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PRESS RELEASE
DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 1993

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URI'S COMMITTEE TO ELIMINATE HOMOPHOBIA AND HETEROSEXISM STAGES A
YEAR-LONG LESBIAN AND GAY FILM SERIES

The University of Rhode Island's Committee to Eliminate Homophobia and Heterosexism will launch "Outflicks", a year-long lesbian and gay film series on Thursday, September 23, 1993, at 7:00 p.m. in White Hall Auditorium.

The first of the 15-film series, which will be shown to the public for free, will be "The Times of Harvey Milk", a powerful documentary about San Francisco's first openly gay city council member who was murdered along with the mayor of San Francisco.

The series, which will take place a Thursday each month in the fall semester and a Tuesday each month in the spring semester, will feature documentaries, full-length films and shorts. Other films will include "A Lesbian in the Pulpit" and the Emmy Award-winning "Tongues United".

By offering the film series, the Committee to Eliminate Homophobia and Heterosexism will provide the Rhode Island community with an opportunity to see the diversity of lesbian and gay lifestyles and culture. The series also shows that lesbian and gay filmmakers are a new artistic and political force to be reckoned with. The series is supported by the Richard Katzoff Memorial Fund. An opportunity to discuss the films follows each program.

Short films get their due as well as feature-length films. Some of the film directors are in their twenties. The films are innovative, provocatively personal, humorous and insightful.

The issues they highlight span the history of gay rights, AIDS, coming out, harassment, family and the search for love. From gays in the pulpit to lesbians in bars in New York and San Francisco, from the Deep South to Mexico and the Black and Native American communities, from personal humorous odysseys to powerful documentaries, the films expose the vastly different visions of the gay community.

The series' organizer, URI's Committee to Eliminate Homophobia and Heterosexism, was created in 1991 as an ad hoc group of students, staff and faculty of all sexual orientations, to address the concerns of lesbian, gay and bisexual people at the University. It has become a standing subcommittee of the Affirmative Action Committee of the University. It has approximately 30 members.

In April 1993, the Committee launched the highly successful "Safe Zone" campaign: supportive members of the URI community posted stickers reading "URI SAFE ZONE" all over campus. The intent was to convey a message to lesbians, gays and bisexuals, as well as to the larger community, that the person displaying the sign on his/her door was understanding, trustworthy, non-judgmental and gay-supportive.

In the two years of its existence, the Committee has also created an informational brochure which suggests a vision of what the campus community would look like if it respected differences in sexual orientation. It has sponsored an evening of lesbian and gay comedy and entertainment as well as compiled lists of campus resource people who have expertise in these issues and lists of URI courses which have lesbian, gay and bisexual content.

Individuals who would like to make a contribution to support the efforts of the Committee can send it to:

URI Foundation
Davis Hall
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, RI 02881

Please specify that it is for the Committee to Eliminate Homophobia and Heterosexism.