

Harvey Milk Awards Dinner a success

An estimated 265 people turned out for the sixth Harvey Milk Awards Dinner, sponsored by After 8, a Corvallis-based educational and advocacy group that promotes gay, lesbian and bisexual visibility and rights.

Corvallis Mayor Helen Berg offered the opening remarks during the Nov. 18 event, which was held at the First Congregational Church. Tom Ammiano, past president of the San Francisco School Board and member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, was the keynote speaker and gave an address entitled "Comedy and Politics: Surviving the Religious Right."

Lois Van Leer, associate minister of the First Congregational Church and a longtime sexual-minority-rights advocate, says: "We're all so involved in such serious work around this issue that it's nice to be able and laugh about it once in a while.... The dinner was a great success."

Portland residents Barbara Bernstein and Elaine Velazquez, creators of numerous video projects that detail gay and lesbian civil rights struggles, and Ed Reeves, a Portland attorney who founded Northwest Speak Out Project, were honored for their "outstanding contributions to the gay, lesbian and bisexual communities in Oregon."

A tribute was also given in honor of Donna Red Wing.



Harvey Milk

Lesbian health clinics ready to roll

Community Outreach Inc., also known as Sunflower House, has received grants from Equity Foundation and the Seattle-based Pride Foundation to provide lesbian health clinics at its Corvallis location, at 128 SW Ninth St.

The first clinic is set for Jan. 27, from 9 am to 4 pm; lesbians may receive a complete medical examination from a lesbian or lesbian-positive female health professional. The exam, treatments and prescriptions are free.

Additionally, workshops addressing a variety of health care issues of interest to lesbians will be held throughout the day. Topics will include menopause, donor insemination, lesbians and HIV, and safer sex for lesbians. For further information, please call Prudence Miles or Patty Pate at (541) 758-3000.

Naito says goodbye to Legislature

After three terms in the Oregon Legislature, Rep. Lisa Naito (D-Portland) says she will not seek re-election. Naito, who represents House District 15, says she wants to spend more time with her two school-age children.

During her tenure, Naito successfully sponsored measures that: required the licensing of all day care facilities; prohibited the sale or distribution of mercuric button-cell batteries, which are viewed as toxic to the environment; and allowed the suspension of driving privileges for parents in arrears on their child support payments.

Red Wing benefit shelved

Plans have been shelved for a fund-raising benefit designed to help defray Donna Red Wing's uninsured medical expenses relating to her recent brain surgery.

Red Wing, who lives in Portland and is the national field director for the Gay and Lesbian

Alliance Against Defamation, underwent surgery a few weeks ago following the discovery of a brain tumor. Although she has insurance, not all of the medical expenses were covered, and a benefit was being planned for Jan. 21.

"I feel guilty taking money from a community that has already been tapped so dry by AIDS, ballot battles with the bigots, and other forces of evil," says Red Wing. "Sumitra [Red Wing's life partner] and I were going over the bills...and while our costs are still in the thousands, we think we can handle it. If something goes wrong, maybe I'll need some 'community intervention' then. But at this point, I just don't feel it's right."

Donations are still being accepted, however, through a "Friends of Red Wing" account established at the Bank of America, Hollywood Branch. Donations may also be sent to A.C. Miller, 5916 NE Wygant St., Portland, OR 97218.

HIV Alliance seeks volunteers

The Lane County-based HIV Alliance Inc.—a volunteer-driven HIV/AIDS prevention, education and client support service organization—is accepting applications for its next Companion Volunteer Training. The six-part training course will be taught over the first and third weekends in March at St. Alice's Parish Center in Springfield.

Companion volunteers share emotional support, social outings and nonjudgmental listening with individuals of all ages who are living with HIV.

The course will be held March 1-3 and 15-17. The schedule covers two Friday evenings, from 6 to 10 pm, plus two Saturdays and two Sundays, from 9 am to 6 pm each day. Attendance at all six sessions is required. New volunteers are asked to commit a minimum of one year to the program.

For more information or to receive an application packet, please contact David at HIV Alliance (541) 342-5088. Applications are due by Feb. 9.

Urban League works to prevent spread of HIV

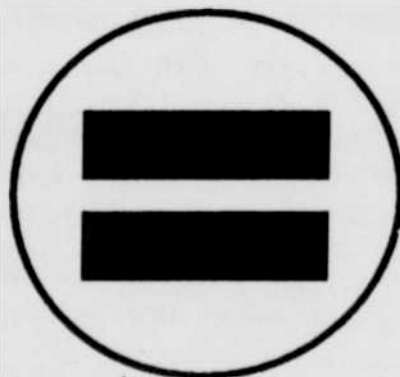
The Urban League of Portland says it is stepping up its efforts to help prevent the spread of HIV in the Portland area, particularly in communities of color.

On World AIDS Day, held Dec. 1, Urban League President Lawrence J. Dark and several staff members joined a public walk across the Burnside Bridge to dramatize the impact of HIV and AIDS in Portland. A few days later, Dark and Ameera Saahir, the Urban League's HIV/AIDS community specialist, joined a panel of HIV/AIDS educators and health professionals to discuss the community's response to the pandemic. The discussion was broadcast on Paragon Cable's *Northeast Spectrum* call-in show.

The Urban League is also developing a number of HIV/AIDS education, prevention and client services programs.

"There is a lot of discomfort and denial in our communities about HIV/AIDS issues, which hampers open discussion and access to care services," says Dark. "By targeting African Americans and other people of color, we plan to build a caring environment in which the African American community will feel more comfortable about discussing this issue, and those who are HIV positive can be more open about their condition and use available services."

For further information about the Urban League's HIV/AIDS programs, please call Saahir at 280-2620.



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