

## YOUTH ADVOCACY TEAM APPROVED

The Multnomah County Commission approved the Advocacy Team for Sexual Minority Youth during its board meeting Sept. 13.

The diverse group of volunteer citizens, appointed by Chair Diane Linn, is responsible for advising on how to expand support for sexual minority youth and to further develop and oversee the implementation of the approved Strategic Plan. The team's members are Kathy Belge, Jason Bell, Eric Brown, Jim Clay, Kamron Graham, Jennifer Greenblat, E. Ann Hinds, Katie Jambor, Judy McGuire, Matthew Nelson, Andre Pruitt, Ileana Strauss and Judy Watson.

## SAFE SCHOOLS INITIATIVE GETS ORGANIZED

Equity Foundation's Safe Schools Initiative will hold an organizing meeting from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Sept. 25. Anyone who works in the schools, who is concerned about bias comments or who would like to support the effort is invited to attend.

"Equity Foundation believes that if all put-downs and bias words are not tolerated or allowed in the school setting, children will feel safer and be able to focus on their education," executive director Matthew Nelson says. "Regardless of a child's sexual orientation, gender identity or perceived orientation or identity, the learning environment is compromised for all children when put-downs and bias comments are allowed to foster fear of being targeted or named as different."

Initiative organizers hope to hear what is being done in school systems around Oregon to help reduce put-downs and bias comments in the classroom and school environment. They especially are interested in work being done in the elementary grades.

Equity will release a request for proposals next year to support programming starting in the fall of 2002 school year and continuing for three years. It plans to support current efforts, initiate new efforts and seek research-based partners to track and report changes from the initiative.

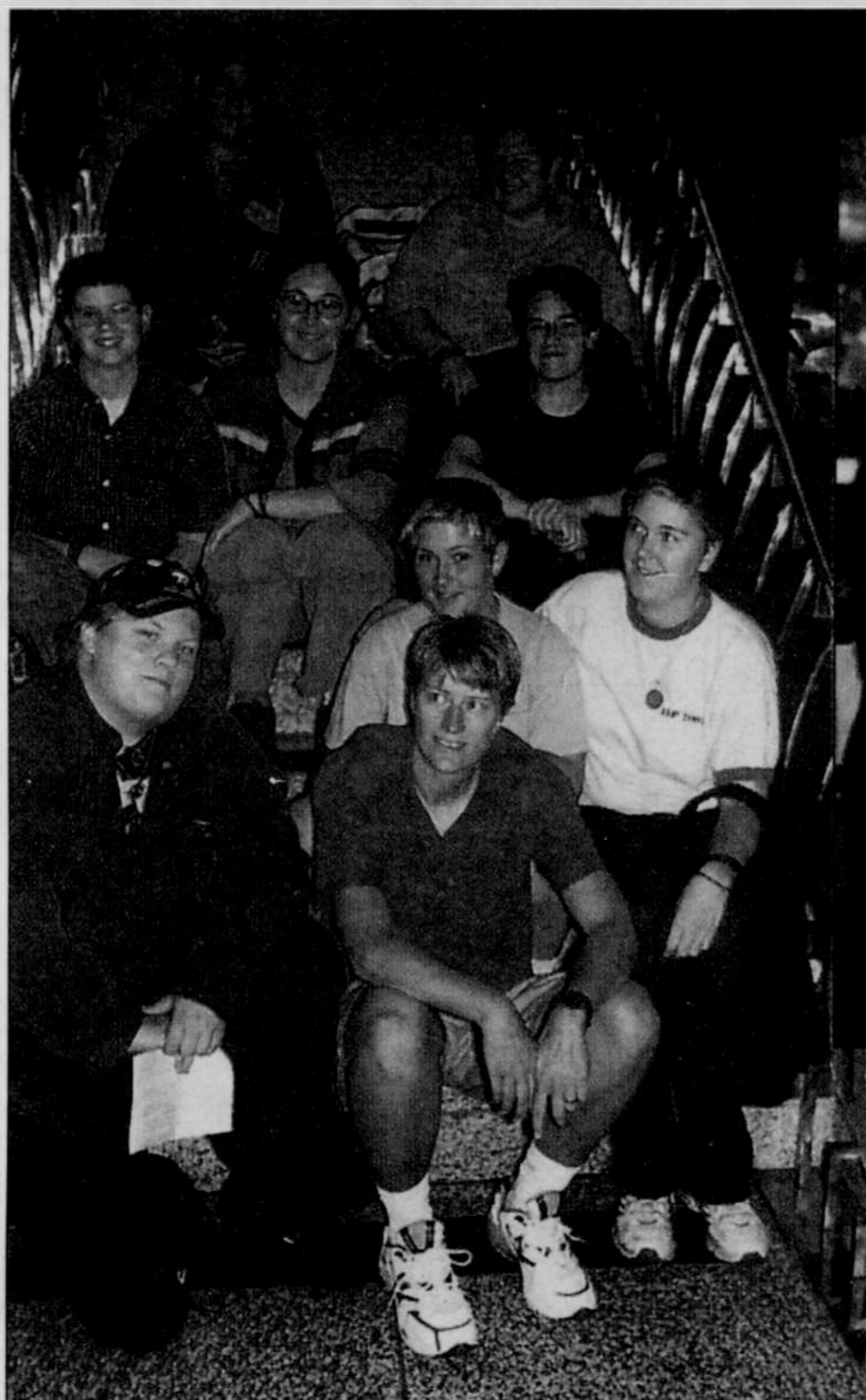
The meeting will be held in the First Floor Conference Room at 123 N.E. Third Ave. Enter on the Second Street side of the building.

