

NORTHWEST newsbriefs

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KUCINICH FUND-RAISER PLANNED IN VANCOUVER

The Dennis Kucinich for President Campaign in Southwest Washington and Oregon will hold a spaghetti dinner fund-raiser Dec. 19 at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4505 E. 18th St. in Vancouver, Wash.

Doors will open at 6 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6:30. The meal will include salad with a balsamic vinaigrette, pasta with a choice of vegetarian or meat sauce, garlic toast, beverage and cheesecake for dessert.

The cost is \$25 for adults and \$10 for children younger than 16. Entertainers also will be featured.

The Ohio congressman is running for president on a platform that supports federal legislation for civil marriage between same-sex couples. He issued a statement Nov. 18 applauding the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's declaration that it is unconstitutional for the state to deny marriage to gay and lesbian couples.

"The right to marry is a civil right that should not be denied," Kucinich said. "Civil unions do not provide equal rights to LGBT Americans.... Civil unions are a kind of limbo with regard to governmental functions performed by both state and federal governments, such as taxation, pension protections and provision of insurance for families."

Kucinich also is calling for single-payer universal health care, jobs creation, fair trade, reduced Pentagon spending, opposition to the PATRIOT Act and an exit strategy from U.S. occupation of Iraq. He is co-chairman of the Progressive Caucus of House Democrats and former mayor of Cleveland.

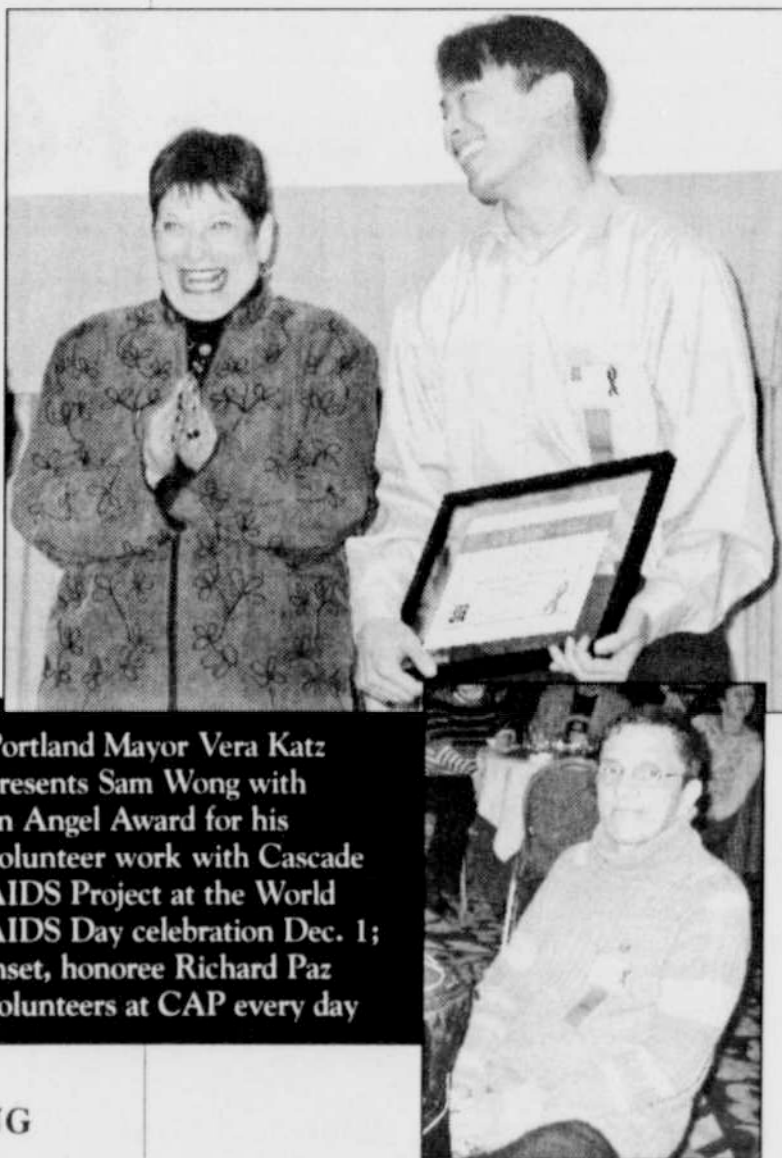
For tickets call 360-695-1847 or 503-283-2060. To volunteer or for more information call 503-232-8201 or visit www.kucinich-oregon.us.

CAP PRAISES VOLUNTEERS

Cascade AIDS Project honored volunteers during a World AIDS Day celebration Dec. 1 at the Hilton Hotel.

A recently released U.N. report revealed that 3 million people worldwide die of AIDS annually, with 14,000 new HIV infections every day—the highest amount ever. Between 34 million and 46 million people are infected.

Portland Mayor Vera Katz presents Sam Wong with an Angel Award for his volunteer work with Cascade AIDS Project at the World AIDS Day celebration Dec. 1; inset, honoree Richard Paz volunteers at CAP every day



PHOTOS BY MARTY DAIS

THE COPS ARE LOOKING FOR YOU

Portland Police Bureau officials are recruiting volunteers from a number of communities—including sexual minorities—in an effort to beef up its Reserve Unit.

"This is a great opportunity for members of the sexual minorities community to become part of this profession and serve the public," comments Cmdr. Mike Garvey, who says officials want to increase diversity represented in the Reserves, which has dropped from 150 members to 25.

"As the first openly gay officer in the Portland Police Bureau, I was involved in a lot of different issues since coming out," says Garvey, noting how through the years sexual minorities have worked to improve their relationship with police as well as the work environment for queer bureau employees. "The fact of the matter is

that I believe there are pluses for everybody to be represented in the Portland Police Bureau."

Although the application process is ongoing, a new Reserve Academy begins training in January with another scheduled for next summer. Entrance requirements include psychological testing and intensive background investigation. Once a person is accepted, classes in academic and tactical law enforcement skills are held three times weekly for about five months. Training and uniforms are free, but Reserve officers must purchase their own protective vests, which can cost \$400-\$1,200.

Reserve officers volunteer in a variety of capacities. Members of the nonsword category, for example, require less training but are limited to support duties such as clerical work. Sworn and special Reserve officers participate in patrolling, special assignments such as drug details and prostitution missions, presidential and VIP security, community events and crime prevention. Once on duty, Reserve officers fill two work shifts a month.

For some people, Garvey suggests the Reserve Unit can serve as a steppingstone to explore a professional career in law enforcement.

"There are many more gay police officers than ever have been. They're not afraid, and that speaks volumes for us," remarks Garvey. "It's a great profession."

For more information and an application form, call the Reserve coordinator at 503-823-0179 or Garvey at 503-823-2247. Visit the program online at www.portlandpolicebureau.com/reserves.html.

A GOOD NEIGHBOR

A gay man is coordinating foot patrols throughout the Vernon neighborhood in response to a recent increase in gang activity and illegal drug-related crimes, including two homicides in October.

Judge Kemp helped restart the patrols this year as part of the reactivation of the Vernon Community Association, for which he serves as a board member. The patrol route includes the commercial areas of Northeast Killingsworth and Alberta, residential streets and Alberta Park.

"Concerned neighbors became fed up with the drug and gang activity in the area," Kemp told *Just Out*. "Working with the Office of

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