

YOUTHS LOBBY FOR ACCESS TO ROUNDTABLE

Sexual minority youths want greater access to the Sexual Minorities Roundtable and to feel more comfortable when meeting with police.

At July's gathering, a contingent of sexual minority youths continued to voice their concerns about access to the meetings.

Of particular concern to the youths, as well as their adult supporters, is the location of the meetings. The roundtable—a monthly gathering of sexual minorities and members of the Portland Police Bureau with the stated purpose of exchanging information, concerns and suggestions—meets at the downtown Justice Center, where the police bureau is headquartered.

All who enter the building must show identification to security personnel. This arrangement makes some who want to attend the meetings very uncomfortable. Youths might feel intimidated entering the Justice Center, some say, because they think police have mistreated them in the past.



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The roundtable's June meeting was held at Multnomah County Central Library on a Saturday afternoon to offer more accessibility to the community.

Mel Rudd, who works with sexual minority youths at YouthNet, a program of Love Makes a Family, thinks that special event was a good start. But he wants the meetings to move permanently out of the Justice Center.

Others want the meetings to be conducted at a different time. Several said July 11 that the noon start time prevents many youths from attending because of school or work schedules.

Lori Buckwalter, the roundtable's co-chair, said relocating the meetings might be possible if it would result in increased attendance. But she said she would expect some reluctance from police.

Also at issue was the attire of the officers who attend. Some of the officers from the Portland Police Bureau and Multnomah County Sheriff's Office attend the meetings in full uniform. Others come in regular street clothes. One youth said she's horrified to be in the room with police in uniform.

"It is a power thing when someone has a weapon when we're talking about building a community," Deanna Bryant said in agreement with younger meeting participants.

But some disagreed.

"Some of us are gay, and we wear this uniform because it's what we do," officer Mike Garvey rebutted.

The uniform issue won't go anywhere, one roundtable regular told *Just Out*.

As for the location of the meeting, Garvey

suggested a compromise. He said two meetings might be a solution but meeting at the bureau should be continued.

"It keeps the bureau accountable," Garvey said. "People have to see you and interact with you."

PROMISE KEEPERS OUSTED FROM OPB RADIO

One person can indeed make a difference. Just ask Scott Lechert.

Willamette Week confirmed July 12 that some Oregon Public Broadcasting listeners weren't imagining things when they heard the Promise Keepers, a Christ-centered ministry dedicated to uniting men to better influence the world, advertising on the radio during traffic reports.

But it was a *Just Out* reader who brought the issue to OPB officials. Within days, Lechert's action resulted in Promise Keepers ads being removed from the airwaves.

Lechert, 41, says he felt like he'd lost a friend when he heard the words "Promise Keepers" on OPB. He says they have not exactly been friendly to the gay and lesbian community and that hearing their name mentioned as a sponsor on public radio made him feel uncomfortable.

In fact, the Promise Keepers have a formal statement about their views on homosexuality: "We believe that the Bible clearly teaches that homosexuality violates God's creative design for a husband and a wife and that it is a sin."

At first, OPB told Lechert no advertisements from the Promise Keepers were on the air. Officials checked national advertisers provided by National Public Radio and local underwriters as well. But when Lechert persisted and asked OPB to double-check its records, it did find the ads.

Turns out Metro Traffic Control, which provides traffic reports for most Portland-area radio stations, had the deal with the Promise Keepers. OPB says it was an oversight—an error in the airing, so to speak.

OPB says Promise Keepers underwriting any programming violates its guidelines concerning religious broadcasting. For that reason, OPB's vice president of radio is said to be contacting Metro Traffic so the Promise Keepers will not be mentioned on future broadcasts.

The Promise Keepers, who arrive in town July 21 for a two-day manifest, say they welcome homosexuals to attend the event "to be recipients of God's mercy, grace and forgiveness."

You can receive all that for the price of a ticket—just \$69—and even get lunch.

PRIDE OF THE ROSE DEADLINE EXTENDED

The Pride of the Rose Scholarship Fund has extended its application deadline to Aug. 21.

The scholarship is the oldest of its kind in Oregon and was founded in 1979 by Rose Emperor V Frank Schreckenberger and Rose Empress XXI Allison Grey. It is administered by Equity Foundation.

