

shift driving a cab. A jingle producer called back, and soon her voice was heard singing the well-known jingle for the Nestle's Sweet Dreams white chocolate bar.

KEN KESSEY SCULPTURE OPPOSED

Seventeen-year-old comments have come back to haunt the acclaimed author of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. A Eugene resident, who wishes to remain

anonymous, is furious that his city is planning to erect a life-size bronze sculpture of Ken Kesey, who grew up in Springfield. The man cites the 1986 *Esquire* article "Blows to the Spirit: Where and How the American Male Has Taken It on the Chin," in which the author made "some shockingly offensive, almost violently homophobic statements."

"You know, some people say syphilis came from screwing sheep and pigs, and there are some who say that AIDS may have come from monkeys," Kesey said. "So, when the Scriptures, not just the Judeo-Christian Scriptures, but lots of

Scriptures say, 'Don't screw animals,' it's not because God doesn't want us screwing animals, he's telling us that if we're going to screw animals, we're going to get things from them."

Kesey, who died in 2001, also said: "It seems to me it's one's job to put sperm in a place that's designed for it. You don't put crankcase oil in your power-steering system. And when God says, 'Do not put crankcase oil in your power-steering system,' he's not saying, 'If you do, you'll go to hell,'

he's saying, 'If you do, you'll blow the seals out of your power steering.'"

ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOPS OFFERED

McKenzie River Gathering Foundation will play host to two estate planning workshops this spring. They will provide a good overview of the variety of ways people can prepare their estates, including information on wills, medical directives and tax issues.

These workshops are appropriate for everyone, regardless of estate size. Facilitators are experienced estate planning attorneys.

Ellen Adler will lead a workshop from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 5 in Eugene. Judy Uherberlau will facilitate a class from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. May 3 in Ashland.

The requested donation is \$10-\$20. No one will be turned away.

To register contact Sheryl Sackman at 503-289-1517 or sheryl@mrgfoundation.org.

PUYALLUP STUDENT FIGHTS DISCRIMINATION

Damian Ball of Puyallup, Wash., has been selected to receive a Youth Activist Scholarship Award in recognition of his work for civil liberties. The \$4,000 college scholarship is one of 14 awarded by the American Civil Liberties Union to high school students around the nation.

Ball received the award because of his demonstrated commitment to working for equal treatment of all students as an activist with the Gay

Straight Alliance at Emerald Ridge High School. In the face of concerted opposition, the club courageously carried out a protest action to raise awareness about the harassment of gay students.

Founded in 2000, the GSA has provided support and advocacy for individuals facing difficulties because of their sexual orientation. When members decided to participate in April 2002's Day of Silence Project, a national action designed to spread awareness of the need to combat intolerance, they anticipated it might catch some flak but did not realize the degree of controversy it would generate.

Mobilized by conservative religious forces, some parents objected that the event was wrongly promoting the "homosexual agenda." Several dozen people pressured the district to stop the Day of Silence, pressed their case on the letters page of Tacoma's *The News Tribune* and threatened to vote against the district school levy in protest.

The school board and principal stood behind the right of students to hold the event, and the Day of Silence took place without major incident. About 50 kids kept their vow to remain silent, close to 200 wore rainbow ribbons in support, and others wore a sticker.

"I cringe at the thought of what might happen to our country if people don't stand up for what is right, even if they are standing alone," Ball said. "It is every person's job to defend the civil liberties of others; there is not any other way to ensure that we will all remain free. I stand firmly resolved to do my best to make sure that ideas that promote human rights and civil liberties, regardless of their popularity, are not suppressed." [7]

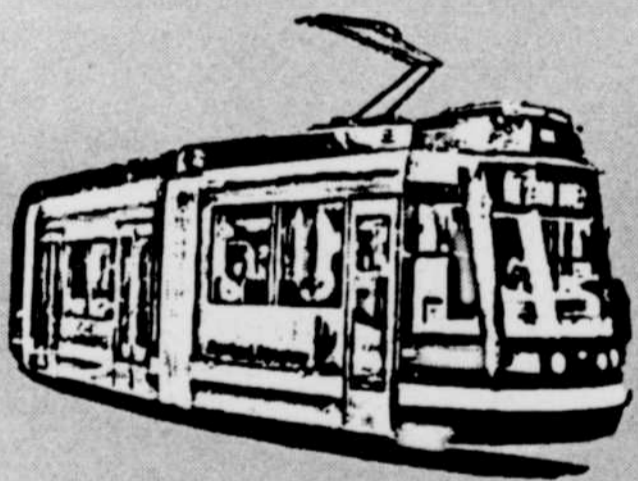
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PHOTO BY BRIAN LANKER

Ken Kesey associated homosexuality with bestiality in 1986, according to an angry Eugene man

THE PEARL



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