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NORTHWEST news

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minority concerns. He gives him credit for helping the city of Salem start a similar panel earlier this year and for attending a September 2001 vigil in honor of Loni Okaruru, a trans hate crime victim.

"He was instrumental in helping us remove the street preachers off the waterfront site during Pride and working with Central Precinct to put together a method that they could not disturb our community event any longer," Costa told *Just Out*. "He has helped us have a responsible voice in Portland."

Roundtable co-chairwoman Roni Lang, who also serves on the Chief's Forum along with Costa, says Paresi fully supports the elimination of hate crimes and is an advocate for queer youth. She hopes his replacement will be as dedicated to the cause.

"He has continually kept us abreast of changes in the bureau that would help us with our mission," Lang says. "He listens and helps direct us toward our goals."

according to the *Albany Democrat-Herald*. Ana Peroutka represented the Human Rights Alliance at Catholic Marist High, where students participated without the support of administrators.

Also part of the rally were teachers, school district officials, University of Oregon students and representatives from Youth for Justice and the Eugene Human Rights Commission. Organizer Sifra Morrison, who's active in South's gay-straight alliance, estimated several hundred people participated most or all of the day, some displaying cards explaining the reason for their silence.

"This is to say that it's not OK for people not to feel safe in their learning environment," she said. "It's time for communities to really take action."

STUDENTS SPREAD QUEER AWARENESS

Portland State University once again is playing host to a series of events designed to educate students, staff and the general public about sexual minority issues.

