

NORTHWESTnews



Sam Adams, Portland Mayor Vera Katz's chief of staff, listens as U.S. Rep. David Wu, D-Ore., introduces himself during Basic Rights Oregon's annual fall dinner

ACTIVIST ASSAULTED IN BEND

Central Oregon activist Clifford Cook was abducted, robbed and assaulted Oct. 29 in Bend. Two young men are being held on almost \$1.4 million bail each, Bend.com reported Oct. 31.

Cook, a retired teacher, is the executive administrator for Red Lion Hotels & Inns in Bend. He also serves as chairman of the Human Dignity Coalition's board of directors.

According to Deschutes County Sheriff's Sgt. Michael Johnston, Cook called 911 about 7 p.m., saying the men abducted him at work, forced him to withdraw money from his bank account, took him home, tied him up, slashed his throat and took off with stolen goods and his Jeep Grand Cherokee. Within a half-hour, a deputy was in pursuit of the vehicle, and the suspects were taken into custody after a high-speed chase.

"These are murder suspects, so we are going to do whatever we can do to bring it to a satisfactory conclusion," Undersheriff Larry Blanton said. Transient Michael John Ivester, 20, and Jay Lloyd McCracken, 19, of Aberdeen, Wash., face charges of attempted aggravated murder, first-degree kidnapping, first-degree assault, first-degree robbery, second-degree theft, first-degree burglary, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, reckless driving, attempting to elude and driving with a suspended license.

Cook, 61, was released Oct. 31 from St. Charles Medical Center. Coalition board member Renee Menius was relieved to learn he is feeling all right.

"We're so fortunate that it wasn't worse than this," she said. "Frankly, I don't know how he survived."

Cook's cousin, Rosemary Hite, said he has scalp cuts, bad bruises and some equilibrium problems but should recover completely. "He has lots of moral support, a marvelous network of friends and family."

Kelley Weigel, Rural Organizing Project co-director, alerted allies about the assault Oct. 30. "The potential of this crime to be a hate crime is being considered by friends around Cliff in the community," she said.

A NIGHT FOR BASIC RIGHTS

More than 50 elected officials and candidates joined about 500 donors for Basic Rights Oregon's annual fall dinner Oct. 19 at the Hilton Hotel. More than \$17,000 was collected during the event to benefit the Elect-PAC, which will support fair-minded candidate campaigns in 2002.

Executive director Roey Thorpe says that the evening was a significant success but that the final tally is not ready yet. "Although we're still doing the math, we know that the event far exceeded our projected goals."

NUDE BEACH BUFFER ZONE WILL STAY

A buffer zone between the nude beach at Sauvie Island and the nearest private home will remain, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission voted unanimously Oct. 19.

Columbia County Judge Ted Grove ruled in May that the boundary should be extended from 425 feet to 1,400 feet in a case brought by a couple who complained about sexual acts in their yard and trespassing by sunbathers. Homeowners Glen Mark and his wife, Teri Powers, said the Division of State Lands created a nuisance by not enforcing the zone, the *Oregonian* reported Oct. 22.

According to attorney Robert A. Petersen, the state has filed an appeal. He said the situation is akin to a couple buying a house next door to a loud gravel company during the off-season, then later complaining about the noise.

"They moved to the nuisance," Petersen said. "They should have been aware of the situation."

The commission did qualify its stance, however. The agency stated explicitly it doesn't want to be held responsible for sunbathers' potentially offensive behavior.

HOMOPHOBIA SEMINAR PROMOTES HEALING

A gay counselor and hypnotherapist from Portland is planning a seminar to help people affected by internal and external homophobia. The gathering will be held from Dec. 7 to 9 at Breitenbush Hot Springs near Detroit.

"Healing the Emotional Wounds of Homophobia" aims to help participants erase the shame, guilt and trauma caused by prejudice. Its other goals include identifying and releasing old beliefs and decisions based on growing up "different," creating healthy same-sex relationships and finding greater acceptance of self and others.

It will be led by Larry Rogers, who has more than 12 years of experience facilitating seminars

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