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northwest

Health Department Launches STD Prevention Web Site

The Multnomah County Health Department has launched KnowSexPDX.com, a Web site and "social marketing effort" aimed at educating "African-American youth, young adults and community members about STDs and the importance of treatment and testing."

Acknowledging that HIV and sexually transmitted diseases are disproportionately affecting African Americans across the county, sometimes at a rate five times higher than non-Hispanic whites, the agency's aim in launching the site Feb. 7 is seeking to balance prevention and awareness education for minorities with the "pervasive media marketing that portrays hypersexual imagery of African Americans," according to health department program manager Tricia Tillman.

The Web site features bumping hip-hop beats, colorful graphics, interactive displays and resource listings, including HIV/STD testing and support sites. The home page claims there's "A whole lotta disease goin' round" in the African-American community and offers a theme recurrent to the campaign: "My Life. My Decision. I'll make the right choice."

The campaign was designed and developed by county staff in consultation with African-American community members like the 503 Youth Health Coalition. Bars, businesses and church groups have signed on to participate in the campaign through poster, e-mails and information dissemination.

Alliance Bestows Awards for Service

The Northwest Gender Alliance has appointed a new 2008 board and awarded a group of activists several noteworthy honors.

New board members are Sheryl Weiller, vice president; Susan Lalone, secretary treasurer; Cyn-

thia Rose, newsletter editor; Cassandra Walters, public relations; Jackie Spratten, activities; and Linda Brown, member at large.

Honors given Dec. 10 at the group's holiday banquet were the Ellen Summers Memorial Award, for outstanding service, to Linda Brown; the Roni Lang Services Award to Cristine Burnett; the Harriet Stites Woman of the Year award, for the person best exemplifying the feminine gender, to Maria Dean; and the Olivia Perala Debutante Award, for contributions to the organi-



Past recipients of the Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship attend "A Class Act 2005": from left, F.G. "Jamie" Troy, Stephen Manning, Trung Tu, Connie Lukes, Beth Mason and Geoff Bosman.

zation from a first-year member, to Aurora Baarley.

The Northwest Gender Alliance is one of the longest-running transgender social groups. It is planning for its 27th anniversary, and past members are encouraged to share stories or memorabilia from the early years. Call 503-533-8787 for more information.

A Class Act Benefits Future Lawyers

The 14th annual "A Class Act," a classical music and decadent dessert revue benefiting the Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship Fund, will be held 7 p.m. April 25 at The Old Church, 1422 S.W. 11th Ave. The scholarship benefits third- and fourth-year law students who pledge to donate their legal expertise to fighting bigotry and discrimination, particularly toward sexual minorities.

Three of Portland's finest classical musicians—cellist Barbara Johnston, clarinetist Randy



The Northwest Gender Alliance honored, from left, Cristine Burnett, Maria Dean, Aurora Baarley and Linda Brown.