

NORTHWEST news

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"People...came and spoke to the board, and that had impact," he says.

The advocacy team met Nov. 29 to finalize funding recommendations. A total of \$8,000 was earmarked to restore programs for sexual minority youth of color, and \$18,000 will go to the Sexual Minority Youth Recreation Center, which had been facing a budget deficit.

LESBIAN NUN WILL PRESENT WORKSHOP

Sister Jeannine Gramick, an internationally recognized Catholic advocate for gay and lesbian equality, will bring her message to Portland during a workshop from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 8 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1244 N.E. 39th Ave.

She will speak about her work, the impact of Scripture and theology as well as pastoral concerns for gay and lesbian people. Her workshop, "Waiting in Hope: Advent for Advocates of Gay and Lesbian People," will include presentation, discussion, reflection and prayer.

Gramick has ministered to the gay and lesbian community since 1971. In 1972 and 1973, she co-founded the Baltimore and Washington, D.C., chapters of Dignity, a national organization for Catholic sexual minorities.

In 1977, she co-founded New Ways Ministry, a social justice center working for the reconciliation of gay and lesbian people and the Catholic Church. In 1999, the Vatican permanently prohibited her from pastoral work with sexual minorities.

Gramick holds a Ph.D. in education from

University of Pennsylvania and was an assistant professor of mathematics at College of Notre Dame of Maryland. Her articles have appeared in numerous journals, and she has written or edited six books on homosexuality including *Building Bridges: Gay and Lesbian Reality and the Catholic Church* and *Voices of Hope: A Collection of Positive Catholic Writings on Gay and Lesbian Issues*.

The \$25 workshop fee includes beverages. Attendees are asked to bring a sack lunch.

Women for America and Focus on the Family. This comes after the exposure, earlier this year, of a backroom deal to support President Bush's faith-based initiative in exchange for permission to discriminate against gay, lesbian, bi and trans people.

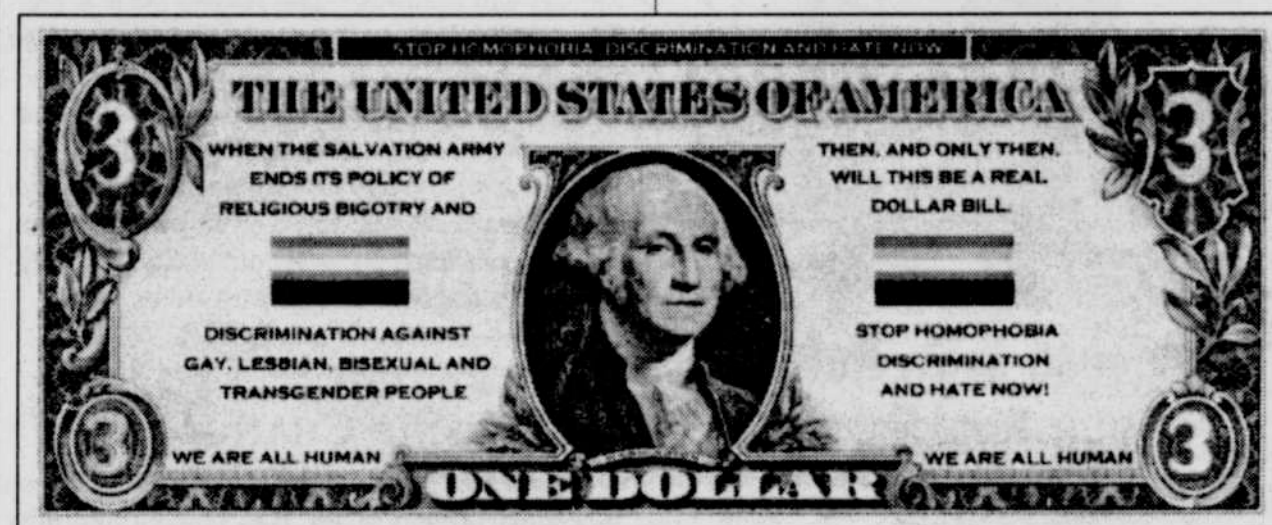
BRO and other progressive groups across the country are encouraging allies to contribute "dollars" to the Salvation Army explaining why discrimination is wrong, especially during

others and not promoting the national agenda that includes discrimination."

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays also is participating in the kettle campaign. And the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation is encouraging mainstream media outlets to cover the controversy.

"That the Salvation Army does good work and performs vital community services is not in question," says Joan M. Garry, GLAAD executive director. "But by withdrawing basic health care benefits from the partners and dependents of its gay employees, the Army has made a choice to associate itself with those who promote anti-gay discrimination."

To download the Salvation Army "dollars" visit the Internet site www.basicrights.org.



BRO JOINS KETTLE CAMPAIGN

Basic Rights Oregon is helping publicize a nationwide campaign to let the Salvation Army know that some potential donors won't be contributing to the organization as long as it practices discrimination.

The Salvation Army's Western Corporation chose to rescind its domestic partner benefits last month because of pressure from right-wing groups including Concerned

a season of giving. "Donors" are encouraged to download the play money via the World Wide Web, print the notes out and drop them into the kettles located outside most retailers during the holiday shopping season.

"It's important to understand that while the national Salvation Army has made some very bad decisions, the people who are ringing the bells and doing local work are not our enemies, so please be kind to them," says Roey Thorpe, BRO executive director. "In most cases, they are people motivated by the true spirit of giving to

KROEKER RESPONDS TO ROUNDTABLE

Portland Police Chief Mark Kroeker has responded to a list of suggestions submitted Aug. 1 by the Sexual Minorities Roundtable. The action was the result of a public forum held in December 2000 after his old recorded anti-gay comments came to light.

"Steps taken...will serve to improve the already strong partnership that exists between the police bureau and the LGBT community," Kroeker wrote in a letter dated Nov. 13. "I propose that the organization work with the Sexual Minorities Roundtable in implementing a 12-month plan that incorporates community input as well as organizational design,

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