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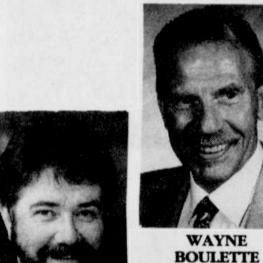
- Roundtrip Airfare
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local news

Dates for Portland pride events tentatively set

It may seem a bit early to some, but the planning is already underway for Portland's 1995 lesbian and gay pride parade.



Organizers say the annual parade and festival is tentatively set for June 17, with a dance slated for the night before. The event will be held at Waterfront Park.

Organizers say there will be no fees to participate in the parade, though donations are requested. They also say the fees for the booths at the festival site are lower than in years past.

The international theme for 1995 gay and lesbian pride events is "From Silence to Celebration." For more information, call the Pride Phone Line at 295-9788.

RTP taps new co-chairs

Portland attorney Lisa Maxfield and Portland realtor Fred Ross have been named the new cochairs of Right to Privacy, Oregon's oldest and largest gay and lesbian rights advocacy organization.

"It's like the work Lon Mabon does," says Maxfield, an attorney with Ransom, Blackman & Weil. "Except we both have other full-time jobs and do this for free."

Ross, a realtor with Cronin & Caplan, adds: "The time is right for full civil rights protection for lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. The work is paying off."

The pair head up an 18-member board of directors, composed of 12 women and six men from Portland, Eugene, Bend and Klamath Falls. Right to Privacy is actually two organizations—Right to Privacy Political Action Committee, which formed in 1981 and last year raised and contributed \$100,000 to candidates and campaigns supportive of sexual minority rights, and Right to Privacy Inc. which is involved in education and lobbying efforts.

Business owners receive appreciation awards

Two Portland business owners are being recognized for their work on behalf of people with HIV/AIDS.

Rip Rupinski, owner of Travel Agents International, and Debbie Peters, owner of Pet Set, recently received Appreciation Awards from the Friends of People with AIDS Foundation.

The awards are presented to people in the community "who have gone above and beyond the call of service."

Rupinski is responsible for the foundation's receiving "bonus travel dollars" through a program that says for each \$100 spent, one dollar will be donated to the group as a bonus dollar. The money has allowed the foundation to provide travel for clients and families in order to give them much-needed time to share their love and support.

Peters started the foundation's Pet Fund "so that people who are HIV-positive can have assistance with the care of their pet friends."

Legislative package aimed at women's health issues

A package of 17 bills, known as the Oregon Women's Health and Wellness Act 1995, is currently being considered by state lawmakers.

Among the bills is House Bill 2943, which creates a \$500 fine for perpetrators of domestic violence and sexual assault. The money would go into a fund to support shelters and crisis centers in Oregon. Backers say the bill is needed because in a recent one-year period, 10,000 Oregon women and families were turned away from shelters due to lack of available space. House Bill 2947 would require lottery economic development grant recipients to have affirmative action plans in place, while House Bill 2945 and House Bill 2946 would prohibit the use of gender to influence setting life and auto insurance rates.



House Bill 2948 would allow women to selfrefer to a provider of their choice for their gynecological and maternity care rather than waiting for a referral by a "gatekeeper" physician. A breast cancer research measure (no bill number is available yet) asks the U.S. Congress to maintain current funding for breast cancer research; House Bill 2953, meanwhile, would allow federal funds to be appropriated to Oregon for the establishment of a cancer-tracking system.

The package was introduced by Kate Brown (D-Portland).

Bill seeks to strengthen right to determine disposition of remains

Oregon state Rep. George Eighmey (D-Portland) has introduced a bill which would give citizens the right to choose how their remains are disposed of.

"Most people think that if you say 'I want to be buried,' that is enough," says Eighmey. "That isn't the case."

Current state law allows citizens, in their wills, to request how their remains will be treated. The final authority, however, rests with the next of kin.

Eighmey says the legislation, House Bill 2524, would also allow the appointed representative of the deceased's estate to decide how the remains are treated in the absence of any personal request.

"Right now if someone dies, relatives that person hasn't seen in years may be able to decide what happens to the remains. These relatives may not be familiar with or may not care about the final wishes of the deceased."

Twenty-eight members of the House and three Senate members have signed on to HB 2524.

Compiled by Inga Sorensen