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percentage backing the next most popular candidate, U.S. Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, who had the support of 10 percent of respondents.

To sign up for the rally visit www.deanforamerica.com.

BAIRD PRESSES PENTAGON TO CURB ANTI-GAY HARASSMENT

U.S. Rep. Brian Baird, D-Wash., is one of 22 members of Congress who have asked the Defense Department to implement a 3-year-old action plan that includes steps to curb anti-gay harassment.

In a July 23 letter to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, the politicians conclude "that the services are not in full compliance" with the plan. They also ask that the Pentagon "evaluate the plan's implementation" and report on its progress within six months.

The Anti-Harassment Action Plan was adopted in July 2000, in the wake of Pfc. Barry Winchell's murder at Fort Campbell, Ky. Created by a Defense Department working group, it includes 13 steps to curb harassment, including annual education and training, accountability for those who harass or condone harassment, and measurement of each service's compliance with the plan.

The plan "will serve to better our forces by ensuring a harassment-free climate that fosters unit cohesion and good order and discipline," the congressional leaders wrote. However, "nearly three years later, we are still

concerned about this directive's state of implementation."

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network reported on the services' failure to implement the plan in March's *Conduct Unbecoming*, its annual report on "don't ask, don't tell." It found that the Defense Department "has failed to issue a single directive on harassment as required by the AHAP." The report urged the Pentagon to fully implement the plan and critiqued each service's progress in complying with it.

C. Dixon Osburn, SLDN executive director, hailed the letter Aug. 4 as an indication that congressional leaders take the issue of anti-gay harassment seriously.

"This letter sends an important message to Pentagon leaders that they must do more to implement the Anti-Harassment Action Plan," he said. "Past verbal commitments by military leaders have proven to be empty promises. The Pentagon must take its responsibility to end harassment and protect service members more seriously."

For more information visit www.sldn.org.

PETA DISPLAYS GRAPHIC PROJECT

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals brought its controversial "Holocaust on Your Plate" project to Portland on Aug. 7.

The display consists of eight 60-square-foot



Todd Brown is actively involved with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, which displayed an eye-catching series of panels Aug. 7 in downtown Portland

panels, each showing photographs of factory farm scenes side by side with images from Nazi death camps. The idea is to draw a parallel between the Holocaust's victimization of Jews, homosexuals and others characterized as "life unworthy of life" with the way modern society abuses animals.

Gay Portlander Todd Brown has been involved with PETA for about three years. He sees similarities between the queer and animal rights movements.

"In some ways it's kind of another coming out," he said of his decision to go vegan. "For a lot of gay people, I think the coming-out process of relearning all of those attitudes about yourself and about life and about your environment is very difficult to digest."

During his "slow and constant evolution," Brown began to examine his consumption choices. After learning what occurs in slaughterhouses,

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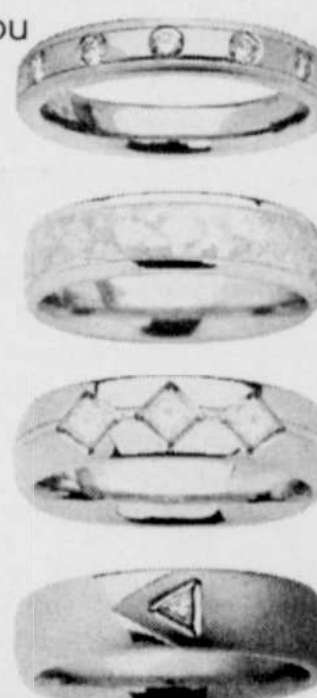
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