

NEW YORK Partnership Improves Services to Queer Youth

A partnership was forged June 9 to improve out-of-home care to queer youth.

Lambda Legal, in collaboration with the National Association of Social Workers and the Council on Social Work Education, announced two projects to build the capacity, awareness and skills of social workers and other child welfare professionals serving sexual minority youth living out of home in foster care, juvenile justice centers and homeless shelters.

"LGBTQ youth are overrepresented in out-of-home care facilities," said Flor Bermudez, staff attorney with Lambda Legal. "It is essential that social workers and practitioners are trained in how best to serve them."

Through a \$275,000 grant, the National Association of Social Workers will launch a national train-the-trainer initiative. The initiative will prepare 40 master trainers throughout the country who have met the application requirement and who agree to train 40 more out-of-home care practitioners, resulting in a total of at least 1,600 service providers who will be better able to meet the needs of queer youth. More information on the program will be posted at www.socialworkers.org and www.lambdalegal.org.

TENNESSEE Freight Lines Sued for Firing Transgender Trucker

A sex discrimination lawsuit was filed June 18 against Old Dominion Freight Lines for firing a truck driver for impersonating a female after she informed the company that she was transitioning from male to female. A prior investigation into the firing sided with the driver, Kaylee Seals, finding there was reasonable cause to believe that Old Dominion discriminated against Seals based on sex and sex stereotyping.

"I was always taught that you should be judged based on how hard you work," said Seals. "I gave my all to Old Dominion, working extremely long hours under very difficult conditions. Yet none of that mattered when my bosses learned that I was transitioning."

During Seals' career with Old Dominion, she was given several awards for her service and safe driving. In November 2005, Seals, who was still living and dressing as a male at the time, was sent from Morristown, Texas, to Jacksonville, Fla.



Marisa Richmond, president of the Transgender Political Coalition, is standing up for a woman fired from her job as a truck driver since announcing her transition.

While there, a manager at the company allegedly began harassing Seals because she had been given a voucher to stay in a motel rather than a company bunk house. According to the manager, male employees were supposed to stay in the bunk house. Although she was dressed in gender-neutral clothing, the employee began aggressively questioning Seals about her sex and her appearance. Unaware that the bunk house was even still operational, Seals readily agreed to stay in the bunk house for the remaining night of her stay.

When she returned to Tennessee, Seals informed her immediate supervisor about the conversation about her gender and mentioned that she was diagnosed with gender identity disorder and intended to complete the transition to the female sex. Shortly after this conversation, she was summoned to a meeting with the supervisor and other managers. At this meeting, an Old Dominion supervisor, noting Seals' "feminine voice" and the fact that she wore jewelry, accused Seals of imitating a woman to be able to stay in the motel. The supervisor then terminated Seals, claiming her actions violated company policy. The investigation did not find this explanation credible, because four other male employees also received motel vouchers in Jacksonville during the same time period and had not been disciplined.

"No one should be fired simply because she does not fit traditional gender roles," said Christine Sun, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union.

Marisa Richmond, president of the Transgender Political Coalition, added, "Through this lawsuit, I hope all employers learn that they should respect transgender employees, because if they don't, they can be held liable for illegal discrimination."

Seals has since found employment with another trucking line but is now earning significantly less money. 10

Compiled by JAYMEE R. CUTI

Bed, Bath and Bubbles



Enjoy a deluxe guest room, plus two Mineral Bath & Wraps, and your choice of champagne, wine or sparkling cider. Room includes courtyard view with two queen beds, or you may upgrade to a room with a private hot tub and king bed for just \$20 more per couple based on availability. **\$199***

*Reservations required. Based on availability Sunday thru Thursday only. Not valid with any other offer, coupon or discounts. Registered guest must be 21 or older to receive alcohol. Offer valid July 1 to July 31, 2008.

BONNEVILLE HOT SPRINGS RESORT & SPA

Escape to the Columbia River Gorge. Just 35 miles from Portland.
866-459-1678 | www.bonnevilleresort.com

GRAHAM STREET Lofts



Sustainable Building Sustainable Living

Find a home
as unique as you.

Prices starting at \$245
Open Sundays 1-4

Jerry Wallach, Broker
503.212.2360
info@grahamstreetlofts.com

GrahamStreetLofts.com



EveryPortlandHome.com

THE source for Buyers and Sellers

Receive daily reports showing
EVERY home in your price range in
EVERY neighborhood you choose



Tom Cotter & Doug Beebe, Brokers

COLDWELL BANKER
Barbara Sue Seal Properties
2275 W Burnside, Portland
503.224.7325



You CAN see
YOU
in the
mirror again!

LIPOATROPHY (SUNKEN CHEEKS)?



SCULPTRA injections can help you look as young and healthy as you feel. **DR. MARLA ROSS**, a board certified dermatologist, is your local sculptra expert.

**DERMATOLOGY
ASSOCIATES**

For consultation and treatment, call her at

503-245-2415



Dr. Viseh Sundberg



(503) 546-9079
222 NW 10th Avenue
www.sundbergdentistry.com

Dentistry In The Pearl That's Something To Smile About!

- \$74** New Patient Exam and X-Rays
- \$49** New Patient Basic Cleaning (exam required)
- \$59** Children's Exam and Cleaning (new patients 12 & under)
- \$99** Professional Home Whitening (exam required)
- \$299** In Office 1 Hour "Zoom" Tooth Whitening (exam required)