

rejection of partnered LGBT ministers to the willing tolerance of them. We see this decision as interim. Full inclusion and acceptance are still down the road, but the dam of discrimination has been broken."

Don Mueller, chairman of the Portland metro Lutherans Concerned chapter, added, "Sometimes the spirit moves more slowly than we'd like, but we're deeply grateful for this step away from fear and secrecy."

Hundreds of Lesbians Play Softball

Organizing the 22nd annual Lesbian Community Project Women's Softball Tournament was a lot like making Thanksgiving dinner.

"It takes a long time to prepare the meal and then boom, a half-hour later the meal has been eaten and it time for a nap," said tournament director Nancy Zimmer.

Fund-raising numbers have not yet been tallied or reported, but approximately 600 women played on 36 teams Aug. 4 and 5 at Brush Prairie Softball Field in Brush Prairie, Wash.

The Honey Buckets team ran the Homerun Derby audience participation event.

Joan Lease of the Bandits from Corvallis won the Barb Martin Award. Martin, an encouraging and uplifting LCP softball enthusiast who played for the Furies, died of cancer approximately 20 years ago. Lease was honored with the award for being an all-around good sport.

No serious injuries occurred, although several stitches were administered for balls missing gloves and flying into cheeks and chins.

The first-, second- and third- place winners in division E were Revivals, Club Papi and Man Ray Mufflers. For division D the winners were Diamond Divas, Crush and 13 Nice Girls. For division C the winners were Honey Buckets, Changes and Girl on Girl.

Zimmer commented, "All in all, this was a good year and the weather held out and everyone had fun."

For more information visit www.lesbiancommunityproject.org.

Portland Hosts Tennis Tourney

For millions of people the world over, sports are a part of life. Sporting events can provide common ground and help people connect outside a bar atmosphere. The weekend of Aug. 31, Portland will host the 17th Rose City Open. Team Portland Tennis, a group striving to promote tennis in the queer community, is organizing the event.

Although Pete Sampras and Vanessa Williams might not be in attendance, 93 players from four countries and all parts of the United States will be competing at the Portland Tennis Center. Festivities begin Aug. 31 at Boxxes, 1035 S.W. Stark St., which will host the Draw Party, where players will check in and collect their materials while experiencing some of Portland's nightlife. Hobo's, 120 N.W. Third Ave., will host a Sept. 2 banquet where raffle prizes will be distributed and players will get a chance to mix and mingle with one another off the courts.

Player registration starts at \$85. Money collected from registration fees and other fund-



The Spankus team moved from the Lesbian Community Project's recreation softball category to division E and came in sixth place. The women vow to return to next year's tournament.

raising efforts such as a raffle of items and services donated by local businesses will be divided between Esther's Pantry and Our House of Portland, two charities offering services to people with AIDS.

"Last year we raised around \$3,000. This year we're hoping to raise somewhere between \$4,000 and \$5,000," said tournament director Kody Leonard.

Events will be held in divisions ranging from A, which is for beginners, to D, which is where the best of the best compete. Depending on registration, mixed doubles will allow men and women to compete together and against one another.

Team Portland Tennis meets from 8 a.m. to noon Sundays at University of Portland's tennis courts. "I think it's important to give people alternatives to relying on bars to meet other gay people, and we encourage straight people to come, too. They're welcome in the Rose City Open as well. We want to get everyone involved and playing together."

For registration, information and a full schedule of events, visit www.teamportland-tennis.org.

By ALEX BALDINO, JAYMEE R. CUTI and JULIE SABATIER

our Family Realtor Since 1990!
OUT AND PROUD SINCE 1970

When you buy or sell a home with me, you'll know your dollars are helping support a greater cause. I contribute at least 10% of my earnings to community and environmental organizations.

RE/MAX
equity group, Inc.

MILLYNN JAMES
Broker, Graduate Realtor Institute
ABR: Accredited Buyer's Representative

Mercy Corps
Lesbian Community Project
North x NE Medical Clinic
Southern Poverty Law Center
Portland Lesbian Choir
Nat'l Gay & Lesbian Taskforce
ACLU

MAKE YOUR MOVE WITH MILLYNN!

503.330.HOME (4663) • 1.800.825.9948
www.millynn.com ¥ millynn@aol.com

Edible Arrangements® makes any occasion special. Summer is the time for family get togethers. Whether it's just your immediate family or the whole tree, any genetic bond gets a little stronger with our delicious fruit bouquets. With banana slices dipped in white and dark chocolate and fresh cut watermelon, you'll get compliments from cousins you didn't even know you had. Visit our entire collection at EdibleArrangements.com

Edible ARRANGEMENTS

\$4.00 OFF
Your Next Order
When you mention this ad or enter ea007
Expires 9/30/07

911 SW 10th Ave. • Portland 7329 SW Barnes Rd. • Portland
503-299-6100 503-297-4800
6617 E. Mill Plain Blvd. • Vancouver
360-693-6370

Congratulations on surviving my family reunion.