

northwest

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Martinez joins BRO after working for his family's wholesale apparel company as operations manager and as a volunteer member of the Q Center board of directors, where he served as secretary and, more recently, co-chairman.

As of April 18, it was unclear whether Martinez would remain a Q Center board member, which also includes fund-raising responsibilities.

Although the development coordinator role will be Martinez's first full-time position in non-profit fund raising, BRO executive director Jeana Frazzini pointed to his "strong relationships in our community and a deep commitment to LGBT advocacy" as evidence of his qualifications.

Martinez, a University of Oregon alum, and his partner, *Willamette Week* columnist Byron Beck, are lead plaintiffs in BRO's legal challenge to Measure 36. The case is under consideration in the Oregon Court of Appeals.

Health Conference Brings Meaningful Discussion

Multnomah County's GLBTQ Meaningful Care Conference brought together 288 doctors, nurses, medical office staff and others with an interest in understanding the unique health care needs of Portland's sexual minorities community. The conference, now in its third year, took place April 11 at the Oregon Convention Center.

Of the 19 workshops provided—including

a lesson in navigating the alphabet soup of the queer community, which has expanded to incorporate questioning, transgender and intersex people along with gays, lesbians and bisexuals—many focused on minorities within the sexual minorities community. Popular workshops educated attendees on health disparities with queer people of color and substance abuse in the queer community.

Mike Binks, a certified level III drug and alcohol counselor with Samaritan Counseling Center, conducted a workshop on substance abuse. He helped health care providers understand what he sees as the need for more queer-specific space to be created when treating substance abuse and emphasized a slate of unique experiences that queer people bring to treatment. Chronic stress, for example, is a common factor that leads to substance abuse in queer people, because of homophobia, heterosexism and a binary gender paradigm.

Next year, conference organizer and Multnomah County employee Matthew Lashua said he would like to focus better on lesbian health issues and challenges facing rural Oregonians.

For more information on addiction, call Samaritan Counseling Center at 503-281-3318 or visit www.michaelbinks.com.

Bears Raise Cash for Injured Bartender

Two broken ankles, a body covered in bruises and nearly a week's stay in the hospital were some of the more painful marks still smarting Tyler

Wiese, a Portland bartender involved in an April 2 domestic assault outside his place of employment, Eagle Portland, 835 N. Lombard St. Wiese says that he was thrown or fell from the hood of a car being driven by his partner but that he "can't say more," as he intends to take legal action.

But Wiese's physical aches pale in comparison to the financial anguish that the beloved drink-slinger, a favorite at the "masculine men's establishment," will feel as the bills start to roll in from his six-day uninsured stay at a Portland hospital. "I haven't received the bills yet," he said, so he's unsure how high the total costs could mount for his injuries, not to mention his time away from paid work; he's convalescing at his North Portland home and using a wheelchair to shuttle around.

To offset some of the costs associated with the accident, a number of Eagle Portland regulars, including groups like the Oregon Bears and the Boys of Leather, held a silent auction and raffle April 13 to raise money for Wiese's hospital bills and other costs, like building a wheelchair ramp. The groups raised \$2,600, according to Eagle bar manager Leo Wink.

For Wiese, the support was both necessary and, for a bartender more accustomed to serving the guys rallying behind him, "absolutely overwhelm-

ing." He said: "I never had any sort of community support like that before. It was amazing."

