

# POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

## HIV UNIVERSITY

**July 11**  
Resources 101 in SW Washington: Evergreen AIDS Response, 5305 E 18th St., Suite B, Vancouver, WA. (360) 735-9170.

**July 18**  
Martin Delaney Speaks: the Founder of Project Inform visits Portland. First Presbyterian Church, SW 13th and Alder, Portland.

**July 24**  
Medical Basics: Maria Kosmetatos Presents at the Day Center. 3835 SW Kelly, Portland.

A course of classes designed to train, inform and support people living with and affected by HIV. Free Classes start at 6:30 pm. Reservations: HIV U Infoline at 503-223-6339, ext. 111.



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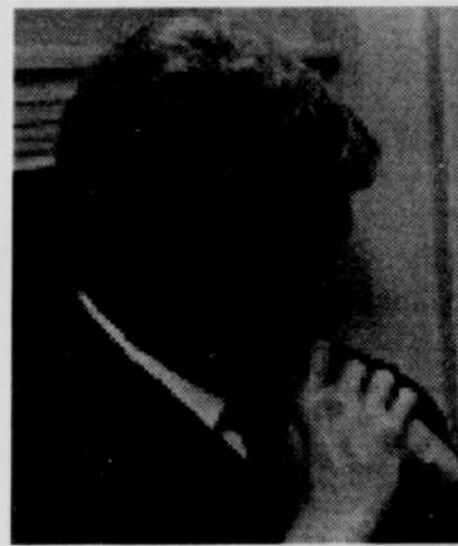
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# national news

## Clinton talks to *The Advocate*



Bill Clinton

The June 25 issue of *The Advocate* features the first interview that President Clinton has given a gay and lesbian publication since he was elected.

As reporter J. Jennings Moss told *The Washington*

*Blade*, however, the interview was conducted on paper, with Moss submitting questions to the White House, and Clinton sending back his answers. Moss says a one-on-one presidential interview is rare and that the written procedure is commonly used with press other than major daily newspapers. He praised the president for his willingness to discuss gay and lesbian issues "seriously."

In the exchange, Clinton reiterated his commitment to ending discrimination and protecting the civil rights of all citizens. He also remained adamant in his opposition to same-sex marriage, saying that he believes marriage is an institution for the union of a man and a woman.

## PFLAG anti-hate campaign to air in Seattle

Sporting an impressive list of corporate sponsors, including Seattle-based retailer Nordstrom, Washington state's PFLAG chapters announced the debut of the second phase of "Project Open Mind." The national education campaign focuses on the damaging effects of hate speech on lesbians and gay men. PFLAG intends to spend \$80,000 to purchase prime-time spots on Western Washington television stations for its new 30-second ad.

The campaign is slated to move to Minneapolis/St. Paul and St. Louis later this year.

Other community, labor and business organizations endorsing the Seattle project include the Washington Education Association, U.S. Bancorp, the Washington State League of Women Voters, and the Washington State Federation of State Employees.

## High court strikes down Cincinnati's Issue 3

In the first application of its landmark ruling against Colorado's Amendment 2, the U.S. Supreme Court on June 17 reversed a federal appeals court's upholding of Issue 3, an anti-gay city charter amendment in Cincinnati. The case now goes back to the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court's action indicates that the appeals court's reasoning did not conform to the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection.

## Complaint filed against homophobic judge

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund filed a complaint of judicial misconduct against a Wilmington, Del., judge who threw a lesbian out of court when she sought protection from domestic abuse.

The woman alleged she was stalked by her former lover, whom she said made harassing phone calls to her employers, friends and family and slashed the tires of a friend's car. The city

solicitor's office was pursuing a charge of aggravated harassment against the former lover. Both women were in court for a hearing in the case.

At the hearing, held in December 1995, the judge rejected the case because it involved lesbians and domestic abuse. He said, "You all have these funny relationships—that's fine—I have nothing to do with it, but don't bring it in here for me to try to decide, I don't know how to handle it.... I'm dismissing the case.... Don't bring it back—the next time you come back, I'll put somebody in jail."

The judge is charged with violations of Delaware's Code of Judicial Conduct, which requires that judges act "in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary" and avoid actions that might be interpreted as bias against "personal characteristics," including sexual orientation.

## Asylum granted in genital mutilation case

The U.S. Board of Immigration Appeals ruled on June 14 that Fauziya Kasinga should be allowed to remain in the United States because she had what Board Chairman Paul Schmidt called, in his written opinion, "a well-founded fear of persecution in the form of female genital mutilation if returned to Togo."

Kasinga, 19, testified that her aunt forced her to marry a 45-year-old man with three other wives when she was 17. Her husband and her aunt intended to force Kasinga to submit to genital mutilation before the marriage was consummated. She fled first to Ghana, then to Germany and, finally, arrived in the United States in December 1994. She requested asylum, but her request was denied. She was held in detention until April pending an appeal.

Commenting on the ruling, an Immigration and Naturalization Service official told Reuters, "The INS is pleased that the board recognized that female genital mutilation can be the basis for asylum. The INS had supported this principle in its argument to the board, pointing out that female genital mutilation is a deeply objectionable cultural practice increasingly subject to condemnation on an international plane."

## Educators and activists promote gay documentary

Debra Chasnoff's new documentary film *It's Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School* has won endorsement from San Francisco Unified School District Superintendent of Schools Bill Rojas, Board of Education President Steve Phillips, and leaders of the city's major gay and lesbian rights organizations.

The film, Chasnoff's first since her 1992 Academy Award-winning documentary *Deadly Deception: General Electric, Nuclear Weapons and Our Environment*, explores what happens when teachers use creative and age-appropriate ways to confront anti-gay prejudice and counter lesbian and gay invisibility in their classrooms.

Commenting on the importance of this film, Phillips said, "School boards across the country have been banning discussion of lesbian and gay people in the classroom based on misinformation from anti-gay activists. This film puts a human face on classroom discussions that are crucial to preparing our children for the diverse communities of the 1990s. I urge my counterparts across the country to screen this extremely moving and powerful film for the educators in their districts—to inspire them to integrate responsible, appropriate education about gay issues into their classrooms."

Compiled by Kristine Chatwood



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