

NORTHWEST newsbriefs

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politics—comfortable shoes, cool black beret and a rucksack full of voter registration cards were part of the suggested outfit.

The all-day meeting also addressed lessons learned from previous campaigns, targeting ideal voters, building relationships with voters, how to address “wedge issues” and managing data. ROP staff presented a one-hour workshop on “Building a Machine with Heart,” in which they dramatized ways to connect with voters in rural areas.

Salvador Peralta, Yamhill County Democrats chairman, urged fellow groups to “promote our ideals through the Democratic Party...without compromising our values.” He said progressives could learn from the Christian Coalition, which has been relatively successful in mainstreaming its agenda.

Ben Talley spoke about Pendleton Commons’ recent effort to pass a progressive tax measure in eastern Oregon. He recounted a three-pronged approach to success: “keep it local,” “keep it personal” and “keep it inclusive.” Talley particularly stressed the advantage to be gained from engaging and including the business community.

The strategy session concluded with a speech by U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio. ROP field organizer Cara Shufelt said it was “refreshing to hear a presidential candidate talk about issues facing rural Americans.”

Shufelt told *Just Out* the day was a success. “We were able in a bigger way to kick off how



U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio, spoke May 15 at the Rural Caucus and Strategy Session in Oregon City

rural and small-town Oregonians are going to...win justice on Nov. 2,” she said. “And also get more people involved who are ready to work for progressive values.”

PERFORMANCES ADDRESS HOMOPHOBIA, RACISM

A total of 15 students will use an innovative, dynamic form of interactive theater to educate people about oppression this month at Portland Community College’s Sylvania Campus, 12000 S.W. 49th Ave.

The *Illumination Project* will focus on homophobia from 1 to 2:20 p.m. May 24 and from 2 to 3:20 p.m. May 27 in the Little Theater as well as from 11 to 11:50 a.m. in the Performing Art Cen-

ter Lobby. It will tackle homophobia and racism from 6 to 8:30 p.m. May 25 in the Little Theater.

“Racism and homophobia are so ingrained in our society, they often go unnoticed,” said Jeanne LaFrance, director of Art for Action, an organization dedicated to the use of theater for education and social justice. “This interactive performance is meant to help strip away ignorance around these issues.”

To arrange for off-campus performances or to make reservations, call 503-977-8149 or e-mail jlafranc@pcc.edu.

WORKSHOP TEACHES YOUTH ABOUT DRAG

Portland drag troupe DK PDX held an innovative workshop for youth May 14 at the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center. Hosted by Randy Bush and Simon LeBongo, the workshop focused on the expanding definitions of drag, how to transform oneself into a drag star and drag performance. A dozen youth attended the workshop and shared their experiences with drag and learned new ways to express gendered personas through performance. Highlights of the night were facial hair tips and choosing personal drag star names and personas.

“Drag performance is expanding from the drag queen community to include drag kings, ‘bio’ queens and everything in between and beyond,” LeBongo told *Just Out*. “Youth perspectives are important in shaping this growing genre of queer art. Drag is a way for queer youth to express themselves and their politics and to capture an audience to think about sexual minority youth issues.”

DK PDX will showcase emerging queer

youth artists and performers during an all-ages Portland Pride party June 20 at the Meow Meow, 320 S.E. Second Ave.

For more information join the fan list at groups.yahoo.com/group/portlanddddragkings.

PRIDE NORTHWEST MAKES CHANGES

This year’s Portland Pride theme might be “Queer We Go Again!” but that doesn’t mean everything will be identical to past celebrations.

The biggest change in the festivities is the parade route. Previously it started at Lincoln High School, went down Broadway and cut through Stark Street and Old Town before arriving at Waterfront Park. This year, participants will gather at the corner of 15th Avenue and Glisan Street, wind through the Pearl District, head down Stark, zip across Old Town and end at Waterfront Park.

“In past years what people have complained about most about the parade was that it was too stretched out and too long and there were huge gaps in between, and that was because we crossed the MAX tracks before,” Pride Northwest spokesman Joe Dressman explains. “But now we’ve moved a little bit more toward Northwest so we don’t cross MAX. It’ll be more compact and it’ll go smoothly and there won’t be big gaps in between.”

Dressman notes the route will still take the parade past popular gay bars along Stark and in Old Town, although it no longer will go by Pioneer Courthouse Square.

“We have already heard a couple of people

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