

of business and civic leaders in the state, May 18 at the Oregon Convention Center. Top Ten Growth Award winners also are profiled in the May edition of *Oregon Business* magazine.

Awards are given in three categories: small, medium and large businesses. Winners are determined by the number of full-time-equivalent

West's city computer was used improperly.

In remarks to the City Council announcing his leave, West stated, "I hope that you and the people will reserve judgment on me until the newspaper is done persecuting me and allow me to have the fair opportunity to respond to each of the allegations in due time."



David Wagner (left) and Bill Dickey are featured in the May issue of *Oregon Business* magazine.

employees added in 2004, the percent increase of gross revenue/sales during the previous year and the length of time in business. (Firms have to be in business two years before they are eligible.) The alliance received more entries this year than ever before.

LESBIAN COMMUNITY PROJECT ANNOUNCES ANNUAL MEETING

In advance of its 20-year anniversary, and in celebration of the 20th year of the Lesbian Softball Tournament, the Lesbian Community Project invites members new and old to its annual meeting June 8. The meeting will take place from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the LCP office in Suite 256 of Union Station, 800 N.W. Sixth Ave.

Board member Donna Luckett reports that the meeting will focus on the coming year's programming and activities, including planning a conference to commemorate the 20 years that LCP has been working in the community. She hopes that old members will get re-engaged and that new members will get involved.

"In order to get anything done, the membership has to be active," she says. "Too many opinions and not enough backbone will get us nowhere."

LCP has approximately 200 members and a quarterly newsletter. To find more information about getting involved, visit www.lesbiancommunityproject.org.

SPOKANE MAYOR ACCUSED OF MOLESTING BOYS IN 1970S

Spokane, Wash., Mayor James E. West, a former Republican legislative leader and opponent of gay rights, has been accused of molesting two boys decades ago and more recently offering a City Hall internship during an online chat to someone he thought was a young man but was in reality a computer investigator hired by a Spokane newspaper.

The *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* reports that West, 54, has been on an informal temporary leave and not making comments since shortly after *The Spokesman-Review* began reporting May 5 that he offered city jobs to young men he met in a gay online chat room. The FBI has opened an inquiry into a possible public corruption case involving those allegations.

The city attorney is investigating whether

In response to the allegations, Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said: "Three victims of Mayor Jim West's predatory and appalling behavior have already come forward and, based on what we know about pedophiles, it's almost certain there are many more. Some media reports quote people as saying this is a 'tragic' situation for West and imply that his conduct showed he was 'uncomfortable with his identity.' Nonsense. Pedophilic behavior is always wrong and has nothing do with sexual orientation. This man—whether he's straight, bisexual or gay—deserves nothing but scorn. He needs to resign immediately."

For complete information, including chat room transcripts linked to Jim West, visit www.spokesmanreview.com/jimwest.

GLSEN CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

One out of every three queer students skipped school in the past month because they were simply afraid to go, experts say. According to a report, 39 percent of queer students say they were verbally or physically assaulted, often with a weapon. These statistics signal that American schools still have a long way to go in protecting queer youth from verbal and physical harassment and abuse.

Kevin Jennings, a former high school history teacher, founded the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network a decade ago. Now the country's leading national education organization with more than 2,800 registered student clubs, the continuing strenuous effort of GLSEN and its "student heroes" make a life-changing difference to thousands of junior and high school students across the country.

To date, GLSEN has played host to eight national conferences that have brought together student leaders, educators, chapter leaders and activists. It also sponsors the Day of Silence, with nearly 2 million students, teachers and staff participating at 3,029 campuses across the country.

GLSEN's newest national project is "No Name-Calling Week." In coalition with leading education organizations, it collaborates to put on an event geared toward educating middle school students about the negative impact of

Continued on Page 10

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