

## PARTNERSHIP PROPAGANDA OR LANDMARK EFFORT?



It seemed uncharacteristically quiet, given the 50 or so folks on hand. For a moment, you'd swear you could hear the proverbial pin drop.

Maybe it was a mellow lot. Maybe it was the relative formality of the occasion. Or maybe the humidity had simply sucked the pizzazz out of people. Whatever it was, it didn't stop the attendees from slapping their signatures on a document purported to signify the Portland Police Bureau and queer community's commitment to make their relationship a stronger, healthier one.

The event, held June 9 at Portland City Hall, marked the re-signing of a partnership agreement that was first established in 1994.

The agreement asks the parties to "work to increase the personal safety" of queers and includes a commitment by police to recruit and retain sexual minorities.

In 1994, it was hailed as a landmark because so few law enforcement agencies nationwide had taken such action.

Police Chief Charles Moose and Mayor Vera Katz—both named defendants in a federal lawsuit recently filed by openly gay Portland Police Capt. Mike Garvey, who charges he was discriminated against due to his sexual orientation—were the lead signatories at the re-signing.

Representatives from a slew of organizations serving the sexual minorities community, such as Basic Rights Oregon, Right to Pride, Love Makes a Family and Phoenix Rising Foundation, followed suit.

At one point, a reporter asked, in light of the Garvey lawsuit, whether queer folk were being used by city officials for public relations purposes.

Trans activist Lori Buckwalter, who sits on the Chief's Forum, and Love Makes a Family's Bonnie Tinker both noted the work between the bureau and community—manifested primarily via a police advisory group known as the Sexual Minorities Roundtable—has been ongoing for years and began long before the Garvey brouhaha.

Not all on hand were there to serve up praise, though. Transsexual activist Margaret O'Hartigan distributed leaflets that raised questions about the police's professed commitment to queers. She quoted sources questioning the bureau's surveillance techniques, as well as the city's successful push to close the City Nightclub. Of the re-signing, the pamphlet blurted in big, bold letters: "Signing is collaboration."

Following the ceremony, Katie Potter, an out lesbian officer and daughter of former Portland Police Chief Tom Potter, told *Just Out* she personally had a good relationship with Moose but noted homophobia still exists among some of her colleagues.

Male officers, she explained, sometimes say that, while they accept her, they couldn't shower next to a gay male officer.

"I wouldn't say [the bureau] is full of homophobia," she said, "but there's still a ways to go."

■ Reported by INGA SORENSEN

## BI DAY '98 AROUND THE CORNER

The second annual Bi Day, a rally for bisexuals and their friends that features an all-bisexual program of speakers, booths and music, is slated for June 26.

The event is sponsored by the Portland Bisexual Alliance. Last year an estimated 175 participants turned out, making it the largest bisexual rally in Oregon history. Organizers anticipate at least as many to attend this year.

Representatives from many groups will speak, including bi leather folk, bi youth, bi feminist activists, bi people living with HIV, bisexuals from the African American community and leaders from specifically bisexual organizations.

Bi Day '98 will feature openly bisexual state Sen. Kate Brown, a Portland Democrat and member of the Portland Bisexual Alliance.

"The idea behind Bi Day is to hold a huge public event annually where every single person on stage—speakers, musicians, even the ASL interpreter—is a bisexual," says Sven Bonnichsen, president of the Portland Bisexual Alliance.

He adds that Bi Day offers a tremendous

boost in self-esteem to bisexuals, who have a chance to see many bi leaders in one place.

Bi Day '98 will be held June 26 from 5 to 8 p.m. in the South Park Blocks between the buildings of Portland State University at Southwest Park Avenue and Harrison Street.

## RTP GARDEN PARTY TICKETS ON SALE

Right to Pride will hold its 1998 Summer Garden Party and Auction July 19 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Wilsonville home and garden of Kelley and Tom Bruggere.

The annual event attracts numerous elected officials, candidates and supporters of equal rights in a different garden setting each year. RTP will also hold a benefit auction featuring vacation packages, art, ceramics and more.

Tickets for the event are \$25 and are available at the door or in advance by calling 228-5825. Proceeds benefit Right to Pride's work to secure full equality in Oregon for lesbians, bisexuals and gay men.

■ Compiled by INGA SORENSEN

## THE SEE VUE

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Jay and Fred had been staying in the Cottage at the See Vue Motel south of Yachats for years. On this particular visit, Jay was very ill. His T-cells were low and he was too weak to walk. All indications were that this would be his last stay at their favorite spot on the Oregon Coast.

It was the hardest thing Fred and Jay had ever had to do—say good-bye to their time spent together at the ocean. Two years later, after miracle-working drugs and Fred's love and support, Jay's T-cells are normal and all signs of his previous illness are gone. They return to the Cottage to celebrate Jay's renewed health and the promise of a long life lived together. They stroll on the beach, play with their new puppy and spend the evenings snuggled in bed.

Oh, and Fred beams.

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photo by Linda Kiewer

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