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many other leaders have been reluctant to do so, and I am grateful for his clarity of moral purpose and compassion. We know the extreme right will attack him for this, as they have for his speaking the truth about other national issues."

Calvo says she supports Dean because he is a person who will do the right thing when it comes down to the wire. She cites his support for Vermont's civil unions law and his opposition to the U.S.-led war on Iraq as examples.

"Dean has already changed the face of politics in this country," Calvo says. "Look at the groundswell of support he had prior to all the slick media hype designed by people who are in the business of selling tampons, beer and soup to the American public during Super Bowl halftimes. When I think of Howard Dean, I think of fresh air in a cheap cigar-smoke-filled backroom. I believe it will be a great moment in American history when Howard Dean is elected president of the United States of America."

Dean supporters hold meetings on the first Wednesday of every month at multiple locations across the country. The gay bar Hobo's will play host to an "All GLBTI & Friends Dean Meetup" 7 p.m. Feb. 4 at 120 N.W. Third Ave.



Portland counterprotesters faced off with the Rev. Fred Phelps in 2000, when he picketed Waddell & Reed

For more information visit [www.deanforamerica.com](http://www.deanforamerica.com). 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).

**RELATIONSHIP CLASSES OFFER HELP FOR UNIQUE CHALLENGES**

Gay men and lesbians face the same relationship challenges that come between many heterosexual couples. Yet there are issues unique to the queer community—issues that can best expressed in the company of other couples facing the same problems. Portland Community College will offer such a forum, led by a professional relationship counselor, with an upcoming noncredit series.

Facilitator Mariah Ureel will lead students through the Gay and Lesbian Relationship Series, offering supportive and lively workshops that include humor, techniques and practical solutions. If you are looking for deeper intimacy, less strife and more fun, one or all of these workshops may be for you:

- **The language of love:** "You say tomato and I say asiago?" This workshop covers basic principles and skills needed for respectful and effective communication in order to be understood.

- **Healthy negotiating:** Who calls the shots? Learn how to navigate power struggles, differing agendas and expectations to arrive at solutions that strengthen your bond and your future.

- **Sustainable passion:** Feeling more like best friends? Are pets instead of passion between you? Explore some underlying causes and find creative solutions to keep true intimacy, romance and affection alive and well in your relationship.

The series will take place from 9 a.m. to noon Jan. 24, Feb. 7 and Feb. 28 at Zimmerman Community Center, 916 N.W. Lovejoy St. The cost is \$20 a class.

For more information call PCC Community Education at 503-614-7308.

**ANTI-GAY PREACHER HEADED TO BEAVERTON**

The Rev. Fred Phelps, the notorious anti-gay preacher who picketed Matthew Shepard's funeral, is coming to town next month to protest 20 photographs that will be displayed by the Beaverton School District.

The district is spending \$1,600 to rent the touring exhibit *In Our Family*, which celebrates families of every kind, including those with gay and lesbian parents. It was created by—in the fire-and-brimstone language of Phelps—"the demonic traveling perverts [doing business as] Family Diversity Projects," a nonprofit organization based in Amherst, Mass.

Phelps and his followers from the Topeka, Kan.-based Westboro Baptist Church are furious with "the sodomite whorehouse and propaganda mill masquerading as Beaverton School District and the Pied Piper-from-Hell Superintendent Jerome Colonna leading 35,000 kids into lives of sin, shame, disease, death and eternal damnation." They will picket Feb. 9 at the Arts & Communication Magnet Academy, 11375 S.W. Center St., and at district headquarters, 16550 S.W. Merlo Road.

Phelps also plans on protesting "the queer-friendly dog kennels masquerading as churches in Beaverton" Feb. 8. Although he did not specify which welcoming congregations are on his hit list, a likely target will be Southminster Presbyterian Church, 12250 S.W. Denney Road.

Basic Rights Oregon is discussing possible responses to Phelps' visit.

"Clearly, it is important that we take a stand against extremist hate groups like this," executive director Roey Thorpe said. "This is not what our community stands for, and we should find some creative, nonviolent ways to send that message." □

Compiled by JIM RADOSTA and MEG DALY

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