

Just news

Community reacts to Eugene Doney's death

The real issue here is that Gene Doney was not free to love whomever he wanted to love. And that refusal of his right to love sadly creeps into every area of life in this community.

BY HAROLD MOORE

The death of Eugene Doney at the hand of an unidentified assailant on February 13 was the subject of a candlelight vigil held on March 11 in Couch Park, the scene of the killing.

Sixty friends, acquaintances and concerned citizens attended, and remarks were presented by four community leaders: Keeston Lowery, assistant to Portland City Commissioner Mike Lindberg; Frank Dixon, president of the Northwest District Association; the Rev. Gary Wilson, minister of Metropolitan Community Church; Jeanna Cernazanu, crime prevention coordinator of the Northwest Neighborhood Association; and Bruce Fuller, a friend of the dead man.

In his remarks, the Rev. Wilson stated, "The real issue here is that Gene Doney was not free to love whomever he wanted to love. And that refusal of his right to love sadly creeps into every area of the life of this community. If the least safe of us is threatened, then every person in this city is less safe. We cannot give permission for anyone to be anything but safe in the community. Violence against lesbians and gay men is the most common hate crime in this country. When is it going to stop?"

Metropolitan Community Church will hold Easter sunrise services in Couch Park at 7 am on April 3.

Police investigation into the Doney murder

has proved fruitless. According to Tom Nelson, a Portland Police Bureau detective, the continuing investigation has not uncovered any leads or new information.

Press accounts of the crime and the circumstances surrounding it are at odds with official statements describing the murder as probably a stranger-to-stranger event fitting no pattern and revealing no suspects.

The Northwest Examiner (March 1988) raised the issue of Eugene Doney's lifestyle and his reported presence on the night of his death at Silent Partners, a northwest Portland night spot. Writer Bob Chieger reported that Silent Partners was "warm, seedy" and conjured up the image of "a North Las Vegas joint."

Silent Partners owners Lyon Ackerman and David Hess called Chieger's description of their cafe and lounge "a cheap shot." States Ackerman, "Chieger never even bothered to speak to me about Gene or the business. In fact it appears that he avoided me."

"He sure has an over-active imagination," Hess added. "His account seems bent on overlooking our policy of providing our customers and employees with a hassle-free, drug-free place to meet and be entertained."

"We are hands-on managers," Ackerman said. "No one ever wants to hear about the work we do supporting community needs, or the family-type attitude we use in dealing with our

employees. Sure, we feature dancers, but instead of drugs and prostitution we demand that our guys respect themselves. That means keeping it clean."

"Gene Doney was certainly a lonely young man when he left Silent Partners and ended up dying in Couch Park," said Keeston Lowery, "but his spirit is not alone. He would have been pleased that so many people he didn't even

know existed now show how much they cared. His spirit is not alone."

Anyone having information regarding the death of Eugene Doney should contact Tom Nelson at 796-3479. A \$1,000 reward has been offered by Payless, Eugene Doney's former employer, for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for Doney's murder. •

Brinker, CAP differences surface

At issue are differences in application of agreements to fund and allocate resources to the Brinker Trust

BY HAROLD MOORE

The Brinker Trust presented the Cascade AIDS Project board of directors on March 20 with a report charging lack of sensitivity in providing services to people with AIDS. Cal Hackler, Anita Floyd, Cory Baker and Sanford Director made impassioned pleas to the CAP board.

Hackler and Floyd emphasized the history of the Brinker Trust. Baker's remarks centered on a client couple, both diagnosed with AIDS. Director said that the 1986 agreement which merged Brinker, PAL and CAP, and allocated 24 percent of CAP funding to the Brinker Trust, had not been met.

The Brinker representatives also objected to a suggestion that funds be allocated as loans rather than outright grants. They said that would be unreasonable because persons using Brinker monies are AIDS patients who have fallen through the "safety net" provided by private and governmental resource agencies.

CAP financial reports indicate that the Brinker Trust share of CAP funds was \$28,609, and that these funds were in a "restricted" section of the balance sheet.

The CAP board freed \$28,609 for use by the Brinker Trust and agreed to suggest mediation to Brinker Trust board members. At issue are differences in application of agreements to fund and allocate resources to the Brinker Trust. •

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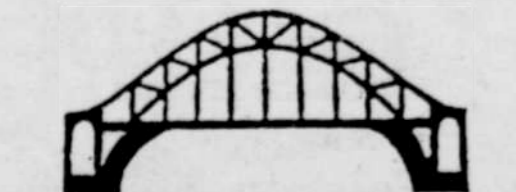
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