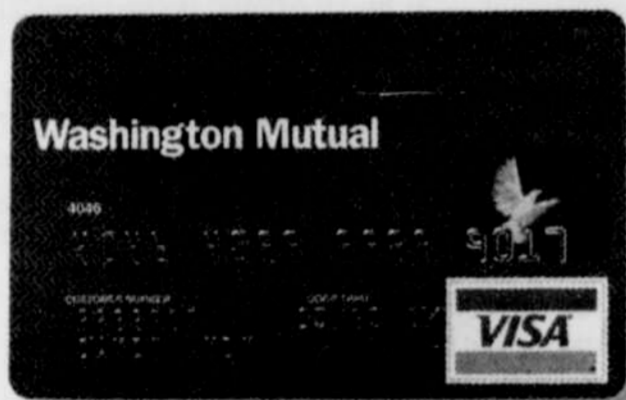


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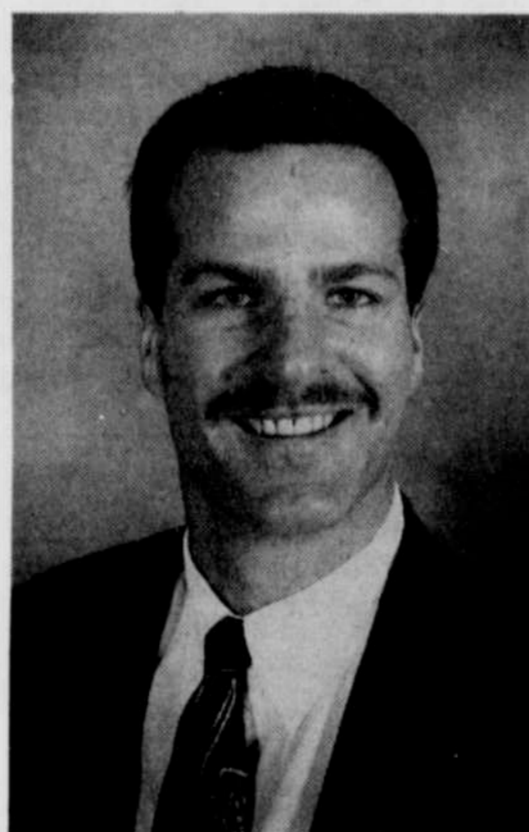
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## national news

### Chrystos' poetry honored

The Cleveland Poetry Center has announced the winner of the Audre Lorde International Poetry Competition. *Fugitive Colors*, by Chrystos, was chosen by a panel of judges that included Gloria Anzaldúa, Elba Sánchez, Terri Jewell and Jewelle Gómez. Runners up in the competition were *Gentle is My Name*, by Donna Allegra; *The Middle Life*, by Renée Gladman; and *Refreshments*, by Doris L. Harris. Chrystos' winning manuscript will be published by the Cleveland Poetry Center at Cleveland State University. The project was sponsored by The Women's Community Foundation of Cleveland.

### Fly the "gay-friendly" skies

Detour Publications, Inc., a publisher of gay and lesbian travel guides, announced it would team up with USAir to offer a discount coupon worth up to \$50 on the airline's flights through the end of 1994. Consumers are eligible for the coupon when they purchase any Detour Guide before June 30, 1994. Detour Guides are written by people who have lived in the cities they cover and include a gay history of the city and walking tours that combine traditional stops with points of interest to gays and lesbians.

### Ally vows equal treatment in academia

Gay men and lesbians in academia have a strong friend in the president-elect of the American Association of University Professors, James E. Perley, currently a professor of biology at the small liberal arts College of Wooster in Ohio.

Perley outlined nine goals for his two-year tenure as head of the venerable national organization representing college and university faculty members. Among them is "ensuring that gay, lesbian and bisexual faculty members are given full access to equal and fair treatment in the profession."

The issue first arose in the AAUP in the 1970s but, "They didn't do very much with it," said Perley. Then, about two years ago in a committee on academic freedom and tenure, he said, "A request was made to revisit it, particularly in light of the fact that there appeared to be increasing numbers of cases of sexual harassment being brought against gay and lesbian faculty members."