Although the scholarships vary from year to year, Matthew Nelson, Equity Foundation executive director, says most years the fund offers several scholarships for about \$1,000 each.

To be eligible, students must be bound for college, vocational or art school and be a member of a sexual minority community or have parents who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans. Recipients also must reside in the Portland-Vancouver four-county area and be accepted into an accredited educational program.

To date, the Pride of the Rose Scholarship Fund has awarded more than \$85,000 to qualified students.

Applications may be obtained through Equity Foundation, P.O. Box 5696, Portland, OR 97228, or at www.equityfoundation.org. Call (503) 231-5759 for more information.

The scholarships will be awarded at Turnabout, an annual fund-raiser for the scholarship fund, on Sept. 10 at Darcelle XV.

PLANNING COUNCIL VOTES ON HIV/AIDS BUDGET

The Portland Area HIV Services Planning Council is gearing up for another year of helping distribute money to HIV and AIDS service providers.

The council is responsible for making recommendations about the distribution of federal funds from the Ryan White CARE Act. The group is responsible for prioritizing the needs of people with HIV and AIDS in a six-county region surrounding Portland.

The council met July 12 to reassess its priorities and to vote on new fiscal budgets. Co-chair David Heal said the council's long list of priorities didn't change a lot from last year: outpatient care, health insurance, drug reimbursement, housing-related services, housing assistance and dental care.

The council has no role in selecting the agencies that receive the grant money, although it provides some general guidance to Multnomah County, which seeks out appropriate applicants to provide services to those with HIV and AIDS.

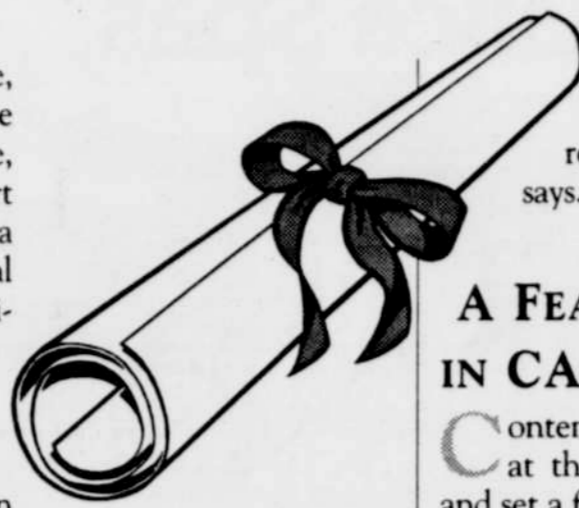
The Ryan White CARE Act, named after the boy who captured the hearts of people across the country during his battle against AIDS in the 1980s, provides for low-income Americans affected by HIV and AIDS.

Last year, more than \$3 million was disbursed in the Portland area under the act. The council has made a \$3.4 million grant request for next year.

But Congress first must pass legislation to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act and ensure funding will continue to be available for five more years. Heal says the House of Representatives is expected to authorize the bill in late summer; the Senate has approved the funding already. The council expects a decision about local funding by October.

AIDS Action, a Washington, D.C.-based advocacy group for people affected by HIV and AIDS, says a recent study found Ryan White programs "benefited those communities hit hardest by the epidemic and provided much-needed outpatient health care that prevented more costly inpatient care later on."

Our House of Portland, HIV Day Center,



A FEATHER IN CAP'S CAP

Contemporary art lovers showed up June 24 at the Pacific Northwest College of Art and set a fund-raising record.

The 10th annual Cascade AIDS Project Art Auction, presented by Bank of America, raised \$180,000—a record for the event.

Thomas Bruner, CAP executive director, says \$107,000 was raised last year and that the previous high was \$128,000, raised in 1998.

Artists, galleries and collectors donated pieces of contemporary art for the annual event. More than 200 pieces were sold in silent and oral auctions.

The record could make the auction CAP's biggest fund-raiser of the year. Bruner says CAP's AIDSWalk historically earns the most money. This year's AIDSWalk, slated for September, has a goal of raising \$175,000.

