



Lane County program bans children's books

Heather Has Two Mommies and *Daddy's Roommate* are among books removed from a federally funded Head Start program in Lane County. The books, which were part of an anti-bias curriculum for pre-schoolers, were banned after the Oregon Citizens Alliance accused the program of pushing a "pro-homosexual agenda." The curriculum, published by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, deals with diversity issues such as physical disability, ethnicity and gender, as well as sexual orientation.

Only books dealing with sexual orientation were removed. But Patty Duncan, OCA county director, said she will work to scrap the whole anti-bias curriculum.

Suit filed against Boyz Bar management

A \$434,000 lawsuit has been filed against Restaurant Services, Inc., which operates The Fish Grotto, Boxx's and Boyz Bar, charging negligence and age discrimination in an incident where security guards expelled a man from Boyz Bar.

Roberto Reyes-Colon charges that on Sept. 9, 1993, "without provocation or privilege," a bouncer grabbed him by the back of his head while he was dancing with a friend at Boyz Bar. He further charges that the bouncer then "pounced on [him] and bodily ejected him from Boyz Bar by dragging him down a long hallway with his arm twisted behind his back." Reyes-Colon says he suffered injuries from the incident, including the dislocation of his right shoulder. Reyes-Colon was then taken to Hooper Detox Center, where he waited until he was discharged. He said that he was not intoxicated at any time that night.

Reyes-Colon, 49, claims that the action was motivated by age discrimination. He charges that Restaurant Services "cater[s] to and encourage[s] patronage of a class of persons distinguished by their youth."

Dan Zilka, owner of Restaurant Services, Inc., denied the allegations. He said that the age discrimination charge is "totally frivolous."

Along with the assault and battery charge, the suit accuses the company of both negligent hiring practices and failure to provide proper training and supervision for its workers.

Lesbian and Gay Pride events set

Organizers of this year's Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade, set for July 9, are working to raise \$22,500 for the event from private donations and corporate sponsorship, said Eric Brown, chairman of the pride committee. Brown said the group hopes to raise at least \$5,000 from private donations. Brenda Jacobs, who helped organize the No on 9 victory rally, has been hired as the event planner, and she is working on getting sponsorships from local businesses.

A seven-member committee has been formed to both organize this year's event and to create a long-term structure to ensure smooth planning of future Lesbian and Gay Pride events.

Meanwhile, a route has been established for the July 9 parade. The parade will start at Southwest Broadway and Market Street, move through downtown Portland and end at the North Park Blocks. A street dance is planned for the night before.

The theme for this year's parade is Stonewall 25: A Global Celebration of Pride and Progress. For more information, call (503)295-9788.

Washington group aims to keep explicit material from children

The Citizens Alliance of Washington, the OCA-spin-off that is working to keep civil rights guarantees from sexual minorities in Washington state, filed an initiative last week that would keep sexually explicit library materials away from children.

Libraries would be required to put sexually explicit books and materials out of reach of people under 18, according to Sam Woodard, executive director of CAW.

"This isn't a censorship initiative," Woodard said in a recent *Oregonian* article. "It wouldn't keep books by Hemingway or Mark Twain away from children. It would just keep trash such as the book *The Joy of Gay Sex* out of their hands in libraries. It would not affect adult accessibility."

The initiative has been submitted to the Legislature, and sponsors have until Dec. 30 to collect 181,667 signatures.

Compiled by Pamela Lyons

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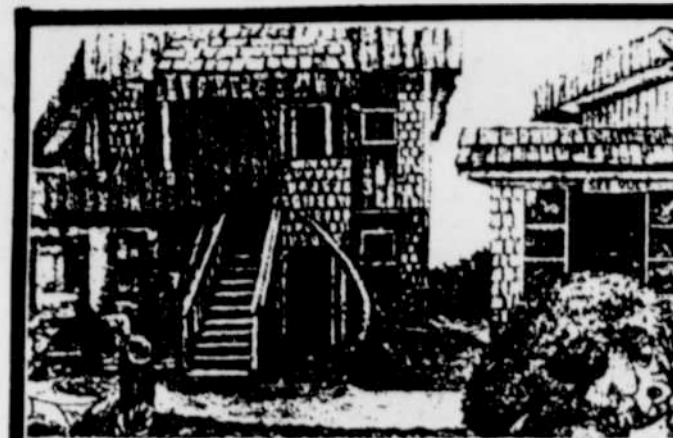
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