

In an attempt to be more accessible to more people, the Sexual Minorities Roundtable will host a special community forum Saturday, June 3, at the downtown public library.

Planned with the timing of Portland's annual pride celebration in mind, the meeting is being held to accommodate community members who can't attend the regular roundtable sessions during the workweek, students in school, and those who are uncomfortable visiting a police facility.

The roundtable, a monthly gathering of sexual minorities and members of the Portland Police Bureau, gives the police department an opportunity to listen, Assistant Chief Mark Paresi says.

"It's lively. It's healthy. It's good," he adds.

The forum will provide an opportunity for members of sexual minority communities to give input about their interaction with police. Organizers hope the special meeting will promote greater participation.

In addition, a new survey concerning bias, violence and discrimination related to perceived sexual orientation and gender identity will be discussed and distributed.

The roundtable and the bureau will use the data compiled from the survey to answer important questions about safety unique to the sexual minorities community.

## GATHER 'ROUND

**Sexual Minorities Roundtable looks for community input at a specially planned weekend meeting** by Jonathan Kipp

Paresi says the police, among other things, want to know if crimes are being reported and if sexual minorities trust the police—and if not, why not.

A new safety card and brochure, revised by the roundtable, will be passed out at the meeting as well. The literature, usually available in bars and nightclubs, lists safety tips and provides telephone numbers for reporting crimes and getting assistance from police.

The roundtable is also organizing a new citizens foot patrol that will soon appear on Southwest Stark Street—and other areas frequented by sexual minorities—to serve as the "eyes and ears" of the police, Paresi says.

If the community utilizes the volunteer service as the program is designed, the patrol will have an amazing impact, Paresi explains. The foot patrol will provide information to citizens and will help prevent problems, in addition to reporting crimes to police.

While Paresi acknowledges that crimes against sexual minorities are not unusual, he

says Portland is generally a very safe place. He gives credit to the larger community and to the police for doing their job, but Paresi says it is the gay community that has taken a stand and stepped forward and said, "It's not going to happen here!"

Paresi thinks Portland is safer for sexual minorities than many cities because people here are "intolerant of intolerance."

■ The SEXUAL MINORITIES ROUNDTABLE special community forum is open to all. The meeting will be held from noon to 2 p.m. at the Multnomah County Central Library, 801 S.W. 10th Ave. in Portland.

The roundtable regularly meets at noon on the second Tuesday of each month. For more information, contact Assistant Chief Mark Paresi at (503) 823-0546.

Got news? Contact news reporter JONATHAN KIPP at [jkipp@teleport.com](mailto:jkipp@teleport.com).

## DELTA DEMIMONDE

**Concerned about lewd behavior in East Delta Park, police enlist the help of community leaders before making arrests**

by Jonathan Kipp

Local police and parks officials are concerned about inappropriate activity at East Delta Park in Northeast Portland.

Evidently, men are meeting at the park and having sex in the public bathrooms and near the pond.

The issue was raised at the Sexual Minorities Roundtable's May 9 meeting. Portland Police Bureau representatives said they would prefer to work with the community to solve the problem before making arrests or conducting raids.

Portland police have worked with community members and the media in the past to solve the problem of public sex acts at Lents Park, Pier Point Park and Laurelhurst Park, according to Assistant Chief Mark Paresi.

While the queer community is being asked to assist police in this matter, Paresi acknowledges that some men involved aren't gay.

"This crosses all lines of sexual preferences," he says.

The assistant chief admits that some of the people who need to be informed about the inappropriateness and the danger likely identify as heterosexual and don't read *Just Out*.

When sexual activity is allowed in public places, the assistant chief says, drug use and trafficking often follow. He is concerned about needles and other drug paraphernalia associated with the trade. Paresi says drug activity creates an unsafe environment for those who are going to the park for sex, because drug users often can be aggressive and violent.



Drive-up service at East Delta Park on a recent weekday afternoon

Sexual activity in parks is inappropriate and offensive behavior, according to Paresi, but it isn't always considered criminal. If the sex act doesn't involve an exchange of money, it may not be illegal, he says.

As such, the bureau likes to work with community leaders and help them inform others that the sexual conduct is placing unsuspecting people in grave danger. Paresi says that once word gets out that men are having sex in East Delta Park, the area will attract people looking to victimize others.

"It's inviting predators," he says, "and they will come."

