

## NORTHWEST news

School who was voted Oregon's best cheerleader two years in a row; and Damon Woodcock, a trans Portland Police Bureau officer who received a \$205,000 job stress settlement upon his resignation.

### SERT INQUIRY ENDS

The Portland Police Bureau's 11-month probe into allegations of sexual harassment by the Special Emergency Response Team has come to an end. Investigators found no "prohibited discrimination" occurred during the secret hazing rituals of the elite 29-member unit, which responds to hostage and other crisis situations.

**"After a year, they've denied anything improper happened to officer Reyna. They've offered her no relief whatsoever, and instead they've notified her that she may be the subject of discipline herself"**

—Steve Brischetto

Lesbian officer Liani Reyna, 32, accused teammates of forcing her to sing a lewd cheer, to participate in crude skits and to take home a "birthday idol" consisting of two men performing oral sex. She claimed the discrimination stemmed from her gender as well as her sexual orientation.

Investigators proposed disciplinary action for 10 officers, six sergeants, two lieutenants and two captains—including Reyna. The bureau

wants to send her a letter of reprimand for participating in the skits, according to her attorney, Steve Brischetto. "The message we got was, 'Thanks for letting us know, and by the way, you might get disciplined,'" he told the *Portland Tribune*. "The real question is going to be how high up the discipline has gone and who is being disciplined."

Brischetto called the investigation "ridiculous" and "a whitewash." He vowed to pursue a pending Bureau of Labor and Industries complaint as well as a lawsuit.

"After a year, they've denied anything improper happened to officer Reyna," Brischetto said. "They've offered her no relief whatsoever, and instead they've notified her that she may be the subject of discipline herself."

### SEXUAL MINORITIES ROUNDTABLE MEETS

The next meeting of the Sexual Minorities Roundtable will be held from noon to 2 p.m. March 2 at Central Library, 801 S.W. 10th Ave. Agenda items will include a review of the partnership agreement with the Portland Police Bureau.

### VANCOUVER DROP-IN CENTER REOPENS

The Sexual Minority Services Project at 309 W. 12th St. in Vancouver, Wash., will reopen its drop-in center March 1. Hours are 4 to 7 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 2 to 6 p.m. Saturdays.

Two new support groups will resume March 2.

Healthy Habits meets from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Saturdays, and Trans Support meets from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month.

The doors had been shut for two months because of executive director Llyn Zephyr's health problems. Interviews are under way to find her a co-director.

To volunteer e-mail LEZephyr42@aol.com or call 360-695-1325, ext. 332.



Valerie Miner and Paula Kamen (inset) will speak during the 21st annual Gender Studies Symposium from March 13 to 15 at Lewis & Clark College

### GENDER STUDIES SYMPOSIUM PLANNED

Lewis & Clark College will present its 21st annual Gender Studies Symposium from March 13 to 15.

"Sexualities and Gender: Stories and Revisions" will be held in Templeton Student Center, 0615 S.W. Palantine Hill Road. All events are free and open to the public.

Political activist and writer Leslie Feinberg will present the keynote address "Gender and Liberation" at 7:30 p.m. March 13. Journalist and playwright Paula Kamen will discuss "Her Way: Monica, Madonna, Felicity and a New Generation's Sexual Attitudes" at 7:30 p.m. March 14.

Other highlights include a reading and discussion with Kathleen O'Shea, author of *Women on the Row: Revelations from Both Sides of the Bars*, at 3 p.m. March 14; a lecture on "Women, Youths and Men: The Age/Gender System of Tokugawa Japan, 1600-1868" by Columbia University associate professor Gregory Pflugfelder at 1:30 p.m. March 15; and a reading from *The Low Road: A Scottish Family Memoir* by award-winning author Valerie Miner at 3:15 p.m. March 15. This year's art exhibition addresses "Identity: The Process of Search and Transformation."

For more information call 503-768-7381, e-mail maveety@lclark.edu or visit [www.lclark.edu](http://www.lclark.edu).

### TINKER WINS DIVERSITY AWARD

Bonnie Tinker, Love Makes a Family executive director, was given the "Celebrating Diversity" award Jan. 20 by Meridian United Church of Christ in Wilsonville. She was nominated by Dick White, a retired counselor from Cleveland High School in Portland.

Tinker is the second recipient of the newly created award. The first was state Sen. Margaret Carter, D-Portland. **JM**

Compiled by JIM RADOSTA



**Celia Lyon**  
503-495-5774  
[celialyon@aol.com](mailto:celialyon@aol.com)

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**Terri Popejoy**  
503-495-5765  
[tpopejoy@aol.com](mailto:tpopejoy@aol.com)

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## Worried About Your Rights?

Gay and Lesbian couples need to take extra precaution when creating an estate plan. Why? Because the government doesn't provide equal rights to same sex couples, and it's essential that you're prepared for the legal battle that may ensue when you or your partner die.

### Rely on Someone Who Knows Your Rights

Richard Schneider, a local attorney with 20 years of experience is well versed in the legal dilemmas that the gay community faces and can help you arm yourself against intervention by the courts. He'll be happy to provide you with a FREE one-hour consultation, advising you and your partner of your rights and show you the best way to protect them.

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