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NORTHWESTnews

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LARSON SLAMS TRIANGLE

KXL-AM shock jock Lars Larson is on the prowl again. His latest target: the Burnside Triangle.

The city recently designated the neighborhood as a cultural and entertainment district frequented by sexual minorities. The Burnside Triangle Advisory Group then was formed so community members, activists and business owners could make recommendations about its future.

Apparently, nobody bothered to tell Larson. When he learned of an upcoming meeting, he flew off the handle.

"Defining areas based on sexual preference just seems to be inherently aimed at dividing people," Larson declared last month. He went on to imply that it's only a matter of time before the gay, lesbian, bi and trans community adds bestiality to the list.

"The GBLT—whatever it is—gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and, you know, I'm waiting for 'em to—I mean, if you believe Pete Singer at Princeton University, who is one of their leading wacko scholars, he believes that sex with animals is just one of those strange taboos that we all have to get over one of these days," Larson said. "I kid you not. Wait till they add that one. OK? It gets that crazy. Maybe we'll have the Sex with Animals District in the city one day."

Amalia Alarcón-Gaddie, Metropolitan Human Rights Center manager, has been working with the Bureau of Planning on the Burnside Triangle redevelopment. She didn't hear Larson's diatribe but wasn't surprised to learn that he is spreading more misinformation via the airwaves.

"The [queer] community has made a cultural contribution to the city of Portland," Alarcón-Gaddie said. "All this is doing is acknowledging that cultural contribution and including the voice of the people that have supported that area's businesses in the plan to fix that area up."

Larson has made a series of attacks on the queer community this year. In February he tore into Bridge 13, which educates high schoolers about sexual orientation and gender identity, and in June he gave out the telephone number and e-mail address of an Oregon Department of Transportation employee who listed Gay Pride Month in a diversity calendar distributed to state employees.

**SAILORS CHARGED
IN ATTACK**

Two U.S. sailors charged in a July 13 attack on a Vancouver, British Columbia, resident might have been motivated by anti-gay sentiment, activists and media reports indicate.

According to Vancouver Police Department Detective Scott Driemel, "There were some comments made about the [victim's] sexual orientation," which might lead to hate crimes sentencing. The man, who sustained bruises, scrapes and a shoe print on his face, has been released from medical care.

Kenneth Drake, 23, is charged with assault and assault with pepper spray, while Joe Hummel, 24, is charged with carrying a concealed weapon, assault and assault with a knife. The sailors—stationed aboard the USS Carl Vinson, part of the Navy's Bremerton, Wash., command—are scheduled to appear Aug. 27 in a Vancouver court.

Cmdr. Karen Sellers of the Navy's Northwest Regional Command declined to comment on whether the

military might take any additional action to discipline the sailors. It has many options available in pursuing its own case against the servicemembers, including administrative action or court-martial. A 1993 executive order by President Bill Clinton also provides for hate crimes sentence enhancement in conjunction with any charges brought by the military.

Anti-gay sentiment within the Navy is well documented, according to Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. In March the group found in its annual policy report, *Conduct Unbecoming*, that officials had done little to curb it.

During 2001, SLDN documented 271 incidents of anti-gay harassment in the branch, finding that steps taken to address the problem are "woefully inadequate." The report went on to note, "Navy lead-

ers have done nothing to implement or comply with Pentagon directives to prevent or curb harassment."

"There should be no place in our nation's military for anti-gay animus," said C. Dixon Osburn, SLDN executive director. "The Navy must train all of its servicemembers to treat everyone, civilian or military, with dignity and respect."

Members of Vancouver's queer community are watching the case closely.

"We are pleased that charges were laid," said Jim Deva of the Gay Safety Committee, which works with the police department to make the city a welcome place for sexual minority residents. "We expect the sailors to return for trial in Vancouver, and the community will be watching closely to see that justice is done."

**ORGANIZATIONS HONOR
LOFTON-CROTEAU FAMILY**

The Family Pride Coalition will honor Portlanders Steve Lofton and Roger Croteau with the inaugural Families of Courage Award during the seventh annual Family Week from Aug. 3 to 10 in Provincetown, Mass. A couple for more than 20 years and the parents of five children, they are one of three plaintiff families in a historic federal court case fighting Florida's gay adoption ban.

The suit, filed by the American Civil Liberties Union in 1998, is a challenge to a law passed by the state Legislature in 1977. In March Lofton and Croteau were featured on ABC's *Primetime Live* special about gay adoption featuring Rosie O'Donnell.

"We feel so fortunate to have the opportunity to celebrate Steven and Roger and their chil-



Two sailors stationed aboard the USS Carl Vinson in Bremerton, Wash., allegedly participated in an anti-gay attack on a man in Vancouver, British Columbia