

NORTHWEST news

Continued from Page 9

and a growing coalition of concerned U.S. citizens has endorsed its goals. "The participation of these key statewide groups will give our campaign a jolt of energy, increase the number of supporters for the shareholder resolution campaign, the boycott and other measures, and put ExxonMobil on notice that our community's efforts are intensifying," she said.

The coalition has been employing a variety of means to convince the corporation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and to provide domestic partnership benefits for its employees. For four years the New York-based shareholder activist group the Equality Project has mounted campaigns for resolutions urging first Exxon and now ExxonMobil to amend its written equal employment opportunity policy. A nationwide boycott of Exxon and Mobil gas stations was announced June 11, 2001, asking consumers to cut up their ExxonMobil credit cards, sending half to the corporation and half to HRC.

For more information visit the Internet site www.equalityatexxon.org.

LCP SEEKS NEW HOME

The Lesbian Community Project, which recently moved in with Love Makes a Family at Union Station, is seeking a "community center" space to share with other partners.

The current location—in Suite 255 at 800 N.W. Sixth Ave.—is wheelchair accessible but has an old elevator requiring another person to help open the door. According to program

director Kristan Aspen, this is a significant reason why the train station is only a temporary office.

For more information call 503-227-0605 or e-mail lcp@webpride.net.

ROP DIRECTOR QUILTS

Kelley Weigel resigned Feb. 15 as Rural Organizing Project co-director and has signed on as the statewide field director for Bev Stein's gubernatorial campaign.

"As much as I'm going to miss my work at ROP, I feel like we've built quite a bit," she says. "We continue to have these endless initiatives on the rights of gays and lesbians in Oregon, and by working through organizations

like the ROP and candidates who will stand up for equality, we can put an end to these types of unnecessary battles."

Weigel has more than 10 years of experience as a community organizer in Oregon. Stein's campaign called her hiring "a staffing coup" and said she "adds an exciting new dynamic" to the team.

Marcy Westerling, who will take on the role of executive director, says she is sad to see Weigel leave. "Kelley has done the work of 1 1/2 to two people."

Meanwhile, Westerling is gearing up for the Rural Caucus and Strategy Session, which will take place April 20 in the Salem area. ROP also has hired two field organizers, Grace Taylor and Conan Riojas, and an office man-

ager, KBOO-FM talk radio host Jack Danger.

For more information call 503-543-8417 or e-mail office@rop.org.

PANEL DISCUSSES GAY PARENTS

The Washington County Parents and Kids Group's next meeting will feature panelists discussing how their lives were affected when their parents came out of the closet.

According to Love Makes a Family volunteer Guylund Mapes, the participants will range in age from 19 to 34. The goal is to show young people positive examples to help them cope.

"They will be able to get some life skills...so that they'll be able to deal with going to school and growing up," Mapes said. "We're not looking at it to be a war story."

The panel will convene 6 p.m. Feb. 26 at Community Church of Cedar Hills, 11695 S.W. Parkway Ave. The group meets every fourth Tuesday for dinner, support and fun.

For more information call 503-228-3892.

SALEM CITY COUNCIL HOLDS WORK SESSION

The Salem City Council held a work session Feb. 11 on a proposal to add sexual orientation and gender identity to its Civil Rights Code.

Cary Renfro, Human Rights and Relations Advisory Commission vice chairman, said the meeting was positive, with few questions or comments from councilors. The proposal will be

Continued on Page 13



Kelley Weigel has left Rural Organizing Project and joined Bev Stein's gubernatorial campaign

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