosexuals.

State Supreme Court Justice Diane Lebedeff in New York City on Thursday ruled in favor of a former law student at the university, Terri Mayo, a lesbian who claimed she could not apply to the military because of her sexual orientation.

"She was deprived of a genuine career opportunity simply because she's a lesbian," said Evan Wolfson, an attorney for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which filed a lawsuit on her behalf. "She was interested in applying, but she was blocked from square one."

Military recruitment at the law school, which is part of the State University of New York, violated an anti-discrimination order issued by Gov. Mario Cuomo, Lebedeff said.

"There is no dispute the military currently engages in sexual orientation discrimination in its employment practices, not well-coming within its active ranks gay men, lesbians and bisexuals," Lebedeff wrote.

Wolfson said Lebedeff's ruling should apply to the entire state university system, which has 400,000 students on 64 campuses.

Ken Goldfarb, a spokesman for the State University of New York, and Ronald Stein, a spokesman for the university, said they could not comment on the decision until their attorneys reviewed it.

Military recruiters continue to visit the University of Buffalo. Stein said the university had not decided if it will follow Lebedeff's ruling and bar their visits.

"New York state has a legitimate interest in prohibiting that kind of discrimination and refusing to be a part of it," Wolfson said.

The case stems from a complaint filed with the New York Division of Human Rights in

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Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund attorney

1990 when Mayo was a law student in Buffalo.

At the time, the Pentagon had an outright ban against homosexuals. That has since been modified by President Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which prohibits the military from asking about a recruit's sexual orientation.

The Division of Human Rights' Office of Lesbian and Gay Concerns ruled in Mayo's favor, but Human Rights Commissioner Margarita Rosa overturned that decision last year after an appeal by the university. Rosa said state and federal law required the university to allow military recruitment.

Lambda, which handles cases on homosexual rights, challenged Rosa's decision in court. Mayo suffered "humiliation and the stigma of second-class citizenship" because of the military's stand on homosexuals, Wolfson said.

Mayo, now a prosecutor with the Linn County District Attorney's office in Albany, Ore., would not comment and referred calls to Lambda.

The university had claimed it might lose Pentagon research grants if it barred military recruiters. Federal law prohibits such grants for schools that forbid military recruitment.

Lebedeff said the risk of losing Pentagon funds was irrelevant. Other New York law schools, including the University of Albany, Columbia University and Syracuse University, prohibit or limit military recruitment, Lebedeff said.

The University of Buffalo received \$2.9 million in Pentagon funds last year.

Packwood decides not to resign

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Bob Packwood had decided to resign, but changed his mind after congressional staffers leaked his intentions to the Justice Department, prompting a subpoena for his diaries, a leading Republican lawmaker said Sunday.

"He was ready to resign, he wanted out," Sen. Alan Simpson of Wyoming said on CBS' "Face the Nation." Simpson accused staffers of the Senate Ethics Committee of thwarting the resignation by leaking word of it to Justice Department lawyers.

When informed of Packwood's plans, Justice Department lawyers scrambled to issue a formal request for the Oregon Republican's diaries, guarding against their possible destruction once Packwood left the Senate.

Simpson, a friend of Packwood's, said after Packwood was served with the subpoena Friday, he "had no choice but to stay in the Senate" where he could better defend himself against possible criminal charges.

After the subpoena was issued, any attempt to destroy the diaries would leave Packwood, 61, open to charges of obstructing justice.

The diaries are central to a Senate investigation into sexual harassment allegations involving complaints from more than two dozen women who said that the Oregon Republican had made unwelcome sexual advances to them over the years.

Simpson said he would seek an investigation into what role ethics panel staffers might have

played in the timing of the Justice Department subpoena.

Spokesmen for the Ethics Committee and for Sen. Richard Bryan, D-Nev., the panel's chairman, did not return telephone messages Sunday.

The Justice Department's interest stems from reports that some entries in the diaries might involve possible conflicts of interest, especially on whether Packwood's defense of Mitsubishi Electronic Co. against unfair trade practice charges might have been linked to a job offer his former wife received from a company lobbyist.

Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole of Kansas also said Sunday that Packwood saw an opportunity to elude the investigations by resigning.

"I think he was close to resignation," Dole said. "(But) about that time, the Justice Department came through with the subpoena and he decided not to resign."

Both Simpson and Dole said the controversy has taken a heavy toll on Packwood, who won re-election to a fifth term last year only days before reports of his alleged sexual improprieties became public.

"He's going through a terrible, personal turmoil," Simpson said. "He was ready to resign, he wanted out. The pain of it, the hounding of it, he wanted to visit with the Ethics Committee one-on-one ... (and) that was denied to him."

Dole said he also was concerned about the impact the investigations have had on Packwood's health. "We talked about that. I think he's OK," Dole said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

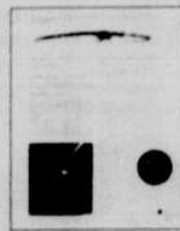
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Alligator breaks in home forcing resident to shoot

DELRAY BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A seven-foot alligator crawled through a dining room window and made it to the kitchen before Howard Ennis put a bullet in its eye.

"Here was this thing in here, violating the privacy, the sanctity of my home," Ennis, 50, said after he killed the alligator Friday.

Ennis and his wife, Gail, awoke to wild flapping by their caged bird. They followed their barking dogs to the living room and saw the alligator outside a ground-level window that had

been left open.

Mrs. Ennis went across the room to call state game officials.

"She walked right up on him, within two feet of him because there wasn't a light on in that part of the room, and he opened his mouth wide, I mean wide," he said. "And that's when she went hysterical."

And when Ennis grabbed his gun.

Police were stumped.

"We've had lots of house break-ins, but never before by an alligator," police spokesman Mike Wright said.

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