



Clockwise from top left, Brother to Brother board member Kevin Bailey-Gilliam, board chairman Craig Tyson, executive director Alisa Simmons, volunteer Stephen Herrera and health advocate Khalil Edwards attend the National Black HIV and AIDS art contest and awards ceremony Feb. 9 at Concordia University.

board (with a Cuernavaca host family) and transportation. For more information call program coordinator Aaron Preble at Educate Ya at 503-238-5790 or visit www.cetlalic.org.mx.

YWCA Creates Trans Support Group

YWCA of Portland is starting a 10-week Trans Support Group, welcoming of all gender minorities, from 6:40 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays beginning Feb. 28.

The group is a safe and confidential space for trans- and gender minority-identified people to find support among others with shared issues. The group intends to provide support to members in facing everyday life challenges and in the process of living satisfying lives.

Topics will be decided by group members. Transition-related topics might include family, workplace and medical issues.

The group will be co-facilitated by YWCA intern counselors Krystal Jacob and Ian Bruce. Jacob holds a master's degree in clinical psychology and is a doctoral candidate at Pacific University's School of Professional Psychology. Bruce is a master's candidate at Portland State University's counselor education department.

The fee is \$15 a session at YWCA, 333 N.E. Russell St. Call 503-294-7401, ext. 2039, or 503-294-7401, ext. 2012, for an interview before attending.

Brother to Brother Holds Black History Month Events

People of color have played a vital role in the history of the United States; however, institutional racism has often led to historical amnesia.

Founded in 1926, National Black History Month is celebrated in February, a month out of the year dedicated to the histories of people of African or black descent. In classrooms across the country, lesson plans focus on key historical facts and figures that might otherwise be passed over during the rest of the year.

Many contend that Black History Month undermines the principle that black history is American history. Proponents argue that without a month dedicated to people of color, the histories would never be addressed.

Brother to Brother, Portland's organization dedicated to meeting the needs of sexual minorities of color, is sponsoring a number of events dedicat-

ed to educating and gathering community.

Join Brother to Brother for an afternoon of New Orleans Mardi Gras-style fun and games during Gumbo and Game Night from 2 to 4 p.m. Feb. 16 at Kinley Manor, 1731 N.E. 10th Ave. Make a \$5 donation or bring a dessert to share.

Historian Paris Williams discusses "Africans in the Ancient World," a slide presentation investigating the presence of black people in ancient and modern Asia, Europe and America, from 2 to 4 p.m. Feb. 23 at Q Center, 69 S.E. Taylor St. The lecture will discuss the

time periods prior to the arrival of Columbus with a focus on Egypt. The presentation includes a champagne brunch.

Dedicated to social justice, Brother to Brother has expanded the organization's mission to include lesbians and transgender people. The organization will unveil a long-awaited new name and logo during a ceremony from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Feb. 29 at The Chesterfield, 1101 E. Burnside St.

Our House Awarded Million-Dollar Grant

Our House has received a renewal grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program in the amount of \$1,037,013. This grant will provide money to maintain operation of the newly remodeled Our House residential care facility and continue the Neighborhood Housing and Care Program.

"This grant means vital services provided to people with HIV/AIDS will continue and that the needs of our residents and clients will be met," said executive director Wayne Miya.

For 19 years, Our House has provided 24-hour residential care for people living with HIV/AIDS; it is the only facility of its kind in Oregon and Southwest Washington. In 2006 Our House was completely rebuilt and the facility was expanded to provide care for more residents.

Through the newly established Neighborhood Housing and Care Program, Our House provides in-home services such as nursing, social work and occupational therapy to support independent living. Cascade AIDS Project provides services to assist with obtaining affordable, permanent housing, and Partnership Project also provides some nursing services.

The grant is made available over a three-year period and ensures the services provided by the program will continue through August 2010. The Neighborhood Housing and Care Program is an innovative model program that allows people with advanced HIV/AIDS to receive services and live independently. In 2004 Our House received a \$1,306,963 HUD grant to launch the program and to help underwrite the facility expansion. 19

By JEDIDIAH CHAVEZ, JAYMEE R. CUTI and
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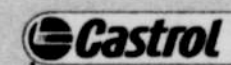
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