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Gender Symposium Coming to Marylhurst

The concept of gender is multifaceted. It can be both personal and political. Marylhurst University students invite the public to a symposium on the topic of gender identity called "Reinventing Self: Which Box Do I Check?" 7 p.m. Nov. 7 in the Old Library at the B.P. John Administration Building.

The panel of transgender speakers will include Simone Neall, owner of Construction Transformations; Aaron Raz Link, author of *What Becomes You (American Lives)*; and Ashley Austin of devEntity Web Design (and *Just Out's* Web designer). Link is expected to kick off the evening with a reading from his book, which consists of memoir-style reflections on the transgender experience.

The Marylhurst Diversity Committee is co-sponsoring the event along with the Marylhurst Sexual Acceptance for Everyone (SAFE) Community, a student group working with Marylhurst graduate Meredith Olson. Barb McClendon, a senior undergraduate art student who also works in the art department at *Just Out*, serves as chairwoman of SAFE.

"As a lesbian, the concept of gender identity fascinates the hell out of me," she said. "I just think it's interesting to try to figure out where we get our gender cues, and what better way to do that than to talk to people who have challenged their own gender roles in an overt way?"

Austin says she intends to talk about her own personal experience transitioning from male to female, a process she began six years ago. She says Portlanders are much more accepting of her gender identity than people in her home state of North Carolina, although she often finds people are too polite to voice questions they might have. "People have a lot of misinformation. If it's out on the table, at least it's easier," she said.

One of the questions McClendon says the Marylhurst symposium will address is whether gender is polar or if it exists on a continuum.

"I want it to be polar, but I'm pretty sure it's a continuum," Austin said, citing one of the many nuanced issues surrounding this complex topic. "Trans is different than sexuality, but it gets put in the same pot...L, G and B are all sexual identities, and the T is a gender identity."

Admission to the symposium is free, and light refreshments will be provided.

Roundtable Celebrates Anniversary

National Coming Out Day, Oct. 11, marked a poignant day for members of the Sexual Minorities Roundtable.

It was the 13th anniversary of the partnership agreement signed between the Portland Police Bureau and the sexual minorities community. It was also the day the roundtable welcomed a new member and organization: Gresham Police Chief Carla Piluso.

"On this 13th anniversary, fortunately and delightfully, the Gresham Police Department added their name and their involvement. Along with the Portland Police Bureau, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office as well as the sheriff's office, this brings it all together," said William Warren, co-chairman of the roundtable. He signed the agreement with the same pen used 13 years earlier to sign the original agreement.

The event was hosted at Rainbow Vista, a retirement community for sexual minority seniors in Gresham.

The celebration ran long and a meeting about the needs of queer seniors did not commence, but Warren says he's confident the topic will be revisited soon. Meanwhile, seniors from the Elder Resource Alliance in attendance were able to mix and mingle and see Rainbow Vista's facility.

The roundtable meets from noon to 1:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the Chief's Office Conference Room 1526 at the Justice Center, 1120 S.W. Third Ave.

Marriage Ban Challenged Again

Measure 36, Oregon's same-sex marriage ban, will be challenged again Oct. 19 in the Oregon Court of Appeals.

Attorney Mark Johnson will argue for chief plaintiffs Juan Martinez and Byron Beck's right to marry in an appeal case stemming from *Martinez v. Kulongoski*, which was decided Nov. 4, 2005.

Although the circuit court judge in that case did not rule in Martinez's favor, Johnson argues that reasonable minds could disagree on the crux of the argument against Measure 36.

The original suit, filed Jan. 31, 2005, alleges that Measure 36 violates several provisions of amendment procedure in the Oregon Constitution. It states that the measure was a revision, rather



From left, John McVay, Multnomah County community justice manager; Multnomah County Sheriff's Capt. Jay Heidenrich; Gresham Police Chief Carla Piluso; Sexual Minorities Roundtable co-chairman William Warren; and Portland Police Assistant Chief Rod Beard Jr. sliced cake to welcome the Gresham Police Department into its partnership.