

Vermont Response to AIDS Conference Set

The first Vermont statewide conference on AIDS will be held at Goddard College in Plainfield from April 15 to 17.

Organized by Vermont C.A.R.E.S., and co-sponsored by more than 20 community groups and government agencies, "The Vermont Response to AIDS" will be a weekend of learning, information sharing, networking, relaxing, and socializing.

More than 35 workshops and meetings on a variety of AIDS related topics will take place during the weekend. The workshops will cover a wide range, with specialized topics for health care workers, counsellors, social workers, women, gay men, lesbians, people with AIDS, friends and family members, volunteers, educators, and other audiences. The conference site is wheelchair accessible and interpretation will be available for the hearing impaired.

"We are very excited about this conference. The chance for people from across Vermont concerned about AIDS to meet and begin working together is an important step in building a statewide response to the growing epidemic here in Vermont" said

Steve Shepard, Chair of Vermont C.A.R.E.S. "It is this kind of networking and information sharing that Vermont C.A.R.E.S. was created for in the first place."

The weekend's cost is \$60 per person, including meals and lodging. Registration for meals and workshops only is \$50, and registration for workshops only is \$40. (Overnight facilities are triple occupancy; double and single rooms are available at a slightly higher cost.)

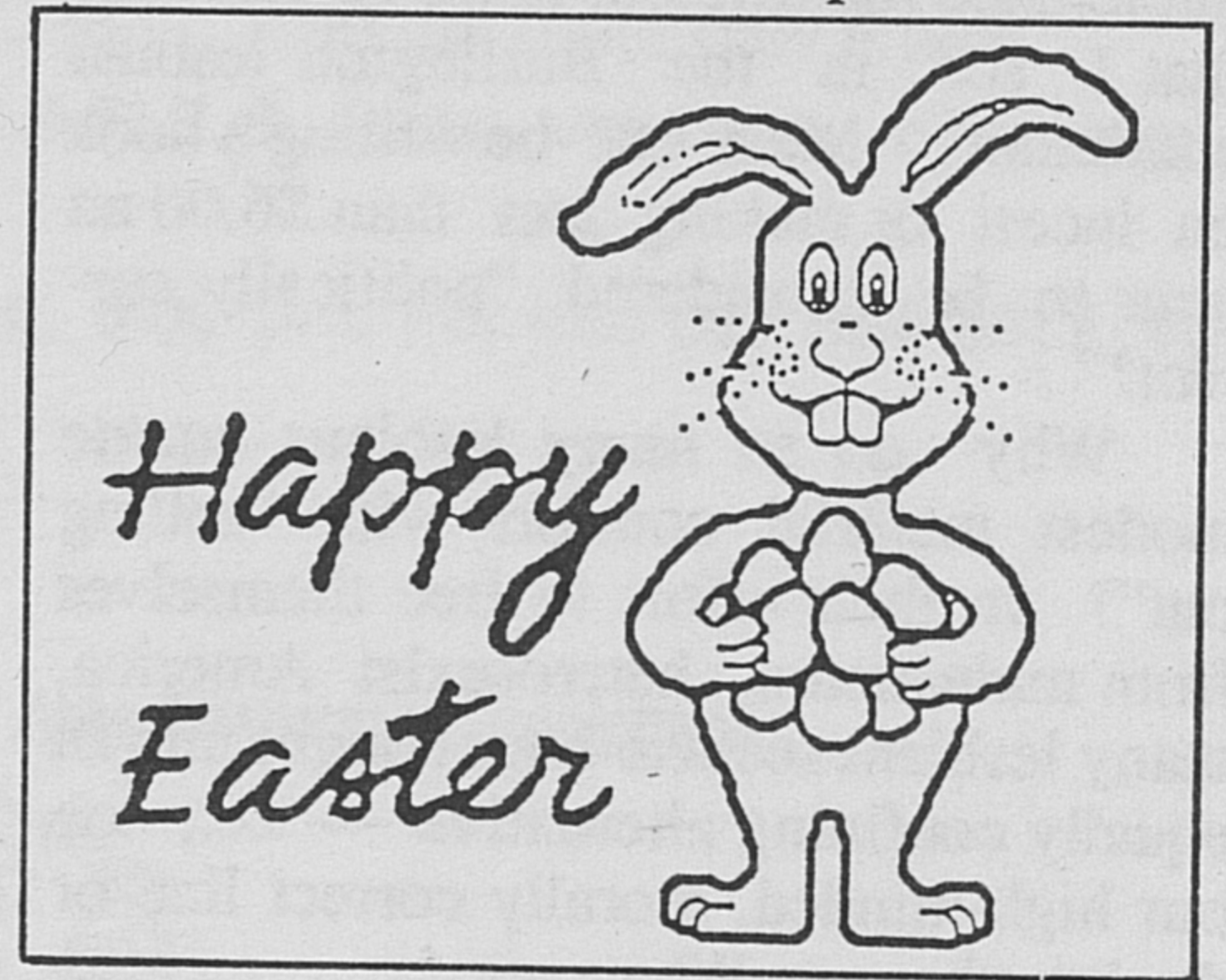
Work credit and full and partial scholarships are available for those unable to afford the full registration fee. (People with AIDS and ARC are eligible for completely subsidized registration.)

