

by Feb. 28. Decisions about the proposals will be announced by March 15. Workshop topics may deal with anything of interest to bisexual people.

Formed in 1995, the alliance has become the largest and most active bisexual organization in Oregon. It concentrates on community building, public education and political advocacy.

Organizers say bisexuals often find themselves invisible in the media and socially ostracized—even within gay and lesbian groups. The alliance works to break that isolation by holding regular events.

Send your proposal to board@biportland.org. For more information write to P.O. Box 412, Portland, OR 97207; call 503-775-9717; or visit the Internet site www.biportland.org.

LAWYERS DEFEND GAY MAN'S RIGHT TO RETAIN HOME

The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund urged the Washington Supreme Court on Feb. 13 to overturn a ruling that stripped a man of his home and business after the death of his partner of 27 years and affirm that gay couples are protected by the state's law of equity. The decision in Vasquez v. Hawthorne was not available at press time.

"The Court of Appeals created a peculiar and unfair barrier for lesbians and gay men when it treated Frank Vasquez as a legal stranger to the property he and his partner had built up over their years together," said Jennifer Pizer, an attorney for Lambda's Western Regional Office. "For the sake of all gay families throughout the state, as well as basic justice for Frank Vasquez, the Washington Supreme Court should tear down this barrier."

Vasquez shared a home and business with Robert Schwerzler, who died in 1995 without a will. In 1997, Schwerzler's relatives sued to take over all the men's assets, including their home in Puyallup. Although a lower court upheld Vasquez's claim to the property, valued at \$230,000 and acquired during their relationship, the state's Court of Appeals ruled that he has no right to retain that property because the two men were of the same sex and couldn't have married even if they had wished to.

"Washington's equitable doctrine provides a fair safety net if one partner in an unmarried couple dies without a will," said Ruth E. Harlow, Lambda legal director. "This doctrine of fairness should not be offered to only some couples and not others because of their sexual orientation."

LENGTH OF STAY AT OUR HOUSE INCREASES

According to recent statistics released by Our House of Portland, a hospice for people with AIDS, the length of residents' stay has increased dramatically during the past three years.

In 1998, the average length of stay was 106 days; since then, it has increased almost 350 percent. In earlier years, the average stay for residents before death was 18 days.

The average age of residents, 39.8 years old in 2000, remained about the same during the same time period.

The deaths of residents at Our House also dropped. A total of 12 residents died at the hospice during 1998; nine residents died during 2000.

Since 1993, the number of people who have been diagnosed with and have died from AIDS has decreased dramatically. At the height of the epidemic in Oregon, 560 residents were diag-

nosed with AIDS; 375 died of AIDS complications in the same year. 2000 saw only 105 AIDS diagnoses and five deaths, according to data from the Oregon Health Division.

Our House of Portland is the only residential care facility providing 24-hour skilled nursing care to people in the late stages of the syndrome. The increase in average stay is posing new challenges for the hospice as it moves to provide expanded and improved services to meet the residents' increasingly complex care needs.

For more information, to volunteer or to make a donation write to Our House, 2727 S.E. Alder St., Portland, OR 97214; or call 503-234-0175.

PROTESTER NOW HAS AIDS

The North Bend man who stopped taking his anti-retroviral HIV medication Dec. 21 in protest of the state's decision to take the names of those testing positive for HIV says he now has AIDS.

After three years of "being normal," Steve Henson recently was handed an AIDS diagnosis from his doctor. He stopped a pharmaceutical regimen that was keeping him healthy when Dr. Martin Wasserman, the Oregon Health Division's administrator, publicly announced his decision to expand HIV surveillance around the state.

Starting July 1, the names of people testing positive for HIV will be reported to the public health system. The information will remain in the state's computer database for 90 days before the name is transcribed into a code called a unique identifier.


The new policy is being implemented, officials say, to track the changing HIV epidemic and to provide better services to those testing positive for the virus. Despite the pending policy, anonymous and confidential testing will continue to be available throughout the state.

Henson released a press statement in December that said he would continue his one-man protest until the decision to utilize names reporting is reversed or effective legislation and administrative rules are enacted to secure and protect the rights of HIV-positive people. He is a member of the governor-appointed Oregon Public Health Advisory Board and the newly formed Alliance for Public Health Accountability.

Henson released a press statement in December that said he would continue his one-man protest until the decision to utilize names reporting is reversed or effective legislation and administrative rules are enacted to secure and protect the rights of HIV-positive people. He is a member of the governor-appointed Oregon Public Health Advisory Board and the newly formed Alliance for Public Health Accountability.

CAP HONORS VOLUNTEERS

Cascade AIDS Project held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception on Feb. 15 at Fifth Avenue Suites Hotel in downtown Portland. The region's leading HIV organization said 711 youth and adults volunteered 24,240 hours valued at \$536,789 in 2000.

Jeff Miller, general manager of Saks Fifth Avenue; Bruce Carey, owner of Bluehour and Saucebox restaurants; and the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest received Community Leader Awards for their long-standing commitment to the work of CAP. Angel Awards were presented to students in Portland State University's Capstone Project and to 28 other individuals providing exceptional support in programs across the agency. 

Compiled by Just Out staff



PALM SPRINGS
Serving your real estate needs for...
**CONDOS
VACATION HOMES
HOTEL PROPERTIES
APARTMENT BLDGS.**

GREG GRAY
(760) 833-5434



211 E. Palm Canyon
Palm Springs, CA 92264




DIGNIFIED PET SERVICES
Cremation & Memorials For Your Companion

How Can We Help?

- Oregon's Only Funeral Home and Crematory Exclusively for Animals
- Our Phones are Always Answered
- 24 Hour Emergency Service - We Transport
- We Have an "Open Door Policy"; Tours Are Encouraged

8976 SW Tualatin Sherwood Road
Tualatin OR 97062
Phone (503) 885-2211
www.DignifiedPetServices.com
(A Division of Cascade Funeral Directors, Inc.)

Second Annual
**Portland Area Business Association
Commitment to Our Community Awards Dinner**

Honoring:
Deborah Betron
Owner & Broker of Bridgetown Realty
2000-2001 Honoree Award Winner




Entertainment by:
WYMPROV!
Women's Improvisational Comedy Troupe



Double Tree Hotel - Lloyd Center
Wednesday, February 21, 2001
6:00pm Cocktails • 7:00pm Dinner • \$50⁰⁰ Per Person

(503) 241-2222
www.paba.com

Dana L. Gardner
Financial Advisor

2000 CIRCLE OF CHAMPIONS MEMBER

WADDELL & REED
Financial Services
Investing. With a plan.

MEMBER SIPC
PABA
PORTLAND AREA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Helping You Build Your Financial Future

Specializing in financial advice for singles, domestic partners & non-traditional couples

- MUTUAL FUNDS
- TRADITIONAL & ROTH IRAS
- IRA ROLLOVERS
- RETIREMENT PLANNING
- LIFE, DISABILITY AND LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE
- COMPREHENSIVE, VALUES-BASED FINANCIAL PLANNING

503.238.6036x107
fax 503.238.7056
www.waddell.com

500 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 500
Portland, Oregon 97232