

Bisexual refused appeal

The US Supreme Court last week refused to hear the appeal of an Ohio high school guidance counselor who was dismissed from her job because she is bisexual, letting stand a lower court ruling that the counselor's constitutional rights were not violated.

But Justice William Brennan, joined by Justice Thurgood Marshall, dissented from the Court's decision, arguing that the justices should have used the case to decide for the first time whether a public employee could be fired solely on the basis of his or her sexual orientation.

The counselor, Marjorie Rowland, was dismissed after school officials learned she had told several colleagues she is bisexual. A federal District Court ruled her civil rights were violated by the dismissal, but the US Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit reversed that finding last year. The Supreme Court's decision to not accept the case allows the adverse ruling of the Circuit Court of Appeals to stand.

Brennan's statement argued that there is no precedent on which lower courts might base their rulings in gay rights cases, as the

Supreme Court has never addressed the subject. He noted that the court usually sets strict standards to protect members of minority groups from unjust dismissals, and indicated the Rowland case offered an opportunity to extend fair protections to gay persons — an opportunity the court majority failed to seize.

Reprinted from Bay Windows

Activists join GRNL Board

Two gay activists, Deborah Johnson of Los Angeles and Gil Gerald of Washington, DC, have joined the Board of Directors of the Gay Rights National Lobby. The two will begin their work with the Lobby this month.

Deborah Johnson currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Gay/Lesbian Community Service Center in Los Angeles, as well as on the Board of Project Justice, a gay/lesbian coalition working for justice for minority gays/lesbians. In June 1984, Ms. Johnson and her lover, Zandra Rolon, won a discrimination suit against Papa Choux, a Los Angeles restaurant.

Gil Gerald, Executive Director of the Na-

tional Coalition of Black Gays, served as whip for Jesse Jackson's District of Columbia delegation at the 1984 Democratic Convention in San Francisco. Mr. Gerald, an architect, is also a former board member of the Human Rights Campaign Fund and former president of the DC Coalition of Black Gay Men and Women.

Case reopened

A federal appeals court has reopened the case of Diane Matthews, setting aside a federal magistrate's decision that reinstated Matthews, a lesbian, in the University of Maine's ROTC program. Matthews was barred from the ROTC program in 1981 after she told a superior officer she is a lesbian.

The Matthews case is currently under study because Matthews recently acknowledged she has engaged in homosexual activity "numerous times." The 1984 ruling which reinstated the woman in the ROTC program was based on the finding that, while Matthews is an open lesbian, it could not be proved that she actually engaged in lesbian activity. Several court decisions have established a precedent that homosexual activity, as opposed to a stated sexual preference, is grounds for dismissal from military service.

Matthews will be allowed to remain in the ROTC program until a federal magistrate can

determine whether Matthews' acknowledgment of lesbian activity should lead to her banishment from the service.

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Join the march for peace

If ever there was a time for people to unite to defend their rights, this is it. As Ronald Reagan and his administration enter a second term we see continued increases in the war budget, a build-up of the nuclear arsenal, and further support to repressive regimes in countries like South Africa.

As the policies of the U.S. government become increasingly inhumane and militaristic, a growing number of people realize the need to oppose these policies in broad, united actions.

For the past year, a coalition of over 80 organizations has planned for such an action. This coalition, representing the interests of labor, Blacks, Latins, youth, women, the Native American community, and senior citizens has called for five days of activities beginning April 15th through April 22nd. This coalition has united around the demands of:

- Stop U.S. military intervention in Central America
- Create jobs; cut the military budget
- Freeze and reverse the arms race
- Oppose U.S. government and corporate support for South African apartheid and overcome racism at home.

In Portland, a coalition has formed to help build the Northwest contingent of this national movement for peace, jobs, and justice. The coalition is working to organize people in Portland to attend a demonstration in Seattle on Saturday, April 20th. They invite all interested individuals and organizations to join in their efforts.

Ten years ago, this April, the war in Vietnam ended. Recall that war and what it took to end it. Protests can make the difference. When we unite with the struggling people of the world, we have the strength to change society.

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