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ber after the ACLU sent a letter explaining the students' rights. Bowing to opposition from ministers—including Lively—the board of education then reversed the council's decision and suspended all clubs.

Attorneys charge that the school has permitted many student groups—including cheerleading and sports teams, the drama club and the student council—to continue meeting since the suspension. Permitting some clubs to meet while not allowing the GSA is a clear violation of the federal Equal Access Act.

ABSTAIN IN IDAHO

Queer Oregonians who have travel plans might be wise to remember that they aren't allowed to have sex just across the border in Idaho. It is one of 13 states that still have sodomy laws, which typically criminalize oral and anal sex and are widely used to justify discrimination against gay men and lesbians.

With the U.S. Supreme Court set to hear arguments in a historic case challenging Texas' "Homosexual Conduct" Law this spring, Lambda Legal announced Jan. 7 plans for a meeting to educate people about the harms caused by the Idaho statute and to empower them to help fight it. Presentations also will be made in Alabama, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Virginia and Utah.

"In some towns we're having small gatherings with a couple of dozen community leaders, while in other areas we'll have much larger town hall meetings with the general public," said Lee Taft, director of Lambda Legal's South Central

Regional Office. "But our work in all of these 13 states is grounded in the same core principle: Sodomy laws are a danger to gay Americans, and together we can eliminate them."

The Supreme Court announced in early December that it will hear arguments on whether the Texas law violates the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection as well as the right to privacy. In 1986 it ruled that Georgia's statute banning consensual sodomy did not violate privacy rights.

"Since the day the U.S. Supreme Court announced that it will hear our case, there's been a tremendous amount of interest and energy from LGBT people and straight allies nationwide who want to seize this historic moment with us," said Hector Vargas, director of Lambda Legal's Southern Regional Office. "We're looking forward to working within communities that are affected by sodomy laws to increase understanding of this case, the many ways sodomy laws hurt gay people and the need to get rid of these laws once and for all."

PFLAG UNVEILS SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays has named a national scholarship program after Esera Tuaolo, the nine-year National Football League veteran who revealed in October that he is gay. The Oregon State University graduate was joined at a Jan. 23 press conference by U.S. Rep. Robert T. Matsui, D-Calif.

The program was developed to challenge and enable underrepresented queer youth, who all too frequently face highly charged and hostile environments in their schools, to know that they can fulfill their potential and their dreams while being

true to themselves as individuals. The Esera Tuaolo Student-Athlete Scholarship honors the defensive tackle for his "unparalleled courage, leadership and commitment to family values."

ALLIANCE HONORS TRANS ADVOCATES

The Northwest Gender Alliance honored several people who work for gender justice during its annual awards dinner Jan. 25 in Beaverton.

The Ellen Summers Award was presented to It's Time, Oregon! executive director Lori Buckwalter, who recently spearheaded Outside In's ID Project, which helps low-income trans kids change their legal identification. Last year she also advocated for the expansion of civil rights protections to trans people in Salem and Eugene.

Dixie Darlington was named Woman of the Year for her outreach to the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court through the drag show "Dixie and the Good-Time Girls." Carrie Sue Baldwin received the Debutante Award, which honors a new member who most personifies the spirit of NWGA.



PHOTO BY MARNE ACERVEDO

From left, Carrie Sue Baldwin, Lori Buckwalter and Dixie Darlington were honored Jan. 25 by the Northwest Gender Alliance

PORTLANDERS TO RALLY FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

The Portland chapter of the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force will hold a Valentine's Day Action in front of the Immigration and Naturalization Building, 511 N.W. Broadway.

From 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 14 members will engage passersby with heart candy, information and the chance to chat with a giant human heart, who will be happy to explain how many binational queer couples cannot be

together on Valentine's Day because of discriminatory U.S. immigration laws that do not consider same-sex couples family.

This action coincides with a renewed push for the Permanent Partners Immigration Act, which, if passed, simply would add the words "or permanent partner" everywhere "spouse" is referred to in immigration law. The legislation first was introduced in 2000 and will be reintroduced Feb. 14 to the new Congress. **JW**

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