

# local news

## MHRC seeks info on sexual minority youth by Dec. 9

The Metropolitan Human Rights Commission is soliciting information regarding the experiences of sexual minority youth. The data will be compiled in a report which will be sent to the Governor's Task Force on Teen Suicide, as well as to Multnomah County and Portland city officials.

MHRC is particularly interested in incidents of harassment and discrimination based on sexual orientation, and opinions regarding services or facilities needed to ensure the well-being of sexual minority youth.

MHRC is currently meeting with small groups of youth and also invites young people and other interested parties to share experiences and opinions. To do so, call MHRC at 823-5136. Information is due at the MHRC office, 1120 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97204, by Dec. 9.

## Brown and Gordly to take on leadership roles



Avel Gordly Kate Brown

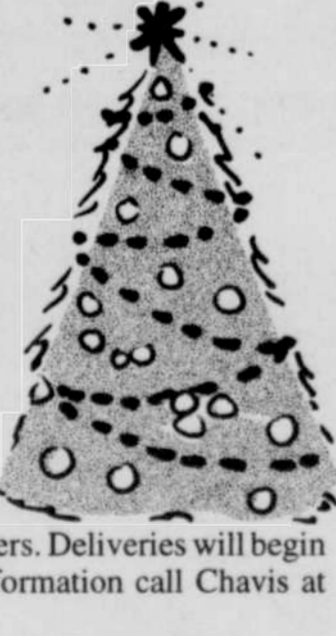
Oregon Senate Democrats have re-elected Sen. Cliff Trow of Corvallis as Democratic leader, and Kate Brown and Avel Gordly, both of Portland, as assistant Democratic leaders.

Trow has served in the Oregon Senate since 1975 and as Democratic leader since 1995. Brown and Gordly were elected to the Senate in the Nov. 5 election. The duo previously served in the state House. All three were elected by acclamation.

## Free trees available for people with HIV/AIDS

Unable to afford a tree this holiday season? Not feeling well enough to pick one up? A free Christmas tree giveaway for people living with HIV and AIDS has been organized by Robin Chavis, with the assistance of Debbie and Dan Fischer of Fischer's Greenhouse.

Free trees and free delivery are available to the first 75 qualified callers. Deliveries will begin Dec. 14. For further information call Chavis at 281-2841.



## Event draws attention to violence against women

Women Empowered Beyond Beijing for Equality, Development and Peace, in collaboration with other groups from throughout Oregon, is sponsoring "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence," which includes a variety of activities designed to draw attention to abuses against women.

Part of an international campaign initiated by

the Center for Women's Global Leadership, the 16 days began Nov. 25—International Day Against Violence Against Women—and runs through Dec. 10—International Human Rights Day.



The centerpiece activity will be a daylong tribunal on Dec. 7 at Portland State University where a panel of judges will hear personal testimony from women who have experienced violence, and make recommendations for change. For more information, call Judith Armatta at 284-5262.

## Halloween party raises a bundle for Our House

An estimated \$3,000 in donations was raised for Our House of Portland, a local care home serving those with AIDS, during the fourth Grand Halloween Party on Oct. 31.



The Our House benefit was sponsored by Boxxes/The Brig and Panorama. Participants were asked to donate \$2 along with the cover charge for the party, which was held between 10th and 11th avenues on Stark Street.

## New fund helps families with children

A fund to support lesbian and gay families with children has been established by partners and parents Tina Podlodowski, an openly lesbian Seattle councilor, and Chelle Mileur. The couple have a 1-year-old daughter, Grace.

The fund, which will be administered through the Seattle-based Pride Foundation, will grant at least \$10,000 each year to programs and projects that support the well-being of children from gay and lesbian families.



Washington Gov. Mike Lowry joined Podlodowski and Mileur in announcing the fund.

"The self-esteem and well-being of children everywhere is critical to our state's future. By creating this fund, Chelle and Tina are offering thousands of children throughout the Pacific Northwest new opportunities that will help lead them to a bright future," says Lowry.

For more information or to make a donation, call Karen Matson at the Pride Foundation at 1-800-735-7287.

Compiled by Inga Sorensen

# SPEAK TO YOUR BROTHERS

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For info: Brian at Ext.131.

## Neighborhood MenTalk

New: North PDX, Washington & Clackamas county groups

Find support & friendship with other gay and bisexual men. Ongoing monthly groups throughout Portland. All meet at 7 PM. For info: Doug at Ext.145.

## Gay Dad's Group Forming

A support group for GAY DADS is now forming for gay men who are out and have children who want to talk to other gay men about 'dad' issues.

To sign up and for info: Doug at Ext. 145.

503 223-5907

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Speak to Your Brothers is a program of Cascade AIDS Project

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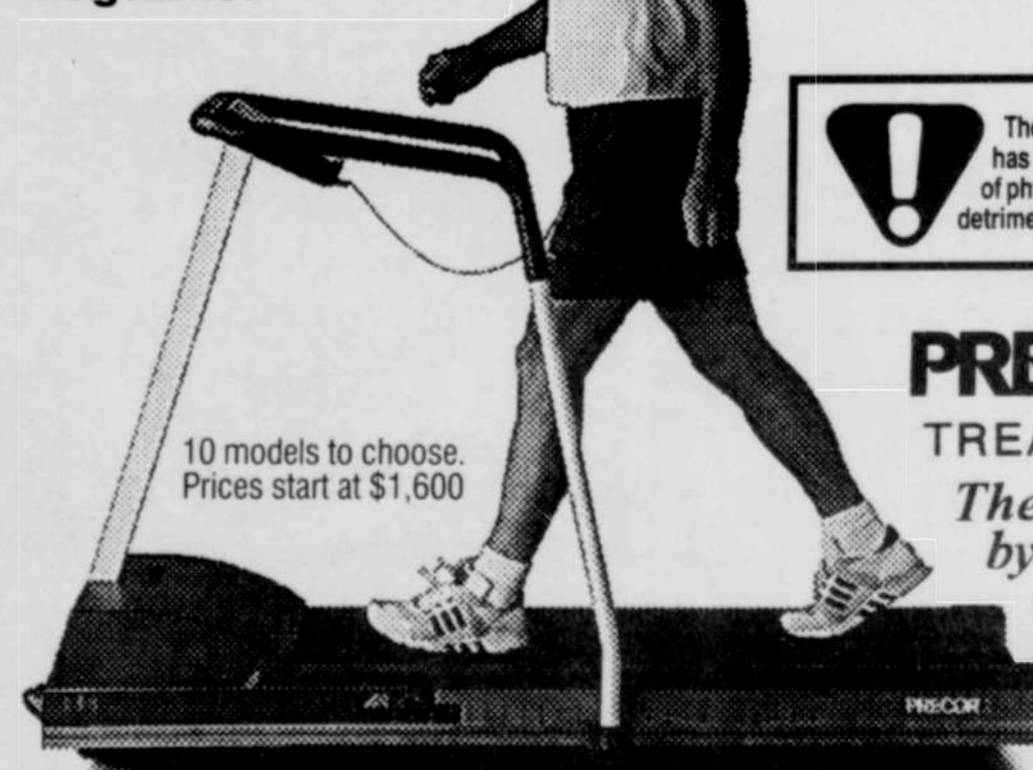
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