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A dozen African Americans came to Jackson's defense during a meeting Aug. 11, saying that he not only shouldn't resign but that he shouldn't apologize, either. "Be strong, and the community will be behind you," said Wilbert Muhammad, who is affiliated with the Nation of Islam chapter in Portland.

WORKSHOP EXAMINES PREJUDICE, OPPRESSION

The Metropolitan Human Rights Center will present an interactive workshop examining various forms of prejudice and oppression from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Aug. 29 at Portland Community College, 2850 S.E. 82nd Ave.

The goal of "Dynamic Differences" is to increase understanding of cultural differences and perceptions on a basic level and to identify ways people can work together for the common good. The workshop is free and open to the public.

The center, funded by the city of Portland and Multnomah County, is a program of the Office of Neighborhood Involvement. It is a resource for education and technical assistance on human rights and offers programs fostering mutual understanding and respect among all people.

Workshop space is limited. To register call Dora Asana at 503-823-5136.

KATE CLINTON WILL ENTERTAIN AT DINNER

Basic Rights Oregon's annual fall dinner will feature special guest Kate Clinton, "the unimpeachable Madame President of comedy." The event starts 6 p.m. Oct. 19 at the Hilton Hotel, 921 S.W. Sixth Ave.

This will be Clinton's exclusive Oregon engagement on her 20th anniversary tour. The fund-raiser, which costs \$100, will be American Sign Language interpreted.

The dinner, which in previous years was named after trans pioneer Alan Hart, will have a new name this year. The trans community has been pushing for the change for more than eight years. Executive director Roey Thorpe said the decision was made because Hart's will indicated his name should not be used for fund-raising purposes and because of historical misinterpretations of his life by the gay and lesbian community.

BRO is accepting suggestions through Aug. 31 on what to rename the dinner. The winner will receive two tickets to the event.

To submit an entry, for more information or to host a table of 10 call CM Hall at 503-222-6151 or send e-mail to cm@basicrights.org.

BRO RECEIVES \$20,000 GRANT

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force announced Aug. 7 its first two grants to local communities facing ballot initiatives threatening sexual minorities. The organization provides ongoing electoral training on how to defeat the efforts.

Basic Rights Oregon will receive a \$20,000 matching fund grant to begin the fight against 2002's Student Protection Act II, which would ban the positive or neutral mention of homosexuality in public schools. The ballot measure still is in the signature-gathering process.

"This grant money will help our state and local partners work to defeat measures that threaten our communities," said Lorri L. Jean, NGLTF executive director. "We are particularly committed to helping the campaigns that are willing to do the critical work of building a list of gay and pro-gay voters who we can then turn out to vote in every election. This 'voter I.D.' work is essential to win elections."

Since 1998, Jean noted, 19 gay-related measures have been voted on in the United States. Only in five of the elections have gay activists prevailed.

Oregon has experienced 33 gay-related ballot measures since 1988 on the local and state level. "Local leaders have made the extraordinary commitment to running strong campaigns and doing the on-the-ground organizing that is so often neglected," Jean said.

Roey Thorpe, BRO executive director, added: "This grant makes it possible for us to get an early start in our campaign. The right-wing assault in Oregon has implications for the entire nation, and we are committed to defeating this assault again this year. NGLTF has given us many kinds of support over the years, including technical assistance and training.



Mark your calendar: Comedian Kate Clinton will make an appearance at Basic Rights Oregon's as-yet-unnamed dinner Oct. 19

We are thrilled to be recognized in this way and grateful for NGLTF's vision and understanding of the importance of this work."

Thorpe emphasized the money will be used not only to fight the Oregon Citizens Alliance but also to build a strong infrastructure for BRO. "I want us to be thinking long-term," she said.

NGLTF also awarded \$5,000 to the Traverse City (Mich.) Campaign Against Discrimination, which will fight a proposed city charter amendment this November banning the enactment of any nondiscrimination law covering gay, lesbian or bisexual people. An additional \$75,000 in local grants will be announced later this year.

ROUNDTABLE WILL MEET

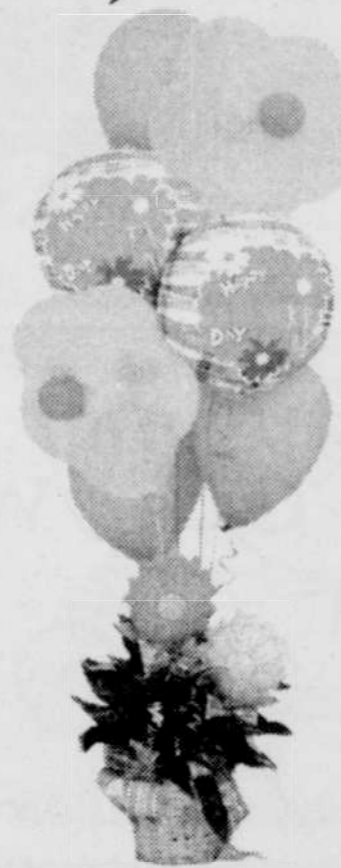
The Portland Police Bureau's Sexual Minorities Roundtable will hold its quarterly

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