

PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

**GROUPS PLAN RALLY AGAINST HATE**

A coalition of Washington County human rights supporters are planning a Rally Against Hate to focus public attention on the Aug. 26 murder of Loni Okaruru, a trans woman from Aloha. Set during National Hate Crime Awareness Week, the vigil will run from 5 to 6 p.m. Oct. 7 on the steps of the Washington County Courthouse at 145 N.E. Second St. between Lincoln and Main, two blocks west of the Hillsboro Central MAX stop.

"While any murder is a tragic act of hate, hate crimes are even more disturbing," says Patricia Keeney, a spokesperson for the West County Coalition for Human Dignity. "Hate crimes send a message to a whole category of people saying: 'You are not safe. You have no rights to be respected.' Hate crime murders are often accompanied by far more brutal violence than in other forms of homicide."

Molly Franks, an organizer for the Washington County Pride Project, one of the rally coalition members, adds, "The young people that I work with have a strong sense of right and wrong and a great desire for justice." Her group supports gay, lesbian and trans kids and their allies.

"We are working to get the word out about the rally," says Elizabeth Turner, a member of Students Opposed to All Prejudice at Forest Grove High. "There is a lot of interest in our school."

Other organizations working on the rally include the Pacific University Rainbow Submarine; TransParentcy, an advocacy group for trans parents; and Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. In addition, Okaruru's

uncle has agreed to speak at the rally.

Sponsors also are raising money for a memorial fund to supplement the reward being offered for information leading to the arrest of those responsible for the murder. Donations can be made at any Bank of America branch.

"There is a connection between the violence that was committed against Loni Okaruru and the violence we are experiencing around the world at this moment," says Marcy Westerling of Rural Organizing Project, a network of human dignity groups throughout Oregon. "Now more than ever it is important for people to stand against hate and violence."

For more information call 503-720-0014 or e-mail [ordinen@aol.com](mailto:ordinen@aol.com).

**RED CROSS CLASS COMES TO SMYRC**

Vanguard Youth Services, which is home to the Sexual Minority Youth Recreation Center, will be the host site for an upcoming class offered by the American Red Cross. It will teach cardiopulmonary resuscitation as well as first-aid care for bleeding, splinting, burns and sudden illness.

What makes the pilot program unique is that it is aimed at housemates and families. Children 6 and older also are encouraged to attend.

"It's encouraging parents and children to take the class together," says Terry Knott, American Red Cross Oregon Trail Chapter youth education specialist. "Usually when you take a CPR class it's all adults. Youth generally aren't involved in that."

Just five cities were selected to participate. Portland is the only one located on the West Coast.

**SMITH WILL ATTEND D.C. DINNER**

U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., will be one of the special guests during the fifth annual Human Rights Campaign National Dinner on Oct. 6 in Washington, D.C. The event will honor Tony Award-winning actress Cherry Jones and Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C.

The keynote speaker will be former first lady and U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y. Actress Stockard Channing, who portrays first lady Abbey Bartlet on NBC's *The West Wing*, also will be in attendance.

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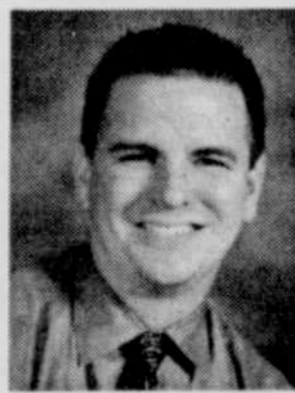
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