

on the squad and at school hasn't been affected at all.

He won the All-State individual cheerleading championship for the past two years in the 4A division. He was the first male student ever to achieve such a victory.

Walker also was actively involved in the bowling team and honor choir. Meanwhile, he managed to keep up with his studies, graduating with a 3.45 grade point average.

This summer he will be an instructor for the National Cheerleaders Association. In the fall he plans to cheer on a competitive college squad and eventually become a teacher and coach.

Last year **Damon Woodcock** received a precedent-setting settlement after enduring harassment when he transitioned from female to male at the Portland Police Bureau.



PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

Damon Woodcock

The Rose City native, born Deborah, joined the ranks as a full-time officer in October 1991. He began the process of transitioning during the summer of 1997. During a 1999 investigation of Central Precinct misconduct, Woodcock says he was subjected to witness intimidation and death threats by a co-worker, subsequently going against the well-known "code of silence" by turning him in. His locker also was vandalized, and he later learned his fellow officers had been making derogatory comments such as "a vagina should not be in the penis locker room."

When supervisors ignored the problems, he left work and filed a stress disability claim. The case recently was settled out of court for \$205,000.

Catherine Stauffer probably has had a greater effect on the sexual minorities community than any other person during the past year.

The lesbian photographer's lawsuit against the Oregon Citizens Alliance—an attempt to collect more than \$40,000 owed to her for a



PHOTO BY ANN CHEN

Catherine Stauffer

1991 assault—led to the imprisonment of Lon Mabon in February. Now, he reportedly is way behind on collecting signatures for his latest anti-gay measure, which—fingers crossed—might not make it onto the fall ballot as an indirect result of Stauffer's actions.

"Lon Mabon and the OCA have been symbols of terror to the gay/lesbian/bi/trans communities in Oregon for 12 years," she says. "My greatest hope is that my lawsuit to hold the OCA accountable for what they did to me will send a message to the queer community that we can fight back and we can win."

Katie Potter helped convince the Portland City Council to approve an ordinance in

February extending Portland Fire and Police Disability and Retirement Fund benefits to members' same-sex domestic partners. The lesbian cop was concerned that if she or her partner, a fellow officer, was killed in the line of duty, they would be emotionally and financially devastated.

She has been a visible presence in Portland's queer community ever since the early 1990s, when her father, Tom, served as police chief. Still, she remains modest about being honored by Pride Northwest.



PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

Katie Potter

"I definitely passionately believe in justice and equality, but I don't spend every minute of my life fighting for it," Potter told *Just Out* in January. "I think that there are a lot more people who probably have done a lot more for our community than I have."

Regardless, she says she feels truly honored to have been chosen. "I just can't even believe it, really. Wow!" ☐

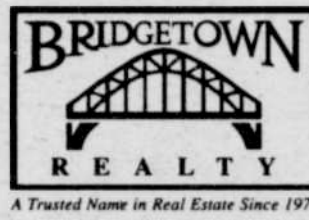
The SPIRIT OF PRIDE AWARDS will be presented 3:25 p.m. June 16 on the Unity Stage at Waterfront Park. Catherine Stauffer will be honored at 3:50.

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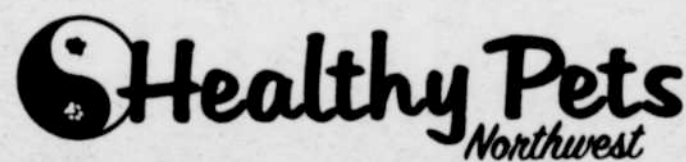
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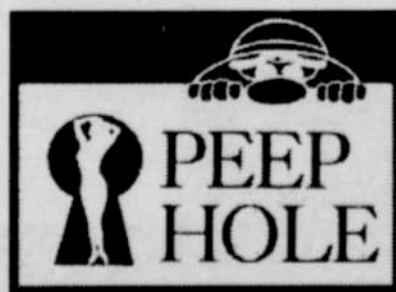
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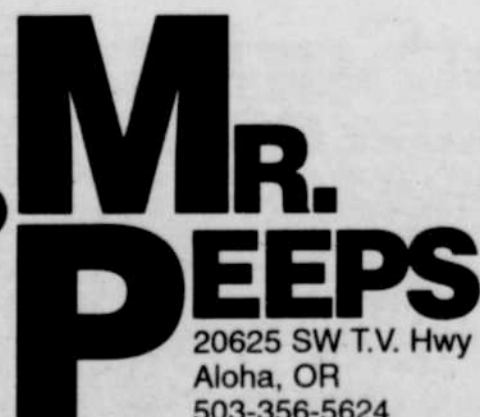
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