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### Support Groups Available

#### For Women who Partner with Women

The Hambleton Project and the Susan G. Komen Foundation have collaborated to provide these free resources to our community:

- ✦ Bi-weekly support group for lesbians/bisexual women with cancer and their partners/caregivers (ongoing)
- ✦ 8-week bereavement group for lesbians/bisexual women who have lost a loved one (next session begins 3/4/04)

These groups are currently held in the Portland area, and will soon be available in the Salem area.

For specific meeting times, locations, or for more information, call the Hambleton Project at 503.335.6591



See **Dr. Bareback.**

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inserting Q-tips  
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## NORTHWEST newsbriefs

### SHEPARD HEADLINES DIVERSITY SUMMIT

Matthew Shepard's mother will be one of the keynote speakers during Diversity Summit 2004 presented by Portland General Electric from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 28 at the Oregon Convention Center, 777 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Judy Shepard, whose son was the victim of an anti-gay murder in 1998, will focus on the prevention of hate crimes. Her speech, "The Legacy of Matthew Shepard," urges audiences to make their schools and communities safer for everyone, regardless of race, sex, religion or sexual orientation.

The summit, "New Frontiers in Diversity," is designed for people interested in learning about fostering workplace diversity, including business owners and managers, human resources personnel and community leaders. The other keynote speakers will be women's rights leader Madame Jehan Sadat, the widow of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, and consultant Mark Williams, who helps solve human interaction problems related to cultural differences.

"Every aspect of workplace diversity, including age, sex, culture, race, religion, disability and sexual orientation, are covered during this conference," said DeAngelo Wells, PGE human resources operations director. "Our Diversity Summit offers participants a wide selection of comprehensive presentations, forums and discussions."

The cost is \$199 a person, which includes a continental breakfast and banquet lunch. Seating is limited.

To register visit [www.portlandgeneral.com/diversitysummit](http://www.portlandgeneral.com/diversitysummit) by April 15. Participants requiring accommodations related to disabilities should call 503-464-2355 or 503-464-8890 (TDDY) or e-mail [diversity\\_summit\\_2004@pgn.com](mailto:diversity_summit_2004@pgn.com).

of who they are, it is an attack on their entire community, and no less an act of terrorism."

Since 1969, federal law has permitted prosecution of hate crimes motivated by race, religion, national origin or color, if the victim was engaging in one of six protected activities. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act would broaden federal jurisdiction to include hate crimes that cause death or bodily injury and add sexual orientation, gender and disability to the covered categories.

Smith first sponsored the bill with Kennedy in 1999 and again in 2001 and 2003. It was also introduced as an amendment to legislation in both 1999 and 2000.

### COMMUNITY CENTER FORUM DATE CHANGES

A queer community center study forum will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. April 19 at the Multnomah Building, 501 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. The meeting previously was scheduled to take place March 24.

The first half-hour will be devoted to socializing, then organizers will discuss a feasibility study and update everyone on their next steps. The LGBTQ Community Center Fund Board is in the process of conducting a survey of local groups to assess potential tenants for the facility.

Organizations interested in a queer community center should call 503-239-6820 or e-mail [jkcj11@hotmail.com](mailto:jkcj11@hotmail.com). For more information visit [www.outwithit2003.com](http://www.outwithit2003.com).

### DARCELLE'S HOMECOMING

Portland's premier drag queen will return to the neighborhood where she grew up to help raise money for the Linnton Community Center.

Darcelle XV will headline a benefit extravaganza 7 p.m. April 25 at the historic facility, which is located at 10614 N.W. St. Helens Road, about one mile northwest of the St. John's Bridge on U.S. Highway 30. She will be joined by her performance troupe for a night of their legendary "Glitz 'n' Glamour" comedy.

Beer and wine will be served at a no-host bar, and light snacks and a dessert bar will be available. Tickets are \$20 a person and are available both at the door or in advance at Linnton Feed and Seed, 10920 N.W. St. Helens Road.

Darcelle, aka Walter Cole, has special roots in the neighborhood. He was raised in Linnton and has fond memories of the center being an essential part of growing up for generations of youth.

Darcelle performed at a similar fund-raiser in February 2003, when the center was in danger of closing for good. The facility has served generations of families with children's activities including 4H and Girl Scout meetings, skating, volleyball, arts and crafts, a library, a summer camp, a Sunday school, a teen after-school program and a morning preschool.

For more information call 503-286-4990 or e-mail [communitycenter@linnton.com](mailto:communitycenter@linnton.com).



PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith has introduced a hate crimes amendment that would expand federal law to include sexual orientation, gender and disability

### SMITH: HATE CRIMES ARE ACTS OF TERRORISM

U.S. Sens. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., and Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., announced March 30 that they have introduced a hate crimes bill as an amendment to House Resolution 4, the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families reauthorization bill being debated in the U.S. Senate.

"A government's first duty is to protect and defend its citizens. Our laws should do that by reflecting our highest values," Smith said. "This bill sends a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable. When someone is targeted because

### RURAL ACTIVISTS WILL STRATEGIZE

Small-town activists will have the opportunity to connect with other people who share their passion for justice during the Rural Organizing Project's annual caucus and strategy session May 15 in Oregon City.

The event will be a frank discussion on how to respond to wedge issues like marriage, taxes, civil liberties and immigrant rights. Participants will learn specific skills for building their base, getting their message out to voters, recruiting