

## NORTHWEST news



Former Oregonian Jared Phillips (second from right) is one of seven student leaders helping organize the Day of Silence Project

### THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT

Students across the country will take a vow of silence April 10 to call attention to anti-gay discrimination and harassment in schools. The national youth movement is sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

The Day of Silence Project's Western regional organizer is Jared Phillips, a 10th-generation Oregonian who grew up in the rural community of Days Creek, located 10 miles north of Canyonville along the South Umpqua River. He now lives in Prescott, Ariz., where he attends Kestrel High and serves as president of the alternative school's gay-straight alliance.

"The Day of Silence means making important GLBT issues visible to a population that, in general, may not even know that these issues exist," Phillips told *Just Out*. "Why fight with words and violence? You have to hear the voice that tells you the difference between right and wrong, and being silent gives you the opportunity to acknowledge that voice."

A total of 18 Oregon high schools have registered so far: Ashland, Centennial, Century, Corvallis, Estacada, Forest Grove, Franklin, La Salle, Lake Oswego, North Salem, Oregon Episcopal, Parkrose, South Eugene, Southridge, Springfield, Valley Catholic, Wilson and Woodburn. Students also will participate at two community colleges (Lane and Mt. Hood) and four universities (Oregon State, Pacific, Portland State and Western Oregon).

A "Breaking the Silence Rally" will be held 3:30 p.m. at South Eugene High, 400 E. 19th Ave. The event will feature students, teachers and community members from more than five area schools along with guest speakers, music and poetry.

For more information about the rally call Sifra Morrison at 541-342-4251 or e-mail [indigogirl\\_4@yahoo.com](mailto:indigogirl_4@yahoo.com).

### VANCOUVER PRIDE ANNOUNCES DESIGN CONTEST

The organizing committee for Saturday in the Park 2002—the eighth annual Gay Pride celebration in Vancouver, Wash.—is seeking a graphic design to feature on posters, promotional materials and souvenir T-shirts. A \$50 prize will be given to the entry that best illustrates this year's theme, "Freedom, Diversity, Community."

The event will be held from 1 to 8 p.m. July 13 at Esther Short Park. Contest entry requirements include:

- The design must be original work so no

copyright permissions or fees will be associated with its use.

- The text of the theme must be incorporated in the design. No particular font is preferred, but triangles separating the words should be included.

- The design will be used in conjunction with other text, such as the event's time, date and place. Entries need not include this information, although suggestions for its placement, typeface and font size may be indicated.

- Entries must be submitted on 8.5-by-11-inch white paper. Print your name, phone number and mailing address on the back of the design.

The committee will select the winner starting 1 p.m. April 7 at Northbank Tavern, 106 W. Sixth Ave. Entries may be delivered to the meeting.

Call Jane Arends at 360-699-5232 to mail an entry or to arrange another time to deliver it.

### BUCKWALTER WINS PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD

Trans activist Lori Buckwalter recently received \$5,000 from the Friends of Public Health for her advocacy work. She serves as the executive director of It's Time, Oregon!

The Genius Award honors a person working to improve public health in areas such as environment, service, policy, participation, prevention, wellness and education at the community level. Buckwalter, who was nominated by Outside In, will give most of the money back to the homeless youth agency to launch a project that will help low-income trans kids change their legal identification.

"I feel really good about it and I feel really honored, but there's so much more work we need to do," she says. "I just need to use it as another opportunity to raise awareness of issues in the trans community."

### WEEKEND WORKSHOPS ENHANCE RELATIONSHIPS

The Gottman Institute in Seattle is presenting two upcoming weekend workshops on "Honoring Gay & Lesbian Relationships."

They are based on a pioneering study by a University of Washington researcher who studied same-sex couples for more than 12 years. John Gottman says gay men and lesbians manage conflict in positive rather than negative ways and are rarely belligerent or domineering; instead, they are often affectionate and humorous.

When negative emotions arise, damage is usually not done to the relationship. And, when damage does occur, gay and lesbian couples are masters at making repairs.

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