

## NORTHWEST newsbriefs

"It is with overwhelming pride and excitement that GLSEN once again prepares to coordinate the Day of Silence," executive director Kevin Jennings said. "All of us at GLSEN are moved and inspired by the record-setting number of students who will be silently, yet powerfully, standing up for themselves, their peers and the ideals of safe and effective schools for all."

Students will have the opportunity to break their silence later that evening during the second annual Night of Noise rally from 5 to 8 p.m. in Pioneer Courthouse Square. The event, which is organized by Basic Rights Oregon's Youth Action Caucus, will allow sexual and gender minority youth to speak about their personal and political experiences and will feature information tables, performers and speeches from adult allies who have made contributions to the sexual minorities community. Everyone is welcome to attend to educate, learn and cheer about creating safer schools and communities.

For more information call program coordinator Melissa Shepherd at 503-222-6151.

### FILM DOCUMENTS STUDENT BULLYING

A groundbreaking documentary on bullying—solely in the voices of youth—will screen 3 p.m. May 2 at Hollywood Theatre, 4122 N.E. Sandy Blvd.

The 35-minute *Let's Get Real* will be followed by a one-hour question-and-answer session with presenter Sima Teherani, *Love Makes a Family* outreach and education director. Admission costs \$3.

"*Let's Get Real* lets students speak for themselves about the dangers they face in the classroom," said Jerry Newberry, National Education Association Health Information Network executive director. "This film should be required viewing for anyone interested in providing safe schools for young people."

*Let's Get Real* is part of a national campaign to prevent violence in junior high schools. The film, directed by Oscar-winning documentarian Debra Chasnoff, is designed to support students speaking up both to their peers and the adults in their lives and to encourage empathy in order to prevent acts of aggression and violence.

The NEA estimates that 160,000 children miss school every day because they fear attack or intimidation by other students. According to the U.S. Secret Service's 2002 report *Safe School Initiative*, many of the youth involved in school shootings cited bullying as a contributing factor to their violent behavior.

"Bullying should not be accepted as a rite of passage," co-producer Helen S. Cohen said. "*Let's Get Real* can help fuel the movement of educators, youth service providers, parents and caregivers who realize that in order to address this complex problem, we must listen to youth—and allow them to speak honestly for themselves—about its root causes."

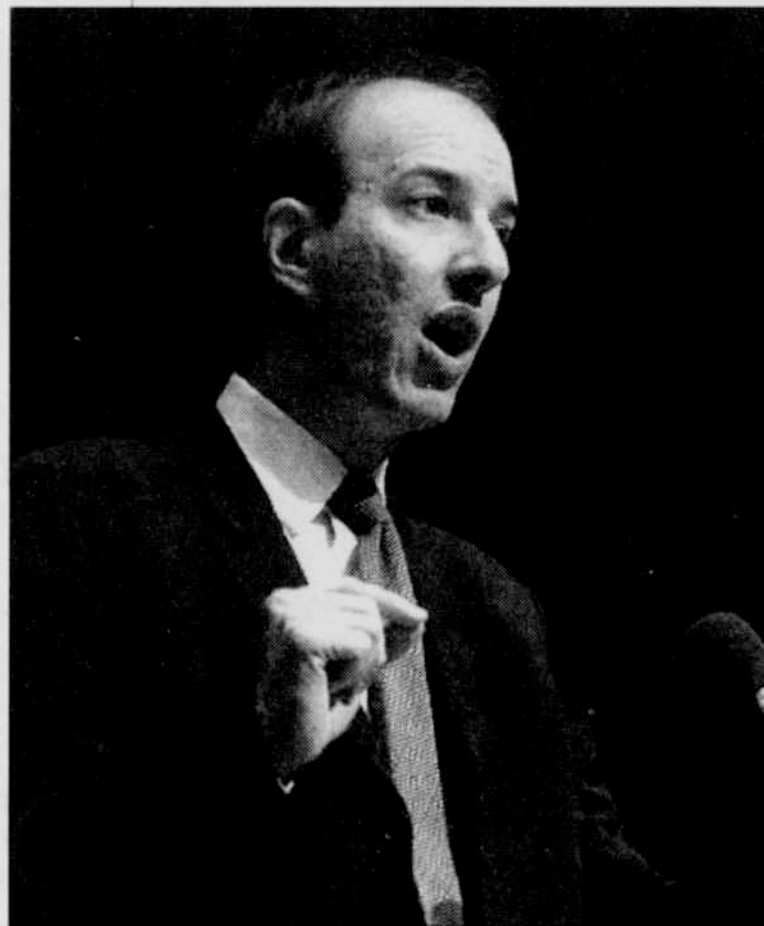
Unlike other resources on the topic of bullying, *Let's Get Real* does not shy away from the sensitive social issues that often fuel conflicts at school. The students in the film speak directly, for example, about racial tension, anti-gay taunting and sexual harassment.

As Tina, a sixth-grader featured in the film, says: "When they call me 'Bruce Lee's

daughter' or 'Ching, Chang, Chong,' I just get this fire inside of me that I can't put out and I just get really angry. But at school, nothing really happens. I can't get anything to happen."

*Let's Get Real* is the latest release from the Respect for All Project, which also made 2000's *That's a Family!*, a film for kids about family diversity that was screened at the White House, and 1996's *It's Elementary—Talking About Gay Issues in School*, one of the most hotly discussed documentaries ever to air on public television.

For more information visit [www.respectforall.org](http://www.respectforall.org).



Anthony Romero is the first Latino and openly gay man to serve as executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union

### NATIONAL ACLU CHIEF IS COMING TO PORTLAND

Anthony Romero, the first Latino and openly gay man to serve as executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, will make his inaugural visit to Oregon next month for the E.B. MacNaughton Awards Dinner.

The benefit starts 6 p.m. May 26 at the Hilton Hotel, 921 S.W. Sixth Ave. Dinner will be served at 7.

The keynote speech will be delivered by Romero, who took the helm of the ACLU in September 2001, a week before the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Under his leadership, the organization has stood up for civil liberties and maintained that it is possible to be both safe and free. Romero, an attorney with a history of public interest activism, has also presided over the most successful membership drive in the ACLU's history.

This year's MacNaughton Award will honor former Oregon Supreme Court Justice Betty Roberts, who solemnized the state's first same-sex marriages March 3. According to the ACLU, she has been a consistent and effective leader in preserving and expanding the basic rights of all Oregonians throughout her public career as a state legislator and jurist.

Tickets cost \$125. For an additional \$75, donors will be able to attend a hosted reception with Romero at 5:30 p.m.

To reserve tickets contact Soudary Kittivong-Greenbaum at 503-227-3186 or [skg@aclu-or.org](mailto:skg@aclu-or.org).

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