

NORTHWEST newsbriefs

ly disenfranchised by the political process.

Emerge seeks to engage women, people of color, immigrants, youth and queer, low-income and conscientious Portlanders to create a civic and legislative vehicle of leaders to formally address issues of social oppression. Emerge has reached out to diverse community organizations, religious communities and other groups in search of "nontraditional" leaders—in other words, people who want to create social change but do not necessarily have the education or

AIDS Foundation. In addition, Mr. Oregon Cub 2004 Johnney Cub donated \$354 left from his travel fund. The Oregon Bears have again raised the bar in Portland for giving, and had fun while they did it.

The money donated to the foundation stays in Portland to help people with AIDS. Out of every dollar that is donated, roughly 94 cents goes back into programs. The administrative costs of the organization are less than 6 percent of the annual budget.



Multnomah County Commissioner Diane Linn speaks to Emerge trainees.

past involvement in community or political issues typically associated with leadership.

A group of 15 trainees held dialogues Aug. 27 with local government officials as to how politicians can be truly accessible and accountable to their communities. Those invited included Mayor Tom Potter; Portland, Multnomah County and Metro commissioners; and several Portland Public Schools board members. All officials talked briefly about the basics of their job and their personal goals and visions, then the floor was opened up to trainees for questions.

Emerge participant Shalonda Menefee is concerned about "the budget cuts, revitalization and diversification of Portland which all play into the cycle of gentrification." Of the training in general, she says it "is helping me to gain more confidence to use my God-given power to serve my community. I am becoming more comfortable making connections and assisting in making much-needed changes in my community while inspiring others to do the same along the way."

On the first day of the Emerge training Aug. 13, participants explored their relationship to power and how power and self-interest can be engaged for positive social change. On the final day of the training, Sept. 10, state Rep. Chip Shields, D-Northeast Portland, will deliver a presentation on how to run for local office followed by a workshop by Felisa Hagins of Service Employees International Union Local 49 on how to run a ballot initiative.

For more information about Emerge, call Courtney at 971-544-1350.

BEARS RAISE MONEY FOR FRIENDS OF PEOPLE WITH AIDS

The Oregon Bears' Beartown and Firehouse Party fund-raiser during Portland Pride weekend raised \$5,500 for the Friends of People with

The Bears are a consistent supporter of the foundation, as well as of Hopewell House and Doernbecher Children's Hospital. For more information about their activities, go to www.oregonbears.org.

ACLU's LGBT RIGHTS PROJECT CALLS FOR COUPLES' STORIES

The National American Civil Liberties Union's LGBT Rights Project is in search of same-sex Oregon couples who would like to share their story regarding harm and inequality of their relationship compared to that of a heterosexual couple.

The ACLU is going to be looking for couples who would eventually participate in a discrete benefits or civil union lawsuit who have a current need for benefits such as housing, survivor benefits and public assistance. Interested couples can visit www.alcu.org/couples and spend a few minutes telling their story.

GAY AND LESBIAN MORMONS TO HOLD VIGIL FOR SUICIDE VICTIMS

A candlelight vigil will be held in memory of those the community has lost to suicide when they could not reconcile the messages from their religious communities with their sexuality. The event will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Sept. 7 in front of the Mormon temple in Lake Oswego.

"No More Deaths! No More Silence!" will focus on the harmful effects on sexual minorities when powerful forces within a culture send damaging messages by their actions and words. The vigil will highlight the value of love and education to overcome the resulting problems and strengthen the families affected.

This event is open to all families of every faith. It is being sponsored by Affirmation: Gay

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Management at OPB needs to be fair to the workers that bring you Oregon Field Guide and Oregon Art Beat every week.

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A message from the engineers, receptionists, administrative assistants, editors, graphic artists and videographers who keep OPB on the air — members of Service Employees International Union, Local 503, OPEU.



RE/MAX equity group



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