

'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' repeal

Gays, lesbians and bi-sexuals are free to serve openly

by Erin Lawson
Staff Writer

September 20, marked the end of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy, which kept gays, lesbians and bi-sexuals undercover about their sexual orientation since 1993.

Under the administration of former President Bill Clinton, the DADT policy made it illegal for gays, lesbians and bi-sexuals to be open about their sexual orientation while serving. The DADT policy served as a protection for lesbians, gays and bi-sexuals, as long as they didn't express their sexuality. Otherwise, they would be discharged.

More than 12,000 soldiers were discharged under the DADT since its enforcement in 1993, according to an article from the Associated Press.

The number of discharged soldiers began to increase due to the fact that the DADT kept

inquires and investigations of lesbians and gays going. Therefore, was it really a Don't Ask, Don't Tell kind of policy?

Slate magazine reporter, Brain Palmer, said "But there is no provision in law or regulation that forbids a rank-and-file service member from asking a colleague whether he or she is gay...but there is no record of a service member being punished for asking about homosexual conduct."

Mr. Palmer clearly points out how the DADT policy only dealt with half of the policy. It seemed as if the Don't Tell part was clearly handled, but the Don't Ask part wasn't handled correctly. This could go back to the increase of discharges that occurred during this policy in the military, and increase of harassment towards gays, lesbians and bi-sexuals.

Clearly something else had to be done, which caused President Obama to come up with the plan of ending the Don't Ask, Don't

Tell policy completely.

The military was very prepared for the repeal. Before it was passed, training under the new law was taking place. Applications from soldiers who were discharged, and those who felt a career in the military would not be possible, started coming in immediately after the bill was repealed.

It all just boils down to how the military feels about this appeal, whether it is someone currently enlisted or someone who wishes to pursue a military career in the future.

There are many opinions about the repeal of the DADT bill, yet the only ones that should matter are those who serve and protect our nation.

How much of an affect does this appeal have on their ability to perform their jobs?

Some feel like they were left out of a decision that affects them more than the politicians in Washington and the general public.

"I wish someone would have asked that

before the appeal, because I would feel uncomfortable working under this appeal," said one possible future soldier who did not want to be named.

There are some soldiers who can say that this appeal doesn't affect them. Not because they don't care, but because it all comes down to one military. Therefore, this appeal isn't truly affecting everyone.

Even though there are people who are affected, who's going to solve their issue with the appeal? What if these people start feeling as if the military doesn't care about their opinion? What if they discharge themselves because they are no longer comfortable? Is this a decision that seems good in the beginning, but will turn out bad for the military? That is just one of those things that only time will tell, and the people of America and the United States military will be its witnesses.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Bronco Student Veteran's Meeting

WHAT: A meeting for the student veterans at FSU

WHEN: Today, 3 p.m.

WHERE: Helen T. Chick Building rm. 102.

MORE INFO: 910-672-1625; dallen@uncfsu.edu

Department of Sociology lecture series with Dr. Oliver Johnson

WHAT: A look at how substance abuse and dependency can have unsuspected influences on society

WHEN: Thursday, October 6, 12:20 to 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Taylor Social Science Building 203.

MORE INFO: 910-672-2220

FSU to be featured in concert

WHAT: FSU's Department of Performing and Fine Arts presenting its 3rd annual Faculty and Friends concert

WHEN: Thursday, October 6, 6 to 7 p.m.

WHERE: Holy Trinity Episcopal

Church 1601 Raeford Road
MORE INFO: 672-1571

Club/Organization Opportunities

WHAT: An interest meeting for students who want to become more involved

WHEN: Friday, October 7, 12 p.m.

WHERE: RJSC 210

MORE INFO: Student Activities Office

5 Compete for the Mr. FSU title

WHAT: Five of FSU's most revered men will compete for the title of Mr. FSU

WHEN: Sunday, October 9,

8 p.m.

WHERE: J.W Seabrook Auditorium

MORE INFO: 910-672-1474

Volleyball

WHAT: FSU vs. Livingstone

WHEN: Thursday, October 6, 6 p.m.

WHERE: Capel Arena

Cross Country

WHAT: Virginia State Invitational

WHEN: Friday, October 7, 1 p.m.

WHERE: Petersburg, VA

Football

WHAT: FSU vs. Virginia State

WHEN: Saturday, October 8, 1

p.m.

WHERE: Luther "Nick" Jeralds Stadium

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WIDU 53RD Anniversary Gospel Celebration

WHAT: A celebration of gospel for those who enjoy gospel music

WHEN: Saturday, October 8, 4

p.m.

WHERE: Crown Center, Crown Coliseum, Fayetteville NC

MORE INFO: 910-438-4100

Job Fair

WHEN: Wednesday, October 12, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

WHERE: Crown Expo Center, Fayetteville NC

MORE INFO: 910-677-2177 OR

910-677-2222

YMCA Zumbathon

WHAT: Get fit and have fun doing it!

WHEN: Friday, October 14, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

WHERE: Manna Church, Fayetteville NC

MORE INFO: 803-479-8567

Royal Comedy Tour

WHAT: A chance to laugh at some of today's hottest comedy acts

WHEN: Friday, October 14, 8 p.m.

WHERE: Crown Center, Crown Arena, Fayetteville NC

MORE INFO: 910-438-4100

Costume Contest for kids

WHAT: A festive time for the younger children

WHEN: Wednesday, October 26, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

WHERE: Monkey Joe's, Fayetteville NC

MORE INFO: 910-423-JOES