

## NORTHWEST news

"We are pleased to endorse these excellent candidates who have proven themselves to be friends of the community and dependable allies in our fight for equality," said Winnie Stachelberg, HRC political director. "Our bipartisan support will assist these candidates in their re-election fights, so they can fight for fairness in the halls of Congress."

### MERRICK STEPS DOWN AS BRO BOARD CHAIRWOMAN

Harriet Merrick has opted not to accept another term as Basic Rights Oregon board of directors co-chairwoman in order to pursue other interests. She will continue to be involved in the organization as an Elect PAC member.

"Harriet has been a leader at BRO through ballot measure and candidate campaigns, changes in leadership and through a great deal of growth and development," executive director Roey Thorpe said. "Her tireless efforts on behalf of this organization and in the interest of civil rights have made her our role model and hero."



Harriet Merrick has stepped down as Basic Rights Oregon board of directors co-chairwoman

Board member Frank Dixon, a former aide to Portland City Commissioner Dan Saltzman, will replace Merrick. Jeana Frazzini, Oregon Death with Dignity political director, will continue in her role as co-chairwoman.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Basic Rights Oregon has announced the date and location for the ninth annual Oregonians Against Discrimination Luncheon. The fund-raiser will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 10 at the Hilton Hotel, 921 S.W. Sixth Ave.

This year's honorary co-chairs are Joe D'Alessandro, Portland Oregon Visitors Association president and CEO, and Antoinette Laferriere, president of Griffon Financial Group and the Portland Area Business Association. The keynote speaker will be Tom Unger, a vice president and the regional public relations manager for Wells Fargo in Oregon and southwest Washington.

For more information or to become a table host call 503-222-6151.

### PORTLAND JOINS ONLINE NETWORK

Portland is one of 45 sites that have been added to the Out in America Cities Network, the only collective of its kind on the Internet.

"We started with a simple 'go local' plan for gay and lesbian communities," said Jared Hunnell, co-CEO of parent company Ethan Interactive. "Now, the immense popularity of our mission has allowed us to bring our service to over 100 cities."

Since 1997, Out in America has been the only free national gay portal targeting the sexual minorities community. With membership growing at a rate of 25 percent every

month, it was expected to reach more than 200,000 registered and active members by February.

The city sites feature local, financial and sports news; photos; entertainment; resources; nationally syndicated reviews; gossip; health and fitness columns; and cartoons. They also began a "Members Plus" program in September to provide more services for visitors.

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



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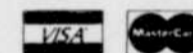
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### SMITH ANNOUNCES \$3.6 MILLION FOR AIDS PROGRAMS

U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., announced Feb. 19 that the Multnomah County Health Department will receive \$3.6 million for its emergency HIV/AIDS programs and services. The grant money is being awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration.

"These grant funds will help meet the growing demand for HIV/AIDS services not only in Multnomah County but the surrounding Portland area as well," Smith said. "These funds will go a long way toward helping Oregonians living with HIV/AIDS. More importantly, the grant will help those with HIV who are unable to obtain health services because they lack insurance."

Although Multnomah is Oregon's smallest county, it contains about 20 percent of the state's population because of the high density found in Portland and the surrounding cities. Since being elected to the Senate, Smith has worked to get authorization and funding for programs targeting the uninsured and has lobbied Health and Human Services to extend Medicaid to those living with HIV/AIDS.

### OUR HOUSE HOLDS OPEN HOUSE

Our House of Portland's 14th Anniversary Open House Celebration will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. March 10 at 2727 S.E. Alder St.

Family and friends are welcome to attend the program, which will include Heartfelt Awards and remembrance of those who stayed this past

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