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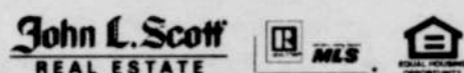
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NORTHWEST news

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and I believe in doing so we will capture and energize the partnership."

Among the roundtable's demands was that an independent "public advocate" be identified and advertised so sexual minority issues can be taken directly to the mayor. Kroeker recommended Elise Marshall, who already serves as the liaison between the bureau and Vera Katz.

He also said efforts to recruit sexual minority officers will continue. The bureau even is considering advertising in the *Advocate* and *Out* magazines.

In response to calls for improved youth participation, Kroeker said the Youth Crime Prevention Division will encourage sexual minority high schoolers to join the Police Cadet Program. He also promised to work on making connections and establishing trust with street youth.

FOOT PATROL LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Dana Rosenlund stepped down Nov. 16 as chairwoman of the Rainbow Community Foot Patrol because of health concerns. However, the group still is in existence.

The goal of the foot patrol is to make the streets safer in neighborhoods frequented by sexual minorities: Stark Street, Old Town and Chinatown. Members are not supposed to intervene in any disputes, crimes in progress, accidents or other illegal activities; their role is to listen, watch and report any suspicious behavior to police.

The group needs at least 12 volunteers to get under way. New chairman Pat Acosta says he's looking forward to hitting the pavement.

"I wanted to give something back to the community," he says. "I think it would be an improvement having something like this going on."

Although Acosta says he never has felt unsafe at night in Portland, he wants to be around for anyone who does. "I used to be a security guard, so I have a pretty good idea of what I'm supposed to be doing anyway."

For more information call 360-696-1795.

BALL ADDRESSES PORTLAND CITY CLUB

Robert Ball, the openly gay man who is leading an effort to change Portland's form of government, says nearly 40,000 signa-

tures have been gathered in support of his initiative to amend and restate the city charter. A total of 26,095 names must be validated to place it on the May 2002 ballot.

"Community support for our initiative has been truly fantastic," Ball told the Portland City Club on Nov. 16. "Two out of every three voters we spoke to have signed our petition. We've received tremendous support and have been asked by many organizations all over the city to speak to them and educate people on the meaning of the initiative language."

Under the Good Government Initiative, the majority of council members would be elected by district. Ball said this would shift responsibility for city departments to experienced managers hired by the mayor.

"Our city government has served us well since 1913, but Portland has outgrown it," he said. "Currently there are no checks and balances because our elected commissioners supervise city bureaus, and with their votes as council members, they adopt ordinances. As long as both the lawmaking and the administrative branches are the responsibility of the same elected officials, there exists a natural conflict."

MABONS WILL BE BACK IN COURT

Here's the latest in the ongoing saga involving photojournalist Catherine Stauffer's lawsuit against the Oregon Citizens Alliance for a 1991 assault.

Lon and Bonnie Mabon, who owe her more than \$31,000, once again failed to show up for a judgment debtor hearing Nov. 26. As a result, a Multnomah County judge will determine Dec. 12 whether they should be held in contempt of court.

Meanwhile, the Mabons' efforts to transfer the lawsuit to federal court seem to be going nowhere. A judge refused to hear oral arguments in the case and canceled a Nov. 16 hearing.

HEALTHY HABITS GROUP FORMED

A newly formed Healthy Habits group in Vancouver, Wash., will help people who want to replace unhealthy habits with healthy ones and who would like to have support from and be supportive to other like-minded individuals. Smoking, overeating, procrastination and other destructive



PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

As the Burnside Triangle undergoes its facelift, will the streets get any safer? In the meantime, the Rainbow Community Foot Patrol is mobilizing.