

NORTHWEST newsbriefs

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Neighborhood Involvement specialist Paul Dinberg, he suggested that we form a foot patrol as a means to observe and be a visual deterrent against the drug dealing, prostitution and other negative influences of the neighborhood, including abandoned vehicles and abandoned homes."

Mayor Vera Katz and Police Chief Derrick Foxworth accompanied the community foot patrol Nov. 21. Members addressed the strengths and weaknesses of the neighborhood and discussed crime and livability issues with business owners and residents along the way.

A core group of eight people patrols the neighborhood twice a month. The community association's goal is to recruit enough members to go out every weekend.

"So far it is going OK but could be better," Kemp says. "The residents here in Vernon are still very apprehensive in getting involved."

For more information call 503-823-4763 or e-mail pdinberg@ci.portland.or.us.

SENIOR CELEBRATION

The Elder Resource Alliance celebrated its second anniversary Dec. 3 at Friendly House Community Center.

The organization helps provide access to social services for sexual minority senior citizens that respects dignity and choice while raising awareness of their unique needs. This year it educated home care providers about resources for this underserved population, played host to an open house, conducted a training at Portland State University and received grants from Port-



Kathy Bambeck discusses publicity and special events during the Elder Resource Alliance's second anniversary celebration Dec. 3; inset, sexual minority elders mingle



PHOTOS BY MARY DAVIS

land's Equity Foundation and Seattle's Pride Foundation to continue its work.

ERA's next event is the LGBT Senior Game Day Extravaganza from 2 to 4 p.m. Jan. 21 at 1727 N.W. 26th Ave. Members, friends and family of the sexual minorities community are invited to play cards and their favorite board games while snacking on light refreshments.

For more information call Eileen at 503-224-2640 or Paul at 503-988-3620.

TRANS TRAINING RECEIVES GRANT

Basic Rights Oregon's Education Fund received a \$4,900 grant from the Seattle-based Pride Foundation to continue and expand the Trans 101 community training program developed and presented by its Trans Advisory Group.

Trainings have been given to BRO's board and staff; a group of 17 Oregon state legislators; 40 activists in Eugene; the staff of organizations like the Fair Housing Council of Oregon and *Just Out*; and members of the gay, lesbian and bi community who harbor much misunderstanding about gender identity and how to be strong allies to people who are trans. The money will allow BRO to pay stipends to volunteer facilitators, cover travel expenses across the state, improve the curriculum and develop a Trans 201 curriculum.

"This training program has grown rapidly over the past year in response to overwhelming need from community members for information about gender identity," said Roey Thorpe, BRO executive director. "The Pride Foundation funds will let us meet this need fully."

YOGA TEACHER INVITES GAY-BASHER TO OREGON

A heterosexual yoga teacher from Oregon was gay-bashed Oct. 28 in Cape Town, South Africa, according to *The Cape Argus*.

James Girod, 42, was at Sandy Bay with his girlfriend, 33-year-old Birgit Stoll of Berlin, when they were approached by three young men. One of them began making effeminate gestures and shouted, "Why are you here, you faggot?"

After explaining that he was straight, Girod suddenly was hit three times—on the temple, under an eye and on the mouth—and was left with chipped front teeth and a black eye. "I fell to the ground, and there was blood everywhere," he said.

According to News24, Brian Joseph, 22, pleaded guilty Nov. 4 to assaulting Girod with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm. The prosecutor withdrew similar charges against Garth Cason, 21, and Edwin Pool, 20.

"Girod said something and walked up to me, and I hit him four or five times with my fist in his face," Joseph told the court. "It was just the wrong day for me."

Girod told magistrate Gafiesha Mohamed he wanted to extend an invitation to all three to his yoga lectures in the United States. He said that Joseph had a lot of anger built up in him and that he would like to see the man get help.

"This whole case was a totally premeditated hate crime," Girod said. "These guys used the perception that I was gay to execute hate speech and violence." ■

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