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Fred Phelps and his crew were out in full force during the Millennium March on April 30 in Washington, D.C.

FRED PHELPS PLANS NEWBERG PROTEST

The same group that protested at the funeral of Matthew Shepard, the University of Wyoming student who was beaten to death because he was gay in 1998, will stage a demonstration Sept. 8 in Newberg. The Westboro Baptist Church, headed by the infamous Fred Phelps in Topeka, Kan., claims a 16-year-old student was persuaded by a Newberg High School teacher to be gay.

The planned visit is posted at God-HatesFags.com, operated by Phelps' grandson Benjamin. "Using sex education courses—and other pretext—Satan's fag and dyke evangelists, masquerading as public school teachers, are preaching the lie that it's OK to be gay to sexually immature and naive teen-agers all across America, baptizing them into the grotesque religion of ancient Sodom and Gomorrah," the Internet site says.

The group's opposition to homosexuality is so severe, even Jerry Falwell doesn't agree with the church.

"He does not speak for us, and he does not speak for Christianity," he writes in the *Nation Liberty Journal*. "Fred Phelps is not one of us."

The church is most well-known for picketing at funerals for people who have died of AIDS complications. The group claims it has held more than 18,000 religious demonstrations.

The Newberg City Police Department is aware of the planned picket. Spokeswoman Cindy Young-Bolek says the church sent a fax about its plans and indicated it would hold a peaceful protest.

She says the department will continue to monitor the situation and will gather more information from the group before Sept. 8. The time and exact location of the demonstration have not been announced by the church and are not known by police, Young-Bolek says.

Officials also will meet to determine where protesters are allowed around the school's property. "Our role is to maintain peace," Young-Bolek says.

Newberg School District personnel did not return calls from *Just Out*.

SALTZMAN WILL MEET WITH COMMUNITY

City Commissioner Dan Saltzman's office recently announced a new date for a forum with the sexual minorities community. He and his staff have invited anyone interested in speaking with him to the Metropolitan Community Church's main floor family room, 2400 N.E. Broadway, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Sept. 26.

Saltzman wants to meet with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered citizens to better understand the needs of these communities. His office wants to ensure all individuals have access to city government.

Saltzman was said to be instrumental in bringing a domestic partnership registry to Multnomah County. It is expected to go into effect Sept. 1.

A July 20 forum was canceled at the last minute when Saltzman was called away because his father was in critical condition at a Portland hospital, assistant Frank Dixon says; he since has stabilized and is receiving care at home. Several citizens as well as one television news crew showed up for the meeting.

For more information, call (503) 823-4151.

"He does not speak for us, and he does not speak for Christianity. Fred Phelps is not one of us."
 — Jerry Falwell

OREGON UNLIKELY TO JOIN NATIONAL PROTEST AGAINST SCOUTS

A national protest of the Boy Scouts of America is planned for Aug. 21. The move comes several weeks after the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the organization's right to discriminate against leaders based on sexual orientation.

A Portland protest has not been planned. The national organization Scouting for All recently contacted area groups in an attempt to recruit a coordinator.

Bonnie Tinker, Love Makes a Family executive director, was asked to organize the protest but had to decline. She said she was faced with other pressing issues—most importantly the Oregon Citizens Alliance-sponsored Measure 9.

But Tinker did take other action in lieu of organizing the protest: She sent a letter to Larry