For more information visit the Internet site [www.equityfoundation.org](http://www.equityfoundation.org).

## DINNER HONORS BAIRD, GLANVILLE

The Human Rights Campaign's 2001 Portland Gala Dinner honored two leaders from the Pacific Northwest for their efforts in the fight for equality Sept. 9.

This year's Community Action Award was presented to Ron Glanville, who has served on the HRC board of governors since 1997. U.S. Rep.

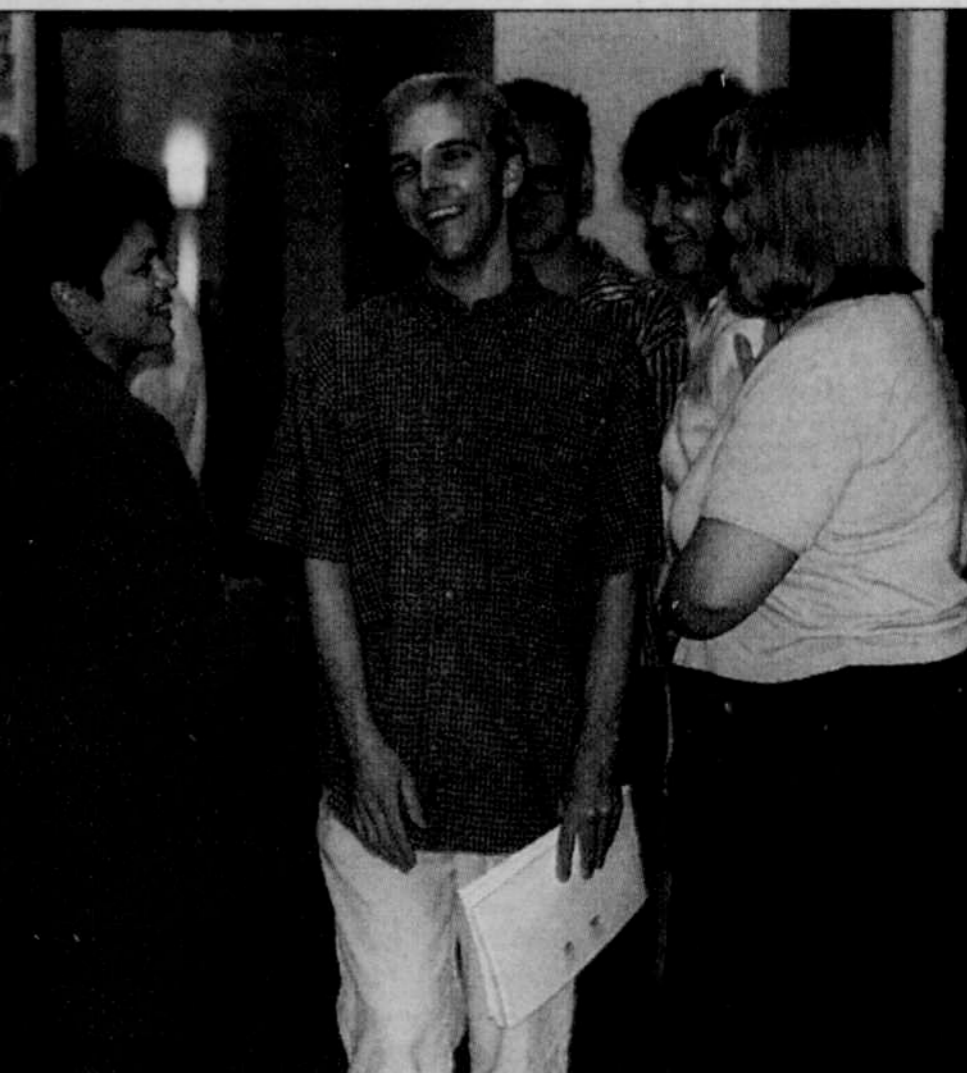


Sexual Minority Youth Recreation Center participants testified Sept. 13 in support of the Multnomah County Advocacy Team for Sexual Minority Youth

Brian Baird, D-Wash., was presented the Congressional Action Award.

## PORTLAND LESBIAN LAUNCHES LOAN FUND

A Portland woman who graduated from Mount Holyoke College is helping launch a loan fund at her alma mater for students who



Multnomah County Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey (left) chats with sexual minority youth during the board meeting Sept. 13

have been disowned by their parents because of their sexual orientation. Nicki Nicolo says the effort started 10 years ago when a student named Jolene approached the Lesbian Alumnae Network requesting assistance.

"I am really tired of the religious wrong," she says.

"We ought to be doing something to gain ground." The network must raise \$25,000 by Jan. 18, 2004, to endow the fund. Nicolo says it is more than halfway there.

To make a donation, send your gift along with a note designating that it is for the Jolene Fund to Charlie Haight, Development Office, 50 College St., Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA 01075.

U.S. Rep. Brian Baird, D-Wash., and Ron Glanville were honored Sept. 9 during the Human Rights Campaign's 2001 Portland Gala Dinner

