

KAREN M. SWEIGERT, MD
Obstetrics and Gynecology



Phone
503 274-9936
Fax
503 274-2660

Cascade Women's Health, PC
1130 N.W. 22nd, Suite 320, Portland, OR 97210



Your fresh flower professionals

JACKSON'S FLOWERS

3804 N. E. Sandy Blvd. Portland, OR 97232
282-0657 • 1 (800) 303-0657



www.JacksonsFlowers.com

Our Hands
Move Hearts™



May 13-21

HUGE SAVINGS

on Limited Edition

SCHWINN Bikes!



"the only shop that comes to you"

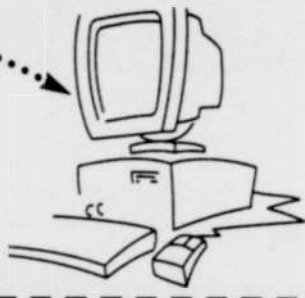
4235 SE Woodstock Blvd. • Portland, OR 97206
503-774-3531

Want More Gay and Lesbian News?



Visit www.justout.com

for updates on news from
across the nation and the world
(updated Northwest events also listed)



- like a garden studio?
- want a kitchen where cooking is a joy?
- need a house with a soul?

TRY Design That Fits

Kenneth Moholt - Stebert
building design

2020 SE SALMON • PDX 232-5686



Ralph's
Hollywood
Florist

2005 NE 42nd Avenue
Portland, OR 97213

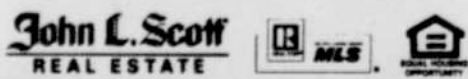
2 Blocks North of Sandy

(503) 249-1888

(800) 843-6793

**Columbia County's Premier
Real Estate Resource.**

Country living only 20 minutes
from downtown Portland.



www.columbiacountyhome.com

www.johnlscott.com

jenniferpugsley@johnlscott.com

503-543-3751 (o) 503-313-8130 (c)



NORTHWEST news

THE NEXT STAGE

At a Lesbian Community Project membership meeting, the group reworks its statement of purpose, elects new board by Katy Davidson

On May 20, the day before the Lesbian Community Project held its first membership meeting since 1998, transgendered speaker Leslie Feinberg gave the group and dozens of visitors something to chew on:

"Some people say we should put aside our differences," she proclaimed. "I say, 'No.' Let's bring our differences to a common table."

Twenty-four hours later, a diverse collection of LCP members assembled around the tables of Portland's Bijou Cafe, munching on popcorn and cookies. Feinberg may not have realized how literally her plea would be taken.

Before the meeting began, member Janna MacAuslan plucked her acoustic guitar while women of every age, appearance and self-definition mingled—it was clear this was not the same LCP that met under tense conditions a few years prior.

the organization. Others argued that LCP's devotion to the lesbian cause was implicit, no matter how it was defined.

For this year's meeting, the board decided to vote on reinstating the original mission, acknowledging that "there is not universal support for this working statement." The action was not received with much controversy, but it did relight a few burners under women who felt strongly about issues around inclusivity.

"I came to this meeting because I heard it was going to be a move away from trans issues," one member said.

Nerissa Ediza, a queer youth activist employed at Basic Rights Oregon, was also attracted to the discussion of semantics. She noted how the original statement of purpose excludes her because she identifies as bisexual, not lesbian.

Later in the meeting, musical performer

Donna Lockett said, "When I got away from LCP, it was when I thought people were trying to define me."

A common argument was that there are plenty of organizations for sexual minorities in Portland, including bisexual and trans groups. A few women in attendance said LCP is the only organization in town that should be dedicated solely to lesbians.

At the end of the meeting, the members voted on whether to return to the original statement or modify it again. So as to keep self-identified lesbians satisfied, but at the same time be more inclusive, some members suggested the statement should continue to use the word *lesbian* while adding "self-identifying women who love women" at the end.

By a significant margin, however, the members voted for the original statement of purpose.

Since the mid-'80s, LCP has held a seat among Portland's most respected community organizations. During its tenure, it has sponsored events like Women in the Woods—a weekend-long camping trip for lesbians, hosted many dances,

and brought several prominent speakers, such as Feinberg, to Portland.

Over the past two years, LCP has undergone quite a personnel shuffle. Staff organizer Deke Law resigned in late October 1999 to move to Hawaii. Following her departure, then-acting board chair Catherine Sameh began to pull together a hiring committee to fill Law's shoes. In January of this year, Kristan Aspen began a three-month interim position as staff organizer.

Aspen will now step down from her position until after Labor Day. Sameh has also announced that she wants to devote more time to her managerial position at In Other Words, a nonprofit women's bookstore.

"LCP would not be here if Kristan Aspen had not stepped in," said board member Amazon Knightly at the May 21 meeting.

Following suit, much of the rest of the meet-



PHOTO BY KATY DAVIDSON

LCP member Janna MacAuslan offered a bit of entertainment

In 1997, the long-standing Portland organization struggled with a \$25,000 debt; in 1998, it faced a dilemma involving the inclusion of all types of women—lesbian, gay, straight, bi, trans—in the LCP "statement of purpose."

Before October of that year (as reported in *Just Out*, Nov. 6, 1998), LCP's statement of purpose began: "The Lesbian Community Project is committed to the individual and collective well-being of lesbians."

After that edgy membership meeting, the new mission statement (which was never formally adopted) said LCP was "dedicated to building a world in which all human beings experience full justice, equity, democracy and liberation in all spheres of life."

Many members expressed concern that this new statement was too broad and allowed room for straight people, even men, to participate in