

just briefs

1990 visibility campaign off and running

The Lesbian Community Project Visibility Committee has selected this year's theme: a photo of a large number of women, one in 10 of whom are *not* lesbians! The response to the idea has been extremely enthusiastic.

The purpose of the visibility project is to increase public awareness of lesbians as real people — not as some myth or distortion. Having a picture of 100 or more women, 10 percent of whom are straight, is designed to:

(1) create confusion as to who is and who isn't a lesbian (chuckle, chuckle);

(2) create a safe vehicle for lesbians to participate in the project (after all, we can all be one of the 10 percent who are straight, right?);

(3) distort the usual statistics (nine out of 10 are lesbians, rather than one out of 10);

(4) ask the question "why should it matter anyway?";

(5) respond by stating that unfortunately it does matter, *i.e.* lesbian teachers can lose their jobs, lesbians mothers can lose their children.

The message will be disseminated through ads in *The Oregonian*, as well as smaller publications. Depending upon the amount of funds raised, the Committee is hoping to place ads in outlying community papers too. It is in places like Klamath Falls, La Grande, and Bend that "No on 8" was lost; an ad campaign such as this could have an effect on some voters.

Women wishing to get involved in the LCP Visibility Project or wanting to join the many women who have already signed up to be in the photograph, call Donna Red Wing at the LCP office, 223-0071, or Deborah Betron at Bridgetown Realty, 287-9370. The Lesbian Visibility Committee needs assistance in several areas.

— Deborah Betron

Team Portland Surpasses Goal of Registering 100 Athletes

Team Portland has surpassed its goal of registering 100 gay and lesbian athletes for Gay Games III. Participants are registered in virtually all of the 27 sports. In addition to individual registrants, Portland will be represented by teams in basketball, volleyball, softball, and bowling. There will be a large contingent of swimmers and a sizeable group for track and field events. The final deadline for registration with Vancouver is May 31, 1990. The registration fee is now \$54 (US). Interested parties should contact the registration coordinator, Tyler at 289-2226.

The next goal for Team Portland is to raise sufficient funds from the community to outfit all team members with matching uniforms for the opening and closing ceremonies. Local businesses are now being contacted with the Team's fundraising proposal. The selection of uniform color and design is also underway and anyone with an interest in having input into these decisions should contact the uniform committee chair, Jill Schuldt at 228-1596.

Team Portland will hold its second Registration Faire on April 18 from 6 pm to 8 pm at the YWCA, 1111 SW 10th. All Team Portland members and interested parties are invited to attend. This will be an opportunity for athletes to connect with others in their sport and to form teams for practice and workouts. Registration materials and information will also be available. The event is being organized by Lennie Sobocinski who can be contacted at 282-0228 for further information.

The group is considering making available a team jacket. This would be a "letterman" style jacket with the team name and the individual's name printed for a cost of about \$70. Persons interested should contact Adrian at 1-543-3686.

Massachusetts rights lobbyist in Portland

The Lesbian Community Project and the Right to Privacy PAC are delighted to present an evening with Barbara Boring, who successfully lobbied the passage of the lesbian and gay rights bill in Massachusetts last year. Boring will discuss organizing and legislative strategy, and bring us up to date on the referendum effort.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear a success story. Boring's appearance will occur on Saturday, March 10, from 7 to 9 pm, at the Bijou Cafe, 132 SW 3rd. For more information, call Cathy Siemens at 287-9370.

Dogged protester to get police review hearing

After almost one and a half years, Jack Bowsky, will finally be heard by the police internal investigations audit committee regarding a protest of police bureau personnel donning latex gloves while arresting gays and lesbians who participated in the demonstration which closed the Burnside Bridge in the aftermath of the passage of Ballot Measure 8 in November 1988.

The basis of Bowsky's complaint is statements made by David Simpson, chief information officer of the Portland Police Bureau, while answering reporters' questions regarding the use of latex gloves. A video tape shows Simpson saying that the arresting officers donned the gloves because they knew that they would be coming into contact with lesbians and gays. He further stated that the officers have to protect themselves, because they do not know how AIDS is spread.

Two months after the arrests, Carl Goodman, Michael Petrelis and Bowsky met with Captain Roberta Webber, then the liaison to the gay community, and asked for a retraction of Simpson's televised statements. The three pointed out the unnecessary harm done by the police in perpetuating the myth that AIDS can be transmitted by touching gays and lesbians. Police Chief Richard Walker responded to the request for a retraction by stating that Simpson's comments "are accurate and honest and not inappropriate."

In the meantime Petrelis and Goodman left Portland, but Bowsky pursued the matter. On December 17, 1989, the police investigation auditing committee accepted Bowsky's challenge and assigned his complaint to their screening subcommittee. On February 1, 1990, Bowsky gave testimony to the review subcommittee and the following day he was notified that the citizens advisors will conduct an investigations hearing on March 1 when he may testify. The Portland City Council has also scheduled a hearing on the matter on March 8, at 1:45 pm.

At this point, the tenacious Bowsky's demands are: "To restart sensitivity training about the gay and lesbian community as a part of [the Portland Police Bureau's] effort toward community policing. Also, that the gay and lesbian community sit with Chief Walker on policy-making in order to clarify the misunderstandings concerning whether gloves are optional as universal precautions to infectious disease, and to help educate ha on why Simpson's comments were inappropriate and incorrect." ▼



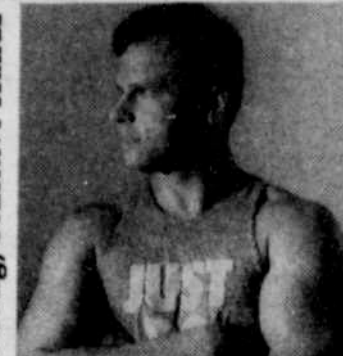
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