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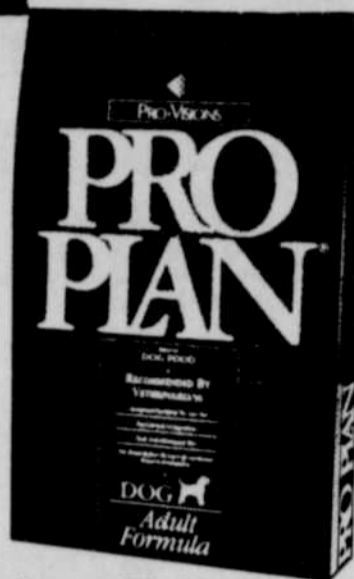


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**JULY 9,
 10 & 11**

local news

Metro works to draw diverse visitors

Despite the scenic beauty, Portland is not viewed as an ideal vacation spot by many. Currently, only three percent of the organizations booking conventions in Portland are made up of people of color. According to the Convention and Visitor Services Network, potential visitors are worried about racist-skinhead activity. The Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission has told the Portland Oregon Visitors Association to develop a plan to attract more minority conventions to Portland.

The Metro councilors recently offered a three-year, \$1.28 million contract to POVA. The visitors association would be required to set aside funds specifically to market Portland to minority populations. Hank Miggins, acting chair of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, presented a resolution calling for the Exposition Center to improve its efforts to attract minority conventions and to include more participation from people of color in all public contracts and hiring.

Community Center meeting planned

Portland's gay, lesbian and bisexual community is inching toward creating a community center. The Oregon Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Cultural Resource Center Task Force has scheduled its first public meeting for Monday, July 26, at 7 pm in room 190 of the Portland State University Business Administration Building.

The task force was started in December 1992 by Larry Taylor and Lyle Sweeney to facilitate the process of founding a center. The group has surveyed 35 local gay and gay-supportive agencies and is hoping for more public input at the meeting. The group is studying other centers around the world. One member, Alexei Guren, helped found the Health Crisis Network in Miami, Florida, and the Gay/Lesbian/Bi Youth Group of So. Florida.

City to help save artifacts

The Portland City Council has pledged to work with local Native Americans to protect artifacts buried in the Columbia South Shore area. Nearly 20 archaeologically significant sites lie along the Columbia River between Northeast 82nd and 185th avenues.

"We need to protect the sacred grounds that we are aware of right now," said Mayor Vera Katz, "then develop a...strategy for dealing with the rest of the land. It's critical that the confederated tribes work with us."

Tribal members say they are pleased with the city's show of support, but will wait and see what actually happens. The city council has not set aside any money for the effort in its 1993-94 budget. The cost of preserving the area is estimated at \$50,000 to \$120,000. The city has spent \$70 million on roads and other improvements to attract industry into the sacred area.

Lesbian and gay physicians to hold annual meeting

The American Association of Physicians for Human Rights, an organization of lesbian and gay doctors and medical students, will hold its annual meeting August 19-21 in Portland. Originally scheduled for Denver, the meeting was moved to Portland to thank Oregon voters for rejecting Ballot Measure 9. The AAPHR also wanted to observe the boycott of Colorado started after the passage of Amendment 2. "We're delighted the

convention is coming to our state," said Portland psychiatrist Peggy Hanley-Hackenbruck. "This is a great opportunity to show voters that there are consequences in the battle for civil rights, and that sometimes people can be rewarded for doing the right thing."

Nuisance law takes effect

An amendment proposed by City Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury to Portland's City Code to help neighbors of disruptive businesses took effect last month. According to Lisa Washington, a staff assistant to Kafoury, the new law is designed to empower neighbors of businesses that encourage or tolerate prostitution or selling alcohol to minors.

The new law doesn't outlaw any new activities, but it does give neighbors a way to deal with what the ordinance describes as a "pattern of disruptive activity." Activity qualifies as a pattern when three or more offenses occur within 50 feet of the business property within a 30-day period, or if six or more offenses are committed within a 90-day period. Law enforcement agencies also have the power to determine if a business is at the center of "a history of serious and persistent problems."

Activities targeted by the Public Peace, Safety and Morals section of the City Code include assault and menacing, sexual abuse, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, sexual misconduct, public indecency, prostitution and alcohol violations. Washington explained that the gauntlet of agencies a complaint goes through should weed out any malicious or homophobic abuse of the ordinance. The police, mayor, city council and city attorney all could prevent such abuses, she explained. Complainants must be willing to testify in court, which should also prevent malicious reports.

MHRC honors activist

The Metropolitan Human Rights Commission has just released the second in a series of posters honoring the work of human-rights activists. The first poster commemorated the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The subject of the new poster is Harvey Milk, the gay-rights activist who was murdered by fellow San Francisco city supervisor Dan White. Both posters were created by local artist Lois Conroy. Other posters to be released in the coming year will feature Ghandi and Abigail Scott Duniway.



"If a bullet should enter my brain, let that bullet destroy every closet door." — Harvey Milk

A copy of the first signed poster was presented to Karen Keeney of the Equity Foundation, which provided the funding for the project. "The Equity Foundation and the Metropolitan Human Rights Commission share the common goal: 'to promote equality and dignity among all people.' The partnership is a natural one," said Helen Cheek, executive director of MHRC, during the presentation.

The posters are available for \$5 each from MHRC, 1120 SW 5th Ave., room 516. Proceeds from the poster sale will go to further the work of the commission on human-rights issues.

Compiled by Irene K. Hislop
 and Ariel Waterwoman