

## Scholarships available to sexual minorities

Representatives from the Greater Seattle Business Association and the Pride Foundation say applications are currently available for their 1995 scholarship programs. With awards of up to \$3,000, the scholarships are intended to support leadership development, enhance self-esteem, and promote diversity in the sexual minority community.

Scholarships are available for college, creative or vocational training, and other post-secondary education. In addition to general scholarships—which are open to all gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth and adults—there are specific scholarships that target gay men of color and students raised in lesbian and gay families.

GSBA, sometimes referred to as Seattle's "gay and lesbian Chamber of Commerce," includes more than 600 members who have joined together to support the lesbian and gay professional community. GSBA scholarships are targeted at undergraduate students who are Washington state residents and "demonstrate [a] need and potential leadership for the gay and lesbian community."

The Pride Foundation is a community-based foundation "dedicated to strengthening our lesbian and gay community." Since 1987, Pride has provided \$600,000 to 100 nonprofit organizations involved in youth services, AIDS education, and a wide range of health and human service programs. Since 1992, Pride has awarded five scholarships to Seattle-area men of color, as well as two unrestricted scholarships. In 1995, Pride will award its first Cole/Stewart scholarship for students raised in lesbian and gay families.

Applications, which are due March 1, can be obtained by calling GSBA at (206) 443-4722, or the Pride Foundation at (206) 323-3318.

## Hopewell Apartments may offer hope to underserved population

Backers of Hopewell Apartments, a planned residence catering to those with a combination of HIV and mental illness, are calling it a "one of a kind" facility.

"To the best of my knowledge there isn't a facility out there that is designed specifically for people who have mental illnesses and HIV," explains Neil Beroz, the director of housing development for Network Behavioral HealthCare Inc., a nonprofit social services organization in Portland. Network Behavioral HealthCare recently joined with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, which rep-

resents 17 denominations and 2,000 congregations statewide, for a ground-breaking ceremony to initiate construction of the \$1 million apartment complex.

The 12-unit complex will feature fully equipped one- and two-bedroom apartments. The residence, which is slated to open in September 1995, will be located adjacent to the EMO's Hopewell House, a residential hospice at 6171 SW Capitol Highway in Portland. Apartment residents, says Beroz, must be able to live independently, though an on-site services manager will be on hand to ensure residents receive the proper care and services.

"Our needs assessment suggests that this is a population that is incredibly underserved," he says. "We're talking about people who may have had a pre-existing mental illness and contracted HIV, or folks with HIV who become increasingly mentally incapacitated as their disease progresses. There are facilities that cater to one population or the other, but not to a population affected by both mental illness and HIV."

According to Beroz, Network Behavioral HealthCare and EMO have service agreements with Multnomah County and Legacy HealthCare, which will provide early intervention services to Hopewell Apartments residents.

Barbara George, EMO's deputy director, says, "This new facility will ease the situation that terminally ill patients often find themselves facing, that is, premature or inappropriate institutionalization and living without access to needed services."

The project is being funded through grants of \$722,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; \$100,000 from the Oregon State Housing Development Program; and \$70,000 from the Portland Development Commission, Beroz says. The balance will come from other grant sources and private donations.

## Merrill receives prison time

Ben N. Merrill, a former Oregon attorney who was active in AIDS and gay and lesbian rights issues throughout the years, has been sentenced to one year and two months in prison after pleading guilty to defrauding a client of more than \$120,000.

U.S. District Judge Robert E. Jones handed down that sentence last month to the 47-year-old Merrill, who admitted to taking the money after he was hired to handle cash belonging to a client's elderly uncle. Merrill also acknowledged falsifying Internal Revenue Service documents to cover the theft.

Earlier this year, Merrill went to Washington, D.C., to help coordinate the federal government's response to the AIDS pandemic. When allegations of his improprieties surfaced, Merrill resigned from the Oregon State Bar. Merrill's attorney reportedly says his client hopes to establish an AIDS education program in prison.

*Reported by Inga Sorensen*

## TRANSITIONS

### Fun-loving bartender will be missed

Robert "Bobby" Reed passed away, in the early morning hours of Dec. 2 at the home of his loving friends Dan and George, from complications of AIDS.

Bobby was well known in the gay community in Portland, having worked at the Embers, JOQ's and the Three Sisters, as well as several restaurants.

Bobby will be remembered for his fun-loving, outgoing personality and his generous ways. Whether as "Roxanne," the trashy drag queen, or as himself, he will be deeply missed by those who

loved him.

Bobby is survived by his companion of five years, Steve Bouller, his parents, brothers, sisters and other relatives.

Graveside services were held Dec. 5, 1994, in Hillsboro, Ore.

### Playful spirit lost

Richard Braden, a Portland resident throughout the 1980s, died in San Francisco, Calif., after a short, fierce battle with cancer. He was an inspired composer of electronic music.

Ric is survived by his longtime partner, Wayne. His loving, playful creativity, his music and his spirit will be missed.

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