

northwest

Continued from Page 9

that provide access to health care, education and economic safety net programs; and communities strongly desire the tools and resources to talk about, respond to and take care of families' needs around sexuality and sexual health.

The research and collaboration achieved through this summit is invaluable for the future of minority families and communities. Joining in the celebration of the summit's published report is one way to ensure the continued success and tremendous efforts of Western States Center.

To attend the fund-raiser, contact Stephanie Stephens at 503-228-8866, ext. 111, or stephanies@wscpx.org by June 7.

E-Room "Mom" Recovering

A longtime bartender known to Egyptian Club customers as "Mom" suffered a heart attack May 22. Linda Paul, mother of co-owner Michelle DeNolf, has worked at the E-Room for eight years.

"I don't have a lot of energy," says Paul, "but I'm doing OK."

While her doctor said she should not be working at the club because of the smoke, Paul, who "quit smoking real quick," says she hopes Oregon goes nonsmoking soon. Co-owner Kim Davis says Paul is persistent about going back to working the door.

"I have to do something. Maybe I'll wear a gas mask," Paul says with a laugh.

Just Out wishes "Mom" a speedy and full recovery.

Lon Mabon Proposes Initiatives

Anti-gay bully Lon Mabon proposed two constitutional amendments bearing a great resemblance to 2000's Measure 9 on Election Day, May 16.

Fresh from a six-week jail stint he served for a contempt-of-court charge, Mabon filed the initiatives proposed for the 2008 ballot. The deadline for comment to the Oregon Elections Division is June 8.

The first measure states, "Because the behaviors of homosexuality and bisexuality pose a serious health risk to Oregon's students...it is hereby established that sexual orientation shall not be taught in Oregon public schools in any manner or whatsoever that would express approval of, endorse or otherwise make morally acceptable the behaviors of homosexuality, bisexuality or transgendered conduct."

Bryan Boyd, a spokesman for Basic Rights Oregon, noted, "This measure is not specific to elementary or secondary education but also would affect higher education in Oregon."

Mabon also introduced a measure to amend the freedom-of-speech clause in the Oregon Constitution. He stated that freedom of speech should be defended, even against hate crime laws.

With the inclusion of transgender people in the measure, some foresee a nasty anti-trans message woven through the campaign. **10**

Compiled by JAYMEE R. CUTI and MALKA GEFFEN

Balanced Body Work

It's no secret that massage therapy helps relax the body and mind. But some need a massage after stressing over the thoughts of a stranger kneading their tender parts while they lay vulnerably on a table.

Kristy Geffen, a body worker and owner of Harmonize, a new massage and polarity therapy studio in Northeast Portland, understands how the experience can be intimidating and works with her clients to put them at ease.

"I feel like body work is an extremely vulnerable and personal experience and doing touch has to honor the body," said Geffen, who is queer. "Something I want to do is empower people in their unique gender expression and challenge the societal aesthetic that measures a person by their size and their shape."

Geffen practices Swedish, deep tissue and pregnancy massage. She opened Harmonize inside a wellness center May 1.

Geffen, a recent Portland transplant originally from Wisconsin, says making clients feel comfortable is as simple as getting to know them.

"I really experience that people feel comfortable opening up when they know their choices around health and their life and aren't judged," she said. "I spend time with them to get to know them and get a full picture of who they are. With that, I found people are able to share their experience with me."

According to Geffen, massage is helpful in

easing discomfort caused by illness, injury, repetitive motion or the dramatic changes of pregnancy. Some of her clients who benefit from her treatment are HIV-positive.

"The queer community are pioneers in HIV/AIDS outreach and education. It's a goal of mine to support the positive community in well-educated and skilled body work."

Geffen practices polarity therapy to bring equilibrium to a physical, emotional or mental imbalance through acupressure, joint mobilization and bone alignment.

A musician with a passion for piano and guitar, Geffen sees the benefit of the body functioning like a finely tuned instrument.

"Each body is also an amazing instrument in that its systems have their own unique resonances and rhythms. My goal as a body worker is to really listen to and feel these rhythms and help all the systems of the body play in time and in tune with one another," she said.

For more information visit Harmonize at 5515 N.E. 30th Ave. or call 503-312-5878.

Bringing Your Memories to Life

"Electronic storytelling has been a passion of mine since I was given my first tape recorder when I was 8," says Sean Minogue, co-owner of

Continued on Page 12

business watch



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