

NEWS

Alaskan gay/lesbian radio honored

A gay/lesbian public affairs radio program in Anchorage, Alaska, has received three awards for excellence in two recent competitions.

"Out in the North," a weekly half-hour program produced at public station KSKA-FM, featured the winning entries during broadcasts in 1985. It is the second year in a row the program has received such recognition.

The program received two first-place awards — for health and science reporting, and for editorial writing — from the Pacific Northwest region of Sigma Delta Chi, the professional journalism society. The awards were announced May 10 in Seattle. Journalists from a five-state region competed.

David McCartney, a volunteer reporter at KSKA-FM, produced a four-part series on use and abuse of the AIDS virus antibody test. He also wrote a review of the Academy Award-winning documentary, "The Times of Harvey Milk."

In addition, "Out in the North" received third-place honors from the Alaska Press Club for best ongoing public affairs radio program in the state. That award was announced May 17 in Anchorage.

McCartney, 30, is a 1979 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a reporter for KENI-AM in Anchorage and produces "Out in the North" in his spare time.

"Out in the North" offers news, music and features of interest to Alaska's gay/lesbian community. It is heard on KSKA-FM (91.1 MHz) every Sunday evening at 8:30 p.m.

Elderly gay/lesbian housing study complete

The number of elderly lesbians and gay men is growing and will continue to do so well into the next century. A study investigating interest in planned retirement housing among older gay men and lesbians and their preferences for certain facility characteristics has recently been completed. A nonrandom sample of 57 lesbians and 399 gay men with a mean age of 63.3 years completed an anonymous survey. A large majority (89%) indicated an interest in planned retirement housing specifically sensitive to the needs of gay men and lesbians, with support for a

continuum of services. Many respondents expressed a willingness to relocate significant distances in order to live in such a community. Security and health services were the most preferred, while mandatory services were rejected. Lesbian/gay retirement housing deserves serious consideration and more detailed information must be collected locally by prospective sponsors. Copies of the summary report may be obtained from the author: A.J. Lucco, M.D.; Beacham Center; 5200 Eastern Avenue; Baltimore, MD 21224.

A tribute to Penny Harrington

by Cathy Siemens

Little more than a year ago Penny Harrington made headlines and history as the first woman appointed police chief of a major American city. Her appointment signaled a change in direction and philosophy for the Portland Police Bureau.

Penny Harrington sought to increase police sensitivity to minority concerns, neighborhoods, and lesbians and gays. She demonstrated her commitment to these issues when she dismissed two officers for selling T-shirts printed with racist slogans during the investigation of Lloyd "Tony" Stevenson's death. Her action earned accolades from the community, but it raised the ire of the police union which eventually succeeded in reinstating the two officers.

Penny Harrington was also concerned with crime prevention. She developed the Juvenile Division to work with problem, often drug-addicted, youth who are responsible for the majority of urban burglaries.

Penny Harrington's innovative approach to policing was scarcely given a chance. We'll never know what the long range effects her policies could have had on the quality of life in Portland. Instead, we have witnessed an ignominious public scrutiny of her management decisions and leadership style that culminated in her "resignation." The review process did not allow Harrington an opportunity to respond to allegations or criticisms, nor did it discuss her achievements or strengths. No male bureau chief has ever been subjected to such treatment.

Potent forces converged to oust Penny Harrington: sexism, racism and an entrenched power block committed to maintaining a quasi-military police force independent of outside control. Penny Harrington was an outsider; she not only wouldn't play ball, but

she also wanted to change some of the rules of the game. During her twenty-two year career, Penny Harrington filed and won forty-two sex discrimination suits.

Neither Penny Harrington nor her many supporters from a variety of Portland's communities have given up. Following her forced resignation on June 2, an ad-hoc group formed to organize a support rally called "Portland Thanks Penny." The ad-hoc group also plans to present its concerns to the Portland City Council by raising such questions as: How will the city council ensure that police sensitivity and accountability remain a priority? And how will the City Council develop both management and the rank and file so they can take leadership from a woman?

These issues need to remain in the realm of public discussion. Penny Harrington has won many battles in the struggle to humanize the Portland Police Bureau. We'll have to win a few more.

Bob Gonzales, Mr. Hunky XIII

by Annette, Foxy Lady XII

The 13th annual Mr. Hunky pageant, sponsored by Sanford Director and Darcelle XV, was held on June 1 and June 8th. The seven impressive contestants, Carlos Ramirez, Tim Grimes, Tom Williams, Doug Bob, John Appleby, Brian Day and Bob Gonzales, were introduced to the audience in

formal wear, casual wear, and swim wear both evenings and on the final evenings each performed a talent number and acted out his fantasy. The contestants were judged over the two-week period on grooming, personality, audience appeal, poise, body, talent, attitude, stage presence and general overall manly appeal.

The title of Mr. Hunky XIII went to Bob Gonzales, the 32-year-old owner of Gazebo Hair Design, who won over the audience with a tap number from *Chorus Line*.

Brian Day, an entrepreneur from Seattle, placed 1st Runner-up, and Tom Williams, a hairdresser, is the new 2nd Runner-up.

Carlos Ramirez was awarded the special talent award by the judges and the congeniality award by his fellow contestants. A new category of award — body — was captured by Brian Day.

Several past Mr. Hunky title holders were among the attendees for the pageant's finale. All were pleased to see Mr. Hunky I, Ray Woods from Seattle (currently Mr. Drummer); John Meadows, aka Candy Wrapper; Gary Cronk; Bill Fisher, aka Hurricane Olivia; Bob Brue; John Fink, formerly of Hawaii; Michael Scouter; Marty Slighon; Don Tribur of San Francisco; David Lee; and Michael Leonard.

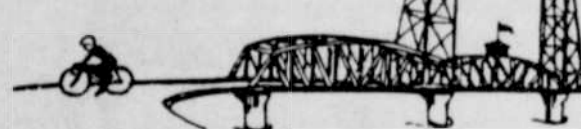


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