

NORTHWEST newsbriefs

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now will focus on organizing a queer contingent for the Feb. 15 International Day of Action.

For more information call Catherine Sameh at 503-335-8306 or Barbara Turill at 503-753-9681.

EQUITY FOUNDATION INVESTS IN DIGNITY

The Investments in Dignity Awards will be presented from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 18 at the Skybridge Level Auditorium in Building Two of the World Trade Center, 121 S.W. Salmon St.

This will be an evening to celebrate non-profits supported by Equity Foundation through its general granting program, donor-advised funds, Pride Festival grants, workplace giving and Safe Schools Initiative. In 2002 the organization gave \$234,000 to more than 200 Oregon charities serving the queer community and its allies.

Equity says this year's general cycle grantees reflect a commitment to arts, culture, health services, human dignity, youth and families. The recipients are: 2 Gyrllz Performative Arts, AIDS Support and Prevention, Artattack Theater Ensemble, Bump in the Road Theatre, Elder GLBT Outreach Committee, Encore Theatre, Friends of People with AIDS Foundation, Human Dignity Coalition, Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, Love Makes a Family, Mediation Works, A Community Dispute Resolution Center, Oregon Uniting, Planned Parenthood of Southwest Oregon, Portland State University Foundation, Q: A Queer Resource for Social Change, Rural Organizing Project, Senior Housing and Retirement Enterprises, Soromundi: Les-

bian Chorus of Eugene and Vanguard Youth Services.

For more information contact Matthew Nelson at 503-231-5759 or info@equityfoundation.org.

GRANTS PRESENTED

Columbia County Citizens for Human Dignity raised funds and awarded grants to progressive projects during its Winter Gala and Awards Banquet on Jan. 18 in St. Helens. Pam Powell of Columbia County AIDS Prevention and Assistance received money to help indigent AIDS patients secure basic services.

AWARDS WILL HONOR SOUTHERN OREGONIANS

Members of the queer and straight communities who have gone above and beyond the call of duty will be honored during the seventh annual Lambda Awards 7 p.m. Feb. 22 at Medford's Red Lion Hotel, 200 N. Riverside Ave. A dance will follow from 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Political Caucus of Southern Oregon promises a fun and rewarding evening featuring a silent auction, performance art presentations by local theater troupes and live musical entertainment. Cheese, fruit and desserts will be served, and a no-host bar will be available.



Cathy Grimes of Columbia County Citizens for Human Dignity (left) and Marcy Westerling of the Rural Organizing Project (right) present a grant to Pam Powell of Columbia County AIDS Prevention and Assistance

Festive Mardi Gras decor will fill the room with delightful surprises. The theme is "Got Pride!"

The ceremony traditionally is held on the Saturday before the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday in January. It was moved to February because of scheduling conflicts.

The event costs \$15 a person. Tickets are available only at the door.

To donate items for the silent auction call Ed Burns at 541-779-3902. For more information visit the Internet site www.geocities.com/thecaucus.

FORMER OCA OFFICIAL MAKES HEADLINES AGAIN

Scott Lively, the former Oregon Citizens Alliance legal director who recently protested a Gay Straight Alliance in Kentucky, has turned his attention to a young convict who received a harsh sentence because of his sexual orientation.

The U.S. Supreme Court now is deciding whether to take the case of Matthew Limon, who had consensual oral sex with another male when they were both teen-agers. Had the other person been a girl, he would have received no more than a 15-month sentence. Because he is gay, he now is serving a sentence of 17 years in a Kansas state prison.

Lively, director of the Pro-Family Law Center in California, told ABC News it was a matter of the greater social good. "We feel sympathy for a young person facing a long prison sentence for this kind of act," he said, "but should that justify overruling a principle of law that has benefits for society?"

Meanwhile in Kentucky, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit Jan. 22 seeking to enjoin Boyd County High from further discriminating against students by permitting the GSA to meet. A hearing on the motions in the case is expected to take place within a few weeks.

In December the Boyd County Board of Education took the extraordinary step of suspending all clubs in all K-12 schools in an effort to prevent a group of about 30 students from forming a GSA. The kids initially petitioned the school to form the group in March 2002, after two former students were kicked out of their homes for being gay.

The school's Site Based Decision Making Council reluctantly approved the GSA in Octo-

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