

## CAP Receives AIDS grant

The Cascade AIDS Project has been awarded a grant from U.S. Conference of Mayors, to assist in educating the gay community regarding AIDS and what measures can be taken to decrease the risk of transmission of the AIDS virus. Of the sixty applicants that petitioned, CAP was one of eight selected to receive \$19,860 of the available \$145,000.

The purpose of the grant is to help CAP's implementation of a program specifically developed for the Portland metropolitan area. The plan addresses several misconceptions about AIDS, such as the common belief that AIDS is not a current health problem for gay men in Portland and that Oregon is a safer environment than other well-known areas. This leads to a lack of knowledge among gay men and thus increases the risk of transmission of the AIDS virus.

It is the goal of CAP through the use of this grant to dispel beliefs and attitudes that contribute to the spread of this disease. There is the need to increase knowledge about AIDS and its transmission and at the same time introduce prevention techniques aimed at reducing the risk. CAP recognizes that community support is also needed to achieve the values necessary in promoting safer sex.

The biggest undertaking to date for CAP
will be in conducting a volunteer training
program for over 500 gay community mem-

bers who will deliver information about AIDS and safer sex on a formal and informal basis to their peers. This endeavor will not be possible without the continued support of the gay community.

Throughout the past year, CAP has shown why it was chosen to receive the grant. CAP continues to believe that safer sex in the gay community is the responsibility of everyone and the success of the four Safe Sex Workshops have been invaluable in displaying that CAP has the force behind it to do the job.

### Harrington names Cross Cultural Communication Committee

Portland Police Chief Penny Harrington has named Right to Privacy PAC Chair Keeston Lowery to the recently established Cross Cultural Communication Committee. Lowery joins thirteen other Portland citizen appointees to the committee, charged with developing an eight hour training program for police officers.

The Cross Cultural committee was formed in response to public outcry around the sleeper-hold death of Lloyd Stevenson in April, and was an outgrowth of meetings with the North-Northeast Neighborhood Coalition. The group has met weekly on Wednesday

nights in an effort to meet the deadline of fall training sessions.

Lowery, who also serves on the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, said, "This is a rare opportunity to help create a long lasting shift in attitudes among individual police officers and the general public. It appears that the appointment of Chief Harrington by Mayor Clark has opened many doors in the police bureau that were previously closed to gays and lesbians. It's my hope that the training sessions will help institutionalize the open doors."

#### Spectrum sets deadline

Deputy Chief Tom Potter of the Portland Police Bureau recently volunteered to be police liaison to the gay community. At open meetings held on August 12 and 13, members of th gay and lesbian community came together and discussed their concerns regarding the police and how a liaison from the police could be of most benefit to the community. The input from these meetings, which were facilitated by Ed Reeves and Gail Schmidt of Spectrum (aka the Library Group), will be consolidated into a statement of purpose and published in the gay press and distributed to groups and individuals in the community. Several people volunteered at the second meeting to serve on an open committee to organize relations between the lesbian/gay communty and Potter. The committee set itself a 30-day deadline to organize

a public press conference announcing the police liaison.

# Anti-gay referendum stayed

Last year the County Commission voted to adopt an ordinance to extend employment nondiscrimination to county employees regardless of sexual orientation. However, at the same time that sufficient signatures were being gathered to force a referendum on the ordinance, the County Commission itself repealed the ordinance and replaced it with a resolution which would not be subject to a referendum.

Last month, however, Judge Donald L. Kalberer of the Circuit Court found that since the signatures had been gathered and filed before the ordinance had been repealed, the electorate had been denied its rightful access to the referendum process. This finding would allow a referendum to take place, but it would be a referendum on an ordinance that no longer existed.

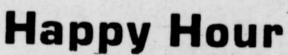
In a further hearing on July 30, Judge Kalberer granted the county a stay, which post-poned the referendum indefinitely. The case is automatically referred to the Appellate Court in Salem.



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