

WORKSHOP STRATEGIZES ON MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Love Makes a Family, a nonprofit agency that supports queer parents, is organizing a workshop to help people practice nonviolent communication and public speaking skills on the subject of same-sex marriage.

"Engagement! Strategies for Talking About Same-Sex Marriage" will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 17 at Ainsworth United Church of Christ, 2941 N.E. Ainsworth St. Attendees will hear inspirational stories from friends, families and even church officials who have changed their minds and now support full marriage equality.

The workshop will help people talk to their relatives, co-workers, neighbors and classmates about the freedom to marry and practice how to conduct this dialogue in a way that transforms the community. Using a process created for grassroots education during Oregon's numerous anti-gay ballot measure campaigns, leaders will explain how to respond to difficult questions and calmly discuss the issue with those who adamantly believe that marriage only should be between a man and a woman.

Workshop organizers named several reasons why same-sex marriage will be a hot topic in 2004:

- Massachusetts will make same-sex marriage available by May.

- President Bush has hinted at support for a federal constitutional amendment limiting the special rights of marriage to heterosexual couples.

- Many gay and lesbian couples have already gone to Canada to be married and will be demanding recognition of those unions in the United States.

- Some churches and synagogues already provide spiritual marriage celebrations for same-



Judy Shepard joined U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., in February 2001 for the Oregon Hate Crimes Conference

sex couples. These congregations believe all couples should have access to the full rights, responsibilities and obligations of civil marriage.

For more information contact Cecil Prescod at 503-228-3892 or cecilprescod@hotmail.com.

JUDY SHEPARD TO SPEAK ABOUT COMBATING HATE

Judy Shepard will speak about the life and legacy of her son Matthew and on the lessons of her ordeal during a presentation 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 22 in Agnes Flanagan Chapel at Lewis & Clark College, 0615 S.W. Palatine Hill Road.

Matthew Shepard, a gay University of Wyoming student, was savagely attacked Oct. 6, 1998, after two men lured him from a bar, drove him to a remote field, beat him with the butt of a gun, tied him to a fence and left him to die in near-freezing temperatures outside Laramie, 30 miles northwest of Cheyenne. He passed away six days later at a hospital in Fort Collins, Colo.

In December 1998, Judy Shepard and her husband, Dennis, started the Matthew Shepard Foundation. She serves as the organization's executive director and works to educate the

public on hate crimes and to achieve gay and lesbian equality.

"Our mission is to educate people and replace hate with understanding, acceptance and compassion," she says. "I feel Matthew with me every day, or I would not be able to do this. We just hope we're doing what he would want us to do. We realize that we must use the voice his death has given us. I realize that what I can try and accomplish is to make people aware. We get so complacent in our lives that we forget not everyone is safe, and frequently it is our children who aren't safe."

Her talk, sponsored by Students Organized for Activities, is free and open to the public, yet a ticket is required to attend the event. A limited number of tickets are available through the Lewis & Clark College Bookstore.

For more information call 503-768-7122.

HRC RALLIES SUPPORT FOR SMITH LEGISLATION

The Human Rights Campaign is asking members to urge their congressional representatives to support an early HIV treatment bill sponsored by U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore.

The Early Treatment for HIV Act provides states with the option to cover low-income HIV-infected people through the Medicaid program. A Senate version of the bill was introduced last year, and a House version will be introduced soon.

Discrimination, lifetime coverage limits and other practices have served to deny private health care coverage to people living with

Continued on Page 9



Are you Online?

CITYGuys and Cascade AIDS Project are looking for guys who chat.

Help spread the word about STD's like syphilis and HIV by joining our new online outreach team, DigiGUYS.

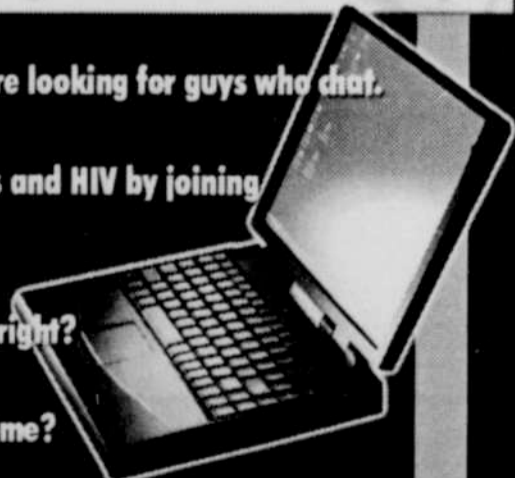
Hey, you've been wanting to volunteer lately, right?

Why not do it from the comfort of your own home?

Get in touch with CityGuys from CAP at: **503.223.5907**

or email us for more information at:

pknowlton@cascadeaids.org



Wishing You Peace, Pride & Prosperity Throughout the New Year

Full Circle Temple
Nature Conservancy
Lesbian Community Project

Georgena's Journey
Love Makes a Family
Basic Rights Oregon

When you buy or sell a home with me, you'll know your dollars are helping support a greater cause. I contribute at least 10% of my earnings to community and environmental organizations.

Millynn James
Broker, Graduate Realtor Institute
ABR, Accredited Buyer's Representative

503.330.HOME (4663)
1.800.825.9948

www.millynn.com
Email: millynn@aol.com