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local news

Katz seeks more diversity

Portland Mayor Vera Katz says she'd like to see more diversity on the city's 45 boards and commissions.

"We're committed to making our boards and commissions reflective of the community at large," says Katz. She is currently inviting people "from all walks of life" to apply for openings. According to city officials, current board and commission representation is comparable to the 1990 census breakdown of Portland's population, although Native American representation lags behind.



Mayor Vera Katz

The mayor and city commissioners appoint community representatives to serve terms ranging from two to four years. Those interested should contact the Office of Neighborhood Associations at (503) 823-4519.

Irving faces protesters

David Irving—the British citizen who publicly promotes the theory that the Nazi Holocaust did not happen—was met by an angry crowd of protesters during his visit to a Portland church Oct. 10.

An estimated 200 protesters representing an array of groups including the Coalition for Human Dignity, the American Jewish Committee, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, and Congregation Havurah Shalom attended a vigil outside of Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church in Southeast Portland. About 100 people attended Irving's speech inside the church.

"Irving trades on his reputation as a 'historian' to spread anti-Semitic propaganda and to rehabilitate the Third Reich," says Steven Gardiner, CHD research director. "The ultimate effect of Irving's Holocaust denial is to promote a new Nazi movement that has taken its toll in human lives."

According to Gardiner, Irving is banned in five countries—Austria, Australia, Canada, France and Germany—and has strong ties to the European neo-Nazi movement. CHD says it has found evidence that Irving's speaking date was handled by a "neo-Nazi organization called Northwest Concern, which seeks to create an all-white 'Aryan state' in the Pacific Northwest."

New group seeks members to develop local archives

Gay men and lesbians in Oregon have a long and rich heritage that needs to be recognized and preserved, says local historian Tom Cook, who is forming a new group for those interested in developing a gay and lesbian archive.

The group will meet Oct. 24 at 7:30 pm at Portland State University, Room 28, Smith Memorial Center, 1825 SW Broadway. For more information, call 284-1872.

This year there are many ways to give

This fall, employees of federal, state, and many local governments can donate directly to Equity Foundation—a community fund established by the gay and lesbian community—at their workplace.

The foundation, whose list of grantees includes the Lesbian Community Project, the Portland Gay

Men's Chorus, and The NAMES Project, is participating in the federal Charitable Fund Campaign, the State Combined Fund Drive, and workplace giving campaigns at Metro, Tri-Met, Multnomah County, Portland Public Schools, and the cities of Portland and Eugene. People who work for other employers may designate donations to Equity Foundation through local United Way "Specific Giving" programs.

Equity Foundation, a statewide foundation which was established in 1989, has awarded more than \$225,000 in grants to 75 organizations which support an "improvement in community life for all people," including many lesbian and gay organizations.

Seattle activists lend a hand

Activists from Seattle's Stonewall Committee for Lesbian/Gay Rights will join with Oregon's Bigot Busters to oppose a slew of Oregon initiatives, including Ballot Measure 13. The group will conduct a door-to-door canvass through Northeast Portland on Oct. 22.

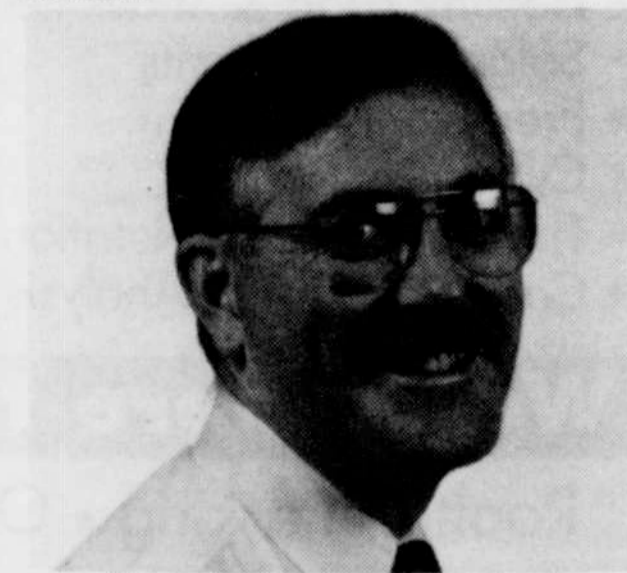
"Canvassing is an effective way to educate the public on the multi-issue threat posed by the [Oregon Citizens Alliance] and other right-wing groups," says Bigot Buster organizer Jordana Sardo. She adds that the group will speak out against initiatives it views as detrimental to not only gay men and lesbians, but "working people, the poor and people of color."

For more information, call (503) 228-3090.

Grant proposals sought for HIV/AIDS projects

Two joint projects of The Research & Education Group and Art/AIDS—the Living with HIV Fund and the Paul Michael Starr Education Fund—are currently accepting proposals for funding for HIV/AIDS projects.

The Living with HIV Fund will finance two or more proposals ranging from \$10,000 to \$60,000 for the implementation of out-of-hospital programs and services. Since 1987, the Living with HIV Fund has awarded more than \$280,000 in grants to Oregon nonprofit organizations serving people with HIV.



Paul Starr

The Paul Michael Starr Education Fund is seeking applicants for a \$10,000 grant to be awarded to an Oregon organization dedicated to HIV/AIDS education. This fund will focus on a project that encourages innovative peer-based outreach and education targeted at 14- to 22-year-olds; focuses on young women at risk of HIV infection; and displays an awareness of the varying education needs of communities of color.

The deadline for proposals for both projects is Nov. 1. Grant applications may be obtained by contacting Anne Clark, The Research & Education Group, 2701 NW Vaughn St., Suite 770, Portland, OR 97210; 778-5694.

Compiled by Inga Sorensen