

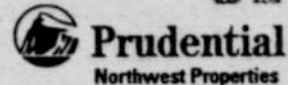


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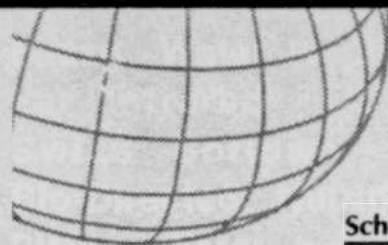
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NORTHWEST news

Continued from Page 11

ACLU FILES APPEAL FOR FIRED LESBIAN

A state-funded hospital and its staff violated the constitutional rights of a lesbian employee by subjecting her to severe and ongoing anti-gay harassment, then firing her, the American Civil Liberties Union said in an appeal filed Aug. 9 at the Washington State Supreme Court.

"The lower court said that the U.S. Constitution offers no refuge for lesbians and gay men who face discrimination by the government based on their sexual orientation," attorney Ken Choe said. "We think that's plain wrong."

Mary Jo Davis was a sonographer at Pullman Memorial Hospital near Spokane for about two years. Dr. Charles Guess, the chief radiologist, harassed her routinely.

He constantly referred to Davis as a "fucking dyke" and "fucking faggot" and told another doctor, "I don't think that fucking faggot should be doing vaginal exams, and I'm not working with her." When she complained, Guess told administrators he didn't agree with her "lesbian lifestyle."

Rather than discipline him, the hospital punished Davis—reducing her work hours to three-quarters time so he wouldn't have to work with her. Finally, she was fired.

Davis sued the radiologist and the hospital in 1996, alleging both she and her former supervisor—a straight woman—were wrongfully terminated because of anti-gay bias. The trial court effectively dismissed the charges against Guess in 1999 and against the hospital in 2000.

"Mary Jo Davis was a good employee," Choe said. "She was subjected to a hellish work environment, then finally fired, because she is a lesbian. All over this country, people face discrimination because of their sexual orientation. It's particularly wrong when it's the government that does it."

HAMBLETON PROJECT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Hambleton Project, which provides education, advocacy and direct services to lesbians with cancer and other life-threatening conditions, has several upcoming volunteer opportunities available:

- The nonprofit organization needs a team

of 15 people to honor breast cancer survivors and show support for research during the Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure on Sept. 16 in Portland.

- The project, which is stepping up its effort to reach out and find the women who need its services, is seeking volunteers to help drop off materials with area doctors and counselors.

- People are needed to help coordinate the entertainment, decorations, food and festivities for a fall musical event to celebrate volunteers and increase community awareness of cancer and the project. The first meeting will start 6:30 p.m. Aug. 9.

- The Portland Lesbian Choir, which is holding a fall spaghetti dinner, needs Hambleton volunteers to help dish up the food and fun.

- Volunteers are needed to help set up for the project's annual meeting, which will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 9 at Portland State University.

For more information call volunteer coordinator Erin Sexton at 503-335-6591.

FLAMBOYANT FUND-RAISER FIGHTS FOR FREEDOM

The Freedom Socialist Party, which is locked in a ballot access battle with the state, is planning a party to promote feminist working-class candidates.

"Cabaret Rouge" promises rebellious poets, irreverent skits, seditious songs and decadent hors d'oeuvres, desserts and libations. Lesbian activist Jordana Sardo, who wants to run for the District 16 House seat next year, will perform "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?" as President Clinton.

The fund-raiser starts 7:30 p.m. Aug. 25 at the Bread and Roses Center, 819 N. Killingsworth St. A \$3 donation will be taken at the door; \$7 is suggested for the buffet.

For rides or child care call 503-240-4462.

STAUFFER TRIAL DATE SET

Photographer Catherine Stauffer, who has been waiting nearly a decade to receive her settlement of more than \$31,000 from the Oregon Citizens Alliance for a 1991 assault, finally will have her day in court. A trial date has been set for Oct. 17. □

Compiled by JIM RADOSTA



Volunteer coordinator Erin Sexton is the Hambleton Project's first employee