

Kafoury, ACLU kick off lesbian/gay rights campaign

by Jay Brown

Gretchen Kafoury, recently re-elected Multnomah County Commissioner, met with a group of gay men and lesbians late last month in a session on lobbying and the legislative process in preparation for a campaign to successfully pass gay rights legislation in the next session of the Oregon legislature.

"The key time for lobbying is in the period before November," Commissioner Kafoury said. "And optimal use of that time is getting people involved in election campaigns; the electoral part is equal to the lobbying part. We need to develop communications through networking."

Spearheading the coming gay rights campaign in the legislature is the ACLU's Commission on Lesbian and Gay Rights which hosted a community meeting with lesbians and gays in April. Representatives from twenty-six gay and lesbian organizations attended the meeting and were overwhelmingly in favor of working to finally get gay rights legislation guaranteeing equal rights for lesbians and gays in all areas — housing, employment, public accommodations, etc.

"If it's appropriate to have anti-discrimination laws, it's appropriate in all areas," Commissioner Kafoury commented.

The only state in the country which has omnibus lesbian/gay civil rights protections is Wisconsin; Oregon gays and lesbians are working to pass their own in 1987.

The Lesbian Community Project will host a similar informational session during Lesbian and Gay Pride Week. Commissioner Kafoury will be joined by ACLU Executive Director Stevie Remington in a discussion of the lobbying process at MCC on June 27 at 8 p.m.

Lesbian Community Project

by Sue & B.J. for The Project

April showers brought Ricky Sherover-Marcuse and Unlearning Racism. May brought more showers but also Suzanne

Pharr to deal with internalized homophobia and strategies for organizing a lesbian community. But June will bring sunshine, strawberries, and Lesbian & Gay Pride! Here is what the Lesbian Community Project has been up to:

Recent events included the Unlearning Racism workshop which they co-sponsored. On April 12th Ricky Sherover-Marcuse presented a well-prepared and thought-provoking afternoon of discussion and exercises. Her training and guidance was thoroughly appreciated by a group of 100+ people who created a varied and multi-leveled learning experience for each other. On April 13th she presented a similar workshop designed specifically for Jews. Ricky shared her theories on misinformation as the source of racism and many ways to identify and deal with that misinformation and its effects on us all.

Just like racism, homophobia bombards us. LCP brought an exciting woman named Suzanne Pharr to help lesbians deal with internalized homophobia. On Thursday and Friday nights, May 15th and 16th, Suzanne, who works with the Arkansas Women's Project, helped examine the ways lesbians internalize negative images. Leaving the workshop, many women saw more clearly the origins and means of perpetuation of negative images of lesbians.

On Saturday, the participants from Thursday's and Friday's groups gathered in a strategizing session. Suzanne helped spark enthusiasm and commitment for the Lesbian Conference in the fall.

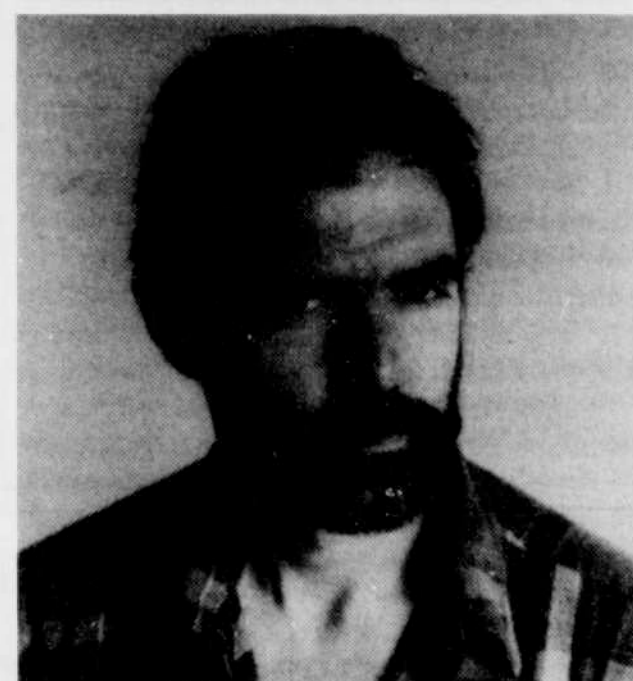
Also contributing to the mobilization of the lesbian community, Multnomah County Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury and Stevie Remington, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), will speak to the lesbian community and its friends on Friday, June 27th, 7:30 pm at Metropolitan Community Church (MCC). They will discuss the new Lesbian/Gay Rights bill targeted for 1987.

Speaking of mobilization, the Lesbian Community Project is excited about flying our own banner for the upcoming Lesbian & Gay Pride March on Saturday, June 21st.

To culminate all this organizing and commitment, the Lesbian Community Project is sponsoring the very first Portland Lesbian Conference. Mark your calendars for October 10-12, probably at PSU. Although the entire format has not been formalized, they are planning to present a dynamic keynote speaker, various workshops, a Saturday night

concert/social event, and other activities. Our goals include bringing all interested lesbians together to infuse the idea and experience of community with renewed relevance and vigor and to take the first practical steps toward making this goal a reality.

And last, but not least, an ongoing invitation for you to join. The conference is becoming



For Jerry West

by Arthur Harold

Jerry West was a man of the theatre, and, as the theatre at its best mirrors life, he achieved considerable wisdom in the practice

ing an exciting reality and as it does, the work load increases. Future articles will make more specific requests but for now, they need your ideas and energies for general planning and organizing. The weekly meeting is at 5:30 pm on Mondays; call 233-9079 to find out the location.

of both. He did not shun the untried, the difficult, or the flawed in either, for he viewed both as processes of discovery, and what is to be discovered in the hackneyed, the easy, or the perfect?

Jerry was instrumental in bringing new playwrights to Portland theatres, directing Kevin Berry's *Conversations with Myself* at Storefront and Terry Distel's *Salmon Run* at Firehouse; and gay plays to gay bars with shows such as *Richmond Jim* and *Forever After*.

Jerry was a fine actor, a great teacher, and a gifted director. He treated people as people should be treated, but was not afraid to call bullshit when that's what he saw.

Jerry's last professional works (as an actor as Joe in Saroyan's *Time of Your Life* and as director of a children's show, *A Family Album*) exemplified his approach to his life and his art: Trust yourself, enjoy your fellows, and play for truth. That he did. Jerome C. West died on Friday morning, May 9, 1986. His is a passing to be mourned, but more to the point, his is a life to be celebrated.

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