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NORTHWESTNews

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PARENTS TARGET EUGENE TEACHER

¹ he Eugene School District is investigating several complaints made by parents of students whose teacher told them she is a lesbian. According to reports, Barb MacWilliam, a sixth-grade science instructor at Cal Young Middle School, revealed her sexual orientation March 8.

That was followed by complaints from more than two dozen parents, according to The Register-Guard. The school district now is looking into whether MacWilliam broke any school policies.

Paul Duchin, Eugene Education Association president, said she came out in response to a question from a student and subsequently told other classes in order to get ahead of the rumor mill and ensure an accurate explanation.

Ted Heid, the district's director of labor relations, told Just Out several formal complaints have been received since the initial calls from parents. "We are in the process of investigating this," he said, but no details could be released because this is a personnel matter.

The inquiry should be complete within a week or two, Heid said. He was unsure whether the information would be made public.

MacWilliam could not be reached for comment. The Lane County director of the Oregon Citizens Alliance condemned her action.

"No teacher has any business discussing their sexuality with their students," Barry Dean Williams said. "Homosexuality is immoral and unnatural. It's an unhealthy lifestyle, and they should keep it to themselves."

BRO LIKELY TO ANNOUNCE NEW DIRECTOR SOON

asic Rights Oregon board chair Harriett Merrick says her organization made a job



OREGON WOMEN WILL RECEIVE TOP HONOR

wo Oregon women have been tapped to I receive special recognition by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force during the Honoring Our Allies reception May 14 in Washington, D.C.

The honor is bestowed on individuals who have worked to make a difference for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender civil rights. Past honorees include Al Gore, Coretta Scott King, Nelson Mandela, Janet Reno, Donna Shalala, Jocelyn Elders and Richard Gephardt. This year's recipients include U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., and Academy Award winner Bruce Cohen, who produced American Beauty.

"I was totally stunned, actually," Liz Kaufman says about learning of the recognition. She says she is usually behind the scenes and is honored to be named in the company of people like Mandela.

Thalia Zepatos says she also was shocked when the task force called her with the news. Many of the past recipients are her heroes.

Both Kaufman and Zepatos have been involved in the state's gay rights movement since the 1980s. They got involved when the Oregon Citizens Alliance started threatening the basic rights of sexual minorities with a number of ballot measures.

The friends have been involved with the multiple defeats of the OCA since 1988. They also have traveled the country sharing their experiences with organizers from other states and have helped train gay political candidates.

Although neither is a lesbian, seeing the threat to sexual minorities was enough to compel them to participate in the movement. But Kaufman says the biggest reason she entered the arena wasn't so complicated: When Zepatos asked her to get involved, anti-gay groups were "not on my radar screen." She says she couldn't imagine why

COLONIAL HEIGHTS HONEY

NEW listing! Townhouse you'd expect to find in the Pearl. Best of both worlds — GARAGE! Near Hawthorne, near Clinton, Nature's & more. 2 bdrms, 2.5 baths, open airy end unit, huge backyard, fireplace, bonus areas. Designer gourmet kitchen, AC. \$259,000.

RANCH ROMANCE

Almost 1/2 acre! Large home: 4+ bdrms, 3 ful baths, double car garage, treehouse, family rm, patio, RV parking, master ste, pergola, raized beds, 3 fireplaces. Lots of rm & sq. ft. for the \$. \$259,000. Wow! What a find! West Linn, Athey Creek Elementary

VICTORIAN CUTIE

NEW listing! Two bedrooms, large bonus room, big kitchen, wood floors, Ig front porch, deck. It's a really great house, near Clinton St Theater, a gallery, coffee, shopping. Fall in love! \$179,000, Close-in SE!

CLOSE-IN SOUTHWEST

Oozing charm, 1/2 acre! Georgian beautymaster ste to die for. Old & new in a totally harmonious blend. 5 bdrms total, 3 baths, wood floors, tile, pedestal sinks, glass block, beautiful fireplace, wood/marble. Garage. \$330,000. Minutes from Downtown, Burlingame & more!

Call your "Power Team"



Jean Harris was succeeded by Jaime Balboa, whose replacement as Basic Rights Oregon executive director will be announced shortly

offer to its leading executive director candidate April 3. She says the search committee might have to meet with the person again before making a formal announcement.

No interim director has been named since Jaime Balboa resigned March 1, citing personal health reasons. He had been on the job for one year.

In the meantime, BRO is in the home stretch to its eighth annual Oregonians Against Discrimination Luncheon on April 18 at the downtown Portland Hilton. Organizers say tickets have been selling fast.

The fund-raiser helps draw attention to BRO and its Fair Workplace Project. Nordstrom and Portland General Electric are platinum sponsors.

For more information call 503-222-6151.

anyone would want to limit the rights of gay people.

For more information call Kenny Hill, deputy director of development, at 202-332-6483, ext. 3230, or visit the Internet site www.ngltf.org.

COUNTY FOCUSED ON ANTI-BIAS ORDINANCE

ultnomah County's Civil Rights Task Force met again April 2 in hopes of getting an ordinance on the books to protect residents from discrimination. The proposal will address bias based on sexual orientation, gender identity and source of income in employment, housing and public accommodations.