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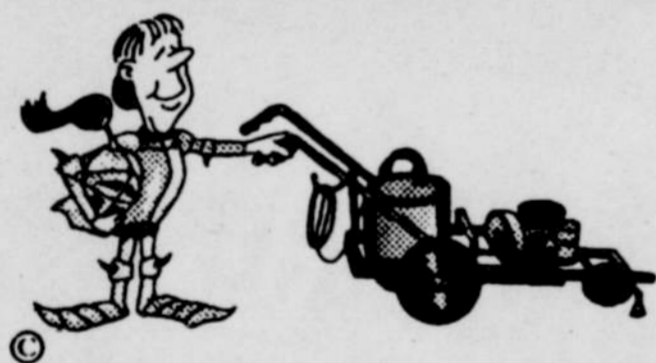
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Amy Anderson (center) leads a group in prayer June 15 at Pioneer Courthouse Square

## PROTESTERS PRAY FOR PRIDE

A group of nine Christian soldiers marched through downtown Portland during a rather unusual demonstration June 15 to protest Pride 2001 being held on Father's Day.

Organizer Rick Christman left a message with *Just Out* emphasizing he is not anti-gay: "Of course, that's what you guys are about. I am not against you guys having the Gay and Pride Festival, but I am against the groups having them on Father's Day."

Christman said he also has no problem with gay fathers. "I have nothing against that," he stressed.

The protest walk—starting at Pioneer Courthouse Square and ending at the North Park Blocks—sent mixed messages, to say the least. Adding to the confusion was the fact that the march was led by a lesbian.

Amy Anderson insisted that when Christman asked her to participate in the protest two weeks earlier, she was under the impression that it would focus on corrupt church leaders who exploit single moms. "I'm here to pray that the entire city of Portland come together with one mind and one accord," she announced.

Anderson said she has no problem with Pride. "I'm gonna be there—are you kidding me?!"

When *Just Out* informed Christman of Anderson's misunderstanding about the protest's purpose, he said, "It's about morals, so if she doesn't have morals, then I guess we have a problem." The march went on regardless.

## VANCOUVER PRIDE CELEBRATION GROWS

Saturday in the Park will be longer and greener this year. Southwest Washington's seventh annual Gay Pride celebration will last from noon to 8 p.m. July 14 among the trees at Esther Short Park in Vancouver.

One of only four recognized Pride events statewide, it features no march or rally—just laughter, music and community, organizers say. The celebration will include a beer garden, retail vendors, and business and service organizations reaching out to gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans residents.

Most of the operating budget is built on booth fees and sponsorships. Individuals and organizations donating \$100 will get their names on the official Saturday in the Park T-shirt and will be able to advertise at the event.

The celebration began in 1994 after the failure of anti-gay Initiatives 608 and 610. In 1996, the annual Community Pride Award was launched to recognize individuals' tireless serv-

ice efforts. This year's nominees are Connie Fenne, Donna Laperle, Charlene Montierth, Ken Spurlock and Winfield Vermillion.

For more information call event coordinator Michael Sager at 360-992-1032 or send e-mail to saturdayinthepark@aol.com.

## SAFE SCHOOLS BILL DIES A SLOW DEATH

Now that the Oregon legislative session is wrapping up, the Safe Schools Bill is receiving last rites. House Bill 3247 would have extended protection to sexual minority students and those who are perceived to be gay.

"We are unable to move the bill forward, but we had an opportunity to educate a lot of members of the House and Senate on this issue," said CM Hall of Basic Rights Oregon. "We will be working over the interim to reintroduce the bill so we can build support among a broad coalition of legislators to get it passed."

The legislation never made it out of the House Judiciary Committee chaired by Rep. Max Williams, R-Tigard. His office did not return calls seeking comment.

## RESTAURANT FISHING FOR A NEW HOME

The gay-owned restaurant No Fish! Go Fish! is being forced to change location because Portland Community College needs the site for facilities expansion, *The Portland Tribune* reports June 29.

The eatery, located at 634 N. Killingsworth St., signed a five-year lease in November. However, the "right of eminent domain" allows PCC to scoot No Fish! Go Fish! off the property to make room for five Cascade Campus buildings.

The 20 homes and businesses on the condemned property receive a 60-day notice before they must vacate. In return, the owners get "just compensation" as determined by a jury.

"I think we're done fighting," remarks Sean Brown, co-owner of the restaurant. "It'll be difficult to move, but it seems like they'll meet their legal obligations to us."

Brown and his partner, John Doyle, will try to relocate before they are asked.

## FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANTS

Two Portland nonprofits that work with the sexual minorities community recently received grants from the McKenzie River Gathering Foundation. More than \$300,000 was awarded to 61 grassroots organizations challeng-

PHOTO BY JIM RADOSTKA