

# NORTHWESTnews

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The opening video presentation highlighted the organizations supported by Equity. Executive director Matthew Nelson saw the gala as a way to get the sexual minorities community's message in front of some of the most influential people in Oregon.

"How often do we have the chance to share the work of social services agencies for the LGBT community to a roomful of business leaders?" he says. "In a few short hours, more than 750 people were educated about our particular needs."

Presenting sponsor PGE provided both major funding and in-kind support to underwrite the gala's expenses. Nelson sees many doors opening for the community because of the strong corporate backing.

"I sensed that people in attendance were saying, 'Of course we support these things,'" he says. "With allies like Fred Miller of PGE leading the charge, all of our nonprofits benefit from the exposure."

## ANTI-GAY REPUBLICAN RUNNING FOR CONGRESS

Jeff Greenfield is hoping to unseat U.S. Rep. David Wu, D-Ore. The KKGT-AM talk show host announced his candidacy for the Republican primary March 11.

Greenfield was one of five men who spoke in defense of the Oregon Citizens Alliance's Student Protection Act II dur-

ing forums held Feb. 12 at Mt. Hood Community College. During the lunchtime debate he spoke out against the "assault on the values that have undergirded our society."

According to the *Oregonian*, Greenfield would like to eliminate the Internal Revenue Service and all federal agencies not authorized by the Constitution. He also wants to kick Mideast foreigners out of the United States during the war on terrorism.



PHOTO BY JIM FALCOSTA

Congressional candidate Jeff Greenfield defends the Student Protection Act II on Feb. 12 at Mt. Hood Community College

## FREEDOM SOCIALISTS GO TO COURT

The Oregon Court of Appeals will hear arguments March 19 in the Freedom Socialists' case against a state law disqualifying parties for electoral status if their name has a word in common with another one already on the ballot. Jordana Sardo, a lesbian who would like to run for the Legislature, is among those demanding change.

Because the Socialist Party appears in some districts, the Freedom Socialists are barred from the Oregon ballot. A circuit court ruled in February that the law is unconstitutional, but the state filed an appeal March 19.

The party's case is backed by the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights, which submitted a friend-of-the-court brief signed by more than 60 supporting organizations. They include the Socialist Party of Oregon, the Oregon AFL-CIO and many unions, civil rights and social justice groups and individuals.

"We are glad to see this crucial case move forward, especially in the post-Sept. 11 turmoil," case coordinator Eduardo Martínez-Zapata said. "The recent disclosure that the U.S. government may initiate nuclear war gives heightened urgency to the CCR's assertion that 'The role of minor parties is especially vital today. A harsh, chill wind blows across the political landscape, uprooting pre-

cious freedoms...in the name of fighting terrorism.'"

## BEARDSLEY BECOMES ARIZONA AIDS DIRECTOR

Kip Beardsley, who was in charge of gay health promotion for the Southwest Washington Health District, is now Arizona's AIDS director.

He is overseeing all aspects of prevention, care and surveillance of HIV, sexually transmitted diseases and hepatitis C throughout the state. His office has an annual budget of \$20 million and a staff of about 30 people.

Beardsley says Arizona is similar to Oregon, with a large metropolitan center surrounded by some very rural areas. Both states also have HIV populations predominantly consisting of gay men and injection drug users and overrepresented by racial and ethnic minorities.

Beardsley spoke to *Just Out* only a week into his new job, but he already had noticed one big difference between the desert and the Pacific Northwest. "Arizona is very conservative politically, so that's challenging," he says.

When asked to point out his biggest accomplishment here, he notes a significant shift occurred during the past two years. He saw HIV prevention efforts move away from


*"A harsh, chill wind blows across the political landscape, uprooting precious freedoms...in the name of fighting terrorism"*

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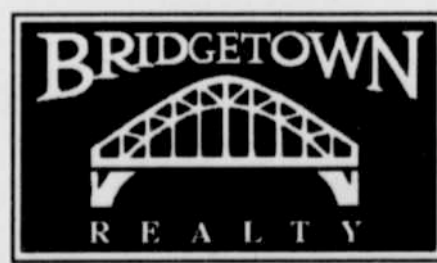
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