

NORTHWEST newsbriefs

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people who think queer views and news are neglected.

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NEWSPAPER PUBLISHES UNION ANNOUNCEMENT

Portland's daily newspaper published its first same-sex union announcement Dec. 14, at long last living up to its motto, "If it matters to Oregonians, it's in the Oregonian."

Still, Mary McCarty and Lottie Zorn were not pleased to find that their wedding had been relegated under the heading "Commitments." The ceremony was held Oct. 21 in Vermont, which allows same-sex couples to enter into civil unions and receive the same state law protections and responsibilities as married spouses.

The 183-word announcement "says that we were married; it calls it a marriage ceremony," Zorn told *Just Out*. "There's nothing in there that tries to skirt around the issue of what to call that, because we definitely were calling it a wedding, and we consider it a legal marriage."

Zorn asked the paper to reprint the announcement under the heading "Weddings" but was turned down. In fact, she was told that the word "married" no longer will appear in any same-sex union announcements.

Commitments

McCARTY-ZORN

Mary Croft McCarty and Lieselotte Gretchen Zorn were married Saturday, Oct. 5, 2002 at Metropolitan Community Church at in a public celebration attended by friends and family. The brides' union was legalized at the home of Judy Kelly, Justice of the Peace, in Burlington, Vt., on October 21, 2002, during a private ceremony.



Lieselotte Zorn is the daughter of Norman and Marie Wachlin of Portland. She is the Administrative Manager at the German American Church at the and attended Reed College and Portland Community College.

Mary McCarty is the daughter of Stuart and Mary S. McCarty of Rochester, N.Y. She is an IT Project Manager for Freightliner in Portland and is a graduate of the State University of New York at Potsdam.

The brides wore intricately beaded red Salwar Kameez at their civil ceremony as well as at their Celebration of Marriage in Portland. Chloe and Haley, Lieselotte's daughters, were ring bearers. As part of their wedding vows, the brides serenaded each other. Mary played Piazzolla's "Histoire du Tango" on her flute, and Lieselotte sang Schumann's "Widmung."

The couple reside in Portland.

"It wasn't a commitment," she said. "It makes us sound like we were committed to an insane asylum."

The couple, who have been together for almost two years, registered as domestic partners with Multnomah County in September. The newspaper revealed Oct. 27 its new policy regarding

engagement, wedding, anniversary and birthday announcements, which now appear as paid ads in the Saturday "Celebrations" section.

To voice your opinion e-mail letters@news.oregonian.com or fax 503-294-4193.

BRO ON THE MOVE

Basic Rights Oregon's headquarters will relocate in mid-January from Southeast Belmont Street to downtown.

Although volunteers no longer will have access to free parking, the new office in Suite 610 of the Board of Trade Building, 310 S.W. Fourth Ave., will be located on a bus line. According to executive director Roey Thorpe, the move has many other benefits.

"The new location will make us more visible and more centrally located near the many pro-

gressive organizations downtown," she said. "The new office will allow us to do our work more productively, with lots of benefits for very little difference in cost. It feels like BRO has grown up into a vibrant, proactive, year-round organization, and the new space reflects who we are now."

PORTLAND LEGISLATORS WILL HOLD TOWN HALL

In an effort to keep the community informed on the issues of the upcoming legislative session, state Sen. Avel Gordly and Reps. Steve March and Jackie Dingfelder will hold a town hall meeting from 10 a.m. to noon Jan. 11 at Hollywood Senior Center, 1820 N.E. 40th Ave.

"The state is facing a \$1.4 billion shortfall, school funding uncertainty and continued high unemployment and hunger," Dingfelder said. "I want to keep our community informed on these and other issues as well as seek input from citizens on ways to reach meaningful solutions to the problems facing our state."

One of the major pieces of legislation that might be decided on next year is a civil rights bill that would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in housing, public accommodation and employment. A total of 13 states have passed bills banning anti-gay bias; only two have included trans people.

"This town hall will be a great forum for anyone who has questions or concerns they'd like to raise with their representatives, including the upcoming vote on the temporary tax increase," said March, who has introduced pro-gay legislation in the past. "We are here to serve the community." □

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