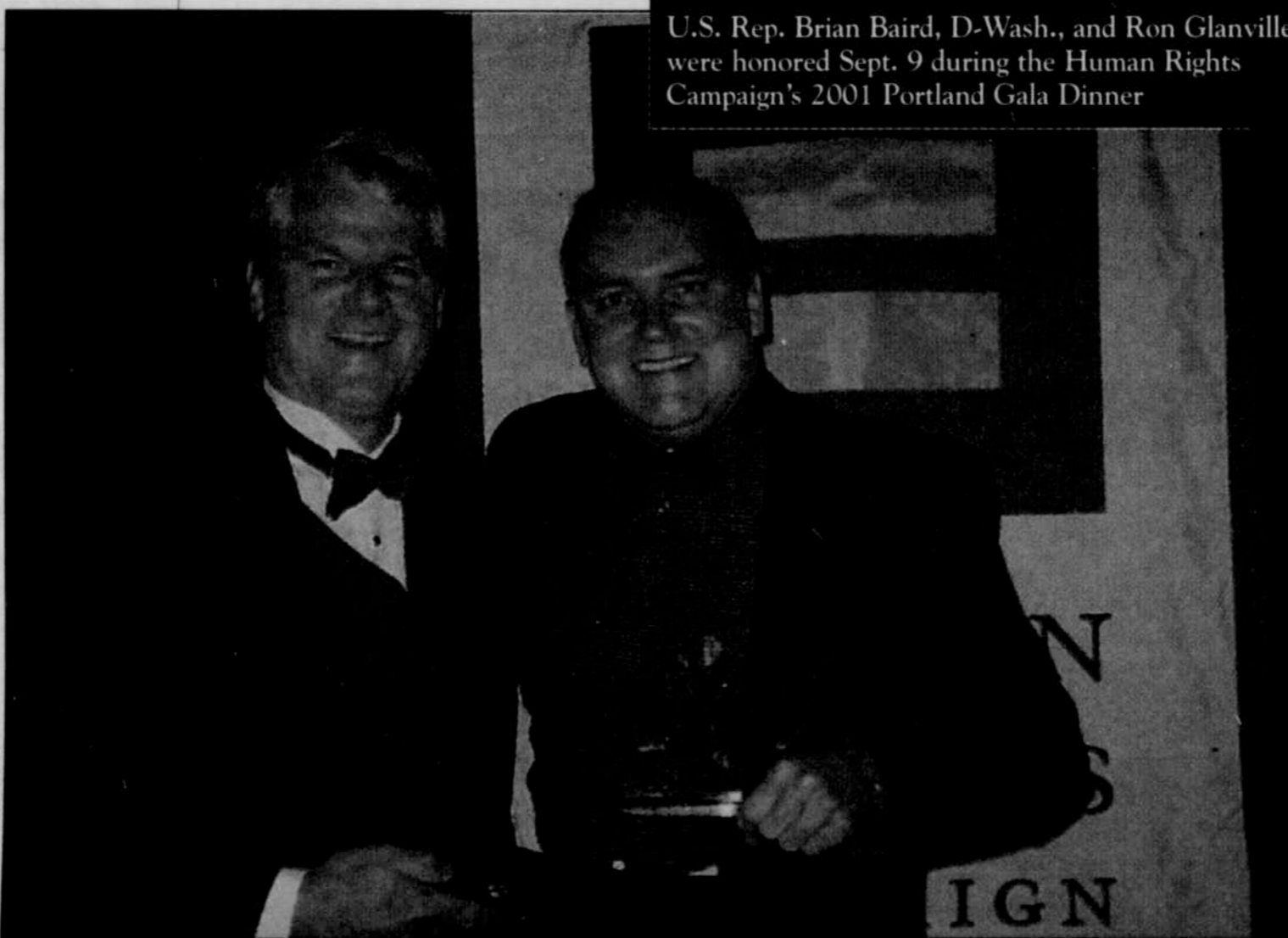


PHOTO BY JIM RADOSTA

## PRIDE OF THE ROSE HITS \$100,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

The Pride of the Rose Scholarship Fund of Equity Foundation has named its recipients for the 2001-02 academic year. The scholarships, totaling \$10,000, were awarded to Hans Crow of Western States Chiropractic College, Virginia Hackerbruck of Portland State University, Parke Humphrey-Keever of Oregon State University, Luiz Magana of Columbia College Chicago, Marianne Marchese of the National College of Naturopathic Medicine, Preston Reece McKinley of Arizona State University and Aaron Scott of Grinnell College.

Since it was founded in 1979, the fund has awarded a total of \$100,000 in scholarships. The recipients—who are or whose parents are lesbian, gay, bi or trans—were recognized Sept. 9 at Darcelle XV.

For more information send e-mail to [info@equityfoundation.org](mailto:info@equityfoundation.org).

## FORUM WILL DISCUSS ORAL SEX

The Gay Life Health Network, which in May 2000 presented "Tunnel of Love...The Greatest Hole on Earth," is back again with another provocative forum.

"Oral Fixation" will focus on the issues of oral sex and the risk of HIV and STD transmission. The community forum will start 7:30 p.m. Oct. 3 at Portland State University's Lincoln Hall.

"The purpose is really to share with men the most recent science around the risks associated with oral sex for both HIV and STD transmission and to have a discussion with the audience and a panel of experts about the realities of oral sex in the gay community," says Kip Beardsley, Gay Life chairman and gay health promoter at the Southwest Washington Health District in Vancouver. "There've been a lot of confusing and conflicting reports about oral sex."

But what makes Gay Life forums different from boring lectures is the unique approach

PHOTOS BY MARTY DAVIS