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role-play, Coye and others took to the Hill to inform elected officials about the costs of the ban on this country.

According to a 2005 Government Accountability Office report, taxpayers have paid an estimated \$190.5 million to replace the 9,500 service members discharged by the Pentagon. The University of California 2006 Blue Ribbon Commission Report estimates the total cost of implementing "don't ask, don't tell" to be \$364 million.

states, as well as the proposals introduced during the 2005 legislative session in Oregon. The task force will create a report with recommended changes to Oregon laws by December.

The task force will meet again 9 a.m. May 25 in Room 260 of the Labor and Industries Building, 350 Winter St. N.E. in Salem. These meetings are open to the public.

"Color of Art" Brings Green to CAP

Art for Life, an art auction benefiting Cascade AIDS Project, earned more than \$500,000 for the



Retired Navy Cmdr. Beth Coye of Ashland helped battle the military's discrimination against female service members.

"Overall, I'm optimistic," says Coye about her experience lobbying with SLDN. "I saw democracy in action."

According to SLDN, the public is way ahead of the military, with 79 percent support for openly gay members serving in the armed forces, up from only 57 percent in 1993, based on recent Gallup polls. Coye says that people have to keep working the political and military angles and that nonmilitary gays and lesbians should also work on this issue by networking and writing their senators and representatives.

For more information on lifting the ban on gays in the military, visit www.sldn.org. For more information on My Navy Too, e-mail coyebf@mind.net.

nonprofit's prevention, support services, housing, education and advocacy programs.

"To the community of artists and art collectors who so generously gifted us, we give our heartfelt thanks," said executive director Jean Ann Van Krevelen. "This event provides more than 12 percent of our operating budget. We are ever so grateful to those who joined us for this event; they are saving lives."

Approximately 1,500 people participated in the event, themed "The Art of Color, the Color of Art," May 13 at the Oregon Convention Center. This year's live and silent auction showcased 300 contemporary artworks and featured pieces created by Northwest artists including Arvie Smith, Storm Sharp, Julie Rall, Louis Bunce, Henry Hillman Jr., Anna Skibbska and Melinda Thorsnes.

The event also honored Dr. Mark Loveless and his wife, Karen, a registered nurse, for their heroic efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Both have worked tirelessly for more than two decades creating integrated care models for those stricken, advocating for prevention, researching the disease and training many of Oregon's HIV doctors. CAP started in 1983 in the lobby of Loveless' office. The evening concluded with a performance by Loveless' band, Homebrew.

Washington Seeks
Equal Rights Supporters

Equal Rights Washington wants to learn more about the queer community living in greater Clark County in an effort to address initiatives that might be on November's ballot. The group is also

Equality Task Force Convenes

Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski's Task Force on Equality met for the first time April 12. Members discussed the scope of the task force's goals and ways to gather public input, such as appointing a subcommittee to travel around the state. The task force plans to prepare a memo on the legislative history of Senate Bill 1000, the civil unions and anti-discrimination bill that failed in the 2005 legislative session.

Kulongoski asked members to analyze current laws and identify statutory changes necessary to ensure protection of all Oregonians from discrimination in relationships, employment, housing, public accommodations and other opportunities, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. He also instructed the task force to review anti-discrimination legislation adopted by other