

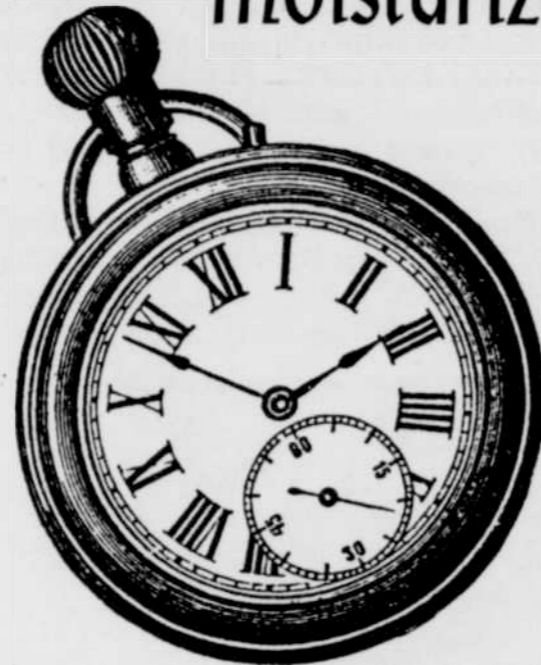
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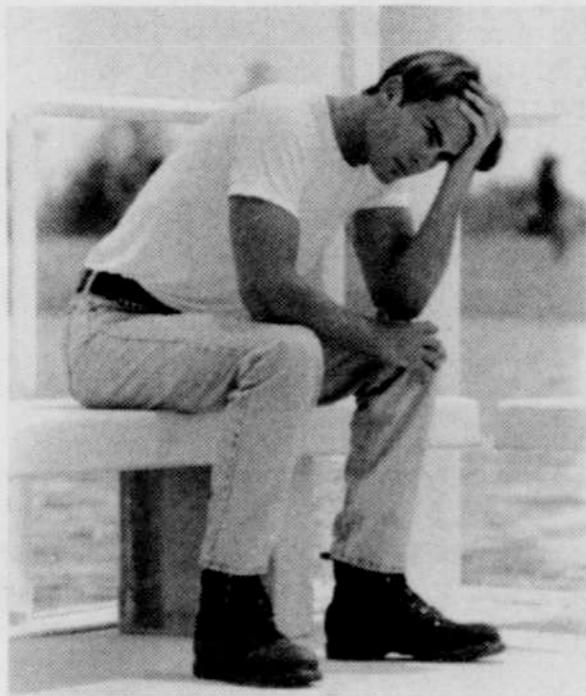
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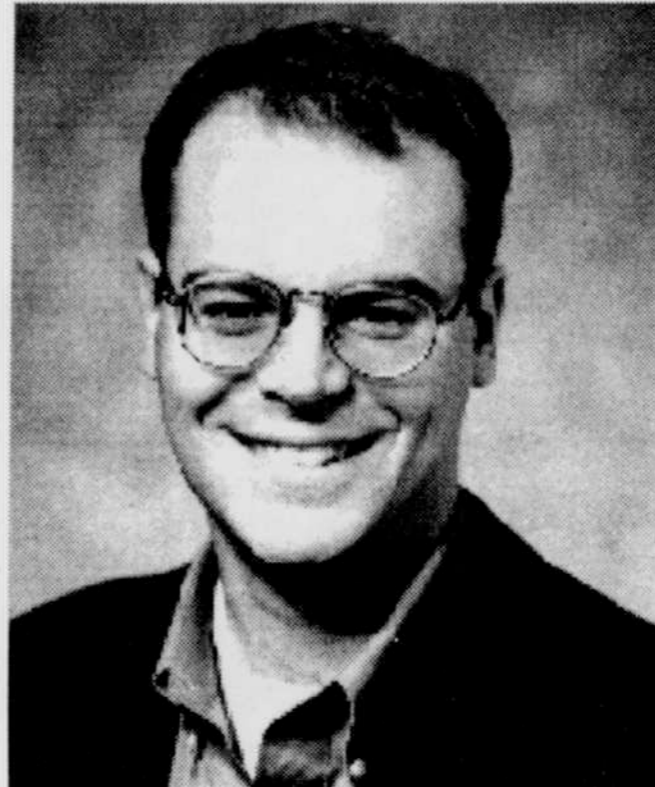
## local news

### Victory Fund selects four Oregonians

The Washington, D.C.-based Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund has recommended 15 openly gay and lesbian candidates—four of whom are running for office in Oregon—to its national donor network. Fund officials say all of the candidates have undergone "rigorous screening" to determine their viability as potential public officials.

Selected Oregonians are Gail Shibley, Frank Dixon, Bob Duehmig and Chuck Carpenter.

Shibley, a Democratic state representative representing the Portland area, is one of the Victory Fund's earliest recommended candidates. She is running for an open, nonpartisan seat on the Portland City Council.



