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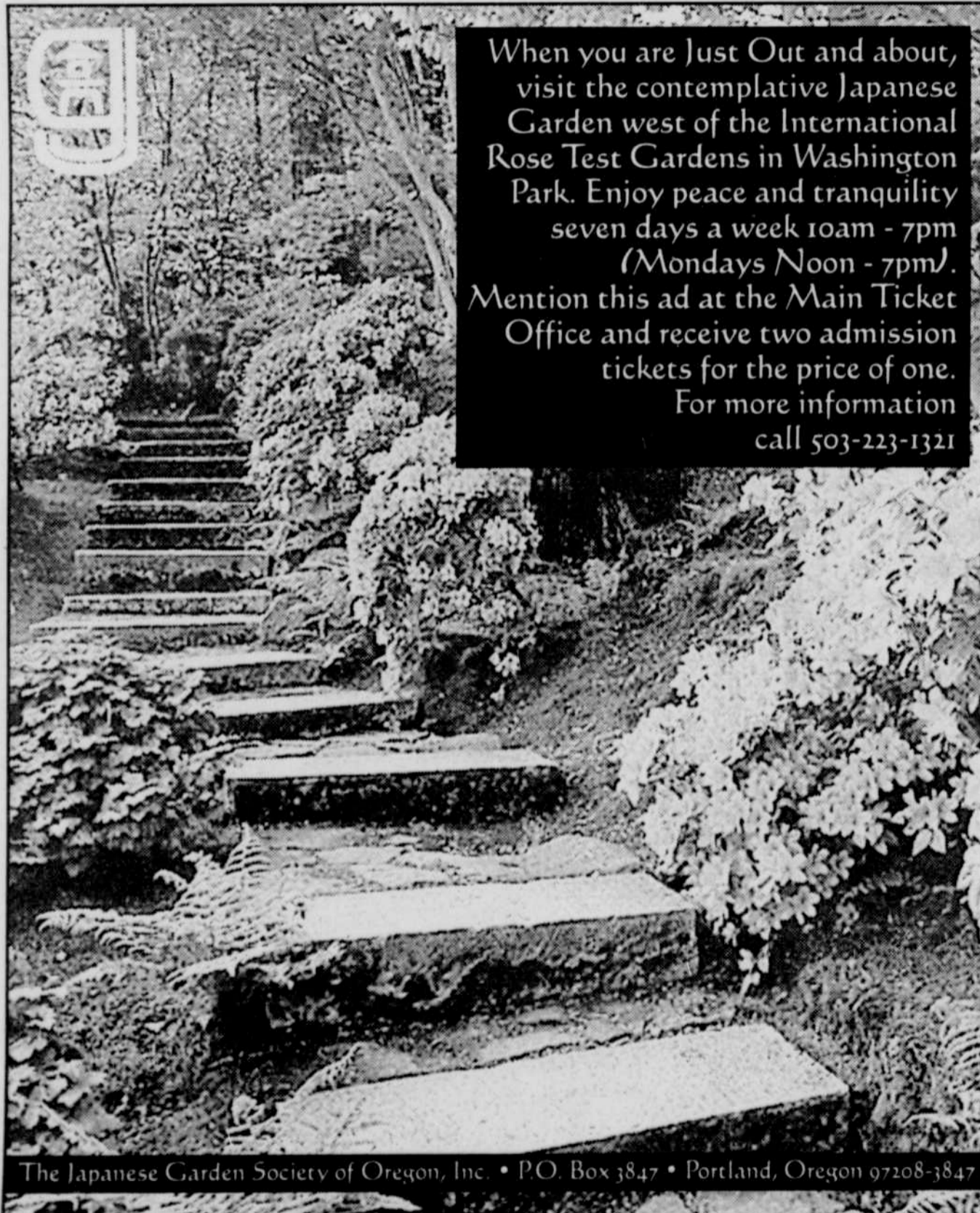
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**NORTHWEST news**

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**COMPANY SPONSORS COLLABORATION WORKSHOP**

In an effort to develop creative ways to maintain quality HIV services, Abbott Laboratories is sponsoring Collaboration 2001. The workshop's goal is to have an open and honest discussion, ask difficult questions and produce strategies to collaborate as a community, organizers say.

Our House of Portland is working with the company in organizing the meeting. Representatives or board members from HIV/AIDS organizations and agencies as well as individuals are invited to attend.

Cliff Jones of Technical Assistance for Community Services will serve as facilitator during the event. A panel will present ideas about the resources and support pharmaceutical companies have to offer communities and HIV/AIDS service organizations.

The meeting is slated for noon to 4 p.m. April 26 at Lutheran Inner City Ministries, 4219 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lunch will be served.

To register for the workshop call Sara Wright at 800-384-4773, ext. 8810010, by April 23.

**EQUITY CREATES NEW FUND**

As part of its OutReach Project, Portland's Equity Foundation will create a Lane County Fund. The two-year pilot project is aimed at raising awareness and commitment to the foundation in the Eugene area.

The foundation will match contributions made to the new fund, dollar for dollar, up to \$5,000. The money collected will be used to fund nonprofit organizations throughout Lane County.

The project's steering committee, composed of residents and members of the foundation's grants committee, will work to increase volunteerism and donor participation in the area. They also will attempt to increase the number of quality grant applications that are submitted to the foundation from Lane County.

accompanied by a list of recommendations for Police Chief Mark Kroeker. The correspondence will be sent in late April.

The roundtable has been grappling with the issue, and what its role should be, since tapes were discovered last fall that contained Kroeker's disparaging comments about gays. Many in the community felt the comments weakened the police bureau's relationship with the gay community. The roundtable has commissioned itself to assist the chief, the bureau and the sexual minorities community in rebuilding that relationship.