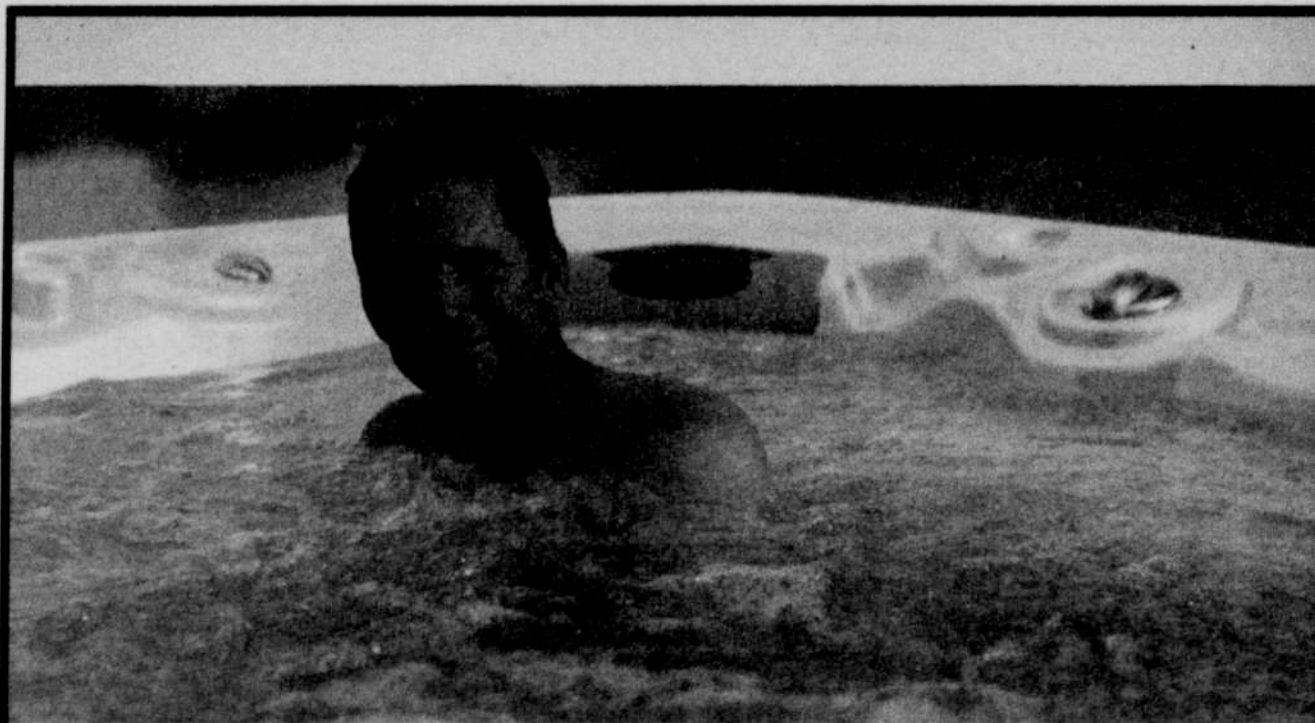
MCC Portland Assistant Pastor Moves Up

MCC Portland's popular assistant pastor and youth minister, the Rev. Wes Mullins, will soon be minister to a new congregation, Pikes Peak



The Rev. Wes Mullins will preach his final Portland service on Mother's Day, May 11.

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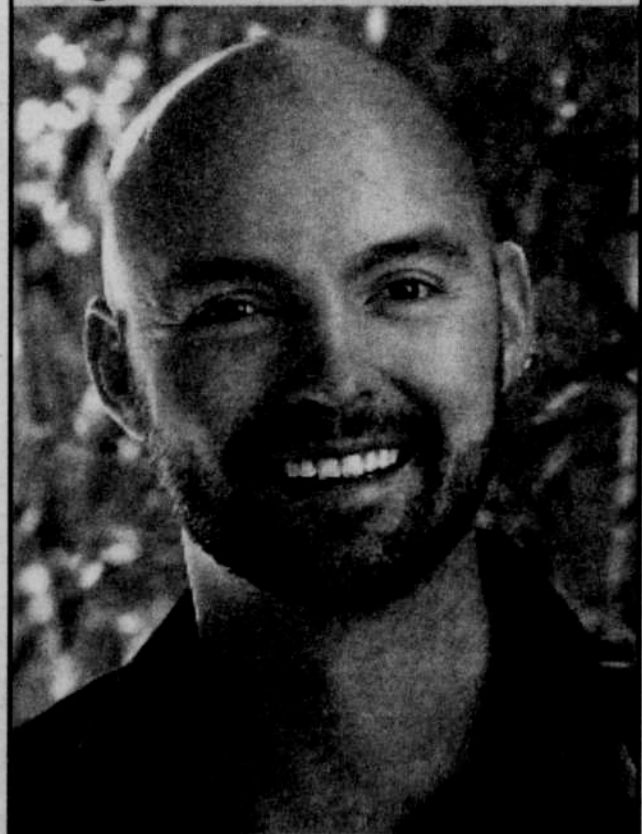
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