ust news

AIDS Quilt at Chiles Center

Names Project/Oregon seeks community support for exhibit of giant folk-art display in July

HAROLD MOORE

quilt that memorializes persons who have died from HIV disease will visit Portland during the week of July 29. The Host Committee, a group of individuals representing community organizations, causes and personal involvements, has been formed to exhibit the Names Project Quilt at the Chiles Center on the University of Portland campus.

The Host Committee seeks assistance from persons and groups in Oregon to maximize the impact of the event.

The idea of a national AIDS quilt came from Cleve Jones, a San Francisco activist. Jones saw his concept come to life at last year's March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, where during several days of activity the quilt was unfolded on the Capitol Mall and viewed by more than half a million people. The impact of the huge memorial had an immediate effect. ABC News named Cleve Jones its Person of the Week, and a national tour for the Names Project was announced.

The outgrowth of Jones's dream, the Names Project, a non-profit group based in San Francisco, began a 20-city tour of the quilt on April

15 in Los Angeles. Each city on the tour will be exhibiting the quilt differently. Baltimore has chosen to hang a portion of fabric on the walls of a museum. Minneapolis will lay the quilt on the floor of the Metro Dome. The size and location of the quilt display is to be determined by each city's host committee.

Because the quilt is so large and because the display must be protected from the elements, no display will feature all of the quilt, which now covers more than 170,000 square feet. Panels of local and national interest will be displayed in each city. A computerized listing has been developed so that local interest can be maximized.

New panels will not be added to the quilt on this tour, but each host committee may prepare 3- by 6-foot memorial panels to display with the national quilt. The panels will then be sent to San Francisco for later addition to the quilt project.

Individuals and groups interested in helping the Names Project/Oregon realize its goal of breaking down the barriers and bringing the community together may contact Names Project Media, PO Box 15117, Portland, OR 97215.





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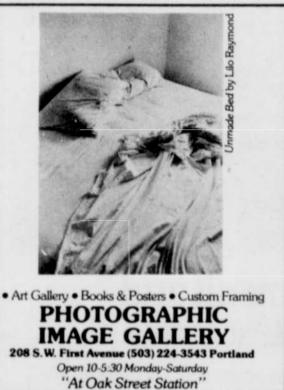
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