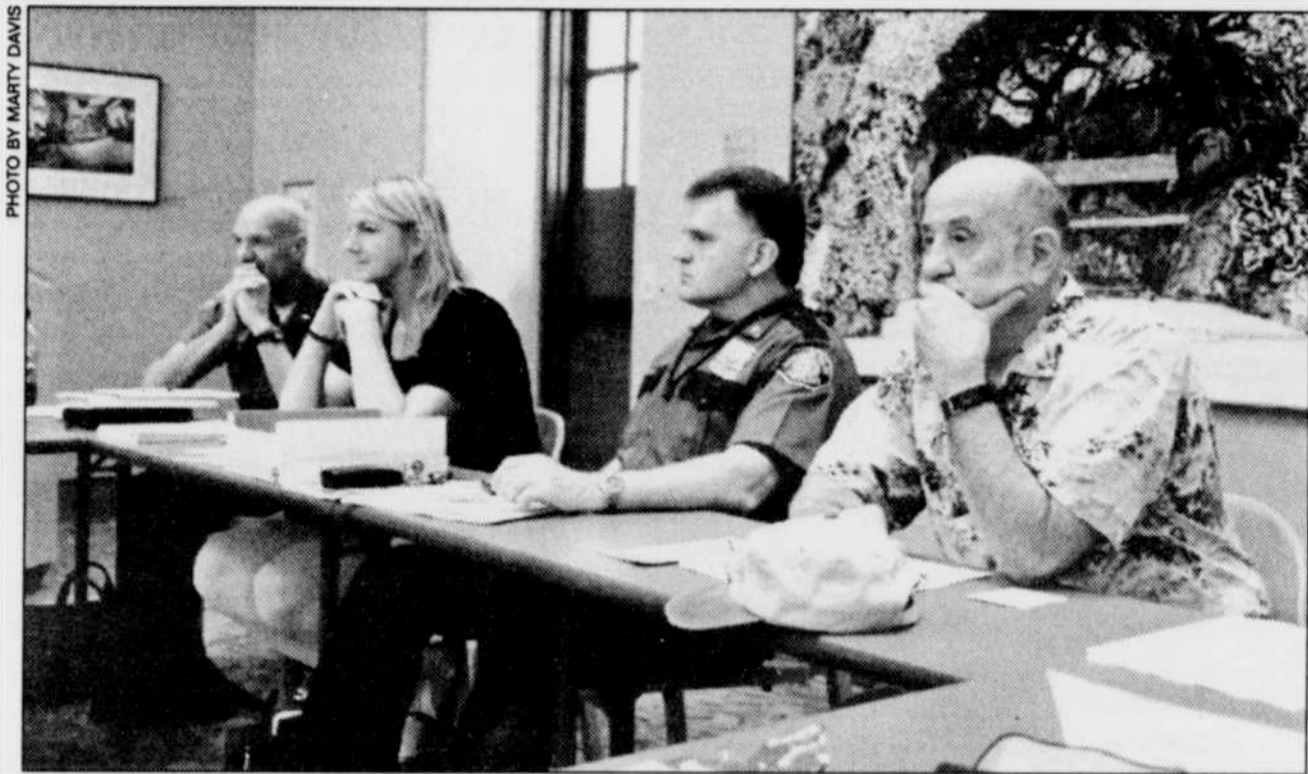


# ON THE TABLE

Information, announcements, surveys; affirmations, polemics, pleas—  
Sexual Minorities Roundtable dealt with broad agenda by Jonathan Kipp



From left: Lt. Jay Heidenriech, Lori Buckwalter, Assistant Chief Mark Paresi, Norm Costa

Portland's sexual minorities community may be in its adolescence—no longer young and naive, demanding more, increasingly confident, a bit cranky, wanting more and better of everything.

And like most people's experience during adolescence, life for Portland's queers (the term now preferred by many) is an amalgam of good

and could be better; a blend of progress, frustration, optimism, anger and, ultimately, hope.

## PROGRESS

Some of those who gathered at a special Saturday meeting of the Sexual Minorities Roundtable on June 3 came to acknowledge the positive aspects of the City of Roses and the

progress being made working side by side with the Portland Police Bureau.

