

## Incest survivors group continuing

by Helen Lottridge

Lesbian incest survivors in the Portland Community had an opportunity to participate in a very special group recently at Phoenix Rising. The group (co-facilitated by Patt Chance, MSW (Co-director of Counseling at Phoenix Rising), and Kao Rhiannon, PhD). It was a safe place, and confidentiality was paramount.

Patt emphasized that it's important to have an all-Lesbian group, which eliminated the need for Lesbians to educate the remainder of the participants about sexual orientation. One common myth in non-gay groups is that gay incest survivors' sexual orientation is a result of childhood sexual abuse.

Patt explained that the effects of such abuse for adult incest survivors are numerous and varied. Many survivors become dependent on alcohol or drugs as a means of escape, others experience night terrors. Not uncommon is the perpetuation of being a victim, especially in relationships. Most people who experienced incest as a child have repressed rage toward their parents: mother, for not being there to help, and father, as the perpetrator. This rage is frequently masked by heavy guilt and internalized oppression.

Incest survivors experience isolation and stigmatism, two things that gay people also contend with — a double bind for Lesbian incest survivors. Most also have poor self-esteem resulting from internalized self-hatred. Some experience confusion about their sexual orientation, wondering if they'd be Lesbian if they hadn't been abused.

Patt pointed out that 80% of all survivors are from a home where alcohol was abused, loosening the perpetrator's inhibitions. Often the father has criticized the appearance of her daughter's body as a way to deal with his own attraction to her, resulting in poor self body image.

The feelings of isolation are escalated by society's view of the role of women in general as being subservient psychologically to men. Add to that the popular view that women are responsible for men's sexuality ("If she hadn't been wearing a halter top, I wouldn't have raped her"), and there's a perfect formula for internalized oppression.

One of the goals of the group was to free the participants from their own oppression through education and support. One route is to examine the guilt and how it has served as protection from anger. "As children, if we were angry, we would lose the love of our parents and wouldn't survive, so we covered the anger with guilt. Now, as adults, we can free the anger and put it on the appropriate source," Patt explained.

The group ran for eight weeks as more education and support than therapy, and then continued as an ongoing therapy/support group. Phoenix Rising has a sliding scale, so the fee is nominal.

For more information on this or other groups, call Phoenix Rising at 223-8299.

## Employment bill in Oregon Senate

A performance by the Portland Gay Men's

Chorus opened the 1985 sessions of the Oregon legislature March 22, closing a week that saw introduction of a Senate bill prohibiting discrimination against state employees for their sexual orientation.

Senate Bill 896 closely resembles a bill introduced in 1975 by current House Speaker Vera Katz. That measure was defeated in the Oregon House by a vote of 30 yeas, 29 nays, with one absence.

The Senate Labor Committee, chaired by gay rights supporter Margie Hendrickson, introduced this session's bill at the request of Right To Privacy, PAC. First reading of the bill was done March 25 and it was referred to the Labor Committee for discussion March 28.

According to Right to Privacy Chair, Keeston Lowery, "We've entered every session since 1973 with cautious optimism. Oregon has a strong history of support for legal protections for gays and lesbians. We've had three floor votes since 1973 and narrowly lost in each case. We're positioned this year for another close vote, and I think the outcome really depends on constituent pressure from several rural areas of the state."

**Just Out** urges readers to contact their state senators to express their support for this important legislation.

## HTLV III antibody test — don't take it

by Jay Brown

"There is very little to benefit from taking the HTLV III screening test," says Dr. Gary Oxman, Multnomah County Health Director. "But the risks can be significant. If the test results are either positive or negative, we don't know what to predict.

If positive, which may be false due to the inaccuracies of the screening test, the emotional impact may be devastating to the individual. If negative, the individual may be falsely reassured and may not make necessary changes in sexual encounters to protect oneself as well as others.

There is, also, no guarantee that confidentiality will not be breached. Both Brown McDonald, director of the Cascade AIDS Project and Dr. Oxman said that a positive test for HTLV III may negate any chance of an individual getting medical insurance coverage.

Sometime in the near future, possibly as early as July, Multnomah County Health Services will offer an HTLV III testing and counseling program. The starting date for the program is contingent upon receiving the necessary funding.

According to Adella Martell, Director of Marketing and Communications for the Port-

land Chapter of the Red Cross, all blood samples are being tested for the HTLV III antibody. The Red Cross testing program, in its early stages, has found that about .017% of all blood samples have tested positive.

All parties concerned are discouraging people from going to a blood bank to have the HTLV III antibody test. Using the blood banks to get tested puts the entire blood supply at risk. The test is not needed if an individual is going to alter one's behavior. "One's own knowledge about oneself tells one's risk factor," says Dr. Oxman.