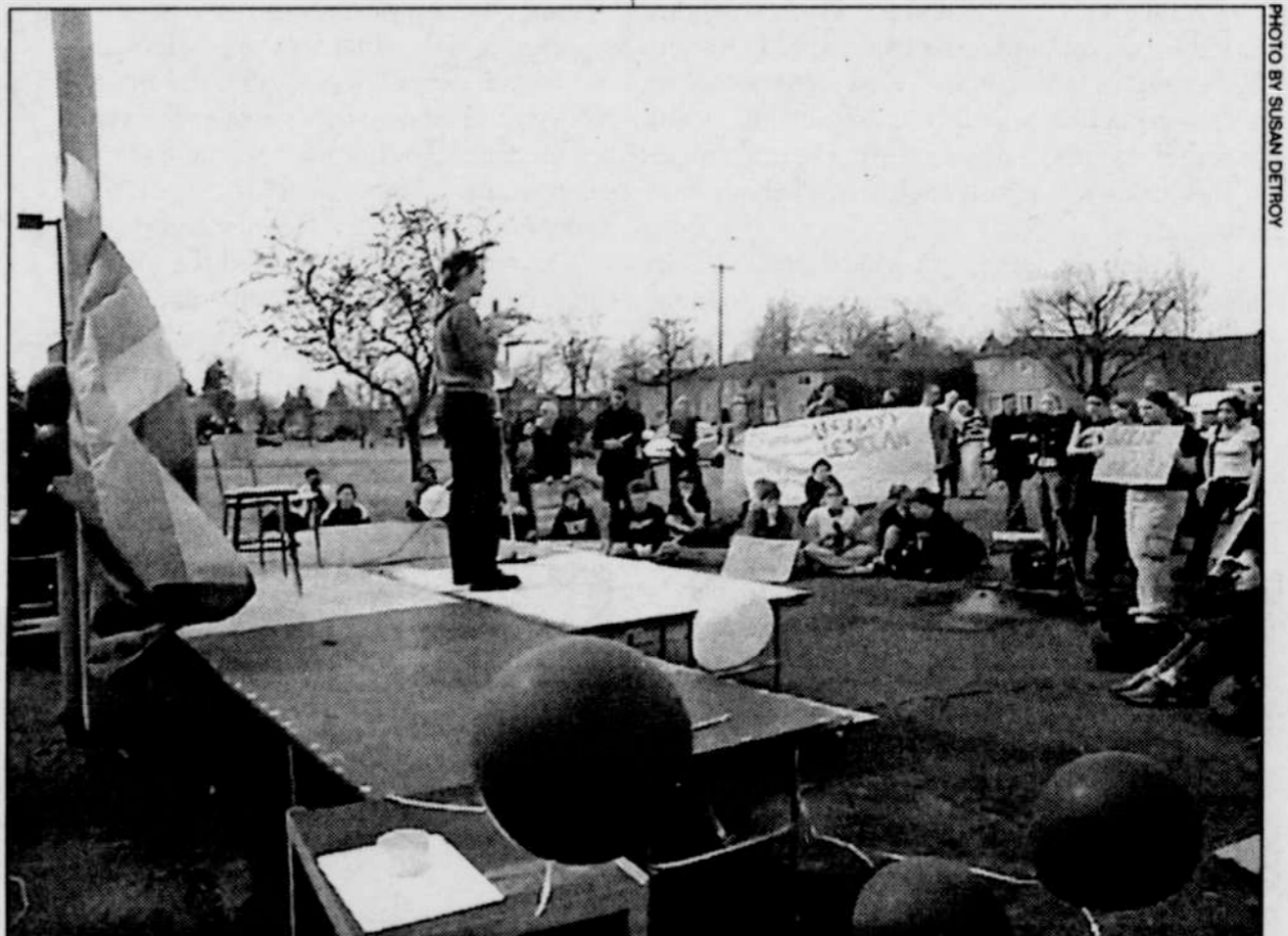


PHOTO BY SUSAN DETMOY

Students gather for a "Breaking the Silence Rally" on April 10 at South Eugene High School

THE SOUND OF SILENCE

About 75 people gathered for a rally April 10 at South Eugene High School. The event was the conclusion of the Day of Silence Project, a nationwide protest of anti-gay harassment in schools.

Among the speakers was Elise Self, co-chairwoman of Eugene's Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. She revealed she remained silent for two years after her daughter came out as a lesbian.

"It is incumbent on those of us who experience the unspoken privileges of being heterosexual to help break the silence and to speak out daily against the oppression that our GLBT loved ones experience," Self said. "As a representative of PFLAG and as a mother I stand with them and in support of them to break the silence."

Caitlin Thompson spoke about her experience launching a gay-straight alliance in 1999 at Churchill High, where administrators were supportive but students regularly tore down posters and threw away fliers advertising the club. She characterized Eugene public schools as having "a long way to go before we are all safe."

Diana Young came to Eugene from South Albany High, where Principal Christie Plinski decided April 4 to ban the Day of Silence because it "would disrupt the instructional environment,"

Queer Awareness Week will take place in Smith Memorial Center, 1825 S.W. Broadway. Unless otherwise noted, all of the events will be held in Room 238:

- **Guess the Straights:** How good is your gaydar? Come and see whether you have what it takes to spot a heterosexual (noon April 22, Parkway Commons North).

- **Queer History:** Ann Mussey teaches you the history you didn't learn in high school (7 p.m. April 22).

- **Queers of Color Brown Bag Lunch:** Patti Duncan will be the facilitator (noon April 23).

- **Heterosexual Privilege Workshop:** Gareth Lindwall overviews the benefits bestowed and assumed for straight people (7 p.m. April 23).

- **Movie:** *But I'm a Cheerleader*, written by former Oregonian Brian Wayne Peterson (noon April 24).

- **Gender/Trans Workshop:** Aimee Wilson and Jack Keegan discuss the rights and experiences of trans people in the workplace, health care system and families (7 p.m. April 24).

- **Safe Space Network/Sexual Diversity Taskforce:** An appreciation luncheon for those involved in making PSU a safer environment for queer students (noon April 25).

- **B/D/S/M 101:** Morgan Wolfe and Steven Nelson will co-facilitate this class (7 p.m. April 25).