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Just Out



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Rosetown Ramblers
swing their life partners
round and round
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Portland, Oregon FREE

Hate in Hillsboro

Trans woman's slaying is the first homicide to be classified as a bias crime in Washington County

BY JIM RADOSTA

A farmer found the body of a 28-year-old trans woman about 7:50 a.m. Aug. 26 in a field on Southwest Farmington Road near Hillsboro. It is the first homicide to be classified as a bias crime in Washington County.

Loni Kai Okaruru was born Lorenzo Igisair Okaruru on Feb. 27, 1973. A native of Saipan in the South Pacific, she moved to the United States in 1997.



Loni Kai Okaruru

Okaruru was last seen about 3:30 a.m. Aug. 26 in the area of Tualatin Valley Highway and Southwest 141st Avenue. She was

contacted by a Beaverton police officer, who confirmed she was fine at the time.

The Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office performed an autopsy Aug. 27. The cause of death was determined to be severe blunt force trauma to the head.

According to Washington County Sheriff's Detective Michael O'Connell, investigators think a driver offered Okaruru a ride under the assumption that she was a woman but became angered upon learning otherwise. He said this had happened at least once in the victim's past.

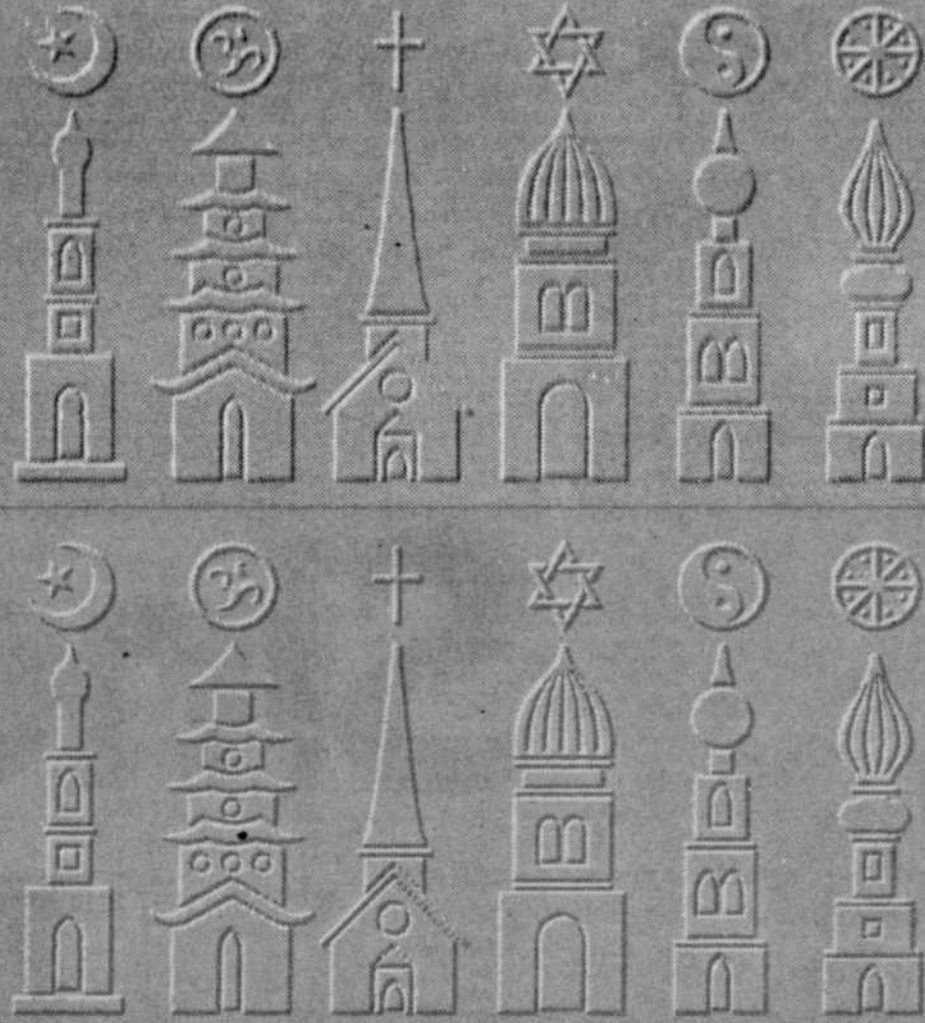
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Vigil planned

A candlelight vigil will honor Loni Okaruru 7 p.m. Sept. 14 at Pioneer Courthouse Square. It will include personal remembrances and expressions of support and concern from community advocates and civic leaders.

A committee of human rights activists are planning the event. The supporting organizations are Basic Rights Oregon, the Coalition Against Hate Crimes, Metropolitan Human Rights Center, Pride Northwest and It's Time, Oregon!

For more information call 503-222-6151 or 503-823-5542 or send e-mail to transgal@yahoo.com.



Keeping the FAITH

Finding a path to wholeness that embraces spirit and flesh

BY ANDY SIMON



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