

local news

OSMYN receives funding

The Oregon Sexual Minority Youth Network has received a grant of \$7,500 from the Funding Exchange, a New York-based private foundation. "This is a strong beginning for the support we need to let Oregon know that gay, lesbian and bisexual youth exist, that they come from all cultural backgrounds, and that they want their concerns to be heard," said OSMYN Public Communications Director Rachel Gay Ebor. This grant brings the group's total current funding to \$11,500. OSMYN was awarded a grant of \$4000 earlier this year by the MacKenzie River Gathering Foundation.

OSMYN is a multi-generational group whose primary goals are to educate the public about the needs of sexual minority youth, and to provide social support and political empowerment for the youth themselves. One dividend from the new funding is that OSMYN finally has a phone number. To contact a youth member of the executive committee by voice mail, call 243-0538.

Future programs to be supported by the funding are still in the planning stage. To contribute to the process, attend the quarterly meeting of the OSMYN general membership on Monday, Nov. 15. The meeting is free and open to the public, and begins at 6:30 pm at the Multnomah County Youth Program Office, 2nd Floor, 421 SW Fifth Ave., Portland. Youth are especially encouraged to attend. Contact Jim Clay, 248-5464, for details.

U of O ends housing discrimination

A new policy adopted by the University of Oregon will allow unmarried gay, lesbian and heterosexual couples access to student family housing. The decision follows two years of litigation before the Oregon Court of Appeals, sponsored by the Oregon Gay and Lesbian Law Association, on the case *Piazza vs. University of Oregon*. The case was filed by Ann Marie Piazza, U of O student and member of the campus Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance, after her application to live in student family housing with her partner was denied. Piazza and the LGBA charged in a brief to the Court of Appeals that the denial violated the university's own rules against discrimination, state law, and the state and federal constitutions.

In documents filed before the court, university Chancellor Thomas A. Bartlett stated, "the current rule no longer makes any distinction that ... could be related to sexual orientation ... [U]nlike the former housing policy, the current policy is entirely neutral as to marriage and, therefore, as to sexual orientation as well."

Lesbians on the loose

After a regrettable two-year hiatus, Lesbians on the Loose (formerly Women in the Woods) is planning another weekend getaway at Breitenbush Hot Springs, scheduled for April 29-May 1, 1994. The group will reserve the entire camp, offering workshops and the opportunity to cavort around a Beltane fire with over 100 women. The many avenues to relaxation at Breitenbush include hiking trails through old growth forest, hot tubs, a swimming hole, sauna, library and sanctuary.

LOL needs \$11,000 to reserve the Breitenbush facilities. They emphatically urge women to register by Nov. 27, 1993. Registrants will be notified in January 1994 if the event will take place. If not, money will be refunded minus a small amount for printing and mailing costs. The registration fee is sliding scale, from \$111 to \$181. (Any extra money sent will go toward a scholarship fund.) The fee includes meals, lodging, use of all facilities and workshops. The event is wheelchair accessible. Sign language interpreters are available on request. For a registration form, or for scholarship or other information, call 239-5586. Or write: Lesbians on the Loose, PO Box 559, 1610 NE Broadway, Portland, OR 97232.

Gail Shibley joins action commission

The Board of County Commissioners has appointed state Rep. Gail Shibley to a post on the Multnomah County Community Action Commission. The commission advocates for the empowerment of low-income citizens, promoting equitable access to county resources and fighting poverty, hunger and hopelessness.

Currently the commission is working to replace low-income housing edged out by the planned construction of a new federal courthouse, restructuring services for homeless adults and improving access to services for the low-income Latino/a community.

Shibley, who has completed two legislative terms, has served on the House Committee on Housing and Urban Development, the Children's Care Team, the House Committee on Children and Families and the House Revenue and School Finance Committee. Constituents and fellow lawmakers laud her as accessible, effective and fair.

The Community Action Commission meets the second Wednesday of each month from 7-9 pm in the Mead Building, 421 SW 5th Ave., in Portland. The public is welcome.

Compiled by Kelly M. Bryan

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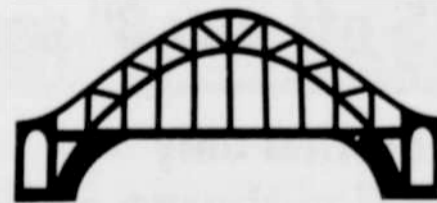
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