



Suni Miani (left), a PGE lineman and Oregon Tradeswomen board member, demonstrates pole climbing at the 2004 Women in Trades Career Fair.

"Careers in the trades offer high wages, good benefits, the ability to stay in shape through physically challenging but rewarding work and a chance to use real-life applications of math and science on the job," says Terri Wiley, the group's communications and membership director. "Many of our members and graduates of our pre-apprenticeship classes report a strong sense of satisfaction knowing they've helped build, create or repair something, whether it's a house, a road, a hospital or a power line."

Jen Netherwood, a Portland queer carpenter and graduate of Oregon Tradeswomen's pre-apprenticeship class, says she still likes her customers' "double take" when they see a woman on the job. Although less than 3 percent of the trades work force is female, "The Women in Trades Fair and ongoing programs by Oregon Tradeswomen can help confront stereotypes and provide perspective on tradesworkers," says Wiley.

The event will be held at the National Electrical Contractors Association/International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Training Center, 16021 N.E. Airport Way. The fair is free, and child care, parking and shuttle service from the Gateway Transit Center are provided. For more information call 503-335-8200, ext. 21, or visit www.tradeswomen.net.

Equality Task Force Assembled

Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski's new Equality Task Force assembled its board this month.

Former Nike executive Paul Kelly was appointed to chair the task force.

According to Kelly, the task force will consider whether any changes need to be made to state laws to ensure that no Oregonians are discriminated against in employment, housing, public accommodations or any opportunities because of sexual orientation or gender identity. "I see it as an issue of avoidance of discrimination," he said.

Kelly brings more than three decades of legal and business experience to that position. An attorney with Garvey Schubert Barer, he was previously Nike's global director of public affairs and a board member of the Oregon Business Association and Portland Business Alliance. He was a member of the Oregon Business Plan Steering Committee and participated in Kulongoski's transition steering committee. Prior to that, Kelly was in private law practice in Oregon for 11 years, where he argued cases before



Paul Kelly, a former Nike executive, was appointed to chair the governor's Equality Task Force.

the Oregon Supreme Court, the Oregon Court of Appeals and the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

He began his legal career in public service as a legal aid lawyer and, ultimately, executive director of Multnomah County Legal Aid Service, the oldest civil legal services program for the poor in Oregon.

"My work as a legal aid lawyer, my work in private practice in a variety of matters including some civil rights matters, my role as head of public

affairs at Nike, which addressed a whole range of public policy issues, and I think my general experience in 35 years of practicing law, representing people, negotiating over issues, chairing business organizations—those sorts of experiences will help in chairing this task force, filling its responsibility as the governor addressed," said Kelly.

Task force members are Clara Padilla Andrews, publisher of *El Hispanic News*; Lincoln City Councilor Rick Brissette; Sara Mason, CareOregon health care consultant; Sho Dozono, president of Azumano Travel; Bruce Samson, former officer and legal counsel for Portland Public Schools, Northwest Natural and U.S. West; the Rev. Eugene Ross of United Church of Christ; education consultant Calvin O.L. Henry; Dan Bryant, senior minister of First Christian Church; Benton County Commissioner Annabelle Jaramillo; and Tiffany Telfer, president of Pinpointe. Nonvoting advising members are Amy Klare of the Bureau of Labor and Industries and Don Arnold and Dave Hicks of the Department of Justice.

The task force plans to meet for the first time April 12.

Church School Plans Shelved

A chorus of queer rights supporters, education watchdogs and parents successfully blocked a church from opening an alternative school at Jefferson High School.

Red flags were raised by the group Neighborhood Schools Alliance when it learned the Academy of Character and Ethics, proposed by Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, could open on the Jefferson campus in the fall. The group found fault

with the process of greenlighting the school without public input and became concerned to learn the church referred to the school as one of its "missionary projects" on its Web site.

The school, aiming to reach at-risk youth, was granted funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and has partnered with Portland Community College.

Though organizers claim the curriculum was not steeped in Scripture, the church's pastor, the Rev. James E. Martin, was on the school board. He has since stepped down but continues to advocate for the school at a different location.

Martin's letter sent to Portland Public Schools Superintendent Vicki Phillips on March 24 states: "It is...obvious that more time and intentional work needs to be done in order to embrace a broad-

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