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Celebrate your successful arrival into adulthood with a sentimental and joyous reflection on growing up. The centerpiece of our musical Journey will be the multi-award winning "Oliver Button is a Sissy" based on the book by Tomie dePaola with music by Alan Shorter. Oliver will enchant adults and inspire children of all ages.

A CONCERT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2004 @ 8 P.M.

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2004 @ 2 P.M.

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WIN SOME, LOSE SOME

Judge issues mixed ruling on same-sex marriage

by Bob Roehr and Jim Radosta



Multnomah County Commissioners Serena Cruz (left) and Lisa Naito react to the ruling at a news conference April 20

Banning same-sex marriage is a violation of Article I, Section 20 of the Oregon Constitution, which guarantees "equal privileges and immunities for all," according to a ruling April 20 by Multnomah County Circuit Judge Frank Bearden.

He declared that the 3,022 marriage licenses already issued to gay and lesbian couples are legally valid, but at the same time he ordered the county to suspend issuing new licenses to same-sex couples.

Bearden gave the state Legislature 90 days from the start of its next session either to adapt existing law to include gays or to shape a Vermont-style civil union measure that would afford those same "privileges and immunities." If it does not do so, the county may again begin to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

"These are the first legally recognized gay marriages in the country," said David Fidanque, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon, which brought the suit on behalf of nine gay and lesbian couples. "The court rightly recognized that same-sex couples are discriminated against by the state in marriage."

But he criticized the decision for leaving open the possibility of creating civil unions. "You can't use the law to say one group of Americans is not as good as another."

Cheryl Jacques, president of the Human

Rights Campaign, said, "We are hopeful that Oregon will give same-sex couples equal access to marriage—and all the rights it bestows."

Defense of Marriage Coalition attorney Kelly Clark was pleased with the decision because it moves same-sex marriage into the Legislature for what he called "a reasoned, dignified public debate about these issues."

The Oregon Legislature is scheduled to meet in special session in June to deal with issues of tax reform, but it is unclear whether that session will take place or be canceled.

All parties in the case had anticipated from the outset that the case would be appealed on an expedited basis to the Oregon Supreme Court; the only question is whether it will bypass or go through an intermediary appeals court.

The speed of the decision surprised many, who had anticipated a ruling by the end of the week, on April 23. Gay rights advocates and traditional marriage defenders had made their cases in the Portland courtroom only a few days earlier, on April 16.

Bearden said that summary judgment motions generally are based upon the submitted briefs, in this case totaling 300 pages, and that seldom is there an opportunity for oral arguments. But because he thought this lawsuit is unique and important, as is the need for "public awareness every step of the way," he scheduled two hours of arguments for the parties to make their cases.

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MICHAEL ALLEN HARRISON & JULIANNE JOHNSON

