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NORTHWEST newsbriefs



Terry Bean



Howard Dean

SMITH INTRODUCES EARLY HIV TREATMENT LEGISLATION

U.S. Sens. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., and Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., introduced April 9 the Early Treatment HIV Act of 2003 to provide Medicaid coverage for low-income, HIV-positive people before they develop full-blown AIDS.

"Currently HIV treatments are very successful in delaying the progression from HIV infection to AIDS," Smith said in a statement. "We can do better, and we should do everything possible to ensure that all people living with HIV can get early, effective medical care."

The act also provides an enhanced Medicaid match, making more federal money available for states that invest in treatments for HIV. Smith said the legislation will help states with struggling budgets continue to provide medical treatment to low-income, HIV-positive people in need.

"HIV and AIDS touches the lives of millions of people living in every state in the union. Some get the latest medical treatment, but too many do not," Smith added. "This is literally a life-and-death issue for many Oregonians, and ETHA can help many more Americans enjoy long, healthy lives."

The act represents a breakthrough in assuring early access to care for thousands of low-income, nondisabled people living with HIV. Currently, individuals with HIV must become disabled by AIDS and meet strict income and asset criteria in order to receive Medicaid coverage.

BEAN AND DEAN IN 2004

Portland businessman Terry Bean has joined former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2004.

As one of four Oregon co-chairs, the prominent gay rights activist will focus on national and statewide fund raising. "Since Oregon has such a late primary, the odds are high that it will be over by the time it gets to Oregon, so it's really important to get the funds necessary to keep him going strong," he told *Just Out*.

Bean has met Dean several times at functions involving the Human Rights Campaign, which he co-founded. He is particularly impressed by the politician's honesty, integrity and vision.

"I like the fact that he is the only major candidate who is against the war," Bean says. "And personally I think it took a lot of courage...to support civil unions, where it could've been the end of his career. Less than 30 percent of the people in Vermont at the time were for [civil unions]. He never flinched on it one iota.... I also agree with him on a wide variety of issues, from national health care to the environment."

Despite President Bush's high approval ratings, Bean is confident that Dean will emerge victorious next year—just like another Democratic candidate who many thought didn't stand a chance against a wartime GOP incumbent.

"He has the kind of charisma that I saw from Clinton early on," he says. "He is the only major candidate that's not in Congress, and he brings a fresh perspective to the race. The last person to go directly from Congress to the presidency was John Kennedy, and since then there's been four governors elected."

Bean doesn't think Dean's support of gay rights will come back to haunt him during the general election. "It's possible, but I think that'll backlash, because he's so plainspoken and direct that he'll convince people, even if they disagree with him."

The other three Oregon co-chairs are former Gov. Barbara Roberts, who has served on the HRC board of directors; Secretary of State Bill Bradbury; and Cheryl Perrin, a Port of Portland commissioner and former business lobbyist.

For more information visit www.deanforamerica.com.

COURSE TEACHES QUEER HISTORY

In order to fulfill their general education requirement, Portland State University students must complete a course focused on learning through community involvement. This spring, professor Ann Mussey's gay, lesbian, bi and trans history class will be collecting oral narratives for inclusion in the Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest.

This is the second time the class has been offered in the past three years. The previous class collected oral narratives and researched buildings and locales now being used in the Burnside Triangle gay history walking tour.

This year's class has some fresh ideas for research projects. Under consideration is a compilation of the historical origins of sodomy laws; their enforcement, especially in Oregon; and the recent challenge to the law in the U.S. Supreme Court, complete with a "Sodomy Party" to share this information with the community.

A few class members are interested in researching and writing about the history of gay bathhouses in Portland, and some think it's time to put GLAPN's oral histories into a searchable database. Some have suggested indexing *Just Out* as well.

About 10 students have signed up for the course, which meets twice each week. Mussey says this is the only class of its kind that she knows about.

When asked why they opted to take a course in queer history, students' replies ranged from "it fit in my schedule" to more personal reasons. Aleks Peirishvili says: "It's important to have this history so that I can have a presence in this society that marginalizes me.... It's an assurance that I exist."

GLAPN accepts donations of fliers, organizational journals, party invitations and other pieces of queer history. For more information contact Pat Young at youngst@spiritone.com or Ann Mussey at 503-725-8441.

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- April 19, Inter-Parish Easter Vigil Held at St. David's (2800 S.E. Harrison) at 7:00 P.M.
- April 20, Easter Sunday Holy Eucharist at 7:45 and 10:00 A.M.

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