

**CITY COUNCIL OKS  
BENEFIT EXTENSION**

The Portland City Council unanimously approved an ordinance Feb. 13 extending Portland Fire and Police Disability and Retirement Fund benefits to members' same-sex domestic partners.

Katie Potter, the lesbian cop who spearheaded the effort, said afterward that she was feeling "very emotional but very happy." She told the council that if she or her partner, a fellow police officer, was killed in the line of duty, the survivor would be emotionally and financially devastated.

"Money isn't the only issue at hand, nor is it the most important," Potter said tearfully. "We know that we are all created equal, but we are not treated equally.... Please tell our daughter that her parents are as deserving as other parents."

The city's action was based on 1998's *Tanner vs. Oregon Health Sciences University* decision, which said government is constitutionally required to recognize domestic partnerships. Carl Kiss, the attorney who handled the case, presented this option to the fund's trustees board, which sent a memo to the

council Feb. 12 requesting that it comply with the law.

"Initially, the city and the fund were told that the problem could not be corrected without a citywide vote or a lawsuit," he said.

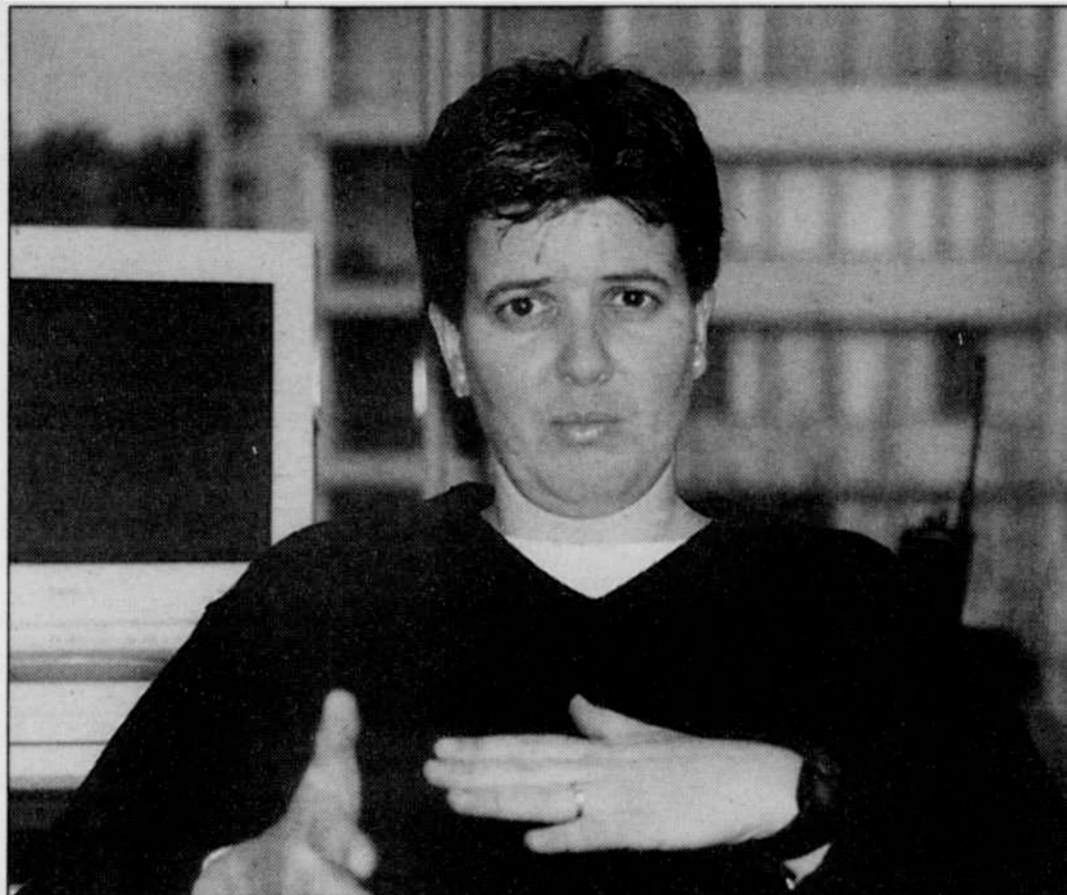


PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

Lesbian cop Katie Potter has triumphed in her effort for equality

"Once they were shown how to do the right thing, they willingly embraced it."

Kiss told *Just Out* he especially was impressed with Mayor Vera Katz's support. "I think it's wonderful to live in a city that doesn't hide problems but seeks to correct them," he said.

Commissioner Charlie Hales noted the fact

that the vote occurred without controversy, protest or finger-pointing. "I think that's a cause for even greater celebration," he said.

Katz, who has been pushing gay-positive legislation since 1973, said she always is taken aback when people praise her bravery in supporting basic equality. "I can't understand it—it's the right thing to do."

