

Since 1991, the fund has helped four candidates get elected to the Oregon House of Representatives: Chuck Carpenter, George Eighmey, Cynthia Wooten and Gail Shibley. The state currently has no openly gay or lesbian legislators.

For more information visit the Internet sites www.lambdalegal.org or www.victoryfund.org.

WORKSHOPS TRAIN ASPIRING PUBLIC OFFICIALS

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Foundation is offering 22 workshops designed to provide gay and lesbian community leaders the skills they need to seek out and win public office. The Pacific Coast/Northwest series tentatively is scheduled for Sept. 20 to 23 in Seattle.

More than 600 leaders, many of whom have gone on to successful careers in public service, have participated in the Victory Training Institute. The series also will be held May 10 to 13 in Columbus, Ohio; July 12 to 15 in Denver; and Dec. 6 to 9 in Austin, Texas.

"The skills-building workshops we present

DRAG QUEENS GET WET FOR CHARITY

Vanguard Youth Services, a program of Network Behavioral Healthcare, is playing host to an open house from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. April 27 to celebrate its new identity and new office and recreation space at 2100 S.E. Belmont St. The organization, formerly known as Phoenix Rising, is home to the Sexual Minority Youth Recreation Center, Roots & Branches, Bridge 13 and the Washington County Pride Project.

The event will include a press conference, youth-guided tours of the new SMYRC space and a cabaret show. A carnival from 3 to 7 p.m. will include games of chance and skill, including Dunk the Drag Queen. Food and sideshow attractions showcasing the talents of the center's youth also will be featured.

The fund-raiser is open to all ages. The center is normally only open to kids 23 and younger.

For more information call Kathy Belge at 503-872-9664, ext. 24.



The 25-year-old Metropolitan Community Church of Portland reaches out to openly gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Christians

help our community's best and brightest learn exactly what they need to know to seek public office," said Brian K. Bond, Victory Fund executive director. "On issues such as volunteer recruitment, voter registration, field organizing, fund raising and countering homophobia on the campaign trail, expert trainers will address everything that participants need to consider when mounting a serious attempt to enter public office. Too few of our nation's elected officials are openly gay or lesbian. We are dedicated to changing that."

To apply call Josh Siegel at 202-628-9151 or send e-mail to training@victoryfund.org.

HELP IS OUT THERE

College-level students are encouraged to apply for the Audria M. Edwards Scholarship. Applications are available at Embers Avenue, 110 N.W. Broadway; Klub Z, 333 S.W. Park Ave.; NorthBank Tavern, 106 E. Sixth St., Vancouver, Wash.; and the Internet site www.peacockinthepark.com.

They are due May 1, and recipients will be announced June 24 at Peacock in the Park. To be eligible, a candidate must be—or have a parent who is—gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered and meet several other requirements.

CHURCH CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Metropolitan Community Church of Portland will celebrate a quarter-century of ministry in the gay and lesbian community 7:30 p.m. May 4 at First Congregational Church, 1126 S.W. Park Ave. The Rev. Elder Troy Perry, founder and moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, will be the guest.

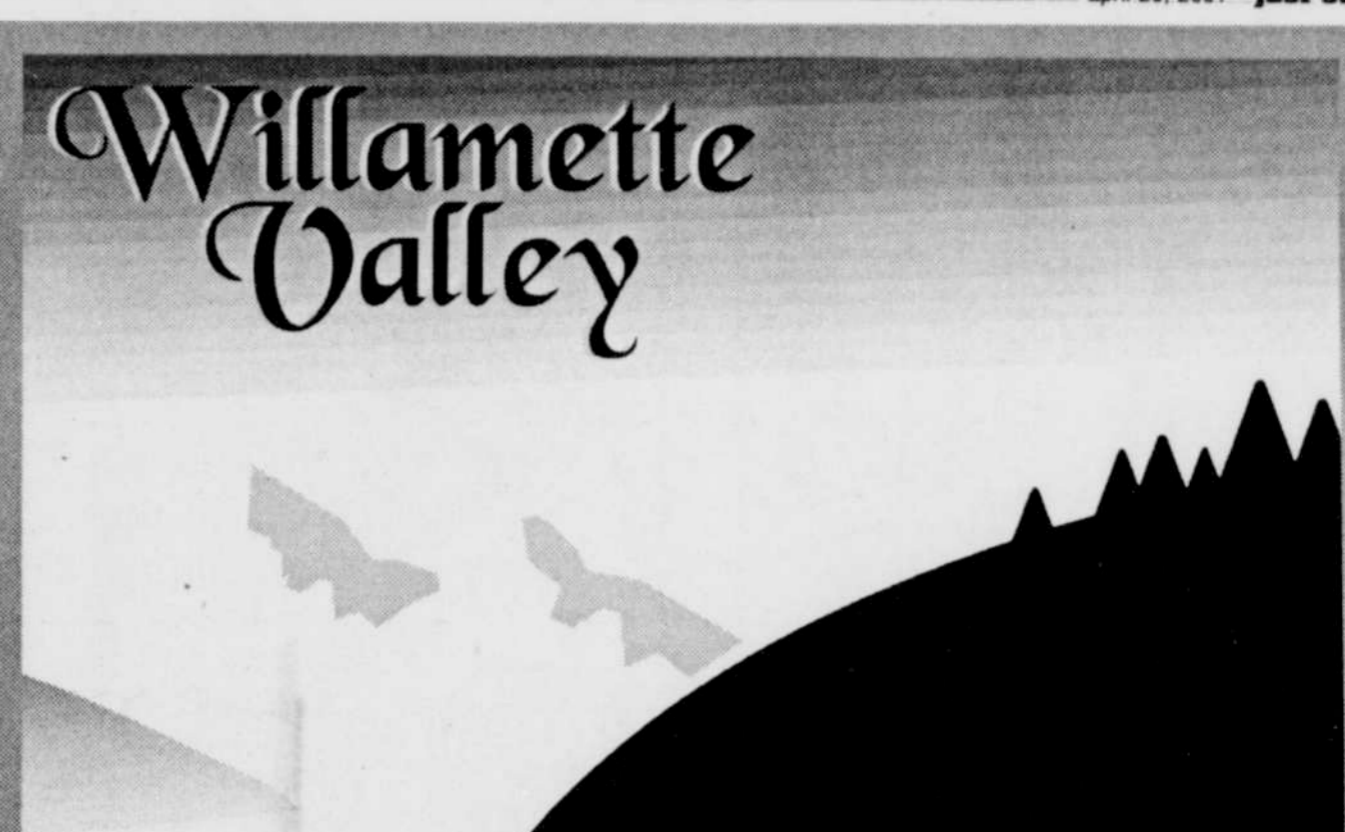
"In these 25 years society, and Portland in particular, has made great progress," the Rev. Roy A. Cole wrote in a letter inviting the community to the celebration. "More and more congregations are recognizing the value of all people, regardless of sexual orientation. More and more congregations are calling upon their denominational leaders to welcome the diversity of God's creation found in their pews each Sunday."

Area clergy, denominational leaders and civic and political leaders are being asked to join the ecumenical procession that will start the service. Cole hopes to reopen the doors that once were closed to openly gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Christians.

For more information call 503-281-8868 or visit the Internet site mccportland.com.

For more information call 503-281-2811.

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