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The 3 Dollar Bill

Winter 1996

The 3 Dollar Bill is a publication of the URI Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Association. It is published as often as time allows. Everyone is invited to submit letters, poetry, fiction and/or non-fiction for consideration for publication. Articles can be sent to the GLBA c/o Student Senate, Room 130, Memorial Union.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Association (GLBA)

The GLBA is open to all undergraduate and graduate students at URI (including CCE). The organization is committed to fostering a safe and comfortable environment for people of all sexual orientations. We recognize that each gay, lesbian or bisexual person is at a different stage of the "coming out" process and that each has different needs. GLBA is a support organization as well as a social and sometimes political one. Meetings are held every Thursday at 8:00PM at the 193 degrees coffee house second floor Memorial Union. If you want to learn more about the GLBA, or you wish to speak to someone confidentially about the GLBA, or have personal issues you would like to discuss, leave a message at our office phone, 874-5480, and we will return your call as soon as possible.

Farewell from Outgoing Co-facilitator Amy Long

Hi all! I am leaving the URI GLBA since it is my last semester here. While I have been with the GLBA I have watched it undergo a number of changes. We have accomplished many visibility and awareness activities during the Fall, 1996 semester, which we would like to share with you. But first, I want to say that it has been an interesting experience for me being part of this group and I enjoyed getting to know all of the diverse people within it, and exploring our

differences and identities as gay, lesbian, and bisexual people. I am anxious to move on to new and brighter things after URI. I would also like to thank my GLBA colleagues who helped to make this semester happen and work smoothly, namely Melissa Lovering and Carolina Tejera. Their hard work and dedication was greatly appreciated. Welcome and good luck to incoming co-facilitator, Jessica Grejduš. She is already planning events and workshops for next semester. We all hope to see more of you in the future!!! Stop by our office in the Memorial Union, Rm. 130.

Hawaii Decision

On Tuesday December 3rd, Circuit Court Judge Kevin Chang made a ruling in favor for the freedom of marriage for same sex couples. However, Chang put his ruling on hold on Wednesday December 4th for Deputy Attorney General Rick Eichor, who is expected to file a formal appeal later in the State Supreme Court. Eichor admitted during a court hearing before Chang that the chance of the State winning on the appeal was "not particularly tremendous", but urged the court to issue the stay nonetheless. The State Supreme Court normally hears cases in the summer and makes its decision later that year or early the next year. This means that the ruling could come as late as 1998. Attorney Dan Foley, who represents the three same sex couples that filed the lawsuit, said that he will ask for the reversal of the stay once the state files its appeal. He said that the three couples have been waiting for six years for the decision and feels as though this appeal is unjust.

This and more information concerning the Hawaii same sex marriage case can be found on the web sight www.yahoo.com.

-C.T.

What we Have Done this Semester

The GLBA has been busy this past semester. We had a Pink Picnic in celebration of National Coming Out Day. We held a Safe Sox booth in the Union for the Holiday Season. Speaking of booths, we held an informational booth about our organization, a booth at the organizational fair, and a booth on the Quad for Health Awareness Week. We visited classrooms such as URI 101, NUR 150, and Speakeasy Training. We sponsored a Poetry Reading at 193 degrees called "Sexuality of Empowerment." We co-sponsored an AIDS benefit dance with Health Education. The GLBA was invited along with other multicultural groups on campus to attend Kwanzaa. We ordered more books to include in our Resource Library. A number of URI students asked us to help them with assignments dealing with GLB issues. And finally, our semester ended with a festive Pot Luck Dinner.

Events in Providence

Many of the members of the GLBA ventured out to Providence for a couple of lectures, Harry Hay and Kevin Jennings. September 19th was the date on which we attended a talk given by Radical Faerie, Harry Hay. Harry is an author as well as a long running activist for the Community. Harry's heart is full and his eye have seen plenty. He doesn't like to lecture on the events, but rather him tell a story to an intimate group of eager listeners. It was a pleasure to listen to him speak. If you are a person like me who has corny things to say like follow your heart, Harry says the same thing. He puts all the feelings into word. If you ever get a chance to see him speak I would have to insist for your sake that you do.

Kevin Jennings gave a lecture on November 13th entitled: "500 Years of Queer: America's Lesbian and Gay

History from Columbus to Clinton" I did not have the fortune personally to attend, however, those that did make it said the lecture was excellent and informative. -ml

Question: Has progress been made at URI for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual students since you have been here?

- "I have been through three different leaders, and although business at hand is always new and fulfilling we have a lot of work to do in the greater community to change the status quo from tolerance to acceptance." Melissa Lovering

- "No. I have seen no change since my freshman year. A lot must be done on this campus before I see change." Carolina Tejera

- "I've seen a lot more visibility of the gay population, and I think education will make it easier for other people to come out." Jessica Grejdu

- "I really haven't been looking for a change long enough to see one." Nick Ray

- "I see the valiant effort on the inside being forced into the closet on the outside." Casey Johnson

- "There is more sense of freedom and peace of mind." Julia

3rd Annual Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Symposium

The 1997 symposium on LGBT issues is really shaping up! The symposium is scheduled to run April 10 through the 12th. These three days will be filled with presentations from presenters local, national and international. There will also be many events to "kick off" the symposium in the days prior. This newsletter will keep you updated on who, what, where and when. This year's focus is 'Perspectives on Progress,' let's see how much work really needs to be done!

**A resource brochure for GLB students will be made available at URI soon! We are accepting book donations of interest to GLB students for our library!