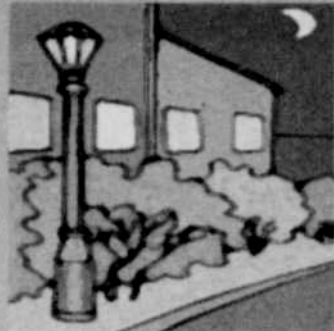


**NORTHWEST newsbriefs**

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### BEND CONSIDERS BAN ON DISCRIMINATION

The Bend City Council will vote April 21 on a proposed civil rights ordinance outlawing discrimination against gay, lesbian and trans people in housing, employment and public places such as restaurants. The hearing will start at 7 p.m. in the historic Tower Theatre, 837 N.W. Wall St.

According to Basic Rights Oregon, councilors have been flooded with hundreds of e-mails urging them to approve or kill the bill. The Portland-based organization has been collaborating with a group of community leaders and activists in Bend to build coalitions, gather support and draft a nondiscrimination ordinance inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity.

"This is the biggest thing we've had," Councilor Chris Telfer said. "Usually we're lucky to get a handful of responses. This is huge."

Councilor John Hummel, who sponsored the ordinance, said some opponents go too far in their vilification of homosexuality. "There is nothing wrong with disagreeing with government. But I don't see how the debate is helped by the nasty, derogatory nature of some of the responses."

The Tower Theater was at capacity March 31 for the first round of testimony, most of which was in favor of the proposed ordinance. For four hours the council listened to personal stories about discrimination; parents' concerns for the lives and well-being of their queer children; business interests who want to keep Bend a place where everyone feels welcome to visit, live and work; and clergy perspectives about the inherent value in every individual.

### LUNCHEON HONORS FAIR WORKPLACES

The 11th annual Oregonians Against Discrimination Luncheon was held April 14 at the Hilton Hotel.

Fair Workplace Project Awards were presented to Kaiser Permanente for creating a queer-friendly environment and to Support Diversity-Bend Together, a Central Oregon group that was formed in the aftermath of an anti-gay hate crime. The event raises money for the Basic Rights Education Fund, which

focuses on queer issues involving workplaces, schools, youth, hate crimes and families.

### LESBIAN GROUP FORECASTS FUTURE

The Lesbian Community Project is inviting past, present and future members to a meeting 2 p.m. April 24 at the YWCA, 1111 S.W. 10th Ave. The organization, which was formed in 1986, presents a broad range of educational, social, political, spiritual and financial activities promoting justice, peace and good will toward all.

"We are to decide the future of the organization and need community input to do so," board member Donna Lockett said. "LCP is almost 20 years of age and has impacted the community in many ways through the years. Now is a time of examining purpose, need and focus."

For more information call 503-227-0605, e-mail [lcp@xpri.net](mailto:lcp@xpri.net) or visit [www.xpri.net/~lcp](http://www.xpri.net/~lcp).

### DAY OF SILENCE, NIGHT OF NOISE

An estimated record-setting 250,000 students will not speak for an entire school day in a nationwide effort to peacefully protest the discrimination and harassment faced by gay, lesbian, bi and trans youth.

This year's Day of Silence will take place April 21. More than 50 Oregon schools will be participating, including kids from Albany, Arlington, The Dalles, Roseburg, Seaside, Springfield, Tillamook and Woodburn.

According to the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network's 2003 National School Climate Survey, more than four out of five queer students experience verbal, sexual or physical harassment at school and nearly 30 percent report missing at least a day of school in the past month out of fear for their personal safety. The Day of Silence is one way students and their allies are making anti-gay bullying, harassment and name-calling unacceptable in U.S. schools.



Sue Caulfield of Kaiser Permanente accepts the Fair Workplace Project Award during the Oregonians Against Discrimination Luncheon on April 14 at the Hilton Hotel; inset, Multnomah County Commissioner Diane Linn (left) catches up with former Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts