

northwest

AIDS Reporting Policy Change

Oregon could lose 30 percent to 40 percent of \$10 million in federal funding to treat AIDS if it does not comply with a new reporting policy to permanently file names of people who test positive for HIV. The current system replaces names with a code after 90 days.

The change in policy is required by a federal rule intended to make HIV reporting uniform nationwide.

Public hearings are set to discuss the policy change in Bend from 1 to 3 p.m. March 20 in Stan Owns Conference Room at Deschutes County Health Department, 2577 N.E. Courtney Drive; in Eugene from 9 to 11 a.m. March 22 in Michael Rogers Room at Lane County Mental Health, 2411 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd; and in Portland from 9 a.m. to noon March 24 in Room 120B/C at Portland State Office Building, 800 N.E. Oregon St.

Comments can be made to Christina Hartman, Rules Coordination, Oregon Department of Human Services, 800 N.E. Oregon St., Suite 930, Portland, OR 97232; by fax at 971-673-1299; or via e-mail at christina.hartman@state.or.us. Deadline for comments is 5 p.m. March 24.

Governor Creates Equality Task Force

A new task force will review current laws and make recommendations to Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski about discrimination toward sexual minorities in employment, housing, public accommodations and other opportunities.

The task force was formed by executive order Feb. 9 in response to the defeat of Senate Bill 1000, which had an anti-discrimination component.

The task force, chaired by Portland businessman Paul Kelly, will make a recommendation to ensure that all state government affords the same rights and privileges to all Oregonians to the greatest extent permitted under federal law and the state constitution. It will also create a legal pathway for grievance, enforcement and resolution if Oregonians experience unequal treatment in public or private sectors.

Funding Women Artists

The McKenzie River Gathering Foundation is accepting applications for the 2006 Lilla Jewel Award for Women Artists in the category of performing arts. Applicants must be Oregon residents and identify as women.

Applications are due May 12. Up to \$4,000 will be awarded in June.

The Lilla Jewel award is given in honor of the vital role that artists play in enlivening movements for social justice. Women artists have traditionally been underfunded. The foundation encourages artists to apply who have been further marginalized by race, sexual orientation or gender identity.

For more information e-mail info@mrdfoundation.org or call 503-289-1517.

Union Calls for New Boss

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 88, the union representing the largest number of the 4,200 employees

of Multnomah County, has endorsed Ted Wheeler over incumbent Diane Linn for Multnomah County chair. The union described Wheeler as a strong leader and businessman.

"The candidates...were being evaluated for how well they stated they could work with others with whom they did not agree. The members sent a strong message that [the commission] is dysfunctional and an embarrassment to the employees of Multnomah County," stated the endorsement.

Gender Symposium

Combine the who's who of gender studies scholars and activists with the youthful energy of current student scholarship and discover the 25th annual Gender Studies Symposium at Lewis & Clark College. This year's symposium, titled "Body Language: Sexualities, Identities, and Time," is March 8 to 10.

The symposium explores a wide range of gender issues via readings, an art show, workshops, panels, performances, roundtable discussions and two keynote addresses by transgender activist Kate Bornstein and U.S. historian Estelle Freedman.

"The symposium focus this year encompasses complex questions about our self-perceptions, cultural ideas and personal experiences," said Kimberly Brodtkin, visiting assistant professor of humanities and symposium faculty director.



Historian Estelle Freedman is delivering a keynote address at Lewis & Clark's upcoming Gender Studies Symposium.

Bornstein, a transgender activist, performance artist and playwright, will give the first keynote presentation, titled "On Men, Women and the Rest of Us," 7:30 p.m. March 8. She will also lead an interactive workshop titled "Introduction to Gender Play" 10:45 a.m. March 8. Bornstein's numerous speaking appearances and performances mix feminist theory, personal experience and humorous observation in questioning ideas about gender, sexuality and identity.

Freedman, whose research focuses on women's history and feminist studies, will present the second keynote address, titled "Toward Sexual Self-Determination: Historical Perspectives on Female Sexuality," 7:30 p.m. March 9. She will lead a brown bag lunch discussion on "Women's Studies/Gender Studies/Feminist Studies—Past and Future" at 12:30 p.m. March 10. Freedman teaches U.S. History at Stanford, where she co-founded the university's feminist studies program.

Poet and novelist Michelle Tea will read from her works at 3:45 p.m. March 8, and performer DIYAA, also known as DRED, will perform at 7:30 p.m. March 10.

Nearly all of the activities are in Templeton Student Center at 0615 S.W. Palatine Hill Road.

For a schedule of events, visit www.lclark.edu/dept/gender/symposium.html. For more information contact Brodtkin at 503-768-7678 or kbrodtkin@lclark.edu.

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