

## NORTHWEST news

"Everybody knows that bullying and harassment take an awful toll on young people," coalition co-chairwoman Beth Reis says. "What people rarely discuss is that ostracism and isolation can be even more brutal in the long run. Not having anything age-appropriate to read about people like you, not having anyone to talk with about your concerns, not having peers who understand—these things can be devastating."

For more information visit the Internet sites [www.safeschoolscoalition.org](http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org) and [www.safeschoolzine.org](http://www.safeschoolzine.org).

### BEAN ACCEPTS HRC POSITION

The Human Rights Campaign announced Dec. 17 that founding board member Terry Bean has agreed to help raise money in preparation for its move to a new national headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The Portland businessman has accepted a position as co-chairman of the organization's capital campaign. He was selected along with several new board members during a meeting Dec. 8 and 9 in Houston.

HRC announced Nov. 9 that it signed a contract to purchase a building at 1640 Rhode Island Ave. The eight-story structure is undergoing reconstruction.

Last April, HRC announced it would construct a new building on a vacant lot at 1616 Rhode Island Ave. Since then, it says several existing structures came onto the market and presented more fiscally prudent options.

The purchase price for the new building is \$9.8 million. Additional renovation costs of

about \$10 million to \$12 million are anticipated. Renovation is scheduled to begin in 2002. More than \$15 million toward the campaign goal already has been raised.

Bean is a member of the board of directors for both HRC, the nation's largest lesbian and gay advocacy organization, and the HRC Foundation, its educational arm. His experience and long-standing commitment make him a natural fit for the job, according to executive director Elizabeth Birch.

"The future of HRC is full of promise because we are blessed with enormously qualified and talented individuals who have the commitment and skills to bring us to the next level," she says. "These gifted leaders will serve HRC and our community well—bringing new, innovative ideas and the work ethic to see these ideas through to fruition."

### COUNSELING PROGRAM RECEIVES GRANT

The YWCA of Greater Portland Counseling Center has received a grant from the Pride Foundation to assist sexual minority youth in the community.

The program, which uses a sliding-fee scale, is one of only a few remaining in the area offering services at a rate that is affordable to low-income people. The \$4,800 grant will be used to provide 160 hours of individual counseling to gay, lesbian, bi and trans kids.

"GLBT youth are at high risk for developing low self-esteem, alcohol/drug abuse and suicide, and too many GLBT youth lack a safe refuge or a sympathetic adult ear," program director Adrienne Wolmark says. "YWCA counselors are knowledgeable about and sensitive to GLBT issues, and in order to provide services to youth

that are homeless or lack financial resources, we will offer counseling at no cost."

Counseling is provided by graduate interns from Portland universities under the close supervision of an experienced clinical social worker. Specialized services include anger management classes as well as support groups for adults molested as children and for lesbians.

For more information about the YWCA Counseling Center or to schedule an appointment call 503-294-7440.

### MABON DOES IT AGAIN

Lon Mabon was a no-show at a contempt of court hearing Dec. 12 in Catherine Stauff-

fer's lawsuit against the Oregon Citizens Alliance for a 1991 assault. In his latest attempt to avoid paying more than \$31,000 owed to the photojournalist, he had the case removed to federal court.

Attorney Brent Foster called it another last-ditch effort to avoid the inevitable. He is working to have the case removed back to state court.

"They will have to face the consequences, but not right now," Foster said. "We're going to be asking that they face the contempt of court sanctions for their violations of past court orders as well as their failure to appear today. Today the Mabons only have postponed the punishment, but they have increased the severity of it."



PHOTO BY JIM RADOSTKA

Attorney Brent Foster meets the press Dec. 12 at Multnomah County Courthouse

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