

discrepancy, Justice Paul Rivard ruled that the statute was discriminatory.

The government missed its deadline to appeal the decision and must therefore change the law within 12 months. Rutherford's attorney, Joanna Radbord, said she was surprised that Ontario's government even fought this case. "This is an outdated statute that doesn't reflect the realities of family life. But the government usually wants a trial so they can blame the outcome on liberal judges."

By June 6, 2007, the government must amend the law, but can do so, according to Radbord, with a narrow fix that only addresses lesbian couples who use unknown donor sperm or with a big-picture fix that could show the intended, genetic and social parents on the birth registration. "It would be my dream come true if the government rewrites the Vital Statistics Act to recognize the diversity of families and prioritize children's best interest."

### Eugene Youth Honored at New York Pride

Christopher "Cree" Gordon of Eugene was awarded the Colin Higgins Youth Courage Award at a star-studded gala June 22 during New York Pride.

Born to a white mother and black father into a homophobic and racially divided community in rural Louisiana, the 20-year-old struggled to be black enough for black people and white enough for white people. Gordon came out to his parents at 14; his mother tried to accept him, but his stepfather eventually threw him out of the house after his first semester of college. He lived on the streets of New Orleans, hustling his body to survive.

Gordon met a man from Eugene who took him west before becoming abusive. On the streets again in Eugene, he took an HIV test to get the \$10 incentive a local clinic was offering and was faced with a positive result.

Within weeks of his diagnosis, Gordon began volunteering and speaking out at local high schools and colleges about being HIV-positive and queer. He says, "If in all the speaking I do, I can save the life of one person, that would be worthwhile."

Gordon became a leader at University of Oregon's queer student group and Black Student Union, working to bridge the two communities. A charismatic and energetic public speaker, he has a knack for opening eyes and hearts; his motto is "You gotta make them uncomfortable to make 'em comfortable." Gordon's Youth Courage Award will enable him to complete his next semester of college.

The awards ceremony included celebrity presenters and entertainers such as *Sex and the City* star Cynthia Nixon, *The Vagina Monologues* creator Eve Ensler, playwright Tony Kushner and actress Christine Ebersole. Michael Patrick King, creator of *Sex and the City*, hosted the evening's festivities.

The Colin Higgins Youth Courage Awards honor queer youth who have demonstrated tremendous acts of courage and strength in the face of adversity, prevailing as role models for the sexual minorities community.



Cynthia Nixon poses with Youth Courage Award winners, from left, Christopher "Cree" Gordon of Eugene, Captain Young and Ana Lopez.

### Awards Fund Arts Organizations

Various local queer-run or queer-friendly arts organizations received sizable grants when the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC) announced awards July 11 in the areas of general support and professional development totaling \$1,035,895.

Among the organizations funded were Artists Repertory Theatre with \$41,400; Broadway Rose Theatre Company with \$15,800; Do Jump Movement Theater with \$16,900; Literary Arts with \$27,700; Miracle Theatre Group with \$17,800; Portland Center Stage with \$58,800; Portland Gay Men's Chorus with \$6,900; Portland Institute for Contemporary Art with \$15,700; Portland Opera Association with \$104,800; Portland Taiko with \$25,400; Profile Theatre Project with \$14,100; White Bird with \$33,500; and Write Around Portland with \$10,400.

RACC general support grants fund arts organizations in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties that provide a wide range of high-quality arts programming made available to the public. These grants recognize the cultural and economic benefits of a strong arts community and provide stable support for local arts organizations with budgets of \$80,000 or more that together provide services to more than 2 million patrons annually.

"Local artists and arts organizations drive the creative economy, enhance our children's learning with arts education programs and improve the quality of life for all area residents," said Eloise Damrosch, RACC executive director. "We are delighted to provide support for these vital partners who are working with us to integrate arts and culture in all aspects of community life."

Applications for next year are available online at [www.racc.org/grants](http://www.racc.org/grants). The electronic application deadline is Aug. 21.

### BRO, HRC Endorse Kulongoski

Incumbent Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski predictably won the endorsement for November's general election from Basic Rights Oregon, the organization announced July 20.

The endorsement was a collaboration between BRO and the Human Rights Campaign.

The groups cited Kulongoski's commitment to queer rights spanning three decades, beginning in his first term as a legislator in the 1970s, when he introduced one of Oregon's first anti-discrimination bills.

"As a movement, we are lucky to live in a state where our governor has done more to stake out a public position in favor of GLBT equality than any other governor in the country," said Frank Dixon, BRO's interim executive director. "From the

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