

Just briefs

HIV/AIDS Vigil set at MCC

Celebration of the lives of persons with HIV infection or whose lives are impacted by HIV in any way will be the theme of this year's HIV/AIDS Vigil at Portland Metropolitan Community Church during the weekend of December 1-3. The 50-hour event will begin at 7 pm on Friday, December 1 and conclude at 9 pm on Sunday, December 3.

The Vigil will focus on the arts. Artists and craftspersons with AIDS have been invited to exhibit their work at MCC during the Vigil weekend. Members of the Names Project/Portland will be present all during the weekend.

MCC's new stained glass window, which replaces the window destroyed in a fire last Christmas morning, will be dedicated as a celebration of health and wholeness. Other events during the weekend include a reception honoring a citizen for long years of service to the community, a concert and dance performance, and a drag show.

More than 250 churches and organizations have been invited to participate with an event during the Vigil to focus on AIDS and healing, and have been asked to observe one minute of silence at 10:30 am on the Sunday of the Vigil.

For more information call the Metropolitan Community Church at 281-8868.

Team Portland organizes support for Gay Games III athletes

Team Portland, a local organization of lesbian and gay athletes, has recently been

formed to support Portland area athletes who plan to attend the events of Celebration '90 - Gay Games III. Celebration '90 is set to get underway in Vancouver, B.C. August 4-11, 1990.

Team Portland spokespersons say the organization will assist Portland area lesbians and gay men in registering for Gay Games III and will raise funds for the purchase of a team uniform. Later plans include support for individual teams, assistance with housing arrangements in Vancouver, and assistance with transportation to the events.

Organizers plan a number of fundraising events including a bar toll, coat checking at various bars on weekends, a raffle, and sales of T-shirts and buttons. Donations are also welcome and can be made payable to Team Portland, c/o Geoff Pleat, 1411 SE 25th, Portland, OR 97214.

Team Portland Co-Chair Richard Brown advises athletes to register early. "August 1990 sounds like a long way off, but registration must be completed by May 31, 1990, to participate," Brown said. "And the fees increase after February 1, 1990, from \$36 for most sports to \$54. So early registration will save you money."

Vancouver officials have established a three-phase process to register. Registration with Team Portland will begin the process. Forms are available by calling 289-2226 or 245-5301. Phase II consists of registering for the individual sports with forms and waivers being supplied directly by Vancouver. Phase III registration is completed at the time of check-in in Vancouver next August.

Brown adds that it is very important for individuals to register with Team Portland as early as possible so that organizers will know how many team uniforms to order and can begin to plan for housing and transportation.

ACT UP/Portland Protests Hatfield reelection bid

Six members of the Portland, Oregon chapter of ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) handed flyers to long time supporters of Sen. Mark Hatfield (R., Ore.) on October 14, as they entered a church in Silverton, Oregon to attend a dinner at which Oregon's senior senator announced plans to seek a fifth term. The flyers contained the headline "Hatfield: Closeted Gay Who Betrays His Own People." The AIDS activists criticized Hatfield's vote in favor of an amendment to the 1990 Health & Human Services appropriations bill offered by Sen. Gordon Humphrey (R., N.H.) to deny federal funding to any state which produces AIDS education information stating that homosexuals are "normal." Hatfield is the ranking Republican on the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee.

"If a black elected official voted for a law requiring states to say that blacks were inferior, there would be an uproar. The press would have a hey-day. Hatfield, a closeted homosexual, is doing the same thing with these anti-gay positions he continues to take. It's sick. We won't be silent about it," said ACT UP spokesperson, Kelly Tadlock.

The 67-year-old Hatfield, who has long been known among older gay circles in Portland to be a closeted homosexual, accepted one of the ACT UP flyers as he entered the Silverton Church with his wife, Antoinette, on his arm. The Oregonian reported on the ACT UP demonstration and noted ACT UP's criticism of Hatfield's vote on the Humphrey amendment, but did not print the assertions about Hatfield's sexual orientation. "He's never denied it," said Tadlock, "and the press is afraid to ask him."

Esther's Pantry Food Bank to go independent

The Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) has announced that it will encourage the creation of a new non-profit organization designed to support the work of Esther's Pantry, a food bank program for people with HIV disease. CAP will assist the new organization by donating approximately \$40,000 in assets as seed money for the new project.

"I feel proud of our role in helping to develop Esther's Pantry into the viable, essential program it is today," said Paul Starr, Executive Director of CAP. "Pantry organizers and volunteers have worked hard to create a service which responds directly to critical needs of people living with AIDS. We feel that Esther's Pantry has reached a point in its evolution where it can now stand on its own." Since its inception, Esther's Pantry has grown to where it now serves over 100 people living with AIDS with emergency food assistance.

One of the goals of the Cascade AIDS Project has been to encourage the development of a variety of community-based programs and services to assist people affected by AIDS. Created in 1986, Esther's Pantry has been a service of the Brinker Fund.

Since then, the food bank has grown to an extent that CAP officials and Brinker Trustees feel it would better fulfill its mission by spinning-off as a separate organization.

CAP will continue to sponsor and administer the Pantry until a new non-profit organization is formally established and will work closely with the Pantry in responding to people affected by AIDS. Esther's Pantry is currently located at 597 N. Dekum Avenue. Person's requesting assistance from the Pantry may still call CAP at 223-5907. ▼



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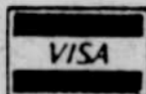


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