

northwest

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Sasha Scarlett, aka Pride Northwest board member Josh Ryan, began as a Darcelle showgirl 10 years ago and held the title of Miss Portland Pride 2006.

Mitch Elliott and Daria O'Neill of 105.1's The Buzz will take the stage from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. June 17. Elliott, who came out on the Portland airwaves, entertained Seattleites for three years until The Buzz took him on in January as O'Neill's co-host.

O'Neill began her career at Portland alternative rock station KNRK and quickly became a fixture in morning drive time as a beautiful intellect who kept her loyal listeners entertained. She was voted favorite Portland radio personality/favorite media personality for four consecutive years in independent readers polls.

Nationally syndicated sex advice columnist, author and publisher Dan Savage will work the stage from 4 to 6 p.m. June 17.

For more information visit www.pridenw.org.

Housing Forum Focuses on Queer Issues

The queer community faces challenges in finding sustainable housing and institutions. With the phenomenon of increasing rents, the availability of apartments has dropped, and the market to buy houses has gotten prohibitively expensive for low- and moderate-income people, nontraditional queer families and queer singles.

This is the impetus for the Queer Housing

Forum: Visions, Challenges, Options and Resources from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. June 28 at Q Center, 69 S.E. Taylor St.

A diverse group of organizations working on queer housing issues has joined to present the event, which includes workshops, small-group discussions and panels conquering the issues of housing challenges, creating a vision, finding resources and identifying questions.

The groups behind the forum are Cause It, a company that works to develop minority small businesses and organizations; Equity Group, a real estate company welcoming diverse clients; Outside In, a nonprofit organization that empowers homeless youth and families; Q Center; Q-LAND, a nonprofit men's wellness network that provides housing as part of its mission; Rainbow Vista, a new queer retirement community in Gresham; and Senior Housing and Retirement Enterprises, which seeks to develop a sexual minority retirement residential community.

Those on the panel include Housing Development Center executive director Robin Boyce; Bart Church, Q-LAND's program director, who recently helped his organization and a group of investors buy a queer men's community house in



Canadian performer Kim Kuzma will celebrate independence at a June 30 fund-raiser for Basic Rights Oregon.

the Alberta Arts District; Kyle Diesner and Alisa Kane of the city of Portland's Office of Sustainable Development; Ron Powell, president of Rainbow Vista; Zard Rominski, Outside In's associate executive director; and Terry LeJeune, Outside In's risk education and queer/trans youth program coordinator; SHARE president Daniel Torrence; and Equity Group real estate broker Brad Wulf.

To RSVP or for more information, call 503-223-8822, e-mail bart@qland.org or visit www.pdxqcenter.org.

Lutherans Struggle Toward Equality

In Atlanta, Pastor Bradley Schmeling was placed on trial by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in January for entering into a relationship with another male pastor. An unprecedented split decision from the church court has sparked an upheaval in the largest Lutheran denomination.

Oregon and Southwest Washington advocates are among those challenging the Evangelical Lutheran Church. In Oregon, advocates were part of a coalition that just elected a liberal bishop over two more conservative finalists.

Church policy is that clergy who identify as homosexual may be ordained only if celibate. If a clergy member enters into a same-sex relationship, it must be reported. Schmeling—openly gay from before his ordination but single at that time—did so, in effect re-outing himself.

Church rules then allow the local bishop to bring charges of being a "practicing homosexual." If guilty, gay pastors are to be removed from the church roster. In some areas, bishops have allowed gay and lesbian pastors to live under the radar.

The disciplinary committee voted 7-5 to defrock Schmeling but stated that the prohibition against committed same-sex relationships "is at

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