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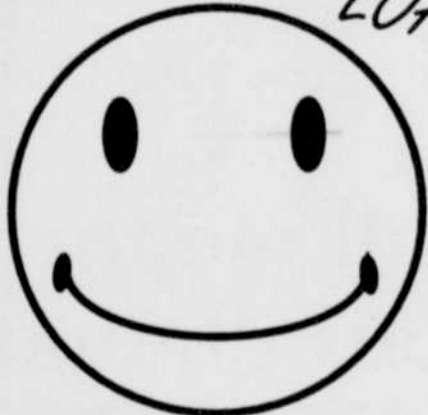
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Young Men's Gay/Bi Focus Groups

Take action! Speak out. Earn \$20 cash.
18-26 years. We need input this April for
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For info: Trevor at Ext. 174.

Festival de la Primavera

Spring celebration for Latino gay/bi men.
Food, music, dancing into the night.
Co-sponsored with Oregon Council for
Hispanic Advancement/Project SOL and
Speak to your Brothers.

Friday, March 21, 7 PM

For location and info: 248-7736.

HIV Prevention Workshop

Almost everything you ever wanted to
know about HIV; prevention issues for
gay and bi men and how to get involved
with Speak to Your Brothers.

Sunday, March 23, 9am-5pm, at CAP.
To sign up or for info: Roger at Ext. 130.

503 223-5907

620 SW 5th Ave., Ste. 300
Portland, OR 97204
Fax 223-7087

V/TDD 223-0238 CAP is accessible

Speak to Your Brothers is a
program of Cascade AIDS Project



local news

It's a wash

Gov. Locke vetoes anti-same-sex marriage law as promised,
but another is on the way that will go directly to voters

by Inga Sorensen

Washington voters may have lots to consider later this year when it comes to gay and lesbian rights.

As promised, Washington Democratic Gov. Gary Locke has vetoed legislation which would have legally defined marriage as the union between a man and a woman. The bill, which gained the Republican-controlled Legislature's easy approval in mid-February, also stipulated that same-sex marriages performed elsewhere could not be recognized in the Evergreen State.

Deeming it divisive, Locke vetoed the measure on Feb. 21.

"Our overarching principle should be to promote civility, mutual respect and unity, and to reject hate, violence and bigotry. This legislation fails to meet that test," said Locke.

On Feb. 26, the state Senate unsuccessfully attempted a veto override by a 26-to-20 vote. Thirty-three votes were needed. No matter: Senate Majority Leader Dan McDonald (R-Bellevue) says legislators will simply bypass Locke by putting an identical proposal on the November ballot. (A referendum circumvents a gubernatorial veto and goes directly to the people for a vote.)

Despite that threat, human rights supporters have launched their own proactive campaign designed to secure equal rights, albeit partially, for gay men and lesbians. Hands Off Washington, a statewide lesbian and gay rights group, is leading an initiative campaign to ban job discrimination based on sexual orientation. The group must gather 179,248 valid signatures by July 3 to qualify the measure for the ballot.

Initiative 677 would add sexual orientation to

state civil-rights laws that bar workplace discrimination. Washington law already prohibits such discrimination based on race, gender and religion.

Petitions will be printed by mid-March and signature gathering will begin immediately thereafter.

Some state lawmakers, meanwhile, continue to push their anti-gay-rights agenda via the Legislature.

Sen. Val Stevens (R-Lake Stevens) has introduced Senate Bill 5167, which prohibits schools from presenting or "promoting" homosexuality.

In a Feb. 15 editorial entitled "Legislating Intolerance," the *Seattle Times* blasted the bill, saying, in part: "While many conservatives in Olympia preach against state intrusion in economic matters, they vigorously promote state intervention and virtual censorship when it comes to sensitive 'family values' issues such as homosexuality in the schools."

"When asked by the *Times* why she was running for office last fall, Stevens replied: 'To reduce the ever-expanding size and scope of government and to focus laws on the intent of our founding fathers. To secure the right of individual life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.' Eloquent answer. But exactly how SB 5167, Stevens' proposal to prohibit schools from 'presenting' or 'promoting' homosexuality as positive, normal behavior, furthers that noble goal is beyond us.... Stevens wants her colleagues to declare an 'emergency' and enact her bill immediately for the 'preservation of the public peace, health, morals, [and] safety.' How ironic that such an outspoken critic of expansive state power is so eager and willing to wield it for her own ends."

Human rights
supporters, meanwhile,
have launched a
proactive campaign to
secure equal rights.



Shepherds' Award Dinner debuts

Metropolitan Community Church of Portland will launch the second phase of its Capital Renovation Campaign during the first Shepherds' Award Dinner, slated for April 12 at the Portland Hilton.

Community leaders, along with keynote speaker Kathleen Saadat, will celebrate the contributions that Ann and Bill Shepherd have made to sexual minorities during the past three decades. (Bill Shepherd, a Portland attorney, is now deceased.)

According to MCC, Ann Shepherd has given her approval for the event to become the church's signature fund-raiser.

For the past two years a renovation project has been underway at MCC, which is striving to become a "center for the community."

In addition to offering religious and spiritual services, MCC, which is located at Northeast 24th Avenue and Broadway, hosted the Human Rights Campaign's voter registration drive, and has offered itself as a meeting place for many commu-

nity groups. For more information about the April 12 dinner, call MCC pastor Roy Cole at 281-8868.

Planning help is here

A daylong seminar entitled "Taking Care of Business" is set for April 19 at the Metropolitan Community Church of Portland. The workshop will address life- and estate-planning issues facing gay men and lesbians, as well as those living with HIV and AIDS.

The event is sponsored by The Care Team, the HIV/AIDS support services arm of MCC. The seminar will cover such issues as preparation of wills, advance directive and power of attorney documents, Medicaid, and financial and estate planning.

Participants will be provided with packets of fact sheets and documents that can be completed at the seminar. Notary publics will also be on hand to notarize any documents prepared that day.

"Taking Care of Business" runs from 10 am to 3 pm. Admission is \$5 and reservations are required; call MCC at 281-8868.

Compiled by Inga Sorensen