



Steve Wagenhoffer waits to testify before a Portland Public Schools committee Oct. 8; inset, supporters brought along signs to express their feelings

SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS HEAR ABOUT SCOUT BIAS

A Portland Public Schools board committee reviewed the district's position related to nonschool group activities in its buildings Oct. 8.

The discussion was placed on the agenda in response to a formal complaint filed by Steve Wagenhoffer, a gay man who believes the Boy Scouts of America's presence at Jim Bridger Elementary School is creating a hostile learning environment for his two sons. Last month they were sent home with a brochure recruiting kids to join the anti-gay group—as long as they're "morally straight."

The district later apologized for handing the literature to the students but continues to allow the Scouts to distribute materials at the school. President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act prohibits federally funded elementary and secondary schools from denying Scout organizations equal access to campuses.

The Community and Staff Relations Committee heard testimony in support of Wagenhoffer from Andrea Meyer of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon; Roey Thorpe of Basic Rights Oregon; Larry Smith of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network's Oregon chapter; Joyce Liljeholm of the Oregon Safe Schools and Communities Coalition; Bonnie Tinker of Love Makes a Family; and Ginny Laferriere of Portland Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Only two people sided with the Boy Scouts.

Love Makes a Family will hold the next meeting of its Sexual Minority Parent Advisory Group from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Nov. 3 in the L-2 Conference Room at the district's headquarters, 501 N. Dixon St. Attendees will learn how Boy Scout activities at Portland Public Schools affect their families and will watch the documentary *Scout's Honor*.

For more information call 503-228-3892.

LAKE OSWEGO CONSIDERS BAN ON DISCRIMINATION

The Lake Oswego City Council will hold a public hearing on a proposed nondiscrimination ordinance that includes sexual orientation and gender identity 6 p.m. Oct. 21 at 380 A Ave. If passed, the statute would cover employment, public accommodation and housing.

"Most local governments don't have their own nondiscrimination policies, following state

and federal laws instead," said Jessica DuBois, Basic Rights Oregon field director. "But those laws are not inclusive and protective enough. An increasing number of local governments are creating their own nondiscrimination ordinances and adding sexual orientation and gender identity."

DuBois is encouraging Lake Oswego residents to tell the council why it's not OK to be fired or be denied an apartment just because a person is gay or trans. Even if attendees don't live in the city limits or care to testify, she adds, their presence will be a powerful statement.

For more information call 503-222-6151.

THE HOUSE THAT BEAN BUILT

The Human Rights Campaign dedicated its national headquarters Oct. 11 in downtown Washington, D.C. The project resulted from the work of HRC co-founder Terry Bean, a gay Portland businessman who served as co-chairman of the successful "Building Equality" capital campaign, with construction coming in on schedule and under budget.

"HRC's new headquarters is a symbol of the progress that we are making in this country," executive director Elizabeth Birch said. "As we dedicate our new home, we say to America that we are strong and passionate and will not rest until we have achieved full GLBT equality."

The new headquarters, located at 1640 Rhode Island Ave. N.W., is now home to all of the programs of HRC and the HRC Foundation, the organization's educational arm. The building was the former home of B'nai B'rith—a prominent organization in the Jewish community.

"It is so very fitting that this building has passed from one civil rights organization to another," Birch said. "HRC is extremely proud of our new building's heritage, and we are committed to living up to the passionate and fair-minded legacy that is passed to us through this new headquarters."

The dedication, which took place on National Coming Out Day, was attended by Tipper Gore and D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams. The event was followed by tours of the building and a street fair outside on 17th Street.

"What better way for HRC to commemorate National Coming Out Day than to dedicate our new national headquarters—an open

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