

Air Force launches gay investigation

The U.S. Air Force has launched a major investigation of enlisted men in the Washington, D.C. area. At least 45 men working at the Pentagon, Andrews Air Force Base, Bolling Air Force Base and other bases were questioned about homosexuality in early November.

The Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL) has received reports that some of the men had been encouraged to identify other gay men and lesbians in order to receive better treatment.

One man reported that his room was

searched without a search warrant and some items confiscated by Air Force agents.

"This investigation and the apparent violation of constitutional rights is an outrage," said GRNL spokesman Mike Walsh. "The investigation is based on archaic stereotypes of gay and lesbian Americans."

The GRNL is encouraging members of Congress to question Air Force officials about the nature of the investigation and to determine whether the rights of the enlisted men have been violated.

"Again we see a clearly demonstrated need for Congress to remove the regulation that homosexuality is incompatible with military service," stated Jerry Weller, GRNL Deputy Director.

"Use S.F. gays in medical experiments," says County official.

The chairman of the county Board of Supervisors and the top elected official of Maricopa County, Arizona recently stated that "homosexuals and lesbians from San Francisco" be used in experiments instead of animals from the pound.

Hawley Atkinson said he will not resign despite the furor created by his "facetious" remark

"I have absolutely no intention of stepping down. In fact, I will run again in 1984," Atkinson said.

Atkinson made the remark during an interview with a Phoenix reporter outside the Board of Supervisors offices. Another supervisor heard the interview and confirmed the quote.

The Arizona Gay-Lesbian Task Force threatened to mobilize the county's estimated 150,000 gay and lesbian voters to spur a recall election if Atkinson did not resign.

"The last person to advocate medical experiments on homosexuals was Adolf Hitler. There are many people who do not like this kind of talk in American society," said Harry Britt, gay San Francisco supervisor.

Ad response costs teacher job

A Houston, Texas gay teacher was fired from his job recently following the theft of a written response to an advertisement in the *Advocate*. The letter, in a sealed envelope, was stolen from the briefcase of sixth grade teacher James Frein, examined by an undetermined number of students, and eventually ended up in the hands of school district administrators.

Frein resigned, under duress he says, on the day the letter was stolen. Frein, in an interview with Christine Guilfooy of Boston's Gay Community News, said the letter was an attempt to "meet with other Texas men. It said I wasn't into drugs and that I did have a lover. The letter brought out that I was gay."

In addition, the letter contained a picture of Frein, partially clothed.

An attorney for the school district said that the letter was "a solicitation of sexual relations from other readers of the publication."

In a confrontation with three administrators Frein admitted the letter was his. The officials then told Frein, "We just can't have people like you in this district. You're going to cause a scandal. We have to avoid a scandal at all costs. We want you to resign." Frein asked the administrators what would happen if he did

not resign. They said, according to Frein, "Resign or we'll fire you."

Frein resigned and left the school building but later the same day called his union representative who advised him to rescind the resignation, which he did within 24 hours.

The school district refused to accept the rescission, insisting that Frein was no longer employed by the district.

Frein's attorney is pursuing the matter in court on the contention that since the school district did not accept the resignation until two weeks after the incident the resignation could have been rescinded when Frein requested it. Frein's attorney said, "If we get the resignation rescinded we'll be facing discharge. We're trying to pin them: what is the discharge for?"

School district officials were asked if the action taken would have been any different had Frein been straight. "No. If a straight woman teacher had been caught with the same type of correspondence, her picture addressed to *Playboy*, or whatever, we would have to take the same action."

Frein disagrees, saying that sexual preference is an issue, as well as the fact that the letter was stolen from his briefcase. "I want people to know that with something obtained illegally you should not have the right to take away someone's livelihood."

No federal charges against White

Just one week before the fifth anniversary of the assassinations of George Moscone and Harvey Milk, the U.S. Justice Department announced that it will not charge Dan White with a federal violation of his victims' civil rights.

Stephen S. Trot, an assistant U.S. attorney, was quoted as saying that the evidence to support federal charges against White is "manifestly insufficient." Evidence that the killing were politically motivated was either ignored or discounted by the U.S. Justice Department.

Support for the federal charges against

White had come from the San Francisco gay community, as well as California politicians Gov. George Deukmejian, Mayor Diane Feinstein, and Reps. Barbara Boxer and Sala Burton. Rep. Burton issued a statement which read, in part, "I join the people of San Francisco in deploring the fact that the murder of two beloved public officials will go so lightly punished, with a sentence which in no way fits the nature of the crimes committed."

Dan White is scheduled to be released from Soledad prison on January 6, having served two thirds of a seven year, eight month sentence for voluntary manslaughter.

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