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NORTHWEST news



PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

Donna Luckett (left) discusses LCP business with longtime activist Sally Cohn

LCP SURVIVES ATTEMPTED COUP

The Lesbian Community Project board of directors recently held two special meetings that resulted in a new look and direction for the volunteer-based organization. The combined boards of LCP and its nonpolitical arm, the Community Education Project, voted Jan. 26 to accept the nominations of Angela Jones and Donna Luckett as new board members.

During a second meeting Jan. 28, Roma Virginia Hanvey was removed from the board. LCP bylaws do not require reasons for the action, and none were presented during the roll call vote.

Hanvey recently has been a vocal critic of the leadership and spearheaded an attempt to wrest control of the organization from the board. Claiming bylaw violations that rendered LCP in violation of its nonprofit status, her actions included notifying the Oregon Justice Department of her concerns and sending an unauthorized letter to the entire membership announcing she now headed a self-titled faction called "the real LCP." A major concern she addressed was the "legality" of combining the two boards into a single voting bloc.

Supporters of Hanvey were unable to muster the votes needed to advance her claims, and she was removed from the board as scheduled. No word has been received as to further actions she might take in protest of her removal.

Other recent activities of LCP include moving into shared quarters with Love Makes a Family at Union Station and sponsoring a successful New Year's Eve dance gala, which drew more than 250 attendees. The next board meeting is scheduled for Feb. 11.

CORVALLIS SCHOOL BOARD INCHES TOWARD POLICY DECISION

The Corvallis School District has another vote coming up concerning its nondiscrimination policy Feb. 11.

Karuna Neustadt, head of queer resource group AFTER 8, has been meeting in committee with members of the board, the local Boy Scouts and the Mid-Valley Human Rights Coalition. At the last meeting they presented an interpretation of the nondiscrimination policy.

The board heard testimony and had a first reading of their recommendation. The committee suggested a broad interpretation of the policy, applying it to groups with access to students

but not to those who rent school space for events that don't involve the kids.

Four of the seven board members supported a broad interpretation, which pleases Neustadt. "It would mean that groups such as the Boy Scouts would not be able to do recruiting in schools, have access to students over lunch hour, nor would teachers be able to send home fliers for Boy Scout activities," she explains.

However, Neustadt says that outcome would depend on several things. The board first must approve the broad interpretation, then agree on the application of the policy.

"It was good news in that that's a step in the right direction," Neustadt says. "Even if that interpretation passes, the question is, 'What does that mean?' There is a possibility the subcommittee may have to continue meeting."

Neustadt encourages members of the community to write to board members or come to the public meetings.

Links to board members' e-mail addresses and information about the meetings can be obtained at www2.corvallis.k12.or.us/district_information.

SUPPORTIVE STUDENTS SKATE IN SOLIDARITY

A group of University of Oregon students held a "queer-in" Jan. 26 in response to a recent incident of "less-than-receptive treatment" at Skate World in Springfield.

"We had a great time," says Chicora Martin, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Educational and Support Services director. "It was hopefully sending a message that not only are we a very vocal community but we also want to be valued and appreciated for who we are."

Martin says two students were approached by a manager Jan. 21 and accused of violating a policy against kissing. The young men maintain they only were holding hands and were targeted because of their sexual orientation.

According to Martin, the "queer-in" was a peaceful, positive way to show visibility and support for the students. She says 55 to 60 people participated, comprising about one-third of the skaters in attendance.

Martin, who admits the Gateway Mall area is "not exactly the most welcoming environment," says people had a great time and experienced no harassment other than a couple of comments from children. She also spoke briefly with a manager afterward to explain the situation.