

Continued from Page 9

"They didn't know who Esera Tuaolo is," he said. "What they saw was an actor."

Sterling Sharpe told HBO that if his Packers teammate had revealed his sexual orientation while still in the NFL, "he would have been eaten alive, and he would have been hated for it." The only other professional players who have come out are David Kopay in 1975 and Roy Simmons in 1992.

Tuaolo, 34, now lives in Minneapolis with his partner of 5 1/2 years, Mitchell Wherley, and their 2-year-old twins. An accomplished singer, he has performed "The Star-Spangled Banner" on a nationally broadcast NFL game and has self-released a CD, *One Man's Island*.

HRC RELEASES CONGRESSIONAL SCORECARD

The Human Rights Campaign released Oct. 28 its 107th Congress scorecard, which is considered a key tool for judging how politicians vote on gay, lesbian, bi and trans issues and assessing their level of support.

The numbers show an encouraging trend toward more broad-based support for queer issues on Capitol Hill. This growth is apparent as two key pieces of legislation boast the highest number of co-sponsorships in history.

In the 107th Congress, the Employment Nondiscrimination Act had 194 House and 45 Senate co-sponsors, an increase from the 168 House and 37 Senate co-sponsors in the 106th Congress. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act had a record 206 House and 51 Senate co-sponsors this Congress, compared to 187 in the House and 42 in the Senate in the 106th.

The scoring process also evaluated office nondiscrimination policies and important votes on issues like domestic partner benefits in the District of Columbia and needle exchange programs. Here is how Oregon's delegation stacked up:

- **100 percent:** Democratic U.S. Reps. David Wu, Earl Blumenauer, Peter A. DeFazio and Darlene Hooley and U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden.
- **86 percent:** Republican U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith. He was graded down for opposing the Boxer Amendment, which guaranteed all federally chartered organizations access to school facilities regardless of their position on sexual orientation. It was introduced as an alternative to an anti-gay version by U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C.
- **17 percent:** Republican U.S. Rep. Greg

Walden. His only pro-gay stance was his congressional office's adoption of a written policy indicating that sexual orientation is not a factor in its employment decisions.

WHERE'S GORDON?

When politicians were called to the stage Oct. 26 at the Human Rights Campaign's Portland Gala Dinner, the audience leapt to its feet for Democratic senatorial and gubernatorial candidates Bill Bradbury and Ted Kulongoski and U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden. Republican U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith, who HRC endorsed, was a no-show.

The event honored Thomas Bruner, Cascade AIDS Project executive director, for taking the nonprofit agency "to unprecedented levels of strength, diversity and effectiveness and for re-energizing the Portland metropolitan area around HIV issues in the process." Equality Awards also were presented to Ashland's Abdill-Ellis Lambda Community Center and to Lincoln City's Gail Kimberling, managing editor of the *News Guard*, which named two gay men as Couple of the Year in April.

PORTLAND PLUMMETS PRECIPITOUSLY

The November issue of *Girlfriends* stuck a thorn in the Rose City, ranking it No. 46 on the eighth annual "Best Lesbian Places to Live" list—a steep decline from Portland's positions at No. 2 in 2000 and No. 4 in 2001.

Associate editor Jen Phillips, who grew up in Beaverton and attended University of Oregon, attributed the change partially to the magazine's new rating criteria. In order to give smaller cities a fair shake, queer resources such as bars, restaurants and help lines now are scored per capita.

Phillips added: "The economy throughout the Northwest has just taken a big dive from last year.... We just want to make sure that women are going to be able to find jobs and be able to, you know, have a nice apartment."

When asked whether Portland's quick drop might be part of a larger cultural trend, Phillips agreed. "Gay men tend to go to urban centers, and lesbians tend to go to smaller towns...there's definitely evidence to back that theory up."

For all those Portlanders who already are



PHOTOS BY JIM RADOSTA

Terry Bean (center) gets dragged on stage by the Kinsey Sicks during the Human Rights Campaign Portland Gala Dinner on Oct. 26; inset, Thomas Bruner and Gail Kimberling proudly display their Equality Awards



packing their bags in disgust, *Girlfriends* said the top spot for lesbians is Madison, Wis. Here is the rest of the top 10: Bloomington, Ind.; Northampton, Mass.; Ithaca, N.Y.; La Crosse, Wis.; Denver; Missoula, Mont.; Cambridge, Mass.; Baltimore; and Santa Fe, N.M.

ROP RECEIVES \$10,000

The Denver-based Gill Foundation made grants totaling \$2,123,950 to 93 groups supporting a wide range of gay, lesbian, bi and trans initiatives and HIV/AIDS programming during its most recent cycle, including \$10,000 for the Rural Organizing Project in Scappoose. The \$260 million endowed organization is committed to securing equal opportunities for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

"We are very pleased to be able to support such an outstanding spectrum of LGBT and HIV/AIDS organizations throughout the United States," grantmaking director Anthony C. Tapia said. "Particularly in these challenging times for all nonprofit organizations, the Gill Foundation continues to support organizations working to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation."

The foundation, established in 1994 by

software pioneer Tim Gill, is the country's largest funder of sexual minority organizations. Since its inception, it has invested nearly \$40 million in nonprofits throughout the United States. □

Compiled by JIM RADOSTA, SARAH LEIMERT and MARTY DAVIS

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