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Wing Works, a consulting firm that meets the needs of nonprofit organizations and political campaigns. Until April she worked as national policy director at the Gill Foundation.

She previously served as national field director for the Human Rights Campaign from 1996 to 1999 and for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation from 1993 to 1996. While in Oregon she worked against 1992's Ballot Measure 9, earning both "Woman of the Year" from *The Advocate* magazine and the moniker "the most dangerous woman in Oregon" from the radical right.

EXPANDED ADOPTION LAW COMMENDED

The Seattle-based organization Families Like Ours commended the passage of legislation intended to increase the placement of children from foster care to permanent homes. President Bush signed the law Dec. 2 at a White House ceremony among adoptive families.

The legislation expands a 1997 law that pays a state \$4,000 in federal money for every child who is adopted, provided the state passes placement requirements. Under this new expanded law, the state can receive an additional \$4,000 for every adopted child older than 9.

"President Bush has been very good with his policies toward adoption relation issues in general," said David Wing-Kovarik, Families Like Ours executive director. "Overall, this reauthorization will help place more children in families—regardless of their structure—including those headed by gay or lesbian parents. Provid-



A documentary by gay Portlander Eric Slade (right, with the late Harry Hay, center, and Hay's longtime partner, John Burnside) has been nominated for a GLAAD Media Award

ed a state can meet the federal adoption guidelines, this could be a long-term boost to the ailing foster care system. It does not, however, address the current needs of budget cutbacks and overworked caseworkers."

Because this law will encourage more placements, it has the potential of being good news for gay and lesbian adoptive families. According to a recently released study by the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, public agencies are 83.3 percent more likely to place a child with a gay or lesbian family than they were in the past.

However, even in more progressive states, some workers still consider nontraditional families to be unsuitable for the children on their caseload. Some states—New York, New Jersey and California, for example—have enacted protections that make it illegal for public agencies to reject adoptive parents based on sexual orientation.

More than 500,000 children are in the foster care system nationally, and as many as 126,000 are awaiting adoption. While adoptive family placements have increased—including those to gay and lesbian families—the number of foster families available for children has seen a reduction.

GLAAD HONORS PORTLAND DIRECTOR

A documentary directed by a gay Portlander is among the nominees announced Dec. 8 for the 15th annual Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation Media Awards.

Eric Slade's *Hope Along the Wind: The Life of Harry Hay*, which aired on PBS, profiled the man generally recognized as the father of the gay rights activist movement. The other nominees in the Outstanding Documentary category are Showtime's *A Boy Named Sue*, MTV's *School's Out: The Life of a Gay High School in Texas* and PBS' *Brother Outsider and Daddy & Papa*.

The awards recognize and honor the media for their fair, accurate and inclusive representations of gay, lesbian, bi and trans people and the issues that affect their lives. Ceremonies will be held March 27 in Los Angeles, April 12 in New York and June 5 in San Francisco.

"Fair, accurate and inclusive media images of our lives and our families have incredible cultural power—and right now those images are more important than ever," said Joan M. Garry, GLAAD executive director. "This year, audiences saw stories of gay and lesbian families and children in *Under the Tuscan Sun*, *Girlfriends* and *Essence* magazine. They saw complex, authentic stories about transgender lives in *Normal* and *Soldier's Girl*. Time and again, story after story, this year's GLAAD Media Awards nominees made a powerful case for fairness and equality, and it's our privilege to honor them." □

Compiled by JIM RADOSTA and TIMOTHY KRAUSE

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