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NORTHWEST newsbriefs

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Eugene, Salem and all points in between—will perform several cabaret shows.

Additionally, organizers promise this year's celebration will have more food and souvenir vendors. A youth party will follow the festival from 6 to 9 p.m. at the 300 Club.

A picnic and public commitment ceremony will take place from noon to 4 p.m. Sept. 15 on the lawn of the Oregon State Capitol, 900 Court St. NE. Capitol Pride is the only Pride celebration on the West Coast to offer this unique component to its festivities.

People are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch and protection from the sun as well as family, friends and loved ones to the special occasion. A charity picnic basket raffle and a performance from Confluence at 1 p.m. will precede the 2 p.m. commitment ceremony, which will be conducted by the Rev. Keli Kree of Sacred Souls: An Interfaith Approach to Spirituality.

All of the events are free except for the dinner, which costs \$15. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Lifeline Project, Rainbow Youth and H.O.M.E.

For more information call 503-831-3278, e-mail leis@earthlink.net or visit the Internet site www.capitolpride.org. To register for the commitment ceremony call 503-763-6030.

GLAAD LAUNCHES ANNOUNCING EQUALITY PROJECT

Following the historic decision by the *New York Times* to publish same-sex union announcements, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation is turning up the heat on Oregon newspapers to follow suit.

It has launched the Announcing Equality Project, a yearlong campaign designed to double the number of local and regional newspapers that list same-sex commitment ceremonies, unions and weddings. "We are taking the same appeal we made to the *New York Times* for equal coverage to newspapers in the nation's top 100 media markets," said Joan M. Garry, GLAAD executive director.

Northwestern regional media manager Monica Taher already has contacted editors at the *Oregonian* in Portland and the *Statesman Journal* in Salem. She said both publications are considering revising their policies but did not give her a direct answer.

According to Taher, newspapers in Washington and Colorado were receptive to the project and agreed to run same-sex announcements. She was surprised that she hasn't been as successful in Oregon.

About 70 U.S. newspapers include such listings in paid or unpaid wedding and celebration sections. Until Aug. 18, the *Times* was the only major newspaper in the country with a written policy prohibiting publication of same-sex unions.

Although they do not have written policies, major newspapers across the country like the *Boston Globe*, *Los Angeles Times* and *Dallas Morning News* still do not print same-sex union announcements, although each city has a large and visible sexual minorities community. However, same-sex couples are able to publish union announcements in large-market papers such as the *Chicago Tribune*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Salt Lake Tribune* and *Orange County [Calif.] Register* as well as in local and regional papers such as the *Salina [Kan.] Journal*, *Fayetteville [N.C.] Observer* and *Montgomery [Ala.] Advertiser*.

"What GLAAD is trying to do is to encourage members of the community who have recently held commitment ceremonies to send their announcements to these papers," Taher

Daniel Gross,
Steven Goldstein



Daniel Andrew Gross and Steven Goldstein will affirm their partnership today in a civil union ceremony at the Shore Acres Inn and Restaurant in North Hero, Vt. Assistant Judge Barry Bloom of State Superior Court in Montpelier will preside. Last evening, Rabbi David M. Steinberg led an exchange of Jewish vows at the Musée des Beaux-Arts of Montreal.

Mr. Goldstein, 40, is the founder and owner of Attention America, a public affairs consulting firm in Manhattan. He was a co-manager of Jon S. Corzine's campaign in 2000 for the Senate from New Jersey. A *summa cum laude* graduate of Brandeis, Mr. Goldstein holds a master's degree in public policy from Harvard and a master's in journalism and a law degree from Columbia.

He is a son of Carol and Dennis Goldstein of Bayside, Queens. His mother is a fund-raiser for the Friends of the Lukas Foundation, which she helped found to support the Lukas Community, a village for adults with developmental disabilities in Temple, N.H. His father is the founder and senior partner of the Barrister Reporting Service, a court transcription concern in Manhattan.

Mr. Gross, 32, is a vice president of GE Capital in Stamford, Conn., working on the financing of international projects like power plants and pipelines. He graduated cum laude from Yale, from which he also received an M.B.A. and a master's degree in environmental management. He was a Fulbright scholar in 1994-95 in Thailand, studying and teaching natural resources management at the Asian Institute of Technology near Bangkok.

He is a son of Merle and Barry Gross of Chicago. His mother ran Merle Ltd., a former coat manufacturer in Chicago. His father retired as a partner in Shelsky & Froelich, a Chicago law firm.

The couple met in October 1992 in Washington, where Mr. Goldstein was working as a television news producer and Mr. Gross as a consultant. Mr. Goldstein was one of 35 respondents to a personal ad that Mr. Gross had placed in *Washington City Paper*. It read: "Nice Jewish boy, 5 feet 8 inches, 22, funny, well-read, diletantish, self-deprecating, Ivy League, the kind of boy Mom fantasized about." They arranged to meet one evening at *Kramerbooks & Afterwords*, and had their second date the next night.

That Thanksgiving, Mr. Gross went home to visit his parents. "My mom said, 'You seem like everything's great,'" he recalled. "You seem like you're in love." I said, "I am." They said, "That's great." I said, "His name is Steven." My mother said, "Oy," and was silent for a while.

Both sets of parents now support the relationship. While Mr. Gross was in Thailand, Mr. Goldstein had a \$1,500 telephone bill one month. They were apart again while Mr. Gross was in graduate school. Finally, in 1998, they moved to New York together.

They postponed a commitment ceremony until leaders of Reform Judaism had voted to support rabbis who perform same-sex unions and Vermont had given legal recognition to civil unions, both events in 2000.

"Sept. 11 accelerated the process," Mr. Goldstein said. "We all began to think of our own mortality."

THE NEW YORK TIMES WEDDINGS/CELEBRATIONS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2002

The *New York Times* published its first same-sex union announcement Sept. 1

said. "This is the only way we will be able to help change Oregon's papers' policies."

CUSTODY SURVEY RANKS WASHINGTON HIGH, OREGON LOW

The Human Rights Campaign unveiled Aug. 30 a new online survey of custody and visitation laws affecting gay, lesbian, bi and trans parents nationwide.

"We found that many states are taking important steps toward equality in their laws affecting LGBT custody and visitation rights," said Lisa Bennett, who runs HRC FamilyNet. "In contrast, states that discriminate against LGBT parents not only disregard the advice of all leading child welfare organizations, they are increasingly standing alone in their prejudices."

According to the survey, 21 states and the District of Columbia have good records in custody and visitation disputes involving same-sex parents—meaning that courts in those states generally do not discriminate based on the sexual orientation of the parents or have laws prohibiting such discrimination. Among the states with the best records: New Jersey, Delaware and Washington.

In contrast, nine states have bad records, with Alabama, North Carolina and Utah rank-