

as Germany, Japan, Brazil, Thailand, Chile, Holland and many others. Students are here for the 2002-2003 academic school year, but one- to two-month homestays are available.

Officials say the program is a great way for people to share U.S. culture with youth while learning about theirs. The goal is to help prepare students for their roles in the global community.

All families are welcome. The program, consistent with its commitment to international understanding, does not discriminate in employment or in making its selections and placements on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

For more information call 503-235-8932 or 866-493-8872 or visit the Internet site www.yfu.org.

SOULFORCE WASHINGTON

Soulforce, an interfaith movement committed to ending spiritual violence perpetuated by anti-gay religious teachings, recently launched a Washington state chapter. Leaders say the licensed affiliate will support and carry out the struggle for justice and equality that volunteers are doing nationally while taking it to the local level.

"So much physical and spiritual violence against sexual and gender minorities flows out of the misguided religious teachings heard in local congregations each Sunday," said Mel White, executive director and founder of Soulforce. "We need to work at all levels to stop the source of misinformation that leads to suffering and death."

The Soulforce network also is active in Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Virginia, Wisconsin and Washington, D.C. All local groups are autonomous; however, members agree to apply the basic principles of nonviolent resistance for the liberation of sexual minorities. In the past two years, Soulforce has trained more than 5,000 people, and more than 500 people have been arrested for civil disobedience.

"Every national civil rights movement begins locally," said Karen Weldin, Soulforce director of operations and local group coordinator. "Therefore, we must work locally and nationally to stop the violence that is committed against GLBT people in the name of religion. And we must work relentlessly to ensure that the source of misinformation doesn't go unchallenged!"

"We must work locally and nationally to stop the violence that is committed against GLBT people in the name of religion"
—Karen Weldin

Soulforce Washington meets biweekly. The next gathering will be held from 10 a.m.

to noon Aug. 24 at Wayside United Church of Christ, 2000 S.W. Dash Point Road in Federal Way.

For more information contact Cindy Hadden at 253-941-9015 or articyn@aol.com or Jeaneane Hill at 425-562-6636 or hotpotswa@hotmail.com.

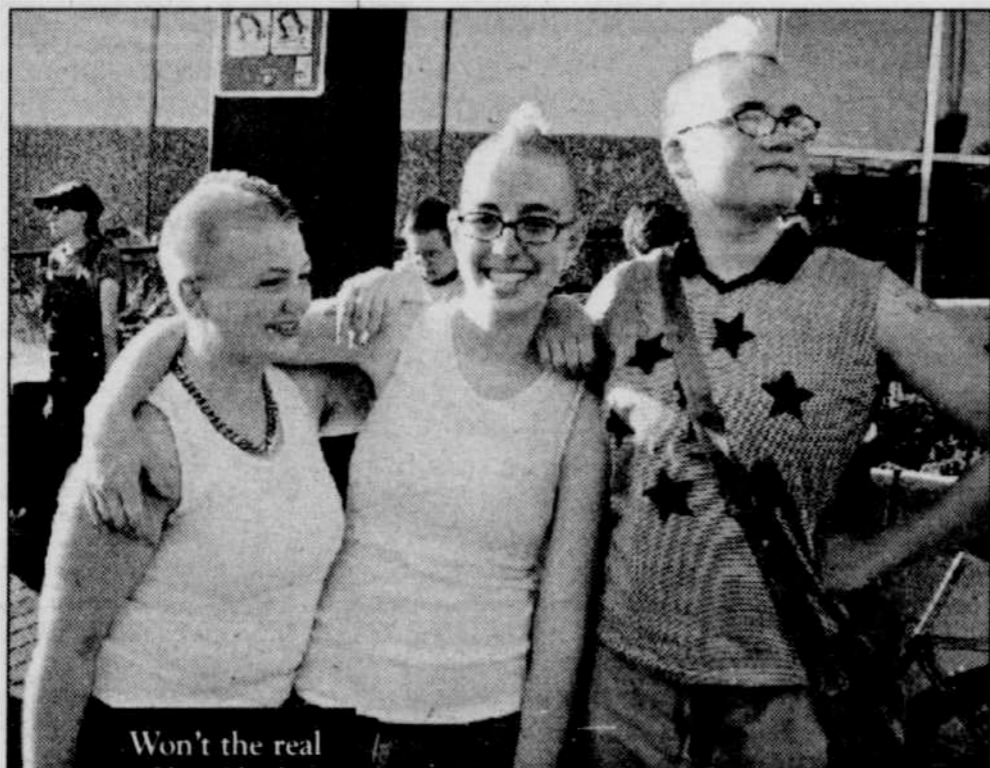
PRIDE 2003, ALREADY?

Pride Northwest already is hard at work planning Portland Pride 2003 and needs help selecting a theme.

This year's winner was "On a Queer Day..." Previous themes include "Bridges of Pride!" and "Celebrating Queer Art and Culture."

The winner will receive "a fabulous prize," according to organizers. The deadline is Oct. 10.

To enter the contest call 503-295-9788, e-mail pridenorthwest@usa.net or write to P.O. Box 6611, Portland, OR 97228.



Won't the real Slim Shady please stand up?



DYKES DIS RAPPER

Outsmarting misogyny and homophobia is what the Lesbian Avengers do best. Aug. 7 was no exception.

When Eminem, who is known for his violent lyrics ("You faggots can vanish to volcanic ash and reappear in hell with a can of gas, and a match") came to town, these feisty dykes saw their cue. A group of more than 25 Avengers and allies arranged a demonstration to show the notorious rapper that his hatred would stop no one.

Holding signs reading, "Yay, Dykes!" and "Eminem Burn in Hell," their goal was to make the protest into a farce, thereby avoiding any violent backlash. The queers also went for the ironic, heckling concertgoers, "Eminem is gay, and you might catch it if you go in there!"

Compiled by JIM RADOSTA, PATRICIA L. MACAODHA and NADIA CANNON

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Worried About Your Rights?

Gay and Lesbian couples need to take extra precautions when creating an estate plan. Why? Because the government doesn't provide equal rights to same sex couples, and it's essential that you're prepared for the legal battle that may ensue when you or your partner die.

Rely on Someone Who Know Your Rights

Richard Schneider, a local attorney with 20 years of experience, is an excellent resource. He's well versed in the legal dilemmas that the GLBT community faces and can help you arm yourself against intervention by the courts. He'll be happy to provide you with a free one-hour

When it comes to your estate, as a Gay or Lesbian, you need all the protection you can get.

consultation, advising you and our partner of your rights and show you the best way to protect them.

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