



Film student Ali Cotterill was the first to win Pride of the Rose's Mame Memorial Scholarship named for David Hamilton.

Other top winners were CM Hall, who is attending graduate school at Oregon State University, studying college student services administration; former *Just Out* contributor Aaron Scott, who is attending Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in New York; and Alec Esquivel, a law student at Willamette University.

"I advocate for LGBTQ equal rights because of my unique life experience as a female-to-male transgender person. Successfully working through my gender identity challenge has made me a stronger person and allows me to view the world with a more expanded perspective," said Esquivel.

The other 2007 Pride of the Rose scholars are Dean Backus, Marie Price, Doyle Easter, Jasmine Forsberg, Emily Morgan, Bryan Goodin, Brady Humphrey, Dakota Duncan and Spenser Theberge.

Scholarships are available to members of the sexual minorities community and their children who reside in the Portland quad-county area or Clark County, Wash. Applicants must be pursuing their education beyond the secondary level and must be in demonstrated need of financial assistance to attain their educational goals.

Pee-In Supports Trans People in Seattle

Labor Day weekend brought the Gender Odyssey conference back to the Northwest. The annual conference, held Aug. 31 to Sept. 3 in Seattle, was an opportunity for the female-to-male, genderqueer and otherwise transmasculine community to gather and share information.

During the conference, Simon Adriane and Sean Brochin went to the Pacific Place mall and were forced to leave after using the bathroom. "Basically, Sean and Simon were using the facilities at Pacific Place when security got a report of a woman in the men's room. According to onlookers, a security officer knocked them out of the stall doors, made a scene and escorted them outside. The officer allegedly refused to identify himself to Brochin despite his repeated requests," said Cole Peake, who attended the conference.

News of the harassment by mall security spread at the conference. "I received a handbill...giving a rough overview of the incident and asking the

anyone interested in organizing some kind of retaliation meet during the Gender Odyssey barbecue," Peake said. At the meeting, the group organized a plan to "get as many trans people as we could gather to use the bathrooms at Pacific Place until security was called."

More detailed plans for the protest began to take shape. "A small group of us...came up with the idea for a pee-in and printed up handbills which we distributed the next day. When the time came to head over to Pacific Place, we had around 35 to 40 people. We walked over to Pacific Place and headed for their top floor bathroom, then lined up and proceeded to use the facilities," recalled Peake.

A mall security guard interrupted the group's protest. "He began by saying something to the effect of: 'The men's room is for men. The women's room is for women.'

A member of our organizing party produced a copy of RCW 49.60 and asked if he was aware that Washington state law protected our right to use a bathroom congruent with our gender identities," Peake said.

RCW 49.60 prohibits discrimination based on gender identity and gender expression in all public accommodations.

Later, a meeting took place with the security manager and involved parties. "When they came out, they told us it had been very successful. The manager was cooperative," said Peake.

What will happen now? "The groundwork was laid during the meeting to lodge a formal complaint of discrimination with the state," Peake said.

Nonprofit Galvanizes Volunteers

Hands on Greater Portland, which works to connect volunteers to community projects, is hosting Hands on Greater Portland Cares Day on Oct. 6. The nonprofit organization invites enthusiastic volunteers from all walks of life to converge on nine schools and five nonprofit agencies around town to do painting, landscaping, cleaning, repairing and other "home improvement" projects.

"We try to present a diverse group of projects for people to connect with, and we're a great organization for people who don't know where they want to volunteer," said Hands on Greater Portland assistant director Dwight Adkins, who is gay.

Volunteers can choose from several different projects from helping to clean and recycle bike parts at the Community Cycling Center to unpacking and re-covering library books or sorting food donations for the Oregon Food Bank. There are also a number of school cleanup projects. Truly adventurous volunteers can sign up to be a "Roadie for a Day," doing hands-on work behind the scenes to help keep this event on track.

Adkins says the organization hopes to have 1,500 volunteers for the daylong event. With almost 600 people signed up and live registration on the Web until Oct. 4, he says he's confident Hands on Greater Portland will meet its goal. 19

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