

Voices of Pride

Hot flashes, prime-timers and lesbian juices

by Stephen Marc Beaudoin and Jaymee R. Cuti

Youth at the Core

Molly Norris isn't your typical 15-year-old. She devotes much of her time

to learning about theater arts. She's on the steering committee for the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center and performs skits to educate others about the experiences of queer youth. She is a part of Cascade AIDS Project's Teen to Teen program, which emphasizes educating youth about safe sex. In one year, at 16, she will earn a high school diploma and associate's degree from Portland Community College.

Norris is the winner of the first-ever Queer-Core Youth Award in the education category. She will be honored alongside Angela Carkner, a winner in the activist category;



Molly Norris earned a QueerCore Youth Award for excellence in education.

Dom'Unique Bolds for the arts; Kira Annika Moyer-Sims for community service; and straight ally Blake Zwerling from 2 to 4 p.m. June 7 at Q Center, 69 S.E. Taylor St.

The award, and accompanying \$100 prize, was created by Equity Foundation and Pride Foundation to promote queer and straight ally youth leadership in Portland and Vancouver, Wash.

Norris says her educational upbringing gave her the freedom to read anything that interested her, volunteer and study theater.

As a home-schooled queer youth, she said coming out and discovering her sexuality was much easier without the

eyes of a couple hundred high schoolers. "It was much kinder than having to out myself to an entire public school system when I felt like wearing rainbows," she said.

After graduating, Norris plans to intern, work and volunteer in fields related to theater and activism until she turns 18. She then wants to pursue a degree in technical theater.

Jaymee R. Cuti: How do you celebrate Pride?

Molly Norris: I spend it thinking about how grateful I am for being comfortable in my own body, with my own sexuality and being open about it. During this time I have a lot of sympathy for people that aren't in that place.

JRC: What makes you proud?

MN: It makes me proud that me and my community have overcome so much in the last 10 years. It's quite an honor to be part of a community with such determined people.

JRC: What is your best bet for Pride?

MN: The Pride Parade and going to the Dyke March for the first time.

JRC: What do you say to members of the

queer community who boycott Pride?

MN: People can think what they want. I definitely have been in certain moods where I don't have the mental energy to participate in things like that. No one should be forced into celebrating something. I have fun with it; not everyone does.

Proud Spirit

A lifelong dream was fulfilled when Laura Calvo was selected as the Spirit of Pride Award recipient for 2008.

"I have always wanted to ride on a stagecoach," said Calvo, a role model to fellow Democrats, transgender people and admirers of horses.

Spirit of Pride Awards are given to recognize individuals or organizations for outstanding contributions to the queer community. Calvo shares this distinction with Basic Rights Oregon, the grand marshals of Portland Pride 2008.

A proud transgender Latina lesbian, Calvo collects political titles like others collect handbags. She is the first transgender person to co-chair the LGBT Political Caucus of Southern Oregon and now holds the titles of voting delegate of the Oregon Democratic State Convention; regional

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SPARTACUS™ CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTH	DATES	EVENT DESCRIPTION
May	29th	7-8:30pm book signing with Scott Cook, author of <i>Pokin' Round the Gorge: A Sexy-Romantic Guide for Gorge Lovers</i>
	26th-1st	White Wedding Sale - 20% off anything white and bachelorette items
June	13th	Friday the 13th Mystery Sale
	13th-15th	Gay Pride Sale - 20% off all dildo and plug harnesses
July	21st-27th	Burning Man Sale - costumes & accessories up to 75% off
August	1st-31st	Leather Pride Sale - 20% off all leather
	TBA	Bondage Author Book Signing
September	8th-21st	Costumes & Apparel Sale - items up to 75% off
October	16th	Trick or Treat Costume Show - costume fashion show @ 9pm and select costumes up to 90% off
November	28th	Black Friday Sale - 8am-noon 25% off everything, select items up to 90% off and door busters
December	17th-28th	Toys to Fill Your Stocking Sale - all novelty toys 20% off

All events subject to change, check online for updates at www.spartacusstore.com
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