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The cover photo from The Advocate's 1981 pride issue illustrates pride and prejudice

Historical exhibit hailed as success

Thom Kincheloe of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation says an estimated 2,500 people caught a glimpse of "The Long Road to Freedom" exhibit that was on display March 21-31 at the World Trade Center in downtown Portland.

"We are calling it a big success. Lots of people got an opportunity to learn more about the gay and lesbian rights movement," says Kincheloe, program coordinator and development associate for GLAAD's national field office, which is situated in Portland. "People of all ages were there. It was terrific."

Based on the book of the same name, The Long Road to Freedom exhibit examines the gay and lesbian movement since 1967, using covers, articles, photographs, interviews and advertisements from *The Advocate*, a national gay and lesbian newsmagazine.

Portland was the first stop on the 1996 "Long Road to Freedom" 10-city tour. The exhibit, which was sponsored locally by the Equity Foundation and GLAAD, included clippings detailing Oregon's ballot measure campaigns, as well as *Advocate* cover featuring Portland resident Donna Red Wing, the publication's 1992 Woman of the Year and GLAAD's national field director and spokeswoman.

"The Long Road to Freedom exhibit is profoundly important to Portland," says Red Wing. "We have weathered three serious statewide anti-gay initiatives. Those campaigns of hate and bigotry have attempted to define us. Now it is time for us to tell our own stories and to define ourselves."

Portland Mayor Vera Katz acknowledged the exhibit by issuing a proclamation that said the City of Portland "strives for diversity and inclusion of all levels," and declared March 24-31, 1996, to be The Long Road to Freedom Week.

The tour is partially underwritten by Joseph E. Seagram & Sons Inc. and will make stops in Minneapolis, Boston, Philadelphia and Detroit, among other cities.

The first tour, in 1994-95, attracted more than 60,000 visitors. It began in New York City in June, during the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall rebellion, an event that is widely considered to mark the beginning of the modern gay-and-lesbian-rights movement. The earlier tour included stops in Miami, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Chicago.

MHRC approves resolutions

The Metropolitan Human Rights Commission approved on March 12 two resolutions expressing its opposition to a series of proposed ballot measures that it contends would negatively impact upon the civil and human rights of the people of Portland and Multnomah County.

Those ballot measures would, in part, restrict the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and

transgendered people and undocumented immigrants.

Other initiatives seek to abolish affirmative action programs and policies, and limit women's reproductive freedoms.

According to MHRC, there is a prohibition in Oregon involving the expenditure of public funds to lobby in favor or against proposed ballot measures. Commissioners say, however, the March 12 meeting, while technically official, was held without any expenditure of public funds or use of paid staff time.

Burns garners Mr. Portland Leather title

Barry Burns seized the title of Mr. Portland Leather 1996 during the Contest Weekend held Feb. 23-25. Burns will represent Portland in the International Mr. Leather competition in Chicago from May 23 to 27.

Burns is an established presence in the Portland leather community. He serves on the board of NLA Portland, and is a member of the host chapter steering committee for Living in Leather XI. He is a frequent soloist for the Portland Gay Men's Chorus; a volunteer for Esther's Pantry; a founding member of CHAPS (a men's SM educational group); and a contributing editor for "The Leather Quill," NLA Portland's newsletter.

Hill to chair civil and human rights council

Longtime human rights advocate Sharon Hill, a Southern Oregon native, has been elected chair of the Oregon Council on Civil and Human Rights.

The mission of the council, which, in part, advises the state's labor commissioner on civil and human rights issues, is to provide "leadership, advocacy and education in coordinating statewide efforts to promote justice and equity for all people in Oregon."

Additionally, it serves as a "focal point for various groups and agencies in the state involved in similar efforts to network, learn from each other, and unite around common issues and concerns."

Hill, 39, is a community organizer working for such causes as tenant and consumer rights, women's rights, lesbian and gay rights, and health and economic justice issues. She currently sits on the board of Right Watch, a research group supporting civil liberties, and is a community member of Right to Privacy's political affairs committee.

"There is so much positive work going on throughout Oregon with respect to human rights issues," says Hill, who began her two-year term as chair in March. "At this point, I think the council will really examine where we fit in. We'll be asking ourselves and others, 'What can we offer? How can we help?'"

From 1988 to 1993, Hill was a board member for Phoenix Rising, a social service and mental health agency serving the sexual minorities community. She has a master's degree in public health administration from Portland State University, where she is currently in the doctoral program for public administration and policy. She works as a legislative assistant to Oregon state Rep. Avel Gordly.

Hill has been a council member since 1991. As chair, she succeeds Rodney Page, former head of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, who accepted the posts of deputy general secretary for the National Council of Churches and executive director of Church World Services in New York City.