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NORTHWEST news

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But not all couples can maintain these strengths, especially given the stresses of living in a straight culture, according to the institute. The workshops teach how to build and enhance relationships while addressing both the differences and commonalities between queer and straight couples.

Women will gather April 20 and 21 at Seattle Center, and men will meet June 15 and 16 at Seattle Counseling Service. The workshops, which cost \$375 a couple, will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

To register call 888-523-9042 or visit the Internet site www.gottman.com.

open their own company April 6.

The women, who collectively have 40 years of experience in the field, say they want to get back to basic customer service and away from the corporate world. Bella Casa Realty Inc. will be located at 1523 S.E. Ankeny St.

"We want our clients and customers to feel totally represented and special—not lost in the corporate black hole," Lyon says. "Our goal is to serve the [sexual minorities] community with our best—loyalty, trust, integrity and professionalism. Over 80 percent of our business is in the community."

For more information call 503-231-7355 or 888-865-7355.

BRADBURY MEETS WITH GAY MEN AND LESBIANS

Oregon Secretary of State Bill Bradbury told a group of about 60 Portland gay men and lesbians March 27 about his long history of working hard to protect their individual rights and promised that will remain his priority in the U.S. Senate. The Democratic candidate faces tough competition in Republican incumbent Gordon Smith, who received the Human Rights Campaign's endorsement for co-sponsoring hate crimes legislation.

"We're here tonight because we know that Oregon needs a senator who will fight to protect the rights we have and fight to expand the rights we deserve," Bradbury said. "I've always been on your side, and that's a record I'm committed to continuing as Oregon's senator."

Bradbury said he views anti-gay discrimination as equal to bias based on race, gender or religion and expressed his strong support of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. He also assured the group he would push legislation designed to ensure the federal government has the ability to prosecute crimes committed out of hate.

Bradbury believes an adopted child deserves the same stability and security as any other child and should be placed in the best home environment possible for his or her personal needs. He said same-sex couples should be allowed an opportunity to provide that environment.

SMITH, WYDEN ANNOUNCE \$5 MILLION FOR AIDS PROGRAM

U.S. Sens. Gordon Smith and Ron Wyden announced March 28 that the Oregon Department of Human Services will receive \$5,266,094 for AIDS services in the state. The money is provided under Title II of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act.

"These funds are crucial to our state's efforts to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS on a local level," said Smith, a Republican. "Through the Ryan White CARE Act, all people affected by the AIDS epidemic will have greater access to the health services they need."

Wyden, a Democrat, added: "Since I voted for the Ryan White CARE Act in 1990 as a member of the House, so many strides have been made in treating this terrible disease. Funding this program continues to help with education and prevention efforts and to improve quality of life for AIDS patients and their families as researchers move closer to a cure."

Named for the HIV-positive teen from Indiana who made headlines in the mid-1980s with his fight against the disease, the act created a system of programs to improve the quality and



Author and counselor Dan Allender will teach Christians how to heal homosexuals during an "ex-gay" ministry conference April 26 and 27

"EX-GAY" MINISTRY HOLDS CONFERENCE

Portland Fellowship, an affiliate of Exodus International, will hold a conference April 26 and 27 to help Christians more effectively "convert" queers through "the truth of Jesus." Sunset Presbyterian Church will play host to "Homosexuality: A Compassionate Response."

Keynote speaker Dan Allender "will share his unique perspective on sexual abuse recovery, love and forgiveness, homosexuality and other related topics," according to the fellowship. The conference also "will offer a full slate of sessions, workshops and personal testimonies—focusing on such topics as healing for the homosexual, root causes of homosexuality and biblical teaching on homosexuality."

Phil Hobizal, Portland Fellowship executive director, said: "Sometimes...a passion for God's truth on this subject doesn't translate into a compassionate response toward those who deal with same-sex attractions in our families, churches, neighborhoods and workplaces. By offering this conference, we hope to equip Christians to more effectively reach homosexuals with the unique message of hope found only in relationship with Jesus."

Despite the fellowship's increased efforts to save the sinners, the good news is that Exodus no longer is based in the Pacific Northwest. Its office relocated from Seattle to Orlando, Fla., in February.

LESBIAN REALTORS GO SOLO

Lesbian Realtors Celia Lyon and Terri Popejoy have left Re/Max Equity Group and will