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PHOTO BY JOE JOHNSON

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**NORTHWEST news**

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who share a life together may document their relationships—makes it a national leader in the protection of civil rights for everyone.

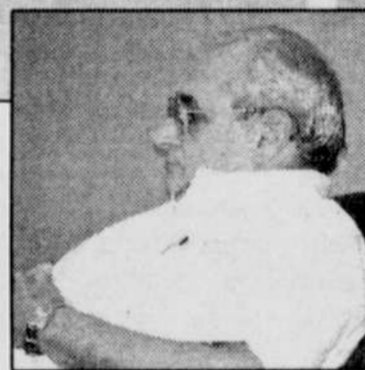
"Multnomah County has shown leadership in Oregon and the United States in its commitment to ending discrimination," said Roey Thorpe, Basic Rights Oregon executive director. "Through this leadership, the county exemplifies Oregon's values of fairness and equal opportunity."

The lone voice of dissent came from Commissioner Lonnie Roberts, who grumbled that the proclamation was "divisive and not collective." He insisted his opposition was not based on bigotry.

"I have no problem with you declaring your Pride...I wish you the best," he said. "With deep respect for you, I'm still going to vote no today."



PHOTOS BY MARTY DAVIS



From right, Multnomah County Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey presents proclamations June 13 to Heath Britt of the Rose City Softball Association and Rafael Arrellano-Barrera of Pride Northwest; inset, Commissioner Lonnie Roberts is proud to be straight

**SWEET CHARITY**

Charities must not discriminate in order to receive money from Multnomah County employees, Commissioners Maria Rojo de Steffey and Lisa Naito proposed June 13.

About 10 percent of the county's 5,000 employees participate in the annual Charitable Giving Campaign, which raised \$116,000 last year through payroll deductions. The money goes to six umbrella organizations, including the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette, which continues to support the Boy Scouts of America despite its anti-gay ban.

Rojo and Naito wanted to cut off donations to umbrella organizations that give money to discriminatory agencies. But the board voted June 20 for a watered-down alternative policy that allows those umbrella organizations to continue participating in the campaign as long as none of the Multnomah money goes to discriminatory agencies.

**FAIR FOSTERS FITNESS**

The Southern Oregon Gay Men's Health & Fitness Fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 29 in Wesley Hall at Ashland's United Methodist Church, 175 N. Main St.

Speakers will include Brian Rowley, nutrition writer and consultant for *Muscle & Fitness* and *Flex* magazines. The fair will cover topics such as medical care and nutrition.

The event also will feature information tables for nonprofit organizations and health- and fitness-related businesses. Demonstrations will include a blood pressure check and a testicular cancer model.

Admission is free. Organizers still are seeking volunteers to help out during the fair.

For more information call Mark MacDougall at 541-488-6990 or 541-535-5071.

**LAUGHING MATTERS**

The African American Health Coalition is presenting two free events featuring food,

HIV/hepatitis C testing and comedian Norman Mitchell. Both locations are wheelchair accessible.

Youth are invited to the Matt Dishman Center, 77 N.E. Knott St., at 3 p.m. June 29. HIV testing will be available at 2.

An event for adults will start 5:30 p.m. June 30 at the Miracles Club, 4069 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. HIV and hepatitis C testing will be available at 4.

For more information call Anisah or Dora at 503-413-1850.

**GLAAD HIRES REGIONAL MEDIA MANAGER**

Culminating a five-month national search, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation announced May 20 the hiring of longtime activist Monica Taher as media manager of the Northwest region, which encompasses Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska. Her hiring advances the organization's strategic commitment to expand its local presence and outreach.

Joining GLAAD from Rogers & Associates, Taher previously served as media relations manager at the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center and worked in the news departments at Telemundo affiliates in Los Angeles and Arizona, where she appeared on the community-oriented television show *Teleradio 52*. She also serves on the advisory board for Latin Pride Los Angeles.

Taher—who is co-publisher of *Tentaciones*, the only national gay and lesbian Latino magazine—holds a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism from California State University, Los Angeles, and is finishing her master's in international politics. She lives in Los Angeles with her partner, Jenifer, and their daughter, Sasha.

Taher has "the skills and determination to effect real change in local and regional media throughout the Western United States," said Joan M. Garry, GLAAD executive director. "We can cultivate the tremendous opportunities in local markets to share our stories and encourage inclusive representation of our lives in local and regional media."

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