## Humanist essay contest

The Fourth Annual North American Essay Contest for young men and women of goodwill is now underway. Persons aged twenty-nine and under who have a substantial concern for humans and the future are invited to share their thoughts and visions on such topics as: (1) Is youth developing a new global consciousness? (2) Must world-mindedness destroy national identity? (3) What makes thinking globally more necessary and more possible than in the past? (4) How the U.N. agencies can help prevent future famines. Additional possible topics: (5) Humanistic revolutions are underway in many fields of endeavor. What changes in thinking and feeling will any or all of these revolutions necessitate, and how can one foster more humanistic action and attitudes?

Prizes will be awarded in age categories of nineteen and under and those twenty through twenty-nine. Categories will be: First Prize - \$500. Second Prize - \$250. Multiple Third Prizes — \$50.

If a winner indicates that a teacher, librarian, dean or advisor was instrumental in the submitting of the essay, that individual will be recognized with a special award of \$50. Please include the individual's mailing address.

**PROCEDURE:** State birth date. Manuscripts must be typed, double-spaced, and not to exceed 2,000 words. Mail entries to: The Humanist Essay Contest, 7 Harwood Drive, P.O. Box 146, Amherst, NY 14226-0146.

Entries must be postmarked before July 15, 1985. A panel of distinguished judges will review the entries. Winners will be notified in November 1985. The Humanist Magazine, which reserves the first right of publication, will publish winning essays. Entries will not be returned. See the March/April 1985 issue of The Humanist Magazine for the winning essays of The Third Annual Contest.

For more information contact: Humanists

of Portland/Vancouver Metro Area, P.O. Box 3936, Portland, OR 97208.

## KBOO receives building campaign funds

KBOO, Portland's 16 year old listener-sponsored community radio station has received a \$3000 grant through The Funding Exchange's National Community Funds in support of KBOO's efforts to raise \$110,000 to purchase the building the station currently rents. This award brings the campaign total to \$20,000 raised so far from individuals in support of the building project.

In 1982 KBOO was forced to relocate for the third time, this time due to a 400% rent increase at its downtown studio location. KBOO moved to its present location at 20 S.E. 8th. The move cost \$150,000 due to the special facility construction needs of a radio station that involves over 300 active volunteers. Construction funds were raised from individuals, foundations, corporations and businesses. In addition many area businesses and individuals donated valuable labor and building materials. The current site was chosen with a permanent home in mind.

The \$20,000 raised to date towards the \$110,000 goal has been raised entirely through individuals, some of whom have made anonymous gifts. KBOO's Building Fund Committee is currently seeking additional contributions from individuals, businesses, foundations and corporations.

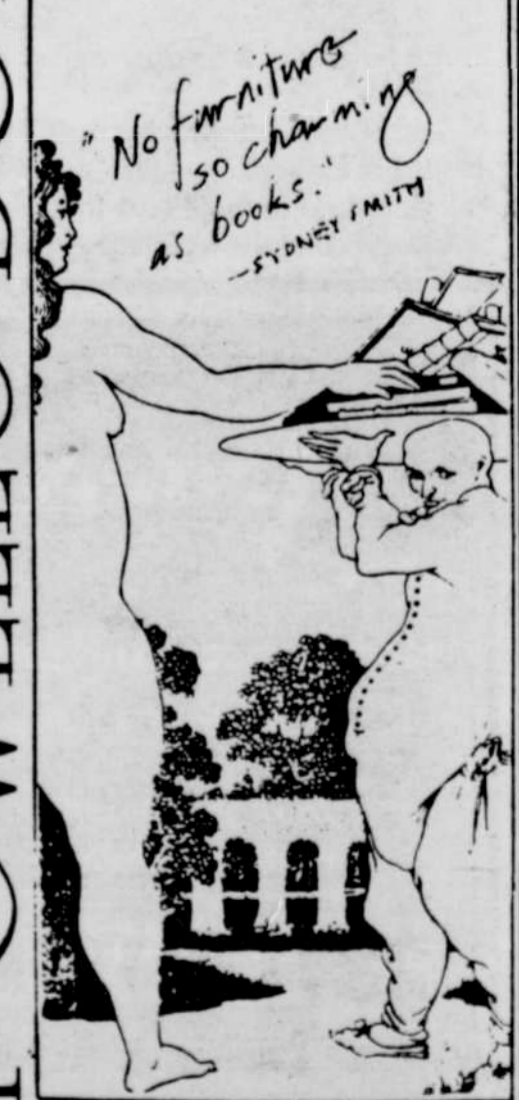
KBOO-FM (90.7) is a non-commercial community radio station broadcasting a wide range of music, news, public affairs and cultural programming. All programs are hosted by volunteers from the community.

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