

term left in a master's program at Oregon State University, where she has been working toward a degree in college student services, concentrating on the needs of sexual minority students. She received a Pride of the Rose Scholarship in addition to her PABA award.

"The scholarship does make it easier, and there's a deeper meaning," she said. "It's an endorsement of support from my community...I'm really proud to have an LGBT scholarship associated with me."

Alec Esquivel, who identifies as queer, says he is similarly proud to have the community support associated with a PABA scholarship. Esquivel, 38, is beginning his second year in a three-year program at Willamette University College of Law.



At the prompting of Portland activists, Ira Glass declined to appear at an anti-gay church.

He says he intends to concentrate on family, employment and immigration law in order to focus his practice on the needs of the sexual minorities community. He is president of Willamette Lambda Legal Organization (WILLO) and does his best to support other students on top of his own workload.

"I consider myself a mentor to quite a few of the first-year students. I'm also Mexican-American, so I tend to talk a lot with the students of color as well as the incoming students who have approached me for WILLO," said Esquivel. "[Law school] is very difficult. And knowing that the whole community has got my back—that really helps me carry on."

Glass Moves from Anti-Gay Church

A cadre of concerned queer citizens took matters into their own hands when they learned that an anti-gay church stood between them and beloved radio producer Ira Glass, creator of *This American Life*.

Glass was set to appear at New Hope Church in Clackamas at 7 p.m. Oct. 7—until gay Portlanders took notice. At the request of Glass himself, Oregon Public Broadcasting changed the venue to the Oregon Convention Center, 777 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

New Hope is a great place to sign petitions to overturn the gay civil rights package, Senate Bill 2 and House Bill 2007; to hear a sermon against the homosexual lifestyle; and to be amid those who

have donated thousands of dollars in support of Measure 36, the same-sex marriage ban.

OPB received several letters Aug. 29 informing John Bell, the station's associate director of membership, of their concerns with the venue.

One of those letters came from LeAnn Locher, a Q Center board member and the blogger behind "Lelo in Nopo." She drew the connection that a ticket to the event equaled money for the venue. "They're paying New Hope, a place that is actively and monetarily working to encourage discrimination, for the use of their venue for the wonderfully inclusive and pro-LGBT Ira Glass to speak."

Before changing the venue, Bell, who is gay, defended the station's decision.

"Part of the values of public broadcasting is to help create space where conflicting beliefs can respectfully coexist. Were I to rule out using New Hope strictly because of their belief system, I would be as guilty as if I ruled out a gay-friendly venue because someone else might complain," Bell explained to Roey Thorpe of Equality Federation. Thorpe also expressed disapproval of the venue.

Tom Doggett, vice president for OPB television programming, said the venue choice had been based on size and availability.

Tickets to the event can be purchased for \$28 at www.opb.org.

Shepherd Scholar Announced

A committee largely composed of past winners of the Bill & Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship Fund announced a new recipient Aug. 15.

April Kusters of Northwestern School of Law at Lewis & Clark College will receive the \$5,000

scholarship to help with her last year of studying law.

Kusters, who works as a law clerk for the Department of Justice's child welfare office, likes to focus on public interest, family and property law. She is also president of Outlaw, a sexual minority law student organization at Lewis & Clark. She has volunteered for a variety of organizations, including those protecting women's and tenants' rights.

Shepherd scholars are third- and fourth-year law students dedicated to donating some aspect of their legal expertise to fighting bigotry and discrimination, particularly against sexual minorities. Applicants are required to demonstrate a healthy balance of academic success and a commitment to advocacy for the gay rights movement.

The scholarship was named after the late Bill and Ann Shepherd, who co-founded what would become the Portland chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

The signature event to raise money for the scholarship, A Class Act, will take place April 25, 2008, at The Old Church, 1422 S.W. 11th Ave. The classical music and decadent dessert revue will feature Trio de Novo. Honorary co-chairs are Charles Hinkle, Vera Katz, Norma Paulus, Cheryl Perrin, Tom Potter and Kathleen Saadat. 19

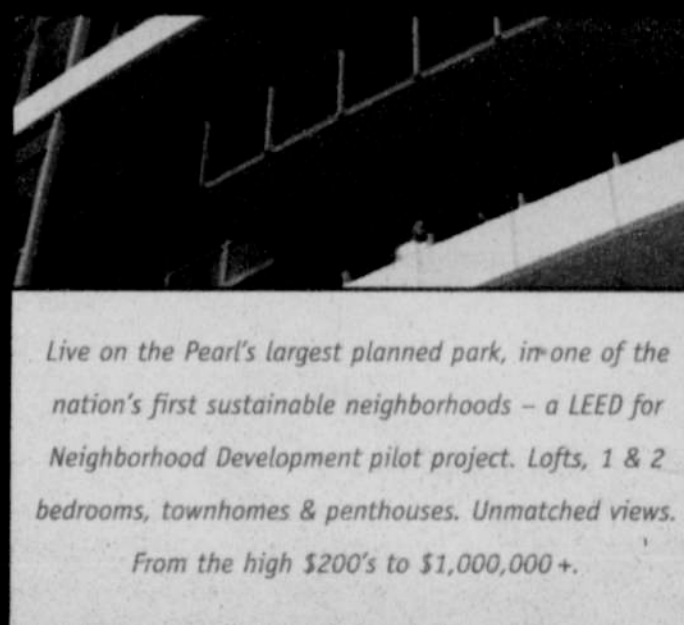
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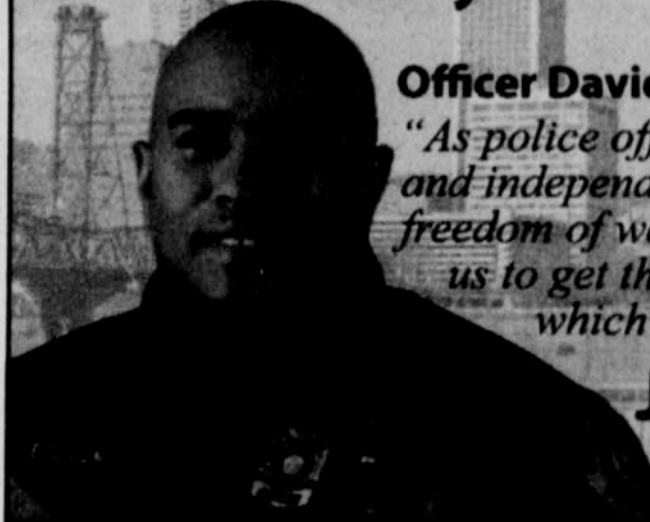
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