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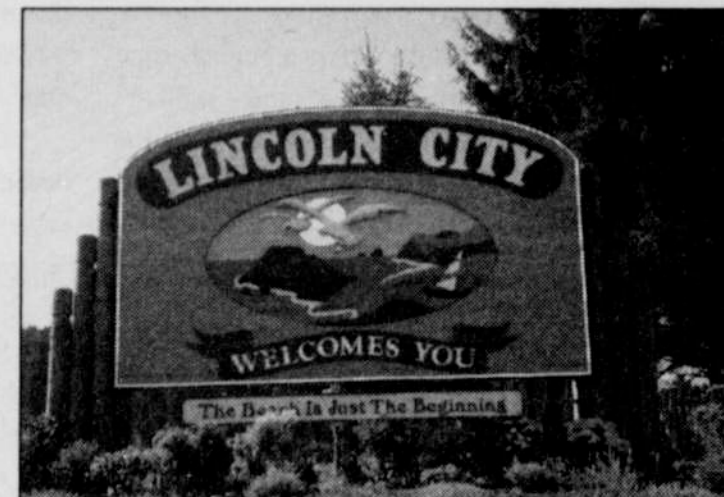
Lincoln City Officials Approve Equal Rights Ordinance

Lincoln City officials unanimously approved an equal rights ordinance Nov. 14 prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

"These are basic civil rights protections that should have been in place long ago," said openly gay City Councilor Rick Brissette. "Ending discrimination based on sexual orientation throughout Oregon is good public policy. It is consistent with the existing civil rights protections that are designed to protect our most vulnerable citizens."

The standing-room-only crowd of citizens who turned out to support the ordinance

watched Lincoln City become Oregon's first coastal town to make discrimination against its queer citizens and visitors illegal.



Lincoln City is more welcoming than ever with a new Equal Rights Ordinance.

A Ditty for Late Night

Portland band Pink Martini made its national television debut Nov. 22 on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*. The hometown musicians belted out "Let's Never Stop Falling in Love" from their *Hang on Little Tomato* album. Although they garnered no couch time with the freckled giant, O'Brien called them "a class act."

media watch

since founder Misty McElroy resigned Nov. 8, reportedly under pressure from the camp's four-member board. She attempted to renege on the resignation, but the board wouldn't accept her back and is conducting a national search to scout out her replacement.

McElroy is the girlfriend of feminist author Inga Muscio, who penned *Cunt: A Declaration of Independence*.

Slippery were the facts surrounding McElroy's personal life, which she reportedly believes triggered the board's lack of confidence in her ability to return as camp leader. A police report regarding an alleged attack by a stalker was not available because the case is under investigation.

"She says she has a stalker who stabbed her in the shoulder with a screwdriver in October 2004 at the otherwise empty campsite," stated the article.

While no one blatantly called McElroy's mental health into question, the newest board member and parent of a camper, Deane Funk, suggested any pressure to remove McElroy from the organization is "a figment of her imagination." He also said in the article that he knows little about any attack or stalker.

Gender Dish

National Public Radio's *Philosophy Talk* took on gender issues Nov. 17, dedicating the heady show to a discussion on what gender is and whether it's fixed or static, socially constructed or culturally variable.

Guest Anne Fausto-Sterling, professor of biology and gender studies at Brown University, shed light on the rarely recognized issue. Until recently, her laboratory work focused on the evolution of regeneration and sexual reproduction in flatworms. Her new work applies cultural theories to the study of human development.

Portland's own Click Patterdale, aka Sassy, shared insight about identifying as a trans person with roving reporter Amy Standen.

Oregonians Overlooked

Even though Portland is often hailed a lesbian mecca, boasts an overachieving gay city commissioner and has made national news for leading the same-sex marriage fight for civil rights in Multnomah County, Pacific Northwesterners were absent from *Out* magazine's "2005's Most Intriguing Gay Men, Lesbians and Straight Allies" top 100 list.

The mostly mainstream list was divided into the categories of television, film, politics, media, books, fashion and style, business, newsmakers, visual arts, performance, music, style makers and straight allies.

Melissa Etheridge was honored as Entertainer of the Year, and Sharon Stone was named Straight Ally of the Year.

Quieting the Rock

Willamette Week broke the story about trouble at the revered Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls in the Nov. 30 article "Rock Camp Blues."

There appears to be a leadership deficit at the camp



Anne Fausto-Sterling's research lends credence to the theory that gender is both natural and cultural.

Although it is somewhat unclear why Newsom would be asking Portlanders for money for his next campaign run in 2007, the strength of his support for the marriage issue seems to be what ties him (tenuously) to Portland.

Newsom has been routinely criticized on the pages of San Francisco weeklies for his ties to well-heeled gay businesspeople and for his consistent disregard of the concerns that continue to plague most of that city's gay population: economic issues facing the working and middle classes, rent control and services for the homeless. 10