

## OREGON COURT HEARS BENEFITS CASE

On March 3, the Oregon Court of Appeals heard arguments in a case that could pave the way to the state becoming one of the many employers that extend health coverage to domestic partners of unmarried workers, including gay men and lesbians.

State attorneys, however, argued that Oregon law doesn't allow it.

According to The Associated Press, Robert Rocklin, an assistant attorney general, said the key issue is marital status, not gay and lesbian rights.

"They simply cannot prove that there is any discrimination based on sexual orientation," Rocklin told a three-judge panel reviewing an appeal from a lower court ruling.

In a brief, Rocklin said the state can legally treat people differently based on marital status "because the state has an interest in promoting marriage and providing benefits that mirror legal burdens."

## OHSU DOCTOR NABS AMFAR GRANT

The American Foundation for AIDS Research has awarded a \$75,000 grant to Dr. Ann B. Hill of Oregon Health Sciences University to further her research into the development of a vaccine for HIV.

Hill is an assistant professor of molecular microbiology and immunology at OHSU.

AmFAR, based in New York, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the support of AIDS research and prevention, and the advocacy of "sound AIDS-related public policy."

## EQUITY SPREADS ITS SUPPORT AROUND

Equity Foundation, which strives to build a strong sexual-minorities community, recently awarded grants totaling \$11,400 to seven Oregon nonprofit groups.

The Portland Area Council of Camp Fire received \$4,000 to support its Gang Peace Male and Female Responsibility classes, a four-week course designed to create a better understanding of gay and lesbian issues and challenge stereotypes.

Oregon State University's School of Education was given a \$1,500 grant to help underwrite the second statewide Opening Doors conference, held in February in Corvallis. That event provides education for professionals who work with queer youth.

The Lesbian Community Project/Community Education Project of Portland nabbed a \$1,000 grant to help develop the leadership skills of young women, while the Metropolitan Community Church of Portland received \$1,000, to be used as a rent supplement for the Urban League's Rainbow Project, a leadership program for adolescents of color that meets at MCC.

Janus Youth Programs Inc. garnered a \$1,500 grant from Equity and an additional \$500 from the Antoinette Grabler Donor Advised Fund to help support its Odyssey project, a year-round program that provides Camp Odyssey participants with the support and tools "needed to change ills within their own communities."

AIDS Support and Prevention of Josephine County, meanwhile, received \$1,000 from the Kathleen McNaughton Donor Advised Fund to help volunteers reach more people with information about HIV/AIDS.

Finally, a Eugene-based group, Lesbians,

Others and Gays in Community Service, was given a \$900 donor-direct gift from Charlene Carter. Each month the group, known as LOGIC, embarks on a community service project with another group whose members may believe they don't know anyone who is gay or lesbian.

Equity Foundation was created in 1989 by a group of gay men and lesbians who wished to make a "positive difference in the world."

## PROJECT QUEST PUTS OUT THE WELCOME MAT

Project Quest will hold an open house in its new location in Northeast Portland on Friday, March 20, from 2 to 7 pm and on Saturday, March 21, from noon to 4 pm.

The nonprofit organization provides services for those affected by chronic and life-threatening illnesses, including HIV and AIDS.

According to its mission statement, Project Quest is "guided by intentionality, inspired by creativity and provides a wellness-focused environment for living and dying."

The new Project Quest facility is at 3117 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. For details, call 493-0288.

## HIV CENTER MOVES

Ecumenical of Ministries of Oregon's HIV Center has relocated from its former site at 3835 SW Kelly Ave. to Clare House, 8610 SW 17th Ave., at the corner of 17th and Freeman. For more information or directions, call the HIV Center at 244-4168.

## IT'S NOT OVER YET

State Rep. George Eighmey and political newcomer Barbara Willer, both openly gay candidates, face run-offs in the May 19 primary. Eighmey will go against Diane Linn for the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners seat for District 1, while Willer will square off against Lisa Naito for the District 3 seat.



George Eighmey

During the March 10 election, Eighmey nabbed 12,000 votes, or 31.5 percent, to Linn's 18,649, or 49 percent. Willer, meanwhile, grabbed 10,889, or 37.5 percent, to Naito's 11,767, or 40.5 percent.

None of the candidates garnered the necessary majority vote, forcing the May run-offs.

■ Compiled by INGA SORENSEN

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