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UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, August 18, 7-11pm (doors 6:30)
Pride Bingo!
(same Bingo—new name)
NW Service Center, 1819 NW Everett
Childcare! Non-smoking!

Sunday, August 20, 1pm-7
SW Washington Lesbians invite you to a:
BBQ & Day of River Fun!
River Oak's RV Park, Toledo, Wash.
For further info: Janelle 360-694-3740
Fishing, boating, swimming, munching!

Sunday, August 27, 2-4 pm
Lesbians of Color Gathering
Call Angela for location: 284-3425
Sisters meet for talk & good company

A membership organization...join today!
(503) 223-0071/TDD
Fax 242-1967
P.O. Box 5931
Portland, OR 97228

Anti-Violence Project
796-1703/1-800-796-1703

letters

Don't diminish the memory

To the Editor:

The upcoming annual Right To Privacy fund-raising dinner affords the opportunity to bestow upon one of our heroes one of the greatest gifts our community has to offer its own: respect. For the past 13 years this fund-raising event has been named in memory of, and to honor the memory of, the individual who chose to call himself Alan Hart. Likewise, those who attend this function partake in the celebration of Hart's memory, and to mark the courage of those willing to be true to themselves despite societal opprobrium.

There can be no doubt Hart was selected to reflect the respect due this individual, who is one of the earliest role models for the entire queer community in the state of Oregon. It matters little whether Hart would, if alive today, define himself as a butch lesbian, a transsexual, a transgender or a passing woman. What is beyond question is that Hart chose to be known by the name of Alan and referred to himself with male pronouns. Accordingly, all of us who would honor this individual's memory, and in doing so honor the struggle which all of us share as members of the sexual minority community, can give no greater honor than to respect Alan Hart's wishes, by referring to him by the name he chose to be known by.

Therefore, I request that Right To Privacy reflect Hart's own choice by titling its fund-raising event the Alan Hart Dinner—commencing this year and for the years to come. To do anything else diminishes the memory of an individual who exhibited the courage to live as he saw fit.

Margaret Deirdre O'Hartigan
Portland

Southwest Lewis and Clark Circle, drove around a block of houses by the park, and was heading out when a patrol car, parked at the entrance of a narrow one-way road leading to the upper section of the park, got behind me and followed me. The [officers] both looked in my direction as I drove by, as though they were waiting for me to come back around. I re-entered the park and pulled over where I was parked before. The patrol car immediately got behind me and turned on its lights. Two officers approached me. The one on my left said I had not put on my safety belt. He said that the laws in Oregon are the same as Washington. I told him I just entered my car and that I normally wear [a belt] but on this afternoon I did not because I had a bad sunburn on my shoulders and that the very tight belt of my 1982 car would cause pain. He said he observed me entering my car early and that I had plenty of time to put on my safety belt. He said that I did not look like I had a sunburn. He then said that walking in the park in the sun was the last place I should be with a sunburn. I told him I was merely walking in the park, not sunbathing.

He then asked me, "What are you doing here?" I said just driving around, having a fun time. I apologized for not putting on the belt. He took my license, returned with a citation and said, "Even though there is hardly a danger of traffic up there I am going to cite you anyway." I agreed with him on the lack of traffic and told him that I would show him my sunburn if he did not believe me. He declined. He then proceeded to tell me "You don't belong here," and "You shouldn't be in the park," while looking in the direction of the park I [had been] walking in. I quickly asked him why I shouldn't be in the park. He paused for a moment and said, "This park isn't for you. You should be doing something else." He then hands me the citation and says, "Have a good day." I immediately felt I was being singled out, harassed and discriminated against for walking in a gay section of Washington Park. I was clearly being run out, so I left.

Roger Moya
Vancouver, Wash.

Run out of Washington Park

To the Editor:

I was stopped by the Portland Police on July 17 at 6:25 pm. Moments before, I had taken a walk through the northwest upper section of Washington Park, a section that I know is frequented by gay men. I entered my car, [which was] parked on

TRANSITIONS

Strong leader

John O'Rourke was born Nov. 15, 1950, at Women's Hospital in Manhattan. He began his new journey on July 20, 1995. John loved life and lived it to its fullest. He loved to laugh, and his laughter was contagious. He was quick-witted and had a wonderful sense of humor. At Stonehill College in Brockton, Mass., John was an honor student. While living in Los Angeles, John owned his own real estate company and belonged to a local Dignity chapter.

John worked at the Bureau of Land Management in Portland, where he developed and taught classes for project management. His knowledge of computers was unlimited. John made many friends during his six years at BLM; he will be greatly missed by his co-workers.

John was the co-chair for the Portland Area HIV Title I Services Planning Council, which covered six counties. He provided strong leadership and helped people work together to meet the needs of the HIV community. The commitment he brought to his work will be felt for many years to come.

Another of John's passions was gourmet cooking, and he was happiest when cooking for his friends. John also loved to work in his yard.

John is survived by his father, Tom, and his mother, Mildred, both of New York; his brothers Joe, of Brick, N.J., Rob, of Salt Lake City, and Tom, of New York; and his loving dog, Lady



Dawn. John is also survived by three nieces and two nephews. He was preceded in death by his partner, Skip Slack.

John left behind many wonderful friends whom he loved dearly.

John, we all miss your warm and caring heart.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in memory of John to the Cascade AIDS Project, 620 SW Fifth Ave., Suite 300, Portland, OR 97204, or the Immune Enhancement Project, 2017 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, OR 97214.

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