

David Allen investigated

The Multnomah County district attorney's office and the Oregon State Bar Association are looking into whether Portland attorney David Allen may have helped a drug addict buy the heroin that led to his death.

Stephen T. Lewis, 25, was found dead in Allen's home in March, the day after he was released from the Justice Center jail. Allen told investigators he tried to take Lewis to a drug treatment residential program, but could not get him there before it closed for the night.

Allen said he was unable to rouse Lewis in the morning, and called 9-1-1.

The Oregon Citizens Alliance has been using the incident as fuel for its latest homophobic initiative. Allen helped defeat the OCA's 1992 effort to legislate discrimination and is also a leader in the Oregon Gay and Lesbian Law Association.

OCA leader Lon Mabon has accused the media of downplaying the story of Lewis' death. He says stories that show gay men and lesbians in a negative light are routinely under-reported, and said the Lewis case highlights what happens when society lowers its standards on homosexuality.

"If this was one of the leaders of the OCA or another leader of a pro-family organization, this would be big news all over the state," Mabon told *The Oregonian*.

Opponents of the OCA's latest ballot measure say the conservative group is using the incident as a means to get votes.

Starbucks discrimination suit settled

Mediation led to settlement of a federal discrimination suit against Starbucks Corp. by two former employees who say they were fired because of their race, age and sex.

The lawsuit was filed in December by Traeci Coleman and Lynn Kowats. Coleman claimed that Stuart Fields, currently a regional vice-president for the Seattle-based coffee company, told her that he wanted to refer to her by a derogatory nickname. Following her objection, Coleman asserts, Fields ostracized her. He fired her within two months of the incident.

Kowats witnessed the incident and came to Coleman's defense. Kowats claims that Fields began directing discriminatory comments to-



wards her about her age and sex. She was fired several months later.

AIDS education efforts failing some cultures

Speakers at a health conference say that language barriers and other cultural differences are hampering the efficacy of AIDS prevention efforts in Latino/a, Native American and other communities.

At a community health conference held this month at the Chemawa Indian School, health workers said that problems in reaching some cultures leave people at risk. Freddy Calla Waiwa, of the Cascade AIDS Project, said that only limited information is available in Spanish. Nationally, Latino/a people represent 9 percent of the population, but 16 percent of AIDS cases.

Collaborating cultures

The Mittleman Jewish Community Center and the Portland International Performance Festival will present the play *Crossing the Broken Bridge*, a collaboration of Jewish and African American cultures. Examining the forces that divide and unite communities, the play attempts to address stereotypes, racism and anti-Semitism with humor and compassion.

Performances are set for 8 pm Saturday, Oct. 15, and 2 pm and 7 pm Sunday, Oct. 16, at the Allotting Theater, 3017 SE Milwaukie Ave. Tickets are \$16, \$13 or \$10 general admission, with \$2 off for seniors and students.

Compiled by Martha Allen

Sexual minorities and police working together

As we move into another potentially violent election season, many people in the community are thinking about safety. Members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual and cross-dressing communities have been meeting with members of the Portland Police Bureau for several years now to address this issue and others. Much work is being done at Sexual Minorities Roundtable



meetings to ensure the safety of our communities. Many may remember the 1992 meeting held at the Northwest Service Center with community leaders and members of the Portland Police. We talked about strategy and how to keep ourselves

and our businesses safe on election night. Leaders in the community were given pagers by police and contact numbers for officers on call. Police barricades were made ready on Stark Street in case gay-bashers started trouble. A rumor-control line was established by the bureau. Officers were posted throughout the city at known target areas for violence against queers. This included the homes of people who had received bomb threats. An all-out effort was made to keep people safe on election night.

The same precautions will be taken on election night this year, if the Oregon Citizen Alliance's discriminatory Ballot Measure 13 stays on the ballot.

Just Out will publish details, meeting times, etc., as they arise.

Members of the Sexual Minority Roundtable have drafted a working partnership agreement between the sexual minority communities and the Portland Police Bureau. Community involvement in drawing up this agreement is very important. The next meeting of the round table is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 13, from noon to 1:30 pm. It is vital to have input from as wide a range of people in our communities as possible. This type of partnership agreement is unprecedented.

Ariel Waterwoman

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