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NORTHWEST newsbriefs

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a history of 100 percent job placement in the field upon graduation.

"PCC is not an evil cabal out to pick on deaf people," Blake told *Just Out*. "They are faced with profoundly difficult choices in a time of economic crisis, and I do not envy them their responsibilities."

Blake participates in Deaf & Hearing Out Reach, which acts as a bridge between the deaf and hearing worlds for the queer community. It holds monthly socials and classes and is available for presentations.

"Like the queer community, very few deaf people come from deaf families," Blake says. "Therefore, deaf culture is passed 'horizontally' instead of 'vertically.' Deaf culture is all the stronger because each individual must come together for their common good—nothing is handed to them, and they have faced centuries of oppression. The success of the deaf community in showing its support of the ITP is a demonstration of what a previously isolated group of people can do when they work towards their own shared goals."

For more information visit
www.deafvision.net/dhor.



Trevor Blake is grateful that Portland Community College decided not to cut its American Sign Language Interpreter Training Program

KESHET PLANS PORTLAND'S FIRST QUEER PASSOVER SEDER

Keshet—the monthly gathering for gay, lesbian, bi and trans Jews in Portland—will play host to the metropolitan area's first queer Passover seder 7 p.m. April 17. Space reservations and payment must be received by April 10.

The catered dinner is kosher upon request and is nonvegetarian. The cost for the full seder and meal is \$20.

Queer Jews also will have the opportunity to meet Rabbi Daniel Isaak and discuss protective legal rights for same-sex couples with Glenda Durham during a cookout and house dedication 5 p.m. May 4. Attendees are encouraged to bring a vegetarian/vegan potluck dish.

Keshet events through September are:

- **June 6:** A Shabbat potluck and services with Congregation P'nai Or and Rabbi Aryeh Hirschfeld.
- **July 20:** Oregon's own Jewish Fairy Godmother, Helen Rosenau, dispenses her unique and irreverent brand of wisdom.
- **Aug. 15:** A Shabbat potluck and services with Congregation Havurah Shalom and Rabbi Joseph Wolf.
- **Sept. 28:** A coordinated potluck dinner in celebration of Rosh Hashanah.

Jewish Family & Child Service counseling staff, inspired by the large numbers who flocked to a screening of the documentary *Trembling Before G-d*, started coordinating the dinners last May. Keshet, which means "rainbow" in Hebrew, now draws between 25 and 35 people monthly.

For location and reservation information call David Molko at 503-226-7079, ext. 14.

BUILDING PRIDE TOGETHER

Eugene/Springfield's 14th annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Celebration will be held from noon to 7 p.m. June 21 in Alton Baker Park.

Food, craft and merchandise booths will be open, and a full slate of entertainers is scheduled for the stage. This year's theme is "Building Pride Together."

Other weekend festivities include a June 20 concert and a June 22 brunch at Neighbors Bistro. The weekend wraps up with the Closet Ball, where volunteers try drag performing for the first time.

The celebration is a social venue for gay, lesbian, bi, trans and questioning people in Lane County, Eugene and Springfield to advocate for and enjoy their diversity. Though primarily a community event, it also exists for families, friends and allies from throughout the Northwest.

To audition for the Pride stage, sponsor an event throughout the weekend or volunteer, call 541-342-1490.

PRIDE NORTHWEST SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Pride Northwest has put out the call for hundreds of volunteers for Portland Pride 2003, "Lions and Tigers and Queers, Oh My!" The volunteer-driven event will take place June 14 and 15 at Waterfront Park.

People are being sought for festival, parade, entertainment, security and general coordination positions. Different shifts will be available throughout the weekend, and many volunteers will be needed during the weeks leading up to the celebration.

Organizers say volunteering with Pride is a great way to meet leaders in the community and develop new skills. "Volunteering for Pride is a wonderful way to be more directly involved...and to contribute to making the event a success while having fun at the same time," volunteer coordinator Sunsang Firedancer shares.

After reading about a call for volunteers in *Just Out*, Barbara and Kraig Bartel began volunteering for Pride in 1994 to honor a friend who had died of AIDS. They have been on the security crew for nine years now.