

notables

The votes are in, and we now have a friend on the Portland Public Schools board! Openly gay candidate Dan Ryan trounced the competition with just more than 50 percent of the vote out of a field of six candidates in the special election May 17. *Just Out* congratulates him on his victory!

Pride Northwest explains parade route change

TO THE EDITOR:

It's that time again in the Rose City. Pride season is upon us, and a dedicated yet small group of individuals has been hard at work ensuring Pride '05 does indeed take place. It takes thousands of man hours and a willingness to work to put an event of this magnitude together well before the weekend itself. Every year, permits have to be secured, entertainers contracted and routes proposed.

Pride Northwest works with city officials and the police bureau on a constant basis to ensure everything that is required happens to keep the event out of jeopardy! There is nothing magical about making it all happen. Hard work and dedication are the words for the day. A small board of five people is giving up the thousands of hours it takes to put this event together.

Several changes have been made in attempts to take into consideration community feedback and issues offered by the various agencies we must partner with for Pride to happen. The major alteration is the parade route, which takes a different path this year.

Due to manpower concerns, city projects

and police bureau issues, we at Pride Northwest felt it necessary to simplify the route. We also took into consideration suggestions from the community. We have heard concerns from some community members that the route bypasses Stark Street, and we understand the displeasure presented; however, this organization has to make some changes at times to ensure the event may go forward.

We hope that the community can understand the sometimes difficult decisions that have to be made in the name of the event itself. For those who wish to understand the process it takes to put an event of this magnitude together, we invite you to attend a board meeting. Pride Northwest meetings have always been open to the public, and we welcome your suggestions and assistance.

This event is a community event, and it takes a community to produce it! Get involved! It's your Pride, Portland, own it!

TOBIN BRITTON
Pride Northwest

Where is Basic Rights Oregon?

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to know why the sudden push for civil unions. They provide no support for the family beyond the limits of Oregon's borders. They don't provide the full range of benefits and support a marriage provides.

Where is the educational program to reach out to Oregonians in order to promote the reality of marriage equality and take back Measure 36 from the books? This is the first time an amendment has been passed to deny

rights to a specific group of people. So why are we acting as if we are defeated, and why are we not reaching out to homes, churches, families and beyond to get the message out? Where is Basic Rights Oregon?

MICHEIL MACCUTCHEON
Portland

Friends of People with AIDS Foundation thanks Portland

TO THE EDITOR:

As chairman of the Friends of People with AIDS Foundation, I would like to thank our citizens, business owners and social organizations for their generous support for 15 years. If it weren't for you, we wouldn't be here, and if we weren't here, life for people with AIDS in Portland would be considerably bleaker.

The foundation has been providing services for people with HIV/AIDS in the Portland area since 1990. Our most visible service is Tod's Corner, where we provide a safe, free "shopping" experience for people with HIV to get the clothing, house wares and personal products they need.

The board of directors manages all aspects of the foundation. We have one part-time contractor who is responsible for managing Tod's Corner and dealing directly with case managers and clients.

AIDS is not over. People living with HIV/AIDS are living longer lives. And with that, the need for services grows. Here's a recent and telling trend: Of the clients we see each month, fully half are new to our system.

Because of these growing numbers, we need volunteers. So now we're turning to you, the community that has been so supportive through the years, to help us again.

You could help in many ways. Have you wanted to be involved but just couldn't find the right place? Do you like to manage fund-raisers? Do you have great ideas for fund-raisers that you just haven't been able to do? Do you have the time to take a seat on a board, to direct the foundation and guide it? Maybe you'd like us to call you for short-term bursts of commitment when projects come up, or maybe you'd like to help out at Tod's Corner on a regular basis.

Whatever level of involvement you decide on, we need dedicated, caring people who want to make a difference for the community. You can learn more about us at our Internet site, www.friendspwa.org.

If you are interested, please e-mail me at chair@friendspwa.org or call the foundation at 503-349-4699.

KEVIN M. FRIENDS
Friends of People with AIDS Foundation

Pope John Paul II and Reagan no friends of gays

TO THE EDITOR:

Matthew Veritas Tsien presents some interesting points of view regarding Pope John Paul II and Ronald Reagan, and in some other alternative universe they might have some relationship with reality ["Log Cabin Republican Weighs in on Pope, Ronald Reagan," April 15]. But not here.

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