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## OPENING-NIGHT BENEFIT The Larry Kramer Project

Produced by Artists Repertory Theatre



THE  
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In an unprecedented world premiere, Larry Kramer's powerful and inspiring plays about the AIDS epidemic will be performed together for the first time in the Portland Center for the Performing Arts' Winningstad Theatre.

**Opening-night benefit performances:**

**The Normal Heart, 8 p.m. May 31**  
Opening-night dessert reception included

**The Destiny of Me, 8 p.m. June 7**



THE  
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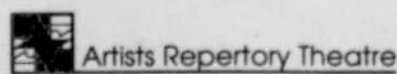
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Your attendance will help support programs and services throughout Oregon that further Equity Foundation's efforts to build communities that embrace the dignity and worth of all people.

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Directed by Jon Kretzu, artistic director, Artists Repertory Theatre

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# local news

## Support group forms for gay males who batter

A support group has been formed for gay men who emotionally and/or physically batter their partners.

"I think as awareness about domestic violence has increased in the entire culture, so too has the understanding that gay men and lesbians are not immune from the problem," says Bob Weinreich, Ph.D., who provides gay men's counseling services through the Portland-based Men's Resource Center.

Weinreich, who is openly gay, is heading up the support group, which met for the first time in late April.

"I think there was a sense of relief among a couple of the men that finally there was a place where they could truly open up," says Weinreich. "Typically, domestic violence programs [for batterers] have overwhelmingly been attended by heterosexual men. Gay men who batter have a double closet to deal with—being gay and being a batterer."

Weinreich says many of the anger management strategies used with heterosexuals will also be employed with gay men.

"The issues of accountability and responsibility will be the same," he says, "but some things will be different. For instance, when we're talking about [opposite-sex couples] the whole analysis involving male privilege will come up. That doesn't necessarily apply here."

There are other differences between gay male batterers and straight men, says Weinreich.

"I think there is unique pressure placed upon gay men because of homophobia, as well as HIV/AIDS issues. But regardless of those pressures, that is no justification for abusing another person," he says.

Weinreich says the new support group meets weekly at the Men's Resource Center, 2325 E Burnside St., in Portland. Fees are determined based on one's ability to pay. For further information, call Weinreich at 235-3433.

## Lesbian torchbearer applauds decision

"I am *delighted* that the torch will not pass through Cobb County. It's a bit of a relief," chirps an enthusiastic Erika Silver, the 32-year-old executive director of Bradley-Angle House, a Portland-based organization providing services to battered women and their children.

As reported in the April 19 issue, Silver, who

is openly lesbian, has been tapped to carry the Olympic torch as it wends its way through Oregon on May 5 and 6. She is one of 90-plus Oregon and Southwest Washington residents who were chosen by the United Way and Coca-Cola Co. to participate in the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay, which kicked off on April 27 in Los Angeles and ends on July 19 in the Olympic Stadium in Atlanta, site of the Olympic Summer Games.

Silver and other gay and lesbian torchbearers were pondering various modes of protest in light of Olympic officials' plans to route the torch relay through Cobb County, Ga., which passed an anti-gay resolution in August 1993.

Pressure from human rights advocates in Georgia as well as nationwide, however, has prompted Olympic officials to declare they will not run the torch through Cobb County. That decision was made public April 19.

"The decision is based on the fact that the Cobb County Commission has not changed its nonbinding resolution," said a press statement. "We want to focus on the excitement of the event and not be distracted by other issues."

## Cadillac Cafe apologizes

A lawsuit brought in 1993 against the Northeast Portland bistro Cadillac Cafe by a lesbian couple who claimed they had illegally been refused service due to their sexual orientation has been settled.

Portland attorney David W. Owens, who represented plaintiffs Georgeann Chaven and her partner, Teri Ventura Chaven, confirmed the settlement agreement but declined to divulge the specific terms of that agreement. Donna Sandoval, the Portland attorney representing defendants Rod A. Brackenbury and Terry J. Hughes, refused all comment.

A statement publicly announcing the settlement and containing Brackenbury and Hughes' apology appears in an ad in this issue of *Just Out*.

The case began in August 1993, when the Chavens were reportedly holding hands, kissing and standing arm in arm—along with several heterosexual couples—outside the Cadillac Cafe while they waited for a table. The couple reportedly claimed they were singled out by the defendants and told to stop displaying affection. The women say that when they declined, they were refused service. The Chavens subsequently brought a \$2.2 million lawsuit against Hughes and Brackenbury.

*Reported by Inga Sorensen*

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