

Reformed Aryan Nations leader plans Oregon tour

Floyd Cochran, a former high-ranking official with Aryan Nations, a white supremacist group that espouses racist and Nazi ideology, will be touring Oregon throughout April and May. The tour is being organized by Beyond The Closet, a Bend-based gay and lesbian organization, in cooperation with the Rural Organizing Project.

Cochran served as the propaganda and media contact for Aryan Nations in the early 1990s and organized youth-recruiting drives in Oregon, Washington and Tennessee. He left the group in 1992 upon being told his son would eventually be euthanized by the Nations because he had a cleft palate, which the group viewed as a "genetic defect."

In his early days away from the organization, Cochran was taken under the wing of members of the Jewish and African American communities, who helped shatter the racist and fascist stereotypes Cochran once held so tightly. He now tours the country talking about the dangers of the radical right, with emphasis on white supremacist organizations.

Cochran will speak in Bend on April 20. For further information, contact Beyond The Closet at 317-8966.

Our House gets new executive director

Robert E. Leverenz has been named the new executive director of Our House of Portland, a residential care facility for people in the latter stages of AIDS.

Leverenz, who started in the position on March 6, was the clinical supervisor at AIDS Foundation Houston in Texas prior to coming to Portland. For 25 years he served United Methodist parishes in Iowa before focusing on HIV/AIDS issues. In 1991 he joined the staff of AIDS Foundation Houston Inc. where, as clinical supervisor, he was responsible for overseeing the provision of social services to more than 2,000 clients.

Leverenz succeeds Terry Voss, who directed Our House for five years before leaving to pursue new endeavors.

Our House is a nonprofit organization. For more information about the organization, call 234-0175.

EMO honors HIV/AIDS leaders

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon has named the award recipients for its Second Annual HIV Honor Awards event to be held Monday, April 24, at 6 pm at Portland's Hilton Hotel.

The winners, selected from more than 100 nominations received from throughout Oregon, will be honored for their outstanding work in addressing the needs of those living with HIV/AIDS. They include: Jack Cox of Portland, who produces cable-access programming focusing on people with HIV; William Jamison, a longtime advocate for people living with AIDS, and provided significant leadership in the development of the ART AIDS benefit; Dr. Mark Loveless, a physician who serves as director of the Infectious Disease Clinic for the University of Oregon Health Sciences University, who is known for his efforts in treating people with HIV; and Kay Nelson, who lost a child to AIDS and has served as president of the Mid-Oregon AIDS Support Services.

Also being honored are: Thomas Redfield, MD, of Eugene for his efforts to develop Acorn House, an AIDS hospice care program in Eugene; Billy Russo of Roseburg, who began working on HIV-related issues in 1981 and is recognized in particular for his development of Ruby House, which has served more than 150 people since

1988; Frank Schreckenberger, founder of The Brinker Fund; and Terry Voss, who is an active member of the First United Methodist Church's committee on "Church and Sexuality."

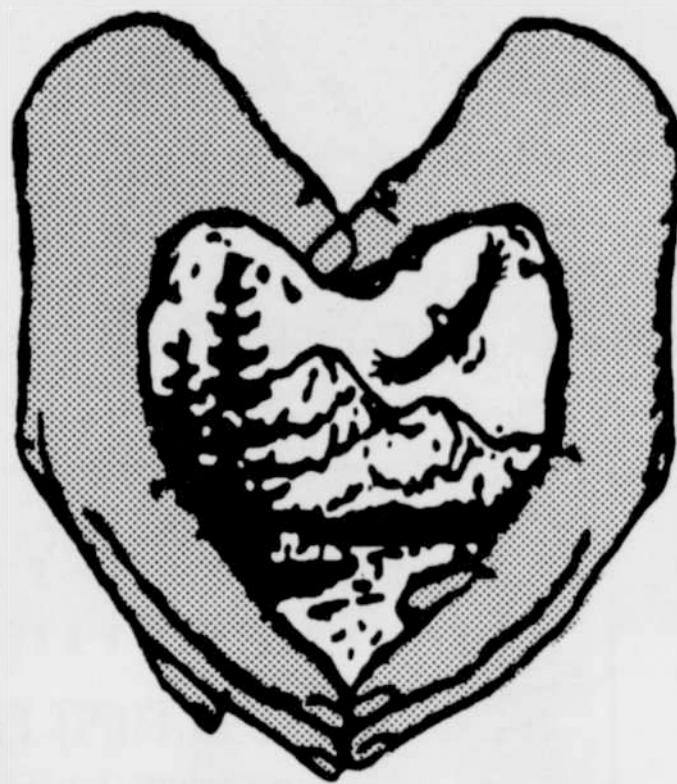
Tickets for the award ceremony are available from EMO by calling 221-1054.

Conference celebrates Earth Day '95

To mark the 25th anniversary of Earth Day, a group of Portland area organizations is inviting the public to look beyond the nuts and bolts of "reduce, reuse, recycle."

Earth Day '95: Native Cosmology and the Emerging Culture, a conference slated to run April 21 and 22, will explore the spiritual roots of environmentalism and examine traditional Native American spiritual practices and contemporary Christianity as they relate to environmental problems. Native American leaders and spiritual elders will offer their views on Native cosmology; Creation Spirituality theologian Matthew Fox, Jesus scholar Marcus Borg, and Native American scholar and author Paula Gunn Allen will give presentations.

The event begins at 7 pm Friday, April 21,



with a keynote address by Fox. On Saturday, April 22, several workshops and presentations will be given between 10 am and 6 pm. The event, which will be held at the Living Enrichment Center in Wilsonville, is co-sponsored by The Earth and Spirit Council, LEC, Community Connexions, and Beyond Words Publishing Inc. For ticket information, call 452-4483.

Area softball association joins national alliance

Portland's Rose City Softball Association recently became a charter member of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance, a national umbrella organization with 28 member groups. As a result of the membership, Rose City Softball Association teams will be able to compete in regional tournaments and the annual Gay Softball World Series.

Rose City Softball Association, formed this winter by longtime veterans of organized softball, draws players primarily from the Portland metro area, as well as Cowlitz and Clark counties in Washington. The league comprises men's, women's and coed teams, plays slow-pitch softball according to American Softball Association rules, and is open to players of all skill levels. Regular season play begins later this month and continues into July.

For more information, write: Rose City Softball Association, PO Box 22322, Milwaukie, OR 97269; or call 261-7637.

Compiled by Inga Sorensen



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