

letters

You're welcome, Vera

To the Editor:

Thanks to your support of human and civil rights, the City of Portland has included a domestic partnership provision in all new labor contracts. For the first time, nonmarried city employees or domestic partners will be eligible for full spousal benefits, including: medical, dental, and vision health care insurance; life insurance; parental leave benefits; and health care insurance coverage for dependent children.

You may also be pleased to know that the City of Portland has recently defeated in court two legal challenges to our Civil Rights Ordinance.

While I am pleased with these two steps forward, I don't need to tell you there is still much work to be done. You have my assurance that my work on behalf of gay and lesbian Oregonians will continue.

I am fortunate to have, as part of my office staff, Kim Roth as a volunteer liaison to the sexual minority community. As always, please feel free to call me, my chief of staff Sam Adams, or Kim, regarding any issue of concern. You may reach any one of us at 823-4120.

Vera Katz,
Mayor of Portland

Rough spots acknowledged

To the Editor:

The board of directors of Pride Northwest, Inc., extends its thanks to the many members of our community who contributed to the wonderful success of the 1994 Lesbian and Gay Pride celebration.



The board of directors of Pride Northwest, Inc., also wishes to acknowledge to the community that there were a few rough spots in the many months of planning and countless hours of volunteer effort leading up to the pride celebration. In particular, Pride Northwest, Inc., wishes to acknowledge some miscommunications between it and Janna MacAuslan [of] Alternative Sound relating to sound production services for the celebration. Pride Northwest, Inc., regrets any such miscommunications.

Eric D. Brown
Chairman, Pride Northwest, Inc.

Count your blessings

To the Editor:

In her recent letter [Just Out, Aug. 5, 1994] Janna MacAuslan complained about not getting hired to assist Pride Northwest, Inc., with this year's Lesbian and Gay Pride festivities. Instead, MacAuslan should be counting her blessings.

I was hired to help with the pride activities this

year, and I'm the one who should be complaining. I agreed to design the logo for the event for the \$250 budgeted by the board of directors. (This is half the amount I usually charge smaller nonprofit organizations for such a service.) In return, I agreed to volunteer my graphic design services in the design and production of pins, T-shirts, posters, ads, the program and other promotional materials, as my contribution to the community. I created over 25 individual pieces of marketing, advertising and promotional material. In the process, I incurred expenses of nearly \$140.

Today I was told I cannot be paid or reimbursed for my expenses, because Pride Northwest, Inc., has no money. Brenda Jacobs, who was hired to produce this year's event and who did a commendable job of promotion, coordination and getting sponsors, has told me she will reimburse me for expenses out of her own pocket. This is something she should not have to do. I would assume the Pride Northwest, Inc., board of directors should be the responsible party. In addition, Jacobs is the only person associated with the activities who has ever thanked me for my efforts.

At least once or twice a week I am approached by organizations asking for the donation or partial contribution of my services. These organizations are not all from the gay community, but, for some reason, those groups from within the community are the ones most likely to have a lack of appreciation for the effort of volunteers—and the ones most likely to not live up to financial obligations. I base my statement on over 10 years of experience dealing with gay and lesbian groups throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Thankfully there are the wonderful exceptions such as Triangle Productions, the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association, Seattle Men's Chorus, Advocates for Gay and Lesbian Equality, and others. These organizations treat their volunteers with professional respect and a great deal of appreciation.

I strongly disagree with those who feel I owe something to the gay and lesbian community because I am a gay man. I am not a gay graphic designer. I am a graphic designer who happens to be gay. Being gay is not the focus of my professional career.

Why does Portland's gay and lesbian community have to reinvent the wheel each year in planning a celebration of our "pride"? Is a weekend celebration leaving financial obligation and a number of community members disenfranchised for a variety of reasons (including not being hired and being hired but not paid) a worthwhile use of our time, energy and money? Is it something in which we can be "proud," and how does it look to the community at large? In order to be truly proud of ourselves, it is time to take a good look at those we entrust and charge with presenting a positive image of our community.

Jeff Fisher
Portland

TRANSITIONS

Saturday market vendor passes

Raymond Lee Stein, a longtime Portland resident, died Tuesday, Aug. 16, in San Diego, Calif., from AIDS-related complications. Ray, 38, moved to San Diego several months ago to enjoy the weather. In years past he was a regular vendor at Saturday Market. Most recently he was a machinist for the Freightliner Corp. Ray enjoyed the outdoors, bicycling, country music, square dancing and two-stepping. He is survived by several friends, as well as his estranged parents and twin sister of Portland. At his request, Ray's remains will be scattered by friends in several outdoor Northwest locations.

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We are pleased to announce...

...ANDREA PROUT has joined the staff of Travel Agents International, in the position of Corporate Travel Manager.

Andrea has over 8 years experience in the travel industry, with a strong background in both Corporate and International Travel. She has also been an active supporter within our community, most recently with the Cascade AIDS Project. Andrea will head our Corporate Travel Department.

From all of us at T A I -

"Welcome, Andrea!"

Rip, Jessica, Jim, and Michael

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