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BANFF NAT. PARK BY HORSE: August 6 - 14

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FAMILY VALUES: August 19 - 22

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BARGING IN FRANCE: Sept. 24 - Oct. 4

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HALLOWEEN-NEW ORLEANS: Oct. 29 - Nov. 2

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Religious-right leader installed at MCC

Dr. Mel White has earned critical acclaim as a best-selling author, a prize-winning filmmaker, and a speech- and ghost-writer for such outspoken religious-right figures as Oliver North, Jerry Falwell, and Pat Robertson. On June 27, Lesbian and Gay Pride Sunday, White was installed as Dean of the Cathedral of Hope Metropolitan Community Church, in Dallas, Texas, the world's largest church with a primary outreach to gay men and lesbians.

Last year White informed religious right colleagues that he was gay. Now he is taking on the task of mobilizing gays and lesbians across the nation. White said, "As Dean of the Cathedral, I have two primary tasks. First, to use my skills and experiences to help my gay brothers and lesbian sisters who are suffering across this nation and around the world. Second, to help cut off that suffering at its source, the religious right."

White believes that the religious right is dedicated to a theocracy rather than a democracy, and fears that instead of separation of church and state, eventually the power of government will be in the right's "trustworthy" hands. To help defeat the religious-right agenda, White has formed Circles of Hope, a national ministry to gays and lesbians living in cities and towns across the nation where there is no visible, active lesbian and gay presence.

Dignity on film

Newsletters of Dignity, a lesbian and gay Catholic organization founded in 1969, have been microfilmed for posterity by the International Gay and Lesbian Archives in West Hollywood, Calif. The archives were founded in 1942 by curator Jim Kepner to preserve lesbian and gay history. The archives include a wide variety of materials available for research. Dignity is the first of its member organizations to be microfilmed. To reach the archives, call 1-310-854-0271.

Southern Baptist loses family members to AIDS

The Rev. Jimmy Allen, one-time head of the Southern Baptist Convention, is losing family members to AIDS. His daughter-in-law, Lydia, was infected during a transfusion and her two sons were born HIV-positive. Lydia and one child have already died. Allen's oldest son, Skip, is gay

and has tested positive for HIV.

Allen's son Scott, an ordained Southern Baptist minister, was forced to resign from his position as an associate at a Colorado Springs, Colo., Disciples of Christ church after the senior pastor learned of Scott's wife and children being infected with AIDS. Several other churches balked at accepting the family.

Jimmy Allen, the last moderate president of the nation's largest Protestant denomination, said, "That was the most excruciating pain of all—seeing that those churches were unable to muster the courage to do the hard thing, the threatening thing, and follow the Founder."

12-Step Haven merges

Since 1986, 12-Step Haven has provided on-site child care for women in recovery from drug and alcohol addictions. About 200 to 300 women, and 150 to 200 children, are served in this one-of-a-kind program each week.

To provide some financial stability, the 12-Step Haven program has merged with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. EMO hopes that the merger will enhance the alcohol and drug recovery resources for women and children. 12-Step Haven is located at 4160 SE Division St.

Cult resource center opens

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon has opened a new program called the Cult Resource Center, continuing the work of Anne and Adrian Greek at the Positive Action Center.

With an estimated 300 cults in Oregon, education is needed to prevent the types of violent eruptions recently witnessed in Waco, Texas. The Center hopes to educate and to provide resource materials to empower individuals to take a closer look at the potential abuses of cults.

For more information, contact director Jason Chastain at 291-7674.

Open and affirming

Portland's First Congregational Church, a member of the United Church of Christ, has pledged to support and affirm all persons, including gays and lesbians. Among the stated goals of the congregation are celebrating diversity, fighting against institutional injustice, seeking an end to violence and civil rights violations against lesbians and gays, and encouraging full involvement in the work and leadership of the congregation.

The church pledges to affirm all relationships founded on principles of love and justice—including committed partnerships of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people—and to support civil-rights advocacy designed to ensure that sexual minorities enjoy the same rights and privileges as heterosexuals.

Compiled by Susan Patrick

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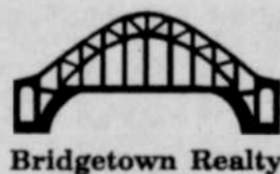
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