"We don't want cost to be a factor that keeps anyone away from this important event" said Terje Anderson, Executive Director of Vermont C.A.R.E.S. "We are determined to have the widest cross section of Vermont possible at the conference."

The deadline for conference registration is April 7. More details about conference events and a workshop schedule is

available by calling or writing Vermont C.A.R.E.S. at 863-2437, Box 5248, Burlington, VT 05402.

On Sunday afternoon, immediately following the conference, the Vermont C.A.R.E.S. annual general membership meeting will be held. The meeting will elect officers and board members, set major organizational policy, and deal with minor housekeeping details. That meeting is open to all members of Vermont C.A.R.E.S., whether they attend the conference or not, and no registration fee is required.



Response to Survey: Jesse Takes a Stand

Presidential candidate Jesse Jackson's response to a survey circulated by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) expresses the candidate's strong support for full civil rights for lesbians and gay men.

Summary of Jackson survey:

Civil Rights

-Supports passage of federal gay/lesbian rights bill and supports full civil and legal rights for lesbians and gay men; will fight any restrictions based on sexual orientation.

-Is committed to issuing Presidential Executive Order banning discrimination in the federal government, including the military; would extend order to cover all government contractors; sees order being supplemented by a congressional gay rights bill.

Lesbian/Gay Families

-Supports lesbian and gay partners being afforded benefits accorded to heterosexual partners.

-Platform of campaign recognizes diversity within the human family; supports full civil rights for gay people.

-Supports right of gay people to designate survivors and dependents; supports gay people's right to child custody.

AIDS Policies

-Supports National Academy of Sci-

ences \$2 billion target, but notes that this may not be an adequate amount.

-Supports making catastrophic insurance available as a right; supports federally guaranteed access to treatments and care; supports creation of stop-loss or reinsurance pools.

-Supports broad, frank AIDS education; believes such education should "confront homophobia, the irrational and divisive fear, the racism, the victim-blaming that impact our efforts to combat this disease."

-Supports federal legislation banning discrimination against people with AIDS or HIV infection.

-Opposes Reagan Justice Department's interpretation that federal disability laws do not cover people with AIDS or HIV infection.

-Supports Federal AIDS Policy ACT, H.R. 307/S.1575.

-Opposes mandatory testing.

-Supports the creation of an office of Gay/Lesbian Health Concerns in the Public Health Service.

As of February 1, Mr. Jackson is the sixth candidate to respond to the NGLTF survey. Responses have also been received from Paul Simon, Richard Gephardt, Michael Dukakis, George Bush and Bruce Babbitt.

"Purple Heart"

Record review by Heather Wishik

On April 1, Michael Callen's album "Purple Heart" is being released. Callen is one of the three co-authors of the hit song "Love Don't Need a Reason." Those of you who have read Randy Shilts' And the Band Played On have also run into Callen, one of the leaders of the people with AIDS movement.

A talented songwriter, singer and pianist, Callen has recorded a wonderful album consisting of his own songs as well as a few by other gay artists. AIDS is clearly a central theme, but don't let that make you think that this music is merely depressing. The uptempo "Living in Wartime" will help get some righteous anger flowing, and the equally toe-tapping "How to Have Sex" will probably make most listeners dance while laughing and crying too (the chorus line is "How to have sex in an epidemic, without getting caught up in polemic). On a more subdued note, "Talking Old Soldiers," co-authored by Bernie Taupin (of past Elton John collaboration), is a poignant look at what it feels like to outlive most of one's friends. And Callen has included his own version of "Love Don't Need a Reason." The album is available by mail for \$10 from Significant Other Records, PO Box 1525, Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10013.