

Grant helps rural youth

The Association of Gay and Lesbian Youth Advocates was recently awarded a \$17,800 grant from Portland's Meyer Memorial Trust. The money will go to the group's Outreach to Rural Youth project.

The outreach project provides speakers and educational materials for schools and other youth projects primarily in eastern Washington. The goal is to develop a network of supportive educators and other professionals working with youth. Outreach to Rural Youth works with schools, juvenile justice centers, Job Corps sites, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays chapters, and many other organizations.

AGLYA also operates the Lambert House, a gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth center in Seattle.

U of O honors Randy Shilts

The University of Oregon Alumni Association will honor writer Randy Shilts with an Outstanding Young Alumni award April 17. Shilts, who graduated from the U of O School of Journalism in 1975, is the author of *The Mayor of Castro Street: The Life and Times of Harvey Milk*; *The Band Played On: Politics, People and the AIDS Epidemic*, and the forthcoming *Conduct Unbecoming: Gays and Lesbians in the U.S. Military*.

Shilts is currently a national correspondent for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. He has also worked as a television correspondent. The Alumni Association says it selected Shilts for the award because of his "maverick spirit and dedication to one of the world's most demanding social causes." Much of his reporting has covered AIDS and gay issues.

The U of O School of Journalism alumni quarterly recently announced that Shilts had endowed the school with \$30,000 for a scholarship fund. It is not yet clear what the requirements are for the Randy M. Shilts Scholarship. Shilts credits a supportive atmosphere at the school, and the defeat of Ballot Measure 9 for his decision to donate the \$30,000. As a student, Shilts was open about his intent to report on gay and lesbian issues.

The 41-year-old Shilts has just confirmed that he is HIV positive. He learned of his infection in 1985 as he finished *And the Band Played On*.

P-FLAG conference announced

The Portland chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays has scheduled a regional conference for Saturday, May 1. Organizers are expecting chapters from all over Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, British Columbia and Alberta to attend. Portland Police Chief Tom Potter and his daughter, Officer Katie Potter, will speak at the event.

Workshops will cover everything from lesbian and gay teens, to spouses, to the AIDS epidemic. The theme is "Our Place at the Family Table." Registration is \$40. The daylong conference will be held at the Travelodge Hotel, 1441 NE 2nd Ave. For more information, call 232-7676 or write Portland P-FLAG Convention, PO Box 8944, Portland, OR 97207.

AIDS lobby day planned

On March 1, Sparkplugs, a coalition of AIDS activists and service providers, organized Oregon's first AIDS lobby day at the state capitol. Approximately 25 people met with 18 legislators. The group has organized a second lobby day on April 8, and they hope to quadruple the number of participants.

"We cannot tolerate prevention and testing cuts," Sparkplugs said in a written statement. "We need more money across the spectrum from prevention to care."

Activists are also interested in House Bill 2232, which would allow parole and probation officers to share HIV-infection information with other authorities in a probation, parole or post-prison violation proceeding in which it appears that body fluids may have been transmitted from one person to another. The state Health Division has introduced some amendments to the bill, according to a memo from Health Division HIV Program Manager Robert McAlister to Sparkplugs. The amendments require that "disclosure always be preceded by a review of the facts by a three person panel, including someone from the Health Division," according to the memo.

The lobby day will start with a morning press conference at the Names Project Quilt display at Willamette University. Participants will meet with legislators throughout the afternoon. Activists from around the state are organizing carpools to attend. Organizers are hoping for strong representation from rural districts.

For more information, call the Cascade AIDS Project in Portland at 223-5907, ext. 151 or at (800)777-2437; HIV/AIDS Resources, Inc. in Eugene at 342-5088, or Galon in Coos Bay at 269-4183.

Dinner planned to remember Bill Sloat

Mary Ann Humphrey, author of *My Country, My Right to Serve*, will be the keynote speaker at the Right to Privacy's William Sloat Memorial Dinner benefit on April 10. Sloat was an active member of RTP's political action committee. Eugene's all women improvisation troupe, Wymprov, will perform at the dinner, which is chaired by Alan Brown, Jean Tate and Mike Schwartz. "We'll be able to remember a well-loved friend," said Brown, "in the context of the present struggle for civil rights." A no-host cocktail hour at 5:30 pm starts the evening, dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$40 and can be reserved by calling 688-1601 in Eugene or 228-5825 in Portland. Reservations can also be accepted by fax to 228-1104.

Senate passes harassment rule

The Oregon Senate recently passed a bill establishing a procedure for handling sexual harassment within its ranks. The new Committee on Sexual Harassment will investigate complaints about senators, staff members and lobbyists through public proceedings. Disciplinary actions vary for the three groups.

Debate was heated on the issue, with some senators favoring a private grievance procedure. Complaints cannot be considered regarding harassment that occurred before the bill's passage. Those wishing to make a formal sexual-harassment complaint have one year, from the date of the incident, in which to file. The House is contemplating taking similar action.

Go to Salem

The lesbian, gay and bisexual community has another opportunity to urge legislators to pass Senate Bill 34, which would extend civil rights protections based on sexual orientation. A hearing is scheduled for 5:30 pm, Wednesday, April 7 in the State Capitol Building, Hearing Room C. Anti-gay activists are expected to attend, so community members may want to arrive at 4:30 pm to get good seats.

Compiled by Irene K. Hislop

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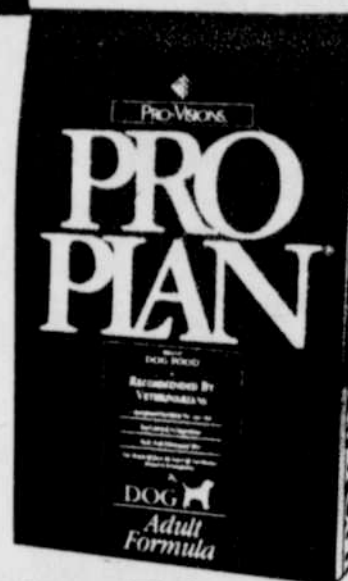
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Marc Abrams is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School. He is admitted to practice before the courts of Oregon and federal courts including the District of Oregon, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court.

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