

VOTE EXPECTED ON MILITARY RECRUITERS

The controversy concerning the Portland Public Schools ban on military recruiters continues to heat up. A resolution to repeal the 5-year-old policy is expected to come to a vote May 21.

The War Resisters League is rallying troops to gather 6:30 p.m. in the Memorial Coliseum parking lot at the corner of Northeast Broadway and Interstate Avenue. Organizers say they then will march to the Blanchard Education Service Center at 501 N. Dixon St. and hope to make a grand and unified entrance during the meeting.

Recruiters were banned in the wake of the military's anti-gay "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

"Jackson's current failure to uphold the platform puts his relationship with the New Party in jeopardy."

—Cecil Prescod

The school board concluded that any employer that actively discriminates in its hiring practices would be in violation of the district's own policy.

The repeal resolution is being spearheaded by Derry Jackson. He maintains that underprivileged students need access to all educational and employment options.

Jackson says that discrimination is wrong but that kids' need for information outweighs that issue. He recently has been lambasted in the Portland press for saying, among other things, that homosexuality is a choice.

Joining the critics is the Portland New Party, which endorsed Jackson but now is accusing him of failing to uphold a platform he helped craft. The pledge stated that the district "should continue to oppose anti-gay discrimination and so retain the ban on military recruiting."

"A New Party endorsement commits the party to major time, resources and talent for the candidate," chairman Cecil Prescod said in a statement May 14. "Jackson received training, planning, literature production and distribution, phone calls to voters and other campaign assistance from the New Party. NP distributed 50,000 *Rainbow News* and phoned thousands of voters for the candidates.... Jackson's current failure to uphold the platform puts his relationship with the New Party in jeopardy."

Two board members remain on the fence

tion about the military at a student's request. Under current policy, that action is not allowed.

Abrams has been vocal in his criticism of Jackson's priorities, noting that the district is facing a \$20 million deficit. The military ban issue, he says, is sidelining the school board at a crucial time when it should be focused on making hard decisions.

For more information send e-mail to marcabrams@att.net.

EUGENE SCHOOLS SAY NO TO SCOUTS

The Eugene School District's Equity Committee sent a letter in late April to Superintendent George Russell spelling out its feelings about the Boy Scouts of America being allowed into public schools.

The letter said no discriminatory groups should be allowed to recruit in elementary or middle schools. The committee also spoke out against school sponsorship of Scouts in light of policies excluding gay men and atheists.

The letter further said the Scouts shouldn't be granted free access to school buildings after hours. It recommended they be allowed to hold on-campus meetings for a small fee during non-school hours.

The 20-member committee, composed of students, staff and representatives of diverse minority groups, studied the issue for six months. It considered remarks from district lawyers and the American Civil Liberties Union and concluded that, despite the Scouts' long history of working with youth, their discriminatory policies are at odds with the district's own policy forbidding discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or religion.

Russell asked the committee for its recommendation after the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a decision last summer upholding the Scouts' right to discriminate against gay leaders. The suggestions will be presented to the school board in the coming weeks.

GO AHEAD AND GET NAKED

The Columbia County judge who heard the case of the angry Sauvie Island homeowners vs. nude sunbathers finally has handed down his decision.

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State wildlife agents have been ordered to crack down on nude sunbathers who violate the rules at Sauvie Island

about the issue. Debbie Menashe and Karla Wenzel haven't announced how they will vote.

Sue Hagmeier has proposed a recodification of the policy as a sort of compromise, according to board member Marc Abrams. Her idea would allow the school to disseminate career informa-

Rather than abolish the clothing-optional beaches, Judge Ted Grove ordered state wildlife agents to police the areas and enforce existing rules. More signs are to be posted, and a pam-

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