

# NORTHWEST newsbriefs

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resent the recent developments on the issue of gay marriage. Gay and lesbian couples who make a lifelong commitment to one another deserve the same legal rights and benefits of marriage other couples receive," said Roey Thorpe, BRO executive director. "Religious institutions would not have to recognize marriage between gay and lesbian couples. This is about state and federal marriage rights. There are 1,049 marriage rights granted by the federal government alone. For example, it gives permission to visit in the hospital, file joint tax returns and inherit 401(k)s without negative tax consequences."

During the dinner BRO announced that it is launching a proactive campaign to pass a queer civil rights statute in Oregon. A nondiscrimination bill was introduced in the last legislative session but never made it out of committee.

The event also honored filmmaker Gus Van Sant with the Justice for All Award for his support of the queer community. The Sanford Director Award went to Multnomah County Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey for successfully convincing the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette to drop discriminatory charities, and BRO's Trans Advisory Group was named Volunteer of the Year for its work in developing and presenting the Trans 101 training program.

## QUEERS FOR DEAN MEET UP AT HOBO'S

Former Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts and gay philanthropist Terry Bean explained their support of Howard Dean's presidential candidacy Nov. 5 at Hobo's.



From right, Terry Bean discusses Howard Dean's candidacy as Barbara Roberts and Vannessa Lynn listen Nov. 5 at Hobo's

About 30 people attended the "All GLBTI & Friends Dean Meetup," which was organized by Portland drag queen Vannessa Lynn. National Dean in 2004 Meetup Day, held on the first Wednesday of every month, attracts thousands of people nationwide who want to learn more about the former Vermont governor, who is a strong supporter of the sexual minorities community.

"I don't want to be on the sideline for the last great civil rights movement," said Roberts, who served as governor during Dean's tenure. "Howard was not on the sideline."

Dean will return to Portland for a fund-raiser 7:30 p.m. Nov. 11 at Montgomery Park, 2701 N.W. Vaughn St. Tickets are \$25 for students and \$100 for the general public; people who donate between \$1,000 and \$2,000 can attend a VIP reception at 7 p.m.

To get involved with *Out for Dean*, e-mail [dean\\_gurl@hotmail.com](mailto:dean_gurl@hotmail.com) or visit [groups.yahoo.com/group/outfordean-portland](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/outfordean-portland). For more information about the fund-raiser, e-mail [emily@deanforamerica.com](mailto:emily@deanforamerica.com).

## FRANK STUMPS FOR HOOLEY

Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., will be in town later this month to honor U.S. Rep. Darlene Hooley, D-Ore.

The evening reception, which will raise money for her 2004 re-election campaign, will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 20 at the home of gay philanthropist Terry Bean, 1882 S.W. Hawthorne Terrace. The minimum donation is \$125 a person.

Frank, who has been in Congress since 1981, is the senior Democrat on the Financial Services Committee and is a member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security. He previously served as a Massachusetts state representative and an assistant to the mayor of Boston and taught at several Boston-area universities.

Hooley, who represents the mid-Willamette Valley, received a 100 percent ranking on the Human Rights Campaign's scorecard for the 107th Congress. However, she is the only Democratic member of Oregon's delegation who has not signed on as a co-sponsor of the Permanent Partners Immigration Act, which would allow gay and lesbian citizens or permanent residents to petition for their same-sex partners to immigrate.

To RSVP call Jennifer at 503-723-0100.

## GRANTS PASS CONFAB ADDRESSES DIVERSITY

Rogue Community College will present the ninth annual Oregon Diversity Institute on Nov. 13 and 14 in Grants Pass. The gathering

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