Progress is being made, and one could argue that Portland hovers above most U.S. cities, a roundtable member suggested, when looking at the relationship the sexual minorities community shares with local police.

Portland's new police chief, Mark Kroeker, attended the two-hour roundtable to listen to nearly 25 community members and roundtable regulars who chose the meeting over a frolic in the unusual early-June sunshine.

Some would argue there is no better evidence of progress. The chief? Of a major U.S. city's police department? At a gay meeting?

## FRUSTRATION

"This is a good start, but we have a long way to go," Derek Travers acknowledged before launching into an impassioned speech about his experiences living in Portland.

Travers said he doesn't feel safe. A transsexual and gay man, Travers said he doesn't feel safe because of his own experience and what he's heard others have gone through when dealing with Portland's police. The young man had a laundry list of complaints for Kroeker and the bureau; gay youth being targeted by police topped his considerable list.

## OPTIMISM

Lori Buckwalter, an activist and co-chair of the roundtable, said she agrees that so much more needs to be done. But she also tried to give encouragement to the concerned, and mostly young, citizens.

## NEW POLICE CHIEF TO MARCH

Norm Costa announced that Portland police Chief Mark Kroeker is going to march in the pride parade on June 18.

An invitation was sent to Kroeker, Costa said, and the chief accepted.

Costa, who is involved in planning the annual celebration organized by Pride Northwest, made the announcement to more than 25 people who attended the Sexual Minorities Roundtable on June 3.

Kroeker, who attended the meeting with his wife, Diane, did not respond to the announcement, neither confirming nor denying his participation. In fact, he looked slightly surprised as he glanced at his wife and grinned.

Kroeker joined the bureau late last year after a 32-year career in law enforcement. He had retired from the Los Angeles Police Department in 1997; his last post there was deputy chief.

So will he march or won't he?

Portland Police Bureau public information officer Sgt. Mike Hefley confirmed on June 5 that the chief will march in the parade.

Kroeker and his assistant chief, Mark Paresi, promised no tear gas or riot-gear-clad mounted police.

"Just go and have fun," Paresi said in response to a roundtable participant's concern about her safety at the event.

Reported by JONATHAN KIPP

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## JAILS SAFER FOR TRANS COMMUNITY

Portland may have achieved something never before done in this country, according to Lori Buckwalter, co-chair of the Sexual Minorities Roundtable.

At the June 3 roundtable meeting, Buckwalter and Lt. Jay Heidenriech of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office announced new booking, classification and housing procedures for members of the trans community to be used in all county correctional facilities.

The procedures are intended to protect the rights of transsexual, transgendered and intersexed people in custody by addressing special concerns for their safety and general treatment by jail personnel.

For some trans people, Heidenriech said, there is a point in their transition to their adopted gender at which they technically could be placed in either male or female facilities. Because of this issue, the new procedures were written.

While few trans people are arrested and jailed each year in Multnomah County (one or two per year, according to Heidenriech), the sheriff department's manual on harassment and discrimination does address this community. The manual requires trans citizens to "be treated respectfully and afforded the same privileges as any similarly situated inmate."

But the special order outlining the new procedures goes even further in protecting members of the trans community who are in police custody. Following the arrest of a trans person, a detailed protocol goes into effect, including the identification of appropriate housing options. The protocol is lengthy and involves multiple police, jail and health personnel.

Heidenriech said San Francisco averages 36 trans inmates in custody. Yet the city, known as a haven for alternative lifestyles, does not have a policy for the treatment of trans people during the incarceration intake process. In fact, Heidenriech said, law

enforcement officials in San Francisco have discussed adopting the Multnomah County policy after seeing one of the earlier drafts.

The recently adopted policy was authored over the past three months, said Heidenriech, who is the sheriff's representative to the Sexual Minorities Roundtable.

"It's something nobody else has in this country," added Buckwalter, who is also executive director of It's Time, Oregon, an organization that advocates for the civil rights of trans people.

The guidelines are the result of extended negotiation and collaboration between the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, representatives of the Sexual Minorities Roundtable and a community-police advisory group.

The full text of the special order, including a downloadable version, can be found at [www.itstime.org/news/MultCoInmate-SpclOrder.htm](http://www.itstime.org/news/MultCoInmate-SpclOrder.htm).

Reported by JONATHAN KIPP

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