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local news

Violence a growing problem

More than 20,000 acts of interpersonal violence were recorded by police agencies in Multnomah County in 1994—a figure that translates to roughly one reported act of violence for every 30 county residents. That's according to a new report, entitled "Faces and Voices of Violence," which was presented to the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners by the Multnomah County Health Department on July 25.

The report also found that guns were the weapon of choice in more than 57 percent of all homicides from 1990 to 1994. Health officials say family violence is also epidemic in Multnomah County. One-third of all reports of violence were related to partner abuse, one-half of reported simple assaults involved partner abuse, and one out of eight police reports of violence were related to child abuse.

Law students receive Shepherd awards

The Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship Fund has announced its scholars for the 1996-97 academic year. The three \$1,000 recipients are Christopher Frost, Edward Tylicki and Deanna Way, all students at Northwestern School of Law.

The Shepherds founded Portland's chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays in 1976. Bill Shepherd, who died in March 1995, was an active member of the Oregon State Bar for 56 years. Ann Shepherd remains involved in lesbian and gay rights issues.

The fund in their honor was established as an ongoing gift to the community by Jeff Rose when he stepped down as Mr. Portland Leather 1993.

Scholarship winners must be third-year law students who pledge, upon passing the bar, to work for civil rights for gay men and lesbians in Oregon.

MHRC seeks award nominations

The Metropolitan Human Rights Commission is seeking nominees for its annual human rights awards, which recognize people and organizations who have made a contribution to the acceptance of diversity and support of human rights in Portland and Multnomah County.



The honors include the Russell A. Peyton Award for "outstanding service and commitment to protecting the human rights of all persons in the city of Portland and Multnomah County"; the Business Diversity Award, for outstanding results in recruiting and maintaining a diverse workforce; and the

Nonprofit Diversity Award, which recognizes a not-for-profit organization that demonstrates its core values by incorporating cross-cultural actions into its daily activities and maintaining a diverse workforce.

Nominations consist of a one-page account outlining why the person or organization is deserving of the award, which is submitted to MHRC. Nominated businesses and nonprofits must be located in Multnomah County. The deadline for submissions is Sept. 3.

The awards will be presented at the MHRC Award Dinner on Oct. 16 at Beaumont Middle School. For more information, call 823-5136, or write to MHRC, 1120 SW Fifth Ave., Room 516, Portland, OR 97204-1989.

Urban League to get Fabric of Life grant

The Urban League of Portland's HIV/AIDS outreach and education program has been selected to receive a grant from the Fabric of Life Foundation, which raises funds for local organizations serving people with HIV/AIDS.

The grant will allow the Urban League to continue its efforts to build a support system for African Americans and other people of color living with HIV/AIDS.

One project that will benefit from the grant is the organization's "Nguzo Saba Community Buddy System," which is based on seven African American principles that emphasize the extended family, community and collective work. The principles are often associated with the seven days of Kwanzaa, an African American celebration held between Dec. 26 and Jan. 1. The project connects individuals and brings people with HIV/AIDS into a nurturing community.

Bowling league launches fall activities

The Portland Gay and Lesbian Community Bowling Association has unveiled a new fall league to complement its winter league.

The new weekly Sunday league, which kicks off Sept. 8, bowls at 5 pm at Twentieth Century Lanes, at 92nd Avenue and Powell Boulevard in Portland. The league will be sanctioned, and members may bowl a half season (September to December, or January to May) or a full season. The weekly league fees are \$7.50 and pre-registration is encouraged.

The bowling association will also hold a benefit fund-raiser for the HIV Center on Sept. 22. Cost is \$10. The fund-raiser begins at 11 am at Twentieth Century Lanes.

For further information, call Renee at 231-7085 or Tom at 293-0438, or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to PCBA, PO Box 851, Portland, OR 97207.

Lawyers' association seeks cases

The Oregon Trial Lawyers Association's public justice committee is seeking legal cases which will provide volunteers with opportunities for community service through its Public Justice Project.

The project is designed to provide pro bono legal representation on issues such as health safety and welfare. For more information, call Chuck Tauman at 223-2558.

CAP's annual pledge walk set for Sept. 22

Cascade AIDS Project is sponsoring the 10th annual AIDS Walk Oregon (formerly known as "From All Walks of Life") on Sept. 22.

AIDS Walk Oregon is designed to increase awareness and education about HIV/AIDS and to raise funds to support local HIV/AIDS programs.

This year's event includes 5- and 10-kilometer pledge walks through downtown and Northwest Portland, to be followed by a "Celebration of Life" gathering at Pioneer Courthouse Square.

To register for the pledge walk, call 223-WALK. Opening ceremonies begin at 9 am; the walk starts at 9:30. Celebration of Life runs from 1 to 6 pm.

Compiled by Inga Sorensen

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