Observation of large-angle quasi-monoenergetic electrons from a laser wakefield\textsuperscript{1} DMITRI KAGANOVICH\textsuperscript{2}, DANIEL GORDON, ANTONIO TING, NATALIE MILIOUTINA\textsuperscript{3}, PHILLIP SPRANGLE, Plasma Physics Division, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, DC 20375 — A relativistically intense laser pulse is focused into a gas jet and quasi-monoenergetic electrons emitted at a 37 degree angle with respect to the laser axis are observed. The average energy of the electrons was between 1 and 2 MeV and the total accelerated charge was about 1 nC emitted into a 10 degree cone angle. The electron characteristics were sensitive to plasma density. The results are compared with three dimensional particle-in-cell simulations. This electron acceleration mechanism might be useful as a source of injection electrons in a laser wakefield accelerator.

\textsuperscript{1}Supported by the Department of Energy and Office of Naval Research
\textsuperscript{2}LET Corporation, Washington DC
\textsuperscript{3}NRL Science and Engineering Apprentice Program