CAP hopes to raise \$800,000 during the next fiscal year, Bruner says. The projected funds already are allocated in the upcoming budget, he adds, so the agency must reach the goal.

Apparently, Oregon's leading HIV and AIDS agency is off to a good start.

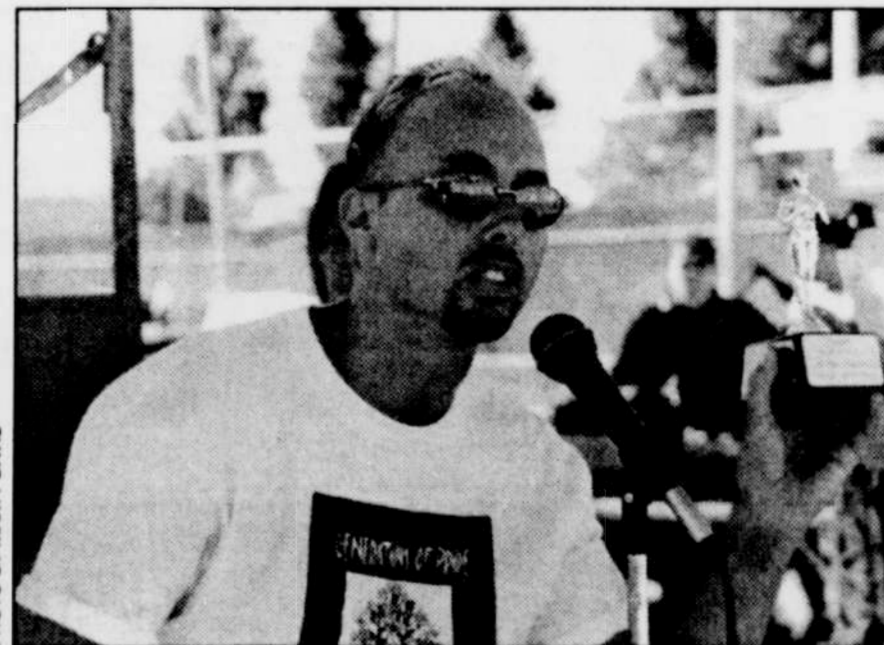
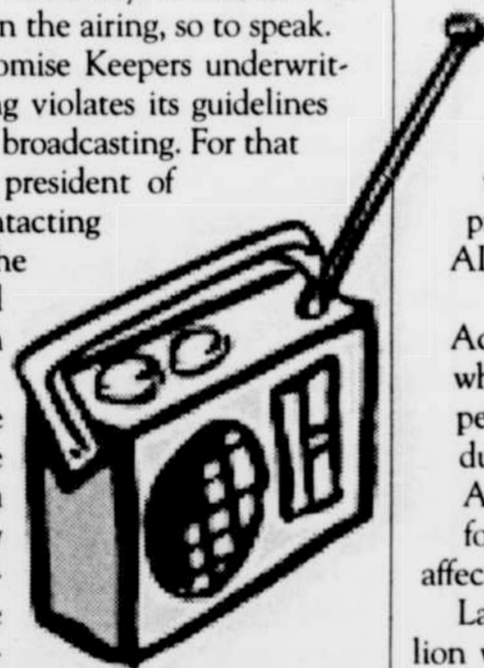
■ Reported by JONATHAN KIPP

PRIDE DOES VANCOUVER PROUD

As more than 1,500 people flocked to the Vancouver Landing last weekend, southwest Washington's gay and lesbian community proved once again that Saturday in the Park is more than an old hit song by Chicago.

"It was the best one ever," says Mike Audette, this year's Community Pride Award winner. "There were the most vendors, the most information booths, the most people. We had a great day."

Saturday in the Park was originally a highly political event, first held in 1994 to celebrate the failure of two anti-gay initiatives. Through



Community Pride Award winner Mike Audette

the years, it has expanded into more of an entertainment-intensive, intimate pride event—the only one of its kind in southwest Washington.

This year, Saturday in the Park played host to performances by Lynn Frances Anderson, Galloway & Luckett, the Rose City Gay Freedom Band, drag queens Goddess Rockafeller and Rusty Nails, and a group of belly dancers, among others.

■ Reported by KATY DAVIDSON