

lowing protests from state legislators and Yale students. A local Boy Scout Council conducted an investigation into the private life of a Scout leader rumored to be gay and then ordered him to stay away from Scout functions. Robert Fiscus, president of the local chapter of the United Way said funding a group with a policy of discrimination is contradictory for the charity. "We are opposed to discrimination in whatever form it takes. The protest by gays, students, and legislators helped us focus on rapidly completing our long-standing review of our anti-discrimination policy". A spokesperson for the Boy Scouts defended the organization's right to choose who participates. "We don't discriminate" said national spokesperson Robert Walker. "We differentiate in terms of what our constituency tells us they want." (*The Washington Blade*)

**Court Backs Privacy**

New York, NY - A federal appeals court in New York ruled in early February that a person has a constitutional right to privacy about HIV infection. The decision reinstated a suit against the city of New York by a man who said that his rights had been violated by the issuance of a press release describing a city-brokered settlement of a job discrimination suit he had brought against Delta Airlines. The three judge panel unanimously ruled that the man did not waive his right to confidentiality about his status simply be-

cause he filed a claim with a public agency. The city had argued that the man had waived his right to privacy by filing a claim with a public agency (The City Human Rights Commission) The court disagreed, saying that the settlement was not "public record" until the commission choose to make it so by issuing a press statement about it. While District courts in New York and elsewhere have made similar rulings, this is the first time a Federal appeals court has issued such an opinion. The appeals court covers, New York, Connecticut, and Vermont. (*The New York Times*)

**FBI Bans Bias Against Gays**

San Francisco, CA - In settlement of a suit filed by a former agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the FBI has agreed to ban discrimination against lesbian and gay employees and applicants. The resolution of the class action suit by Frank Buttino, who said he was dismissed from his job because he is gay, came a week after Attorney General Janet Reno ordered the FBI and other Justice Department Agencies to add sexual orientation to the list of unacceptable forms of employment bias - race, color, national origin, sex, or disability.

The settlement also says the FBI will reconsider the application of Dana Tillson, a lesbian who got high marks in her application until the FBI discovered her sexual orientation in 1987. The FBI, which

denounced Mr. Buttino as a liar and security risk throughout the case, also agreed to issue a statement praising his record as an agent. The new guidelines, drafted to carry out Reno's non-discrimination statement say an applicant's sexual conduct may be considered if it raises a question about character, judgement candor or discretion or makes the applicant susceptible to coercion. In such cases "heterosexual and homosexual conduct will be equally considered." (*The New York Times*)

**Blue Cross Expands Coverage**

Boston, MA - In an unusual move for a health insurance company, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts will expand its employee medical benefits on January 1st to include unmarried couples and their dependent children. A Blue Cross spokesperson said that the expansion demonstrates that the company is "committed to supporting the needs of a diverse work force." Past experience with companies offering domestic partner coverage had demonstrated that "this benefit was not administratively complex or costly." At least one other Blue Cross plan, in Vermont, will offer similar benefits starting in 1994. (*The New York Native*)

*Note: See next month's OITM for the full story on Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont ▼*

**Help us celebrate our 10th Anniversary.**  
 Next March will be the tenth anniversary of Out in the Mountains. To celebrate, we're planning a special issue of the paper. If you ever worked on the paper, contributed to it, and have memories of those early years, we'd love to hear about them. We're also looking for pictures from earlier years. Please contact us at  
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