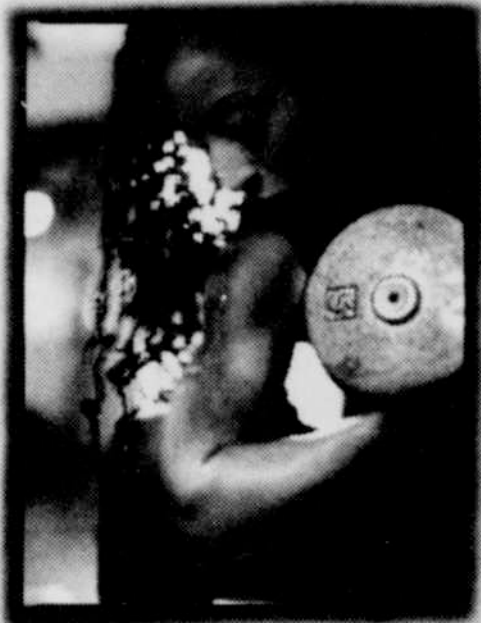


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## local news

### MRG applications deadline approaches

The McKenzie River Gathering Foundation, Oregon's multi-issue social change foundation, is launching its spring grant-making cycle. MRG funds organizations that address the root causes of social injustice and environmental degradation through community organizing and education.

Groups interested in applying for funding options are encouraged to contact MRG's Eugene office to discuss their project's suitability and to request an application packet.

To be considered for funding, groups must be located in Oregon, organize for progressive social change, demonstrate a commitment to diversity, and have limited access to other funding sources.

Completed applications are due March 11, in the MRG Eugene office. For more information, call (541) 485-2790.

### Scholarship benefit set for Feb. 11

The Imperial Sovereign Rose Court, along with Rose Emperor V Frank and Rose Empress VI Mame, will hold a Feb. 11 benefit called "Valentines from Hell: Tough Drags Do Disco...Again." Proceeds will benefit the Pride of the Rose Scholarship Fund, which provides financial assistance to sexual minorities furthering their education.

The annual event has helped raise thousands of dollars for the fund. The show will be held at the Embers, 110 NW Broadway, in Portland; doors open at 7 pm and the show starts at 8 pm. A \$5 donation is requested.

### Local travel agency honored

The Travel Agents International office in downtown Portland was recently honored as an "Agency of Excellence" at the company's 13th annual national convention in Houston. The award is given in recognition of outstanding achievement and performance by a TAI agency.

"This award recognizes that the Portland office is ranked as a superior office in the TAI system and is extremely dedicated to its customers," says Roger E. Block, the company's president. The downtown Portland office is the only one in the franchise that specifically targets the lesbian and gay market as a client base.

"The community has been extremely supportive of us," says Rip Rupinski, owner of the Portland office. "Over 70 percent of our client base are gays and lesbians."



### Bowman jumps into race

Jo Ann Bowman, who is an assistant to Multnomah County Commission Chair Beverly Stein, has announced her bid for the District 19 House seat being vacated by Avel Gordly, who is running for an Oregon state Senate seat. Bowman, a Democrat, announced her intentions on Jan. 20.



Jo Ann Bowman

### Conference to focus on breast and cervical cancer

Health care professionals, business and community leaders, and others are invited to attend an all-day conference entitled "Northwest Leadership Summit: Meeting the Challenge of Breast and Cervical Cancer," to be held Feb. 22 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland.

The goal of the summit is to develop partnerships for promoting early detection of breast and cervical cancer, and to improve education and screening programs throughout the Northwest. The event also aims to provide new strategies to reach medically underserved women.

The event is co-sponsored by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, the Oregon Breast and Cervical Cancer Coalition, the Oregon Health Division and the Oregon Health Sciences University School of Medicine. For further information, call (503) 292-7286.

### Natural healing and AIDS conference set

A conference called "Natural Healing and AIDS" will be held Feb. 24 from noon to 7 pm at the Red Lion Inn in Vancouver, Wash. The event is for people with HIV and AIDS and their friends and families.

Presenters will offer practical examples of how natural medicine and therapies can help improve the quality of life for people living with HIV and AIDS.



Topics will include naturopathic care, chiropractic care, healing with sound, healing the body with the mind, and new advances in physical exercise.

Tickets may be purchased at the door, or call Dean Sidwell of the HIV/AIDS Program, Southwest Washington Health District, at (360) 696-8252 for more details. The cost is \$20 per person. Scholarships are available for low-income individuals.

### Silent auction benefits cycling center

The Community Cycling Center, which promotes bicycling "to build and sustain Portland communities," is holding its second Art, Dining and Getaway Silent Auction on Feb. 10.

The event is designed to benefit the organization's "Learn a Bike" program. Last year's fund-raiser generated \$1,500 for the program, which enabled more than 10 students to enroll for free.

During the 1995 holiday season, meanwhile, the Community Cycling Center distributed 80 refurbished bikes (with helmets and locks) to low-income Portland youth.

The benefit will be held at the Rexall Rose Cafe, 2403 NE Alberta St., in Portland, from 6:30 to 10 pm. A \$10 donation includes catered buffet, raffle entry and auction registration. Call 288-8864 for more information.

Compiled by Inga Sorensen

# AIDS.

(One case where ignorance is not bliss.)

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