**PORTLAND  
WILL PLAY HOST  
TO CONFERENCE**

Creating Change—the pre-eminent grassroots, skills-building conference of the sexual minorities movement—will be coming to Portland in November. Almost 2,500 people—activists, organizers, students, elected and appointed officials, community leaders and allies—are expected to attend.

Sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Foundation, Creating Change consists of eight daylong preconference institutes, four plenary sessions, more than 150 workshops, seminars, caucuses and networking sessions.

Last year's gathering was held Nov. 7 to 11 in Milwaukee.

People who are interested in volunteering or serving on the host committee are invited to learn more about the Creating Change conference from 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 27. The informational community meeting will take place at

First Unitarian Church, 1011 S.W. 12th Ave.

For more information contact Sue Hyde at 617-492-6393 or [shyde@ngltf.org](mailto:shyde@ngltf.org).

**GOOD GOVERNMENT  
INITIATIVE GOES BAD**

Gay businessman Robert Ball's Good Government Initiative, which garnered enough signatures to qualify for the May ballot, has hit a snag that threatens to derail the Portland City Charter amendment.

Under the measure, the majority of council members would be elected by district. Ball says this would shift departmental responsibility to experienced managers hired by the mayor and create a system of checks and balances.

But 40,000 people didn't realize they were signing a flawed petition: It contains a date error that would shut down the council for 2004. As a courtesy to these voters, Mayor Vera Katz has submitted a corrected version for consideration.

Dozens of people—including Basic Rights Oregon board member Frank Dixon and gay Portland Police Bureau Capt. Mike Garvey, both initiative supporters—testified before the council Feb. 13. Opinions overall were mixed on whether the revision would be fair or would set a dangerous precedent.

According to Ball, the council consistently corrects its own ballot measures before they are presented to voters. A final decision will be made during the week of Feb. 18 to 22.

For more information visit the Internet site [www.portlandgoodgov.org](http://www.portlandgoodgov.org).

Continued on Page 9

*Who can you turn to  
in times like these?*

There is no question the markets are more volatile these days.

That's why more people are turning to independent advisors to help them achieve their financial goals. They want a financial planning professional who is on their side with the freedom

[www.griffonfinancial.com](http://www.griffonfinancial.com)

to recommend strategies and investments

best suited to their individual needs, without any pressure or incentives to sell proprietary products.

Our mission is to provide excellence in financial and retirement management to help people achieve their dreams.



GRIFFON  
FINANCIAL  
GROUP, LLC

Financial and Estate Planning Services



Antoinette Laferriere  
President

Antoinette's Direct Line: 503.528.2800

Toll Free: 888.434.5552 • 503.203.8585

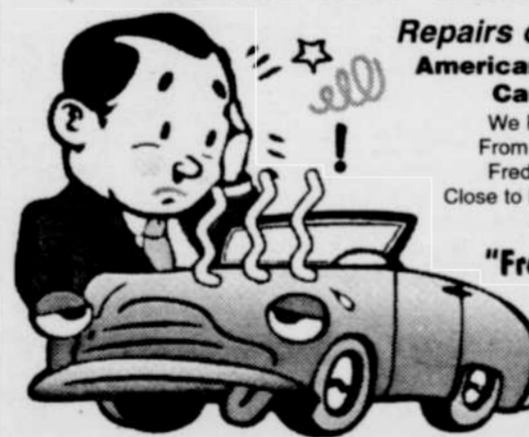
5440 SW Westgate Drive, Suite 110 Portland, OR 97221

Securities and financial planning offered exclusively through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. Member NASD/SIPC

DOMESTIC **A&G** IMPORT  
*Automotive*

Mention this ad and get a 10% discount.

**"SAME DAY SERVICE ON MOST REPAIRS"**



Repairs of All Makes & Models

American • European • Imports  
Cars • Trucks • RVs

We Fix It Right the First Time  
From Oil Changes to Overhaul,  
Fred's Auto Works Does It All  
Close to Downtown • Free Local Rides  
All Makes & Models

"Fred's Auto Works...  
Why Doesn't Yours?"



- Services Include:
- Maintenance • DEQ
  - Tune-ups • Poor Engine Performance
  - Brakes • Clutch
  - All Electrical Problems
  - Carburetors & Fuel Injection
  - Pre Purchase Inspection
  - Alternators & Starters (Repaired, Rebuilt or Exchanged)

**503 238-1159**

926 SE Morrison, Portland • <http://aandgautomotive.uswestdex.com>



Deborah Betron  
Broker, CRB, GRI

*25 years of professional  
expertise in representing  
your best interests...*

Office: 503/287-9370

v mail: 503/972.5657

[www.bridgetownrealty.com](http://www.bridgetownrealty.com)

