

NORTHWEST newsbriefs

Jeremy Bowen, Committee for Constitutional Courts executive director. According to *The Oregonian*, the initiative is sponsored by New Covenant Ministries International, a religious nonprofit corporation that Mabon and Bowen helped form last year.

The petitioners have until July 2004 to collect 75,630 valid signatures. Voters rejected the first version of the measure in 2000, and its watered-down sequel failed to qualify for the ballot last year.

RESTAURANTS TARGETED

An anonymous homophobe is boycotting Corvallis restaurants that participated in a fund-raiser benefiting Basic Rights Oregon. In a letter sent to several establishments, the man claims he learned about their support of the "Bites for Rights" campaign through an article that ran June 20, 2002, in the *Corvallis Gazette-Times*.

"My wife and I...find rectal intercourse between two men, women sexually exploiting each other and the encouragement of confused individuals to explore fantasy sexual identities are not representative of the values upon which we wish to build our family and our community," he wrote. "If the money we spend at your establishment helps to finance these groups, how can we do that?"

This year's "Bites for Rights" will be held June 19. More than 100 restaurants throughout the state will donate 15 percent of their gross proceeds from breakfast, lunch, dinner and dessert to BRO.

For a complete list of restaurants visit www.basicrights.org.

CITY COUNCIL CALLS FOR INCLUSION

The Portland City Council drafted a letter May 7 urging Congress to include trans people in federal legislation that, as currently worded, would prohibit bias based on sexual orientation but not gender identity.

"We believe in equal representation for all members of the community," the commissioners wrote. "We would like to express our strong support for the reintroduction of the Employment

Nondiscrimination Act in the 108th Congress with language prohibiting workplace discrimination against the entire gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community."

The letter was the result of an effort spearheaded by Lori Buckwalter, executive director of It's Time, Oregon! "Growing consensus within the LGBT community is calling out to our national leaders to assure that gender identity protections are included immediately in pending legislation," she said in a statement.

As of May 8, a total of 20 national and 25 regional organizations, including Basic Rights Oregon, had signed the statement supporting the gender identity and expression rights of all U.S. citizens. Eight groups—including the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Pride at Work and Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays—have taken the stand that they will not endorse ENDA until it protects trans people as well.

CITY AND COUNTY CELEBRATE PRIDE

All are welcome to join the city of Portland and Multnomah County as they play host to Pride Celebration 2003 for city and county employees.

The event will be held from noon to 1 p.m. June 18 at the Portland Building Auditorium, 1120 S.W. Fifth Ave. Two top openly gay officials will serve as masters of ceremonies: Sam Adams, Mayor Vera Katz's chief of staff, and Patricia Pate, director of Multnomah County's Department of Human Services.

RADICAL WOMEN WILL SCREEN DOCUMENTARY

In honor of the struggle for queer civil rights and to celebrate Pride Month, Portland Radical Women will play host to "The Legacy of Stonewall: Rebels Battle Right-Wing Bigotry" on June 11.

The event will include a 7 p.m. screening of the documentary *One Nation Under God*, which exposes the religious right's insidious attempts to "cure" gay men and lesbians and invites the

Continued on Page 11



Patricia Pate, director of Multnomah County's Department of Human Services, will serve as co-host of Pride Celebration 2003 for city and county employees

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