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# Just news

## Gay Jackson delegate selected

Randy Sullivan has been elected by the state Democratic Party as an alternate delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta. Sullivan, an insurance market- ing representative, has been involved in grass- roots Democratic Party work for several years and is a 1st Congressional District supporter of Jesse Jackson.

At the statewide convention where the dele- gate selection took place, Sullivan said that Jackson "has embraced the gay and lesbian community as an integral part of the Rainbow Coalition. Our community has responded in kind by voting overwhelmingly for Jesse Jack-

son, not only in Oregon but across the nation. "The Oregon Democratic Party has never elected an openly gay man or woman as a member of a delegation to our national conven- tion. The Jackson caucus represents our best hope of finally being included," Sullivan said.

"Jesse [Jackson] runs on the issue of gay and lesbian rights. This constituency is part of the Rainbow and needs to be represented," com- mented Jackson campaign spokesperson Ron Herndon.

Speaking for the Right to Privacy PAC, Keeston Lowery stated, "Randy's election is a good first step of integrating the gay and lesbian community into the party process in Oregon. It reflects an involvement that's been there for years but many times has been ignored."

— Harold Moore

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## Cascade AIDS Project/Brinker Trust controversy settled

A tentative agreement between members of the Brinker Trust Board of Directors mediation team and the Cascade AIDS Project mediation team was reported June 23. At issue was funding for direct emergency needs of people with HIV disease. The controversy had generated concern that services to people in need might be negatively impacted.

After four mediation sessions, facilitated by the Neighborhood Mediation Council, Tom Koberstein, director of the Cascade AIDS Project and a mediation team member, said, "The CAP/Brinker mediation has ended. It ends with a great success. Members of both the Brinker Trust Board and mediation team members from Cascade AIDS Project have agreed to work together focusing on the work. We agree that the work of the Brinker Trust is very im- portant. And that the PAL program, education

programs, counseling programs and case management are all important. That we must all work together to see that the needs of this com- munity are met reflecting available resources."

The agreement worked out during the four sessions is tentative only because the CAP Board of Directors must consider minor changes in their bylaws. This process takes 30 days. Because the Brinker mediation team consisted of a quorum of their board, their agreement on the settlement is binding.

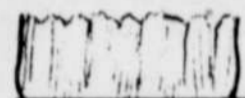
The settlement covers three areas:

- 1) A Brinker trustee will be made CAP board member.
- 2) A Brinker trustee will be appointed Assistant Treasurer. (This requires a CAP bylaw change.)
- 3) CAP and Brinker agree to a 30-day prior notification of action when removal of a member from either board is sought. (This requires a CAP bylaw change.)

The mediation teams agreed to establish a task force to look at issues and needs of common interest and concern.

— Harold Moore

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## Outside-In begins needle exchange

Drug addicts will soon be able to trade dirty needles for clean ones at Outside-In, a social service agency, as part of an AIDS prevention project that includes the first needle-exchange program in the country.

Outside-In, a nonprofit agency that provides medical, mental health and street youth services, drew national attention last month when it announced the needle-exchange project, funded by the American Foundation for AIDS Research. Kathy Oliver, director of Outside-In, said the project seemed a logical move to slow the spread of AIDS among high-risk intravenous drug users.

Three clients of Outside-In — two of whom were young, pregnant women — tested sero- positive for HIV over a year ago, Oliver said. All three were IV drug users.

The agency developed the \$67,000 project "because our clients are at risk of dying from AIDS and because the seroprevalence rate in Oregon is really low, so we have an opportunity to do prevention."

State Health Division officials estimate that at present fewer than five percent of IV drug

users in Portland have contracted HIV. In other cities, HIV infection among IV drug users has climbed rapidly. In New York, for example, a study of blood samples showed no HIV infec- tion among IV drug users through 1977; the rate has jumped to about 60 percent today.

Outside-In, which has served indigent clients since 1968, will offer free condoms, information on AIDS transmission and prevention and refer- als to drug treatment, as well as sterile needles. Through interviews with participants in the program, researchers will examine whether the needle exchange slows the spread of AIDS and whether it leads to decreased needle sharing and IV drug use.

Announcement of the project drew a qualified nod from Mayor Bud Clark, who worried that it would affect the city's image. However, most response has been positive, Oliver said.

"By far the majority of people are supportive or at least neutral. The feeling is that prevention is all we have. There are not that many preven- tive measures, and we can't completely ignore one of them," she said.

— Anndee Hochman

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