

UNION ACTIVISTS WILL CONVENE IN SEATTLE

Organizers say the fourth biennial Convention of Pride at Work, slated for next month near Seattle, will be the most important international gathering of sexual minority union activists ever in the United States.

Pride at Work, the newest constituency group of the 13 million-member AFL-CIO, has chapters from Boston to Los Angeles. The organization's mission is to strengthen the voice of sexual minority workers in the labor movement and to strengthen the voice of labor in the sexual minority movement.

The "Out and Organizing Globally!" convention will bring together gay union activists from South Africa, Brazil, Costa Rica, Canada and Holland as well as leaders of the U.S. union movement and gay community. It will be held June 21 to 24 in Everett.

"All of us in Pride at Work are excited about the convention," co-presidents Nancy Wohlforth and T Santora said. "We're looking forward to being in the Seattle area, where working people from all over fought back against the big corporations' version of globalization."

Among the workshop topics: how to organize sexual minority workers into the union movement; organizing a Pride at Work chapter; organizing from and for a global perspective; and organizing to bargain for equal benefits and pay.

For more information call 202-637-5014 or 206-903-9488 or visit the Internet site www.prideatwork.org.



PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

Janice Pierce's *End the Waiting* is making a difference for families affected by developmental disabilities

FOOT PATROL STRUGGLING

Despite low turnout at recent training sessions for the newly formed Rainbow Community Foot Patrol, organizers say they still hope to begin patrolling Southwest Stark Street and Old Town/Chinatown on Friday and Saturday evenings this summer. The group was established under the guidelines of the Office of Neighborhood Involvement and the Portland Police Bureau.

Only six volunteers have stepped forward, but at least 10 are needed. Assistant Chief Mark Paresi says the patrol ideally requires 30 participants.

Volunteers usually walk in groups of four. "It's an opportunity to be proactive rather than being reactive," Paresi says.

Although it has been some time since the

just kidding

Gay men throughout the state rejoiced at the news of a 4-inch bulge discovered near Three Sisters but were disappointed to learn it just was a volcanic phenomenon in central Oregon.



gay community has suffered a high-profile hate crime, a recent announcement by the bureau confirms sexual minorities are always in danger. Detectives are in the midst of a vast investigation into a group whose recent activities in Portland included "a conspiracy to gay-bash."

Usually, Paresi says, people don't want to get involved until after an incident happens. "This is an opportunity to break some ground and be there before an incident."

The patrollers will provide the community with a visible presence to deter criminal activity in neighborhoods frequented by sexual minorities. The volunteers will be the eyes and ears of the Central Precinct officers who work in the area, organizers say.

Patrollers will not intervene in any disputes, crimes in progress, accidents or other illegal activities. Their role is to listen, watch and report any illegal or suspicious activities to police.

The patrol not only needs volunteers, it needs money. It is accepting donations of \$200 or less.

In addition, the group needs a place for equipment storage, a small meeting room to begin and end the patrols and restroom facilities in the neighborhoods affected. Some pieces of equipment, including flashlights and reflective vests, also are needed.

To donate or for more information call 503-774-9085 or send e-mail to rainbowfootpatrol@aol.com.

PORTLAND WOMAN WINS VIDEO AWARD

Portland photojournalist Janice Pierce recently was honored during a televised program sponsored by the Alliance for Community Media, Northwest Region. *End the Waiting* won the best public service award in the category of "empowerment."

The seven-minute video, Pierce's first, steps inside the lives of four families affected by developmental disabilities and examines the extraordinary challenges they face every day. She started the project after learning 3,000 people were being wait-listed for services in Oregon.

Pierce says one of the most moving interviews she conducted was with an elderly woman who had spent most of her life caring for her middle-age son. The mother spoke about deciding what to do with her loved one now that she no longer could serve as his caretaker.

Pierce has been shooting photographs for more than 20 years; *USA Today* and *The Associated Press*, among many others, have purchased her work. She photographed the last person who moved out of Salem's Fairview Hospital when it shut down last year as part of a her continuing work chronicling the history of the 90-year-old facility for the mentally ill and the developmentally disabled.

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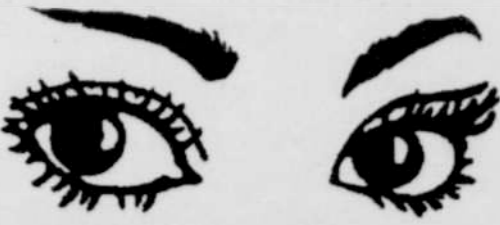
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