



The Rev. Glenna Shepherd is leaving MCC for an international post.

activity throughout the region by supporting talented artists and creative projects generated by organizations and schools.

For details about eligibility, visit www.racc.org. The deadline for an intent to apply is 5 p.m. Aug. 14. For more information call 503-823-5111 or e-mail info@racc.org.

BRO Struts Its Stuff

Basic Rights Oregon brought Portland a fabulous new event June 7 at Wonder Ballroom with Strut, a night of music, dance and fashion. The benefit, hosted by Kevin Cook (aka Poison Waters), drew a crowd of 250 young queer and queer-friendly supporters and raised more than \$5,000.

"The idea behind the event was to show the best of what's happening locally with fashion design," said BRO development director Jeana Frazzini. According to Frazzini, BRO has a series of events that attract the business crowd and a high-end gala annual dinner. "The younger generations are with us in greater numbers than ever before. Knowing that, we want to have events that appeal to them more."

Strut was not short on appeal. The walls of Wonder were draped in white, and the runway shot down the center of the room. Cook began the evening by congratulating BRO on throwing a midweek event. "It's 2006—we can be hung over every day of the week!"

He said he was thrilled to host such an eclectic event. "It has live music, a silent auction and a fashion show. Portland needs more alternatives like this."

The show began with a jaw-dropping performance by Dahoo Chorus, a group of 13 singers who were decked out in their own designs. A cappella and backed by musicians, the group took over the runway and belted out favorites including the Mamas and the Papas' "California Dreaming" and Queen's "Somebody to Love."

Following was a unique performance by Sophe Lux. With accordion, keyboards, bass, drums and three female vocalists, this group took off into a series of rock opera anthems. If it's possible for music to sound like the sensation of looking through a kaleidoscope, then that is the boisterous funhouse waltzing of Sophe Lux.

By the time DJ Stay in School began spinning and the models took the stage, the ballroom was packed and the VIP guests seated along the runway were on their third strutini (a raspberry drink specially concocted for the event). Without pause or interruption, gorgeously gaunt models presented the

fashion of local designers Jonny Schultz Designs, WeMa, Magali Corzo, Diego, Sofada and Ipseity.

Amid the cute short dresses and even higher heels were the florescent colors of the '80s and go-go-style scarves of the '60s. The flowing and form-fitting pieces with jagged hemlines represented the best in Portland's up-and-coming fashion scene.

Regional Post Calls MCC Pastor to Europe, Africa

Metropolitan Community Church of Portland's congregation will be saying goodbye to its popular senior pastor. The Rev. Glenna Shepherd has been nominated to the position of Region 4 elder. The post is similar to that of bishop in other denominations. Shepherd will replace Cecilia Eggleston and will serve as elder to all African and western European countries.

The decision was announced June 13 by the Universal Fellowship MCC denomination. A final vote of affirmation by regional delegates to the Region 4 conference will take place in mid-September in Hanover, Germany. Shepherd's first day on the job will be Oct. 1.

She and her partner, angelologist Kermie Wohlenhaus, will live in Europe, likely London or Barcelona, Spain. The pair will remain in Portland until October.

Shepherd says the decision to apply and her selection are both exciting and difficult. She expressed pride and affection for her local congregation. "We're doing good things here," she says. She expects to see completion of the church remodel and the strategic plan before saying her final goodbyes this fall.

The new position involves helping existing churches stabilize and grow as well as working with queer organizations on the two continents to do the kind of "turnaround" work for which she is well-known here. "Western Europe is in a 'post-church age' that will require a different kind of spiritual support and a different kind of spiritual message," she says.

