

northwest

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Hetero Allies Campaign Launches

Basic Rights Oregon launched a campaign July 11 called "50 Voices for Equality."

A Web site, www.50voicesforequality.com, features the stories of 50 heterosexual allies who have vowed to speak out against anti-gay discrimination.

BRO sees the value of this campaign in the diversity of its voices, ranging from all parts of the state (even Philomath) as well as different career paths and religious and political backgrounds.

Among the allies are politicians including state Sen. Ben Westlund, D-Tumalo; religious leaders such as Rabbi Maurice Harris of Eugene's Temple Beth Israel; and community members such as Sharon Gary-Smith, director of community and family involvement for Cascadia Behavioral Health Care.

The allies will be used in a variety of Web-based messages, newspaper opinion pieces and literature aimed to bring attention to the referendum effort against the gay civil rights package of laws that passed in May.

Supporters of rights for the sexual minorities community are urged to vote "yes" to retain non-discrimination and domestic partnership rights and are asked not to sign any petitions that challenge these laws.

Vote for SMYRC

The Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center hopes to win "most popular" in a raffle with a huge payoff.



This billboard in downtown Portland warns that "ex-gays" are coming for a Love Won Out conference Aug. 4.

Pride Foundation has launched its Raffle with a Twist and will be giving away \$7,500 to non-profit organizations.

You can increase SMYRC's chances of winning by entering the free raffle and naming SMYRC as your favorite nonprofit organization by visiting www.pridefoundation.org/raffle.

The raffle deadline is Sept. 7, and the drawing will be held Sept. 14.

PFLAG Addresses Anti-Gay Conference

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays will be there when attendees leave the all-day Love Won Out conference coming to Portland on Aug. 4.

Love Won Out, a project of the anti-gay Colorado-based organization Focus on the Family,

claims to turn gay people "straight" through prayer and Christian messages. The conference will be held from 8 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. at City Bible Church, 9200 N.E. Fremont St.

The organization's tactics have softened, according to Teri Noble, president of PFLAG's Oregon state council, but the message remains unchanged.

"No hell fire and brimstone here. They advise prayer, changes in parenting styles to 'prevent homosexuality' and couch their messages in terms of 'reaching out' and 'love,'" she said. "The underlying and hurtful theme is still the same. It says, 'You're not OK.'"

Topics to be explored at the conference include "Straight Thinking on Gay Marriage" and "Hope for Those Who Struggle."

"The Condition of Female Homosexuality"

workshop, according to the organization's Web site, "explores the root causes of lesbianism," focusing on "relationship deficits, "emotional dependency" and the "effects of abuse."

Volunteers will invite conference attendees to a PFLAG meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Aug. 4 at Ainsworth United Church of Christ, 2941 N.E. Ainsworth St. There, faith community representatives and PFLAG members will answer questions and provide a space to talk and share experiences from the day.

"PFLAG is a place where real people share examples of how and why this is not true, a place where families can move away from fear and be brought back together in love and acceptance," said Noble.

Events Benefit Eastern Oregon

Umatilla Morrow Alternatives Human Dignity Group, a support group for the sexual minorities community and those who test positive for HIV and hepatitis C in eastern Oregon, is expanding its reach with several fund-raising events planned in Portland.

Frank Roa, director of the organization based in rural Hermiston, says money raised from the events will help fund the first queer-affirming location in eastern Oregon.

Events include a lumberjack party 9 p.m. July 26 at the Egyptian Club, 3701 S.E. Division St., and bingo and an auction 8 p.m. July 28 at the Fox & Hounds, 217 N.W. Second Ave.

For more information call 541-922-0126 or visit www.umalt.com.

By JAYMEE R. CUTI and JULIE SABATIER



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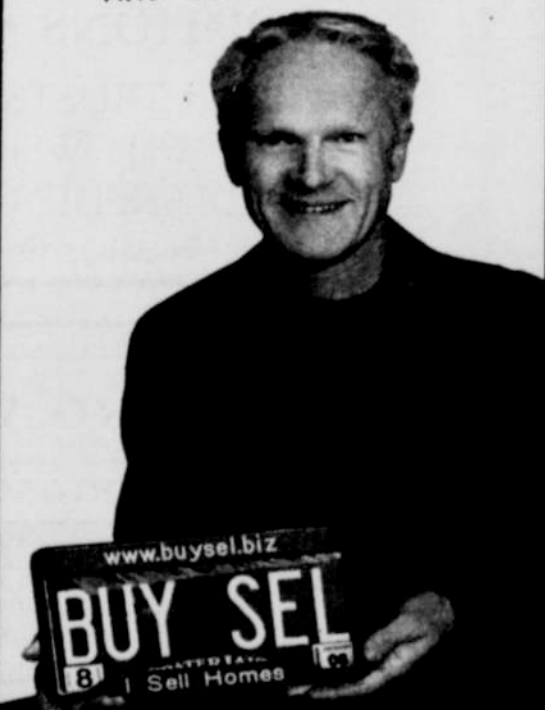
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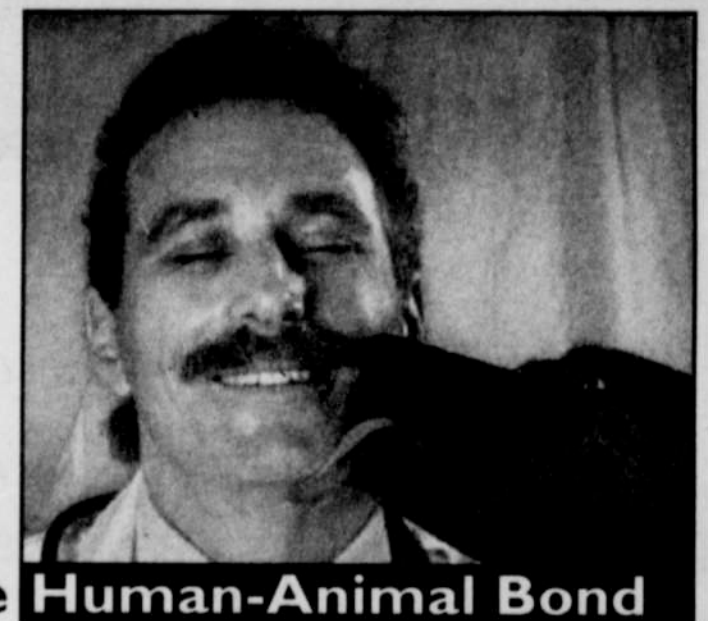
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