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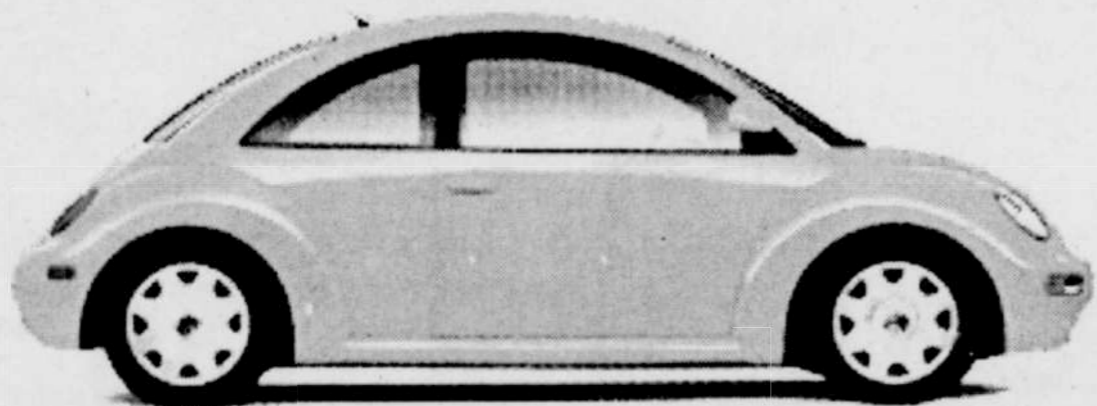
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## Hats off!

Pride Northwest salutes outstanding achievements

BY JIM RADOSTA AND TIMOTHY KRAUSE



Members of the NAMES Project Foundation march through downtown during Portland Pride 2002

This year Pride Northwest is honoring two organizations and three individuals for their outstanding achievements within the sexual minorities community as well as their outreach to the larger community.

Spirit of Pride Awards will be presented to the Portland chapter of the NAMES Project Foundation, CM Hall of Basic Rights Oregon, Carol Gabrielli of Jesuit Volunteer Corps: Northwest and Sophia Lanza-Weil of the Day of Silence Project. In addition, the 2003 grand marshal is the Sexual Minority Youth Recreation Center, and Ann Shepherd of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays will receive a posthumous Lifetime Achievement Award.

### Portland Chapter of NAMES Project Foundation

The pandemic of AIDS is not over, but a chapter in its story is closing with a mix of accomplishment and loss. After accepting a 2003 Spirit of Pride Award for its nearly 15 years of service in recognizing friends and family lost to AIDS, Portland's connection to the AIDS Memorial Quilt will disband.

"There is a definite loss," acknowledges steering committee member Rich Kibbons, describing the organization's impact in Oregon, Southwest Washington and beyond. "The ideas that we put together here have been picked up and shared with most every chapter of Quilt."

The first panel was created in San Francisco in 1987. A little more than a year later, the Quilt had gone national. The entire work was first displayed in Portland in August 1988 at University of Portland, its last stop on a national tour of some 7,000 panels. Two months later, a Portland chapter of the NAMES Project Foundation was established.

Organizers say the purpose has been to provide a creative means for remembrance and healing while illustrating the enormity of the AIDS pandemic. They have hoped to increase public awareness, assist with preventive education and raise funds for community-based AIDS service organizations.

Through the years volunteers have held panel-making workshops, dedication ceremonies

and Quilt displays, raising more than \$80,000 for area organizations such as the Brinker Fund, the Friends of People with AIDS Foundation, Our House of Portland, Women's Intercommunity AIDS Resource, Catholic AIDS Ministries and the HIV Day Center. In 1996 the Portland group was nominated for "Chapter of the Year" for its extensive outreach work and development of education kits.

Like many AIDS service organizations, however, the foundation and the Portland chapter experienced reduced funding and public apathy. Recent restructuring on the national level created financial demands the local chapter was unable to meet. After much consideration, members voted to close the Portland chapter with a final display in this year's Pride parade. Any funds remaining will be distributed to local AIDS service organizations.

"We realized that our hearts are saying keep it going, but we know we can't ask the community to pay so much. There's just not the money there to draw on," Kibbons says. "That doesn't mean we don't love it. It's just the financial aspect that's torn us all up."

As for the Spirit of Pride Award, Kibbons adds: "It's a great statement of recognition of the years of service the Portland chapter of Quilt has given. The recognition is wonderful, but it's also tempered with the humility that we've had to make a very hard choice of closing."

### CM Hall

CM Hall has raised thousands of dollars and, subsequently, opened thousands of minds in the fight against anti-gay bigotry statewide as development director at Basic Rights Oregon and house party coordinator during 2000's No on 9 Campaign. She also serves on the local steering committee for the Human Rights Campaign, which strives for equality on the national level. In her limited spare time, she volunteers as the youth group adviser at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem.



CM Hall

Hall previously has worked with U.S. Sen.