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Volunteers are needed for setup, teardown, cleanup and security. Additional backup performers also are needed.

The summer event, scheduled for June 24, is one of the area's most popular, attracting about 3,000 people to the Washington Park Amphitheater for a day of sunshine and drag performances. It is the largest fund-raiser for the Audria M. Edwards Scholarship Fund, which provides money for sexual minorities and their children.

For more information send e-mail to peapark36@aol.com.

LCP SETTLES INTO NEW DIGS

The Lesbian Community Project has a new office at Portland's downtown YWCA, 1111 S.W. 10th Ave. A new phone number, 503-294-7512, also has been set up.

The organization decided to move because it couldn't continue paying for its lease at 1001 E. Burnside St. Kristan Aspen will continue as program director.

COUNTY HEARS COMMENTS ABOUT DISCRIMINATION

Multnomah County Commissioners Serena Cruz and Lisa Naito listened to emotional public testimony about their proposal to extend civil rights protection based on gender identity, sexual orientation and source of income to county citizens.

More than 50 people testified. The county's Civil Rights Task Force, appointed by the commissioners, organized the public testimony May 29 and 30.

One Gresham man brought his two young daughters. He said he's been hit, spit on, yelled at and refused housing because he is gay. He said he has been the victim of vandals: "Fag you will die" was written on the walls; rocks, eggs and bottles were thrown at his house; and someone tried to start a fire in his doorway. "It's just a nightmare."

A Sam Barlow High science teacher, who spoke about the intolerance sexual minority students face in his school, was so overwhelmed with emotion his wife had to finish his prepared statement. He said he feels outnumbered by other staff and faculty who don't hold the same beliefs about the issue, making it even more difficult to stand up for queer students.

A Gresham woman who has a gay teen-age son talked about his struggles living and going to school in East Multnomah County. Those and other stories brought tears to Cruz's eyes as well as many of those attending the hearing on the final night of testimony.

The county does not have a civil rights ordinance. "After we passed the domestic partner registry in Multnomah County last year, we recognized the need to provide equal protection against housing and employment discrimination for domestic partners throughout the county," Naito said.

The proposal is similar to one recently adopted by the city of Portland. Cruz said residents living outside the city limits should have the same protections from discrimination as those who live in Portland. The county commissioners are expected to vote on the ordinance this summer.

KILLER BROUGHT TO JUSTICE FOR 1989 MURDER

A Tigard man who killed 25-year-old female impersonator Todd Alexander Asay (aka Lindsey Alexander) in 1989 was sentenced to life in prison May 25.

Brian David Hill, 38, buried the body in a shallow grave behind his house, but it wasn't discovered until 1999. He had shot and killed his wife just days earlier.

Despite receiving a life sentence with a possibility of parole, Hill likely never will be released from prison, prosecutors say.

DANCE CLUB WILL CLOSE

Panorama, the largest dance club in the Burnside Triangle, will close its doors in early July. The other gathering spots in the complex—Brig, Boxxes, Red Cap Garage, Fish Grotto and Fez Ballroom—will remain open.

Sources say a new multilevel club, under the same management, will open around the same time Panorama closes. Details are expected later this month.

Rumors about a telco hotel going up in place of the nightclub might have some validity. The building has been undergoing at least some scrutiny recently; engineers and architects with blueprints in hand have been seen pacing Panorama's perimeter during the past few months. **J**

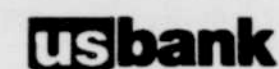
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The Burnside Triangle will be lopsided next month when the Panorama closes its doors