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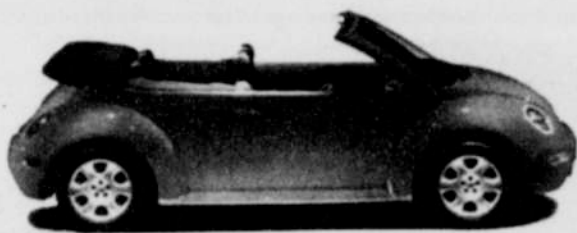
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northwest

Continued from Page 9

er community-based collaboration involving co-location.... Therefore, this letter is written to inform you that the Academy of Character and Ethics has decided to pursue other venues for implementing its school."

Basic Rights Oregon joined those with serious concerns about the church's roll in a publicly funded school, calling Mt. Olivet an "anti-gay church."

"We all agree that a school providing rigorous, college-prep education for primarily African-American youth has enormous positive potential for the community, but that any such school must provide an environment that is safe, supportive and positive for all students, families and administrators," said Rebekah Kassell, spokeswoman for BRO.

Mt. Olivet donated \$15,000 to the campaign for Measure 36, the ban on same-sex marriage passed in 2004.

The controversy peaked when Oregonian columnist Renee Mitchell's March 22 column preached, "You just oughta quit it" to naysayers of the church-backed school plan. "I'm...singling out those gay-rights folks accusing Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, one of the state's oldest and largest black churches, of using religion to potentially turn teenagers into homophobic gay-bashers," she wrote.

Despite the withdrawal, BRO claims Mt. Olivet's pullout is not a done deal and urges those concerned about the separation between church and state to contact school board members.

PFLAG Holds Regional Conference

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays' Regional Conference is from April 21 to 23 at the Lloyd Center Doubletree Hotel, 1000 N.E. Multnomah St.

The event is both a celebration and an opportunity to work together to build a strong region. Workshops will focus on enhancing the work that PFLAG chapters in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington are doing to ensure that sexual minority loved ones are treated with respect in all aspects of their lives, whether as students, employees or partners seeking legal recognition of their relationships.

Details about the conference can be found at nwpflagconf.tripod.com.

Organize Vancouver Pride

Saturday in the Park, an annual Pride celebration in Vancouver, Wash., needs volunteers for this

year's extravaganza.

Join the organizing committee 4 p.m. April 15 and May 20 at the Northbank, 106 W. Sixth St. This year's Saturday in the Park will be from noon to 6 p.m. July 8 at Esther Short Park.

For more information, e-mail loudebz@msn.com. For directions, call 360-695-3862.

BRO Seeks Field Organizers

Basic Rights Oregon is seeking people to join its field organizing team.

The field team is focused on a multi-year campaign to shift public consciousness, build political power and win policy victories for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality. BRO is hiring one full-time, permanent lead organizer and several full-time, temporary field organizers.

Applications are due 5 p.m. April 14. Include a cover letter, résumé, three references and salary requirements. For more information visit www.basicrights.org.

Queer Consortium Forms

Reed College's Queer Alliance is collaborating with nine educational institutions and the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center to form a greater Portland Queer Alliance or consortium group.

"Portland isn't very queer-friendly for those 18 to 20," said Jeff Maguire, leader of Reed's Queer Alliance. "SMYRC doesn't cover this crowd at all, and most in colleges don't have the time/money to go out and meet people at bars even after they are allowed to when they are 21."

According to Maguire, the group he proposes is primarily social, with some activism opportunities.

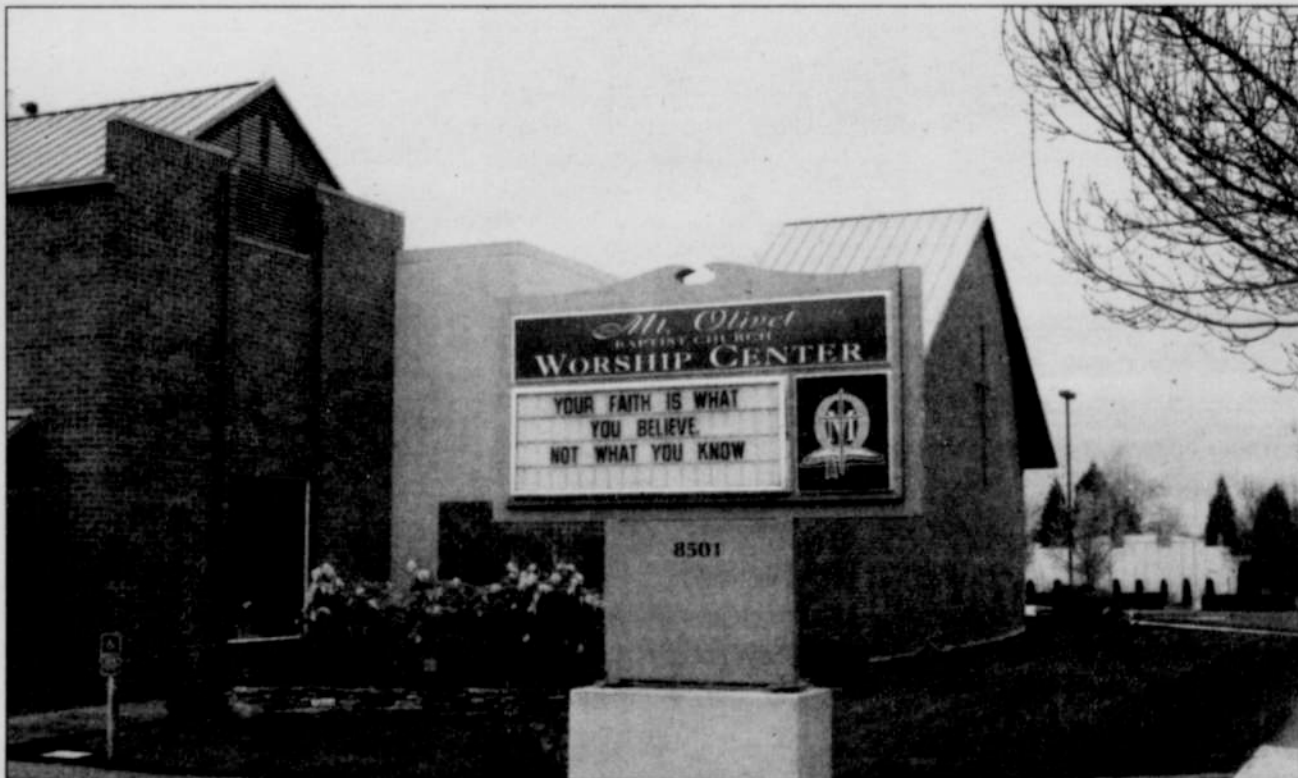
A mixer, including dancing, food and games, will be held 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. April 8 in Rooms B-D at Reed's Gray Campus Center, 3203 S.E. Woodstock Blvd. A college identification card is required. For more information call 503-490-5546 or e-mail maguirej@reed.edu or gibline@reed.edu.

Transgender Library Opens

Portland's first Trans/Gender/Sexual Health Reference Library opens 11 a.m. April 22 at Outside In's Trans/Identity Resource Centre.

After a presentation by writer, activist and educator Jamison Green at Outside In's lobby, 1132 S.W. 13th Ave., audience members will inaugurate the library at TIRC, 1030 S.W. 13th Ave.

Thanks to a \$9,600 grant from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, TIRC staff,



Mt. Olivet Baptist Church withdrew its bid to open a school at Jefferson High School.

MARTY DAVIS