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asked to write up a fond memory about her and submit it by March 31.

The plan is to have the stories compiled in time for *A Class Act*, an annual concert and decadent dessert revue scheduled for April 25 at the historic Old Church, 1422 S.W. 11th Ave. The fund-raiser benefits the Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship Fund of Equity Foundation, which honors law students in their last year of study who are dedicated to passing the bar exam and donating part of their expertise to helping keep their state hate-free by fighting anti-gay bigotry and discrimination.

To make a submission visit [www.pflagpdx.org](http://www.pflagpdx.org). For more information about *A Class Act* call 503-286-1752.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Fair workplaces and supportive business allies will be honored during the 10th annual Oregonians Against Discrimination Luncheon from noon to 1 p.m. April 22 at the Hilton Grand Ballroom, 921 S.W. Sixth Ave. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m.

The fund-raiser benefits the Basic Rights Education Fund, which educates and advocates to end discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in Oregon. Tickets cost \$50.

**"Companies like Nike, PGE, Washington Mutual, Safeway and Nordstrom are leaders in Oregon for their support for basic rights"**

—Roey Thorpe

The luncheon's honorary chairman is Bob Speltz, global community affairs manager for Nike. The Beaverton-based shoe giant scored 100 percent on the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index released last August.

"Companies like Nike, PGE, Washington Mutual, Safeway and Nordstrom are leaders in Oregon for their support for basic rights," said Roey Thorpe, Basic Rights Oregon executive director. "They are out front, creating workplace policies and associations for gay employees, constructing and instituting diversity programs and

The keynote speaker will be Oregon Labor Commissioner Dan Gardner, who has promised stronger enforcement of the *Tanner v. Oregon Health Sciences University* decision. The 1998 Oregon appeals court ruling said that government is constitutionally required to recognize same-sex domestic partnerships.

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Louise P. Yarbrough says she is delighted to be at Equity Foundation

courting gay consumers with words, actions and images. They recognize that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender consumers are often willing to support gay-friendly businesses."

BRO also is seeking nominations for fair workplace awards. The deadline is March 17.

For tickets or a nomination form, call 503-222-6151 or fax 503-236-6686.

**EUGENE TRANS ADVOCATES NEEDED**

An organized group of trans people and allies in the Eugene area is coming together to effect change in the laws and policies of local government. They will work with the Human Rights Commission and lobby city leaders to include trans people in anti-discrimination laws for hiring, housing and hate crimes.

The organization is seeking people who live, work or spend a lot of time in the city of Eugene. Also required: progressive thinking skills, the ability to work and communicate with all variety of people toward common goals, motivation and dedication to doing whatever it takes to pass these much-needed laws.

In another outreach effort, a Michigan-based organization called the National Association for the Advancement of Transgendered People is offering free membership to Oregonians who support civil rights. It also is seeking officers to start chapters in Portland and Eugene and is

planning a "March for Change" July 19 in Eugene.

For more information e-mail [tfeugene@yahoo.com](mailto:tfeugene@yahoo.com). Include your first name or nickname, the city ward you live in, your age and what level of work you are willing to do. For more information about the NAATP call 517-371-1103, e-mail [melisrob@ameritech.net](mailto:melisrob@ameritech.net) or visit [www.melissarobinsonco.com](http://www.melissarobinsonco.com).

**NOMINATIONS WANTED**

Pride Northwest is looking for nominations from the community for 2003's Spirit of Pride Awards.

The awards are given each year to recognize individuals or organizations for their outstanding contributions within the sexual minorities community. Consideration is based on visibility and leadership in the queer community, years of voluntary service and service to the wider community.

If people know an individual or organization deserving recognition, they should e-mail their suggestion with a brief description of why they think a Spirit of Pride Award is warranted. The deadline is April 1.

Portland Pride 2003 will be held June 14 and 15 at Waterfront Park. This year's theme is "Lions and Tigers and Queers, Oh My!"

To submit a nomination e-mail [staff@pridenw.org](mailto:staff@pridenw.org).

**PRIDE FOUNDATION TO PRESENT GRANTS**

The Clark County Pride Foundation will hold its annual grant awards ceremony from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. March 15 at NorthBank Tavern, 106 W. Sixth St. in Vancouver, Wash.

Refreshments and food will be served. Admission is free.

The foundation is a project of Seattle's Pride Foundation, which doles out money to nonprofits that directly benefit queers, their friends and their families. During the ceremony grants of up to \$3,000 each will be presented to organizations operating within Clark County that deal with education, advocacy, outreach, HIV/AIDS, arts, recreation, youth and family services, lesbian health and other community services.

**FOUNDATION HIRES INTERIM DIRECTOR**

Equity Foundation has hired an interim executive director to fill the post vacated by Matthew Nelson, who stepped down Feb. 25 to take a job in Minneapolis.

Louise P. Yarbrough will serve in the position for three to four months while the board conducts a national search for a permanent replacement. The Alabama native moved from Miami to Portland six months ago.

"I fell in love with it. I came a year ago October on a business meeting for the first time, and it just sort of struck me," she says. "I just know that I'm home."

Yarbrough has served as director of two grant-making foundations as well as two non-profit organizations. Most recently she was in charge of operations and development at a medical research foundation.

Yarbrough, a heterosexual, has experience with queer issues. She is especially proud of a grant she facilitated in support of a project focused on gay and lesbian awareness in Miami's school system.

"It was a very conservative board," she says. "I was really, really proud of them that they saw the major issues and put aside some of their more closed thinking."

Equity awards grants to charities serving queers and allies in Oregon. In 2002 it gave \$234,000 to more than 200 organizations.

"It all boils down to communication and education and just the realization that people are people," Yarbrough says of her past work. "I've been fortunate to have jobs that allowed me to feel like I was making a difference in helping people to have a better view of the world and sometimes themselves." □

Compiled by JIM RADOSTA



**Dignity in Oregon!**

Equity Foundation was there when...

- HIV hit our community,
- few were dealing with our mental health needs,
- queer kids wanted a place to gather,
- our souls needed to be lifted by music,
- we challenged the broader community through the arts.

Equity promotes philanthropy in Oregon to support youth and families, human dignity, the arts and health. Help us be there when... Your gift to Equity is an investment in dignity.

Founded in 1989 by Oregon's Gay and Lesbian community. [www.equityfoundation.org](http://www.equityfoundation.org)

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PO Box 5696  
Portland, OR  
97228-5696  
503-231-5759