

Thinking of Relocating to Palm Springs?

**You CAN  
Break Through the Clouds!**

Visit My Website: [www.jackellison.com](http://www.jackellison.com)  
or Call for a No-Obligation Consultation



**JACK ELLISON**  
FINANCIAL CONSULTANT

760.320.9565 • Toll Free 888.434.JACK • [www.jackellison.com](http://www.jackellison.com)  
500 S. PALM CANYON DR., SUITE 204 • PALM SPRINGS, CA 92264 • CA INSURANCE LIC #OC37841

You may be able to retire early and create an income stream to make this life change possible. Call me!



[www.citysearch.com/pdx/rosecityvet](http://www.citysearch.com/pdx/rosecityvet)



Rose City  
**VETERINARY**  
HOSPITAL

232-3105

member PABA

**NEED SOMEONE TO KISS YOUR  
BLARNEY STONE?**

**R.C.S.A.**  
"Player Auction"

Saturday, March 18th  
6:30 - 9:00 PM at Embers

--PRIZES PROVIDED--



"Spring Training"  
Sunday, March 26th  
(Women, Sunday April 2nd)  
at Westmoreland Park 10am to 4pm  
**(503) 203-9160**  
[www.portlandgaysoftball.com](http://www.portlandgaysoftball.com)

**NORTHWEST news**

**WELCOME MAT**

**De Paul Treatment Centers continues its tradition of reaching out to those in need** by T.K. Mantese

In an unassuming, red-brick and white building in downtown Portland, the De Paul Treatment Center for adults offers hope and empathy to the addicted. Inside, in the admissions office, the staff is friendly but not overbearingly so. It's a comfortable and casual place.

At this particular moment, several heterosexual men have just come out of a group counseling session and are stopping by the office on their way out. They range from roughly 18 to 50 years old. One man has a spunky demeanor, while another looks like he's got worries on his mind.

De Paul has been welcoming people working to achieve freedom from drug abuse and alcohol addiction for 25 years. While De Paul's services are available to all, its primary mission is to serve those who lack the means to pay for treatment. More than 90 percent of the people receiving care at De Paul have no insurance or other financial resources to cover the cost of treatment.

Founded by the Society of St. Vincent De Paul after a request for services by the city of Portland, the treatment center first provided short-term transitional housing for late-stage, homeless alcoholics leaving detox.

In 1978, De Paul Treatment Centers became independently incorporated with no particular religious affiliation.

De Paul is now reaching out to queer folk.

Eddy McKee is De Paul's director of nonresidential services and a gay man who oversees the Harvey Milk Group, a fledgling assembly of gay, trans, lesbian and bisexual adults in treatment for substance abuse and related issues.

McKee is enthusiastic and, if the beaming

look on his face is any clue, loves his work. He holds a master's degree in applied spirituality and is a certified alcohol and drug counselor.

The Harvey Milk Group is McKee's brainchild. (The group is named after Harvey Milk, a gay activist—and now legend—who, while serving on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1978, was gunned down.)

McKee says he realized De Paul had no substance abuse treatment designed specifically for queers and felt the agency needed to address this gap in service if it were to continue with its practice of inclusiveness.

In a friendly manner, he dubs the center's Executive Director Sheila North "our visionary," and says the Harvey Milk Group has her complete support. (North has budgeted \$100,000 annually to its development.)

The need is particularly pressing, chimes Terry Le Jeune, a licensed

clinical social worker and out lesbian who came to De Paul from Phoenix Rising Foundation, a private nonprofit organization that for many years served the queer and questioning population via a host of services, including counseling.

Phoenix Rising no longer provides counseling services; now De Paul and one other group, ASAP Treatment Services, are the only addiction treatment providers that serve the queer community.

A sexual minorities group makes sense, says McKee, because queer people face issues in substance abuse treatment that heterosexuals don't—issues such as "unresolved self-hatred and internalized shame around sexuality," he explains.

According to Barbara Gibbs, De Paul's director of development, reputable addiction treat-



Eddy McKee

PHOTOS BY MARTY DAVIS

REALTOR



**ELISE CAMPBELL**

24 HOUR PHONE  
503.296.3875

**Think you can't buy a house?**

New Home Buyer Seminar, March 21, 6:30, free. Familiarize yourself with the home buying process. Learn about mortgages, home search and selection and title and escrow. Call for info and reservations.