**Friday, May 21st
8:00pm**

**The Old Church
1422 SW 11th
Portland, Oregon**

Tickets
\$25.00 In advance
\$30.00 At the door

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Balloons on Broadway, 617 SW Washington
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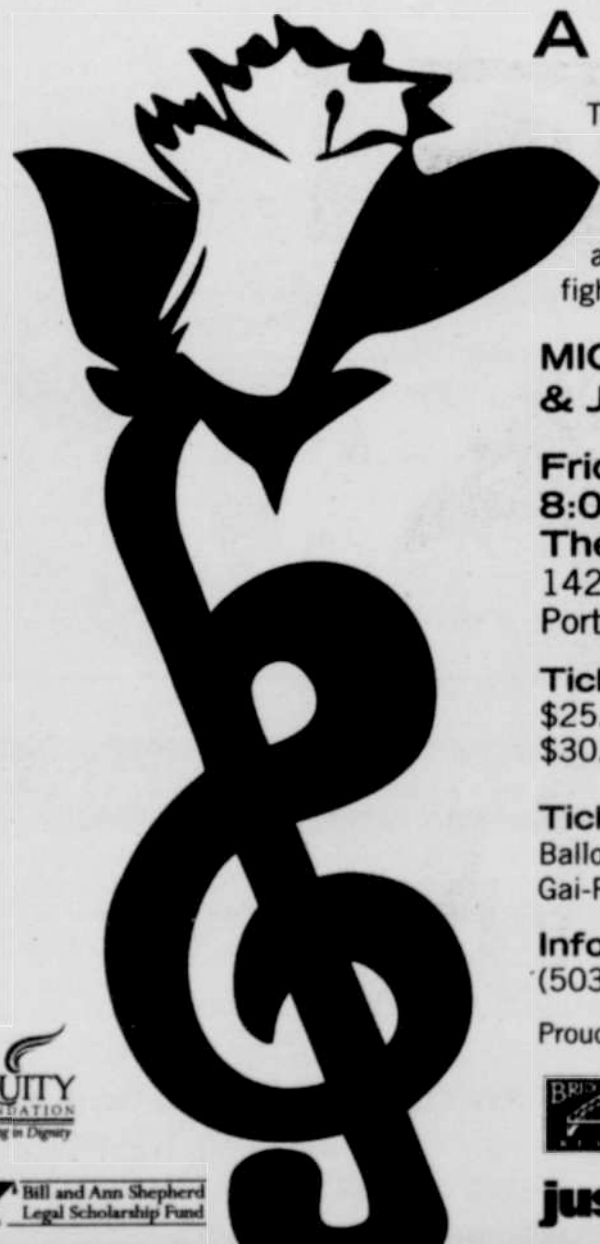
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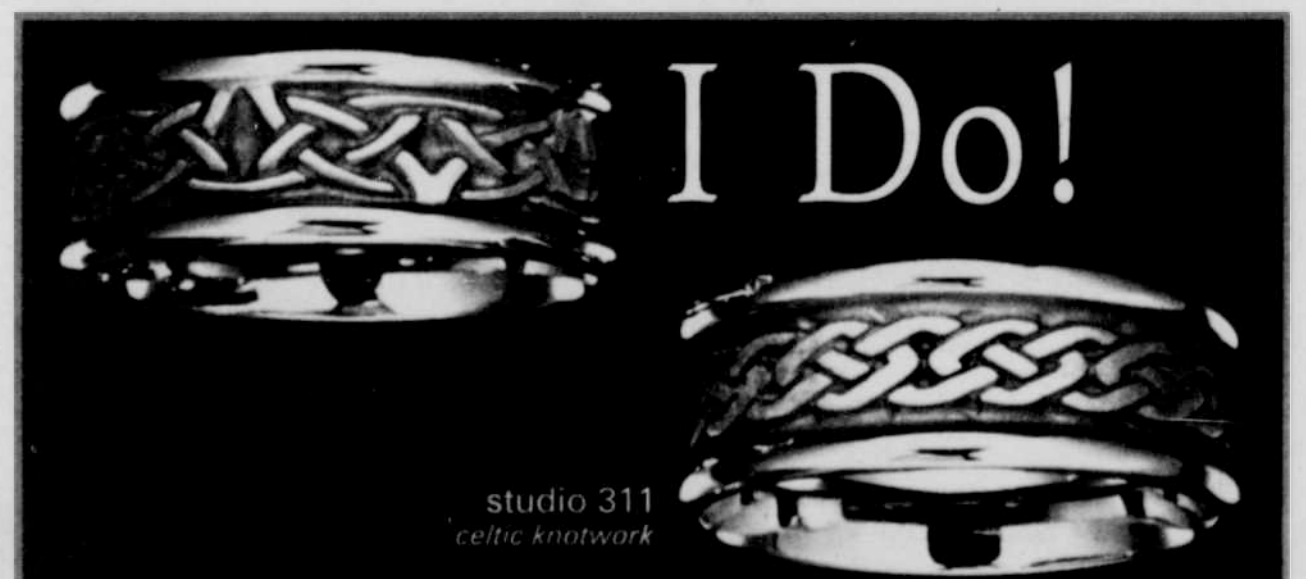
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