A special committee of the roundtable has spent weeks paring down a list of suggestions and comments made during a December community meeting when Kroeker faced the sexual minorities community.

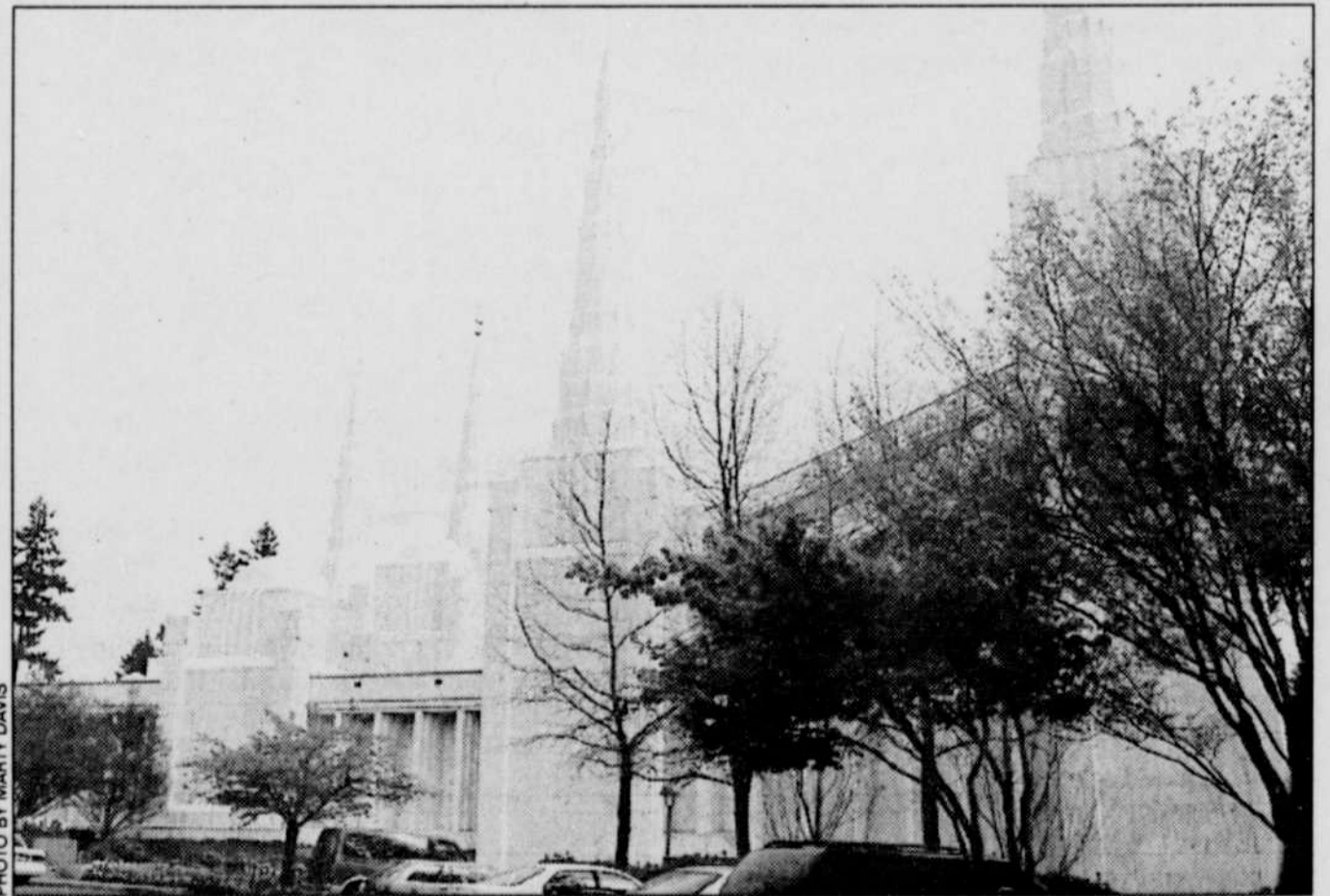
The letter will ask for Katz's endorsement of the recommendations and recommend the ideas be incorporated into a written 12-month plan. Committee members believe a written plan will help improve accountability and solidify the desire of the bureau and the gay community to work together.

The letter requests that a plan be completed within six months. Details of the final recommendations will not be made public until the letter is presented to Katz.

**GAY MORMONS SPONSOR VIGIL**

The Portland chapter of Affirmation, a group of gay and lesbian Mormons, and the American Friends Service Committee are inviting the public to a candlelight vigil to remember those who have committed suicide as a result of anti-gay pressures. It will start 8 p.m. May 8 at the entrance of the temple grounds on Kruse Oaks Boulevard in Lake Oswego.

Current and former members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints say they are acutely aware of the struggles sexual minorities face in Mormon families and communities. They say the Mormon leadership has publicly committed itself to a highly visible and well-funded campaign against gay civil and religious equality.



Gay Mormons will hold a candlelight vigil for suicide victims outside the Lake Oswego temple

Grant applications for the fund will be due this fall. Awards will be presented during a special event in Lane County at a date to be announced.

**ROUNDTABLE WRITES LETTER TO MAYOR**

The Sexual Minorities Roundtable is set to send a letter to Portland Mayor Vera Katz

The vigil is one of several sponsored by Affirmation chapters and supportive allies throughout the country to coincide with National Suicide Prevention Week, May 6 to 12. It is part of the group's "No More Deaths, No More Silence" campaign.

The ceremonies are being dedicated to the memory of three young gay Mormon men who committed suicide last year. Organizers say their