As she moves to her new calling, Shepherd leaves behind a congregation that is "in good shape financially, with an outstanding staff," all of whom will remain with MCC. An interim pastor will be identified soon, and a search committee will be formed to seek Shepherd's replacement. 10

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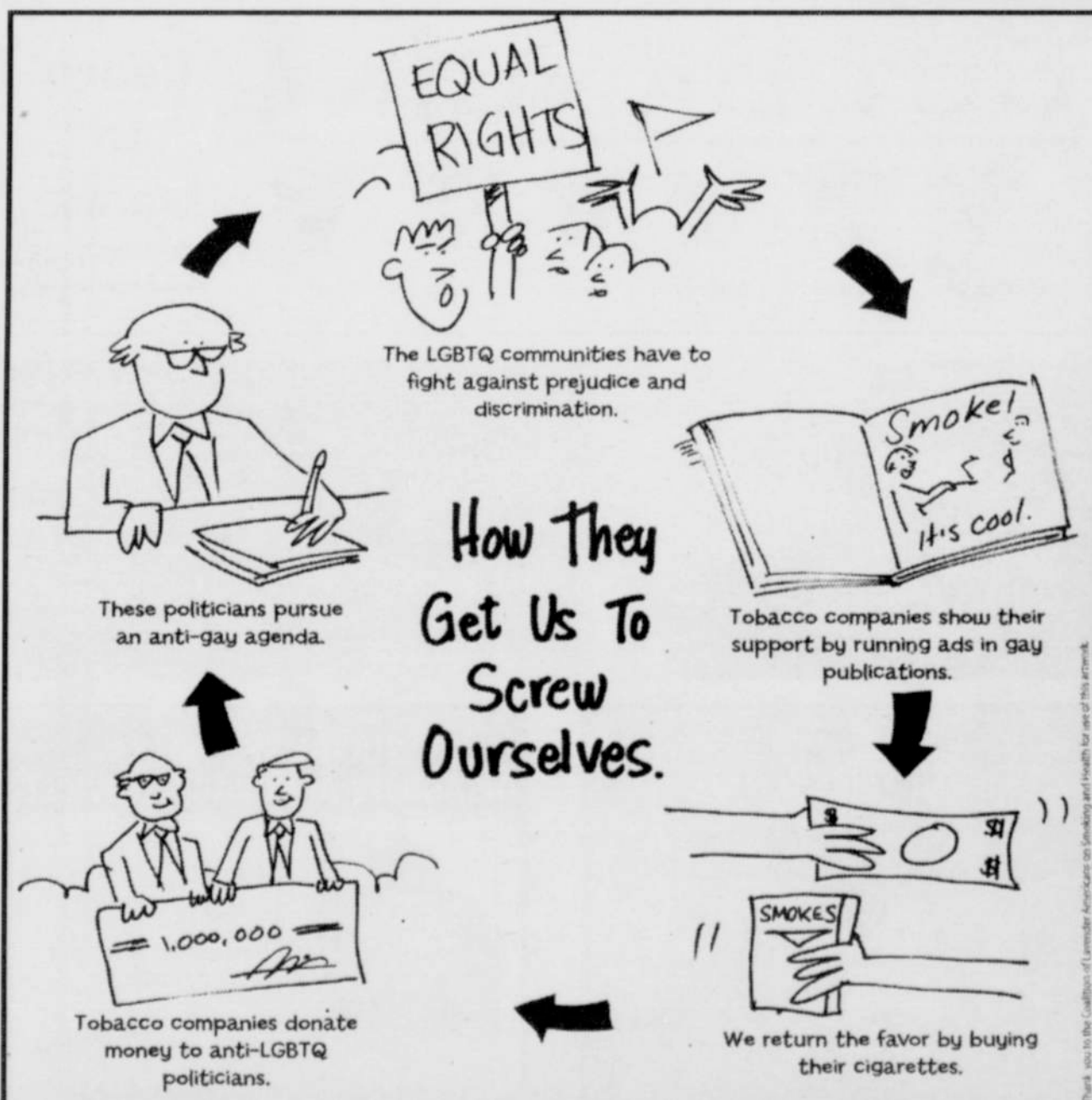


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