



Students ignore protesters (right) during the Night of Noise rally April 9 at Pioneer Courthouse Square

STUDENTS CELEBRATE DAY OF SILENCE SUCCESS

A total of 250,000 students in 2,500 middle schools, high schools, colleges and universities participated April 9 in the Day of Silence Project. The event, sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, is an opportunity for sexual minority students and their allies to highlight everyday oppression by deliberately staying silent for an entire day.

"It was a lot harder than I expected," a student at Portland's Franklin High School said. "I wanted to scream at every person who said 'that's so gay,' but I had to keep quiet. It made me grateful that I don't live in a world where I have to keep complete silence every day."

Chelsea, a student at Beaverton's Sunset High School, also found the day challenging. She summed up her experience this way: "There was some harassment, some dialogue, but a majority of students don't care either way."

At Forest Grove High School, where 80 out of 1,900 students participated, "People noticed," *Just Out* was told. At Portland's Grant High School, one English class dedicated the entire period to a discussion of acceptance.

After their day of activism, 200 Day of Silence participants and their allies gathered at Pioneer Courthouse Square for a Night of Noise to celebrate out loud. The rally featured dancing, performances by students and inspiring speakers including Bonnie Tinker of Love Makes a Family, Melissa Shepherd of Basic Rights Oregon and Chris Tuttle of GLSEN's national office.

When a preacher showed up with a large cross to spout his anti-gay agenda, the youth took it in stride and simply cheered louder than his predictions of a fire-filled eternity. One student looked around at the gathering and said, "Looks like good company for a party someplace hot."

FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

Pride Northwest will encourage and celebrate the positive diversity of the sexual minorities community with its annual parade June 15.

The event begins at 10:30 a.m. with registration and formation on Southwest Taylor Street on



the north side of Lincoln High School, 1600 S.W. Salmon St. The parade steps off at 12:30 p.m.

To reserve a spot, participants must visit the Pride Northwest Web site for the printable application. The registration fee is \$25 a contingent.

All parade applications received by May 31 will have their lineup position determined by lottery. All late registrants will be placed in the lineup on a first-come, first-served basis. Organizers anticipate about 130 contingents this year.

The 2003 grand marshal will be the Sexual Minority Youth Recreation Center. This year's theme is "Lions and Tigers and Queers, Oh My!"

Pride Northwest meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of every month in Room 333 of Portland State University's Smith Memorial Center, 1825 S.W. Broadway. Everyone is welcome.

For more information visit www.pridenw.org or e-mail parade chairman Rich Kibbons at parade@pridenw.org.

SHIBLEY TAKES ON NEW ROLE

Having completed her stint as political director for Ted Kulongoski's successful gubernatorial campaign last fall, Gail Shibley is settling into her position as administrator of Oregon's Office of Public Health Systems.

"My passion has always been in the area of sustainability," she says, "one rooted in protecting the environment and making sure that the decisions we make today don't impair the

Continued on Page 10



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