Bob Duehmig

Dixon, a Democrat, is seeking election to the Oregon Senate. A retired major in the U.S. Army Reserve, he is a consumer attorney and has been highly involved in Portland's neighborhood association network for more than a decade.

Duehmig, also a Democrat, is running for the state House seat being vacated by Shibley. Duehmig is a legislative specialist with the Oregon Federation of Teachers, Education and Health Professionals, and was the group's chief lobbyist during the 1993 and 1995 legislative sessions.

Carpenter, a Republican, is running for reelection to the state House. In 1994, he made history by becoming the first openly gay Republican to win a seat in any state legislature. Before his election, he served as a naval officer and as an international trade and operations analyst with Nike Inc. More recently, Carpenter has been the focus of controversy within the gay and lesbian community for his active support of U.S. Senate candidate Gordon Smith, a conservative Republican who publicly accepted the endorsement of the Oregon Citizens Alliance and has vowed to vigorously oppose same-gender marriages and gay and lesbian civil rights protections.

All of the gay and lesbian candidates are slated to appear on the May 21 primary ballot.

### Benefit to aid Abdill/Ellis Memorial Fund

Lesbians, gay men and their allies in Southern Oregon are encouraging human rights advocates throughout the Pacific Northwest to participate in a Jan. 20 benefit for the Abdill/Ellis Memorial Fund, which is named in honor of Oregonians Michelle Abdill and her partner of 12 years, Roxanne Ellis.

The two were found murdered in early December in what police have investigated as a possible hate crime. The slayings shocked the nation, but the pain was perhaps felt no stronger

than in Medford, Ore., a city of 55,000 near the California border, where the couple lived.

Activists there have organized a dance benefit, featuring the all-women band Blue Lightning, to be held from 8 to 11:30 pm at the Buffalo Music Hall (also known as the Old Ashland Armory), 208 Oak St. in Ashland. Tickets for the event are \$5-\$500 on a sliding scale. Proceeds will go toward the establishment of a gay and lesbian community center in Southern Oregon.

"We hope people from [throughout] the region will join us for this," says Jim Willeford, a gay rights advocate who was friendly with Abdill and Ellis. "We want to try and take a very tragic event and make it into something positive."

For more information, call (541) 899-8541. Checks should be sent to PFLAG, PO Box 13, Ashland, OR 97520. They should include an annotation specifying that the money is to go to the Abdill/Ellis Memorial Fund.

### Portland memorial set for Gloria Martin

Human rights advocates throughout the Pacific Northwest continue to celebrate the life of Seattle author Gloria Martin, 79, a galvanizing force in U.S. feminism who died Nov. 22 of cancer.

"She taught me how to be a bold feminist and speak my mind. I loved her direct and blunt way. It had a bite and kick which helped you keep on track," says Yolanda Alaniz, a Chicana activist, writer and former candidate for the Seattle City Council.

Martin, a working mother of eight, was raised in the South in the days of Jim Crow laws. Her early experiences spurred her evolution into a bracing critic of U.S. capitalism and its racism and sexism. She eventually became a leader of the Trotskyist and feminist Freedom Socialist Party, which she joined shortly after it formed in 1966. She was a co-founder of Radical Women.

"Gloria was a pioneer in fusing women's rights with socialism," says Clara Fraser, Martin's friend and colleague of 45 years. "This was no pallid liberal. She was a radical. She wanted fundamental change and never wavered from principle. And she was indomitably stout-hearted in never losing her hope and optimism and belief in individuals and humanity."

A public memorial honoring Martin will be held in Portland on Jan. 20 beginning at 5 pm at Koinonia House, 633 SW Montgomery St. For more information, call (503) 228-3090 or (503) 735-0549.

Remembrances may be sent to Red Letter Press for the Gloria Martin Memorial Publications Fund, Bush Asia Building, 409 Maynard Ave. S, Suite 201, Seattle, WA 98104; call (206) 682-0990.

### Eighmey gets Web site

State Rep. George Eighmey (D-Portland) has joined the growing list of legislators who tout issues and accomplishments on a World Wide Web page.

"From my Web page, constituents can access a number of government services or information sources, from the Oregon Health Plan to the Legislative Gopher," says Eighmey. "Two years ago we barely knew that the Internet existed. Now e-mail is old news and public officials without Web pages are being left behind."

Eighmey's Web page will also include information about town hall meetings; his monthly cable access program, *Straight Talk*; and other issues. Eighmey's Web address is: <http://www.portals.pdx.edu/~eighmey>. He can also be contacted via e-mail at [RepGeorge@aol.com](mailto:RepGeorge@aol.com), by phone at 231-9970, or by letter at 1423 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, OR 97214.

Compiled by Inga Sorensen