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NORTHWEST news

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relationship. The city concluded that the connection was in violation of the Civil Rights Ordinance, which includes sexual orientation as a protected class.

The Scouts' policy allows for troops to reject homosexuals as leaders. The ban does not specifically mention gay Scouts, but legal experts say they likely can be dismissed, too. The policy was upheld in a highly publicized U.S. Supreme Court case last June.

BRO ANNOUNCES HONOREES

Lori Buckwalter and Powell's Books will be honored during the eighth annual Oregonians Against Discrimination Luncheon on April 18 at the downtown Portland Hilton. The event helps draw attention to Basic Rights Oregon's Fair Workplace Project.

Buckwalter is being recognized for advancing gender identity inclusion in Portland's Civil Rights Ordinance. After several years of effort, her work paid off when the City Council changed the ordinance Dec. 13.

Powell's Books will be recognized as a fair workplace. It went above and beyond in its dedication to defeating the Oregon Citizens Alliance's recent ballot measure, according to Basic Rights Oregon. The company donated office space and phone lines and played host to fund-raisers for the No on 9 Campaign.

For more information contact CM Hall at 503-222-6151.

ROUNDTABLE PLANS MEETING

The Sexual Minorities Roundtable will hold its regular quarterly meeting 2 p.m. March 3 at Multnomah County's Central Library, 801 S.W. 10th Ave. The gathering is open to the public.

Regular members of the roundtable plan to unveil a proposal that, if approved, will be presented to Portland Police Chief Mark Kroeker. It is expected to include a list of suggested actions he could take to rebuild his relationship and trust with the sexual minorities community.

A small committee is authoring the action plan. The group is utilizing the notes taken during the forum sponsored by Just Out and the roundtable last December in which Kroeker met with members of the sexual minorities community.

The proposal will be discussed and voted on during the meeting. Kroeker agreed to attend the forum after 10-year-old tapes were found containing his controversial remarks about gays, AIDS, women and child discipline.

The Sexual Minorities Roundtable will help Portland Police Chief Mark Kroeker rebuild trust with the community

RON BLANCK ATTENDS TRAINING

A disgruntled officer ended up attending the Portland Police Bureau's diversity training he so adamantly opposed in the December edition of *Rap Sheet*, according to Assistant Chief Mark Paresi. Rob Blanck, who writes for the police union's monthly newspaper, was "talked to" by the bureau's brass and agreed to attend the training.

He wrote in his column, "Poyntblank Perspectives," that the city would be violating Title VII if it required diversity training that conflicted with an employee's religious beliefs. He called on his fellow officers to protest the diversity training by refusing to attend.

"The militant gays and lesbians...have gained power by intimidation and rhetoric like no other group in the history of our nation," Blanck wrote. "We, as employees, are being indoctrinated into the so-called diversity."

SHEPHERD TO RECEIVE HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Ann Shepherd, still recovering from a serious stroke last Thanksgiving, has another reason to continue her struggle back to good health.

Rick Stoller, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon executive director, recently informed her family that she is the organization's unanimous choice as Humanitarian of the Year. The honor will be presented during its annual awards banquet Feb. 22.

Shepherd, 82, co-founded the Portland chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and has fought on behalf of the sexual minorities community since the early 1970s. She recently was named grand marshal of Pride 2001's parade and celebration, "Bridges of Pride," which is scheduled for June 17.

For more information call 503-221-1054.

BISEXUAL CONFERENCE SEEKS WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

The Portland Bisexual Alliance is looking for workshop presenters for the Oregon Bi Conference 2001. The event will take place April 14 at Portland State University.

Proposals must be submitted for consideration

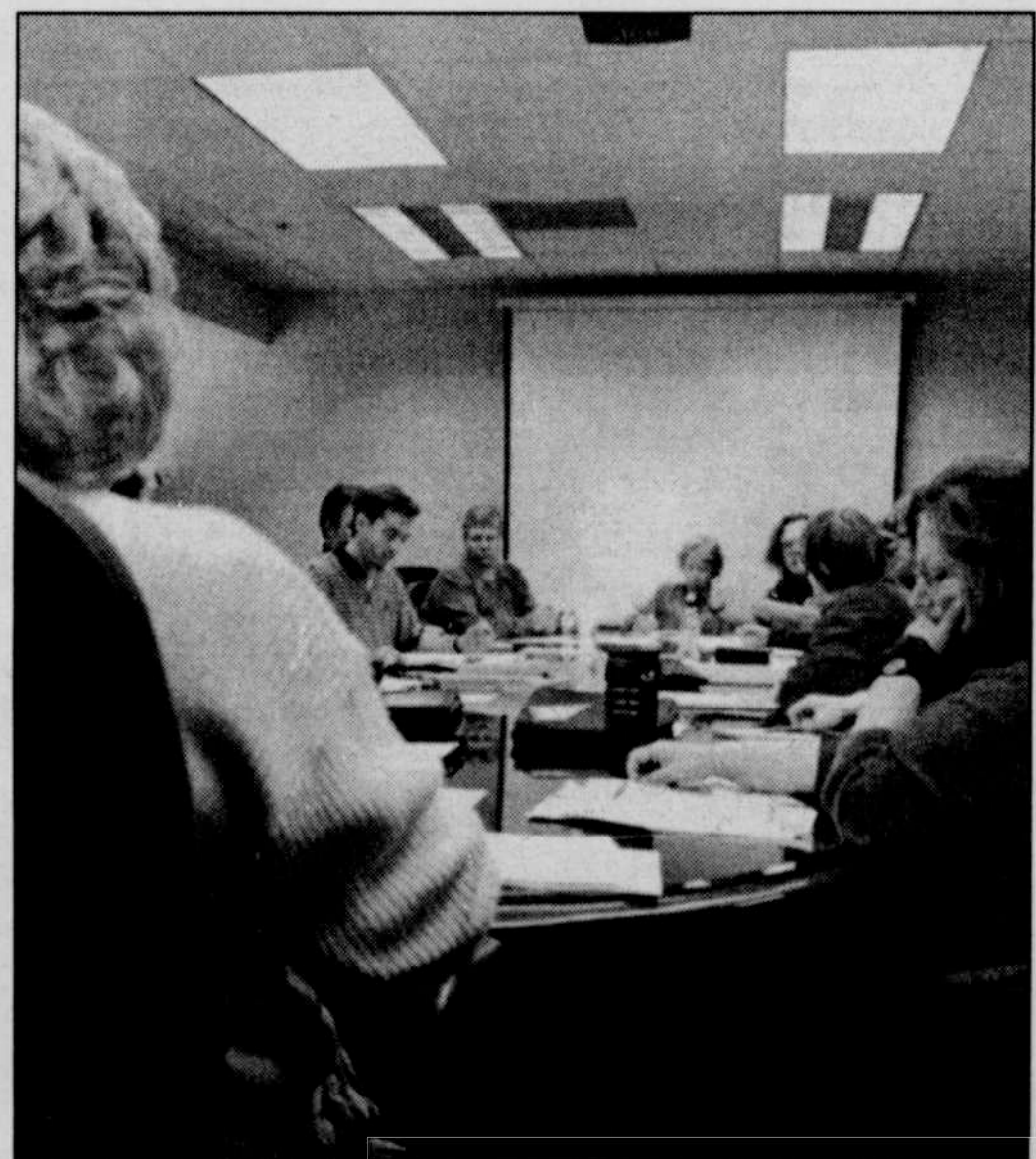


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