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The event aims to maintain its feel of a picnic or family reunion, but according to organizers, it must turn a profit to benefit the scholarship.

Peacock in the Park costs approximately \$25,000 to produce. Van Patten feels the group must raise twice that in sponsorships, merchandise sales and possibly donations at the gate.

Council and Van Patten emphasize that they don't want to exclude revelers for an inability to pay. If people can't afford to buy a hot dog, they can bring lunch. If they can't leave a donation, the gates are still open. But the organizers need community support.

"We need people to donate money, goods and services to make this happen. We need shuttle buses, Porta-Potties, security, Dumpsters, food vendors, souvenirs, stage crew," said Van Patten. "We need sponsors—people that just want to give us cash and tell us to make it happen. We need to know the community wants the event back."

For more information e-mail info@peacockinthepark.com or visit www.peacockinthepark.com.

Free HIV Testing Added

The Men's Wellness Center has expanded its free HIV testing program.

The facility has been offering rapid HIV testing and other sexually transmitted disease screening for gay and bisexual men from 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays.

It now offers testing from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturdays, on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Men's Wellness Center is at 928 S.W. Stark St. For more information call 503-445-7699.

Workshop Prepares Future Partners

Those planning to get partnered Jan. 2 were a little more prepared to take on the expected media onslaught after attending a workshop held Dec. 2 by Basic Rights Oregon and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

BRO partnered with GLAAD for an informational meeting about how to field reporters' questions concisely and personally, while still being "on message."

"Reporters will be approaching lots of different people to get different angles for their stories," said Aubrey Harrison, BRO's Portland metro field organizer. "This can be an intimidating experience for some of us, but it doesn't have to be."

With the help of Adam Bass, GLAAD's Western regional media strategist, and Karynn Fish, BRO's new communications director, those in attendance practiced telling their stories.

Bass helped attendees shape stories that were personal, true and helpful in putting a human face on the sexual minorities community. His tips included using affirming language such as the words "gay" instead of "homosexual" and "partnership" instead of "marriage."

Bass encouraged those in attendance to "go to your own comfort level" when being interviewed by the press but to recognize interview opportunities in everyday life. Co-workers, family members and others may turn to average members of the queer community for information and education about the new domestic partnership registry and other issues facing gays and lesbians.

"Coming out of the closet is the most powerful thing for GLBT equality," said Bass.

BRO also unveiled its "Domestic Partnership Resource Guide," an eight-page manual that breaks down the registration process, answers frequently asked questions and includes contact information and fees for getting partnered in all 36 counties in Oregon.

According to Fish, BRO volunteers and staff and some members of the Multnomah County Commission staff will be on hand Jan. 2 and possibly longer to help participants through the process. Commissioner Jeff Cogen's entire staff became notary public certified to assist those partnering for at least the first week.

For more information visit www.basicrights.org.

Equity Hires Interim Director

Liz Field has been named as the interim executive director of Equity Foundation, a charitable giving organization focusing on the sexual minorities community.

She has extensive experience in nonprofit management, fund raising and international development. She has held local positions with the Nike Foundation, Portland Community College Foundation and Mercy Corps. She is on the board of directors with Wallace Medical Concern.



Liz Field brings extensive nonprofit organization development experience to Equity Foundation.

"I have worked with numerous multicultural populations, and I welcome the challenge," said Field, who is straight. "I believe that Equity Foundation is a phenomenal foundation, poised to continue to do important and exciting work."

Field realizes that she is entering the position at a crucial time.

The Investments in Dignity Awards, Equity Foundation's eighth annual fund-raising extravaganza, is scheduled for March 18, 2008, in Gerding Theater at the Armory. With a background in

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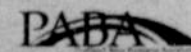
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