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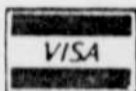


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just news

Gay youth: a forgotten minority?

As members of the gay and lesbian community, we must ask ourselves: what are we going to do for today's lesbian and gay youth?

BY CELIA FLOREN

One of the most popular details in a coming-out story is how old one was when one knew. While we may marvel at those who came out at an early age, we need to think about what it might mean to be gay throughout childhood and adolescence. Growing up isn't easy for anyone. Growing up gay means also confronting the challenges that face all gays and lesbians. Many of us would probably prefer to forget our childhoods. But as members of the gay and lesbian community, we must ask ourselves: what are we going to do for today's gay and lesbian youth?

"Gay Youth" will be the subject of a panel discussion sponsored by the Cascade Union of Educators. CUE is a support and networking organization for gay and lesbian teachers. CUE wants to provide the community with a forum to discuss the issues and concerns of gay youth.

The panel will be made up of representatives of Windfire (a gay/bisexual youth group), PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and

Gays), and Phoenix Rising (a gay referral/resource center). Also in attendance will be counselors from the Portland Public Schools and representatives from the American Friends Service Committee. CUE urges gay parents, gay youth and other interested people to attend the evening's discussion. Panel members have been asked to briefly outline their organization's perspective on gay youth. CUE hopes that questions and opinions from the audience will spark discussion.

Some of the issues likely to be discussed include the following:

- What resources are currently available to gay youth?
- What are the concerns of gay youth?
- How can the community respond to these needs?
- What types of support can we commit to gay youth in the future?

The event will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, March 10, at MCC, which is located at Northeast 24th and Broadway.

EAGLE lands in Portland

US West employees form gay and lesbian support group

BY GARY L. WEST

Employees of US West in Portland have formed a chapter of Employees Association for Gays and Lesbians (EAGLE), the fifth company-sanctioned support group within Pacific Northwest Bell. Portland's EAGLE joins previously established chapters in Denver, Seattle, Minneapolis and Omaha. EAGLE's non-political mission is to strengthen support within US West so that issues of gay and lesbian employees are addressed and resolved while furthering corporate goals. Andy Smith, president of Pacific Northwest Bell, has stated that discrimination in the workplace will not be tolerated. For the past five years PNB has protected and supported the rights of all employees regardless of their sexual orientation; employees with AIDS are to be treated the same as any other employee suffer-

ing from a catastrophic illness, with full rights and privileges to contractual employee benefits.

There still are employees who are afraid to live their lives fully because of continuing prejudice, fear and persistent myths about who we are as a people. EAGLE exists to establish gay people as valuable and worthy members of the corporation and society and to create a working environment of mutual respect between them and other members of the corporate community. It seeks opportunities for members to improve their careers and personal lives and to do so with pride in who they are.

Membership in EAGLE is open to any current or retired employee of the US West companies. For more information, contact EAGLE, PO Box 8961, Portland, Ore. 97207.

Gary L. West is co-moderator of the Portland chapter of EAGLE.

Condoms on campus

Condom vending machines on Portland-area campuses underscore the pressure being placed on dynamic instruction in halting the spread of AIDS

BY HAROLD MOORE

A letter to the editor in a recent issue of *The Bridge*, Portland Community College's student newspaper, has prompted a survey on the availability of condom vending machines on local college campuses. The letter writer defended the installation of condom dispensers in PCC-Sylvania restrooms, the availability of which were under attack by a PCC instructor. "The spread of AIDS is the real issue, not the moral aspects of marriage," the writer said.

Our survey revealed that PCC has removed all condom dispensers from the campus restrooms; furthermore, the administration is not entertaining proposals to replace the vending machines. A dispute with the vendor of the machines over profitability caused the college

administration to request that the supplier remove all the machines, according to Roy Lindsay, vice president of administrative services.

Mt. Hood Community College, on the other hand, is proud of their record for several years of providing condom machines in student restrooms, according to Joan Chronister, purchasing agent for the school. Chronister acknowledged that this service was "far-sighted."

Lewis and Clark College has installed condom vending machines in all dormitory laundry rooms on campus. The college sees this placement as non-sexist and instructional. Lewis and Clark makes a point of stressing health care perspectives and providing the best information and resources to its students regarding AIDS

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