

Thrift store to benefit people with AIDS and HIV

Thrift & Give 4 Life, a thrift store that will donate all its proceeds to local organizations serving people with HIV and AIDS, will open in Portland sometime this spring. Paul Smith, who is organizing the store, said he began planning the non-profit organization after he learned he was HIV positive.

"I feel this is a good way of unifying our community because it allows people to get involved in many different ways, and the money helps those desperately in need," Smith said. Similar stores operate in other U.S. cities, such as Chicago.

Proceeds from Thrift & Give 4 Life will benefit agencies such as Esther's Pantry, the Friends of People with AIDS Foundation and Our House. Esther's Pantry provides food and personal care items to people with AIDS. The Friends of People with AIDS Foundation is a volunteer association that assists people living with AIDS in meeting daily needs such as grocery shopping, clothing and meals. Our House is a residential care facility for people in the last stages of AIDS.

Organizers hope to raise \$5,000 for the store, which should cover expenses for three months. Fund-raising events thus far have included a Queer Night at La Luna and an auction at Scandals earlier this month.

Organizers are seeking a space large enough for a center for gay, lesbian and bisexual youth and for community meetings and social gatherings. Possible locations include the Hawthorne district, Old Town and the John's Landing area.

For more information on the store, or to make donations, call 241-2446 or visit local sponsors such as The Cat's Meow, Spartacus Leathers, Presents of Mind and The Goddess Gallery.

Scholarship formed in honor of Gladys McCoy

A \$300,000 campaign began last month for an endowed scholarship in honor of Gladys McCoy,

the late Multnomah County Commission chairwoman.

McCoy served on the Portland School Board and was a staunch advocate for social programs. The scholarship will be awarded to ethnically diverse graduate students from Oregon and southwest Washington attending Portland State University's Graduate School of Social Work. McCoy earned a master's degree from the school in 1967.

"Gladys McCoy was committed to change in this community and committed to making [the community] a better place," said campaign head Kay Toran. "This scholarship in her name will bring benefits to the community for generations to come."

For more information on the scholarship, call Northwest Strategies at 241-8383.

Katz increases services for domestic violence survivors

Portland Mayor Vera Katz has announced a proposal to increase the number of shelter beds and staff to assist survivors of domestic violence.

The proposed budget provides \$115,000 for the operation of the Peninsula Transitional Program. The money would be used to provide beds and ongoing transitional services for women housed at the shelter.

In addition, \$200,000 would be appropriated to increase the number of emergency and transitional shelter beds available in the city and to provide additional assistance to women and children.

Also, Multnomah County Chairwoman Bev Stein is proposing that the county allocate \$200,000 for programs to assist women and children who are survivors of domestic abuse. "It's important that the city and county work as a team to ease the suffering created by this problem and to help women and children get their lives back on track," Stein said.

The proposal is part of the mayor's proposed budget for fiscal year 1994-95, which was presented April 8.

Compiled by Pamela Lyons



The scene at Lamb's Peacock Lane Thriftway on March 19.

Rally held to support farmworkers' boycott

About 100 people gathered in front of Lamb's Peacock Lane Thriftway, in southeast Portland, March 19 to support the boycott of Steinfeld's, FLAV-R-PAC and Santiam products that is being organized by the farmworkers union Pinos y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United). The rally marked the presentation of a petition signed by 2,032 Thriftway customers and neighborhood residents asking the store not to carry the boycotted products.

The boycott was called in 1992 in PCUN's campaign for collective bargaining rights at

Kraemer Farms of Mt. Angel. Steinfeld's and NORPAC, the maker of FLAV-R-PAC and Santiam products, are the primary distributors of Kraemer Farms produce.

Among groups represented at the rally were Jobs with Justice, the Rainbow Coalition, the Hotel Workers Organizing Committee, the National Association of Letter Carriers, Earth First!, the National Lawyers Guild and the Laborers Union Local 483.

The PCUN Boycott Committee has been generating community support for the boycott in Portland for more than a year by leafleting, canvassing and giving public presentations.

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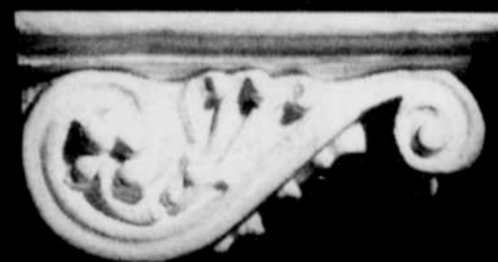
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