

NORTHWEST newsbriefs

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every educator can teach and every child can learn regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity—will hold a statewide training Feb. 28 and March 1 in Eugene.

Queer youth advocates of all ages are encouraged to apply in teams of three to four people. Priority for acceptance will be given to ethnic minority, trans and rural youth as well as students who have at least one year of high school remaining before graduation.

Advocates will learn how to conduct school and community presentations that increase public awareness about the health and safety needs of queer youth. A similar workshop trained 40 Oregonians in March 2001.

Coalition membership is open to any organization, school district, agency, faith community, business or individual that supports efforts to reduce suicide and other risk behaviors in the often hidden and historically underserved gay, lesbian, bi, trans and questioning youth population. Applications are due Jan. 24.

For more information visit www.oregonsafeschools.org.

CONFERENCE ADDRESSES MALE PRIVILEGE

The third annual Against Patriarchy Conference will take place from Jan. 24 to 26 at University of Oregon in Eugene. At press time locations and performers had not been finalized.

"This conference strives to be a part of a movement towards the elimination of male privilege, domination and sexism by creating

dialogue, educating ourselves and inspiring action," organizers say. "Through presentation, dialogue and performance we hope to broach these questions with intellect and emotion, furthering an understanding of ourselves and the complexity and interconnectedness of oppressions."

For more information visit againstpatriarchy.org.

EUGENE WILL LEARN ABOUT TRANS RIGHTS

A public forum on trans and gender rights will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Jan. 23 in the Ben Linder Room of the Erb Memorial Union on the University of Oregon campus.

The Eugene City Council stripped trans protections from the human rights code revisions it approved Nov. 12.

A series of hearings last year revealed a surprising degree of ignorance in the progressive college town regarding access to gender-specific restrooms, dressing rooms and showers.

Five primary speakers will respond to questions posed by the audience and by moderator Lori Buckwalter, It's Time, Oregon! executive di-



Lori Buckwalter will educate Eugene about trans issues during a forum Jan. 23 at University of Oregon

rector. The panelists will represent different parts of the trans spectrum, with unique opinions and experiences.

"We are hoping to create an event that utilizes elements of the classical public forum or assembly in a modern context, rather than a panel discussion per se," Buckwalter said. "The intention is to inform but also to generate consensus and mobilize the community to further thought, investigation and action. We hope this event will reenergize the community, broaden the understanding of trans issues and contribute to the prospects of future human rights initiatives."

The forum is sponsored by the University of Oregon Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Alliance. Students, Eugene residents and anyone else interested in learning more about these issues are invited to attend.

For more information contact Lori Buckwalter at 503-813-4046 or transgal@yahoo.com or Kristina Amenakis at 541-346-3360 or karmenakis@hotmail.com.

SHERIFF'S DEPUTY KILLS PORTLAND TRANS WOMAN

A Kittitas County sheriff's deputy shot and killed a trans woman Dec. 23 near Ellensburg, Wash.

Authorities said 49-year-old Sarah Mayhugh, a drifter whose last known address was in Portland, was trying to attack him with a claw hammer after a traffic accident, according to the *Yakima Herald-Republic*. The Associated Press reported that the deputy's name is Tom Gow.

The tragic turn of events began when Mayhugh's compact car rear-ended a Chevrolet van

at a speed of about 100 mph on a remote section of Interstate 82. After Washington State Patrol Trooper Bart Olson told her to get out of the vehicle, she reportedly refused, displayed a knife, pepper-sprayed him in the face and began fighting with him in the freeway median.

Gow, who was returning from driving a prisoner to jail in Yakima, responded to the trooper's request for assistance and chased Mayhugh on foot. After she swung a claw hammer at him, he allegedly fired his pepper canister at her, to no avail.

Mayhugh then was struck five times in the torso by a .40-caliber Glock handgun. Gow was uninjured and placed on routine administrative leave.

"Obviously, our concern now is for the deputy and his emotional and mental well-being," Undersheriff Rob DeGroot said. "These things happen very quickly, and law enforcement are forced to make decisions in split seconds. But he reacted calm and professional despite the difficult circumstances he faced."

As is usually the case with pre-operative transsexuals, journalists covering the incident erroneously are referring to Mayhugh with male pronouns. It's Time, Oregon! executive director Lori Buckwalter wrote a letter to the media explaining how offensive this is.

"It is difficult at this distance to determine whether there was sufficient immediate danger to the deputy involved to justify the killing of Ms. Mayhugh," she said. "I can imagine, however, that a transgender woman, who may have been injured or confused, may have been especially fearful of the treatment she received or would receive at the hands of bigots who would gleefully declare her a 'man in woman's clothing.'" [Q]

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