Perley became that committee's representative on an ad hoc committee created by AAUP to examine the issue. It invited a cross-section of gay and lesbian members to attend a session on April 24, 1993, the day before the historic March on Washington.

"That was truly a startling experience for me," said Perley. "To listen to the kinds of stories that came pouring out of people. The feeling of lack of comfort in the academic community. The concern about being able to publish scholarship and not be judged on the basis of the area in which one chose to work. The fact that there was a social ostracization that occurred."

Alvin Novick was one of those attending the session. He was impressed with the diversity of the group, which represented all academic disciplines and all types and sizes of institutions, including religious ones. The attendees spoke of the various stages their individual campuses had reached in the struggle for equality. "That was very reinforcing," Novick said. "I think it made a safe space for all of us."

At the session, Novick, a doctor and professor of biology, spoke of his own 36 years at Yale University. He spoke of the reactions of others to the loss of his lover, a lecturer at Yale, to AIDS, and of his fight for domestic partner benefits, which have since been granted by the university.

"That really touched me significantly," said Perley. "I could understand what he was saying, because I knew the people and I knew the circumstances." Perley had done his graduate work in that department at Yale.

"What struck me in the conversation was the theme of civil rights," Perley said. "I am a child of

the 1960s and these were the very same issues, couched in different terms, but exactly the same kinds of pleas."

He decided that "one of the things I wanted to do, if I were ever elected president [of AAUP], was to convene a meaningful committee and...to address the problems I was hearing."

Perley included in his goals two other concerns affecting gay and lesbian faculty. One is domestic partnership, which is already "one of the hot issues around the country." The other is the AAUP's central and ongoing concern with freedom of speech in the classroom. The association has filed an amicus brief focusing on this issue in the case of Joseph Steffan, who was thrown out of the U.S. Naval Academy for being gay.

"I hope for the world, but believe in progress in millimeters," Perley said.

### Asian American lesbians and gay men to march

Over 100 lesbian, gay and bisexual Asian Americans will march for the first time in the San Francisco Cherry Blossom Festival Parade with Asian Pacific Sisters, Older Asian Sisters in Solidarity, and the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance. Representatives from established Japanese American groups are also expected to join these groups in a show of support. The gay, lesbian and bisexual groups will march in traditional *hapi* coats and festive lavender *tenugui* (headbands). Marchers will also wear paper cherry blossoms, each one representing an individual who is unable to participate because of concerns about his or her family, work or community. Also part of the parade will be a lavender Godzilla and a float carrying Mr. and Ms. GAPA 1993.

"We are marching for visibility, and also to show others that we are accepted in the Japanese American community," stated GAPA co-chair Steve Takemura. "We hope that by being a visible part of this cultural celebration other lesbians and gay men will begin to feel more comfortable being open about their own sexuality."

The Cherry Blossom Festival is a two-week celebration of Japanese culture and community, which draws crowds of 150,000 from Northern California and Japan.

APS is a San Francisco-based organization which sponsors educational, political and social activities and events for lesbians and bisexual women of Asian and/or Pacific Islander descent. OASIS is a support group for Asian and Pacific Islander lesbians and bisexual women 35 and over. GAPA is dedicated to furthering the interests of lesbian, gay and bisexual Asians and Pacific Islander men by creating awareness, developing a positive collective identity and establishing a supportive community.

### N.J. governor pledges support

Republican Gov. Christine Todd Whitman met in early May with a delegation of gay and lesbian leaders to discuss her position on civil rights. She pledged to do everything in her power to make the Republican Party a party of inclusion and to emphasize tolerance at all levels of her administration. New Jersey has a statewide anti-discrimination law which covers sexual orientation, and Whitman said she would take additional steps. She pledged to look into establishing an office for queer youth concerns at the state's department of education, modeled on the one established by Republican Governor William Weld of Massachusetts.

"In her commitment to fight taxes, fight crime, and fight discrimination against any individuals, including gays and lesbians, Gov. Whitman represents the future of the Republican Party," said Rich Tafel, national director of Log Cabin Republicans, a gay Republican lobby.

Compiled by Bob Roehr and Jann Gilbert