

# just briefs

## LCP names new director

Jawea Mockabee, a board member of the Lesbian Community Project since it was launched in 1987, will become the group's executive director on September 1.

Mockabee has been involved in civil rights, women's rights and lesbian rights work since 1968. In a statement in the voting pamphlet for LCP members issued during the group's first election, Mockabee noted her work with the Black Panther free-breakfast program, the San Francisco Women's Health Collective, the San Francisco Women's Center, the clerical workers' union at San Francisco State College and the Valley Lesbians in Salem.

She said she is looking forward to the job of leading the state's largest lesbian organization. "LCP is one of the greatest things happening for lesbians in the country," she said.

Cathy Siemens, one of LCP's founders, will leave the post of executive director to work full time as deputy campaign manager of Oregonians for Fairness.

## TRI-MET



## Tri-Met adamant, ads banned permanently

The controversial Cascade AIDS Project posters removed from Tri-Met buses in July still don't have a ticket to ride — and they probably won't in the future, according to CAP director Tom Koberstein.

The ads, the first AIDS-education messages targeted for gay men through a mass-media outlet in Oregon, showed two men in an affectionate embrace and the words, "We can live. Together." After a July 3 column appeared in *The Oregonian* criticizing the ads for applauding homosexuality rather than warning against AIDS, Transit Ads Inc., which handles advertising on Tri-Met vehicles, ordered them taken down.

Soon after that, Koberstein met with officials of Tri-Met and Transit Ads. Two initial meetings were productive, Koberstein said.

"At least we got agreement from [Tri-Met and Transit Ads] that it's critical that gay men be targeted for AIDS prevention through mass-advertising outlets."

But an August letter from Tri-Met to people who complained about the posters' removal made it clear that the company, although it may believe AIDS-education messages to gay men are important, doesn't want to be the one bearing the news.

The company is in the business of mass transit, the letter said, and "it is therefore not appropriate to expect Tri-Met to be at the lead-

ing edge of efforts to expand public awareness or encourage acceptability of controversial social issues."

That letter, Koberstein said, evaded the central question of the controversy — whether gay men can be pictured in mass advertising. "Tri-Met continues to sidestep this issue," he said.

Koberstein said he is inviting gay men and representatives of local mass-media outlets to talk about that sensitive question. Staff from Tri-Met, Transit Ads, *The Oregonian* and the major local television stations, as well as gay men, will be called to a "focus group" late in September to discuss how mass media can be used to speak to gay men about AIDS.

In the meantime, the posters hang on the walls of a few progressive social-service agencies and bob above the heads of protesters at periodic demonstrations against Tri-Met. Their impact now goes beyond the actual message; whether or not they teach something about AIDS, they have touched both the gay community's anger and its vulnerability. For many, the ads are a sort of totem — a graphic reminder that gay-positive images still remain squarely outside the mainstream. To carry a "We can live. Together." sign brings a little tingle of proud disobedience, like the feeling of reading a banned book.

"It's questionable whether the present ad can still be effective as an AIDS-prevention ad," Koberstein said last month, "whether that specific ad being used again would be effective, or whether people on both sides would be blinded to the message because of the controversy."

## AIDS research foundation formed at OHSU

A foundation for HIV/AIDS research has been established at Oregon Health Sciences University, where officials hope it will help boost the state onto the map for national recognition and funding of AIDS research.

The foundation, the first of its kind in Oregon specifically targeted for AIDS research and education, will fund projects in patient management and other areas, but will not offer direct services to clients, according to James D. Simons of OHSU.

Simons said the foundation will help fill a funding gap that has plagued Oregon because relatively few people in the state have AIDS compared to places such as New York and California.

"We've had minimal funds in the state primarily due to our numbers," Simons said. "This will enable us to do some independent research projects on our own." He added that people who wanted to make memorial gifts for AIDS research previously had to send their money out of state; now they can donate to a foundation whose research will affect those close to home.

Donations may be sent to the OHSU HIV/AIDS Foundation, Suite 306, 2121 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97201.

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