



PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS
 ODOT deputy communications director, who each received about 70 complaints, most anonymous.

"Lars completely mischaracterized what had happened here," said John Jackley, ODOT public affairs manager. "He gave his listeners the impression that ODOT had spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in efforts to communicate that this was Gay Pride Month. It was just a single e-mail that we had gotten from the Bush administration."

Jackley said ODOT officials provided information to a KXL producer but decided not to appear on the air. "By and large, anybody who goes on the *Lars Larson Show* is set up to lose. We find that it's not a really productive use of our time."

Some of the e-mails came from state employees, so a human resources investigation has been launched to determine whether the complaints constituted harassment and what, if any, discipline should be imposed. "We take this pretty seriously," Jackley said.

ODOT director Bruce Warner has pledged to stand by the agency's diversity policy despite the backlash. In fact, Jackley added, "It's an example of why we need to do this."

EUGENE PRIDE IN THE PARK

Herons, osprey and multiple ducks and geese shared the green space

along a quiet section of the Willamette River during the Eugene Pride Day Festival on June 22 at Alton Baker Park.

Aside from some lively music performances, the event traditionally has a decidedly mellow feeling. It's a kick-back, low-key scene where people can meet up with friends, take in some entertainment, do some shopping, find out about new programs or things to do (about 45 booths were set up), play hacky sack or Frisbee, get a back and neck rub, or plop on a soft spot in the grass and just relax.

CHURCH SERVICE KICKS OFF GAY PRIDE WEEK

Welcoming Congregations of Vancouver are holding a nondenominational service to commence southwest Washington's Gay Pride Week from 4 to 5 p.m. July 7 at Michael Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4505 E. 18th St. Additional participants include First Congregational Church of Christ, Congregation Kol Ami (Voice of the People), East Vancouver United Methodist Church and Metropolitan Church of the Gentle Shepherd.

"Joyfully Celebrating Who We Are!" will feature music and appropriate readings from various religious sources. A reception immediately will follow the service.

The city's annual Pride celebration, Saturday in the Park, will be held from 1 to 8 p.m. July 13 at Esther Short Park. This year's theme is "Freedom, Diversity, Community."

For more information call Patti B. Collins at 360-576-0057.

CHURCH BANS ANIMAL RIGHTS ADVOCATE

Metropolitan Community Church of Portland has asked an outspoken animal rights advocate to stop attending worship services or other functions in the building.

In a letter dated May 22, attorney Kimberly S. Brown informed Roger Troen of the board's decision. If he does not comply with the request, she said a restraining order will be filed to prohibit him from coming into the church or within 150 feet of the building.

"Your presence and conduct cause people fear and make it impossible for some of them to worship," Brown wrote. "Over the years you have made it clear that you are unhappy with the church's unwillingness to join you in your support of animal rights. While many attempts have been made to be inclusive of your ministry, it has been constantly rejected and rebuffed as 'not enough.'"

Troen, who publishes a quarterly political newsletter called *The PDX Animal Advocate*, believes the congregation should address the plight of animals that are used for research or consumption. He recently displayed his frustration by entering the sanctuary holding a stuffed toy chimpanzee; both had duct tape over their mouths.

"I have never 'disrupted' the worship services or any other church function," Troen wrote in a letter dated June 16. "How my conduct and presence can 'cause people fear' is incomprehensible to me!"

Compiled by JIM RADOSTA, NADIA CANNON, ERIN SEXTON, MARTY DAVIS and MARY ANN PETERSEN

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