

BAIRD HOSTS OPEN HOUSE

U.S. Rep. Brian Baird, D-Wash., played host to the Sixth Anniversary Open House of Cascade AIDS Project's southwest Washington office May 29 in Vancouver. He is a new member of the nonprofit's board of advisers.

CAP has served more than 500 families with

keep the program fiscally sound."

Kohn said federal funding has not kept up with HIV treatment costs. "In addition, Oregon's program has had a dramatic increase in enrollment, created by the state's economic downturn and loss of jobs. We've also seen significant increases in the cost of drugs and health insurance."



PHOTO BY JIM RADOSTKA

U.S. Rep. Brian Baird (left) listens to Craig Hartzman, Cascade AIDS Project board president, during an open house May 29 in Vancouver, Wash.

HIV or AIDS and educated 10,000 youth and adults about prevention in southwest Washington. Board president Craig Hartzman is a long-time Vancouver resident and a vice president of C.E. John Company Inc. in Vancouver.

"This is still a very, very difficult illness," Baird said. "We must get that message out."

CAP ANNOUNCES PROGRAM FOR HIV-POSITIVE GAY MEN

Cascade AIDS Project has launched a program to benefit Portland's sexual minorities community called The Pink Link. The social group for HIV-positive gay and bi men offers a safe haven for interaction as well as developing friendships and fun in a casual and supportive environment.

The idea was put into motion by CAP staff member Misha Rockafeller. "We have been hearing for a long time that there was a desire for a group like this, and to be able to offer it...is really exciting," she said.

The Pink Link meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays in Suite 300 at 620 S.W. Fifth Ave. Group members will plan and participate in fun outings and events, including happy hours, movie nights, hikes and outdoor activities as well as discussion groups and occasional speakers.

Confidentiality is assured. The facilitators would like HIV-positive gay and bi men to feel free to participate in the group as they like, without fear.

For more information contact Philip Knowlton at 503-223-5907 or pknowlton@cascadeaids.org.

AIDS PROGRAM FREEZES NEW ENROLLMENTS

Public health officials at the state Department of Human Services announced May 16 a temporary freeze on new enrollments into Oregon's prescription drug assistance program for people infected with HIV and AIDS, effective immediately.

"We deeply regret having to take this step," state epidemiologist Mel Kohn said. "We know this will have a serious impact on people who need this help. But the reality is that we are in a serious deficit situation and must take action to

Program staff are developing strategies and new guidelines to keep the program fiscally balanced for the current year, according to Kohn. "As soon as that work is completed we will review applications on the waiting list and let people know of their status," he said. "Meanwhile, we will work with community partners to do what we can to help those people who are affected by this freeze."

ATTENTION ALL PACKRATS!

Portland drag personality Ariel View is holding a "Spring Clean for Pride" through June 30 to benefit Women's Intercommunity AIDS Resource and Tod's Corner. She helped raise more than 1,600 pounds of items at a similar event April 21.

"We are attempting to fill the clothing and housewares closets of these two organizations to the rafters," she said. "June is Gay Pride Month, and what better way to show the support of the community but by...making a difference?"

WIAR helps women and children affected by HIV/AIDS and plays host to the annual Camp Starlight event for kids. Tod's Corner, a division of the Friends of People with AIDS Foundation, helps men living with the disease.

For more information call 971-207-4312 or e-mail MissArielView@aol.com.

BUREAU SIGNS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The Portland Police Bureau signed the Sexual Minority Partnership Agreement during a meeting June 1. The document is designed to signify the continued mutual commitment and working relationship between the law enforcement and the queer communities.

The Sexual Minority Roundtable's goals include sponsoring personal safety seminars, offering recommendations for humane confinement and addressing youth needs. "The partners will work together to enhance public safety, livability and general concerns of the community relating to law enforcement and sexual minority individuals," according to the document.

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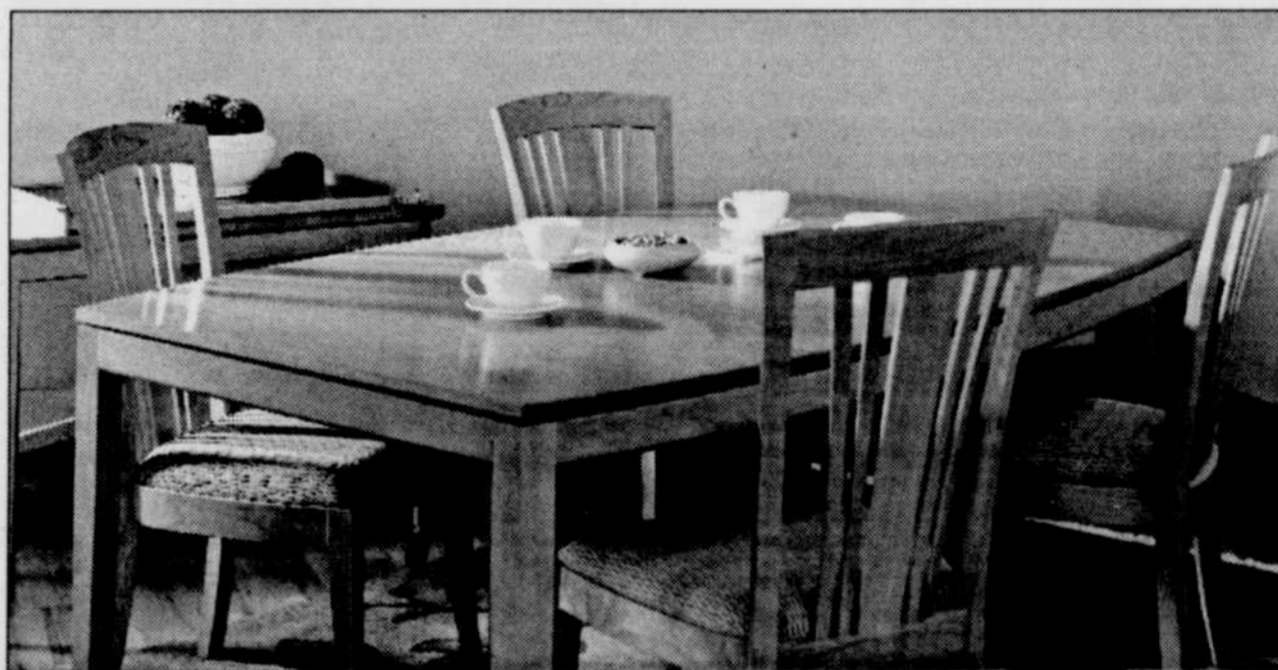


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