

New SIMPLY THE BEST— BARRINGTON HEIGHTS

\$385,000. West Linn. Sits up from gorgeous wetland area, view from front of property. Idyllic creek runs through edge of property. Large master suite on main floor, 4 bedrooms, den, 2 full and 2 half baths. Hardwoods (cherry), tile, pedestal sinks, bonus room over garage with entry to garage (attached), fully landscaped. It's simply wonderful.

New TWO ACRES: ROOM ROOM ROOM!

\$235,000. Boring. One owner, 1 level ranch in mint condition, new roof, interior paint, decks, hot tub, old growth trees, 3 bedrooms, 2.1 baths, large country kitchen. Meadow, pole barn. It's a honey.

See my other fine listings in the Classified Ads.

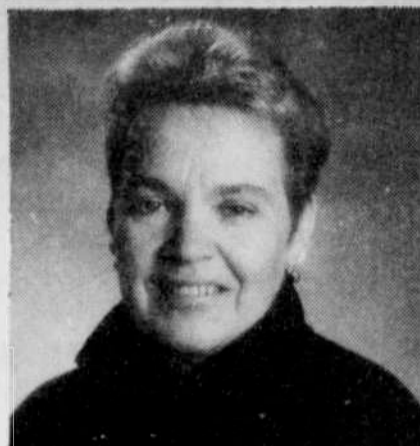
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LOCAL news

FRAMING PERCEPTIONS

**A queer-inclusive traveling exhibit shares
its message one photo at a time** by Michael Barrett

The recent shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., sent shock waves across the country. The tragedy has grabbed the attention of parents of all backgrounds, including those in the sexual minorities community.

It was a major topic of discussion at an April 29 meeting at Roosevelt High School in North Portland, following a photo and text exhibit featuring sexual minority families.

Portland parent Dan Sapon-Borson organized the roundtable discussion to assess the success of the exhibit, which displays photographs of sexual minority families and their biographies.

The traveling exhibit, a feature at Roosevelt's Health Fair '99 on April 28 and 29, is sponsored by Love Makes a Family, the Portland-based support organization for sexual minority parents and their children.

Intended to highlight the existence of such families, the exhibit's goal is to generate a comfortable school atmosphere for the children of gay and lesbian parents and to unify their families in a support network.

Sarah Friedel, student services specialist at Roosevelt, reports an enthusiastic response from staff and students who viewed the exhibit. She says students viewed the exhibit with "courtesy and restraint," and notes there was a lack of hostility or even negative comments.

Sapon-Borson surmises the Columbine massacre may have influenced Roosevelt students to view the exhibit without apparent condemnation or prejudice.

In fact, he and others suggest that, in light of the Columbine killings, students may become more aware of the potential consequences of bullying—and may be less likely to harass fellow students who look or act differently.

That would be a positive development for the children of gay and lesbian parents as well as queer and questioning youths in the schools.

Bonnie Tinker, executive director of Love Makes a Family, says Columbine has brought certain societal themes to the surface. She suggests that being a minority is not necessarily dependent on some tangible factor such as skin color or sexual orientation, but could also include minority identities such as "loners."

Some say if students are made aware that others may feel unaccepted or rejected in some way, another Columbine may be averted. Furthermore, the potential for bullying or other forms of discrimination by students and parents against sexual minority families could be diminished.

The photo exhibit embraces this line of thinking by presenting sexual minority families as part of the fabric of humanity. They laugh together, play together and endure hardships together—just like other families.

The exhibit, Tinker and others say, can bridge the supposed differences and bring people together. For children of gay and lesbian parents, it may help deconstruct feelings of isolation, because the youths see there are families like



The Love Makes a Family exhibit on display in the state Capitol

theirs in their own community. It may also help relieve fears of ostracism if their peers have seen the same positive portrayal of sexual minority families.

Straight parents, meanwhile, may see a mirror of their own families in the photographs and texts of the exhibit. As parents themselves, they might recognize the commonalities of all families; the exhibit merely points them out.

The positive response to the photo exhibit at Roosevelt had many roundtable participants considering future strategies for promoting the message that love makes a family, including the creation of more gay-straight alliances in the school district to further develop networks among parents and students based on their common interests.

"We've crossed the first threshold of fear, maybe it's time to be a little more active," says Tinker.

■ For more information about the photo exhibit, call Love Makes a Family at (503) 228-3892.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS MOVING

The Lesbian Community Project has relocated to an office and community organizing space at 1001 E. Burnside St. in Portland. An open house and party is slated for May 15 from 2 to 9 p.m.

The space is 1,000-plus square feet—intimate enough for small gatherings and large enough for big meetings. There is also a mezzanine office and a 600-square-foot basement.

The mailing address is 1001 E. Burnside St., Portland, OR 97232. The new phone number is (503) 233-3913, and the new fax number is (503) 233-3882.

Phoenix Rising Foundation's counseling services have moved to 525 N.E. Oregon St. in Portland. The agency's phone number, (503) 223-8299, remains the same.