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Just news

Forum to assess gay/lesbian community needs

In February of this year, the United Way Board of Directors approved a new initiative, the Community Inclusiveness Project. The project focuses on the special needs of minorities and geographic service areas.

One component of the project is a forum with members of the gay and lesbian community. The purpose of the forum will be to identify and discuss community needs and issues. The information will be used as recommendations in guiding and influencing United Way funding, policies and programs. The forum results will be included in a report titled "Community Profiles Report" which will be published in January 1988 and distributed throughout the Portland-Vancouver area.

The forum with the gay/lesbian community is being cosponsored by Phoenix Rising, Lesbian Community Project, Counseling Center for Sexual Minorities, Brinker Fund, Metropolitan Community Church and *Just Out*.

The forum will be held Wednesday, December 9, at the Northwest Service Center, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Forum participants will be divided into discussion groups. Groups will discuss needs of community, service gaps, coordination of services, and access barriers.

This forum is a beginning process to new understanding of the gay/lesbian community by United Way. It is imperative that the community come forth and assess our needs for the agency.

been in a committed lesbian or gay relationship for one or more years, are being sought. Complete information about participation can be obtained by contacting Dr. Matthew Modrcin or Dr. Norm Wyers at the PSU Graduate School of Social Work (503-464-4712). Anonymity is guaranteed. Survey questionnaires are available at a variety of places throughout the Portland area or by mail.

Anti-lesbian violence anthology in preparation

Submissions are being sought for an anthology about the experiences of lesbians whose sexual assault or attempted sexual assault by men was motivated by anti-lesbian sentiment.

Lesbian survivors/victims and their friends are invited to submit short stories, journal entries, poetry, political analysis and essays. Selections will be published anonymously upon request, but a name and address must accompany all submissions. Deadline for submissions is March 1, 1988; extensions by writing, if necessary. Address inquiries, submissions to Sharon Vardatira, Box 2304, Harvard Square Station, Cambridge, MA 02238.

Gay mystery anthology seeks submissions

Short stories with a mystery theme are being sought for a first-of-its-kind lesbian and gay anthology.

The work is being compiled by Michael Nava, whose book *The Little Death* was widely praised by both gay and mainstream reviewers. Nava explained that he had been surprised when he learned that no such anthology existed, so he decided to create one.

"Mysteries offer the writer a chance to develop gay or lesbian characters and themes, without having them become the main focus of the story," noted Nava. "In that sense, they represent a sort of second wave of gay writing. The first wave, in the seventies and early eighties, consisted much more of stories and books in which being gay was meant to be the main theme — coming out stories, for example, and romances."

Inquiries and submissions accompanied by a self-addressed and stamped envelope may be sent to Michael Nava, 6537 Moore Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90048. The anthology will be released by Alyson Publications next year.

Gay/lesbian couples study announced

The Portland area has been chosen as the site for a study of lesbian and gay couple relationships, the problems that they encounter, and the sources of help couples might turn to during times of stress or tension within the relationship. The overall purpose of the study is to examine the help-seeking behavior of lesbian and gay couples when they are experiencing relationship problems.

The findings will be used to sensitize professional helpers to the special challenges lesbian and gay couples face in their attempt to maintain viable partnerships. Since this kind of information has not been available in the past, the potential for improved services for lesbian and gay couples is striking.

Recruitment for participants has begun. Interested lesbian and gay individuals, who have

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