

NORTHWEST newsbriefs

PRIDE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Portland Pride 2003 will have a special space set aside for festivalgoers with children. The kids' tent will be open from 1 to 8 p.m. June 14 and from noon to 6 p.m. June 15.

"There are lots of children of queer parents who never see other children of queer parents," festival coordinator SB Collins says. "The kids' tent creates a space where these children can meet other children who are the same age and share a common experience. It gives them a sort of pride and a feeling of acceptance of their family."

Carlie Dunn, aka Wiggles the Clown, will perform as well as do face painting throughout the weekend. By creating a space for families, Pride Northwest hopes to recognize Portland's queer parents, an often underacknowledged part of the community.

"Queer parents are less visible," Collins says. "It's very hard to meet other parents. When there

dozen gay and gay-friendly leaders from school districts across the state lobbied the OEA to establish a task force to study the national association's report on sexual orientation.

In November the caucus will sponsor a local reception to coincide with an NEA conference to be held in Portland titled "Building Respect and Equity in our Diverse Society: Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues in Education."

One of the goals of the caucus is to encourage the OEA to ensure a safe and supportive workplace for queer educators, says co-chairman Ray Johnson, a retired teacher who lives in Multnomah Village. This, in turn, engenders a safe and supportive environment for queer and questioning students.

Established in 1996, the caucus remains the only special interest group within the OEA.

For more information visit www.geocities.com/oregonlc.



Don Jarvi serves as co-chairman of the Portland Area HIV Services Planning Council, which assesses local needs and allocates federal funds.

is a whole space devoted to entertaining the kids, it give the parents the space to meet and talk. You see you're not the only one in the world."

Collins has a 13-year-old son, Tony. After attending a past Pride celebration with his mom, he told her, "I'm glad there is a place that we can go where people understand our family."

QUEER EDUCATOR GROUP CHALKS UP ACHIEVEMENTS

During their May 3 annual meeting at the Janzen Beach DoubleTree, more than a dozen members of the Gay and Lesbian Caucus of Oregon Education Association gathered to chronicle achievements and review upcoming goals.

The group serves as a voice for sexual minority educators and supporters within the state and national teachers unions. It primarily advocates for nondiscrimination policies in collective bargaining contracts but also works with state and national education associations to provide diversity training for local representatives.

During the past year, for example, these two

HIV SERVICES PLANNING COUNCIL SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Portland Area HIV Services Planning Council is accepting applications for two-year terms beginning Oct. 1. Co-chairman Don Jarvi reminds the public that the disease is still with us despite recent advances in treatment.

"People are living longer with more complex medical needs," he says. Joining the council "is one way to contribute while making a difference in the lives of HIV-positive people and their families. This year the council will determine how more than \$3 million should be spent to assist low-income people living with HIV."

The 30-member council was established in 1994 under the federal Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act. It is responsible for assessing health care and social services needs, developing a comprehensive plan for the six-county Portland metropolitan region, setting priorities and allocating federal funds.

The council's membership reflects the demographics of the epidemic. It is required to have representation from groups such as health care and substance abuse treatment providers, AIDS service organizations and mental health agencies, and one-third of the volunteers must be people living with HIV.

The council "gives a voice to affected communities," Jarvi says. "And the disease is affecting more women, Latinos, African Americans and children. We are looking for people who use HIV services and people who provide those services to join the council."

Members are appointed by Multnomah County Chair Diane Linn. The deadline for applications is June 11.

For more information call 503-988-3030, ext. 225, or visit www.hivportland.org.

\$90,000 GRANTED TO GAY AND LESBIAN ORGANIZATIONS

A total of 22 gay, lesbian, bi, trans and HIV/AIDS organizations throughout the Northwest received \$90,000 in grants from the

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