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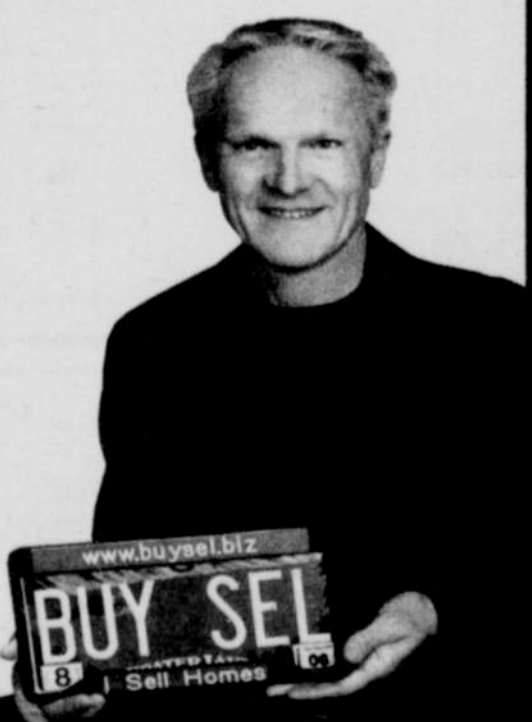
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Queer Literature Financed

Equity Foundation was met with a huge surprise at its annual Investments in Dignity awards benefit Feb. 15.

In addition to raising approximately \$60,000 and honoring grantees—including Rainbow Youth, Our House, Q Center, Ashland Film Festival, Bend Community Radio, Bradley-Angle House and Portland Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays—the foundation was offered a significant sum of money to create a new writing fund. Philip Smith, a longtime supporter of the foundation, announced his intention to donate \$10,000 for the creation of the “Armistead Maupin Creative Writing Fund” to be distributed by Equity to three college students annually for three years.

Smith, who now resides in Portland, signed the check to Equity on May 4. He named the grant after his former boyfriend, an acclaimed gay author who was the featured speaker at the Equity benefit.

“Armistead has probably done more to raise consciousness to the question of gay civil rights than any other in the gay writing community,” said Smith, referring to the sympathetic gay characters created in 1978’s *Tales of the City*.

Smith, a San Francisco native who lived with Maupin in the 1970s Castro district, aims to encourage writers of all genders, orientations and communities to apply for the scholarship. This is in line with his belief that the evolutionary path all minority causes follow begins with identification and ends with integration. The pieces of creative writing submitted must contain a queer theme, but gay issues are not required as the central focus of the story.

“Integration is absolutely mandatory at this phase,” said Smith, asking of writers, “Is he or she going to help us grow into our full stature as full-fledged members of society?”

Smith would like other donors to step forward at the end of the granting cycle to keep the fund alive as a dedication to Maupin and his literary contributions.

The fund will be awarded in October. For more information or to apply for the scholarship, visit www.equityfoundation.org.

School Tackles Queer Health Education

Tineke Malus and Jaie Bosse, second-year students at National College of Natural Medicine in Portland, are founding members of the Queers



Tineke Malus (left) and Jaie Bosse helped found National College of Natural Medicine’s Queers and Allies club.

and Allies club, which meets monthly to discuss queer health issues. The main goal of the group is to bring awareness to fellow students, who will become primary health care providers in one to three years.

“We’re also interested in helping the gay community learn more about what naturopathic medicine is,” said Malus, who described the field’s philosophy as being centered on the healing power of nature, prevention and education.

Bosse added: “Studies show that LGBT people go to alternative health care providers more than non-LGBT people. We’re able to spend more time with them, and we seem less rigid. They’re more likely to be honest and feel comfortable coming out.”

Bosse explained that members of the sexual minorities community are at higher risks for certain diseases, which makes this disclosure all the more important. To that end, Bosse is working toward inclusion of queer health issues in medical school curricula. “Many non-LGBT students think they’re



Philip Smith (left) hands over a check to Equity Foundation’s West Duncan to finance a writing scholarship in Armistead Maupin’s name.