

# Just news

## Right Step Recovery Program — Six month report

*Rumors that Right Step Recovery Program may be closing are false. Right Step is alive and well.*

BY CHRISTOPHER ESHELL, Ph.D.,

I would like to share with the Portland gay/lesbian community some of the growing pains that Right Step has gone through in its first six months of operation.

Right Step is the only gay/lesbian inpatient chemical dependency program on the West Coast. There is one other such program in the country, Pride Institute in Minnesota, which I also had a part in starting.

Right Step opened in November, 1986. Our growth has been slow, but steady, which is a healthy sign for any new business, particularly the health care business, which is so competitive.

We have been advertising in gay/lesbian publications all over the country, and so far have admitted patients from as far away as New York, Minnesota, Kansas, Montana, Texas, California, Hawaii, Washington and Oregon. We have contracted with agencies or therapists in San Francisco and Seattle to facilitate our continuing care program for those alumni who live in those areas, and local people come back to Right Step once a week for their continuing care.

Right Step has received a lot of national media attention. We were recently featured in an article in *The Professional Counselor* magazine, entitled "Treating Gays and Lesbians: A Specialty That's Getting At-

ention." Our dedicated staff continues to offer quality care to those gay brothers and sisters from across the country who feel they can best deal with their chemical dependency issues in a gay/lesbian facility.

The Portland gay/lesbian community should be proud of Right Step. We have come a long way in six months. We intend to be around for a long time. But we need your support, we need your energy, we need your love.

So if anyone mentions that Right Step is closing, please tell them that you heard it straight from the Administrator's mouth. Right Step is alive and well!

## Gay/Lesbian Mormons to convene

For the first time in its 10-year history, Affirmation — Gay & Lesbian Mormons will gather in Salt Lake City for an annual national conference. More than 500 people are expected to attend the conference to be held September 25-27 at the Salt Lake Sheraton.

A conference brochure is available (SASE) from Affirmation Conference, Box 1152, Salt Lake City, UT 84110 or (801) 531-6830.

## People of Color United Against AIDS

National statistics reflect that AIDS is appearing in minority communities (especially Black and Hispanic) at a rate which is disproportionately high when compared to the instances of AIDS in white communities. Many speculative reasons are given for this increased level of AIDS, but two substantiated reasons are the unavailability of quality preventative health care and the lack of an effective educational vehicle.

On May 7th lesbians and gay men from a cross-section of minority communities met to discuss community responses to AIDS and explore strategies for promoting AIDS education and risk reduction. The consensus of the group was that AIDS education will only be effective in communities of color if it is approached from a perspective that recognizes the needs and dignity of the targeted communities.

The Portland group plans to work in concert with communities of color in Seattle in developing a Northwest regional AIDS education program for minority communities. POCUAA plans to seek funding through grants and public health organizations. The group has also discussed the possibility of affiliating with the AFSC Lesbian/Gay Rights Project as one of its subcommittees. The AFSC was suggested because of its sensitivity to and demonstrated interest in the issues of minority communities.

On June 17th, lesbians and gays from Portland and Seattle will meet in Portland to discuss the impact of AIDS in their

communities and determine the group's direction and activities. The meeting is open to lesbians and gays from all minority communities. It will take place in Conference Room A of the Portland Building at 7:00 p.m. For additional information, contact Amani at 231-5034.

## KBOO to broadcast Lesbian & Gay Pride celebration live

KBOO 90.7FM will broadcast live, Portland's Gay Pride Celebration, Saturday, June 20 from noon to 5:30 p.m. In addition to the speeches and live music from Waterfront Park, interviews with local gay activists and organizations will be aired. As Portland's only independent, listener-supported community radio station, KBOO strives to reflect the diversity of the Portland community and to promote media access for all. This broadcast is a perfect example of this goal. Stop by KBOO's broadcast booth at Gay Pride and see YOUR Community Radio Station in action.

If your group or organization would like to be interviewed for KBOO's Gay Pride Celebration Broadcast, contact Linda Shirley or Howie Baggadonutz at 231-8032.

## Correction

In the May *Just Out* Jon Erin was identified as a printer. Mr. Erin is a painter. *Just Out* regrets the error.

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