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NORTHWEST news

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and mental health services. It will serve about 250 clients a year.

"The women's clinic responds to a community need to better serve women 40 years and older, particularly women of color," said Marge Jozsa, Neighborhood Health Clinics executive director.

Like the other facilities in the organization, the new location will serve clients who are uninsured and are ineligible for the Oregon Health Plan, medical program manager Heidi Steeves said. "The people served by NHC are most often working poor who cannot afford health insurance premiums or whose jobs do not offer insurance coverage."

Last year, Neighborhood Health Clinics served a record-breaking 9,980 people. This year, the organization already has seen a 50 percent increase in clients.

The new clinic, at 3653 S.E. 34th Ave. and Powell Boulevard, is open from 6 to 9 p.m. every other Tuesday. The Northeast Portland clinic, at 4945 N.E. Seventh Ave., is open every other Thursday.

For more information call 503-288-5995.

NEWSLETTER LAUNCHES WEB SITE

The HIV Positive Newsletter recently launched a Web site featuring all editions since July 1999. The publication provides information and peer advocacy for people living with HIV/AIDS in Oregon and southwest Washington.

Editor Ron Robertson says the site just is getting started and is not complete. Eventually, he says, it will feature a comprehensive table of contents and interesting links for his readers.

For more information visit the Internet site www.hivpositiveweb.org.

MILITARY RECRUITMENT ISSUE RESURFACES

The Portland Public Schools district once again is debating the issue of military recruiters.

Board member Derry Jackson submitted a proposal March 12 that would amend a resolution banning recruiters from the halls of local public schools. Under his plan, they

would be allowed into schools if invited by administrators, staff or students. The district implemented the ban five years ago when it decided to prohibit all employers who practice hiring discrimination from recruiting in the schools.

Board member Marc Abrams spoke out against Jackson's proposal during the meeting. He said that the ban is working and that no evidence has been presented to indicate otherwise.

Jackson, who narrowly was re-elected March 13, said no other issue during his term on the school board has brought such lobbying to his office. He said he has met with people from both sides of the controversial issue. "You can't pick up the paper without hearing about how our children are suffering."

Last summer, Jackson said he would vote

against lifting the ban if the board forced a vote. He hoped to give the community an opportunity to weigh in on the issue.

"I do not support discrimination in any form, including sexual orientation," Jackson wrote in an e-mail to *Just Out*. "Having said that, I have a growing understanding of the problems associated with the military's 'don't ask, don't tell' policy. However, if our sovereignty was challenged today by forces beyond our borders, both you and I would very appreciative of the sacrifices that those men and women in uniform stand ready to make on our behalf. I have no doubt that we have a serious policy problem to overcome; we simply disagree on the manner in which we attack the problem."

But today, Jackson said he feels the need to provide students with as much information about careers and post-high school educational opportunities as possible—including serving in the military. He doesn't want to belabor the point, either. "The fact remains we have to react on this urgently," he said.

Although Jackson might not have the votes to get his proposal passed, he isn't alone in his desire to lift the ban. Veterans showed up at the meeting to express their frustration with the policy; several blamed it on a "political agenda" but refrained from stipulating whose agenda they were referring to.

Bonnie Tinker, Love Makes a Family executive director, supports the ban and admonished Jackson for his proposal. "I thought I was a part of your community," she told him.

Tinker challenged those who claim the military's exclusion from public schools was devastating recruitment efforts. She found that hard to believe considering the money spent on advertising and the marketing skills utilized. "It takes courage to defend freedom, and you are in the position to do that on this school board," she said.

But Tinker was in the minority. African American community leaders Bernie Foster and Bruce Broussard joined the veterans in asking the board to lift the ban. The men never mentioned the issue of discrimination.

Abrams tried to simplify the situation. He said the issue is like saying you're a "little bit" pregnant—either you protect all of your children or you don't.

The meeting will air at 8:30 p.m. March 16, 7:30 p.m. March 17, 4 p.m. March 18 and 8 a.m. March 19 on Channels 53 and 28. To contact board members visit the Internet site www.pps.k12.or.us.

NUDE SUNBATHING RULING EXPECTED SOON

A decision in the Sauvie Island nude beach court case is expected soon. Homeowners Teri Powers and Glen Mark sued the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Division of State Lands in an attempt to get rid of legal nude sunbathing.

A portion of the island's nude beach serves as an unofficial gay nude beach, attracting hundreds of sunbathers each summer, near the plaintiff's property. Mainstream media coverage of the lawsuit has made no mention of the issue of sexual orientation.

The couple claim nude sunbathers have sex on their property, have damaged their property and have threatened them. They also say dressed sunbathers are harassed on the beach.

"I have been to Collins Beach many times and have never seen any sexual impropriety," Christopher Webster wrote in a letter to *The Oregonian*. "I have seen polite, responsible behavior, but never anybody being harassed for sunbathing clothed, as Powers and Mark claim."



Derry Jackson



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