

northwest

PBS Documents Gay Journalist

Reporter Peter Zuckerman had heard the rumors: Leaders at the local Boy Scouts chapter in Idaho may be participating in behavior unbecoming of a Boy Scout.

Zuckerman's investigation for *The Idaho Falls Post Register* is documented in the two-part PBS series *Exposé: America's Investigative Reports*. The segment "In a Small Town" will air Sept. 28 and Oct. 5 on PBS and will be available online after Oct. 3.

The film features Zuckerman's work in uncovering pedophilia amid the Boy Scouts and the Mormon Church and an attempt to cover it up.

His investigative series caused backlash both at the *Post Register* and within the community. Zuckerman was outed by an advertiser in his paper and says he and his partner were essentially run out of town.

As a result of the series, however, some of the victims' families came forward and launched a successful effort to get the conservative state of Idaho to change its laws regarding child sex offenders.

Zuckerman, meanwhile, earned awards for his exposé. The former *Just Out* intern returned to Oregon and works for *The Oregonian*.

To view the film visit www.pbs.org/expose.

Musical Benefit Planned

The Community of Welcoming Congregations will host *Songs of Faith & Freedom*, its first benefit concert under the direction of the renowned David York, director of New Thought Ministries of Oregon, 8 p.m. Sept. 28 at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 N.W. 19th Ave.

The inspirational evening of music features choirs from Ainsworth United Church of Christ, First Unitarian Church and the Portland Gay Men's Choir, among others. Emmy-winning singer and songwriter Faith Rivera is a featured guest.

Donations are accepted. For more information visit www.welcomingcongregations.org.

Nonprofits Shack Up

The Portland Gay Men's Chorus has relocated from its downtown office in the Galleria, which it had inhabited since 2001. Because of recent upgrades, the building no longer houses several area nonprofit organizations.

PGMC has taken up new residence at the Stevens Building, 812 S.W. Washington St., Suite 1050. In the spirit of community partnership and saving money, PGMC is sharing the new space with four other nonprofits: Oregon's chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, Cite Educational Theatre, Post Carbon Institute and Ceasefire Oregon.

The chorus has hired Terrill Grubbs as its administrative coordinator. New office hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The door is open to buy tickets for the next show, *Evening with Friends*, or for the new 28th season, "A Season of Friends."

Buddha Speaks to Queers

Buddhism has been described as an exploration of truth.

Some of the tenets of Buddhism have resonated with Portland's queer community. Those studying the philosophy are told that faith should be built on actual experiences; that masculinity and feminini-



AMANDA SMITH, POST REGISTER

Former *Just Out* intern Peter Zuckerman became the news when he faced backlash from a series he investigated for *The Idaho Falls Post Register* uncovering years of pedophilia in the local Boy Scouts chapter.

ty harmonize to create whole human beings; and that there are no sins, only consequences.

"We're all responsible for what we do," said Brad Larsen, a gay graduate student of psychology.

He is a member of Soka Gakkai International, which has a community center in Southeast Portland. It is the first religious organization to appoint national leaders specifically for sexual minority practitioners. This group practices Nichiren Buddhism, which incorporates chanting Nam Myoho Renge Kyo, studying Nichiren's writings and debating philosophy.

"Chanting helps me expand my capacity for my normal life," said Larsen.

Dharma Rain, the oldest and largest Zen


Buddhist center in Oregon, has a membership estimated to be 25 percent queer.

"Buddhism in the West is extremely inclusive, extremely GLBT-friendly. There is no judgment, no second-class status of GLBT folks of the Buddhist community," said Thomas Bruner, a lay disciple at the Dharma Rain Zen Center.

Sylvan Genko Rainwater, a lesbian priest ordained in January through Dharma Rain, concurred. "In most American Buddhist groups, there's no concern, no discrimination," she said.


Soka Gakkai's Rainbow Group serves as an outreach arm of the center, dedicated specifically to

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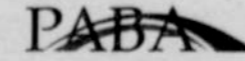
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Sara Chinske
Broker
541-988-7358
schinske@windermere.com

Serving clients in the Eugene, Springfield and surrounding areas



384 Q Street
Springfield, OR 97477