East Delta Park is listed on the Internet as a place to pick up men, which particularly con-

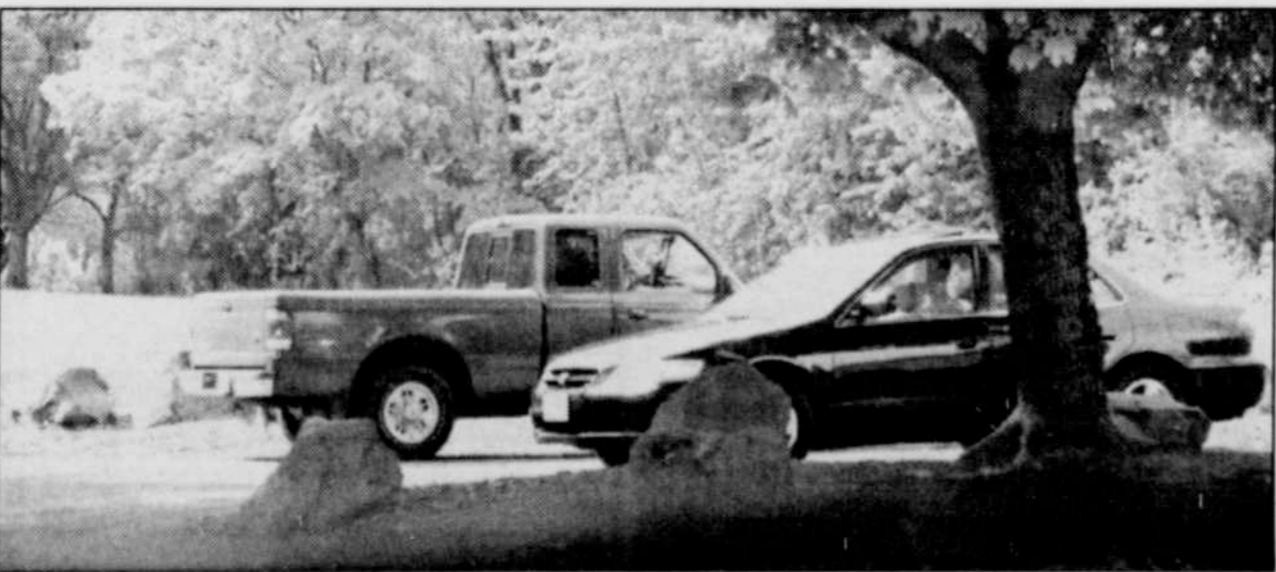
cerns Paresi. He fears that everyone on the Internet is not well-intentioned.

Mark Warrenton, head of security for Portland Parks and Recreation, says that when these problems arise in the parks, he looks to the community to help resolve the situation. Warrenton says parks officials try to speak with whomever is affected by the problem.

"Broad-based problem solving is our policy," he says.

Paresi hopes reaching out to the community will solve the problem but says future arrests are not out of the question.

"If it does not heal itself, Portland police will take an enforcement approach to this," Paresi says.



**SUBURBAN SUZUKI.**

NEW V-6 ENGINEERED TO FIT YOUR LIFE! GUARANTEED TO FIT YOUR BUDGET!

**Grand Vitara Blowout Sale!** 5.9% APR

**ALL Are On Sale! Not Just 1 or 2! Take Advantage Of These Prices and 5.9% APR**

**2000 V-6 GRAND VITARAS**

**21 MPG**

SK # ST0046, ST0049, ST0061, ST0062, ST0064

MSRP.....\$19,749

Suburban Discount.....**\$2,754**

7 in Stock **\$16,995**  
3 at This Price

**2000 V-6 GRAND VITARA 4 DOOR**

**25 MPG**

AUTOMATIC

SK # ST0006, ST0011, ST0035, ST0036, ST0048, ST0068, ST0063, ST0065

MSRP.....\$20,749

Suburban Discount.....**\$2,754**

13 in Stock **\$17,995**  
8 at this price

**2000 V-6 GRAND VITARA**

**21 MPG**

AUTOMATIC

SK # ST0025, ST0042, ST0043

MSRP.....\$23,149

Suburban Discount.....**\$3,154**

3 at This Price **\$19,995**

**2000 ESTEEM WAGON**

**34 MPG**

SK # SC0041, SC0050, SC0056, SC0057

MSRP.....\$13,849

Suburban Discount.....**\$2,854**

16 in Stock **\$10,995**  
4 in Stock...

**2000 ESTEEM SEDANS**

**35 MPG**

**ALL \$3354 OFF MSRP!**

SK # SC0049, SC0051, SC0053

MSRP.....\$13,349

Suburban Discount.....**\$3,354**

9 in Stock **\$9,995**  
3 at This Price

**Don't Pay More!**

**SUBURBAN SUZUKI**

**503-668-5515**

Special Incentives Make This Sale Possible. 5.9% APR on approved credit. Prices Good Through April 17, 2000. On Hwy 26 In Sandy, Oregon

See us at [www.getauto.com/suburbansuzuki](http://www.getauto.com/suburbansuzuki)