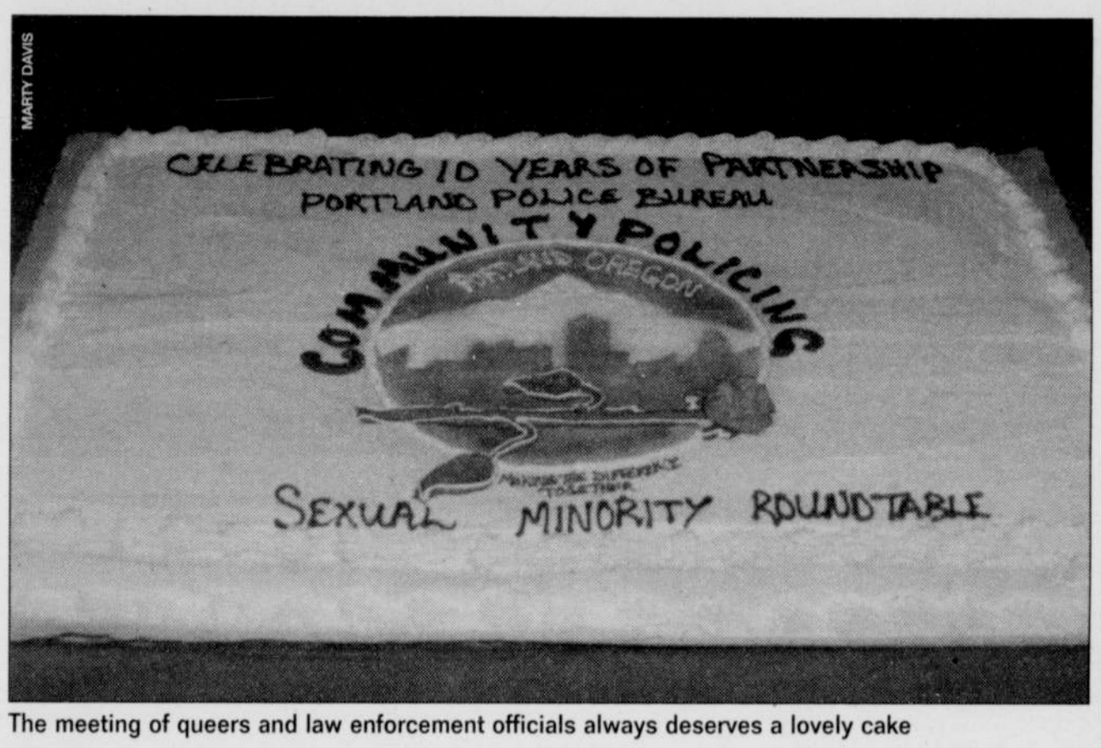

MARTY DAVIS

The meeting of queers and law enforcement officials always deserves a lovely cake

"We seem to be everywhere we need to be. I think that makes us look bigger than we are," says Kinoshita, who is a lesbian.

Kinoshita was hired on as BRO's sixth staff member in November. She previously worked for No on 36; when the campaign ended, she was offered the position of development director.

Her primary job is to keep the flow of funds coming in, through writing grants and requesting funds from donors and organizations. She also helps organize special events, including a wedding anniversary reception March 9 at Keller Auditorium. The fund-raising bash costs $50 a couple and $30 for singles.

Kinoshita is also gearing up for the Legislative Day of Action on March 3. The group is aiming to lure 1,000 Oregonians to Salem to speak to their representatives about equal rights for sexual minorities. BRO is also training participants on issues to discuss with lawmakers.

Kinoshita says her job is innately rewarding.

"I get to do something so much more satisfying than just earning a paycheck. When you're raising money for good causes, you get to come in contact with people who are inspired and caring individuals, improving the lives of others," says Kinoshita.

Kinoshita, a Portlander for two years, has an extensive background in marketing and raised funds for HIV/AIDS and breast cancer organizations in Los Angeles.

"BRO has taken on some big challenges, and I appreciate getting on the side of an organization making changes to fight for equality," she says.

—*JRC*

Homophobic Comments on the Rise at PSU

Sexual minority students at Portland State University are feeling less comfortable on campus after the passage of Measure 36, according to the student group Queers & Allies.

"There's a general feeling of mistrust and unease around campus amongst queer students," says publicity coordinator Cameron Vogt.

He says QA members have reported a spike in derogatory comments around campus toward sexual and gender minority students. He hasn't experienced any face-to-face confrontations personally but has overheard a proliferation of negative remarks in hallways and other common areas.

"It seems like people think passing a measure that discriminates against people is an excuse to treat them like less than human," he adds.

Chris Estes, another QA member, notes an increase in the use of the word "fag." He has also witnessed students being harassed on campus for wearing items that are queer-supportive or identifying.

Redge McGee, a female-to-male trans student, said he may decide not to come out on campus at all, due to the hurtful transphobic comments made in classes and elsewhere.

PSU President Dan Bernstine released a notice to faculty, staff and students in December reminding them to honor diversity on campus and condemning bias-motivated behavior within the university community.

QA plans to address the problem and promote diversity on campus during its Queer Awareness Week, April 17 to 22.

"We want to create a dialogue between students and the queer community on campus so that we can talk about these issues, rather than having them come out in a verbally or physically violent manner," says Vogt.

—*Rebecca Ragain*

Sexual Minority Roundtable Signs Partnership Agreement

The Sexual Minority Roundtable is an organization that works to enhance the relationship and cooperation between law enforcement and the queer community. Its goals include fostering an environment of mutual respect, improving dialogue between communities, finding solutions to problems related to public safety and law enforcement training, and helping improve policies, procedures and recruitment.

The agreement that formed this organization marked its 10th anniversary Feb. 8 and, as part of its mission as a "living document," was signed by a number of community partners. Present at the signing were representatives from organizations including Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays; Basic Rights Oregon; Love Makes a Family; Portland Leather Alliance; Our House of Portland; Pride Northwest; and this newspaper. Also present were Multnomah County Commissioner Diane Linn, as well as representatives from Portland City Commissioner Sam Adams' office.

The public is invited to attend and speak at roundtable meetings. Assistant Chief Jim Ferraris meets with the roundtable from noon to 1:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the Chief's Office Conference Room at the Justice Center, 1120 S.W. Third Ave.

For more information about the roundtable, contact Danny Rosen at cport_smrt@yahoo.com, Leumis Richardson at illuminatusrex @hotmail.com or Kathy Lee at 503-823-0027.

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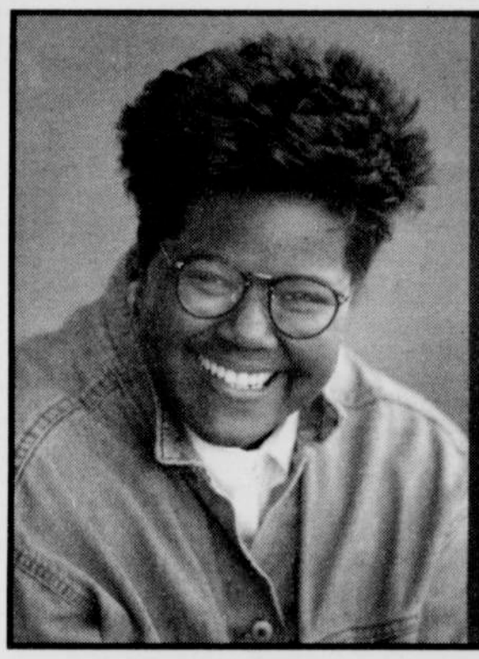
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